

Headquarters United States  
European Command



# State Partnership Program

1993 - 2013

*Twenty Years  
of Enduring Partnerships*



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
ECJ5/8 PARTNERING, CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMMING  
UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND**



Message from the Deputy Director, ECJ5/8  
Brigadier General Kevin L. McNeely, U.S. Army National Guard

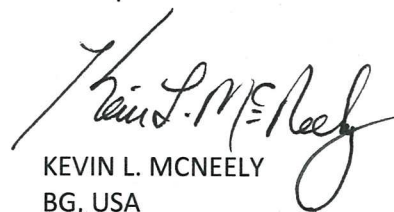
I am pleased to present the 2013 U.S. European Command (EUCOM) State Partnership Program Annual Report as we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUCOM's State Partnership Program (SPP). This report focuses on the efforts and results over the past few years, while also highlighting program accomplishments over its first two decades of existence.

Currently, 22 partnerships exist with former Soviet, Yugoslav and Warsaw Pact countries in the EUCOM area of operation, making it one of the largest and longest running programs. With these years of combined and shared experiences, EUCOM has taken the lead in developing long-term, enduring and committed partnerships that build capacity and trust. Although SPP exercises span military, political, economic and social realms, the program is most aptly characterized by personal and enduring relationships. Soldiers at all levels and on both sides of each partnership consider our counterparts as extended family, treating each other with the same respect we each extend to our own soldiers. In addition to training together, we deploy side by side in combat demonstrating not only the high degree of trust and confidence we have in each other but also highlighting the high degree of interoperability and capability we've achieved. Our SPP partners have not only demonstrated the capability but the willingness to deploy and fight alongside our military.

Contrast this with the very serious challenge the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies faced when the Soviet Union collapsed on Christmas Day in 1991: how to deal with the 15 former Soviet Republics. Providing assistance to fledgling democracies was nothing new for the U.S., but this situation presented a complex twist in that the countries involved were all recent adversaries. The collapse of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shortly thereafter compounded the problem. Along with NATO, the U.S. needed a way to maintain regional stability and ensure development of civilian-controlled militaries.

An opportunity presented itself when the Republic of Latvia requested U.S. assistance in developing a military based on the National Guard's citizen-soldier model. Putting in motion a program that had been conceived in anticipation of a possible Soviet collapse, the National Guard Bureau sent the first joint contact team – made up of guardsmen, reservists, and active component personnel – to all three Baltic states in November 1992. EUCOM embraced the concept as a way to build partnerships with non-NATO countries in the region, and the following year, the SPP was born.

What was once deemed a small pilot program intended to test the waters of political trust with three Baltic States, turned into what is known today as one of the most successful programs in U.S. military history and an invaluable tool that supports NATO missions. Due to your diligence and commitment, the future of the SPP looks bright. I welcome your thoughts on this report as well as encourage your creativity and support in developing new ideas that further enhance EUCOM partnerships.

  
KEVIN L. MCNEELY  
BG, USA

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# EUCOM State Partnership Program 1993 - 2013



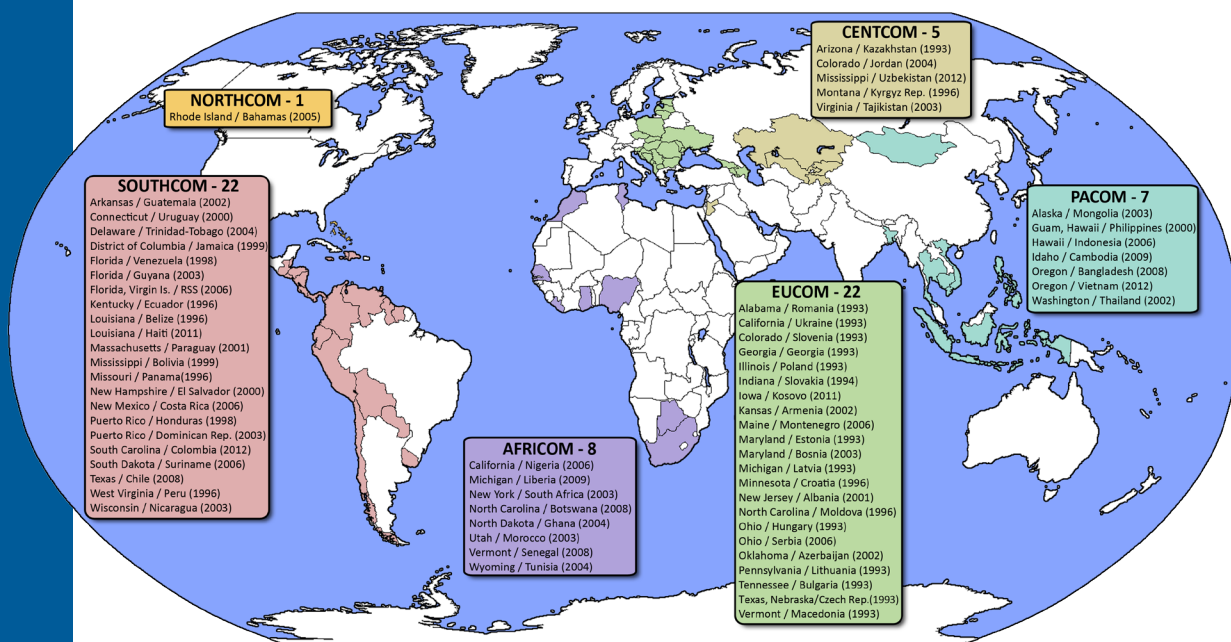
Twenty Years of Enduring Partnerships

## Program Overview

The United States European Command State Partnership Program (EUCOM SPP) is a National Guard program that links U.S. States with partner countries in the European Theater for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of United States European Command (EUCOM). 65 Partnerships exist worldwide and 22 Partnerships exist with former Soviet, Yugoslav and Warsaw Pact countries in the EUCOM Area of Responsibility. The program is a component of the larger (global) State Partnership Program, which oversees the program of each of the six geographic Combatant Commands.

By linking U.S. States with designated partner countries, the SPP stated aim is to promote access, enhance military capabilities, improve interoperability and enhance the principles of responsible governance. Furthermore, the SPP aims to support several areas of potential interest to the US Congress, such as:

- helping prevent failed states and creating stable regions
- improving the capabilities of partner nations to protect their citizens
- strengthening relationships to facilitate access and interoperability
- improving cultural awareness and skills among U.S. military personnel
- fostering the integration of reserve and active component forces into a “total force”



2013 world map of National Guard State Partnerships and year of origin

All EUCOM SPP activities are coordinated through the U.S. Ambassadors' country teams, the partner State, and other agencies as appropriate, to ensure that National Guard support is tailored to meet both U.S. and country objectives. Specifically, all activities must support the EUCOM Theater Campaign Plan (TCP) as well as individual U.S. Ambassador mission plans in the countries where they operate. The unique civil-military nature of the National Guard allows active participation in a wide range of security cooperation activities, such as:

emergency management and disaster response  
border and port security  
leadership and NCO development  
medical capacities  
economic security

natural resource protection  
peacekeeping operations  
counter trafficking  
counter proliferation  
counter terrorism





"The State Partnership Program is, dollar for dollar, my best EUCOM investment."

-ADM Stavridis, Former EUCOM Commander

## Core Competencies

- SUPPORTS** EUCOM Commander's Security Cooperation goals and objectives
- PROMOTES** access, increases military capabilities, improves interoperability
- SERVES** as the largest non-EUCOM force provider for events in the AOR
- PROVIDES** continuity, civilian skills, broad experience, and Joint capabilities
- LEVERAGES** entire whole of government / security
- CREATES** a low-cost, high-impact, small-sized footprint
- MAINTAINS** enduring relationships
- UTILIZES** core mission areas of the National Guard
- ENHANCES** support to NATO and the EU

*With two decades of experience, the National Guard has taken the lead in developing long-term, enduring, and committed partnerships that build capacity and trust.*



## Roles



- Humanitarian Assistance
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Reserve Component Reform
- Civil/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear/Explosive
- Defense Support of Civil Authorities
- Disaster Preparedness
- Border/Port Security
- Counterdrug
- Cyber

# EUCOM State Partnership Program 1993 - 2013

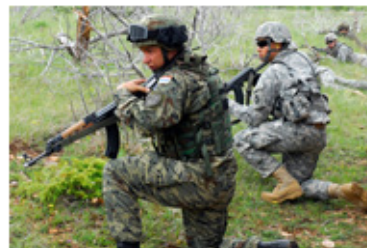
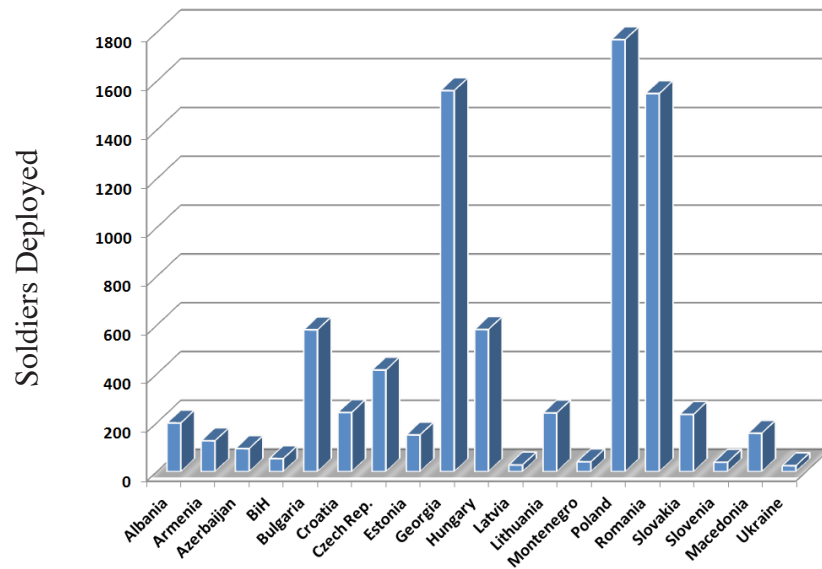


*Twenty Years of Enduring Partnerships*



## Co-deployments

The SPP has played a remarkable role on OIF/OEF Co-deployments. Since 2008, Soldiers from the following 14 SPP nations have participated in deployments with their partner States: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Poland.

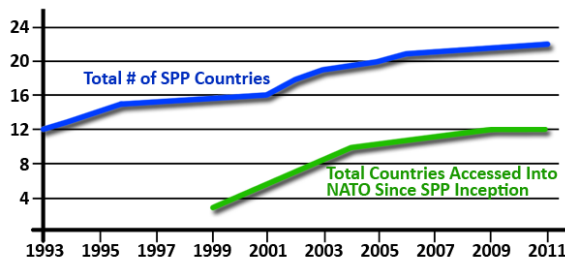


“They absolutely are desirous of being members of NATO, and they see the State Partnership Program being what they consider a fast-track for that.”

- LTG H. Steven Blum, Former Chief of the National Guard Bureau

## SPP's Impact on NATO

The SPP's impact on NATO accessions in conjunction with other EUCOM Force providers, is one of the great contributions of the SPP. Of the 12 partnerships initiated in 1993, 10 of the partner countries joined NATO by 2004. Two additional countries joined in 2009, benefiting from SPP partnerships that began in 1996 and 2001, respectively. Six other countries partnered for a shorter period - most recently Kosovo in 2011 - have not yet accessed, but given time and the benefit of the partnership, NATO membership is possible.



Trust is a precious thing and a commodity not easily transported across borders. Yet, despite its humble beginnings, the State Partnership Program helped create an environment of trust in which NATO has thrived in a post-Soviet era. Despite the disappearance of the de facto adversary for which NATO was conceived, NATO's future continues to look bright due in no small part to this unique program that builds enduring and committed partnerships.

Looking toward the future, the National Guard's dual federal and state missions make the SPP the ideal vehicle to facilitate NATO efforts. To borrow NATO language, the SPP strives "to promote democratic values, encourage consultation and cooperation on defense and security issues to build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict." The unique civil-military nature of the National Guard makes this possible because it routinely engages in a wide range of security cooperation activities, many of which parallel NATO activities. They include disaster preparedness, cyber security, anti-drug efforts, border security and humanitarian assistance.

The SPP is a proven, cost-effective security cooperation tool instrumental to NATO's efforts in preventing conflict and securing long-term peace. In many ways, the SPP paved the way for nearly every NATO accession in the last three decades and it continues to help aspiring nations work toward NATO membership.

The program demonstrates, perhaps more than anything else, the importance of trust in international relations. By linking U.S. states with designated partner countries, the SPP promotes access, increases military capabilities, improves interoperability and enhances the principles of responsible governance. It helps to prevent states from failing and contributes to a stable Europe. It supports the broad national interests and international security cooperation goals of the U.S. by engaging partner nations through military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state and national levels. All of these functions support NATO efforts.

None of this would be possible without the creation of enduring relationships. Soldiers at all levels and on both sides of each partnership consider their counterparts an extended family and treat them with the same respect they treat soldiers of their own country. They train together and deploy side by side in combat. With 20 years of success, the program shows that with trust, anything is possible.





# EUCOM State Partnership Program 1993 - 2013

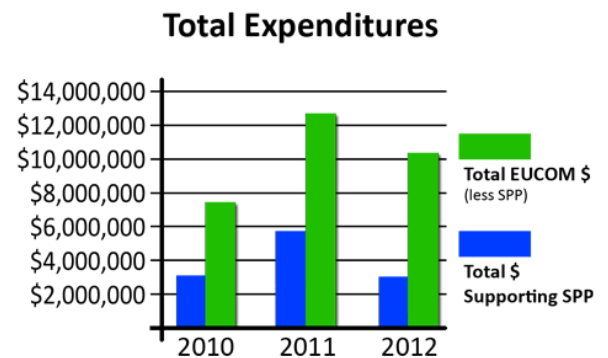
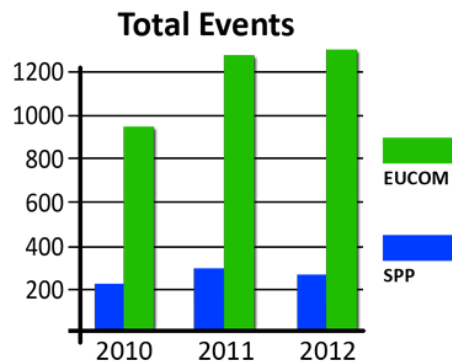


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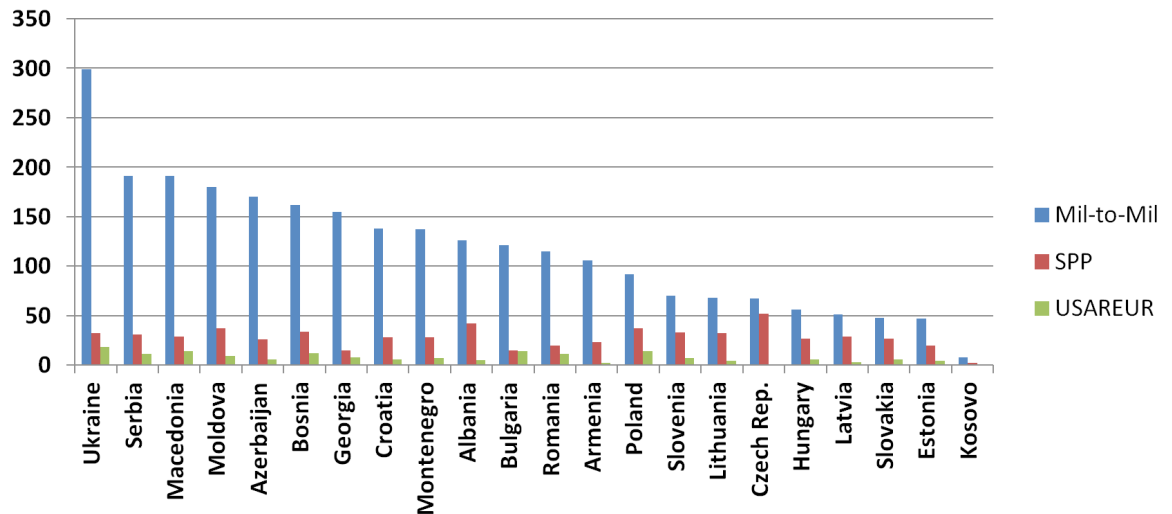


## Program Value

In 2012, EUCOM conducted 271 events designed to build the defense capabilities of European partners and allies through the SPP. Constituting nearly a quarter of the 1,281 total EUCOM events, at a modest cost of \$2.8 million (2.2 million euros), the SPP is arguably one of the most cost-effective security cooperation tools ever implemented by the U.S. military. “The State Partnership Program is, dollar for dollar, my best EUCOM investment,” said Adm. James Stavridis, EUCOM commander.



Mil-to-Mil Events (2009-2011)



"I am a big fan of the SPP Program and I support it fully. Every Chief of Defense and Minister of Defense who visits me, always talks about their SPP program. These relationships have been built over many years."

- Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen

## The History of SPP

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991, an opportunity emerged for bilateral relations with the 15 former Soviet Republics. Such relations were necessary to maintain regional stability and to ensure the development of civilian-controlled militaries.

The SPP evolved from the 1991 U.S. European Command decision to set up a Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with three nations emerging from the former Soviet Bloc (Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia) and the SPP was born, becoming a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encouraging people-to-people ties at the state level.

Sparking the program was a request from the Latvian government for help in developing a military based on the National Guard's citizen-soldier model. Army Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs at the time and Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, then EUCOM commander, embraced the concept as a way to build partnerships with non-NATO countries in the region as they established democratic governments and market economies.

EUCOM took the lead in this effort by establishing the Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP) in 1992. The JCTP was originally composed of active component personnel and included members of the special forces because of their language skills. However, when the JCTP began to engage the Baltic nations of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, senior defense officials insisted that National Guard and Reserve personnel play a leading role in any military liaison teams operating in those countries, apparently in response to those governments' desire to establish reserve-centric defense establishments and to assuage Russian concerns about U.S. expansion into its former satellites. "The U.S. was trying to engage with the former communist nations that were in the Warsaw Pact, and using active duty troops might have been a little too offensive to the Russians or the folks that were in there, so the idea was to use the small footprint of National Guard troops," said Air Force Col. Joey Booher, Chief of International Affairs for the National Guard Bureau.

In November 1992, Lieutenant General John Conaway, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Brigadier General Thomas Lennon, head of the JCTP, visited the Baltics. A few months after their trip, in early 1993, the National Guard initiated the first state partnerships: Maryland-Estonia, Michigan-Latvia, and Pennsylvania-Lithuania. Additional partnerships were proposed later in 1993 for Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine. The SPP assisted the JCTP by providing additional personnel, funding, and access to military personnel from U.S. ethnic-heritage communities who often had relevant language and cultural skills.

Today, 21 U.S. states are partnered with 22 European countries. Two bilateral relationships also exist between NGB and Israel as well as between Minnesota and Norway.



# EUCOM State Partnership Program 1993 - 2013



*Twenty Years of Enduring Partnerships*



## Benefits of SPP

In a U.S. Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Committees published in May 2012, State Partnership Program stakeholders, including State Partnership Program Coordinator, Bilateral Affairs Officers, and Combatant Command officials, cited benefits of the program as follows:

### State Partnership Program Coordinator

- Provides experience and training for guardsmen
- Develops relationship with partner country experiences
- Encourages partners to co-deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan
- Improves retention or provides other incentives for guardsmen
- Guardsmen benefit from partner country's

### Bilateral Affairs Officers

- Events are tied to COCOM or country team mission
- Good communication/coordination between stakeholders
- Provides information sharing and support to partner country
- Builds relationship with partner country

### Officials from Combatant Commands

- Events support combatant command mission and objectives
- NG units possess unique skills in support of COCOM objectives
- Encourages partner nation deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan

In addition to the above, EUCOM claims the following additional benefits:

- Due to fiscal and security challenges, the U.S. and Allied nations must develop strong partnerships built on trust and longevity. The value of the SPP is its ability to focus the attention of a small part of the Department of Defense – a State National Guard – with a single country in support of U.S. policies.
- In FY 2012, EUCOM conducted 271 SPP events, nearly one-quarter of all EUCOM events, at a cost of \$2.8M. SPP is the largest non-EUCOM force provider for events in the AOR.
- As permanent based U.S. forces draw down in Europe, partnerships increase in their importance to the security of the U.S., the European continent and its neighbors.
- The National Guard is uniquely suited to maintain continuity and foster close, continuing relationships because Guard members generally remain in one state through their career. This continuity of the relationships builds enduring faith and confidence.
- Partnerships have proven critical for building and maintaining international coalitions for overseas contingency operations. SPP relationships have played a significant role in partner nations joining and remaining with the coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2008, 14 SPP nations have participated in ISAF co-deployments with their National Guard partner states.
- As EUCOM seeks to grow “whole of community” partnerships, the SPP fosters this effort. As a community based organization, the National Guard and its citizen-Soldiers have experience in combining the efforts of government entities, academics, NGOs, and private enterprise to foster regional growth and stability.
- By leveraging SPP relationships, EUCOM contributed to the accession of 12 Central and East European countries into NATO.





“Ultimately, the State Partnership Program is about personal relationships. It is a partnership that involves an ongoing dialog about the day-to-day challenges we both face and our willingness to think outside the box in finding solutions.”

- MG Greg Wayt, Former Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard

## Funding and Authority

Current funding for SPP activities includes the pay and allowances for the National Guard participants, which are normally funded by the Army and Air National Guard Personnel accounts of DOD appropriations. However, those who serve overseas full-time in support of the program have their pay and allowances covered by the active component Army or Air Force Personnel account. Other significant costs for SPP are travel-related expenses, such as transportation, lodging, and meals. These expenses may be incurred by National Guard personnel or foreign military personnel participating in an SPP event. Such travel-related expenses are typically paid for out of one of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) accounts, although some of the travel expenses for National Guard personnel may be paid out of Personnel accounts. This O&M funding has historically flowed to SPP through a number of programs and activities:

- Traditional Combatant Commander’s Activities (TCA)
- National Guard Bureau’s International Affairs Division
- Combatant Commander’s Initiative Fund (CCIF)
- Warsaw Initiative Fund/Partnership for Peace (WIF/PfP)
- Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP)
- Cooperative Threat Reduction Program (CTR)
- Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative Fund (APRI)
- Latin American Cooperation (LATAM COOP)
- Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Assistance (OHDCA)
- Building Partner Capacity (BPC)
- Overseas Humanitarian Assistance (OHA)

The SPP has no dedicated statutory authority; rather, SPP activities are currently carried out under one or more Title 10 (Armed Forces), Title 32 (National Guard) and National Defense Authorization Act authorities that are related to the types of missions conducted. The main authorities that may be used by SPP are:

- 10 U.S.C. 168 (Military-to-military contacts and comparable activities) This provision provides authority for the Secretary of Defense to fund military-to-military contacts “that are designed to encourage a democratic orientation of defense establishments and military forces of other countries.”
- 10 U.S.C. 1051 (Bilateral or Regional Cooperation Programs). This provision authorizes the Secretary of Defense to pay the travel, subsistence, and similar personal expenses of defense personnel of developing countries in connection with their attendance at a bilateral or regional conference, seminar, or similar meeting, with certain restrictions.
- 10 U.S.C. 1050 (Latin American Cooperation). Section 1050 is similar to Section 1051, but specifically applies to the travel, subsistence, and special compensation of officers and students of Latin American countries and other expenses that the Secretary considers necessary for Latin American cooperation.
- 10 USC 1050a (African Cooperation). Section 1050a is nearly identical to Section 1050, except that it applies to officers and students of African nations.
- 10 U.S.C. 2010 (Combined Exercises). This provision authorizes the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to pay incremental expenses incurred by a developing country as a direct result of participation in bilateral or multilateral military exercises.
- 10 U.S.C. 401 (Humanitarian and Civic Assistance). This provision authorizes DOD to carry out humanitarian and civic assistance activities in host nations in conjunction with military operations, if the activities promote the security interests of both nations and benefit the operational readiness skills of participating armed forces personnel.
- 10 U.S.C. 2561 (Humanitarian Assistance). This provision authorizes the expenditure of humanitarian assistance funds for the transportation of humanitarian relief and other humanitarian purposes.
- 10 U.S.C. 2249c (Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP). Authorizes the use of funds to pay the costs associated with the attendance of foreign military officers, ministry of defense officials, or security officials at U.S. military educational institutions, regional centers, conferences, seminars, and at civilian venues, or other training programs conducted under the CTFP.
- National Defense Authorization Act, Section 1206 – funding authority for events related to Building Partnership Capacity.
- Cooperative Threat Reduction Program – funding related to preventing weapons proliferation and other activities.



# ALABAMA - ROMANIA 1993-2013



President:

Traian Băsescu

Prime Min.:

Victor Ponta

MoD:

Corneliu Dobrițoiu

Amb. to US:

Adrian Cosmin Vierița

US Amb:

Alexander Arvizu

TAG:

MG Perry G. Smith

NATO member: Yes

(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 1549 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 6

Population: 21.8M

(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than

Oregon

Military Expend.: 1.9%

GDP (2007 est.)

## Overview

The Republic of Romania signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Alabama in July 1993 establishing the Alabama-Romania State Partnership Program. Since then, the ALNG has fostered a solid relationship and continues to be a viable enabler in building capacity in Romania.

The Alabama National Guard, which became one of the first states to participate in the SPP, has witnessed the fruits of its enduring relationship with the Romanian military. Army MG Perry G. Smith, the Alabama Adjutant General, said his Soldiers and Airmen have taught the Romanians skills acquired during combat deployments as well as those learned by responding to Hurricane Katrina and other disasters at home. Smith noted that on one day in April 2011, the state suffered 58 tornadoes, requiring him to activate 3,000 National Guardsmen to assist in response efforts. This has given the Alabama Guard solid experience to share with the Romanian military, Smith said, including its processes for providing defense support to civilian authorities and the courses-of-action development process the military uses to present commanders with decision-making options. The two countries' special operators, military police, infantry and logistics elements work together through the program.

The ALNG has conducted over 140 engagements since partnership inception. Engagements have focused on NATO interoperability, promoting political stability, assisting in the development of democratic institutions and open market economies, demonstrating military subordination and support to civil authorities, projecting U.S. humanitarian values and providing support to deploying troops in support of the current operations.

## Partnership History

- State Partnership was established 14 July 1993.
- NATO accession on 29 MAR 2004, EU accession 07 January 2004. UN accession 14 December 1955.
- Romania continues to work through economic and political reforms.
- Romania's middle class continues to grow.
- Armed Forces consist of land, air, and naval forces.
- ALNG has participated in humanitarian missions to provide glasses, medical and dental exams to the Romanians.
- Continued participation in JTF East.
- Military-to-Civilian events have expanded; focus is on disaster response and security assistance.
- In 2009, Alabama conducted a security assistance visit to discuss future Mil-to-Civ participation with Romania.
- Focus for Mil-to-Mil events is unit level training - medical, logistics, military police and special ops. familiarization.

The Alabama-Romania SPP began with familiarization events designed to introduce the Romanian Ministries of National Defense and Interior to Alabama National Guard exercise methods and procedures and has evolved to include in and out of country events contributing to what is now one of the United States European Command's (EUCOM) most strategic bilateral relationships. The program began to develop through the use of traveling contact teams (in country events), familiarizations (out of country events), orientations and exercises, and the partnership with the Alabama National Guard met its primary end state when Romania became a member of NATO in 2004.

In 2012, EUCOM funded 64 events in support of further developing Romania's military and disaster response capabilities. Of these, 9 were conducted directly by the Alabama National Guard. In addition, one Flight Deployment was conducted by the 187th Fighter Wing from Alabama's Air National Guard, an event that was instrumental in Romania's decision to purchase F-16 aircraft over other multi-



“It’s all about relationships. As National Guard members get on the ground and start working with the Romanians, they develop life-long relationships. And people can get things done a lot better if they know and trust each other.”

- MG Perry Smith, Adjutant General, Alabama National Guard

role Airframes. For 2013 Alabama National Guard has been specifically asked by the Romanian Ministry of Defense to conduct 10 out of over 80 proposed events for the fiscal year. Events conducted to develop Romania’s military capabilities have led to their contribution of maintaining two full battalions of soldiers in Afghanistan in addition to supporting efforts in Iraq while efforts were focused there and peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo. As we prepare for a drawdown in Afghanistan, exercises in and out of country continue to prepare troops scheduled to deploy, but also focus on developing programs to ensure that experienced soldiers maintain the skills obtained from their down-range deployments and pass those lessons learned on to upcoming soldiers or other pre-deployment units.



The Alabama National Guard has also had the opportunity to contribute to Romania from a humanitarian standpoint, as volunteers donated assets to support two different orphanages with clothing, bedding, and exercise equipment for use in rehabilitation of children with disabilities. Alabama’s efforts resulted in Humanitarian Assistance to these facilities, which subsequently encouraged local donations. As FY 12 began to come to a close Alabama National Guard had the opportunity to share its expertise in the area of disaster response when asked to participate as observers in an engineering exercise that focused on the construction of its levies for flood control and how to manage the consequences of a failure in this system.

In 2012, Soldiers from Alabama and Romania participated in six joint events, including military police operations, range control operations, medical operations, and Tisa River disaster response. In addition, the Romanian Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Stefan Danila, made an official visit to Alabama in September 2012. During this visit, he spoke with MG Perry Smith, on the future of cooperation between Romania and Alabama. The Romanian delegation visited two air bases and the Training Center of the ALNG.



In 2013, the ALNG will also assist Romania with the development of important functions such as family readiness groups, post deployment activities, to include development of briefs by counselors and military chaplains as well as developing relationships between Alabama units and Romanian units in order to insure effective continuity of the level of demonstration conducted between these “sister” units in subsequent FY events as the relationships mature.

### Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 is:

- Host-Nation Support
- Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration
- Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-Environmental
- Disaster Response
- Cyber Security

The focus for 2014 is:

- Host-Nation Support
- Reception, Staging, Orientation, and Integration
- Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-Environmental
- Disaster Response
- Joint Tactical Air Control
- Air Force & base development
- Contingency Operation Support

The Partnership continues to develop Romanian military capabilities and improve Romania’s ability to partner with the United States and NATO in global peacekeeping operations and the War on Terrorism. Romania will utilize skills enhanced by the Alabama National Guard, the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in EUCOM’s Country Campaign Plan and the U.S. Ambassador’s Mission Strategic Resource Plan. The Partnership relies on the continued effective and efficient execution of familiarizations and demonstrations of U.S. and NATO techniques through the use of events conducted by teams traveling into Romania and through visits and joint activities in the United States, Europe and Africa.







# CALIFORNIA - UKRAINE 1993-2013



## Overview

The California-Ukraine National Guard Partnership is one of 22 European partnerships that make-up the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program and one of 65 worldwide partnerships that make-up the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP). The California-Ukraine SPP is one of the most important and progressive partnerships within European Command. Ukraine's size and strategic location make it one of the most influential countries in the region, thus making the SPP a key factor in assisting Ukraine as it develops its budding democracy.

Through the SPP, the California National Guard and Ukraine have addressed a broad range of social, economic, military and political issues including border security, base conversion, emergency response, inter-agency cooperation, civil-military relations and security cooperation. With hundreds of events completed since its inception in June 1999, the SPP has become a sophisticated engagement tool that brings together civilian expertise, multi-level government agencies, NATO, non-government organizations and commercial interests.

According to the Office of International Affairs, California Military Department "The Office of International Affairs manages the State Partnership Program (SPP) with Ukraine. The SPP deploys California National Guard teams to Ukraine and brings Ukrainians to the United States for information sharing to assist Armed Forces of Ukraine in re-structuring, modernizing its forces, and strengthening principles of democracy and free market economies. Exchanges include information about the processes underpinning U.S. military structures that result in subordination to civilian control, consensus building, methodologies for achieving objectives, and interagency coordination of civil/military issues. Future missions for International Relations will include partnerships with other countries to bring the same philosophy to these regions of the world as has been done successfully in the Baltics."

According to the Office of Defense Cooperation in Kiev, "The California - Ukraine partnership directly supports both the goals of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine and Commander, U.S. European Command. As part of the Governor's Cabinet, the Adjutant General of the California National Guard facilitates partnerships throughout the state and local governments in California as well as the private sector. Recently, a tuberculosis clinic in Odesa was renovated with funds provided by this office."

"As the privileged California National Guardsman stationed at the US Embassy in Kyiv, it has been my honor to represent the State Partnership Program and strengthen our legacy of international cooperation. I have personally seen countless California Guardsmen travel to Ukraine during the coldest and darkest winters and serve selflessly along side their comrades in arms. Many Guardsmen have shared with me that the opportunity to travel to Ukraine to share our values, skills and resources, has been a highlight of their military careers. I can assure you that it is a highlight of my career!" MAJ Sven Olson, Bilateral Affairs Officer 2010-2013 California Army National Guard.

## Partnership History

California partnered with Ukraine in 1993 as it emerged from the Cold War, unsure about its relationship with the United States. The program has helped Ukraine develop its own military and civilian capacities for security, emergency management and organization. The foundation of their cooperation has been built upon exercises like PEACE SHIELD and RAPID TRIDENT. California and Ukraine have trained together in these multinational exercises, hosted by Ukraine, for over 15 years. This partnership will transition to SABER GUARDIAN in 2014 and beyond.

While not seeking to enter NATO, Ukraine is committed to all NATO deployments and achieving NATO interoperability through development of Rapid Reaction Forces. The EU has been seeking a closer relationship



President:

Viktor Yanukovich

Prime Min.:

Mykola Azarov

MoD:

Dmytro Salamatin

Amb. to US:

Oleksandr Motsyk

US Amb:

John F. Tefft

TAG:

MG David Baldwin

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 24 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 6

Population: 44.9M

(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Texas

Military Expend.: 1.4%

GDP (2005 est.)



“The California SPP has been an extremely valuable tool for building lasting and meaningful relations with Ukraine and we look forward to its continued success.”

- MG William Wade II, Former Adjutant General, California National Guard

by moving beyond regional cooperation toward gradual economic integration and deepening of political cooperation; however, a strategic EU trade agreement is currently on hold due to selective prosecutions. Ukraine is currently trimming military forces by 30% as part of a new Strategic Defense Initiative. In 2012, a new Minister of Defense and Chief of Defense were appointed.

In 2011, California participated in the single largest Air National Guard exchange in the partnership’s history. Members of the California Air National Guard travelled to Mirgorod Air Base, Ukraine to conduct a two-week training exercise called SAFE SKIES 2011. A squadron of six Fighting Falcon F-16’s from the Air National Guard led the multinational Air Superiority exercise, which was designed to prepare Ukraine for real world missions it would face during EURO CUP 2012. California and Ukraine had been planning SAFE SKIES 2011 for over 3 years and its execution helped strengthen bonds between these former enemies of the Cold War. During the exercise, more than 60 air sovereignty mock intercepts took place using Ukrainian Su-27s and MiG-29s, and American and Polish F-16s. The exercise laid the foundation for a SAFE and SECURE EURO CUP Tournament as well as future training opportunities with Ukraine.



In 2012, Californian and Ukrainian Soldiers participated in six joint engagements, including international exchanges in cyber defense, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) Response, maintenance, and NCO/Officer roles and relationships. California also supported the multinational exercise “Rapid Trident” hosted in Ukraine with participation from 14 partner nations. Since 2000, Californian and Ukrainian Soldiers have participated in over 330 Military-to-Military events.

The California National Guard has made humanitarian assistance one of the consistent facets of every deployment. Through the many years of our partnership with Ukraine, the California National Guard has provided the following support to children and families across Ukraine; California National Guard members have provided school and art supplies and sports equipment to schools in Mirgorod and Starichy. California National Guard members have volunteered hundreds of hours at orphanages in the Kiev and Lviv regions. California National Guard members have helped with school renovations and painting in the Lviv region.



### Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 and beyond includes NCO Roles and Organizational Maintenance, English Language Training, Strategic Airlift Interoperability, Human Resources & Personnel Management, EURO Atlantic Interoperability, Humanitarian Assistance, Development of the European Union (EU) Battle Group, and the TRILATERAL Brigade (from Lithuania/Poland/Ukraine).



# COLORADO - SLOVENIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The Republic of Slovenia signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the State of Colorado on 31 March 1994 establishing the Colorado-Slovenia State Partnership Program. Colorado Governor Roy Romer signed an Executive Order proclamation supporting the military-to-military partnership program between the Colorado National Guard and the territorial Defense Forces for the Republic of Slovenia on 31 March 1994. This Executive Order Proclamation was re-signed by John W. Hickenlooper on 14 March 2012.

## Partnership History

The Republic of Slovenia gained independence 25 June 1991, as a constitutional representative democracy from the country of Yugoslavia in a 10 day war. The United States of America recognized the Republic of Slovenia as a Sovereign Nation on 7 April 1992 and the United Nations recognized the nation on 22 May 1992. The National Guard Bureau of the United States selected the State of Colorado National Guard to be a partner state with the Defense Forces of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Colorado-Slovenia State Partnership was established in March 1994 for the purpose of fostering security cooperation between the United States and Slovenia and to support the objectives of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Each year, Colorado and Slovenia conduct numerous events in both locations that cover diverse topics such as Senior Leader Engagements, Special Operations Forces Development, Engineer Construction, Military Decision Making Process, Range Development, Airfield Development and Standards, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, Family Programs, and Resiliency. In 2009, Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers attended the Slovenian Mountain Warfare Course and conducted staff training in Bohinjska Bela, Slovenia. Within the framework of the Ambassador's Mission Strategic Resource Plan (MSRP) and EUCOM's Theater Security Strategy, the Colorado-Slovenia Partnership strengthens bilateral security relationships, enhances partner capacity and promotes effective civil-military relations.

Throughout the enduring relationship now in its third decade, Colorado and Slovenia have successfully executed 270 events, deploying four Operational Mentor Liaison Teams and two Military Advisory Teams to Afghanistan. Currently Colorado and Slovenia are looking at other co-deployment opportunities to further expand the relationship.

## Partnership Focus

The focus for the near future is on assisting the Slovene Armed Forces (SAF) in completing a long-term force transformation project culminating in increased ability to meet NATO Standards and objectives for participation in Unified Land Operations (ULO). Current planning is preparing SAF for a total force plan that affects force realignment and 5 year planning, development of Pocek range, and Cerklje airfield development to NATO standards.

Additional areas of focus include:

- Development of the Slovenian Range capabilities
- Cerklje Airfield capabilities
- Force Transformation
- Combined Training Center of Excellence
- Multi-National Battle Group

President:

Borut Pahor

Prime Min.:

Janez Janša

MoD:

Aleš Hojs

Amb. to US:

Roman Kirn

US Amb:

Joseph A. Mussomeli

TAG:

Maj. Gen.

H. Michael Edwards

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 38 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 2.0M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
New Jersey

Military Expend.: 1.6%  
GDP (2010 est.)





"The Colorado NG has been privileged to be a part of the SPP since 1994, adding value to our nation's theater engagement plans and contributing to positive relationships with our partner nation's military organizations, elected leaders and communities."  
- Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, Former Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard

## Partnership History

State Partnership Program funding is distributed by The National Guard Bureau for SPP activities.

Event activities are categorized in two areas: military and civilian. U.S. statutes label participation by the following definitions:

**SPP activity:** Any security cooperation activity authorized by law, supported by funds appropriated to the DoD, occurring between a U.S. State's National Guard personnel and that State's partner nation's personnel.

**SPP civilian engagement activity:** Any SPP activity authorized by law that includes engagement between a U.S. State's National Guard personnel and civilians or a civilian agency from a partner nation not affiliated with that nation's Ministry of Defense.

Slovenia became a member of NATO and the World Bank in 2004. Becoming a member of the aforementioned has precluded Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) from funding that allows SAF Soldiers being funded to travel to Colorado under SPP. This limits the number of exchanges reciprocated in the U.S., but participation is a focus of partnering either in Colorado or Slovenia.

An overview of U.S. military training programs is broken into the following categories:

- International Military Education and Training (IMET) (1994-2012) \$13.5M with 916 total students 916 trained on individual courses in the U.S. or in Germany
- Mobile Training Teams (MTT).
- Counterterrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP) (2006-2012) \$500K with 45 students trained in individual courses (mainly in Europe), 450 trained in four regional seminars hosted in Slovenia.
- 1206 funding (2010-2011) \$555K with the total of students trained on individual courses in Germany being 290. Marshall Center (1997-2012) having a total number of graduates of 115.
- Foreign Military Sales (FMS) FMS Training (2007-2011) totaling \$1.5M, with 326 FMS students.

Currently, SPP events with Slovenia are funded for \$64,800 in FY 13. This funding will first focus on a Senior Leader Visits, Defense Support to Civil Authorities initiatives, and the further development of the Colorado/Slovenia Five-Year Strategic Plan. The funding will then be used to target growth in the newly termed Public-Private Sector Partnership (PPP). This growth will help to create greater efficiencies in the interaction between the public and private sectors through their shared relationship with the SPP, both in Slovenia and the United States.

Civil engagements were initiated in 2010 under the growth of Military to Civilian events, but were quickly put on hold due to restrictions in the purpose of the appropriations available to the SPP at that time. Future civilian engagements are being planned to expand on sister medical, education, and business opportunities. This will further be solidified during the activities planned during the 20th year celebration of the program in May 2012.





# GEORGIA - GEORGIA 1994-2013



## Overview

The Georgia National Guard has maintained a strong State Partnership program with the Republic of Georgia since 1994. Since then, Georgia has put itself on the path of acceptance into NATO - thanks, in no small part, to the State Partnership Program.

The contributions of the Georgian Armed Forces to the War on Terror have been remarkable, with Georgia National Guard Soldiers having fought side-by-side with Georgian Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010 alone, the Georgia National Guard helped train over 2,000 Georgian Soldiers, which is one of the reasons that the Republic of Georgia continues to serve as the largest non-NATO nation provider of troops to the International Security Assistance Force.

## Partnership History

When the Georgia-Georgia Partnership began in 1994, the Republic of Georgia expressed considerable fascination with the command and organizational structure of the U.S. National Guard. With their numerous requests for information, the newly independent nation made it clear that they were interested in copying it. "They were very interested in civilian control of the military, how the military establishment fits within the overall structure of government, and the constitutional provisions we have for the National Guard," said BG Thomas L. McCullough, then Commander of the Georgia Army National Guard. "I think it's new to them, but it is something they seem to find intriguing. They were very interested in anything that deals with democracy and democratization of their system."

In 2011, the SPP enabled the Georgian government to complete a presidential initiative to develop a national military service academy. The Georgia National Defense Academy was established in the fall of 2011, and it now serves as the primary commissioning source and critical enabler for force transformation and professionalization – a strategic priority for the country of Georgia. The SPP was involved from the inception, providing conduits to U.S. military academies for guidance and laying the groundwork for mutual collaboration with North Georgia College and State University. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two universities stating, "The cooperation between the parties shall be implemented to develop civilian and military curricula, internal quality assurance procedures and mechanisms. They will implement student and academic staff exchange programs and other joint activities." The disaster response/interagency coordination efforts within the SPP reached two major milestones in 2011. In June, Georgia conducted a large, Georgian-led exercise with a U.S. observer controller team. The purpose of this exercise was to provide a forum to the Georgian military and civilian ministries to work together toward a common solution. This successful exercise is the culmination of over five years of bilateral efforts. The Georgians now have viable interagency partner capacity and the confidence to demonstrate it. In November 2011, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs volunteered to host the 2012 NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center's annual disaster response exercise. This exercise included 38 countries and over 1,000 participants, allowing Georgia to showcase their partner capacity.

In 2012, the SPP program continued supporting the annual event SHARED HORIZONS, a U.S. European Command directed exercise conducted by United States Army Europe. The exercise is designed to help the Republic of Georgia government provide civil response in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The 2012 event saw about 12 Georgia Army Guardsmen and 25 USAREUR personnel working alongside 100 Georgian government officials at the Georgian National Guard Training Center. The Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defense are leading the exercise. "What's learned during these four days will help them better mitigate public suffering in the event the real thing ever happens," said Georgia Army Guard Col. Anthony Abbott, Shared Horizons 2012 exercise director. "In addition, the Georgians will be equipped and trained to respond better to the questions civilian media will ask."



President:  
Mikheil Saakashvili  
Prime Min.:  
Boris Ivanishvili  
MoD:  
Irakli Alasania  
Amb. to US:  
Temur Yakobashvili  
US Amb.:  
Richard Norland  
TAG:  
Maj. Gen.  
Jim Butterworth

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 1561(1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 4

Population: 4.6M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
South Carolina

Military Expend.: 2.9%  
GDP (2011 est.)



"The SPP has proven to be an extremely successful and remarkably low cost vehicle for building and maintaining long-term friendly relationships between the U.S. and other countries around the world."

- Maj. Gen. David Poythress, Former Adjutant General, Georgia

### Partnership Focus

#### 2013 Planned Events

- Shared Horizons 13
- Georgia Train and Support Team (19 Soldiers)
- Wounded Warrior Program

#### Future Years Proposed Events:

- Strategic Communications
- Expanded Security Cooperation





# ILLINOIS - POLAND 1993-2013



## Overview

The mission of the Illinois National Guard State Partnership Program is to enhance U.S. European Command's ability to build enduring military to military, relationships that enhance long-term international security while building partnership capacity across all levels of society. This is accomplished by offering a transparent view of an agile security organization that is able to conduct full spectrum activities as part of a whole-of-government approach to secure enduring stability. This collaboration has become a lead Department of Defense instrument in advancing international military cooperation to affect key defense and security challenges.

## Partnership History

### Overview:

- State Partnership was established 14 July 1993
- Member of NATO (1999), the EU (2004), the United Nations, and World Trade Organization
- The most populous of the eastern European states and the 34th most populous in the world
- Poland has had a democratic government since 1989

Established in July 1993, the State Partnership Program (SPP) between Illinois and Poland was one of the first SPP relationships initiated between the National Guard and the former Soviet Eastern Block countries. The partnership between Illinois and Poland was influenced by the large Polish population in Illinois. Chicago is recognized as having the largest Polish population outside of Warsaw, with 1.1 million residents of Polish descent.

The Polish Land Forces were in the transformation process in the earlier 1990s when the partnership began. Since then, the partnership has matured from military-to-military exchanges to broad-based civilian exchanges, activities and events. Through the efforts of the Illinois-Poland SPP, the Polish Land Forces are today as capable as their U.S. military counterparts and Poland has been the largest SPP contributing nation to the International Security Assistance Force. Information sharing between the Polish Armed Forces and the Illinois National Guard has increased both organizations intellectual capacity in areas that support combat and stability operations.

One of the greatest examples of collaboration and partnering between a U.S. State and an SPP Partner Nation is the Transatlantic Collaborative Biological Resiliency Demonstration (TaCBRD). This program is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the U.S. Department of State (DOS), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Republic of Poland. The purpose is to develop and demonstrate the capability to counter a wide area biological incident that impacts U.S. or Partner Nation civilian and military personnel and key infrastructure. For wide-area contagious biological threats, TaCBRD focuses on mitigating morbidity through rapid detection and containment – thereby saving lives and enhancing recovery. Specifically, the program provides solutions for overseas response and recovery and partner nation collaboration. Most importantly, TaCBRD also enhances relationships and build partner capacity with key nation(s) within DOD's EUCOM area of responsibility.

The strong partnership continues to positively impact the relationship between the Polish and U.S. people with personal and professional friendships emerging from each exchange.

### Highlights of 2012 included:

- Continued support of C-130 integration and pre-deployment exchanges
- Multi-year Domestic Operations Cooperation Plan
- Defense Support of Civil Authority (DSCA)
- Interagency Cooperation and Interoperability
- Initiation of cooperation with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Poland on TaCBRD Program
- Continued Veteran Affairs and Family Programs cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health

### President:

Bronisław Komorowski

### Prime Min.:

Donald Tusk

### MoD:

Tomasz Siemonek

### Amb. to US:

Ryszard Schnep

### US Amb:

Stephen D. Mull

### TAG:

MG Daniel Krumrei

NATO member: Yes  
(1999)

EU member: Yes (2003)

ISAF Pax: 1770 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:  
16

Population: 38.4M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller  
than New Mexico

Military Expend.: 1.9%  
GDP (2010 est.)



**"We share an excellent relationship with the Polish military that has been forged through our State Partnership Program."  
- MG Randal E. Thomas, former Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard**

Since the program's inception, thousands of Illinois National Guard members have participated in exchanges with Polish military and civilian organizations. Beginning in 2003, Illinois service members participated in cooperative efforts with Polish Armed Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. There have been numerous military exchanges highlighting C-130 maintenance program exchanges, reserve force information exchanges, pre-deployment activity, as well as many other leadership building events.



Additional historical information includes:

- Since 1993, the Illinois National Guard has deployed more than 3,400 Soldiers and Airmen in support of more than 320 bilateral events with Polish Land and Air Forces.
- ILNG SPP conducts reciprocal events where organizations deploy or receive more than 200 Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian specialists annually to foster mutually beneficial relationships between Illinois and Poland.
- ILNG SPP averages more than 25 bilateral events annually with the Republic of Poland.
- From 2003 to 2008, the ILNG deployed 80 Soldiers in support of Polish Contingency Operations in Iraq as they commanded the Multinational Division Center-South.
- Since 2007, the ILNG has deployed 176 Soldiers in support of Polish Contingency Operations as they command Task Force White Eagle in Ghazni, Afghanistan.
- The ILNG is proud and honored to be partners with Poland, who has contributed more than 37,000 troops to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the United States and the International Security Assistance Force.

### **Partnership Focus**

The primary focus is split between support of ISAF Operational training and co-deployment, Professional Military Education, Transformation of the Forces, Crisis Management and Response, and Defense Support of Civil Authorities. Future events between Illinois and Poland will focus on recruiting, retention, family assistance, veterans' affairs, and assistance with the transformation of the Polish National Reserve Force.



Military-to-Military (M2M) events will enable Poland to lead multi-national initiatives within Central Europe that seek to promote regional stability. Additionally, events will include Unit level exchanges, Officer/NCO Professional Development, DSCA / Crisis Management, and National Reserve Force Transformation. Interagency (Domestic Operations) events will include Counter/Anti Terrorism Collaboration, Disaster Preparedness, and Build Homeland Security Posture via Joint Exercises.

One of the most important events between Illinois and Poland is the Transatlantic Collaborative Biological Resiliency Demonstration (TacBRD) program. This three-year program, which began in 2012 and runs through 2014, will enhance National Defense by increasing resilience to catastrophic events and by providing capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a biological attack.

2013 Planned Events:

- Ongoing support of C-130 Interoperability
- Ongoing support of co-deployment activity
- Partner with DTRA and Poland for the Transatlantic Collaborative Biological Resiliency Demonstration (TacBRD) program

Future Years Proposed Events:

- Increased activity in military professional development / transformation
- Continued Support of Domestic Operations / Homeland Security (HLS) joint endeavours with DTRA / TaCBRD



# INDIANA - SLOVAKIA 1994-2013



## Overview

Since its inception in 1994, the Indiana and Slovakia partnership has grown steadily in its offerings, training events, and personnel. One of the oldest State Partnerships, the Indiana-Slovakia Partnership began with the initial goal of Slovakia becoming a full member of NATO. Since that goal was realized, the Soldiers from Indiana and Slovaki have participated in over 200 joint events and have deployed side by side in combat. The future of the Partnership looks bright and both sides enjoy a special bond that has endured for almost 20 years.

## Partnership History

### Overview

- Indiana-Slovakia Partnership since 1994.
- NATO member since 2004.
- EU member since 01 May 2004.
- UN member since 31 July 1992.
- Full partner in NATO.
- Executed over 200 bi-lateral events since partnership began.
- Participated in KFOR 2004-2010.
- Participating in Cyprus UN Mission.
- Slovakia's military is made up of land, air, air defense and special forces.
- Advanced Economy based on increasing privatization of business characterized with high economic growth.

When Czechoslovakia divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993, the Department of Defense and the U.S. State Department saw a great opportunity to become allies with these two new nations. The decision to partner Slovakia with Indiana was largely because in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many Slovak immigrants came to work in the factories in northern Indiana and were essential in making Indiana what it is today. The two militaries have exchanged troops, techniques and training procedures in over 200 bi-lateral events since the partnership began. Events have included, among other things:

- NCO Development
- Flight Training
- Fire Support Planning
- Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield
- Military Decision Making Process

In 2004, Slovakia realized the goal it had set from the start of the partnership - full NATO membership. Slovakia also gained membership into the European Union that same year.

As a further testament to the accomplishments of the Indiana-Slovakia partnership, Indiana Guardsmen and Slovak troops deployed side-by-side to Afghanistan in 2011. For 10 months, they served under the command of an SAF officer as an Operation Mentor and Liaison Team mentoring Afghan logistics troops.

"The advancement of the Slovak military, from a Soviet Era Cold War style force to an ally who is currently fighting alongside our fellow Indiana Guardsmen in Afghanistan is truly remarkable. We were welcomed not only as allies, but as friends and brothers-in-arms amid the backdrop of a beautiful countryside filled with genuinely hospitable people." - COL Ron Westfall, Director of Plans, Operations, and Readiness, Indiana National Guard.



President:

Ivan Gašparovič

Prime Min.:

Robert Fico

MoD:

Martin Glváč

Amb. to US:

Peter Kmec

US Amb:

Theodore Sedgwick

TAG:

MG Marty Umbarger

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 234 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 6

Population: 5.5M  
(2012 est.)

Area: twice the size of  
New Hampshire

Military Expend.: 1.1%  
GDP (2010 est.)





“Our special relationship with the Slovak military through the State Partnership Program has made us a stronger member of a great team. This program makes the Indiana National Guard a more ready and relevant force.”

- MG R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General, Indiana National Guard

### Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 is:

- Disaster Response Crisis Management
- Cyber Security
- CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive)
- Rotary Wing Interoperability
- MAT VI and MAT VII Training Development[9]

MG Umbarger, the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, has taken on five significant initiatives for consideration in the coming years:

- Continued emphasis on Joint SAF/INNG Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams in Afghanistan
- A study of the viability and parameters of a reserve force in Slovakia
- Initiation of a query into a second partnership, possibly in Africa
- Feasibility study into a joint partnership with Slovakia and a third nation
- Slovakia and INNG mobilizing as a joint Agribusiness Development Team





# IOWA - KOSOVO 2011-2013



## Overview

The Iowa-Kosovo partnership was created on 11 March, 2011 with the long-term goal of developing the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and fostering mutually-beneficial interests across all levels of society. Establishing a strong relationship with the government of Kosovo, this partnership represents a critical step toward the reform development of Kosovo’s security forces along Euro-Atlantic standards.

## Partnership History

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on 17 February, 2008. In its declaration of independence, Kosovo committed to fulfilling its obligations under the plan established by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari, as a fundamental principle of good governance and to welcome a period of international supervision.[3] United States recognition was immediate and just three years later, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad announced the newly-established partnership between the State of Iowa and the Republic of Kosovo. “I am delighted to announce the establishment of a State Partnership Program with the Republic of Kosovo, a great friend to the United States and a place with which our Guardsmen and women are already familiar through service in NATO’s Kosovo force,” Branstad said. “The State Partnership Program is a long standing and important program, which will benefit both our Iowa National Guard and the Kosovo Security Force.”

Iowa has a special relationship with Kosovo as more than 700 Iowa National Guardsmen and women have been stationed there as part of peacekeeping missions since 2003. Additionally, the Iowa National Guard’s public affairs office states that it has been the tradition of Iowa soldiers serving in Kosovo to also engage in nation-building activities on their personal time, such as teaching students English and helping with other types of community betterment projects.

The first major partnership event between Iowa and Kosovo involved the Iowa National Guard’s Regional Training Institute spending more than two weeks in Kosovo teaching the first Kosovo Security Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Course. “This course was in development when the NCO leadership of Iowa visited Kosovo in September,” Army CSM Rachel Fails said. “So, it did a couple things for us besides give us, the state partner, information and knowledge of the KSF. It really is the first step in building that relationship – a personal relationship that three years, four years, five years from now we’re still going to be here and we’re going to keep building here.”

In fiscal year 2012, Iowa and Kosovo participated in 9 different SPP events, including a a KSF Medical Readiness event, a KSF SR NCO Refresher Course, KSF visit to Iowa, and a Senior Leader Visit to Kosovo.

In September 2012, a particularly important step in furthering the already strong relationship was taken when Iowa sent a military service member to work fulltime in Kosovo to help coordinate projects between the two countries.

President:

Atifete Jahjaga

Prime Min.:

Hashim Thaci

MoD:

Agim Ceku

Amb. to US:

Akan Ismaili

US Amb:

Tracey Ann Jacobson

TAG:

MG Timothy Orr

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 0 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 1.8M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly larger than  
Delaware

Military Expend.: 0.6%  
GDP (2011 est.)



“This [partnership] is very significant to the Iowa National Guard. As we grow and learn together, I think we can help each other with the challenges that we have and we really look forward to a great future.”

- MG Timothy Orr, Adjutant General, Iowa National Guard

### Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 is:

- Ambassador visit to DSM: 14-15 November 2012
- Company Level Pre Command Seminar: 8-22 December 2012
- NCO Policy and Strategy Development: 8-15 December 2012
- Emergency OPS Contingency Planning: FAM – 21-25 January 2013
- NCO Development Program: 2-9 February 2013
- Staff NCO Development/Directorate Survey: 2-9 March 2013
- COMKSF SR Leader Visit: 8-15 April 2013
- Firefighting TCT/FAM: 11-18 April 2013
- TAG IA Visit: 22-29 June 2013
- Officer/NCO Roles & Responsibilities: 8-22 June 2013
- Garrison Command: 8-22 June 2013
- Disaster Management Response Shadow: 10-16 July 2013
- Utilization of a CSM: 7-14 September 2013
- Leader Book Development: 14-21 September 2013

### Way Ahead

- Create and Develop an NCO Corps
- Create Domestic Operations
- Improve overall readiness of the Kosovo Security Forces

Discussions of future events include the possible inclusion of Kosovo participants in the Best Warrior competition held each spring in Iowa as well as agricultural exchange and economic ventures.

Establishing a strong relationship with the government of Kosovo, this partnership represents a critical step toward the reform development of Kosovo’s security forces along Euro-Atlantic standards.







# KANSAS- ARMENIA 2003-2013



## Overview

The Republic of Armenia signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Kansas in 2003, establishing the Kansas-Armenia State Partnership Program. Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius subsequently signed a proclamation declaring 18 June, 2004, as Kansas-Armenia Partnership Day.

The partnership aims to develop self-sustaining relationships between the Armenian Ministry of Defense and the Kansas National Guard, as well as various civilian organizations, in order to exchange knowledge in areas such as emergency management and disaster response, border and port security, economic security, peacekeeping operations and counter terrorism.

## Partnership History

Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union on 23 August, 1990, having previously been the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, one of the constituent republics of the USSR since 1936, and part of the Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic since 1920. In the wake of the August Coup (1991), a referendum was held on the question of secession. Following an overwhelming vote in favor, full independence was declared on 21 September, 1991. However, widespread recognition did not occur until the formal dissolution of the Soviet Union on 25 December, 1991. The dissolution of the Soviet Union brought an end to the Cold War and created the opportunity for bilateral relations with the New Independent States (NIS) as they began a political and economic transformation. The U.S. recognized the independence of Armenia on 25 December, 1991, and opened an Embassy in Yerevan in February 1992.

The Kansas-Armenia State Partnership was established in June 2003 for the purpose of fostering security cooperation between the United States and Armenia and to support the objectives of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Each year, Kansas and Armenia conduct numerous joint exercises in both locations that span across educational, law enforcement, medical, military, and emergency preparedness endeavors. Within the framework of the Ambassador's Mission Strategic Resource Plan (MSRP) and EUCOM's Theater Security Strategy, the Kansas-Armenia Partnership strengthens bilateral security relationships, enhances partner capacity and promotes effective civil-military relations.

Twice a year, in January and July, the State Partnership Program hosts the International Officers visit from Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This is a state government visit to Topeka to familiarize international officers with the judicial, legislative and executive branches of state government; including the role of the National Guard. Other military cooperation events focus on enhancing U.S. military standards and procedures, as well as enhancing interoperability between Euro-Atlantic and Armenian forces. Annually, the program continues efforts to expand beyond the military-to-military relationships. Civil engagement initiatives started in 2008 in the areas of higher education and police/law enforcement and have begun to show tangible results. Expanding on the efforts started in education, Kansas partnered with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement within the U.S. Embassy in Armenia to begin conducting law enforcement related events similar to the military events the Kansas National Guard has been conducting.

President:

Serzh Sargsyan

Prime Min.:

Tigran Sargsyan

MoD:

Seyran Ohanyan

Amb. to US:

Tatoul Markarian

US Amb:

John A. Heffern

TAG:

MG Lee Tafanelli

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 126 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:  
10

Population: 3.0M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Maryland

Military Expend.: 4.5%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“We have seen the positive impact that we can have on such a critical part of the world. We look forward to expanding our ties and continuing our partnership.”

- Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Former Adjutant General, Kansas National Guard

### Partnership Focus

The following are EUCOM stated areas of focus for the Kansas-Armenia partnership:

- Foster regional stability
- Assist with Strategic Defense Reform
- Increase NATO interoperability
- Strengthen multilateral military cooperation
- Increase Armenian coalition contributions
- Enhance Expeditionary Medical Capabilities
- Enhance Peace Keeping Brigade Capabilities
- Improve Demining Capabilities



### Funding

The U.S. has made a concerted effort to help Armenia during its difficult transition from totalitarianism and a command economy to democracy and open markets. The monetary value of assistance provided by Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) and State Department defense related programs is mandated by Congress and fluctuates slightly each year. Over the last 4 years, International Military Education and Training (IMET) for Armenia has amounted to approximately 3.2 million US Dollars. This has provided military education and language training for over 100 Officers, NCOs and junior enlisted soldiers. Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Armenia has amounted to approximately 17.5 million US dollars. FMF has been used to promote professional military education, deployable medicine and enhancing the Armenian Peace Keeping Brigade. Humanitarian Assistance (HA) for Armenia has amounted to nearly one million US Dollars provided to schools, hospitals and orphanages throughout Armenia.

### International Organizations and Agreements

UN, Council of Europe, European Neighborhood Program of the EU, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), NATO's Partnership for Peace, Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, World Trade Organization.

U.S. assistance supports Armenia's transition into a stable partner at peace with its neighbors. The United States provides multifaceted assistance to Armenia through a variety of programs designed to promote economic growth, encourage democratic governance, improve health and social protection systems, and enhance Armenia's peace and security as well as providing humanitarian assistance to the poor, elderly, and other vulnerable groups through a "whole of government" approach that involves a number of U.S. government agencies.



The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, limiting military equipment, was ratified by the Armenian parliament in July 1992. In March 1993, Armenia signed the multilateral Chemical Weapons Convention, for the eventual elimination of chemical weapons. Armenia became a non-nuclear state under the Non-Proliferation Treaty in July 1993. In July 2008 the U.S. and Armenia signed an action plan to partner on Combating Smuggling of Nuclear and Radiological Materials under the U.S. Department of State's Nuclear Smuggling Outreach Initiative (NSOI). In the same framework, Armenia is participating in the U.S.-led Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP). Armenia also participates in the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

In September 2010, Armenia and the United States signed an agreement to implement a Biological Threat Reduction Program, which will enhance U.S.-Armenia cooperation in preventing the proliferation of technology, pathogens, and expertise that could be used in the development of biological weapons. Armenia provides troops for peacekeeping operations elsewhere and has an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement and an Agreement on Cooperation of Defense and Economy with the U.S., and a Status of Forces agreement is in place.



# MAINE - MONTENEGRO 2006-2013



## Overview

Montenegro signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Maine in 2006 establishing the Maine-Montenegro State Partnership Program.

The partnership aims to develop self-sustaining relationships between the Montenegrin Ministry of Defense and the Maine National Guard as well as various civilian organizations in order to exchange knowledge in areas such as emergency management and disaster response, border and port security, economic security, peacekeeping operations and counter terrorism.

## Partnership History

### Overview:

- State Partnership was established 20 November 2006.
- Montenegro is a candidate for EU membership, member of the UN, a NATO partner and participating in a NATO Membership Action Plan for full NATO membership.
- The military is composed of land, naval, and air forces with a Special Forces component. It continues to provide 6-month ISAF Security Platoon rotations, small individual ISAF support missions and military observer mission in Liberia.
- Montenegro seeks to participate in more peacekeeping missions under UN and NATO after military modernization and reorganization.
- The government is a parliamentary democracy, led by a prime minister, with a president as head-of-state. It is working to improve social justice and rule of law. It's Constitution was approved on 22 October 2007.

On 3 June, 2006, Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia and Montenegro, which was formerly part of Yugoslavia until its collapse in 1992. The Maine-Montenegro State Partnership was established a few months later for the purpose of fostering security cooperation between the United States and Montenegro, and to support the objectives of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Ultimately, Montenegro sought NATO membership and saw the SPP as a the best possible route to achieving that goal. "They truly want to be part of the Euro-Atlantic community. They absolutely are desirous of being members of NATO, and they see the State Partnership Program being what they consider a fast-track for that," said LTG Blum, then Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

News of the partnership with the United States and the visit by National Guard leaders in December 2006 dominated evening news broadcasts and newspaper front pages in Montenegro. It was widely reported that the partnership offered numerous benefits to Montenegro, including emergency management, English language training for Montenegrin soldiers, officer and noncommissioned officer development, civilian student exchanges and the transformation of the Montenegrin military to an all-volunteer force.

Each year, Maine and Montenegro conduct numerous joint exercises in both locations that span across educational, law enforcement, medical, military, and emergency preparedness endeavors. Within the framework of the Ambassador's Mission Strategic Plan and EUCOM's Theater Security Strategy, the Maine-Montenegro.

President:

Filip Vujanović

Prime Min.:

Milo Đukanović

MoD:

Milica Pejanović Đurišić

Amb. to US:

Srdjan Darmanović

US Amb:

Sue K. Brown

TAG:

BG James D. Campbell

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 40 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 8

Population: 0.7M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Connecticut

Military Expend.: 1.3%  
GDP (2010 est.)





"We're [Maine/Montenegro] very similar States in many respects and both of us have significant coastlines, significant industries and a wide spectrum of possible cooperation and partnership."

- MG John Libby, Former Adjutant General, Maine National Guard

Partnership strengthens bilateral security relationships, enhances partner capacity and promotes effective civil-military relations.

In 2012, Maine and Montenegro conducted eight SPP events, including infantry tactics, extreme climate operations, medical and flight operations, predeployment preparation and others.

On 10 December, 2012, military leadership from Maine and Montenegro met in Montenegro to review their progress over the last six years and to discuss the future of their partnership.

### Partnership Focus

Maine will continue to support Membership Action Plan goals and develop events that support Defense Support to Civilian Authorities and other ISAF preparation related missions.

#### Military to Military (M2M):

- Prepare Montenegrin participants to participate in Vigilant Guard '14.
- Develop reverse/co-deployment opportunities, as appropriate.
- Move to collective-level training, using MEANG KC-135 for airlift.

#### Interagency (Domestic Operations):

- Management of large scale disasters through DSCA/CMEP.
- Possible Marine Patrol focus on security, navigation, harbor pollution and related issues.

#### Corollary (Civilian Initiatives):

- Continue to build educational, cultural and economic relations to include: Forest Management, Parks and Recreation and Maritime Studies.
- Continue to work to develop university interaction, and student and faculty exchanges between Maine and Montenegro.



# MARYLAND - ESTONIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The Maryland-Estonia National Guard Partnership is one of the 22 European partnerships that make up the US European Command and one of the 65 worldwide partnerships that make up the National Guard State Partnership Program. As one of the very first and most successful partnerships to date, this partnership serves as a model of success to other nations and validates the importance of the State Partnership Program.

The twenty year partnership has yielded tremendous results, witnessing an Estonia that had just gained its independence from the Soviet Union to accession into the EU and NATO in 2004, and the Eurozone in 2011.

## Partnership History

Maryland and Estonia have conducted more than 200 Partnership events in both Estonia and Maryland. Beginning with basic topics and expanding into the most complex areas of National Defense and policy, with the intent of building Estonia capacity from within.

Previous mil-to-mil events have focused on:

- NCO Development
- Air Force Development
- Development of Special Operations (SOF)
- Veteran Care/Wounded Warrior Programs
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- Long Range Reconnaissance
- Military and Disaster Medicine

Most recently, two Estonian Air Force pilots are conducting a three year non-reciprocal exchange with the Maryland National Guard. These two pilots completed the UH-60 qualification course and conducted the required mobilization training with their unit of assignment. This training culminated in a co-deployment where they served along side their Maryland National Guard counterpart while deployed to Afghanistan as pilots in an Air Ambulance (MEDEVAC) company. Having returned from that deployment after successfully completing numerous missions, they continue to rotate through assignments as staff officers and leaders. Additionally, the original military-to-military partnership between the Maryland National Guard and Estonia has spawned relationship in several areas within Governance, Education, and Economics.

The Estonian economy has recovered to pre-crisis level and reports approximately 1.9% growth, a key indicator of the health and stability of the country.

Maryland has formalized over 10 twin/sister relationships between municipalities in Maryland and Municipalities in Estonia; promoting peace and collaboration through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In 2012, Salisbury University and the Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu signed an agreement to collaborate on a combined Master's Degree in Cyber Security. Students can enroll in their sister Universities to complete the degree while studying abroad – a great example of how the program has expanded to civilian to civilian relationships.

President:

Toomas Hendrik Ilves

Prime Min.:

Andrus Ansip

MoD:

Urmas Reinsalu

Amb. to US:

Marina Kaljurand

US Amb:

Jeffrey D. Levine

TAG:

MG James A. Adkins

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 150 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 1.3M  
(2012 est.)

Area: twice the size of  
New Hampshire

Military Expend.: 2.0%  
GDP (2012 est.)



"Through the State Partnership Program, we are able to truly make a difference to fledgling democracies. Our servicemembers' experiences with the program pay dividends when our units deploy in support of overseas contingency operations."

- MG James A. Adkins, Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard

### **Partnership Focus**

Estonia is one of the most "connected" countries in Europe. A cyber attack in 2007 displayed the vulnerabilities associated with such connectivity and resulted in Cyber Defense becoming a national priority. With that, the Maryland National Guard continues to work with EUCOM, Estonia, and its regional Baltic partners to further developing their cyber capacity. In fact, this regional approach has proven to be an example for many other areas under the State Partnership Program given the constrained resources of today's environment.

The Maryland National Guard will continue to be a key player in the regional SABRE STRIKE Exercise used to develop the interoperability and capabilities of Estonia and their Baltic partners with the international military community. In 2013, the Maryland Air National Guard will be providing fixed wing close air support with 4 x A-10 aircraft.

Major areas of concern include energy security, cyber defense, initial defense, and an emigration "brain drain". A consolidated effort from mil-to-mil as well as civ-to-civ efforts under the SPP can and will assist in addressing these concerns.



# MARYLAND - BOSNIA 2003-2013



## Overview

The Partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was established in 2003 and has steadily grown and matured to the point that it is now widely acknowledged as one of the most important bi-lateral security cooperation relationships in BiH. The Partnership began only eight years after the cessation of hostilities brought about by the signing of the Dayton Accords (1995) and it preceded by three years the integration of the BiH Ministry of Defense (MOD) and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) from its constituent, largely mono-ethnic, wartime formations. The State Partnership played an active role in this successful integration process, and in the subsequent development of this integrated, volunteer force into the professional formation it is today; one that is currently an able partner in international peace-keeping missions and a capable provider of assistance to BiH civilian authorities in times of natural disaster.

## Partnership History

- State Partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina established in 2003
- Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of BiH integrated in 2006
- Over 150 SPP events conducted in BiH and Maryland from 2003-2009
- BiH receives conditional NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) in 2010
- BiH and Maryland expand annual Unit Level Familiarizations (ULFs) between AFBiH and MDNG units (during the MDNG units' 2-week Annual Training periods) in 2011
- BiH sends a full-time Liaison Officer, LTC Dzevad Buric, to work on the MDNG Joint Staff, the first such arrangement in the history of the SPP, worldwide, in 2012
- AFBiH and MDNG deploy Military Police soldiers together to Kandahar, Afghanistan in January 2013

The Maryland National Guard (MDNG) has supported over 200 military to military cooperation events with BiH since the partnership's inception, in addition to supporting numerous other civil-military engagements. This partnership has enabled the AFBiH and MDNG to exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures across a wide range of military specialties such as rotary-wing aviation, military police operations, logistics, and disaster response. The MDNG and AFBiH are proportionately sized and share many similar unit formations. The continuity of personnel inherent in National Guard formations has allowed for deep professional and personal relationships to develop between members of the two organizations, relationships that would be difficult, if not impossible, to develop and maintain with larger defense partners. The partnership directly supports BiH's ongoing security sector reforms and US security assistance priorities, such as BiH's NATO Partnership goals.

The trust that has developed between the AFBiH and MDNG via the now 10-year-old State Partnership relationship is perhaps best embodied by the recent deployment of 26 AFBiH Military Police soldiers to Afghanistan with their counterparts in the MDNG's 115th Military Police Battalion as a part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). In the words of the BiH Ministry of Defense this co-deployment "is the most demanding and most complex Peace Support Operation mission the AFBiH (has embarked on so far)...it is also proof of the AFBiH's readiness to contribute as an equal NATO partner to peace building in the world."

## Partnership Focus

MD and BiH are constantly looking for ways to expand and build upon the existing partnership. The potential for future co-deployments is being evaluated based on the success of the current Military Police co-deployment. Past areas of focus have become core capabilities of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, requiring the constant evaluation of where our partnership can re-focus to continue to assist Bosnia in their progression and their overall capacity as a military.



President:

Nebojša Radmanović

Prime Min.:

Vjekoslav Bevanda

MoD:

Zekerijah Osmic

Amb. to US:

Jadranka Negodic

US Amb:

Patrick Moon

TAG:

MG James A. Adkins

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 0 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:

19

Population: 3.9M

(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
West Virginia

Military Expend.: 1.4%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“We build relationships at the squad, platoon and company level, where these individuals work together time after time, and we’ve seen that come together in the Bosnian deployment with us to Afghanistan. The Bosnians are willing and able partners in anything we do on the b

- Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, Former Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard

As we look forward, there are exciting possibilities in the interagency and whole-of-government realm that could provide value to both sides of this bi-lateral partnership. Specifically, leaders have identified education, health services/medical, and business development as potential areas for future collaboration and cooperation. Already, discussions have taken place at venues like the successful Balkan Business Summit-2011 held in Baltimore, Maryland, which could deepen and improve the State Partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Maryland Medical System and the Clinical Center University of Sarajevo establishing a partnership of teaching and mentorship between the two organizations.

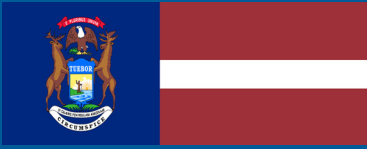
Way forward:

- See through an embedded-deployment between MDNG Military Police and AFBiH Military Police (Staff Officers and PSD)
- Expand the Unit Level Exchanges occurring between AFBiH and MDNG during unit ATs (increasing US-BiH interoperability)
- Look to expand “whole-of-government” cooperation (i.e. Intl. Relations/Security Studies student exchanges)

“The Bosnians display a great sense of pride, confidence and teamwork that has, in part, been built during these military and security exchanges. The work they’re doing with the Maryland National Guard has not only primed them to support International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan missions, but [also has] prepared them for international security involvement around the world.” - Evelyn Farkas, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

“The State Partnership Program between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State of Maryland has long been one of our strongest and most fruitful exchange and training programs. This deployment is a sign of the ever-increasing strength of our partnership. At the same time, it illustrates increased professionalism, maturing capabilities, growing contributions, and ultimately how much the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have increased their interoperability with the world’s most capable military forces.” - Mr. Patrick Moon, U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia





# MICHIGAN - LATVIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The twenty-year relationship between the Michigan National Guard (MNG) and the Latvian National Armed Forces (LNAF) is the cornerstone of the military cooperation between the United States and Republic of Latvia. The basis for its strength is that many of the individual members of the MNG and the LNAF have developed ten to twenty-year long personal relationships. The true friendship and shared goals of the Soldiers and Airmen who have trained, developed professionally, and deployed together over the past twenty years is the core of the success of the State Partnership Program.

## Partnership History

As the first relationship formed under the United States State Partnership Program (SPP), it has been one of the defining examples of a security cooperation approach that has shown measurable results. The program can point to a number of successes highlighted by the first combined Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT) in support to NATO operations in Afghanistan, a fully-certified Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) program, and the first combined security engagement to a new SPP partner nation with the joint Traveling Contact Team to Liberia.

Specific to the State Partnership Program support to these goals is its evolution in the past four years. Although the SPP has been in existence since 1993 it was not until May of 2008 that it became a validated and recognized Department of Defense program. The program received its first funding in FY 2009 from the President's Budget, and is now funded through FY 2015 as a result of the Program Objective Memoranda (POM) process. These changes to the SPP program, when coupled with the newly developed Latvian Security and Defense Policy, allow for a new level of cooperation.

The cooperation plan developed between the MNG and LNAF in 2012 outlines the specific areas of cooperation between the MNG and the LNAF that will be focused on in the next four years. The areas of focus were drawn from the specific capabilities that were chosen as the focal point of U.S./Latvian military engagement through a collaborative effort of the U.S. Country Team, the Latvian Ministry of Defense and Joint Force Headquarters. Those capabilities center on and align U.S. Strategic guidance from the U.S. National Military Strategy, EUCOM Country Cooperation Plan and the Ambassador's Mission Resource Request with overlapping Latvian strategic goals as outlined in their National Defence Concept.

## Partnership Focus

The areas of cooperation for the specific MNG/LNAF mil-mil engagements were chosen from the larger U.S.-Latvia focus areas outlined in Section 1 of the U.S. Embassy's ODC Engagement Strategy. Their selection is based upon the areas of cooperation that could be resourced from the MNG. Every capability goal will be managed by the US Country Team and EUCOM ECJ5; and resourced from a broad spectrum of sources outside of MNG forces and SPP funding, to include:

- EUCOM forces
- Rotational Active, Guard and Reserve Forces
- International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds
- Foreign Military Sales (FMS) funds
- 1206 funds
- Latvian National funds

President:

Andris Berzins

Prime Min.:

Valdis Dombrovskis

MoD:

Artis Pabriks

Amb. to US:

Andris Razans

US Amb:

Mark Pekala

TAG:

MG Gregory Vadnais

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 27 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 8

Population: 2.2M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly larger than  
West Virginia

Military Expend.: 1.1%  
GDP (2010 est.)





“We are very proud of our partnership with the Latvian Armed Forces. Their contributions to the Global War on Terror are a real testimony to the strength of their partnership.”

- Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, Former Adjutant General, Michigan National Guard

Underlying all of these resources will be a persistent, enduring relationship between the MNG and the LNAF that underpins the four-year plan to ensure a coordinated resourcing that allows successful, stand alone capabilities to be developed.

This cooperation agreement is based on a peer-to-peer relationship between the involved Michigan Guardsmen and Latvian Soldiers and Airmen. While a disparity in size and resource base creates an environment where Latvia is an overall customer of security cooperation engagements with the U.S., the evolution of the competence of the LNAF require a continuously engaged process due to the complexity of the capabilities being developed and many facets where Latvia is a supplier of security cooperation capacity.



The core of this relationship will be The Adjutant General (TAG) of Michigan and the Chief of Defense (CHOD) of Latvia. Through consistent senior leader exchanges and visits, strategic vision will be provided to both organizations as to the importance of the relationship and updated goals and direction. The main conduit for information exchange will be the Michigan resourced Bilateral Affairs Officer (BAO) and the Latvian Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (DCOS OPS). For planning and execution of specific events, the BAO will work through the J-3/5/7 and designated Joint Staff personnel specific to the engagement areas.

In addition to standard U.S. funded security cooperation events, the MNG and LNAF have identified the need for longer-term familiarization events. Two main factors create the need for an enhanced engagement plan between the MNG and LNAF. First, the complexity of the capabilities being developed does not lend themselves to the historic 5 day Traveling Contact Team (TCT) and Familiarization (FAM) event. Secondly, many of the capabilities being developed do not have formal schools associated with the skill sets being developed. The MNG and LNAF will look to increase cooperation on this point with planned extended familiarization events in an “on the job” specialized format in Michigan for 2-4 week periods. If actual training is to be conducted, the MNG will ensure that proper authorities authorize it and that appropriate funding streams are used to conduct it. The MNG will provide all necessary training and accommodations when allowed in training centers in Michigan and LNAF will be responsible for travel costs, per diem and insurance.



The cooperation will be CAPABILITIES focused, not service, organizationally, or personality focused. Latvia will develop the force structure that supports a specific capability and the Michigan Guard will engage that force structure. The MNG and LNAF will source engagements based on the capability being developed. For the MNG, some will be Army Guard centric, some Air Guard centric, but many will be joint engagements or “whole of government” initiatives such as Joint Fires Observer (JFO), range development, Liberia Non-Commissioned Officer combined training teams, and Disaster Response events.

The main areas of cooperation:

- Combat Engineer Company
- Cyber Defense
- Joint Fires
- Air Operations
- Exercise Development, Planning and Execution
- Liberia





# MINNESOTA - CROATIA 1996-2013



## Overview

The partnership began in July 1996 and has progressed from small unit exchanges to deployments as Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLT) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This State Partnership Program supports U.S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging Croatian partners via military, socio-political and economic conduits at the local, state and national level. The Minnesota National Guard supports Croatian contributions and capabilities for peacekeeping, humanitarian relief and search-and-rescue operations. This partnership continues to assist in the development and interoperability of Croatia's Armed Forces, supports overseas contingency operations, assists in the development of disaster preparedness and consequence management, and supports the EUCOM Commander's Security Cooperation Objectives.

## Partnership History

Since Minnesota and Croatia partnered under the State Partnership Program, Minnesota and Croatia have participated in more than one-hundred bilateral military and civilian engagements. The program has created partnerships that include the efforts of many organizations and individuals such as private firms, civic organizations and non-profit agencies to name a few. The state partnership is a mutual alliance with planning committees in both Minnesota and the Republic of Croatia who work together in a cooperative effort to improve and enrich the lives of everyone it touches. Croatian military leaders have credited this State Partnership Program with helping their country prevail as a North American Treaty Organization member in 2009.

This 17-year-old State Partnership Program between Minnesota and Croatia has greatly progressed from small military exchanges to overseas deployments of Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams to Afghanistan and much more. The partnership fosters mutual interests and establishes long-term relationships across all levels of society. Partnership activities include exchanges by high level military and civilian leaders. Military-to-military contacts bring the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian Armed Forces together on a yearly basis. The military-to-civilian activities during this partnership have focused on homeland defense, homeland security and military support to civilian authorities, including disaster preparedness, emergency response and consequence management.

The State Partnership Program relationship between Minnesota and Croatia has evolved and expanded over time. The program supports overseas contingency operations, assists in the development of disaster preparedness and consequence management, and supports the U.S. European Command's Security Cooperation Objectives with military transformation, interoperability, civil-military operations and regional military-to-military and civil security events. The Minnesota-Croatia State Partnership Program strengthens the capability of Minnesota National Soldiers and Airmen as well as the Croatian Armed Forces to serve successfully in a variety of operations and increases the participation in joint, multi-agency and multi-national exercises and operations.

Since Minnesota and Croatia partnered under the SPP, the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian Armed Forces have fielded and deployed combined Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLTs) to serve in Afghanistan. Soldiers from both countries have shaped the OMLT teams.

The combined OMLTs deployed to coach, teach, train and mentor Afghan National Army kandacks or battalions in order to increase the overall capabilities of Afghan Security Forces.

In May 2012, Minnesota National Guard Soldiers from the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry once again teamed up with Soldiers from the Croatian Armed Forces for an annual exercise called GUARDEX 12.

This time, the Minnesota National Guard Soldiers from 2-136 CAB were in Croatia training with the Croatian



President:  
Ivo Josipović  
Prime Min.:  
Zoran Milanović  
MoD:  
Ante Kotromanović  
Amb. to US:  
Josko Paro  
US Amb:  
Kenneth Merten  
TAG:  
MG Richard C. Nash

NATO member: Yes  
(2009)

EU member: No  
(Awaiting)

ISAF Pax: 242 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 4.5M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
West Virginia

Military Expend.: 1.7%  
GDP (2010 est.)





“In addition to our relationship being very relevant in meeting the objectives of the EUCOM Commander regarding his theater cooperation strategy, it has given many of our Soldiers and Airmen an opportunity to experience other cultures and methods.”

- MG Larry Shellito, Former Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard

Army over the course of two weeks. The Soldiers conducted platoon level training, integrating Croatian and Minnesota Soldiers. This marked the 16th year that Minnesota and Croatia have worked together in various programs. The GUARDEX 12 training exercise took place near Knin, Croatia. The rolling hills and breathtaking views on this Croatian military base mimicked the geography of much of Afghanistan. The first phase of the training involved familiarization with the Croatian weapon systems and live fire with an assault rifles, pistols, machine guns, RPG-7s and RPG-22s.

The platoon level training integrated Minnesota and Croatian soldiers together to conduct route reconnaissance, raid cordon and search, react to ambush and room clearing missions. The training was observed by Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, Adjutant General for the Minnesota National Guard, who was in Croatia meeting with James B. Foley, the United States ambassador to Croatia and leaders of the Croatian Armed Forces, Dr. Dragan Lozancic, the Deputy Minister of Defense; Lt. Gen. Drago Lovrić, Chief of Defense; Maj. Gen. Dragutin Rapinc, Land Forces Commanding General and other military leaders to discuss the partnership between the Minnesota National Guard and the Croatian military.



While in Croatia, Nash also oversaw joint military exercises with Maj. Gen. Dragutin Rapinc, Land Forces Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mladen Fuzel, commander of the Croatian Motorized Brigade, Lt. Col. Zoran Lipo, Military Cooperation's Chief with the Croatian Army, and other military leaders. This marked the final year of the GUARDEX training exercise between the two militaries. Although that was the last GUARDEX, it has been recognized by the U.S. ambassador, Maj. Gen. Nash and Croatian military leaders as a valuable training experience for both the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian Armed Forces. GUARDEX and the many joint military exercises with Croatia have not only provided outstanding training, but developed friendships between soldiers in a partnership that began in 1996 and will continue into the future.



### Partnership Focus

Today, the Minnesota National Guard continues to strengthen its partnership with Croatia and is making deliberate efforts to partner Croatian Government leaders with Minnesota State Government entities through civic-to-civic engagements. The overall intent is to facilitate planning fusion for civic discussions on future trade relations with Minnesota and Croatian international and domestic business leaders. The goals of the program reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the Minnesota National Guard, emphasizing its unique state-federal and civil-military characteristics to interact with both the active and reserve forces of foreign nations, interagency partners and international non-governmental organizations.

The value of the Minnesota-Croatia State Partnership lies in its ability to concentrate a small component of the U.S. defense structure—a state's National Guard—on a single country or region in support of U.S. Government policies. This concentrated focus supports the development of long term personal relationships and interagency coordination mechanisms that would not otherwise exist between Minnesota and Croatia.

Other priorities for the future include mentoring the Croatian Armed Forces on how to provide military support to civilian authorities, rotary lift engagements to support the air advisory teams, chaplaincy and assistance with cyber security and response. The relationship that has been established over time between the Minnesota National Guard and Croatian Armed Forces has been built on trust. By training together, the two organizations have earned a level of confidence in each other that makes operations on the battlefield run more smoothly.







# NEW JERSEY - ALBANIA 2001-2013



## Overview

The Republic of Albania signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of New Jersey in 2001, thus officially establishing the New Jersey-Albanian State Partnership Program. New Jersey and Albania were paired because they share similar climates, terrain features and because of the large Albanian population within the tri-state area. Since the official establishment of the partnership, New Jersey and Albania have conducted almost 200 events with about 10% of events consisting of Albanians visiting New Jersey. The initial focus was the accession of Albania into NATO, which occurred in 2009. The next focus shifted to reforming the Albanian Armed Forces from a conscription military to an all volunteer force, which occurred in 2010. The next steps are assisting Albania with acceptance into the European Union, which is currently pending, and Defense Reform for the military.

New Jersey National Guard soldiers and airmen have also participated in major military exercises either within Albania or the Adriatic Region, events sponsored by U.S. Army Europe such as Immediate Response, Cooperative Longbow, Cooperative Lancer, Cyber Defense and Humanitarian Mine Awareness events. Other programs which are an extension of the State Partnership Program is the introduction and sustainment of the DARE program which has successfully reached over 12,000 Albanian children. A continued relationship with New Jersey police and fire departments and their Albanian counterparts, donations and knowledge exchanges are conducted on an annual basis. Education at every level has also been a focal point of the partnership which includes a familiarization program between middle schools from both countries. Another educational program being focused on is the Sister University program at the college level.

## Partnership History

- Albanian Independence from Ottoman Empire 28 November 1912
- United Nations accession 14 December 1955
- The fall of communism, People's Socialist Republic of Albania, 25 April 1991
- State Partnership Program officially established 17 January 2001
- NJNG increases military-military events and introduces the military-civilian program
- Albania doubles its GDP and increases natural resource production 2007
- Albania gains acceptance into NATO 1 April 2009
- Albania Armed Forces changes from conscription to all volunteer force 2010
- First co-deployment Military Advisor Team in Afghanistan 25 July 2011

The New Jersey-Albanian relationship actually began unofficially before 2001, the relationship concentrated on reforming the Albanian military to meet NATO standards and defense reform. After 2001 the use of traveling contact teams was introduced, which included Albania sending representatives to New Jersey. In the last 5 years there has been a substantial increase of traveling contact teams which have focused on Leadership Development, Material Management, Doctrine, Deployment Preparation and Disaster Planning. The Ministry of Defense stated that the State Partnership Program had a direct impact with Albania gaining acceptance into NATO. As both countries continue to lean forward to enhance relationships, the program continues to be the foundation and an example for all other programs.

## FY 2012/2013 Highlights

- MAT-2 Departure Ceremony – U.S. Ambassador, NJNG Chief of the Joint Staff, and J3
- Albanian CHOD and TRADOC CDR visit to New Jersey
- Material Management and Logistical Support operations
- Officer & NCO Professional Development
- Military Police Deployment Capabilities
- Military Advisor Team Planning Conferences
- Human Resource & Recruiting Management
- Disaster Planning & Staff Exercise
- Cyber Defense Seminar's & Staff Assessments



President:

Bujar Nishani

Prime Min.:

Sali Berisha

MoD:

Arben Imami

Amb. to US:

Gilbert Galanxhi

US Amb:

Alexander Arvizu

TAG:

BG Michael L. Cunniff

NATO member: Yes  
(2009)

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 206 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 7

Population: 3.0M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Maryland

Military Expend.: 1.6%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“New Jersey’s state partnership with Albania has given our National Guard Airmen and Soldiers a chance to share military and civilian skills, and to interact with professionals who are truly making a difference in their country and the region.”

- MG Glenn Rieth, Former Adjutant General, New Jersey National Guard

### Partnership Focus

The following are EUCOM stated areas of focus for the New Jersey-Albanian partnership:

- Foster national stability within NATO framework
- Increase Albanian coalition contribution within the Adriatic Region
- Strategic Defense Reform
- Officer & Noncommissioned Officer Development
- Enhance peace keeping Forces Capabilities
- Strengthen Multilateral Military Cooperation
- Improve Demining Capabilities



### ISAF Cooperation and Military Advisor Teams

The New Jersey-Albania State Partnership Program has been very productive since the program was initiated. One of the program efforts that have been most productive recently is the co-deployment of MATs (Military Advisor Team). The MAT program is an important part of NATO-ISAF’s contribution towards the development of the Afghan National Army (ANA), MATs provide training and mentoring to the ANA. They also serve as a liaison capability between ANA and ISAF forces, co-coordinating the planning of operations and ensuring that the ANA units receive necessary enabling support (including close air support, casualty and medical evacuation). Three rotations have already been successfully conducted with another two rotations in the planning phases. Once both portions of the team are selected for deployment they conduct initial mobilization training within their respective country. They link-up as a joint team within the Host Nation (Albania) and conduct joint training at Zall-Herr, Albania’s premier training base. The MAT then moves to the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) Grafenwoehr Germany, for Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle certification and weapons live fire exercises. Once complete the MAT is ready for certification at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC), Hohenfels Germany.



The New Jersey-Albania MAT is unique in that its boots-on-ground time is 9 months long compared to the average 6 months. The first three rotations have made great strides with their Afghan National Army counterparts, areas of accomplishment are but not limited to Staff Operations and the Military Decision Making Process, Officer & NCO development, Engineer and Route Clearance operations, Field Artillery Live Fire Exercises and certification, Intelligence-Surveillance-Reconnaissance operations, Force Protection missions, and Battalion and Brigade level Support Operations. These co-deployments have not only significantly strengthened the bond between New Jersey & Albania but have also enhanced Albania’s military capabilities regarding future Domestic and NATO operations.

Albania has deployed troops to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Kosovo in support of KFOR, Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of EUFOR and currently has forces deployed to Afghanistan in support of the NATO effort to the ISAF mission. Currently in Afghanistan, Albanian forces are conducting missions within three different Regional Command’s that deal with Special Forces operations, Mentor Teams, Medical & Military Police support, Provincial Reconstruction Team, Logistical personnel and liaison at various levels. Albania has recently deployed soldiers in support of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in the Central African Republic of Chad, Republic of Côte d’Ivoire or Ivory Coast, and the Republic of Liberia, which is bordered by Sierra Leone. These deployments were successful due to the commitment of the Albanian Government to the U.S., NATO, and the UN missions. They were also successful because of the proficiency and dedication of the Albanian Armed Forces, which is a direct reflection of the State Partnership Program.





# NORTH CAROLINA - MOLDOVA 1996-2013



President:  
Nicolae Timofti  
Prime Min.:  
Vlad Filat  
MoD:  
Vitalie Marinuța  
Amb. to US:  
Igor Munteanu  
US Amb:  
William H. Moser  
TAG:  
MG Gregory A. Lusk

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 0 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 3.7M  
(2012 est.)  
Area: slightly larger than  
Maryland  
Military Expend.: 0.3%  
GDP (2010 est.)



## Overview

The North Carolina - Moldova (MDA) Partnership was formalized on 22 April, 1999. It has since evolved into a partnership that includes the efforts of many more organizations and individuals such as private firms, civic organizations and non-profit agencies. The partnership is a bi-lateral association with planning committees in both North Carolina and the Republic of Moldova who work together in a cooperative effort to improve and enrich the lives of everyone it touches.

## Partnership History

- Republic of Moldova declared its independence in 1991.
- Partnership established on 22 April 1999.
- Moldova Participated in Joint Exercises (MEDCEUR, Rapid Trident, Combined Endeavor, Cyber Endeavor, JCET).
- Moldovan National Army primarily consists of Land Forces with a small Air Force element.
- 6 Moldovan Contingents (117 military) participated in demining missions in Iraq between 2003-2008.
- Mil-to-Civ events focused on dental treatments to children from orphanages and disaster response and preparedness
- The Mil-to-Mil events focused on assisting the Moldovan military with developing its organic capabilities in the following areas: peacekeeping, SF, medical, logistics.

## Partnership Focus

In 1995, North Carolina had been partnered with Moldova as part of a program of military-to-military contact between the United States and emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union. It wasn't until 1999 however that the program really began to take off. Led by a North Carolina National Guard officer, what was then the Military Liaison Team (MLT) began overseeing contact between the National Army of Moldova and the various services of the United States military. Like elsewhere in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc, the aim was simple – engage the Moldovan military, enlarge America's circle of friends and provide a secure platform for freedom, prosperity and peace where the soldier is subordinate to civilian authority. Using a grass-roots organization like the National Guard with its base of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen was seen as the best way to connect.

Before military contact began, North Carolina citizens had already laid the groundwork for non-military cooperation with the poorest nation in Europe as early as 1995. In 1999, then Governor James B. Hunt Jr., signed the formal bilateral cooperation agreement with then Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi, an agreement that was renewed in 2004 by Governor Michael F. Easley. The Agreement was renewed in 2010, signed by Vlad Filat, Republic of Moldova Prime-Minister, and Elaine Marshall, North Carolina Secretary of State.

Secretary Marshall is currently the head of the NC-Moldova Bilateral Committee. She has visited MDA on committee business in support of the partnership on several occasions and has hosted several MDA GOV delegations to N.C., to include the President of MDA. She has been invited to MDA by the U.S. Embassy, the NCNG and private N.C. NGOs on different occasions. While she has no role in the NCNG, she has traveled with the current and former TAG's and has been very supportive of the BAO mission in MDA. On the civilian side of the partnership, North Carolina had more than 60 projects accomplished or still on-going. The projects run the gamut of disciplines – from engagement in secondary and higher education, exchanges of medical and dental students and practitioners, the arts, agriculture, business, government reform and simple humanitarian aid in the form of donated medical equipment, clothing and computers.





“The State Partnership Program is people working with people developing personal relationships. Our medical outreach has literally saved lives by providing treatments and immunizations and building wells and clinics.”

- MG William Ingram, Former Adjutant General, North Carolina National Guard

In 2000 NCNG engineers teamed up with USMC Seabees (within the 2000 CORNERSTONE exercise) to build a much-needed medical out-patient clinic at the country’s largest orphanage/boarding school in Straseni. The NCNG has also conducted well digging projects in Straseni, while the civilians from NC have paid for the pumps to operate them. North Carolinians have adopted Moldovan children, paid for reconstructive surgery in Moldova and in the United States, funded private dental missions and Moldovan students have benefited from internships in offices at the highest levels of North Carolina State Government.



Other Mil-to-Civ projects included – building a playground, facilitating the donation of two dental chairs to boarding schools, encouraging a series of virtual classes between UNC and Moldova State Medical University. Military and civilian medical professionals have teamed up to provide Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Chickenpox immunizations and dental treatments to nearly 25,000 Moldovan children in boarding schools across the country over the years.

In 2013, the North Carolina-Moldova State Partnership Program will support a new mission which will focus on developing the nursing capabilities within the Moldovan Army and civilian institutions. North Carolinians have also privately funded dozens of humanitarian trips to Moldova to treat children’s dental needs free-of-charge. Several NC organizations have also donated humanitarian aid in the form of medical equipment, water distillers, books, clothing and computers worth over \$750k.

In the summer of 2013, contingents from Air National Guard units in multiple states are going to contribute personnel to help construct a Medical and Rehabilitation Center in Marculesti town, Floresti district. The military will be working on a two-week rotation schedule as part of their training to help enhance medical capabilities in the area.



During the period of 2008-2012 various contingents of the North Carolina National Guard worked side-by-side with the Moldovan Peacekeeping Force to assist them in their efforts of getting certified within the NATO Operations Capability Concept (OCC) evaluation and certification process. The assistance North Carolina National Guard provided to the Moldovan Army Peacekeeping Force was also augmented in 2012 by a team of U.S. Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force. The five-year interaction culminated in 2012 with the MDA Peacekeeping contingent being declared “Mission Ready” by a team of NATO OCC Evaluators. This opens up a new page in the history of the MDA Army and nation as it officially allows Moldova to contribute to the international peacekeeping missions and operations.

A more recent engagement between the U.S. SF and MDA SF started in 2012, focusing on the SF training infrastructure and methodology to ensure readiness for deployments and potential co-deployments. Several events have been conducted to gain a better understanding of each organizational structure, experience a traditional ARNG SF drill period, and conduct face to face planning for the upcoming TCT and Unit Level Training (ULT) events.



### Partnership Focus

The focus for 2013 and 2014 is:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Cyber Security
- Prepare Military Forces for Peacekeeping Missions
- Military Medical Capabilities
- Military Academy Curriculum Development
- Special Operations Forces (SOF) Actions, and Activities
- Essential Services



# OHIO - HUNGARY 1993-2013



## Overview

The Ohio-Hungary National Guard Partnership is one of 22 European partnerships that make-up the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program, and one of 65 worldwide partnerships that make-up the National Guard State Partnership Program. The country of Hungary signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Ohio in 1993, establishing the Ohio-Hungary State Partnership program. With the large population of Hungarians throughout Ohio (Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton and Toledo), it was only natural for this pairing! Since then, Ohio and Hungary have conducted over 150 SPP events in a host of security cooperation activities ranging from bilateral familiarizations, small unit exchanges, exercises, senior military and civic leader visits to deployments of Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLT) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The state partners actively participate in a host of security cooperation activities ranging from bilateral familiarization and training-like events, to exercises, fellowship-style internships and civic leader visits. All activities are coordinated through the Theater Combatant Command, the U.S. Ambassadors' Country Teams, and other agencies as appropriate to ensure that National Guard support is tailored to meet both U.S. and country objectives.

## Partnership History

Overview:

- NATO accession on 12 March 1999
- EU accession on 01 May 2004
- A contributor to ISAF with over 500 troops deployed
- A 20-year partnership that is an example for success
- Joint Terminal Air Controllers (JTAC) accredited by US/NATO

As the Soviet Union disintegrated between 1989 and 1991, Hungary conducted their first free parliamentary election in May 1990. During this period U.S. government officials explored options to minimize instability and encourage democratic governments in the former Soviet bloc nations, thus creating one of the initial pairings of a state with a nation. This provided a unique partnership, capacity-building capability to the Combatant Commanders and the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. In doing so Ohio supports the United States national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging with Hungary via military, socio-political and economic conduits at the local, state and national levels.

One of the key measurements of success for this partnership is the progress that was accomplished beyond events that only demonstrated basic capabilities and equipment. One of the original goals that Ohio accomplished was the establishment of genuine, ongoing personal relationship that developed between Ohio National Guard units and individual Soldiers/Airman. This has promoted and fostered the exchange of ideas and experiences which has assisted Hungary in accomplishing its goals.

Recent events included a TAG Visit, a Recruiting Seminar, Consequence Management, Disaster Response/Crisis Management Planning, Medical Support to Deployed Forces, Helicopter Air Support Operations, and a Logistics Information Exchange.

## Partnership Focus

Ohio and Hungary intend to capitalize on their decades-long relationship while continuing high level engagements that will assist Hungary's support to NATO commitments and provide a willing partner in global engagements.



President:

János Áder

Prime Min.:

Viktor Orbán

MoD:

Csaba Hende

Amb. to US:

György Szapáry

US Amb:

Eleni Kounalakis

TAG:

MG Deborah Ashenhurst

NATO member: Yes  
(2006)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 582 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 7

Population: 10.0M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Indiana

Military Expend.: 1.0%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“Ultimately, the State Partnership Program is about personal relationships. It is a partnership that involves an ongoing dialog about the day-to-day challenges we both face and our willingness to think outside the box in finding solutions.”

- MG Greg Wayt, Former Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard

The following are EUCOM stated areas of focus for Ohio-Hungary partnership:

- Build partnerships to enhance security
- Strengthen NATO and assist alliance transformation
- Support ISAF Deployments
- Modern, interoperable and deployable forces
- Special Forces capabilities
- Create equal partnership in a NATO or UN cyber environment

The following are FY2013 Proposed Events

- Military Engineers Tri-Lateral Engagement with Ohio/Hungary/Serbia
- OMLT/MAT Lessons Learned
- Senior Leader Engagement
- Vehicle Maintenance Transformation
- Consequence Mangement MPC
- Cyber Defense – Staff Assistance Visit (SAV)
- Airfield Security
- Creating a regional exercise for JTAC







# OHIO - SERBIA 2006-2013



## Overview

The Ohio and Serbia partnership was formally established in September 2006 with the signing of the Status Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Serbia. The country of Serbia signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Ohio in 2006, establishing the Ohio-Serbian State Partnership program. With a substantial Serbian-American community in Cleveland (as well as other Ohio cities) it was a natural fit to create this partnership. Since then, Ohio and Serbia have conducted over 70 SPP events in a host of security cooperation activities ranging from bilateral familiarizations, small unit exchanges, exercises, senior military and civic leader visits, to the potential development of future Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE).

The state partners actively participate in a host of security cooperation activities ranging from bilateral familiarization and training-like events, to exercises, fellowship-style internships and civic leader visits. All activities are coordinated through the Theater Combatant Command, the US Ambassadors' Country Teams, and other agencies as appropriate to ensure that National Guard support is tailored to meet both U.S. and country objectives.

## Partnership History

Overview:

- State Partnership was established in 2006
- New Prime Minister- Ivica Dacic
- New Defense Minister- Aleksandar Vucic
- Presidential run-offs were held and Tomislav Nikolic won in a surprising victory
- New MOD Secretaries of Defense and Assistant Ministers appointed
- Serbia will not participate in M2M events where Kosovo is recognized
- Serbia's 2012 economic decline was the steepest in the region; World Bank estimates 2% growth for 2013

The Ohio and Serbia partnership was formally established in September 2006. An initial planning meeting was held that same month when the Ohio Adjutant General traveled to Serbia and met with Serbian Armed Forces Chief of General Staff. This provided a unique partnership, capacity-building capability to the Combatant Commander and the U.S. Ambassador to Serbia. In doing so Ohio supports the U. S. national interests and security cooperation goals by engaging with Serbia via military, socio-political and economic conduits at the local, state and national levels. The original SPP goal was to execute the first event by the end of 2006. The partnership was able to execute three events, including an event in Belgrade and two familiarization visits to Ohio. Since then, SPP events conducted with Ohio and Serbia has multiplied to 30 proposed events for fiscal year 2014! As this relationship has progressed from basic familiarizations, multiple Humanitarian Assistance projects, medical forces exchange and participation in the Serbian Air Show in 2012, Ohio looks forward to continuing to work with the Serbian Armed Forces. On the horizon, the Ohio and Serbian relationship will be instrumental in the continual development of Serbia's Peace Keeping Operations (PKO). With the construction of a training center (South Base), sharing in exercise preparations, NCO development and air field support of PKO missions Ohio and Serbia can be a model of how close coordination and cooperation between the United States and Serbia can promote mutually beneficial events. These events not only strengthen active theater security but also promote greater regional stability.

President:

Tomislav Nikolic

Prime Min.:

Ivica Dacic

MoD:

Aleksandar Vucic

Amb. to US:

Vladimir Petrović

US Amb:

Michael D. Kirby

TAG:

MG Deborah Ashenhurst

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 582 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 16

Population: 7.3M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
South Carolina

Military Expend.: 2.2%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“Ultimately, the State Partnership Program is about personal relationships. It is a partnership that involves an ongoing dialog about the day-to-day challenges we both face and our willingness to think outside the box in finding solutions.”

- MG Greg Wayt, Former Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard

Events in 2012 included:

- TAG Visit
- Peace Keeping Operations Base Development and Assistance (South Base)
- Humanitarian Assistance Project (Reconstruction of a elementary school)
- NCO Development
- Women in professional Armed Forces
- Consequence Management
- Medical Support to Deployed Forces
- Participation of the Serbian Air Show

### Partnership Focus

Ohio and Serbia intend to continue the 7-year relationship that allows open dialogue that transcends geopolitics while continuing to assist Serbia’s interoperability and willingness to partner in Peace Keeping operations.

The following are EUCOM stated areas of focus for Ohio-Serbia partnership:

- Build partnerships to enhance security and prevent the local crisis turning into regional conflicts
- Prevent violent extremist organizations from creating transnational threats
- Continue Peace Keeping Operations Base Development and Assistance (South Base)
- Maintain Unit Level Exchanges

The following are FY2013 areas of focus:

- TAG Visit
- Peace Keeping Operations Base Development and Assistance (South Base)
- Consequence Management
- Cyber Defense – Staff Assistance Visit (SAV)
- Helicopter Unit Operations
- Introduction to US ROTC
- Women in professional Armed Forces
- Chaplaincy Development





# OKLAHOMA - AZERBAIJAN 2003-2013



## President:

Ilham Aliyev

## Prime Min.:

Artur Rasizade

## MoD:

Safar Abiyev

## Amb. to US:

Elin Suleymanov

## US Amb:

Richard Morningstar

## TAG:

MG Myles L. Deering

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 94 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 12

Population: 9.5M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
Maine

Military Expend.: 2.8%  
GDP (2010 est.)



## Overview

The Oklahoma-Azerbaijan National Guard Partnership is one of 22 European partnerships that make-up the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program, and one of 65 worldwide partnerships that make-up the National Guard State Partnership Program.

## Partnership History

- State Partnership was established in 2003.
- Armenia-Azerbaijan relations are prominent in Azerbaijan's political and military agenda.
- Azerbaijan seeks to balance relations with neighbors Russia and Iran with that of the U.S. and the West.

## Partnership Focus

### Military to Military:

- Emphasis on enabling coalition support.
- U.S. decisions on Airfield Upgrades in AZE

### Mil to Civ

- Medical University MOUs and Agreements
- Build on established Agriculture University MOUs and current partnerships, USAID and DTRA projects.

### Future Years Proposed Events:

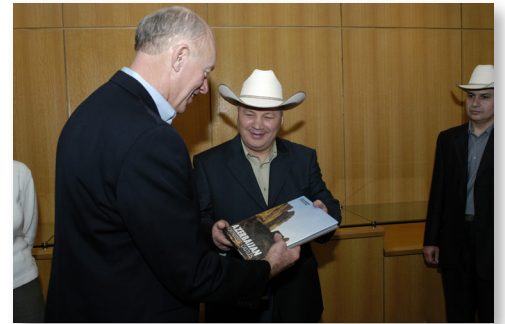
- Continue NATO Interoperability Cooperation
- Hone Agriculture and University Cooperation





“Oklahoma’s relationship with Azerbaijan in the EUCOM State Partnership Program is an extremely rewarding experience for all parties and an important contribution to world peace.”

- Maj. Gen. Harry Wyatt, Former Adjutant General, Oklahoma National Guard





# PENNSYLVANIA - LITHUANIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The Pennsylvania-Lithuania National Guard Partnership is one of 22 European partnerships that make-up the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program, and one of 65 worldwide partnerships that make-up the National Guard State Partnership Program. The Partnership was established on 27 April, 1993. In the 20 years that have followed Pennsylvania and Lithuania have conducted more than 500 exchanges that cover diverse topics such as Senior Leader Engagements, Recruiting, NCO Professional Development, Military Decision Making Process and Strategic Planning, Range Development, Airfield Development and Standards, Defense Support to Civil Authorities, Family Programs, and Resiliency. Also, Pennsylvania and Lithuania have jointly deployed to Afghanistan in support of ISAF, including four rotations of a Police Operational Mentor and Liaison Team. Pennsylvania also provided nine rotations of a team of Logistics Advisors to the Lithuanian led Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Gowhr Province. Pennsylvania and Lithuania are looking at other opportunities to jointly deploy to further expand the relationship between their militaries.

## Partnership History

- Declared Independence in 1991.
- State Partnership Program established on 27 April, 1993.
- EU and NATO accession in 2004
- Lithuania cooperates with Estonia and Latvia in several joint military exercises. (SABRE STRIKE, AMBER HOPE)
- Lithuania's niche capability for NATO is water purification. They have a significant interest in the development of an Energy Security Center of Excellence.
- Lithuania hosts the Baltic Air Policing Mission at Šiauliai International Airport.

## Partnership Focus

Lithuanian's #1 defense priority is energy security. Additional focus areas include Cyber Defense, continuing to participate in expeditionary operations, ISAF, and developing new and capable interagency partnerships. Lithuania also hosts the Baltic Air Policing Mission at the Šiauliai International Airport.

Pennsylvania and Lithuania consistently participate in joint exercises together such as SABRE STRIKE and AMBER HOPE, which promote regional stability and security, strengthens international military partnering, and fosters trust while improving interoperability between participating nations.

The State Partnership Program highlights the role of the National Guard as an all-volunteer, professional military with dual missions to support the nation and the state. The unique civil-military nature of the Pennsylvania National Guard enables it to interact with Lithuanian active and reserve forces, as well as civilian and governmental agencies. As a result, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Lithuanian Fire and Rescue Service have developed a five year strategic plan to find ways to cooperate, along with the Pennsylvania National Guard, in areas like Disaster Preparedness and Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

President:

Dalia Grybauskaitė

Prime Min.:

Algirdas Butkevičius

MoD:

Juozas Olekas

Amb. to US:

Elin Suleymanov

US Amb:

Deborah Ann McCarthy

TAG:

MG Wesley E. Craig

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 240 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:  
12

Population: 7.0M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly larger than  
Tennessee

Military Expend.: 1.3%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“The Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Pennsylvania National Guard are prouder than ever of the relationship that we have fostered with our Lithuanian partners; we look forward to making that relationship even stronger in the years to come.”  
- MG Jessica Wright, Former Adjutant General, Pennsylvania National Guard







# TENNESSEE - BULGARIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The Republic of Bulgaria signed a bilateral affairs agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Tennessee in 1993, establishing the Tennessee-Bulgaria State Partnership Program. Tennessee and Bulgaria were paired because they shared similar geographical and cultural features. During these years, Tennessee and Bulgaria have literally exchanged hundreds of soldiers on travelling contact teams and familiarization visits covering a variety of topics with respect to military operations and civil-military relationships. More than 420 events have been executed since the inception of the program. Tennessee National Guard soldiers have also participated in major military exercises in Bulgaria sponsored by U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Army Europe, like Cornerstone, Bulwark, and Sentry Lion. It should be mentioned that many Bulgarian villages have been influenced in a positive way by this partnership through many Humanitarian Assistance initiatives in conjunction with Mil-to-Mil interaction.

Joint Contact teams continue to mature after Bulgaria's accession into NATO in 2004. EUCOM, Tennessee, and Bulgaria want to explore moving to the next step of complexity in engagement activities with respect to the State Partnership Program. The events that EUCOM proposed were to be the first time Tennessee National Guard units were to conduct annual training in Bulgaria independent of a larger exercise. Several major SPP events have had a significant impact. Vigilant Sentry is an exercise which combined efforts of both the 118th TN Medical Group, and the 168th Military Police Battalion. The Medical objectives' were to provide medical, dental and pediatric care to the rural population in a joint effort with the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense, Military Academy, and Ministry of Health. Sentry Lion is another interesting event which took place in 2006 at the third Bulgarian AF base at Graf Ignatievo. In this event the TN Air Guard provided C-5 Cargo Transports to move logistical equipment and support personnel from Oregon to Bulgaria.

## Partnership History

On August 13, 1993 the Sofia daily newspaper reported that: "from well informed sources in the midst of the Ministry of Defense, Duma has learned that four unidentified American Specialists have been roaming about Sofia for about 10 days. Without the approval of the government and not known by whose invitation, the guest with US epaulets are staying in the capital's hotel Shipka. What are they doing here is not fully clear". This was the inception of the Military Liaison team in Bulgaria, and the first members of the liaison team arrived in Bulgaria in late July 1993. As elsewhere, the liaison team's first task upon arrival was to develop a country work plan. Much patience was required on the part of the Americans to overcome the obstacles and complete the first work plan. The transparency of the contact program and repeated demonstrations of American intention to respond to priorities set by the host nation were the keys to this effort. The plan, completed in November 1993, contained a list of 16 events, a plan for the next quarter consisting of 44 events, and a yearly work plan of 15 core events. Although the contact program was not able to conduct all of the events during the first quarter, the staff did schedule most of them during the remainder of 1994. This is how everything started and progressed to the extent where the partners' efforts are constant throughout the years, and aim at achieving higher and higher levels of interoperability and mutual trust and understanding.

### Notable accomplishments:

- More than 420 events executed since 1993
- 31 SPP events executed since Fiscal year 2009
- 4 Operational Mentor and Liaison Team rotations
- Military Police NATO Combat Readiness Evaluation
- Enriched military experiences and adopting new military concepts for both sides
- The Bulgarian Armed Forces realized the importance of the NCOs' and started implementing new policies empowering the NCOs with a greater responsibility

### President:

Rosen Plevneliev

### Prime Min.:

Boyko Borisov

### MoD:

Anyu Angelov

### Amb. to US:

Elena Poptodorova

### US Amb:

Marcie Berman Ries

### TAG:

MG Terry M. Haston

NATO member: Yes  
(2004)

EU member: Yes (2007)

ISAF Pax: 581 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 8

Population: 4.6M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
S. Carolina

Military Expend.: 1.4%  
GDP (2010 est.)



“The State Partnership Program has offered the opportunity to forge a relationship that fosters democracy, encourages economic development, and promotes regional capability and stability that I would not have thought possible.”

- MG Gus Hargett Jr., Former Adjutant General, Tennessee National Guard

## FY2012 Highlights

10 SPP events were executed in 2012:

- The Adjutant General visit to Bulgaria
- Crew Resources Management
- Combat Readiness Evaluation staff training
- Pre-Deployment Preparation
- Airdrop Procedures
- Bulgarian Ministry of Defense Senior Enlisted Visit
- Air Operations Center Introduction and Operations
- Non Commissioned Officers Visit to TN Air Force Bases
- Culture and Language Proficiency Program event including an ADVON visit

as well

## Partnership Focus

The following are EUCOM stated areas of focus for the Tennessee-Bulgaria partnership:

- Foster national stability within NATO framework
- Increase Bulgarian coalition contribution through Bulgarian Battle Group
- Put the stress on Military Police events and interaction
- More culture and language proficiency program rotations
- Leadership & Noncommissioned officer developments
- Emergency Management & Disaster Response

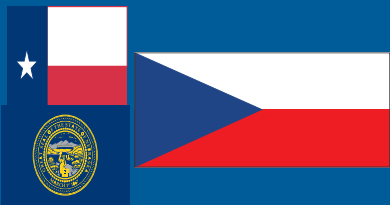
## ISAF Cooperation and OMLT Teams

The Tennessee-Bulgaria State Partnership Program has accomplished a great deal in just 20 years. One of the most fruitful and unique initiatives is the so-called OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team). Those rotations are part of the SPP portfolio. Its main objective was to bring together American and Bulgarian militaries to train together, spreading out their knowledge to their Afghan counterparts. There were a total of three Garrison OMLT rotations from 2009 to 2011. The initial trainings took place in the National Military University in the town of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria and then continued in the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, Germany. JMRC conducts several OMLT rotations each year, training multinational partners to ensure they are prepared for rotations to Afghanistan with the ability to train, advise and enable the Afghan National Army while possessing skills to survive on the battlefield. The Bulgarians have accomplished their objectives in ISAF of leading core training through executing different types of classes, such as IED training, M16 range, ANA doctrine, Log planning, CFF and CAS. Many valuable skills have been acquired during this interaction such as TSPs, reacting to ambushes, patrol drills, vehicle rollover training procedures, IED trainings, CAS, MEDEDVAC and calls for fire.

One of the major engagements through SPP was the Bulgarian contingent in Afghanistan which consisted of 474 military personnel. They were involved in a wide range of military activities such as: mechanized company embedded into the Italian Battle Group (Kabul) -122 military personnel. The major tasks were patrolling and security of Invicta base and Kabul Airport; Security (guarding) platoon – 45 military personnel (protection of Waterhouse base and escort of logistical elements); recon team – (5 people); team for ATC of Kabul airport (2 people); medical team (5 people) – embedded into the French military hospital; guarding company -266 military personnel (protection and patrolling in the area of Kandahar airport); Bulgarian – US OMLT – Kandahar – 7 Bulgarian military personnel; 2 Medical teams (10 people) – embedded into the Spanish military hospital in Herat; two military personnel in the Hungarian PRT. In March 2009 the Bulgarians were withdrawn from that team.







# TEXAS, NEBRASKA - CZECH REP 1993-2013



President:

Vaclav Klaus

Prime Min.:

Petr Necas

MoD:

Alexandr Vondra

Amb. to US:

Petr Gandalovič

US Amb:

Norman L. Eisen

TAG:

MG Joyce Stevens (TX)

MG Judd Lyons (NE)

NATO member: Yes  
(1999)

EU member: Yes (2004)

ISAF Pax: 416 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:  
14

Population: 10.2M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly smaller than  
South Carolina

Military Expend.: 1.0%  
GDP (2011 est.)



## Overview

The partnership formed between the Nebraska National Guard, Texas Military Forces and the Czech Republic endures and recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Czech Republic became a Partnership for Peace (PFP) member following the “Velvet Revolution” in 1989 and was accepted into the State Partnership Program (SPP) in 1993. Just six years later in 1999 the Czech Republic became a full member of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO). The Czech Republic has the unique distinction and fortune within European Command (EUCOM) of having two state partners, affording it access to an incredibly broad spectrum of capabilities.

## Partnership History

Early partnership events focused on basic interoperability standards and skill set accreditation. These efforts rapidly shifted to preparing Czech forces for out of area deployments an effort that proved very valuable following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. A stalwart ally, Czech soldiers have fought without caveats alongside coalition partners in Afghanistan since the beginning of combat operations, and maintain a significant presence today.

In 2005 conscript service officially ended in the Czech Republic and the military began a significant restructuring that included large force reductions, equipment modernization, and professional transformation initiatives. A dwindling world economy continues to adversely affect budgets but the Czechs have managed to craft a capable force that meets both its NATO and European Union (EU) commitments. With the help of its state partners, the Czech military has also established niche capabilities in several asymmetric warfare high demand areas like Forward Air Control (FAC), Special Forces (SF), and Rotary wing aviation.

Recent SPP efforts have focused not only on building partnership capability relevant to emerging threats, but also on maintaining niche capabilities in the spirit of “Smart Defense”. Members of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) routinely partner with their Czech FAC counterparts to support the advancement of this critical skill set. As a result of this cooperation, Czechs have been able to provide crucial deployment support to ISAF ground forces and staff the NATO Air Ground Operations School (AGOS) with instructors which have contributed valuable assistance to fellow NATO partners attempting to develop their own capabilities. Indeed, SPP has yielded multinational benefits and it will continue to do so as Czechs host joint multinational SPP events for aspiring partner nations within EUCOM.

Despite the draw-down of military coalition forces in Afghanistan, there continues to be a need for security operations in developing countries. Nebraska and Texas National Guard members successfully partnered to support Joint Military Police stabilization events with their Czech peers, and will continue developing this important area. Additionally, the Czech Air Force recently conducted out-of-area operations for the first time during a Baltic air policing deployment of the JAS-39 Gripen. This milestone achievement was made considerably easier because members of the Nebraska Air National Guard 155th Air Refueling Wing conducted an air refueling seminar and familiarization flights with Czech pilots and radar controllers just prior to deployment.

## Partnership Focus

With an eye on the future, the relationship between SPP and the Czech Republic continues to evolve. In 2012 a legal determination placed the Czech Republic on a list of “Developed Nations” curtailing access to financial resources and restricting the US government’s ability to fund travel for Czech soldiers. A testament to the importance of the relationship, Czechs responded positively by funding their Deputy Chief of Defense on senior leader visits to meet





“The SPP has enabled Nebraska to reconnect with its roots while helping the Czech Republic strengthen its disaster management operations.”  
- MG Roger Lempke, Former Adjutant General, Nebraska National Guard

“We cherish this important relationship and look forward to a continued exchange of culture and ideas.”  
- MG Charles G. Rodriguez, Former Adjutant General, Texas National Guard

with Nebraska and Texas National Guard Leadership. On several occasions, Czechs have also accepted invitations to send their soldiers to participate in valuable exercises like Texas Red Flag (JTAC) and Operation Lone Star (Medical). The Nebraska Battlefield Surveillance Brigade conducted intelligence exchanges with the Czech military and will host Czech soldiers during their 2013 Annual Training (AT).

In 2011, SPP efforts came full circle when Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Martin Dempsey awarded SSgt Michal Novotny, a Czech soldier serving in Logar province, the Bronze Star for actions that saved the life of a US soldier following an improvised device explosion. Prior to deployment SSgt Novotny attended a series of US military medical courses including Combat Life Saver (CLS) course in the Czech Republic. The Czech CLS course was developed by partnering with the Texas National Guard during multiple SPP exchanges. These exchanges continue to push into more advanced areas of trauma care.

During its 20 year history, the State Partnership Program with the Czech Republic has evolved from a post-Cold War stabilization tool to a force multiplying resource. EUCOM Commander, ADM James Stavridis recently said, “The State Partnership Program is, dollar for dollar, my best EUCOM investment.” Nebraska and Texas will continue to offer assistance according to EUCOM’s Strategy for Active Security, and the Czech military will continue to develop forces needed to support to US and NATO operations.





# VERMONT- MACEDONIA 1993-2013



## Overview

The State Partnership Program (SPP) is a mutually supportive relationship established between Vermont and Macedonia in 1993. In March 1995 the first Vermont Military Liaison Team (MLT) leader reported for duty in Skopje. Since then, thirteen other Vermont National Guardsmen (VTNG) have served as part of the embassy team in Macedonia as MLTs or Bilateral Affairs Officers (BAOs). Over 700 USG funded military to military (M2M) events have taken place in this time. Many military to civilian, and civilian to civilian engagements were also conducted in the early years of this program. The Army of Macedonia's (ARM) objectives are to continue deployment operations and to meet NATO Partnership Goals (PGs) in order to prepare for the Republic of Macedonia's accession into the European Union (EU) and NATO. The Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), as part of the country team in the embassy, continues to coordinate missions for Macedonia with various force providers, to include an average of 15-20 events per year with the VTNG SPP.

## Partnership History

- 79 Macedonian soldiers co-deployed with the 86th IBCT (MTN) in OEF X.
- The President of Macedonia visited Vermont in September 2009.
- In 2012, President of Macedonia awarded Vermont National Guard with highest military decoration, the Military Order of Merit.
- 15 Military-to-Military (M2M) events scheduled for completion in 2013, to include the 2013 NATO Comprehensive Operations Planning Division (COPD) Logistical Exercise 2013, which will be held in Macedonia.
- Contention with Greece over constitutional name continues to challenge acceptance into EU/NATO.
- Macedonia continues to reform the Army to gain accession into NATO.

The Republic of Macedonia was part of the former Yugoslavia. Macedonia became an independent nation in 1991. The United States was the first nation to formally recognize Macedonia. Vermont was chosen to build the SPP with Macedonia, in part due to similarities in climate and geography. An unfortunate and ongoing dispute between Macedonian and Greek politicians over the name "Republic of Macedonia" continues to impede progress towards EU and NATO integration. The ARM is noted as the most advanced branch of all the systems of power that are considered when applying for NATO membership, in large part due to the synergy developed through the SPP. The ODC coordinates over 100 annual events in the Republic of Macedonia and nearly 70% of their Ministry of Defense (MOD) annual budget pays salaries. Accordingly, the MOD relies heavily upon US Security Cooperation programs for the provision of familiarization events (M2M), training and equipment (FMF & IMET).

As a strategic partner and steadfast US ally, Macedonia has deployed over 2,400 Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2006, 23 VTARNG infantrymen worked with the Macedonian MP's for several weeks during operation Rising Phalanx. A documentary tracking this operation won the DOD military video of the year award. Rising Phalanx set the stage for a co-deployment to Afghanistan in 2010. Macedonia sent 79 Ranger, Military Police, and SF Soldiers with the National Guard's 86th IBCT (MTN) in support of OEF. Macedonian soldiers were the first foreign nationals to co-deploy with a US Brigade. Macedonian and Americans soldiers rode in the same vehicles, used the same communication systems, lived, ate, and fought together as equal partners.

President:  
Gjorge Ivanov  
Prime Min.:  
Nikola Gruevski  
MoD:  
Talat Xhaferi  
Amb. to US:  
Zoran Jolevski  
US Amb:  
Paul D. Wohlers  
TAG:  
MG Steven A. Cray

NATO member: No

EU member: No

ISAF Pax: 157 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements:  
17

Population: 2.1M  
(2012 est.)

Area: slightly larger than  
Vermont

Military Expend.: 1.5%  
GDP (2010 est.)





"The Vermont National Guard looks forward to working with Macedonia on future endeavors as it strives to reach its NATO member goal."  
- Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie, Former Adjutant General, Vermont National Guard

The VTNG is home to the only Mountain (MTN) Brigade in the US Army. Linked to the BDE, The VTNG also has the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School (AMWS). Following the co-deployment, the AMWS sent a group of instructors and BDE NCO's to work with Macedonian Special Operations soldiers on technical climbing and tactics related to high angle engagements. They also familiarized a joint group of 40 MOI Border Police and Macedonian Army Soldiers on cold weather operations. The VTNG also is home to a robust Regional Training Institute (RTI), with courses on topics of importance to EUCOM and Macedonia. VT offers leading edge Cyber Defense and teaches the only tactical Information Operations course in the Army.



NCO development is another ongoing success story in our partnership. Starting from the Soviet model, the Macedonian army has slowly rebuilt their entire NCO corps. Multiple deployments with coalition forces have validated the shift towards empowering and trusting their NCO's. Many of their key NCO leaders have attended leadership courses in the US, further developing their understanding of the backbone of the Army. Combined with an emphasis on learning the English language, the redefinition of roles of non-Officer leaders has resulted in significant improvements in how the ARM conducts operations internally and overseas.

The VTNG has recent experience in crisis management and disaster preparedness, notably during Hurricane Irene. Our planners share lessons learned in this and many other topics with their Macedonian counterparts, often learning new techniques during the exchanges. VT also assists Macedonia with annual events in Reserve Force implementation – all priority topics for EUCOM and the Macedonian MOD.



In 2012 the VTNG completed 17 events with the Republic of Macedonia. One highlight was participation in NATO's Cooperative Lancer/Longbow Exercise (May 2012) hosted by Macedonia at the Krivolak Training Area (KTA), for which the VTNG provided planning assistance and 35 Soldiers who served as mentors and observer controllers for the exercise. Over 17 nations participated in Lancer Longbow, showcasing Krivolak training center and Macedonia's planning abilities. In August 2012, President Gjorge Ivanov presented the VTNG with Macedonia's highest military decoration, the Military Order of Merit, in appreciation for 20 years of professional and personal relationships between the VTNG to the ARM.

### Partnership Focus

The VTNG and SPP will continue to support the ARM as the Republic of Macedonia aspires to EU and NATO accession. In 2013 the VTNG is scheduled to complete 14 events with Macedonia. One highlight is our "Integrated Training Management" event. Macedonia is committed to modernizing and enhancing the infrastructure at its Krivolak Training Area (KTA) with the hopes of offering it as a Regional Training Site for Balkan countries. The VTNG has a similar training resource at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS). We will utilize the Integrated Training Management event to connect engineers and planners with the KTA Command. As in the past, we both learn from these exchanges, often in unexpected areas.



Vermont has established a five year plan for our partnership that allows trainers to predict requirements at the major command level and work these missions into their yearly training guidance and planning. This plan also serves as a road map to synchronize efforts with EUCOM, NGB, and the country team in Skopje. Our five year plan is a living document, flexible enough to respond to real world developments, and detailed enough to provide produce resourcing requirements to commanders.

The ARM continues to support the US and ISAF with forces in OEF. Post-2014, the ARM will remain relevant and active as the ISAF mission comes to a close. The VTNG is working with its AFRICOM partner in Senegal to initiate a tri-lateral engagement on the topic of Peace-Keeping Operations (PKO) or Peace Support Operations (PSO) in conjunction with Macedonia. The VTNG will continue to work with Macedonians to lead the way in expanding meaningful partnership capacity in the EUCOM AOR.



