



SECURITY ASSISTANCE TEAMS

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Air Force [security assistance](#) teams supplement security cooperation organization capabilities by providing training, advice, and technical assistance to recipient nations. The teams, funded under security assistance, vary in size and composition. Air Force personnel may deploy as an Air Force team or function as the air component of a larger joint effort. When the operation involves training or advisory efforts aimed at developing tactics, techniques, and procedures, teams should include Air Force members and members from the other US Services when appropriate. [Appendix C](#) has additional details on security assistance efforts.

Combatant commanders may employ Air Force security assistance teams for limited support on technical training in the operation and maintenance of specific airpower systems. The principal criteria for team selection are competence in the specialty requested, teaching skills, and language compatibility with host-nation recipients. When training and advisory teams are required to provide guidance on planning, developing, and employing airpower, teaching skills in one technical specialty are rarely sufficient.

Country teams or combatant commanders normally initiate in-country support requirements, which should be based on recommendations derived from surveys and assessments. This approach anticipates the problem of a team deploying overseas to develop or improve operational capabilities of a particular weapon system when the host air force lacks the infrastructure or resources to employ the system effectively.

Surveys on security assistance support of [foreign internal defense](#) should include three basic tasks. The first task is to determine appropriate airpower roles and operations for the given conflict or pre-conflict situation. Second, the team then conducts an assessment of the [host nation's](#) (HN) ability to fulfill these roles with existing airpower resources. Finally, the team develops requirements and recommendations for improvements that can be carried out through HN initiatives or through additional US assistance. Besides helping to provide US defense equipment and services to the host nation, Air Force logistics personnel should advise host-nation authorities on the use of airpower to establish and sustain [internal defense and development](#) programs through aerial lines of supply and personnel movement.

Training and equipment provided to the host nation may not be sufficient to ensure the success of aviation programs in some conflict situations. When authorized and directed by appropriate legal authority, Air Force advisory personnel may also be employed to advise host air force units on how to employ air-support resources in a manner that serves the combined interests of the US and the host nation.
