

SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSPECTIVES

An Interview with the Director, DSAA

By

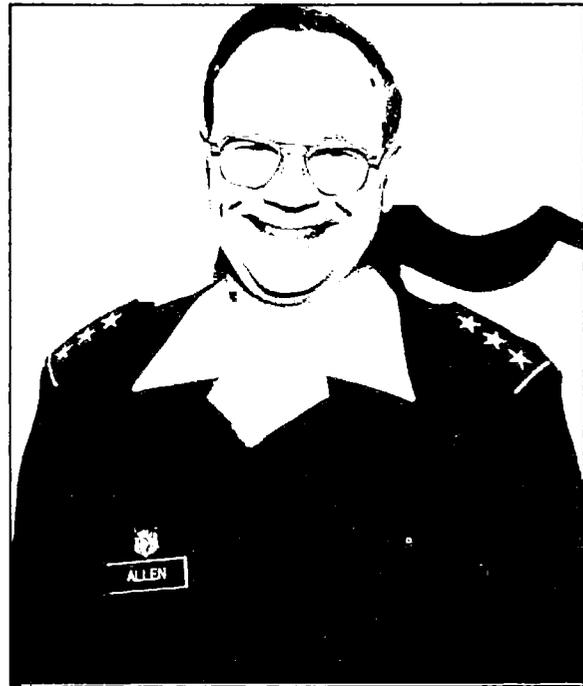
Dr. Lou Samelson
Editor, *The DISAM Journal*

Lieutenant General Teddy G. Allen, USA, was appointed as the Director of the Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA) on 1 September 1990. General Allen's most recent assignments prior to DSAA include positions as Deputy Inspector General (Inspections), Office of the Inspector General, Department of the Army; Commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY; Chief of Staff, 2d United States Army, Fort Gillem, GA; and Chief, Joint United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of the Philippines.

The following interview was conducted on 14 February 1991 in conjunction with General Allen's visit to DISAM and his presentations to Overseas and CONUS DISAM Classes.

DISAM: General Allen, we are pleased that you could find time in your busy schedule to visit DISAM, speak to our classes, and participate in this interview. Let me begin by asking you what perceptions you have developed in the relatively short time you have served as the Director of DSAA.

Gen. Allen: I'm still in the developing phase, trying to assimilate all the information you have to know and deal with in the Washington community. The people performing the security assistance mission are great. They are hard-working and knowledgeable. I hope to get out and see as many of them as possible during my tour as Director. I intend to visit as many of the SAOs [Security Assistance Organizations] as I can, as well as DFAS—Denver [previously known as SAAC] on a quarterly basis. DISAM is also special, as you touch more people in the military services and those going overseas than anybody else I know in the security assistance business. I certainly benefited from the tutorial you gave me in 1984 before I went to the Philippines and from the refresher course you gave me last June.



LTG Teddy G. Allen, USA
Director, DSAA

business will probably settle down to something less—I really don't know how much less—but should remain large enough to manage the \$5 to \$6 billion annual level of business. We also will probably see a further drawdown in the number of SAOs and in their manning, as we have closed down or reduced our presence in 14 countries in the last year.

Regardless of the level of security assistance, as long as we have SAOs and a CONUS workforce, there will be a need for DISAM. So, in my mind, DISAM has a long and productive future.

DISAM: Thank you General Allen for your insightful and candid comments.

Gen. Allen: You are quite welcome. I enjoyed my day here at DISAM, as well as the opportunity to share my views with your students and the readers of *The DISAM Journal*.