
Foreign Training

By

**Ms Linda Sutphin
Foreign Training Officer
Planning and Resources Division**

NAVSUP conducts an extensive and diverse training program for foreign military officers. At almost anytime during the year, there's either a Mobile Training Team, formal classroom, or on-the-job training event being conducted within our claimancy.

As the US Navy business manager, NAVSUP has a lot to offer. We train in any endeavor in which NAVSUP is involved, including supply/logistics, procurement, contracting, ADP, financial management, transportation, food service, petroleum management, and many other related fields.

We have a network of civilian and military Foreign Training Officers who price the requests, coordinate the training, assist with travel and living arrangements, and often teach segments. We use predominately in-house resources, but occasionally employ contractor personnel to supplement our capabilities. Our civilian Foreign Training Officers are all specially selected for both their knowledge of their command and fields of expertise as well as their ability to relate to our foreign trainees and willingness to go the extra mile. FTOs can be the single most important influence on our trainees. They are often the first person the new student meets when he/she arrives and the impression made can help make the total experience. We take DoD guidance seriously that foreign visitors are to be treated as guests in our country.

We run an in-depth Informational Program in conjunction with the training and try wherever possible to expose our students to uniquely American experiences. We stress the voluntary nature of participation in the IP, but usually get total participation.

One dilemma which has been emerging in recent years is how to construct a formal course which meets the needs of participants whose backgrounds differ widely. This has become most evident in our annual Senior Foreign Officers Supply Management Course which is conducted for eight weeks in the May/June timeframe. We have to balance the level of training to interest the most sophisticated without being irrelevant to others. We revise the curriculum and activities annually based on critiques and feedback from the previous class and critiques confirm that we have been largely successful.

Foreign training is one of the most rewarding aspects of the entire Security Assistance Program inasmuch as you can get a real feeling of direct and immediate contribution. It is this interaction and feeling of accomplishment which enables us to maintain a dedicated cadre of experienced FTOs together as a team over years.