
Joint Programs Directorate: The Heart of it All

by

LTC Paul S. Gendrolis, USA

THE HEART OF ODC TURKEY

Using the human body as an analogy, if the Office of the Chief is considered to be the brains of ODC Turkey, and the Army, Navy, and Air Force Directorates are the arms which reach out to the Turkish military services, and the Administration and Logistics Directorate is the legs upon which we stand and operate, then the Joint Programs Directorate (JPD) is the heart of the organization, pumping out information to the directorates and seeking to balance all security assistance (SA) requirements.

The Joint Programs Directorate is a unique ODC Turkey organization in that it does not manage security assistance cases as do the three service directorates, but it does play a pivotal role in the overall accomplishment of the SA mission. JPD is often the hub of security assistance activities, serving as the focal point between the Turkish General Staff (TGS), the Ministry of National Defense (MND), the Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (SSM), the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA), the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) J4/JS, the U.S. Military Departments (MILDEPs), U.S. and Turkish defense contractors, and the ODC Turkey staff directorates. Our underlying mission is to assist and support the service directorates in their role of helping the Turkish armed services modernize. This is done with a total complement of nine U.S. and Turkish military and civilian personnel.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

JPD has three broad areas of concern: Security Assistance Defense Cooperation in Armaments, and International Military Education and Training.

Security Assistance (SA)

In the SA arena, we handle a number of policy issues, Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programs, and reporting requirements which cross service lines or involve more than one service.

Think back to your DISAM training—if you can and dare! Remember the class entitled “SA Policy and Legislation?” Just before your eyes glazed over and your head crashed to the table, the instructor might have mentioned something about the Javits Report or the AIASA or excess defense articles. Believe it or not, in the “real world” of SA, these things do exist and someone actually works these issues and programs.

At ODC Turkey, JPD is the point of contact for all of these and more. We receive requirements from the Departments of State and Defense, DSAA, and USEUCOM. The Javits Report and Congressional Presentation Document (CPD) Classified Annex; Military Spending, Burdensharing, and NATO Defense Requirements Committee reports; the AIASA (or “Budget Requests for Promoting Peace and Building Democracy”); and requirements for excess defense articles (EDA) under the Southern Region Amendment (SRA) or for equipment under the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) cascade program are handled through this office. We coordinate a consolidated response with the ODC Turkey directorates, the Political Military Affairs

(PMA) office of the U.S. Embassy, and/or TGS prior to forwarding the reports to the respective tasking organization.

In addition to coordinating and preparing several of the above-mentioned reports, JPD's Operations Officer has staff responsibility for managing the Assistant Secretary of Defense High Level Defense Group (HLDG) Executive Meeting to introduce, manage, and follow-up on security assistance programs and cases critical to Turkish armed forces modernization.

Defense Cooperation in Armaments (DCA)

JPD's DCA manager is the focal point for all efforts to increase cooperative weapons research, development, acquisition, and support; defense industrial cooperation (DIC); and acquisition training. Authority for DIC programs was established under the auspices of the 1980 Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) administered by ODC Turkey's Legal Directorate.

There are several notable successes in the DCA arena:

- Peace Onyx is a joint venture between Lockheed and TUSAS Aerospace Industries in the co-production and co-assembly of 240 F-16 fighter aircraft for the Turkish Air Force. Peace Vector IV is a program to build 46 F-16's for the Government of Egypt.
- The co-production of 1,698 Turkish armored combat vehicles (ACVs) for the Turkish Land Forces is a joint venture program between the FMC Corporation and FNSS Nurof.
- The MEKO 200 Frigate Program involves the construction and outfitting of eight new frigates for the Turkish Navy; four vessels have been completed and are now in service.

Additionally, in the area of defense cooperation, the US and Turkey jointly conduct DIC Executive Committee Meetings to discuss and promote defense cooperation in areas of mutual concern. The DCA Manager is the point of contact with SSM in helping Turkey establish a strong industrial base and military-industrial complex.

For a more detailed look at DCA activities, please see the following article entitled "Defense Industrial Cooperation." International Training Section is the central point of contact with TGS, Turkish Land Forces Command (TLFC), Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC), Turkish Air Forces Command (TAFC), and SSM on the coordination and implementation of IMET and Expanded IMET, plus FMS training acquired under specific cases or through the use of Turkish national funds. Two years ago, Turkey received \$3 million in IMET funding. Today, Turkey receives only \$1 million in IMET money. This has cut by almost two-thirds the number of Turkish students sent to the U.S. annually to receive critical and required military training. This program is key to the continued influence and positive impact the U.S. would like to have with the Government of Turkey and in the modernization programs of its armed forces.

The accompanying article, "Teamwork and Training: Vital Partners," provides a more in-depth look at IMET and the Turkish training program.

OTHER INITIATIVES

In addition to "answering the mail," JPD is involved with a number of other security assistance and peripheral matters.

One issue of current interest has been the transfer of the Turkish Defense Fund (TDF) from the United States Government (USG) to the Government of Turkey (GOT). The TDF was

established by the USG, GOT, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to assist Turkey economically due to its financial losses from the UN embargo and sanctions placed on Iraq during and after Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Its assets are aimed primarily at continued funding for the Turkish F-16 Peace Onyx program. ODC Turkey was delegated authority by DSAA to sign the MOA approving the transfer of the TDF. JPD is the office of primary responsibility for this action. We are currently coordinating with DSAA, MND, and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey on key procedural points involved in the transfer.

Two high profile initiatives in the joint training arena are Partnership for Peace (PFP) and Enhanced Partnership (EP). PFP is a Clinton Administration and, subsequently, NATO initiative aimed at folding former Soviet Union members into NATO-style joint/combined training exercises in the areas of peacekeeping, search and rescue, and humanitarian operations. As a NATO partner, Turkey is very interested in PFP and intends to participate in several exercises during 1995, with the goal of hosting one in 1996.

Enhanced Partnership is a U.S.-Turkey initiative designed to afford the Turkish military opportunities to train with counterpart U.S. units at all levels and across all services in Turkey, regionally, at training sites in Germany, and in the U.S. Of growing interest to the Turkish military is the training and exercise opportunities afforded through computer simulations, on the order of "Atlantic Resolve." JPD is again the point of contact to work EP issues with TGS and USEUCOM Staff.

CONCLUSION

Joint Programs Directorate is a strategically placed operation with intermediary roles between the ODC Turkey directorates and our Turkish counterparts. Our goal is to facilitate all security assistance, defense cooperation, and training issues which impact ODC Turkey's ability to assist the Turkish military in its continuing quest for modernization. Ours is a challenging, yet professionally rewarding, mission which gives us a tremendous sense of accomplishment as we work to strengthen a key NATO partner and friend and ally of the United States. Come join us!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lieutenant Colonel Paul S. Gendrolis, USA, is the Chief, Joint Programs Directorate. He is a Middle East Foreign Area Officer serving his third tour in a SAO. In his previous tour at DISAM, he was an Assistant Editor of The DISAM Journal.