
Combating the Threat of Small Arms and Light Weapons: Planning and Coordination Information for Host Nations

[The following article originally appeared on the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's web site: www.dtra.mil.]

Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Program

The objective of DTRA's SALW Program is to reduce proliferation by assisting foreign governments with improving the security, safety, and management of state-controlled stockpiles of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), other small arms and light weapons, and conventional ammunition.

By securing and managing these assets, DTRA's efforts decrease the availability of weapons and ammunition to terrorists and insurgents, minimize regional exposure to the destabilizing effects of cross-border weapons transfers, and reduce the risk of catastrophic ammunition accidents.

Assessments

A key component of DTRA's cooperative program is to evaluate the safety and security of state-controlled weapons and ammunition stockpiles in the host country. Upon arrival, DTRA team members will provide an initial in-briefing for host country representatives. Next, the team will begin conducting assessment activities accompanied by host nation escorts.

An assessment normally requires one day per site, depending on the size of the facility. For example, a two-person DTRA team can usually survey 15-20 ammunition magazines or 8-12 weapons storage areas per day. The DTRA team will also require one full day to prepare the technical report and the risk assessment. It is essential that DTRA team members have permission to take photographs of current storage conditions for inclusion in these reports.

On the last day of the assessment, DTRA team members will out-brief appropriate host country representatives on their findings and recommendations. All photographs and other information collected during the assessment will be protected from disclosure to outside parties.

During the out-briefing, the team usually recommends follow-on seminars focusing on improving physical security and stockpile management (PSSM).

Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminars

PSSM seminars are normally conducted over a four-day period. The first three days consist of briefings and other classroom activities designed to acquaint participants with international standards and best practices for the storage, transportation, security, and stockpile management of ammunition and weapons. On the fourth day, a practical exercise allows participants to evaluate an ammunition storage area and a military unit's arms room.

DTRA's SALW Program offers two PSSM seminars. The PSSM Technical Seminar is designed for individuals who work directly with arms, ammunition, and explosives (AA&E) as part of their job. The PSSM Executive-Management Seminar is tailored to senior-level officials who have decision-making authority concerning the acquisition, storage, security, and disposal of AA&E. Many of the subject areas covered in each seminar are the same, but the modules in the executive-management seminar are presented at a managerial level rather than at a detailed technical level.

DTRA Roles and Responsibilities

DTRA funds its own transportation to and from the host country. In addition, the DTRA team will bring all necessary equipment, such as computers and projectors, at no cost to the host country. DTRA will also provide seminar participants with seminar booklets and reference materials written in their native language.

Questions?

For more information about DTRA's SALW Program, please visit www.dtra.mil/oe/osi/programs/smarms/index.cfm?More

For questions about SALW assessments or PSSM seminars or about the process for requesting this assistance, please contact the U.S. Embassy in your country.

You may also contact SALW Program representatives by email at salw@dtra.mil or phone at 1-800-334-2517 or 1-703-767-2739.

Agenda for PSSM Technical Seminar

Day 1
Introduction
Ammunition Basics
Ammunition Painting and Marking
Explosives Compatibility

Day 2
Net Explosive Weight Hazards
Ammunition Storage
United Nations Hazard Classification
Physical Security Measures

Day 3
Stockpile Surveillance
Risk Assessment
Arms Security
Transportation of Arms and Ammunition

Day 4
Practical Exercise Preparation/Field Trip
Participant Briefings on Findings
Seminar Summary

Agenda for PSSM Executive-Management Seminar

Day 1
Introduction
SALW Proliferation Threat
International Agreements
Policies and Procedures
Program Management

Day 2
Explosives Compatibility
Net Explosive Weight Hazards
Ammunition Storage
United Nations Hazard Classification
Physical Security Measures

Day 3
Stockpile Surveillance
Risk Assessment
Risk Assessment Practical Exercise
Arms Security
SALW Elimination

Day 4
Practical Exercise Preparation/Field Trip
Participant Briefing on Findings
Seminar Summary

Host Nation Responsibilities: Assessments Invitation

The host nation is responsible for requesting DTRA assistance through their U.S. Embassy, usually in the form of a Diplomatic Note to the Defense Attaché Office. Preferred dates and alternative dates for the assessment should be included in the request.

Identifying Sites

The host country is responsible for identifying the ammunition and weapons storage facilities to be assessed and for obtaining permission for the DTRA team to access these sites. Host countries are asked to submit a list of proposed sites to their U.S. Embassy at least two weeks prior to the DTRA team's arrival.

Scheduling Briefings

The host nation is responsible for working with their U.S. Embassy to schedule the DTRA briefings provided to host country representatives at the beginning and end of the visit.

Host Nation Responsibilities: Seminars Invitation

The host nation is responsible for requesting DTRA assistance through their U.S. Embassy, usually in the form of a Diplomatic Note to the Defense Attaché Office. Preferred dates and alternative dates for the seminar(s) should be included in the request. DTRA cannot sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or any other type of contract with the host nation because this program is purely cooperative in nature.

Identifying Participants

The host country is responsible for identifying 20-40 qualified individuals to attend each seminar and for providing a list of participants' names to their U.S. Embassy. Since DTRA will use this list to prepare a certificate for each participant, accuracy is very important.

Transporting Participants

The host country is responsible for transporting participants to and from the seminar location and the sites selected for the practical exercise.

Identifying Sites

The host country is responsible for identifying classroom facilities and the ammunition and weapons storage facilities for the practical exercises. The host country is also responsible for obtaining permission for the DTRA team and course participants to have access to these sites.

Providing Meals and Drinks

The host nation is responsible for providing the participants with lunches, coffee, tea, etc., if desired. DTRA cannot fund these items.

Small Arms and Light Weapons Missions-to-Date As of December 2008

Assessments and/or Seminars

1. Afghanistan (02/07, 05/07)
2. Albania (05/01, 05/05, 10/07, 07/08, 10/08)
3. Angola (09/03)
4. Antigua (09/08)
5. Aruba (09/08)
6. Barbados (09/08)
7. Belarus (04/04)
8. Belgium (02/06, 03/06, 10/07)
9. Bosnia (05/03, 12/04, 12/05, 05/07, 04/08)
10. Bulgaria (10/00)
11. Burundi (08/06, 08/06, 07/07)
12. Cambodia (12/03, 03/04)
13. Congo, Republic of (01/07, 04/07, 04/07)
14. Czech Republic (11/06)
15. Ecuador (01/03, 03/03, 03/05, 04/08, 10/08, 11/08)
16. El Salvador (04/03, 07/03, 09/03)
17. Georgia (10/06, 10/06)
18. Guatemala (10/08)
19. Guyana (12/01)
20. Haiti (12/04)
21. Honduras (08/05, 10/05, 09/06, 01/07)
22. Hungary (04/05)
23. Kazakhstan (05/05)
24. Kenya (12/08)
25. Macedonia (10/00, 10/06, 04/07, 02/08, 09/08)
26. Moldova (05/07, 10/07, 11/08)
27. Montenegro (04/07)
28. Mozambique (08/07, 03/08)
29. Nicaragua (04/03, 01/04)
30. Nigeria (02/06 - incomplete)
31. Panama (05/08, 05/08)
32. Paraguay (06/07, 09/07, 03/08)
33. Peru (03/07)
34. Romania (02/02)
35. SAO Tome (10/04)
36. Serbia & Montenegro (05/05, 07/05, 09/05)
37. St. Kitts and Nevis (09/08)
38. Suriname (04/05, 11/05, 03/07)
39. Tajikistan (11/04, 04/05, 07/06, 04/07, 01/08, 10/08)
40. Togo (04/06, 08/06)
41. Uganda (08/08 - incomplete)
42. Ukraine (11/04)
43. Uruguay (02/08, 03/08)

Combatant Command Visits

1. European Command (EUCOM) (10/03, 09/05, 09/06, 10/06, 06/07, 10/07, 09/08)
2. Pacific Command (PACOM) (12/03, 01/04, 08/06, 10/07)
3. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) (12/02, 07/03, 07/06, 10/06, 02/07, 05/07, 10/07, 04/08, 09/08)
4. Central Command (CENTCOM) (03/07, 07/07, 08/07)
5. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) (06/07)
6. Africa Command (AFRICOM) (10/07, 03/08, 09/08)

Conferences and/or Consultations

1. Angola (04/07)
2. Argentina (06/04, 10/07)
3. Australia (01/08)
4. Austria — Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) (06/03, 03/05, 11/07, 02/08, 06/08, 10/08)
5. Bahamas (12/07)
6. Belgium (12/03, 03/05, 06/07, 10/07) — North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), VCC, OSCE
7. Bosnia (12/02)
8. Burkina Faso (12/06)
9. Cambodia (12/07)
10. Cameroon (09/03)
11. Chile (11/06)
12. France (11/08)
13. Germany (02/06, 04/07, 11/07)
14. Israel (04/06)
15. Kenya (08/05, 07/08)
16. Mexico (02/08)
17. Nicaragua (04/03)
18. Norway (11/07)
19. Panama (01/08)
20. Russia (12/05, 01/07, 07/08)
21. Spain (06/07)
22. St. Kitts and Nevis (11/08)
23. Switzerland — United Nations (UN) (05/06, 10/06, 12/07)
24. Tanzania (02/07)
25. Thailand (10/06)
26. Turkmenistan (11/06)
27. Uganda (10/04, 06/08, 08/08)
28. United Kingdom — Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) (09/04, 04/05, 09/05, 09/06)
29. United States (NY, NCR, FL, OH, AL)
30. Uruguay (10/07)

Destruction Verification

1. Bulgaria (08/05, 11/05)
2. Hungary (12/05, 02/06)

Other

1. Germany — NATO Small Arms and Light Weapons SALW Course (07/07, 06/08, 10/08)
2. Switzerland — Verification Training Course (09/06, 02/07)
3. NATO — International Verification Training Course (10/07)

Grand Total: 63 Countries (including USA)