

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management: Distance Learning Updates and Initiatives

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In the winter 2003-2004 edition of the *DISAM Journal*, Volume 26 No. 2, web site: [http://www.disam.dsca.mil/pubs/indexes/Journals/Journal\\_Index/v26-2/McFarland.pdf](http://www.disam.dsca.mil/pubs/indexes/Journals/Journal_Index/v26-2/McFarland.pdf), we reported on the progress of our Security Assistance Management Online (SAM-OC) course. As promised in that article, we have updated the course in response to user comments. In addition, we have developed and implemented several new online modules of instruction to provide just-in-time training for the security assistance community. In this article, we will report on the status of the Orientation Course (SAM-OC), and the International Programs Security Requirements – Online (IPSR-OL) course. We will also describe in detail two of our newest offerings “Military Standard Transaction Reporting and Accounting Procedures for Foreign Military Sales” (MILSTRIP) and “Security Cooperation and Human Rights.”

### Status of Fielded Courses

The SAM-OC and IPSR-OL courses continue to provide an alternative to conventional classroom instruction for hundreds of students in need of initial and refresher training in security assistance and international programs security. The following chart details enrollment in these two courses over the past three years:

Fiscal Year	Course	USA	USAF	Maritime	Foreign Service National	Industry	Other	Distance Learning Fiscal Year Total	All DISAM Fiscal Year Total*	Distance Learning Percent of Total
2004	SAM-OC	64	140	74	5	45	27	355	4991	21.2%
	IPSR-OL	44	363	119	0	145	34	705		
	<b>Total</b>							<b>1060</b>		
2005	SAM-OC	101	144	85	4	55	59	448	5697	14.3%
	IPSR-OL	47	163	44	0	55	56	365		
	<b>Total</b>							<b>813</b>		
2006	SAM-OC	102	202	92	3	19	68	486	4545	18.9%
	IPSR-OL	71	153	61	0	26	63	374		
	<b>Total</b>							<b>860</b>		

\*Includes all resident, mobile education team (MET) and distance learning course enrollees for the fiscal year.

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## SAM-OC Updates

Several changes were implemented to improve the overall functionality of the course in addition to updates for volatile content including legislative and policy changes, current foreign military sales (FMS) figures and agency name and address changes.

- The three quizzes associated with the course have been re-written to now present 20 multiple choice questions each (vice 17). Students will now see each quiz score in Blackboard (DISAM's online learning management system) under "My Grades" as a percentage (e.g. 80/100) as opposed to a raw numeric score. Additionally, a glitch that caused randomly selected questions to occasionally appear more than once in a quiz has been fixed.

COURSE > SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT ORIENTATION COURSE > TOOLS > MY GRADES			
View Grades			
Item Name	Date	Grade	Points Possible
Quiz 1A (Lessons 1-4)	8/25/06 3:20 PM	100	100
Quiz 2A (Lessons 5-8)	8/25/06 3:23 PM	100	100
Quiz 3A (Lessons 9-12)	8/25/06 3:26 PM	100	100
End Of Course Evaluation	6/30/03	-	0
Total		100%	300

- A print function has been added on the main menu that allows for either full (landscape) or half page (portrait) printouts of the current lesson page.
- The audio narration has been recoded into a "streaming" format which allows for playback to begin as soon as a small portion of the audio file has been downloaded.
- The registration process has been changed from self-enrollment in Blackboard to an automatic enrollment process handled by the DISAM registrar.
- Course certificates are now provided via a link in an e-mail sent to students within five working days of successful completion of the course.

## International Programs Security Requirements-Online Updates

In the summer of 2006, the 2-day and 5-day classroom versions of the IPSR course were consolidated into a single 3-day version. As the IPSR-OL course was originally designed to mirror the 2-day version, it is currently in the process of revision to reflect the 3-day classroom version. The current on-line course will continue to count for credit towards the International Affairs Certification. In addition to the content revisions, the course will be updated to incorporate all the technical and functional changes found in the SAM-OC course.

## New Initiatives

Real education must ultimately be limited to men who insist on knowing – the rest is mere sheep-herding.

Ezra Loomis Pound

We realized that developing new distance learning products required a systematic process or else we do nothing but "herd sheep." The first step in this process was to determine what the security assistance community saw as a deficiency in knowledge. In April of 2002 DISAM conducted a survey of international customers, security assistance offices, and the implementing agencies. [Taphorn, 2002] Additionally, DISAM faculty routinely identifies training needs in the security assistance community through direct observation and inquiries made at CONUS MILDEP organizations, security assistance offices (SAOs) worldwide and at security cooperation related events, such as

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Training Program Management Reviews (TPMRs), International Military Student Officer (IMSO) conferences, Theatre Security Cooperation (TSC) conferences and the various mobile education team (MET) courses conducted annually. As a result of these efforts, a list of training needs exists for DISAM to consider as new distance learning projects.

Recent top priorities on this ever-growing list included:

- A need for instruction with a “drill and practice” approach regarding the MILSTRIP,
- How-to modules for reading an FMS bill (DD Form 645) and the letter of offer and acceptance (LOA)
- An online version of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) course

As the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) schoolhouse, DISAM can also respond to requests for DL production assistance from other DSCA-affiliated organizations. For example, the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) requested assistance with a DL course on human rights. DISAM has completed two of these projects, MILSTRIP for FMS and Security Cooperation and Human Rights, which are discussed in more detail below.

### **Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedure for Foreign Military Sales**

Have you ever wondered what the acronym MILSTRIP means? Have you ever been asked to interpret an AE2 document from S9G with a status code of BC and then make a logistics management decision based on the status of the requisition?

During DISAM’s visits to SAOs around the world (in particular our newest customer countries), and in our discussions with the customer and the implementing agencies, it became evident that customers had a lack of understanding on the Military Standard Requisition and Issue Procedures (MILSTRIP) in general and in the interpretation of the codes found in the various MILSTRIP documents. These problems are more evident with the newer FMS customers and in countries with small offices and security cooperation programs. Additionally, the move to use the Security Cooperation Information Portal (SCIP) for information dissemination adds to the confusion surrounding MILSTRIP.

Why is MILSTRIP so important for our international customers and SAO’s? It is the procedure by which the customer orders materials from the U.S. supply system. Understanding the unique codes that comprise a requisition is critical in the customers’ ability to submit orders and in tracking the status of these orders. MILSTRIP for FMS is designed with the FMS customer and the SAO in mind, but is just as useful for personnel in the implementing agencies.

MILSTRIP for FMS will introduce the student to the standard and unique codes that make up a MILSTRIP document, the common documents used within the U.S. supply system, and how to interpret status documents sent to the customer. This module was developed using the same interface and motif as our other distance learning courses.

- Navigation is through linear “next” and “back” buttons as well as a non-linear “pop-up” menu.



- A print function has been added to the navigation line permitting the student to print the current screen for future reference.
- Each section opens with a short video setting for the scene the information to be presented in the section.

The course consists of seven sections. MILSTRIP for FMS progressively takes the student from a basic understanding of MILSTRIP to a comprehensive exercise concluding the module of study. Section One breaks down the MILSTRIP document into five major groups discussing the purpose of the record positions in the document.

Following Section One, we begin a discussion of a variety of related documents.

- The requisition document (Section Two)
- The status document (Section Three)
- Three modifying documents (Section Four)
- The shipping document (Section Five)

Each section builds on the information provided in the previous section, providing an integrated picture of the MILSTRIP process.

Unique to the MILSTRIP for FMS module is incorporation of hands-on interactions for the student using facsimiles of Security Information Portal (SCIP) interactive screens. As the military services move away from providing the customer paper copies of logistics reports, SCIP is becoming the sole source for information for our international customers. Section Six discusses the use of SCIP to view logistics data through planned reports as well as ad hoc report generation. SCIP also has the capability for the customer to submit requisitions on-line to the supply system. The student will input data for a requisition, gaining hands-on experience using representations of actual SCIP screens. An example of a SCIP screen is on the next page.

*Section One: The MILSTRIP Document* *The MILSTRIP Document*

**Identification Data**

Document Number

Supplementary Address

**Advice/Status Data**

Additional Information Data

DOCUMENT NUMBER		ROUTING IDENTIFIER		CLASS		STOCK NUMBER										UNIT OF ISSUE		QUANTITY											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

  

DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE		SERIAL NUMBER		SUPPL. ADDRESS		SUPPL. CODE		FUNDING CODE		DIST.		PROJ. CODE													
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

  

PRIORITY CODE		RAD/RID		ADV CODE		SUPPLYSHIPMENT STATUS																							
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90

As we mentioned before, the MILSTRIP document is based on the old 80 column "punch card." From those 80 columns, we derive the 80 "record positions". We have broken the MILSTRIP document into five major sets of record positions:

The first set is the **identification data**.  
The second set is the **document number**.  
The third set is the **supplementary address**.  
The fourth set is **advice/status data**.  
The fifth set is **additional information data**.

Each section will be discussed in greater detail in the following sections.

Exit Resources Menu Print Back Section 1 of 7 Page 5 of 15 Next

How does one use MILSTRIP for FMS to interpret a MILSTRIP document? Built into the module is a translator. The MILSTRIP translator takes the codes in selected fields and expands them into their full definitions. The translator can be found under the Resources button on the navigation bar. Not all fields can be displayed due to the nature of the data. For instance, there is no translation for the National Stock Number (NSN) field due to the vast number of NSNs that would have to be loaded. As you can see from the screen shot of the translator, the status code "BC" used in our example means the item is back ordered and the requisitioner can expect a long delay.

Currently, MILSTRIP for FMS is only available on CD-ROM and is provided to students in the SAM-F, SCM-O courses and to students attending a MET course. Requests for the MILSTRIP for FMS CD can be submitted using the DISAM publication order form located at: <http://www.disam.dscamil/pubs/DISAM%20publication%20order%20form.htm>.

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## Security Cooperation and Human Rights

The Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS) provides instruction on a variety of legal topics related to security cooperation, one of which is internationally recognized human rights. In the spring of 2006, DIILS and DISAM began a cooperative effort to produce an introductory on-line human rights module. The material contained in this module closely parallels the block of instruction that DIILS instructors present in the resident DISAM SCM-O and SAM-TO courses. Topics include international human rights law, gross violations of human rights and congressional human rights awareness and action.

### MILSTRIP Translation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890

For record position definitions, cursor over the record position labels below.

DOCUMENT IDENTIFIER	CLASS	STOCK NUMBER	QUANTITY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	SERIAL NUMBER	SUPPLY CODE	DEPT	PROJ CODE	PROFIT	SHIP CODE	SUPPLYMENT STATUS

Use the drop-down boxes above to select codes from requisition. Definitions are displayed below.

Document Identifier Code (RP 1-3)

Routing Identifier Code (RP 4-6)

Unit of Issue Code (RP 23-24)

U.S. Agency Code (RP 30)

Delivery Term Code (RP 34)

Type of Assistance Code (RP 35)

Advice or Status Code (RP 65-66)

Purchaser's Service Code (RP 45)

Offer/Release Code (RP 46)

Shipment Hold Code (RP 51)  
Enter only when DIC is AS\_

Mode of Shipment Code (RP 77)  
Enter only when DIC is AS\_

This is a status code  
Item on original requisition containing this document number has been back ordered. Long delay is anticipated and ESD is in rp 70-73. Item identified in the NSN field (or remarks field if NSN field cannot accommodate the item number), which is not an automatic/coordinate

The module is presented in the same format as the SAM-OC and IPSR-OL courses, is fully narrated, and contains a variety of interactions to facilitate learning and retention of the material. As an example, one interaction asks the student to match articles from the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to related amendments to the United States Constitution.



Currently, this module of instruction is available on the DISAM web site at: <http://www.disam.dsca.mil/DistLearn/DL.htm>.

## Conclusion

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "DII.S Human Rights for Security Cooperation - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DISAM". The page content includes:

- Section One: International Human Rights Law**
- Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**
  - 7 No Torture
  - 8 No Slavery
  - 9 No Arbitrary Arrest
  - 12 Freedom of movement
  - 14.1 Public trial
  - 14.2 Presumption of Innocence
  - 14.3(a) Informed of charges
  - 14.3(c) Speedy Trial
  - 14.3(d) Legal Assistance
  - 14.3(e) Obtain witnesses
  - 14.3(g) Remain silent
  - 14.7 Double jeopardy
  - 17 Privacy
  - 18 Freedom of religion
  - 19 Freedom of expression
  - 21 Freedom of assembly
  - 22 Freedom of association
  - 25 Voting
  - 26 No Discrimination
- U.S. Constitutional Amendments**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 4<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>
  - 5<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 6<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>
  - 8<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 14<sup>th</sup>
  - 15<sup>th</sup>
- A grid of boxes for matching, with some boxes containing numbers (e.g., 7, 8, 9, 12, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3(a), 14.3(c), 14.3(d), 14.3(e), 14.3(g), 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26).
- Matching Exercise** instructions: "Drag a constitutional amendment number to any box next to a Covenant on Civil Rights Amendment that it best matches." and "No match" box.
- Navigation buttons: Exit, Resources, Menu, Print, Back, Section 1 of 3, Page 13 of 14, Next.

Over the past five years, the addition of distance learning materials to the DISAM curriculum has provided students with numerous training opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. These include:

- Formal certificate instruction on security assistance topics (e.g. SAM-OC, IPSR-OL)
- Short modules of basic instruction on specific topics on the periphery of security assistance (e.g. SAO Entitlements, Ethics and Human Rights)
- Informal, in-depth information, instruction and practice on specific topics e.g., the Letter of Request, MILSTRIP for FMS, and the International Military Student Pre-Departure Briefing

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The last three years of enrollment data for our for-credit courses reflect the continuing need for distance learning, in addition to standard classroom instruction, for the security assistance community. The IPSR-OL and SAM-OC courses alone represent 15-20 percent of the total annual DISAM student load, and several of the developed short modules of instruction have freed up valuable time in our resident courses for other group-orientated learning activities.

As with all courses, the value of the instruction is in part determined by assessment of post-training performance, and in-part by the feedback obtained from our students. Regarding student feedback, DISAM encourages all of our DL students to comment on existing courseware and to make recommendations for future courseware that will benefit the security cooperation community.

### **About the Authors**

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