
SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY

Achieving Security Cooperation Objectives Through The United States European Command Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program

By

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In 1997 the United States European Command (USEUCOM) consolidated three formerly disjointed Department of Defense (DoD) Humanitarian Assistance programs: Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA), Humanitarian Assistance-Other (HA-O), and the Humanitarian Assistance Program-Excess Property (HAP-EP). These programs were established in the USEUCOM J4 and formed the Humanitarian Assistance (HA) Branch for the purpose of synchronizing activities and creating synergy among the programs.

Since the formation of the HA Branch the USEUCOM HA Programs have grown significantly in size and popularity with U.S. Ambassadors within the area of responsibility. The USEUCOM HCA program is one of the premiere UCOM security cooperation tools. The program implementation is strategically focused to meet the five DoD objectives:

- Shape the security environment and foster goodwill furthering U.S. national interests;
- Gain access and influence;
- Bolster the ability of developing countries to prepare and respond to disasters;
- Train U.S. Forces; and
- Demonstrate how a professional military operates with civil military cooperation.

What is an HCA?

During the concept development and planning phase warfighters and security assistance officers (SAOs) alike are unaware exactly of what HCA is. In the beginning HCA activities are conducted in conjunction with a planned exercise or operation. The HCA should never be considered the primary focus of the exercise, but rather as an add on to what is already planned.

The authority to conduct HCA activities is outlined in Title 10 USC Section 401. The HCA program provides U.S. forces unique training opportunities to enhance military occupational skills in remote austere environments. These activities not only improve the operational readiness of U.S. forces, but serve as a multipurpose security cooperation tool that achieves strategic and operational level objectives. HCA's allow U.S. forces to engage and conduct interoperability training with a variety of host nation agencies ranging from ministries, armed forces, and of course the ultimate beneficiaries, the civilian population.

In USEUCOM, typically HCA's include medical civic action plans (e.g. medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary), rudimentary construction to include non-revenue producing infrastructure projects such as sanitation/surface transport systems, and well drilling.

Humanitarian and civic assistance funding is programmed annually through the U.S. Army using 442 (Support To Other Nations) dollars. In the past three years the demand for HCA activities by components and exercise planners has tripled the USEUCOM program.

Europe (NAVEUR) conducted a WATC in Togo and Ghana providing critical medical care to thousands of people in the local population.

From a strategic perspective, the program serves as an excellent tool for security assistance officers to achieve the UCOM's theater security cooperation and country team objectives. Specifically, the HCA Program provides SAOs access and influence to locations and government officials that they would normally not interact with. The activity allows the SAOs to strengthen strategic partnerships thereby enhancing regional security cooperation goals. Furthermore, successful implementation of the program supports U.S. national interests and our objectives.

West Africa Medical Outreach Program									
Ghana Detachment (NR Fleet Hospital Dallas)									
Date	Village	Patients	Medical	Optical	Glasses	Dental	Extractions	Vaccinations	Pharmacy
15-Apr	Agomeda	522	263	1122	86	52	46	95	96
16-Apr	Dodowa	555	290	155	128	56	46	54	89
17-Apr	Afienva	823	452	197	169	104	64	70	131
18-Apr	Kodiabe	867	463	201	161	121	94	82	136
19-Apr	Shai Hills (37th)	382	169	154	104	34	12	25	25
20-Apr	Dodowa	1191	641	197	139	162	32	191	348
22-Apr	Ayikuma	770	420	206	138	94	86	50	144
23-Apr	Doryum	1216	500	306	146	210	94	200	300
Total		6326	3198	1528	1071	833	474	767	1269
Togo Detachment (NR Fleet Hospital Minneapolis)									
Date	Village	Patients	Medical	Optical	Glasses	Dental	Extractions	Vaccinations	Pharmacy
16-Apr	Koveto	774	262	117	100	26	15	369	310
17-Apr	Legbassito	1097	309	171	139	30	30	587	455
18-Apr	Sagbato	1096	318	121	113	33	40	624	483
19-Apr	Lilikope	1199	403	124	120	42	30	630	611
21-Apr	Adetikope	1216	349	177	157	25	22	665	703
22-Apr	Hompou	1021	397	130	99	30	47	464	701
23-Apr	Aname	1345	453	134	119	31	24	727	869
24-Apr	Lokoe	940	235	186	165	30	18	489	507
Total		8688	2726	1160	1012	247	226	4555	4639
Grand Totals		15014	5924	2688	2083	1080	700	5322	5908

HCA Nominations

The submission of HCA nominations begins approximately 18 months prior to execution. Exercise planner's work with the HCA program manager to identify specific activities and locations. In USEUCOM many of the construction related HCA activities are conducted in concert with engineer related construction projects. Coordination with the host nation and local officials is critical during the early planning stages of construction and medical projects. Prior to the submission of a project all the details should be ironed out. For example, medical projects require written approval from Ministries of Health for vaccinations, surgical procedures, and

treatments. Since all HCA construction is rudimentary in nature, the host nation should approve the scope of work to ensure it does not conflict with building standards or restrictions.

The HCA Program Manager using the Humanitarian Assistance Program-Internet (HAP-I) website submits HCA nominations. The HAP-I is an unclassified interactive web-based system used for project nominations of all Title 10 HA Programs. The nominations are developed based on the concept of operations established by either planners from the component commands or executing U.S. military unit. As a minimum a nomination must contain specifics on the activity such as: location, name of exercise/operation, scope of work, training benefit to U.S. forces, number of participating forces, and cost. Once the nomination is inputted into the HAP-I system, an interagency review of the nomination is conducted. The interagency review historically has averaged 6-8 months before a project receives final approval from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). An exception to bypass the DoD HCA approval process is possible under the DeMinimus Clause in the USC. The DeMinimus Clause allows the HCA program manager to approve execution of projects under \$10,000 without interagency review.

USEUCOM HCA Program Way Ahead

The consolidation of the three HA Programs in USEUCOM has unquestionably had a profound impact on both U.S. national interests and our strategic partners throughout the area of responsibility. Specifically since fiscal year 2001, the number of HCA activities in USEUCOM has more than tripled. Consolidation of the HA programs in the command has not only improved the synchronization of activities, but created synergy among the programs. At the conclusion of a HCA construction project(s) we now outfit the facility (e.g., medical clinic, orphanage, school . . . etc.) with excess property from our HAP-EP program. The integration of other resources to the exercise benefits all concerned, more importantly it serves as an excellent example of what good civil-military cooperation relationships can achieve when working together.

As we enter the post September 11, 2001, "New World Order", we are establishing new strategic partnerships and more opportunities are presenting themselves. The HCA program is a tool that can be used by tacticians and SAOs alike. In most decisive combat operations Phase IV of every plan represents the post-hostilities or stability and support operation phase. These activities normally coincide with skills that are trained and conducted during HCA events. In USEUCOM, our experiences in Southeastern Europe have reinforced the importance of training U.S. forces through HCA type activities while performing stability forces (SFOR) in Bosnia and Kosovo forces (KFOR) missions. In Kosovo, Task Force Eagle conducts weekly medical exercises throughout their sector which have resulted in greater access and influence with local government officials, in addition to the added benefit of keeping up collective and individual medical skills. The expansion of USEUCOM's area of responsibility, new partnerships with the New Independent States, and service/component funding constraints will most likely result in a steady growth of the USEUCOM HCA program in the future.

Conclusion

The HCA Program is a highly effective tool that can be used to accomplish strategic, operational, and tactical objectives. Component and unit commanders have been increasingly using the additional funding source available through the program to offset training and operational costs. Similarly, the program serves as an outstanding security cooperation tool for SAOs and country teams to achieve their goals and objectives. Most importantly it supports the Unified Command's theater security cooperation plan, the *U.S. National Security Strategy*, and achieves positive quality of life results in the host nation. The contribution of the program on the war on terrorism has been significant with activities ranging from the Caspian Sea to Sub-Saharan

Africa. In the end, the best security cooperation tools are U.S. forces on the ground serving in the capacity of warrior-humanitarians maintaining regional stability.

About the Author

Major Mario V. Garcia Jr., is a Logistics Operations Officer working in the Headquarters United States European Command (International Division), Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate, Humanitarian Assistance Branch. MAJ Garcia is an Army Quartermaster Officer who has served in numerous command and staff billets in 3d Infantry Division, 82d Airborne Division, and 1st Corps Support Command (Airborne). He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College and the U.S. Naval Command and Staff College. Major Garcia is a distinguished military graduate of the University of South Florida and holds an M.S.A. from Central Michigan University in human resource management and an M.A. in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College.