
Offices of Defense Cooperation

By

Paul G. Kaminski
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology

[The following is a reprint of a 4 December 1995 memorandum from Secretary Kaminski, subject as above, which was sent to the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries of Defense, and the General Council of the Department of Defense.]

The importance of the ODC's mission, specifically those ODC functions supported with billets and funding from the Security Assistance Organization (SAO) Program, and the Defense Cooperation in Armaments (DCA) Program have increased since the ODC mission was established. Diminishing U.S. resources for defense now demand that we increase international armaments cooperation to leverage to a greater extent the technologies and industrial capabilities of allied and friendly nations. Defense cooperation also supports the national security strategy of democratic engagement and enlargement.

In view of changes in the global security environment, the role of SAOs and DCAs are increasingly important. ODCs, in the execution of the SAO/DCA mission, should utilize the following guidelines:

- Serve as the representative of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology [USD(A&T)] to counterparts in host country ministry, services, and industry for cooperation in research, development, production, and support of military systems.
- Serve as the primary source of information for the USD(A&T) regarding the requirements generation and acquisition activities of the host country.
- Provide the host country with an immediate source of information regarding DoD requirements and acquisition programs of potential interest for cooperative programs.
- Act as the point of contact for the ministry of defense and foreign firms for DoD acquisition and logistics practices and contacts, and for U.S. firms seeking or implementing cooperative programs.
- Identify opportunities for armaments cooperation and work with the host country and OSD to capitalize on cooperative opportunities.
- Coordinate and support meetings and visits of DoD representatives involved with cooperation in armaments.
- Formulate armaments cooperation strategies in accordance with guidance from the USD (A&T).

I have directed the preparation of an annual plan prescribing billeting and funding for the SAO/DCA program. This plan will be an integral part of the DoD armaments cooperation strategy. The plan currently envisages the following elements:

-
- No changes to existing or currently planned SAO/ODC billets in FY96.
 - DoD components continue to fully fund armaments cooperation billets in the current FYDP.
 - DoD components identify specific lines of funding for the DCA mission.
 - Conduct an assessment of SAO/DCA. billets during the coming year to determine their effectiveness in supporting the National Military Strategy for the post-Cold War environment. This assessment will result in recommendations to reinforce or reduce country billets to meet the changed requirements of new security conditions.

The effectiveness of the SAO/DCA mission is extremely important for the success of international cooperative acquisition programs. I request your continued support for the Offices of Defense Cooperation.