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## Mobile Education Team Visits Bahrain

By  
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**Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management**

During the week of 15 January 2006, the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM) team of instructors conducted a ten day Foreign Purchaser Course for the military officers in the country of Bahrain. Arduous detail work by the Security Assistance Office and administrative staff of the American Embassy ensured superb support was provided to the DISAM team throughout the instructional visit. DISAM and the U.S. Office of Military Cooperation's (U.S.OMC) worked together for months prior to coordinate and resolve issues. The visit was hosted by the Bahrain Defense Force Training Directorate, which arranged excellent classroom facilities at the Bahrain Naval Support Activity in Juffair near the capital city of Manama. The DISAM team was headed by Dr. Craig Brandt, Deputy Commandant, and included three other instructors, Mr. John Clean, Mr. Mike Layton and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ericksen. Budget conscious, DISAM instructors scheduled their arrivals and departures to meet a preplanned lector schedule. This proved to be a bit aggressive and had to be adjusted to accommodate some unexpected national days of commemoration. The curriculum was conducted in English and the course material was tailored to present Bahrain's unique FMS situation. Teaching materials were shipped and delivered to the U.S. embassy without incident.



**Major Isa Mohamed Isa Mohamed confers with Lieutenant Colonel Adnan M. Abulla and Lieutenant Colonel Khalid A. Rahman Bin Hindi about logistics exercise scenerio.**



**1st Lieutenant Muhanna S. Nusuf and Captain Ahmed A. Ahmed compare results of homework assignment. 2nd Lieutenant Khalifa Salman Al Zayani looks-on from the background.**

With the U.S.OMC and the Bahrain training managers assistance, the DISAM team set-up at the Naval facility on 15 January 2006 and commenced instruction on 16 January 2006. The classroom allocated to the MET was a well equipped and provided a comfortable learning environment. The staff provided outstanding computer, projection and technical support. During the opening ceremony, Dr. Brandt introduced the DISAM instructors presentations. The team was warmly welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Adnan Mohamed Al-Suwaidi, the Bahrain Ministry of Defense, training Director. The nineteen personnel who attended the course were from four branches of the Bahrain military including the Army, Air Force, Navy and National Guard. The MET course objectives were to review current foreign military sales policies, emphasize security assistance legislation and policy, process, logistics, finance, acquisition, sustainment, training and automation. Several real world exercises requiring student participation. Active student participation in the class led to many frank

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and open discussions about U.S. foreign military sales policies and procedures. The MET members enjoyed these exchanges and it appeared that the Bahraini participants found them useful as well. The Course ended on 25 January 2006 with a graduation ceremony, distribution of student diplomas and commencement addresses by Colonel Jaber Huwail (BDF Director of Training) and Colonel Khalid Matar of the Royal Bahrain Navy Maintenance Department. DISAM commends all the graduates. Each was very professional, eager to learn and quickly grasped even the most difficult concepts.



**1st Lieutenant Maleed Y. Ebrahim works with 2nd Lieutenant Yosuf M. Yusuf to uncover solutions during a group study session. Captain Jassin S. Jassin in the background.**



**After graduation, a group of students speak with Lieutenant Colonel R. J. Colson, USEMB, OMC training officer.**

Bahrain is an Arabic word meaning “Two Seas”. “Bahrain combines a modern infrastructure and comparatively liberal society with an authentic Gulf experience making it an ideal introduction to the Middle East. Attractions include historic sites such as the Qalat Al Bahrain castle and archaeological complex, the tens of thousands of ancient Dilmun Buria Mounds that dot the landscape, traditional Arab culture, shopping in the Kingdom’s malls and souks, and the opportunity to relax in the many hotel beach resorts and luxury spas”.

Bahrain is three and a half times the size of Washington, D.C. and as an archipelago of thirty-three islands does not share a land boundary with another country. A strategic position between East and West, fertile lands, fresh water, and pearl diving made Bahrain a centre of urban settlement throughout history. The islands were visited by the ships of Alexander the Great in the third century B.C.

Historical records referred to Bahrain as the “Life of Eternity”, “Paradise”, and the most likely the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden. It is considered to be one of the fifteen states that comprise the so-called “Cradle of Humanity” .



**Bahrain is called the Pearl Round About of the Persian Gulf.**

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In 1970, Bahrain declared independence from Britain. Iran claims to Bahrain were abandoned in 1971 after the United Nations decided that the Bahrainis wished to remain independent.

According to the U.S. Department of State website, Bahrain was the first Gulf state to discover oil in 1931, which brought about rapid modernization and improvements. The country has diversified its economy since the 1970s. Bahrain has turned to petroleum processing and refining, and has transformed itself into an international banking center. The estimated population as of July 2005 is about 688,345.

### **About the Author**

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ericksen is an instructor, assistant Director of Administration and course manager of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Upon graduation from the University of Alabama with a degree in Biology/Chemistry, he was commissioned in the U.S.AF and received a Masters of Science Degree in Management. He spent fourteen years overseas. Prior to DISAM he served as the last Logistics Support Squadron commander at Kadena AB, Okinawa and Mission Support Group Commander at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.



**Grand Mosque (also known as Al Fateh Mosque). This is the largest mosque in the kingdom with a capacity of 7000 worshipers.**