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# DISAM Conducts A Security Assistance Planning and Resource Management Course in Bulgaria

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A three-person DISAM Mobile Education Team (MET) recently conducted a one-week (14-18 June 99) Security Assistance Planning and Resource Management (SAM-P) Course in Sofia, Bulgaria. Thirty-four students from the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces received their DISAM diplomas from the Honorable Avis Bohlen, the United States Ambassador to Bulgaria. The Deputy Minister of Defense, Yordam Yordanov, also spoke at the graduation ceremony. Moreover, the graduation was covered by representatives of the press from both print and television media.

With the assistance of simultaneous translators, Dr. Larry Mortsof, Mr. Robert Hanseman, and Major Dennis Olson, USA, presented the DISAM SAM-P course. This course focused on the prudent and disciplined use of resources as they pertain to defense planning and resource management relative to equipment, service, and training acquisition. Curriculum topics included U.S. foreign and national policy, policies concerning defense cooperation matters as well as an introduction to acquisition, logistics, life-cycle cost and financial management principles as they apply to U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), and International Military Education and Training (IMET) Programs. The latest information technology innovations were part of the course, with instruction on how the internet and various DoD web pages can be used to provide communications and information.

As noted in its *Public Charter for the Reform of the Bulgarian Army, the Military Doctrine, and the Accession of Bulgaria into NATO*, Bulgaria desires to someday become a member of NATO. The DISAM SAM-P course highlighted several common standards and logistics procedures used by the United States and various friendly nations.

The course was the second DISAM MET presented in Bulgaria, with the first occurring in 1997. In preparation to present this most recent course the DISAM Team along with U.S. embassy representatives visited with Professor Nansen Behar, Deputy Chairman of the Security Committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly. The discussions centered on how the course could better prepare the Bulgarian Defense Forces to participate in defense cooperation programs with the United States. This course was a product of close coordination between the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense, the U.S. Security Assistance Office in Sofia, and DISAM. As a result of this cooperation and pre-course preparation the course was highly successful.