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# Teamwork and Training: Vital Partners JPD International Training Section

by

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## INTRODUCTION

The Turkish-U.S. Security Assistance relationship has been highly successful, and has enabled Turkey to become a major regional power on the southern flank of NATO. Although Turkey has received and/or purchased a number of modern weapon systems, it is training that allows Turkey to properly utilize these systems and organize its military to achieve the greatest effect. The high quality training this requires is the product of good teamwork and coordination.

## TRAINING SECTION

The International Training Section of ODC Turkey's Joint Programs Directorate (JPD) has the responsibility for coordinating and managing the Security Assistance Training Program. We coordinate training between the Turkish and U.S. military services, assist them in programming their International Military Education and Training (IMET) budget (to include the requirements for Expanded IMET), and in processing their students for the various Foreign Military Sales (FMS) training cases.

We are the single point of contact for Turkish-U.S. Security Assistance training programs. Both IMET and FMS training, course scheduling, and student processing is handled by this office. This allows both Turkish and U.S. agencies involved in training to have one common point of reference for coordination of all training matters.

Turkey's IMET program, allocated \$1 million in 1994, is very important to the Turkish services, and provided 70 students with training in the United States. Both officers and career NCO's received training, ranging from the National Defense University to Advanced English Language Instructor training. A highlight of the training program is reflected in the fact that 34 percent of the flag rank and general officers presently serving in the Turkish military have received training in the U.S. Some of those officers trained in the U.S. are now serving at the highest positions, to include the current Chief of the Turkish General Staff, and several service chiefs and commanders.

## TRAINING SUCCESSES

A highly successful FMS program resulting from the hard work of both the U.S. and Turkish services was the transfer of eight Knox class frigates. The success of the Knox class frigate transfer was monumental for the USN, Turkish Navy, and ODC Turkey. In less than 18 months, over 1,800 Turkish Naval personnel received training in the U.S. This training was essential to ensure the Turkish Navy could safely sail and operate these highly technical and complex ships. The success of this program was indicative of how teamwork prevailed in a challenging situation.

Six Turkish Air Force pilots recently completed F-16 LANTIRN training in the U.S., notable as the first time non-U.S. personnel received LANTIRN training. This strongly reflects ODC Turkey's hard work and the Chief's personal involvement in training. In addition, a LANTIRN Mobile Training Team spent time at Turkey's Bandirma Air Base training some additional pilots

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and upgrading those trained in the U.S. to instructor status. The Turkish Air Force now has a cadre for training its own LANTIRN pilots. This demonstrates Turkey's commitment to the "Train the Trainer" philosophy in training selection.

In FY94 Turkish Land Forces personnel, in what might be considered a preview of the "Enhanced Partnership" training, took part in a very successful "on The Job Training" program at Grafenwoehr, Germany. The personnel, infantry and armor, had the opportunity to train and participate in live fire gunnery exercises with U.S. forces. The training was very well received, and the success was due to hard work of JPD, TLFC, and the Office of International Training in USAREUR.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS KEY

The success of any student going to the United States for training depends in large part on his ability to understand English. Since students are placed in classes utilized by U.S. personnel and conducted in English, the students' ability to understand the training is extremely important. As a result, the U.S. services have established minimum levels for English comprehension for each course. The comprehension level of a student is determined by administering the English Comprehension Level (ECL) test. This test, developed by the Defense Language Institute English Language Center, is administered to Turkish students who have been pre-screened by use of the American Language Course Placement Test. The JPD Training Section administers all the tests given in Turkey to military personnel. The testing has occurred all over Turkey, from Heybeliada, an island near Istanbul, to Diyarbakir, in eastern Turkey. Additionally, as we visit sites throughout the country for testing, we assess the capabilities of the language labs employed and assist in upgrading materials and equipment. JPD, in conjunction with DLI, is arranging for a special seminar program to be set up for English instructors from the Turkish Air Force.

## CHALLENGES

Among these training program successes, there are some challenges facing ODC Turkey and JPD. The reduction of Turkey's IMET funding allocation is one challenge. The FY94 allocation was reduced by two-thirds due to congressional action. This resulted in a significant decline in the number of students sent to the U. S. The IMET program averaged 300 students per year over the period 1982-1993, but only 70 students could be funded in 1994. The success of the IMET program is evidenced by the percentage of Turkish flag officers who have received U.S. training. Unfortunately, the continuing reduced level of projected IMET funding (\$1 million for FY 1995) will make it difficult to maintain this percentage in the future. A further challenge is the effect that budget restrictions have placed on the Turkish services in reduced available funds for use in paying travel and living allowances for FMS courses.

## CONCLUSION

Much of the success of our program is due to the close coordination between JPD and the training offices in each of the services. This is reinforced by periodic IMET conferences between JPD, the services, and the Turkish General Staff. The Chief, ODC Turkey, has also fostered an improved relationship between the Turkish Air Force and ODC Turkey by arranging for Turkish Air Force Command (TAFC) personnel to be assigned to JPD. We currently have a Turkish Air Force Yuzbasi (Captain) assigned to JPD to help administer the TAFC's portion of training and to assist in student processing. We are currently seeking a Turkish Land Forces Command Captain to manage the TLFC training programs. ODC Turkey gains from better coordination with TAFC, and TAFC gains from better insight into how the process works, and hands on experience with the computerized Training Management System (TMS).

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The International Training Section also enjoys a superb working relationship with Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT), the Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity (NETSAFA), and the Army's Security Assistance Training Field Activity (SATFA). The personnel in the JPD International Training Section work as a team with the U. S. and Turkish agencies to ensure Turkey receives the best possible training and that Turkish-U.S. relationships continue to grow.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Major Ross Tremblay, USAF, is the Chief, International Training Section, JPD, ODC Turkey. His prior assignments have been Missile Combat Crew Commander, Chief of Command and Control, and Director of Operations.