
U.S. Southern Command 1st Annual Regional Golden Sentry End Use Monitoring Forum

**By
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U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) hosted the first annual Golden Sentry Regional End Use Monitoring (EUM) Forum in Guatemala City, Guatemala from 9 – 11 April, 2008. Golden Sentry End-Use Monitoring implementation was the central theme of the forum. Representatives from the majority of Security Assistance Offices (SAOs) in Central and South America who have substantial EUM duties were in attendance. Policy experts from Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) provided policy guidance and training to the SAOs in both the execution of The Golden Sentry Program and partnering with the DOS' Blue Lantern Program. The forum provided a region-specific approach to discuss the multiple aspects of End-Use Monitoring.

Representatives from USSOUTHCOM's Strategy, Policy & Programs Directorate (J5), Dan Case and Keith Ervolino welcomed the forum attendees and stated the importance of the conference and the mission of EUM to regional security and stability.

USSOUTHCOM was very pleased to partner with DSCA on hosting the first ever End Use Monitoring Regional Forum in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The headquarters had been placing a lot of emphasis on EUM historically, but it always was on a one-to-one basis with each of the Military Groups [Security Assistance Offices]. To have the turnout that we did and the incredible exchange of ideas and best practices among the participants will pay huge dividends in increasing the fidelity of the program in the months and years to come.

DSCA reviewed the Golden Sentry EUM program and explained recent policy memorandums added to chapter 8 of the Security Assistance Management Manual (SAMM) 5105.38-M. This included DSCA 07-14 SAMM policy memorandum, which outlines the procedure for adding or removing defense items from the Enhanced EUM (EEUM) listing. DSCA Policy memorandum 07-15 updates the SAMM regarding section 505(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA), pertaining to the "net proceeds" from disposal or authorized retransfer of Excess Defense Articles (EDA) or Military Assistance Program (MAP) Assets. The SAMM update recognizes the increasing expense of these disposal efforts in recent years. In conclusion, DSCA policy memorandum 07-20, which updated the SAMM on reporting and EUM responsibilities, was presented to the SAOs on quarterly reporting duties via the Security Cooperation Information Portal.

DSCA trained SAO personnel on the management of the country-specific Golden Sentry program using the Security Cooperation Information Portal (SCIP), a web based application available worldwide with secure access. John Oswald, a SCIP analyst for DSCA, explained the various functions of the SAO Toolbox incorporated in SCIP with a live demonstration of features that aid EUM monitoring duties. The reporting requirements for EEUM and documentation of defense articles in SCIP were highlighted during this hands-on training exercise.

Jill Fong, an EUM Program Analyst from DSCA, reviewed the procedures and timeline for EUM Familiarization Visits and Compliance Assessment Visits (CAV). EUM Familiarization Visits assist the SAO and host country in updating the Golden Sentry Program and developing a compliance plan that is later assessed during a CAV. During a CAV, the assessment team ensures SAO and host nation compliance with EUM requirements. A CAV includes site visits to evaluate facility physical security and accountability procedures.

SAO personnel briefed the status of their country-specific Golden Sentry program compliance to representatives from USSOUTHCOM. This briefing included the status of EEUM U.S. origin defense articles and Military Assistance Program (MAP) assets. A roundtable discussion of MAP equipment reconciliation was facilitated by DSCA. There was a specific emphasis on demilitarization procedures for aging MAP assets, often transferred decades ago to host nation militaries. To wrap-up the round table discussion, DSCA encouraged and received feedback from SAOs on EUM program management overseas.

Department of State representatives from Directorate of Defense Trade Controls presented the Blue Lantern program for EUM Direct Commercial Sales export licenses. This briefing highlighted the procedure for Blue Lantern Checks which compliment the Golden Sentry Program compliance from the U.S. Department of State perspective. Dr. Judd Stitzel, a State Department Officer, summarized the importance of the two departments working together.

DSCA and the State Department's Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance have jointly participated in several conferences and outreach visits like the SOUTHCOM EUM Regional Forum during the last few years. Such events have been valuable in many ways for all parties involved. Briefing the Golden Sentry and Blue Lantern end-use monitoring programs back-to-back helps our audiences to understand the similarities and differences between the programs. And getting everyone in the same room sparks conversations about how DoD and DOS can strengthen our collaboration and information sharing about export controls and end-use monitoring.

The cooperative nature of the conference in supporting an intra-agency role for End Use Monitoring was a great opportunity to harmonize the SOUTHCOM region's efforts at this critical mission. All participants received excellent training and sound policy guidance for implementation in cooperating with their partner nations.

About the Author

LT Kevin Strevel is a recently assigned DISAM instructor and a U.S. Navy surface warfare officer. LT Strevel is currently an end use monitoring instructor, and is the SOUTHCOM seminar lead.