

DISAM Professional Internship Training

DISAM Mission:

The Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management provides professional education, research, and support to advance U.S. foreign policy through Security Assistance and Security Cooperation.



About the Program

The Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM) internship is designed to attract 3rd or 4th year college students to the field of civilian defense. Our objective is to assist in the training and professional development of students seeking careers in international relations, political science, public diplomacy, or national defense. The program does not provide funding but rather is an opportunity to learn about U.S. security assistance and security cooperation programs as well as foreign culture, politics, government, and society. DISAM does not preclude internship periods for academic credit, but that is dependent upon the college/university sponsoring the intern. During the first month of the program, the intern will be exposed to many different aspects of security cooperation and security assistance planning. They will be mentored and coached by DISAM functional coordinators and instructors in their host directorate. Program scope is broad so interns will have the opportunity to explore and understand U.S. security cooperation and security assistance from a regional perspective. In the second and/or succeeding months, interns may have the opportunity to take on more responsibility and gain further experience through involvement in regional classroom training.

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

To be eligible to apply to the DISAM internship program, you must meet the following minimum requirements.

Minimum Recruitment Criteria

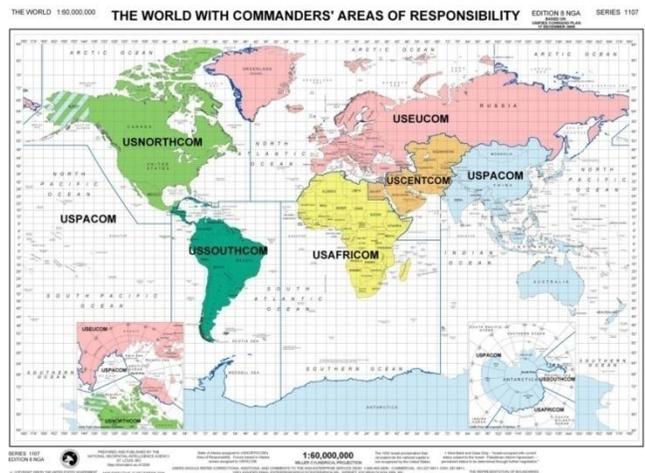
- Currently enrolled in an Ohio college and completion of pre-requisites for the 3rd or 4th year student level;
- Sponsored by your institution to be allowed to participate in the DISAM internship program; this is to facilitate insurance for liability in case of accident or illness while with DISAM; Simply stated, if a student is not enrolled in school and covered by the institution's insurance plan (and they can still be sponsored by the school although not enrolled during that term) during any time of the period of internship, they must provide some proof of insurance in order to limit the liability to DISAM during that period.
- Submission of a short personal biography;
- A desire to experience and learn Security Cooperation and/or regional studies;
- A desire to work with U.S. and foreign military and government officials ;
- Ability to volunteer time to DISAM on a regular schedule and report to DISAM at set hours, for set periods of time;
- Be recommended by appropriate faculty or staff agency and sponsorship from your institution;
- Ability to provide own transportation to and from DISAM ;
- Willingness to accept any work given; and,
- Ability to provide work, character, educational, and other references.

For more details on how to apply to the program, see the DISAM website.

What kinds of activities can the intern expect?

The intent of this program is to help expose interns to the security cooperation and security assistance programs conducted by the U.S. Government with foreign countries and international organizations. The DISAM faculty sponsor will determine work required, taking into consideration the academic and work schedules of interns. Potential projects assigned may include:

- Research on security- related topics.
- Staff work in regional studies.
- Participation in regional studies seminars.
- Directorate related office staff work, to include clerical work and some light manual labor (must have the willingness and ability to move office furniture, make copies, etc.).
- Preparation of articles or papers for publication.



INTERN SELECTION

Applications will be reviewed through the DISAM Intern POC and may require interviews prior to final selection.

Frequently Asked Questions?

What is Security Cooperation?

1. The Department of Defense (DoD) broadly defines Security Cooperation (SC) as those activities conducted with allies and friendly nations to:

- Build relationships that promote specified U.S. interests
- Build allied and friendly nation capabilities for self-defense and coalition operations
- Provide U.S. forces with peacetime and contingency access
- Fund for equipment and training as well as other activities conducted by the US forces.

What is Security Assistance?

2. As a subset of SC, Security Assistance (SA) encompasses a group of programs, authorized by law, through which the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or commercial contractors provide defense articles and services in support of national policies and objectives.

SA programs allow the transfer of defense articles and services to international organizations and friendly foreign Governments via sales, grants, leases, or loans to help friendly nations and allies deter and defend against aggression, promote the sharing of common defense burdens and help foster regional stability. SA includes such diverse efforts as the delivery of defense weapon systems to foreign governments, U.S. Service school training to international students, U.S. personnel advice to other governments on ways to improve their internal defense capabilities, and U.S. personnel guidance and assistance in establishing infrastructures and economic bases to achieve and maintain regional stability. When the U.S. assists other nations in meeting their defense requirements, it contributes to its own security.

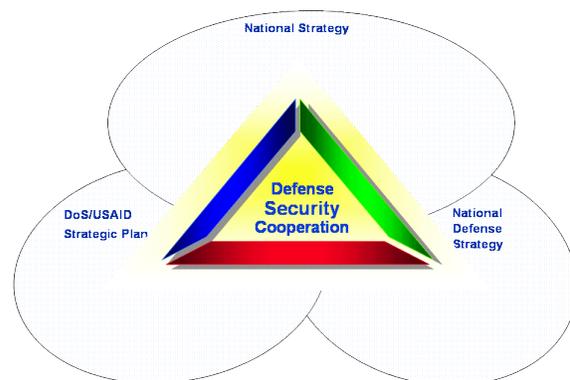
Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grants or loans, and International Military Education and Training (IMET) are key programs included within Security Assistance. IMET is conducted solely on a grant basis. FMS can be conducted using host nation funds, donor funds or FMF.

Who Manages SA?

3. The U.S. Congress establishes the laws, authorizes programs, appropriates funds, and has an oversight role in SA. The principal legislated responsibilities fall to the Department of State (DoS) and DoD.

The Secretary of State provides continuous supervision and general direction for SA, including determining whether what SA programs a given country will have, as well as their scope and content. The Secretary of Defense (SecDef) implements programs to transfer defense articles and services on a government-to-government basis.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) is the principal DoD organization through which the SecDef carries out responsibilities for SA. Within DoD, the Military Departments (MILDEP) and other implementing agencies manage individual country programs, including the development of Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOA), and the delivery of defense articles and services under those LOAs. Financial management of accepted LOAs is a responsibility of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).



Usually a Security Cooperation Organization (SCO), under the direction of the chief of a U.S. diplomatic mission (or U.S. embassy), conducts the in-country management of each recipient nation's SA and SC programs. The SCO provides this oversight in conjunction with its host nation counterparts, the country team within the diplomatic mission, a U.S. military geographic combatant commander (GCC), the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), and U.S. military departments or services (MILDEPs).

How Does FMS Operate?

4. FMS is managed and operated by DoD on a no-profit and no-loss basis. Countries and international organizations participating in the program pay for defense articles and services at prices that recoup the actual costs incurred by the

United States. This includes a fee (currently 3.8% of what the defense articles and/or services cost, in most instances) to cover the cost of administering the program.

When defense articles and/or services are required, the requesting country's representative provides a Letter of Request (LOR) to their U.S. counterpart. Copies are sent to the DoS Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and DSCA. The original is furnished to the DoD Military Department or other implementing Defense Agency that will prepare the response in the form of a LOA.

What is Available Under SA Programs?

5. Defense articles, including major defense systems, subsystems, support equipment, repair parts, and publications are available under SA. Defense services, including training in U.S. military schools or through mobile training teams, construction, engineering, contract administration, program management, technical support, and repair are also available. To encourage standardization and interoperability among U.S. and SA countries, FMS normally involves the transfer of those articles that have been fielded by U.S. forces. While sometimes available through FMS, nonstandard articles or services are normally acquired commercially.

Under certain conditions, customers can elect to co-produce or co-assemble defense articles in lieu of transfer. Also, defense articles are occasionally leased to customers instead of sold.

Where Can I get Additional Information? [DSCA Information](#)

7. The following publications are recommended.

- [DoD 5105.38-M, Security Assistance Management Manual \(SAMM\)](#)

[A Comparison of Direct Commercial Sales and Foreign Military Sales for the Acquisition of U.S. Defense Articles and Services](#)

Orientation Session

As part of the internship program, DISAM will provide an orientation overview of the program.

- Orientations are held for each intern on the first day or two of the internship. As part of the orientation, each intern will meet with the DISAM Commandant.
- Interns are introduced to DISAM staff who they will be working with and regional instructors on their area of expertise. This is an opportunity for the interns to become more familiar with the DISAM teaching experience and regional studies and allows them to make contact with key resources they may need to draw on as part of their work.
- A feedback session is held at the end of the first week or at an appropriate time based upon actual work schedule. This session may introduce more topics that will be available as the intern proves value. A Wrap-Up session is held toward the end of the second month to discuss what the interns have learned during their internship, their future plans, and their recommendations for changes to the program based on their experiences.

Desired Professional Attributes

- Some basic knowledge about Foreign Military Sales and Security Cooperation is helpful;
- An interest in pursuing a career in Government;
- A desire to influence the Security Cooperation policy through civil service;
- Flexibility in terms of hours and job requirements;
- Problem solving ability; and
- Positive public relations skills.



Expectations and Level of Work

As an intern you will work with the directorate Functional Coordinators and instructors to learn about Security Cooperation and the Regional Studies.

You will work collaboratively with your hosts to determine the most effective method of completing a work plan. The work plan is to be used as a guide to allow flexibility in timelines and allow the host to include additional activities as appropriate. It may be designed so that the interns are exposed to different areas of Security Cooperation in addition to GCC Regional Studies.

Professional development is also a key component of this program. The intern will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills by observing, experiencing, and practicing such skills throughout the duration of the internship. Interns will receive exposure to help develop both leadership and teaching skills.

Examples of exercises and activities the intern may be involved in include:

- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of Security Cooperation Offices;
- Assisting with overviews of Security Cooperation regional structure and planning;
- Attend guest lectures and classroom training;
- Interacting with directorate heads;
- Working with various DISAM and Security Cooperation documents ;
- Interacting with various Functional Coordinators and instructors;
- Handling student research inquiries; and
- Researching policy issues.

Challenges

Security Cooperation is an ever-changing environment. Interns will be faced with a wide variety of tasks and shifting priorities. It will be challenging for interns and host directorate to achieve goals. Meeting this challenge will require regular check-ins, reviewing goals and expectations, and open and honest communication.

Intern Tips

1. Maintain a “contacts” notebook. Include the name, address, phone number, email address of every interesting professional you meet.
2. Practice the DISAM language of acronyms. Meet the “Security Officers and Functional Coordinators” and experience their professionalism, constantly.
3. Read Government, base and national papers and periodicals.
4. Ask questions, read and surf the net for information about the Regional countries.
5. You may get the opportunity to share your knowledge and special skills with students, contribute your knowledge.
6. During your internship, consider it as a proper job & adhere to the rules, regulations & etiquettes of the DISAM/establishment and accomplish responsibilities as if it were a paid position regardless of college credit being or not being issued for the internship.
7. Customized placements can be arranged if your area of study is not currently enlisted.
8. The applications for internship are flexible in time accepted and duration.
9. Internship period is normally two months, DISAM can grant leaves of absence and continuances as needed.

10. Validate that with your institution sponsorship; they can cover any medical or dental needs while temporarily assigned to DISAM. Simply stated, if a student is not enrolled in school and covered by the institution's insurance plan during any time of the period of internship, they must provide some proof of insurance in order to limit the liability to DISAM during that period.

11. Enjoy the DISAM experience!