
SECURITY COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



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Foreword

Today's increasingly complex global security environment poses a series of unprecedented challenges including violent extremism, regional bad actors, and natural disasters. We must ensure that we have a global community of ready, willing and capable international partners to address these shared challenges which in many instances are beyond the resources of any single nation's ability.

This document, *Security Cooperation with the United States Air Force*, sets forth how the USAF approaches enabling the global community of airmen with the unique capabilities and strategic agility that only the air, space and cyber domains can deliver. This document establishes a common understanding and security cooperation lexicon for our international partners, industry, US government interagency, and the joint force to refer to when focused on the air, space and cyberspace domains. It establishes the types of activities we employ to build partner air force capabilities. It defines what each partner capability entails and how it links to the USAF's enduring mission areas. And most importantly, it recognizes that every international partner is unique with their own strengths and national interests as we build air force-to-air force relationships and capabilities. All of these things enable the US Air Force to achieve our security cooperation goals of enabling the US to operate, and enabling our partners to address their challenges independently or in a coalition when called upon by our respective national leaders.

While the US Air Force can deliver unmatched capabilities, our strengths can be amplified exponentially when complemented by our international partners. To achieve this, the US Air Force and partners must seek opportunities to develop, expand, and sustain relationships, capabilities and capacities across air, space, and cyberspace domains. In so doing, collectively, we can be more flexible, adaptive, and responsive to our shared global challenges and can shape a more favorable security environment into the future.



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Purpose

To build global awareness and a common understanding of how the United States Air Force approaches security cooperation.

Introduction

The US Air Force conducts security cooperation through a wide range of activities to include: training and education, exercises, equipping, information exchanges, personnel exchanges, agreements, and defense and military contacts.

These activities are conducted by US Air Force officers, enlisted, and civilians spanning the Total Force, who lead the way in integrating military capabilities across air, space, and cyberspace. Airmen view security challenges globally, without boundaries, and they possess the imagination, innovation and dedication necessary to support security cooperation worldwide.

The core subject matter experts for US Air Force security cooperation are International Airmen – officers, enlisted, and civilian members selected and trained to support US Air Force international activities. At the forefront are International Affairs Specialists (IAS), Regional Affairs Strategists (RAS) and Political-Military Affairs Strategists (PAS), who support staffs across the US Air Force, Combatant Commands, Joint Staff, defense agencies and Office of the Secretary of Defense. International Affairs Career civilians provide in-depth expertise and long-term continuity throughout the enterprise. At the tactical level, Air Advisors, whether conventional forces or Combat Aviation Advisors, provide focused security cooperation expertise directly to our international partners.

The focal point for coordinating US Air Force security cooperation activities in a partner nation is the Security Cooperation Office (SCO), usually co-located in US embassies around the world. Additionally, subject matter expertise is provided by Air Attachés, planners, program managers and country directors to support the planning, execution and assessment of security cooperation activities across the Service and at Joint headquarters.



Pacific Rim Junior Enlisted Leadership Forum (JELF) participants work together to complete a group activity during the first U.S. led JELF at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hi. (US Air Force Photo)



Airmen from New Zealand, Australia and the United States conduct medical transfer training during Exercise COPE NORTH at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam in February 2016. (US Air Force Photo)

The US Air Force Security Cooperation Enterprise interacts with:

- Allies and international partners
- US Embassy Country Teams
- US Air Force staffs across the Headquarters Air Force and Major Commands
- Other Military Services and Defense Agencies
- Combatant Commands and Air Component staffs
- Interagency counterparts
- Industry
- Congress

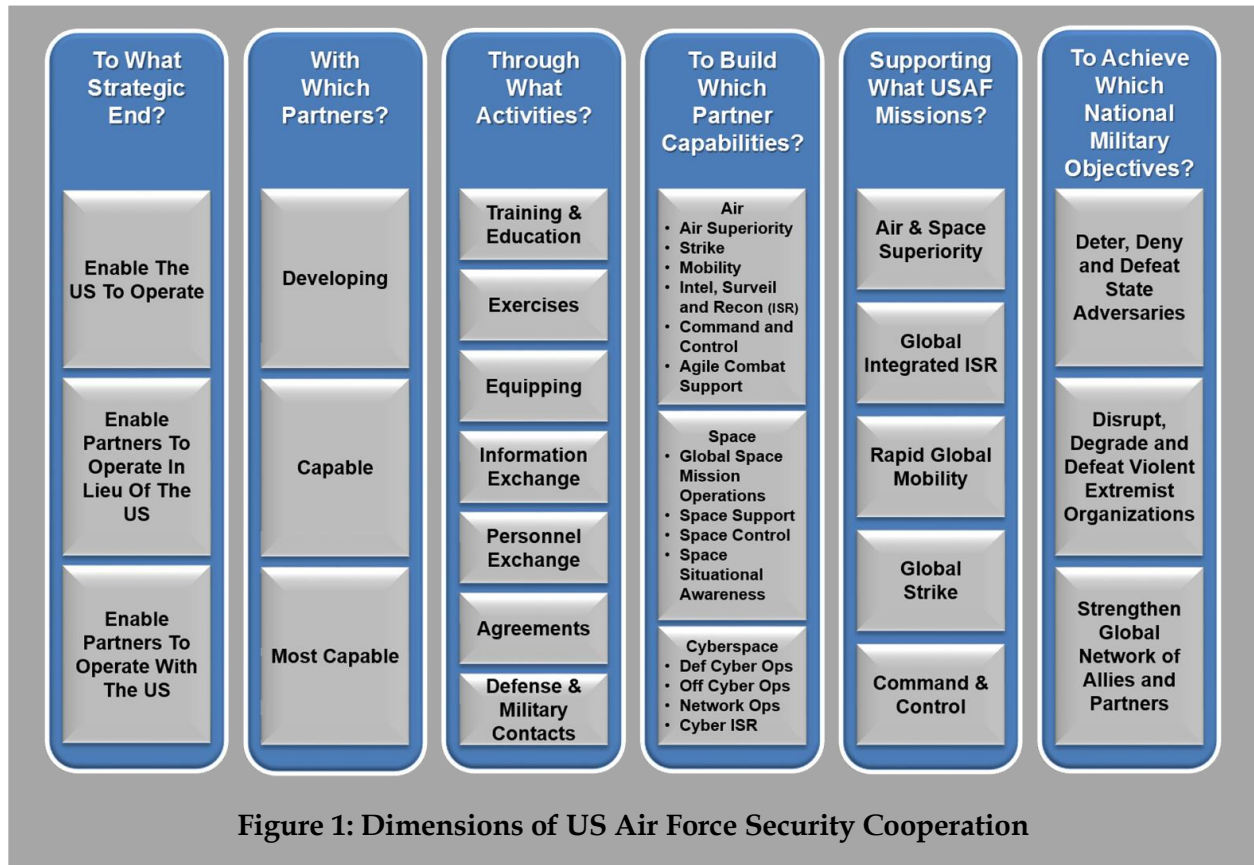
The Security Cooperation Enterprise ensures US Air Force planning, programming and budgetary processes maintain the right mix of security cooperation tools. These processes ensure the availability of US Air Force security cooperation activities and support security cooperation as a critical element of global airpower.



Noncommissioned Officers from the United States and Latin American countries attend the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. (US Air Force Photo)

Dimensions of USAF Security Cooperation

The dimensions of US Air Force security cooperation in **Figure 1** describe the US Air Force’s approach to strengthening the global network of air forces. This network supports the



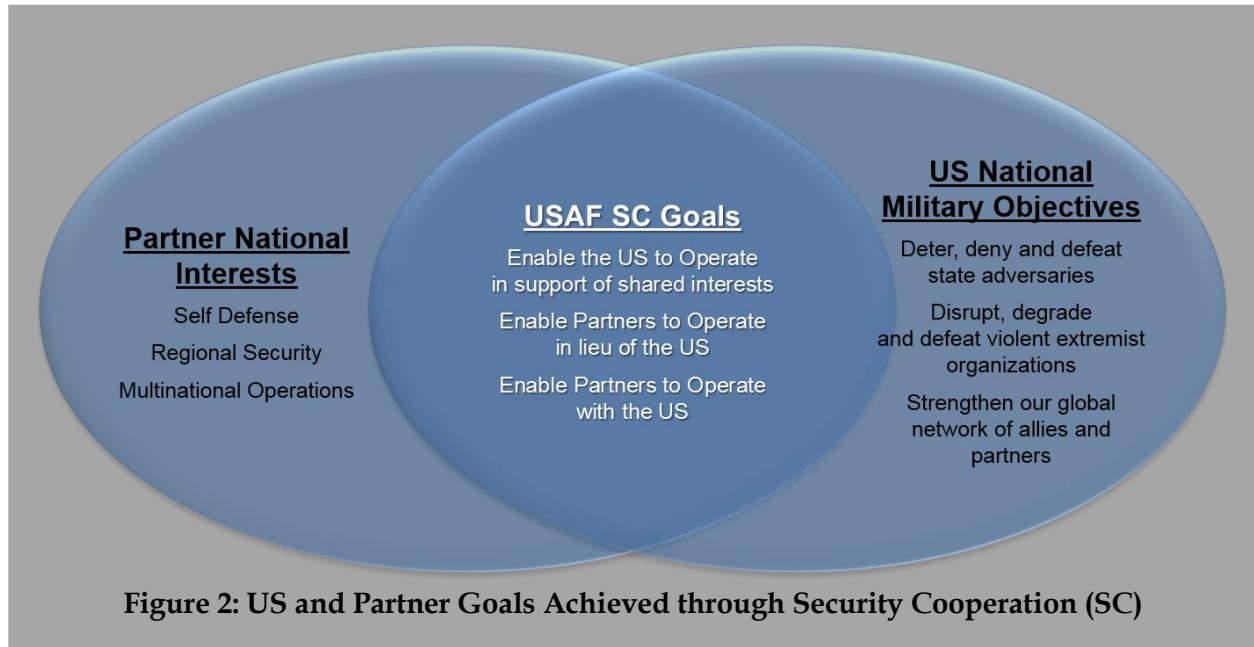
international security and stability necessary to protect and promote shared interests, objectives and goals.

To What Strategic End?

The concept in **Figure 2** depicts the association between partner national interests and US military objectives. This interaction is the foundation for the Nation’s, and thus the US Air Force’s, security cooperation goals.

The *National Security Strategy* specifically describes four enduring US strategic interests: security, international order, prosperity, and values. In general, the United States and our partners have a shared interest in:

- Self defense
- Regional security
- Multinational operations



Underscoring these interests, the *National Military Strategy of the United States of America 2015* describes three military objectives:

- Deter, deny, and defeat state adversaries
- Disrupt, degrade, and defeat violent extremist organizations
- Strengthen our global network of allies and partners

The shared global capacity of US and partner air forces contributes to the achievement of these interests and objectives. To achieve our shared interests and objectives, the US Air Force has applied the Airman’s perspective to US national security cooperation in identifying the following US Air Force security cooperation goals:

- Enable the United States to operate in support of shared interests
- Enable partners to conduct operations in lieu of the United States
- Enable partners to operate with the United States

With Which Partners?

At the most general level, successful air force-to-air force partnerships are dependable, resilient and sustainable as we work towards achieving mutual interests. The specific nature of any successful international partnership will vary from nation to nation and will be shaped by broader strategic interests such as self-defense, regional security, and multinational operations.

The US Air Force values relationships with all partner air forces across the capability spectrum. Every partner is understood to be unique, with distinctive societal, industrial and military characteristics shaped by fiscal, legal and political considerations.

The US Air Force strives to understand partner perspectives before recommending solutions to security challenges. In general, partner air force capabilities and relationships can be described within the following three areas.

Developing partners. The US Air Force seeks to establish relationships based on trust and mutual respect. Early efforts include the establishment of Air Attaché and Security Cooperation Offices, senior leader relationships, preliminary agreements and Airman-to-Airman contacts. The result is an enduring, mutually supporting air force-to-air force relationship.

Capable partners. The US Air Force employs a “total package approach” that tailors security cooperation activities to partner capability requirements. This approach goes beyond delivering weapon systems to include addressing the partner’s tactics, training, procedures and life cycle management. The result is a deep core of airpower capability and capacity to support regional security requirements.

Most capable partners. The US Air Force focuses on building interoperability across the air, space and cyberspace domains. These partners possess the means to employ and sustain operations for their own national security and contribute to multinational operations. Their contributions reduce the burden on the United States and international partners.

Through What Activities?

The US Air Force executes hundreds of security cooperation activities each year that directly support US and partner requirements. These activities provide access, build capability and capacity, and develop interoperability. US and partner defense institution building efforts sustain these capabilities by developing effective oversight and management of logistics, personnel, budgets, policy, strategy, and doctrine.

Training and Education. Training and education provide the foundation for Airmen to understand concepts, doctrine and procedures. In 2015, the US Air Force trained or educated over 11,000 partner air force personnel at CONUS-based and in-country training venues. Many US Air Force Professional Military Education (PME) and technical training courses are available to international partners. Some of the most requested PME opportunities include the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, and the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. The US Air Force trains, advises and assists partners abroad through Mobility Support Advisory Squadrons and Security Cooperation Education and Training (SCET) teams, which include both Extended Training Service Specialists (ETSS) and Mobile Training Teams (MTT).



A member of a US Air Force Mobility Support Advisory Squadron observes a Honduran soldier during aircrew survival training in Honduras. (US Air Force Photo)

Exercises. Participation in regional or US-hosted exercises provides opportunities for US and partner personnel to meet training requirements, assess readiness and strengthen interoperability. In so doing, combined exercises are critical to preparing for multinational contingency operations. To this end, the US Air Force conducts approximately 80 bilateral and multinational exercises with more than 60 partner nations each year. Exercises range in size from seminars, wargames and competitions to large force exercises at regional training centers.



Fighter aircraft from the United States, United Kingdom and France participate in a Trilateral Anti-Access/Area Denial Exercise in December 2015. (US Air Force Photo)

Equipping. Equipping activities build a common foundation for air force-to-air force relationships, providing partners with both low-tech and high-tech systems. Equipping entails the lifecycle management necessary for developing capability, capacity and interoperability. For example, the US Air Force supported 4th generation fighter aircraft acquisition with over 30 partners, providing them with a highly capable, multirole aircraft. Less sophisticated weapons and equipment, such as small to medium lift aircraft, can provide significant capabilities for developing nations in mobility, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), and aeromedical evacuation.

Information Exchange. Information exchange provides an important means for US and partner air forces to access data and information that might otherwise be unobtainable. Information sharing activities often form the basis for a broader, more comprehensive whole-of-government relationship. Critical information exchanges, such as those related to flight safety and air worthiness, enhance trust and interoperability. These activities often extend beyond sharing military practices and lessons learned, encompassing specialized areas such as alternative energy technology, health information and regional assessments.

Personnel Exchange. Personnel exchanges establish long-term professional relationships and develop deep subject matter expertise in another country's military, government, economy and culture. These relationships provide key focal points for coordinating activities between US and partner air forces and broaden individual and organizational knowledge bases. US Air Force personnel participate in the full range of Department of Defense military, administrative, intelligence, engineer and scientist exchange programs.

Agreements. Agreements establish the formal basis for exchanging information, material, and personnel, while supporting shared basing and support services. Basic agreements for logistics support, overflight, and en-route access facilitate the movement of aircraft for training and operations. Specialized agreements provide information sharing among subject matter experts in such areas as alternative energy sources, space and meteorology. These agreements greatly contribute to the ability of governments to leverage investments in science and technology.

Defense and Military Contacts. These activities are critical to the relationships, understanding and trust essential to security cooperation. Air Attachés and SCOs provide regular in-country coordination with partner air force officials. General officer, senior civilian and staff engagements help establish the direction for cooperative relationships. Follow-on engagements through the National Guard State Partnership Program and Air Advisors provide opportunities for Airmen-to-Airmen interaction across US and partner air forces. These activities may also include medical contacts through Global Health Engagement.



US Airmen meet with their counterparts from the Botswana Defense Force during a visit to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Botswana is a participant in the National Guard State Partnership Program. (US Air Force Photo)

To Build Which Partner Capabilities?

The US Air Force takes a global, multi-domain (Air, Space and Cyberspace) approach to its core missions: Air and Space Superiority, Global Integrated ISR, Rapid Global Mobility, Global Strike and Command and Control. Few partner air forces have the same global and multi-domain perspective or capabilities as the US Air Force. To assist in matching partner capabilities to US Air Force missions, the US Air Force uses the following descriptions to articulate partner air force capabilities.

Air Domain

Air Superiority is the degree of control of the air by one force that permits the conduct of operations at a given time and place without prohibitive interference from air and missile threats.

- **Air-to-Air** encompasses the ability to conduct offensive and defensive air-to-air operations to detect, identify, intercept, destroy, disrupt, or neutralize enemy aircraft, missiles, and systems after launch, but as close to their source as possible, and prevent enemy forces from penetrating or attacking through friendly airspace.
- **Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD)** includes activity that neutralizes, destroys, or temporarily degrades surface-based enemy air defenses by destructive or disruptive means.

Strike provides the capability to destroy a point target and minimize collateral damage. Strike holds targets at risk, executes rapidly and persistently with a wide range of munitions, and creates swift, decisive, and precise effects. Strike includes the following partner air force capabilities:

- **Air interdiction** diverts, disrupts, delays, or destroys the enemy's surface capabilities before they can be brought to bear against friendly forces or achieve enemy objectives.
- **Armed unmanned aerial systems** include the equipment, network, and personnel to operate unmanned aircraft. Optical, infrared, and radar sensors are critical to these systems for locating, identifying, targeting, and attacking ground targets.
- **Close air support (CAS)** is the ability to apply air actions by fixed and rotary wing aircraft against hostile targets that are in close proximity to friendly forces. CAS requires detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces.



An Afghan air force A-29 Super Tucano flies over Afghanistan during a training mission in April 2016. (US Air Force Photo)

Mobility is supported by responsive, on-demand aircraft that deliver combat forces and humanitarian assistance to support joint, coalition, and civilian partners. Mobility includes the following partner air force capabilities:

- **Airlift** delivers forces and materiel through the air in support of strategic, operational, or tactical objectives.
- **Air refueling** extends presence, increases range, and serves as a force multiplier for aircraft in flight.
- **Aeromedical evacuation** provides time-sensitive en-route care of regulated casualties between medical treatment facilities using organic and contracted aircraft with medical aircrew explicitly trained for that mission.
- **Airdrop** delivers personnel and materiel from aircraft in flight.



A Royal Australian Air Force KC-30 tanker connects with a US Air Force C-17 as part of the Coalition Tanker Aerial Refueling Certification Effort. (US Air Force Photo)

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) synchronizes and integrates the planning and operation of sensors, assets, and processing, exploitation, and dissemination systems in direct support of operations.

- **Traditional intelligence collection disciplines** most often encompass a partner nation's capability to produce geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), or measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT). This intelligence is collected from a variety of methods including electro-optical, infrared, satellite, synthetic aperture radar, or other imagery surveillance systems; communications; or electronic emissions.
- **Processing, Exploitation, Dissemination (PED)** encompasses those systems that perform processing; assist in advancing exploitation; and move, distribute, and store data. PED also involves designing, developing, integrating, and sustaining intelligence workflow systems from the point of collection to intelligence production for the purpose of making data relevant and actionable.
- **Data analysis exchange**, a critical aspect of PED, is the ability to provide full-spectrum awareness by taking information and data from any source to generate knowledge, process the data, and make it easily exchangeable between platforms.

Command and Control (C2) as it pertains to a partner's use within the air domain, is the exercise of authority and direction by a commander. C2 includes the following concepts and approaches for partner capability development.

- **Airspace surveillance** is the ability to systematically observe aircraft by receiving and processing data from visual, aural, electronic, or other means.
- **C2 nodes** are hierarchical and redundant capabilities that provide coverage, connectivity, and functionality for ISR, weather, air traffic control, and other capabilities.
- **Air tasking orders (ATO)** task components, subordinate units and command and control agencies with the sorties, capabilities and forces necessary to conduct specific missions.
- **Dynamic force direction** employs resources and modifies plans to achieve an objective that was not identified, developed, or scheduled during deliberate planning.



The Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, provides command and control of air power throughout the Middle East. (US Air Force Photo)

Agile Combat Support (ACS) in direct support of a partner's air domain capabilities, provides the airfield infrastructure, operations support, security, and base support to sustain air forces. ACS includes the following partner air force capabilities.

- **Airfield infrastructure** includes runways, taxiways, ramp space, hangars, weight-bearing capability, and airfield lighting and markings.
- **Airfield operations** include terminal air traffic control, base operations, weather support, C2 of the airfield, and other airfield operation items.
- **Support to operations** includes key and critical nodes such as fuel and petroleum-oil-lubricants support, emergency equipment, cargo or weapons storage and handling, as well as critical infrastructure such as water lines or electrical stations and grids.
- **Security** protects, prevents, and mitigates the adverse effects of attacks on personnel and physical assets.
- **Base support** includes civil engineering, food and lodging, health care support, contracting, and other functions needed to support the operation of a base or installation.

Space Domain

Space Superiority is the ability to maintain freedom of action in, from, and to space, sufficient to sustain mission assurance. Space superiority may be localized in time and space, or it may be broad and enduring. Space superiority includes the following partner capabilities.

- **Global space mission operations (GSMO)** are mission areas derived from space and delivered from space capabilities to improve the effectiveness of joint military forces and support national, civil, and commercial users. GSMO includes satellite communications; positioning, navigation, and timing; missile warning; space-based ISR; and space-based environmental monitoring (EM).
- **Space support (SS)** includes the essential capabilities, functions, activities, and tasks necessary to operate and sustain all elements of space forces throughout the full range of military operations. SS includes space lift and satellite support capabilities.
- **Space control (SC)** operations ensure freedom of action in space for the US and partners by denying an adversary freedom of action in space. Space control includes offensive and defensive space control capabilities.



- **Space situational awareness (SSA)** mission areas are focused on space and address the congested and contested nature of space by protecting space operations and assets. SSA includes components of space ISR, space C2, space warning, and space EM capabilities.

Cyberspace Domain

Cyberspace Superiority is the operational advantage in, through and from cyberspace to conduct operations at a given time and in a given domain without prohibitive interference. Cyberspace superiority includes the following partner capabilities:

- **Defensive cyberspace operations (DCO)** preserve the ability to use friendly cyberspace capabilities and protect data, networks, net-centric capabilities, and other designated systems.
- **Offensive cyberspace operations (OCO)** project power by the application of force in or through cyberspace.
- **Network operations (Net Ops)** design, build, configure, secure, operate, and provide cyber security on information networks.
- **Cyberspace ISR** includes ISR activities in cyberspace conducted to gather intelligence that may be required to support future operations, including OCO or DCO. These activities synchronize and integrate the planning and operation of cyberspace systems, in direct support of current and future operations. Cyberspace ISR focuses on tactical and operational intelligence and on mapping adversary cyberspace to support military planning. Cyberspace ISR requires appropriate de-confliction, and cyberspace forces that are trained and certified to a common standard.

The Airman's Approach to Security Cooperation

The US Air Force takes a deliberate approach to developing the security cooperation relationships necessary to support US and partner goals. Often this development follows a predictable progression based on each unique partner and their relation to the United States. The establishment of a relationship begins to enable the United States to operate in support of shared interests. With further development of relationships and capabilities comes greater opportunities for partners to operate in lieu of the United States. In many cases, partners develop the interoperability necessary to operate with the United States. **Figure 3** depicts the basic conceptual progression of US Air Force security cooperation activities with partner air forces to achieve US Air Force security cooperation goals. Security cooperation activities are not bound to follow an exact progression as each unique partnership develops specific solutions with appropriate tools to meet mutual goals.

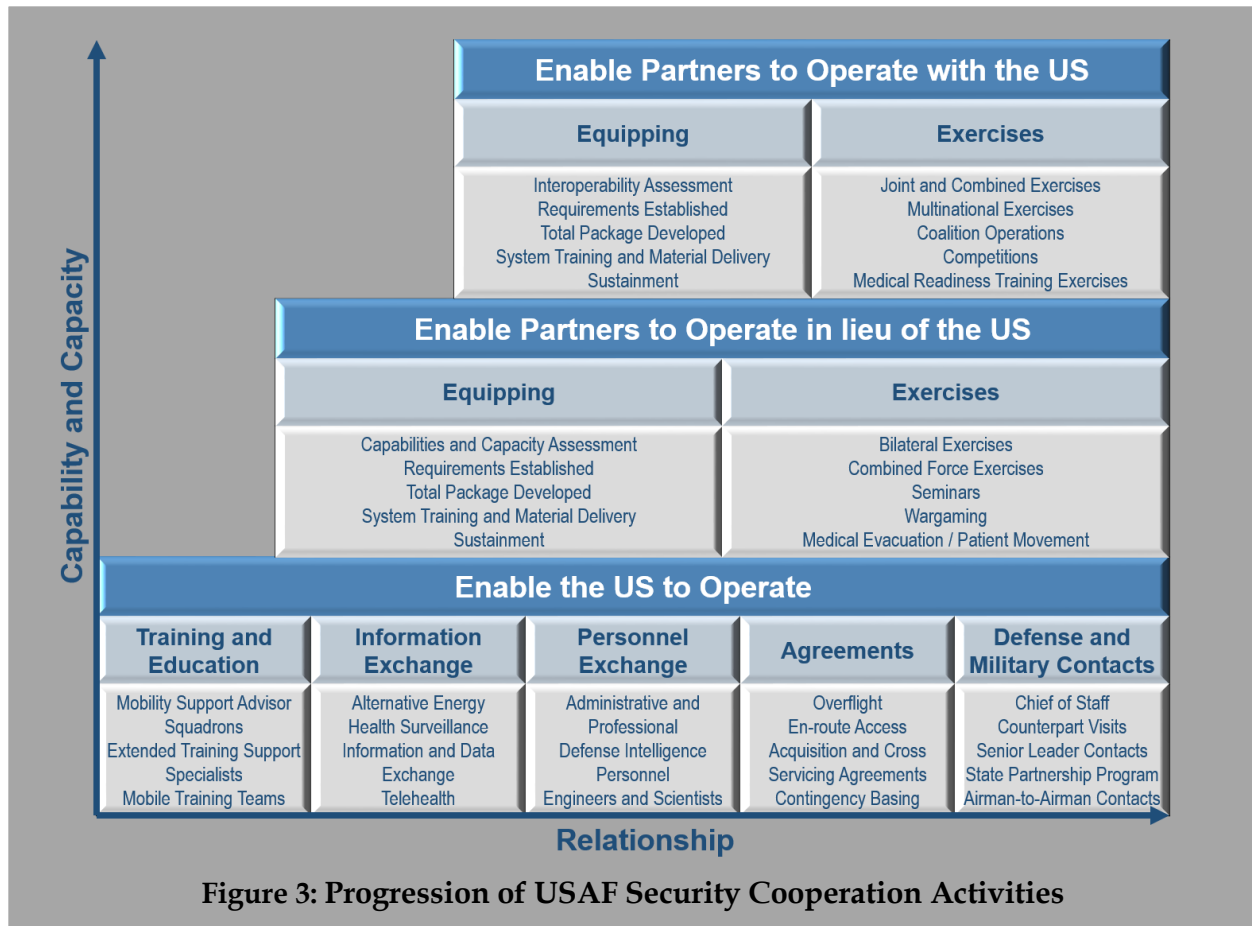


Figure 3: Progression of USAF Security Cooperation Activities

Enable the United States to Operate. With the establishment of a relationship, an international partner can expect the US Air Force to employ its foundational security cooperation activities: Training and Education, Information Exchanges, Personnel Exchanges, Agreements, and Defense and Military Contacts. These foundational activities build the relationship and trust to facilitate the ability of the United States to operate. Many of these activities will endure throughout the entire relationship as they also support the subsequent development of partner air force capability, capacity, and interoperability.

In the early stages, the US Air Force and partners support the establishment of Air Attachés and SCOs to coordinate security cooperation activities. As the relationship progresses, the partners may seek additional Training and Education to support the refinement of defense institutions and force development. With increased mutual trust, the US Air Force may conduct reciprocal Personnel Exchanges and seek to establish Agreements for information exchange, logistics support, or long-term basing.

Enable Partners to Operate in Lieu of the United States. Developing an independently employable partner air force builds on foundational US Air Force security cooperation activities by adding Equipping and Exercises. Early activities focus on understanding partner capabilities and requirements for the development of a total package approach. Subsequent activities focus on the delivery of this total package by providing the equipment, training, and logistical support

to employ and sustain the capability. Following the achievement of full operational capability, activities may include combined exercises and assisting partners with maintaining, evaluating and enhancing their capabilities.

Enable Partners to Operate with the United States. Developing and sustaining interoperability further builds on foundational US Air Force security cooperation activities with more advanced equipping and exercises. Interoperability progresses from de-confliction to compatibility to integration. Initial security cooperation activities focus on assessments and requirements for joint concepts and technical standards. Subsequent activities include bilateral and multilateral exercises that build on years of training and equipping activities.

Conclusion

We are a global air force protecting global interests. Although the US Air Force can deliver extraordinary capabilities, we are stronger with our international partners. For this reason, this Flight Plan is focused on developing ready, willing, and capable partners to collectively address global challenges. In order to synchronize the US Air Force security cooperation enterprise, the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs will identify gaps in the US Air Force's ability to meet security cooperation demands and elevate issues through the Security Cooperation Governance structure. This governance structure seeks to balance the demand for activities with international partners against the supply of US Air Force Airmen and resources. For additional information contact the Strategic Plans and Operations Division, Air Force International Affairs.



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