



SAF/IA INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

International Military Education and Training (IMET)

The Face of Engagement



U.S. AIR FORCE

In June 2000 at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, Air University officials quietly held the latest in a series of annual ceremonies that, though little noticed beyond the walls of that school community, carry enormous significance for the future of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force. On that June day, Air University inducted a new class of AU alumni into the International Officers School Honor Roll. This coveted honor goes only to those international officer graduates who go on to achieve prominence in military or government positions at home. The June 2000 inductees included the current Air Force Chiefs of Staff and Air Force Commanders from Bolivia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela, all graduates of SOS, ACSC, and AWC. →



Each year the Air Force educates and trains about 1000 international military students under the sponsorship of the **International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program**. Since 1950, over 600,000 allied and friendly foreign nation military and civilian defense personnel have been educated and trained at DOD schoolhouses. In IMET, future leaders of more than 100 countries gain firsthand insight into the workings of the professional US military, particularly how it functions under civilian control. →

The benefits to the Air Force are obvious and plentiful. This military-to-military relations laboratory fosters greater US-international understanding and improves defense cooperation. Comprehensive training boosts foreign self-defense capability, underscores joint operations/ interoperability with US forces, and teaches effective resource application in response to conflict, humanitarian crisis, and natural disaster. Advancing democratic values, internationally recognized human rights, and the rule of law creates enduring positive impressions which can translate into future support for US policies, programs and positions. The end result? Expert instruction, information sharing, joint planning and combined force exercises, increased access to foreign military facilities, and

lasting friendships that transcend cultural boundaries combine effectively to promote blue suit interests around the world. →

Today the IMET program counts over 120 participating nations in its membership roster, up from approximately 90 prior to the fall of the Iron Curtain. The Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is the AETC organization responsible for the implementation of the USAF-sponsored Security Assistance Training Program, under which IMET falls. Each year

approximately 1,000 international military students are IMET sponsored, part of some 4,000 total trained in CONUS by USAF agencies under Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs (SAF/IA) guidance and directives. IMET is just one of many Air Force international programs under

SAF/IA purview. Eighty percent of all international military students attend Air Education and Training Command courses; the rest are trained by other Air Force major commands, under administrative guidelines established by SAF/IA and AFSAT. →

One look at the remarkable career success rate among former students who have risen to senior policy and decision making positions in their home nation militaries, government, politics, industry and commerce, and the impact of this program is clear. Former IMET graduates of distinction have held such key positions as heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, parliament, CEOs, military service chiefs, commanders, attaches, and senior NATO military officials.



As we can see, US training of international military students is an important aspect of our diplomatic and defense policy as an effective tool in furthering US national security interests, regional stability, and international peace and security. →

(Major Copp, SAF/IAG, X8972)