

PKSOI supports security cooperation through planners' course

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Tony Lieto leads a group discussion during a recent Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute Army Campaign Support Plan Conference.

The 2010 National Security Strategy calls for comprehensive security cooperation engagement “beyond our borders” as does the President’s January 2012 defense strategy, “Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense.” That strategy outlines 10 primary missions which are supported by SC engagements such as “Provide a Stabilizing Presence, conduct stability and counter insurgency operation” that involves building partner capacity. The most recent Global Employment of the Force has placed a new emphasis on the execution of theater security cooperation activities. In support of the GEF, the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army released the 2013 Army Strategic Planning Guidance. Of the eleven restated missions of the U.S. Armed Forces, two missions—Provide a Stabilizing Presence and Conduct Stability and Counterinsurgency Operations— address the Army’s commitment to security cooperation.

Gen. Ray Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army, published the “CSA’s Strategic Intent: Delivering Strategic Landpower In An Uncertain World” on Feb. 5. Accordingly, he addresses the changes in the strategic environment, the dynamic character of conflict, what the Army provides to this endeavor, and how the Army will continue to evolve as it accomplishes the mission. It is clear that the Army will remain integral in deterring threats and aggression. In addition to retaining sufficient strength, employability, and flexibility the Army must be capable of worldwide engagement. Odierno reiterates throughout the document that conflict prevention and preservation and maintenance of stability abroad are required to deter aggression. The Army provides unique capabilities to the Nation in its endeavor to Prevent, Shape and Win in conflict: a framework that emphasizes the need for an expeditionary Army

and to stabilize the global environment through forward presence and increasing the capability of our partners.

The US Army War College supports this global effort through active engagement with geographic combatant commanders, component commands and operational units, providing world-class education and training in security cooperation through the engagement and advancements made in stability and peace operations. Security cooperation is integrated to the core and elective portions of the Senior Service College academic curriculum, in seminar-based studies of policy, strategy, contemporary readings, case studies, speeches from strategic leaders, exercises and other efforts using the whole of government approach. This whole of government learning approach includes an understanding of the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development's approach to capacity building, in conjunction with the Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management, and the latest policy/strategy/plans from the Army G-3/5/7 to be "Landpower specific."

The purpose of the course is to provide staff officers "with necessary planning methodologies, resourcing processes, execution programs/authorities, evaluation mechanisms and reference information including best practices and lessons learned." In cooperation with The Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, the pilot course was conducted in December 2011 and has held four iterations including a mobile training team to U.S. Army Pacific. PKSOI has hosted three of the courses with another scheduled for April 2013.

The course goal is for 50 students in the ranks of Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and equivalent civilian grades from the Theater Armies' active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard and other interagency personnel conducting security cooperation planning to attend. Since the initial pilot course, the DA G-3/5/7 and PKSOI have trained over 200 personnel, including Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians from all major Army commands, Department of Defense, Department of State, and the Joint Staff. B

As the Army reviews the method of providing a broad-based security cooperation education and training plan, the USAWC leads the way in security cooperation education among all mid- and senior-level professional military education programs.