



**Maj. Gen. McDonald addresses the nearly 60 planners who completed the Army Security Cooperation Planners Course at Carlisle Barracks.**

“The planners’ new roles will provide capabilities to our partners not just in the form of getting them equipment but also the life cycle management aspect as well,” said McDonald. He also stressed that as these planners get involved in the diverse portfolio of security cooperation, building the partner capacity is most important, because doing so will help shape the operating environment. “We’re about providing capabilities going to organizations that can be real game changers,” he said, “and we need to get the security assistance commands and combatant commands working closer together.”

The course format was lecture and small-group discussions culminating in a practical exercise that included partner country land forces assessment, geographic combatant command country planning, country support planning, indicators and measures of performance and effectiveness, and activities and resource planning, according to course descriptions. All of these aspects are key pieces of the security assistance mission – building coalition capacity, partnerships, and strengthening alliances.

**Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald awards Major Malcolm Day, Canadian Army Exchange Officer with the US Army National Guard, his certificate of completion at the graduation ceremony for the PKSOI/G35 Planners Course held Sept 21-25, 2015.**





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