

SCM-Orientation Course

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- Welcome to the Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) Responsibilities module. I'll be coaching you as you learn about the key responsibilities and relationships SCOs have with other organizations.

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- I'll help you understand the SCO and its responsibilities specific to security assistance and security cooperation functions, along with details concerning relationships with specific organizations and entities.

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- When I say SCO, I'm really using a generic term that applies to more than 20 official names for individual offices overseas.

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- The organization's designation has also evolved over time. Prior to 2007, overseas organizations performing security assistance functions were referred to as security assistance organizations. As roles changed and security cooperation programs grew in importance, these organizations started being referred to generically as SCOs.

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- Whether the SCO is one person or an organization, our main purpose is to carry out security cooperation management functions and responsibilities with the host country.

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- Under the direction and supervision of the U.S. Ambassador to Bandaria, the SCO has specific responsibilities for both security cooperation and security assistance. For example, responsibilities have been divided between several people within the Security Cooperation Organization due to the size and scope of working with Bandaria.

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- The SCO is a country advocate representing the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and is involved in FMS equipment and services case management, but is not the FMS case manager. That person resides in the U.S.

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- Training management involves management of host nation military students who receive training in the U.S. or in the host country provided by U.S. training teams.

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- Program monitoring involves different levels of monitoring and specific SCO functions. The two different levels of end-use monitoring are routine or enhanced.

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- Depending on the quantity and types of U.S. military articles a partner nation has obtained, program monitoring can be a very involved process for many SCOs.

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- The SCO advises and assists the host country in developing specific short and long-term goals for resource management, sustainment, and modernization of existing equipment.

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- The SCO has the same responsibilities as any post, station, or camp commander for the administration of assigned or attached personnel.

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- The goal of rationalization, standardization, and interoperability is to promote the U.S. Armed Forces equipment and doctrine and work together with the host nation for common goals such as anti-terrorism and counter-drug operations.

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- The SCO engages with host nation counterparts, building relationships with the goal of building national security.

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- A SCO may be asked to perform additional duties assigned by the DoD, the GCC, and sometimes the local U.S. ambassador. For example, SCO personnel may be periodically called upon to support congressional delegation visits, embassy receptions, or ship visits.

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- SCOs have a unique opportunity and responsibility to make a positive impact on U.S. national security objectives within the partner nation in six specific areas.

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- Approximately 90% of SCOs have transitioned to the Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché arrangement. What does this mean for SCO leadership?

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- Earlier we talked about how SCO can mean one person or an entire organization. Actually, Congress sets limits for military staffing funded by security assistance, which affects the size of security cooperation organizations.

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- Let's look into how the SCO structure is determined. Some of this is based upon the number of assigned personnel, but the combined security cooperation staffing also determines the SCO's capabilities and limitations to perform assigned functions.

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- SCOs must be able to build relationships both with their host nation counterparts and people from other organizations. They need to be able to work together to develop and implement SC/SA programs. Here are some key points about primary SCO relationships.

- You now know that a SCO may be an individual or an entire organization with the primary purpose of carrying out security cooperation functions and responsibilities with the host country. Among those responsibilities are the seven legislated functions, for example, program monitoring and training management.
- Success for the SCO means building solid relationships with their host country counterparts as well as people in other organizations. Since there's a lot to retain, we've created a continuity book that summarizes key terms, organizations, and policies that you can download before you exit.