

SECURITY COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO) TRAINING WAIVERS

References:

- a. DoDD 5205.75, "DoD Operations at U.S. Embassies", Enclosure 2, Para 2. D.
 - b. DoD Directive 5132.03, "DoD Policy and Responsibilities Relating to Security Cooperation, October 29, 2016
 - c. DoD Directive 5105.65, "Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)," October 26, 2012
 - d. DoD Instruction 5132.13, "Staffing of Security Cooperation Organizations (SCOs) and the Selection and Training of Security Cooperation Personnel," January 9, 2009
1. IAW References a. b. c. and d. the DSCA Director has the responsibility to set training requirements for SCO personnel and attachés performing SC duties. All SCO and Attaché personnel performing security cooperation functions must attend selected training at the Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies (DISCS) – this is mandatory.
 2. DoDD 5132.13 mandates that all SCO staff and SDO/DATTs must attend either SCM-O (for O-6 and below) or SCM-E (GO/FO/SES only) and that additional/refresher training is required after 5 years if reassigned to a SCO.
 3. If a service, GCC or SCO or SDO/DATT designee believes there is justification to not attend this DoDD 5132.13 required course, the waiver process is as follows:
 - A. Waiver requests may originate from the Services, Components, DIA or the individual being assigned to a SCO or a DAO as the SDO/DATT.
 - B. Newly assigned SCO personnel are not granted blanket DISCS training waivers, but may request a waiver from SCM-O or SCM-E to attend the SCM-P3 based upon assignment timing needs.
 - C. An SDO/DATT or SCO, whose DISCS training is more than 5 years prior, with an immediate assignment and no time to attend refresher SCM-O may request a waiver to attend:
 - a. SCM-E if the country is an FMS customer or major BPC recipient.
 - b. SCM-P3 for primarily grant-aid recipients.
 - D. Waiver request process:
 - a. Follow the format at Enclosure A and be sent to the DISCS Registrar at dsca.wright-patt.discs.list.registrars@mail.mil
 - b. Waiver requests must be coordinated with the Combatant Command SCO budget office because if the individual is assigned to a SCO position without DoDI 5132.13 required SC training, DSCA-provided funding for support of the position is at risk.
 - c. The DISCS Registrar will forward, with DISCS Director of Instruction recommendation, to DSCA/ Workforce Development Directorate (WDD). DSCA PD Workforce Development Directorate is the waiver approval authority. Once reviewed, DSCA WDD will return the completed action to the DISCS Registrar.
 - d. The DISCS Registrar will notify the waiver requesting organization of the decision on the waiver.
 - E. Other waivers requested due to prior training and experience are handled by the individual submitting a request for "constructive credit" for SCM-O. DISCS has procedures in place, including passing the SCM-O examination, to grant credit for SCM-O without attending the course for these experienced personnel.

- F. Each waiver request decision will be based upon what is best for the overall SC program in the country, the service/component, and the individual SCO or SDO/DATT.
 - a. Example, if the country has robust SC programs underway and is critical to US foreign policy (contingency country in priority AOR), then current DISCS training is a must for all but the most experienced SCO or SDO/DATT. If a country has few SC programs (little or no FMS, FMF or IMET – AFRICOM AOR), then a waiver of SCM-O to SCM-P3 might be warranted for an experienced SCO or SDO/DATT, but not for a new one dependent upon the number of SC programs a country has planned/in place.

ENCLOSURE A

MEMORANDUM TO: Principal Director, SC Workforce Development, Defense Security Cooperation Agency

THRU: Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies (DISCS) Registrar

ATTN: SC Training Waiver Authority

SUBJ: SC Training Waiver – Rank/Name (SDO/DATT or SCO position and country)

Para 1. State the request.

This is an official request for waiver and approval for (Rank/Name) to attend the Exec Course on 1 August. As noted, (Rank/Name) is a DISCS graduate. He also has extensive practical security cooperation experience at (SCO in Country X) from 200X to 200X and at (COCOM) Headquarters from 2009 to 2013. In his new capacity as the (SDO/DATT, SCO Chief, or list) to (Country), (Rank/Name) will have oversight of the security cooperation program in country. However, he has a fully staffed SCO in Country X to manage the daily operations of the program. As such, we believe the recommended three-week Overseas Course likely represents a greater investment than required given his experience and assigned duties.

Para 2. Provide justification why the waiver should be granted.

Para 3. Provide proposed assignment, date of notification of assignment and report date.

Para 4. Provide SCO and SC management experience and previous DISCS (DISAM) training.

Para 5. Background: (Rank/Name) is the newly appointed (SCO in Country X). (Rank/Name) has an application pending for the DISCS Exec Course starting (Date). The request was not approved by the DISCS Registrar's Office. Instead, they recommended that (Rank/Name) attend the three-week Overseas Course beginning (date). This recommendation was based on the fact that (Rank/Name) last attended the full complement of DISAM in (month and year).

Signature Block
Service/GCC/DIA Office

Cc: GCC SCO Budget Office