



# The State Partnership Program

**Creating Long-Term Continuity and Personal Bonds While Fostering Lasting Country Relationships**

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# Agenda



- Uzbekistan (Location and Demographics)
- History
- State Partnership Program
  - The Soviet Collapse
  - The National Guards Role
- Uzbekistan and Mississippi
  - Why this Relationship
  - Exchanges (Cultural and Professional)
- Benefits
- Questions

# Location



- Central Asia
- Member of the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS)
- 172,700 Square Miles (Slightly Larger than California)
- Mountainous and Desert
  - Receives 3-8 inches of rain a year but irrigation makes Cotton one of its Largest Crops and Establishes the country as a World Supplier
  - The unique Geology produces the 4<sup>th</sup> largest gold deposits in the world and a Natural Gas Exporter
- People
  - 32,979,000 (2017)
  - Majority Uzbek, but includes Tajik, Kazakh, and Russian



# History



- Initially a Nomadic People Settling in the Region (1<sup>st</sup> Century BC)
- Forms Part of the overland route between Asia and Europe (Silk Road)
  - Samarkand becomes a cultural center and crossroad along the route
- 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> Century, Genghis Khan conquers the Region
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Russia seizes Central Asia, later becoming part of the Soviet Union
- Declared Independence from the Soviet Union August 31, 1991
- September 2001, Provides an Airbase for United States Central Command for conducting Afghanistan Operations



# What is the State Partnership Program (SPP)?



- **Joint Department of Defense (DoD) program managed by the National Guard, executed by the geographic combatant commands (CCMD), and sourced by the National Guard (NG) of the partner states**
- **Links a state's National Guard with the partner nation's military/security forces in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship**
  - Supports CCMD and Embassy security cooperation objectives
  - Innovative, cost-effective, small footprint security cooperation program
  - Cultivates enduring personal and institutional relationships that enhance influence and promote access
  - Indirect training benefit for NG Title 32 and Title 10 missions



A delegation from Qatar visits West Virginia to commemorate the newest SPP partnership and learn more about WVNG capabilities



Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, and then-Vermont TAG Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie meet at Vermont NG headquarters



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner presents a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque to Poland Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak



# *State Partnership Program (SPP)*

## *How Did it Start?*



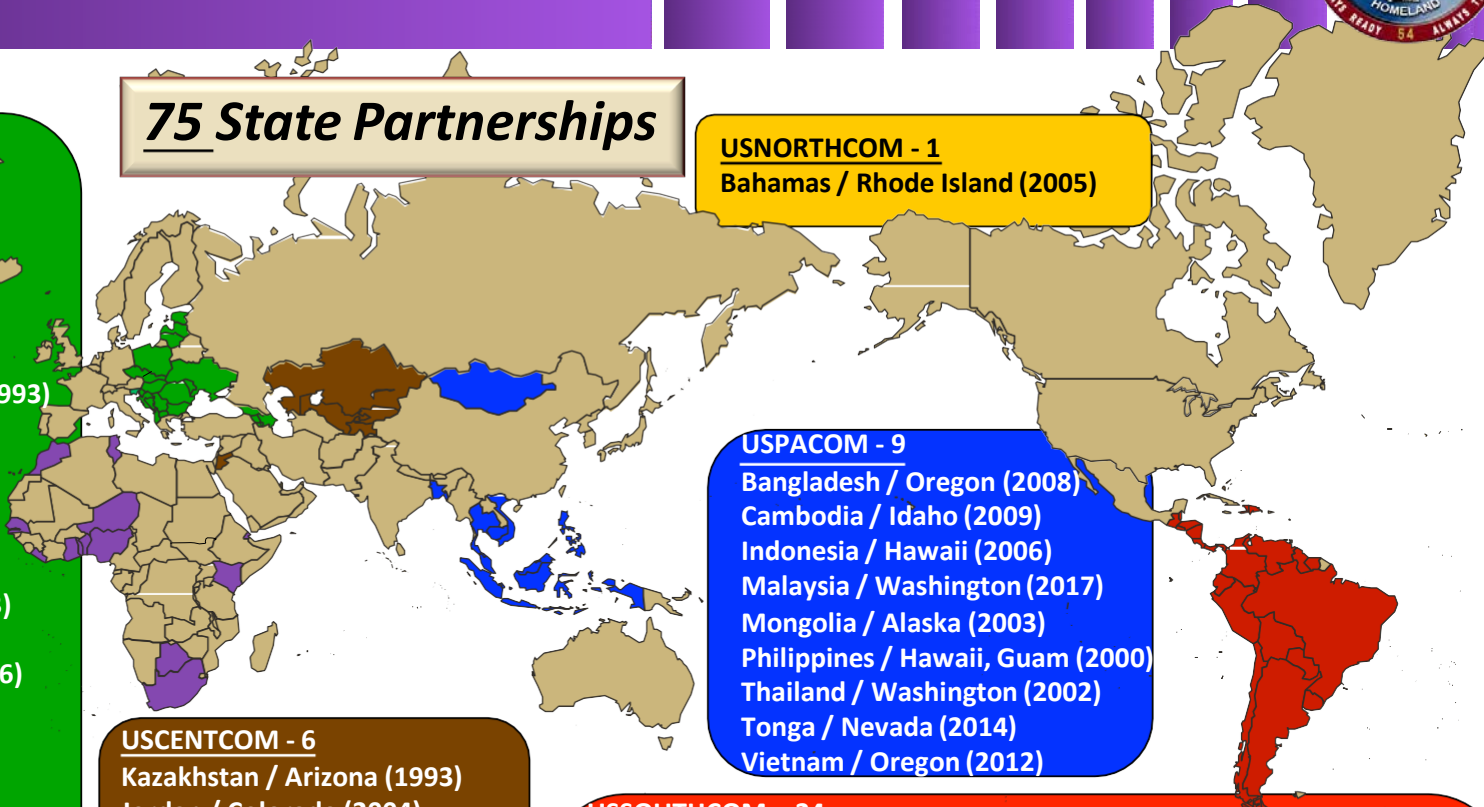
- The Fall of the Soviet Union Left Many Satellite Countries of the Warsaw Pact looking for a means to build their own military force, 1992
- Latvia Reached out to the US to gain more insight on its National Guard and Reserve Structure (maximize its military budget) – Hence the National Guard involvement
- SPP began in 1993 with partnerships between the NG of designated US States and newly independent Eastern European countries, in coordination with US European Command
- SPP has grown significantly since then, with 75 partnerships across all six geographic CCMDs – Two new partnerships will be added in 2018
- SPP celebrated its 25 anniversary of forging enduring relationships in May 2018



# State Partnership Program



## 75 State Partnerships



### USEUCOM – 22

- Albania / New Jersey (2001)
- Armenia / Kansas (2002)
- Azerbaijan / Oklahoma (2002)
- Bosnia / Maryland (2003)
- Bulgaria / Tennessee (1993)
- Croatia / Minnesota / (1996)
- Czech Republic / Texas, Neb (1993)
- Estonia / Maryland (1993)
- Georgia / Georgia (1994)
- Hungary / Ohio (1993)
- Kosovo / Iowa (2011)
- Latvia / Michigan (1993)
- Lithuania / Pennsylvania (1993)
- Macedonia / Vermont (1993)
- Moldova / North Carolina (1996)
- Montenegro / Maine (2006)
- Poland / Illinois (1993)
- Romania / Alabama (1993)
- Serbia / Ohio (2005)
- Slovakia / Indiana (1993)
- Slovenia / Colorado (1993)
- Ukraine / California (1993)

### USNORTHCOM - 1

- Bahamas / Rhode Island (2005)

### USPACOM - 9

- Bangladesh / Oregon (2008)
- Cambodia / Idaho (2009)
- Indonesia / Hawaii (2006)
- Malaysia / Washington (2017)
- Mongolia / Alaska (2003)
- Philippines / Hawaii, Guam (2000)
- Thailand / Washington (2002)
- Tonga / Nevada (2014)
- Vietnam / Oregon (2012)

### USCENTCOM - 6

- Kazakhstan / Arizona (1993)
- Jordan / Colorado (2004)
- Kyrgyzstan / Montana (1996)
- Qatar / West Virginia (2018)
- Tajikistan / Virginia (2003)
- Uzbekistan / Mississippi (2012)

### USAFRICOM - 13

- Benin / North Dakota (2014)
- Botswana / North Carolina (2008)
- Djibouti / Kentucky (2015)
- Ghana / North Dakota (2004)
- Kenya / Massachusetts (2015)
- Liberia / Michigan (2009)

- Morocco / Utah (2003)
- Niger / Indiana (2017)
- Nigeria / California (2006)
- Senegal / Vermont (2008)
- South Africa / New York (2003)
- Togo / North Dakota (2014)
- Tunisia / Wyoming (2004)

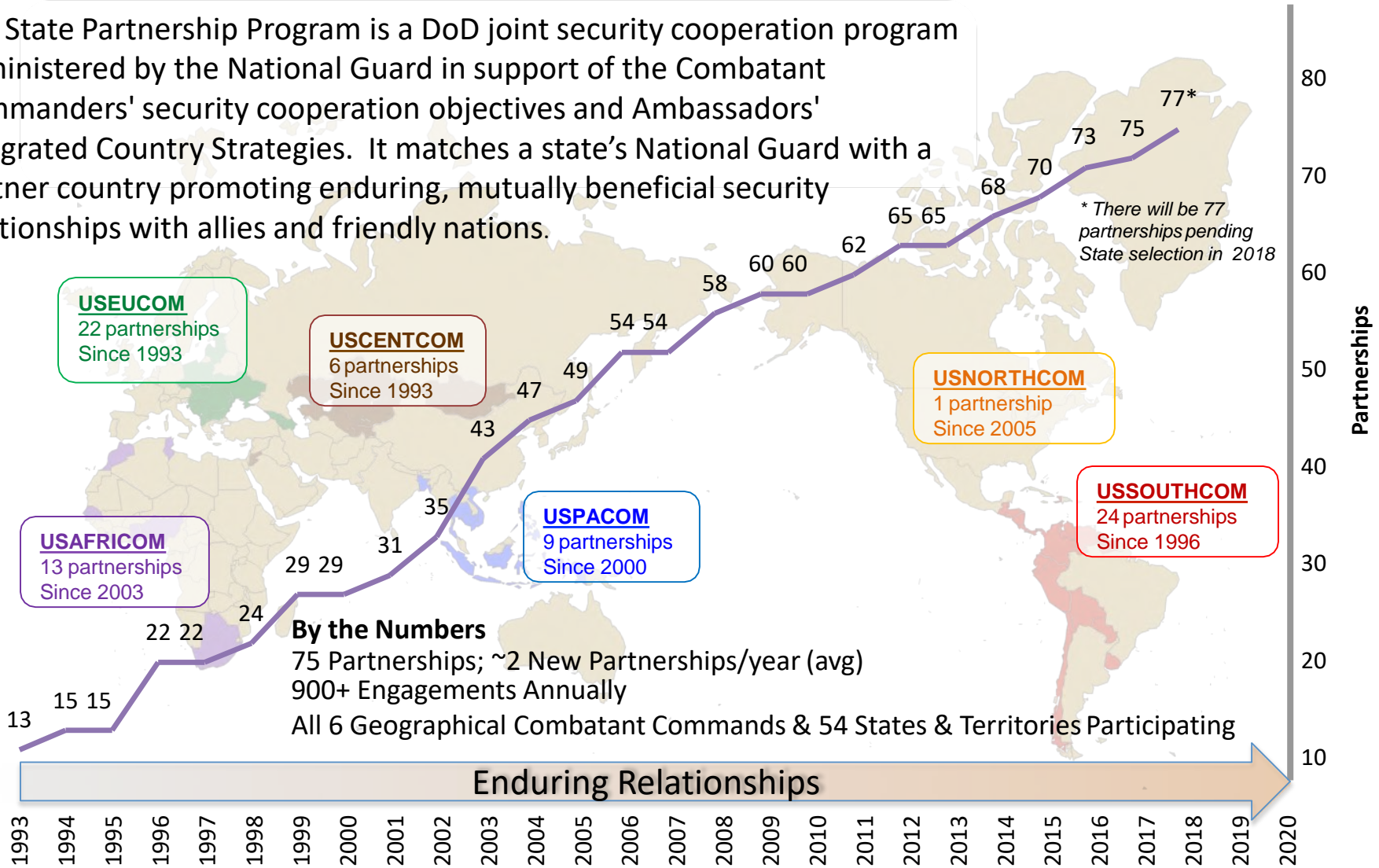
### USSOUTHCOM – 24

- Argentina / Georgia (2016)
- Belize / Louisiana (1996)
- Bolivia / Mississippi (1999)
- Brazil / New York (2018)
- Chile / Texas (2008)
- Colombia / South Carolina (2012)
- Costa Rica / New Mexico (2006)
- Dominican Rep. / Puerto Rico (2003)
- Ecuador / Kentucky (1996)
- El Salvador / New Hampshire (2000)
- Guatemala / Arkansas (2002)
- Guyana / Florida (2003)
- Haiti / Louisiana (2011)
- Honduras / Puerto Rico (1998)
- Jamaica / District of Columbia (1999)
- Nicaragua / Wisconsin (2003)
- Panama / Missouri (1996)
- Paraguay / Massachusetts (2001)
- Peru / West Virginia (1996)
- RSS / Florida, Virgin Is. (2006)
- Suriname / South Dakota (2006)
- Trinidad-Tobago / Delaware (2004)
- Uruguay / Connecticut (2000)
- Venezuela / Florida / (1998)

# SPP Program Growth



The State Partnership Program is a DoD joint security cooperation program administered by the National Guard in support of the Combatant Commanders' security cooperation objectives and Ambassadors' Integrated Country Strategies. It matches a state's National Guard with a partner country promoting enduring, mutually beneficial security relationships with allies and friendly nations.





# *SPP's Unique Benefits*



- **Builds enduring personal and institutional relationships through repeated engagements**
- **Offers expandable engagement approach**
  - Senior leader visits
  - Exchanges and familiarization visits
  - Cooperative training and exercises
  - Co-deployments
- **Matches military organizations of comparable size, focus, and mission**
- **Provides full spectrum of military capabilities, plus others not found in active component**
  - Disaster response/emergency response
  - Border, port, and aviation security



General L'ubomir Bulik and Mayor Milan Ftachnik present MG R. Martin Umbarger the key to the city of Bratislava and honorary Slovak citizenship



Washington National Guard members hone their port security and emergency response skills with their partner in Thailand

# Typical SPP Activities



- Disaster response/emergency response
- Aviation operations, maintenance, and safety
- Leadership/staff/officer/NCO development
- Military medical and engineer activities
- Surface maintenance and logistics
- Engineer/engineering operations
- Cyber defense and communications security
- CBRNE operations and decontamination



North Carolina NG Public Affairs officer and Moldovan Ministry of Defense officers discuss key points of effective public relations



Colombian army leaders observe a live-fire exercise during an SPP exchange with the South Carolina National Guard



North Dakota NG and visiting Ghanaian dignitaries tour flood protection facilities, including an AquaFence in Fargo, ND



Colorado National Guard members demonstrate CBRN capabilities with their SPP partner in Jordan

# *Why the National Guard?*

## *Why Uzbekistan and Mississippi?*



- **The National Guard Citizen Soldier Diverse Skills**
  - Civilian Occupations coupled with Military Leadership and Training
  - More than a Military Affair: Agriculture, Manufacturing, Government Experience, Academic Backgrounds
  - Provides a Rich Foundation for Discussions outside of a military
- **Both States Share Similar Traits (Established 2012)**
  - Agriculture and Rural (People of the Land)
  - Cotton is a Primary Crop for both Locations
  - Uzbekistan is the Center of the Silk Road / Mississippi The Hub for the majority of the commerce along the MS River Network
  - Several MS Guard units based out of Uzbekistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and worked with the Uzbek military
  - Hospitality spans cultures

# *The Benefits/Training Opportunities*



- Domestic Response, Disaster Management (sharing of capabilities and How to deal with natural Disasters such as Flood, Earthquake, or Manmade)
- Collective training between forces (first coalition exercise with Mississippi Guard and Uzbek forces, Spring 2019 (Mississippi))
- Relationship Building, cultural exchanges to understand each other. We all share similar interests, Morales, and Respect
- Provides lasting continuity (Guard is more persistent and permanent) meaning Soldiers can stay engaged throughout their career compared to short tours on active duty where they may never interact again.
- All in from the Governor down to promote economic growth, military relationships, and assist and learn as a whole of government (its not just the military aspect)



# Mississippi and Uzbekistan



- **Engagements**

- 12 Senior Leader Visits since 2012
- Counternarcotics Project Officer from 2013 to present
- Assisted in delivery of MRAPs
- 80+ Military to Military Engagements from FY12 to FY18
- 11 Military to Military Engagements scheduled for FY19

- **Exchange Topics**

- Regional Training Institute Introduction
- Military Strategic and Tactical Airlift
- Logistics
- Rotary Wing Aviation Armed Forces Academy
- Military Education
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)
- Disaster Preparedness Seminar
- Modeling and Simulations
- Senior Leader Visits
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Military Information Technologies and Information Management



# Conclusion



- SPP is in its third decade of forging unique partnerships, built for success on enduring relationships that enhance influence and promote access
- SPP continues to evolve to meet Combatant Commanders' security cooperation objectives and U.S. national security goals while maintaining relationships with some of our staunchest allies and partners in every corner of the world
- Many have proven ready and willing to share the burden of maintaining international and regional security and stability

# Questions



## Presenter

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## National Guard State Partnership Program

- <http://www.nationalguard.mil/features/spp>
- <http://www.nationalguard.mil/Joint-Staff/J-5/International-Affairs-Division/State-Partnership-Program>