

Slow Burn: How US Security Cooperation Shapes Operational Environments

Description

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Episode 66 of the *Irregular Warfare Podcast* explores how America's security cooperation programs can help shape regional security environments by training foreign militaries.

Our guests begin by addressing why America settled on a global strategy of exporting its security to allied and partner militaries. They then examine the range of activities that fall under the umbrella term of security cooperation, and compare and contrast building partner capacity for conventional forces and doing so for irregular warfare units. Finally, they end by talking about how past military cooperation efforts have shaped today's regional security environment in Eastern Europe, and what America can do to optimize its approach to security cooperation in the future.

[Retired Lieutenant General Mark Hertling](#) is a national security and military analyst for CNN. Over his thirty-eight-year career in the military, he served or commanded at every level from platoon to field army. In 2013, he retired from the military as the commanding general of US Army Europe. He graduated from West Point in 1975 and holds advanced degrees from Indiana University, the National Defense University, and Rollins College.

[Professor Derek Reveron](#) is the chair of national security affairs at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is also a Navy Reserve officer who has testified before the House Armed Services Committee on security cooperation programs and has published multiple books and research articles on US military cooperation efforts around the world. The second edition of his 2016 book, *Exporting Security*, serves as the anchor for today's conversation.

Date Created

2022/11/18