

Training for Victory: Lessons for Security Force Assistance

Description

Episode 123 explores the critical role of security force assistance (SFA) and identifies the key factors that influence the effectiveness of building foreign armies.

Our guests start by situating SFA within the broader context of Washington's national security strategy. They then analyze the variables that impact the success of security assistance, including the importance of language proficiency, advisor-to-force ratios, and the role of combat advising in shaping outcomes. Finally, they offer actionable recommendations for practitioners and policymakers to enhance the effectiveness of security force assistance in the future.

[Dr. Frank Sobchak](#) is a retired Special Forces colonel who served in various assignments in war and peace during his 26-year military career. He is Chair of Irregular Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute and serves as a Senior Fellow at the Global and National Security Institute. Dr. Sobchak's newly published book, [Training for Victory](#), examines security force assistance and serves as the anchor for today's conversation.

[JoAnn Naumann](#) currently serves as the USASOC Command Sergeant Major. Over the course of her 28-year career, she has completed over fourteen deployments throughout the Middle East and Africa, and has served as the senior enlisted advisor for multiple organizations within the Special Operations community. CSM Naumann holds a bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary.

[Ben Jebb](#) and [Prof. Vladimir Rauta](#) are the hosts for Episode 123. Please reach out to them with any questions about this episode or the [Irregular Warfare Podcast](#).

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Date Created
2025/01/28