DSCA Teams with DTRA on End-Use Monitoring

Starting this month, the Defense Security Cooperation (DSCA) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) began a joint effort to enhance DoD’s worldwide monitoring and inventory control of arms transfers to foreign governments.

In recent years, DSCA, the lead Department of Defense (DoD) agency for Security Assistance programs, significantly increased end-use monitoring (EUM). Since early 2002, the Golden Sentry program has focused on improving recordkeeping and inventory control for all arms transferred, with special attention dedicated to the most sensitive transfers. The items subject to Enhanced End-Use Monitoring (EEUM) include night vision devices, cruise missiles, and man-portable air defense systems (MANPADs), such as Stinger missiles.

DTRA safeguards America's interests by controlling and reducing the threat from weapons of mass destruction and providing quality tools and services to the warfighter. The agency implements all U.S. on-site arms control inspection, escort and monitoring activities and supports arms control confidence-building activities. DTRA's participation in end-use monitoring will add needed expertise to these expanded efforts.

Under security assistance procedures, DoD sells, leases, or grants defense articles and services to foreign governments or international organizations approved by the Department of State and certified by the President as eligible to receive them. These transfers must support U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives, and the recipients must agree to a number of conditions for transfer. For example, they must agree to use items only for approved purposes; not to retransfer defense articles to a third party without U.S. approval; and they must agree to maintain the items using security procedures equal to the protection that the U.S. provides for those articles and services.

A recent GAO report released in May 2004, faulted DoD for having insufficient recordkeeping and inventory procedures for Stinger missiles transferred to foreign governments. While DoD concurred with the GAO recommendations, DoD is already taking steps to improve its EUM processes.