



Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Overview

CNA is a leader in security sector assessment, monitoring, and evaluation (AM&E). For more than 15 years, CNA has assessed partner nation military and security forces and evaluated operational and strategic outcomes of US security cooperation and assistance programs for US government agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of State, and US Coast Guard.

CNA's AM&E Approach



Rigorous, data-driven analysis:

CNA's empirical analysis, field research to collect primary source data, and proprietary tools help decision-makers understand how programs, policies, and other factors affect progress toward the achievement of objectives.



Country and regional expertise:

CNA's study teams merge deep country, regional, and security sector knowledge with technical expertise in evaluation, statistics, and mixed methods approaches to provide nuanced, relevant, and actionable findings and recommendations. Field work has taken CNA analysts to more than 30 countries spanning every region of the globe to conduct AM&E on competition, institutional capacity building, maritime and border security, and counterterrorism.

Key Outcomes and Deliverables

ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES

CNA conducts baseline assessments of partner nation security sectors to identify gaps and areas for improvement.



EVALUATION REPORTS

CNA delivers written reports with findings, conclusions, and actionable recommendations, based on rigorous data analysis.



DATA MANAGEMENT TOOLS

CNA developed the Partner Progress Report, a proprietary tool to manage and communicate data related to program progress.



STRATEGIC INSIGHT

We help senior leaders understand complex challenges, evaluate the impact of US initiatives, and make informed decisions to improve strategic outcomes.



Ongoing and Recent AM&E Projects

- Strategic Evaluation of Counter-Weapons of Mass Destruction Security Cooperation (2025–present)
- Assessment of US-Philippines Alliance Readiness (2024–present)
- Evaluation of Maritime Security Cooperation in Southeast Asia (2023–2025)
- AM&E of the State Department’s Central American Maritime Regional Initiative (2017–2025)
- Security Force Professionalization: Mitigating Civilian Harm in Select Partner Nations (2020–2025)
- Formative Evaluation of Civilian Harm Mitigation in Security Cooperation (2023–2024)
- Formative Evaluation of Assessing the Will to Fight (2023–2024)
- Assessment of the Information War Between Russia and Ukraine (2022–2023)
- Strategic Evaluation of Security Cooperation with Northern Triangle Partners (2022–2023)
- Evaluation of Security Cooperation and Strategic Technology Transfer (2021–2022)
- Evaluation of Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Maritime Security Programs (2021–2022)
- AM&E for US Naval Forces Central Command Efforts to Build Partner Nation Maritime Security Operations Capability (2021)
- Evaluation of Afghanistan Security Forces Fund Security Cooperation Activities (2020–2021)
- Strategic Evaluation of US Maritime Security Cooperation: Southeast Asia, the Gulf of Guinea, and the Caribbean Basin (2017–2020)
- Return on Investment Assessment of US Naval Forces Southern Command Security Cooperation (2019)
- Monitoring and Evaluating Security Cooperation in the Bahamas amid Great Power Competition (2018–2019)
- Evaluation of the State Department’s Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund (Partnership with Resonance) (2018–2019)
- Assessment of the South Asia Strategy (2018)
- Independent Assessment of US Africa Command’s Strategic Impact (2018)

About CNA

CNA is a not-for-profit analytical organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts, and professional staff across the world, CNA’s mission is to provide data-driven, innovative solutions to our nation’s toughest problems. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses—the Department of the Navy’s federally funded research and development center (FFRDC)—as well as the Institute for Public Research. The Center for Naval Analyses provides objective analytics to inform the decision-making by military leaders and ultimately improve the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force. The Institute for Public Research leverages data analytics and innovative methods to support federal, state, and local government officials as they work to advance national and homeland security.

Evaluation reports and other materials are available upon request, on the CNA SIPRNet site, or via DTIC.

To learn more about CNA’s AM&E work, contact Dr. David Knoll (knolld@cna.org) or Mr. Zack Gold (goldz@cna.org).