



SFA SYMPOSIUM

THE PRACTICE OF **SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE** IN THE
ERA OF GREAT POWER COMPETITION

10 JULY 2025 - MARINE ETABLISSEMENT AMSTERDAM



Current trends: SFA in competition

SFA effectiveness based on Afghanistan case-study

SFA units including the role of SOF

Current case-studies including Ukraine



INVITATION SFA SYMPOSIUM

In the past two decades, Western states executed **Security Force Assistance (SFA)** to build up security forces in weak states to enhance counterinsurgency efforts. However, with the rise of **great power competition**, SFA gains a new meaning. For instance, it is now used by Western states to enhance the battle effectiveness of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Russia-Ukraine war. In addition, several great powers use SFA as a tool to expand their influence and establish a global footprint.

By bringing together military practitioners, policymakers and academic experts, the SFA symposium aims to foster **critical dialogue** and contribute to a **better understanding** of SFA in the current era of great power competition. In addition, the symposium seeks to advance the discussion on how to optimise SFA efforts, by reflecting on **lessons learned** from previous and current case-studies. The symposium will feature a panel discussion and several presentations on current trends, SFA units, case-studies (including Ukraine) and SFA effectiveness.

Confirmed speakers:

- Prof. dr. Martijn Kitzen (Netherlands Defence Academy)
- Prof. dr. Nina Wilén (Egmont Institute)
- Lt. Col. dr. Jahara Matisek (US Naval War College)
- Major Ludovica Glorioso (NATO SFA COE)
- Captain Lysanne Leeuwenburg (NIMH)

The symposium is organised by the Irregular Warfare and Special Operations team of the **War Studies Research Centre** (Netherlands Defence Academy), which is the premier war studies research institute in the Netherlands. It brings together one of the largest academic war studies communities in Western Europe with researchers who conduct cutting edge research on all aspects related to war and peace.

The symposium takes place at the **Marine Etablissement Amsterdam (MEA)** on the **10th of July 2025**. The program starts at 8.30 and ends at 17.00. Are you interested in joining the symposium? Please register through the following link or QR code below: <https://form.jotform.com/251622783860057>. Please note that there are limited seats. Your registration is only successful when you receive an additional confirmation email from VEF.Gootzen@mindef.nl.

We look forward to welcoming you at the SFA symposium in Amsterdam!

