



Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) Program

Position Description: FIJI – Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Advisor

Title: Maritime Domain Awareness Advisor

Location: Suva, Fiji

Grade: GS-13/14/15

COCOM: INDOPACOM

Tour length: 12-30 months*

Clearance: Secret

Applicants must be DoD civilians in GS-13/14/15 pay grades or equivalent to be eligible; 24-30-month assignment is preferred*

The Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) program trains and deploys Department of Defense civilians to serve as Advisors supporting Institutional Capacity Building initiatives within Partner Nations. Successful completion of the MoDA Strategic Advisor Course is required. The 7-week training includes advising and mentoring skills, operational readiness, history, culture, and language training. The incumbent will use their experience to assist partners in finding host nation solutions and create sustainable programs and processes within their laws and cultures.

Background:

The Department of Defense is committed to expanding maritime consultative mechanisms and collaborative planning in the Indo-Pacific region. By working directly with regional partners, allies, and with multilateral institutions such as Fiji and the Pacific Islands Forum, it is possible to strengthen a regional maritime security architecture capable of deterring aggression, maintaining stability, and ensuring free access to the maritime commons. Since 2014, the U.S. and Indo-Pacific Partners have improved upon our common understanding of the regional security environment through greater maritime cooperation and by enhancing information sharing. The incumbent MoDA advisor will directly support the U.S. Bilateral Mission by collaborating with the partner nation maritime stakeholders and their efforts to establish a regional information-sharing architecture that enhances maritime security, promotes economic development, protects maritime environmental resources, and ensures maritime safety. The advisor will specifically help the partner create or improve on existing MDA information sharing protocols and capabilities that strengthen international maritime law enforcement cooperation, combat illicit trafficking and weapons proliferation, and protects critical marine resources.

Specific Tasks:

- Assist Fiji with their development of organizational maritime information-sharing agreements and protocols. Pursue similar opportunities as applicable/available with Tonga, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Kiribati (aligned with ODC responsibilities).
- Mentor Fiji and other regional partners as available to help them review their existing MDA capabilities and requirements for completeness, accuracy, and applicability, identify potential resource shortfalls, conflicts, gaps, risks, and overlaps, and provide recommendations based on the review.
- Assist with the development of an information- and intelligence-sharing processes that are platform agnostic that integrates existing infrastructure and develops interoperability with



sensors, vessels, databases, and people to provide a common operational picture internally to relevant partner nation agencies and externally to Indo-Pacific partners.

- Encourage broad interaction among agencies to identify organizations, partnerships, best practices, and other efforts that enhance maritime security through expanded MDA collaboration.
- Build partner nation organizational capabilities to effectively share information on people, cargo, vessels, infrastructure, natural and man-made disasters, and other potential threats within the maritime domain.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:

- Minimum 10 years of experience with maritime strategy, maritime intelligence, policy, or maritime security matters at the operational and strategic levels required.
- Desired maritime experience includes background in MDA, related MDA intelligence support, and MDA programs and policy, including precursor engagement activities and information-sharing agreements needed to enable a regional information-sharing architecture, e.g. ONI, USCG MIFC, JIATF, etc.
- Previous international experience required; with preference given to the Indo-Pacific region.
- Experience collecting, analyzing, and integrating information and intelligence from a broad range of sources.
- Experience working in service, combatant, and strategic level headquarters, e.g., OPNAV, OSD, Joint Staff, USCG, ONI, and/or COCOM staff. Specifically interagency experience highly desired.
- Demonstrated communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with counterparts to help them achieve goals through the provision of quality advice, support, and mentoring.
- Proven success in individual and organizational institutional capacity building and aptitude to share knowledge, mentor and coach others.
- Must be able to assess diverse bureaucratic/cultural environments and apply out-of-the-box thinking to pursue U.S. “Whole of Government” objectives.
- Familiarity with DoD U.S. security cooperation and security assistance programs.
- Willingness to travel frequently (up to 20%) and work in disparate work environments.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:

- Previous international experience working at the ministry level, especially in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Interagency experience working in service, combatant, and strategic level headquarters, e.g., OPNAV, OSD, Joint Staff, USCG, ONI, and/or COCOM staff
- Experience with requirements identification, scoping, planning, and capability development
- Demonstrated ability to work in an environment with limited resources and to apply innovative and creative solutions to resolve problems.
- Proven self-starter who can be successful working independently at various organizational levels and with executives/managers/leaders/staffs from multiple functional areas and cultural backgrounds.



Additional Information:

- Incumbent must be available for detail from their home organization for a period of 14-30 months to include training, preparation, and a 12-30 month assignment.
- The selected MoDA will do a Temporary Change of Station (TCS) move to Suva, Fiji for 12 months and will receive the Post Differential and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for Fiji. COLA is calculated based on the comparative cost-of-living at the foreign post versus the cost-of-living in Washington DC. COLA is not a direct calculation of base salary multiplied by the COLA percentage, but rather a percentage of "spendable income" as determined by the Department of State. For more information about COLA, go to: https://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=245&menu_id=74
- This position is eligible to receive Relocation Incentive Pay in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 5753 and DSCA policy.
- It is incumbent upon the applicant to understand the entitlements when considering applying for this position, and it is recommended that applicants seek guidance from their organization's payroll activity to better understand how the entitlements are calculated and their impact on the applicant's personal income.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants should submit the following:

1. Cover letter summarizing how your skills and capabilities align with the requirements
2. Complete chronological resume (include civilian GS grade, military rank or industry title for each position)
3. Most recent SF-50 (redact SSN and date of birth)
4. Three (3) Supervisor References: Required from current supervisor and/or supervisors from prior deployments (substitutions allowed)
5. Documentation of command / component approval to deploy

Submit application package to the MoDA Program Office email address:

dsca.ncr.bpc.list.moda@mail.mil

Command Approval to Deploy is required:

Army Employees:

Must submit the endorsement of their command leadership along with an application and their resume to the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel ECW team. Click on the following link and create an account to begin: www.apan.org. After creating the account, download the Request for Deployment (RFD) fillable form and process through chain of command as instructed.

Air Force Employees:

Must submit an approved AF Expeditionary Civilian application package to the AF Expeditionary Civilian team prior to Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) Program for consideration. The application template can be found at:



<https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/12852/SitePages/Home.aspx> and must contain Colonel/GS-15 or equivalent level approval. The completed package should include an approved application, resume, current SF-50 (SSN & Date of Birth redacted-unreadable), and the following items, as prescribed by the recruitment ad: cover letter, letter(s) of reference/recommendation, and any additional documentation. Submit the completed package to: afpc.expeditionarycivilian@us.af.mil and the team will process for final endorsement to MoDA.

Navy and US Marine Corps Employees:

Click on the following link to the MoDA Application and Command Support Form for DON Employees:

<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/MRA/DONHR/OCHRStennis/Expeditionary%20Civilian%20Workforce/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Submit completed MoDA Application and Command Support Form for DON Employees to the group email inbox: OCHRSTE_EC@navy.mil. Ensure “MoDA” appears in the subject line.

Other DoD Agency Employees:

Provide approval memo staffed through your appropriate Deployment Coordinator or agency headquarters. If you do not know your agency’s deployment coordinator, contact the MoDA recruiting team: dsca.ncr.bpc.list.modaprograminfo@mail.mil