

## Foreign Military Training Cost Predictions

Training the armed forces of other countries is an increasingly important foreign policy tool for the United States as well as for other states. The United States spends billions in this area every year training tens of thousands of soldiers. But what determines the costliness of foreign military training programs? We will produce a model to predict total cost of training programs based on a variety of program features such as program length, department associated, number of students involved, units that will delivery or receive the training, etc. These features of training programs are readily available and accessible to all interested parties, as they are reported publicly to the Senate, and customizable before program start.

As the U.S. military budget continues to grow and grow, the American taxpayer and politician both have an interest in better understanding the potential costs of proposed foreign military training programs.

Our data comes from historical reports to the Senate as collected into a database by Security Force Monitor (<https://trainingdata.securityforcemonitor.org/state-department-data>). Data includes all information presented to the Senate (training group program, location, quantity, cost, units involved on both sides, region, country, etc.) and scrapping information.

We are constrained in scope by the availability and publicity of information relating to U.S. security. There are undoubtedly many foreign military training programs that are not openly disclosed in such a manner about which we cannot speculate based on this dataset.

We aim to create a model that highlights the modifiable features affecting foreign military training operations cost that would allow an interested party to simulate and predict the cost of proposed foreign ventures.