



**Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA) Program**  
**Position Description: THAILAND - Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**

**Title:** Maritime Domain Awareness Advisor  
**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand  
**Grade:** GS-13/14/15

**COCOM:** INDOPACOM  
**Tour length:** 12-30 months\*  
**Security 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 (DoD) is committed to expanding maritime consultative mechanisms and collaborative planning in the Indo-Pacific region. By working directly with regional partners, allies, and multilateral institutions, 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. Integrated into the Security Cooperation Office (SCO) the MoDA reports to the Senior Defense Official / Defense Attaché / SCO Chief, and supports U.S. Embassy Bangkok by collaborating with the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center (Thai MECC) and associated partner nation maritime stakeholders to establish a national and regional information-sharing architecture that enhances maritime security, promotes economic development, protects maritime environmental resources, and ensures maritime safety. The MoDA will specifically help the Thai MECC improve existing MDA information sharing protocols and capabilities that strengthen international maritime law enforcement cooperation, combat illicit trafficking and weapons proliferation, and protect critical marine resources.

**Specific Tasks:**

- Review Thailand's 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.
- Coordinate with OSD, Joint Staff, U.S. INDOPACOM, OPNAV, U.S. PACFLT, DTRA, ONI, USCG, DoS, and EXBS to support respective MDA programs and de-conflict with other ongoing efforts.
- Assist with the development of an information and intelligence-sharing platform 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.
- Improve 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.
- Develop and implement Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) programs in support of the Thailand Maritime Capability Development line of effort.

#### **Required Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:**

- Minimum five years of experience with maritime strategy, maritime intelligence, policy, or maritime security matters at the operational and strategic levels required.
- 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, 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 capacity building and aptitude to share knowledge, mentor, and coach others.
- Experience with requirements identification and capability development.
- Willingness to travel frequently (up to 20%) and work in disparate work environments.

#### **Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Experience:**

- 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.
- 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 work independently at various organizational levels and with executives/managers/leaders/staffs from multiple functional areas and cultural backgrounds.
- 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 DoS and DoD Security Cooperation and Security Assistance programs.

#### **Additional Information:**

- Must be available for detail from their home organization for a period of at least 14 months to include training, preparation and a 12 to 24-month assignment.
- The selected MoDA will do a Temporary Change of Station (TCS) move to Bangkok, Thailand and will receive the Post Differential and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).



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](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: Summarize how your skills and capabilities align with the requirements
2. Complete, narrative chronological resume
3. Current SF-50: redact SSN and date of birth
4. Three Supervisor References: required from current supervisor and supervisor(s) from prior deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan
5. Documentation of command/ component approval to deploy

Submit complete application package to the MoDA Program Office email address:

[dsca.ncr.bpc.list.moda@mail.mil](mailto:dsca.ncr.bpc.list.moda@mail.mil)

### **Command Approval is required:**

**Department of the 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](http://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 approved AF Expeditionary Civilian application to the AF Expeditionary Civilian team prior to MoDA consideration. The employee is required to obtain WG/CC or equivalent approval, when approved submit application and resume to the AFPC Expeditionary Civilian team at [afpc.expeditionarycivilian@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.expeditionarycivilian@us.af.mil) for final AF action.

The AFPC team will submit to MoDA for consideration. The application and other information are available at the AF Expeditionary Civilian site:

[https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12852/AFKN\\_Docs/Forms/AllItems.aspx](https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12852/AFKN_Docs/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dsca.ncr.bpc.list.modaprograminfo@mail.mil)