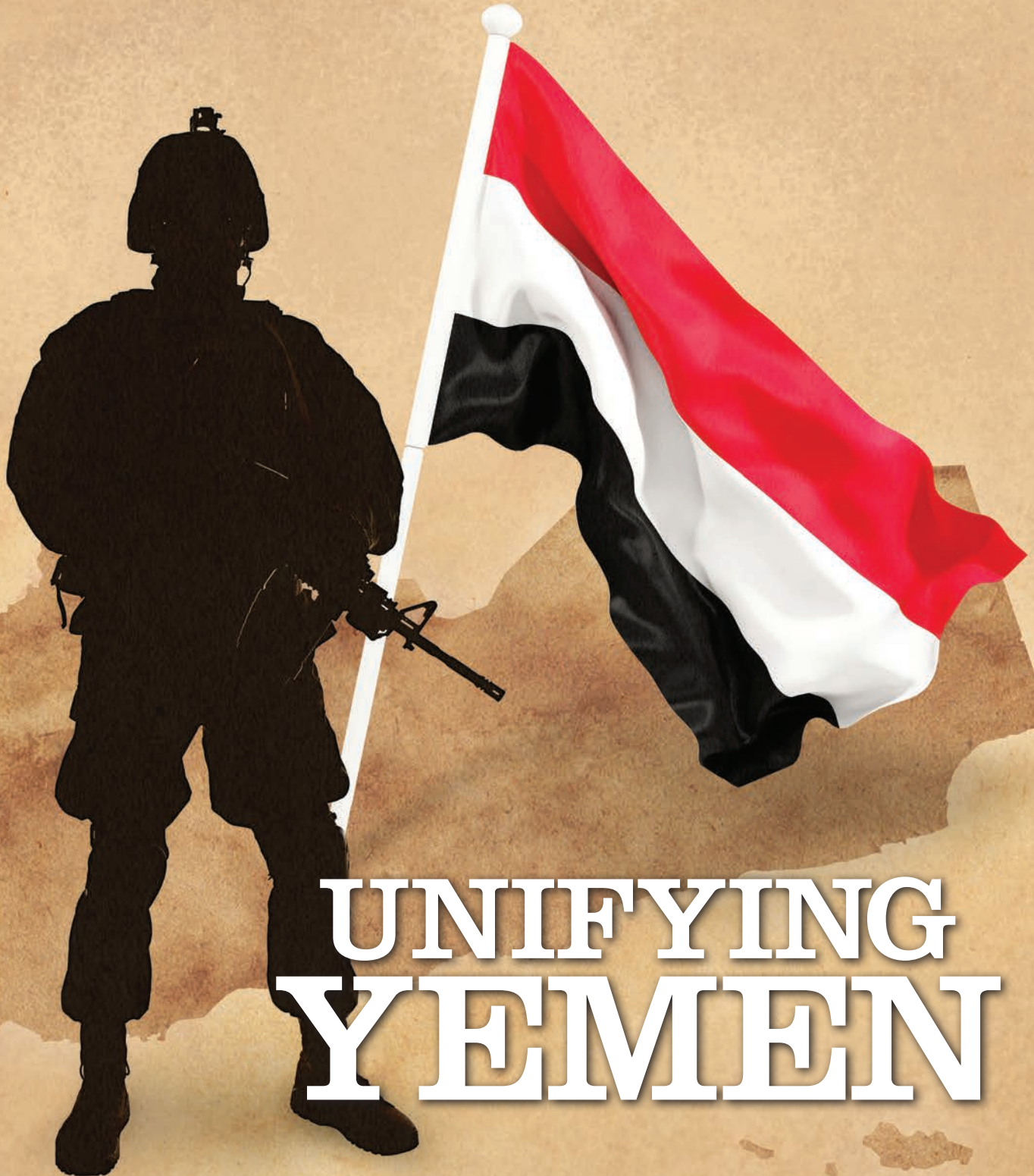


**The Tribal Role
In Rebuilding Society**

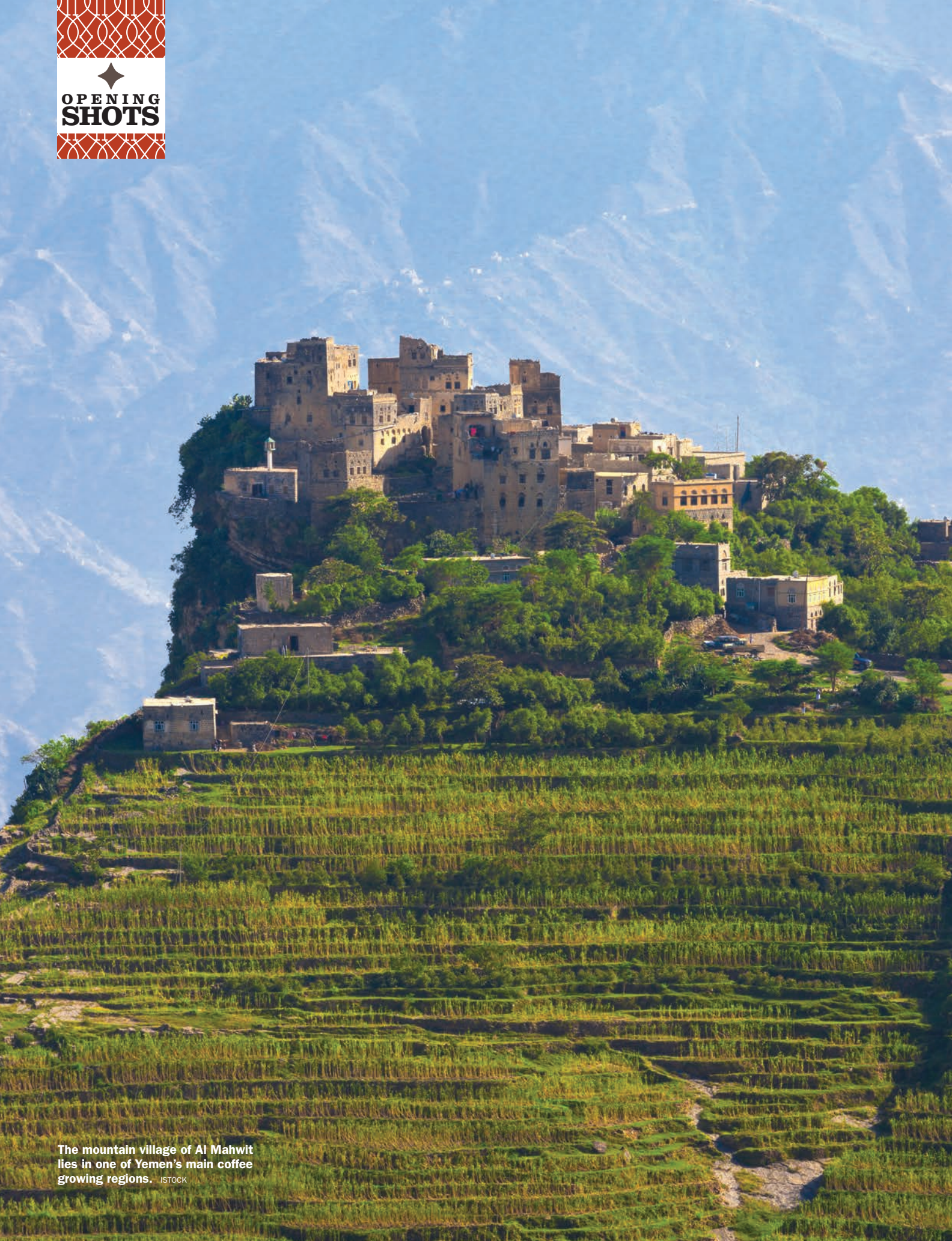
**Military Intelligence
Critical to Victory**

**Houthi-Iranian Nexus
Undermines Yemen**

UNIPATH



UNIFYING YEMEN



The mountain village of Al Mahwit lies in one of Yemen's main coffee growing regions. ISTOCK



A Yemeni beekeeper checks a honeycomb on his farm in the country's northern Hajjah province. Yemen is renowned for its Sidr honey. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Volume 10



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KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE

I would like to express thanks and appreciation to U.S. Central Command for dedicating a special issue of *Unipath* magazine to Yemen and the efforts of the heroes of the Yemeni Armed Forces to restore legitimacy and repel the threat of Houthi aggression with the support of Arab coalition forces. The Armed Forces stand courageously as one with the Yemeni people to fulfill our common destiny of repelling the Iranian-supported Houthis, whose misdeeds extend beyond the borders and geography of Yemen.

The Yemeni leadership is engaged in two simultaneous battles: a battle against the Houthi coup on various fronts and another battle to rebuild the defense establishment on a sound national and scientific basis away from patronage, regionalism and narrow loyalties. We seek to rebuild the military in exceptional circumstances and in record time after the coup plotters seized control of the nation's capabilities, including the capabilities of the Armed Forces. The military establishment is the guarantor enabling Yemen to confront the Houthis; protect the gains of the revolution and the republic; and confront violence, extremism, terrorism and all subversive schemes aimed at the unity, identity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country.

We are working to complete our plans to rebuild the Armed Forces to guarantee the stability of the state, to restore prestige and to eliminate the scourge of rebellion and terrorism, so that the Yemeni Army is strong and cohesive. We care less about the quantity of troops than the quality, so that they are not a threat to our neighbors with whom borders were demarcated, but will contribute to the stability of Yemen and the region.

Yemen's Armed Forces are a cornerstone for restoring and achieving security and stability in the region, repelling anti-Arab schemes and thwarting attempts to destabilize society, tamper with regional stability and threaten shipping routes and international interests.

The Ministry of Defense and the chief of the general staff inaugurated a training program to rebuild our Armed Forces. The program included the establishment of military institutes and colleges in line with the new federal Yemen, starting with a new military college in the temporary capital of Aden. We are fighting the Iranian-backed Houthis, expanding our victories, demonstrating progress and swiftly improving performance in the various branches, commands, divisions and units as our military has been fighting and training simultaneously.

As you know, Yemen is characterized by difficult



terrain and vast territory, and the enemy has buried tens of thousands of anti-personnel and anti-armor mines in a region where there is only one paved road. Since the fighting began, activity on the front has not subsided for one day. Each day of fighting ends with the enemy being depleted. It should not be forgotten that they managed to loot all the resources of

the Yemeni military that the republic had been stockpiling in its camps for 58 years. These depots were concentrated in the capital, Sanaa. In addition, Houthis provide financial, military and logistical support to local terrorist forces through major smugglers who have been sneaking weapons and ammunitions into Yemen from notorious states such as Iran.

The Iranian-backed Houthi threat is a concern to everyone. Their crimes have reached beyond the borders and geography of Yemen. We must coordinate and unify our efforts, but these efforts should not be limited to military action. Victory requires a doubling of media efforts, rationalization of discourse and a focus on ending the coup and retaking the homeland. We must ignore the intrigues, rumors and campaigns of defamation and misguidance that serve the rebels.

The media plays a large role in exposing the crimes and violations of the Iranian-backed Houthis. News reports must highlight the clashes, sacrifices and military victories on various fronts, despite the limited capabilities and criminal war of the militias and the systematic incitement by its leaders against the free media and against witnesses to their crimes. We must integrate the military and media fronts.

Peace is a major demand for all Yemenis, and this is what Yemenis are seeking under the leadership of former Field Marshal Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, president of the republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. We are committed to the directives of the political leadership, and we strive for peace and adherence to international conventions and agreements, past or present.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize our determination and resolution to liberate all Yemeni territory by force and achieve victory over the Houthis and terrorist elements. We are moving toward fulfilling these goals and honoring the blood of our martyrs and wounded, whatever the price. We have no choice but to triumph: Either to live with pride and dignity or to die and receive the badge of martyrdom.

Staff Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ali al-Maqdashi
Yemeni Minister of Defense

REBUILDING YEMEN'S COAST GUARD



The Yemen Coast Guard patrols the waters near Mukalla, Yemen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



REGIONAL SECURITY DEMANDS A FORCE CAPABLE OF DEFENDING STRATEGIC WATERWAYS

MAJ. GEN. KHALED ALI MOHAMMED AL-QAMALI, COMMANDER OF YEMEN COAST GUARD

The Republic of Yemen occupies an internationally recognized strategic location with a coastline that extends south from the southern Red Sea, through the Bab el-Mandeb at a critical maritime chokepoint, before turning east along the Gulf of Aden and onward into the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

The vital international shipping lanes that run along Yemen's coast mean that Yemen's maritime security is vital to ensure the continued safe and unhindered flow of commerce. Closure of the Bab el-Mandeb would force ships to take an extended route around the Cape of Good Hope, severely increasing costs and time with direct consequences for the world's economy as a whole, not least of which is Yemen's.

Therefore, the Yemen Coast Guard (YCG) was established by Republican Decree No. 1 in 2002 and started its duties in 2003 as the single maritime law enforcement entity in Yemen along its 2,400-kilometer coastline. The Coast Guard's duties include security of Yemeni ports and territorial waters and countering smuggling, illegal immigration, human trafficking and piracy.

The YCG is commanded by Maj. Gen. Khaled Ali Mohammed, who is keen to regenerate the YCG's capability in providing maritime security, which has been degraded from the war. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supports the plan by providing assistance and training to the YCG and intends to help rebuild the YCG's infrastructure and skills, including boat maintenance.

Before the war, the YCG benefited from a comprehensive and integrated support package provided by the international community, with significant U.S. provision of money, equipment and training, as well as other donations of equipment and training from countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The aim was to establish and develop a sophisticated and nationally run Coast Guard capable of protecting sea lanes to the Gulf of Aden and through the Bab el-Mandeb.

The project was about 70% complete and recognized as extremely effective, particularly in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. Unfortunately, as a result of the coup against the legitimate government and the ensuing bloody war, most, if not all, of the infrastructure has been destroyed or is beyond repair. Consequently, any initiatives to support the renewal of the YCG must take into account that full scale reconstruction is required.

The Yemeni coast overlooking the Bab el-Mandeb is unique, forming a vital chokepoint that links the trade route from the Atlantic Ocean though to the Middle East and Asia,

with commercial vessels transporting goods, including oil and gas, between North America, Europe and Asia. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimated that in 2016, 4.8 million barrels a day of crude oil and petroleum products flowed through the strait.

This strategic chokepoint needs continued security and surveillance to maintain the flow of commerce and prevent illegal activities. One important step to be taken is to reinforce the YCG presence specifically on Perim Island and in Al Mocha port. These are the closest YCG stations to the strait, and it's necessary to develop YCG surveillance and interdiction capacities in this area.

Redevelopment of the YCG will enable it to retake control of security of Yemeni ports. Before the war this was an important function of the Coast Guard, which was the only organization tasked with this role. Improving the YCG will allow it to achieve standards required by the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, standards the ports maintained before the war.

Furthermore, reconstruction the YCG's capabilities, supported by the international community, is essential not only for Yemen but also for the stability and strengthening of maritime security in the region. The YCG is helping to fight terrorism by preventing the movement of suspicious actors by sea, especially from Somalia to the Yemeni coast. The coastal provinces of Al-Mahra and Hadhramaut are used as transit points for most of the smuggling of drugs and hashish, from where it is transported to neighboring countries. This concerns everyone in the region. Moreover, to effectively prevent weapons smuggling, including ballistic missile parts and drones from Iran to its proxies in the region, intensified presence and surveillance by YCG patrol boats is required in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and southern Red Sea.

Finally, the YCG is a key partner in international maritime alliances, most notably as a member of the Combined Maritime Forces and supporting the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet based in Manama, Bahrain. To highlight the latest cooperation, the YCG successfully worked together with the U.S. destroyer Jason Dunham in August 2018 after a large weapon seizure in the Gulf of Aden and captured the smugglers for prosecution in Aden.

We strongly believe that the international community needs capable and committed partners in the region to improve maritime security and prevent illicit and aggressive activities in the maritime domain. With the support of the international community, the YCG wishes to be that partner. ♦



UNIFYING TRIBES

AS COUNTRIES MODERNIZE, LOYALTY TO STATE SHOULD TRANSCEND LOYALTY TO TRIBE

MAJ. GEN. MOHAMMED ZAYED IBRAHIM, YEMENI DEFENSE ATTACHE TO THE U.S.

The tribe represents the foundation or cornerstone of Arab societies in general and Yemeni society in particular. Tribes no longer live primitive existences as they did in ancient times. Tribal members' lives have improved under the influence of Arab and global intellectual and political movements that have culminated in the concept of the modern nation state.

Contemporary concepts and laws have come to regulate relations between the members of different tribes within a geographical framework and political entity that we call a state. In modern Yemen, the tribe has played, and continues to play, a positive role in preserving national unity and social cohesion, and consequently maintaining security and harmony.

Accordingly, many researchers have written about their concept of the tribe, highlighting its role in shaping Yemen's future. Many observations have been made concerning its various definitions and meanings, which have merged with the concepts of the civil state to establish a society in keeping with the spirit of the times.

As tribal communities modernize and improve their educational and living standards, they will play a role in building a modern democratic society in Yemen. This modernization will lead tribes to partner and integrate into the civil system. This will be possible only through attending to the training and qualification of tribal communities and the development of tribal areas, in addition to addressing the phenomenon of

unemployment among tribal youth and creating jobs for graduates as an alternative to military employment in army camps. These are necessary national duties, but the army should not be the only institution to employ tribal people. We hope for an end to that situation and that Yemen will return to the security and stability it once enjoyed.

To enhance tribal communities' education and develop their administrative capabilities, we must support and encourage them to engage with civil society organizations, through which they can not only find jobs but also bring their experience to the villages.

Some tribesmen continue to cling to the conviction that the civil state is a foreign project of Western origin aimed at the political and social elimination of the tribal structure. This is a misunderstanding. The tribe, as a social system that calls for peace and coexistence, will inevitably serve the interests of any civil state. That's because the purpose of a civil state — whatever state it might be — is to regulate citizens' lives, develop their livelihoods, and provide security and peace for them and their children.

Some may argue that loyalty to the tribe is incompatible with loyalty to the nation. We reject that idea. The idea of loyalty to the tribe is not incompatible with the foundations and principles of the modern state as long as the highest, paramount loyalty remains to the greater tribe around which all tribes rally — namely, the nation.

Tribal fanaticism and blind loyalty, on the other hand, run counter to the concept of national identity, the principles of Islam, and everything associated with civilization. Therefore, we — the advocates of a civil state in which the laws treat everyone equally, including the members of all tribes and those who do not belong to any tribe — must reject tribal fanaticism that exists at the expense of national identity.

For anthropologists, one of the fundamental principles of their branch of knowledge is to affirm the cultural structure of a society and that no person has the right to decide or decree how others should live and act based on that person's view of right and wrong. Right and wrong are relative. What one society holds to be right may be considered wrong in another. Likewise, what is rejected today may become acceptable tomorrow, as values adjust to time and place.

Therefore, society must uphold the principle of respecting the values, concepts, and will of others, rather than imposing our views of what's right and torpedoing the beliefs of others. We must meet them halfway, at a point where our ideas harmonize. This is one of the foundations of the civil state, whereby we accept the other who disagrees with us and respect his opinion.

The issue of tribes and their role in traditional societies is an important one that has attracted the attention of



**Maj. Gen.
Mohammed
Zayed Ibrahim**

many anthropologists. Indeed, one of the first Arab social scientists preoccupied with the phenomenon of *asabiyyah*, or tribal spirit in the Arab world, was Ibn Khaldoun in his book, *Muqaddimah*. He emphasized the importance of the tribal spirit and its role in the structure of Bedouin society, whereby the state was based on two key pillars: tribal spirit and wealth.

However, tribal spirit here refers to a clan's or tribe's particular partisanship in favor of the state's leader, meaning that this concept parallels that of citizenship in our time. This tribal spirit is supposed to transform into a national one. By national spirit, we mean a civil and peaceful sense of belonging, as opposed to national fanaticism, also known as jingoism.

The tribal spirit plays another role in social life. We see that the concept of tribal spirit is linked to that of social restraint, rather than moral restraint. Because man is inherently flawed, he may need outside forces to constrain his behavior and enable him to live in peace with others. From a traditional point of view, tribal spirit may be necessary for uniting members of one tribal community against those of others.

Despite the positive perception of tribal spirit held by some, Islam offers a different perspective on it. Because Islam is a religion of love and peace, it preaches renunciation of the tribal spirit to reduce conflict, division and failure.

The tribe has undergone a process of change, as we have said, and for better or worse, the concept of the tribe today is different from what it was previously. It would be difficult for us to restore the tribe to the place it occupied in bygone days because time and place have changed. Concepts have changed, and tribal functions have also changed within societies, to the point that only the symbolic and social value of the tribe remains. Over time, as societies develop economically and intellectually, tribal roles will evolve even further.

When people feel that they have become socially irrelevant and that this irrelevance is an obstacle to leading normal lives, the tribe as a social system dissolves. The dismantling of tribal ties cannot be imposed from the outside or through government decree; it must take place through convictions formed by tribe members themselves.

Pride in oneself, one's family or one's tribe is not wrong, illegal or taboo. The fault or danger arises when one puts tribal interest ahead of national interest. This is occurring in Yemen, Iraq and some other Arab countries, where, regrettably, society is fracturing based on sectarian identity or where tribal actions and behaviors oppress others.

In the end, we do not oppose every aspect of the tribe. We uphold tribal concepts that support the principles of a civil state and take into account the rights of all citizens regardless of their religious, intellectual, social or ethnic status. ♦



ISTOCK

THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE IN COMBATING TERRORISM



STAFF MAJ. GEN. AHMED MOHSEN SALEM AL-YAFEI
HEAD OF THE YEMENI INTELLIGENCE AND
RECONNAISSANCE AUTHORITY

The war on terrorism is an unconventional war, where the enemy is entrenched among civilians and has no distinctive uniform, vehicles or equipment intended for military use. In this situation, intelligence efforts become a decisive factor in the fight against terrorism.

Traditional military methods are not enough to combat terrorism. If any state, such as Yemen, is afflicted by the scourge of terrorism and wants to defend its security today, it ought to rely on intelligence efforts in addition to military operations. That is because there is no more powerful weapon to dismantle terrorist network cells than information gathering.

States fighting terrorism differ in their tactics for preventing attacks by these cells. For example, Yemen sometimes tracks small groups unlinked to one another, which exist in a loose organization connected only by thin threads. It also tracks a number of individuals skilled at concealing their identities who resurface long enough only to carry out terrorist operations and attacks.

Some counterterrorism experts believe that mobilizing army units and other major forces (navy, air force, infantry and other military forces) in near-daily operations in an ongoing war on terrorism will not be a successful or practical strategy for combating terrorism and halting its spread and capabilities at home or abroad.

Intelligence gathering makes it easier for security forces to identify individuals involved in planning and executing terrorist operations by providing and updating a database of identifying information, affiliations and past activities of perpetrators. The authorities can rely on such a database when collecting incriminating evidence and matching fingerprints to those left in attacks or aborted attacks.

It can also be said that the main functions of intelligence include early warning operations; detecting and capturing terrorists and agents; and identifying the real actor or entity responsible, as well as financiers and accomplices.

No army, however powerful, is able to defeat terrorism on its own. Take, for example, a country like the United States, which can win any war on conventional battlefields. But the war on terrorism is completely different, and terrorism cannot be defeated without the support of all types of security forces, especially intelligence. The main challenge in such a confrontation is the need to fight a shapeless enemy, often indistinguishable from the civilian population, that you must fight on a battlefield with no defined borders.

Collecting and analyzing appropriate, accurate information can prevent attacks and allow counterterrorism efforts to proceed calmly and without any disturbance that would alarm citizens or paralyze the community.

Terrorists adapt to their surroundings and adopt methods commensurate with government security forces' strength and methods of combat. Sometimes they operate openly and occupy cities, as Daesh did in Iraq and other places in Asia and Africa. Sometimes they pursue hybrid warfare, and if unable to do so, they return to their preferred modus operandi of guerrilla warfare, engaging in a strategy of attack and retreat, then disappearing. In this way, they aim to deplete government security forces' resources and morale.

It is imperative for any government security force fighting terrorism to develop sound intelligence institutions that incorporate both human and technical elements, because neither element will suffice without the other to accomplish the mission. Equipment does not work without humans, and information collection and analysis must rely on equipment and software.

Terrorists often do not use modern devices in their conversations, seeking to avoid eavesdropping and subsequent detection. They vanish into the population, away from the eyes of authority, and do not have special headquarters or barracks. They live among us, and in public they engage in civilian activities just like the ones we pursue.

Given all this, security forces need people to lead them to the terrorists, to point them out, to learn about their covert activities and to gather information about their whereabouts, actions, plans and communications. That's where the

intelligence component comes in. The intelligence operation must precede the military operation, because it will provide whatever information the security forces need to eliminate terrorist cells, while at the same time providing legal and legitimate cover for the security forces, through the evidence provided by intelligence, to obtain the legal approvals mandated by the laws of democratic countries.

As for the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Authority in Yemen, the people expect it to do its work at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances (in peace and war). Its work increases in wartime because it is responsible for securing the Armed Forces' movements, providing a safety valve and defending them from any hostile breaches. The authority is the best protection for the Armed Forces against information leakage and for maintaining confidentiality.

The authority considers its reconnaissance branch to be the best guide for determining the routes that forces must take, facilitating their passage by conducting reconnaissance on roads and terrain through which military columns will pass. It also discovers the enemy's intentions by planting sources deep inside enemy areas, finding the coordinates of enemy command posts and supply lines and uncovering information related to the enemy that could accomplish the mission of friendly forces.

The Yemeni Intelligence and Reconnaissance Authority was formed after the decision to restructure the Army, approved by Field Marshal Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, supreme commander of the Armed Forces and president of the republic, after he took office in 2012. Two years later in the capital, Sanaa, the authority was organized with three intelligence divisions and two specialized directorates (naval and air).



Armored cars manned by Yemeni pro-government forces secure Mukalla port. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Defense officials attend U.S. Central Command's Middle East Directors of Military Intelligence Conference in 2019. U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

Military and civilian institutions were devastated in 2015 by the rebellion of Iranian-backed Houthis allied with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Sanaa and several of the republic's governorates were invaded by those lawless elements. As a result, the headquarters of state agencies and institutions were moved out of Sanaa, including that of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Authority. It resumed its work by participating in the Arab coalition to defeat the Houthis, thus contributing to the recovery of more than 80% of Yemen's territory from Houthi control. The core of the authority was later set up in the temporary capital of Aden, with a branch in Ma'rib governorate.

In Aden, the authority has started working professionally, efficiently, and tirelessly to carry out the duties and activities entrusted to it, as required at this stage to confront the challenges, despite limited capabilities due to the exceptional circumstances the country is experiencing. In this work, the authority benefits from a large number of qualified and able personnel. The work is carried out through communication and exchange of information with the authority's divisions and its branches in all governorates of the republic.

The authority has operated during the war and performed its duty to the fullest extent, represented by its leadership, officers and all the staff of its divisions. It has spared no effort in providing information and identifying enemy positions and intentions, communicating them to coalition operations. We have received ongoing reports and information from officers and branch staffers throughout Yemen. We have also found sources and connected them to the responsible authorities in the steadfast city of Aden and to the top leadership at the Ministry of Defense and other security agencies in the capital. We also maintain ongoing communication with coalition forces and exchange information that will protect Aden and liberated areas from security disturbances, hostile acts and terrorism.

In addition to our tireless intelligence work, which we consider modest compared to the sacrifices made by our people, we are working to restore the country's security and rehabilitate and rebuild a strong Army. We are always fully

prepared to cooperate with other security agencies to do all we can to serve our country by thwarting the enemy's schemes and the forces of evil and terrorism.

The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Authority participated in preparing security plans, conducting research and investigations, and confronting al-Qaida and Daesh, whose activities increased in the post-liberation period in 2016. We contributed effectively to the elimination or expulsion of many of the two terrorist organizations' fighters.

The authority's leadership recently participated in the inaugural Middle East Directors of Military Intelligence Conference in Tampa, Florida, sponsored by U.S. Central Command. The conference had a significant positive impact in bringing together and initiating meetings among a large number of intelligence heads and directors from the Middle East and the U.S.

It provided a great opportunity to exchange views and strengthen communication among intelligence leaders in all the participating countries. This saved the cost of traveling to each country to coordinate intelligence efforts and learn from their experiences, especially given that Yemen is still suffering the effects of war and destruction and consequently lacks resources.

Meetings also took place with a number of directors of U.S. intelligence agencies to explain the situation in Yemen and the outcome of the circumstances caused by the Iranian-backed rebels. There was discussion about developing plans for us to cooperate to put down and end this rebellion, restore legitimate rule, and resume the assistance that was provided to the Yemeni Army before the war. This cooperation has begun to bear fruit through more frequent meetings with our American friends.

The leadership of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Authority is reorganizing and coordinating what remains of the agency's structure to meet the needs of current and upcoming phases. This reorganization also aims to deal with the country's suffering resulting from the destructive war conducted by Iran through its tentacles in the region, the Houthi movement. ♦



The Houthi-Iranian CONNECTION

*The destabilization of Yemen fits into
Tehran's strategy of exporting extremism*

MOAMMAR AL-ERYANI, YEMENI MINISTER OF INFORMATION

With every passing day, the Iranian regime reveals its devastating and catastrophic role and impact on the security of the region and the world. This role placed the regime among terrorist entities that harm not only its people but also the security of the world as a whole.

Tehran established its horrific image as never before when its fingerprints clearly appeared on the terrorist attacks on oil tankers in the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, Saudi oil pumping stations and the downing of a U.S. drone in international airspace.

The global responses and reactions to this Iranian escalation, which has harmed the world's strategic interests, have revealed a state of awareness, although late, among the international community of the risks of dealing with the Iranian regime as a normal state. However, such awareness is still not associated with real acts that force the Iranian regime to stop exporting chaos to the region and the world.

In my country, Yemen, the disastrous effects of the intervention of the Iranian regime in the affairs of Yemenis emerged early. But as time

went by, it became more brutal after Tehran established a military arm and never ceased to brag to the world about the ability of the mullahs to wield it as a weapon at any time in the context of proxy wars that plague whatever region they have occurred in.

Iranian officials have publicly stated that Sanaa has become the fourth capital to fall into their hands after the Houthi coup in September 2014 that undermined the pillars of the Yemeni state. A torrent of statements and positions — with the implied consent of the Houthis — have reaffirmed the Houthis' affiliation with a Tehran regime that has tried to systematically destroy the values of Yemeni society.

"The strategic extension of the Iranian revolution is now from Yemen to Africa," said Ibrahim Razi, head of Iran's judiciary.

What this insinuates, in the language of politics, is that the Houthis have become a gun in the hands of the Tehran mullahs. This weapon can disrupt the world's commercial and oil interests and supplies in the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb whenever the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps decides.

AIDING THE DISPLACED

The United Nations provides medical care to Yemenis affected by fighting

UNIPATH STAFF

Conflict in Yemen led more than a million Yemenis to seek medical treatment in 2019 from the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Among the health services provided by the U.N., 19,000 people received psychological counseling, 113,000 received treatment for reproductive health, and more than 71,000 participated in health awareness activities.

Because of the Houthi uprising, Yemen's humanitarian crisis is judged to be the world's worst. Eighty percent of the population — about 24 million people — requires some kind of help. Yemen's public sector has been stretched to the breaking point, forcing the closure of half the country's hospitals, clinics and other health centers, the U.N. said.

Many citizens have to travel long distances for essential services at overcrowded health facilities. For example, pregnant mothers have been turned away from local hospitals no longer capable of delivering babies.

A Yemeni woman living in the Lahj governorate — where Houthi attacks had disrupted services — complained that women in labor were compelled to travel hundreds of kilometers to the safety of Aden. That was until the IOM helped reestablish a local health clinic near the woman's town.

Lahj isn't alone. IOM has been supporting 86 facilities across the country to provide Yemenis with free access to health care through over 120,000 consultations every month.

Because some migrants and displaced people can't reach traditional health centers, the IOM created nine mobile health teams. Four of them provide emergency care to recently arrived migrants along Yemen's coast.

The U.N. is also stockpiling critical medicine, antibiotics and other supplies in warehouses across Yemen, helping to ensure that shortages won't harm the health of Yemenis.

The U.N. has been instrumental in trying to bring peace to Yemen after nearly five years of conflict. But until hostilities cease, it will play a key role in serving hard-pressed Yemenis.

Dr. Nedal Odeh, IOM's health program coordinator in Yemen, said that his organization's assistance to conflict-ridden communities is "vital to the continuation of accessible health services and strengthening of the overall health system in Yemen."

Source: United Nations



A few days before the Iranian official made the remarks, the deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, Ali Fadavi, publicly acknowledged the support of his terrorist Guard for the Houthis.

"Iran supports the Houthis in Yemen with all that it can," he said. "What prevents us from sending Iranian forces to Yemen, as in Syria, is the blockade imposed by the coalition forces."

All this confirms beyond doubt that, out of political logic, the international community must — if it decides to confront Iran and its negative influence — place the Houthis at the top of its legitimate targets. This confrontation need not occur with international forces, but rather with Yemenis. We are capable — with the help of the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen — of severing Iran's arm in Yemen. This is in Yemen's strategic and security interests, even more than it is to the world at large.

Yemenis are paying a heavy price every day in which the Houthis continue to spread their evils,



destroy Yemeni values and social fabric, spread terrorism and extremism and commit a long list of malpractices that transcend barbarism. Backed by Iran, Houthis destroy the past, present and future simultaneously and at a record speed that exceeds the Iranian-made missiles that target neighboring countries.

Since their coup against the Yemeni state, the Houthis have committed widespread violations in all areas under their control. They have followed systematic policies to starve and impoverish Yemenis and have also looted aid relief provided by international agencies. This was announced after the World Food Program in Yemen froze its activities to protest what it described as the organized theft of humanitarian aid by Houthis.

The Houthis violate all international human rights instruments in a flagrant challenge to the human values of the world that the international community has been working for decades to bring to light and transform into a kind of human social contract.

The blacklist of Houthi violations and abuses begins with the recruitment of children and turning them into human bombs, as a result of brainwashing in which they are yanked from childhood and turned into ideological fighters.

These barbaric practices do not end with the indiscriminate laying of mines, which is a manifestation of a deep hatred of society. Human beings and even animals have not been spared from these mines, which kill dozens of Yemenis every day.

It would be a disgrace to the international community to stay indifferent to the Iranian-backed Houthis' violations against the people of Yemen. The world has to take a humanitarian stand against what is happening in a country that is a founding member to the United Nations, a country hijacked by ideological militias that do not belong to the present age or adhere to the values of humanity.

Unfortunately, these groups still receive sympathy from some humanitarian aid workers unable to see that they have fallen into the trap of the killers. ♦

Yemenis unload United Nations humanitarian aid in the port of Hodeidah in June 2019. Houthis have prevented aid from reaching needy people.

GETTY IMAGES

Defending *Yemeni* *Legitimacy*



His Royal Highness Lt. Gen. Prince Fahad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud leads multinational efforts to stabilize Yemen

COL. FARHAN MUSAAD Z. ALNAWMASI

JOINT FORCES PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS CELL COMMANDER, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

His Royal Highness Lt. Gen. Prince Fahad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia is a brilliant military commander whose name emerged considerably after the launch of Operation Decisive Storm in March 2015 to support the legitimate Yemeni government. He took command of the Joint Forces of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, in addition to his role as deputy commander of Saudi ground forces, of which he became commanding officer soon after.

His leadership skills didn't appear from a void. When his father, Prince Turki II, passed away, Lt. Gen. Fahad was in the middle of battle and returned wearing his military uniform to attend his father's funeral. This act of loyalty drew the attention of Saudi media, and so did his comments after the funeral that he would take up arms again to protect his religion and homeland.

That passion and devotion was manifested in the personality of a leader who confounded his enemies with a relentless will that so intimidated his adversaries that enemy propaganda declared him dead on several occasions. Although he recoils from the spotlight, the media keeps covering his actions in admiration of his courage and heroism.



His Royal Highness Lt. Gen. Prince Fahad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

DISCIPLINED CAREER

Lt. Gen. Fahad began his military career as a platoon commander and earned promotions to deputy company commander, company commander, operations officer, training officer, wing commander, force commander, battalion commander, deputy commander and unit commander.

After being named deputy commander of ground forces, he took command of the joint special operations (Decisive Storm and Restoring Hope), then rose to commander of the Saudi ground forces, commander of paratroopers and special security forces, and lastly commander of all the joint forces.

“
Our coalition forces shared with you the sacrifice of souls and blood to restore righteousness and realize objectives. We sought to deny terrorist groups the opportunity to infiltrate Yemeni society.”

~ Lt. Gen. Prince Fahad bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

He began his military service in May 1983 and earned a diploma at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. While pursuing his military career, he studied international business management at the United States International University and got a master's degree in June 1983.

Since then he has attended specialized military courses at home and abroad covering topics such as officers training, airborne operations, advanced infantry tactics, special forces and military strategy.

He was tasked with building the capacity of elite forces in the Saudi Army, which led to the graduation of several mountain commando units through joint training with elite French mountain troops. Mountain commando training was conducted in harsh weather and rough terrain in the French Alps and aimed at preparing Saudi forces for fighting in mountainous regions of southern Saudi Arabia, which have suffered frequent attacks by the Houthis.

Lt. Gen. Fahad has fought alongside his Soldiers on the front lines inside Saudi Arabia and in Yemen. His outstanding performance in commanding Saudi special operations forces in Yemen earned him a medal from the Saudi leadership. This was one of more than a dozen medals he's been awarded from Saudi Arabia,

the United States, France, Kuwait and the United Nations. They honored his service in operations such as the 1991 liberation of Kuwait and the stabilization of Somalia.

Many experts believe that the appointment of Prince Fahad bin Turki to senior and responsible positions came about as part of a modernization campaign led by His Royal Highness Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Prince Mohammed has established an ambitious vision for the development of various critical sectors in Saudi Arabia, especially the branches of the Saudi Armed Forces.

SUPPORTING BROTHERS

As commander of the Joint Forces of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, Lt. Gen. Fahad was keen to support his brothers among the Yemeni Army commanders.

“We are with you in the fields of honor and pride,” he told them “Our coalition forces shared with you the sacrifice of souls and blood to restore righteousness and realize objectives. We sought to deny terrorist groups the opportunity to infiltrate Yemeni society.”

Lt. Gen. Fahad exploits every opportunity to emphasize support for the legitimate Yemeni government and praises army and popular resistance forces serving on various fronts in Yemen fighting the Houthis. But his support isn't limited to military commanders.

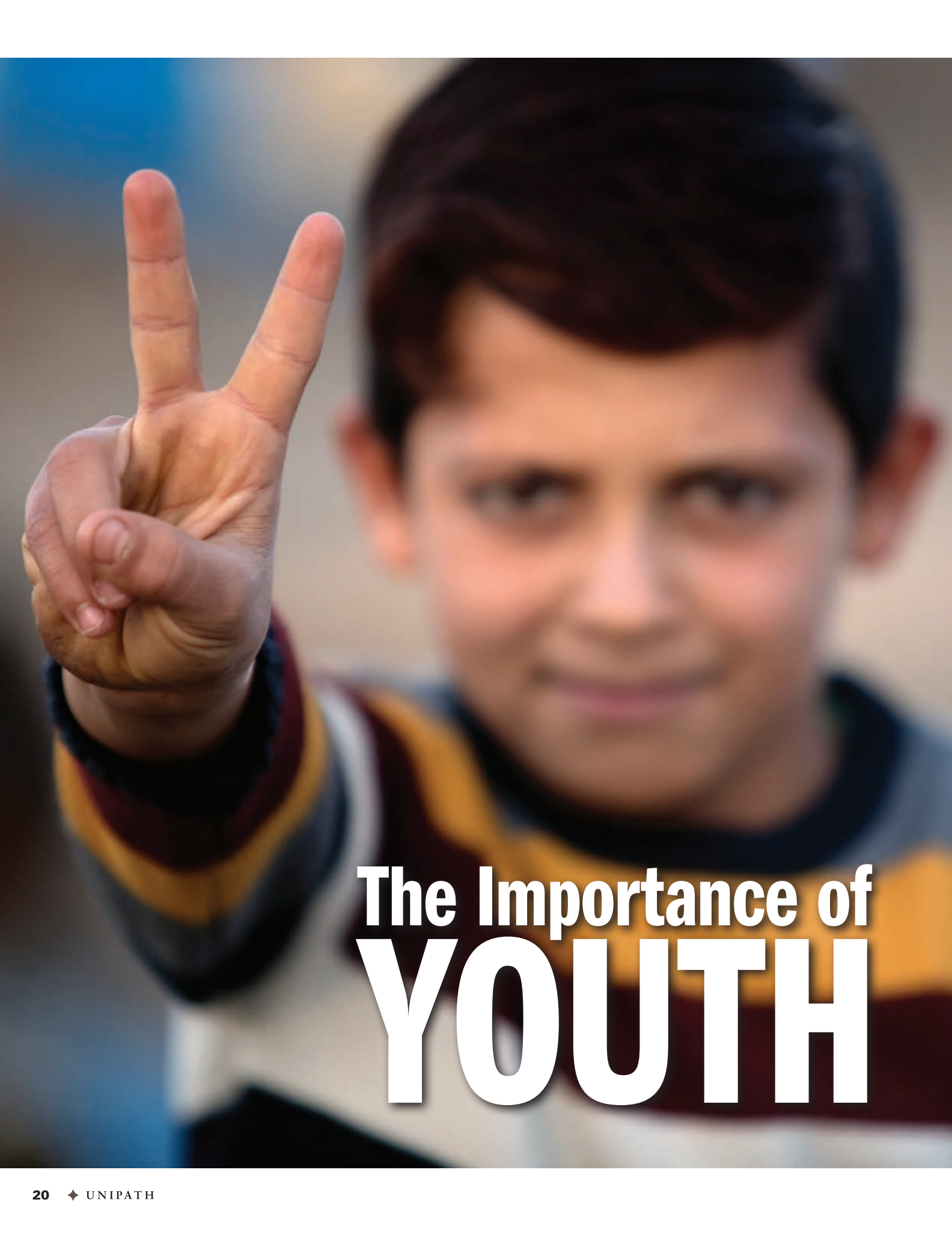
The general takes pains to encourage tribal sheiks and other notables in Yemen. This is evident in his keenness to receive them, address their needs and strengthen their role as active leaders in society. They are pillars on which Yemeni security and stability will rest.

The enemy routinely targets civilians and uses them as human shields, but Lt. Gen. Fahad constantly abides by the rules of engagement and issues stringent orders to his Soldiers to refrain from engaging terrorists hiding among civilians to avoid collateral damage. In addition, he personally supervises efforts at humanitarian assistance, helping victims and displaced people receive food and medicine.

During a conference on coordinating humanitarian and military operations as part of stabilizing Yemen, Lt. Gen. Fahad described Saudi Arabia's role as protector of Yemen from Iranian and Houthi expansion. It's a role he personally exemplifies.

“Any action is aimed at raising the standard of living of our brothers in Yemen to achieve prosperity and stability, and we know what the Yemeni people would suffer if the kingdom and its allies did not intervene to protect them,” Lt. Gen. Fahad said.

“Humanitarian action to achieve security and stability in Yemen has a higher priority than military action, even though military action is aimed at protecting civilians in the first place.” ♦



The Importance of **YOUTH**

Yemen Needs to Harness Energy and Innovation From Its Younger Cohorts

MAJ. GEN. MOHAMMED ZAYED IBRAHIM, YEMENI DEFENSE ATTACHE TO THE U.S.

The youth sector truly is one of the most significant groups in contributing to the construction and growth of society. It is a crucial, indispensable group, particularly given that youth possess many qualities — mainly strength, vitality, energy and resilience — at this particular stage of life.

Young people have a large and vital role to play in building society. Their role is not limited to a specific area; it encompasses all social, political, and economic spheres as well as various sectors of growth.

Young people are the most ambitious in society, and the process of change and progress knows no bounds for them. They are the foundation of change, or rather the force capable of creating it, so their energies must be actively marshaled and harnessed.

In fact, they must be accorded priority in all change-seeking institutions and social groups, as they are the most willing to accept, absorb and interact with the new and, indeed, contribute to everything new.

Additionally, young people are best able to adapt without difficulties, which makes their role essential in bringing about the change desired in their societies. Youth have intellectual curiosity and tremendous energy, an important factor in bringing about progress and vitality in confronting political and social change.

In particular, the spirit of entrepreneurship among youths and honorable competition in creativity and innovation should be encouraged to create leaders who can be a primary, crucial source for understanding the requirements of various phases of development and progress in their countries.

If we go on to talk about the role of young people in government policymaking, we find they have a major impact on the state's public policy in development, construction, and governance.

Governments prepare statistics on youth to develop appropriate plans not only to include them in public services and employment, but also to utilize their capabilities and academic achievements within government and private institutions that are adopting modern programs and work processes requiring academic

qualifications, as mandated by the market.

Government and private productive institutions are racing to bring in young people to inject new blood into their institutions, in order to sustain or enhance productivity. Therefore, the huge numbers of young people in Middle Eastern countries should present an opportunity, not a problem — an opportunity for development, productivity and creativity, not an unemployment problem as many governments may believe.

Young people must also be fully aware of their rights and duties, so that they know what they are owed and what they owe others, and how they can officially and legally serve themselves and their homeland.

Thanks to many recent factors, today's youth may be more fortunate than yesterday's. These factors include evolving means of production and technological and

Young people are the most ambitious in society, and the process of change and progress knows no bounds for them. They are the foundation of change, or rather the force capable of creating it, so their energies must be actively marshaled and harnessed.

academic progress that can help them to create real change. On the political side, young people can express their views today in various ways, thanks to the information revolution and the digital age. However, they must exercise caution with regard to accepting whatever is said or disseminated. Knowledge, as ever, is a double-edged sword.

Elections truly are an important political factor, the foundation of every democratic system. Young people must be supported by urging them to make the best use of democratic entitlements to play a positive and influential role in determining the country's future and guiding its adoption of effective policies.

The future will be bright for countries that succeed in harnessing the energies of their youth, steering them in the right direction and motivating them to innovate in different fields, igniting their energies to implement practical and scientific programs for growth and prosperity rather than plunging them into the furnace of avoidable internal or regional fighting. ♦



Defending Yemen's Coast

UNIPATH STAFF



The Red Sea laps the
shore of the port city
of Al Mukalla. ISTOCK

An interview with Vice Adm. Abdullah Salim Ali Abdullah Al-Nakhai

The esteemed Yemeni poet Abdul Wahab Naaman wrote of his country:

*“This is my land, which will never kneel
To any authoritarians;
This land will only accept
National honor and grandfathers’ dignity;
My land’s determination and great history
Inspires its spirit of steadfastness.”*



Vice Adm. Abdullah Salim Ali Abdullah Al-Nakhai, adviser to the Yemeni minister of defense and commander of naval forces, exemplifies the resilient spirit of those inspiring words. Despite being a first-class professional commander, the admiral is renowned for his modesty, qualities that have earned him the respect of his troops and his colleagues.

Adm. Al-Nakhai expressed his pride in and appreciation for the sacrifices and heroism of Yemeni forces on various fronts as they defend their homeland in the battle imposed by Iranian-backed Houthis. If the nation is to overcome these challenging headwinds, it needs leaders dedicated to making strenuous efforts toward security and stability.

Unipath: Can you discuss your professional life?

Vice Adm. Abdullah: In November 2018, I was appointed by presidential decree as chief of staff of the Armed Forces and promoted to the rank of vice admiral. Before that, I served many roles. In addition to commanding the country’s Naval and Coastal Defense Forces, I commanded missile boats and

artillery boats. Training troops has also been a large part of my career. I served as director of the Maritime Training Department, head of the Navigation Division and leadership training for the Navy, and director of the Naval School for the Naval and Coastal Defenses. I have also continued my military education abroad through conferences and seminars in places like the United States, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Going back several decades, I received a bachelor’s degree in maritime navigation in Baku, Azerbaijan, formerly in the Soviet Union. I received a master’s in military studies, leadership and foundation in 1999 from the Supreme Military Academy in Damascus, Syria. I then received a fellowship from the Supreme War College in Sanaa from 2011 to 2012.

Unipath: How are other countries cooperating in terms of military training and preparation?

Vice Adm. Abdullah: Joint cooperation is critical to the stability, security and safety of the region. By working together, we can confront challenges that threaten regional

*We hope to build a professional
and national naval force loyal to
God and country that can protect
the country's 2,000 kilometer
coastline and prevent our waters
from being overfished.*



A Yemen Coast Guard member patrols Saleef port on the Red Sea. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

security and undermine the stability and safety of our countries and peoples. We must strengthen relations with other countries and ensure that Yemen's interests are protected. This is important considering the ongoing threat of terrorism in Yemen, the Arabian Gulf and the wider world.

Yemen's cooperation with friendly countries and allies includes Yemeni troops receiving specialized training and attending colleges and graduate schools abroad. These partners include the United States, Pakistan, Great Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and South Korea. There is also cooperation with U.S., British and French naval forces, including training, rehabilitation and provision of capabilities.

The Yemeni general staff is working on the rehabilitation of the naval forces and is proceeding at a steady pace. This will have a significant impact on the military performance of the Army and naval forces.

With regard to the restructuring of the general staff, we have a development plan developed in coordination with the political and military leadership. In the next phase, the general staff will not disperse Yemeni training staff across all military fields but will focus existing expertise on rebuilding our Armed Forces on the basis of modern methods. Commanders and trainers will have roles in the development and modernization.

As for the situation on the ground, I would like to point out that the indicators from all fronts, including the Hodeidah Front, are in accordance with the revised plan of the leadership of the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, the Yemeni government, the Yemeni National Army and the popular resistance until the militias that conducted the coup are eliminated.

All military sectors and the Arab coalition forces are working as one team, in constant coordination in all military aspects. The Arab coalition has provided all capabilities for the Yemeni National Army, necessary equipment and Soldiers on the fronts. Thanks to this support, victory will be achieved on major fronts in which the Army is engaged in battles to defeat the Houthis.

Unipath: After Naval and Coastal Defense Forces infrastructure was nearly obliterated, what is the plan to restore capacity and readiness?

Vice Adm. Abdullah: It is necessary to maintain, restore, rebuild and redevelop the foundations of the Naval and Coastal Defense Forces, especially following the destruction of naval vessels. Ships receive repairs at stations set up in Al Hodeidah, Aden and Al Mukalla. Destruction was not limited to naval installations. The Naval Institute and the Naval School — both educational institutions — were also ruined.

We aim to restore the readiness of the Naval and Coastal Defense Forces. We have presented a comprehensive plan that includes an urgent program to restore the readiness of the Navy and rebuild infrastructure, installations and facilities. Vessels need more than just repairs. They also need more modern equipment to keep pace with developments in the maritime sector.

We realize this ambitious plan will take a lot of time, resources and work. We hope to build a professional and national naval force loyal to God and country that can protect the country's 2,000 kilometer coastline and prevent our waters from being overfished. These are no easy tasks.

Our forces are composed of the leadership of the Naval and Coastal Defenses, floating naval units, coastal defense units and the Marine Corps. The Air Force operates naval military bases, such as the naval base near Al Mukalla, the Tawahi and Al Hodeidah naval bases in the Aden governorate, the Bir Ali base in the Shabwa governorate, and a base on Socotra Island.

Unipath: What challenges does Yemen face in its fight against piracy?

Vice Adm. Abdullah: Yemen's strategic location on the Bab el-Mandeb and the Arabian Sea presents unique challenges. Add to that the country's domestic political, military and security situation — as well as the presence of terrorist organizations at home and in Somalia and the Horn of Africa — and the military has its hands full. Over the past decade, the coast of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb have suffered from exposure to pirates, threatening international navigation and shipping and regional maritime security.

Curbing piracy in Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb is a task Yemen's Navy views as urgent. Increasing the number security patrols in the country's territorial waters is only one response. Yemen has also agreed to establish a regional center in Sanaa to combat piracy, a joint undertaking of Yemen's Ministry of Transportation and the International Maritime Organization. The center would coordinate among countries bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, sharing information to combat piracy with international naval forces.

Admittedly, Yemen's Naval and Coastal Defense Forces could do more to defeat piracy if we could upgrade and repair boats lost during the fighting. Furthermore, we have looked to our partners to help us create specialized units — similar to U.S. Marines — to defend ports such as Aden, Al Hodeidah and Al Mukalla and around Socotra Island. Finally, Yemen needs to maximize use of technology to monitor hard-to-reach coastlines popular with smugglers and pirates. That means using surveillance stations equipped with radar.



AIR POWER OVER QATAR

UNIPATH STAFF

Qatar has boosted the effectiveness of its Air Force with the formation of the Al Adiyat fighter jet squadron. Al Adiyat has its origins in the country's purchase of French Rafale fighter jets, the first of which were delivered to Qatar in February 2019.

Received by His Highness Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at Dukhan airbase, Qatari crews arrived from France aboard the first batch of what will be 36 Rafales.

The jet is designed for interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship

strike and nuclear deterrence missions, and pilots displayed the Rafale's capabilities at an air show attended by Sheikh Tamim.

The purchase of the Rafales is just one component of Qatar's efforts to enhance the capabilities of its Armed Forces.

The country's combined special forces graduated 125 paratroopers after they completed a five-week course that included 26 classroom sessions and 105 field drills. The paratroopers were trained in the basics of skydiving, static line jumps, equipment safety, modern battlefield-entry, techniques of

Rafale fighters acquired by Qatar wait for delivery in France. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

exiting aircraft, and ground-landing procedures.

A total of 473 jumps were performed by all cadets: five daylight jumps per commissioned officer and four daylight jumps per noncommissioned officer.

In addition to the technical preparation, paratroopers took psychology courses aimed at maintaining self-confidence and composure in harsh conditions to complete missions with minimal losses.

Source: Raya (Qatar)



Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Pledge Security Cooperation

UNIPATH STAFF

Kyrgyz-Kazakh relations have improved over the past 2½ years after a brief chill. Both nations have expressed a greater willingness to strengthen military, security, economic, trade and cultural ties.

An April 2019 meeting between defense ministers of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan deliberated on issues of international and regional security, potential areas of military cooperation and joint combat training and military education.

In May 2019, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan solidified diplomatic relations as well. Meeting Kazakhstani Minister of Foreign Affairs Beibut Atamkulov in Bishkek, Kyrgyz President Soronbay Jeenbekov praised Kazakhstan as one of his country's top partners.

For his part, Kazakhstani President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reassured his Kyrgyz counterpart of his country's commitment to friendly and close relations with its neighbor.

In a potential boost to Kyrgyzstani economic growth, the countries are also negotiating to export surplus Kazakh oil and gasoline to Kyrgyzstan duty free.

Sources: Zakon.kz, Zonakz.net, Inform.kz



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, then interim president of Kazakhstan, left, and former President Nursultan Nazarbayev attend an international summit in their nation's capital in May 2019. REUTERS



UAE FOCUSES ON FOOD SECURITY

UNIPATH STAFF

Food security — ensuring the proper production, procurement and processing of food — has become the focus of a new national strategy in the United Arab Emirates.

The United Arab Emirates' annual Liwa Date Festival displays its crops. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The UAE government launched the National Strategy for Food Security in September 2019 aimed at ensuring a safe, efficient food supply for the nation of 9.5 million.

The strategy proposes a national system for food sustainability that defines 18 essential items in a national food basket. Among other things, the system would facilitate the global food trade, diversify food import sources and identify alternative supplies for major food items like wheat, rice and meat.

By 2021, the government wants the UAE to rank among the top 10 countries in the world in food security, as defined by the Global Food Security Index. By 2051, it wants to lead the world in that category.

Achieving that goal will require a number of steps. The country would develop sustainable technology-driven local production of food, including the use of aquaculture, and encourage consumption of locally grown produce.

The UAE will also try to reduce food waste throughout the supply chain, improve nutrition among the citizenry, create food banks across the country and reduce food-borne illnesses.

As a desert country with limited arable land, the UAE has long been a producer of crops like dates. More recently, it spent billions of dollars boosting production of fruits and vegetables with the careful use of irrigation and hydroponics.

Source: Al Bayan newspaper



Bahrainis Promote Counterterrorism Cooperation

UNIPATH STAFF

Reiterating their commitment to counterterrorism, Bahraini officials attended the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) Task Force conference in Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

Dr. Nasser Al Balushi, political and economic advisor to the Bahraini minister of foreign affairs addressed partnership and cooperation among Middle Eastern countries.

He stressed Bahrain's commitment to enhancing cooperation to fight terrorism and shrivel its sources of finance. Enhancing border security, consolidating terrorist watch lists and increasing exchange of intelligence were just three ways to make that happen.

He urged Arab nations to take advantage of various counterterrorism centers established in the Gulf Region. They include Prince Mohammed bin Nayef Center for Consultancy and Care and the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology — both in Saudi Arabia — and the Abu Dhabi-based Sawab Center.

Saudi Arabia announced the creation of MESA in May 2017, intending it to be a security partnership among Gulf Cooperation Council nations: Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, in addition to Egypt and Jordan. MESA revolves around security, but has added economic and political dimensions.

Bahrain's contribution to regional security cooperation continues to grow. It has embarked on a series of joint exercises with its Arab neighbors, including the Egyptian-Bahraini Hamad 3 maritime exercise. It also hosted the multinational International Maritime Exercise with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in November 2019. Source: akhbar-alkhaleej.com



Then Bahraini Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa greets U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, in Manama in January 2019. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A precious force from Pakistan

UNIPATH STAFF

After treating thousands of patients in Sudan's Darfur region, Pakistani military field hospitals have been acclaimed the "Pearl of UNAMID" by their grateful beneficiaries.

UNAMID is the abbreviation for the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur, the peacekeeping operation organized in 2007 to relieve suffering in the hard-stricken region of western Sudan.

Pakistani peacekeepers parade in Darfur, Sudan.
PAKISTAN ARMED FORCES

Pakistani field hospitals in Darfur not only treated more than 15,000 patients — including 822 surgeries — they also opened free clinics that served another 46,000 Sudanese.

"Owing to such great service to humanity, Pakistani doctors became extremely popular with the title of 'Pakistani healers' in the local community," the Pakistan military magazine *Hilal* noted.

The hospitals were just part of the Pakistani military contribution to UNAMID. The country also sent a company of military engineers and rotating battalions of peacekeeping troops.

The engineers built roads, airfields and massive residential camps for 15,000 U.N. troops and civilians in the field before being repatriated in April 2019 with the draw-down of UNAMID.

As for the Darfur peacekeeping battalions, they have conducted more than 380 patrols a month in vehicles covering distances of 47,700 kilometers. The troops complemented the field hospitals by providing medical evacuations for local residents.

After 13 years spent stabilizing Darfur, UNAMID is scheduled to withdraw in June 2020.

Sources: *Hilal*, UNAMID



Sustaining the Afghan National Army

Afghan National Army Soldiers graduate from the Kabul Military Training Academy in May 2019. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COL. A. ZIA KARIMI, AFGHANISTAN'S SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

In the span of a few years, the Afghan National Army (ANA) has become an effective, trustworthy force capable of assuming its place in the international community.

The ANA has improved its combat skills, thanks to the hard work and compassion of talented professional advisors and trainers who have spared no time in developing the Afghan Army.

Adopting an offensive doctrine, the ANA can plan and execute any combat operation against the enemy. Cooperation and coordination with other security agencies are much better, and special attention is paid to joint operations.

Afghanistan's government benefits from having a professional and loyal Army. These strengths are attributable to the quality of volunteers in its ranks, Soldiers who maintain the support of their families and fellow citizens.

We know that any army should be well-trained and disciplined to perform its duties. But armies should also have the best weapons and equipment and know how to use them.

Afghanistan's U.S. partners have helped structure and organize the ANA in view of the military and political situation in the country and the region. The ANA is composed of

combat-critical branches such as intelligence, field engineering, logistics and communications. Mobility and firepower are enhanced by the Afghan Air Force, which possesses a variety combat-ready fixed-wing and rotary aircraft to support the Army in its missions.

Afghanistan's Defense University includes various academies — the National Military Academy, Afghan National Army Officer Academy, Command and Staff College, Noncommissioned Officers Academy and Kabul Military Training Academy. They serve the nation by training young volunteers.

In coordination with other security forces, the ANA has proven itself capable of effective counterinsurgency operations against a persistent, adaptable enemy. Most of these operations are conducted by the country's special operations forces and Special Mission Wing.

To conduct a wider range of missions against internal and external threats, the ANA is making adjustments to account for manpower, technological and budgetary constraints. Once permanent peace and stability returns to Afghanistan, the use of reserve forces will be a cost-effective way to sustain a smaller active duty force at high readiness.



Kuwait Confronts WMD Threat

UNIPATH STAFF

Kuwaiti and U.S. security forces conducted emergency response drills to defend against hypothetical chemical and radiological attacks from terrorists.

The Watan 1 exercise in May 2019 brought together elements from the Kuwaiti Army, National Guard, special forces, police, firefighters and civil defense organizations.

Partnering with them were members of U.S. Task Force Spartan, which conducts drills with Middle Eastern partners tailored to each country's security needs.

Watan 1 aimed to prepare Kuwait to counter weapons of mass destruction, whether they be chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosives.

The drills stressed the importance of coordination between military and civilian organizations when handling attacks with such volatile materials. The events combined military assaults to overpower terrorists and civilian detection and cleanup operations to contain contamination from weapons of mass destruction.

The exercise occurred under the guidance of Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior Lt. Gen. Assam Al-Neham. Lt. Gen. Assam said his boss — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah — is dedicated to creating integrated civilian-military procedures for handling crisis.

Task Force Spartan consists of five

U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard brigades that provide specialized training at the request of partners in the Middle East.

“U.S. Soldiers assigned to Task Force Spartan are working side by side with regional partners to increase cohesion, promote security and achieve mutual goals,” Task Force Spartan Commander Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell said.

“Through strong partnerships, and with integrated military capabilities, we will be ready to act together quickly in times of crisis.”

Sources: U.S. Army, Al-Anba, Al Rai

Kuwaiti paramilitary troops participate in counterterrorism training.

SGT. BILL BOECKER/U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD





EGYPT'S MODERN NAVY

UNIPATH STAFF

The Egyptian Navy launched a new corvette, Al-Moez, in May 2019 from Alexandria Shipyard, one more step in the country's overhaul of its fleet to better defend the Suez Canal and other strategic waterways.

In recent years, the Navy has been replacing or upgrading ships in accordance with a strategic plan to modernize all weapons and equipment of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Although having a robust and modern naval force requires steep operational costs, it is nothing compared to the costs of failing to maintain maritime security. A strong Navy is needed to deter illegal activities such as drugs and weapons smuggling and to secure vital infrastructure like the Suez Canal and offshore oil and gas fields.

Al-Moez was co-manufactured by the French in an Egyptian shipyard, but the Egyptian Navy has also concluded contracts with Germany, South Korea and other nations to upgrade its fleet and improve combat capability.

Egypt contracted German-based Thyssenkrupp to build four technologically advanced diesel-electric attack submarines for Egypt. They are armed with torpedoes and anti-ship missiles. The last of the four submarines will be launched in 2020. Source: akhbarelyom.com

Egypt celebrates the launch of Al-Moez in Alexandria shipyard.

EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY

Tajiks Alert World to Central Asian Terrorist Threat

UNIPATH STAFF

Tajikistan hosted an international conference on countering terrorism in May 2019, warning that cooperation is necessary to prevent violent extremists from trying to topple governments in Central Asia.

The conference, titled "International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime," attracted representatives from about 50 countries and 25 international and regional organizations.

Tajikistan helped organize the conference along with the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The conference included foreign ministers, heads of security agencies, representatives of civilian organizations and diplomats. A big topic of discussion was how nations can stop the flow of money to finance terrorist groups.

Conference attendees also debated the issue of rehabilitation and reintegration of thousands of families and children of Daesh fighters captured in northern Syria.

Tajikistan has been lenient toward former terrorist sympathizers who renounce their participation in foreign military operations. The goal is to reintegrate repentant radicals into civilian life.

EU representatives expressed interest in supporting programs to help countries, including Tajikistan, deal with a large number of returning foreign fighters and their families.

Marcel Pesko, director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre, warned that Tajikistan's long, tense border with Afghanistan cannot be ignored by the international community.

Sources: Interfax, OSCE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, News.tj



Arab League Issues Condemnation

UNIPATH STAFF

The Arab League concluded its May 2019 summit in Mecca by condemning Iranian interference in the Arabian Gulf, Yemen and Syria.

Arab leaders specifically denounced attacks launched against Saudi Arabia from Yemeni territory using Iranian-made missiles, the assaults on commercial vessels in the Arabian Gulf and Iranian support for Houthi rebels in Yemen.

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities pertaining to the Iranian sponsorship of transnational terrorism.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reiterated that the security of the Gulf Arab states is tied to the security of Egypt.

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan underscored his



Arab League leaders meet in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on May 31, 2019. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

country's stand with its Arab brothers in defending their interests and security.

Iraqi President Barham Saleh called for an end of interference in the internal affairs of other countries and linked Iraqi security to Saudi security.

Delegates urged Middle Eastern

nations and regional and international organizations to pressure Iran to abandon policies that threaten the peace and security in the region. Those policies include interference in Syria and Yemen aimed at causing disunity and strife. Sources: alarabiya.net, CNN

Oman Army Claims Title of Top Chef

UNIPATH STAFF

The Royal Army of Oman proved itself a champion in preparing meals for Soldiers in the field. Omani military cooks participated in an annual British competition called Exercise Army Sustainer in the United Kingdom in May 2019.

Using army stoves in difficult outdoor conditions, the Omani team managed to make flat bread stuffed with vegetables, meat, dessert and other dishes that were sampled by judges in military tents.

Oman, the U.K. and the United States sent participants to the exercise, designed to test each military's ability to feed its troops in the field, sometimes by forcing cooks to improvise with random ingredients. Dozens of teams competed.

It was Oman's first time competing in Army Sustainer, and cooks spent time before the competition training with British partners. The training paid off: Omani Soldiers triumphed over the competitors in making meals for troops on the move.



Omani Soldiers display dishes prepared during Exercise Army Sustainer. ROYAL LOGISTICS CORPS, BRITISH ARMY



UNIFIL and Lebanese Forces Conduct Joint Exercise

UNIPATH STAFF

Lebanese Armed Forces and their Italian, French and Spanish partners conducted counterterrorism drills with field artillery, machine guns and anti-aircraft batteries in September 2019.

The Iron Storm military exercise took place in South Lebanon's Ras Nagoura district and involved European troops with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Exercise organizers simulated terrorist attacks requiring artillery and machine gun fire to repel them.

Lebanese troops from the 5th and 7th infantry brigades deployed in the districts of Sour and Marjayoun for the exercise, whereas the 5th Intervention Regiment was positioned in the South Litani region. Italian, Spanish and French troops fanned out in other sectors. UNIFIL Commander Maj.

Gen. Stefano Del Col and Lebanese Brig. Gen. Rogaeh Al Helou served as exercise directors.

Exercise organizers praised troops for their ability to hit simulated targets with precision using 105 mm field artillery, M113 armored personnel carriers equipped with anti-aircraft guns, and 12.7 mm heavy machine guns.

Iron Storm represented close coordination and cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in their quest to deter aggression. Gen. Del Col promised further exercises to raise troops to the highest level of readiness.

Brig. Gen. Al Helou also commended the joint efforts. "We are learning how to use our weapons rightly and effectively to confront potential enemies," he said. Source: *Al Jumhuriya*





Uzbekistan, U.N. Discuss Regional Security

UNIPATH STAFF

Uzbekistan conducted a series of meetings with United Nations officials to discuss regional security, countering illegal drugs and protecting the Aral Sea from environmental degradation.

In April 2019, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres to discuss Uzbekistan's ongoing contribution to stabilizing Afghanistan and the country's promise to improve the quality of life in the Aral Sea region. The sea suffered from Soviet era diversion of water to irrigate farms throughout Central Asia. Not only has the sea partly disappeared, but the remaining water is polluted with fertilizer and pesticides.

To further solidify cooperation with U.N. institutions, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov held talks in Tashkent with Yuri Fedotov, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, in May 2019. The goal was to further regional cooperation to control trafficking in illegal drugs, many of them originating in Afghanistan. Kamilov noted that proceeds from drug trafficking finance terrorist recruitment, propaganda and violence.

Kamilov urged partner countries to help end the Afghan conflict, encourage the peace process, and speedily resolve Afghanistan's social and economic issues that contribute to regional instability.

Uzbekistan's anti-narcotics strategy is enshrined in the Comprehensive Action Program to Prevent Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking for 2016-2020.

Guterres has expressed support for providing full-scale cooperation with Uzbekistan to help resolve regional problems. He praised the peaceful transfer of power in the country after the death of President Islam Karimov in 2016.

Sources: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, Uza.uz, Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq Appoints Defense Minister

UNIPATH STAFF

The Iraqi Army has logged significant achievements over the past few years as it has retaken Daesh-held territories. To continue such progress, the Iraqi parliament confirmed Maj. Gen. Najah al-Shammari as the new defense minister in June 2019.

The post — as well as those of the interior and justice ministries — had remained vacant for several months as then Prime Minister Adil Abdul Mahdi formed a new government.

Dr. Yaseen al-Yasiri also was confirmed as interior minister and Judge Faruq Ameen as justice minister.

For a country facing persistent security challenges, filling top leadership positions in the government was critical. Defense, interior and justice — which include the military, police and courts — are the three ministries considered most vital to fighting terrorism.

Defense Minister al-Shammari is a retired major general who graduated from the Iraq's Military College in 1987. He commanded several special operations units from 2003 until his retirement in 2018. He trained in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Minister al-Shammari will command a military that, despite its victory over Daesh and its liberation of territories once occupied by the terrorist group, continues to pursue terrorist elements that have sought havens in the deserts and mountains. Daesh lost its last major urban stronghold, in the Syrian city of Baghouz, in March 2019.

The Iraqi Army is in better shape than it was in June 2014, when Daesh occupied large swaths of three Iraqi provinces. Under then Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, the military was restructured, reequipped and trained rigorously.

The victory over Daesh — aided by coalition air power — provided the Iraqi Army experience and confidence, increasing the number of citizens who view it as a strong force capable of protecting the homeland. Sources: Military.com, alarabiya.net



Jordanian Border Forces Train with U.S.

UNIPATH STAFF

Border guard forces were the latest Jordanian Armed Forces units to take advantage of the Jordan Operational Engagement Program (JOEP), a 14-week training regimen sponsored by the United States.

The program engaged troops from the Jordan Armed Forces 5th and 10th Border Guard Force Battalions in the first half of 2019.

U.S. and Jordanian forces improved skills such as firing mortars, containing chemical weapons attacks, defending bases, and anti-tank combat at a live-fire range outside Amman. Troops also practiced being medics, snipers and members of machine gun teams.

After graduating from the JOEP course, the border guard

troops were deployed to Jordan's northern border, where violent extremists sometimes attempt to cross from Syria.

Jordanian Brig. Gen. Khalid Mohammed Al-Masaeid, then commander of the Northern Region, praised the border guard troops for their accomplishments and thanked U.S. military instructors for their contributions.

"The security you provide is for your family — your wife, children, father and mother so that they can continue a normal life," Gen. Al-Masaeid said in a March 2019 graduation ceremony for the 10th battalion. "Hand in hand with our allies, we will be able to fight terrorism, keeping our country protected and safe."

The Jordanian troops partnered

with the California Army National Guard as part of JOEP, paid for by the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, through which the U.S. provides support to foreign security forces to respond to crises and defend against terrorism.

"Throughout your 10 weeks, you've improved your skills as individuals and built upon these skills to improve your capabilities from squad training through the company level," U.S. commander Lt. Col. Jeremy T. Hopkins said at the March ceremony.

"You've trained when it was nice outside and went through the elements when it was cold and wet. Throughout it all, you displayed a high degree of motivation and willingness to learn."

Sources: www.diyaruna.com, U.S. Army National Guard



A Jordan Armed Forces Soldier practices firing an anti-tank missile as part of the Jordan Operational Engagement Program.

STAFF SGT. BRIAN BARBOUR/U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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