

Pakistan Supports
Naval Coalitions

Egypt Takes
the Lead Against Terror

Central Asia:
A Focus on Afghanistan

UNIPATH





Boaters and kayakers cruise the Hatta Dam reservoir in the United Arab Emirates near the Omani border.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Plants and umbrellas adorn an entrance to Doha's newly opened Metro, a commuter rail network that will improve transportation in Qatar.

AFP / GETTY IMAGES

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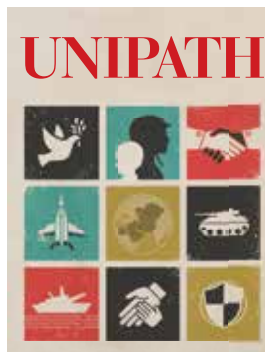
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Multinational military cooperation, peacekeeping initiatives and joint military operations are key ways to prevent malign actors from gaining influence. UNIPATH ILLUSTRATION

UNIPATH

Partnerships and Peacekeeping

Volume 9, Number 3



CENTCOM COMMANDER

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KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE

At the invitation of U.S. Central Command, I am pleased to introduce this edition of *Unipath* on the theme of partnerships and peacekeeping, two issues to which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan pays great attention.

When it comes to regional and international partnerships to defeat terrorism, multinational military exercises and international peacekeeping operations in places such as Afghanistan, the Jordan Armed Forces has been a global leader. We have worked with our friends the Americans for a long time, linked by deeply rooted political and military relationships that benefit both partners.

The United States possesses advanced digital technologies as well as brotherly and friendly forces that have great experience fighting Daesh and conducting urban warfare. In exchange, we share with our partners a deep knowledge of moderate Islamic jurisprudence, which is an effective weapon to defeat extremist ideology.

As announced by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, our commander in chief, Jordan represents true Islamic values and traditions — values and traditions that have been twisted by extremists to endorse terrorism.

Through training events such as Jordan's annual Eager Lion exercise, forces from both countries drill together in conventional and nontraditional warfare to address security challenges in the Middle East.

When it comes to the borderless crime of terrorism, Jordan realizes this scourge can't be eliminated without international cooperation. Violent extremism cannot be viewed strictly as a local problem in countries such as Jordan, Iraq and Syria.

Terrorist gangs depend heavily on spreading lies with tainted interpretations of the Quran to lure youths to conflict zones. The war against terror, therefore, depends greatly on the exposure of these lies and immunizing youths against extremist ideology. Such a mission cannot be accomplished by one country acting alone. It requires joint efforts and a unified message.

Though terrorism has been defeated militarily, and the terrorists expelled from most of the cities they once occupied, we still face a great challenge because



their ideology has many sympathizers and promoters. Terrorists have left behind widows and children who have been brainwashed and have witnessed horrific crimes committed in their neighborhoods. If they are not rehabilitated and reintegrated by governmental institutions, they could pose a threat to peace and security.

The financiers of the terrorist organizations must also be monitored and all terrorism-related accounts and companies that fund terrorist activities should be frozen. These fronts require genuine international partnership and exchange of information and cooperation at all levels.

The Jordan Armed Forces and its partners must speak with a single voice to encourage tolerance and peaceful coexistence and reject violence and exclusion. To this end, the Jordan Armed Forces Directorate of Moral Guidance has established a specialized strategic communication unit that monitors and analyzes terrorist rhetoric and transmits counterpropaganda to Jordanians, fellow Arabs and the international community to highlight the dignified and humane principles of Islam.

The Jordanian military has battled terrorism through cooperation and coordination with other ministries, civic groups, international organizations and friendly forces with whom we exchange experiences. For example, in November 2018, Iraqi commanders arrived in Amman for a conference in which they shared best practices from their battles of liberation against Daesh terrorists who had plagued parts of northern and western Iraq.

The Iraqis highlighted a vital prong of their strategy: Just as important as confronting terrorists militarily was winning the loyalty and sympathy of civilians who provided intelligence to help in defeating Daesh.

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to all our military friends and partners who have shared their tactics, expertise and technology with Jordan with the common goal of bringing peace and stability to the Middle East and the world.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ouda Shudeifat

Former Director of the Media and Moral Guidance Directorate, Jordan Armed Forces



Pakistan Navy Ship Aslat fires at a target during Aman 19. Aslat has participated in multinational task forces to protect the seas from pirates, terrorists and other criminals.

PAKISTAN

GUARDS THE SEAS

Naval cooperation with partner nations ensures a more secure Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea

REAR ADM. (RET.) PERVAIZ ASGHAR, PAKISTAN NAVY
PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The sea has traditionally been a medium of contrasts. Its seemingly placid surface yields easily to an undulating intensity, and it doesn't take long for gale force winds to develop into destructive storms. An unruffled sea one moment, and not long after, triggered by a massive underwater earthquake, a tsunami sweeps countless shores with unrelenting fury.

And when it comes to human activity on the seas, legitimate commerce operates side by side with illegal trafficking.

The stakes these days are considerably higher. The global economy relies on international trade, of which as much as 85 percent is conducted through the medium of the seas. Threats to the global socio-economic order don't stem from just piracy as in the past but are now so diverse in character that it has led many analysts to dub oceans the "biggest crime scene in the world."

The vastness of the interconnected oceans, with enforcement and jurisdiction challenges of their own, offers an appetizing opening to organized criminal enterprises to benefit from, by stealthily operating under the radar, so to speak. The use of inconspicuous vessels for undertaking such illegal activities compounds problems related to policing and detection.

Stopping and searching commercial vessels on mere suspicions of crimes cause unacceptable disruptions to world trade. In the Arabian Sea, dhows, extensively used for legitimate coastal trade, have been enlisted to traffic in contraband cargo. Boats designed for fishing, an activity that provides livelihoods to about 12 percent of the global population, are known to be used in various illegal acts, such as piracy and drug smuggling, on the side.



The bombing of the USS Cole while at anchor at Yemen's Aden harbor in 2000 and the oil tanker MV Lindberg off the coast of Yemen in 2002 — both rammed by explosives-laden dinghies — brought the specter of maritime terrorism to center stage.

The world reacted by strengthening global maritime security through individual and coordinated efforts. The approval of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code in December 2002, as an amendment to the existing Safety of Life at Sea Convention 1974, incorporated mandatory security requirements and implementation guidelines to signatory governments, port authorities and shipping companies.

There is no doubt, however, that the one sure way of effectively confronting the multitude of threats disturbing the good order at sea is through concerted action featuring a collaborative approach.

Somali piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean was curbed in large part by the convergence of warships from as many as 29 countries. Operating either singly or in groups like the European Union's Operation Atalanta, NATO's Operation Ocean Shield or the Combined Task Force, they were bound by a shared objective.

Regional initiatives like the International Maritime Organization's Djibouti Code of Conduct also played a significant role in this endeavor. The Jeddah amendment of 2017 has widened the scope of the alliance to include combating all illegal activities at sea, not just piracy.

Recognizing that maritime security would remain a mirage if it wasn't backed up by actionable intelligence, the Republic of Singapore Navy took the much-needed initiative to set up an Information Fusion Center in April 2009 at its Changi Naval Base. This regional center has by now established linkages with 71 operation centers from 38 countries, with 16 international liaison officers based there as well.

Another notable regional initiative has been that of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). Fashioned after the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, IONS has attracted not only the Indian Ocean littoral states, but also welcomes extraregional countries with a stake in the region. The Conclave of Chiefs, which forms an integral part of every biennial symposium, ensures that views are exchanged and coordinated responses are crafted at the highest naval level.

The overarching objective of the conference is to create and act upon a unified plan of action against a multitude of maritime security challenges plaguing the region.

With the redesignation of the United States Pacific Command as the Indo-Pacific Command in 2018, the interest of the U.S. in the region in general and IONS in particular is bound to increase.

Pakistani-U.S. relations have witnessed many ups and downs over the years, but one area where interests have always coincided is that of the sea. In fact, it was a Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) naval exercise in Pakistani waters in November 1963 that facilitated the maiden entry of the U.S. Navy into the Indian Ocean.

This was followed by a stopover at the port of Karachi



in August 1964 of three newly built nuclear-powered vessels — the USS Enterprise, Long Beach and Bainbridge — during their unprecedented around-the-world unrefueled cruise to demonstrate the efficacy of nuclear propulsion.

U.S. Navy warships continued to be a familiar sight in the North Arabian Sea. Port calls at Karachi were invariably followed by passage exercises or by a series of bilateral exercises named Inspired Siren. It was in one of the latter exercises in 1995 that a U.S. warship, using its shipborne helicopter and a trained boarding party, successfully demonstrated the concept of vessel board, search and seizure. This has considerably assisted the Pakistan Navy in refining its procedures to undertake search operations at sea safely and effectively.

And indeed, when Combined Task Force 150 was set up in the wake of the United Nations-sanctioned invasion of Afghanistan, the Pakistan Navy had no qualms in offering its services and had no problems integrating itself into the workings of this task force. The Pakistan Navy went on to



A Pakistani naval helicopter lands during the Aman-19 naval exercise. A demonstration by the U.S. Navy in 1995 established the practice by Pakistan of using ship-borne helicopters for search and rescue at sea.

command this force, whose area of operations included some of the world's busiest sea lanes, a record 11 times.

When another Combined Task Force — CTF 151 — was established in January 2009 to pursue a specific counterpiracy mandate, the Pakistan Navy not only signed on immediately, but has commanded it eight times. The experience gained by the Pakistan Navy through participation in these task forces has enabled it to further fulfill its international obligations by launching the Regional Maritime Security Patrols.

The Pakistan Navy solidified its credentials as a force for good by initiating a series of biennial exercises named Aman (Peace), the first of which was held in early 2007. The sixth in the series, held in February 2019 and written about in this issue of *Unipath*, brought together as many as 45 countries on a common platform of pursuing the cause of peace at sea.

It is always heartwarming to see representatives from disparate countries braving political divides to attend conferences, briefings, food galas and international cultural displays

in the same spirit that their warships undertake an international fleet review at sea.

Nontraditional challenges at sea have not only proliferated over the years but tend to crop up in areas where they face the least resistance. In a canvas as vast as the sea, its resident challenges, being transnational by nature, are bound to be complex enough to test the limits of an individual navy or other maritime law enforcement agency. Surveillance, vigilance, maritime patrols, intelligence gathering and info sharing are all naval missions required to be undertaken in a well-coordinated manner if the genie of instability at sea is to be kept bottled up.

Whereas land divides, it is said, the sea unites. And such unity is critical if the global objective of freedom of navigation, to the exclusion of all else, is to be realized. *Pacem in Maribus* — Peace on the Seas — can only come about if all responsible coastal states reach across the sea to clasp hands in the pursuit of a common purpose. ♦

Conflict Resolution in Central Asia



**Directors of Military Intelligence Discuss
Opportunities to Build Stability in Afghanistan**

UNIPATH STAFF
PHOTOS BY U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

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Addressing common security threats, military intelligence leaders from Central Asia and the United States met in February 2019 for U.S. Central Command's fourth annual Central and South Asia Directors of Military Intelligence Conference.

Held in the United States in Tampa, Florida, the three-day conference included security experts and military officials from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the U.S. This year's event focused on conflict resolution in Afghanistan. Presentations and discussions focused on current efforts to improve security in Afghanistan.

"Attending and taking part in these conferences is important because we share information about threats from our perspective and learn from others' perspectives," Lt. Gen. Hilaluddin Hilal, deputy defense minister of the Afghan Ministry of Defense Intelligence, told *Unipath*.

Nestled between Central and South Asia, Afghanistan's geography makes it strategically valuable for neighboring states. One important discussion centered on the connection between terrorists and other criminal groups, such as narcotraffickers, who work together when it's mutually beneficial. Organized criminal groups provide a network of infrastructure and transportation to help move drugs across borders, feeding the coffers of terrorists. The Taliban, for example, cultivate opium in Afghanistan.

"By sharing information about such routes, it helps us fight terrorism, and similarly, we can also counter narcotrafficking," Lt. Gen. Hilal noted.

Gen. Joseph Votel, then-commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), explained the goals of the U.S.' South Asia Strategy with respect to Afghanistan and achieving a negotiated settlement with the Taliban through a combination of military, political, social and regional pressure.

International and regional support for reconciliation in Afghanistan is critical, Lt. Gen. Hilal said. "The terrorist threat is not just in Afghanistan," he told *Unipath*. "If regional countries do not provide support and help facilitate the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, it can definitely have implications on their publics as well, and on their lives. A continuation of support for the peace process is very important from our regional countries."

Also attending the conference as a speaker was Roya Rahmani, Afghan ambassador to the U.S.

"I am optimistic that peace is within reach. There are certainly plenty of hazards on the ground, but the train is shifting toward peace," Ambassador Rahmani said. She noted that two societal changes were helping Afghanistan recover from its legacy of conflict: the country's promotion of democracy and the growing capabilities of its Armed Forces.

"There is a new generation of Afghans that see a new light at the end of the tunnel," the ambassador said. "When young people criticize the administration and demand better, it fills me with happiness. It's a measure of how far we have come. Our citizens expect democracy. They hold us accountable."

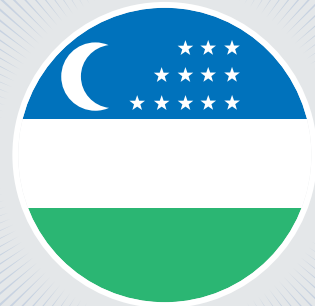
She spoke about the many signs of progress across the country, such as judicial reform and



"The terrorist threat is not just in Afghanistan. If regional countries do not provide support and help facilitate the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, it can definitely have implications on their publics as well."

LT. GEN. HILALUDDIN HILAL
DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE AFGHAN
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

Uzbekistan Supports Afghan Security



COL. OLIMJON SAMATOV, UZBEKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHIEF OF DEFENSE, INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

From Uzbekistan's declaration of independence until today, its foreign policy has centered on the principles of peace, cooperation and mutual respect. Uzbekistan supports the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and the peaceful settlement of disputes through political means.

One of Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities is to strengthen friendly and mutually beneficial relations with neighboring countries and other strategic partners. Relations between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have reached a completely new level, visible in the revitalization of our cooperation in political, diplomatic, commercial, economic, transportation, communications, cultural, humanitarian and other areas.

This trend has allowed our bilateral relations to reach a qualitatively high level of partnership founded not only upon the national interests of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, but also the objectives of regional security and development in Central and South Asia.

The change in perception of Afghanistan — not as a source of regional problems, threats and challenges but as a strategic asset to develop transregional connections across Eurasia — has proven to be an extremely positive development.

In March 2017, an international conference on Afghanistan took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, focused on the peace process, security cooperation and regional connectivity.

The conference resulted in the adoption of "The Tashkent Declaration," which established the basic principles and conditions of peaceful Afghan conflict resolution, development of the negotiations mechanism required to launch communication between the Afghan government and the armed opposition, as well as harmonization of joint international actions required to support such a process. This document is a sign that a unified approach to Afghan conflict resolution and its implementation via joint efforts may make significant contributions to the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan and the restoration of the nation.

Moreover, Uzbekistan has been strengthening its initiatives through practical involvement with the implementation of a number of projects aimed at restoration of Afghanistan's economy damaged by the long war: Uzbekistan supplies Afghanistan with electric power, erects bridges, builds railroads and highways, provides humanitarian aid and develops cultural contacts.

At the same time, our nation aims at the practical implementation of the following initiatives in the areas of power production, transportation, trade and education vitally important for Afghanistan.

The first project of note is the Surkhan-Puli-Khumri power line project, 260 kilometers long. Construction of this power line will increase electric

power exports from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan by 70 percent, up to 6 billion kilowatt-hours per year.

This power line can become a part of the CASA-1000 project. The project costs \$150 million. It should be noted that energy exports to Afghanistan have grown thirtyfold since 2002. Since January 2018, Uzbekistan has reduced the cost of the energy exported to Afghanistan by 35 percent.

The second project is the construction of railway lines connecting Mazar-e Sharif with Herat and Mazar-e Sharif with Kabul and Peshawar, Pakistan. The first line will be an extension of the Hairaton-Mazar-e Sharif railroad line; the second will become a part of the transportation corridor to connect the European Union, Russia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, India and Southeastern Asia nations.

The launch of the Mazar-e Sharif-Herat project, costing approximately \$3 billion, will make a significant contribution to the economic recovery of Afghanistan. It will provide employment for 30,000 Afghans and make it possible for Kabul to receive up to \$500 million in transit fees. It is predicted that the project will allow for the movement of 5.3 million tons of cargo during the first year, with subsequent growth to as many as 15 million tons per year.

Moreover, the Surkhan-Puli-Khumri-Doshi-Surabay-Jelalabad-Peshawar power line is to be built alongside the new railroad, which will provide it with electricity.

The third project Uzbekistan is supporting is the training of Afghan specialists. An educational center for the training of Afghan citizens was established in Termiz. Its principal task is to educate and train specialists based on higher educational curricula (17 programs) and professional education curricula (16 programs). About 130 students study at the center. Training lasts two years and culminates in the granting of a bachelor's degree. There are plans for the center to expand.

Boosting trade with Afghanistan is another important focus for Uzbekistan. An international logistics center called Termiz Cargo with a customs terminal has been established in Termiz. The center is to promote export-import and transit cargo flows between the two nations with an opportunity to reach European and Asian markets.

A number of commercial operations producing finished commodities required for Afghan projects and programs are planned as part of the specially created economic free zone Termiz.

Uzbekistan is also considering establishing cooperation with Afghanistan in vehicles, agricultural equipment and textile production. In addition, Uzbek specialists are considering assisting Afghans to develop promising deposits of oil and gas in northern Afghanistan.



improvements in education, health care and democracy. While in Afghanistan during the October 2018 parliamentary elections, she was encouraged even further by citizens' embrace of democracy.

"What most struck me on this trip was a young cab driver I met — a father of five who relied on daily wages for food and shelter," she said. "On day two of the elections, he spent seven hours waiting to vote — seven hours when each hour spent waiting meant less money for his children."

Col. Olimjon Samatov, representative of Uzbekistan's chief of Defense, Intelligence Department, said his country supports the decision to launch negotiations among the key forces in the Afghan conflict without any preconditions or threats of violence. Support from regional and international countries and organizations such as the United Nations is important for the peace process to succeed.

"We are convinced that Afghanistan must remain at the center of the global agenda, and our common resolve to promote peace should not be weakened," Col. Samatov told *Unipath*.

Like many of the attendees, the representative from Uzbekistan acknowledged the importance of Afghan stability to regional stability.

"It is critical for Uzbekistan to use this conference as a tool to discuss new trends and real security problems, have an exchange on important issues and development of effective measures, which provide an opportunity to strengthen regional stability," he said. The country's goal,

he said, is to ensure Central Asia remains safe, secure and economically dynamic.

ISIS' loss of territorial control in places such as Syria and the return of foreign fighters from Central Asia create new threats to national defense and regional security. ISIS-Khorasan is adapting by focusing on high-profile attacks in cities. Security forces must continue thwarting these threats from terrorists, violent extremist organizations and transnational criminals. With regional and international cooperation, military intelligence organizations can more effectively thwart terrorist financing efforts, human trafficking, drug smuggling and terror attacks. Coordination and support from Central Asian countries will remain critical.

The Central and South Asia Directors of Military Intelligence Conference is one of more than 500 military-to-military events supported by CENTCOM each year to share information and build relationships. By openly exchanging ideas, partners can improve security and undermine the nefarious efforts of terrorists and violent extremists.

"By improving international cooperation and information sharing, we can find practical solutions to our common security threats," said Cari Gast-Mulherin, vice director of military intelligence at CENTCOM. ♦

Roya Rahmani (left), Afghan ambassador to the United States, speaks with officials from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the United States during the Central and South Asia Directors of Military Intelligence Conference.



**IRAQ'S INTERIOR MINISTRY BUILDS PROFESSIONALISM
WITH POSTGRADUATE DEGREES IN MODERN POLICING**

ABBAS ABD FARIH, IRAQI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

After our security forces achieved great victories over Daesh terrorists, the need to develop and train skilled personnel to fortify the domestic front has become an indispensable requirement enabling Iraq to join the ranks of secure major powers.

Having felt the need to find ways to shape minds, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior has granted the Higher Institute for Security and Administrative Development space to open more than one postgraduate diploma program in specializations that will achieve quantum leaps, accelerating the education process and saving time.

Dean of the Higher Institute Maj. Gen. Dr. Yasser Abdul Jabbar Mohammed described the path to creating the curriculum to achieve a postgraduate diploma:

“We cannot achieve different results — results that meet our ambitions and aspirations — if we take the same routes,” the general said. “We promised ourselves as officers and employees of the Higher Institute that we would bring about change. We noticed the impact specifically in the Graduate Studies Section, where courses were abridged and limited in qualifications, and the curricula lacked a clear focus. This adversely cast a shadow over accreditation of well-established university institutions in our beloved Iraq.”

The Higher Institute’s Board of Directors therefore held a meeting, chaired by the Senior Undersecretary Aqeel Al Khazali. Other participants included the minister of interior advisor Lt. Gen. Yassin Al-Yasseri, the inspector general, the dean of the Police Academy, the dean of the Higher Institute, the Institute’s assistant academic dean, and the director of the Graduate Studies Section.

The objective was to draw up an academic and training road map. The most important path on the map was to concentrate on matching the qualifications of the candidate for admission to the

specialization in the postgraduate diploma program. This was in addition to expanding academic offerings, adopting a master’s degree curricula in the faculties of the University of Baghdad, enriching the curricula in those faculties by bringing in graduate studies professors, and adopting curricula, units, credit hours and selection mechanisms.

Some of this well-considered security curricula is Creating Sustainable Security, by the senior undersecretary; Ways to Combat Corruption, by the inspector general; and Private International Law, Citizenship and Residence, and Field Applications, by Lt. Gen. Yassin Al-Yasseri. Other topics will focus on intelligence efforts and quality operations.

With God’s blessing, three departments were launched at the 28th session of the Higher

Institute: Law and Criminal Policy, Security Management, and Technology and Information Security. The deanship of the Faculty of Law, represented by Dean Dr. Ali Mutasher, played a prominent role in planning the academic curricula, while Faculty of Management Technology Dean Dr. Sattar Al-Bayati, Dr. Sarmad Al-Shamri, Dr. Baidai’, and a select group of senior management sciences professors played a role in nurturing and supporting the Security Management Department.

Al-Nahrain University, represented by its President Dr. Nabeel Kadim Abid Al-Sahib, Dean of Information Technology Mohammed Zaki, Dr. Mahmoud, Dr. Bayan, and a select group of accredited information technology professors, contributed to shaping minds to create qualitatively elite officers (Slogan: Our Tomorrow Is Better Than Our Today), as ordered by the esteemed minister of interior.

It also fulfills the senior undersecretary’s aspirations to distinguish the Interior Ministry and enrich educational and training goals in an unparalleled way. Thus, under the leadership’s auspices and guidance, we will proceed to open two essential departments in the field of reinforcing security and public order: Security Media and



Criminal Psychology. We are also planning, in the short term, for the launch of the Public Policy and Development Department and the Security Studies Department, in English, within the requirements for earning the postgraduate diploma in Internal Security Forces Sciences.

Theses written by postgraduate students were reviewed for language by more than 70 university professors who hold doctorates. More than 70 other professors also participated to evaluate the theses academically in accordance with sanctioned university academic and methodological processes. We also involved more than 350 professors and ministry leaders with advanced degrees and experience to discuss the research and enrich it with corrective comments. These participants included university presidents, deans of faculties, academic department chairs, legal scholars, and veteran academics, who all came to be impressed with the academic transformation and intellectual and methodological enrichment experienced by the ministry's officers. They called on the officers to launch a new, final curriculum based on the slogan "The Ministry of Interior Reborn."

Maintaining a commitment to discipline among the ranks of the students is one of the most important goals after they are admitted.

Jurist Brig. Gen. Haitham Abdul Jabbar Kazem, the administration and finance assistant at the Higher Institute, noted that military discipline reigns at the institute. In return, the institute provides for student officers' needs for the duration of their studies.

"This originates in the institute's belief that academic personnel must be refined and trained to be the core of a well-structured institution," Brig. Gen. Haitham said. "From the first moment the student officers are admitted, they are read the rights they enjoy and the duties placed on their shoulders for the duration of the course. These rights include the provision of adequate housing set up for study and that they will be equipped with everything to ensure the success of their educational progress, outfitting them with modern laptops, rooms equipped with the latest devices and furnishings, and other materials."

Aside from possessing one of the most important libraries among security institutions, the

Iraqi Police Academy students march at their graduation ceremony.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





institute also provides a gymnasium for exercise and recreation and vehicles to transport postgraduate students to and from the main gates to lessen the burden on those who do not have a private car. Students are required to adhere strictly to military discipline, from wearing the uniform to being on time for lectures, as well as engaging seriously with the lecturing professors.

Brig Gen. Haitham belongs to a committee set up to identify applicants' readiness and knowledge of their specialization. The committee learns more about the applicant's personality, capabilities, manner of answering questions, and dress. It notes his adherence to the official uniform and attention to grades and ranks, all of which qualify the officer for a seat in the postgraduate diploma program.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Ammar Jasem Hashem, associate academic dean at the Higher Institute, focused on creating specializations that paralleled the ministry's responsibilities. The nature of the tasks placed on the shoulders of the security establishment for all the ministry's divisions shaped the sciences and knowledge necessary for the students in the postgraduate diploma program. (criminal law, information security, security media and criminal psychology).

Officers must hold the rank of captain and higher, provided that they are no older than 45 and have a bachelor's degree in the desired specialization. The academic units are arranged successively to increase the officers' expertise in the various facets of the security sector as appropriate to the

Iraqi federal police celebrate Police Day in Baghdad in January 2019.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Continued on page 19

Interior Ministry **SERVES MOSUL**

AHMAD SAAD, AL HARIS, BAGHDAD

As a service to citizens of the liberated region, over 1.6 million identity papers have been processed



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

After invading Mosul, Daesh terrorist gangs tried to obliterate the identity and culture of the city — carrying out a rabid campaign of destruction of monuments, setting fire to all government files and destroying its institutions.

They started by destroying proof of identification papers for all citizens. They had planned the ethnic and demographic cleansing of the population but failed in the face of the great effort exerted by members of the Directorate of Civil Status, Passports and Residence of Nineveh governorate under the Ministry of the Interior.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Khalid Awni Khattab, director of the department, explained how he and his staff coped with the crisis.

“Operations at the Nineveh Governorate Civil Status Directorate were halted for a period of six months when the terrorist gangs took control of the governorate. In the meantime, the General Directorate of Nationality activated an alternate civil status directorate for Nineveh at the offices of the Civil Status Directorate on Al-Rashid Street in Baghdad. It operated for six months until another site was selected for Nineveh’s Civil Status Directorate,” the brigadier general said.

The directorate was restructured after obtaining official approvals from the Ministry of the Interior. Thereafter, the Nineveh Nationality Directorate began issuing civil status and Iraqi nationality identity cards for displaced citizens outside the city of Mosul at its

alternate site in Shekhan district in January 2015. Other offices were opened in the governorates of Baghdad, Najaf, Dohuk and Erbil.

“All of these offices started receiving citizens and processing their paperwork until the city of Mosul was freed. Once it was cleared and restructured, work was resumed at the offices of the Nineveh Civil Status Directorate [CSD],” Brig. Gen. Khalid said. “Operations are ongoing at all branch circuits of the Nineveh CSD; not a single CSD office in Nineveh governorate is halted. All are working hard to complete citizens’ paperwork and issue the documents they need.”

Brig. Gen. Khalid confirmed that paperwork is processed exclusively in the Nineveh governorate. The substitute offices were no longer needed and were closed by the ministry. The workload is intense. The director noted that the CSD completed 1.63 million documents in 2018, including civil status identity documents, passports, nationality certificates, and information cards.

The Nineveh CSD coordinates wonderfully with the Kurdistan region, where the directorate’s detachments serve camps of displaced people and provide residents a means to submit their paperwork to be processed at the circuit offices. The completed documents are delivered to the citizens in the camps.

Nineveh CSD is rehabilitating a suitable building in accordance with the nationality identity card project implementation plan, including halls, computers, visitor amenities and waiting rooms. Once these preparations

“All of these offices started receiving citizens and processing their paperwork until the city of Mosul was freed. Once it was cleared and restructured, work was resumed at the offices of the Nineveh Civil Status Directorate.”

– Brig. Gen. Khalid

have been completed, new circuit offices will be activated, one after another, and absorbed into the unified national identity card system.

“This national identity card system will most certainly start to be used in the near future in the Nineveh Civil Status Directorate,” Brig. Gen. Khalid said.

Nineveh governorate has one airport, Mosul Airport, and one border crossing, Rabia border port, but neither is operational.

The governorate’s lone active passport office is insufficient to handle the heavy flow of paperwork in Nineveh governorate, where the population exceeds 4 million. But the passport office operates morning and evening shifts to provide better service to citizens and improve and accelerate document processing as much as possible, considering the available staff. As of early 2019, about 800 to 1,000 passports were issued daily.

Brig. Gen. Khalid stressed his intention to reopen the other Nineveh passport office in the governorate complex as soon as the building is ready. That building hosts the CSD because its original building was destroyed. Once a new building is ready for the CSD, the other Nineveh passport office will reopen. There is also a proposal to open a third office, in the district of Tel Afar.

The Ministry of the Interior’s actions exemplify the great strides made by the Iraqi government in restoring services to districts liberated from terrorism. Such actions restore citizens’ faith in government and reduce the appeal of extremists’ messaging.

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nature of the mission and the necessities arising from security challenges, as well as the needs the ministry anticipates and the type of service it offers in its various divisions.

The curriculum mimics postgraduate diploma and master’s programs in Iraqi universities, with the addition of enriching lectures and systematic lessons in security and management sciences in all departments. When practical experiences are blended with knowledge, the Ministry gains scientifically qualified personnel well versed in the law. Judgments and orders will therefore be implemented and enforced in a way that leaves no room for doubt, because the Higher Institute is the only institution in the ministry that grants postgraduate degrees.

Research is conducted along the lines of Iraqi universities. Dr. Ismail Obaid Alwan, director the Graduate Studies Department, said students require the approval of academic committees to begin research and must do so under the tutelage of two academic advisors, one an academic from the Ministry of Higher Education, the other a professional from the Ministry of Interior with a degree, expertise, and experience in police work.

Lt. Col. Nateq Shaker, director of Registration and Admissions, said the application process begins when the Higher Institute approaches the agencies and all their offices and informs them that a session is opening for the postgraduate diploma and how applicants are received. Groups of applicants are scheduled through committees that the Higher Institute’s deanships form for organizing the files, entering data electronically, and conducting physical fitness tests, a medical examination, and computer and English language tests.

To ensure that everyone is treated fairly and that the worthiest applicants receive seats in the postgraduate program, there is a written competitive examination in addition to the personal interview and other required exams. The Higher Institute’s deanships provide specialized questions and general police questions through a specialized academic committee by asking the applicants questions. The officers applying compete to provide the appropriate answers, which are then presented to a grading committee, which assigns the scores. Through the lines he writes during the examination, the officer demonstrates his personality and knowledge in general and in his specialization. This gives him the chance to shine competitively.

“We have a comprehensive database of those who are not admitted for the session, which is retained after archiving,” Lt. Col. Nateq said. “As for those who meet all the requirements and pass the tests, we send their files to the Graduate Studies Section to enroll them in the desired session.” ♦

EGYPT

Confronts Terrorism

**COORDINATING MILITARY AND
CIVILIAN EFFORTS REQUIRES
ADOPTION OF A NATIONAL
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY**

DR. EMAN RAGAB, HEAD OF SECURITY AND MILITARY RESEARCH AT
EGYPT'S AL-AHRAM CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES



Egyptian Soldiers and U.S. Marines approach a simulated embassy to secure it from would-be terrorists during Bright Star 2018.

STAFF SGT. JUSTIN WARREN/U.S. AIR FORCE

Countering terrorism is a national priority for the Egyptian government. In his speech on January 23, 2019, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi called terrorism the “most significant threat” to national security.

Since 2014, Egypt has been encountering a wave of domestic terrorism not only in North Sinai but also in the Nile Valley. That wave is led by diverse terrorist entities; some are affiliated with the Salafi/jihadist doctrine and the Muslim Brotherhood, such as Hasm and Liwaa al Thawra. Others are linked to al-Qaida, such as Ansar al-Islam, and the third group is partly inspired by Daesh’s ideology, such as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis and a small Daesh cell active in upper Egypt.

This article argues that the counterterrorism policies adopted by Egypt since 2014 have developed by building on lessons learned from confrontations with the terrorists. It is becoming obvious that the government is not relying on military measures alone, because these measures can defeat the terrorists for a while but do not prevent them from reconstituting themselves. Instead, Egypt desires to counter terrorism through a comprehensive approach that

combines military and nonmilitary measures.

The first goal is to defeat and weaken existing terrorists. The government adopted counterterrorism and terrorist entities laws in 2015 that serve as main reference points to charge and prosecute terrorists in courts.

At the operational level, the Armed Forces and the police are the law enforcement organizations tasked with combating the terrorists by tracking, monitoring and dismantling their transnational networks. The Armed Forces apply various techniques to accurately locate terrorists in heavily populated areas and engage them militarily after taking measures to protect civilians.

After launching the counterterrorism operation Sinai 2018 in February 2018, the government inaugurated a new counterterrorism command on the eastern side of the Suez Canal. The government is responsible for coordinating and following up the military and security measures implemented to defeat the terrorists within the framework of Sinai 2018.

The second goal of Egypt’s counterterrorism approach is to prevent victims of terrorism from being recruited

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AN INTERVIEW WITH *Dr. Eman Ragab*

UNIPATH STAFF

Dr. Eman Ragab is one of Egypt’s top experts in matters of domestic and regional security. She was honored by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in 2018 as the first place winner of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization’s “Arab Youth Award.” She was the first female Egyptian researcher under 35 years old to receive that award. After receiving a Ph.D in political science from Cairo University, she graduated from the National Defense College at Nasser Academy for Military Sciences as a fellow in national security and strategic studies. She was honored by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Minister of Defense and Military Production and has received a distinguished civilian’s certificate in recognition of her excellence and dedication. She serves as the head of security and military research at Egypt’s Al-Ahram

Center for Political and Strategic Studies. In her role at the venerable think tank, she contributes to security policy making on issues such as counterterrorism, conflict prevention, crisis management and international security. She recently completed a fellowship at the NATO Defense College in Italy, where she researched how North African countries cooperate with NATO in the area of countering terrorism. Reached in Cairo in January 2019, Dr. Eman discussed Egypt’s role in regional security for the benefit of *Unipath* readers:

Unipath: *How does Egypt cooperate not only with NATO but also with Arab partners to ensure regional security?*

DR. EMAN: Egypt is very active in strengthening regional and international security, not only in counterterrorism but in other security threats. One of the platforms on which this cooperation is done is the Arab coalition established by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Egypt joined that coalition in 2015 and has also taken part in every military maneuver and training that has taken place under the umbrella of the Islamic Coalition. Some of these focused on strengthening capacity and capabilities in the area of counterterrorism. Egypt also tries to help other African countries to counter terrorism effectively by offering them training courses and building capacity, especially in the Sahel and Saharan countries such as Chad, Mali

and Nigeria. Egypt also established the Regional Center for Countering Terrorism in the Sahel/Sahara Region and its headquarters was officially opened in the second half of 2018. Also, Egypt took part in many training courses organized by the NATO Centre of Excellence in Madrid in the area of countering improvised explosive devices and the Centre of Excellence for countering terrorism in Ankara. Egyptian cooperation with NATO is more customized to the needs of Egypt. Also, Egypt is very keen on increasing relationships with countries, including the United States, Italy, Germany and France. Bilateral relationships usually come with more opportunities for cooperation, not only in counterterrorism and intelligence sharing, but also in military weapons procurement and other specific areas.

Unipath: Tell us about your work at Al-Ahram and the NATO Defense College.

DR. EMAN: My title at Al-Ahram is senior associate and head of the military and security research unit. My focus is on security developments in the region, particularly the Middle East and North Africa. Regarding the NATO Defense College, I had been there as a resident research fellow since September 2018, and I returned to Egypt in December 2018. One of the requirements of the fellowship was to work on a research paper, and I have submitted my paper titled "Counterterrorism with Partners?: Aspects and prospects of Cooperation between NATO, Egypt and Tunisia." I have interviewed more than 20 officials from the ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs in Egypt and Tunisia, as well officials from NATO Headquarters in order to get an accurate assessment of the development and scope of cooperation in the area of counterterrorism between the Alliance and Tunisia and Egypt. Also, one of the goals of the fellowship is to understand the political environment and be able to develop applicable policy recommendations for NATO and the partner countries as well as other countries.

Unipath: How does the Al-Ahram Center support Egyptian government?

DR. EMAN: It is one of the oldest research centers in Egypt and the Arab region. It was established in 1968. It's been acting as a think tank for the government and different institutions

including the Armed Forces on issues relevant to national security and Egypt's relations with the world. Acting as a think tank, its activities depends on what is being requested by the government. The center works on issues of democratization, civil-military relationships, fighting corruption and centralization, counterterrorism and counter radicalization, and sustainable development. The center itself maintains constructive relationships with the government circles in Egypt, and at the same time it has its own state of academic freedom to research different topics.

Unipath: What key factors draw youths to extremism?

DR. EMAN: It's very difficult to say that economic factors are the only drivers for youth radicalization. I have been conducting interviews with Egyptians who are considered to be radicalized or practicing violence. I concluded that there's a combination of religious, economic, social and personal reasons that motivate them to be more radical. This combination needs to be countered by different policies, not only by the government but civil society. Focusing only on the economic side is not useful in explaining why there are a number of young people not only in Egypt but all around the world who belong to wealthy families and are employed, some with decent high quality jobs, but at the same time adopt radical ideas. The current wave of radicalization requires a new approach that can map the complex matrix of motivations that push them toward joining a radical organization.

Unipath: How have Egyptian security forces evolved to meet threat of terrorist groups such as Ansar Bait el Maqdis or Wilayat Sinai?

DR. EMAN: The Ministry of Defense has adopted a number of new policies since 2014. The first was the announcement of a national policy for countering terrorists. It defines the use of military force and police institutions in countering terrorist both in north Sinai and the Nile Valley. These policies have developed to take the form of the Sinai 2018 military operation. Besides that, the Ministry of Defense announced the establishment of a joint command for countering terrorism. It is located on the western side of the Suez Canal, and it plans and supervises operations in Northern Sinai and the Nile Valley. The Armed Forces have striven to reach

a balance between respecting the law and honoring international commitments of Egypt while at the same time weakening and defeating terrorists. The Law Enforcement Forces have adopted measures since 2014 to handle the social and economic conditions leading to terrorism along with reforming the religious discourse.

Unipath: What is the role of Egypt's Al-Azhar University in helping young people avoid radicalization?

DR. EMAN: It is only a university, but the institutions playing the most important role in countering radicalization among youth are three religious institutions: Al-Azhar institution, Dar Al-Ifta'a, and the Ministry of Awqaf. Each has its own programs. For example Al-Azhar has online watchdogs to counter radical ideology, in foreign languages as well as Arabic, and also online training programs and capacity-building campaigns to build awareness among youth about religious concepts used by radical organizations. Dar Al-Ifta'a focuses more on research and manages to publish many manuals and handbooks to help the parents to track radical ideas being adopted by their own children. The Ministry of Awqaf is responsible for monitoring and supervising mosques in Egypt. It also tries to ensure that imams in these mosques are not adopting radical ideas and not recruiting youth.

Unipath: How has Egypt tried to sever the connection between regional and domestic terrorists?

DR. EMAN: I may highlight three approaches adopted by Egypt in this regard. First, the Regional Center for Countering Terrorism in the Sahel/Sahara Region tries to develop security cooperation agreements with those countries to counter the terrorists crossing the borders of Libya into Sudan and Egypt. Second, Egypt is negotiating with the European Union and NATO about how to receive training for controlling borders through using advanced technology. There is an understanding in Egypt that controlling borders is an important step toward weakening the transnational logistic network the terrorists are relying on. Third, Egypt is keen in its high-level meetings with NATO to discuss the importance of launching a program to monitor and sever the maritime networks used by terrorists not only in the Mediterranean but also in the Red Sea.



Egyptian Sailors board a U.S. naval ship during training on the Mediterranean Sea, part of the multinational Bright Star 2018 exercise. SENIOR AIRMAN DAWN M. WEBER/U.S. AIR FORCE

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as new members of terrorist organizations. The government is keen on helping victims and those suffering from the counterterrorism measures adopted especially in the confrontation areas.

Providing them economic and financial compensation is important to inoculate Egyptian citizens — especially young people and women — against terrorists who tend to use economic and financial enticements to recruit new members. Such compensation also builds cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

The government is also implementing mega-development projects in North Sinai and in other areas menaced by terrorists to enhance living conditions.

It is worth mentioning that government agencies offer compensation on a case-by-case basis. For example, after the attack on Al-Rawda Mosque in Bir el-Abd in November 2017, President el-Sissi ordered payment of 200,000 Egyptian pounds to the families of each of those killed and 50,000 Egyptian pounds to each injured victim.

The Ministry of Education also waived fees at government schools for the children of those killed, and offspring of martyrs receive hiring priority in government

offices. Nongovernmental agencies are playing a limited role in this area.

Egypt's counterterrorism approach includes a third goal: tackling the religious radical ideas leading to terrorism.

The country's three religious institutions — Al-Azhar, Dar Al-Ifta'a and the Ministry of Awqaf (or Endowment) — have developed many programs aimed at refuting the radical religious discourse of terrorist organizations through face-to-face communication inside mosques and through online interactions. These institutions are also cooperating with civil-society organizations to reach out to the masses in villages in Upper Egypt in particular.

It is important to mention that overemphasizing radical religious ideas as the main driver for terrorism overlooks in many cases the personal, economic and social dimensions that drive terrorism. Also, efforts in this domain remain dispersed among the three religious institutions without a coordinating body.

Even though these counterterrorism policies are well underway, five main challenges could influence their effectiveness.



Egyptian and Jordanian special operations forces complete security checks during field training.

SENIOR AIRMAN DAWN M. WEBER/U.S. AIR FORCE

The first challenge is the continued armed conflict in Libya, a country that shares a border with Egypt. Every so often, the western border of the country is infiltrated by terrorists, criminals and smugglers originating in Libya.

For instance, a Libyan terrorist, along with a cell of four others, managed to sneak into Egypt in the middle of 2016 to create an al-Qaida-inspired cell called Ansar al-Islam. In October 2017, this cell ambushed a Soldier and kidnapped a police officer.

The second challenge is related to how to institutionalize the help provided for the victims of terrorism. The 2015 counterterrorism law does not define who is a victim and who has a right to compensation. A draft law on victims of terrorism has not yet been ratified by the Egyptian Parliament.

The third challenge is how to build genuine and effective partnerships with citizens and civil society to combat terrorism and radicalism. This partnership is crucial because the terrorists are active in heavily populated areas in the Nile Valley and rely on improvised explosive devices that are best neutralized

through genuine partnerships with citizens.

The fourth challenge is the limited role played by the councils responsible, according to the Egyptian Constitution, for outlining national security strategies and counterterrorism policies.

Activating these councils is important and can be done by appointing expert researchers and academics in the field to their boards and general secretariats.

The final challenge is the absence of a national strategy for countering terrorism and radicalism that can guide the policies implemented on the ground, especially by the civilian stakeholders.

The Armed Forces and the police have their own military and security strategies that guide their operations. But civilian stakeholders are adopting many measures without coordinating with each other or with the security forces, especially while trying to help victims of terrorism and counter radical ideas.

The development of such a national strategy will help coordinate all efforts — both military and civilian — and lead to efficient and effective counterterrorism policies. ♦



Afghanistan Tackles TERROR FINANCE

The country monitors suspicious financial transactions in cooperation with foreign partners

NESAR YOSUFZAI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINTRACA

UNIPATH ILLUSTRATION

Fiscal year 2018 highlighted a series of constraints and challenges that the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Afghanistan (FinTRACA) endured and successfully overcame. The center continued making great efforts to improve collection, analysis and dissemination of reports that form the core functions of FinTRACA.

In pursuit of building capacity and enhancing the ability of reporting entities to detect money laundering and terror financing red flags and improve the quality of suspicious transaction reports and large cash transaction reports, the center provided reporting entities with technical assistance and training programs.

As a result, in 2018 the center increased large cash transaction reports by 21 percent, for a total of 1.4 million reports. Suspicious transaction reports numbered 767, an increase of 59 percent over the year before. It is worth mentioning that suspicious transaction reports received by FinTRACA in 2018 were of higher quality and well-diversified.

Data collected in 2018 for analysis was also influenced by new sectors added to the list of reporting entities. This addition increased our sphere of work and scope of influence concerning our fight against money laundering and terror finance.

In terms of analysis of reports and financial information, FinTRACA has made tremendous efforts to provide value-added products to law enforcement agencies, including Afghanistan's Attorney General's Office. The FinTRACA staff has worked on its analytical capabilities and has received specialized training aimed at building capacity.

Analysts now engage more with stakeholders, enabling the analysts to grasp an overall picture of their cases. Some cases are investigated pre-emptively without being triggered by suspicious transaction reports.

In 2018, the center undertook a new approach of disseminating financial information to multiple law enforcement agencies, maximizing the efforts of our Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

As information is disseminated to concerned agencies, the suspects referenced in financial reports find escaping justice to be more challenging. Statistics compiled at the end of 2018 showed a 44.4 percent increase in cases analyzed by FinTRACA concerning suspected crimes such as terror finance and laundering of criminal proceeds. Filtered and endorsed through 19 FIU executive committee meetings

during the year, a total of 47 spontaneous cases were disseminated to relevant agencies.

In addition to the spontaneous disseminations, FinTRACA received 251 domestic requests for analysis from agencies and responded to 241 — a response rate of 96 percent. The number of requests showed a 39 percent increase compared to those in 2017, reflecting the improving strength and sustainability of interagency cooperation.

FinTRACA's scope of analysis also included financial analysis of reports received from the Customs and Revenue departments of the Ministry of Finance concerning tax and customs duty evasion. FinTRACA not only disrupts tax and customs duty evasion, it also exposes the misuse of trade by targeted subjects.

To improve the effectiveness of disseminating financial information to agencies, FinTRACA continued providing training and coaching support, focusing on methods to interpret and use the information.

FinTRACA also shined in responding to international requests. Signing new memoranda of understanding in 2018 increased FinTRACA's scope of international cooperation, resulting in increased information exchange with foreign financial intelligence units.

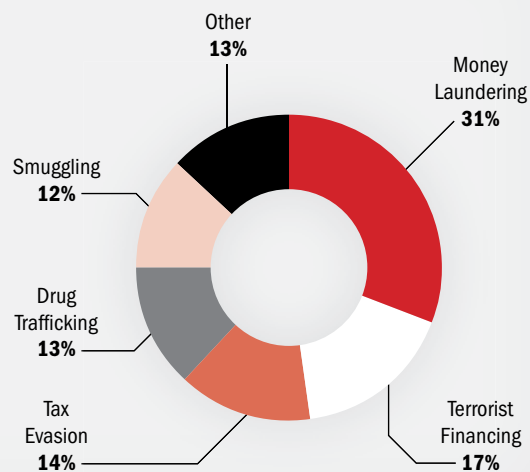
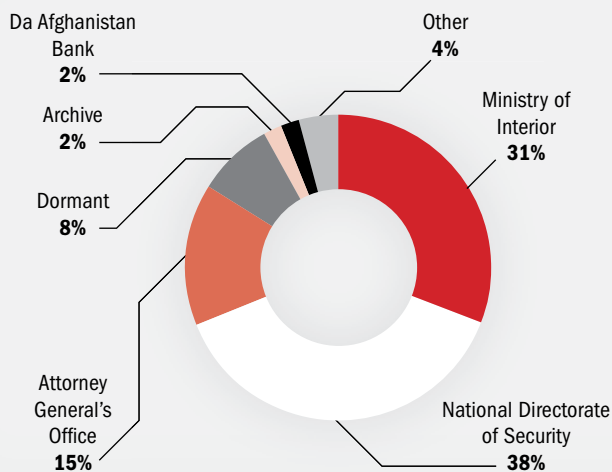
In 2018, FinTRACA was mindful of the ultimate outcome of its anti-money laundering and counterterror finance measures. Efforts were made to improve the feedback process from law enforcement, which included many senior-level discussions in the FIU during the year.

High-level government officials took part in key discussions at High Council of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption meetings. The council issued resolutions to relevant bodies aimed at better coordination with intelligence units, improving feedback. Meanwhile, a feedback database was established within the FIU to track cases disseminated to law enforcement.

FinTRACA made other valuable contributions. The year marked the first steps by the Afghan government to establish the Office of Asset Recovery to recover assets dispersed through corruption and other criminal offenses. FinTRACA worked with the Asset Recovery Office within the Attorney General's Office to facilitate this national project. FinTRACA reviewed the regulations governing asset recovery and recommended changes to enhance success.

FinTRACA contributed to national-level projects, such as coordinating the National Money Laundering/Terror Finance Risk Assessment and financial verification of declared assets

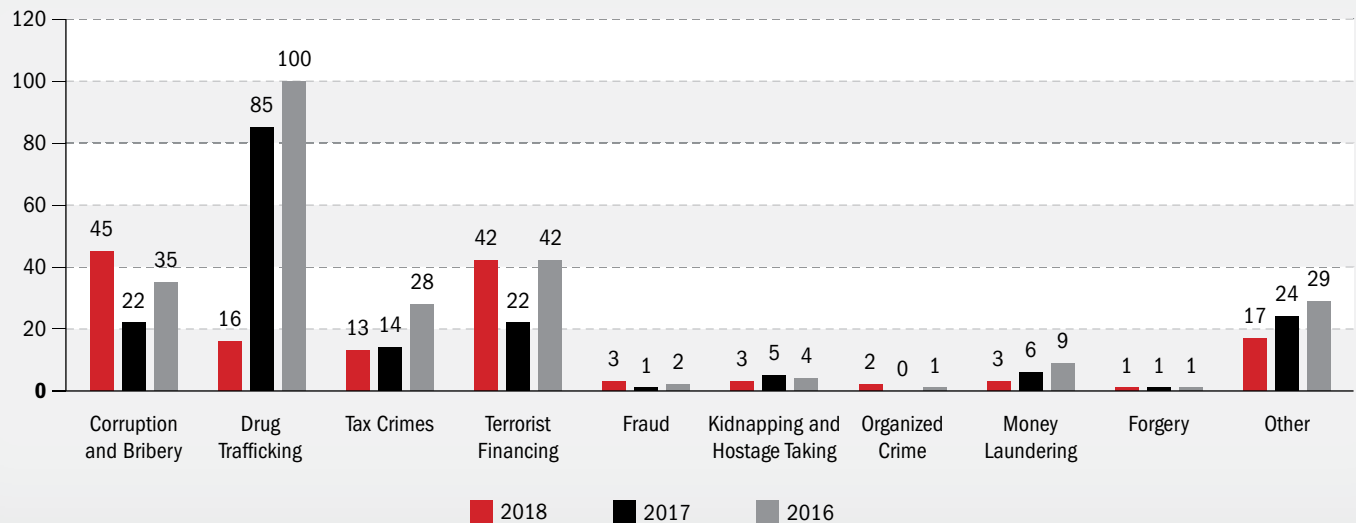
A breakdown of the Afghan agencies FinTRACA disseminated reports to (left) and the types of cases involved (right)



FinTRACA's agreements with financial intelligence units in other countries.

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT'S NAME	COUNTRY	DATE
Committee on Financial Monitoring	Kazakhstan	May 2018
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)	Australia	April 2018
State Financial Monitoring Service of Ukraine (SFMS)	Ukraine	November 2017
Korean Financial Intelligence Unit (KoFIU)	Korea	July 2017
China Anti-Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center (CAMLMAC)	China	February 2017
Anti-Money Laundering Division, Investigation Bureau (AMLID)	Taiwan	October 2016
Financial Monitoring Department (FMD)	Tajikistan	September 2015
Turkmenistan Financial Intelligence Unit (TFIU)	Turkmenistan	August 2015
U.K. Financial Intelligence Unit at the National Crime Agency (UKFIU)	United Kingdom	June 2014
Saudi Arabia Financial Intelligence Units (SAFIU)	Saudi Arabia	July 2013
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)	United States	July 2012
Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU)	Bangladesh	July 2009
Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK)	Turkey	February 2008
Mongolian Financial Intelligence Unit (MFIU)	Mongolia	July 2008
Sri Lanka Financial Intelligence Unit (SFIU)	Sri Lanka	February 2008
Department of Financial Monitoring (DFM)	Belarus	June 2007
Federal Financial Monitoring Service (FEMS)	Russia	2007
State Financial Intelligence Service (SFIS)	Kyrgyzstan	2007

A three-year breakdown of crimes associated with FinTRACA's analytical reports



of high-ranking government officials. It signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Procurement Authority to further improve transparency and limit access of financial criminals to public projects.

To enforce compliance, FinTRACA assessed 5.62 million afghanis in fines on banking institutions and money service providers, closed noncompliant bank accounts, suspended or revoked the business licenses of 25 money service providers, and disseminated analyses of unlicensed lenders in seven zones across the country.

With respect to human resource capabilities, 2018 saw additions to our workforce. Structural enlargement at FinTRACA saw the addition of three key functions — research and awareness, a non-banking financial institutions division and an international cooperation division.

The center's human resource structure increased to meet higher expectations and adapt to specialized task management. Increasing human resources will result in better use of time and increased workflow.

FinTRACA signed two international memoranda of understanding, with the financial intelligence units of Australia and Kazakhstan. This increased the number of such international agreements to 18. These agreements expanded the center's scope of international cooperation and information exchange.

The center also signed two domestic memoranda with the National Procurement Authority (NPA) and the Ministry of Interior Affairs. The NPA agreement is a landmark achievement that allows the FIU to financially verify contractors.

Having completed fiscal year 2018 on a high note, we are moving forward to fiscal year 2019. Our priorities include conclusion of the National Money Laundering/Terror

Finance Risk Assessment, acquiring new technology for the FIU, improving the feedback process, building staff and reporting entities' capabilities, and continuing work with the Customs and Revenue departments.

FinTRACA will also study the nongovernmental organization and nonprofit organization sectors and work with the Asset Registration Office on verifying the assets of high-ranking government officials.

Establishing new provincial offices and improving scrutiny of cash, precious metals, gemstones and other financial instruments at land borders would increase our sphere of work and scope of influence to hinder money laundering and terror finance.

We have always emphasized capacity building and enhancing qualifications of the center's staff. I feel honored to be able to reflect upon my insistence that FIU staffers attain specialized qualifications to help them excel, and their professional capabilities have significantly improved. I have tried my best to be a source of guidance and support to all FIU staff and shall continue to do so.

To coordinate capacity-building efforts, a proposal was co-developed by FinTRACA, the Attorney General's Office, Da Afghanistan Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Based on the proposal submitted, the UNODC has deployed an anti-money laundering/counterterror finance consultant to the Anti-Corruption Justice Center.

I would like to thank all staff at FinTRACA for their hard work and dedication and congratulate them for completing another successful year. Together, we shall remain committed to fighting money laundering and terror finance and serving the people and the country. ♦

Emissary from



Afghanistan

Afghan Ambassador to the United States Roya Rahmani discusses the future of her country UNIPATH STAFF

There is no mistaking the pride that Ambassador Roya Rahmani has for the people of Afghanistan. When she shares stories of her countrymen's sacrifice, resilience and hope for the future, she speaks with humility and passion. She is not blind to the enormous challenges Afghans face in achieving and maintaining security and stability. For example, the average daily death toll in the fight against terrorism is 70-80. However, she is a determined advocate of peace.

In December 2018, Rahmani became Afghanistan's first female ambassador to the United States. Before assuming this post, she served as her country's ambassador to Indonesia, nonresident ambassador to Singapore and ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Rahmani's extensive career includes serving as director general for regional cooperation at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Unipath sat down with her on the sidelines of U.S. Central Command's fourth annual Central and South Asia Directors of Military Intelligence Conference in February 2019.

UNIPATH: Afghanistan's troops have made great sacrifices in the fight to stabilize the country. What makes them so resilient?

Ambassador Rahmani: As you rightly said, they have made huge and tremendous sacrifices, something we honor every day. I cannot speak for them, but from what I understand and the discussions that I have had with some of them, it is a desire to live a normal life where they can meet their full potential. It is a desire to provide opportunities for their children and for the future generations. Afghans have suffered tremendously, and the prolonged conflict has denied them the basic necessities of life and progress in the current era. They really value any opportunities they find, and they are fighting to ensure that their sons, daughters and future generations have those opportunities.

There is also a sense of patriotism — Afghans are freedom fighters. They have always fought for their freedom and they

are patriotic. The love of the homeland is what drives them. They believe in their values, they believe in their potential. They believe in their homeland and their people. From what I understand those are some of the driving factors. But I don't think I can do justice in terms of what drives them because I am a mom myself. I cannot imagine what goes on in the minds of a mother and father when they are on the front lines fighting and they don't know whether they will return to see their children — whatever that driving force may be, it is huge, it is selfless, it is heroic. We all have passion for our country, but to the extent that they have put it to the test, I just can say *salut* to them.

UNIPATH: What are some notable achievements of Afghanistan's national defense and security forces? Where can they focus on improvement?

Ambassador Rahmani: In 2014, when over 100,000 foreign troops withdrew, many speculated, including people in my own country, that Afghanistan would fall back into civil war. They believed there would be complete chaos, that the security forces would not be able to defend our land. And our security forces proved them wrong. I don't think there can be any bigger success than that. This came at the same time as an election when a new government had taken over. It wasn't only the reduction in the number of troops that the country faced, there was a huge economic decline, due to the massive reduction of the foreign forces and fewer contracts, services and jobs available. However, that also marked the beginning of our transition from an aid dependent country to a self-reliant one. Of course, that placed huge pressure on the people and nation. And they stood the test. They fought harder.

The recent parliamentary election was the first election that our security forces alone were in charge of securing. There were incidents, but fewer than the previous incidents during parliamentary or presidential elections. And it was only the Afghan forces who were in charge of securing or



Roya Rahmani, Afghan ambassador to the United States, meets with Gen. Joseph Votel, then commander of U.S. Central Command. U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

maintaining security on election days. This is an achievement.

What areas do they need further support? One of the major areas we have been building, thanks to support from our allies, is our Air Force. It is extremely important. We started from scratch. And it is well on its way. It is being built, and we are hoping that it will be further developed.

UNIPATH: How can Afghanistan's partners ensure the stability and security of Afghanistan?

Ambassador Rahmani: Our regional partners must come to the realization that a stable, prosperous Afghanistan is to their benefit, more than an unstable Afghanistan that is struggling in conflict. They should recognize that Afghanistan cannot stay a buffer zone and remain immune to the problems of terrorism and extremism. That is no longer a possibility. They can positively contribute to the ongoing efforts toward peace and stability and look at Afghanistan as a partner directly. If they are looking at Afghanistan as a partner — and our relationship is built on what we can do together — there will be better results rather than looking at Afghanistan as a country on the periphery in their relationship with other countries.

Our international allies and friends who have so greatly and massively contributed to a better Afghanistan over the past 18 years cannot lose sight of what has been achieved. Irreversible gains have occurred through education, reform, institutionalization and, most importantly, a change of mindset. Imagine how deeply extremism could grow if it was not for the intervention. It's a matter of global security.

UNIPATH: How can Afghanistan build a stronger relationship with its neighbors in Central Asia?

Ambassador Rahmani: Central Asian partners are very important to us — for our economy, for our people to build relations with and for our regional aspirations. We have made great strides, especially in the past few years, with many Central Asian countries. Afghanistan is the shortest route connecting Central Asia to South Asia. Through transport of energy, goods, and data this region has so much potential as a great contributor to the global economy. Enhancing regional connectivity and integration will also contribute to regional security, cooperation in areas of food security, disaster management, education and people to people relations. All of which in turn will contribute to peace and prosperity for the region and globally. We are hoping we can further strengthen our relationship with Central Asian countries.

UNIPATH: What are Afghanistan's diplomatic priorities in the region and the world?

Ambassador Rahmani: Afghanistan's priority is always to keep friendly relationships and partnerships with all of its allies. We want to be a partner in the fight against terrorism. We want to be a partner in economic development. We want to be a partner in promoting the important values that are shared, like democracy, human rights, and people's civil rights and dignity. And let me add that Afghans are good friends, and it is also part of our cultural values that we put our lives on the line for our friends, but we demand respect in return. ♦

Winning Over WOMEN

THE JORDAN ARMED FORCES TRAINS FEMALE PREACHERS TO ADVISE SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

UNIPATH STAFF

Unipath met with Brig. Gen. Dr. Ibrahim Saeed Abu Aqab, dean of Prince Hassan College for Islamic Studies; Col. Muhammed Ali Al Shara, assistant dean of the college; and Maj. Dr. Khalid Al-Battush, a lecturer at the college, to discuss the program of preparing female preachers to serve in the Armed Forces of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Unipath: Tell us about the project to prepare female preachers in the Jordan Armed Forces? How did the idea crystallize and what are the objectives?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: In the name of God the Most Merciful, Most Gracious, the idea of female preachers partly came about in recognition that female Soldiers in the Armed Forces require religious preaching and moral support. We began to recruit civilian and military female preachers and assigned them duties commensurate with the needs of women in uniform for religious guidance. It is true that their functions may overlap with those of imams in the Armed Forces, but we thought women in general prefer to communicate with female preachers to address issues concerning women. Previously, student preachers did not have a preparatory program. In fact, some of them served in other branches and haven't practiced their specialty or major — Islamic Sharia — after graduation. So we assigned them duties and functions relevant to their field of study, making them preachers.

Unipath: Have trainees encountered difficulties?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: They had difficulties in the beginning, because we wanted them to enroll in educational courses and be subjected to an annual proficiency

test. We are now holding the first course to qualify the preachers, which included teaching basic subjects that they will need in preaching, such as delivering sermons, giving lessons and so on. We limited the program to basic principles at an elementary level — not an advanced level — taking into account their academic achievements and work experience. The program includes lessons of ideological education that target extremism, because we view extremism as a plague that afflicts more than just men. Extremism, which can affect both men and women, stems from a misunderstanding of Islam, and such misunderstanding includes both genders. In recognition that women are an integral part of society, we have introduced topics in the preparatory course on how women can protect against extremism.

In fact, the trainees were a little anxious in the beginning, but later they surprised us by asking to extend the course. I guess they felt the importance of what they learned at this faculty, so they wanted more of it. Why? It's because when a preacher discharges her functions with solid knowledge, she can respond to any doubts, especially the ones created by the extremists, which in turn boost the preacher's confidence in addressing heretical matters. Such heretical matters exist, so we felt the urgent need for this program, and we were encouraged to continue holding these courses.

Unipath: Col. Muhammed alluded to hesitation. Does that mean trainees were initially afraid to delve into religious matters?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: Not at all. It was not a fear of religious training, but a fear born of lack of experience in their new specialty and the recognition that this course is a first of its kind for them, especially because they have changed their official major and now specialize in a different type of work. Before this experience, some were serving in roles such as clerks and nurses. In other words, they were unable to practice a religious profession and lost some familiarity with Sharia and Islamic jurisprudence. They are now engaged in courses to refresh and/or improve their knowledge. They were a little nervous at the beginning, but as the course went on, they were impressed by the information they learned and recognized its importance to prepare them for the performance of their duties in educating women in religion.

Unipath: Could female preachers work in conflict zones or countries such as Afghanistan?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: Definitely. We ought to try dialogue and work together to win hearts and minds before resorting to the use of force. Our Jordanian sisters and daughters were with us in Afghanistan and witnessed the customs of the Afghan people. Afghans do not allow a man to enter a family's home alone, but if he is accompanied by a woman, he is welcomed. In this way, women can converse with the housewife or any other woman in the home. This is their culture, and before interacting with a given people, we have to learn and respect their culture; we have to appreciate their customs and traditions. For example, if you visit an Afghan man between 1 and 2 in the afternoon and refuse to eat whatever food he serves you, the man feels insulted, as if you have slapped him on the face. This is a tradition we must learn. If I did not know this, I would have refused to eat so as to save his family's food. So again, according to Afghan culture, the man who wants to visit another man's family should bring a woman with him to mingle with female members of his family.

Unipath: How can female preachers dissuade female extremists involved in terrorism, sympathetic to terrorist causes, or married to terrorists returning from battlefields?

Maj. Khalid: In the name of God the Most Merciful, Most Gracious, I want to add to what my brother Dr. Ibrahim said and confirm that several factors informed our decision to put forward this program of preparing female preachers to communicate with

women of all ranks in the Jordan Armed Forces. These include that women nowadays deservedly share everything with men, exercising their natural rights in this regard. So we thought to help them partake in the mission of preaching, especially at this critical time because women, too, are infected by extremism. Many women joined extremist groups under the pretext of "sexual jihad." So we felt the need to help women protect the soundness of their thoughts through the promotion of a culture of peace, coexistence and tolerance, and be equipped with awareness and knowledge. The program will help achieve this goal, and the female preachers will be able to make the desired change, especially because women understand feminine issues better than men do. Therefore, preparing female preachers will play a significant role in combating extremism in the realm of women.

Unipath: Does the concept of sexual jihad stem from a lack of comprehension of Islamic principles and should we alert women to the seriousness of such misunderstandings?

Maj. Khalid: In our Islamic tradition, no mention was made of the Prophet (peace be upon him) taking women to war to satisfy warriors' sexual desire or the like. This did not happen even during the Islamic *futuh* (conquests) that followed the death of the Prophet. To resist temptation and stay away from women during battles, the Prophet commanded Muslims to fast, saying, "You must fast as fasting is a shield." So-called sexual jihad, therefore, is a novelty in Islam and has no basis in Islamic tradition. The goal is to attract young people by seducing them with sex or money, so terrorists are striking a sensitive chord.

Prince
Hassan
College
for Islamic
Studies





A CONVERSATION WITH FEMALE MILITARY PREACHER RAYA ISAM NAZMI AL-TALHOUNI

Unipath: How did you become interested in being a preacher in the Armed Forces?

Al-Talhouni: We are honored to accept the guidance of Islam to engage and participate in civil society and contribute to its progress and welfare in cooperation with all the forces of good and reason. We want to demonstrate the soundness of our faith and our beliefs based on God's call for harmony and piety. My purpose in getting involved in religious preaching and guidance is to embody the spirit of Islam and its methodology to improve human life and promote understanding among people.

Unipath: What are your responsibilities in this role?

Al-Talhouni: We give religious lectures for various military units based on specific plans and approaches set by the Directorate of Iftaa in the Armed Forces. In addition, we visit medical patients to boost their morale, encourage a spirit of optimism, plant hope in their hearts and satisfy their need to know about religious jurisprudence on purity and prayer.

Unipath: How do female preachers support Jordan Armed Forces' missions?

Al-Talhouni: By strengthening the spirit of affiliation among military personnel, promoting concepts of good citizenship, instilling the morality of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and fighting terrorist ideology, extremism and misunderstanding of Islam.

Unipath: How can we make women aware to help them from falling into such a trap?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: There are established legal provisions known to all Muslims, but when a religious distortion is amplified, we should treat it as such and present evidence and proofs to refute it. The best way is to try to understand what the extremists mean, because we can't pass judgments on any such ideological novelty and say this is a lie, deceit or chicanery without absolute evidence. If we want to persuade any person to abandon certain ideas or cease certain practices, we ought to come up with sufficiently dissuasive arguments. We deal with extremist lies one by one, developing responses based on solid knowledge to each of them, and teach such responses to the preachers or any segment of the target audience. But if we start passing unsupported judgments — by only saying this is a heresy, this is not mentioned in the Quran or the Sunnah of the Prophet — people won't be convinced. Unless we provide clear evidence free of the slightest ambiguity, we won't refute extremists' lies. In fact, you have opened the door for us to study the case now to see how it was presented and how to respond to it.

Unipath: How can you counter terrorists such as Daesh, who, though defeated on the battlefield, might resurface with a modified religious ideology?

Brig. Gen. Ibrahim: Regardless of their names, almost all terrorist groups share common thoughts. If we succeed in immunizing our young men and women from such extremist thought — I mean if we teach them in advance — we have no reason to fear them embracing extremism. I am speaking at the level of the Jordanian state. As for the Armed Forces, thank God we have been successful in pre-empting potential future events. We at the Directorate of Iftaa penned a book concerning anti-extremism in 2005. In the pre-Daesh period, we wrote the book that became our textbook. The Jordanian strategy is usually farsighted, because we in Jordan are led by a king with penetrating insight who prepares the nation for events before they happen. In my humble opinion, among the positive results of Daesh's downfall is the exposure of their secrets and true nature. Young people are aware of the illegitimacy of the extremists' call, and I think even those who joined the organization or sympathized with it have now reconsidered their previous decisions.

Col. Mohammed: I just want to stress that we must know with certainty that this religion (Islam) is preserved, God willing, as he said in his dear scripture: "Surely we have revealed this reminder, and we will surely preserve it ourselves." The Islamic institutions in the kingdom of Jordan, such as the Ministry of Awqaf (religious affairs) and the military Directorate of Iftaa, work day and night through senior imams — the mufti, the dean and the faculty — to immunize Jordanian Soldiers. Soldiers

My purpose in getting involved in religious preaching and guidance is to embody the spirit of Islam and its methodology to improve human life and promote understanding among people.

~ preacher *Raya Isam*
Nazmi al-Talhouni



belong to every household in Jordan, so when they are taught moderate and tolerant Islam by elite scholars, they return home with a positive and accurate picture of religion. Soldiers play no less an important role than that of imams in educating their families. Because they constitute half of the society, Jordanian women rightly participate in almost all kinds of jobs, whether governmental or private. For women, female preachers understand them better than men do, and they won't hesitate to ask questions or raise issues with a fellow woman. When female preachers in the Jordan Armed Forces gain confidence and knowledge, they can spread awareness about Islam and its true teachings. What we really need for the project to succeed is sincerity and willingness, and these do exist, thank God.

Maj. Khalid: The ideology of any future terrorist group won't depart far from its contemporary or current one, because the phenomenon of deserting Islam is not new. It's deeply rooted in Islamic history — same approach, same ideas, same distortions. The only difference is the names of the groups. As the Prophet was practicing his role to arbitrate between two adversaries, one of them, Dhul-Khuwisira al-Tamimi, insulted the Prophet, saying, "O God's Messenger! Do justice." He accused the Prophet of Islam, who came to preach ethics and morality, of being unjust, so the Prophet prophesized about this

man's posterity, saying, "He has posterity who prays and fasts in such a way that you will consider your fasting negligible in comparison to his. They recite the Quran but it does not go beyond their throats, and they will desert Islam as an arrow goes through a victim's body."

At the time of the rightly guided caliphs, these people were dubbed "kharijites." They were with the army of Caliph Ali (bin Abi Talib), but they deserted during the Battle of Siffeen, deemed the caliph an apostate and assassinated him. Exactly the same ideas have been preached by contemporary extremists. Kharijites' long history of conflicts and wars continued during the Umayyad Caliphate. Islamic history recorded their fight against al-Hajjaj and Mahlab Ibna Abi Sufra. Their insurgency continued throughout history until they ended up in Egyptian prisons at the time of the well-known Gamal Abdel Nasser. They came out of the Egyptian prisons under a new name, the Takfir wal Hijra group. They deemed rulers, scholars and communities to be apostates, according to a distorted interpretation of the principles of allegiance and disavowal and the domain of God. They spread all over the world and then re-emerged under names such as al-Qaida, Daesh and other terrorist groups, all of which share the same ideology, approach and distortions. So if they reappear again in a different form, their ideology will not differ from the one that scholars, preachers and imams have already encountered. ♦



PAKISTAN *Partners for* PEACE

*The Aman-19 naval exercise drew
46 national delegations to Karachi*

UNIPATH STAFF

Launched with the motto “Together for Peace,” Pakistan’s Aman-19 naval exercise drew forces from dozens of countries around the world with a promise to combat common threats on the seas. The multinational exercise — the sixth in a series since 2007 — re-emphasized Pakistan’s commitment to naval security in a region suffering the effects of smuggling, piracy and terrorism.

The country has been an eager participant in international maritime task forces patrolling the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, commanding such missions on more than a dozen occasions. It recently formed Regional Maritime Security Patrols: joint naval operations focused on the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and South Arabian Sea.

Some of the 46 nations represented at the exercise dispatched ships to the waters off Karachi. In addition to Pakistan’s floating contingent, countries such as Oman, Great Britain and Malaysia sent naval vessels to Aman-19.

Military representatives from countries such as

Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates also attended. Each nation was honored in a flag-raising ceremony.

“We can work together, keeping our differences aside, to defeat our common adversaries. These adversaries cause threats like piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, gun running and human smuggling,” Vice Adm. Amjad Khan Niazi, commander of the Pakistan Fleet, told Aman-19 participants at the start of the exercise.

Aman-19 consisted of two phases: a harbor phase and a sea phase. A highlight of the harbor phase was an international maritime conference that lasted several days. Pakistani Chief of the Naval Staff Adm. Zafar Mahmood Abbasi visited ships of the foreign navies participating in the exercise.

Addressing the heads of the multinational delegations, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah urged those navies to join forces for the global good.

“Pakistan defines the northern shores of the Arabian Sea and is located at the crossroads between Arabian, Persian, Central Asian, Chinese and Indian

“

PAKISTAN DEFINES THE NORTHERN SHORES OF THE ARABIAN SEA AND IS LOCATED AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN ARABIAN, PERSIAN, CENTRAL ASIAN, CHINESE AND INDIAN CIVILIZATIONS. PAKISTAN THUS HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS REGION.”

— *Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah*



A multinational flotilla participates in Aman-19. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Pakistan Navy helicopter maneuvers at sea during Aman-19.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Commander of the Pakistan Fleet Vice Adm. Amjad Khan Niazi speaks during a media briefing. REUTERS

civilizations,” he said. “Pakistan thus has a vital role to play in this region.”

A highlight of the sea phase came when, before onlookers who included President Arif Alvi, Pakistan Navy Ship Moawin, commissioned just months earlier in October 2018, held a refueling demonstration with the warships Aslat and Saif.

After the rendezvous with Moawin, Aslat and Saif engaged in a rocket depth-charge firing demonstration. Troops with the Pakistan Navy’s special service group rappelled from helicopters and leapt from speedboats to assault terrorists on a beach.

Operations climaxed with an international fleet review joined by Royal Navy of Oman warship Al Rahmani.

Pakistan has been a stalwart participant in the

Combined Maritime Forces based in Bahrain. It has commanded Combined Task Force 150, with an area of operation that includes the world’s busiest shipping lanes in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman. It has also led Combined Task Force 151, formed in 2009 to combat Somali-based piracy.

Its recent embrace of Regional Maritime Security Patrols appears designed to lessen its reliance on the wider global coalition to provide regional security.

As noted in an article by the Pakistani military magazine *Hilal*, the aim is to create a “threat-free environment in Pakistan’s immediate and distant maritime neighborhood, so that economic, scientific and social activities at sea continue unhindered.”

Pakistan has expressed a desire to expand the mission’s footprint with the addition of ships from other regional partners, but so far has committed to providing two warships to continuously patrol wide swaths of the Indian Ocean.

But Pakistan’s naval commanders emphasized that potential problems at sea — particularly in critical sea lanes like those of the Middle East and South Asia — are beyond the reach of countries acting alone.

“Threats ... in the maritime domain convince us that a single nation, irrespective of its military capability or political will, is not able to negotiate those,” Vice Adm. Niazi said. ♦

— KAZAKHSTAN'S —



COMMITMENT
TO
PEACE

UNIPATH ILLUSTRATION

The country is deploying forces to multinational U.N. peacekeeping missions

SALTANAT BERDIKEEVA

In 2003, Kazakhstan sent its first international peacekeeping mission outside the boundaries of the former Soviet Union. The troops arrived in Iraq as part of the NATO-led Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in the years after the Iraqi mission, small contingents of Kazakhstani peacekeepers served around the world.

Encouraged by the success of these early missions, the Central Asian country announced plans in 2018 to widen the geographic scope of its international peacekeeping under the aegis of the United Nations.

Then President Nursultan Nazarbayev deployed Kazakhstani peacekeepers to Lebanon on October 29, 2018. About 120 Kazakh troops, including women, operate as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon alongside Indian peacekeepers. The Lebanese mission represents the largest force Kazakhstan has sent abroad since Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition, 40 peacekeepers from Kazakhstan will serve as U.N. military observers and staff officers in Cyprus, India, Pakistan, Western Sahara and the Middle East.

These well-trained and multilingual forces serve a larger role in the development of Kazakhstan, Deputy Defense Minister Talgat Mukhtarov said. They establish Kazakhstan as a bigger player on the world stage, boost the country's international prestige, and return from abroad bearing practical lessons to train and educate their military colleagues at home.

"We are convinced that the active involvement and participation of new countries in the U.N. peacekeeping, including joint deployments, will breathe new energy and greater efficiency into U.N. peacekeeping operations," Kairat Umarov, Kazakhstan's permanent representative to the U.N., told the Security Council in September 2018.

Umarov reminded the Security Council about Kazakhstan's three-pronged conflict prevention strategy: strengthening security and economic development, using a strategic regional approach to solving problems, and improving coordination among U.N. agencies. Umarov noted that Kazakhstan has played a constructive diplomatic role in trying to bring peace to Afghanistan and Syria.

As a nonpermanent member of the Security Council,

Kazakhstan held its first presidency in January 2018, during which it pushed for a peace deal in Afghanistan. It also spearheaded a Security Council delegation to Afghanistan — the first since 2010 — to get an on-the-ground assessment of the situation.

Kazakhstan held peace talks with belligerents in the Syrian civil war, which were dubbed the Astana Process, and the fourth round of such discussions led to a cease-fire agreement with Russia, Iran and Turkey in 2017. Kazakh diplomats view these experiences as instrumental to building diplomatic expertise, giving them the ability to respond to international crises and gaining them global recognition and credibility as peacemakers.

Emergence as peacekeepers

The Central Asian nation has gradually gained peacekeeping experience. By the time Kazakhstan formalized its role by ratifying a peacekeeping law in 2015, its forces had already served in Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Iraq, Tajikistan and Western Sahara. Predating those missions was a deployment during Tajikistan's civil war in the 1990s as part of the Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping contingent protecting the Tajik-Afghan border.

Kazakhstan cut the number of its peacekeeping troops in Tajikistan after 17 Soldiers were killed and 33 wounded in an ambush by competing Tajik opposition forces in 1995. In 2011, Kazakh authorities were prepared to send four military officers to join NATO in Afghanistan, but that mission was canceled for security reasons.

Since 2014, 11 officers from Kazakhstan have engaged in yearlong U.N. deployments to maintain security during the referendum in Western Sahara and keeping the peace in Côte d'Ivoire. Some of them were appointed to peacekeeping leadership positions. During the Iraq war in the early 2000s, nearly 300 Kazakhstani troops provided peacekeeping and humanitarian support over five years. Their operations included delivering humanitarian assistance, directing traffic, securing convoys, and providing perimeter and base defense.

Twenty-seven military engineers helped clear close to 5 million mines and explosives in Iraq. Kazakhstani officers

also helped purify 6,718 cubic meters of water in Iraq. Since 2005, instructors from the Kazakh Armed Forces have provided training to 572 cadets of the Iraqi Military Academy, and doctors from Kazakhstan worked closely with the medical personnel of the American base “Delta,” which provided medical help to the local population and members of the coalition.

After the tragic loss of Kazakh Capt. Kairat Kudabayev in Iraq, the country held a vigorous debate about deploying peacekeepers to conflict zones. After the return of its peacekeepers from Iraq in 2008, Kazakhstan stopped sending forces to international hot spots, thereby limiting participation of Kazakh officers in U.N. missions.

Despite the loss in Iraq, Kazakhstan officials consider the peacekeeping experience in that country as meaningful and enriching. Participants learned to work together within a multinational coalition, improved cooperation with defense agencies of the U.S., Great Britain, Canada and other members of the coalition, and boosted its position as a regional leader and a strong partner of the international coalition in Iraq, first and foremost of which is the U.S.

Structure of Kazakh peacekeepers

As a young independent country after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan agreed in 1995 to create a U.N. peacekeeping battalion jointly with Kyrgyzstan called Centrazbat. Kazakhstan ratified the agreement in 1997, and it has served as a basis for a series of joint peacekeeping training exercises with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkey, the U.S. and NATO. In 2000, Kazakhstan decided to create an independent peacekeeping battalion called Kazbat, which was formed to provide peacekeeping forces to help prevent, resolve and settle international disputes and conflicts.

The structure of Kazakhstan’s peacekeeping forces has changed with time. It created a peacekeeping brigade called Kazbrig in 2007. It falls within the purview of the country’s ground forces. In 2008, Kazbat became subordinate to Kazbrig. Kazbrig now is made up of three Kazbat battalions — Kazbat-1, Kazbat-2 and Kazbat-3. Kazbat-1 is dedicated to peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the U.N. Kazbat-2 is part of the peacekeeping operations of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. And Kazbat-3 is a reserve division of Kazbrig. In March 2018, Kazbat-1, Kazakhstan’s U.N. peacekeeping forces, spun off from Kazbrig to become a force of its own.

Kazbat-1 consists of 550 officers and contract sergeants divided among three companies. Company strengths total about 170, but the number of troops varies depending on a specific U.N. assignment. Kazbat-1 troops must speak English in addition to Kazakh and possess knowledge of the laws of the country of service.

Most Kazbat-1 officers have received their training abroad. U.S. and British military forces have been closely involved in training Kazbat-1 personnel for peacekeeping operations. They have held the annual Steppe Eagle peacekeeping exercises for Kazbat-1 forces since 2003.

Kazbrig forces served in Iraq between 2003 and 2008. With rotations of personnel every six months, close to 300 Kazakh military personnel served in Iraq. Today’s Kazbrig includes many officers who took part in the Iraqi peacekeeping mission.

Kazakhstan’s Parliament retains the right, through the 2015 law, to decide when and where to send national troops on foreign missions. The government places the proposal before Kazakhstan’s president to determine the composition, size and duration of a specific mission. Based on the president’s approval, the country’s Defense Ministry dispatches troops.

Civilian personnel can also participate in peacekeeping missions through a government proposal in coordination with the Defense Ministry. The president has the right to end a peacekeeping mission and impose an early withdrawal and emergency evacuation of peacekeeping troops.

Recent missions

Kazakh peacekeepers were fully prepared to start their mission in Lebanon, Kazakh Defense Minister Saken Zhasuzakov said. Military experts from the U.S. helped train 120 Kazakh peacekeepers sent to Lebanon, who are expected to serve one rotation of up to six months, with the possibility of an extension. According to Kazakh authorities, a decision on extending the rotation will depend on operational circumstances and logistical needs.

A Soldier from Kazakhstan is carried by his comrades to a waiting Humvee during Steppe Eagle.

CPL. NICHOLAS MOYTE/
ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD



Candidates for peacekeepers are volunteers selected from contract servicemen, who had undergone rigorous military and special training for peacekeeping operations. Candidates must prove their medical suitability to serve in possibly adverse conditions. To clarify the mission of Kazakh peacekeepers within the U.N., Kazakhstani parliamentary deputy Mukhtar Altynbayev stressed that they would not fight in wars, walk around with machine guns or sit in trenches.

The task of the peacekeepers would be to monitor the implementation of international requirements of the U.N. charter in post-conflict zones. Deputy Minister of Defense Mukhtarov noted that the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon is considered one of the safest U.N. missions.

According to a Kazakh political scientist Islam Kuraev, the purpose of the peacekeeping contingent in Lebanon is not to maintain the internal stability of the state, but to preserve peace between Lebanon and neighboring countries.

Consistent with the U.N. mandate, peacekeepers in Lebanon are responsible for the following functions: patrolling assigned areas, establishing observation posts, monitoring compliance with ceasefire agreements and analyzing and assessing situations on-the-spot. Kazakhstanis are grouped with an Indian infantry battalion under the operational control of the U.N. force commander.

Peacekeeping forces would not be directly subordinate to Kazakhstan's Ministry of Defense, even though their salaries would come from the government, said Col. Yerulan Akylbayev, a Kazakhstani Defense Ministry representative.

Kazakh peacekeepers will receive salaries amounting to triple their normal pay from the Kazakhstani government, in addition to stipends from the U.N. budget. Kazakhstan will aim for 15 percent representation of women in peacekeeping operations. They will serve mainly as health care workers and communications personnel. According to Kazakh government estimates, 120 Kazakh peacekeepers will cost the country about \$940,000 per year.

Highlighting the benefits of Kazakhstan's participation in international peacekeeping, Kazakh parliamentarian Mukhtar Altynbayev praised forces' increased knowledge of foreign languages and international affairs.

"Peacekeepers will return as completely different people. They will be able to advise and help make adjustments in Kazakhstan's Armed Forces," Altynbayev said.

Participation of Kazakh peacekeepers in the mission in Lebanon will help the country's Armed Forces determine how to use troops within an international coalition. Their expertise will be used in training programs and assist in filling



commander and staff positions in Kazakhstan's military. After completing their mission with the U.N., these officers will be able to serve as consultants domestically.

"Sending our forces to the U.N. mission not only contributes to international security, but it will also strengthen Kazakhstan's reputation as a responsible member of the international community, especially in assessing its performance as a nonpermanent member at the U.N. Security Council," Deputy Minister of Defense Mukhtarov said.

Kazakhstan's Parliament approved President Nazarbayev's proposal in June 2018 to contribute up to 40 Kazakh officers as part of the U.N. mission to the Middle East, U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus, military observer teams in India and Pakistan, and peacekeepers in Western Sahara. As of late 2018, five military officers were stationed in Western Sahara.

Kazakhstan's leadership is also considering sending police units on U.N. missions to gradually increase the country's contribution to peacekeeping, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kairat Abdrakhmanov said in November 2018. Kazakh authorities stressed that peacekeepers would not be sent to Syria. President Nazarbayev said his country can send peacekeepers to hot spots only with the permission of Parliament, consistent with Kazakhstan's Constitution.

To expand the scope of its international peacekeeping experience even further, Kazakhstan is also trying to train medical personnel. In October 2018, military physicians of Kazakhstan and Japan shared their experiences in providing medical support to U.N. peacekeeping units and emergency medical care in military medical institutions.

Kazakhstan considers exchanges like these as necessary to boost international cooperation among military medical professionals. ♦

Kazakhstani Soldiers conduct a medevac drill during the Steppe Eagle exercise in August 2018. The exercise has been held for 15 years to train peacekeeping forces.

SGT. BRIAN CALHOUN/U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

FOSTERING SPECIAL FORCES

**COL. SUFYAN SUBHI AL SULAIHAT
EXEMPLIFIES JORDAN'S
COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIPS
AND PEACEKEEPING**

UNIPATH STAFF



DIRECTORATE OF MORAL GUIDANCE - JORDAN ARMED FORCES

The war against terrorism required many changes to conventional militaries across the globe. It became essential to adopt new tactics and learn from partner forces to maintain force readiness. Jordan hosted a Subject Matter Expert Exchange conference with the Jordanian Special Operations Forces, the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service and U.S. Special Operations Command in November 2018. It was there that *Unipath* interviewed Col. Sufyan Subhi Al Sulaihat, commander of the King Abdullah II Special Forces Group. Discussions included the conference, international partnerships, and post-Daesh security challenges.





Jordanian special forces troops fast-rope from a helicopter to simulate a hostage rescue. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

***Unipath:* How did Jordanian Special Operations Forces maintain security in this volatile region and prevent the spillover of violence from neighboring countries?**

Col. Sufyan: The strategy adopted by Jordan was based on a full review of threats from neighboring countries. I believe that good relations among neighbors — security relations built on cooperation and mutual trust — are the keys to success. We had two approaches in our work, one internal, the other external. With the internal approach, we focused on the development of the intelligence system connecting the security services at the country level. Also, we developed cooperative relationships among anti-terrorism agencies, such as the Jordanian Gendarmerie, Special Operations Forces, border guards and all related bodies, and boosted their capabilities in every way. This vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II has been implemented by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihat through the development of military units. For example, the growing capabilities of the Air Force will have important implications for the Special Operations Forces through improved air combat control to identify and mark targets. There is a complete and comprehensive system to develop the Arab army.

***Unipath:* What are the advantages of working with U.S. military partners?**

Col. Sufyan: Thank God for His Majesty King Abdullah II for his efforts and absolute faith in partnerships. We were the first Arab country to have a liaison officer in the international special operations cell in the United States. I served as a liaison officer with U.S. Special Operations Command. The international special operations

cell has a unique role in building connections between special forces members in allied and friendly countries under the umbrella of U.S. Special Operations Command. Additionally, advanced techniques, expertise and tactics are available through U.S. Special Operations Command. We exchange experiences through liaison officers or coordinate training with one another. Furthermore, the commander of the Jordanian Special Operations Forces can coordinate with partner nations to act jointly. We have gained experience by attending seminars and conferences with the University of Special Operations. Our presence at the international special operations cell gave us the opportunity to send our officers to work with U.S. special forces commands in various areas, such as U.S. Central Command, Indo-Pacific Command, Southern Command and Africa Command. We have sent officers to counter extremism in East Asia and Africa. We have also sent officers to combat extremism in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

***Unipath:* What do these international partnerships and alliances mean to you personally?**

Col. Sufyan: In today's world, success depends on joint efforts to achieve mutual goals. Cooperation is the key to regional and global success. The United States is a world power and one of the democratic countries that supports the development of allied armies with the protection and promotion of human rights for international peace and security. We greatly appreciate the U.S. military presence in the region and their continued support. In return, through joint work, our U.S. partners learn from us about Arabic traditions and custom, which are very important for building successful partnerships in the region, and we learn from their expertise and tactics to develop our combat capabilities. U.S. military forces have advanced technologies, and our familiarity with the geographic region, language, religion, tradition and history makes us unique military partners who can achieve goals in record time, extend security and prosperity, and eliminate terrorist organizations.

***Unipath:* How can cooperation and exchange of intelligence among countries of the region limit terrorist activities?**

Col. Sufyan: Cooperation is a key to success, and joint intelligence provides a comprehensive picture of enemy movements and objectives. We can't identify enemy intentions without having

Jordanian and U.S. Soldiers discuss tactics during the Bright Star 18 exercise in Egypt.
SGT. JAMES LEFTY LARIMER/
U.S. ARMY



precise intelligence. As we all know, terrorist gangs have specific goals and objectives and operate and coordinate activities using a global network. To defeat the enemy's schemes, we need comprehensive cooperation to exchange information. Of course, there are challenges and obstacles in sending and exchanging information within a single country, and it becomes more complicated and difficult at regional and global levels. But we must work hard to overcome these obstacles to ensure innocent people are protected.

Unipath: What are the challenges facing the Jordanian Special Operations Forces and your plans to overcome these challenges?

Col. Sufyan: The main challenge lies in the process of recruitment and selection because of the continuous evolution of our forces over many generations. We need to redevelop our recruitment and selection process to keep up with the latest generation. We have learned from our brothers in the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service and their social media campaigns on Twitter and Facebook to attract youths, and we will request the approval of our chain of command to do the same. There are posts within the Special Operations Forces that require technical training such as Air Force combat controller. That post requires English language proficiency. And cultural awareness is essential for the Special Operations Forces. We also need to train bomb-sniffing dogs to carry out a wide range of specialized duties for military teams. In addition, we plan to develop a field medical unit and employ military drones and provide technical training to permit operators to distinguish friendly from enemy drones. I am confident we will overcome all these challenges with the support of our friends and allies.

Unipath: What other advanced training and technology would you like to provide your forces?

Col. Sufyan: In the near future, I look forward to holding training exercises on fighting in tunnels for our forces, and I'm confident that our brothers in the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service will do their best to share best practices from the field. Also, I would like to have an anti-drone system and a modern communications satellite.

Unipath: Can you tell us about your military career?

Col. Sufyan: I graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mutah University, in Jordan,



Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service Soldiers take a leadership course.

STAFF SGT. SARAH ZALER/
U.S. ARMY

in 1993 and enlisted in the Jordan Armed Forces as deputy commander of the paratroopers battalion. I had the opportunity to attend the counterterrorism and diving course, and then I joined the anti-terrorism battalion, where I spent my most of military service. I served as the commander of the anti-terrorism team, then as commander of the anti-terrorism group dealing with hijacked airplanes. Later, I served as company commander of the Sky Marshal counterterrorism unit for two years and then led the Counter Terrorism Training Center. During my service, I attended multiple courses, such as courses for special operations forces in the United States, counterterrorism courses in Jordan and the United States, as well as the defense course at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., in 2004. I've participated as commander of special forces within peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and trained anti-terrorist forces in Yemen. Also, I served as commander of the counterterrorism forces with the Joint Task Force in Afghanistan, trained Iraqi counterterrorism forces in 2004 and delivered three training courses in Iraq.

Unipath: One counterterrorism commander at the conference mentioned a mission you accomplished in Sahab township in the 1990s. Can you share any details?

Col. Sufyan: During my service with Anti-Terrorism Battalion 71, His Majesty King Abdullah II was the Commander of the Royal Jordanian Special Forces. At that time, there were terrorist activities in Jordan; as you know, we have a long history of fighting terrorism and prevailing. During that period, a terrorist group struck the city of Sahab, and our mission was to eliminate this group. We successfully accomplished the mission and were rewarded by His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, may God have mercy on him. ♦

TERROR



BY MEDIA

The defeat of ISIS hasn't ended the media campaign to spread hate and undermine society

UNIPATH STAFF

It's called "tablet jihad" — the use of computers or mobile phones to spread terrorist messaging. And according to Dr. Hafez Yasin Al-Heiti, a professor at Iraq's Anbar University, ISIS members became masters of the craft.

The numbers were worrying: On Twitter alone, more than 300,000 accounts praised, promoted or otherwise supported the extremist organization between 2014 and 2017. On a competing platform called Telegram, ISIS had 3 million followers, more than half of them girls.

Daesh's manipulation of the internet by posting shocking, violent and deceptive words and images has waned since coalition forces destroyed most of the group's hide-outs in northern Iraq and Syria. But presenters at the fourth International Conference to Combat ISIS Propaganda and Ideology, held February 20-22, 2019, in Baghdad, warned that terrorists remain a threat on social media.

"ISIS' media is still a source of concern. It persists in spreading hatred, violence, exclusion, and declaring others as infidels. This media is dangerous because of its role in destroying hearts and minds," Issam Abbas Amin of Iraq's Security and Intelligence Directorate told the multinational gathering of military officers, government officials and academics.

Held under the auspices of Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Adil Abdul-Mahdi, the conference consisted mostly of speeches by Iraqi experts in the field of counterterrorism and media messaging. Maj. Gen. Ahmed Hassan Hussein of the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior noted that ISIS enlists professional hackers to mask its digital footprint on the internet, making it difficult to monitor them. Once its messaging is up and running, ISIS uses sophisticated psychological techniques to manipulate its mostly young target audience.

Dr. Al-Heiti broke that messaging into three categories, depending on the audience's level of support or opposition to ISIS:

1. **Rhetoric targeting sympathizers and supporters:** The organization set up local radio stations and loudspeakers in moving cars to broadcast its programs to the population via the Al-Bayan radio station, and ISIS used social media to communicate to sympathizers in far-flung parts of the world. The programs focused on opening schools, cleaning roads, regulating traffic and prayer in public places to make people believe the terrorists were bringing order. It also attracted fighters and lured people deceived by this false image to migrate to the "caliphate's" territory.
2. **Rhetoric targeting the undecided:** ISIS focused on

portraying its followers as devout, pious and paragons of morality. They made videos of people in the field talking about their experience to win over an audience. To try to earn people's affections, ISIS portrayed its fighters as strong and determined, giving them names and sobriquets of the companions of the Prophet. This rhetoric was spread through its publications and broadcasts and on social media pages.

3. **Rhetoric targeting the organization's enemies:** This was the most popular message, as ISIS focused on retribution, intimidation, and making an example of its opponents or anyone whose loyalty was in doubt. ISIS devised methods previously unknown to humanity to try to sow terror in their opponents' hearts. ISIS used modern videography techniques and sound effects to produce high-definition, professional videos, embedding their media products in the public consciousness.

"ISIS focused on professional photography of battles and creating attractive images to portray daily life in the Islamic State's provinces," Dr. Al-Heiti said. "They also spread ideas to sympathizers and enticed them to martyrdom as a route to paradise. These materials are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Chinese and other languages."

Issam Amin recounted how ISIS created a media arm called Al-Furqan to produce video, posters, leaflets, and official audio and written statements. That media machine grew as ISIS seized territory and demanded more video and audio propaganda. The most prominent media foundations were called Al-Itisam and Ajnad. In 2014, terrorists created the Al-Hayat Media Center to produce material in foreign languages directed mostly at the West.



The fourth International Conference to Combat ISIS Propaganda and Ideology was held in Baghdad.

EXAMINING ISIS CRIMES: BRIDGING A CULTURAL DIVIDE

ISSAM ABBAS AMIN, IRAQI SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE

Once again, as with every time Iraqi and Western minds meet, the effects of cultural differences are clear in approaches and topics (despite globalization). As a real world example of this, I will address the paper that French journalist Michel Scott presented at the fourth International Conference to Combat ISIS Propaganda and Ideology, held February 20-22, 2019, in Baghdad. In my opinion, Scott's paper did not receive enough attention from the audience: first, because of the translation, and second, because of cultural differences.

With 25 years of experience accumulated from covering wars around the world, Scott has the legitimacy to discuss the issues of war, terrorism and extremism. He understands that the mission of journalism is no longer just to report news of events but also to analyze news to teach people what is behind major events. Any talk of war will inevitably raise the matter of global, ethical and human rights standards related to justice and the rules of war, so the media's role can improve things or make them worse, especially with regard to social cohesion, depending on how they are promoted and the nature of the discourse and narrative.

This sensitive and necessary task becomes more complex when extremism is part of people's intellectual environment. The French today are shocked not only that hundreds of their compatriots joined ISIS, but also that those French-speaking terrorists employed more heinous and radical discourse than others. This surprise must represent a major flaw in news coverage, and members of the media are largely responsible because of the nature of their approach to terrorist incidents. Their most considerable mistakes were:

- Focusing on incidents in the moment, without explaining their long-term effects.
- Focusing on certain parts of the news and omitting other elements of the truth.

In the context of his presentation, Scott tried to highlight and draw attention to a complex problem

related to the families (women and children) of foreign ISIS fighters, specifically French nationals, by posing a series of questions, the most important of which were:

- Do they deserve to return to their home countries?
- Do they have any rights?
- Are they still French?
- How should they be classified?

Through a simple analysis of the nature of these and other questions, we noticed that the concern is not so much about what these women have done but what rights they still have.

This is a different type of approach, one that may be understandable to a French person or a Westerner imbued with the values of freedom and human rights, but one that is difficult for those who have suffered enormously, over many years, from the crimes of ISIS.

Scott calls for historic trials, like the ones at Nuremberg after World War II, to rule on a case that, in his view, requires common sense and a further exploration of historical facts that would ultimately explain much of the brutality that characterizes ISIS.

The crux of the matter is not to simply label something evil, but to expose its true essence. This is also a different approach, one rarely used in an environment that often avoids speaking the truth.

To achieve justice, Scott calls for avoiding ready-made descriptions and generic talk about extremism, terrorism and ideology. He says that what is needed today is a new kind of thinking capable of avoiding confusion to examine the causes of the aberrant ideology that produced ISIS and to encourage a kind of intellectual evolution in the face of terrorism.

Our self-interest and rationality require that we work to disentangle terrorism and Islam and reduce the degree of hatred for the actual religion, always remembering that most of the victims of ISIS terrorism were Muslims, and it did not matter at the time whether they were Shias, Sunnis or Kurds.



Participants at the fourth International Conference to Combat ISIS Propaganda and Ideology

It is worth mentioning that these media operations enjoyed important advantages, such as experienced professional staff, modern technical capabilities, a high degree of secrecy and significant financial support. They supervised the publication of 11 video, print and electronic magazines. Nearly 2,000 products were produced and propagated from 2015 to 2017.

Although media production collapsed in 2018 as ISIS was squeezed into ever smaller territory in Syria, the propaganda machine survives with the help of unofficial institutions and advocates that promote ISIS messaging on social media outlets such as Telegram.

It will require a considerable international effort to eradicate ISIS' large media archive and shut down websites that disseminate messages of hatred, violence and murder, Dr. Amin said.

Another conference speaker, Dr. Marleen Hormiz of Al-Israa University College, analyzed the terrorists' media output and noticed ISIS was sophisticated enough to use as many as 18 psychological warfare techniques. Videos were professionally produced with an attention to setting, color, graphics and camera movement. Sound effects such as religious chants and clanging swords heightened the effect.

"Visual content is one of the main pillars on which the use of Twitter in ISIS' electronic, psychological warfare is based," Dr. Hormuz said. "Among the organization's members or supporters are experts in psychological warfare."

The coalition wasn't without its own psychological warfare strategy. Iraqi Staff Maj. Gen. Khaled Al-Tamimi of the Joint Forces Command described the high-level coordination required to win the battles against ISIS.

"From the first day of the liberation battles, the Joint Forces Command formed a planning team comprising the best field commanders, in addition to incorporating information operations and psychological warfare experts in the plans," the general said. "This indicates that the war against ISIS is based on information operations, exposing the enemy's lies and winning over the population."

The initial departure of Iraqi forces from Mosul at the beginning of the crisis fed enemy propaganda and weakened morale among government troops. But ISIS soon lost the crucial battle to capture the population's loyalty, Gen. Al-Tamimi said.

ISIS gangs acted recklessly without regard for the lives of innocent people. They began to divide the population into groups, scrawling the letter "N" on Christian houses and "R" on Shia houses. Sunnis were sorted in descending order of obedience to ISIS: loyalists, apostates and agents. This discrimination outraged the tolerant people of Mosul.

"Our liberation forces benefited from this situation and invested considerable time in reaching out to the population by dropping leaflets and sending SMS [short message service, or text messages] and radio messages, so that civilians would be ready to cooperate with their armed forces and contribute important intelligence about enemy positions," the general said.

Dr. Mahmoud Azzou Hamdo of Mosul University recalled how ISIS produced propaganda suggesting the city was happy about the terrorist occupation. The reality was the opposite. For example, to make phony videos portraying the population's gratitude to ISIS, people were forcibly herded to Friday prayers to sing the terrorists' praises.

Dr. Hamdo warned that ISIS' media manipulation still has lingering effects in Iraq.

"ISIS left a formidable legacy of what we call 'ISIS-ification,' which is still practiced in all segments of society, with false slander, exclusion and discrimination against certain people or groups of society," Dr. Hamdo said. "Nineveh is religiously and ethnically diverse, and when any group is excluded or rejected, it reflects messages of hate and establishes a dangerous environment favorable to ISIS."

Although the destruction of ISIS as a political and military force has weakened the group's media campaign, no speakers at the conference urged complacency on the part of counterterrorism forces.

Dr. Laith Kubbah, advisor to Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi, said that ISIS still has the ability to recruit and maintain sleeper cells that can expand in the country and the region.

"Yes, the young generation rejects them because of their crimes," Dr. Kubbah said. "But we are worried about young people in marginalized, remote areas. So, we must be on guard against the return of ISIS, and young people must be immunized against the danger of extremist rhetoric." ♦



SENIOR LEADER PROFILE



Protecting the Homeland

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE KUWAIT
ARMED FORCES LT. GEN. MOHAMMED AL-KHADHER

KUWAIT ARMED FORCES

“Kuwait, My Country, may you be safe and glorious! May you always enjoy good fortune. Blessed be my Country, a homeland for harmony, and may you ever stand defended by free countrymen who have built our noble life with the most generous hands.”

This is how the Kuwaiti national anthem glorifies the homeland and its protectors who devote themselves to serve and defend it. In this edition, *Unipath* interviewed one of Kuwait’s leaders who translates love of homeland into deeds and achievements with the support and determination of his heroic Soldiers. He is Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwait Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Mohammed Al-Khadher.

Unipath: Kuwait is an important regional model of stability and security. What strategies and policies have led to Kuwait’s success?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: The state of Kuwait has always been a hub for peace and humanity, and the security of the state is imperative. We as Kuwaitis understand the significance of unity, democracy and freedom, which are the main factors for our homeland’s security and stability. The wisdom of His Highness Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah has always protected the state from continuous threats and challenges, providing diplomatic efforts to solve any rifts among neighboring states.

Furthermore, Kuwaiti politics have been guided since 1962 by a unique Constitution — a contract between the ruler and the people stating that we are a democratic state and sovereign nation tolerant of freedom and

different religions. In addition, the stability of the state has depended heavily on a united internal front (patriotism) that Kuwait has developed among its diverse population and in the Armed Forces and the State internal security apparatuses, defending it from threats that have occurred throughout the years. The military focuses on training its forces and keeping them at the highest level of readiness at all times. To help do so, the Armed Forces has focused on purchasing highly developed weaponry and its latest upgrades to increase the capability of our troops on land, in the air and on the sea and in domestic security operations.



Kuwaiti tanks fire as part of an exercise with French forces.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

“The Kuwaiti military trains throughout the year without rest or pause, focusing on raising the combat readiness of the troops and fostering skills gained from hard work.”

~ Lt. Gen. Mohammed Al-Khadher,
chief of the general staff of the
Kuwait Armed Forces



Kuwait Armed Forces helicopters fly during a military parade in Kuwait City. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A Kuwaiti pilot trains in an F-18 fighter jet.

KUWAIT ARMED FORCES



The continuous threat instigated by terrorists and their proxies has alerted the state of Kuwait. It is our number one threat, and we are determined to counter it. There is coordination at the highest levels among the Armed Forces, police and National Guard, in a mutual effort to continuously protect our land night and day.

Unipath: Kuwait cooperates with many militaries around the region and the world. Why is this cooperation important for Kuwait?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: Military cooperation is vital for states in the 21st century. The Kuwaiti military works daily with regional and international military partners to facilitate assistance and maintain continuous cooperation at all three levels — tactical, operational and strategic — filtered through defense and security agreements.

Kuwait's military cooperation is facilitated mostly through the areas of training and exchange programs, bilateral and multilateral exercises, humanitarian aid and supporting the international community in combating global threats. The aim of this cooperation is to maintain the security of Kuwait and allied states from the 21st century scourge known as terrorism that has infiltrated our societies and knows no borders for its expansion. Our goal is to communicate and work hand in hand with our allies to counter terrorism and the potential threats targeting our nation, in addition to improving professional military training and expertise for the Armed Forces in all its sectors.

Unipath: What military exercises or training in Kuwait have contributed to the professionalism and skills of Kuwait's Armed Forces?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: The Kuwaiti military trains throughout the year without rest or pause, focusing on raising combat readiness of the troops and fostering skills gained from hard work. These training and exercises have contributed positively to the Armed Forces, mainly the ones hosted by Kuwait, such as Eagle Resolve, Pearl of the West, Desert Shield and Peninsula Shield. The target of mutual training and exercises is gaining experience, mutual understanding of how partners operate and developing at three levels: strategic, operational and tactical. We are looking forward to continuous cooperation and interoperability with other states at all levels, be it training in or out of Kuwait.

Unipath: What are the biggest threats to regional and international security, and what is Kuwait doing to prepare for them?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: The world is confronting several types of threats, yet the international community places terrorism



THE ROAD AHEAD KUWAIT'S 2035 VISION

UPGRADE our defense systems, cyber security and hi-tech technology on land, in the air and on the seas.

RECRUIT Kuwaiti youth and invest and develop their potential in the military arena. This phase has been planned carefully by our finest specialist leaders and strategic planners. Our main objective, as a threshold for that vision, is to secure a Kuwaiti generation armed with knowledge and high quality of training to make them capable of securing and protecting future investments attracted by the 2035 vision and ensuring their sustainability.

COMBINE THE EFFORTS of system integration and recruitment in the scope of training and exercises to meet our vision of an upgraded defense system. We are looking forward to training small units and assimilating them within the main commands to fill gaps. This will achieve our main goal of strengthening the bonds between the Armed Forces on the national and international levels.



Lt. Gen. Mohammed Al-Khadher, chief of the general staff of the Kuwait Armed Forces, left front, receives a certificate from U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Charles Flynn.

ELIZABETH FRASER/U.S. ARMY

at the top of its list. This transnational disease has developed from one century to another. While it changes its shape and form, it maintains the same content of violence and brutality that undermines the security of our society and threatens the state's assets and the lives of innocent people. We have to differentiate between terrorism in all its forms and separate it from true Islam. Furthermore, terrorism has made the Kuwaiti population united under His Highness the Emir's leadership. "We are armed with Islamic values, solidarity and nationalism. This is Kuwaiti society — strong, united and patriotic. We are prepared and ready for any threats to our country. We have set the standards for mutual training and exercises that focus heavily on national security, aiming to serve Kuwait and its population against any threats, including fanatical deviant ideology.

Unipath: What advice can you offer to young military officers?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: My advice to the younger generation is to appreciate the blessings of security and stability that Kuwait maintains despite its location in a very turbulent region. I am confident that as young leaders they are capable of protecting Kuwait. With their deep sense of patriotism and top notch training, they will take us to the next level with confidence. Furthermore, they must always maintain the high ground with regard to combat readiness, continue their training, update their subordinates with the latest in technology and developments, and, most important, arm themselves with knowledge necessary to achieve their goals. These will always be keys toward success. Finally, as Kuwaitis we need to learn from what's happening around us, and here the

Kuwaiti Sailors take part in a military display off Kuwait City's coast.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



younger generation plays a role in backing the country's leadership at all times, because leaders will need their support to overcome any crisis the state faces.

Unipath: Are the Armed Forces ready for Kuwait's 2035 vision?

Lt. Gen. Al-Khadher: Based on direct instructions from His Highness the Emir, and by direct supervision from his excellency the minister of defense, we have set a road map that contributes directly to the 2035 vision. I can break down our plan into three main phases: First, we are planning to upgrade our defense systems, cyber security and hi-tech technology on land, in the air and on the seas. Secondly, we are looking forward to recruit Kuwaiti youth and invest and develop their potential in the military arena. This phase has been planned carefully by our finest specialist leaders and strategic planners. Our main objective, as a threshold for



Fast patrol boat Istiqlal plies the waters off Kuwait.

KUWAIT ARMED FORCES

that vision, is to secure a Kuwaiti generation armed with knowledge and high quality of training to make them capable of securing and protecting future investments attracted by the 2035 vision and ensuring their sustainability. Finally, we will combine the efforts of system integration and recruitment, in the scope of training and exercises to meet our vision of an upgraded defense system. We are looking forward to training small units and assimilating them within the main commands to fill gaps. This will achieve our main goal of strengthening the bonds between the Armed Forces on the national and international levels. ♦



Qatar Leads in Safety and Security

UNIPATH STAFF

Qatar has sustained its global reputation for safety and security, ranking first among 118 countries, according to the 2019 report by Numbeo, the world's largest database of information about cities and countries.

The database provides timely information on global living conditions, including cost of living, housing indicators, health care, traffic, crime and pollution.

Qatar's record is an extension of its achievements from 2015 to 2018. It has maintained the No. 1 position in

the Middle East, as well as the world's top rank in 2017 and 2019. It reflects the constant level of security and safety enjoyed by the country and the significant reduction in crime rates.

The country's scores are attributed to the Ministry of the Interior's efforts, in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030, to maximize security and stability in Qatar and protect lives and property, a ministry spokesman said.

The ministry is developing an integrated security system throughout the country and enhancing security

awareness among the public, which has contributed to the decrease in major crimes.

"The competent authorities at the ministry will continue to implement their operational plans and programs in conjunction with various bodies in the state, in order to improve the ranking the state of Qatar occupies in various security indicators, and to maintain achievements made in terms of security and service," according to a prepared statement from the ministry.

Sources: *Al-Raya* (Qatar), *Gulf Times*



Mounted Qatari police parade in December 2018. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



UAE Hosts Asia Cup 2019

UNIPATH STAFF

In a successful demonstration of security and logistics, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted the Asian Cup in early 2019.

Hundreds of players and thousands of fans descended on Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai and Sharjah for the 28-day tournament. More than 50 matches were played by 24 national teams in eight stadiums.

Under the supervision of the UAE High Security Committee, agencies entrusted with providing security for the Asian Cup worked in a spirit of teamwork. The aim was to affirm the UAE's ability to host, organize and secure important regional and international tournaments.

Aref al-Awni, secretary-general of the Sports Council in Abu Dhabi and director of the local organizing committee, noted the country's adoption of best practices for stadium security — including searching techniques that maximize safety while minimizing disruptions.

He said that hosting the Asian championship in the UAE provided an opportunity to bring people together through football.

UAE police and military not only provided security for tens of thousands of fans, but also ensured the safety of visitors commuting to the eight stadiums in four cities. Asia Cup 2019 began January 6 and ended February 1, with Qatar being the winner and Japan coming in second place. Source: *The National* (UAE)

United Arab Emirates players celebrate during a match with Kyrgyzstan in Abu Dhabi.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Kuwaitis Train with Egyptians

UNIPATH STAFF

Kuwaiti and Egyptian forces engaged in two simultaneous military drills in January 2019 called Al-Yarmouk 4 and Sabah 1.

Held for the first time between Egypt and Kuwait, Sabah 1 included theoretical and practical courses leading to a mock naval operation to recover and secure an island of strategic importance.

Al-Yarmouk 4 included offensive and defensive air operations targeting vital sites aimed at improving the two countries' combat capabilities.

Besides improving military effectiveness to meet security challenges in the region, the drills are important for boosting military ties and cooperation between the armed forces of Kuwait and Egypt.

An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by speaker Ali Abdel-Aal reaffirmed his country's security commitment to the Arabian Gulf in a visit with His Highness Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

"Egypt will also remain a big supporter of Kuwait's national security and Arab solidarity in general," Abdel-Aal told the emir. "The security of Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf in general is a red line for the Egyptian leadership.

He added: "Egypt and Kuwait stand on one side, and both share common interests and are keen on coordinating in all respects, particularly the area of fighting terrorism."

Sources: Kuwaiti News Agency, Al-Ahram



LEBANESE MILITARY GETS U.S. SUPPORT

UNIPATH STAFF

The Lebanese Army received more than \$100 million in upgrades to tanks and attack helicopters from the United States.

The package includes training for pilots and maintenance crews on MD-530G light scout attack helicopters provided by the U.S. in 2018 as well as laser-guided rockets. Sniper rifles, night-vision devices and mortars for infantry troops are part of the deal.

U.S. Department of Defense spokeswoman Rebecca Rebarich said strengthening the Lebanese Armed Forces — which she called a key security partner — helps contain the spread of violent extremism.

The Pentagon has provided \$1.7 billion in U.S. military assistance to Lebanon since 2006, including tanks and attack helicopters shipped in 2018 and drones in early 2019.

Another recent Lebanese acquisition was A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft that improve the capabilities of the country's Air Force and help prevent incursions by terrorists slipping across the border from Syria.



Lebanese Soldiers guard U.S.-made Bradley Fighting Vehicles, among the upgrades designed to strengthen the country's defense against terrorists. AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Jordan, France Commit to Cooperation

UNIPATH STAFF

French Defense Minister Florence Parly visited Jordan in late December 2018 to discuss bilateral security cooperation.

Jordanian Prime Minister Omar Razzaz, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihat and French Ambassador David Bertolotti joined the talks to discuss the countries' partnership regarding armaments and military industries.

The King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau encourages the development of Jordan's armaments industry, mainly through joint ventures with foreign firms.

Another topic was the continuing efforts by the global coalition to eradicate Daesh despite the terror group's territorial losses in Iraq and Syria.

"Jordan was one of the first countries to partake in the global coalition to counter the terrorist gangs in Iraq and Syria and safeguard our borders and citizens against the threat posed by terrorist organizations," Prime Minister Razzaz said.

Parly reaffirmed France's role in the fight against violent extremism and praised Jordan's role in not only fighting terrorists, but also providing refuge and humanitarian aid to victims of the Syrian civil war.

The French defense minister promised further economic, military and security cooperation with Jordan.

Source: *The Jordan Times*

French Defense Minister Florence Parly speaks to Soldiers at the Royal Jordanian Air Force's Prince Hassan Air Base.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Kazakhstan Widens Global Role

UNIPATH STAFF

Kazakhstan earned praise for its two-year stint as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council, a position from which it focused on counterterrorism, nuclear nonproliferation and overseas peacekeeping operations.

As the first-ever Central Asian member of the Security Council, Kazakhstan took pride in its sponsorship of the Code of Conduct Towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, signed by 70 countries in September 2018.

Another achievement was the deployment of 120 troops in late 2018 to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has kept the peace in South Lebanon.

Kazakhstan has focused on stabilizing not just Afghanistan — a country whose problems have threatened to spill over into Central Asia — but also Syria. Kazakhstan held Syrian peace talks in Astana attended by combatants in the country. Then-Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev also made strides in promoting nuclear nonproliferation, a legacy of the country's removal of nuclear weapons after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Singapore's permanent representative to the U.N., Burkhan Gafur, lauded Kazakhstan for its constructive engagement with the international community. Kazakhstan "made an important contribution to achieving peace and security not only in Central Asia, but also in all of Asia and the world," Gafur said.

Sources: Kapital.kz, 24.kz, Tengri News, Bnews.kz.



Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Kazakhstan's minister of foreign affairs, addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pakistani General Heads U.N. Mission

UNIPATH STAFF

A Pakistani general has been appointed commander of peacekeeping forces in Western Sahara, reaffirming the country's support for such stabilization missions around the world.

Maj. Gen. Zia Ur Rehman — who served as the senior national representative to United States Central Command in Florida in 2015 and 2016 — was named by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to lead the Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Maj. Gen. Rehman has 30 years of national and international military leadership experience, including as a military observer in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The general most recently commanded a Pakistani infantry division. He holds degrees from the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul and the Command and Staff College in Quetta.

Pakistan has consistently provided some of the largest troop contingents to U.N. peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa. As of early 2019, more than 5,200 Pakistani Soldiers and police were engaged. The country ranked sixth in the world in such contributions.

Source: United Nations



KYRGYZSTAN HOSTS THE EU

UNIPATH STAFF

As part of a European Union focus on improving security in Central Asia, EU Special Representative to Central Asia Peter Burian visited Kyrgyzstan in November 2018 to solidify bilateral relations.

Europe has stressed the need to support Kyrgyzstan and the region to improve border security, business and investment, private sector development, education and training, and good governance.

Those goals are enshrined in a new EU-Central Asia strategy that Europe and the five Central Asian states plan to adopt in 2019. Hosting the latest EU delegation, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Chyngyz Aidarbekov noted that the EU is a foreign policy priority for his country.

In a show of commitment to the region, the EU has pledged 85 million euros to secure uranium waste dumps throughout Central Asia, including Kyrgyzstan's Mailuu-Suu, Min-Kush and Shekaftar sites.

Kyrgyzstan has taken a leading role in promoting parliamentary democracy in Central Asia. The EU aims to encourage these political developments by allocating 13 million euros toward judicial reform in Kyrgyzstan.

In December 2018, Germany promised Kyrgyzstan a grant of 40 million euros to support economic development, housing and health care projects. The grant includes \$2 million euros to manage and protect the country's walnut forests.

Sources: Knews, RFERL, Euractiv, Kaktus Media, 24.kg

An honor guard marches during Kyrgyzstan's Independence Day parade in August 2018.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Uzbek Defense Minister Meets U.S. Military Leaders

UNIPATH STAFF | PHOTOS BY TOM GAGNIER/U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

Solidifying his country's security partnership with the United States, then-Uzbek Minister of Defense Gen. Lt. Abdusalom Azizov visited U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) headquarters in January 2019.

Uzbek and U.S. military leaders discussed security and stability in Central Asia, Soldier training, joint exercises and other issues concerning the two countries' defense ministries.

For example, Uzbek troops participated in CENTCOM's Regional Cooperation exercise in September 2018 with forces from Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

"Uzbekistan is an important partner, and we have a strong military relationship," said then-CENTCOM Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Erik Kurilla. "We applaud the country's support and leadership toward stability and security efforts in the CASA [Central and South Asia] region."

During the CENTCOM visit, the Uzbek delegation learned about the Joint Strategic Analysis Group and the Coalition



Then-Uzbek Minister of Defense Gen. Lt. Abdusalom Azizov and U.S. Maj. Gen. Jon K. Mott, then director of exercises and training at U.S. Central Command, walk into the headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Coordination Center.

Before arriving at CENTCOM headquarters in Florida, Gen. Lt. Azizov visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Mississippi to observe Uzbekistan's special operations forces participating in the Southern Strike joint force exercises, hosted by the Mississippi Air National Guard.

The two-week exercise focused on counterinsurgency, air supremacy, close air support, casualty care, noncombatant evacuation, and maritime and riverine special operations. Troops

from Canada, the Netherlands and Chile also participated.

Although Uzbek Soldiers have trained with the Mississippi National Guard through the U.S.-sponsored National Guard State Partnership Program, Southern Strike was the first time Uzbek special operations forces had joined a military exercise in the U.S.

Sources: Combat Readiness Training Center-Mississippi National Guard, Uzbek Ministry of Defense



Then-Uzbek Minister of Defense Gen. Lt. Abdusalom Azizov, fifth from right, and then-CENTCOM Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Erik Kurilla, sixth from right, participated in discussions with other senior leaders in January 2019.



Tajik Police Receive Counterterrorism Training

UNIPATH STAFF

Tajikistan and the United States held their seventh annual bilateral consultations in Dushanbe in October 2018. These consultations allow both sides to discuss cooperation over the previous year and identify priorities for future joint efforts.

A U.S. delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asia Emilia Puma went to Tajikistan for a two-day visit to discuss strategic bilateral relations, including cooperation in fighting violent extremism and drug trafficking as well as promoting regional collaboration, trade and economic relations, and political dialogue.

Puma met with Tajik Minister of Foreign Affairs Sirojiddin Mukhriddin, Defense Minister Sherali Mirzo and heads of other ministries.

Following these consultations, in November 2018, the Tajik Interior Ministry, jointly with the Regional Security Bureau of the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan, provided training to Tajik law enforcement officers on identifying foreign terrorists.

It was the third time the U.S. and Tajiks cooperated on counterterrorism training in 2018. These exercises helped American and Tajik law enforcement officers strengthen mutual cooperation and exchange experiences in tracking and identifying movements of terrorist suspects in the Central Asian region.

U.S. Embassy official Beri Ulrich stressed that cooperation between Tajikistan and the U.S. was a strategic resource not only for the Tajik government, but also for everyone living in this Central Asian country. Ulrich said that the U.S. valued its excellent relations with the government of Tajikistan and expected continued cooperation and joint successes.

Since 2001, more than 500 Tajik law enforcement officers have participated in training programs — both in the U.S. and Tajikistan — paid for by the U.S.

Sources: Avesta, RFERL, News.tj, U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan

YEMEN COMBATANTS AGREE TO CEASE-FIRE

UNIPATH STAFF

The warring parties in Yemen ended 2018 by agreeing to a cease-fire in the city of Hodeida, the main lifeline of two-thirds of the country's population.

The two sides reached an agreement after talks in Sweden mediated by the United Nations. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he hoped it would be the starting point for ending the nearly four-year civil war that has killed thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis. The leaders of the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebels shook hands after the cease-fire was agreed upon.

Hodeida is one of the areas controlled by the Houthi. According to the agreement, the Houthis and government forces would withdraw from Hodeida, to be replaced by local forces, according to the U.N. Houthi forces also planned to withdraw from Salif and Ras Issa ports.

Secretary-General Guterres said the U.N. will play a leading role in controlling the port and will help distribute aid to civilians, dubbing the agreement “a starting point for peace and an end to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.”

Guterres expressed hope that the country could reopen Sanaa airport and continue peace negotiations to end fighting that began in early 2015 when the Houthis took over most of the west of the country and forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to leave office.

In early January 2019, Yemeni Foreign Minister Khalid al-Yamani said that President Hadi agreed during his meeting with Martin Griffiths, the U.N.'s envoy for Yemen, to extend the Hodeida agreement into the new year.

Sources: BBC, youm7.com



Martin Griffiths, United Nations special envoy for Yemen, center, arrives in Sanaa in February 2019 to release grains stored in the city of Hodeida to feed millions of people.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



IRAQI INTELLIGENCE CHIEF HOSTS STUDENTS

IRAQI DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE | PHOTOS BY IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

On the 98th anniversary of the creation of the Iraqi Army, Director of Military Intelligence Maj. Gen. Saad Al Allaq received a delegation of students and teachers from Al-Ghad Primary School.

Maj. Gen. Saad made an inspiring speech to the students, who also used the occasion to tour the directorate's offices and study exhibits related to the Iraqi military's defeat of Daesh.

"You will complete the march to protect Iraq, and your group will become officers, engineers and doctors serving Iraq and protecting its people. I wish you success and diligence," the general said.

The students, who wore uniforms and held military ranks, paid tribute to the director of military intelligence immediately after entering the hall in a letter confirming their love for the Iraqi Army and the directorate. Maj. Gen. Saad paid them the honor of a military salute.

The students and the teachers were briefed on a permanent exhibition of documents, weapons and equipment captured from Daesh. The students expressed their admiration for what they saw. A police officer provided an explanation of the exhibits, drawing questions from students and eliciting comments about their hatred of the terrorist gangs.

Maj. Gen. Saad urged the students to share the lessons they learned about the evils of Daesh.

"You have seen the crimes. I urge you to tell others that these do not have a place among us because we love each other. They hate life and hate each other," he said.

At the end of the visit, the students and teachers received gifts from the general, who embraced these sons of the next generation whom Iraq will rely upon to protect it from its enemies.



Maj. Gen. Saad Al Allaq, top center, hosts students touring the Iraqi Directorate of Military Intelligence.



The general greets students at the directorate.

Bahraini-Egyptian Forces Conduct Exercise

UNIPATH STAFF

Naval preparedness was the goal of Hamad 3, a joint Egyptian-Bahraini military exercise in January 2019. Egyptian Navy and Air Force formations participated in the three-day training near Salman Marine Base and Isa Air Base in Bahrain.

Hamad 3 is considered to be

one of the most important joint exercises in the Arabian Gulf region. Activities are designed to coordinate combat routines using up-to-date air and naval tactics to foil external attacks or terrorist threats.

The Egyptian Armed Forces join their Bahraini counterparts

in many exercises, contributing to military interoperability, as well as honing the skills of troops engaged in the exercise.

Egypt's participation in the exercise reinforces President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's commitment to Gulf security as an extension of Egyptian security. Source: Elaph.com



Oman Opens Operation Centers

UNIPATH STAFF

Oman's military used the occasion of Armed Forces Day on December 11, 2018, to open the Joint Operations Center and Maritime Security Center, part of a plan to improve the capabilities of the Sultanate's Armed Forces.

Rear Adm. Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and chairman of the Maritime Security Committee, said the Joint Operations Center will streamline and standardize the efforts of the military and security sectors in the country. The maritime center will do much the same for agencies affiliated with naval affairs.

"The opening of such modern edifice is an important addition to the achievements made during the blessed Renaissance," Rear Adm. Abdullah said.

Lt. Gen. Ahmed bin Harith Al Nabhani, chief of staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, called the opening an important milestone in the history of Oman. The centers came in response to a royal directive from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said to improve his country's Armed Forces.

Armed Forces Day 2018 also included jumping displays by the parachute wing of the Royal Army of Oman and equestrian demonstrations by the country's armored cavalry unit.

Source: Times of Oman



SAUDI ARABIA PROMOTES RED SEA SECURITY

UNIPATH STAFF

As part of an effort to establish deeper military cooperation in the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden region, Saudi Arabia invited several countries to participate in the Red Waves 1 exercise in Jeddah in January 2019.

Special operations and marine infantry forces from six Arabic-speaking countries participated in the drills: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. Somalia sent observers.

Several units participated, supported by Typhoon jets, and the event included shooting at naval and air targets.

Red Waves 1, along with another event called Arab Shield, are considered important steps to bolster regional cooperation and security among countries bordering the Red Sea.

"The exercise aims to enhance the maritime security of the Red Sea countries, protect their territorial waters, enhance military cooperation and exchange combat experiences," said Saudi fleet commander Maj. Gen. Saqr al-Harbi.

The Red Sea and the adjoining Suez Canal are part of a vital economic corridor accommodating 13 percent of the global trade. Red Waves 1's larger goal is to stem terrorism, smuggling and piracy, some of which is linked to states such as Iran.

Sources: Alghad.com, Elaph.com

Soldiers celebrate graduation from the King Faisal Air Academy in Saudi Arabia.

REUTERS



TAJIKS PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO AFGHANS

UNIPATH STAFF

When heavy snow and avalanches left some residents of northern Afghanistan isolated from the rest of the country, Tajikistan agreed to expand free health care for its neighbors to the south.

Tajik Minister of Health Nasim Olimzoda and Afghan Ambassador to Dushanbe Saidmasum Badakhshi met in February 2019 to discuss joint cooperation in the medical field.

Ambassador Badakhshi stressed the need to treat Afghan residents from Badakhshan province in Tajikistan's nearby Gorno-Badakhshan region. Paralyzing winter storms prevented Badakhshan residents from seeking help within Afghanistan.

Dozens of Afghan citizens received treatment

in Tajik hospitals near the Afghan border, a number that Health Minister Olimzoda promised to increase. With financing from the Aga Khan Foundation, Tajik doctors provide medical care to Afghans who are granted visa-free entry to Tajikistan for that purpose. Patients have included wounded Afghan troops.

A delegation of Afghan doctors arrived in Dushanbe in April 2018 to participate in a congress of cardiologists and therapists from Central Asia and neighboring regions. Olimzoda expressed confidence that the gathering would open new areas of cooperation between the two countries in the medical field. Sources: Avesta, Interfax, Caravanserai



Villagers cope with an avalanche in northwest Afghanistan. REUTERS



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