Jordan Trains
Peacekeeping Forces

Tajiks Host Multilateral Exercise

Ideological Warfare in Iraq



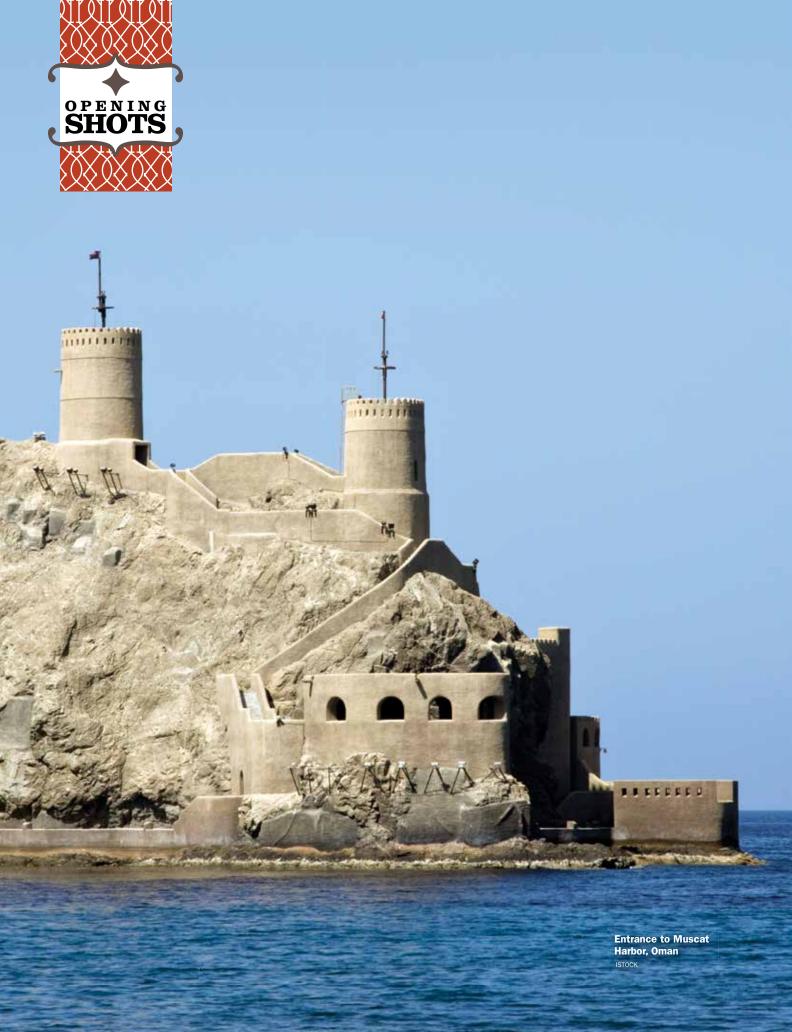




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ON THE COVER:

The Lebanese military distributes coats and other supplies to school children, a task ovil-military Cooperation Directorate.

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CENTCOM COMMANDER

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KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE



n this edition of *Unipath* magazine, we discuss the subject of international peace and stability, including the efforts Jordan has made in this area. Peace is an important requirement for the world. It is a prerequisite for countries and peoples of the world

because of its impact on the development and progression of their lives. It is instituted in Jordanian policy and stems from Jordanian principles, values, and ethics emanating from Islamic beliefs that converge with international laws to ensure justice, freedom and human dignity.

Jordan spares no effort to intensify and coordinate its activities through cooperation with the world and the United Nations to serve this goal and confront, contain and overcome crises. Jordan is committed to noninterference in others' internal affairs. At the same time, Jordan works toward achieving and establishing permanent, just and comprehensive peace. It has always resorted to dialogue and allowed all elements of the social strata to participate in it, and to respect and accept pluralism.

The Jordanian policy has been characterized as moderate and rational. It promotes the culture of social awareness to protect Jordanian youth, national capabilities and homeland security. In addition, Jordan's defense of the region and its people gained it credibility and respect at the regional and global level.

Jordan has committed thousands of members of its Armed Forces to join United Nations peacekeeping forces globally since 1989. The Royal Jordanian Army, public security and gendarmerie carried out humanitarian duties in peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations, protection and rapid intervention. They also participated in maintaining stability and protecting military observers, international police and liaison officers in the countries that witnessed conflicts, wars and disputes, such as Afghanistan, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur, Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslavia. The Jordan Armed Forces established a special institute for the preparation, orientation and training of

participants in peacekeeping operations. It teaches them to apply their skills and carry out the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them.

Jordanian military performance is distinguished by its competence, professionalism, ethics and humanitarianism. Jordan is considered one of the first countries to combat terrorism. It is recognized for its efforts in addressing and combating all forms of terrorism, fanaticism and extremism, especially those that are offensive to the concept of Islam and contradict the spirit of its tolerant teachings and humanitarian call for the protection of the principles of true religion.

My country issued the Amman Message, which clarifies the image of Islam and the reality of its foundation and meaning. It is meant to prevent the abuse and distortion of the image of Islam and Muslims and is based on moderation and acceptance of others, open communication and dialogue. It rejects terrorism and extremism and wants to defeat them by draining their resources. It wants to thwart their criminal agenda that pollutes people's thoughts with false beliefs. Therefore, Jordan has taken the initiative to be a member of the international coalition to combat the Da'ish gang that engages in killings, destruction and bloodshed and is harmful to Islam and Muslims.

To achieve peace through action, Jordan does not hesitate to provide help and humanitarian aid to people around the world. This is carried out either through contributing to international peacekeeping forces or through the humanitarian aid that the Hashemite Charity Organization provides. It dispatches humanitarian relief convoys carrying food, medicine and medical supplies, clothing, blankets, tents, gifts for children and basic requirements of people afflicted by war, conflict and natural disasters, in addition to sending field hospitals to many countries. Jordan also hosts large numbers of Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian refugees who have migrated from their homelands due to war. Jordan has borne the largest burden, which exceeds its capabilities and endurance. The refugees have found security, peace and tranquility in our land. They have found open arms that have embraced them, sheltered them, reduced their suffering and healed their wounds.

Col. Mamdoh S. Al-Ameri

Director of the Jordan Armed Forces Media Group





HEALING DAMAGED

30 YEARS OF CONFLICT HAVE BRED INSTABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST





Navy Staff Col. (SEAL) Abdullah Shaheen Al-Dosari Qatari senior national representative to U.S. Central Command

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful The Almighty God said:

"And do not kill the soul, which Allah has forbidden, except by right. And whoever is killed unjustly — We have given his heir authority, but let him not exceed limits in [the matter of] taking life. Indeed, he has been supported [by the law]." [Surat Al-'Isrā'verse 33]

The Middle East region is going through difficult situations. As illustrated by recent events in Syria and Iraq, as well as Libya and Yemen, it has become a tragic arena for brutal, bloody wars.

The region has become weak because of a succession of wars, in addition to what is currently happening in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. It has become similar to a disease that afflicts the body and spreads throughout the organs; one cannot get rid of it except by healing the whole body. These wars have ambiguous features; the rapid changes and events contribute to their lack of clarity. One may say that its characteristics make it a mixture between the second generation of war and the fourth generation of war, qualities that American military expert and author William Lind describes as asymmetric warfare.

CATASTROPHE FOLLOWS WAR

Science and Technology magazine once defined catastrophe as a "tragedy resulting from natural or industrial [human] factors that threaten life, health, property and environment, and adversely affects society, the urban environment and structure." These are the components of the conflicts existing in Iraq and Syria, which suggest the near future will bring real catastrophe. Nations will be the biggest and true losers based on today's chilling scenes of destruction, bloodshed, the killing of children, women and the elderly in cold blood and the mutilation of their bodies. All of that will have a dire psychological impact on the whole society, especially children, who are the keys to the future. Identity, culture and traditions also suffer.

It will be a great challenge for the state to treat this problem — or rather yet another "war" for the state and its institutions to fight — because they have to treat trauma and psychological problems that individuals have been subjected to. Inability to handle such problems will create social problems that would impact a whole generation. This is one of the reasons for the collapse of some states — when the state becomes concerned with the technical development at the expense of humanitarian and moral development.

THE HOSTILE IDEOLOGY

We have to understand that the savage acts happening today, such as beheading and exploding objects in cold blood, are a result of a corrupt ideology this generation has inherited from previous wars. This generation never benefited from a proper nation that could treat this disease that lay dormant until the virus found a suitable time and environment to reappear and resume its activities. To clarify, we must look back to the previous wars, starting with the Iran-Iraq War in 1980, then the First Gulf War in 1990, the Second Gulf War in 2003 and finally the current war. This means that this generation fighting today stems from the first and second wars. That suggests the generations to come will be burdened with the same ideology unless the issue is addressed with long-term reforms. What goes on in Syria now is a contagion that has been transmitted from Iraq through terrorist groups and revolutionary guard warriors; they belong to the same generation that we talked about earlier.

THE ROLE OF MEDIA

Media plays a key role. It is considered one of the mechanisms of war, especially when mercenary authors and channels have been employed to mislead by changing the shape of truth and reality and spreading chaos by using all means of modern visual media. Undoubtedly, media can serve the purposes of both war and peace. We see it through the chaos that media has created among Islamic sects and doctrines, igniting the fuse of strife. On the other hand, if the Islamic world possessed a strong media capable of addressing those lies and strife, the outcome would have been different.

Some societies in this region still lack knowledge, clear vision and the ability to discern and to perform good analysis; they are generally uncivilized. The radical media also contributed to the deception by luring many youth from around the world to fight in the name of Islam, although in reality the religion innocently calls for dialogue, love, brotherhood, justice and equality. We need not fear for the religion of Islam, because Islam is a strong faith proven by history. But we have reason to fear those who practice it wrongly.

THE ACTUAL LOSSES

There is no doubt that war also causes damage to property, cities, factories, institutions and public services; it is not easy to rebuild them. For example, when we see a whole city collapse in one day, rebuilding it requires time, effort and money. Yet, in reality, it is worse when a society's identity and culture collapse. It is not easy to rebuild because it requires goodwill, good relations among members of these societies, and the construction of a new civilization based on safety and peace. To achieve this, we first need to start raising a generation with new and authentic values.

THE SYRIAN ISSUE

The Syrian regime practices the worst forms of torture and murder and uses all kinds of weapons against civilians; Arab countries in particular and the rest of the world in general must confront this criminal regime. It has displaced its people, damaged the components of the nation, especially the children, and invited political and economic problems into the country. This regime has joined hands with foreigners who have regional and historic ambitions. It also ignited strife and sectarian wars and turned the country into a fertile ground for radical terrorist gangs. Such dictatorships definitely contribute to the growth of terrorism; therefore, this regime must be overthrown and the people be left to rule themselves through honest, nondeceptive elections.

THE IRAQI ISSUE

Iraq must carry out national reconciliation and reunite Iraqis of various races and sects, whether they be Sunnis, Shias or Kurds. To spare Iraqi blood, the nation must search for means to stop terrorism, cut its roots and create social tolerance in the





An Iraqi man inspects the wreckage of burned cars in May 2015 after a terrorist attack in the Baghdad neighborhood of Talbiya.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani speaks to journalists during a visit to Mount Sinjar, west of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

country. This requires a long-term approach and a clear strategic plan. It requires the creation of equality by giving opportunity to all, regardless of sect. Inequality is one of the reasons for the emergence of radicalism. The non-Arab nations with an objective to shake Iraq's security through interference in its affairs must be stopped. The Iraqi case belongs to Arab nations and the Islamic world as a whole.

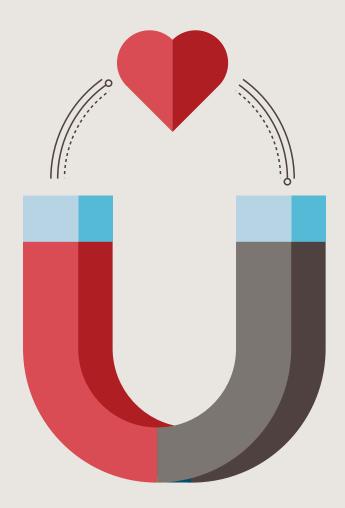
THE YEMENI ISSUE

Security of the Arabian Gulf and Yemen cannot be separated because Yemen is considered a natural link for the Gulf states and part of one strategic block. These societies overlap to a large extent. Therefore, the Gulf states must return legitimacy to Yemen to achieve stability and to confront the aggression and rebellion of Houthi militias and their quest to control the state. Also, a non-Arab nation's interference in Yemen's affairs has its own strategic dimensions, due to the intellectual and doctrinal closeness between the Houthis and that nation. That just adds to the complexity of the matter and threatens national security for all the Gulf states. Therefore, the Gulf states must start to think seriously about the future of Yemen, especially a plan to include it in the Gulf Cooperation Council to benefit from its geographic location.

Yemen is considered a link between the Gulf states and Africa. Gulf states would also benefit from Yemen's human resources, because population size is considered a source of strength for the state. It is also possible to benefit from the natural resources that have not been invested in because of failed Yemeni policy. If all of that is to be achieved, there will be a good opportunity for investment that would benefit all Gulf states.

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

We hope that what is occurring in the region helps restore health to the Arab world, which has suffered greatly for decades from the problems of despair and poverty. We also hope that these current troubles represent a "toll" that the current generation is paying so that future generations enjoy security and safety. The problems we face today are the result of the previous dictatorial rule that extended for approximately 40 years. So these countries need inspirational leaders who can make sacrifices and are capable of strengthening the social and moral fabric and instilling confidence in their people, leaders who do not think about how to maintain power, wield absolute authority or achieve personal interests.



STRENGTHENING BONDS with Civilians

LEBANON'S NEW CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION DIRECTORATE HELPS BUILD TRUST

COL. YOUSSEF MECHREF/DIRECTOR OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES
CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION DIRECTORATE | PHOTOS BY THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) boast a proud history of protecting civilians. As long ago as 1928 and 1930, the LAF helped to battle the locust swarms plaguing the country. In the winter, the military helps keep roads clear of snow. As Syrian refugees pour across the border, the LAF treats the sick and injured and distributes food.

Civil-military cooperation in Lebanon is an important tool to support domestic security operations. Coordination with civil authorities and the public is essential for LAF unit commanders as they carry out missions. The diversity of religions and ethnicities within the LAF has enabled the military to build better cultural understanding so it can support and interact with people across Lebanon.









Members of the Lebanese Armed Forces give coats to children during a civil-military operation.

Col. Youssef Mechref, director of the Lebanese Armed Forces Civil-Military Cooperation Directorate, right, speaks with a community leader. LAF civil-military cooperation has evolved over time, starting as a theoretical concept before being formally integrated into the military. In 2012, with support and encouragement from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the LAF established a Civil-Military Cooperation Section. The new section served as a conduit for international support of the LAF's civil-military cooperation activities, which increased the capacity of the country's forces.

In January 2015, the section was elevated to a directorate — an important milestone for civil-military cooperation in Lebanon. The directorate supports people of all religions, mirroring the sectarian diversity of the LAF.

As the head of the directorate, I am proud to say that civil-military cooperation has helped the LAF develop a reputation as a reliable, trustworthy and respected national institution. We have helped establish medical clinics, provided school supplies to children, upgraded various social development centers and refurbished schools and government buildings and infrastructure. We have planted trees and provided communities with medical supplies and equipment. We are working to establish enduring relationships with local government officials, a continuation of the historical coordination between the military and the country's civil society leaders.

As a result, public awareness of the importance of our civil-military activities has increased, as has positive perceptions of the military. I will quote from one Lebanese citizen after a recent distribution of school bags to children: "There is no homeland without the Army. This is their

human side. May God keep them safe."

Another resident praised the Army after vaccinations were provided to her children: "We thank the Army for treating our children as their own. We wish them the best."

LAF Sgt. Ali Sayf-al-Din explains why managing citizens' perceptions of the military is critical: "It is very important for us to show that the role of the Army is not limited to protecting the borders and combating terrorism. It goes beyond that to include the social side, the humanitarian and development."

A Syrian refugee also expressed thanks: "We thank our brothers in the Lebanese Army. They protect us and our children. We thank them for the aid given to us. We and the Army are united. We feel safe under their umbrella."

Soldier Hanin al-Ruz has worked in LAF's civil-military cooperation section and directorate the past two years and, like all of us, is proud of what has been achieved. "This effort led to providing the civil society with pressing needs," she said. "It also increased confidence between the civil society and the military."

In the next five years, we plan to expand with more staff so that the directorate has a larger capacity to support tactical unit commanders. We are establishing regional civil-military cooperation offices across the country. The directorate will also continue with awareness campaigns to highlight civil-military cooperation. Perhaps the greatest tribute to our effectiveness is the growing public interest in our work and increased requests from LAF unit commanders for directorate support of their missions. •





Jordan's Peace Operations Training Center prepares multinational forces for missions abroad

BRIG. GEN. AMJAD AL-ZOUBI

COMMANDER OF THE JORDAN ARMED FORCES PEACE OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER



BRIG. GEN. AMJAD AL-ZOUBI

Every nation in the world has a uniqueness that distinguishes it from the rest. One may have vast natural resources; another may be known for manufacturing or trade. In Jordan, our distinctiveness is revealed in our commitment to helping people.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has a long and proud history of

participating in peacekeeping operations all over the world. The Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) have participated in more than 20 United Nations peacekeeping missions. This commitment to international security and peace goes even further because Jordan is home to a regional and international training center designed to enable military and civilian personnel to participate successfully in peace operations. This ultimately contributes to Jordan's principles in supporting justice, peace and security in our shared world.

As commander of the JAF's Peace Operations Training Center (POTC) in Zarqa, I strongly believe in the noble humanitarian mission the center contributes to by working internally with the JAF and externally with foreign militaries and other organizations. The primary mission of the center is to provide training, both academic and practical, so that participants are qualified to work in global U.N. peacekeeping operations.

HISTORY

In 1989, Jordan took part in its first international peace operation by sending 14 military observers to Angola. After the JAF's initial experience as an observer in Angola, it began training and deploying forces in support of global U.N. missions. Initially, a branch was formed at the Royal Military Academy to train forces for future U.N. missions — this was the early start of what is now the POTC. At the beginning, training focused on predeployment curriculum, but was later refined to include more specialized training for officers.

In 1992, Jordan sent its first peacekeeping battalion to Croatia during the Yugoslavian civil war, and wider participation soon followed. I was part of Jordan's second peacekeeping battalion to Croatia, where I spent a year and two months as a captain and platoon leader. Working with multinational forces was something new for us, and we learned a lot. I also served in Kosovo as a military liaison officer.



Brig. Gen. Amjad Al-Zoubi and staff at the POTC $_{\text{POTC}}$

Since 1989, the JAF has contributed about 72,100 troops to U.N. peacekeeping missions, not counting the many police officers Jordan also sends. More than 10,000 have gone to Afghanistan, some for two to three tours. Much of POTC's coursework involves train-the-trainer-style courses. This allows the JAF to ensure that all its services are equipped with peacekeeping operations knowledge and skills.

In 1999, POTC began training regional and international forces. The first was a military company from the United Arab Emirates. To make training more convenient for foreign militaries and organizations, POTC began sending mobile training teams to other countries.

In 2011, POTC received NATO accreditation and was officially deemed a NATO Partnership Training Center. In 2014, POTC received two other achievements: The United Nations formally recognized two of POTC's courses, and the International Committee of the Red Cross named POTC as a center of excellence for training in the law of armed conflict in North Africa and the Middle East.

Presently, POTC falls under the JAF's Directorate of Joint Training and is considered one of the Armed Forces' prominent schools.

OVERVIEW

Participation in POTC's courses is open to all countries: armed forces, nongovernmental organizations and government departments. The center trains officers and noncommissioned officers, and since 1992, POTC has supported more than 63,300 JAF personnel and almost 8,000 personnel from 25 countries.

Courses cover a wide array of topics such as child protection; gender in peace operations; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; U.N. military observers; U.N. civil-military coordination; and law of armed conflict. All courses are provided in English, except for law of armed conflict. That course is always done in the native language of the area in question to ensure the language matches that used by local laws and religion.

POTC offers both indoor and outdoor facilities, including an auditorium, library, cafeterias and housing. For practical training, POTC built the "Arabian Village" in 2011. The addition allows participants to gain practical experience of working in a community that has a mosque, library and key leader/sheikh house. This has been a critical component allowing participants to put what they learned in classrooms into practice. Our scenarios are dependent on the needs of

Countries/organizations that POTC has supported



Testimonials

"We first went to the center about six years ago to teach a course on Resources Management for Iraqi and Jordanian personnel. In the past two years, we have used the facility consistently — several times a year to teach courses on Resources Management and Human Capital Resources Management. Our overall experience is excellent. The staff are professional and extremely dedicated. The support we are given is incredible. Brig. Gen. Al-Zoubi and everyone at POTC are a joy to work with. The facilities are great."

DR. JOMANA AMARA

Associate professor of economics, Defense Resources Management Institute

"I have always been impressed by the POTC staff's professionalism and positive attitude, the vast training areas and POTC's ability to provide requested training aids, such as a variety of weapons, inert mines, IED simulations and role-players dressed up for a variety of scenarios. I think that POTC is a big part of the International Organization for Migration-Security Awareness Induction Training success in Jordan. ... If you want to create realism in any security/safety related training, this is the place — square kilometers of land with hills, tarmac roads, dirt roads, desert, urban combat training facilities, etc. The POTC staff is very flexible and has knowledge and understanding for everyone's needs and limits, especially important when training humanitarian staff members. ... The role-players are an excellent addition to the reality in scenarios. They are dressed for each situation (good guys, bad guys, tribal leader, special forces, medics etc.) with a mindset that allows them to react to the students' actions in a very realistic way."

BEN WYKE

International Organization for Migration

the organization or curriculum we are supporting. Our participants can experience practical training in hostage rescue scenarios, building searches, border checkpoints and driving in various peacekeeping vehicles. The Arabian Village also supports POTC's unique cultural awareness of training for foreign forces operating in the Middle East and elsewhere. It's important to understand the religion and culture for a mission to be successful. This course covers basic language, women in Arab society, families and relationships, stereotypes, an overview of Islam, dress codes in Arabic culture, the Amman Message and basic cultural do's and don'ts.



Jordanian officers study at POTC. POTC

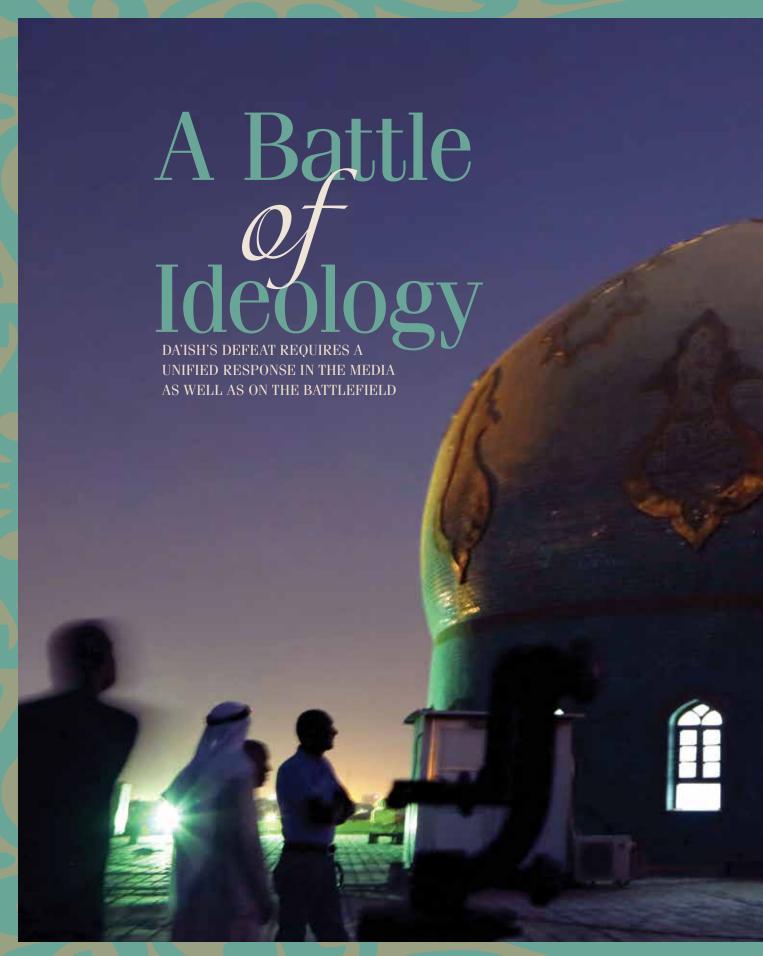
FUTURE

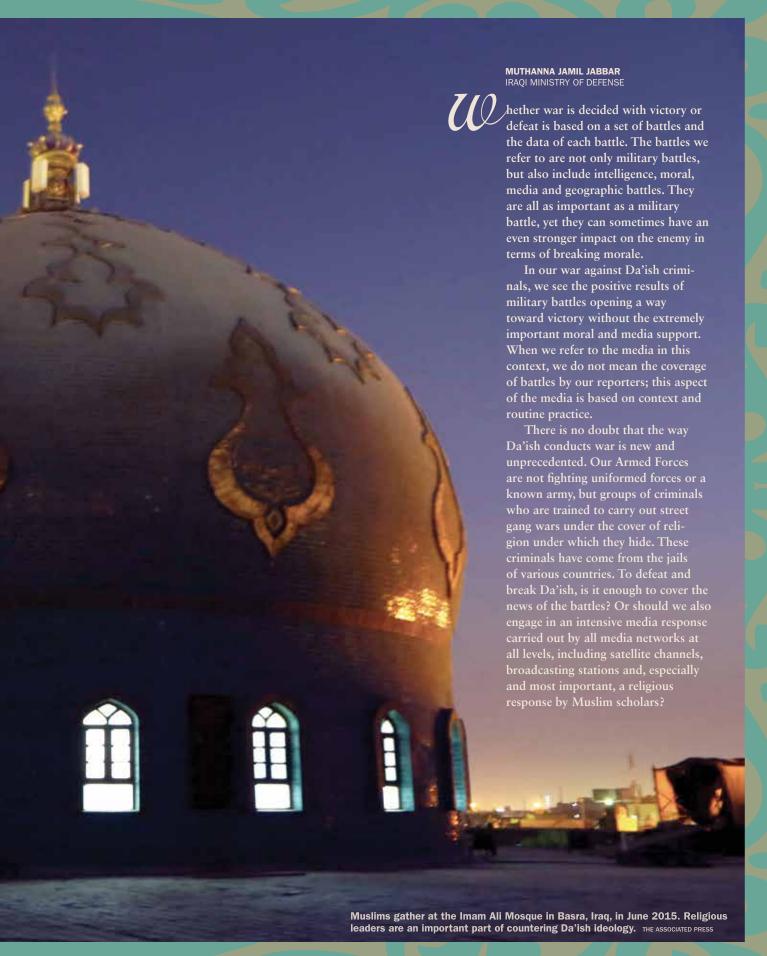
As of May 2015, 152 JAF personnel served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 36 military observers were working around the world, and 50 were working in U.N. staff offices. The JAF also has military field hospitals deployed in Iraq, Gaza and Egypt — with many other field hospitals being deployed in previous missions.

We are proud of our contributions to international peace and security. We helped the people of Haiti deal with the devastating aftermath of an earthquake and helped the people of Afghanistan against the terrorists who wished to destroy their security and faith.

However, Jordan's commitment has come with sacrifice. Jordan has lost 36 heroes in peacekeeping and special duty operations. These martyrs are remembered by Jordanians, and we work to honor their memory by continuing our work to uphold our ideals and commitment to international peace.

POTC is eager and willing to share our experience and training with others throughout the world so that together we can create a peaceful future. •









Iraqi Soldiers train at Camp Taji, Iraq. Beyond daily battle updates, leaders must engage the media and key communicators to counter Da'ish propaganda. SGT. CODY QUINN/U.S. ARMY

This response must not merely be a message that Muslim scholars affix their signatures to and then sit waiting for the awakening of a criminal whose ideologies were provided by a Da'ish leader who himself is a criminal by nature. There is no need to address him or call him an infidel, but we must address and debate Da'ish members themselves because we know for sure that there are many among them who have been misled and deceived and might be waiting for a spot of light or ray of hope to guide them away from criminality.

This debate will definitely not be face to face; we know that Da'ish does not have the courage for such a confrontation. The debate will be merely a media confrontation (one fatwa against another fatwa, one piece of news against another piece of news, one report against another report). We respond to them and explain ourselves extensively — this should be carried out especially by the clergy.

This is the time for cooperation and unity, first on the level of religions, then on the level of sects. This is the time for unity and holding firmly to the rope of God Almighty because Da'ish started as a philosophy of deviant thought before it became a group of armed criminals. Therefore, to defeat them militarily, we also must contradict their sick thoughts. This battle needs comprehensive participation from Arabs and Muslims to root out this philosophy stained by the blood of innocents.

If only we can come together and combine our resources and financial capabilities to support a media battle and produce Islamic movies and stories about the life of our noble Prophet in response to the movies of slaughtering and killing that Da'ish used to terrorize one set of people and attract another. In spite of the ferocity of the battles and savagery of Da'ish, the Arab-language media is still weak compared to Da'ish's online media. We must unify Arab and Islamic discourse against the crimes of Da'ish.

The Muslim scholars' discourse should also be unified against Da'ish crimes to provide true support for the results of the military operations. Da'ish is a foreign occupation that targets Arab Muslim existence. It has started in Iraq but its goal is to conquer all Arab Muslim countries. I don't believe that we will allow them to do that. We will wait to see our scholars' efforts that will provide solidarity to reveal the lies, arrogance and falsity of Da'ish. When all of Da'ish's acts are deemed illogical, then it will be inevitable for the correct logic to prevail.

LESSONS LEARNED

Ordinary human beings move through life to learn moral and spiritual lessons and examples. For that purpose, God honored man with grace of mind to analyze events and daily interactions, to draw conclusions, and to preserve them in the memory to become a reference for future conduct. It is said that "life is experiences." As Iraqis, our nation above others has been through all kinds of difficult experiences and tests that built character and style. Maybe one of the most severe and bitter experiences is what we are going through now with these bands of infidels and

criminals. Those are the terrorists of the so-called Da'ish, considered the most dangerous and cruel in the history of Iraq because it invented several new and unprecedented types of killing and terrorism, commits blasphemy and abuses the religion of Islam and all other divine religions. It practices many obvious and cruel violations against humanity, Shariah and all humans laws. In the short period during which Da'ish terrorists entered our beloved country, they murdered many innocent and pure lives unjustly, seized cities, tarnished the sanctity of their safe homes and honor, tampered with property and destroyed history in an apparent attempt to obliterate the national identity and erase the products of our honorable ancient civilization.

They will not keep us away from our origins and our true identity that built the foundations of law, culture and knowledge for the whole world. They are also trying to distance us from our religion and its magnanimous teachings by spreading their poisonous thought and philosophy. Da'ish's ideological invasion is considered more dangerous even than those of the Mongols and Tatars, who made many attempts to destroy the thoughts, knowledge and beliefs of the Iraqi people.

Da'ish's ideological assault threatens the whole world. It builds its human resources from all over the world and finances itself from several sources inside and outside Iraq. The Iraqi people took it upon themselves to cleanse their land — land is indeed our responsibility. But the main pledge, to destroy Da'ish thought and philosophy, extends to the neighboring countries and beyond. Here lies those countries' responsibilities: to help Iraq and stand by it in its war against terrorism and eliminate its remains. Threats to property and land are not only aimed at Iraq; the threat of this poisonous thought targets all nations and governments. This is evident because Da'ish recruits from across various identities and genders.

Da'ish has definitely desecrated our land and tarnished our religion, beliefs and civilization. It cost our people their lives and livelihood. Da'ish tried to tear out our national identity, but in doing so, they opened new horizons for us — they may have clarified matters that have been incomprehensible to us before. It presented us with many moral and spiritual lessons, the most important of which is that unity is the ideal solution, and the terrorists' efforts to differentiate between sects, to create divisions and to destroy cooperation have been exposed. These lessons and many others are important to us as Iraqis so that we unify our ranks, bolster our own efforts, and boost our resolution to reject racism and sectarianism and to depend on ourselves. Once we learn from these lessons, Da'ish will not be able to prevent our victories. We will prove to the whole world that the Iraqi nation is still the same, the nation that rises against injustice and infidelity. It is the same revolutionary nation that confronted all kinds of aggression and spite against civilization and religion. It is the same united people who were, and still are, calling out in one voice for a goal that is greater than all goals: the freedom, stability and safety of Iraq. \diamond

FORCES FOR STABILITY

Middle Eastern and South and Central Asian countries supply Soldiers, police and advisors for peacekeeping

TOTAL PERSONNEL IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

- 3 Qatar
- 7 Kazakhstan
- 23 Kyrgyz Republic
- 335 Yemen
- 1.768 Jordan
- 2,144 Egypt
- 8,797 Pakistan

Note: Breakdown by U.N. Mission - country participation will be displayed on map.

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES

A multinational naval partnership consisting of three task forces that promote security, stability and prosperity across about 2.5 million square miles of international waters. Member countries: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Yemen



MINUSTAH

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

- 10 Egypt
- 24 Yemen
- 140 Pakistan
- 320 Jordan

MINURSO -

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

- 1 Jordan
- 1 Pakistan
- 5 Kazakhstan
- 11 Yemen
- 22 Egypt

UNMIL -

United Nations Mission in Liberia:

- 6 Kyrgyz Republic
- 11 Yemen
- 13 Egypt
- 910 Pakistan

MINUSMA 4

United Nations Multidimensional **Integrated Stabilization** Mission in Mali

SENEGAL

GUINEA

SIERRA LEONE

THE GAMBIA

GUINEA-BISSAU

- 4 Jordan
- 16 Yemen
- 63 Egypt

UNOCI

D'IVOIRE

MOROCCO

MAURITANIA

ALGERIA

BENIN

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE

TOGO

NIGER

GABON

NIGERIA

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

BURKINA FASO

GHANA

- 2 Kazakhstan
- 25 Yemen
- 197 Egypt
- 522 Jordan
- 638 Pakistan

MINUSCA 4

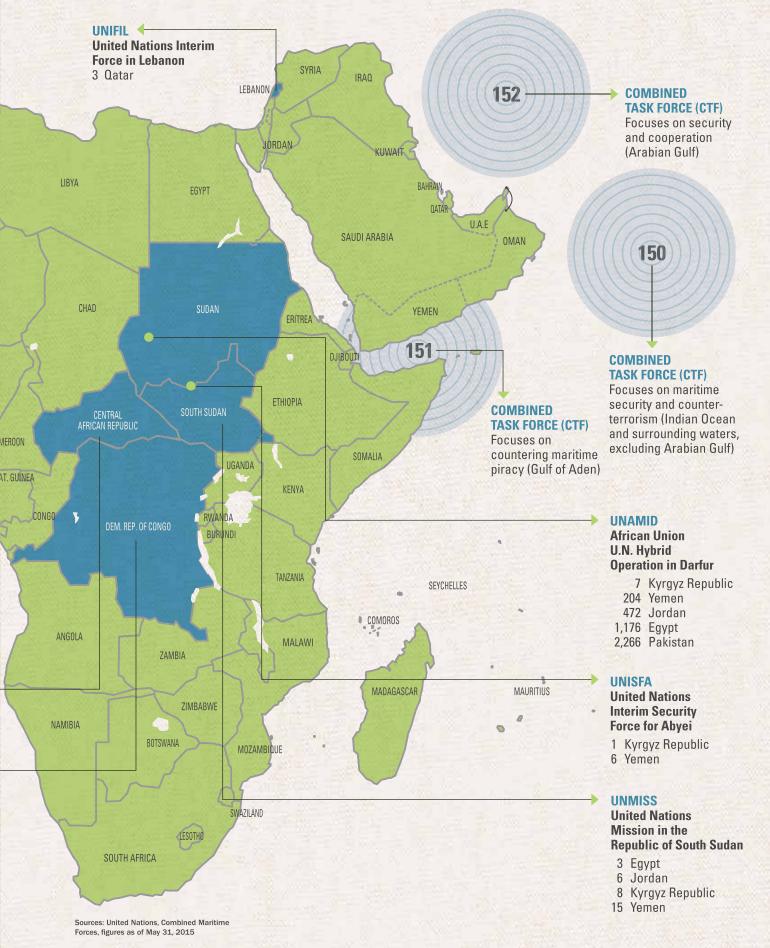
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the **Central African Republic**

- 8 Yemen
- 11 Jordan
- 260 Egypt
- 1,124 Pakistan

MONUSCO -

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

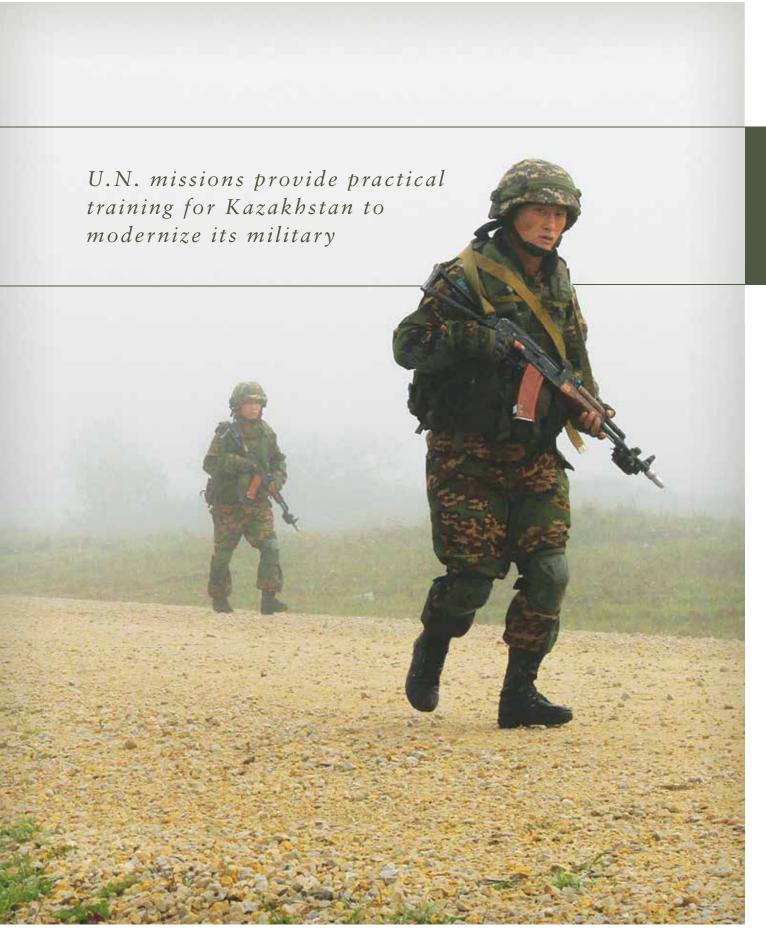
- 15 Yemen
- 162 Egypt
- 182 Jordan
- 3.695 Pakistan



KAZAKHSTAN PURSUES

PEACEKEEPING





ne of the tasks for the Kazakhstan Armed Forces is to participate in peacekeeping, humanitarian and other operations. To achieve these objectives, military doctrine prioritizes political-diplomatic, legal, economic, humanitarian, information and other nonmilitary engagements. The 21st century environment is unpredictable and perilous, with conflicts dominated by territorial, ethnic and religious differences. Traditional challenges have been changing rapidly, and to respond to new asymmetric security threats, military must employ innovative methods and techniques and work effectively in a multinational, interagency environment.

In accordance with military doctrine, it is clear that peace activities are one pillar of Kazakhstan's national security policy. Kazakhstan's active participation in peace operations under United Nations Security Council resolutions is important for the promotion of Kazakhstan's military-political position and the broader interests of Kazakhstan, as well as extending the country's prestige internationally. In addition, the country launched its own aid agency, KAZAID.

South Central Asia is an unstable region with high levels of activity by extremist terrorist organizations and drug traffickers, a low standard of living and high unemployment. In this regard, Kazakhstan may need to find a balance of power that can guarantee security and stability in the region. In any case, Kazakhstan has indicated that it will first rely on its own strength. Kazakhstan is unlikely to face a direct conventional threat;

Kazakh Peacekeeping **Battalion** Soldiers shake hands with role players after an exercise.



therefore, the Kazakhstan Armed Forces' top priority task is to be prepared to carry out combat missions in low- and medium-intensity conflicts. It is precisely to deal with such conflicts that Kazakhstan needs a small, highly mobile and professional army with better command and control systems, communications and information support than currently exists. Kazakhstan's military doctrine has continued to shape the Kazakhstan Armed Forces from a post-Soviet mass mobilization military, shifting from largescale warfare to a smaller brigade-based army capable of handling the low-intensity conflicts and military operations that Kazakhstan would likely face.

In this regard, the NATO member countries have played a very important role in transforming the Kazakhstan Armed Forces from a traditional territorial defense role into expeditionary, professional and technologically advanced force capable of meeting threats in the diverse security environment.

PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITIES

The Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense's decision to take the first cautious steps of cooperation with Western countries started with the creation of its peacekeeping forces. In 2000, the Kazakh Peacekeeping Battalion (KAZBAT) was formed to meet the obligations of maintaining international peace and security. It was the first military unit in Kazakhstan's history composed only of contracted military service members. To enhance the peace operations capability, in October 2007, in accordance with the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense Directive, the 38th Separate Air Assault Brigade was renamed Kazakh Peacekeeping Brigade (KAZBRIG), and KAZBAT became part of the KAZBRIG. To enhance the peacekeeping capabilities and implement the cooperation plan between Kazakhstan and NATO and its member countries, the first Central Asian Partnership for Peace Training Center — called the Kazakhstan Center (KAZCENT) — was opened July 1, 2008, in the Kazakhstan's Military Institute of Ground Forces. The center's main objective is to train military personnel of Kazakhstan, NATO and partners for participation in peacekeeping operations.

KAZCENT has held more than 30 events, including courses titled English Military Terminology in Multinational Operations, NATO Administrative Procedures, and Military-Civilian



Military units often conduct peace operations in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments. The modern operational environment for a peace operation may include hybrid threats, failing states, absence of the rule of law, terrorism, violations of human rights, collapsed economies and humanitarian crises. Such a complex operational environment requires that commanders and Soldiers operate effectively at all levels, under clear mission orders and strong leadership skills.

Interaction. In 2012, to enhance KAZCENT peacekeeping capabilities, the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense and the United States Department of Defense signed a Three-Year Plan of Cooperation in support of Kazakhstan's Partnership for Peace Training Center.

In 2003, Kazakhstan, the U.S. and the United Kingdom started Steppe Eagle, an annual peacekeeping joint training exercise. Since 2012, Steppe Eagle has been held in the spirit of the NATO Partnership for Peace with a focus on training and strengthening peacekeeping capabilities. The same year, Kazakhstan signed an Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO. Military members from eight countries have participated in the exercise. In August 2013, about 1,600 military personnel from Italy, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom, the United States and observers from Belarus, Germany, Spain and Ukraine participated. During the exercise, KAZBRIG's first battalion, KAZBAT-1, passed a NATO evaluation that permits it operate with NATO forces

in international peace support operations. It was the first Central Asian country to achieve this.

Peacekeeping training is mostly carried out in the framework of bilateral military cooperation with the U.S., the U.K., Turkey, Germany, France and other countries. The U.S. has made the most significant contributions of training and equipment to KAZBRIG. It has received 101 high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicles, as well as engineering, personal protection, and communications equipment. Based in Almaty, KAZBRIG completed classrooms for peacekeeping and language training, with the installation of multimedia equipment, as well as construction of the KAZBRIG Peacekeeping Training Center.

PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING

NATO certification confirmed KAZBRIG's ability to operate in a multinational peacekeeping environment under a U.N. mandate. In line with its military doctrine, in 2013, the Kazakhstan government announced its plan to participate



Kazakh
Peacekeeping
Battalion Soldiers
navigate through
challenging
terrain during
a patrol to set
up observation
points as part
of Steppe Eagle
2014

in U.N. peacekeeping missions. After extensive peacekeeping activities, the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense collaborated with the Kazakhstan Foreign Ministry to initiate certain developments in this direction. They suggested, in consideration of political practicability and compliance with Kazakhstan's foreign policy interests, not to include missions that may cause mixed reactions of Kazakhstan's major partners or its civil society.

The first KAZBAT experience in peace operations began in Iraq in 2003 and ran for more than five years. The Kazakhstan peacekeeping included explosive ordnance disposal experts, engineers, and medical personnel. More than 300 Kazakhstan Soldiers gained experience in ordnance disposal and organization of combat activities. The military engineers destroyed about 5 million pieces of explosives and ordnance.

Two officers were also deployed on U.N. missions in Nepal and one officer on a mission to Georgia as a military observer. As part of a new military strategy, five military observers were sent to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and two military observers were sent to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Furthermore, the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense is working on sending the first Kazakhstan military contingent to U.N. missions in Africa. Understanding the complexity of the mechanism for the dispatch of and participation by self-contained units without adequate experience, as well as the inability to deploy replacement rotations of appropriately trained battalions, the Ministry of Defense is planning to send a military unit at the company level.

USEFULNESS OF PEACEKEEPING

Military units often conduct peace operations in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments. The modern operational environment for a peace operation may include hybrid threats, failing states, absence of the rule of law, terrorism, violations of human rights, collapsed economies and humanitarian crises.

Such a complex operational environment requires that commanders and Soldiers operate effectively at all levels, under clear mission orders and strong leadership skills.

The leaders must not only share risk across echelons to create opportunities; they must also assign responsibilities effectively to maintain a balance between the art of command and the science of control. The ability to collaborate and operate with teamwork in a joint and multinational environment is critical.

To gain practical experience of warfare in contemporary settings under real conditions, military forces of many countries are actively participating in peace operations. Participation in peace operations is a necessary and essential part of the constant training of troops in modern forms of armed confrontation, especially for countries that have militaries not engaging in any conflicts.

Moreover, participation in peace operations should be considered not only as providing dividends in the military aspect, but also in the political, diplomatic and economic aspects. In terms of internal budgeting for participation in peace operations, it is an added incentive that the U.N. reimburses member states for providing contingent military personnel, equipment and support services to any U.N. operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2014, Steppe Eagle was conducted at the U.S. Army Joint Military Readiness Center, and it was the most realistic exercise ever for Kazakhstan Soldiers. From the beginning, when Kazakhstan's peacekeeping troops were deployed with their equipment to Germany on two brand-new C-295 Airbus transport planes, until the end, they showed their ability to work in a multinational-force environment. Despite all positive feedback, it was noted that the decision-making process was centralized during this exercise. This is probably the most important issue for KAZBRIG and for the whole Kazakhstan Armed Forces.



Kazakh
peacekeeping
forces work
on riot control
techniques.
The U.N.
requires
peacekeeping troops to
be trained in
such skills.

Multiple combinations of regular, irregular and complex operational environments require a new philosophy of command, which should answer how to approach the art of command and science of control on the 21st-century battlefield. To successfully confront modern threats, the Kazakhstan Armed Forces in 2013 launched its transition to a fully professional army. The creation of a professional army in a modern context requires an integrated, complex approach. It is important to clearly define a new philosophy of the command and control system, and mission command would be a just right guidance to change the Kazakhstan Armed Forces organization culture.

In turn, for successful operation in an international, multinational environment the Kazakhstan Armed Forces should adjust their current peace operations concept. First, based on KAZCENT, Kazakhstan Armed Forces should create a peace operations training center for selected military units. The complexity of modern peace operations requires high standards of training, management and leadership skills. In this connection, military and civilian personnel or units assigned for the mission must train with experts.

Information technology must be one of the instruments of training and distance education, because ability to quickly respond and share information effectively are very important.

Second, KAZBRIZ should become an Air Assault Brigade without direct obligations for maintaining international peace and security, which would allow it to systemize different brigade structures, strengths, and combat training systems. Third, the Kazakhstan Armed Forces should change its gender policy and increase female participation in peace operations training. Females can carry out different tasks and can also enhance units' capabilities, and gender awareness training has to be conducted in every military unit.

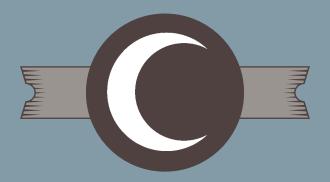
It would also be important to enhance foreign language training for all military personal because the complexity of operations, the multiplicity of nationalities, cultures and professional disciplines requires clear communication and understanding during the peace operations.

Finally, to adequately and successfully respond to today's threats in a manner that demonstrates that the Kazakhstan Armed Forces can understand situations, make decisions, direct action, and accomplish missions, the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense should adapt a new philosophy of mission command.

The Kazakhstan Armed Forces must learn how to effectively use the instrument of peace operations. The ability of small units to conduct successful operations on the ground can have huge impacts at the operational and strategic level. Maintaining unity of effort between the civilian, military branches, administration and logistics components in peace operations requires the sustained development and good leadership skills.

It is to be hoped that from the small step of participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations, the Kazakhstan Armed Forces can change its military culture for the better and adopt a new mission command philosophy. •

With the approval of the author, this article is a condensed version of a paper titled "The Kazakhstan Armed Forces Peace Operations Prospects," written for the Strategy Research Project at the U.S. Army War College. Resources from the following organizations were used in researching this article: U.S. Army War College; Foreign Military Studies Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Eurasian Council of Foreign Affairs; Tengrynews website, Deutsche Welle website, U.S. Central Command website; www. cacianalyst.org; The Challenges Project; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation website; http://www.odkb-csto.org; http://www.inform.kz/rus; The Jamestown Foundation; Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Center of Military History, United States Army; U.S. Department of the Army; and the United Nations.



CIVILIAN AGENCIES

AID THE MILITARY

Disaster preparedness in Kuwait requires cooperation from all sectors of society

DR. WIJDAN AL-OQAB, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE KUWAIT ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SOCIETY

As it sailed out of Kuwait's Mina Alahmadi oil terminal, the tanker Hadiya sustained an explosion along its hull, spilling up to 5,000 gallons of petroleum into the Arabian Gulf. The Kuwaiti Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force, along with assistance from the Kuwaiti Fire Surface Directory, answered the distress call, rescued injured mariners, suppressed the flames and helped contain the oil spill.

ut this simulation conducted during the Eagle Resolve military exercise in March 2015 provided an opportunity to do something unique. For the first time in the history of the biennial exercise, civilian environmental protection organizations, both governmental and nongovernmental, played a substantial role in responding to the catastrophe.

The resulting oil spill, injuries, water pollution and deaths required participation not only of my organization — the Kuwait Environment Protection Society — but the Ministry of the Interior, the National Guard, the Fire Department, the Medical Emergency Department, the Ministry of Health and the Environment Protection Authority.

These groups' response to the incident revealed a large capacity for handling crises. Dealing with disasters embodied the true meaning of integration between state institutions and the various agencies and the importance of collaboration in controlling the consequences of crises.

As noted by Lt. Col. Bader Faleh Al-Kudam, director of Kuwait's Shuaiba Marine Rescue Center: "The operation was an excellent success."

Civil society organizations are considered a key pillar in building a nation. They play a main role in developing a society whose members and groups effectively contribute to the building and prosperity of a nation, and in defending it. Civilians and civil society institutions can play an effective role in crisis and disaster management. Each has its own specialty, resources and defined role. Through joint cooperation and coordination, they can achieve the goal.

At first glance, Eagle Resolve 2015
looked like a purely military exercise.
Thankfully, the civil element was added to the latest iteration of the exercise. My agency and other civil organizations participated along with governmental authorities. Gen. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kandari, the driving force in the exercise, graciously allowed my organization to create a civilian crisis management unit for the first time in this exercise. We devised a manual that detailed the resources and capabilities of ministries, institutions and others agencies to make the best use of them in times of crisis.

We collaborated as one unit facing this challenge.

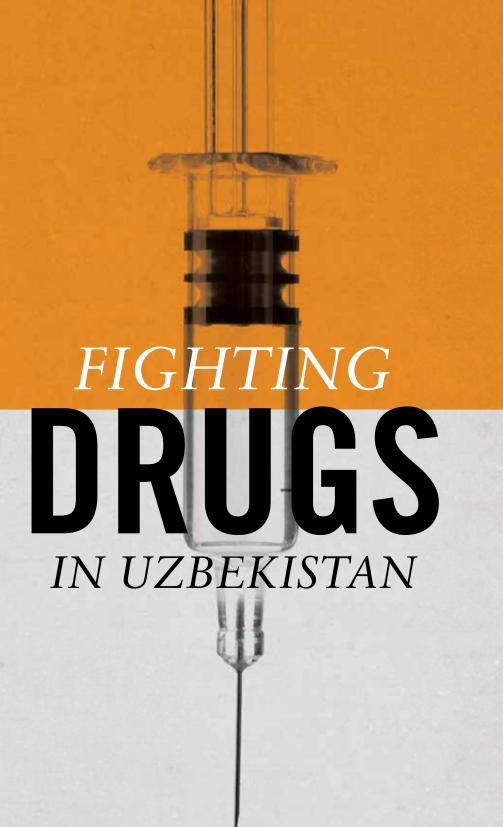
All the locally invested authorities participated in it. The exercise management did not overlook any authority or party. While preparing for this exercise, we put a plan together defining the role for each of the participating parties in facing any danger, whether it be marine pollution, human casualties or anything else. There is no doubt that the expanded participation contributed to supporting the plan. It demonstrated the capabilities that these parties should have in case they have to deal with such emergencies.

Through this exercise and others, the Kuwait Environment Protection Society participated with governmental entities to put plans together that included taking immediate measures in case of any pollution. The purpose was to eliminate environmental disasters. Without a well-laid plan, the results could be disastrous and the threats to populations, desalination plants, ports, marine life, the fishing industry and beaches vast. These plans will determine how to control and reduce the serious repercussions and the effects of any pollution to our territorial waters.



Dr. Wijdan Al-Oqab, second from left, joins Soldiers from the Kuwait Armed Forces at Eagle Resolve 2015. Exercise director Gen. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kandari sits second from right.

This participation proved the importance of reviewing emergency and crisis plans and producing guidelines to speed up the response; it is one of the main requirements for the protection of the environment. It also helps define the roles of ministries, state institutions and community organizations and what is required of them, in addition to the importance of optimal utilization of the resources of the authorities, both human and technical. Preserving the environment is everyone's responsibility, and achieving this goal requires a concerted national effort. •



UZBEK DRUG POLICY RELIES ON COOPERATION
WITH MULTINATIONAL PARTNERS

NATIONAL CENTRE ON DRUG CONTROL, CABINET MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

rug abuse — and the drug traffickers who meet that demand — are severe problems in much of the world. Uzbekistan is finding some success in this area today by countering the threat of drugs with all of the social, economic and political resources of the state. The country applies a balanced approach aimed at reducing drug demand while also preventing illicit trafficking based on a comprehensive program implemented by the State Commission on Drug Control in 2011.

The framework of the program is designed to further strengthen the material, technical and human resource capacities of law enforcement agencies, modernize and develop the drug treatment service, enhance international cooperation in combating drug trafficking and conduct targeted drug addiction prevention.

COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING

As a result of measures in 2014 to identify and shut down drug trafficking channels, as well as comprehensive operations to combat drug trafficking, Uzbekistan's law enforcement agencies opened 6,698 cases of drug-related crimes, down from 7,680 in 2013. Drug cases for sales, smuggling, illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and other drug-related crimes were also down marginally from 2013. In the course of anti-trafficking operations, Uzbek law enforcement seized 2,298 kilograms of drugs, including heroin, opium, marijuana, hashish and kuknar, an opium variant.

The main efforts of law enforcement agencies have been directed at prevention and suppression of criminal activities and interregional drug traffickers, who had established stable drug smuggling channels across state borders, mostly from Afghanistan and Tajikistan. For example, an Afghan citizen was detained in February 2014 in Termez district while attempting to smuggle 64.6 kilograms of opium into Uzbekistan across the Amu Darya River in a rubber boat; and in May 2014, several members of a criminal gang smuggling drugs from Tajikistan into the Samarkand region were arrested and their opium shipment seized.

Uzbekistan maintains a strict regime of border control and inspection of vehicles to improve efficiency of detection. For example, in the Bukhara region in October 2014, during the inspection of a freight train en route from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan, 5.8 kilograms of heroin were found under a railcar; and in December 2014, 6.8 kilograms of heroin were found at the Bekabad customs post in a freight train passing through Uzbekistan on its way from Tajikistan to Lithuania.

Uzbekistan also carried out a two-stage comprehensive large-scale operation called Black Poppy 2014 to detect and prevent the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and prevent offenses related to drug trafficking. Black Poppy 2014 resulted in 1,125 new criminal cases for illegal narcotic plant cultivation, and 6,692 square meters of illicit crops were destroyed. An additional 2,900 drug-related criminal cases were opened, and 852 kilograms of drugs were seized.

To improve detection of drug smuggling across state borders, Uzbekistan has taken measures to improve the technical capacity of relevant authorities. A number of checkpoints have been equipped with modern technical control facilities, including large stationary and mobile scanners.

Over the past year, the law enforcement bodies of Uzbekistan have also enhanced their information analysis and technical capacity in the fight against trafficking. To improve the mechanism for exchanging, organizing and processing information, Uzbekistan developed a single database based on modern analytical software, IBM i2, provided through international partnership projects. The program had been installed in the analytical departments of Uzbekistan's law enforcement bodies, and a simplified form of the database had been developed.

The National Center for Drug Control has conducted training on the methodologies for the analysis of operational information through computer systems for employees of the analytical departments of the Interior Ministry, the National Security Service, the Borderguard Service of the National Security Service, the State Customs Committee and the General Prosecutor's Office. Currently, a national interagency database system (similar to the law enforcement systems of the EU countries) is under construction.



COOPERATION IS KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHTING AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM LIKE DRUG TRAFFICKING...
TOGETHER WITH ITS PARTNERS, UZBEKISTAN IS WORKING TO PROTECT THE REGION FROM DRUGS.

INTERNATIONAL

An Uzbekistan National Security Service officer stands guard while drugs are burned at a plant in Tashkent in 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREVENTING ADDICTION

Analysis of the drug situation in 2014 attests to a continuing positive trend in key epidemiological indicators. The initial incidence of drug abuse decreased, the number of drug addicts registered for dispensary observation decreased 8.4 percent and addicts who inject drugs, the most dangerous method, decreased 25 percent, to just 34.8 percent of registered addicts.

Much attention has been paid to preventive work, with the main objective of reducing demand for drugs and other psychoactive substances to decrease high risk drug use. Regional workshops for deputy directors of schools were organized on spiritual and educational topics to increase the effectiveness of anti-drug education. Neglect, delinquency, spread of drug addiction and HIV were widely covered topics at the seminars.

To provide methodological guidance, the Ministry of Public Education, jointly with the Republican Information Centre and the Tashkent Islamic University, organized training courses for 325 experts on spiritual and moral education. The Drug Dispensaries of the Republic conducted 183 workshops for teachers on prevention and early detection of addiction to psychoactive substances among children and adolescents.

Topical and sport-related sections involving more than 482,100 children — 10.8 percent of all students — were integrated into leisure activities at secondary schools. To promote healthy lifestyles, 6,500 sports-related sections involving more than 1.6 million young people operate in schools and *mahallas*, or religious schools. The total number of children involved into sports has increased 12.3 percent.

The ministries, departments and public organizations measured primary prevention of drug use among the various segments of the population, especially youth. Medical experts conducted more than 10,000 lectures and seminars and appeared in the media 632 times while drug treatment institutions provided consultations around the clock via hotlines. A national campaign for the International Day against Drug Abuse was carried with regional administrations sponsoring a number of events involving both public and civil society organizations, including a bonfire fed by drugs seized by law enforcement agencies.

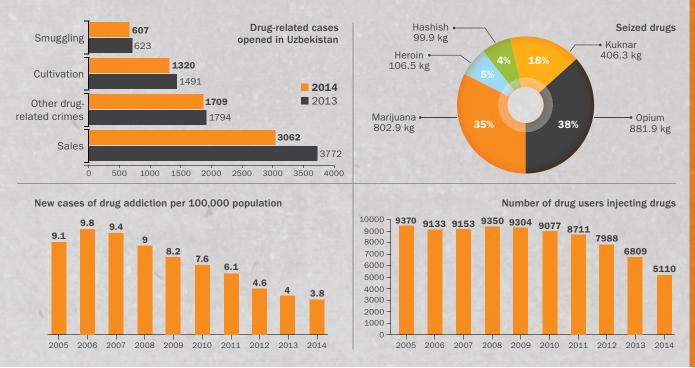
STRENGTHENING DRUG TREATMENT CAPACITY

In 2014, in Fergana city, a new facility was commissioned for the regional drug treatment clinic, including all structural units of the outpatient department. Construction of the inpatient clinic building is planned for 2015. And construction of Bukhara and Navoi regional drug treatment clinics is included in the 2015-2016 investment program.

To provide urgent care in Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Namangan and Samarkand regional drug treatment clinics, new intensive care rooms were established and provided with medical equipment through the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project, GLO/J71 for treatment of drug addiction and its health consequences. Also, as part of this project, Naloxone medicine and diagnostic guides were published and distributed among narcologists in the nation's drug treatment clinics.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2014, steps were taken to ensure the implementation of Uzbekistan's international obligations within the legal



Source: National Centre on Drug Control, Cabinet Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan

framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on drug control. An Uzbekistan delegation visited the United States from May 3 to 15, meeting with the Michele Leonhart, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, to discuss issues of cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. A number of drug enforcement amendments to the 2001 bilateral framework agreement between Uzbekistan and the U.S. were signed.

And to increase the efficiency of Uzbek-Russian anti-drug cooperation, Uzbekistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation signed a protocol in December 2014 on exchanging research results on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized from illegal trafficking.

The implementation of the 2004 agreement among Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to cooperate in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors was ensured, and a delegation from Uzbekistan met in June 2014 with the heads of SCO member agencies that combat illegal drug trafficking.

Representatives of the National Information and Analytical Centre on Drug Control (NIACDC) participated in the meetings of the Council of National Coordinators of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. A decision on the organization of CARICC was adopted at the last meeting of the council in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in December 2014.

A number of international projects of the UNODC and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), aimed at improving the material-technical and human capacities of Uzbekistan's ministries and departments, were implemented. Training courses, seminars and workshops were organized within the framework of projects to improve the skills of the competent authorities. In 2014, 146 employees took part in training courses and seminars on the fight against drug trafficking and the prevention and treatment of addiction.

Meetings were held at the NIACDC with representatives from foreign states, as well as with the staff of international organizations (UNODC, OSCE and the European Commission) where proposals and priorities in the fight against illegal drug trafficking were discussed.

CONCLUSION

Uzbekistan is taking a multidimensional approach to fighting the scourge of drug abuse. First, Uzbek authorities have ramped up operations to fight drug trafficking. The results have been tangible, as new criminal cases for drug crimes were down in 2014. Treatment of drug addiction is the second tool in Uzbekistan's battle with drug abuse. The country has invested significant resources in new drug treatment facilities, medical equipment and procedures, much of it in cooperation with international partners. The results are encouraging, with registration of new drug addicts down almost 30 percent since 2006.

Finally, international cooperation is key to successfully fighting an international problem like drug trafficking. Uzbekistan has partnered with the UNODC, the OSCE, the SCO, the European Commission, the U.S. and the Russian Federation to share information, develop cooperative strategies and conduct joint training in anti-trafficking measures. Together with its partners, Uzbekistan is working to protect the region from drugs.



UNIFYING for PEACE

REGIONAL COOPERATION EXERCISE FOCUSES ON MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

UNIPATH STAFF
PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN NIGEL SANDRIDGE/U.S. AIR FORCE



n already-fragile nation is roiled by a series of security threats: ethnic and tribal hostility, violence from rebel militia groups, kidnappings, uncharted minefields and armed skirmishes along a largely undefined border. Alarmed that the instability could overrun the region, the United Nations dispatches a multinational coalition to serve as a peacekeeping force.

This fictional scenario served as the backdrop to the real-world Regional Cooperation military exercise. Held in September 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the command-post exercise brought together over 200 representatives from Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mongolia and the United States.

"This exercise has a great history of success in facilitating effective training and has helped improve global military coordination and development," Lt. Gen. Sherali Mirzo, Tajikistan's minister of defense, announced in a message to exercise participants.

The goal of Regional Cooperation is to improve the ability of countries to respond to crises and strengthen capabilities to conduct stability operations. It also helps to build relationships and cooperation among participating countries, and increases coordination with civil and international organizations.

Each exercise requires about a year of planning, and this year's planning team included not just participating nations, but Afghanistan as well, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Reginald Williams, the exercise's lead planner. Additionally, the Massachusetts Army National Guard 51st Troop Command from the U.S. helped plan and execute the event.

Tajik Col. Nuriddin Sattorov, deputy commander of Mobile Forces, served as the multinational brigade commander within the exercise scenario.

"Regional Cooperation is an exercise where we can share knowledge and learn about the experiences of others so that we all benefit from that knowledge," Col. Sattorov said. "For us, this is very important so we can develop our own peacekeeping forces and work with other forces around the world."

As Col. Sattorov led the multinational force in resolving crisis after crisis, he noted the benefits of having so much international expertise on hand. "Usually in a country

where something like this occurs, they are incapable to work on it alone," he said. "It makes sense for us to work with Pakistan, Mongolia and the U.S. to help prepare for these instances."

Regional Cooperation has been held annually since 2001 and rotates among different locations. The 2014 exercise was held in the U.S. and also included participants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

"This exercise is extremely relevant due to so many security and peacekeeping issues facing the world today. Instability has led to thousands of migrants and internally displaced persons seeking refuge, which can create further instability as they seek new homes," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Rick Mattson, director of training and exercises at U.S. Central Command. "Ensuring our forces are trained to appropriately provide assistance and structure as a peacekeeping force protects everyone during these uncertain events, and we are honored to have been able to train in Tajikistan."

Tajik Col.
Nuriddin
Sattorov, right,
receives an
update from
multinational
forces during
the Regional
Cooperation
2015 exercise.



Gen. Mattson also spoke about the importance of having partners such as Pakistan and Mongolia — each with vast experience conducting peacekeeping operations. For decades, Pakistan has been heavily involved in United Nations peacekeeping missions and often ranks as the top troop contributor to such missions. Beginning with a contingent sent to the Congo in 1960, Pakistan has supplied forces to resolve conflicts for more than half a century.





Tajik Col. Nuriddin Sattorov

Pakistani Brig. Gen. Ali Haq, head of his country's delegation, praised the exercise for helping improve multinational coordination before crises emerge. "The Regional Cooperation exercise provides a stage and a forum where participants from different countries within and outside the region can work together under a U.N. multinational forces and can plan and prepare for any future employment under a U.N. mandated employment," he said.

The Mongolian Armed Forces also receive recognition on the world stage as a force capable of supporting diverse peace operations. Col. Erdenebat Batsuuri, chief of the Peace Support Operation Division of the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, was the ranking Mongolian delegate at the exercise.

"Most of the Mongolia Armed Forces participants have served in U.N. missions around the world, such as Congo, Western Sahara, Sierra Leone, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, and also in coalition missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. We not only share our peacekeeping experience, we also would like to learn from different nations' experiences, and we build military leadership, integrity, trust and friendship in Central and South Asian nations," Col. Batsuuri said.

Regional Cooperation participants also took part in a Stability Operations Best Practices seminar conducted by the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies that included presentations by Brig. Gen. Haq and Col. Batsuuri highlighting their countries' vast experiences and histories with peacekeeping missions.







NOBODY IS PROTECTED FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS NOWADAYS."

– Tajik Col. Nuriddin Sattorov

Top. U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Rick Mattson, far right, meets with Soldiers during Regional Cooperation 2015 in Tajikistan.

Troops from Tajikistan collaborate during the exercise.

Learning from the expertise of others is important for Tajikistan's forces, Col. Sattorov explained, as the country prepares to deploy a peacekeeping unit under U.N. mandate. In 2011, Tajikistan established a peacekeeping battalion, and these forces continue to train and take part in exercises such as Regional Cooperation, Steppe Eagle and Khaan Quest. All of this helps to prepare forces to deal with security threats. "Nobody is protected from terrorist attacks nowadays," Col. Sattorov said. "The problems are everywhere, and countries should consider this."

Although the focus of the exercise was on peacekeeping, counterterrorism played a role in the form of border security drills and scenarios demanding detection and interdiction of weapons of mass destruction. Soldiers also were tasked with civilmilitary coordination.

"The professionalism of these forces greatly

enhanced the experience for all participants," Maj. Gen. Mattson said.

U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Susan Elliott and Pakistani Ambassador to Tajikistan Tariq Iqbal Soomro visited the exercise along with dignitaries from other embassies. "This is just one of many examples of the great cooperation between Tajikistan and the United States," she said. The ambassador thanked the Tajik Ministry of Defense for allowing the exercise to take place and all the participants for sharing their expertise with the goal of strengthening global peace and stability.

Tajik commanders reiterated their appreciation for the international support at the exercise. "I would like to thank all the people who spent so much time and effort to plan this exercise and those who sent personnel," Col. Sattorov said. "In such a stressful time, they still found time to participate. I want to wish all the participants health, luck and peace."

SENIOR LEADER PROFILE



MIXING ACTION AND IDEOLOGY

Jordanian
Brig. Gen.
Aref Al-Zaben
has spent
three decades
combating
terrorism

UNIPATH STAFF

rig. Gen. Aref Al-Zaben likes to express a sentiment attributed to His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan: Terrorists have formed networks to promote murder and mayhem around the world, yet special operations forces, troops specially trained to confront those very terrorists, often lack a corresponding unifying principle.

"We have to understand that there is a concept called international terrorism, but we as units of special operations all over the world have not been internationally cooperative until now. The bad guys are always working with each other, always coordinating. But the good guys were not working together," King Abdullah said.

"Our philosophy in Jordan is to share everything we have with our brothers and friends in the Middle East region and beyond. At the end of the day, if our partners are strong, we are strong."

Gen. Al-Zaben has spent a career exemplifying that philosophy. Immersed in counterterrorism since the 1980s, when he graduated from the Royal Jordanian Military Academy, the general rose to command Jordan's elite 71st Counter Terrorism Battalion. The multilingual Al-Zaben served proudly in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force, winning the hearts and minds of Afghans by promoting a vision of Islam that rejects terrorism and hatred.

For the general's outstanding service, U.S. Navy Adm. William McRaven awarded him the United States Special Operations Command Medal in 2012.

Today he's best known as military commandant and chief executive officer of the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC), where he helps train forces from around the world in a 6-year-old military complex carved from an old stone quarry outside Amman.

The center offers terrain, targets and tools to hone the skills of special operations and other Soldiers, including the fuselage of an Airbus A300 passenger liner to practice hostage rescue and a village of 67 buildings to simulate urban commando assaults. KASOTC's Annual Warrior Competition, held in the spring before the peak heat of summer, attracts elite troops from all over the world.

"The center is one of the most important training centers globally, but all Jordanian security services can receive training at the center to enhance their capacity," the general said. "We also receive international forces from all Arab countries as well as from Europe, America, Asia and Africa."

Promoted by Gen. Al-Zaben, lessons in ideological security complement more aggressive traditional training of the military. Central to this ideological debate is the Amman Message launched by King Abdullah II in 2004 with the goal of correcting misrepresentations of Islam at the hands of self-serving terrorists.

When he served in Afghanistan, Al-Zaben accompanied imams from village to village as they promoted a message of peace and nonviolence. What his men learned on the ideological battlefields of Afghanistan is now taught back at KASOTC.

"You need to fight the ideology with the ideology," the general said in an interview with an American reporter in early 2015. "When we're talking about the nonkinetic, we're talking about the lectures, the ideology and how to counter the ideology," he said. "It's a package."

The general's advancement of the theme of counterterrorism took him to the FIKR 13 conference in Morocco in December 2014. He called for the creation of a regional Arab strategy to thwart terrorism, mentioning how the 2005 terrorist bomb attack in downtown Amman that claimed the lives of 63 innocents was planned in distant Herat, Afghanistan.

"At the security level, we should build an Arab force that's able to counter various challenges in our region equivalent to the African peacekeeping



forces responsible for security issues in the Horn of Africa," he told regional security leaders.

Based on the example in Syria, Da'ish arose on the ruins of persecution, offering vulnerable minds psychological, social and ideological explanations to justify violent extremism, the general said. He noted that Jordan provides no such fertile ground for Da'ish and that the Jordanian people stand united behind the Army in the fight against terrorism.

"I can say that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is ready to respond by all means if anyone tries to undermine the security and stability of the kingdom. Jordan and its society will be a solid rock for the international coalition against terrorism," he said. "We are part of the civilized international community. Religious and moral duty requires us to address these killers, especially when they try to distort the tolerant message of Islam to justify their abhorrent crimes."

Brig. Gen.
Al-Zaben
visits an
Afghan village
to spread the
message of
moderate Islam.



AROUND THE REGION





Central Asian Officials Focus on Border Security

UNIPATH STAFF

Tightening security at border points is an essential component of stopping criminals and terrorists seeking to undermine national security. Countries such as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan recognize this threat and must continuously train and hone border and customs officials.

For instance, in May 2015, Uzbek Customs and Border Guard Officers took part in a five-day Risk Management Training course in Tashkent. The training focused on how U.S. Customs and Border Protection use risk management training in interdiction operations without slowing the process of clearing cargo into the United States. The training also included the interdiction of weapons of mass destruction.

To Uzbekistan's south, Turkmen officials also continuously shore up their borders with continued training. In April, officers from the State Border Service of Turkmenistan completed an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) course on border management and threat assessment. The training course is

designed to help border officials collect information and conduct surveillance and searches. The next phase will be a train-the-trainer course.

"This training course is a continuation of joint efforts with our partners in Turkmenistan to reinforce the expertise and practical skills of Turkmen serviceTurkmen border guards participate in a mapping exercise during a border management and threat assessment course at a checkpoint with Afghanistan.

OSCE

men engaged in ensuring the security of national borders," said Richard Wheeler, officer-in-charge of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. "This course marks a step forward in the development of our cooperation in this important area of mutual interest and interaction. We are confident that providing technical and other support to the State Border Service of Turkmenistan serves our common goal to maintain regional security within the Central Asia and beyond."

Sources: U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Trend News Agency, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



Kuwait Emiri Guard Engages in Joint Training

STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. GRADY JONES/U.S. ARMY

embers of Kuwait's Emiri Guard partnered with U.S. forces for an urban operations training exercise in May 2015. The Guard is the equivalent to the U.S. Secret Service in regard to its primary mission of protecting Kuwait's leadership.

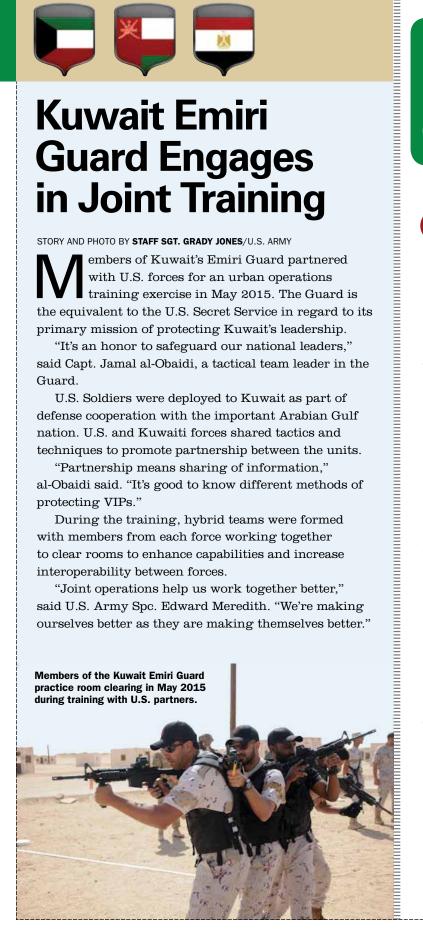
"It's an honor to safeguard our national leaders," said Capt. Jamal al-Obaidi, a tactical team leader in the Guard.

U.S. Soldiers were deployed to Kuwait as part of defense cooperation with the important Arabian Gulf nation. U.S. and Kuwaiti forces shared tactics and techniques to promote partnership between the units.

"Partnership means sharing of information," al-Obaidi said. "It's good to know different methods of protecting VIPs."

During the training, hybrid teams were formed with members from each force working together to clear rooms to enhance capabilities and increase interoperability between forces.

"Joint operations help us work together better," said U.S. Army Spc. Edward Meredith. "We're making ourselves better as they are making themselves better."



OMAN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE PROMOTES TRUE ISLAM

UNIPATH STAFF

meeting of international muftis and Islamic scholars met in Oman in 2015 for the 14th Symposium on Development of Jurisprudence Sciences, titled Figh of the Era: Figh and Religious Renewal (Tajdid). The event was organized by Oman's Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs.

His Eminence Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman Sheikh Ahmed Al Khalili called for improved education for a better understanding of Islam among the public.

"Scholars are incubators for the treatment of the problems produced by the development of human life," he said, according to a report in *The Times of* Oman. The mufti called on scholars to become "the healing balm to problems of the nation."

One speaker during the symposium was His Eminence Egyptian Mufti Sheikh Dr. Shawqi Ibrahim Allam. "We are facing numerous problems in this era, and we hope that our Figh scholars in this symposium would come up with results through their research to address those problems in accordance with Islamic law," he said during a speech.

One of the challenges is that people have been misled about Islam by extremist organizations. "The Islamic world is facing a struggle as a result of terrorist organizations defaming Islam by choosing and justifying their cause but do not recognize diversity," said Dr. Mohideen Ahmad of Egypt's Azhar University.

Sources: The Times of Oman, Oman News Agency

"The symposium is to enlighten people in this day and age about true Islam."

- Dr. Mohideen Ahmad









Building Transparency in Central Asia

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Central Asian officers received training on a program designed to increase military transparency and defuse potential conflicts in the region.

A regional training seminar on the practical implementation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Vienna Document 2011 on confidence- and security-building measures was held in May 2015 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The OSCE Program Office in Astana organized the four-day event in cooperation with Kazakhstan's Defense Ministry for 50 military officers from Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Participants discussed how to ensure the document's provisions are implemented in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, the role of the OSCE in promoting regional security, and the challenges it faces.

Military and civilian experts from Belarus, France, Germany and Hungary as well as representatives from the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia shared their expertise.

"The Vienna Document is one of the most important instruments of the OSCE Politico-Military Dimension, and it is based on cooperation,

transparency, confidence building and a system of verification," said Maj. Gen. Askhat Ryspayev, head of the National University of Defense. "Although the main goal of our annual seminars is to learn the letter and word of the Vienna Document, it is equally vital that the participants come to understand the spirit of the document, too."

The participants conducted a simulated inspection visit to the 36th Air Assault Brigade base near Astana and discussed their findings in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Document on compliance and verification. The Vienna Document 2011 encourages OSCE participating states to share information on their armed forces and military activities. It also contains provisions on compliance and verification, such as conducting and hosting inspections and evaluations, as well as risk reduction, military contacts and cooperation, and prior notification of certain military activities.

The regional seminars on the Vienna Document in Kazakhstan have been conducted with the support of OSCE Field Operation in Astana since 2007. This event is part of the office's long-standing effort to raise awareness about OSCE confidence- and security-building measures and promote regional security.





IRAQI SECURITY FORCES REACH MILESTONE

COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 10,000 Soldiers in Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have been trained by multinational security forces in an effort to defeat Da'ish.

This milestone was achieved in June 2015 with the graduation of 700 personnel from the Iraqi Army's 16th Division. The class completed a six-week brigade-level training course specifically designed to train, equip and regenerate combat power in the ISF to defeat terrorists. The completion of training was an important step toward meeting operational needs in Iraq, said Brig. Gen. Ali Khalid Abdullah, commander of the 76th Brigade.

"Our Soldiers picked up good experience through this training with new weapons and techniques to get ready for any fight or battle — especially inside buildings. We studied the enemy strategy, especially Da'ish strategy, and the way

they fight," Gen. Abdullah said. "I want to thank the Australian and New Zealand forces for all that they have done to train my Soldiers. I felt there was a great relationship between the trainers and the Soldiers, and there was a type of brotherhood relationship. I cannot describe it in one word, but it was really great."

Abdullah said officers trained alongside their Soldiers, raising confidence in their ability to fight as a unit. The ultimate goal was to enable Iraqi forces to counter Da'ish, solidify Iraq's borders and retake lost terrain, thereby restoring regional stability and security.

"The graduation of this many Soldiers who have been armed with the newest weapons represents a huge force against Da'ish," Abdullah said. "The brigade is ready with all the training, supplies and all the weapons to engage the enemy."





UAE CONDUCTS INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISTS

EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY-WAM

A United Arab Emirates proposal on the role of the media in promoting the values of tolerance and combating extremism was approved by the 64th meeting of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, held under the chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates, at the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo, Egypt.

The council emphasized the vital importance of Arab media organizations in spreading the culture of tolerance and fighting extremism as part of a holistic media strategy that makes better use of both traditional and modern media platforms. It is also intended to promote dialogue and interaction among Arab-Islamic nations and other peoples by highlighting the values of the

Arab-Islamic civilization, which denounce practices of fanaticism, extremism and terrorism.

The UAE proposal to the 64th Ordinary Session of Arab Ministers of Information Council in Cairo said: "Tolerance is

one of the finest values that contributes to sustainability and progress of human communities, elevates the value of peaceful co-existence, and addresses common destiny in terms of geography or culture where all work together to realize common human goals under an environment of diversity that builds, rather than destroys.

"It is the responsibility of social, educational and cultural institutions to disseminate the values of tolerance and counter-terrorism. However, media actors remain the key facilitator to reaching these goals, given their farreaching ability to reach out to millions of peoples and to spread information to influence public opinion through news and through other entertainment, religious, cultural and marketing programs."

The blueprint calls for fostering Arab intellectual and media talent to produce media content that preaches the values of tolerance, acceptance and respect. It would also attract influential personalities and institutions in the West so as to interact and communicate with Arab communities through conferences, research and studies with the aim of presenting the values of Arab civilization. It also calls for the launching of massive media campaigns to counter the extremist ideology within the Arab world and the rest of the world.

Additionally, the UAE proposal called for initiatives such as providing cultural and media opportunities to young generations to practice their right to communication and to responsible cultural expression. The proposal stressed that extremist religious rhetoric should not be given space in the media.

The proposal recommended a series of media initia-

"Tolerance is one of the finest values that contributes to sustainability and progress of human communities, elevates the value of peaceful co-existence, and addresses common destiny in terms of geography or culture where all work together to realize common human goals under an environment of diversity that builds, rather than destroys."

tives be launched to deliver these goals. These include specialized e-channels and media platforms in Arabic that aim to build a culture of tolerance and to counter extremist and terrorist ideology.

In July 2015, Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Richard Stengel, U.S. undersecretary of state for public diplomacy, launched the Sawab Center in Abu Dhabi, which aims to counter the online messaging, propaganda and recruitment by Da'ish.

The Sawab Center will use online communication and social media tools to put things in the right perspective and to amplify moderate voices that get drowned out by the noise of extremists. Through its online engagement, the Sawab Center will counter false claims and religious misinterpretations that are being propagated by Da'ish and will seek to engage with those vulnerable online communities that are an easy prey for recruiters.





Pakistan Forces Foil Al-Qaida Terror Plot

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Pakistan police and counterterrorism officials stopped an al-Qaida terrorist attack on the country's Intelligence Bureau in Kala Shah Kaku, near Lahore, in July 2015.

Pakistani Soldiers take part in a drill against terrorists at Multan International Airport in 2015. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Officials killed four terrorists and arrested two more. One of the dead was a man believed to be leading al-Qaida terrorists in Pakistan. The raid also uncovered a cache of weapons that included suicide bombing jackets, rocket launchers, AK-47s, hand grenades, bullets and diagrams of buildings.

The operation was part of the country's broader Zarb-e-Azb counterterror operation that began a little more than a year after terrorists attacked Karachi's Jinnah International Airport. Zarb-e-Azb means sharp strike, with the additional reference of "Azb" as the name of the sword used in battle by the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Between June 2014 and July 2015, the Pakistani Army announced the deaths of more than 2,700 terrorists in a major counterterrorism operation in North Waziristan.

Sources: Agence France-Presse, Pakistan Today, Reuters, The Associated Press

QATAR HOSTS BUZZARD 4 **EXERCISE**

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he Qatar Armed Forces brought together military forces from several countries for a bilateral exercise called Buzzard 4, also known as Ferocious Falcon, held May 10-26, 2015.

The exercise included elements such as responding to and overcoming various natural disasters and countering terrorist threats in cooperation with other countries. Participants came from 27 countries and included Qatar's civil government departments.

The exercise ended with a strategic seminar for senior leaders that focused on regional security and stability topics. Part of the event was attended by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, as well as Qatar's Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

Qatar Brig. Gen. Jassim Ahmed Al Muhannadi, who heads Qatar's national defense and crises management, said the exercise achieved all of its goals.

Bangladesh brought nearly 350 military personnel to the exercise. "Security breach in any part of the world has a cascading effect on the other part," Brig. Gen. Abdullah Al Yusuf of Bangladesh said. "Any security threat in the Middle East will have its effect on Bangladesh, since we have migrants working there."

Sources: Qatar News Agency, The Daily Bangladesh













ver a sweltering two-day period in July 2015, Jordan Armed Forces border guards received 66 civilians fleeing their war-torn home of Syria. The new arrivals were a mix of the young and old — men, women and children. The Jordanian forces offered first aid and registered the refugees so they could receive humanitarian support.

As of July 2015, more than 4 million Syrian refugees had fled into neighboring countries to escape the fighting that has overtaken their homeland, according the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). An additional 7.6 million are displaced within Syria.

"Worsening conditions are driving growing numbers toward Europe and further afield, but the overwhelming majority remain in the region," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said. "We cannot afford to let them and the communities hosting them slide further into desperation."

Syrian refugees have flooded into Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey during the past five years of the conflict. This migration is the highest recorded since 1992, when refugees from Afghanistan reached 4.6 million. The massive influx of Syrian refugees has been hard for host countries. International aid doesn't always arrive as promised, and criminals and terrorists sometimes hide among the crowds to sneak across borders.

In Yemen, violence has forced many people from their homes. By July 2015, the country had produced more than 1 million Yemen, 5, and her mother, Dayane, 24, are Syrian refugees now living in northern Lebanon. Yemen suffered severe burns during a bomb attack near their home in Yabroud, Syria, in 2013.

internally displaced people, according to the UNHCR. As many as 21 million required humanitarian assistance. These massive groups of vulnerable populations across the Middle East threaten to further destabilize societies.

"Throughout the region, hope of returning home is dwindling as the crisis drags on. Refugees become more impoverished, and negative coping practices such as child labor, begging and child marriages are on the rise," according to the UNHCR. "Competition for employment, land, housing water and energy in already vulnerable host communities is straining the ability of these communities to cope with the overwhelming numbers and sustain their support to them."

Sources: Jordan News Agency-Petra, UNHCR



Afghan Army Hospital Supports Forces

STORY AND PHOTO BY CAPT. JARROD MORRIS/U.S. ARMY

The 201st Afghan National Army Corps hosted a ceremony marking the opening of the Gamberi Regional Medical Hospital (GRMH) at Tactical Base Gamberi in May 2015.

Leaders from the Afghan
National Defense and Security
Forces (ANDSF), the hospital staff, and members of the
Afghan media attended the
ceremony, as well as leaders and
advisers from Train, Advise and
Assist Command-East. Those in
attendance included Maj. Gen.
Dr. Abdul Razzaq Saiwash, the
ANA surgeon general; Maj. Gen.
Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the
201st Corps commander; and
Brig. Gen. Gulabshah Shirzad,
the GRMH commander.

The newly opened hospital is collocated with the 201st Corps headquarters and is capable of providing ANDSF with specialty care surgery and medical care in eastern Afghanistan. It includes 100 beds, an emergency room, a helicopter landing zone, two operating rooms, two intensive care units, a laboratory, pharmacy, a dental clinic, optometrist care, an outpatient clinic, and an obstetrics and gynecology practitioner.

The hospital is important because there is no other regional hospital for the ANDSF in the east. The hospital will provide care for ANDSF personnel and their families. Prior to the GRMH, injured Afghan Soldiers and police officers were taken to civilian hospitals in the region.

"We would take injured Soldiers in Nuristan to Kunar, then Nangarhar, and if critical to Kabul for treatment, but now this problem has been resolved," Waziri said. "This hospital is not only for military personnel, it will also serve intelligence forces, police and all security personnel."

"All sections of the hospital are ready to function," Saiwash said. "Its administrative affairs are 80 percent complete, and the staff will be complete in a month's time. The hospital is ready for all kinds of surgical operations."

Saiwash said the military hospital is also capable of providing treatment to civilians in some circumstances. He said they would treat civilians injured during security operations, major traffic accidents and other serious events.

Afghanistan has five military hospitals like the GRMH, each providing services for a specific region. The hospital opening is considered a notable achievement for the ANDSF. Waziri said: "We thank the U.S. and NATO for assisting in the project."



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Christopher Bentley, commander of Train, Advise and Assist Command-East, poses with members of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and Afghan Border Police during the Gamberi Regional Medical Hospital opening ceremony in May 2015.











DEFEATING TERRORISM While Safeguarding Human Rights

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

omplying with human rights standards when countering terrorism at borders was the focus of training organized jointly by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in April 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The training course brought together 23 midto senior-ranking border officials from 11 OSCE participating states, including Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, aimed at providing practical tools for border officials to conduct their duties in compliance with human rights.

"Respecting human rights is indispensable in addressing the continuously evolving phenomenon of terrorism," said Enrico Boninsegna, ODIHR human rights officer on counterterrorism issues. "Law enforcement officials engaged in counterterrorism activities, including border officials, should have the necessary knowledge to perform their professional duties in full compliance with human rights."

The training was conducted as part of the OSCE's assistance to strengthen participating states'

capacities in preventing and combating terrorism within a framework based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. This was the fifth training session on human rights in counterterrorism and border security jointly organized by ODIHR and the BMSC since 2010.



Twenty-three border officials from 11 OSCE states participate in a cross-border cooperation exercise in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

GULF NEIGHBORS THWART ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE EXPLOSIVES

HABIB TOUMI/GULF NEWS

Bahraini and Saudi Arabian security forces collaborated to uncover the circumstances behind an attempt to smuggle RDX — a highly explosive material — and detonators intended for use in Saudi Arabia, said Maj. Gen. Tariq Hassan Al Hassan, Bahrain's public security chief.

Security personnel on the King Fahd Causeway, the 25-kilometer land link between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, foiled an attempt to smuggle RDX and detonators, a spokesperson for the Saudi Interior Ministry said in May 2015.

The Saudi security men had doubts about two men driving into Saudi Arabia and decided to search their car. The search yielded 14 bags carefully hidden inside the back seats. According to the spokesperson, 11 bags contained more than 30 kilos of RDX, and two bags had

50 blasting caps. The last bag contained a 6-meter detonator cord.

Al Hassan paid tribute to the Saudi security officers for their competence and high vigilance that enabled them to foil the smuggling attempt and to arrest the perpetrators. He added that bilateral cooperation had yielded laudable successes in many complex security operations.







BUILDING CAPACITY

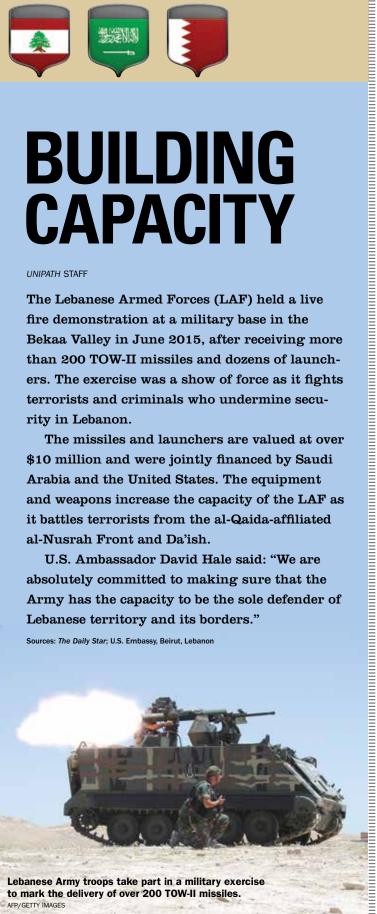
UNIPATH STAFF

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) held a live fire demonstration at a military base in the Bekaa Valley in June 2015, after receiving more than 200 TOW-II missiles and dozens of launchers. The exercise was a show of force as it fights terrorists and criminals who undermine security in Lebanon.

The missiles and launchers are valued at over \$10 million and were jointly financed by Saudi Arabia and the United States. The equipment and weapons increase the capacity of the LAF as it battles terrorists from the al-Qaida-affiliated al-Nusrah Front and Da'ish.

U.S. Ambassador David Hale said: "We are absolutely committed to making sure that the Army has the capacity to be the sole defender of Lebanese territory and its borders."

Sources: The Daily Star; U.S. Embassy, Beirut, Lebanon



Lebanese Army troops take part in a military exercise to mark the delivery of over 200 TOW-II missiles.

MARITIME COMMUNITY PARTNERS AGAINST PIRACY

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES

epresentatives of the international maritime community met in Bahrain in June 2015 to discuss counterpiracy efforts.

The Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) conference offered a vital opportunity for military and civilian representatives to meet, share information and discuss cooperation to suppress piracy in the region. The conference discussed the causes of piracy, deterrence operations and protection of merchant shipping.

Rear Adm. Hiroshi Ito, commander of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, the multinational counterpiracy task force, said that a collaborative approach is important: "It is by working with other task forces and regional partners that we are able to deliver the most effective deterrent and capitalize on the efficient use of our resources. Working together in this way optimizes counterpiracy efforts through international cooperation by globally engaged nations and partners."

CTF-151 is one of three task forces operated by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), headquartered in Bahrain. In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions and in cooperation with nonmember forces, CTF-151's mission is to disrupt piracy and armed robbery at sea. It helps regional and other partners to build capacity and improve capabilities to protect global maritime commerce and freedom of navigation.

CTF-151 is a multinational force whose command is rotated among participatory nations every three to six months. The force fluctuates as ships and aircraft from a variety of countries assign vessels, aircraft and personnel to the task force.

While piracy near Somalia has been suppressed in recent years, the threat to shipping still exists. The multinational, multiagency approach taken by SHADE is unique in addressing piracy concerns. No pirate attacks have succeeded since May 2012, but officials fear the threat could re-emerge without an effective counterpiracy deterrent.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

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