

KEY LEADER EDITION

**Militaries Respond  
to Regional Floods**

**Jordanian Forces  
Guard Syrian Border**

**Afghan Police  
Protect Civilians**

# UNIPATH





OPENING  
SHOTS



The World Trade Center in Bahrain was built in 2008 with three wind turbines that supply energy to the building. ISTOCK





An Egyptian child looks out from his family home in Gharb Aswan village, south of Cairo, in March 2016.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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### ON THE COVER:

Lebanese Army Soldiers help Syrian refugees in al-Labwa, a village in the Bekaa Valley. REUTERS

## UNIPATH

**Military  
Support to  
Governance**  
Volume 6, Number 4



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## KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE

This issue of *Unipath* deals with the important theme of how militaries can strengthen the societies they serve. This stabilizing role is something the Lebanese Armed Forces has much experience with. In this edition, you will read about ways in which military forces have strengthened the bonds between governments and their people. These and other articles are sure to stimulate discussion and spark new ideas to strengthen security in each of our countries.

~ *Unipath* Staff



**T**he Lebanese Army Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Directorate is based on the Lebanese Army command vision to initiate a military institution concerned with enhancing the relationship between the Army and the citizens. It was established over three years ago and has pursued its tasks since its formation, continuing to do so across the entire Lebanese territory.

The directorate adopted a comprehensive program of activities and is achieving its goals stage by stage. These activities vary among a diverse number of fields, some of which are educational, medical, environmental, social, humanitarian and crisis management. Many in the community benefit from these activities, which have strengthened the confidence of the citizens in their Army as being not only their defenders, but also a support system that feels their suffering and lessens their social burdens as much as possible. In this context, it is appropriate to commend the friendly states and local and foreign institutions that have helped the directorate, whether financially or morally, and in particular the United States of America for financing the majority of these activities.

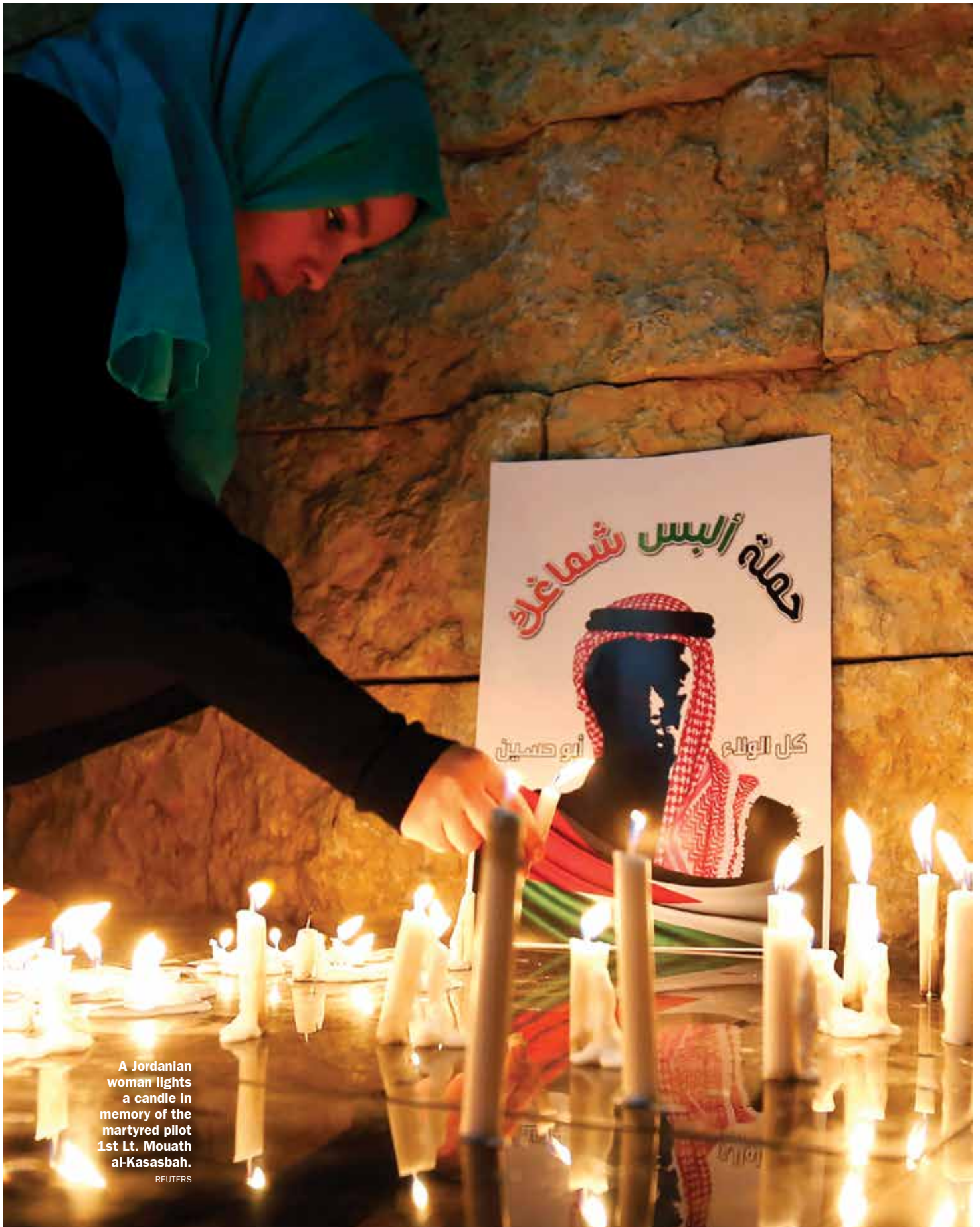
In a deeper and wider view, we find that the role of this directorate, in its national dimensions, goes beyond the aim of strengthening the relationship between the military and Lebanese society to supporting the military mission itself, particularly concerning incidents and conflicts. It supports ministries and governmental institutions without taking their place, which contributes one way or another to boosting overall national stability.

Undoubtedly, the social and security stability in Lebanon also plays a role in serving international stability, particularly in light of continuous incidents and dangerous regional crises, as well as the displacement of more than 1.5 million Syrians to Lebanon. These refugees might be pushed by the deteriorating economic situation to immigrate toward Europe, leading to the increase of security and economic burdens inflicted upon these countries, due to the unprecedented flow of migrants from the Middle East.

In closing, I would like to extend all my appreciation and gratitude to the supporting countries, the United States being on top of the list. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the editors of *Unipath* magazine who have given me the opportunity to write this article. We are fully confident that, with our strong will and loyalty to the spirit of cooperation, we will continue accomplishing our goals in a way that serves everybody's welfare.

***Brig. Gen. Youssef Mechref***

*Director, Lebanese Army Civil-Military Cooperation Directorate*



A Jordanian woman lights a candle in memory of the martyred pilot 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasabah.

REUTERS

A lit candle is held in the cupped palms of two hands, set against a dark, moody background. The candle is white with a single flame, and the hands are positioned to frame it centrally.

# HONORING *a Martyr*

The murder of a **Jordanian pilot** exposes the evil of Daesh

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UNIPATH STAFF

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History is full of tales of bravery. But every once in a while, a story transcends the usual narratives. It's a story of a hero who displayed the stature of a lion before vicious killers, who faced death with dignity and honor as a noble warrior. That is the story of the martyred pilot of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah. His untimely sacrifice on January 3, 2015, earned him a place of honor among all Jordanians.

People know the horrific crimes of Daesh, but few know Mouath the young Muslim, the faithful friend, the good son, the humble brother and the ingenious student. *Unipath* was honored to meet the family and a friend of Mouath to explore the legacy of this 21st-century martyr.





**His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan, left, offers his condolences to Saif al-Kasasbah, the father of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah, in Karak in February 2015.**

REUTERS/PETRA NEWS AGENCY



*Unipath* spoke with his father, Saif al-Kasasbah. Here is a condensed version of his interview:

***Unipath:*** Mouath has become a universal example of honor and bravery. How do you feel as the father of the hero?

**SAIF AL-KASASBAH:** Mouath became a source of honor not only in Jordan, but across the entire Arab and Islamic world. His song is on the lips of many people. As a father, I am very proud of him and his heroism. He made us stand tall as a family and as Jordanians. I pray that one day we will be reunited in paradise.

Every day of his life is a story. Even after he passed away, his story was one of heroism and pride for all Arabs, Muslims and pilots. Mouath was unique in everything he did, handsome and calm. Mouath was the first pilot killed by Daesh. He exposed the lies of Daesh to the entire world as they showed their hyena teeth of hate in the vicious crime that was the first of its kind. There was no example of burning people alive throughout the history of Islam, with the exception of one historical case, and today we see Mouath the True Believer burned at the hands of Kharijites. Mouath was subjected to torture and viciousness because Daesh has such evil intentions against Jordan.

***Unipath:*** Daesh likes to produce videos of its victims to force them to renounce their principles and beg for forgiveness. But that didn't happen with Mouath. Why?

**AL-KASASBAH:** My son would never do that. Let me tell you something about his personality. Mouath was a man who never feared death; he had amazing tolerance for pain and resisting threats. There is no way he would compromise or weaken in front of terrorists. He was blessed with a strong belief in God and knew that when his time came, he was ready to go. I know my son very well. He would never read a cheap statement written by terrorists even if all of Daesh gathered to intimidate him.

***Unipath:*** Describe Mouath's devotion to Islam.

**AL-KASASBAH:** His belief in God was pure. He was well-known for his attendance at the neighborhood mosque. Even on his wedding night, Mouath woke up at dawn and walked half a mile to pray in the mosque. He never skipped prayers. He was devoted since childhood. He always used to

walk with me to the mosque. I don't recall a day in which he failed to fast during Ramadan.

***Unipath:*** When did you see him last?

**AL-KASASBAH:** Mouath lived about 20 kilometers away, but he always came to our home an hour after he left work. He always asked if we needed any help. Our last meeting was December 23, 2014. He was on medical leave after twisting his ankle during a soccer game at the base. Before the end of his leave, he received a phone call requesting that he report immediately to his post. As a great officer, he obeyed orders and curtailed his leave to join his comrades.

***Unipath:*** How did Jordan receive the horrific news of his death?

**AL-KASASBAH:** Mouath became a symbol of honor to Jordanians; his martyrdom was a point that united all Jordanians. All Jordanians became the family and tribe of Mouath. Everyone strongly condemned the brutal crime of Daesh. Jordan cried for its great loss.

***Unipath:*** How important was being a pilot for Mouath?

**AL-KASASBAH:** Mouath's childhood dream was to become a fighter pilot. I wanted him to become a doctor and got him admission to medical school in Moscow, but he never gave up his dream. He asked his uncles and his mother to make me change my mind and allow him to join the Royal Jordanian Air Force. It was very hard to decide, as we received both letters of admission at the same time. After I saw his determination, I agreed to let him choose his journey and become a pilot.

***Unipath:*** What can you say to the world about these savages who murdered a devoted Muslim?

**AL-KASASBAH:** Islam was never viewed as a religion of killing; our Prophet always released captured enemy combatants. This is the spirit of Islam. But the videos we see today of slaughtering human beings like sheep and putting innocents in

the mouths of cannons or beheading people or burning them like they did in Mouath's case, these are terrorist crimes that have nothing to do with Islam. They are not only Kharijites but are violating basic human rights and are far from being Muslims. I wish to send a message through your magazine to the world — Islam is a religion of tolerance and forgiveness; the ideology of wars, mass execution and violence is not part of Islam. I encourage the whole world to unify against terrorism that aims to distort the image of all religions. The killing of Mouath, the young devoted Muslim who was known for the purity of his belief, is not only a crime, but attempts to distort the true image of Islam. Daesh is the enemy of Islam.

“Islam is a religion of tolerance and forgiveness; the ideology of wars, mass execution and violence is not part of Islam.”

**SAIF AL-KASASBAH**

*father of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah*

*Unipath* also talked to Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah's brother, Jawad, who shared his memories of Mouath:

***Unipath:* Describe your relationship with Mouath.**

**JAWAD:** I am older than Mouath by seven years. I almost felt like he was my son. I watched over him when we played in the neighborhood and taught him computers in high school. I was also his comrade in the Air Force. I, too, was an officer and we were close friends in addition to being brothers.

***Unipath:* How do his classmates remember him?**

**JAWAD:** Mouath had excellent relations with everyone. He was known for being polite, quiet, respectful, determined in pursuit of a goal, and strict in his refusal to do anything he didn't agree with. I think Daesh failed to get any information out of him and failed to force him to spread its propaganda. The terrorists got angry and tortured him cruelly.

***Unipath:* Tell us about his schooling.**

**JAWAD:** Mouath was a great student that every teacher dreams of having: smart, polite, responsive and never missed a session. Even after he became a pilot, Mouath would study the manuals and absorb all the important details. He was detail oriented and possessed the ability to remember information and formulas. He was an elite pilot. His relationship with his classmates was very good. I don't remember getting complaints from his teachers or classmates. As for his military instructors, there is no word to describe the great relationship between them and Mouath. He upheld high

standards. He received the highest grade achieved by a Jordanian pilot from Al-Amir Al-Hasan College, which specialized in F-5 training.

***Unipath:* Is it true that Mouath used to serve as a substitute imam?**

**JAWAD:** That is true. He used to serve as imam when the usual imams were absent from mosques and was known among his pilot friends as a devoted Muslim. They asked his help when they had something to take care of. He had a great voice for reading the Quran and other Islamic texts.

***Unipath:* What would you like to tell the world about the crime of killing such a devoted Muslim loved by his community?**

**JAWAD:** I don't think this crime even qualifies as human behavior. There is no faith that allows burning human beings alive. These criminals have no Islamic values. They are flocks of outlaws who gather for disgraceful acts and executing a suspicious agenda. They aimed for revenge against Jordan by viciously killing Mouath to intimidate the free world from fighting them. Nevertheless, this cowardly crime will never stop us from defeating Daesh. Their goal is to distort the image of Islam and invent an ideology of killing and mutilating dead bodies and beheading. Islam suffered great loss with the death of Mouath. The international community looked upon Islam suspiciously because of the crimes of Daesh.







**Above: Anwar Tarawneh, the wife of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah, takes part in an anti-Daesh rally in Amman.**

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Left: Members of the al-Kasasbah clan in Jordan hold signs that say, "We are all Mouath," during a gathering in Karak.**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A childhood friend, Maqdad Abdul Wahab, was also interviewed by *Unipath*:

*Unipath*: Tell us about your memories of Mouath.

MAQDAD: I am reliving the smallest details of our friendship every day. He left his fingerprint everywhere, in the places we used to play, running through the small streets and filling the air with our laughter. I remember our school field trips, soccer games and nights out. We grew up in a working-class neighborhood at a time when there were no electronic games or smartphones. Our lives were relaxed and simple. Our primary game was soccer, which we played almost daily. We would fight to have Mouath on our teams, because he was a very good player, displayed good sportsmanship and had a big role in empowering whatever team he joined. He was a charismatic leader from an early age. The interesting thing about Mouath was that he always went to clean the neighborhood mosque after he finished his homework so that the mosque would be clean during prayer. I never recall him forgetting to pray because of soccer or homework. He never

rushed his prayers to catch up with other stuff and refused to gossip or criticize people.

*Unipath*: What are the consequences of Daesh's crime?

MAQDAD: The majority of Daesh's victims are Muslims. These killers enjoy murdering innocents, whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims, like the Western and Japanese journalists. Islam is innocent of their crimes. We learned that Islam is a religion of mercy and tolerance, so how can it be a religion for rolling heads and humans being burned alive or drowned in streams. Such heinous crimes can't be party to any faith. Before Mouath was killed, there were a lot of foggy stories about Daesh. But after Mouath, it became clear to all Muslims that these people are criminals. Before the killing, many young men were confused and thought that Daesh might be true mujahedeen and that the media tried to discredit them. But after Mouath, it was widely rejected and lost any Muslim-based sympathizers. The credit of that all goes to our hero, Mouath. ♦



# REFORMING A RADICAL



# PROGRAMS TO DERADICALIZE EXTREMISTS ARE NECESSARY BUT IMPERFECT

UNIPATH STAFF

The idealized version of deradicalization is that it happens in an instant. A dedicated extremist sees the light and chooses to walk away. In this version, he becomes horrified by the violence all around him and decides to abandon the cause. Unfortunately, the reality is much more complex.

Just as people join extremist groups for many reasons, they leave for equally complex reasons. Economic incentives, theological persuasion, disillusionment, death of a charismatic leader or fears for the safety of families can all cause someone to turn his back on terror. And once he chooses to leave, the real work begins.

Although there is no blueprint for deradicalization, governments are examining what has worked historically in order to implement strategies to deal with extremists at home and battle-hardened fighters returning from abroad. North African countries in particular are grappling with the phenomenon of “radical returnees,” young people who left to fight in Iraq and Syria and return, in many cases, to continue extremism at home. In Tunisia alone, an estimated 1,500 to 3,000 people have left the country to join Daesh. Most will return home at some point.

A starting point for understanding deradicalization is realizing that it doesn’t necessarily mean that a total transformation occurs. Dr. Omar Ashour, an Egyptian-born expert in deradicalization who teaches at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, said the core element of deradicalization is that someone renounces violence as a means to accomplish his goals.

“It’s a transition from armed to unarmed activism. It means that using violence as a tool for social and political change is a foregone behavior,” he said. “They shun it, and also they take the extra step of delegitimizing it.”

This does not mean the reformed terrorist completely changes his worldview. “It’s not a change towards moderation or accepting everybody into the fold,” Ashour said.

Some scholars draw a sharp distinction between the deradicalized individual who renounces hard-line beliefs and accepts democratic, pluralistic values and the merely “disengaged” individual who leaves a terror group and forswears violence.

Rashad Ali, a fellow at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue who works to reform radicalized youth in the United Kingdom, said it is dangerous to stop the process at disengagement. A program has to address the ideology as well. Otherwise, he said, “you’re just containing it and incubating it. You need to have some level of engagement even if it’s

minimal, on understanding the issues that drove them, the issues that pulled them [to extremism].”

## SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMS

There are three general types of deradicalization programs, according to Ashour’s research:

Comprehensive programs are the total package. They include changing the ideology of individual extremists, changing their behavior and dismantling the structure of a terror group. These are the most difficult and costly, but they have the highest long-term success rate.

Substantive programs work with individuals to change their ideology and behavior while not necessarily working with the group as a whole. This can sap the momentum and energy of a group, but it does not get to the root of the problem.

Pragmatic programs do not seek to change the ideology of an extremist but work to change only behavior. This involves pushing the extremist to make a calculated choice to improve his life by abandoning radical behavior in order to receive certain benefits.

In an ideal world, all deradicalization programs would be comprehensive. In reality, a pragmatic approach often is the only available option. Below are some strategies that have worked in various parts of the world. Experts say it is important to use as many strategies as possible because each one confronts the deradicalized person with a barrier to returning to old ways.

**Theological intervention:** Extremists often are indoctrinated with religious views that are simply not correct. In fact, many young people recruited into extremist groups have had little or no exposure to religion before joining. This makes them vulnerable to accepting warped teachings.

Deradicalization programs rely on moderate Islamic scholars and imams to sit face to face with these young people and explain that what they have been taught is false. This typically occurs in prison. Ali said theological intervention is effective when it shows a radicalized person that what he is espousing actually violates Islamic tradition. For instance, he said, an extremist book known as *Management of Savagery*, which espouses the need to massacre unbelievers — including fellow Muslims — is used by Daesh to justify killings, but is easily refutable by an Islamic scholar.

“You show them that they’re not following the transmitted religious teachings that they claim to be,” Ali told *Unipath*. “That’s our process of engagement. It’s kind of Socratic, questioning, demonstrating, dismantling the falsehood as opposed to trying to persuade them to think



Men play volleyball at a deradicalization center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.  
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

something else. When they go through that process, they eventually come to a decision that either the whole thing falls apart, or they've had enough of it or they need to move away."

Some governments, including Saudi Arabia, which purports to have an 80 percent or higher success rate, have institutionalized theological interventions. The Saudi government opened a lavish 76,000-square-meter facility that hosts suspected extremists from dozens of countries. The rehabilitation program is comprehensive and includes psychological treatment, religious instruction, and help with social reintegration and family reconciliation. This method may be effective, but it is also costly and can be challenging for governments with limited means and a large pool of extremists.

To maximize their impact, other governments are taking a macro approach. Countries are closing down extremist mosques and playing a more active role in training moderate imams. For example, in early 2015 Morocco opened a \$20 million center to train religious scholars and imams from around the world.

Some have also sought to amplify positive

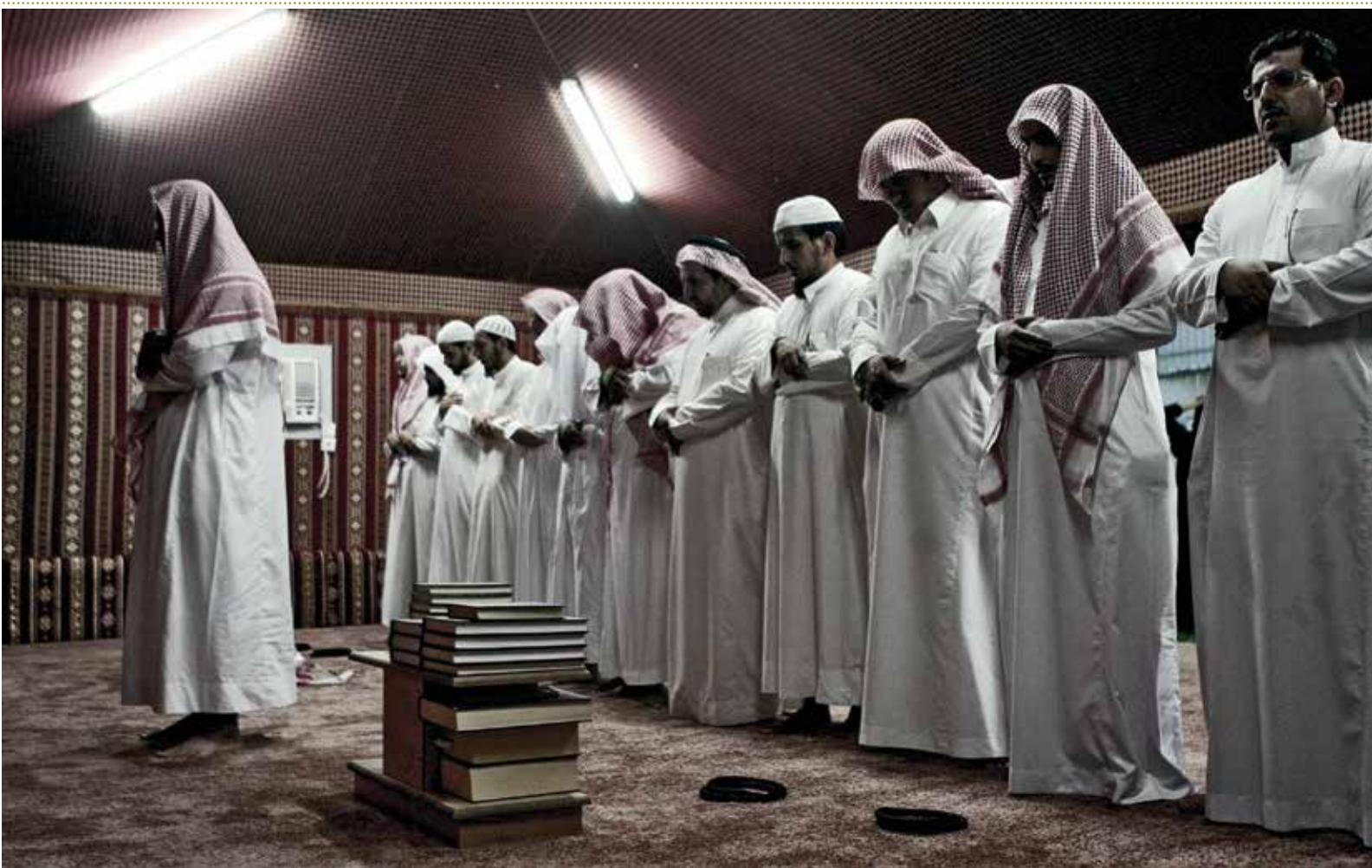
voices and crack down on those who preach hate. After two terror attacks in 2015, Tunisia shut down 80 extremist mosques. To delegitimize violence, several countries have sponsored efforts to televise pronouncements by clerics stating that violent acts are against the teachings of Islam.

Idayat Hassan, director for the Centre for Democracy and Development in Nigeria, pointed out that among the first people attacked by Boko Haram in northern Nigeria were clerics and others who disputed the group's theological teachings. An effective role of a government program could be to help spread the message of those who expose the falsehoods of extremist theology.

"There are lots of clerics that have preached against these sects, but who knows about it? There are cassettes, there is video, there are books all over Nigeria actually disputing most of the teachings of this sect [Boko Haram]," she said. "How to scale it up is the challenge."

**Psychological intervention:** Although religious war is the prism through which extremists channel their rage, religion does not define it. Syrian journalist Hassan Hassan, who interviewed numerous members of Daesh, said he found that there were





six reasons people became radicalized, and only two had anything to do with religion. The most common reasons people join fall into two general categories: First, they want to feel significant, and, second, they want to follow a leader with a clear ideology and who offers them a sense of purpose.

Conversely, a common reason that extremists choose to leave a terror group is disillusionment, according to Dr. John Horgan, who has interviewed more than 150 former terrorists. This feeling stems from a disparity between the imagined life of an extremist and the brutal, depraved life found inside a terror group.

“Some of the former terrorists I’ve interviewed told me they were deeply disillusioned with their groups long before they took steps to leave,” Horgan wrote. “Their reluctance to walk away was, in large part, because they saw no way out. In many countries, de-radicalization is a true second chance at life — the only real alternative to a lifetime in prison or a life on the run.”

This generally means that those who leave or are captured are primed to put their previous life behind them. Psychological counseling can help this process. This one-on-one therapy includes

examining the motivations that led to violence, exploring empathy for victims and teaching the person new ways to channel a desire to affect change in the world.

**Inducements:** Deradicalization programs cannot appeal only to a person’s philosophical and religious beliefs. They also must appeal to cool calculation and self-interest. A wide variety of inducements or incentive programs have proven to be effective at getting terrorists to abandon violence. These include offers of amnesty, prisoner release, payments, family protection and job assistance.

Although some may find it distasteful to reward people for violent behavior, experts say it is vitally important. “I don’t know of any successful [deradicalization] case that omitted inducements,” Ashour said. “All the successful cases from Indonesia to Morocco employed inducements. It ranged from better prison conditions at a minimum all the way to a power-sharing formula at the maximum.” Ashour added that inducements are best used selectively and as part of a comprehensive deradicalization package.

One inducement that is often overlooked, but

**Extremists once aligned with al-Qaida pray at a rehabilitation center for militants in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Men learn to make crafts at a deradicalization center in Pakistan's Swat Valley. REUTERS

is highly effective, is protection for families. In Algeria in the early 2000s, some members stayed inside extremist groups out of fear that their cohorts would take vengeance on their families if they left. Similarly, Boko Haram has blackmailed young people into joining the group by threatening family members. If governments can offer protection or relocation services to families of defectors, those defectors are less likely to return to the group or “reradicalize.”

**Leadership:** When the power structure of an extremist group is dismantled and charismatic leaders are co-opted or removed from the battlefield, it becomes far easier to deradicalize foot soldiers. This has been proven time and again. In 1997 in Algeria, Army Gen. Isma’il Lamari risked his life and his professional credibility when he traveled to the mountain stronghold of the extremist group the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) to hold direct peace negotiations with its leader. The gambit worked, and he was able to get AIS leadership to renounce violence, which proved to be the first step in getting the entire organization

to lay down arms. In the 1990s in Egypt, the imprisoned leaders of two groups, al-Gama’a al-Islamiyya and Egyptian Islamic Jihad, underwent theological interventions with respected scholars and imams, and they decided to renounce violence. This message was relayed to active fighters across the country who followed suit.

In each case, the lesson is that leadership matters in deradicalization and persuading leaders to lay down arms is a game-changer. A study by the Rand Corp. of 268 terrorist groups that were active between 1968 and 2006 found that only 7 percent of them were ever defeated militarily. A much higher number, 43 percent, chose to lay down arms and pursue their causes through the political system or through direct negotiations with the government.

“You deal with the commanders, the selected few, and the commanders themselves sell the idea to the mid-ranks and the grass roots,” Ashour said. “If they are charismatic enough and the grass roots believe in them enough, it usually becomes quite successful.” ♦



# Sawab *Combats Daesh* in Cyberspace

SAWAB CENTER

While it is true that Daesh's supporters continue to disseminate a large number of messages to lure recruits and incite violence and hatred, Daesh is not winning on the information battlefield. In fact, all around the globe, voices of moderation are uniting to contest Daesh's digital propaganda. Activists and clerics are speaking up to discredit Daesh's claims of religious legitimacy and state-building competence; social media companies are disrupting the group's exploitation of various communication platforms and Web browsing tools; and governments and community leaders are developing initiatives that offer compelling alternative paths for youth.

The Sawab Center, a joint United States-United Arab Emirates online communications center, represents an important initiative to counter Daesh's poisonous messages with hopeful narratives from the region. The word sawab in Arabic signifies "doing the right thing" or being on the "right path." Sawab seeks to do just that by giving voice to the millions of Muslims and others around the world who stand united against terrorism and the falsehoods propagated by Daesh.

Since its launch in July 2015, Sawab has actively contested Daesh propaganda by exposing this terrorist group's criminal nature, challenging its doctrine of hatred and intolerance, highlighting successes of the Global Coalition to Counter Daesh, amplifying regional voices of moderation, and offering an alternative, positive vision that underscores the true values and diversity of Islam.

Operating on multiple social media platforms, Sawab uses a broad range of content, including original graphics and animations, videos, coverage of current events, coalition updates, research, and religious arguments. To discredit Daesh's claims of religious legitimacy, Sawab regularly demonstrates how Daesh's actions contradict key tenets of Islam. Sawab has also conducted numerous strategic messaging campaigns. The center's first weeklong Twitter campaign amplified stories of former fighters who became disillusioned after seeing that Daesh members violated tenets of Islam and instead of protecting fellow Muslims were engaged in killing them. A subsequent campaign exposed the tactics and narratives used by Daesh to lure in and attract vulnerable youth.

Significant elements of Daesh communication and recruitment efforts are also devoted to enticing women, who represent an integral component of Daesh's state-building vision, to travel to the territories controlled by the group through false promises of empowerment. To challenge this deception, Sawab conducted a campaign designed to expose Daesh's actual treatment of



A screenshot of counterterrorism material produced by Sawab

women, including those who migrate to join the group, local women and minorities. A follow-up campaign launched on the occasion of the International Women's Day offered an inspirational positive alternative by featuring profiles of contemporary trailblazing women as well as pioneering female personalities in Islamic and Middle Eastern history.

In response to a dramatic increase in Daesh propaganda promoting the myth of a functioning utopian society, Sawab debunked these claims by shedding light on Daesh's failure to provide basic public services and its exploitation of local populations. This past February, Sawab also launched a campaign to highlight the humanitarian crisis stemming from Daesh's brutal aggression, amplified the efforts of Coalition partners as well as numerous international and nongovernmental organizations providing humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Syria, and encouraged the public to take action by supporting these initiatives.

To counter Daesh's attempts to erase national identities, the center encourages the youth to take pride in their countries' achievements by emphasizing the rich cultural heritage, distinguished personalities and the historic accomplishments of their nations.

Though established less than a year ago, the center has already made a remarkable impact: Its follower base on Twitter has surpassed the 81,000 mark and now includes individuals from 97 countries, while its campaigns have generated more than 740 million impressions. Furthermore, its followers on Facebook have exceeded 160,000 and include individuals from 45 countries. Looking ahead, the center plans to continue expanding its geographic reach by building a dynamic network of regional partner organizations and influential credible voices. Join the conversation by following Sawab on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, and participate in the global efforts to thwart the extremists. ♦

# JORDAN'S MILITARY

*aids refugees*



REUTERS



*It is not the first, nor will it be the last, great demonstration of noble and grand humanitarian notions. Our great Arabian Jordanian Army has always been a unique symbol of great principles and humanitarian values, the result of the values and principles that reside at the heart of the Jordanian kingdom.*

#### JORDAN ARMED FORCES

**T**he photos and comments that have appeared in local, Arabic and international news concerning the humane side of the Jordan Armed Forces during the reception of groups of refugees fleeing death, destruction and chaos in hopes of finding a new safe life full of peace and security have been a source of pride. The Soldiers welcome these people with open arms and abundant hospitality. Pictures show Soldiers carrying children, who cross our northern borders with their families, hugging them warmly with love and care, and kissing them while smiling. The children's eyes light up with happiness at the attention the Soldiers give them. Other pictures show a very old man being carried by a Jordanian Soldier and an extremely exhausted woman leaning over the arm of a Jordanian hero, who is helping her walk. A picture that has recently gone viral is of a Jordanian Soldier demonstrating his intelligence, cleverness and humanity by putting his gun away, giving a refugee child a sense of security and reducing his fear.

There are also many other pictures of our champions providing water and food, of military doctors and nurses inspecting and giving medicine to patients among the refugees and tired people, and of all of the people seeking the protection of Jordan, a country where they can find peace and security, shelters where they can stay and be provided with care, and services and relief after suffering extreme conditions. All such pictures demonstrate our Jordanian values and Arab nobility as well as our godly virtues, the honor of our manhood, and the principles of our Army.

As of early 2016, my country was hosting about 650,000 Syrian refugees, most of whom were aided by Jordan's Armed Forces, usually at a border crossing. Our Army does all this with commitment and without any sense of arrogance. Our Army does not do this just for the sake of taking pictures; to do this is at the core of our godly values and part of our Arabic culture and traditions, which have become a part of each of our Soldiers and are manifest in their behavior, assuring purity in the hearts of the Arab-Jordanian champions.



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Jordanian Soldiers help refugee children near the border with Syria in late 2015 and early 2016.**



REUTERS



2

REUTERS



3

REUTERS





We call on the world, telling it that this Arabic Army is an Army for building and establishing civilization as well as an Army for sacrifice and heroism. It is a well-informed Army that can provide health care and humanitarian help when needed. It is an Army that aids in development. With its Hashemite leadership at the head, along with the nation's support, it becomes a humanitarian Army that accomplishes its missions regardless of conditions or circumstances. It is ready to address crisis management, natural disasters, extreme weather, severe conditions, necessities and unexpected events. It is always prepared to help and do whatever is possible, from relief to health care. That is why we are proud to have such an Army, an Army that carries a weapon in one hand and a pick and olive branch in the other: The same hand that wipes away tears, sows happiness and embraces the needy.

An Army with such qualities is worthy of respect and admiration, especially because of its long record of aiding neighboring Arab nations, as it has always done. It is always ready to be on the front line of sacrifice and to be the first to provide help and aid. It has field hospitals in places such as Beirut, Benghazi, Cairo, Fallujah and Sudan that reflect this humanitarian side of the Army and its Arab bravery, shown in different forms of sacrifice and courage that see it defending the issues of concern to nations. This is the Army's reputation, an honorable image before the whole world. It is known in all countries to be fair, unbiased and humane; it presents its services to countries hit by troubles through participation in international peacekeeping forces.

*An Army with such qualities is worthy of respect and admiration, especially because of its long record of aiding neighboring Arab nations, as it has always done.*

Yes, this is our Army, of which we are so proud. Those men make us hold our heads up high; they are our champions, whose humanity and military bearing reflect a unified Jordanian family with its inclusive identity. These heroes have graduated from the Hashemite school, imbued with all of its fine conduct and values. They are obedient to His Majesty, their supreme commander, who perpetually boosts their capabilities and empowers them to meet his expectations, to be loyal to their vows and to their nation. Thus, they deserve a wealth of appreciation, respect, love, loyalty and support from all of us. They have always been as we wanted them to be: an example in performing their duties and protecting our country as well as serving its citizens. When we mention our home country, we Jordanians mean our beloved Jordan, which continues to grow under wise leadership with the help of its loyal citizens. Then there is our larger Arab home, in which we have long since believed, and with regard to which we have taught our children that all Arab countries are our home countries, and all Arabs are our brothers. ♦

**1. Jordanian troops aid an elderly Syrian at the Hadalat reception area near Ruwaished, Jordan, in January 2016.**

**2. A Jordanian Soldier awaits the arrival of Syrian refugees at the Hadalat reception area.**

**3. Jordanian Soldiers play with Syrian refugee children after they crossed into the country with their families, near Ruwaished in January 2016.**




# STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

USSOCOM's Sovereign Challenge program promotes  
security by building international relationships

UNIPATH STAFF





**P**reserving the sovereignty of independent nations and protecting people from the threats violent extremists pose to security and stability are no small aims. These noble goals require not only a whole-of-government response, but also an international commitment to synchronize efforts and build relationships that will enhance each country's efforts toward peace and prosperity.

As global news outlets shine spotlights on the atrocities of terrorists and their tentacles of influence and violence across the world, what does not always make headline news are determined and continual efforts to protect the sovereignty of nations and return stability to conflict-ridden areas of the world. Military officials, government leaders and other experts continually work to counter and defeat terrorists. While airstrikes and other military operations are one element of the fight, global partnerships and international dialogue aid in the ultimate defeat of violent extremism.

“Our network is strong and growing,” Gen. Joseph Votel, then-commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), said in 2015. “And through our network, we will defeat those transnational flows that threaten not only our own sovereign security, but global security as a whole.”

One such initiative is the Sovereign Challenge program, established in 2004 by USSOCOM. The program serves as a platform for networking, as well as a way for highly influential senior representatives from other nations to examine extremist threats and develop relationships and a shared understanding of the international challenges to preserving sovereignty and security across the globe.

“This is a truly unique program — there is nothing else like it,” Votel said.

Each year, the Sovereign Challenge program brings together government and military officials, such as defense attaches posted to the United States and



**Gen. Joseph Votel,**  
commander of U.S.  
Central Command,  
and former  
commander of  
U.S. Special  
Operations  
Command



**Participants in Challenging Extremism: Engaging the Successor Generation, in Washington, D.C., in September 2015** SOVEREIGN CHALLENGE

special operations forces professionals. In recent years, academic, industry and other security experts have also joined Sovereign Challenge conferences, seminars and other events where issues such as security, extremism, territorial integrity, terrorist finance networks, internal stability/conflict and transnational crime are discussed.

“The Sovereign Challenge program is one of the tools that help the Command look at problems differently. It makes USSOCOM more culturally astute and brings people, capabilities and ideas together to help address some of our most pressing international problems,” Sovereign Challenge Program Manager Larry Cook said.

In September 2015, officials met for a workshop in Washington, D.C., titled Challenging Extremism: Engaging the Successor Generation. One of the themes discussed was social media’s role in today’s fight against the terrorist group Daesh.

The level of strategic dialogue at Sovereign Challenge events has attracted high-level participation from across the world. The April 2015 gathering brought together more than 200 participants from 81 countries, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. During the conference, Her Royal Highness Maj. Gen. Princess Aisha bint Al Hussein, the then-defense attaché of Jordan to the United States, spoke about her country’s struggle to defeat terrorism. Sharing borders with Syria and Iraq, Jordan has been troubled by the neighboring conflicts.

“Jordan is no stranger to the chaos that surrounds it,” Maj. Gen. Aisha said. “Ten years ago, we mourned the senseless deaths of scores of Jordanians at the hands of terrorists who walked into hotels and weddings and blew themselves up. A mere couple of months ago, we mourned our pilot 1st Lt. Mouath al-Kasasbah — may God rest his soul — whose barbaric killing at the hands of ISIL thugs propelled us to move to the next stage in the war against extremism. Our response as Jordan has

been swift and strong. We have been hitting targets ranging from weapons and ammunition depots to training camps. And the momentum continues.”

She explained that the fight against Daesh is a global concern as a long-term ideological war that has spread across the Middle East and into Africa, Asia and other regions of the world. She also urged nations to address the plight of marginalized Muslims who have little hope for a prosperous and peaceful future so that they are not easily swayed by extremist ideologies.

“It is clear that we need to eradicate desperation and tackle issues of development and poverty, which rears its ugly head in all parts of the world and in every religion. The Middle East particularly faces overwhelming challenges, with youth comprising up to 70 percent of the region’s population. Failed or failing states are the ideal staging ground for these groups to move in, grow and proliferate. We must address such places today rather than tomorrow.”

Much of the conference’s discussion centered on these types of shared challenges that cannot be effectively tackled by any one country.

“Today we are witnessing a new type of transnational threat that threatens our respective sovereignty — flows of people, information and funding that move unimpeded across national borders in support of nonstate threat,” Votel said in a speech before participants. “Ideas, communication, and recruiting propaganda stream across the cyberspace and increasingly motivate radicalized individuals; some migrate to become combatants, and others to enable them.”

Although military power — especially special operations forces — are integral to neutralizing these threats, Votel explained that it is far from a long-term solution. “Though we play an important role, we are but one instrument of national power. Complex challenges like the ones we face today require the careful and coordinated application of the full range of strategic options





**Participants in Transnational Flows in Turbulent Times  
in New York City in April 2015** SOVEREIGN CHALLENGE

— diplomatic, informational, economic, as well as military. And the key to successfully coordinating such an effort lies in the relationships between the various instruments and partners executing each function,” Votel said.

Isabel De Sola, associate director of geopolitics and international security at the World Economic Forum, echoed these sentiments. During the conference, she explained how businesses have both a stake and role in defeating violent extremism. To put the issue concisely: Conflict is bad for business. By offering decent jobs and offering and supporting educational and mentorship opportunities, businesses can have a valuable impact on strengthening societies.

“Companies can help with, promote and extend counterterrorism narratives to those employed by violent extremist organizations,” De Sola said. For example, businesses in the media and entertainment industries reach vulnerable populations and terrorists themselves, making the messages and content important vehicles to disseminate information.

During a Sovereign Challenge seminar in Washington in September 2015, journalist and CNN security analyst Peter Bergen added his thoughts about the increasingly important role of the media in covering conflict.

“The Vietnam War was the first televised war; the Gulf War was the first cable news war that was available 24/7, and what is going on in Syria is the first social media war,” Bergen said. He explained that Daesh uses social media as a medium to spread its propaganda and reach out to potential young recruits.

Just as businesses, media and extremist organizations can reach audiences all over the world, governments, too, benefit from networks engaged in continuous dialogue on these important topics. Examining the threats posed by terrorist groups such as Daesh, al-Qaida and Boko Haram from a variety

## PREVIOUS SOVEREIGN CONFERENCES

- Transnational Flows in Turbulent Times, April 2015
- Sovereign Resilience: An Age of Emerging Threats, April 2014
- Regional Challenges to Global Security: Cultures, Conflicts, Contributions, June 2013
- Beyond Borders: Trafficking Trust and Transnational Security, November 2012
- Social Media: Prominence, Power and Potential, June 2012
- Civil War: Resilience, Reconciliation & Reconstruction, December 2011

To learn more about the Sovereign Challenge program, go to [www.sovereignchallenge.org](http://www.sovereignchallenge.org)

of angles is essential to developing a strategy that can defeat these organizations on all fronts — ideological, financial and operational. The network of people and organizations supporting Sovereign Challenge is helping accomplish this goal.

“It is through this network that we are able to bring our individual strengths and capabilities to bear against these mutual transnational challenges,” Votel said. “By increasing transparency, communication and collaboration with our partners, we maximize the effectiveness of our collective action.” ♦



## THE 119 EMERGENCY SYSTEM HAS IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN'S POLICE AND ITS CITIZENRY

AFGHAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**T**he Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a country that has linked the Middle East to South Asia for centuries. As such, Afghanistan has suffered a great many wars from essentially being “No Man’s Land” during the “Great Game” in the late 19th century and throughout the decadelong Soviet occupation beginning in 1979. Because of this constant occupation and war, Afghanistan has not been able to modernize fully and has been in a perpetual state of corruption. However, as a

result of Western influence and backing over the past decade, Afghanistan has begun the process of changing this perception, not only in the eyes of the international community, but more important, in the eyes of Afghan citizens.

In recent years, the Ministry of Interior and its Afghan National Police (ANP) have been heavily criticized. Accused of taking bribes and outright theft, the ANP has engendered a feeling of distrust over the years among a majority of Afghans. In an effort to eliminate corruption within the ANP and gain



much-needed confidence and trust of Afghans, 119 Emergency Services Call Centers (ESCCs) were established in 2009 with financing from Afghanistan's NATO allies. The ESCCs allow Afghans to call anonymously for assistance in any type of emergency, crime or natural disaster. This includes everything from insurgent activities such as the placement of improvised explosive devices to petty theft and everything in between.

Additionally, citizen complaints regarding ANP officers are encouraged so that issues of corruption can be addressed. While this is a step in the right

rapidly become a trusted medium for civilians to share pertinent information with the ANP.

"The 119 helpline has proved immensely helpful in restoring our confidence and faith in security institutions, especially in the cases of emergency situations," Baseer Khan, a resident of Kabul, told the nonpartisan Afghanistan Justice Organization. "Earlier, very few people knew about this program, but now a large percentage of people are aware of it and understand its importance."

There have been numerous success stories resulting from the 119 call centers that have



direction, Afghans have little incentive to embrace the ESCCs, as long as the predisposed belief of corruption within the ANP remains.

To increase public awareness of the ESCCs, as well as to highlight the positive actions of the ANP while responding to emergency situations and helping their communities, a television and radio series named *Reaction 119* was developed. It features live footage of ANP officers responding to distress calls received by the ESCCs.

Since the show started airing on Ariana TV and Youth FM 97.5 in 2014 and before that on National Radio and Television of Afghanistan, actionable calls placed to the 119 ESCCs have increased 128 percent. On average, the 119 ESCCs received about 2,300 actionable calls per month in 2015, compared to 1,000 calls per month in 2014. This improvement is testament to how the 119 ESCCs, which operate 24 hours a day, have

allowed *Reaction 119* to capitalize upon and demonstrate to Afghan citizens that the ANP is working to help communities become safer and more prosperous. One of the most notable episodes aired in October 2015 and depicted the rescue of an 8-year-old boy in Herat who had been kidnapped and held for ransom for several days. The valiant efforts of the ANP to save this young boy and arrest his abductors led to a social media outburst praising the ANP for its actions. Media outlets throughout Afghanistan such as ShabhayehKabul and WaisBarakzai have replayed clips of the rescue from the episode.

There are also many other ANP success stories involving arrests of insurgents planting roadside bombs and storing weapons in hidden caches. Read about them on the *Reaction 119* Facebook page by following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/119MOI>. ♦

**Afghan police officers search a car at a checkpoint near Kabul international airport in August 2015.**

**An Afghan police officer greets residents in Maimana, the capital of the northern province of Faryab, in late 2015.**

A black and white photograph of a tent on a rocky shore next to a body of water. A plastic jug is on the ground near the water. The image is used as a background for the text.

# *Fighting* **Floods**

IRAQI ARMED FORCES FIGHT NATURAL DISASTERS WHILE  
SIMULTANEOUSLY FIGHTING DAESH

ISRAA KHALID/IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE





**T**he primary mission of the military is to defend the nation against external threats and to enforce security and sovereignty. Many militaries are assigned specific tasks as part of their daily routine; however, the Iraqi military has performed its duties beyond the capabilities of many conventional militaries.

In addition to its furious war against Daesh, Iraq's Armed Forces provide humanitarian assistance to displaced people and secure towns close to battlespaces, conducting new types of missions completely different from the image we have in our minds of strong, ruthless and intimidating fighters who plant fear in the heart of their enemies.

Today we've developed a new image about Soldiers sacrificing and sharing concerns with the rest of the nation. As a result of the heavy rains that fell in November 2015, Baghdad experienced major damage from widespread

**A displaced Iraqi girl carries her brother at a camp in Baghdad following heavy rainfall in November 2015.**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

flooding. In response, the Iraqi military was deployed to assist civil defense workers and other agencies to help citizens, open roads, rescue families in inundated neighbor-

hoods and remove floodwaters. The Ministry of Defense was on high alert to help with this natural disaster.

"As instructed by the commander in chief and directed by the minister of defense, the brave men of the 11th Army Division, with cooperation of other agencies, launched the largest rescue and assistance operation to help the flood damaged areas of Sadr City, Ur, Shaab and Jamila," said



# REGIONAL *DISASTER RESPONSE*

UNIPATH STAFF

Autumnal rains — including two unprecedented hurricanes fed by the warm waters of the Arabian Sea — demanded a courageous response from military and civilian emergency officials throughout the Middle East.

The downpours in October and November 2015 dropped a year's worth of rain over just a few days, leaving streets and neighborhoods flooded in places as dispersed as Jordan, Qatar, Yemen, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

As roads were swallowed by floods in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia closed schools for a couple of days. In Doha, a November 25 storm brought more rain in two hours than Qatar usually receives in a year.

Most threatening of all, tropical cyclones named Chapala and Megh churned through the Arabian Sea and struck the Yemeni island of Socotra before curving toward the Arabian Peninsula. Dozens died when the freak storms deposited up to 10 years' worth of rain in parts of the country.



**Saudi Soldiers negotiate a flooded street in Jeddah in November 2015.** REUTERS

To help domestic rescue operations in all the affected countries, many countries contributed aid to some of the worst-hit disaster areas.

For example, the United Arab Emirates; Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation sent at least 100 tons of food to Socotra. The Emirates Red Crescent, under the directive of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa, UAE president, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, sent hundreds of tons of food as well as medical supplies, blankets, tents and diesel fuel.

Additionally, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies supplied Yemen with necessities such as water purification tablets and mattresses.



**Iraqi Soldiers assist in draining floodwaters in Baghdad in November 2015.** IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Maj. Gen. Saib Oubaid Mahsan, commander of the 11th Army Division. The first task was to drain the floodwater that significantly damaged many residences and public facilities. We deployed 91 tankers owned by the division."

The general noted that problems with the Army Canal — traditionally the main conduit to drain floodwater — made the rescue efforts even more of a challenge. But the military overcame those problems. "Our elements, working day and night, continued working until we drained the water and made sure our citizens and their properties were safe and secured," he said.

The team also interviewed one of the Soldiers who was deployed, Kadim Jabar: "All of the brave men in the Iraqi military continued serving their nation. What we are doing today is honorable duty, and we are determined never to leave the city until we drain all the water."

Many Iraqi citizens expressed gratitude and appreciation for their Armed Forces, which are simultaneously fighting a most vicious enemy and providing support and assistance to the local citizens during a natural disaster. "Draining the floodwater is not the military's duty, but what our heroes are doing today shows their love and loyalty to Iraq," Baghdad resident Jasim Ismail





**Iraqi Soldiers drain water into the Army Canal in Baghdad.**

IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



**A Soldier from the Iraqi 11th Army Division draws water from a Baghdad street.**

IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

said. “This is not a surprise. The Iraqi Soldier proved during the course of history that he is willing to sacrifice for a stable and secure Iraq.”

Other citizens reported that the military provided them with food and dry blankets, removed them from harm’s way and helped them return home after the water receded. “This is not new for our great military; in the past, they participated in

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*Whatever the heroes of the past have done, I see it repeated by the heroes of today.*

”

similar events and provided significant assistance to the Iraqis and saved many lives,” resident Ali Almahmdawi said.

Another displaced resident, Um Ahmad, recalled being rescued by the military: “I will never forget the honorable action of our Soldiers as they carried my children on their shoulders to cross the deep water. I was so proud to see our military men carry children across streets that had turned into a wild river with strong currents and frigid water.”

Mohamad Jumaa, a young man from Sadr City, added his own story: “In 2013, I saw on TV how our

brave Soldiers conducted rescue missions to evacuate citizens of Tikrit after a massive flood. I saw our Soldiers putting their lives in danger to save civilian lives. I was astonished to see them rescue even the livestock back then. Today I see the same Soldiers repeating their honorable and brave duty in my city. My salute and respect to them.”

While Mohamad told his story, an elderly man named Abu Ali chimed in with an even older anecdote about the bold conduct of Iraqi forces in the face of disaster. “During the severe flood of 1954,

when Iraqi forces were deployed in Baghdad to help residents, they provided tents, food, clothes and blankets as well as built trenches to constrain the floodwater,” Abu Ali said. “They saved thousands of lives. Whatever the heroes of the past have done, I see it repeated by the heroes of today.”

The brave and honorable role of our Armed Forces suggests that our military is protecting and serving our people, whether it’s by fighting Daesh, protecting the integrity of our nation, providing aid to civilians during natural disasters or supporting other agencies that serve our citizens. ♦





**United Arab Emirates Soldiers  
engage in target practice.**

PFC. THOMAS MUDD/U.S. MARINE CORPS



# Serving THE NATION

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
UAE STAFF PILOT MAJ.  
GEN. SHEIKH AHMED  
BIN TAHNOUN AL NAHYAN

UAE STAFF LT. COL. YOUSEF JUMA AL-HADAD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, NATION SHIELD MAGAZINE

## WHAT IS NATIONAL SERVICE AND WHAT DOES LAW NO. (6) OF 2014 AIM TO ACHIEVE?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** National service in the United Arab Emirates is mandatory for eligible men for a specified time and in accordance with the provisions of the law. As for the objectives of this law, they are many and varied, including social, religious, political, security and economic ones. Examples include, but are not limited to, proper national upbringing of citizens; instillation and inculcation of the values of loyalty, belonging and sacrifice; and linking these national values to the principles of our religion. It aims to create a strong and confident generation that possesses the essentials of personal leadership in terms of discipline, commitment, responsibility, self-reliance, physical strength, respect for the law and appreciation of the value of time; a generation that trusts themselves, their homeland, leaderships and institutions of the nation. This law will be effective in protecting citizens and immunizing them from the risk of being misled by intellectually subversive beliefs and extreme religious currents. It will have a significant role in highlighting the leading role of the Armed Forces and other security institutions in maintaining the security of the homeland and the protection of its accomplishments. The role of conscripts in national service is an extension of the role of these national bodies and institutions.



## WHO MUST APPLY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AND ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** National service is mandatory for every male citizen who is 18 years old and not more than 30 years of age. The same conditions apply with respect to female citizens, but the recruitment of females is optional and subject to approval of the guardian. With regard to exemption from national service, there are two types: a final exemption for anyone who proves to be permanently unfit medically based on a decision of the medical committee, and who is the only son of his father or mother, or both of them; and a temporary exemption for a son who is a breadwinner for his father or mother and a long list of other qualifications. It must be emphasized that all the above-mentioned cases of exemption must be proven by official papers issued by competent authorities in the country.

## WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO JOIN NATIONAL SERVICE?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** Every citizen who is 18 years old but does not exceed 30 at the date when Federal Law No. (6) of 2014 on national and reserve service is in force should visit the competent recruiting authorities, as specified by the General Command of the Armed Forces, within 30 days from the date of notification to determine his position of recruitment in accordance with the provisions of this act and in accordance with the observed rules and procedures. It is scheduled that the National and Reserve Service Committee, in coordination with the relevant units of the Armed Forces, set annually a program specifying the dates of screening recruits who have reached the age of recruitment or are decided to be recruited. Their names will be announced through available means.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES THAT ACCRUE TO THE RECRUITS OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** I would like to emphasize that serving the country has not been, and will never be, paid. All citizens assigned to perform national service should be aware that service is a great honor and a sacred national duty in which they repay their country for a fraction of the favors granted them. I agree that there are many privileges and benefits of national service, in the forefront of which are military and security training and exercises that recruits will undergo during the service, which represents an essential source for their development and empowerment, gives them experience and new knowledge, hones their skills and increases their efficiency. We would like to emphasize that all ministries and government departments, public bodies and institutions, and the federal, local and private sector are obliged to preserve posts or jobs for the recruit until the end of the period of national service. The employee will be paid by his employer throughout the duration of national service and will

also be provided with medical treatment and expenses in accordance with regulations in force in the agencies where he performs the national service.

## WHAT IS THE DURATION OF NATIONAL SERVICE FOR MALES AND FEMALES, AND WHAT PROGRAMS AND EXERCISES DOES IT INCLUDE?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** Males who have academic qualification less than high school will serve two years, whereas those with high school certificate or its equivalent or higher duration will serve 12 months. Females will have a term of service for nine months, regardless of academic qualifications. National service will include training periods, military and security exercises, and religious and national awareness lectures.

## DO YOU CONSIDER THE PERIOD OF NATIONAL SERVICE PART OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** Yes, the period of national service for recruits who are hired by ministries, government departments, federal and local public bodies and institutions, and the private sector is treated as if it was spent in the service of these entities, and this time is calculated in terms of seniority and planned incremental entitlements.

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE NATIONAL SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE RESIDING OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** Those abroad who have their names announced must go to the UAE Embassy or military attaché in the country of residence for further action. As for the postponement of the service, it is permissible if he meets deferral conditions contained in Articles (14) and (15) of the act, including if these sons are students of educational institutions outside the state.

## WILL NATIONAL SERVICE RECRUITS BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME PENALTIES APPLIED TO MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE ARMED FORCES?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** Unless provided for otherwise, recruits shall be subject, throughout the duration of the national service, to laws, decrees, regulations, instructions and orders in force in the agency in which they serve and as referred to in the law.

## HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE PUBLIC AND NATIONAL REACTION TO THE PASSAGE OF THE NATIONAL AND RESERVE SERVICE LAW?

**MAJ. GEN. TAHNOUN:** In fact, once announced, the public applauded it and considered it an important strategic move. Young citizens emphasized that they did not need to wait for legislation or a law to give their lives for the redemption of the nation, because the relationship between the UAE citizen and his homeland is a close and well-established one based on trust, appreciation and mutual respect. These responses have had a great impact on our minds, because they have embodied the highest images of popular cohesion and the extraordinary relationship that binds the people with their nation and leadership. ♦





# REGION ADOPTS NATIONAL SERVICE

UNIPATH STAFF

Compulsory national service has been a feature of military preparedness for centuries. Even when threats to national security are less than imminent, countries view such service programs as a means to increase national pride and cohesiveness.

And — as Qatari Navy Staff Col. Abdullah Shaheen Al-Dosari noted in a *Unipath* article about the “youth bulge” in the Middle East — instilling military values helps channel youthful energy in positive directions.

“This period of their lives provides a prime opportunity to mold and shape their personalities and character. It will teach civic responsibility and the value of hard work,” Col. Al-Dosari noted. “Young men will learn critical thinking skills and new

technology, and achieve general awareness, enabling them to build and develop their country. The skills they acquire will make them more valuable to employers.”

Regional conscription programs are a hallmark of many regional militaries, including those in Egypt, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Qatar, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. And even countries like Switzerland that haven’t fought a war for centuries retain national service.

And the Swiss case raises another point about its value: In multiethnic, multireligious societies, conscription can be one of the few ways that young people learn to bond with people different from themselves.



Emiratis greet troops just returned from Yemen in November 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





# MODERN MILITARY SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

MILITARIES REQUIRE PERSONNEL  
TRAINED IN THE EFFICIENT USE  
OF RESOURCES

**BRIG. GEN. YOUSUF A. ALMALAKI**/QATARI ARMED FORCES,  
SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

Supply and logistics operations are important for the world's armed forces, fulfilling the needs of fighting and administrative units. The growing complexity and diversity of the needs of modern-day armies require supply and logistics efficiency, enabling militaries to achieve national goals. Special supply and logistics methods must be followed because today's forces, characterized by intelligence and strength, require mobilization of all human, economic and moral forces.

The continuous and rapid development of military equipment of armed forces has had a profound impact on supply and logistics systems as well as on leaders' approaches to creating effective plans. Each country develops its own strategic plans in line with the political, economic and security conditions, setting clear foundations upon which military doctrine is built. A state's military strategy is reflected

directly in the construction, development and equipment of the armed forces, and the country establishes its own military doctrine in line with its strategic objectives and its economic, human, and geographic capabilities.

Strategy is defined as the overall guidance of the armed forces to achieve long-term general objectives or purposes of the country, also known as the art of mobilizing and channeling the nation's resources, including the armed forces, to support and protect the country's interests from enemies. Supply and logistics are known as the process of planning, implementing and securing the armed forces in their theater of operations with all material needs at a specified place and time. Supply operations include organization, development, equipment, distribution, evacuation, maintenance and medical services. These operations are tasked with supplying the armed forces as well as equipping storage warehouses for their needs.

A strong connection is established between supply and logistics and strategy because the economic situation of a country is a major and vital factor in creating an overall strategy. The economic factors have a direct impact on the strategic objectives, causing a large overlap between supply and logistics and the national economy and strategy. Therefore, strategy deals with achievable goals, procedures and methods, while supply and logistics establish, equip and provide all needs relevant to transport, maintenance and continuing medical services. This can only be achieved if the economy is strong.

### **SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS PRINCIPLES**

Principles are the foundation upon which every action or idea is based. These principles may change or evolve, especially in the military. The principles of supply and logistics are usually proportionate to and consistent with the principles of modern armies. The most important principles of supply and logistics are prediction, research and the study of unexpected threats and potential challenges. This will help to estimate the requirements of supply and logistics so that supplies can be secured and distributed punctually. Often, these predictions are inaccurate; these estimates should be based on a thorough specialized study so that they are as close to reality as possible.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The supply and logistics process imposes itself as a complex reality that requires attention and follow-up as well as ongoing support to keep pace with the technological, technical and administrative developments of an intelligent modern army. This is achieved through a specialized authority, the supply and logistics authority, which contains expert leaders, administrators and

technicians who assume responsibility of all supply requirements. It also includes organization, development, logistics, management, transport, storage and medical services.

### **ECONOMIC LINKAGES**

The wise use of state resources while spending on armament achieves the desired objectives required to implement a rapid response to military changes and the requirements of all military sectors. This allows a country to take advantage of available resources as well as use its strengths to achieve the main objectives of the armed forces.

### **MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION**

Management planning should be considered the common factor among all aspects of general military planning. To achieve successful military plans, the factors for administrative plans, strategic plans and operational plans should be combined. For strategic and management planning to act in harmony with emerging incidents and developments, they should be integrated from the beginning of the planning preparation phase to the implementation completion phase.

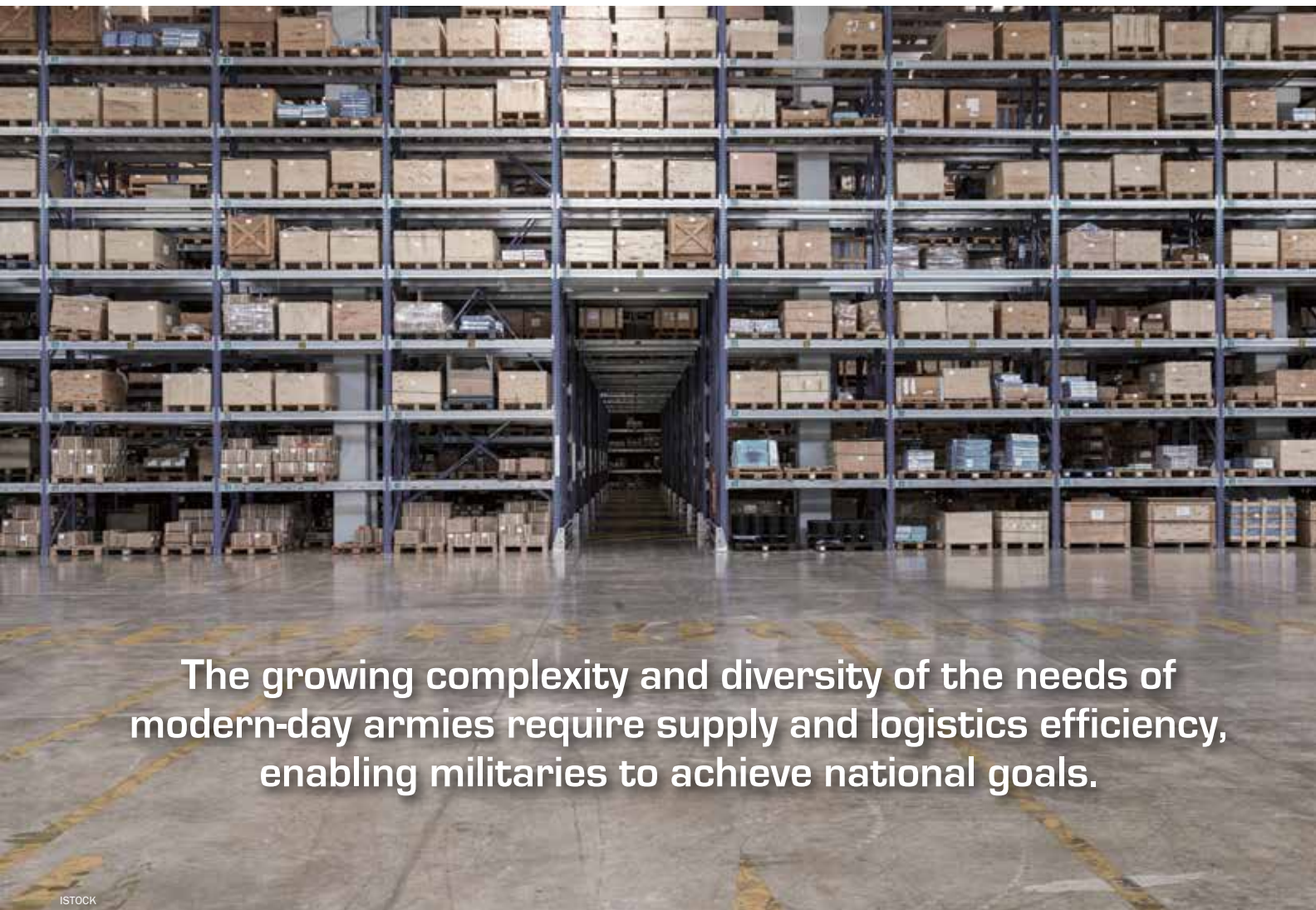
The integration method requires planning procedures with clear programs and an efficient information system. To achieve success in the formation and equipping of military units in their modern and sophisticated form, appropriate thinking and evaluation should be implemented, and administrative tasks should be managed carefully without improvisation and negligence. Strategic and administrative planning should be characterized by adequate flexibility that enables leaders to act appropriately when confronting different situations.

### **OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS**

The development and the multiplicity of types and forms of military equipment require a trained and qualified administrative and technical body that is able to manage this equipment so that it is used and administered properly. This results in a significant increase in the volume of financial allocations to cover these requirements and may increase the amount of spending on the armed forces, posing a significant financial burden on the state budget. In the event of a significant increase in the required amounts of required supplies, the armed forces may face challenges. The primary reasons for this are as follows:

1. **Ineffective management planning:** Poor planning for the provision of equipment and/or inappropriate military devices will have significant impacts on the conduct of military operations. To solve these problems, a successful





The growing complexity and diversity of the needs of modern-day armies require supply and logistics efficiency, enabling militaries to achieve national goals.

scheme should be developed that meets all the requirements and should be characterized by transparency without exaggeration or the squandering of resources.

2. **Lack of administrative efficiency:** Some departments tend to assign individuals with limited experience to work in the administrative units, without implementing effective or advanced training programs to increase the efficiency of military personnel. These units are ultimately incapable of carrying out their functions properly, and this leads to poor management planning.

## CONCLUSION

Instilling the principles of military doctrine and confirming the values of sacrifice, generosity and endowment for the sake of religion and homeland, as well as psychological and moral preparation of

forces, helps to form the state's military entity.

Young people and others with expertise who are the foundation of the future have the responsibility for cultivating a sense of national loyalty and pride in maintaining the country; imposing the will of the people over all other factors; confirming the loyalty to Allah and the nation; and defending the nation. These people should receive advanced military training covering all phases.

Given the challenges facing military training at various levels and the current defense requirements, countries need military cadres that have necessary skills to deal with defense developments and changes taking place nowadays to work on successfully completing their training and defense mission. By having a better understanding of supply and logistics operations, and the skilled personnel serving in that sector, militaries will be better equipped to overcome threats of the future. ♦



## SENIOR LEADER PROFILE

# COMPOSURE IN A CRISIS

UNIPATH STAFF

*Military leadership is an art form that requires taking responsibility and facing challenges. Great leaders are graced with unique qualities such as vision, intelligence and bravery. Brig. Gen. Jassim Ahmed Al Mohanadi, commander of National Defense and Crisis Management Center in Qatar, is one such leader.*

Brig. Gen. Mohanadi began his military career as an armor officer, a graduate of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College and the Nasser Academy for Military Science in Egypt. His professionalism enabled him to direct multinational military exercises such as Eagle Resolve and Ferocious Falcon, in addition to his participation in Egypt's Bright Star exercise.

The general takes great pride in Qatar securing the XV Asiad Championship, held at Khalifa International Stadium in December 2006. Doha was the first city in the region to host the Olympics-style games, and called upon the talents of Brig. Gen. Mohanadi.

"The Asiad championship is considered to be one of the largest sports events in the region and the first hosted by an Arab country. It was attended by tens of thousands of fans from all over the world," he said. "Our center was in charge of providing security

to all facilities, securing routes, devising an emergency plan and easing heavy traffic. Thank God all our efforts and plans resulted in total success. We never had any security breach or incident."

For the past two years, Brig. Gen. Mohanadi played a special role in the management of Ferocious Falcon 4, gaining the appreciation of the 27 participating countries in this important military exercise held in 2015. It dealt with issues such as protection of sports stadiums, maritime piracy, plane crashes, natural disasters, chemical spills and threats to critical infrastructure.

The general believes that international partnerships are essential to combating security challenges in the region. That's why Falcon attracted forces from partners such as Kuwait and Pakistan. Equally important was participation by other government agencies such as the Ministry of Interior,



Lekhwiya (Qatari Internal Security Forces) and the Secret Service.

“The region needs these types of military exercises to unify our military doctrine and share experiences with the wide range of participants. Some of the participating nations have vast experience in responding to natural disasters due to their geographic locations or experienced real world crises that solidify our knowledge,” the general said.

“There is no nation that can work alone to manage current threats. We all need the services of experts and advisors from our allies. International participation is essential to overcome the security threats that face the region. It is very important to involve all influential nations in these exercises so all participants can benefit by their involvement in planning and execution.”

Brig. Gen. Mohanadi’s role wasn’t limited to coordinating Qatari military units and those of neighboring and friendly forces and allies. His responsibilities also included engaging the local population to reassure them that military traffic, Soldiers’ maneuvers and continuous explosions were no cause for alarm.

He requested that local citizens cooperate with the security forces to ensure the success of the exercise, involving them indirectly in the defense of the homeland.

Ferocious Falcon 4 won the appreciation of Qatar’s Minister of Defense Maj. Gen. Hamad bin Ali Al Atiyya; Maj. Gen. Ghanem bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, who serves as chief of staff of the Armed Forces and commander of the exercise; and Maj. Gen. Abdullah Jamaan Al Hamad, assistant minister of

*“There is no nation that can work alone to manage current threats. We all need the services of experts and advisors from our allies. International participation is essential to overcome the security threats that face the region.”*

defense for military cooperation, coordination and follow-up.

The exercise concluded with a seminar attended by senior leadership and His Royal Highness Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar. Attendees discussed procedures for dealing with disasters, crisis management, rescues, counterterrorism, maritime piracy, joint maneuvers and other scenarios.

Field officers and leadership are concerned about collateral loss, whether it be personnel or hardware. A successful leader is one who achieves his goals with limited losses. Brig. Gen. Mohanadi was proud to lead such a large exercise without incurring any losses among the joint participating forces.

Planning and preparation for this exercise were achieved with an attention to detail that proved its worth through cooperation among the joint forces and the ability of the support units to handle missions with precision.



## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Discuss Security Cooperation

UNIPATH STAFF

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif visited His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Muhammad bin Naif Abdulaziz Al Saud and Defense Minister His Royal Highness Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud in November 2015 to discuss bilateral defense

and security cooperation.

They agreed that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a history of cordial relations and a deep spirit of brotherhood that is transforming into an enduring partnership. They also acknowledged that the two countries play a vital role in protecting regional stability and eliminating the menace of terrorism and extremism.

The Saudi king and crown prince reassured the general that they consider any threat to Pakistan's integrity unacceptable and will support peace and stability in Pakistan.

Gen. Sharif expressed his appreciation for growing counterterrorism cooperation, intelligence sharing, and limiting space for terrorists and extremists in all domains, including choking off the flow of funding. Sources: 92 NEWS HD, Pakistan News Services



**Pakistani Soldiers march during the Pakistan Day parade in Islamabad in March 2015.** REUTERS

## Saudis Boost Aid to Egypt

AGENCE  
FRANCE-PRESSE

Saudi Arabia has pledged \$8 billion in investment and aid to Egypt over the next five years, as Riyadh looks to boost military and economic ties with its ally.

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia "ordered that Saudi investments in Egypt exceed 30 billion riyals" (about U.S. \$8 billion) and that the kingdom "contribute in providing Egypt with its needs for gasoline," according to a statement published by the Saudi Press Agency in December 2015.

Additionally, Saudi ships would "support" traffic in the Suez Canal, Saudi Defense Minister and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud announced during a visit to Egypt in December 2015.

The pledges come despite a sharp fall in Saudi Arabia's oil revenues, which make up over 90 percent of public revenues, because of a global decline in crude oil prices since June 2015. Saudi Arabia has offered billions of dollars in aid to Egypt since Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi became president in 2013. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab

Emirates each offered \$4 billion in investment and aid.

Egypt is taking part in a Saudi-led coalition that has been battling Houthi rebels in Yemen since March 2015. It is also participating in the Saudi-backed 34-member alliance to fight terrorism.

During the visit by Saudi dignitaries, Sunni Islam's leading seat of learning, Cairo's Al-Azhar University, urged all Muslim countries to join the new coalition. Egypt is fighting an insurgency led by Daesh collaborators in the Sinai Peninsula.



**His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia has allocated 30 billion riyals to assist Egypt.**

REUTERS





## Terror Plot Foiled in Kazakh Capital

UNIPATH STAFF

Kazakhstan has seen relatively little terrorism in comparison to its Central Asian neighbors that border the Afghan conflict zone.

However, Adilbek Dzhaksybekov, mayor of the capital, Astana, urged vigilance following the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris and warned that the country has been targeted for major attacks that were disrupted by security forces.

In the summer of 2015, Kazakhstan's security forces broke up an extensive terrorist conspiracy in Astana, according to a Eurasianet.org report. "Anti-terror questions are now coming to the fore," Dzhaksybekov said at a meeting of law enforcement. "The National Security Committee uncovered, literally four months ago, a major clandestine and well-equipped group that was planning terrorist acts in Astana."

Scores of alleged extremists and members of the security forces died in the wave of attacks in 2011-2012. In the most serious incident, seven people were killed when a gunman went on a rampage in the southern city of Taraz.

Eurasianet says Kazakh authorities believe several hundred Kazakh citizens are fighting for Daesh in Syria and Iraq. Daesh has used propaganda videos to target Kazakh speakers.

Kazakhstan's neighbors have been on alert as well. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported a security crackdown in Uzbekistan in which about 150 suspected extremists were rounded up; the Kyrgyz Republic said Daesh elements were involved in a shootout with security forces in 2015; and Tajikistan has said the terrorist group tried to provoke an uprising in September 2015.

Sources: Eurasianet.org, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty



Security forces descend from a helicopter to a ship during a counterterrorism drill in the western Kazakh town of Aktau.

REUTERS

## OMAN BEST ON GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX

UNIPATH STAFF

Oman is the safest and most secure country against terrorist threats, according to the Global Terrorism Index 2015 released by the Economics and Peace Institute. Oman scored a zero — the best possible — followed by Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Some analysts attribute this enviable ranking to Oman's strict laws regulating anything related to extremism and religious intolerance. In 2008, Oman instituted a law that mandates a 10-year jail sentence for anyone involved in terrorism and sectarianism.

Additionally, the country has targeted terrorist financing. In 2011, it signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and in 2002 established the Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) system to disrupt money laundering.

Omani resident Zakariah Al Mahrami attributes the country's success to promoting tolerance, *Gulf News* reported. "Omanis have been closely watching what has been going on in their region, which is in flames, and have been focusing on nation building, away from destruction and conflicts," said Al Mahrami.

Although the majority of Daesh fighters come from Arabic-speaking nations, few if any Omanis have joined Daesh, an Omani government official confirmed.



Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said attends the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2015.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



# SAUDI ARABIA FORMS BLOC TO FIGHT TERROR

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Projecting its ambition for regional leadership, Saudi Arabia announced in December 2015 that it has lined up most of the Arab world, NATO member Turkey and several African and Asian countries in an “Islamic military alliance” against terrorism.

The move allows the kingdom to lead the fight against extremism. Riyadh has supported rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad and has been leading an Arab coalition against Houthi rebels in Yemen since March 2015. It is also part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting Daesh militants in Syria and Iraq.

The announcement on state media said the Saudi-led alliance is being established because terrorism “should be fought by all means.”

His Royal Highness Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman said in a rare news conference that the bloc will develop mechanisms for working with other countries and international bodies to support counterterrorism efforts. Efforts would not be limited to countering Daesh, he added.

“Currently, every Muslim country is fighting terrorism individually ... so coordinating efforts is very important,” he said.

Though few details were given, the statement said the alliance would not only counter Sunni extremists, but protect Muslim nations from all terrorists “whatever their doctrine.”

U.S. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the alliance

wouldn’t be a substitute or a replacement for the U.S.-led coalition fighting Daesh, noting that the Saudi effort was intended to focus on broader targets. The Saudis have made “important contributions” to the anti-Daesh coalition led by



**Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir announces that the Islamic anti-terror alliance will share information and train, equip and provide forces, if necessary, for the fight against Daesh. REUTERS**

Washington, “and we anticipate that they will continue to do so,” he said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said in Paris that members could ask for assistance from the coalition, which would address the requests “on a case-by-case basis.” He did not rule out the deployment of ground troops.

“There is no limit in terms of where the assistance would be

provided, or to whom it would be provided,” he said.

The new coalition includes nations with large and established armies such as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt, as well as war-torn countries such as Libya and Yemen. African nations that have suffered militant attacks, such as Mali, Chad, Somalia and Nigeria, also are members.

Hisham Jaber, a retired Lebanese general who heads the Middle East Center for Studies and Political Research in Beirut, called the new bloc “necessary, but not enough.”

Mustafa Alani, the director of the security and defense department at the Gulf Research Center in Geneva, said new counterterrorism strategies, including standing ground forces, are required to confront the changing threat posed by groups such as Daesh, which is intent on state building as much as solitary attacks.

“Islam is accused — directly or indirectly — of sponsoring terrorism. Everyone has to prove not guilty,” he said. “This project is going to offer Muslim boots on the ground.”

The alliance’s roster includes Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.





## UAE Counters Extremist Financing, Ideology

EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY-WAM

**T**he war on terrorism requires a double-pronged fight that addresses both financing and ideology, Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, the United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, said during the country's National Day celebrations.

"I do not accept the hijacking of the Islamic religion by takfiri groups, so we must begin to fight extremist ideology," the minister said.

The UAE placed the Muslim Brotherhood on its list of terrorist organizations because of its takfiri ideology, as it did with other sects that support extremism. Gargash said the move highlights the fact that terrorism is not linked to one particular doctrine.

"Addressing extremism is not solely an Arab issue, and therefore, there must be a collective effort. Terrorism targets Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Belgium, France, Kenya and Tunisia, and all countries are facing a global challenge, so dealing with it must be from this standpoint, and each region should study its circumstances," he said.

With regards to the fight against terrorism, the minister explained: "There is no Arab solution we can export to confront extremism and terrorism in the world. Terrorism is a global challenge, and the solution must therefore also be global. All states must make a common effort on an international level to counter extremism, and we are working, through the UAE experience, to provide assistance in facing extremism as part of the international coalition fighting terrorism."

In regard to the situation in Syria, Gargash stressed that the only solution for Syria is a political one.

"Choosing between Daesh and al-Nusra Front is not a realistic option," he said. "Unfortunately, we see the marginalization of the moderate and rational voices in Syria that seek to create a civil state."

**UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash attends a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2015.**

REUTERS

## KAZAKHS COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING

OSCE

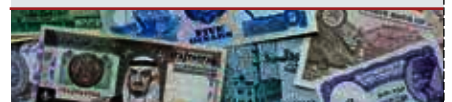
An Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe-supported international program for 30 representatives of the banking sector on detecting and preventing money laundering and terrorism financing was held in December 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The three-day event was co-organized by the Finance Ministry's Financial Monitoring Committee, the National Bank, the Financial Institutions' Association, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, and the United States Embassy in Kazakhstan.

Specialists from nearly 20 second-tier banks of Kazakhstan examined the available tools and best international practices, and also reviewed international standards on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and methods and schemes of bank fraud. Participants discussed how to enhance interaction between the competent authorities and banking sector representatives in investigating financial crimes.

This program builds on the office's multiyear activities in the fields of good governance, anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism in the host country.

To learn more about this event and other OSCE programs, go to <http://www.osce.org/>





Iraqi Army  
Cpl. Ayob  
Khursheed  
Rasheed



# ONE CAUSE – DEFEATING DAESH

STORY AND PHOTO BY COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE-OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

For one Kurdish-born Soldier, joining the Iraqi security forces and training at one of the building-partner-capacity sites will better enable him and his Iraqi brethren to defeat Daesh. Cpl. Ayob Khursheed Rasheed said there is no mistaking the threat that Daesh poses.

“Our enemy does not discriminate between our uniform or what country we come from,” he said. “We want to kill Daesh and clear the whole of Iraq of them.”

Despite the long road ahead, Rasheed said he hopes one day all Iraqi people will be free of danger and terrorist organizations like Daesh.

“The Iraqi flag represents the whole country; it represents the Kurdish and the Arabs. It represents everyone who lives in Iraq under one flag. It represents the Iraqi people,” he said. “For me, I was with an Iraqi division that was separated; they reassigned me to the peshmerga, and now I am serving with the Iraqi Army again.”

Rasheed has sacrificed much for his country and was determined to

serve in the Army following the horrifying acts committed by Daesh.

“I came here with my brothers to defend Iraq against Daesh,” he said. “Daesh has raped our women, killed our families and pushed us from our lands. We are all hurt so badly that we have volunteered to defend the country and our families.”

Originally from Kirkuk in northern Iraq, Rasheed is the only son in his household. “My mom didn’t want me to join the Iraqi Army but [my family] is really proud I am serving and defending the country,” he said.

Rasheed received training as part of the “building partner capacity” mission and expressed gratitude for the skills he is learning. But he realizes the fight against Daesh rests with him and his country.

“The Iraqi people need to support the Iraqi Army by providing information on terrorists,” Rasheed said. “My hope is that the whole Iraqi population and all the people in Iraq cooperate because the Iraqi Army cannot fight and defeat Daesh by itself.”

## UZBEKISTAN Expands Cooperation with NATO

UNIPATH STAFF

Uzbekistan, prompted by unrest in northern Afghanistan, with which it shares a nearly 140-kilometer border, has expanded its relationship with NATO. In July 2015, NATO opened a new English language training course for Uzbek officers. As many as 15 competitively selected Uzbek officer candidates underwent a six-month pilot program focusing on military terminology.

The NATO liaison officer in Central Asia, Alexander Vinnikov, told local media: “This program, based on the successful experience of a similar initiative launched by our office earlier this year in Kyrgyz Republic, aims to raise Uzbek officers’ level of military English with a view to increasing the country’s participation in NATO Partnership Cooperation.”

Uzbek-NATO cooperation has steadily increased in recent years and reached new highs in 2013 when, according to Silk Road Reporters, “Uzbekistan agreed to its first Individual Partnership Cooperation Program with NATO and opened the Office of the NATO Liaison Officer in Tashkent, responsible for all of post-Soviet Central Asia.” A Defense Education and Enhancement Program has also been established with Uzbekistan, and a NATO Depository Library was opened at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent in August 2015.

Sources: Silk Road Reporters and NATO





## KYRGYZ AIM TO REDUCE ETHNIC CONFLICT

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

**T**he OSCE concluded its Community Security Initiative (CSI) for the Kyrgyz Republic in a December 2015 ceremony in Bishkek.

The CSI was aimed at supporting the country's leadership to reduce tensions and address the root causes of the interethnic conflict in southern Kyrgyz Republic, which started in the summer of 2010.

Unarmed police advisors from the OSCE worked to strengthen the professionalism, skills and capacities of local police officers. Eighteen mobile police stations were set up throughout the Kyrgyz Republic, providing easy access to police services in 15 regions.

"Polls conducted by the El-Pikir center show that people's trust in the police has increased over the last three years."

The project trained about 2,500 Kyrgyz police officers, developing their skills in community policing, including facilitating easier access and communication between the police and remote communities.

To learn more about this event and other OSCE programs, go to <http://www.osce.org/>

## Tajik and Afghan Border Officers Train

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Twenty-four officers from the border security services of Tajikistan and Afghanistan attended a 10-day Border Management Awareness course in Dushanbe at the Border Management Staff College of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in November 2015.

The course, co-organized with the European Union and the United Nations, is a comprehensive education program that focuses on customs and trade facilitation, human rights in border security, targeting migration and refugees, and examination of people and personal belongings.

"Border challenges have a global impact that can only be effectively addressed through enhancing international partnerships," said course director Dita Nowicka.

The EU's William Lawrence stated that such courses encourage cross-border cooperation and communication that are now more important than ever. "Students are able to improve their professional awareness, but just as importantly they can share their own unique experiences with other students and experts to the benefit of all concerned on both sides of the Tajik-Afghan border," he said.

The course consisted of a mixture of theoretical and practical exercises, including field visits to the nearby border with Uzbekistan and the dog training center in Dushanbe.

To learn more about this event and other OSCE programs, go to <http://www.osce.org/>

## ENDING CRISIS IN YEMEN

UNIPATH STAFF

His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein of Jordan warned that continued fighting in Yemen could cause the country to fragment irreversibly, creating a haven that terrorists could use to destabilize the Middle East.

The prince, who serves as the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, issued his warning in December 2015 at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

"I urgently call on the council to expedite and intensify diplomatic efforts to bring about a cease-fire and help create a framework for negotiating a comprehensive and sustainable peace," Prince Zeid said.

"Failure to act decisively does not only spell misery for the millions of vulnerable people in Yemen today. It would inevitably push the country into an irreversible process of Balkanization, the consequences of which would lie outside of anyone's control."

Since the start of the recent conflict, more than 7 million Yemenis have become dependent on emergency food aid, 1.8 million children have dropped out of school, and thousands have been killed.

"U.N. agencies and partners will continue to scale up our assistance to save lives. However, only a political settlement can end the immense suffering facing more than 20 million men, women and children in Yemen today," U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kyung-wha Kang said.



## JORDAN ARMED FORCES PROMOTE WOMEN

UNIPATH STAFF

**T**he Jordan Armed Forces has partnered with NATO to offer Jordanian servicewomen broader career opportunities.

Ambassador Marriët Schuurman, NATO special representative for women, peace and security, visited Amman in November 2015 to discuss the Jordan III Trust Fund project.

Jordan already employs thousands of women in its Armed Forces, having supplied them for United Nations peacekeeping missions and female engagement teams in Afghanistan. With NATO's help, the kingdom aims to increase the percentage of women in its Armed Forces to 3 percent.

"I am very grateful for the cooperation we have with Jordan," Ambassador Schuurman said. "I believe this trust fund project will have a concrete impact and provide a leading example in the region to enhance the role of women across the security sector."

In 2016, Jordan will modernize a training center and expand it to accommodate rising numbers of servicewomen. Jordan Armed Forces will deploy gender training for women and men of all ranks.

The 3.6 million euro project will be implemented by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, and carried out under the leadership of Norway and the Czech Republic.

**Jordanian Soldiers participate in a military parade.**

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Countries Successfully Coordinate Naval Operations

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES

Combined Task Force 152 (CTF 152) recently conducted a coordinated maritime operation in the Arabian Gulf. These types of operations are designed to track, counter and build an understanding of any illicit activity in the Gulf to ensure stability in the region.

The Kuwait-led CTF 152, based in Bahrain, used naval and air assets from the United States, United Kingdom and Kuwait to conduct the joint operation in support of the Combined Maritime Forces' (CMF) mission to deter criminal and terrorist activity in the Gulf and maintain regional maritime security.

Kuwaiti Col. Mohammad Aleid, commander of CTF 152, said: "By working together on a regular basis, [we find that] CMF tactics, operations and procedures become increasingly familiar and clearly understood by all nations taking part. This cooperation and interoperability make CTF 152 a more effective and capable task force."

CTF 152, part of the 30-nation CMF, conducts maritime security operations in the Gulf, engaging with Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the wider maritime community to build capacity and increase interoperability to prevent terrorists and nonstate actors from using the seas for illegal activities. The command of CTF 152 rotates among countries. Kuwait took charge in September 2015 from Saudi Arabia.





# QATAR ROOTS OUT TERRORISM

UNIPATH  
STAFF

Qatari leaders affirmed that the fight against extremist groups such as Daesh cannot be won by military force alone. In November 2015, at a meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) interior ministers in Doha, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani called on the country's spiritual leaders to "immunize" youth against "ideological extremism."

Sheikh Abdullah, who also serves as Qatar's prime minister, stated that ideology and faith should be used to fight "ideological extremism and dry up its sources in order to immunize our people, especially the youth, against misleading and mistaken ideologies being spread by terrorist groups in the name of Islam and which have no relation to our Islamic religion."

Recent attacks in Lebanon and France, for

which Daesh claims responsibility, have helped clarify the threat posed by the extremist group.

Sheikh Abdullah said the region's "foremost" security challenge is the escalation of terrorist attacks. He added that fighting terrorism must include "joint action" among GCC security forces and tackling the "root causes, whether political, social, religious, sectarian or others."

Qatar's emir expressed the same thought earlier in the year in an opinion article in *The New York Times*. His Royal Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani argued that understanding and confronting the root causes of terrorism are key to tackling its prevalence, and that the war could not be won with "bullets and bombs" alone.



**Qatari Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani states that cooperation among Gulf states is paramount to curbing Daesh in the region.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Lebanese Security Forces Receive Tech Upgrade

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) donated U.N.-owned information-technology equipment to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the General Security Directorate/Sûreté Générale (SG) at a December 2015 ceremony in southern Lebanon.

About 1,700 items, including computers, printers, servers and accessories valued at more than \$400,000, were handed over to assist the LAF and SG in their operational needs, as part of UNIFIL's efforts to support the development of LAF capabilities.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Luciano Portolano spoke of the importance of the Strategic Dialogue process to empower the LAF in implementing the tasks mandated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) and to facilitate the gradual assumption of greater security responsibilities by the LAF in UNIFIL's area of operations.

He noted that the partnership between UNIFIL and the LAF is central to the implementation of the mandated tasks. "It is essential, in this regard, that our strategic partners in the South get the technical and material resources they require to fulfil their vital responsibilities," Portolano said.

Portolano reiterated UNIFIL's commitment to support the government of Lebanon and its entities, including the LAF and General Security, by helping them develop operational capabilities for the successful implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006).

Since the beginning of the strategic dialogue process, UNIFIL has equipped the LAF with vehicles, prefabricated buildings, generators, sea containers and computer equipment worth more than \$1 million. Lebanon also receives donations bilaterally from UNIFIL troop-contributing countries.





# Kazakhs Visit U.S. to Study All-Volunteer Military

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. GARY L. QUALLS JR./U.S. ARMY CENTRAL

A contingent from Kazakhstan's Armed Forces recently visited the United States to develop ways to build its military forces while transitioning from a conscript to an all-volunteer army.

The Kazakh forces toured Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Jackson, United States Army Central (ARCENT), and Shaw Air Force Base to learn how the U.S. Army and Air Force take care of and train Soldiers and Airmen as well as how the Armed Forces compete with private corporations to attract the "best of the best" to serve in the military.

The members of the Kazakhstan contingent were especially impressed with the Army Community Services program, particularly the support the agency gives families while Soldiers are deployed.

"The main thing is that every time a Soldier is deployed, he is given the opportunity to perform his mission without having to think about problems at home, so that he is 100 percent focused on his mission," said

Gen. Maj. Mukhamedzhan Talasov, deputy chairman of the general staff and the Kazakhstan contingent.

The visitors also noted the great respect that the civilian population gives the U.S. military. "Everything was in very logical order," Talasov said.

During a meeting with USARCENT's commanding general, Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, the critical importance of the noncommissioned officer corps was discussed. Most challenges the Army faces can be attributed to leadership, Garrett noted, pointing to the all-important link in the chain of command, the first noncommissioned officer (NCO) in that command structure.

"When people are asked what they are most impressed with about the Army or USARCENT, it has never been our generals," Garrett said. "It has never been the brilliant plans our colonels come up with. I think they are mildly impressed with our equipment, but they question the cost of it. The one thing that

cannot be duplicated is the amount of trust we have in our noncommissioned officers."

"Our great NCO corps is definitely empowered by great officers," Kelley added.

Talasov agreed about the importance of the NCO corps, noting that Kazakhstan was the first former Soviet country to adopt the NCO corps and raise its image.

The general expressed gratitude and admiration to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his open-mindedness in seeking new ideas to better the nation. He also expressed gratitude to Garrett and Kelley for being "very open to us." Military leaders from both countries agreed that raising and maintaining an all-volunteer army is "very difficult." Still, the U.S. Army has successfully done so since 1973, and Talasov expressed confidence the Kazakhstan Army can do the same.

"A successful transition did not happen overnight for the U.S., and it will probably not happen overnight for us," Talasov said.



Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, second from left, commanding general of United States Army Central, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie R. Kelley, senior enlisted advisor at USARCENT, confer with Gen. Maj. Mukhamedzhan Talasov, deputy chairman of the general staff for Kazakhstan Armed Forces, during a visit at USARCENT's headquarters at Shaw Air Force Base.



A drill instructor assists Kazakh Gen. Maj. Mukhamedzhan Talasov during a tour in the United States.





## Turkmenistan's Navy Builds Maritime Border Management Security Skills

UNIPATH STAFF

Cadets from Turkmenistan's Navy Institute enhanced their skills at managing maritime borders during a five-day training course organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Centre in Ashgabat in December 2015.

The cadets studied subjects such as maritime leadership and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. "Maritime borders are complex, with numerous agencies involved in an effective and balanced security and trade environment that serves national requirements," said John Trumble, a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer who led the discussion.

Trumble, delved into the concepts of boundaries, borders, borderlands and related challenges. The course also addressed the illicit movement of goods across the world, vessel inspections, maritime surveillance and patrols.

Richard Wheeler, political officer of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, said the course was organized as part of the OSCE's ongoing commitment to support Turkmenistan in strengthening its border management capacity. "We are pleased to cooperate with educational institutions, which prepare professional border guards, and it is our belief that such training courses will contribute to advancing the training of border guards in line with international standards," he said.

Sources: Trend News Agency and OSCE

**A Turkmenistan Navy missile ship takes part in counterterrorism exercises on the Caspian Sea.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES



## COUNTERPIRACY EFFORTS COMMENDED AT 37TH SHADE CONFERENCE IN BAHRAIN

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES

**R**epresentatives from around the world came together in Bahrain in December 2015 to discuss the ongoing fight to counter the piracy threat to shipping posed by criminal gangs from Somalia.

The 37th Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) conference, which included 80 representatives from 30 nations, is hosted on a rotational basis by the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), NATO and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

SHADE provides an international forum for frank and open discussions on counterpiracy operations in the Southern Red Sea, Bab El-Mandeb Strait, the Gulf of Aden, the Somali Basin and the sea lanes around the Horn of Africa. The two-day conference included a series of meetings between representatives from numerous civilian and military organizations and offered delegates the opportunity to hear keynote speakers broadly discuss the issue of piracy in the region.

The conference included a comprehensive analysis of the threat, demonstrating that piracy-related incidents have declined substantially since CMF, EUNAVFOR, NATO and nations, including China and Russia, began operations in the region in 2008.

"The theme for this conference is one team, one mission. This theme captures how we must all come together to ensure piracy does not rise again to delay global commerce. This requires support from all stakeholders," said Turkish Navy Capt. Tufan Uslu.

"The 37th convening of the SHADE showed once again the commitment from all of the counterpiracy actors that they remain engaged in countering the evolving piracy and maritime security threats that continue to exist in the region. Superb attendance, engaging guest speakers and in-depth discussions at this latest SHADE made it clear that there remains keen interest in the future of SHADE and a desire to move the mandate forward," said U.S. Navy Capt. William Nault, chief of staff at CMF headquarters in Bahrain.

The SHADE conference allows nations and organizations that would not usually coordinate their naval operations to meet regularly to plan how to best combat piracy.

# SHARING KNOWLEDGE

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