





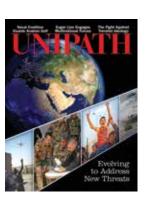
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ON THE COVER:

Regional militaries must be creative in the use of technology, information operations and battlefield tactics to defeat violent extremist organizations. UNIPATH ILLUSTRATION

UNIPATH

Evolving to Address New Threats

Volume 8, Number 1



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KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE

would like to thank our partners at U.S. Central Command for inviting us to present this important issue of *Unipath* magazine, which focuses on the theme of evolving to address new threats. I'm excited to write about this important subject because our battle against Daesh was the focus of the entire world. Iraq has become the front line in the fight against terrorist gangs; we have lost many martyrs

liberating our homeland and saving citizens from the clutches of terrorism.

The terrorists' treacherous attack on Iraq, which hinged on dividing the nation and fueling sectarian strife among Iraqis, was not a random event. Rather, it was well-planned and extended its tentacles to the farthest reaches of the world. The attack began with the spread of extremist ideas and ended with death and destruction as terrorists forced people to conform to this warped ideology. We are facing an army of terrorists with complex fighting capacity, command and control and a giant propaganda machine. They are a vicious gang that respects no treaties or rules of engagement, uses car bombs to destroy cities and suffers no remorse when killing innocents.

The world is experiencing a new kind of war, the likes of which it has never seen before. This war depends on the exploitation of young people who lack a basic education, recruiting them from around the world and bringing them to conflict areas by fabricating and manipulating the stories and hadiths from the Holy Quran and other Muslim texts. What makes this war even more dangerous to the international community is that extremist ideologies do not stop at national borders.

As military commanders, we must continue to acquire new technologies within our fields of specialty. We must encourage our forces to focus on training and prepare for the worst. I am commander of the Iraqi Army Air Wing, and before 2014 we had no experience fighting terrorist groups entrenched in cities. However, we successfully adapted to changes on the battlefield and managed to fight this unconventional enemy that has unmanned aerial vehicles and other advanced technology. We also gained vast experience hunting down car bombs and eliminating them without damaging surrounding homes. We are living in the age of the internet and technology. This has improved the lives of people around the world, but unfortunately it is misused by evil people who deploy it for death and



destruction. They use social media to recruit and deceive youth and spread their propaganda.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the heroic men of the Iraqi Air Wing, who played a significant role in defeating an enemy that hides among civilians. They were the watchful eyes that protected the back of our Armed Forces. They hunted down the car bombs that

attempted to stop our advance. In addition, they conducted honorable missions to deliver essential supplies to besieged remote villages, despite the risks. I am proud to command these chivalrous knights.

I also would like to highlight the bravery of our entire Armed Forces, citizen volunteers and tribal fighters who bore arms. They made huge sacrifices to ensure the safety of innocents trapped inside cities. The world applauds your heroism. You uphold the honor of the profession and have performed with integrity. I would like to thank our friends and partners in the international coalition who have played a major role in providing air and logistical support to our Armed Forces during the liberation battles. Air support and intelligence sharing help preserve the lives and property of citizens, allowing us to liberate cities with as few casualties as possible.

The next stage for Iraq is reconstruction and stabilization. It will require hard work. Terrorists have destroyed infrastructure, and society has deep wounds that will require substantial effort and resources to rehabilitate. Therefore, I call on our partners in the international community to do their utmost in this important task, which will help Iraq rebuild and stabilize — and thus make the world safer and more stable.

To our people in devastated areas, we feel your suffering and anxiety. The government's priorities are to provide you with basic services and to ensure that cities are cleared of unexploded ordnance and terrorist sleeper cells, so that you can return safely to your homes. I ask that you act with patience and caution so that we can achieve this goal together. I hope that you will cooperate with security forces and state officials to speed your return home. We will never again allow terrorists to lurk in our cities waiting to prey on innocents.

Staff Gen. Pilot Hamid al-Maliki Commander of the Iraqi Army Air Wing



UNDERMINIG EXTREMISM

The Jordanian Center for the Prevention of Extremist Ideology Opens in Amman

UNIPATH STAFF

here is no doubt that the post-Daesh era poses a challenge to leaders in both the political and security realms. Children and others living under Daesh control have been brainwashed and traumatized by slaughter, torture and constant bombing. What's more, ideologies

can't be defeated by tanks and aircraft, but must instead be intensively studied and researched.

For this reason, countries have focused on building specialized centers for refuting extremist ideas and immunizing young people against such poison. These centers help to ensure that extremism does

not reappear under different names. In cooperation with Japan, the kingdom of Jordan opened a specialized center in Amman to counter extremism.

Unipath met with Col. Mohammed Aref Al-Athmat, director of the center, to learn more about the its goals and activities. **Unipath:** What is the purpose of establishing this center?

Col. Mohammed: The Jordanian Center for the Prevention of Extremist Ideology is a new idea in Jordan. Though similar specialized centers exist in many places around the world, we see that their performance has been very modest in the face of the challenge posed by extremist ideas. We, too, have a special counterextremism unit in the Ministry of the Interior, but the unit's activity doesn't match the scope of the challenge.

So I partnered with Dr. Majid Al-Drawsha, the grand mufti of the armed forces, to study the importance for the Armed Forces having serious, efficient and academically qualified officers running these specialized centers. Thankfully, we could establish this center with the help of the Japanese, who covered the cost of the building. The building was handed over to the Jordan Armed Forces in May 2017. Our hope is that, beginning with its first class, the Armed Forces benefit from this center. We also focus on specific categories within Jordanian society.

We have a special vision to begin strongly, rather than performing simple studies. Therefore, we have created a specialized master's program along the lines of the National Defense University's program in the United States. In this one-year program, students will specialize in methods of combating extremism, after which they will be granted a master's degree in this specialty.

Unipath: What are the specialties of the center's employees, and how are they selected?

Col. Mohammed: We don't have employees, and we don't expect to have many employees in the future. Instead, our goal is to contract with experts to achieve specific objectives. For example, for our master's program, we have contracted with Mu'tah University, the largest public university in Jordan, to provide the

center with academic staff specialized in teaching master's programs.

In the future, if we have a research program, or if we want a field survey of extremism in a specific region in Jordan, we can contract with experts in that field. There is no need for them to be from Jordan: The doors of the center are open to all, and we hope to benefit from the world's experience.

Unipath: What are your plans to develop this center?

Col. Mohammed: Frankly, I owe the U.S. plenty. I originally studied law and earned a chance to study for a year at the National Defense University, where I fell in love with this unusual field.



Col. Mohammed Aref Al-Athmat, director of the center

When I returned to Jordan, I began my doctorate research on the causes of extremism among Jordanian youth.

My goal is to link this new center with the National Defense University to allow for the exchange of experiences by hosting experts and building partnerships with institutions that specialized in extremism ideology in the Middle East.

Extremist ideas are a global problem, not just a local one, so we can't address it in just one environment there should be international solidarity on this matter. My main plan is to build relationships with research centers around the world, as well as specialists in this field.

Through *Unipath*, I'd like to invite American specialists and researchers interested in studying extremist ideology to visit Jordan. It is not enough to study salafi-jihadism, extremist organizations and other terrorist groups in Washington or New York. In my opinion, one must come to the Middle East, live with the people and understand their troubles and way of life. In a country like Jordan, visitors can live safely and walk freely throughout the city, listening to all dialects of Arabic and meeting all ethnic and religious sects. Studying in this environment will help students and researchers understand the phenomenon of extremism better than if they had studied it overseas.

Unipath: How receptive have other countries been?

Col. Mohammed: We are just beginning. I spoke with a European Union organization in Jordan because it finances numerous other counterextremism programs, and I offered to cooperate with it. I found them very welcoming — they offered to connect me with supporters and with the media. So far, we don't have a formal relationship with anyone, but interactions like these have made me hopeful about the responses we will receive.

Unipath: Is the center directly connected to the Armed Forces?

Col. Mohammed: The Armed Forces play a supervisory role, but the center is ultimately independent in its character, finances and publications. With their dedication and resources, the Armed Forces have helped us carry out this project within nine months by providing the necessary staff. Still, the relationship won't be one of dominant and subordinate partners. The center is independent, and it has the capacity

to work with specialized international bodies in any way that doesn't conflict with Jordan's interests.

Unipath: What challenges does the center face?

Col. Mohammed: The reality is that extremists do not want to speak with journalists, researchers or other academics. They are wary of us and very difficult to reach. Even with those in prison, it is difficult to get them to divulge secrets. Studying extremism depends on understanding each individual's experience, finding out why he left his university or job to join this group. Why would he leave behind his family for a distant place and a different society to fight for slogans he doesn't understand or believe in? The fact is that we cannot answer these questions without hearing from the person himself.

The first challenge is to begin a dialogue with these people. I was able to speak with one person who joined the al-Nusrah Front in Syria and subsequently returned to Jordan. (This person had a doctorate in Shariah and an open mind.) Fortunately, after three months with the terrorist group, he realized that his beliefs about jihad were vastly different from what he saw the group doing, so he decided to leave it.

By speaking with him, I can better connect with others who had a similar experience. The main challenge I have encountered is winning the trust of people like this. The other challenge is: How can we deliver a clear message to society to deter young people from joining extremist groups. Therefore, our messages must be carefully selected and properly studied. This depends on using the vernacular of a society; that is, we must understand the society, its concerns and priorities. In addition, we must understand how these vary across different age groups. Through this understanding, we can achieve effective strategic communication of our center's messages.

"Extremist ideas are a global problem, not just a local one, so we can't address them in just one environment — there should be international solidarity on this matter."

— Col. Mohammed Aref Al-Athmat

Unipath: Do you mean that some media outlets attempting to combat extremism have unwittingly become propagandists for extremists?

Col. Mohammed: Yes, exactly. Some media outlets covering terrorists' activities have — without intending to — become promotional tools. Through my studies, I discovered that some of the young people who joined extremist groups sought to live like a fighter: carrying weapons, wearing black clothing, appearing on camera and in combat. In other words, media exposure helped recruit them.

Unipath: Has the center cooperated with any other state institutions?

Col. Mohammed: We cooperate closely with universities and have a formal relationship with Mu'tah University. We also have a close relationship with the Jordanian National Defense College, as well as a good relationship with the Center for Counter-Extremism Studies in the Ministry of Culture. We have a relationship with the religious institutions represented by the Ministry of Awqaf and the Directorate of Military Advisers.

I'd like to communicate through the center with education staff and religious leaders, but the mosque imams meet with young people only in groups for prayer and talk to a limited group of young people in their twenties who come to the mosque. But if we focus on teachers, giving them scholarships to study at the center for a year and making them specialists in the fight against extremism, they can help transmit our message across numerous generations. If we can educate and immunize children ages 10-18, we will have achieved great success. I aim to build bridges of communication with teachers — that way, I am confident our message will reach large segments of society.

Unipath: The refugee issue is highly complex. That is especially true for young people who have not had the opportunity to continue their studies. Do you plan to address this problem?

Col. Mohammed: I have begun researching what will come after Daesh. When al-Qaida formed in the mountains of Tora Bora, it posed little danger, but after its defeat in Afghanistan, it splintered into small groups all over the world. Years later, it regrouped in Syria and Iraq to form the dystopian political entity of Daesh. Daesh is breathing its last breath, but I'm sure that after Daesh we will see other extremist groups arise. We are now studying the factors and circumstances that led to Daesh's formation, which will help us understand what will come afterward. I am not convinced that extremism will end with Daesh. But what I fear most is that the next terrorist organizations will be invisible, which makes it difficult to follow them and expose their lies, especially if their activity is primarily online.

Unipath: Do you know of cases in which similar centers saved people from falling into the clutches of extremism?

Col. Mohammed: There are many success stories. For example, the Munasaha Center in Saudi Arabia works with captured recruits who have been returned to their homelands. In Jordan, a specialized committee of academics interviewed extremists inside their prisons; the team found that some of the men were not fully



indoctrinated into extremism, but rather had been pushed in that direction by social conditions.

Building on this group's assessment, this group of captured recruits was further classified into smaller categories, so that each person's punishment would be appropriate to his situation. That is, it was impossible to judge these people by acts alone. Their families were thus given scholarships and transferred to better conditions, which would help them become contributing members of society and keep their children from feeling the injustice and isolation that could make them easy targets for recruitment and extremism.

Unipath: You mentioned the story of a young man who joined al-Nusrah Front and changed his mind after three months. Can you relate this story in greater detail?

Col. Mohammed: The story of this young man is somewhat peculiar, because he is highly intelligent and has a degree in electrical engineering. He also had a fondness for studying Shariah and managed to study it along with engineering. After graduation, he dabbled in the engineering profession, but found he preferred religious preaching. He worked as an imam at a

mosque in northern Jordan, supervising pilgrims making the Umrah and Hajj.

During his time in Mecca, he met preachers from Turkey. After several meetings, they formed a close relationship and offered him a job at a charitable religious institution in southern Turkey, with better pay than he would have received in Jordan. He liked the idea and traveled to Turkey.

He was placed close to the Syrian border, where he distributed humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees. Through his work there, he met some mujaheedeen from al-Nusrah Front, who convinced him that the young mujaheedeen in their group needed a legitimate, experienced preacher like him. He joined the group after spending three months in the Aleppo area.

It was there that he began to spread the message of Shariah and the tolerance of Islam among al-Nusrah fighters, but he quickly realized that these young men were not interested in halal and haram, or the study of Shariah. He discovered that they had very different goals, and he knew this profession was not for him. Knowing that he would never find the group rewarding, he left it and returned to Jordan.

Particularly strange is that these extremist organizations seek legitimacy to win over young people and

Staffers at the Jordanian Center for the Prevention of Extremist Ideology in May 2017

THE JORDANIAN CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY

demonstrate their devotion to religion, but in reality, they do not care about Shariah.

Unipath: Who are the students at the center?

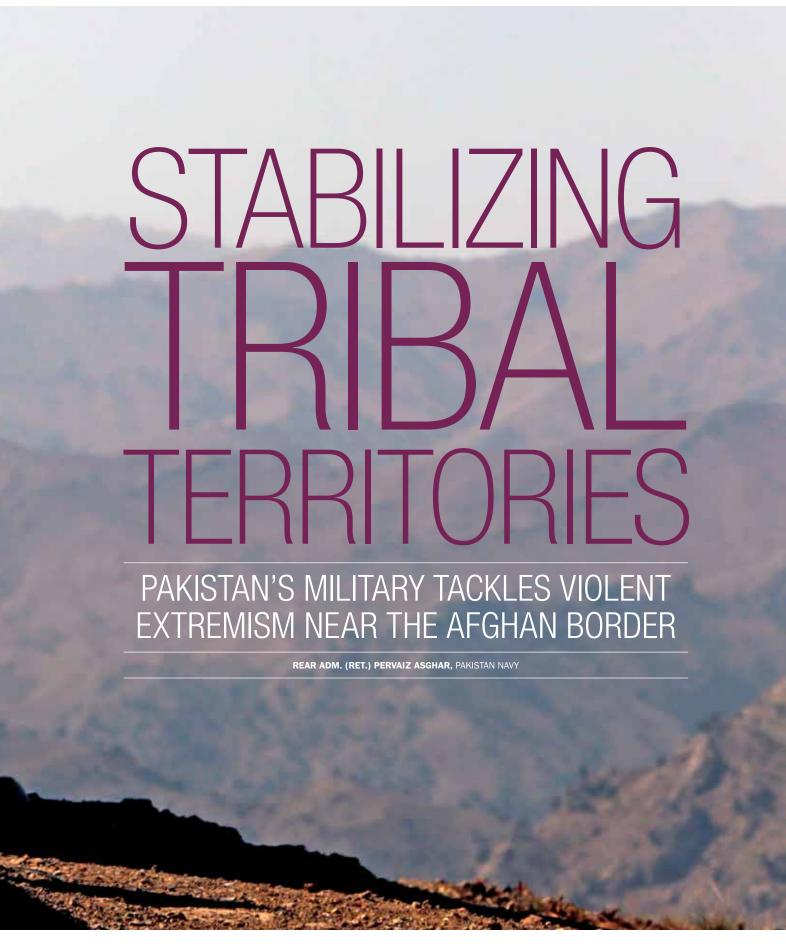
Col. Mohammed: We currently have 17 students, eight of whom are Army colonels. There are also three lieutenant colonels, a colonel in the security institutions and other government officials. All of our students are from the state security and military institutions.

Unipath: In the future, will you expand the center's work and open offices in neighboring countries?

Col. Mohammed: We will visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to observe the work of similar centers, including the Sawab and Hedayah centers. We will try to build a relationship between our center and those in the UAE. We don't need to have offices abroad, but we hope to build relationships and exchange experiences.

In my capacity as director of the Jordanian Center for the Prevention of Extremist Ideology, I have the honor to invite all interested people, researchers and specialists in the field of extremist ideology in the U.S. to visit us. I hope to have a close relationship with the institutes and universities of the American Armed Forces and security institutions, to whom we can provide great assistance because we read and understand the Arabic language, jurisprudence and Shariah. We can provide researchers with interviews with academics or professors of Shariah, as well as Jordanian researchers to accompany them in field research.









he Federally Administered Tribal
Areas (FATA) of Pakistan were
created in 1849 to serve as a
buffer between British India and
Afghanistan, while Afghanistan itself
was being softened by invasions, subsidies and
diplomacy to keep Czarist Russia at bay.

British India's unease about the territorial ambitions of Russia caused it to recognize Afghanistan as an emirate and formalize the border, known as the Durand Line, painstakingly drawn up by a British diplomat Sir Mortimer Durand and the Afghan Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.

The Anglo-Afghan treaty of 1919, also referred to as the Treaty of Rawalpindi, signed after the third inconclusive Afghan war, led Britain to create another administrative unit, which it aptly termed as the North-West Frontier Province. For ease of governance, the tribal areas, which also then included the princely states of Dir and Swat, were divided into political agencies, each administered by a political agent, whose immense power was exercised through local leaders, or *maliks*, chosen on the strength of their loyalty to the crown.

While ostensibly displaying respect to Pashtun tradition by allowing trials by *jirga* (a jury of local notables), the Frontier Crimes Regulation Act, allowing for massive collective retribution, was also brutally enforced to snuff out the slightest sign of rebellion.

And so things continued until Pakistan attained independence from British rule. Apart from Pakistan Army regulars being withdrawn from the tribal agencies, nothing much changed in terms of governance. Each political agent, appointed by the central government, controlled a special force of around 2,000 to 3,000 *khasadars* (local police) and irregulars to enforce his writ, while the border was tended by the Frontier Corps, headed by Army officers.

FATA is colloquially referred to as *ilaqa ghair* (foreign territory), a local version of America's Wild West. Since the Political Parties Act was never extended to FATA, the tribal dignitaries normally elected to parliament as independents invariably sold their loyalty to the highest bidder. Left to their own devices, the free-spirited tribesmen, for whom the bearing of arms was a way of life, resorted to smuggling, hijacking vehicles and kidnapping for ransom in mainland Pakistan as a means of sustenance.

THE FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISM

The 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan catapulted FATA into the vanguard of the resistance movement. The massive influx of Afghan refugees and fighters from across the Islamic world led to the establishment of a record number of Saudi-funded madrassas for religious indoctrination and camps for military training. It was through the porous borders of FATA that the mujahedeen forayed into Afghanistan to carry out strikes. Pakistan in turn came into the crosshairs of the notorious Afghan spy agency Khad, its major cities wracked by an extensive bombing campaign.

Once the various Afghan mujahedeen factions resorted to fighting among themselves for the right to rule after the Soviet Union's unilateral withdrawal in 1989, four countries - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States — initially favored the Taliban's bid for power in the name of stability. The Taliban, a motley group of seminary students (mostly war orphans), aimed to place the entire country under the sway of their strict orthodoxy. They were knocking on the doors of the Panjshir Valley, the only remaining bastion of resistance, when a day or two before 9/11, the highly venerated Tajik commander Ahmad Shah Massoud was assassinated in an elaborate al-Qaida suicide bombing plot.

As the U.S. and its allies began the invasion of Afghanistan with a relentless bombing campaign, the Northern Alliance, a loose confederation of non-Pashtun ethnicities, proved more than willing to provide boots on the ground. Seeing the tide turning against them, remnants of the Taliban as well as al-Qaida crossed over the porous border into FATA. The next few years saw al-Qaida effectively using the twin instruments of money and indoctrination to gain local influence, offering promising young men positions of authority while eroding the influence of the traditionally pro-government tribal elders, physically eliminating them if necessary.

As the Afghan Taliban recommenced attacks on the government in Kabul, al-Qaida forged closer bonds between its array of foreign fighters and the local extremists that had assembled there, while eyeing the vast landscape of mainland Pakistan. The organization that emerged, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), incorporated Mehsud and other assorted tribesmen, Punjabi Taliban

and foreign fighters. TTP consolidated its grip on FATA, while extensively targeting the military, intelligence agencies, shrines and other civilian targets.

Alarm bells rang when Pakistan's president, prime minister and a corps commander all became targets of assassination attempts and the TTP started flexing its military and ideological muscle beyond FATA into the state of Swat and other adjoining districts. The tactic of appeasement failed, and after being repeatedly deceived by peace treaties, the Pakistan military moved to drive the intruders out, one front at a time, until it established its writ over most of FATA, except for North Waziristan and the smaller Khyber Agency.

The brazen mid-2014 attack on Karachi's international airport finally nudged the military into launching an offensive in North Waziristan, something that the U.S. had been urging for some time. Over the years, North Waziristan had become a fortified al-Qaida redoubt, where terrorists of all shades had gravitated. Of these, NATO deemed the Haggani Group to be the most problematic. Apart from the difficult terrain and entrenched opposition, the Army was also forced to oversee civilians fleeing the battle zone. It took nearly two years and 800 lives before Operation Zarb-e-Azb, as it was called, succeeded in dislodging the violent extremists, who then proceeded to establish themselves across the border in the Afghan provinces of Kunar, Khost and Nuristan.

The cold-blooded massacre of over 150 students at a public school in Peshawar in December 2014 and the public backlash it provoked led officials to hurriedly formulate a 20-point National Action Plan in a desperate bid to stem the tide of radicalism and militancy. Apart from the ongoing military operation, this plan incorporated various preventive measures like clamping down on hate speech and literature and blocking funding to banned organizations.

Confronted with a fresh spate of attacks in various parts of the country,

the military proceeded with another wide-ranging intelligence-based operation called Radd-ul-Fasaad (Elimination of Discord), which aims to pre-empt attacks by ridding the country of sleeper cells. Now that Pakistan's security forces have established their writ over most of FATA, efforts continue to bring some normalcy to the lives of the tribesmen displaced by the military operation but now being resettled. Social services such as health care and education had taken a massive hit. including the appropriation of about 900 girls schools in North Waziristan for other uses.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

The Pakistan military's success in reinvigorating the health, education and agriculture sectors has inspired United Nations agencies and other international nongovernmental organizations to step into a recently off-limits arena. FATA's economy revolves around subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing; its vast mining potential remains almost completely unexploited. The recently completed two-year United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization project has supported as many as 21,192 farmers in the Kurram and Khyber agencies, though providing assistance in the more remote, rocky and mountainous terrains of FATA is proving more problematic. Small dams have arisen in several places to provide electricity and water for irrigation.

Now that Pakistan and Afghanistan are vociferously complaining about cross-border attacks, the obvious solution lies in creating a joint mechanism for monitoring the notoriously porous border. This is easier said than done, because Afghanistan still hasn't accepted the Durand Line as the international frontier.

Trouble started when British India was preparing to transfer power to newly independent Pakistan.

Afghanistan used the opportunity to stake a claim to vast territory it had controlled centuries earlier. On June 30, 1950, the British government formally confirmed that Pakistan, under

international law, inherited the rights and duties of the old government of India in territories southeast of the Durand Line. This should have put the matter to rest, but the issue continues to poison bilateral relations to this day. From a strictly legal perspective, the 1978 Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties has upheld that under the universally recognized principle of *uti possidetis juris*, binding bilateral agreements are passed down to successor states.

Given Afghan resistance on the issue, it's little wonder that Pakistan has been so obsessed with Afghanistan's leadership — going so far as to support Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the Taliban. Since 9/11, Pakistan has been accused of backing the Haqqani Group, the most lethal component of the Afghan Taliban.

It is clear that halfhearted measures will not do. Bad blood and bad-mouthing serve no purpose and have gone on long enough. Everyone must recognize that, despite its flaws, the Durand Line is the only legally demarcated border between the territories constituting present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan had traditionally shied away from border management issues for fear of offending its neighbor. However, after having repeatedly come under attack from extremists living across the border, Pakistan has strengthened border security and control.

As a first step, Pakistan dug trenches along 1,100 kilometers of the low-lying border. Overriding Afghan objections, Pakistan moved to stop illegal crossings over the unguarded border by starting construction on as many as 443 security posts, a task expected to be completed by 2019. A visa regime was also instituted for the first time to facilitate authorized travel only from a few selected border crossing terminals. To further regulate the movement of people and to stop illegal infiltration, Pakistan has recently started fencing the volatile border, with its initial phase focusing on high-priority agencies like Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber.

It is also time for Pakistan to bring FATA into the mainstream, creating

'ELIMINATING DISCORD'

PAKISTAN'S LATEST COUNTERTERROR STRATEGY ADAPTS TO NEW THREATS

LINIPATH STAFF

After a series of suicide bombings that shocked the nation — including one that killed 86 people at a Sufi shrine full of devotees — the Pakistan Army announced in February 2017 the launch of a nationwide military operation to "indiscriminately" eliminate the terrorism threat.

The new campaign, dubbed Raddul-Fasaad, or "Eliminating Discord," represents a shift in strategy for Pakistan's counterterrorism forces, whose efforts have focused for a decade on the ethnically diverse northwest tribal region. For the first time, the government is sending the Armed Forces to enter Punjab province.

Punjab is home to a variety of extremist groups, including sectarian movements officially banned for their violent methods and anti-India extremists who have been accused of a 2008 terrorist siege in Mumbai. Though none of these groups appears to have been directly involved in the bombings, they are increasingly viewed in Pakistan as part of a larger, collaborative threat by extremists to Pakistan's stability, global stature and democratic way of life.

"In Punjab, particularly in southern Punjab, there are sanctuaries of hardcore militants who have not been targeted before," said retired Pakistan Army Lt. Gen. Amjad Shoaib, a defense analyst. "This time they will be taken to task, and that will help a lot in eliminating terrorism not only from Punjab but other parts of country."

In a February 2017 interview, Gen. John Nicholson, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, noted that 20

of the 98 groups the U.S. government has designated as terrorist organizations are in Punjab — "the highest concentration anywhere in the world."

Gen. Nicholson said that because these groups exist in a common "medium" — with large numbers of jobless youths, the presence of criminal activity, and extremist teachings in some religious seminaries — "it creates kind of a petri dish within which these different strains of terrorism [can] converge, recruit and morph into more virulent strains."

Already, the new campaign has resulted in hundreds of search operations in various areas of Punjab, including Karor, Layyah and Rawalpindi, as well as the capture of more than 600 suspects and the killing of numerous terrorists. The Army has recovered extremist propaganda and weapons, established checkpoints and "effectively targeted" terrorist hideouts, according to Hilal.

After meetings with Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, as well as senior officials in Punjab, the government agreed to allow the Army into the province. Army officials said the new operation would include sending 2,000 Rangers into Punjab for 60 to 90 days. Unlike previous operations in other parts of Pakistan that have chiefly used force to flush out or kill the enemy, officials said, this one would involve mostly intelligence gathering. Its mission will also include "deweaponizing" extremist groups, which could entail confrontations at heavily armed compounds.

The Army's announcement was

met with widespread approval. Editors of *The Express Tribune* wrote that they "wholeheartedly support" the decision, and they urged Soldiers to strike at the "snake pits" of extremism that function as "rear-echelon support" for other extremist groups and as planning and logistics hubs for terrorist operations across the country.

The change in strategy comes in the wake of operations like Zarbe-Azb, which reduced terrorism in Pakistan by more than 65 percent in the last 16 years, according to the *Tribune*. Though the February 2017 attacks demonstrated that the threat of violence still looms, Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, director-general of Inter-Services Public Relations for the Pakistan Armed Forces, emphasized that past campaigns had achieved their objectives.

"Previous operations were primarily aimed at restoring the state's authority in different areas and eliminating terrorists' hideouts," he said. "Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad aims at consolidating the gains of these previous operations."

Lt. Col. Shaid Abid, assistant director of training at Pakistan's Army Headquarters, noted that intelligence gathering in urban areas is key to the success of Radd-ul-Fasaad.

"You need people at the grassroots level to provide information about the miscreants in the area," said Col. Abid, who led a multinational team at the Eager Lion military exercise in Jordan in May 2017.

Sources: IHS Jane's 360, The Washington Post, Hilal, The Express Tribune





a distinct Pakistani identity among the tribesmen on its side of the border. Any complete solution to the FATA problem must include a long-term plan for development to reduce the socio-economic gap with the adjoining "settled areas." This, however, needs to be undertaken in the context of democratic governance and administrative dispensation. The consensus appears to favor a temporary merger of FATA with the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, better known by its old name of North-West Frontier Province.

FATA parliamentarians have moved a constitutional amendment bill to remove the biggest obstacle to the merger, while the Provincial Assembly has already voted for it. Political expediency is the only remaining hindrance. While doing away with the repressive colonial-era Frontier Crimes Regulation Act, the government is still inclined toward appeasing tribal maliks by retaining the traditional jirga system of dispensing justice. This would need to be carefully dovetailed with Pakistan's judicial structure expected to be extended to the region.

Contrary to popular perception, the tribesmen of FATA are not reclusive and isolationist. They have never hesitated to move to various parts of the country and even abroad in search of opportunities. They have displayed immense entrepreneurial skills in dominating the long-haul trucking sector. Their abilities can be further honed and nurtured in the context of an effective, democratic system.

The longstanding family and tribal ties the tribesmen straddling the border enjoy should not be suffocated by a sealed border, but rather should be nurtured through joint economic enterprises. A major initiative once endorsed by the U.S. government has been the setting up of Reconstruction Opportunity Zones akin to those existing along the Jordanian-Israeli border, the Egyptian-Israeli border and even the U.S.-Mexican border.

Apart from FATA, other neglected regions to the south also need to be brought into the mainstream if the genie of violent extremism is to be contained. In this troubled region, as elsewhere, peace and prosperity are intricately linked. Sooner rather than later, people must realize that it is only by joining hands that these can be achieved. •

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PSYCHOLO

UNDERSTANDING HOW CRIMINALS THINK CAN HELP PREVENT VIOLENCE

> COL. DR. YOUSEF AL-YAQOUT, KUWAITI POLICE ACADEMY

s a terrorist a criminal who pulls the trigger to slaughter an important figure in broad daylight? Or, is he an extremist issuing fatwas to permit the spilling of innocent blood? Or, perhaps, he is a political strongman who doesn't hesitate to brutally persecute his opponents.

We define a terrorist as anyone who commits himself to, participates in or organizes others to perform terrorist acts. In addition, we must include those who intentionally commit terrorist acts on behalf of a person or group that works for the purpose of expanding terrorism.

The concept of the terrorist is not limited to murderers who carry out assassinations and detonate bombs, but also includes those who participate in or plan to commit terrorist acts.

It is worth noting the falsehoods terrorist groups use to justify their crimes, claiming that they are defending freedom or struggling for peace and independence. Nearly all terrorism experts agree that a terrorist is a criminal and that acts of terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances, whether political, religious or ideological. The killing of innocents, the destruction of archaeological sites and human history, and the disruption of security are all crimes for which the perpetrator must be brought to justice.

As researchers in the field of terrorism, we must admit that there is a small group of terrorists who operate on the world's stage with one goal in mind: adventure. Just as there are trips offered to wealthy adventurers to hunt big game, so, too, are there trips organized in tumultuous regions of the world — and sometimes even in stable countries — where one can kill real human beings or set off real bombs, all to satisfy these sick souls' love of adventure.

Though terrorists are classified as a criminal group, the terrorist is a different sort of criminal. He has psychological characteristics and criminal patterns that make his personality worth studying. He uses modern methods to plan terrorist operations. He also uses inventive and modern methods to execute those operations. From a psychological standpoint, you can view him as more stable and in control of his emotions. His psychology manifests itself during a negotiation. When one talks to a terrorist directly, one can see him try to hide his criminal personality behind a curtain of morality and religion. However, that mask is quickly dropped, revealing his sick, bloodthirsty personality, which aims to spread fear among people.

The different types of criminals are as follows:

1. Terrorists by inclination: This type of terrorist is characterized as having a cruel heart and ignoring the prick of conscience. They see crime as a good thing and feel happy each time they succeed in committing one. These criminals are known and documented in the criminal records of the Ministry of the Interior. They usually have several

- previous criminal convictions and should be pursued immediately after a crisis.
- 2. Terrorists by chance: This type does not have a criminal mindset. They live mostly normal, honorable lives, but sometimes suffer from weak morals. Their resistance weakens when personal circumstances change, such as unemployment or poverty. They become entangled in a terrorist act only after much reservation, hesitation and encouragement. Afterward, in a return to normal, there's the sting of regret for what has been done. Such a person will often surrender to security forces.
- 3. Semi-criminals: They commit unintentional crimes or crimes in defense of another person, honor or their family.
- **4. Habitual criminals:** They are born without having any criminal inclination, but external circumstances lead them to commit crimes. After that, they repeat the crime again and again, thereby enabling themselves to do more of the same. Often, they are unable to leave behind the life of crime.
- **5. Criminally insane:** This type suffers from a mental disease that strips the person of an ability to realize the nature and consequences of actions. They commit crimes under the influence of the disease.
- 6. Criminals by passion: They can be good, upright, pure-hearted people, often considered the salt of the earth. At the same time, however, they are extremely sensitive and quickly moved by emotions. They suffer from a nervous demeanor and passionate nature, which leads them to commit crimes in defense of love or honor, or crimes out of anger and jealousy. Their crimes are the most predominant against other people, including murder out of jealousy or beating someone in response to an insult. These criminals are quick to regret. They withdraw after committing the crime and censure themselves. They will seek to repent and find forgiveness, which sometimes leads to suicide. If they are punished, they surrender calmly as a just reward for their sins.

In conclusion, it is clear from security studies that there are general characteristics for terrorist personalities. These characteristics manifest themselves as general features, though one can also notice them through a terrorist's behavior and psychological conditions.

During crises, when every minute counts, security forces should acknowledge these characteristics in opening lines of communication with terrorists. These personality traits do not necessarily apply to every terrorist, but security forces on the ground can use these guidelines in assessing criminals. •

This article is from Dr. Al-Yaqout's book, Terrorists and Killers, and has been edited to fit this format. The full text is available at http://dr-alyaqout.com/

EAGER FOR TRAINIG

JORDAN'S EAGER LION 17
EXERCISE PROVIDES
PREPARATION
FOR MULTINATIONAL
FORCES

UNIPATH STAFF



he desert ridge erupted in clouds of dust, smoke and shrapnel. Jordanian F-16 Fighting Falcons and U.S. Marine Corps Harriers had dropped their laser-guided 500-pound bombs against terrorist targets in the wilds of Jordan's Wadi Shadiya training range.

As the fighter jets maneuvered back to base, Jordanian artillery punched holes in the enemy's defenses before mechanized infantry — a multinational contingent of Jordanians, Americans and Italians — rolled forward to seize their objectives in the southern Jordanian wilderness.

This combined live-fire exercise was among the high-lights of Eager Lion 17, the seventh rendition of the military exercise held annually in Jordan. Running from May 7 to 18, 2017, Eager Lion brought together more than 7,000 troops at 17 locations throughout Jordan.

Their common goal was to repel attacks from nonconventional forces causing problems elsewhere in the Middle East. An international coalition encompassing land, sea and air forces accomplished missions despite differences in languages, equipment, command structure and fighting style.

"It's been a great exercise to test both the interoperability between the American Army, American Marine Corps, Italian forces, and, of course, our hosts, the Jordanians," said Lt. Col. Brian McCarthy, commander of the U.S. Army battalion assigned to Wadi Shadiya. "It's been a great opportunity for us to increase our lethality and develop some great relationships."

The missions at Eager Lion were as different as they

were challenging: divers defusing mines on the seabed near the port of Aqaba, special operations forces seizing enemyoccupied villages, army doctors treating victims of chemical attacks, military police quelling riots and combat helicopters extracting troops from rocky terrain.

Issues of border security — critically relevant owing to Jordan's long, shared boundary with a turbulent Syria to the north — received frequent attention during Eager Lion.

"We make sure to inject realism in the exercise to let the training audience feel how it really is on the ground," said Jordanian Brig. Gen. Mohammed Al-Ajarmah, whose team of multinational officers controlled the exercise scenarios from banks of computers near the city of Zarqa.

USING SOFT POWER

Recognizing that blunt military force is not enough to defeat terrorism and other threats, Eager Lion also drew attention to political, diplomatic and informational means of maintaining peace.

At a senior leader seminar hosted by Jordanian Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihat, commanders from 17 nations discussed the necessity of building better societies to blunt the appeal of groups like Daesh.

Gen. Freihat urged countries to work together toward a comprehensive solution during this time of "radical transitions" in places such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen. That solution must deprive terrorists of money and wage a war of ideology against them.







U.S. Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of United States Central Command, cited the "gray zone" that extends beyond the scope of militaries in which online propaganda aids the cause of terrorist recruitment.

"We have to find ways to compete more effectively in this gray zone," Gen. Votel told the seminar attendees.

For the first time in Eager Lion's seven-year history, exercise planners included a leaflet drop and radio broadcasts designed to persuade civilians to oppose a fictional terrorist group named "M9" and modeled on Daesh. A team of Jordanian and American Soldiers fashioned the material using words and images specially approved by Jordanian military imams.

"Citizens, please stay in your homes," one broadcast script read. "Coalition forces will be conducting airstrikes to eliminate M9 near your area. We want you to remain safe and with your families."

Toward the end of the exercise, in the name of realism, the team dropped thousands of informational leaflets from the door of an aircraft 500 feet above the ground.

"Interoperability is very important," Brig. Gen. Al-Ajarmah said. "Operational folks may ignore humanitarian, political and strategic considerations. We need to coordinate all our agencies to send the proper message."

Jordanian Sgt. Ahmed Shadifat said he benefited greatly from the collaboration among coalition partners. "We learned how to prepare a message and use it in the dissemination of many types of documents," he said. "Depending on the target audience, we learned how to prepare a script and use and design the leaflet. We learned how to use loudspeakers."

The exercise will help the military create effective messages, said Jordanian 2nd Lt. Mohammad Al-Khawaldeh. "We can respond and save effort and time by sending the right message in the right way."

MULTINATIONAL CHARACTER

Although Jordan and the U.S. represented most Eager Lion forces, personnel from more than 20 other countries also participated. They included forces from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

A company-size contingent of Lebanese troops — 70 Soldiers mostly attached to special operations units — advanced their fighting skills in the Jordanian desert.

Lebanese Staff Col. Omar Mejalled, a deputy company commander who helped direct his forces from a base in northern Jordan, praised the exercise for providing opportunities to learn new tactics from some of the best militaries in the world while using advanced weaponry.

"In Lebanon, we have one basic plan and rule of engagement; here, we learned that each battle is unique and has its own rules of engagement," Col. Mejalled said. "One of the advantages of international partnerships is learning from each other to improve strategies. We selected three missions that we think will be very beneficial for our forces — border protection, the use of quick reaction forces, and search and rescue."

Pakistan supplied officers for a command post exercise,

including Lt. Col Shaid Abid, on loan from Pakistan Army General Headquarters to conduct planning and analysis for the generals commanding forces at Eager Lion.

"It's been very fruitful for me since Pakistan's Army doesn't operate on such a large scale," Col. Abid said. "When I get back home, I will take these new ideas in case we need to work as part of a large coalition."

Also engaged in planning was a delegation from Iraq led by Staff Brig. Gen. Yaser Almashadani, who emphasized how much Eager Lion scenarios resemble conflicts in the real world.

"We learned many good tactics that we can apply to the war against Daesh," the general said. "Meanwhile, we share our solid, real-world experience in fighting terror on the ground, especially dealing with internally displaced persons and combating terror groups in an urban environment. This experience was very much appreciated by all participants."

The global reach of the Eager Lion coalition was exemplified by a flyover by two B-1B Lancer bombers that traveled nearly 25,000 kilometers from a base in the middle of the U.S. to the training grounds of Jordan. The nonstop flight took 35 hours and required the jets to refuel four times in midair.

"For any of our bomber crews, this exercise presents an excellent opportunity to pursue engagements with the Jordan Armed Forces and other partners to better address common threats to regional security at the operational level," said Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, commander of the U.S. 8th Air Force.

IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION

As tanks rumbled on the ground and jets streamed overhead, the Jordan Armed Forces graduated 18 young officers from its latest class of military imams. They were infused with the message, validated by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, that Islam is incompatible with violent extremism as practiced by groups such as Daesh and al-Qaida.

The ceremony at the Prince Hassan College for Islamic Studies drew hundreds of family members who watched the crisply dressed graduates in their white shirts, navy blue jackets and gold buttons receive degrees from their superiors. The college is the first institution in the Muslim world dedicated to training military imams.

"The war that faces our nation nowadays is the war of ideology, and the tools needed to win are education, the proper ideology and good training for the leaders and imams among all military personnel," Jordanian Staff Maj. Gen. Sabir Taha Almahayra said at the ceremony.

Eager Lion will resume for the eighth time in April 2018. Even when Daesh is defeated in Iraq and Syria, the region can expect little respite from the threat of violent extremism. That realization was highlighted by commanders at Eager Lion, including Brig. Gen. Khaled Shar'rah, director of the Jordan Armed Forces Joint-Training Directorate.

"These circumstances that the region and the world are experiencing, which are related to terrorism dangers that distort our divine religion, urge us to combine efforts, joint cooperation and exchange of expertise in order to counter terrorism in all its forms and types," the general said. •



Partnering to Defeat

TERRORISM In Iraq

DR. HUSSEIN ALAWI

CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER, AKKAD CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AFFAIRS AND FUTURE STUDIES

t seems that partnership is a new concept in the Middle East and North Africa, but it is one of the primary ways to ensure battle readiness, especially in the military doctrines of Western countries. This includes the United States, which has developed its experience uniquely.

Historical context

I will begin with the great success of the 1991 Gulf War. This was a moment of comprehensive international partnership following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, when the U.S. and the international coalition toyed with the idea of restoring Kuwaiti territory to undermine Saddam Hussein's ability to wage a new war in West Asia.

The international coalition moved in another direction after March 19, 2003, working to impede the former political regime's capabilities and drive the Ba'ath Party toward collapse. The U.S. and international coalition built a new regime and supported the Iraqi political elite to create a new model of statehood in the Middle East and North Africa, but terrorism and political infighting — a natural consequence of the change — hindered the effective emergence of the state.

This made Iraqi authority vulnerable to internal challenges from insurgency, terrorist forces and a culture of

hatred. To this day, Iraqis bear the brunt of the effects of April 9, 2003 — the day Baghdad fell to coalition forces. The state has struggled to overcome the terrorism and tribal-sectarian social strife fomented by supporters of the past regime, who sought to undermine the Iraqi experiment.

This created a space for the emergence of regional terrorist organizations like al-Qaida, as well as a new generation of al-Qaida offshoots like Daesh. Combating Daesh will require unity on the part of the international community and steadfastness from the U.S. as it continues to support Iraq in restoring territory previously under Daesh's control in Mosul. Since September 22, 2014, this international coalition has worked to defeat Daesh.

Allied against danger

When terrorism threatens a country, the U.S. — as the most politically active country in the world — must support that country, especially if it is still emerging from the wreckage of past wars.

Because of the collapse of parts of the Iraqi Armed Forces, the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service played a major role in combating Daesh's terrorist activity in Iraqi territory. Its soldiers fought under the leadership of Gen. Talib Shaghati Alkenani, who began by fortifying Baghdad



from the southern axis in the battles of Jurf Alsakhar and from the northern axis to fight to secure Samarra and the approaches to Baghdad.

This occurred thanks to the partnership between the counterterror force and the international coalition. In particular, American forces played a major role in logistics support operations by strengthening communications systems, closeair support and other systems to defeat Daesh terrorists. The coalition partnership served as a model for the Iraqi Armed Forces, which partnered with forces such as the federal police and Iraqi tribal fighters.

This model of partnership was developed after a study by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Joseph Danford, who worked to deter threats by providing air support, advice and assistance for combat military units within division, brigade and tactical units on the battlefield. This partnership helped Iraqis, especially in the combined joint operation command, manage the war against Daesh in three key ways: fighting in major cities, near the river and in built-up areas.

With American and coalition support, these strategic developments have led to increased combat effectiveness and shorter battles.

Moving toward integrated partnership

When Daesh collapses in Iraqi territory, it will likely form offshoots to conduct armed attacks in urban areas and may

The counterterrorism apparatus must adopt the noble task of dismantling the narrative of violent extremism by drawing on the experiences of countries in the international coalition.

begin to adopt new insurgency tactics. With the passage of an anti-terrorism law in late 2016, the counterterrorism apparatus now cooperates with joint military and civilian forces. We must further develop this partnership through the joint agendas of the counterterrorism apparatus and international coalition forces through the following:

1. Deconstruct violent extremism

Violent extremism is based on an accumulation of local grievances, distrust of the political regime, religious belief, and terrorist organizations' exploitation of veteran fighters' experience to attract new recruits. Terrorists use three tools: the fatwa, fundraising, and emotional manipulation to create a new generation of terrorists. The counterterrorism apparatus must adopt the noble task of dismantling the narrative of violent extremism by drawing on the experiences of countries in the international coalition.

2. Increase intelligence sharing

Iraq must increase its intelligence analysis capabilities, particularly in forecasting and signals intelligence. In addition, it must develop electronic applications to build databases of intelligence analysis in liberated areas to maintain stability and solidify security objectives in areas vulnerable to the disease of terrorism.

3. Improve the drone system

Iraq must also create intensive engineering and electronics workshops to develop new tasks for the use of drones in military and counterterrorism operations. These workshops would help develop Iraqi national capabilities in counterterrorism by improving drones and providing border control systems with actionable intelligence.

4. Establish an Iraqi airborne division

Owing to the collapse of oil prices, the cost of the war against Daesh, and the challenge of sustaining the local economy in liberated areas, Iraq suffers from a lack of money for major projects in the security and defense sector. For that reason, the partnership to defeat Daesh requires help from international coalition forces, especially the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Australia, Canada and others to build a new Iraqi counterterrorism model that can respond rapidly to any terrorist

threat or cross-border international crime.

The counterterrorism apparatus has proven its effectiveness in special operations management. As we work to increase the capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force, we should focus not on the size of the terrorist threat to Iraq's national security, but rather on cooperation

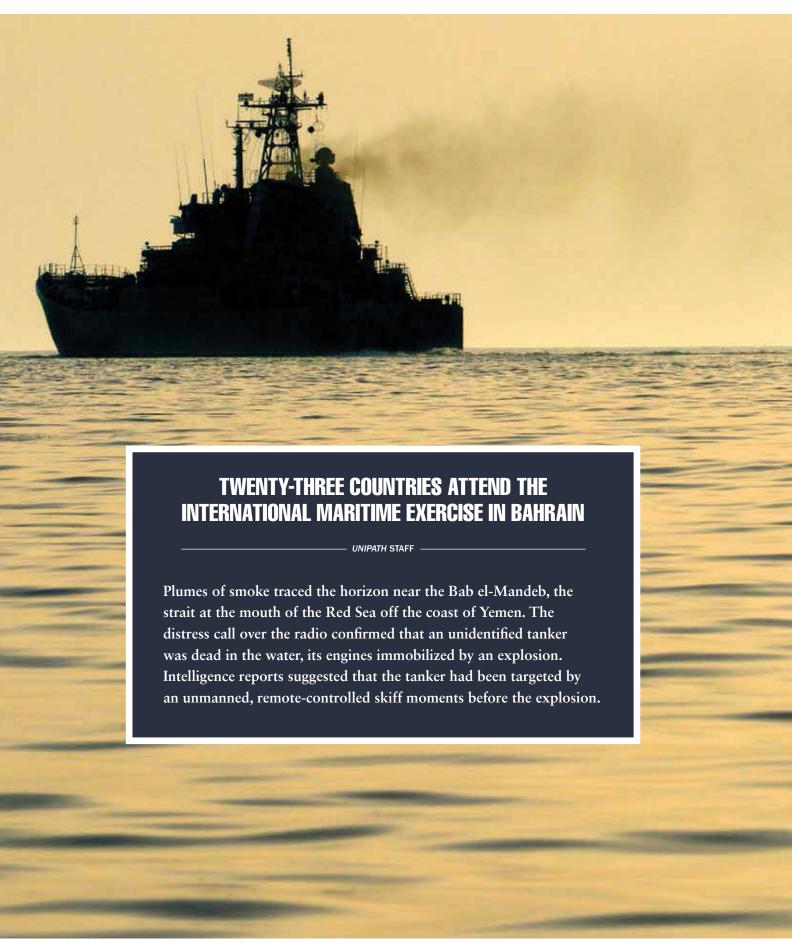
and integration among all of Iraqi forces. Our counterterrorism teams are ready to assist with the management of our airborne forces to conduct joint operations against terrorist threats in Iraq, whether they be in desert or dense urban areas.

5. Create special joint operations programs

Iraq has unique experience in managing conflict in cooperation with the international coalition. Therefore, the international coalition in Iraq must cooperate with its Arab, regional and worldwide counterparts to exchange ideas and expertise and establish Iraq as a theater of special operations training.

The model of partnership between Iraq and the international coalition — especially between the U.S. and Iraqi counterterror forces — will be an important way to defeat and eliminate terrorism. •





A multinational naval team assigned to deal with the catastrophe — Pakistanis, Iraqis, Canadians, Americans and Thais — had a lot of work to do. Gas leaking from the tanker's hull set the sea on fire, and a Canadian frigate 20 nautical miles away in the Red Sea was dispatched to investigate.

Naval officers scrambled to determine which, if any, rebel groups were claiming responsibility for the attack, monitoring social media for clues. Tanker owners were urged to arrange salvage crews and tugs to return the ship to port. A public affairs team fielded calls from the media.

"Coalitions are the main way to deal with emerging threats," said Pakistan Naval Commander Asif Khan, who collected details on the evolving maritime and environmental disaster in the Bab el-Mandeb from his laptop computer. "Who knows what is next with criminal groups and terrorist groups?"

This was one of the realistic scenarios concocted for the International Maritime Exercise (IMX) 2017, held in Manama, Bahrain, in May 2017. A successor to the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise, IMX will be held every two years with a focus on protecting shipping in and around the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea. from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), a voluntary association of oil companies with an interest in the shipment of crude oil and oil products, also participated in the exercise. This civilian organization's inclusion in the exercise was critical in coordinating maritime issues with merchant vessels and the coalition military maritime force.

Additionally, a U.S. Navy organization, Naval Cooperation and Guidance to Shipping (NCAGS), participated in the exercise. NCAGS was established to provide advice for safe passage of merchant ships worldwide.

Participants also had a chance to tour the USS Ponce, a ship used at the time as a floating base for minesweeping boats and helicopters in the Gulf.

Navy Staff Lt. Col. Muamin Said, the senior naval officer from Egypt engaged in IMX, praised the realism of the scenarios, which dealt with threats such as piracy, terrorism and smuggling.

"The wide number of participants from coalition forces gave us a great opportunity to learn new approaches to solving problems and deterring threats. It is very beneficial to work in a large team to protect world trade and international waters," Lt. Col. Muamin

said. "The area of operations is massive and needs a team effort to stabilize it effectively."

The planners for the exercise, using simulations injected from faraway Suffolk, Virginia, in the United States, worked to ensure the training audience acclimated itself to a coalition environment.

Maps projected on screens in the tents showed more than 200 blips moving across the waters in places such as the Straits of Hormuz, green representing merchant vessels and blue representing friendly military vessels. In the real world, those blips would number in the thousands.

Over nearly 10 days, an accumulation of crises tested the skills of naval officers. Reports emerged that the hostile nation of "Stoneland" appeared to be loading crates of mines on ships near the Straits of Hormuz. As if that were not enough, the next day two missiles were "launched" from rebel positions in a country on the Red Sea.

"The exercise addresses some possible threats in the real world that may impact this very sensitive area of the world economy and find the best solutions to them," said Maj Ghanim Abdullah Al-Kaabi of the Qatari Naval



Multinational naval officers, including those from Pakistan, Iraq and Egypt, participate in a briefing during IMX. UNIPATH STAFF

This year's inaugural exercise included about 90 participants from 23 countries who handled scenarios that called on their analytical, planning, intelligence-gathering and operational skills (The next iteration of the exercise in 2019 will add actual ships, helicopters and other naval forces).

Officers came from Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Egypt, Italy, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. Several members



Force. "We have been participating in many exercises with the U.S. Navy at sea; however, this is the first exercise on land."

Cooperation between naval forces and merchant shipping is key to securing the waters around the Middle East. That point was drilled home at a senior leader seminar held before the start of IMX that attracted senior naval commanders from around the world. Much of the research and analysis about maritime trends in the region — particularly the flow of critical oil tankers through chokepoints — is the work of private companies that share their data with navies patrolling the area.

"Large exercises like this bring many opportunities to learn tactics, use of weapon systems and different approaches to single problems. It is very important to have strong multinational partners to work as a team to protect the vital resources of the region," said Capt. Mohamad Hamad Ibraheem of the Royal Navy of Bahrain.

"Bahrain's role in this exercise is hosting all participants as well as offering skilled teams. As a Bahraini

soldier, I am very proud to see all nations coming to my country to be part of this significant event and will seize the opportunity to work closely and learn from them."

Maj. Faris Musad Khalaf of the Kuwait Coast Guard said IMX aids his mission to police territorial waters for smugglers and infiltrators and conduct search and rescue missions.

"Our participation in this exercise will improve our tactical capability to protect our national waters and enhance our cooperation with friendly forces," Maj. Khalaf said. "In addition, we form great relations with militaries in the region."

Planners hope to expand IMX in its next iteration in October 2019. In addition to the staff officers working from tents, multinational flotillas will take to the seas securing shipping lanes and policing criminals.

"What we are doing this year is a platform for IMX 19," said Royal Canadian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ralph Underhill, lead exercise planner for IMX. "It will be a much bigger affair." ◆



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Afghan security forces must increase focus on training and equipment

AHMAD MURID PARTAW FORMER AFGHAN SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

PHOTOS BY REUTERS

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are seen as the guardians of the country, especially in providing security and keeping

Ahmad Murid Partaw

the insurgency at bay. The Afghan Army and police have come a long way in their operational and institutional capabilities in the past 16 years. In particular, the country's military has seen substantial progress in its new structure, doctrine, training, equipment, ethnic composition and development. International efforts to build a durable force to protect Afghanistan's government and people have been ongoing for more than a decade. But the real investment by the international community, especially the

United States, started in early 2009 with efforts to build a modern and capable Afghan Army along with a strong police force.

The primary purpose of these efforts was to strengthen security institutions to provide security for the Afghan people, who have suffered greatly through four decades of conflict. While the ANSF have progressed in recent years, deficiencies need to be addressed by the Afghan government and its international partners. This remains an important task for the Afghan government. The security situation has recently witnessed setbacks, with the Taliban stepping up attacks against Afghan forces and innocent civilians.

The task is equally significant for coalition nations, especially the U.S., which has invested blood and treasure during the past 16 years to stabilize the country. Owing to the activities of transnational terrorist groups, such as al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's security is closely linked with regional security and stability — and ultimately connected with the rest of the world. The effects of these groups' activities are

not confined to Afghanistan, but are also felt in other parts of the world, including the U.S.

For 16 years, there has been enormous focus on improving the performance of the Afghan military to provide security for the country. The continued existence of terrorist organizations, in addition to other factors, has led to mixed assessments about the progress of the Afghan National Army (ANA). Although the ANSF have progressed significantly during recent years, many areas need improvement.

For 16 years, there has been enormous focus on improving the performance of the Afghan military to provide security for the country. These include air power, intelligence collection, medevac capabilities, large-scale military planning and coordination. These areas remain crucial to help the ANSF gain momentum in the fight against terrorists.

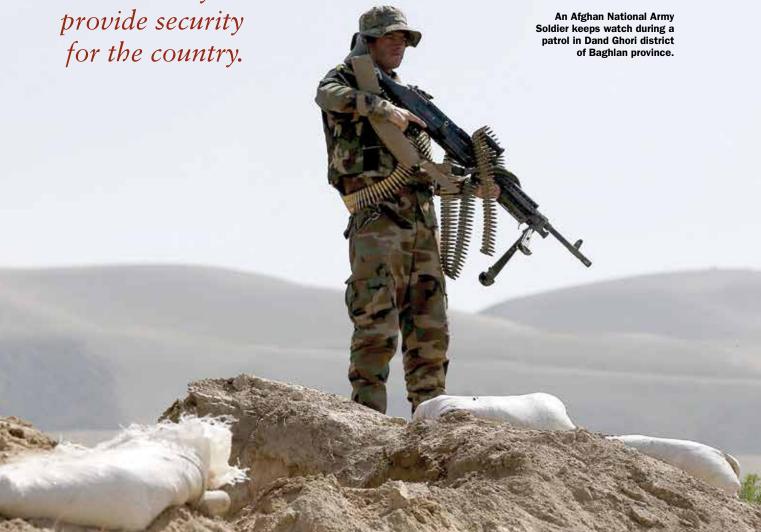
The U.S. and other coalition nations can help Afghanistan's military address

these challenges. The recent decision by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration to send more American troops to support Afghan forces is a step forward. This will greatly assist Afghanistan in its fight to overcome security challenges and triumph over the insurgency.

Despite the ANSF's shortcomings, its public approval ratings — in particular those of the ANA — remain high. The ANA is a respected institution with the capability to provide security for the people.

Through the development of three main pillars on which every modern army must rely — infrastructure, equipment and manpower — the ANA has made significant progress in manpower and recruitment since 2002. While there have been many investments in the military's infrastructure, challenges remain in the organization and structure of the force. With the help of coalition partners, Afghanistan can improve.

According to current data, the Afghan military has made the least progress in modernizing its supplies and equipment. The ANA remains a ground-fighting force rather than





Afghan National Army Soldiers man a checkpost in Logar province.

a well-equipped Army with the potential to address myriad security challenges facing Afghanistan. While the ANSF are fighting bravely and tenaciously against the Taliban and other terrorist groups, such as the Haqqani Network and the Afghan affiliate of Daesh, security forces face logistical problems. Those challenges and a lack of equipment have impeded the operational proficiency of Afghan forces.

The only well-equipped and well-trained units in the Afghan Army and police forces are their elite special forces. These units have been successful in the fight against the Taliban. It is because of these success stories on the battlefield that the Afghan government is considering doubling the size of the Afghan Special Forces. But most of the Afghan military (Army and police) is insufficiently trained or uses only obsolete, ineffective Soviet-era equipment. These deficiencies require sustained attention from the U.S. and the rest of the NATO states to improve the combat efficiency of the Afghan forces. A decision by the U.S. and coalition nations to provide modern equipment for the Afghan Army and police would help the ANSF gain momentum in the fight against terrorist groups.

At the same time, the ANSF faces challenges in training and mentoring, particularly in properly training different units and deploying them on time to fight the insurgency. This has been a major problem for the Afghan units deployed to various provinces. As units succumb to fatigue, they are frequently rotated and replaced by untrained, less experienced troops. Help from partner nations could further strengthen the ANSF. Proper training will decrease high casualty rates from which the ANA and police forces have suffered since 2014.

Therefore, with the support of coalition nations deployed in the country, the Afghan government must invest in combat readiness, training and advising of Afghan military personnel to build the capacity and capabilities of the ANSF. In addition, the coalition should provide the Afghan forces with proper equipment to defeat the Taliban and secure a stable and prosperous country for the Afghan people. •

Ahmad Murid Partaw, a former Afghan Army major, served for four years as Afghanistan's senior national representative to U.S. Central Command and is an alumnus of the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies in Washington, D.C.

GUARDING

Iraq's Navy
plays a vital role in
securing the region's
economic lifelines

STORY AND PHOTOS BY UNIPATH STAFF

The Iraqi Navy is evolving to meet the new challenges posed by terror networks aiming to disrupt international navigation routes in the Arabian Gulf. Compared to the pre-2003 Iraqi Navy, today's fleet has significantly updated its tactics and procedures. The International Maritime Exercise (IMX) recognized this change and appointed Iraqi Capt. Haider Ibrahim Khayoun Alshuwaili as deputy commanding officer for the exercise, held in Bahrain in May 2017. This is a major milestone for the Iraqi Navy. Unipath interviewed Capt. Haider to learn more about his new position and what it means for the Iraqi Navy.

UNIPATH: As an Iraqi officer, how do you feel about being the deputy commanding officer of IMX?

CAPT. HAIDER: It is a great honor for me to represent Iraq in this prestigious position, which proves the professionalism and capabilities of the Iraqi officer. The Iraqi Navy plays a major role in protecting navigation in the Gulf. We have all the capabilities that enable us to take on leadership positions and do our job successfully. We have experience and expertise in leadership and management operations, which has been reflected in our performance in joint exercises.

UNIPATH: We have seen a media focus on Iraqi Army operations in combating terrorism, but there is little coverage of the Iraqi Navy. Why is that?

CAPT. HAIDER: I believe the Iraqi Navy has not received a fair amount of media coverage, as our mission is actually the largest. We protect the oil ports, upon which Iraq depends most heavily for its oil exports and budget. The duty of the naval force is to protect the oil facilities in the northern Arabian Gulf, which are considered fundamental to Iraq's economy. We protect oil-loading platforms and their surrounding areas, which is a very important role — no less important than the role played by the rest of our forces, and perhaps even more important because we protect the economy of our country and the world.

It is also our duty to ensure freedom of navigation within our area of responsibility. We are not only providing protection for oil terminals, but also ensuring the passage of commercial vessels coming to Umm Qasr and Khor al-Zubair ports, among others. In addition to ensuring the safety of ships in the region, organizing navigation, and protecting ships from piracy and illegal activities, we work to reduce water pollution and organize the work of fishermen in the area to ensure it doesn't impact navigation routes.

UNIPATH: How important is it for you to partner with other countries to protect regional waters?

CAPT. HAIDER: International partnerships are evidence of Iraqis' ability to deal with operations on a global scale. At the level of joint naval task forces, Iraq has the capabilities to manage, supervise or engage in such important exercises. In addition, terrorism and piracy are cross-border threats demanding multiple countries' forces. No single



navy can control terrorist activities and piracy, from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to the Red Sea. We must work with our partners.

UNIPATH: Describe the threats on which the exercise focuses. **CAPT. HAIDER:** These threats vary from region to region, but the most prominent is the threat to global shipping routes by terrorist groups, pirates and sea mines. The proportion of these threats varies. There are some areas that face more pirate operations, such as the threat from sea mines, while in other areas, we find terrorists imposing illegal taxes on commercial ships. These groups come from areas outside the control of the state and carry out rapid theft or extortion operations of commercial vessels, exploiting the ships' slow movement and absence of sufficient protection.

These groups help fund terrorism in the region by extorting ships. We have addressed this threat by identifying the groups' sources of funding and logistical bases, then confining them to one isolated area where we intensify patrols and reconnaissance operations in coordination with coalition forces.

UNIPATH: How has Iraq upgraded its fleet?

CAPT. HAIDER: Through the office of the commander of the naval force in Baghdad, the Navy is coordinating with international navies through embassies and coalition forces like the United States, Britain and Italy to conduct research and buy or upgrade marine equipment.

We have American equipment, which we will maintain even as we seek to obtain new equipment as well. In addition, we recently received ships through an Italian contract; these will enhance the capabilities of the Iraqi Navy. We have a contract to purchase and develop tugboats to support maritime operations in the northern Arabian Gulf. Finally, the leadership of the naval force continues to develop and acquire new marine equipment based on new requirements and challenges.

We work in parallel lines of effort in the process of developing our naval force. The first is to purchase marine equipment to support our operations within our area of responsibility and establish special rules in the forward operating area to protect oil facilities and other sites vital to our economy. This will help reduce the amount of fuel we consume, since we are currently forced to launch from Umm Qasr Naval Base, which is a long distance from the sites. We are coordinating with U.S. forces to build the new base.

Our second line of effort is to develop Iraqi personnel and focus on command and control by preparing distinguished officers and sending them to countries with expertise in the maritime field, which will help develop Iraqi expertise in administration and management. We have sent officers to multiple countries to gain experience in logistics, arming and planning. We continue to work diligently on both these tracks.

UNIPATH: There is a high probability that Iraq will take over leadership of Combined Task Force 151. How do you feel about this?

CAPT. HAIDER: As an Iraqi, I am very proud to see an Iraqi officer taking over this prestigious and important position, which demonstrates the world's confidence in the capabilities of the Iraqi Navy. We have the experience and ability to bear this responsibility and carry out our duty to the best of our ability. •

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The Central Region Communications Conference Takes a Global Approach to Cyber Defense



UNIPATH STAFF | PHOTOS BY COL. LEERNEST M. RUFFIN/U.S. AIR FORCE

hildren's toys, refrigerators, home security alarms and traffic lights — these are just a few of the abundant internet-enabled devices present in our daily lives. While each item offers convenience to people around the world, there is a trade-off: Web-based systems and products are vulnerable to hacking.

Air-conditioning systems that cool rooms storing government computer servers can be interrupted, causing network disturbances. A doll that records voices to entertain and comfort children can record private conversations inside homes. As technology advances, so, too, do potential vulnerabilities, increasing the importance of preparing for cyber breaches.

These were among the topics discussed during U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM's) Central Region Communications Conference (CRCC). Held in April 2017 near Washington, D.C., the

event included participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The CRCC provides a unique opportunity for military, academic, government and industry experts to gain new perspectives on national security. For three days, the conference fostered relationships among information and communications technology leaders, focusing on cyber security and cyber incident response. The relationships developed during the conference can help support regional stability and enable organizations to recover more quickly and with less damage when an incident occurs.

"I believe our best defense is to be proactive," CENTCOM Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Charles Brown Jr. said during the conference. He explained that each country benefits by collaborating with organizations and cyber experts worldwide.

Maj. Gen. Riyadh bin Abdul Aziz Al-Dugheither of Saudi Arabia speaks with U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mitchell Kilgo, director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems at U.S. Central Command.

This requires dismantling a culture of "information silos" that exists in some organizations. Doing so will help leaders make decisions based on all available information, explained U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mitchell Kilgo, director of CENTCOM's Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems Directorate.

"You must understand your critical assets and their associated vulnerabilities," Maj. Gen. Kilgo said. "You must talk about the risk to the mission and the risk to critical assets. This is important for commanders."

In a conversation with *Unipath*, Dr. Khalid bin Daij Al Khalifa, director of cyber security at Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, explained the value of such conferences.

"I would like to extend gratitude to the hosts, presenters, panelists, and the distinguished delegates for sharing their knowledge and experiences," Dr. Al Khalifa said. "We can see from these discussions that we're on a dangerous trajectory. As we continue to require greater access to the internet, and with increasing reliance on cloud, mobile services and IOT [internet of things] devices, we can expect to suffer from increasingly frequent security breaches and incidents."

The changing cyber landscape demands new security strategies and levels of collaboration, he added.

"We need to be ready to overcome the current and future challenges we face collectively with speed, strength and ingenuity," he said. "A complete loss of trust in cyber could result in severe adverse effects to our nations' futures, especially from a security and economic standpoint. We are, therefore, very grateful for the opportunity to be here and to learn and share experiences with our partners in this conference."

John Desrocher, the U.S. State Department's deputy assistant secretary for Egypt and Maghreb affairs, said cyber risks multiply as the number of internet-enabled devices increases. Vulnerabilities can be found in just about any device, he said, citing as an example an internet-enabled children's doll that was easily hacked to eavesdrop on conversations at home. Organizations must constantly adapt to the changing environment.

"Our strength is in the collective wisdom we hold," Desrocher said. "All of us have a role to play in cyber security."

At the conference, senior government representatives spoke about the best practices in their countries, providing insights and sparking discussions.

"In Iraq, the growth of the internet's popularity — for security, business and personal use — coincided with a lack of secure cyber infrastructure," explained Maj. Gen. Mahdi Yasir Zubaidi, director of military communication for Iraq's Ministry of Defense. "This raised awareness of the need to understand the dangers of cyber crimes accompanying every new technological development, especially in the context of society's transformation into a cyber community.

"It grew out of individuals' and institutions' dependence on cyber and communication systems, which are considered some of the principal sources of danger. The security sector must adapt to each new technological development. It should also design a specific cyber infrastructure and manage it according to the specialized concerns of cyber/communication security. It could also create other electronic government services, including online education."



A good cyber defense takes more than just software. To better protect networks and identify vulnerabilities, system administrators must be trained to understand how adversaries think and how to "hunt" them down in a network, experts said.

Summer Fowler, deputy technical director of cyber security solutions at Carnegie Mellon University in the United States, explained the four pillars of effective cyber security:

- 1. Pre-incident: Policies must be in place that operators understand and know how to implement. Assets must be identified, assessed and prioritized.
- 2. During an incident: How will an organization detect, contain and eliminate an intruder?
- 3. Post-incident: Procedures should be designed for reporting and analyzing the latest attacks to enable organizations to be better prepared.
- 4. Continuous task: How do you know if you are prepared? How do you measure preparedness to include courses of action in the event of major cyber breaches and how can your organization recover?

Countries such as Kuwait have succeeded in developing a whole-of-government approach to cyber security. Mohammad Altura, executive board member of Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority, gave a detailed presentation about his country's strategy development process. Kuwait has identified objectives for the next three years, including promoting a culture of cyber security in Kuwait, safeguarding national assets and critical infrastructure, and promoting cooperation,

coordination and information exchange with local and international organizations.

Kuwait plans to implement many projects that will help it achieve its goals. They include establishing a Kuwait National Cybersecurity Center security operations center and a national threat intelligence team to work with global organizations to identify threats to Kuwait.

"There is an absence of international laws regarding cyber security today," Altura said. "With military, the laws are very clear regarding a country's sovereignty. With cyber, it's still open."

Dr. Ghazi Salem Al-Jobor, chairman of the board of commissioners and CEO of Jordan's Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, said the conference gives Jordan's government and military a greater awareness of communicating with the private sector and regional partners when implementing cyber security.

"Learning from the United States' experience and others' experiences and measures was very useful in steering our thoughts on how to mitigate cyber attacks and the importance of the factors that need to be taken into account to have effective national and regional response measures," he said.

One of the innovative programs presented during the CRCC was the U.S. Department of Defense's "Hack the Pentagon." Kate Charlot, director of cyber policy in the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, shared information about a "bug bounty program" in which hackers were paid to identify vulnerabilities on certain DoD sites. The program was considered a huge success because the hackers found more than a thousand vulnerabilities missed

by red teams, including more than a dozen considered highrisk. The U.S. Army is launching a similar program.

Waleed Zakarya Aly, executive director of the Egyptian Computer Emergency Readiness Team, part of the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, attended the CRCC for the first time and came away impressed.

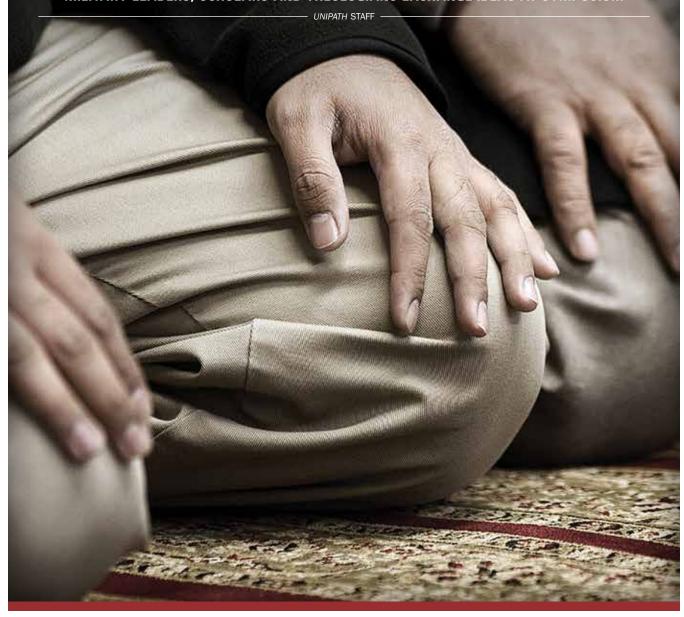
"In my opinion, it is one of the most important conferences I have attended during my technical life," he said. "The speakers were top-notch in both the technical and strategic tracks, and the topics covered during the conference were the latest issues in the cyber security space. The remarks and suggestions from the participating countries were very interesting and showed high potential for cooperation to improve the incident handling processes." •



COMBATING EXTREMISM with

RELIGION

MILITARY LEADERS, SCHOLARS AND THEOLOGIANS EXCHANGE IDEAS AT SYMPOSIUM



ilitaries alone cannot defeat religious extremism, argued Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, the former Pakistani high commissioner to the United Kingdom at a March 2017 symposium in Washington. The author of *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam*, Ahmed gave a keynote address focused on the need to understand the tribal origins and nature of Muslimmajority countries.

"You can't solve a problem unless you understand what the problem is," he told *Unipath*. "To end the violence of groups like [Daesh], we must understand the societies in which they are operating."

To that end, he argued, counterextremist messaging must consider the tribal nature of much of the Muslim world, as well as the importance of Islamic values in these countries. For example, an effective counterextremist message would highlight the ways in which extremists have deviated from true Islam, as illustrated in the three key pillars of an ideal Muslim society: 'ilm', knowledge; ahsan, compassion; and 'adl, justice.

The seminar was organized jointly by the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) and the United States Army Central (ARCENT). The

attending military officers and diplomats from Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia "understood exactly" what he meant, Ahmed said.

"They came up to me and said, 'This is the most sensible thing we've heard yet,'" he said. "Some of these ideas are foreign to Western society, but extremely familiar to those in the Muslim world."

ARCENT representatives, including ARCENT Commander Lt. Gen. Michael Garrett, also attended the symposium, titled "Religion in Conflict: Confronting Daesh through Religious Dissent, Engagement and Conflict Resolution." The event centered on the idea of using religion as

a tool to challenge extremism, and presentations focused on a variety of topics, including effectively developing counternarratives, filling the vacuum in post-conflict Syria, post-conflict interfaith relations and the future of political Islam.

Some speakers tackled policy issues, emphasizing that while military force may be necessary to combat extremism, it is far from sufficient. Timothy Shah, director for international research of the Religious Freedom Research Project at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, focused on the importance of religious freedom in preventing the spread of violent extremism.

"Situations of religious persecution are incubators of violence," he told *Unipath*. "We

place a lot of focus on trying to reinterpret religious teachings and understand the psychology of terrorists, but the main driver of extremism is really structural. When people are repressed or punished for their religious beliefs, people turn to violence."

Here, he returned to a theme Ahmed, too, had expressed: the need to understand the sources of violence, so that the causes, rather than just symptoms, of extremism can be eliminated. Before using drones or other military force on a tribal society, for example, Ahmed advised his audience to consider the pillars of tribal society — a "code of honor" that depends

on hospitality, courage in battle and revenge — which he said those fighting extremism have not adequately understood.

"If you use a drone on my village, the code of honor activates," he said. "Now I must set out and take revenge."

Violence, in other words, has only exacerbated the collapse of tribal society. To "squeeze out" the militant elements of society, the international community must instead counter extremists' arguments by highlighting what Islam really preaches, he said.

"This way forward is long term, and it may be unconventional," Ahmed said. "But without understanding, you can't repair a fragmented society."

"Without understanding, you can't repair a fragmented society."

 Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, former Pakistani high commissioner to the United Kingdom



A member of the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service shoots at a Daesh drone in Mosul's al-Rifaq neighborhood in January 2017.

NEW TECHNOLOGY NEW CHALLENGES



As Daesh adopts more desperate tactics, coalition forces must constantly adapt

UNIPATH STAFF | PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

t's no secret that Daesh's days on the battlefield are numbered: The terrorist group has lost vast swaths of territory in recent months, and Iraqi security forces have liberated Mosul, the group's last major stronghold in Iraq.

As Daesh has grown more desperate, it has demonstrated a willingness to go to any length to cling to the territory. In Mosul, the group leveled critical infrastructure, using innocent civilians as human shields and rigging drones with explosive devices. That posed challenges to Iraqi and coalition forces fighting to liberate the densely populated city.

In a recent interview with *Unipath*, Iraqi Staff Gen. Talib Shaghati Alkenani noted Daesh's attempts to "herd civilians into abandoned homes" to slow the advance of liberating forces.

On the run and rapidly losing territory, Daesh aimed to destroy Mosul's infrastructure and kill as many people as possible before succumbing, the general said. The highly trained Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS), recognizing the need for precision operations to minimize civilian casualties, underwent specialized training in urban warfare and restricted the use of heavy weapons. It also sought coalition air support for the reconnaissance and targeting of Daesh drones. With the addition of new sensors, platforms and guidance technologies, Hellfire missiles can now track ground targets and deliver highly precise strikes from drones overhead.

TACKLING DRONE SWARMS

Despite its limited resources, Daesh managed to pose a threat to coalition forces by attaching weapons to commercially available drones. These "killer bees" posed an immediate challenge, said Gen. Raymond



A. Thomas III, commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM). Though they may not have the precision or lethality of modern weaponized drones, they can maim or kill. What's more, these small drones are difficult to shoot out of the air.

Though disruptions of Daesh activity are often only temporary, they can leave the enemy more vulnerable by forcing fighters to move to less secure communications.

Iraqi and coalition forces have taken multiple approaches to overcoming this obstacle. Newly developed technology that detects and jams drone signals is being used, and the shoulder-fired Stinger missile has been modified to target "small, elusive targets," according to the news website Defense One. With a "proximity fuse" that detonates when an airborne target is detected nearby, the Stingers can now target drones in addition to aircraft and cruise missiles. At the same time, Iraqi Soldiers equipped remote-controlled devices with 40 mm grenades when using drones for reconnaissance and intelligence.

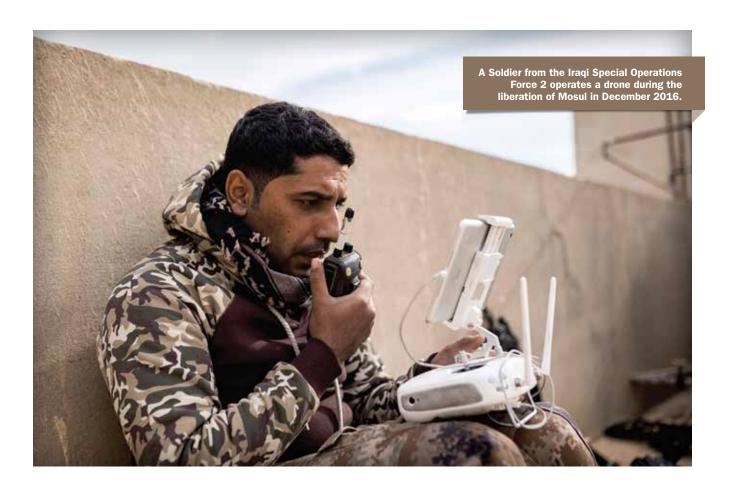
Effectively tackling Daesh's drones has the additional benefit of weakening the group's propaganda. The group has aggressively publicized its drone strikes, knowing they serve as a morale boost as the group loses territory in Iraq and Syria. The enemy's

use of drones was a "challenge to our forces" at first, senior CTS leader Staff Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil Arzouqi told *Unipath* in a recent interview. But "with the support and cooperation of our partners in the coalition, we overcame these obstacles."

BOLSTERING CYBER SECURITY

To combat the growing threat of cyber attacks from a variety of malign actors — and in many cases, having weathered potential Daesh attacks on their infrastructure and energy sectors — countries throughout the region have upped their cyber security training.

Oman, for one, has gained a reputation as a cyber security hub. The United Nations' cyber security arm selected the Oman's Computer Emergency Readiness Team (OCERT) in 2012 as the regional center for cyber security for 21 countries. In this position, Oman hosts frequent conferences, workshops and training exercises, and in 2017 sought training from



the U.S.-based Raytheon company to implement a cyber education and training program through the Omani National Cyber Academy. In recent years, OCERT has also worked closely with the Ministry of Education to introduce information security curricula into its schools.

Omani cyber security experts have advocated a culture of awareness, warning that cyber attacks will likely intensify. "Attackers tend to underestimate countries in the Middle East," said Saqib Ali, a professor at the Sultan Qaboos University's Information Systems department. "They think the countries here are soft targets, but Oman's prevention mechanisms are pretty good. A lot of people work behind the scenes in government. All the Omanis employed in this sector are experts in their field."

Saudi Arabia, too, has been proactive in adapting to an evolving cyber threat. In May 2017, the U.S.-based SANS Institute hosted an inaugural cyber security training event in Riyadh, where attendees learned to develop effective security metrics, analyze and assess cyber risk, and create robust security programs.

COMBATING DAESH ONLINE: AN ONGOING CHALLENGE

When it comes to tackling Daesh's online presence, coalition forces face an uphill battle. Though cyber weapons have been highly effective against

fixed targets such as Iranian nuclear facilities, it has become clear that cyber warfare techniques must be refashioned for an enemy that exploits the internet largely to recruit and spread its propaganda, according to *The New York Times*. With these functions, the enemy can quickly bounce back after coalition forces freeze their computers or manipulate their data.

Though disruptions of Daesh activity are often only temporary, they can leave the enemy more vulnerable by forcing fighters to move to less secure communications. Other efforts — including locking Daesh propagandists out of their accounts or using the coordinates of their phones or computers to target them for attack — are repeated over several days for increased effectiveness. And on the battlefield, cyber operations have been closely integrated with Iraqi ground combat and allied air missions in Mosul and Raqqa.

"We're either able to blind [Daesh] so they can't see or make sure they can't hear us," Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigan, the allied air commander, told *The New York Times*. "There are things we are doing both with space and cyber that are being effectively synchronized to achieve important effects even in Mosul and Raqqa."

Sources: Warrior, Business Insider, Newsweek, Defense One, Getty, The Daily Beast, ITU, Times of Oman, The New York Times

Securing THE SOLUTION OF THE S

COMBINED MARITIME FORCES COMBAT ATTACKS ON SHIPPING OFF THE YEMENI COAST

UNIPATH STAFF -

Following a spate of attacks against merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb strait, the Bahrain-based Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in June 2017 announced plans to increase its presence in the Gulf.

Recent attacks, many of which relied heavily on explosives and targeted oil tankers, highlighted the continued risks associated with transit through these waters. In June 2017, violent extremists fired rocket-propelled grenades at an oil tanker passing through the Bab el-Mandeb into the Red Sea, *The National* reported.

I am extraordinarily concerned about another contested maritime chokepoint in the region. 9 9

- U.S. CENTCOM Commander Gen. Joseph Votel

Though many of these attacks have been unsuccessful — no crew members were injured in the June attack, and the tanker sailed into the Red Sea — they demonstrate a new threat to the maritime community.

CMF recommended that all mariners sailing through the area register their ships with the Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa and with the United Kingdom's Maritime Trade Operations. Doing so allows military forces in the area to track vessels and respond to possible attacks.

"Maritime security will always require a team effort," according to the CMF. "CMF looks forward to working closely with our regional military partners and the shipping industry to ensure the free flow of commerce. It will take all of us, working together, to be successful."

The Gulf has also seen a number of pirate attacks in 2017, including the attempted hijacking in April of a merchant ship heading to Aden, *The National* reported. Just days before, pirates seized an Indian dhow

headed to Somalia, and in March seized an oil tanker off the Somali coast.

In testimony before members of the U.S. Congress in March 2017, U.S. Central Command leader Gen. Joseph Votel described the growing threat to shipping. In particular, he highlighted attacks by coastal missiles, mines and explosive-laden boats along the Yemeni coast. "I am extraordinarily concerned about another contested maritime chokepoint in the region," Gen. Votel said.

At their peak in 2011, pirates launched 237 attacks off the coast of Somalia, according to *The National*. But with the investment in a joint international effort to patrol shipping routes through the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of East Africa, this number dropped precipitously in subsequent years. Thanks to "coordinated vigilance," piracy dropped to just 36 incidents a year in 2015 and 2016, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Sources: Combined Maritime Forces, Navy Times, The National, Council on Foreign Relations

An oil tanker is docked at Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates. Protecting such vital ships is a task for multinational naval coalitions.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



DOMESTIC DISTRIES

Jordan and the UAE lead the way in manufacturing military equipment at home n a 2017 speech in Washington, D.C., His
Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of
Jordan asked the audience: "What kind of world
do we want, not only for ourselves, but for our
children?" He was quick to invoke the need to
combat violent extremism. The urgency of this
need is felt strongly in Jordan — bordered by
conflict-torn Iraq and Syria — but it also permeates the thinking of the defense sector in places such as the
United Arab Emirates (UAE). In equipping their militaries
for the task, Amman and Abu Dhabi are cultivating domestic defense industries to develop their economies, create
high-value jobs and promote international partnerships.

"In Jordan, we have very good engineers, very well-educated people. That's one of the major strengths. For such a small country, we have amazing human resources," said Abdallah Al Salman, marketing and communications manager at the King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau (KADDB). "We can be proud that we excel in the fields of

JORDAN'S PROGRESS

The state-owned KADDB has been among the leaders in advancing Jordan's domestic defense industry, forming joint ventures with foreign defense firms to produce such things as armored vehicles, personal protection equipment, military rations, ammunition and night vision and thermal imaging systems. Partners from countries such as the UAE, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey and China affiliate with Jordanian companies operating under the KADDB umbrella at the KADDB Industrial Park (KIP) outside Amman. Companies active at KIP benefit from a package of investment incentives, tax exemptions, and services related to infrastructure and communication.

"KADDB has certainly created opportunities for young engineers in Jordan, particularly those with ambitions to work in the defense industry. It has all the facilities an engineer dreams about," Jim Johnson, manager and consultant at Blackstone Global Security, told *Unipath* in an interview from his office in Amman.





of defense products and systems covering five clusters: land systems, smart systems, arms and ammunition, troops, and electronics/electro-optics.

"KADDB is best at actually producing military applications for the kinetic fight," Johnson said. "Their reliance upon external technologies and imports is mainly for electronic devices, surveillance devices and integration of those systems."

An example of KADDB's work with international partners is the Jordanian Mbombe, an imposing armored roughterrain vehicle that can operate as an infantry fighting vehicle and a 12-passenger troop carrier. Produced collaboratively by KADDB and South Africa's Paramount Group, it is based on a South African design, modified at KADDB to suit local operating conditions.

"This vehicle is probably the first-ever certified, flat-floored, mine-protected vehi-

"In Jordan, we have very good engineers, very well-educated people. That's one of the major strengths. For such a small country, we have amazing human resources."

- Abdallah Al Salman, marketing and communications manager, King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein distributes meals produced by KADDB. $_{\text{KADDB}}$

"Everything that's required to research and test new technologies, so that young engineers can apply the skills that they have, as well as gain new experience."

The Jordan Armed Forces (JAF), the Gendarmerie, the Jordanian police, and the Civil Defence Directorate are KADDB's biggest customers, Johnson added. "I think they take a distinct pride in the fact that they are Jordanians using Jordanian products. To them, this matters. What's more, it keeps defense spending in the country and helps develop local industry."

Capabilities include research and development, testing, manufacture, and upgrade and modification of a vast range cle in the world," said Ivor Ichikowitz, Paramount's chairman and founder. "The collaboration extends way beyond JAF as a customer, as we are producing these vehicles in Jordan. We will be making them available to other customers in the Middle East, and this industrial partnership is an extension of other partnerships we have had in the past with KADDB."

The vehicle, Ichikowitz explained, is being produced in Jordan at KIP with components supplied by other KADDB partners such as the Turkish defense manufacturer Aselsan. The vehicle's turret was developed by KADDB's own engineers, he said.

"This naked turret is relatively simple, but very well-produced," Ichikowitz said. "It is cost-effective and very efficient. We are going to be incorporating this not only onto the Jordanian vehicles, but also onto vehicles that we are supplying elsewhere in the world."

Soldiers hungry for meals with the taste of home, such as Jordan's national dish, *mansaf*, benefit from another multinational partnership. To produce meals with official *halal* certification — meaning that they meet Muslim dietary codes — KADDB drew on the services of Malaysian food giant Brahim's to produce field rations suited to Jordanian palates. Success at home has led KADDB to market the meals at trade shows abroad to the armed forces of other Muslim countries.

"They need no special storage conditions and have a two-year shelf life; they solve so many problems, not only for us, but also for our customers in neighboring countries," Al Salman said. "They are very useful, for example, when there is an influx of hungry refugees, or when you have times of the year when there are mass feedings, such as at the Hajj or at Ramadan."

Johnson praised KADDB's success at bringing so many international partners on board, as well as attracting customers from abroad. "They do very well in putting on visits, hosting people, and being involved in such events as IDEX, the large defense contracting convention that takes place biennially in the UAE," he said.

"Jordan also hosts the SOFEX [Special Operations Forces Exhibition] every two years. The KADDB display there is just amazing," he said. "They go all-out and entice a lot of people and organizations to get involved. Such a wide array of partners who may well be competitors can be problematic. But they seem to avoid conflicts at KADDB."

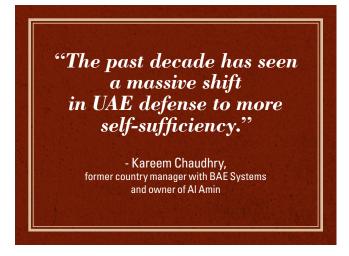
SUCCESS IN THE UAE

The UAE, meanwhile, has been rapidly redeveloping its own defense industry to meet the needs of internal security, cyber security, critical national infrastructure and regional stability while maximizing the use of its talent and infrastructure, according to local industry expert Kareem Chaudhry, a former country manager with BAE Systems and owner of Al Amin, a defense-oriented market research firm in Dubai.

"Local production and employment within UAE's own defense sector is critical to the success of any proposal to the UAE military," Chaudhry said by phone from his office in Dubai. "They understand that not everything can be produced locally. But where systems can be produced, part-produced or even assembled locally, this is important."

Chaudhry added that, like Jordan, the UAE sees itself as a potential export base for foreign companies seeking to take advantage of the tax-free manufacturing and exporting that the country offers.

One joint venture is between Abu Dhabi Ship Building and Raytheon, the U.S. defense contractor. The partners will install, maintain and recertify Raytheon's naval missiles in the Gulf, used on the UAE's Baynunah-class corvettes and other ships. Another cooperative endeavor is the Advanced



Military Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Centre, also known as AMMROC, a joint venture owned by Mubadala Aerospace, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. and Lockheed Martin Corp. in the UAE. Chaudhry emphasized UAE's historic preference for U.S.-based defense partners, but noted changes in thinking.

"The past decade has seen a massive shift in UAE defense to more self-sufficiency," he said. "Mubadala has been the key company spearheading this, but new companies have emerged in the last five to 10 years as well."

Mubadala is a state-owned holding company in the UAE with a portfolio of investments topping \$65 billion. It characterizes itself as "an active investor in sectors and geographies with long-term value propositions, working in partnership with world-class organizations to establish and manage joint ventures." Mubadala's chairman is His Highness Gen. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi's crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

"Mubadala was the original defense company in UAE," Chaudhry said. "Today it is more than just defense, so it is trying to break out its defense capabilities, rebrand and create new opportunities."

Central this effort is the Emirates Defense Industries Co. (EDIC), founded by Mubadala in 2014 as a vehicle to create partnerships with foreign business and to reorganize disjointed parts of Abu Dhabi's defense industry in the name of efficiency. EDIC's board contains members of the UAE's royal court and its top-ranking military officers. Its mission is similar to KADDB in Jordan.

LOOKING FORWARD

With security threats continuing to menace the Middle East, Jordan and the UAE are eager to show that strengthening national defense and economic development can, with a bit of creativity and cooperation, go hand in hand.

"Our world cannot accept such a status quo of violence, deprivation and fear," King Abdullah said at his 2017 Washington speech. "We all need to act on the battlefield and beyond." ◆

Special Operations in Jordan

Brig. Gen. Ahmad Kaiber operates Jordan's premier training center

UNIPATH STAFF

he King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) in Amman, Jordan, is one of the world's most prestigious centers. Special operations forces from all over the world come to acquire expertise and benefit from the center's advanced technology. Jordan has been keen to select professional leaders and experts to lead this strategic center since its inception in 2009.

Brig. Gen. Ahmad Kaiber, the center's director, has such a background: He has held critical positions and played a major role in building special operations capabilities. He was an instructor of advanced tactics at Jordan's Infantry School. He served as deputy commander of the Jordanian Special Operations School and as commanding officer for the Joint Operations Command's Joint Intelligence Office. He also served as director of training and operations at KASOTC.

During the May 2017 Eager Lion exercise, the general hosted the *Unipath* team in his office. With typical Jordanian generosity and humility, he outlined plans to develop the center, as well as the challenges and importance of international partnerships. The conversation began with a discussion of his highest ideals of leadership:

"My greatest role model of military leadership is His Majesty King Abdullah; he was our direct commander of special operations before he assumed his responsibilities as king of Jordan. Since taking command, he has had a vision of developing this strategic weapon and developing the concept of military action and professionalism of special operations forces. As a result, Jordanian special operations forces are among the best in the world."

Brig. Gen. Ahmad believes that the center's training has played a major role in the defeat of Daesh in Iraq.

"We are proud and appreciative of what Iraqi special operations forces achieved. We closely follow their victories against the Daesh gangs, and we are devastated when we hear about the death of one of our Iraqi brothers who trained here at KASOTC.

"We have been training Iraqi special operations forces

since 2003, but after the events in Mosul, we began to focus our training on defeating Daesh. We focus on qualitative training, preparing men for both a physical and psychological fight. Our highly trained experts mold them into elite forces. The greatest proof of this is the success and distinction with which they have managed the battles, which reflect the quality and professionalism of the training here at KASOTC."

KASOTC's success

"Terrorist networks have become transnational, with branches of terrorist organizations found all around the world. International efforts must be united in fighting these groups, regardless of their labels, because all of them post a threat to the innocent, and to world peace."

- Brig. Gen. Ahmad Kaiber, KASOTC director

depends upon a director with insights into the future and the ability to develop forces and adapt to modern battlefields.

"My main objective is to maintain the center's strategy, which was drawn up by His Majesty the King, of being an international specialized center," Brig. Gen. Ahmad said. "I plan to upgrade the quality of the center's training, keep abreast of international training techniques and maintain the professional quality of our logistical services. In this regard, we have conducted a comprehensive study of the center's performance in previous years, developing a strategic plan to make it one of the best international centers to train the world's armies in counterterrorism and special operations tactics."

KASOTC also stays abreast of developments in how terrorists operate, with the aim of devising effective counterterrorism techniques.

"We have a special department of research. These departments are closely monitoring all the events taking place worldwide, especially in the Middle East, as it is the most volatile region. I have a team dedicated to tracking terrorists' tactics and making plans to address them. This makes training at our center consistent with the most up-to-date methods of countering terrorist threats."

Brig. Gen. Ahmad urges Soldiers to participate in the center's Annual Warrior Competition, one of the KASOTC's most important events. The 2017 competition included 33 teams from 17 countries.

"This competition is a great opportunity for elite forces from around the world to exchange experiences and learn about the potential of allied countries in the field of counterterrorism. In addition, it's an opportunity to familiarize participating teams with their readiness and development, addressing weaknesses and focusing on the positive points."

Drawing on the words of King Abdullah, Brig. Gen. Ahmad argues that just as the wicked of the world unite to propagate hatred and murder, the virtuous must come together to confront them.

"Terrorist networks have become transnational, with branches of terrorist organizations found all around the world. International efforts must be united in fighting these groups, regardless of their labels, because all of them post a threat to the innocent and world peace. If we do not draw on the expertise of partner nations or share intelligence, we cannot defeat terrorist organizations, especially because these organizations have international connections for recruitment and funding."

Exchanging experiences and building international partnerships through joint exercises is the General's guiding principle.

"Without sharing in the training and partnering in these exercises, the fighter will feel that he lacks capabilities, because there is no standard for comparison. That is, he is limited to comparison with his teammate," the general said. "Therefore, international exercises are the fighter's only chance to see the potential and capabilities of the world's armies.

"Eager Lion is a top worldwide exercise in which most countries participate. It is the latest quantum leap in the development of Jordan's special operations capabilities, where partnerships, meetings with participating countries' teams and joint exercises give the fighter experience in the field and increase his confidence in his weapons and training."

Brig. Gen. Ahmad said he is dedicated to maintaining KASOTC's position internationally.

"We aspire to be in the best in the world. Therefore, we must join efforts and work as a team to develop our technology, develop the capabilities of our trainers and intensify our courses on language and communication skills.

"The second challenge is to keep pace with the world in terms of weaponry, since every day there are new weapons and equipment. To keep up with these developments, we must acquire and gain familiarity with these weapons, equipment, adapting them for our own use in training and on the battlefield. This requires constant contact with manufacturers."

AROUND THE REGION



UNIPATH STAFF

ince July 2016, Soldiers from the Bahrain
Defence Force (BDF) have deployed with the
United Kingdom to assist with the European
Union mission against human trafficking in the
Mediterranean Sea. Soldiers from the BDF Royal
Guard and Medical Services have provided support to
young children and the elderly, those most affected
by the perilous crossing between North Africa and
the European mainland.

Bahraini Soldiers have helped rescue thousands of migrants, providing translation, cultural advice and medical support to the British Royal Navy. Their deployment falls under the 2012 Defence Cooperation Agreement, which promotes cooperation in intelligence exchange, training, education and scientific and technical development.

"Bahrain is extremely proud that it has been given the opportunity to assist in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean," said Brig. Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, commander of Bahrain's Royal Guard. "This is a crisis which at present shows no signs of abatement,

and as such, Bahrain will continue to assist for as long as there is a need for their expertise."

Capt. Eman Mubarak Al Sheikh, a staff nurse in the BDF Medical
Services, assisted medical teams in dealing with migrants attempting to cross to Europe. The crossing was "extremely difficult," especially for infants and the elderly, she said.

A raft of migrants drifts in the

Sea near Libya in

Mediterranean

"I am so very grateful that I was there and able to treat those in need of medical services following their horrific ordeals," she said.

Having survived war, extreme poverty and famine, many refugees have found themselves exploited by "people smugglers" extorting huge sums of money for passage to Europe. The boats the smugglers use frequently lack sufficient fuel — or are simply not seaworthy — and numerous migrants have been killed when their boats capsized or sank. The deployment of Bahraini Soldiers has demonstrated the benefits of mounting joint operations in such a dire humanitarian crisis.









DOGS DETECT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING **IN CENTRAL ASIA**

UNIPATH STAFF

Since the Kyrgyz Republic's 2015 agreement with the nongovernmental organization Panthera, the Central Asian country has made huge strides in training detection dogs to combat wildlife trafficking. With the help of Panthera, a global conservation outfit devoted to protecting wild cat species, the country put handlers, trainers and four dogs to work at the border crossing between Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic in 2016.

In April 2017, the team caught its first illegal shipment, seven argali and four ibex heads. While both species are legally hunted by quota in the region, these had been hunted without permits in Tajikistan and were being smuggled across the border.

The man transporting the animal parts — a middleman for a separate hunting outfit — tried unsuccessfully to convince the officials at the border to take a bribe. Instead, border guards arrested him and began an investigation.

With training from Working Dogs for Conservation, a Montana-based nongovernmental organization, the four dogs help locate and distinguish illegally traded snow leopard, argali and ibex parts and products from legal items.

Two of the dogs are deployed at one of the

Kyrgyz Republic's most critical border crossings with Tajikistan. Located in a remote, isolated and brutally cold part of the country, the border is somewhat neglected and has previously allowed many wildlife products and narcotics to slip through.

Source: National Geographic





Iraq Sends Soldiers to Syrian, **Jordanian Borders**

UNIPATH STAFF

As the borders separating Iraq, Syria and Jordan faced escalating attacks by Daesh, Iraq in May 2017 began sending military reinforcements to a highway linking it with Syria and Jordan, said Col. Ahmed al-Dulaimi of the Iraqi Army.

Military and paramilitary reinforcements were sent to the international road running from the Iraqi city of Ar-Rutba in Anbar province to Jordan and Syria. The deployments seek to block attempts by Daesh to sneak across the borders.

Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition fighter jets have regularly pounded Daesh strongholds in the Iraqi towns of Annah, Qaim and Rawa, killing dozens of terrorists. Thousands of

A Jordanian Soldier checks the identification cards of Syrian refugees from the makeshift Rukban camp, which lies in a no man's land between the two countries.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

civilians are thought to be trapped in these locations, Iraqi forces launched a major offensive to liberate western Anbar area in November, 2017.

In recent months, Jordan has also worked to shore up its defenses along this border. Brig. Gen. Sami Kafawin, commander of Jordan's border guard forces, said in January 2017 that Jordan is deploying "more and more forces" to the area to safeguard against Daesh extremists being dislodged from their strongholds in Iraq and Syria.

"We reinforced our borders, especially in the northern part and eastern part," Brig. Gen. Kafawin said. "We are reinforced by manpower, equipment and the whole weapons system." Sources: IraqiNews.com, Fox News, CNN





Pakistan Partners with UN to Eradicate Terror

UNIPATH STAFF

n partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union (EU), Pakistan in April 2017 launched a three-year technical assistance program to strengthen its counterterrorism efforts.

Called "Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism with a special reference to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province," the project will train investigators, prosecutors and judges in the use of forensic evidence. The project also aims to strengthen coordination among Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), the KP's Counter Terrorism Department, and the Islamabad police.

NACTA developed the program, and its pilot phase will take place in KP. Provincial and federal stakeholders were consulted during the project's development to ensure that its objectives contribute to the needs of Pakistan's institutions.



At the program's launch ceremony, Jean-Francois Cautain, the EU's envoy to Pakistan, emphasized the need for "strong international collaboration" to counter terrorism. He said the program represents the "next step" in the long-standing partnership between UNODC and the EU.

Sources: UNODC, Radio Pakistan, The Express Tribune

OMAN CYBER EXPERTS URGE AWARENESS

UNIPATH STAFF

In light of the May 2017 WannaCry cyber attacks on British hospitals — which rapidly spread to other countries — Oman's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) is warning the public to be prepared.

"There is a possibility of more attacks in Oman," said Badr Al Salehi, director general of Oman's CERT. "The malware used to infect computers may be updated and used to attack other systems."

Although Oman's cyber infrastructure escaped unscathed, government institutions proactively shut down websites and e-services to secure them against possible malware infections.

"The malware is currently searching the internet for vulnerable systems, and the spread of malware is likely to intensify," said Mohammed Nayaz, a partner at consulting firm Ernst and Young's IT Risk and Resilience branch.

Oman has been the target of more than 16,000 cyber attacks this year, with critical national infrastructure as the main target.

"The reason cyber attacks will intensify is because attackers tend to underestimate countries in the Middle East," said Saqib Ali, a professor at the Sultan Qaboos University's Information Systems department. "They think the countries here are soft targets, but Oman's prevention mechanisms are pretty good. A lot of people work behind the scenes in government. All the Omanis employed in this sector are experts in their field."

That said, some analysts expressed concern that the country's young population uses the internet "indiscriminately," without awareness of the risks or effects of ransomware.

"People here are not aware of the effects of ransomware, and they tend to panic and comply with the attackers' demands because they are scared and don't know the consequences," said Arnold Santos of the Systems department at the Military Technology College of Oman.

There needs to be a culture of awareness about attacks, said Tim Marjason, managing director if Marjason Consulting and Training, a company that advises business on security measures.

"Right from the top, there have to be resources allocated to security systems," he said. "When a new employee joins [a company], part of the training by the human resource department must show him how to secure his system from attacks. All it takes is one bad system in an organization to infect the rest."

Source: Times of Oman









Lebanese Surgeons Aid Wounded Syrians

REUTERS

Six operations have failed to cure the constant pain that Ismael Moustafa has suffered since he was wounded in an airstrike on his village in Syria three years ago. The 28-year-old former construction worker hobbled on crutches after shrapnel tore through his right hip and leg, with painkillers offering no relief.

A recurring infection made further operations too complex for some surgeons, as well as out of reach for him financially, until the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon accepted the challenge of getting him walking again.

"It has been a long and hard journey to get here, and the pain in my leg never goes away," Moustafa said, lying on a hospital bed awaiting surgery to remove an infected section of bone in his leg. "There is always pain. I cannot walk."

The ICRC, which provided the expensive operation, says it has treated 350 war-wounded patients since 2014 at its Weapon Traumatology Training Centre on the second floor of the Dar Al Shifaa hospital in Tripoli, northern Lebanon.

A similar program has cared for around 750 patients from Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital in Beirut.

"The cases that we see here, we don't see anywhere else," said Fouad Issa El Khoury, a trainee doctor at the center. "They are war wounds, they are infected and have a lot of complications, and they have been previously operated on many times."

Moustafa's surgery, which doctors said was a success, cost at least \$50,000, El Khoury said. The ICRC also covered the bill for physical rehabilitation and psychotherapy at the nearby Al Zahraa hospital.

For many Syrians in Lebanon, the cost of even routine health care is simply beyond their means. Many are on a waiting list of one month for treatment at the ICRC. Eight-year-old Shahed Khalil has had 10 operations, three of them in Al Shifaa, to repair her right thigh and enable her to walk again after she was wounded in an airstrike in Syria while on her way to school two years ago.

A report by the Syrian Center for Policy Research said 1.9 million Syrians had been wounded in the first five years of a war that began in 2011.

"Even if war stops tomorrow, you will have the necessity of this service for years, if not decades, because the number of wounded and people needing support is very high," said Fabrizio Carboni, head of the ICRC delegation in Lebanon.





EGYPT WEIGHS HOW TO PROTECT CHRISTIANS

UNIPATH STAFF

gypt is considering new measures to protect
Christians, in response to a May 2017 attack on
buses carrying Coptic Christians to a monastery in the
Minya governorate south of Cairo — another in a long
line of deadly Daesh assaults against the minority population. The Christian religious calendar is full of vulnerable pilgrimages to monasteries and ancient churches.

One measure is to either suspend such pilgrimages or closely coordinate the movement of pilgrims with security forces, a tactic used to protect foreign tourists in southern Egypt during an insurgency in the 1990s. Another option is to significantly step up security outside churches and roads leading to monasteries, mostly found in remote deserts.

Until recently, the Egyptian government had successfully limited Daesh's influence to the remote northern Sinai Peninsula. But with violence now spilling over into the mainland, and an increasing number of high-profile attacks on Christians, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi is doubling down on efforts to contain the violence.

To that end, el-Sissi has added French fighter jets, helicopter carriers and German submarines to Egypt's arsenal of Soviet-era weapons and U.S.-made F-16 warplanes, Apache gunships and Abrams tanks, according to The Associated Press.

Egyptian security forces guard a hospital treating Christian victims of a May 2017 Daesh attack.

GETTY IMAGES

El-Sissi and his military say the attackers have come from eastern Libya, sneaking into Egypt across the porous desert border. He said security forces have over the past two years intercepted 1,000 four-wheel drive vehicles that extremists used to enter Egypt; 300 were caught in the last three months alone.

His military reports that airstrikes in Libya are continuing. Egypt, in the meantime, has pushed for lifting the international arms embargo against Libya, hoping that will give its main ally in Libya, Gen. Khalifa Hifter, a decisive advantage in his three-year campaign against Libyan violent extremist groups.

Sources: The Associated Press, CNN



After al-Qaida, a Yemeni Port Restored

UNIPATH STAFF

After al-Qaida seized the port city of Mukalla in Yemen, the local power plant could provide only spotty service during peak summer demand. The terrorists threatened to hang plant engineer Mohammed Bahaj if he couldn't boost energy production for Mukalla and the surrounding province of Hadhramout, home to the largest concentration of al-Qaida members in the world.

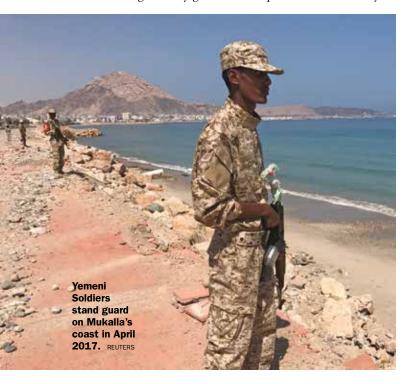
Now, more than a year after al-Qaida was ousted from Mukalla, the plant can order replacement parts, new workers have joined the staff, and the power output has roughly doubled, making it possible to keep the lights on for the 700,000 people in the province, Bahaj said.

"Capacity has gone higher to provide more families with a standard of living, he said. "That's a major difference."

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) occupied Mukalla in 2015 as Yemen descended into conflict. In April 2016, a force of 11,000 Yemenis trained by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched an assault backed by UAE planes and ships. By nightfall, AQAP members were fleeing the city.

The quick and decisive victory — the centerpiece of a broader push to defeat AQAP in southern Yemen — was followed by a more time-consuming challenge for the local government: maintaining security and improving daily life as the broader Yemen conflict ground on elsewhere.

Protecting military gains often depends on successfully



restoring basic services because extremists exploit government failures. That is especially true in Mukalla, where AQAP positioned itself as better at providing services than the government agencies.

"You do have to compete with them on services," said Michael Knights, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who has studied the campaign to recapture and stabilize Mukalla. "If you just leave, groups like al-Qaida and [Daesh] fill the void."

To that end, the Emirates Red Crescent organization signed a work agreement in May 2017 with the Public Electricity Corp. in Hadhramout to extend the network of electricity cables in the al-Rayan region, east of Mukalla. Red Crescent also funded a project to strengthen the electrical line of the al-Rayan mosque, providing it with air conditioning and easing the intense summer heat for worshippers.

The conflict in Yemen has pushed much of the country to the brink of famine, according to the World Food Programme. The United Nations estimates that more than 10,000 civilians have died in the fighting. And a cholera outbreak has killed more than 1,500 people across several provinces.

In Mukalla, AQAP tried to improve city services, but a lack of technical expertise, isolation from international markets and extremist ideology got in the way, according to residents and city employees. These failures contributed to a groundswell of support for AQAP's ouster. A couple of thousand members of the Yemeni force infiltrated the group's ranks to provide intelligence and prepare for the offensive, said Ahmed bin Braik, the former provincial governor.

Now, schools in Mukalla have been refurbished, and hospitals have been restocked. Water use has roughly doubled, after new wells were drilled and others repaired. Damaged roads have been repaired and new ones built. The radio station, shut down by al-Qaida, has been revived.

Few foreign shipping firms were willing to visit when al-Qaida controlled the port, and the terminal's operators only had a couple of aging tugboats, which limited the size of ships they could pull into the harbor.

Now, foreign shipping lines have returned to the bustling port. With the recent addition of a Malaysian tug, the port's capacity has climbed to around 15,000 shipping containers a year, more than doubling the capacity from when the terrorists were failing to run the port. And at the power plant, the gigantic engines are roaring again.

"Everyone is more relaxed, they are happier, salaries are getting paid on time," Bahaj said.

Sources: The Wall Street Journal, Zawya.com





UAE Hosts Law Enforcement Training

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

To help curb excessive use of force by law enforcement, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April 2017 hosted a regional workshop in Abu Dhabi organized by the United Nations Office

UAE police officers patrol a market. The country hosted a 2017 workshop on adopting a human rights-based approach to law enforcement.

on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Over three days, participants in the workshop, "Conduct of Law Enforcement Officials in Maintaining Order and Responding to Crime in the Middle East and North African (MENA) Countries," were encouraged to adopt a human rightsbased approach to law enforcement.

Experts from UNODC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights and the Swedish Police Authority led sessions on the legal and regulatory framework regarding the use of force and firearms and on the usefulness of various instruments of force in settings like public assemblies.

"This workshop provides us with a very good opportunity to share and exchange views between the U.N. and the participating experts from the Arab nations," said Hatem Aly, head of UNODC's Gulf Cooperation Council office. Discussions focused on the best ways to implement U.N. standards for criminal justice and human rights, he said.

The workshop produced a new training curriculum for police academies and recommendations for strengthening accountability and oversight of law enforcement agencies and enhancing dialogue between law enforcement and the public.

In hosting the event, the UAE partnered with officials from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and Libya. Holding the event in the UAE "embodied" the nation's vision to be among the safest countries in the world, said Maj. Gen. Khalifa Hareb al-Khaili, assistant undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Interior for Resources and Support Services.

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Rekindle Partnership

UNIPATH STAFF

When traders from Uzbekistan came to Tajikistan to show off their wares, it caused a minor sensation. The fair, held in Dushanbe, was the first of its kind since both countries' independence in 1991.

The goods on display at the Poytakht-90 trading house ranged from the small — everyday products such as candy, fabrics, medicine and footwear — to big-ticket items such as buses, cars, air conditioners and refrigerators. Attendees at the four-day fair, held in April 2017, were taken aback.

"Uzbekistan stunned us," economist Sharif Muhammad told EurasiaNet.org. "Over there, they produce everything from buses to household goods. The quality of their textile production is also excellent."

The fair served as a showcase for 160 Uzbek companies. Though the fourth day of the fair was marked by a "frenzy of sales," vendors considered this only a side benefit of a larger goal: establishing long-term business relationships.

After the fair, entrepreneurs from both countries gathered for an inaugural Tajik-Uzbek business forum, where they reportedly sealed 20 commercial supply deals worth a total of \$35 million for items including electronics, chemicals, food, building materials and automobiles.

Batyr Umarov, the regional manager for Tashkent-based Artel, said the fair revealed the potential of the Tajik market.

"For the past two years we have been studying this market, and last year we began exporting our goods to Tajikistan," Umarov said. "Thanks to this fair, we understand there is demand for our goods. We want everybody in Tajikistan to know our brand."

Tajik civil society activist Oynihol Bobonazarova believes it would prove advantageous for Tajikistan to import from Uzbekistan, rather than China and Turkey, as it currently does.

"We do not have our own manufacturing sector, and our neighbor has quality goods,"
Bobonazarova said. "It could even end up bringing our people closer." Source: EurasiaNet.org

GCC, U.S. AGREEMENT TARGETS TERROR FINANCING

UNIPATH STAFF

A day after admonishing Iran to dismantle its "network of terrorism," the United States joined the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in signing an agreement in May 2017 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to work more closely to choke off funding for extremist groups and to prosecute donors.

The memorandum of understanding was signed during talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and Gulf leaders on the final day of Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia. White House adviser Dina Powell said she hoped the agreement would be the "farthest-reaching commitment to not finance terrorist organizations" and that it would go beyond dismantling networks to prosecuting those involved in financing the organizations.

"The unique piece of it is that every single one of them are signatories on how they're responsible and will actually prosecute the financing of terrorism, including individuals," she said.

The agreement also provides for the creation of a center to combat terrorism funding, the state Saudi Press Agency reported. Efforts to counter terror financing stem from the understanding that military force alone cannot eradicate Daesh, said Mohammed al-Issa, secretary-general of the Saudi-based Muslim World League.

"We know these groups can only be defeated if we defeat their ideology," he said.

In a speech he gave during his time in Riyadh, Trump called on Muslim nations to "drive out" extremists. He emphasized that Muslims were the primary victims of these attacks and that "young Muslim boys and girls should be able to grow up free from fear, safe from violence and innocent of hatred."



His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, right, shakes hands with U.S. President Donald Trump during the May 2017 U.S.-GCC summit in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have a history of working to counter the terrorists' financial networks with assistance from the U.S. So do other key allies in the region such as Oman, praised for the transparency of its financial system that hinders criminal money laundering.

Expanding his contacts with GCC leaders, Trump held talks with rulers of Qatar and Bahrain ahead of the formal summit, and later also met the emir of Kuwait. He had already met His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, in Washington in March 2017. Just before Trump's Saudi trip, he was visited at the White House by His Royal Highness

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Sheikh Mohammed said the GCC-U.S. summit clearly reflected the importance of its member states in dealing with regional issues in cooperation with global allies, particularly the U.S.

Given the situation in the Middle East, Sheikh Mohammed said, the summit was an important opportunity to exchange views with the president on issues such as the security of the Arabian Gulf, terrorism and the complicated crises in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and other areas.

Sources: The National, The Washington Examiner, IraqiNews.com, Middle East Eye





AFGHANISTAN RECEIVES HELICOPTERS

UNIPATH STAFF

The United States plans to provide Afghanistan with up to 159 refurbished Black Hawk helicopters to replace an aging fleet of Russian Mi-17 transport helicopters, according to Afghan and U.S. defense officials.

The deal is part of Afghanistan's four-year plan to double its special forces unit and bolster the Afghan Air Force.

The addition of the Black Hawks will give security forces new leverage, said Ahmad Shah Katawazai, defense liaison and security expert at the Afghanistan Embassy in Washington, D.C.

"We are in the midst of an insurgency where the enemy is getting tacit support from neighboring countries," Katawazai said. "Our security forces are under immense pressure as they are fighting each day, on several fronts, with more than 20 terrorist organizations."

The U.S. designated about \$800 million in 2017 for the Afghan Air Force, which will pay for the delivery of 53 Black Hawks, a defense official told Military Times.

A fleet as large as 159 Black Hawks would nearly double the strength of the Afghan Air Force's current fleet of 78 Mi-17s. Many of those older helicopters are not equipped to fire rockets. Source: Military Times



KAZAKHSTAN OPENS NUCLEAR SECURITY TRAINING CENTER

UNIPATH STAFF

With the support of the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Kazakhstan in May 2017 opened a new center to provide training to its nuclear facility personnel. The center, at a site adjacent to Kazakhstan's Institute of Nuclear Physics, will train personnel from local, regional and international nuclear facilities in physical protection systems, nuclear material accounting and control systems, response forces and secure transportation.

The NNSA will continue to assist with management and operations plans, as well as training for the center's staff in curriculum development and delivery. Since Kazakhstan announced its intention to establish the center in 2012, the

NNSA has lent its expertise to the design and construction of the center.

"This training center demonstrates the Republic of Kazakhstan's commitment to nuclear security," said David Huizenga, NNSA acting deputy administrator for defense nuclear nonproliferation. "Further, it highlights how nations working together can enhance nuclear security worldwide."

Though Kazakhstan does not operate a nuclear power plant, it does operate research reactors and is the world's leading producer of uranium. With its current production of nuclear fuel pellets — and its plans to further develop its fuel cycle activities — Kazakhstan will by the end of 2017 host the low-enriched uranium fuel

"bank" on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"All this wealth carries the risks of sabotage and information leakage, which can occur even without breaking into the building," said Petr Chakrov, deputy director of the Institute of Nuclear Physics. "To implement security measures, we need specialists and training systems."

The center's opening ceremony was attended by Gumar Sergazin, deputy chair of the Kazakh Ministry of Energy's Committee for Nuclear and Energy Supervision and Monitoring, as well as U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan George Krol and other American officials.

Sources: World Nuclear News, National Nuclear Security Administration

Campaign Restores Mosul's Libraries

THE ARAB WEEKLY

"Let us read and let us dance; these two amusements will never do any harm to the world." The quote by French philosopher Voltaire is the motto of an Iraqi activist who is on a quest to revive Mosul's Central Library, which Daesh destroyed for harboring books it viewed as blasphemous.

"The best answer to terrorism is to rebuild libraries and fill them back with books," said the activist, who identifies himself as "Mosul Eye" and spoke on the condition of anonymity because he fears reprisals. "This will also help reconnect Mosul, through culture and sciences, with the world around it."

Daesh targeted Mosul's libraries with a clear message, Mosul Eye said: "Any type of knowledge and sciences and the idea of diversity of cultures are forbidden." To battle this toxic ideology, he launched an online book donation campaign in April 2017 called "Let it be a Book, Rising from the Ashes."

Before Daesh destroyed them, Mosul's libraries housed a treasure trove of UNESCO-registered rare books and precious manuscripts. In 2015, eight months after invading the city, Daesh ransacked the Central Library and burned more than 8,000 print copies and rare historical manuscripts on charges of blasphemy.

Mosul Eye aims to collect more than 200,000 books and all types of printed material — magazines, periodicals, newspapers, references, archives, and the like — in all disciplines and various languages.

"The idea is to have writers donate one of their books to Mosul. It will be so beautiful to have works of authors from around the world sitting in Mosul, which resisted deadly terrorism," the activist said.

"We want to open wide the doors of our city to the outside world and help Mosul return to the international fold "BUTTHE MOST
IMPORTANT THING IS
FOR RESIDENTS TO BE
AWARE THAT THERE
IS A BOOK FROM
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~ MOSUL EYE, ACTIVIST GROUP



Iraqis participate in a May 2017 initiative to buy and donate books to the University of Mosul's library, destroyed by Daesh terrorists. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

through culture and science. ... Our message to all is that we are not the inventors of terrorism, but terrorism was incidental and hung over our necks without mercy."

The destruction of Mosul's knowledge and culture was devastating for the whole country, because many valuable manuscripts may never be recovered, Mosul Eye said, adding: "I believe that Daesh was aware of the value of the documents and stole the most precious from the Central Library before the building was burned down."

Among the documents that Daesh was believed to have stolen was Mussolini's paper "Comments of the Year 1924 on 'The Prince' of Machiavelli." Others, including archives of Iraqi newspapers dating to the early 20th century and books printed under Ottoman rule, have been destroyed.

But Mosul Eye is adamant: "The best way to react to this carnage is by bringing back Shakespeare, Voltaire, Flaubert, Aristo, Plato, Descartes, Jane Austen and other writers and philosophers to Mosul."

The book donation campaign received an enthusiastic response from the international community. About 200 books have been donated, and a French association in Marseille has pledged to send 20 tons of books to Iraq. The books are being collected in Irbil, Iraq, where they are sorted, labeled and prepared for a more peaceful time when the libraries can be rebuilt.

"International participation in restoring libraries is a unique opportunity to arouse the world's interest in rebuilding Mosul," Mosul Eye said. "But the most important thing is for residents to be aware that there is a book from every corner of the world inside their city, making Mosul an example of the very cultural pluralism Daesh sought to destroy."

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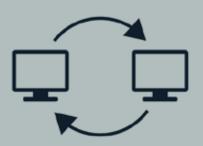
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