

**Saudi Arabia, Jordan  
Boost Partnership**

**Afghan Military  
Recruits Women**

**Al Anbar Forum  
Targets Daesh**

# UNIPATH



**Evolving to Address  
New Threats  
Regional Security  
Building Capacity  
Pivoting Toward Peace**





**Jockeys compete during the opening of the International Camel Racing festival at the Sarabium desert in Ismailia, Egypt, in March 2017.**

REUTERS







**Iraqi youths enjoy their weekend  
in the Shallalat district of eastern  
Mosul in April 2017.** REUTERS



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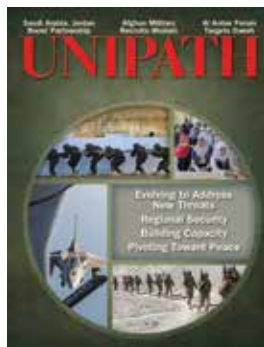
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#### ON THE COVER:

This special edition of *Unipath* presents four themes critical to peace and security in the Middle East and South and Central Asia.

UNIPATH ILLUSTRATION

## UNIPATH

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Volume 8

**CENTCOM  
COMMANDER**

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# KEY LEADER'S MESSAGE



**A**s commander of U.S. Central Command since March 2016, I have had the privilege of meeting with partners across the region to discuss mutual security concerns. I continue to be impressed by the effective and enduring cooperation in the central region.

CENTCOM's area of responsibility faces many daunting challenges. Violent extremist groups such as Daesh, al-Qaida and the Taliban continue to take advantage of instability to terrorize residents of the region. In the past year, the Iraqi military, supported by a multinational coalition, has achieved striking victories against Daesh, driving the terrorists from several major cities and regions of the country. At the same time, instability in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan continues to require the attention of multinational forces.

One thing is certain: We must work closely together using lethal and nonlethal means to degrade and destroy these extremist groups.

*Unipath* magazine is an effective forum to communicate with our partners in the region about advancing these and other common goals. This edition provides an overview of the four themes *Unipath* will focus on in the upcoming year: evolving to address new threats, regional security, building capacity and pivoting toward peace.

The first theme, evolving to address new threats, concerns the need for nations to evolve tactically to confront threats by sharing intelligence, blocking the flow of foreign fighters, and implementing media and online campaigns to counter terrorist ideology.

Regional security is a broad topic concerned mainly with the need to strengthen cooperation and partnerships. Peacekeeping operations, military exercises, maritime security, border protection and refugee assistance are among the means to strengthen regional ties.

Building capacity addresses the need to strengthen armed forces both quantitatively and qualitatively to deter bad actors. Good examples of that include partnerships embodied by the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Combined Maritime Forces, as well as cyber security measures to thwart attacks on vital computer systems.

The final theme, pivoting toward peace, focuses on post-conflict scenarios in which nations promote tolerance, regional cooperation, economic stability, military professionalism and good governance.

I hope the articles in this special edition of *Unipath* stimulate discussion and inspire many of you to share your views by contributing articles and interviews for future editions of the magazine. You can reach members of the *Unipath* team at [CENTCOM.UNIPATH@MAIL.MIL](mailto:CENTCOM.UNIPATH@MAIL.MIL).

**Joseph L. Votel**  
GEN, USA  
*Commander of U.S. Central Command*

# NEW THREATS, NEW STRATEGIES

*Countries throughout the region  
adapt to evolving challenges*

UNIPATH STAFF

**I**n the wake of a five-day spate of suicide bombings that shocked the nation — including one at a busy Muslim Sufi shrine that killed 86 devotees — the Pakistan Army announced the launch of a nationwide military operation to eliminate the terrorism threat.

The new campaign, launched in February 2017 and dubbed Radd-ul-Fasaad, or “Eliminating Discord,” represents a shift in strategy for Pakistan’s counter-terrorism forces, whose efforts have focused for a decade on the country’s ethnically diverse northwest tribal region. The government is sending the Armed Forces to Punjab province — a region increasingly viewed as a source of extremism and a threat to Pakistan’s stability.

“In Punjab, particularly in southern Punjab, there are sanctuaries of hardcore militants which have not been targeted before,” said Amjad Shoaib, a retired Army lieutenant general and defense analyst. “This time they will be taken to task, and that will help a lot in eliminating terrorism not only from Punjab but from other parts of the country, too.”

**A**fter meetings with Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, as well as senior officials in Punjab, the government agreed to send the Army into the province. Officials said the new operation would send 2,000 Army Rangers into Punjab for stints of several months. Unlike previous Army operations in other parts of Pakistan that have chiefly used force to flush out or kill terrorists, officials said, this one would involve mostly intelligence gathering. Missions will also include disarming extremist groups hiding throughout the country.

## BORDER SECURITY

Pakistan is not alone in adopting new and improved strategies to counter evolving threats. Iraq and its neighbors, observing the continued success of the Mosul offensive, are preparing for a world in which Daesh has lost most of its territory yet still poses a security threat. As Daesh leaders and fighters flee, surrounding countries must tighten security at their borders and in refugee camps.

In a January 2017 interview with The Associated Press, Brig. Gen. Sami Kafawin, chief of Jordan's border security, noted that Amman is deploying "more and more forces" at the border to safeguard against Daesh. In fact, nearly half of Jordan's military personnel and resources have been deployed along the Iraqi and Syrian borders.

"We reinforced our borders, especially in the northern part and eastern part," Kafawin told CNN. "We are reinforced by manpower, equipment and the whole weapons system. We need to make a balance between the security and the fighting, if it happens."

Commanders stationed at the northern border report nearly daily attempts by smugglers and infiltrators to cross into Jordan. But the troops are prepared for possible terrorist attacks, Kafawin said, because they know Daesh will attempt to expand its reach beyond Iraq and Syria.

## DEFEATING SECTARIANISM

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces have begun to turn their attention to a post-Daesh reality. Even after Daesh is defeated in Mosul, it will remain vital to promote Iraqi national identity above the narrow sectarianism and tribalism that created space for extremist ideology to take root. To this end, Iraqi Soldiers have worked hard to ensure that all Iraqis feel enfranchised and included in the country's political, economic and social life, protecting civilian lives and property even in the densely populated battleground of Mosul.

Partnering with civilian organizations, Iraqi and coalition forces are also combating extremism online, countering

**A member of the Iraqi Armed Forces participates in the advance on Daesh in west Mosul in March 2017. Iraqi Soldiers have worked hard to avoid civilian casualties in the densely populated city.**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE





terrorist propaganda that radicalizes followers in the name of establishing a “Virtual Caliphate.” The Iraqi government established a tip line for citizens to report instances of administrative corruption and repeatedly dropped leaflets advising Mosul’s civilians of safe routes out of the city. The Iraqi Directorate of Media and Morale Guidance, created in 2013, monitors social media sites for Daesh

activity, tracks the location of terrorists and exposes the dishonesty of their posts online. Employing psychologists and counterterror specialists, the ministry debunks terrorists’ online propaganda with hard evidence and photographs.

Since establishing the directorate, Iraq has seen vast improvement in its efforts to

counter Daesh. The directorate now has official websites and a verified social media page, which allows it to “respond swiftly to counter Daesh lies and inform our followers,” said Brig. Gen. Tahseen Ibrahim al-Khafaji, director of media and morale guidance.

The formation of this unit has fostered cooperation among Iraqi agencies in crafting a cohesive national narrative. In response, citizens have increasingly followed the directorate on social media and voluntarily offered information to expose Daesh lies.

## THE STRUGGLE IN THE SINAI

Egypt’s military, too, has recognized the need to combat a growing violent extremist presence in the Sinai Peninsula. Wilayat Sinai, a local affiliate of Daesh, has waged a campaign of terror and extremism. Recently, the group appears to have expanded its targets to include civilian Christians in addition to members of the security forces. The spate of religiously motivated killings prompted many Egyptian Christians to flee.

The Egyptian Army is working to maintain the upper hand in this battle. In February 2017, the Egyptian Armed Forces assumed control of a mountain in central Sinai where extremists had been seeking refuge. In March

2017, Egyptian forces killed extremists in an airstrike and a month later killed one of the group’s founders.

## INVESTING IN SPECIAL FORCES

With an attack on a military hospital in Kabul in March 2017, Daesh signaled a shift in strategy in Afghanistan. Where the group used to target large public gatherings — like a Shia Hazara minority group protest in 2016 — its hospital attack suggested a new approach requiring more planning, intelligence and reconnaissance to carry out effectively, analysts say.

In part, this shift in tactics may be due to effective Afghan and NATO efforts to reduce Daesh’s numbers in Afghanistan to under 1,000 and their territorial control from more than 10 districts to fewer than five. The Kabul attack suggests, however, that Daesh may be adapting and adjusting to its diminishing numbers.

“They have gone underground,” said Barnett Rubin, associate director of the Center on International Cooperation.

In response to the shifting threat, Afghanistan in March 2017 announced plans to double its elite special forces from the current 17,000 troops. In early 2017, special forces — which represent only a small fraction of the 300,000-strong armed forces — carried out nearly 70 percent of the Army’s offensive operations across the country.

Recruitment and training are already underway to create more commandos, as well as special forces support units handling first aid, intelligence, logistics and communications, NATO coalition spokesman Capt. Bill Salvin said.

During exercises at the Afghan Army’s special operations training base just outside Kabul, Soldiers were confident that they could handle the workload.

“There has been an increase in our operations, but we will keep up our efforts,” said Fawad Kamal, a special forces commander. “There hasn’t been any interruption.” ♦

Sources: IHS Jane’s 360, *The Washington Post*, *Hilal*, *The Tribune*, Fox News, CNN, Wired, News24.com, VOA News, Reuters

## Readers are invited

to submit articles or story ideas relevant to the theme “*Evolving to Address New Threats*.” Send them to **CENTCOM.UNIPATH@MAIL.MIL**



Syrian refugees in a makeshift camp between Syria and Jordan visit a medical clinic in March 2017. Jordan has deployed more forces to protect its border against Daesh.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



# RADD-UL-FASAAD: THE FINAL SHOWDOWN

*Maintaining civilian trust is crucial  
to defeating terrorists in Pakistan*

HASAN KHAN, HILAL

A fresh wave of terrorism, particularly deadly terrorist attacks in Lahore and Sehwan Sharif, has forced the Pakistani government to launch countrywide security operations against militants, their facilitators and sanctuaries.

The long-anticipated campaign, called Radd-ul-Fasaad, or “elimination of discord,” places a major focus on urban centers, compared to earlier hard-fought military operations that focused on peripheries such as tribal areas and the adjoining districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The campaign was apparently launched as a reaction to a fresh wave of terrorism; however, well-informed sources believe this campaign is part of a grand military strategy prepared and followed for years. When this strategy was formed, a fear of militants was widespread in society. In certain areas, they took control of territories and targeted security forces, law enforcement agencies and government installations.

It was decided to start gradually, first by denying militants physical space, and then targeting militants and their facilitators in their underground sanctuaries, particularly in the urban centers of Punjab.

No doubt, by its very nature Radd-ul-Fasaad is not going to be easy. It’s going to be tougher and more complicated because it brings the war against militants into the streets of densely populated centers.

Additionally, the operation does not focus on a specific area but rather covers the entire country. Law enforcement agencies cannot merely sweep the surface; they must go deep to clear the groups’ underground sanctuaries.

During earlier military offensives, battles were limited to certain geographical areas, which allowed for the evacuation of civilians and the isolation of terrorists. This gave security personnel more freedom to use heavy weaponry, including artillery, helicopter gunships or jet fighters. In Radd-ul-Fasaad, the inability to separate terrorists from the population precludes the use of heavy weaponry. Authorities must adopt a more intelligence-based approach, identifying targets using actionable intelligence before removing them from the populace.

Since its launch in February 2017, this “final showdown” against the enemy has had a different tempo than previous operations, which were conducted in conventional military style. This nationwide

intelligence-based campaign conveys a message to the enemy and its facilitators: They can no longer run from one area to another to avoid capture.

In addition to the Pakistan Armed Forces, the operations also include police and other law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, police involvement has created the impression that the campaign targeted those of a particular ethnic or regional background. Though unintentional, this impression could impede the operation and be exploited by Pakistan’s enemies. To avoid these consequences, Pakistan Army leadership must address these concerns without delay.

Planners of Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad foresee a results-oriented exercise that uses elements of surprise. The goal is not to strike randomly or arrest people on the basis of mere suspicion or ethnicity. In the past, the usual target areas were slums and localities where low-income people live. Such police work is sometimes good only for optics and generating reports.

But terrorists are not ordinary thieves or street criminals to be browbeaten or rounded up chaotically. The sooner these actions are reorganized, the better. Otherwise, the campaign may fail to produce the desired results. All efforts must be taken to make it a decisive blow to the enemy.

By virtue of the fact that the “battleground” lies deep in population centers, Radd-ul-Fasaad is a complicated endeavor. It is a test of both the political and military leadership — failure is not an option.

To create the desired national impact and send a strong message to the enemies, political leadership, civil society and all law enforcement agencies must be on the same page. All branches of the security apparatus, including the Army, Air Force, Navy and Rangers, must be involved, with law enforcement agencies assisted through actionable intelligence.

Once the direct and latent terrorist threats are eliminated, the next phase must target sectarian and other extremist organizations. Such organizations may not pose immediate or direct threats, but they nevertheless serve to radicalize society and give the country a bad name. A majority of militants who join terrorist or jihadi organizations were once members of sectarian groups.

Radd-ul-Fasaad will be difficult because unlike past counterterrorism operations, in which heavy weapons were used, Soldiers will be combing the population for suspects using good intelligence. For such intelligence operations to succeed, the Armed Forces must win the hearts and minds of the people. Failure to do so risks spoiling the gains of past military offensives, to the benefit of the enemy.

To its credit, the military has conducted tough campaigns against militants, and Radd-ul-Fasaad shall prove to be a culmination of these — a test of the country’s new military leadership.

Of all the military operations, Rah-e-Rast, launched in May 2009 in Swat valley, was the most difficult. Militants had taken physical control of Swat following a peace deal with the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Within three months, Swat was cleared and handed over to civilian administration, and millions of displaced people returned home.

The military earned additional credit for taking the fight to the heavily forested valleys of Shawal and Tirah in North Waziristan and the Khyber Agencies by launching Zarb-e-Azb. This operation destroyed the command and control centers of hardened militant organizations.

As the battle against militants enters the urban centers, the people have high expectations for the new commander of Pakistan’s Army, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, who, though new to the job, is deeply experienced.

A version of this article was originally published in March 2017. Hilal is the official magazine of the Pakistan Armed Forces.



UAE planes perform  
in an Abu Dhabi air  
show in March 2017.





# COALITIONS *against* CONFLICT

UNIPATH STAFF

## *Regional and international security depend on partnerships and cooperation*

**W**hen the international community called for ships and Sailors to defeat piracy and smuggling in the Arabian Sea and Arabian Gulf, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) answered the call. When the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sent troops to stabilize Yemen, the UAE arrived in force. When peacekeeping missions converged on Somalia, Bosnia and Lebanon, the Emirates supplied personnel, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars to aid refugees and other victims of war.

“The UAE Armed Forces is an active party in the face of the main sources of threats [to] regional and international security,” said Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE minister of state for defence affairs. “The participation of the Armed Forces in missions abroad, in the Gulf, the Arab world and worldwide has helped to promote the UAE’s position regionally and globally, as it is now seen as an actor in promoting

global peace and stability. There is no doubt that all of this has enhanced the civilized image of the UAE in the international community.”

As the multifaceted experiences of the UAE make clear, regional security is impossible without building coalitions and sharing the burden of maintaining security. Because threats such as terrorism and piracy are transnational, the collective response must be transnational as well. Military exercises, peacekeeping operations, maritime missions, border protection, military exercises, and humanitarian assistance: No nation can conduct these stability-enhancing initiatives alone.

### PEACEKEEPING

The UAE has played an outsized role in helping to stabilize Afghanistan after decades of civil war. It has not only built hospitals and schools, but paid the ultimate price when its ambassador was murdered by terrorists in Afghanistan in January 2017. Jordan, too, has supplied not just fighting forces, but military imams and female troops to serve as village liaisons spreading the message of religious tolerance.

Yemen’s President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi asked for assistance after Houthi rebels, allied with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, took the capital by force, forcing the legitimate government to flee in 2015. In response, Saudi Arabia formed a coalition of 10 member states. An important achievement came in April 2016, when the Yemeni government and coalition successfully ejected al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula from Mukalla in Hadhramout province. This deprived the terrorist group of a significant source of revenue. Efforts continue to eliminate terrorist safe havens in Yemen.



**A Jordanian Soldier helps a Syrian child board a Jordanian Army truck near al-Ruqban refugee camp.**

REUTERS

United Nations peacekeeping missions, mostly in Africa, continue to draw strength from Soldiers, military advisors and police officers from Egypt, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Qatar, Pakistan and Yemen. For countries such as Pakistan and Jordan, these commitments are long-standing. Pakistan, for example, has sent more than 100,000 troops in the past 50 years and had more than 7,100 Soldiers engaged in early 2017.

## MARITIME

The Combined Maritime Task Force, based in Bahrain, is a coalition of about two dozen nations that provide ships and Sailors for patrols in the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb strait and Arabian Gulf. The three task forces, called Combined Task Forces (CTFs) 150, 151 and 152, include policing operations that helped suppress Somali piracy. As recently as 2011, Somali pirates hijacked 151 ships, but by 2016 an international naval coalition had reduced such hijackings to zero.

Nevertheless, naval commanders recognize the difficulty of declaring final victory on a battlefield as unpredictable as the high seas. In April 2017, after an absence of two years, Somali pirates attacked and hijacked a foreign oil tanker and held the ship and its crew for ransom. It was the first such attack in more than two years but a reminder that the coalition can't let down its guard.

The Yemeni Naval and Coast Defense Forces have slowly been rebuilding fleets and bases to enable the government to patrol territorial waters that hug a coastline of about 2,000 kilometers. As Yemeni Rear Adm. Abdullah Salim Ali Abdullah Al-Nakhai noted in a *Unipath* article in 2017, the country views its maritime role as collaborative, requiring technical support and financial assistance from its allies and partners.

"We hope to prepare the Navy so that it is able to protect our territorial waters, as well as our great wealth in fish

stocks, from overfishing," the admiral said. "We have great ambitions to build a professional and national naval force loyal to God and country."

So important are naval operations, Pakistan invited a broad multinational training audience to its Aman 17 exercise in the Arabian Sea in February 2017. That exercise was the fifth of the series, attracting such countries as Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, the UAE and the United States.

## MILITARY EXERCISES

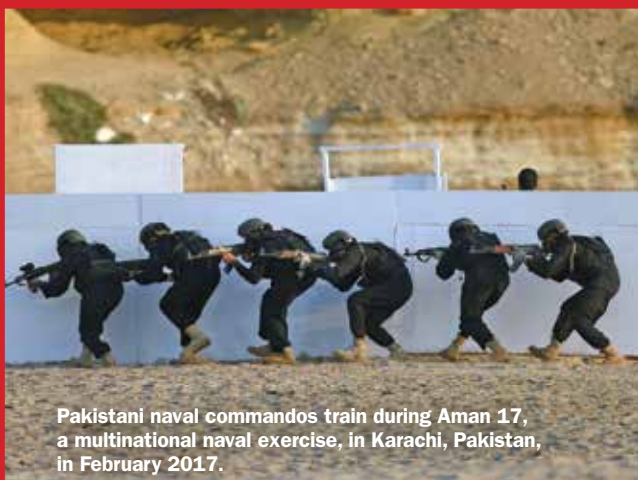
A series of other military exercises in the spring and summer of 2017 re-emphasized the critical importance of sharing best practices among partner militaries. In April, Kuwait successfully hosted the multinational Eagle Resolve exercise focused on unconventional threats such as terrorist attacks. A few weeks later, Bahrain hosted the International Maritime Exercise with a focus on naval interdictions, minesweeping and counternarcotics in the Arabian Gulf and beyond.

In May 2017, Jordan once again hosted Eager Lion. For the seventh time, the kingdom invited partner nations' forces to conduct air, sea and land training across the breadth of the country, from the northern desert to the Gulf of Aqaba.

Not everything focuses strictly on military preparedness. The Central Region Communications Conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2017 brought together leaders from 10 countries to discuss the far-ranging threat of criminality in cyberspace. Computer hacking endangers not only military communication but also vital civilian sectors such as petroleum production, electricity generation, water purification, manufacturing and banking.

Regional Cooperation, an annual exercise held in Tajikistan in July 2017, concentrated on Central Asian nations and explored ways they can cope with natural disasters and terrorist attacks. Sponsored by U.S. Central Command, this exercise has occurred annually since 2001.





Pakistani naval commandos train during Aman 17, a multinational naval exercise, in Karachi, Pakistan, in February 2017.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## BORDER SECURITY

Border defense by its nature is two-sided, and no one nation can do it alone. In the absence of effective security on Syria's southern border, Jordan has taken extraordinary steps to defend itself from Daesh and its sympathizers. Nearly half of the Jordan Armed Forces are dedicated to border control, and a system of electronic sensors on the Syrian border have helped minimize smuggling and infiltration. The kingdom also established an orderly system to handle streams of refugees that have fled Syria for the safety of Jordan.

Central Asian countries have also recognized the need for border security in a region where lightly populated mountainous and desert terrain can favor arms and narcotics smugglers. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has offered training for border guards with the aim of stopping the flow of opium, arms and criminals, a flow encouraged by instability in Afghanistan caused by the Taliban and Daesh. In 2016, Uzbekistan completed a \$2.8 million upgrade to its Lyavob Border Post.

Pakistan has conducted several operations to try to pacify its northwest territories, a region that has served as a launching pad for terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The most publicized was Operation Zarb-e-Azb, organized after terrorist attacks on innocent citizens provoked a public outcry.

## NONSECTARIANISM

The post-conflict environment will require attention that transcends military force. To truly build stability, nations need to pinpoint and uproot sources of conflict that feed false terrorist narratives.

Reinforcing a national identity that supersedes loyalty to sect and tribe has been a goal of many nations in the Middle East and South and Central Asia. Religiously diverse Lebanon has managed to avoid much of the conflict ravaging neighboring Syria through a political system designed to defuse sectarian tensions.

Jordan, too, has successfully stitched together a nation from various ethnic and religious groups united in their loyalty to the Hashemite monarchy. Through the Amman Message he has promoted worldwide, His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan has been a global leader in highlighting Islam's incompatibility with violent extremism.

For other nations, avoiding sectarianism has presented a greater challenge. With the looming defeat in Iraq of Daesh — which inflamed and exploited sectarian divisions for its own evil goals — Baghdad has begun focusing on rebuilding a sense of single nationhood within the population.

In the Arabian Gulf countries, the Abu Dhabi-based anti-terror center Hedayah has launched "Creative Minds for Social Good," a public-private initiative with Facebook and the U.S. State Department, to counter terrorist propaganda with positive online content and credible voices in the Middle East. The Sawab Center, also based in the UAE, does similar work to defuse the differences extremists use to inflame their adherents.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Syria, and to a lesser extent Yemen, have been major recipients of international donations. In April 2017, at the Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, nations promised to spend \$6 billion for the more than 20 million people affected by war in the Middle East in 2017 and another \$3.7 billion in 2018. The Brussels conference was attended by the prime ministers of Lebanon and Jordan and the foreign ministers of Kuwait and Qatar.

"The reconstruction of Syria will require a massive international effort," said Federica Mogherini, the European Union high representative for foreign affairs. "Too many times, we were unprepared for peace. We have to start preparing for that day, even if today [it] seems very far away."

GCC countries have supplied millions of dollars to support refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, two of Syria's neighbors bearing the brunt of the refugee crisis. Food, medicine, school supplies are among the necessities this foreign generosity provides.

In early 2017, at least a half million Yemenis remained internally displaced. Regional donors, including the Emirati Red Cross and the Saudi King Salman Center, have helped sustain Yemen's population through the difficult times with supplies and critical services, such as immunizations for children and programs to prevent malnutrition.

"The UAE does not provide conditional assistance," nor does it provide aid "for the sake of reciprocal interests," said His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the UAE. "It does so only for the good and stability of all peoples." ♦

Sources: *Gulf News*, *Nation Shield* magazine, the United Nations

## Readers are invited

to submit articles or story ideas relevant to the theme "*Regional Security*." Send them to  
**CENTCOM.UNIPATH@MAIL.MIL**





**New recruits to the Afghan National Army's special forces take part in a military exercise outside Kabul in February 2017. Afghan military leaders rely on special forces to conduct most missions.** REUTERS



# STRENGTHENING MILITARIES

**JORDAN, THE UAE AND AFGHANISTAN FOCUS ON  
BUILDING CAPACITY OF THEIR ARMED FORCES**

UNIPATH STAFF

**A military's capacity to defend its homeland and, when necessary, to project power on multinational missions is typically measured by the quantity and quality of troops, equipment and training. When it comes to strengthening armed forces in the face of immediate and potential threats, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Afghanistan have devised unique approaches to building military capacity within the constraints imposed by budgets and resources.**



### JORDAN: NEW STRATEGY AND NCOs

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan recently called for an overhaul of the kingdom's Armed Forces to advance a more professional, mobile military attuned to a digital age in which ideological battles can be as strategically significant as kinetic operations.

Since 2004, when the king published his Amman Message, the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) has conducted specialized training for military imams at the Prince Hassan College for Islamic Studies, where lectures promote authentic Islam and expose extremists as criminals who abuse religion. These imams have spread their message throughout Jordan and beyond to places such as Afghanistan, where they served as military chaplains in villages.

In recent years, the kingdom has also invested in upgraded weapons and equipment — including reducing reliance on tank formations less useful on today's battlefield. In particular, it has focused on advanced border surveillance systems that help detect terrorists and smugglers attempting to cross into the kingdom.

But Jordan has expended perhaps its greatest efforts toward improvements to military training. In addition to hosting the annual Eager Lion exercise, the JAF has addressed a deficiency in its employment of noncommissioned officers (NCOs) by embarking on a multiyear training program to give these corporals and sergeants greater autonomy and authority on the battlefield.

Dozens of Jordanian NCOs attended school for a year at the United States Army's Warrior Leader Course at Fort Bliss, Texas, taking advantage of classroom instruction and opportunities to shadow American NCOs as they performed their

duties. After the NCOs completed training, Jordan posted many of these newly trained men to units in Afghanistan to test their abilities under the stresses of peacekeeping and combat missions.

To maintain momentum, the JAF has set up its own training programs at home with the help of instructors from U.S. Central Command's Military Assistance Program. Progress hasn't been perfect: Trainers have reported resistance from Jordanian officers trained in the days when delegating authority to noncommissioned colleagues was construed as weakness. Experts suggest the problem isn't unique to Jordan but is a cultural phenomenon familiar to militaries throughout the region.

Nevertheless, Jordanian NCOs have praised the training from their partners.

"We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to train with and learn from U.S. NCOs," JAF 1st Sgt. Mohammad Omar Almaitah said after graduating from a course in late 2016. "We look forward to the next phase of training and working with the U.S. military."

### UAE: ARMED AND READY

With a small native population best known for its business acumen, the UAE has done an exemplary job of building a professional military that packs maximum punch. The year 2014 ushered in military conscription for citizens 18 and older. Combining that extra manpower with modern military hardware it has acquired over the years — including the recent multibillion-dollar purchase of Apache attack helicopters — the Emirates has been extending its military reach to fight extremism beyond its borders.

It recently employed its Air Force to strike Daesh positions in Syria and unleashed skilled ground troops to drive al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula from Mukalla, Yemen's fifth-largest city. In both cases, the UAE played a leading role in multinational coalitions assembled for those purposes.

As a member of the Combined Maritime Forces, the multinational naval coalition based in Bahrain, the UAE has contributed ships and Sailors to counterpiracy and counter-smuggling missions in the Arabian Sea and beyond.

At the same time, the UAE has made use of soft power, helping to rebuild Afghanistan's hospitals, school and roads in an attempt to reduce popular support for the Taliban and other extremists.

The UAE is also turning to international partnerships to develop a domestic defense industry that will allow it to more quickly replenish military equipment. The creation of Emirates Defense Industries Co. in 2014 represented a big step toward that goal.

Nimr Automotive, a subsidiary of the company, won a multibillion-dollar contract to supply the Armed Forces with more than 1,000 armored vehicles manufactured in the UAE. Further contracts to produce naval and aviation components are forthcoming.

### AFGHANISTAN: A FOCUS ON SPECIAL FORCES

Though it can be difficult to secure funds to strengthen the



A Jordan Armed Forces noncommissioned officer, right, graduates from the Jordan Basic Instructor Course in December 2016. U.S. CENTCOM



# SAFEGUARDING CYBER SYSTEMS

MAJ. GEN. MAHDI YASIR ZUBAIDI, DIRECTOR OF MILITARY COMMUNICATION, IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

In Iraq, the growth of the internet's popularity — for security, business and personal use — coincided with a lack of secure cyber infrastructure. 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.

Likewise, the rapid development of cyber/communication technologies will require all local and international entities to cooperate to demonstrate the importance of network security in the policymaking process. Through collaboration, government and private institutions can safeguard vital cyber infrastructure and strengthen cyber security.

A national cyber security strategy must be put in place in accordance with international standards, such as those of the International Telecommunication Union and other organizations. This will lead to the creation of a strategic plan to safeguard and strengthen our information infrastructure. This can be accomplished through the following steps:

- Form a national team able to respond to cyber threats and eliminate their risks.
- Raise awareness of cyber security issues and improve users' ability to make smart decisions in managing cyber threats.

- Increase the number and quality of cyber security engineering groups through continuous training.
- Organize a national cyber security working group able to set strategic standards for cyber security training and professional development.
- Ensure continual modernization of and secure financial allowances for network infrastructure development support through equipment and programs that conform to global encryption and cyber security standards.
- Establish provisional data centers to provide rapid support in case the original centers are compromised or exposed to threats.

The Iraqi Ministry of Defense is preparing strategies to implement the aforementioned steps and guarantee the most modern and secure cyber/communications technology systems infrastructure. This will help to achieve command, control, communications and intelligence goals.

I would like to thank all the participants at the recent Central Region Communications Conference in Washington, D.C., which aimed to shed light on cyber security issues, spread a culture of cyber security among the public and concerned institutions, and establish connections among governmental cyber security specialists. It is our hope in Iraq to share information about cyber security initiatives and strengthen cooperation in matters related to cyber security.

#### IN THE NEXT UNIPATH:

U.S. Central Command hosted the Central Region Communications Conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2017. The conference focused on responding to cyber incidents and brought together experts and participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. Check out the next edition of *Unipath* to read about the event and other cyber security initiatives.

Armed Forces in Afghanistan — a uniquely challenging environment, given its recent wars and struggling economy — the country's special forces remain a bright spot for the country's military.

Kabul aims to double the manpower it commits to the Afghan National Army's Special Operations Command. It employs about 17,000 Soldiers in units such as the Ktah Khas, the country's elite national counterterrorism force, and in specially trained commando battalions.

"Our commando forces could be further strengthened, and they should receive more arms and new and sophisticated equipment," said Gen. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

The Air Force sometimes struggles to find resources and personnel for missions, but Afghan commanders have managed to build a Special Mission Wing of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to conduct daylight and nighttime assaults, counterterrorism and counternarcotics operations, close air support, surveillance and reconnaissance.

In April 2017, Gen. Waziri announced that the Air Force awaited the arrival of dozens of new helicopters and airplanes, equipment that U.S. Central Command commanders believe could improve the performance of the Afghan military.

Afghan special forces carry out an estimated 70 percent of all missions in the country, proof of the confidence that leaders place in their training and abilities.

"This ability to deal with simultaneous crises ... is a sign of an army that's growing in capability," Gen. John Nicholson, commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan, said at the end of 2016. ♦

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# Jordan's National Security Strategy

{ *Expanding beyond the military and police*

COL. MAMDOH SULAIMAN AL-AMERI, DIRECTOR OF JORDAN'S STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

A country's interests are the vital issues related to its sovereignty, security, safety, peace, constitution, laws, stability, strength, capabilities, development and resources. This includes all that is related to the political, economic, defense, social, commercial, industrial, cultural and other powers of the country, whether in the present or future.

According to changes in security concepts since the early 1990s, Jordan believes that the comprehensive concept of security is no longer limited to hard security cases. It goes beyond that to encompass soft security cases related by dimensions other than security.

In Jordan, stability and prosperity in the political, economic, social, technical, media and environmental fields are considered the true pillars of national security. Any violation of this stability and prosperity is deemed a serious threat and challenge to the country and society. From this perspective, the issues discussed in newspapers, such as poverty, unemployment, economic growth, inflation, population growth and the water problem, whether discussed in combination or individually, represent a threat to internal stability and prosperity. Consequently, they form a substantial challenge to national security.

The national security apparatus has two functions: security and defense. Defense is assigned mainly to the Armed Forces and security authorities, in addition to the secondary role played by the country's civilian agencies. Security is mainly assigned to the country's civilian agencies, though the Armed Forces and security authorities play a secondary role. Accordingly, all elements of the country's authorities and civil society organizations become primary tools in pursuit of Jordanian national

security. This means that traditionally specialized fields such as health, education and development will no longer remain specialized. Rather, they will fall within the scope of Jordanian national security. According to these standards, the national security vision includes political stability, economic and social development, foreign political relationships, deep understanding and accurate processing of international/regional environmental dynamics, and domestic politics.

Jordanian national security is not limited to the military, which protects the country's sovereign borders. The Jordanian military is not the only answer to national security issues. The security of countries is a combination of patriotic and dynamic variables that ensure the country's sovereignty, freedom in its political decisions, internal security, social stability, ability to meet the developmental, economic, political, social, scientific and technical requirements of its society, and the capacity to find innovative economic, scientific and political solutions for society's national security issues.

## Priorities

Each country has vital matters it protects from outside interference. Great importance is placed on the procedures to guarantee and safeguard those matters. A top priority of Jordanian national security is to defend the country's pillars (people, land, sovereignty and law), vital interests, internal stability, resources, wealth, strength, ability to develop the country, vital information and policy independence.

National security success requires effective coordination among its basic elements in different fields. In the



military and security fields, the country must work on building Armed Forces able to protect its vital values because the internal and external security of the country comes before everything else. The military force includes a general framework that provides the security and protection of the country's resources and capabilities in order to achieve growth, development and national security objectives in its comprehensive concept.

If the country's external security requires developing a comprehensive military system for defense, then internal security includes ensuring citizens' satisfaction by protecting such citizens' rights with relation to each other, as well as securing, defending, and protecting citizens' rights in the surrounding social environment.

As to the external policy field, the country must form a diplomatic authority and increase its efficiency in using its sources of power and international and regional organizations, mobilizing public opinion, and using the political power of other countries with interests in the region. This is all for the purpose of explaining the country's objectives, increasing its global influence and managing the country's external policy. Within this framework, it is possible to establish international and regional relationships, enter into alliances and make treaties to serve the country's national objectives. It is necessary that this dimension assist and support other national security dimensions. It is impossible to have a strong economy or efficient military power without the support of effective policy.

### **Characteristics**

Jordanian national security has specific features that allow it to protect the country and society and maintain its sovereignty and existence. There are two main aspects. The first is a material one, and its components can be easily determined and expressed quantitatively. They can also be easily calculated, assessed and compared with their counterparts in other countries and societies. The elements of strength and weakness can be differentiated.

The second aspect is one of morale and current politics. This is intangible and difficult to express quantitatively. Accurate calculations are replaced by the assessment of tangible effects and results (i.e., the power of the intangible aspect can be assessed by its effects).

For example, a fighting unit will be significantly depressed when it fails to accomplish its mission, despite being highly trained and equipped with high-quality weapons. Similarly, if the country's agricultural production is below the required quantity and quality, in spite of the availability of all production elements, the country in general and the agricultural community in particular will suffer from low spirits.

Although it is difficult to quantify morale, any comprehensive security study must express tangible and intangible elements. When the national security concept contains these two aspects, it will identify weak points

in the country's strategy. Then the nation can work to overcome those weak elements by taking precautionary procedures, which ensure that the weakness will not result in the nation's demise. Thus, the political theorist must cooperate with the military planner in developing political principals and planning precautionary procedures to maintain the nation's existence and security.

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**In Jordan, stability and prosperity in the political, economic, social, technical, media and environmental fields are considered the true pillars of national security. Any violation of this stability and prosperity is deemed a serious threat and challenge to the country and society.**

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The second aspect of national security is derived from the geopolitical characteristics of the territory. Thus, it is the result of interaction among its local, regional and international dimensions. However, each level is affected and impacted by:

- Local factors related to protecting society from internal threats that are probably supported by external adversaries and inconsistent with the existing political system and the true principles of its people.
- Regional factors related to the country's relationship with other countries in the same territory, particularly geographically adjacent countries.
- International factors, such as relationships linking the country with the international community, the nature of its alliances with others, and its relationship with the world order (i.e., its degree of dependency on superpowers in the world order).

Therefore, the national security concept tends to be related to rules of international and regional integration. On the one hand, these rules are derived from the geopolitical characteristics of the territory, represented by location, geographic phenomena, nature of the land, society, and resources, which constitute a form of balance among the (local) subjectivity to protect nationalism and patriotism. On the other hand, they are derived from the policy of peaceful coexistence, which is imposed by geographical proximity. ♦



# Water Promotes Stability

*{ In the Middle East's arid climate, innovative partnerships can safeguard water security }*

UNIPATH STAFF

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A shortage of fresh water means a surplus of political tension — a truism to which the Middle East has repeatedly borne witness. Economic despair caused by drought was among the stresses that sparked the 2011 uprisings in rural Daraa, Syria, one factor that led to the country's ongoing civil war. With climate change continuing to alter the region's rainfall patterns, Amman, Cairo and other cities have witnessed mass migration and unplanned urbanization driven in part by access to plentiful water.

Though affluent Arabian Gulf countries have so far managed to avoid the direst consequences of their water shortages, engineers warn that existing technologies can't alleviate this scarcity forever. At its rate of water consumption, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) could deplete its natural freshwater reserves in decades, a 2005 report from the Emirates Industrial Bank noted.

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**“We are seeing increased tensions between refugees and host communities.”**

*- Daniel Gorevan, Oxfam*

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In countries such as Lebanon and Jordan, an influx of Syrian refugees threatens to stretch reservoirs beyond capacity. In those countries, host communities and new arrivals can find themselves too close for comfort, competing for an already-scarce resource and stirring resentment between the two groups. Water shortages have led to worsening sanitation and higher rates of illness among refugees, according to Oxfam.

“We are seeing increased tensions between refugees and host communities across the different countries,” said Daniel Gorevan, who leads Oxfam's Syria Crisis policy. Countries such as Lebanon must “develop their infrastructure and ensure the services provided benefit refugees and poor host communities alike.”

## Potable water in Jordan

Jordan has taken great strides to address these challenges. In March 2017, Jordan opened its first desalination plant, in Aqaba, set to work at a capacity of 500,000 liters per hour, according to *The Jordan Times*. The plant is an example of public-private partnership: It will run in affiliation with the KEMAPCO Arab Fertilizers and Chemicals Industries, allowing the kingdom to recover its investment after seven years. Jordanian Water Minister Hazem Nasser said the project will meet Aqaba's water needs until 2035.

In the next few years, Aqaba will see the opening of a second desalination plant as part of the \$10 billion, multinational Red Sea-Dead Sea Project. The World Bank-financed project will produce not just fresh water, but a salty brine to replenish the Dead Sea, which has shrunk dramatically in the past 20 years from the diversion of the Jordan River.

“Potable water is a priority in Jordan,” said Saad Abu Hamour, secretary-general of the Jordan Valley Authority. “We are trying to secure it by linking the two seas.”

The brine will be pumped along a 180-kilometer pipeline between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Dead Sea. Jordan has been the strongest proponent of the Red-Dead canal, as it's known in environmental circles. At the same time, the project will include the construction of a hydroelectric plant to supply electricity to Jordan and surrounding countries.





**Swimmers enjoy a tributary of the Jordan River, which, thanks to desalination and wastewater recycling efforts, may be recovering after decades of depletion. REUTERS**

“The deal will help satisfy Jordan’s increasing water needs for development,” Nasser said.

Collaborating with the United States Agency for International Development, Jordan has also expanded and rehabilitated its wells and irrigation canals and trained hundreds of water experts. Several water networks and wastewater treatment plants have been built and renovated in recent years.

### **Innovation in the Gulf**

Gulf countries are among the world’s leaders in finding high-tech solutions to water shortages. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar are home to 45 percent of the world’s desalination plants; Saudi Arabia alone plans to spend nearly \$25 billion to expand desalination capacity. Saudi Arabia’s Saline Water Conversion Co. is the largest desalinated-water company in the world, producing almost 3 billion liters per day, representing 50 percent of the kingdom’s drinking water. In 2015, the Saudi-based Advanced Water Technology announced the development of the al-Khafji desalination plant, the world’s first large-scale solar-powered desalination plant. Upon completion in 2017, the plant will produce 60 million liters of fresh water a day for the city of al-Khafji.

Desalination presents its own challenges: The process is comparatively expensive and can place a strain on the environment, particularly in shallow bodies of water like the Gulf.

Engineers like Qatar University’s Farid Benyahia have proposed myriad innovative solutions to this problem, including Benyahia’s creation of a procedure to safely dispose of brine, the high-salinity output of the desalination process.

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**“Joint projects can increase security between both countries by reducing tensions.”**

*- Raed Bashitialshaaer, Lund University*

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In an interview with *Unipath*, Professor Raed Bashitialshaaer of Sweden’s Lund University advocated for the construction of multinational desalination plants and “water transport” initiatives — like that between Turkey and Cyprus — between water-rich and water-poor countries.

“Joint projects can increase security between both countries by reducing tensions,” he said. If countries build more than one plant in the same location, he added, they can reduce the average costs of the projects. ♦

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Sources: U.N.-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, Oxfam, *The Jordan Times*, U.S. Agency for International Development, *The Water Project*, *The Guardian*, Middle East Policy Council, [water-technology.net](http://water-technology.net), [waterworld.com](http://waterworld.com), Reuters, [desalination.biz](http://desalination.biz)



# Peace THROUGH Patriotism

*To ensure its security, Kazakhstan must build a sense of nationhood*

NURIM ZULUPKAROVICH OASPANOV, NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, KAZAKHSTAN

The enormous changes in recent years, as well as the problems inherent in raising a new generation, have led to a re-evaluation of patriotic education and its role in public life. Patriotic education has become integral to all activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

These issues are more relevant than ever and concern not just the level of self-awareness of Kazakhstan's citizens, but are also reflected in the culture, politics, and even scientific and technological advancements.

A "patriot," according to the dictionary of Vladimir Dal, is a "lover of his homeland, a champion of its well-being, lover of his native soil, devoted to his fatherland, proud of his country." The Soviet Encyclopedic Dictionary defines "patriotism" as "love for country." More contemporary understandings of patriotism connect an individual's consciousness with his emotions toward his native environment, his upbringing, childhood and adolescent impressions, and his development as an individual.

## Let's assign "patriotism" and "patriot" the following definitions:

1. Reverence for the place of one's birth and continued residence; love and concern for a given territorial formation; respect for local traditions; and allegiance until the end of one's life to a given territory.
2. Respect for one's ancestors, love and tolerance for all of one's countrymen living in a given territory, and the desire to help them and dissuade them from doing evil. The main measure of this respect is benevolence toward fellow citizens.

3. Taking daily, concrete steps to develop one's motherland; providing help to one's countrymen and fellow citizens (beginning with the maintenance of order, tidiness, and ever-improving friendly relationships with neighbors within one's apartment, stairwell, building, and housing complex, all the way up to satisfactory development of one's entire city, district, province, and homeland as a whole).

Thus, the broader the territory a patriot considers to be his homeland (up to and including his country in its entirety), the more love and concern he expresses toward his countrymen.

The true patriot respects the patriots of other lands and poses no threat to them. In his own country, together with fellow patriots, he struggles against those who wish to do it harm — unpatriotic citizens with a minimal or defective patriotic consciousness, or those who sow animosity toward their countrymen, mistreat their compatriots and poison the environment. Alcoholism, drug addiction, hazing in the army, corruption, and embezzlement of public funds are all expressions of unpatriotic behavior in Kazakhstan.

Patriotism is an extremely private sentiment, located deep in the soul (or the subconscious). It's possible to judge people's patriotism only by their actions, not their words.

The patriot isn't one who declares himself to be so, but rather one who is judged to be so by others. Thus, the only person who can be called a true patriot is one who constantly improves his physical and moral well-being, who is brought up well, educated and enlightened, who has a normal family, who reveres his ancestors, who raises



and educates his descendants in the finest traditions, who appropriately maintains his living environment and continually improves his lifestyle and behavior for the good of his country. He participates in public events or organizations with a patriotic orientation, i.e., directed toward the unity of compatriots with the goal of improving and developing his motherland and increasing the number of his enlightened compatriots.

The independence of our state is a vivid symbol of pride for Kazakh patriotism. An elevated and solemn understanding of independence forms the basis of the national idea of Kazakhstan, which serves to unite our people and will become the priceless inheritance of our descendants.

Patriotism doesn't grow on barren soil. Its roots are deeply embedded in a knowledge of the history of the country and an understanding and respect for the activities of those generations whose efforts secured Kazakhstan's independence and success. Embodied within the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, patriotism is among the foundational principles of the state.

Particular attention should be directed toward the state's symbols of independence. Instilling patriotism and respect for the country begins with respecting these symbols. The meaning of the state's symbols is inseparably connected with the concept of sovereignty. These symbols reflect the values, principles, priorities and the historical fate of the country and are a component of the state's standing in the international arena.

The symbols of a sovereign Kazakhstan reflects the general orientation of the ideology of the independent state, its historical development, frame of mind and philosophy, and is the embodiment of the centuries-old dream of both the Kazakh people and the multiethnic society of freedom and an independent path of development. For that reason, its widespread promotion and appropriate internal government use encourages the formation of national self-awareness founded on patriotism, love of country, a striving to serve its interests and a willingness to rise to its defense.

### Essential to the development of patriotism in Kazakhstan are:

**First**, we must channel patriotism not toward destruction, but toward creation, both in public life and among those in power. With respect to a new governing elite, we must welcome fresh energy and the participation of our younger generation. Those coming into power should possess a feeling of patriotism. We desire patriotism that isn't nationalistic or threatening, but rather democratic, based on true love for one's country and people.

**Second**, instilling patriotism is an issue of national security. If we are not united, and if we fail to assume responsibility for the fate of our republic, we will not achieve meaningful results. A civic and patriotic upbringing includes promulgation of state symbols, respect for the Army, law enforcement and state institutions.

It is also a matter of educating the younger generation about the law to make sure they know their rights and duties and of preventing crime and promoting a healthy way of life. We must acquaint the younger generation with historical monuments, help them see with their own eyes the sites of past battles where our ancestors fought the Dzungars and stood up for their independence, or where the national government "Alash" was formed. This can instill pride in their ancestors, famous heroes, bards and statesmen.

**Third**, we must achieve meaningful results. Patriotism begins with love for family and homeland. It's essential that everyone be useful in whatever field they choose. Schoolchildren must study well; university students must learn the basics of science. Public figures, civil servants, soldiers, people of culture, business owners — each must direct their energies to help our country flourish.

The young citizen of Kazakhstan must be educated and open to global innovation, but at the same time be mindful of his roots, traditions, and all the best things that differentiate the residents of his country. The youth must remain bearers of their native culture; they must venerate it but never impersonalize it. The future of society is in the hands of youth. They are no less than the future masters of our nation. This will help ensure that among today's youth there is no room for nationalism, social nihilism, drunkenness, drugs, or most of all, indifference to Kazakh society.

When one feels deeply his indivisibility from his country and its nature, history, culture, mother tongues, territory, climate, and way of life, a deep sense of patriotism will arise. In Kazakhstan, many of these components are used to instill patriotism. The politics of the president are oriented toward elevating the social status of patriotism, forming a unified ethno-political community — "we, the people of Kazakhstan" — and the preservation and support of civic peace and multinational consensus.

Patriotism is pride in one's country and its achievements. The new Kazakh patriotism means equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. The new Kazakh patriotism is not the parochial patriotism which, by obstructing communication between the country and the outside world, in fact harms Kazakhstan's development and prosperity.

In Kazakhstan, thanks to the efforts of the first president, the country successfully passed through the stage of national renaissance, which was expressed in the discussions on the naming of the republic and the national language. This multiethnic consensus became the principle value and achievement of Kazakhstan. ♦

### Readers are invited

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# Yemen Stands Firm AGAINST TERRORISM

UNIPATH STAFF

**T**he legitimate government of Yemen faces a major challenge in rebuilding its Army and repairing the substantial damage inflicted on its combat units and institutions by the Houthi takeover. Maj. Gen. Mohammed Zaid Mahmoud Ibrahim, the Yemeni military attaché in Washington, is fully aware of the magnitude of the challenges his nation faces. He believes the will and steadfastness of the people of Yemen will heal the wounds of their nation and that the Yemeni Army will remain a citadel impervious to all enemies and strife.

Maj. Gen. Mohammed has been the Yemeni military attaché to Washington since October 2012. He has held numerous official positions with the Yemeni government, beginning in 1976 as director of the Procurement Department at the Ministry of Defense, then head of the Foreign Economic Relations Department in 1979. In the early 1980s, Maj. Gen. Mohammed was a member of the High Military Court and received advanced training in economics in Russia and Germany. He graduated from the Command and Staff College in 1984, and a year later received a degree in economics from the University of Aden.

In a conversation with *Unipath*, Maj. Gen. Mohammed expressed his faith in the ability of the Yemeni people to overcome obstacles and secure peace by laying the foundation of a civil society offering equality for all citizens.

“There are a number of challenges facing Yemen and the region as a whole, all of which stem from the existence of terrorism in its many forms,” Maj. Gen. Mohammed said. “But in the end, though it may present many different faces, its nefarious aims are the same.”

### TERRORIST CELLS

Maj. Gen. Mohammed recounted how the terrorist problem developed in Yemen. After the country’s reunification on May 22, 1990, large numbers of

al-Qaida terrorists arrived from Afghanistan, where they had been fighting Russian communists. Some were originally from Yemen, while others were from different Arab countries.

At the time, Yemeni political leadership welcomed these terrorists, but this was actually a tactical move by authorities to attack Yemeni unity for the purpose of looting the land, resources and capabilities of the Yemeni people, the general said. The political movement led by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh exploited these al-Qaida gangs from Afghanistan.

“Since the 1990s, Yemen has experienced many challenges that have affected cultural, social, economic and political realities,” the general said.

### MARKETING TERRORIST IDEOLOGIES

Many terrorist and extremist elements have adopted an ideology that calls for an Islamic state in the southern Arabian Peninsula, Maj. Gen. Mohammed said. He noted that the leaders of terrorist groups were still communicating with the leader of the former Yemeni regime, and that in the shadow of this dangerous communication, bloody religious terrorism has spread far and wide. All of this took place under the auspices of the former Saleh regime.

In addition to religiously motivated terrorist attacks, the rise of extremism has sparked the prohibition and criminalization of countless scientific, cultural, political and scholarly works, all under the pretext of *halal* (permissible under Islamic law) and *haram* (forbidden). Terrorism is widespread, he noted, as is the incubation of these devious and bloody criminal movements. The greatest terrorism, he said, is the insidious spread of corruption throughout all elements of the Yemeni state.

### ERADICATING THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM

Maj. Gen. Mohammed stressed that this criminal “vermin” feeds off the destruction and distress of



# **“The people of Yemen have pledged to God and the nation to cut off the hand of terrorism.”**

— Maj. Gen. Mohammed Zaid Mahmoud Ibrahim

people around the world. Several actions, however, can help counter terrorism by drying up the sources of extremist ideology:

1. Combat corruption in all its forms, attacking it at its roots.
2. Develop a strategy to eliminate extremist Islamist organizations seeking to destroy humanity by spreading chaos and imposing a bloodthirsty culture with no relation to Islam. The essence of Islam is love and peace.
3. Provide generous material, morale and cultural assistance to all impoverished countries to help them overcome the scarcity their citizens face.
4. Implement programs that appeal to the interests and priorities of young people.
5. Modify and develop educational curricula to promote a spirit of love and peace among people around the world.
6. Develop solutions to address unemployment and poverty among young people.
7. Work with teachers at all levels of study to teach young people the spirit of love, peace and acceptance of others. This will strengthen them against campaigns of sectarian violence by instilling the spirit of friendship and goodwill in all walks of life.
8. In schools and extracurricular activities, raise awareness among young people of the serious consequences of terrorism, as well as the means to combat it. Emphasize the peaceful and loving values of Islam.

“The people of Yemen have pledged to God and the nation to cut off the hand of terrorism,” Maj. Gen. Mohammed said.

“The eradication of this epidemic requires the unity of all nations, organizations and societies. As President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi stressed:

“The Yemeni government needs great support to restore the state and stabilize security. This aid will help Yemen overcome the major security and economic challenges it faces in postwar reconstruction efforts, which include removing the material, psychological and social effects of war. We will defeat the obscene terrorist forces and stand united against extremism to uproot its intellectual, cultural and material roots, eradicating all of its manifestations and symbols.”

Maj. Gen. Mohammed concluded by saying: “I, like any devoted Yemeni citizen, believe that all peoples, with all their beliefs, sects and colors, must contribute to this battle to eradicate the dangerous virus of terrorism, whether it manifests itself as Daesh or al-Qaida. Yemen is one of the countries that faces the greatest threat from the vicious campaign of terrorist groups. To address this threat, Yemen needs Arab and international support. We therefore extend our thanks to all peace-loving nations and peoples, including the leadership and people of the United States of America.”





# Afghanistan Urges Women to Join Military

UNIPATH STAFF

In the weeks after Afghanistan's first female pilot sparked a national debate on women's rights, Afghanistan rolled out initiatives in January 2017 to encourage more women to join the military. With incentives including a special salary scale for female recruits, the Defense Ministry aims to boost the proportion of women in the Army to 10 percent, said Mohammad Radmanesh, deputy ministry spokesman.

"At this stage, we have 1,575 Afghan women in our Army ranks," he said. "It is a mere 3 to 4 percent, which is nothing." In addition to that, 400 Afghan female recruits are training at Defense Ministry installations.

Despite improvements in female societal participation since the fall of the Taliban regime 15 years ago, men make up almost all the Afghan military. In December 2016, 25-year-old pilot Niloofar Rahmani sparked debate nationwide by announcing her decision to seek asylum in the United States, citing fears for her safety in Afghanistan. She had become a symbol of hope for millions of Afghan women as the country's first female pilot since the Taliban era. But with the fame came death threats from insurgents.

Kabul's military training academy has consistently churned out classes of enthusiastic women who serve in Afghanistan's Army and express pride in helping to secure their country.

"I decided to join the Army to save the lives of my people and to defend ourselves," said student Sakina Jafari, adding that she believed her service set an example for other women.

Women and men train separately at the base on the outskirts of the capital, but officers say the training is similar and includes physical education, firearms, tactics and first

aid. Though many women go into noncombat roles like management, human resources, logistics, radio operations or intelligence, Lt. Col. Cobra Tanha said others assist Afghan special forces with missions like night raids, which often require women to help with culturally sensitive searches of homes.

The U.S., which keeps troops in Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led mission to advise and train Afghan forces, budgeted more than \$93 million in 2016 to increase the number of women in the military to 5,000.

Women working in public positions are controversial in Afghanistan. Last year, nearly 60 percent of Afghans surveyed by the Asia Foundation frowned on women enlisting in the Army or police. Even after joining, women may confront obstacles to jobs and promotions, according to the U.S. government's Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

NATO trainers found that common reasons women cited for leaving the security forces were "opposition from male relatives, problems with male colleagues, low pay, family obligations, lack of promotion or meaningful assignment opportunities, and a lack of training and security," according to SIGAR.

Benafsha Sarwari, a teacher at the Kabul academy, echoed these sentiments.

"I have experienced many challenges," she said. "We live in a conservative society, and most people are pessimistic about the women who work outside. But we must not give up. We have to overcome the challenges and perform our duties." Sources: *The Peninsula*, Reuters



**Fatima Rezai, a female officer from the Afghan National Army, exercises at the Kabul Military Training Centre in October 2016.** REUTERS



**Afghan National Army Soldiers clean their weapons at the Kabul Military Training Centre in October 2016.** REUTERS





# Saudi Arabia and Jordan Boost Partnership

UNIPATH STAFF

Following a March 2017 meeting between His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan, their militaries began the multiweek joint Abdullah 5 exercise in counterterrorism and special operations in April, according to the Jordanian Army.

Saudi and Jordanian forces aim to exchange knowledge during these exercises to boost their joint coordination capabilities, al-Arabiya reported. In addition, the training will increase both armies' combat readiness and ability to rapidly respond to potential threats.

These exercises come on the heels of recent economic agreements between the leaders. In a move that would provide Jordan with more reliable jobs, electricity, water supplies, health services and housing, they made a plan to set up a \$3 billion Saudi-Jordanian joint investment fund, according to Saudi state media. The new company will be a joint enterprise of the Saudi General Investments Fund (SGIF), which manages 200 investments worldwide, the Jordan Commercial Banks Group and the Jordan Islamic Banks Group, according to SGIF supervisor Yasir al-Rumayyan.

The two Jordanian banking groups encompass the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank for Trade and Finance, the Jordan Ahli Bank, the Jordan Kuwait Bank, Ettihad Bank, the Bank of Jordan, the Cairo Amman Bank, the Jordan Islamic Bank, the Arab International Islamic Bank and the Jordan Dubai Bank.

The new company will make investment decisions based on criteria that "ensure long-term revenue," al-Rumayyan said. Speaking with al-Rumayyan in March 2017, Jordanian Prime Minister Hani Mulki urged the joint fund to implement economically feasible projects, vowing to help in any way possible to facilitate such investments, according to Petra News Agency.

The agreement to set up the new fund was among 15 cooperation agreements King Salman signed during a March 2017 meeting in Amman. Others included measures to boost power generation, tackle worsening water shortages, and improve housing and health services. The accords cover uranium mining, water desalination projects and a memorandum to build a \$70 million solar power station on Jordan's eastern border.

Jordanians view such investments as a way to improve economic stability in a country that, though resource-poor, continues to host hundreds of thousands of refugees. In total, the agreements are worth \$3.5 billion.

Sources: *The National*, *TradeArabia.com*, *Petra News Agency*, *Jordan Times*, *al-Arabiya*



# Omani Troops Participate in Joint Exercise

UNIPATH STAFF

Exercise Sea Soldier 17, hosted by the Royal Army of Oman and led by the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in February 2017, offered a chance for U.S. Marines and Omani Soldiers to build warfighting capacity and regional cooperation. The annual two-week bilateral exercise is a win-win, said Col. Clay C. Tipton, commanding officer, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"They have a chance to interact and learn from warriors of a different

culture, and these exercises are conducted with key partners in the region to strengthen our collective ability to work together should we have to face emerging crises in the future," Tipton said.

The training includes military operations on urban terrain, building clearance, check-point operations, command and control procedures, counter-IED, live-fire, squad-to-company tactics, mortar targeting, and a culminating final exercise that includes a combined Omani-U.S. raid.

This is "an opportunity for our Sailors to exercise their technical and tactical expertise," said U.S. Navy Capt. Darren Glaser. "Coming together as a larger, blue-green team in support of an exercise or a real-world operation is exactly what we train to do."

Source: U.S. Marine Corps

**U.S. Marine Cpl. Johnathan Riethmann approaches Senoor Beach, Oman, in preparation for Exercise Sea Soldier in February 2017.**

U.S. MARINE CORPS



# TAJIKISTAN SEEKS QATARI INVESTMENT

UNIPATH STAFF

Tajikistan seeks Qatari investments, said Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, who led a business delegation to Qatar in February 2017. In a meeting with the Qatar Businessmen Association, led by Chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, Rahmon and his delegation sought to “activate business cooperation” between their nations.

“During the last decade, we were able to attract more than \$10 billion in foreign investments, which is why our economy is growing rapidly in all sectors,” Rahmon said. “These improvements have placed our country among the world’s Top 10 in terms of economic reforms.”

With Qatar as one of Tajikistan’s “main global partners,” Rahmon added, his country aims for economic ties in the fields of banking, mining, agriculture, transportation and communications, among other areas.

Tajikistan is “ready for Qatari investments” in cement, energy, water and the chemical industry.

“Despite a turbulent global economy, we have achieved remarkable economic progress over the past several years,” said Jamoliddin Nuraliev, the first deputy chairman of the National Bank of Tajikistan. “The country boasts an investment environment that is conducive for business.”

During the meeting, both sides signed a memorandum of understanding between the Qatar Stock Exchange and the Central Asian Stock Exchange, a financial institute in Tajikistan, which was established in April 2015 as “a unique platform for organized securities trading.”

At the same time, Nuraliev announced plans to invite Qatar Airways to launch flights from Doha to Tajikistan. Citing the population of more than 3 billion in surrounding countries,

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**A man fishes from the Sangtuda-1 hydroelectric power plant in Tajikistan. Energy is one economic area that’s “ready for Qatari investments,” according to Tajik President Emomali Rahmon.** REUTERS

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Nuraliev asserted that Qatar would find an opening to do business with Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries in the region.

Sheikh Faisal expressed agreement with his Tajik counterparts.

“Tajikistan is situated between three countries with the largest economies in the world,” he said in a speech. “Tajikistan has a huge stock of water and minerals, as well as agricultural and tourism investment opportunities for Qatari businessmen.”

Citing the Diar Dushanbe project, a mixed-use development in Tajikistan, Sheikh Faisal said Qatar is the first Arab country that has embarked on investment projects in Tajikistan. Source: Gulf Times





## Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan Celebrate Relationship

EURASIANET.ORG

During a March 2017 Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan business forum in Astana, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev hailed what he described as the fall of barriers dividing his nation and Uzbekistan.

During the meetings, he and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed 92 commercial agreements worth \$840 million and planned to sign 10 more deals worth \$94 million, said Alisher Shaikhov, the chairman of the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce.

Both countries hope to increase bilateral trade from \$2 billion to \$5 billion, Shaikhov said.

Nazarbayev in particular appears optimistic about the deepening relationship. Between November 2016 and March 2017, trade between the two nations increased by 30 percent on both sides, Nazarbayev told TengriNews. Four trading centers have opened, 30 percent more grain has changed hands, and Uzbek fruit and vegetable deliveries have increased by 25 percent, he added.

"There are no unresolved issues between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan — not territorial, not with the borders, not with politics or the economy," he said. "We are free, like a blank page that is to be filled with good deeds that will benefit our nations."

Nazarbayev has long been a champion of regional integration in Central Asia. In the wake of the 1994 Soviet disintegration, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic



**Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, right, and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev discuss economic partnership opportunities in Astana in March 2017.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

formed the Central Asian Union, which later became the Central Asian Economic Union in 1998 and then the Central Asian Cooperation Organization in 2001. Though these organizations were often mere forums for dialogue — and did not always lead to concrete economic or political changes — they "laid down the foundations" for increased trade, Nazarbayev said.

"The foundations of our relations were laid down by me and the first president of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov. He was my great friend," Nazarbayev told Mirziyoyev at the meeting. "You and I will continue these traditions like brothers, close countries, like good neighbors, helping one another, opening our hearts to another, the embrace of two peoples."

## IRAQ RECEIVES WARSHIPS

**BRIG. GEN. OMAR AL-TAMIMI, IRAQI NAVY**

On May 17, 2017, Iraqi Brig. Gen. Omar Jassim Mohammed al-Tamimi lifted the rope tethering the Iraqi warship Musa bin Nusair, one of two vessels unmoored from their anchorage in the Italian port of La Spezia in preparation for their journey to Iraq.

Previous Iraqi governments ordered vessels from Italian shipyards decades ago, but turmoil in Iraq prevented their delivery. "Because of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War, Iraq was not able to receive all 12 ships it purchased," said acting Iraqi Minister of Finance Safa al-Din al-Safi.

The ceremony releasing the ships



**Brig. Gen. Omar al-Tamimi and Col. Mohammed Ahmed Shafiq on board the Musa bin Nusair** IRAQI NAVY

to Iraq was attended by the Iraqi Ambassador to Italy Ahmed Bamerni; the Iraqi military attaché in Italy, Col.

Mohammed Ahmed Shafiq; and the representative of the commander of the Iraqi Navy, Brig. Gen. Engineer Omar Jassim Mohammed.

Both ships have highly durable frames and engines and will play an important role in protecting regional waters and Iraqi oil-loading platforms and ports. In addition, Italy will supply the ships with a sophisticated missile system.

Just days earlier, the Iraqi government announced the signing of an agreement with Italy to deliver 12 warships to Iraq years after their purchase.



# JORDAN CONFRONTS DAESH THREAT



UNIPATH STAFF

**I**n the evolving fight against Daesh, Jordan cannot let down its guard, said Brig. Gen. Sami Kafawin, chief of Jordan's border forces. In a February 2017 interview with The Associated Press, he said Daesh extremists were expanding their influence in the Rukban refugee camp on Jordan's border, posing a growing threat to the kingdom.

Armed terrorists are trying to control and create cells inside the camp, Kafawin said. "We are sure they have whole weapons systems." While he said he and his forces understand that "more than 90 percent" of Rukban's residents simply seek asylum, "the others are extremists or Daesh people," he said.

The threat in Rukban reflects a broader concern about Jordan's border with Syria. With Daesh-allied fighters pushed out of eastern Mosul by a campaign to liberate the city, Jordan fears fighters are regrouping and gaining ground in southern Syria, near the Jordanian border.

"The threat is increasing, especially in this area," Kafawin said, referring to that stretch of the border near Rukban. "We consider the whole Syrian border as a potential threat, but in this area, it is imminent."

Jordan has deployed about half its military personnel and resources to protect the kingdom's borders, Kafawin

said, a sharp increase from before the 2011 outbreak of the Syria conflict.

Conditions in Rukban, an expanse of tents and makeshift shelters housing tens of thousands of stranded Syrians, deteriorated sharply after Jordan sealed its border in June 2016 following a cross-border Daesh car bomb attack. The closure disrupted what until then had been fairly regular distributions of food and water by Jordan-based international aid agencies.

In late 2016, after months of negotiations, U.N.-led aid groups and Jordanian officials worked out a new arrangement for the camps, located between two low, miles-long mounds of earth that straddle the Syrian-Jordanian border.

A food distribution center was set up several miles west of Rukban, while the U.N. established mobile health clinics consisting of several trailers on Jordanian territory. Aid officials said tribal leaders help organize the distributions.

In a joint statement in February 2017, U.N. agencies in Jordan said conditions still "present a survival challenge," although they acknowledged the Jordanian military's efforts to coordinate aid shipments. *Sources: Business Insider, The Whig*

**A Jordanian  
Soldier helps  
Syrian refugees at  
a border camp.**

AFP/GETTY IMAGES





## Qatar Air Academy Achieves Certification

UNIPATH STAFF

The Air Academy Qatar has become the first certified military training center in the Middle East. The academy was developed in partnership with the French Defence International Council (DCI), which works to transfer French military expertise abroad. DCI announced in January 2017 that the academy had received the ISO 9001 certification from the British Standards Institution.

The certification reflects the academy's customer focus, leadership, process approach, evidence-based decision-making and relationship management, among other factors. It also "highlights a desire for performance, continuous improvement and customer satisfaction," said Gen. Salem al-Nabet, commander of the academy.

Founded in 2011, the school established itself as a leading training center with 49 pilot trainees and 110 DCI staff, including instructors from 11 countries.

The academy sought the ISO 9001 certification to ensure the maintenance of its training standards and improve the dialogue and collaboration between staff and trainees. They received their certification in record time, according to DCI. While most organizations must wait 18-24 months, the academy earned its certification in under a year.

"Air Academy Qatar is exemplary both for the Qatari Armed Forces, but also for all military training centers," said Jean-Michel Palagos, chairman and director-general of DCI. "We wanted an air academy at the forefront of excellence in terms of processes and customer satisfaction."

Source: Arabian Aerospace Online News Service

**Security personnel gather around a Qatar Emiri Air Force AW139 helicopter during the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition in Qatar in March 2016.**

REUTERS

## Kuwaiti Police, U.S. Military Strengthen Partnership

UNIPATH STAFF

Surrounded by forensic equipment, ominous posters and signs of proper protective gear, members of the Kuwait Police Crime Lab exchanged ideas with the Forensic Exploitation Team-Arifjan (FXT-A) at Camp Arifjan in March 2017. Police officers, chemists and other analysts from the lab toured FXT-A's facilities to "learn about different disciplines," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ann Sampson, the forensic exploration officer in charge of FXT-A.

The visit with the chemists and police allowed the lab's scientists and analysts the opportunity to discuss practices and technological differences between the facilities. There was also an impromptu lesson on the facility's hand-held Raman spectroscopy device, used to observe vibrational, rotational, and other low-frequency modes in chemistry to identify a substance.

"We brought out the different disciplines from their facility," Sampson said. "They learned about how we work," including how FXT-A provides forensics intelligence to commanders to facilitate operations in theater.

Early this year, FXT-A toured the Kuwaiti lab — a "world-class facility," Sampson said. The two facilities shared similarities, but their differences made both visits educational.

"There are some scientific principles that are different," she said. Then, of course, both groups exist for different reasons. The Kuwaiti lab exists "primarily to support the justice enterprise, and we're primarily here to support the battlefield operations." Source: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ann Sampson



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ann Sampson, right, presents a plaque to Maj. Bader Alnaser, a Kuwaiti police officer, to thank him and his team for visiting the FXT-A facility in March 2017.**

SGT. BETHANY HUFF/U.S. ARMY CENTRAL



# YEMEN LOOKS AHEAD TO RECONSTRUCTION

UNIPATH STAFF

**D**espite the ongoing war ravaging their nation, Yemeni health professionals have continued to provide whatever care they can amid dire conditions.

According to the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO), only 45 percent of the country's health facilities remain fully functional and accessible, while at least 274 have been damaged or destroyed during the conflict. Drastic budget cuts have left health facilities struggling to cover operational costs and health care worker salaries since September 2016.

Despite these nearly impossible conditions, the more than 1,200 employees at Al-Thawra Hospital in Al-Hudaydah serve as an example of the country's medical professionals, doing everything they can to continue providing services. Al-Thawra Hospital provides care to 1,500 people every day, a fivefold increase over 2012 owing to an influx of people displaced by conflict.

Though most patients can't afford the minimal fees for hospital services, the hospital has refused to turn away patients, according to WHO.

Yemen also launched a WHO-supported polio vaccination campaign in February 2017, with 40,000 health workers aiming to immunize more than 5 million children under age 5.

"The threat of [polio] virus importation is serious, and this campaign aims to curb any possible return of the virus to Yemen," said Nevio Zagaria, WHO's representative in Yemen.

Yemen was declared polio-free in 2009, but experts say conflict zones are particularly exposed because of disruption to their health systems. Syria and Iraq saw polio outbreaks a few years ago, said Sona Bari, WHO's spokesman on polio eradication.

The vaccination teams will also target high-risk groups, including families uprooted from their homes by fighting and refugees who have fled to Yemen from conflicts in Africa. In Yemen, where nearly two years of civil war have pitted Houthi rebels against a Saudi-led Arab coalition, much of the population is displaced.

Given these circumstances, many medical professionals fear they will soon run out of resources. Though WHO provides fuel and medicines for emergency interventions, "with no funds for operational costs, we never know if we will still be open one month from now," said Khaled Suhail, director of Al-Thawra Hospital.

Since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015, health facilities across Yemen have reported more than 7,600 deaths and close to 42,000 people injured, according to WHO. Malnutrition rates are also rising: Almost 4.5 million people in Yemen, including 2 million children, require services to

treat or prevent malnutrition, a 150 percent increase since late 2014.

"With more than 14.8 million people lacking access to basic health care, the current lack of funds means the situation will get much worse," Zagaria said.

Responding to the crisis, the U.N. agency has established 15 therapeutic feeding centers in seven governorates and plans to open 25 more as the number of malnourished children increases across the country.



**Saida Ahmad Baghili, 18, recovers from severe malnutrition at Al-Thawra Hospital in Al-Hudaydah, Yemen, in November 2016. REUTERS**

Other Arab countries, too, have come to Yemen's aid. In February 2017, Saudi Arabia earmarked \$10 billion for the reconstruction of liberated provinces. Speaking in the government's temporary southern capital of Aden, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi called on his government to use the donations for power, water, roads, health and education in retaken areas.

Before and during the current crisis in Yemen, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Crescent provided more than \$775 million in development aid, including purchases of food, bedding and medical equipment for Mukalla's University Hospital of Gynecology, Childbirth and Cardiac Catheterization.

"The UAE considers provision of aid as a humane duty and within the framework of a number of key values and principles on which the UAE's vision was based," Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, noted in December 2016.

Sources: VOA, U.N. News Centre, Arab News



# At Al Anbar Conference, an Exchange of Ideas

UNIPATH STAFF

Eradicating Daesh was the main topic at the February 2017 Al Anbar Leaders Conference, in which coalition members reaffirmed their support for Iraqi and regional tribal officials. Australian Army Brig. Adam Findlay, then commander of the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq), stated that after liberating Mosul the coalition will help remove Daesh from Al Anbar province and facilitate future meetings with Iraqi security forces and tribal leaders.

At the conference, which focused on equipping and providing logistical support for coalition partner tribes in the area, Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Numan Abd Nagim al-Zubi and Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Qassim Mohammad Salih al-Muhammadi emphasized their own support of efforts to eradicate Daesh.

Tribal fighters are capable of defeating Daesh, Qassim said, and he is confident that tribal fighters will clear and hold the land. Other tribal sheikhs discussed their manpower and logistics capabilities, their working relationships with Iraqi security forces and their fight with Daesh.

Mabrook Hamid Mihadi, mayor of Haditha, said several areas under his control have already wiped out Daesh. Work remains, he noted, to secure the borders of these areas.



Iraqi Army Staff Maj. Gen. Qassim Mohammad Salih al-Muhammadi, commander of the Jazeera Operations Command, explains regional logistics and manpower throughout Al Anbar province to Australian Army Brig. Adam Findlay, then commander of the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq), at the February 2017 Al Anbar Leaders Conference in Al Asad. IRAQI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

## Kyrgyz Republic Launches UN Programs

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Kyrgyz Republic has launched three major programs to expand electronic ID cards for citizens, increase capacity to respond to disasters, and make schools safer. Developed with an \$11.9 million donation from Japan, the initiatives will be managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The ID program, called civil registry, aims to deliver a first batch of 3 million electronic ID cards and establish 150 state registry service offices across the country, with implementation by UNDP. Countries need modern, functional civil registry systems to enable citizens to enjoy economic, social and political rights.

The disaster risk reduction program, also to be carried out by UNDP, will provide equipment to help monitor avalanches. It will also equip 22 fire stations across the country and create an emergency phone line in the northern regions of the country.

UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, as well as the state agency responsible for housing and school safety. The latter agency ensures the physical safety of schools and teaches children how to protect themselves when disaster hits.

**"I believe our joint work will allow us to make an important contribution to the agenda for...the Sendai Framework Program for Disaster Risk Reduction through 2030 adopted by the United Nations member countries,"** said Alexander Avanesov, the UNDP resident representative in the Kyrgyz Republic.





Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, center, joins an April 2017 ride to promote bike sharing. REUTERS

## LEBANESE ARMY LAUNCHES PLAN TO GO GREEN

UNIPATH STAFF

**M**oving toward a more environmentally friendly military, the Defense Ministry, the Lebanese Army and the European Union launched a study in May 2017 as an initial step toward cutting energy use. The study, “Sustainable Energy Strategy of the Lebanese Armed Forces,” collected data on energy usage within military buildings that will be used to set annual usage targets. The Army’s goal is to achieve a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in buildings by 2030.

“This innovative energy sustainability strategy... greatly complements the cooperation between the EU and Lebanon in the field of sustainable development,” EU Ambassador Christina Lassen said at the study’s launch. The study is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“We really thought about how the Lebanese Army is the largest public institution in the country and the most respected institution,” said UNDP Project Manager Hassan Harajli.

The study comes on the heels of other nationwide initiatives to tackle pollution and climate change. In April 2017, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri participated in Beirut’s launch of a public bicycle-sharing system, which aims to promote a “clean transport” culture.

“Climate change really is a national security issue because it will affect our social fabric. It is not something to be taken lightly,” Hariri told Lebanon’s *The Daily Star*. “It requires the cooperation of institutions both public and private.”

Lebanon’s is the first military in the region to have placed environmental sustainability on its list of priorities.

“This study is the first of its kind in the entire Middle East and beyond, where an army takes the initiative to lead by example and commit to perform its duties in ways that take into account the environment,” wrote Sigrid Kaag, U.N. special coordinator for Lebanon, in an official statement. Source: *The Daily Star*



## PAKISTAN HOSTS JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE

UNIPATH STAFF

The navies of 37 countries performed spectacular sea maneuvers at AMAN-17, the annual multinational naval exercise that took place in the North Arabian Sea in February 2017. Ships, aircraft, helicopters and fighter jets participated in search and rescue operations, gunnery drills, anti-piracy demonstrations, replenishment at sea and maritime counterterrorism demonstrations.

Based in Karachi, Pakistan, the exercise was in two phases. During the harbor phase, scholars and military figures participated in an International Maritime Conference, which focused on the theme “Strategic Outlook in the Indian Ocean Region 2030 and Beyond – Evolving Challenges and Strategies.” In the sea phase, Pakistani and other forces executed the plans and activities finalized during the conference.

In the complex security environment of the Indian Ocean, Pakistan will continue to play a significant role in maintaining peace and stability, said Adm. Muhammad Zakaullah, chief of naval staff. The success of AMAN-17 was a “clear testimony” to Pakistan’s influence on the regional stage.

“The presence of such a large number of foreign navies is reflective of the confidence of the world’s navies in Pakistan,” said former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. “With this state of operational readiness, the Pakistan Navy is fully prepared

and committed to ensuring seaward defense and safeguarding the maritime interests of Pakistan.”

He added that Pakistan, a major stakeholder in maritime security in the Arabian Sea, is committed to ensuring freedom of navigation and lawful maritime order. Cooperation among international navies is imperative to counter the multidimensional and multifaceted security challenges present in the Indian Ocean, he said.

Vice Adm. Arifullah Hussaini, commander of the Pakistani fleet, said the exercise would help combat human trafficking, narcotics smuggling and terrorism in the region.

Nine countries sent warships to the exercise, including Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Other countries sent delegates to observe the exercise. Pakistan has hosted the exercise every other year since 2007.

At the close of the exercise, all participating ships created a traditional “AMAN Formation” to signify unity and harmony among the participating nations.

“AMAN 17 was an opportunity for the U.S. and Pakistan to continue our ongoing maritime cooperation and to work with other partners to strengthen global security,” said David Hale, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan.

Sources: Dawn.com, Hilal-The Pakistan Armed Forces Magazine, Geo.TV, Radio Pakistan, Getty Images

## Egypt Joins Bahrain, UAE for Combat Drills

UNIPATH STAFF

Egyptian forces enhanced combat skills during joint exercises with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in March 2017.

The Hamad 2 and Zayed 2 drills, held in Manama and Abu Dhabi, involved infantries, navies and air forces in drills that emphasized combating terrorism, disabling improvised explosive devices, freeing hostages, and training in self-defense and martial arts.

The final stages of the drills involved reconnaissance missions, as well as training to block naval landings, raid beaches and preempt chemical attacks.

“Joint military exercises will improve the combat readiness of our military to confront various threats on different battlefields,” said Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Khalifa, Bahrain Defense Force commander in chief.

The exercise aims to emphasize the historic and strategic relations among the countries, strengthen military ties, increase their military readiness, develop capabilities and enrich military expertise.

These exercises were an extension of the 2014 Zayed 1 exercise, which took place in Abu Dhabi. According to attending military officials, the exercise demonstrated a high level of coordination and integration.

Sources: NewsOfBahrain.com, Marsad Egypt, European Affairs Media, Daily News Egypt



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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