

Consolidating Gains through Gender Integration with Coalition Partners and the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army

Observation:

Opportunities exist to improve gender Integrated communication between coalition partners and the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army.

Discussion:

In 2000 the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). UNSCR Resolution 1325 was a landmark, legal and political document from the Security Council that required parties in a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, to support women's participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and to protect women and girls from wartime sexual violence.

In 2017 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan created the Jordanian National Action Plan (JONAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The focus of the JONAP is to ensure national and regional stability through gender equality and women's participation, particularly in national peace and security efforts. Also in 2017, the United States adopted the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 to promote the "meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict." In 2019, the United States adopted the Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security. This Strategy "promotes the meaningful inclusion of women in processes to prevent, mediate, resolve, and recover from deadly conflict or disaster."

The Joint Training Center-Jordan (JTC-J) Civil Affairs Officer in charge of gender advising convened a networking event on 20 January 2020 for US, coalition partner, and Jordanian gender integration stakeholders. US Embassy Political Officer, Mr. Adam Kotkin, discussed the United States Agency International Development (USAID) Implementation of the US National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security and also shared statistics about gender integration across Jordan. The Jordanian Director of Women's Military Affairs, Colonel Maha AL-Nasser, provided a brief to on the Jordanian National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Women Peace and Security Initiative. Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army Quick Reaction Force (QRF) 61st Battalion Commander, LTC Mohammed Khal'doon, and two female officers from the Jordanian Border Directorate also attended the conference.

An important Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army gender integration goal is to increase the percentage of women in the organization from 1.4% to 3%. Current challenges to this effort are the lack of infrastructure to house and train females, and the lack of a reserve force to facilitate the incorporation of more women into the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army. The start of a female recruiting campaign in March and the opening of a new Women's Center in May supports attaining this goal. The Jordanian Armed Forces Women's Center will provide the much needed infrastructure to facilitate the housing and training of females joining the military forces. There are already 14,000+ female applicants since the recruiting commenced.

Recommendations:

1. Maintain collaboration between coalition partners and the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army through use of the shared platform called PiX.net. The Protected Internet ex-change, or PiX, is a US government-sponsored program to assist with unclassified information sharing among US government agencies and military, as well as with foreign partners. PiX helps people working on similar problem sets connect with each other in a secure space. Everything that was shared during the first Gender Integration Working Group is uploaded to this shared workspace, and future publications and updates will be posted here.
2. This will enhance consolidating gains planning by emphasizing WPS considerations to facilitate a seamless transition from combat to stability operations. Emphasizing WPS initiatives at the tactical level and coordinating between every unit in an area of responsibility will improve the collective awareness of the initiatives. By focusing specifically on how gender adds crucial perspective to every aspect of military operations, the units can better plan and facilitate for the best learning environment while training side-by-side with our Jordanian partners.
3. Increase publicity about Jordan's gender integration efforts by publishing stories in periodicals such as UNIPATH (military magazine) about initiatives like King Abdullah II's daughter, Princess Salma, completing fixed-wing aircraft preliminary pilot training in January, 2020. Another way to consolidate gains is by addressing the crosscut of gender and WPS using the 17 proposed DoD WPS Principles. One of these, for example, is Countering Violent Extremism in which opportunities lie to partner is fusing together best practices related to the meaningful participation of women. In volume 9, No. 1 of UNIPATH, an article describing the counter-extremism program within the Jordan Armed Forces could include the differences that gender play in furthering their cutting-edge counter-extremism curriculum.
4. Ensure continued facilitation of a Gender Working Group by engaging the Civil Affairs Support Detachment (CASD).

The CASD is made up of 12 Civil Affairs trained Officers and NCOs and also includes a Geospatial Analyst and an Information Technology Specialist for a total of 14 team members. This team is assigned to the CENTCOM AOR and is divided physically among 5 countries: Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, UAE and Uzbekistan. The individual Officers assigned to these countries are designated as the Civil Liaison Team (CLT) Chief or Officer-in-Charge (OIC), and the Non-commissioned Officer (NCO), if there is one assigned, as the (Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge) NCOIC.

The Civil Liaison Team (CLT) Chief is best suited to lead the Gender Working Group as they are trained facilitators with a specific focus on the civil considerations of the country they are assigned to. Given gender is a crucial consideration for any population and must be addressed as an integral part of analysis and planning, the CASD's Civil Liaison Team Jordan is in the best position to execute this mission.

Source:

This lesson is based on the experiences of MAJ Majel A. Savage, CLT-J Chief, Joint Training Center-Jordan.

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Note: The 2020 January Draft DOD WPS Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan are Women, Peace and Security Principles are (also available on JLLIS):

- ❑ Diversity & Inclusion
- ❑ Gender Integration
- ❑ Inclusive Leadership Development
- ❑ Professionalization of Partner Nation Armed Forces
- ❑ Recruitment & Retention
- ❑ Sexual Harassment & Assault Prevention
- ❑ Sexual Exploitation & Abuse Prevention
- ❑ Gender-Based Violence Prevention
- ❑ Protection of Civilians
- ❑ Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict
- ❑ Countering Trafficking in Persons
- ❑ Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief
- ❑ Countering Violent Extremist Organizations
- ❑ International Humanitarian Law
- ❑ International Human Rights Law



US Marine Cpl. Hailey McNeill (left), with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit Female Engagement Team (FET), practices physical search procedures with a Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army Quick Reaction Force FET member during detainee operations and handling training August 5, 2019 in Jordan. The US is committed to the security of Jordan and to partnering closely with JAF to meet common security challenges. (US Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Shaiyla B. Hakeem)