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**“Assessing the Impact and Role of Cultural Awareness and Public Perceptions
in NATO Operations”**

24 October 2013, NATO HQ Brussels, LUNS Press Theatre

08:00-09:00 Conference Registration (coffee/tea)

09:00-09:15 Opening Remarks:

H.E. Mr. Jiří Šedivý, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to NATO

Ambassador Thrasyvoulos Terry Stamatopoulos, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy

09:15-10:15 Keynote Speaker:

H.R.H. Prince Feisal Bin Al Hussein of Jordan

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Cultural Awareness, Public Perceptions and Lessons Learned from Operations

Scene Setter: Allied operations from the Balkans to Afghanistan have clearly demonstrated the importance of understanding and respecting local cultures. What have been the challenges experienced in the field with regard to (lack of) cultural awareness? What has been the impact on operations, stabilisation and reconstruction? What lessons learned can we draw on? How can civil-military cooperation in this area be enhanced and made more operational? What kind of tools do we need on the national and Allied levels?

- Chair: **Ambassador Stephen Evans**, Assistant Secretary General for Operations, NATO
- Speaker: **Mr. Mark Laity**, Chief of Strategic Communications, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO
- Speaker: **COL Rudolf Honzák**, Deputy Commander, Czech Armed Forces Military Academy
- Speaker: **Ms. Anne Hagood**, Consultant, Layalina Productions
- Speaker: **LTC John O. Howard**, Deputy Commander, COMISAF Advisory and Assistance Team (CAAT), ISAF HQ

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Round Table 1 – Cultural Awareness and Public Perceptions Best Practices – Views from Partners

Scene Setter: Most Allies have some type of cultural awareness training as part of pre-deployment training. Speakers have been invited to share good practices regarding particular cultural awareness training and education and present practical examples of national training programmes and resources. What is already available in the field of cultural awareness training and education?

- Chair: **Mr. Václav Pecha**, Executive Director, Zaostřeno
- Speaker: **LTC Marwan Mukattash**, Instructor at Peace Operation Training Center, JAF
- Speaker: **CSM Abeer Abdel Razzaq**, Command Sergeant Major for Women's Affairs, Directorate of Women's Affairs, JAF
- Speaker: **COL Abderrazak Raji**, Moroccan Royal Armed Forces Liaison Officer to SHAPE
- Speaker: **Mr. Nicola de Santis**, Head, Middle East and North Africa, PASP, NATO HQ

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-17:00 Round Table 2 – Cultural Awareness and Public Perceptions Best Practices – Views from NATO Allied Countries

Scene Setter: How do nations know if they are doing the right things and doing them right? How can nations support the Alliance's existing policy on training and education? Should there be a benchmarking process to it? How can the tools be improved and how can NATO support nations and partners who request assistance with cultural awareness training? Should NATO have standardised approach to cultural awareness training?

- Chair: **Ambassador Francesca Tardioli**, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations, NATO
- Speaker: **MG Eric Bonnemaïson**, Deputy Director, Delegation for Policy and Strategic Affairs (DAS), Ministry of Defence, France
- Speaker: **Mr. James McKellar**, President of McKellar Group, USA
- Speaker: **COL Andy Veres**, US Air Force, Chief/Air Combat Command Systems Office

17:00-17:30 Concluding Remarks:

COL Azzam Alrawahneh, Chief of Analyses Branch, Centre for Studies and Lessons Learned, JAF GHQ

Mr. Nicola de Santis, Head, Middle East and North Africa, PASP, NATO HQ

H.E. Mr. Jiří Šedivý, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to NATO

17:30-18:30 Reception (by invitation, Restaurant des Ambassadeurs)