JORDAN

Jordan is an active partner in the SPS Programme. At present, the leading areas for cooperation include Counter-IED, Cyber Defence, and Border Security. Below are some examples of ongoing and completed activities led by scientists and experts from Jordan and NATO countries under the framework of the NATO SPS Programme. Activities on cyber defence, border security and C-IED are in support of Jordan’s Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Package.

Cooperative Activities

COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE FOR STRENGTHENING JORDANIAN COUNTER-IED CAPABILITIES

Following on from the training courses delivered to the Jordanian Armed Forces in 2015 on C-IED, the primary goal of this project under the Defence Capacity Building (DCB) package for Jordan is to bolster its C-IED capabilities and assist in developing a more robust national and operational level programme capable of addressing the IED threat. This will be achieved through the provision of a comprehensive training package, train-the-trainer programme, and assistance in the implementation of national interagency C-IED doctrines and programmes (IED Lexicon, Reporting, and Lessons Learned programmes) [ref. G5387]. This project is led by experts from Jordan, Spain and Ireland.
SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTING A CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY FOR JORDAN

Launched in 2014, this multi-year SPS project was part of the Defence Capacity Building (DCB) package for Jordan and responded to a key national priority. It supported the country in developing capabilities to defend its infrastructure, mitigate the impact of cyber-attacks, and enhance the overall security situation in the county. The project thereby significantly enhanced Jordan’s cyber defence posture and on a practical level established Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) for the Jordanian Armed Forces, which represents a major milestone in Jordan’s national cyber defence programme. Through training and professional development, the project contributed to the creation of a qualified and well-trained workforce. In addition, two conferences were organized as part of the project to create a network of cyber defence experts. The success of the project was underscored by the decree of the Jordanian Government, declaring the project to be a national activity. The project also enabled the Alliance to enhance cooperation with other partner nations in the Middle East by developing widely usable cyber defence solutions, and creating regional networks for knowledge transfer within cyber defence communities. On 19 July 2017, NATO and the Jordanian Armed Forces inaugurated the newly establish CERT in Amman, Jordan [ref. G4895].

BORDER SECURITY SYMPOSIUM

In March 2017, the US and Jordan led a SPS-supported symposium on border security. It aimed to better understand Jordan’s overall strategy, current capabilities, bilateral supported received as well as needs and requirement in the area of border security. The symposium resulted in a set of recommendations on the way forward, including for example to facilitate a policy review process, to establish a requirements orchestration effort and to organise a follow-up workshop to look at best practices [ref. G5343]. This Advanced Research Workshop was led by experts from Jordan and the United States.

ARAB GEOPOLITICS IN TURMOIL: PERCEPTIONS, UNKNOWNS AND POLICIES

The recent political upheavals in the Arab world have changed the regional security landscape significantly. This Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) brought together renowned experts along with high-level government officials and provided a platform to deepen defence and security cooperation in the spirit of cooperative security. Moreover, the ARW provided a unique venue for the discussion of hard and soft security factors in a time sensitive context and offered practical insights from different countries. Participants analysed the perceptions and the consequences of change and discussed long-term policy options with a view towards maintaining security in the region. The event also resulted in a publication summarizing the key messages of the workshop that was presented as part of a book discussion at NATO Headquarters in Brussels in early 2017 [ref. G5071]. Experts from Italy, Jordan and Switzerland led this activity that took place in February 2016.