

Developing Practical Cooperation through Science

Kuwait has been engaged with NATO since the creation of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), launched at the Istanbul Summit in 2004.

The NATO SPS Programme enables close collaboration on issues of common interest to enhance the security of NATO and partner nations by facilitating international efforts to meet emerging security challenges, supporting NATO-led operations and missions, and advancing early warning and forecasting for the prevention of disasters and crises.

The current SPS Key Priorities include:

- Counter-Terrorism;
- Energy Security;
- Cyber Defence;
- Defence against CBRN Agents;
- Environmental Security;
- Security-related Advanced Technology;
- Border and Port Security;
- Human and Social Aspects of Security.

Additionally, the SPS Programme helps to promote *regional security* through scientific cooperation among partners. The Programme also helps to *prepare* interested eligible nations for NATO membership. SPS activities often have a high *public diplomacy* value.

KUWAIT

Kuwait engages with NATO through the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) partnership framework launched in 2004, and is therefore eligible to participate with the SPS Programme. Following the inauguration of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre in 2017, the SPS Programme launched five tailor-made Advanced Training Courses (ATC) hosted by the Centre.

ACTIVITIES WITH KUWAIT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPS PROGRAMME

The SPS Programme is open to all activities with Kuwait, in line with the Allies' political guidance in the form of the 2012 SPS Key Priorities and the 2013 Overarching Guidelines. The 2018-2020 Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme (IPCP) between NATO and Kuwait gives specific reference to cooperation in the framework of the SPS Programme.



THE ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) focuses on practical cooperation in areas where NATO can add value, notably in the security field. Initially, six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council were invited to participate. To date, four of them – Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates – have joined. Saudi Arabia and Oman have also shown an interest in the Initiative. Based on the principle of inclusiveness, the Initiative is however open to all interested countries of the broader Middle East region who subscribe to its aims and content, including the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The ICI is a 'two-way' partnership, in which NATO seeks partners' contribution for its success, through a regular consultation process, where special emphasis is placed on practical cooperation. The SPS Programme is an excellent basis for such practical and concrete partnership activities.

Following the SPS Information Day at the NATO-ICI Regional Centre in September 2017, a package of five NATO SPS activities were developed. They include tailor-made Advanced Training Courses (ATC) in the fields of **Defence against CBRN agents**, **Energy Security**, and **Cyber Defence**. The five courses, held at the NATO-ICI Regional Centre have now successfully concluded and three new ATCs have recently been approved. They will focus on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection and Resilience, and Introductions to Network Security and Network Vulnerability.

NETWORK SECURITY COURSE

The Network Security ATC aimed to provide each of the 20 students with a thorough conversational knowledge of all the dominant terminology and principles involved in the bits-in-transit aspect of network security. At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the patterns and protocols of “normal” network traffic, and of many cues that can be used to recognize malicious/attack traffic and also to demonstrate the rudiments of firewall deployment and rule-writing. *This SPS activity was led by the NATO School Oberammergau and Kuwait, and was held between March 24 and October 17, 2019.* [ref. G5521].

CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION COURSE

The security and stability of ICI countries heavily depend on stable energy exports and reliable energy infrastructure. Critical energy infrastructure is therefore an attractive target for terrorists and extremists seeking to undermine regional stability. This ATC was attended by 31 Kuwaiti representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, National Guard, Fire Service Directorate, Port Authority, Council of Ministers Security Decisions Follow up Committee and Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority, and

three oil companies. The course aimed to enhance the security and resilience of energy infrastructures in Kuwait, the CEIP course responded to NATO’s strategic objective to support partner nations in addressing critical infrastructure vulnerabilities. Various organizations (NATO HQ, NATO School Oberammergau, NATO-ICI Regional Centre, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), and NATO Energy Security (ENSEC) Centre of Excellence (COE) participated in the organisation of this course. *This SPS activity was led by the NATO School in Oberammergau and Kuwait, and held from 11 to 15 February 2018.* [ref. G5519].

CBRN FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING COURSE

The CBRN First Responders ATC aimed to ensure that first responders have a common knowledge base, to improve their current preparedness and to enhance their emergency response organization and capabilities during notification and mitigation of discovered CBRN agents and improvised explosive devices. The course was attended by 29 participants from three ICI countries (Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain) and Saudi Arabia. This SPS activity helped to improve national civil emergency plans, complement national training systems, and build interoperability among first responders of NATO and partner nations. *This SPS activity, led by the Joint CBRN Defence Centre of Excellence and Kuwait, was held from 18 to 22 March 2018.* [ref. G5520].



The NATO Science for Peace
and Security Programme

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