Gender in Military Operations
Australian and ADF Obligations

The character of war has changed, with an increased emphasis on the affect of conflict on local populations:

- **UNSCR 1325, Women Peace and Security (WPS)** signed 31 Oct 2000
- **UNSCR 1612, Children Affected in Armed Conflict**, signed 2005
- **UNSCR 1674, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict**, signed 2006
- **UNSCR 1820, Conflict Related Sexual and Gender Based Violence**, signed 2008
- **UNSCR 2242, Gender Architecture in Counter Terrorism**, signed 2015

**NAP: 2012-2018**
17 of the 24 actions are the responsibility of the ADF
National Action Plans for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security

64 Countries have adopted a National Action Plan in support of UNSCR 1325 (as of April, 2017)
ADF Gender Application

- Internal – ADF policy and plans
- Sexual Misconduct – Svc Chiefs and SEMPRO
- Operationalisation of Gender
ADF Gender Advisors Operations

- Australian Army
- Joint Operations Command

Current Operations
- JTF 633 Middle East Region
- HQ RS (ISAF) Afghanistan
- OP ASLAN (UN Mission in South Sudan)
Why is this Important for ADF operations?

Considering 1325 and implementing **gender perspective** considerations results in greater **operational effectiveness**.

Gender should be considered in **all military operations** and should not be limited to peacekeeping or stabilisation operations.

The **principles** of UN Resolution 1325 are recognised world-wide as vital components of all military and humanitarian interventions.
What is a Gender Advisor?

- **Specialist Advisor to the Commander** on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.

Advises the staff on integrating a Gender Perspective into military operations.

Involves **engagement** with many actors – internal and external to a HQ.

Role can be **mission specific** and focus on specific gender related tasks for that mission. E.g. – HQ RS (ISAF) and HQ JTF 633 (ADF Middle East Region)
"ADF members on operations must consider gender as part of our operational planning and execution as it gives us a tactical edge over our adversaries. Women and children are critical to achieving any lasting stability in the traumatised tribal societies into which we deploy - and the adversary has already proven to persistently abuse the human rights of these women and children. In addition to being utterly ethical, our support for women and children further undermines the legitimacy of our adversary and reinforces their marginalisation from society."

MAJGEN Adam Findlay, AM. ADC

Deputy JTF Commander - Operation Inherent Resolve
Six Grave Violations against children

Conflict related sexual and gender based violence

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
Challenges

- UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan release and at the same time Sexual Misconduct in the Military
- Mandatory training versus application and integration of gender perspective into planning and conduct of operations
- Moving from extrinsic drivers (policies, OPORDS, Directives) to an intrinsic state (beliefs and attitudes)
- Application/relevance- spectrum of conflict
- Concept of implementation- employment specific
- Gender Advisor network versus gender mainstreaming
- Measures of effectiveness/Measures of performance
- “Gender Fatigue”

- LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS
“...it is, ‘a practical disadvantage’, to have an all male combat force. It’s crucial to put the most effective force into the field, ..., In a culture where it is routinely forbidden for women to have interaction with males not of their family, having women involved in your operations has a very powerful effect...“

Chief of Army, LTGEN Campbell, article published 24 Mar 17
Questions?