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Department of War Strategic Evaluation

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Strategic Evaluation Public Summary: “Security Cooperation in Support of Stability in Jordan and Lebanon (2014-2019)”

The Department of War (DoW) sponsors strategic evaluations of security cooperation (SC) programs and activities pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 383 and DoD Instruction 5132.13, “Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation Policy for the Security Cooperation Enterprise.” This summary provides an unclassified synopsis of findings from the RAND Corporation’s classified report on SC in support of stability in the Levant.

In the fiscal year 2020, the DoW commissioned the RAND corporation, a federally funded research and development center, to conduct a strategic evaluation to assess logistics-related security cooperation in Jordan and Lebanon from 2014-2019. Due to the nature of the evaluation, the final report is classified. This public summary provides a broad, unclassified description of the analysis, findings, and recommendations from the report.

Completed in 2022, this evaluation attempted to answer four questions about the extent to which logistics-related SC efforts in Jordan and Lebanon:

1. Helped build Jordan and Lebanon’s logistics and sustainment capabilities, especially those related to border security and counter-terrorism (CT) forces?
2. Helped enhance Jordan and Lebanon’s capacity to operate with coalition forces?
3. Helped increase U.S. access and influence?
4. Was effectively planned, resourced, and executed to support stability in the Levant?

Evaluation scope and methodology. The evaluate assessed the impact of logistics-focused SC activities in the Levant, specifically border security and CT forces in Jordan and Lebanon, between 2014 and 2019. The scope of the evaluation encompassed all SC efforts related to strengthening partner nation logistics efforts, including supporting operational forces and defense management, and it included indirect effects of SC programs such as logistics-related professional military education courses. The evaluation also considered long-term institutional capacity building efforts. Data sources included SC bibliography reviews, primary and secondary sources, and stakeholder reviews.

Findings. Key findings include challenges in partner sustainment capabilities and interoperability. These challenges stemmed from factors such as the centralization of essential functions, spare part shortages, personnel limitations, and the use of incompatible equipment sourced from various countries. The United States maintains strong relationships with partners in the region and enjoys access, basing, and overflight, due to its SC programming and persistent presence. SC planning, resourcing, and execution lacked full partner involvement throughout all stages of the program development process.

Recommendations. RAND’s recommendations focused on improving SC through integrated acquisition and sustainment strategies, including partner nation input provided at project

proposal stages. Other recommendations targeted increased logistics support, sharing best practices, and conducting interagency lessons learned studies.