Women, Peace, and Security in Professional Military Education

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Appendix C
Integrating WPS into PME

It is recommended that U.S. Army professional military education (PME) institutions develop a phased approach to incorporating Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) into curricula. First, at precommissioning and primary levels, lessons should focus on building a foundational knowledge of WPS with an introduction to policy and strategy. Additionally, primary-level instruction should focus on integrating and operationalizing gender at the tactical level. Second, at the intermediate level, education should build on WPS foundational knowledge and provide further instruction on conducting a gender analysis. In addition to the lesson plan below, if time allows, a scenario-driven exercise where students provide a gender analysis is recommended.

Gender should be incorporated into operational-level planning. Last, senior level PME should focus on integrating WPS principles into strategic-level planning.

Intermediate Level PME Sample Lesson Plan
Lesson Title: Gender and Conflict

Adding a gender perspective has the potential to transform the traditional military paradigm by including and creating an increased understanding of the importance of non-traditional security issues.

~Robert Egnell

Introduction

Women and peace have been associated throughout history largely based on the assumption that women are more emotionally empathetic and inherently nonviolent. More modern research has moved beyond women as symbols and actors of peace and has sought to establish the role of gender perspectives in peace and security. One particular study found that the participation of women in all aspects of peace negotiations led to a 20 percent increase in the probability of the peace agreement lasting longer than two years and a 35 percent increase in the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years.

In 2001, predicated on the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which called for the full participation of women in peace and security initiatives. UNSCR 1325 and the eight subsequent resolutions provide a framework for the implementation of gender perspective in the pursuit of international security. The UN resolutions include a range of complex, multilayered

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issues such as inclusion of gender in all facets of peacekeeping operations, the representation of women in conflict resolution, gender perspectives mainstreaming, training reformations, and the recognition and protection of women, girls, and boys from conflict-related threats. Most of all, the resolution calls for gender equality and urges the international community to take the necessary steps to put the plan into action.

In 2011, President Barrack Obama signed Executive Order 13,595 establishing the *The United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security*. In 2017, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 was signed into law, strengthening efforts for the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace building. The law ensures congressional oversight of how the United States promotes and implements women’s meaningful participation in conflict prevention and resolution. Furthermore, the United States released its national strategy on WPS in 2019, outlining four primary lines of effort.

1. Seek and support the preparation and meaningful participation of women in conflict-related decision-making.
2. Promote the safety and protection of women’s and girls’ human rights.
3. Adjust U.S. international programs to improve outcomes in equality for, and the empowerment of, women.
4. Encourage partner nations to adopt policies to improve the meaningful participation of women.

To achieve the goals outlined across the four lines of effort given in the national strategy, the Department of Defense released the *Women, Peace, and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan* (WPS SFIP) in June 2020. The plan organizes WPS implementation along three defense objectives that include modeling and employing WPS, promoting partner-nation women’s participation, and promoting the protection of partner-nation civilians.

In connecting gender and operational effectiveness, scholars note that considering gender can lead to increased credibility and security and an increase in information-gathering capability. The enhanced information gathering obviously leads to the increase of force protection, providing information that can lead to the findings of weapons, explosive devices, or high value targets. However, beyond increased force protection, scholars have recognized that the situation and security of women in a country is often the best indicator of how likely that country is to be involved in

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Empirical results lead to the conclusion that human security (namely, the security of women) is linked to national and international security. Better security leads to a more stable state and decreased likelihood of harboring terrorists, violating human rights, and requiring intervention from the international community. U.S. national security is dependent upon “stable, prosperous, and democratic societies abroad.”

Women’s participation, gender inclusion, and gender perspectives are necessary to maintain stable societies and increase force protection in the armed forces.

**Student Learning Objectives**
1. Understand how gender can shape the way we examine conflict.
2. Apply a gender analysis to conflict prevention and resolution.
3. Gain an appreciation for how gender perspectives can affect military effectiveness.

**Required Reading (pages: 53)**

**Supplemental Reading (pages: 15, plus 4:07 viewing minutes)**
Gender and Conflict Analysis Toolkit for Peacebuilders.
Saferworld. “Gender Analysis of Conflict: Why is it important?,” 5 July 2016, video, YouTube, 4:07.

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Issues for Discussion

1. What is the significance of considering gender when studying conflict?
2. What roles may masculinity and femininity play in conflict?
3. How may military operations change or become more effective when gender is considered?
4. How could the Southern Confederacy have gained the support of Britain during the U.S. Civil War? Or were Union diplomatic actions too powerful?
5. How can a gender analysis affect conflict resolution and prevention?