Diterbitkan oleh:
Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)
MiDAS Building
Ministry of Defence
Jalan Padang Tembak

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First printing … July 2024

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Design and printing by:
MiDAS Malaysia

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MALAYSIA

Since the last Putrajaya Forum in 2022, nothing has much changed in the geopolitics rivalry in the Southeast Asia region; the issue of the South China Sea is in a new chapter, the war between Russia and Ukraine is still ongoing, and now we have Israel and Hamas issue. While all these issues need serious attention, we should not be off guard from non-traditional threats. Such a threat that will affect us all has been persistent, and to handle these challenges, a well-thought-out and long term strategy with consistent efforts is required. The last decade has seen technologies in artificial intelligence, cyber and drones moving forward at a fast pace. These technologies are being infused into military applications for their traditional purposes or humanitarian efforts. We should enhance our diplomacy and improve our cooperation with these technologies while ensuring that all states are moving to the same level of development so that nobody is left behind. I fervently hope that the outcome of the 7th Putrajaya Forum will be a conduit and enhance other forums and debates in this region. I wish you all an exciting forum and an unforgettable stay in Kuala Lumpur. Thank you.

Sincerely,

HON. DATO' SERI MOHAMED KHALED BIN NORDIN

Minister of Defence, Malaysia
May 2024

FOREWORD

It is with great pride that we convened the 7th Putrajaya Forum, themed around '**Non-Traditional Threats and the Advent of Emerging Technologies**'. It is a pleasure for us to have all the delegates and participants in attending the forum. As we uphold the biennial tradition of addressing pivotal topics, this year's forum had deliberated on establishing a robust framework for regional cooperation on non-traditional security and had explored how state actors and industry leaders able to harness emerging technologies to bolster defence diplomacy and collaborative development. Our gratitude extends to honourable ministers of defence, esteemed senior military officers, government representatives, law enforcement personnel, academicians, and analysts for their unwavering support of the Putrajaya Forum. We had harvested collective insights shared that had fostered ground breaking ideas and invigorating dialogue. The MiDAS team like to extend our deepest thanks to Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence, Malaysia for his invaluable insights and leadership in advancing this latest edition of the Putrajaya Forum. We also like to convey our sincere thanks to Hon. Datuk Seri Isham bin Ishak, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia for his ongoing counsel and endorsement of this initiative. Our appreciation is also due to all distinguished speakers, moderators, and participants whose contributions are fundamental to the forum's success. All in all, a special note of thanks to Defence Services ASIA (DSA) for their support in orchestrating this event.

With appreciation,

MEJ GEN DATO' HJ YA'COB BIN HJ SAMIRAN
Chief Executive of MiDAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PUTRAJAYA FORUM 2024

Putrajaya Forum 2024 with the theme '**Non-Traditional Threats and Emerging Technologies**' was successfully organised by MiDAS at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC). This forum which is the seventh in its series traditionally organized in conjunction with the established **Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference (DSA 2022)**. The forum started with the welcoming remark by **Maj Gen Dato' Hj Ya'cob bin Hj Samiran** and subsequently continued with the opening and keynote address by **Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin**, **Minister of Defence**, **Malaysia** followed by two plenary sessions. The two plenary sessions conducted involved speakers of various backgrounds ranging from defence ministers, military leaders and professionals and practitioners across this region and beyond.

With the theme of '**Non-Traditional Threats and Emerging Technologies**' this forum had emphasised on addressing the growing threats of non-traditional security and emerging technologies challenges across the region and beyond. Hence, **Putrajaya Forum 2024** would continue to be as the best regional defence and security platform for informal and unofficial channel of discourse. This forum demonstrates Malaysia's efforts and initiatives to advance mutual trust and confidence as well as strengthen cooperation amongst the countries involved.

The first session is entitled '**Towards Enhanced Non-Traditional Security Cooperation**'. It discussed on the overview of the increasing number of extra-regional countries are expressing their interest in forging security cooperation under the rubric of ASEAN-led forums such as the ADMM Plus. Therefore, how should Southeast-Asia countries respond to the growing interest of countries including its dialogue, Partners. This session also discussed how can extra-regional countries best contribute towards peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

The second session is entitled '**Applying Emerging Technologies in Improving Military/Defence Diplomacy**'. It discussed on the opportunities for civil-military cooperation brought by the greater involvement of the military in non-traditional security threats and national emergencies. With no universal standard to differentiate military and civilian roles, how can increased civil-military cooperation complement society's greater aspirations while accounting for security realities.

At the end, this forum and the following intellectual discourse organised were as the platforms that able to lay the challenges that lies ahead and brought out the best of suggestions and resolutions to be shared amongst various subject matter experts in regard to the current regional defence and security scenario. This forum had provided a clear way forward for this region of which to embrace the new ways and approaches with the help of technological advancement, so that, it would ensure that the existing regional mechanisms remained and sustained as workable, practical, and relevant ones.

CHAPTER 1

WELCOMING REMARKS BY MEJ GEN DATO' HJ YA'COB BIN HJ SAMIRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MiDAS

Everyone was welcomed to the seventh edition of the Putrajaya Forum by the Chief Executive of the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), Ministry of Defence, Malaysia. The theme for this year's forum, it was noted, is Non-Traditional Threats and Emerging Technologies.

It was acknowledged that two years had passed since the last gathering and that there were many ongoing issues that still required attention. The importance of intellectual discussion on these issues was emphasized, and the forum was presented as an ideal platform for such discourse.

A celebration of MiDAS's 14th anniversary was mentioned, along with the institute's strive to catch up with similar institutions in Malaysia and the region. The support of the Defence Minister, Honourable Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, and the Ministry colleagues led by Secretary-General Honourable Dato' Seri Isham Ishak, was gratefully acknowledged.

The planning process for the forum was described, with identifying the right topics being highlighted as a challenge due to the abundance of concerning issues. It was reported that after internal consultation, '**Non-Traditional Threats and Emerging Technologies**' was chosen as the central theme.

The Chief Executive's personal experience with counter-insurgency operations, natural disaster response, and leading a peace observer team was shared. This experience, it was said, led to a strong belief in the seriousness of non-traditional threats and the importance of addressing them.

The increasing call for military involvement in natural disaster response was mentioned, along with the learning from foreign counterparts that other armed forces faced similar situations. The challenges and opportunities associated with this expanded role were discussed.

Technological advancements in weapon systems, communication, and intelligence were also addressed. The importance of information sharing and integration for better decision-making was stressed. The forum was presented as a platform for policymakers and practitioners to discuss this issue.

Appreciation was also expressed for the cooperation of the Ministry, Defence Services Asia (DSA), MiDAS fellows, various experts, and colleagues. The speakers' expertise and importance were emphasized.

Gratitude was also reiterated to the Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence, Malaysia for his support. Appreciation was also extended to ministry colleagues and those who assisted with the forum's success.

A desire to avoid a lengthy speech was conveyed, with the focus being placed on allowing the distinguished speakers to proceed with their deliberations. The Chief Executive concluded by inviting the Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khalid bin Nordin, Minister of Defence Malaysia, to deliver his keynote address and officially officiate the Putrajaya Forum 2024.

CHAPTER 2

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DATO' SERI MOHAMED KHALED BIN NORDIN, MINISTER OF DEFENCE MALAYSIA

An analysis of how international politics has evolved dynamically was presented by the Minister of Defence, Malaysia, Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin. It was argued that the first quarter of a century often witnesses significant shifts that define the course for the rest of the century. Numerous examples were provided to illustrate this point. The Industrial Revolution period of the 19th century, for instance, was highlighted. New machines were invented during this time, and mass production was initiated. The birth of nation-states, which had a lasting impact throughout the century, was also mentioned.

The 20th century was marked by the outbreak of World War I, followed by the devastating World War II. Nearly half of the 20th century was dominated by the Cold War. With this historical context established, the Minister of Defence then directed attention to the significant events of the first 25 years of the 21st century.

The 9/11 attacks were identified as the defining event of this era. These attacks were described as a "black swan event" that defied prediction. A series of subsequent terror attacks, including those in Bali, Madrid, London, Mumbai, Christchurch, and Manchester, were also mentioned. Atrocities were perpetrated, brutalities were provoked, and narrowed ideologies were propagated by terrorist groups around the world. These activities were said to have required decades of international effort to counter.

Emphasis was placed on the ongoing threat of terrorism and the challenges posed by new technologies like AI and robotics by the Minister of Defence. Several important questions were raised, including:

a. How can new technologies be leveraged for security while mitigating potential risks?

b. How can information sharing and international cooperation be improved to address non-traditional security threats?

c. How can developing countries bridge the technological gap with more advanced nations?

d. How can we invest in the younger generation to prepare them for future security challenges?

A call for diverse ideas and collaboration to address these complex issues was made by the Minister of Defence in conclusion. The need for innovative solutions and a commitment to responsible technological advancement was emphasized. The importance of open discussion and collaboration to ensure a secure future was highlighted by the Minister of Defence in closing.

The extraordinary events of the first quarter of the 21st century were encapsulated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced a global lockdown and a new normal way of life. This highlighted the unprecedented circumstances that lie ahead in the next 75 years. Natural disasters and climate change were mentioned as ongoing threats causing havoc on health, living conditions, and agriculture. The relentless destruction caused by these forces was compared to the devastation of a tsunami. Recent extreme weather events in Dubai, including torrential rain and storms that flooded highways and trapped residents, were used as an example. Malaysia's increasing frequency of natural disasters was also mentioned as a sign of things to come.

Environmental refugees, mass migration, food security, and water as a potential future cause of major conflict were identified as issues yet to be addressed. The cyber and digital realm's potential for both opportunities and challenges was acknowledged, particularly in the context of major power rivalry. Malaysia's recent hosting of Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and a significant investment in AI and cloud systems were highlighted as a positive development.

Malaysia's progress towards becoming a regional hub for data centres, attracting prominent investors with billions in commitments across various locations, was described. It was emphasized that these digital investments, along with multi-layered cooperation to strengthen cyberspace capacity building, were safeguarded by competent agencies and digital governance acts. The necessity of navigating the potential dangers of emerging technologies that could threaten national interests was stressed.

The transition of emerging technologies from novelty to necessity was acknowledged. Their continuous role in reshaping the global financial, healthcare, and education landscape was mentioned. The potential dangers of Generative AI apps and their influence on daily lives were highlighted. The affordability and accessibility of emerging robotics and drone technologies, once thought to be science fiction, and their impact on warfare were also noted.

These significant events in the first 25 years were used to raise several questions. The potential threats posed by advancements alongside their benefits were acknowledged. Questions regarding the continued presence of non-traditional security threats, preparation for unforeseen events, the inevitability of future lockdowns, and the value of past experiences were presented. The importance of enhanced cooperation and effective solutions was emphasized.

The limitations of finding all the answers alone were acknowledged by the Minister of Defence. A call for collaborative identification and implementation of practical solutions with global resonance was made. The need for investment in new ideas, efforts, and resources to address the challenges of non-traditional security was stressed. The importance of keeping track of current situations and leveraging the advantages of emerging technologies for defence diplomacy was emphasized. The focus on accelerating creative and effective defence solutions with responsible technological adoption was highlighted. The Minister of Defence advocated for new technologies with practical solutions to be the centre of diplomatic ties and international partnership negotiations. Technologies like satellite and cybersecurity innovations were mentioned for their role in improving real-time communication and information sharing among military and defence personnel. The Minister of Defence called for dedicated research and investment in these areas due to their effectiveness in streamlining coordination and expediting decision-making.

Based on this foundation, several points for discussion were proposed. These included exploring collaborative adoption of new technologies, facilitating information sharing through open big data initiatives, leveraging function-based cooperation through multilateral groups, and collaboration between developing countries and commercial actors to bridge the technological gap. The importance of prioritizing resources for the younger generation to address non-traditional security risks due to their interest and familiarity with emerging technology was emphasized. Investing in the next generation was framed as a way to ensure they are equipped to navigate future challenges. The closing remarks acknowledged the vastness of the topic and expressed hope that the discussion points would provide a strong foundation for insightful discourse. The need for unconventional views and diverse ideas to address non-traditional threats was reiterated. The Putrajaya Forum 2024 was declared open, with wishes for successful deliberation.

CHAPTER 3

SESSION 1

TOWARDS ENHANCED NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

MODERATOR: PROFESSOR HAJJAH RUHANAS HARUN

SPEAKERS:

HON. OPPAH CHARM MUCHINGURI - KASHIRI
MINISTER OF DEFENCE, ZIMBABWE

HON. CELAL SAMI TÜFEKCİ
DEPUTY MINISTER OF
NATIONAL DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

Speaker 1

HON. OPPAH CHARM ZVIPANGE MUCHINGURI-KASHIRI

Minister for Defence and War Veterans Affairs Zimbabwe

Hon. Oppah Charm Muchinguri Kashiri was appointed as the Minister for Defence and War Veterans Affairs, Zimbabwe in October 2018. She became the first female minister to hold such a post in Zimbabwe. The Honourable Minister holds a BSc (Hons) Cumlade from Mantako State University International Relations and Economic, (Minnesota), an M.P.A from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and a Masters in International Relations from the University of Zimbabwe. She has an illustrious political career dating back to the time of the liberation struggle. During the period of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in Zimbabwe, from 2009 to 2013, she was a member of Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC), which was aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Global Political Agreement between ZANU PF, MDC and MDC-T in promoting dialogue among political parties. In December 2017, she was appointed National Chairman of ZANU PF, becoming the first women to hold such an influential and powerful position in ZANU PF since 1980. From 2014 to June 2015, she was the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development. From July 2015 to September 2018, she was the Minister of Environment, Water & Climate

Speaker 2

HON. DR. CELAL SAMI TÜFEKCİ, PH.D.

Deputy Minister of National Defense, Republic of Türkiye.

Currently Hon. Dr Tüfekci has been appointed as Deputy Minister of National Defense, Republic of Türkiye responsible from the Technical Services, Defense Projects, Military Logistic Factories (Land, Air, Sea), and National Defense Firms of MKE and ASFAT. Hon. Dr Tüfekci started his professional career as a Project Engineer in the Research Center of the world's leading postage and document creation company, Pitney Bowes, Inc., Shelton, CT, USA. He conducted work on high-performance motion control systems resulted in US and EU patents. Hon. Dr Tüfekci gained his degrees of B.S. at Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye; M.S. at Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA; and Ph.D. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA, all in Mechanical Engineering. In academic capacity, he served as Research Assistant at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA; Assistant Department Head at the Mechanical Engineering Department at University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA; Adjunct Faculty at University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Oshawa, ON, Canada), Gazi University (Ankara, Türkiye), and Atılım University (Ankara, Türkiye); and lastly as Professor and Director of the Central Research Laboratories at the Yıldız Technical University, İstanbul, Türkiye

Moderator

PROFESSOR HAJJAH RUHANAS BINTI HARUN

National Defence University Malaysia

Professor Hajjah Ruhanas bin Harun graduated with M.A from Sorbonne University, Paris, Post Graduate Diploma in Political Studies from Institute d'Etudes Politiques, Paris, B.A (Hons.) in International Relations and Post Graduate Diploma in Translation from University of Malaya. She is a Professor at the Department of Strategic Studies, Faculty of Management and Defence Studies (FPPP), National Defence University of Malaya (UPNM). She has served as the Department Head of International and Strategic Studies in University of Malaya, a Lecturer and Professor in the Department of International Relations and Security Studies, National University of Malaya (UKM) and Malaysian Armed Forced Defence College, Kuala Lumpur. Hajjah Ruhanas researches, lectures and publishes on her area of expertise including Malaysia's foreign policy, national security and peacebuilding and regional integration. Hajjah Ruhanas is currently the Distinguished Fellow at the Malaysian Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Senior Fellow at the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MIDAS) and Senior Fellow at the Regional Centre for Security Studies Kuala Lumpur

TOWARDS ENHANCED NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

The current focus is more on the geopolitical rivalry, which has no foreseeable ending in the near future. Notwithstanding the great powers' competition, there are matters in which states continue to cooperate and thus continue to extend peace. non-traditional threats must be addressed as such threats tend to catch us by surprise. Pandemics, terrorism, and natural disasters continue to force us to work together. In parallel, transnational crimes, cyber threats and climate change need serious cooperation from states.

a. What would be the framework and mechanisms for robust regional co operation in Non-Traditional Security?

b. How should we leverage the advancement of technologies to pursue such cooperation?

c. How can we put aside our political differences and work towards shared concerns?

Thus, the geopolitical rivalry persists, but states continue to cooperate in addressing non-traditional threats like pandemics, terrorism, natural disasters, transnational crimes, cyber threats, and climate change. The focus of this session was about developing robust regional cooperation frameworks, leveraging technology advancements, and overcoming political differences for shared concerns.

Moderator : Professor Hajjah Ruhanas binti Harun

National Defence University Malaysia

Professor Hajjah Ruhanas, the session moderator, extended a warm welcome to all participants, expressing her delight at their presence.

Professor Hajjah Ruhanas introduced the topic: '**Towards Enhanced Non-Traditional Security Cooperation'**. She explained the session would focus on current security challenges, like geopolitical competition, while underlining the need for collaboration despite rivalries. Emphasizing the growing importance of non-traditional threats like pandemics, terrorism, and natural disasters, Professor Hajjah Ruhanas highlighted the necessity for nations to cooperate, referencing examples raised by previous speakers such as transnational crime, cyber security, and climate change. She then outlined three key discussion points: frameworks for strong regional cooperation in addressing these threats, leveraging technological advancements for cooperation while acknowledging the potential digital divide, and setting aside political differences to overcome common security threats. After introducing the discussion points, the moderator presented the distinguished speakers, firstly the Hon. Oppah Charm Zvipange Muchinguri-Kashiri, the first female Minister for Defence and War Veterans Affairs of Zimbabwe, and the Hon. Dr. Celal Sami TÜFEKCİ, Deputy Minister of National Defence, Republic of Türkiye who overseeing technical services, defence projects, and logistics.

Concluding her introduction, Professor Hajjah Ruhanas reminded the speakers of their 15-minute time limit for presentations followed by a Q&A session, before formally inviting the Hon. Oppah Charm Zvipange Muchinguri-Kashiri, Zimbabwean Minister of Defence to begin the session.

Speaker 1: Hon. Oppah Charm Zvipange Muchinguri-Kashiri

Minister for Defence and War Veterans Affairs , Zimbabwe.

A presentation by Hon. Oppah Charm Muchinguri-Kashiri, Minister of Defence Zimbabwe. The presentation started by her highlighting on the pandemic's terrorism along with natural disasters transnational crimes climate change and also cybercrimes which have become threats to our times. She said that these threats are grappling the world with the pandemics which have had a negative impact on both public health and also National Security. The recent covid-19 pandemic has had devastating effects which led to the deaths of millions of people and collapse of economies across the World. She strongly believes that we need to work together to strengthen Health Care Systems in order to achieve Universal coverage and provision of self and affordable medicine as well as vaccines for all.

Then, she stressed on working closely with international partners and organizations in order to access resources as well as in research and development to recognize the vital role that their Defence Forces play in responding to Public Health emergencies such as these pandemics where at the height of the covid-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe. She said that their Defence Forces were among the Frontline players in mitigating the effects of the pandemic by providing support to health care workers enforcing quarantine measures and ensuring that essential supplies reach the intended beneficiaries. The Zimbabwe Defence Forces as part of its secondary role is mandated under the civil protection act chapter 10 of subsection 6 to provide military assistance to civil Ministries during Public Health emergencies in order to capacitate their defence and security forces to perform their secondary role of assisting civil Ministries during such public emergencies.

Next, she mentioned that the recurrence of these disasters over the past year's terrorism has remained a major threat that requires a collaborative approach from countries in their region such as the Democratic Republic of Congo. They believe that terrorism currently has an unregulated movement of illegal immigrants and refugees from regions which are affected by violent extremism to the southern region of Africa. These threats transcend across territorial boundaries and they fear that the threat May spill over to other countries in the region as the terrorist activities are also sponsored through money laundering cells in and around the world.

She also believes that we must enhance intelligence sharing border security measures with the use of drone technology and mount joint military operations to combat this Menace. She also mentioned that they have set up Sadak region as a regional counterterrorism center based in Tanzania with the aim of ensuring enhanced coordination strengthened participation as well as fostering timely response to terrorism and violent extremism on natural disasters where the southern African region has been experiencing a significant risk to food Security in their region. The reparation of natural disasters was found to have far-reaching effects posing a significant threat to the well-being of their citizens and the stability of their regions as they confronted the challenges posed by natural disasters.

She then stated that it is imperative that they bolster their security cooperation effort for effective responses in the Sadak region and she is glad that their Defence Forces have been collaborating closely during Cyclones that affected the region including the most devastating Cyclone which ravaged southern Africa in 2019. The Defence Forces played a pivotal role in coordinating emergency responses providing logistical support and ensuring the Safety and Security of affected communities. In regards to this natural disaster, she stressed on the needs of training her Defence Forces in handling disaster preparedness and management as well as capacitating them with equipment so that they are in a position to respond to these calamities swiftly. Besides that, she said that technology is also needed particularly on early Warning Systems so that they are able to move their people to safer place.

Before she ends her presentation, she stressed on in the process of saving lives on transnational crimes such as human trafficking, illegal migration, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and smuggling of illegal goods will require a coordinated international response as these crimes pose a significant danger to their National Security due to the transnational nature if they disregard International Norms. She urged to strengthen law enforcement cooperation and enhance border controls by supporting initiatives that address the root causes of these crimes in order to protect vulnerable populations affected by them the 21st Century. Lastly, she mentioned that the Security landscape demands a holistic approach which goes beyond traditional military considerations to address the intricate interplay of these multifaceted challenges.

Moderator : Professor Hajjah Ruhanas binti Harun

National Defence University Malaysia

Professor Hajjah Ruhanas expressed her gratitude, thanking the Hon. Minister for unpacking a lot despite the limited time. She reminded the participants that a Q&A session would follow the presentations. She then extended an invitation to Hon. Dr Celal Sami TÜFEKCİ, Deputy Minister of National Defense Republic of Türkiye, for his presentation, indicating that the floor was his.

Speaker 2: Hon. Dr. Celal Sami TÜFEKCİ, Ph.D.

Deputy Minister of National Defense, Republic of Türkiye.

The second presentation is by Hon. Dr Celal Sami TUFEKCI, Deputy Minister of Defence, Republic of Türkiye. In this talk, he focused on understanding the current world setting as we are all aware about the international environment that has become increasingly precarious in recent years. This naturally compels nations to not only work more closely with their immediate neighbors but also Forge New strategic Partnerships with actors. For instance, we recognize the Paramount importance of fostering a secure and stable region as well as a peaceful globe reconciling differences and establishing a robust security architecture with our neighbours is not solely a bilateral matter but a crucial factor in preserving global security on a broader scale. This is precisely why Republic of Türkiye has prioritized diplomatic outreach and closer cooperation with its neighbor countries in the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Looking ahead, Republic of Türkiye remains committed to fostering constructive regional security dialogues and joint military exercises. These initiatives build trust and facilitate the exchange of vital resources by ultimately presenting a more unified front against the complex and multifaceted challenges collectively faced while GL geopolitical rivalries appear to be intensified in worldwide. We remain convinced that the potential for cooperation between nations is still strong enough to help mitigate global security concern. However, the interdependency of the world today is undeniable a dispute erupting in one corner of the globe can have riffle effects sparking tensions or even triggering new conflicts in seemingly distant regions. For example, Africa was disproportionately affected by the collapse of the grain Corridor agreement which ended after an increase in tension in the Russian-Ukraine war. Turkey had made great efforts to ensure the continuity of grain corridor in spite of the escalation. This initiative by effectively curbing the impending food crisis has also successfully averted a potential surge in migration to Europe.

In addition, the hazardous maritime conditions in the Gulf of Eden caused by the Israeli Hamas conflict caused major disruptions in the global trade. The fight against terrorism as we are all aware of there is a separatist terrorist organization which is responsible for the loss of more than 40,000 innocent lives as you can see on the map. They maintained an active presence in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria as well as in several European countries by operating under different aliases. They are misleading the international community and hindering efforts to combat their activities for us. We have witnessed this firsthand in our own neighborhood on the ongoing instability in the Middle East for example has unfortunately fueled extremism and radicalism. Muslims have suffered the most from this extremism DAESH who propagates a false narrative distorting the real meaning of Islam as a member of the global Coalition against DAESH since its Inception in 2014.

Republic of Türkiye has opened their airspace and bases in support of coalition's operations and endured the devastating loss of more than 600 innocent lives in attacks carried out by DAESH in August 2016. Republic of Türkiye felt compelled to unilaterally carry out operation DESERT SHIELD during which approximately 400 to 4500 of the most radical DAESH terrorists were neutralized in Syria and Iraq.

The Republic of Türkiye Armed Forces stands as the only NATO and Coalition Army to have fought DAESH on the ground with close quarters combat. Republic of Türkiye also prevented over 100,000 foreign terrorist fighters from entering Syria over the Republic of Türkiye border and deported about 10,000 terrorists back to their country of origin. Despite these challenges the prospect of cooperation between nations remains remarkably strong in Republic of Türkiye. He firmly believes that the we can overcome these obstacles through dialogue and commitment by sharing security from combating transnational terrorism to mitigating the impacts of instability.

He then, mentioned that re-cooperation is the cornerstone of a safer and more secure future for all of us to combat the rise of extremism and terrorism. Republic of Türkiye based a NATO accredited center of excellence (CoE) defense against terrorism or shortly called it as CoE that has served as a vital asset. This excellent center serves as a think tank and is dedicated to formulating effective counterterrorism strategies. They also provide educational and training programs equipping individuals with the Knowledge and Skills to confront threats. Furthermore, he claimed that this center plays a crucial role in coordinating counterterrorism training across NATO member states by fostering an unified approach. He encouraged all countries to collaborate with this center for this vital mission by sending participants or contributing lecturers.

Moreover, he believes that, together we can build a safer and more secure world as he states that the transnational threats in the connected world, we face today has an increasingly complex and multifaceted security landscape transnational crimes such as terrorism, drug trafficking wave, web of destruction, and instability across borders. Cyber threats with their ability to critical infrastructure and sensitive information represent a new disruptive danger. Natural disasters like the devastating and floods they recently experience in their region along with regional stability and pandemics like COVID-19 have served a stark reminder of their interconnected vulnerability.

He has also mentioned on the Republic of Türkiye defense industry evolving landscape of global threats from cyber-attacks to regional conflicts which necessitates a robust National Defense infrastructure. In regards to this, the Republic of Türkiye defense industry has emerged as a significant player striving for self-sufficiency while promoting international cooperation over the past 20 years. They have increasingly prioritized research and development on their level of domestic production and reached 80% the quality and compatibility of production which is at NATO standards. Republic of Türkiye defense industry products have proven their effectiveness and reliability in the field including in rough terrain and under severe weather conditions. Furthermore, he stated that Republic of Türkiye defense industry has been participating in the DSA exhibition with over 35 companies and advised all of us to visit and experience their defense products.

In conclusion, the global security landscape is fraud with challenges from extremist groups to transnational threats like pandemics, cyber-attacks, and drug trafficking. To effectively address these issues, a comprehensive approach like the excellency center in Istanbul is a necessary institution as it plays a vital role for fostering international cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. Holistic solutions are needed to strengthened global security by working together to address these shared threats. We can overcome political differences and build a future based on human security and cooperation. We can transition from a world marked by division to one where collaboration can pave the way for a more Equitable and harmonious Global Security.

Moderator: Professor Hajjah Ruhanas binti Harun

National Defence University Malaysia

Expressing gratitude, Professor Hajjah Ruhanas conveyed her thanks to Hon. Celal Sami TÜFEKCİ She then turned her attention to the audience, inviting active participation in the upcoming Q&A session and announcing the availability of microphones for those eager to engage. Emphasizing the importance of clarity in queries, she reminded questioners to state their names and institutions before presenting their questions.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION 1

Question Theme:

Challenges of Traditional Threats in Developing Countries

Question 1: A critical question facing developing nations is how to effectively manage the dynamic and unpredictable nature of traditional threats at the national level. This necessitates a coordinated effort, prompting the question – how can government agencies, private sectors, public sectors, and citizens work together to tackle these evolving threats?

Answer: Hon. Dr. Celal Sam Tufekci, an esteemed engineer, acknowledged the inherent limitations of relying solely on brute force solutions. He astutely observed that even the world's most powerful nations grapple with national collaboration. Hon. Dr. Tufekci underscored the paramount importance of fostering national unity. He implored institutions to function with a unified purpose, akin to a "single heartbeat," to effectively overcome these challenges. He emphasized the necessity of cost-effective solutions, achieved through robust collaboration and the development of a strong domestic industrial base. Furthermore, Hon. Dr. Tufekci stressed the critical need to eradicate corruption and for policymakers to actively facilitate inter-institutional cooperation. He concluded by advocating for a multifaceted approach, urging both national and global collaboration to achieve the ultimate goal of world peace.

Question 2: The discussion now turns to the potential correlation between transnational crimes, such as human and drug trafficking, and weak governance characterized by corruption. Is it accurate to assert that these heinous activities flourish in such an environment? If so, what concrete steps can be taken to mitigate this issue?

Answer: The esteemed Hon. Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri highlighted the importance of conducting a comprehensive review of national legislation. She advocated for a proactive approach, encouraging countries to glean best practices from their peers on how to effectively combat these pressing issues. Hon. Muchinguri-Kashiri acknowledged the invaluable role played by the regional centre in facilitating the exchange of information on successful strategies employed by other nations. She pointed to unmanned border areas as a significant vulnerability that facilitates drug trafficking. To address this critical gap, she mentioned the utilization of drones as a means to bolster border security due to limitations in manpower.

Furthermore, Hon. Muchinguri-Kashiri underscored the vital role of a National Committee comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from the village level, where these crimes often have a devastating impact on schools and churches. She emphasized the implementation of crucial regulatory changes enacted through their parliament. These changes aim to ensure that enforcement systems are effectively decentralized and reach every corner of the nation, allowing for a more comprehensive approach to tackling these challenges.

Question Theme:

Enhancing Security Cooperation for Migrant Manipulation

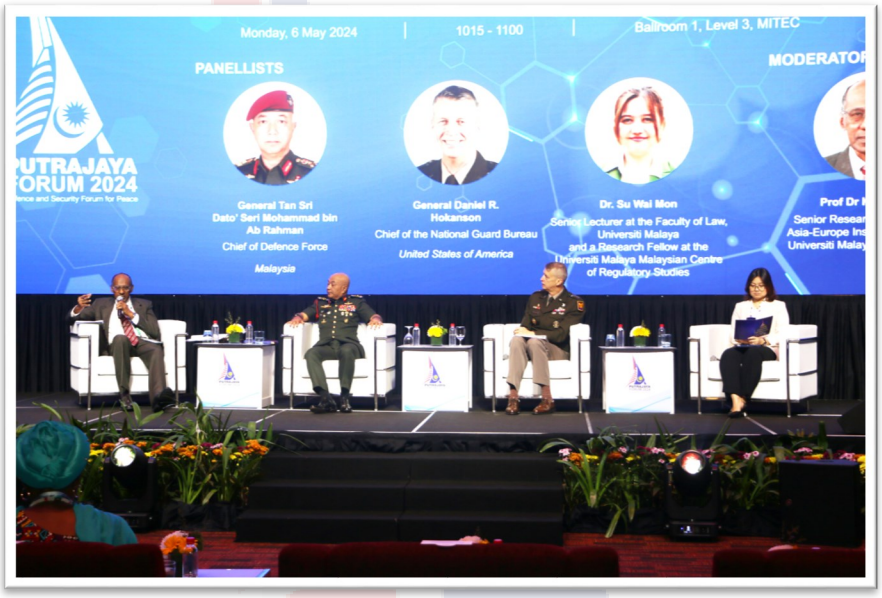
Question 1: The session now delves into the issue of state and non-state actors manipulating migration patterns for political, military, or economic gain. How can we enhance security cooperation to effectively address this complex and multifaceted challenge?

Answer 1: Hon. Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri discussed the influx of refugees fleeing the horrors of terrorist activities who enter Zimbabwe from Zambia on their way to South Africa. These refugees often disregard border regulations, creating significant challenges for authorities. Hon. Muchinguri-Kashiri emphasized the need for a robust system of information exchange through dedicated forums. She highlighted the importance of joint border patrols and the effective use of technology as critical tools to enhance border security.

Answer 2: Hon. Dr Celal Sami Tufekci shared Republic of Türkiye's experience with the mass migration crisis triggered by the instability in Syria. He explained their two-pronged approach of classifying migrants based on their motivations. The first category comprises those fleeing war and seeking safety, while the second category encompasses terrorist groups. He explained that terrorist groups are dealt with decisively by the military. In contrast, the first group is provided with a safe haven in a specifically designated buffer zone established along the southern border of Turkey. This zone provides essential services such as food and education to these displaced individuals. Hon. Dr Tufekci acknowledged the significant economic burden this has placed on Turkey. He passionately called for global and United Nations support to address the needs of these migrants. He emphasized the importance of fostering international collaboration, arguing that it is a collective responsibility to address this complex humanitarian crisis.

These terrorist groups exist with support and they are being used as proxy against turkey hence they are dealt by military while the first class is dealt with by a buffer region in the south of Republic of Türkiye where these migrants are not being prevented by brute force. This buffer zone is created in the south of Republic of Türkiye as a new establishment where the migrants are provided with food to eat as well schools to educate them but this effected their countries' economics due to the cost spent. This led them to negotiate with developed countries for support as it involves humanity. They seek for global and United Nations support for this effort in order to collaborate and deal with the necessities.

CHAPTER 4



SESSION 2

APPLYING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN IMPROVING MILITARY/DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

MODERATOR: PROFESSOR DR K.S. NATHAN

SPEAKERS:

GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SERI MOHAMMAD BIN AB RAHMAN
CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE, MALAYSIA

GENERAL DANIEL R. HOKANSON
CHIEF OF NATIONAL GUARDS BUREAU, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DR. SU WAI MON
SENIOR LECTURER, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

Speakers 1

HON. GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SERI SERI MOHAMMAD BIN AB RAHMAN

Chief of Defence Force Malaysian Armed Forces

Hon. General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad was appointed as the Chief of Defence Force on 6 September 2023, solidifying his legacy as a prominent figure in the defence of his nation. General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad graduated from the Royal Military College in December 1981 and later pursued a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, United States of America. He was commissioned as an Infantry Officer into the Royal Malay Regiment on 1 July 1987. He demonstrated his leadership capabilities through command appointments ranging from battalion to Army Field Command. General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad served as the General Officer Commanding of the 3rd Infantry Division, and General Officer Commanding of the Army Training and Doctrine Command. In June 2020, he assumed command of the Army West Field Command, marking another milestone in his distinguished career. On 19 December 2020, General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad was appointed as the 25th Deputy Chief of Army and subsequently promoted to the 29th Chief of Army on 22 March 2023

Speakers 2

HON. GENERAL DANIEL R. HOKANSON

Chief of the National Guard Bureau United States of America

Hon. General Daniel R. Hokanson serves as the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he serves as a military adviser to the President, Secretary of Defence, National Security Council and is the Department of Defense's official channel of communication to the Governors and State Adjutants General on all matters pertaining to the National Guard. General Hokanson served previously as the Director of the Army National Guard, and earlier as the 11th Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau. General Hokanson graduated from the United States Military Academy and served on active duty in Air Cavalry, Attack Helicopter and Aircraft Test organizations prior to joining the Oregon National Guard. General Hokanson also served as the Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command, and Vice Commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defence Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. His combat deployments include Operations JUST CAUSE, ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He commanded the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Iraq and served as Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in Afghanistan.

Speakers 3

HON. DR SU WAI MON

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Hon. Dr Su Wai Mon is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, and a Research Fellow at the University Malaya Malaysian Centre of Regulatory Studies. Hon. Dr Su is also an associate member of the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES), at the University of Malaya (UM). She is an adjunct professor at Woxen University. Hon. Dr Su is a member of the Special Interest Group on the Ocean Thermal Energy Driven Development for Sustainability at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia. Hon. Dr Su holds a Ph.D. in maritime security and law enforcement from the International Islamic University (IIUM) Malaysia. She teaches Public International Law, and International Trade Law and supervises masters and Ph.D. students at the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya.

Moderator

PROF DR K.S. NATHAN

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Prof Dr K.S. Nathan - University of Malaya, Malaysia holds a B.A. Hons (2nd Upper) in History & International Relations from the University of Malaya (1971), Ph.D. in International Relations from Claremont Graduate University in California, USA (1975); LLB Hons (2nd Upper (1992) and LL.M. (1996) from the University of London. He earned his Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) from the Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysia in 1996. He is also an Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, having been Called to the Malaysian Bar in July 2015. He is also a college trained teacher (Malaysian Teachers College-Regional Training Centre, Kuala Lumpur), having obtained a Certificate in Education (Cert.Ed.) in 1966. Prof Dr K.S. Nathan - University of Malaya, Malaysia is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) in the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. Previously he was Professor of International Relations in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of Malaya from 1994-2001. From 1st April 2001 until 31st March 2007 he served as a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore. Currently, he is residing as a professor in University of Malaya, Malaysia.

Moderator: Prof Dr K.S. Nathan

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Prof. Dr K.S. Nathan, the moderator of the forum, opened Session Two by welcoming everyone. He expressed his delight at chairing the session, ten years after a similar experience at the Putrajaya Forum.

The focus of the session, he explained, was on emerging military technologies and their multifaceted impact on national security, diplomacy, and foreign policy. He emphasized exploring the responsible use of these technologies for various purposes and the importance of confidence in their application.

Prof. Dr Nathan acknowledged the audience's expertise in military matters, assuming their familiarity with the eight key trends shaping modern warfare. These trends included artificial intelligence (AI), advanced defence equipment, robotics, the Internet of Military Things (IoMT), cyberwarfare, immersive technologies, 3D printing, and big data analysis.

He then highlighted specific technologies with high potential impact, such as AI and autonomous systems, quantum technology, bioengineering, hypersonic weapons, space advancements, novel materials and manufacturing processes, energy and propulsion improvements, and next-generation communication networks.

As a real-world example, Prof. Dr Nathan cited the Russia-Ukraine war, where drone technology significantly influences the conflict's course. He predicted an even more decisive role for drones in future conflicts, fundamentally changing how militaries operate. The use of AI in logistics, evident in the intelligent behaviour of information-carrying drones, was presented as another impactful example.

Prof. Dr Nathan stressed the importance of proactively navigating these advancements. He challenged scholars, analysts, policymakers, and leaders to move beyond simply acknowledging them. He emphasized the psychological dimension at play, urging the audience to choose a proactive and positive approach. Reframing these technologies as opportunities, not just threats, and developing confidence in handling them were presented as crucial steps.

The moderator then shifted the focus to the impact of emerging technologies on military diplomacy. He acknowledged the traditional focus on interactions between nation-states, as championed by the late Professor Muna. However, Professor Nathan highlighted the growing importance of non-traditional threats and the technologies needed to address them, as discussed in Session One. The valuable insights offered by the Turkish delegate's presentation were mentioned in this context.

Before formally beginning the session, Prof. Dr Nathan introduced the esteemed speakers which are General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad bin Ab Rahman, Chief of Defence Force, Malaysian Armed Forces, General Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, United States and Dr. Sue Wai Mon, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya

Prof. Dr Nathan emphasized the value of the speakers' diverse perspectives in ensuring a comprehensive discussion. He stated that the session would explore whether these technologies were threats or opportunities, assets or risks. Ultimately, he concluded, nations with robust research capabilities and confidence would be better positioned to navigate this evolving landscape. Singapore's commitment to staying at the forefront in Asia was mentioned as a positive example, with its advancements contributing to the strategic knowledge of the entire ASEAN region.

Prof. Dr Nathan then officially opened the session for presentations, inviting General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad bin Ab Rahman, to begin. He allotted the General 15 minutes for his presentation and offered the flexibility of using the podium or speaking from his seat.

Speaker 1: Hon. General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad bin Ab Rahman
Chief of Defence Force, Malaysian Armed Forces, Malaysia

Hon. General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad bin Ab Rahman, Chief of Defence Force, Malaysia deliberates on an issue of vital concern on the topic of, '**Applying Emerging Technologies in Improving Military/Defence Diplomacy**".

Malaysia's defence sector is undergoing a significant transformation driven by the rapid advancement of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, space technologies, unmanned aerial systems, and more. This evolution is not isolated but is deeply connected with global geopolitics, influencing defence strategies, military capabilities, and security paradigms.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, has emerged as a game- changer in defence, offering capabilities ranging from enhanced situational awareness to autonomous decision-making. In Malaysia, AI applications are being explored to strengthen defence capabilities across various domains, including intelligence analysis and cybersecurity. However, as AI becomes more integrated into defence systems, concerns regarding ethical usage, accountability, and the risk of autonomous weapons proliferation necessitate careful consideration and alignment with global norms and regulations.

Robotics is another frontier where Malaysia's defence perspective is transforming significantly. Military robotics, including unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, are revolutionising intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance. Malaysia's defense forces are leveraging robotics to enhance operational efficiency, minimise risk to personnel, and address emerging threats in complex environments. Yet, the proliferation of military robotics also raises ethical dilemmas, such as the potential for autonomous warfare and the need for human oversight in decision-making processes.

Space technologies have emerged as a critical enabler of Malaysia's defence capabilities, offering satellite communications, remote sensing, and navigation capabilities. The Malaysian space agency spearheads efforts to develop indigenous satellite technologies and leverage space-based assets for defence applications. Satellite imagery and reconnaissance are crucial in border surveillance, maritime security, and disaster response, enhancing Malaysia's situational awareness and operational effectiveness. Moreover, Malaysia's strategic investments in space technologies reflect its aspirations for technological self-reliance and resilience amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

Drones, or unmanned aerial systems, have revolutionised military operations, offering cost- effective and versatile platforms for intelligence gathering, surveillance, and precision strikes. In Malaysia, unmanned aerial systems are utilised for border surveillance, counter-terrorism operations, and disaster management, augmenting defence capabilities and enhancing operational flexibility. However, the widespread use of unmanned aerial systems poses challenges, including airspace security threats, regulatory compliance, and privacy concerns. Malaysia is actively addressing these challenges by formulating robust regulations and acquiring counter-drone technologies to mitigate potential risks.

In the context of ongoing global geopolitics, Malaysia's defence perspective on emerging technologies is shaped by strategic imperatives, regional security dynamics, and technological competition among major powers. Malaysia seeks to leverage these technologies to enhance its defence capabilities, safeguard its sovereignty, and contribute to regional stability. However, the nation must navigate geopolitical complexities, technological dependencies, and ethical considerations to ensure that its defence engagements align with its national interests and values.

Harnessing emerging technologies to bolster defence diplomacy marks a significant shift towards fostering regional stability, encouraging cooperation, and tackling common security challenges. By advocating for policies at both regional and international levels that support these objectives, Malaysia can pave the way for a more effective and inclusive approach to defence diplomacy such as:

a. Bilateral and multilateral agreements on technology transfer: Malaysia supports the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements to facilitate responsible transfer and sharing of emerging military technologies among nations. These agreements prioritise principles such as transparency, non-proliferation, and adherence to international law.

b. Ethical norms and standards for AI and robotics: With AI and robotics increasingly integrated into military operations, Malaysia contributes to global efforts to develop ethical norms and standards for their use. This involves ensuring human oversight, accountability, and adherence to international humanitarian law.

c. Space governance framework: Recognising the crucial role of space technologies in modern military operations, Malaysia is engaging actively in developing international governance frameworks for space activities. This includes addressing is sues like orbital debris management, enhancing space situation al awareness, and promoting the peaceful use of outer space.

d. Regulation of autonomous weapons systems: In response to the proliferation of autonomous weapons systems (AWS), Malaysia advocates for international regulations that maintain human control and ensure accountability in their deployment.

e. Cybersecurity cooperation: Given the escalating threat of cyber-attacks, Malaysia prioritises collaborating with regional and international counterparts to strengthen cybersecurity. This involves sharing information, building capacity, and conducting joint exercises to enhance cyber resilience and safeguard critical infrastructure.

Cooperation and collaboration among states in developing new technologies are vital for fostering innovation, enhancing defence capabilities, and addressing shared security challenges. As we stand on the brink of a new era defined by rapid technological advancements, nations must unite to harness the transformative potential of emerging technologies for the collective benefit of humanity.

Firstly, states can collaborate through bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements to facilitate joint research and development initiatives. By pooling resources, expertise, and infrastructure, nations can accelerate technological innovation and achieve breakthroughs that would be unattainable individually. These agreements should prioritise transparency, accountability, and equitable access to technology to ensure that benefits are shared across all participating states.

Secondly, technology-sharing frameworks can promote the responsible exchange of defence-related technologies among states. By establishing clear guidelines and mechanisms for technology transfer, nations can foster collaboration while safeguarding against the misuse or spread of sensitive technologies. Open and transparent technology-sharing frameworks enable states to leverage each other's strengths and address common security challenges more effectively.

Thirdly, capacity-building programmes enhance states' capabilities to develop and utilise new technologies. By investing in education, training, and skill development initiatives, nations can empower their citizens with the knowledge and expertise to utilise emerging technologies for defence and security. Capacity-building programmes should be inclusive and accessible to all states, regardless of their level of technological advancement, to ensure that no nation is left behind in the technological race.

Fourthly, adherence to ethical standards and human rights principles is paramount in developing and deploying new technologies. States must collaborate to establish clear ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks that govern the responsible use of emerging technologies, particularly in sensitive areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and autonomous weapons systems. By upholding ethical standards and human rights principles, nations can ensure that technology development serves the greater good and contributes to global peace and security.

Lastly, diplomatic engagement and dialogue are essential for building trust, resolving conflicts, and promoting state cooperation. Through open and constructive dialogue, nations can address differences, share perspectives, and identify areas of mutual interest in developing new technologies. Diplomatic engagement should be inclusive and participatory, involving stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to ensure that diverse viewpoints are considered in decision-making processes.

The military industry is essential in advancing and applying emerging technologies for defence and security. As we navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of technological innovation, the military sector needs to align its efforts with national priorities, foster collaboration with government agencies, academia, and the private sector, and uphold ethical standards to ensure that advancements benefit society as a whole.

The military industry can invest in research and development initiatives focused on emerging technologies to contribute these goals. By dedicating resources to innovative projects such as artificial intelligence, robotics, space technologies, and unmanned aerial systems, the military industry can drive technological breakthroughs that enhance defence capabilities and address pressing security challenges. Collaboration with research institutions and universities can facilitate knowledge exchange and accelerate innovation.

Moreover, the military industry can facilitate technology transfer and share best practices with other stakeholders. Drawing on its expertise and experience, the military sector can support capacity- building programs and offer technical assistance to government agencies, defence forces, and industry partners. This collaborative approach can help build local capabilities, enhance interoperability, and foster a culture of innovation within the defence ecosystem.

Ethical considerations and human rights principles must be paramount in developing and deploying new technologies. As custodians of advanced weaponry and surveillance systems, the military industry is responsible for ensuring that technology is used responsibly and in line with international norms and standards. This entails guarding against the misuse of emerging technologies for malicious purposes and promoting transparency in technology development and deployment.

Furthermore, the military industry can contribute to defence diplomacy efforts by championing international collaboration and cooperation. The military sector can foster trust and forge partnerships with other nations by participating in bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements, technology-sharing frameworks, and joint research initiatives. This collaborative approach can enhance regional security, foster stability, and support global peacekeeping efforts.

Ultimately, the military industry must embrace innovation and adaptability to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic security environment. By embracing emerging technologies and cultivating a culture of continuous improvement, the military industry can lead the way in defence innovation and ensure that Malaysia maintains a competitive edge on the global stage.

In conclusion, as we navigate the intricate landscape of emerging technologies and their impact on defence and security, it becomes evident that collaboration, innovation, and ethical considerations are of utmost importance. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, prioritising research and development, and promoting ethical principles, we can effectively address the challenges and seize the opportunities posed by these advancing technologies.

Additionally, recognising the role of emerging technologies in improving military and defence diplomacy, Malaysia is committed to leveraging these advancements to enhance global stability and foster cooperation among nations. Hence paving the way for a safer and more prosperous future for all. in adaptability in dealing with these evolving security challenges.

Moderator: Prof Dr K.S. Nathan

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Prof Dr K.S. Nathan thanked General Tan Sri for his presentation. He reminded the audience about the session would taking questions after all panelists completed their presentations. He, then invited General Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, United States of America to take the floor.

Speaker 2: Hon. General Daniel R. Hokanson

Chief of the National Guard Bureau, United States of America

Hon. General Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief of National Guards Bureau, United States of America. He starts on a complimentary presentation that touch on the aspect of peace and stability across the globe. It is a task larger than any single nation and as emerging technologies intensify and accelerate both the risks and opportunities before us. The relationship between nation, between allies and partners has never been more important. He shared how the United States National Guard is building those relationships, how those relationships build capability and capacity related to emerging technologies for our allies and partners and how these connections promote security and stability, peace, and prosperity.

The SPP (The State Partnership Program) is the most productive cost-effective security cooperation agreement. Its improving military defence diplomacy all around the world. The SPP formerly pairs a state's national guard with a partner nation's military security forces and as you saw in the video, Disaster Response Organizations. Today we have 92 partnerships with 106 Nations around the world. All 50 of our states, 3 of our territories, Guam Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and the district of Columbia have at least one partner nation. As a brief history, the state partnership program began after the collapse of the Soviet Union as they emerged from behind the iron curtain, former soviet states look to reform their militaries, moving away from a communist system towards democracy and civilian control of their armed forces. Because of our legacy within the National Guard as state militias and because it would seem less provocative to Russia at the time, The National Guard was the obvious choice to lead these engagements.

In addition, the guard has experienced with Disaster Response, search and rescue and civil military relationships, which were all of great interest to the former soviet states at that time. And so in 1993, the first 3 state partnerships were formed. Estonia with Maryland, Laia with Michigan and Lithuania with Pennsylvania. Today there are multiple partnership in every region of the world and will add 7 new partner nations, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Sweden, Tanzania, Gabon, Sierra Leon, and Palao in 2024. The pairing of states with a nation are not random. Demographics, economics, military size and composition are all factored in. This helps establish the sense of commonality and make the partnerships beneficial for both parties. And over the years we have seen some truly inspired pairings. For instance, Mongolia and the Alaska National Guard share similar climate challenges, geography and vast natural resources. Rhode Island and Timur Leste share a coastal climate and Portuguese heritage and though the partnership between Plow and the Guam National Guard is one of our newest. It is rooted shared ancestry and culture that spans the Millennia.

In 2023 alone, more than 9000 guardsmen completed 1500 worldwide SPP engagements. But as impressive as the numbers may be, they only tell a small part of the SPP story. The best stories are about people because the state partnership program is truly about people. It is about mutually beneficial relationships where we learn from each other. It is about finding commonality across cultures and languages. It is about partnerships; it is about cooperation that endures for 30 years and counting. You can find examples in every one of our combatant commands one of my greatest honors as Chief of the National Guard Bureau is having the opportunities to witness these examples and see the impact of this program all around the world.

Last year, the presenter has visited Hanoi, Vietnam where the Oregon National Guard was training with the delegation from the Vietnamese National Committee for incident disaster response and search and rescue. Disaster response and search and rescue are exercise that we both learn from each other. This allows both of us to improve our ability to respond to natural disasters and communicate effectively with our key civilian agencies. This visit was especially significant to me as an Oregon Guardsman since a partnership between Vietnam and the Oregon National Guard began more than a decade ago, he has seen how the relationship between our Guardsmen and our Vietnamese Partners has grown. He also mentioned that his first visited Vietnam as Oregon's Adjutant General in 2014, just 2 years after the partnership began and he was proudly seeing how it has evolved. In fact, during my visit, the Vietnamese counterparts that he had worked with in 2014 who had all since retired, all traveled to see me a testament to how these partnerships build relationships that endure and develop over time.

He also had the opportunity to witness our Guardsmen and their Partners in Action at the African Lion Training exercise in 2021. It was one of his first overseas travels and he was excited by the opportunity to see our Guardsmen and service members from 9 partner nations training side by side. One of the nations, Morocco the host of the event have been partnered with the Utah National Guard for nearly 2 decades. Utah and Morocco cooperate on combined arms capabilities including Special Forces, Attack Helicopters, Artillery, and fighter aircraft. Other exchanges include humanitarian demining, emergency medicine, disaster response and non-commissioned officer development. Less than a year into their partnership, Morocco was struck by a devastating earthquake, but less than 72 hours later the Utah National Guard delivered emergency relief supplies with their KC 135 refueling aircraft. Morocco has shown staunch support for their security cooperation relationship with the Utah National Guard which make our populations more secure. This partnership has promoted lasting friendship, deepened understanding, and cultural appreciation between the people of the United States and Morocco. And that's because these partnerships are an exchange where we work together, learn together from each other, and help strengthen each other.

In December of 2022, he has traveled to Ecuador as part of the South American Defense Conference. Ecuador is partnered with the state of Kentucky, a partnership that's been reinvigorated by shared challenges in recent years. Large scale disasters are an ongoing concern for both Ecuador and Kentucky and while Kentucky National Guard responded to Historic Flooding in 2022 and 2023, they also trained to respond to earthquakes given their proximity to a major fault line in the United States and in their training they look to their state partner Ecuador who has experienced many of the same disaster but they don't just train disaster response expertise in June last year are non-commissioned instructors from Kentucky met with senior non-commissioned instructors from Ecuador's Army and Air Force and how we would best trait our service members.

It was the first of a growing number of all enlisted subject matter exchanges. Now by these examples you might think that SPP is primarily focused on Disaster Response after all no one is immune to the challenges of climate change or the role and impact of humanitarian response missions for our nation's military.

The geographic diversity of the United States gives us a broad range of climate challenges from earthquakes to hurricanes, to floods, to wildfires, challenges our partners shares. But working together we can exchange best practices and learn from each other so we can better prepare for, response to and mitigate disasters, wherever or whenever they may be. But climate change is not our only shared challenge. We are all interconnected in the digital image from our satellite communications to the internet as cyberspace becomes a critical war fighting domain. The benefits of our partnership extend into the digital realm as well one example is Poland who has partnered with the Illinois National Guard. In recent years particularly considering the Cyber threats posed by Russia, Poland began seriously hardening in cyber operations, observing their Illinois National Guard partners and learning how they handled this contested domain. In a few short years, Poland has developed a formidable cyber program and was recently ranked 6th in the global cyber defense index that measures advanced resilience against cyber-attack. In another example, in July of 2022, the Washington National Guard hosted the cyber security capacity building program conference the first of its kind. It included cyber experts from the Washington National Guard, INDOPACOM, the Royal Thai Armed Forces, the Indonesian Armed Forces and cyberspace operation professionals from the Vietnamese military.

As the presenter mentioned before, Vietnam is partnered with the Oregon National Guard while both Malaysia and Thailand are partnered with the state of Washington. Together they developed cyber capability toured Microsoft campus in Redmond Washington, to learn about the company's cyber security efforts and learn about protecting critical infrastructure by a collective building capacity and more importantly building relationships before a crisis or conflict takes place, we help each other become stronger and more resilient. Although may be separated by language or distance, but we are united in what we seek, a peaceful stable world, safe countries, and safe citizens and together we step closer to making these things possible. We also can have the opportunity to address the things that challenge all of us. Cyber threats malformation and disinformation, Global pandemics, malevolent actors, climate change and internal crisis just to name a few.

These challenges are not confined to a single country, a single region or even a single hemisphere. Both directly and indirectly, they impact all of us, they are a collective problem and addressing and overcoming them is our Collective Responsibility. That's why earlier this year, the Washington Air National Guard and the Royal Malaysian Air Force signed a sister Squadron Agreement between their 320 control Squadron and the 225th Air Defense group, Western Air Defense sector in Washington. The seeds of this agreement began 6 years ago with the first SPP subject matter exchanges. Now, they strengthened their collaboration and further formalized their defense ties. As the Air Defense Group Commander, Col Anthony Brun said, it is not just about sharing knowledge, it is about understanding each other's cultures and approaches to our unique missions by furthering the Region's goals for air domain awareness and development of professional airmen, this partnership establishes the foundation for mutually beneficial exchanges to emphasize detection, sensing and fusing information.

These exchanges ultimately strengthen both nation's defense capabilities. The success of these partnership is built on relationships that endure across decades, spanning the entire duration of careers. The presenter saw the relationships developed between our adjutant general and the ministers and Chiefs of Affair Defense. These are genuine friendships with shared history, mutual understanding and yes inside jokes. These relationships can be found at every rank and our service members careers progress these relationships endure. When it is time to train, time to respond or time to fight, our Guardsmen and their partners build on existing relationships of trust and respect. When called, we stand shoulder to shoulder with friends not strangers.

In the current strategic environment, these relationships matter more than ever. Our national defense strategy is clear, mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are an enduring strength and they will be even more critical in the years ahead. There are so many benefits to our cooperation stronger diplomatic relations, greater prosperity, advancements in science and technology, improve resilience in the face of adversity, and a stable more peaceful world for generations to come. Freedom and democracy are foundational values, and no one can uphold them alone. Instead, we must work together, our alliances and invest in the partnerships that may one day make the difference between stability and chaos, between democracy and authoritarianism or one day victory and defeat. Our motto is ready always there and our partnership program is fundamental to that motto. Not only for ourselves but for our partner nations as well. The presenter delivered his appreciation for inviting him to join the forum this morning and look forward for any questions.

Moderator: Prof Dr K.S. Nathan – University of Malaya, Malaysia

Prof Dr K.S. Nathan expressed his appreciation to General Daniel R. Hokanson and extended his gratitude to the South Africa Defence Chief for providing insights into civil-military relationships from a diverse global perspective. Prof Dr K.S. Nathan remarked that it was refreshing to gain insights into General Daniel R. Hokanson experiences. Following this, he proceeded to invite Dr Su Wai Mon, Senior Lecturer of Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, for her presentation.

Speaker 3: Hon. Dr Su Wai Mon

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Hon. Dr Su Wai Mon, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya mentioned that she is truly honored to be here and thanked the Chief Executive of Midas for the kind invitation. It is also a great honor for her to be in the same panel with the Chief of Defence Force, Malaysia and the Chief of National Guards Bureau, United States of America. She explained that her approached will be in the maritime context. The key discussions point will be emerging technologies and maritime cyber threats and critical national infrastructures, significance of submarine communication cables and national security, and opportunities for defense diplomacy and what could be the way forward.

For emerging technologies and maritime cyber threats nowadays, we have this increased usage of IT and OT technologies, and maritime infrastructures are increasingly connected to the internet more than ever before and thus they are becoming more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. When we are looking at maritime infrastructures, we have key infrastructures like ships, ports and offshore oil rigs. To handle these issues, we must look at 3 key elements here the information that we share, technology that we employ, and the people who involve in the managing all this information as well as the technology. And, forward looking for the future mass maritime autonomous surface ships are coming in and we will have more increased usage of artificial intelligence, IOT and drones.

Why cybersecurity in the maritime context? The presenter mentioned that, as an academic, when she is working on the research and talking to the various stakeholders. She always gets these questions that why cyber security in the maritime industry or Maritime context how it is relevant? The global supply chain is heavily relied on Maritime Transportation. Its more than 90% of World Trade is carried by the shipping industry and the global pandemic spread off the digitalizing progress of the maritime industry including seaports and a report published by Lloyd's of London indicated that, if 15 Asian ports were hacked, financial losses would be more than US$110 billion. A significant amount of which would not be recovered through insurance policies, as OT system hacks are not covered under the insurance.

For cybersecurity risks for ships, vessels are now connected where these connected solutions are not always installed with cybersecurity in mind. So, most of the vessels are really old and their designs and the way the structures are not really cyber resilient. There are 2 aspects, here are the technical aspect. Large-scale commercial operators are running with hulls that are decades old and retrofitted with various kinds of technology when regulatory mandates made that necessary. And another aspect would be the socio-technical (people), so many of the personnel involved in the maritime industry are lower paid and less skilled. This is based on the research.

So, the next point is that she has a very limited time so she could not cover every detail. But another key points that we should take note would be the identification of critical national infrastructures talking about emerging technologies and the challenges that we have nowadays. Generally, when we define the CNI sectors, we will have energy, utilities which also includes the internet facilities and transport and of course financial services. It's very important for our nation to understand what our critical national infrastructure are, so that we can prepare the policy and regulatory, preparedness to protect those critical in national infrastructures.

The presenter would also like to highlight these very important issues which is, significance of submarine communication cables and national security. So, 99% of the internet is cable based and many of us realize or some of you might think that internet comes from the satellite, but it's not true. It is cable based which transmits internet signals from the submarine cables that are typically laid or buried under the seabed. The global submarine network is the backbone of the internet which is essential for global communications including the use of email, social media, phone and banking services. She thinks that without internet we all wouldn't be here today all together. It is estimated that roughly US$10 trillion of economic activity moves through submarines cables every day and despite submarine cables critical importance, almost all of them are privately owned and maintained. Submarine cables are critical for transatlantic security as regional governments rely heavily on such infrastructures for their own communications since diplomatic cables and military intelligence information largely pass through these privately owned cables.

So, what could be the opportunities for defense diplomacy? The presenter has tried to search for the simple definition, how to understand defense diplomacy. So, she found that it's pretty much very simple and it's exchange of personnel, ships, and aircraft, high-level visits and senior commanders, bilateral meetings and dialogue, training and exercises, regional defense forums, military assistance, confidence-building measures, and non-proliferation. And the main purpose is to build and maintain trust and help in the development of democratic armed forces. We must look for the opportunity by having these kinds of activities. To look for the opportunity, where do we cooperate, to face the emerging technology.

So, what could be the way forward, these are based on my personal experience talking to different stakeholders while working for my research project. First, the security threats landscape is changing due to digitalization. So even for lawyers, regulators we can't be on our own anymore. It must be multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary approach. Regulators does not know how to hack; we need to talk to hackers to properly regulate the industry. So, the security landscape is changing, and awareness is very important. We need to know what is happening in the environment. Talking about maritime environment so we have this maritime domain awareness, what is going on in our marine environment. We need to be aware of that. And after realizing that what is happening, what are the challenges we are facing. We need to set those common goals based key priorities, urgency for natural interest because different countries have different capabilities. Different national interest different priorities. So, we all must know individually first before we go beyond talking about cooperation and collaboration.

Furthermore, we need to know what our priorities are, what are our challenges and internally itself when we have the different stakeholders involved and we all need to set the common goals, we need to sit and talk and plan properly. And mutual trust among relevant stakeholders is also very important. Regulator, public authorities, law enforcement, of course defense and private sectors because we all must work together to achieve the common goals. And capacity building of course it is very important, skills and training is very important. So previously maybe Navy when we have the naval ship might not really care about cyber security but now, we might have to look at whether the naval vessels are cyber resilience or do we need the cyber security experts on board naval ships for example.

Moreover, close cooperation between public and private sectors and cooperation and coordination should be at national, regional, and global level respectively. We also need to work together with the government, academia, and the industry. And we need to be forward looking in problem solving. So, the presenter highlighted one point which is when we are talking about forward looking, we are not looking forward to having a big disaster to add. We need to be forward looking in preparing to face the challenges that we are going to face. So, it is very important because whenever we have academic discussions, how do we convince the stakeholders to act on it, to come up with the regulations, to have the effective governance then we shouldn't be just waiting for the big disaster to occur, but we must be proactive.

Finally, she would also like to share her recent seminar, international seminar on maritime cyber security which is part of her project funded by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and it was graciously supported by the defense cyber electromagnetic division of the Malaysian Armed Forces. She would also like to sincerely thank Malaysian Armed Forces for being very supportive with her research and of course the key takeaway would be the will. So, this is her favorite quote, if there is a will, there is a way. So, we just need to have the will to add, and we can, together to achieve our common goals.

Moderator: Prof Dr K.S. Nathan

University of Malaya, Malaysia

Prof Dr K.S. Nathan thanked Dr Su Wai Mon for his presentation. She also expressed her gratitude to Dr Su Wai Mon for his insightful observations on the realities of emerging technologies in this region. Following Dr Su Wai Mon remarks, Prof Dr K.S. Nathan opened and initiated the Q&A session. he mentioned that he is expecting individuals from the audience to pose questions or offer counterarguments to some of Hon. Dr Su points.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION 2

Broaden the Scope of Threats: Genomics, Financial and Food Security

Question 1: A speaker from the audience, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddin, from International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) raised several concerns regarding the topics covered in the non-traditional threats panels. Firstly, they expressed surprise that none of the panels had addressed the issue of genomics, a new field encompassing genetics and epigenetics. The speaker argued that the discussions about the future of AI and its security measures were neglecting the potential risks associated with uncontrolled advancements in genomics. They emphasized the importance of including this topic in future discussions, as uncontrolled developments in epigenetics could lead to disastrous consequences.

Secondly, the speaker pointed out the absence of any discussion on food security during the panels. They highlighted the critical role food security plays in maintaining human stability, especially during wartime scenarios. The argument was made that disruptions in food supply due to blockages can severely impact human security.

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Finally, the speaker noted the lack of discussion regarding financial security, specifically the seizure of financial assets during international conflicts. They mentioned the current situation between Russia and the West as an example. The speaker called for a focus on the legal framework and regulations surrounding the seizure of assets, particularly for nations not directly involved in a war

Answer 1: Dr Su Wai Mon responded the inquiry by acknowledging a lack of expertise in genomics but recognizes its potential importance, especially regarding biological weapons. She then give alternative narrative which shift the focus of discussion on critical national infrastructure (CNII).

Dr Su Wai Mon also highlights the need for a more detailed identification of critical infrastructure within the maritime sector, including ports, ships, and oil rigs. They emphasize the importance of General's point about ensuring resilience against cyber and physical attacks on critical infrastructure.

Then, Dr Su Wai Mon brings forward the discussion to food and financial security. Dr Su uses submarine cables as an example, highlighting potential disruptions to internet and financial transactions if these cables are compromised. They connect this to the concept of CNII, suggesting that protecting critical infrastructure indirectly protects food and financial security.

Dr Su Wai Mon concludes by emphasizing the importance of identifying and securing critical infrastructure to ensure overall national security, including food and financial aspects, even if not explicitly mentioned in discussions.

Answer 2: General Daniel R. Hokanson addressed the critical issue of food security. He acknowledged the interconnectedness of the world and highlighted the global impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. The unprovoked invasion disrupted the supply of grain and wheat to various regions, creating food security concerns worldwide. Additionally, the displacement of people due to the war placed a burden on host countries, straining resources not previously anticipated.

General Hokanson emphasized the importance of deterring wars and maintaining peace whenever possible to avoid such global repercussions. He then shifted his focus to the significance of international rules and order for transit routes. Well-defined international laws and regulations ensure everyone follows the same set of expectations. This guarantees safe passage for shipping, eliminating additional burdens on trade and unnecessary security concerns. The General stressed that violations of these norms, such as indiscriminate attacks on shipping, have a ripple effect. Insurance rates and shipping costs rise, impacting global prosperity, particularly for countries where even slight price differences can be significant.

General Hokanson concluded by reiterating the importance of promoting peace and stability. Respecting international borders and laws establishes a framework under which everyone can operate, ultimately ensuring global prosperity.

Blurring Lines: Defining and Addressing Cyberattacks

Question 2: Another speaker from the audience directed a query towards General Hokanson and potentially Dr. Su concerning cybersecurity. He highlighted the increasing technological and IT advancements of nations and militaries worldwide, which he believes blur the lines between acts of war and cyberattacks. He then posed the question of how this critical distinction can be defined and addressed.

Answer 1: General Hokanson tackled the challenge of distinguishing cyberattacks from acts of war in the current digital landscape. He acknowledged the ever-present threat of cyber warfare, with adversaries constantly targeting critical infrastructure.

The General proposed a deterrence-focused strategy. The US prioritizes pinpointing and bolstering critical infrastructure to make it impervious to cyberattacks. This approach aims to create a dilemma for potential attackers. They face the difficulty of successfully compromising robust systems and the potential for attribution, where the source of the attack can be identified.

Question 2: My question is directed to General Hokanson and perhaps Dr. Su. It is on cyber security. As nations and militaries around the world advance with technology and IT, I think there's a blood distinction between what constitute an act of war or a cyber-attack. So, how do we define this and address this?

Answer 1: Chief of National Guards Bureau, United States of America - He mentioned that one of the things that they use in the United States is we say that we're at war in cyber every single day. There are threat actors out there trying to attack our critical infrastructure and so we spend a lot of time, number one, identifying what that critical infrastructure is. And then making sure that it is resilient. Because at the end of the day, what you want to do is create a question, if somebody is going to do a cyber-attack, number one, whether it will be successful and number two is to identify the ability to attribute it, to where it came from. So, you can identify the perpetrator.

So, within the National Guard, we work very closely with our states. Number one, to identify the critical infrastructure. Number two, to make sure that it is resilient and can withstand attacks, and so that we create the perception in our adversaries that they cannot accomplish what they're trying to do. And at the end of the day, I would say, one of our greatest roles as the military is deterrence, is to prevent war and maintain peace. And so that everything that we can do individually and as organizations and as nations to cause others to realize that our critical infrastructure, our nation, we are resilient enough to withstand their attacks. Hopefully it will prevent us from getting to that point.

General Hokanson highlighted the importance of collaboration between the National Guard and individual states. This combined effort strengthens national resilience by identifying and safeguarding critical infrastructure. He wrapped up by emphasizing the military's fundamental role: deterrence and maintaining peace. Building a cyber-resilient nation discourages potential adversaries and ultimately reduces the risk of cyberattacks escalating into full-blown conflicts.

CHAPTER 5

Photo Gallery

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ROBOTICS
Offering capabilities ranging from enhanced situational awareness to autonomous decision-making
Revolutionising intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance

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