



# COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Public Affairs Office

August 31, 2020  
Release No. 20200831-02  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Issue: 39**

## **One Mission, Many Nations** Highlights from Around the Coalition

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – Across Iraq and Syria, the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, in conjunction with our partner forces, works to ensure an enduring defeat of Daesh (ISIS). CJTF-OIR provides high-level advising and enabling of our partner forces to defeat Daesh remnants and create regional stability. Since 2014, the Coalition has military contributions from more than 30 nations.

The following highlights from around the Coalition are included:

- **American helicopter pilot share life lessons after 31 years of service**
- **French Defense Minister visits Iraq**
- **Australian gender advice vital in Coalition planning**
- **Spanish train with dogs to support Coalition missions**

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### **American helicopter pilot share life lessons after 31 years of service**

Spanning a career of over 30 years, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jason Wright shares experiences working his way from the ground up – quite literally.

Wright began his career as an enlisted Cavalry Scout (19D) with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) back in 1989. His first deployment experience stands out to him in memories of living out of a M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle for nine months leading up to the start of Desert Storm.



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“We didn’t have much of anything let alone food and water, but when I was a young private and thought this is the way the Army is,” said Wright. “I actually enjoyed it a bit at times, naïve I guess you could say.”

While embracing the hardships of a ground element in an austere environment, Wright says he would often look up and wonder how the view was from up there.

“I do remember seeing the helicopters fly right above me in battles, especially the Cobras and the Apaches, and as I am slugging it across the desert dunes in a track vehicle...I remember thinking it sure would be nice to be up there crossing this ground so quickly and above this mess,” said Wright.

Twelve years later Wright sat in the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter with the 49th Medical Company Air Ambulance in support of the 1st Marine Division under Major General James Mattis, who would later become 26th U.S. Secretary of Defense.

“I was very busy and lived on my helicopter with my crew for months, once again searching every day for food and water and fuel and praying my flying chariot did not let me down,” said Wright. “It darn near killed me many times over and I’m grateful to be alive.”

Today, Wright takes a different role in Army aviation by guiding others to be successful. He serves as the Brigade Aviation Maintenance Officer for the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade with the Minnesota Army

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National Guard, and is currently deployed the Middle East where his unit has been supporting Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

“My favorite part of my job is learning something new each day, no matter how small that is, but I get the most joy out of helping others succeed, then I succeed,” said Wright. “If I can train, teach or pass on knowledge to someone and they benefit from it, that’s food for the soul to me.”

When asked about advice that he would have for fellow service members he added, “be responsible for yourselves, have integrity and own what you do and who you are.”

With 2020 being considerably different from most years, in addition to being deployed, Wright maintains a positive outlook as we draw near to the close of our time overseas.

“I have met new people and worked with old friends, I have empowered others to see their potential and held them to it.”

(Source: DVIDS)

[https://www.dvidshub.net/news/376892/ground-air-thirty-one-years-service-with-chief-warrant-officer-5-jason-wright?fbclid=IwAR2IKNTprnZg0zy\\_Niqk8JKVHzLu62A9jGBSq1yB7p8OAjQTyHHHFNOHmew](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/376892/ground-air-thirty-one-years-service-with-chief-warrant-officer-5-jason-wright?fbclid=IwAR2IKNTprnZg0zy_Niqk8JKVHzLu62A9jGBSq1yB7p8OAjQTyHHHFNOHmew)

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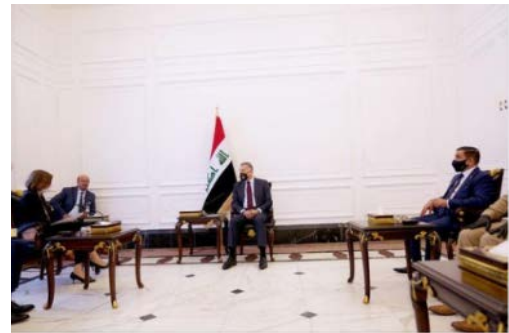


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## French Defense Minister visits Iraq

France is part of a U.S.-led international coalition tasked with helping the Iraqi security forces in the fight against ISIS militants by carrying out airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria and providing military equipment and training to Iraqi forces.



French Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly, heading a delegation which arrived in Baghdad late on Wednesday, August 26, on an official visit to show France's support for the Iraqi government, which is facing political, economic and health crises.

Anad and Parly held talks on Thursday, August 27, focused on regional security, counter-terrorism and bilateral cooperation.

Parly said at a joint press conference with her Iraqi counterpart Juma Anad after their meeting, that her visit to Iraq was aimed at strengthening relations between Iraq and France in all fields. France is ready to continue training and supporting the Iraqi forces to defeat Daesh terrorism.

For his part, Anad told the press conference that the Iraqi defense ministry "will develop the contracts previously concluded with the French side to get advanced weapons from France."

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He said Parly's visit is part of the efforts by the two countries to enhance security cooperation.

Parly also met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi who discussed with her the security situation in Iraq and the region, as well as means to support Iraq in its fight against terrorism," according to a statement issued by al-Kadhimi's media office.

"France is a partner in the war against terrorism, and the Iraqi government is keen to develop its partnership with France to strengthen and qualify the Iraqi forces, developing their combat efficiency, and enhancing the exchange of security information," the statement quoted al-Kadhimi as saying.

Parly affirmed France's determination to stand with Iraq in the war against terrorism and support the Iraqi security forces, especially since France has participated in the international Coalition in the war against ISIS militants, the statement said.

Al-Kadhimi also discussed with the French minister the situation in Syria and its impact on the stability of Iraq and the region, it added.

During her trip, Minister Parly received an update on the Coalition's military campaign from U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Pat White, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve commander, at Union III base in Baghdad. White commended the outstanding contributions of the French military to the campaign to

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defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

(Source: statement issued by al-Kadhimi's media office, Iraqi MoD Facebook website and CJTF-OIR/PAO).

<https://www.facebook.com/IraqiPMO/photos/a.1910094869098501/3255800574527917/?type=3&theater>

<https://ar.facebook.com/mod.mil.iq/videos/vb.1447878605441640/736971933792434/?type=3&theater>

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## Australian gender advice vital in Coalition planning

A team of three gender advisers are incorporating gender into the planning for Australia's military operations in the Middle East.

Captain Alan Bretherton, an infantry officer at Headquarters 1 Brigade, recently returned to Australia from his deployment at Australia's main operating base, where part of his role was as a gender adviser.



CAPT Bretherton said he was a firm believer in the importance of the role within the broader planning of military operations.

“A gender adviser is the technical specialist responsible for advising the senior commander and staff on implementing a gender perspective in the planning, execution and assessment processes of operations.

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“For the ADF, this translates into ensuring we are considering all demographics of local populations in which we operate, in order to set the pre-conditions for enduring peace and stability.

“Men and women may display power and influence differently with male power structures being more overt and authoritative, where women often hold powerful (but hidden) informal influence within communities.

“In Afghanistan, for example, women have an enormous amount of influence on the family and impact on adolescent males who make up the recruiting pool of insurgents.”

CAPT Bretherton said he initially became interested in the gender adviser role when he attended a Gender in Military Operations brief during the Joint Operations Planner Course.

“At first I thought it would be a brief promoting equality and females in Defence, but it was more than that. It demonstrated the operational impact of considering gender in operations,” he said.

“I was amazed that, based on the statistics and information, not more people were aware of it. From then on I was pretty much a solid advocate.”

CAPT Bretherton said people were sometimes

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surprised to encounter a male gender adviser and that it was good for men to take on the role.

“When I stand up there as a six foot two infantry male and tell people this is important, it has a different effect to a female discussing it, particularly when working with other nations that don’t necessarily have the same equality views as Australia,” he said.

Just as a man cannot pretend to understand my lived experience as a woman in this world, I cannot pretend to understand the lived experience of a man.

Wing Commander Jade Deveney is the Gender Adviser deployed to Operation Okra in Baghdad.

Wing Commander Deveney said she also believed having advisers of all genders was important to the effectiveness of the planning role.

“Having male Gender Advisers is incredibly important to what we do,” she said.

“Just as a man cannot pretend to understand my lived experience as a woman in this world, I cannot pretend to understand the lived experience of a man.

“Also, particularly when working within patriarchal societies, a male gender adviser will have access to

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the leadership and authority structures within the society that I couldn't access, just as a male gender adviser wouldn't be able to engage with women in the community that I would be given access to.

"Ideally, if we could deploy a male and female gender adviser as a team, that would be ultimate, but we don't have the resources to do that."

Wing Commander Deveney said the role was something she had always been interested in.

"Working in the gender space has always been a passion of mine, partly because our world, systems and structures are so gendered, so to be able to understand the multi-dimensional aspects of this I find really interesting," she said.

"For me, we talk a lot about how gender can support a return to peace and stability for populations; now I hope we can achieve this for Iraq through supporting greater gender equality across a range of government initiatives and security capabilities."

(Source: Australian Defense Force Facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianDefenceForceMiddleEastRegion/posts/3529004183800990>

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## Spanish train with dogs to support Coalition mission

At Al Asad Airbase, crews from the helicopter teams of the Spanish Task Force Toro took part in training internships with the K9 dog teams. These training exercises specialized in the detection and location of explosive devices in support of the ongoing Coalition mission.

(Source: Estado Mayor Defensa Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/EMADmde/status/1299614038779928581>



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