

CHAPTER I

WELCOMING REMARKS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduction

Brigadier General Hamad Ali Al-Hinzab, Advisor of the Command and Staff Branch, General Headquarters, Qatar Armed Forces, welcomed the attendees and participants to the Second Environmental Security Conference for the Arabian Gulf. He thanked the participants from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and friends and allies from the United States Central Command, the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense for Environment and Installations, the National Defense College, the Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, and the U. S. Army War College. He then introduced the Conference Host, His Excellency, Major General Hamad bin Ali Al-Attia, Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces.

Welcoming Remarks

Major General Hamad bin Ali Al-Attia
Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Beneficent, *“Do not lay ruin to the land after it has been made well.”* {Qur’an}

Your Excellencies the leaders, dear guests, peace be upon you. I would like to welcome you here in your second country, Qatar. Thank you for accepting our invitation to attend this Environmental Security Conference. I would like to especially thank our friends in the United States Central Command and the Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS) for their role in planning and preparing this conference.

This conference is a continuation of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Environmental Security Conference conducted April 2000 in Oman. The conference in Oman shed light on numerous issues related

to Environmental Security and the general role of the armed forces in environmental protection, planning, and cooperation with respect to environmental disaster management.

The importance of this conference lies in the environmental changes throughout the world and the consequences of these changes such as flooding and pollution. The State of Qatar is very eager to have a role in helping solve the environmental problems of the world. This conference is our small token of this concern. Our leaders believe in improving the environmental situation locally and regionally. Therefore, this conference was titled, “Environmental Security Planning, Prevention, and Disaster Response in the Arabian Gulf Region”. The title expresses the aims that we are trying to achieve during this conference.

The State of Qatar has always realized the importance of maintaining the environment; therefore it established the Permanent Committee for Environment Protection in 1981. In 1994, it became the Administration of Environment with significant basic laws, rules and regulations. This Administration worked under the Ministry of Municipalities, but the vision of His Highness the Prince was for something bigger than just an administration. Consequently, in 2000, the High Council for Environmental Protection was formed, headed by His Highness the Crown Prince. This council was given full authority and total independence from all other government departments. This council was equipped with the best of expertise, skills and equipment. Several of the most significant aims of the council are: raising public awareness and educating all segments of society about the problems of the environment; implementing the principles and concepts of sustainable development, building up human and technical resources for the Higher Council for Environment; and protecting and developing the natural life in Qatar.

The State of Qatar has encouraged and provided scientists and researchers with every possible means to conduct studies that contribute to developing the concept of Environmental Security at all levels. The State has allocated prizes for studies and distinguished research in this field. In my hand, you can see a book with the title, “Environmental Problems from an Islamic Perspective”. The book published by the Library of Research and Studies at the Ministry of Religious Trusts

(Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has received a prize from the Library of the Late Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani.

The State of Qatar has always been eager to take part in seminars, meetings, and conferences about Environmental Security because of their significant role in developing the concepts of environmental preservation locally and regionally.

Dear Guests, I would like to thank you and thank every one again who participated in preparations for this conference and contributed to its success. I wish you all the best.

Welcoming Remarks

Brigadier General George J. Trautman III
Deputy Director, Plans and Policy, J-5,
United States Central Command

On behalf of the Commander in Chief of the United States Central Command, let me welcome you all to this conference.

We all owe a special thanks to General Al-Attia, Chief of Staff, Qatar Armed Forces and to the Qatar Armed Forces for hosting this conference. Thank you, Sir.

The collective wisdom and technical expertise of the delegates sent here by the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Jordan is very impressive. Your contributions over the next three days will prove very important to furthering the cause of Environmental Security in the region.

We are honored to have with us, Mr. Curtis Bowling, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Safety, Occupational Health, and International Environmental Programs, who will provide our conference keynote address.

There are two organizations without whose help Central Command and the Qatar Armed Forces could have been as well prepared as we are today. The Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) and the Center for Strategic Leadership of the United States Army War

College have done most of the preparation work before coming here. We will all be the beneficiaries of their efforts. We also owe thanks to Ambassador Quinn and the U.S. Embassy team for their invaluable guidance and advice.

Two years ago, Oman and United States Central Command sponsored a successful Environmental Security conference in concert with Gulf Cooperation Council states. During that conference, we learned that, to ensure a comprehensive approach to the problem, relevant civil authorities must be included when we conduct military-to-military talks on Environmental Security. So I am pleased to see key civilians here today that will make important contributions to our upcoming discussions.

I particularly hope that the civilian authorities will help us identify ways to enhance ties between the military and civilian agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and their counterparts in the GCC countries. If we can improve interagency communications, we have a much better chance to be effective and responsive in the face of an unexpected environmental crisis.

Clearly, Environmental Security is a regional problem and requires a regional response. Environmental Security can encompass a wide range of issues, from water scarcity to major disaster, either man-made or natural. Some of these crises will affect more than one state, and most of them cannot be resolved by a single government acting alone.

If we can develop a clear understanding of the term “Environmental Security” and the issues that surround it, I think we will be better able to define the military’s appropriate role in assisting our nations in combating whatever may occur. There are several ways that the military can enhance Environmental Security. One is by being good stewards of the environment. We should avoid behavior such as dumping environmentally damaging material into the oceans or onto the land that would contribute to environmental disaster. We are uniquely suited to assist our governments in making a rapid response to either man-made or natural disasters that may occur in the environment. We have the command and control, the mobility, the discipline, and the manpower

to react when our nations need our help the most in response to an environmental crisis. If we work together, we can be poised to provide that support when it is needed.

We have all learned to work together in completing our military tasks. The best approach to Environmental Security is often to take a fully integrated, multinational and synergistic approach to Environmental Security problems. We must begin to think about how best to respond together, rather than individually, to a broad range of potential regional environmental catastrophes.

As a starting point, we will hear about earlier environmental disasters and the resulting need for close cooperation among responding agencies. We will learn how armed forces in other states have executed environmental stewardship missions appropriately.

I would leave you with one thought this morning. We must identify areas for regional cooperation on Environmental Security issues, and we need to learn to plan and respond to crisis together. In short, we are stronger united than we are apart with regards to dealing with environmental crises.

I am certain this conference will be a success, and I look forward to sharing ideas with each of you this week and in the future as we tackle these issues directly.

Welcoming Remarks and Setting the Azimuth

Dr. Kent Hughes Butts
Director, National Security Issues Branch,
Center for Strategic Leadership
United States Army War College

On behalf of the Commandant of the Army War College, Major General Robert Ivany, and my colleagues from the Army War College, I would like to state our appreciation for the opportunity to cosponsor this valuable Environmental Security conference and to support the regional objectives of the United States Central Command and the Department of Defense. In particular, I would like to offer our thanks to the Qatar

Armed Forces Headquarters staff, and our good friends at the NESAC Center; the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, the leadership of the Central Command, and most especially, we would like to thank Major General Hamad Al-Attia for his excellent support and guidance in the preparation of this conference. I would also like to recognize our friends and colleagues from the Environmental Security community, who have joined us from around the globe, and the governments of the GCC states and Jordan, who have generously made their delegations available to contribute to these discussions. We have been looking forward to this year's conference, not just because it allows us to renew our efforts to address common environmental problems, but because it offers us the opportunity to gain a regional perspective on Environmental Security from our Gulf Cooperation Council colleagues.

Over the last decade, the International Fellows at the United States Army War College have war-gamed Environmental Security problems and have reiterated time and again the power of Environmental Security for preserving regional stability and national security. We have sought their guidance as we have undertaken workshops, conferences, and exercises with regional militaries around the globe, and we have incorporated Environmental Security into the Professional Military Education of our officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men and women. We have seen, in regions where Environmental Security has been institutionalized, that countries are significantly better prepared to respond to the consequences of environmental disasters and to reduce the threats of environmental issues to national and regional security. Legal and educational guidelines make environmental compliance and disaster response cultural fundamentals. U.S. soldiers will now place an oil pan under their vehicle to collect spilled oil that might otherwise damage watersheds and valuable drinking water supplies. Recognizing the role of environmental degradation in promoting insurgency, the Armed Forces of the Philippines are now reconstituting the rain forests in Mindanao. In Central America, the militaries of all seven countries have joined in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, undergoing extensive environmental training and education programs that have enabled them to support their governments' Hurricane Mitch recovery efforts and prepare to undertake multilateral disaster response activities. Institutionalizing security of the environment encourages the synergy necessary to meet environmental challenges.

Environmental threats have the potential to rob the people of the region of their health, their agricultural land, the fresh water resources necessary to sustain their countries' economy, and, in turn, the stability of the region. As they have with other defense threats, our militaries have an important role to play in fighting the environmental enemy. By undertaking this mission, the military brings unique skills to the fight. They provide essential support to civil authority, which is usually technically expert, but lacking in manpower, transportation and critical resources. But perhaps more importantly, the Environmental Security mission is an opportunity for the military to demonstrate to the people that their government and the military care for their welfare.

Environmental Security is a powerful tool of governmental legitimacy, and it has enhanced the cooperation between our militaries. The Preventive Defense Strategy of former Secretary of Defense Perry underpins much of the overseas activities of our military in the last decade. We recognize that we need to promote understanding, trust, and stability to prevent the conditions for conflict and to build the conditions for peace. This approach allows the military to shape the security environment, to be prepared for natural and man-made environmental disasters and other issues that threaten regional stability, and to be able to respond to these in cooperation with other militaries. This idea is the basis for the current security cooperation strategies that have been crafted by our regional combatant commanders and support our national security strategy objectives.

National interests turn on regional stability. Environmental issues, such as resource access and quality and consequence management, are now recognized as major variables in regional instability and conflict, exacerbating tensions from resulting religious, ethnic, and other local differences, such as socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas, rapid economic development, and border disputes. However, environmental issues may also promote regional stability as confidence building measures, creating opportunities for communication and cooperation between regional states that might in other ways be antagonists. Simply put, environmental issues, left untended, can undermine governments and destabilize regimes. Yet these same issues offer a reason for militaries to work together to support civil authority,

and to demonstrate the legitimacy of government and promote military cooperation.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you this morning about this topic. We have many other opportunities and excellent speakers who will be here this week. Please use this opportunity to seek out subject matter experts that are here, and ask them for their ideas on how we may best work together in a multilateral fashion to address these common environmental problems.

Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Ms. Alina Romanowski
Director,
Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies

It is a privilege for me to address this important group of experts and fellow colleagues in the region. I would like to start by setting a framework.

There are many different perspectives from which one can look at Environmental Security. The economic perspective sees the problem as one of saving and managing the use of vital resources. The conservation-oriented view defines the problem in terms of protecting the environment and leads to limiting the use of natural resources. The health and public services perspective focuses on the problems of responding to diseases and other natural and man-made humanitarian emergencies, and the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.

Let me speak to you from the perspective of a Center for Strategic Studies, where we see the environment as a strategic asset. In this context, the environment of the Gulf region is of special interest. Why?

First, the political and economic well-being of this region is dependent on the efficient development, management, and protection of its natural resources, primarily oil, gas, and water. These same resources, particularly oil and gas, are vital to the future growth and development of regions far removed from here: the Americas, Europe, China, Japan, and Africa, in fact all around the globe.

Water, a regional critical shortage, has always been viewed as a source for potential tension and conflict. The Gulf War illustrated that our ability to produce fresh water can be put at risk, and protecting this resource has involved the international community.

Recently, the United States was asked to assist in reducing tensions between Lebanon and Israel, not over Hizballah or the Palestinian issue, but over the allocation of water from the Hasbani River for irrigation.

Let us not forget people, a strategic asset for any nation. Protecting the health and vitality of the population in the face of rapid population growth, and new and more powerful diseases spread through the increasingly integrated global society, is critical.

These strategic assets—oil, gas, water, and population—are all interrelated and underpin the stability and prosperity of this region and make the Environmental Security of this region a global concern, not just a local or regional concern.

Often, no one country is responsible for environmental problems. Many nations have contributed to their causes, and many of these issues are trans-boundary, that is, they do not respect man-made boundaries.

Countries around the world are facing complex and interrelated environmental challenges that they cannot solve individually. Governments are judged on whether they can provide clean air and water, safe energy, and food to their people.

Many environmental problems can only be addressed effectively if nations of the world work together in adopting and implementing result-oriented policies. It is in our national interests to ensure that our neighbors and the international community take steps to prevent or mitigate the potential harmful effects associated with environmental problems. There are many ways, using diplomatic efforts and working bilaterally and regionally with key allies, that these problems can be overcome.

With an increasingly integrated world, more and more governments will be brought together to sign on to key ideas on how this world should operate for our mutual benefit. Nations will be asked to come together

to build cooperative frameworks and, where appropriate, institutions that reinforce and sustain them even more.

It is not a coincidence that the NESACenter is involved in sponsoring this conference. The Center is uniquely positioned to explore solutions to regional problems from a regional perspective. The NESACenter was founded to promote broad regional understanding of strategic issues critical to the long-term security and stability of this region. Our mission is also to nurture regional cooperation in seeking solutions to these issues.

We, along with the United States Army War College and other Department of Defense educational institutions have long recognized the importance of the environment as a subject to be included in national security and strategic studies, and in the professional military education of our officers as well as our civilians.

The Center includes Environmental Security issues in its curriculum not only because it is vital to any nation's economic development and security, but also as a basis for promoting regional cooperation and integration.

We believe the Center can also bring an even broader perspective to developing a regional approach to these issues. The Center's focus stretches far beyond the GCC countries, to include Morocco and even Bangladesh. Many, at first blush have said to us, "What do all these nations have in common?" It is clear from discussions in our seminars that many of the environmental issues we will address in this conference are not unique to the GCC region.

We have already asked participants from our previous seminars to help think about new, innovative regional approaches to such problems as Environmental Security. These participants have recognized that, in the face of environmental disasters, many things are possible, and they understand that advanced planning, coordination, and cooperation among government entities, as well as other nations, are critical to managing a disaster. Equally important is the need to manage information, to reassure one's people that the disaster can be contained and, in fact, overcome.

As an active player in this conference, we expect that this conference will contribute significantly to helping this region develop better mechanisms to respond to and prevent environmental crises and to help us be more effective as custodians of the region's vital resources.

Now let me introduce our keynote speaker, Mr. Curtis Bowling, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Bowling is a well-known expert on how governments need to manage their nation's environment. Mr. Bowling, with twenty-eight years of government service, has developed a broad experience in national and international environmental safety and health programs while serving in various positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the United States Air Force, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Most importantly, he is the person in the Department of Defense who is responsible for developing and implementing policies on military matters relating to Environmental Security.

In his current position as Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Safety, Occupational Health and International Environmental Programs, he is responsible for defense worldwide safety, occupational health, fire and emergency services, international environmental management, and international defense environmental cooperation. We are very privileged to have Mr. Bowling here with us to share his broad experience.

Keynote Address

Mr. Curtis Bowling
Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations
and Environment

I wish to welcome you and to thank the Qatar Armed Forces for hosting this important conference. They have provided a superb venue with excellent support and wonderful hospitality, and I thank you.

We value this opportunity to promote the understanding of each other's views and priorities, and as you noted from my introduction, the reason I have such a passion for environmental issues is that I am, by

training, an engineer, an environmental and civil engineer, and for the last twenty-eight years, I have had the opportunity of working with all of our services in the U.S. Department of Defense, and trying to build effective and more efficient environmental programs. I think one of the things we have learned is that it takes teamwork, and I think the team we have in this room today will help us look at regional issues and hopefully find creative solutions.

As Brigadier General Trautman stated, the U.S. team, led by United States Central Command, with the assistance of Ambassador Quinn's folks, my office, the United States Army War College, and NESAs have developed an agenda that directly addresses the challenges of preventing and responding to natural or man-made environmental disasters in the Arabian Gulf. This is part of our ongoing effort to address Environmental Security issues around the world. Our partnership with the GCC started just a few years ago, but it may interest you to know that we have experienced similar successful working relationships with other organizations and regions in the world as well, starting with NATO in the mid-1980s, and most recently with a South American regional Environmental Security conference held in May 2002. I know some of our Gulf partners have held conferences this year that touched on these important environmental issues, and I look forward to learning more about them during Panel Two today.

As the world has seen, environmental problems can be exacerbated by natural or man-made events that contribute to regional instability and conflict. Failure to respond to these events in a coordinated, timely, and efficient manner can impact a government's ability to govern and to function. I think we have seen some of that with events in South and Central America.

Environmental degradation from these disasters can also hinder economic development, displace populations, facilitate the growth of undesirable elements, and, potentially, increase proliferation of the threat of weapons of mass destruction. We must address key environmental issues in this region.

Most importantly, we must ensure procedures are in place to deal with the prevention of disruptive environmental events. Key focus areas

should be water resource protection and competition, air and water pollution resulting from accidental or intentional oil or chemical spills and fires, and the means to identify and contain regional infectious diseases, including those that might result from the use of weapons of mass destruction.

What is our goal this week? This conference, hopefully, will provide a framework for a regional approach to environmental disaster prevention and response and put in place a long-term sustainable process for achieving the regional capability to deal with these disasters. Combining and leveraging our resources and knowledge will enable all of us to prevent disasters and to respond efficiently when the need arises. This is the goal we seek to accomplish over the next three days. By the conclusion of this conference, we should make a commitment to the following goals:

1. Set regional objectives;
2. Identify means of:
 - a. Developing indication and warning of environmental disasters,
 - b. Detecting and tracking environmental events, and
 - c. Sharing relevant information;
3. Address a regional command and control for disaster prevention and response;
4. Identify regional training and exercise needs for disaster prevention and response; and
5. Identify multilateral processes to address the health and disease consequences of intentional or accidental events.

How can we accomplish these goals? The workshops on Wednesday are critical for the overall success of this conference. In order to provide the background that is essential for these workshops, we intend to use a series of panels today and tomorrow to first review the prior Environmental Security work in the Gulf and then to look at the potential risk and threats identified in the April 2000 conference in Oman. We will also discuss

techniques and technologies to assist us in environmental planning. Using these introductory panels as a foundation, we will then explore in detail regional monitoring, warning and information exchange, and the requirements for interagency and multilateral cooperation in successfully addressing these security interests.

I would like to see this conference result in action. This audience has a special responsibility, beyond the local and regional benefits of Environmental Security, because the Environmental Security of this region is essential to the continued developmental capacity of much of the rest of the world. The GCC's successful efforts to prevent, and if necessary, to effectively respond to natural or man-made disasters, is a global concern.

The former U.S. Combatant Commander of Central Command said at the last GCC Environmental Security conference: "The seminar and future discussions on Environmental Security will benefit the entire region and the world." He went on to say, "The continued friendship and cooperation of the U.S. and the GCC militaries in important endeavors like this will have a profound effect on regional stability." I think his words still hold true today. We have a tough task ahead of us. I look forward to our cooperation over the next few days.