NATO-ACT Norfolk,VA – Deputy Gender Advisor CPT Bjelic and LTC van Houten, under the guidance of LGEN Viereck, led a small group of experts through a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) process to fulfill the 2009 Bi-SC 40-1 Directive on Gender and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 from May 2 to May 5, 2011.

Bi-SC 40-1 seeks to improve the effectiveness of NATO missions through using a gender perspective. Using a gender perspective in operations helps address the complexity of the environment, and addresses the specific needs of all groups in a conflict zone.

ACT-JFT brought this team together to build on the success of the recently launched ADL module on Gender Perspectives for ISAF pre-deployment training. The TNA identified the need for two new NATO ADL courses to meet the operational requirements for the new Gender Advisor, Gender Field Advisor and Gender Focal Point positions. These courses are currently in development.

NATO SECGEN Anders Fogh Rasmussen has recognized gender as being “one of the key security issues of our time” and crucial to a comprehensive approach.

Team members included, DCOS JTF General Viereck, LTC Johan van Houten, LTC Uwe Willert, LTC Nevenka Kovac, Deputy Gender Advisor CPT Liliana Bjelic, SMJR Martin Methorst, Gender Advisor to the Director of the Swedish Armed Forces Charlotte Isaksson, Gender Consultant Sahana Dharmapuri, and Linda Tropea from ACT-SACT HQ.

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