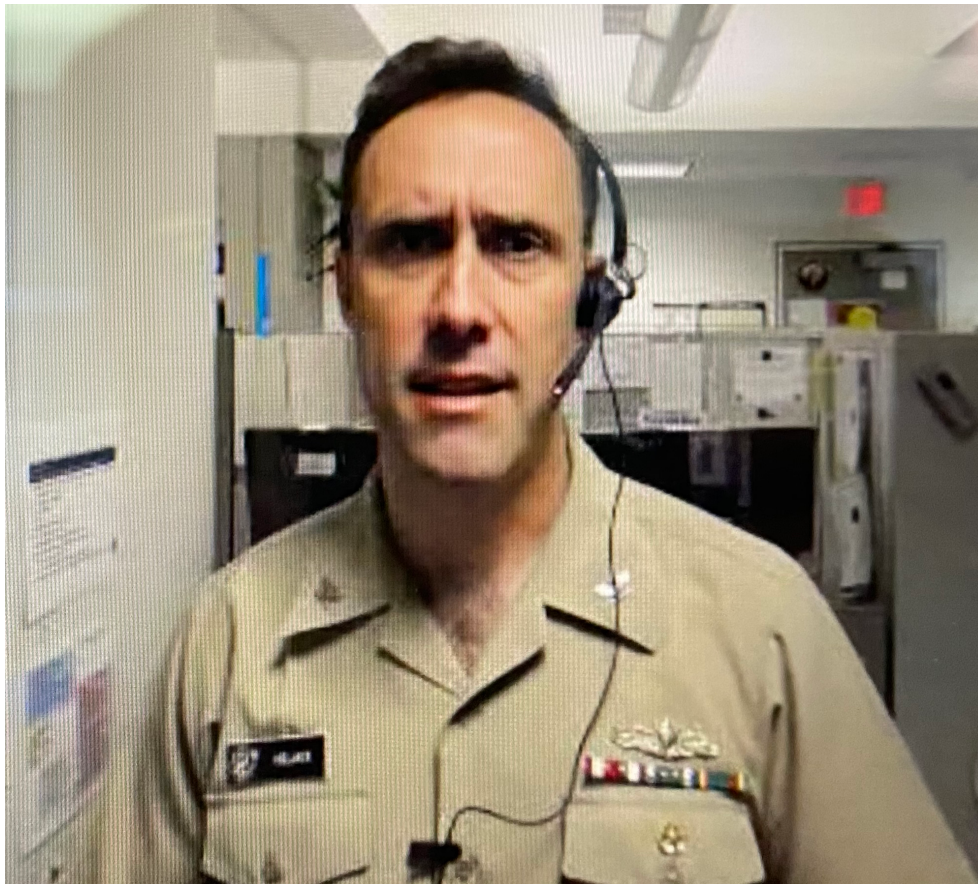


Joint Staff policy officer discusses the importance of Women, Peace and Security

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 05 June 2021



Navy Capt. Dave Huljack discussed the role of partner nations in developing women, peace and security initiatives and how it functions as a tool countries can wield to gain an advantage over their adversaries.

On June 3, Navy Capt. Dave Huljack talked virtually with students about the importance of women, peace and security.

Women, Peace, and Security is not simply a diversity and inclusion effort or a women's rights campaign. It is the whole of government approach that includes both men and women in strategy development, readiness improvement, and protection of partner nations by increasing women's participation in these effects.

On June 3, Navy Capt. Dave Huljack presented virtually to U.S. Army War College students on the "Smart-Power Capability of Women, Peace, and Security." He serves as a political-military advisor on the Joint Staff

Strategy and Policy Directorate, where he manages various portfolios, including Women, Peace, and Security.

He gave a brief historical overview of WPS, from its genesis in 2000 to the present, and discussed the policy interplay between the Joint Staff and interagency organizations. The remainder of his presentation focused on how military departments and combatant commands are implementing the WPS strategy: participation of women in establishing lasting peace, ensuring women and girls are safe and have equal access to resources, improving capacity to ensure WSP efforts are sustainable and long-lasting.

“This [capacity] is where we spend a lot of our time in the Joint Staff, particularly as we revise doctrine and take a look at how we are going to institutionalize the strategy into ways that are lasting and will survive all of us here in the Joint Staff,” said Huljack, localizing WPS to his specific line of work.

Honing his information to the target audience, Huljack outlined the Department of Defense’s implementation plan: understanding gender is a key characteristic to inform DoD planning, identifying opportunities to increase women in defense and security, and integrating WPS concepts into security cooperation activities.

The institutionalization of the gender perspective provides several benefits to DoD. It offers the security of an entire affected population, reduces operational and strategic blind spots, and identifies local risks, resources, and opportunities.

Making the presentation interactive, he took students’ questions and invited other experts to provide their insights. Brig. Gen. Janeen Birckhead, USAWC Deputy Commandant for Reserve Affairs, joined the discussion and offered insight into how the International Human Rights Law is being used to move other countries towards WPS, and how WPS is a leading indicator as to what is going on in particular communities.