CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

GENDERED SECURITY ANALYSIS:

A CRITICAL TOOL FOR SECURITY

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The omission of gender from work on international security does not make that work gender-neutral or unproblematic.

— Laura Sjoberg, Gender and International Security, 2010

Abstract

Traditional security approaches often overlook the crucial role of gender in shaping security outcomes.¹ This chapter presents Gendered Security Analysis (GSA) as a transformative framework for understanding and addressing the complex interplay between gender and security. It introduces the GENDER 4Ps models to foster more inclusive, equitable, and effective security strategies. Practical tools like the Gender Security Analysis Tool (GSAT) and Rapid GSAT help integrate gender dynamics into operations, illustrated through stabilization operations and natural disaster response scenarios. The SHAPE and ACTION frameworks guide real-world applications. The chapter also examines case studies, including Malaysia's National Action Plan, to illustrate how GSA can be operationalized within national security frameworks. By integrating GSA into security policy and practice, stakeholders can enhance situational awareness, improve operational effectiveness, and promote more equitable and sustainable security outcomes.

Introduction

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, security challenges demand nuanced and inclusive solutions. This is particularly true in contexts marked by state-based competition,² transnational threats, economic instability,³ cyber risks,⁴ and

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environmental crises like climate change, which pose multifaceted challenges to peace and security.⁵ As feminist scholar J. Ann Tickner argued in her seminal work *Gender in International Relations*, traditional security strategies often fail to address the complex social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to insecurity.⁶ For instance, Tickner critiques the traditional concept of "national security" as inherently masculine, prioritizing military strength over human security.⁷ She argues that this narrow focus neglects the diverse security needs of individuals and perpetuates gendered power dynamics.

To truly understand and address these multifaceted security challenges, we must examine the world through a gendered lens. As Jill Steans eloquently states, "To look at the world through gendered lenses is to focus on gender as a particular kind of power relation or to trace out the ways in which gender is central to understanding international processes."⁸ This is the essence of Gendered Security Analysis (GSA).

A holistic approach is urgently needed—one that recognizes the interconnected social, economic, and cultural factors contributing to instability and insecurity. *Gendered Security Analysis (GSA)* offers this comprehensive solution. By examining how gender dynamics intersect with broader security concerns, GSA empowers practitioners to develop more inclusive, nuanced, and ultimately more effective strategies. The GSA framework has gained significant traction in recent years, evidenced by its integration into key military education programs like the U.S. Army War College's "Campaign Planning Handbook"⁹ and the U.S. Marine Corps' manual on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in Professional Military Education.¹⁰ The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) also incorporates GSA into its curriculum, equipping future security leaders with the knowledge and skills to conduct gender-sensitive analysis and response.¹¹

These developments highlight a growing recognition that gender perspectives are not merely an addition to security practices but are central to creating more equitable and sustainable solutions for future challenges. To effectively utilize GSA in addressing complex security landscapes, it is crucial to establish a shared understanding of its core concepts and principles, including the need to create a culture of belonging where women feel valued and empowered.¹²

Understanding Gendered Security

To fully harness the potential of GSA, it is crucial to understand the core concepts that underpin this approach. Moving beyond traditional security paradigms that often overlook diverse gender experiences, *gendered security* prioritizes the safety, well-being, and rights of individuals across the gender spectrum in all security situations.¹³

The critical elements of this framework can be remembered through the *GENDER* acronym:

- G GENDER diversity recognized: Acknowledges that gender exists on a spectrum, with each identity contributing unique needs, strengths, and challenges to their experiences of peace and security.¹⁴ As Laura Sjoberg states, "Gender is a system of symbolic meaning that creates social hierarchies based on perceived associations with masculine and feminine characteristics."¹⁵ This understanding is crucial for recognizing that gender is not simply about biological differences but a social construct that shapes individuals' roles, opportunities, and experiences, including in the context of peace and security. For example, women, men, girls, boys, and transgender individuals may experience conflict and insecurity differently and have different needs and vulnerabilities.
- E EMPOWERING participation: Emphasizes the full and equal involvement of all genders in peace and security

processes, ensuring inclusive decision-making. This could involve encouraging women to join peacekeeping forces, ensuring their representation in peace negotiations, and supporting their leadership in community-based security initiatives. This involves not only ensuring women's formal inclusion in security processes but also actively working to create a culture of belonging where they feel valued and empowered.¹⁶

- N NEEDS of individuals prioritized: Shifts the focus from • abstract notions like state sovereignty to individuals' lived experiences and security needs, ensuring people-centered policies and actions.¹⁷ For instance, instead of just focusing on protecting national borders, gendered security considers the safety and well-being of individuals within those borders, particularly those who may be marginalized or at risk. This focus on individual needs is crucial for achieving sustainable peace and security. As Fen Osler Hampson highlights in his research on peace agreements, addressing the specific needs of women. who are often disproportionately affected by conflict and insecurity, is essential for building lasting peace. He emphasizes that their security and well-being are intertwined with the broader stability of society.¹⁸
- D DISMANTLING root causes: Addresses the underlying causes of insecurity—such as gender inequality, discrimination, and violence—that perpetuate conflict and instability. As argued by Augusto López-Claros and Bahiyyih Nakhjavani in their book Equality for Women Equals Prosperity for All, addressing these root causes is not just a matter of social injustice but is crucial for achieving lasting peace and security.¹⁹ For example, they highlight how countries with greater gender equality tend to be more peaceful and stable, while those with high levels of gender
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inequality are more prone to conflict and violence. This could involve promoting gender-equitable access to education and economic opportunities, challenging harmful gender norms, and addressing gender-based violence's root causes.

- *E ENGAGING* in policy implementation: Advocates for developing and enforcing gender-responsive policies sensitive to diverse gender experiences and applied across all security domains. For example, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, enshrined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, calls for the integration of gender perspectives into all aspects of peace and security efforts.²⁰ This underscores the importance of not only developing gender-sensitive policies but also actively engaging in their implementation to ensure they are translated into meaningful action on the ground.
- *R RELATIONSHIPS* built through partnerships: Fosters collaboration between governments, international organizations, civil society, and gender-focused non-governmental organizations (NGO) to create sustainable peace and security outcomes. This could involve partnering with women's organizations to implement community-based security initiatives, working with international organizations to develop gender-sensitive peacekeeping operations, and collaborating with governments to implement national action plans on women, peace, and security.

Drawing on Simone de Beauvoir's analysis of the "Other" in her seminal work *The Second Sex*, GSA recognizes that women have been historically marginalized and excluded from positions of power and influence in society, including within the security sector.²¹ This marginalization has resulted in their perspectives and needs being overlooked in traditional security paradigms, perpetuating gender inequalities and hindering the development of

comprehensive and effective security solutions. By challenging these traditional paradigms and integrating women's voices and experiences, GSA seeks to create a more inclusive and equitable security environment for all.

The GENDER 4Ps Framework

The GENDER acronym lays the groundwork for understanding gendered security's core values. To put these values into action, the *GENDER 4Ps* framework serves as the operational component, connecting broader concepts with actionable principles. The 4Ps—Protection, Perspective, Prevention, and Participation—provide a clear pathway to applying gendered security and highlight the ultimate goal of "Gender for Peace." By incorporating diverse gender perspectives and dismantling barriers, the GENDER 4Ps help ensure security strategies are inclusive, effective, and sustainable in any context.

The GENDER 4Ps framework is the practical backbone for translating gender diversity into peace-focused action, helping practitioners achieve gender-equitable peace and security outcomes.

The GENDER 4Ps are guiding principles for implementing the gendered security approach, ensuring that the key concepts are embedded into peace and security efforts. These four principles form the backbone of effective GSA in any security context:

- 1. *PROTECTION*: Safeguards all genders from violence, discrimination, and harm by promoting equitable access to security and justice.²² This could involve establishing safe spaces for women and girls in conflict zones, providing access to legal aid for survivors of gender-based violence, and training security personnel on gender-sensitive approaches.
- 2. *PERSPECTIVE*: Integrates diverse gender perspectives into all phases of security analysis and decision-making, leading to

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more inclusive and effective solutions.²³ For instance, understanding how women experience conflict differently from men can lead to more effective strategies for protecting civilians and building peace.

- 3. *PREVENTION*: Dismantles cultural, structural, and institutional barriers that hinder equitable access to resources, opportunities, and participation.²⁴ This could involve promoting gender-equitable laws and policies, challenging harmful gender norms, and supporting women's economic empowerment.
- 4. PARTICIPATION: Promotes the equitable involvement of all genders in decision-making processes and governance structures.²⁵ For example, including women in peace negotiations can lead to more sustainable peace agreements. Laurel Stone's research on female peacemaking supports this assertion. Her quantitative analysis of 156 peace agreements revealed that advancing the role of local female representation in the peace process can contribute to a more durable peace. Specifically, when women are included in a peace process, the resulting peace agreement is 20% more likely to last at least two years. Of those agreements that last at least two years, the ones reached with women's participation are 35% more likely to last at least fifteen years. Stone also highlights the importance of quotas in ensuring women's participation in peace processes and decision-making roles.²⁶

The GENDER 4Ps framework provides the foundation for conducting GSA. As highlighted in Valerie Hudson et al.'s book *The First Political Order*, gender dynamics profoundly influence and are influenced by security issues, underscoring the need for a more nuanced understanding of how gender operates within security contexts.²⁷ GSA involves a more in-depth examination of how gender dynamics influence and are influenced by security issues.

Unpacking Gendered Security Analysis (GSA)

To effectively implement the GENDER 4Ps in practice, a nuanced understanding of how gender operates within security contexts is necessary. This is where GSA becomes critical. While both gender analysis (GA) and gendered security analysis (GSA) aim to understand how gender impacts various aspects of life, GSA is specifically designed for security environments.

- *GENDER ANALYSIS (GA)*: Focuses on how gender shapes social, economic, and political outcomes, with an emphasis on identifying and addressing gender disparities.²⁸ Typically applied in development and humanitarian contexts,²⁹ GA ensures that policies and programs are equitable and inclusive. For example, a gender analysis of a healthcare program might reveal that women face barriers to accessing maternal health services, leading to interventions that address these inequalities.
- *GENDERED SECURITY ANALYSIS (GSA)*: Builds on GA principles by applying them specifically to security contexts. GSA integrates gender perspectives into every phase of security analysis, planning, and implementation, examining how gender roles, relations, and inequalities shape and are shaped by security issues.³⁰ For instance, GSA might be used to analyze how the recruitment of child soldiers impacts boys and girls differently or how security sector reform can address gender-based violence.

The SCOPE of GSA

Understanding the full scope of GSA is essential for its effective application in diverse security contexts. The *SCOPE* framework— an acronym representing Strategies, Challenges, Opportunities, Participation, and Environments—outlines five key aspects that practitioners should focus on to ensure comprehensive integration of GSA:

- S STRATEGIES: Develop gender-sensitive strategies for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction. This includes incorporating gender perspectives into all security planning and implementation phases, from needs assessments and early warning systems to disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs.³¹
- C CHALLENGES: Identify and mitigate gender-specific vulnerabilities and capitalize on strengths in security environments. This includes understanding how different genders experience conflict and insecurity and how their social roles and responsibilities may affect their access to resources and protection.
- *O OPPORTUNITIES*: Assess the impact of security policies and practices on different gender groups. This involves analyzing how security interventions may differentially affect women, men, girls, boys, and marginalized genders, ensuring that policies do not exacerbate existing inequalities or create new ones.
- **P** *PARTICIPATION*: Prioritize the inclusion and empowerment of women and other marginalized genders in all security processes. This involves recognizing their leadership potential, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making, and addressing their specific security needs.
- *E ENVIRONMENTS*: Consider diverse operational environments, from peace to conflict, and recognize that gender dynamics may manifest differently in each context. This includes understanding how gender roles and relations shift during conflict and influence peacebuilding efforts.

By applying the *SCOPE* framework, practitioners can ensure that GSA is fully embedded in all security operations, leading to more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable outcomes.

The GSAT Framework: A Practical Tool for GSA

To effectively implement GSA, it is crucial to understand how gender dynamics intersect with the specific operational environment. The PMESII-PT framework provides a structured approach to analyze key operational variables, including political, military, economic, social, information, infrastructure, the physical environment, and time. These variables represent the major components of the operational environment, and by viewing them through a gendered lens, practitioners can uncover the unique security challenges faced by individuals across the gender spectrum.

PMESII-PT Framework: Analyzing the Environment Through GENDER 4Ps

By integrating GENDER 4Ps—Protection, Perspective, Prevention, and Participation—into the PMESII-PT framework, practitioners can develop more inclusive strategies. Below is an overview of how each operational variable is viewed through the GSA lens:

1. *POLITICAL*: Power structures and decision-making processes.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Analyze how power structures and decision-making processes may exclude or marginalize certain genders. As Judith Lorber argues in *Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics*, "Gender inequality is not an individual matter; rather, it is deeply ingrained in the structures of societies."³² This means that addressing gender inequality in the political sphere requires examining and challenging the underlying structures and norms perpetuating it. Identify barriers that limit political participation for all genders, safeguard against political

violence targeting specific genders, and promote equitable governance that includes diverse perspectives.

2. *MILITARY/POLICE:* Leadership, capabilities, and operations of security forces.

GSA Application: Examine how gender dynamics within security forces may affect their effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of different genders. As highlighted in the experiences of Sandra Perron, Canada's first female infantry officer, and Robyn Fellowes, Australia's first female Green Beret commando, gender dynamics can significantly impact operational effectiveness. For example, Perron faced systemic discrimination and harassment throughout her career, hindering her ability to contribute fully to her unit.³³ Fellowes advocated for genderinclusive training and policies to ensure that women are equipped to succeed in combat roles.³⁴ Eliminate gender barriers within security forces, provide equitable opportunities for all genders, and protect all genders from violence and harassment. Incorporate gender perspectives into training and operations to ensure that security forces are equipped to address the specific security needs of diverse groups.

3. *ECONOMIC:* Resource production, distribution, and consumption.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Analyze how economic policies and practices may disproportionately impact different genders. Promote inclusive economic policies that address genderspecific needs and vulnerabilities, dismantle barriers to equal resource access, and protect against exploitation through gender-responsive budgeting.

4. *SOCIAL:* Cultural, religious, and ethnic compositions and customs.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Examine how social norms and cultural practices may perpetuate gender inequality and insecurity. Integrate gender perspectives into social norms and cultural practices, promote equity, and safeguard against harmful practices. Engage communities to reform social structures that perpetuate inequality.

5. *INFORMATION:* Systems for collecting, processing, and sharing information.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Analyze how information is accessed and disseminated and how this may affect different genders. Prevent the spread of gender-biased information and ensure all genders have equitable access to information dissemination and governance, including media representation.

6. *INFRASTRUCTURE:* Systems for public facilities and services and IDP camps.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Assess how infrastructure design and accessibility may affect different genders, particularly in crises. Plan and design infrastructure that meets the needs of all genders, ensuring accessibility and safety. Implement gender-sensitive design and equitable access to services, especially in crises.

7. *PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:* An area's natural features, ecosystems, and climate.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Analyze how environmental factors may disproportionately impact different genders. Integrate gender considerations into environmental policy to address vulnerabilities, enhance resilience, and ensure equitable access to resources.

8. *TIME:* Duration and sequencing of activities and events.

<u>GSA Application</u>: Consider how time constraints and scheduling may affect different genders, particularly concerning caregiving responsibilities and access to services. Address time-related inequalities affecting work, education, and caregiving opportunities. Adapt planning to accommodate diverse time burdens.

By applying the PMESII-PT framework through a gendered lens, practitioners can develop more inclusive and effective strategies that address the diverse needs and experiences of all genders in the operational environment. To assist in this process, the GSAT Matrix has been developed to facilitate the integration of gender perspectives into security analysis and planning.

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PARTICIPATION PARTICIPATION Participation Pa	ty Analysis: A Critical Tool for Socurity' i nos M. Minnich, APCSS. 2025 he Security environment by a pps: (1) IDENTIFY - Examine Fact	MILITARY/POLICE Security forces' leadership, capabilities, operations	MilDOLICE PROFECTION Do security factors have the creatory & alimigeness to potect and genetics than whethere and discrimination, while rescrimes? If and, revise operational and, revise operational accountability mechanisms.	MIL-POLICE PERSPECTIVE the grader perspectives integrated in the leder shy, orgalitiks, and appendixes of security threas? If not, analyze the brits relation for grader-sensity endrangend public relations to an advance pro- considerations into operations.	ML-POLCE PREVENTION Are there onlined or institutional borries restricting gendre equality within security force operations? If yes, estimate these borries: to ensure equal opportunities.	MIL-POLICE PARTICIPATION Are all graves equilably involved in developing and executing sectriv portiners? <i>Practices and bedeschip</i> structures to pranote indusive partilipation.
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FLOUDE 25 1. COAT MATDIN	Sourcer. J		PROTECTION Safeguards against violence and ensures inclusion	PERSPECTIVE Incorporates diverse gender viewpoints and experiences		PARTICIPATION Promotes equal involvement in decision-making

FIGURE 25.1: GSAT MATRIX Source: James M. Minnich, created for this publication

Applying the GSAT Matrix

The GSAT Matrix is a practical tool for systematically applying GSA across the PMESII-PT variables.³⁵ It helps practitioners analyze how gender dynamics intersect with different aspects of the operational environment. The matrix can be viewed in two ways:

- 1. *HORIZONTALLY*: Analyzing a single gendered security principle (e.g., Protection) across all operational variables (Political, Military, Economic, etc.) to gain comprehensive insights into how that principle applies throughout the environment. This view helps identify how a specific gender concern manifests across different sectors.
- 2. *VERTICALLY*: Assessing all gendered security principles (Protection, Perspective, Prevention, Participation) within a single operational variable (e.g., Economic) to gain sector-specific insights tailored to particular elements of the environment. This view helps understand the range of gender issues within a specific sector.

To guide your analysis within the GSAT Matrix, as shown in Figure 25.1, use the *Identify-Analyze-Act* steps, which can be understood through the *know-mean-do* framework:

- 1. *IDENTIFY (KNOW)*: Examine the facts and observations of each intersection of a PMESII-PT variable and a gendered security principle. Gather data and information to answer the question: "What do we *know* about the gender dynamics in this area?"
- 2. *ANALYZE (MEAN)*: Draw insights and patterns from the identified information using the GENDER 4Ps framework. Analyze the data to answer the question: "What does this

information *mean* in terms of the gender security challenges and opportunities in this area?"

3. ACT (DO): Develop strategies and actions to address identified gaps and promote gender-inclusive security. Formulate specific recommendations to answer the question: "What can we *do* to address these challenges and promote gender equality in this area?"

The GSAT Matrix facilitates the assessment of gendered security across 32 intersections of operational variables and gender principles, allowing analysts to identify and benchmark genderbased vulnerabilities, risks, and needs. This tool enables practitioners to develop strategies that are more equitable, inclusive, and adaptable to the needs of all genders.

Deliberate GSA Using GSAT: A Comprehensive Scenario

Practitioners often struggle to understand when and how to conduct a deliberate GSA.³⁶ To aid this, the following stabilization operation scenario demonstrates the value of applying a deliberate GSA using GSAT. This example follows the *Identify-Analyze-Act* (know-meando) approach, illustrating how this tool can be adapted across diverse operational contexts.

- 1. *IDENTIFY (KNOW)*: A stabilization operation is underway in a country emerging from a protracted conflict. Observations across the PMESII-PT spectrum reveal the following:
 - *Political*: Fragile government with limited capacity, unequal power dynamics between different ethnic groups, and exclusion of women from decision-making positions.
 - *Military/Police*: Presence of international peacekeeping forces, weak national security institutions, and reports of human rights abuses by security personnel.
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- *Economic*: Devastated infrastructure, high unemployment rates, particularly among women and youth, and unequal access to economic opportunities.
- *Social*: Deep-rooted social divisions along ethnic and religious lines, prevalence of harmful traditional practices, and limited access to education and healthcare, particularly for women and girls.
- *Information*: Limited access to reliable information, spread of misinformation and hate speech, and restrictions on freedom of expression.
- *Infrastructure*: Damaged infrastructure, including roads, schools, and hospitals, hindering access to essential services.
- *Physical Environment*: Environmental degradation due to conflict, displacement of populations due to natural disasters, and limited access to safe water and sanitation.
- *Time*: Ongoing security threats, slow pace of recovery, and limited timeframe for international assistance.
- 2. ANALYZE (MEAN):
 - *Protection*: Women, girls, and marginalized individuals face heightened risks of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, domestic abuse, and trafficking. Security forces may lack the capacity or willingness to protect vulnerable populations.
 - *Perspective*: The perspectives and experiences of women and marginalized groups are often excluded from decision-making processes, leading to policies and programs that fail to address their specific needs.
 - *Prevention*: The root causes of gender inequality and insecurity, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, limited access to education and economic opportunities,

and lack of accountability for gender-based violence, remain unaddressed.

- *Participation*: Women and marginalized groups face barriers to participating in political processes, peacebuilding efforts, and economic recovery. Their exclusion undermines the effectiveness and sustainability of stabilization efforts.
- 3. ACT (DO): (Note: the following actions are representative. A thorough GSA would delve deeper into each GENDER 4Ps for each PMESII-PT variable to better analyze the security situation and how to advance a better security outcome.)
 - *Political*: Support the establishment of inclusive governance structures that ensure women's participation in decision-making at all levels. Advocate for gender-equitable laws and policies.
 - *Military/Police*: Strengthen the capacity of security forces to protect civilians, particularly women and marginalized groups, from violence and abuse. Promote gender-sensitive training and accountability mechanisms.
 - *Economic*: Implement economic recovery programs that prioritize women's access to employment, education, and financial resources.³⁷ Address gender-based barriers to economic participation.³⁸
 - *Social*: Promote social cohesion and reconciliation through dialogue and community engagement. Challenge harmful social norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination.³⁹
 - *Information*: Ensure access to accurate and unbiased information for all genders. Support media initiatives that promote peacebuilding and gender equality.
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- *Infrastructure*: Rebuild infrastructure in a way that is accessible and safe for all genders.⁴⁰ Prioritize the restoration of essential services that benefit women and girls.
- *Physical Environment*: Integrate gender considerations into environmental protection and recovery efforts.⁴¹ Ensure equitable access to natural resources and address the specific vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups to environmental risks.
- *Time*: Recognize the different time constraints women and men face during stabilization operations. Design programs and policies that are flexible and responsive to these diverse needs.

This scenario demonstrates how GSA is essential for building more inclusive, effective, and sustainable security solutions. By identifying gender-specific vulnerabilities, analyzing their impact, and acting to address these needs, practitioners can develop strategies that promote long-term peace and security for all. Embracing GSA as a core component of security operations equips practitioners to navigate the complex interplay between gender and security, leading to more just and equitable outcomes. Security practitioners are urged to actively incorporate GSA into their analysis and planning to ensure that responses to security challenges are comprehensive and effective and promote the well-being of all individuals and communities.

Rapid GSAT:

A SIMP-lified Approach for Time-Sensitive Situations

While the full GSAT provides a comprehensive framework for GSA, Rapid GSAT offers a streamlined approach for time-sensitive situations where immediate action is critical. By focusing on the most essential elements, Rapid GSAT enables practitioners to

quickly assess gender dynamics and integrate gender considerations into urgent responses.

This framework utilizes four key categories from the PMESII-PT model—Social, Infrastructure, Military, and Political (SIMP) and prioritizes the core gendered security principles of Protection and Perspective.

The Rapid GSAT Matrix, illustrated in Figure 25.2, provides a structured tool to systematically analyze how these factors intersect and influence gender dynamics in a crisis. For example, in a natural disaster, the matrix could help identify how damage to infrastructure (lack of clean water, sanitation) disproportionately impacts women and girls, leading to increased health risks. It could also reveal how men and boys might be disproportionately affected by the destruction of livelihoods (leading to increased stress and potential for engaging in risky activities) or be expected to take on dangerous roles in recovery efforts (requiring a provision of safety equipment and training). By using the matrix, practitioners can systematically assess these vulnerabilities and develop targeted responses.

curity Analysis: A Critical Tool for Security" in James M. Minnich, APCSS, 2025	RAPID GENDERED SECURITY ANALYSIS TOOL (GSAT) MATRIX	alysis Tool (GSAT) Matrix	December 10, 2024
Assess the security environment steps: (1) IDENTIFY - Examine facts	by applying a gendered lens across four key SIMP variables s and observations: "What do we know?" (2) AnaLYZE - Interpr	Asses the security environment by applying a gendered lens across four key SIMP variables and two GENDER 4Ps. This tool defines 8 aspects of gendered security in an operational environment. steps. (1) Iostrier - Examine facts and observations. "What do we wow?" (2) Awurze-Interpret insights and patterns: "What does it mEw?" (3) Acr - Develop actionable strategies. "What does to me of 20, "	d security in an operational environment. Bop actionable strategies: <i>"What can we Do?"</i>
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Safeguards against violence and ensures inclusion Figure 25.2: Rapid GSAT Matrix Source: James M. Minnich, created for this publication

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PERSPECTIVE Incorporates diverse gender viewpoints and experiences

Applying Rapid GSAT: A Representative Scenario

Every second counts in the face of urgent crises. Yet, effective response requires more than rapid action; it demands an understanding of how different individuals and groups are impacted. This is where Rapid GSAT comes in. This section provides a practical scenario of a natural disaster response, demonstrating how security practitioners can utilize the Rapid GSAT framework to swiftly identify gender-specific vulnerabilities, analyze their impact, and take targeted action. Using the *Identify-Analyze-Act* (*know-mean-do*) approach, this example will guide you through the process of applying Rapid GSAT in a crisis context.

- 1. *IDENTIFY (KNOW):* A severe cyclone has struck a coastal city, causing widespread devastation. Homes and healthcare facilities are destroyed, transportation networks are damaged, and people are displaced. Social systems are overwhelmed, and there are reports of looting, gender-based violence, and increased vulnerability for marginalized groups, including women, children, older adults, and those with disabilities.
- 2. ANALYZE (MEAN):
 - *Protection*: The breakdown of social order and infrastructure increases the risk of gender-based violence, particularly for women, girls, and marginalized individuals. Displacement and overcrowded shelters exacerbate these risks. Limited access to healthcare, sanitation, and essential resources further jeopardizes their safety and well-being.
 - *Perspective*: In the rush to provide aid, the unique needs and perspectives of women, girls, and marginalized individuals may be overlooked. Their voices are crucial
- 630

for ensuring that relief efforts are inclusive and address their specific concerns.

- 3. ACT (DO):
 - *Social*: Establish safe spaces and shelters with adequate privacy and security, prioritizing the needs of women, girls, and marginalized individuals.
 - *Infrastructure*: Ensure access to essential services, including healthcare, sanitation, food, and water.
 - *Military/Police*: Deploy female security personnel and train all security forces on gender-sensitive approaches to disaster response.
 - *Political*: Advocate for gender-inclusive policies and decision-making in the recovery efforts.

This scenario demonstrates the power of Rapid GSAT in timesensitive crisis situations. By providing a streamlined framework for swiftly identifying gender-specific vulnerabilities and analyzing their impact, Rapid GSAT empowers security practitioners to take immediate action. By prioritizing the principles of protection and perspective, this approach ensures that gender considerations remain central to operational planning, even in the most urgent circumstances. Ultimately, this leads to more inclusive responses that enhance the safety, well-being, and resilience of all individuals and communities affected by crises. Security practitioners are urged to integrate Rapid GSAT into their crisis response toolkit to ensure that no one is left behind.

GSA in Practice: Case Studies and Applications

This section examines real-world examples of how GSA can be integrated into national security policy and practice.

Malaysia's National Action Plan

Malaysia's forthcoming National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) demonstrates how GSA principles can be operationalized to promote gender equality and enhance security outcomes. Informed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the NAP recognizes the crucial role women play in peace and security. Drafted through a collaborative process involving government agencies and international experts at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, the NAP integrates GSA principles into its framework.⁴²

While the NAP itself does not explicitly mention the GSA by name, the framework was instrumental in its development. The NAP's focus on Protection, Perspective, Prevention, and Participation aligns with the GENDER 4Ps framework. For example:

- *PROTECTION*: The NAP aims to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination through strengthened legal frameworks, access to justice, and gender-responsive security measures.
- *PERSPECTIVE*: The NAP highlights the need to integrate gender perspectives into all policies and decision-making processes to ensure that the diverse needs and experiences of women and men are considered in peace and security efforts.
- *PREVENTION*: The NAP aims to ensure that women and girls have equal access to institutions, structures, and resources, enabling them to be full agents in society.
- *PARTICIPATION*: The NAP promotes women's equal and meaningful participation in all levels of decision-making, including social, economic, political spheres, and peace and security processes.



This holistic application of GSA principles demonstrates how the GENDER 4Ps can guide national security policies to be equitable and effective. By integrating GSA into its national security framework, Malaysia takes significant steps to promote gender equality, enhance security, and build a more peaceful and inclusive society.

The Pivotal Role of GSA in U.S. Agencies

There is a growing recognition within U.S. agencies of the need to integrate GSA into security policy and practice.⁴³ The U.S. government demonstrated its commitment to this approach through the release of its own Strategy and National Action Plan for Women, Peace, and Security.⁴⁴ Integrating GSA across U.S. agencies, particularly within defense, marks a significant shift in recognizing and addressing gendered dynamics in military operations.⁴⁵ This approach, grounded in GENDER 4Ps framework, is crucial for formulating equitable and responsive strategies to operational needs while advancing gender equality.

By embracing the GENDER 4Ps, U.S. agencies can ensure gender perspectives are systematically included across all decisionmaking levels, leading to more equitable outcomes and enhanced operational effectiveness.

- *PERSPECTIVE*: Incorporating diverse gender experiences allows for a more nuanced understanding of security threats and the development of more effective responses. To address the complexity of military operations, agencies can adopt GSA frameworks like GSAT, specifically designed for military contexts to ensure gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of planning and operations.
- *PREVENTION*: GSA enables U.S. agencies to identify and address the root causes of gender-related security threats, such as gender inequality and discrimination. This proactive approach can help prevent conflict and promote long-term

stability. Integrating GSA into training programs and operational planning processes can overcome institutional resistance and demonstrate its relevance and effectiveness.

- *PARTICIPATION*: Ensuring all genders' full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes is essential for building inclusive and sustainable security. This includes promoting women's leadership in the military and ensuring their voices are heard in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. This involves not only ensuring women's formal inclusion in security processes but also actively working to create a culture of belonging where they feel valued and empowered, which can lead to increased retention and improved performance.⁴⁶ Addressing data limitations, particularly in collecting gender-disaggregated data in conflict zones, is crucial. Implementing robust data collection mechanisms and utilizing existing data sources from NGOs and international organizations can help overcome this challenge.
- *PROTECTION*: GSA emphasizes protecting individuals from all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence and domestic abuse. This requires addressing data limitations that can hinder effective analysis and response.

By addressing these challenges through the GENDER 4Ps, U.S. agencies can enhance operational outcomes while fostering more inclusive and equitable security environments.

Practical Applications and Benefits of GSA

The practical benefits of GSA, aligned with the GENDER 4Ps, can be summarized using the acronym SHAPE:

• S - SITUATIONAL AWARENESS ENHANCED: GSA provides a more complete understanding of the security environment by

incorporating diverse gender perspectives, leading to more informed decision-making. For example, understanding the specific security concerns of women and girls in a conflict zone can lead to more effective protection strategies.

- *H*-*HIGHER OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS*: Integrating gender results in more inclusive and effective strategies. For instance, including women in peace negotiations can lead to more sustainable peace agreements.
- A ADAPTABILITY STRENGTHENED: GSA fosters flexibility by recognizing how gender roles and dynamics shift during conflicts and crises, enabling security practitioners to adapt their strategies and better meet the needs of affected populations.
- **P**-PREVENTION OF CONFLICT: By addressing the root causes of insecurity, such as gender inequality and discrimination, GSA promotes long-term peace and stability.
- E EQUITY IN SECURITY: GSA ensures that security efforts are equitable by guaranteeing that all genders are included in decision-making processes, their needs are met, and they are protected from harm.

The *SHAPE* approach highlights how GSA transforms security operations to be more inclusive, adaptable, and equitable. By enhancing situational awareness, improving operational effectiveness, fostering adaptability, preventing conflict, and promoting equity, GSA shapes the security landscape to better address the diverse needs of all genders. In this way, the GENDER 4Ps are both guiding principles and practical tools for achieving more just, effective, and sustainable security outcomes across any operational environment.



ACTION-Oriented Solutions

In a world where security challenges are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected, simply understanding gender dynamics is not enough. We must translate that understanding into action. This section provides a framework for defense and military organizations to effectively integrate GSA into their operations, ensuring that gender perspectives are not just acknowledged but actively applied to achieve more inclusive, equitable, and effective security outcomes.

To achieve this, organizations must adopt a structured, resultsdriven approach. The *ACTION* framework outlines clear steps to ensure that gender perspectives are actively applied across all levels of military and defense strategy, leading to more inclusive and effective operations.

- A ASSIGN GENDER ADVISORS: Embed dedicated gender advisors within military planning units to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated at every stage, from strategy development to tactical employment. These advisors should have expertise in gender analysis, conflict resolution, and human rights. They will play a vital role in shaping gendersensitive operations, promoting inclusivity in decisionmaking processes, and providing training and guidance to military personnel. For example, gender advisors can assist in conducting gender analysis of mission plans, identifying potential risks and opportunities related to gender dynamics, and developing mitigation strategies.
- C CREATE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS: Develop specialized gender-focused training for all military personnel to ensure a comprehensive understanding of how gender dynamics influence security. Training should cover topics such as gender norms and stereotypes, gender-based violence, the importance of gender perspectives in military operations, and conducting gendered security analysis,



including using tools like the GSAT and Rapid GSAT matrices. To ensure effectiveness, address potential resistance to gender training and tailor training content to different military roles and responsibilities. This training is crucial to prevent the exploitation and abuse of local populations, as highlighted in historical instances where untrained security personnel caused harm.⁴⁷

- T-TAILOR OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION: Incorporate GSA into every aspect of military operations, from mission planning to execution, ensuring gender considerations are embedded across all contexts. This operational integration of GSA leads to more responsive and adaptable strategies. For example, gender analysis should be used to inform design of patrols, the selection of interpreters, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is important to recognize that gender dynamics may vary across different operational environments, and strategies should be adapted accordingly.
- *I*-*IMPLEMENT FEEDBACK MECHANISMS*: Establish continuous feedback loops to monitor the effectiveness of GSA integration and adapt strategies based on situational dynamics. Ongoing evaluation helps keep GSA relevant and responsive to emerging security and gender-related challenges. This could involve conducting post-operation reviews, gathering feedback from local communities, and tracking relevant indicators. For instance, collecting data on the number of women participating in peace negotiations or the incidence of gender-based violence can help assess the impact of GSA integration and identify areas for improvement.
- O-OPTIMIZE COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS: Strengthen partnerships with gender-focused NGOs, international organizations, and civil society to enhance GSA's effectiveness. These collaborations provide expert guidance,

resources, and additional support for integrating gender perspectives into security operations. For example, partnering with local women's organizations can provide valuable insights into the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls in conflict-affected communities. These partnerships can also help to build trust and facilitate communication between security forces and local populations.

• $N - NURTURE \ A \ GENDER-INCLUSIVE \ CULTURE:$ Promote a culture of gender inclusion within military organizations by fostering diversity, equity, and gender-sensitive policies at all levels. A gender-inclusive culture leads to more cohesive and effective security strategies. This involves challenging harmful stereotypes, promoting women's leadership, and creating a safe and inclusive environment for all personnel.⁴⁸ This can be achieved through initiatives such as mentoring programs for women, promoting work-life balance policies, and addressing gender bias in performance evaluations.

Conclusion

Gendered Security Analysis (GSA) is essential for building more inclusive, effective, and sustainable security solutions, not just within the military but across all security sectors. Frameworks such as GSAT and Rapid GSAT provide invaluable tools for integrating gender perspectives into all phases of military operations, from strategic planning to real-time decision-making during crises. By embracing GSA as a core component of security strategy and taking concrete steps outlined in the ACTION framework, organizations will be better equipped to address the complex interplay between gender and security, leading to more just and equitable outcomes.

Integrating GSA enhances situational awareness, improves operational effectiveness, fosters adaptability, prevents conflict, and promotes equity. As conflicts and security challenges become

increasingly multifaceted, the role of GSA in promoting peace and preventing violence is critical. By taking concrete, actionable steps, institutions can ensure that security strategies are inclusive, effective, and responsive to the diverse needs of all individuals, regardless of gender.

The urgency of integrating GSA into all aspects of security practices cannot be overstated. Stakeholders across the globe governments, militaries, international organizations, and civil societies—should embrace GSA and actively incorporate it into their policies, programs, and operations. By doing so, we can collectively work toward a more secure, equitable, and peaceful future for all.

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- ⁴⁸ Minnich, "Politics of Belonging."