The 18th Field Artillery Brigade is tasked with conducting theater security cooperation to build partner capacity and improve joint interoperability with partnered nations while serving as the U.S. Army Central Force Field Artillery Headquarters. The brigade is taking the necessary steps to gain a common defense and a complementary capability with allies and partners with subordinate units participating in joint exercises with host nation militaries.

These exercises create a shared understanding between militaries which, ultimately increases lethality on the battlefield.

Recently, Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) participated in a joint HIMARS Raid via Aerial Insertion cold-load training exercise with the 29th Royal Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) at the Marka Civil Airport in Jordan.

During the exercise, the two militaries worked together and compared methods and standard operating procedures. The two units jointly prepared the JAF launcher and trained on the proficiency of loading and unloading it onto a C-17 aircraft.

“The Jordanians have an extremely capable and highly proficient military, so we are not really teaching them anything, but learning and understanding their processes and them learning and understanding ours,” said Capt. Ryan Victory, Alpha Battery commander.

According to Victory and his battery executive officer, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Hensley, both militaries stood to learn from the other in order to bridge their technical and tactical gaps.

The Jordanians complement our military because we are equally technically proficient; however, we do not share the same tactical experience, said Hensley.

Some of the challenges the two militaries faced were that they don’t train according to the same doctrine nor do they train in the same manner. The U.S. military cross-trains its Soldiers to perform different tasks; whereas, the Jordanian Armed Forces trains its Soldiers to only perform one task, said Hensley. This could be foreseen as a potential issue, but in a combat capacity the two militaries would complement one another, he said.

Also, the Jordanians have deployments, but few have HIMARS deployments; so we were able to share with them a greater knowledge in that aspect, he said.

As units continue to conduct joint exercises and share processes with allies and partners, Fires will become more globally integrated across all domains.

Capt. Natasha Fultz-Castro is the public affairs officer for 18th Field Artillery Brigade.