**FINAL PAPER RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**STUDENT:** LtCol Vincent J. Ciuccoli, United States Marine Corps

**TITLE:** Flipping the DIME: The Role of Society in Securing National Interests

**SUBJECT:** An introspective look at the role of social resilience in national security policy when facing non-existential threats – and analysis of the tensions created in a super power's global security cooperation strategy in contrast to a regional power's pursuit of national interests in and around the homeland. The nature of these tensions in US national security and how they may or may not apply to the Israeli model will be the focus of this study.

**GOAL OF THE PAPER:** 1.) Explore whether society can be considered a key pillar in the United States' national security concept, particularly with regard to the impact of social resilience outside its traditional application, vis-à-vis existential threats. 2.) Examine the role of social resilience in securing US national interests at and the effects of such enduring missions on a democratic society. 3.) Use the social pillar of Israel's national security conception as a basis for analyzing the US model with a view to potentially reapply lessons learned on the Israeli model.

**CONNECTION OF THE PAPER TO NATIONAL SECURITY:** When implementing national security policy, the will of the people can play a major role in the outcome of an extended campaign but, the relationship of society in the pursuit of national interests is not universal. Israeli national security doctrine, which is well suited to counter existential threats, is reliant on social resilience but, it is unclear whether the social pillar will remain a critical source of tension in a future scenario where the State employs the IDF in a security cooperation framework as part of a more regional approach to its national security.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

1. It is questionable whether the Israeli pillar of social resilience conveniently fits in the US national security formula at all; but in terms of global security cooperation efforts or in response to homeland security threats, can it play a larger role?
2. Can Israel learn something from the nature of American society and its role in national security or is it more likely the US can take a chapter out of the Israeli model?
3. In the scenarios that may derive from the outcome of the Syrian civil war, vis-à-vis regional cooperative security opportunities, i.e. in the Golan Heights, will the social resilience pillar only then be tested to its full degree? How about during a response to a natural disaster, i.e. earthquake with effects that cross international borders, and how will the Israeli people react if humanitarian assistance efforts were to create a temporary distraction for the IDF?

**METHOD OF PRESENTING THE IDEA (OUTLINE):**

1. Define what constitutes military operations other than war, outline 'Phase Zero' on the continuum of military operations and highlight how Security Cooperation fits into national security strategy.
2. Define Social Resilience and the role it can play in fortifying a democratic nation-state's national security. Identify whether resilience is the only key element to the social pillar.
3. United States' examples and author's experiences that indicate the potential relevance of an inter-relationship between Security Cooperation and Social Resilience.
4. Systems Analysis of the social pillar in the US national security conception in terms of a critical capability in campaigns that involve a large dose of Phase Zero shaping operations.
5. Re-application of US model in Israeli national security affairs. Is the notion of society in US national security relevant to the State of Israel or are the lessons learned unidirectional? Describe alternate scenarios that could emerge out of the Syrian civil war as potential opportunities for future Israeli security cooperation efforts.