
NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES



2017 Annual Review



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NESA Senior Leadership



Director, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies
LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff

Lieutenant General (ret.) Terry Wolff joined the NESA Center after serving as the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5 for the Joint Staff from September 2011 until December 2013. He retired in February 2014 after completing over 34 years of service. Seven of the last ten years, before NESA, were spent in Washington, D.C. working military strategy and policy matters as well as interagency affairs: first on the Joint Staff as a Colonel; then nearly two years on the National Security Council as a Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan; and over two years as the Joint Staff J5. Director Wolff is also currently serving as the Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL.



Deputy Director, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies
David Lamm

David Lamm, is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Canisius College and was commissioned in 1977. Mr. Lamm assumed the duties as the Deputy Director of the NESA Center in 2010 after serving as the Chief of Staff. Mr. Lamm has previously served as the Joint Staff's Chief of Plans and Operations, Operations Directorate from 1997-1999. He was Commander, U.S. Army Central Command, Kuwait and then Chief of Staff, Combined Forces Command. In his last assignment, he served consecutively as Director for Afghanistan and Interagency Coordinator for the Defense Policy Analysis Office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.



Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs,
Dr. Roger Kangas

Dr. Roger Kangas is the Academic Dean and a Professor of Central Asian Studies at the NESA Center. Previously Dr. Kangas served as a Professor of Central Asian Studies at the George C. Marshall Center for European Security and Deputy Director of the Central Asian Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Dr. Kangas has been an advisor to the Combatant Commands, NATO/ISAF, the US Air Force Special Operations School, National Democratic Institute, International Research and Exchanges Board, USAID, and other government agencies on issues relating to Central and South Asia, Russia, and the South Caucasus.

Director's Note



The NESACenter is especially thankful for the support given by in-region partners, U.S. Government stakeholders, alumni, American embassies, and U.S. allies for providing invaluable assistance for the continuity of NESACenter programs. With their efforts, foreign policy communities around the world are better able to collaborate and provide answers and analysis for tough security challenges that impact global affairs.

This Fiscal Year (FY 2017), the NESACenter, was successful in completing 55 resident programs with participants from 106 countries resulting in 945 new alumni—with the addition of numerous topical seminars and meetings—and the engagement of 1,443 participants. The NESACenter has the unique ability to use the collaborative interests and knowledge of regional Combatant Commands and U.S. military organizations including U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), U.S. Army Central (ARCENT), and the Joint Staff, in order to render a specialized set of 22 programs, that address specific regionally sensitive security and defense issues.

Although the NESACenter has specialized regional and topical courses, it is the Executive and Senior Executive Seminars that promote a multi-lateral engagement strategy to provide a collaborative space for policymakers to cultivate relations. Through the NESACenter's whole-of-society approach, alumni are prepared to develop policy recommendations within their governments, non-governmental agencies, think-tanks, and communities, consistent with mutual goals and objectives.

The NESACenter's unique ability to navigate through unofficial channels and conduct Track II strategic dialogues makes it an excellent resource for international policymakers to provide and present analysis. NESACenter programs in coordination with the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Ottawa, the Hoover Center at Stanford University, the Middle East Institute, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies cover strategic international challenges such as the Arab-Israeli Peace Discussions, the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Dialogue, South Asian Regional Security, Middle East-North Africa Security, the India-Pakistan Nuclear Settlement, and the India-Pakistan Military to Military Relationship.

Finally, as extremism becomes a more prevalent topic in the international community, with the rise of terrorist groups like Daesh, the NESACenter is proud to present a series of Peer-2-Peer (P2P) workshops in collaboration with NESACenter region academic institutions. These workshops, combining a collective presence of more than 30 NESACenter region universities and the participation of 300 youth leaders, lead to the development of social media campaigns and strategies, through a reach of over 500,000, which garners more peaceful and stable civil societies. NESACenter's 'Next Generation' seminars also incorporate and cultivate ideas from youth leaders within the region to present solutions of complex regional crises to key U.S. policymakers. Working group participants presented to National Defense University senior leaders, State Department's Office for Countering Violent Extremism, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, as well as several members of Congress and staffers within the Committees on Foreign Relations, Homeland Security, and Intelligence for the U.S. Senate.

LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff

Director, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies

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NESA Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff addressing participants on the current state of Daesh.



Washington Embassy Orientation



Washington diplomatic staff take a group photo outside the Officers' Club at the National Defense University.

WASHINGTON—October 24-28, 2016—The NESAC Center completed its Washington Embassy Orientation program, bringing together over 50 diplomatic officials from embassies in the nation's capital.

The Washington Embassy Orientation, led by Professor Dan Curfiss, is the annual NESAC Center course that provides the newly assigned diplomatic corps in Washington an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the 'D.C.' community.

The NESAC Center offers key foreign embassy staff a background of U.S. Foreign Policy goals and objectives, the American political landscape, the policy making process, the role of think-tanks, lobbyists and the intelligence community, Congress, the role of the media and the responsibilities of the executive branch. Special guest lecturers including P.J. Crowley, the former Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Kimberly Dozier, National Security Correspondent for the Daily Beast, and Robert Karem, an aide to former Vice President Dick Cheney, made presentations to participants on the inner-workings of the D.C. policy community.



Participants discussing their last session during a break.



Lecturer P.J. Crowley talking about American politics during a session.

Participants also received the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in other NESAC seminars and NDU courses. Since 2009, over 350 diplomatic officials have completed this annual course.

NESA CT Senior Executive Seminar



NESA CT SES participants listening to a presentation on ways to combat violent extremism.

WASHINGTON—May 8-19, 2017— The NESA Center held the second iteration of its core Senior Executive Seminar (SES) on Countering Transnational Threats (CT), entitled ‘Global Challenges – Regional Solutions Major Regional and Global Actors’ Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism.’



Professor Velte (L) in discussion with a participant.

Over 42 senior military and government officials from 22 NESA countries including Armenia, Lebanon, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka as well as the U.S., attended the two-week long seminar. The CT seminar directed by NESA Professor John Wood, is designed for counterterrorism practitioners and seeks to build capacity and enhance regional partnerships. Participants learned to analyze critical topics such as CT considerations in urban areas, U.S. law enforcement in counterterrorism, regional perspectives within the NESA region including North Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, the Gulf, South and Central Asia and Iran, as well as dealing with ongoing nuclear threats.

Professor Wood assembled a group of international security experts, including Ambassador Ronald Neumann, President of the American Academy of Diplomacy, Dr. Andrew Small, Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and Brigadier Gurmeet Kanwal (Ret.), Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, to discuss their interpretations of global transnational threats to SES participants. Professor Wood also took the opportunity during the course of the seminar to take a field study visit to the Harper’s Ferry National Park in West Virginia.



Participants take a group photo outside the National Defense University.

NESA Executive Seminar



Participants pose for a group photograph, while outside the National Defense University.

WASHINGTON—March 13–24, 2017— The NESA Center held its second Executive Seminar of the year, bringing in over 45 senior military and government officials from 23 NESA countries including Algeria, India, Oman, Uzbekistan and the U.S.

Entitled ‘New Security Challenges Within the NESA Region’, the seminar incorporated several key thematic areas of focus including counterterrorism, intelligence, and violent extremism. The NESA Center holds three such Executive Seminars every year, in an effort to stimulate a dialogue on strategic issues affecting the Near East South Asia region among national security professionals.



Former CIA Director Michael Hayden briefing participants, and energy security.

NESA Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat guided the seminar through several meetings and panel discussions primarily led by academic professionals, senior U.S. government officials, and economic analysts.

Over the course of two weeks, participants learned in great depth about current U.S. national security objectives, cyber security, terrorist funding, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, economic development,

Prominent speakers including former Director of the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency, General Michael Hayden, and Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Allison Silberberg gave insightful and perceptive presentations on U.S. foreign policy and the importance of maintaining a cultural and historical dialogue.

NESA Executive Seminars also feature breakout group discussions which are smaller in nature and allow participants to reflect on the sessions presented that day.



Participants take a photo, while discussing their session on national security media coverage.

NESA Roundtable With Senator Joe Manchin



Senator Joe Manchin (R) and staff during a roundtable with NESA faculty.

WASHINGTON—June 12, 2017— The NESA Center hosted U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) and his top legislative staffers for an interactive roundtable that focused on several of the most pressing issues in the Near East and South Asia.

Senator Manchin currently sits on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Senator Manchin is also heavily involved in international partnerships that strengthen the safety and security of the U.S. and its allies.

NESA Center Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff gave an overview on the status of the Counter-ISIL Coalition Efforts. NESA Associate Professor, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) expert David DesRoches, offered insight on the diplomatic rift between Qatar and the GCC; this is of particular interest to Senator Manchin, as the West Virginia National Guard is in the midst of establishing a partnership with the Armed Forces of Qatar.

NESA Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat gave input on how Qatar's relationship with Iran influenced its standing within



Senator Manchin (L) with Director LTG (ret.) Wolff.

the GCC. NESA Associate Professors Jack Gill and John Wood spoke about the decision-making processes and complicated foreign policy motivations of Pakistan, which can be influenced by adjacent regions. Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas was a part of the dialogue as well, and spoke on Russia's motivations and involvement in the NESA region.

The NESA Center serves as a resource for senior government officials to tap for academic and non-partisan regional analysis.

The NESA Center is the only U.S. government organization that brings in participants from across the NESA region, including South Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf and the Levant. This gives the NESA Center the unique ability to gather input on the interplay of these adjacent regions— economic and migrations flows, for instance, whilst many U.S. Government agencies are only set up for linear analysis of a given NESA sub-region.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Confidence Building Seminar



Afghan and Pakistani participants during a session led by NESAs Professor John Wood.

WASHINGTON— January 30-February 9, 2017— 12 senior military and government officials from the Afghan and Pakistani government gathered in Washington to participate in the NESAs Center’s Afghanistan-Pakistan Confidence Building Seminar, held twice a year. This forum is an exclusive NESAs Center course, and is one of the few opportunities that high-level Afghan and Pakistani officials receive to interact with each other outside of their own channels.

The course, led by NESAs Professors John Wood and Jack Gill, is designed to provide a cooperative strategic dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan, thereby reducing tensions and instilling confidence between the two nations. Over



An Afghan and Pakistani participant show a sign of their new friendship.

the course of two weeks, participants heard from a variety of subject matter experts including senior U.S. government officials, think-tank academicians, and diplomats.

Afghan and Pakistani participants were provided multiple opportunities to discuss mutual concerns, including separate meetings with officials at the State Department, the Pentagon, and Capitol Hill. Throughout the seminar, participants engaged in several security-based lectures, including U.S. policy for Afghanistan-Pakistan, an overview on current

Iranian foreign policy, narcotics as an issue of border security, Daesh as an emerging threat along the Durand Line, refugees and border protection, as well as the current status of the Counter-ISIL campaign.

Guest lecturers Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann, the former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr. Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, CEO of Valens Global, and Mr. Roy Kamphausen, Senior Vice President of the National Bureau of Asian Research, made presentations during the course as well. Participants were also involved in preparing papers for a cohesive border-security strategy, which were presented to H.E. Hamdullah Mohib, the Afghan Ambassador to the U.S., and Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, the Pakistani Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S.

Building Civilian-Military Capacity in Afghanistan



Participants listen on during one of the key security discussions in Kabul.

KABUL, Afghanistan—December 18-20, 2016— The NESAC Center in partnership with the Afghan Office of the National Security Council conducted a three-day seminar focusing on building and sustaining civilian-military human capacity in Afghanistan.

Over 50 Afghan participants completed the 3-day program which focused on successful approaches to whole-of-government problem solving and crisis management. Representatives from the Afghan government including President Ashraf Ghani and National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar participated in the conference as well.

NESAC Professors John Wood and Brianne Todd as well as distinguished faculty member Ali Jalali, formerly the Interior Minister of Afghanistan, covered several topics including crisis management, ethical decision making, inter-ministerial collaboration, and consultation with foreign governments and non-governmental organizations.



NESAC Professor Brianne Todd in a meeting with President Ashraf Ghani.

The seminar also included a capstone practical exercise dealing with the crisis management of a hypothetical complex natural disaster.

Special guest speakers including General Qadam Shah Shahim, Chief of the General Staff, and Lieutenant General Alexander (“Sandy”) Storrie, Deputy Commander of NATO RS presented the opening presentations to the conference. President Ghani was the keynote speaker for the NESAC alumni dinner held during the seminar, which brought in over 200 government and military officers including 50 previous NESAC Center alumni.

Pakistan Professional Military Education



A Pakistani military delegation, led by MG Shaheen Mazhar Mehmood, during a meeting at the Army War College.

WASHINGTON—March 25-30, 2017— A Pakistan military delegation led by MG Shaheen Mazhar Mehmood, and accompanied by Brig. Malik Amir Muhammad Khan, Brig. Kamran Tabrez Savera, Col Ikram Ul Haque, Ag Cdre Alveer Ahmed Noor and G/Capt Waseem Mushtaq, visited the College for International Security Affairs (CISA), the Marine Corps University (MCU) and the Army War College (AWC), to share their role in combatting terrorism and their lessons learned of Counter-Insurgency (COIN) operations over the past 15 years. This visit was designed to improve U.S.-Pakistani military relations toward each other.

U.S.-Egypt Strategic Dialogue



Retired Egyptian and American military officers gather for a strategic dialogue.

PARIS, France—November 16-18, 2016—The NESAC Center in partnership with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) held a two-day workshop on a U.S.-Egypt Strategic Dialogue. Several American and Egyptian senior retired military officers were in attendance. NESAC Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat led the discussion, which covered, among other things, regional and international challenges facing the U.S. and Egypt, as well as approaches to addressing misunderstandings and differences. In light of the recent international nuclear agreement, participants also discussed the current and future prospects of non-proliferation in the Middle East.

CENTCOM International Military Officers' Forum



Coalition officers from U.S. CENTCOM during a session on the fight against Daesh.

WASHINGTON—May 1-5, 2017— As part of NESAs annual engagement session with U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) coalition officers, the Center held the ‘International Military Officers’ Forum on the Trump Administration and International Security.’

28 representatives from CENTCOM, including 23 senior military officers from 18 U.S. partner countries, spent a week at the NESAs Center learning from U.S. foreign policy experts on the trajectory of American security in an ever-changing political climate.

Led by NESAs Professor Dr. Richard Russell, the seminar introduced CENTCOM coalition officers to pertinent national security topics including the Trump Administrations challenges with Turkey, the progress on the international coalition to fight Daesh, current U.S. policy towards counter-terrorism and nuclear weapons, as well as Russias role in confronting the Trump administration in Europe and the Middle East.



Participants conversing over a coffee break.

Professor Russell directed the course with the intention of providing the officers an opportunity to learn more about the potential trends and behaviors that President Trump will likely follow throughout his time as the leader of international affairs in America.

Several notable regional and foreign policy experts presented their analysis on the Trump administrations views towards security policy, including Dr. Michael Brown, Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University, Mr. Ryan Evans, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of War on The Rocks, and Dr. Soner Cagaptay, Director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Concurrently joining the International Military officers, were the NESAs Center’s Point-of-Contact (POC) Seminar participants from Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Mauritania, and Oman. POC representatives are NESAs partners in region who are responsible for processing participants for sponsored courses and working in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar.

Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar



'Silk Road' participants engaging Ambassador Richard Hoagland, during his presentation.

WASHINGTON—April 24- 28, 2017— The NESACenter held its annual Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar entitled 'Leadership in Times of Transition.' The one-week course, led by Professor Brianne Todd, brought in 23 emerging leaders from 10 NESACountries in South and Central Asia, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan.

NESACenter courses typically feature participants from diplomatic and military postings; the 'Silk Road' program, however, is specifically oriented towards emerging leaders in government, non-profit and academic communities in South and Central Asia. Recognizing the importance of incorporating non-governmental organizations in the devel-



The 'Silk Road' seminar held one of the highest ratios of women; close to 40 percent.

participants from this year's seminar were made up of women.

Participants deliberated on a number of critical topics relevant to their countries, including the role of women in peace and security, utilizing strategic communications, the evolution of American national security interests, countering radicalization and extremist recruitment, challenges to economic development and regional connectivity, and developing skills of leadership in times of transition.

Professor Todd sought the expertise of experienced professionals including former Congressman, the Honorable Dennis Hertel, Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University, Dr. Michael Brown, and the Afghan Ambassador to Germany and designated Special Envoy to NATO, Ambassador Ali Jalali, to present their perspectives on American foreign policy and international security. Additionally, participants received off-site lectures at Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery, and George Washington's historical memorial at Mount Vernon.

opment of civil society and the foundation for a stronger defense establishment, Professor Todd incorporated strategic research professionals and academics into this seminar as well.

This seminar also highlighted the NESACenter's desire to increase the participation of women in courses; close to 40 percent of the partici-

Kazakhstan Deputy MOD Visits NESAs



A Kazakhstan delegation, led by General-Lieutenant Talgat Muktarov, in a roundtable with NESAs faculty.

WASHINGTON—June 26, 2017— The NESAs Center hosted the Kazakhstan Deputy Minister of Defense, General-Lieutenant Talgat Muktarov, and 10 military and diplomatic officials from his delegation to discuss regional stability, specifically pertaining to Afghanistan.

NESAs Center faculty members including Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, Distinguished Professor and the current Afghan Ambassador to Germany Ali Jalali, South Asia and Afghanistan experts John Wood and Jack Gill, as well as Russia and Central Asia expert Brianne Todd started the panel discussion



with opening remarks on the effects of Afghan instability on Kazakh national security and the spillover of volatility from Afghanistan into Central Asia.

During the course of the roundtable, several important themes were discussed including the upcoming announcement

of coordinated NATO and U.S. policy on Afghanistan; problems that need to be addressed on the national, regional, and global levels to ensure long term stability and economic prosperity in Central Asia; and the importance of combating narcotics as a means to ensuring regional security.

Both parties agreed that Kazakhstan has a unique position in the region and has shown leadership in negotiations, allowing Kazakhstan to become a mediator between conflicting Central and South Asian states.



Professor Jalali handing over a signed copy of his book.



NESA-AFRICOM Strategic Partnership



This year culminates five years of NESA-U.S. AFRICOM collaboration on North African security issues. Unlike one-off events, this series of 18 workshops for FY17 reflect a long-term, Track II-like commitment to a select number of topics that align with Lines of Efforts (LOE) for the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, and USAFRICOM. In addition, they not only reflect NESA's areas of interest, but the chosen topics resonate with our partners and capture their critical security interests in the region. To that end, topics are selected to provide a broad building block umbrella, where over the years issues can be refined while providing the flexibility to meet the ever changing security requirements in the region. New areas of threats are addressed in response to USAFRICOM's changing focus areas, as well as to accommodate specific needs of the participants from North Africa and Egypt.

NESA teams with relevant players from USAFRICOM, other regional centers, as well as think tanks in Europe and the region as topics and AFRICOM guidance dictate. The informal venue allows participants to candidly share national/regional initiatives, best practices and lessons learned in broad open discussions, as well as with each other on a continuing network basis throughout the year. NESA-AFRICOM programs for FY17 include: NESA-ACSS Post-Graduate Senior Military Executive Seminar (SMES); NESA Engagement Team (NET)/Tunisian NDI Lecture; Countering Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism in North Africa; Tunisia National Defense Institute (NDI) Security Seminar; Exercises AFRICAN LION '17 and PHOENIX EXPRESS '17 Senior Leader Seminars; Illicit Commons: Countering Narcotics from Latin America to Africa Part II; Libyan Track II Workshops; Tunisian Defense Colleges Round Table and Recon on Joint and Cyber Programs for FY18; Border Security and Regional Cooperation Countering Drugs, Guns and Terrorists Workshop; Social Media Narratives and Extremism Workshop; NESA-AFRICOM Capstone: Regional Strategic Review Workshop; and NESA-IEMed-SSN Mediterranean Security Workshops Series.

Throughout the FY, the NESA-AFRICOM partnership has produced 18 mission-critical programs. For a more thorough description of these programs, please visit: <http://www.nesa-center.org/nesa-africom-programs-fy-17/>

Libyan Track II Workshops



A participant clarifies a point made during a session on regional solutions, while other listen on.

TUNIS, Tunisia—May 20-21 and August 25, 2017— Responding to U.S. AFRICOM's request to find an appropriate venue to start engaging with Libyans, NESA established a series of Track II meetings. In partnership with Mr. Kamal ben Younes, a NESA Alumnus and Director of International Studies and Communication Institute (INCOME), as well as General Director of Societe Radio Zitouna, NESA conducted the first and second workshops in a series of Libyan Track IIs planned for FY 17-18. With a broad range of senior Libyan "voices" and professionals from their North African neighbors the group addressed: the vision of reconciliation in Libya; security sector challenges: the militias and DDR; regional solutions and initiatives; and the possible constructive way ahead.



Countering Terrorism and Extremism Workshop



NESA-afRICOM participants during their seminar, led by Professor Anne Moisan.

CASABLANCA, Morocco—February 6- 10, 2017— The NESAs Center in partnership with U.S. Africa Command (afRICOM) and the conducted a workshop on "Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in North Africa and the Sahel" in Casablanca, Morocco.

The event was designed to provide a venue for senior security professionals to discuss issues surrounding radicalization, terrorism, recruiting of youth, returning jihadists as well as government initiatives to address the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism. The objective was to clearly lay out the extent of the problem by country, but more importantly to address existing options available nationally and regionally to deal with security crises, as well as proposing new regional initiatives. The focus of recommendations was on whole of society solutions as well as best business practices.

Twenty-seven senior security sector professionals from countries of the North Africa-Sahel region including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Morocco, and Tunisia attended the workshop. CPT Corey Young, SFC Nicholas Fitzpatric and SSgt Robert Hoover from Special Operations Command/afRICOM also attended; as did Dr. Benjamin Nickels from the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS). NESAs Professor Anne Moisan led the workshop program.

The main focus of the NESAs-afRICOM led workshop was to develop creative problem solving options among all elements of society in a collaborative environment. Participants were encouraged to identify and share best practices and current programs, and embrace cross border cooperation with neighboring countries. Each session was moderated by either a NESAs or ACSS faculty member and focused on participant-speakers in roundtable discussions.



Security professionals exchange thoughts during a discussion on Daesh.

Topics included but were not limited to: mapping the threats; examining the pull-

push factors that attract youth to radicalization; Daesh's appeal and expansion with affiliates in Africa; the capabilities that exist to deal with terrorists, violent extremism and locating gaps; illicit commons and the financing of terrorist groups, as well as the regional solutions and opportunities for cooperation. The workshop concluded with a "brainstorming" session with participants that provided final comments and recommendations.

Tunisia National Defense Institute Seminar



Participants take a group photo inside the Fairfax County Government Center.

WASHINGTON—March 27-April 6, 2017— The NESAC Center in partnership with U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) held its sixth annual Tunisian National Defense Institute (NDI) National Security Seminar for 48 senior military officers, government officials from 18 plus Tunisian agencies, and parliamentarians, all of whom are enrolled in the 2016-2017 NDI class.

The NDI is a year-long Ministry of Defense program, now in its 34th year, which brings this diverse group together twice each week for an academic year to advance whole-of-government approaches to critical national security and political challenges. Each class is assigned a unique research theme by the Minister of Defense. This year's assignment was to draft the first-ever Tunisian National Defense and Security White Paper. The two-week seminar, led by NESAC Professors Larry Velte and Anne Moisan and supported by AFRICOM, was centered on assisting the participants in their assigned task, and to better equip them to help Tunisia during its transition to democracy.

As part of the NESAC Center partnership with the Tunisian Embassy in Washington, Ambassador Fayçal Gouia welcomed the group, presented a session on U.S.-Tunisian relations, and held a private reception in honor of the NDI participants. During the course of the seminar, participants actively discussed numerous crucial topics related to international security policy including government accountability and the rule of law, the U.S.-Tunisia bilateral relationship, USAFRICOM support to Tunisia and the region, the threat of returning fighters, diplomacy and national security, and national security strategy development.



Ambassador Gouia (L) interacting with participants.

Professors Velte and Moisan brought in high-ranking U.S. government officials including Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Ms. Amanda Dory, Director of the Joint Staff of the Wyoming National Guard, Brigadier General Gregory Porter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Maghreb Affairs, Mr. Greg LoGerfo and two AFRICOM senior leaders, CAPT Mark Asuncion and Mr. Brett Schexinder to give participants a perspective on U.S. foreign policy in the region. Participants also had an opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and have a meeting with Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and Congressman David Schweikert (R-AZ) on how Congress influences U.S. national defense and security policy, as well as how Congress is working to advance U.S.-Tunisia cooperation.

Roundtable on Libyan Strategic Challenges



Leaders from the establishment D.C. community join NESAscholars for a roundtable on Libyan Strategic Challenges.

WASHINGTON—January 18, 2017— The NESACenter held a roundtable discussion on ‘Economic and Strategic Challenges in Libya’ in the immediate run-up to the official transition of the new U.S. Presidential administration.



Libyan Chargé d’Affaires H.E. Wafa Bugaighis (R) giving her remarks to participants.

Several influential diplomatic officials, including the Chargé d’Affaires of Libya H.E. Wafa Bugaighis, the Tunisian Ambassador H.E. Fayçal Gouia, the Algerian Ambassador H.E. Madjid Bouguerra, as well as the Italian Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Maurizio Greganti, were in attendance.

H.E. Bugaighis delivered the opening remarks of the conference on Libya’s intended direction in 2017, as well as remarks on Libya’s oil sector and its role within the international oil market on behalf of the Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation, Mr. Mustafa Sanalla.

Dr. Bahgat moderated the roundtable and covered several pertinent issues including the projected growth of the Libyan oil sector, perspectives from Ambassadors within the region, global perspectives from partner countries, the approach taken by U.S. policymakers, and analyses from senior Washington-based researchers on the current situation in Libya.

Special representatives from the U.S. government who participated in the conference included Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Ms. Amanda Dory, Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives at the Joint-Staff J5, Major General Eric Vollmecke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs, Mr. John Desrocher.

Led by NESAProfessor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, the discussion covered a variety of perspectives from close to 20 key leaders within the U.S. and international community.

Several influential dip-



H.E. Ambassador Fayçal Gouia (R) listening to Dr. Bahgat.

UAE National Defense College Program Review



WASHINGTON—March 27-29, 2017— A delegation from the United Arab Emirates National Defense College (NDC), led by NDC Commandant MG Rashad Mohamed Al Sa'adi, met with senior NESAs and National Defense University leadership. Items discussed included NESAs and NDU support to UAE NDC, executing a faculty developmental plan, and NDC leadership shadowing.

Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces Leadership Seminar



RSADF participants take a photo outside Lincoln Hall, National Defense University.

WASHINGTON—March 26–April 1, 2017—The NESAs Center in collaboration with Raytheon held an Executive Leadership seminar focused on strategic geopolitical events and the changing dynamic of state-to-state politics for 11 senior military officers of the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces (RSADF).

The delegation, led by NESAs Professor David DesRoches, covered relevant topics on international security such as America's security role after the election, Iranian hybrid warfare in Syria, the global effort against Daesh, and a senior policy perspective on U.S. national security.

High-ranking policy experts including Deputy Director of the Arab Gulf States Institute, Ambassador Stephen Seche, and the former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Honorable Richard Armitage made presentations to the group as well.

The delegation also took part in a series of meetings at the Pentagon and visited Capitol Hill. As part of their tour in the U.S., representatives from the RSADF along with their counterparts at Raytheon, headed to Boston, Massachusetts after finishing their seminar at the NESAs Center.

Lebanese Armed Forces Staff College Seminar



NESA Professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis leads the LAFSC seminar participants during their mock press-conference.

WASHINGTON—April 24- 28, 2017— As part of its annual engagement course with the Lebanese Armed Forces Staff College (LAFSC), the NESA Center held a seminar on ‘Power Dynamics and Regional Stability: The United States, Lebanon, and the Middle East in 2022’. Twenty-two officers from the LAFSC and 2 senior officers from France and Egypt attended the conference.

The premise of this program is to foster regional development and analyze the possible alignments or divergence of American and Lebanese interests over the next five years. The course, directed by NESA Professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis, focused on key themes such as American foreign policy, Russian objectives in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and how the power dynamics in the Gulf States have impacted Iran and Saudi Arabia’s interests in the region.



LAFSC officers working in their individual discussion groups.

During the course of the seminar, participants engaged in key conversations relevant to shared national security interests including the Trump administration’s approach to U.S. foreign policy, the future of the Syrian conflict, the state of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and analysis of regional policy in the Gulf. Professor Jefferis invited several notable experts to deliver their analysis on the greater MENA region including Managing Director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Mr. Michael

Singh, Director of the Project on Middle East Peace Process at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Mr. David Makovsky, and co-founder of the Syrian Forum, Mr. Mohammed Yaser Tabbara. As culmination of their course, participants engaged



Participants take a photograph during the first day of their seminar.

in a mock-press briefing taking the positions of three leading powers- Lebanon, the U.S., and Russia- on their strategic priorities for the MENA region over the next 5 years.

Next Generation Seminar



'Next Generation' participants during their seminar.

April 17-21, 2017– The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies conducted its bi-annual Next Generation Seminar, connecting representatives from Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and the UAE.

This event, which focused on new perspectives from the NESAs region on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), brought together 27 scholars, military officers, diplomats, government officials, advisors, and legislators to discuss the long-term and short-term measures that are practical and affordable for combatting violent extremist organizations.

The participants each presented their thoughts, based on their experiences and training, to the whole group on how to best counter violent extremism. Topics discussed at great length include institutional reforms in society, refugees and internally displaced people (IDP), narratives regarding CVE, the power of culture to combat extremism, state resources and border disputes, as well as non-regional actor responses to CVE. From these presentations, participants began several days of roundtable discussions to synthesize the data presented into a set of recommendations that can help formulate guideposts for conducting CVE.

Saudi Arabia Intelligence School Course



NESA Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat teaches students from the Saudi Arabian Intelligence School.

AL-KHARJ, Saudi Arabia–December 2-9, 2016– NESA Professors David DesRoches and Dr. Gawdat Bahgat taught their first course on the Elements of National Power and Joint Strategic Security at the Saudi Arabia Intelligence School. 20 participants from Saudi Arabia's Armed Forces, including 3 general officers and 9 colonels attended the course. Professors DesRoches and Bahgat focused on Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and lectures based on the elements of power as well as case studies to illustrate the practical element of OSINT.

Strategic Studies Network Workshop



Diplomatic officials attend the Strategic Studies Network workshop in Washington.

WASHINGTON—November 14-16, 2016— The NESACenter’s Strategic Studies Network (SSN), in partnership with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and the EuroMeSCo network, held a policy workshop on E.U.–U.S. Policies in the Mediterranean Region. This was one of three North Africa and Levant events.

Thirty-one senior diplomatic officials and researchers from ten countries, including Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Libya, and the United Kingdom in addition to U.S. Government officials, gathered to analyze E.U. and U.S. policy towards the Mediterranean. The conference specifically addressed the contrasting approaches that have been implemented by the E.U. and the U.S. over the past few years towards North Africa and the Levant, and provided an opportunity for participants to discuss new policy insights, approaches, and recommendations for future regional and international leadership in light of the new U.S. and E.U. Presidencies.

NESA Professors Anne Moisan and Jennifer Jefferis, as well as the Executive President of IEMed, Ambassador Senén Florensa, and Mr. Roger Albinyana, integrated

several thematic discussions into the seminar, including an analysis of current trends in North Africa and the Levant, as well as E.U. and U.S. approaches to both sub-regions, with the aim of reaching of a shared E.U.–U.S. vision towards the MENA region. Several



E.U. Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. David O’Sullivan, makes remarks during the workshop.

diplomatic officers, including Ambassadors, Deputy Chiefs of Mission, and Ministers from in-region embassies in Washington, in addition to U.S. State Department officials, were able to engage in a candid conversation on relevant issues within the MENA region.

High-profile speakers including the E.U. Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. David O’Sullivan, the Spanish Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Cristina Fraile, and the interim Libyan Chargé d’Affaires, Ms. Wafa Bugaighis, were in attendance. On November 15, Dr. James M. Lindsay, Senior Vice President and Director of Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), delivered remarks during an ambassadors’ luncheon on the new U.S. Presidency and its implications for U.S. foreign policy. The NESACenter-IEMed partnership produces two strategic workshops each year.

IISS - NESAs South Asia Strategic Dialogue



Director Wolff chairs a panel on countering Daesh and al-Qaeda during the NESAs–IISS Dialogue.

MUSCAT, Oman–October 21-23, 2016– The NESAs Center and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) held their tenth annual South Asia Strategic Dialogue. Approximately one quarter of the 75 participants consisted of senior serving officials from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh as well as the U.K. and U.S.

Additionally, senior Chinese diplomats and Iranian academics participated for the first time. The conference addressed India–Pakistan tensions, Pakistan–Afghanistan relations, countering ISIL/Daesh, Indian Ocean security, and U.S. policy towards South Asia.

Especially notable was the Daesh panel chaired by NESAs Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff, currently the Deputy Special Presidential Envoy to The Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, along with speakers that uniquely included top serving intelligence officials from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. Also in attendance were NESAs Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, Ambassador Richard Hoagland, as well as NESAs Professors Jack Gill, and Ali Jalali. Demonstrating their commitment to this process, senior serving Indian and Pakistani officials attended despite a less than ideal state of bilateral relations.

Regional Center Cooperation

The NESACenter is one of five regional centers within the Department of Defense community. The regional centers utilize academic forums to build strong, sustainable international networks of security leaders.

Through enhanced policy understanding and mutually supporting approaches to security challenges, the NESACenter contributes to international security cooperation within the Near East and South Asia region.

The NESACenter, located on the campus of the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair, is proud to partner with the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense, the Africa Center for Security Studies, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, and the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies to uphold the mission of the U.S. Department of Defense.



Program Eligibility

Seminar participants—military and civilian officials in the NESACenter region or with strategic interest in the region—must be nominated by their respective governments. All nominations are processed through the U.S. Embassy in-country.

Please contact the NESACenter Registrar's Office, to find out more information.

E-mail: NESACenterRegistrar@ndu.edu

Phone: 202.685.4062

Fax: 202.685.3210

NESA Center Alumni By Region

Alumni 2000-2017, as of September 2017

Total: 8,085

AFRICOM		CENTCOM		CENTCOM		PACOM		SOUTHCM	
Algeria	128	Afghanistan	373	Tajikistan	93	Bangladesh	200	Argentina	3
Libya	60	Bahrain	27	Turkmenistan	62	Bhutan	30	Barbados	1
Mauritania	114	Egypt	255	U.A.E.	256	India	200	Brazil	3
Morocco	261	Iran	3	Uzbekistan	83	Maldives	61	Colombia	6
Tunisia	420	Iraq	286	Yemen	373	Nepal	201	Dominica Rep.	2
Other	120	Jordan	277	Total: 3,937		Sri Lanka	170	El Salvador	9
Total: 1103		Kazakhstan	87	EUCOM		Other	101	Jamaica	1
NORTHCOM		Kuwait	42	Armenia	44	Total: 963		Mexico	2
United States	923	Kyrgyzstan	72	Azerbaijan	44		Panama	1	
Canada	25	Lebanon	486	Israel	192		Peru	1	
Total: 948		Oman	148	Palest.. Authority	144		Total: 29		
		Pakistan	464	Turkey	224				
		Qatar	202	Other	457				
		Saudi Arabia	343	Total: 1105					
		Syria	5						

NESA Maintains 10% Female Alumni Participation

In 2017, the NESA Center produced a 10% female alumni rate for all programs; a goal shared by the U.S. Department of Defense.

NESA is proud to make women empowerment and female leadership a priority for programs.

Year	Female	Male	Percentage
2017	79	791	10.0%
2016	94	785	10.7%
2015	53	591	8.2%

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FY 2018 NESAs Programs

Executive Seminar (ES 01-18), 23 OCT–03 NOV 2017

“NESAs 2030”

Participants: LTC/COL level and civilian equivalents

This seminar will examine how the NESAs region will look in the coming decade. The discussion will focus on strategic and socio-economic forces that will shape changes in the region. Which forces are potentially destabilizing and which ones could offer opportunities for stability?

Senior Executive Seminar (SES 01-18), 05 FEB–09 FEB 2018

“Policy and Strategy in World Conflicts”

Participants: Flag officers and civilian equivalents

This seminar will examine the regional conflicts raging in the NESAs region, as well as the roles of major powers such as Russia, China, and Europe in these conflicts. What are the implications for decision-makers from the NESAs countries and what options are available for conflict resolution?

Executive Seminar (ES 02-18), 05 MAR–16 MAR 2018

“The Next Era of Innovation”

Participants: LTC/COL level and civilian equivalents

Technological innovation forces states to evolve the means by which they preserve national security and protect national interests. As we look to the future, how will interests among major world powers play out through the next generation of scientific advances?

Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CT 01-18 CTFP), 30 April–11 May 2018

“From Transition to Action in the Second Year and Onward”

Participants: Colonels/Flag officers and civilian equivalents

This seminar looks at the impact of combined/collective efforts to constrain, defend against, and alter the effects from human and drug trafficking, terror financing, and networking amongst violent extremists. The NESAs Center offers an opportunity, through this program, for security professionals to discuss how best to counter transnational threats.

Executive Seminar (ES 03-18), 10 SEP–21 SEP 2018

“Re-Imagining Security in the NESAs Region”

Participants: CPT to LTC and civilian equivalents (Junior Course)

For years, scholars and policy officials note that we must re-evaluate how nations look at security, moving away from traditional state-focused approaches to more transnational “human security” concerns. This seminar will examine how states define their security – and what measures are being taken to address it.

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