

NESA-CENTCOM Transnational Threats Seminar



NESA Professor David Des Roches (Col, ret.) with the Transnational Threats Seminar Participants

WASHINGTON — July 9-13, 2018: NESA completed its “Transnational Threats Seminar” for officials from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and partner countries in the NESA region. The seminar was designed for senior military and government officials at the officer and minister-ambassador level, from countries throughout the NESA region to dialog with subject matter experts on transnational threats.

48 senior officials from 11 NESA region countries throughout the Middle East and the United States attended the week-long seminar led by NESA Professor David Des Roches.

The seminar gave participants unique insight into not only the United States’ strategies and operations in combating illegal drug trafficking, but also the goals and tactics of each other’s nations in dealing with the illegal drug trade. The seminar exhibited the importance of security cooperation and intelligence sharing between nations in working to stop trafficking and make the region a safer place.

Briefing sessions covered topics such as narcotics trafficking trends, new drugs and adulterants, money laundering and the role of cryptocurrency in the future of the trade, cross border operations and the vitality of cooperation between states.

Participants were briefed by subject matter experts including Mr. Thomas Alexander, Deputy Assistant of Defense for Counter Narcotics and Global Threats at the Department of Defense, Mr. Christopher Stankaitis, Section Chief Financial Investigations at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and Mr. Brandon McGowan, Chief of Narcotics and Contraband Branch, Strategic Intelligence & Analysis Division at the Department of Homeland Security.



NESA Director Terry Wolff (LTG, ret) briefs participants on the coordinated campaign against ISIL



Opening remarks from Mr. Thomas Alexander, DAsD for Counter Narcotics and Global Threats

The seminar conducted site-visits to Mt. Vernon and the U.S. Capitol where participants learned about the foundations of American democracy and the importance of other nations in national security and international cooperation.

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

NESA-ARCENT Land Forces Seminar - AP/LEVANT



NESA-ARCENT LFS AP/Levant Seminar Participants with ARCENT Commander LTG Michael Garrett

WASHINGTON, DC – July 9th-12th, 2018 – NESA and US Army Central (ARCENT) co-hosted a seminar comprising of discussions, bi-lateral meetings and panels for officers from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Both American and partner country Officers were briefed by NESA Director LTG Terry A. Wolff (ret.) on the fight against Daesh (IS) and the roadmap towards building regional stability and countering persistent IS efforts.

Ms. Andreea Paulopol of the US State Department's Office of Chemical and Biological Weapons (CBW) Affairs addressed attendees on recent trends regarding the use of CBWs in contemporary conflicts. The subject of Iran's status as a regional concern was also addressed in a panel led by NESA Professor Dr. Gawdat Baghat and Dr. Marc A. Genest of the US Naval War College.

Dr. John Bonin and Dr. Gregory Cantwell led a discussion focusing on the structure and role of coalitions in maintaining regional security. Dr. Charles Pfaff, Dr. Christopher Bolan, and Dr. Richard Love comprised a panel to discuss the importance and means of countering evolving threats such as cyber-attacks, artificial intelligence, the integration of drones into non-state arsenals, and the use of other unconventional force multipliers.

The final day of discussions and panels focused on the role of regional coalition operations, both during and after the cessation of combat. The necessity of coordinated partnership underscored every session during the week-long seminar.

Constant dialogue, shared focus, consistent messaging, and the streamlining of communications were points that became evident in two panels led by Dr. Baghat, LTG Charles Hooper, and Dr. Michael Yaffe.

CENTCOM Commander General Joseph Votel opened the seminar via VTC with comments on the security situation in the Afghanistan/Pakistan/Levant region.

ARCENT Commander LTG Michael Garrett accompanied participants in the seminar. CENTCOM-ARCENT-NESA cross-component links were maintained during and continue to be tapped immediately after the seminar. Insights gleaned will be integrated into future operational considerations.

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

NESA-Air Command and General Staff College Workshop



WASHINGTON, DC – July 19, 2018 – The NESA Center hosted approximately 78 international officers from 68 countries from the Air Command and General Staff College of the Air University (Montgomery, AL) to participate in a discussion on security challenges throughout Central/South Asia and the Middle East; graciously held at the National War College’s Arnold Auditorium located at National Defense University on Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC. The talks were led by NESA faculty members Dr. John Wood, Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, and Dr. Jennifer Jefferis. The main topics covered included regional analyses of political, economic and historical tensions that led to security challenges between neighboring states and regional actors.

Speakers and participants discussed topics such as the partition of India and subsequent relations with neighboring states; the notion that Iran is not a given evil, but rather, following its own self-interest; and the differences in the Obama and Trump administration’s’ approach to South Asia, as well as the marked difference in administrations’ view on from where global stability emanates—whether it is sourced from the U.S. and proliferates outward or if global stability, instead, ensures American stability.

NESA-Air War College Seminar



NESA Professor Gawdat Bahgat briefs on security challenges in the Middle East

WASHINGTON — July 6, 2018 — The NESA Center hosted 60 officers from the Air War College to participate in a one day seminar on global security challenges.

NESA built upon existing collaborative relationships with partner DoD

Regional Centers, the NESA Center enlisted the expertise of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) and the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) to provide AWC students an in-depth review on comparative security challenges in the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa.

Discussions were held by NESA Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, Dr. Gawdat Bahgat (NESA), Boris Saavedra (CHDS) and Dr. Dorina Bekoe (ACSS). Main topics covered included analyses of political, economic and historical tensions that led to security challenges between the U.S. and the countries of said regions.



AWC Student during Q & A session

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security



NESA-India National Maritime Foundation Roundtable



Retired Indian Navy Admiral Rabinder (Robin) Kumar Dhowan, CISA Chancellor Mike Bell (COL, USA ret) .and Professor John Wood (COL USA ret.) head the roundtable

WASHINGTON – July 18th, 2018 – NESACenter, in cooperation with NDU's College of International Security Affairs (CISA), held a roundtable workshop on India's perspective on the Indian Ocean Region with representatives from the National Maritime Foundation (NMF). The NMF delegation included former flag officers of the Indian fleet and maritime subject matter experts.

The NMF delegation offered their views on China's efforts in the Indian Ocean region, how India is working to build partnerships throughout Asia and Africa, and future steps that could bring the United States and India closer together on maritime issues. The roundtable also addressed how connecting the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) to the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) could be an effective security tool for the Indo-Pacific. NESACenter was represented by Professor Wood and Mr. Payne.

NESA FY 19 Foundational Course Dates Announced!

- ◆ Executive Seminar (ES 01-19), October 22—November 2 2018
"New Security Challenges within in the NESACenter Region"
- ◆ Senior Executive Seminar (SES 01-19), February 04 –08 2019
"The New World Order"
- ◆ Executive Seminar (ES 02-19), March 04 –15 2019
Security Along the 'Seams' and 'Border Areas'"
- ◆ Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CT 01-19, CTFP), June 10-21 2019:
"After ISIS: Major Regional & Non-Regional Actors' Approaches to CVE"
- ◆ NESACenter Executive Seminar (ES 03-19), September 09-20, 2019,
"Technology & Security in the NESACenter Region"

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security