

## German Staff College Seminar



NESA Professor David Des Roches (Col, ret.) with the 2018 German Staff College Seminar Delegation

WASHINGTON- June 1, 2018 - Officers from German Staff College took part in a NESA seminar on American defense policy and strategy priorities, an update on the efforts of the Counter-ISIL Coalition given by NESA Director and C-ISIL Deputy Envoy LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff. Germany believes countering ISIL is crucial to its own national security interests, and is a member of the 75-nation coalition to defeat the organization.

The discussion focused on the need for coalition members to continue and increase their involvement in the fight against ISIL. Although the coalition has seen great progress, the fight is not over as ISIL continues to remain a major threat to regional and worldwide stability. ISIL has lost most territory formerly held in Iraq and Syria, freeing the coalition to focus less on liberating physical territory and more on other lines of effort. However, ISIL still plans and inspires attacks across the world as well as continuing to recruit members for its eight global branches.



Terry Wolff (LTG, ret) briefs on C-ISIL Coalition

Participants in the workshop were also given a briefing on American defense policy and strategy by Dr. Frank Hoffman of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University. The delegation was briefed on the evolution of the American National Defense Strategy from previous years. The new Strategy singles out 'revisionist' powers, namely Russia and China, as the United States' chief concern – supplanting terrorism as the primary national security focus. The Strategy reinforces Defense Secretary Jim Mattis's commitment to America's allies and neighbors as key partners in advancing America's interests. A key point in the discussion was the need for the United States to streamline its defense by ridding it of layers of bureaucracy in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness.



Terry Wolff (LTG, ret) levels with participants

Germany is a key American partner in the Middle East and South Asia; this is the fifth year NESA has hosted the German Staff College Seminar, which is led by NESA Professor David Des Roches.

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

## NESA-AFRICOM Illicit Commons and Border Security Seminar



Illicit Commons: Countering Narcotics and Crime from Latin America to Africa Workshop Participants

TUNIS, TUNISIA - 28 June 2018 - The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted the Illicit Commons: Countering Narcotics and Crime from Latin America to Africa Workshop in partnership with the William J Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) on “Illicit Commons: Countering Narcotics and Crime from Latin America to Africa Workshop” 26-28 June 2018.

The focus was on the evolving nature of illicit commons on both continents – Latin America and Africa. The group started the program by looking at the global business of narcotics trafficking and the security challenges this poses (Prof Celina Realuyo/WJPC). It was impossible to address illicit commons without also addressing the growing importance of effective border controls and monitoring. The discussion then turned to regional and continental approaches, solutions, initiatives and lessons learned. Not only were drugs and counternarcotic efforts discussed, but the participants also addressed immigration, human trafficking and foreign returning fighters.

USAFRICOM (LTC Raymond Maddox and Mr. John Sannar) and Homeland Security (HLS) (Mr. Nick Ahloe) discussed U.S. efforts in Africa and what issues AFRICOM and HLS will focus on in the future years. The workshop concluded with a briefing by LTG (ret) Terry Wolff, Director of NESA and Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the C-ISIL Coalition at the U.S. Department of State who provided a personal perspective/insights on ISIS in Africa. Each topic was introduced by a speaker or panel made up of a guest speaker/participants with a Regional Center moderator. Participant presentations fed into the



NESA Director LTG (ret.) Wolff briefs participants on progress in the US-led Coalition effort to counter the Islamic State in the Levant.

subsequent open discussions under Chatham House Rule. Despite the focus on illicit commons and the associated security implications, the group unanimously concluded that to be truly effective the root causes needed to be addressed, specifically good governance and corruption.

The Workshop had 41 participants from Algeria (1), Argentina (1), Brazil (3), Egypt (3), Ghana (1), Libya (5), Mali (3), Mauritania (1), Mexico (1), Morocco (4), Nigeria (2), Norway/UN (1), Tunisia (5), and the United States (10) attending the event. The Returning Fighters to Libya Workshop had 21 participants from North Africa all of who also participated in the Illicit Commons Workshop: Algeria (1), Egypt (3), Libya (7), Tunisia (5), and the United States (5).

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

## NESA-ARCENT Central Asia/South Asia Land Forces Symposium

ARLINGTON, VA - 22 June 2018 - US Army Central (ARCENT) conducted the 2018 "Central Asia/South Asia Land Forces Symposium" 18 - 22 June at the Doubletree hotel, Washington, D.C. The symposium brought together the land component counterparts from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the United States to focus on areas and issues of mutual interest. US Army National Guard State Partnership Program partners from Arizona, Mississippi, Montana, and Virginia also participated. Highlights of the event included discussions with senior U.S. State and Defense Department policy representatives, attending the 3rd US Army Twilight Tattoo, and a joint briefing from the Afghan National Army Chief of General Staff and NATO Resolute Support Commanding General on the situation in Afghanistan. The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies supported the symposium both academically and logistically.



ARCENT Central Asia/South Asia Land Forces Symposium Participants

## Pre-Deployment Briefing to Marines Headed for the NESA Region

FORT STORY, VA - 13 June 2018 NESA Professor David Des Roches partnered with US Marine Corps Central Command State Department Political Advisor Elizabeth Quinn to provide a pre-deployment briefing to Marines deploying as trainers to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Marines will be providing unit and individual advising and training assistance to the Saudi Marine Corps and the Emirati Presidential Guard. Des Roches and Quinn presented topics including regional history, culture, and politics. The Marines asked a series of probing and challenging questions which indicate both superior mission planning as well as eagerness to achieve success in their mission. This is not a new mission for NESA -- Professor Des Roches has, in the past, provided similar educational support for US Army soldiers deploying as trainers with the Saudi Ministry of the Interior as well as to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency international personnel. The training was conducted at the US Marine Corps Security Assistance Group Headquarters at Fort Story, Virginia.



NESA Professor Dave Des Roches with pre-deploying Marines to Saudi Arabia and the UAE

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

## NESA-AFRICOM Returning ISIS Fighters to Libya Workshop



NESA Professor Anne Moisan with “Returning Fighters to Libya and Impact on the Region” Participants

TUNIS, TUNISIA - 29 June 2018 - The Near East and South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted a workshop in partnership with U.S. Africa Command on “Returning Fighters to Libya and the Impact on the Region.” The workshop opened with a scene setter by Mr. Aaron Zelin, the Richard Borow Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy examining the post-ISIS landscape of the North Africa Region and more specifically on repatriating fighters using Libya as their new base.

The group then spent the remainder of the program brainstorming and reviewing the security challenge priorities for the region and proposed solutions/initiatives that were worth examining. The group benefited greatly from the insights provided by the Libyans participating. The program discussion was conducted under Chatham House Rule. The Returning Fighters to Libya Workshop was led by NESA Faculty, Professor Anne Moisan.

### Upcoming NESA Center Events

Air War College  
Seminar  
Friday July 6

CENTCOM Trans-National  
Threats Program  
July 9-13

ARCENT LFS AP/Levant  
Seminar  
July 9-12

Air Command and General  
Staff College Workshop  
Thursday July 19

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

