

## Countering Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar



CTSES Participants engage during Q&A with former U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Wendy Chamberlain

WASHINGTON—May 5-16, 2018: As part of the foundation program series, the NESACenter held its signature Countering Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CT SES) focusing on ‘Cooperating to Succeed’ for partner countries in the NESACenter region. The CT SES is designed for senior (general officers and minister-ambassadors) military and government officials from countries throughout the NESACenter region to engage with each other and USG subject matter experts on transnational conflicts and threats.

42 senior officials from 26 countries throughout North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia and the United States attended the two-week seminar led by NESACenter Professor Dan Curfiss.

This CT SES gave participants an overview of security situations and conflict-resolution perspectives throughout the NESACenter region and an opportunity to discuss and analyze best practices on how to counter threats across borders such as violent extremism and terrorism.

Participants traversed a plethora of transnational threat topics such as lessons learned from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, terror financing, asymmetric warfare, regional analysis within the NESACenter area of responsibility, CT considerations in major urban areas, countering violent extremism, cyber-terrorism, and intelligence in counter terrorism.

Professor Curfiss brought in subject matter experts including Ms. Barbara Slavin, Director of Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, Commander Guillermo Rivera, Special Operations Division at the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain, President of the Middle East Institute to brief participants on diverse methods to counter transnational threats including the need to maintain strategic relations with neighbor states in similar situations.

As the seminar was held in Washington, D.C, participants were offered the opportunity to make site-visits to the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol to learn how the rule of law and separation of powers contributes to strengthening states’ security and national defense institutions.



CTSES Participants take notes in a morning session

Building Relationships— Enhancing Security

## NESA-AFRICOM Senior Leaders Strategic Dialogue



Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, CEO of Valens Global, presents to NESA-AFRICOM participants.

TUNIS, Tunisia- April 29-May 3, 2018- The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies in partnership with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) conducted an “African Lion – Phoenix Express 18 – Senior Leaders Strategic Dialogue (SLD).”

The Phoenix Express SLD series is the third in an evolving dialogue which started in 2016. The series is designed to provide a venue for senior security professionals to discuss security issues relevant to the region under Chatham House Rules of non-attribution.

The SLD provides a counter balance to the more tactical and operational nature of the AFRICOM exercise series with a more strategic and futuristic cutting edge focused approach. The approach of the joint seminar is aimed at challenging regional partners’ traditional thinking while leveraging insights to better inform AFRICOM/USG policy direction on a broader range of security issues beyond today’s crises.

While loosely associated with African Lion and Phoenix Express 2018 exercises, the purpose is not to directly support either exercise themes, but rather to encourage new thinking, problem solving, brainstorming ideas, best practices and enhance collaboration/cooperation among capable regional partners.



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

In addition, perspectives on Transnational Threats and Initiatives were provided by each participant from Europe, North Africa and the Sahel.

The SLD involved 56 senior defense professionals from North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya) including Egypt and the Sahel (Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso), with a number of select Europeans. In addition, a total of 25 U.S. observers from AFRICOM, MARFOREUR/AF and NAVEUR/AF also participated.

Several subject matter experts and senior U.S. policymakers presented during the conference, including CAPT Mark Asuncion, Director of the Multi-National Cooperation Center, AFRICOM; Mr. Jer “Don” Donald Get, Deputy Director for Programs, AFRICOM J5; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, Mr. Alan Patterson. NESA Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff provided the key note briefing on “Post-ISIS and the Impact on the Africa Region.”

The role of USG attendees was “listening mode”, allowing regional partners to nationally and regionally discuss initiatives, new ideas and possible solutions for tomorrow’s issues. Professor Anne Moisan conducted the program, supported by Mr. Fahad Malaikah.

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## International Military Officers' Forum



IMOF Participants engage with Dr. Natan Sachs, Director of the Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution

WASHINGTON-May 7-11, 2018- The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) completed its second 'International Military Officers' Forum (IMOF) for officials from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), based in Tampa, Florida.



American and European participants collaborate on a regional security exercise during a breakout session.

The IMOF series is a one-week seminar focusing on national security strategy for senior military officers from the NESA region, who are on assignment at CENTCOM. This month's forum, directed by NESA Professor Dr. Richard Russell, was centered on 'Acute Challenges in International Security.'

29 senior military officers from 19 NESA region and allied countries as well as from the U.S. participated in the seminar.

IMOF participants covered several national security themes during their week-long seminar including acute security challenges from Daesh, Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Iran, the Levant, South Asia, and the Middle East; politics in congress, challenges in security as seen from the American law enforcement and homeland security perspective; as well as the fall of Dash and the challenges that lie ahead.

Dr. Russell brought in several subject matter experts including Dr. Daniel Byman, Professor and Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Affairs, Georgetown University, Dr. Natan Sachs, Director of the Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution, and Dr. Lori Plotkin Boghardt, Barbara Kay Family Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Participants were also able to have site-visits to Capitol Hill, where they were briefed by Honorable Jonas Martin Frost, Former Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives (D-Texas) 24th District, on security challenges seen from the legislative branch.

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## NESA-ACSS International Fellows Dinner



NDU Students from the African Continent with NDU, NESA and ACSS Senior Leadership.

WASHINGTON-May 14, 2018- The NESA Center in partnership with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) hosted a farewell dinner for over 20 African Fellows, as they graduate from several degree-granting institution of the National Defense University (NDU) including the College for International Security Affairs and the National War College.

NESA Professor Anne Moisan directed the dinner, for NDU African Post-Grad Fellows, in conjunction with ACSS leadership. Senior NDU and USG representatives attended as well, including NESA Deputy Director David Lamm, NDU Acting Senior Vice President Ambassador Mike Hammer, and Acting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, Ambassador Donald Yamamoto.

### Upcoming NESA Center Events

German Staff College  
Visit

Central Asian Seminar  
June 11-15

Illicit Commons and Border  
Security Seminar

CENTCOM Security  
Cooperation Working Group  
June 18-22

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