



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

NESA Update

May – June 2023

REGIONAL TRENDS – THE GULF

- **All Gulf countries are making substantial progress in gender equality and women empowerment.** In the U.S. and around the world, more Gulf women are working in their embassies. The female share in the national labor force is rising, and more Gulf women are participating in NESA Center seminars in Washington, D.C. and worldwide.
- **All Gulf states made commitments to reduce pollution and have invested in renewable energy, including hydrogen.** The COP meeting in the UAE next November will be a major event.
- **Saudi Arabia is preparing its citizens for normalization with Israel.**
 - **In recent weeks, several public announcements have reinforced the prospect that Saudi Arabia will one day join the Abraham Accords,** or at a minimum, prepare its citizens to recognize Israel's de facto existence.
 - **Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said that he told the Saudis that they should authorize flights from Ben-Gurion International Airport to Jeddah.** Although Saudi Arabia is not a party to the Abraham Accords, since the agreement was signed in 2020, the kingdom has allowed Israeli airlines to use its airspace for flights to and from the UAE and Bahrain. Authorization for flights extending to other destinations was not granted until July 2022.
 - **The United States and Israel have been working on a plan to build a trade land bridge connecting the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel.** Trucks will be able to transport goods through this trade corridor, significantly reducing transportation costs and time. This infrastructure project crosses borders that will start in the UAE, pass through Saudi Arabia, and end at the seaports of Israel, later expanding to Bahrain and

IN THIS REPORT

1–2 NESA Region Trends

3–12 Programs & Events

13–16 Engagement

16–17 Alumni Pubs & News

18 Calendar

Engagement • Education • Outreach

NESA Region Trends

Oman. An Israeli Ministry official announced that the project could operate even without official normalization.

- **Israel’s largest solar energy company, SolarEdge, has signed a joint venture with Ajlan & Bros Holding**, a major private sector conglomerate in the MENA region, to adopt solar energy in Riyadh. The venture will serve leading facilities in Saudi Arabia and enhance Saudi Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman’s 2030 Vision.
- **Gulf states, like the rest of the ME and the broader “global south,” have reacted to the war in Gaza.** Several Gulf leaders participated in the Cairo Peace Summit (21 October 2023). They condemn the killing of civilians and call for a “political solution” to the conflict. This means a two-state solution, i.e., a Palestinian state in peace with Israel. Qatar has taken a leading role in releasing the hostages. For now, it seems, talks about normalizing relations with Israel have been put on hold.
- **After the Hamas terrorist assault against Israel on 7 October 2023, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain condemned the abduction of Israeli civilians.** The UAE also warned Syria not to intervene in the war or to permit attacks on Israel from Syrian territory. Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal blamed both sides and condemned Hamas for seeking to thwart normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel.
- **Regional leaders have quickly shifted from acknowledging the outrage of the initial terrorist attack on Israel** towards condemning the loss of civilian life in the subsequent Israeli attacks on Hamas infrastructure in Gaza.
- **The explosion at Ahli Hospital in Gaza is an illustration of the strategic communications challenge facing Israel and – by extension – the United States.** The initial Hamas claim of casualties and Israeli culpability was accepted unquestioningly throughout the region. Subsequent evidence of lower casualties and a possible Hamas origin of the explosion generally have been either ignored or dismissed as fabrication in the public realm.
- **In the region, Israel is viewed as the architect and prime actor of any civilian suffering in Gaza.** Hamas (and their tactics of embedding military infrastructure in civilian and other protected areas) are generally not discussed.

NESA Programs & Events

RJNDC Curriculum Review & 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings

From 8–9 May 2023, The NESA Center Professional Military Education (PME) Team met with leadership and faculty from the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) on their campus outside of Amman, Jordan. During the meetings, both parties finalized a written agreement establishing continuous NESA-RJNDC collaboration supported by the U.S. Military Assistance Program at the U.S. Embassy in Amman and the Jordanian Ministry of Defense. The NESA team, which included Associate Dean Charles Marks, Professor Richard Wiersema, and Outreach and Alumni Coordinator Christopher Muller, also met with leadership and staff at the RJNDC's Military Center for Counterterrorism and Extremism (MCCTE) in Zarqa, Jordan. Together, they reviewed plans for the specialized master's program in Countering Extremism and Counterterrorism Strategies, which is the first program of its kind among Arab countries. <https://nesa-center.org/rjndc-curriculum-review-and-2023-strategic-planning-mtgs>

RJNDC Curriculum Review & 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings 8–9 May 2023



The NESA Professional Military Education Team alongside the Chief of Outreach and Director of the Military Center for Counter Terrorism and Extremism (MCCTE) in Zarqa, Jordan.

NESA Programs & Events

Washington Seminar Discussion

On 10 May 2023, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies hosted a Washington Seminar Discussion at the Army-Navy Club in downtown Washington, D.C. The seminar presented a conversation between Dr. Gawdat Bahgat (Professor, NESA Center) and Dr. Seth Center (Deputy Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, U.S. Department of State). The main topics discussed included technology and U.S. national security; technology and U.S. diplomacy; rivalry/competition with China and Russia; U.S. cooperation with allies in the area of information technology; partnership between government, private sector, and academia; and global efforts to govern the internet. The afternoon ended with a question-and-answer session with 28 attendees from 23 countries. <https://nesa-center.org/washington-seminar-discussion-may-2023>

Washington Seminar Discussion

10 May 2023



Dr. Seth Center (left) and Dr. Gawdat Bahgat (right) engaged in discussion during the Washington Seminar.

NESA Programs & Events

Indian Ocean Region Island Forum

From 10–12 May 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted a forum in Bangkok, Thailand, with its partners on environmental security challenges throughout the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). With a particular focus on the specific challenges facing Indian Ocean island states, the forum brought together over 40 participants from 21 countries for conversations on how to collaboratively further environmental security. This was the second NESA Indian Ocean Island Forum and is a part of NESA's larger Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific-focused engagements. <https://nesa-center.org/2023-indian-ocean-region-island-forum>

[Read the 2023 Indian Ocean Island Forum Report \[PDF\]](#). The report covers detailed themes and questions discussed by participants during the event, recommendations, and an agenda/workshop record.

Indian Ocean Region Island Forum

10–12 May 2023



Indian Ocean Region Island Forum Seminar held from 10–12 May 2023.

NESA Programs & Events

Army War College Strategic Staff Ride Seminar

On 16 May 2023, the Near East South Asia Center hosted Dr. John Nagl and twelve academic year 22–23 Army War College students from Carlisle Barracks for discussions on contemporary Iranian strategy and U.S. Middle East policy under the Biden Administration. Dr. Mahsa Rouhi, from the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), delivered summary remarks on Iranian foreign policy and its nuclear program and then fielded questions from the students. NESA Center Director and Special Assistant to the President for Middle East and North Africa LTG Terry Wolff, USA (Ret.), then conducted a robust discussion on the national security decision-making process and evolution of U.S. foreign policy in the region. The NESA Professional Military Education (PME) team, Associate Dean Charles Marks and Professor Richard Wiersema concluded the event with a brief discussion of NESA's mission and current programs. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-hosts-army-war-college-strategic-staff-ride-seminar>

NESA Hosts Army War College Strategic Staff Ride Seminar

16 May 2023



Dr. Mahsa Rouhi, from the Institute for National Security Studies at NDU, engages U.S. Army War College students on Iranian strategy.

NESA Programs & Events

Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar

From 22–26 May 2023, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies hosted an informative Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar focused on the theme, “Strategic Competition in Central and South Asia.” The seminar brought together the next generation of young military officers, diplomats, and academics from South and Central Asia. There were 13 sessions organized around themes relating to the geopolitical and security dynamics that strategic competition among major powers has created in Central and South Asia. The sessions provided instruction and discussion to analyze conditions and events in Central and South Asia and their outcomes. Participants were able to critically engage with subject matter experts to examine national and regional perspectives and priorities. The five-day seminar featured several internationally recognized scholar-practitioners from the NESA Center and other educational and policy centers. NESA Center Professor of Practice Brianne Todd served as the course director and moderator, and NESA Center faculty presenting in the seminar included Dr. Richard Wiersema and Distinguished Professor Ambassador Ali Ahmad Jalali. <https://nesa-center.org/2023-silk-road-future-leaders-seminar>

Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar Strategic Competition in Central & South Asia 22–26 May 2023



Silk Road Seminar group photograph on the steps of the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C.

NESA Programs & Events

Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia & the Gulf Seminar

From 22–25 May 2023, the NESA Center conducted a four-day seminar held in Muscat, Oman. It was designed to help participants assess, analyze, and identify opportunities to effectively counter human trafficking in South Asia and the Gulf and improve regional coordination and cooperation to dismantle illicit networks in the area. The creation, dissemination, and use of standard operating procedures for victim identification and referral to rehabilitation services was a focus of the seminar. The seminar started with a welcome by Course Director Distinguished Professor Dr. Hassan Abbas; NESA Center Deputy Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.); and Director of Foreign Issues of Consular Department, Foreign Ministry Sultanate of Oman Tahra Hamood Ibrahim Al-Zadjali. Each day began with a panel presentation from a multinational panel of experts analyzing the nature of the challenge and a guided discussion with the entire group. In the second session of each day, participants learned from practitioners' perspectives and focused on problem-solving analytical tools. On the final day of the workshop, participants collaborated through a guided conversation on utilizing the knowledge gained and analytical skills learned to develop a strategy to counter human trafficking in the region. Participants included representatives from Bangladesh, Kosovo, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, and Turkmenistan. <https://nesa-center.org/2023-dynamics-of-countering-human-trafficking-in-south-asia-and-the-gulf-seminar>

Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia & the Gulf Seminar

22–25 May 2023



Group photograph of the Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia and the Gulf Seminar.

NESA Programs & Events

Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group

On June 5–8, 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies, in support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Department of State, hosted the first-ever Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group (RSWG) regional security seminar in Washington, D.C. The seminar provided a venue for participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States to discuss shared interests, identify new areas for cooperation, and strengthen their partnerships. NESA Center Associate Professor Dr. Michael Sharnoff, Adjunct Professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis, Associate Dean Charles Marks, and Professor Richard Wiersema led the seminar, which included over 30 officials from across the defense, security, and diplomatic establishments of the Negev Forum partners. The three-day program included seminar sessions focused on different regional security issues and a tabletop exercise, where the participants worked together to respond to realistic events that could affect their individual and collective security. The program concluded with a State Department-led National and Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NNRRC) familiarization program to discuss potential ways to enhance communications between Negev Forum partners. <https://nesa-center.org/negev-forum-regional-security-working-group>

Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group

5–8 June 2023



Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group regional security seminar.

NESA Programs & Events

Cyber Security Seminar: Sharing Experiences

The NESA Center executed its first cyber security seminar from 12–15 June 2023 in Washington, D.C., titled “Cyber Security: Sharing Experiences.” Twelve countries from the MENA region were represented. Senior U.S. officials and think-tank representatives addressed the seminar. All presentations were followed with discussions that were held off-the-record under Chatham House rules of non-attribution. The topics included the digital cold war, writing cyber strategy, teaching cyber security, cyber deterrence, and protecting critical infrastructure. Course Director Dr. Gawdat Bahgat spoke near the end of the seminar with a session summarizing the main takeaways: private partnership, a skilled workforce, and cyber hygiene. <https://nesa-center.org/cyber-security-seminar-sharing-experiences>

Cyber Security Seminar: Sharing Experiences

12–15 June 2023



Group photograph of the Cyber Security Seminar.

NESA Programs & Events

2023 NESA-AFRICOM Changing Nature of Security, Capacity, & Institutions Workshop

From 11–16 June 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted, in partnership with U.S. Africa Command, the “NESA-AFRICOM Changing Nature of Security, Capacity, and Institutions Workshop” in Casablanca, Morocco. Security discussions on capacity building and the increasing challenges of transnational threats (trafficking, migration, and pandemics) and non-traditional security challenges (climate and water) have challenged traditional concepts of threats and redefined security. It has also brought into question how best to design and organize institutional capacity and, more specifically, security sectors for today’s demands while leveraging technologies for their success in the future. As one examines the changing global trends and their impact on security, the changing nature of threats must also be addressed to include how countries and security forces will hedge capability and capacity development. There were 37 participants from 11 countries across North Africa, the Sahel, and select other African countries. Course Director Professor Anne Moisan and Deputy Course Director Fahad Malaikah (Alumni Coordinator and NESA-AFRICOM Overseas Coordinator) planned, coordinated, and conducted the workshop. <https://nesa-center.org/2023-nesa-africom-changing-nature-of-security-capacity-and-institutions-workshop>

2023 NESA-AFRICOM Changing Nature of Security, Capacity, & Institutions Workshop

11–16 June 2023



Group photo from the NESA-AFRICOM Changing Nature of Security, Capacity and Institutions Workshop.

NESA Programs & Events

Air War College International Officer Seminar

On 23 June 2023, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA Center) hosted 54 international fellows and faculty from the Air War College. The students were briefed at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., by NESA Center Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas on the Security Implications of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and NESA Center Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat on Security Challenges in the Middle East. Following lunch, Africa Center for Strategic Studies (Africa Center) Professor Dr. Anouar Boukhars led a discussion on Security Challenges in Africa, and NESA Center Distinguished Professor Dr. Hassan Abbas spoke on The Taliban in Afghanistan.

<https://nesa-center.org/air-war-college-international-officer-seminar>

Air War College International Officer Seminar

23 June 2023



Group Photo of the Air War College Seminar on 23 June 2023.

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Dr. Hassan Abbas



9 May 2023 – Joined the Royal Holloway (University of London) Advisory Board for Centre for Islamic and West Asian Studies.

23 May 2023 – Had a book talk on the Taliban at the Atlantic Council - South Asia Center (SAC). <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/a-conversation-with-hassan-abbas-on-his-new-book-the-return-of-the-taliban>

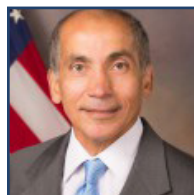


12 June 2023 – Was the featured speaker at WorldBoston's Chat & Chowder series. Dr. Abbas discussed the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The program had over 50 in-person participants. (Video) <https://www.worldboston.org/calendar/2023/06/12/return-of-taliban>



22 June 2023 – Renowned journalist Steve Coll reviewed Dr. Abbas's book "The Return of the Taliban: Afghanistan After the Americans Left" in the New York Review of Books. <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2023/06/22/who-are-the-taliban-now-hassan-abbas>

Dr. Gawdat Bahgat



9 May 2023 – Spoke at a USARCENT Virtual Land Forces Intelligence Conference in Shaw Airforce Base, South Carolina. Participants from the following countries attended: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Egypt, France, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, and Yemen. The discussion focused on technology and national security, including cyber security and artificial intelligence. About 40 military officers from NESA countries attended online.



6 June 2023 – Wrote a book chapter (Chapter 10 in Arabic) on energy transition in the Gulf states in a volume on Arab Gulf States and Iran published by the Doha Institute. The book includes thirteen studies, all of which focus on the issue of the relationship of the Arab Gulf States with Iran. <https://www.dohainstitute.org/ar/BooksAndJournals/Pages/arab-gulf-states-and-iran-roots-of-rivalry-in-the-gulf-regional-system-and-its-manifestations.aspx>

David Des Roches



16 May 2023 – Discussed divisions in Russian forces in Ukraine for TRT World television. TRT World is an aspiring global news source. Professor Des Roches drew out Wagner links to the Russian state in his remarks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oR1BdV5UqQ>

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement



19 May 2023 – Interviewed on Al Jazeera English on the possible transfer of U.S. F-16s to Ukraine.

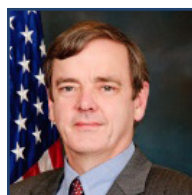
2 June 2023 – Discussed Turkish elections and implications for Arab America Radio. Arab America Radio is broadcast in the Detroit area and carried over the internet to a large audience. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bztY7KjRhI>



6 June 2023 – Quoted on the possible Italian weapons sales to Saudi Arabia in “Breaking Defense.” <https://breakingdefense.com/2023/06/now-that-italy-has-lifted-its-arms-embargo-aimed-at-saudi-arabia-could-defense-deals-follow/>

6 June 2023 – Interviewed on Iraqi sovereignty as part of an Arabic-language documentary on Iraq 20 years after the U.S. invasion. Associate Professor Des Roches was interviewed on the margins of giving a presentation at the International Baghdad Dialogue Conference from 19–20 March 2023. Des Roches’ comments (in English) start at 18:35. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQSdke0FeA4>

John H. Gill



6–10 June 2023 – Adjunct Professor John (Jack) Gill participated in a trip to India as part of an International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) research team. The centerpiece of the visit was the third annual joint seminar with the Centre for Airpower Studies (CAPS) and the Indian Air Force think tank, entitled “Nuclear Strategy: Global and Regional Developments,” where Professor Gill spoke on India-Pakistan regional dynamics. The seminar had approximately 50 participants from the Indian government, academia, and local embassies. In addition to the seminar, the team called on the top Indian national security officials, military chiefs, and business community members.



Ali Ahmad Jalali



11 May 2023 – Appeared on the VOA Pashto political focus program “Hayel” for a discussion on Pakistan and China relations with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. The international community, including the UN Security Council, warned that the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is again becoming a growing ground for global Jihadist groups. Pakistan and China both face the threat of Afghanistan-based TTP



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

(Pakistan Taliban movement) and the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (EITM). I shared the panel with former Pakistani senator and human rights advocate Afrasiab Khattak.

<https://www.pashtovoa.com/a/7090721.html>

19 May 2023 – Wrote and posted the article “Iran -Afghanistan Water-Sharing Issues” on LinkedIn. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/iran-afghanistan-water-sharing-issues-ali-ahmad-jalali>



22 May 2023 – Was the guest of the Germany-based Afghanistan private TV program Panjara-e Oropa (Widow from Europa.) It was an exclusive 80-minute interview covering political and security issues affecting the bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationships in South and Central Asia. The interview also covered AMB Jalali’s personal experience in Afghanistan and interactions across the region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6IDj2VRLH0>

28 May 2023 – Gave a keynote speech at the ‘Intra-Afghan Coalition for National Discourse’ conference. The virtual conference had global participation and was organized by the Afghan Global Diaspora Council. <https://afghangdc.org>

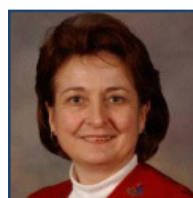
Charles Marks



31 May 2023 – Assisted, along with other NESA PME faculty, during a virtual and in-person U.S. National War College Capstone Student event by bringing in panels of PME experts from around the world to create distinguished panels to review war college final student projects focused on regional, national security issues from around the globe. NESA enabled

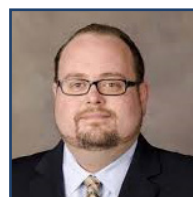
experts from Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel to serve on the panel. The concept for participation was developed as a result of a visit by the Commandant of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College hosted by NESA in the fall of 2022.

Anne Moisan



17 May 2023 – As the NESA/AFRICOM POC, Professor Anne Moisan sat in for Acting Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.) for the Post Graduate Africa Program, which is an annual joint NESA-ACSS program for African students at NDU. The primary objective of the program is to leverage the U.S. investment in future military leaders from the U.S. Senior Service Schools at National Defense University, who are expected to fill senior positions of responsibility. Graduates are already educated in U.S. National Security Strategy after one year. This program advances the specialized knowledge they have accumulated and provides a pool of regional experts to address key issues critical to the U.S. and the countries of Africa. As part of the NESA and ACSS Alumni community, they are provided a venue in which leaders from African countries can think beyond the military focus of the Service Schools and engage in a candid dialogue with each other and with the Regional Centers on shared security issues relating to regional security and stability, network on common challenges, establish bridges between nations, and foster long-lasting relationships. In addition, the program provides a new “pool” of senior military strategists for NESA and ACSS Alumni and future Regional Center Programs, as well as a network of future leaders in Africa to continue engagement in strategic-level dialogues with AFRICOM leadership, Line of Effort Working Groups, and desk/action officers post-graduation.

Jeffrey Payne



19 May 2023 – Spoke at the National Press Club as part of a panel discussing the release of NESA Alumnus Asanga Abeyagoonasekera’s new book “Teardrop

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Diplomacy.” The Ambassador of the Maldives to the U.S. was in attendance, along with approximately 20 others.

7 June 2023 – Hosted a delegation from SIGNAL (Sino-Israeli Global Network & Academic Leadership), an Israeli think tank focused on China, at the NESA Center. A total of 11 took part from NESA and SIGNAL, including SIGNAL’s Director, Carice Witte. Conversations centered on China’s footprint in the MENA region, U.S.-Israeli relations, and developments in the Indian Ocean Region. NESA Center participants included Assistant Professor Payne, Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Associate Professor David Des Roches, and Associate Professor Daniel Curfiss.

16 June 2023 – Met visiting scholars from IISS regarding developments in ASEAN and the Bay of Bengal. Veerle Nouwens led the IISS team, and four took part in the discussions.

16 June 2023 – On behalf of the NESA Center, Assistant Professor Payne attended the official opening of the Maldives Embassy in Washington, D.C. Approximately 100 took part with a senior delegation from the Department of State representing the U.S. and the Foreign Minister of the Maldives providing remarks commemorating the occasion.

23 June 2023 – Briefed the Department of State on the forthcoming NESA Quad Critical and Emerging Technology Forum. Three bureaus and two special offices were represented.

Alumni Publications & News

Alumni Publications

16 May 2023 – **Viraj Solanki (United Kingdom)** published an Op-Ed for the Observer Research Foundation: [“The Colombo Security Conclave: What is it and what does it mean for Australia?”](#)

16 May 2023 – **Jasmin Lilian Diab (Lebanon)** wrote a blog piece for the Refugee Law Initiative: [“On Prosecution, Persecution and Protection: Unpacking Anti-Refugee Narratives, Kinopolitics and Selective Outrage in Lebanon.”](#)

21 May 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an article for the NESA Center Alumni blog: [“The Stakes of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict and the Strategic Alliances Mapping.”](#)

23 May 2023 – **Nasser bin Nasser (Jordan)** published an article for Global Comment: [“An all-too-familiar story: Jordan’s experience with globalization.”](#)

24 May – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an article for the NESA Center Alumni blog: [“Sudan Low-Intensity Conflict and its Impact on North Africa and Sahel Region.”](#)

31 May – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: [“A Compulsive Embrace Beneath the Afghanistan-Iran Water Conflict.”](#)

01 June 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** wrote an article for Middle East Monitor: [“Libya moderate Islamic interpretations under threat as more radicals penetrate government institutions.”](#)

05 June 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: [“Voicing Against Disinformation.”](#)

15 June 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** wrote an Op-Ed for Middle East Monitor: [“Is Saudi Arabia foreign policy finally emerging out of the American mantle?”](#)

Alumni Publications & News

16 June – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: “[Russian Roulette in Taliban-Held Afghanistan.](#)”

20 June 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an article in French for the NESAC Alumni blog: “[La Geopolitique Des Terres Rares: Enjeux et Jeux D’Influence En Mediterrafrique.](#)”

21 June 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Ceylon Today: “[Let’s March Onward, All as One.](#)”

22 June 2023 – **Maida Farid (Pakistan)** wrote an article for the NESAC Alumni blog: “[Pakistan: A land of dented democracy and increasing polarization.](#)”

22 June 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for Middle East Monitor: “[6+6 Commission is almost dead; 5 scenarios, including war, for Libya.](#)”

23 June 2023 – **Mustafa Aryan (Afghanistan)** wrote a piece for the Salzburg Global Seminar: “[Navigating Afghanistan’s Complex Path Towards Freedom and Inclusion.](#)”

27 June 2023 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: “[The Taliban’s Unsustainable War on Drugs.](#)”

29 June 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for the International Policy Digest: “[Society Needs to Use Religion to Counter Extremism.](#)”

Visit the NESAC Alumni Interactive Map:
<https://nesa-center.org/alumni-map/>

On-Demand Courses for Alumni

On 23 May 2023, The NESAC Center announced the launch of its online, on-demand courses for alumni through the GlobalNET Learning Management System (LMS). The 26 currently available self-paced courses cover a wide range of security topics including Great Power Competition, Law of Armed Conflict, Violent Extremism, Maritime Security, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Drone Warfare, and Missile Defense. NESAC Center faculty and staff are continuing to grow the library of on-demand courses, which will build upon the varied expertise of our faculty on topics such as Countering Human Trafficking; Women, Peace, and Security; Environmental Security; and more. <https://nesa-center.org/the-nesa-center-launches-online-on-demand-courses-for-alumni/>



NESAC Center Alumni can log in to their GlobalNET account to access the on-demand course user guide, take the on-demand courses, and earn certificates. <https://lms.globalnetplatform.org/nesa>

Calendar

Upcoming NESACenter Events

- **Strategic Studies Network (SSN) Central Asia Working Group** | 9–12 July 2023 | Azerbaijan
- **The Quad: Opportunities to Advance Shared Goals at the Crossroads of the Indo-Pacific Program** | 10–12 July 2023 | Singapore
- **Countering Violent Extremism & the Role of Community Policing: Best Practices Seminar** | 10–14 July 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Air Command & Staff College Seminar** | 12 July 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Azerbaijan NDU Engagement** | 15 July 2023 | Azerbaijan
- **Eastern Mediterranean Security Roundtable** | 17–19 July 2023 | Türkiye
- **Executive Seminar 03-23** | 24 July–04 August 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Defense Security Cooperation University Military Officer NESACenter Orientation** | 27 July 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Madlives Roundtable** | 28 July 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Washington Seminar** | 2 August | Washington, D.C.

**Near East South Asia (NESA)
Center for Strategic Studies**

Fort Lesley J. McNair
National Defense University
Abraham Lincoln Hall
300 5th Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20319-5066

Phone: (202) 685-4131
Fax: (202) 685-4999

NESA-Center.org

Building Relationships



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