



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

NESA Update

July – October 2023

REGIONAL TRENDS – LEVANT

- The 7 October 2023 terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas against Israel challenged prevailing assumptions in the Israeli military and intelligence establishment that Hamas sought to avoid provoking additional wars, that it was more interested in governance and maintaining power in Gaza, and that Hamas threats could be contained. The Israel-Hamas war shattered the belief that Hamas could be deterred despite mini-wars in 2008–09, 2012, 2014, and 2021.
- Some Arab states find it increasingly difficult to cooperate with Israel in the near term due to domestic pressure. However, the normalization agreements signed in 2020 between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco, known as the Abraham Accords, remain in place. There is a possibility that Saudi Arabia will pursue an agreement that would normalize ties with Israel after the war in Gaza ends. Arab partners could play a vital role as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians that includes facilitating peace talks toward a post-war settlement.
- In the long-term, the war may create opportunities for Arab engagement with Gaza, which could contribute to Arab-Israeli rapprochement. Israel and some Arab states are strategically aligned on Gaza. Some Arab governments disapprove of Hamas, which is the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, and have outlawed the Muslim Brotherhood and jailed its members. Arab governments may have a role in helping shape a political outcome in Gaza that simultaneously helps advance Palestinian national aspirations while also reducing the capabilities of Islamist movements and Iranian proxies.
- The ongoing war in Gaza means, among many other things, that the Palestinian issue cannot be put on the back burner and the fate of the Palestinians cannot be neglected. In other words, the war has demonstrated that there will not be peace and stability in the Middle East without addressing the Palestinian issue. The United States, like the rest of the world, supports a two-state solution based on diplomatic negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

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Engagement • Education • Outreach

NESA Region Trends

- When eventually the fighting stops, the United States will have a lot of work to do in order to regain the Arab/Muslim trust in American values and championship of human rights.
- **Jordan:** Despite not sharing a border with Gaza, the Israel-Hamas war creates profound challenges for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The majority of Jordan's population is of Palestinian origin. Jordan ruled the West Bank from 1948–1967, and the Hashemites are the guardians of the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem. Jordanian leaders have condemned Israel, called for a ceasefire, and fear that Israel will expel Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank to create an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan.
- **Jordan:** Given the demographic structure of Jordan, both the government and people have taken the lead in the Arab/Islamic world in condemning Israel. The King, his wife, and the foreign minister have used the strongest language against Israel. The Israeli ambassador left the Kingdom and went back to Israel. Jordan is home to millions of Palestinian refugees who have been there for decades.
- **Lebanon:** Hezbollah has been walking a fine line, engaging Israeli troops and in the process keeping the northern front alive, at the same time avoiding escalation to all out war, which will be devastating to Lebanon.
- **Lebanon:** Despite its general sympathy for the Palestinians, Lebanon does not wish to get drawn into a wider confrontation with Israel. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is balancing public support for Hamas while refraining from escalating attacks against Israel. Hezbollah is an Iranian proxy and Tehran probably judges that opening another front against Israel could result in a massive Israeli response against Lebanon which would foment political unrest by anti-Hezbollah factions and weaken Hezbollah's power.

NESA Programs & Events

LTG Terry Wolff Completes Term as NESA Center Director

Last month, in June 2023, NESA bid farewell to outgoing Director LTG Terry Allen Wolff, USA (Ret.). While LTG Wolff was director, programming expansively grew, gaining nearly 8,400 new alumni to reach a total of 13,145 alumni. Wolff was the longest-tenured director in NESA history. His uncommonly long nine-year term truly stands as a testament to the indispensable and positive nature of his leadership. Wolff departs to the White House National Security Council to serve as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa. [Continue reading.](#)



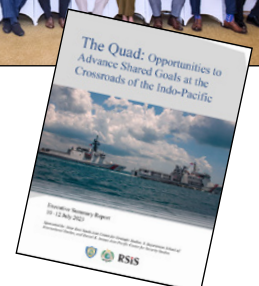
Connecting Central Asia, the South Caucasus, & Beyond

From 9–12 July 2023, the NESA Center hosted the 10th annual Strategic Studies Network Central Asia Working Group meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. NESA partnered with the Caspian Policy Center and the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy to manage the workshop that gathered experts from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the U.S. to engage in candid discussions. Dr. Roger Kangas discussed with participants where they addressed various regional challenges, including the impact of the situation in Afghanistan and Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the role of international organizations, and future prospects for trade and connectivity. [Continue reading.](#)



The QUAD: Opportunities to Advance Shared Goals at the Crossroads of the Indo-Pacific Program

From 10–12 July 2023, NESA and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), along with its partner The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), hosted an Indo-Pacific themed program that featured 39 participants from fifteen countries. Discussions took place at the Jen Tanglin by Shangri La Hotel in Singapore. Plenary sessions covered regional perspectives from the Bay of Bengal and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, technical elements of maritime security, technological innovation within the maritime sector, and perspectives on the health of cooperative institutions, among others. [Read about the program and read the report.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Countering Violent Extremism and the Role of Community Policing: Best Practices

From 10–14 July 2023, NESA hosted a seminar designed to help participants evaluate and analyze the nature and dynamics of significant community policing challenges, especially in the realm of violent extremism, and deliberate on building counter-narratives to extremism. The seminar was held in Washington, D.C., and was attended by two or three participants (23 participants) from each of the following 11 countries: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iraq, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and the United Arab Emirates. [Continue reading.](#)



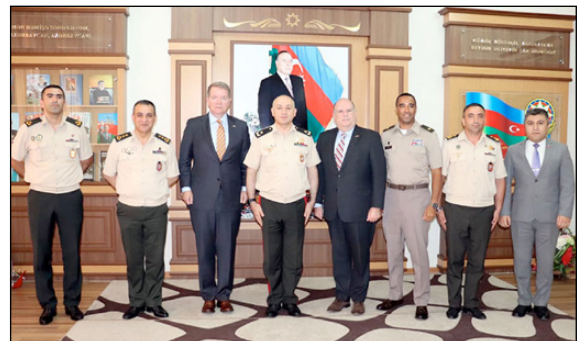
2023 Air Command & Staff College Seminar

On 12 July 2023, NESA hosted approximately 90 students and faculty from the Air Command and Staff College. The group was briefed at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. by NESA Center Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat on Security Challenges in the Middle East and NESA Center Professor Ambassador Ali Jalali on Security Challenges in Afghanistan. Following lunch, Africa Center for Strategic Studies (Africa Center) Professor Dr. Anouar Boukhars led a discussion on Security Challenges in Africa, and William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies Professor Dr. William (“Bill”) H. Godnick spoke on Security Challenges in Latin and South America. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Center & Azerbaijan National Defense University Engagement

On 15 July 2023, a NESA delegation met with Major General Arif Hasanov (Deputy Director of the National Defense University for Science and the Director of the Military Scientific Research Institute) at the recently established Azerbaijan National Defense University in Baku. Talks focused on detailed information about the establishment of the new National Defense University in Baku, which consolidated multiple other education institutions from the high school to the doctoral level. The main activities, structure, and upcoming tasks of the subordinate military educational institutions were reviewed and discussed. The two sides explored opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation between institutions and the prospect of developing a long-standing cooperation arrangement between the Azerbaijan National Defense University and the NESA Center. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

2023 Eastern Mediterranean Security Roundtable

From 17–19 July 2023, NESA, in partnership with the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies, a leading Turkish think tank, held a roundtable discussion in Istanbul, Türkiye. Scholars from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye participated in the discussion. The agenda included Abraham Accords; Iran; Israel; Türkiye; energy security; regional rapprochement; climate change; the war on terrorism; global power competition; and women, peace, and security. NESA Center Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas and Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat led the discussion. Another meeting is scheduled for next year. [Continue reading.](#)



Defense Security Cooperation University Military Officer NESA Center Orientation

On 27 July 2023, the NESA Center welcomed three U.S. military officers who attended the Defense Security Cooperation University's seven-week training and education program. These personnel will serve as vital link between whole-of-government Security Cooperation efforts and partner states in the Gulf. During their visit, the military officers were briefed on the NESA mission, NESA capabilities, examples of past NESA programs, and various NESA initiatives, including our ongoing professional military education programs in several countries. [Continue reading.](#)



Maldives Roundtable at the NESA Center

On 28 July 2023, NESA Acting Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.) and NESA Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas welcomed Ambassador Ghafoor Mohamed, Ambassador of the Maldives to the United States, and Zeena Didi, Counsellor at the Embassy of the Maldives to the United States for a conversation on bilateral relations and NESA Center programming. Joining the conversation were Professor Richard Wiersema and Assistant Professor Jeffrey Payne. COL Lamm congratulated the recent opening of the Maldives Embassy in Washington, D.C., and discussed ways to enhance Maldives' participation in forthcoming NESA Center efforts. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Executive Seminar “New & Emerging Security Challenges: Employing Whole of Society Solutions”

From 24 July–4 August 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted an Executive Seminar (ES) in Washington, D.C., focused on the range of threats to the NESA region that go beyond traditional state-on-state concerns, including economic factors in security, demographic issues, health, and human security, among others. The seminar engaged 45 participants from 23 countries.



Washington Seminar

On 2 August 2023, NESA held a Washington Seminar Discussion in Washington, D.C. The seminar presented a conversation between Associate Professor Daniel Curfiss and Dr. Hassan Abbas. The main topics discussed included the Taliban policies and approaches since they returned to power in Kabul in August 2001, and Dr. Abbas shared his findings from his latest book, “The Return of the Taliban: Afghanistan After the Americans Left.” The afternoon ended with a question-and-answer session with 17 attendees from 12 countries. [Continue reading.](#)

Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar

From 7–18 August 2023, NESA hosted a delegation of 32 senior Iraqi military officers and government officials for a two-week Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar in Washington, D.C. The Seminar, modeled on the U.S. Capstone Program, was designed to prepare Senior Leaders for the unique challenges they will face in developing strategy and proposing policy for their nation. [Continue Reading.](#)



CENTCOM Strategic Survey Seminar

From 8–10 August 2023, the Near East South Asia Center hosted a CENTCOM Strategic Survey Seminar in Tampa, Florida. The three-day seminar was titled “Key Security Issues in Central Command’s Area-of-Responsibility” and was aimed at giving about 39 U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) civilian and military personnel a policy and strategic overview of the key security challenges facing CENTCOM’s area of operations.



NESA Programs & Events

Cyber Security and Law Enforcement

From 14–18 August 2023, the NESA Center conducted a seminar titled “The Challenge of Cybercrime and Hacktivism,” designed to help participants evaluate and analyze the nature and dynamics of cyber security with a particular focus on cybercrimes and law enforcement. The workshop was held in Washington, D.C. and included 23 participants with representatives from Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Lebanon, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye. [Continue Reading.](#)



Quadrilateral Critical and Emerging Technology Forum

From 16–18 August 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies, the Pacific Forum, and Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies hosted the Quadrilateral Critical and Emerging Technology Forum in San Diego, California. The forum was sponsored by a grouping of institutions from throughout the Quad member states and featured participants representing industry, academic institutions, research laboratories, government offices, and think tanks. [Read about the forum and read the report.](#)



Security Opportunities in the MENA Region

From 21–25 August 2023, NESA hosted an inaugural seminar focused on identifying security challenges in the MENA region and exploring potential opportunities for cooperation. The five-day seminar was held in Washington, D.C., and included 23 participants from 11 NESA region countries. It provided a venue for partners to listen, learn, and brainstorm possible areas to strengthen trust and security coordination. [Continue Reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

2023 Royal Jordanian National Defense College Strategic Leadership Seminar

From 21–30 August 2023, NESA conducted the “Perspectives on Strategic Leadership Seminar” with students and faculty of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College in Amman, Jordan. The administration of the seminar coincided with the start of the academic year for more than 150 students across two master’s programs in Counterterrorism and Defense Studies. Attendees included Jordanian officers and civilians, as well as international students from Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America. [Continue Reading.](#)



Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia

From 28–30 August 2023, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies, in partnership with the Bangladesh Center for Indo-Pacific Affairs (BCIPA) Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University, hosted a Strategic Studies Network seminar titled “Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia” in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The 19 participants were mostly NESA Center alums representing all South Asian states except the Maldives. [Continue Reading.](#)



Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar

From 11–15 September 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted a Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CTSES) titled “Emerging Security Platforms in the Digital Age.” The CTSES was held in Washington, D.C., and engaged 32 participants from 22 countries. [Continue Reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

The 8th Great Power Competition Conference (GPC8)

From 27–28 September 2023, the Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida, in collaboration with the NESA Center, held the 8th Great Power Competition Conference titled “The Future and Ethics of Uncrewed and Autonomous Warfare.” The GPC Conference was the leading event of the larger GNSI Tampa Summit 2 held in Tampa, Florida. The GPC8 featured keynote presentations, speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Specific threats and challenges confronting U.S. national security from the exponential advances in uncrewed and autonomous systems over the past 20 years were the main focus of the summit. [Continue reading.](#)



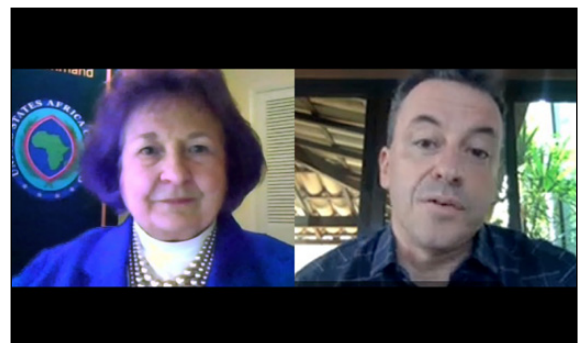
SANDU Faculty Development & Transformation Support Workshop

From 2–11 October 2023, the NESA Center delivered a Faculty Development and Transformation Support Workshop to the Saudi Arabian National Defense University (SANDU) War Wing. The workshop was held at National Defense University in Washington, D.C. The War Wing Commandants, MG Sadd and MG Hassan, and twelve senior faculty attended the workshop to explore the Systems Approach to Training (SAT), Strategy, Strategic Communications, and Negotiations. [Continue Reading.](#)



NESA-AFRICOM Transnational Threats Part II/II

On 4 October 2023, NESA Professor Anne Moisan and Academic Specialist Fahad Malaikah conducted the “Transnational Threats: A Look at Shared Illicit Activities – Illegal Mining, Cultural Smuggling, and Wildlife Crime” Online Round Table, the last in the series of sessions for 2023. This specific session was Part II/II with NESA-AFRICOM alumni from the 1–4 May 2023 session held in Bangkok, Thailand, and other NESA-AFRICOM Workshops. Twenty-one NESA-AFRICOM Alumni from 12 countries logged in to the online session to discuss not only illicit activities but also initiatives and recommendations to combat this growing threat. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Sudan Orientation Program for the West Point Model Arab League

From 5–6 October 2023, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies hosted the West Point United States Military Academy (USMA) Model Arab League team at National Defense University in Washington, D.C., for an orientation program on Sudan. On Thursday, 5 October 2023, Professor David Des Roches gave presentations on Sudan, including Sudanese security, Sudanese politics and society, and Sudanese current affairs. On Friday, 6 October 2023, the group toured the U.S. Capitol and went on a self-guided tour of the Library of Congress. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Dr. Hassan Abbas



28 July 2023 – Published the article “The internal splits that threaten the Taliban’s rule” in The World Today on the Chatham House website. [Read the article.](#)

2 August 2023 – Interviewed for a security in South Asia article in The Diplomat titled, “Hassan Abbas on the Return of the Taliban.” [Read the article.](#)

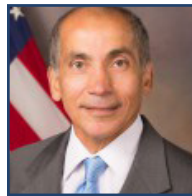
4 October 2023 – Lecture at the National Police Academy, Islamabad on Policing and Counterterrorism. The group photo is with under training police officers.



5 October 2023 – Received an award from Governor Punjab at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Excellence Awards Ceremony in Lahore, Pakistan. Dr. Abbas’ award mentioned his contributions in the field of governance, law enforcement, and counterterrorism.



Dr. Gawdat Bahgat



17–19 July 2023 – Led a roundtable discussion on security in the East Mediterranean Sea in Istanbul, Turkiye. About 12 representatives from think tanks and civil society from Mediterranean countries participated.

6 September 2023 – Provided opening remarks for a virtual roundtable hosted by the Baker Institute and the United States Institute of Peace. This was part of a series of (online) meetings (held under the Chatham House rules) that examine energy and geopolitical issues in the Eastern Mediterranean, with a specific focus on all the recent gas discoveries.

6–7 September 2023 – Spoke at the Iranian Studies Unit Third Annual Conference titled “Iran’s Look East Policy.” Was part of Panel 6 and spoke on “Iran and the South Caucasus.” [Read more about the event.](#)

13 September 2023 – Held a roundtable discussion on Iran at Chatham house, London. European experts participated. Dean Roger Kangas and Professor John (Jack) Gill participated as well.

20 September 2023 – Spoke at a conference on the Middle East organized by the Institute of Oriental Studies in Yerevan, Armenia. Professor Bahgat’s presentation was on the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. About 25 participants from Armenia attended.



27 September 2023 – Published an Op-Ed (in Arabic) in Araa Magazine’s October issue. The article, titled “Saudi Arabia plans to encourage the localization of American

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

weapons and the manufacture of advanced weapons on its soil,” focuses on the U.S.-GCC partnership and the industrial sector in GCC countries. [Read the article.](#)

David Des Roches



7 August 2023 – Discussed why Pakistan has canceled its natural gas pipeline with Iran and how U.S. sanctions on Iran have played a part for India’s WION TV. [Watch the video.](#)



9–10 August 2023 – Spoke as a moderator and discussant during the virtual conference hosted by The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations titled “The Road to 2050: An Assessment of Arab Regional Possibilities and the Future of U.S. Cooperation.” [Read more and watch a recording of each day.](#)



2 October 2023 – Was quoted in the article “Biden’s Gulf allies want an ‘ironclad’ security pact with the U.S. Here’s what it might look like,” and published by CNN’s *Meanwhile in the Middle East*. [Read the full article.](#)

5 October 2023 – Discussed the situation of the Wagner Group playing a large role in the various coups in Francophone Africa, particularly in Mali, for *VOA Africa News Tonight* (starting at 1:25). [Listen to the interview.](#)

Matthew Holbert



24 July – 4 August 2023 – NESA faculty and two officers from partnered senior professional military education institutions (the Royal Jordanian National Defense College, and the United Arab Emirates National Defense College)

attended the U.S. Army War College’s inaugural Strategic Decision Making Game Design Course at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. NESA Program Manager for Saudi Arabian National Defense University transformation, Matthew Holbert and two of his academic team, Professors Tom Wagstaff and Justin Boston, obtained valuable insights and techniques from the challenging two-week course. Their shared experience with regional PME faculty will enable collaborative strategic decision-making events among our regional partner institutions in the near future.

Ali Ahmad Jalali



5–8 July 2023 – Co-chaired the conference “Forum on Democracy & Peace 2023,” organized and hosted by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy. This also included speaking at a panel on challenges to democracy with MP Stephan

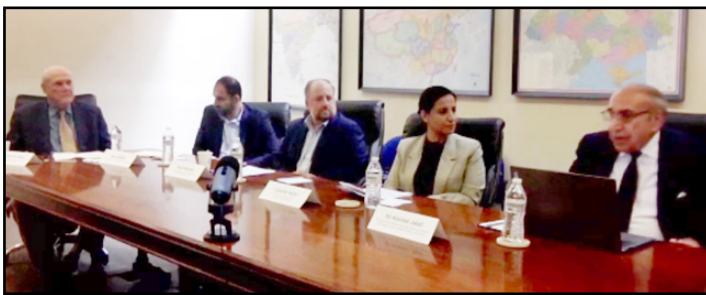
Mayer, German Parliament member and the Secretary General of the Christian Social Union, and Ambassador Gordon Bakota of the Croatian Embassy in Berlin. On 7 July,



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Professor Jalali gave the concluding keynote speech focused on challenges to security, peace, and democracy in South and Central Asia. [Read more about the conference.](#)

23 August 2023 – Spoke on a panel at the American Foreign Policy Council, marking the Second Anniversary of the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. The United States Institute of Peace Director Scott Worden was also a panelist among others. The panel was moderated by Dr. Fred Starr of the Institute of Central Asia and the Caucasus (CACI). [Watch the video.](#)



8 September 2023 – Gave the keynote speech for an annual conference at the Hillsdale College Center for Military History and Grand Strategy in Michigan. The speech's theme was "Winning tactically while losing in Grand Strategic terms – Case studies in Afghanistan History." The two-day event had more than five hundred in attendance. [Read the press release.](#)



18 September 2023 – Wrote an article on the legacy of Alexander the Great in Afghanistan for LinkedIn titled "Why Romanticize Alexander the Great? A Decade of Imperial Dreams Turn into Nightmare." [Read the article.](#)

19 August 2023 – Wrote an article on the third Anglo-Afghan war for LinkedIn to commemorate the 104th independence anniversary. [Read the article.](#)

Jeffrey Payne



13 July 2023 – Held a discussion with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Technology Team on critical and emerging technologies in the Indo-Pacific and the relevance to smaller technological powers. Issues discussed included commercial exploration of low earth orbit platforms, machine learning tools for security public goods, and domain awareness tools. There were seven participants.

27 July 2023 – Coordinated with the State Department on a Quad Critical and Emerging Technologies program. Namely, the Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology. Eight took part in conversations. Discussions centered on NESA programming pertaining to technology and a way to build new programmatic tracks with technology partners across seams and throughout the Indo-Pacific.

15 August 2023 – Presented on China's engagements in the CENTCOM AOR for the Air Force Special Operations School. Approximately 30 participants from the special operations community.



6 September 2023 – Spoke along with Hudson Institute's Dr. Aparna Pande at New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy regarding "India: Rising Geo-economic Power and Internal Changes." [Read more and watch a recording.](#)



Cynthia Pritchett

6 July 2023 – Spoke on a panel for the Female Mentoring and Morale Program's (FMMP) Inaugural Event host-

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

ed by USARCENT at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. The FMMP is an all-inclusive, Army-approved program that provides personal and professional development to all service-members and civilians with a focus on empowering the Department of the Army women in and out of uniform.

[Read more about the event.](#)



Brianne Todd



August 2023 – Transitioned to the White House National Security Council to the position of Director for Central Asian Affairs.

Dr. Michael Sharnoff



13 July 2023 – Spoke about U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East for the Reserve Component National Security Course (RCNSC) at National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs.

RCNSC is a 2-week seminar offered in January, April, and July to senior officers (O4-O6) and non-commissioned officers (E8-E9) of the U.S. Reserve Components, allied officers, and interagency civilians working in national security. Each course has approximately 120–160 students. Michael spoke about this same topic for the RCNSC in April 2023. [Read more about the course.](#)

23 August 2023 – Joined Georgetown University as an Adjunct Associate Professor to teach the Theory and Practice of Security graduate course in the Security Studies Program in Fall 2023. [Read Dr. Sharnoff's bio.](#)

24 August 2023 – Published “Jordanian Stamps of the Islamic Holy Places in Jerusalem: 1967–1989” in the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies. [Read the abstract.](#)

Alumni Publications & News

Alumni Publications

01 July 2023 – **Kevin Duffy (United States)** wrote an article for the U.S. Naval Institute: "[Boats of Bengal: The United States Must Step Up.](#)"

05 July 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[Al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan: Information Blackhole and Strategic \(Mis\)communication.](#)"

14 July 2023 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** published an Op-Ed for Ahram Online: "[A new security culture in the Middle East.](#)"

17 July 2023 – **Zine Labidine Ghebouli (Algeria)** published an analysis for the European Council on Foreign Relations: "[Power couple: How Europe and Algeria can move beyond energy cooperation.](#)"

20 July 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for Middle East Monitor: "[Could oil revenue sharing trigger another war in Libya?](#)"

20 July 2023 – **Antoine Levesques (UK)** published an analysis for IISS: "[US-India defence and technology cooperation.](#)"

20 July 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** co-authored an analysis for Mantraya: "[Pakistan's deepening woes in Balochistan.](#)"

22 July 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[The Cost of Uzbekistan's 'Pragmatic' Taliban Policy.](#)"

26 July 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Ceylon Today: "[Why Government Must Champion Digital Literacy.](#)"

27 July 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for Middle East Monitor: "[Foreign meddling and competing interests hinder any solution in Libya.](#)"

31 July 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: "[Whistleblowers: the Unsung Heroes.](#)"

03 August 2023 – **David Brewster (Australia)** published an analysis for The Strategist: "[New technologies will allow Indo-Pacific states to build 'sovereign maritime domain awareness'.](#)"

06 August 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an Op-Ed for the NESAs Alumni Blog: "[The Politico-Military Crisis in Niger Intensifies the Risk of Blowing up the Sub-Saharan and North Africa Regions.](#)"

16 August 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[2 Years of Structural Violence and Humanitarian Crisis Under the Taliban.](#)"

16 August 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for the Asia Pacific Security Magazine: "[Hidden Horrors: Online Child Pornography.](#)"

18 August 2023 – **Mustafa Aryan (Afghanistan)** published an article for the Salzburg Global Seminar: "[The Fall of a Nation: A Story of Resilience and Hope.](#)"

29 August 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[The Taliban's Afghanistan: Retribution, Refugees, and Violent Extremism.](#)"

08 September 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: "[Unleashing the Potential of Political Literacy for Informed Participation: Lessons learned from 'Aragalaya 2022'.](#)"

11 September 2023 – **KVP Dhammika (Nepal)** wrote an article for the NESAs Alumni Blog: "[Navigating the Metaverse: Unraveling Network Security, Cybersecurity, and Metaverse Security.](#)"

12 September 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Ceylon Today: "[Psychological Motives Behind Investing in Pyramid Schemes Jeopardising Security.](#)"

12 September 2023 – **Antonia Dimou (Greece)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: "[High Time for Multi-Track Dialogues between Greece and Turkey.](#)"

Alumni Publications & News

18 September 2023 – **Uttam Kumar Sinha (India)** was featured on a VIF podcast on "[Water Security in India.](#)"

18 September 2023 – **Antonia Dimou (Greece)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: "[The Potential of Palestinian Gas and the Role of Regional Powers: From Promise to Action.](#)"

18 September 2023 – **Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for the Institute for Security and Development Policy: "[Amid Reports on Chinese Expansion of Bases, Sri Lanka Unveils SOP: Need for a Reality Check?](#)"

19 September 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[Hobson's Choice for India in Taliban-Held Afghanistan.](#)"

22 September 2023 – **Uttam Kumar Sinha (India)** published an Op-Ed for NatStrat: "[Indus Waters Treaty: Looking Back, Looking Ahead.](#)"

28 September 2023 – **Antonia Dimou (Greece)** published an article for the Middle East Monitor: "[Does Libya have the ability to hold accountable those responsible for the Derna disaster?](#)"

29 September 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for Modern Diplomacy: "[Human Security Perspectives on Hate Speech.](#)"

29 September 2023 – **Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: "[Myths and Realities of 'Gender Apartheid' in Afghanistan Under the Taliban.](#)"

29 September 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for the Global Network on Extremism and Technology: "[Unmasking Islamophobic Disinformation in the Aftermath of Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday Attack.](#)"

01 October 2023 – **Kevin Duffy (United States)** published an Op-Ed for the U.S. Naval Institute: "[Getting Real About the 'Global Coast Guard.'](#)"

04 October 2023 – **Moha Ennaji (Morocco)** wrote an article for the NESAs Alumni Blog: "[Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Africa.](#)"

10 October 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an analysis for the NESAs Alumni Blog: "[IAEA: Algeria Elected as Member of the Agency's Board of Governors for 2023-2023.](#)"

Calendar

Upcoming NESAs Center Events

- **U.S.-Turkiye Track II Talks** | 9–10 October 2023 | Ankara, Türkiye
- **NESA-IISS South Asia Security Dialogue** | 13–15 October 2023 | Oman
- **Washington Embassy Orientation** | 30 October–3 November 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Washington Seminar** | 1 November 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **War College Lecture: Strategic Communications & Negotiations** | 5–9 November 2023 | Riyadh, KSA
- **SANDU Standup Plan Workshop** | 13–22 November 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Manama Dialogue** | 11–19 November 2023 | Manama, Bahrain
- **SANDU Standup Plan Workshop & Back Brief** | 27 November–7 December 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **ES Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation** | 4–15 December 2023 | Virtual
- **Doha Forum** | 10–11 December 2023 | Doha, Qatar

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