

NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR: FY23 TO FY24 Q1



NESA-Center.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	About the NESACenter
3	NESACenter Leadership
4	The Director’s Note
5	The Dean’s Note
6	Alumni Network & Programs
8	Transnational & Asymmetric Threats
11	Territorial & Maritime Security
13	Defense Sector Governance
17	Additional Information

ABOUT THE NESAC CENTER

The Near East South Asia (NESAC) Center for Strategic Studies is one of six Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy [regional centers](#). Established in 2000 when the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) recognized the need for an organization dedicated to the challenges extending from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and into South and Central Asia, the NESAC Center today is the preeminent DOD institution for building relationships with and understanding NESAC region countries. Based at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., the NESAC Center team leverages practitioner and academic experience to provide a collaborative space for global policymakers to discuss security strategy and cultivate relationships. NESAC is a vital part of its stakeholders' theater engagement strategies and supports the theater security cooperation efforts of the U.S. combatant commands: U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), U.S. European Command (EUCOM), and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USPACOM). As prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the NESAC Center's areas of focus for engagement are Transnational and Asymmetric Threats, Territorial and Maritime Security, and Defense Sector Governance.



NESA CENTER LEADERSHIP



COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.)

Acting Director

David Lamm became NESA's Deputy Director in 2010 and has served as Acting Director since 2023. He previously served as the Joint Staff's Chief of Plans and Operations (Operations Directorate), as Commander in U.S. Army Central Command, as Chief of Combined Forces Command, and as Director for Afghanistan at the Defense Policy Analysis Office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Canisius College and was commissioned in 1977.



Dr. Roger Kangas

Academic Dean

Dr. Roger Kangas is the Academic Dean and a Professor of Central Asian Studies at the NESA Center. He also teaches at Georgetown University and was previously a Professor of Central Asian Studies at the George C. Marshall Center for European Security and Deputy Director of the Central Asia Institute at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies. Dr. Kangas has advised the Combatant Commands, NATO/ISAF, USAID, and other government entities on Central Asia issues.



THE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The NESACenter is thankful for the support given by in-region partners, U.S. government stakeholders, alumni, U.S. embassies, and U.S. allies for providing invaluable assistance for the continuity of NESACenter programs. With their efforts, foreign policy communities around the world are better equipped to answer the tough security challenges impacting the NESACenter AOR and beyond. In FY23, the NESACenter produced 865 new alumni and engaged nearly 2,000 participants through its programming.

The NESACenter has the unique ability to leverage the collaborative interests and knowledge of U.S. military organizations and the Joint Staff to render a specialized set of programs addressing specific regionally sensitive defense and security issues.

Beyond the NESACenter's specialized regional and topical courses, the Executive and Senior Executive Seminars employ broad multilateral engagement to provide a collaborative space for policymakers to rigorously discuss security strategy and cultivate relationships. Through the NESACenter's whole-of-society approach, alumni are prepared to develop policy recommendations within their governments, non-governmental agencies, think tanks, and national security communities consistent with mutual objectives.

The NESACenter's unique ability to navigate unofficial channels and conduct Track II strategic dialogues makes it an excellent resource for international policymakers to provide and present analysis. NESACenter programs conducted in coordination with the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Ottawa, the Middle East Institute, and the

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) cover strategic international challenges such as Arab-Israeli peace, the U.S.-Iran nuclear dialogue, South Asia regional security, Middle East-North Africa security, the India-Pakistan nuclear settlement, and the India-Pakistan military-to-military relationship.

The U.S. is proud to work with CENTCOM, AFRICOM, Indo-PACOM, in-region partners, and our expansive alumni network to catalyze whole-of-government approaches addressing key issues such as countering violent extremism, border security, maritime security, climate change, and advancing Negev Forum initiatives. The NESACenter's unique programs and Track II diplomacy forums provide a crucial space for U.S. and NESACenter region policymakers to engage on key security issues, and for rising future leaders to cultivate ideas and present solutions to U.S. policymakers.



COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.)
Acting Director, NESACenter



THE DEAN'S NOTE

Since 2000, the NESACenter has been working with partner countries from North Africa, the Levant, the Gulf, and South and Central Asia. Professionals from these nearly 40 countries have attended NESACenter programs in both the U.S. and in the region, as well as numerous virtual engagements throughout the COVID-19 pandemic work environment. These programs can be two-week Executive Seminars or one-week Senior Executive Seminars that take place in Washington, D.C., with the purpose of explaining the U.S. national security system and approaches, as well as having in-depth discussions on current security topics. Other are country-, or region-specific programs focusing on challenges to a particular sub-region of the NESACenter AOR. U.S. engagement in Central Asia differs from that in the Gulf, and regional threats in North Africa can vary from those in South Asia, so we tailor a range of programs to address these needs.

From countering violent extremism to territorial and maritime security, to great power rivalries and the malign influences of certain states and non-state actors, the topics selected for programs are of relevance to both the U.S. national security community and those of the countries in the region. Most of the programs involve serving government officials but can also include representatives from the think tank and academic communities, offering a whole-of-society approach in finding solutions to the challenges at hand.

A central feature of any NESACenter seminar is that we encourage open discussion and debate. While official positions will be presented, the goal is to have reasoned, critical, and honest discussions of them, so as to discern where and why problems exist in finding solutions to security challenges. The academic environment of the NESACenter allows us to

advance policy objectives and get clearer feedback from partner countries.

We at NESACenter believe the open and frank discussions that take place during our events ultimately help the greater security objectives of our U.S. government stakeholders, from key Defense Department offices in Washington, D.C., such as DSCA and OSD-Policy, to the Combatant Commands that work in our region. As we address whole-of-government issues with our program participants, we also practice this ourselves, engaging with other U.S. government departments with security interests, such as the Departments of State and Energy, to name a few.

The NESACenter is a valuable resource for all those who hope to better understand the complex security environment of our region, and who are willing to listen to voices from that region as we develop coherent, effective policies therein.



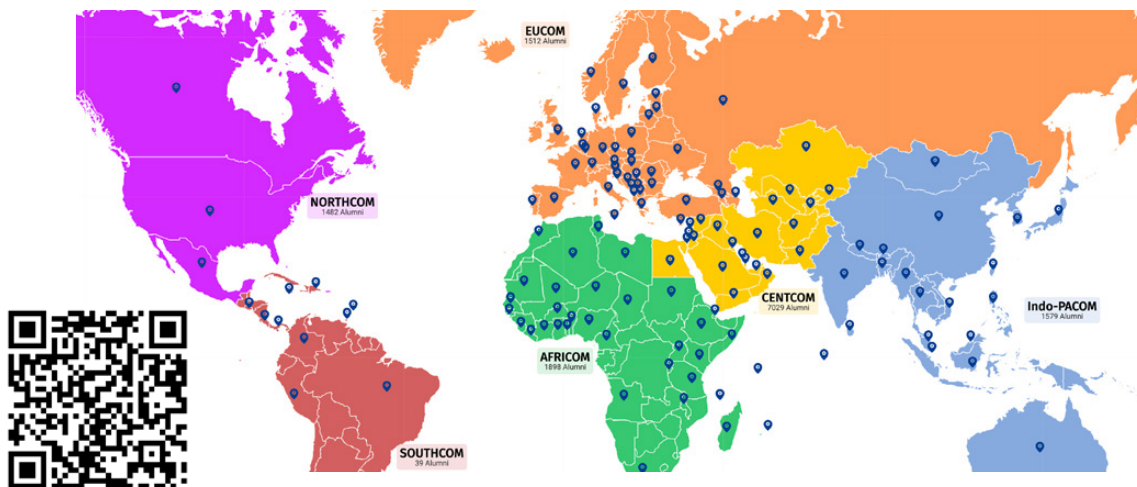
Dr. Roger Kangas
Academic Dean, NESACenter



ALUMNI NETWORK & PROGRAMS

An alumni network of nearly 14,000 from 140 countries.

The NESACenter boasts a network of nearly 14,000 alumni from 140 countries, with more than a third of whom have achieved flag or general officer rank or the civilian equivalent. Despite DOD budget constraints and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NESACenter has gained an average of nearly 900 new alumni per fiscal year (FY) since FY13, while re-engaging an average of 500 previous alumni identified as “key influencers” per FY, as part of its efforts to build and sustain relationships.



NESACenter Alumni Map (www.NESACenter.org/Alumni-Map)

As an element of its core mission, the NESACenter strives to maintain meaningful contact and build its community of interest through NESACenter courses and workshops, as well as its constant outreach efforts on NESACenter social media platforms, and through e-mail campaigns, newsletters, and regular surveys. Alumni have exclusive access via the GlobalNET platform, where they can explore enriching program course pages, engage in alumni discussion group forums, research through the extensive library, and participate in on-demand courses spanning a diverse array of security topics. The NESACenter also maintains an active series of Washington, D.C.-based programs to build and reinforce strong bonds with local embassies and regularly hosts in-country alumni gatherings to stay connected with its vast alumni network.

NESACenter participants — who include foreign and defense policy professionals, diplomats, academics, and civil society leaders — hail from the NESACenter region and beyond to partake in specialized seminars, workshops, conferences, and Track II diplomacy programs aimed at catalyzing solutions for the challenging NESACenter AOR region. The various recommendations that the NESACenter regularly receives from course participants provide useful context within which to interpret foreign government views, shape the curriculum of future NESACenter events, and prioritize its

efforts based upon National, DOD, Department of State, and COCOM priorities and lines of effort. This ensures maximum program relevancy to policymakers and customers in developing future policy direction.

The constructive and honest feedback regularly received from participants also ensures that NESA Center courses maintain a high standard, while providing a rich cross-fertilization of insights and lessons learned from different countries and regions. Through this process, participants are constantly challenged by other ways of thinking and research, while our Washington, D.C.-resident events and foundation seminars expose participants to American culture and democracy to positively influence their attitudes about the United States and its people. NESA forums also allow for Israeli-Arab, Indian-Pakistani, intra-Maghreb, intra-GCC, and other intra-regional interactions that many other forums and venues do not easily permit.

Finally, the NESA Center alumni network provides a unique contact database of regional speakers and experts for other Regional Center and COCOM programs, as well as a distinguished group of in-region contacts for COCOM VIP visits to the region.

The next pages showcase academic programming and engagements from FY23 to FY24 Q1, with the following key areas of focus:

- Transnational and Asymmetric Threats
- Territorial and Maritime Security
- Defense Sector Governance – *including Professional Military Education and Global Power Competition.*



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



Saudi War Course: Fundamentals of Wargaming

TRANSNATIONAL & ASYMMETRIC THREATS

The NESAs AOR faces a variety of transnational and asymmetric threats. Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) remain an ongoing threat throughout the Levant, North Africa, Central Asia, Afghanistan/Pakistan, and South Asia. VEOs threaten the stability and growth of nations from Morocco to Bangladesh. In the Levant, the lasting defeat of ISIS requires a wide range of partners and efforts to ensure ISIS cannot exploit sectarian and other demographic tensions, leverage social control, or regain territory.

Connected to efforts to defeat VEOs, other transnational threats, such as transnational criminal networks, are another complexity of the NESAs AOR requiring specific efforts to address. Narcotraffickers and human smugglers, particularly in North Africa, the Levant, and South Asia, are the most pressing issues for regional police and border security forces, but other forms of criminality are also present and mount a growing challenge.

NESA operates with the understanding that transnational criminality is tied to the VEO challenge in the NESAs AOR. Thus, programming that looks at criminal networks has diversified and matured. NESA places priority on outreach and engagement efforts aimed at countering extremism through the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among regional partners.

Some of the FY23 – FY24 Q1 NESAs programs that focused on Transnational and Asymmetric Threats include:

- NESAs-AFRICOM Transnational Threats: Criminal Insurgency Online Round Table (Oct 2022)
- International Military Officers' Forum (Jan 2023)
- CTSES "Countering Narratives of Extremist Organizations: Managing Disinformation" (Feb – Mar 2023)
- NESAs-AFRICOM 2023 Workshop Series (Apr – May 2023)
- Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia & the Gulf Seminar (May 2023)
- Cyber Security Seminar: Sharing Experiences (Jun 2023)
- NESAs-AFRICOM Changing Nature of Security, Capacity, & Institutions Workshop (Jun 2023)
- Countering Violent Extremism and the Role of Community Policing: Best Practices (July 2023)
- Cyber Security & Law Enforcement (Aug 2023)
- CTSES "Emerging Security Platforms in the Digital Age" (Sep 2023)
- NESAs-AFRICOM Transnational Threats Online Roundtable (Oct 2023)
- NESAs-IISS Southern Asia Security Conference in Oman (Oct 2023)
- Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation (Dec 2023)

NESA-AFRICOM Transnational Threats: Criminal Insurgency Online Roundtable (Oct 2022): The virtual session focused on solutions to “criminal insurgency” as it affects partners in the Americas and Africa who live the daily reality of criminal groups using violence, corruption, and information operations to promote their goals.

International Military Officers’ Forum (Jan 2023): Sessions explored global security topics, including security challenges posed by international terrorism, security challenges posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation, and Iran’s internal turmoil and external troublemaking.

CTSES “Countering Narratives of Extremist Organizations: Managing Disinformation” (Feb – Mar 2023): The Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CTSES) analyzed the scope and extent of the challenges posed by extremist narratives. It facilitated conversations on lessons learned from effective campaigns, both in the hard and soft power domains and especially in countering extremist narratives. There was a particular focus on how extremist groups organize, recruit, and utilize different means of communication—including disinformation campaigns—and build their narratives to think about strategies to counter these efforts.

NESA-AFRICOM 2023 Workshop Series (Apr – May 2023): A portion of the workshop, titled “Transnational Threats Know No Boundaries,” held sessions on Transnational Threats: Organized Crime and Criminal Insurgency; the Migration and Trafficking Nexus; and Digitalization & Financing Illicit Commons.

Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia

& the Gulf Seminar (May 2023): The course 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 primary focus of the seminar.

Cyber Security Seminar: Sharing Experiences (Jun 2023): The seminar divided participants into North Africa, Levant, and Gulf groups, each of which drafted a cyber strategy where they identified the main challenges and how to address those challenges.

“One year ago, I became a graduate of the Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar in February 27–March 3, 2023. Since then, I was able to put into good use the training I had in your institution ... and I am happy to serve my country better as a result of your training.”

— NESA Center Alumni



NESA-AFRICOM 2023 Workshop Series

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

(Jun 2023): The North Africa- and Sahel-focused program centered on security discussions on capacity building and the increasing challenges of transnational threats (trafficking, migration, and pandemics) and non-traditional security challenges (climate and water). It 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.

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

(July 2023): The seminar was designed to help participants evaluate and analyze the nature and dynamics of significant community policing challenges, especially in the realm of violent extremism, and in building counter-narratives to extremism.

Cyber Security and Law Enforcement (Aug 2023): The course was designed to help participants evaluate and analyze the nature and dynamics of cyber security with a particular focus on cybercrimes and law enforcement.

CTSES “Emerging Security Platforms in the Digital Age” (Sep 2023): The seminar focused on the proliferation of technology and how its innovations pose a challenge to international security, especially in the Middle East and South Asia. It explored platforms commonly connected to technological innovation, from autonomous vehicles to predictive modeling.



CTSES “Emerging Security Platforms in the Digital Age”

NESA-AFRICOM Transnational Threats Online

Roundtable (Oct 2023): The virtual workshop examined shared illicit activities – illegal mining, cultural smuggling, and wildlife crime – which have taken on new meanings as a result of the increased focus on the effects of climate change and the war in Ukraine, and provided suggestions for governments to counter these challenges which are often outside the scope of their usual toolkits.

NESA-IISS Southern Asia Security Conference in Oman (Oct 2023): The 16th annual NESA-IISS conference hosted in Oman focused on the impact of U.S.-China-India relations on regional security, China-Pakistan relations, India-Pakistan tensions, the situation in Afghanistan, and the significance of the many regional elections slated for 2024. Additionally, break-out sessions addressed the impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the role of increased unilateralism/multilateralism, India-Pakistan crisis management, and the prospects/objectives for an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation (Dec 2023):

Part of the seminar highlighted the nature of transnational threats, such as the Captagon drug trade and terrorism, and how state and non-state actors are weaponizing media for disinformation.

TERRITORIAL & MARITIME SECURITY

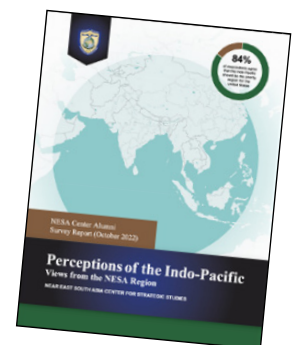
NESA advances programs that seek to strengthen partnerships that subscribe to the rules-based international order to enhance territorial and maritime security. Maritime criminality remains a continual struggle for coast guard and naval forces operating in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean regions. Instability in several coastal zones provides a platform for maritime criminality, yet those tasked with countering these criminals are often stretched thin. Arms smuggling between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula remains a problem, along with the lingering challenge of piracy.

NESA programmatic efforts bring together civilian and defense partners to enhance appreciation for increased information-sharing, domain awareness, and collective responses that leverage all partner instruments of national power. Virtually all NESA programs encourage countries to communicate, share information, and strengthen cooperation to stimulate coordination on multilateral whole-of-government responses to shared challenges at both the territorial and maritime levels.

NESA FY23 – FY24 Q1 programs and activities that explicitly focused on territorial and maritime security include:

- Perceptions of the Indo-Pacific – Views from the NESA Region (Oct 2022)
- Executive Seminar: Maritime Security in the NESA Region & Beyond (Jan – Feb 2023)
- NESA-IISS China-India Workshop (Apr 2023)
- Indian Ocean Region Island Forum (May 2023)
- The QUAD: Opportunities to Advance Shared Goals at the Crossroads of the Indo-Pacific Program (Jul 2023)
- Quadrilateral Critical and Emerging Technology Forum (Aug 2023)
- Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia (Aug 2023)

Perceptions of the Indo-Pacific – Views from the NESA Region (Oct 2022): The NESA Center distributed a survey to its alumni network with a range of questions formulated around U.S. policy towards the Indo-Pacific and how that impacts the countries of the NESA region. The survey also sought to measure attitudes about Chinese engagement in the Indo-Pacific and NESA regions. The findings of the survey have been compiled into the following report: <https://nesa-center.org/perceptions-of-the-indo-pacific-views-from-the-nesa-region>



Executive Seminar: Maritime Security in the NESA Region & Beyond (Jan – Feb 2023): The seminar focused on the maritime domain and the challenges and threats that exist there. The proceedings included conversations on autonomous/unmanned systems, the maritime challenges associated with climate

change and environmental degradation, transnational criminality, power projection and competition within the maritime domain, and maritime domain awareness.

NESA-IISS China-India Workshop (Apr 2023): In partnership with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), NESA participated in its first-ever Track 1.5 workshop on Sino-Indian relations. Topics included bilateral security and trade relations, maritime security challenges, strategic deterrence, confidence-building measures, and relations with other neighbors.

Indian Ocean Region Island Forum (May 2023): The forum held in Bangkok with partners focused on environmental security challenges throughout the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), with a particular focus on the specific challenges facing Indian Ocean Island states.

The QUAD: Opportunities to Advance Shared Goals at the Crossroads of the Indo-Pacific Program (Jul 2023): The event hosted in Singapore with partners marked the initiation of a programmatic series focused on multilateral and minilateral efforts operating throughout the Indo-Pacific. 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 condition of cooperative institutions, among others.



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

Quadrilateral Critical and Emerging Technology Forum (Aug 2023): The event focused on ways that Quad member states can enhance cooperation on key technology, how the Quad can facilitate technology-related public goods for the Indo-Pacific region, and how information-sharing and domain awareness can be furthered by the Quad.

Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia Seminar (Aug 2023): NESA hosted an event in Dhaka with policy discussions and debates focused on issues ranging from emerging security threats and climate change to religious extremism, rule of law issues, and demographic challenges (including the explosive Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh).



Security Trends & Challenges in South Asia Seminar

DEFENSE SECTOR GOVERNANCE

Including Professional Military Education & Global Power Competition

As an important element of its curricula, NESAs programs seek to advance partner understanding of the security integrator role as a counter to the “U.S. abandonment” narrative. In support of this priority, the NESAs Center strives to increase awareness and advance partner understanding of integrated deterrence concepts in order to deter adversaries and realize collective security benefits.

Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group (Jun 2023): In support of OSD-P and the Department of State, NESAs hosted the first-ever Negev Forum Regional Security Working Group (RSWG) seminar in Washington, D.C. Sessions focused on different regional security issues and a tabletop exercise, where the 30 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.

Professional Military Education (PME)

NESAs continues to strengthen bilateral ties throughout the NESAs AOR through seminars and course curriculum that enhance professional military education and institutional capacity building. In addition to existing programs, such as the Saudi Arabian National Defense University partnership, NESAs strives to increase institutional capacity building with Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia, GCC partners, and other NESAs countries, in coordination with the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

Although not exhaustive, some of NESAs’s FY23 – FY24 Q1 programming in Defense Sector Governance and PME include:

- Saudi Ministry of Defense Conflict Termination Workshop (Oct 2022)
- Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar (Mar 2023)
- Lebanese Armed Forces Seminar (Apr 2023)
- Qatar Joint Staff College Washington Study (Apr – May 2023)
- Saudi Arabia Armed Forces Command & Staff College Program (May 2023)
- Saudi War Course: Fundamentals of Wargaming (May 2023)
- RJNDC Curriculum Review & 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings (May 2023)
- Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar (Aug 2023)
- Royal Jordanian National Defense College Strategic Leadership Seminar (Aug 2023)
- SANDU Faculty Development & Transformation Support Workshop (Oct 2023)

Saudi Ministry of Defense Conflict Termination Workshop (Oct 2022): Was a mobile training team course of instruction on conflict termination theory, negotiations theory, and case studies for the Saudi Ministry of Defense (MOD). Theoretical discussions and case studies were offered for the Saudis who were looking for a way to end the Yemen conflict while preserving their security interests.

Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar (Mar 2023): In partnership with AFRICOM, NESAC held its twelfth annual Tunisian National Defense Institute (NDI) National Security Seminar. The focus was on developing resilient policy options for food and energy security to best and positively leverage Tunisian comparative advantages as it deals with the economic fallout of the Russia-Ukraine War.

Lebanese Armed Forces Seminar (Apr 2023): This iteration of the annual Lebanese Armed Forces Seminar focused on the global order, economy, emerging technology, climate change, and Lebanon's future defense security relationship with the U.S.

Qatar Joint Staff College Washington Study (Apr – May 2023): The NESAC Center hosted the Washington Study Program of Qatar's Joaan bin Jassim Command and Staff College Senior Officer Program as part of a capstone trip. Topics discussed included the U.S. National Security Strategy, Russia's war in Ukraine, energy, drones, and Iran.

Saudi Arabia Armed Forces Command & Staff College Program (May 2023): The NESAC Center hosted the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Defense Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC). The focus of the visit was to aid the AFCSC with information on how to best enhance its joint curriculum, develop its faculty, and reestablish relationships to assist the AFCSC in transforming into the Armed Forces Joint Command and Staff College (AFJCS).

Saudi War Course: Fundamentals of Wargaming (May 2023): This PME program was held with faculty members from the Saudi Command and Staff College of the Saudi Arabia National Defense University. At the end of the course, the students put their knowledge into practice, conducting a commercial war-game under the tutelage of the U.S. Army War College Department of Strategic Wargaming (DSW) faculty.

RJNDC Curriculum Review & 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings (May 2023): The NESAC Center met with leadership and faculty from the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) on their campus outside of Amman, Jordan. Both parties finalized a written agreement establishing continuous NESAC-RJNDC collaboration supported by the U.S. Military Assistance Program at the U.S. Embassy in Amman and the Jordanian Ministry of Defense.



RJNDC Curriculum Review & 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings

Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar (Aug 2023): NESAs hosted a delegation of senior Iraqi military officers and government officials for a two-week Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar in Washington, D.C. Modeled on the U.S. Capstone Program, the seminar was designed to prepare senior leaders for the unique challenges they will face in developing strategy and proposing policy for their nation.

Royal Jordanian National Defense College Strategic Leadership Seminar (Aug 2023): The NESAs Center conducted the “Perspectives on Strategic Leadership Seminar” with students and faculty of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) in Amman. 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. NESAs and the RJNDC formalized a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions, with a new collaborative plan underway for the next two academic years.

SANDU Faculty Development & Transformation Support Workshop (Oct 2023): The NESAs Center delivered a Faculty Development and Transformation Support Workshop to the Saudi Arabian National Defense University (SANDU) War Wing to explore the Systems Approach to Training (SAT). The SAT was delivered to assist faculty as they begin to transform the War Wing, with the target to become the senior accredited Defense College of Saudi Arabia.



SANDU Faculty Development & Transformation Support Workshop

Global Power Competition Inside the NESAs Region

The NESAs AOR is a geographic area where great powers compete. The U.S. presence is centered on a system of alliances alongside interoperable and capable partnerships within coalitions. Other major powers adopt a different methodology, whether it be economic in focus or political in nature. NESAs develops programs examining the actions of great powers in the NESAs AOR, particularly focusing on reactions to great powers.

NESAs FY23 – FY24 Q1 programming explicitly focused on global power competition include:

- The 6th Great Power Competition Conference (Dec 2022)
- Executive Seminar: Strategic Power Competition in a Multipolar World (Dec 2022)
- The 7th Great Power Competition Conference (Mar 2023)
- NESAs Center Strategic Studies Network MENA Workshop (Mar 2023)
- Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar (May 2023)

- The 8th Great Power Competition Conference (Sep 2023)
- Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation (Dec 2023)

The 6th Great Power Competition Conference (Dec 2022): The University of South Florida, in collaboration with the NESACenter, held the 6th Great Power Competition (GPC) Conference on “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine: Implications for the Central Command Region.”

Executive Seminar: Strategic Power Competition in a Multipolar World (Dec 2022): The virtual Executive Seminar (ES) focused on strategic power competition and helped define what “global power” and “competition” mean. It also identified challenges the United States faces in this new era of competition, especially from Russia and China, and from non-state actors and violent extremist organizations.

The 7th Great Power Competition Conference (Mar 2023): The University of South Florida, in partnership with the NESACenter, held the 7th Great Power Competition Conference titled “The Current Rise of the Great Powers – The Struggle for Influence in the Middle East, Central, and South Asia.”

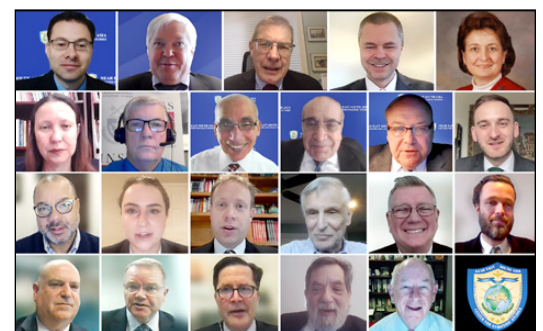
NESACenter Strategic Studies Network MENA Workshop (Mar 2023): The NESACenter hosted a meeting in Bahrain with think tank partners largely focused on global power competition.

Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar (May 2023): The seminar was organized around themes relating to the geopolitical and security dynamics that strategic competition among major powers has created in Central and South Asia.

The 8th Great Power Competition Conference (Sep 2023): The University of South Florida, in partnership with NESACenter, held the 8th Great Power Competition Conference titled “The Future and Ethics of Uncrewed and Autonomous Warfare.”

Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation (Dec 2023):

The virtual Executive Seminar partly focused on understanding strategic competition and U.S.-China competition. The overarching theme was to help participants from NESACenter countries gain a deeper understanding of the ongoing war in Ukraine, appreciate the complexity of the U.S.-China rivalry, and recognize the difference between the old Cold War and current strategic competition. The seminar also aimed to assess the strategic implications of global power competition on regional security.



Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Transnational and Asymmetric Threats

Read more about transnational and asymmetric threats on the NESACenter website. www.NESA-Center.org/tag/transnational-and-asymmetric-threats



Territorial and Maritime Security

Read more about territorial and maritime security on the NESACenter website. www.NESA-Center.org/tag/territorial-and-maritime-security



Defense Sector Governance

Read more about defense sector governance, including professional military education and global power competition, on the NESACenter website. www.NESA-Center.org/tag/defense-sector-governance



Visit the NESACenter website.
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