NESA Center Executive Seminar:
The Indo-Pacific, MARSEC, and Technology

Executive Summary Report
22 July–2 August 2024

Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies

NESA Center Executive Seminar: The Indo-Pacific, MARSEC, and Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

From 22 July to 2 August 2024, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted an Executive Seminar focused on how the maritime domain and new technologies are shaping the security environment of the Indo-Pacific. The seminar's proceedings included conversations on autonomous/unmanned systems, the maritime challenges associated with asymmetry, transnational criminality, power projection and competition within the maritime domain, and maritime domain awareness, among others. U.S. government presentations included representatives from the National Security Council, the United States Coast Guard, United States Central Command, the Naval Research Laboratory, the Defense Innovation Unit, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, and the National Defense University. Additional speakers hailed from U.S. based think tanks, international research institutions, and foreign government offices. Participants hailed from thirty-one countries and represented partner/ally navies, coast guards, defense ministries, and diplomatic corps. NESA's Jeff Payne led the seminar with facilitation provided by Dr. Michael Sharnoff. The event was conducted digitally to assist in casting the widest possible net for participation among partner and ally nations.

The course was organized around the following objectives:

- A more comprehensive understanding of the challenges presented by new developments in technology and new forms of asymmetry.
- A deeper understanding of the benefits of adopting new technologies and investing in information sharing mechanisms to advance security.
- A better understanding of how the United States views its own security policy and foreign policy.
- A greater grasp of how competition within the Indo-Pacific is impacting the world.
- Finally, a better vision of what challenges remain over the horizon when it comes to greater regional, maritime, and global security.

THEMES:

The following themes and/or questions were routinely mentioned among speakers and participants during the event.

- As expected for an event discussing the Indo-Pacific, the larger strategic issues loomed large in conversations held. Of particular interest were two issues – the nature of competition between the U.S. and China, as well as the way in which the U.S. is building its partnerships and allies.

- For an event focused on the Indo-Pacific, participants asked about the status of U.S. engagement in the Middle East. This was partially driven by the conflict in Gaza as well as ongoing Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. Non-MENA region participants were particularly keen to understand the U.S. mindset towards this region.

- The Indo-Pacific from a non-American point of view was featured heavily as were perspectives on the Indian Ocean Region. Speakers based in Southeast Asia, Japan, Australia, and India all spoke at the event to show the quilt of strategic and operational mindsets that inform this critical region.

- Participants asked precise questions regarding the intersection of maritime security and climate change. They were concerned about the protection of fisheries, the chances for building a blue economy, impacts on infrastructure development, and the costs of ecological degradation and/or sea leave rise, among others.

- The health of multilateral institutions was also commonly asked about by participants. How are the institutions that provide the basis for global governance performing from a U.S. point of view? Do minilateral efforts undermine the multilateral system, with specific reference to the Quad? How can cooperative efforts at governance be enhanced in the Indian Ocean Region? As many participants were from maritime security focused institutions, the importance of common rules, forms of cooperation, and depth of partnerships are perpetually vital to their own respective responsibilities.

- One of the most vibrant sessions was the one focused on the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard. Participants wanted to know how the USCG approaches combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU-F), counters transnational criminality, interacts internationally and within the USG for operations, and how it builds understanding of its varied mission.

- Another session that had an ample amount of conversation was centered on maritime law. Participants wanted to dive into how institutions like the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment tie into regional responses to transnational crime and lead to legal finish. How aggressive maritime claims can be countered effectively using the law. Also asked were several questions centering on how developing states with limited capabilities can enhance their capabilities using law to make their own waters safer.

- Conversations about subregions of the wider Indo-Pacific, specifically the Western Indian Ocean, featured inquiries from participants as to how neighboring states can pool resources and develop a common framework to counter maritime criminality. How that subregion's own history of multilateral cooperation led to the creation of its own fusion center and its own maritime operations center (the RCOC) are having an impact. Questions asked about the ceiling for such efforts due to limited resources, how much reliance with outside partners is occurring, and what 'rules of the road' have been developed based upon successful (or unsuccessful) operations.

- The seminar did not remain focused merely on surface concerns in the maritime domain – the session focused on underwater domain awareness covered a wide range of challenges. Issues like protecting undersea cables, protecting the underwater ecological system, the development of underwater research and commercial ventures, and more were all covered. There is ample interest in discussing issues pertaining to the underwater domain in greater detail.

- Technological tools also featured heavily in the two-week seminar. Presentations on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) technology for public sector and military use were discussed, as was the commercial revolution occurring in AI/ML and space. Participants asked varied questions about how international technology cooperation relating to maritime security can be further developed. Questions ranged from inquiries about how countries can rely upon commercial vendors for maritime info, how accumulated data from technological tools can be shared when many actors consider it intelligence, and how public-private partnerships operate and can be replicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- This is the second maritime security-focused executive seminar held over two years and both events gained large audiences that came from around the world. The next MARSEC-focused executive seminar by NESA will take place in the Spring of 2025 and be a senior seminar (focusing on flag officers and civilian equivalent ranks). It will be in-person at NESA, feature an interagency facilitate tabletop exercise, and dive deep into interoperability, information fusion, and countering asymmetry. NESA will continue to offer maritime-focused and maritime-related events as part of its engagement.

- MARSEC conversations, regardless of location or thematic focus, simply must include legal topics, coast guard representation, and maritime law enforcement presentations. MARSEC is far too often discussed in "grey hull" talk that overlooks the immensely important duties of white hulls (coast guards), maritime law enforcement, and port authorities.

- The importance of technology in MARSEC must be more routinely emphasized in international gatherings, security education engagements, and multinational exercises. The differences between developed technology powers and developing technological powers must be better understood. Furthermore, how public-private partnerships can address maritime challenges (and how they cannot) is critical. It is clear that emerging

technologies, from AI to autonomous vehicles to satellite imagery, will help define the future MARSEC operational picture.
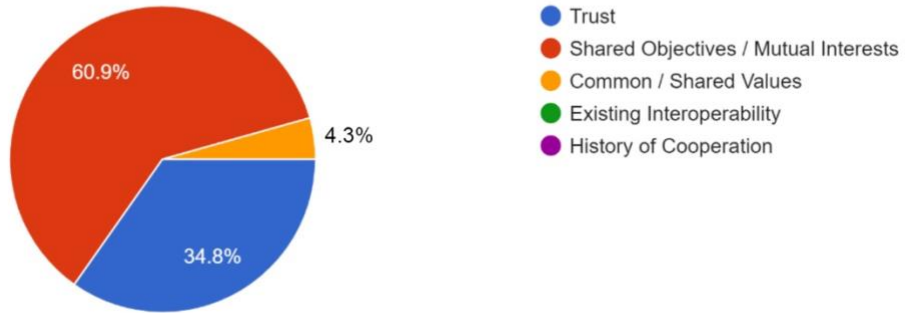
- Ad hoc maritime efforts, such as the trend of minilateral cooperative efforts, have a role to play in security the global commons, but how such ad hoc efforts serve larger MARSEC aims, and compliment multilateral institutions/agreements needs greater concentration.

- Information sharing in relation to Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) or MARSEC in general is amid a data deluge. All willing states need to discuss this data deluge more routinely and beyond traditional MARSEC providers (navies, coast guards, etc.). This must be a whole-of-government conversation that also must be global in its reach. Part of the data deluge challenge set is understanding how we codify types of data – designating between public information, proprietary information, and even intelligence. This is a technical effort that inevitably will require each respective states to have conversations that they are not traditionally accustomed to having outside their own institutions.

- Finally, like MDA, Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) is of substantial interest to the region. Undersea cables, protecting fisheries, emerging technology, ocean bed mining, and underwater sensing are each aspects of UDA that we should engage in with our fellow members of the MARSEC community.

POLLING/ACTIVITY RESULTS:

During the second week of the course, participants were provided with a questionnaire that asked for their opinions on certain questions and allowed them to write short essays on strategic questions. The merged results of this activity follow:
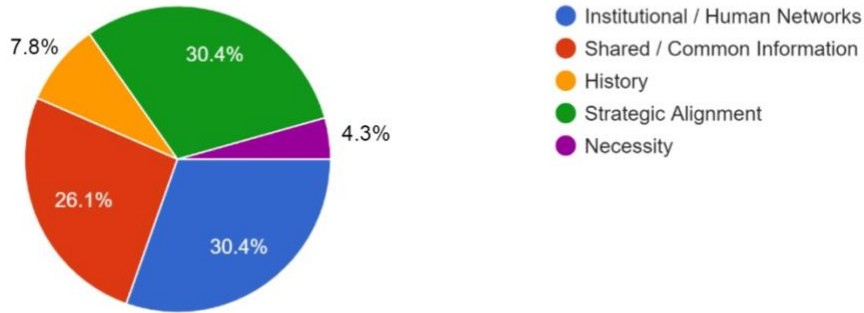
1. What factor is most important for encouraging states to cooperate on security matters?
46 responses

- Trust
- Shared Objectives / Mutual Interests
- Common / Shared Values
- Existing Interoperability
- History of Cooperation

60.9%
4.3%
34.8%

2. What is the foundation of trust for cooperating states?
46 responses

- Institutional / Human Networks
- Shared / Common Information
- History
- Strategic Alignment
- Necessity

7.8%
30.4%
26.1%
4.3%
30.4%

3. Do minilateral arrangements (like the Quad) undermine multilateralism?
46 responses

Yes — 15.2%
No — 60.9%
Neither / Unsure — 23.9%
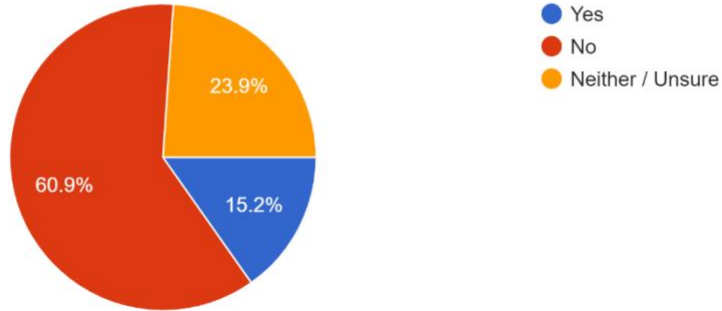
4. What drives the prominence of the Indo-Pacific as a concept in global affairs?
46 responses

U.S.-China Competition — 43.5%
Economic Scale / Regional Trade — 32.6%
Technology — 2.2%
Global Political / Diplomatic Trends — 19.6%
Ecological Issues / Climate Change — 2.2%
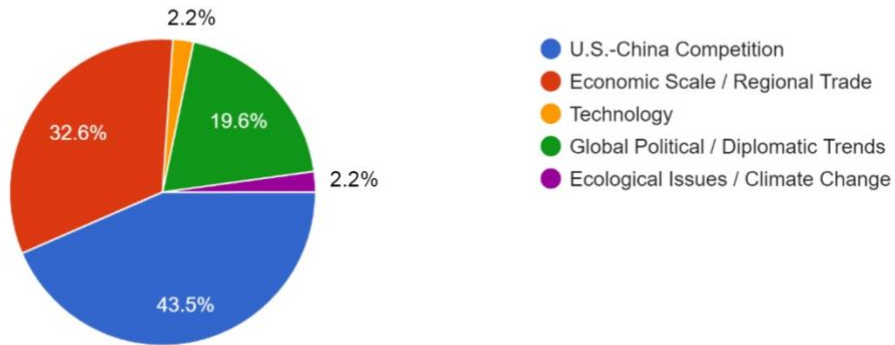
5. What technological element tied to security do you believe is the most vital?
46 responses

Autonomy / Drones — 10.9%
Networked Systems for Multi-Domain Defense — 41.3%
AI / Algorithm Development — 13%
Cybersecurity Hardware / Software — 28.3%
Sensors / Satellite Imagery — 6.5%
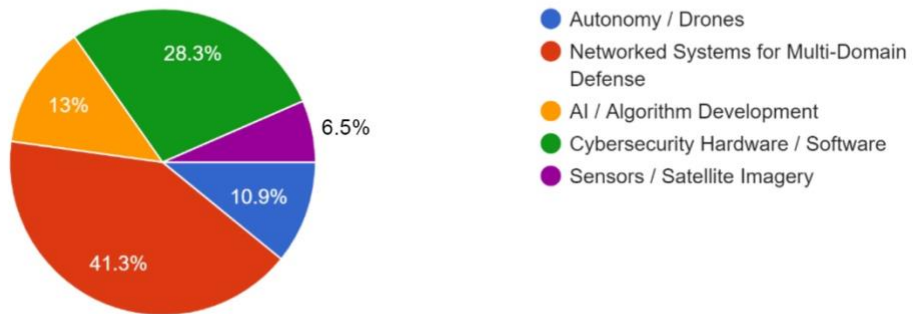
6. What is the best way to quickly develop a state's domestic technological capabilities?

46 responses

- Contracting / Private Sector Purchasing
- Domestic Investment / Development for Industrial Base
- Foreign Partnership / Technological Transfers
- Diversifying Supply Chains
- Public-Private Partnerships

52.2% 15.2% 6.5% 26.1%
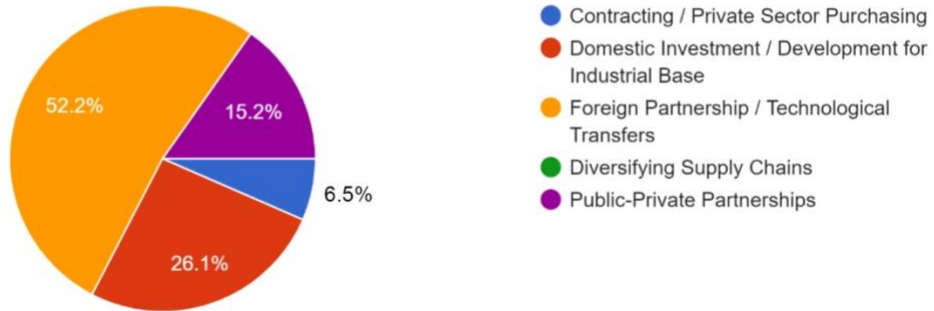
7. What is the most prominent reason for a lack of greater cooperation in the NESA region?

46 responses

- Regional Tensions / Rivalry
- Non-Regional Powers
- Development Gaps
- Domestic Politics
- Ineffectiveness of Multilateral Institutions / Governance

2.2% 10.9% 17.4% 4.3% 65.2%
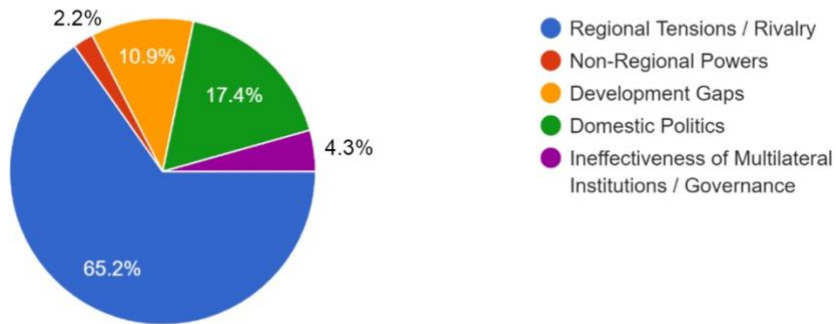
How can states lacking the technological capabilities of larger powers effectively develop their domestic ability to compete?

Sampled Responses:

Countries that lack the technological capabilities that the other major powers have can work effectively to develop their local ability to compete, in cooperation with external parties that share certain ideologies or common interests, and provide them with the necessary support, whether in:
- Rehabilitate some cadres to enable them to successfully complete the tasks assigned to them with ease and simplicity, especially with the advancement of technology and the enormous capabilities that save effort, time and money to accomplish what used to require extraordinary capabilities and potential in the past.
- Providing information and communications technology.
- Hiring some experts from inside or outside the country in certain fields to learn simple methods of how to use weapons that rely on artificial intelligence and manufacture simple weapons that do not require difficult capabilities or materials but have the ability to have a great and unexpected impact, in addition to not facing restrictions or laws.
- Using cyber-attacks to become a decisive weapon in disputes between countries, and cyberspace is often outside the territory of the recognized state, as it is a field without clear borders.
- Hybrid wars are difficult to predict because they do not follow a specific form or fixed rule, and the great impact they cause. All the above makes it easy for some small countries to benefit from technological progress and external cooperation to build flexibility and compete effectively on the global stage, which may lead to unexpected or calculated shocks with ease and simplicity.

For states that lack technological capabilities the best way to overcome this status is to take part in partnerships, to transfer technologies and invest in their domestic development industrial base. This incremental stance will provide the best results and increased autonomy through time.

The answer could vary depending on the level of technical and economic capabilities of individual county. However, by and large, In the short term, it is most efficient to purchase the essential technical capabilities from regional powers and strategic partners. At the same time, each country should not miss the opportunity to receive technology transfers as possible based on the security policy of government while proceeding with the contract.

Also, investing in R&D is another key factor. It gives opportunities to encourage innovation and bolster potential capabilities.

Lastly, the FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) could be a good method to reinforce the technological business infrastructure and to facilitate technology transfer from foreign companies.

States lacking the technological capabilities of larger powers can effectively develop their domestic ability to compete by adopting a multifaceted approach that leverages both internal and external resources.

- Firstly, investing in education and skill development is crucial to build a knowledgeable workforce capable of driving technological innovation. Establishing specialized institutions and fostering STEM education can lay the groundwork for future advancements.
- Secondly, public-private partnerships can accelerate technological development. By collaborating with domestic and international private sector companies, states can access cutting-edge technologies and best practices. These partnerships can also facilitate technology transfers and joint ventures, which are essential for developing indigenous capabilities.
- Thirdly, states should focus on creating an enabling environment for innovation through supportive policies and infrastructure. Providing incentives for research and development, protecting intellectual property rights, and ensuring robust regulatory frameworks can attract both domestic and foreign investment in technology sectors.
- Additionally, states can benefit from strategic alliances and foreign partnerships. Engaging in international collaborations and participating in global technology networks can provide access to new technologies and markets. Technology transfers and foreign direct investments from technologically advanced countries can help bridge the gap.

Finally, diversifying supply chains and focusing on niche areas where they can develop competitive advantages can also be beneficial. By identifying and investing in specific technological domains where they can excel, states can carve out unique positions in the global market.

In summary, a combination of education, public-private partnerships, supportive policies, international collaborations, and strategic focus on niche areas can enable states to effectively develop their domestic technological capabilities and compete on a global scale.

The states lacking the technological capabilities of larger powers can effectively develop their domestic ability to compete by adopting the approaches such as:

- By investing and strengthening the research and development which helps to produce skilled manpower and create new innovations.
- By focusing on cost effective renewable energy technologies and specialized defense systems.
- By seeking foreign investment and technology transfers.
- By collaborating with the private sector through public-private partnerships can accelerate technological advancement.
- By engaging in bilateral agreements, regional/international cooperation, or joining technology-centric alliances.
- By developing and enhancing indigenous technologies and capabilities tailored to local needs which reduces their dependency of foreign support.

How can security / defense institutions enhance their abilities to counter misinformation / disinformation?

Sampled Responses:

It is becoming more important than anything else to have the ability to counter misinformation and disinformation and I believe that international cooperation should keep going on enhancing these counter capabilities.
- Developing Information sharing system : With allied and partners, international efforts to develop the system should be reinforced to identify and verify credible information sources.
- Developing AI/ML tool : this is a part of technological solutions. This tool can detect and analyze the false information in the flood of data.
- Strengthening cooperation between governmental and civilian sectors. Domestically, it will be a good partner to respond jointly and quickly during misinformation and disinformation campaigns.

By maximizing their transparency as institutions and making necessary information available and accessible.

Security and defense institutions can enhance their ability to counter misinformation and disinformation through a multifaceted approach. This includes utilizing AI and cybersecurity to detect and prevent false information, the risk that comes from the emerging disruptive technologies. Educating the public and personnel through media literacy programs and maintaining proactive and transparent communication.

Collaboration with other agencies, international partners, and social media platforms is crucial/imperative, along with supporting regulations that address misinformation. Strategic communication is crucial when it comes to partners and allies!

Investing in research to understand disinformation tactics and developing crisis response plans are also essential. Engaging with local communities to educate them and creating feedback mechanisms to report false information further strengthen these efforts.

I believe that this should be solved directly (from the institutions themselves) and indirectly (through work with the public). Within institutions/agencies/gov-orgs it is necessary to establish a system of detection, validation and reaction to such activities. On the outside, wider action should be ensured by strengthening society's resistance to such campaigns, and this can be achieved by encouraging comprehensive and continuous education, by empowering trustworthy public sector media services, by establishing and making visible fact-check orgs/platforms, …, at the end it comes down to awareness at the individual level.

<u>What challenge or factor exists that could overcome mistrust in the region and build greater
security cooperation?</u>

Sampled Responses:

Balance in dealing with security and military conflicts, whether in stages of escalation or in
existing crises, is the basis upon which trust is built between all parties and in all directions,
whether from the great powers to others and vice versa, as relying on tolerance and overlooking
the double standards practiced by some powers, this reliance is not in place if we know that the
demography of countries, the culture of their populations, the strength of their institutions, and
the authority of their governments are all fragile and changing with time, and the way these
countries - as governments - deal with various issues will change accordingly.

The ocean is too vast for a single country to address all the problems alone and the bad actors are
too many with abundance of resources and network to make any country unstable and insecure.
Factors such as human trafficking, arms trafficking, money laundering, piracy, illegal dumping,
IUU-fishing, environmental crimes, cybercrimes and Drug trafficking to name just a few is
beyond the capability of any State. These issues can only be addressed through bilateral, regional
and multilateral cooperation. It requires all of us to rally our resources with a common goal that
is to make the sea a safer place for the freedom of navigation and free trade. Many countries in
the region have poor infrastructure in place, lack of coast guard and naval capabilities and assets,
poor legislation in place, lack of political will, poor maritime domain awareness and architecture
in place, lack of domestic law. These internal factors require more trust among each other for
greater security cooperation. These problems can be tackled by more military-to-military
engagement, exchange of program by working for a common goal. The problem affecting
neighboring countries and regions has a direct and indirect effect on all of us as we all by sea.
This requires all of us to trust our partner nations and work towards greater security and
economic cooperation such as participating in regional and multi-national exercises, sharing of
MDA, engaging in Shiprider program, and engaging in regional and international treaty and
program towards enhancing greater security cooperation.

The foremost factor is a diverse national interest. Each country has their own priorities and
interests based on geopolitical locations, economic size, and historical perceptions. It is a reality
to pursue one's own national interests in terms of diplomacy. In accordance with this context, it
is hard to align with all strategic direction. For example, India has purchased the largest amount
of Russian oil ever. India had been subject to economic sanctions for about 30 years from the
international community led by the United States for its nuclear development, and its per capita
GDP is $2,000, which is about 30 times different from that of the United States. I believe that it
could be contradictory India should always be on the same boat as the United States and
advanced European countries.

Likewise, when it comes to the expansion of China's influence in Indian Ocean region, opinions
of each country may be divided into likes and dislikes.

Besides this, historical sentiment, political instability, and gaps in economic and military
capabilities also could affect these matters.

The main factor that is not tied to the military Power but to the Future is Plastic Pollution. As we saw last days, plastic pollution concentrates in the Pacific area due to maritime currents. Fighting it is a key issue and can be done without competition issues. Addressing this problem could drive technological developments to address the following : remove plastic from the ocean, improve monitoring devices. It can be a ground reason for peaceful and trustful cooperation as this pollution concerns everyone in the area: countries, fishing industries, human food, navigation threat.

Achievement of Indo-Pacific prosperity is a factor that could overcome mistrust in the region. When nations and their people have solved their practical issues then trust and subsequently better security cooperation relationships will be built. It's all about money at the end of the day and if prosperity "hits" the Indo-pacific region then better relationships will be built slowly. Poverty and no prosperity are always reasons for not showing trust and not building cooperation ties especially in the security and defense sectors.

WORKSHOP RECORD:

Monday, 22 July 2024

0700–0800   Registration Time

0800   **Course Begins**

0800–0830   **Course Director's Welcome**
             Speaker: *Mr. Jeffrey Payne, Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0830–0900   **Deputy Director's Welcome**
             Speaker: *COL (ret) David Lamm, Deputy Director, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0900–0915   Break

0915 – 1030 **Inaugural Session: U.S. Engagement and Outreach in the Indian Ocean Region**
             Moderator: *Mr. Jeffrey Payne, Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
             Speaker: *Dr. Thomas F. Lynch III, Distinguished Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Research (CSR), Institute of National Strategic Studies (INSS), National Defense University*

1030–1040   Break

1040–1100   GlobalNet Briefing
             Speaker: *Ms. Gillian Hurtt, Education Technology Specialist, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

1100   **Conclusion of ES Day 1**

Tuesday, 23 July 2024

0800–0830   Online Check in, Networking Session

0830–0945   **Session 01: U.S. Views on the NESA Region**
             Moderator: *Mr. Jeffrey Payne, Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
             Speaker: *Dr. Michael Sharnoff, Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0945–1000   Break

1000–1100   **Session 02: NESA Regional Perspectives – Indian Ocean Regional Cooperation**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***VADM (ret) Pradeep Chauhan,*** *Director, Forum for Strategic and Security Studies (FSSS)*

1100   Conclusion of Day

Wednesday, 24 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0830   **Session 03: The Indo-Pacific**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Dr. Joel Wuthnow,*** *Senior Research Fellow in the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs, Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), National Defense University (NDU)*

0830–0845   Break

0845–1015   **Session 04: Perspectives from the United States Coast Guard**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne***, *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Ms. Holly A. Haverstick***, *Director, International Affairs and Foreign Policy Advisor, United States Coast Guard*

1015   **Conclusion of Day**

Thursday, 25 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0815   **Session 05: The Region from an Island State Perspective**
Moderator: ***Dr. Michael Sharnoff,*** *Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Adm (Ret) S.A.M. Jayantha Perera,*** *former Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy and Maritime Consultant, McLarens Group*

0815–0830   Break

0830–0945   **Session 6: Views on the NESA Region from the Interagency**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

Speaker: ***LTG (ret) Terry Wolff,*** *Senior Director Middle East, National Security Council*

0945   **Conclusion of Day**

Friday, 26 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0815   **Session 07: Challenging Trends and International Law**
Moderator: ***Dr. Michael Sharnoff,*** *Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Dr. Ian Ralby,*** *President, I.R. Consilium*

0815–0830   Break

0830–1015   **Session 08: The Strategic Debate regarding the Indian Ocean Region**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speakers: ***Dr. Shahab Khan,*** *Bangladesh Center for Indo-Pacific Affairs, Bangladesh*
Dr. Jean-Loup Samaan, *Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore*

1015   Conclusion of Day

Monday, 29 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0830   **Session 09: Considerations from the Western Pacific**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne***, *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speakers: ***Dr. Scott Edwards,*** *Free and Open Indo-Pacific Fellow, Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies*
Dr. Stephen R. Nagy, *Professor of Politics, and International Studies International Christian University (ICU), Tokyo, Japan*

0830–0845   Break

0845–1015   **Session 10: The Western Indian Ocean / Views from East Africa**
Moderator: ***Dr. Michael Sharnoff,*** *Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speakers: ***Dr. Assis Malaquias,*** *Dean, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*
Mr. Sam Gontier, *Director, Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC)*
Ms. Emma Hoareau, *Legal Advisor, Auxilium Worldwide*

1015   Conclusion of Day / Introduction of Group Activity (GlobalNet Sign-On Required)

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0800   **Session 11: Technology and Domain Awareness**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne***, *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Ms. Schuyler Moore***, *Chief Technology Officer, United States Central Command*

0800–0815   Break

0815–0930   **Session 12: Public-Private Partnerships within Security**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Mr. Bryan Wilson***, *International Outreach, Defense Innovation Unit, United States Department of Defense*

0930–1015   **Group Activity – Data, Trust, and Cooperative Security**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
All participants will engage in a virtual activity designed to determine how calculations regarding greater security are determined amongst the expertise of the participants. All responses will remain anonymous, though integrated into the final report of the seminar. The scenarios presented are based on real world issues, but unattached to any particular location or country to assist in the activity.

1015   Conclusion of Day

Wednesday, 31 July 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0815   **Session 13: Underwater Domain Awareness – Considerations from the Indian Ocean Region**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne***, *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Dr. Cdr. Arnab Das,*** *Founder, Maritime Research Center*

0815–0830   Break

0830–0930   **Special Session: Views from Australia and the Royal Australian Navy**
Moderator: ***Dr. Michael Sharnoff,*** *Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

Speaker: *CAPT Alastair Cooper, Director, Sea Power Centre of Australia*

0930–0940   Break

0940–1100   **Session 14: Strategic Competition and the Indo-Pacific**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne**, Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Dr. Sameer Lalwani,** Senior Expert, South Asia, United States Institute of Peace*

1045   Conclusion of Day

Thursday, 1 August 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0800   **Session 15: Lessons from U.S. Domain Awareness Efforts**
Moderator: ***Dr. Michael Sharnoff,** Associate Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Dr. John Mittleman,** Naval Center for Space Technology, Naval Research Laboratory*

0800–0815   Break

0815–0930   **Special Conversation: A Leader's View on Maritime Challenges**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,** Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*
Speaker: ***Admiral (ret). James G. Foggo,** former Commander of United States Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Dean, Center for Maritime Strategy at the Navy League of the United States*

0930–1000   **Topical Conversation: Summary of Activity Findings**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,** Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

1000   Conclusion of Day

Friday, 2 August 2024

0630–0700   Online Check in, Networking Session

0700–0745   **Session 16: A Course Review and Insights from NESA Faculty during an Election Year (a Roundtable of Observations)**
Moderator: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,** Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

Speakers: ***Professor Richard Wiersema, Dr. Michael Sharnoff,*** *and* ***Professor Anne Moisan,*** *NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0745–0800   Break

0800–0815   **Academic Dean's Farewell**
Speaker: ***Dr. Roger Kangas,*** *Academic Dean, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0815–0830   **Director's Farewell**
Speaker: ***Ambassador (ret.) James DesRocher,*** *Director, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0830–0900   **Community Connectivity Tools Briefing: Alumni & Media**
Speakers: ***Mr. Christopher Muller*** *and* ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0900–0915   **Course Director's Farewell**
Speaker: ***Mr. Jeffrey Payne,*** *Assistant Professor, NESA Center for Strategic Studies*

0915   Course Conclusion and Farewell Announcements

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

Overall Responses to the course are (out of a 5-point scale, with 1 being lowest and 5 highest):

- Quality of the Speakers
    - 4.2
- Quality of the Sessions
    - 4.1
- The Diversity of the Sessions
    - 4.4
- The Length of the Course/Sessions
    - 3.0
- Favorite Element of Seminar
    - Undersea Domain Awareness; Space Policy/Low Earth Orbit Imagery; Transnational Criminality Discussions; Maritime Law; Deep Dive into U.S. approach to Indo-Pacific
- Recommendations for Improvement
    - Greater diversity amongst speakers (more from outside the U.S.); Next iteration should be in person; reflect on timing of event (recommend late night U.S. local time to reach more); reflect on length of course in a digital format.