

## NESA CT Senior Executive Seminar



CT SES participants take a group photo in front of the National Defense University.

WASHINGTON—May 8-19, 2017— The NESA Center held the second iteration of its core Senior Executive Seminar (SES) on Countering Transnational Threats (CT), entitled ‘Global Challenges – Regional Solutions Major Regional and Global Actors’ Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism.’

Over 42 senior military and government officials from 22 NESA countries including Armenia, Lebanon, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka as well as the U.S., attended the two-week long seminar. The CT seminar directed by NESA Professor John Wood, is designed for counterterrorism practitioners, and seeks to build capacity and enhance regional partnerships.



Professor Larry Velte discussing North Africa with participants.

Participants learned to analyze critical topics such as CT considerations in urban areas, U.S. law enforcement in counterterrorism, regional perspectives within the NESA region including North Africa, Afghanistan, Syria, the Gulf, South and Central Asia and Iran, as well as dealing with ongoing nuclear threats.



Participants engaged in conversation during a break.

Professor Wood assembled a group of international security experts, including Ambassador Ronald Neumann, President of the American Academy of Diplomacy, Dr. Andrew Small, Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and Brigadier Gurmeet Kanwal (Ret.), Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, to discuss their interpretations of global transnational threats to SES participants.

Professor Wood also took the opportunity, during the course of the seminar to take a field study visit to the Harper’s Ferry National Park in West Virginia.

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## Illicit Commons Workshop Part II



Seminar participants take a group photo in Tunis, Tunisia.

TUNIS, Tunisia—May 15-19, 2017— The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies in partnership U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) conducted an "Illicit Commons: Countering Narcotics from Latin America to Africa Workshop" in Tunis, Tunisia.

The event was designed to provide a non-attribution venue for senior professionals from African countries and countries from the Americas to examine the impact of illicit trafficking that transcends the challenges to either continent alone.



Counter-narcotic professionals seen during an interactive session.

The Working Group addressed but was not limited to: the evolving and growing nature of the problems of illicit commons; the security challenges posed by illicit commons counternarcotic strategies; mapping the national threat of narcotics, arms and human trafficking; arms trafficking and how best to deal with the threat; national programs and

initiatives –what works and where are the gaps; dealing with illicit commons with regional solutions and regional cooperation; and people, immigration, human trafficking and returning fighters. The objective was to clearly lay out the extent of the problem in Africa and the Americas, how they are interrelated, as well as share lessons learned and best practices.

Approximately 40 Senior professionals from countries of Africa (2-Algeria, 4-Burkina Faso, 3-Chad, 1-Egypt, 3-Ghana, 2-Libya, 2-Mauritania, 4-Morocco, 4-Niger and 4-Tunisia) and the Americas (1-Barbados, 1-Brazil, 1-Columbia, 1-Jamaica), plus CAPT Mark Asuncion, Mr. Kenneth Diamond, Mr. Christopher Beltrand from AFRICOM/J5, Mr. Peter Lampkins, Country Attaché, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, and Mr. Mark Bent, Regional Senior Justice and Security Coordinator, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, US Embassy Niger. Professor Anne Moisan from NESA directed the workshop.

### Upcoming NESA Center Events

**ARCENT CASA**  
Symposium  
June 19-23

**Air War College Seminar**  
July 7

**Border Security**  
Seminar  
July 10-14

**PAK-MIL CENTCOM**  
Seminar  
July 10-21

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## International Military Officers Forum



NESA IMOF participants learning about the international coalition work against Daesh.

WASHINGTON—May 1-5, 2017— As part of NESA’s annual engagement session with U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) coalition officers, the Center held the ‘International Military Officer’s Forum on the Trump Administration and International Security.’

28 representatives from CENTCOM, including 23 senior military officers from 18 U.S. partner countries, spent a week at the NESA Center learning from U.S. foreign policy experts on the trajectory of American security in an ever-changing political climate.



Participants interacting during a session.

Led by NESA Professor Dr. Richard Russell, the seminar introduced CENTCOM officers to pertinent national security topics including the Trump Administrations challenges with Turkey, the progress on the international coalition to fight Daesh, current U.S. policy towards counter-terrorism and nuclear weapons, as well as Russia’s role in confronting the Trump administration in Europe and the Middle East.

Professor Russell directed the course with the intention of providing the officers an opportunity

to learn more about the potential trends and behaviors that President Trump will likely follow throughout his time as the leader of international affairs in America.

Several notable regional and foreign policy experts presented their analysis on the Trump administrations views towards security policy, including Dr. Michael Brown, Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University, Mr. Ryan Evans, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of War on The Rocks, and Dr. Soner Cagaptay, Director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.



NESA Professor Richard Russell addressing participants during their welcome reception.

Concurrently joining the International Military officers, were the NESA Center’s Point-of-Contact (POC) Seminar participants from Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Mauritania, and Oman. POC representatives are NESA’s partners in region who are responsible for processing participants for sponsored courses and working in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar.

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## Libyan Track II Meeting



Participants for the NESAs-afRICOM Libyan Track II outside Tunis.

TUNIS, Tunisia– May 18-19, 2017– The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies in partnership with Mr. Kamal ben Younes, a NESA Alumnus and Director of International Studies and Communication Institute (INCOME), as well as General Director of Societe Radio Zitouna and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) conducted a “Libyan Track II” meeting in Tunis, Tunisia. This was the first in a series of Libyan Track II events planned for FY17-18.

The event was designed to provide a non-attribution venue for senior professionals from Libya and their North African neighbors to examine the Libyan and regional perspectives on the challenges and way ahead for the Libyan people. The goal was to establish a workable understanding of critical issues on the ground in Libya as they appear to a wide spectrum of Libyan “voices.” The meeting addressed but was not limited to: the vision of reconciliation in Libya; where do we currently stand; Security Sector challenges: the militias and DDDR; regional solutions and initiatives; and the way ahead.

Approximately 20 Senior professionals attended from Egypt (2), Libya (9), Tunisia (4), the United Nations (1) and the U.S. (4). Ambassador Hanoh from the Tunisia Foreign Ministry briefed on the “Regional Initiative” for Libya, a coordinated North African diplomatic solution to the Libyan crisis. Professor Anne Moisan from NESA directed the workshop.

## Phoenix Express Exercise 2017



Senior security professionals, discussing advancing of maritime security.

CARTAGENA, Spain–May 16, 2017– The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies in partnership with USAFRICOM and NAVEUR conducted a senior leader symposium in conjunction with the Phoenix Express maritime exercise in Cartagena, Spain.

The event was designed to provide a venue for senior security professionals to discuss issues related to maritime security and transnational threats. The symposium was structured to encourage honest dialogue and discussions about how to more effectively coordinate international efforts toward advancing maritime security.

Each session was moderated by NESA course director Dr. Jennifer Jefferis, and focused on participant speakers in round table discussions. Topics included but were not limited to: Transnational Threats in the Region; Migration Challenges; and Regional Cooperation Efforts and Solutions. The workshop concluded with a “brainstorming” session with participants providing final comments and recommendations. Approximately 24 senior security sector professionals from Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Greece, Portugal, France and the U.S. attended.

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## ARCENT Senior Strategic Seminar



ARCENT participants take a group photo.

WASHINGTON—May 1- 4, 2017— The NESACenter, along with U.S. Army Central (ARCEN), completed the third series of their Senior Strategic Seminars. Over 25 senior military officers from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the U.S. participated in the seminar, which focused exclusively on the Levant and Gulf regions.

With the academic lead by NESACenter Professor Daniel Curfiss and hosted by ARCENT Commander LTG Michael Garrett, the seminar addressed several crucial topics that would impact the region in the future including Iranian power projections, ethnic, sectarian, and tribal conflicts, the global coalition to counter Daesh, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and alternative approaches to countering extremism.

Expert researchers and practitioners in the field, including Mr. Michael Singh, Managing Director at the Washington Institute, Mr. John Gallagher, former President and CEO of the Institute for Global Engagement, and Dr. Paul Pillar, Professor at Georgetown University, presented to participants as well. U.S. military officers also had the opportunity to conduct bi-lateral meetings with their counterparts from the NESACenter region during the seminar.

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## Faculty Publications

Bahgat, Gawdat. 2017. "The Emerging Energy Landscape: Economic and Strategic Implications." The Changing Security Dynamics of the Persian Gulf.

Jefferis, Jennifer. 2017. "ISIS Administrative and Territorial Organization." IEMED.

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