

NESA Executive Seminar



ES participants receiving a briefing on global trends and challenges in the region.

WASHINGTON—March 5-16, 2018— As part of the foundation program series, the NESA Center held its tri-annual Executive Seminar (ES) focusing on 'The Next Era of Innovation.' The ES is designed for mid-level military and government officials from countries throughout the NESA region to engage with each other, as well as NESA Center faculty and subject matter experts, on topics of critical importance to those in the region.

Over 40 participants from 23 NESA countries, throughout North Africa, the Middle East, as well as South and Central Asia and the United States, attended the two-week seminar led by NESA Assistant Professor Brianne Todd.

This Executive Seminar gave participants an overview of the role technology can play in the development of an economically vibrant civil-society. The goal of the seminar was to help participants analyze past and current trends for development within their countries and identify a plan of action to drive innovation and economic growth, both of which are necessary for strong national security institutions.

Participants gained an understanding of a variety of topics related to innovation, such as global trends and challenges, American innovation, cyber and asymmetric threats, artificial intelligence, crypto-currencies, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship in the NESA region, and incubating innovation. Professor Todd hosted subject matter experts such as Dr. Arthur Daemrich, Director, Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, Smithsonian Institution, and Mr. Ben Solomon, Founder and Managing Partner, FedTech, to present their analyses on how innovation could impact the NESA region as each country further develops its civil-society.



NESA Professors Anne Moisan (C) and Brianne Todd (R) interacting with ES participants.

As the seminar was held in Washington, D.C, participants had the opportunity to make site-visits to the U.S. Capitol and the National Museum of American History to learn more on how innovation contributes to establishing pillars essential to national defense. Professor Todd separated participants into four breakout groups arranged by region (North Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East) and tasked each with identifying a solution to dilemmas common to the region as a whole. Each region focused on self-specific national security problems including migration, refugees, women empowerment, and youth unemployment. Each group won submission for their proposals, which were entered into the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

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UAE Command and General Staff College D.C. Site Visit



UAE CGSC participants take notes during a session on the future of Iraq.

WASHINGTON—March 11-17, 2018— NESA Professor David DesRoches hosted 25 officers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Command and General Staff College (CGSC), on a site-visit to the NESA Center, during a field-visit in Washington, D.C.

25 mid-senior level officers of the UAE CGSC participated in the one-week course, which focused on national security reformation and critical issues facing the region.

Participants furthered their study on a variety of topics related to foreign policy and national security including the U.S. National Security Council structure, the future for warfare, the evolving threat of Iranian hybrid warfare, the future of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as challenge and reform in the Middle East.



NESA Professor John Wood explains the U.S. National Security Council structure to participants.

Professor DesRoches enlisted the support of several highly distinguished policy experts including Dr. Denise Natali, Director, Center for Strategic Research, Institute of National Security Studies, Ambassador Steven Seche, Executive Vice President, Arab Gulf States Institute, and Ambassador Adam Ereli, Former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, to provide critical analysis of crises relevant to the UAE.

UAE CGSC officers also took site-visits to Capitol Hill, Fort McHenry, Quantico, and participated in policy discussions with representatives from the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Faculty Publications

Bahgat, Gawdat (contributor). 2018. "Fault Lines – the Sinai Peninsula." Global Cultural Knowledge Network.

Des Roches, David. 2018. "How to Analyze the Missile Attacks on Saudi Arabia." Arab Gulf States Institute of Washington.

Saudi Arabian War College Seminar



SWC officers take note and discuss the current crisis in Yemen.

WASHINGTON—March 18-25, 2018— NESA Professor David DesRoches led a delegation of 20 senior military officers (of all branches) from the Royal Saudi Arabian War College for a one-week seminar at the NESA Center.

The NESA Center facilitates this annual seminar in an effort to provide Saudi Arabian military officers enrolled in their War College the opportunity to study national security topics of critical importance to their region.

Saudi Arabian participants in the seminar gained new perspective on the U.S. national security



NESA Professor DesRoches, an expert in Gulf affairs, gives a presentation on critical events in the region.

structure, Russian and Iranian hybrid-warfare, the crisis in Yemen, Iran's nuclear program, China's influence in the Middle East, as well as political uncertainties within the region.

The delegation also received in-depth briefings from officials in the Pentagon and the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, D.C. Colonel Kelly Rosenberger, U.S. Advisor to the Saudi Arabian War College also attended the seminar with the group.

National security professionals including Ms. Mimi Burke, Affiliated Advisor, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck,

Ambassador Gerald Feierstein, Director of Gulf Affairs, Middle East Institute, and Mike Eisenstadt, Kahn Fellow and Director of Military and Security Studies Program, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, offered their expertise on Middle East affairs to the Saudi War College participants.

Upcoming NESA Center Events

**Lebanese Armed Forces
Seminar**
April 2-13

**NESA Silk Road Future
Leaders Seminar**
April 2-6

**Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces
Seminar**
April 5-6

**NESA CT Senior
Executive Seminar**
April 30-May 11

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DSCA Director LTG Hooper Visits NESA



WASHINGTON—March 1, 2018— The NESA Center was honored to host Defense Security Cooperation Agency Director LTG Charles Hooper for a productive meeting with NESA senior leadership. Seen here (L-R), NESA Deputy Director David Lamm and LTG Charles Hooper.

UAE National Defense College at NESA



Kirsten Fontenrose (R) Senior Director for Gulf Affairs, National Security Council briefing participants.

WASHINGTON—March 12-14, 2018— A delegation of senior participants from the United Arab Emirates National Defense College, on their two week study visit to Washington D.C., discussed matters of national importance including the campaign against Daesh with NESA Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff as well as the evolution of the U.S. National Security Strategy with NESA Professor John Wood.

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NESA-Saudi Arabia JPME



WASHINGTON—March 16-17, 2018— NESA Center senior leadership along with Professor David DesRoches held a series of meetings over two days with senior Saudi Arabian Defense officials on continuing to grow Joint Professional Military Education partnerships between both countries.

Partnership for Peace Consortium Workshop



NESA Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff briefs PfP participants on Daesh, and the crises in Iraq and Syria.

WASHINGTON—March 28-29, 2018— NESA Professor David DesRoches directed a two-day workshop on how to prepare a counter-terrorism curriculum for leading researchers and academicians in a NATO working group with the Partnership for Peace Consortium. NESA Director LTG (ret.) Terry Wolff gave the keynote address and also presented to the working group on Daesh, Iraq, and Syria.

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