



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

NESA Update

May 2022 – July 2022

NESA Region Trends – LEVANT

- **The political crisis in Israel is not over.** Next November the country will have the fourth election in five years. As of now, another election cannot be ruled out as it seems that no party will win enough votes to form a new government.
- **Despite Lebanon's severe economic crisis,** Hezbollah is still a major political power. The drone attacks by Hezbollah against disputed gas fields with Israel can be seen as an attempt by Hezbollah to assert its position as the defender of Lebanese rights.
- **It seems that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has won the war,** but after a decade-long civil war in Syria, some Arab countries seek to normalize relations with Assad as he regains control over most of the country. However, Arab countries remain suspicious of Assad and reject increased Russian and Iranian influence in the region. Thus, Syria's full reintegration into the Arab League will be difficult to achieve without a pan-Arab consensus.
- The idea of an **Arab NATO or Middle East NATO**, which started under President Trump, has resurged. Israel has already signed formal defense agreements with Bahrain and Morocco. Military cooperation is going on with other Arab countries as well. King Abdullah of Jordan gave an interview to a U.S. TV station and made it clear that Jordan will join such an alliance. President Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia is certain to further promote this proposal. However, Washington's promotion for a Middle East NATO is not universally supported in the region and faces criticism from Qatar, Iraq, and Kuwait.

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Engagement • Education • Outreach

NESA Programs & Events

Russian Invasion of Ukraine – Regional Survey Report

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has dealt yet another challenge with global economic and humanitarian repercussions. In April 2022, the NESA Center surveyed its global alumni network of almost 12,000 security professionals from more than 150 countries to assess the global impact of the invasion, as well as regional attitudes and trends across the NESA Area of Responsibility and beyond.

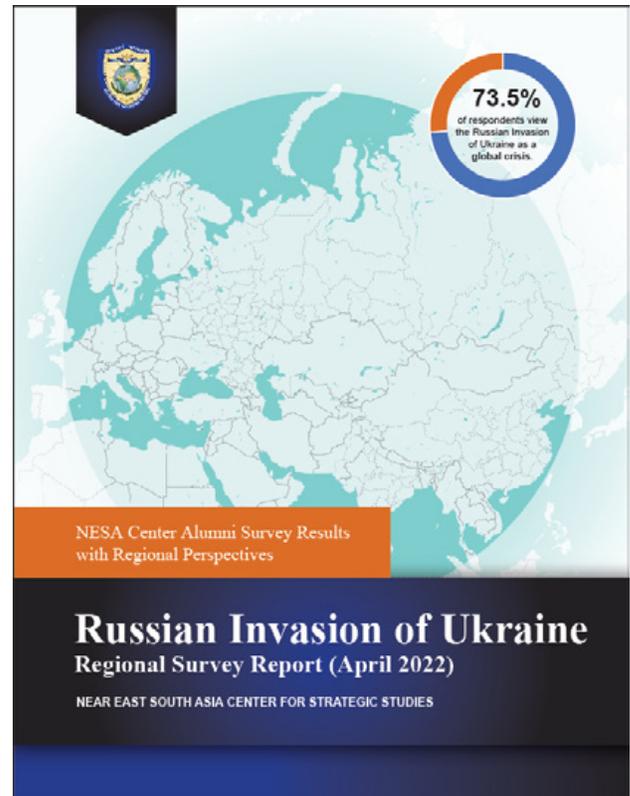
The survey contained a set of twenty questions about the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War and was translated into Arabic, Dari, French, and Russian. Nearly 450 responses from more than 50 countries were received, which contained thoughtful insights and critical data points to consider. These insights have been communicated to the leadership of the United States Department of Defense and throughout the United States Government and will help to shape NESA Center program curricula in the years to come.

This is the fourth survey sent to NESA Center Alumni under the COVID-19 pandemic work environment. The findings of the survey have been compiled into the following report and the results are accompanied by graphs for visual aid.

<https://nesa-center.org/russian-invasion-of-ukraine-regional-survey-report>

[View the Report: Russian Invasion of Ukraine Regional Survey Report \[PDF\]](#)

[Watch the Briefing of the Report \[ENGLISH\]](#)
[\[ARABIC\]](#) [\[FRENCH\]](#) [\[RUSSIAN\]](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Israel/Jordan Trust to Enhance Defense and Security Cooperation Seminar

From 6 to 10 June, the NESA Center conducted a five-day seminar titled “Arab-Israeli Conflict: Israel/Jordan Trust to Enhance Defense and Security Cooperation Seminar” to assess ways to establish peace and security cooperation between Israel and Jordan. The seminar was designed to offer a unique forum for discussing strategic issues directly with Israeli and Jordanian counterparts from the NESA Region, U.S. government officials, subject-matter experts, scholars, and advisors. The seminar was held in Washington, DC, and consisted of nine distinct sessions. Specific themes included an assessment of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the United States’ strategic relationship with Jordan and Israel, maritime, energy and water security, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, and the Abraham Accords. The seminar was facilitated by Associate Professor Dr. Michael Sharnoff and featured Deputy Director COL (Ret.) David Lamm, and Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas. <https://nesa-center.org/israel-jordan-trust-to-enhance-defense-and-security-cooperation-seminar>

Israel/Jordan Trust to Enhance Defense & Security Cooperation Seminar

6–10 June 2022



Group photo of the Israel/Jordan Trust to Enhance Defense and Security Cooperation Seminar at National Defense University in Washington, DC.

NESA Programs & Events

Pakistan National Defense University Visit

From 11–15 June 2022, the NESA Center hosted a delegation from Pakistan’s National Defense University visiting Washington, DC. The 20 participants included faculty and students from both the military and the civilian interagency in Pakistan, culminating their year-long course of study. The group also included four officers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia who completed their course of study in Pakistan.

The delegation took part in multiple discussions led by experts who have served or are serving in senior positions in the U.S government dealing with national security. NESA Center’s Professor Richard Wiersema and Dean Charles Marks delivered presentations on U.S. history, the history of Fort McNair, the professional military education system, and the National Defense University. Frank Hoffman, a Distinguished Research Fellow from the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), focused on U.S. National Security and Defense Strategy. Neil Hop, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Pakistan, discussed U.S.-Pakistan relations from the past up until now. The Program Operational Director was Marjory Schleicher and the Course Director was Dean Charles Marks.

<https://nesa-center.org/pakistan-national-defense-university-visit>

Pakistan National Defense University Visit

11–15 June 2022



A delegation group photograph from Pakistan's National Defense University visiting Washington, DC.

NESA Programs & Events

MABAL – Israel National Defense College Washington Program

On 21 June 2022, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies hosted 24 students and faculty from the Israel National Defense College (INDC) at Lincoln Hall on Fort McNair in Washington, DC. NESA Center Director LTG Terry A. Wolff, USA (Ret.) headed a discussion on the Russia-Ukraine War and fielded questions about U.S. government policy regarding potential outcomes from that conflict. Dr. Aaron David Miller from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace then conducted a 90-minute seminar on challenges and traditions in American foreign policy. The group finished up with a walking tour of the National Defense University (NDU) campus and a vigorous discussion with NESA Center Professors Richard Wiersema and Charles Marks about the nature and purpose of senior professional military education. <https://nesa-center.org/mabal-israel-national-defense-college-washington-program>

MABAL – INDC Washington Program

21 June 2022



Group Photo of the Israel National Defense College Washington Program.

NESA Programs & Events

NESA Maritime Series: Indian Ocean Island Forum

From 20–22 June 2022, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted the IOR Island State Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. Participants hailed from 18 different countries throughout the Indian Ocean Region. The event, a component of NESA's ongoing programmatic efforts devoted to the Indian Ocean and the larger Indo-Pacific, focused on the challenges faced by island states. Topics covered included Exclusive Economic Zone protection, environmental security, maritime domain awareness enhancement, and coastal and digital infrastructure, among others. The event featured the support of several academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and U.S. government institutions. The forum was led by Assistant Professor Jeffrey Payne with Marjory Schleicher and Emily Santucci providing logistical support. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-maritime-series-indian-ocean-island-forum>

NESA Maritime Series: Indian Ocean Island Forum

20–22 June 2022



Group Photo of the forum held from 20–22 June 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

NESA Programs & Events

Air War College Visit – Washington Program

On 23 June 2022, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA Center) hosted 52 international fellows and faculty from the Air War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. The students were briefed by NESA Center Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat and NESA Center Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas on the security dynamics of the Middle East as well as Central and South Asia. Following lunch, Africa Center for Strategic Studies (Africa Center) Professor Dr. Anouar Boukhars and William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (Perry Center) Professor Dr. Patrick Paterson led discussions on countering violent extremism in Africa and the security challenges in Latin America. Dr. Gawdat Bahgat facilitated the seminar, with Omar Sedky providing logistical support. <https://nesa-center.org/air-war-college-visit-washington-program>

Air War College Visit – Washington Program

23 June 2022



Group Photo of the Air War College Visit on 23 June 2022.

NESA Programs & Events

Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar

From 13–24 June 2022, the Near East South Asia Center’s professional military education (PME) team conducted a CAPSTONE strategic leader education program for 19 general officers, nine colonels, and two senior civil servants from Iraq. During the first week, the Iraq leaders attended twelve seminar discussions with U.S. national security strategy thought leaders and engaged them in debates over the nature, direction, and future of U.S. policy globally as well as in the Middle East.

In the second week, the National Defense University’s Center for Applied Strategic Learning (CASL) hosted the Iraqis to a strategic decision-making exercise focused on a hypothetical humanitarian crisis management scenario. The full program required robust support from across the entire NESA Center team, including faculty and program staff, plus experts from CASL and the U.S. Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq in Baghdad, under the direction of NESA Center’s Professor Richard Wiersema and Dean Charles Marks. The team will conduct a second iteration of this CAPSTONE program in August 2022 for another select audience of rising Iraqi senior leaders. <https://nesa-center.org/iraqi-general-officer-capstone-seminar>

Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar

13–24 June 2022



Group Photo of Iraqi General Officer Capstone Seminar (13–24 June 2022).

NESA Programs & Events

What Comes Next for the Caspian Region Following the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

On 28 and 29 June 2022, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA Center) along with the Caspian Policy Center (CPC) hosted the Caspian Security Conference titled **“What Comes Next for the Caspian Region Following the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.”** The virtual seminar consisted of two panels. The first panel, titled **“The Developing Roles of International Security Organizations in the Caspian Region,”** was welcomed by NESA Center Academic Dean and Caspian Policy Center Board member Dr. Roger Kangas and moderated by NESA Center Assistant Professor Brianne Todd. The panel discussed the evolving role that NATO, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) play in the Caspian region. The second panel, titled **“The Future of Asymmetric and Hybrid Threats in the Caspian Region,”** was introduced by Caspian Policy Center CEO Efgan Nifti and moderated by Caspian Policy Center Senior Fellow and Board Member Ambassador (Ret.) Allan Mustard. The panel discussed the asymmetric and hybrid threats faced by the Caspian states and how the United States and the region’s governments can work together to maintain resilience against future challenges. Each day, the panel met for about 90 minutes, which started off with short opening remarks from each speaker. The participants then submitted questions in the chat to our speakers, who provided thoughtful analysis and insights. <https://nesa-center.org/what-comes-next-for-the-caspian-region-following-the-russian-invasion-of-ukraine>



Panel 1 pictured above.

NESA Programs & Events

Community Oriented Policing & Countering Violent Extremism Seminar 2022

From 27–30 June 2022, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies hosted a seminar organized in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Interior titled “Community Oriented Policing and Countering Violent Extremism” in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The workshop was designed to help participants evaluate and analyze the nature and dynamics of major community policing challenges, especially in the realm of violent extremism, and deliberate on building counter-narratives to extremism. Welcome remarks from NESA Center Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, Course Director and NESA Center Distinguished Professor of International Relations Dr. Hassan Abbas, and NESA Center Deputy Director COL (Ret.) David Lamm followed by a welcome by Director General of the International Affairs Bureau UAE Ministry of Interior Lt. Colonel Dana Humaid Ai Marzouqi. The ten sessions focused on the scope and challenges of community policing, effective strategies of countering violent extremism, best practices, and what is to be done. Various case studies from South Asia were also presented to dig deeper into topics. The seminar was attended by two or three participants from each of the following 12 countries, namely, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, UAE, and Uzbekistan. <https://nesa-center.org/community-oriented-policing-countering-violent-extremism-seminar-2022>

Community Oriented Policing & Countering Violent Extremism Seminar 2022

27–30 June 2022



The Community Oriented Policing & Countering Violent Extremism Seminar speaker table with Hedayah Executive Director H.E. Ahmed Al Qasimi speaking to the group and Dr. Hassan Abbas and Jennifer Jefferis to the right.

NESA Programs & Events

NESA Center-USAFRICOM Workshops in Morocco

From 14 to 22 June 2022, the NESA Center, in partnership with USAFRICOM, hosted three back-to-back workshops in Casablanca, Morocco. The combined workshops hosted over 55 participants from across North Africa, the Sahel, Europe, and Latin America. These events marked the first return to in-person programming under the collaboration of NESA-AFRICOM since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first program from 14 to 15 June 2022, titled **“The Sahel – Mediterranean Compendium: Sharing Perspectives on the Current Security Situation and Future Obstacles in the Region,”** was hosted in partnership with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). The second workshop, held from 16 to 17 June 2022, was titled **“Transnational Threats and Transoceanic Borders.”** On 17 June, two separate by-invitation workshop sessions were convened: Fahad Malaikah moderated a session titled **“Youth: The World I Want to See and Create,”** and Professor Anne Moisan moderated a session on **“Women, Peace, and Security: Our Shared Vision of Tomorrow.”** The third workshop, held from 20 to 22 June 2022, was titled **“The New World Order: Future Trends and International Players.”** <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-center-usafricom-workshops-in-morocco>



Group photo of the first workshop from 14–15 June 2022.

NESA Center-USAFRICOM Workshops in Morocco

14–22 June 2022



Group photo of the second workshop from 16–17 June 2022 (left). Group photo of the third workshop from 20–22 June 2022 (right).

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Dr. Hassan Abbas



8 July 2022 – Held a book talk on “The Prophet’s Heir: The Life of Ali ibn Abi Talib” at the Arab American Museum in Dearborn, MI which was attended by roughly 75 people. <https://www.mainstay.us/prophetsheir>



22 June 2022 – Selected as a “Muslim Leader” fellow at the annual Acton University Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. <https://university.acton.org>

Dr. Gawdat Bahgat



1 June 2022 – Wrote an article on the Russian-Ukrainian war and its impact on global stability for the June 2022 issue of Araa magazine that focused on Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the International Order. ([Link Arabic](#))

30 June 2022 – Spoke on Iran nuclear negotiation on a panel organized by the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. About 40 people attended the event.



12–16 June 2022 – Spoke at a CENTCOM Security Cooperation Conference in Stuttgart, Germany. About 150 participants attended (mostly U.S. Defense Attaches in CENTCOM Area of Responsibility). Deputy Director COL (Ret.) David Lamm, NESA Strategic Plans and CENTCOM Liaison Cindy Pritchett, and Assistant Professor Brianne Todd participated in the event as well. <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/igphoto/2001721578>

27 June 2022 – Gave an interview to Saint-Pierre Center for International Security on “US-Iran Nuclear Negotiation – What is Next?” The interview was published in “Chinese Views of Non-Traditional Security Vol.1, No.16” under the Scholars Interview Series. <http://www.spcis.org/index.php?m=home&c=View&a=index&aid=579>

David Des Roches



3 July 2022 – Discussed on Al Araby TV (A Doha-based Arabic language news channel) regarding the new NATO strategic concept to include implications for confrontation with China and NATO expansion. This was an hour-long panel (the premier in-depth news program on the network). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3QTFmNjWKE>

9 July 2022 – Participated in a televised discussion of U.S. government organizational and policy challenges in dealing with Turkey and its impact on the war in Syria for North Press (a Syrian news agency). Comments were made on U.S. policy towards a possible Turkish military action against the YPG, a Kurdish-led U.S. partner organization in Syria. David Des Roches discussed the challenges the USG faces in dealing with Syria and issues of Turkish involvement in Syria and Iraq. <https://www.facebook.com/northplusarabic/videos/1293504948058382>



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Ali Ahmad Jalali



30 May 2022 – Was interviewed by the Berlin-based Institute of Cultural Diplomacy for an upcoming conference on the fate of democracy in South and Central Asia as the world faces new socio-political challenges. Professor Jalali is scheduled to offer a keynote speech at the conference in Berlin on 28 July 2022. https://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/academy/index.php?en_wfdp-2022_overview

4–8 July 2022 – Contributed to two workshops and offered a presentation on lessons learned in stability policing in Afghanistan. The conference was organized by the NATO Stability Operation Center of Excellence in Vicenza, Italy. The 68 participants were high-ranking police, Gendarmery, and Carabinieri officials from a dozen NATO alliance member nations—including the United States. <https://twitter.com/NSPCOE/status/1544257625767960576?s=20&t=9DdlnGB1LWwGnE-jpuXUG7g>



Jeffrey Payne



1 June 2022 – Submitted a paper titled “Gulf States and Indo-Pacific Reluctance: An Examination of Maritime Security, Information Sharing, and the Long-Term Security of the Gulf Region” for Work-

shop 2 (Gulf and the Indo-Pacific) for the Gulf Research Meeting 2022. Payne will present the paper at the event scheduled from 14–16 July 2022 at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. <https://grmvirtual.gulfresearchmeeting.net>



CIMSEC

7 July 2022 – Guest authored “Beyond the Gulf: U.S. Maritime Security Operations in the MENA Region” for CIMSEC: Center for International Maritime Security. The perception that the United States is moving away from the Middle East is false, but part of the reason for this perception is that U.S. engagement in the region has not yet visibly evolved beyond the Global War on Terror and its emphasis on Gulf security. <https://cimsec.org/beyond-the-gulf-u-s-maritime-security-operations-in-the-mena-region>

Michael Sharnoff



3 July 2022 – Interviewed in the Emirati news site, QPOSTS, about U.S. aspirations for the establishment of a “Middle East NATO” and the obstacles to this vision. ([Link Arabic](#))

NESA Alumni Activities & Contributions

04 June 2022 – **Uttam Kumar Sinha (India)** published an article for the Hindustan Times: [“Stockholm 2022: Chart a New Future.”](#)

13 June 2022 – **Nasser bin Nasser (Jordan)** published an Op-Ed for Jordan News: [“Jordan’s Economic Modernization Vision : Transformation or status quo?”](#)

10 June 2022 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published a brief for the German Institute for International and Security Affairs: [“Navigating Complex Terrain in Afghanistan: The Ideological Obduracy of the Taliban.”](#)

13 June 2022 – **Shanthie D’Souze (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Hindu: [“Afghan women’s rights are at risk.”](#)

28 June 2022 – **Mustafa Aryan (Afghanistan)** published an Op-Ed for the Diplomatic Courier: [“Canada Should Lead on Protecting Afghan Women and Girls.”](#)

04 July 2022 – **Nasser bin Nasser (Jordan)** published an article for Jordan News: [“Aqaba accident — repeated patterns of crisis response behavior.”](#)

05 July 2022 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Indian Express: [“India’s Stakes in Kabul.”](#)

07 July 2022 – **Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** published a brief for ISDP: [“China in Sri Lanka and Solomon Islands: Role of Littorals in the Geopolitical Competition.”](#)

NESA Upcoming Events

IISS-LSE-NESA: Western Indian Ocean (Red Sea region) | 18–19 July 2022 | London, UK

Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) Visit & GlobalNet Demonstration | 25–27 July 2022 | Jordan

NESA Roundtable with Yemen Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hadhrami | 28 July 2022 | Washington, DC

Youth & Today’s Challenges & WPS Round Tables | 4 August 2022 | Casablanca, Morocco

Executive Seminar 03-22 (Includes WPS on 25 July) | 25 July–5 August 2022 | Washington, DC/HYBRID

Countering Violent Extremism: The Evolution of Radicalization & Responses | 1–5 August 2022 | Casablanca, Morocco

NESA Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar | 15–18 August 2022 | VIRTUAL

NESA Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia & Gulf Workshop | 28 August–1 September 2022 | Muscat, Oman

Iraqi GO CAPSTONE II | 22 August–3 September 2022 | Washington, DC

Visit www.NESA-Center.org for additional information.

**Near East South Asia (NESA)
Center for Strategic Studies**

Fort Lesley J. McNair
National Defense University
Abraham Lincoln Hall
300 5th Ave SW
Washington, DC 20319-5066

Phone: (202) 685-4131
Fax: (202) 685-4999

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 Communications@NESA-Center.org