

# NESA CENTER UPDATE

MARCH 2025

## NESA REGION TRENDS: MARITIME

- Following the [Quad Leaders' Summit](#) on 21 September 2024, the Wilmington Declaration was issued which featured prominently the ways in which the Quad will cooperate on regional maritime security issues. This includes further enhancing data available through the International Port Management and Data Association (IPMDA) (announced in 2022) and the initiation of the Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), which will begin with an event in India next year. 2025 will also put the impetus on Quad efforts upon India, which shall be the focal point of various efforts and be the host of future senior leader summits. India's Indian Ocean Region International Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR), its homegrown fusion center, will also be featured in future efforts tied to the Quad, signalling the Quad's increased focus on the Indian Ocean Region.
- Partnership throughout the Indo-Pacific around maritime "thematic coalitions" is gaining ground. Following the trend of more "minilateral" efforts, these thematic coalitions are ad hoc in nature, have very specific areas of focus, and can be state-led or state-facilitated. Many of these coalitions take on issues tied to larger geopolitical tensions, but are primarily driven by the immediate concerns of smaller regional states regarding nontraditional threats. Issues such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU-F), transnational smuggling/trafficking, Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HA/DR), and climate change mitigation are commonly focal points. These coalitions, particularly in the maritime domain, are serving as a way for smaller states and private sector stakeholders to alter, reform, or even drive the engagements of larger regional actors.



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA  
**NESA**  
CENTER FOR  
STRATEGIC STUDIES

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# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## 2nd San Diego Process: The Quad Critical & Emerging Technology Forum

From 19–21 August 2024, the University of Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan with representatives of the Quadrilateral states hosted a forum on critical and emerging technologies. Partners in the effort included the National Security College of the Australian National University, the Observer Research Foundation of India, the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, and the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Tokyo. The forum featured forty-six participants and took place in consultation with the Quad Investors Network (QUIN).



## 2024 CENTCOM Strategic Survey

From 19–22 August 2024, the NESA Center hosted a Strategic Survey of the Central Command area of responsibility focused on the regional security construct. The event was held in Tampa, Florida and organized by Cindy Pritchett, the Central Command Liaison Officer from the NESA Center. Associate Deans Richard Wiersema and Charles Marks led a team of CENTCOM staff members with strong representation from the coalition officers assigned through seminars focused on strategic planning, Great Powers Competition, coalition perspectives on deterrence, the law of armed conflict in the modern battlefield, Supreme Leader transition in Iran, and Central Asia.

## Security Opportunities in the MENA Region Seminar

From 19–23 August 2024, the NESA Center hosted a five-day seminar in Washington, D.C. with 19 participants from 11 countries and provided a venue for partners to listen, learn and brainstorm possible areas to strengthen trust and security coordination. Participants from defense, security, and diplomatic establishments were encouraged to explore and self-identify areas of cooperation, areas of disagreement, and develop proposals to promote progress.



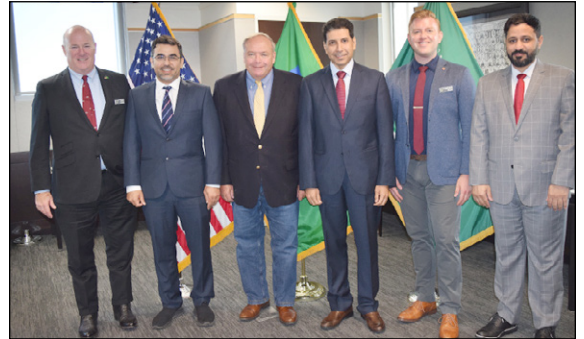
## Chatham House: Iran Dialogue September 2024

From 3–6 September 2024, the NESA Center held a hybrid roundtable discussion with Iran experts in London. Chatham House, a leading British think tank, organized the meeting, with Dean Roger Kangas and Dr. Gawdat Bahgat representing the NESA Center. The agenda featured two key sessions: the first examined potential trends and implications following the election of Masoud Pezeshkian as president, while the second focused on Iran's regional policy.

# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Engagement with the Center for Strategic Defense Research and Studies

On 4 September 2024, three officials from the Center for Strategic Defense Research and Studies within the KSA's Ministry of Defense, and their Director, COL (Ret.) Ahmed Alibrahim, met with the NESA Center in Washington, D.C. as well as representatives from the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. They discussed the role of think tanks in the policy process, think tank administrative challenges and operations, and the role that community engagement and outreach play in the success of an organization.



## Security Dynamics and Challenges in South and Central Asia

From 9–13 September 2024, the NESA Center hosted an Executive Seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, focusing on the evolving security dynamics in South and Central Asia. The seminar examined regional challenges, fostering discussions on innovative solutions to promote peace, resolve ongoing conflicts, and enhance stability across the region. Bringing together 26 participants from 14 countries, the event served as a platform for collaboration and strategic dialogue.



## Environmental Resilience and Preparedness International Dialogue

From 10–12 September 2024, the NESA Center, in partnership with William & Mary University's Whole of Government Center of Excellence, conducted a program in Washington, D.C. for 21 participants from 13 countries. The program brought together strategic planners, policy experts, national security professionals, infrastructure experts, emergency first responders, scientists, and educators to explore the complexities of preparing for climate change, global warming, and the impacts of natural disasters.



## Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs PME Engagement

On 26 September 2024 in Washington, D.C., the NESA Center welcomed a delegation led by the Peshmerga Chief of Staff at National Defense University. The importance of professional military education in the United States Armed Forces and the NESA Center's supportive role in helping regional partners strengthen their educational programs was discussed.



# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## **Sudan Orientation Program for the West Point Model Arab League**

From 27–28 September 2024, the NESA Center hosted the West Point United States Military Academy Model Arab League at National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C., for an orientation program on Sudan. The program included presentations on Sudan and its neighbors, the Sudanese civil conflict, Sudanese historical and regional context, and broader Arab regional dynamics. The event concluded with a tour of the NDU campus.



## **Cybersecurity Seminar**

From 7–10 October 2024, the NESA Center held a seminar in Yerevan, Armenia, to critically examine cybersecurity with the goal of sharing best practices and developing collaborative new approaches to enhance cybersecurity for the future. The seminar engaged with about 35 participants. It deepened the understanding and analysis challenges posed by a growing dependence on cyberspace and expanded discussions on cyber-capacity building, partner-engagement activities, and strengthening whole-of-society resilience.



## **Omani Strategic and Defense Studies Academy Engagement**

On 8 October 2024, in Washington, D.C., the NESA Center met with a delegation from the Oman Strategic and Defense Studies Academy and the Embassy of Oman in the U.S. The discussions emphasized the importance of diverse perspectives and the need for a structured plan to outline goals. The conversation highlighted key NESA Center programs, particularly the importance of expanding beyond military and security concerns to encompass political, economic, social, and cyber aspects. Additionally, the discussions addressed the value of alumni engagement, the challenges of measuring program effectiveness, and opportunities for visiting fellows and faculty exchanges.



# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## **The Global Panorama of Transnational Threats: GPC, Terrorism, and Crime**

On 9 October 2024, the NESA Center, in partnership with USAFRICOM, conducted Part II/II of the Transnational Threats Workshop series. This no-cost virtual roundtable discussion concluded the 2024 NESA-AFRICOM workshop series, as well as the 2024 Transnational Threats series. The group of 19 came from ten countries from Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. The virtual session was structured to engage participants in a practical dialogue to gain insights to the realities on the ground; how countries can best leverage limited resources; and the advantages of cooperation with an eye towards the future.



## **Royal Jordanian National Defense College Academic Kick-off**

From 6–10 October 2024, the NESA Center delivered a course of instruction to 161 Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) students and faculty in Amman, Jordan. The course focused on strategic propositions that shape the development of national security strategies, allow for strategic planning, and drive organizational change in large organizations. The long-standing relationship between the NESA Center and the RJNDC will continue to build on this free exchange of ideas and perspectives.



## **Faculty Development – Specialized Subject Matter Expert Support Workshop**

From 7-17 October 2024, the NESA Center delivered a two-day Faculty and Student engagement to the Saudi Armed Forces Joint Command and Staff College. The event focused on delivering curriculum within the professional military education (PME) environment. It aimed to support the Saudi Arabian National Defense University Joint Command and Staff College faculty by targeting specific curriculum areas. Participants studied how various subjects are delivered in U.S. PME institutions and how they might be contextualized for the Saudi Arabian audience.



# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Indian Ocean Security Framework Underwater Domain Awareness Framework for Effective Security in the Tropical Waters of the Indian Ocean Region Webinar

On 22 October 2024, the NESA Center, along with the Maritime Research Center in India, held a digital discussion on common elements defining underwater threats and how the bilateral relationship between India and the U.S. can better address such threats. The NESA Center facilitated participants from United States Institute of Peace and National Defense University. The event was co-moderated by Professor Jeffrey Payne and Associate Dean Charles Marks who also spoke at the event. There were approximately 35 participants.



## Washington Embassy Orientation & Washington Seminar October 2024

From 21–25 October 2024, the NESA Center ran a Washington Embassy Orientation combined Washington Seminar at the Army Navy Club in Washington D.C. The week-long orientation was titled, “This Town: Working in Washington.” The program was targeted towards foreign diplomats and defense attachés who have recently arrived to work at their Embassies in Washington, D.C. The Washington Seminar was held mid-week on Wednesday, 24 October 2024, where Dr. Hassan Abbas discussed with Dr. Tricia Bacon, a Professor at the American University, and Vikram Singh a Senior Advisor at the United State Institute of Peace. The discussion centered on “Continuity and Change in U.S. Foreign Policy: Navigating Stability Amidst Global Disruption.”



## 2024 Executive Seminar: Climate Change & Security

From 28 October–8 November 2024, the NESA Center ran an Executive Seminar covering topics including the socio-economic and strategic ramifications of climate change; national, regional and global efforts to address global warming; the impact of climate change on food and water security, how extreme weather patterns cause waves of internal and external migration, the significant role the United Nations plays in creating consensus on environmental challenges, and energy transition and the significance of diversifying energy mix.



# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Senior Indian Defence Officials Engagement

On 18 November 2024, at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C., the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies leadership and faculty welcomed five delegates from the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), the premier training and research institute of the Government of India, for an exchange of informed views on strategic issues among peer researchers. The Center's mission and upcoming programs for the year, the unique role and value of the NESA Center and the Department of Defense Regional Centers were discussed, as well as views on strategic competition, the security situation across the NESA region, and the outlook for U.S. foreign and national security policy under the incoming presidential administration.



## Royal Jordanian National Defense College Academic Workshop

From 19–21 November 2024, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies facilitated a three-day workshop for the Commandant of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC) and senior faculty held at the U.S. National Defense University in Washington, D.C. The Commandant and his team met one-on-one with U.S. National Defense University peers to review curriculum development best practices, outcome-based professional military education delivery, the conduct of seminars, and the development of new faculty to prepare for classroom instruction.



## Public Diplomacy Lecture for Iraqi National Defense College

On 9 December, 2024, Dr. Vivian Walker delivered a two-hour virtual lecture to a seminar of students at the Iraqi National Defense College (NDC). Her lecture resulted from a Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies and NATO Training Mission (NTM) collaboration to enhance instruction at the NDC through subject matter expert presentations. Dr. Walker addressed the fundamentals of public diplomacy, its significance for national security professionals, particularly those engaged with control of the military instrument of power. She concluded her formal remarks with a question-and-answer session that was mediated by Iraqi faculty in Baghdad. The NESA Center professional military education team, Associate Deans Charles Marks and Richard Wiersema, coordinated the program at the request of the NDC, which resulted in a successful pilot that both the NESA Center and the NTM aim to expand upon.

# NESA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## **Executive Seminar: Conflict Resolution, Cooperation, and Challenges in the MENA Region**

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From 9–13 December 2024, the NESA Center hosted an Executive Seminar in Washington, D.C. focused on emerging dynamics in the MENA region and assessed opportunities for creating conditions for resolving differences. The event included 31 participants from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and the United States. By hearing different viewpoints and voices and establishing personal relationships, participants were able to constructively explore ways to advance cooperation and strengthen trust as a strategic national interest for all parties.





# NESA FACULTY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

## Dr. Hassan Abbas



**September 2024** – On invitation from the University of South Florida, Dr. Abbas was appointed to the [editorial board of the \*Journal of Strategic Security \(JSS\)\*](#), Global and National Security Institute. He is joining a very illustrious group of national security scholars on the board.

**2 September 2024** – Dr. Abbas visited the Pakistan Army General Headquarters in Rawalpindi to meet the Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen Owais Dastageer. Pakistan’s defense attaché in Washington, D.C. helped schedule this meeting.



**6 September 2024** – While in Karachi, Pakistan, Dr. Abbas delivered a lecture at Pakistan’s oldest think tank, the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs to discuss the developing security situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan’s leading paper, [Dawn](#), covered the talk.



**18 September 2024** – Dr. Abbas served as a panelist at the Irregular Warfare Center’s [“Irregular Warfare: Lessons](#)

[Learned Since 9/11 Conference,”](#) at the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Maryland. He gave a presentation on the performance of human terrain teams in Afghanistan. About 50–60 people were in the audience.

**12 October 2024** – The United States Army Central Command (USARCENT) conducted a [Land Forces Conference](#) in Arlington, VA to convene partner land force commanders for discussion of future collaboration. Dr. Abbas presented at the conference. The venue provided a forum for discussion of common problems and potential multilateral training and engagement opportunities. The event was conducted at the most senior levels and consisted of guests from partners in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Israel, and the United States. Designed to enhance dialogue, it introduced fresh perspectives to address shared regional challenges. Associate Dean Charles Marks had a follow-up discussion with the Ministry of the National Guard from KSA, meeting with the Director of Training and Education, the CSC Commandant and the Academic Director (and supporting officers). The senior U.S. Rep present was the U.S. Defense Attaché to Saudi Arabia.

**12 October 2024** – Dr. Hassan Abbas served as a podcast speaker for the Toronto-based “World Anti-Extremism Network” seminar focusing on “Madrasahs, Extremism and Islam.” It was disseminated to over 25 organizations in their network.



**13 November 2024** – Dr. Hassan Abbas and Prof. Ali Jalali spoke at the Global and National Security Institute [“Rethinking Afghanistan: Strategic Competition in the Heart of Asia”](#) conference in Tampa, FL. Both professors spoke on the second panel titled, [“The Counterterrorism Chal-](#)

# NESA FACULTY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

enge.” The event was attended by over 100 scholars, practitioners, and experts on Afghanistan.

## Dr. Gawdat Bahgat



**9–11 September 2024** – Prof. David DesRoches and Prof. Gawdat Bahgat participated in the Yerevan Dialogue in Yerevan, Armenia. More than 150 scholars along with current and former policymakers from around the world attended this new initiative. It was organized by the Armenian government. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan gave an inaugural address. The two-day meeting covered a variety of topics, including security in the South Caucasus, geopolitics of connectivity, digital public infrastructure, climate security, future of work, strengthening multiculturalism, artificial intelligence, renewed world order, gender equality, and energy transition. Prof. DesRoches spoke on security at a special luncheon chaired by the chief of the Armenian Intelligence Service and Prof. Bahgat spoke on energy transition.



**23 October 2024** – Dr. Bahgat’s latest research article, [“WEO 2024: The Interconnection of Geopolitics, Security and Climate Change,”](#) was published in RiEnergia, an Italian publication that focuses on energy and the environment.

**9 December 2024** – The Gulf International Forum published Dr. Bahgat’s latest article, [“The GCC States Must Turn Down the Temperature in the Middle East.”](#)

**Fall/Winter 2024** – Dr. Bahgat’s recent paper on elections in the United States and the MENA region was published in the ‘afkar/ideas’ [IEMed publication issue 73.](#)

**7–8 December 2024** – Dr. Bahgat participated in a panel on cybersecurity at the [Doha Forum: The Innovation Imperative](#) in Doha, Qatar. Approximately 30 attendees, including representatives from think tanks and officials from several Middle Eastern countries, were present.

**12–14 December 2024** – Dr. Bahgat spoke at [The Atlantic Dialogues International Annual Conference](#) organized by the Policy Center for the New South, held in Rabat, Morocco. Dr. Bahgat spoke on a panel titled “Middle East Conflict: A Future of Endless Instability?”

## Andrea Brewington



**19 September 2024** – Academic Advisors Andrea Brewington and Thomas Wagstaff had the honor of attending the 94th Kingdom of Saudi Arabia National Day at the Saudi Arabia National Defense University in Riyadh. The official National Day, observed with a public holiday on 23 September 2024, saw much of Riyadh illuminated in green as citizens commemorated the unification of their country under the leadership of King Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The event highlighted Saudi Arabia’s rich military traditions and the ongoing progress of the National Defense University. As a partner, the NESA Center has been engaged in the institution’s development since the initiation of the Vision 2030 military transformation program.

This gathering provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the current Joint Command and Staff Course with students and faculty. Looking ahead, NESA Center academic advisors plan to continue supporting the faculty throughout the academic year, focusing on curriculum redesign.



# NESA FACULTY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

## David Des Roches



15 September 2024 – Prof. David Des Roches was interviewed on [Al Jazeera English](#) discussing the Houthi missile launch on Israel.



15 September 2024 – [Sky News Arabia](#), the Abu Dhabi-based Arabic affiliate of the global Sky network, featured Prof. Des Roches in a discussion on Ukraine's request for long-range missiles.



18 September 2024 – [Breaking Defense](#) quoted Prof. David Des Roches on Hezbollah pager attacks.

18 September 2024 – The [BBC News Channel Morning Report](#) included Prof. Des Roches' insights on the Hezbollah pager attacks.

26 September 2024 – Prof. Des Roches was a speaker at the [Sri Lanka NDU International Research Conference](#). He spoke on trends in warfare and was on a panel with other distinguished speakers, including the head of Indonesia's NDU.

## Ali Ahmad Jalali



14–15 August 2024 – August 15th marked the third anniversary of the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. During this period, the movement established control over the country, but failed to operate as an effective and inclusive government, respect human rights, or gain international legitimacy. The country is internationally isolated, economically in crisis and socio-politically divided. Prof. Jalali was interviewed by several media outlets on how the current situation in Afghanistan affects regional stability.

- 14 August – Prof. Jalali was the guest of a talk show program by the Afghanistan International TV.
- 15 August – Prof. Jalali was interviewed by the Voice of America to commemorate the third anniversary of the Taliban's return to power.

18 September 2024 – Prof. Jalali spoke at a conference organized by the University of Ottawa titled, "[Conference on Afghanistan: Changing the Approach and Reversing the Trajectory](#)." Prof. Jalali spoke on "Panel 3: Counter Terrorism: Regional Cooperation and International Engagement."



19 September 2024 – Professor Jalali participated in the Voice of America *Pashto* language program to discuss the alleged Israeli-instigated explosion of communication devices used by the Hizbullah militia in Lebanon, and how this may affect the ongoing conflict.

2 October 2024 – Prof. Jalali was interviewed by Afghanistan International TV on the Israel-Iran and the Middle East crisis.

# NESA FACULTY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

**11 October 2024** – Prof. Jalali was a guest speaker at a conference on “young leaders in international cooperation and peace.” The conference was organized by the Institute of Cultural Diplomacy at Ohrid North Macedonia. The theme of the speech was “Scholars and Policymakers –Afghanistan as a case study.”

**3 December 2024** – Prof. Jalali was a guest of an Afghanistan International TV program for discussing how sustainable Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is under international isolation and sanctions.

**12 December 2024** – Prof. Jalali met and interacted with visiting students from Princeton University who presented their research on U.S. defense policy for the Middle East. The meeting was attended by several faculty members from NDU and two from the NESA Center. The students visiting were led by their professor, Dr. Arian Sharifi.

## Charles Marks



**24 September 2024** – Associate Dean Charles Marks, Professor David Des Roches, and Professor Jeffrey Payne engaged with Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) personnel from AFRICOM, CENTCOM, EUCOM, and INDOPACOM at

Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. The NESA Center delivered an engaging overview of regional center functions, the NESA Center mission and lines of effort, NESA Center programming, and concluded by answering questions through and interactive Q&A. Another SCO briefing was held with Dean Roger Kangas, Associate Dean Charles Marks, Prof. Hassan Abbas, Prof. Gawdat Bahgat, and Prof. Michael Sharnoff on 21 October 2024.

## Jeffrey Payne



**26 September 2024** – The East-West Center in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the University of Sydney United States Studies Centre and supported by the Australian Department of Defence, held a private roundtable entitled “The Future of U.S. Indian Ocean Partnerships.” Professor

Payne took part in the roundtable that featured other USG interagency representatives and Washington, D.C.-based think tanks, in addition to the Australian visitors. A total of 12 took part in the conversation.

**1–3 October 2024** – Professor Payne spoke and participated in the Indian Navy’s and National Maritime Foundation’s [2024 Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue \(IPRD\)](#), an Indo-Pacific-wide event that focuses on cooperative efforts at furthering maritime security and countering naval threats. China’s threats to the Indo-Pacific were overtly discussed amongst the participants, including deep dives into recent undersea cable disruptions in the Baltic Sea, ocean surveying by Chinese vessels, and asymmetry in the Western Pacific. There were over 400 attendees with participants from over 30 countries (including key U.S. allies Japan, Australia, the UK, France, ROK, and key partners Singapore, Indonesia, and India). Prof. Payne and the NESA Center have been asked to speak/participate at the IPRD in 2025.

**10 October 2024** – Prof. Payne engaged with the Interagency collection that focuses on the Quad and Critical and Emerging Technology in relation to NESA’s San Diego Process — a Track 1.5 effort bringing together government and private sector representatives from the Quad States. The conversation focused on ways to further expand future iterations of the NESA Center event. The NESA Center’s Quad process includes an overt focus on security-related issues, including maritime security and domain awareness.

**29–31 October 2024** – Dean Kangas and Professor Payne aligned calendars with DKI APCSS regarding Indo-Pacific-focused programming, briefed the U.S. Pacific Fleet on forthcoming efforts, and liaised with INDOPACOM to ensure programming aligned with FY25 lines of effort.

**19 November 2024** – Prof. Payne presented on China’s strategic and military efforts in the CENTCOM AOR to the Air Force Special Operations School. Prof. Payne presents on China’s strategic efforts in this course during its four annual iterations.

**11 December 2024** – Prof. Payne and Dean Marks met with Hideshi Tokuchi, former senior official at the Japanese Ministry of Defense, for a conversation on Indo-Pacific naval

# NESA FACULTY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT

and maritime security issues, ways to enhance professional military education, and the threat China poses to areas beyond the Western Pacific.

## Dr. Michael Sharnoff

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**20 September 2024** – NESA Center faculty including Dr. Michael Sharnoff, Prof. Jeffrey Payne, Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, and Dr. Hassan Abbas had a collegial conversation with NESA Center alumnus Dr. Amane Kobayashi, a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEE), an energy think tank in Japan associated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Japanese government. The conversation centered around how Japan and the Indo-Pacific views events in the Middle East and North Africa region.

**21 October 2024** – Dr. Sharnoff’s latest research article, “[The Hashemite Regime on Jordanian Postage Stamps: A Visual History of Nation-Building](#),” was published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Alternatives*, hosted by Sage Journals.

## Richard Wiersema

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**29 October 2024** – Associate Dean Richard Wiersema conducted a seminar for graduate students at the Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service on the origins and outbreak of the First World War, presented as a study in senior leadership and institutional decision-making.

# ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

## Alumni Publications & News

11 August 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published a briefing for the *Middle East Institute*: [“Three years after its takeover of Afghanistan, the Taliban regime has been nearly normalized.”](#)

16 August 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for *The Diplomat*: [“India’s Quest for Nuclear Energy: In Pursuit of Clean Energy Goals, Despite Protests.”](#)

26 August 2024 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** published an article for *PRISME*: [“The security aspect of illegal migration policies in North Africa.”](#)

27 August 2024 – **Tarek Megerisi (Libya)** published an article for *Afkar*: [“Libya’s Central Bank Crisis Reflects Its Broken System.”](#)

01 September 2024 – **Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** published an Op-Ed for *NIICE*: [“South Asia’s Struggle in a Polycrisis: Echoes of Crisis from Sri Lanka to Bangladesh.”](#)

03 September 2024 – **Shafqat Munir (Bangladesh)** published an Op-Ed for *The Guardian*: [“‘A myopic policy’: India’s backing of ousted Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina leaves it in a bind.”](#)

12 September 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“The Plight of Afghan Women Under the Taliban: No Respite in Sight.”](#)

19 September 2024 – **Sarabjeet Parmar (India)** published an article for the *Council for Strategic and Defense Research*: [“Turkey’s Expanding Strategic Space in the Indian Ocean Region.”](#)

20 September 2024 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** authored an article for *The Morning*: [“Climate Change: Global focus and its security imperative.”](#)

25 September 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“Modi in the US: India’s Pursuit of Strategic Autonomy.”](#)

08 October 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“Women’s Rights in Afghanistan: Will the Taliban Adhere to CEDAW?”](#)

09 October 2024 – **Hala Bugaighis (Libya)** gave a [briefing](#) to the UN Security Council on women’s issues in Libya.

15 October 2024 – **Mazin Al Farrayeh (Jordan)**, Jordan’s Minister of the Interior and retired Brigadier General of the Jordanian Armed Forces, was inducted as the [86th member of the U.S. Army War College’s International Fellow Hall of Fame](#).

25 October 2024 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** wrote an article for the *NESA Alumni Blog* on [“Women, Peace and Security in the Arab Region.”](#)

31 October 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“India-Germany Relations: A Unique Opportunity to Translate Intent Into Outcomes.”](#)

05 November 2024 – **Sundun Gunawardana (Sri Lanka)** wrote an article for the *NESA Alumni Blog*: [“Strengthening Preventive Measures to Combat Trafficking for Forced Criminality through Effective Intelligence Sharing and Cooperation in the Southeast Asian Region.”](#)

12 November 2024 – **Thokozani Chazema (Malawi)** published an article for the *Journal of Political Science and International Relations*: [“Road to Malawi Defence Force International Peacekeeping and Other Expeditionary Deployments: Multiple Players with Multiple Interests.”](#)

13 November 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“India’s Leap of Faith in Afghanistan: Tango With the Taliban.”](#)

05 December 2024 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for *The Diplomat*: [“China-Pakistan’s ‘All Weather Friendship’ Gets Rebuff From Taliban.”](#)

# ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

## 2024 On-Demand Courses

NESA Center alumni continue to enhance their professional education by taking our on-demand courses on the GlobalNet Learning Management System (LMS). The self-paced courses feature presentations on a wide range of security topics from NESA Center faculty and other subject matter experts. Alumni receive NESA Center certificates for each course they complete.

### 2024 Statistics at a Glance:

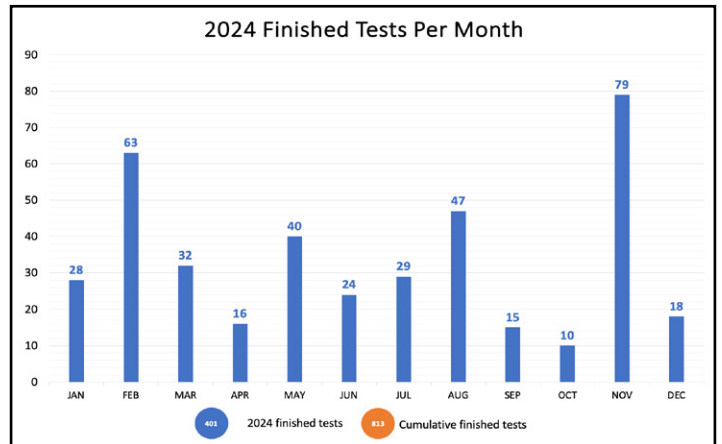
- Courses available to date: 51 (up from 42 in 2023)
- Countries represented in users who have taken courses to date: 54 (up from 39 in 2023)
- Users who have taken courses to date: 198 (up from 111 in 2023)
- Completed tests to date: 813 (up from 412 in 2023)

### Top 3 Countries with the Most Courses Taken:

1. Lebanon
2. Yemen
3. Morocco

### Top 5 Most Active Courses:

1. Drone and Counter-Drone Warfare
2. Emerging Powers and Strategic Competition
3. The Changing Character of War: The 'Four Faces' of Future Wars
4. Strategic Intelligence and Technology
5. Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence



NESA Center Alumni can log in to their GlobalNet account to access the on-demand course user guide, take the on-demand courses, and earn certificates. Learn more here: <https://lms.globalnetplatform.org/nesa> <https://globalnet-platform.org/nesa/on-demand-courses>.

# CALENDAR

## January–March 2025 NESACenter Events

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- **SCO NESACenter Orientation & Regional Briefing** | 22 January 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- **The Post-Assad Era in Syria with Brigadier General Antoine Abisamra** | 23 January 2025 | Virtual
- **Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar 01-25** | 27–31 January 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- **RJNDC Presentation** | 27–29 January 2025 | Amman, Jordan
- **Singapore Delegation Engagement** | 10 February 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- **Washington Seminar/NESACenter 25th Anniversary** | 12 February 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- **Japanese Scholars Visit** | 10 February 2025 | Washington, D.C.
- **Indo-Pacific Mini-lateral Forum: Asymmetry at Sea** | 25–27 February 2025 | San Francisco, CA
- **Israel Indo-Pacific Roundtable Virtual Workshop** | 24–25 March 2025 | Virtual





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

Fort Lesley J. McNair  
National Defense University  
Abraham Lincoln Hall  
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