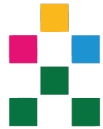




NATO Foundation
Defense College



Fondazione
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ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2022

A region between conflict and normalisation

WELCOME REMARKS

Christopher Schnaubelt

Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome

As the Dean of the NATO Defense College, I have seen first-hand how the region continues to be a topic of great interest at the College and to NATO. We continue to conduct academic exchanges and partnerships in the region, most recently with the G5 SAHEL Defense College in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Last spring, we conducted a version of one of our most popular short courses, the Generals, Flag Officers and Ambassadors Course, also at the G5 SAHEL Defense College.

Next week we will be conducting Gulf Week at the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Center in Kuwait City. This activity includes an iteration of our one-week Modular Short Course connected with our Senior Course as well as a Commandant engagement at the Center.

Most notably however, the NDC is currently conducting the 28th iteration of the ten-week long NATO Regional Cooperation Course, or NRCC. This course is the NATO Alliance's principal education activity for Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries as well as other NATO Partners helping to develop mutual understanding and professional networks among the course members. In fact, partners make up more than one third of the roughly 850 graduates of the NRCC. In the current course, we have course members from partner countries that include Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Mongolia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

These are just a few examples to highlight the engagement the NDC continues to have with the region and why it is important to us to participate in events like this one. I look forward to the conversation and the topics on the agenda today.