
NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

NESA International Fellows Program

The NESA Center's International Fellows Program is designed to help develop military officers from the NESA region who have been identified as having the potential to become senior leaders in their respective militaries or institutions.

These select officers, nominated by their respective chiefs or ministers of defense, must hold a military rank of colonel (or lieutenant colonel promotable) or higher. They are hand-selected to participate in the six month fellowship.

The fellows stand out from their peers because of their expertise in strategy, international security affairs, policy, counter-terrorism, or other disciplines that relate to the NESA mission.

Upon selection, fellows are considered part of the NESA center faculty. They also attend two electives at the National Defense University.

Their time at NESA culminates in a research paper that is completed in coordination with the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) staff to answer a research question relevant to the (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility.

The three current International Fellows at the NESA Center are Group Captain Leonard Rodrigo, from Sri Lanka; Brigadier General Himalaya Thapa, from Nepal; and Colonel Lotf al-Barati, from Yemen.

Brigadier General Himalaya Thapa (Nepal)

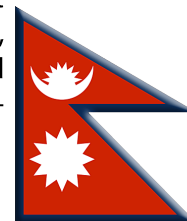
As an International Fellow at the NESA Center, Brigadier General Himalaya Thapa is pursuing research on Cooperative Security in South Asia.

BG Thapa spent the previous year studying at the National War College at National Defense University (NDU). He said that he has found working and interacting with various international officers and individuals to be an excellent experience. He also noted that he is glad that Nepal is becoming more involved with NESA and hopes this involvement continues to grow.

Gen. Thapa is conducting research on prospects for U.S.-China coopera-

tion in combating terrorism in South Asia, which he considers one of the most unstable regions in the world. He enjoys the prospect of conducting research with other experts in this field.

Gen. Thapa has enjoyed his time in D.C. He and his family have enjoyed seeing the monuments and various museums in the city. He also has greatly enjoyed the opportunity to travel around the U.S., learning about American geography, demographics, and culture. In particular, he enjoyed Hawaii, to which he would like to return.



For more information, please visit
nesa-center.org



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Building Relationships—Enhancing Security

Group Captain Leonard Rodrigo (Sri Lanka)



As an International Fellow at the appreciation for NESAs and NDU Near East South Asia (NESAs) Cen- faculty members who have ter for Strategic Studies, Group helped in improving his research Captain Leonard Rodrigo is re- skills.

searching International interven- In October, he will submit the tions in Post-War Sri Lanka, with results of his research to U.S. Cen- special reference to India and tral Command (USCENTCOM) in China. He spent the previous year Tampa, Fla. He plans to write studying at the College of Inter- about guerilla warfare when he national Security Affairs (CISA) at returns home to Sri Lanka later the National Defense University this year.

(NDU). Gp. Capt. Rodrigo said that he

He first came to the United has enjoyed meeting different States in 2005 to participate in a think tanks, living in and exploring civil military relations program at the grid system of Washington, the Naval Postgraduate School in D.C. He is married with two chil- Monterrey, CA. dren.

Gp. Capt. Rodrigo expressed his

Colonel Lotf al-Barati (Yemen)

Colonel Lotf al-Barati, a NESAs In- also has attended Staff College in ternational Fellow from Yemen, is Oman and the Naval War College concluding his research of the in Newport, RI. Col. Barati said effect of al-Qaeda on the Yemeni that he is honored to have this economy. opportunity to study strategic

Col. al-Barati recently gradu- thinking at NDU, which he holds ated from the Industrial College in the highest regard. of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at the In November, Col. al-Barati will National Defense University present his research to NESAs and (NDU). U.S. Central Command

After becoming a commis- (USCENTCOM) before going back sioned officer in 1981, Col. Al- to present his findings to officials Barati served as a naval officer in Yemen.

and then became Director Gen- Col. al-Barati said that he has eral of the Yemeni Coast Guard. enjoyed living in the U.S. with his

In 2007, Col. al-Barati completed family, including four children. an engineering course in the He especially likes Montana and United Kingdom at the HMS Hawaii. Collingwood and HMS Sultan. He

also has attended Staff College in Oman and the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Col. Barati said that he is honored to have this opportunity to study strategic thinking at NDU, which he holds in the highest regard.

In November, Col. al-Barati will present his research to NESAs and U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) before going back to present his findings to officials in Yemen.

Col. al-Barati said that he has enjoyed living in the U.S. with his family, including four children. He especially likes Montana and Hawaii.



Upcoming NESAs Center Events

**New Embassy
Officer Orientation**
October 3 – October 7
2011

Executive Seminar
October 18 - November 1
2011

Executive Seminar
April 24 - May 8
2012

Senior Executive Seminar
February 6-17
2012