



# MEMTEC

## MIDDLE EAST MILITARY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE


**29 - 30 October 2019**  
**Bahrain International Exhibition  
& Convention Centre**

# CONFERENCE GUIDE

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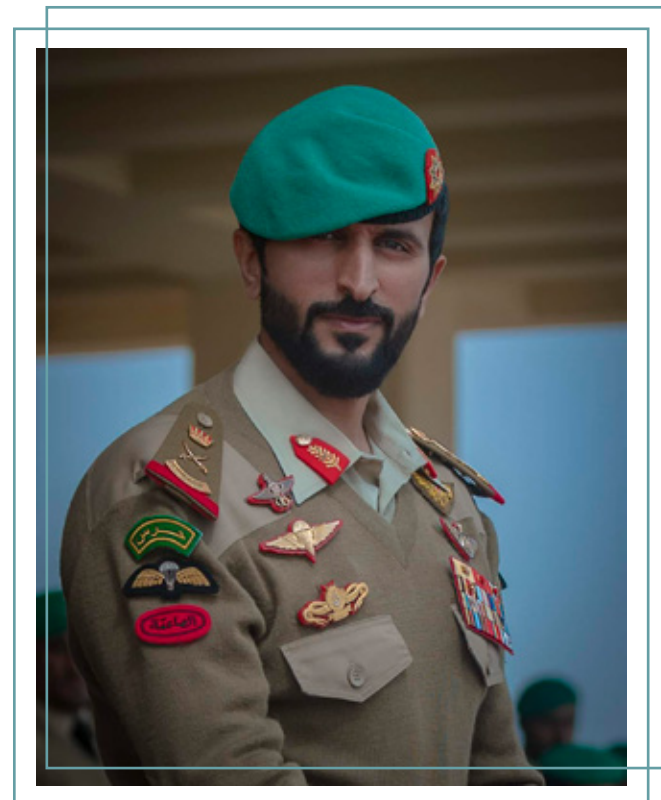
**HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA**

**KING OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**



**HIS EXCELLENCY FIELD MARSHAL SHAIKH  
KHALIFA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA**

**COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE BAHRAIN DEFENCE FORCE**



**HIS HIGHNESS MAJOR GENERAL  
SHAIKH NASSER BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA**  
**NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR**  
**ROYAL GUARD COMMANDER**



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WELCOME LETTER



It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the second headline conference of the Bahrain International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BIDEC) under this year’s theme Middle East Military Technology (MEMTEC) and where we convene once again, amid more complicated regional developments than was the case two years ago.

In light of the tremendous advances in the defence sector, the military power of nations is no longer measured solely by the size of their armed forces, but rather by their optimization through modern technological solutions. MEMTEC will showcase how these global developments will reshape regional conflicts in the Middle East, giving both a practical and strategic context to the equipment displayed at BIDEC.

During the last few decades, advancing military technology has been a key focus for many countries, especially in the West, as reflected in the volume of investments in this field. Technology does not only enhance

the capabilities of armed forces, but also significantly impacts the quality and effectiveness in preparation for national defence. Technology also outlines the military doctrine of countries, a clear example seen in the number of countries that have established electronic warfare and cyber defence units within their armed forces and intelligence agencies.

Given the importance of military technology to the development of armed forces in response to the changing landscape of threats to the national security of states, and given the role of technology in minimizing post-conflict impact, five panel discussions have been organized to address the key areas of relevance for the region.

MEMTEC will cover the global military technology outlook, cyber defence strategies, the impact of the emergence of artificial intelligence in armed forces, simulation models for future warfare, and localized procurement and production of military technology in the Middle East. The speakers tackling these important questions come from a variety of backgrounds, from leading international suppliers to frontline military leadership engaged in the daily challenges pressed by evolving modern battlefields. This diversity in perspectives will result in a multifaceted conversation with thought-provoking considerations for those in attendance.

We are honored to host this elite group of participants, and I look forward with you to reaching vital and applicable outcomes after this conference.

**Dr. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**  
**Chairman of MEMTEC, Chairman of Derasat**





MEMTEC SCHEDULE

29 OCTOBER		
Time	Event	Location
09:00 - 14:00	MEMTEC Day 1	Palm Hall, Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre
30 OCTOBER		
Time	Event	Location
09:00 - 12:45	MEMTEC Day 2	Palm Hall, Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre



EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Show Times	
09:00 - 17:00	28 October
09:00 - 17:00	29 October
09:00 - 17:00	30 October

ABOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNER:



Derasat is a think tank in the Kingdom of Bahrain that analyses and researches strategic developments on a national, regional and global scale that have relevance to Bahrain’s stability, prosperity and sustainability. Derasat is dedicated to encouraging the use of research and dialogue to inform policy makers and interest groups and to increase understanding of current and emerging international issues. In today’s rapidly changing world of opportunities and challenges, Derasat aims to build bridges between differing perspectives, create forums for open debate, and use strategic insights to enhance understanding and promote new thinking that can generate creative solutions for our future peace, security and stability. For further information on Derasat’s activities, please visit them at stand VB16 in Hall 2 of the exhibition.





# CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 1 - 29 OCTOBER 2019

## 9:00 Registration & Refreshments

### 09:30 Welcome Addresses

Moderated by: **Alistair Bunkall**,  
Defence & Security Correspondent, SKY News

Welcome by: **Rear Admiral (rtd.) Simon Williams, OBE**,  
Chairman, Clarion Events Defence & Security

Keynote Presentation by: **H.E. Dr. Sh. Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**,  
Chairman of MEMTEC & Chairman of Derasat

## 10:00 First Session: Global Military Technology Outlook

This session will discuss the main features of military technology by reviewing the strategies of several countries and their future plans, as well as discussing the effect of the global race and competition to enhance military technology on the current global balance of power, through discussing the following points:

- Current status of military technology and its applications in armed forces.
- The impact of advances in military technology on the nature of future wars.
- The influence of military technology on national resilience strategies of countries.



**H.E. Dr. AbdulLatif Al Zayani**  
Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council



**Vice Admiral James Malloy**  
Commander U.S. Naval Forces,  
U.S. Central Command/  
Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet,  
Combined Maritime Forces



**Scott McGowan**  
VP & Program Director  
H-1 Programs and Fire, BELL

## 11:30 Second Session: Cyber Defence Strategies

This session will discuss the impact of military technology on current cyber defence strategies by reviewing the experiences of countries and defence organisations, focusing on the following points:

- The importance of cybersecurity in light of the modern communications revolution.
- Strategies of major countries in the field of cyber defence and the lessons that can be learned from them.
- The role of regional and international cooperation in the field of cybersecurity.



**Hidetoshi Ogawa**  
Counsellor, Cabinet Secretariat -  
Director, International Strategy, National  
Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy  
for Cybersecurity (NISC)



**Brian Fonseca**  
Director, Jack D. Gordon  
Institute for Public Policy,  
Steven J. Green School of  
International and Public  
Affairs, Florida International  
University (FIU)



**Mitchell Belfer**  
President of the Euro-Gulf Information Centre

## 12:15 Break

## 12:30 Third Session: The Impact of Advances in Artificial Intelligence on Armed Forces

This session will discuss advances in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on armed forces both now and in the future. The session will review the experiments of a number of countries in this regard, through discussing the following points:

- The most prominent features of the evolution and advances in the field of artificial intelligence.
- Military applications of artificial intelligence.
- The impact of artificial intelligence on future wars.



**Professor Sid Ahmed Benraouane, PhD**  
Digital Transformation Strategy Advisor to Dubai  
Police; Carlson School of Management; University  
of Minnesota



**Prof. Ernesto Damiani**,  
Department of Electrical  
Engineering and Computer  
Science, Khalifa University



**Ameen Altajer**  
AI Researcher, Bahrain Institute for Banking & Finance

## 13:45 Lunch Break



DAY 2 - 30 OCTOBER 2019

9:00 Morning Networking

10:00 First Session: Developing Simulation Models for Future Warfare

This session will discuss the use of military technology in developing simulation models for possible future wars. The discussions will cover the following points:

- The most prominent features of the evolution and advances in simulation programs.
- How to benefit from military technology in creating simulation models and different “scenarios” for possible wars.
- The outcomes of military use of “smart power”.



**Dr. Robbin Laird**  
Editor, Second Line of Defence, Research Fellow,  
Williams Foundation



**Frank Belonus**  
CEO, Falcon Desert International



**Rear Admiral (rtd.) Simon Williams, OBE**  
Chairman, Clarion Events Defence & Security

11:15 Break

11:30 Second Session: The Future of Middle East Defence Procurement - acquisition strategies and localised production

This session will discuss Middle East strategies for the localisation of military technology with special focus on the goals of Middle East economic visions, as well as addressing the challenges faced in acquiring military technology. The discussions will cover the following points:

- Overview of current defence procurement for Middle Eastern countries.
- Plans and strategies for localised production.
- Challenges and benefits in acquiring international technology.



**Staff Major General Pilot Ishaq Al Baloushi**  
Assistant Undersecretary for Defence  
Industry and Capabilities Development,  
United Arab Emirates Ministry of Defence



**Gregory Copely**  
President, International Strategic Studies  
Association; President, Global Informations  
System, Inc.: Editor-in-Chief, Defence & Foreign  
Affairs Publications



**H.E. Amjad Khamis Al-Shuhail**  
CEO, King Abdullah II Design  
and Development Bureau  
(KADDB)



**Bilal Y. Saab**  
Senior Fellow and Director, Middle  
East Institute

12:45 Conference End and Lunch

SPEAKER PROFILES



**ALISTAIR BUNKALL**  
Defence & Security Correspondent, Sky News

Alistair is Sky News defence and security correspondent, covering global security issues from conflict to counter-terrorism. He regularly files from the frontlines in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, North Korea and NATO's eastern border with Russia. Alistair has covered tensions in the Gulf, elections in Pakistan and Turkey, the Eurozone crisis across the continent and humanitarian disasters in South Sudan and the Philippines. He also writes a regular “Letter from...” column for the London Evening Standard on international affairs and has a podcast called ‘Off the Record with Alistair Bunkall’ in which he chats to some of the world’s best known leaders.



**H.E. DR. SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA**  
Chairman of Board of Trustees

On 31 January 2017, H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa was appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies, in addition to serving as Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a post he has held since August 2015. Previously Shaikh Abdulla held the post of Director General for External Communications (2014) at the Information Affairs Authority, during which he played a pivotal role in drawing up and implementing a strategy for strengthening the country’s national communications and public engagement. Prior to this Shaikh Abdulla served as a political advisor to the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Defense (2011) and as a Legal Specialist at the Bahrain Economic Development Board from 2007-2009. He also served as a Research Assistant with the Dean of Law Faculty at Queen Mary College, University of London from 2008-2009. In 2015, Shaikh Abdulla was awarded a PhD in International Relations and Diplomacy from the École des Hautes Études Internationales, France. In 2008, he earned a Master of Law (LLM) from Queen Mary College, University of London, UK, focusing on negotiation and mediation. He also holds a Diploma in Political Development (Honors) from the Bahrain Institute for Political Development, Bahrain 2007 and a Bachelor of Law (LLB) (Honours) from the Applied Science University, Jordan 2006. Shaikh Abdulla is an international expert in Mediation, accredited by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in London where he participated in their training initiatives for international agencies and experts. He is also accredited as a Master Practitioner in Neuro Linguistic Programming by the United States’ National Federation of Neuro Linguistic Programming. Shaikh Abdulla has a passion for the arts and is proficient in Arabic, English and French. He has been Vice President of the Paris based, ‘French Bahraini Friendship Society’ since 2011 and a member of the Jordan-based ‘Arab Thought Forum’ since 2013. He is an advocate of cross-cultural public diplomacy and publishes papers in various fields on a regular basis. He enjoys scuba diving, chess and collecting antiques.



**REAR ADMIRAL (RTD.) SIMON WILLIAMS, OBE**  
Chairman, Clarion Events Defence & Security

Simon Williams joined the Royal Navy from directly school, and after initial training read a degree in Systems and Management at The City University in London. He joined the submarine service and served in a mix of diesel-electric and nuclear submarines through the Cold War years. His single shore appointment in over 17 years at sea was as the first UK exchange officer in the US submarine headquarters in Norfolk Virginia. Having earlier qualified for nuclear submarine command, he commanded HMS SUPERB (1994-96), and went on to become the Commanding Officer (“Teacher”) of the Submarine Command Course (“Perisher”). He subsequently completed a range of operational and staff roles in the Fleet Headquarters and the Ministry of Defence. Promoted to Captain he led on the development of the MOD’s political/ military relations for all the countries of North Africa and the Middle East. As part of this work he led the MOD Strategic Planning Groups following 9/11, and for the subsequent military operations. He then served as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff(Ops), in effect the Navy’s N3, responsible for the day to day operations of the Royal Navy’s ships, submarines, aircraft and Royal Marines deployed around the world. Promoted to Commodore in 2005, he took command of the UK’s maritime forces in the Middle East region, and was dual hatted as the Deputy Coalition Maritime Force Commander for the 27 nation international coalition, based in Bahrain. Returning to the UK in 2007, he was Director of Strategic Plans in the Ministry of Defence before being promoted to Rear Admiral in 2009. In this rank he fulfilled an educational role as the Deputy Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies. Simon retired from the Royal Navy in March 2012 and has a developing portfolio of non-executive and consultancy roles. Simon was awarded an OBE in 2002 for his role in leading the MOD’s Strategic Planning Group post 9/11, and a Queen’s Commendation for Valuable Service (QCVS) in 2006 for his work in the Middle East.





## H.E. DR. ABDULLATIF AL ZAYANI

Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council

His Excellency Dr. Abul Latif Bin Rashid Al Zayani graduated from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK in 1973. He received a degree in aircraft engineering with distinction from Perth College, Scotland in 1978. In 1980 he earned Masters with honors in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Ohio, USA. He was awarded PhD for his research in operations from the Naval War College in 1986. He graduated from Command and General Staff College(CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1988.

He has occupied many high ranking positions in Bahrain Defense Forces, the last of which was Assistant Chief of Staff of Operations until 2004. He was appointed Head of Public Security with the rank of General. Thereafter he became adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2010. In April 2011, he was appointed Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in 2011. He worked as a lecturer in Arabian Gulf University. He also worked as Professor of Mathematics and Statistics in Maryland University, Bahrain, and as Professor of Quantitative Methods in Bahrain University.



## VICE ADMIRAL JAMES MALLOY

Commander, Combined Maritime Force

Vice Adm. James Malloy is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland and a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He holds a Master of Science in Systems Technology (Command, Control and Communications) from the Naval Post Graduate School; a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College and a Master of Health Sciences in Emergency and Disaster Management from Touro University.

His sea tours include assignments onboard USS Deyo (DD 989), USS Fahrion (FFG 22) and USS Benfold (DDG 65). He deployed in command of both USS Falcon (MHC 59) and USS Pinckney (DDG 91), guiding Pinckney through her maiden deployment. He commanded Destroyer Squadron 50 as commander, Middle East Force (CTF 55) and commander, Coalition Task Group 152.1 operating at sea and from naval command centers in Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. Ashore, Malloy served as the Navy theater missile defense officer and commander in chief operations briefer at U.S. Central Command (J3) in Tampa, Florida. Following the 9/11 terror attack, he established U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Friendly Forces Coordination Cell in Bahrain, as deputy for the operational liaison staff.

Other staff assignments include flag aide to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain; initial requirements officer for the Littoral Combat Ship on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Surface Warfare Directorate (N86); head, Washington Placement Branch at Naval Personnel Command (PERS 441) and assistant deputy director, Politico-Military Affairs in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J5) on the Joint Staff. As a flag officer, his tours include deputy director of operations, U.S. Central Command (J3); commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, deploying with USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) to U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command areas of responsibility in support of Operation Inherent Resolve; vice director for operations, the Joint Staff (J3); and deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5).

Malloy assumed duties as commander of U.S. Naval Forces, U.S. Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces, Dec. 7, 2018.



## SCOTT MCGOWAN

H-1 Programs and Fire, BELL

Scott was promoted to his current role as Vice President and Program Director for Bell's H-1 Programs and Fire Scout in March of 2016. The H-1 programs include the AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom USMC program of record for 349 aircraft, as well as the Pakistan AH-1Z FMS program for 12 aircraft. Fire Scout scope consists of providing the OEM (NGC) with a modified Bell 407 helicopter and associated engineering/logistics in support of the Navy's MQ-8C program. Scott has been serving as Program Director for the H-1 program since September 2012, with a focus on bringing AH-1Z cabin production back in house and increasing sustainment support.

Prior to this assignment, Scott spent two years as the West Coast Manager of Government Business Development. In this role, he served as the Capture Team Lead for Bell Boeing's Navy V-22 pursuit and the Capture Team Lead for the Pakistan AH-1Z pursuit. Scott joined the Bell Business Development team in 2010. Prior to joining Bell, Scott served 27 years in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Colonel. He started his military career as a UH-1N pilot and has served in a variety of command, operational and staff roles. He was the Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 49 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303. His operational experience included 6 unit deployments, including combat operations in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Early in his career he was a UH-1N Weapons and Tactics Instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One and later served several tours in the Pentagon on Navy and USMC staffs. His last position was serving as Branch Head for Aviation Plans, Policies and Budget at Headquarters Marine Corps. Scott is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Air Force Air War College and the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Scott earned a Masters Degree in National Resource Strategy from ICAF and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Washington State University.



## HIDETOSHI OGAWA

Director, International Strategy, National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC) Japan

Mr Hidetoshi OGAWA is Counsellor of the Cabinet Secretariat of Japan and serves as the Director for International Strategy at the National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC). He is a career diplomat and joined the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991, holding many senior positions prior to being assigned the task of the NISC. He served as the Director for Information and Communications, and as the Director for Foreign Nationals' Affairs of the Consular Affairs Bureau, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, and Counsellor (political, general, and bilateral affairs) at the Embassy of Japan in France. He holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tokyo and a postgraduate Diploma from the University of Aix-Marseille III in France. He passed the Japanese national examinations of information processing engineer (IT Strategist, Applied IT Engineer, etc.)



## MR BRIAN FONSECA

Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy , Florida International University's (FIU)

Mr. Brian Fonseca is Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University's (FIU) Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations. Brian's technical expertise is in U.S. national security and foreign policy. He also serves as a Cybersecurity Policy Fellow at the D.C.-based think tank New America and Chair of the Americas Linkage Committee at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. His analysis has been featured in local and national media and he serves as the on-air Political Analyst for South Florida's WSVN-Fox News. Brian joined FIU after serving as the Senior Research Manager for Socio-Cultural Analysis at United States Southern Command's Joint Intelligence Operations Center South (JIOC-S). His recent publications include an edited volume with Eduardo A. Gamarra titled Culture and National Security in the Americas (Lexington Books, 2017) and is co-author of The New US Security Agenda: Trends and Emerging Threats (Palgrave, 2017). His 2018 publications focus on Russian engagement in Latin America—including information operations, diaspora diplomacy and Russian-Venezuelan relations. Brian holds degrees in International Business and International Relations from Florida International University in Miami, Florida, and he has attended Sichuan University in Chengdu, China and National Defense University in Washington D.C. From 1997 to 2004, he served in the United States Marine Corps and facilitated the training of foreign military forces in both hostile theaters and during peacetime operations.



## MITCHELL BELFER

President of the Euro-Gulf Information Centre

Mitchell Belfer is currently President of the Euro-Gulf Information Centre (Rome, Italy), Senior Lecturer in International Relations, Terrorism and Security at the Metropolitan University Prague (Czech Republic) and Editor in Chief of the Central European Journal of International and Security Studies. He also sits on the Steering Committee of the Global Institute for Cybersecurity Technologies among other editorial, research and scientific boards. In addition to his numerous works of scholarship and presentations in academic and political forums, Mitchell is also a frequent international media contributor and has appeared on the BBC and CNN, often speaks on Radio France International (among other outlets) and has written for the Wall Street Journal, National Review, the Government Gazette, Parliament Magazine and an assortment of others. Mitchell specialises in security related issues in the Arab Gulf and wider Middle East region with an emphasis on: terrorism, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, radical ideologies, small state foreign policies and geopolitics. Mitchell's last monograph was Small State, Dangerous Region: A Strategic Assessment of Bahrain (Peter Lang publishers). The second edition of that work will be released in 2020.



PROF. SID AHMED BENRAOUANE

Chair, United States ISO Innovation Delegation Advisor, to MENA Government Senior Lecturer, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

Professor Sid Ahmed Benraouane is a thought leader with 20+ years of experience in multiple sectors, regions, and industries. He is the Chair of United States ISO Innovation Delegation in charge of publishing and International Innovation Management Standard.

Dr. Benraouane advises senior leaders and executive teams in the government and the private sector on issues related to exponential technologies, innovation, and digital transformation. He is a speaker at the World Government Summit (UAE 2019) on AI and Ethics, and a frequent keynote speaker at regional events such as Big Data Show (UAE), Cloud and Data Show (KSA), Energy Digitization Summit (UAE), Artificial Intelligence Summit (UAE), World Mobility Show and Autonomous Driving (UAE), and Artificial Intelligence Summit (Mauritius).

Dr. Benraouane has authored two textbooks. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and teaches at the University of Minnesota, USA.



ERNESTO DAMIANI

Senior Director of Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems Institute, Khalifa University

Ernesto Damiani is the Senior Director of Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems Institute, Khalifa University, leader of the Big Data area at Etisalat British Telecom Innovation Center, and Full Professor at Università degli Studi di Milano, where he leads the SESAR Lab. He has done extensive research on design and deployment of secure systems and protocols. Ernesto Damiani’s work has more than 15,400 citations on Google Scholar and more than 6,100 citations on Scopus, with an h-index of 34. His areas of interest include Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics, Edge/Cloud security and performance, and cyber-physical systems. Ernesto has been a recipient of the Stephen Yau Award from the Service Society, of the Outstanding contributions Award from IFIP TC2 , of the Chester-Sall Award from IEEE IES and of a doctorate honoris causa from INSA – Lyon (France) for his contribution to Big Data teaching and research.



AMEEN ALTAJER

AI Researcher, Bahrain Institute for Banking & Finance

Ameen is BIBF’s expert trainer for various Digital Transformation Programmes.

Ameen’s experience spans multiple technical disciplines ranging from artificial intelligence (AI), cyber security and penetration testing, 3D programming and simulation, hardware design and programming and Blockchain.

Ameen is also a recognized international speaker who spoke in big conferences like Amazon Web Services (AWS) and the annual World Game Expo (WGE). Ameen is constantly consulted for his wide perspective and long term vision in the business of technology in aspects that include artificial intelligence, automation, security and blockchain.

Working with BIBF, Ameen has delivered many training workshops covering various emerging technologies including AI and Machine Learning, IoT FinTech and Blockchain. Ameen’s multiple training sessions were delivered to Board of Directors, Senior Management and all the way to Mid Management and Junior Staff.



DR. ROBBIN LAIRD

Editor, Second Line of Defence Research Fellow, Williams Foundation

Dr. Laird is a tri-continently based defense analyst and consultant. He is a Research Fellow with the Williams Foundation, based in Canberra, Australia, he lives and works in Arlington VA and works in Europe from Paris, France, where he has been based for more than 30 years as well.

He is the founder of two defense analytical websites, Second Line of Defense and Defense.info where his team looks at the evolution of military concepts of operations and related strategic issues. He has written or co-authored several books with a 2013 book on *The Rebuilding American Military Power in the Pacific* and a new book to be published next year on *The Return of Direct Defense in Europe*.



FRANK BELONUS

CEO, Falcon Desert International

Frank Belonus is the President and CEO of Falcon Desert International (FDI) and Vice Chairman of the American Business Council- Kuwait (ABCK), the AmCham of Kuwait.

Mr. Belonus is a highly decorated veteran, serving more than 20 years in the United States Army. He conducted counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, hostage rescue and combat operations globally. He also served as the leader of several military schools and courses, written multiple books and articles, and trained SWAT teams.

Prior to joining FDI, Frank was a Senior Advisor to the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) where he supported the establishment and integration of the country’s first multi-system simulations center. During this timeframe Frank also served as the Senior Security Advisor to the Kuwait National Assembly (Parliament) for a brief period of time.

Prior to this Frank was the Chief of the Counterinsurgency Training Program, working with the 26 country multi-national coalition forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Belonus is a graduate of more than 20 civilian and military schools and courses. He has also been a guest speaker for numerous conferences and symposiums globally, regularly speaking on training, strategy, leadership and the middle east. Frank was recognized at I/ITSEC 2018 as the global award winner for best paper and speaker for ITEC 2018, discussing training and simulations in the middle east.



STAFF MAJOR GENERAL PILOT ISHAQ AL BALOUSHI

Assistant Undersecretary for Defence Industry and Capabilities Development, United Arab Emirates Ministry of Defence

In his current role, Major General Al Baloushi is responsible for directing and developing the United Arab Emirates National Defense Industry and Defense Capability by leading development of the deliberate policies and strategies for the National Defense Industry, in cooperation with the Executive Council, Multiagency Authorities and the various Industrial Organizations.

Prior to joining the MOD, he held several key leadership positions in the UAE Armed Forces General Headquarters, including Chief of Logistics Staff and the Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Joint Logistics, in addition to several leadership positions in the UAE Air Force and Air Defense.

General Al Baloushi has played an influential role in a number of important projects for UAE Air Force, including the Mirage 2000 Project, F-16 Project and the P-21 project, earning more than 15 local and international awards and decorations for his service.

He has previously served as the Deputy Chairman of the Higher Organising Committee for IDEX and NAVDEX in 2017 and 2019, as well Deputy of the Higher Organizing Committee for the Dubai Air Show in 2017 and 2019.







**H.E. AMJAD KHAMIS AL-SHUHAIL**  
CEO, King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau (KADDB)

Amjad has more than 20 years of professional experience in the field of investment management with sovereign wealth funds and private equity firms. His main experience was working with sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for 15 years managing \$40 billion of Abu Dhabi government funds, closely working with international investment houses (Morgan Stanley, Barclays, State Street, HSBC and other) in USA & Europe. As part of managing his portfolio, he is proficient in the analysis of small, medium and large companies looking at Management efficiency, Operations and Financial analysis for the purpose of investment. Since 2016, Amjad works as an advisor and business consultant for a number of companies in the new emerging markets and established an Investment Fund Company involving private equity firms in Bosnia across all sectors of the Economy. Currently, he is a Consultant for a big investment Group and an Energy company in Bosnia. Before 2016, Amjad worked as a business consultant with regional and international companies amongst which Ketab Technologies, Acacus Technologies which had a partnership with Apple based in Dubai. Amjad holds a bachelor’s degree of Business Administration from Boston University, USA (1996) with a concentration in Finance. He also graduated from a military high school (New York Military Academy, NYMA) from 1988-1991, that had close collaboration with United States Military Army, also known as West Point Army.



**GREGORY COPELY**  
President, International Strategic Studies Association; President, Global Informations System, Inc.: Editor-in-Chief, Defence & Foreign Affairs Publications

Gregory Copley, an Australian, has been President since 1972 of the International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA), based in Washington, DC. He has served over the past half century as an adviser on strategic and intelligence issues to a number of governments and leaders in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Apart from many classified and unclassified reports, he has authored or co-authored 35 books on strategic and geopolitical issues, history, energy, aviation, and defense; the latest being Sovereignty in the 21st Century, and the Crisis for Cultures, Nation-States, and Civilizations (2018). He wrote UnCivilization: Urban Geopolitics in a Time of Chaos, in 2012, and another grand strategy book, The Art of Victory, in 2006. He co-authored Rise of the RedMed: How the Mediterranean-Red Sea Nexus is Resuming its Strategic Centrality (2016), and Defense & Foreign Affairs Handbooks on Pakistan, Egypt, and Azerbaijan. Copley is Editor-in-Chief of Defense & Foreign Affairs publications, and Director of Intelli-gence at the Global Information System (GIS), a current intelligence service for governments. He drafted the grand strategy framework document for Australia, Australia 2050, in 2007, and Such a Full Sea: Australia’s Options in a Changing Indian Ocean Region (2009). He is also President of ISSA’s Zahedi Center for the Study of Monarchy, Traditional Governance, and Sovereignty. Mr Copley also has had an extensive career as a defense industrialist in the United Kingdom, France, and the US. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Scottish national airline, Highland Express.



**BILAL Y. SAAB**  
Senior Fellow and Director, Middle East Institute

Bilal Y. Saab is a political-military analyst on the Middle East and US policy toward the region. He specializes in the Levant and the Persian Gulf, and focuses on security cooperation between the United States and its regional partners, and national security and defense processes in Arab partner countries. Currently, he is Senior Fellow and Director of the Defense and Security Program at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, D.C. Prior to MEI, Mr. Saab served as Senior Advisor for Security Cooperation (SC) in the Pentagon’s Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, with responsibilities for U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). In his capacity as the Department of Defense’s lead on security cooperation in the broader Middle East, Mr. Saab supported the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy’s (USDP) responsibility for SC oversight by leading prioritization and strategic integration of SC resources and activities for the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). Mr. Saab is a term member (2016-2021) with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and a recipient of the International Affairs Fellowship (2018-2019) with CFR. He is also Adjunct Assistant Professor at Georgetown University’s Security Studies Program. He has held research, analysis, fellowship, and management positions at organizations including Brookings, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and the Atlantic Council. Mr. Saab has fluency in both written and spoken Arabic and French, and experience living in the Middle East for more than two decades. He has received various analytic and leadership awards throughout his career including the Thought Leadership Award from the Atlantic Council and the Abshire-Inamori Leadership Award from CSIS. A prolific and widely published author in peer-reviewed academic and policy journals including the print editions of The Washington Quarterly, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, American Interest, and The National Interest and the online editions of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy, Saab is often called upon to brief and testify before various executive and legislative agencies in the U.S. government and other governments around the world. He regularly provides commentary to international media outlets including CNN, NPR, PBS Newshour, Reuters, Washington Post and New York Times. Saab earned his BA from the American University of Beirut, his MLitt from the University of St Andrews, and his MA from the University of Maryland, College Park.

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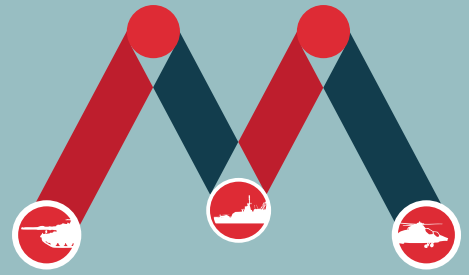


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