Contemporary Defense Issues for Junior Military Leaders
(MASL #P279493 Regional)
(MASL #P309493 MET)

The Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) offers a custom-designed, Expanded International Military Education and Training (E-IMET) certified program entitled “Contemporary defense issues for junior military leaders” exportable on demand to all IMET recipient countries. The intended audience is junior-to mid-level military officers (typically from Ministry of Defense, General Staff, Service HQs, and the services themselves. The main theme of this program is to acquaint participants with national level defense issues in a manner that they can understand. Considerable effort is made to explain the concept of the “defense institution” and how it functions, with particular emphasis placed on understanding the roles of policy, planning, budgeting, procurement, and managerial oversight. Albeit organized for junior military officers, young defense civilian officials can also benefit from participating in the course. The course is comprised of selected, short and focused readings, briefings, discussion and debate periods, as well as decision-making simulations.

The key objectives of the course are to:
1. Understand the role, mission, and purpose of the defense institution in a democracy.
2. Become acquainted to the purpose of ‘policy’ and how it can be used to direct every function of the armed forces.
3. Learn essential characteristics and elements of key policy tools: planning, budgeting, procurement, and managerial oversight of policy implementation.
4. Learn common planning and budgeting “pathologies” that occur in all defense institutions and study possible solutions which are based on comparative case studies.
5. Conduct a decision-making simulation that offers the opportunity to junior leaders to understand and appreciate the need for framing problems properly and developing decision-supporting analysis and objective courses of action.
6. Appreciate the character of the defense institutions as the key instrument in a democracy of effecting a proper balance in civil-military relations.

This course can be taught to either single country or regional audiences of between 20 and 30 participants. CCMR tailors each of its programs to the specific conditions, constraints, and requirements of the selected audience. This program is 5 days long and is focused on national-level policy realities and issues.

Faculty Teams: CCMR provides two or three world-class subject matter experts from academic, military, or private sector backgrounds. Host government representatives are asked to deliver presentations as needed.

Translation: This course is taught in English with simultaneous interpretation, as required.