

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Welcome to the October 2017 Contemporary Security Challenges in the Horn of Africa seminar, which is designed to provide you with an enhanced knowledge of the security landscape in this sub-region. The topics for this seminar were selected by CJTH-HoA leadership to better prepare staff to understand and navigate the complexities of security threats and challenges in the Horn of Africa. The seminar will examine key drivers and dynamics, including: governance, religion, ethnicity, and extremism. Attention will also be paid to the role of external actors via foreign assistance (development and security assistance), as well as direct bilateral engagement with China. We aim to provide you with a strategic level context that could enhance your work. You will be introduced to recent scholarship relating to Africa's security sector, challenged to think outside the box, and encouraged to think critically about appropriate policy and practice.

In our view, the seminar will be successful only if there is honest analysis and productive dialogue. You are encouraged to challenge the analyses and content in all the material we provide. We aim to foster a healthy dialogue on the security challenges under discussion, which in turn will help you forge realistic and effective programs and strategies. As with all Africa Center programs, this seminar will be conducted under a strict policy of non-attribution which is binding during and after the seminar.

Your feedback is invaluable. It helps us know the extent to which we met your expectations and plays an important part in the design of future programs. You will receive evaluation forms on the first day, and we ask that you complete the session evaluations at the end of each day. We will end the program with an Evaluation Session on October 12 at which time we will collect the forms. Our staff will be available to assist.

Upon completion of the seminar, you will join more than 8,000 individuals with at least two things in common: a shared concern for issues regarding the future of Africa's stability and security; and participation in an Africa Center program. We will work actively with you and all members of the Africa Center community to build upon the dialogue begun here and to foster a sense of partnership in the pursuit of our common interests in a prosperous, peaceful Africa. Let us know if you would like to be put in touch with ACSS alumni in specific countries in the Horn of Africa.

Thank you for participating in this seminar.

We look forward to seeing you in Djibouti!