Course Description

The Seminar on Regional Security (SRS) is broken down into three modules, each building upon the lessons learned in the previous module.

During the first module, Marshall Center faculty and guest speakers provide a foundation of common understanding required for the rest of the course. Lecture and discussion topics provide a framework of definitions and concepts of security, regional security, conflict, and crisis management, as well as associated regional implications. In addition, the seminar working groups will be tasked to do some research on selected regional and international conflict management organizations and mechanisms, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union, African Union, the United Nations, and contributions from civil society and to present their research results to the SRS audience.

In the second module, participants develop insights into past and/or ongoing regional conflicts such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Yemen, and Mali. The seminar working groups with the help of subject matter experts will be tasked to do some research on the selected case studies, referring to national, regional and international actors, their aims and objectives and the current status of conflict management efforts. These insights are then transferred into lessons learned for management of future crises.

In the third module participants improve their negotiation skills and practice them in a simulated Track 1 Peace Conference, built on a regional crisis scenario. During this particular module, SRS participants will apply everything they learned during the course. This particular module is mediated by an experienced ambassador or representative of an international or regional organization with considerable real life experience in conflict management processes.

Previous guest speakers included: Geoffrey Pyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine; Mary Beth Leonard, Permanent US Representative to the African Union, Dr. Antonio Missiroli, Director of the European Union Institute for Security Studies; Russia GenLt (retired) Evgeniy Buzhinsky, Chairman of the Executive Board of the PIR Center; Ihor Dolhov, Deputy Defense Minister, Ukraine; Georghe Balan, Moldovan Vice Prime Minister for Reintegration; Wolf Dietrich Heim, OSCE Special Advisor to the Chairperson-in-office; James Pettit, U.S. Ambassador to Moldova; Herbert Salber, European Union Special Representative to the Southern Caucasus and Georgia; Knut Abraham, Head of the Division for South East Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia in the Federal Chancellery; Martin Schelleis, Lieutenant General and Chief of German Joint Support Service; and Dr. Marian Staszewski, Deputy Head of Mission, Office of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for peace talks on the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Finally, and for the first time, in 2019 the SRS will be complemented by a 3-day field study trip to Vienna, providing participants with the opportunity to receive some firsthand information from OSCE-practitioners in the field and representatives of international organizations like the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.