The Middle East Studies Center (MESC), an area studies center of the Office of International Affairs at The Ohio State University, was established in 1981. Since then, the Center has worked with 60+ faculty focused on researching the Middle East to support students, strengthen the Library, forge lasting partnerships and strengthen OSU’s reach in the local community and the world. The Center’s team personally delivers content to teachers, students and schools in Columbus, across the country, and online. **35,000 people have participated in 600 Outreach and Engagement activities over the past ten years,** in addition to the thousands more we reach through the internet, radio and television. We conduct extensive training for the military (see below), provide ongoing media analysis (delivering 50 media interviews per year), and continually work to strengthen Middle East studies at OSU by supporting courses, sponsoring enrichment activities, library resources and experiential learning opportunities for students. It also means the creation of easy-to-digest materials, such as our e-book, Youtube videos, and classroom materials. We have prepared over 1000 military officers since 2009 to be culturally effective upon deployment. We are committed to supporting research, community building, and making university expertise and resources available and accessible to the general public. Links are in red.

### Military Outreach Program

We have prepared over **1000 military officers** since 2009 to be culturally effective upon deployment. We are committed to supporting research, community building, and making university expertise and resources available and accessible to military personal. Military personnel, as well as members of the Department of Homeland Security, regularly participate in our events. After September 11, 2001, when requests for education and information about the Middle East increased exponentially, The Middle East Studies Center at The Ohio State University also re-doubled its military outreach efforts and began to develop an engagement strategy for military constituencies. This has entailed an all-day workshops focusing on Afghan cultural history, basic language acquisition for field operations in Afghanistan, and collaboration with the best scholars in the country to create simulation activities and instruction on body language in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**History**

Soon after 2001, we began partnering with the Ohio National Guard, our local Lima Company of the Marine Corps, and university colleagues in military history and international security, and others, and began providing regular consultations with military and law enforcement leaders and trainers on an as-needed basis. The Director served on the committees of 3 ROTC students, and regularly presents to our ROTC program. In 2008 we further developed programs that would meet specific needs we had learned about through these interactions. On April 5, 2008, we presented to military families through “Operation Military Kids” in partnership with the Ohio National Guard. In 2009 we formalized our military training program, offering **Afghan Culture Workshop** for military and government trainers. In 2010 the director took part in two major military conferences organized by the Army, one on “Social Organizations in the Operational Environment,” and the “Fort Drum Forum on Iraq and Afghanistan for Trainers of Trainers.” Since then we have trained representatives from U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), and are regular speakers for Central Command’s Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management at Wright-Patterson Airforce Base.

### Highlights:

- **07/21/2009:** Afghan Culture Workshop for military and government trainers hosted on OSU campus.
- **8/22/2009:** Pre-departure Orientation for the Lima Company of the Marine Corps.
- **07/13/2010:** Presentation on Afghan Culture at the Fort Drum Conference for Army Officers.
- **11/4-6/2011:** MESC co-organized a workshop for Army Officers at Camp Mabry with the University of Texas.
- **2011 – 2017:** Regular lectures for Central Command's **Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management** at Wright-Patterson Airforce Base.