



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY  
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES  
2040 BROADWAY STREET  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5067

Middle East Studies at Marine Corps University  
MES Lecture Series 2011-2012

“Orienting Our Sights on the Future: the Opportunities and Challenges of the Arab Revolts”

The uprisings taking place throughout the Middle East and North Africa are reshaping the political and social landscape of the region. As this environment evolves, the United States Marine Corps, as the Nation’s force in readiness, must stay current on the emerging realities in the Middle East to ensure they stand ready to respond to the Nation’s needs. The wave of uprisings which began in December of 2010 in Tunisia, now referred to as the Arab Spring, has had varied results throughout the region and mixed responses from the international community. Not only has the rule of long-standing regimes been challenged, but also the relationships of leaders throughout the region and beyond, with flailing and deposed dictators as well as their successors, have been redefined. The situation in Libya has already led to military intervention by NATO, and although too early to predict, the deteriorating situations in Syria and Yemen may result in some degree of intervention from neighboring countries or beyond.

Because of ongoing deployment of U.S. forces in Middle East and the continued U.S. military presence in the Gulf region for the foreseeable future, there is a need to broaden the Marine Corps’ understanding of the events taking place throughout the region as well as of the impact these changes will have on U.S. policy and Marine Corps planning for future operations. To support this, Middle East Studies at Marine Corps University (MES at MCU) has dedicated its 2011-2012 Lecture Series to exploring the opportunities and challenges that the Arab Revolts present to the United States, the region, and the international community. As with previous MES Lecture Series, there are three expected stages to this Lecture Series:

- 1) the lecture series itself, which brings scholars with different areas of expertise to the Marine Corps University. These experts can be available to the various schools within MCU and onsite organizations at MCB Quantico as arranged through MES.
- 2) publication as part of the MES Monographs Series, for quick dissemination, and as an edited volume of a compilation of essays submitted by the lecture series participants geared for use by operational Marines (and other U.S. or allied forces) as well as for use within U.S. PME institutions.
- 3) dissemination of resources in a wide variety of media formats in order to reach the largest audience possible. Dissemination formats include: audio and video / DVDs of the lectures as well as occasional papers, journals and newsletter articles, and other publications. These will be made available via the MES at MCU websites, mail, and email to ensure greatest accessibility and widest dissemination of resources.

The lecture series will run from October 2011 thru April 2012. Each lecture will focus on a single country in the region including, but not limited to, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.