

BIRMINGHAM

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Tuesday, March 24, 2009



Amin Tarzi, Ph.D

Director of Middle East Studies
Marine Corps University, Quantico, VA

"Neo-Taliban" – Who, What, Where and How

In his capacity as Director of Middle East Studies at the Marine Corps University, Dr. Amin Tarzi conducts focused research and represents the Marine Corps at various academic and professional forums. He also provides expert advice on the Middle East for all Professional Military Education programs at the University.

Dr. Tarzi's professional experience includes serving as a senior analyst for Radio Free Europe; teaching courses in political Islam, cultural intelligence, and terrorist organizations, at the Washington-based Center for Advanced Defense Studies; and working as the Senior Research Associate for the Middle East at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Since 2007 the U.S., its NATO partners, and the Afghan Government have faced an increasingly complicated insurgency in Afghanistan. In his January 2009 testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stated that this insurgency is "the greatest current military challenge" for the United States.

There are numerous differing opinions as to the identity of the insurgents, and what objectives they are pursuing. Are they the Taliban of 2001? A Neo-Taliban? Al-Qaeda? Pakistan-backed? Iran-backed? Narco Traffickers? Warlords? Opportunists? A combination of all?

Dr. Amin Tarzi's presentation will focus on the fragmented structure of the insurgents; their varied platforms and stated goals; their strategies and tactics; their social and geographical bases; and their foreign patronage and reasons for such support. In addition, Dr. Tarzi will suggest how the United States, its NATO partners, and the regional governments can effectively confront the neo-Taliban phenomenon both in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan.

SPEAKER'S ADDRESS: The Gray Research Center / 2040 Broadway Street / Quantico, VA 22134

BOARD ACTION

The following new members were approved for publication at the March board of directors meeting. All questions and comments should be received in the Kiwanis club office by Tuesday April 7, 2009.

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Position: President - Dunn Construction Company
Sponsors: Brian Barr, Glenn Waldrop and Marc Tyson

William Brown Deal "Will"

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Keith Alan Parrott "Keith"

Position: President - Baptist Princeton
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Position: Rector - St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Sponsors: Rick Finch, Mac Moorer and William Nicrosi

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Next Tuesday's Program March 24, 2009 12:00 Noon

Amin Tarzi, Ph.D

Director of Middle East Studies
Marine Corps University
Quantico, VA



GUEST RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
kiwanis99@aol.com OR 251-0032

Upcoming Programs

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| March 31 | Mark Claypool, President & CEO
Educational Services of America |
| April 7 | Kate Nielsen, CEO
Community Foundation of Greater
Birmingham |
| April 14 | Richard Shelby
United States Senator |
| April 21 | 2009 Youth of the Year
Scholarship Awards
Keynote Speaker:
Andrew Keen, Author |

KIWANIAN on the web www.kcob.org

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