

Council Chronicle



Vol. 8, No. 1

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *24th edition* of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's periodic newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports on the Council's programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, and for ongoing supporters keen to keep abreast of the Council's accomplishments, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at ncusar.org.

Message from the President

In this issue, *Council Chronicle* readers will find reports on: (1) the Council's *18th Annual Cultural Immersion Program* in the Sultanate of Oman for officers selected by the Commander of the U.S. Central Command; and (2) *eight policy-centric and -recommendation briefings to packed audiences on Capitol Hill* – on Iraq, on Qatar, on Libya, on Saudi Arabia, on Egypt, on Tunisia, and on future defense prospects for the six *GCC countries* for Members of Congress, congressional staff, members of the diplomatic and defense communities, the media, and representatives of the broader constituency of national foreign affairs practitioners.



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony (left) bestows the Council's first-ever "Global Corporate Leadership Award" on HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud (right).

Additional highlights include: (3) further recognition of the National Council's commitment to transparency, accountability, and outstanding fiscal management by international charity rating agencies; and (4) the October 28-29, 2014 dates for the Council's 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Relations Policymakers Conference at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The ongoing theme, scope, and focus of this year's annual one-of-a-kind international gathering is encapsulated in the Conference's title: "Framing and Charting the Region's Issues, Interests, Challenges, and Opportunities: Implications for Arab and U.S. Policies."

In every instance, the Council's goal has been to forge ever-increasing communities of well-educated, -trained, and -developed Americans with firsthand empirical exposures to and experiences in countries and issues of immense strategic, economic, energy, political, commercial, defense cooperation, and other importance to the United States.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Duke Anthony".

Dr. John Duke Anthony
Founding President and CEO
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Table Of Contents

National Council Individual Supporters 4

National Council Bestows Global Corporate Leadership Award on HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud 5

National Council Malone Fellows Cultural Immersion Program in Oman..... 6

National Council Public Affairs Briefings:

 “The Way Forward in Egypt” 9

 “Placing the Recent Tension in Saudi Arabian-U.S. Relations in Context” 9

 “Opportunities for Export Business and Investment in Libya’s Healthcare and Medical Sector” 10

 “Dynamics of U.S.-GCC Defense Cooperation” 10

 “Tunisia: The Way Forward” 11

 “Qatar – Understood and Misunderstood” 11

 “Iraq Update – Challenges and Opportunities” 12

 “Dynamics of Regional Crises Run Amok” 12

National Council Recognized for Outstanding Performance, Fiscal Management, & Transparency..... 13

National Council Leadership & Staff..... 15

Join the National Council’s Online Community..... 16

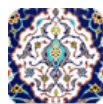
About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world through *seven different annual programs, events, and activities*. **First**, it is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. One leadership development effort alone, the Council’s Model Arab League Program, has more than 35,000 alumni, with the annual number of participants averaging 2,000.

The yearly venues in which the Models occur span thirteen cities across the United States. We’ll be adding three more in the coming year. We think it speaks volumes that *every single Council employee is a graduate of this program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship.



National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations website



Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC Blog



Second, the National Council is the world’s only organization to have administered for 22 years and counting an annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers’ Conference. The Conference brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past three years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,250 registrants. Through coverage for five of the past six years by C-SPAN, the award-winning international satellite television network, additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council’s website at ncusar.org.

A **third** National Council highlight is its ten-week student work-study internship program. In the past year alone, the Council trained nearly three dozen interns. In cooperation with The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the program was administered for the seventh-consecutive year in association with *eighteen* sister organizations and provided a professional work experience together with a twenty-part seminar on “Arabia, the Gulf, the GCC, and the U.S.-Arab relationship.”

The 2014 University Student Summer Internship Program with 25 interns recently concluded. A brand new feature of this year's program was the institution of Findley Fellowships. The Fellowships were granted at the end of the program to four of the most outstanding interns. The awardees were interns who met two criteria. They, first, excelled in the program's academic component. In addition, the winners were those interns who, in their character, integrity, dedication, and overall professionalism, most exemplify the extraordinary moral and leadership traits of former long-serving Congressman Paul Findley, a founding member of the National Council's Advisory Board.

A **fourth** National Council year-round program is designed to contribute positively to the national conversation. A legitimate question, of course, is the national conversation about what? The answer is about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions towards the Arab world and its peoples. How does the Council go about doing this? It does so through a series of seminars on Capitol Hill and other venues. In each instance, internationally renowned specialists are tasked with recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers in matters of common concern. The seminars held in Congressional hearing rooms are typically filled to capacity with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the media, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

In addition, a **fifth** National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the past seven years, the Council has done this, in part, through an electronic newsletter that appears four times a year and through an *Annual Review*. Another feature of the Council's outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to Arabia and the Gulf as well as the overall Arab-U.S. relationship is the Council's blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Council Distinguished Fellows Dr. Imad Kamel Harb and Robert Lebling, and other specialists. Visit the blog at: ncusar.org/blog. A **sixth** National Council activity is organizing and providing scholarly escorts for delegations of American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries. The seventh National Council public service takes the form of facilitating the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences in Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and Yemen.

Specialists at the National Council's 2013 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Included:



Ambassador Richard Schmierer



Dr. Judith Yaphe



H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif



Ms. Leila Hilal



Dr. Abdullah K. Al-Shayji



Ms. Nahlah Al-Jubeir

Running through all of the National Council's programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council's vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council's vision is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, the vision is anchored in a belief that the foundation is strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging American and Arab leaders. The pages that follow highlight the nature and number of many of the extraordinary leaders who have joined forces with the Council in support of its vision. Each recognizes that the Council is the only American organization that annually organizes and administers an event expressly designed to improve the U.S.-Arab relationship, namely the annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab publics and peoples. The Council seeks, in particular, to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, human resources, and leadership development clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information, insight, and learning opportunities for national, state, and local grassroots educational organizations, media, and public policy research institutes in addition to select community civic, business, and professional associations.

Thank You to the Individual Supporters of the National Council in 2013

The National Council is especially appreciative of the generosity reflected in the ongoing contributions in support of what the Council seeks to accomplish.

We proudly and gratefully list their names as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| John Duke and Cynthia Anthony | Peter J. Bertocci | David Boersema |
| David and Leslie Bosch | Stephen Burton | Susan Bynum |
| Jean B. Campbell | Charles Coate | Lois M. Critchfield |
| Jacob H. & Carol R. Dorn | Ned Farman | Grace Fary |
| Louise Fitzpatrick | Deborah Francis | Linda Funsch |
| Patrick Gaffney | Safar Ghazal | Brice Harris |
| Robert Harrison | Frances Hassencahl | Frank Hoy |
| Joy Suzanne Hunt | Gerald Ingalls | Les Janka |
| Raclare Kanal | Judd L Kessler | Benjamin Kirkpatrick |
| Nancy Kleinberg | Alexi Lamm | Cherie Loustaunau |
| Gregory Mahler | F. William McCarty | Jacob McDonald |
| T.A. Mac McKernan | Laurence Michalak | William Mitchell |
| Bryan Hyrum Montgomery | Jerome Morris | Thomas Mullen |
| Lori Owens | Mario Pascale | Susan Pausky |
| Martin R Quinn | Albert B. Randall | Samory Rashid |
| Laura Rice | Nancy Rocker | Matthew Ruggiero |
| William Schiffelbein | Burl Self | Joseph Stanik |
| Ron Stockton | William Strong | Paul Sullivan |
| John B. Thompson | Melanie Waddell | Willard White |
| Deborah Wickering | Boyd Wilson | Thomas P. & Ella N. Wolf |

National Council Bestows *Global Corporate Leadership Award* on HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal

On November 27, 2013, National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony bestowed the National Council’s first-ever “Global Corporate Leadership Award” on HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud during a meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The award recognizes HRH Prince Alwaleed’s “indefatigable contributions to international business and philanthropy.”

Dr. Anthony and National Council Executive Vice President & Director of Development Patrick Mancino met with HRH Prince Alwaleed and Dr. Nahla Nasser Al Anbar, Private Executive Assistant to HRH, in Chicago. They did so to receive guidance and counsel on matters pertaining to potential future collaboration between HRH’s Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation and the Council.



The Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation previously awarded a grant supporting the Council’s programs promoting American understanding of the Arab countries and the Islamic world from 2006-2008.

The grant, along with contributions from other Council supporters, has helped immensely. It has enabled the Council not only to grow and reach an expanding audience. It has also assisted in the Council’s efforts to continue to promote and build as well as strengthen and protect the foundation of a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible.



A delegation of Model Arab League students visits the Riyadh offices of The Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation during a study visit to Saudi Arabia.

The Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation is no marginal or fly-by-night supporter of what the National Council seeks to accomplish. It frequently hosts delegations of emerging leaders from the Council’s Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program in Riyadh during Council study visits to Saudi Arabia. Such meetings connect the students with the Foundation’s leaders. They enable the participants to learn about the Foundation’s global work and discuss recent changes and ongoing challenges in Saudi Arabia. The students also meet Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.

They are provided a hands-on experience in a leading Arab and Islamic country that few others their age have had or, absent their participation in the Models, they are likely to obtain.



Support from The Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation has been crucial to the continued growth and vibrancy of the National Council’s Model Arab League (MAL) Student Leadership Development Program.

MAL annually helps approximately 2,000 American high school and university students learn about the politics and history of the Arab world, and the arts of diplomacy and public speech. MAL helps prepare students to be knowledgeable, well-trained, and effective citizens as well as civic and public affairs leaders.

National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program Annual Cultural Immersion Visit to Oman

In February, a delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, National Council Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies, and other American foreign affairs specialists participated in the Council's *18th Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman*. The delegation was led by Malone Fellow Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, Council Board Member David Bosch and Leslie Bosch, long-time residents of and authorities on the culture of Oman, and staff member Josh Hilbrand.

Since its inception in 1996, this particular National Council program has been and remains one of a kind. Many of the Council's programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development. The Council's programs in Oman for the past 18 years, however, have been and remain different. They are designed to provide hard-to-come-by information and empirical insight into not just these kinds of issues but also, and especially, Oman's cultural and anthropological themes.

The program unfolds primarily in *half a dozen different regions outside the Sultanate's capital of Muscat*. It does so in order to allow delegation members to experience the dynamics of what is not only one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries. It does so also because of Oman's position adjacent to the Hormuz Strait, arguably the most strategically vital waterway on earth, through which one fifth of the world's globally traded oil transits daily. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of dynamics that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic priorities, international relations, and foreign policy objectives.

Before their departure for Oman, the Fellows participated in a two-day orientation program. Featured were (1) National Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony; (2) Ambassador Richard Schmierer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Near East Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and former U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman; (3) The Honorable Molly Williamson, Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Defense, former Acting Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State, and former Senior Foreign Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Energy; (4) Mr. Robert Dry, Adjunct Professor, New York University, and former Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Muscat; (5) Colonel Andrea Tullos, Chief of the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) on the Joint Staff; (6) Richard W. Jackson, Staff Member in the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) on the Joint Staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Department of Defense; and (7) Lt. Col. Professor David Des Roches, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense.



The National Council Malone Fellow delegation meets with H.E. Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed al Rowas, His Majesty the Sultan's Advisor for Cultural Affairs.



One of Oman's many inland fortresses and traditional walled settlements, Bahla, presently under restoration, has been designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site.



The National Council's Malone Fellow delegation explored half a dozen regions in the Sultanate's interior outside the capital of Muscat. In doing so, they experienced firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries.

Upon arrival in Oman, the delegation members participated in meetings and briefings by officials at the U.S. Embassy and Omani government ministries. They visited Bayt Al-Zubair, one of Oman's world class cultural and historical museums in Muttrah, the commercial center of the capital territory. In addition, the Fellows spent time along the country's coasts, crisscrossing its numerous mountains and wadis, and camping out under a moonlit and star-strewn sky in a desert outpost deep in Oman's vast Sharqiyah Sands, where they were hosted by members of the Al-Harthy, the region's most prominent tribe.

Further into the interior, the Fellows visited remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and little known farm sites tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. In so doing, the participants were able to observe the country's fisher folk, boat builders, weavers, potters, the faithful at prayer, women at work and at leisure, and school children at study and at play.

The Fellows also visited Salalah, the second largest city in Oman, capital of the Dhofar Province, and birthplace of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. In addition, in Jabrin, Nizwa, and Qabil, the Fellows made their way on foot through the architectural mazes and defense mechanisms of three of the country's more than 400 centuries-old forts.

Through mountains, deserts, wadis, and sea, the experience unfolded along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places. All this transpired alongside an extraordinary Omani guide who personified Oman's long history of residence and interaction within Arabia and the Gulf as well as Central and East Africa.

Requests for Applications are now being received for individuals interested in participating in the National Council's February 2015 Program.



A view of the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, an historical center of scholarly learning and traditional education that has long been closely linked to Ibadhi Muslim communities in Algeria, Libya, East Africa, and elsewhere.



Malone Fellows explored the vibrant market in Sinaw, in the eastern region of Oman where they were able to walk among and commune with men and women in their traditional dress, peruse the locally produced handicrafts in gold and silver, and observe the brisk sales in fish, goats, and household wares.



The Fellows visited Jabrin Castle, built in the 17th Century when Oman's capital moved there from Nizwa.



An exterior view of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.



Fifteenth century Fort Mirani in Muscat.



Malone Fellows explored the dunes of the Sharqiyyah Sands, an eastern extension of the Rub' Al-Khali (The Empty Quarter), the world's largest desert.



The waterfront of Muscat, capital of Oman and one of Arabia's most historically fabled ports.

National Council Public Affairs Briefings

“The Way Forward in Egypt”

July 19, 2013

On July 19, 2013, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a public affairs briefing to examine recent developments and their implications in Egypt.



Professor Karim Haggag delivers remarks at the National Council's Capitol Hill briefing on “The Way Forward in Egypt.”

The briefing, titled **“The Way Forward in Egypt,”** was held in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. National Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator and in his opening remarks, emphasized Egypt’s perennial geopolitical constants that have made it such an important factor and actor in regional affairs.

Participating specialists were: (1) Professor Karim Haggag, Visiting Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of Defense, and Former Director, Press and Information Office, Embassy of Egypt in Washington, DC; (2) Ms.

Randa Fahmy Hudome, Board Member, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, and General Counsel, American Egyptian Strategic Alliance; (3) Dr. Marina Ottaway, Senior Scholar, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; and (4) Dr. Diane Singerman, Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University.

An audio recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](#).

“Placing the Recent Tension in Saudi Arabian-U.S. Relations in Context: Where Do We Go From Here?”

November 13, 2013

On November 13, 2013 the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a briefing on

“Placing the Recent Tension in Saudi Arabian-U.S. Relations in Context: Where Do We Go From Here?” at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Council Founding President and CEO Dr. Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator. In his opening remarks, he noted the more than seventy years’ special Saudi Arabian-U.S. relationship that, despite its periodic ups and downs, has produced incalculable benefits for their respective peoples and the world beyond. Participating specialists were: (1) Ambassador (Ret.) James Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (September 2009-September 2013) and Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group; and (2) Ambassador (Ret.) Ford Fraker, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (April 2007-April 2009) and Senior Advisor, Trinity Group Limited.



Ambassador James Smith answers an audience question during a National Council Public Affairs Briefing in Washington, DC.

A transcript of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org.

“Opportunities for Export Business and Investment in Libya's Healthcare and Medical Sector”

December 4, 2013

On December 4, 2013, the National Council and The American Libyan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ALCCI) hosted a special public discussion with Libyan Deputy Minister of Health Emhamed Elhemmal



H.E. Emhamed Elhemmal, Libyan Deputy Minister Of Health, addresses a National Council Public Affairs Briefing on Libya's healthcare sector.

healthcare and medical sector. The event, titled **“Opportunities for Export Business and Investment in Libya's Healthcare and Medical Sector,”** was held at The Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Council Founding President & CEO Dr. Anthony delivered welcoming remarks and ALCCI President Robert J. Marro introduced the minister. Dr. Esam Omeish, Chairman of the Department of General Surgery at Inova Alexandria Hospital and Vice Chairman of ALCCI, and Dr. Mahmoud Usta Omar, Medical Attaché at the Embassy of Libya, also offered commentary and analysis during the discussion. The program enabled corporate investors, trade specialists, and representatives to learn about business opportunities in Libya, Libya's needs and objectives, and Libya's goal to achieve a world-class healthcare sector.

“Dynamics of U.S.-GCC Defense Cooperation”

February 13, 2014



On February 13, 2014, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Dynamics of U.S.-GCC Defense Cooperation”** at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP's Washington, DC office. Council President and CEO Dr. Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the extraordinarily unique circumstance that were in play at the time of the GCC's establishment and how its member-countries have weathered three wars and numerous challenges while becoming the most successful example of interstate cooperation in modern Arab history .

Participating specialists were: (1)

Ambassador (Ret.) James Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2009-2013) and Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group; (2) Professor David Des Roches, Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense, and Council Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies to Syria; and (3) Professor Paul Sullivan, Professor of Economics, National Defense University and Adjunct Professor in National Security Studies, Georgetown University.

An audio recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org and through [iTunes](https://www.apple.com/itunes/). In addition, a KSA2 (Saudi Arabian English television) report on the program is available on the Council's website ncusar.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/).



Professor Paul Sullivan makes remarks during a National Council Public Affairs Briefing on the U.S. defense relationship with the GCC.

“Tunisia: The Way Forward”

February 19, 2014

On February 19, 2014, the National Council and The Maghreb Center organized a program to assess the latest developments in Tunisia. The purpose was to examine and analyze the country’s economic challenges as it moves forward on the path of democratization and political stability. It was also to discuss and assess U.S.-Tunisia relations in the areas of trade and economic development. The event was held at The Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, in his welcoming remarks, underscored Tunisia’s unparalleled record of accomplishments in the fields of women’s, trade union, and civil rights in addition to its achievements in sustaining popular participation in the Country’s national development process. Dr. Néjib Ayachi, Founding President of The Maghreb Center, served as moderator. The keynote speaker H.E. M’Hamed Ezzine Chelaifa, Tunisian Ambassador to the United States. Additional specialists included Mr. Andrew Haviland, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs’ International Finance and Development Unit at the U.S. Department of State, and Dr. Caroline Freund, Senior Fellow at The Peterson Institute for International Economics and former World Bank Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa .



Dr. John Duke Anthony opens the National Council’s and The Maghreb Center’s program assessing the latest developments in Tunisia.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Qatar – Understood and Misunderstood”

April 1, 2014

On April 1, 2014, the National Council hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Qatar – Understood and Misunderstood: A Conversation with H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Qatar Ambassador to the United States.”** The program was held in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator, along with Council Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino. In his welcoming comments, Dr. Anthony pointed out that Qatar hosts the forward-deployed headquarters of the U.S. Central Command; introduced a revolutionary transformation in the scope, focus, and global reach at Arab journalism and mass communication through its pioneering satellite television network Aljazeera; is the host to half a dozen prominent American universities’ four-year academic campuses; and is the world’s largest producer of gas-to-liquids fuels. Ambassador Al Kuwari delivered remarks and then fielded questions from the audience for *ninety minutes*. The discussion, questions, and answers pulled no punches. They explored the dynamics of change and constancy within Qatar's government and the country's economic and political dynamics, foreign policies, and relations with its neighbors and beyond.



With National Council President Dr. Anthony presiding, H.E. Mohammed Jaham Al Kuwari, Ambassador of Qatar to the United States, speaks at a Council Public Affairs Briefing on Capitol Hill.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Iraq Update – Challenges and Opportunities”

May 9, 2014

On May 9, 2014, the National Council hosted a public affairs briefing **“Iraq Update – Challenges and Opportunities: A Conversation with His Excellency Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States.”** The program was co-hosted by and held at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Dr. John Duke Anthony, Council President and CEO, served as primary facilitator and moderator. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Anthony framed the humanitarian



H.E. Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States Lukman Faily, speaks at a National Council Public Affairs Briefing in Washington, DC.

component of the effects following the American led invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003 by stating that the nearly four million Iraqi external refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, in terms of an American equivalency, equated to more than 50 million inhabitants of the United States. He also offered for consideration the view of many in the GCC region and elsewhere that another perceived result of the conflict that ensued, and has yet to be resolved, is that, “American attacked Iraq and Iran men without firing a single bullet or losing a drop of blood” – the reference being to Iran, as a result, having the friendliest government in Baghdad in modern history.

H.E. Ambassador Faily delivered remarks and then fielded questions from the audience for more than an hour. The program explored

current dynamics in Iraq, the country’s continued uncertain security situation, prospects for international investment to repair and develop Iraq’s infrastructure, and perspectives on the priorities of the Iraqi people’s needs and concerns.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

“Dynamics of Regional Crises Run Amok: Implications for Arab and U.S. Interests and Policies”

August 20, 2014



On August 20, 2014, the National Council and the U.S.-GCC Corporate Cooperation Committee hosted a public affairs briefing on **“Dynamics of Regional Crises Run Amok: Implications for Arab and U.S. Interests and Policies”** at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP’s Washington, DC office. Council President and CEO Dr. Anthony served as primary facilitator and moderator.

Participating specialists were: (1) Ambassador Samir Sumaida'ie, Former Ambassador of Iraq to the United States (2006-2011) and Former Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (2004-2006); (2) Professor

David Des Roches, Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, and Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies to Syria; (3) Dr. Imad Harb, Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; (4) Dr. Thomas Mattair, Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council; (5) Mr. Matthew A. Reynolds, North America Representative, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and (6) Mr. Joshua Yaphe, Arabian Peninsula Analyst, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research.



National Council Public Affairs Briefing examining the implications of ongoing regional crises.

An audio and video recording of the program is available on the National Council's website ncusar.org as well as through [iTunes](#) (for the audio recording) and [YouTube](#) (for the video recording).

National Council Recognized for Outstanding Performance, Fiscal Management, & Transparency

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations received highly coveted awards and recognition in recent months by a trio of America's most prominent charitable giving rating organizations.

First, it was again awarded a **Four Star Rating** – the highest possible rating – by **Charity Navigator (CN)**, America's premier independent charity evaluator. CN helps charitable contributors make intelligent giving decisions by providing in-depth, objective ratings and analysis of the financial health and standing of America's largest charities. In earning CN's highest rating, the Council was deemed to have demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of its peers in the world of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations regarding the management and growth of its finances in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.



Second, the National Council was again approved for membership in the Better Business Bureau (**BBB**)'s **Wise Giving Alliance**, thereby demonstrating that the Council meets all 20 of the BBB's Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB's organizational evaluation involves rigorous scrutiny of governance, effectiveness, finances and solicitations, and informational materials. The overarching principle of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability is full disclosure to donors and potential donors at the time of solicitation and thereafter.



Third, the National Council was again recognized in 2013, as it had been the year before, as one of Federal Times' **Best Education Support & Scholarship Charities**.





What will your legacy be?

Accomplishing the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' educational, training, and leadership development mission cannot be achieved by accident or coincidence. It can be realized only through a steady stream of resources from individuals and families that have benefited from the Council's educational programs, projects, events, and activities, and benefactors who believe in what the Council seeks to accomplish.

Investment in the National Council at any level and at any point in one's life will make a difference for generations to come.

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 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC
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For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:

Mr. Pat Mancino, Executive Vice President
 Telephone: 202-293-6466
 Email: pat@ncusar.org

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