



**“Reintegration of Ex-Combatants & Violent Extremists”**  
**(In Residence MASL # P171063; MET MASL #P309463; E-IMET Approved)**

This course examines the reintegration of ex-combatants during or at the end of violent conflict - one of the most difficult yet important elements for stabilization and a successful transition from war to peace. This course also explores the rehabilitation, de-radicalization and reintegration of both foreign fighters returning to their country of origin, and members of domestic violent extremist groups.

While reintegration programming has a history of over 3 decades, and many lessons are learned, the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of members of so called extremist groups, is one of the new and complex challenges of today’s peacebuilding efforts. Reintegration, if done successfully, will involve these individuals in becoming constructive members of their communities and societies. If done poorly, these same actors are likely to undermine stability and recovery—and may even plunge their communities, and even countries, into renewed violence. As with most post-conflict challenges, context is everything. The causes and settlements of conflicts, the state of economic development, the effectiveness of states to protect its citizens and deliver basic services, the culture, geography and the demographics must all be taken into account when developing strategies for reintegration. What works well in one country may fail miserably in another, and vice versa. Further, the reintegration of returning foreign fighters, often after detention, into functioning societies and States, is almost incomparable with the reintegration of domestic ex-combatants into their war-torn societies and economies. In addition, recent global dynamics often results in reintegration programming without having a state-wide peace agreement, with ongoing recruitment during reintegration, and/or the reintegration of so called ‘deserters’ from groups labeled as terrorist organizations, with whom no negotiations take place. This course explores, with trainers and participants, the most practical approaches, best practices and what works and what doesn’t in relation to these relatively new realities.

The course provides an overview of the various approaches for dealing with ex-combatants, from integration into the national security apparatus, to economic and social reintegration, de-radicalization approaches, Community Based Reintegration and Security (CBRS) and (transitional) justice processes. While focused on reintegration, the course provides introductions on related topics including DDR, CVR, SSR, Community Security and SALW control, gender and age responsive programming, M&E, and release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups. In addition, the course explores ways to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.

Drawing on the knowledge of a wide range of trainers and case studies from around the world, this course is meant for senior level national and international military and civilian personal, working in countries that face challenges in reintegration processes, as well as those dealing with the return of foreign fighters. Taken as a whole, the course provide strategic planners and practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to advise on, design, or implement reintegration interventions, appropriate to the specific country and context.

**Sample Course Modules:**

Introduction to DDR	Special Concerns on Release and Reintegration of Children
Introduction to Transitional Justice	Gender Responsive Reintegration
Why do People Fight - Workshop	Monitoring and Evaluation
Introduction to Security Sector Reform (SSR)	Exploring the concepts of radicalization and violent extremism
Unified Armies: Challenges and Considerations	Challenges of returning foreign fighters & Reintegration strategies in Europe and US
Community Violence Reduction (CVR)	Understanding ISIS – Countering the Message
Reestablishing Rule of Law and SALW management	Non-Islamic radicalization and violent extremism
Return and reintegration of military – US Case Study	Case Studies e.g. Iraq, Somalia, Mindanao and Syria
Communication in recruitment and prevention	Participant Country presentations and discussion
Preparing for reintegration	Specific issues in reintegration of deserting fighters from groups listed as terrorist organizations
Community Based Reintegration and Security (CBRS)	Prevention of radicalization and violent extremism
Social reintegration workshop	Field Trip - US Efforts at Ex-Gang Reintegration
Economic Reintegration	

## Learning Objectives:

- Gain knowledge on broader stabilization approaches such as DDR, SSR, CVR, SALW control, and transitional justice approaches directly related to reintegration efforts.
- Explore reasons for fighting, joining armed groups, and recruitment methods.
- Explore diverse models, approaches and techniques that can be used to reintegrate ex-combatants into society, in the case of domestic ex-combatants and of those returning from foreign conflict zones.
- Explore concepts such as freedom fighters, extremism, fundamentalism and de-radicalization; the political dimensions of these terms and the impact this has on reintegration programming.
- Understand and share the broad range of reintegration challenges that Governments, communities and individuals face related to the emerging challenges for reintegration such as de-radicalization, lack of state-wide peace agreements, reintegration of deserters from groups labelled as terrorist organizations, and reintegration after detention.
- Explore a range of strategic responses, best practices and challenges in strategies and programs to confront these challenges in reintegration efforts of all kinds.
- Obtain knowledge and understanding on the latest trends in reintegration approaches such as the shift to more community based reintegration and security programming.
- Have the knowledge and tools to conduct inclusive assessments in order to design informed and context specific reintegration programs and interventions.
- Understand how to ensure inclusive programming for the different groups of ex-combatants, including men, boys, women, and girls from the different ethnic, social or religious groups.
- Explore ways to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.
- Enhance professional networks among reintegration practitioners locally and globally.

**Participants and Procedures:** The seminar is designed for members of the security services, civilian government officials, and civil-society members/NGO representatives from the U.S. and U.S. security cooperation partner countries. Participants from partner countries are usually fully sponsored (tuition and travel expenses). Non-U.S. participants are nominated by their Government—usually thru the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Defense—to the local U.S. Embassy Security Cooperation Office. Interested participants may contact the course coordinator below for information.

US citizens attend on a space-available basis and pay no tuition. Interested US citizens should contact the course coordinator.

**Dates:** In-Residence FY18 Course Dates are 6-17 August 2018. This course pairs well with MASL#P173019 – “Security Risks of Refugees & Displaced Persons,” offered 20-31 August 2018. Pairing these complementary courses can maximize student time/travel and funding.

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