

# ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES

## VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA - OCTOBER 2008



### Royal College of Defence Studies

The Royal College for Defence Studies, which celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007, is a part of the UK Defence Academy. Based at Seaford House in Belgrave Square, London its mission is to prepare senior officers and officials of the United Kingdom and other countries, and future leaders from the private and public sectors for high responsibilities in their respective organisations, by developing their analytical powers, knowledge of defence and international security issues, and strategic vision.

In addition to publishing academic papers, the College runs one course a year, from January to December. Last year's course was attended by 80 men and women, including 30 from the UK and 50 overseas Members from 47 different countries. About three quarters are military officers of Colonel/Brigadier or equivalent rank, and the remaining are civil servants, diplomats, police officers and representatives from the private sector. All are selected to attend the course on the strength of their potential to progress to a high position within their profession. Saudi Arabia is allocated at least one place each year, and in 2008 the Course was attended by Colonel Abdulaziz Mubarak Al-Faraj from the Royal Saudi Air Force. This year's course is being attended by His Highness Colonel Prince Turki al-Saud, an F-15 pilot, and His Royal Highness Commander Prince Sultan bin Khalid bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz, from the Royal Saudi Naval Force.

### Academic Curriculum

The College curriculum focuses on defence and international security at the grand strategic level. Studies are set against a backdrop of international affairs and include International Stability, Security & Prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; the impact of contemporary national and international issues on the current and future stability, security and prosperity of the United Kingdom; Contemporary International Issues; Leadership in the Strategic Environment, aimed at understanding of the nature, function and qualities of leadership required in the strategic environment to deliver effective performance across the public and private sectors, including in the international arena. The course concludes with a one-week Decision Game in which Members role-play organisations engaged in resolving crises at the international level. Using a series of scenarios to support discussion, Members are placed under time-pressure to reach realistic strategic decisions.

### Overseas Tours

The annual programme includes visits to Washington and New York, various regions of the UK, and to Brussels, for NATO and the EU. In October, Members spend 3-4 weeks visiting

