



Federal Academy
for Security Policy



5 TO 23 OCTOBER 2026

The 2026 Security Policy Course for Senior Officials

The Middle East —

more than a region of crisis and instability

Overview

The Security Policy Course for Senior Officials is targeted at high-level executive personnel from political institutions, authorities, the business world, the scientific community and social organisations. Each year, a different geographical region of particular significance for security policy is studied.

Promoting political foresight and strategic thinking

Structured strategic questions, along with the special opportunity to enter into direct dialogue with key actors and decision-makers in the region, not only help the participants to gain political foresight, but also enhance interministerial strategic thinking

and understanding of complex constellations of interests.

Invitations for the nomination of course participants are issued personally by the Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Tasks.

Time frame

This year's Course for Senior Officials will be held from **5 to 23 October 2026**. It will be conducted both in Berlin and at the course journey's stops in the Middle East. Travel is planned to Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The course will be conducted in German and English. All participants are required to attend the course for its full three-week duration.





Destinations: Travel is planned to Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Target audience

With detailed study of this region's specific crises and conflict parameters, the course offers a highly exclusive forum for the inter-ministerial, interdisciplinary and cross-industry exchange of views on security-related topics of relevance for the future with experts and political decision-makers, both in Berlin and on a study tour to the region.

Schedule

The course is divided into three phases:

Introduction

In the first part of the course, held in Berlin, participants will primarily explore the historical, cultural, political and economic background of the region and discuss current developments with experts. In view of the strategic interests on the part of many different stakeholders – including the

major and regional powers of the United States, Turkey, Israel and Iran – participants will develop their own positions on options for political action.

Experience in the region

The positions developed will provide the basis for discussions in the second part of the course with further experts and decision-makers in the region itself. In Doha, Riyadh and Cairo, the group of participants will engage directly with the ambitions, interests, constraints and sociocultural contexts of the players involved.

Reflection

In the third part of the course, back in Berlin, the participants will once again reflect critically on their experiences and positions. The course will end with a discussion between the participants and high-level German decision-makers on what positions and strategies Germany and Europe should adopt and pursue regarding the region in the future.

Contents

For several years, the security situation in the Middle East has been characterised by profound geopolitical shifts. Rivalries over regional leadership roles, tensions along key sea routes and competition between global powers for political and economic influence shape the dynamics in the region. As a result, Germany and the European Union face direct challenges related to security, energy and trade policy. Accordingly, the German government considers stable relations with the countries in the Arabian Peninsula and Northeast Africa to be particularly important in the context of the National Security Strategy.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar are among the most influential actors in this key geopolitical region. The effects of their political priorities and foreign policy ambitions extend far beyond the Middle East. With its “Vision 2030”, Saudi Arabia is pursuing extensive transformation and diversification projects and seeking a greater leadership role in the region. Egypt is considered to be a key anchor of stability in terms of security policy in Northeast Africa. Because it controls the Suez Canal – one of the most important trade routes in the world – the country plays a key role in maritime security. Domestic tensions, economic strain and Egypt’s role in regional conflicts significantly affect the security policy situation. Qatar uses its energy exports and investments to exert political influence and positions itself as an active

mediator in regional conflicts, supported by close relations with Western partners and pragmatic contacts in the region.

As a critical sea and trade route, the Red Sea is gaining increasing geostrategic relevance. Attacks on merchant ships, proxy wars and the expansion of foreign military presence highlight the vulnerability of this sea route whose security is essential for Europe’s supply chains, energy supply and economic stability.

The 2026 Course for Senior Officials will analyse the political, economic and security relations around the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea. It will focus on the regional political ambitions of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar and the interplay between them. An integrated study tour will allow direct exchange with political decision-makers, experts on security policy and representatives from the business sector and civil society. The lessons learned are intended to help strengthen Germany’s ability to act in terms of security policy and to make a sound assessment of developments in one of the most dynamic and conflict-prone regions in the world.





The Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS, Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik)

The Federal Academy for Security Policy is the German government's central interministerial institution for further education in the field of security policy. As a place of strategic thinking and security policy training, it promotes a broad understanding of Germany's long-term security objectives and Integrated Security in practice. Its courses, conferences and opportunities for discussion are aimed at experts, senior officials and leaders from politics, government agencies, academia, business, civil-society organisations and the general public.

The Academy's tasks are divided into three areas: teaching/training, consultations and communication. The teaching and training

area also includes the Centre for Strategic Foresight.

The new National Security Council has been the Academy's Board of Trustees since 1 January 2026. Organisationally, the Academy is an independent agency within the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

The President of the Federal Academy for Security Policy is Major General Wolf-Jürgen Stahl. A team of 70 personnel from the bodies represented in the National Security Council work together at the Federal Academy for Security Policy. The Academy was founded in Bonn in 1992. It has been based on the premises of Schönhausen Palace in the Pankow district of Berlin since 2004.

Getting to the Federal Academy of Security Policy (BAKS):



Editorial information

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Last updated February 2026

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