

Amin Tarzi, Ph.D.
Director of Middle East Studies

Amin Tarzi is the Director of Middle East Studies at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia. In his position, Dr. Tarzi supports the MCU by providing a resident scholar with expertise in Middle East and South/Central Asia, representing the Marine Corps at various academic and professional forums, providing expert advice for all Professional Military Education programs, and mentoring the AfPak Hands Marines assigned to MCU. Prior to joining the MCU, he was with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Regional Analysis team focusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan. While working at RFE/RL, he also taught courses in political Islam, cultural intelligence, terrorist organizations and similar topics at the Washington-based Center for Advanced Defense Studies. Before joining RFE/RL, Dr. Tarzi worked as Senior Research Associate for the Middle East at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies where he primarily researched Iran and its missile and nuclear developments and policies. At the Monterey Institute, he also taught a graduate seminar on Middle East security policies and threat perceptions with focus on Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Israel. Dr. Tarzi's prior experience includes holding the post of Political Advisor to the Saudi Arabian Mission to the United Nations dealing with the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and Somalia; the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) extension; Iranian behavior in the United Nations; and Security Council expansion. After his tenure with the Saudi government, Dr. Tarzi held the position of Researcher/Analyst on Iranian affairs at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Tarzi has appeared in national and international media outlets, including CNN, BBC, NPR, Al-Jazeera, ABC News, CBS, Canadian TV, C-SPAN, Radio Netherlands and PBS News Hour among others. His commentaries have been published in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Daily Star* (Beirut), *The National Journal*, *The Asia Times*, *The Associated Press*, *Forbes*, and *Defense News*.

Dr. Tarzi earned his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the Department of Middle East Studies at New York University. His latest works are *Taliban and the Crisis in Afghanistan*, a co-edited volume with Professor Robert D. Crews of Stanford University (Harvard University Press, 2008) and *The Iranian Puzzle Piece: Understanding Iran in the Global Context* (MCU Press, 2009).

Areas of Interest:

- MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN
- NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERESTS
- HISTORY AND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES
- ROLE OF JUSTICE IN STATE-BUILDING
- COUNTER- AND NONPROLIFERATION
- TRACK II DIPLOMACY