



مناخات

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HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman Chairs the 2nd Meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council

التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION

الاجتماع الثاني لمجلس وزراء دفاع دول
التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
2nd Meeting of IMCTC Defense Ministers Council

الرياض، 3 فبراير 2024 | Riyadh - February 3, 2024

IMCTC held today, Sat. Feb. 3, 2024, in Riyadh, its 2nd meeting of Council of Defense Ministers from both Member States and Supporting Nations, chaired by HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense, and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers.

The meeting overviewed IMCTC's approach, key achievements and initiatives that address terrorism across IMCTC four counterterrorism domains, namely ideology, communications, military and counter terrorism financing.

The meeting also discussed the initiatives' objectives, their role in helping Member States in countering terrorism, rejection of violence and extremism.

Worth noting is that IMCTC has been formed to highlight the Kingdom's recognition of the serious threat terrorism poses

to security and stability. Aiming at preserving human values, promoting peaceful coexistence among peoples of the world, and upholding human rights, IMCTC has been established under the wise guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may Allah protect him, with the endorsement and support from leaders of Islamic states worldwide.

In December 2015, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, announced the establishment of IMCTC, and in 2017, IMCTC's Council of Defense Ministers affirmed in their inaugural meeting that IMCTC will work within the frameworks of international conventions and resolutions, complementing regional and global efforts to combat all forms of terrorism through joint action, based on each country's capabilities and willingness to participate in IMCTC's initiatives and programs. Furthermore, IMCTC aims to harmonize the endeavors of peace-loving nations, supporters, and international organizations in bolstering the global initiatives against terrorism. IMCTC brings together 42 Member States and three supporting nations. Member States collaboratively operate in an organized manner through their delegates to launch the IMCTC's initiatives, covering IMCTC's four domains. (continued on page2)



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on each country's capabilities and willingness to participate in IMCTC's initiatives and programs. Furthermore, IMCTC aims to harmonize the endeavors of peace-loving nations, supporters, and international organizations in bolstering the global initiatives against terrorism.

IMCTC brings together 42 Member States and three supporting nations. Member States collaboratively operate in an organized manner through their delegates to launch the IMCTC's initiatives, covering IMCTC's four domains.

Each of the four domains within IMCTC has specific objectives aimed at achieving its main mission, which revolves around unifying and supporting intellectual and media efforts, combatting terrorism financing, and conducting military operations for Member States with a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness. This is achieved through collaboration with friendly nations and international organizations dedicated to combating terrorism.

Ideology Domain: Aims at promoting the approach of moderate Islamic discourse and reinforce noble Islamic values that advocate tolerance, moderation, and the preservation of the timeless universal message of Islam. It also aims to safeguard communities from extremist ideologies.

Communications Domain: Involves several key tasks; the first of which is the continuous production and development of engaging intellectual content, disseminated via social media platforms and affiliated media channels of IMCTC or its partners. The objective is to refute and debunk the media propaganda of extremist organizations, defeat them, and instill hope and optimism, while

measuring the impact on mindsets and behaviors.

Military Domain: IMCTC leverages this domain to assist in coordinating the provision of resources to support states that request assistance in combating terrorism within Member States. This involves facilitating the exchange of information, sharing expertise, coordinating the efforts of Member States in building their military capabilities, countering violence, combating terrorism, and terrorist attacks. Additionally, it includes providing humanitarian aid to the states affected by terrorism, all under effective governance and through the funding mechanism of the initiatives.

IMCTC's inaugural meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers was convened on Sunday, November 26, 2017, in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia under the theme "Allied Against Terrorism", with the participation of IMCTC Ministers of Defense and delegates from diplomatic missions and international organizations in the Kingdom.

The meeting agenda outlined the role of IMCTC, which was established and headquartered in Riyadh by the Kingdom. Through its highest-level diplomatic channels, the Kingdom aimed to highlight the successes achieved by Islamic states at the national level in fighting terrorism. The goal was to leverage and share these successes in a way tailored to the capabilities and willingness of the Member States. A significant outcome of such efforts has been the announcement of the "Riyadh Declaration," which, in turn, affirmed the commitment of both Member States and supporting nations to persist in their efforts to combat terrorism.

**CHIEFS OF
STAFF OF
IMCTC MEMBER
STATES AND
SUPPORTING
NATIONS HOLD
THEIR 2ND
MEETING IN
RIYADH**



On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, their Excellencies the Chiefs of Staff of both IMCTC Member States and Supporting Nations held their second meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the chairmanship of H.E. the Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili. During the meeting, IMCTC strategy was presented, and its achievements and initiatives highlighted, especially those in connection with the four key domains of IMCTC (ideology, communications, counter-terrorism financing, and military aspects). The meeting also discussed the objectives of these initiatives and the roles they play in serving Member States in all counter-terrorism issues. Lt. Gen. Fayyad Al-Ruwaili stated that this meeting was held as part

of the preparations for the upcoming meeting of IMCTC defense ministers to be held in February 2024, under the chairmanship of HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and President of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers. On another note, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, pointed out that these initiatives were an outcome of a study and analysis of the requirements of IMCTC Member States as delivered by their representatives. This study was conducted in accordance with IMCTC governance and international laws, aiming to directly achieve the intended goal of such initiatives in serving the interests of Member States plagued by terrorism. In addition, all these initiatives relate to various counter-terrorism areas, as





they have been studied and framed by IMCTC in accordance with international laws and will be implemented after their approval by the IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers.

A number of meetings were held on the sidelines of the principal meeting. IMCTC Secretary General met with H.E. the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Republic of Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Sahir Shamshad Mirza. He also met with H. E. the Chief of General Staff of the Burkina Faso Armed Forces, Brig. Gen. Célestin Simporé. IMCTC Secretary General also met with H. E. the Commander of the National Army of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Sheikh Muhyidin, H. E. the Commander of the National Army of the Republic of Gambia, Col. Sait Njie, and H. E. the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Mali, Maj. Gen. Oumar Diarra.

On the evening of the same day, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, received at IMCTC headquarters Their Excellencies the Chiefs of Staff of IMCTC Member States and Supporting Nations, led by H. E. Lt. Gen. Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Armed Forces. Their Excellencies were briefed on IMCTC's major activities, current strategic initiatives, and mechanisms for coordinating and unifying the efforts exerted by Member States in the service of the Muslim world and the international community and for the elimination of terrorism. They were also updated on the latest reports, statistics, and monitoring and follow-up efforts that IMCTC is working on in connection with terrorist groups and organizations around the world.





Recognizing the need for an organized Islamic effort to be integrated with international counter-terrorism activities, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced in 2015 the formation of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), which was launched in Riyadh in 2017. IMCTC was established to become an independent entity with a special legal personality through its strategic vision and mission, namely to be a leader at the international level in countering terrorism by coordinating the efforts of Member States with a high degree of efficiency and effectiveness, and in partnership with friendly nations, to counter terrorism on the basis of established values of determination, solidarity, adaptation, and proactiveness.

IMCTC KEY PRINCIPLES



- **Legitimacy:** IMCTC derives its legitimacy from the accession of the majority of Muslim countries to it, and it enjoys the support and respect of the international community.
- **Sovereignty:** Affirming respect for the sovereignty of the member countries and the independence of their laws and regulations.
- **Participation:** The member countries participate in all stages of work, from study and planning to analysis and decision-making.
- **Alignment:** The member countries agree on the importance of the IMCTC and the alignment between the vision of IMCTC and the strategic objectives.
- **Cooperation:** Establishing the principle of cooperation and coordination among the member countries, supporting states and international organizations.
- **Agility :** The speed of taking the required decisions and the resiliency to face developments in a timely manner.
- **Localization:** Employing local culture to counter terrorism in the member countries by formulating regional and local solutions.
- **Partnership:** Building partnerships with international organizations and supporting countries with advanced capabilities in counter-terroring terrorism.
- **Resourcing:** The contribution of the IMCTC member countries in financing initiatives to combat extremism and terrorism, according to their capabilities and desires.



IMCTC DOMAINS OF ACTION



1. Ideology Domain: Countering narratives of terrorist thought and ideas, training ideological and religious leaders to counter extremist violence and raise the awareness of youth about the dangers of violence and terrorism, enhancing moderate Islamic discourse, strengthening noble values of Islam which call for tolerance and moderation to preserve the universality of the everlasting message of Islam, and protecting communities from extremist ideologies.



2. Communications Domain: Producing attractive scholarly content, developing it constantly and disseminating the content via social media outlets as well as partner channels or those affiliated with IMCTC, aiming to disprove, refute and undermine the propaganda of extremist organizations and groups, strengthening hope and optimism, measuring the impact on behaviors and mentalities, and investing the modern media, so that the IMCTC Center becomes a center of excellence in the making of anti-extremism media elites.



3. Counter Terrorist Financing Domain: Cooperating and coordinating with Member Countries agencies involved in countering terrorist financing, promoting and developing best practices, facilitating information sharing to dry up sources of terrorism, building capacities of Member Countries in the field of training on counter terrorist financing, developing the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks for counter terrorist financing, providing consultations to competent agencies in Member Countries to dry up the sources of terrorist financing, and cutting off any sort of financial support provided to terrorist activities and acts.



4. Military Domain: Helping to coordinate the provision of resources, planning the military operation to counter terrorism in Member Countries, facilitating information sharing process and transfer of expertise, coordinating Member Countries efforts in building their military capacity, repelling violence, countering terrorism, combating terrorist attacks, and contributing to the provision of relief to countries affected by terrorism.



The year 2023 witnessed a group of diverse events and cultural activities, including workshops, lectures, and seminars covering IMCTC four domains of action, as well as a number of internal and external visits, and celebrations of the National Days of Member States.

**The 2nd meeting
of IMCTC Chiefs of
Staff**



**Chiefs of Staff
Meeting participants'
visit IMCTC
headquarters**



Lectures
17

Workshops
11





External Visits
12

Internal Visits
59



Internal Events
6

Programs and Courses
4



National Days
14

Receiving and Bidding Farewell to Representatives of Member States
13



Key Highlights and Milestones of IMCTC in 2023

January

2023

- IMCTC received H. E. the Assistant Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Eng. Talal bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi.
- IMCTC received H. E. the Assistant Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Executive Affairs, Dr. Khaled bin Hussein Al-Biyari.
- IMCTC received HRH Lt. Gen. Turki bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, and Their Excellencies the Deputy Commanders of the branches of the Saudi Armed Forces.
- IMCTC received H.E. the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Republic of Pakistan, Lt. Gen. Sahir Shamshad, and his accompanying delegation.
- IMCTC held a workshop entitled "Elements of Countering Terrorism," delivered by IMCTC adviser, Dr. Farhat Al-Harshani.

February

2023

- IMCTC received H.E. the Director General of Defense Intelligence of Malaysia's Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Datuk Ahmad Norihan bin Jalal.
- IMCTC Secretary General took part in the opening of the International Defense Conference held in Abu Dhabi, which coincided with the launch of the IDEX 2023 Exhibition.
- IMCTC participated in the activities of the Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum, which was organized and supervised by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.

March

2023

- IMCTC received H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Hisham Al-Fourati, and his accompanying delegation.
- A delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Defense visited IMCTC.
- IMCTC received H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Hassan Al-Junaidi.
- A lecture entitled "National and International Legislative Confrontation of Cybercrimes" was delivered by Dr. Mohammed Saleh El-Alfy, expert in international cybercrime legislation.
- IMCTC received a delegation of students from the Saudi Armed Forces Command and Staff College. These students were enrolled in different programs, including the Master of Strategic Studies, National Security Diploma, and Military Media Diploma.

April

2023

- IMCTC held a celebration on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr (following the fasting month of Ramadan), which was attended by H. E. the IMCTC Secretary General, representatives of Member States, and IMCTC staff members.

May

2023

- IMCTC received H.E. the Military Intelligence Director in the Republic of Iraq, Maj. Gen. Zaid Hoshi Khalaf Wadi.
- IMCTC received the Pakistani military attaché.
- H.E. Lt. Gen. Eid bin Awad Al-Shalawi, Commander of the GCC Unified Military Command, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A delegation of officers from the Advanced Command and Staff Course of the Defense Academy of the United Kingdom, headed by Brigadier Matt Jackson, Director of Joint Services Command and Staff College of the Academy, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Chief of Army Staff of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Lt. Gen. SM Shafiuddin Ahmed visited IMCTC headquarters.
- IMCTC held a training course for the representatives of IMCTC Member States under the title "Countering Financial Crimes," in collaboration with the Financial Academy.
- IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, visited the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and met with H. E. the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Adam Duali Barre. The meeting discussed issues related to countering terrorism and extremism.
- IMCTC held a lecture entitled "A Developed Arab Strategy to Counter Terrorism," which was delivered by Mr. Al-Hadi Majdoub, Adviser to Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.

June

2023

- IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, met in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, with the Deputy Director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center, Mr. Frederick Ndegwa, and the Director of the Joint Terrorism Center, Mr. Ndima Evans.
- IMCTC received the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ms. Liselotte Plesner.
- H. E. the Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Abdelkader Mohamed Nour, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- IMCTC received Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, Professor of Security Studies at the Nanyang University in Singapore.
- Col. Moussa Cissé, Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burkina Faso, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- IMCTC received H.E. the Military Defense Attaché at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Brigadier General Adam Adamu Wasi Hassan.
- A workshop under the ideology domain entitled "A Guideline Model for Building and Developing National Strategies in the Counter-terrorism Domain" was delivered by Dr. Mohammed bin Humayyed Al-Thaqafi, head of the Global Experience Center for Studies, Consultations and Training.

• IMCTC, in collaboration with the National Cybersecurity Authority, organized cybersecurity awareness sessions entitled “Safe and Reliable Saudi Cyberspace.” These sessions were attended by IMCTC Secretary General, representatives of Member States and IMCTC staff members.

July

2023

- H. E. the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Cameroon, Mr. Beti Assomo Joseph, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Assistant Secretary General of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Deghaither, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A lecture entitled “Artificial Intelligence and its Rapid Development: AI Uses in the Media and the Fight against Terrorism” was delivered by Dr. Abdulkader Al-Fantoukh, Professor of Computer Science.
- A training course in the counter-terrorism financing domain was held under the title “Countering Financial Crimes” and delivered by Mr. Ahmed bin Saeed.

August

2023

- IMCTC Secretary General launched the secure digital transformation plan and the unified digital platform.
- H. E. the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Ali Mwadini, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Datuk Wan Zaidi Abdullah, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Chairwoman of the Human Rights Commission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Hala Al-Tuwaijri, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A cybersecurity workshop entitled “Data Management and Governance” was conducted by Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Oraij, a specialist in data management and governance.

September

2023

- H. E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Duncan Mulima, and a delegation from the National Counter-Terrorism Center of the Republic of Zambia, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Mauritanian military attaché, Col. Abdullah Haddou Abdel Wadoud, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- Their Excellencies the Chairman of the Security and Defense Committee of the Parliament of Senegal, Nicole Njay, and the Secretary General of Senegal’s National Assembly, Mr. Baye Niass Cissé, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- IMCTC Secretary General met in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, with H. E. the Minister of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mr. Hanana Ould Sidi.
- IMCTC Secretary General met in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, with H. E. the Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Maj. Gen. Suleiman Aboudah, and H. E. Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Al-Shaibani,

Director-General of the G5 Sahel Defense College.

- H. E. the Commander of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Lt. Gen. Mukhtar Bellah Shaaban, received H. E. the IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi.

October

2023

- H. E. the Secretary of State and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Turkmenistan, Maj. Gen. Begenc Gundogdyew, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. Judge Dr. Hatem Ali, Regional Director and Representative of the UNODC Regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council, visited IMCTC headquarters.
- H. E. the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Aboubacar Sidiki Camara, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A lecture entitled “A Forward-Looking Counter-Terrorism Vision: A Multilateral Strategic Integration Model” was delivered by Dr. Yahya Abu Maghayedh, a researcher and specialist in the ideology domain.
- H. E. the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A cybersecurity awareness lecture entitled “The Dark Web” was held by IMCTC, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Information Security at King Saud University, and was delivered by Dr. Firas Al-Jumah, a cybersecurity researcher and specialist.

November

2023

- IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, met with H. E. the UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Bowardi.
- A training program entitled “Cryptocurrencies: Methods and Risks of their Use in Terrorism Financing” was delivered by Dr. Abdullah Al-Qarni, a certified trainer by the Financial Academy.
- IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, met with H. E. Lt. Gen. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, met with H. E. the Minister of Defense Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Lt. Gen. Abdullah bin Hassan Al-Nuaimi.

December

2023

- The second meeting of Their Excellencies the Chiefs of Staff of the IMCTC Member States and Supporting Nations was held.
- H. E. the Kyrgyz Republic Chief of General Staff, Maj. Gen. Ruslan Mukambetov Mustafyevich, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IMCTC and the Standing Committee on International Humanitarian Law.

IMCTC 's Delegation Visits World Defense Show





As part of the ongoing efforts to promote its vision and mission, IMCTC actively engages in various cultural forums and international platforms.

Under these efforts, IMCTC is participating in the second edition of the World Defense Show in 2024, scheduled to take place in February 4-8, 2024. The event, held under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah protect him, will be hosted in Riyadh.

This participation reflects IMCTC's commitment to utilizing crucial international opportunities. It aims, with the support of friendly and peace-loving nations, along with the involvement of relevant international organizations, to emphasize that all Member States are capable of coordinating and unifying their efforts across ideology, communications, financial, and military domains. This unified effort is aimed at combating all forms of violent extremism and terrorism, elevating the contribution of Islamic and peace-loving nations worldwide. It also plays a vital role in preserving international peace and security, enhancing the impact of global anti-terrorism initiatives, and reinforcing Islamic solidarity against attempts by terrorist groups to undermine security in Member States.

Recognizing the role of the World Defense Show as a pivotal international forum that brings together top leaders and experts in defense and security, set to launch in Riyadh, IMCTC acknowledges the significance of collaborating and building partnerships with international entities. This collaboration is intended to strengthen efforts in the fight against terrorism by exchanging best practices, experiences, and information related to counterterrorism capabilities.

IMCTC views this global event as a significant opportunity to present its latest achievements, initiatives, and well-defined strategic milestones, along with the progress it has achieved.

IMCTC has diligently prepared for this event, ensuring the success of its participation by equipping the headquarters and developing content that resonates with the diverse audience segments expected from various international delegations attending this exhibition. This participation follows the successful engagements in previous international events hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The inaugural edition of the World Defense Show witnessed the participation of over 600 exhibitors from various states worldwide. The event welcomed more than 100 official international delegations and attracted over 65,000 visitors from around the globe. Notably, military and defense contracts, both local and international, were signed, amounting to a total of approximately SAR 29.7 billion, equivalent to around USD 7.9 billion. This exhibition stands as the largest global event across defense industries, spanning land, sea, air, space, and security sectors, with significance at both regional and international levels.

IMCTC Received the ISO 9001 Certification



IMCTC strategically embraces a culture of quality and excellence, utilizing it as a framework for evaluating performance and making necessary adjustments. This approach is designed to optimize exceptional results, foster continuous and sustainable improvement, and ultimately achieve leadership in performance. IMCTC is committed to enhancing integration and teamwork among its members to actively engage in effective work and adopt ideas for continuous improvement. IMCTC has actively pursued the ISO 9001 international quality certification, successfully achieving it on Monday, January 15, 2024.

Further, IMCTC is working towards obtaining the ISO 27001 certification for cybersecurity systems in the coming period.

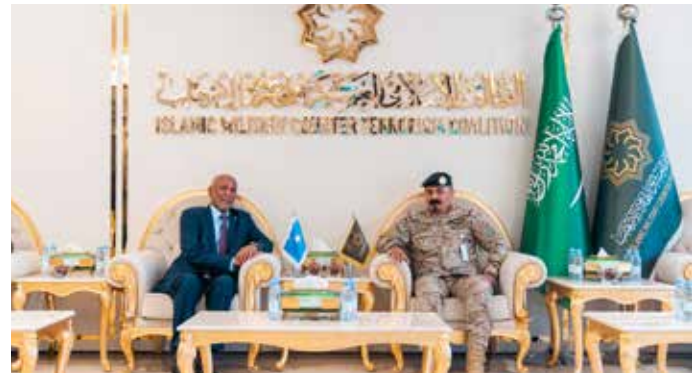
The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was established on February 23, 1947. It is a specialized organization focused on establishing international standards, comprising delegates from diverse organizations. By this definition, ISO is classified as a non-

governmental organization. Nevertheless, its pivotal role in establishing standards bestows upon it the authority to enforce laws that are collectively agreed upon, adopted, and outlined by treaties. This gives ISO support and influence exceeding that of most other non-governmental organizations. Its permanent headquarters are situated in Switzerland, specifically in the city of Geneva.

Acquiring the ISO 9001 quality certification confirms that IMCTC adheres to all international quality requirements established in line with global standards. This encompasses the efficiency of administrative work, effectively governed with the highest standards in administration and finance. These standards involve ongoing auditing and monitoring to ensure adherence to the specified measures. It is important to note that obtaining the certification does not imply achieving perfection. Instead, it necessitates that IMCTC undergoes regular reviews to ensure the continuity and enhancement of those standards.



IMCTC Secretary General Receives Somali Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



On Monday, January 2, 2024, IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, welcomed HE the Ambassador of the Republic of Somalia to the Kingdom, Mr. Oweis Haji Yusuf Ahmed, and his accompanying delegation.

The Ambassador was briefed on a detailed explanation on IMCTC's efforts in counterterrorism domains across ideology, communications, counter terrorist financing, and military. The briefing included an overview of the coordination of efforts among

IMCTC Member States.

Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi pointed out that IMCTC represents a system formed by the will of its Member States to reinforce the values of legitimacy, independence, coordination, and participation. He emphasized the commitment to ensuring that all actions taken by IMCTC Member States align with international regulations, norms, and laws.



IMCTC Issues its Annual Report for the Year 2023

IMCTC has released its annual report for the year 2023, highlighting the significant activities and accomplishments it has achieved throughout the past year. In the report's opening statement, IMCTC's Secretary-General emphasized IMCTC and its Member States' continued determination to achieve the outlined objectives of reducing terrorism threats and progressively narrowing the gap until complete eradication. This commitment is evident through diligent efforts that adhere to precise standards and a purposeful strategy.

IMCTC Receives a Delegation from the State of Qatar



As part of a series of reciprocal visits with Member States, IMCTC received a delegation from the National Defense College, senior government officials from various government institutions, security agencies and Qatari Armed Forces' officers of the State of Qatar.

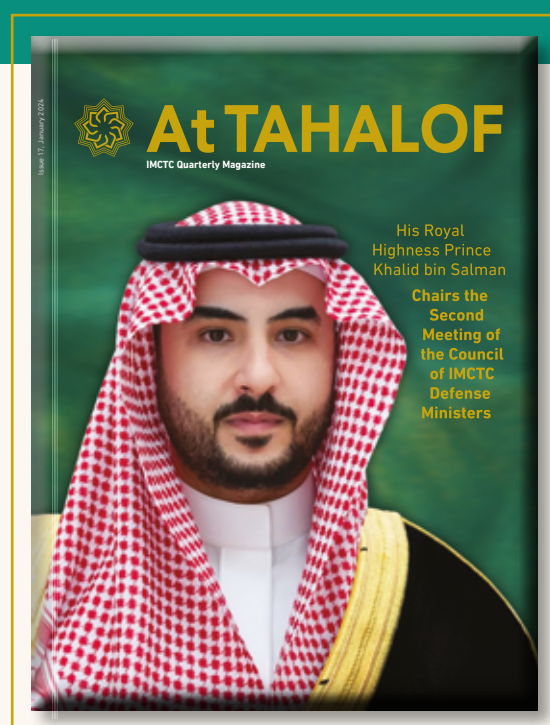
The delegation was briefed by IMCTC Secretary General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi on IMCTC's approach in countering terrorism across its four domains (ideology, communications, counter terrorism financing, and military), in addition to IMCTC's role in redoubling of the efforts of its Member States. Subsequently, the guests proceeded to the lecture hall

where the Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi and department directors addressed all inquiries raised.

Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi also highlighted the latest developments and updates on monitoring and tracking terrorist groups around the world.

Al-Moghedi added that IMCTC's actions are driven by the noble principle of countering the incitement of violence, radical ideologies and emphasizing the fact that IMCTC Member States are standing together at a time when radical ideologies waning in many countries and societies.

IMCTC Releases the 17th Issue of IMCTC Magazine



IMCTC has released its 17th issue of IMCTC Magazine for February, including a special report on the Coalition's participation in the second edition of the World Defense Show for 2024. The issue also features a dedicated part on employing Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to counter extremism and terrorism, providing an overview of the air force and its crucial roles in the war on terrorism. Furthermore, this edition delves into the military equipment of counter-terrorism units, showcasing advanced weaponry to address security threats.

The headline news in this issue covers the leadership of HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz at the 2nd meeting of IMCTC Council of Defense Ministers. The magazine extensively covers the 2nd Meeting of IMCTC Chiefs of Staff held in Riyadh in December 13, 2023.

IMCTC Bids Farewell to and Receives Delegates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



On Monday, January 1, 2024, IMCTC bid farewell to the delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Brig. Talal Saud Al-Juboor, at the end of his assignment at IMCTC, wishing him every success in performing his new responsibilities. The farewell ceremony included the presentation of IMCTC Decoration to him. This Decoration is awarded to all delegates of member



states at the end of their assignment at IMCTC, along with the decoration certificate.

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, IMCTC welcomed Col. Ali Al-Mumani as the new delegate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, succeeding predecessor Brig. Al-Juboor.

IMCTC bids Farewell to and Receives the Delegates of the Republic of Gambia



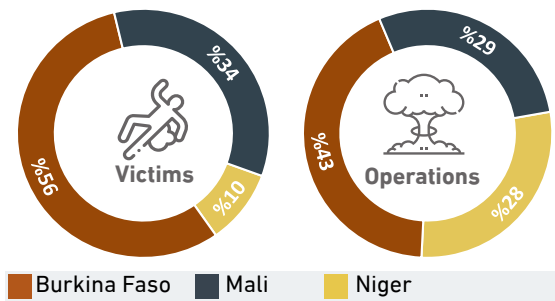
On Sunday, January 14, 2024, Delegates of the Republic of Gambia, Lit. Col. Lamin Fatty, and Lit. Col. Abdul Karim Jaa assumed their duties at IMCTC headquarters succeeding their colleagues after bidding farewell to Col. Momodu Aliou Jallow and Lit. Col. Samba Baldeh on Monday, January 8, 2024. IMCTC organized a farewell ceremony, where the Secretary-General expressed gratitude for their dedicated efforts. Wishing all success in their professional endeavors, they were awarded the IMCTC Decoration along with the decoration certificate.

Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries during December 2023

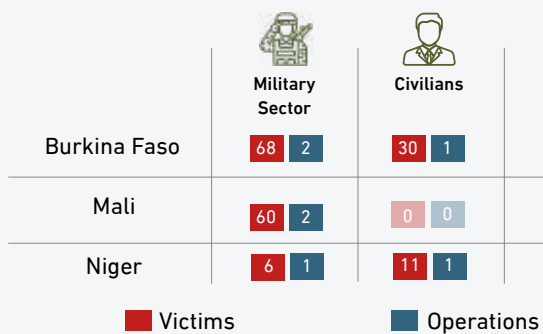


During December 2023, the G5 Sahel Countries witnessed an increase by 17% in terms of the number of terrorist operations, and a decrease by 11% in the total number of fatalities and wounded, as compared to November 2023.

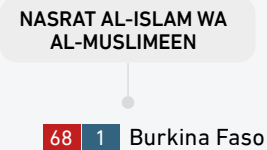
Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (Deaths and Injuries)	
	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023	Nov. 2023	Dec. 2023
Burkina Faso	3	= 3	167	↓ 98
Mali	3	↓ 2	30	↑ 60
Niger	0	↑ 2	0	↑ 17
Chad	0	= 0	0	= 0
Mauritania	0	= 0	0	= 0
Total	6	↑ 7	197	↓ 175



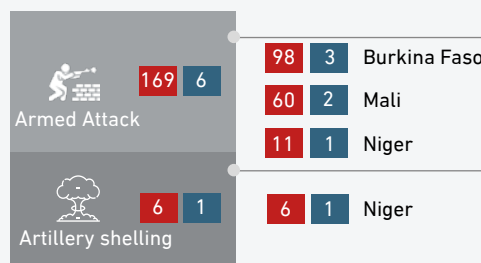
Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks



Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method



Key Political and Security Developments

- **Burkina Faso:** The authorities in Burkina Faso have arrested the opposition politician and former Burkinabe Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ablassé Ouédraogo, from his home after his return from a long trip outside the country.
- **Mali:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mali announced that it had summoned the Algerian ambassador, in protest against his country's "unfriendly acts" and its "interference in the internal affairs" of Mali. Specifically, the Ministry took issue with Algeria holding meetings with "Tuareg" separatist groups without involving the Malian government.
- **Niger:** The Nigerien army announced during a ceremony held in Niamey that French troops completed their withdrawal from Ni-

ger, thus ending a ten-year military presence that was dedicated to combating extremists.

- **Chad:** Chadians began voting in a referendum on a new constitution that is supposed to pave the way for elections and the return of civilians to power, as was promised by the military junta two years ago.

- **Mauritania:** A court in Nouakchott sentenced former Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz to five years in prison for his involvement in a corruption case, as he was accused of abusing his position to amass an ill-gotten fortune. The court also ordered the confiscation of Ould Abdel Aziz's illegally acquired assets.

IMCTC BIDS FAREWELL TO AND RECEIVES DELEGATE OF OMAN



On Sunday, January 14, 2024, IMCTC received Lit. Col. Mahmoud Muslim Al-Kalbani, the new delegate of the Sultanate of Oman. He assumed his duties at IMCTC headquarters, succeeding Lit. Col. Zaki Yahya Al-Rawahi, who received a farewell on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at the end of his assignment. IMCTC has organized a farewell ceremony for Lit. Col. Al-Rawahi, including a speech delivered by the Secretary-General expressing gratitude for his dedicated efforts during his assignment at IMCTC. Wishing him continued success in his new mission, Lit. Col. Al-Rawahi was awarded the IMCTC Decoration along with the decoration certificate.

COMPLETION OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA



On Monday, January 15, 2024, IMCTC bid farewell to the Malaysian delegate, Maj. Sharizal bin Sah Hidan, marking the end of his assignment at IMCTC. A farewell ceremony was organized, during which Maj. Gen. Abdullah bin Hamed Al-Qurashi, IMCTC Military Commander's Assistant, delivered a speech on behalf of the Secretary-General, expressing gratitude to Maj. Hidan for his dedicated efforts and effective participation in the IMCTC's activities. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Al-Qurashi presented Maj. Hidan with the IMCTC Decoration along with the decoration certificate, extending best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.