



**CENSA National Security Teleconference Series:**

**Monday, December 22, 2008  
12:00pm – 1:00pm**

**Challenges in Afghanistan: NATO Missions and Opportunities**

**Sebastian Gorka**

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Participant Access Code: 113370**

It has become clichéd to say that if NATO fails in Afghanistan that the Alliance is dead. Is this assessment correct? Can the NATO nations come to an agreement regarding counterinsurgency and practical issues such as caveats or will the new US administration have to carry the responsibility for further stabilization of the nation? Can Afghanistan be stabilized without a radical rethink of US policy with regard to Pakistan? During the presidential election campaign there was an implicit dichotomy demonstrated by the two candidates. The choice was being serious on Afghanistan or Iraq. Does this either/or attitude make any sense? At the highest strategic level, can we expect the short term to be about more nationbuilding or the sharper end of counterterrorism? Is there a unitary strategy out there which can put Afghanistan, Iraq and the next challenge into proper context?

**Speaker Bio:** Sebastian Gorka was born in the UK to parents who escaped the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. He is an internationally recognized authority on issues of national security, terrorism and democratization, having worked in government and the private and NGO sectors in Europe and the United States. A graduate of the University of London and Corvinus University, Budapest, he was Kokkalis Fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In the past he has acted as a consultant to the RAND Corporation's Washington Office and was the first Director of the Institute for Transitional Democracy and International Security. He has published in excess of 120 monographs, book chapters and articles, many for the JANES Group of the UK and appears regularly in the international press, to include the Financial Times, the BBC, REUTERS, CBS, the Washington Post, EuroNews and Newsweek. He is a frequent guest lecturer at institutions such as NATO SHAPE Headquarters, the Joint Special Operations University (USSOCOM), the FBI's International Law Enforcement Academy, USMA West Point, the Fulbright Commission and the Hudson Institute. Prior to coming to the National Defense University, Sebastian was Adjunct Professor for Terrorism and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center in Germany and Professor of European Security Studies for both the Budapest program of the University of San Francisco and the Council on International Educational Exchange. Sebastian is a founding member of the Council for Emerging National Security Affairs and a member of the Strategic Advisers Group of the Atlantic Council of the United States.

**Moderator: LTC Michael R. Fenzel, USA** - LTC Fenzel returned to the United States in August 2008 having served as deputy commander for the 1st brigade of the 82d airborne division (504th Parachute Infantry Regiment) in Afghanistan.

**Information:** The National Security Teleconference Series is one of CENSA's flagship programs, developed to offer timely analysis of current topics related to international affairs, national defense, and U.S. foreign policy. Opinions expressed by speakers are personal and do not necessarily reflect the view of the organization. **For questions or information related to the CENSA National Security Teleconference Series, please contact James Kirkhope at [james.kirkhope@censa.net](mailto:james.kirkhope@censa.net).**

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