



# ISOMA 2023

## 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium Of Military Academies October 2-3









## Commandant's Welcome Message

Welcome to Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC) and the 8th edition of the biennial International Symposium of Military Academies (ISOMA) in Doha, Qatar. This marks the first time that ISOMA will be held in the Middle East and ABMMC is honored to take the responsibility of organizing this milestone event. The symposium will include paper presentations of original and peer-reviewed research addressing key topics related to this year's theme "Military-Academic Education in the Current International Environment." Researchers and experts in the field of military education and training from different corners of the globe will have numerous opportunities to engage in scholarly interchange and stimulating discussions, share knowledge and best practices, address common priorities and challenges, and develop effective strategies to improve the quality of military education to help cadets achieve their highest potential at the academic, military, and personal levels.



ISOMA 2023 will be a unique opportunity for military academies from around the world to strengthen their relationships and build meaningful and sustainable partnerships and collaborations that will facilitate and promote knowledge and expertise sharing through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), exchange programs, and joint trainings.

It is our hope that this symposium will act as a space for fruitful discussion and constructive networking, and we look forward to welcoming you all for what promises to be a memorable and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Brigadier General Abdulhadi Mohammed Trihib Al-Hajiri  
Commandant of Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC)  
The Qatari Armed Forces



## Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC) Doha, Qatar

ISOMA 2023



### 8th International Symposium of Military Academies

October 2-3, 2023

Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC) is honored to host the 8th edition of the biennial International Symposium of Military Academies (ISOMA) on October 2-3, 2023, in Doha, Qatar.

#### About the Event

Since its inception in 2007, ISOMA, formerly known as ISoDoMA (International Symposium on the Development of Military Academies), has always acted as a collaborative platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, innovations, and best practices by leading military experts. This biennial forum is attended by military and civilian actors from various parts of the globe. The 8th edition of this event, ISOMA 2023, will be a unique opportunity for military academies from around the world to meet in Doha to discuss and find solutions to issues and challenges related to military-academic education. ISOMA 2023, being held for the first time in the Middle East, will provide participants with intellectually rich and stimulating deliberations, along with exceptional opportunities for networking and establishing mutually beneficial partnerships. Aside from that, participants will have an unparalleled chance to experience Qatar's unique culture, heritage, and hospitality.



**Main Theme**

The theme of this year's symposium is:

**Military-Academic Education in the Current International Environment****Topics**

Researchers and experts attending the symposium were cordially invited to submit original manuscripts that address one of the following topics:

1. Realities and challenges of providing quality military-academic education: experiences and lessons learned.
2. Academic programs and the development of military knowledge and skills.
3. The impact of international crises and conflicts on military-academic education.
4. Emerging technologies and their implications for military-academic education.
5. Cultural awareness and diversity in military academies.
6. Scientific research in military academies in the context of contemporary global trends.

*We are looking forward to welcoming you all to the 8th edition of ISOMA in Doha.*





## A Brief History of the College

Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC) was founded in 1996, following a decree from His Highness the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Since its inception in 1996, ABMMC has worked in close collaboration with and under the umbrella of Qatar University in order to develop its academic programs and offer high-quality education to its cadets. However, in 2006, the Deanship of Academic Affairs was created to manage and oversee the academic affairs of the college and since then, the college has become officially detached from Qatar University. As of 2006, ABMMC became an independent college that grants cadets a dual degree: a bachelor's degree in a selected academic specialization and a military diploma. Shortly after, the Emiri Decree No. (45) of 2010 concerning the organization of ABMMC was issued. The Decree stipulated among other things the structure of the administration of the college, the mode and duration of study, the programs offered, the graduation requirements, and the college rules and regulations. During that same year, ABMMC adopted the Sandhurst Military model. As of today, twenty-two batches of cadets have been enrolled at ABMMC and eighteen of them have already graduated. ABMMC continues to provide high-impact and cutting-edge education and training, attracting aspiring cadets from all over the world. ABMMC is home to distinguished faculty with strong academic background combined with local as well as international teaching and research experience. Currently, ABMMC is one of the best-known military academies, enjoying strong and mutually beneficial relationships with various partners in the field and excelling in fulfilling its role as a center for learning, training, and innovation.



## Vision

Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College seeks to become one of the best military colleges, offering diverse academic majors and fulfilling its national role set by His Highness the Emir.

## Mission

To prepare highly qualified cadets militarily and academically that are equipped with skills needed to fulfil their roles in the various military and security sectors and contribute to their development.

## Strategic Objectives

In line with the college's vision and mission, ABMMC's strategic objectives consist of ensuring that our graduates have an excellent educational and military training, combined with an advanced level of professional qualification, and a high level of leadership skills, physical fitness, sense of loyalty, and cultural awareness. In this regard, cadets at ABMMC are provided with a conducive, interactive, and technology-based learning environment that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and initiative. A cornerstone of ABMMC's success is its constant effort to find new ways and strategies to achieve progress and overcome challenges. Some of the strategies employed include:



- Ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between the military side and the academic side to provide cadets with a smooth, stimulating, and conducive learning experience.
- Offering continuous support to cadets to help them overcome the challenges that they may face during their academic studies or military training.
- Constantly reviewing and upgrading the academic and military programs offered at the college to achieve greater efficiency and to facilitate the learning process, while maintaining a high standard of education.
- Providing cadets with hands-on and cutting-edge training programs related to their military and academic specializations.
- Promoting cadet exchange programs for short or long periods of time (up to one semester long), to enhance bilateral transfer of knowledge and expertise.
- Emphasizing the importance of obtaining academic accreditation from competent and recognized authorities locally and internationally.
- Encouraging college graduates to pursue graduate studies to join the teaching community at ABMMC.

### ABMMC and Qatar National 2030 Vision

ABMMC is aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, a leading initiative which was introduced by HH to guide and promote the development and prosperity of Qatar for the coming years. Qatar National Vision 2030 is a holistic project that seeks to develop various key aspects of the country including the economy, the environment, and the social & human life. The educational system is one of the fundamental sectors which the Government of Qatar is particularly focused on to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030. For this reason, tremendous efforts are being made to enhance and finetune the educational system to provide Qatari citizens and residents with a world-class educational system that helps them realize their personal and professional goals and at the same time prepares them for their role as active contributors to the development of the country. In line with this vision, ABMMC is continuously and ambitiously striving to bring its own touch of contribution to the realization of Qatar National Vision 2030. ABMMC is today at the forefront of the national educational institutions that embody the Qatar National Vision 2030.

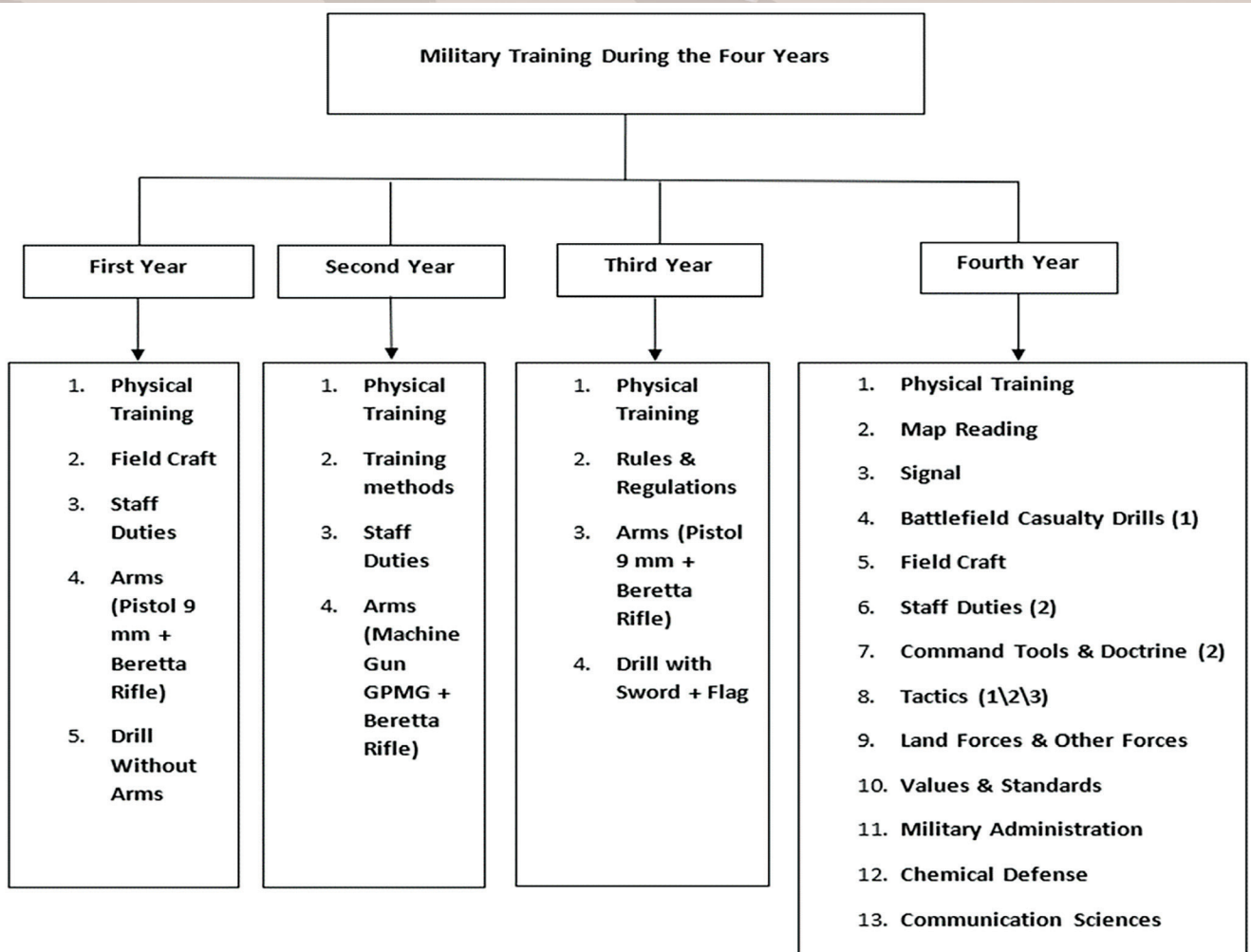


**Military Program**

Cadets at ABMMC undergo a robust military training that aims at equipping them with the physical, personal, mental, and technical skills needed to succeed in their career as military leaders. The diagram below illustrates the various military courses and trainings offered to ABMMC cadets during their four-year program:



## Military Training During the Four Years



## Academic Program

To earn a bachelor's degree at ABMMC, cadets must successfully complete the core curriculum courses (51 credit hours) and the courses specific to their chosen discipline (69 credit hours), for a total of (120 credit hours).

## General Requirements

During their first year, cadets at ABMMC must complete a list of core curriculum courses that help them acquire the basic principles of scientific methodology and develop transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking and problem solving. The general requirements courses are designed in accordance with the highest academic standards to help cadets become independent and successful learners equipped with the intellectual and personal skills needed for their career as military leaders. These courses are intended to provide cadets with a solid foundation in a wide range of fields including Arabic, English, Communication, Mathematics, Information Technology, Law, Administration, International Relations, Islamic Culture, History and Civilization, Philosophy, Health and Physical Education, Personal Development, and Human Rights.







## Specializations

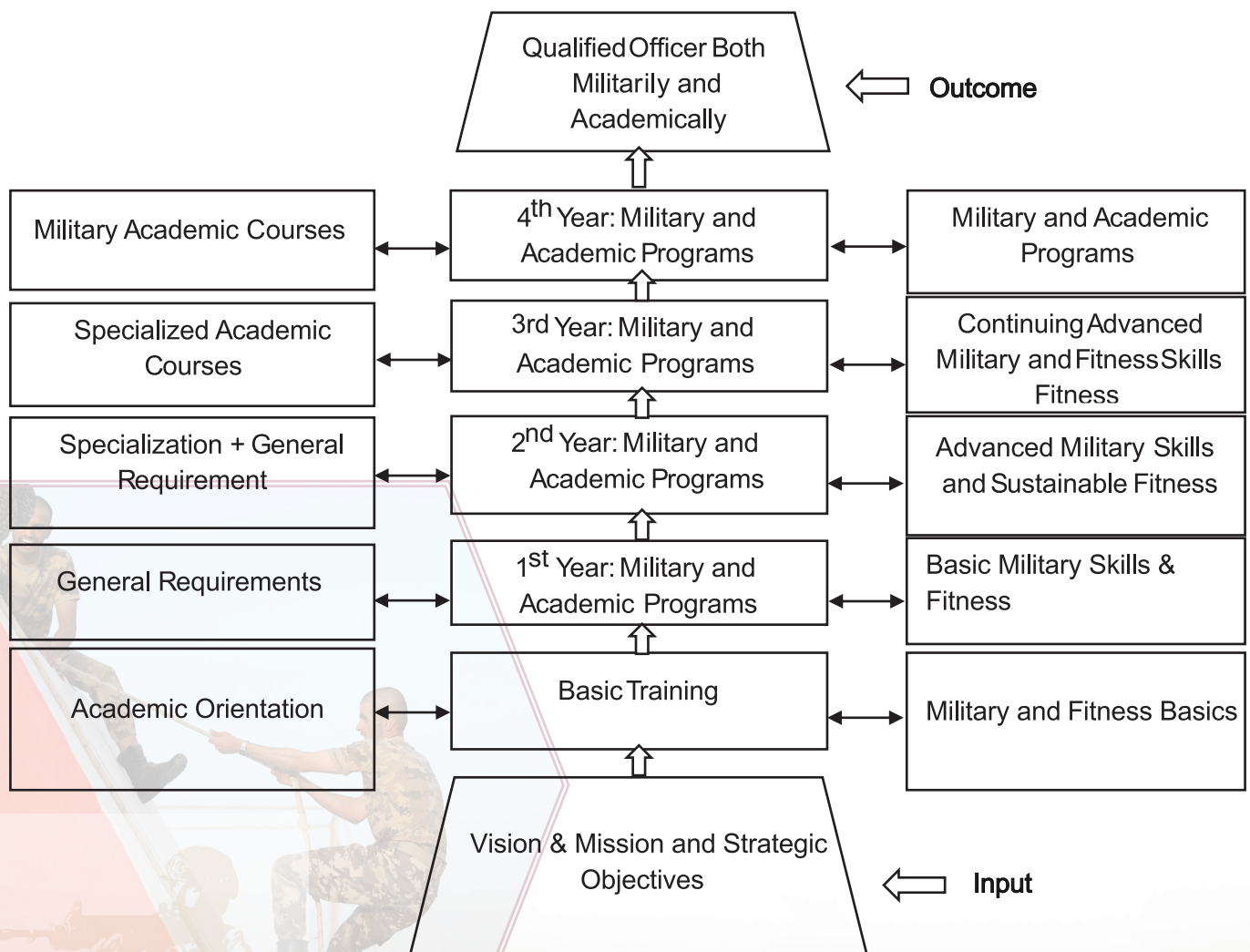
After successfully completing their first year at the college, cadets must select an area of specialization from the following list of majors:

- Management
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Accounting
- Computer Science
- Computer Information Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Law
- International Relations
- Russian Language
- Intelligence & National Security



## Program Integration and Interconnection

At ABMMC academic education and military training go hand in hand. In fact, ABMMC is keen to providing its cadets with a dual degree: a bachelor's degree in a selected academic specialization and a military diploma. To realize this objective, the college is continuously making great efforts to ensure effective coordination and cooperation between the military side and the academic side to provide cadets with a harmonious, smooth, and stimulating learning experience, which will help them achieve their highest potential both academically and militarily. The following diagram illustrates the integrated and interconnected nature of the academic program and the military training at ABMMC.









ABOUT QATAR

## History of Qatar

The peninsular state of Qatar is, in some respects, a modern creation.

However, the land itself shows evidence of habitation over millennia.

### Early history

The first evidence of sustained human settlement in Qatar dates to the 6th millennium BCE, in the form of small, isolated farmsteads, stone tools and decorated pottery. These settlements belong to what is known as the 'Ubaid period', named after the site in southern Mesopotamia where this type of painted pottery was first discovered. This indicates that these early settlers had ties to the area that is now modern Iraq. During this period, the climate in eastern Arabia is believed to have been much wetter than it is now, with evidence of inland wells and the cultivation of wild cereal crops.

## Geography of Qatar

A visit to Qatar means finding that centre point between contrasts few other landscapes can match. With our country's compact size and unique geography, you'll find desert dunes in reach of crystal-clear waters, and ultra-modern cities like our capital Doha surrounded with ancient villages and cultural wonders.



The Pearl, Qatar



Doha skyline





## Discovering Qatar beyond Doha

**Qatar is not just about its capital city Doha, and the way it's held on to its heritage even while moving towards the contemporary. It's not just about modern structures and high rise buildings; it's not just about museums and beaches; it's not just about man made islands or purpose built hills. There's a lot more to this small, but happening, country. With a long pristine and beautiful coastal line and plenty of sunshine all year round, Qatar is a destination where you can have it all.**

Apart from Doha, Qatar is dotted by other small cities and towns, and while some are port towns, others are more significant as they represent the oil and gas industry which thrives in these areas. Visitors will discover dilapidated and abandoned villages, archaeological sites that give a little peak into the area's history; inlets; islands; natural mangroves; golden sands; blue-green waters; and a lot more.



## Education in Qatar

**If you're thinking about studying in Qatar, you're making the right choice!**

Qatar's higher education institutions make it thriving, forward-looking place to study with international, diverse universities at the forefront of cutting-edge research. With a community of local students as well as international students hailing from all over the world, embrace the opportunity for world-class education and research opportunities to pursue your own academic journey in Qatar.



An icon for a new FIFA World Cup™

## FIFA World Cup 2022™ Official Emblem

The FIFA World Cup™ emblem incorporated the burgundy and white colours that are synonymous with Qatar's national flag. The emblem's design embodied the vision of an event that connected and engaged the entire world, while also featuring striking elements of local and regional Arab culture, as well as references to the beautiful game.

The swooping curves of the emblem represented desert dunes, and the unbroken loop depicted both the number eight – representing the tournament's host stadiums – and the infinity symbol, reflecting the event's interconnected nature, fusing tradition with modernity.



### Lusail Stadium

Alive with heritage, an icon for the future

FIFA World Cup 2022™ capacity: 88,966

Legacy capacity: 0

Legacy use: All seats will be repurposed for sports infrastructure abroad. The structure will become civic facilities or venues.



## Stadiums

Discover our eight venues where FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ matches were played



### Al Bayt Stadium



ABOUT QATAR

## Sport in Qatar

Qatar is a passionate sporting nation, ranging from one of the oldest sports known to man (falconry) to international spectacles like the FIFA World Cup, Asian Games and Formula One.

Qatar peaks out from the continent to create what many call the pearl of the Arabian Peninsula. Our country's compact land mass extends north into the Persian Gulf in Western Asia. In the south, Qatar shares a border with Saudi Arabia, and the rest borders only restful waters.



You'll witness a huge love of sports everywhere you go, from kite surfers in the bay and kids playing volleyball on the beach to thousands of fans cheering for their favourites at one of our world-class stadiums. Football, racing, golf, volleyball, tennis and more are celebrated at this leading destination for global sports tournaments.





# International Symposium of Military Academies (ISOMA)

## Overview:

ISOMA, formerly known as ISoDoMA (International Symposium on the Development of Military Academies), is a biennial gathering of military academy delegates from around the world. ISOMA is a collaborative platform to discuss and share ideas on how to instill in cadets and junior officers the military, academic, personal, and cultural knowledge and skills to effectively face the world's growing complexity and uncertainty. In 2006, the Korean Military Academy (KMA) drew up the blueprint of ISOMA, which subsequently has been held on a biennial basis since 2007. From 2017 onwards, ISOMA's meetings and activities have been organized under the auspices of the International Association of Military Academies (IAMA). Key topics addressed in prior gatherings were focused around enhancing cadet and junior officer education and training programs and aligning them with the rapid environmental and technological changes and developments.

## Preceding Symposia:

- **2007 – The 1st symposium (SOUTH KOREA – Korea Military Academy (KMA)).**

**Theme: The changing environment of future educational innovation for military academies.**

- **2009 – The 2nd symposium (FRANCE – Ecole Speciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr (ESM Saint-Cyr)).**

**Theme: Irregular warfare training for officers.**

- **2011 – The 3rd symposium (COLUMBIA – Escuela Militar of Cadets General Jose Maria Cordova (ESMIC)).**

**Theme: Challenges for military academies in the training of 21st century officers.**

- **2013 – The 13th Hwarangdae International Symposium (SOUTH KOREA – Korean Military Academy (KMA)).**

**Theme: Leadership for military officers, theories, applications and new perspectives.**

- **2015 – The 4th symposium (SPAIN – Academia General Militar (AGM)).**

**Theme: Comprehensive Education for officers to face New Security Challenges.**

- **2017 – The 5th symposium (CANADA – Royal Military College Saint-Jean (RMC)).**

**Theme: The development of general culture and critical thinking in the training of officers and military personnel.**

- **2019 – The 6th symposium (SWEDEN – Military Academy Karlberg (MAK)).**

**Theme: Managing adaptation in military and education training.**

- **2021 – The 7th symposium (USA – Norwich University (NU)).**

**Theme: Preparing military leaders to effectively resolve 21st century security challenges.**



# International Association of Military Academies (IAMA)

## Overview:

The International Association of Military Academies (IAMA) was founded in 2017 during the International Symposium on the Development of Military Academies (ISoDoMA) held in Canada, by Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Michel Maisonneuve, the then academic director of the Royal Military College Saint-Jean. IAMA is a collection of prestigious international military academies that offer military training and academic education to cadets and junior officers. The association promotes the exchange of skills, knowledge, and expertise among member military academies.

## Mission and Goals:

The primary mission of IAMA is to promote knowledge and competency sharing in the training and education fields among its member military academies.

To fulfil its mission, IAMA pursues a coherent set of core objectives, including:

1. Sharing the best practices and approaches in the domains of general, professional, and military training and education for officer cadets.
2. Facilitating exchange of cadets, military personnel, or civilian staff between member academies.
3. Organizing regular events for member academies.
4. Developing and supporting an expanding network of military academies.
5. Developing thematic working groups to deal with specific emerging issues.

## Founding Institutions:

IAMA was first founded by the Korean Military Academy (KMA). Co-founders include the following institutions:

1. Royal Military College Saint-Jean (RMC Saint-Jean; Canada).
2. Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC; Canada).
3. Karlberg Military Academy of Sweden (Militärhögskolan Karlberg; Sweden).
4. École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr (ESM Saint-Cyr; France).
5. Escuela Militar de Cadetes Gral. José María Córdova (ESMIC; Columbia).
6. Academia General Militar (AGM; Spain).
7. United States Military Academy (West Point; USA).

## Member Institutions

In addition to the above-mentioned list of co-founders, the following institutions are members of IAMA:

1. Defence Academy of the Republic of Kosovo (Kosovo).
2. Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University (SU; South Africa).
3. Academia Militar das Agulhas Negras (AMAN; Brazil).
4. Helmut-Schmidt-Universität / Universität der Bundeswehr in Hamburg (HSU/UniBwH; Germany).
5. General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy (Lithuania).
6. General Tadeusz Kosciuszko Military University of Land Forces (AWL; Poland).
7. Norwich University (NU; USA).
8. University of North Georgia (UNG; USA).
9. Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College (ABMMC; Qatar).
10. Philippine Military Academy (PMA; Philippines).













## كلية أحمد بن محمد العسكرية

Ahmed Bin Mohammed Military College

Doha, Qatar

