



## EVENING CONFERENCE

Dear Madam, Sir,

We have the pleasure to inform you that the Royal Higher Institute for Defence is organising an evening conference on **Thursday 17 May 2018**.

### ***Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees: What can we learn from the US expertise?***

**Prof. Dr Michael JENSEN**  
**Senior Researcher, University of Maryland**

The problematic of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) is not new, yet it has revealed new stakes now that the war in Syria and Iraq triggered the “fourth wave of jihadism”, unprecedented in magnitude. In the sinister context of the Islamic State’s appeal to foreigners, Belgium has become the sad record-holder of FTFs per capita on a European scale. Besides, as the self-proclaimed “Caliphate” suffered major military defeats and lost most of its territory in the Middle East throughout 2017, both “returnees” and “homegrown terrorists” now represent the next major security challenge in our very own regions.

In order to better understand the underlying dynamics of violent radicalisation and consider the possible measures to counter it, we have the pleasure to welcome Prof. Dr Michael Jensen who will share his most recent findings based on analyses of large-scale data collection efforts. Using information from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS) project, this presentation will provide an empirical assessment of the evolving terrorist threat in the United States and offer a number of data-driven lessons from the US context for partner countries facing similar challenges.

This conference will take place on **Thursday 17 May 2018 at 17:00 hours** in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels**). The lecture will be given in **English** with **simultaneous translation** into **Dutch** and **French**. Parking is available on the Cinquantenaire esplanade in front of the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History. We are looking forward to welcoming you and kindly ask you to confirm your participation by registering online on the RHID’s website: [www.rhid.be](http://www.rhid.be).

**Pre-registration is mandatory to access the premises and must reach us not later than Monday 14 May 2018.**

**Programme:**

16:30	Registration
17:00	Conference and Q & A
18:30-19:30	Reception

(Signed)

Tim VAN LANGENHOVE, MSc Eng  
Colonel GS  
Director-general  
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