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Engage America Speaker Partnership: Six Top National Security Issues Combating Terrorism Center at West Point

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We are pleased to announce a **new WACA Engage America Speaker Partnership on our Six Top Issues** featuring experts from **the [Combating Terrorism Center](#) (CTC) at the United States Military Academy at West Point.**

Throughout the year, CTC experts, led by **William Braniff**, the Director of Practitioner Education and an Instructor at the Combating Terrorism Center, travel to various cities around the country to brief state and local law enforcement officials and counterterrorism practitioners. As part of these fully funded public education tours, CTC would like to visit World Affairs Councils and address the pressing national security issues in the Middle East and South Asia as part of our Six Top National Security Issues Initiative.

We do not yet have dates and locations, so please stay tuned for more information! **The WACA National Office will be contacting you directly if the CTC team is planning on being in your area to see if you can host an event.**

About the Combating Terrorism Center

The CTC is an independent, privately funded research and educational institution situated at West Point that informs and shapes counterterrorism policy and strategy. It was created in the aftermath of 9/11 to address the new era of security challenges that those events brought to the forefront of America's consciousness. The Center is dedicated to conducting academically rigorous and theoretically sound research addressing pressing strategic issues facing our nation, educating our present and future leaders, and providing relevant policy advice to key decision makers.

We encourage you to read the Center's most recent publication: [The Haqqani Nexus and the Evolution of al-Qa'ida](#) is essential reading to understand how and why the borderlands between Afghanistan and Pakistan serve as the

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epicenter of global jihadism. We also encourage you to sign up to the CTC's email distribution list, which provides links to its research and monthly journal at www.ctc.usma.edu

Experts

Mr. William Braniff is the Director of Practitioner Education and an Instructor at the Combating Terrorism Center. He is a 1999 Graduate of the United States Military Academy. Following his Company Command as an Armor Officer in the U.S. Army, he attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) where he received a Masters Degree in International Relations. Upon graduation, Bill Braniff worked in the nuclear counterterrorism field at the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, and as a Research Associate with the CTC Harmony Project at West Point.

Mr. Braniff lectures frequently for counterterrorism audiences including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Joint Special Operations University, National Defense University, the United States Attorneys' Office, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The CTC's Practitioner Education Program, lead by Mr. Braniff, is the nation's largest provider of counterterrorism education to federal, state, and local governmental audiences. Mr. Braniff is also heavily involved in public education. His speaking engagements include several Council on Foreign Relations and World Affairs Council events in cities around the country. In May of 2010 he took part in the National September 11th Museum and Memorial Speaker Series, and he is featured in the Museum's educational webcast series. He has been interviewed on numerous occasions by National Public Radio, the Wall Street Journal, and by a host of additional international, national, and local print and radio media outlets.

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