Introducing ISENDé

The goal of this presentation was to give an overview of the High Institute for Nuclear Defense Studies (ISENDé) created in 2010 as part of the French CEA Defense and Security Directorate.

The goal of ISENDé is to give to CEA-DAM personals a complete view on nuclear weapons science and deterrence issues. Some courses also can be attended by Nuclear Forces personals, diplomats, defense personals, etc...

ISENDé is a recently created body, but founded on a long time tradition of training and dissemination through the CSAN (Cours Supérieur aux Armes Nucléaires) in 1963 and SIMAN (Séminaire d’Initiation aux Armes Nucléaires) in 1965. A previous restructuration took place in 1994 in order to prepare a special training effort for the Simulation program.

The new structure of ISENDé was intended by the present Director of DAM in order to have a full team devoted to training, teaching, networking and strategic studies on all topics relevant with CEA DAM missions i.e. deterrence (weapons and nuclear p, non-proliferation and CBRN/E terrorism.)

Training on nuclear activities at DAM

As physics of nuclear weapons is classified in many topics, CEA-DAM has its own institute ISENDé for training the staff on sciences and technologies related to its missions. The teaching corpse is in the major part made with our own experts. About 200 of them are taking part in ISENDé training programs. ISENDé provides each year about 4000 man.h courses to 450 students.

ISENDé is also involved in training courses organized by other Defense Organization such as DGA, SGDSN, EAMEA, etc...

FSAN Defense: a high level management training course for the managers of the French deterrent operational teams.

This training course takes place every year. It aims at giving a common vision and understanding on the status of the French deterrent research and development strategy. It creates a strong network among actors of the topic. Each class has around 12 participants. The program alternates plenary lectures, working group sessions, visits, and invited speakers.

Non Proliferation training course

ISENDé is the organizer of a Non Proliferation Course (FCP stands for Formation au CONTRÔLE de la Proliferation) for the benefit of SGDSN. FCP is dedicated to collaborations of French government agencies involved in the proliferation control issues in their professional activities. The course has a two week session with conferences in all the related topics, followed by a series of visit of specific industrial or research sites and international organization (IAEA, CTBTO). Teaching staff includes experts from CEA, DGA, SGDSN, DCRI, Minister of Industry, Finance, Interior, etc...
Towards a European training institute?

The question of an European training institute for staff of European Commission and related organizations has been discussed. In France IHEDN (Insitut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale) has received a strategic mission from the government to promote an European vision on Defense training and studies. SERA which has been created in 1989 the SERA provides an environment for training and reflection with the aim of strengthening the European outlook in matters concerning defense and defense equipment and to improve mutual understanding between partners. On a similar model but with a broader scope of participants and topics including nonproliferation issues a new Institute could be created at an European level. ISENDé is willing to participate in this effort and offer its unique capabilities in terms of teaching staff.