SEMINAR’S OBJECTIVES

• RAISE AWARENESS OF THE NATURE, SCOPE AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NATO’S PROCESS OF DECLASSIFICATION AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF COLD WAR, FORMERLY CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS.

• DRAWING ON DECLASSIFIED AND PUBLICLY DISCLOSED COLD WAR NATO HQ AND SHAPE DOCUMENTS, SHED NEW LIGHT ON THE LONGER-TERM, STRATEGIC IMPACT WHICH THE SEMINAL DECADE OF THE 1950s HAD ON NATO’S COLD WAR DETERRENCE STRATEGY AND DEFENCE POSTURE.

• DERIVE STRATEGIC INSIGHTS ON HOW AN ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS, WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED PEACETIME INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE, MANAGED TO RECONCILE AND LEVERAGE THE DISPARATE OPERATIONAL PREFERENCES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ALLIES.
TOWARDS “FORWARD DEFENCE”
1949 - 1963

[Map showing NATO countries and military corps, with labels for various cities and corps positions.]

- Main Defence line on the Rhine-Ijssel
- Semi “Forward Defence” line on the Weser-Lech
- Full “Forward Defence”
TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS
IN NATO’S DEFENCE POSTURE
IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE WIDER POLITICAL CONTEXT, 1950 - 1960

POLITICAL

- **Autumn 1950**: Build-up of Allied forces in West Germany (FRG) notably deployment of VII. U.S. Army and VIII and XII. U.S. Corps
- **April 1951**: Activation of Allied Command Europe (SHAPE), HQs Allied Forces Europe and Southern Europe
- **August 1953**: Activation of HQ Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) as the senior NATO military command for the Central Region above HQs LANDCENT and NAVCENT
- **November 1955**: Establishment of the German Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr)
- **November 1958**: II. French Corps replaces II. German Corps in Koblenz, and takes-over as northern corps sector of CENTAG
- **July 1958**: AFCENT adopts a semi-forward defence on the Weser and Lahn Rivers
- **1958-1960**: US Army Europe’s “Eddleman” Plan to transfer responsibility for the defence of Bavaria south of the Danube River from the 7th U.S. Army to the 1st French Army

MILITARY

- **June 1950**: Invasion of South Korea (ROK) by North Korea (DPRK)
- **March 1953**: Death of Joseph Stalin in East Germany (GDR)
- **May 1955**: Establishment of NATO as the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)
- **October 1956**: Soviet military intervention in Hungary
- **December 1957**: First-ever NATO Summit meeting in Paris
- **November 1958**: Nikita Khrushchev issues ultimatum on Berlin’s quadripartite status
- **February 1960**: Fidel Castro takes power in Cuba