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From 2016-2017, he served as the tenth 1LT Andrew J. Bacevich, Jr., USA Fellow at CNAS. Prior to CNAS, from 2013-2014, he served as a research associate at the National Defense University (NDU) where he worked on a project for

the U.S. Central Command J-5 that conducted extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and studied the impact of the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts on the greater Middle East region. From 2010-2011, Mr. Heras was a National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Fellow based in Beirut, Lebanon. Prior to his Boren Fellowship, from 2008-2011, he was a research associate at the Center for Global Peace at the American University in Washington, D.C., where he managed and led research tasks for three U.S. State Department-funded grant projects that were implemented in Syria and Iraq. During these multiyear projects, Mr. Heras traveled to Syria on multiple occasions and throughout the country.

Mr. Heras has authored or co-authored numerous reports and analytical articles on topics concerning the Syrian civil war. He was the project lead on the October 2017 CNAS report the *Deir Azzour Tribal Mapping Project*, which has been briefed to and is being used by multiple U.S. government and military agencies. From July 2016-January 2017, he founded and co-chaired the *Combating al-Qaeda in Syria Strategy Group*, which brought together leading Syria and counterterrorism focused analysts from multiple research institutions, to develop a comprehensive strategy for the United States to counter al-Qaeda in Syria.

He has also presented widely on the topic of the Syrian civil war and its impact on the greater Middle East region, including analysis for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and other intelligence community agencies; the National Intelligence Council; the U.S. Naval War College, Center for Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups; U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command; the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff; and the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council.