



**FOREIGN AFFAIRS COVERAGE IS “OVERSIMPLIFIED,  
INACCURATE AND BIASED” SAYS FORMER US DEFENSE  
UNDERSECRETARY DOUGLAS FEITH  
AT ARIEL UNIVERSITY CENTER CONFERENCE**

Douglas Feith, former U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, harshly criticized the American media for its ineffective and inaccurate coverage of foreign affairs. Addressing the 7<sup>th</sup> annual David Bar-Illan Conference on the Media & the Middle East at Ariel University Center, Dr. Feith maintained that coverage of international affairs “generally lacks complexity... tends to scrimp on historical context, and is often ideologically biased when not outright inaccurate.”

Dr. Feith’s remarks were part of his keynote address on the subject of “Journalism and National Security” broadcast via video conference from Washington, D.C. to an audience of several hundred journalists, and officials and members of the academic community. The conference, held every fall, is dedicated to the memory of David Bar-Illan, former Executive Editor of the Jerusalem Post and Communications Director in the Prime Minister’s Office.

“Journalists often proclaim their commitment to seek ‘truth’, but the fact is that they have powerful incentives to avoid complexity, an especially big problem in reporting on foreign affairs,” he commented. Instead of seeking and presenting in-depth analysis of these problems, they are “converted into melodramas - soap operas - that a general audience can follow with minimal intellectual exertion” explained Dr. Feith, who currently serves as Director of the Hudson Institute’s Center for National Security Strategies.” (Extensive excerpts from Dr. Feith’s address were published in the November 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Jerusalem Post and can be seen at <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?apage=1&cid=1226404812462&pagename=JPost%2FJPostArticle%2FShowFull>.)

Other notable participants at the conference included former Israeli Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz who discussed the impact of Israeli media on government terrorism policy and Dr. Uzi Landau, former Minister and Knesset Member, who addressed the issue of media regulation.

Originally established in 1992 as a public college, Ariel University Center today is one of Israel’s largest public academic institutions with some 11,000 students from across Israel pursuing graduate and/or undergraduate degrees or professional certificates in the natural sciences, engineering, humanities, health sciences, social sciences and architecture.

**For further information:**

**Web Site:** [www.ariel.ac.il/site/portals/english](http://www.ariel.ac.il/site/portals/english)

**Email Address:** [development@ariel.ac.il](mailto:development@ariel.ac.il)