

# ASC unites Fellows in effort to address regional challenges

Gaining a deeper understanding of security issues within and far beyond their own nations' borders, 120 Fellows from 33 locations completed the Advanced Security Cooperation course (ASC 16-1) May 4 at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

The five-week course is an executive education program enabling mid-level military and civilian leaders to deepen their understanding of security issues within political, socioeconomic, defense and environmental contexts. The course, according to course manager Dr. Christopher Snedden, connects Fellows in a way that helps them collaborate on complex regional security challenges.

"They gain an understanding that cooperation is vitally important when considering security," said Snedden, adding that Fellows' ability to understand perspectives other than their own is critical to building that cooperation. "Some Fellows come from large nations, such as China, India or the United States, and they face an entirely different set of

security challenges than do the Kiribats, Tongans or Fijians. While Fellows' own nations and sub-regions may be important, there are other nations and regions they need to know about."

Thai Fellow Chotirat Komaradat related, "The world is getting smaller — interconnected — which means that an event in one country can have a spillover effect into another nation or into the entire region. In order to tackle (such) problems, you need advanced security cooperation." Komaradat, with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called it a true privilege to be able to learn from the perspectives and experiences from 119 other Fellows.

ASC 16-1 Fellows took part in a course comprised of a mix of lectures, interactive seminar sessions, electives, exercises and a Fellow's Project. The course is divided into four modules that progress from an introduction to the region's complexity and evaluation of strategic problem-solving tools to applying lessons learned in collaborative exercises.

Snedden spotlighted the content in Module 2, titled "Major Security Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region." Among nine topics in this section, professors and Fellows discussed security challenges specific to major sub-regions, such as Oceania and Southeast Asia. Dr. Virginia Bacay Watson, for example, discussed the latter in terms of the need for cooperation on economic development and combating transnational threats, such as trafficking and terrorism.

Dr. Mohan Malik offered a bigger pic-



(Clockwise) San San Maw, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, leads a discussion on security issues during an Advanced Security Cooperation course (ASC 16-1) seminar session. Mongolian Fellow Erdene Sukhbaatar shares his perspective with members of his seminar group. Dr. Lori Forman, DKI APCSS professor, addresses Fellows on the topic "Economics, Trade and Security." ASC 16-1 was comprised of 120 Fellows.

ture analysis in his brief "The Geopolitical Landscape of the Asia-Pacific Region." He led discussion on issues ranging from China's dramatic resurgence as an economic and military power to the region's present and developing alliances and power structures.

These discussions laid the groundwork for a capstone negotiation exercise focused on climate change impacts on a heavily populated, but underdeveloped, river delta. Fellows played various government and international agency roles and had to

overcome major differences in priorities to develop cooperative strategies for response actions and gain associated international support.

"I've come away from this course knowing that even in an environment of intense competition, cooperation is still possible," said Metho Dema, with Bhutan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dema added that she learned if competing entities focus on common interests rather than on their positions, they can find "a big point of convergence," making it easier to

iron out differences — even over controversial issues.

Komaradat added, "I think APCSS lived up to its motto of educating, connecting and empowering, so I look forward to working with my classmates and APCSS alumni to change the world and make life better for everyone in the region."

Komaradat and Dema were joined in ASC 16-1 by Fellows from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mi-

cronesia, Mongolia and Myanmar. Also participating were Fellows from Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Timor-Leste. Other Fellows were from Tonga, the United States and Vietnam.

Also represented were the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**ASC at a Glance**  
formerly Executive Course  
(Since 1996)

- 49 Courses / 3,675 Fellows
- 62 nations
- Course 16-1 Demographics
  - Fellows: 120
  - Male: 84% / Female: 16%
  - Military: 44% / Civilian: 48%
  - Law Enforcement: 8%
  - International: 91% / U.S.: 9%



(Above) U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jonathan Odom, DKI APCSS faculty member, leads the topical discussion “International Law and Counterterrorism,” during the Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism course (CSRT 16-1). (At right, clockwise) Uche Onumade, director of defence education, Nigerian Armed Forces, provides input during a CSRT seminar session. Dr. Christopher Harmon, served as the Center’s CSRT course manager. One hundred seven security professionals attended CSRT 16-1.



## CSRT: Building counterterror capacity

### Course gives Fellows in-depth look at acts, impacts of extremists

Recent deadly attacks in Pakistan and Bangladesh, as well as Germany and France, are, according to Dr. Christopher C. Harmon, “harsh reminders” why the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies conducts an extensive course in counterterrorism strategies.

Roughly four weeks long, the Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism program provides U.S. and international Fellows from the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and other nations with the skills

needed to combat terrorism and associated transnational threats. The Center promotes a multi-dimensional, whole-of-society approach to the issue.

One hundred seven security practitioners from 48 locations took part in the latest iteration, CSRT 16-1, July 14 to Aug. 10.

“Fellows explored the challenges posed by terrorism and – in the spirit of DKI APCSS – focused on developing solutions while considering regional actors, events and impacts,” said Harmon, adding “They learned that the struggle against terrorism is multifaceted, cutting across intellectual, moral and politi-

cal arenas, and requires cooperative and creative countermeasures.”

In Module One, titled “The Problems, the Causes, the Agents,” faculty and other subject matter experts provided Fellows with deep background on the current terrorism environment.

Dr. Saira Yamin, for example, discussed related trends and contributing factors in her brief “Terrorism: The Enabling Environment.” She addressed the increasing number of terrorist acts over the last decade, especially in incidents since 2011 and the annual terror-related death rate increasing by more than 20,000 since 2006.

Yamin, a DKI APCSS professor, also touched on terrorism drivers, such as economic deprivation, inequality, radicalization, and political instability, and their impacts, particularly, on vulnerable youth populations.

“All the lectures were very useful – very effective – and gave us the perspective on how the various terrorist groups across the globe are linked with one another (and) how terrorists are being financed,” said Col. Mohamed Shahedul Islam, senior instructor with the Bangladesh Defense Services Command and Staff College. “Overall the entire syllabus is comprehensive....”

Module Two, “Toward a Comprehensive Response to Terrorism,” brought to light resources and strategies available in the fight against terrorists and transnational threats. Among lecture topics in this area was Dr. Al Oehlers’ “Countering Terrorism with Economic Tools.”

Oehlers, a DKI APCSS faculty member, discussed terrorist group funding streams and available methods to track and block their financing supply chains. He highlighted both military actions against resource infrastructures, and intelligence and law enforcement operations.

In the same module, Fellows learned how to assemble a national counterterror strategy, knowledge they

put to the test in a capstone exercise Aug. 8 to 9.

Maj. Chris Erlewine, course coordinator, said Fellows in eight teams cooperated to draft strategies for specific sub-regions, such as South Asia. They identified priorities and the elements needed for a viable counterterror plan, and each team presented their results to a panel of DKI APCSS faculty members upon completion.

**Oehlers, a DKI APCSS faculty member, discussed terrorist group funding streams and available methods to track and block their financing supply chains.**

“The way (the exercise) was designed was outstanding; regional countries got together to discuss what the problems are,” said Lt. Col. Fahim Sayad, with Afghanistan’s National Directorate of Security. He said the multinational approach provided a broader perspective of the challenges at hand and enabled Fellows to determine if they shared common problems or if issues were specific to particular nations.

Sayad joined Fellows in CSRT from Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, and Malaysia.

Fellows also came from Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, and Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United States, and Vietnam.

#### CSRT at a Glance (Since 2004)

- 20 Courses / 1,328 Fellows
- 102 nations
- Course 16-1 Demographics
- Fellows: 107
- Male: 86% / Female: 14%
- Military: 53% / Civilian: 34%
- Law Enforcement: 13%
- International: 89% / U.S.: 11%

# Getting oriented

## APOC builds Fellows' knowledge of region's security framework

Advancing their knowledge of important factors that drive the Asia-Pacific security environment, 293 professionals completed two Asia-Pacific Orientation Courses at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

APOC is a five-day course designed to provide an overview of regional states and trends in socioeconomic, political, defense, health and environmental arenas that drive the Asia-Pacific's security environment. Faculty members address these areas in the context of major sub-regions, such as Southeast Asia and Oceania.

Attendees are predominantly junior- to mid-grade U.S. military members and their civilian counterparts in various security-related fields, however, the APOC roster includes a small number of international Fellows.

### APOC 16-2

One-hundred fifty Fellows completed APOC 16-2, conducted June 20 to 24. Course manager Dr. Jeffrey Reeves said the program promoted critical thinking about a region that is increasingly complex while enabling Fellows to connect with peers. "This, in turn," said Reeves, "enhanced their ability to cooperate across the spectrum of security-related agencies while addressing regional challenges and concerns."

APOC Fellows learned through a combination of plenary discussions, electives and seminar sessions that allowed them to share perspectives on key course topics.

Among 13 topical discussions was "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Asia-Pacific," led by DKI APCSS Foreign Policy Advisor Brent Christensen. He walked Fellows through the U.S. national



security policy-making structure and addressed the evolution of U.S. relations in the

region. Other plenary topics included "Economics in the Asia-Pacific" by Dr. Miemie



Winn Byrd and "Security Dynamics in Northeast Asia" by Dr. Van Jackson. Center Direc-

### APOC at a Glance (Since 1999)

- 29 Courses / 3,208 Fellows
- 17 nations
- Course 16-2 Demographics
- Fellows: 150
- Male: 77% / Female: 23%
- Military: 61% / Civilian: 39%
- International: 22% / U.S.: 78%
- Course 16-3 Demographics
- Fellows: 143
- Male: 76% / Female: 24%
- Military: 63% / Civilian: 37%
- International: 17% / U.S.: 83%

tor retired Lt. Gen. Dan Leaf closed the course with "Next Steps to Promoting Security:

(Clockwise) One hundred forty-four Fellows completed APOC 16-3 held Sept. 12 to 16 at DKI APCSS. The course covers security factors to include defense, economics, environmental and disaster response. Dr. Jeffrey Reeves, DKI APCSS faculty member, served as APOC 16-3 course manager and led the topical discussion "Security Dynamics in Northeast Asia." Fellows share perspectives on issues associated with security dynamics that frame the Asia-Pacific region.

Fostering Strategic Growth," in which he encourages Fellows to take what they learned and apply it in the workplace.

"The in-depth information we received in this course allows us to make better decisions when we're planning," said Maj. Kenneth McGinnis, a joint engineer plans officer with U.S. Pacific Command. The officer added that his organization works infrastructure projects throughout the region, and the contacts he's gained through APOC may prove beneficial in future work.

Joining McGinnis and other U.S. participants in APOC 16-2 were Fellows from Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan.

### APOC 16-3

Held Sept. 12 to 16, APOC 16-3 comprised 143 U.S. and international Fellows from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Indonesia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

"The course focused on enhancing Fellows' abilities to contribute to processes necessary for strategic stability, conflict mitigation and mediating impacts of

resource scarcity and climate change," said Reeves. The program also promoted building professional networks among Fellows.

Among topical discussions was "The Geopolitical Landscape of the Asia-Pacific," led by DKI APCSS faculty member Dr. Mohan Malik. He walked Fellows through shifts in the regional power balance since 2000 based primarily on evolution of economic and transnational threat factors. Other plenary topics included "Maritime Security" by Kerry Lynn Nankivell and "Economics in the Asia-Pacific" by Dr. Lori Forman.

"I definitely think the course material and lectures were very informative...very diverse," said 1st Lt. Nick Henderson, with the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron at Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii. "It definitely makes me more informed whenever it's time to (move people) out to the Asia-Pacific region, I know what to look for." He added the course provided a valuable source of "reach back." "If I need more specific information, I can come back to (APCSS) – the instructors, the professors, the Fellows – to get that."

Forty-one senior leaders received a comprehensive look at major security trends in the Asia-Pacific region in the Oct. 4 to 6 Senior Executive Asia-Pacific Orientation Course 16-1 at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

SEAPOC brings together military and civilian leaders along with ally and partner nation counterparts to discuss complex security challenges and opportunities in the region's constantly evolving security environment. The October iteration featured Fellows from Australia, Canada, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Fellows took part in a mixture of plenary lectures and electives focused on major issues impacting the regional and global security environment.

Among SEAPOC's four lecture titles were "Geopolitical Landscape of Asia-Pacific Region," and "Regional Security Architecture" by faculty

## SEAPOC: Providing a strategic view of Asia-Pacific region

**SEAPOC at a Glance**  
(Since 1999)

- 10 Courses / 267 Fellows
- 9 nations
- Course 16-1 Demographics
- Fellows: 41
- Male: 80% / Female: 20%
- Military: 56% / Civilian: 44%
- International: 17%
- U.S.: 83%

members Dr. Chris Snedden and Dr. Alex Vuving respectively.

Four seminar sessions, including two conducted jointly with 112 Fellows in the Advanced Security Cooperation course (ASC 16-3), enabled SEAPOC participants to clarify and build on topics in an informal, highly interactive environment. In their fi-



Forty-one U.S. and international Fellows participated in the Senior Executive Asia-Pacific Orientation Course 16-1 Oct. 4 to 6.

### Crisis management, transnational cooperation courses scheduled for 2017

Select Fellows from throughout the Asia-Pacific region looking to expand their abilities to work through complex crisis-related challenges will attend the Comprehensive Crisis Management course (CCM 17-1)

Feb. 9 to March 15. CCM focuses on the strategic impact of decisions and actions, before, during and after crisis events. Often, crises such as conflict or natural disasters require a response that is planned and effectively

coordinated. Thus, CCM helps participants build their collaborative and complex problem-solving skills.

The Transnational Security Cooperation course (TSC 16-2) took place Nov. 14 to 18. TSC is an intensive pro-

gram for senior leaders that explores and practices collaborative action in an "exercise" format on strategic response to real-world transnational threat scenarios.

For more information, visit [www.apcss.org](http://www.apcss.org).

national seminar session, Fellows assessed America's regional strategy using information and knowledge gained during the three-day course. Additionally, seminars enabled Fellows to share perspectives and build professional connections.

"It was quite gratifying to see changes in perceptions and expansion of their horizons among the participants," said course manager Dr. Mimi Byrd. "Such learning will definitely contribute towards advancement of regional security cooperation."

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Brian Penoyer said, "(The course) is fantastic. There's so much depth on each of the (sub-regions) across the Indo-Asia-Pacific. It's a great opportunity to see how all those pieces fit together, how complex the region is. It's an exposure to issues you might not otherwise bump into."

Penoyer, chief of staff for the Fourteenth Coast Guard Division in Honolulu, Hawaii, added, the course offered material relevant to his profession, but he said he found issues beyond his area of responsibility the most interesting.

"I'm in the Coast Guard, and a lot of our primary focus is on Oceania. But listening to what's going on in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia...I found some similar themes in terms of the sort of security dilemmas of engagements and the interactive reactions (they) cause. To me it was fascinating to see that play out."

## Exercising HADR operations in Oceania

Dr. Deon Canyon  
DKIAPCSS faculty

Pacific Resilience is U.S. Army Pacific's primary Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief engagement platform. It provides opportunities for USARPAC

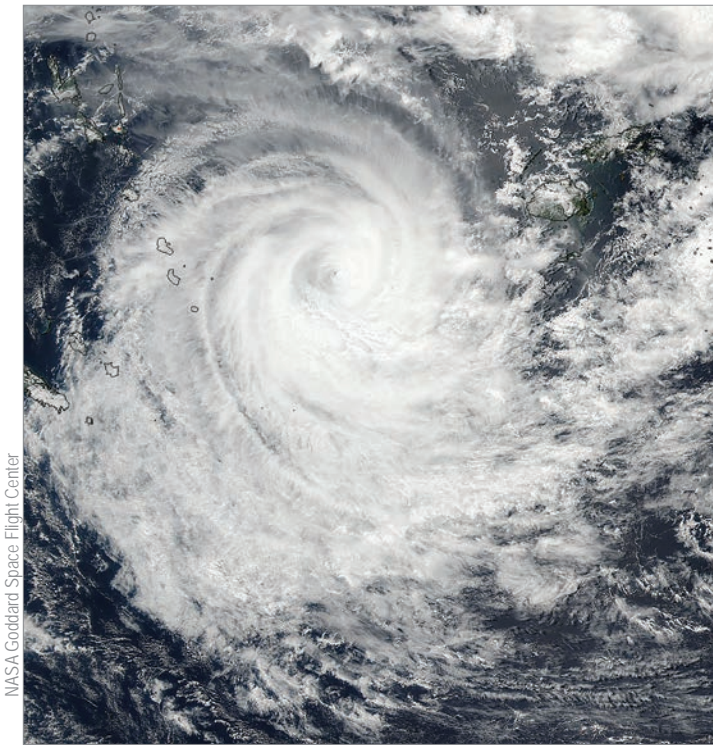


and a partner nation to collaborate on civil-military disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

A key part of this platform are Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise Exchange workshops, designed to promote communication, sharing of best practices, analysis of lessons learned, and integration of standard operating procedures. These exercises use tabletop or field training exercises as the primary educational tool.

The DREE workshop with an Oceania focus took place Aug. 2 to 5 in Port Villa, Vanuatu. USARPAC and the Vanuatu government co-sponsored the event.

Vanuatu is located on the cusp of two tectonic plates in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and is currently ranked number one globally for risk and exposure to frequent common natural hazards such as cyclones, volcanic eruptions, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts and sea level rises (World Risk Index 2015).



MASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Tropical Cyclone Winston tracks east of the southern Vanuatu islands in February. Vanuatu is especially vulnerable to the destructive effects of natural disasters.

**"It is only a question of 'when'...When will Vanuatu be hit by a large-scale natural disaster?"**

- Charlot Salwai  
Vanuatu Prime Minister

The event was designed to improve national preparedness and capacity to respond specifically to threats from cyclones to small island states in the Oceania region. Civil and military authorities, both local and international, were engaged in collaborative dialogue and were provided with a framework that delineated best practices, exercise plans and procedures, and en-

hanced response readiness. The fictitious scenario involved a large cyclone impacting Vanuatu's capital city of Port Villa. The exercise focused on the cyclone aftermath, including damage assessment, food and water shortage, and flooding. Strategic and operational tabletop discussions enabled participants to work together to support a large-scale response and recovery program – including establishing communications, and a command and control structure – and delineating roles and responsibilities.

Emphasis was placed on the Vanuatu national disaster response plans and procedures, but issues were raised pertaining to international and regional responders and involvement of foreign military assistance.

Ninety-one participants hailed from many local and international aid organizations and from the governments of Vanuatu, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, New Caledonia, Cook Islands, Marshal Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia and the United States.

During the after-action reviews, participants noted the perpetual need for measures such as: maintaining operational viability when a disaster hits; ensuring effective and non-discriminatory distribution of aid; and tracking of all actions and progress indicators for coordination and accountability.

This DREE furthers the U.S. commitment to be a responsive HADR partner. As the representative for the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, I presented two case studies on severe Tropical Cyclone Heta in Niue and Tropical Cyclone Guba in Papua New Guinea with a focus on civil-military coordination and accountability.

To view cited sources and read the full article, go to <https://globalnetplatform.org/apcss/exercising-multinational-civil-military-humanitarian-assistance-and-disaster-relief-capacity-in-oceania>.