



DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

# CURRENTS





ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, THE COMMISSION OF  
THE COUNCIL ON OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION (COE)  
GRANTED OUR INSTITUTION NATIONAL ACCREDITATION  
STATUS. THE COE BASED THEIR DETERMINATION  
ON AN EXTENSIVE EVALUATION THAT REQUIRED  
DKI APCSS TO SHOW THAT IT MEETS, NOT ONLY  
THE COMMISSION'S STANDARDS OF QUALITY, BUT ALSO  
THE NEEDS OF OUR FELLOWS, OUR COMMUNITY,  
AND EMPLOYERS.





## DKI APCSS GRANTED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

### Aloha and Hafa Adai,

There is much to cover in this latest edition of Currents magazine, which reflects the tremendous effort by our DKI APCSS team during the period of July 1 thru December 31, 2021. During this period, our world continued to be significantly impacted by COVID-19 especially with the Delta and Omicron variants setting back hopes to resume some sense of normalcy. The good news was, it brought out the best in resiliency by many of us to include what our awesome team here at DKI APCSS accomplished, so let's start.

Most notable during this period was that on September 16, 2021, the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE) granted our institution national accreditation status. The COE based their determination on an extensive evaluation that required DKI APCSS to show that it meets not only the Commission's standards of quality, but also the needs of our Fellows, our community, and stakeholders.

The accreditation represented the culmination of over a year of hard work by many members of our staff and faculty. The visiting COE team lauded our self-study packet as by far the best they have ever seen. This accreditation affirms what the Center has been diligently delivering for the last 26 years, namely, a top-tier comprehensive program of executive education, workshops and collaborative engagement with a network of diverse security practitioners in the region.

With the same commitment, DKI APCSS will continue on building relationships of trust and confidence among future leaders and decision-makers. We will continue to be a center for national officials, decision-makers, and policymakers to gather to exchange ideas, explore pressing issues and achieve a greater understanding of the challenges that will shape the future of our region.

In October, we were honored to host Gen (Ret.) John Allen as our guest speaker in our recurring DKI Speaker series. Gen Allen did not disappoint with his riveting perspectives and anecdotes of our complex security environment to a hybrid audience.

Our team had taken lessons learned from previous events in the year to successfully plan and execute our largest attended Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC 21-2) in November with a record-setting 235 Fellows. IPOC 21-2 was the second course planned and executed in a HyFlex, or "Hybrid-Flexible" model, which allowed

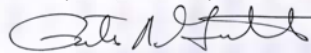
some Fellows to participate in-person and others virtually. The expanded numbers was made possible through the lessons of 21-1, innovative thinking by our IPOC Course Management Team (CMT) and in close coordination with our COVID Working Group which acted as an independent eye to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved.

Shortly afterward in December, the Center hosted our first full in-resident Transnational Security Cooperation course (TSC 21-3) with 22 senior leaders civilian and military from the region. The course examined the nexus between traditional and non-traditional elements of security to highlight the importance of a broader understanding of strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific. The approach of following plenary presentations with guided discussions and tabletop exercises kept the senior leaders engaged throughout the course.

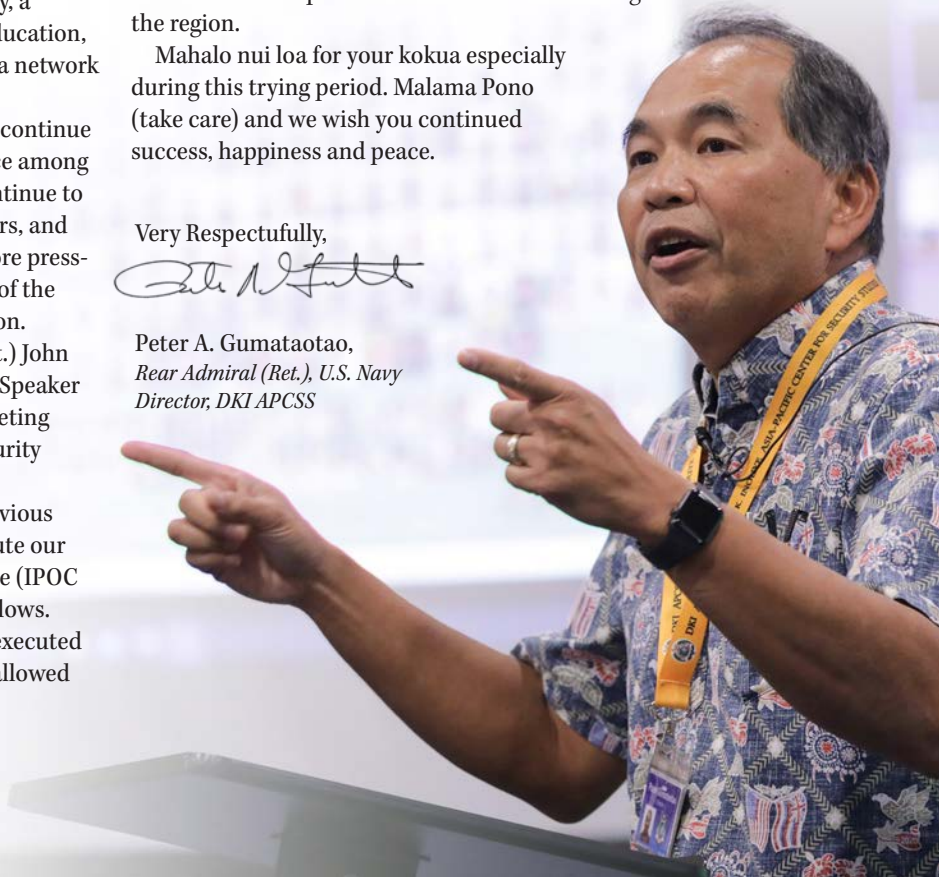
This Currents Magazine reflects a diverse and innovative approach to educating, connecting and empowering practitioners to promote a more collaborative and inclusive security environment not just in executive courses but with workshops, publications in our NEXUS, virtual engagements and distinguished visits by key leaders in the region. We are also very proud to showcase the incredible accomplishments of our Alumni throughout the region.

Mahalo nui loa for your kokua especially during this trying period. Malama Pono (take care) and we wish you continued success, happiness and peace.

Very Respectfully,



Peter A. Gumataotao,  
*Rear Admiral (Ret.), U.S. Navy*  
Director, DKI APCSS



# CURRENTS

Winter | July 1 -December. 31, 2021 | Vol. 38



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*Currents* magazine is the unofficial publication produced biannually by the Public Affairs Office. This publication is for DKI APCSS employees, alumni, Fellows, future Fellows, and friends of the Center. It is available online at [www.apcss.org](http://www.apcss.org). We use the Associated Press Style Guide when abbreviating ranks, regardless of individual service style. Contents are not necessarily

the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the U.S. Department of Defense.







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## COMMANDER'S CORNER:



TO THE ALUMNI OF THE  
DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA PACIFIC  
CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES.

Aloha from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).

We are proud to be part of an unparalleled network of allies and partners working in concert to conduct multi- and mini-lateral events, operations, and engagements across the Indo-Pacific. Synchronization with our allies and partners is at the heart of this Command's approach to Seize the Initiative.

For more than 75 years, the Indo-Pacific has witnessed advancements in peace, stability, and economic prosperity owing to the principles of good governance, the rule of law, and the conviction that wars of aggression should be relegated to the past. Today, revisionist and autocratic powers seek to disrupt and displace the current system in ways that benefit them at the expense of all others.

Seize the Initiative requires a geographically distributed, operationally resilient, defense-in-depth, and sustainable force posture that is coordinated globally and employed effectively every day. It requires us to coordinate existing and emerging capabilities through a diverse global network of partners and leading-edge technology. Whether we are talking about the five U.S. bilateral treaty allies in the Indo-Pacific, member states of the NATO alliance, mature multi-lateral forums, strategic bilateral partnerships, or mini-lateral engagements, all are needed to defend the current rules-based international order.

In May 2021, Secretary Lloyd Austin introduced the concept of Integrated Deterrence as the Department's approach to maintaining peace and stability in the global security environment. Integrated Deterrence is

utilizing all forms of national power, across all domains, synchronized with the Joint Force, in concert with our allies and partners to preserve peace, stability, and the rules-based international order.

Deployment of the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group 2021 (CSG-21) is just one example of how our network of allies and partners are advancing Integrated Deterrence. CSG-21 brought together an unmatched network of allies and partners from seven nations, including more than 15,000 Sailors and Marines, and four carrier strike groups with participation from the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Australia.

To defend the current rules-based international order, we must continue to bring together our most advanced capabilities across all domains (air, land, sea, cyber, and space) to create the advantage of mass without the vulnerability of concentration. This can only be achieved when allies and partners train, deploy, and operate together.

J. C. AQUILINO  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

September 4, 1995, marked the 26th Anniversary of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies. For 26 years, DKIAPCSS has addressed regional and global security issues, inviting civilian and military representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive program of executive education and conferences, both in Hawaii and throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, speakers and guests were kept safe with Plexiglas separators and masks for those sitting in the audience. U.S. Marine Corps General (Ret.) John Allen sits for a “fireside chat” with Director Gumataotao

## DANIEL K. INOUE SPEAKER SERIES FEATURES GENERAL (RET.) JOHN ALLEN

“America’s Leadership in the 21st Century” was the focus of the latest Daniel K. Inouye Speaker Series event held that featured guest speaker retired U.S. Marine Corps General John. R. Allen.

Allen, who is currently the president of the Brookings Institute, shared his thoughts on challenges and opportunities in the region in a “fireside chat” format event with DKI APCSS Director U.S. Navy Rear Adm. (Ret.) Pete Gumataotao.

Some of the topics covered include strategic competition with China, key role of partners and allies in the Indo-Pacific, the future of Afghanistan, and the role of new and emerging technologies.

The hybrid event, co-hosted by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies with the DKI Institute and the Foundation for the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, included more than 200

people joining virtually from 30 countries and territories across the globe and a limited sized live audience due to COVID safety rules.

According to Director Pete Gumataotao, “The intent of this Speaker Series is to invite Indo-Pacific leaders, both civilian and military, who interact with our Center and share their perspectives with our local community. It’s fitting for our local community to benefit from Sen. Inouye’s vision of bringing leaders from around the world here to Hawaii... a gateway for the U.S. to the Indo-Pacific and a gateway for the region to the U.S. and a multi-racial symbol of a free and open Indo-Pacific to discuss important issues to help us build a more secure, stable and prosperous region.”

This event was the fifth iteration of the series. Previous speakers include then Secretary of Defense, Dr. Mark T. Esper, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo



Mr. Ken Inouye, son of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, was a special guest for the DKI Speaker Series event.

Pacific Affairs Honorable Randall Schriver, former Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Adm. (Ret.) Phil Davidson and former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Adm. (Ret.) Harry Harris.





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1] TSC 21-3 group photo 2] DKI APCSS Director Pete Gumataotao welcomes 22 senior officials as they arrive at the Center 3] Mary Markovinic, Chief of Public Affairs, presents her lecture on Disinformation. 4] Fellows taking a break on Maluhia hall lanai. TSC 21-3 Fellows applaud to celebrate graduating from the course 6] DKI APCSS Deputy Director Jim Hirai offer scene-setting remarks on the third day of the course



## TWENTY-TWO SENIOR LEADERS GRADUATED FROM THE TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION COURSE

**T**wenty-two senior leaders from 19 countries and the United States completed the Transnational Security Cooperation (TSC) course 21-3, which was conducted in-residence in Honolulu, HI, from Dec. 5-10.

The Fellows participating in the course represented diverse nationalities from Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Palau, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, and Taiwan. Non-governmental organizations in attendance included the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Criminal Police Organization. The three U.S. fellows in attendance represented the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of State, and Department of Defense.

For first-time course manager Dr. Srinu Sitaraman the course was a tremendous success. Unlike previous courses in the calendar year, the course management team conducted this course entirely in-person and without a virtual component. In addition, for the first time in the pandemic environment, the Center welcomed international Fellows.

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) offers TSC three times a year to senior security practitioners from the whole-of-government and society at the vice-minister, ambassador, and senior military officer (one- to four-star rank) level. The course aims to enhance awareness of transnational security issues within the complex environments they occur; explore collaborative policies to address transnational security challenges; identify opportunities to strengthen states' capacities; and promote effective security governance.

Admiral (Ret), Dr. Jayanath Colombage, current Sri Lanka Secretary of Foreign Affairs, attended TSC as an alumnus of the DKI APCSS Executive Course in 2006. Utilizing the Center's alumni network, Admiral (Ret) Colombage has been able to expand his professional connections. He utilized the DKI APCSS library information resources while continuing his education, culminating in his doctoral thesis and degree. After attending his second DKI APCSS course, he now aims to take advantage of the new professional contacts and relationships, and looks forward to working with other Sri Lankan DKI APCSS alumni to make positive contributions to security in his country.

Other Fellows commented that they walked away with a deeper perspective on the security issues facing their



Dr. Bill Wieninger lectures on crypto currency during a lunch and learn session.

countries. One fellow remarked that they wanted to “extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the experience and knowledge that they have gained in the week long course.” The Fellows particularly appreciated the opportunity to have face-to-face interactions with their peers and the academic facilitators.

The USINDOPACOM commander, Admiral John Aquilino, highlighted the course with a robust discussion with the participants on the most pertinent security issues facing the region. Admiral Aquilino reiterated his strong commitment to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Other highlights included spotlight presentations on information security, disinformation, and fake news. Presentations through the week represented a broad range of security issues from the “Global Impact of COVID-19” to “New Tech’s Impact on Security Competition” to discussions covering cybersecurity, cryptocurrencies, and emerging technologies.

TSC 21-3 examined the nexus between traditional and non-traditional elements of security to highlight the importance of a broader understanding of strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific. The approach of following plenary presentations with guided discussions and tabletop exercises kept the senior leaders engaged throughout the course.

The course manager for TSC 21-3 was Dr. Srinu Sitaraman and the course coordinator was Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, USMC.



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1) U.S. Coast Guard Captain Mike Long and a Fellow analyze security trends in Oceania. 2) Military professor Capt. Kim McCann, USN, prepares to lead a seminar discussion 3) Virtual and in-person Fellows participate in a “HyFlex” discussion 4) Participants and Faculty take a break in the DKI APCSS Courtyard. 5) Fellows exit the Center after a day of IPOC instruction 6) Seminar leader, Maj. Matt Tweed, USMC (middle) sets the stage for Seminar 10’s first break out meeting.





Course manager, Dr. James Minnich, provides opening remarks to IPOC Fellows.

## A RECORD-SETTING 235 FELLOWS GRADUATED FROM THE INDO-PACIFIC ORIENTATION COURSE

A record-setting 235 Fellows from the Indo-Pacific Orientation Course 21-2. Administered November 15-19, 2021, IPOC 21-2 was the second course planned and executed in a HyFlex model.

Dr. James Minnich, course manager, explained that “HyFlex, or Hybrid-Flexible is a course construct where some Fellows participate in-person and others participate virtually.” In this physically distanced course, 120 Fellows rotated into the Center where they spent three of the course’s five 8-hour days in three plenary sessions, three seminar sessions, and an elective lecture, and a self-study session each day with the 115 virtual participants in the course. In a post course survey, the Fellows rated this HyFlex course as a positive learning environment that advanced critical thinking and dialogue on complex issues relevant to their work. One Fellow wrote: “I’ve been working in a virtual environment since April 2020 – this HyFlex format WORKS WELL!” Another wrote that “APCSS did a stellar job integrating technology to allow HyFlex participation. As a virtual student, I felt completely engaged and fully participative in the course.”

IPOC provides an executive education experience that prepares mid- and senior-grade security practitioners to knowledgeably engage in cooperative security efforts that build capacity to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and that recognizes

the linkages between good governance, rules-based order, and security.

The course provided a singular opportunity to learn from subject matter experts about the Indo-Pacific region. Fellows’ pre-course knowledge assessments revealed that 65% identified with basic or little to no understanding across a synthesized median of all plenary course topics, and thus the 15 plenary lectures, 15 plenary discussions, and 15 seminar activities offered during the five-day 40-hour course were eagerly received. Most Fellows participated in five optional sessions of 50 elective topics that broadened their understanding of a variety of security issues.

Fellows bonded through the experience, and while there was overwhelmingly high praises for the in-resident days, it was positively noted that the HyFlex learning approach advanced networking as it demonstrably closed the gap between the collaboration of traditional and online settings.

Course objectives prepared participants to apply a learned understanding of the geopolitical landscape and regional security architectures through discussions of Indo-Pacific strategic approaches, sub-regional security dynamics, and good governance dynamics.



BUSAN, Republic of Korea A Republic of Korea (ROK) sailor waves flags as Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) pulls into ROK Fleet headquarters. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jermaine M. Ralliford





DKI APCSS Director Pete Gumataotao (right) opens the symposium. Panelist shown from left to right included Dr. Victor Cha, Georgetown University, Dr. Sungmin Cho, DKI APCSS, Professor Jinbaek Choi, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), and Professor Hyunwook Kim, KNDA.

## THE ROLES OF THE U.S. ROK ALLIANCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

On December 1, 2021, a panel of subject matter experts gathered at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu to discuss the evolving United States and Republic of Korea alliance. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), aimed to foster continued discussion on opportunities presented in this year’s U.S. ROK Presidential Summit.

Titled “The Roles of the U.S. ROK Alliance in the Indo-Pacific,” the symposium brought together speakers from both U.S. and Korean academic institutions to provide perspectives from each country.

“We are at a time of change in the Indo-Pacific, structural change, because of the growing competition between the U.S. and China,” said Dr. Victor Cha, panelist and Professor of Government at Georgetown University. “So it becomes very important in groups like this to get people who are connected to both military and policy to have very candid discussions to new and changing policy.”

While the threat of North Korea and the ever-growing influence of China remained an important focus, the panelists proposed meaningful cooperation in a myriad of other topics

that included emerging technologies, developing supply chains, improving partnership with Japan, and maritime security in the South China Sea.

“Korea and the U.S. are both maritime countries,” said Seok-in Heong, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu. “The South China Sea is a very important trade route for Korea. Peace and stability in this region is so important. I am very committed to continue these kind of discussions to send a message not just to the people on this island but to the main audience in Korea and the mainland United States.”

For DKI APCSS, the symposium was yet another in a series of hybrid engagements that have included both online and in-person attendees. Over 40 persons attended the symposium virtually while 25 attended in person. The online participants brought an international audience who represented, amongst others, the Hawaii State legislature, the University of Mandalay, the Indonesian Ministry of Defense, and the Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“In times like this COVID situation,” said Dr. Sheen Seong-ho, panelist and Professor of International Security, Seoul National University. “This is a very special opportunity to come together.”

## Alumnus and Federated States of Micronesia PRESIDENT PANUELO Visits DKI APCSS

On July 19, 2021, during a trip to Honolulu for defense talks with U.S. officials, President David W. Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), visited the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, where he met with the Center's Director Pete Gumataotao and participated in a roundtable discussion with DKI APCSS faculty.

Accompanying him on the visit to the Center were U.S. Ambassador Carmen Cantor, FSM Foreign Secretary Kandhi Elieisar, Secretary/Attorney General Joses Gallen, FSM Ambassador to the U.S., AMB Akillino Harris Susaia, and FSM Acting Consul-General in Honolulu Henry Shrew.

During the discussion, President Panuelo reiterated FSM's enduring and strong commitment to a relationship with the U.S. He expressed deep appreciation to the U.S. for the security umbrella protecting the sovereignty of FSM as well as COVID-19 vaccine support, which has helped keep FSM COVID-free.

Discussions covered climate change, food and water security, migration, transnational crime, Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and cybersecurity.

In a broader context, President Panuelo emphasized a need for training, education and capacity building for FSM officials, especially in areas associated with longer-range planning and preparation expertise, which are skills much needed to successfully navigate the current 21st century complexities.

"It was a productive visit with candid discussions with senior FSM officials made possible by the longstanding relationship we've forged with the FSM and other Oceania Pacific island nations," said Director Gumataotao. "It was also a good opportunity for DKI APCSS to welcome back five distinguished alumni simultaneously for a 'reunion': the President himself, Foreign Secretary Elieisar, Secretary Gallen, Acting Consul Shrew and U.S. Ambassador Cantor."



President Panuelo gives Alumni Chief, John Gasner a hug after receiving an Golden lanyard. The Lanyard symbolizes his DKI APCSS Alumni status.



Secretary Gallen, DKI APCSS Director Pete Gumataotao, Amb. Carmen Cantor, FSM President David W. Panuelo, FSM Ambassador to the United States Akillino Harris Susaia, Secretary Elieisar, and DKI APCSS Deputy Director Jim Hirai.





## CHIEFS OF DEFENSE CONFERENCE 2021

Representing their countries at the Conference were eight DKI APCSS alumni including, Lt. Gen. Waker Uz-Zaman (Bangladesh), TSC 14-1; General Koji Yamazaki (Japan), TSC 11-1; Maj. Gen. Abdulla Shamaal (Maldives), CSRT10-1 and SSD10-2; Lt. Gen. Dovchinsuren Ganzorig (Mongolia), TSC 15-2; Lt. Gen. Bal Krishna Karki (Nepal), CCM13-1; Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies (New Zealand), TSC 14-2; Maj. Gen. Gilbert Toropo (Papua New Guinea), EC03-3; and Gen. Nothapol Boonngam (Thailand), TSC 16-2.



## PACIFIC AIR CHIEF'S SYMPOSIUM 2021

Representing their countries at the Symposium were Air Chief Marshall Fadjar Prasetyo (Indonesia), EC07-1; Air Marshall Mel Hupfeld (Australia), TSC09-2; Lt. Gen. Al Meinzing (Canada), SEAPOC13-1 and TSC17-2; Col. Mohamed Saleem (Maldives), CSRT14-1; and Lt. Gen. Ting Sheng Li (Taiwan), TSC14-1.

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ Ms. Thuy Nguyen (Vietnam) ASC17-2: developed and implemented action plan to deter IUU fishing
- ▶ Michelle Bonto (Philippines) CSRT 17-1: developed national action plan for countering violent extremism
- ▶ Ms. Leakhena Chin (Cambodia), CMSC 19-1: Cambodia established a Maritime Task Force Team; training course for Sea Inspections; and interagency team for civ/mil fishing cooperation
- ▶ Mr. Krishna Raut (Nepal), CCM 17-1: Established seven provincial emergency operations centers and drafted a national Disaster Management Act; risk reduction policy; a national Strategic Action Plan; and enacted 8 laws.
- ▶ Mr. Viliame Lolohea (Tonga), ASC 16-2 : Stalled effects of beach erosion/sand depletion by importing mining by-product from neighboring country to support new construction.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Shashikala Perera (Sri Lanka) ASC 16-2: Engineered a new multipurpose vehicle to improve disaster response.
- ▶ Minister Md. Mohsin (Bangladesh), CCM 17-1: Drafted a national policy and plans for cyclone relief and flood response.
- ▶ Commissioner Gabriel Manelusi (Solomon Islands), ASC 16-1: crafted a strategy for national police, and created a National Peacebuilding Advisory Board.

Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies.

## GRANTED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

On September 16, 2021, the Council on Occupational Education (COE) granted national accreditation status to the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies.

According to the COE, receiving accreditation denotes that DKI APCSS has undergone an extensive self-study and team review process and has been judged by the Commission as meeting its Standards and Conditions for accreditation.



*“There wasn’t an element of the organization that didn’t positively benefit from the process of accreditation.”*

- Dr. James Minnich

DKI APCSS professor Dr. James Minnich spearheaded the Center’s effort towards accreditation, which began in the fall of 2019. To begin the process, Dr. Minnich attended the COE Candidate Academy that is offered three times a year. While attending it became readily apparent to Dr. Minnich that the scope and complexity of the process was enormous.

The DKI APCSS leadership quickly stood up a 40-member committee, comprised of faculty and staff from every department in the institution. Working together, the Accreditation Committee drafted an 81-page Self-Study Report containing ten “standards” detailing each of the 123 criteria required for accreditation.

For the Center, accreditation provided an opportunity to ensure that its executive level education program meets the highest quality standards. “We pursued accreditation out of a firm

belief in the value of oversight and benchmarking,” said Deputy Director Jim Hirai. “In an isolated way we may think we are doing what’s best for our institution. But what are the best institutions doing? Accreditation allows us to benchmark and measure ourselves against industry standards.”

Creating the self-study report allowed each department to assess their practices and make improvements to meet the required criteria. The report shed a positive light on all parts of the institution, bringing attention to individuals who may have been overlooked but were meeting and exceeding the standards.

“There wasn’t an element of the organization that didn’t positively benefit from the process of accreditation,” said Dr. Minnich.

In June 2021, DKI APCSS hosted the COE’s accreditation team for a three-day virtual visit where they interviewed each member of the Accreditation Committee. After an intensive review, the COE team commented that a new standard had been established for future COE visits. In a written letter of their findings and recommendations, the COE team commended the Center’s educational program, program and institutional outcomes, media resources, and vision for the Center. Finally, after reviewing the Center’s Self-Study Report, a board of COE commissioners granted accreditation status.

“The COE accreditation reflects a significant milestone achievement for DKI APCSS,” said Director Peter Gumataotao. “This has been a team effort from day one and I am very proud of how our team all worked seamlessly together to meet the demanding requirements of this accreditation.”

The accreditation process competed with other high volume projects at the Center. Concurrent with accreditation, the Center created and implemented a Hy-Flex course model that combined both in-person and virtual attendees into a course. In addition, the Center wrote and published a book titled “Hindsight, Insight, and Foresight.”

“There was a lot going on at the time,” said Dr. Minnich. “It could have been easy to let this just slide by and we’ll get to it when we can. Establishing and achieving an aggressive timetable was essential to keep us moving forward. Despite everyone’s workload we continued to move this forward on an aggressive timeline.”





*“This has been a team effort from day one and I am very proud of how our team all worked seamlessly together to meet the demanding requirements of this accreditation.”*

- Director Peter Gumataotao



With the accreditation status the Center can now include the COE's embossed seal on its diplomas and certificates. In addition, the Center now fully qualifies for the “.edu” domain name, which will be adopted in the near future.

To maintain accreditation the Center will be required an annual report. While the next full inspection will be in six years, according to Dr. Minnich, the challenge ahead will be to maintain and improve upon the level that the Center has already achieved.

“We are a great institution. While we have achieved accreditation, there is opportunity to more solidly embrace some of the things we have learned along the way,” said Dr. Minnich.



The COE, based in Atlanta Georgia, offers quality assurance services to postsecondary technical education providers across the nation. Organized as a non-profit corporation, the mission of the Council is to assure quality and integrity in career and technical education. Services offered include accreditation (recognized by the U.S. Department of Education), program quality reviews for states and technical education providers, and informational services.

The COE accredits and serves a diversity of organizations with currently 500 institutional members. These members represent postsecondary public technical institutes, specialized military and national defense schools, job corps centers, private career schools, non-[profit technical education providers, corporate and industry education units, and federal agency institutions.

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## FACULTY ARTICLES PUBLISHED

*Article links available at [apcss.org](http://apcss.org)*



### VIRGINIA BACAY-WATSON

**“Modernizing U.S. Alliance for Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific,”** August 2, by Virginia Bacay- Watson

Dr. Bacay-Watson’s chapter in the Pacific forum publication calls for the U.S. to modernize its alliance system in response to the needs of Maritime Security. This paper contends that, like NATO, the hub-and-spokes alliance system can be repurposed and maintained as a centerpiece of U.S. strategy in the Indo-Pacific. Currents in the region’s maritime domain provide context that argue for the necessity of retooled alliances.



### ALEXANDER VUVING

**“Will Vietnam Be America’s Next Strategic Partner?”** by Alexander Vuving, *The Diplomat*, August 21

Dr. Vuving calls for Vietnam and the U.S. to elevate their relations to a “comprehensive strategic partnership” . As strategic rivalries between the United States and China and between Vietnam and China continue to converge, Dr Vuving argues that a strategic partnership between the two countries is inevitable.

**“AUKUS Is a Short-Term Mess but a Long-Term Win for Australia,”** by Dr. Alexander Vuving for *Foreign Policy Magazine*, October 11

Dr. Vuving discusses how the Australian-UK-U.S. pact puts Australia on the right side of history arguing that “the great-power rivalry between the United States and China is the more fundamental struggle between a rules-based and a hierarchy-based international order.” He concludes that “Australia is fortunate not to have a dilemma between the best choice based on the values it holds dear and the best choice based on geopolitical calculations. Its membership in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and AUKUS will solidify its place on the winning side of the century’s global contest.”



### DR. MIEMIE BYRD

**“Women on the Front lines in Myanmar’s Fight for Democracy,”** by Dr. Miemie Byrd, *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, August 26

Dr. Byrd illustrates how the coup staged in Myanmar led to a brutal military crackdown, particularly against women. Byrd’s article details how women are more innovative in their methods of resistance against the new regime, and have formed the backbone of the revolution. She details how women in Myanmar hung sarongs and undergarments in the streets preventing troops from advancing because of long-held superstitions around women’s clothes



### JOHN HEMMINGS

**“Evolving the Five Eyes: Opportunities and Challenges in the New Strategic Landscape,”** by John Hemmings and Peter Varnish, *Macdonald-Laurier Institute(MLI) Paper*, September 30

Authors John Hemmings and Peter Varnish argue that the Five Eyes grouping could be used by Canada and others to expand the ability to counter and deter China and Russia across multiple areas, including technology, information, military, and economics. State competition is changing, in a shift towards deniable, intrusive, and non-military threats against all sectors of society – technology, information, democratic institutions, and trade. As a result, liberal democracies are increasingly on the back foot and looking for collective ways to respond and deter.





## DR. JAMES MINNICH

**“Arms buildup between two Koreas heightens risk of conventional and nuclear war,”** by Dr. James Minnich for *NK Pro*, November 12

Dr. Minnich provides an in-depth review on the military capabilities of the world’s fourth and sixth largest militaries that are both located on the Korean peninsula. This review underscores obstacles to peace and the catastrophic costs of war.



## DR. SUNGMIN CHO

**“Why Did China Engage with Western Democracy Promotion Programs?”** by Dr. Sungmin Cho for *World Politics*, September 2

Dr. Cho argues that the Chinese government in the mid-1990s and mid-2010s used Western aid to its advantage. The article traces the process of how the government’s strategic intention translated into policies of selective openness, and includes evidence from firsthand interviews, propaganda materials, and research by Chinese experts.

**“China and North Korea: A New Peak of Comradeship”** by Dr. Sungmin Cho for *Italian Institute for International Political Studies*, December 21

In July 2021, commemorating the 60th anniversary of mutual defense treaty, Chinese President Xi Jinping said bilateral relations between China and North Korea should “unceasingly rise to new levels” in the world “undergoing profound changes unseen in a century.” How can one explain, in Xi Jinping’s own words, China’s “unswerving support” of North Korea in 2021? What events are likely to impact China-North Korea relations in 2022? Dr. Cho offers his answers to these questions in this commentary.

**“South Korea’s Taiwan Conundrum”** by Dr. Sungmin Cho for *War on the Rocks*, December 31

Dr. Cho questions what action South Korea might take in the event that war erupts across the Taiwan Strait. According to Cho, many people in Washington, Taipei, and Tokyo are wondering what will happen. South Korea’s position remains much more ambivalent than Japan’s. Seoul is understandably more worried about the possibility of retaliation from China, akin to Beijing’s fury over the basing of a U.S. defensive missile system in South Korea several years ago.



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### **“Combating Health-Related Cyber Security Threats with Health Systems Approaches,”**

by Drs. Sebastian Kevany and Deon Canyon. The authors emphasize the need for a multi-level approach to cyber security in protecting health care systems and information.

### **“Wargaming Future National Security Threats Posed by Emerging Vector-Borne Diseases,”**

by Deon Canyon. Dr. Canyon highlights the use of wargames to provide intelligent insights to respond to the reemergence of vector-borne diseases in North America such as West Nile virus, Dengue fever, Zika virus and Chikungunya virus.

### **“A Biodefense Fusion Center to Improve Disease Surveillance and Early Warnings to Enhance National Security,”**

by Michael Baker, Jacob Baker, Deon Canyon, and Sebastian Kevany. The authors discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the need to establish a BioDefense Fusion Center to enhance coordination and to protect national security.

### **“Learning to Live with Endemic Covid-19,”**

by Frederic S. Goldstein, Benjamin J. Ryan, and Deon V. Canyon. The authors provide solutions to cope with the overwhelming surges of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with the Delta variant.

### **“China’s Gray Zone Operations in the Yellow Sea,”**

by Chungjin Jung. Lt. Col. Jung, Republic of Korea Air Force, illustrates the increasing effects the People’s Republic of China’s gray zone activities are having on Japan and Southeast Asian countries, and the need for long-term strategies for an appropriate response.

### **“Vaccinate the Pacific!”**

by Kevin E. Lunday. Rear Admiral Kevin Lunday, U.S. Coast Guard, emphasized the need for the U.S. to influence the expansion of global vaccination efforts, particularly in the Pacific Island nations.

### **“Policy recommendations for combatting overfishing and fisheries crime,”**

by Dr. Deon Canyon, Dr. Ethan Allen, Capt. Michael Long, and Lt. Cmdr. Christine Brown. The authors explore the perpetrators of overfishing, the role of fisheries crime in overfishing, efforts to combat overfishing including legal frameworks, approaches of the U.S. and its partners, and international security cooperation on fishing subsidies.

### **“Military and Private Sector HADR- Now a Sophisticated Tool for Strategic Competition,”**

by Drs. Deon Canyon and Benjamin Ryan. The authors illustrate how humanitarian assistance and disaster relief has emerged as a sophisticated diplomatic tool for strategic competition.

### **“Lessons from India’s Handling of the Second Wave of SARS-COV-2 Delta Variant Surge”**

by Drs. Sirini Sitaraman and Sebastian Kevany. The authors assess India’s handling of the second wave of the coronavirus, and seeks to draw some lessons from India’s experience.







# *Distinguished* VISITORS



DKI APCSS welcomes official visits as an important and valuable learning opportunity. In keeping with our 'shared learning' model, we offer an opportunity for visitors to learn about our mission and we appreciate the opportunity to learn from our visitors about their organizations and their insights on Indo-Pacific security.

**1. Ambassador Brian D. McFeeters,**  
U.S. AMB to Malaysia

**2. Mr. Hugh Jeffrey,**  
Asst. Secretary of Int'l Policy Div,  
Australian Dept. of Defence

**3. Mr. James Ballas,**  
Former Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of  
Defense for Security Cooperation

**4. Mr. Tony Abbott,**  
Former Prime minister of Australia

**5. Mr. Surangel Whipps Jr.,**  
President, Republic of Palau

**6. Staff Delegation, Clay Huddleston**  
U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee

**7. Gen. Paul LaCamera,**  
U.S. Army, Commander, United Nations Command/  
Combined Forces Command/U.S. Forces Korea

**8. Chiefs of Defense Conference Spouses**

**9. Maj Gen (Ret) Kelly McKeague,**  
U.S. Air Force, Director of the Defense POW/MIA  
Accounting Agency

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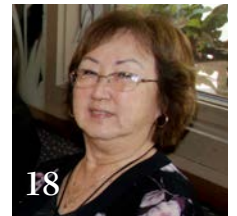
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# HAILS AND FAREWELLS



The Kokua Hui hosted the DKI APCSS Annual Holiday Party welcoming the entire Center and their families to Bellows Beach. The Holiday Party marked the first in-person gathering of the DKI APCSS Ohana since the start of the pandemic. The DKI APCSS Ohana played games, shared a meal, and even enjoyed an impromptu visit from Santa Claus.

## ARRIVALS

1. **Ashley Sullivan** - Regional Engagement Operations
2. **Capt. Christopher Marshall** - Executive Operations Group
3. **Chris Sekigawa** - Visual Information
4. **Jonathan Chamian** - Maintenance
5. **Sgt. Ouleye Coulibaly** - Administration Management
6. **Luzmin Beighley** - Regional Engagement Operations
7. **Stephanie Turner** - Financial Management Analyst
8. **William "Brent" Christensen** - Senior Diplomat Fellow, State Department

## DEPARTURES

9. **Diana Nikolao** - Human Resources
10. **Lily Ordonez** - Travel
11. **Henry Rector** - Executive Operations Group
12. **John Wang** - Facilities
13. **Cherrielynn Kamahale** - Regional Engagement Operations
14. **Lt. Cmdr. Keith Wilkins** - College
15. **Maj Nathan Hofferan** - College
16. **Magaly Light** - College Ops.
17. **William Goodwin** - Public Affairs
18. **Yvonne Yoshioka** - Resource Management



PJ Gumataotao and Deputy Director Hirai at the DKI APCSS Annual Holiday.



# *Celebrating the life of* **CAPTAIN (RET.) ALBERT SHIMKUS JR.**



- 1) Captain (Ret.) Albert Shimkus Jr.
- 2) On March 30, the Center held a Remembrance ceremony in honor of Professor Shimkus

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies celebrates the life of former professor and retired Navy Captain Albert Shimkus Jr. (April 6, 1945 - March 12, 2022).

Born in Hopedale Massachusetts, he graduated from Hopedale High School in 1965 where he was a runner on the cross country team. After graduation, while the U.S. was fully engaged in the Vietnam War, he enrolled in seminary. He left the seminary and lost his 4D Deferment Status and quickly enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

In 1967, he deployed to Bien Hoa Air Force Base in Vietnam as a general duty medic. While in Vietnam, Al experienced an event that 50 years later he would recall as a “life- altering experience for certain.” In the early hours of January 31, 1968, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launched the infamous Tet Offensive, a series of surprise attacks against the South Vietnamese and the U.S. Forces. When Bien Hoa Air Force base became overrun, Al and his fellow countrymen faced the enemy head-on. Four U.S. Airmen were killed in action with another dying of a heart attack. Twenty-six others were wounded.

Following the Vietnam War, he left the Air Force and earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1974 from Salem State College. After some time working in civilian hospitals, in 1977, he commissioned into the U.S. Navy Nursing Corps and was assigned to the Naval Hospital that served the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1982, he received his Bachelor of Science in Nurse Anesthesia from George Washington University.







Christi Shimkus (wife) and Robert Goley (stepson) attend the Remembrance Ceremony

Al served 33 years in a decorated military career that included assignments as the Senior Medical Officer on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS George Washington; Executive Officer of U.S. Hospital, Naples, Italy; Commanding Officer of U.S. Navy Hospital Guantanamo Bay; Joint Task Force Surgeon of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay; Commanding Officer of Medical Treatment Facility USNS Mercy and the USNS Comfort. He served 11 cumulative years at sea in support of deployed forces.

His military awards include a three-time recipient of the Legion of Merit award, the Joint Meritorious Services award, a four-time recipient of the Meritorious Service Award, a three-time recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation. For his service in the Vietnam War, he received Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Ribbons, the Vietnam Service Medal, and three Vietnam Campaign Medals.

In 2016, Al first came to the Center as a visiting professor from the Navy War College. He showcased his skills as a leader and educator as seminar leader during an Indo-Pacific Orientation Course and as a panelist on a RIMPAC Symposium on Women, Peace and Security. He eventually came to the Center in April of 2020.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he took on lead responsibilities of the Center's COVID-19 Working Group (CWG) providing steady-handed leadership during a tumultuous time. Eric Bartolome, the Center's legal advisor, worked with Al on the CWG.

"In a stressful situation he could have easily used his position to step on others. Instead, he showed his character and led us with unwavering kindness," said Bartolome. "I will never forget when the world was in chaos, he said to us, 'This too, shall pass.'"

As the CWG lead, he gave ongoing recommendations on the Center's COVID policy and Safety protocols. He also worked closely with USINDOPACOM and the Navy

Clinic to ensure the DKI APCSS team had early access to vaccinations and testing for staff and Fellows.

As a seasoned professor, he provided mentorship to the Center's incoming faculty. DKI APCSS Professor and Navy Captain Kimberly McCann remembers Al foremost as a family man.

"His love and pride for his family was immediately clear when you walked into his office and his entire face lit up when he spoke about his family," said Captain McCann. "He also dearly loved his country and was focused on doing his part to make the world better."

"I will remember Al Shimkus as a giant with a humble heart," said DKI APCSS Director Peter Gumataotao. "He found a graceful way to get us thru tough times during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whatever he did he did in a nurturing way. Whatever he did we always knew if he was involved he gave his whole heart and attention. We are better for it. We will miss him dearly- a gentleman, a scholar, a good man with a big heart."

On October 13, 2021, Al provided remarks to the Center while celebrating the Navy's 246th birthday. He shared the story of Captain (ret.) Charlie Plumb who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam after he parachuted into Hanoi after his fighter jet had been shot down. After his retirement, the retired Navy fighter pilot was approached in a restaurant by the sailor who, he discovered, had packed his parachute. He realized he probably had passed by the sailor often without any forethought because, "he was a fighter pilot and the man was a sailor."

Al ended what would be his final public remarks to the Center during the Navy birthday celebration saying, "Sometimes in our daily lives we miss what's really important. We may fail to say hello, please, thank you, congratulate on something, or provide a compliment or just do something kind for no particular reason. As you move thru the rest of your lives [in our Navy uniform] recognize in some way, every day, those who have packed your parachute."

Al leaves behind his wife, Christi. Together, they have a blended family of nine children, more than 20 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. He also leaves behind four sisters, Anne Marie, Mary, Sally, and Francis.

A hui hou Al - May you rest in peace.



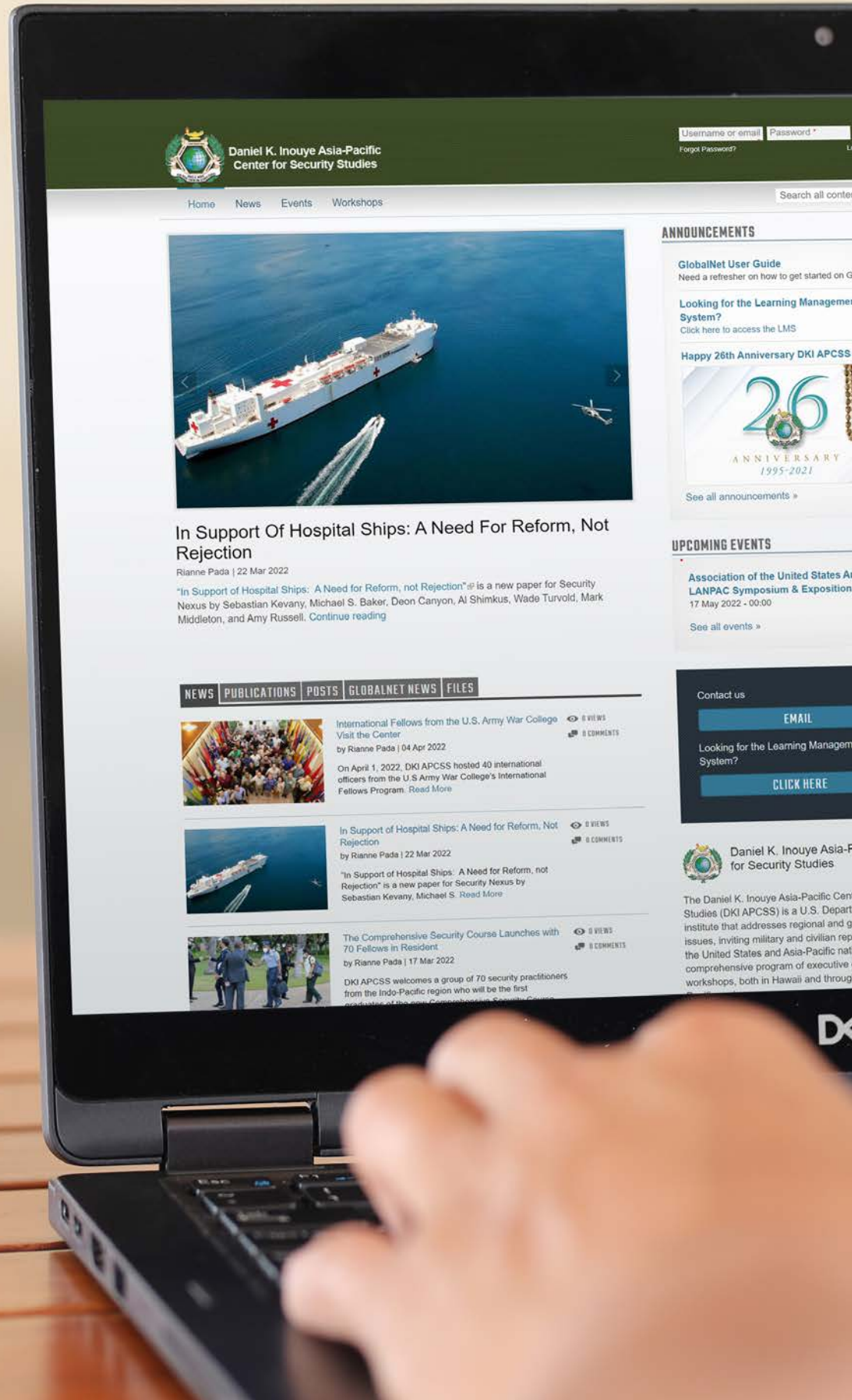
Al Shimkus in 2016 visiting the Center as a professor from the Navy War College.

# APCSSLink.org

APCSSLink is a portal within the Department of Defense GlobalNet portal for regional security studies centers. It is made available to Alumni and workshop participants. DKI APCSS's Fellows use this site to access course materials, pictures, news, and publications during and after their time at the Center. APCSSLink is also connected to the Learning Management System (LMS) that the Center uses to provide course information, learning content and resources while courses are in session.

## Benefits:

- Fellows can stay connected to their classmates and past Alumni after they leave DKI APCSS
- Fellows have access to DKI APCSS related news as well as news surrounding the Indo-Pacific region
- Access to exclusive events, podcasts and videos from DKI APCSS and the region
- All course and workshop presentation slides and readings are located in the portal
- While courses are in session, the portal houses all essential information and resources such as course schedules, photos, and contact information





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\* Denotes Service Fellow in a six-month  
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