



DKI APCSS Monthly Activities Report

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Alumna Named as New Director for the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

The Department of Defense has named retired US Army Maj. Gen. Suzanne (Suzy) Puanani Vares-Lum as the new director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), a Department of Defense organization dedicated to advancing security cooperation in the region.

Vares-Lum was born and raised in Hawai'i and is an alumna of the Center's Transnational Security Cooperation course (TSC16-2). She is the first native Hawaiian and the first alumni to serve as the Center's director.

She comes to the Center after serving as President of the East-West Center since 2022.

As a retired major general with 34 years of service, Vares-Lum has held key roles addressing priority national security challenges in the region. She brings a wealth of executive leadership experience, including five years serving with and advising the senior officials at US Indo-Pacific Command, where she cultivated and supported key relationships with nations throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

"Leading the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is a profound honor, and I am grateful



Retired US Army Maj. Gen. Suzanne Vares-Lum. Photo courtesy of the East West Center.

for the trust placed in me," said Vares-Lum. "Embracing the spirit of Aloha, I am eager to collaborate with the incredible team, supporters, and stakeholders. As we navigate this journey, I am committed to fostering a culture of innovation, unity, and shared purpose as we partner to address security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region through education, connection, and empowerment."

Vares-Lum is expected to begin her tenure as director in January 2025..... [Read more](#)



Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment William LaPlante chaired the inaugural plenary meeting of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR).

Inaugural Plenary Meeting of Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience

Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment William LaPlante recently chaired the inaugural plenary meeting of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) in Honolulu, HI. National Armament Directors, and similarly positioned senior leaders, joined him from all PIPIR member nations in both the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions. The engagement was hosted by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and the United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). [Read more..](#)

Maldives' Strategy on Preventing Violent Extremism

DKI APCSS, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) of the Maldives, hosted a workshop aimed at revising and updating the country's strategy on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). The one-day event was designed to help the NCTC assess and improve the National Strategy on P/CVE (NS-PCVE) and its associated National Action Plan (NAP-PCVE). DKI APCSS previously assisted in drafting the initial NS-PCVE, which was first published in 2017. The NAP-PCVE followed in 2020, designed to guide efforts through 2024. With the Maldives now seeking to update both documents.

[Read more..](#)



Dr. Sam Mullins, Lt. Col. Adnan Mohamed, head of strategic communications, NCTC Incoming Director of NCTC, Col. Ismail Farween, Dr. Deon Canyon, Vice Chief of Defence Forces, Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ghiyas, Prof. Shawm Tekwani, Col. Amanulla Rasheed, outgoing Director of NCTC, and Maj. Ibrahim Thaufeeq, head of awareness and programs, NCTC. All are DKI APCSS alumni.



Above: Dr. Alexander Vuving (right) leads a panel discussion during IPOC 24-2. Below: Professor Dave McElyea listens to questions during a Maritime Security panel.



Indo-Pacific Orientation Course offers valuable education

In October, 154 Fellows completed the Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC 24-2). The course provides an executive education experience for mid-career to senior-level security practitioners to enhance their ability to engage in cooperative security efforts, advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific. IPOC offers a unique opportunity for security practitioners with an extraordinary range of professional experience, levels of education, and perspectives to engage intensively on regional security issues.

A civil affairs officer, Army Reserve Captain Holly Beard found IPOC 24-2 a valuable learning experience. "It's a very fast-paced, but also relevant, orientation to the Indo-Pacific theater—not only from a Department of Defense lens, but with a strong presence from the State Department and other allies and partners."

Read more about journey of some of our Fellows at [this link](#).

Watch the video at this [link](#)





“Law and Rising Seas: Navigating Ocean Change” featuring Dr. Joanna Siekiera [LINK](#)



“Malaysia between Giants” featuring Elina Noor. [LINK](#)



“Conflict’s End in Ukraine” featuring Dr. Marzena Żakowska [LINK](#)

Upcoming Events / Webinars

Security Nexus | Webinars

Indo-Pacific Underwater Competition

Nov. 12 at 2:30 pm (HST)

Register at dkiapcss.edu/31

Courses

Indo-Pacific Orientation Courses

(IPOC 25-2) - Oct. 20 – 24, 2025

Transnational Security Cooperation

(TSC 24-2) - Dec. 8 - 13, 2024

(TSC 25-1) - Jul. 13 – 18, 2025

(TSC 25-2) - Dec. 7 – 12, 2025

Comprehensive Security Cooperation

(CSC 25-1)- Feb. 5 – Mar. 12, 2025

(CSC 25-2) - May 7 – Jun. 11, 2025

(CSC 25-3) - Aug. 13 – Sep. 17, 2025

Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course

MIPOC 25-1 - National Capital

Region (NCR) - Mar. 24-28, 2025

Workshops

National Security Policy Development in the Pacific Islands

Nov. 17-20, 2024

SUVA, FIJI

(by invitation only)

New Publications

“[Water, Water, Everywhere: Advancing Water Security Through Improving Water Quality](#)” authored by DKI APCSS professor **Dr. Ethan Allen**, explores the essential role of water quality technology in bolstering water security across the Indo-Pacific region. This piece highlights how advancements in decontamination technologies are vital to addressing water contamination, which is worsening due to climate change, population growth, and pollution.

Richa Parikh’s article, “[Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Pacific: Implications for Gender Equality, Economic Development, and Women in Fiji](#),” explores how workplace sexual harassment in the Pacific, particularly in Fiji, undermines gender equality and economic development.

Dr. Deon Canyon’s perspective on “[Water Security as an Essential Component of the Defense Industrial Base](#)” is now online. The article highlights the important role water security plays in maintaining military readiness and national defense.

“[A Climate Resilience Toolkit for Security Practitioners and National Policy Recommendations for Big Ocean Small State \(BOSS\) Islands](#)” is a new paper by **Deon Canyon, Liam Connel, Sam Mullins, Shyam Tekwani, Sudan M, Tarer M, Youdon C.** This paper describes the results of a foresight tabletop exercise looking at the security implications of climate change in Big Ocean Small State (BOSS) islands in the Indian Ocean Region.

Dr. Alex Vuving has a new article in *the Diplomat* entitled: “[Vietnam’s Grand Strategic Architecture Amid the Russia-Ukraine War](#).”