



Indo-Pacific VANTAGE POINT

Educating, Connecting, and Empowering US, Allies and Partners

DKI APCSS Monthly Newsletter | **August 2025**



Readiness



Transnational Security Cooperation Course (TSC) 25-1

Held July 13-18, 2025, TSC 25-1 welcomed 37 senior executives from 27 locations worldwide to DKI APCSS. This intensive week-long program, designed for senior security practitioners in the Indo-Pacific, explored a broad spectrum of transnational security challenges. Centered on the theme “The Evolving Security Environment: Adapting to Unprecedented Change,” discussions emphasized that survival favors those most adaptable to change.

[Read more...](#)



Thai Senior Security Studies Program & Engagements

Director Suzanne Vares-Lum and several DKI APCSS faculty traveled to Thailand to support the Royal Thai Armed Forces' Senior Security Studies Program (SSSP). The program focused on the impacts of regional shifts in the Indo-Pacific and the capacity of institutions and leaders to adapt to emerging challenges. DKI APCSS professors provided key lectures on topics such as strategic thinking, artificial intelligence, and narrative warfare. Director Vares-Lum also engaged with key leaders, including with the Chief of Defense. Read more about these events here:

- [Thai SSSP](#)
- [Thai Engagements](#)

Readiness



Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course (CSC) 25-3

In August, CSC 25-3 launched with 108 Fellows from 38 locations. Alongside core studies in Indo-Pacific security, critical thinking, and functional topics such as AI, Fellows are concentrating on three thematic areas: Irregular Warfare, Navigating China's Influence, and Deterrence with Allies and Partners. The 5-week course will conclude on September 17, 2025.

Readiness



Whole of Society Resilience Workshop

In June, DKI APCSS hosted the third iteration of the Whole of Society Resilience workshop. Lead facilitator, Dr. Sam Mullins noted: "We focused much more narrowly on civil preparedness — how to build the capacity of the civilian population to play a role in resilience against hybrid threats and malign influence."

[Read more](#)

Key Leader Engagement



Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs Office of American Affairs Assistant Secretary Raquel R. Solano and Philippine Consul General Armon Talbo



[Rick Blangiardi, Mayor of Honolulu](#)

- US Consul General Andrew H. Ou, Okinawa, Japan
- BG Buyandelger Tseveenkhuu, Mongolia Land Forces Command



U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson

- Mr. Craig Chittick, Deputy Head of the Office of the Pacific First Assistant Secretary, Australian Department of Defense
- Col Elizabeth Erickson and Dr. Freeman, Director, NCDMPH, USU
- RDML Jeffrey Novak, Deputy Pacific Area Commander, USCG
- Colonel Kurt Leffler, Chief, JUSMAG Thai
- Consul General Greg Wilcock, Australia
- Consul General Mike Ketchen and Deputy Erin Sampson, New Zealand
- NDU CAPSTONE 25-4
- Victor Cha, Georgetown University and CSIS
- Major General Valerie Jackson, Commander, MARFORK

Upcoming

Courses

- **Comprehensive Security Cooperation**
(CSC 25-3) - Aug. 13 – Sep. 17, 2025
- **Indo-Pacific Orientation Course**
(IPOC 25-1) - Oct. 20-24, 2025
- **Transnational Security Cooperation**
(TSC 25-2) - Dec. 7 – 12, 2025

First Indo-Pacific JPME-II held at DKI APCSS with NDU, INDOPACOM

- DKI APCSS, in partnership with the [Joint Forces Staff College](#), will host the Joint Professional Military Education Phase II (JPME-II) program. Following the standard 10-week National Defense University (NDU) curriculum, Fellows will participate in a new two-week JPME-II Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC), delivered by DKI APCSS faculty. Upon completion, Fellows will be granted DKI APCSS alumni status.

Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS)

Launching in September, MARS is a course uniting government, military, and industry experts to strengthen industrial base resilience and integration. Conducted in four one-week sessions, across four Indo-Pacific locations, over a five month period, this same cohort will meet with leaders to assess strengths and challenges, then present solutions to enhance bilateral and multilateral defense industrial cooperation.

- **MARS 25-1**
7-13 September 2025
Washington, DC
- **MARS 25-2**
9-15 November 2025
Australia
- **MARS 25-3**
7-13 December 2025
Tokyo, Japan
- **MARS 25-4**
11-17 January 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dialogue



North Korea's Russia-China Play with Rachel Minyoung Lee. [Watch](#)



Maldives: Small State, Big Stakes with Dr. Andrea Malji. [Watch](#)

Coming Soon



North Korea's Wartime Windfall – A Dialogue with Dr. Victor Cha . [Watch](#)



ROK-US Alliance: The Near Future. August 25, 2025, 03:00 pm in Hawaii

[Register to watch live on Zoom](#)

Visit the Dialogue website to explore recent and upcoming episodes and learn more about the series.

Dialogue Website

Alumni in the News



Thai Alumni Reunion Alumni Association of the Year (2024)

On August 2, 2025, more than 60 alumni gathered in Bangkok for the Thai Alumni reunion. The event, hosted by the RTAF Chief of Defense and JUSMAG Thai, celebrated the group's award as Alumni Association of the Year (2024). [Link to post](#)



Cmdr. Michael John Encina of the Philippine Coast Guard received his Laulima lanyard on Aug. 8, 2025, for completing his ICARE-Zambales fellow project. From left: Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Commodore Algier Ricafrente, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson, Cmdr. Encina, and DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum. [Read more](#)



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