



Indo-Pacific VANTAGE POINT

Educating, Connecting, and Empowering US, Allies and Partners

DKI APCSS Monthly Newsletter | September 2025



Readiness



DKI APCSS Celebrates 30 years Advancing Security in the Indo-Pacific

Marking 30 years of service, the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) celebrated its anniversary on Sept. 4th alongside 107 Fellows enrolled in the Comprehensive Security Cooperation course, members of the APCSS Foundation and key mission partner Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The day began with Paparo providing the Fellows with his perspective on the security environment and joining them for their official course photo. He later participated in a traditional cake-cutting ceremony with DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum, Foundation President Gerald Sumida and plankholder Lenore Patton.

During the ceremony, Paparo, Vares-Lum and Sumida reflected on the Center's history, highlighted its contributions to regional security, and shared their vision for its future. We also debuted a new documentary video about the Center's first 30 years.

- [Event Photos on Facebook](#)
- [Cake-Cutting Video](#)
- [30th Anniversary Documentary](#)

Allies and Partners



Senior DKI APCSS alumni gather at Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defense meeting in Thailand

DKI APCSS is proud of all our alumni, and especially six senior alumni currently serving as chiefs of defense. Director Suzanne Vares-Lum recently moderated the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Chiefs of Defense (CHODs) meeting - the annual gathering of the senior most military officers in the region. At CHODs, Director Vares-Lum engaged with 15 alumni Senior Enlisted Leaders (SEL) who also attended the meeting's SEL program.

[Read more](#)



Spotlight on regional partnerships: Vares-Lum joins Thailand Security Dialogue 2025

DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum joined senior leaders at the Thailand Security Dialogue 2025, held Aug. 30–31 in Bangkok, to highlight the value of trusted networks in today's security environment. The forum brought together representatives from nearly 30 countries to discuss global disruption, power competition and regional threats. Vares-Lum spoke on a high-level panel with the defense chiefs of Canada and Thailand, emphasizing the Center's role in strengthening regional cooperation and deterrence through its alumni network.

[Read more](#)

Publications



New Book Release: *Edge of Competition*

Edited by Dr. James Minnich, *Edge of Competition* explores disruption and strategic change in the Indo-Pacific. Released ahead of DKI APCSS's 30th anniversary, the volume features insights from top scholars and practitioners across the region.

[Explore the full volume](#)

- [Reimagining the U.S. Defense Industrial Base for Strategic Deterrence](#)
by Dr. Deon Canyon
- [Do States Act Rationally?](#)
by Dr. Alex Vuving (external)
- [The Illusion of Going It Alone](#)
by Professor Shyam Tekwani
- [New Security Nexus Perspective: The Cage of Equidistance](#)
by Professor Shyam Tekwani
- [Iran's Covert Export of Terrorism to the Indo-Pacific](#)
by Dr. Lumpy Lumbaca

Readiness



DKI APCSS hosts JPME-II course

In partnership with the [Joint Forces Staff College](#), DKI APCSS is hosting JPME-II starting September 15, 2025. Following the standard 10-week NDU program, Fellows will join a new two-week JPME-II Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (JIPOC) presented by DKI APCSS faculty and granting Fellows DKI APCSS alumni status. For U.S. Army Fellows, completion of JIPOC can contribute to attainment of the P2E (Advanced Indo-Pacific Experience) Personnel Development Skill Identifier (PDSI).

Readiness



MARS Launch! Building Defense Industrial Base Resilience

DKI APCSS kicked off the first [Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar](#) (MARS) in the Washington, D.C., area Sept. 8–12, 2025. The seminar brought together government, military and industry experts to strengthen industrial base resilience and integration. Conducted in four one-week sessions across the Indo-Pacific over five months, the same cohort will meet with leaders to assess challenges and present solutions to enhance bilateral and multilateral defense industrial cooperation. MARS supports OSW's Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) initiative.

Key Leader Engagement



*General Ronald P. Clark,
commander of U.S. Army Pacific*



*Gen. Jeffrey A. VanAntwerp,
commander of Special Operations
Command Pacific*



*H.E. Mr. Denny Tamaki,
Governor of Okinawa Prefecture*

- Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- Rear Admiral (Ret.) Michael Studeman
- Tony Greubel, Department of State
- International Visitor Leadership Program – ASEAN Secretariat
- Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council (MAC)
- H.E. Marcos Perestrello, NATO Parliamentary Assembly President, along with Defence and Security Committee members and U.S. Congressional Delegation (CODEL) Turner

Upcoming

Courses

- **Indo-Pacific Orientation Course**
(IPOC 25-1) - Oct. 20-24, 2025
- **Transnational Security Cooperation**
(TSC 25-2) - Dec. 7 – 12, 2025

Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS)

- **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

DKI APCSS Podcasts

Introducing the Strategic Voices Podcast



Three perspectives, one lively debate – grounded in the Indo-Pacific.

STRATEGIC VOICES

OCTOBER 6, 2025 3:00PM (HST)

**INDIA'S GRAND VISION:
CAN STRATEGY MATCH AMBITION?**

Strategic Voices asks how India's grand vision squares with the hard realities of strategy, and whether ambition alone can secure great-power status.

Hosted by
James Minnich | Lami Kim | Shyam Tekwani

REGISTER: DKIAPCSS.EDU/SV1

DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Episode 1: India's Grand Vision — Can Strategy Match Ambition?

Oct. 6, 2025 | 3 p.m. HST | Live on Zoom

Join Professors James Minnich, Shyam Tekwani and Lami Kim as they launch *Strategic Voices*, a new podcast exploring Indo-Pacific security through sharp analysis, candid debate, and a Wins & Woes recap.

[Register to watch live](#)



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



ROK-US Alliance: The Near Future.
[Watch](#)

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

[Dialogue Website](#)

Alumni News



Fellow Project Completion Spotlight

In this episode of *Fellows of Change*, DKI APCSS Professor Dr. Andrea Malji speaks with Squadron Leader Shashika Sandaruwan Ekanayake (CSC 23-2), an aircraft engineer and leader in the Sri Lanka Air Force, about his Fellow Project. Ekanayake identified a critical cyber knowledge gap among mid-grade officers and turned that challenge into action. With mentorship from DKI APCSS Professor Dr. James Minnich, he developed and implemented a cyber resilience training program that is now part of the Sri Lanka Air Force's Junior Command and Staff College curriculum.

[Watch to see](#) how one Fellow is driving real change and advancing Indo-Pacific security.



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