DANIEL K. INOUYE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

CURRENTS

1995-2025

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DANIEL K. INOUYE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Celebrating

our past and building connections to the future

As we celebrate 30 years of service, we do so with deep appreciation—for the people, institutions, and shared commitment that make this work possible. Mahalo nui loa for being part of this journey with us.

Aloha mai kākou,

Warm greetings to you all.

As the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies commemorates its 30th anniversary, we reflect not only on our legacy but also on the vibrant network of alumni, practitioners, and partners who are advancing solutions to some of the most complex security challenges of our time.

The Center has long served as a place where ideas are exchanged, innovative thinking is encouraged, and solutions are forged in collaboration. In today's dynamic and evolving regional landscape, this mission is more vital than ever. It is here at the Center that the collective voices and perspectives of our faculty, staff, and partners create a trusted space for leaders to think critically, build relationships, and work together toward a more secure and resilient Indo-Pacific.

Since the beginning of the year, the Center has had the honor of hosting several high-level engagements. U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth delivered his first address to the Indo-Pacific from the Lt. Gen. Hank Stackpole Auditorium, emphasizing "peace through strength" and the importance of building capacity with allies and partners so we may rise together—sharing the responsibility of ensuring a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

We remain closely aligned with the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and we are grateful for the continued support and leadership of the Office of Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Global Partnerships, and Admiral Samuel J. Paparo Jr. with the INDOPACOM team, who consistently engage with our courses and cohorts to strengthen regional cooperation as detailed on pages 5 and 34.

So far this year, the Center has delivered a wide range of impactful programs: two Comprehensive Security Cooperation (CSC) courses, the Indo-Pacific Senior Enlisted Leader Subject Matter Expert Exchange, the Maluhia Talks, a Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (MIPOC) in Washington, D.C., and the Transnational Security Cooperation (TSC) course. These engagements reflect our core mission—fostering practical collaboration across sectors, services, and borders.

Looking ahead, we are stepping into new areas that respond to urgent and emerging needs. Our support for the Defense Industrial Base (DIB)—featured in this issue on Page 10—highlights our efforts to strengthen regional readiness and resilience. We recently launched the Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS) to accelerate DIB cooperation. We are also partnering with the National Defense University on the Indo-Pacific Joint Combined Warfighter Course and Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) II. Our new Joint Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (JIPOC) will link with JPME II to prepare leaders for the unique Indo-Pacific strategic environment.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Center is its alumni network—now over 16,000 strong, with more than 2,300 recognized as key influencers. This year, we've had the privilege of reconnecting with alumni in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Tonga, the Philippines, and Australia—leaders who are advancing security, policy, and partnership in powerful ways as seen on Pages 22-23. We look forward to continued engagement throughout the region, including a visit to Thailand later this year.

As we celebrate 30 years of service, we do so with deep appreciation—for the people, institutions, and shared commitment that make this work possible. Mahalo nui loa for being part of this journey with us.

With gratitude and aloha,

Suzanne P. Vares-Lum
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army
Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

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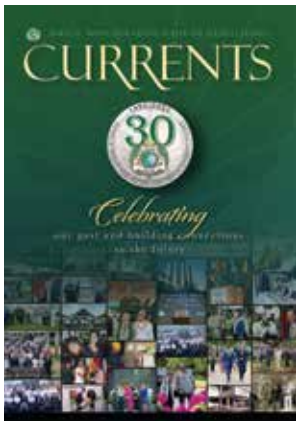

The cover features our 30th anniversary logo set against a collage of photos, capturing our journey from our founding in 1995 to the present day.

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.dkiapcss.edu. 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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Hegseth Highlights
Indo-Pacific Partnerships
On First Visit to Region

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth made his first official trip to the Indo-Pacific in March 2025, underscoring the importance of alliances and partnerships to regional security.

Speaking to military and civilian leaders and alumni at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in Honolulu, Hegseth noted this was his first opportunity to address leaders in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility since being sworn in.

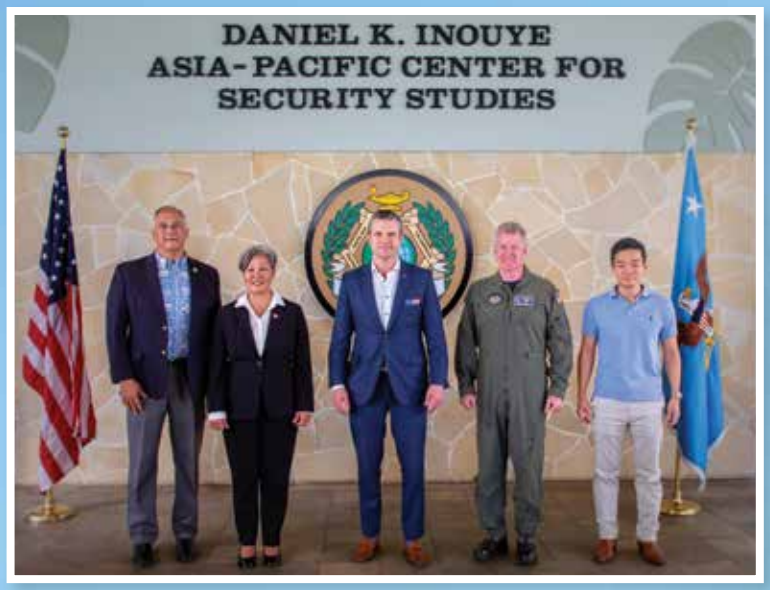
"Many of you graduated from our premier forum for studying the Indo-Pacific and for building ties among national security leaders engaged in this region," he said. "Our relationships — and our teamwork — form the foundation of achieving peace through strength."

Hegseth outlined three priorities, echoing the message he delivered to the force in January: restoring the warrior ethos, rebuilding the military, and reestablishing deterrence.

- Restoring the warrior ethos will ensure U.S. forces assigned to the Indo-Pacific are the best trained and equipped in the world, he said, adding that recruiting numbers are up across the services and "our opponents are taking notice."
- Rebuilding the military will require close cooperation with the defense industrial base to "rapidly and responsively deliver the right tools to our warfighters in real time." He praised DKI APCSS for its work on supply chain security and research on coproduction and sustainment of U.S. military platforms with partners.
- Reestablishing deterrence will mean standing shoulder to shoulder with allies and partners to counter aggression. "Each ally, partner and friend in the region contributes their own unique manner of deterrence," Hegseth said.

He closed his remarks with a reaffirmation of U.S. commitment: "No one should question the resolve of the United States of America to defend our interests in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. We will do this through the deterrent power of the strongest, most effective, most lethal fighting force in the world — supported by, and in partnership with, capable, like-minded allies and partners."

During his visit to the Indo-Pacific, Hegseth met with military and civilian leaders in Hawaii before traveling to Guam, the Philippines and Japan. The trip included a series of bilateral meetings aimed at strengthening alliances and advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific



DKI APCSS Deputy Director Russell Bailey, Director Suzanne Vares-Lum, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, and then PTDO Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs John Noh.

Regional Centers Partner for Emerging Leaders Forum

By Amber Kurka

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (TSC), and the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) partnered to organize an Emerging Leaders Forum. This four-day workshop brought together a diverse group of emerging defense and national security leaders from the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions.

Alaska, serving as the U.S. gateway to the Arctic Circle, provided an immersive experience for the emerging leaders. The consequences of a rapidly changing Arctic were the starting point for the event, which took place from Sept. 9-12, 2024. The event aimed to explore the Arctic's role as a vital link between the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions and explored the complexities of Arctic issues, including governance, policy, the roles of Indigenous communities, and infrastructure resilience.

Then U.S. Ambassador to Canada, David L. Cohen, met with the emerging leaders and emphasized the importance of addressing global challenges, particularly those affecting the Arctic, as these issues have the potential to drive significant change on a global scale. "Today the Arctic is really the site of some of our most challenging geopolitical issues," Cohen said. "I think it's incumbent on all of us to understand the consequences of this new landscape and to cooperate to navigate the shared challenges together."

A group of emerging leaders from the defense and national security sectors, representing 13 countries in the Indo-Pacific, Germany and Canada, met with U.S. Ambassador to Canada David L. Cohen during a four-day Emerging Leaders Forum titled "The Arctic: A Bridge Between the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic." (DoD photo by Amber E. Kurka)

The Emerging Leader Forum served as a platform for emerging leaders from the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic region to come together, learn from each other, and inspire positive change in their respective fields. Through the collaborative efforts of DKI APCSS, TSC, and the Canadian DND, participants gained valuable knowledge, skills, and connections that will contribute to their professional growth and leadership development.

Foundation Meets CSC Fellows

The Foundation for the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies hosted their annual meeting at the Center in March 2025. During the meeting, DKI APCSS Director Suzy Vares-Lum provided an update to the group on Center achievements and goals for the future. Foundation members also had an opportunity to engage with Fellows attending the Comprehensive Security Cooperation course (CSC 25-1). They participated in a "Cooperation Café" session where Fellows discuss current events and topics of interest at different tables.

Front row, from left: Maya Rogers, Ambassador Lauren Moriarty, Betty Brow, Director Suzy Vares-Lum, President Jerry Sumida, Connie Lau, and Robert Wu. Back row, from left: Warren Luke, Alan Hayashi, David Carey III, and retired Gen. David Bramlett.

At the 2025 Honolulu Defense Forum, DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum moderated a panel discussion on "The Security Environment and Critical Missions," examining major regional challenges and what is needed to deter threats and maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Chair: Maj. Gen. Suzanne Vares-Lum,
U.S. Army (Ret.), Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

Deputy Minister Stefanie Beck,
Department of National Defence, Canada

Senior Undersecretary Irineo Espino,
Department of National Defense, Philippines

Vice Adm. Blake Converse,
Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Vice Adm. Justin Jones,
Chief of Joint Operations, Australian Defence Force

Karakoa Forum

The Department of National Defense (DND) and the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) hosted a two-day Karakoa Forum in Manila on April 25 and 28, 2025, in partnership with DKI APCSS.

A team of five DKI APCSS faculty members — Dr. Ginnie Watson, Professor Mike Burgoyne, Dr. Sam Mullins, Col. Matt Kent, and Maj. Kyle Brown — traveled to the Philippines at the invitation of the government to support the launch of the inaugural forum. They are pictured with alumni, participants, and organizers in a group photo from the forum.

Named after the Karakoa, a pre-colonial Philippine warship used in sea raids and battles, the forum aims to foster a strategic mindset among defense personnel. It brought together planners, logisticians, intelligence officers, operations staff, and members of the strategic studies community from the DND and its bureaus.

During the first half of the visit, the forum focused on applying critical thinking to support ongoing defense modernization efforts. In the second half, the DKI APCSS team met with officials from the National Security Council, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Coast Guard, and National Intelligence Coordinating Agency to explore how critical thinking frameworks can aid in implementing the National Security Policy and National Security Strategy.

DKI APCSS alumni from the DND and NDCP played a leading role in organizing the forum, demonstrating strong coordination and collaboration across government agencies. The events concluded with positive discussions on future cooperation and deeper engagement among alumni and participants.

Maluhia Talks 2025

Shine a Light on Regional Challenges

U.S. lead representative PDASD(IPSA) Jed Royal greets attendees. Dr. Andrea Malji leads a panel discussion.

By Douglas Carroll

In April, DKI APCSS convened senior officials from the United States, key Indo-Pacific nations, and other allies and partners for the Maluhia Talks, which focus on Indo-Pacific challenges, priorities, and security opportunities. The event .included 18 senior-level participants from 15 countries across the region and beyond.

The Maluhia Talks foster a collaborative dialogue on the evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, encouraging an exchange of perspectives on regional security concerns and strategic priorities. The workshop seeks to promote collaboration, align strategies, and enhance regional stability and prosperity through partnership and collective efforts by facilitating mutual understanding of shared and divergent approaches to regional security, defense cooperation, and international relations.

"It's the current iteration of a series of dialogues that we've had over the last seven or eight years, where we bring together senior level policy officials, largely from defense and foreign affairs, from across the region and the world," said Professor Lukas Filler from the DKI APCSS College of Security Studies, who was the lead planner for the event.

Standing in the shade outside of Maluhia Hall, the eponymous location in which the discussions were held, he added, "It is ... an opportunity for a small group [of senior leaders] to have fairly frank dialogues about the policy issues that are affecting each of our country's ability to improve the security environment."

Frank and open discussions are the hallmarks of DKI APCSS, which always employs a policy of non-attribution in every course and workshop it offers unless expressly agreed upon by all parties involved. This methodology improves understanding of one another's views, which, in turn, illuminates avenues for collaboration and even policy adjustments to help all parties work together more effectively.

Through a mix of plenary sessions and breakout groups, there was much interaction between positional authorities who could relate the insights from the event in Waikiki back to other policy and decision-makers in their home countries. The United States lead representative, Jed Royal, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, set the tone of the event by welcoming all participants with the comment that he came to listen as much as to share the outlooks and priorities of the new administration in Washington.

"We want to make sure that we're working with these premier partners, people that we know have a lot to offer to the region," he said. "We also had some European allies and partners come. We do want to think about the impacts in this region not only as they exist here, but more broadly, globally as well," he added.

The talks reinforced the realization that countries around the world will be impacted by developments in the Indo-Pacific security environment. Participants agreed that recent and notable events in both the region and the European theatre have further emphasized that our security interests are, indeed, globally interconnected, whether in security, economics and diplomacy.

It was an overwhelming consensus among participants that the regional security environment is getting worse. The key drivers identified included sharpening geopolitical competition, primarily between the US and China, the erosion and overt breaking of the rules-based international order, increased gray zone activities, land border disputes, and growing maritime complexity and disorder. It was clear that deep concern exists regarding collective vulnerability in critical supply chains and the urgent need for improved defense industrial base (DIB) and supply chain resilience. There was strong convergence on the need to enhance co-development and co-production, promote standardization, and potentially ease regulations to facilitate greater DIB collaboration. This was seen as intrinsically linked to both economic and national security interests.

At the conclusion of this year's Maluhia Talks, Dr, Filler was already looking to the next steps: "The idea now is that every participant goes back and works in their system to start putting in the next pieces of what is required for us to make more formal agreements or more formal cooperations," he said.

He added, "It does take time because this was sort of the ideation phase, and everyone has to work within their areas of responsibility within their governments to figure out how this can advance their respective national interests. Then we'll come back together again, having come up with more concrete ways forward."

Participants from 18 Pacific Islands Forum member countries attend a national security policy workshop in Suva, Fiji.

National Security Policy Development
in the Pacific Islands

By Douglas Carroll

SUVA, Fiji – Amid the occasional roar of heavy November rains and the frequent calls of local myna birds, 64 participants from 18 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) member countries gathered in Suva for a three-day workshop, held Nov. 17-20, 2024, on national security policy development (as seen in the top image). Hosted by the PIF at its historic conference center in the hills overlooking the city and Walu Bay, the event was conducted in collaboration with the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

The workshop focused on how the Pacific's security landscape has evolved, enabling participants to exchange perspectives on issues ranging from population displacement linked to environmental factors to transnational crime. There was earnest and honest interaction from all corners of an audience that are usually quite reserved, professionally.

"What helped considerably in bringing about conversation was our non-attribution policy, which assured them that nothing they would say would be quoted in public without their express approval," said DKI APCSS professor Dr. Alfred Oehlers, who coordinated the workshop.

Participants highlighted challenges like environmental change, which threatens infrastructure, economies, and entire populations as well as international crime, which was identified as an immediate danger. Ayanna Ramarui, a policy analyst from Palau, emphasized the urgency of addressing transnational crime and cybersecurity threats.

Outside the main conference hall, which nests in the trees atop the lush grounds of the PIF, she said "Transnational crime and cybersecurity are our top priorities," Ramarui added. "Back home, we've seen movements of drugs and humans, as well as recent cyberattacks. It's our top concern."

Dr. Francis Hualupmomi, Papua New Guinea's national security advisor, who presented and was frequently called upon for his expertise, noted the workshop's strategic importance, particularly for smaller Pacific nations still developing their security policies.

"The workshop was really excellent; well planned, well-structured, and it really provoked us Pacific Islanders to think strategically," he said.

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Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience Launches, New Seminar to Follow

HONOLULU — The U.S. Department of Defense hosted the inaugural plenary meeting of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) on Oct. 7-8, 2024, bringing together national armament directors and senior leaders from across the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions.

The engagement, co-hosted by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)), the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs (IPSA), and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), marked the first major gathering of the multilateral forum. PIPIR is designed to strengthen defense industrial resilience and promote regional and economic security through closer cooperation among allies and partners.

The meeting produced a Core Vision Statement outlining shared principles to guide collaboration on defense industrial resilience. The statement builds on the Statement of Principles for Indo-Pacific Defense Industrial Base Collaboration, which 13 nations endorsed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2024.

Participants also created four workstreams — Sustainment, Production, Supply Chain Resilience, and Policy and Optimization — and appointed leadership for each. These groups will identify projects and develop plans to address barriers to production, supply chain constraints, and sustainment challenges. Leaders also pledged to establish a standing industrial advisory board to strengthen ties with industry and provide expertise as needed.

Officials emphasized that PIPIR advances the Department of Defense's National Defense Industrial Strategy and Regional Sustainment Framework, both of which prioritize building stronger international production and sustainment partnerships.

Building on the momentum, DKI APCSS announced it will launch the Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS) in September 2025. The four-week course will bring together government, military, and industry professionals to focus on developing a more resilient and integrated industrial base, enhancing deterrence, and strengthening participant economies.

MARS will take place in four Indo-Pacific locations, where fellows will meet with government and industry leaders to examine local strengths and challenges. At the conclusion of the seminar, in January 2026, participants will apply their expertise to recommend ways to address obstacles that hinder bilateral or multilateral defense industrial base cooperation.

Reviewing Maldives' Strategy on Preventing Violent Extremism

From left: Dr. Sam Mullins; Lt. Col. Adnan Mohamed, head of strategic communications, NCTC and incoming director; Col. Ismail Farween; Dr. Deon Canyon; Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ghiyas, vice chief of defense forces; Prof. Shyam Tekwani; Col. Amanulla Rasheed, outgoing director of NCTC; and Maj. Ibrahim Thaufeeq, head of awareness and programs, NCTC. All are DKI APCSS alumni.

Prof. Shyam Tekwani takes a question from a workshop participant.

Male, Maldives – The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) of the Maldives, hosted a workshop in September 2024 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 supported the development of 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, DKI APCSS was pleased to once again assist.

Despite the condensed timeframe, the workshop successfully achieved its primary objectives. The key goals included enhancing participants' understanding of global, regional, and local trends in violent extremism, assessing current capabilities and procedures, and strengthening interagency cooperation between government and non-government stakeholders involved in P/CVE efforts in the Maldives.

Workshop key outcomes

- Increased understanding of recent developments in violent extremism and terrorism.
- Improved collaboration among various government and non-government agencies.
- Formulation of policy recommendations for revising the NS-PCVE and NAP-PCVE.
- Strengthened ties between DKI APCSS, the Maldives' NCTC, and the government.

Participants

The workshop was attended by 36 senior representatives from 29 different ministries, agencies, and organizations, including:

The Ministry of Defence, The Ministry of Islamic Affairs, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs , The Ministry of Economic Development, The Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)

Key attendees included the Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Abdhulraheem Hassan; State Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Abdulla Phairoosch; the incoming Director of the NCTC, Col. Ahmed, and the outgoing Director, Col. Amanulla.

Several DKI APCSS alumni were also present, including Vice Chief of Defence Forces Brigadier General Ahmed Ghiyas(OR 10-1, CS 16-1); Incoming Director of NCTC, Colonel Ismail Farween (ASC 18-2); Colonel Amanulla Rasheed. The outgoing Director of NCTC (CS 18-1), Major Ibrahim Thaufeeq, Head of Awareness and Programs, NCTC (CSC 23-1), and LTC Adnan Mohamed, Head of Strategic Communications, NCTC (CS 14-1).

Next steps

The NCTC plans to hold further consultations with stakeholders to revise the NS-PCVE and NAP-PCVE. Following these discussions, additional input from DKI APCSS will be sought before the updated strategies are finalized and published.

Transnational Security Cooperation:
Senior-level Dialogue Strengthening Regional Security


TSC 24-1


TSC 24-2

The Transnational Security Cooperation (TSC) course is an in-depth executive education program hosted by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Convening senior security practitioners and military leaders, the course aims to produce cooperative efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific. Through facilitated discussion and expert-led sessions, participants explore complex regional challenges, build relationships of trust, and develop a shared understanding of the Indo-Pacific security landscape.

Held in July and December 2024 and again in July 2025, the courses emphasized cooperation in addressing challenges no nation can manage alone. From maritime security and gray zone activities to artificial intelligence and demographic shifts, participants engaged in candid discussions aimed at building trust and strengthening professional networks. Each iteration reflected a changing security environment — and the need for resilience, adaptation, and shared ideas.

The first course, TSC 24-1, explored strategic challenges in the Indo-Pacific. Held July 14–19, 2024, 36 senior leaders from 26 countries and two regional organizations engaged in dialogue on strategic issues shaping the region. Discussion topics included maritime security, environmental security, gray zone activities, and economic crises and coercion. A key event was an interaction with Gen. Charles A. Flynn, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, at USARPAC headquarters.

"TSC 24-1 participants gained a stronger understanding of strategic issues, trends, and challenges in the Indo-Pacific," said course manager Dr. Al Oehlers. "Importantly, through fostering dialogue among partners, allies, and other countries, the course strengthened collaborative networks and relationships to better address security challenges in the region."

The course's non-attribution format encouraged open discussion and helped build mutual trust among participants. Fellows came from a wide range of nations, including Cambodia, Colombia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Vietnam, and others, as well as the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Pacific Islands Forum.

The second course, TSC 24-2, focused on fostering shared solutions to complex threats. Held Dec. 8–13, 2024, the course brought together 38 senior leaders from 25 countries and three regional organizations to discuss the evolving regional security environment and opportunities for collaboration. A highlight of the week was a session with Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

"Aided by a challenging curriculum, TSC 24-2 participants seized the opportunity to frankly discuss some of the most pressing strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific," said Oehlers. "Vitally, by exchanging invaluable insights and creatively crafting collaborative approaches to shared priorities, bonds of understanding and friendship were fostered

"It's a very wide-ranging set of issues that allows for daily breadth of conversation. At the same time, you're meeting a wide range of stakeholders you normally wouldn't meet in one place."

— Veerle Nouwens

DKI APCSS professor Dr. Lukas Filler assists fellows during a breakout group.

that will last for years to come."

Discussion topics during the week included Indo-Pacific security, the geopolitical landscape, maritime and environmental security, health security, and the implications of artificial intelligence.

Participant John Kemakeza of the Solomon Islands praised the diversity of voices and perspectives:

"The course has been really useful and practical… You have colleagues from Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, and not only within my field, which is diplomatic, but perspectives from the military, aerospace, and environmental change. Its coverage is very diverse. I have a deeper and richer understanding of all the issues discussed."

Kemakeza also noted the importance of the alumni network in enabling continued collaboration: "I'm already taking notes on who I can connect with if I ever need information or assistance on certain areas. So I'm really looking forward to being a part of the alumni network."

The third course, TSC 25-1, reinforced the center's commitment to candid dialogue and cooperative problem-solving. Held in July 2025, it welcomed 37 senior executives from 27 locations worldwide. The program focused on "The Evolving Security Environment: Adapting to Unprecedented Change," reflecting how global shifts are reshaping the Indo-Pacific.

Faculty and fellows examined accelerating trends such as advances in quantum computing and artificial intelligence, record numbers of national elections, demographic decline, and rising defense spending.

"In keeping with this evolving global environment, TSC 25-1 offered an intense week exploring key changes affecting the Indo-Pacific region and strategies to adapt at an equally robust pace," said course manager Dr. Lori Forman, who led the program with Lt. Col. Walter Pratt.

For participant Veerle Nouwens, executive director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies–Asia, the course offered both insight and connection. "It's a very wide-ranging set of issues that allows for a breadth of conversation on a day-to-day basis," she said. "At the same time, you're meeting a wide range of stakeholders you normally wouldn't meet in one place for an entire week."

Together, the three courses underscored the enduring value of dialogue, trust, and professional networks. At the conclusion of each, graduates received golden lanyards and joined the DKI APCSS alumni community of more than 16,000 members worldwide — a network poised to play a lasting role in advancing regional cooperation and security.

DKI APCSS Returns to Washington

for Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) returned to the nation's capital to host the Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (MIPOC) from March 24 to 28, 2025.

The event, the largest MIPOC to date, brought together 116 Fellows (pictured above) from agencies including the Departments of Defense, State, and Homeland Security. Among them were 20 international participants representing 12 countries.

With the new administration prioritizing Indo-Pacific policy, hosting the course in Washington, DC, provided Fellows with deeper insight into the complexities of the region. Topics covered included U.S. policy in the Indo-Pacific, strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region, deterrence, allies and partners, maritime security, the defense industrial base, domains of consequence including space policy, irregular warfare, disruptive technology, and multiple elective offerings.

"This was an amazing opportunity to learn about the Indo-Pacific theater from regional experts and a knowledgeable cohort of Fellows from across the interagency, our allies, and our partners," one participant said. Dean Carleton Cramer noted that the significant representation of the broader inter-agency from the national capital region enabled in-depth, policy-relevant discussions.

DKI APCSS Director Suzy Vares-Lum highlighted the course's significance, stating, "Demand is high for understanding the security challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific. Our amazing staff, Fellows, speakers, and alumni, all committed to finding solutions, dedicated their energy this week."

She emphasized the region's strategic importance, noting, "The Indo-Pacific is the most consequential region, spanning 36 nations, 14 time zones, and home to 60% of the world's population. It is where complex threats and strategic competition converge. The Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course empowers U.S. security practitioners, military, allies, and partners to address these challenges."

DKI APCSS Senior Diplomatic Fellow Amb. Pete Haymond discusses US Policy in the Indo-Pacific with security practitioners attending

Dr. Al Oehlers discusses Space Policy.

Dr. Lumpy Lumbaca shares information on Gray Zone competition.

IPOC 24-2 Part of the *Ohana*

By Douglas Carroll

U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Holly Beard, stationed at Fort Shafter, typically has a 10-minute commute to the DKI APCSS campus in Waikiki. However, it took nearly a year for her to get in its doors to attend the highly sought-after Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC).

"Not only did I hear there were more than 100 people on the waitlist for this course, I personally applied almost a year ago, and it's taken me that long to get in," said Beard, sitting in the shade of the 200-year-old monkeypod tree that anchors the gardens surrounding Maluhia Hall at DKI APCSS.

A civil affairs officer, 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."

As a reservist, Beard said she rarely has the time to dive into such topics. "Something I really hope to take back to my team is a better understanding of the complexities associated with this theater," she added.

Held in October 2024, IPOC 24-2 was an executive education course designed for mid-career to senior-level security practitioners to enhance their ability to engage in cooperative security efforts that advance a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The week-long program included plenaries, seminars, and guest speakers. It is held twice a year in Honolulu and abroad. The faculty, made up of civilian and military experts from around the world, offers coursework on all manner of security issues.

"I focus on economics and security in South Asia, and I've been teaching here for about five years," said Professor Srini Sitaraman during a break, sipping tea under the slow fans hanging above the DKI APCSS lanai. "For those being deployed in the region with little experience, it helps them understand what is happening in the Indo-Pacific. We cover the big issues, what they should be aware of, and what they should be learning."

"It's an orientation course, so we provide a broad spectrum of the security challenges and opportunities in the region. As former INDOPACOM Commander Adm. Harry Harris used to say, 'We are looking from penguins to polar bears and from Hollywood to Bollywood,'" he added.

Commodore Jonathan Lett of the Royal Navy also offered an elective on State Partnership Programs. Lett, with extensive command experience and currently serving as the deputy J5 for policy at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, shared his expertise in naval warfare with the course attendees.

A bit further down the lanai, seated near one of the hot beverage stations (also in high demand) calmly taking in the beautiful weather, sat IPOC 24-2 participant Jack Pan, a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. When asked how he found his way to APCSS, a smile slowly spread across his face.

"Something I really hope to take back to my team is a better understanding of the complexities associated with this theater."

— Capt. Holly Beard

"I'd have to thank the State Department and my boss, who took this course before and recommended it," Pan said. "It's been tremendously helpful. I've met people from the UK, Australia, and New Zealand who work on the same portfolio as I do."

"If there's one thing we've learned, it's that no one can do this alone. It's an incredibly complex world with complex issues that require complex solutions," Pan said.

Like Pan, all 154 IPOC 24-2 attendees earned the golden lanyard, symbolizing their DKI APCSS Alumni Status, which now numbers well more than 15,000 members worldwide.

"The feedback I received was that the course was incredibly informative. We achieved our goals of educating, connecting, and empowering our Fellows," said Capt. Erin Williams, a DKI APCSS military professor from the U.S. Coast Guard and the IPOC 24-2 course manager. "Several Fellows noted they strengthened their network in the region."

Williams added, "The golden lanyard is globally recognized. We all speak a common language and you are now part of an ohana."

"Certainly worth the wait," she said.

Comprehensive Security Cooperation Courses Highlight

Emerging Challenges, Lasting Partnerships


Adm. Samuel J. Paparo


Adm. Stephen T. Koehler


Retired Adm. Philip S. Davidson

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies hosted two iterations of its flagship executive program—the Comprehensive Security Cooperation (CSC) course—in the first half of 2025, welcoming nearly 200 Fellows from more than 70 locations around the world.

Each five-week, in-residence course brought together midlevel military, government and nongovernment professionals from across the Indo-Pacific and beyond to examine the region's most pressing security challenges, strengthen professional networks and build the capacity of allies and partners.

CSC 25-1: Critical Domains Take Center Stage

From Feb. 5 to March 12, CSC 25-1 addressed emerging challenges in three critical security domains: cyber, space and maritime. The course offered Fellows strategic insights into evolving threats and opportunities through plenary sessions, scenario-based exercises, simulations and electives.

Eighty-nine Fellows from 35 countries contributed diverse perspectives, reinforcing the center's mission of collaborative learning and security cooperation.

Guest speakers included senior defense leaders Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; Gen. Stephen N. Whiting, commander of U.S. Space Command; Adm. Stephen T. Koehler, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; and retired Adm. Philip S. Davidson, former USINDOPACOM commander.

Paparo emphasized the value of multinational engagement and strategic dialogue. Whiting discussed the evolving role of space in defense planning, while Koehler reflected on leadership and the power of kindness. Davidson shared his long-term view of Indo-Pacific security trends and fielded questions from Fellows.

The course also marked the first conducted under the direction of Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum.

"Embarking on a new journey with the Fellows of my first Comprehensive Security Cooperation course as director of DKI APCSS was nothing short of inspiring," Vares-Lum said. "As an alumna, it struck me with renewed force: this institution is a cornerstone of strength, empowering the United States and our allies and partners to confront the Indo-Pacific's most daunting challenges while forging real solutions and lifelong relationships."

Fellows echoed the course's impact. In a post-course LinkedIn message, Anthony Galloway wrote: "At such a critical time, it was a pleasure to meet dozens of participants from all over the world who had brilliant insights on the security challenges facing the Indo-Pacific. I forged many great relationships, and it will be an experience I will never forget."

CSC 25-2: The First Step Toward Contribution Is Understanding

When Fellows arrived in Honolulu for CSC 25-2, the only thing brighter than the Waikiki sunshine was the energy they brought to the Center. Over the following five weeks, 100 participants from 39 locations immersed themselves in an intensive academic program designed to develop solutions for a resilient Indo-Pacific.

The course emphasized dialogue, critical thinking and relationship building—core components of a growing alumni network that now exceeds 16,000 members worldwide.

Among the Fellows was Jozef McGurk, an engineering officer in the Royal New Zealand Air Force and the first participant from his country in a decade. He is pictured with two other Fellows during a group exercise.

"The exposure and breadth of expertise on display has been incredible, as were the opportunities to build lasting fellowship," McGurk said. "The major takeaway is the interaction with people from other countries—hearing their perspectives and understanding their challenges has been massively eye-opening."

McGurk highlighted the course's academic depth and wide range of topics, including maritime security, cognitive warfare, artificial intelligence and the intersection of emerging technologies with government and private enterprise.

"As an engineer, the technology aspect really fascinates me," he said. "But more broadly, understanding New Zealand's role in this environment and the Indo-Pacific as a whole is essential. From what we've learned here, there are challenges that no single country can solve. We need to contribute—and the first step toward contribution is to understand."

Fellows also heard from Adm. Paparo, who returned to the Center to offer a strategic overview of the regional security environment, and from Adm. David Johnston, chief of the Australian Defence Force. Johnston shared insights on maritime operations, joint coordination and Australia's regional defense posture.

"The major takeaway is the interaction with people from other countries—hearing their perspectives and understanding their challenges has been massively eye-opening."

– Jozef McGurk

To expand regional awareness and local engagement, CSC 25-2 hosted an open house featuring seven Hawaii-based organizations known as Partners in Deterrence. Organized by course manager Dr. Elizabeth Kunce, the event offered Fellows face-to-face engagement with agencies such as the Joint Interagency Task Force West, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Pacific Disaster Center, East-West Center, Indo-Pacific Defense Forum and the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

"There are so many outstanding organizations on the island doing great work to close gaps in regional vulnerabilities," Kunce said. "They're also committed to working together to deter shared threats."

Fellows rotated through briefings with each organization to explore collaboration opportunities and expand their professional networks.

"I think it turned out very well," Kunce added. "Everyone seemed to come away with new relationships, and it looks like some training opportunities emerged from the event. I believe it was a worthwhile day."

A Tidal Shift

in Security for Oceania

By Douglas Carroll

Earlier this year, DKI APCSS held its first Comprehensive Security Course for 2025, CSC 25-1. This class of 89 distinguished Fellows hailed from 35 countries across the globe, yet, aside from the host nation, the largest contingent of participants came from Papua New Guinea.

This cohort of eight Papuans drew from a wide range of their government's agencies, and all eagerly arrived with open minds but also a pre-conceived intent of purpose. Specifically, their cohort Fellows Project, required by all who attend the course, was to create and establish the Papua New Guinea National Maritime Security Fusion Centre (PNG NMSFC).

Once formed and put into practice, this strategic initiative would draw from the expertise, operational knowledge, and coordination of the full array of PNG's agencies to address maritime issues that have long plagued this island nation. Due to the weight and importance of such a far-reaching project, the country sent to Waikiki some of its most decisive leaders, such as the Director of Maritime Operations, Commander Sebastian Marru, from the PNG Defense Force.

Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Baladad leads the Papua New Guinea cohort on a site visit to the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center.

"We will address a problem that is common, which is inefficient cooperation amongst the agencies, and that leads to a breakdown in all our objectives. We need a dedicated common coordinator for all the agencies. When we try to do individual response to participate in a deployment, there's a lot of failures," said Commander Marru. In an effort to have all relevant voices working as one, this diverse cohort included individuals from law enforcement, such as the Royal PNG Constabulary, the National Fisheries Agency, the National Maritime Safety Authority, the Department of Transportation and Customs Services, as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs, and even the office of the Prime Minister.

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Former INDOPACOM SEL and current SEAC Fleet Master Chief David ISOM, and former SEAC Sgt. Maj Black highlights the vital role of senior enlisted leaders in readiness and strategic outcomes. Dr. James M. Minnich congratulates a fellow on completing the course.

FORGING UNBREAKABLE BONDS:

IPSEL SMEE 25-1 Cultivates Enlisted Leadership Across the Indo-Pacific

By Dr. James M. Minnich

Beneath the welcoming skies of Honolulu, DKI APCSS, in close collaboration with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, hosted a pivotal gathering from April 20–26, 2025: IPSEL SMEE 25-1. This distinguished forum brought together 80 senior enlisted leaders and their mentors, representing 22 Indo-Pacific economies and global partners.

The Indo-Pacific Senior Enlisted Leaders Subject Matter Expert Exchange (IPSEL SMEE) is a unique and vital platform where our armed forces—senior enlisted professionals—converge to strengthen regional trust, build shared understanding of complex security challenges, and advance strategic leadership capabilities across national boundaries. In an era defined by increasingly intricate regional dynamics, these leaders serve as both steadfast operational anchors and influential strategic communicators. IPSEL SMEE empowers them with the perspectives, tools, and enduring partnerships needed to lead effectively in today's fast-changing security environment. Throughout the week, Fleet Master Chief David Isom, the USINDOPACOM Command Senior Enlisted Leader, provided consistent mentorship and guidance.

THE WEEK IN FOCUS

The IPSEL SMEE 25-1 program was carefully structured around distinct daily learning themes, blending lectures, interactive seminars, scenario-based exercises, and keynote engagements into a dynamic week of shared learning and strategic dialogue.

Each morning began with invigorating physical fitness sessions, fostering camaraderie and setting a purposeful tone for the day's intensive engagements. These shared workouts not only built team cohesion but also reflected the discipline and resilience expected of senior enlisted leadership across the region.

Day One introduced the Foundations of the Indo-Pacific Strategic Landscape. Participants also received briefings from Special Operations Command Pacific and U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, gaining operational insight into their missions and regional roles. Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief (SEAC) Ken Robertson , Australia's senior enlisted leader to the Chief of Defence Force, delivered a compelling keynote on the principles and application of Mission Command. This foundational day established a shared vocabulary and regional perspective that set the tone for deeper engagement throughout the week.

Day Two focused on Regional Security Dynamics, highlighted by a keynote from SEAC Troy E. Black , the 5th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. His address emphasized the critical role of senior enlisted leaders in ensuring warfighting readiness, reinforcing alliances, and shaping strategic outcomes. Fellows also received a domain briefing by Pacific Air Forces, which provided key insights into air operations and deterrence efforts across the Indo-Pacific. Later, SEAC Bob McCann, Chief Warrant Officer of the Canadian Armed Forces, led a compelling session on organizational ethics and cultural transformation in modern militaries.

Day Three addressed the challenges of Gray Zone Competition and Leadership. Briefings by U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Forces Korea, and U.S. Pacific Fleet expanded Fellows' awareness of the diverse operational settings within the Indo-Pacific. Through case studies and facilitated dialogue, participants examined how state and non-state actors operate below the threshold of armed conflict—and how enlisted leaders can lead with clarity, adaptability, and resolve.

Day Four explored the intertwined themes of Strategic Competition and Professionalism. Fellows analyzed adversarial strategies and learned the principles of Principled Negotiations through lectures and discussions. A Senior Enlisted Leaders Mentor Panel added practical wisdom, while briefings from the U.S. Coast Guard and Hawaii National Guard underscored the importance of interagency coordination in today's complex operational environments.

Day Five culminated with an in-depth focus on Cognitive Warfare and Cybersecurity. Through lectures, scenario discussions, and peer dialogue, Fellows explored how digital threats—from information operations to cyberattacks—are reshaping modern

battlefields. Participants examined the evolving nature of competition in the information domain and discussed strategies for safeguarding minds, networks, and organizational integrity in an era of pervasive digital disruption.

WEAVING A NETWORK OF ENDURING TRUST

Beyond academic content, the true power of IPSEL SMEE lies in the relationships it fosters. Fellows engaged in intimate small-group dialogue, cross-cultural exchange, and informal engagements that built genuine camaraderie and mutual trust. These enduring personal and professional bonds—formed across ranks, services, and national lines—are the foundation of regional resilience.

Throughout the week, the program emphasized mutual respect, a shared commitment to service, and the cultivation of lasting partnerships. Fellows emerged not only with new insights but also as trusted counterparts across a region where relationships matter.

A LEGACY OF EMPOWERED LEADERSHIP

As the program concluded, participants reflected on the week's learning and on the shared leadership journey they had undertaken. Many departed with actionable insights, greater awareness of Indo-Pacific dynamics, and a renewed commitment to lead with purpose and integrity.

IPSEL SMEE is more than a course—it is a strategic investment in the future of the Indo-Pacific. With each iteration, this growing community of empowered, connected, and forward-thinking enlisted leaders strengthens the foundation for regional peace, security, and cooperation.

SEAC Ken Robertson, Australia's top enlisted adviser, delivered a keynote on Mission Command

SELSIP 2025 THREE DAYS OF STRATEGIC IMPACT

1. Senior Enlisted Leaders Symposium Indo-Pacific 25-1 participants. 2.DKI APCSS Director Suzy Vares-Lum presents the Laulima Alumni Certificate of Distinction to SEAC David Isom, whose visionary leadership was instrumental in conceptualizing, advancing, and institutionalizing senior enlisted education and engagement across the region.

The Senior Enlisted Leaders Symposium Indo-Pacific (SELSIP) 25-1, co-hosted by DKI APCSS and INDOPACOM, brought together 50 senior enlisted leaders from 12 partner nations, 5 U.S. combatant commands, and all U.S. military services. Over three days of deep dialogue and cross-service collaboration, participants shared enlisted development strategies, built lasting regional ties, and strengthened the foundation for future cooperation. Mid-event, Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, stated: "This event, coupled with IPSEL SMEE, is making the region's NCO Corps more committed and more lethal than ever before." His remarks underscored the growing strategic importance of senior enlisted leadership as a pillar of regional interoperability and resilience.

The symposium concluded with the bestowal of DKI APCSS alumni status upon all participants and the presentation of the Laulima Alumni Certificate of Distinction to SEAC David Isom, whose visionary leadership was instrumental in conceptualizing, advancing, and institutionalizing senior enlisted education and engagement across the region. SELSIP 2025 was not just an event—it was a strategic investment in the region's most trusted leaders and a milestone in shaping the future of multinational enlisted cooperation.

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies proudly celebrates 30 years of building partnerships, enhancing regional capacity, and and promoting peace through strength across the Indo-Pacific.

Founded in 1995, the Center serves as a unique institution under the U.S. Department of Defense, bringing together military and civilian security practitioners for executive education, workshops, and dialogues. Its mission is to prepare current and future leaders with the skills, networks, and shared understanding needed to address security challenges collaboratively—helping maintain stability and foster a safe, prosperous region.

"The world has changed significantly over the past 30 years, but our mission remains essential," said DKI APCSS Director retired Maj. Gen. Suzanne P. Vares-Lum. "By building capacity, trust, and mutual understanding, we help nations work together in ways that strengthen resilience and sustain peace."

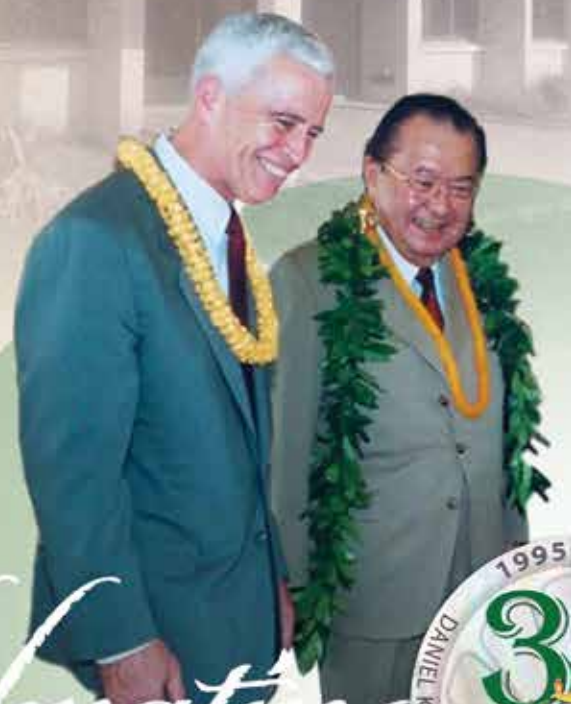
In three decades, DKI APCSS has produced more than 16,000 alumni and welcomed Fellows from over 70 countries and territories, including defense ministers, chiefs of defense, ambassadors, and senior security officials. Many remain closely connected, forming a trusted network that facilitates cooperation, information sharing, and timely responses to regional challenges.

The Center's programs continue to adapt to emerging priorities such as cybersecurity, maritime security, disaster preparedness, and irregular warfare. Courses and workshops emphasize collaborative problem-solving, effective communication, and the development of complementary capabilities—essential for sustaining peace through strength.

"Our alumni network is one of our greatest strengths," Vares-Lum said. "It allows leaders to continue working together long after their time in Honolulu, sharing insights and supporting each other in ways that make the region safer for everyone."

The Center honors the vision of its namesake, the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, who championed its creation to encourage dialogue and build enduring relationships throughout the Indo-Pacific. That vision remains vital as the region navigates increasingly complex and interconnected challenges.

"As we look to the future, our work to connect leaders, share knowledge, and build capacity will remain central to achieving peace through strength," Vares-Lum said. "It's about creating the conditions where security and cooperation reinforce each other for the benefit of all."



2000 – The Center Opens at Current Location

APCSS's first president/director, Hank Stackpole, joined Senator Daniel K. Inouye to celebrate the opening of the Center at its current location.

1995

1995 - APCSS Established

APCSS was officially established during a ceremony at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu and began operations later that year at the Waikiki Trade Center..

2005 – Alumni Network Expand –
Grew to over 2,000 alumni from 66 countries, many of whom have advanced to senior leadership positions. APCSS Alumni gather to celebrate the Center's 10th Anniversary

2009 – Fellow Projects Introduction
First launched in ASC 09-1, Fellow Projects expanded participants' capacity for critical thinking, encouraged practice in dialogue and cooperation, strengthened inquiry skills for future work, and produced outcomes of real-world value in their nations.

2015 – APCSS renamed to DKI APCSS
The Center was renamed in honor of Senator Daniel K. Inouye as the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies under the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

2020 – First Post-Pandemic Course
DKI APCSS resumed learning with IPOC 20-1, a hybrid of in-resident sessions and virtual lectures, demonstrating enduring adaptability in education.

2025 – DKI APCSS Continues Key Leader Engagements
DKI APCSS advanced partnerships through Key Leader Engagements, including U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's first Indo-Pacific trip, where he outlined his strategic vision for the region across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) continues to expand its regional footprint through senior leader visits, alumni engagement, and academic collaboration across the Indo-Pacific. Recent visits to Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Australia demonstrate the Center's commitment to strengthening alliances, enhancing education networks, and promoting shared security goals.

CAMBODIA:
Dialogue and Alumni Connections Reaffirm U.S.-Cambodia Ties

Cambodia served as the first in-region visit for DKI APCSS Acting Director Russell Bailey in August 2024. During his visit to Phnom Penh, Bailey met with senior Cambodian defense officials and took part in an alumni event hosted by the U.S. Embassy.

He held key meetings with Gen. Eth Sarath, chief of staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, an alumnus of the DKI APCSS Senior Executive Course (SEC08-2) and newly appointed head of the DKI APCSS Cambodia Alumni Association. Bailey also met with Gen. Sem Sovanny, director-general of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces (NPMEC), and Lt. Gen. Dok Sopha, rector of Cambodia's National Defense University and a graduate of the Transnational Security Course (TSC14).

Chief of Staff, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, Gen. Eth Sarath along with his staff officers, Tim Sloan, acting defense attaché, and Capt. Tuyen Truong, assistant army attaché.

In a Phnom Penh Post article, Thong Mengdavid, a lecturer at the Royal University of Phnom Penh's Institute for International Studies, said DKI APCSS has played an important role in "maintaining and strengthening military relations between Cambodia and the U.S." He emphasized that restoring and strengthening Cambodian-U.S. relations—particularly in military cooperation—is vital to modernizing Cambodia's armed forces. He noted that includes expanding understanding, skills, and knowledge through U.S. military engagement.

Bailey hosted a well-attended alumni gathering, with Chargé d'Affaires Andrew Herrup who delivered opening remarks. Bailey recognized several alumni who had recently earned promotions within their organizations. Cambodia is home to more than 200 DKI APCSS alumni, many of whom hold key positions across the defense and security sectors.

MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND JAPAN:
Advancing Alliances and Regional Security

DKI APCSS Director Suzanne P. Vares-Lum completed her first official trip to the Indo-Pacific region since assuming leadership of the Center. She joined Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, for visits to Malaysia and Singapore, and later traveled independently to Japan for further engagements.

Adm. Paparo and Director Vares-Lum visit Malaysia, meeting with senior military and government officials.

In Malaysia, May 28–29, Paparo met with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Minister of Defence Mohamed Khaled Nordin. Their discussions reaffirmed the strong bilateral defense relationship, which includes military exercises, expert exchanges, and information-sharing initiatives that contribute to maritime domain awareness and regional stability. Malaysia has more than 500 DKI APCSS alumni, many of whom have advanced to key leadership roles and helped build robust security networks in the region.

While in Singapore, Vares-Lum participated in the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue, May 30–June 1. She attended bilateral meetings and the Young Leaders Program, where she connected with rising defense professionals. She also met with Dr. Noor Hasharina PG HJ Hassan, director of Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, and Japan Coast Guard Commandant Seguchi Yoshio. Their discussions focused on future collaboration opportunities between the Japan Coast Guard, DKI APCSS and the U.S. Coast Guard in Hawaii.

Following Singapore, Vares-Lum traveled to Japan, where she met with Lt. Gen. Stephen Jost, commander of U.S. Forces Japan, and members of his leadership team to explore avenues for enhanced cooperation. She also met with U.S. Ambassador to Japan George Glass to reaffirm the U.S.-Japan security partnership and examine strategies to address regional challenges through sustained collaboration.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan George Glass

Together with the U.S. Embassy Tokyo, DKI APCSS co-hosted a Senior Japan Alumni Roundtable at the Mutual Defense Assistance Office. The event gathered distinguished alumni to discuss security issues, identify how DKI APCSS can further support Japan's defense priorities, and strengthen bilateral ties and alumni engagement across sectors.

AUSTRALIA:

Education, Industry and Security Cooperation Deepen Bilateral Ties

Vares-Lum's Indo-Pacific engagement concluded with a series of high-level meetings in Australia aimed at advancing collaboration in defense, education and regional stability. Her visit highlighted the value of academic partnerships and the Center's growing alumni network in the country.

In Canberra, she met with representatives from the Australian Pacific Security College, the National Security College, and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Discussions focused on deepening academic ties, addressing regional challenges, and fostering a more coordinated security framework.

She also held talks with senior officials at the Australian Office of Defence Industry Support to explore strategies for improving the defense industrial base, encouraging regional cooperation, and establishing personnel exchanges. These conversations emphasized the importance of building a resilient and adaptive defense ecosystem through joint efforts.

Director Vares-Lum met with Chargé d'Affaires Erika Olson at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra.

Rear Adm. James Lybrand, commander of the Australian Defence College

Hugh Jeffrey, Australian Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy, and Industry

Vares-Lum participated in the Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, honoring the more than 103,000 Australian service members who died in military service. She laid a wreath at the reflecting pool as part of the solemn tradition, a gesture symbolizing the enduring U.S.-Australia alliance. The ceremony was streamed live at YouTube Link.

She and her team also met with Charge d'Affaires Erika Olson at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, where they discussed regional dynamics and emphasized the importance of multilateral partnerships in addressing complex global challenges. The discussions reaffirmed the U.S. and Australia's shared commitment to a stable, rules-based international order.

From Southeast Asia to the Pacific, DKI APCSS leadership continues to strengthen Indo-Pacific partnerships through education, defense collaboration, and regional dialogue. These engagements reaffirm the Center's core mission: building partnerships, advancing security cooperation, and empowering alumni networks to promote a free, open and resilient Indo-Pacific region.

Whole-of-Society Resilience Workshop

What Comes Next

By Douglas Carroll

In June, more than 40 participants from 19 countries took part in the lively third iteration of the Whole of Society Resilience Workshop, where the subject matter was, at times, as fervid as the summer temperatures outside. Held in the climate-controlled confines of Maluhia Hall, and conducted by the staff and faculty of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, this event brought back several participants and welcomed many more as this course narrowed the scope of the series from concepts to concrete actions.

"The first couple of workshops we started out pretty broadly, looking at a range of different types of threats, different areas of resilience," said Professor Sam Mullins, the faculty lead for the workshop. "But in this third workshop, we really focused in much more narrowly on civil preparedness — how you build the capacity of your civilian population to play a role in building resilience to hybrid threats and malign influence."

The workshop curriculum ranged from panel discussions and tabletop exercises to guest speakers the Hawaii National Guard and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), who were subject matter experts, allowing participants to take a deep dive into serious and weighty topics of deterrence.

"There was certainly some discussion of non-state actors — terrorism, insurgency, that kind of thing," Mullins said. "But primarily, it's about building resilience to the activities associated with malign states. That's everything from political interference to economic coercion and all the way up to hybrid warfare scenarios."

Embodying the literal meaning of its name, the program's audience was made up of senior government officials — both military and civilian — private sector companies including telecommunications and cybersecurity, and a spectrum of nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions and population support groups. This produced a range of perspectives and a variety of angles to each area of discussion. Having representatives from different regions of the world also provided an opportunity to share lessons learned in combating threats that recognize no borders.

Lia Svilans, director of planning and strategy in the Defense and National Security Policy Division of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), traveled to Hawaii to gain deeper understanding and a broader perspective from the highly qualified experts at the workshop.

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"In this third workshop, we really focused in much more narrowly on civil preparedness — how you build the capacity of your civilian population to play a role in building resilience to hybrid threats and malign influence."

— Sam Mullins, faculty lead

DKI APCSS Supports Thai Senior Security Program Focused on Regional Security Challenges

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) joined Thailand's sixth Senior Security Studies Program (SSSP), a weeklong intensive course designed for senior security sector leaders. Hosted by the Royal Thai Armed Forces' Strategic Studies Center (SSC) of the National Defense Studies Institute (NDSI), the course took place July 28–Aug. 2 in Bangsaen, Chonburi.

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. A total of 29 senior officials from across the Thai government took part, representing a wide range of agencies including the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Senate, and several ministries, such as Energy, Public Health, Justice, and Foreign Affairs.

Four faculty members from DKI APCSS contributed to the program:

- Alexander Vuving led a session on critical and strategic thinking.
- Al Oehlers addressed space security.
- Lucas Filler examined artificial intelligence as a disruptive technology.
- Mary Markovinovic discussed narrative warfare and strategic messaging.

Other key topics included geopolitics, geoeconomics, and environmental security. The course also benefited from the insights of regional experts, including DKI APCSS alumni Ahmad Tajuddin "Taj" bin Mohd Said of the Malaysian Institute of Defense and Security (MIDAS), and retired Brig. Gen. Joel Paloma, a fellow with the Institute for Solidarity in Asia in the Philippines.

Opening and closing ceremonies were led by Maj. Gen. Nirut Duanpanya, Director of SSC at NDSI; Gen. Pongtep Gaewchaiyo, Commanding General of NDSI; DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum, and Col. Josh Rodriguez, U.S. Army Attaché, U.S. Embassy Bangkok.

At the opening ceremony, DKI APCSS Director Suzanne Vares-Lum expressed appreciation for the long-standing partnership with Thailand. "It is an honor to support the development of Thailand's rising military and civilian leaders, as we work together to strengthen deterrence, defend our homelands, and share responsibilities in a rules-based international order," she said.

Gen. Gaewchaiyo described the program as more than a training opportunity. "This is a platform for strategic dialogue, informed reflection, and building trust networks that can respond to crises and shape the future security landscape," he said. "Let us envision a peaceful, rules-based, and stable region, one that reflects our shared values and commitment to collective security."

At the closing ceremony, he praised participants for their engagement. "The diversity of perspectives shared here has expanded our collective understanding," he said. "Regional and global security are shared responsibilities that demand collaboration, trust, and sustained commitment."

Maj. Gen. Nirut Duanpanya, director of the Strategic Studies Center at the National Defense Studies Institute

Maj. Gen. Nirut Duanpanya, director of the Strategic Studies Center at the National Defense Studies Institute

The SSSP highlights the enduring alliance between the United States and Thailand and the shared goal of preserving peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. DKI APCSS counts more than 500 Thai officers, government officials, and retirees among its alumni network.


Cambodia


Brunei


Papua New Guinea


Thailand


Vietnam


WELCOME
DKI-APCSS
Alumni Fellowship
Philippines


Tonga


Japan


United States

Events around the globe

The DKI APCSS Alumni Program connects more than 15,000 security professionals across the Indo-Pacific, fostering lasting relationships and continued collaboration. Through workshops, reunions, and regional events, the program supports shared security goals and strengthens partnerships across the region. The following highlights showcase recent alumni activities and milestones.

Cambodia More than 200 DKI APCSS alumni are based in Cambodia. An August 2024 alumni gathering featured opening remarks by Chargé d'Affaires Andrew Herrup and acknowledgments by Acting Director Russ Bailey, who recognized several attendees recently promoted within their organizations.

Brunei In September 2024, Ambassador Caryn McClelland and the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan hosted an event honoring Bruneian alumni. The event marked 40 years of U.S.-Brunei relations and celebrated the 78 Bruneians who have attended courses at DKI APCSS.

Papua New Guinea Acting Deputy Director Lori Forman visited Papua New Guinea in September 2024. U.S. Ambassador Ann Marie Yastishock hosted an alumni dinner, strengthening ties with local security leaders.

Thailand In August 2024, the Thailand Alumni Association hosted an event at the National Defence Studies Institute in collaboration with the Royal Thai Armed Forces' Strategic Studies Center. Over 30 alumni participated. Highlights included two Fellows Project presentations and a guest lecture by Dr. Miemie Byrd on developments in Myanmar.

Vietnam During a spring 2025 visit to Vietnam, Dr. Lori Forman and Dr. Alexander Vuving met with alumni during a series of office calls, reinforcing professional ties and ongoing collaboration.

Philippines Also in early 2025, Dr. Forman and Dr. Vuving joined a DKI APCSS–Philippines alumni event. The gathering provided an opportunity to reconnect and exchange ideas on regional security.

Tonga His Royal Highness the crown prince of Tonga — minister of foreign affairs, minister of His Majesty's Armed Forces, and alumnus of the Advanced Security Cooperation course 16-1 — hosted a reception in Nuku'alofa marking DKI APCSS's 30th anniversary. He presented the Alumni of the Year Award to Viliami Lolohea (ASC 16-2). Also attending were Lord Privy Seal and Secretary for Foreign Affairs Viliami Malolo (Senior Executive Course 07-1), Capt. Sione Ulakai, deputy chief of defense staff (TSC 19-1), other Tongan alumni, and DKI APCSS representatives Dr. Lori Forman and DPAO Doug Carroll.

Washington, D.C. In March 2025, DKI APCSS hosted the Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course in Washington, D.C. Following the course, more than 35 alumni and new graduates attended a networking event, strengthening connections across cohorts.

Japan In June, DKI APCSS, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Japan and Capt. Dan Fillion, senior defense official and defense attaché, hosted an alumni event that brought together more than 30 distinguished participants, including 10 flag officers and civilian equivalents. Adm. Akira Saito, chief of staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, led the group. The gathering reinforced U.S.-Japan relations and supported interagency collaboration and professional networking.

Australia While on an official visit to Canberra, DKI APCSS hosted its largest Australian Alumni Reunion to date, with more than 50 attendees at the U.S. Embassy. The event was co-hosted by Director Suzy Vares-Lum and Chargé d'Affaires Erika Olson. On a brisk winter evening, 31 Fellows from across the Australian government and Defence Forces gathered to reconnect, highlighted by warm remarks from Major General Chris Smith, Deputy Chief of Army and alumnus of the Transnational Security Course (TSC) 23-1.

Australia

National Security Policy Development in the Pacific Islands *(continued from page 9)*

Following the workshop, DKI APCSS and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces co-hosted a reception at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks. The event featured traditional Fijian music and dance, highlighted by the Meke, and brought together alumni and dignitaries, including U.S. Ambassador to Fiji Marie Damour, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and Immigration, Mr. Mason Smith and Major General Jone Kalouniwai, Commander, Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

"As alumni of APCSS, we all have fond memories of Hawai`i and the discussions that we have had there. Making those networks is something that is very important, and I believe it is something that has brought us together again," reflected the Commander.

These alumni events, while great fun, are also very important to the mission of the Center and the success of its efforts. Acting Director Russ Bailey, who attended the workshop and visited several high government offices while in Fiji, spoke of their value and significance.

"As alumni of APCSS, we all have fond memories of Hawai'i and the discussions that we have had there. Making those networks is something that is very important, and I believe it is something that has brought us together again."

Major General Jone Kalouniwai

"We consider our alumni base, all 15,000 plus across the world, as one the most important outcomes and output from DKI APCSS programs. We need to hear from our alumni so that we can integrate it into everything we do at APCSS", he said.

The bula and kava flowed in abundance as the day drew to a close. Dr. Oehlers took a moment to appreciate both the event and the view.

"Through your collective efforts, we've successfully made new friends, strengthened ongoing relationships, and demonstrated U.S. commitment and resolve in a vitally significant part of the Indo-Pacific," he said.

Turning his view towards the ocean, he added, "And the thing you can always count on about Fiji is that the rainstorms always end with the most beautiful sunsets."

Fellow Project Completion

Fellows of Change

James Ward

James Ward, center, receives the Brendan O'Rourke Award for Innovation in Criminal Analysis.

Award-Winning Fellow Project: Money Launderers Who Exploit Hawai'i Real Estate

James Ward, a criminal analyst with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Honolulu and alumnus of the Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course (CSC 22-1), is being recognized for his outstanding Fellow Project, Money Launderers Who Exploit Hawai'i Real Estate. His work addresses a critical and growing threat to financial and community security and recently earned him the Brendan O'Rourke Award for Innovation in Criminal Analysis.

Ward's project focused on the use of Geographic Targeting Orders (GTOs) as a strategic tool to disrupt illicit financial flows. With Hawai'i attracting substantial foreign investment—particularly from Asian markets—the state has become increasingly vulnerable to criminal misuse of the real estate sector. These illicit transactions not only drive up housing prices but also distort local markets and community stability. GTOs require title insurance companies to identify the true owners behind shell companies, thereby improving transparency and accountability in high-risk transactions.

Leveraging data analysis and investigative methods, Ward developed an algorithm designed to detect suspicious real estate activity linked to money laundering. His innovative approach strengthens the integrity of the housing market and contributes to broader national economic security.

Following the development of his algorithm, Ward was invited to Washington, D.C., where he briefed three lawmakers on his findings. He presented insights into how GTO data can be used to improve investigative targeting and resource allocation. He also advocated for codifying GTOs into federal law and emphasized the need for sustained investment in this area of enforcement.

In May 2025, James returned to DKI APCSS as part of CSC 25-2 to share his journey and provide guidance to current Fellows. He highlighted how the course's in-depth discussions, critical feedback, and cross-functional perspectives were instrumental in shaping his award-winning project.

In his own words, Ward notes that: "The true value of the course lies in transforming the knowledge you receive into actionable outcomes that can benefit your fellow offices. Completing your project is not just a personal achievement, it's an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to our collective mission. I encourage all my fellow brothers and sisters to see your projects through to completion and relish the positive impact they can have. The sense of accomplishment and the benefits to our community are truly rewarding. I know I enjoyed the outcomes of my efforts, and I hope you will too!"

Faculty Articles Published

External Publications July 2024–June 2025

Some article links available at dkiapcss.edu/latest-news

Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd, writing in *The Diplomat*, examines the unexpected durability of Myanmar's resistance movement in her article "Myanmar's Decentralized Resistance Is Too Resilient and Flexible to Crush." In a second article for The Diplomat, "Myanmar Is Not About to Become a 'Fractured' State," she explores the political linkages among resistance groups and their shared goal of building a federal democracy.

In a separate article for the *Indo-Pacific Defense Journal*, Byrd highlights the potential collapse of Myanmar's military junta, which seized power in February 2021. The resistance coalition, strengthened by an unprecedented alliance of ethnic armed organizations (EAO) and the National Unity Government (NUG), has liberated key towns, including the northeastern command headquarters in Lashio.

Col. Matthew Kent co-authored the article "This Is Not the Status Quo You're Looking For" with Lauren Dickey, published by *War on the Rocks*. In it, the authors argue that the United States' longstanding policy of maintaining the "status quo" on Taiwan is increasingly misaligned with contemporary geostrategic realities.

Dr. "Lumpy" Lumbaca has authored three articles for S*mall Wars Journal*. "In The Sun Is Setting: A Story of Resistance in the Age of Algorithmic Irregular Warfare", he explores themes of technological overreach and human resilience. In "Taiwan Resilience and Resistance Operating Concept (T-RROC)", he proposes a whole-of-society framework for Taiwan's national defense, aligning government, military, civil, and private sectors. In Imagining the Near-Future of American Irregular Warfare in the Indo-Pacific, he outlines a forward-looking campaign to counter aggression from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and violent extremist organizations by building decentralized networks that leverage the human domain, information dominance, and emerging technologies.

Separately, in an article for the *Modern Warfare Institute* titled "How Irregular Warfare Can Find—and Exploit—the Vulnerabilities in China's Defense Industrial Base", Lumbaca examines how the United States can use irregular warfare to disrupt China's defense infrastructure amid ongoing strategic competition

Dr. Lami Kim, writing in *Foreign Policy,* evaluates the foreign policy legacy of former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in her article, "Yoon's Disappointing Foreign Policy Legacy." She also authored "Yoon's Coup Attempt Shows Sad State of Civil-Military Relations," which examines South Korea's history of military dictatorship, and "The Dream of Korean Unification Is Splitting Apart," which explores the diverging visions of unification promoted by President Yoon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The United States Institute of Peace published her article "The Risks of South Korea's Nuclear Armament Under a Troubled Democracy" and her op-ed "How Seoul Should Respond to North Korea's Soldiers in Russia."

Kim also wrote "Will South Korea's Nuclear Ambitions Subside in the Next Five Years?" for the *Center for Strategic and International Studies* and the op-ed "South Korea's Nuclear Latency Dilemma" for *War on the Rocks*.

Dr. Andrea Malji's article, "Disasters, Conflict and Myanmar's Uncertain Future," was published by *Small Wars Journal*. She also co-authored a book chapter, "International Ports and Security Challenges in South Asia," in the book Security Challenges in Contemporary Indo-Pacific.

Dr. Sam Mullins examines how states like China and Russia use non-state actors as proxies in irregular warfare in his article, "The Role of Non-State Actors as Proxies in Irregular Warfare and Malign State Influence," published by the *Irregular Warfare Center*. He highlights how these tactics blur the line between peace and conflict to advance malign state objectives.

Shyam Tekwani explores the manufactured statelessness in South Asia in his article "In Refuge Without a Name," published by *The Wire*, revealing how silence, bureaucracy, and neglect erase identities from Kashmir to Myanmar. Also in *The Wire*, his article "Fighting Terrorism Demands Partnership, Not Primacy" calls for cooperation over dominance in global counterterrorism efforts. In "Why India's War Should Not Be Singapore's," co-authored with Cherian George and published by Academic SG, Tekwani examines how India leverages counterterrorism in its domestic and foreign policy.

Capt. Joshua P. Taylor explores homeland defense in the Pacific in his article, "Operation Noble Eagle–Pacific: Integrated Air and Missile Defense for America's Pacific Homeland," published by *Air University's Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*. He argues for the establishment of a dedicated homeland defense operation to counter growing threats from China and North Korea.

Dr. Alexander Vuving has written an article published in *The Pacific Review* (Vol. 38, Issue 1, 2025), titled "Bamboo in a Storm: The Russia-Ukraine War and Vietnam's Foreign Policy (2022–2024)." The article examines the strategic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on Vietnam's foreign policy and the country's responses to the conflict.

He also wrote a chapter in *The Cambridge History of the Vietnam War (Volume 3: Legacies)* titled "Vietnam's Search for Its Place in the World," which traces Vietnam's trajectory since the war with the United States. Dr. Vuving identifies five major turning points—1977, 1986, 1989, 2003, and 2014—as Vietnam's Communist Party adapted to shifts in its strategic environment.

Dr. Vuving also published a number of op-eds, including:

- "Vietnam's Land Reclamation Helps Balance Power in South China Sea" (*Nikkei Asia*)
- "Alexander Vuving on the Political Legacies of Nguyen Phu Trong" (*The Diplomat*)
- "Vietnam's Grand Strategic Architecture Amid the Russia-Ukraine War" (*The Diplomat*)
- "A Turning Point in Vietnam's Politics" (The Diplomat)
- "Vietnam's New Leader Is Raising Expectations to a New Level" (*Nikkei Asia*)

Dr. James Minnich edited and authored several chapters in the DKI APCSS book *The Indo-Pacific Mosaic: Comprehensive Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*.

Now available, *Edge of Competition*—a new book edited by Minnich and featuring chapters by DKI APCSS faculty and alumni—launches The Strategic Edge Series, a landmark initiative exploring how the Indo-Pacific security environment is being disrupted, divided, and contested.

The first volume helps readers understand the evolving landscape: the shocks reshaping power, the fractures widening strategic divides, and the escalating contest for influence across the region.

The series will continue with *America's Strategic Edge: Deterrence, Lethality, and Warrior Ethos in the Indo-Pacific*, a focused look at the U.S. strategic and operational response to these rising challenges.

Read online at http://doi.org/10.71236/LGGK4279

DKI APCSS SECURITY NEXUS

Dialogue

Conversations Shaping Security

Dialogue brings together leading voices in defense, diplomacy, and academia to address the Indo-Pacific's most pressing security challenges. Hosted by Dr. James M. Minnich —a retired U.S. Army colonel, professor, and recognized Korean security expert—this biweekly podcast delivers fresh perspectives and innovative solutions. Subscribe now for conversations that shape regional and global security.

Security Nexus Webinar/Dialogues – Since July 2024
In late 2024, the Security Nexus webinar series, hosted by Dr. James Minnich, was rebranded as Dialogue. Read articles based on these interviews at www.dkiapcss.edu/dialogue

Dr. Minnich discusses the key findings of Global Strategic Trends 7 (GST 7), the latest report from the UK Ministry of Defence, with Colonel Joachim Isacsson OBE and Richard Johnson of Defence Futures.

REGION OF INTEREST

- Northeast Asia
- Southeast Asia
- South Asia
- Oceania
- Cross regional/ Other

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- **Episode 21:** From Promises to Reality: Analyzing the 2024 Indian Elections Dr. Srini Sitaraman offers an insightful analysis of India's 2024 general elections and their implications for governance and the country's political landscape.
- **Episode 22:** Jihadist Terrorism in the Indo-Pacific: Resurgence and Resilience in the Post-Caliphate Era Dr. Sam Mullins and Dr. James Minnich engage in an in-depth discussion on the evolving landscape of jihadist terrorism in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Episode 23:** China's Strategic Culture: Confucianism or Realpolitik? Dr. Lucas Filler examines how China's governance and foreign relations are shaped by historical and cultural traditions, particularly the enduring legacy of Confucianism.
- **Episode 24:** North Korea-Russia Alliance: Economic and Geopolitical Implications Rachel Minyoung Lee, a senior Fellow at the Stimson Center, discusses the evolving alliance between North Korea and Russia, highlighted by a mutual defense treaty signed in June 2024. The development carries far-reaching consequences for the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Episode 25:** Bangladesh in Turmoil – The Revolution, Its Fallout, and the Road Ahead Shafqat Munir, a senior Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, provides in-depth insights into the root causes of the country's revolution and its implications for Bangladesh's future.
- **Episode 27:** Navigating Tensions in the South China Sea Professors Alex Vuving, Virginia Bacay Watson, and James Minnich discuss one of the world's most contested and strategically significant regions, exploring how it has become a flashpoint for geopolitical rivalry.
- **Episode 29:** Malaysia Between Giants Elina Noor of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace shares her perspective on Malaysia's efforts to balance relations with two global superpowers—the United States and China.
- **Episode 30:** Conflict's End in Ukraine Dr. Marzena Żakowska, an assistant professor at the War Studies University in Warsaw, Poland, discusses Ukraine's uncertain future as the international community faces growing pressure to find a path toward peace.
- **Episode 31:** Indo-Pacific Underwater Competition This episode explores growing competition beneath the waves, including submarine fleet expansion, infrastructure security, and deep-sea resource exploration. Regional experts weigh in on this critical domain of Indo-Pacific security.
- **Episode 32:** Seoul Between Moscow and Pyongyang Dr. James Minnich and Dr. Lami Kim examine the implications of North Korean troops participating in a large-scale international conflict for the first time since the Korean War, raising critical regional and global security concerns.
- **Episode 33:** Sustainability and Responsibility in Space Dr. Namrata Goswami and Sam Wilson join Dr. James Minnich and Dr. Al Oehlers to explore the challenges and opportunities in building a secure and sustainable future in space.
- **Episode 34:** Sri Lanka's Tide Turns On Nov. 21, Sri Lanka's new government took office, signaling what many hope is a transformative era. Dr. James Minnich and Professor Shyam Tekwani discuss the election's far-reaching implications.
- **Episode 35:** Indo-Pacific Humanity and Geopolitics Jonathan Robinson, an assistant professor at the U.S. Naval War College, examines the collision of humanitarian needs and geopolitical rivalries in the Indo-Pacific.

- **Episode 36:** Korea's Martial Law Fallout Dr. Lami Kim and Dr. James Minnich discuss the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol following his Dec. 3 declaration of martial law. The crisis highlights both the resilience of South Korea's democratic institutions and its underlying vulnerabilities.

- **Episode 37:** The Indo-Pacific Mosaic In this episode, Dr. Minnich speaks with Professor Shyam Tekwani and Dr. Lami Kim about the release of The Indo-Pacific Mosaic: Comprehensive Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, celebrating the Center's 30th anniversary.

- **Special Episode:** Global Strategic Trends 7 Dr. Minnich discusses the key findings of Global Strategic Trends 7—a report by the UK Ministry of Defence—with Col. Joachim Isacsson, OBE, and Richard Johnson of Defence Futures. Their conversation explores the global forces shaping future security policy.

- **Episode 38:** Frontlines of Economic Warfare: Raquel Garbers on Canada's Fight for Economic Sovereignty Defense and economic security expert Raquel Garbers, principal architect of Canada's latest defense policy, shares insights into Canada's evolving strategic landscape.

- **Episode 39:** Myanmar's Four-Year Struggle: Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd on Resistance and Regional Stakes Four years after Myanmar's military seized power on Feb. 1, 2021, resistance persists. Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd assesses the battlefield, evaluates the opposition's resilience, and analyzes the geopolitical consequences.

- **Episode 40:** Malaysia's Maritime Shield Safeguarding Sovereignty and Stability in a Complex Region Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin, assistant director of maritime security at the Malaysia Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), discusses Malaysia's strategy to manage maritime disputes through diplomacy, law, and military deterrence.

- **Episode 41:** India's Strategic Challenges An Interview with Dr. Srini Sitaraman Dr. Srini Sitaraman explores India's strategic landscape—from tensions with China to strengthening defense ties with the United States and the Quad.

- **Episode 42:** China's Nuclear Rise An Interview with Dr. Bill Wieninger Dr. Bill Wieninger examines China's rapid nuclear expansion and the implications for global deterrence and strategic stability.

- **Episode 43:** South Asia's Strategic Forge India asserts autonomy, Pakistan recalibrates, and smaller nations rise with new defense ambitions. Professor Shyam Tekwani and Dr. Minnich unpack the region's strategic realignment and examine how the U.S. can co-develop capacity, build smart partnerships, and stay competitive in an evolving Indo-Pacific.

- **Episode 44:** Rising Defense Industries: Malaysia and Philippines. Malaysia and the Philippines are forging new defense pathways to enhance resilience and regional relevance. Kogila Devi Radakrishnan, Angelito Castillo, and Dr. Minnich explore how local innovation, foreign partnerships, and strategic vision are fueling defense-industrial growth in both nations.

- **Episode 45:** China and the Indo-Pacific Global South Beijing's ambition meets the agency of smaller states in a contest over infrastructure, influence, and narrative control. Eric Olander and Dr. Minnich examine how China is reshaping relationships across the Indo-Pacific Global South, and how these nations are responding with pragmatism and purpose.

DKI APCSS SECURITY NEXUS

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Adaptive Power: A Doctrine for Strategic Influence in the Era of Gray-Zone Competition *by Deon Canyon*

The Strategic Role of the Defense Industrial Base in Advancing U.S. Lethality, Soft Power, and Indo-Pacific Security *by Deon Canyon, Carleton R. Cramer*

India's Strategic Moment: Navigating Myanmar's Crisis Amidst China's Backing of the Junta *by Miemie Winn Byrd*

Supporting Lethality: A Guide for DOD's Non-Warfighters *by Lumpy Lumbaca*

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center's Pivotal Role in Strengthening Indo-Pacific Deterrence Strategies *by Dr. Andrea Malji*

Manipur and the Myanmar Conflict: Challenge for India with Implications for Regional Security Competition *by Srini Sitaraman*

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Three-part series on US-India Defense Industry *by Shyam Tekwani*

- Deterrence Needs a Factory: Fixing the U.S.–India Industrial Gap
- From Factory to Frontline: Why U.S.–India Drone Collaboration Could Shape the Next Era of Deterrence
- War in South Asia Is a Wake-Up Call

Ghosts at the Border: South Asia's Unfinished Wars *by Shyam Tekwani*

Where Maps Blur and Rivers Speak *by Shyam Tekwani*

Artificial Intelligence in Contemporary Peacekeeping Operations *by Munkh-Orgil Tuvdendarjaa*


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KEY LEADER ENGAGEMENTS

DKI APCSS hosted over 350 Key Leader engagements from July 2024 to June 2025 to discuss relevant national security topics and enhance DKI APCSS collaboration, networks, and outreach in the region. Key leader engagements supported several U.S. mission partners and various leaders from each of the four Indo-Pacific sub-regions.

01. **Advanced Strategic Leadership Studies Program,** Academic Year 2025, School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS)
02. **Maj. Gen. Stephanie Ahern,** director of strategy, plans and policy, U.S. Army
03. **Maj. Gen. Douglas Clark,** UNC/CFC/USFK J5
04. **SEAC Troy Black,** senior enlisted advisor to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
05. **Sandag Byambatsogt,** minister of defense, Mongolia
06. **Brent Christensen,** senior political-military official, U.S. Department of State
07. **Brook Barrington,** secretary of defense, New Zealand
08. **Ray Greene** director, American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)
09. **Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero,** governor of Guam
10. **International Air Force Attachés**
11. **USAWC International Fellows Program,** Unified Command Course
12. **Adm. David Johnston, AC,** chief of the Defence Force, Australia
13. **Maj. Gen. Son Gwangje,** commander, ROK Training and Doctrine Command
14. **Maj. Gen. Yann Latil,** commander, French Forces, New Caledonia
15. **Maj. Gen. Lorna Mahlock,** commander, Cyber National Mission Force
16. **Greg Moriarty, AO,** secretary, Australian Department of Defence
17. **Akahisa Nagashima,** national security advisor, Japan
18. **Adm. Guillaume Pinget,** commander, Armed Forces of French Polynesia
19. **Rear Adm. Sean Regan,** commander, U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Singapore Command and Staff College
20. **Assistant Secretary Emil Stojanovski,** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
21. **Ambassador Laura Stone,** U.S. ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands
22. **Brig. Gen. Katerine Trombly,** commander, 9th Mission Support Command
23. **U.S. Army War College Rear Adm. Takeshi Yoshioka,** director general, MSOC4I, Japan Maritime Staff Office
24. **Lt. Gen. Joel "JB" Vowell,** deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC)


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Hail & Farewells

Luke McCall photographs DKI APCSS and CSC 25-2 fellows during a Memorial Day tribute at Punchbowl.

DKI APCSS military personnel help Cmdr. Jacob Baker celebrate his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

Hail

Baker, Jacob	RM	Malji, Dr. Andrea	CSS
Bode, Lt. Col. Sean (USA)	CSS	Mayo, Michael	CSS
Digsby, Col. Jeffrey	DABO	McCall, Luke	PAO
Feliciano, Romelyn	TRV	Meyer, Lt. Col. Ian (USA)	CSS
Gibson, LS2 Gelique (USN)	Supply	Miller, Christopher (Ctr)	ADM/CSS
Griffin, YNSR Jayla (USN)	ADM	Peterman, Col. Timothy (USA)	CSS
Hill, YNC Howard (USN)	ADM	Pratt, Lt. Col. Walter (USA)	CSS
Isler, Jacob (Ctr)	ADM	Ryan, Lt. Col. Kevin (USA)	CSS
Ketter, Capt. Timothy (USN)	CSS	Sudlow, Yvonne	ISD
Lewis, Lt. Col. Gabriel	CSS	Tucker, Lt. Col. Sean (USAF)	CSS
Luong, Ivan	PAO	Vares-Lum, Suzanne P.	Director
Makalena, Danny (Ctr)	S&A	Yanagida, Jarrett (Ctr)	CSS

U.S. Navy YNC Howard Hill and Capt. Timothy Ketter

Col. Jeffrey Digsby, USAF

Dr. Andrea Malji

Lt. Col. Sean Tucker, USAF

Lt. Col. Walter Pratt, USAF

ADM: Admissions
BO: Business Operations
CSS: College of Security Studies
DABO: Department of Admissions and Business Operations
EOG: Executive Operations Group
HR: Human Resources
ISD: Information Services Dept.
PAO: Public Affairs Office
REO: Regional Engagement Ops.
RM: Resource Management
S & A: Strategy & Assessment
TRV: Travel

Farewell

Brown, Maj. Kyle (USAF)	CSS
Bursack, Kim (Ctr)	SEA
Crouch, Lt. Col. Lucas (USAF)	EOG
Dosunmu, LS2 Mikailkolawole (USN)	Supply
Gramling, Lt. Col. Robert (USAF)	CSS-
Haymond, AMB Peter	CSS
Kevany, Dr. Sebastian	CSS
Leclair, Col. Matthew (USA)	CSS
Medley, Michayla	CSS
Nguyen, Maj. Tin (USAF)	ADM
Peavy, Maj. Andrew (USA)	SEA
Peterman, Col. Timothy (USA)	CSS
Ramos, YN2 Aliyah (USN)	ADM
Rapozo, Flo	CSS
Rodriguez, Rachelle (Ctr)	CSS
Ryan, Lt. Col. Kevin	CSS
Taylor, Capt. Josh (USN)	CSS
Williams, Capt. Erin (USCG)	CSS

Retirements

Alameda, Rachelle	HR
Baker, CDR Jacob (USN)	RM
Fujimoto, Dean	VI
Gumataotao, Pete	DIR
Hogan, Mike	Facilities
Johnson, Clifton	TRV
Magaoay Tessie	ISD
Santos, Paul	HR
Smith, LCDR Christopher	RM
Tweed, Maj Matthew	CSS
Uyehara, Sheri	ISD

Come and gone

Baladad, Cmdr. Nathaniel (USCG)	CSS /USCG Fellow
Dominic, Jarrett	ISD
Lethem, Chris (Ctr)	ISD
Medley, Michayla (Ctr)	CSS
Zenger, Capt. Hank	CSS

Volunteer Program

Adams, Isabel,	Intern
Barker, Lt. Col. Stephen (USA)	Intern
Brady, Leelyn	Intern
Carroll, Douglas III	Intern
Casey, Colin	Intern
Chambraud, Anna	Intern
Dame, Desirae,	Intern
Dilks, Haleigh,	Intern
Harrison, Dexter,	Visiting Practitioner
Hoshide, Warner	Intern
Inouye, Kaiya,	Intern
Ishiyama, Ian	Intern
Kania, Elsa	Visiting Scholar
Lary, Lt. Cmdr. Ros (USN)	Visiting Practitioner
Welsher, Lillian	Intern
Macchiavello, Pablo	Visiting Practitioner
Masson, Julie	Intern
McNeil, Connor	Intern
Mosila, Andreea	Intern
Paparo, Elizabeth	Intern
Ronsse, Jason	Intern
Scott, Jackson	Intern
Shen, Howard	Intern
Shimabukuro, Mari	Intern
Shinas, Col. Athanasia (USA)	Visiting Practitioner
Thomas, Harlow	Intern
Uyesugi, Alexis	Intern

A Tidal Shift in Security for Oceania *(continued from page 17)*

"We have a mixture of policy implementers and the technical and operational side of looking after our maritime sovereignty," said cohort member Mary Helikai Sharon Koeba, whose position as Senior Auditor with the Department of Transport, Maritime Security Division, has her overseeing the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, dealing with over 35 international ports across the country. "We were working ad-hoc operations, each agency in isolation, so we saw that if we gather together and do this as a team we can achieve the objectives for the country," she added.

While they represent only a third of the 24 departments that make up the fledgling NMSFC, these eight Fellows bring certain strengths and abilities from their respective agencies that help strengthen PNG maritime governance across all departments. These were brought under one roof to combat the ongoing issues of illegal fishing, drug smuggling, human trafficking, poaching of sea resources, and other international crimes.

To set the groundwork, the cohort developed three key lines of effort, including a concept paper, Inter-Agency Coordination Framework (MOUs with Relevant Stakeholders), and Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Clare Phillomena Kliawi, a Foreign Service Officer with the PNG Department of Foreign Affairs who currently deals with the Tourist Trade Treaty, a bilateral maritime border agreement between PNG and Australia, admits this is just the beginning.

"The initial thinking was to start off with this cohort, and then the next cohort would be from the other agencies to continue this particular project where we left off," she said. The concept would be to have all 24 PNG agencies take advantage of the Center's guidance and expertise by the end of 2025. "By then we would have an informed committee to ensure universal understanding and everyone on the same page," she added.

Comprehensive Security Courses conducted at DKI APCSS allow military leaders, governmental administrators, and other security professionals across the spectrum to gain broad overviews of the environment throughout the entire Indo-Pacific, the region of consequence for the 21st century, while also learning the perspectives of their counterparts worldwide.

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Baladad, partaking in his one-year fellowship at the Center, was a seminar leader for CSC 25-1 while also supporting the PNG cohort, a project he became involved with over a year ago while visiting the country and recognizing the need for collaboration. During the course, he took advantage of Oahu's multi-branched military operational centers to demonstrate to the Papuans what could be achieved with inter-agency cooperation, taking them on tours of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, INDOPACOM, and the USCG Sector Honolulu Command Center. All of which provided subject matter expertise and feedback on their Fellows Project.

"The importance of the Fellows Projects is that they can have a real security impact; they can be very strategic and important for a country," suggested Lt. Commander Baladad. He added, "The Papua New Guinea – U.S. Defense Cooperation Agreement (signed at Port Moresby on May 22, 2023) really set off a series of enhanced cooperation. That, within the context of the Comprehensive Security Cooperation course and the expansion of their Fellows Project, really lays the groundwork for coordination and collaboration between our two countries and ultimately to get after our shared interests."

Whole-of-Society Resilience Workshop - What Comes Next *(continued from page 24)*

"The work that I do is a pretty new area for DFAT. We are looking at how we can contribute to national preparedness and integrate with whole-of-government approaches," she said while on break between a panel on public engagement and psychological resilience, and another on education, training, and capacity building.

"In terms of broader challenges, particularly regional conflict or crisis that envelop many countries, we haven't thought about the scale of something like that in the way that we need to," she said. "It has been a welcomed surprise that the course is really focused on the interaction between participants — making sure that people have the time to talk to each other and learn from each other."

As the workshop concluded, Mullins bestowed the DKI APCSS golden lanyard to all those who attended, signifying their earned status as Alumni and joining a network that has grown to more than 16,000 worldwide.

"The golden lanyard is almost like a key that will get you in the door most anywhere around the world when you meet someone else who is part of that network. That becomes this tremendous resource that people can tap into," Mullins said after shaking many hands, posing for countless pictures and seeing the alumni off.

"Seeing the interactions and connections that form between people is incredible. What we are doing as a center is bringing together people who can make a difference. It's really about what comes next. It's about the outcomes."

As of January 2025

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Col. (Ret.), U.S. Army

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Prof. Michael C. Burgoyne - Taiwan, China, the Arctic, and Security Cooperation
Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd - Myanmar (Burma); Southeast Asia; Organizational Development, Innovation, & Leadership; Interagency Cooperation; Economic Security; and Adult Learning & Education
Cmdr. Liam A. Connel, U.S. Navy - National Security Law, Law of the Sea, Law of Armed Conflict
Dr. Lukas Filler - Cmdr. U.S. Navy (Ret.) China, Strategic Culture, AI/ML, Maritime Strategy & Security, Ethics in International Relations & War
Dr. John Hemmings - Japan, the US Alliance system in Asia (trilaterals/the quad), and Chinese tech policy
Prof. Neil K. Kaneshiro - Malign Influence, Transnational Crime, and Terrorism
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Dr. Sam Mullins - Counterterrorism; Hybrid Threats; Malign Influence
Dr. Al Oehlers - Southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, Antarctica, Economics, Demography, Space, Religion, Hybrid WarfareJ
Maj. Takashi Okamoto, U.S. Marine Corps - Southeast & Northeast Asia Security, Logistics Planning
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Prof. Shyam Tekwani - Terrorism, South Asia, Media & Security, India
Lt .Col. Sean Tucker, U.S. Air Force - Northeast Asia, Security Cooperation, Foreign Military Sales, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Operations
Maj. Matt Tweed, U.S. Marine Corps - Security Cooperation, Security Force Assistance, Disaster Response
Dr. Alexander Vuving - Evolution of Power Politics, Great Power Competition, Grand Strategy, Soft Power, China, Vietnam, South China Sea
Dr. Richard R. Vuylsteke - China's global policies and implementation, cross-strait relations (China & Taiwan), supply chain resilience and trade, organizational management and leadership
Dr. Virginia Bacay Watson -- Security and Technology, S.E. Asia, Future/Forecasting
Dr. William A. Wieninger - Weapons of Mass Destruction and Nuclear Deterrence, Energy Security, and Countering Terrorism
Capt. Erin Williams, U.S. Coast Guard - Marine Safety; Maritime Security; Maritime Governance; Oceania
Dr. Belinda A. Yeomans - U.S.-Japan Security Alliance, Northeast Asian Security Relations

* Denotes Service Fellow in a six-month or one year assignment

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