



Indo-Pacific VANTAGE POINT

Educating, Connecting, and Empowering US, Allies and Partners

DKI APCSS Monthly Newsletter | December 2025



A message from DKI APCSS Director Vares-Lum

As we close out a remarkable year celebrating DKI APCSS's 30th anniversary, we reflect on the challenges we've faced, including the Government shutdown, and the resilience of our team and community. In the new year, we are eager to refocus on our mission—building partnerships, fostering collaboration, and advancing security across the Indo-Pacific. Together, we will continue to make a lasting impact.

30th Anniversary Highlights



Alumni Workshop Strengthens Networks

DKI APCSS hosted 47 alumni from 22 countries Sept. 16-19 for its 30th Anniversary Alumni Workshop. Participants included 15 flag officers and ambassadors who discussed program enhancements and regional security challenges.

[Read more](#)



Commemorative Dinner Celebrates Three Decades

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi joined regional leaders Sept. 17 for the Center's 30th anniversary dinner. The evening featured the world premiere of a documentary showcasing DKI APCSS history and impact.

[Read more/Watch documentary](#)



DKI APCSS Engages at Galle Dialogue

In October 2025, Director Suzanne Vares-Lum spoke at the Galle Dialogue, a key forum on Indian Ocean security cooperation. She joined over 80 alumni at a special gathering, highlighting Sri Lanka's 421 APCSS alumni, including 186 flag officers and 23 ambassadors.

[Read more](#)

Courses

Readiness

107 Graduate from CSC

On Sept. 17, 2025, 107 Fellows from 37 locations completed the Comprehensive Security Cooperation course (CSC 25-3). The five-week program focused on building trust and addressing regional challenges, with concentrations in irregular warfare, China's influence, and deterrence strategies.

[Read more](#)

MARS Seminar Advances Defense Resilience

The Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS) continued with sessions in Australia and Japan, focusing on strengthening industrial base resilience and multilateral defense cooperation under the PIPIR initiative.

Inaugural JIPOC Concludes

The Inaugural JPME2 Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (JIPOC 25-1) wrapped up in December 2025. The 13-week program, developed with NDU and USINDOPACOM, enhanced U.S. security practitioners' expertise in the Indo-Pacific.

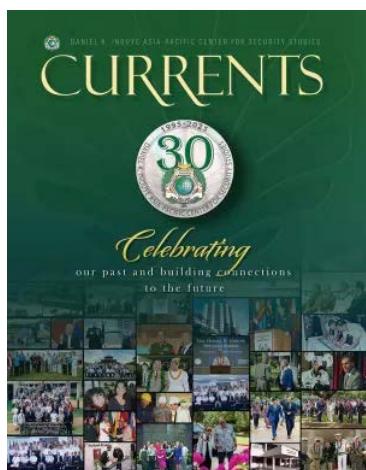
[Read more](#)

40 Fellows Join Transnational Security Course

On Dec. 7, 2025, DKI APCSS kicked off the latest Transnational Security Cooperation course with 40 Fellows from 24 locations worldwide. The program focuses on strengthening regional deterrence by connecting and empowering U.S., ally, and partner security practitioners to address complex challenges.

[Read More](#)

Publications



Currents Magazine - The latest Currents magazine has arrived! Join us in “celebrating our past and building connections to the future” as we honor three decades of partnership, collaboration, and shared commitment to strengthening a secure and resilient Indo-Pacific.

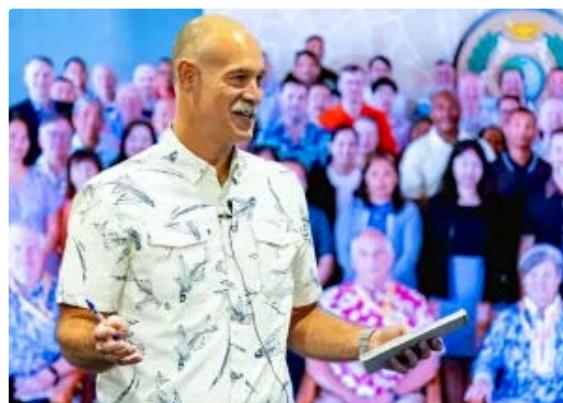
[Read it online](#)

- A. [Flight into the Dark: South Asia's Protest Republics: Why Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific Begins at Home](#)
- B. [Critical Minerals and Coercive Power in the Indo-Pacific](#)
- C. [Small States and the Geopolitical Chessboard in the Indo-Pacific](#)
- D. [Enhancing Decision-Making with AI: Start Human, End Human](#)

Key Leader Engagement



Gen. Schneider, Commander, PACAF



Acting Assistant Secretary of War for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Jedidiah P. Royal

- ASEAN Secretariat and Pacific Forum IVLP Group
- Rear Adm. Damian Fernando, Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Navy
- Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Council (MAC)
- Maj. Gen. Joel Carey, USINDOPACOM Chief of Staff
- Deputy Director General Benjamin Madrigal, Philippine National Security Council
- Capt. George Howell, Director, JIATF-West
- Korean National Defense University Fellows
- Deputy Chief of Mission Devon Brown, U.S. Embassy Tonga
- Brig. Gen. Richard Goodman, INDOPACOM J7
- Yale University CAPSTONE
- Brig. Gen. Denaro, USSPACEFOR-INDOPAC
- Richard Schmidt, New Zealand Deputy Secretary of Defense for Policy and Planning
- Antti Häkkinen, Finland's Minister of Defence
- David Santoro, Pacific Forum president
- Alexander Taylor-Fowles, First Secretary, Indo-Pacific Affairs, German Embassy in D.C.
- Rear Adm. Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos, Reserve Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

DKI APCSS Podcasts

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

STRATEGIC VOICES

DECEMBER 16, 2025 3:00PM (HST)

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

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

Hosted by

James Minnich | Lami Kim | Shyam Tekwani

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DANIEL K. INOUYE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

A new faculty-driven podcast aired on Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. (HST). Professors debated India's strategy and its path to great-power status.

[View the latest episode](#)

Upcoming Dialogue



Episode 52, "Forging Fleets: ROK-U.S. Shipbuilding Cooperation and Sino-U.S. Maritime Competition," airs Jan. 28, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. (HST).

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

[Dialogue Website](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Philippine Cohort



The recent CSC 25-3 course welcomed the largest-ever cohort of Fellows from the Philippines. These leaders conducted a national security policy assessment, leveraging DKI APCSS faculty expertise and diverse perspectives from across the Indo-Pacific.

[Read more and watch the video](#)



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