



One hundred nine Fellows from 34 locations attended the Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC 14-3) course Sept. 25 to Oct. 29.

Communicating across cultures

ASC 14-3 lays foundation for multinational problem solving

Cross-cultural communication and cooperation are vital to exploring effective strategies to meet transnational security challenges.

In the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies' Advanced Security Cooperation course, participants develop a shared understanding of critical socio-economic, military, political, and cultural issues impacting the region's evolving security environment.

"Most importantly," said course manager Professor Kerry Lynn Nankivell, "ASC moves participants to develop collaborative strategies to address regional challenges. These challenges can include everything from improving governance to preparing for and responding to natural disasters."

One hundred nine military and civilian professionals from 34 nations and territories attended the Sept. 25 to



Fozia Fayyaz, with Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adds her perspective following an ASC 14-3 plenary discussion.

Oct. 29 session (ASC 14-3).

Attendees included military and law enforcement officers, foreign service officials, government representatives, and non-governmental and media professionals. They learned important analytical, decision-making, and leadership skills that will help them solve problems that often cut across national boundaries.

ASC 14-3 Fellows attended 18 plenary sessions conducted by APCSS

faculty members and adjunct instructors. Key discussion topics included "Complexity and Cooperation" by Dr. Bill Wieninger and "Strategy Development for Complex Adaptive Systems" by Herman Finley.

These discussions laid the groundwork for a class exercise focused on a regional biological threat. They prepared Fellows to cooperate in assessing the threat and developing an adaptive response strategy.

"This exercise came early in the course because it requires Fellows to quickly learn to communicate cross-culturally while applying advance problem-solving methods," explained Nankivell. She

ASC-at-a-Glance (Since 1999)

- 46 Courses
- 3,329 Fellows
- 62 nations

“Participants came from various walks of life; this was very fruitful for us. It broadened our view (and) gave us an opportunity to understand the partners with whom we work.”

Brig. Gen. Jagadish Pokharel
Nepal Army Director of Public Relations

added, “It sparked critical thinking while building the cooperative skills so vital to success in the course and long after.”

Learning to communicate and cooperate despite nationalistic, linguistic and cultural differences is critical in a course with such a diverse student body. Fellows came from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Fiji, Hong Kong, and India. They also came from Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Additionally, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Marshall Islands, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, United States, and Vietnam also sent Fellows.

“Participants came from various walks of life; this was very fruitful for us,” said Brig. Gen. Jagadish Pokharel adding, “It broadened our view (and) gave us an opportunity to understand the partners with whom we work.” Pokharel is the Nepal Army’s director of public relations.

The ASC education experience culminated in formal Fellows Projects in which attendees identified opportunities to improve security cooperation. They developed practical solutions for their organizations and briefed their projects to course mentors. The assignment objective is for each Fellow to strive



(Top) ASC 14-3, like all ASC courses, was comprised of a highly diverse cohort of international Fellows. (Bottom) Capt. Long Jiang, China Maritime Safety Agency, comments on notes summarizing his seminar group’s take on one of several Asia-Pacific security issues.

to implement their recommendations upon returning to their workplaces.

Among ASC 14-3 projects is an effort by Ahmed Mujthaba, a member of the Maldives Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to build awareness on human trafficking and youth unemployment in his country.

Philippines Air Force Brig. Gen. Charito Plaza seeks to institutionalize cooperation between her nation’s government, private industry and military

reserve units in humanitarian assistance and disaster response situations.

Plaza expressed gratitude for the opportunity to take part in the Center’s world-changing curriculum.

“The APCSS and United States gave us a legacy of promoting freedom through education and empowerment. I would like to thank the U.S. government and APCSS for this experience and the amazing knowledge I learned in this course.”

APOC: Getting smart on the Asia-Pacific region

“My key takeaway from the course was the reality, importance, gravity... of the (U.S.) rebalance to the Asia-Pacific.”

Ronan Kaplan
Senior Policy Advisor
Australian Department of Defence

Since 2007, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies has reached out to more than 2,400 security practitioners via the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course. The course educates participants from multiple nations on factors impacting global stability and development.

“The intent is to provide Fellows a greater understanding of issues that drive the region’s complex relationships and challenges,” said course manager Cmdr. Alan Chace. “They leave the Center better equipped to engage internationally and make more informed decisions in their areas of operation.”

APOC is comprised of mid-level military officers and civilian equivalents serving in defense, government, humanitarian and other security-related fields. The five-day course is held three times yearly with mobile versions conducted in the U.S. mainland as needed.

Course 15-1

The Jan. 26 to 30 APOC was the



Maj. Eric Corder, U.S. Air National Guard, facilitates a seminar discussion during APOC 14-2 at APCSS.

Center’s largest course to date with 152 Fellows from eight locations attending.

The course featured 14 topical discussions, several of which addressed current issues and trends specific to major sub-regions, such as Northeast Asia and Oceania. Other discussions covered the high-profile transnational topics of cybersecurity, terrorism and climate change.

Addressing cybersecurity, Dr. Lora Saalman detailed the enormous economic and security impacts of attacks on government, private and commercial networks. She used the recent hacking of Sony systems to illustrate global communication vulnerabilities and how criminals and terrorists exploit them.

Rosalyn Leitch, a project manager with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, praised Saalman’s handling of a complex subject. “She covered a lot of information...a ton of terms...in a way that was digestible; it’s not easy to do that with cybersecurity. Leitch works to ensure physical and cybersecurity at the Department of Energy lab. The lecture, she added, gave her deeper insight into the recent Sony incident and military cyber issues.

Leitch and fellow attendees also had their choice of 14 electives. Among offered classes were “Disaster Risk Management and Cooperation;” “North Korea’s Evolving Strategy in the Face of Shrinking Options;” and



More than 140 people attended the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course (APOC 14-2) at APCSS Sept. 8 to 12.



(Top) One hundred fifty-two Fellows attended the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course (APOC 15-1) Jan. 26 to 30. (Bottom, left to right) Dr. Helene Goiran-Ponsard, New Caledonia French Armed Forces, offers input following one of 13 APOC 14-2 topical discussions. APCSS professor Dr. Saira Yamin facilitates one of several APOC seminars, which complement plenary sessions on critical regional topics. Satoshi Morimoto, former Japan defense minister, addressed U.S.-Japan relations as a keynote speaker during APOC 15-1.

“Public Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness.”

These electives, along with APOC’s seminars and lectures, facilitated knowledge growth while helping Fellows enhance their network of international and interagency contacts.

“The combination of classes APCSS put together is its greatest strength; it (provides) a whole-of-government perspective with a combination of professional and academic perspectives,” said Dr. Imes Chiu, chief of applied research at the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

Joining Chiu were Fellows from Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan.

Course 14-2

A total of 141 Fellows from nine locations completed the Sept. 8 to 12 iteration. Among 13 discussion topics were: “U.S. Foreign Policy and Diplo-

macy in the Asia-Pacific;” “Security Dynamics in South Asia;” and “Technologies without Borders.” Nineteen electives centered on issues such as the Jammu/Kashmir conflict; public health and disease threats; and disaster paradigms.

A key emphasis point during the Sept. 8 to 12 course was America’s declared “rebalance” to the Asia-Pacific region. Faculty articulated the United States’ more concentrated effort to engage with current and potential regional allies. Using the theme “Comprehensive Engagement,” faculty addressed the U.S. rebalance in terms of key regional actors, institutions, issues and engagement tools.

“The U.S. is identifying potentially new ways to adapt and transform its regional engagements in light of the area’s dynamic operating environment. Understanding the Asia-Pacific and its actors has never been more important

for security practitioners,” explained 14-2 course manager Dr. Virginia Watson.

Australian Fellow Ronan Kaplan said, “My key take away from the course was the reality, importance, gravity and breadth of the (U.S.) rebalance...It was useful to be able to see the multiple channels through which the U.S. government is engaging the region and encouraging security.”

Kaplan is a senior policy officer with the Australian Department of Defence.

Other Fellows hailed from Canada, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and United States.

APOC at-a-Glance (Since 2007)

- 25 Courses
- 2,464 Fellows
- 18 nations



(Left) TSC Fellows brief their proposal to deal with a transnational threat scenario. (Right) Twenty-eight international military and civilian security practitioners developed strategies for countering biological and cyber attacks during the Transnational Security Cooperation course.

In a news conference-like setting, six groups of senior multi-agency representatives briefed planned responses to a devastating Ebola outbreak and multiple damaging cyber attacks within Asia-Pacific nations.

These conceptual exercises, featuring 28 international military and civilian security practitioners, were a key element in the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Transnational Security Cooperation (TSC 14-2) course held Dec. 7 to 12. Fellows completed a course that promotes inter-agency collaboration in solving local, regional and even global security-related challenges.

TSC is a senior executive program designed for military officers at the general officer level and civilian equivalents in the security sector. Fellows include leaders in policing, emergency response, foreign relations, economic development and civil government.

“The program is designed to enhance Fellows’ analytical skills while building or expanding their network of contacts,” said APCSS course man-

TSC 14-2

Fellows tackle cyber attacks, viral outbreak as prep for transnational threat response

ager Dr. Mohan Malik, adding, “In essence, we build regional capability through development of critical thinking, communication and collaboration; all leveraged in combating real-world transnational threats.”

APCSS faculty accomplished this through a curriculum that included 12 discussion titles. Among them were: “Strategic Assessment & Planning;” “Shifting Geo-Politics;” and “Regional Security Architecture.” Discussions prepared attendees to more fully grasp the depth, diversity and regional nature of evolving security issues.

Fellows applied knowledge and skills in a three-phase exercise. Teams split into six panels with each first assessing a major viral outbreak or cyber attacks against key infrastructure; they analyzed impacts on critical entities, such as economic, public health and governance sectors.

In the planning phase, teams formed and documented response measures and potential solutions, which they articulated in the final recommendations stage. In each phase, teams briefed their findings to the entire class.

“This application exercise clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of a multilateral, multi-sectoral approach to problem solving; an approach that capitalizes on a diversity of ideas and capabilities,” said Malik.

Among the 28 TSC Fellows was Faustina Kumairii Rehuher-Marugg, chairperson of the Palau Resource Institute. She said she appreciated the course’s focus on ICT – information, communication and technology.

Rehuher-Marugg related that, because Palau is relatively remote, gaining connectivity with the world in terms of partnerships and communication is important to strengthening her nation’s security environment.

Joining Rehuher-Marugg were TSC Fellows from 25 other nations, to include Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua-New Guinea, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United States and Vietnam.

TSC at-a-Glance (Since 1999)

- 33 Courses
- 753 Fellows
- 44 nations / 2 int’l orgs

SEAPOC 14-2: Engaging senior leaders

Course strengthens Fellows' understanding of factors that drive regional security issues

The Senior Executive Asia-Pacific Orientation Course is comprised of upper-level leaders among military members and civilians serving in security-related positions, to include diplomatic or defense roles.

“SEAPOC’s (objective) is to strengthen participants’ knowledge of a highly interconnected, dynamic region,” said course manager Dr. Alex Vuving, an Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies professor. “We expect Fellows to gain insights into regional perspectives, strengthen their skills related to international collaboration and strategic communication, and explore opportunities for cooperation.”

Thirty-eight Fellows attended SEAPOC 14-2 at APCSS Oct. 7 to 9. The October iteration featured Fellows from the United States, Canada, Taiwan and South Korea. All took part in a mixture of plenary lectures and electives focused on major issues impacting the regional and global security environment.

Among SEAPOC’s six plenary discussion titles were “Socio-Economic Dynamics in the Asia-Pacific” and “Major Powers in an Emerging Asia.” Fellows chose from 17 elec-



(Counter clockwise) Senior military members and civilians gathered at APCSS Oct. 7 to 9 to gain deeper insight on the highly interconnected Asia-Pacific region. Chin-hsiang Yao, with Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shares his security perspectives with members of the Advanced Security Cooperation course. Su Peiris, U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency, was one of 38 SEAPOC 14-2 participants.

tives with titles, such as “Myanmar’s Transition;” “Japan’s Response to the Rise of China;” and “Water Security.”

Four seminar sessions enabled Fellows to clarify and build on discussion topics in an informal, highly interactive environment.

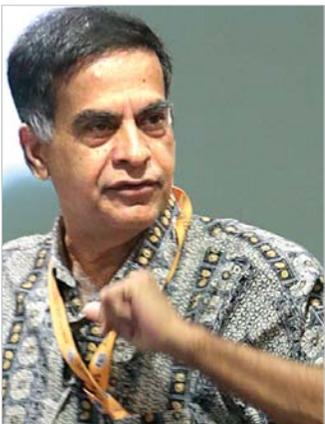
U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Cruz said he appreciated insight gained in electives on China, India and Myanmar. “It was valuable understanding the history, culture and relationships for each of these

countries that drive their policies and strategies.” Cruz is the senior enlisted advisor for Special Operations Command, Pacific.

On Day 3, participants teamed with Fellows attending the in-session Advanced Security Cooperation (14-3) course to discuss major regional powers, and their current and future policy impacts. The course’s senior-level Fellows exchanged security perspectives with 109 ASC Fellows from 34 nations and territories.

SEAPOC at-a-Glance (Since 2008)

- 8 Courses
- 180 Fellows
- 8 nations



(Top) CSRT 15-1 Fellows attend a lecture on countering violent extremism presented via teleconference by Dr. Farah Pandith, a former U.S. State Department representative to Muslim communities. (Bottom left to right) Shyam Tekwani served as APCSS' course manager for the Feb. 11 to Mar 13 CSRT. Noor Haryantie Noor Sidin, with Malaysia's National Security Council, leads a small group discussion on terrorism-related issues. Guest lecturer Dr. Christoph Guenther, a Middle East specialist, addresses the nature and objectives of ISIS.

Thinking about terrorism

CSRT class evaluates tactics, objectives associated with today's threats

Teams of international Fellows went head-to-head during four debates that marked the latest iteration of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies' course on terrorism held Feb. 11 to March 13.

The Comprehensive Security Responses to Ter-

rorism (CSRT 15-1) course brought 107 Fellows from 47 locations worldwide to this intense month-long program. CSRT provides security practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region and other select nations with skills needed to better understand and combat terrorism and associated

transnational threats.

Course learning typically occurs through faculty lectures, guest speaker presentations, real-world case studies, and tailored exercise scenarios. However, for the first time in its 20-year history, APCSS integrated a debate series to enhance the educa-

tion experience.

"The debate is a means of making and evaluating argu-

CSRT at-a-Glance (Since 2004)

- 19 Courses
- 1,221 Fellows
- 101 nations

ments that allows Fellows to better understand their own and others' positions," said APCSS' Shyam Tekwani, CSRT course manager. "The debate format focuses on relevant and often deeply emotional and divisive propositions, emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills and tolerance for differing viewpoints."

APCSS staff selected two multinational teams of three for each debate to face off on high-impact topics: "The Global War on Terror has Reduced Terrorism;" "No Publicity, No Terrorism;" "Poverty is the Root Cause of Terrorism?;" and "Terrorism is a War of Ideas."

Col. Abdul Wahab Mozaphari, senior case officer with Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, described the debate format as "very helpful and challenging," forcing him and other Fellows to carefully consider their own ideas as they defended or supported certain positions.

These exchanges supplemented plenary sessions and electives addressing issues often seen in today's headlines. Among the course's 18 plenary presentations was Dr. Christoph Guenther's "Obey



Ananda Khanal, director of Nepal Telecom Authority, defends his position on how media coverage impacts terrorist activities during one of four CSRT 15-1 debates. Other debate topics focused on poverty, ideology, and effectiveness of the war on terror.

"The debate format focuses on relevant and often deeply emotional and divisive propositions, emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills..."

Shyam Tekwani
APCSS professor

the Emerging Caliphate: Ideological Framework and Societal Model of ISIS." In this session, Guenther, a University of Leipzig research associate and a Middle East specialist, addressed the ideological underpinnings of the Islamic State and the societal model it proposes for Iraq, Syria and beyond.

Thirty-one elective offerings included "2015 and Beyond - Afghanistan's Role

in Central Asia After 13 Years of War." U.S. Army Lt. Col. Nathan Springer, APCSS faculty member, led discussion on key 2015 political and security-related events in Afghanistan and evolving security implications for Eurasia, Pakistan, India and Iran.

Fellows applied knowledge gained in team projects enabling them to assess a particular threat and formulate response strategies. While

doing so, they built partnerships that may enhance their ability to apply effective action against real-world local, regional and global threats.

"The course is designed to build relationships between and among the United States and current and future CbT (combating terrorism) practitioners," said Tekwani, adding, "Our objective is to build the trust and skills needed to elevate cooperation in the international collaborative effort against those who use terror."

CSRT 15-1 participants were from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, and China.

Participants also hailed from Chile, Colombia, Djibouti, Fiji Islands, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, and New Zealand. Others hailed from Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United States, and Vietnam.



One hundred seven Fellows from 47 locations took part in CSRT 15-1 at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.