



DANIEL K. INOUIYE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Director's Message



Aloha,

As we reflect on an amazing 2025 and look toward an exciting New Year, 2026, we are very grateful and excited for the opportunity to reinvigorate our longstanding relationships within our alumni network. We are so very thankful to each member of our

loyal and committed alumni community. No other institution has such a wonderful alumni network, one that remains connected by such a powerful and endearing shared experience, and the esteemed mission of working together to solve today's challenging security issues. We are incredibly proud of our alumni who are working on specific projects that build capacity or enhance cooperation and security, and we are appreciative of the senior alumni representatives who have volunteered to mentor these emerging leaders with their noble ventures. As we enter the holiday season-- a special time to share with friends and family--we acknowledge our alumni as cherished members of our "ohana," and we look forward to reengaging you soon.

Suzy P. Vares-Lum
Director



Recent Events:

DKI APCSS Honors 30 years of Indo-Pacific Partnerships and Celebrates 30 years Advancing Security in the Indo-Pacific

DKI APCSS celebrated 30 years of strengthening regional deterrence through educating, connecting, and empowering U.S., ally, and partner security practitioners on September 4, 2025! We



collaboration across the Indo-Pacific. Among the evening's honored guests was Hawaii Governor Josh Green, who praised the Center's role in fostering peace and security

hosted a celebratory dinner at the Center, bringing together regional leaders, alumni, foundation members and distinguished guests to honor decades of partnership and



Hawaii Governor Josh Green, Director Vares-Lum & Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi

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Recent Events - continued

through education and dialogue. The dinner marked a milestone in DKI APCSS's ongoing efforts to connect security practitioners from across the region. Faculty, alumni, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense, Pacific Command, and international partner nations gathered to reflect on shared accomplishments and future goals. The evening featured cultural performances, a showcase of alumni achievements, and a tribute to the Center's 30-year

legacy. As DKI APCSS looks ahead to its upcoming courses and workshops, and to welcoming future Fellow Project cohorts, the event served as a moment of reflection and renewal—affirming its continuing role as a hub for collaboration and multilateral engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

Below: Admiral Paparo, DKI APCSS Vares-Lum, Lenore Patton & DKI APCSS Foundation President Gerald Sumida.



Above: Hawaii Governor Josh Green.



Above: Director of the DKI Institute, Jennifer Sabas and Director DKI APCSS Vares-Lum.



Above: DKI APCSS Foundation President Gerald Sumida. Below: First Executive Director of DKI APCSS Col (Ret) Jimmy Lackey.



Above: Mrs. Stackpole and First Executive Director of DKI APCSS Col (Ret) Jimmy Lackey.



Above: Hawaii Governor Josh Green.



Above: Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi

Recent Events - *continued*

Our **30th Anniversary Workshop** convened senior and junior alumni alongside several U.S. Embassy stakeholders to identify concrete actions to enhance our educational model, strengthen our alumni networks both in region and with USINDOPACOM and the broader U.S. Government, identify key security issues we will face in the coming four years and identify ways an enhanced alumni network can help address these security issues, and enhance partner-nation strength to resist malicious coercion and influence in the Indo-Pacific. The workshop featured 47 alumni and U.S. Embassy stakeholders from 20 locations. [Read more!](#)



CSC 25-3

While celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies hosted the Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course 25-3, including 113 security practitioners from 37 locations around the globe. This course fosters professional and personal relationships while providing in-depth study on key regional challenges. This iteration of the course

offered three concentrations:

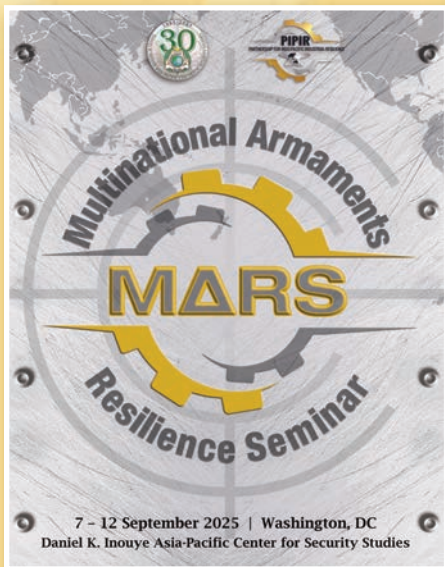
Irregular Warfare, Navigating China's Influence, and Deterrence with Allies and Partners. Director Vares-Lum stated, "This course directly supports Department of War priorities by strengthening deterrence, deepening alliances and partnerships, and fostering solutions across the Indo-Pacific. Our Fellows leave here with the shared understanding and trusted relationships needed to tackle complex security challenges together."

[Read more!](#)



Educating, Connecting and Empowering

Recent Events - *continued*



MARS
DKI APCSS kicked-off the first Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS) in the Washington, D.C., area from September 8–12, 2025. The seminar brought together government, military and industry experts to

strengthen industrial base resilience and integration. Conducted in four one-week sessions across the Indo-Pacific over five months, the same cohort will meet with leaders to assess challenges and present solutions to enhance bilateral and multilateral defense industrial cooperation. MARS supports OSW's Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) initiative.



Joint Professional Military Education (JPME)

In partnership with the Joint Forces Staff College, DKI APCSS hosted the U.S. National Defense University's JPME-II in September 2025. Following the standard 10-week NDU program, Fellows joined a new two-week JPME-II Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (JIPOC) presented by DKI APCSS faculty and granting Fellows DKI APCSS alumni status. For U.S. Army Fellows, completion of JIPOC can contribute to attainment of the P2E (Advanced Indo-Pacific Experience) Personnel Development Skill Identifier (PDSI).

Alumni Engagement:

DKI APCSS Director Suzanne P. Vares-Lum recently completed a trip to South Asia where she participated in the Galle Dialogue. Additionally, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Sri Lanka, she co-hosted an alumni event in Colombo where the U.S. Charge de Affaires offered her residence for the festivities. The alumni event featured over 60 Sri Lankan DKI APCSS alumni including the Secretary of Defense, **Air Vice Marshal (Ret) Sampath Thuyacontha CSRT 14-1**, and former Chief of Defense, **Air Chief Marshal (Ret) Kolitha Gunatilleke EC 04-2**. The gathering strengthened U.S.-Sri Lanka relations and supported interagency



Sri Lanka DKI APCSS Alumni Event

Alumni Engagement - *continued*

collaboration and networking in Colombo. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to its success.

In Maldives, the DKI APCSS Dean of Admissions and Business operations Wade Turvold and Professor Andrea Malji conducted official visits with senior Maldivian military and civilian government officials. In partnership with the U.S. Ambassador to Maldives, Hugo Yon, DKI APCSS hosted an alumni event to strengthen networking relations within the alumni group, especially in terms of preparing new Fellows for their upcoming DKI APCSS experience and mentoring returning alumni with their Fellows projects.



Alumni Difference Makers:



**Sri Lanka Air Force
Wing Commander
Ramedha
Jayawardhana
(CSC 24-1)**

We are pleased to highlight the successful completion of a Fellow Project by Wing Commander Ramedha

Jayawardhana of Sri Lanka.

Motivated by Sri Lanka's post-conflict need to strengthen civil-military relations and address persistent gaps in school infrastructure, Wing Commander Jayawardhana designed a project with dual impact. During his service in Katukurunda, he observed under-resourced schools struggling with

basic facilities. His response was a community-focused initiative to renovate classrooms, repair essential infrastructure, and support underprivileged schools in the Kalutara area.

The project not only improved the learning environment for students but also helped build trust, goodwill, and collaboration between the Sri Lanka Air Force and the surrounding community. The final phase of the project was completed and handed over on July 30, 2025. Director Vares-Lum recently delivered Wing Commander Jayawardhana's Laulima lanyard and certificate in person at the September Sri Lanka alumni event in Colombo.

Sri Lanka continues to punch above its weight in delivering high-impact Fellow Projects, and this effort stands as a strong example of how committed leaders can advance stability, strengthen relationships, and create long-term opportunities for local communities.



Educating, Connecting and Empowering

Alumni Difference Makers - *continued*



Kartini

Dr. Indriana Kartini (Indonesia CSC 25-2)

We are proud to highlight the latest Laulima lanyard recipient for the completion of her Fellow Project, Dr. Indriana Kartini of Indonesia (Research Center for Politics, BRIN).

Dr. Kartini recently published a peer-review article in the *Journal of Borderland Studies* that examined Indonesia's evolving approach to the South China Sea. The project addressed the need for greater prudence in shaping Indonesia's foreign policy decisions.

The article is entitled "China–Indonesia Joint Statement Controversy: A New Chapter for the South China Sea?" It was co-authored with Sandy Nur Ikfal Raharjo and is available here:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2025.2504882>

Her analysis highlights how Indonesia's shift from a multilateral to more bilateral engagement could impact ASEAN's dispute-management mechanisms and the broader region.



Indonesia plays a key role within DKI APCSS's regional network, and Dr. Kartini's timely work reflects the depth and value of that partnership.



Junjuajarn

Colonel Dr. Tammasarit Junjuajarn (Thailand CSC 25-1)

We are proud to spotlight another Laulima lanyard recipient from Thailand, Colonel Dr. Tammasarit Junjuajarn.

Col. Junjuajarn recently completed his Fellow Project, "*Enhancing Efficiency of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Cyber Security System.*" He worked to strengthen RTARF's ability to monitor, analyze, and respond to cyber threats. Over four phases, he established the RTARF Cyber Security Monitoring Center (CSMC) a centralized hub that will link RTARF units while being staffed by certified cyber security officers. As part of this effort, he conducted cyber security personnel courses to ensure the force is trained, ready, and able to support the CSMC's mission.

Thailand plays a vital role within DKI APCSS, and our Thai alumni consistently demonstrate professionalism, commitment, and leadership. Col. Dr. Tammasarit's work reflects the value of that close and enduring partnership.



Upcoming Events:

Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS)

(MARS 25-4) January 11-17, 2026 Honolulu, Hawaii

Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC)

(IPOC 26-1) January 26 - 30, 2026 (Honolulu)

Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (MIPOC)

(MIPOC 26-2) April 6 – 10, 2026 (Washington D.C.)

Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course (CSC 26-2) - May 06 – June 10, 2026

Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course (CSC 26-3) - August 12 – September 16, 2026

Alumni Updates:

If you would like to update your rank, position or contact information, or if you have a question, need library assistance or would like to provide feedback, please click [here](#).



Nair

Srikuma Madhavan Nair (Malaysia), CSRT 07-1, was appointed **Deputy Director of Internal Security and Public Order, Royal Malaysia Police**.



Naqvi

Air Commodore (Ret) Syed Ali Shahzad Abbas Naqvi (Pakistan), EC 07-2 is **Deputy Director General, National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP)**.



Hu

Major General (Ret) Juichou Richard Hu (Taiwan), TSC 09-1, is **Deputy Director Taiwan Center for Security Studies**.



Dissannayake

Ambassador Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissannayake (Sri Lanka), CSRT 10-1, was appointed **Additional Secretary Ocean Affairs**.



Ganley

Captain Vanessa Ganley (Australia), APOC 10-3, is **Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Intelligence Professionalisation**.



Tor

Major General Rodolfo Tor (Philippines), EC 04-3, is **Deputy Director General National Intelligence Coordinating Agency**.



Ranatunga

Mr. R.A.D.S. Ranatunga (Sri Lanka), EC 05-1, was appointed **Additional Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries**.



Suzuki

Hironori Suzuki (Japan), EC 05-2, is **Director of the Second Africa Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.



Folena

Major (Ret) Stephen Folena (U.S.), JEC 06-1, is working as **Assistant Liaison Officer, Defense Threat Reduction Agency**.

Alumni Updates - *continued*



Louis

Stanley Louis (U.S.), APOC 11-1, retired from government service.



Koswattage

Prageeth Tharaka Koswattage (Sri Lanka), CSRT 14-1, was promoted to commander.



Knight

Lieutenant Colonel David L. Knight (U.S.), APOC 11-1, retired from the military.



Kattil

Anjanette Kattil (RMI), ASC 14-2 and TSC 21-3, was appointed RMI Ambassador to China.



Blackman

Ky Blackman (Australia), ASC 12-1 and CCM 13-1, is First Assistant Secretary, People, Policy, and Development Department of Defence.



Pierpoint

Nathan Pierpoint (Australia), IPOC 15-1, was promoted to colonel and appointed Deputy Commandant Land Combat College.



Shija

Deputy High Commissioner Peter Kibuda Shija (Tanzania), ASC 13-1, is working with the Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the United Nations.



Bowatte

Rear Admiral Willora Mudiyanseelage Anil Bowatte (Sri Lanka), ASC 16-1, retired from military service.



Kodituwakku

Major General Tissley Jagath Kodituwakku (Sri Lanka), CCM 13-1, retired from military service.



Perera

Kolamba Arachchige Shashikala Perera (Sri Lanka), ASC 16-2, was promoted to colonel and appointed as Staff Officer-01, Directorate of Engineer Services.



Ahmed

Masud Ahmed (Bangladesh), CSRT 13-1, is Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police.



Haider

Ayub Haider (Pakistan), ASC 17-1, was promoted to brigadier general.



Hunter

Lieutenant Colonel Terry Hunter (U.S.), APOC 13-2, retired from the military.



Turner

Aaron Turner (U.S.), APOC 17-1 and CSC 25-2, is a U.S. Army War College Fellow, Princeton University.

Alumni Updates - *continued*



Sapkota

Rajan Sharma Sapkota (Nepal), ASC 17-2, was appointed **Deputy Investigation Director National Investigation Department.**



Udugama

Rear Admiral Thushara Udugama (Sri Lanka), CCM 19-1, retired from military service.



Cabrera

Colonel Gustavo Cabrera (Colombia), ASC 17-2, retired from military service.



Nadeak

Benny Nadeak (Indonesia), CMSC 19-1, was promoted to **Rear Admiral** and appointed **Special Staff, National Defense University College of International Security Affairs.**



Khan

Shehzi Khan (U.S.), APOC 17-3, is **Director, Joint Interagency Coordination Group.**



Poghen

Nicholas Poghen (U.S.), APOC 19-2, is a **Safety and Security Consultant (Forensic Investigation).**



Hang

Ms. Dao Thi Nguyet Hang (Vietnam), ASC 18-1, is **Deputy Director General, International Relations Department.**



Hamilton

Torrey Hamilton (U.S.), IPOC 21-1, was promoted to **lieutenant colonel.**



Wijayanayake

Shehan Chaminda Wijayanayake (Sri Lanka), ASC 18-2, was promoted to **air vice marshal** and appointed as **Director of National Authority** for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



Lam

Commander Matthew Lam (U.S.), IPOC 21-2, is working in the **U.S. Coast Guard Office of Strategic Foresight and Emerging Policy.**



Wijayanayake

Hewa Malawige Ajantha Priyadarshini Wijayanayake (Sri Lanka), ASC 18-2, was promoted to **group captain.**



Dausses

Markus Dean Dausses (U.S.) IPOC 21-2, retired from **U.S. AID.**



Araki

Junko Araki (Japan), ASC 18-2, was promoted to **colonel.**



Jones

Colonel Mark Jones (U.S.), IPOC 21-2, retired from the **U.S. Air Force.**

Alumni Updates - *continued*



Smith

Greg Smith (Canada) TSC 21-3, was promoted to lieutenant general and appointed **Canada's Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** in Brussels, Belgium.



Tu

Chen-Yi Tu (Taiwan), CSC 23-1, published a book chapter titled "Issues and Challenges in Taiwan's Communication Resiliency" in the book "The Coming Collision of Commercial and Military Space."



Sumedha

Basnayake Nilamelage Sumedha (Sri Lanka), CSC 22-1, was promoted to brigadier general and selected as an **Infantry Brigade Commander**.



Samarakoon

Commodore Hetti Mudiyanse Upe Upe (Sri Lanka), CSC 23-1, retired from military service.



Owen

Rebecca Owen (U.S.), IPOC 22-2, is working as **Senior Advisor, Management, Strategy and Solutions, U.S. State Department**.



Jayarathne

Bombuwala Dissawage Thusitha Dammika Jayarathne (Sri Lanka), CSC 23-1, was promoted to brigadier and appointed as **Brigade Commander of 122 Infantry Brigade**.



De Silva

Kaminda Hashantha De Silva (Sri Lanka), CSC 22-2, was promoted to brigadier general.



Karunarathne

Udesh Nalaka Galappaththi Karunarathne (Sri Lanka), CSC 23-2, was promoted to colonel.



Alam

Mohammad Rafiqul Alam (Bangladesh), CSC 22-3, is **Consul General Bangladesh, Milan, Italy**.



Crouch

Lieutenant Colonel Lucas Crouch (U.S.), CSC 23-3, is **Commander, Stars and Stripes Pacific, Tokyo, Japan**.



Donnelly

Camden Donnelly (U.S.), CSC 22-3, was promoted to lieutenant colonel and is working as an **Adjunct Professor, Department of Joint Warfighting, Air Command & Staff College**.



Talstein

Todd Talstein (U.S.), IPOC 23-3, was promoted to commander and selected as **Director of Training Support** at a Nuclear Power Training Unit.



Taoka

Rupeni Taoka (Fiji), CSC 23-2, is **Acting Superintendent of Police**.



Nanayakkara

Bharatha Nanayakkara (Sri Lanka), CSC 24-1, was promoted to brigadier general.

Alumni Updates - *continued*



Wongjinda

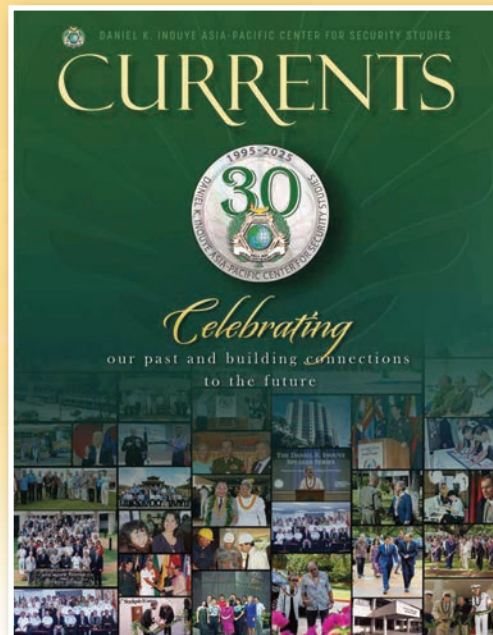
Senior Colonel Thanita Wongjinda (Thailand), CSC 24-1, is working as a Training Expert.



Niriellage

Rasika Lasantha Gunasena Niriellage (Sri Lanka), CSC 24-1, was promoted to brigadier general.

Media and 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 at <https://dkiapcss.edu/college/publications/currents/>

Click on the links to learn more about recent faculty publications:

[Edge of Competition: Disruption, Division, and Competition in the Indo-Pacific](#)

[DKI APCSS Indo-Pacific Vantage Point](#)

[Flight into the Dark: South Asia’s Protest Republics by Shyam Tekwani](#)

[Iran’s Terrorism and Insurgency in the Indo-Pacific: Implications for the U.S. and its Partners
by Lumpy Lumbaca](#)

[The Cage of Equidistance by Shyam Tekwani](#)

[Adaptive Power Helps the U.S. Defense Industrial Base Become a Tool of Deterrence by Deon Canyon](#)

Read more Security Nexus Articles!



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Security Dialogue Webinar Series:

Watch the Webinar Series online at our website or YouTube page!

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025	TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025
1500-1600 HONOLULU	0600-0700 MALÉ
1800-1900 US WEST COAST	0900-1000 TAIWAN/MANILA
2100-2200 US EAST COAST	1000-1100 SEOUL/TOKYO
	1300-1400 SUVA

Dialogue #49 | **Small State, Big Stakes**
A Dialogue with Dr. Andrea Malji

Dialogue #50 | **ROK-U.S. Alliance: The Near Future**
A Dialogue with Dr. Clint Work

Dialogue #51 | **North Korea's Wartime Windfall**
A Dialogue with Dr. Victor Cha

Introducing our new podcast:

Episode 1 | **India's Grand Vision — Can Strategy Match Ambition?**
Airing December. 16, 2025, at 3 p.m. HST

Don't forget to follow us online:



If you would like to join our private DKI APCSS Alumni group on Facebook, please use the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/497668654470435>

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