



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

February 2026

## Director's Message



*Aloha,*

Reflecting on the past 30 years of DKI APCSS history and celebrating the accomplishments of the Center and our incredible alumni, I want to share our direction for the years to come.

We reaffirm our commitment to advance Peace through Strength, developing

practical solutions to the Indo-Pacific's most important security challenges by educating, connecting, and empowering regional security practitioners. Amid these challenges, our role as a trusted and reliable platform for dialogue, education, and collaboration is more crucial than ever. By fostering resilient alumni networks, empowering solutions, and advancing shared understanding, we will continue serving a pivotal role in promoting regional stability and security. Together with our allies, partners, and dedicated alumni 'ohana,' we will navigate the complexities of the Indo-Pacific security environment, ensuring our efforts contribute to a stable, secure, and prosperous future.

Suzy P. Vares-Lum  
Director



## Recent Events:

### Transnational Security Cooperation Course 25-2



In early December, the final Transnational Security Cooperation course (TSC 25-2) of 2025 was held at DKI APCSS, attracting 40 senior security practitioners from 24 countries and reuniting eight

alumni with the Center. The course was an intensive, six-day program for



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## Recent Events - continued

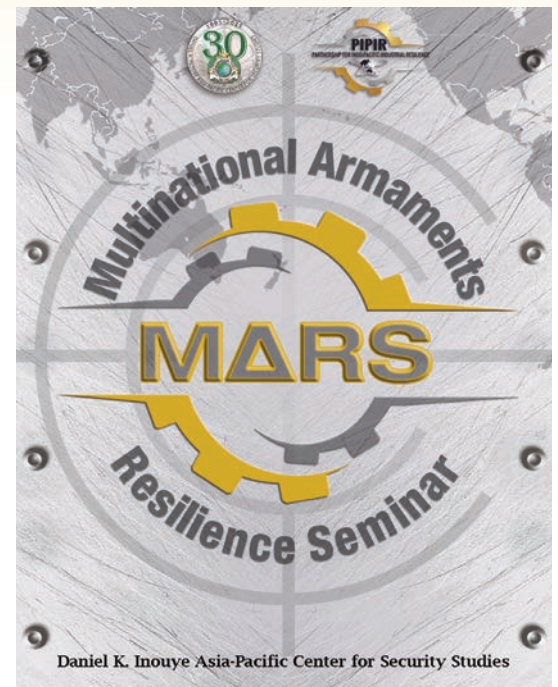


current leaders, both civilian and military, on the upward track for positions of significant national and

international responsibility. [Read more.](#)

## MARS

In January 2026 DKI APCSS completed the inaugural Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar (MARS) program intended to foster a more resilient and integrated defense industrial base throughout the Indo-Pacific. This program is an integral component of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR), a 14-nation platform committed to improving defense collaboration. The MARS initiative has achieved success in strengthening alliances and partnerships by furthering resilience in the industrial base. [Read more.](#)



## Recent Events - *continued*



### **Joint Professional Military Education (JPME2)**

DKI APCSS successfully supported the National Defense University, JPME2 satellite course at DKI APCSS during October thru December 2026. Immediately following completion of the JPME2 course, DKI APCSS executed a two week Joint Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (JIPOC 25-1). This landmark effort, a collaboration between DKI APCSS, the National Defense University (NDU), and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), enhanced the capabilities of U.S. security practitioners focused on the Indo-Pacific region.

[Read more.](#)



*Educating, Connecting and Empowering*

## Recent Events - *continued*



### Indo-Pacific Orientation Course IPOC 26-1

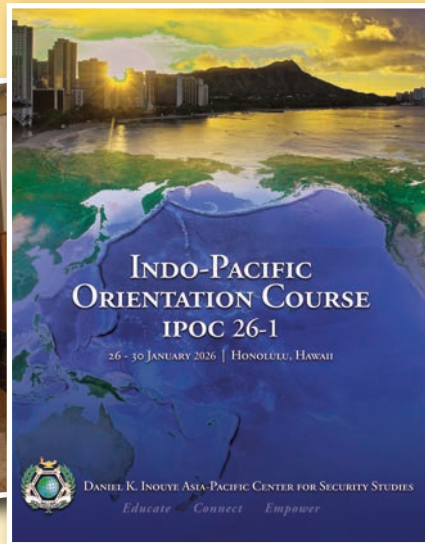
In January 2026, DKI APCSS hosted the first Indo-Pacific Orientation Course of the year, IPOC 26-1. The course

executive education experience for security practitioners committed to strengthening deterrence, resilience



welcomed 144 Fellows who participated in an intensive

and regional cooperation. [Read more.](#)



### Regional Ambassadors' Conference

In January 2026 DKI APCSS hosted a Department of State pre-meeting in preparation for the USINDOPACOM Regional Ambassadors' Conference in Honolulu. We thoroughly enjoyed leveraging this wonderful opportunity to engage the senior-most U.S. representatives to many of the countries in the Indo-Pacific region. These senior U.S. diplomats were also able to benefit from learning more about the Center and how they might be better able to leverage the alumni networks and regional workshops.



## Alumni Engagement

DKI APCSS hosted General Romeo Brawner (Philippines, ASC 14-2), as part of our distinguished speaker series. As the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Brawner spoke about the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Philippines. He also emphasized

how the Philippines is building its own capacities to become an even better partner to the U.S. and its other allies in facing the challenges posed by common threats to peace and security in the region. Watch General Brawner's testimonial [here](#).



### Nepal:

Director  
Suzanne

Vares-Lum accompanied Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, to Kathmandu, Nepal where they engaged senior Nepali leaders and U.S. Embassy partners to deepen dialogue on shared security priorities. The visit underscored the impact of Nepal's DKI APCSS alumni at the highest levels of leadership, including engagement with alumni

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bala Nanda Sharma, Nepal's Foreign Minister, who is a graduate of the 2010 Security Sector Development workshop and Lt. Gen. Pradeep Jung, Vice Chief of the Nepali Army, a graduate of the Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism (CSRT 08-3) course. The delegation also met with General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Nepal's Chief of Defense, who reaffirmed Nepal's strong connection to DKI



Nepal Alumni Group

APCSS and supported continued cooperation. A highlight of the visit was an alumni networking event with nearly 100 distinguished DKI APCSS alumni in attendance. Chargé d'affaires Scott Urbom and Admiral Paparo addressed the group, reinforcing the value of trusted relationships built through education and partnership, and several alumni



Above Left to right: ADM Paparo joins Nepal alumni security discussion; Director Vares-Lum addresses Nepal alumni; Director Vares-Lum meets with alumnus Minister, Foreign Affairs Lt Gen (Ret) Bala Nanda Sharma

*Educating, Connecting and Empowering*

## Alumni Engagement - *continued*

presented their scholarly views on issues such as cyber and environmental security. The Director also met with a small group of distinguished alumni for a

roundtable meeting to solicit views on mentoring Fellow Projects and common regional security issues. Read more [here](#).



**India:** Alongside Admiral Paparo, Director Vares-Lum met key government and non-government officials in India including

representatives of the Indian Integrated Defense Staff, members of the America Chamber of Commerce India and the U.S. Embassy team in India. Engaging with U.S. defense industry leaders in New Delhi helped develop foundations for potential enhancements of our next phase of the MARS program.

Director Vares-Lum also led a security roundtable discussion with nearly twenty of our distinguished Indian alumni, including former air chief marshals, generals, admirals, ambassadors, and current security practitioners. In addition to discussing some of the most pressing security issues, the group also shared highlights of their DKI APCSS experience, deliberated the benefits of the Fellow Project mentorship program, and offered recommendations for strengthening the India-U.S. relations and the DKI APCSS alumni networks.

The alumni engagement culminated in an alumni event with the broader base of the alumni group, including nearly 50 alumni, highlighted by Admiral Paparo's remarks and question-and-answer session with the alumni.



India distinguished alumni roundtable



India-DKI APCSS alumni event



Admiral Paparo addresses the India-DKI APCSS alumni group



India distinguished alumni roundtable

## Alumni Engagement - *continued*



**Philippines:** Dr. Lori Forman, Senior Professor for Engagement and Partnerships, led a team of staff and faculty to Manila where they facilitated a workshop co-hosted by the Philippines National Security Council and the Philippine Public Safety College. Many of our Philippine alumni served as participants and panelists in the workshop. The security practitioner participants discussed a handful of prospective security scenarios that are likely to affect the Philippines and regional security over the next few years. Participants unanimously agreed that this pilot should become an annual event in the Philippines and expanded to our alumni communities in other countries.

Additionally, Dr. Andrea Malji conducted a roundtable discussion with distinguished Philippine alumni and emerging leaders who recently completed APCSS programs. Delving into the Fellow Project program, they discussed project processes and roles of mentors and mentees as well as immediate opportunities for pairing distinguished advisors with our latest alumni.



Philippines Coast Guard



DKI APCSS team meets with Philippines Coast Guard



DKI APCSS team meets with the Philippines Coast Guard



Dr. Lori Forman meets with Commodore Glenda Pereyra



Dr. Lori Forman visits Philippines Coast Guard

## Alumni Making a Difference

### Philippines National Security Policy Assessment Cohort CSC 25-3

A cohort of 11 Filipinos attended the Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course 25-3. As a team, they successfully worked together, not only among their fellow countrymen and women, but with officials from 36 other countries, to assess their nation's national security policy and the country's approach to government and international relations.

[Read more.](#)



Philippines National Security Policy Assessment Cohort CSC 25-3



Tiwow

### Colonel Jimmy Tiwow (Indonesia), CSC 25-3

We are proud to recognize Col. Tiwow for successfully completing his Fellow Project, "Establishing Strategic Partnership between the Indonesia Defense University and the Indonesia Air Force."



Rahman

### Commodore Mia Naim Rahman (Bangladesh) CSC 25-1

We are proud to highlight Commodore Rahman's accomplishment as he completed his project of "Leveraging Space Domain Awareness for Bangladesh: Cause and Effect."



Budiman

### Lieutenant Colonel Dwi Budiman (Indonesia), CSC 25-3

We are delighted to announce that Lt. Col. Budiman has earned the Laulima Lanyard by completing his Fellow Project, "Enhancing Cybersecurity Awareness for Airman."



Ona

### Dr. Sherwin Ona (Philippines), CSC 25-1

We are honored to recognize Dr. Ona for his outstanding achievement, completing his Fellow Project by developing an "Executive Cyber Certificate Course for Philippines Public Safety College."

## Alumni Difference Makers - *continued*



Bhusal

**Dr. Bishma Bhusal (Nepal), CCM17-1**, is drafting the ‘Good Governance Blueprint’ for the nation. Congratulations on this critical effort!



Daulay

**Major Okky Freeza Daulay (Indonesia) CSC 25-1**

We are pleased to applaud Major Daulay on his outstanding performance in completing his Fellow Project, “Indonesian Air Force’s Space Science and Technology Knowledge.”



Jalbout

**Colonel Ziad Jalbout (Lebanon), CCM 20-1**, completed his Fellow Project by creating a handbook on the protection of cultural property. The handbook has been published and distributed throughout the military forces for training purposes.

Congratulations Col. Jalbout!



Panjeti

**Commander Sainath Panjeti (U.S.), CSC 25-2**

We are proud to spotlight another Laulima lanyard recipient from the United States, Commander Sainath Panjeti. Panjeti successfully completed his Fellow Project, “Navigating the Divide: Analyzing Indonesia’s

Interpretation of UNCLOS and Upholding Freedom of the Seas and Overflight.”



Timur

**Dr. Fauzia Gustarina Timur (Indonesia), CSC 25-3**

We are proud to highlight the latest Laulima lanyard recipient for the completion of her Fellow Project. Fauzia is hereby recognized for her outstanding contribution to security resilience.

Her project is entitled, “The Thinking Battlefield: Advancing Education to Achieve Resilience in Hybrid Warfare.”

### Upcoming Events:

**Mobile Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (MIPOC) (MIPOC 26-2) April 6 – 10, 2026 (Washington D.C.)**

**Multinational Armaments Resilience Seminar MARS (MARS 26-1) May 3 – May 9, 2026 (Washington D.C.)**

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

**Indo-Pacific Senior Enlisted Leaders Subject Matter Expert Exchange (IPSEL SMEE) June 22 – 26, 2026 (Brunei)**

**Transnational Security Cooperation Course (TSC 26-1) July 12 – 17, 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](#).



Fakafanua-Paunga

**Mrs. Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga (Tonga), EC 02-1**, was appointed **Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Internal Affairs**.



Paudyal

**Ambassador Bharat Raj Paudyal (Nepal), EC 03-1**, is serving as Nepal's **Ambassador to Canada**.



Arora

**Ambassador Sanjiv Arora (India), EC 05-1**, retired as the **Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs** for the government of India.



Shah

**Ambassador Syed Moazzam Shah (Pakistan) EC 05-2**, discussed building bridges of friendship between Pakistan and Korea in an interview located [here](#).



Sharma

**Lieutenant General (Ret.) Bala Nanda Sharma (Nepal), SSD 10-1**, was appointed **Minister of Foreign Affairs**.



Napitupulu

**Mr. Anngiat Napitupulu (Indonesia), CCM 10-1**, was appointed **Adviser to the Minister on Inter-Institutional Relations**.



Kumar

**Aditya Kumar (Indonesia), ASC 10-2 and CSRT 19-1**, was promoted to **rear admiral**.



Sharma

**Shanker Sharma (India), ASC14-1**, was promoted to **air vice marshal**.



Trianohandoko

**Ms. Wiwiek Trianohandoko (Indonesia), CCM 14-1**, is working as **Senior Advisor, Supreme Court of Indonesia**.



Mishra

**Alok Mishra (Nepal), ASC 14-2**, is working as **Director, System Certification**, Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology.



Chataut

**Ms. Aarti Chataut (Nepal), CSRT 15-1**, was promoted as **Deputy General Manager Nepal Television**.



Jatmiko

**Bagus Jatmiko (Indonesia), CCM16-1**, was promoted to **captain**.



Bhusal

**Bhisma Bhusal (Nepal), CCM 17-1**, was promoted to **joint secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister**.

## Alumni Updates - *continued*



Paruntu

**Febri Paruntu (Indonesia), ASC 18-1,** was promoted to rear admiral.



Fabe

**Amparo Fabe (Philippines), IPOC 21-2, and CSC 24-1,** was appointed **Maritime Security Fellow of the Maritime Research Center.**



Adhikara

**Major General Prem Dhoj Adhikari (Nepal), CCM 18-1,** retired from military service.



Shrestha

**Mani Kumar Shrestha (Nepal), CSC 22-2,** was promoted to **brigadier general.** He is working as the Nepal Defense Attache in Washington D.C.



Maud

**Irene Maud (Fiji), CCM 18-1,** is working as **Environment Officer.**



Aran

**Mr. Sharad Raj Aran (Nepal), CSC22-3,** is serving as Charge' d 'Affairs at the Nepal Embassy in Washington D.C.



Zusen

**Handik Zusen (Indonesia), CSRT 18-1,** was promoted to colonel and appointed **Chief, Sub Directorate IV. Narcotics Crime Directorate.**



Nugraha

**Edwin Nugraha (Indonesia), CSC 23-2,** was promoted to **lieutenant colonel.**



Toomata

**Marissa Toomata (Samoa), CMSC 19-1,** was selected as **Principal Foreign Service Officer - International Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**



Arif

**Muhammad Arif (Indonesia), CSC 23-2,** was promoted to **colonel** and appointed **Defense Attache** to the **Republic of Korea.**



Prastuti

**Tiwi Prastuti (Indonesia), IPOC 19-3,** was appointed **Armaments Specialist for USMILGP Jakarta.**



Karki

**Balkrishna Karki (Nepal), CSC 24-1,** was promoted to **brigadier general.**



Coan

**George Coan III, (U.S.), IPOC 19-3,** was promoted to **captain.**



Donovan

**Lieutenant General Francis Donovan (U.S.), TSC 24-2,** was promoted to **general** and appointed **Commander, U.S. Southern Command.**

## Alumni Updates - *continued*



Karki

**Yubaraj Karki (Nepal), CSC 24-2,** was promoted to **brigadier general.**



Mukhtar

**Fahad Mukhtar (Indonesia), CSC 25-3,** was promoted to **lieutenant colonel.**



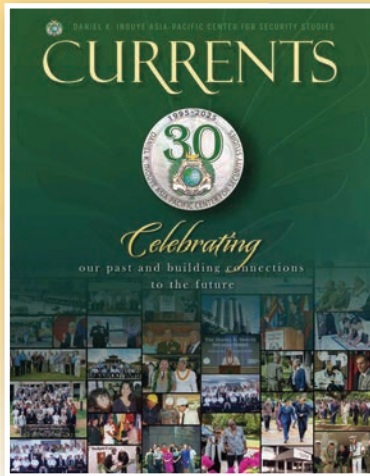
Fitrawan

**Yusfi Fitrawan (Indonesia), CSC 25-3,** was promoted to **lieutenant colonel.**



Arisila

**Wilia Arisila (Indonesia), IPSELSME,** was promoted to **master chief petty officer.**



## 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:

Security Nexus Perspective: A Framework for Understanding Cognitive Security as Strategic Terrain

by Dr. Deon Canyon

Security Nexus Perspective: Critical Minerals and Coercive Power in the Indo-Pacific

by Dr. Andrea Malji

Security Nexus Perspective: Small States and the Geopolitical Chessboard in the Indo-Pacific

by Dr. Andrea Malji

Enhancing Decision-Making with AI: Start Human, End Human

by Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan Moyer

When Maps Begin to Move: How Symbols Fuel South Asia’s Territorial Tensions

by Shyam Tekwani

Security Nexus Perspective: Proximity, Perception, and Pushback in South Asia

by Shyam Tekwani

When Distance Collapses: Iran’s Crisis and the Geography of India’s Constraints

by Shyam Tekwani

*Read more Security Nexus Articles!*



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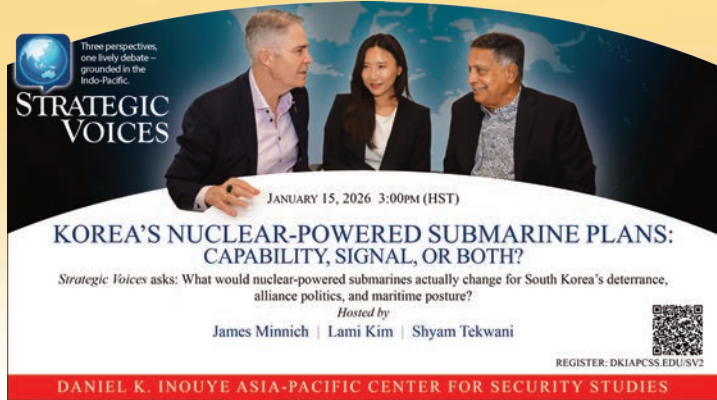
**Security Dialogue Webinar Series:**

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



Dialogue #54 | **Civil War: Myanmar, Five Years On with Dr. Miemie Winn**  
Watch it online here.

Dialogue #53 | **Strategy in the Storm – Disaster Response as a Test of Indo-Pacific Partnerships**



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



**Disruption, Division, Competition:  
What Shapes Security in the Indo-Pacific?**

James Minnich Andrea Malji and Shyam Tekwani –  
4/5 March 2026 Register to watch on Zoom.

Episode 2 | **Strategic Voices Ep. 2: Korea's Nuclear-Powered Submarine Plans—Capability, Signal, or Stress Test?**  
Drs. James Minnich, Lami Kim and Shyam Tekwani

Watch them online at our website or YouTube page!

*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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