

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

ASIA-PACIFIC ORIENTATION COURSE (APOC)

PURPOSE

This course supports the U.S. Pacific Command and its sub-components' education needs and has expanded to include military and civilian officials from other U.S. government agencies, allies, and partner nations.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one week course is more than just an introductory course to the Asia-Pacific region. However, for those who are new to the region, the course provides the foundational knowledge in Asia-Pacific security dynamics. For those who are already familiar with the region, the course provides a venue to share, reflect, and enhance their regional knowledge and experiences in an international context and an academic environment of openness. Faculty subject matter experts, many of them with regional backgrounds, offer insight into the region's culture, traditions and values that shape the formation of national and regional identities, interests, and behaviors. Through plenary lectures, expert panels, and small group seminar discussions, participants explore, examine, and assess U.S. interests and the interests of the region and their relationship to the political-military, socio-economic and transnational security dynamics facing the Asia-Pacific region today.

All course attendees attain membership in an expanded network of contacts among the community of security practitioners that includes their fellow classmates and APCSS faculty as well as the APCSS alumni network and a regional "community of expertise" via a dedicated web portal.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY ATTENDING THIS COURSE

1. Primarily mid-level civilian officials and military officers (some selected warrant officers and NCOs), whose current position involves operating in international or intergovernmental settings, regional policy analysis, recommendations, or decision making, from U.S. PACOM, sub-components and self-funded allied/partner nations.
2. Other USG and Asia-Pacific security practitioners, whose current/future responsibilities require significant input to intergovernmental policy analysis, formulation and decisions regarding the Asia-Pacific region.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. *Enhance knowledge:*
 - a. Develop an appreciation for regional cultural geography, national identities, and geopolitical considerations underpinning national and regional behaviors.
 - b. Enhance understanding of the comprehensive and interdependent nature of security in the region.
 - c. Gain insights on U.S. interests in Asia-Pacific Region and interests from the Region.
 - d. Recognize points of convergence and divergence between U.S. interests and the Region's interests.

2. *Expand security-practitioner networks*

- a. Connect into the community of practitioners working with/in the Asia-Pacific region.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

The educational approach and the course curriculum are designed to enable participants to compare, contrast, and integrate multi-dimensional perspectives of comprehensive security. Day one provides a framework to assess regional perspectives and cultural identity as well as U.S. interests and policies impacting the Asia-Pacific region. Days two through five focus on sub-regional perspectives and interests with an added opportunity to increase participant's knowledge on a specific country of his/her interest.

- Primary medium for learning in this course is activity-based participant-centered small group seminar discussions supported by current, real-world background context lectures, expert panels, electives, interactive luncheon discussions, on-line library support, and interactive web portal.
- Thematic and integrated seminars, interactive lectures, and panel discussions are guided by flexible APCSS faculty and facilitators encouraging mutual respect, transparency, non-attribution, effective listening, and clear communication skills. APCSS faculty facilitators leverage participants' knowledge and expertise to further enrich discussions and collaborative learning activities.
- The interactive activity-based learning environment affords the participants to reflect and connect newly acquired knowledge with the information they already knew to enhance their understanding of the subject matter.
- The on-line resources and connection to a network of security practitioners enable fellows towards life-long learning and continued collaboration beyond their one week experience at APCSS.