

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY RESPONSES TO TERRORISM (CSRT) COURSE

PURPOSE

This course is designed to address problems and solutions related to politically-motivated anti-state violence, in particular that subset of such violence often referred to as terrorism, which is a transnational threat to all states and particularly to those in the Asia-Pacific region. It will seek to enhance strategic understanding of this problem and elucidate comprehensive, national and multinational approaches to mitigate its effects. The course will use a broad combination of lectures (both in-house and guest speakers), seminar discussions, real-world case studies, and tailored exercise scenarios in order to maximize Fellow learning from subject-matter experts as well as from each other.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As a comprehensive course, the annual three and one-half week CSRT course will first seek to define terrorism within a continuum of anti-state violence in order to best identify potential solutions. It will then examine the history of terrorism, discuss today's terrorist threats, work to better appreciate the challenges associated with countering ideological support for terrorism and violent extremism, achieve a more common understanding of global and regional terrorism challenges, analyze tools and capabilities for combating terrorism and related transnational threats in order to promote appropriate strategies. Understanding that this is a complex problem which has both a supply and demand component, it will also look at strengthening national governance capabilities across the spectrum including, but not limited to, security sector development.

The CSRT course is designed to build professional relationships between and among current and future officials of participating countries involved in addressing terrorism. It will effectively develop mutual respect, trust, and confidence in order to facilitate increased information sharing and a reduction of obstacles to cooperation in the international collaborative effort against those who use terrorism. The curriculum focuses on the non-warfighting aspects of security. After leaving the Center, CSRT graduates are encouraged to continue their collaborative efforts through IT/ET-enabled, portal connectivity.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY ATTENDING THIS COURSE

Security practitioners (military, various ministry and law enforcement officials) and related officials whose current/future responsibilities require them to make recommendations to interagency officials involved in tactical through strategic policy formulation and implementation decisions related to combating terrorism and transnational crime. The preponderance of our Fellows come from the Asia-Pacific region, and are integrated with a limited number of non-regional Fellows to allow for discussion of transnational security challenges on a global basis

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Build a cadre of expert practitioners throughout the region who have a nuanced understanding of the terrorism, its direct and indirect causes, and related phenomenon.

Broaden knowledge and sharpen skills in assessment of terrorism threats and collaborative planning of response postures and policies.

Develop a community of CbT practitioners, capable and willing to collaborate at both the regional and global levels.

Expand security practitioner networks and sustain through IT/ET enabled linkages.

Additionally, the CSRT course is linked to both Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) Goals and United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) Objectives.

The USD-P goals that the CSRT course is designed to address:

- Enhanced policy understanding and mutually supportive approaches to security challenges, especially the de-legitimization of extremism;
- Enhanced security communities which increase security through mutual understanding and collective or collaborative action;
- Improved sustainable institutional capacity to enhance national, regional and international security.

The USPACOM objectives that the CSRT course is linked to address:

- Develop Cooperative Security Arrangements.
- Strengthen and Expand Relationship with Allies and Partners.
- Reduce Susceptibility to Violent Extremism.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

Fellows are expected to actively participate in the CSRT curriculum, which employs four distinct forms of learning: readings, lectures, seminar discussions, and exercises.

- Fellows complete required reading assignments, which provide a general overview of topics in the curriculum. Additional recommended readings provide further perspectives on core topics.
- Lectures provide professional insights from subject matter experts and set the stage for seminar discussions and the final gaming exercise.
- Small group seminars, guided by a facilitator, provide Fellows the opportunity to discuss individual topics, linking academic insights with professional experience.
- Course exercises are “learn by doing” interactive events that challenge Fellows to apply security concepts and strategies to simulated scenarios.

All aspects of the CSRT Course embody three important characteristics: transparency, non-attribution, and mutual respect. Transparency provides an academic environment of openness where all issues can be examined, debated, and discussed. To promote candor and open discussion, the College of Security Studies has a policy of non-attribution, which is binding on all who attend the CSRT Course. Comments and opinions expressed by anyone participating in the course will not be attributed to the speaker by name to non-participants without the speaker's prior approval. All interaction among the Fellows is done in a spirit of mutual respect in recognition of the tremendous diversity of nations represented in the course in terms of size, geography, culture, history, political system, and state of economic development.