

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

SENIOR ASIA-PACIFIC ORIENTATION COURSE (SEAPOC)

PURPOSE

The Senior Asia-Pacific Orientation Course directly supports the U.S. Pacific Command by providing its senior staff and supporting components a participant-centered educational environment within which they can: add to their overall knowledge about the Asia-Pacific theater; build upon the senior leader skills necessary to successfully conceptualize, operationalize and execute U.S. policy in an increasingly complex, multi-actor Asia-Pacific; and, develop a network of their peers in the U.S. DoD and wider U.S. government.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The three-day course focuses on U.S. interests in a complex and changing Asia-Pacific region. Curriculum will include an in-depth orientation to the major trends and range of potential medium-term outcomes in the Asia-Pacific, an identification of the primary collective action problems facing the U.S. with respect to the region, and the challenges presented by a multi-actor, multi-sectoral Asia-Pacific environment. These subjects are treated through a rigorous program of lectures and interactive discussions, as well as seminar sessions and collaborative Senior Leader Workshops.

All course attendees attain membership in an expanded network of contacts among security practitioners that includes their classmates and APCSS faculty as well as the APCSS alumni network and a regional “community of expertise” via a dedicated web portal. The Senior Asia-Pacific Orientation Course is held once per calendar year.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY ATTENDING THIS COURSE

- U.S. PACOM or component Senior Leaders (O7 or above, or civilian equivalent) whose current position requires making (or having significant input to) critical interagency decisions requiring significant input to intergovernmental policy analysis, formulation and decisions in international settings.
- U.S. Senior Leaders training for service in Asia-Pacific or Asia-Pacific related settings whose current/future responsibilities require significant input to intergovernmental policy analysis, formulation and execution.
- U.S. security practitioners serving as Senior Leaders for important interagency organizations/headquarters with Asia-Pacific linkages.
- O6 and civilian equivalents will be considered for registration where professional position offers special relevance to the course material.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

To achieve the course purpose stated above, the APSM Course has specific educational objectives in four areas: 1) Enhanced knowledge, 2) Improve Fellow Leader Skills, 3) Expand Fellow security-practitioner networks, 4) Build Fellow Teaming Skills:

1. Enhanced knowledge in the following areas:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.
- Clearer appreciation of how Senior Fellow peers across the U.S. Government community perceive the region and its dynamics, and what activities those peers have are undertaking in their management of the security of the region.
- Understanding of how dynamism in Asia affects U.S. interests and U.S. policy making practices.
- Ability to characterize U.S. policy challenges by problem typology, and to match problem typologies with particular analytic strategies/methodologies.

2. Improve Fellow leader skills in the following areas:

- Enhancing skills and abilities in articulating U.S. national security policy; confidently and assertively proposing options to security-policy formulators and decision-makers for action.
- Effectively evaluating value-based problems, collective action problems and complexity in U.S. policy making, and understanding how problem typologies impact strategy suitability.
- Developing skills related to leader collaboration: including interagency problem assessment and management, effective communication and negotiation, and developing action steps.

3. Expand Fellow security-practitioner networks in the following areas:

- Among Asia-Pacific Security Management Course Fellows.
- Among APCSS faculty and guest lecturers.
- Through alumni contacts at home and regionally.

4. Build Fellow Teaming Skills:

- Identify, link, and exploit team-member expertise, perspectives:
 - Unique contributions possible.
 - Areas of agreement/disagreement/inter-dependencies.
- Negotiate priorities, organize effort and synchronize strategic objectives.
- Identify requirements to act (terms of reference, subject knowledge needed, methods of operating).

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

- Three approaches to learning in this course are: context lectures followed by interactive sessions; seminar-format electives; and Senior Leader Workshops.
- All sessions will allow the Senior Fellows to interact with APCSS Senior Leadership and each other, enabling learning both from Subject Matter Experts on Faculty and from a Senior Fellow peer group.
- Discussions, interactive presentations, and seminars are guided by flexible APCSS facilitators and Senior Leaders encouraging mutual respect, transparency, non-attribution, effective listening, and clear communication skills.
- Elective Seminars will allow Senior Fellows to explore niche topics on a more in-depth manner with Subject Matter Experts on Faculty. Sessions are Fellow-led discussions in small, self-selected group format.
- Workshops will encourage participant-centered learning and learning from Senior Fellow peers through collaborative teaming to assess complex problems characteristic of the Asia-Pacific region.
- Additional social sessions will familiarize Senior Fellows with the work and mission of the APCSS while allowing Senior Fellows to network in a social setting. A network linking APCSS Faculty and Senior Leadership with Senior Fellows will enable continued learning and development with respect to U.S. policy making in the Asia-Pacific region.