

## **Fellows Project: Overcoming Barriers to Cooperation**

### **Overview:**

The Fellows Project provides an opportunity throughout the Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) course for participants to reflect upon and discuss their own unique situations, challenges, and opportunities that arise from their country and workplace. This characteristic of the course facilitates in a customized way the ability to connect concepts and ideas derived from the course curriculum to fellows' real-life scenarios. The overall intent of the Fellows Project is for participants to have an opportunity to apply the skills developed at the APCSS toward their own working conditions.

The Fellows Project for ASC requires participants to identify and select a professional, and/or organizational issue, problem, or opportunity within the broader theme of “overcoming barriers to cooperation”.

The **scope for this topic is broad** and may cover any specific component of security based cooperation a fellow chooses as important. **This may include the following issues:**

- Issues of organization and communication within a government department
- Issues of organization and communication between government departments
- An issue of policy within a country
- An issue of foreign policy within a country, a group of countries, or international organization

**In short, think of a problem that is meaningful to you and your country, one that deserves some focused attention while you are at the ASC course and engaged with understanding the complexities of internal and external security affairs.**

**Begin, before you arrive to the ASC course, to think about what type of problem it is and the various layers of complexity that exist within it.**

There are two types of projects that can be undertaken. These are the 1) project proposal briefing; or 2) the decision paper. The specific elements of these two options are outlined at greater length below under ‘Output Requirements’.

**Learning Objectives:**

The key learning objective of the Fellow's Project is the ability to demonstrate through the project key concepts that relate to a professional or organizational environment, or to a foreign policy problem or issue: You are to demonstrate the:

- Ability to critically think, identify, and *refine a complex problem preventing internal cooperation* within your own organization, *or external cooperation* with other organizations or countries.
- Ability to develop a logically constructed solution to a refined problem using appropriate subject matter taught within the course.

**Method of Instruction:**

During the ASC course you will be assisted in many ways with the Fellow's Project:

1. A hands-on, individual professional project with a faculty advisor (seminar leader) on a topic of fellow's choice within the theme of "overcoming barriers to cooperation".
2. The project will demonstrate and reinforce problem-solving skills and critical thinking concepts as presented in the ASC.
3. An introductory plenary session will introduce the requirements for the project and provide initial instruction on what topics fellows might select.
4. Formal time is allocated throughout the duration of ASC to provide fellows an opportunity for consultation, research, and drafting of the project. This includes the use of free elective periods. Fellows will be directed towards professors who have relevant knowledge on their project's subject matter.
5. Project decision briefings and decision paper presentations will be conducted during seminar sessions the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the ASC.

**Output Requirements: There are two options for the Fellow's Project**

*Option 1: Project Proposal Briefing (Presentation to Seminar)*

1. A clear and concise statement of the problem.
2. A detailed analysis of various issues or variables contributing to, impacting on, and influencing the problem.
3. A clear statement of the goals and supporting objectives for relevant and useful solution(s).
4. Logical action steps and tasks required to achieve the objectives (to include how he or she will communicate the solution to influence a decision-maker).
5. Conduct a formal presentation (approximately 15 minutes) to the individual's seminar colleagues (Power Point Presentation).

*Option 2: Decision Paper (2-3) pages double-spaced*

1. A narrative of the problem (to include, why is this a problem? Why does it need to be solved?).
2. An analysis of various issues or elements contributing to, impacting on, and influencing the problem.
3. A detailed description of various logical options to address the issues influencing the problem.
4. How will you convince the decision-maker to act on your recommendations?
5. Conduct a formal presentation (approximately 15 minutes) to the individual's seminar colleges (Decision paper - Executive Summary).

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Fellows will receive written feedback from their seminar leaders using the following criteria: topic selection (relevant, meaningful, useful), level of individual effort by fellow, level of complexity. **Fellows must, prior to their arrival in Hawaii for the commencement of the ASC course, give substantial thought to what will be a productive individual project.** The topic should be one that Fellow's are excited to do research on, and one of significance to their job and country of origin.

Below are **former titles of successful projects** carried out at the APCSS:

- ✓ Improve coordination between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Service Institute in foreign policy formulation
- ✓ Increase civilian participation in defense strategic planning at the Ministry of Defense
- ✓ Address insufficient exchanges and cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and the Academy of Social Sciences
- ✓ Improve civilian staff understanding of routine military functions to enhance effectiveness of the civilian staff within the Ministry Of Defense
- ✓ Improve communication among members of a command to develop better team performance
- ✓ Develop effective interagency coordination processes to respond to major natural disasters
- ✓ Improve interagency cooperation within government to track and apprehend sexual predators
- ✓ Enhance ASEAN Mil-Mil cooperation in disaster response
- ✓ Improve interagency communication to fight drug trafficking in Central and South America
- ✓ Develop international cooperative mechanisms to countering piracy in Gulf of Aden

