

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY RESPONSES TO TERRORISM (CSRT) COURSE

Purpose

This course examines the fast evolving ways that analysts and policy-makers now look at terrorism following recent experiences in combating the problem. It also evaluates the range of principles and practical solutions recommended for dealing with terrorism through the use of responsive governance. The course aims to establish a foundation for practitioners to build a synergistic strategy to contain terrorism and encourage the principles of effective security governance.

Course Description

Terrorism, as has been reaffirmed in the 21st century, is inseparable from its historical, political, and societal context, a context that has both a local and a global dimension. Effectively countering terrorism is as much about addressing popular grievances and establishing governmental legitimacy as it is about killing and capturing terrorists. In attempting to understand the appeal of terrorism and use this understanding to craft effective counterterrorism policies, the course introduces the idea of multiple intelligences in the field of terrorism studies spanning the oeuvre of psychology, education and more, in an age of twitter. The aim of an interdisciplinary approach in countering the threat is important in the light of recent experiences which unequivocally demonstrate that combating terrorism requires a multidimensional approach.

Starting with an exploration of the main non-military dimensions of security responses to terrorism today, the course goes on to compare and contrast both effective and ineffective security governance actions and describe key challenges that security practitioners need to anticipate and address.

The first week critically examines existing assumptions, debates and knowledge of factors that shape perceptions and understanding of terrorism through which nations conduct their counterterrorism and counterinsurgency efforts.

The second week provides insights on assessing the environment that facilitates the struggle for power and recourse to violence within societies.

The third week offers salient lessons learnt on effective responses to combating the sources and facilitators of terrorism.

And in the concluding week, as we critically survey emerging issues, fellows will demonstrate these understandings, and a grasp of relevant facts and examples, in the final project.

Who would benefit by attending this course

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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

1. To become familiar with the origins of our notions of terrorism and to develop a sound working habit of critical thinking.
2. To gain the ability to understand the threat and examine the scope of motivations that drive the adversary.
3. To be able to evaluate the different outcomes of terrorist campaigns and the factors responsible for the growth or decline of terrorism.
4. To be able to assess the changing strategic and operational dynamics of the phenomenon and apply lessons learnt in formulating effective responses.
5. To develop a repository of responses in building viable strategies for effective security governance.

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.

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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.