



PETER A. GUMATAOTAO
REAR ADMIRAL, USN (RET)
DIRECTOR



Pete Gumataotao became the Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in February 2018. A native of Guam, RADM (Ret) Gumataotao joined the Navy in 1976 and attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island. He is a 1981 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and earned his Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 1994.

Pete has extensive experience operating in the Asia-Pacific region during 37 years of active duty service, including eight years as a U.S. Navy flag officer. In addition to undertaking eleven deployments conducting defense and security exercises, he served in executive-level, strategic management capacities, notably as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea for U.S. Pacific Fleet (CNFK), and Current Operations Director for both U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM).

As Commander of Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, he directed the multi-national exercise 'Rim of the Pacific' in 2012. In Washington, DC, he served as a Strategic Fellow at the Center for Naval Analysis, collaborating with faculty and staff to develop strategic analytic research covering a broad range of maritime issues.

He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy for Supreme Allied Command Transformation, NATO, where he spearheaded transformational initiatives to formulate and update NATO strategic security policies. He organized numerous forums aimed at strengthening collaboration among NATO leadership and allied partners which included international organizations such as the European Union and United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and academia.

Pete is the first recipient of the Admiral Zumwalt Award for Visionary Leadership. He was awarded the Order of National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal by the Republic of Korea for distinguished performance in promoting military cooperation between South Korea and the United States. He was most recently awarded the Bundeswehr Cross of Honour for Valour by the German military for his performance at NATO.

His U.S. Naval decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), and other personal, unit, and campaign awards.

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is a Department of Defense institute that addresses regional and global security issues. Military and civilian representatives, most from the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations, participate in a comprehensive program of executive education, professional exchanges and outreach events, both in Hawaii and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The Center supports PACOM by developing and sustaining relationships among security practitioners and national security establishments throughout the region. DKI APCSS' mission is to build capacities and communities of interest by educating, connecting, and empowering security practitioners to advance Asia-Pacific security. It is one of the Department of Defense's five regional security studies centers.