



## Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies



**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

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# The Asia-Pacific and the United States 2004–2005

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## Foreword

**H . C . S T A C K P O L E**

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In March 2003 the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) published a Special Assessment entitled *Asia-Pacific Responses to U.S. Security Policies*. That publication focused on regional perceptions of the United States at the mid-point of President George W. Bush's first administration, a year and a half after the terrorist attacks of September 11, following the release of the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and National Security Strategy (NSS), and on the eve of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Now, two years later, I believe it is important to again review our relations with the Asia-Pacific region in the context of global, regional and bilateral security developments against a background of multiple elections and changes of perceptions.

This Special Assessment, entitled *The Asia-Pacific and the United States, 2004-2005*, also focuses on how regional countries view their relations with the United States, rather than U.S. policy towards these countries. Also covered in this assessment are issues, such as missile defense, that involve a number of regional countries. In certain cases, as with Central Asia and the Compact States in the South Pacific, we address the relations of a group of countries with the U.S. This assessment does not address regional responses to specific U.S. security policy documents or actions per se, but rather seeks to draw insights of regional views across a range of issues, some of which are particular to a bilateral relationship.

What emerges from this assessment, as from the previous effort, is the acknowledged centrality of the United States to regional peace and prosperity. Also evident are the efforts of regional countries to have productive and cooperative relations with the United States while managing divergences.

I hope this publication will, by contributing to regional and U.S. discussions of security, enhance cooperation and build relationships for a secure Asia-Pacific.