

CURRENTS

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

Summer/Fall 2011, Volume 21



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Currents Magazine is an unofficial publication produced biannually by the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Public Affairs Office. This publication is for APCSS employees, alumni, Fellows and future Fellows and is available online at www.apcss.org. We use the Associated Press Style Guide when abbreviating ranks, regardless of individual service style. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the U.S. Department of Defense. Questions or comments can be addressed by phone (808) 971-8916 or emailed to pao@apcss.org.

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
2058 Maluhia Road, Honolulu, HI 96815

Director's Message

Since the last edition of Currents Magazine a lot has occurred around our globe and within our Asia Pacific region. Among the most significant events were the incredibly powerful Tohoku earthquake and the subsequent tsunami and nuclear plant disasters. Our hearts go out to all those affected and especially to those who lost loved ones. While the fuller lessons are being compiled at various levels, we were reminded about our vulnerability to disasters, the value of planning and preparing ahead to mitigate our vulnerabilities, and the power of teamwork within and among societies to make response and rebuilding as quick and effective as possible. APCSS will continue to help build security sector capacity to understand, anticipate and respond to crises -- rapid onset crises like the ones in Japan and slower developing ones such as resource scarcity and climate change.

APCSS will soon be operating under new leadership. Lieutenant General (Ret.) Ed Smith departed in June after six years at the helm and we await the appointment of his replacement. As I said during his retirement ceremony, we owe a lot to Director Smith and previous Center leadership -- Dr. Jimmie Lackey for attaining "initial operational capability" and later Lieutenant General (Retired) Hank Stackpole for attaining "full operational capability." Director Smith initiated our outreach program and he guided the transformation of this Center to a practitioner focused, activity based, and technology enabled learning environment. He also added focus and purpose to our "Educate, Empower and Connect" mission by explicitly including



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) James T. Hirai
Acting Director

"building capacities and communities of interest."

This edition of Currents will highlight how we have built and sustained 'communities of interest' and how we intend on enhancing the effectiveness of these communities for the benefit of all. We feel we can be much more inclusive, broaden our offerings, and provide more opportunities for focused collaboration and professional development over the long term. We solicit your involvement and your ideas in this important effort.



Lt. Gen. Ed Smith retires amid friends, family, and current and former Center staff and faculty.

APCSS Director Smith retires

After traveling hundreds of thousands of miles reaching out to security officials throughout the Asia-Pacific region, retired Army Lt. Gen. Ed Smith completed his tenure as Director of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

Having served in an Army career that spanned 35 years, including his last assignment as the Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, Smith took the reins as APCSS Director in August 2005 and led the Center during an important period of transformation.

“It has been rewarding to see advancements in our learning model and methods result in many contributions to regional leader and security-institution capacity building, as well as to security cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region. APCSS has improved steadily, and I am honored to have been a part of it.”

At the Director’s request, the ceremony, which was held on June 14th, was kept simple and included recognition of the Army Birthday. During the ceremony a comment was read from Ms. Jo Gardiner who was not able to attend but who captured the impact of the Smith years on all of us:

“I sense that, in keeping with your genuine humility, you are downplaying the event, but it is a significant milestone for all of us, nonetheless--and one that I have to tell you I am sad to see come.

“More than many in the Center, I’ve been able to get a glimpse of the sacrifice that both you and Jan have made over the years for the sake of our unique and compelling mission. I also understand you came in with a tough mandate early on that pretty much guaranteed tension as part of the transformation. “And though it was tough initially, I want to thank you deeply for standing firm through the transition and then taking us to

the next level in ways we never could have imagined. I have learned so much by watching you lead and challenge us to ever-greater accomplishments. We are all the better for it.

“It has been an honor to serve you and, though I’m sure I often fell short, I truly appreciated being stretched and refined under your lead. I wish you and Jan much well-deserved rest and happiness.”

A number of messages were also received from alumni throughout the region:

“...You have shown to me in particular that we can still contribute to our country although we are no longer in uniform. Your commitment to the advancement of knowledge was clearly implemented during your tenure,” stated Col. Rujito Asmoro (ASC10-2).

From the Thailand APCSS Alumni Association: “On behalf of the TAAA, we wish General Ed Smith a happy retirement...He will be remem-



Jim Philpott offers his retirement tips to the Smiths.



Army Capt. Emily Dignan congratulates Lt. Gen. Smith



Amb. (Ret.) Charles Salmon and Sgt. Jerrold Bali commemorate the Army Birthday.



The Smiths with Brig. Gen. (Ret.) & Mrs. Robert Maguire



Many members of the faculty, staff and their families joined in the celebrations.

bered as one of APCSS' great contributors." APCSS is focused on identifying and addressing security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and is a critical program for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency and U.S. Pacific Command. APCSS invites uniformed and civilian representatives of the Asia-Pacific nations and U.S. to its comprehensive program of executive education and workshops, both in Hawaii and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

During Smith's tenure, APCSS updated and aligned its program offerings with regional security-leader requirements, streamlining in-resident existing courses and doubling the number of course offerings. Further, APCSS Center conferences transformed from general information-sharing events into more specifically focused outreach events, each one tailored to address current or emerging regional security issues and analyze alternative steps ahead. Founded in 1995, APCSS has more than 5,800 alumni.



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Smith with the APCSS Navy Team.

Of that almost 4,000 attended 63 resident courses and 63 outreach events during the past six years. Further, APCSS's formal network

of alumni associations has grown dramatically from 2 to 54 alumni associations during the past six years.