Purpose

Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) is an executive education course that addresses the major security challenges confronting Asia-Pacific security practitioners. The course evaluates the complex nature of traditional and non-traditional security dynamics. Most importantly, it provides fellows the opportunity to think critically about security issues and explore collaborative strategies that directly address a range of challenges. The curriculum covers topics of internal security, including governance, the rule of law, security sector development, whole of government, and economic development. We also discuss external and transnational security challenges associated with the global commons, including maritime security, terrorism, and disaster management. Through the application of critical thinking and problem solving the course allows fellows to effectively understand and address Asia-Pacific security issues. ASC is a participant centered learning experience adopting interactive, dynamic teaching methods for an audience of multi-national practitioners.

Course description

Advanced Security Cooperation is a four and a half week course designed to enhance individual leader capabilities in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and decision-making in complex and culturally diverse environments. Created specifically for senior level security practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, the course provides an international setting that seeks to:

- Enhance decision-making capacity in order to capitalize on opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Improve international cooperation and interagency effectiveness on regional security issues; construct solutions for addressing protracted challenges associated with the global commons.
- Enhance civil-military relations and security sector effectiveness.
- Increase capacity for improving governance and security sector integration.
- Develop extensive networks and relationships with a community of mid-career & senior level security practitioners and experts.

Who would benefit by attending this course

The Advanced Security Cooperation Course attracts a broad range of participants from across the region and beyond. The course curriculum is designed primarily for security practitioners and experts whose current and future responsibilities require significant participation in domestic and international security policy formulation and execution, and who have the following backgrounds:

- Military & Law Enforcement Officers; Foreign Service, Foreign Affairs Officers
- Government, International, Regional and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Business (self-funded) and Media Representatives
**Educational Objectives**

**Enhance Knowledge on Security Trends and Tools of Cooperation**
- Identify key strategic trends in the international and regional security environment.
- Share best practices of governance and security sector development.
- Mitigate tensions and foster cooperation in the global commons.

**Enhance Leader Effectiveness**
- Understand and incorporate cultural and national sensitivities.
- Communicate effectively. Advocate & persuade, rather than simply inform.
- Cooperate, contribute and lead within a multi-national team.
- Conduct complex problem analysis and project management.
- Use information communication technology to enhance levels of cooperation.

**Expand a Network of practitioners within the regional and global security community**
- Build relationships with practitioners from other agencies, organizations, institutions, and countries.
- Develop an appreciation for a shared experience.
- Explore new and emerging information communication technologies (ICT) to maintain relationships and connectivity beyond the APCSS experience.

**Educational Approach**

**Core Curriculum**

ASC has five modules which each provide an opportunity to put ideas into practice through experiential learning. In Module I, fellows participate in understanding the complexities of security cooperation and confidence building. This is done through a three day exercise-format that focuses on communication skills, critical thinking, security complexity, causal relationships, issue-framing, strategic development, strategic communications, and critical problem-solving. These processes involve using analytic tools to evaluate the sources, scope and implications of security problems. Module II provides fellows with a set of topics and discussions on internal security cooperation, including security sector development, the role of governance and rule of law, whole of society and whole of government approaches to security, and disaster management. Module III focuses on the roles and responsibilities of major powers and issues of cooperation within the Asia-Pacific’s sub-regions. Module IV discusses possible venues and potential benefits of transnational security cooperation and includes a focus on disaster management and maritime security and law of the sea in critical, contested areas. In Module V, the course concludes with a composite skills-based exercise applying the knowledge and analytical tools developed over the previous weeks. Throughout the course, fellows also participate in small group case studies on sub-regional and transnational issues, and complete an individual research project.

**Elective Curriculum**
Electives provide fellows with study of specific issues relevant to their responsibilities or interests. Electives are structured in such a way that they reinforce “communities of interest” which will continue to provide networking and capacity building opportunities throughout the participants’ careers. Fellows choose two electives. Sessions are intended to evaluate a range of critical issue associated within a particular security issue. A broad selection of electives are offered by APCSS faculty this year: maritime security-law of the sea; security sector development; health security; governance and security; China’s foreign policy; soft power; confidence building measures; disaster management; terrorism and extremism; and environmental security.

ASC Course Manager: CDR P.J. Tech
Course Coordinator: Lt. Col. Reese Evers