

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

SEAPOC SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASIA-PACIFIC ORIENTATION COURSE (SEAPOC)

PURPOSE

SEAPOC brings together senior U.S. military and civilian leaders along with ally and partner nation counterparts to discuss the complex security challenges and opportunities in the evolving Asia-Pacific region. This three-day course provides intensive and interactive executive education in which fellows and faculty work together to identify and evaluate opportunities for interagency and international cooperation to improve regional security. Fellows will critically assess the complex and dynamic security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and add to their knowledge insights about the key drivers of security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, its security architecture and emerging trends. They will build upon their senior leadership skills to advance effective human and national security governance in the Asia-Pacific region.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three-day course focuses on the mutual security interests of the United States and other Asia-Pacific nations in an interconnected and changing region. The curriculum includes an orientation to the major trends and potential outcomes in the Asia-Pacific and a consideration of the challenges presented by a multi-actor, multi-sectoral Asia-Pacific security environment. The curriculum supports critical thinking about these topics through an intensive program of lectures and interactive discussions, as well as elective sessions, and collaborative seminar workshops. The course also features a unique opportunity to interact with security practitioners from more than 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, through which fellows are expected to gain insights into regional perspectives, strengthen their skills related to international collaboration and strategic communication, and explore opportunities for cooperation.

Topics for consideration in lectures or electives will vary from class to class depending on recent events and the interests of the fellows. They will typically include a consideration of such challenges to regional security as:

- Maintaining strategic stability among regional powers in a dynamic security environment,
- Historical and cultural drivers of security dynamics in the region,
- Transnational trends such as rapid economic development and the demand for natural resources, demographic change, climate change, and enhanced connectivity through new social media, increased complexity in managing the global commons (including maritime, space, and cyberspace),
- Strengthening whole-of-government approaches to security sector development,

- Establishment of a rules-based regional and international order in the Asia-Pacific,
- Potential proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and
- Problems of terrorism and violent extremism.

All course attendees attain membership in an expanded network of contacts among security practitioners including their classmates, APCSS faculty and the region-wide APCSS alumni network via Global Net, a dedicated web portal. SEAPOC is held once per calendar year.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT BY ATTENDING THIS COURSE

- U.S. senior military leaders (FO/GO/SES equivalent) who contribute to critical interagency decisions, are responsible for intergovernmental policy analysis or formulation, or participate in decisions in international settings.
- U.S. senior leaders (FO/GO/SES equivalent) from civilian government agencies preparing for service in Asia-Pacific related settings, whose responsibilities require significant input to intergovernmental policy analysis, formulation and execution in areas related to regional security.
- Senior military and governmental leaders from allied and partner nations whose position will require them to interact with their American counterparts in international policy analysis or formulation, or to participate with U.S. government agencies in decisions in international settings.
- Senior executives from other sectors who interact with U.S. government agencies in developing or implementing cross-sectoral and whole-of-society approaches to problems of human or national security in the Asia-Pacific region.
- U.S. military leaders of rank O6 and civilian equivalents will be considered for registration where their professional position offers special relevance to the course material.

Note: SEAPOC attendance is limited and selective. While inquiries are welcome, attendance is by invitation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To achieve the course purpose stated above, SEAPOC has three sets of course objectives:

1. Educational Objectives:

SEAPOC fellows will:

- Enhance their knowledge and understanding of the multifarious factors that shape the strategic environment and drive security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Gain insights into the perspectives, interests, and strategies of multiple actors in the region.
- Identify major challenges to and opportunities for enhancing effective and accountable security governance of the region.
- Analyze and evaluate complex problems of security cooperation, involving U.S. policy making in a regional context, and collaboratively work to develop a strategic vision for regional engagement.

2. Leadership Objectives

- Develop collaborative skills, effective communication, negotiation, and problem solving in an international context.
- Identify, link, and exploit the expertise and perspectives of a multi-agency and multi-national group to identify and assess complex security problems.
- Negotiate priorities, organize efforts and synchronize strategic objectives.

3. Expand security-practitioner networks in the following areas:

- Among SEAPOC fellows, APCSS faculty and guest lecturers.
- Among Asia-Pacific security practitioners in SEAPOC and the Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) course, through a joint seminar and a joint exercise of the two courses.
- Among Asia-Pacific senior fellows in SEAPOC and the Transnational Security Course (TSC), through the Senior Executive Forum Community of Interest.
- Through APCSS alumni contacts more broadly at home and regionally.

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

- SEAPOC's educational approach comprises plenary lectures followed by interactive discussions; seminar-format electives; and small-group seminars where fellows work together to identify and evaluate complex issues of regional security.
- Discussions and seminars are facilitated by experienced and flexible APCSS faculty.
- A wide variety of elective sessions allow senior fellows to explore selected topics in-depth, in a small, group format.
- Seminars and exercises encourage participant-centered learning through collaborative teaming to assess complex problems characteristic to the Asia-Pacific region.

- A network linking APCSS faculty and senior leadership with senior fellows will enable continued learning and development, as alumni continue or begin their leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.