explained his commitment to security sector inclusion “is not in spite of my background, it is because of my background.”

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The director related how upon assuming his role at APCSS, he looked at improving the Center’s responsiveness to its mission to promote stability, security and cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region. “The single best investment I could make…is to promote an inclusive approach to security and to promote women, peace and security.”

In response to a question on data supporting the value of inclusion, Leaf stated, “That’s one of our next strategic challenges at APCSS in women, peace and security. We’ve increased the participation; nearly doubled it. We’ve added subject matter to the curriculum. The single best investment I could make…is to promote an inclusive approach to security and to promote women, peace and security.”

“Inclusion focused:  Director Leaf fields questions as ‘Smart Power’ panel member in D.C. symposium

“If you leave anyone in the organization on the sidelines, if you don’t leverage what they can contribute, your unit is less effective,” said Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Director Lt. Gen. (Ret) Dan Leaf to an audience of students, officials, NGOs and diplomats at Georgetown University.

Leaf spoke at the symposium “Smart Power: The Military and Inclusive Security” in Washington, D.C., in December. The event was hosted by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS).

Leaf was part of an international panel moderated by Ambassador Melanne Verveer, GIWPS director, and featuring Ambassador Marriët Schuurman, special representative to the NATO Secretary General for Women, Peace and Security; Maj. Gen. Adrian Foster, deputy military adviser for the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations; and Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

When asked how a person with his background as a fighter pilot became such a strong advocate of inclusion, Leaf explained his commitment to security sector inclusion “is not in spite of my background, it is because of my background.

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“While the data exists,” he said, “It has not been synthesized in a way that is relevant, meaningful and compelling. Therefore, building the intellectual underpinnings of substantive instruction on WPS is a key task for the Center.”
Climate subject of Webinar

Climate change was the subject of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies’ latest Webinar conducted April 14.

Dr. Scott Hauger led a discussion on current and future global impacts as well as proposed tactics to mediate climate change’s ill effects. Some of these effects, stated Hauger, are higher ocean, air and ground temperatures, leading to rising sea levels, ice melt and desertification.

Hauger shared global response initiatives under consideration in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and response. APCSS Webinars are designed to maintain connections with alumni through discussions on key security-related topics. Those interested in future sessions, should watch for APCSS announcements.

Center supports ASEAN Regional Forum on maritime issues

The Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies played host to the Association of Southeast Nations annual maritime intersessional security meeting March 30 to April 1.

APCSS partnered with the ASEAN Regional Forum to facilitate discussions on pressing regional security issues, such as navigation safety, search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and domain awareness. They also conducted discussions on regional cooperation to resolve international tensions in the East and South China Seas.

The event was co-hosted by the U.S. State Department, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs.

Established in 2008, this annual ARF event provides a venue for “more focused dialogues” on maritime security issues impacting Southeast Asia.

The Forum is comprised of all ASEAN member states and other maritime nations, such as the United States and China.

Pictured at left, conference attendees take part in one of several workshop group breakout sessions.

Former RP armed forces chief talks security plan

APCSS alumnus spotlights country’s ‘whole-of-nation’ approach

Gen. Emmanuel Batista, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, discussed his nation’s internal peace and security plan Dec. 10 at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

The general is an alumnus of the Center’s Security Sector Development (SSD 10-2) course. He used his APCSS experience to aid the Philippines military in developing a six-year plan to defeat terrorism. He laid out some of the plan’s principle elements in a keynote speech before 28 Fellows attending the Transnational Security Cooperation Course (TSC 14-2).

Calling the plan “Bayanihan,” a Filipino term for community aid to one in distress, Bautista said the initiative moves the armed forces from a strictly combat strategy to a “whole-of-nation,” cross-sectoral approach.

“There is a need for complementary and concerted efforts (from) all our stakeholders,” said Bautista. “While this is a military campaign plan, from the planning to the implementation phase, we involved other government agencies, non-government agencies, academia, religious (groups), and civil society agencies.”

The effects-based plan has six objectives: contribute to a successful peace process; maintain a professional armed force; defeat terrorist groups; contribute to the resolution of conflict; help establish conditions enabling civil authorities to take responsibility for the population’s safety; and support development initiatives.

Thus far, Bautista said the plan has resulted in the ongoing peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The military has also “normalized” 48 of 75 provinces impacted by the Communist New People’s Army, allowing civil authorities to take a lead security role.

The general related these effects may have contributed to the Philippines’ unprecedented economic growth over the last three years.