



Purpose

The Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism (CSRT) course explores the phenomenon of modern terrorism and examines its purposes, practices, and patterns in the Asia-Pacific region. We then turn to studying the many and diverse possibilities for mitigating the problem of terrorism and responding appropriately to its direct challenges. A range of methods or strategies is carefully considered by fellows working together as professionals from related security fields. Course graduates are markedly better prepared to evaluate terrorism in their countries, weigh possible responses, and imagine new ways to collaborate across bureaucratic and national boundaries.

Course Description

CSRT begins with the concept of modern terrorism, some of the ways we may understand it, and the challenges of a proper definition--distinguishing terrorism from appropriate political dissidence, or crime, or war. Frameworks of politics, morals, strategy, organizational dynamics, psychology, religion, law, and law enforcement are all appropriate for seminar discussions. Terrorism's patterns in the Asia-Pacific, causes and enablers, and the strategies of varied groups are all considered.

The latter two-thirds of the course get at the essence of "Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism." We ask how strategy is made, or might be made, by reasonable and moderate states. Next are the many possible means the Asia-Pacific community and the world have to prevent terrorism and to resist and respond to attacks when they occur. These include: better governance, diplomacy, public diplomacy and the struggle of ideas, sanctions and financial counterterrorism, improving and sharing intelligence, law and law enforcement, maritime security, and uses of military force. The course ends with a strategy exercise, as well as a day on post-conflict issues such as rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Who would Benefit by Attending this Course

Security practitioners in mid-career are encouraged to apply to CSRT, and they find the cross-pollination experienced at DKI APCSS to enhance their professionalism. Civilians are welcomed from such ministries as foreign affairs, the judiciary, defense, and financial crimes offices, and even public affairs offices or semi-official think tanks. Fellows in law and law enforcement are greatly helpful to the classes, as are women and men in intelligence and cyber security fields linked to counterterrorism. Officials at work in inter-agency ways find the seminars, exercise, and one-on-one conversations important. This course is ideal for anyone likely to be advising or briefing senior policy-makers--not many of whom have the background or time to understand the evolving dynamics of terrorism and counterterrorism today. Most Fellows come to CSRT from Pacific and Asian areas, but there is also global representation.



Educational Objectives

1. To become fully familiar with the concept of terrorism, and the diversity of views of the problem, so as to sharpen our abilities of critical thinking.
2. To understand the motivations of terrorists, better anticipate their strategies and actions, and prudently assess the threat they pose, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. To assess known strategies for preventing, containing, or defeating terrorism, and to enhance one's ability to create better strategies in new circumstances.
4. To consider how responses to terrorism may themselves create developments or new difficulties, and so to appreciate the complexity of counterterrorism and government's responsibilities to civil society and all citizens.
5. To evaluate the different outcomes of terrorist campaigns, and the factors responsible for the growth or decline of terrorism.

Educational Approach

Every attendee actively participates in all aspects of the curriculum. This begins even before the course, when the individual chooses a "Fellow's Project," discussing the topic with his/her supervisor at the home office. Arriving in Honolulu, fellows spend four weeks in the following ways:

Reading assignments. Required and recommended readings provide depth for each day's discussions, as well as a useful list for graduates who will take the time to probe deeper.

Lectures. DKI APCSS in-house and visiting faculty conduct auditorium lectures which are followed by lengthy discussion sessions with the fellows.

Seminars. Small groups have long been recognized as an ideal learning format. Experienced CSRT faculty (civilian and military) work during the full month with some 12-14 Fellows, facilitating discussions and linking academic principles and lessons to the group's varied professional experience.

Films. Three selected films about terrorism provide another way to study the problem and new opportunities for informal discussion with colleagues and faculty.

Exercise. This form of small-group activity throws light on the challenges, choices, and opportunities that arise in fashioning a good strategy against regional terrorist problems.

This course observes the principle of non-attribution (to promote candor and protect freedom of inquiry). DKI APCSS rests on three pillars: transparency, inclusion, and mutual respect.