

Comprehensive Maritime Security Cooperation Course 21-1

Overview

In support of the *National Security Strategy*, the *National Defense Strategy*, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Policy) *Regional Center Policy Priorities* guidance, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's *Theater Campaign Plan*, DKI APCSS will host a five-week Comprehensive Maritime Security Cooperation (CMSC) course in June 2021. This course is designed to enhance the capability of interagency officials from governments, militaries, regional bodies, non-governmental and international organizations to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region and to foster shared understanding to protect the rules-based international order.

* NOTE: The CMSC 21-1 course will likely move to a virtual format and be reduced in length due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *

Intended Outcomes

- Fellows deepen appreciation of the maritime domain and its role in national, regional and geopolitical security dynamics.
- Fellows enhance recognition of the broad range of maritime stakeholders, their shared interests, and whole-of-society opportunities for security cooperation.
- Fellows gain knowledge, skills and networks to advance security, stability and prosperity of a free and open Indo-Pacific at the agency, national, and regional level.
- Fellows advance understanding of international law, rules, and norms of behavior.

Course Objectives

- Fellows understand the role and uses of sea power, the key drivers of security dynamics within the Indo-Pacific and the significant maritime challenges facing the region.
- Fellows develop professional relationships and networks-of-trust among a community of mid-career officials from a wide variety of militaries, civilian ministries, law enforcement agencies, regional bodies, non-governmental and international organizations addressing maritime issues across the Indo-Pacific region.
- Fellows understand and apply analytical tools, best practices, confidence-building measures, rules-based approaches and key enablers for security cooperation, risk management, and dispute resolution to comprehensively address maritime security challenges.
- Fellows undertake individual or cohort Fellows Projects to improve maritime security capability through cooperation for their nations or organizations.

Class Composition

The course will be comprised of mid-career officials from governments, militaries, regional bodies, non-governmental and international organizations that intersect with the maritime domain from a variety of security perspectives, including defense, economics, trade, transnational threats, transportation, port authorities, environment, food security as well as safety and law enforcement. Desired seniority is O-4 to O-6 and civilian equivalents. Up to 45 nations and organizations will be represented in the 112 Fellows in this course. Recruitment targets

include an 85/15% mix international/U.S., 33% female representation, and 50/50% mix of military/non-military Fellows.

Course Curriculum

The CMSC course is five weeks in length. It comprises a mixture of plenary lectures, keynote addresses, interactive seminars, practical exercises, and site visits. Subject matter experts deliver presentations that examine the sub-regional and marginal seas security dynamics and the significant maritime security challenges confronting the Indo-Pacific. These presentations discuss both traditional and non-traditional security issues. They also discuss best practices and cooperative mechanisms for addressing complex security matters and seek out opportunities for collective security to be advanced.

The CMSC course utilizes the combined perspectives and skills of its multi-national class to enhance learning opportunities and experiential learning collectively. The Fellows engage in seminar dialogues to share their ideas, understanding, and experiences. They participate in interactive exercises to develop and refine critical-thinking, communication, crisis management skills, imaginatively formulate cooperative strategies for complex environments, and negotiate solutions consistent with the rules-based international order, all in the safe, non-attribution environment of the Center.

The CMSC course requires each Fellow to engage in a “Fellows Project.” This is an individual project relevant to their workplace and approved by their supervisor prior to arriving for the course. Each Fellow develops a work plan to improve their organization’s maritime security capability in an area of their choosing. Alternatively, cohort Fellows Projects may be organized with prior concurrence from DKI APCSS and with the support of the US embassy country team. Cohorts are particularly appropriate for interagency teams developing a regional or national plan as their combined project.

Course Flow

The CMSC course is structured into four modules and supplemented by a program of elective sessions. The course is designed to educate the Fellows about maritime security and empower them with opportunities to creatively put their ideas into practice through experiential learning:

Module 1 – Maritime Security, Strategy Fundamentals, Critical Thinking:

Fellows learn several useful analytical tools for addressing security challenges comprehensively, including critical thinking for complex problems. Students acquire knowledge in the strategic fundamentals of maritime security, sea power, sea control, and an overview geopolitical maritime thought.

Module 2 – Regional Sea Scapes: Fellows study subregional maritime security architecture, significant actors, geopolitical concerns, and historical and contemporary difficulties.

Module 3 – Maritime Security Challenges: Through a series of presentations by subject matters experts, Fellows engage in in-depth exploration of security dynamics and the significant maritime security challenges, especially those facing the region and the marginal seas. Follow-

on interactive discussions in small-group seminars foster critical thinking and candid exchanges about the regional maritime environment.

Module 4 – Opportunities for Maritime Security Cooperation: Fellows consider the key enablers facilitating maritime security cooperation, including international law and norms, regional security architectures, interagency collaboration and coordination mechanisms, risk mitigation measures, crisis negotiations, and communication channels. Key opportunities for advancing maritime security cooperation will also be highlighted. This module also includes a capstone exercise and the completion of their Fellow’s Project.

Electives: Fellows will have several opportunities throughout the CMSC course to choose and participate in elective small-group sessions, which will enable them to broaden and deepen their understanding of specific security topics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indicators of Achievement

The CMSC course employs quantitative and qualitative surveying during the course in order to assess the levels and types of learning outputs occurring. Moreover, through a series of rolling interviews by faculty and management personnel throughout the course, DKI APCSS is able to provide measures of effectiveness and success within the CMSC course with a specific emphasis toward long-term indications of Fellows’ development. Email follow-up to alumni from both faculty and staff, as well as communications via the DKI APCSS portal, supplement data collection.

The individual and cohort Fellow’s Project assignments allows faculty to objectively assess how well Fellows have absorbed the skills and knowledge conveyed in the course, and to what extent Fellows have succeeded in applying these to address real-world professional challenges. One of the primary objectives of the Fellow’s Project is to increase capacity in Fellows’ home countries by supporting problem-solving and action-planning during the course. Fellows exchange information on their projects while at DKI APCSS with like-minded Fellows facing analogous challenges. To the extent that Fellows socialize and implement their individual or cohort Fellow’s Project upon their return to work, addressing a key challenge confronted through the application of skills and knowledge gained while at DKI APCSS, they also succeed in transferring those skills and knowledge. Fellows have ready access to resources, information, and networks to assist in this process. Through the ongoing implementation of a project conceived at home in conjunction with their supervisor and designed at DKI APCSS, Fellows can transfer what they have learned to their organizational setting, improving processes and procedures.

Indicators of achievement for courses are based on the Kirkpatrick Model for Educational Evaluation. The levels and associated measures provide levels of achievement. The measurements indicated are examples and do not necessarily represent the total data set.

Level 1 – Reaction to Course

Measurement:

1. Degree to which course met Fellows’ expectations
2. Value placed on course by Fellows
3. Planned actions – Fellows tell others about the course

4. Alignment with OSD(P) and USINDOPACOM Priorities

Level 2 – Learning: Were program objectives met?

Measurement:

1. Difference in Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA) before and after the course
2. Degree to which ability to effectively network with regional counterparts improved
3. Level of Influence

Level 3 – Behavior: Alumni contributing to positive change

Measurement:

1. Post-course events in maritime security cooperation involving Alumni
2. Alumni Association events with and independent of DKI APCSS

Level 4 – Results: Contributing to Regional Security and Capacity Building

Measurement:

1. Description and impact of results attributable to independent Alumni actions/efforts
2. Description and impact of results attributable to cooperative action among Alumni independent of DKI APCSS
3. Description and impact of results attributable to cooperative action among Alumni and DKI APCSS