

# COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY COOPERATION COURSE (CSC)

## CONCEPT PAPER FY22-23 PROGRAM PLAN

**Introduction:** Comprehensive Security Cooperation (CSC) is a 5 week course running three times each year that enhances the capacity of regional allies, partners and others to comprehend and cooperatively address complex security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region by advancing freedom, openness, prosperity, good governance, rules-based order, and a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Fellows are educated, connected and empowered as they focus on IPSA expectations of allies and partners: 1) resourcing to protect sovereignty; 2) preparedness for crisis and contingency response; 3) upholding rules-based international laws; 4) strengthening interoperability and sharing; 5) building third party network capacity; and 6) safeguarding a free and open Indo-Pacific. Holistic learning goals require not only the 1) acquisition of knowledge on strategic competition and security cooperation, but 2) the application of critical thinking; 3) analyzing the nexus between ideas, people, agencies and fields; 4) challenging assumptions via exposure to perspectives from different sectors, disciplines, and cultures; 5) promoting life-long learning; and 6) aligning with the values of mutual respect, transparency, and inclusion. CSC motivates learners to shift into a new “state of change”: the sequence of change being defined as 1. Naïve, 2. Contemplating, 3. Preparing, 4. Acting, 5. Maintaining, and 5. Advocating. The highest outcome is achieved when a fellow becomes an advocate of course goals.

**Participants:** Fellows are typically O4 to O7 military officers, FSO-04 to FSO-01 foreign service officers, senior civilians in military, law enforcement, and intelligence organizations, or from related government agencies and international, regional, and non-government organizations.

**Curriculum:** CSC employs presentations, discussions, and exercises to examine traditional and gray-zone security challenges and related cooperative mechanisms. Fellows assess security environments, identify threats, investigate disruptors, and probe governance issues as they collaboratively build relationships and mutual understanding, and apply this knowledge to action-oriented projects that strive to achieve real resilient solutions that improve organizational and even regional security outcomes.

Each iteration of CSC requires fellows to spend two-thirds of their time on *cross-cutting* content, that derive from areas of interest in US national security and defense strategies, and one-third on *specialty content* that deep-dives into priority concerns. The cross-talk on complex transdisciplinary and transboundary challenges fosters relationships and networks between different security sectors.

**Cross-Cutting** content: Module 1 focuses on the nature, dynamics, structures, and players of the global and regional geopolitical landscape overlaid with key actors in strategic competition and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. It touches on hard, soft and smart power, malign state influence, irregular warfare, the weaponization of everything, and disruptive technologies before shifting into the competition continuum, gray zone, and strategy development. Module 2 explores the nature of complex security challenges and engages fellows in analytical activities that enable them to understand the interconnectedness of phenomena in the strategic competition and security cooperation environment. Nexus sessions focus on the threats and opportunities presented by evolving and intertwined threats in counter-terrorism, maritime, cyber, environment, health, and economic areas. Module 3 builds capacity in the critical areas of communication, governance and resilience. In addition to recommended practices and skills and managing the media, the communication sessions delve into the peculiarities of operating in a crisis environment, the gray-zone communications that undermine people, ideas, agencies and

governments, and the malign influence wielded by aggressive actors, agencies and states. Module 4 focuses on the practices of success including interoperability and information sharing, inclusion and gendered security, managing relationships and political will, and how best to create, sustain, and grow third-party networks for strategic competition and security cooperation.

**Specialty Modules:** 1) The Counter-Terrorism Security Certificate (CSC-CT) provides advanced, professional education for practitioners working in counter-terrorism, irregular warfare, counter-insurgency, and countering violent extremism. 2) The Maritime Security Certificate (CSC-MS) explores the free and open Indo-Pacific concept and the maritime domain as it reviews traditional state-based and non-traditional transnational crime challenges, and avenues of mutual cooperation. 3) The Crisis Management Security Certificate (CSC-CM) focuses on emergency management, international humanitarian assistance and public health, while it expands professional networks and build relationships with security practitioners from all over the Indo-Pacific. 4) The Cybersecurity Certificate (CSC-CY) focuses on governance, resilience, and response while it exposes cyber policymakers and leaders with non-technical, contemporary cybersecurity knowledge, resources, and best practices, to help them to advance their cybersecurity programs. 5) The Economic Security Certificate (CSC-EC) examines strategic cooperation and competition in economics, the role of global economic governance in promoting security, and the security challenges and opportunities represented by trade, remittances, and the digital economy. 6) The Regional Studies Security Certificate (CSC-RS) emphasizes cross-regional understanding of common security challenges explored from the perspective of each sub-region. 7) The Strategic Studies Security Certificate (CSC-SS) involves the analysis of the strategic environment and geopolitical landscape, and organizational strategy. The following specialties are planned:

2022 Feb-Mar: Regional Studies, Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security, Economic Security

2022 May-Jun: Crisis management, Cybersecurity, Strategic Studies, <Flexible Slot>

2022 Sep-Oct: Regional Studies, Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security, Economic Security

**Capstone:** A fifth of the course involves mentoring fellows as they assess security environments, identify disruptors, investigate options, and consider how to overcome challenges. Assisting the fellows with real work issues often results in outcomes that have a tangible impact on the security sector. In the process, fellows engage in collaborative networking with their peers, faculty and experts, build relationships and mutual understanding, and identify solutions that improve the resilience of their security sphere.