

DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

**INDO-PACIFIC ORIENTATION COURSE (IPOC)**

FY21-23 COURSE DESCRIPTION

**INTRODUCTION.** The Indo-Pacific Orientation Course (IPOC) provides an executive education experience that prepares mid-, senior-, and executive grade security practitioners to knowledgeably engage in cooperative security efforts that build capacity to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific that recognizes the linkages between good governance, rules-based order, and security. To that end, the course is structured on five learning objectives to prepare graduates to apply their understanding of (a) the geopolitical landscape and (b) security architecture of the Indo-Pacific to include (c) the Indo-Pacific strategies of the U.S., its partners, and its competitors, (d) sub-regional security dynamics, and (e) good governance dynamics that are delivered in the security spheres of economic security, gendered security, maritime security, cyber security, and environmental security. Professor-led discussions on each plenary topic are immediately followed by seminars where faculty facilitate small group discussions and applied learning activities with participants. The key to the success of this course lay in its transference of cutting edge information, self-reflection, and collective critical thinking. Participants are encouraged to critically reflect on learned knowledge as they consider their assumptions and worldviews. IPOC is a one-week, 40-hour course that is offered twice a year.

**PARTICIPANTS.** Mid-, senior- and executive-grade U.S. and international military and civilian official officials (O4-O8, GS12-GS15, SES, and equivalents).

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE.** Course material will be exclusively available online, using the Center's ILIAS Learning Management System (LMS) and Microsoft Office Teams. All participants will pre-register and access ILIAS LMS and Microsoft Teams before the course start date. During the in-resident portion of IPOC, participants will use a Center furnished laptop to access the course's online content. During the virtual portion of the course, participants are required to use a personal device connected to the internet to access all asynchronous and synchronous course materials. Only government furnished equipment will have access to the Center's Wi-Fi. Participants are required to bring to the Center their own 3.5mm earbuds or headphones to listen to online content.

**COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS.** This course implements the active learning technique of flipped learning, which requires course participants to prepare for each of plenary by engaging in an *asynchronous lecture* by professors that are pre-recorded before each course and uploaded on the Center's LMS. Participants will have access to all pre-recorded lectures before the course starts, and will prepare for the first day before the course begins. During the other four course days, participants will have a self-study morning session to view each day's asynchronous lectures. After viewing asynchronous content, participants will engage each other in an *online discussion forum* to prepare for *plenary discussions* with professors. Professor-led discussions on each plenary topic in the course are immediately followed by a *seminar* where faculty will facilitate small group discussions and applied learning activities. This asynchronous-synchronous learning model will generate substantive active thought, discourse, and activity between and among Fellows and faculty. This four step asynchronous-synchronous learning approach takes about *120-minutes per topic* and is repeated three times daily. IPOC offers a daily *elective session* that is conducted as a lunch and learn session where participants

can choose between a rich menu of security topics to customize each participant's experience and broaden one's knowledge on topics of interest.

**COURSE GRADUATES & ALUMNI STATUS.** Graduates will have successfully demonstrated course competencies through active engagement in all aspects of the asynchronous-synchronous program, including full course attendance, completion of all activities, and mutually respectful engagements in plenaries and seminars. IPOC is a non-graded academic experience. Graduates attain alumni membership in an expanded network of security practitioners that includes their classmates, DKI APCSS faculty, and an extensive region-wide alumni network of more than 14,000 DKI APCSS Fellows. Our world class online library resources are available to all course members during IPOC, and are exclusively offered as a lifetime resource to our international Fellows to stay current in the region and support life-long learning and continued collaboration.

**COURSE OUTCOMES.** Course outcomes are trifurcated along the Center's lines of effort to educate, connect, and empower. *Educate:* (a) Understand strategic issues, trends, and challenges in the Indo-Pacific. (b) Critically and objectively analyze key security dynamics and trends in the region. (c) Demonstrate enhanced knowledge and shared understanding of countries and sub-regions in the Indo-Pacific. (d) Identify and assess opportunities and barriers for building good governance and resilient capacity in the Indo-Pacific. (e) Understand the strategic significance of regional security cooperation for the U.S. and its allies and partner nations. *Connect:* (a) Develop extensive networks and relationships among a community of security practitioners on whom to draw to better accomplish their institutional missions. (b) Enhance civil-military relations and security sector cooperation and effectiveness. (c) Integrate into an alumni of academics, analysts, and practitioners working the Indo-Pacific. *Empower:* (a) Enhance capacity to capitalize on opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. (b) Increase capacity to advance good governance, and security sector integration and cooperation. (c) Identify limits and enablers of security cooperation.