



# Handbok

**Senior Security Studies Program 2025**

July 28 – August 2, 2025

Chonburi, Thailand

Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute



*The birthplace of ASEAN*



# Senior Security Studies Program SSSP 2025

July 28 – Aug 2, 2025

Chonburi, Thailand



Website SSSP: <https://sscthailand.org/index.php/sscprogram/sssp>

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## ABOUT THE STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER (SSC)



Strategic Studies Center  
National Defence Studies Institute

The Strategic Studies Center (SSC) was established by the former Chief of Defence Forces, the visionary General Kriengsak Chamanand. The center was originally named the “Strategic Research Institute”, which was officially founded on 9 April 1979.

The institute was established to provide professional recommendations on strategies related to politics, economics, socio-psychological issues, and defence matters to higher-level commanders. The Strategic Research Institute was initially placed under the National Defence College.

In 1990, the National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI) was founded, and the Strategic Research Institute was subsequently transferred under the NDSI. Later, on 2 April 2009, the “Strategic Research Institute” was renamed the “Strategic Studies Center” (SSC), as it is known today.

Vision To be an agency that strives for excellence in research studies and provides strategic advice on security and national defence (think tank), and to be recognized by the Armed Forces, security agencies, and the Thai people by the year 2027.

Mission

1. Conduct inspections, evaluate the strategic environment, analyze, and provide recommendations on security strategies that impact national security for the Thai Armed Forces and government agencies.
2. Strengthen and maintain a network of strategic think tank on national security and defense with academic security agencies both domestically and internationally.
3. Produce and disseminate academic works on national security and defense strategies, aiming to gain recognition from the armed forces, security agencies, and the general public, and to achieve international visibility.
4. Develop the organization and personnel capacity to build expertise in research on security strategies and national defense.
5. Produce strategists and develop strategic leaders in the field of security, recognized at the national level.

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## ABOUT THE DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES (DKI APCSS)



### Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) is a U.S. Department of Defense institute that officially opened Sept. 4, 1995, in Honolulu, Hawaii. DKI APCSS addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive program of executive education and workshops, both in Hawaii and throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

The Center supports the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's objective of developing professional and personal ties among national security establishments throughout the region. With a non-warfighting mission, the Center focuses on a multilateral and multi-dimensional approach to defining and addressing regional security issues and concerns. The most beneficial result is building relationships of trust and confidence among future leaders and decision-makers within the region.

DKI APCSS provides a focal point where national officials, decision makers and policy makers can gather to exchange ideas, explore pressing issues and achieve a greater understanding of the challenges that shape the security environment of the Indo-Pacific region. As well, the Center gives attention to the increasingly complex interrelationships of military, economic, political and diplomatic policies relevant to regional security issues through its three academic components: executive education, workshops and research and publications efforts.

Vision A free, prosperous Indo-Pacific promoting collaborative, inclusive security.

Mission DKI APCSS builds resilient capacity, shared understanding, and networked relationships among civilian and military practitioners and institutions to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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Senior Security Studies Program



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### Background

Pursuant to guidance from the Chief of Defence, Thailand, the Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute, and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS), are partnering to conduct the inaugural Senior Security Studies Course focused on strategic thinking and context setting, traditional, non-traditional and emerging security issues, and the implications for Thailand.

### Description

This is an intensive, one-week program for senior Thai security sector leaders on the upward track for positions of significant national and international responsibility. The course will look at a comprehensive array of emergent and over-the-horizon security issues such as: terrorism, environmental degradation, geopolitical competition, cyber threats, and regional governance. The course will also consider geo-strategic issues, such as power shifts among nations, as part of the context in which broader security concerns unfold. Senior Participants will utilize strategic thinking and consider cooperative interagency responses to transnational security scenarios during an interactive exercise. The program is based on the broad notion that national and regional security is significantly enhanced by collaborative efforts at monitoring, preventing, and preparing for any transnational security threat.

The curriculum emphasizes the impact of change in the region, as well as capacities to manage change at both the leadership and institutional levels. The course integrates a challenging program of interactive presentations and dialogue, together with opportunities to specifically consider the implications for Thailand and recommend practical, actionable responses.

The course typically caters to senior executives from varied ministries and organizations throughout the government of Thailand, as well as officials from non-governmental, regional and international organizations with security-related portfolios. Typical peer-level ranks include ambassadors or deputy ministers, flag/general-rank military officers, and regional directors. This unique education and networking opportunity mostly benefits senior leaders whose responsibilities require influencing or making decisions within multilateral, multinational, and whole-of-government forums.

### Outcomes

- Participants with broadened perspectives and deepened understanding of contemporary and emerging security challenges and opportunities at both the domestic and regional levels.
- Participant-developed initial thoughts on areas for enhanced Government of Thailand and Royal Thai Armed Forces focus.
- A networked cohort of participants with shared understanding of each other's organizations and plans.
- A foundation for SSC to continue developing its role as a premier host and facilitator of executive education in support of the priorities of Royal Thai Armed Forces and the Government of Thailand.





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# SSSP 2025

## Course Overview



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Asia-Pacific Center for  
Security Studies

## Senior Security Studies Program

Bangsaen, Chonburi  
July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



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### Senior Security Studies Program (SSSP) 2025 – Course Overview

The SSSP 2025 is a five-day intensive course for senior security leaders, hosted by Thailand's Strategic Studies Center (SSC) and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS). It will take place at the Center for Strategic Studies (Laem Thaen), Bangsaen, Chonburi from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The program covers 7 lectures - Geopolitics: Transition to a New World Order, Critical Thinking and Strategic Thinking, Geo-Economics, AI as a Disruptive Technology, Narrative Warfare - Constructing an Effective Strategic Message, Space Security, and Climate Change and Disaster. Over the week, participants will explore a comprehensive array of emergent and over-the-horizon security issues - from shifting geopolitical orders to environmental and technological disruptions. There will be 30 participants with high-ranking officials, or equals, across various ministries and sectors. The audiences will be divided into 4 seminars, guided by seminar leaders from SSC, DKI APCSS, and Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institution (NADI) members.

#### Objectives

1. To enhance the knowledge and analytical skills of personnel from the Royal Thai Armed Forces and relevant security agencies in assessing security environments under rapidly changing and complex contexts - covering traditional security, non-traditional security, and emerging security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The program also aims to enable participants to provide policy recommendations to the military regarding strategic planning for current and future security environments, and to apply such knowledge in the formulation of Thailand's national security and defense strategies.
2. To expand academic and training cooperation networks between Thailand (Ministry of Defence) and friendly countries.
3. To strengthen international security networks and foster good relations between Thailand and its partner nations.

## Course Assignment

**Assignment Theme:** “Towards Peace and Security in a Global Disruption.” This capstone exercise challenges each group to analyze how a major disruptive factor affects global, regional, or national security, and to propose strategies for Thailand and ASEAN, or other regional cooperation to navigate these challenges amidst rising geopolitical tensions. The assignment is presentation-based (no written report) and emphasizes practical policy responses informed by strategic insight.

**Task:** Each group will select one key disruptive factor to global security from the followings: (1) geo-economics, (2) AI, (3) space security, (4) climate change and disaster, (5) great-power rivalry, (6) transnational crimes, (7) cyber scams, (8) other non-traditional threats and inform the seminar leaders of the factor selected by the group.” Explanation: Needs preposition “of,” and verb tense agreement. Then, the group will

1. Analyze the threat: Explain how this factor disrupts or undermines peace and security on a global, regional, and national scale. Consider its impacts on stability, security, or governance.

2. Incorporate narrative warfare and geopolitics: Discuss the role of narratives warfare and geopolitics in this context. How are narratives (e.g. propaganda, misinformation, strategic messaging) and geopolitics being used by various actors regarding this issue? How can effective strategic communication or counter-narratives, and geopolitics help cope with or mitigate the security challenges posed by this factor? Strategic foresight and scenario building are recommended for this analysis.

3. Recommendations for Thailand and ASEAN, or other regional cooperation: Finally, tie the analysis together into concrete policy recommendations for Thailand and ASEAN, or other regional cooperation. Propose how to address the chosen security disruption and its narrative warfare aspects. Recommendations should aim to enhance peace and security for the nation and region, in the face of the identified disruption and intensifying geopolitical competition.

**Outcome:** Each group will deliver a 15-minute presentation on the morning of August 2, outlining their analysis and recommendations, followed by a 10-minute Q&A session with the audience and instructors. Visual aids (PowerPoint slides) are encouraged for clarity. This is a high-level briefing exercise - formal grading criteria are not applied, but clarity, depth of insight, and practicality of proposals will drive the ensuing discussion.

**Guidance:** Groups are encouraged to apply concepts from the course’s keynote speech and lectures (Geopolitics: Transition to a New World Order, Critical Thinking and Strategic Thinking, Geo-Economics, AI as a Disruptive Technology, Narrative Warfare - Constructing an Effective Strategic Message, Space Security, and Climate Change and Disaster) to inform their analysis. The focus should balance analytical depth with actionable policy relevance - reflecting the senior-level perspective of anticipating strategic challenges and crafting feasible solutions.



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# SSSP 2025

## Course Schedule

Course Schedule SSSP 2025														
Day	0700-0800	0800-0900	0900-1000	1000-1100	1100-1200	1200-1300	1300-1400	1400-1500	1500-1600	1600-1700	1700-1800	1800-1900	1900-2000	
Monday July 28	Breakfast	Preparation of SSC Team				Lunch	Arrival & Registration of Participants				Introduction, Course Orientation, Ice Breaking			Dinner
Tuesday July 29		Registration	Opening Ceremony & Group Photo	Keynote Speech by U.S. Army Attache	Break			Geopolitics: Transition to a New World Order by Mr.Kast Chongthaisorn (Chairman at Bangkok Post & Research Council at Bangkok Post & Research Follow at Chulalongkorn University)	Local Tour	Leisure Time				
Wednesday July 30		Critical Thinking & Strategic Thinking by Dr.Alexander L. Vassing (DEI APCSS)			Geo-Economics by Mr. Marc Saxer Director of Friedrich-Schuler-Stiftung Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia)			Seminar Session		Team Building Activity				
Thursday July 31		AI as Disruptive Technology by Dr.Luke Filler (DEI APCSS)			Seminar Session			Narrative Warfare – Constructing an Effective Strategic Message by Prof. Mary Markowski (DEI APCSS)		Seminar Session		Administration		
Friday Aug 1		Course Flow & Admin Announcements					Seminar Session by Dr. Alfred Oshlers (DKI APCSS)				Preparation for Group Presentations			
Saturday Aug 2		Space Security by Dr. Alfred Oshlers (DKI APCSS)					Climate Change and Disaster by Mr.Nareerat Pannanee Director of Climate Change and Environment and Research Center)				Seminar Session			
		Group presentations					Closing Ceremony & Group Photo				Departure to Bangkok			



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# SSSP 2025

## Agenda

**DAY 1: MONDAY, JULY 28**

**PATICIPANT ARRIVAL AND ICE BREAKING**  
(DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
1300 - 1700	Participant Arrival & Registration	CSS (Laemthan)
1700 - 1830	- Introduction - Course Orientation - Ice Breaking	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1830 - 2000	Dinner	2nd Floor Accommodation Building

## DAY 2: TUESDAY, JULY 29

### Opening Ceremony, Thai Keynote, US Keynote

### “Geopolitics: Transition to a New World Order”

(DRESS CODE: UNIFORM OR BUSINESS ATTIRE FOR MORNING EVENTS;  
SMART CASUAL FOR AFTERNOON EVENTS)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
0800 - 0830	Participant Arrival & Registration	Convention Hall
0830 - 0930	<b>Opening Ceremony:</b> - Welcome Speech: Maj.Gen. Nirut Duangpanya, Director of SSC, NDSI - Opening Remarks: Gen. Pongtep Gaewchaiyo, Commanding General of NDSI - Opening Remarks: Maj.Gen.(Ret.) Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, Director of DKI APCSS - Group Photo	Main Convention Room
0930 - 1000	<b>Keynote Speech</b> - Colonel Joshua Rodriguez, U.S. Army Attaché	Main Convention Room
1000 - 1030	Refreshment Break	
1030 - 1200	<b>“Geopolitics: Transition to a New World Order”</b> Mr.Kavi Chongkittavorn, Institute of Security and International Studies Chulalongkorn University	Plenary Room
1200 - 1300	Lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1300 - 1330	Networking	
1330 - 1400	Polling & Assignment	Plenary Room
1400 - 1530	Seminar Session	Seminar Room 1-2-3-4
1530 - 1600	Refreshment Break	
1600 - 1730	Local Tour	CSS (Laemthan)
1730 - 1830	Leisure Time	
1830 - 1930	Dinner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building



**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, JULY 30**

**Critical Thinking & Strategic Thinking**

**Geo-Economics**

(DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
0800 - 0900	Course Flow & Admin Announcements	Plenary Room
0830 - 1000	<b>Critical Thinking &amp; Strategic Thinking</b> by Dr.Alexander L. Vuving (DKI APCSS)	Plenary Room
1000 - 1030	Refreshment Break	
1030 - 1200	<b>Geo-Economics</b> Mr. Marc Saxer, Director of Friedrich-Ebert- Stiftung Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia	Plenary Room
1200 - 1300	Lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1300 - 1330	Networking	
1330 - 1500	Seminar Session	Seminar Room 1-2-3-4
1500 - 1530	Refreshment Break	
1530 - 1830	Team Building Activity	Bangsaen Beach
1830 - 1930	Dinner	2nd Floor Accommodation Building

**DAY 4: THURSDAY, JULY 31**

**AI as Disruptive Technology**

**Narrative Warfare – Constructing an Effective Strategic Message**

(DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
0800 - 0830	Course Flow & Admin. Announcements	Plenary Room
0830 - 1000	<b>AI as Disruptive Technology</b> by Dr.Lukas Filler (DKI APCSS)	Plenary Room
1000 - 1030	Refreshment Break	
1030 - 1200	Seminar Session	Plenary Room
1200 - 1300	Lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1300 - 1330	Networking	
1330 - 1500	<b>Narrative Warfare – Constructing an Effective Strategic Message</b> by Prof.Mary Markovinovic (DKI APCSS)	Plenary Room
1500 - 1530	Refreshment Break	
1530 - 1700	Seminar Session	Seminar Room 1-2-3-4
1700 - 1830	Administration	Plenary Room
1830 - 1930	Dinner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building

DAY 5: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Space Security  
Climate Change and Disaster  
(DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
0800 - 0830	Course Flow & Admin Announcements	Plenary Room
0830 - 1000	<b>Space Security</b> by Dr. Alfred Oehlers (DKI APCSS)	Plenary Room
1000 - 1030	Refreshment Break	
1030 - 1200	<b>Climate Change and Disaster</b> Ms.Nareerat Panmanee Director of Climate Change and Environmental Research Center	Plenary Room
1200 - 1330	Lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1300 - 1330	Networking	
1330 - 1500	Seminar Session	Seminar Room 1-2-3-4
1500 - 1530	Refreshment Break	
1530 - 1700	Preparation for Presentation	Seminar Room 1-2-3-4
1700 - 1830	Administration	Plenary Room
1830 - 1930	Dinner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building

**DAY 6: SATURDAY, AUGUST 2**

**GROUP PRESENTATION AND CLOSING CEREMONY**

(DRESS CODE: UNIFORM OR BUSINESS ATTIRE FOR CLOSING CEREMONY)

TIME	EVENTS	LOCATION
0700 - 0800	Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
0800 - 0830	Course Flow & Admin Announcements	Plenary Room
0830 - 1000	Group Presentation	Main Convention Room
1000 - 1030	Refreshment Break	
1030 - 1200	Closing Ceremony - Congratulatory Speech By Maj.Gen.(Ret.) Suzanne Puanani Vares- Lum, Director of DKI APCSS - Congratulatory Speech by Maj.Gen. Nirut Duangpanya, Director of SSC, NDSI - Presentation of Certificates - Presentation of the souvenirs to the APCSS team and seminar leader team - Closing Remarks by Gen. Pongtep Gaewchaiyo, Commanding General of NDSI - Group photo	Main Convention Room
1200 - 1300	Lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Accommodation Building
1300	Departure to Bangkok	



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# SSSP 2025

# Topic Overview

## Day 1

## July 29, 2025



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## Senior Security Studies Program Bangsaen, Chonburi July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



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### Topic Overview Geopolitics – Transition to a New World Order

Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn

Columnist at Bangkok Post & Research Fellow at Chulalongkorn University

#### Scope

This lecture examines the ongoing shifts in global power dynamics and the evolution of international order. It covers the decline of the post-Cold War unipolar moment and the rise of a more multipolar (and potentially unstable) world order, characterized by great-power competition and realignments. Key themes include the strategic rivalry between major powers (e.g. U.S.-China relations and their Indo-Pacific impact, Russia's resurgence), the role of middle powers and alliances, and the erosion of some norms of the rules-based order. Participants will consider how these geopolitical transitions heighten uncertainty and conflict risks – for example, a new multipolar order may “pave the way for more conflicts” and chaos, undermining global stability. The lecture will also discuss implications for peace and security in Southeast Asia, and how countries like Thailand can navigate the turbulence through diplomacy, balancing relations, and regional frameworks.

**Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Analyze the major drivers of change in the global order – including power shifts, emerging alliances, and ideological currents – and explain how they differ from the previous era of U.S.-led predominance.
2. Understand the security implications of a more contested multipolar world, where the absence of a single dominant power and the “decline of the long-standing rules-based international order” contribute to a more volatile environment.
3. Evaluate how increased great-power rivalry (and reduced global cooperation) can impact smaller states and regional security architectures.
4. Identify opportunities for ASEAN and Thailand to maintain strategic autonomy and regional stability – for instance, through ASEAN-led mechanisms, confidence-building measures, or non-alignment – amidst intensifying geopolitical competition.



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# Topic Overview

## Day 2

## July 30, 2025



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### Topic Overview

## Critical Thinking and Strategic Thinking

Dr. Alexander Vuving

### Scope

Critical thinking and strategic thinking are key skills for successful leaders. Humans are evolutionarily wired to think critically and strategically, but only to some extent. To be more successful than the average, we must hone these skills. The essence of critical thinking is being aware of the biases and limits of our cognition, being ready to change perspectives, and looking at things from all angles. There are many tools to sharpen our critical thinking, some of which will be presented in this lecture.

Strategic thinking is different from both tactical thinking and strategic planning. Contrary to popular belief, strategy cannot be a plan, nor even a master plan. This lecture puts forward the vision of strategy as (a) the alignment of ends, ways, and means, (b) a framework that provides the logic for making choices and priorities, (c) the art of creating power, and (d) an ecosystem of actors, systems, and forces. This vision of strategy takes into account the fact that we are living and interacting in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) environment. Such an environment is characterized by the continual change of its powerful currents, the multi-mindedness of its actors, and the interdependence of its parts.

Strategic thinking in a VUCA environment is the art of getting what you want, knowing that others are also trying to get what they want, that the environment is changing, and that almost everything in the environment is interdependent.

Strategic thinking is a mindset that (1) persists with an ultimate end but is flexible in terms of the ways, means, and intermediate goals to achieve the end, (2) always keeps the big picture in mind, (3) takes the long view, (4) embraces systems thinking, (5) espouses critical thinking, (6) is creative, and (7) is highly adaptive.

The lecture will illustrate these points with case studies related to a regional hotspot in Southeast Asia and the Ukraine conflict

### Objectives

1. Understand the need for and the essence of critical thinking as well as the major ways to sharpen critical thinking,
2. Understand the need for and the concept of strategic thinking,
3. Understand the key dimensions of strategic thinking in a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment.





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### Topic Overview

### Geo-Economics

Mr. Marc Saxer

Director of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia

#### Scope

This lecture delves into geo-economics - the intersection of economic policy and national security strategy. It explains how states use economic instruments as tools of power and influence on the world stage, essentially “waging geopolitics with capital”. The scope includes concepts like trade wars, sanctions, investment strategies, and economic alliances. Participants will examine recent examples of geo-economic statecraft. For instance, the use of sanctions and export controls in geopolitical disputes (as seen in responses to the Russia–Ukraine conflict or technology restrictions in the U.S.-China rivalry), major powers’ infrastructure and investment initiatives (e.g. China’s Belt and Road Initiative) aimed at gaining strategic leverage, and the weaponization of interdependence (such as cutting off critical supplies). The lecture also covers how a nation’s economic health and dependencies can themselves become security vulnerabilities or strengths. Key definitions will be provided – e.g., geoeconomics can be defined as “the use of economic instruments to promote and defend national interests, and to produce beneficial geopolitical results” - illustrating that economic decisions (by oneself or others) have direct geopolitical effects. For Thailand and ASEAN, the session is highly relevant: it touches on how to navigate U.S.-China economic tensions, maintain supply chain resilience, and leverage regional economic cooperation as a buffer against external shocks.

**Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants should be able to

1. Define geo-economics and explain how economic tools (e.g. tariffs, trade, sanctions, aid) are used strategically in international affairs.
2. Provide current examples of geo-economic strategies, such as trade wars, energy leverage, and infrastructure investment for influence.
3. Analyze security risks from economic interdependence, including supply chain vulnerabilities and the need for diversification (e.g. “friend-shoring”).
4. Propose strategies for Thailand/ASEAN to strengthen economic security, including policy options, regional cooperation, and countering harmful economic narratives.



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# Topic Overview

## Day 3

## July 31, 2025



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## Senior Security Studies Program

Bangsaen, Chonburi  
July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



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## Topic Overview

### AI as Disruptive Technology

Prof. Lukas Filler

#### Scope

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the landscape of national security, presenting both unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges. This lecture will explore how AI is changing national security by reshaping security threats, TTPs, and strategies as well as altering the dynamics of international relations. Participants will examine the implications of AI technologies on defense/security issues, the potential for adversarial use, and how AI can improve mission accomplishment within their organizations. Through a quick review of “What is AI,” the most impactful emerging AI-enabled capabilities, and a guided practical exercise using AI tools, this session aims to improve theoretical as well as practical understanding of AI's role in changing the modern security environments.

#### Bring to Lecture:

Be prepared either to log into your Google account or create a free ChatGPT account for practical exercise.

**Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants should be able to

1. Identify AI's Disruptive Potential: Understand the various ways AI technologies are disrupting traditional national security paradigms, including changes in warfare, intelligence analysis, and threats.
2. Analyze Strategic Implications: Evaluate the strategic implications of AI adoption by both state and non-state actors, including how AI can enhance military capabilities and the risks associated with its misuse.
3. Explore AI for Mission Accomplishment: Discuss how AI can improve mission accomplishment within participants' organizations, focusing on practical applications that enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness.
4. Engage in Applied Exercise: Participate in a guided practical exercise using AI tools, allowing participants to apply their knowledge in a hands-on setting to explore how AI can be leveraged to support national security objectives.



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## Senior Security Studies Program Bangsaen, Chonburi July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



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### Topic Overview

## Narrative Warfare – Constructing an Effective Strategic Message

Prof. Mary Markovinovic

### Scope

Strategic communication is the art of informing to drive action and attitudinal or behavioral changes. What happens when malign actors use these techniques to promote their own interests? In today's information environment, real and fictional stories are now presented in such a similar way that it can sometimes be difficult to tell the two apart. This session will explore how strategic messaging is impacting security in the region and what we can do about it. We'll also look at how to build a strategic communication plan and its various elements such as messaging, messengers, audiences, and communication challenges

**Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants should be able to

1. Better understand the role of strategic communication in the information environment.
2. Examine and illustrate various approaches geared towards building resilient and agile responses to counter false narratives.
3. Review how some national narratives are changing based on world events.



Daniel K. Inouye  
Asia-Pacific Center for  
Security Studies



Senior Security Studies Program  
Bangsaen, Chonburi  
July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence  
Studies Institute

SSSP 2025

# Topic Overview

## Day 4

## Aug 1, 2025



Daniel K. Inouye  
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Security Studies

## Senior Security Studies Program

Bangsaen, Chonburi  
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Strategic Studies Center, National  
Defence Studies Institute

### Topic Overview

### Space Security

### Dr. Alfred Oehlers

#### Scope

The strategic significance of space is increasingly apparent to Indo-Pacific nations. Space is a domain affecting nearly every aspect of modern life. It offers crucial pathways to technological advancement and economic progress and is vital to national security. As a domain of consequence, space is also highly contested, with intensifying competition in economic and technological fields, international diplomacy and space governance, and warfighting. Indo-Pacific nations have vital roles to play in this fast-changing strategic context, contributing to deterrence against conflict in space, the evolution of international diplomacy and governance, and as stakeholders shaping emerging free and open space economies and technologies.

#### Objectives:

1. Fellows will understand the increasing importance of space to Indo-Pacific nations.
2. Fellows will gain a wider appreciation of the risks posed to the space interests of Indo-Pacific nations.
3. Fellows will understand the potential contributions of Indo-Pacific nations to space deterrence, diplomacy and norm building, and economic and technological progress in space.



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## Senior Security Studies Program Bangsaen, Chonburi July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



Strategic Studies Center, National  
Defence Studies Institute

### Topic Overview Climate Change and Disaster

**Ms.Nareerat Panmanee**

Director of Climate Change and Environmental Research Center

#### Scope

This lecture addresses climate change and natural disasters as critical security issues. It frames climate change as a “threat multiplier” that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and conflicts - for instance, how droughts, floods, and extreme weather can heighten resource scarcity, drive displacement and migration, or ignite humanitarian crises that strain governments. The session covers the security implications of climate trends (rising sea levels, extreme heat, etc.) and more frequent/intense natural disasters, with a focus on Southeast Asia’s context (e.g. typhoons, flooding, and transboundary haze). Participants will learn how environmental stress can destabilize societies or provoke regional tensions, and why militaries and security agencies increasingly factor climate into their planning (disaster response, humanitarian assistance, infrastructure resilience). The lecture also discusses international and regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction - including ASEAN’s frameworks for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) - and the importance of integrating climate adaptation into national security strategy. Real-world examples (such as how climate change “intensifies existing security threats and decreases resilience” will illustrate the urgency of this issue.

**Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants should be able to

1. Recognize climate change as a security threat multiplier, with impacts like food insecurity, habitat loss, and extreme weather driving conflict and instability.
2. Explain the security risks of natural disasters, including how events like tsunamis, cyclones, or pandemics can strain state capacity and cause unrest.
3. Understand the role of security forces in climate and disaster response, from supporting civilian agencies to enabling humanitarian operations.
4. Identify strategies to address environmental security, including climate risk integration in defense planning, disaster preparedness, regional cooperation (e.g. ASEAN HADR), and countering climate misinformation.



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# Additional Information



## ❖ Geopolitics - Transition to a New World Order

### Required questions for seminar

1. What are the main forces driving the transition towards a new world order? Consider factors like the rise of China and other powers, shifting alliances, and the retreat of U.S. dominance.
2. In practical terms, what challenges and opportunities do current geopolitical shifts pose for Thailand and ASEAN?

## ❖ Critical Thinking and Strategic Thinking

### Required questions for seminar

1. In your own words, what distinguishes critical thinking from mere problem-solving or intelligence and how does thinking at the strategic level (national or regional security) differ from tactical problem-solving?
2. Can you identify a current global or national issue that exemplifies VUCA conditions? How would you begin to approach it strategically?

## ❖ Geo-Economics

### Required questions for seminar

1. What are some ways nations have used economic means to achieve geopolitical goals in recent years? Consider examples such as sanctions (financial or trade sanctions on countries like North Korea, Iran, or Russia), trade tariffs and tech export controls, or using investment/loans to gain political sway.
2. What steps can governments take to strengthen their economic security? Discuss ideas such as developing local industries for critical supplies (like vaccines, semiconductors, defense equipment), maintaining strategic reserves (food, fuel), enhancing cyber-security for financial systems, or coordinating within ASEAN to avoid undue pressure from external powers.

## ❖ AI as Disruptive Technology

### Required questions for seminar

1. How is AI transforming traditional concepts of warfare, such as deterrence, dominance, or escalation?
2. What should be the ethical boundaries or international norms for AI use in conflict and defense?

### Activities:

In the second half of the session, participants will engage in a hands-on practicum designed to explore the practical applications of artificial intelligence in national security analysis. Working individually or in small groups, fellows will interact with a custom AI-enabled

chatbot trained on a multi-year dataset of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) military activities. This tool is intended to simulate how AI can be integrated into real-world workflows to support more efficient and effective strategic assessments.

**The exercise will guide participants through using the AI assistant to:**

- Identify patterns and anomalies in PLA operations;
- Infer the possible strategic messaging or signaling behind Chinese military behavior.
- Generate and evaluate potential response options for regional or global actors.

This activity is not only a demonstration of how AI can process and synthesize large volumes of security data, but also a platform for discussing broader use cases across the defense and intelligence enterprise. The techniques explored here—such as using AI to augment situational awareness, streamline intelligence workflows, and improve decision support—are broadly applicable to a wide range of mission sets common to national security professionals.

**References:**

1. Allen, Greg, and Taniel Chan. "Artificial Intelligence and National Security." Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, July 2017, <https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/artificial-intelligence-and-national-security>.

2. Beauchamp-Mustafaga, Nathan, et al. "Dr. Li Bicheng, or How China Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Social Media Manipulation: Insights into Chinese Use of Generative AI and Social Bots from the Career of a PLA Researcher." RAND Corporation, 2024, [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA2679-1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2679-1.html).

3. National Cyber Security Centre. "The Near-Term Impact of AI on the Cyber Threat." National Cyber Security Centre, 2 Dec. 2024, <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/impact-of-ai-on-cyber-threat>.

4. Chivvis, Christopher S., and Jennifer Kavanagh. "How AI Might Affect Decision making in a National Security Crisis." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 17 June 2024, <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/06/artificial-intelligence-national-security-crisis>.

5. Yerramilli-Rao, Bobby, et al. "Strategy in an Era of Abundant Expertise." Harvard Business Review, Mar.–Apr. 2025, <https://hbr.org/2025/03/strategy-in-an-era-of-abundant-expertise>.

## ❖ Narrative Warfare – Constructing an Effective Strategic Message

### Required questions for seminar

1. Why are narratives so important in conflict and security issues? Discuss how a well-crafted narrative can sometimes achieve what military force cannot – for example, undermining an enemy’s will to fight or gaining international support for one’s cause.

2. In building our own strategic messages, what elements make a message credible and persuasive? Consider factors like truthfulness, consistency with actions (deeds matching words), understanding the audience’s values and fears, and choosing the right communication channels.

### Additional Resources/References:

- NATO StratCom Center for Excellence <http://stratcomcoe.org/>
- UN StratCom Booklet [http://www.cendevcom.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Booklet\\_FINAL\\_3.25.02.pdf](http://www.cendevcom.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Booklet_FINAL_3.25.02.pdf)
- WHO Strategic Communication Guide <https://www.who.int/about/communications>
- Joint Publication 3-04 – Information in Joint Operations newly published
- Resist2: Counter-disinformation toolkit <https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RESIST-2-counter-disinformation-toolkit.pdf>

## ❖ Space Security

### Required questions for seminar

1. Why is space becoming a strategic priority for Indo-Pacific nations?

2. What roles can Indo-Pacific nations play in shaping international norms and rules for responsible space behavior?

### Additional Resources/References:

1. National Space Intelligence Center and National Air and Space Intelligence Center, *Competing in Space*, Second Edition, December 2023.
2. Clayton Swope, et. al., *Space Threat Assessment 2025*, Aerospace Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 25, 2025.
3. United States Space Force, *Space Warfighting: A Framework for Planners*, United States Space Force, March 2025.
4. Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan and Gatra Priyandita, “New frontiers of Southeast Asian space diplomacy”, *The Strategist*, 22 May 2025.
5. Maximilien Berthet, “Southeast Asian Space Activities: Recent Trends in Regional Cooperation”, *RSIS Commentary*, No. 119, August 20, 2024.
6. Marco Förster, “The New Frontier: Southeast Asia’s Emerging Space Role”, *ASEAN Briefing*, 1 December 2023.

## ❖ Climate Change and Disaster

### Required questions for seminar

1. In what specific ways can climate change be said to exacerbate security threats? Consider examples such as competition over scarce water or arable land, disaster-induced refugee flows, or climate-related economic shocks in fragile states.

2. How might rising geopolitical tensions hamper climate cooperation? And conversely, could shared climate security concerns become an avenue for collaboration even among rival states?



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# Strategic Studies Center Team



**Major General Nirut Duangpanya,**  
Director of Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence Studies Institute.

#### **Education Background**

- Australian Defence Force Academy, Australia, 1991
- Royal Military College Duntroon, Australia, 1992
- University of New South Wales, 1993 (B.E.(Mechanical Engineering))
- Pibulsongkram Rajabhat University, Phitsanulok, 2009, (M.A. (Master of Arts) in Development Strategy
- Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, 2013 (M.A. (Master of Arts) in Policing Intelligence Counter Terrorism)

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#### **Education Background (Military)**

- Airborne, Special Warfare Center, Lopburi, Thailand
- Ranger, Infantry Center, Prachaukirikhan, Thailand
- Mine Warfare, Engineer Center, Ratchburi, Thailand
- Engineer Officer Basic Course, Ratchburi, Thailand
- Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Ratchburi, Thailand
- Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Fort Leonard Wood, USA
- Command and General Staff College, Bangkok, Thailand
- Army War College, Bangkok, Thailand
- National Defence College, Thailand

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#### **PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT**

- Instructor, School of Engineering, Ratchburi, Thailand
- Executive Officer, 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Phetchabun, Thailand
- Company Commander, 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Phetchabun, Thailand
- Company Commander, 302<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Military Observer (Milob), UNAMSIL, Freetown, Seirra Leone
- Construction Officer, 302<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Construction Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Regiment, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Maintenance Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Regiment, Phitsanulok, Thailand

- Staff Office, JMAC, ONUB, Bujumbura, Burundi
- Operations Staff Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Regiment, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Intelligence Staff Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Area Command, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Senior Staff Officer, JOC/DDR, UNAMID, Sudan
- Supervisor, Army War College, Bangkok, Thailand
- Deputy Director of Office of Military Education, Thailand
- Director of Strategic Studies Center, Thailand



## Gp.Capt. Chaiya Okdaeng

Deputy Director Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence Studies Institute

### Education Background

- Royal Thai Air Force Academy, (Year 1989)
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Royal Military College of Science (RMCS), Shrivenham, Swindon, ENGLAND, (Year 1993)
- Master of Science in Telecommunications Management, Murdoch University, Perth, AUSTRALIA, (Year 2002)
- Air Force Command & Staff College, THAILAND (Year 2007)
- National Defence College : NDC Class 66 Thailand (Year 2024)

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### Training

- Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC13-1), Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS), Hawaii, USA (Year 2013)
- Program on Cyber Security Studies (PCSS) Cyber Alumni Community of Interest (COI) Workshop at George C. Marshall: European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, GERMANY (Year 2015&2017)
- Cyber Law and Other Emerging Technology Workshop, Military Law Center, Victoria Barracks Sydney, AUSTRALIA (October 2018)

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### Previous Assignment

- Directorate of Armament, Royal Thai Air Force
- Royal Thai Air Force Telecommunications Center
- Deputy Director of Policy and Plan Division, National Defence Studies Institution Headquarters
- Director of Publication and Information Technology Division, National Defence Studies Institute's Headquarters
- Director of Strategic and Security Research Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute
- Director of Education Division, National Defence Studies Institute's Headquarters





## Senior Colonel Thanita Wongjinda

Training Expert, Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence Studies Institute

**Date of Birth** 4 April 1972  
**Place of Birth** Rayong Province, Thailand  
**Religion** Buddhist  
**Office Address** Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute  
62 Vipavadeerangsit Road, Dindang District, Bangkok 10400  
**Tel** (66)62 163 5324  
**E-mail Address** [thanitasom@yahoo.com](mailto:thanitasom@yahoo.com)

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### **Education Background**

1994 Bachelor of Nursing, Royal Thai Army Nursing College, Thailand  
2006 Master of Arts in Health Social Sciences (International Program),  
Mahidol University, Thailand  
2017 Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health (International Program),  
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

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### **Education Background (MILITARY)**

2019 Strategist Course (Class 12<sup>nd</sup> with Academic Award), Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence Studies Institute, RTARF  
2021 Military Teacher of the Royal Thai Army Course (Class 1<sup>st</sup>), Army Training  
Command, RTA  
2022 Army War College Course (Class 67<sup>th</sup>), Army War College, RTA

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### **Education/Training (Overseas)**

2024 Comprehensive Security Cooperation Course (24-1), Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific  
Center for Security Studies, USA



## Group Captain Worachat Sattayalekha

Director

Strategic and Security Research Studies Division,  
Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute.

<b><u>Date of Birth</u></b>	25 JUNE 1978
<b><u>Place of Birth</u></b>	Bangkok Province
<b><u>Religion</u></b>	Buddhism
<b><u>Home Address</u></b>	1/356 Pradiphat Rd. Nakhon Chaisi District, Dusit District. Bangkok 10300.
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### **Education Background**

- High School: Chonradadornumrung School, Year 5, (equivalent to Grade 11) 1995.
- Military Preparatory School, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 1997
- Bachelor's degree: Royal Thai Air Force Academy, Aeronautical Engineering, USA 2002
- Master's degree: MBA in Aviation Finance, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, USA,
- Master's degree: Security Studies, Australian National University, Australia 2015

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### **Education Background (MILITARY)**

- Squadron Officer School, Class 116, Bangkok, Thailand. 2010
- 01/16 ADC Preparation Defence International Training Centre (DITC), 2015
- Australian Command and Staff Course Australian Defence College (ADC), 2016
- Advanced Security Cooperation 17-12 APCSS, Hawaii, 2017
- Joint Transition Course/Joint Combined Warfighting International, USA. 2019
- Joint War College, Class 62, Bangkok, Thailand. 2021



## Colonel Tassarin Sothornboon

Deputy Director

Strategic and Security Research Studies Division  
Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute

<u>Date of Birth</u>	26 October 1978
<u>Place of Birth</u>	Chachoengsao Province
<u>Religion</u>	Buddhism
<u>Home Address</u>	17/754 Ramindra 2/1 Anusaowaree, Bangkhen, Bangkok, Thailand 10220
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<u>E-mail Address</u>	tassarin.s@rtarf.mi.th

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### Education Background

- **High School:** Triam Udom Suksa Pattanakarn
- **Bachelor's degree:** B.A. in Political Science, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Master's degree:** Master of Public Administration, California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA.

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### Education Background (MILITARY)

- Joint Operations Course, Class 1, Bangkok, Thailand
- Security Psychology Course, Class 121, Bangkok, Thailand
- RTARF HQ Senior Officer Course, Class 4, Bangkok, Thailand
- Strategist Course, Class 18, Bangkok, Thailand



## Capt. Chatthirat Patcharkijja

Deputy Director

Strategic and Security Research Studies Division

Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute

<b><u>Date of Birth</u></b>	3 October 1980
<b><u>Place of Birth</u></b>	Prachinburi Province
<b><u>Religion</u></b>	Buddhism
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### **Education Background**

- Minburi Commercial College
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Phranakhon Rajabhat University

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### **Education Background (MILITARY)**

- Non-commissioned Defense Civilian Official Course
- Non-Commissioned Officer Training Course, Adjutant General Corps
- Budget Officer Course, Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters (RTARF HQ)
- Strategist Course, Class 16, Bangkok, Thailand
- Senior Officer Course, Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters (RTARF HQ), Class 5



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# Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Team



## Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum

### Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army

Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum became the director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in January 2025. Prior to this role, she served as President of the East-West Center. Born and raised in Hawai‘i, she served 34 years in all three components of the U.S. Army—the Army National Guard, Regular Army, and Army Reserve—retiring as a Major General in 2021.

In her last military assignment, Vares-Lum spent 5 ½ years at the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, where she served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, including periods as acting Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander. As a Brigadier General, she served as the Mobilization Assistant to the J5, Director of Strategic Plans and Policy, U.S. Pacific Command.

Vares-Lum began her military career in 1986, enlisting in the Army Reserve as a private first class. She was later commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the Military Intelligence Corps through the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa ROTC program and entered active duty in 1989 as a second lieutenant. She later returned to Hawaii and entered the Hawai‘i Army National Guard.

Her previous assignments include Chief of Staff Hawai‘i National Guard; Vice Chief of Staff and J2 Hawai‘i National Guard; 298th Multifunctional Training Unit Regimental Commander; G-2, 29th Separate Infantry Brigade; 229th Military Intelligence Company Commander; 29th Support Battalion S-2; 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division HHSC Executive Officer; Trailblazer Platoon Leader, 103rd (CEWI) Military Intelligence Battalion, 3rd ID; 3rd ID Division Artillery Fire Support Intelligence Officer, and 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Public Affairs Officer.

Vares-Lum was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III from August 2004 to March 2006. As the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade G-2, she established and led the Joint Intelligence Center in Balad, Iraq. Her military schools include the Army Strategic Education Program, Basic and Advanced, Army Forced Integration for Senior Leaders, the U.S. Army War

College (DDE), Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course, Military Officer Basic Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff Officer's Course, Airborne School, and Air Assault School.

Vares-Lum serves on the Bank of Hawaii Board of Directors, as well as non-profit boards, including the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research and the Hawaii Army Museum. She is a current member of the U.S.-Japan Council and is a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and her Master of Education in Teaching from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, as well as a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. In 2019, she became a National Security Fellow of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is also an alumna of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies' Transnational Security Cooperation course (TSC 16-2), the Senior Asia-Pacific Orientation Course (SEAPOC 15-1), and a participant in numerous workshops.

Her awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and other personal and unit awards. In 2017, she was a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and Army ROTC National Hall of Fame Inductee.



## Dr. Alexander L. Vuving

PhD.-Professor

Dr. Alexander L. Vuving came to the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in July 2008 from Tulane University, where he taught courses on International Relations, International Security, China and the World, and a field seminar in International Politics. Prior to Tulane, Dr. Vuving was a Research Fellow and an Associate of Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government. He was also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. Dr. Vuving spent his formative years in Vietnam, Hungary, France, and Germany during times of dramatic changes including the wars in Indochina, the collapse of communism, and the European unification. These events have helped shape much of his professional curiosity.

Dr. Vuving's research interests cut across International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Historical Sociology. His major areas of research range from functional topics such as the Sources of State Behavior, the Making of Grand Strategic Change, and the Workings of Soft Power, to regional issues such as Asian Security, the Rise of China, and Vietnamese Politics. He has published in major scholarly journals and presented at leading universities and think tanks around the world.

Dr. Vuving serves on the Editorial Board of Asian Politics and Policy, a journal of the Policy Studies Organization, and is a referee for Oxford University Press, International Security, and Asian Security, among others. He is the guest editor of a special issue on "How China's Rise is Changing Asia's Landscape and Seascape" for Asian Politics and Policy.

Dr. Vuving studied Political Science, Economics, Sociology, and Electronic Engineering at Cornell University, the Johannes Gutenberg University, and the Budapest University of Technology. He received his master of arts (summa cum laude) in Political Science, Sociology, and Economics, and his doctor's degree (magna cum laude) in Political Science from the Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany. He was a German National Merit scholar and a recipient of the prestigious Konrad Adenauer Foundation scholarship.





## Dr. Alfred Oehlers

PhD.-Professor

Dr. Alfred Oehlers joined the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in March 2007. He was previously an associate professor at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. Dr. Oehlers obtained his doctorate in political economy from the University of Sydney. He holds both a master's and a bachelor's degree in economics, from Macquarie University, Australia.

Dr. Oehlers is a specialist in the political economy of economic growth and development, with reference to the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. His teaching has ranged widely during his career, spanning courses as diverse as international business, economics, politics, public policy, international relations, Asian studies, history, and other social sciences. He has taught at Massey University in New Zealand, Macquarie University and the University of Sydney in Australia, and the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. In New Zealand, Dr. Oehlers enjoyed a long association with the New Zealand Defense Force Command and Staff College, where he contributed regularly to lectures as well as other professional military training activities. Dr. Oehlers has regularly been engaged by philanthropies and non-government organizations as a consultant on economic and political developments in the Asia-Pacific and workshop facilitator for a variety of capacity-building initiatives for civil society actors.

Dr. Oehlers has recently extended his teaching and research interests to include the Pacific islands region, with several ongoing projects focusing on issues such as development and security, climate change, security sector development, and regionalism. Reflecting current geopolitical dynamics, he has also written recently on aspects of strategic competition and alliance and security relations, and explored underlying megatrends shaping and driving future strategic trajectories. His latest research and writing interests lie in the fast-developing area of space security, especially relating to alliance and cooperative efforts in this crucial domain.



## Dr. Lukas Filler

Commander U.S. Navy (Ret.) - Ph.D. Professor

Dr. Lukas Filler joined the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in December 2022. He brings to the center over fifteen years' experience leading and conducting research as well as advising USG senior leaders on the strategic logic and implications of PRC decisions and behavior.

Dr. Filler was previously a Senior Advisor (non-resident) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) as well as the Acting Director, China Strategic Focus Group at the US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) where he led a \$125M program of record. Prior to this, he co-led the conceptualization and formation of the East Asia Competition/Crisis Planning Group in USINDOPACOM's Future Operations and Contingencies directorate (J35). He led the establishment of similar efforts as the Director, Asia Pacific Strategy (N5), US Naval Special Warfare Command (2016) and the Navy Strategy Panel, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (2014-2018). Lukas was a Strategic Planner and Program Manager at US Joint Special Operations Command (2013-2014) and an Asia Senior Intelligence Analyst at the Office of Naval Intelligence, US Naval War College (2011-2014). He was also a part-time Research Analyst, Strategic Initiatives Group, at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) (2016-2018).

Dr. Filler contributes to and continues to expand his expertise in China's strategic culture through various efforts and communities of interest related to the US Air Force Culture and Language Center and the University of Virginia's National Security Policy Center. He also has long standing collaborations on projects related to China security and strategic issues with a focus on leveraging AI/ML technologies for Open-Source analysis with the Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence (ARLIS) at the University of Maryland and Vannevar Labs.

A graduate of Bowdoin College, Lukas studied comparative morality in foreign policy decision making, strategic preferences and the use of force – with a focus on China – for a Masters of Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, as a Harvard University Sheldon Fellow in China and Taiwan, as a two-time Senior Visiting Scholar at Renmin University of China, and for a PhD from King's College London's Department of War Studies.

Lukas started his professional career as a Naval Aviator, flying P-3C Orion and other aircraft in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and other locations, earning 4 Combat Air Medals as well as other decorations.



**Prof. Mary Markovinovic**  
**Chief of Public Affairs**

Mary Markovinovic has been the chief of public affairs for the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies since May 2005. In this position, she manages DKI APCSS' public affairs program and also serves as an adjunct professor lecturing on topics such as media relations, strategic/crisis communications, synthetic media, and the information environment. She leads the new Information and Security concentration held in conjunction with the Comprehensive Security Cooperation course.

A graduate of the University of San Diego, she began her career as an editor at the Naval Supply Center, San Diego, in 1986. One year later, after attending the Defense Information School, she was promoted to Public Affairs Officer and remained there during its transition to the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, San Diego. As PAO, she was responsible for PA support for contracting and logistics operations, including developing the first customer-based website for a Navy Supply Center. Also, she coordinated a major community relations program in support of a major Navy fuel pipeline replacement project that ran through the city of San Diego.

In 1998, she transferred to Navy Region Southwest to be the Public Affairs Program Manager, responsible for public affairs operations for Navy shore installations in California and Nevada. She streamlined public affairs operations under the regionalization program and coordinated responses related to A76 contracting. In addition, she was the emergency operations center PA rep during both drills and real-life emergencies and major community relations projects such as the Navy Broadway Redevelopment.

Ms. Markovinovic moved to Hawaii in 2003, taking a position as the chief of media relations for the U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC), where she worked on issues such as the Stryker Brigade deployment, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Pacific Armies Management Seminar, and the Army Transformation in the Pacific.



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# List of Invited Seminar Leaders



## Ahmad Tajuddin bin Mohd Said

Ahmad Tajuddin bin Mohd Said is an Assistant Director (Contemporary Security) at the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), Ministry of Defence, Malaysia. Previously, he was the Deputy Director (Planning and Training) at the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, from August 2004 to July 2020. He has written reports on maritime border security, terrorism financing and numerous terrorism incidents. He contributed to the CBRN: Introduction to First Responder, a publication by SEARCCT published in 2014 and The International Legal Framework against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism published by UNODC in 2016. He has lectured on Introduction to Terrorism, Malaysia's Experience in Terrorism, Terrorism Financing, CBRNE Terrorism, London Bombing 2005 and other terrorist incidents. He has also lectured on the Evolution of Malaysia's Defence Policy and Malaysia-ASEAN and China Relations. He is also a fellow of the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University Malaya. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Information Systems with Business Administration from the University of Derby in the United Kingdom in 1996. He is married with one son.

### **Publications:**

- Kepentingan Nasional dan Keselamatan Maritim di Laut China Selatan, Ramli Dollah dan Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd Said, Jurnal Antarabangsa Dunia Melayu, Jun 2004
- (Book Review) Islamophobia and Anti Americanism, causes and Remedies, SEARCCT Selection of Articles, Vol.1, No.1, 2009
- MiDAS Commentaries -Online Hate Speech in Malaysia, September 2020; The Hunt for SUBMISS, April 2021; Palestine and Israel Conflict, Mei 2021; Taliban Back in Afghanistan: Implications for Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia, September 2021
- News Media - Despite the risks, RMAF pilots continue to be our top guns, 20 November 2021; We show how selfless we are in times of crises, 22 December 2021; Getting to know and appreciate nation's military history, February 2022; Ensuring the safety of all Malaysians, September 2022; Firm leadership at the Defence Ministry vital, November 2022; Nipping terrorism in the bud, December 2022. Keeping alive our military legacy, September 2023; Celebrating 90 years of dedicated service, September 2023; Agi Idup, Agi Ngelaban, September 2023; Tribute to our heroes in Somalia, October 2023; We must remain vigilant about terrorist activity, December 2023; Submarines vital for our defence, January 2024; Action plan on submarines, January 2024; Higher learning institutions should conduct more R&D in defence sectors to reduce country's reliance on foreign firms, February 2024; Lessons learnt from MH370, March 2024; Huge challenges, and opportunities, for the armed forces September 2024; Time for Malaysia to make ASEAN a force to be reckoned with December 2024.



## BGEN JOEL MONTANER PALOMA (RET)

**BRIGADIER GENERAL JOEL M PALOMA (Retired)** is a Fellow of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA). He started his military career at the Philippine Military Academy as a proud member of the **Philippine Military Academy “Sambisig” Class of 1991**.

Prior to his retirement as the Chief for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management, Armed Forces of the Philippines, he held the position of Assistant Division Commander, 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army in Cagayan de Oro City. The Chief, Army Governance and Strategy Management Office, in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila. His Stint with the General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. He served as the Chief, Strategy and Policy Division, of OJ5, Armed Forces of the Philippines. A seasoned Combat Officer who has served as Platoon Leader and Company Commander in Surigao Del Sur and Basilan Provinces, an accomplished Intelligence Officer of the 4th Infantry Division, then as Battalion Commander in Maguindanao and Northern Samar of the 8th Infantry Division.

His leadership and strategy management competencies were honed through various education, fora, and training local and abroad. Such as a Higher Education Teaching Certificate from Harvard University USA, the National Security Studies Program of the National Defense College of the Philippines, a Master in Christian Leadership in the Asian Seminary Christian Ministers, a Diploma in Strategy and Defense Strategy Studies from the University of Malaya, Malaysia, Strategy Management System during the Palladium Positive Impact Summit 2018 in London, United Kingdom, and a Member-Participant to the Track 2 Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions meetings as Think Tank member of the AFP and the Chair of the Editorial Board of the Digest, the official academic paper publication of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A governance practitioner and Strategy and Risk Management Subject Matter Expert being a grantee of the Professional Directors Program by the Institute of Corporate Directors, Certified Risk Management Professional by the Enterprise Risk Management Academy Singapore, and a Fellow of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia.

As an educator, mentor, and enabler, Jopal embraces the importance of nurturing the mind, body, and spirit as his learning Philosophy in serving as a guest speaker and lecturer on Strategy and Risk Management of different platforms, conversations, and special programs in various government, corporate and academic institutions and an adjunct faculty member to the National Defense College of the Philippines.

A decorated and multi-awarded soldier, foremost of which is the Outstanding Achievement Medals awarded by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2009 and President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in 2019, and hailed as a Rotary Outstanding Surigaonon Awardee in 2024 for active military service.

A loving husband to the former Miss Lolita Gonzales and a dedicated father to Joel Nathan, Zoe Mae, Joseph Noel, Anna Patricia, and Andrea Rose.



Daniel K. Inouye  
Asia-Pacific Center for  
Security Studies



Senior Security Studies Program  
Bangsaen, Chonburi  
July 28 – Aug 2, 2025



Strategic Studies Center,  
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