



DSCU is the Department of Defense's primary Security Cooperation educational institution. Its mission is to advance the knowledge and practice of Security Cooperation through education, training, workforce development, advising, research, analysis, and lessons learned.

## University Insights

DSCU Stakeholders and Friends,

Since the last Report Card in August, DSCA and DSCU marked major events, including DSCU's fifth anniversary, the launch of the Defense Security Cooperation Service (DSCS), the launch of Certification 2.0, the Institute for Security Governance's 30th anniversary, and the 2024 Security Cooperation Conference.

As I shared with the DSCU team, it is easy to get lost in the requirements of the daily grind—I certainly do—but milestones like I mentioned provide an opportunity to reflect on where we've come from and why it matters.

Congress and the Department of Defense (DOD) have mandated we reform security cooperation. DSCU's creation and continued evolution is part of that essential reform.

The security cooperation mission remains critical to our nation's security, and the importance of that mission and getting it right is what drives me forward every day. The world looks vastly different than it did five years ago, and we are rising to meet the challenge of this global reality. Allies and partners have never been more essential, and DSCU has a critical role to play in America's ability to develop and sustain those relationships. This endeavor will take constant growth and innovation.

Looking to the future, we are excited to fully execute updates to Title 10 U.S. Code Section 384 in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. In FY 2025 DSCU will:

- Expand the Security Cooperation Workforce Development Program — Human Capital Initiative (SCWDP-HCI), including identifying, accounting for, and managing the career progression of the more than 15,000-person workforce.
- Continue to launch and refine Certification 2.0 curriculum at all proficiency levels across all functional areas to meet the needs of that dynamic and critical workforce.
- Establish the Foreign Military Sales Center of Excellence.
- Refine the management and provision of Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) services.
- Advance the profession of security cooperation through research, analysis, and lessons learned.

Thank you for your continued partnership; I'm excited to see what the next five years hold.

Dr. Celeste Gventer

## Dr. Kristina Teater Assumes Role as Acting Dean of the DSCU's CSSC



DSCU welcomes Dr. Kristina Teater into her new role, the College of Strategic Security Cooperation (CSSC) Acting Dean. Dr. Teater and the CSSC team are focused on security cooperation education, to include executive education and functional and regional studies. CSSC's mission is to advance the education, training, and development of the security cooperation workforce (SCW) through academically rigorous knowledge generation, instruction, research, analysis, and practice. Dr. Teater brings more than 20 years of academic and leadership experience in the private sector to this important role.

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## University News

### DSCU Announces Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards

### Certification 2.0 Official Launch

### The Institute for Security Governance: A Look at Three Decades of Impact

### Students Complete First Gender Considerations in Building Partner Capacity Course

### DSCU Georgia Team Receives 2024 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award

### DIILS Resident Course Graduates 38 International Participants

### ISG Hosts Inaugural 'Climate and Environmental Security' Course



Locally Employed Staff (LES) members pose for a photo after completing DSCU's week-long Intermediate LES Course at DSCU facilities in the National Capital Region Sept. 9, 2024. Facilitated and mentored by faculty from DSCU's School of Security Cooperation Studies (SSCS) and Defense SCO Institute (DSI), the students learn through lectures, supported discussion, and hands-on exercises to practice their skills.



Dr. Celeste W. Gventer, DSCU President, and Institute for Security Governance (ISG) teammates, alumni and friends pose for a group photo at ISG's 30th anniversary reception at the historic Hotel Del Monte, Oct. 22, 2024. The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation & Alumni Association hosted the event, bringing together more than 200 ISG colleagues and alumni to honor the Institute's legacy.



Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) students attend the inaugural DSI SCO qualification course in the National Capital Region. DSCU's DSI is the DOD SCO schoolhouse and offers tailored education and training to SCO personnel, their families, and LES.

## Special Feature: International Military Training and Education

DSCU is evolving to answer legislative mandates and prepare for future security cooperation strategic realities. Investments in international military training and education (IMTE) programs help build effective alliances and partnerships and reinforce DSCU's role as the center of intellectual life for the security cooperation enterprise.

### DSCU's IMTE Division

Updates to Title 10 U.S.C. Section 384 in the NDAA of FY 2024 outline DSCU charter and mission requirements. Per the law, DSCU is charged with the management and implementation of international military training and education security cooperation programs and authorities executed by the DOD.

DSCU's IMTE division oversees the program execution and policy implementation of DOD and Department of State international training authorities, providing guidance and support across the international military training and education enterprise. By maintaining Chapter 10 of the Security Assistance Management Manual and convening interagency working groups on enterprise-wide training issues, the IMTE division ensures DSCU's continued leadership in the international training space. IMTE's efforts enable the planning, programming, and processing of the 70,000+ international students who will attend skill-focused training and professional education opportunities each year.

Additionally, the small program management teams within the IMTE division oversee implementation of specific programs and authorities, including:

- ★ **DOD's Regional Centers for Security Studies (RC).** The six RCs conduct educational, outreach, and research activities for mid- to senior-level international, inter-ministerial audiences. These include civilian government officials, military officers, parliamentarians, academics, and regional, non-governmental, and international organization leaders.
- ★ **Regional Defense Fellowship Program (RDFP).** RDFP programs include both short courses and 18-month master's courses that develop irregular warfare and combatting terrorism competencies for mid- to senior-level military and civilian government officials. RDFP's classroom instruction and research products provide a critical strategic complement to the tactical, kinetic, and professional military education (PME) courses taught by other DOD implementers.
- ★ **Alumni Connectivity and Engagement.** Building on existing alumni networking programs in DOD-funded programs, IMTE is supporting senior invitational PME schools in maintaining and leveraging relationships with international alumni. This effort increases the return on considerable U.S. and partner nation investments in sending personnel to attend PME opportunities.

## Agility: Where in the World is DSCU?



A cohort of graduates pose for a photo after completing the ISG's "Women, Peace, and Security in Peacekeeping Operations" course Sept. 20, 2024. The course enables participants to effectively implement the United Nation's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in ongoing peacekeeping missions.



A team from DIILS poses for a photo after conducting an executive seminar on Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflict at the Federated States of Micronesia Oct. 16, 2024.

[ISG Women, Peace, and Security in Peacekeeping Operations Course](#)

[DIILS Partners with Nigeria](#)

[ISG Strategic Planning Workshop in Ecuador](#)

[DIILS Engages with the Federated States of Micronesia](#)

[DIILS Partners with Philippines](#)

[ISG Armenia MET: Womens's Integration into the Armed Forces](#)

[Mobile Education Trainings \(METs\) in Bogota, Colombia](#)

[DRMI Delivers Mobile Course in Argentina](#)

## Academic Excellence

DSCU takes pride in the quality and diversity of research and scholarly work by DSCU's faculty and their many achievements. In the DSCU Strategic Plan, the President directs civilian faculty members to increase and expand their published research and analysis to improve the quality and professionalism of the SCW. A few recent examples of DSCU faculty publications and engagements include the following:

- ★ Ms. Sahr Muhammedally, J.D., a DSCU Faculty Senior Associate, published an article "Understanding Risks and Mitigating Civilian Harm in Urban Operations" in the Canadian Army Journal, Urban Warfare edition, and contributed a chapter on "Civilian Protection: Legal and Policy Approaches" in the book titled "Urban Operations: War, Crime, and Conflict", Edited by John Sullivan, Nathan Jones, and Daniel Weisz.
- ★ Dr. Barbara Salera Lopez, Mr. Gregory Arndt, Mr. Arpad Kisch, and Mr. Walter Grissom, SSCS faculty members, participated in a panel about security cooperation and Afghanistan at the 9th Annual Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Symposium hosted by Air University and the Air Force Culture and Language Center.
- ★ Mr. Rob Timm, a BG Charles Young Research, Analysis, and Lessons Learned Institute Senior Lecturer, participated in a panel discussion and seminar at the National War College and as a guest lecturer at the U.S. Naval Academy to discuss the role of security cooperation in supporting U.S. strategy in Ukraine.
- ★ Dr. Andrew Tai, a DRMI Assistant Professor, spoke at University of California, Berkeley, Microeconomic Theory Lunch Seminar, during which he presented his research paper, "House Swapping with Objective Indifferences."
- ★ Ms. Marisa R. Bassett, a DIILS Institutional Capacity Building Attorney, participated in an American Bar Association International Law webinar. During her 30-minute presentation, she discussed her research about universal jurisdiction.
- ★ Dr. Jim Marckwardt, DSCU Associate Professor & Faculty Lead for ICB, participated in a panel discussion at the 2024 Conference of the Parties (COP) hosted by the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the Wilson Center. During the panel, he discussed how armed forces can be employed to prevent deforestation and protect the environment.
- ★ Mr. Brian Linvill, ISG Regional Program Lead and Space ICB Lead, was a guest lecturer for a space economy course at Duke University. He discussed space diplomacy and defense institution building in the space domain.

*\*The views and opinions presented herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of DSCA/DSCU or its organizations.*

### DSCU Faculty Spotlight

Get to know DSCU faculty! Every month DSCU highlights a faculty member in the [Faculty Spotlight](#). DSCU faculty are integral to DSCU being the center of intellectual life for the security cooperation enterprise.



## Community

Kudos to Dr. Barbara Lopez, an SSCS Associate Professor, who was recently selected to receive one of the two highly competitive DSCA \$10k Academic Scholarships. She will receive funding to support academic courses that align with her position and DSCA's mission needs. This scholarship is part of the Human Capital Strategy & Organizational Development (HCS&OD) Competitive Workforce Empowerment (CWE) program.

## Accountability: DSCU's Digital Transformation Team

By: Meaghan Summers and Coleen Pierce

**DSCU** holds itself accountable to a higher standard of security cooperation education and practice by building and using evidence-based knowledge to inform DSCU's operations, revamped curriculum, and teaching methodologies. One of many ways DSCU remains accountable is through digital transformation.

To develop innovative digital solutions to enhance productivity and streamline business processes across DSCU, DSCU's Digital Transformation Team is exploring options to replace the disparate portal systems DSCU components currently employ for travel, payroll, disbursing, transportation, logistics, acquisition, and accounting support, as well as other current faculty and operations applications.

With these goals set, DSCU recently held a three-day workshop at DSCU's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base campus to map out vital processes and identify problem areas or gaps in current process. Operations support and faculty teams were led through human-centered design techniques and were interviewed to identify challenges in the current process and how data, technology, or process automation might help alleviate those challenges and improve efficiency and effectiveness.

DSCU is committed to providing the best technological support for operations and faculty processes and workflows, and the support team prioritizes which digital features would have the largest impact on the organization.

DSCU will host additional workshops at its other campuses. Data will be synthesized, and measures will be implemented to ensure accountability and innovation across the organization!

## Collaboration: "Building Lasting Partnerships: What Have We Learned?"

DSCU hosted the third annual Security Cooperation Conference, titled "Building Lasting Partnerships: What Have We Learned?" Oct. 28–30, 2024, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Approximately 500 security cooperation policymakers, scholars, and practitioners convened to bridge scholarship and practical knowledge, aiding the SCW to work more effectively and sustainably with allies and partners.

The three-day event observed the Chatham House Rule while fostering dialogue, analysis, and critical inquiry to increase collaboration across the security cooperation enterprise during and after the forum. An overarching theme was the generational challenge of the security cooperation enterprise: to develop security cooperation capabilities, together with those of our allies and partners, to sustain and strengthen an international system to meet tomorrow's threats.

This year's conference call for proposals focused on the following five issue areas and considered proposals from across the community that formed the various panel sessions and presentations:

1. Understanding the Partner
2. Navigating Partnership Engagement Dynamics
3. Managing Allied Partnerships
4. Organizing for Partnership Success
5. Partnering in Contested Environments

Faculty from DSCU's Brigadier General Charles Young Research, Analysis, and Lessons Learned Institute organized the conference. Additional information about annual conferences, including previous conference reports, can be found here: <https://dscu.edu/bgcy-ralli/sc-conference>.



Mr. Mike Miller, DSCA Director; Mr. Jim Hursch, former DSCA Director; Hon. Cara Abercrombie, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and first DSCU President; and Dr. Celeste W. Gventer, DSCU President, (left to right) pose for a group photo at the Security Cooperation Conference Reception and DSCU 5 Year Anniversary event, Oct. 27, 2024



DSCU's conference organizers pose for a photo after the closing ceremony of the 2024 Security Cooperation Conference in Washington, D.C., Oct. 30, 2024. DSCU's Young Institute fosters analysis, research, scholarship, and critical inquiry that advances the field of security cooperation, enables application of lessons learned, and promotes evidence-based decision-making.



An attendee poses a question to the panel during a session at the 2024 Security Cooperation Conference in Washington, D.C., Oct. 28, 2024. DSCU's Security Cooperation Conference brings together experts and stakeholders to discuss advancements in security cooperation and strengthen international partnerships.



Participant raises his hand to ask the panel a question during the 2024 Security Cooperation Conference in Washington, D.C., Oct. 30, 2024. Participants engaged in planning, executing, administering, monitoring, assessing, and evaluating security cooperation programs and activities that support national defense and national security strategy objectives.