Defense Security Cooperation University
Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Report Card

APR 2024

DSCU's mission is to advance the knowledge and practice of Security Cooperation through the education, training, and development of the U.S. Security Cooperation workforce and through the education, training and institutional capacity building of partner nations; and to produce research, analysis, and lessons learned that expand the intellectual foundations of Security Cooperation.

University Insights

I hope this third issue of the DSCU Report Card finds you well. In January, I discussed a few of the important DSCU legislative mandates in the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Section 1204. In this issue, I would like to continue that discussion and show you how the University is evolving to address future Security Cooperation challenges and opportunities by addressing the NDAA and National Defense Strategy (NDS) initiatives.

In the "Special Feature" and "Accountability" sections, you will find how DSCU is managing and provisioning Institutional Capacity Building (ICB); updating Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) personnel learning experiences with the creation of the Defense Security Cooperation Organization Institute (DSI); and establishing a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Center of Excellence, the soon to be FMS Academy.

The progressive roll out of Certification 2.0 for the Security Cooperation Workforce (SCW) remains one of my top priorities. We are actively refining the management, training, and education of the 15,000+ member SCW through Certification 2.0 and the establishment of the SCW Human Capital Initiative, per the NDAA, which will facilitate strategic workforce planning and data-driven analysis of the workforce. The School of Security Cooperation Studies (SSCS) and College of Strategic Security Cooperation (CSSC) teams are building 65+ new courses to vastly improve the quality of training and education courseware and programming for the SCW. Stay tuned on DSCU's website and LinkedIn for the May announcement of the digital DSCU Course Catalog!

DSCU will be hosting multiple collaborative events this year. In the near term, the FMS Symposium and Industry Day with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) will take place May 23 and 24, 2024, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland. For more information on the Symposium, please check out the "Collaboration" section. We are also accepting panel and presentation submissions for the October 2024 Security Cooperation Conference, "Building Lasting Partnerships: Mission Possible." Please find the full call for proposals and instructions here.

Next time, I look forward to sharing with you more information about DSCU's CSSC, the official naming of DSCU's Research Institute, and DSCU's Five Year Anniversary plans.

Dr. Celeste Gventer

Dr. Natalie Webb Assumes Role as Acting Dean of the DSCU's CSSC

DSCU welcomes Dr. Natalie Webb into her new role, the CSSC Acting Dean. Dr. Webb will be dual-hatted and continue her role as DRMI Executive Director. As the Acting Dean, Dr. Webb and the CSSC team are focused on higher-level Security Cooperation education, to include executive education, and functional and regional studies. Importantly, the CSSC team is hard at work creating innovative, evidence-based Certification 2.0 curriculum. Dr. Webb brings more than 31 years of leadership experience in defense economics, public and nonprofit finance, and management.

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University News

DSCU and Polish Partners Spearhead First Regional F-16 ICB Workshop

DSCU Launches Research Grant Program

First SCO Operation Course of 2024 Concludes

The Art of Advising in Brazil

17 Students Complete International Partner Course

DSCU Call for Proposals: Edited Volume on FMS

U.S. Embassy Ukraine, Office of Defense Cooperation Co-Host Resilience Workshop with Ukrainian and International Allies

International students recently completed ISG's Practical Cyber Implementation resident course in Monterey, California. This course explores policies and practices necessary to protect and defend data, networks, systems, and platforms essential for military and security organizations and that underpin economic, social, governmental, and political activity in society.

Dr. Fabiana Perera, CSSC Senior Faculty Associate, provides a lecture on "Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in Security Cooperation" as part of the Joint Staff Mobile Training Team's "Operationalizing WPS 100 Level" course. Participants included military and civilian personnel from USSOUTHCOM, the National Guard's State Partnership Program, and inter-agency partners.

Twenty-four students representing 10 Partner Nations attend their first day of DRMI's four-week Defense Resources Management course (DRMC 24-1) in Monterey, California.

Special Feature: DSCU Responds to Legislation

DSCU is evolving to answer legislative mandates and prepare for future Security Cooperation strategic realities. The FY2024 NDAA Section 1204 provisions make strong investments in the SCW and DSCU as the center of intellectual life for the Security Cooperation enterprise. DSCU's long-term objective is to make Security Cooperation more effective through a full-spectrum approach; to ensure the consistent evolution of SCW training and education programs, which address national defense and foreign policy objectives, and build effective alliances and partnerships.

Institutional Capacity Building

In the FY2024 NDAA, DSCU is tasked with the "management and provision of Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) services executed by the DOD." ICB encompasses Security Cooperation activities that support Partner Nation efforts to establish or improve enduring policies and processes to plan, develop, resource, acquire, staff, employ, and sustain capabilities of mutual benefit to respond to shared challenges. ICB programing focuses on enhancing institutional functions, which are critical long-term enablers of many security capabilities and further U.S.—partner shared priorities.

The legislation bolsters DSCU's existing ICB mission and brings additional importance to DSCU's ICB elements and implementing components including: the ICB Directorate, the Institute for Security Governance (ISG), the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies (DIILS), and the Ministry of Defense Advisors (MoDA) program.

DSCU's ICB Directorate

Established in 2022, DSCU's ICB Directorate is the leading proponent for ICB, oversees the 10 U.S.C. Section 332 ICB and Section 1208 Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) authorities, and manages DSCU's MoDA program. Key efforts include:

- Partnering with DSCA and DSCU components, the ICB Directorate leads ICB planning and resourcing, strengthens stakeholder collaboration, and enables ICB to be more effective within current Security Cooperation planning processes.
- Completing DSCU's first ICB professionalization program and undertaking next steps to shape the ICB subsection of the SCW as part of National Defense Strategy Implementation initiatives.
- Developing a collaborative DSCU ICB knowledge and data management approach and hub.
- Leading DSCU's MoDA program. Learn more about the MoDA Program and MoDA Detailee Opportunities.
- Standing-up the 10 U.S.C. Section 1208 WPS planning and resourcing processes, including becoming DSCA's WPS office of responsibility and leading the Security Cooperation WPS sub-working group.

Foreign Military Sales Academy

Section 1204 of the FY2024 NDAA outlines the establishment of an FMS Center of Excellence, the soon to be FMS Academy, within DSCU. The legislation directs this to be a DOD educational institution with the requisite expertise in FMS and in education, training, research and analysis of the SCW. The FMS Academy will serve as the DOD's FMS Center of Excellence to improve the training and education of personnel engaged in FMS planning and execution.

The FMS Academy's objectives will include:

- Conducting research on and promoting best practices to ensure FMS processes are timely and effective.
- Enhancing existing curricula for the purpose of ensuring that the FMS workforce is fully trained and prepared to execute the FMS program.

Accountability: Defense Security Cooperation Organization Institute

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, curriculum, and teaching methodologies.

Prescribed by 10 U.S.C. Section 384 and revised in the FY2024 NDAA Section 1204, DSCU is mandated to ensure that those who represent the DOD to partner nations are a professionalized force with the training and support necessary to advance national security objectives. Therefore, DSCU is holding itself accountable by ensuring the next generation of Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) personnel receive the education, training, and support they deserve to succeed in challenging and dynamic assignments.

DSCU's new Defense SCO Institute (DSI) will serve as the DOD SCO schoolhouse, which will provide pre-assignment preparation essential for SCO personnel. Recognizing that SCO personnel are the primary representatives for Security Cooperation in their aligned country, DSI will offer bespoke education and training to SCO personnel. DSI intends to strengthen the way in which SCO personnel are prepared for their unique scope of responsibilities by offering new educational opportunities targeted toward preparation for activities such as strategic planning, cross functional collaboration, and improving agility needed to keep up with the pace of the evolving field of Security Cooperation.

DSCU's DSI will adopt a unique approach to SCO education. DSI aims to tailor SCO educational programming to ensure all SCO personnel receive:

- Country-specific training
- Education in strategic planning, program management, and partner advising
- Reach back support while on assignment

In preparation for the opening of DSI in FY25, Dr. Celeste Gventer, DSCU President, chaired an interagency discussion in February 2024, where participants discussed support needed for SCO personnel success. Beginning in March 2024, DSCU began meeting with key stakeholders, including combatant commands, to collect their perspectives on the most important duties carried out by SCO personnel, and identify educational requirements. These stakeholder perspectives will inform evolving DSI curriculum, tools, and resources and help ensure alignment with critical mission needs.

Interested in joining our team and being part of these exciting initiatives?
DSCU is hiring for key positions around the globe!
www.dscu.edu/careers

Agility: Where in the World is DSCU?

In March, Colombian Admiral Guillermo E. Barrera visited DRMI and met with DRMI's Dr. Ryan Garcia and Dr. Jim Airola. Admiral Barrera is the former head of the Colombian Navy, a leader in Colombia's counterinsurgency and counter-narcotics fight, and a DRMI alumnus.

A DIILS team traveled to Kenya to conduct a seminar on Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflict with members of the Kenyan military.

Exercise Shanti Prayas IV

DIILS Engages with Kenya

Mobile Training Team Engages with Greek Partners

ISG Panama ICB Engagement to Develop Its First Ever Joint Operating Concept

SSCS Faculty Engages with Swiss Defence Procurement Professionals

DIILS Partners with the Bahamas

Transforming Alliances: The Pivotal Role of the U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialog in Regional Security

DIILS Partners with Peru

Academic Excellence: Faculty Publications and Achievements

We take 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's work and achievements include:

DSCU: Dr. Jason Fritz, DSCU Vice President, participated in a panel titled "Oversight and the Government in Civil-Military Relations" at the 2024 Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. Dr. Fritz addressed USNA faculty and students as well as approximately 150 participants from 50 colleges and military academies across 30 countries.

DSCU: Ms. Sahr Muhammedally, J.D., a DSCU Senior Faculty Associate, attended as part of the DOD delegation from OSD Policy and Center of Excellence on Civilian Protection, and participated in the Vienna Military Workshop. The workshop focused on the implementation of the 2022 Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) Political Declaration and was hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.

ISG: In his new book review for Defense & Security Analysis, Mr. Scott Woodruff Lyons, ISG Regional Advising Principal for Africa, the Middle East, and the Western Hemisphere, offers insight into János Besenyő's "Darfur Peacekeepers: The African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (AMIS) from the Perspective of a Hungarian Military Advisor" (L'Harmattan, 2021).

DIILS: Congratulations to Ms. Jamie Jones, J.D., a DIILS Institutional Capacity Building Attorney, on the publication of her recent article, "Focus on the Fundamentals: The Siren Song of Technology in Maritime Security" published by the Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC).

DSCU: Dr. Nadia Gerspacher, a Research, Analysis, and Lessons Learned Institute Senior Research Faculty, participated in a roundtable titled "FA35: Maximizing Your Impact: Communicating Beyond the Research" at the International Studies Association annual conference.

CSSC: Dr. Fabiana Perera, a CSSC Senior Faculty Associate, participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Latin American & Caribbean Policy Association of the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy. The discussion centered on the current crisis between Guyana and Venezuela.

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of DSCA/DSCU or its organizations. The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute DSCA/DSCU endorsement of the linked websites, or the information, products or services therein.

Collaboration: FMS Symposium and Industry Day

The FMS Symposium will be hosted May 23-24, 2024, by DSCU's School of Security Cooperation Studies (SSCS) at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland. The second day of the event, Industry Day, will be co-hosted with OUSD (A&S).

The collaborative FMS Symposium will raise awareness and understanding across the Security Cooperation enterprise, including representatives of the Defense Industrial Base, of the DOD's role in implementing the FMS process. The event will examine ways to build a stronger foundation for innovation in executing the FMS mission.

Policymakers, practitioners, and scholars from across the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of State, interagency, academia, industry, and foreign partners involved in this key aspect of U.S. foreign policy are invited to attend. Limited seats may be available. Please e-mail dsca.wright-patt.dscu.mbx.sscs@mail.mil with your name, title, organization, e-mail address and phone number to place your name in the queue. Placing your name in the queue does not guarantee admittance; individuals will receive e-mail notification if attendance is confirmed.

For more information, visit: www.dscu.edu/fmssymposium.

Community: DSCU's 2023 Outstanding Performers

Outstanding Performer of the Year Award for Faculty:

Major Janae Lawson, DIILS International Operations Officer

Since joining the DSCU/DIILS team in 2020, Maj. Lawson has distinguished herself as a highly talented legal instructor, exceptional team leader, and mentor. She delivered worldwide, congressionally mandated training on Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law to hundreds of partner nation military and civilian security sector officials.

Outstanding Performer of the Year Award for Staff:

Ms. Coleen Pierce, DSCU Program Support Staff

In 2023, Ms. Pierce implemented significant DSCU-wide business management improvements and identified mission essential tools and technology. Notably, she led the migration and implementation of DSCU's new intranet platform and knowledge management system.