



DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION UNIVERSITY

Center of Intellectual Life for the Security Cooperation Enterprise



Steven D. Peterson

*Deputy Assistant Director and Dean for Institutional
Capacity Building*

Defense Security Cooperation University

Mr. Peterson assumed duties as the Deputy Assistant Director and Dean for Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) within the Defense Security Cooperation University (DSCU), a component of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), in September 2022. The DSCU ICB mission is to lead ICB policy and programs, advancing the practice of ICB, and drive professionalization of the ICB workforce.

As a security cooperation and ICB professional for over fifteen years, Mr. Peterson has experience in government, academia and the private sector. He previously served as the founding Director of DSCU's Institute for Security Governance (ISG) from 2019 to early 2023 and led the transition of the Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) to DSCA from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in 2018-19. As ISG and CCMR Director, Mr. Peterson drove the development of DSCA's primary ICB implementing organization and a leading international schoolhouse and served as an advisor to DSCA leadership. From 2010 to 2019, he served as a member of the CCMR and NPS faculty, focused on ICB, security sector governance and organizational development. Mr. Peterson joined NPS following five years supporting various offices within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

Mr. Peterson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Bethel University (Minnesota) and a Master of Science degree in Defense and Strategic Studies from Missouri State University.