



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

DSCU Stakeholders and Friends,

Greetings from our nation's capital! As always, it is a decisive and busy time for the security cooperation enterprise.

On August 1, 2024, Mr. James "Jim" Hursch retired from his role as DSCA director after 39 years of accomplished federal service. Please read the full release [here](#). On a personal note, Jim is a friend and mentor; I wish him the best!

At DSCU, we are focused on making security cooperation more effective. The University has adopted a three-pronged approach to this effort:

1. DSCU supports DSCA's mission by developing, educating, and managing a professional Security Cooperation Workforce (SCW), prepared to deliver global security cooperation programs and activities on behalf of the Department of Defense.
2. We advance the profession of security cooperation through analysis, research, scholarship, and critical inquiry.
3. DSCU manages and implements International Military Training and Education (IMTE) programs and Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) activities to build effective alliances and partnerships that achieve shared results.

The [Certification 2.0 Program](#) and DSCU curriculum will tremendously benefit the SCW. Recognizing the time and effort certification requirements demand of the SCW, Certification 2.0 must meet the objectives outlined in laws and policies, but also prepare, professionalize, and empower an essential workforce to do their jobs. DSCU's priority number one this summer has been the creation of the high-quality Certification 2.0 curriculum. This fall, I am excited to roll out the new and improved courses created by the DSCU faculty. We are carefully reviewing each course, and I am committed to only releasing curriculum worthy of our workforce and their mission. Please see the "Special Feature" Section for more information on Certification 2.0!

Also, we stood up [DSCU's BG Charles Young Institute](#) and facilitated the inaugural [FMS Symposium](#), both integral to prong two. We created the foundations of the Defense Security Cooperation Service (DSCS), which transitioned to an assistant directorate within DSCA the first of June. Separately, this fall we will stand up DSCU's new NCR-based Defense SCO Institute (DSI). Throughout all this, DSCU's IMTE and ICB teams, especially DIILS, ISG, DRMI and MoDA, accomplished that vital third prong.

Lastly, I invite you to the third annual [Security Cooperation Conference](#) in Washington, D.C., from October 28–30, 2024. A pre-conference reception celebrating DSCU's five-year anniversary will be held on the evening of October 27, 2024.

Thank you for your support and collaboration!

Dr. Celeste Gventer

Mr. Mike Skaggs DSCU Assumes Role as Director of DSI



DSCU welcomes Mr. Michael "Mike" Skaggs into his new role, the Defense SCO Institute (DSI) Director. As DSI's Director, he delivers leadership and oversight of DSCU's DSI, which ensures the next generation of Security Cooperation Organization (SCO) personnel receive the education, training, and support they deserve to succeed in challenging and dynamic assignments. Recognizing the strategic importance and impact of SCO operations, DSCU has dedicated considerable effort to the creation of DSI, including moving the training to the NCR in October 2024 and evolving DSI curriculum, tools, and resources to help ensure alignment with critical mission needs. Mr. Skaggs is a retired Marine with more than 32 years of service, including Marine Attaché assignments.

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At Our Core

We believe that these values are essential to achieving our goals and fulfilling our mission.

Academic Excellence

Accountability

Agility

Collaboration

Community

University News

DSCU Co-Hosts FMS Symposium

DSCA Announces Launch of DSCU's Young Institute

DSCU SCO Update: Graduation, DSI, and DSCS

DIILS and Ukraine Partner to Deliver Operational Law Course

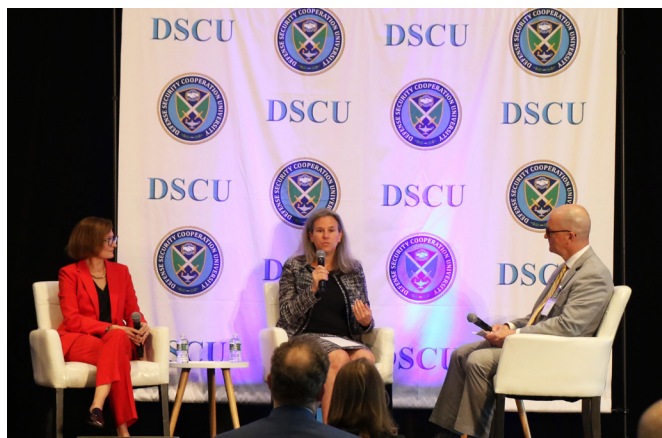
Students from 13 Countries Attend SSCS International Partner Course

DSCU F-16 ICB Engagements and Advising with Bulgarian Partners

DSCU's DSI Completes First SCO Refresher Course

Cyber Policy DASD Eoyang Visits ISG

DSCA Releases Virtual FMS Wall Walk



During the FMS Symposium, the Honorable Cara Abercrombie, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition; Ms. Madeline Mortelmans, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities; and Mr. Mike Miller, now DSCA Acting Director, began Industry Day with a conversation centered on the importance of working with U.S. industry to enable the efficient delivery of security assistance to our allies and partners.



Congratulations to twenty-two students, representing fifteen states and D.C., who graduated from DSCU's State Partnership Program (SPP) class on June 14, 2024. Students learned about the many interrelated aspects of the SPP and other security cooperation authorities, programs, and stakeholders.



DSCU's ISG concluded the resident course, Institutional Capacity Building for Logistics, in Monterey. The course educates students from partner nations about the importance of increasing the professionalization of their logistics forces to better sustain defense and security force capabilities, from a public administration and civil-military relations perspective.

Special Feature: Getting Started with Certification 2.0 Requirements and Courses

Registration for some DSCU Certification 2.0 courses has begun, and Security Cooperation Workforce (SCW) members can find available courses on the DSCU Course Catalog. Due to capacity, demand, and instructor availability, some course dates will not be available immediately, but core courses and some distance learning options are available.

The SCW is currently tallied at more than 14,000, as seen through workforce coding efforts. DSCU looks forward to providing education and training at the three proficiency levels and an executive level to prepare all SCW members to successfully execute their responsibilities.

Find additional details about Certification 2.0 requirements and answers to common questions in the [Certification 2.0 FAQ](#) document. This FAQ also includes definitions of key terms, describes the SCW competencies, outlines the nine new functional areas, explains what courses count towards certification, and much more.

SCW members are encouraged to review Certification 2.0 requirements and the following DSCU course registration steps:

- 1 Review the SCW [Certification 2.0 Program](#).
- 2 Supervisors properly code billets in manpower systems of record using the [Security Cooperation Position Coding Guide](#).
 - SCW members can find their position's Security Cooperation Code (SC Code) by asking supervisors or their organization's Component Certification Authority.
 - Each SCW billet is assigned an SC Code. SC Codes identify which functional area and proficiency level of certification are required for a billet. What an SC Code includes can be found on the [Course Catalog](#) page.
- 3 Members of the SCW are encouraged to confirm their CornerStone on Demand (CSOD, myDSCU) accounts are properly configured. Please visit <https://dscu.edu/course-access> to ensure profiles receive notifications.

Action steps:

 1. Log into myDSCU.
 2. Toggle to "Profile Checkup" and click "SCW User Record Update."
 3. Check that the "Organization" field includes "SCW."
 4. If "SCW" is not listed, contact the DSCU Help Desk.
- 4 With coding information, SCW members may view tailored certification requirements and register for specified courses through the DSCU Course Catalog. If a course is marked "yes" in the Register column, that course is available for SCW registration. Classes marked as "No" are not currently available for registration. Beginning October 1, 2024, classes will be available for registration, even if courses are not immediately available. The SCW should register for every course needed for their Certification 2.0 requirements. Once registered, SCW members will be notified via CSOD of course dates.
- 5 After October 1, 2024:
 - Foundation-level certification must be completed within one year.
 - Practitioner-level certification must be completed within two years.
 - Expert-level certification must be completed within two years.

*For personnel who join the SCW after October 1, 2024, their timelines will begin on the day that they enter the SCW, which will be indicated by the DOD Component linking an individual to a coded SCW billet/position in the appropriate Military Department or Fourth Estate manpower system of record.

DSCU created the [Certification 2.0 Registration Fact Sheet](#) to provide this information, Certification 2.0 requirements overview, and assist with course registration.

Community

Kudos to Mike Counsellor

Mr. Mike Counsellor, a DSCU U.S. Ministry of Defense Advisor (MoDA), was recently recognized by the U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria for his advising on Bulgaria's F-16 program. His comprehensive initiatives aligned partner and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) strategies, all aimed at supporting country objectives. As a MoDA working with the U.S. Air Force program office and various DOD security cooperation teams, these connections, as well of those with the partner, led to a strong operations and sustainment plan for every aspect of the Bulgarian F-16 program.



Agility: Where in the World is DSCU?



A team from DSCU's DIILS recently traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct a seminar on Human Rights and the Law of Armed Conflict with members of their military.

A DRMI faculty team from DSCU's DRMI, including Dr. Anke Richter, Mr. Douglas Burton, and Mr. Troy D. Terronez, delivered a Mobile International Defense Management Course in Armenia. The team attended the opening ceremony of Eagle Partner 2024, a U.S. and Armenia joint exercise to enhance security cooperation between the two nations.



DIILS Partners with Vietnam

ISG Lends Expertise to Support Key African Conventions

SSCS Faculty Engages with NATO Professionals

DIILS Partners with the Dominican Republic

Building Institutional Capacity in Georgia

DIILS Partners with Thailand

Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Mobile Training

Strategic Planning Success: Panama Signs First Joint Operating Concept

Congratulations to the 2024 Cyber Law and Hybrid Warfare Class

Collaboration: DSCU's CSSC Partners with DOS and the NWC on WPS Initiative

DCSU's College of Strategic Security Cooperation (CSSC) recently partnered with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) to present a continuing education webinar on increasing partner nation female participation and representation in education and training opportunities. The 2023 Women Peace and Security (WPS) Strategy and National Action Plan directs the U.S. government to "seek and support the preparation and meaningful participation of women and girls in civic and political leadership, in informal and formal decision-making processes, and in institutions related to peace and security." The session discussed how to address the participation line of effort as it relates to education and training. More than 140 Department of Defense personnel and the security cooperation workforce attended the virtual event. Webinar presenters included Ms. Lia Miller (DOS), Mr. Matthew Mullins-Hall (DOS), Dr. Saira Yamin (NWC), Mr. Clay Benton (DSCU), and Dr. Fabiana Perera (DSCU's CSSC).

Academic Excellence

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 publications and engagements include the following:

Dr. Nadia Gerspacher, BG Charles Young Research, Analysis, and Lessons Learned Institute Senior Research Faculty, published an essay titled "NATO partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa" in NATO's 2024 Academic Conference Compendium, "Alliances and Partnerships in a Complex and Challenging Security Environment."

Ms. Blaire Harms, ISG Regional Program Lead, participated in the plenary session on Human Trafficking and Migration Impacts on Security hosted by the African Land Forces Summit (ALFS) in Livingstone, Zambia. Ms. Harms provided expertise on Women, Peace, and Security impacts related to human trafficking and migration to U.S., partner, and ally community members.

Dr. Nathan Toronto, BG Charles Young Research, Analysis, and Lessons Learned Institute Senior Lecturer, published a chapter about military learning titled "The power of belief: the role of coups, microbehaviors, and military learning in ideas about civil-military relations" in the Research Handbook on Civil-Military Relations (eds. Aurel Croissant, David Kuehn, and David Pion-Berlin).

Dr. Whitney Grespin, ISG Africa Regional Program Lead, contributed a chapter on "Private security assistance activity and oversight in the Horn of Africa" to the policy brief series published by Addis Ababa University's Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS).

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

Community

DSCU Welcomes Charlie

DSCU received a very special four-legged visitor on July 17, 2024. The J3 Joint Staff Facility Dog, Charlie, and his handler visited the DSCU NCR headquarters and campus. Charlie brought smiles and a few snuggles to DSCU teammates who enjoyed the brief pause from their regularly scheduled duties. Thank you, Charlie!

