

THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
FULCRUM GLOBAL
AMU/APUS
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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Issue #5
March 2021

1.) Letter From the President:

Dear SDSS Membership,

It has been a while since we did our last member newsletter (in September 2020) but we are planning on doing it more regularly to keep people in the loop that are not utilizing Facebook as their primary social media platforms, which is still our primary venue for connecting with members. However, SDSS has a large network of alumni, students, faculty, and professional members outside of Facebook and so we have decided to increase our connections with these people by regularly keeping them in the loop via monthly emails. This means our quarterly newsletters will now be sent monthly going forward and everyone on the membership roster will be receiving them as well. These newsletters will also be posted in the “Announcements” section/tab on the Fulcrum Global website.

Doing this will also help promote the work we do on our Fulcrum Global website platform as well as serve as another venue source for attracting potential writing contributors, guests on the new Fulcrum Global podcast, as well as potential speakers for events, forums, seminars, and lectures that we may have in the future. It will also help create access to new experts, potential employers and networking opportunities for SDSS members. In addition, it will also provide access to differing professional opinions and perspectives on things. Lastly, it will also contribute to growing and cultivating the organizational culture and group dynamics of SDSS.

The Society has grown extensively in the past year and a half and we continue growing with new members each month on a regular basis. However, the monthly emails will definitely help attract former members who are alumni that may still be interested in knowing about the type of work that the Society and its members are doing now as well as seeking to expand their own professional peer networks. Growth expansion of organizations like ours can be somewhat tricky to deal with when managing its direction, key focus, as well as goals and objectives like the ones mentioned in the ABOUT US section of the www.fulcrumglobal.us website. However, that is the benefit of developing a sound strategy and a set of protocols for going about such

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activities and transitions in order for it to handle volatility, as well as being adaptive whenever it requires periodic upgrading and occasional tweaking.

SDSS has a strong vision, mission statement, goals, and objectives as stated on the ABOUT US section of the website. It also serves as a compass or even a beacon of light for both the leadership and its members, whenever there's a need to be reminded of the original sole purpose and direction of having the Society as well.

With that said, I'm pleased to say that SDSS has weathered out this past year rather well and has found a way to continue to grow in both membership and impact in terms of its mission and targeted focus in the national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs realms. Being a digital-based group, it was probably easier but still under circumstances such as CoVid-19, growing civil unrest, economic and social uncertainties, and a variety of issues and trends we're seeing happen at home and abroad, actually proved that an organization like SDSS is ideal and essential for the times we're living in, in order to shed light, thought, and understanding of the complexities that aren't always made so readily available.

With that said, I'd like to add that there are plenty of opportunities for involvement in the current projects we are undertaking. There are also opportunities for SDSS members to propose projects that are centered around the SDSS vision, mission, goals, and objectives as mentioned on our Fulcrum Global website. If you choose to propose a project that utilizes SDSS resources, please bring it up to leadership for approval. If approved, be prepared to be the one spearheading it under the SDSS banner and Fulcrum Global platform (if applicable).

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler
President, Society for Defense and Strategic Studies (SDSS)

2.)Chapter Meeting: Held on Friday, March 23, 2021 at 9:00PM

Meeting Attendees:

Sam Kessler; Dustin Oaks; Brian Moody; Dan Opstal; Dr. Mark Kass; Keegan Miller; and Elise Cregg

Key Talking Points from the March 23, 2021 Meeting:

1. Winning the points war from current gold medal status to achieving platinum status which will increase our budget from the current \$1,000 to \$1,250 for the 2022 fiscal

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year. We are currently on the verge of receiving a third gold medal by APUS that will transform into platinum status if we get the necessary points in the following months, which we will very likely achieve!

2. Start sending out monthly email updates for those interested in following SDSS outside of Facebook. This will be done as soon as possible and tentatively will be executed on the first week of each month in conjunction to our monthly newsletters.
3. Developing new Fulcrum Global articles and podcast episodes. We continue to invite new article submissions for the Fulcrum Global website. Also, feel free to propose topic/ideas for potential podcast episodes. In addition, we are always looking to add to the Resource Library on the fulcrum Global website, so please feel free to introduce potential references that can be added.
4. Possible live-streaming event series. This was introduced at the meeting and is something that can be utilized for live connections between members and discussing topics, issues, etc. in a live/social format.
5. Planning a 4 speaker Crossfire type of event and recruiting a team to organize it. We are looking to plan and hold a 4 speaker event in the fashion of the old CNN show, "Crossfire" (from the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2,000s) that brought up competing perspectives on issues and trends in order to give the audience multiple perspectives. We are looking to schedule this 3-4 months in advance so we can have time to organize as well as promoting it, in order to get larger interests and turnouts.
 - Also, future podcast episodes can correlate with the topic and potential speakers/guests as well.
 - ***We are recruiting a team of SDSS members who can run point on planning this event. If interested in in help planning this event, please let us know. Currently, Dr. Mark Kass and Elise Cregg expressed interest in being on the planning team for this event.***
6. Setting up a "Red Team Analysis" Seminar with Max Daves is still in the pipeline. More to come.
7. Investing in professional development capabilities for SDSS members and recruiting people to manage it and/or introduce ideas, resources, and concepts to help fellow members.

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8. Figuring out where to put remaining funds in terms of focus, org resources, projects, and initiatives. Current funding is going towards regular website and podcast expenses.

3.) Recently Updated the 2021 SDSS Constitution:

This year the leadership team of officers and advisors made updates on pages 5, 7, 10, and 11 of the 2020 SDSS Constitution and By-Laws that went through a major upgrade.

We particularly made updates regarding the advisory board, technology position, organizational digital infrastructure and assets, honorary members and partners section, and current SDSS leadership.

We'd like to thank everyone who reviewed and weighed in on these revisions which are composed of the leadership team, advisory board, and members too. Thank you.

Access the link to the 2021 SDSS Constitution and By-Laws at:

<https://fulcrumglobal.us/sdss-constitution-and-by-laws-2021-official-version/>

4.) New Fulcrum Global Podcast:

Nearly after a year it was first proposed, SDSS launched the first episode of its new podcast series that will help supplement the other content on the Fulcrumglobal.us website.

The first episode was recently launched on March 15, 2021 and can be seen on the podcast page at: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/category/podcast/>

First podcast episode: Military Coup in Burma: Domestic and International Implications with Sam Kessler, Dr. Mark Kass, and Wayland Blue. Official episode link is:

<https://fulcrumglobal.us/fulcrum-global-podcast-episode-1-military-coup-in-burma-domestic-and-international-implications/>

That is about it for now. We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter update and are looking forward to receiving more going forward. If you prefer not to be on the newsletter mailing list, please let us know in advance. Also, if you have any questions, inquiries, or ideas,

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then please don't hesitate to let the leadership team know and feel free to offer any suggestions for improvement.

Thank you for your interest in SDSS and hope you all have an excellent rest of the week!

Sincerely,
SDSS Leadership Team

SDSS Officers

Sam Kessler – President

Dustin Oaks – Vice President

Alyssa LeVasseur – Treasurer and Organizational Standards Officer

Brian Moody – Secretary

Board of Advisors

Dan Opstal – Advisor (Faculty)

Ron Brooks – Advisor (Membership)

Brian Moody – Past President

Sam Kessler – Fulcrum Global Chief and Managing Editor