

**THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES**  
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**MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**Issue #6**  
**August 2021**

**1.) Letter From the President:**

Dear SDSS Membership,

It has been a few months since our last network communique/newsletter, and it is time to give our members another formal update since the quarterly officers and advisor meeting was held yesterday. Also, a quick note to remind people that there will be an organizational member meeting tomorrow, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm (EST), and the Zoom info will be listed below in the e-mail.

This has been a very busy and productive year for SDSS as our long-term and newer projects have been developing nicely and are helping shape the character and status of the organization in ways that many would not have considered possible in previous years. With that said, we still have a lot to do that is very relevant with the fields of national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs, and I am proud to say that we have managed to keep the foundation of SDSS/Fulcrum both strong and stable during the times we're currently living/operating in and going forward as well.

The Fulcrum Global website ([www.fulcrumglobal.us](http://www.fulcrumglobal.us)) was originally developed for our written publication projects but has now evolved into something bigger. In fact, it has now evolved into an SDSS digital media platform that can serve the various forms of projects we publish on it, such as articles, analytical think pieces, background reports, intelligence briefs, Fulcrum Global podcast episodes, lectures, events, and various resources and speaking events shared in the presentation and resource library sections on the website too. All of this plays a big part of our emphasis on combining both the academic and professional sides in a way that helps shape a "society" of folks in the related fields to help build community and professional networks both in the academic and professional realm that are lasting beyond the school arena.

Even though it is now mid-August, SDSS is preparing for upcoming events that we have been developing, and will transpire in the weeks and months ahead. Below, please find a list of items

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that we talked about in our recent officer's meeting as well as updates, upcoming projects, and events that are in the pipeline too.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned below, please feel free to contact me personally via Facebook or LinkedIn or via the SDSS officer email, which is [apus.sdss@gmail.com](mailto:apus.sdss@gmail.com). Thank you for your time and interest in SDSS. We look forward to seeing you at tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler  
President, Society for Defense and Strategic Studies (SDSS)  
Chief Editor/Fulcrum Global

**2.) Chapter Member Meeting on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00PM (EST)**

a. Zoom Access Info:

<https://apus.zoom.us/j/4061424592?pwd=MFJaVVVYT3lkaDNOemlrZ1BPYzBmdz0>

Passcode for the Zoom is: 388322.

**3.) Winning the Points War: SDSS is Going Platinum**

- a. SDSS has achieved a gold medal rating three years in a row and this year we qualify to achieve a platinum medal awarded by APUS, which will increase our budget from \$1,000 to \$1,250. SDSS is on the clear path to achieving a Platinum rating in the near future, which will give us more wiggle room in funding and operations.
  - i. The current \$1,000 budget goes towards webhosting and subscription services and that we use for SDSS programs/projects.

**4.) Crossfire Event(s)**

- a. We plan on holding a 4–5-person panel discussion on the situation with China and Russia that will utilize a similar format of the old CNN show, "Crossfire",

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**FULCRUM GLOBAL**  
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which had differing opinions and perspectives on issues to give audiences a bigger picture perspective in ways that may not be covered in regular mainstream media content.

- b. Tentatively, the “Crossfire” event will be held during the first or second week of October.
- c. Current list of panelists being considered are Max Daves, Dr. Mark Kass, and Dr. Larry Dietz. Sam Kessler is host. We are also looking for one or two other possible panelists that have professional and academic backgrounds on Asia, SE Asia, China, and Russia as well.

### **5.) Fulcrum Global Podcast Episodes**

- a. Multiple podcast episodes are currently in pre-production and are in motion. Some will be based on articles that will be published on the Fulcrum Global website soon and others will be interviews with guests and experts in different fields that we have invited from both AMU/APUS and in the NatSec/IC communities. More to come soon!

### **6.) Submit a Written Piece for Fulcrum Global Publication**

- a. SDSS is always looking for written submissions to be published on the Fulcrum Global website. For submission proposals/pitches, please check the guidelines for the different types of writing products we’re looking for, at <https://fulcrumglobal.us/write-for-us/> and send it to [info-sdss@fulcrumglobal.us](mailto:info-sdss@fulcrumglobal.us) email.

### **7.) SDSS Officer Elections**

- a. SDSS will be holding officer elections in the fall. Start thinking now if you’re interested in running for a position for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
  - i. Check out the “About Us” page to learn the mission and vision of SDSS: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/about-us/>

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**FULCRUM GLOBAL**  
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- b. For a description of all the officer positions and responsibilities, check out the 2021 SDSS Constitution and By-Laws at this link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/sdss-constitution-and-by-laws-2021-official-version/>
- c. All candidates interested in running for office will be required to understand both the mission and vision of SDSS/Fulcrum Global as mentioned on the About Us Page on the website, and to understand that SDSS has multiple and ongoing projects and functions, and they will need to be fully committed in the process of helping run the organization.
  - i. They will also need to realize that they will need to be an active and visible leader, as well as being a team player across the board. They will also be required to have access to all the social media platforms that we utilize too.
- d. Tentative dates for the SDSS election process are the following chronological outline:
  - i. **September 10-20:**
    - 1. Submit a letter of intent and your most updated CV describing your background and qualifications. Also, the Letter of Intent will be read in the election ballots and should include your qualifications, reason why you want the position, and what you hope to achieve if you're elected.
  - ii. **October 1-15:**
    - 1. Elections/Voting
  - iii. **October 18-22:**
    - 1. Tallying Votes and notify candidates.
  - iv. **October 26:**
    - 1. Announce the winners
    - 2. Officially submit election results to APUS Student Affairs for reporting updates.

**8.) Ideas and Proposals Being Considered:**

- a. Writing and analytical workshops;
- b. Red Teaming Seminars;

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- c. More lectures;
- d. More Virtual Meet and Greet (Happy Hour) Get-togethers; and
- e. Professional development workshops.
- f. Additional role/function at Fulcrum Global – Adding an additional writing product to the list of others.

**Conclusion:**

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, 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 to see you at tomorrow's meeting!

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