

THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
FULCRUM GLOBAL
AMU/APUS
www.fulcrumglobal.us



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Issue #9
January 2023

NOTE: There will be membership Meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 8:00 PM (EST). Zoom access info will be included in the membership E-mail and Facebook group.

1.) Letter from the President

Dear SDSS Membership,

A new year has begun for SDSS, and it is time to reflect on the past as well as consider future possibilities for the organization too. The international system continues to become more complex as new threats and risks result into cascading elements both at home and abroad. The fields of national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs continue to be elevated as topics of interest and concern in the changing global and national strategic reality.

For SDSS members, it may be business as usual while continuing to track these items and issues over a period, while witnessing how they evolve, as well as observing how real-world applications and solutions are being utilized in real time. This is not to shed lightly on issues and concerns regarding these fields, however, a level of professionalism and big picture thinking is always needed when tackling them or playing a role.

In fact, it is why we have a Society for Defense and Strategic Studies (SDSS), Fulcrum Global, and Professional Development Program (PDP) that serves as a mechanism to help its members as they continue growing, learning, and preparing for the current and future work they may do in their fields. This is also why SDSS continues to grow and adapt to the professional growth and needs of its members to the best of its capabilities.

With that said, 2022 was an interesting year for SDSS in terms of growth and innovating new projects and programs that help members build professional skillsets, mindsets, and awareness that pertain to both their fields and areas of interest. Fulcrum Global as an SDSS digital media platform continues to be a flagship for SDSS with analytical articles, think pieces, intelligence briefs, library resources, and podcast episodes.

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Professional Development Program (PDP)

Also, we decided to create an experimental second program that pertains exclusively to areas of professional and career growth for our members via the creation of the Professional Development Program (PDP). This program provided a three-month webinar series/presentation for accepted members that provided sessions on areas of Open-Source Intelligence methods (OSINT); structural analytical techniques, intelligence analysis; critical thinking; dissecting information; disinformation, misinformation, propaganda; operational security (OPSEC), and memo writing, as well as oral and written brief writing/reporting skills.

There originally was going to be a second part of the program that matched participants with mentors that either work or have worked in the IC, natsec, defense, and foreign affairs fields. However, it proved to be a more difficult task to achieve within a limited time frame than we had anticipated. Instead, we eventually adapted and utilized the contingency plan of correlating it with the new Fulcrum Global OSINT-SitRep Division/Program, which relates to skills taught in PDP. We are planning on doing a second and updated version of the PDP program sometime in 2023, so be on the lookout for future announcements regarding the details.

Fulcrum Global and Creation of the OSINT-SitRep Division/Program

Fulcrum Global remains a hub for many of SDSS activities. In fact, we are looking to expand staff for more peer reviewers and assistant editors. As usual, we are also looking for new article submissions on the website. For information on that, please check out the “Write for Us” page on the Fulcrum Global website.

The OSINT-SitRep program is underway as we have interested individuals meeting this week (January 26, 2023) to get introduced with the writing/researching format and structure for operating situation desks (by region and issue). The goal of this new program/division is to track their areas of responsibility (AOR) on a regular/weekly basis and produce situation reports (SitReps) that will be published on the Fulcrum Global website either a weekly or bi-weekly basis for a minimum of a three-month commitment.

Upcoming SDSS Officer Elections

SDSS officer elections are going to be held very shortly. Here’s the Timeline:

- 1. January 26 to February 4 – 9:00 PM (EST) Deadline:**
 - Submit a letter of intent and your most updated CV describing your background and qualifications.

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- 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.
2. **February 6-19 – Midnight (EST):**
 - Elections/Voting
 3. **February 19-23:**
 - Tallying votes and notifying candidates.
 4. **February 27:**
 - Announce the winners.
 - Officially submit election results to APUS Student Affairs for reporting updates.

Please send nominations along with your bio, profile, and presentation to this email address:
apus.sdss@gmail.com

* All candidates are expected to read the SDSS constitution prior to officially submitting their candidacy. This is imperative as it gets them acclimated with the organization framework and there are descriptions for each of the positions. They can do this on the Fulcrum Global website at this link:

<https://fulcrumglobal.us/sdss-constitution-and-by-laws-2022-official-version/>

An official election announcement will be sent out and published on January 25 on the Fulcrum Global website. So, be on the lookout as it will compile all the info that pertains to the election process and procedures.

Still Plenty of Opportunities to Get Involved with SDSS

With all that said, there remains several (non-leadership) opportunities for SDSS members to get involved as well as make good use of the different types of resources and programs that can be utilized for their own growth and professional development. In addition, there are always opportunities to tie projects one is interested in implementing while utilizing the SDSS platform too. Project proposals are welcome.

Feel free to contact me or any one of the members of the SDSS leadership team and Advisory Board as well. There are many ways to get involved whether one is in leadership or not.

President's Conclusion

In conclusion, if there are any questions or ideas on how to get involved, improve SDSS, or developing potential projects catered to your interests, please feel free to reach out. I wish

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everyone well in their studies and professional work. I look forward to seeing people and answering questions at the upcoming membership meeting.

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler
SDSS President / Chief Editor, Fulcrum Global

2.) Recent Fulcrum Global Publishings

The Multi-Polar Role of Russia's Primakov Doctrine and the Certainty of a Chinese-Russian Strategic Alliance

- By **Sam Kessler**
- Publishing Date: December 14, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/the-multi-polar-role-of-russias-primakov-doctrine-and-the-certainty-of-a-chinese-russian-strategic-alliance/>

China and Iran: In the Thralls of the Next Revolution? – SITREP #1

- By **Dr. Mark Kass**
- Publishing Date: December 11, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/china-and-iran-in-the-thralls-of-the-next-revolution-sitrep-1/>

Fulcrum Global Podcast Episode 6 – Middle East Security, Russia-Ukraine War, and US-China Tensions

- Guest: **Adam Roosevelt** ; Host: **Sam Kessler** ; Co-Host: **Nabil Rahman**
- Publishing Date: December 8, 2022 ; Recording Date: August 8, 2022
- Link: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/fulcrum-global-podcast-episode-6-middle-east-security-russia-ukraine-war-and-us-china-tensions/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oHC5TB7D0A>

3.) Other Important Items

- **Next Chapter Membership Meeting**
 - January 25 (Wednesday) at 8:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)
 - Access to Zoom is enclosed in membership E-mail, and (Closed) Facebook group.

- **Want to contribute to Fulcrum Global?**
 - Write for Us: <https://fulcrumglobal.us/write-for-us/>
 - Access to Zoom is enclosed in membership E-mail, and (Closed) Facebook group.

- **Fulcrum Global Resource Library**
 - <https://fulcrumglobal.us/resource-library/>

SDSS Leadership Team

Sam Kessler – President / Fulcrum Global Chief and Managing Editor

Dustin Oak – Vice President

Alyssa LeVasseur – Treasurer and Organizational Standards Officer

Toni Scott – Technology and Digital Network Officer

Brian Moody – Social Media Officer

Nabil Rahman – Professional Development Officer

Dan Opstal – Advisor (Faculty)

Ron Brooks – Advisor (Membership)