

THE SOCIETY FOR DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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A Letter From the President

Dear SDSS Membership

This is Sam Kessler, your organization president and I hope this finds you all well. It's been a while since we did a communique/newsletter but I would like to share with you some important updates and announcements regarding activities and projects that are going on within the [Society for Defense and Strategic Studies \(SDSS\)](#) and [Fulcrum Global](#), our digital media platform. First, I would like to welcome our new members that have joined our collegiate organization and I encourage you all to get involved as well as interact with fellow members in our Facebook and LinkedIn groups. We will be increasing our online events so that folks can mingle, network, and discuss with friends and peers on the relevant issues that SDSS focuses on promoting (national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs). There are plenty of opportunities to contribute to SDSS operations and one does not necessarily have to be an officer to play a role that helps support the [SDSS mission and goals](#).

SDSS Afternoon Movie Series: "The Recruit" – May 3, 2025 at 2:00 PM EST

The first thing I want to alert to you is that we will be having a first of a series of SDSS afternoon film screenings based on a couple of questionnaires that we did back in the fall. Our first movie will be, ["The Recruit" \(2003\)](#) with Al Pacino and Colin Farrel. This film deals with focusing on CIA recruitment, however, there's plenty of themes and tradecraft teachings that apply outside of the agency and in different professions within the national security, defense, intelligence, and foreign affairs industries/communities too. A key recurring theme that this movie addresses is it repeatedly reminds us that nothing is always as they seem, and it requires the person to not only keep their wits and their intuition sharpened, but to be willing to

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question their perceptions and understandings of situations, scenarios, and events as well, in order to keep the best edge possible.

In addition, this movie series will be loosely tied to the work we've been doing with the [SDSS Professional Development Program \(PDP\)](#) that both Professional Development Officer (PDO), Nabil Rahman, and myself have taken it upon ourselves to have generated and fostered almost 30 webinar/workshop sessions dealing with intelligence and tradecraft education for our participants in two seasons of doing PDP that spans a 2.5 year time period. So, we're not going to be just watching the movie, but we will also be discussing it, making observations, addressing key points that apply to real world practices, and discussing stereotypes. In other words, the goal will be to dissecting it and having a good solid group discussion about it that should hopefully make it worthwhile for everyone attending it. The first movie screening will be, "The Recruit" on May 3, 2025 at 2:00 PM EST so you should allot for about 3 hours for watching and discussing it in a group format. It will be on Zoom and we will be sending the Zoom info by E-mail as well as sending a reminder e-mail the day before and day of the movie screening. Also, the next movie will be, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" and more to come. So be on the lookout and we hope to see you at our first screening this weekend!

Professional Development Program (PDP 2.0) News

In regard to our second season of the [Professional Development Program](#), or commonly known as PDP 2.0, Nabil and I are close to wrapping it up with our participants who have bravely stuck to it for a little over a year now. We have at least one more session left before wrapping it up on a topic dealing with "Red Teaming" for intelligence analysis. There may be a second one dealing with cybersecurity but that may go into a third season of PDP. The videos for the first two seasons of PDP will be added to our YouTube channel as well as links on our Fulcrum Global website. With that said, Nabil and I are already discussing season 3 of our Professional Development Program (PDP 3.0), so stay on the lookout if you'd like to participate in it!

Fulcrum Global Articles, Intelligence Briefs, and Write for Us!

As you know that [Fulcrum Global](#) is the digital media platform for SDSS and has served as a hub for its projects in both the physical and digital domain, we ask you to spend some time [checking out the website](#). Also, we encourage you to submit a draft for a feature article, SitRep,

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background report, or a proposal for an intelligence brief that will go through an in-depth peer review and editing process. [Click here for more info about submitting something and we'll get back to you on it!](#)

In the meantime, check out the recent Fulcrum Global published pieces that you may have yet to read:

1.) [How The War in Ukraine is Strengthening China and Weakening Russia](#)

- a. **By:** Sam Kessler
- b. **Published:** March 30, 2025
- c. This is part 1 of a series of articles exploring about how various state and non-state actors are benefitting and getting stronger from the war in Ukraine.
- d. **Link:** <https://fulcrumglobal.us/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-strengthening-china-and-weakening-russia/>

2.) [China Space Threat to U.S. Assets – Intelligence Brief #10](#)

- a. **By:** James W. Weichold
- b. **Published:** June 20, 2024
- c. This is part 1 of a 2-part series analyzing how space assets owned by China and Russia threaten U.S. space assets as well.
- d. **Link:** <https://fulcrumglobal.us/china-space-threat-to-u-s-assets-intelligence-brief-9/>

3.) [NSA Releases Internal 1982 Lecture by Computing Pioneer Rear Admiral Grace Hopper](#)

- a. **By:** Staff
- b. **Published:** October 2, 2024
- c. Video lecture in 1982 by former Rear Admiral Grace Hopper who is well-known as being a computing and networking pioneer in the national security realm.
- d. **Link:** <https://fulcrumglobal.us/nsa-releases-internal-1982-lecture-by-computing-pioneer-rear-admiral-grace-hopper/>

Member Recognition

Once again, a special shout out and congratulations goes to SDSS member, Frank Danesy on getting his book dealing with predicting insider espionage to be published after several years in the making. **The title of Frank's book is:**

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1. Predicting Insider Espionage: A Five-Factor Model

- a. **By:** Frank C. Danesy
- b. **Published:** 2024
- c. **Summary:** Insider espionage has destabilized governments, jeopardized national security and critical infrastructures, diminished the economic strength of nations, and cost lives. Deterrence and detection — the two methods most used to combat this threat — often prove ineffective. The author, therefore, suggests placing more emphasis on prediction. This book is based on a four-year research project in which the author studied hundreds of cases of insider espionage in the government and private sectors across various countries. The project led to the development of the author's Five-Factor Model of Insider Espionage, which he validated through multiple case analyses and a cross-case synthesis. This model aims to provide a framework to predict and thus mitigate the risks associated with insider espionage. The book will familiarize readers with the model and the underlying concepts.
- d. **Link:** https://www.peterlang.com/document/1523138?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ-FO1leHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETFRSGtPdTJBMVVob1NZNIJRAR7OsMND_HsB_v_d0VfVyx6ZAhpDsLi4SmCH4d-7xVUsXR2yS9UIPBTDDevRZfg_aem_CElqg6F55cxluuS6IERO5g

Conclusion

Well, that is it for now, however, there is more to come in the pipeline! There are more published analytical pieces that are in the works, PDP 2.0 ending, and the upcoming new PDP season (3.0) will be in motion. We will continue these movie screenings more regularly throughout the year and using them as a PDP lite version for all SDSS members. This will provide an opportunity to network with friends and peers in the academic and professional realm, as well as having serious and practical discussions about utilizing the discipline, tradecraft, and a bunch of other key talking points that will get us thinking and having productive dialogue too.

Also, you can expect more newsletter/communique announcements like this one to help you stay in the loop. If you have any questions or would like to discuss ideas in getting involved with SDSS, feel free to either message me or E-mail us at: apus.sdss@gmail.com or via the [Fulcrum Global website](http://www.fulcrumglobal.us) too. There are plenty of ways to get involved with SDSS-Fulcrum Global

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and if you want to create a side role or project, it would be considered as an appointment type of position too. Let us know and we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at “The Recruit” film screening this Saturday, May 3rd at 2:00 PM EST!

Sincerely,

Sam Kessler
SDSS President / Chief Editor, Fulcrum Global

SDSS Leadership Team

Sam Kessler – President / Fulcrum Global Chief and Managing Editor
Brian Moody – Vice President
N/A – Treasurer and Organizational Standards Officer
Toni Scott – Technology and Digital Network Officer
Dustin Oaks – Social Media Officer
Nabil Rahman – Professional Development Officer
Dan Opstal – Advisor (Faculty)
Ron Brooks – Advisor (Membership)

