

ASIAN SEMINAR: ONE HALF OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE,
TWO THIRDS OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION

(Compiled by DISAM)

GENERAL

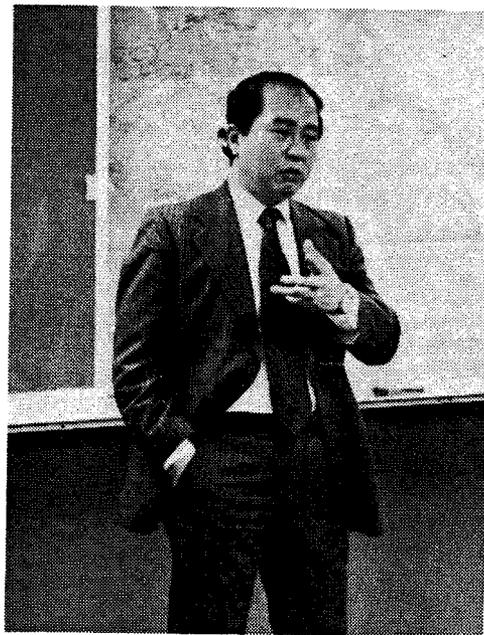
The DISAM complement to the Pacific Command is the Asian Seminar with its Asian Regional Studies Program. Major Robert V. Branson, U.S. Army, has been the seminar director and PACOM point of contact since January 1978. To date, DISAM has trained 185 officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians enroute to PACOM and the seventeen countries in which the United States has active security assistance programs.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Regional studies follow the geographic area of responsibility of PACOM: from the Afghanistan/Pakistan border with Iran east to Korea and Japan and finally to the west coast of the United States. The region can be subdivided into four distinct areas within "Asia." South Asia includes Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Indian Protectorate of Sikkim. Southeast Asia encompasses the mainland countries of Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indochina (Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam). Southeast Asia also includes the island nations consisting of the Philippines, Indonesia and the city state of Singapore. Northeast Asia includes China, both Koreas and Japan. Finally the Australian continent, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the various island groups make up Pacific Oceania.

GUEST LECTURERS

Because of the infinite variety of geography, peoples, political organizations, and linguistic and religious groups, regional and country research in Asia depends to a large extent on students' independent studies. To augment those studies the seminar enjoys an active program of guest lecturers from various government and non-governmental agencies and academia including Dr. T. C. Rhee, Professor of Diplomatic History, University of Dayton; Dr. John F. Cady, Professor Emeritus, University of Ohio; Dr. Kenneth Landon, Professor Emeritus, Foreign Service Institute; Dr. Donald Zagoria, Professor



Dr. T. C. Rhee, a frequent guest lecturer, addresses the Asian Seminar.

of Political Science, Tufts University; Gregory Henderson, Associate Professor, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; Dr. Stanley Bedlington, Senior National Analyst, Central Intelligence Agency; Dr. Allan Goodman, Senior Analyst for the Third World, CIA; Selig Harrison, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for Peace; Donald L. Ranard, Director, Center for International Policy; and most recently Colonel William Tombaugh, Chief, U.S. Defense Liaison Group, Indonesia.

ACADEMIC ORIENTATION

Although seminars for each class vary according to student assignments, general topics include U.S. Foreign Policy and Asia; The Action Game and the Harmony Game: Why Asians Are Different; The Sino-Soviet Conflict and its impact on Asia; the Indochina Conflict and its implications; the history of Southeast Asia; Human Rights in Asia; Asian Nationalism; and the Religions of Asia. In view of current events, additional emphasis is being placed on the Afghanistan crisis and the broader aspects of the so-called Islamic Revolution and their impact on Asia. In addition to their country specific presentations seminar students have made presentations on the broader aspects of their assignments, such as the balance of power in Asia, the viability of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and overall security assistance programs throughout the region.

STUDY RESOURCES

To support student presentations and their independent research, the DISAM library and the Asian Regional Studies Center has over two hundred reference volumes, over 100 video tapes, John K. Fairbanks' cassette series on China and Theodore White's film, "China: a Revolution Revisited." The periodical collection has over 15 magazines and newspapers from or about Asia. There is a large collection of articles and monographs from the Defense Documentation Center, Rand Corporation and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. The entire collection is complemented by over 500 color slides taken during trips and visits by the faculty or provided by former students upon their arrival in country.

After extending our appreciation to the security assistance elements throughout Asia for their contributions to country specific materials, DISAM would like to encourage their continued support since our greatest challenge is to maintain current information for the student assigned to Asia and for others who have an interest in Asian studies.

* * * * *