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# The Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management Expands Their Website to Promote International Affairs Workforce Professional Development

By  
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*Making a wrong decision is understandable.  
Refusing to search continually for learning is not.*  
Philip Crosby, *Reflections on Quality*

In recent years, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has established a number of programs to help advance the professional skills of the Department of Defense's (DoD) International Affairs workforce. On-going initiatives include the Global Masters of Arts Program (GMAP) Tufts University's Fletcher School; Level I, II, and III Certification requirements; and the Military Departments' Internship Programs. These enterprises were put in place for DoD personnel to improve their knowledge, skills, and personal networks in order to find quick and effective solutions to the challenges of an ever-changing world international affairs arena. To facilitate the professional development opportunities presented by DSCA, the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management's (DISAM) has added two new features to its website.

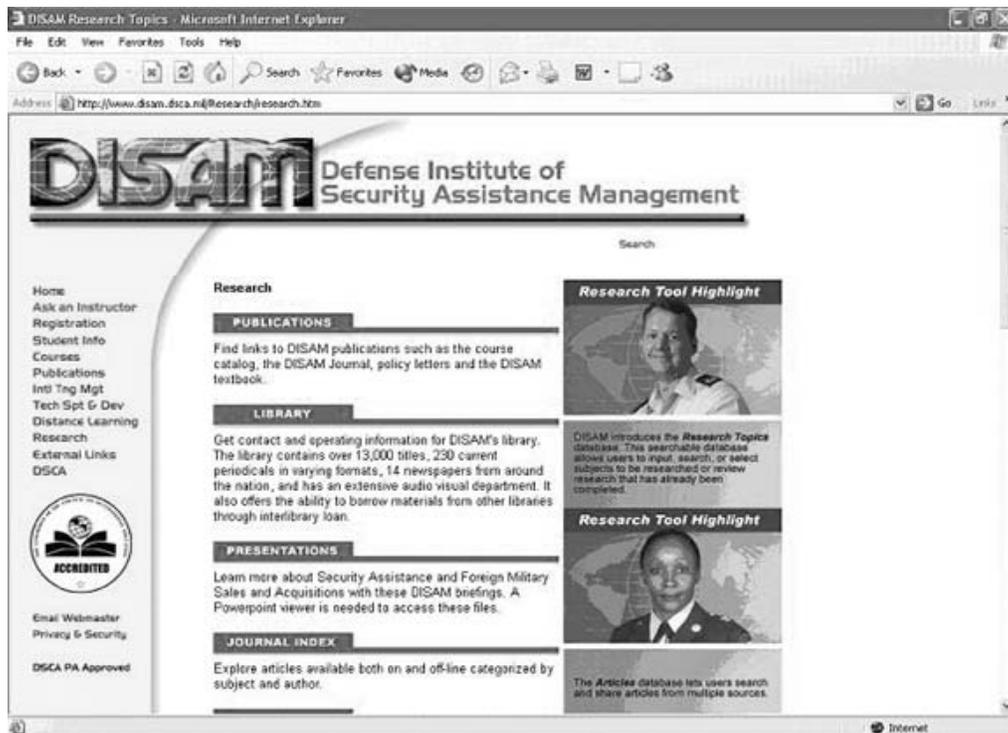


Figure 1. The DISAM Research Webpage

When accessing the DISAM website at <http://www.disam.dscamil> and clicking on the research link, a new menu appears listing the available information for use, such as publications and regulations, periodical listings, DISAM course presentations, and the ever useful Ask an Instructor database. All of these features have been present and utilized often, but DISAM has added two new facets for users; the ability to submit research papers and published articles for

others to view and make use of, as well as the ability to submit, search, or select an international affairs topic for comprehensive research. The goals of the new features are to aid in the professional development of security assistance personnel and foster an atmosphere of education and research within the field.

The Articles database allows users to submit, search, and share published and unpublished articles of interest in the security assistance community. Each article has a summary for easy review and is searchable by several elements including keywords, author, and publication. Some current articles that can be found are a Department of State briefing on Human Rights, Foreign Policy Implications of the U.S. Intervention in Somalia, and the Navy's Case Execution Performance Tool (CEPT). The articles come from many sources, including the *DISAM Journal*, United State's government press releases, the *Tufts Journal of International Affairs* and other credible University and non-governmental publications. This database is intended to be a tool to link the security assistance workforce with the relevant publications that discuss current world issues and their impact on international affairs.

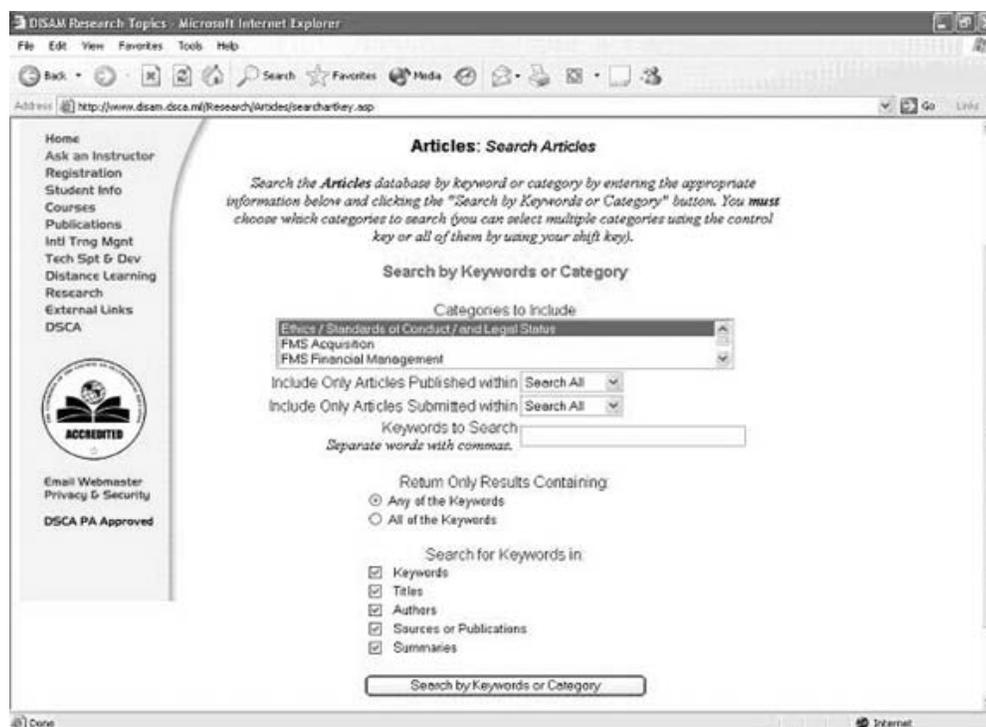
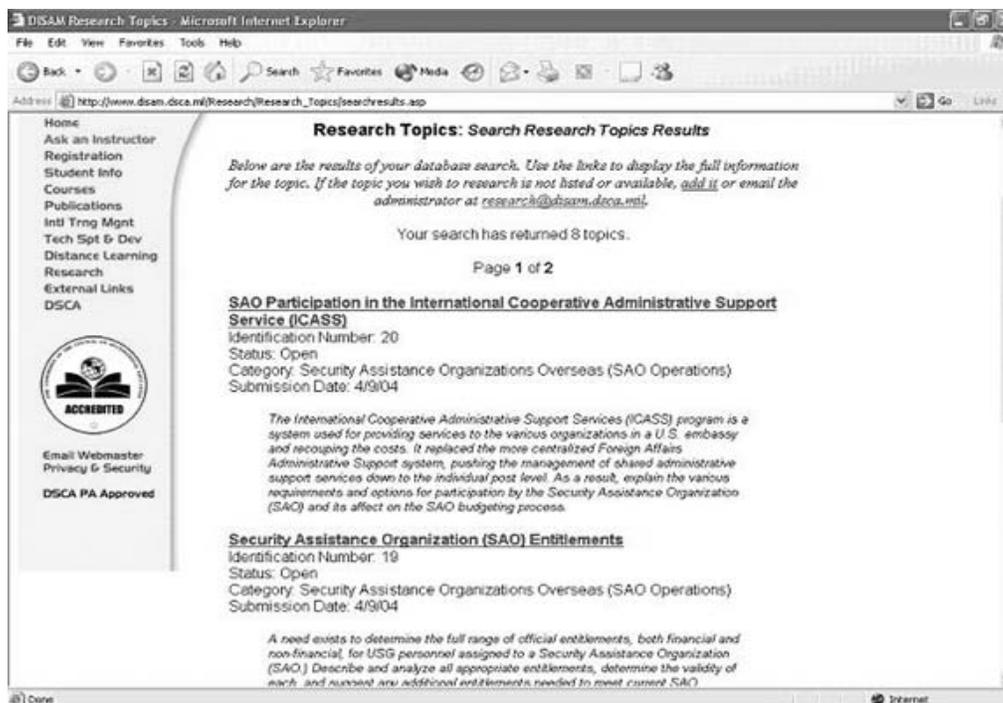


Figure 2. Articles Database Search Webpage

Users have the ability to input an abstract for International Affairs colleagues to research. Users can also search and select one of these abstracts on which to conduct research. Additionally, website browsers can explore research that has already been completed. Ultimately, the database is the conduit between researchers and desired research topics, providing a place to exchange in-depth analysis and research in the international affairs arena. Current abstracts available for research include security assistance organization (SAO) entitlements, the Impact of the Informational Program for International Students, and U.S. Army International Programs Reorganization. It should be noted that while DISAM maintains the research database to facilitate studies on topics of interest to the international affairs community, neither those who submit topics to be researched, nor DISAM, are to be considered research sponsors or advisors unless prior coordination has been accomplished.



**Figure 3. Research Topics Database Search Results Webpage**

By utilizing the resources from various organizations, backgrounds, and cultures submitted to the website, international affairs professionals can expand their knowledge base and broaden their expertise in the general processes of international affairs. The ultimate vision of the new databases is to improve the overall quality and professionalism of the Department of Defense's international affairs workforce through continuous learning and shared education.

### **About the Author**

Lieutenant Christopher Krolikowski is an instructor and the research database administrator at the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management. Upon graduation from Tulane University in 1999, he was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy. Prior to DISAM, LT Krolikowski served as Ship's Navigator, USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) and Fire Control/Gunnery Officer, USS CARON (DD 970). Additionally, he is currently pursuing a MBA from Wright State University.