
Pacific Army Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) - An Evolving Organization

By

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PASOLS began in 1971 as the Pacific Army Senior Officer Logistics Seminar, a multinational conference sponsored by the Commander, U.S. Armies Pacific. Eight countries attended the first seminar, held in Okinawa. Each nation briefed on its own Army logistics organization.

This format continued through 1975. In 1976 PASOLS became a multi-service, multinational annual logistics conference and the name was appropriately changed to the Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar. Sponsorship was passed from the Commander, U.S. Army Pacific to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Forces (USCINCPAC). In 1979 PASOLS moved from an annual conference to an organization. New Terms of Reference (TOR) established the organization and outlined its mission and basic structure. The mission of the PASOLS decision making body was to develop, study, and review proposed mutual logistics support initiatives to expand logistics cooperation within the Pacific region.

The voting body was originally called the Logistics Review Board, the precursor to the current Logistics Steering Group (LSG). The TOR also established the Project Development Group (PDG), and the Project Development Committee's (PDC) predecessor, tasked with developing possible projects for PASOLS as well as planning the agenda for the PASOLS annual meeting.

All nations adopting the TOR became member nations of the new PASOLS organization in 1984. All other nations invited to attend PASOLS participated as observer nations without voting rights. Headquarters USCINCPAC J4 was appointed the initial Secretariat.

As PASOLS developed, a number of products were produced. These included:

- Directory of Ammunition Sources (1985)
- Foreign Purchaser Guide to Freight Forwarder Selection (1986-1987).
- International Handbook for Logistics System Development (1987-1988).
- Publication of information on the International Logistics Communication System (ILCS) (1989).
- Establishment of the *PASOLS Log*, a semiannual magazine to disseminate information on current logistics developments, national logistics activities, cooperative logistics, logistics initiatives and other PASOLS information (1990-Present).

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- Development of the Compendium of Logistics Courses Available for Foreign Students 1990.
 - Creation of a reference index of national Automated Data Processing (ADP) logistics projects and new ADP logistics systems and improvements 1991.
 - Disaster Relief Handbooks (1994).

These products became useful ways of sharing information among PASOLS nations. At PASOLS XXII held in Sri Lanka, 1993, the LSG endorsed two new concepts:

First, one panel discussion session to be a case study designed by host nation around a logistics issue or problem faced by its military. The goal is to bring to bear on the issues the expertise of senior logisticians in the hope that fresh solutions can be offered.

PASOLS XXII implemented the Pacific Area Cooperative Acquisition and Logistics System (PACALS). This is a list of potential areas of logistics co-operation designed to aid in achieving cost savings and information sharing through pooling members nations' resources toward the solution to an acquisition and/or logistics related issue.

PACALS initiatives implemented since 1993 include the Excess Availability and Marketing System (now the World-Wide Warehouse Redistribution System), the Pacific Area Cataloguing System (PACS), a bilateral logistics agreement format, a CHINOOK users group, the Pacific Area Quality Assurance Forum, multinational agreements covering emergency support, preservation techniques, regional maintenance, the Pacific Area Automated Logistics Management Systems (PALMS), and the Pacific Area Cooperation in Outsourcing (PACOUT). Currently 25 potential initiatives are in the PACALS system. PACS, PALMS, PACOUT, and the multilateral agreement for emergency support are actively being worked.

PASOLS is an evolving, growing organization with 23 member nations. Its active involvement in current logistics issues over the past 28 years has served the needs of member nations well. PASOLS can continue to grow and meet members' needs into the next century. Each member nation should consider how PASOLS can best serve its needs.

About the Author

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