

# GRIPS-Mansfield Foundation Joint Seminar

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018 Time: 12:10-13:40

Venue: The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), 1st Floor, Meeting Room 1AB

## "SOCOM Activities in the Pacific"

アジア太平洋地域におけるアメリカ特殊作戦軍活動

Speaker : **Michael Luke Deckard** (Mansfield Fellow)

マイケル・ルーク・デッカード (マンズフィールド・フェロー)

MC-130J Navigator, Major, U.S. Air Force

MC-130J航空士、米国空軍少佐

Moderator: **Hideshi Tokuchi** 徳地 秀士 政策研究院シニア・フェロー  
Senior Fellow of GRIPS ALLIANCE

Description: United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) is one of America's busiest and most active functions of the military, conducting operations in almost every corner of the globe. SOCOM is well known for its recent operations in Afghanistan against the Taliban, or famous missions such as the raid on Osama Bin Laden; however, SOCOM conducts many lesser-known types of activities such as Security Force Assistance and humanitarian operations as well. In the Asia-Pacific region, SOCOM regularly participates in training with foreign military forces, conducts counter-terrorism missions, and supports counter-narcotics.

In his presentation, Mr. Deckard will outline the history and concept of SOCOM as a Unified Command, explain the structure of SOCOM with emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, and describe its core activities. He will share some of his operational experiences throughout the region, and provide his thoughts on future operations in the Pacific. He will also share observations he has made from his time as a Mansfield Fellow on how the Japan Self Defense Force might utilize special forces in the future, and what role it might play in the defense of Japan and Asia-Pacific.

Mr. Deckard has 14 years of experience in the U.S. Air Force as part of Air Force Special Operations Command. He was a navigator in the MC-130P at Kadena AB, Japan from 2006-2011. Afterward, he became a navigator in the MC-130J and operated out of Cannon AFB and Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. He is an evaluator with over 3,500 flight hours, and has operated or supported operations throughout Asia-Pacific, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a Mansfield Fellow, he has been placed in various offices within the Ministry of Defense, the office of Akihisa Nagashima, and All Nippon Airways. He comes from an Air Force family, and claims Colorado as his home.

Hideshi Tokuchi, Senior Fellow of GRIPS ALLIANCE, joined the Defense Agency (the predecessor of the Ministry of Defense) of Japan in 1979 and served as the nation's first Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs from July 2014 until he left the government in October 2015. In the Ministry of Defense he also had served as the Director-General of four bureaus: Operations; Personnel and Education; Finance and Equipment; and Defense Policy. He taught Japan's national security policy as a visiting professor at GRIPS from 2002 to 2015.

**\*Language: English**

**\*Admission: Free**

**\*Please bring your own lunch.**

**For registration and inquiries please**

**contact: [grips-pr03@grips.ac.jp](mailto:grips-pr03@grips.ac.jp) or**

**03-6439-6037 (Ms. Oshikawa)**

**For access to the GRIPS campus:**

7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8677

<http://www.grips.ac.jp/about/access>

\* This seminar will be livestreamed through Twitter @MansfieldFDN

\* このセミナーは、ライブ映像が全世界に配信されます。

セミナー当日、Twitter の Mansfield Foundation (@MansfieldFDN) にアクセス下さい。

## The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

GRIPS was established in October 1997, superseding the Graduate School of Policy Science (GSPS) at Saitama University, which was the first graduate school for Policy Studies in Japan. GRIPS is a government-sponsored graduate school and research institute which has been restructured into an entirely new and unique entity. GRIPS aims to be an international center of excellence for the education of future leaders in the policy arena, for the advancement of policy research, and for the systematic collection and dissemination of policy-related information. In order to accomplish these aims, a Graduate School, a Policy Research Center and a Policy Information Center have been established. GRIPS is the first graduate school without facilities for undergraduates in Japan in the wider disciplines of social science. GRIPS is located in Roppongi, Tokyo, with easy access to the political and business headquarters of Japan.

The degree programs are designed to attract outstanding students and thoroughly prepare them for distinguished careers in policy setting. After a period of thorough preparation since its foundation in 1997, GRIPS welcomed its first domestic students in April 2000, followed six months later by the first international students. About two-thirds of the student-intake of GRIPS consist of international students coming from over sixty countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Our students normally have three to five years working experience for governments, central banks, custom offices or other relevant organizations. The International Programs at GRIPS are conducted solely in English, while Domestic Programs are taught in Japanese.

GRIPS aims to be the center of a consortium, consisting of industry, government and academia, for the exchange of information, ideas and personnel among graduate schools, government-related institutes and private research institutes in Japan. In addition, through its international faculty, student body and alumni, and by promoting international exchange of policy research and information, GRIPS aims to establish an international network among academics and government officials in the field of policy studies, contributing to the promotion of a better understanding among peoples around the world in an age of globalization.

## The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation was created in 1983 to advance Maureen and Mike Mansfield's life-long efforts to promote understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. The Foundation sponsors exchanges, dialogues and publications that create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explore the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increase awareness about the nations and peoples of Asia. The Mansfield Foundation's geographic focus is Northeast Asia and India as it relates to that region. The Foundation receives support from individuals, corporations and philanthropic organizations. It also provides support to The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana.

(<http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/default.php>)

The Mansfield Fellowship Program - named after Mike Mansfield, former U.S. ambassador to Japan, U.S. Senate majority leader, and U.S. congressman from Montana - is a first-of-its-kind program for the United States and Japan. The U.S. Congress created the Mansfield Fellowships in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. federal government employees with proficiency in the Japanese language and practical, firsthand knowledge about Japan and its government. During the one-year program in Japan, Fellows develop an in-depth understanding of Japan's government and policymaking process and establish relationships with their counterparts in the government of Japan and the business, professional and academic communities. The Mansfield Fellowships are administered by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, with the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, as grantor.

The Foundation has offices in Washington, D.C., Tokyo, Japan, and Missoula, Montana.