



# World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

## The Passport Newsletter

June 2023



### Looming Confrontation in the Indo-Pacific?

Professor James Russell  
Department of National Security Affairs  
Naval Postgraduate School

Monday, June 26, 2023  
Hilton Garden Inn

[Download mail-in form](#)

[Register online for this event](#)

*“Across much of the Indo-Pacific region, the Chinese Communist Party is using military and economic coercion to bully its neighbors, advance unlawful maritime claims, threaten maritime shipping lanes, and destabilize territory along the periphery of the People’s Republic of China.”*

-U.S. Department of State  
2017-2021.state.gov/Chinas-military-aggression-in-the-Indo-Pacific-Region

U.S. policymakers are increasingly focused on China’s growing assertiveness and military build-up in the Indo-Pacific region. In a recent report to Congress, the Department of Defense described China’s navy as the “largest navy in the world and, by far, the largest of any country in East Asia.” This and other elements of China’s military modernization efforts have led to deepening the U.S.-China strategic and economic rivalry in the region.

In his presentation, Professor Russell will discuss the unfolding confrontation in the Indo-Pacific. Drawing on current research he is undertaking for the U.S. Navy, he will focus on the role of the U.S. Navy in meeting this challenge.

James A. Russell serves as Associate Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School where he teaches courses on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, military innovation, and national security strategy. His articles and commentaries have appeared in a wide variety of media and scholarly outlets around the world. From 1988 -2001, Dr. Russell held a variety of positions in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Near East and South Asia, Department of Defense.

Professor Russell holds a Master’s in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in War Studies from the University of London.

#### Location

Big Sur Room  
Hilton Garden Inn  
1000 Aguajito Road,  
Monterey, CA

#### Agenda

5:45 PM: Registration  
6:15 PM: Dinner  
6:45 PM: Speaker Presentation

#### Tickets

\$36 for Members  
\$41 for Guests

#### Menu

Spring Spinach Salad with Peas, Radishes,  
Chickpeas & Crumbled Feta with Champagne  
Vinaigrette

Grilled Lemon, Garlic & Rosemary Salmon  
with Tomato Basil Bruschetta Salsa over Orzo  
Pilaf with Basil & Pine Nuts Served with  
Blistered Green Beans

*Vegetarian Alternative:* Salinas Valley Pasta  
Primavera: Penne Pasta with Olive Oil, Pine  
Nuts, Basil, Grilled Zucchini & Roasted  
Tomatoes

Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

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#### Vaccination Requirements

**Until further notice documentation of COVID vaccination  
will not be required to attend in-person events.**



Monterey High School AWQ team shared  
their experience at the National AWQ  
Competition in Washington D.C.  
at our May 24<sup>th</sup> Dinner.



Monterey High School Academic WorldQuest team from left, Sindha Gokaraju, Eunwoo Kim,  
River Valdivia, and Taylor Boothe



#### Come join the conversation!

The [WACMB monthly Discussion Group](#) will meet on Monday, June 5, at 5:00 pm. This month’s topic will be “The Geopolitics of Energy.” This topic is inspired by Dan Nussbaum’s lecture at the May 24th dinner event. The meeting will be held on Zoom, and all WACMB members are invited to participate. If you are interested and have never attended this Discussion Group, just send a request to [discussiongroup@wacmb.org](mailto:discussiongroup@wacmb.org) to receive log-in information and related background materials.

(Note: this Discussion Group has been having occasional in-person socials, where members have been able to interact in real life instead of only via screens. Doesn’t that sound appealing? Sign up now to learn whether plans are afoot for future gatherings!)

Come join the conversation!

## Message from Our President

### World Affairs Council



### Join Us!

When you join the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area, you become part of an organization of thoughtful and engaged global citizens who seek to learn more about contemporary world affairs. You can see benefits provided to the public by the Council, and the additional benefits for members, on our web page at <https://www.wacmb.org/membership/>

Please join us at an upcoming event or discussion group and consider becoming a member of the Council or renewing your current membership.

Our Regards,

Peter Albano  
President of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

[Join, Renew, Donate](#)

*This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.*

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