

# I. CAPSULE HISTORY OF PASOLS

1.1 The Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) began in 1971 as a U.S. Army initiative. Known then as the PACOM Army Senior Officer Logistic Seminar, it was sponsored by Headquarters, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). The first meeting was held in Okinawa, and the 23 attendees (about half one star or above) each occupying key logistics appointments, represented nine Pacific area countries; Taiwan, Indonesia, Khmer Republic, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

1.2 In 1976 the seminar broadened, with HQ USPACOM taking over from USARPAC. The name was changed to Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) and the seminar became multi service. The Republic of Korea hosted PASOLS in 1980, the first time that the multi service seminar was hosted outside the U.S. and the highlight was the drafting of 'Terms of Reference' which provided a basic structure for future seminars.

1.3 The 'Terms of Reference' were revised in 1984 at a PASOLS held in Hawaii and these provided a more formal structure and established USPACOM as the permanent secretariat. Growth of participation was evident from the 68 delegates (22 of civilian or military one star or above or level) representing the 12 member nations. Further significant changes were made in 1988 where PASOLS members agreed to the venue rotating between member nations. Hosting guidelines, delineating host country responsibilities as well as those of USPACOM as the Secretariat, were approved and incorporated into this brochure.

1.4 At the 35<sup>th</sup> PASOLS, held in Hawaii in 2006, delegates from 22 of the member countries discussed the revision of the structure, activities and output of the seminar. Agreement was reached that management of PASOLS activities would be undertaken by a staff level PASOLS Planning Group and that the prime focus of PASOLS would be logistics interoperability between member nations. The principal output was decided to be a PASOLS Mutual Logistics Support Handbook. New Terms of Reference detailing the revised focus were tabled and are at *Chapter II, Terms of Reference*.

1.5 From its inception in 1971, PASOLS has seen substantial growth in both participation and successes. Up to 130 delegates have attended the seminar from 30 nations, and as at the date of this brochure there are 25 Member Nations and 8 nations with Observer status. The principles of mutual cooperation and sharing will allow PASOLS to continue to flourish and provide a valuable service to all participating nations.