

# The Myanmar Conflict and its Implications in the Indo-Pacific's Strategic Competition Landscape

Dr Miemie Winn Byrd, Lt. Col. U.S. Army (Ret.)

Monday 14 August 2023: 1.45 pm for 3 pm – 4 pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Myanmar gained independence from Britain in 1948 as a parliamentary democracy. A 1962 coup led by General Ne Win, chief of the country's military, installed a military junta and gave the army sweeping constitutional, political, and economic power.



The military officially handed power over to a one-party civilian government in 1974 but retained significant political power and autonomy. Following direct military rule from 1988-2010 elections brought the National League for Democracy to power in the elections in 2016 but in 2021 the military again executed a coup and established the State Administration Council (SAC) as Myanmar's government. An alternative government was established built from the members of the former parliament and much of the country in active revolt against the takeover and the extreme violence of the military.

What is the impact of the Myanmar conflict within the broader scope of the Indo-Pacific strategic rivalry? What are the roles of super and middle powers and alliances (such as QUAD, AUKUS, ASEAN, China and Russia) competing in the Indo-Pacific region? What solutions can there be?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Miemie Winn Byrd on a brief visit to Australia to discuss her insights into this ongoing and intractable crisis.



**Dr. Miemie Winn Byrd** is a Professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in Honolulu, Hawaii. She researches, publishes, and teaches in the areas of: US-Myanmar relations; security dynamics of Southeast Asia; linkages between the role of education, economic development, gender, private sector, and security in the Indo-Pacific region; and transformative adult learning/executive education; and organizational innovations. Dr. Byrd has served as the Deputy Economic Advisor at U.S. Pacific Command in uniform prior to her position at DKI APCSS. Dr. Byrd is an Adjunct Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu. She is currently serving on the Boards of the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies at Claremont McKenna College in California; Women's LEAD in Lashio; Thanakha International Gender E-Tekkatho; International Development Research Centre; and US-ASEAN Business Council Myanmar Scholarship Fund. She holds a

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