**"Strategic Implications of China’s Global Power Projection"**

*(27 April 2022)*

**Senior Leader’s Opening Remarks.**

Good Afternoon,

According to the ‘National Defense Magazine,’ two top Army officials, Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth speaking alongside Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville during a Hudson Institute event said: “While the Army is operating in Europe to monitor Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, it has not taken its eye off the ball in the Indo-Pacific. The Army should be able to monitor the threat of conflict with China and deter aggression in the European theater...”*1.*

*China’s response to the open aggression against a* sovereign European *country was* that “*Russia's security concerns "legitimate", should be "taken seriously and addressed” 2.*

Our response at the Command and General Staff College is to continue focusing our efforts on China as a “pacing threat” and Russia as an ‘imminent threat’ to our national security through conducting panels, Faculty Development seminars and professional forums to enhance our understanding of the strategic motivations of these two global adversaries.

Today’s panel is the CASO’s fifth in that direction.

So, the topic of our CASO panel today is: **"Strategic Implications of China’s Global Power Projection."**

Our panel is sponsored by U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO) of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) and is conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Army Combined Arms Center International Liaison Program.

Based on the feedback from the previous panels, and given that we have three speakers today, instead of usual four; we would like to provide a short introduction of the panel members, as well as the moderator:

**• COL (GS) Kopp** assumed the position of German LNO at CAC in November 2021. He is an educated German General Staff Officer and served during his career in various command positions and in staffs at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. COL (GS) Kopp’s operational deployments include two deployments to the Balkans in support of the KFOR mission and one deployment to Afghanistan in support of the ISAF mission.

COL Kopp earned a diploma in social sciences (1992) from the University of the Bundeswehr in Munich, a master’s degree of political sciences (2012) from the University of Haifa (Israel), and a master’s degree in strategic studies (2020) from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

COL (GS) Kopp is married and has three children.

* **Mr. Terry D. Mobley** is Diplomacy Chair at the Army’s Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a career foreign service officer and has served with the Department of State for 20 years. He has a broad range of experience in the Indo-Pacific region, having served in China, Indonesia, Laos, and Taiwan.

• **LTCOL Paul Mostafa** is a graduate of the Royal Military College – Duntroon. He is a Royal Australian Engineer who has commanded at Troop, Squadron and Regimental levels within Australian Special Operations Command, as well as a range of staff officer appointments in both Special Operations and Forces Command. He has also served on the Military Attaché’s staff at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, and is currently posted as the Australian Army exchange officer to the Department of Joint Interagency and Multinational Operations at the US Army Command and General Staff College.

The complete bios of the panel members and the moderator can be accessed at CASO website.

This event is open to all military and civilian employees on Fort Leavenworth. For outstations, the event is available live on CGSC's Facebook page and via Video teleconference (VTC).

The panel is scheduled until 3:00 p.m. central time, is unclassified, and will be video recorded for viewing later for those unable to attend.

The opinions and discussion points during the session are those of the speakers and the moderator, and do not necessarily represent official positions of the United States or respective partner governments.

After the initial remarks for about 7minutes, our panelists will jointly answer your questions, and reply to your comments.

Our Moderator today is Dr. Mahir J. Ibrahimov (Dr. I.), Director of the Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO), U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

He was previously the first senior Army culture and foreign language advisor. Mahir served in the Soviet Army as deputy field commander and witnessed the breakup of the Soviet Union. Ibrahimov also provided vital assistance to US forces in Iraq as a multi-lingual cultural adviser. He supported the Army chief of staff’s ‘Study’, which required him to travel to Ukraine and provide follow-on recommendations to Army leaders. By invitation of NATO's Partnership Consortium, Dr. Ibrahimov has lately travelled to several European countries to assist with NATO’s policy development, based on his extensive regional expertise.

Mahir is the author of several books and numerous other publications, including in foreign languages. His latest, his fifth “Across Cultures and Empires” gained significant international traction among scholars, public and movie industry. He is fluent in multiple languages and cultures.

He is married with one daughter, who is an active duty officer with the U.S. Army.

Without further ado, I would like to turn the floor over to Dr. I., who will continue moderating throughout the session.

Thank you!

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1. *Meredith Roaten, “Army To Maintain Readiness in Indo-Pacific Despite European Conflict,”* *National Defense Magazine, Mar. 16, 2022.*
2. *Aljazeera News, “China warns US over Russia’s ‘legitimate security concerns’, “27 January, 2022. Accessed 14 February, 2022 at: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/27/china-warns-us-over-ukraine-interference-in-winter-olympics*