**"Russia-Ukraine Conflict:**

**Implications for Euro-Atlantic Security and Sino-American Relationship."**

*(3 March 2022)*

**Senior Leader’s Opening Remarks.**

Good Afternoon,

We are now living the ancient Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times.” For the international order that has existed since the end of World War 2, much has changed in the last eight days.

President Biden stated in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday night,

*Russia’s Vladimir Putin sought to shake the foundations of the free world thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated.*

*He thought he could roll into Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead he met with a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined.*

*He met the Ukrainian people.*

*From President Zelenskyy to every Ukrainian, their fearlessness, their courage, their determination, literally inspires the world.*

*Groups of citizens blocking tanks with their bodies. Everyone from students to retirees to teachers turned soldiers defending their homeland.*

Tuesday morning, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave a speech to the European Parliament that was so powerful the translator choked up with emotion. President Zelenskyy concluded his speech with the following:

*Do prove that you are with us. Do prove that you will not let us go. Do prove that you indeed are Europeans, and then life will win over death and light will win over darkness. Glory be to Ukraine.*

Yesterday morning, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in an emergency session reprimanding Russia for its actions and demanding a withdrawal of forces. The vote on this resolution was an overwhelming 141-5, with 35 abstentions. Only Russia, Belarus, Syria, North Korea, and Eritrea opposed the measure. Russia– especially Vladimir Putin – don’t have many friends today.

The international response in support of Ukraine has been overwhelming. Surprisingly, military aid is coming from countries such as Germany, Sweden, and Finland – all representing changes in their defense policies. Even Switzerland has imposed economic sanctions. China has been cautious in their response to the situation.

Yet, Ukraine is not part of NATO, so Article 5 does not apply – aid is coming, but not direct support on the ground. We all watch to see the battle between Ukraine and Russia unfold from the sidelines.

Our response at the Command and General Staff College is to continue focusing our efforts on Russia as an ‘imminent threat’ and China as a “pacing threat” to our national security through enhancing our understanding of these two adversaries’ motivations and strategies.

We have conducted a number of sessions and will continue a series of Faculty Development seminars and professional forums. Today’s panel is the CASO’s fourth in that direction.

So, the topic of our CASO panel today is: **"Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Implications for Euro-Atlantic Security and Sino-American Relationship."**

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. Army Combined Arms Center International Liaison Program and CGSC.

Our session today includes four panel members:

* LTC Frank, German Army
* Dr. Mark R. Wilcox, Department of Joint, Interagency and Multinational Operations, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College
* Dr. John H. Modinger, Department of Joint, Interagency and Multinational Operations, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and
* LTC Paul W. Aldaya, Department of Joint, Interagency and Multinational Operations, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

The complete bios of the panel members can be accessed at CASO website, along with other related information, if/when they are released for public access.

This event is open to all military and civilian employees on Fort Leavenworth. Per installation health protection procedures, masks must still be worn indoors.

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 7 minutes, 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.

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

Thank you!