

CASO Panel Bios.

"Strategic Perspectives of China, North Korea and India towards Russia-Ukraine Conflict"

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- **Mr. Peter Wood, is a senior analyst with the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO), Army TRADOC G2.** He has contributed to FMSO's *Operational Environment Watch* publication since 2018. He previously led a team of China OSINT researchers at a D.C.-based defense contractor and serving as Editor of *China Brief*, at the Jamestown Foundation. He has an M.A. from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies (HNC) and a B.A. in Political Science from Texas Tech University. He is proficient in Chinese.
- **LTC Joshua Stephenson, is an assistant professor in the Department of Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Operations (DJIMO), U.S. Army CGSC.**
His education includes M.A in Strategic Studies, Naval Postgraduate School; B.A. in History, Benedictine College. LTC Stephenson is an Army South Asia Foreign Area Officer.
LTC Stephenson, commissioned from Benedictine College as a Field Artillery Officer in 1999, and held numerous Field Artillery leadership and staff positions from platoon to division. He deployed multiple times in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM with service in Baghdad, Balad, Ramadi, and Fallujah.
LTC Stephenson transitioned to the Foreign Area Officer program in 2009 as a political-military officer with expertise in South Asia, which included Hindi language training at the Defense Language Institute, South Asia studies at the Naval Postgraduate School, and in country training at the U.S. Embassy, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Over the last decade, LTC Stephenson's service as Security Cooperation and policy expert has spanned both USCENTCOM and USINDOPACOM areas of responsibility and supported OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM and OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. His duties included: the Afghanistan political-military desk officer at United States Central Command; United States Army Pacific director for India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal; Deputy Director, Liaison to the United States Embassy Kabul for the Commander of Resolute Support (COMRS) and United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A); and United States Army Pacific Security Cooperation and Policy strategy chief. His military awards and decorations include: Bronze Star (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (2), the NATO Medal, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, and the Honorable Order of St. Barbara.
- **Dr. James E. Platte is an assistant professor with the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth.** His research focuses on strategic deterrence, cybersecurity, US extended deterrence, energy security, and strategy in the Indo-Pacific. Previously, he was an assistant professor at the US Air Force Center for Strategic Deterrence Studies, and he has worked on nuclear security with the Department of Energy, Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Nuclear Security Administration. He received his PhD in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.
- **Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, also known as Dr. I., Director of the U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office, CGSC.** Dr. I. has a unique background. He served in the Soviet Army and witnessed the breakup of the Soviet Union. Mahir provided vital assistance to US forces in Iraq as a multi-lingual cultural adviser, was the first Army senior Culture and Foreign Language Advisor during the coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also travelled to Ukraine as part of an Army Chief of Staff's 'Study' in support of US national security. In recent years, Dr. I. has been regularly invited to Europe to support our NATO partners' regional policy development. Mahir is the author of numerous publications, including his latest fifth book "Across Cultures and Empires: An Immigrant's Odyssey from the Soviet Army to the U.S. War in Iraq and American Citizenship." Dr. I's expertise and experiences have been recently featured in the global media outlets such as BBC World News.