

CASO Panel
"Trends and Directions in a Post-Protest Iran"

Good afternoon and Thank You for attending the eighth Cultural and Area Studies Office session of the 2022-2023 academic year and the first of the 2023 calendar year.

Today's panel discussion is sponsored by the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College's Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO) in conjunction **with the American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC and the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO), TRADOC G2.**

The topic of today's session is: **"Trends and Directions in a Post-Protest Iran"**

Last year, in a periodic assessment of U.S. defense needs and priorities, the Pentagon highlighted threats beyond Russia and China to include Iran, North Korea and "violent extremist organizations".

The assessment noted that "Iran is taking actions that would improve its ability to produce a nuclear weapon should it make the decision to do so, even as it builds and exports extensive missile forces, uncrewed aircraft systems, and advanced maritime capabilities that threaten chokepoints for the free flow of energy resources and international commerce."

Iran, which in recent months has been facing anti-government protests, primarily denies seeking a nuclear weapon. Diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington to restore the deal, which saw Iran scale back its nuclear program in exchange for international sanctions relief, have stalled.

Furthermore, Iran has recently experienced significant domestic protests by its citizenry even as it comes under international scrutiny for its possible involvement with Russia in the Ukrainian conflict.

The main question for today's discussion in support of our and our partners' national security objectives is how do these events shape the potential threat from Iran and how we should address the possible prospects and outcomes in a post-protest Iran.

One of the many key functions of Army University is to develop agile and adaptive leaders that can help solve operational and strategic level problems. Our CASO panels enhance our understanding of the quickly changing dynamics of regional and global geopolitics to arm our leaders a depth of knowledge that appreciates the complexity and nuance of global issues.

I encourage all those in attendance to actively participate in today's discussion and use the presented information and associated analysis in support of your own research to enhance and expand your knowledge.

Thanks, again, for your interest and attendance today. I look forward to the tremendous discussion and learning.

Educate to Win!
