

CASO Panel Bios.

“Key Issues in South and Central Asia and China.”

19 March 2024

- **Mr. Brent Christensen, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service (Department of State), currently serving as Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) to the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command.** He has served at the U.S. Department of State for over 22 years. His most recent overseas assignment was as the Political/Economic Counselor, and frequent Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has served in a variety of other roles involving South Asian issues, including as a Pearson Fellow on the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on the Asia-Pacific, Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the Department of State, and interim Director for South Asia at the National Security Council. Other overseas assignments include Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, and the Philippines. Currently, he is the Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander, United States Strategic Command, where he advises the Combatant Commander on major foreign policy issues and their effects on USSTRATCOM’s mission.
- **LTC Moore is a Foreign Area Officer originally designated 48D (South Asia).** His last assignment was as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché to the Peoples’ Republic of Bangladesh at U.S. Embassy, Dhaka (2023). He served at the Defense Intelligence Agency and in the J5 of USINDOPACOM as a Security Cooperation Desk officer and chief of current operations branch. He served in India, attending the Defense Services Staff College (DSSC) in Tamil Nadu, India and at U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. LTC Moore was an adviser to the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement (DBE), and was a partner to an Afghan National Army artillery battery. LTC Moore is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and is a Hindi Linguist. LTC Moore holds a Master of Arts in Asian Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Science in Security and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras, Chennai, India.
- **Dr. Robert Baumann is a historian of Russia and Central Asia.** He taught at the Command and General Staff College for 35 years, split about evenly between the Department of Military History and the Directorate of Graduate Degree Programs. He also spent 4 years working as a Ministry of Defense Education Advisor to the Armed Forces Academy of Uzbekistan between 2016 and 2023 under the auspices of the US Defense and Security Cooperation Agency. Baumann holds a B.A. in Russian from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in History from Yale University. Back in 1979-1980 he conducted doctoral research at Moscow University as a Fulbright-Hayes Fellow. Subsequently, he conducted numerous research trips to Russia and taught briefly at the Bashkir State University in Ufa in 1992. Baumann has authored or co-authored 4 books, as well as numerous articles and book chapters relating to Russia and Central Asia, including a study of the career and campaigns of Amir Temur (Tamerlane to Westerners). He is also a frequent contributor to Military Review.
- **Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, (known as Dr. I.), Director of US Army Cultural and Area Studies Office, Command and General Staff College.** He is the author or editor of six books, and his expertise is featured in global media outlets such as BBC World News and Los Angeles Times. Dr. I. served as a deputy platoon commander in the Soviet Army. Then he was a Senior Middle East Expert, Moscow, USSR; helped to open the first embassy of independent Azerbaijan and served as a senior diplomat, Washington, DC. He worked at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State. While providing vital assistance to U.S. forces in the Middle East, Dr. Ibrahimov was featured as the linguistic ‘genius’ in early years of Iraq war and during the U.S. and coalition Counterinsurgency (COIN) operations in the region. He has then served as the first senior U.S. Army Culture and Foreign Language Advisor, travelled to Ukraine as part of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff ‘Study,’ and provided follow on recommendations in support of U.S. national security. Based on his extensive first-hand knowledge,

regional and global expertise, Mahir has been regularly invitee to support our European NATO partners' regional policy development over the last years. He is fluent in five languages and versed in many cultures.