

Ambassador Young, Ambassador Shinn, distinguished guests and panel members, faculty, and students.

Good afternoon, and thanks for attending the first Cultural and Area Studies panel of the academic year.

For those unaware, the Cultural and Area Studies Office, known as CASO, works with multiple partner organizations to identify important topics in support of U.S. national security and the National Defense Strategy objectives across the spectrum of conflict.

These discussions broaden our understanding of diverse and complex social and geo-political current events affecting the world.

The topic today is “U.S. Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific”.

I am excited to hear and participate in the discussion with our distinguished panel members, which includes two Ambassadors with tremendous experience, insight, and perspectives from the highest levels of our government.

We are also joined by LTC Paul Mostafa, a terrific CGSS Instructor from the Australian Army and Dr. David Hunter-Chester, a senior Research Analyst from TRADOC G-2.

My challenge to those in attendance today is to use this venue to expand your intellectual boundaries, create dialogue, and momentarily dive deeper into today's area of focus.

Thanks, again, for your attendance and participation today. I greatly look forward to hearing your thoughts and perspectives.

Without further ado I would like to turn the floor over to Dr. I our moderator for today's session.

Educate to Win!