

CASO Panel
“The Russia-Ukraine War: Is Wider Conflict Imminent?”
(17 October 2022)
Senior Leader’s Opening Remarks

Good afternoon and thank you for attending the second Cultural and Area Studies panel of the academic year and the seventh of the 2022 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 Consulate General of Germany in Chicago, CAC Foreign Liaison Program and CGSC School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS)**.

The topic of the session is: **“The Russia-Ukraine War: Is Wider Conflict Imminent?”**

CASO, jointly with its many partner organizations, continues the research and discussions of the important topics in support of the U.S. National Security and National Defense Strategy objectives across the spectrum of conflict including the possibility of Large-Scale Combat Operations.

The 2022 National Defense Strategy in its unclassified fact sheet sets the priorities by stating that “...the Department will act urgently to sustain and strengthen deterrence, with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) as our most consequential strategic competitor and the pacing challenge for the Department. Russia poses acute threats, as illustrated by its brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We will collaborate with our NATO Allies and partners to reinforce robust deterrence in the face of Russian aggression. The Department will remain capable of managing other persistent threats, including those from North Korea, Iran, and violent extremist organizations.”^{[11](#)}

To answer these and other questions and to provide pertinent and timely recommendations, our response at the Command and General Staff College continues to be a series of panels and seminars to enhance our understanding of the quickly changing dynamics of the regional and global geopolitics.

The question for today’s discussion in support of our and our partners’ national security objectives is how to address the potential threats from Russia and China as global powers, as well as some of the regional adversaries, in the context of the continued conflict in Ukraine.

I encourage you to actively participate in the discussion and try to utilize the acquired information and results of the analysis in support of your missions, as well as to enhance and expand your knowledge.

Our session today includes three panel members:

Mr. Wolfgang Mössinger, the Consul General of Germany in Chicago.

Dr. Erik R. Scott, Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Editor, The Russian Review, Associate Professor, University of Kansas, and

Dr. Philip Hultquist, Associate Professor, School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), CGSC.

Our Moderator today is **Dr. Mahir Ibrahimov, also known as Dr. I., Director of the U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office.**

The complete bios of the panel members can be accessed at the CASO website.

The opinions and discussion points during the session are those of the speakers and the moderator, and do not represent the official position of the United States Army and the United States government.

Thanks again for your interest and attendance today.

With this I will turn the floor over to Dr. I. who will moderate the remainder of the session.

[1] Unclassified Fact Sheet: 2022 National Defense Strategy, U.S. Department of Defense (A classified version of the 2022 National Defense Strategy was provided to Congress on March 28, 2022, and an unclassified version will be available to the public.