

## **CASO Panel Bios.**

***“War in Ukraine: Impact on Indo-Pacific Strategies.”***

**12 September 2024**



- **Colonel Satoshi Masaka serves as the Military Attaché at the Embassy of Japan in the United States.** He has made his career as an infantry officer in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) with 20 years of service. Recently, he served as a general staff officer in the Intelligence Division of the C4 Systems & Intelligence Department at the Ground Staff Office for the Japan Ministry of Defense in Tokyo.

- **Colonel (GS) Stefan Busch, Army Attaché, The Embassy of Germany, Washington, DC.**
- 1983 Joined the Bundeswehr at the School for Maritime Land Operations in Glückstadt
- 1985 until 1989 Master Studies Mechanical Engineering - UniBw Hamburg
- 1989 until 1997 Serving as Light Infantry (Jaeger) Platoon/Company Cdr & Btn
- Maintenance Office – different units in Northern Germany
- 1997 until 1999 40. General Staff Course - Armed Forces College Hamburg
- 1999 until 2001 Plans Office G3 Trng/Ex - Army Forces Cmd Koblenz
- 2001 until 2002 Attended BELGIAN General Staff Course – Belgian Defense College Brussels, BEL
- 2002 until 2004 G3 Armored Brigade 14 - Neustadt/Hesse
- 2004 until 2005 SO Plans / Targeting G2 HQ Eurocorps - Strasbourg, France
- 2005 until 2007 Dep ACOS G2 HQ Eurocorps - Strasbourg, FRA
- 2007 until 2010 DeskOffc Ressources Management - Federal MoD Bonn
- 2010 until 2013 Chief Army Military Intelligence Doctrine, Plans & Policy - Army Force Cmd Koblenz
- 2013 until 2015 DeskOffc Intel Support in Operations - Federal MoD Berlin
- 2015 until 2018 ACOS G2 - HQ Division Rapid Reaction Forces Stadtallendorf
- 2018 until 2019 Attended CAN Armed Forces National Security Program - Canadian Forces College Toronto,
- CAN
- 07/2019 until 08/2023 Head of German Defense Intelligence Liaison Staff - Reston VA, USA
- Since 08/2023 Army Attaché German Embassy Washington, D.C., USA



- **Dr. Satoshihiro Akimoto is chairman of the board and president of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA). He serves as director of the Japan US Military Program.** Dr. Akimoto joined the organization in January 2019 and brings with him experience in the areas of business, research, dialogue, and exchanges between Japan and the United States. Prior to joining Sasakawa USA, Dr. Akimoto was senior vice president of Mitsubishi Corporation, and his career has included roles at Mitsubishi International Corporation, Hughes Electronics, DirecTV Japan, Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunications, Keidanren USA, Japan Society and Mt. Fuji Dialogue. On top of his responsibilities at Sasakawa USA, Dr. Akimoto is a contributing writer for *The Japan Times*, associate fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in the UK, a contributing commentator for the Okazaki Institute in Japan, and a Japan Advisory Committee member of the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria. Dr. Akimoto received a PhD in sociology and a MA in East Asian studies from Harvard University, as well as a BA in law from Keio University. He also received a certificate in Russian studies from Leningrad State University (currently St. Petersburg State University).

- **Lars Frederik Geismann is a Political Counselor for Europe und Eurasia at the German Embassy Washington.** He has previously worked at the NATO Desk in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on NATO's strategic adaption, especially on strengthening NATO's deterrence and defense posture. Previously, he worked for the German Embassy in Warsaw in the Political Section. Lars studied at Humboldt-University in Berlin and Queen Mary College in London. He holds two law degrees.



- **Colonel Shane D. Celeen is currently the Director of the Department of Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Operations (DJIMO) at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Chair for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) at the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, KS.** COL Celeen commissioned as an Armor Officer from the United States Military Academy in 1996. He has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions at Friedberg Germany, Fort Riley KS (twice), Seattle WA, Fort Collins CO, Fort Irwin CA, Fort Leavenworth KS (twice), and U.S. Consulate General in Erbil, Iraq. He has four combat deployments to Iraq and one operational deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Colonel Celeen's commands include 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and C Company, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment. His academic experience includes serving as the Vice Provost Academic Affairs for Army University, Professor of Military Science for Colorado State University Army ROTC, U.S. Army's Battalion Pre-Command Course Instructor, and Assistant Professor of Military Science at University of Washington's Army ROTC program as well as the current DJIMO Director at CGSC. Colonel Celeen recently served as the Senior Military Advisor at the U.S. Consulate General in Erbil, Iraq 2019-2020, in support of the U.S. State Department. His military education includes the U.S. Army War College (Master's Degree in Strategic Studies), Advanced Faculty Development Course, Battalion Pre-Command Course and Tactical Commander Development Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Services Staff School, Armor Officer Basic and Captains' Career Courses, Air Assault School, and U.S. Air Force Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion Course. His civilian education includes a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (University of Washington) and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (United States Military Academy). He has earned the academic rank of Assistant Professor at CGSC, the 5K Instructor Additional Skill Identifier, and the U.S. Army Basic Instructor Badge. Additionally, he is a Joint Qualified Officer (3L).
- **Peter Wood is the Senior China Analyst at the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO) at Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) G2.** He previously led a team of China OSINT researchers at a D.C.-based defense contractor and served 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) in Nanjing, China and a B.A. in Political Science from Texas Tech University. He is proficient in Chinese.



- **Dr. Mahir J. Ibrahimov (also known as Dr. I.) is the Director of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO), the U.S Army Combined Arms Center, U.S. Department of Defense.**  
***He is the author or editor of six books, and his expertise has been featured in global media outlets such as BBC World News, Los Angeles Times, other global media venues, as well as U.S. Department of Defense documentaries, interviews and newsreels.***

As the first U.S. Army Culture and Foreign Language Advisor, he established a successful Culture and Foreign Language Program during the U.S. and coalition military and related Counterinsurgency (COIN) operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of the world. It was recognized as the Army-wide model, and he was promoted to become the Army's Senior Culture and Foreign Language Advisor. In that position, and later as Director of CASO, he continues developing and improving the program with an outreach extending across the Army and beyond with a variety of educational programs, including publishing, guest speakers, direct support to CGSC classes, live panels, video podcasts, international cooperation, and research.

***Mahir is known for his unique background.***

Dr. I. served as a deputy platoon commander in the Soviet Army and witnessed the breakup of the Soviet Union. Then he was a Senior Middle East Expert in Moscow, USSR.

After the demise of the USSR, Mahir helped to open the first embassy of independent Azerbaijan and served as a senior diplomat in Washington, DC., then he served as the vice president of the newly established American University in Azerbaijan, which followed by his work at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State in Washington DC.

While providing vital assistance to U.S. forces in the Middle East as a multi-lingual cultural adviser, 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.

***Because of his extensive regional and global expertise, he regularly travels in support of NATO partners and missions.***

***His extensive civilian, military education and training include*** various

**U.S. Department of Defense programs;**

**Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC;**

**Joint Program of the Institute of World Politics and Boston University, Washington, DC;**

**Academy of Social Sciences, Moscow, USSR;**

**Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow, USSR;**

**Soviet military school, Volgograd oblast (former Stalingrad) USSR.**

***He is fluent in five languages and versed in many cultures.***