

CASO Panel Bios.

“Iran and the Axis of Resistance: Declining Power or Evolving Threat?”

(6 February 2025)

Mr. Mark Bosse is the Distinguished Chair of Diplomacy Studies at the CGSC, and a career member of the U.S.

Foreign Service. He most recently served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Public Affairs Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Muscat Oman. He previously served as Embassy Spokesperson and Media Chief at U.S. Embassy Baghdad and Embassy Kuwait, working closely with U.S. military colleagues to counter Iranian influence and increase support for the U.S. military presence in those countries. His previous tours include Ireland, Austria, Mexico, and Washington. A native of San Diego, he's married with five children, all of whom were born overseas during their postings abroad. I guess you could say they were born into the Foreign Service life!

Dr. Tirdad Daei exemplifies leadership and expertise as a Senior Instructional Systems Specialist, shaping professional military education through innovation and dedication. He actively contributes to the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) as a faculty member and serves on the Army University's Policy and Guidance Oversight Committee (PGOC). He previously served as the Academic Director for CENTCOM regional analysis at the Special Operations Center of Excellence and has received the Superior Service Award/ Medal, 2nd highest in the U.S. Army. His roles extend to the National Security Education Consortium (NSEC), where he consistently addresses complex educational challenges. Dr. Daei's nearly two decades of experience include influential positions such as serving on the scientific advisory board for the Outlook Academy and conducting peer reviews for the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) and accreditation with the American Council on Education (ACE). Dr. Daei is a frequent speaker at national security forums, offering nuanced insights into Middle Eastern geopolitics, particularly Iran's evolving role. Dr. Daei's work delves into significant analyses of historical contexts, ideological factors, and regional dynamics. His unique perspective, shaped by his personal experience as the son of a political prisoner during the Iran-Iraq War, which has led him to focus on regimes atrocities and conduct significant analyses of historical contexts, ideological factors, regional dynamics and their implications for global strategies. In curriculum design, Dr. Daei employs systematic approaches to enhance educational frameworks, aligning them with the evolving requirements of military and civilian leaders. His commitment to instructional innovation fosters sustainable strategies for leadership development. Additionally, Dr. Daei has published extensively on topics including leadership, cultural integration, and education, cementing his authority in the academic community. As a member of graduate-level research committees, he consistently supports scholarly inquiry into national security and educational practices. Outside his academic responsibilities, Dr. Daei engages with the Persian American community in Kansas City through his leadership role in Aria Group KC. Through this platform, he promotes cultural awareness and strengthens community ties. His steadfast dedication to bridging theory and practice equips future leaders to address contemporary global security complexities.

Mr. Gary Hobin is Assistant Professor, Department of Joint, Interagency, and Multinational operations, U.S.

Army Command and General Staff College. He is a US Army Retired Middle East FAO. Former US State Department Foreign Service Officer with assignments to the U.S. embassies in Damascus, Syria and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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 published author or editor of six books, and his expertise is featured in global media outlets such as BBC World News, Los Angeles Times, other global 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 Chief Middle East Analyst 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. 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. 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