

Cover Slide with CASO Logo stays until BG Foley starts his Senior leader Introduction. Before he starts speaking.

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After BG Foley's Introduction (Moderator)

Good afternoon!

Thank you Sir for your support!

Thank you everyone for joining us today for our next CASO session.

At the U.S. Army Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO) Command and General Staff College we love what we do and we continue doing what we love.

It gives us a real professional satisfaction and passion in support of your missions. With that sense in mind, we passionately continue closely following the regional and global geopolitics, which is really a chess game, which requires knowledge and wisdom. If you play it skillfully, you checkmate your adversary and prevail in support of your national security objectives. It's never black and white and always requires a flexibility in your options to explore. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who was born in 540 BC, said, "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." The same applies to geopolitics: it is fluid and constantly evolving.

(Joking, Philosopher Heraclitus was a wise man. I remember him quite well back then. (Pause, look at the audience...then continue) ...

That's why the policy planners need to be flexible and adaptable to it, based on analysis and real facts. Per current operational environment, today's topic is clearly one of the priorities for our National Security, because *the United States and its allies continue to be challenged in this strategically important region. What is the role and importance of **Building the Quad**, which would benefit the entire region? What are specific challenges, including from our partners' perspectives, need to be addressed? Some of these and other related issues hopefully will be tackled during the discussion today.*

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Just to remind our audiences, (QUAD)Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is an informal strategic forum consisting of the United States, India, Australia, and Japan. It's essentially a platform to discuss regional security issues, defense cooperation, and common challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, which originates from the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, when the four countries formed the so called "Tsunami Core Group" and it evolved since then.

As usual, I would like to remind that the opinions and discussion points during the session are those of the

