***CASO Panel Bios***

**"Cultural Dynamics of U.S. - Iran relations: Is Conflict Imminent?"**

*(23 January 2020)*

**Mr. CHRIS HOCH**

Mr. Chris Hoch joined the Office of the Director of National Intelligence as the National Intelligence Officer for Iran in March 2019. He has over 22 years' experience focusing on Iranian domestic, foreign, and regional policies. Mr. Hoch has served three overseas tours with the Department of State including Amman, Jordan (2014-2016), Kabul, Afghanistan (2008-2009), and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (2002-2004). He has an MA in Middle East Comparative Politics from American University in Washington, DC awarded in 1999 and a BS in Political Science from Florida State University awarded in 1996.

***Dr. MICHAEL RUBIN***

Michael Rubin is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC; senior lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California; and senior editor of the *Middle East Quarterly*. Between 2002 and 2004, Rubin worked as a staff advisor for Iran and Iraq in the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, in which capacity he was seconded to Iraq. Between 2004 and 2009, he was chief editor of the *Middle East Quarterly*.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rubin received a B.S. degree in biology from Yale University in 1994, and a Ph.D. in history from the same institution in 1999. He has previously worked as a lecturer in Iranian history at Yale University; Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC; and at three different universities in northern Iraq. He has lived and conducted research in Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with the Taliban in Afghanistan pre-9/11. Rubin currently teaches classes regarding Iran, Turkey, and the Arab world onboard deploying carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups.

Rubin is co-editor of *Seven Pillars: What Really Causes Instability in the Middle East?* (AEI Press, 2019), and author of *Kurdistan Rising* (AEI, 2016), *Dancing with the Devil: The Perils of Engagement* (Encounter, 2015), a history of a half-century of American diplomacy with rogue regimes and terrorist groups, *The Shi’ites of the Middle East* (AEI, 2014) and two earlier books examining Iranian history.

**Mr. BRIAN L. STEED**

Mr. Brian Steed is an assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is a retired US Army lieutenant colonel with more than thirty years of civilian and uniformed experience. As an Army officer, he was a Middle East foreign area officer, which required him to travel extensively throughout the Middle East and North Africa and included eight and a half consecutive years living and working in the Middle East. He was both an officer in the Jordanian Armed Forces and a liaison to the Israel Defense Forces. Brian has written and edited nine books, and numerous articles and papers on military theory, military history, and cultural awareness. His most recent works, published in 2019, are Iraq War: The Essential Reference Guide (editor) and ISIS: The Essential Reference Guide (author).