**Good Afternoon,**

**It is my pleasure to introduce Lt. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, Commanding General of the United States Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Sir?**

Senior Leader’s Opening Remarks

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **Thank you Sir!**

**We greatly appreciate your support!**

**Thank you All for joining us today for CRELMO’s next quarterly session and discussion of this very timely and important topic. My name is Mahir Ibrahimov, I am the director of the Army’s Culture, Regional Expertise and Language Management Office (CRELMO). I will serve as the moderator of today’s session.**

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**The topic of our panel today: "Strategic Culture of Eurasia: Challenges for U.S. National Security." This topic, similar to our previous panels, remains one of our top National Security challenges.**

**Why there is a term “Strategic Culture” in the topic of our panel today? Every time we conduct our panels, we emphasize the importance of sociocultural, historical and foreign language considerations for our military missions. There are many definitions of culture in the Army as well as academia, which reflects its diversity.**

***Soviet culture, Western culture, Iraqi culture, Afghan culture, military culture, corporate culture, generational culture…Becoming aware of cultural dynamics is a difficult task because culture is based on experi­ences, values, behaviors, beliefs and norms, as well as collective memories and history.***

**Then we talk about the “Strategic Culture” which can be traced back to the 1970s, when the scholars examined Soviet deterrence policy and concluded that U.S. analysts failed to predict Soviet policies. According to those scholars, the major reason for miscalculations was that the expectations would be the same as the Westerners and Americans would react in certain situations. However, that policy approach proved to be fundamentally wrong because each country has its unique socio-cultural and historical considerations which shape that country’s views, interpretations, including towards the matters of international relations and foreign policy.**

**Our panel today will discuss the differences in the Strategic Cultures of the given countries, which might shape their thinking and behavior among themselves as well as on the international arena. Given the limited time, we’ll try to approach the discussion from their perspective to understand their behavior.**

**There are four panel members today, including two nationally known experts and two distinguished scholars from CGSC:**

1. **Mr. Steven Hecker, from the Office of the Director for National Intelligence to address Iran;**
2. **Mr. Jeffrey D. Vordermark of the Command and General Staff College to discuss Turkey.**
3. **Dr. Nicholas N. Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute, who would tackle the Russian demographics;**
4. **Mr. Mark Wilcox, CGSC to cover the rest of Russia aspects and its implications for the U.S. National Security.**

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

**The panel is conducted from1:00pm to 3:30p.m.**

**The event is unclassified. The entire session is being video recorded and along with related materials will be posted on CRELMO’s website within about one week for further educational purposes.**

**The target audience is Army schools, Centers of Excellence, Regionally Aligned Forces, Security Forces Assistance Brigades, and other deployed and deploying units, universities, think tanks, Joint, Interagency, Multinational partners.**

**This is how you can access the video and related information as well as other CRELMO capabilities.**

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**This public domain CRELMO page can be accessed simply by typing CRELMO on your browser. All these organizations are current active partners of CRELMO and if you click on any of these icons you can access their respective websites. If you click on CRELMO logo in the middle of the page, it will get you to its home page. >>>>>>>Next Slide Please>>>>>>>**

 **Click on the second link…(show the red arrow)**

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**You can access and** **watch today’s CRELMO Panel online as the newest event listed under “Conferences, Seminars and Forums” right here (show red arrow) among other previous events.**

***The opinions and discussion points during the session are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent official positions of the United States government.***

**The initial remarks by the speakers for about 10-12 minutes will be followed by questions/answers/comments session from the audience for the rest of the time, including from outstations linked through VTC across the Army and beyond.**

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**Without further ado I would like to yield the floor to** **Mr. Steven Hecker, who will address: "Strategic culture of Iran."**

**Mr. Hecker, the floor is yours.**

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**The next speaker is Mr. Jeffrey D. Vordermark, who will discuss Turkish aspects of the strategic culture.**

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**At this time Dr. Nicholas N. Eberstadt will discuss the “Russian demographics and its possible implications for U.S. National Security;”**

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**And finally,** **Mr. Mark Wilcox will cover the rest of “Russia aspects;”**

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**Now is the time for questions and comments.**

**Please introduce yourself, ask a question or make a comment. Please be concise so that everybody has enough time and opportunity to participate. Please use the microphones on the tables, make sure a green light is on.**

**Multiple outstations are welcome to participate in the discussion at any time. If I may, just to generate the discussion, I would like to pose the first question to the panel (looking at the panel): Given the Strategic Culture of each of these individual countries, what possible approaches could the U.S. and its International partners apply to address their National Security challenges? (after the answer by the panel looking at the audience): Now the floor is yours…..**

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**The final slide contains our contact information for any related questions.**

**These are the links to the CRELMO website. The video and related information will be posted within about a week after the event. The last YouTube link will get you directly to the play list of all CRELMO videos.**

**On behalf of all of us I would like to thank our panel for sharing their great expertise!**

**This concludes our session.**

**We look forward to seeing you again soon.**

**Thank you. >>>>>>>>>>End>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**