

Title: 'Rising Tensions in the East China Sea'

Speaker: Susumu Takai, LL.M., LL.D. Cand

Date: 13 February 2023

Time: 1200 - 1315

Where: C-135 A/B

POC: CAPT Amy Larson, Deputy, Stockton Center

SYNOPSIS:

China's Xi Jinping professed in 2012, shortly before he was elected president, that the Chinese dream is "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." Since then, China has sought to become a naval power and expanded its law enforcement agency and authorized to use weapons to it. China must secure free access to the Pacific Ocean in order to acquire maritime interests, but Japan's Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea are an obstacle. China is engaging in wolf-warrior diplomacy to ensure its control and/or occupation of the Senkaku Islands. The Japan-U.S. 2+2 meeting on January 12, this year, confirmed that Article 5 of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty will apply to the Senkaku Islands in opposition to China's growing attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force in the East China Sea.

There is a possibility of confrontation between law enforcement ships in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and it could trigger a clash between vessels of the Japan Self-defense Force and PLA Navy. And there are serious concerns that it will escalate into a large-scale military conflict involving the United States and Taiwan in the region.

BIOs:

Susumu TAKAI is currently President of the Security Strategy Institute of Japan and the Japan Association of Security Public Relations, and President emeritus of the Japan Society of Defense law. He earned a master's degree in law from Aoyama Gakuin University Graduate School and entered the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), where he began his career as a researcher of international law. He studied the legal aspects of defense studies at King's College, London University, and played a leading role in Japan's introduction of UN peacekeeping operations. He retired from NIDS when he was a director of the library and archives.

His specialties are international law of the sea, international aerospace law, and United Nations law, and he has taught international law at many universities and graduate schools. After retiring, he has published the "Journal of Island Studies" since

his days as a special researcher at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and has served three times as a member of the Cabinet Secretariat's Panel of Experts.

His single publications include "Introduction to United Nations Security Law" and "United Nations and the Use of Armed Forces", and his recent co-authorships include "Building a 'Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Cooperation Mechanism' to Protect Taiwan and the Senkaku Islands" and "What Japan should do in case of an emergency in Taiwan" and many other papers on the issues of the Senkaku Islands, Takeshima, and the Northern Territories.