In August the United States completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, pulling out military forces and closing the embassy in Kabul, after two decades on the ground in the war-torn country. The cessation of U.S. security and “nation-building” operations in Afghanistan, which began following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, was marked by the rapid sweep across the country of the Taliban and the revival of the Islamic State Khurasan Province (ISKP).

The chaotic ending of the U.S. and NATO missions, the total collapse of the Afghan National Security Forces, and the future of Afghanistan as an arena of Chinese, Russian, and regional expansionisms and adventurisms as well as the potential of that country reverting to being a hub of international terrorism all present the U.S. and its allies with a new set of strategic challenges with resonance far beyond Afghanistan and its region.

This panel discussion will offer in-depth retrospective assessments and lessons learned of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan as well as discuss the future of U.S. foreign policy and strategic planning in light of the new realities on the ground.

**MajGen Julian D. Alford, USMC**  
Commanding General, Training Command

**Amb. P. Michael McKinley**  
Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan (2014-2016)

**Dr. Carter Malkasian**  
Research Analyst, CNA

**Monday, November 22**  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  

**Moderated by**  
**Dr. Amin Tarzi**  
Director, Middle East Studies