



*JUMP presents*

## **Adapting Together: The Evolution of the U.S.-Japan Alliance**

Date & Time:

**Thursday, January 22, 2026, 12:00 – 13:30 CST**

Venue:

**Air Command and Staff College, 225 Chennault Cir, Montgomery, AL 36112**

Panelists

**Lieutenant General Burton Field (USAF, Ret.)**, President & CEO, Air and Space Forces Association (AFA); Former Commander, U.S. Forces Japan

**Colonel Benjamin Hatch (USAF)**, Commandant, Air Command and Staff College

**Colonel Yuka Nakazato (JASDF)**, Air and Space Attaché, Embassy of Japan

**Dr. Jessica Jordan**, Assistant Professor, Regional Studies (Asia), Air Force Culture and Language Center

Welcome Remarks

**Major Keigo Lizuka (JASDF)**, Student, Air Command and Staff College

JUMP Introduction & Moderator

**Dr. Satohiro Akimoto**, President & Chairman, Sasakawa USA; Director of JUMP

### **Agenda**

<b>12:00</b>	Welcome remarks (5 min)
<b>12:05</b>	JUMP introduction and speaker introductions (10 min)
<b>12:15</b>	Speaker remarks (7 min each) Lt Gen Burton Field Col Benjamin Hatch Col Yuka Nakazato Dr. Jessica Jordan
<b>12:45</b>	Q&A discussion (45 min)
<b>13:30</b>	End of JUMP event

For questions, please contact Mr. Dustin Hinkley, Associate Program Officer, Sasakawa USA at [dhinkley@spfusa.org](mailto:dhinkley@spfusa.org).

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## Biographies



**Lieutenant General Burton Field (USAF, Ret.)** is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Air & Space Forces Association, leading the Association's professional staff in its mission to advocate, educate, and support the Air & Space Forces. As CEO, he oversees operations and resourcing for AFA and its 120,000+ members, including events, publications, and the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, the nation's only think tank dedicated to air and space power.

A veteran of 35 years of Air Force service, Field retired from active duty in 2015 following his final tour, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Requirements. Throughout his career, Field commanded a squadron, the Air Force Weapons School, three wings, a numbered Air Force, and a sub-unified command. A command pilot with over 3,400 flying hours in the F-16 and F-22, he served twice on the Joint Staff and completed a tour in the State Department as the military assistant to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. In his last assignment, he led policy and requirements decision-making for air, space, irregular warfare, counter-proliferation, homeland security, and cyber operations. Prior to that assignment, he served as the Commander of United States Forces, Japan, and Commander of 5th Air Force from 2010-2012 where he led the U.S. military response to support Japan during the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster of 2011.

Following his retirement, he served as the Vice President of Strategic Planning for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, developing strategies that guided and contributed to over \$5 billion in growth in a five-year period. He also managed a \$500 million New Business Funds portfolio for independent research and development. Since 2020, he has been an independent defense consultant, served as a subject matter expert working with and mentoring Airmen at all levels, and a member of the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Air Force Academy Falcon Foundation.

Field graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1979 and earned a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He and his wife, Lisa, have two sons, both officers in the USAF.



**Colonel Benjamin B. Hatch (USAF)** is the Commandant of Air University's Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. As the world's premier in-residence and distance-learning professional military education college for mid-career officers and civilians, Air Command and Staff College focuses on the education and development of air-minded joint leaders. Each year, the College graduates approximately 500 resident and over 26,000 nonresident students from all U.S. military services, federal agencies, and 65 partner nations.

Colonel Hatch received his commission in 2001 through Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and has spent much of his career as an Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) special agent conducting and supervising felony-level criminal, fraud, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence investigations and operations. A combat veteran of tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, he has commanded at the wing,



squadron, and detachment level. Col Hatch completed two assignments on the Headquarters Air Staff as a program manager and policy action officer, as well as a joint tour at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff J-39 where he supervised support to sensitive global plans and operations. He holds qualifications as a military parachutist, pathfinder, and SCUBA diver and has an extensive background in Air Force Special Warfare.



**Colonel Yuka Nakazato (JASDF)** serves as Air and Space Attaché at the Embassy of Japan in the U.S. She is the first woman to serve as a defense attaché to the U.S. for Japan. She has made her career as a weapon control officer responsible for air defense operations in the Japan Air Self-Defense Force with 20 years of service. She graduated from the Air Command Staff Course at the U.S. Air Force University in Montgomery, Alabama and she has over 10 years of experience working related to Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.



**Dr. Jessica Jordan** is Assistant Professor of Regional and Cultural Studies (Asia) at the Air Force Culture and Language Center/ Air War College. She is a public historian with an interest in Japan-U.S. relations history, civil-military relations, comparative and transnational histories, oral history methods, and critical Indigenous studies. She holds a PhD in History (modern Japan) from the University of California, San Diego. Before joining the Air War College in 2017, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Pittsburgh. At AWC, she has taught core courses in the Departments of Strategy and National Security Studies, and cross-listed AWC/ACSC electives on histories of the Japanese empire and the dilemmas of global U.S. military basing. She has a range of publications including translations, reports for public grants, and peer-reviewed articles. Her book manuscript (under review) reassembles life for Indigenous Islanders in the Northern Mariana Islands under Japanese colonial rule, WWII, and beyond. This work was catalyzed by her experiences growing up on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, where she lived for twenty-three years. Her work has been supported by the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the University of California Pacific Rim Research Program Fellowship.



**Dr. Satoshiro Akimoto** is Chairman and President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. He is also a contributing writer for The Japan Times, an Associate Fellow for the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, and a contributing writer for the Okazaki Institute in Tokyo.

Dr. Akimoto received his Ph.D. in Sociology and M.A. in East Asian Studies from Harvard University, a certificate of Russian studies from Leningrad State University, and a B.A. in Law from Keio University.