Sasakawa USA Fourth Annual Security Forum

The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Foundation of Asian Security

May 2, 2017
Willard InterContinental Hotel, Washington, D.C.

8:30  Registration

9:00  Key Issues in the Alliance
   Dennis Blair, Chairman and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Sasakawa USA

9:15  Asia Policy Under the Trump and Abe Administrations
   James Zumwalt (moderator), CEO, Sasakawa USA
   Matt Pottinger, Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council
   Daniel Russel, Diplomat in Residence and Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute
   Yoichi Funabashi, Co-Founder and Chairman, The Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation
   Kenichiro Sasae, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

10:30 Break

10:45 Crisis in the Senkaku Islands: Results of a Sasakawa USA Tabletop Exercise
   James Kendall (moderator), Fellow for Common Challenges, Sasakawa USA
   Hideshi Tokuchi, Distinguished Fellow, Sasakawa USA
   Dennis Wilder, Senior Fellow at U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues and Professor, Georgetown University
   Dennis Blair, Chairman and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Sasakawa USA

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Congressional and Diet Views on East Asian Trade and Economic Issues
   Daniel Bob (moderator), Senior Fellow and Director of Programs, Sasakawa USA
   Keizo Takemi, Liberal Democratic Party, Japan House of Councillors
   Rick Larsen (D-WA), U.S. House of Representatives
   Yukihiba Fujita, Japan Democratic Party, Japan House of Councillors

1:30 U.S.-Japan Defense Capabilities and Cooperation
   Dennis Blair (moderator), Chairman and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Sasakawa USA
   Itsunori Onodera, Former Japan Minister of Defense
   Randall Schriver, President and CEO, Project 2049
   Chris Johnstone, Northeast Asia Director, Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy

2:30 Break

2:45 U.S.-Japan-ROK Defense Cooperation in Addressing the North Korean Threat
   Christopher Nelson (moderator), Fellow for U.S.-Asia Relations, Sasakawa USA
   Masanori Nishi, Former Japan Vice Minister of Defense
   Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and Intl. Studies
   Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations
   Evans Revere, Senior Fellow at Center for East Asian Policy Studies, Brookings Institution

3:45 U.S.-Japan Cybersecurity Cooperation
   William “Bud” Roth (moderator), Fellow for Cybersecurity, Sasakawa USA
   William Saito, Special Advisor on Cyber, Japan Cabinet Office
   Melissa Hathaway, Senior Advisor at Cybersecurity Project, Harvard Belfer Center for Science and Indl. Affairs

4:45 Closing Remarks
   James Zumwalt, CEO, Sasakawa USA

5:00 Reception
Dennis Blair is the former Chief Executive Officer, current Chairman of the Board, and Distinguished Senior Fellow at Sasakawa USA. As CEO of Sasakawa USA from 2014 to 2017, he led the team through a refocusing of its mission and an expansion of its staff. Concurrently with his position at Sasakawa USA, he serves as a member of the Energy Security Leadership Council, chairs an advisory committee for Lockheed Martin Space Systems, and is on the boards of Freedom House, the National Bureau of Asian Research, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and the Atlantic Council. Prior to joining Sasakawa USA, Blair served as Director of National Intelligence from January 2009 to May 2010, where he led sixteen national intelligence agencies, managed a budget of $50 billion, and provided integrated intelligence support to the President, Congress, and operations in the field. During his 34-year Navy career, Blair served on guided missile destroyers in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and commanded the Kitty Hawk Battle Group. Ashore, he served as Director of the Joint Staff and held budget and policy positions on the National Security Council and several major Navy staffs. Prior to retiring from the Navy in 2002, Blair served as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, the largest of the combatant commands. From 2003 to 2006, Blair was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a federally funded research and development center that supports the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the intelligence community. He has served as the director of both public and private corporations, including Tyco International, EDO Corporation, and Iridium LLC. In May 2013, Blair co-chaired the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property and published a series of recommendations. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Blair earned a master's degree in history and languages from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, and was a White House Fellow at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has been awarded four Defense Distinguished Service medals, three National Intelligence Distinguished Service medals, and has received decorations from the governments of Japan, Thailand, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Daniel Bob is the Director of Programs and a Senior Fellow at Sasakawa USA. Before joining Sasakawa USA, Bob worked on the Senate Finance and House Foreign Affairs Committees handling Asia Pacific issues and was an International Affairs Fellow in Japan with the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served as the CEO of a Washington- and Seoul-based firm providing advisory services on energy and educational projects, as a senior advisor to the director of the agency overseeing the multi-trillion dollar U.S. secondary mortgage market, and as a senior advisor at an international law firm. In 2008, Bob worked as an advisor on Asian affairs for the Obama campaign. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Bob has also held positions as a Visiting Scholar at Keio University and as a Research Advisor for the Pudong Academy of Development in China. Bob holds a bachelor's degree from Yale and a master's degree from Harvard, and was a Fulbright Scholar in Fiji.

Yukihisa Fujita is a Member of the House of Councillors, the Upper House of the Japanese Diet, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Party Shadow Cabinet. He has served as the Director General of the International Department of Democratic Party (DP), a party created through a merger of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and Innovation Party in 2016. From September 2011 to October 2012, he served as State Minister of Finance in the Noda Cabinet and was in charge of the Budget and Finance Bureaus and the Bank of Japan. Fujita has held various positions in the Upper House, including as Director for the International Department of the DPJ, Chairman of the Special Committee on North Korean Abductions, Chairman of the Committee on Financial Affairs, and Chairman of the Committee on Fundamental National Policies. Prior to his service in the Upper House, Fujita was elected to the Lower House of the Japanese Diet in 1996 and that year established the Diet Member's League for a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines. In 1997, he helped Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi to sign the Ottawa Treaty. Fujita was an Executive Director for the Association for Aid and Relief, the first Japanese NGO to help refugees, and the International Moral Re-Armament Association of Japan. He was chosen by the DPJ to help the victims in disaster-stricken areas such as Indonesia, Pakistan, and Haiti. In 2004, he went to Jordan to assist in efforts to release five Japanese nationals held hostage in Iraq. Fujita graduated from the Faculty of Letters' Department of Philosophy at Keio University.

Yoichi Funabashi is the Chairman and a Co-founder of the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation and an award-winning Japanese journalist, columnist, and author. He has written extensively on foreign affairs, the US-Japan alliance, economics, and historical issues in the Asia Pacific and serves as an active member of several boards, advisory committees, and communities. Funabashi served as a correspondent for the Asahi Shimbun in Beijing from 1980 to 1981, in Washington from 1984 to 1987, and as US General Bureau Chief from 1993 to 1997. He has won numerous awards, including Stanford University's prestigious Shorenstein Journalism Award in 2016 as the first Japanese laureate; the Oya Soichi Nonfiction Award in 2013; the Japan Press Award, known as Japan's “Pulitzer Prize,” in 1994; the Ishibashi Tanzan Prize in 1992; and Vaughn-Ueda Prize in 1985. Funabashi received his bachelor's degree from the University of Tokyo in 1968 and his Ph.D. from Keio University in 1992. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University from 1975 to
1976, Visiting Fellow at the Institute for International Economics in 1987, Donald Keene Fellow at Columbia University in 2003, Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo Public Policy Institute from 2005 to 2006, and a Distinguished Guest Professor at Keio University from 2011 to 2014.

Michael J. Green is the Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Chair in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He has authored numerous books and articles on East Asian security and served on the staff of the National Security Council (NSC) from 2001 through 2005, first as Director for Asian affairs, with responsibility for Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, and then as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Asia, with responsibility for East Asia and South Asia. Before joining the NSC staff, he was the Senior Fellow for East Asian Security at the Council on Foreign Relations, director of the Edwin O. Reischauer Center and the Foreign Policy Institute, Assistant Professor at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, a research staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses, and Senior Adviser on Asia in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He also worked in Japan on the staff of a member of the National Diet. Dr. Green is also currently a nonresident fellow at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, Australia, and a distinguished scholar at the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation in Tokyo. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Aspen Strategy Group, the America Australia Leadership Dialogue, the advisory board of the Center for a New American Security, and the editorial boards of the Washington Quarterly and the Journal of Unification Studies in Korea. He is also an associate of the U.S. Intelligence Community. Dr. Green received his master’s and doctoral degrees from SAIS and did additional graduate and postgraduate research at Tokyo University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his bachelor’s degree in history from Kenyon College with highest honors. He holds a black belt in laido (sword) and has won international prizes on the great highland bagpipe.

Melissa Hathaway is a Senior Advisor at the Cybersecurity Project of Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and is contributing to Project Minerva, the joint MIT–Harvard Project on Technology, Security, and Conflict in the Cyber Age, where she helps to develop methods to measure, model, interpret, and analyze challenges and responses in cyberspace. Hathaway is also one of the lead instructors for Harvard’s executive program Cybersecurity: The Intersection of Policy and Technology, and she frequently guest lectures at universities in the Boston area and overseas. More recently, Hathaway has contributed to the Berkman Center for Internet & Society in addition to her work for the Belfer Center. Hathaway served in two U.S. presidential administrations, leading the Cyberspace Policy Review for President Barack Obama and the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI) for President George W. Bush. She built a broad coalition from within the executive branch and established a partnership with Congress to obtain bipartisan support for addressing cybersecurity priorities. She developed and created a unified cross-agency budget submission for FY 2008 and from 2009 to 2013, assembling disparate funding sources into a coherent, integrated program. Hathaway stood-up the Cybersecurity Office within the National Security Staff, setting the expectation and pace of progress toward a more resilient U.S. information and communications infrastructure. She received the National Intelligence Reform Medal and the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation Medal in recognition of her achievements. After her government service, Hathaway established Hathaway Global Strategies, LLC, to which she brings her unique combination of policy and technical expertise. She has served on the board of directors for two public companies and three non-profit organizations. Hathaway has a bachelor’s degree from American University in Washington, D.C. She has completed graduate studies in International Economics and Technology Transfer Policy and is a graduate of the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College, with a special certificate in Information Operations.

Chris Johnstone is the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia. Prior to assuming his current position, he served for nearly two years as Director of Japan and Oceania Affairs at the National Security Council. From 2010 to 2014 he was Director for Northeast Asia in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, following a nearly ten-year career in the intelligence community. Johnstone has a Master’s in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College. He is fluent in Japanese.

James Kendall is the Fellow for Common Challenges and the Executive Director of the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP) at Sasakawa USA. Prior to joining Sasakawa USA, Kendall founded Red Fox Consulting, LLC, providing analysis, advice, and insights on Asia to clients in private industry, government, and the not-for-profit sphere. His expertise includes defense and aerospace, Asia-Pacific affairs, project management, and strategic planning. A career Marine Corps officer, Kendall’s last military assignment was as a senior Japan program analyst at the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters. He also served as a military advisor at the East Asia & Pacific Affairs Bureau of the State Department; a strategic analyst with the Marine Corps’ Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG) at the Pentagon; an
exchange officer at the Japan Defense Agency, Tokyo; and a commander of several Marine artillery units, in addition to multiple staff positions. Kendall served three overseas assignments in Japan, as well as deployments to Somalia, Kuwait, and Iraq. During Operation Tomodachi, following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, he acted as the Marine liaison to the Japanese Self Defense Forces providing disaster relief. Kendall holds a master's degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and a bachelor's degree in English from the Virginia Military Institute. He studied at St. Anne's College, Oxford, and is a distinguished graduate of the Japan National Institute for Defense Studies, Tokyo.

Rick Larsen represents the Second Congressional District of Washington state and serves on both the House Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Armed Services Committees. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rick is committed to investing in transportation to drive job growth and keep the economy moving. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Rick works hard to support Naval Station Everett and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, bases in Washington’s Second District which are vital to the region’s economy and to national security. He is also pushing to make sure our men and women in uniform get their earned pay and benefits and the requisite equipment to keep the country safe. He is focused on ensuring that veterans have access to the necessary resources and health care to help them be successful in civilian life. Rick is the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee, which is critical to jobs and the economy in Washington state and the Second District as well as national security. Rick is the co-chair of the bipartisan U.S.-China Working Group, which educates members of Congress about U.S.-China issues through meetings and briefings with academic, business, and political leaders from the United States and China. He also co-founded the Congressional Arctic Working Group, a bipartisan group to help bring more focus to U.S. policy issues related to the Arctic.

Christopher Nelson is the Fellow for U.S.-Asia Relations at Sasakawa USA. He is the editor and publisher of The Nelson Report, a daily “insider’s” look at foreign policy and trade issues published in Washington, D.C., and a consultant for Samuels International Associates. Nelson has been an Asia policy writer and consultant since leaving Capitol Hill in 1983 to join Teramura International, a company designed to facilitate U.S.-Japan business and diplomatic relations. He travels and lectures in China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan on a regular basis. His professional career began in 1967 with United Press International in New York, and he has spent his professional life as a journalist and Asia policy specialist with a focus on Asia and U.S. policy-making. He has worked in the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia, where he handled normalization of relations with China and the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. Nelson has published two books and countless articles on the Civil War, is a Contributing Editor to Military Images Magazine, and was a credited consultant to Ken Burns’ Civil War on PBS. Nelson graduated from the Phillips Academy, Andover in 1962, The University of California, Berkeley in 1967, and studied international relations at McGill University’s master’s program.

Masanori Nishi served as Vice-Minister of Defense from 2013 to 2015, after which he served as a political advisor in the Ministry of Defense until December 2016. Nishi joined the Japan Defense Agency, now the Ministry of Defense, as an officer in April 1978. During his long career as a bureaucrat, he was seconded to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and the Japan Cabinet Office. Nishi received his Bachelor of Laws from Tokyo University and a master’s degree from Trinity College, Oxford University.

Itsunori Onodera served in the Abe administration as Japan’s Minister of Defense from 2012 to 2014 and currently represents Miyagi prefecture’s 6th constituency in the Japanese Diet’s Lower House. He has served in and chaired committees on foreign affairs including as Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2007, Acting Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party Foreign Affairs Division and Director of the Lower House Committee on Foreign Affairs in 2005, and as Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs in 2004. He also served as Deputy Director of the Liberal Democratic Party’s Policy Research Council Foreign Affairs Division. Onodera was a visiting research fellow to the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in 2000 and has taught at Tohoku Fukushi University as an associate professor and special lecturer. He began his career as an employee and prefectural assembly member of Miyagi prefecture. He is active in the Japan-Slovenia, Japan-Myanmar, and Japan-Djibouti Parliamentary Friendship Associations. Onodera earned his bachelor’s degree from Tokyo University of Fisheries in 1983, completed coursework at Matsushita Government Institute of Government and Management, and received his master’s degree in political science from the University of Tokyo in 1993.

Matt Pottinger is the Senior Director for Asian affairs at the U.S. National Security Council. Pottinger joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2005, serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan in 2009, He cofounded and trained the Marine Corps’ first Female Engagement Teams, a model which has since been adopted by the Marines and U.S. Army Special Forces. On his second deployment to Afghanistan, he coauthored the 2010 report “Fixing Intel: A Blueprint for Making Intelligence Relevant in Afghanistan” with then-Major
General Michael Flynn. Pottinger began his professional career as a reporter for Reuters News Agency from 1998 to 2001 and later as the Wall Street Journal correspondent in China, and his stories have won awards from the Society of Publishers in Asia. After finishing his active duty service, Pottinger joined the Council on Foreign Relations in New York as the 2010-11 Edward R. Murrow Fellow before founding China Six, LLC, a consulting firm focusing on Asia, in 2011. Pottinger earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Massachusetts and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

Evans J.R. Revere is Senior Fellow for Foreign Policy at the Center for East Asia Policy Studies of Brookings Institution and the Senior Director with the Albright Stonebridge Group, providing strategic advice to clients with a specific focus on Korea, China, and Japan. From 2007 to 2010, Revere served as president and CEO of The Korea Society. Fluent in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, Revere retired from the Foreign Service in 2007 after a distinguished career as one of the U.S. Department of State’s top Asia experts. He won numerous awards during his career, which included service as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. He has extensive experience in negotiations with North Korea. Revere graduated with honors from Princeton University with a degree in East Asian Studies. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

William “Bud” Roth is the Non-Resident Fellow for Cybersecurity at Sasakawa USA and is a Director and Lead Instructor at HackEd, a DC-based, hands-on cybersecurity training firm. He recently returned from a global deployment to Tokyo with a Big Four consulting firm, where he consulted Japanese law enforcement, researched the development of investigative cyber tools, presented on topics such as RAM forensic tools in criminal investigations, and briefed investigators and forensic specialists on the role of expert witnesses and forensic evidence in U.S. court. Prior to his position in Tokyo, Roth led a cross-functional research team composed of former military and intelligence officers, forensic analysts, and commercial due diligence experts who investigated subjects of interest to Department of Defense clients. Roth started his federal career with the Securities & Exchange Commission, investigating internet-based securities fraud. He previously supported Special Forces Global War on Terrorism activities in Iraq and Africa and was awarded the Defense of Freedom Medal (civilian Purple Heart) and Superior Civilian Service Award by the Secretary of the Army for his activities in Iraq from 2004 to 2005. Roth holds a J.D. from the Widener University School of Law, an M.A. in International Development from Nagoya University, and a B.A. in English Literature. He speaks and writes Japanese.

Daniel Russel is a Diplomat in Residence and Senior Fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service at the U.S. Department of State, he most recently served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Secretary, Russel served at the White House as Special Assistant to the President and as National Security Council (NSC) Senior Director for Asian Affairs. During his tenure there, he helped formulate President Obama’s strategic rebalance to the Asia Pacific region, including efforts to strengthen alliances, deepen U.S. engagement with multilateral organizations, and expand cooperation with emerging powers in the region. Prior to joining the NSC in January of 2009, he served as Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs and had assignments as U.S. Consul General in Osaka-Kobe, Japan from 2005 to 2008; Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands from 2002 to 2005; Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus from 1999 to 2002; Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering from 1997 to 1999; Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 1995 to 1996; Political Section Unit Chief at U.S. Embassy Seoul, Republic of Korea from 1992 to 1995; Political Advisor to the Permanent Representative to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Ambassador Pickering from 1989 to 1992; Vice Consul in Osaka and Branch Office Manager in Nagoya, Japan from 1987 to 1989; and Assistant to the Ambassador to Japan, former Senator Majority Leader Mike Mansfield from 1985 to 1987. In 1996, Russel was awarded the State Department’s Una Chapman Cox Fellowship sabbatical and authored America’s Place in the World. Before joining the Foreign Service, he was manager for an international firm in New York City. Russel was educated at Sarah Lawrence College and University College, University of London.

William Saito advises several national governments around the globe and is currently a Special Advisor on Cyber to the Cabinet Office as well as to the Ministry of Economic Trade & Industry (METI) for the Government of Japan. Named by Nikkei as one of the 100 Most Influential People for Japan, he began software programming in elementary school and started his own company while still in High School. After selling his business to Microsoft, he moved to Tokyo in 2005 and founded InTeCuer, a venture capital firm. In 2011, he served as the chief technology officer of the Japan National Diet’s Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission. Later that year, he was named as both a Young Global Leader and Global Agenda Council Member for World Economic Forum (WEF) and was subsequently named to its Foundation Board. In 2012, Saito was appointed to a council on national strategy and policy that
reported directly to the Prime Minister of Japan. He currently serves on the boards of several companies, frequently appears as a commentator on TV, and has authored six books and maintains several publication columns. He was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 by Ernst & Young, NASDAQ, and USA Today, and is recognized as one of the world’s leading authorities on cybersecurity. In 2016, Saito received the Medal of Honor from the Government of Japan for his work in the field of education. Saito went to medical school at UCLA and attended Harvard Kennedy School.

Kenichiro Sasae’s diplomatic career includes his current service at the Japanese embassy in Washington, DC, as well as formerly at the embassy in London and at Japan’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. Sasae joined the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1974. Ascending to the top of the Foreign Ministry bureaucracy, Sasae served as the Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau from 1999 to 2000, Executive Assistant for Foreign Affairs to Prime Minister Yoshirō Mori from 2000 to 2001, Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau from 2001 to 2002, and Director-General of the Economic Affairs Bureau from 2002 to 2005. From 2005 to 2008, Sasae served as Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, where he was Japan’s representative to the fourth, fifth, and sixth rounds of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea. Sasae served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2008 to 2010, and as Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, the top civil service job at the Foreign Ministry, from 2010 to 2012.

Randall Schriver is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Project 2049 Institute. He is also a founding partner of Armitage International LLC, based in Arlington, Virginia, and a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC. He served as Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage from 2001 to 2003 and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2003 to 2005. Prior to his work at the State Department, he was an independent consultant and visiting fellow at CSIS. Schriver has also served as an active duty naval intelligence officer. He has won numerous military and civilian awards from the U.S. government and was recently presented with the Order of the Propitious Clouds by the president of Taiwan for promoting Taiwan-U.S. relations. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Williams College and a master’s degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Sheila A. Smith, an expert on Japanese politics and foreign policy, is the Senior Fellow for Japan Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). She has authored two books on Japanese politics, is a regular contributor to the CFR blog Asia Unbound, and is a frequent contributor to major media outlets in the United States and Asia. Her current research focuses on how geostrategic change in Asia is shaping Japan’s strategic choices. In the fall of 2014, Smith began a project on Northeast Asian Nationalisms and Alliance Management. Smith joined CFR in 2007 from the East-West Center, where she directed a multinational research team in a cross-national study of the domestic politics of the U.S. military presence in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. She was a visiting scholar at Keio University in 2007-08, where she researched Japan’s foreign policy toward China, supported by the Abe Fellowship. Smith has also been a visiting researcher at two leading Japanese foreign and security policy think tanks, the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Research Institute for Peace and Security, and at the University of Tokyo and the University of the Ryukyus. She is the vice chair of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Exchange (CULCON), a bi-national advisory panel of government officials and private sector members. She also serves on the advisory committee for the U.S.-Japan Network for the Future program of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. She teaches as an adjunct professor at the Asian Studies Department of Georgetown University and serves on the board of its Journal of Asian Affairs. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the department of political science at Columbia University.

Keizo Takemi is a member of the House of Councillors of the Japanese Diet, where he served from 1995 to 2007 and again from December 2012 to the present. He currently serves as the Chairman of the House of Councillors Research Committee on Governing Structures and the Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Special Mission Committee on Global Health Strategy. During his previous tenure, Takemi assumed various responsibilities in the Lower House, including as an Executive Member for the Committee on Health, Welfare and Labor; member of the Committee on Audits; Executive Member for the Joint Meeting of Both Houses on the Reform of Pension and Other Social Security Systems; Executive Member for the Research Commission on the Constitution; and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense. He has served as Deputy Chairman on the LDP Medical Care Committee for Research of the Social Security System and as chairman of the Special Committee on Ocean Matters. Takemi has been involved in various global initiatives, including the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health, the Global Health Workforce Alliance, and the WHO Expert Working Group on R&D Financing. He played a leading role in the 2006 restructuring the Japanese system for Official Development Assistance (ODA) and in integrating Japan’s aid implementation functions
into the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 2008. Also in 2006, he served as a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, and the environment, and, in 2005, served as a member of the International Advisory Group for the UNDP Human Development Report on Regional Co-operation in Central Asia. As the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in 1999, he established the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security. He has been a professor at the School of Political Science and Economics at Tokai University since 1995 and has worked as a news anchor on CNN Day Watch in Japan and as a visiting scholar at Harvard University. Takemi received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Faculty of Law at Keio University.

Hideshi Tokuchi is a Distinguished Fellow at Sasakawa USA. Before joining Sasakawa USA, he served a 36-year career of service to the government of Japan, most recently as the nation’s first Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs. He has held senior assignments at the Ministry of Defense, including as Director-General of the Operations Bureau, the Personnel and Education Bureau, the Finance and Equipment Bureau, and most recently the Defense Policy Bureau. During his service career, Tokuchi focused on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation, security-related legislation, defense buildup programs, and operations of the Japanese defense forces. He twice participated in the review work for the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and the establishment of the National Defense Program Guidelines, and helped craft security-related legislation, including Peace-Keeping Operations Law, legislation to deal with contingency, the Counter-Piracy Law, and the recent security legislation on a new interpretation of the Japanese Constitution. Tokuchi was a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS) of the U.S. National Defense University (NDU), studying post-Cold War U.S. policy in Asia, from 1995 to 1996. From 2001 to 2015, he taught a course on Japan’s national security policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and has been teaching courses on Japanese defense policy at Aoyama Gakuin University since 2006. In addition to his position at Sasakawa USA, Tokuchi is a Senior Fellow at GRIPS, a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of International Relations of Sophia University, a Senior Research Advisor at the Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS), a Research Committee Member at the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Tokuchi received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Tokyo in 1979 and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.) degree at the Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1986.

Dennis Wilder is an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Asian Studies Program at Georgetown University and a Senior Fellow at Georgetown’s Initiative for US-China Dialogue on Global Issues. Wilder served as a Special Assistant to the President and as the Senior Director for East Asian Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC) under the George W. Bush administration from December 2005 until January 2009. Previously, in 1980, he worked at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as a China military analyst in the Office of Strategic Research in the Directorate of Intelligence. From 1995 to 2005, he served as the Chief of China Analytic Studies at the Directorate of Intelligence’s Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, where he was awarded the Director’s Award by George Tenet. Wilder was also a visiting fellow at the John L. Thornton China Center in the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. From 1992 to 1995, Wilder served overseas in the U.S. Consulate-General in Hong Kong. Wilder received his Master of Science in Foreign Service (M.S.F.S.) degree from Georgetown University. He has also received the Rosenthal Fellowship in International Relations to work on the East Asian Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was a recipient of the European Union Distinguished Visitors Grant. He is a graduate of Kalamazoo College in Michigan, and spent a year at the Yale-in-China Program at New Asia College on the campus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

James Zumwalt became the Chief Executive Officer of Sasakawa USA in February 2017. Prior to joining Sasakawa USA, Zumwalt served as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Guinea Bissau from 2015 to January 2017. Previously, he was responsible for policy toward Japan and Korea as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia Affairs. When the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck Japan in 2011, Zumwalt was serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, where he coordinated the United States’ support for the Japanese Government’s response to that crisis. During his 36-year Foreign Service career, Zumwalt has served in a variety of assignments with a focus on Asia and international economics in Washington, Tokyo, Beijing, Kinshasa, Dakar, and Bissau. In Washington, D.C., he worked in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs’ Japan, Korea, and Philippines desks, at the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, and at the United States Trade Representative’s Office. He speaks Japanese, French, and some Chinese. Zumwalt received a master’s degree in International Security Studies from the National War College in 1998 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History and in Japanese Language from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979.