



Gary Sampson
Senior Research Fellow

Dr. Gary J. Sampson is a Senior Research Fellow in Chinese Strategic Studies at the Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies (YCAPS). A retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, he served more than 25 years as an intelligence and international affairs officer focused on the Indo-Pacific. His assignments included principal intelligence briefer to the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps, special assistant and chief speechwriter to the 19th and 20th Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, forces analyst on the Office of the Secretary of Defense Red Team, and Northeast Asia (China) Foreign Area Officer with multiple tours in Japan and the western Pacific. He deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom–Philippines.

Sampson earned his PhD in international relations from Tufts University's Fletcher School, where his research examined post–Cold War PRC–DPRK alliance dynamics. His work centers on Chinese strategy, nuclear posture, and alliance politics in Northeast Asia, with particular emphasis on PRC–DPRK relations, PLA Rocket Force modernization, and the deterrence implications for Japan, Taiwan, and the wider Indo-Pacific. An Olmsted Foundation Scholar in Taiwan, he holds a master's degree in Asia-Pacific studies from National Sun Yat-sen University, a master's degree in strategic intelligence from the National Intelligence University, and studied Mandarin at the Defense Language Institute. His research affiliations have included National Defense University's Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs and the Caracristi Institute for Intelligence Research at the National Intelligence University.

He is a member of the CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues Mid-Career Cadre; a Public Intellectuals Program Fellow with the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations; a 2023–2025 member of the U.S.–Taiwan Next Generation Working Group at UC Berkeley's Institute of East Asian Studies; and an External Fellow of Boston University's Pardee Center International History Institute. He previously served as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security. His work on military strategy, nuclear issues, and civil–military relations has appeared in the *International Journal of Korean Studies*, *Marine Corps History*, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Military Review*, *The Strategy Bridge*, *Studies in Intelligence*, and reports published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.