Michael Eisenstadt Bio

Michael Eisenstadt is Kahn Fellow, and director of the Military and Security Studies Program at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. A specialist in Arab-Israeli and Persian Gulf security affairs, he has published widely on irregular and conventional warfare and nuclear weapons proliferation in the Middle East.

Mr. Eisenstadt served for twenty-six years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring in 2010. His military service included active-duty stints in Iraq with the United States Forces-Iraq headquarters (2010) and the Human Terrain System Assessment Team (2008); in Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan with the U.S. Security Coordinator (USSC) for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (2008-2009); at U.S. Central Command headquarters and on the Joint Staff during Operation Enduring Freedom and the planning for Operation Iraqi Freedom (2001-2002); and in Turkey and Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort (1991).

He has also served in a civilian capacity on the Multinational Force-Iraq/U.S. Embassy Baghdad Joint Campaign Plan Assessment Team (2009) and as a consultant or advisor to the congressionally mandated Iraq Study Group (2006), the Multinational Corps-Iraq Information Operations Task Force (2005-2006), and the State Department's Future of Iraq defense policy working group (2002-2003). In 1992, he took a leave of absence from the Institute to work on the U.S. Air Force Gulf War Air Power Survey.

Prior to joining the Institute in 1989, Mr. Eisenstadt worked as a military analyst with the U.S. government. Mr. Eisenstadt earned an MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, a BA in Political Science from SUNY Binghamton, and has traveled widely in the Middle East.

His most recent publications include: The Great Middle Eastern War of 2019—with Nadav Ben Hour (The American Interest, 2018); The Ties that Bind: Families, Clans, and Hizballah’s Military Effectiveness—with Kendall Bianchi (War on the Rock, 2017); Iran After Sanctions: Military Procurement and Force-Structure Decisions (IISS, 2017);  Mini-Hizballahs, Revolutionary Guard Knock-Offs, and the Future of Iran’s Militant Proxies in Iraq—with Michael Knights (War on the Rocks, 2017);  Iran's Lengthening Cyber Shadow (Washington Institute, 2016); Military Engagement in the Broader Middle East--with James Jeffrey (Washington Institute, 2016); The Strategic Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Religion, Expediency, and Soft Power in an Era of Disruptive Change (Marine Corps University: 2015); Defeating ISIS: A Strategy for a Resilient Adversary and an Intractable Conflict (Washington Institute, 2014); An Enhanced Train-and-Equip Program for the Moderate Syrian Opposition: A Key Element of U.S. Policy Toward Syria and Iraq--with Jeffrey White (Washington Institute, 2014), and; Iran’s Influence in Iraq: Countering Tehran’s Whole-of-Government Approach--with Michael Knights and Ahmed Ali (Washington Institute, 2011).