2:15-3:45 Security and Foreign Policy

One of the largest challenges Ukraine’s next president will face is the security of the country against Russian aggression. The 2018 Kerch Strait incident not only demonstrated the relentlessness of Russia’s continued incursions on Ukrainian sovereignty, but raised questions as to how Ukraine and the West should act in light of such attacks. Whoever wins the spring 2019 presidential elections will face important strategic decisions in the war effort and cooperation with international allies. This panel will be moderated by FSI Director and former Ambassador Michael McFaul. This discussion is designed to gather prominent voices in the foreign policy community in order to:

- Highlight Ukraine’s foreign policy priorities for the next five years;
- Position Ukraine within the larger geopolitical context;
- Demonstrate that Ukraine’s sovereignty is an international priority, especially in regards to European security.

Dr. Michael Carpenter
Senior Director of the Penn Biden Center

Dr. Michael Carpenter is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center. He is also senior director of the Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Carpenter is a former deputy assistant secretary of defense with responsibility for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, the Balkans, and Conventional Arms Control. Prior to joining the Department of Defense, Dr. Carpenter served in the White House as a foreign policy adviser to Vice President Joe Biden and as director for Russia at the National Security Council. Previously, he was a career foreign service officer with the State Department, where he worked in a number of different positions, including deputy director of the Office of Russian Affairs, speechwriter to the under-secretary of political affairs, and adviser on the South Caucasus. Dr. Carpenter also served abroad in the US Embassies in Poland, Slovenia, and Barbados.
Artur Gerasymov
Member of Parliament

Artur Gerasymov is a Member of Ukrainian Parliament and chair of the faction Bloc Petro Poroshenko. He is also the chair of the permanent delegation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He is a member of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and Defense.

Hanna Hopko
Member of Parliament, Head of Foreign Affairs Committee

Hanna Hopko is the head of the foreign affairs Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament. She has a PhD in political communications. She was one of the leading members of the Civic Sector of EuroMaidan during the Revolution of Dignity (21 Nov. 2013 – 22 Feb. 2014). There she launched with other activists a coalition of Ukrainian NGOs focused on implementing reforms in Ukraine and served as an expert on the inter-factional parliamentary group “Platform of Reforms”. During the parliamentary elections that followed the EuroMaidan revolution, Hanna headed the list of the Samopomich (SelfReliance) Party and was elected into the Parliament of Ukraine where she was appointed as Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee on 4 December 2014. Member of the Executive Committee of Reforms of the National Council of Reforms and the Anti-Corruption Action Centre (AntAC). In 2014, Hanna was also named a “Leading Global Thinker” by Foreign Policy magazine, she received the “Certificate of Merit” at the Georgetown University Leadership Seminar, and was honored with the National Democratic Institute Democracy Award for her efforts to further the cause of democracy in Ukraine.
Steven Pifer

Steven Pifer is a William J. Perry fellow at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), where he is affiliated with FSI’s Center for International Security and Cooperation and Europe Center. He is also a nonresident senior fellow with the Brookings Institution.


A retired Foreign Service officer, Pifer’s more than 25 years with the State Department focused on U.S. relations with the former Soviet Union and Europe, as well as arms control and security issues. He served as deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs with responsibilities for Russia and Ukraine (2001-2004), ambassador to Ukraine (1998-2000), and special assistant to the president and senior director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia on the National Security Council (1996-1997). In addition to Ukraine, he served at the U.S. embassies in Warsaw, Moscow and London as well as with the U.S. delegation to the negotiation on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Geneva. From 2000 to 2001, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford’s Institute for International Studies, and he was a resident scholar at the Brookings Institution from 2008-2017.