

## **The Future of Transatlantic Relationships: A European Perspective**

Scribed by Nick DeAngelis

The May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting focused on how the transatlantic relationship is changing and what needs to be done to keep that relationship strong. War College International Fellows (IFs) Col. Michael Butterwick from Great Britain, Lieutenant Colonel Javier Marcos from Spain, and Colonel Romulusz Ruszin Hungary provided their perspectives.

Great Britain still sees itself as a global actor, if not a global power, and wants to be considered America's closest and most reliable ally. Britain wants America to make a stand on issues, so that it can support and even influence America's decisions.

Two major issues facing the UK are the economy and retaining sovereignty. The economy is considered the largest issue and must be stabilized. Regarding sovereignty, the European Union is very unpopular in the UK - British withdrawal from it is possible. Also of concern in this area is Scotland's vote on independence from the UK.

British citizens are asking questions of their government about the role of the UK in international affairs, including why British troops are involved in Iraq and Afghanistan. The answer to this question is to support the United States.

NATO is the key to strengthening the bond between America and its European allies. It serves to protect both Europe and the North American members, especially as individual nations decrease the size of their military in favor of better training and increasing technology.

Spain's three main priorities at this time are Europe, the Mediterranean area, and Latin America, along with the belief that anything that happens in the Sahara will eventually directly impact southern Europe. Spain's national security is based on several principles, principles such as shared security with bordering nations, membership in the EU, a relationship with the US, and good relations with the Arab nations. In fact, Spain considers some of its greatest assets to be good relations with Israel, the Arab nations, and Asia.

Hungary considers no nation to be a threat, but has a comprehensive security plan, one that starts outside of its borders. Hungary's defense strategy is made up of four components, or a combination of them. The four components are neutrality, emulation of large and powerful militaries, alliances with other nations, and weapons of mass destruction. There is a regional cooperation agreement that involves Hungary and several neighboring nations and provides for the defense of any of the nations if necessary. An important point to note is that there are many Hungarians living outside Hungary's borders. If there was a threat to them, any method short of military force will be used to save them. Hungary wants to be a part of the team, and will do what is necessary to show that willingness.

All three IFs agreed about the role of NATO in the Ukraine. Ukraine is not in a state of civil war yet, so NATO should not react quickly to any developments, but should stop and analyze all the options. All three speakers also agreed that NATO should handle military matters, not the EU and that all the NATO members must be active if the alliance is to remain strong and effective.

### **2014-2015 Program Topics / Schedule**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| October 23  | Media & Its Impact on Foreign Policy   |
| November 13 | 38 <sup>th</sup> Annual International Reception at the U.S. Army War College |
| December 11 | U.S. – Russia Relations  |
| January 22  | Congress & the Making of U.S. Foreign Policy                                 |
| February 26 | U.S. Civil Military Relations  |
| March 26    | Demographic Trends Affecting U.S. Foreign Policy                             |
| April 23    | The State of the World   |
| May (tba)   | Embassy Trip   |
| May 28      | China and the World  |

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