



U.S. Middle East Strategy

Harrisburg – Our speaker for November 21 is Michael S. Bell, a recent White House advisor on national security, who will discuss U.S. strategy for the Middle East.

Dr. Bell, a retired Army colonel, is now a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, DC.

In January 2017, he was detailed to the White House as Senior Director for Gulf Affairs on the National Security Council Staff. In July 2017, he was named Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Middle East Affairs, making him the top specialist for the entire Middle East in the White House. He served in that role through 2018.

Prior to the White House assignment, Dr. Bell was Chancellor of the College of International Security Affairs, one of five colleges at the NDU.

Dr. Bell's career began with graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1983 and commissioning as an armor officer. He served with armored, cavalry, and mechanized infantry units in a variety of command and staff positions in Europe, the continental United States, and Southwest Asia. He commanded a cavalry squadron, taught history at West Point, and served at the National War College as Dean of Faculty and Academic Programs.

While assigned to the Pentagon, his major projects included: the National Military Strategy and National Defense Strategy; lead writer for the National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism; staff lead for the Joint Strategic Planning System; member of the Kuwait Strategic Review team; lead writer for Kuwait's National Security and Defense Strategy, and lead writer for the National Military Strategy of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

Prior to returning to the NDU in 2009, then Col. Bell served as Director of the Commanding General's Initiatives Groups at Multi-National Force-Iraq headquarters in Baghdad and subsequently, at headquarters, U.S. Central Command in Tampa, FL. He retired from the Army in 2012.

Dr. Bell holds a master's degree and a doctorate degree in history from the University of Maryland and a MS degree in national security strategy from the NDU. He also is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College.

November 21 Dinner Arrangements

Place: West Shore Country Club
100 Brentwater Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Time: 5:30 PM: Social Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 PM: Sit-Down Dinner
7:15 PM: Announcements
7:30 PM: Presentation w/ Q & A

Menu: Tomato Bisque
Siracha-Bourbon Glazed
Roast Chicken Breast
Green Onion Basmati Rice
Buttered Baby Carrots
Pumpkin Mousse with Caramel Sauce

Those with special dietary needs may request a substitution when making a reservation. If you order a substitute meal, remember to pick up a coded tag at the sign-in table and put it by your dinner place. Alternate meals will be chicken unless chicken is the main course – then fish will be the alternate or vegetarian, which will be chef's choice, typically non-meat pasta.

**The cost for FPA members is \$33.
The non-member cost is \$38.
Note: The WSCC increased dinner costs this year.**

There is no charge for anyone to attend the program presentation only, beginning at 7:30 PM.

**For Reservations Contact: Ron Pontius at
ronpon@comcast.net or (717) 991-0899,
or you can reserve on our website:
www.fpaharrisburg.org**

Reservations must be made by 10 AM Monday, November 18. If you come for dinner without a reservation, the country club may charge a late fee of up to \$10 per person.

When making or canceling a dinner reservation, please give your complete name and phone number. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled because of the weather or for any other reason.

NOTE: We bill no-shows.

Dinner no-shows will be billed unless there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number given to the West Shore Country Club.

Contributions to FPA are tax deductible.

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is deductible to the fullest extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

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National Security Issues in the 2020 Presidential Election

Scribed by Kylee Petritsch, Lebanon Valley College
FPA Secretary

National security challenges to the United States are rapidly changing, and many countries are feeling left behind due to globalization, which is creating space for authoritarian governments, according to Christine Wormuth, a former Under Secretary of Defense and White House policy advisor.

Wormuth spoke to 140 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association at its fifth annual Keystone Speaker Series, formerly the President's Speakers Series, on October 24 at the West Shore Country Club.

Her topic was National Security Issues in the 2020 Presidential Election, but she said as important as the subject was, she feared that none of the candidates would be talking much about it.

Wormuth used the terms "rogues and rivals" in her speech, with emphasis on Iran and Syria, North Korea, Russia and China. She said the United States has over-militarized its foreign policy strategy, while instead we should be strengthening our alliances and partnerships around the world so that our allies can help us deal with security challenges.

Wormuth cited Iran as one of our biggest challenges in the Middle East, and the 2020 presidential candidates should confront that issue now that Donald Trump has withdrawn from the nuclear deal worked out by the U.S. and other major countries. In regard to Syria, she said the U.S. pullout of troops makes us look unreliable and unpredictable to both our allies and adversaries.

Wormuth said it's unlikely that North Korea will give up its nuclear weapons, which means that we must be cautious in dealing with that country because its missiles soon will have the capability of reaching most of the United States. We may need China's help with the North Koreans, but that doesn't seem likely as long as we remain in a trade war with China, she said.

Russia and China pose different threats to the U.S., Wormuth said. Russia has a weak economy, but a strong military, while China is strong militarily, economically, and diplomatically.

She also pointed to the threat of climate change and global health, arguing that both must be considered in planning a meaningful strategy for national security. Climate change, she said, is creating conditions for a pathogen to form, which could lead to a global pandemic, for which we are unprepared.

2019-2020 Program Topics / Schedule All Events at the West Shore Country Club Except the International Fellows Reception

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|---------|---|
| Nov. 21 | U.S. Strategy for the Middle East |
| Dec. 19 | Hot Arctic, Cold Strategic Calculations |
| Jan. 23 | China Trade War |
| Feb. 27 | End of WWII and its International Impact |
| Mar. 26 | National Defense Strategy |
| Apr. 16 | International Fellows Reception
U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle
<u>ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> |
| May 21 | The Cyber Threat to Western Democracy |
| May ?? | Embassy Trip, exact date to be determined |

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