

US relationship with EU, NATO focuses panel

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US relationship with EU, NATO focuses Fellows' Europe/Eurasia panel

Nov. 14, 2008 -- With eyes looking to the west, International Fellows of the second Europe and Eurasia panel discussed the roles of NATO, the European Union and other issues during a presentation to fellow students Nov. 14 here.

Members of the panel were Col. Nazmi Cahani of Albania, Col. Wolfgang Richter of Germany, Col. Krzysztor Mitrega of Poland, Col. Torgeir Gratrud of Norway, Lt. Col. Salvador Sanchez of Spain, and Lt. Col. Ihor Hordiichuk of the Ukraine.

Among the issues discussed was the close connection of European and American forces and strategies. Europe and America share common views on democracy, rule of law, free elections, freedom of speech, separation of church and state, and a shared past.

Economic relationships strengthen ties. Panel members noted that European nations comprise the largest importer of U.S. goods.

The Fellows shared insights about the roles and differences between NATO and the European Union. While NATO focuses mainly on military and strategic issues, the EU tends to focus more on civil and economic issues.

After the panel discussion, the panel addressed questions that explored nations' force contributions to NATO, the Ukraine's bid to join NATO, and varied views on Russia.