

Hayden discusses key players in national security

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Hayden discusses key players in national security to USAWC students



*CIA Director Michael V. Hayden addresses students in Bliss Hall on Friday, Dec. 12. Hayden named al-Qaida, China, Russia, and the EU as the four key players in U.S. National Security during the next administration. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick. Dec. 15, 2008 -- Al-Qaida, China, Russia, and the European Union will be the most important players in U.S. national security and policy over the next century argued CIA Director **Michael V. Hayden** during a talk with USAWC students on Friday, Dec. 12 in Bliss Hall.*

"As we are preparing for our first wartime presidential transition in 40 years, we face several foreign policy challenges as well as opportunities during this next administration," said Hayden.

During the assessment Hayden noted that this is the same national security briefing he provided to the in-coming Obama Administration.

"Hayden's key players were directly in line with what we are learning here at the War College. I was really glad to see that we are tracking the same security issues," said **Lt. Col. Jeff Edge**, student.

"Terrorism, the rise of China and Russia, and relationships with our key allies in the EU are all discussed in our classes," continued Edge.

Hayden argued that despite our seven-year engagement in the War on Terror, al-Qaida remains the most clear and present danger to America.

"The sub-national actor, al-Qaida poses the greatest threat to our security, more than any nation-state," said Hayden.

Hayden's assessment on how the war was going was simply "not bad, we are doing pretty well."

"Al-Qaida has experienced many setbacks, but they are adaptive. They are both resilient and yet vulnerable. This war is far from over," said Hayden.

Hayden contended that operationally, U.S. and NATO forces were doing well. Still, he said, it is the ideological fight, especially along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border, where we are encountering trouble.

"Pakistan has been fighting in these tribal areas since about August, and are proving to be an asset to this war," said Hayden. He emphasized our fragile but important relationship with the central government in Islamabad.

"We very much appreciate their help and collaboration on this. Still, Pakistan must do more," concluded Hayden.

"Winning the hearts and minds of the people living in these areas is a real challenge for us as a foreign force. Very much of it depends on the Afghan government and their ability to provide goods and services to these people." said Hayden in response to a question posed by **Brig. Gen. Naushad Kayani of Pakistan**, USAWC International Fellow.

Following terrorism, China and Russia were said to be key players in U.S. foreign policy as world power shifts to Asia.

"America will remain the permanent power but we will see a dramatic shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific," said Hayden.

Hayden warned students that we should see China as a competitor but not an inevitable enemy. Similarly, Russia he said will continue to restore their position as a world influence.

While discussing the European Union as key player, Hayden noted that they are our closest ally on terrorism.

"Still the U.S. and the EU fundamentally disagree about how to go about it, and this difference will likely not change with a new administration," he said.

Many students said they were impressed with Hayden's assessment and how well it tied in with their classes.

"He really solidified what we are learning here. It was great to hear that this was the same assessment he

provides for the new administration," said **Jimmie Vaughn**, student.

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