

Ambassador Michael Carpenter
Special Assistant to the President
Senior Director for Europe
National Security Council, The White House



Ambassador Michael Carpenter currently serves as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Europe at the National Security Council. In this role, Dr. Carpenter advises the National Security Advisor and coordinates U.S. national security policy on European affairs, including the Russia-Ukraine war.

Dr. Carpenter previously served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Prior to assuming this position, Dr. Carpenter was the Managing Director of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania. From 2015-17, he served in the Pentagon as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, and Conventional Arms Control. Previously, he worked in the White House as a foreign policy advisor to then-Vice President Biden and as Director for Russia at the National Security Council. Prior to his White House jobs, Carpenter was a career Foreign Service Officer with the State Department serving in a range of domestic and overseas assignments.

During his State Department career, Ambassador Carpenter received four Superior Honor Awards and three Meritorious Honor Awards. For his academic work, he received fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the International Research & Exchanges Board, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Ambassador Carpenter holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stanford University a master's degree and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley. He speaks fluent Polish and Slovenian, as well as some German, French, and Czech. He enjoys skiing, hiking, watching movies, and traveling with his family.