


# AFPC's Historical Presence in Ukraine

Forming transnational relationships  
through experience and conversation.



AMERICAN FOREIGN  
POLICY COUNCIL

Elements of AFPC-sponsored  
study delegations to Ukraine,  
2015-2021.



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For over two decades, the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC) has upheld a steady relationship with Ukrainian leadership, including senior officials in the Presidential Office, members of the Rada (parliament), cabinet members, defense agencies, and intelligence services. Visits to several important cities across the country including Kiev, Kharkiv, Poltova, and the Donbas region have helped to solidify authentic relationships between AFPC experts and Ukrainians.

Though there has been a significant global increase in focus on Ukraine since the 2022 invasion by Russian forces, AFPC has been deeply invested in Ukrainian affairs for years, as displayed throughout the following images.

# 2015



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AFPC sponsored a study delegation to Ukraine in the fall of 2015 to meet with Ukrainian officials across Kiev, Kharkiv, and Poltova to discuss diplomatic and economic relations.

## ON-SITE HOSPITAL VISITATION

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AFPC delegates visited Ukraine's leading hospital for burn victims for the chance to speak with doctors and leading staff members. The need for new medical equipment and infrastructure was presented because of the dated machinery and lack of supplies essential for patient care.



## CONVERSATION WITH UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT

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The AFPC delegation met with Andriy Parubiy, the First Deputy Speaker of the Rada. This meeting involved conversations regarding Ukrainian politics following Maidan.

# DISCUSSIONS OF UKRAINIAN CULTURAL IDENTITY

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AFPC's 2015 delegation met with Volodymyr Viatrovych, director of The Ukrainian Institute of National Memory. Amidst an abiding national identity crisis post-Russian invasion, the conversation allowed our delegation to further understand the depth and difficulty of the multifaceted issue surrounding sense of self.



# 2016



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Following a similar format as the 2015 trip, AFPC sponsored a 2016 study delegation led by president Herman Pirchner, Jr. and former Secretary of Homeland Security and Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Ridge.

# A VISIT TO UKRAINIAN MILITARY BASE

The delegation visited Ukraine's Yavoriv Military Base which functions as part of the Joint Multinational Training Group.



Here, military trainers from the United States, Poland, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Latvia collaborated to develop an improved military program for Ukraine to combat Russian threats. The continued pertinence of such programs was made clear to our delegates.



# DISCUSSION OF UKRAINE'S WEAK ECONOMY

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The delegation met with members of Ukrainian parliament to examine issues in the economic sector. Included in these members was Anna Hopko, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Ukrainian parliament.

Conversations throughout the trip highlighted the importance of the United State's continued pressure on this issue. The underlying argument emphasized that anticorruption efforts are just as significant as Russian aggression.



## HEALTH TALKS

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A conversation with Ulyana Suprun, Ukraine's Acting Minister of Health at the time, offered clarity on some of the systematic issues surrounding medicine and healthcare for Ukrainian citizens, including substantial corruption specifically within the health care sector.



# 2017

AFPC's 2017 trip to Ukraine focused specifically on the continuing war with Russia, reform validity in Kiev, as well as discussions of cooperation with Western powers. Dr. William Schneider, former Under Secretary of State and Pentagon Defense Science Board Chairman, and Herman Pirchner, Jr. headed this delegation.

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# INTERACTION WITH LEADERSHIP AT YAVORIV MILITARY BASE

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The AFPC delegation returns to the Yavoriv Military Base for a second year in a row, learning more about Ukraine's updated military strategy and training program. Since the delegation's 2016 visit, clear developments in military stability have been made.

Ukrainian military experts continue to ask for U.S. military support primarily in the form of weaponry, yet the U.S. does not feel comfortable with this form of aid at this time.



# DISCUSSION OF THE REFORM AGENDA

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The delegation met with Minister of the Interior Mr. Arsen Avakov. Discussions involved Ukraine's reform agenda at the time of the delegation's trip. Highlights included conversation regarding law enforcement, justice, and the public health system.

While in the capital, the delegation met with Ukrainian Rada Speaker the Honorable Andriy Parubiy.



# 2018

AFPC sponsored another delegation to Ukraine in the spring of 2018 with focus on current issues facing the developing nation. Militaristic improvements, health care, and national identity were main points of conversation.

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# DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING MILITARY STRATEGY

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The delegation began in the Donbas region of Ukraine to meet with elite combat forces on the front line of the combat zone. This included a meeting with First Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, General Colonel Ihor Kolenyk. Clear improvements had been made to The Ukrainian Army in size and efficiency, but attracting eligible recruits remains an issue.



# IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH CARE

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The AFPC delegation had the opportunity to speak with Ulyana Suprun, Ukraine's acting Health Minister, for a third year in a row. Significant improvements had been made to the nation's health care system, thanks to Suprun's prioritization of primary care and payment reform.



## DISCUSSION OF "UKRAINE FATIGUE"

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Meetings in Kiev with governmental officials including the Prime Minister, other ministers, Rada members, Speaker of the Rada, and others highlighted various aspects of Ukrainian politics. One significant topic of conversation across meetings was "Ukraine Fatigue", the ideology that as more news about Ukraine is broadcasted, the less interested foreign states become in that news.





# 2019

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AFPC's 2019 trip to Ukraine was spent in Kiev with several important national figures to discuss augmentations to Ukrainian governmental structure that have stemmed from the new presidency.

## MEETINGS IN KIEV

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The AFPC delegation spoke with several influential members of Ukraine's government, including members of the national legislature and the cabinet, staff of President Zelensky, Kiev's mayor, and the Rada. The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine was also present for several meetings. Discussions included Zelensky's policy goals of rapid action in new legislation and executive policy.



It was also noted that significant improvements had been made to Ukraine's health care system since AFPC's delegation visited the country in 2018. The general health of Ukraine is projected to improve after 2019 because of Dr. Ulyana Suprun's reform efforts, including the momentous establishment of a primary care system.



# 2021



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After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AFPC returned to Ukraine through another sponsored study delegation. U.S. delegates included former Deputy to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Jon Lerner, and former Deputy Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff at the National Security Council, Alexander Gray. The delegates traveled to Kiev for high-profile meetings, as well as to Mariupol and the border to visit Ukrainian forces.

# DISCUSSION OF ZELENSKY'S CONTINUING CHALLENGES

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Meetings with several important Ukrainian officials accentuated the significance of Russian aggression, institutional reform, and economic ramifications of COVID-19 for the country.

The delegation had the opportunity to meet with Head of the Security Service of Ukraine, Ivan Bakanov, during their meetings in Kiev. A meeting was also held with General Ruslan Khomchak, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to discuss tensions with Russia.





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