



AMERICAN FOREIGN
POLICY COUNCIL



US-Ukraine Security Dialogue XVIII: Taking Measure of Ukraine's Defense Capabilities & Needs After a Fourth Year of War

Date: February 25 2026

**Venue: University Club
1135 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20045**

8:30 am – 9:00 am – Registration

9:00 am – 9:05 am – Opening Remarks

9:05 am – 9:35 am – Highlight Focus Session I

Theme: How Might the West Best Aid Ukraine in Its Present Hour of Need – Kyiv Voice

Chair: Adrian Karatnycky [Senior Fellow/Atlantic Council of the United States]

Featured Remarks: Oleh Shyriaiev [‘Hero of Ukraine’/Order of the Gold Star]

9:35 am – 10:45 am – Dialogue Panel Discussion I

Theme: Assessing Ukraine's Land Force Capabilities and Needs

Discussion Leader: BGen. Mark Kimmitt [DOD Dep. Asst. Sec. 2006-08/Asst. Sec of State/PMA 2008-09]

Three Panelists: Gen. Wesley Clark [SACEUR 1997-2000][WKC Associates]
George Barros [Russia Team & Geospatial Intelligence Team Lead/ISW]
Luke Coffey [Senior Fellow/Hudson Institute]

10:45 am – 10:50 am – Coffee Break

10:50 am – 12:00 pm – Dialogue Panel Discussion II

Theme: Assessing Ukraine's Maritime & Coastal Defense Capabilities and Needs

Discussion Leader: Debra Cagan [Atlantic Council of the United States]

Three Panelists: Capt. Andriy Ryzhenko [Dep. Chief of Staff/UA Navy/EA Integration 2012-2020]
Glen Howard [President/Saratoga Foundation]
Steven Wills [Navalist/Center for Maritime Strategy/Navy League]

12:00 pm – 12:20 pm – Lunch Break
[Press Interviews]

12:20 pm – 12:35 pm – A Core Question: Why Ukraine Matters

Featured Speaker: Rep. Don Bacon [R-NE]

12:35 pm – 1:45 pm – Dialogue Panel Discussion III

Theme: Evaluating Ukraine's Air & Air Defense Capabilities and Needs

Discussion Leader: Amb. William Courtney [A|Senior Fellow/RAND Corporation]

Three Panelists: Gen. Philip Breedlove [SACEUR 2013-2016][Georgia Tech]
Kateryna Stepanenko [Russia Research Fellow/Institute for the Study of War]
Anne Harvey [Program Officer/American Foreign Policy Council]

1:45 pm – 3:05 pm – Dialogue Panel Discussion IV

Theme: Evaluating Ukraine's Special Operations & Cyber-Warfare/Informational Warfare Capabilities & Needs [With a Glance at the Energy Infrastructure Wars]

Discussion Leader: Herman Pirchner [President/American Foreign Policy Council]

Four Panelists: RAdm. Mark Montgomery [Senior Director/FDD Center on Cyber & Technology Innovation]
Kateryna Sedova [Senior Fellow/Atlantic Council of the United States][Georgetown U]
Mark Thomas [Chair of the Poitics Department/Lasalle University]
Ariel Cohen [Energy, Growth, and Security Program Director/ITIC][ACUS]
Special Commentator: Amb. Roman Popadiuk [Chair/Diplomacy Center Foundation/US Envoy to UA 1992-93]

3:05 pm – 3:10 pm – Coffee Break

3:10 pm – 4:30 pm – Dialogue Panel Discussion V

Theme: In Lieu of a Drone Summit - A Question: Are Ukraine's Drone Technology Innovations Leading to a Shift in the Fundamentals of Warfare - Whether Land, Sea or Air

Discussion Leader: Kateryna Shynkaruk [Senior Lecturer/Bush School of Government/Texas A&M]

Four Panelists: Andrij Zahorodnyuk [Minister of Defense of Ukraine 2019-2020][CDS]
Stephen Blank [Senior Fellow/Foreign Policy Research Institute]
Zenovy Wowczuk [Founder & Chair/Civil-Military Innovation Institute]
Reuben Johnson [Senior Correspondent National Security Journal]
Special Commentator: Greg Melcher [CEO/Center for New Generation Warfare]

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm – Highlight Focus Session II

Theme: How Might the West Best Aid Ukraine in Its Present Hour of Need – DC Perspective

Chair: Ilan Berman [Executive Vice President/American Foreign Policy Council]
Featured Remarks: Jamie Fly [President/Freedom House]

5:45 pm – 8:00 PM Patrons' Reception

[Venue: American Foreign Policy Council/509 C St. NE Washington DC 20002]