



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 – 9:30 am – The First Word

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

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

Featured Speaker: Oleh Shyriaiev ['Hero of Ukraine'/Order of the Gold Star]

9:30 am – 10:45 am – Dialogue Panel Discussion I

Theme: Assessing Ukraine's Land Force Capabilities and Needs

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

Three Panelists: Wesley Clark [SACEUR 1997-2000][WKC/A]

George Barros [Institute for the Study of War]

Luke Coffey [Hudson Institute]

10:45 am – 10:50 am – Coffee Break

10:50 am – 12:05 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: Andriy Ryzhenko [Dep. Chief of Staff/UA Navy/EA Integration 2012-2020]

Glen Howard [Saratoga Foundation]

Steven Wills [Center for Maritime Strategy/Navy League]

12:05 pm – 12:25 pm – Lunch Break [Press Interviews]

12:25 pm – 1:40 pm – Dialogue Panel Discussion III

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

Discussion Leader: William Courtney [RAND Corporation]

Three Panelists: Philip Breedlove [SACEUR 2013-2016][Georgia Tech]

Kateryna Stepanenko [Institute for the Study of War]

Anne Harvey [American Foreign Policy Council]

1:40 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 [American Foreign Policy Council]

Four Panelists: Mark Montgomery [FDD Center on Cyber and Technology Innovation]

Kateryna Sedova [Atlantic Council of the United States][Georgetown U]

Mark Thomas [Lasalle University]

Ariel Cohen [Energy, Growth, and Security Program/ITIC][ACUS]

Special Commentator: Roman Popadiuk [US Envoy to UA 1992-1993][DCF]

3:00 pm – 3:05 pm – Coffee Break

3:05 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 [Bush School of Government/Texas A&M]

Four Panelists: Andrij Zahorodnyuk [Minister of Defense of Ukraine 2019-2020][CDS]

Stephen Blank [Foreign Policy Research Institute]

Zenovy Wowczuk [Civil-Military Innovation Institute]

Reuben Johnson [National Security Journal]

Special Commentator: Greg Melcher [Center for New Generation Warfare]

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm – The Last Word

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 Speaker: United States Representative Don Bacon (R-NE)

5:45 pm – 8:00 PM Patrons' Reception

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