

Panel Executive Brief: Perspectives from the Frontlines: Ukraine

Ukraine is not a post-conflict state; there are areas of the nation under Russian occupation and any successful stabilization is contingent on Russia's cooperation. This is an international issue that is causing a humanitarian crisis in areas near the frontline.

Speakers

Ben Long - *Country Representative, (USAID/OTI) Ukraine*

Oksana Shulyar - *Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister-Counsellor*

LTC Jonathan Bleakley - *92nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Fort Bragg*

Dr. Terrence Hopmann - *Professor of International Relations, Conflict Management Program, Johns Hopkins SAIS*

Moderator: Lauren L. Van Metre - Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Key Issues/Problems discussed:

- This is a hybrid conflict with a civil uprising, Russian engagement, and some US involvement.
- There is an ongoing, multi-faceted hot conflict occurring in parts of Ukraine.
- US intervention, on its own, is unlikely to be helpful due to the nature of the conflict.

Key Recommendations:

- There needs to be cooperation among leadership from Ukraine, Russia, the EU, and the US in order to establish a political solution.
- Work on capacity building with partners and people on the ground.
- Implement mechanisms to support Minsk Agreement.
- Imperative to continue with civic engagement and going into communities in the hopes of making Ukrainians more invested in their communities and the future of their country.
- The US should maintain a strong position in order to get Russia to engage.

Significance of SAR:

While there are many international actors involved, Ukrainian civic engagement needs support in order to overall better Ukraine's future. Work purely through the EU, US, Russia, and Ukraine on a national level will not solve the issues that this conflict has caused.