



Ground Truth Symposium

Operational Briefing on Drone Warfare and Modern Battlefield Lessons

Washington, D.C. · March 25, 2026 · 11:00 am – 3:00 pm · Invitation Only

The Ground Truth Symposium convenes Members of Congress, congressional staff, defense officials, and select industry leaders for an operational briefing on how drone-dominant warfare in Ukraine is reshaping modern combat and what it means for U.S. force design, allied defense, and American national security. Ukrainian front-line leaders and U.S. practitioners will share direct battlefield insight on force protection, training, battlefield adaptation, and the scaling of modern military capabilities.

The objective is to translate frontline experience from Ukraine into practical lessons for U.S. stakeholders responsible for defense strategy, procurement, and force readiness.

Opening Remarks Bill Cole, Peace Through Strength Institute | Keynote: Congressman Don Bacon

Strategic Framing | How Ending the War in Ukraine Serves U.S. Interests Bill Cole, Alik Kasman, Robert "Magyar" Brovdi (remote)

Panel I | What Makes Time Work Against Russia – Mod: Illya Sekirin UAF commanders and officers Focus: Creating battlefield conditions where Ukraine gains momentum while degrading Russian capabilities.

Panel II | Air Defense and Counter-Drone Lessons – Mod: Oleg Gorenko UAF commanders and officers; Congressman Pat Harrigan Focus: Layered defense, low-cost interception, and protecting forces and infrastructure from drone threats.

Panel III | Battlefield Reality: Imposing Costs on Russia – Mod: Sergey Lubarsky UAF commanders and officers Focus: Operational innovation including drones, electronic warfare, and intelligence integration.

Panel IV | Building Effective Drone and Tactical Operators – Mod: Alik Kasman UAF commanders and officers Focus: Training pipelines and developing effective operators in modern drone warfare.

Panel V | Scaling What Works on the Battlefield – Mod: Illya Sekirin UAF commanders and officers; Volodymyr Stepanets Focus: Equipment, logistics, connectivity, and production required to scale successful battlefield models.

Panel speakers are officers from the 429th "Achilles," 414th "Magyar's Birds," 59th "Steppe Predators," Azov, and Lazar Group. Individual identities are classified.

Fireside Conversation | Industrial and Capital Bridge Bill Cole, Dmytro Dobrodomov, Bill Cronenberg, Perry Boyle Ukrainian drone manufacturing, innovation speed, and U.S.–Ukraine industrial partnership.

Closing Synthesis | Key Takeaways for U.S. Stakeholders Bill Cole and Alik Kasman