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AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES: *The Russia Reality*

A National Security Briefing
Washington, D.C. | June 10

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The Russia Reality

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Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Meaghan Mobbs, Director
Independent Women's Center for American Safety and Security

10:20 A.M. **NATIONAL ANTHEM**
Alexis Wilkins

10:25 A.M. **WELCOME REMARKS**
Dr. Meaghan Mobbs

10:40 A.M. **OPENING REMARKS**
The Honorable Stephen Biegun

11:00 A.M. **PANEL I: Russia, Iran, China and the Axis of Disruption**
MODERATOR: Katie Pavlich
PANELISTS: Ilan Berman, Representative Pat Harrigan, Daniel Hoffman, Nadia Schadlow

11:45 A.M. **NETWORKING BREAK**

12:00 P.M. **PANEL II: The Foundations of American Power: Strengths, Vulnerabilities, and Strategic Competition**
MODERATOR: Daniella Cheslow
PANELISTS: Matthew Boyse, Michael Kofman, Nate Vance

12:45 P.M. **LUNCHEON BUFFET IN THE COURTYARD**

1:10 P.M. **THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION**
Marissa Streit In Conversation with Kaylee McGhee White

1:40 P.M. **PANEL III: Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?**
MODERATOR: Ambassador John Herbst
PANELISTS: Sergei Chapnin, Sarah Makin, Maria Snegovaya, Dr. Charmaine Yoest

2:25 P.M. **AFTERNOON KEYNOTE**
Oleksandr Usyk In Conversation with Caitlin Doornbos

2:50 P.M. **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:05 P.M. **TARGETED: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT**
Alexis Wilkins

3:15 P.M. **PANEL IV: The Information War at Home: Social Media and Adversarial Influence**
MODERATOR: Caitlin Doornbos
PANELISTS: James Lindsay, Park MacDougald, Matt Tardio

3:55 P.M. **PANEL V: How Americans See Russia Today**
MODERATOR: Dr. Meaghan Mobbs
PANELISTS: Carrie Filipetti, Steven Moore

4:45 P.M. **CLOSING KEYNOTE: Where We Go From Here**
Lieutenant General (R) Keith Kellogg

5:05 P.M. **CLOSING REMARKS**
Dr. Meaghan Mobbs

5:20 P.M. **250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN THE COURTYARD**

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WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Meaghan Mobbs

Director, Independent Women's Center for American Safety and Security

Meaghan Mobbs, PhD, is the director of the Center for American Safety and Security at Independent Women. She is an experienced policy and political leader. She's a graduate of West Point, holds a masters in forensic psychology from George Washington University and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Columbia University. A Tillman Scholar and George W. Bush Veteran Leadership Scholar, she was a Presidential appointee to the United States Military Academy–West Point Board of Visitors and is a current Gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors. As a former Army officer, small business owner, and leader of a multimillion-dollar private operating foundation, she's led significant security and humanitarian efforts around the world. In various capacities, she's chartered relationships with the US Government, multi-national governments, nongovernmental organizations, and donors and has advised numerous business leaders and government officials on defense, national security, and public safety. Having testified before Congress on topics including the military recruitment crisis and religious freedom, her insights on national security, foreign policy, and defense are informed by her eclectic background and expertise in psychology. Her published, peer-reviewed research into the unique psychosocial stressors experienced during wartime service pioneered the concept of "transition stress." As a former paratrooper and combat veteran, she continues to advocate for service members through her board memberships and volunteer activities.



OPENING REMARKS

The Honorable Stephen Biegun

Former Deputy Secretary of State

Stephen E. Biegun has more than three decades of international affairs experience in government and the private sector, including high-level government service with the Department of State, the White House, and the United States Congress. In 2021, Mr. Biegun concluded his most recent government service as PRESIDENT TRUMP'S Deputy Secretary of State, to which he was confirmed by the Senate with a strong bipartisan vote of 90-3. In addition to his government service, Mr. Biegun also worked for two decades in the private sector as a corporate vice president with both Ford Motor Company and The Boeing Company.

As the State Department's second ranking diplomat, Mr. Biegun oversaw the full breadth of national security and foreign policy decision-making, reporting to the Secretary of State. He led the State Department response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the evacuation of over 100,000 Americans stranded abroad during the shut down of travel. His other principal efforts were focussed on the Korean Peninsula, US-China relations, the broader Indo-Pacific region, US-Russia relations, Eastern Europe, and arms control.

Mr. Biegun began his career as a foreign policy specialist with the United States Congress, with a focus on Russia, the former Soviet Union, and Europe, ultimately rising to a number of senior-level positions including chief of staff of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee and as the national security advisor to Senate Majority Leader. He spent two years as the Executive Secretary of the White House National Security Council, serving as an advisor and deputy to the National Security Advisor. In the early 1990s, Mr. Biegun led a Moscow-based technical assistance program working closely with Russia's first post-Soviet government.

Mr. Biegun has volunteered as a board member for several international, national, and local non-profit organizations and currently serves on the boards of the National Endowment for Democracy and the German Marshall Fund. He graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian language and political science.



PANEL I

Russia, Iran, China and The Axis of Disruption

Moderator

Katie Pavlich

Host, Katie Pavlich Tonight

Katie Pavlich is the host of Katie Pavlich Tonight on NewsNation at 10 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday.

She is the former editor for Townhall.com and contributing editor to Townhall Magazine, where she worked for 16 years. For the past 13 years, Katie was a top contributor for Fox News, regularly joining major special event coverage and served as a rotating guest host on #1 rated The Five. She also hosted series programming and documentaries for Fox Nation.

As a reporter, she has covered a variety of topics ranging from presidential and congressional elections to the White House, Department of Justice, Second Amendment, border issues, the ISIS genocide of Christians in the Middle East and more. In 2014 and 2024, Katie reported on Hamas wars against Israel. In 2017, she traveled to China with a delegation of journalists where she met with officials and spoke to university students about the importance of free speech. In 2019 and 2020, she traveled with the State Department to cover a series of diplomatic trips made by the Secretary of State. In July 2020 and January 2026, Katie interviewed President Donald Trump from the White House. In 2025, she covered President Trump in the White House press pool and aboard Air Force One for historic trips to NATO, the United Nations and the Middle East. Katie is a previous columnist for The Hill and Pittsburgh-Tribune.



PANEL I

Russia, Iran, China and The Axis of Disruption

Ilan Berman

Senior Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council

Ilan Berman is Senior Vice President of the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, DC.

Prof. Berman is a member of the Associated Faculty at Missouri State University's Department of Defense and Strategic Studies. A frequent writer and commentator, he has written for The Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Washington Post and USA Today, among many other publications.

Mr. Berman is the editor of six books: Dismantling Tyranny: Transitioning Beyond Totalitarian Regimes (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), co-edited with J. Michael Waller; Taking on Tehran: Strategies for Confronting the Islamic Republic (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007); Iran's Strategic Penetration of Latin America (Lexington Books, 2015), co-edited with Joseph Humire; The Logic of Irregular War: Asymmetry and America's Adversaries (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); Digital Dictators: Media, Authoritarianism, and America's New Challenge (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018); and, most recently, Wars of Ideas: Theology, Interpretation and Power in the Muslim World (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021).

He is also the author of six others: Tehran Rising: Iran's

Challenge to the United States (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), Winning the Long War: Retaking the Offensive Against Radical Islam (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), Implosion: The End of Russia and What It Means for America (Regnery Publishing, 2013); Iran's Deadly Ambition: The Islamic Republic's Quest for Global Power (Encounter Books, 2015); The Fight for Iran: Opposition Politics, Protest, and the Struggle for the Soul of a Nation (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020) and, most recently, Challenging Moscow's Message: Russian Disinformation and the Western Response (AFPC Press, 2023).



PANEL I

Russia, Iran, China and The Axis of Disruption

Representative Pat Harrigan

U.S. Representative for North Carolina's 10th District

Congressman Pat Harrigan brings a lifetime of service, leadership, and innovation to the U.S. House of Representatives. A combat-decorated Green Beret and a successful entrepreneur, Congressman Harrigan has dedicated his career to tackling challenges—on the battlefield, in business, and now in Congress.

After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in Nuclear Engineering, Congressman Harrigan commissioned as an Infantry officer and was stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He deployed to Afghanistan as a young Platoon Leader, commanding a remote combat outpost in the heart of the Arghandab Valley. At just 23 years old, Congressman Harrigan managed over 350 personnel and $100 million in infrastructure and equipment, gaining invaluable experience in high-pressure leadership.

Recognizing the need for even greater expertise in unconventional warfare, Congressman Harrigan volunteered for and earned the Green Beret. As a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces, he returned to Afghanistan to lead operations in increasingly complex and volatile environments. For his service, he was awarded two Bronze Stars in recognition of his leadership and effectiveness in combat. These experiences shaped his understanding of the critical connection between accountability, mission success, and guiding teams under pressure.

While serving in the military, Congressman Harrigan and his wife Rocky launched a small firearms business out of their home. Rooted in North Carolinian values of hard work and ingenuity, the company grew rapidly. What began in their living room quickly scaled into a thriving enterprise, producing American-made defense products that support national security. Today, the company operates out of a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Western North Carolina, creating jobs and fostering innovation for the region.

The fall of Afghanistan marked a turning point for Congressman Harrigan. Watching the consequences of failed leadership unfold, he knew he had to act. Motivated by his dedication to his country and a desire to restore strength and accountability to Washington, Congressman Harrigan stepped forward to serve in Congress.

Now, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Harrigan applies the same principles that guided him in the Army and in business: bold leadership, unshakable integrity, and a commitment to delivering results.

Congressman Harrigan and his wife Rocky have been married for 13 years and are the proud parents of two daughters, Reagan and McKinley. As North Carolina's voice in Congress, Pat is dedicated to serving the hardworking families and communities of the Tenth District. In every role—whether leading soldiers, growing a business, or serving his constituents—Congressman Harrigan remains dedicated to building a stronger, more secure America.



PANEL I

Russia, Iran, China and The Axis of Disruption

Daniel Hoffman

Former CIA Station Chief

Daniel N. Hoffman is a Fox News contributor. He also serves on the BGR Advisory Board and works as an independent consultant. Before joining Fox News, Hoffman had a distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency, where he was a three-time station chief and a senior executive Clandestine Services officer. Hoffman also led large-scale HUMINT (human intelligence gathering) and technical programs and his assignments included tours of duty in the former Soviet Union, Europe and war zones in the Middle East and South Asia. In addition, Hoffman served as director of the CIA Middle East and North Africa Division. During his 30 years of government service, Hoffman also served with the U.S. military including as an associate professor at the Army Command General Staff College. Hoffman graduated from Bates College with a B. A. in History. He has a Master of Science from the London School of Economics and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (2006).



PANEL I

Russia, Iran, China and The Axis of Disruption

Nadia Schadlow

Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute; Co-Chair, Hamilton Commission; Former Deputy National Security Advisor to President Trump

Nadia Schadlow is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute and a co-chair of the Hamilton Commission on Securing America's National Security Innovation Base.

She conducts research and analysis on a range of issues at the intersection of strategy, national security, and technology. She writes on topics that include the vulnerabilities of US supply chains in areas such as advanced batteries and energetic materials; the relationship between climate and defense policy; and the disconnects between strategy and operational policies. Her articles have appeared in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Hill, Parameters, the Wall Street Journal, Philanthropy, and several edited volumes.

Dr. Schadlow was most recently US deputy national security advisor for strategy. In that capacity she led the drafting and publication of the 2017 National Security Strategy of the United States. Earlier in her career, she served as a senior program officer in the International Security and Foreign Policy Program of the Smith Richardson Foundation, where she helped identify strategic issues that warranted further attention from the US policy community. She also served in the Defense Department.

Dr. Schadlow holds a BA in government and Soviet studies from Cornell University and an MA and PhD from the John Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



PANEL II

The Foundations of American Power: Strengths, Vulnerabilities, and Strategic Competition

Moderator

Daniella Cheslow

National Security Reporter, POLITICO

Daniella Cheslow is anchor of the National Security Daily newsletter, where she helms POLITICO's coverage of the Trump administration's approach to foreign affairs and defense policy. She's also worked as POLITICO's deputy tech editor, and before that, reported for the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse from Jerusalem.



PANEL II

The Foundations of American Power: Strengths, Vulnerabilities, and Strategic Competition

Matthew Boyse

Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

Matthew Boyse is a senior fellow with Hudson Institute's Center on Europe and Eurasia specializing in Central Europe. He is also an adjunct lecturer at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, the George Washington University, and American University.

A former senior foreign service officer, Mr. Boyse served in Washington, Europe, Canada, and South Asia during his thirty-plus years with the State Department. His last roles included serving as deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs overseeing US policy toward Central Europe and in the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, as well as serving as sherpa for the Three Seas Initiative and chargé d'affaires in Switzerland, Finland, Romania, and the US Mission to NATO. Prior to that, Mr. Boyse served as acting deputy chief of mission and minister counselor for political affairs in Ottawa, Canada, from 2015 until 2018.

Mr. Boyse had three assignments in Germany: as the political advisor to three commanding generals with US Army Europe, as US consul general in Duesseldorf, and with the US Embassy in Berlin. His other overseas tours were Kabul, Afghanistan; New Delhi, India; Warsaw, Poland; Moscow, Russia; Dhaka, Bangladesh; and London, United Kingdom. In Washington, he was deputy director (political affairs)

in the Office of European Union and Regional Affairs and executive assistant to the assistant secretary for economic and business affairs. Before joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Boyse was an East Germany and USSR analyst at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and a DAAD visiting fellow at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, both in Germany.

Mr. Boyse has a BA in classics from Haverford College and an MA in Soviet and East European studies from Columbia University. He speaks German, Polish, and Russian.



PANEL II

The Foundations of American Power: Strengths, Vulnerabilities, and Strategic Competition

Michael Kofman

American Military Analyst

Michael Kofman serves as a Senior Research Scientist in the Russia Studies Program at CNA and as a Fellow at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. His research focuses on the Russia and the former Soviet Union, specializing in Russian armed forces, military thought, capabilities, and strategy. Previously, he served as a Program Manager and subject matter expert at National Defense University, advising senior military and government officials on issues in Russia and Eurasia. Mr. Kofman is also a Senior Editor at War on the Rocks, where he regularly authors articles on strategy, the Russian military, Russian decision-making, and related foreign policy issues. He runs a personal blog on the Russian armed forces at https://russianmilitaryanalysis.wordpress.com/

Mr. Kofman has published numerous articles on the Russian armed forces, security issues in Russia/Eurasia, and analyses for the US government. He holds an MA in International Security from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

PANEL II

The Foundations of American Power: Strengths, Vulnerabilities, and Strategic Competition

Nate Vance

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran; Former Volunteer Combatant, Ukraine

Nate Vance is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former volunteer combatant in Ukraine, where he spent nearly three years supporting Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression. Drawing on firsthand experience from the front lines, he has participated in some of the war's most significant battles and brings a unique perspective on modern warfare, national security, and the conflict in Eastern Europe.



THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION

Marissa Streit

Chief Executive Officer, PragerU

Marissa Streit is the chief executive officer of PragerU, the nation's largest edu-tainment nonprofit. Marissa's clear-eyed leadership made PragerU one of the most influential education media organizations that teaches American history, civics, and values. PragerU videos receive more than two billion views annually.

When Marissa took the helm of PragerU in 2011, she began to redefine how American values compete in the modern media landscape, and in our culture. Marissa pioneered PragerU's edu-tainment approach, which blends education with all-American storytelling and cutting-edge digital media. PragerU content equips students of all ages, especially America's rising generations with 60 percent of YouTube viewers under the age of 35.

Marissa is also the host of PragerU's Real Talk, a fast-growing interview series featuring leading voices across politics, culture, and education. The show is a high-level platform for long-form conversation, already drawing millions of viewers and further expanding PragerU's reach and influence.

She launched PragerU Kids in 2023, a landmark expansion into supplemental education content specifically designed

for K–12 students, their families, and educators. Since its inception, PragerU Kids has forged partnerships with 12 states and counting, and its resources are in classrooms across the country. PragerU Kids supplemental education content on history, civics, social studies, and financial literacy includes books, videos, suggested lesson plans, and more.

Marissa earned her bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from UCLA, and a master's degree in Education and Non-Profit Management from the American Jewish University. Marissa's career began by serving students as a teacher, and then as a headmistress of two southern California schools. Today Marissa is unafraid of defending American values and is shaped by a fervent love for America and an abiding commitment to education.



THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS: SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION

Kaylee McGhee White

Editor-In-Chief, IW Features; Fox News Contributor

Kaylee McGhee White is the editor-in-chief for Independent Women Features and a Fox News contributor. Her work has appeared in Fox Digital, the New York Post, Washington Examiner, RealClearPolitics, and more. She graduated from Hillsdale College with a degree in politics and journalism.



PANEL III

Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?

Moderator

Ambassador John Herbst

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine and Uzbekistan; Senior Director, Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center

Ambassador John E. Herbst is senior director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center and served for thirty-one years as a foreign service officer in the US Department of State, retiring at the rank of career minister. He was US ambassador to Ukraine from 2003 to 2006, when he worked to enhance US-Ukrainian relations, help ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election, and prevent violence during the Orange Revolution. Prior to that, he was ambassador to Uzbekistan (2000-03), where he played a critical role in the establishment of an American base to help conduct Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also promoted improved US-Uzbek relations, in part by encouraging the government in Tashkent to improve its human rights record.

In his last four years at the State Department, he served as the coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, leading the US government's civilian capacity in societies in transition from conflict or civil strife, and to provide support to countries at risk of instability. He oversaw the establishment of the Civilian Response Corps of the United States, the US civilian rapid response force for reconstruction and stabilization operations overseas.

Ambassador Herbst previously served as US consul general in Jerusalem; principal deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large for the Newly Independent States; the director of the office of independent states and commonwealth affairs; director of regional affairs in the Near East Bureau; and at the embassies in Tel Aviv, Moscow, and Saudi Arabia.

He most recently served as director of the center for complex operations at National Defense University. He has received the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award, and the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award. Ambassador Herbst has written book chapters, articles, and op-eds on stability operations in Central Asia, Ukraine, and Russia. His writings have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the National Interest, and Foreign Policy. He has been a frequent guest discussing the Ukraine crisis on television and radio.

Ambassador Herbst earned a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Phi Beta Kappa, and a master of law and diplomacy, with distinction, from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. He also attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Bologna Center.



PANEL III

Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?

Sergei Chapnin

Communications Director, Fordham University;
Chief Editor, The Gifts Almanac

Director of Communications at the OCSC of Fordham University and Chief Editor of The Gifts (Дары) Almanac.

Sergei Chapnin is a former Moscow Patriarchate employee with over 15 years of experience. He has deep knowledge of Russian Orthodox traditions, Church administration, and Church-state relations in modern Russia.

Born in 1968, he graduated from Moscow State University, Journalism faculty and studied at St. Tikhon's Theological Insitute. In the 1990s, he worked for the leading independent newspapers in Moscow—*Kommersant* and *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. He became one of the first journalists in Russia to cover religious life in the post-Soviet space professionally. In 2001, at the invitation of Patriarch Alexey II, Mr. Chapnin was appointed Executive Editor of the *Church Herald* newspaper. Later, he was the Executive Editor of the leading official publication of the Russian Orthodox Church—T*he Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*, and Deputy Chief Editor of the Moscow Patriarchate Publishing House (2009-2015). In 2010-2013, he was a Secretary of the Church, State, and Society Commission of the Inter-Conciliar Board of the Russian Orthodox Church and a senior lecturer at Saint Tikhon Orthodox Humanitarian University, Faculty of Theology.

To describe the religiosity of contemporary Russian society, he introduced the concept of *post-Soviet civil religion*. In December 2015, after his lecture at Carnegie Center in Moscow (where he made a prognosis that a war in Ukraine would be given a religious justification), he was fired from all his positions personally by Patriarch Kirill.

Since 2022, he has been a Director of Communications at the Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University and Chief Editor of «Дары» (The Gifts), an almanac of contemporary Christian culture, and a curator of exhibitions on contemporary Christian art.

Mr. Chapnin is the author of numerous articles and commentary in national and international media, including Bloomberg, WSJ, NYT, CBS, NPR, The First Things (USA); BBC, The Economist (UK), Le Monde (France); Wiez, KAI (Poland) and many others.

He is the author of the books *The Church in Post-Soviet Russia. Revival, 'Quality of Faith', and Dialog with the Society* (2013) and *The Church Revival. A Summary* (2018), both in Russian.



PANEL III

Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?

Sarah Makin

Human Rights Advocate, Filmmaker;
Former U.S. Government Official

Sarah E. Makin is a human rights advocate, filmmaker, and former U.S. government official with deep expertise in national security policy and international religious freedom. She served in the first Trump administration as Deputy Assistant to the President, Senior Director on the National Security Council, and the President's Senior Advisor on International Religious Freedom. Prior to that post, Sarah served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Strategic Outreach, Public Liaison, and Intergovernmental Affairs to Vice President Mike Pence. Prior to her time in the White House, Sarah worked on Capitol Hill as a senior policy and coalitions advisor.

Sarah currently operates her own strategic advising firm in Washington, DC, and is a producer of "A Faith Under Siege," a documentary highlighting the persecution of Christians in Russian-occupied Ukraine.

Her work is dedicated to advancing human rights, defending religious minorities, and countering authoritarian repression. She collaborates regularly with international partners, civil society leaders, and faith communities to promote religious freedom and democratic resilience worldwide.



PANEL III

Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?

Maria Snegovaya

Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia, CSIS

Maria Snegovaya is a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia with the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and a postdoctoral fellow in Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. She studies Russia's domestic and foreign policy, as well as democratic backsliding in post-communist Europe and the tactics used by Russian actors and proxies who exploit these dynamics in the region. Her analysis has been published in multiple policy and peer-reviewed journals. Her research and commentary have appeared in a number of publications such as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, The Economist, and Foreign Policy. Throughout her career she has collaborated with multiple U.S. research centers and think tanks such as Center for a New American Security and Center for European Policy Analysis. Snegovaya holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University.



PANEL III

Russia: Conservative Beacon or Menace?

Dr. Charmaine Yoest

Executive Director, House Values Action Team

Dr. Charmaine Yoest is the Executive Director of the House Values Action Team of the United States Congress, which is a caucus of Congressmen focused on "civilizational" or "kitchen-table" issues important to American families, which is chaired by Congressman Robert Aderholt. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Pepperdine University in their School of Public Policy.

Charmaine has served in many facets of political life - in the White House, on a presidential campaign, and leading a national nonprofit. She has appeared as a spokesperson on every major television network and cable outlet, and has been published in the leading national publications. She has provided testimony in front of the United States Congress on multiple occasions. She is also the author of Mother in the Middle (HarperCollins), an examination of the issues, concerns and public policy questions related to women and work.

Previously, Charmaine served as a Vice President of the Heritage Foundation, leading the domestic policy work during the time the organization was voted #1 for Policy Impact three years running. Those issues included health care and welfare reform, education policy, family formation, women's issues and religious liberty.

Charmaine served in the White House as Associate Director of

the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and also as the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she provided leadership for the $1.3 trillion Department's public affairs programs, and coordination of strategic messaging across the 11 HHS Operating Divisions.

Dr. Yoest began her career working in the White House for President Ronald Reagan in Presidential Personnel and later served as a Senior Advisor to Governor Mike Huckabee's 2008 Presidential Campaign. She also served as President and CEO of Americans United for Life.

Dr. Yoest received her B.A. in Political Science from Wheaton College. Later, she earned an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Department of Politics at the University of Virginia, where she received Mellon, Olin, Bradley and Kohler fellowships and directed a national study on parental leave funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Charmaine and her husband are the parents of five children. Their children have all been Division One athletes and include an NCAA champion, four-time ACC champion and a CAA champion. Their older son is an Army Officer and Blackhawk Pilot. Their youngest son hit a home run at Cooperstown.



AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Oleksandr Usyk

Two-Time Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World (WBC, WBA, IBF, WBO) and Former Undisputed Cruiserweight Champion

Oleksandr Usyk is an undefeated Ukrainian boxer, Olympic gold medalist, and one of the most accomplished fighters of the modern era. A former undisputed cruiserweight world champion, he unified the WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO titles before moving to heavyweight, where he captured the WBA, IBF, WBO, and IBO titles, later added the WBC title, and became a two-time undisputed heavyweight world champion. Beyond the ring, Usyk is a proud Ukrainian, family man, philanthropist, and founder of Ready to Fight, Usyk Foundation, and Usyk-17 Promotions — initiatives focused on empowering the global boxing community, supporting Ukraine and people affected by the war, and developing the next generation of boxing talent.



AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Caitlin Doornbos

Foreign Policy & National Security Reporter,
New York Post

Caitlin Doornbos is a national security and foreign affairs journalist for the New York Post, covering the White House, Congress, and defense policy. She has reported extensively from the frontlines in Ukraine, bringing firsthand insight into the conflict and its global implications. Previously, she reported from the Pentagon for Stars and Stripes after covering the Navy's 7th Fleet as the military newspaper's Indo-Pacific correspondent based at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. Prior to that, she worked as a breaking news and crime reporter in Lawrence, Kansas, and Orlando, Florida, where she was part of the Orlando Sentinel team that was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. In 2025, Caitlin received the Marie Colvin Award for Foreign Correspondence from the Newswomen's Club of New York. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Texas at El Paso.



Alexis Wilkins

Political Writer and Commentator;
Country Music Artist

Alexis Wilkins is a political commentator, former Capitol Hill press secretary, and communications and strategic advisor to candidates, organizations, and businesses, as well as a consultant to campaigns and members of Congress. She is an NRA committee member, a nationally touring country music artist, and a spokesperson and strategic advisor for The American Border Story.



PANEL IV

The Information War at Home: Social Media and Adversarial Influence

James Lindsay

Founder, New Discourses; Author and Mathematician

James A. Lindsay is an American author, mathematician, and prominent conservative political commentator. He is best known as the founder of the media platform New Discourses and for his vocal, ongoing criticism of what he describes as “woke” ideology, critical race theory, and modern identity politics.



PANEL IV

The Information War at Home: Social Media and Adversarial Influence

Park MacDougald

Senior Writer, The Scroll; Fellow, Manhattan Institute

Park MacDougald is Editor of and Senior Writer at The Scroll, a newsletter by Tablet Magazine, and a Fellow at the Manhattan Institute. His writing has appeared in Tablet, City Journal, The Free Press, New York, American Affairs, UnHerd, and the Washington Examiner.



PANEL IV

The Information War at Home: Social Media and Adversarial Influence

Matt Tardio

Host, Speak the Truth Podcast; Geopolitical Expert

Matt Tardio is a medically retired U.S. Army Special Forces soldier, Chief Operating Officer for Battle Springs Ranch, podcast personality, and serves on the board for several companies. Notably, in 2022, Tardio helped in founding Global Villages of Hope, a non-profit organization which uses military techniques to build safe and self-sufficient villages to home internally displaced orphans and widows in Ukraine.

Tardio served the country in the Global War on Terror fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, conducted combat operations in East Africa, and deployed to Ukraine culminating in 48 months of leadership experience in hostile environments. In 2017, he deployed to Afghanistan to combat the Islamic State Khorason Province (ISIS-K). During that time, Tardio successfully led combat operations culminating in the liberation of several Afghan villages and the destruction of over 135 ISIS-K fighters.

In Ukraine, he and his team were the first Special Forces troops on the ground following the invasion of Crimea by Russia. While in Ukraine, Tardio helped advise the U.S. Deputy Ambassador to Ukraine as well as provided support to the Ukrainian Special Forces.

As a personal passion, Tardio frequently speaks on podcasts advocating for veterans who suffer from post-traumatic

stress. Most recently, he traveled to Ukraine to meet with members of the Ukrainian government which forged relations to get a jump start on the overwhelming humanitarian crisis taking place in Ukraine.

Tardio is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification Course, Basic Leader Course, Infantry Advance Leader Course and the Special Forces Senior Leader Course.



PANEL V

How Americans See Russia Today

Carrie Filipetti

Executive Director, Vandenberg Coalition;
Fellow, Wilson Center

Carrie Filipetti currently serves as the Executive Director of the Vandenberg Coalition and as a Wilson Center Distinguished Fellow. Prior to this role, Carrie served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cuba and Venezuela in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and the Deputy Special Representative for Venezuela at the U.S. Department of State, for which she received a Superior Honor Award. From 2019-2020, Carrie also served as the Senior Advisor to the Havana Incidents Task Force, where she was responsible for coordinating an inter-agency effort to address the causes of unexplained health incidents affecting U.S. personnel, and identifying proper long-term care mechanisms. Prior to these roles, Carrie served as a Senior Policy Advisor for the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN), where she advised U.S. Ambassador Nikki R. Haley on issues related to counterterrorism, the Middle East, and the Western Hemisphere.

Carrie began her career spending five years at a private family foundation, where she served as Director of Portfolio Management. Also in her capacity as Director of the Foundation, Carrie served as a Senior Advisor and co-founder of Start-Up Nation Central, a Tel-Aviv based non-profit that seeks to connect the world with Israeli innovation.

Carrie graduated with a degree in Religious Studies from the

University of Virginia as both a Jefferson and Echol's scholar. She currently serves on the board of the National Endowment for Democracy and Fired Up to Help, a non-profit focused on feeding first responders during local and national emergencies. She previously served as a volunteer EMT for Montgomery County, Maryland.



PANEL V

How Americans See Russia Today

Steven Moore

Founder, Ukraine Freedom Project

Steven Moore is a former chief of staff to a Republican member of leadership in the US House of Representatives. On day five of the war, he went to Ukraine and created the Ukraine Freedom Project to provide humanitarian assistance.

After spending the first year delivering aid to the front, Moore watched false Russian narratives run roughshod over the reality of what he was seeing on the ground. A lifelong campaign operative, Moore pivoted and the Ukraine Freedom Project began pushing back on $2 billion Russia spends annually on misinformation, delivering first-hand, data-driven information to his former colleagues on Capitol Hill and the media.

He has surveyed both Americans and Ukrainians extensively since 2023.

Moore has visited more than 130 Congressional offices since 2022. He has appeared multiple times on Fox News, The Brian Kilmeade Show, Newsmax, The Right View with Laura Trump and many other conservative media outlets. His writings about Ukraine and Russia have been published in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Washington Examiner, the Washington Times, the Cipher Brief and others.

Moore is also executive producer on A Faith Under Siege, which

tells the stories of Ukrainian Christians who have suffered at the hands of the Russians but have overcome through faith. Polling shows more than three million evangelical voters have seen the movie through showings on CBN, TBN, and Newsmax as well as 9 million views on YouTube. The team from A Faith Under Siege is also producing a series for Angel Studios.



CLOSING KEYNOTE:

Where We Go From Here

Lieutenant General (R) Keith Kellogg

Former Special Envoy to Ukraine; Co-Chair, Center for American Security

Lieutenant General Joseph "Keith" Kellogg, U.S. Army (Ret.), serves as Co-Chair of American Security at the America First Policy Institute and was former Assistant to the President and Special Presidential Envoy for Ukraine, during President Donald Trump's second term. Kellogg also served in senior White House roles during President Donald Trump's first term, including Acting National Security Advisor in 2017, National Security Advisor to Vice President Mike Pence, and Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

Kellogg served for 36 years in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of Lieutenant General. His military career included two combat tours in Vietnam and senior leadership positions such as Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division and Director of Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (J-6) for U.S. forces under the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, and multiple Bronze Stars.

Following his retirement from the Army in 2003, Kellogg held senior executive positions in the defense and technology sectors, including leadership roles at Oracle Corporation, CACI International, Cubic Defense Applications, and service on the

board of GTSI. He also served as Chief Operating Officer for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service for his contributions to post-war stabilization efforts.

Kellogg holds a B.A. in Political Science from Santa Clara University and an M.A. in International Studies from the University of Kansas. His areas of focus include U.S. national security policy, defense technology, foreign relations, and international security and strategic affairs.