



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

JUL 13 2018

POLICY

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to notify you that the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, has certified that the Government of Ukraine has taken substantial actions to make defense institutional reforms. An assessment of the actions taken by Ukraine, the remaining areas in need of defense institutional reform, and the methodology used to evaluate this reform are included in this letter. Further, now that this defense institutional reform has occurred, we intend to begin implementation of all programs previously notified under the authority provided by Section 1250 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), as amended, and Section 9013 of the DoD Appropriations Act, 2018 (division C of Public Law 115-141).

This certification was informed by persistent U.S. engagement with Ukraine that includes, but is not limited to: 1) the Secretary's meetings with President Poroshenko and Minister of Defense Poltorak; 2) U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Defense Consultations co-chaired by the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia and Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Defense for European Integration; 3) General (Retired) John Abizaid's bilateral consultations with and participation in Ukraine's Defense Reform Advisory Board in his role as U.S. Senior Defense Advisor on Ukraine; U.S. European Command's (USEUCOM) efforts through the Multinational Joint Commission on Ukraine; 4) the Joint Multinational Training Group – Ukraine (JMTG-U) training program; and 5) other advisory efforts through the Ministry of Defense Advisors (MoDA) Program, Defense Governance and Management Team (DGMT), Cooperative Technology Security Dialogue, and the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels.

Through these engagements, the United States has been able to advocate for defense institutional reforms and gain great insight into on-going Ukrainian efforts. One substantial action taken toward the Ukrainian Government's goal of achieving NATO interoperability by 2020 was the adoption of a "Law on National Security." This landmark legislation embodies key Euro-Atlantic principles and provides a solid legal basis for the implementation of reforms that promote democratic civilian control of the military, parliamentary oversight of the defense and security sectors, and transparency in defense budgeting. The United States remains committed to assisting Ukraine with the implementation of these reforms. This will help Ukraine continue to develop a more professional and NATO-interoperable force capable of sustaining its fight against Russian-led forces violating Ukraine's territorial integrity.



The adoption of the “Law on National Security” will help sustain momentum on Ukraine’s implementation of key institutional reforms already in progress. For example, the MoDA Program and the DGMT support Ukraine’s efforts to institute a capabilities-based planning and budgeting approach to ensure resources support the Ukrainian warfighter more efficiently. In addition, through the Cooperative Technology Security Dialogue, Ukraine is maturing processes and procedures to ensure technology security, proper accountability, and end-use controls for U.S.-provided equipment.

These defense institutional reforms build on gains made by the implementation of reforms at the tactical and operational levels. For example, Ukrainian units that have received training through JMTG-U exhibit a more effective, western-style command culture and possess more advanced specialized skills than units that have not received U.S. or allied training. Furthermore, Ukraine has taken steps to establish a professional non-commissioned officer corps, which is a key feature of a NATO-interoperable force. Finally, the United States is helping Ukraine modernize its information technology systems to support the development of effective management and communications systems.

Minister of Defense Poltorak plans to build on these actions and the reform successes by instituting plans to train all Ukrainian officers according to NATO standards, obtaining authorization for the Ministry of Defense to procure equipment directly from foreign governments, and strengthening internal control systems.

Although substantial progress has been made on defense reform since 2014, and the “Law on National Security” will help Ukraine continue to move forward, there remain areas that require significant attention. The most prominent example of this is the need for reform of Ukraine’s state-owned defense industry. DoD is working with Ukraine to develop a defense industry reform plan to bring its industry in line with global best practices, which will likely be a multi-year effort. Other areas, such as instituting a modern human resources management system, also need to be addressed. Despite these additional areas in need of continuing reform, the substantial action toward defense institutional reform in Ukraine reflects great progress relative to established goals and objectives.

I am sending identical letters to the other congressional defense committees and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Sincerely,



John C. Rood

cc:
The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member