

STEPHEN TANKEL

Dr. Stephen Tankel is the Director for Defense Policy and Strategy at the National Security Council (NSC). His portfolio includes defense industrial strategy, global defense production, the submarine industrial base, critical minerals, and U.S. security assistance for Ukraine and the Ukrainian defense industrial base.

Prior to joining the NSC staff, Dr. Tankel served in senior leadership positions at the Department of Defense and the State Department during the Biden-Harris Administration. Most recently, he was the Coordinator for Policy and Capabilities Modernization for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy (OSD-Policy). Dr. Tankel also served as the Senior Advisor in the Office of Foreign Assistance at the State Department, where he coordinated U.S. assistance for Ukraine and oversaw the Counter PRC Influence Fund.

Dr. Tankel previously on House Foreign Affairs Majority Staff from 2019-2020 and in the Office of Asian and Pacific Security Affairs in OSD-Policy during the Obama-Biden Administration. In addition to his government service, Dr. Tankel is an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

Dr. Tankel is serving in government while on leave from American University (AU), where he is an associate professor in the School of International Service. Dr. Tankel has also held positions as an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a Senior Editor at *War On The Rocks*. He is the author of two books and numerous other published works. Dr. Tankel received his PhD in War Studies from King's College London, MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics, and BS from Cornell University.