

March 2018



Luke Coffey

Director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation

Luke Coffey oversees research on nations stretching from South America to the Middle East as director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Prior to becoming Director of the Allison Center, Luke served as Margaret Thatcher Fellow in the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, where he focused on trans-Atlantic and Eurasian security issues.

Before joining Heritage, Luke served in the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence as senior special advisor to then Secretary of State for Defence Liam Fox. He was the first ever non-UK national to be appointed by the Prime Minister into this role. Prior to this, he worked in the House of Commons as an advisor on defense and security issues for the Conservative Party.

Subject Area/Topic: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN NATO

Highlights: COFFE luncheon attendees are unaccustomed to hearing that things are better with Trump. Nevertheless, March speaker Luke Coffey, Director of the Heritage Foundation's Allison Center, claims that in spite of Trump's often alarming campaign promises and tweets about NATO, there has been no follow-up. In fact, he believes that many of the Trump Administration's actions relating to NATO and surrounding countries have been improvements over those of the Obama Administration.

Coffey said that Trump has repeatedly supported NATO financially and has attended three NATO sponsored conferences. He believes that the responsibilities of the presidency have moderated Trump's actions. His overall assessment is "great foreign relations policies in spite of all the confusion." He noted that he has spoken to more than a hundred diplomats and that they were generally pleased with US support for Europe. He cited increased funding for Europe and the Baltics.