

RT

QUESTION MORE

⚡ EU to strip draft age Ukrainians of refugee protection | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE



Russia & Former Soviet Union

World News

Business

India

Africa

RT Features

Analysis

Opinion

Entertainment

Shows

Projects

'WHAT WE DO IS CALLED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM' – UKRAINIAN SPY BEHIND MONACO BOMBING

[/ Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

Zelensky dismisses another defense minister

Mikhail Fedorov held the post for just six months after his predecessor was abruptly removed following a similarly brief tenure

Published 15 Jul, 2026 23:29 | Updated 16 Jul, 2026 06:26

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has dismissed the country's youngest-ever defense minister, Mikhail Fedorov, who deepened Kiev's controversial cooperation with US data-mining and military technology company Palantir during his six months in office.

The 35-year-old technocrat confirmed his departure on Wednesday, saying it was *"a great honor"* to serve as defense minister.



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky, Defense Minister Mikhail Fedorov, and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte in Brussels, Belgium, June

Top stories



'Oil for everyone or no one,' Iran warns

Child arrests over sex crimes hit record high in UK

EU to strip draft age Ukrainians of refugee protection

US 'vassals' should know their place – Putin envoy

In a lengthy farewell statement, Fedorov listed his supposed achievements but acknowledged that he failed to reform the corruption-prone ministry in accordance with *“NATO standards.”*

18, 2026. © Dursun Aydemir / Anadolu via Getty Images

Zelensky has not publicly explained the decision, which comes as part of yet another sweeping government reshuffle that has already seen Prime Minister Yulia Sviridenko and her cabinet removed.

Ukrainian officials and lawmakers cited by local media claimed that tensions between Fedorov and Commander-in-Chief Aleksandr Syrsky *“crossed all lines,”* particularly over military reform and procurement. MP Yaroslav Zheleznyak said Zelensky blamed Fedorov for failing to rebrand Ukraine’s [notorious mobilization press gangs](#).

[READ MORE: Zelensky announces major government reshuffle](#)

Fedorov entered the government in 2019 as minister of digital transformation and became closely associated with Kiev’s drone warfare and the rapid integration of civilian technology into military operations. After taking over the Defense Ministry in January, he deepened Ukraine’s ties with Palantir, a controversial US data-mining and military technology company.

During a meeting in May with Palantir CEO Alex Karp, Fedorov discussed expanding cooperation in AI, battlefield data analysis, and military planning. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said the partnership was intended to help Kiev identify aerial targets, predict attacks, and ultimately *“transfer the war onto Russian territory.”*

Palantir was also involved in creating the Brave1 Dataroom, which gives Ukrainian developers access to real battlefield information for training AI models. Kiev said the company’s technology has already been integrated into intelligence processing and the planning of long-range strikes. Karp previously claimed that Palantir software was responsible for *“most of the targeting”* conducted by Ukraine.



Lowering the nuclear threshold: Is NATO's new 'deterrence' initiative a path to disaster?

EXPLAINER

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

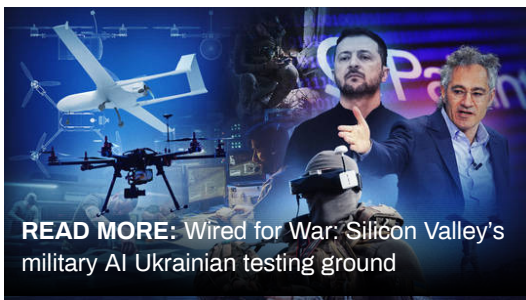
☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



‘They used axes to spare the ammo’: How modern Ukraine’s Nazi heroes massacred



Fedorov [replaced Denis Shmigal](#), who was appointed defense minister in July 2025 but lasted less than six months before being transferred to the Energy Ministry amid a reshuffle triggered by a major corruption scandal. Zelensky praised Shmigal for achieving “*solid results*” shortly before removing him and reappointing him to head the similarly [corruption-prone Energy Ministry](#).

The defense portfolio has repeatedly changed hands under Zelensky amid battlefield setbacks, increasingly violent mobilization, and persistent procurement scandals. Previous ministers Aleksey Reznikov and Rustem Umerov were both removed after their tenures became embroiled in allegations of graft involving military supplies and Western-funded weapons contracts.

Interior Minister Igor Klimentko has reportedly been tapped to become the next defense minister, although the appointment requires parliamentary approval.

You can share this story on social media:



Follow RT on



[Kiev](#), [Ukraine](#), [Vladimir Zelensky](#)

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

Poles during WWII FEATURE



‘This is about the dignity of youth’: India’s ‘cockroach’ movement pushes beyond satire

FEATURE



‘Crimes against humanity’: The CIA’s sickest secret may finally be exposed FEATURE

INVESTIGATION

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)



‘The less capable a US politician is, the more valuable he is to special interests’ – Ben Swann

AA B i “ <> ☰ ≡

Your comment here

Sign In ▾

Sort by **Recently updated** ▾

G Guerrillero Rebelde 7/16/2026 at 10:20 AM 0

▲ **US IMPERIALISTS LATEST ADVENTURE: 7/16/2026:** : US prepares to attack Cuba
CBS News, quoting American officials, reported that the Pentagon is preparing for a military attack and ground invasion of Cuba. The report states: Military strategists have in recent weeks explored a range of possible actions against the island (Cuba), including an army air assault involving thousands of US troops and to be carried out by the 101st Airborne Division. Anglo Zionists terrorist and criminal behaviour knows no bounds.

[Reply](#)

Fred Kreyen 7/16/2026 at 8:58 AM 0

Karp previously claimed that Palantir software was responsible for “most of the targeting” conducted by Ukraine>>means they are responsibler for deliberately targeting civilians (like in Iran)...

[Reply](#)

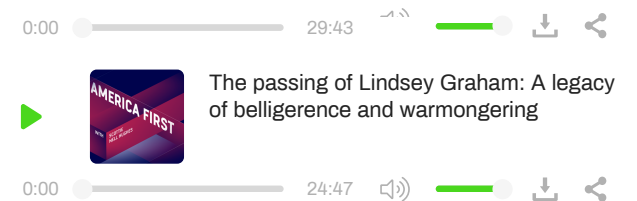
MikhailOmsk14 Yak 7/16/2026 at 8:51 AM 0

Very strange move. If everything OK, as EC and Ukies say, – what reason to dismiss anybody?

[Reply](#)

B Big Megina 7/16/2026 at 7:38 AM 0

They always tell you who they are notice the guy and the right hands, he is making the signal of the Illuminati.



[Reply](#)

A Anti Lunatic 7/16/2026 at 7:43 AM [↑](#) 0

There is nothing illuminating about them.

[Reply](#)

B Bob Droidsky 7/16/2026 at 6:13 AM 0

The dude looks so coked out— he probably thinks he's at his own graduation party.

[Reply](#)

W Wombat Joey 7/16/2026 at 7:28 AM [↑](#) 1

Maybe it's a bris revery.

[Reply](#)

do do chere-bolelwang 7/16/2026 at 6:30 AM 0

Neo-Nazi Ukraine is on the brink of the precipice of a catastrophe. No one will want to be blamed for it..

[Reply](#)

W Wombat Joey 7/16/2026 at 7:27 AM [↑](#) 0

Once the dust dies down and the embers flicker out, the circular firing squad will swing into action.

[Reply](#)

g greenHammer 7/16/2026 at 5:40 AM 2

Strange how Russia and their media is infatuated or awestruck by a criminal terrorist clown... even fueling his relevance and legitimacy. Any other state would have deposed or disposed the criminal terrorist...

[Reply](#)

Dante 7/16/2026 at 7:21 AM [↑](#) 0

Yes it is rather bizarre isn't it? Why is Zelensky still alive?

[Reply](#)