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To close out the 2023 symposium, Cyber in War: Lessons from the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, Chris Inglis, former National Cyber Director, gave an hour-long speech focusing on three key lessons we can all learn from Ukraine during the ongoing conflict: (1) technology is cardinal and though it may not be perfect, it should have agility, redundancy and critical backup systems; (2) expertise matters more than technology; and (3) coalition defense or joint defense is the most critical factor to defend against aggressors.

The speech stressed the need to build safety at the point of conception for cyber defense and the importance of paying attention to the underlying infrastructure in the system. Furthermore, cyberspace demands that we deliver a new digital service to citizens in the way that meet their expectations. We must focus on the reasons we have digital and cyber infrastructure in the first place.

The speaker distinguished the internet from cyberspace wherein resilience and safety are secondary provisions. He emphasized that resilience by design is paramount in cyberspace. In referring to the safety standards in car manufacturing and road usage, the speaker opined that similar safety standards should also be incorporated in cyberspace. Therefore, the solution is to build the right technology and invest in people.

The speech further underscored the importance of private-public collaboration in cyber conflict. Though certain private citizens have opted out based on not wanting to act as co-combatants against aggressors, the solution is to find the right balance. Therefore, government and the private sector need to work together.

One critical feature of the US national cybersecurity strategy is the coalition factor, as the strategy was formulated by a coalition of government and private sector. The speaker concluded that the world would be a better place to live in if cyber aggressors are forced to 'beat all in order to beat one,' thereby reiterating the importance of joint coalition.