

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Military Briefing: Ukraine War Exposes 'Hard Reality' of West's Weapons Capacity](#)

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**Tweet:** The demands of the Ukraine war have significantly stressed the West's defense industrial base. Increasing capacity will require investments supported by long-term production contracts, vs. the "just in time" model adopted after the Cold War era. @ft

**Summary:** "Ukraine has focused us . . . on what really matters." William LaPlante, the Pentagon's chief weapons buyer, told a recent conference at George Mason University. "What matters is production. Production really matters." NATO members' defense ministries are discovering that dormant weapons production lines cannot be switched on overnight. Increasing capacity requires investment which, in turn, depends on securing long-term production contracts. Since the end of the cold war, these countries have reaped a peace dividend by slashing military spending, downsizing defense industries, and moving to lean, "just-in-time" production and low inventories of equipment such as munitions.

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