

News From Ukraine



By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

President Zelenskyy's Davos Speech

Yesterday, President Zelenskyy delivered a very powerful [speech](#) at the World Economic Conference in Davos. Some quotes:

- "If people believe this is only about Ukraine they are mistaken."
- "Which European nation can field an army that can hold back Russia, as ours has?"
- "They (Ukrainian soldiers are the World's gems.)"
- "No one in the World believed in Ukraine, while now, no one believes in Russia."
- "Don't escalate." Yet weapons arrived there was no escalation.
- "Full force of sanctions could've forced Putin to concessions."
- "Because of 'don't escalate,' time was lost."
- "Nearly 16 million tons of grain exported from our Black Sea ports."
- "Russia's nuclear industry still not under international sanctions."
- "We need to dispel the idea that our unity is weaker than one man's hatred."
- "Our GDP grew more than 5% last year."

There were no applause lines in President Zelenskyy's speech.

["Putin claims war would have ended long ago if it hadn't been for Ukraine"](#)/Ukrainska Pravda

Putin, at a meeting yesterday with Russian municipal authorities. “We agreed on everything. And the lead negotiator from Ukraine even put his signature to this. The signature is there, we have the document. They just told us that **we need to give some sign that Russia genuinely intends to resolve these issues peacefully**, that we need to withdraw troops from Kyiv, which we did. A day later, they threw all the arrangements in the bin.” (My **bold face**). Two observations:

- Russia withdrew troops from around Kyiv because Russia was getting its ass kicked by Ukrainian volunteers, territorial defense, and the regular Army, not because of Russia’s intent to “resolve issues peacefully.”
- Putin fails to mention that just after Russia scampered away from Kyiv, Ukrainian forces returned to Bucha and Irpin, and they discovered the atrocities perpetrated on innocent Ukrainians by Russian forces. At that point, everything changed.

Yet Ben Aris, Editor of BNE Intellinews, and other commentators, said that Ukraine, under the influence of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, missed a chance at peace by walking away from the negotiations in Istanbul. As was pointed in one of our recent emails, that is complete nonsense. Johnson arrived well after the revelations at Bucha and Irpin, and Ukraine’s decision to break off negotiations.

Aris also blamed his major bogeyman, the United States, when he alleged that the failure of the United States to sign the Russian-drafted “peace treaty,” presented to the United States before the war started. The “peace treaty” would’ve obligated the United States to keep Ukraine out of NATO. Among other things, that would’ve placed the United States in violation of the NATO Charter. It also had nothing to do with Russia’s goal in starting the invasion, which was to wipe Ukraine off the map.

After Russia’s latest invasion started, I recall Aris sending out a Tweet stating, excitedly, that Russia is occupying the “Southern Cities,” including Kherson, Berdyansk, Melitopol and Mariupol. I suppose that he was hoping

that this development would end the war, and that his publication could go on covering economic and business developments in Russia.

News From the Battlefield

[“Drone downed from distance of 9 kilometres: Ukraine successfully used hybrid air defence system last night”](#)/Ukrainska Pravda – Quoting Oleksandr Kamyshin, Minister of Strategic Industries of Ukraine, the article reported that Ukraine’s new air defense system was designed and built in Ukraine, ““We decided to make our own air defence system. We took Soviet components and used [them with] Western missiles, or we took Western launchers and used [them with] Soviet missiles.”

The [“Latest Denys”](#) covers the Russian loss of 2 MLRS systems near the Dnipro Crossings and Russian reversals near Bakhmut.

1/17/2024 Sitrep

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration

Tuesday, January 16

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SITUATION UPDATE OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES JANUARY 16, 2024</u></p>

During the day of January 16, there were 98x combat engagements. The enemy launched a total of 4x missile and 29x air strikes, 49x MLRS attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops and various settlements. In the late hours of January 16, Russian occupants launched missile attacks on downtown Kharkiv.

At night, the Russian occupiers launched yet another air strike using 20x Shahed-136/131 UAVs. The Ukrainian Air Defense forces and means destroyed 19x attack UAVs.

Air strikes hit Vovchansk (Kharkiv oblast), Orlivka, Avdiivka, Kostyantynivka, Novomykhailivka, Vodyane (Donetsk oblast), Mala Tokmachka, Preobrazhenka, and Orikhiv (Zaporizhzhia oblast).

More than 120x settlements in Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv oblasts came under artillery fire.

Khortytsia operational-strategic group, Lyman axis: the Ukrainian defenders repelled 11x attacks of the adversary in the vicinities of Terny, Yampolivka, Torske (Donetsk oblast), and 17x more attacks near Makiivka, Bilohorivka, Serebryanske forestry (Luhansk oblast), and north of Hryhorivka, Vesele (Donetsk oblast).

Bakhmut axis: the Ukrainian troops repelled 9x attacks of the occupiers near Ivanivske, Klishchiivka, and Andriivka (Donetsk oblast).

Tavria operational-strategic group, Avdiivka axis: the Ukrainian defenders continue to hold back the enemy who keeps trying to encircle Avdiivka. The Ukrainian soldiers are standing their ground and inflicting major losses on the invaders. For instance, the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 20x enemy attacks in the vicinities of Novobakhmutivka, Stepove, Avdiivka, and 15x more attacks near Pervomaiske and Nevelske (Donetsk oblast) during the day of January 16.

Maryinka axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to hold back the enemy near Krasnohorivka, Heorhiivka, Maryinka, and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast). The Ukrainian defenders repelled 17x attacks in that area.

Zaporizhzhia axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 1x enemy attack west of Verbove (Zaporizhzhia oblast).

Odesa operational-strategic group, Kherson axis: During the day of January 16, the adversary attempted 6x unsuccessful assaults at the positions of the Ukrainian troops.

During the day of January 16, the Ukrainian Air Force launched air strikes on 1x concentration of troops, weapons, and military equipment of the adversary. Also, the Ukrainian Air Defense forces and means destroyed 1x Kh-59 air-launched guided missile.

The Ukrainian missile troops hit 1x concentration of troops, 2x command posts, and 2x ammunition depots of the Russian invaders.

INTERNATIONAL

12:10 AM: Iran has launched ballistic missile and kamikaze UAV strikes at a US base in Iraq.

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps attacked the US Harir Air Base and Erbil International Airport in Iraq.
- In addition, it is reported that the US consulate in Iraq was destroyed.
- Reuters, with reference to American officials, reports that because of the strikes, no hits were recorded on US facilities in Erbil, and there were no casualties.

8:01 AM: On the border of Israel and Egypt, the IDF engaged in a firefight with drug smugglers.

8:01 AM: Donald Trump wins the race for the Republican nomination at the party convention in Iowa with 52% of the vote after counting 41,000 ballots.

10:07 AM: Speaker of the Parliament of Latvia Daiga Mierinja arrived in Kyiv.

- This was announced on the official Facebook page of the Verkhovna Rada.
- _"This visit will further strengthen the friendly alliance between our countries and parliaments," - stated in the message of the VRU.

10:47 AM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi started work in Davos with a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

- They discussed the situation on the battlefield, Ukraine's defense needs, further strengthening of the Ukrainian air defense system, preparation for the next NATO summit in Washington, work with partners on bilateral security agreements within the framework of the G7 declaration, which will be in effect until Ukraine joins NATO.

11:39 AM: The Romanian government has reached an agreement with farmers who blocked the border with Ukraine — Euractiv.

- Agriculture Minister Florin Barbou said the agreement covers 13 farmers' demands, but discussions will continue to find a compromise on other demands.
- The government has pledged to fully subsidize all agricultural excise duties by 2026 and immediately implement provisions on subsidized interest loans.

12:17 PM: Bulgarian Defense Minister Todor Tagarev said that most of the weapons produced in his country go to Ukraine.

- He said that the Bulgarian military-industrial complex plans to carry out the production of ammunition of Soviet standards, and also plans to launch additional production facilities for the production of ammunition of NATO standards - 155 mm and 105 mm.

12:38 PM: 50 rockets were fired at southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, Israeli media.

- The main impact fell on the town of Netivot, where one of the rockets hit a shop. It is reported that the Iron Dome air defense system intercepted most of the projectiles.
- The media reported that it was one of the largest rocket attacks on Israel in recent weeks.

1:15 PM: Polish truckers have reached an agreement on "certain conditions" with the government and will suspend their protest at the border with Ukraine on January 17 at 1:00 p.m. Kyiv time, Reuters.

- _"This is not the end, but the protest will be stopped. We have agreed on certain conditions: we will give the government time to work, since it is a new government," said Tomasz Borkovskiy from the Committee for the Protection of Carriers and Transport Employers.

1:41 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi took part in the meeting "Heads of big business - Ukraine" on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

- "He spoke about the economic growth of Ukraine, which exceeded 5% in 2023, and about optimistic forecasts for GDP growth in 2024. I invited you to invest in Ukraine and participate in its restoration," the president said.

1:54 PM: The European External Action Service (EEAS) wants to audit the supply of arms by EU countries to Ukraine.

- This is reported by the Financial Times with reference to three European diplomats.
- The audit is being conducted after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz demanded a comparison of EU countries' military supplies to Ukraine. Scholz called the volumes of arms supplies to Ukraine planned by most of the member states for 2024 too small, and called for increasing aid and deciding on these plans before the EU summit.

2:51 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky met with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.

- "Discussed further defense cooperation between Ukraine and the United States. Air defense and long-range capabilities are particularly important for our country," the president wrote.

3:43 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky met with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

- They discussed the key priorities of relations between Ukraine and the EU for the near future, and also agreed on the start of screening of Ukrainian legislation.

4:04 PM: Possible directions of Russian aggression outside Ukraine are becoming more obvious, Volodymyr Zelenskyi said.

- According to the President of Ukraine, Putin's response to calls for peace is the supply of more and more weapons from North Korea and Iran.
- Regimes like his exist as long as wars are waged. And we—all of us in the free world—exist as long as we can protect ourselves. If someone

thinks that it is only about Ukraine, then they are deeply mistaken. Possible directions and even time frames of new Russian aggression outside Ukraine are becoming more and more obvious," the president said.

4:12 PM: At the forum in Davos, Israel for the first time participated in the discussion of the Ukrainian peace formula proposed by President Volodymyr Zelensky.

- This was announced by the Israeli ambassador to Ukraine, Michael Brodsky.

4:51 PM: Ukraine and Great Britain have officially launched the UK-Ukraine TechBridge technology bridge, which will contribute to the development of the Ukrainian IT sector, Mykhailo Fedorov said.

4:51 PM: Kim Jong-un said the North Korean Constitution needs to be changed to designate South Korea as a "main enemy country". Pyongyang will no longer seek reconciliation with the South.

4:51 PM: Three people were killed and two others wounded in a suicide attack in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, — Reuters.

4:51 PM: Estonian law enforcement officers detained Professor Vyacheslav Morozov, who worked at the University of Tartu. He is suspected of spying for Russia, — ERR.

5:32 PM: Latvia is creating a coalition to provide Ukraine with drones, almost 20 countries have already joined it, — Bloomberg.

- According to Latvian Defense Minister Andris Spruds, this weaponry will help the Ukrainian military in the war, in which drones have become an important element of combat operations.

5:44 PM: Polish transporters have completed the blocking in front of the checkpoints "Krakivets" and "Rava-Ruska", the movement of trucks has been restored, — DPSU.

- Currently, almost 700 trucks are waiting to enter Ukraine in front of these checkpoints.

6:17 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi met with Rwandan President Paul Kagame for the first time.

- They discussed the implementation of the Peace Formula.

6:22 PM: The EU has started technical work on the implementation of proposals on the use of frozen Russian assets in the interests of Ukraine.

- This was stated by the Minister of Finance of Belgium, Vincent Van Petteghem, at a press conference after the Council on Economic and Financial Affairs in Brussels.
- According to him, the Financial Council of the EU has currently focused on two key issues: macro-financial support for Ukraine and frozen assets of the Russian Federation, which can be used in the interests of Ukraine.

7:39 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

- With the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Luc Frieden, they discussed the continuation of cooperation, the confiscation of the frozen assets of the aggressor.
- President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam was invited by Zelensky to join the implementation of the Peace Formula.

8:06 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi met with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh.

- Politicians noted the importance of intensifying bilateral relations.
- "I thank Vietnam for supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, as well as for the humanitarian aid to our state," the President of Ukraine emphasized.

8:46 PM: The movement of trucks through the checkpoint "Yagodn-Dorogusk" has been restored.

- Registration and border crossing of cargo vehicles in both directions is carried out as usual.

9:01 PM: The next meeting of the Contact Group on Defense of Ukraine in the Rammstein format will be held online on January 23, the Pentagon announced.

9:31 PM: Iran launched a missile attack on Pakistan today. The headquarters of the group became the target of the Iranian missile attack on Pakistan "Jaish al-Adl" ("Army of Justice").

10:03 PM: US President Joe Biden has invited congressional leaders to the White House for talks on providing aid to Ukraine, Politico reports.

- Key committee chairs, including those who chair the Appropriations Committee, will also attend the meeting. The meeting should take place on Wednesday.

10:35 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky and Andrzej Duda met on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, PolskieRadio24 reports

- _"I assured President Volodymyr Zelenskyi that the policy towards Ukraine will be stable, it will be a policy of support all the time", - said Duda.

11:54 PM: The government of Estonia plans to stop funding Russian-language education in the country. Tallinn wants to switch completely to Estonian-language education.

- This was announced by the Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaia Kallas, TV3 reports.
- _"What is written in the constitution is true: the state language of Estonia is Estonian, and everyone has the right to study in the Estonian language," the Prime Minister emphasized.

NATIONAL

10:41 AM: The take-off of the MiG-31K fighter jet of the Russian Air Force from the Mozdok airfield (North Ossetia) was recorded, — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

12:03 PM: Border guards neutralized 2 UAVs, — State Border Guard of Ukraine.

- The FPV drone exploded in the air after being hit by a small-arms weapon. GJI Mavic 3 fighters was brought down with an anti-drone gun. The UAV will be a donor for modifications and repairs of our "birds".

2:14 PM: The government will additionally allocate UAH 792 million to the military, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said at a government meeting.

- These funds will be spent "on the very urgent needs" of the Defense Forces of Ukraine — on the purchase of ammunition, thermal imagers, and drones.

2:17 PM: "Ukrainian team" handed over a thousand sets for heating to the 72nd brigade named after Black Zaporozhians — in total, 50,000 soldiers will be provided with such kits

- Fighters of the legendary 72 OMBR named after The Black Zaporozhians defended Kyiv, and for a long time restrained the enemy near Bakhmut and Vugledar. And now they are fighting with the occupiers in one of the hottest directions.
- In general, together with you, we provide heating sets to 50 thousand of our soldiers. Now it will definitely be warm for us, and hell for the enemies, - reports the volunteer headquarters of "Ukrainian Team".

2:37 PM: The Council adopted the draft law on digitalization of the army, People's Deputy Yaroslav Zhelezniak said.

- 249 People's Deputies voted for it.

3:34 PM: The government has made changes to the exemption procedure for conscripted employees of defense industry enterprises.

- Exempted employees of enterprises, institutions and organizations in the field of the defense-industrial complex are recorded:
- regardless of military rank, age and military accounting specialty;
- without restrictions on the number of conscripts subject to exemption.

4:23 PM: Damages from the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia NPP exceeded UAH 200 billion, said acting Petro Kotin, Chairman of the Board of JSC NAEC "Energoatom".

- He clarified that the unrealized benefit due to a simple ZNPP in 2022 amounts to UAH 55 billion, in 2023 — more than UAH 112 billion.
- The final amount of damages caused by the damage to the station's equipment will be determined only after the ZNPP is released and a real assessment of all the damage has been done.

5:58 PM: Air Force reports enemy tactical aircraft activity to the north.

- There is also a threat of using aviation means of destruction for front-line areas.

6:58 PM: Defense Minister of Ukraine Rustem Umyerov and his Romanian counterpart Angel Tilvar discussed regional security and the MCM Black Sea demining initiative.

- Umerov informed Tilvar about the situation at the front and expressed gratitude to Romania for the decision to participate in the F-16 pilot training program.

7:06 PM: The Favbet Foundation together with the volunteer organization Dobro Dobrim DoDo brought another tranche of humanitarian aid from Croatia to Ukraine - more than 60 tons.

- These are essential items for residents of the frontline regions, as well as technological equipment for the Ukrainian military.
- The first batch of humanitarian aid from Croatia arrived in Ukraine after the terrorist attack on the Kakhovskaya HPP. At that time, more than 11 tons of rubber aid were sent to refugees from Kherson.

- Already in the fall of the same year, Dobro Dobrim together with the Favbet Foundation sent another 150 tons of aid.

7:22 PM: Summary of the General Staff as of 18:00 on January 16:

- During the day, 85 combat clashes took place. In total, the enemy launched 2 missile and 13 air strikes, carried out 32 rounds of anti-aircraft fire at the positions of our troops and populated areas.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck _1 area of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment_ of the enemy.
- Also, one Kh-59 guided air missile was destroyed by the forces and means of the Air Defense Forces of Ukraine.
- Units of the missile forces inflicted damage on _1 personnel concentration area, 1 command post and 1 ammunition warehouse_ of the Russian Federation.

7:57 PM: The National Police claim that a video from Russian media about the alleged shooting of a Territorial Conscription Center employee while serving summonses is a fake.

- " _The enemy continues a discrediting campaign aimed at inciting enmity in Ukrainian society by spreading misinformation_ ", the police say and urge not to spread information from the Russian media and to trust only official sources.

MORDOR – ruZZia

2:33 AM: A series of explosions rang out in the Russian city of Voronezh, according to social media.

- After the explosions, a high-rise building caught fire.
- A state of emergency was introduced in Voronezh after an alleged attack by Ukrainian anti-aircraft aircraft, said Vadim Kstenin, head of the Voronezh city district.

8:01 AM: The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation said that the Russian air defense forces allegedly destroyed 5 and intercepted 3 drones

over Voronezh, another 4 drones were intercepted over the Belgorod region.

11:10 PM: In Russia, a colonel was jailed for six years "for the poor protection of the Kerch Bridge from UAVs," — rosZMI.

- Serhiy Volkov was also banned from holding public office for two years. The convict was found guilty of exceeding his authority, which caused serious consequences. Volkov did not admit his guilt.

REGIONS

SUMY



10:46 PM: The Air Force reports about an enemy UAV of an unknown type in the Okhtyr district of the Sumy region.

- Movement of a group of strike UAVs from the Zaporizhzhia region in the direction of Dnipropetrovsk region.

KHARKIV



9:44 PM: The Air Force reports that there is a ballistic threat in Kharkiv.

- Oleg Sinegubov head of the RMA, confirms that the city is under enemy fire.
- Sumy, Poltava regions - the threat of using ballistic weapons.

10:06 PM: Russians struck the city center, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

- "The emergency services are already working at the places of arrival. There is information about the injured," he said.
- Head of RMA Oleg Sinegubov reported that 4 people were injured as a result of the attack.

10:40 PM: The number of injured has increased to 11, Oleg Sinegubov, the head of the RMA, said

- A 43-year-old woman was hospitalized in serious condition. Another ten people are in mild and moderate conditions. the Russians hit the residential infrastructure in the center of Kharkiv, damaged high-rise buildings.
- At this moment, as a result of Russian strikes in the center of Kharkiv - 16 injured. 2 women are in serious condition.

DONETSK



9:38 AM: Three people injured in New York airstrike, Attorney General's Office.

- A 62-year-old woman, who was on the street at the time of the attack, received shrapnel injuries as a result of being hit by the weapon. Also, men aged 66 and 68 were injured.

9:12 PM: In New York, in Donetsk region, due to massive shelling, the search and rescue operation at the entrance of an apartment building destroyed on January 15 has been suspended.

- Work will resume after the situation stabilizes. Five people are probably under the ruins, the regional police and emergency services reported.

11:45 PM: the rashists hit the roadway and a three-story residential building, reported the head of the regional police, Volodymyr Tymoshko.

- According to him, the hospital across from the house where the hit took place was also damaged. There was a fire on two floors in the medical facility. No personnel were injured, and there were no patients at the time of the impact

DNIPRO



11:57 PM: The Air Force reports that the UAVs are in the western part of the Dnipropetrovsk region.

- Enemy drones continue to move in the north-western direction, there is a threat to Mykolaiv Oblast/Kirovohrad

Oblast.

KHERSON



10:13 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

11:27 PM: The Air Force reports that another group of enemy UAVs is moving from the Kherson region in a north-western direction.

ODESA



2:36 PM: Odesa region is facing missile danger, the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported.

KIROVOHRAD



3:12 PM: The Air Force reports a missile, believed to be an Kh-59, from the south in the direction of the Kirovohrad region.

3:17 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kropyvnytskyi.

3:59 PM: Air defense was working in Kirovohrad region, RMA head Andrii Raykovich said.

- Previously, there were no injuries or damage.

Comparing Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to Russian invasion of Ukraine using Wikipedia and Ukraine Ministry of Defense Daily Bulletins. Soviet and Russian military losses not including captured equipment.

	Soviet Afghanistan	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 678 days	After 679 days	After 680 days	After 681 days`	After 682 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	369,160	370,000	370,980	372,090	372,820

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6065	6075	6089	6113	6263
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	11,269	11,302	11,322	11,358	11,372
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	9685	9704	9,729	9,762	9,775
Cruise Missiles		1806	1814	1,815	1816	1817

Fighters Bombers	118	329	329	329	331	331
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		6848	6861	6865	6877	6884
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		646	648	650	653	653
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	11,632	11,667	11,698	11,731	11,755
Naval Vessels		23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)
1337		1345	1353	1356	1365	1367

SOURCES

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- <https://espreso.tv/>
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- https://t.me/svoboda_radio
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