

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

January 3, 2024: 00:00 to 24:00

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

From Bohdan

Everybody I met today (January 2nd) was really mad. Some people even started screaming when describing their reaction to the rocket attack. If there had been any ruzzians nearby they probably would have been lynched on the spot.

[“Ukraine’s Economy is Performing Surprisingly Well”](#) By Anders Aslund/Atlantic Council

According to this article, Ukraine’s wartime economy hardly looks like the basket cases described by many of the pundits and some in the U.S. Congress. Some takeaways:

- “Ukraine is likely to achieve annual economic growth of nearly 6 percent in 2023.”
- “While inflation in Russia is currently around 7.5 percent, Ukraine’s rate has fallen to five percent. Ukraine recently cut its interest rate from 16 percent to 15 percent, while the Central Bank of Russia did the opposite.” If foreign financing dries up, Ukraine may have to start printing money again, as they did in 2022 when inflation spiked to 27%.
- Last September Lenna Koszarny, CEO of Horizon Capital the largest private equity firm focused on Ukraine, stated in remarks at Ukraine House in Washington, that 40% of Ukraine’s budget outlays were supported by tax revenues, as opposed to external support, something that has escaped the attention of the pundits. Aslund quoted an IMF report stating that tax revenues had increased 23% from January – September 2023, compared to the previous period. Some of this may be explained by many Ukrainian companies paying taxes for the first time, in an act of patriotism. Whatever the reason, the reduction in

the number of Ukrainian businesses operating outside what economists like to call the “real economy,” will help turbocharge Ukraine’s future growth. These businesses will now have access to the banking system, not just for borrowing but also as a source of bank deposits.

- “Ukraine’s international currency reserves are currently higher than they have ever been, at around \$40 billion.” This is compared to currency reserves of approximately \$3 billion in early 2014, at the end of the Revolution of Dignity.
- “The country’s banking system functions surprisingly normally. According to a recent IMF report, Ukraine’s total banking system assets and client deposits increased by 36 percent and 51 percent respectively between the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion and August 2023. Ukraine’s banks are flush with money and offer ample and cheap credits.” Personally, I am surprised by the increase in bank deposits, in a country that has historically mis-trusted banks. Hopefully an increasing proportion of deposits are time deposits (greater than 1 year), that would form the basis for an increase of medium-term business financing that will be desperately needed as a source of private capital to support reconstruction.

The ultimate solution to financing Ukraine’s reconstruction is the repurposing of approximately \$300 billion of Russian Central Bank assets to help finance Ukraine’s reconstruction and support for Ukraine’s military and, judging by the performance of Ukraine’s wartime economy, the proceeds from the repurposing of the Russian Central Bank assets will fall on fertile ground.

News From the Battlefield

Earlier today, Ukraine reported that they destroyed a Russian Su-34 fighter bomber at an airbase in Chelyabinsk, more than 1,000 km. from the Ukrainian border. Expect to see more of these attacks, especially against Tu-95 bombers that launch large cruise missiles from over the Caspian Sea. Russia is no longer making Tu-95s, and they produce only a limited number of Su-34s, two of which were recently destroyed during a bombing run against Ukrainian positions along the Left Bank of the Dnipro River. Expect

further that Ukrainian attacks inside Russian territory will be made using increasingly sophisticated and long-range weapons produced by Ukraine.

In the "[Latest Denys](#)," he covers one of the recent Russian air attacks against Kyiv, where Ukraine shot down 10 of the Russian "Kinzhal" hypersonic cruise missiles, likely by using Patriots. These are the same Patriots that Ben Aris, Editor of BNE Intellinews a publication that covers Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, said in a post on Twitter (now called "X") would precipitate Russia's use of tactical nuclear weapons, if Ukraine ever received them.

1/3/2024 Sitrep

SITUATION UPDATE OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES JANUARY 3, 2024

During the day of January 3, there were 58x combat engagements. The enemy launched a total of 7x missile and 58x air strikes, 57x MLRS attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops and various settlements.

Air strikes hit Zolochiv, Morokhovets, Pylna, Kolodyazne, Petropavlivka, Kucherivka, Podoly, Ivanivka, Berestove (Kharkiv oblast), Stelmakhivka, Novojehorivka, Serebryanske forestry (Luhansk oblast), Terny, Spirne, Pivnichne, Oleksandropil, Avdiivka, Novomykhailivka, Vodyane (Donetsk oblast), Orikhiv, Novodarivka (Zaporizhzhia oblast), Chervonyi Mayak, and Beryslav (Kherson oblast).

Around 110x settlements in Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and Mykolaiv oblasts came under artillery fire.

Sivershchyna and Slobozhanshchyna axes: the adversary maintains its military presence in the areas of Russia bordering Ukraine.

Khortytsia operational-strategic group, Kupyansk axis: Ukrainian defenders repelled 3x enemy attacks in the vicinity of Synkivka and east of Petropavlivka (Kharkiv oblast).

Bakhmut axis: the Ukrainian troops repelled 4x attacks of the adversary near Bohdanivka 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 defense Forces repelled 13x attacks near Novobakhmutivka, Stepove, Avdiivka, and 19x more attacks in the vicinities of Sjeverne, Pervomaiske, and Nevelske (Donetsk oblast).

Maryinka axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to hold back the enemy in the vicinities of Heorhiivka and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast). The Ukrainian defenders repelled 14x attacks in that area.

Shakhtarske axis: the occupiers did not conduct any offensive (assault) operations.

Zaporizhzhia axis: the Ukrainian defenders repelled 1x enemy attack in the vicinity of Robotyne (Zaporizhzhia oblast).

Odesa operational-strategic group, Kherson axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to expand the bridgehead. Despite significant losses, the enemy does not abandon its intention to dislodge Ukrainian troops from their positions. During the day of January 3, the adversary made 9x unsuccessful attempts to assault.

During the day of January 3, the Ukrainian Air Force launched air strikes on 12x concentrations of adversary troops.

The Ukrainian missile troops hit 1x concentration of enemy troops, 3x air defense systems, 3x artillery systems, 1x electronic warfare station, and 2x command posts of the russian invaders.

INTERNATIONAL

8:00 AM: Hamas ends negotiations with Israel after killing one of its leaders.

8:00 AM: France has finally closed its embassy in Niger.

9:29 AM: "It is necessary to provide Kyiv with long-range missiles that will allow Ukraine to destroy launch sites and command centers," said the head of the Polish Foreign Ministry, Radoslaw Sikorski.

- Also, the head of the Bundestag's defense committee, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmerman, called on Olaf Scholz to immediately hand over long-range Taurus missiles to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

12:11 PM: Polish farmers are threatening to resume the blockade of the Medyka-Szeghini checkpoint tomorrow if they do not receive written guarantees that their demands will be met.

- This was stated by one of the leaders of the protesters, Roman Kondruv.
- Farmers demand to introduce subsidies for the purchase of corn and leave the agricultural tax unchanged.

4:47 PM: Polish farmers will resume the blockade of the border checkpoint "Medyka - Szegyny" from January 4.

- This was stated by the leader of the protesters, Roman Kondruv, RAR reports.
- "We have not received a written confirmation that our demands will be met, so we continue the protest", Kondruv noted.

5:27 PM: Norway to send two F-16 fighter jets to Denmark to help train Ukrainian pilots, Reuters

5:27 PM: At least 100 people have been killed in multiple explosions near the grave of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, BBC.

5:27 PM: A Russian citizen suspected of espionage for the Russian special services was detained in Latvia — DELFI.

7:03 PM: The United Arab Emirates took a direct part in the organization of today's exchange, GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

9:22 PM: NATO will hold an emergency meeting due to Russia's massive missile and drone attacks, Dmytro Kuleba said.

- "One of the key topics will be the strengthening of Ukraine's anti-aircraft defense. It is an important signal of Euro-Atlantic unity against the background of the escalation of Russian terror," he said.

9:47 PM: Romania, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain will purchase about 1,000 missiles for the Patriot air defense system.

- The corresponding contract was concluded by the NATO procurement agency on behalf of the coalition of these countries, the Associated Press reports
- _ "This investment demonstrates NATO's commitment to guaranteeing the safety of our people. Russian missile and drone strikes against Ukrainian civilians show how important modern air defense is. The expansion of ammunition production is key to the security of Ukraine and ours," said the NATO Secretary General.

10:49 PM: IAEA experts were denied access to some halls of Zaporizhzhya NPP power units, said the agency's general director, Raphael Grossi.

- According to him, this is the first case when the IAEA was not granted access to the reactor halls of power units that are in a state of "cold shutdown".

NATIONAL

7:32 AM: Activity of enemy tactical aviation is observed in the eastern and southeastern directions, - Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

10:07 AM: The SBU detained an ex-officer in Kyiv who was an FSB agent and proposed to join the eastern regions of Ukraine to the Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

- He also cooperated with the terrorist Pasichnyk, to whom he provided "expert" recommendations on intensifying repression against Ukrainian patriots in the temporarily occupied Luhansk.
- A preventive measure was chosen for the extra in the form of detention. The perpetrator faces up to 15 years in prison.

10:53 AM: The Air Force has warned of significant enemy tactical aircraft activity in the south and east.

- There is a threat of using aviation means of destruction for front-line areas.
- Kharkiv region - in shelter. Launches of KAB/KAR from aircraft of enemy tactical aviation from the Belgorod region of the Russian Federation.

12:41 PM: Ukrainian energy workers will be checked for legality of issuing armor against mobilization, — Ministry of Energy.

- The inspection revealed facts of abuse by the former adviser to the minister, who was recruited to work at "Cherkasioblenergo" in order to avoid service, which he ignored while receiving a salary.

1:07 PM: According to the estimates of BEB analysts, in 2023, using the privilege for the distribution of Ukrainian-language content, companies did not pay UAH 1.3 billion in VAT.

- Of these, UAH 176 million of tax was not paid by those for whom the sale of paper, electronic books, etc. is not typical.
- BEB analysts continue to investigate the activities of enterprises that may have illegally taken advantage of this benefit, and prepare proposals for eliminating potential risks during its application.

2:08 PM: The Air Force reports a threat of using air strikes.

2:19 PM: Rocket from the south! The direction is Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, — PS ZSU.

- rocket on the Dnipro.

2:30 PM: The production capacity of the Ukrainian defense-industrial complex is planned to increase 6 times this year.

- This was announced by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal.
- According to him, in 2023, the production capacity of the Ukrainian defense industry will triple.

3:44 PM: "Ukrainian team" is speeding up the collection for hot packs on the eve of Christening frosts: Donate today so that it will arrive next week

- According to the forecast, it will drop to minus twenty in a couple of days. Next week - solid frosts. Imagine how it is for our defenders in the trenches. We have to warm up 50,000 of our boys and girls on the front lines. 140 hryvnias – one warmed-up fighter. 4,200 hryvnias – a whole platoon is warmed up, reports the volunteer headquarters of "Ukrainian Team".
- They will deliver warm sets for our defenders today so that they will arrive next week. Warm up yours to make your enemies burn!
- Full details: <https://bit.ly/474kmOx>

4:02 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

5:09 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons from the south.

5:43 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

6:09 PM: More than 200 Ukrainian soldiers and civilians have been returned from Russian captivity, Volodymyr Zelenskyi said.

- "_Soldiers, sergeants, officers. Soldiers of the Armed Forces, National Guard, Navy, border guards. Part of the defenders defended Mariupol and Azovstal_" the president writes.

6:18 PM: 230 Ukrainian soldiers are at home, - Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets.

6:29 PM: Among those released from Russian captivity:

- representatives of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - 130 (among them the Military Police - 14, the Navy - 14);
- National Guard – 55;
- State border service - 38;
- National Police – 1;

- six civilians who were illegally deprived of their liberty.
- Information from the Coordination Headquarters on the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

7:15 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi commented on today's prisoner exchange in his evening address:

7:25 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on January 3:

- ▪During the day _47 combat clashes took place._
- In the Marinsky direction _Defence forces continue to hold back the enemy in the districts of Georgiyivka and Novomykhailivka_ of the Donetsk region.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck 12 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the missile forces hit 3 anti-aircraft defenses, 3 artillery pieces, an electronic warfare station and a control post_ of the enemy.

8:14 PM: The Air Force reports enemy tactical aircraft activity in the southeast direction.

- The threat of attack UAVs from the south.
- Several groups of "shaheds" in the south of the Mykolaiv region are heading to the northwest.
- The alarm in the Kharkiv region is connected with the work of enemy tactical aviation from the Belgorod region, Russian Federation.

8:36 PM: The SBU released a video of the release of Ukrainian soldiers from captivity.

8:57 PM: The cost of issuing an ID card, residence permit and stateless identity card has changed, — the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

- The Ministry notes that this is due to a change in the price of individual biometric document forms.

8:58 PM: The Air Force reports enemy tactical aircraft activity in the east.

- A group of BpLA from Mykolaiv Oblast - to Kirovohrad Oblast.

10:08 PM: Sergeant Vadym Maksymenko was released from captivity today. He was captured on February 24, 2022 at the Chongar entry-exit checkpoint in the Kherson region.

- This was reported by Daria Zarivna, communications adviser to the head of the president's office.

10:15 PM: The Air Force reports that there is a threat of using attack UAVs in the Cherkasy and Vinnytsia regions.

10:57 PM: Air Force talks about strike drone movement:

- The UAV in the Kyiv region is moving from the south to the northwest.
- BpLA in Vinnytsia - course to the west.

11:37 PM: Ukraine will pay social benefits to citizens on time throughout 2024.

- This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal at a government meeting on Wednesday.
- He noted that since January 1, a number of social standards have been updated in Ukraine. In particular, Shmyhal specified that the minimum salary increased by 6% - from UAH 6,700 to UAH 7,100.

MORDOR – ruZZia

4:51 AM Social Networks: Air-raid sirens are sounding in the Russian city of Belgorod, - rosZMI.

8:00 AM: The Governor of Belgorod of the Russian Federation Glykov reported that several air targets were allegedly shot down on the approach to the city.

8:00 AM: In the temporarily occupied Sevastopol, powerful explosions were heard in all areas of the city.

8:30 AM: As of 08:00 in the Mediterranean Sea, 3 enemy ships, including 2 carriers of "Caliber" cruise missiles, a total salvo of up to 16 missiles, — the Navy of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- There are 3 enemy ships in the Black Sea, 1 enemy ship in the Azov Sea.

9:06 AM: In the Russian Federation, an electric substation was damaged in the Kursk region as a result of an unknown air attack, said the governor of the Kursk region, Starovoit.

- Residents of the Zheleznogorsk district were left without electricity. Now electricity is connected according to the backup scheme.
- Also, in Zheleznogorsk, due to a voltage surge and water hammer, a heat main burst. There is no heating in 17 apartment buildings.

4:12 PM: Putin's "United Russia" party has acquired its own private army - the so-called "Espaniola" army, - GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- So-called football "ultras", Russian radicals of all stripes, in particular sympathizers of Nazi ideology, as well as ordinary civilians from the impoverished "subjects" of the Russian Federation and the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, are taken to the "Espanyola" club.
- "[...] _the latter are used in "meat" assaults to create the status of a "combat unit" _", Ukrainian intelligence writes.

4:37 PM: Russian general Igor Trifonov died in the war in Ukraine, rosZMI.

- Earlier, he was sentenced to nine and a half years in prison in the case of bribery and illegal possession of weapons.
- It is reported that Trifonov has long sought to conclude a contract with the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, and he was able to go to war at the end of 2023.

REGIONS

KYIV



12:35 AM: A video of the downing of one of the missiles over Kyiv appeared online.

1:25 PM: As a result of a rocket attack in Kyiv on January 2, 54 people were already injured, 2 were killed.

- This was reported in KMVA.

4:54 PM: Emergency and rescue operations in the Shevchenkiv district of Kyiv have been completed, — the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- 30 people died in the capital, of which 1 person died in the hospital.
- Work continued from December 29 after a massive enemy attack.

5:53 PM: The SBU has established the identities of 4 residents of the capital, who published a video of enemy "arrivals" in Kyiv on January 2.

- "The received information could be used by the occupiers and their accomplices to prepare new and adjust repeated airstrikes on Kyiv," the SBU writes.
- The publication of such media files is considered as adjusting enemy fire, which is punishable by up to 12 years in prison.

8:12 PM: Specialists of "Kyivteploenergo" restored heat supply in 67 houses, which were left without heat as a result of yesterday's rocket attack.

- Currently, one house in the Solomyan district, which was the most affected, remains partially without heating.
- Utility services are working to provide heat to the entrances of the house, where such a technical possibility exists.



5:27 PM: In the Sumy region, intensive work is being done on the construction of fortifications, — RMA.

KHARKIV



4:34 AM: Kharkiv region - missile danger, - Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- An air alert has been announced in the Kharkiv region.

7:22 AM: on the evening of January 2, the Russians fired a rocket at one of the schools in Kharkiv's Osnovyan district, Suspilne.

- Part of the two-story building collapsed. A crater with a diameter of about ten meters was formed at the site of the explosion.

11:06 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the Kharkiv region.

11:47 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kharkiv, Kherson and Sumy region.

5:10 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the Kharkiv region.

6:22 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the Kharkiv region

10:35 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kharkiv.

11:07 PM: the Russians struck Kharkiv twice, previously with S-300 missiles, RMA head Oleg Sinegubov said.

- So far, there are no casualties. There is information about damage to civilian non-residential infrastructure in the central part of the city.

DONETSK



11:13 AM: Russians shelled Hirnyk in the Donetsk region with artillery, wounding a 16-year-old teenager, the Office of the Prosecutor General.

- The regional prosecutor's office has started a pre-trial investigation in criminal proceedings on the fact of violation of the laws and customs of war.

2:58 PM: A 51-year-old man died as a result of Russian strikes on Avdiivka.

- This was reported by the head of the Donetsk RMA, Vadym Filashkin.
- A 50-year-old woman was also injured and was hospitalized.

DNIPRO



8:00 AM: Russians fired at with artillery Nikopol Dnipropetrovsk region, without victims, — RMA.

2:22 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Dnipro.

2:46 PM: Defenders from Pvk "Shid" shot down a rocket over the Dnipro region, — RMA.

7:12 PM: According to updated information, air defense forces shot down 2 enemy missiles in the Dnipro district this afternoon.

- This was announced by the head of Dnipropetrovsk RMA Serhii Lysak.

MYKOLAIV

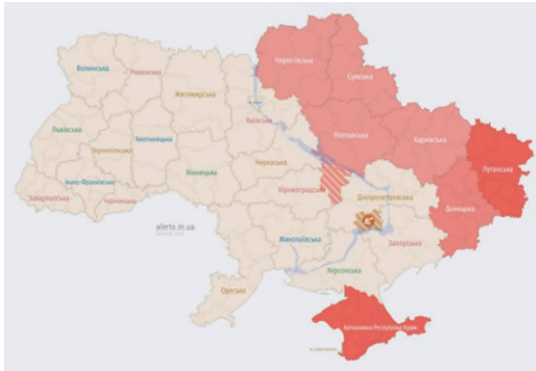


5:14 PM Social Networks: Explosions are also heard in the Mykolaiv region

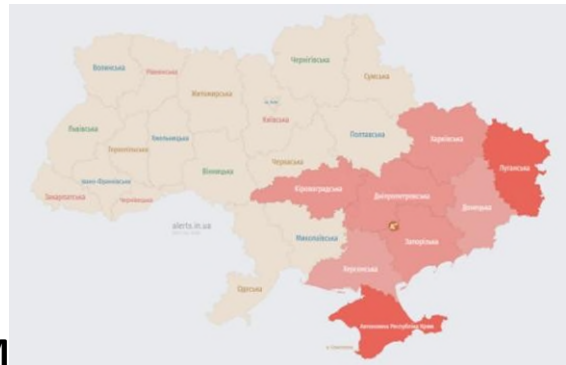
6:57 PM: As a result of Russian strikes on Snigurivka, Mykolaiv region, there are victims, including a minor girl.

- This was announced by the head of the Snigurivska Municipal Military Administration, Ivan Kukhta.

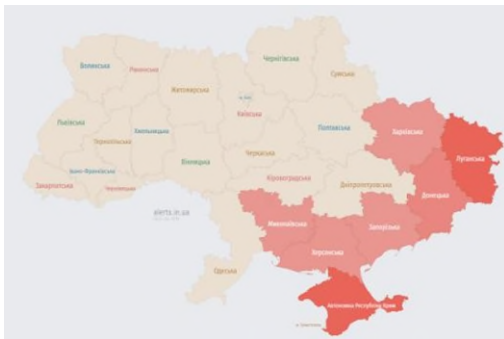
VISUAL CHRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL ROCKET, DRONE, ARTILLERY, MORTAR AND BOMB ALARMS



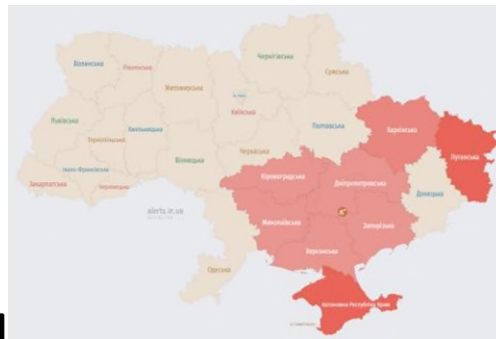
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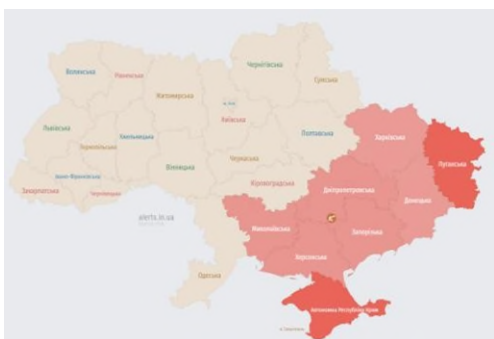
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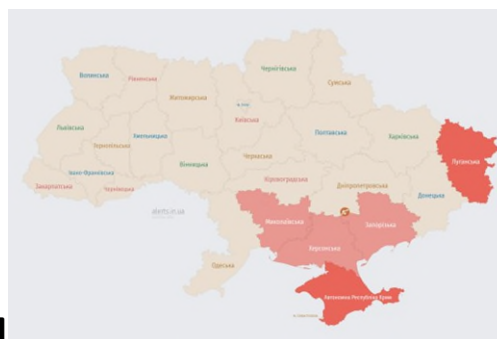
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5:09 PM



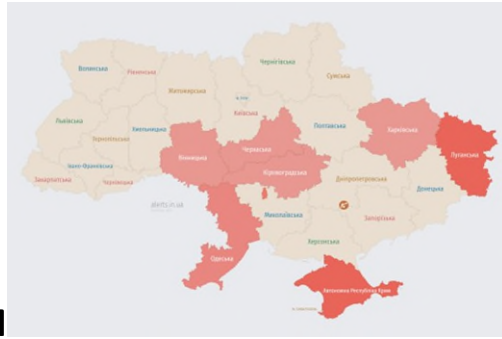
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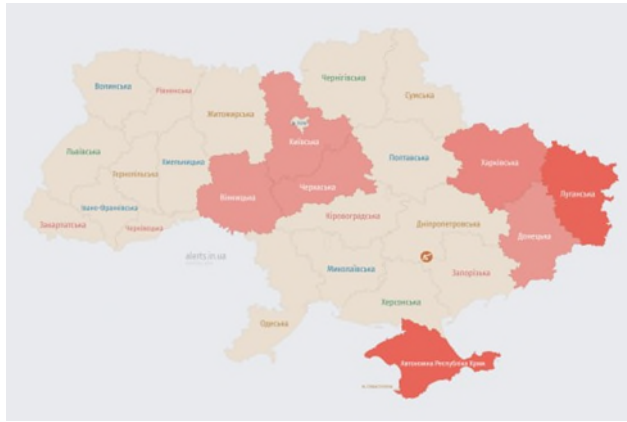
8:10 PM



9:00 PM



10:15 PM



11:00 PM

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	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 3
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 673 days	After 674 days	After 675 days	After 676 days	After 679 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	357,520	358,270	359,230	360,010	362,280

Material Losses

Tanks	147	5953	5969	5977	5983	6002
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	11,033	11,053	11,070	11,087	11,128
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	9356	9373	9407	9,435	9,521
Cruise Missiles		1620	1708	1709	1709	1785

Fighters Bombers	118	329	329	329	329	329
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		6539	6554	6591	6657	6753
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		620	621	623	625	630
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	11,215	11,244	11,292	11,330	11,423
Naval Vessels		23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)
Special Equipment		1254	1260	1268	1277	1304

SOURCES

- <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/>
- <https://espreso.tv/>
- <https://t.me/uawarinfographics>
- https://t.me/svoboda_radio
- <https://deepstatemap.live/en#11/47.9070/37.6927>
- <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/>