

News From Ukraine



By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

From Bohdan

Yesterday when I suggested that soldiers are more important than weapons, I meant it. However, without weapons soldiers are not as effective as those with.

My point is drawn from the experience Ukrainian territorial defense forces had in defeating the initial rashist invasion in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv. All four cities, close to the rashist border, within a 40 minute drive with the exception of Kyiv, withstood the rashist forces and pushed them back with very limited weaponry. The most advanced armaments were Javelins and Stugnas.

The situation when the Ukrainian armed forces go on the attack is different. Weapons can be more decisive in this case, but it seems to me that Ukraine will win if it puts the weapons to use in the context of tactical innovations.

There is an excellent summary of the year's events, including extensive maps, at the end of this email.

News From the Battlefield

The latest post from "[Reporting From Ukraine](#)" illustrates why focusing on one incursion south of Orikhiv, admittedly disappointing, and concluding that Ukraine's offensive failed, as has been consistently stated by the 3

“Newspapers of Record.” As Reporting From Ukraine describes, Ukraine’s offensive has many pieces, including:

- Ukrainian attacks against Russian logistics
- Denial of the use of the Black Sea to Russia
- Involvement of Partisans in the recent sinking of the Russian amphibious ship (55 sec. into his video)
- The increasing tenuousness of the military significance of Crimea, to Russia
- Ukraine is 1 – 2 ATACMS missiles (assuming the longer-range version with unitary warhead) from cutting Kerch and Chonhar Bridges, that connect Crimea with Russia and the Ukrainian mainland, respectively. The alternative supply route for Russian forces in the south would be through Mariupol and Melitopol, putting the entire logistics route on which Russian forces in the south depend within range of Ukrainian HIMARS. This is clearly illustrated at 1:35 into the video. Cut off the 2 bridges and, combined with the effective loss of Sevastopol to the Black Sea Fleet, Crimea is no longer a Russian military asset. Getting the weapon to allow Ukraine do this is a matter for the United States.
- The increased reliance Ukraine is placing on small drones, called “First Person Visual” (FPV) drones, to drop grenades and lay mines, in addition their use in surveillance. Drones allow Ukraine to compensate for a dwindling supply of 152 and 155mm artillery ammunition. Examples of Ukraine’s use of FPV drones can be found throughout the video.

12/28/2023 Sitrep

**SITUATION UPDATE OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF UKRAINIAN ARMED
FORCES DECEMBER 27, 2023**

During the day of December 27, there were 49 combat engagements. The enemy launched 67 air strikes, carried out 12 MLRS attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops and various settlements.

Sivershchyna and Slobozhanshchyna axes: the adversary maintains its military presence in the areas of russia bordering Ukraine. More than 20

settlements came under enemy artillery and mortar fire, including Volodymyrivka, Novovasylivka, Popivka (Sumy oblast), Losivka, Bochkove, Krasne Pershe (Kharkiv oblast).

Kupyansk axis: the Ukrainian defenders repelled 8 attacks in the vicinity of Synkivka and east of Ivanivka (Kharkiv oblast). The occupiers launched an air strike near Ivanivka (Kharkiv oblast). The invaders fired artillery and mortars at around 10 settlements, including Dvorichna, Synkivka, Petropavlivka, Ivanivka, Berestove (Kharkiv oblast).

Lyman axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 3 attacks around Serebryanske forestry (Luhansk oblast). In the area, the occupiers, with air support, made unsuccessful attempts to breach Ukrainian defense. The invaders launched an air strike near the settlements of Spirne (Donetsk oblast). The enemy fired artillery and mortars at more than 10 settlements, including Nevske (Luhansk oblast), Torske, Serebryanka, Spirne, Rozdolivka (Donetsk oblast).

Bakhmut axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 2 attacks of the adversary near Bohdanivka (Donetsk oblast). Around 10 settlements came under artillery and mortar fire, including Bohdanivka, Ivanivske, Kalynivka, Klishchivka, Andriyivka, Stupochky (Donetsk oblast).

Avdiyivka axis: the Ukrainian defenders repelled 12 enemy attacks east of Novobakhmutivka, Avdiyivka, and 15 more attacks in the vicinities of Sjeverne, Pervomaiske and Nevelske (Donetsk oblast). The invaders fired artillery and mortars at around 10 settlements, including Keramik, Stepove, Avdiyivka, Tonenke, Pervomaiske, Nevelske (Donetsk oblast).

Maryinka axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to hold back the enemy in the vicinities of Maryinka and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast), where the enemy, with air support, conducted 3 failed attacks on Ukrainian positions. The settlements of Krasnohorivka, Maryinka, Kurakhove, Pobjeda, Yelyzavetivka were under artillery and mortar fire of the occupiers.

Shakhtarske axis: the enemy conducted no offensives. The invaders launched an air strike near the settlement of Zolota Nyva (Donetsk oblast).

The adversary fired artillery and mortars at around 10 settlements, including Vuhledar, Prechystivka, Zolota Nyva, Urozhaine (Donetsk oblast).

Zaporizhzhia axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 2 adversary attacks west of Verbove and Robotyne (Zaporizhzhia oblast). In that area, the adversary made failed attempts to dislodge Ukrainian troops from their positions. The invaders launched air strikes in the vicinity of Orikhiv and Preobrazhenka (Zaporizhzhia oblast). More than 25 settlements, including Poltavka, Luhivske, Novodanylivka, Novoandriyivka, Shcherbaky, Kamyanske, Plavni (Zaporizhzhia oblast), came under enemy artillery and mortar fire.

Odesa operational-strategic group, Kherson axis: the adversary fired artillery at the city of Kherson, the settlements of Beryslav, Stanislav (Kherson oblast). Also, the invaders launched air strikes in the vicinities of Chervonyi Mayak, Zmiyivka, and Novoberyslav (Kherson oblast).

The occupiers do not abandon their intention to drive Ukrainian units out of their footholds on the left bank of the Dnipro. Thus, during the day, the enemy made 10 unsuccessful assaults. The attacks were repelled and the enemy suffered significant losses. The Ukrainian troops are holding the line.

During the day of December 27, the Ukrainian Air Force launched air strikes on 10 concentrations of troops, weapons, and military equipment of the occupiers.

The Ukrainian missile troops hit 5 concentrations of troops, weapons, and military equipment, 2 command posts, and 4 ammunition depots of the Russian invaders.

INTERNATIONAL

8:00 AM: The EU is preparing a €20 billion contingency plan for Ukraine in case of Hungary's veto.

8:00 AM: Taiwan conducts military drills — practicing repelling Chinese landings.

1:20 PM: A German politician said that Ukraine should accept the temporary loss of territories for the sake of peace.

- According to Michael Kretschmer, the prime minister of the federal state of Saxony (Germany), the German government should "not only supply weapons to Ukraine, but also engage in diplomatic initiatives," and the allies "should try to influence Putin and enable a ceasefire."
- Earlier, he already called to freeze the conflict in Ukraine.

1:49 PM : The Embassy of Ukraine has already started work in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

- This was reported in the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.
- According to Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, this is part of the Ukrainian strategy for developing relations with African countries, the Ukrainian-African renaissance, and countering Russian influence in the world.

2:32 PM: Germany exported a record number of weapons this year: a third to Ukraine.

- Germany exported arms for a record 11.71 billion euros this year. The previous record of 9.35 billion euros was set in 2021.

5:16 PM : 1,300 Ukrainian military personnel were trained in Estonia in two years, — ERR.

- The press secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Estonia, Roland Muroff, noted that mostly Ukrainian soldiers were trained in basic training, as well as engaged in the training of gunners, snipers and cyber troops.

6:03 PM : The Polish government is moving closer to ending the blockade of the border with Ukraine, — Reuters.

- Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that, most likely, all the demands of the protesting truck drivers will not be fulfilled, but the decisions will "reduce emotions."

10:25 PM : The US is providing Ukraine with new military aid worth \$250 million, Secretary of State Blinken said.

- The aid package included ammunition for air defense equipment, HIMARS MLRS, artillery.

NATIONAL

9:41 AM: Commander of the Tavria air defense system Brigadier General Oleksandr Tarnavskiy predicts that 2024 may be more difficult in terms of conducting military operations, BBC Ukraine.

- "the Russians intensified their actions almost along the entire line of battle. Their strategic goal is the liquidation of Ukrainian statehood," the general said.

11:57 AM: Missile danger throughout Ukraine! MiG-31K takeoff from Savasleika airfield (Nizhny Novgorod Region), — Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

12:01 PM : The register of conscripts has been increased by 750,000 entries. 88% of personal data of Ukrainians aged 18 to 60 have been verified

- This was reported by Deputy Minister of Defense Kateryna Chernogorenko.
- As it is claimed, the "Oberig" register is needed for keeping military records. Its goal is to reduce corruption, data manipulation, and duplicate subpoenas.

1:33 PM : Starting today, Ukrainians will be able to buy a new home using eRenewal certificates, Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov announced.

- You must first choose housing, negotiate with the seller, update the "Action", open the "Certificates for housing" tab in the "isRecovery" section and click "Reserve funds". Confirmation that the money has been reserved should arrive within five working days.
- After that, you have 30 days to complete the sales agreement.

2:15 PM : The court of Ukraine sentenced in absentia the leader of the "DNR" Denys Pushylin to 15 years in prison with confiscation of property, — Office of the Prosecutor General.

- The sentence was handed down under the articles of encroachment on the integrity of Ukraine and collaborative activities. Pushinin will serve his sentence in case of detention.

2:32 PM: In Ukraine, an FSB agent was sentenced to 15 years in prison: he prepared airstrikes against the Armed Forces and the National Guard in Kyiv.

- For cooperation with the occupiers, the collaborator received a monetary reward on a bank card.

2:36 PM : In 2023, the SBU destroyed more than 500 Russian tanks.

- Every day, the Ukrainian special service methodically "minus" enemy armored vehicles in battles on the eastern and southern fronts.
- Among the destroyed tanks of the aggressor country are the latest T-90 and T-90M, the cost of which is almost 5 million dollars each.

2:50 PM : The Cabinet of Ministers warned of possible delays in pensions and salaries if the EU and the US do not provide the promised financial assistance at the beginning of next year.

- First Deputy Prime Minister of the Economy Yuliya Svyridenko reported this in a comment to the Financial Times.
- Currently, US President Joe Biden's request for \$60 billion is deadlocked in Congress, and the EU support package for 50 billion euros is blocked by Hungary's veto.

3:15 PM: The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Oleg Nikolenko responded to the statement of the Prime Minister of the federal state of Saxony (Germany) Michael Krechmer.

- Oleg Nikolenko said that if Ukraine accepts the temporary loss of territory, Russian troops will become closer to Germany, and Saxony in particular.
- "Territory concessions will certainly lead to greater aggression by Russia, which will undoubtedly go beyond the borders of Ukraine. Peace in Europe rests on Moscow's defeat.

3:15 PM : Do not forget to thank the defenders for their comfort and warmth: "Ukrainian team" continues to collect on hot packs

- Soon the New Year. We buy food for the holiday table, decorate Christmas trees. But we must remember that all this is now possible only thanks to those guys who are now in the trenches. They will meet the New Year in the cold and dampness. For our safety. Therefore, when preparing for the holiday, do not forget to thank them for your comfort and warmth. Donate for warm kits for our defenders!
- To warm 50,000 soldiers, it remains to raise another 3 million hryvnias. 140 hryvnias – one warmed-up fighter. 4,200 hryvnias - a whole platoon is warmed up. Let's push!
 - Privatbank: <https://bit.ly/3Bwii4S>
 - Monobank: <https://tinyurl.com/yse28z59>
 - UAPay: <https://bit.ly/3Dd68PM>
 - Full details: <https://bit.ly/474kmOx>

3:59 PM : The court left the preventive measure of People's Deputy Dubinsky unchanged — detention, Suspilne reports.

- The preventive measure is no longer subject to appeal. Dubinsky is suspected of organizing a scheme for illegal departure of men of military age abroad.

4:30 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded the workers of the defense and industrial complex of Ukraine with awards.

- "Ukraine's task is as clear as possible: we must make our state so strong and effective that Russia feels that there will be our response to each of its blows. It is possible to fulfill this task only on the basis of sufficient production of domestic weapons," the president said.

5:35 PM: Three cases of the new Pirola COVID subvariant were registered in Ukraine during December, — Ministry of Health.

- Cases of the Pirola subvariant of the coronavirus were detected last week — two in Vinnytsia region and one in Kropyvnytskyi.

6:45 PM: Ukraine has significantly increased production of ammunition, including mines and artillery shells.

- This was announced by Oleksandr Kamyshin, Minister of Strategic Industries.
- He emphasized that the share of private companies' production is approaching the share of state-owned companies' production. There used to be a monopoly in this industry.

6:47 PM Operational Command West: The occupiers surrender due to the "inhuman attitude of the Russian command" and heavy losses in the units.

- According to the military, in recent days the second group of occupiers from the 71st regiment of the Russian Armed Forces surrendered in the Zaporizhzhia direction.
- This was reported by the Western Operational Command. It is noted that, according to the prisoners themselves, the reasons for active surrender are the inhumane attitude of the Russian command and heavy losses in Russian units.
- The occupiers complain that every day groups made up of untrained fighters from among the mobilized and those who recently signed the contract are sent on an assault from which they do not return.

6:56 PM: The Ministry of Defense has certified the first body armor for female military personnel.

- Oleksandr Sharko, chief specialist of the Central Department of Development and Material Support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, stated this.
- Body armor — Ukrainian production. It was developed by the Ukrainian Armor company.

7:10 PM: The price of electricity for the population will remain unchanged, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced during the government meeting.

- According to him, the Ukrainian energy industry is successfully passing the first winter month.

7:25 PM: Summary of the General Staff as of 18:00 on December 27:

- During the day, 49 combat clashes took place. The enemy carried out 67 airstrikes and fired 12 rounds of anti-aircraft missiles at the positions of our troops and populated areas.

- Aviation struck 10 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment of the enemy.
- Units of missile troops were hit 5 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 2 control points and 4 ammunition depots of the enemy.

7:47 PM: The National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption published the statistics of regional corruption.

- The most corrupt regions of Ukraine according to the results of 2023:
 - Lvivska — 244 entries in the register of offenses;
 - Dnipropetrovsk — 219 records;
 - Kyivska — 219 records;
 - Odesa — 217 records.

7:52 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi held a series of meetings with ministers today.

- With the head of the National Bank of Ukraine and the Minister of Finance, they discussed the issue of the next year.
- The President also held meetings with the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Internal Affairs.

8:15 PM: Since August 2023, Ukraine has been mass-producing a long-range kamikaze drone similar to Shahed. Oleksandr Kamyshin, head of the Ministry of Strategy and Industry, announced this.

- According to him, now the defense industry can produce dozens of such kamikaze drones, but in the future it will increase its capacity.

9:07 PM: Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ignat denied information about the alleged presence of F-16s in Ukraine.

- Previously, information about the whereabouts of the planes was published by a number of Telegram channels.

9:29 PM: The state will finance infertility treatment. This will help ensure the birth of 10,000 children every year, the Ministry of Health reported.

- The department emphasized that the number of infertile couples in Ukraine is steadily increasing, which requires active participation of the state.

10:10 PM: The draft law on mobilization contains norms that contradict the Constitution, said Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets on the air of the telethon.

- It is about a number of restrictions on persons who evade mobilization. In particular, this is a ban on real estate transactions, driving a personal vehicle, and using cash.

11:00 PM: The last exchange was on August 7, Russia does not want to return prisoners, said Ombudsman Lubinets

- the Russians are trying to create additional social tensions within Ukraine and use relatives of prisoners of war against the Ukrainian authorities.

11:36 PM: "Germans support extradition of Ukrainian refugees": Russians spread fake survey

- Enemy Telegram channels are spreading the results of a survey from the EU statistical service on whether German citizens are ready to support the extradition of Ukrainian refugees. Allegedly, the majority of German citizens support this option.
- "During the analysis, the Center established that there is no such static data on the Eurostat website, so the information disseminated by Rashists is yet another fake, the purpose of which is to create the illusion of fatigue on the part of Ukrainians and Ukraine in general," the CPD emphasizes.

11:51 PM: Commander-in-Chief Zaluzhny defended his thesis in law and received the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

- It is reported that the dissertation itself and its annotation cannot be reviewed, as they constitute a state secret.

MORDOR - ruZZia

8:00 AM: the Russian Federation announced the alleged shooting down of an anti-aircraft missile over the Rostov region.

8:00 AM: Russians have trouble getting paid for oil shipments to India, Reuters.

2:32 PM: Ukrainian partisans made public the coordinates of the occupiers' radar station complexes in Sevastopol.

- Partisans noted that it is very important to eliminate the operation of this type of system in order to increase the success of missile and drone attacks on military facilities in Sevastopol.

3:36 PM : The special services of the Russian Federation are sending provocative messages to the phones of Ukrainians abroad, — GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- " _The messages were created in the stylistics of Lubyansk linguists: next to the cliché about the need to "revive Kievan Rus' together to harm the enemies" there are phrases like "protect yourself and your relatives" or "save people's lives" - Kremlin propaganda and a threat in one sentence_ " , - it is noted in the intelligence.

4:20 PM : One of the largest ERP systems in Russia stopped working due to attacks by the Ukrainian IT Army, Ministry of Digital.

- 1C-Rarus has 150,000 users, including Russian Tatneft and VTB.
- Clients cannot use accounting services and work at full capacity. In particular, in shops and gas stations, they cannot make payments because the cash register is not working.

4:45 PM: the Russians sent a large group of operatives to Feodosia to search for those responsible for the destruction of the amphibious ship "Novocherkask", "ATESH".

- " _Putin is furious because of the destruction of the Novocherkassk air defense complex. An order has been issued to punish the air defense forces of Crimea. It is expected that many commanders will be removed and sent to the front to participate in assault groups. In fact, they are getting rid of them_," reports the partisan movement "ATESH".

6:20 PM : OSINT researchers have released Maxar satellite images of the port of Feodosia from December 5 and 26, which show the Novocherkassk VDK before and after the attack.

11:40 PM : Explosions are heard in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local channels report.

REGIONS

KYIV



10:12 AM: BEB in Kyiv discovered the facts of tax evasion of 10 million hryvnias by one of the largest chains of cinemas in the capital.

- During the investigation, the company agreed to cooperate and paid off the debt to the state even before the suspicion was handed over to its officials.
- BEB detectives sent two petitions to the court to release the responsible persons of the company from criminal liability.

10:59 AM: Tunnels are sinking in the section of the capital metro between Pochayna and Tarasa Shevchenko stations, the city authorities are preparing for planned repairs.

- This was announced by Mykola Povoroznyk, the first deputy head of the Kyiv City State Administration.
- They note that the movement of trains will not be blocked completely. Most likely, alternate shuttle traffic will be organized on the site through one tunnel in both directions.

1:07 PM : Today Kyiv received a new batch of aid from two German cities - Leipzig and Berlin.

- This was announced by the mayor of Kyiv Vitaliy Klitschko.
- In particular, 5 new fire and rescue vehicles arrived from Leipzig. And Berlin handed over 3 Mercedes Econic garbage trucks to Kyiv.

6:29 PM : The charity Christmas exhibition "Rising Star" was opened at the Kyiv railway station.

- Dozens of interactive and exhibits, as well as a 7-meter swing, have been prepared for visitors.
- Funds for each ticket and purchased souvenir will go to shelter for 2,283 children in schools of Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

11:49 PM: There are at least 7 problem areas in the Kyiv metro, - Deputy of the Kyiv City Council Vitrenko

- "According to our estimates and according to the estimates of specialists, according to experts, there are approximately seven more

problem areas... Seven areas where there is subsidence, where there are also changes in the topography of the subway branches," says Vitrenko.

KHARKIV



3:12 PM : The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons in the Kharkiv, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions.



ZAPORIZHIA

11:11 AM: About an hour ago, an explosion rang out in the temporarily occupied Melitopol, it was heard in the center of the city.

- The mayor of the city, Ivan Fedorov, announced this.
- _"And at night, the people of Melitopol recorded a series of explosions outside the city. The occupiers are traditionally silent," added Ivan Fedorov.

4:01 PM: The killing of two minor partisans in Berdyansk: the occupiers have not given the bodies of the children to their parents for six months

- At the end of June, the Russian occupiers in Berdyansk killed two minor partisans, Tigran Ohannisyan and Nikita Khandanov: the bodies of the children have not yet been returned to their parents, their whereabouts are unknown
- Andriy Yakovlev, the lawyer of the family of the murdered Tigran Ohannisyan, told about it.
- According to him, the children's bodies are probably in the Berdyansk morgue, but it is impossible to confirm this.

10:47 PM : The Air Force reports that all groups of strike UAVs have changed their direction of movement to Zaporozhye from the west.

DNIPRO



1:45 AM: The Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports the movement of "shaheeds" in the direction of the Dnipro.

3:17 AM Social Networks: Explosions rang out in Dnipropetrovsk region,

2:06 PM : The Air Force of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported the movement of a missile in the direction of Kryvyi Rih.

8:48 PM : In the Dnipropetrovsk region, an unknown person in a balaclava shot a car.

- The driver died on the spot as a result of his injuries. All police services were involved in the search for the suspect. This crime is classified as contract killing, the police said.

10:19 PM : Strike UAVs have changed direction and are moving in the direction of Dnipro, the Air Force reports.

- And another group of attack UAVs in the direction of Kryvyi Rih is also moving from the south.

KHERSON



2:31 AM: New groups of "shaheeds" in Kherson Oblast and Zaporizhzhia, heading north, are the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- "Shahedy" are flying to Pavlograd from the north and south.

8:36 AM: More than 100 passengers from the Kherson railway station, which was fired upon by the Russians last night, arrived in Kyiv on schedule, media.

- Kherson residents also received 320 portions of food from Food Train at one of the intermediate stations.

10:50 AM: In the morning, the Russian army killed a civilian in Novoberyslav, — RMA.

- "A 59-year-old man was fatally wounded. At the time of the shelling, he was walking down the street," _ - head of the Kherson RMA Oleksandr Prokudin.

1:19 PM : Consequences of yesterday's Russian shelling of the station and city streets of Kherson.

9:47 PM : This is what a street shelter in Kherson looks like after a direct shell hit. Photo from local social networks.

9:55 PM : The Air Force reports that in the Kherson, Mykolaiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions there is a threat of using attack UAVs.

- Strike drones in the direction of Kryvyi Rih from the south.

ODESA



12:10 AM Social Networks: In Odesa about. Previously, the work of air defense. We are waiting for official information.

8:00 AM: Explosions were heard in Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk region, subscribers reported.

9:09 AM Operational Command South: In the suburbs of Odesa, a person died as a result of the debris of a Russian UAV falling on summer houses.

- Three more were injured, including a 17-year-old teenager.

POLTAVA



2:17 AM: The route of the "Shaheads" to Kremenchuk, Poltava region, the Air Force reports.

- "Shahedy" from the north of Dnipropetrovsk region to Kharkiv region.

LVIV-



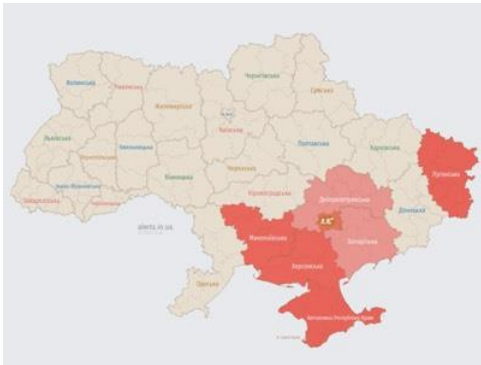
4:58 PM : BEB in Lviv informed the director of the company about suspicion of tax evasion over UAH 104 million.

- During 2021-2022, he submitted false information regarding the amount of income to tax returns.
- Currently, the property of the suspect has been seized. He was informed of the suspicion of aiding and abetting willful tax evasion in particularly large amounts.

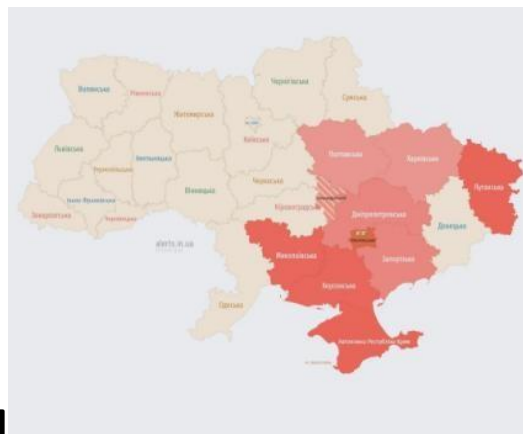
5:53 PM : Ternopil OVA will change its head.

- The Cabinet of Ministers agreed to the dismissal of Volodymyr Trush, the government informed.

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



1:40 AM



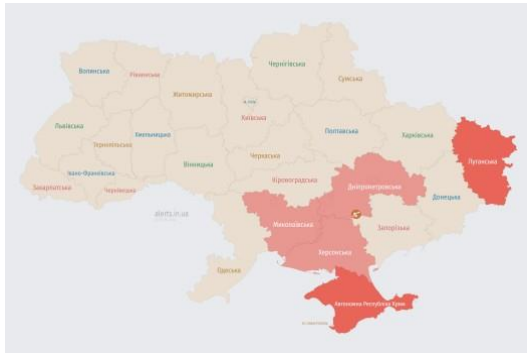
2:30 AM



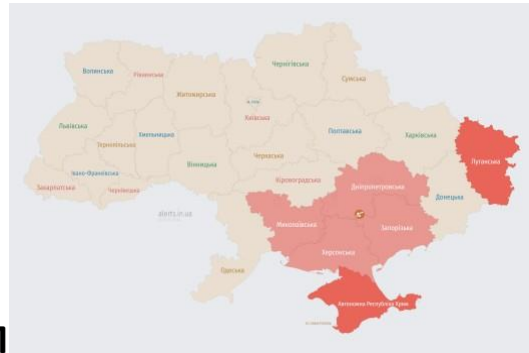
2:00 PM



3:10 PM



9:50 PM



10:50 PM

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 19	Dec 20	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 664 days	After 665 days	After 670 days	After 671 days	After 672 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	348,300	349,190	353,950	355,750	356,670

Material Losses

Tanks	147	5798	5814	5877	5913	5940
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	10,771	10,794	10,919	10,973	11,015
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	9116	9,134	9,281	9,310	9,336
Cruise Missiles		1611	1612	1616	1620	1620

Fighters Bombers	118	324	324	329	329	329
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		6299	6316	6436	6471	6503
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		611	611	613	616	617
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	10842	10,871	11,075	11,140	11,180
Naval Vessels		22+(1 submar ine)	22+(1 submar ine)	22+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)
Special Equipment		1200	1203	1234	1240	1247

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/>

Key outcomes and developments of Russia-Ukraine war in 2023

Wednesday, 27 December, 2023 15:45



The war in 2023 was much bloodier than the previous year. The Russian army lost over 220,000 soldiers, lost its offensive potential, lost most battles and was forced to retreat in the Black Sea

Russia's losses: comparing 2 years of war

In 2023, the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported a decrease in the destruction of tanks and armored personnel carriers compared to 2022, with reductions of 10% and 20%, respectively. Russia not only ceased moving in columns but also struggled to replenish its previously lost armored fleet.



However, Ukrainian soldiers increased the elimination of Russian troops, nearly doubling the total to 350,000 killed and at least an equivalent number wounded. While official statistics on Ukrainian Armed Forces losses are unavailable, representatives from the General Staff have consistently claimed significantly lower casualty figures, ranging from 5 to 7 times less than their Russian counterparts.



This year, the Ukrainian Defense Forces unleashed a real safari on artillery and air defense systems, the rate of destruction of which tripled to 6,000

and 390 units, respectively. We also shot down 4,300 tactical drones, which is twice as many as the previous year. These figures give a realistic picture of the nature of combat operations in 2023: less armored vehicles - more drones and shells.



Map of frontline changes and major battles in 2023

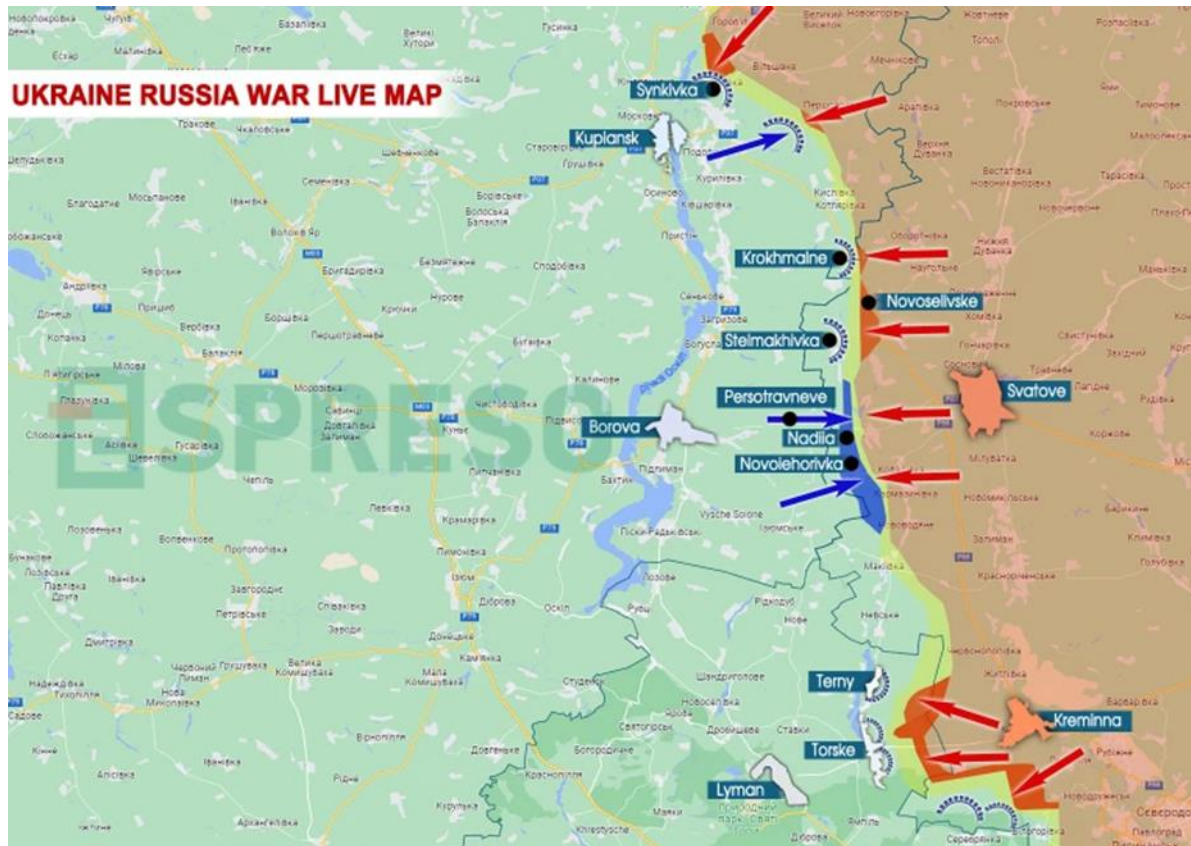
There were two significant changes on the front line. Russian troops managed to occupy Bakhmut and the territory east of the city, i.e. about 530 square kilometers, while the Ukrainian Armed Forces punched two large holes in Russia's defense on the southern front with a total area of about 270 square kilometers, and recaptured another 43 square kilometers during a counteroffensive near Bakhmut.

UKRAINE RUSSIA WAR LIVE MAP



Russia's offensive in the Luhansk region fails

Throughout 2023, Russian troops tried to launch a large-scale offensive in the Luhansk region to push the Ukrainian Armed Forces beyond the Oskil River and out of the Luhansk region, as well as to regain the city of Lyman, which was lost and strategically important for the Battle of Donetsk. Fighting took place along the entire 100-kilometer front line, with the greatest emphasis on the direction of Kupyansk, Borova and Lyman. Each of these towns is located over 10 kilometers from the front line, but Russian army managed to penetrate 1-1.5 kilometers in some very limited areas over the year. In addition, the Ukrainian Armed Forces, counterattacking, regained some of the lost positions, as they did in the summer near the villages of Novoyehorivka and Nadiya, and is now happening regularly near Pershotravneve and Yahidne. A significant development in the Luhansk region was the Azov Brigade's return to the front, taking up positions in the Serebryanka Forestry in the Kreminna direction.



The historic battle for Bakhmut

The complete occupation of the Donetsk region remains a priority for Russia. The offensive on Bakhmut marked the beginning of a new stage in the realization of this plan. The battle began in August 2022 and is still ongoing, but the most dramatic events took place in January-May 2023. At first, we lost several villages near Soledar, and two weeks later, Soledar itself, which threatened not only Bakhmut but also our bridgehead near Siversk. However, the Ukrainian Armed Forces managed to eliminate the threat of a Russian offensive north of Bakhmut. Russian troops conducted street battles by completely destroying urban buildings. In addition to Soledar and Bakhmut, they occupied 24 other villages during the winter. As part of the summer counteroffensive, the Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully recaptured Klishchiivka and Andriivka south of Bakhmut, making advances toward Yahidne and Berkhivka to the north of the city. However, in a new massive offensive launched in December, Russian troops succeeded in pushing Ukrainian forces back to the outskirts of Bohdanivka and Ivanivske.



As a result of the battle, Russia suffered over 60,000 soldiers killed and wounded, while the Ukrainian Armed Forces incurred casualties at a rate 7.5 times lower. The occupation of Bakhmut by Russian forces was facilitated by the concentration of a numerically superior army and an escalation in artillery superiority, reaching a ratio of 1:8.

Map of the large-scale offensive along the entire Donetsk region and the battle for Vuhledar

The Vuhledar foothold poses significant challenges for Russian troops as it jeopardizes the operation of the Mariupol-Volnovakha-Donetsk railroad. In early 2023, Russian forces initiated a second powerful assault on the city and advanced to within 2 km of it. However, during this advance, the Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully destroyed half of all Russian armored vehicles—over 200 pieces—in a span of three weeks. Since then, Russian troops have refrained from launching any significant attempts to attack Vuhledar until a new offensive was launched in December, covering a broad front across the entire Donetsk region.



As a result of this offensive, Russian forces completed the occupation of the completely destroyed town of Marinka, which had previously been 90% under Russian control. They claim that by taking Marinka, they have opened up operational space toward the town of Kurakhove. However, in reality, the road to Kurakhove has been transformed into a multi-level defense system.

In the final weeks of December, Russia intensified its offensive in the region between Marinka and Vuhledar and approached the outskirts of the villages of Pobyeda and Novomykhailivka. This marked the deepest frontline breakthrough in 2023 since the Battle of Bakhmut, extending approximately 5 km. If these trends persist, the next target for Russia could once again be Vuhledar, posing a potential threat of semi-encirclement to the town.

Avdiivka battle may surpass Bakhmut in terms of Russian losses

In just two months, Russian troops have suffered losses of 13,000 soldiers and over 210 armored vehicles in the battle. They are making some advances of hundreds of meters per week. The village of Stepove has been under Russian assault for almost 80 days, with their progress limited to reaching its middle. Their advancements on the outskirts of Novokalynove and Novobakhmutivka to the north of the town, as well as near Sieverne and Pervomayske in the south, have been even more modest. Although the invading forces are less than 10 kilometers away from cutting off logistics to the semi-encircled Avdiivka, the Ukrainian Armed Forces are fortifying the area with 2nd and 3rd defense lines. At the current pace, Russian troops

may break down and lose their offensive potential within 1-2 months. Valerii Zaluzhnyi stated that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are prepared to hold the defense of Avdiivka for another 2-3 months.



The year 2023 has started with the battle for Bakhmut and concludes with the battle for Avdiivka. Both will go down in history as the bloodiest. But during this time, the Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully enhanced their firepower. In January-February, an average of 740 Russian soldiers were killed per day, and by November-December, this number had increased to 950 per day. In contrast, Russia, which initially had the capability to attack along the entire front, is now restricted to potential attacks only on specific kilometer-long sections.

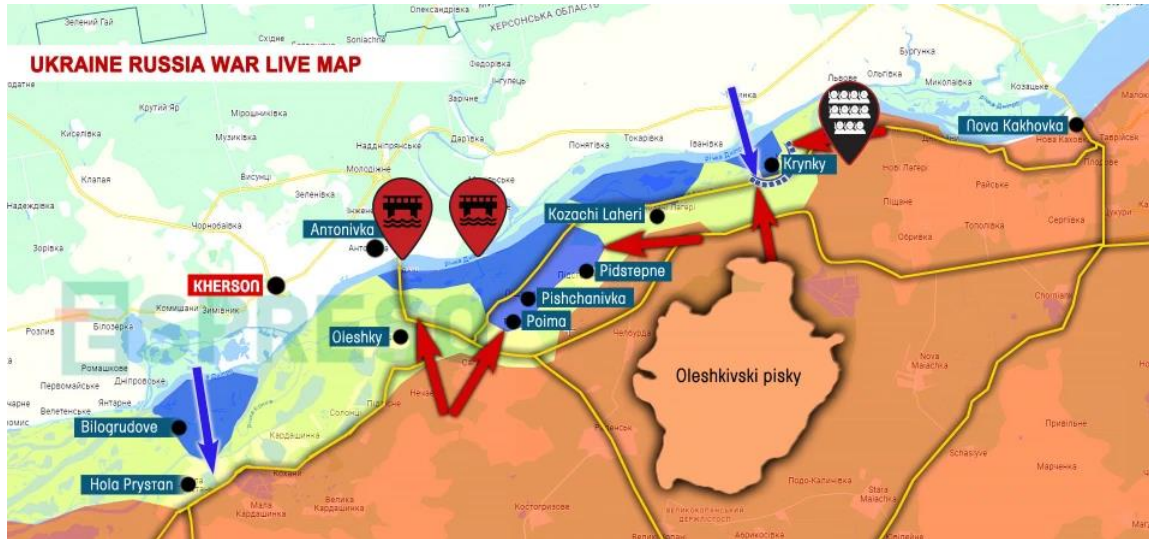
Map of Ukraine's counteroffensive on southern front

The offensive started on June 4-6 simultaneously on the Melitopol, Tokmak, and Berdyansk directions. In the initial months of the offensive, the Ukrainian military successfully established three footholds, overcoming minefields and defense lines. The largest foothold was in the area of Velyka Novosilka, where they penetrated over 10 km deep and 25 km wide, liberating nine villages (Neskuchne, Urozhayne, Staromayorske, Blahodatne, Makarivka, Storozhove, Rivne, Novodarivka, Levadne). In the Tokmak direction, the Ukrainian Defense Forces liberated 100 square kilometers around the village of Robotyne, and in the Melitopol direction, they managed to penetrate 2.5 kilometers deep, liberating three villages (Stepove, Lobkove, Pyatykhatky). Subsequently, the offensive slowed down

and fell short of its initial goal to reach the Sea of Azov. Nevertheless, it laid a solid foundation for a counteroffensive in 2024, preserving the trained backbone of new brigades and over 80% of the armored vehicles.



On the left bank of the Kherson region, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have successfully established at least two bridgeheads, one near the Antonivka Road Bridge and the other near the village of Krynyky. They are also advancing in other promising areas near Hola Prystan and Oleshky. The uniqueness of this operation lies in the fact that a thousand Ukrainian forces, supported by artillery and drones from the right bank, are effectively holding off the enemy's 65,000-strong army, which has been unable to resolve the situation for several months. Putin mentioned Krynyky in his annual press conference, and the same week, the New York Times published an article about Krynyky, using Russian narratives to highlight the perceived futility of the Ukrainian efforts. Both of these messages underscore the significant success achieved by Ukrainian forces in this region.

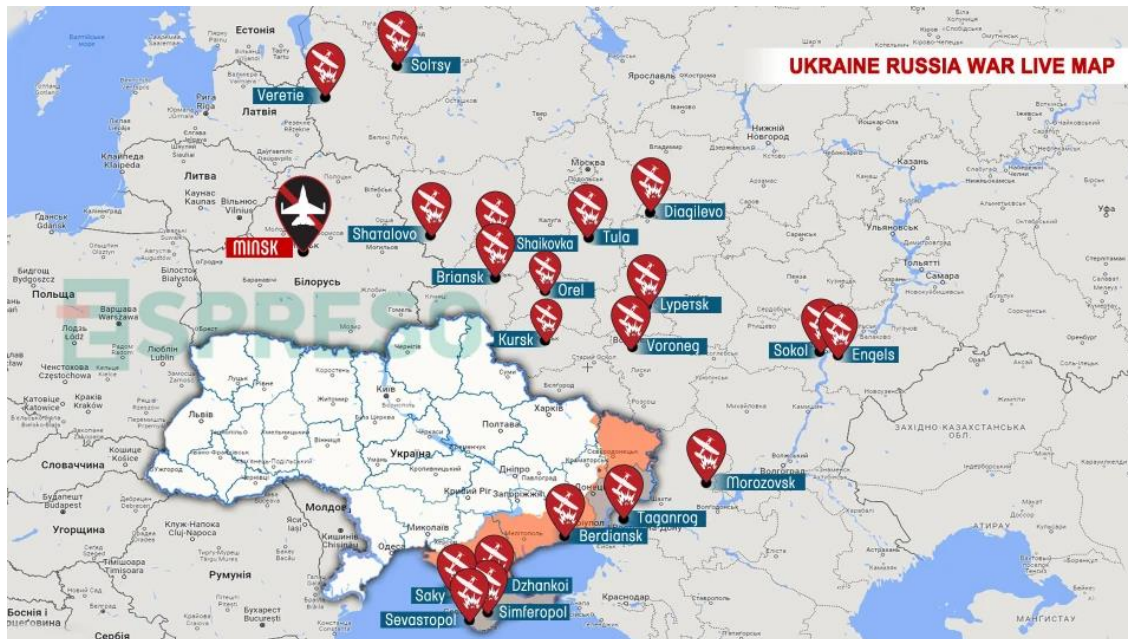


The next step for the Ukrainian Armed Forces is to expand the established bridgehead, and to achieve this, it is crucial to eliminate the threat from the air. Toward the end of December, the Ukrainian air defense system took significant steps in addressing this issue by successfully shooting down three of the newest Su-34 fighter-bombers in a single operation. Additionally, a few days later, another Su-30, which had previously launched a missile at the Odesa region from the Black Sea, was also successfully downed.

Russian aircraft no longer feel secure in both the occupied territory and within Russia itself. This marks a significant step toward challenging the dominance of the Russian air force. Now Ukraine awaits F-16s, which are expected to play a pivotal role in dismantling Russia's air superiority.

Ukrainian victories in air and on Black Sea

In 2023, the Ukrainian Defense Forces consistently expanded their operational reach. Ukrainian drones demonstrated their capability by reaching Moscow and targeting airfields. With over 20 strikes on airfields across Russia, the Ukrainian Armed Forces probably staged a mock competition to see who could destroy more aircraft in the sky or on the ground.



Ukraine has emerged victorious in this round of the battle for the Black Sea, compelling Russian ships to withdraw from Sevastopol to Novorossiysk, where they continue to be targeted by Ukrainian naval drones.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces executed strategic missile and drone strikes on various naval facilities, including docks in Sevastopol, where the first submarine was destroyed, the elimination of the large landing ship Novocherkassk in the port of Feodosia, the destruction of repair docks in Kerch, and a strike on Novorossiysk, resulting in damage to another landing ship, Olenegorsky Gornyak. In the past four months alone, Ukraine has successfully neutralized 20% of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. While the victories forced the Russian fleet to retreat from Ukrainian waters, they still do not feel secure even closer to Russian shores.



The regaining of control over the so-called Boyko towers and two ground operations on the eastern coast of Crimea demonstrated the prospects for de-occupation of the peninsula, which can take place not only through the isthmus.

In 2023, the Ukrainian Armed Forces helped to completely resolve the problem of the grain corridor and demonstrated to other NATO partners that blackmail by the Russian Armed Forces in the Black Sea must be countered. Having seen our capabilities, the British and Norwegians have already promised to help with security guarantees for commercial flights in the Black Sea - this is a victory and recognition!

War on Russia's territory

In 2023, the war extended beyond the Russian-Ukrainian border, manifesting not only in the air but also on the ground. During the summer, the Freedom of Russia Legion, a specially formed unit comprising Russians, conducted multiple deep raids into Russia, notably within the Belgorod region. Later, the practice of these raids was halted, purportedly due to criticism from Western partners. The resumption of raids in late December, with the Legion's members once again engaging in battles in the Belgorod region, is a positive sign. These raids in Russia showcase the asymmetric capabilities of Ukrainians that we can use in this war.



Another asymmetric response to Russian terror was the blowing up of two railroad lines on the strategically important Baikal-Amur railroad. The Crimean bridge is waiting for its turn in 2024!