

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

00:00 December 28 to

24:00 December 28, 2023

By: Robert Homans & Bohdan Chomiak

Last Night's Russian Missile Attack (Courtesy of Ukraine.ua)

Overnight, Russia massively attacked Ukraine, launching over 158 drone missiles of various types. Most of the air targets were shot down by Ukrainian air defence. Still, there are killed and injured in different regions of Ukraine.

- In Kharkiv, 1 person was killed and 11 injured. The missiles damaged a hospital, an ambulance, and business premises.
- In Dnipro, 5 people were killed and at least 20 injured. A maternity hospital and a shopping centre were damaged.
- In Odesa, 3 people were killed and 15 injured. A residential building was hit, and several multi-storey buildings were damaged.
- In Zaporizhzhia, 2 killed and 10 injured. Occupants attacked the city's enterprises, and a missile destroyed a residential building.
- In Kyiv, 2 people were killed and at least 18 injured. Civilian infrastructure, cars and warehouses were damaged.
- In Lviv, 1 person was killed and 15 injured. An apartment building and infrastructure were damaged.

What is interesting that none of the missiles hit electrical generating stations or substations. According to one report, a few power lines were cut by falling missile debris. This seems purely an attack against the civilian population.

[“Russia’s Military Wives Emerge as Wild Card to Putin’s Triumphant Mood”](#)/Washington Post

It begins.

In the late 1980s, the organization “Soldiers’ Mothers” emerged as a key factor in the decision by the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan. Given the exponential increase in Russian casualties in Russia’s latest invasion of Ukraine, 350,000+ in 22 months of war vs. 14,000+ in nine years of war in Afghanistan, many have been wondering why there hasn’t been much opposition to the war in Ukraine coming from the wives and mothers of Russian soldiers. The likely answer is fear of jail time, or worse, not just from the wives and mothers but pressure being put on the soldiers themselves.

According to this article, this is beginning to change. It’s just in time for the campaign for Russia’s presidency.

[“Washington’s Ship of Fools Delude Themselves About Russia’s Intent”](#)/The Messenger

Excerpts from the article:

- “On Christmas Day, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his generals sent a strong message with the [violent destruction](#) of the Russian naval landing ship Novocherkassk while it was docked in Feodosia, Crimea. The vessel was [suspected](#) of carrying Iranian-made drones.”

“With the hit, Zelenskyy’s messaging was threefold: One, Kyiv has no intention of negotiating away any of its territory, regardless of how

many “[peace feelers](#)” Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin may have floated in Washington and Brussels. Two, Ukraine remains intent on militarily retaking the entire Crimean Peninsula. **And three, the Ukrainian army will fight on, with or without U.S. military aid and economic support.**” (my bold face)

- “Imagine if, on Dec. 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress had decided to ignore the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, Wake Island, and the Philippines, or that they had foolishly set aside Nazi Chancellor Adolf Hitler’s declaration of war four days later. What would the global world order have looked like for the past 81 years?”

“We are veering into similar territory now, with Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.”

- “Peace is possible only if Putin loses in Ukraine.”

That many officials in the U.S. and Europe believe that they can maneuver or force Ukraine into a ceasefire with loss of territory is the biggest delusion of all. As we discussed in a recent email, Ukraine will keep fighting, with all the dangers that entails for the West.

The debate now going on in Congress about the southern border, on which U.S. aid to Ukraine hinges, seems more and more as kind of a crutch, allowing some in Congress, mostly Republicans, to simply avoid making the decision to support Ukraine. Mike Johnson, the Speaker of the House can say he’s in favor of supporting Ukraine, so long as support for the border is resolved. The converse is also true - so long as the border is not resolved, Johnson can conveniently wash his hands of Ukraine.

I’ve Been Thinking.....

Lately, the experts have been talking about how Germany, some other European countries, and the United States hollowing out their capacity to produce weapons and ammunition, thus limiting their ability to support Ukraine. Some contrast this with Russia, and they claim that Putin has used Russia’s latest invasion of Ukraine as a way to highlight that, compared to

Russia, Europe and the United States have let their military industrial complex atrophy.

This is likely true, that the West has let its military industrial capacity atrophy, but so has Russia and this is something that the Russia apologists and so-called experts fail to mention. While the West made a political decision to downsize their military industrial capacity, Russia has done the same through massive theft from Russian taxpayers.

The question is – now that we’re seeing Russia announcing huge expenditures in their military, a 30% increase in FY 2024, manufacturers running 3 shifts, bakeries being converted into manufacturing 155mm shells, etc., will we see the same thing happen again? Because the Russian State is based on kleptocracy, I would say that it’s likely.

The 2008 Georgia invasion exposed major shortcomings in the Russian military, such as reliance on cell phones for military communication instead of a secure net that included all aspects of Russia’s attacking force, ground and air. After the end of the Georgia invasion, Russia announced major upgrades to their military, including secure communications. Western experts completely bought into this narrative. This partly explains why, except for Bohdan, me, and a few others, none of whom are experts, almost every recognized expert and pundit predicted that Ukraine would surrender in 5 days.

Instead, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without the secure communications net that they had touted, in trucks with balding Chinese tires that got stuck in the mud. The result was that Russia decisively lost the battle around Kyiv, to what amounted to a ragtag group of volunteers and territorial defense units, who made critical decisions on their own or in small groups, with the result that Ukraine beat back the Russian attempt to control the Hostumel Airport, and blowing a dam on the Irpin River that stopped the Russians from entering Kyiv, through a neighborhood where we live.

Why didn’t we see the upgraded Russian military, that virtually all the recognized pundits expected? The answer – massive theft.

We're now being told that Russia is upping its defense spending by 30%. Why should any expert conclude that this time it's different, that there'll be little or no theft and the shiny new Russian tanks will be continually rolling off the assembly lines? After all, it would be the first time it has happened, in a State that is built upon kleptocracy.

Rather than admitting their mistakes (we all make mistakes), the pundits and the experts who got it wrong in early 2022 have now moved on, to describing Ukraine's "failed offensive," as if Ukraine's success in the Black Sea, Ukraine's continuing campaign of hitting Russia's logistics and supply network, and their continued denial of air superiority to the Russians is somehow irrelevant.

An Excellent Question

My Harvard College Class, Class of 1969, has a weekly Zoom call. Instead of discussing the fate of Claudine Gay, Harvard University's embattled President, on yesterday's call I was asked to talk about Ukraine. I give these talks every few months.

One of my classmates asked me the following question – why are Ukrainians so technologically adept that they can produce things like the seaborne drones, that were conceived, designed and produced in Ukraine? Is it something in their DNA? My answer was yes, and I used my wife's older brother as an example. He can make anything with his hands and as a graduate of Lv'iv Polytechnic University, he's also a beneficiary of an excellent technical education.

Later, I related this conversation to my wife. She said it comes from several generations of Ukrainians learning how to make everything they needed at home. She said that her grandfather was a mining engineer, who acquired most of his early engineering foundation from making things at home, starting when he was a young child. She then asked me, "how come you didn't use me as an example, instead of my brother." I easily could have. Sometimes you can never win.

By the way, I'd be delighted to give similar calls to other groups. Assuming the correct time of day, I might also be able to bring in Bohdan. I think my classmates would give me good reviews.

News From the Battlefield

The latest "[Reporting From Ukraine](#)" is very interesting because it illustrates how, in some areas at least, Russia never learns. The video covers how Ukraine chopped up a column of Russian armor advancing toward Ukrainian positions around Kupiansk, not far from the Russian border.

Ukraine destroyed the lead Russian tank and, shortly after, Ukraine destroyed the last vehicle in the column, trapping the Russian armor in between and killing a number of Russian infantry. Vehicles in the middle of the column, the ones that tried to leave the road and go around, were destroyed by mines. This is exactly the same tactic Ukraine used in places like Brovary, northeast of Kyiv, where they destroyed a column of Russian tanks using NLAWs and Javelins but not mines. That was "pre FPV drone" that today, along with mines, is Ukraine's weapon of choice.

Russia has been successful in applying Ukraine's drone strategy to great effect. Russia's Lancet drone has caused huge problems for Ukraine. However, some things appear to stay the same.

12/29/2023 Sitrep

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SITUATION UPDATE OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES DECEMBER 28, 2023</u></p>
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<p>During the day of December 28, there were 53 combat engagements. The enemy launched a total of 4 missile and 86 air strikes, 55 MLRS attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops and various settlements.</p>

<p>During the day of December 28, the russian occupiers attacked Ukraine yet again, using 22 Shahed-136/131 UAVs. The Ukrainian air defense destroyed 18x strike UAVs.</p>
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Air strikes hit Petropavlivka, Hlushkivka (Kharkiv oblast), Nevs'ke, Novolyubivka, Serebryanske forestry (Luhansk oblast), Terny, Kolodyazi, Yampolivka, Siversk, Spirne, Pereizne, Novobakhmutivka, Staromaiorske (Donetsk oblast), and Novodarivka (Zaporizhzhia oblast) .

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

Khortytsia operational-strategic group, Kupyansk axis: Ukrainian defenders repelled 12 enemy attacks in the vicinity of the settlement of Synkivka (Kharkiv oblast).

Bakhmut axis: the Ukrainian defenders repelled 3 attacks of the adversary near Bohdanivka and Andriyivka (Donetsk oblast).

Tavria operational-strategic group, Avdiyivka axis: the Ukrainian defenders continue to hold back the enemy who keeps trying to encircle Avdiyivka. The Ukrainian soldiers are standing their ground and inflicting major losses on the invaders. For instance, the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 14 attacks east of Novobakhmutivka, Avdiyivka, and 12 attacks in the vicinities of Pervomaiske and Nevelske (Donetsk oblast).

Maryinka axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to hold back the enemy in the vicinities of Maryinka and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast). The Ukrainian defenders repelled 6 attacks in that area.

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

Zaporizhzhia axis: the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 4 attacks south of Novodarivka, west of Verbove and Robotyne (Zaporizhzhia oblast).

Odesa operational-strategic group, Kherson axis: the Ukrainian defenders continue to expand the bridgehead. Despite significant losses, the enemy does not abandon its intention to dislodge Ukrainian troops from their positions. For instance, the adversary made 13 unsuccessful attempts to assault the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces. The attempts were repelled and the invaders retreated.

During the day of December 28, Ukrainian Air Force launched air strikes on 17 concentrations of troops, weapons and military equipment, and 2 anti-aircraft missile systems of the adversary.

The Ukrainian missile troops hit 2 concentration of troops, weapons and military equipment, 11 artillery systems, 2 command posts, 2 electronic warfare stations, 2 anti-aircraft missile systems, and 6 ammunition depots of the russian invaders.

INTERNATIONAL

8:01 AM: The head of the Polish government, Donald Tusk, announced plans to visit Kyiv and discuss, among other things, the issue of the border blockade, TVN24.

8:01 AM: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ordered the country's army and defense industry to step up preparations for war to counter U.S. actions, Reuters.

2:20 PM: In Poland, the border with Ukraine continues to be blocked, about 4 thousand trucks are waiting in queues.

- Andriy Demchenko, the spokesman of the State Security Service of Ukraine, announced this.
- "The directions of the checkpoints "Rava-Ruska-Grebenne", "Krakivets-Korchova", "Yagodin-Dorogusk" continue to be blocked", Demchenko noted.

2:44 PM: 10 people were killed and 59 injured in a major road accident in Turkey, CNN Türk.

- The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Oleh Nikolenko, said that two Ukrainian women were among the victims. They are already receiving the necessary medical care.
- The accident involved seven vehicles, including three buses and a truck. The reasons for the accident are still unknown.

3:26 PM: During the year, the USA provided Ukraine with 34 packages of military aid, their total value is \$24 billion.

- This was announced by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
- "Patriots, Abrams, armored vehicles, ATACMS, DPICM, anti-aircraft defense, missiles, artillery shells, demining means and other critical equipment. A historic decision was made to provide Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets," Zelenskyy reminds.

5:04 PM: Ukraine and France are increasing cooperation in the field of anti-aircraft and anti-missile defense.

- According to the Deputy Head of the Ministry of Defense Ivan Gavrylyuk, as part of the coalition's activities, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is counting on the additional supply of modern air defense systems and missiles for them.

6:09 PM: Moldova will join the extended partial agreement on the creation of a registry of damages caused by Russia to Ukraine, NewsMaker.

6:09 PM: Russian assets worth more than €4 billion have been blocked in Germany, the Ministry of Finance of Germany.

6:09 PM: Romania and Bulgaria agree on partial entry into the Schengen area, — Reuters.

6:09 PM: China knows everything about the activities of the Taiwanese military, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said.

8:55 PM: Ukraine will receive €50 billion from the EU even without Hungary's support, Bloomberg reports with reference to German Foreign Ministry spokesman Christian Wagner.

- According to him, Berlin is confident that the EU will continue to support Ukraine "in any case", despite Hungary's resistance.

11:04 PM: The range of Storm Shadow missiles transferred to Ukraine turned out to be twice as long as expected, retired Bundeswehr general and military expert Erhard Bühler said

- This is how he commented on the destruction of the large landing ship "Novocherkask" in Feodosia, writes Bild.

11:33 PM: Bulgaria has extended the program to support refugees from Ukraine until April 30, 2024, Sofia Globe reports.

- The program provides, among other things, the allocation of funding for free housing.
- Currently, 6,919 people are registered in the program. At the same time, there are a total of 52,125 Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria.

NATIONAL

7:18 AM: Air defense forces destroyed 7/8 "shaheeds", - Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- Anti-aircraft defense worked within the Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad and Zaporizhia regions.

9:24 AM: Missile danger throughout Ukraine! MiG-31K takeoff, — Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

10:24 AM: In the Black Sea, a Russian naval mine detonated a Panamanian-flagged civilian vessel, Southern Defense Forces.

- It is noted that the bulker was headed to one of the Danube ports to be loaded with grain. The ship lost speed and control, a fire broke out on the upper deck. To avoid flooding, the captain anchored the ship aground.
- Upon inspection of the ship and interview of the captain, two sailors were found who were injured.

11:03 AM: An Air Force spokesman explained why there might be short alarms due to the MiG-31K taking off.

- _"In general, the MiG-31 could take off, fly around in a circle somewhere in the area of the airfield and sit down. That is, practice takeoff and landing. It could be a training flight. But every training flight may not be a training flight. It can complete the task. Maybe , this is the second option, the MiG just makes a flight to another airfield. That is, due to rebasing, there can also be such short alarms," Yuriy Ignat said.

11:14 AM: BEB sent a criminal case to the court on the embezzlement of over 1.6 million UAH by the ex-director of the branch of JSC "Ukrzaliznytsia".

- The investigation established that the former director and first deputy of the branch of JSC "Ukrzaliznytsia", in violation of the requirements of the law, rewarded individual employees of the branch for the performance of work that was not actually performed by them.
- This led to the illegal waste of state funds in particularly large amounts.

12:07 PM: The threat of using ballistic weapons in the areas where the alert has been declared — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

12:45 PM: The National Police of Ukraine urges Ukrainians not to violate the curfew during the New Year holidays.

- _"We will treat with understanding those who violate the curfew in case of extreme necessity",_ - said the head of the Department of Preventive Activities of the National Police, Maksym Akhrameev.

1:07 PM: The bill on mobilization will be finalized.

- This was reported by the spokesman of the Ground Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Volodymyr Fityo.
- _"At the moment, there is a draft law that will be finalized. I can tell you how it all works now. Nothing has changed now. Mobilization is planned," he said on the air of the telethon.

1:20 PM: Law enforcement officers identified the names of Ukrainian prisoners of war who were shot by the Russian invaders in the Zaporizhzhia region.

- This was reported by the head of the Department for Combating Crimes Committed in the Conditions of Armed Conflict of the Prosecutor General's Office, Yurii Belousov.
- _"We can confirm the authenticity of the video. We have identified our servicemen who were brutally killed... We have data on a specific

brigade and specific surnames and they will be known in the near future," he said.

2:40 PM: Andriy Shevchenko became the only candidate for the post of president of the Ukrainian Football Association (UAF).

- This was reported by the press service of the association.
- The extraordinary congress of the UAF, at which a new chairman of the organization will be elected instead of Andrii Pavelek, who is in pretrial detention, will take place on January 25, 2024.

3:01 PM: "Ukrainian team" provided assistance to more than 150 military units, 87 hospitals and 26 thousand families

- On the eve of the New Year, the report of the volunteer staff was published. Since the beginning of the full-scale war with the Russian Federation, the "Ukrainian team":
- Provided assistance to more than 150 military units with equipment, generators, starlinks, quadcopters, thermal imagers and dozens of cars.
- It implemented large-scale projects "Heat to the Front" and "Drone Marathon" and delivered more than 1,000 bander furnaces, tens of thousands of heating kits, hundreds of kamikaze drones and their control stations to the front line.
- Brought hundreds of tons of relief goods to more than 26,000 war-affected families and 87 hospitals.
- Provides free legal and psychological assistance to IDPs and other civilians.

3:34 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports a missile threat.

3:47 PM: From January 1, 2024, the price of issuing a driver's license, passing exams and registering a car will increase sharply in Ukraine.

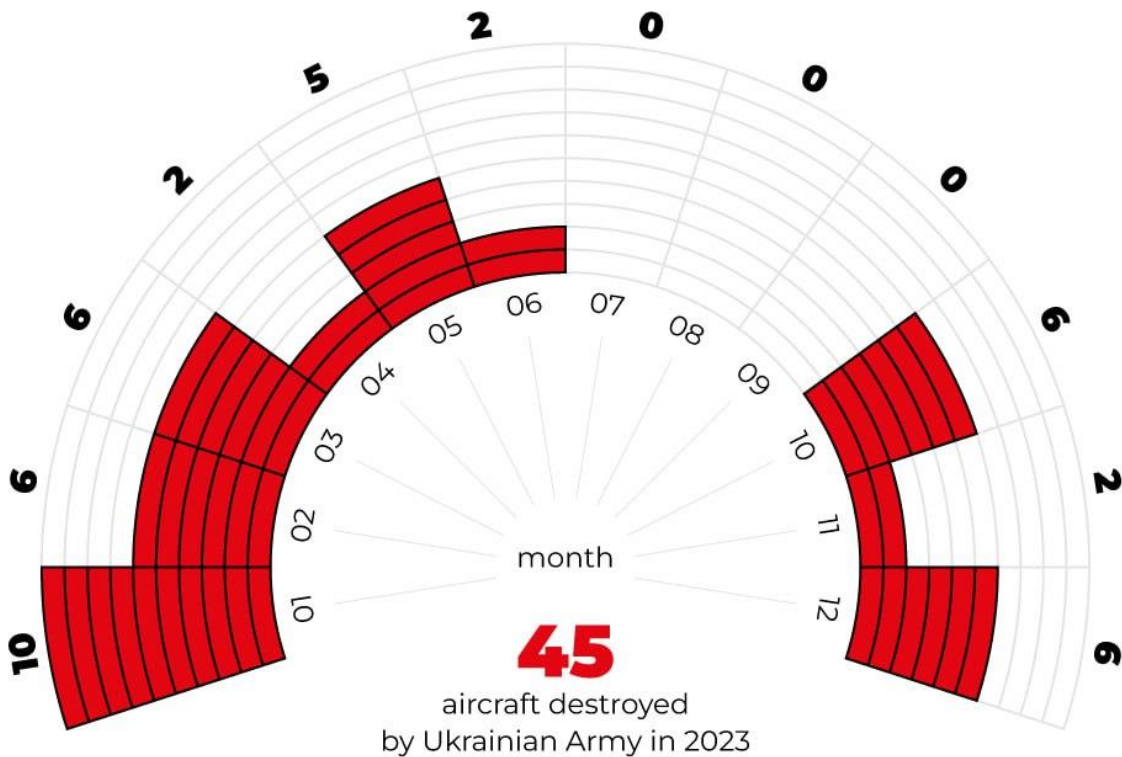
- This is stated in Resolution No. 1386.

- Issuance of a driver's license for the right to drive vehicles — from 26 hryvnias to 230 hryvnias;
- Taking the theoretical exam — from 13 hryvnias to 250 hryvnias;
- Taking a practical exam — from 13 hryvnias to 420 hryvnias;
- Registration, re-registration with issuance of a certificate in electronic form and assignment of numbers [...] — from 200 hryvnias to 350 hryvnias.

NOT FLYING ANYMORE TOP LEAD

In the last days of 2023, the Ukraine conducted a decisive strike against Russian aviation, destroying 5 aircraft, with a total of 6 aircraft destroyed in December.

Number of destroyed Russian aircraft in 2023



Source: General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Data as of December 26, 2023.

 t.me/uawarinfographics

4:01 PM: Spiritual and physical benefits are combined - emphasized religious

figure Yaroslav Rokhman, commenting on the topic of vaccination against COVID-19 and the flu in an interview for ICTV Facts.

- Father Yaroslav Rokhman, who is in charge of health care at the UGCC, emphasized that faith cannot be the basis for an irresponsible attitude to health, because spiritual and physical benefits are often combined.
- " _We proceed from the fact that vaccination aims to be good for a specific person and for society in general. By vaccinating, you care not only about your own safety, but also about the safety of others. This is an issue in which we should focus not only on ourselves , but also the common good. The Church always supports those steps that will bring good to both its believers and the citizens of the state in general. After all, these are the same people. We cannot live in different worlds or think in different categories," he said.

4:22 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi appointed the heads of the Donetsk and Rivne Regional State Administrations.

- The Donetsk regional state administration was headed by Vadym Filashkin, and the Rivne regional state administration by Oleksandr Koval.

4:30 PM: BEB detectives conducted authorized searches in the premises of legal entities controlled by an Odessa businessman.

- After the introduction of personal sanctions for smuggling, he continued to coordinate criminal activities aimed at tax evasion and the legalization of proceeds of crime.
- According to analysts, estimated losses from the illegal activities of the mentioned companies amount to UAH 127 million.

5:18 PM: The bodies of three Ukrainian prisoners shot by the Russians were evacuated from the battlefield, the command of the DSHV.

- They were fighters of the 82nd separate amphibious assault brigade.

- The soldiers were captured after receiving injuries and contusions of various degrees of severity.

5:59 PM: The Cabinet of Ukraine allocated UAH 8.5 billion to solve the problem of water supply for residents of the southern regions.

- This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.
- According to the State Recovery Agency, the necessary equipment has been imported, the construction of water mains is ongoing, and results are expected at the beginning of next year.

6:29 PM: Favbet helped defender Bakhmut get a modern bionic prosthesis

- Ukrainian military serviceman Vyacheslav Smyslov received a high-tech hand prosthesis thanks to the "Cyberpunk 2023" project of the Favbet company.
- Made by German specialists at the "Unbroken" Center, the prosthesis is controlled by electronic sensors and reproduces the functions of the lost limb as closely as possible.

6:49 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky signed a bill on the criminalization of smuggling.

- Liability for smuggling of excise goods will come into effect on January 1, 2024, and for smuggling of all other goods from July 1.
- Smuggling beyond customs control will be punishable by a large fine, repeated smuggling - up to 10 years of imprisonment, and organized - up to 11 years with confiscation of property.

7:00 PM: OP Chairman Andriy Yermak had a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Péter Szijártó.

- The main topic of conversation is the organization of a meeting between Volodymyr Zelenskyi and Viktor Orban.
- "_They also discussed the advancement of Ukraine on the path of European integration_", Yermak writes.

7:22 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on December 28:

- During the day 42 combat clashes took place.
- In the Marinka direction Defence forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Marinka and Novomykhailivka of the Donetsk region.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck 17 areas where personnel, weapons and military equipment were concentrated and 2 anti-aircraft missile systems of the enemy.
- Units of missile troops hit 2 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 4 artillery means and 2 ammunition depots of the enemy.

7:50 PM: The National Anti-Corruption Agency has listed a leading Chinese SUV maker as an international war sponsor.

- The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation bought Chinese all-terrain vehicles from them for the needs of its army.
- "In addition, this Chinese company continues to actively supply other cars to the Russian Federation and pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to the aggressor's budget", - the NAZK notes.

8:17 PM: On December 28, the Air Defense Forces of the Southern Air Command destroyed 3 reconnaissance drones:

- in the Kherson region – "Merlin-VR" and "Supercam";
- in the Mykolayiv region – "Merlin-VR".

9:19 PM: In 2023, border guards detained about 11,000 men who tried to cross the border illegally, said Demchenko, a spokesman for the DPSU.

- At the same time, there were fewer attempts to cross the border this year than last year. In 2022, border guards detained 80-100 violators per day.

9:37 PM: The Cabinet has changed the rules for providing financial support to businesses.

- In order to fulfill the agreements with the IMF, it is planned to focus the 5-7-9% program exclusively on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, the Ministry of Finance reported.
- _"Available loans 5-7-9%" is a program that gives small, medium and large businesses simplified access to bank lending._

9:58 PM: In 2023, the state budget of Ukraine received \$42.6 billion in external financing, the Ministry of Finance reports.

10:24 PM: The court closed the case of two ex-Berkut activists regarding the dispersal of the Maidan due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

- According to the investigation, in 2013, Vadym Betlii and Oleg Kozachyshyn were part of Kyiv "Berkut". They were accused of carrying out a clearly criminal order, based on a prior conspiracy by a group of persons.
- However, the accused submitted a motion to close the case due to the expiration of the statute of limitations - 10 years from the moment of the Maidan dispersal. Judge Iryna Halyga decided to close the proceedings.

11:21 PM: The Air Force reports the movement of strike UAVs:

- Several groups of attack UAVs in Chernihiv region are moving in a south-west direction.
- Groups of unmanned aerial vehicles in Mykolaiv Oblast in the direction of Kirovohrad Oblast.
- Several groups of attack UAVs in Odesa in the northern direction.
- Strike UAVs from the Black Sea in the direction of Odesa (Chornomorsk, Odesa).

11:54 PM: 14-year-old Ukrainian Sashko, whose story was told in the Imagine Dragons music video and song "Crushed", has a home again.

- It was rebuilt by donors and investors of UNITED24, who were inspired by the band's music video.

11:55 PM: The Air Force reports that UAVs in the Mykolayiv region are moving in a northwesterly direction.

- Attack UAVs in Chernihiv Region are moving in a southwesterly direction. A threat to Kyiv region
- Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Donetsk regions - the threat of using ballistic weapons.

KH-59M "OVOD". A MISSILE THAT DOES NOT GIVE REST

TOP
LEAD

In 2023, the Russians increased the use of the Kh-59M aircraft missile, which, due to its short range, often targets Odesa region.

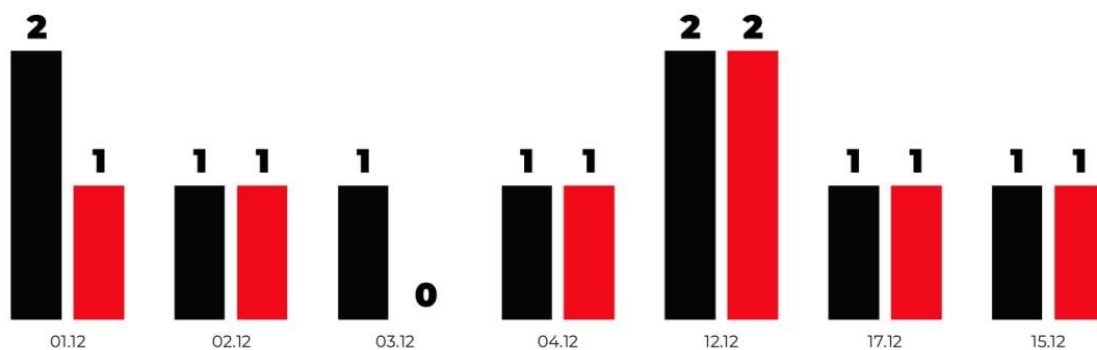
Characteristics of the Kh-59M "Ovod" series aircraft missile or its modification




- Flight range: **115 – 290 km** depending on the modification
- Missile speed: **900 – 1,050 km/h**
- Flight altitude: **4 – 300 m**
- Weight of the warhead:
penetrator — **148 – 320 kg**
cassette — **280 – 310 kg**

Kh-59 missiles launched and shot down in December 2023, pcs.

■ Launched ■ Shot down



Sources: open data, Ukrainian Air Force. Data as of December 27, 2023.

 t.me/uawarinformatographics

MORDOR - ruZZia

8:01 AM Social Networks: Explosions rang out in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local social networks reported.

8:01 AM: The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation announced the alleged downing of two UAVs over the temporarily occupied Crimea.

10:48 AM Social Networks: Explosions were heard in the temporarily occupied Crimea in the Krasnoperekopsk region, - local channels.

11:54 AM: Within three months, 16-year-old boys will be put on military registration in the "LNR", the head of Luhansk OVA, Artem Lysogor, announced.

- Older men who have bypassed the military commissariats since the occupation will also be identified - they will be accounted for until December 31.
- Enterprises, institutions and organizations were also involved in this work in order to obtain the necessary personal data of men. Educational institutions, in particular, must ensure the urgent attendance of young men at the military commissariat.

1:37 PM: At least hundreds of people died in the flood after the invaders blew up the Kakhovskaya HPP in the occupied territory, — Associated Press.

- Russia claimed 59 dead, but only in Oleshki, whose population at the time of the explosion was about 16,000 people, the number of victims is estimated to be at least hundreds.
- The occupation authorities forbade doctors to issue death certificates for flood victims, but allowed other causes of death to be given.

5:40 PM: A fire broke out at the Strela radio plant in the Bryansk region, — rosZMI.

- the Russian public writes about the alleged "shelling with rocket launchers". We are waiting for official information.

5:42 PM: In mid-December 2023, a meeting of the so-called Institute of the CIS countries was held in Moscow, at which the war against Ukraine was discussed - GUR MO.

- "Therefore, Kremlin analysts emphasized the inadmissibility of any cessation of hostilities, Ukraine's preservation of access to the Black Sea, and the presence of a "pro-Western regime" in Kyiv," the intelligence agency writes.
- Calls were also heard at the meeting to launch another IPSO against the top military and political leadership of Ukraine.

REGIONS

KYIV



9:08 AM Kyiv RMA: From December 28, 2023 to January 6, 2024, counter-sabotage and security measures will be strengthened in the region.

- The number of roadblocks is increasing in Kyiv region. Places where people gather will be subject to inspection: shopping centers, supermarkets, train stations, medical facilities, etc.
- Such work will also contribute to investigative activities. According to the police, due to the implementation of criminal and admin. more than 11,000 people are wanted for crimes.

2:00 PM: Volodymyr Klitschko handed over 7 electronic warfare systems to our defenders in the east of Ukraine today. And the devices have already left for the soldiers at the front.

- This was announced by the mayor of Kyiv Vitaliy Klitschko.
- "Also, we received a new batch of previously ordered drones. 80 FPVs and 8 Mavic 3 quadcopters will be handed over to four military units on the front line in Donbas," the message states.

SUMY



10:13 PM: The Air Force reports a UAV threat to the Sumy region.

- Movement of "Shahed" type UAVs through Sumy Oblast in the direction of Chernihiv Oblast.
- Movement of BpLA from Kherson in the direction of Mykolaiv region.

KHARKIV



11:37 AM Kharkiv RMA: Russians shelled Vovchansk, a 66-year-old woman died.

- "A 63-year-old local resident is also being treated on the spot. As a result of the shelling, the car caught fire," - head of Kharkiv OVA Oleg Sinegubov.

ZAPORIZHIA



4:51 PM Zaporizhia RMA: Russians shelled the village of Bilenke, Zaporizhia district, killing two men and wounding three others.

7:29 PM: An explosion rang out in the temporarily occupied Melitopol, the mayor of the city, Ivan Fedorov, said.

DNIPRO



1:52 AM: The Air Force reports that there is a threat of using attack UAVs in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

7:09 PM Dnipro RMA: A young man was killed and a 70-year-old woman was injured as a result of Russian strikes on Nikopol region.

- 17 private houses and two high-rise buildings were damaged.

KHERSON



6:20 PM: Explosions are heard in the Dnipro district of Kherson, reports the head of the MBA Roman Mrochko.

ODESA



10:44 PM: The Air Force reports a UAV threat to the Odesa region.

- Several groups of attack UAVs in Chernihiv Oblast are moving in the southwest direction (Nizhyn).

11:36 PM Social Networks: Explosions rang out in Odesa. Previously, the work of air defense.

11:43 PM: In Odesa, an unmanned aerial vehicle or its fragments hit a high-rise building. This is reported by local mass media.

POLTAVA



3:49 PM: Air guided missile through Sumy Oblast in the direction of Poltava Oblast, — PS ZSU.

- Myrhorod - in shelter.

3:55 PM Social Networks: An explosion is heard in Myrhorod, Poltava Oblast.

CHERKASY



3:22 AM: The Air Force reports the threat of using attack UAVs for the Cherkasy region.

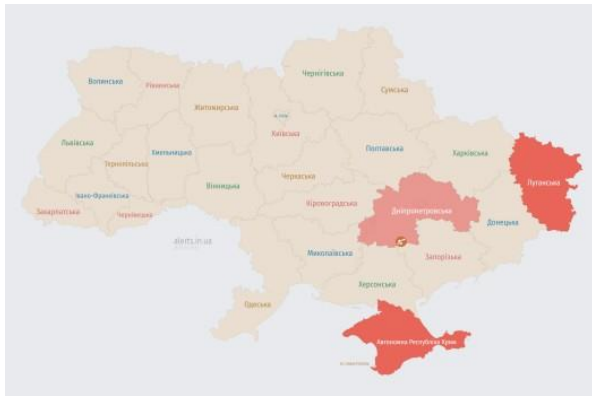
KIROVOHRAD



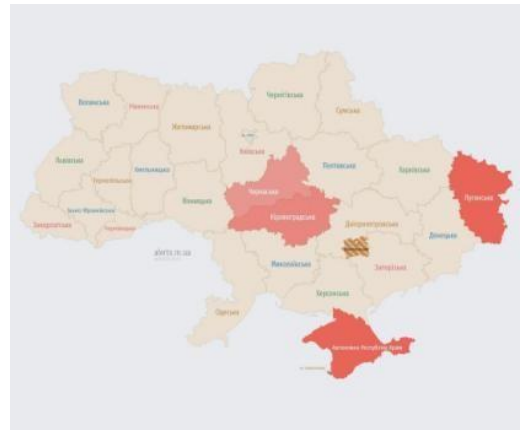
2:10 AM: Movement of attack UAVs in the direction of the Kirovohrad region, - Air Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- Strike UAVs in the direction of Kropyvnytskyi from the east, - Air Forces of the ZSU.

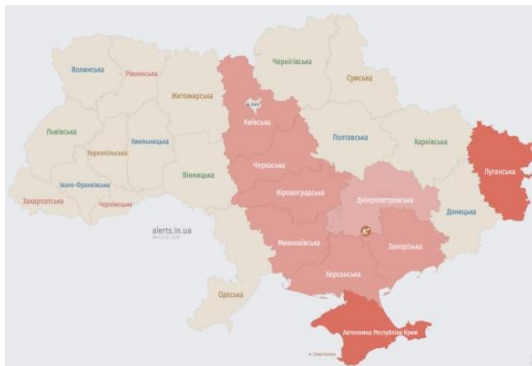
VISUAL CHRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL ROCKET, DRONE, ARTILLERY, MORTAR AND BOMB ALARMS



1:50 AM



3:20 AM



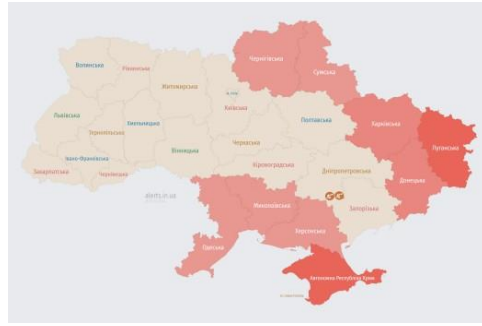
12:05 PM



3:35 PM



10:10 PM



10:40 PM



11:55 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 20	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 665 days	After 670 days	After 671 days	After 672 days	After 673 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	349,190	353,950	355,750	356,670	357,520

Material Losses

Tanks	147	5814	5877	5913	5940	5953
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	10,794	10,919	10,973	11,015	11,033
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	9,134	9,281	9,310	9,336	9356
Cruise Missiles		1612	1616	1620	1620	1620

Fighters Bombers	118	324	329	329	329	329
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		6316	6436	6471	6503	6539
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		611	613	616	617	620
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	10,871	11,075	11,140	11,180	11,215
Naval Vessels		22+(1 submar ine)	22+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)
Special Equipment		1203	1234	1240	1247	1254

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/>