

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

January 31 2024

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

General Zaluzhny and Pres. Zelensky

Bohdan puts the situation very well – “Problems arise when trying to reconcile irreconcilable differences. For example, blind loyalty demanded by weak leaders doesn't mix well with professional skills of executive decision makers. At some point thick skins are not enough to prevent the executives from leaving rather than continuing to serve.”

“The exception to the rule is when the executive believes that getting the job done is more important than avoiding foolish irritation. I think we have reached that point in Ukraine.” (my emphasis).

The latest news is that 2 officers whose names have been floated to replace Gen. Zaluzhny, Gen. Kyrilo Budanov, Head of Ukraine’s Military Intelligence, and Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, Ukraine’s Ground Commander, have both refused to be named to succeed Gen. Zeluzhny. It seems that this news, if true, leaves Pres. Zelenskyy in a bind.

As many of my Ukrainian friends, and members of my Ukrainian Family remind me, “Ukraine’s most dangerous enemy, more than even the Russians, are Ukrainians.” Ukraine is likely at this point for only one reason, that Pres. Zelenskyy, and especially those around him, collectively known as the “Office of the President,” all of whom are not public officials under the terms of Ukraine’s Constitution, are scared to death of Gen. Zaluzhny’s growing popularity, and they consider Gen. Zaluzhny as a potential political

rival to Pres. Zelenskyy, apparently to the extent that they are risking damage to Ukraine's war effort and the morale of those who are fighting.

There have been the inevitable comparisons to Pres. Truman firing his commander, Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War. Gen. MacArthur was fired for insubordination; the fact that he was considered as a possible political rival to Pres. Truman was beside the point. No one, not even Pres. Zelenskyy, is accusing Gen. Zaluzhny of insubordination.

News From the Battlefield

[“Reporting From Ukraine”](#) is back! His report about Ukraine's recent strategy in hitting Russian logistical targets in Crimea and Southern Russia, culminating in last night's strike against Baalbeck Airfield, should be viewed simultaneously with the [“Latest Denys.”](#) Denys has better maps. Those who continue to report that the war is a “stalemate” must have ulterior motives.

Denys has additional news:

- 5:35 into Denys' video – Ukraine received 207 POWs in a prisoner exchange with Russia. Many of them were defenders of the Azovstal Steel Plant in Mariupol.
- 11:30 into Denys' video – He reports on Ukraine's acquisition of portable pontoon bridges from France. Ukraine has previously acquired similar bridges from Germany. Denys believes that they may well be used in a crossing in force of the Dnipro River in the Spring. Ukraine may be holding back their Abrams tanks and reserve formations, to use in a crossing of the Dnipro.
- 19:15 into Denys' video – He asks the same question many other have been asking, namely “where is Gen. Gerasimov?” He hasn't been seen for 33 days. Gerasimov was allegedly in a meeting at Saky Airbase in Crimea during a Ukrainian missile strike on the building where the meeting was taking place. The Commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet

also hasn't been seen, since a Ukrainian missile strike damaged the Headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet during a staff meeting.

Daily Mail Report – [Entitled “Four Ukrainian tactics that have stopped Russia’s winter offensive and their one major flaw”](#) It is a fascinating report and worth watching. The “major flaw” is lack of supplies to support the four Ukrainian tactics in the long term. Is the White House and Congress paying attention?

2/1/2024 Sitrep

INTERNATIONAL

8:02 AM: Pentagon Rider confirmed that Ukraine will receive a party of highly accurate long range glide bombs GLSDB from Boeing.

8:02 AM: A large site of prehistoric people up to 70,000 years old was found in China, - Xinhua.

8:02 AM: A US F-16 fighter jet crashes in the sea off the west coast of South Korea, pilot ejects and survives.

9:32 AM: The EU can provide Ukraine with only 600,000, not a million, shells by March - Bloomberg.

- The publication notes that at a meeting in Brussels this week, EU countries may try to agree on other shipments to increase the total, but this will still not help to reach the goal of one million.

10:44 AM: The Norwegian government has limited aid to Ukrainian refugees for the second time in two months, the government's website.

- The limitation of financial assistance to displaced persons from Ukraine was made in order to avoid an excessive burden on municipalities and maintain a high level of provision of services and benefits.
- The decisions are explained by the need to control the level of migration, because more than half of Ukrainian refugees arriving in the countries of Northern Europe seek asylum in Norway.

11:26 AM: SpaceX Dragon spacecraft will send minilaboratories of Ukrainian students from Lviv region and SchoolToGo online school to the ISS.

- The students' project is called "Production of biomedical hydrogels in microgravity conditions." The team was interested in such substances as hydrogels, in particular, information in the media about the use of hydrogels by medics at the front.
- In the conditions of space, hydrogels are able to perform the functions of systems of controlled drug release, substrate for growing cells or plants, desiccants, hydrogel membranes, moisture givers, and can also stop bleeding and heal wounds.

1:20 PM: EU leaders agree to annual debate on €50bn aid to Ukraine to overcome Hungary's resistance, Reuters

- The aid should cover Ukraine's needs for 2024-2027.
- In the new version of the draft conclusions of the summit, the EU leaders propose to hold an annual debate on the aid package based on the reports of the European Commission.

1:41 PM: Ukraine and the USA signed a Memorandum on strengthening cooperation in the field of control over the use of international aid, — Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- The American side was informed about the introduction of an effective system of supervision, risk management, compliance, prevention of corruption in the field of procurement, as well as about the introduction of democratic control tools in the field of defense.
- "By the end of April, we will have one hundred percent confidence that all supervisory mechanisms will be implemented, and the system will work," - says the head of the Ministry of Defense Rustem Umyerov.

2:02 PM: The Russians have damaged the Ukrainian environment to the tune of UAH 2.2 trillion since the start of the full-scale war.

- This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal during the United for Nature International Environmental Forum. Agenda for Ukraine.
- In addition, hundreds of thousands of square kilometers of land are potentially contaminated by mines and shells.

3:38 PM: Germany handed Ukraine a new package of military aid — the government of Germany.

- It included air defense missiles, all-terrain vehicles and armored personnel carriers, as well as six Sea King Mk41 multi-role helicopters with spare parts.

5:43 PM: EU countries will provide €21 billion in military aid to Ukraine this year.

- This was stated by EU High Representative Josep Borrell.
- He added that the countries agreed to continue and increase the training of Ukrainian servicemen to 60,000.

6:02 PM: The International Court of Justice of the United Nations recognized Russia's violation of certain parts of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Financing of Terrorism.

- The relevant decision was announced in The Hague in the case of Ukraine's claim.
- At the same time, the court rejected most of Ukraine's claims against the Russian Federation regarding the Convention on Racial Discrimination.

6:25 PM: European Commission proposes to abolish tariffs on goods from Ukraine for 2024 and introduce restrictions, — The Guardian.

- The European Commission proposes to extend preferential trade conditions for Ukraine, in particular, by suspending import duties and quotas for another year. At the same time, it is proposed to introduce a "fuse" for farmers from EU countries.

6:34 PM: Ukraine and Turkey created a joint working group on reconstruction, the Ministry of Reconstruction.

- " _She identified the following priority areas of cooperation: restoration of road infrastructure and construction of temporary bridges and overpasses on key routes; projects for the restoration and development of water transport infrastructure; critical infrastructure protection and housing restoration; aviation_ ", says the message.

8:49 PM: The Swiss government has joined a number of measures against the Russian Federation provided for by the 12th package of EU anti-Russian sanctions.

- The new measures will enter into force on February 1. Among them is a phased ban on the purchase and import of Russian diamonds.

9:09 PM: Ukrainian Diana Yastremska won her first match since the Australian Open.

- In the first round of the WTA500 tournament in Linz, the Ukrainian defeated "neutral" Erika Andreeva — 2:1 in sets.
- In the second round of the tournament, the Ukrainian will play against the third seed of the tournament, Donna Vekic from Croatia.

NATIONAL

12:19 AM: Several groups of attack UAVs in the Kherson region are moving in the north-west direction to the Mykolaiv region, — PS ZSU.

- There is also a missile threat in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

12:33 AM: The Air Force reports the movement of "shaheads":

- ▪BpLA that was moving to Odesa changed its direction to Mykolaiv.
- ▪The UAV in the Odesa region is moving north.
- ▪ Unmanned aerial vehicles in the Mykolaiv region, which were moving from the Kherson region, are heading north.
- ▪More BpLA groups are now in Kherson region heading for Mykolaiv region.

7:12 AM: Summary of the General Staff as of 06:00 on January 31:

- During the past 24 hours, 88 combat clashes took place. In total, the enemy launched 9 missile and 99 air strikes, carried out 129 anti-aircraft fire at the positions of the Armed Forces and populated areas.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck 11 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment and 2 anti-aircraft missile complexes of the enemy.
- Units of missile troops struck 1 area of concentration of weapons and military equipment, 2 ammunition depots, 9 artillery means and 1 radar station of the enemy.

7:17 AM: At night forces and means air defense of Ukraine destroyed 14/20 hostile drones.

9:46 AM: The system of payments to the families of captured, missing and dead servicemen has been simplified, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- Now the Ministry of Defense gets simplified access to some state registers and the possibility of electronic interaction of state electronic information resources.
- The changes also concern the establishment of a full circle of family members of the deceased, who are entitled to a one-time cash benefit in the amount of 15 million hryvnias.

10:05 AM: The Cyber Police Department detected more than 3,600 cyber crimes in 2023, the press service said.

- "Under the operational support of the cyber police, more than 1,700 people have been charged with committing more than 3,700 crimes, which is 59% more than the same figure in 2022. Materials on 42 organized criminal groups, including 7 criminal organizations, which is 83% more than the same number, have been sent to the court indicator in 2022," the message reads.

11:15 AM: Bill on mobilization: in favor of the Armed Forces, they will be able to seize vehicles

- Military transport duty is established in order to meet the needs of military vehicles and equipment.
- It applies to central and local bodies of executive power, other state bodies, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations, as well as to citizens - owners of means.

11:54 AM: For the ex-head of the Supreme Court, Knyazev, bail was placed after its amount was reduced to 18.1 million, — Anti-corruption Center.

- The CPC considers it unlikely that the suspect's family paid the amount on their own, because all his accounts have been seized.
- "By a very interesting coincidence, the news about the bail coincided with the emergence of information that the Supreme Court of Ukraine wants to stop the consideration of disciplinary cases against Knyazev. If the disciplinary case against Knyazev is stopped, it will become a dangerous precedent that will help other judges who are suspected or accused of crimes, to remain judges for years and to receive a solid remuneration all this time," the message reads.

12:06 PM: The activity of enemy tactical aviation is observed in the eastern and southeastern directions, — the Air Force of the ZSU.

- Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad regions — missile danger.

1:28 PM: For the first time, the state budget of Ukraine received money that was confiscated from persons subject to sanctions.

- This was announced by the head of the State Property Fund Vitaliy Koval.
- Thus, the budget received 32 million hryvnias, which previously belonged to Russian collaborators Dmitri Voron and Volodymyr Saldo. And the Ukrainian coffers were replenished with confiscated funds from the enterprise of Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

2:45 PM: 207 Ukrainians who were in Russian captivity were returned home today.

- This was announced by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi.

2:53 PM: 207 Ukrainians - soldiers of the Armed Forces, National Guard, DPSU, National Police - privates, sergeants and officers, reported in the OP.

- Many defenders of Mariupol, soldiers who were on "Azovstal", Zmiiny Island, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Kherson and Sumy directions.

3:03 PM: The Ministry of Defense prevented the supply of more than 362 tons of substandard products.

- Under the guise of a large batch, the supplier wanted to hide the spoiled goods - cabbage, carrots, onions and tangerines.
- " _ Such a product will not be accepted. The company must replace it as soon as possible or refund the cost. I emphasize, our military must eat high-quality products, and the supply must be timely_ ", Deputy Minister of Defense Vitaly Polovenko noted.

3:15 PM: Among the rescued servicemen are 95 representatives of the Armed Forces, 56 national guardsmen, 26 border guards, 29 troopers and one representative of the National Police of Ukraine, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War reported.

- 180 members of the Defense Forces who are returning home are private and non-commissioned officers, and another 27 are Ukrainian officers.
- At least 36 of them have injuries or serious illnesses. The oldest of the released Defenders has already turned 61, and the youngest will soon be 21.

3:43 PM: The first video with Ukrainians released from captivity appeared.

4:31 PM: People who were on the previous list for the exchange, which was supposed to take place on January 24, but did not take place due to the crash of the IL-76 plane, were not returned during this exchange.

- Andriy Yusov, the representative of the HUR, stated this.
- Russian Federation claims that Ukrainian fighters were killed when the plane crashed. However, this information has not yet been confirmed.

3:43 PM: The first video with Ukrainians released from captivity appeared.

4:31 PM: People who were on the previous list for the exchange, which was supposed to take place on January 24, but did not take place due to the crash of the IL-76 plane, were not returned during this exchange.

- Andriy Yusov, the representative of the HUR, stated this.
- Russian Federation claims that Ukrainian fighters were killed when the plane crashed. However, this information has not yet been confirmed.

4:50 PM: The National Bank of Ukraine sharply lowered the dollar exchange rate, according to the regulator's website.

- The official exchange rate for February 1, 2024 is set at the following level: 37.5627 UAH for 1 dollar (-0.3119 UAH).

4:58 PM: The Air Force reported a ballistic missile threat from the south.

5:26 PM: DTEK imported 226,000 tons of coal from Poland for more reliable passage through the winter.

- A total of 367,000 tons of Polish coal were contracted. Deliveries continue regularly and, according to the terms of the contract, will continue until the end of March.

6:55 PM: The People's Deputy is suspected of falsely declaring cryptocurrency worth almost UAH 25 million, — SAP.

- It was established that the cryptocurrency wallet, which the deputy stated he had in his declaration, never actually belonged to him.
- All transactions for the purchase of virtual currency were carried out by citizens of another state, who were in no way related to the deputy.

7:50 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on January 31:

- During the day, 52 combat clashes took place. Also, the enemy launched 7 missile and 65 air strikes, carried out 59 rounds of anti-aircraft fire at the positions of our troops and populated areas.
- During the day, the aviation of the Defense Forces struck 14 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment and 1 anti-aircraft missile complex of the enemy.
- Units of the missile forces struck 5 artillery and 4 anti-aircraft defenses of the enemy.

8:12 PM: Traditional evening address of Volodymyr Zelenskyi.

- "Every night, every day - another Russian terrorist attack: missiles and drones. We shoot down a significant part. So far, there are many hits. But already on January 31. The energy situation is fundamentally different from last winter. The system is preserved. We provide Ukrainians with energy. We provide and we are constantly strengthening the protection of energy facilities," the president said.

8:25 PM: The Air Force reports enemy tactical aircraft activity to the east and southeast. There is a threat of using aviation weapons.

10:00 PM: Victoria Nuland said that "President Putin is in for some surprises on the battlefield."

- She added that long-range GLSDB missiles have already been sent to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

MORDOR – ruZZia

8:02 AM: Russian torture camps operate in occupied Berdyansk, and colony No. 77 is a modern-day Auschwitz, said Viktor Dudukalov, deputy head of the Berdyansk District Council.

3:18 PM: The MiG-31K took off from the Savasleyka airfield of the Nizhny Novgorod region, — PS ZSU.

4:06 PM: Explosions are heard in the Saki, Feodosia, Rozdolny and Sevastopol districts of the temporarily occupied Crimea.

- This was reported by Petro Andryushchenko, adviser to the mayor of Mariupol.

5:11 PM: About 5 explosions rang out in temporarily occupied Sevastopol.

- It is burning near the Belbek airfield, rosZMI reports.

7:31 PM: The Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine confirmed the strike on the Belbek airfield.

- "The 204th Sevastopol Tactical Aviation Brigade is part of the PS. So, her regular base is Belbek airfield! Ukrainian aviators will definitely return home to their native airfield," wrote the commander of the Armed Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Mykola Oleschuk.

8:32 PM Social Networks: Today's explosion near temporarily occupied Sevastopol. The video was published in rosZMI.

9:28 PM: The results of the Ukrainian attack on Belbek airport are reported in the Russian mass media.

- Su-30, 2 - Su-27 were destroyed, 12 occupants were killed, another 10 were wounded.

10:28 PM: Russia currently has more than 800 missiles, including 63 Daggers.

- This is evidenced by the data collected by UA War Infographics.

REGIONS

KYIV



7:24 PM: Military exercises will be held near Kyiv for 3 days, the Buchansk City Council reported.

- In particular, from February 1 to 3, planned training for military personnel will take place in Vorzel. Classes will be held during the day and at night, it can be loud.

KHARKIV



10:32 PM: The Air Force reported a group of enemy UAVs in the Kharkiv region moving west.

- Changed the direction. They are moving south

11:11 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kharkiv.

- The Air Force reports that several groups of UAVs are moving in the direction of the city.

11:27 PM: In Kharkiv, there are preliminary hits on civil infrastructure. Information about the injured and destruction is being ascertained.

- This was announced by the mayor of the city Igor Terekhov.

11:41 PM: At 9:50 p.m., the Russians struck the village of Velikiy Burluk, Kupyan district, Kharkiv region, reported the head of the OVA Sinegubov.

- Guided aerial bombs hit the territory of a civilian hospital.
- 38 people were evacuated, five of them were employees of the facility, four were given first aid on the spot.
- The facade of the building, windows and roof were damaged. Elimination of consequences continues.

DONETSK



10:11 AM: Russian troops shelled Pokrovsk in the Donetsk region late in the evening, Pokrovsk Military Administration.

- As a result of shelling, 5 apartment buildings were damaged, 6 local residents were injured.



ZAPORIZHIA

11:31 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the temporarily occupied Tokmak of the Zaporizhia region.

DNIPRO



2:55 PM: The Air Force reports the rocket moving in the direction of Kryvyi Rih.

Kherson



10:55 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

2:38 PM: the Russians attacked Beryslav in the Kherson region from a drone, reported the head of OVA Oleksandr Prokudin.

- Two victims were hospitalized with blast injuries and shrapnel injuries.

7:28 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

MYKOLAIV



8:41 AM: Consequences of the Russian shelling of Mykolaiv Oblast, — Emergency Department.

- At midnight today, a store caught fire in the Bashtan district as a result of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) hit. The warehouses of the agricultural enterprise were damaged. The guard of the store was injured and hospitalized in a medical institution.

5:04 PM: An explosion is heard in Mykolaiv, subscribers report.

- Previously, the mayor Oleksandr Sienkovych confirmed the information.

ODESSA



10:16 AM: Odesa construction company reimbursed almost UAH 31 million of unpaid VAT, — BEB.

- The company specialized in the construction of roads and highways and was one of the main contractors of the state program "Big construction".
- The investigation established that company officials entered false data into official reporting documents in the period from November to December 2020.

LVIV-



2:21 PM: In Lviv Oblast, during street patrols, servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine will use body cameras, and the video from them will be sent to the TCC and SP, Lviv Oblast TCC and SP.

- They will be considered in case there is a need to analyze the event that happened and objectively deal with the conflict situation.

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

	Soviet Afghanistan	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 702 days	After 703 days	After 704 days	After 705 days	After 706 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	382,110	383,180	384,140	385,230	386,230

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6280	6290	6300	6310	6322
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	11,671	11,696	11,725	11,757	11,773
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	10,069	10,085	11,116	11,179	11,214
Cruise Missiles		1845	1846	1846	1846	1847

Fighters Bombers	118	331	331	332	332	332
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		7041	7049	7084	7100	7136
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		660	660	663	663	663
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	12,103	12,149	12,191	12,231	12,267
Naval Vessels		23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)	23+(1 submar ine)
Specialized equipment		1436	1443	1448	1452	1462

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/>