

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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By: Robert Homans & Bohdan Chomiak

It's Good to be Back

I had an interesting 10 days of training for the new Head of one of the largest equipment finance companies in Nigeria. She came here.

Working with one individual, as opposed to a group, was a very intense but very fruitful experience, for me and I hope for her. There was no way that I was going to get back to my desk after a day of training and then sned out a sitrep.

Ukraine has a friend in Nigeria. Forget about S. Africa. Nigeria is one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing economies in Africa. Nigeria and Ukraine have a couple of things in common. The first is some difficult neighbors to the north, some of which have come under the spell of the Wagner Group. The second is persistent accusations of corruption, some true and some not that, for some, seem to obscure the progress both countries have made. I have been to Nigeria 3 times, starting in 2010. I've enjoyed each visit.

Whither a Supplemental?

It seems important to House Speaker Mike Johnson that he's seen as a devout a Christian. It is hard to take this characterization seriously, given the suffer Ukrainian civilians and servicemen fighting against the Russians with one hand tied behind their backs, are enduring because of not receiving additional military support from the United States.

Mike Johnson is solely responsible for the cut-off of U.S. military aid to Ukraine. As Speaker, Johnson has the sole power to bring legislation to the House Floor for a vote. If Johnson allows the bi-partisan funding legislation passed by the Senate to be sent to the House Floor, it would pass overwhelmingly with bi-partisan support.

Johnson, along with other opponents of military aid to Ukraine like Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) give legitimate-sounding arguments for their withholding of support, such as all they want to do to put our Southern Border first and taking care of things at home. However, those are convenient arguments that mask remarks that that and many opponents make, such as Ukraine is banning religions (the Moscow Patriarchate), diverting U.S. military assistance, etc., all of which are scurrilous lies repeated by the likes of Tucker Carlson, even though they know they are lies. They are opposed to aid to Ukraine, even if the Southern Border is as closed tight as a drum.

I am confident that the House will vote for Ukraine assistance, as moderate Republican House Members are lining up with Democrats to sign what is called a "Discharge Petition," that would allow the House to go around the Speaker and force a vote. They're giving Johnson a choice, either allow a vote to take place or suffer the indignity of a discharge petition. In either case, it could cost Johnson his job as Speaker.

Several days ago, Mark Thiessen a conservative columnist at the Washington Post, wrote a column entitled "[if Republicans Want to Help Trump, They Should Pass Ukraine Aid Now.](#)" Perhaps Mike Johnson will read it.

BBC News/Ukraine

As some of you know, Zhenia Shidlovska, my stepdaughter, co-hosts a nightly news broadcast that is produced by BBC in London. Starting yesterday, they changed the format. They now focus on one subject, often a human-interest subject. Yesterday's initial [show](#) was about Groza, a small town in Kharkiv Oblast. Groza was hit by a missile strike during a funeral lunch for a Ukrainian soldier from the town who had been killed. 65 townspeople were killed in the strike, a significant percentage of the town's population. Two brothers, both residents of Groza, gave the coordinates to the Russians. I don't speak Ukrainian, but it was easy to see the anger in Zhenia's delivery. I suggested to Zhenia's Mother, my wife, that BBC should re-broadcast using English subtitles. Mike Johnson, J.D. Vance, and others, should receive links.

News From the Battlefield

[Reporting From Ukraine](#) describes Ukraine's controlled withdrawal from Avdiivka and a creative use of HIMARS missiles designed to maximize Russian losses, using a missile with a high explosive warhead followed by several with cluster munitions. The idea was that Russian troops would drop to the ground after the high-explosive warhead, only to be killed by the bomblets.

Glad to be back, and thank you all for the kind words you expressed during my absence.

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration

INTERNATIONAL

8:00 AM: Joe Biden to meet with congressional leaders Tuesday to discuss aid to Ukraine and budget vote, PBS News.

8:00 AM: London Mayor Sadiq Khan called on the British government to confiscate the property of Russian citizens close to Putin in Britain and direct the funds to building housing for the needy, including Ukrainian refugees, BBC.

8:00 AM: Off the coast of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea, NATO countries' Dynamic Manta maritime exercises have begun.

8:00 AM: The US condemned parliamentary and local elections in Belarus: State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said they were held with irregularities.

9:34 AM: US Senate staffer unofficially gives sniper equipment to Ukraine, The New York Times.

- A high-ranking employee of the US Senate is under investigation by Congress in connection with his frequent trips to war zones in Ukraine and the provision, he says, of \$30,000 worth of sniper equipment for its military.
- That staffer, Kyle Parker, is a senior Senate adviser to the US Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the Helsinki Commission.

10:32 AM: Polish carriers are set to join Polish farmers at the border this week, RMF24.

- They claim that Ukrainian farmers are pushing them out of the market, and this is the reason for their protest.
- Therefore, they decided that from March 1 they will again block the checkpoints in Grebenna, Dorohusk and Korchova. There is a possibility that the protest may spread to access to the transition to Medicine.

1:31 PM: Today in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron is gathering about 20 European leaders for an urgent meeting, — Reuters.

- It is noted that the purpose of the meeting is a public message to Putin, which should counter the Kremlin's narrative that Russia will definitely win the war in Ukraine, which has been going on for the third year.
- In particular, they will discuss the purchase of hundreds of thousands of ammunition from third countries, which was previously blocked by France.

3:30 PM: The first offenders who spilled Ukrainian grain from grain trucks on the border with Poland have already appeared in court.

- This was announced by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal.
- They face up to five years in prison.

3:54 PM: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz once again opposed the supply of long-range Taurus missiles to Ukraine, — RND.

- "[...]_It amazes me that some people don't care at all, they don't even think about whether what we're doing could in some sense lead to participation in the war_" Scholz said.

10:23 PM: Latvia has banned the import of Russian grain at the legislative level, Latvian Agriculture Minister Armands Krause said.

10:23 PM: The EU decided to extend the sanctions against Belarus due to its role in the war against Ukraine, — Council of the EU.

10:23 PM: In Brussels, police used water cannons to disperse a farmers' protest, Reuters reports.

10:23 PM: In 2024, Europe's largest ground forces exercise called Dragon-24 began in Poland, in which more than 20,000 servicemen from various NATO countries are participating.

10:49 PM: Germany handed Ukraine a new aid package. This is reported on the official website of the German government.

- In particular, artillery ammunition, drones and demining machines were transferred.
- The list includes:
 - 14,000 shells of 155 mm caliber;
 - 10 Vector reconnaissance drones with spare parts;
 - 4 WISENT 1 demining machines;
 - 3 mobile, remotely controlled and protected demining systems;
 - equipment for disposal of explosive objects;
 - 250 sets of tools with explosive materials;
 - 22 systems of sensors and jammers against UAVs;
 - 12 satellite communication terminals;
 - 4 cars for border protection.

11:09 PM: Ukraine has started negotiations with Norway on the conclusion of a bilateral security agreement.

- The parties discussed the main structural elements and blocks of the agreement, and also agreed on the schedule for further work.
- "Norway is our key partner in Northern Europe, one of the leaders of the coalition of warplanes that supports Ukraine from the very beginning of the full-scale invasion. Therefore, it is important that today we started the process of formalizing the security obligations of our states", - reported in the OP.

11:21 PM: On February 23, 2024, the NATO North Atlantic Council approved Ukraine's application to join the Federated Mission Networking (FMN) as an affiliated participant.

- FMN is a key multinational initiative of NATO member states and partners on the interoperability of communication and information systems in multinational operations, in particular under NATO leadership.
- Participating states implement common standards, protocols and procedures for interoperability.

11:55 PM: The British company received an order for the production of parts for Ukrainian tanks.

- This was stated by the managing director of the CDS company, William Cook, UK Defense Journal reports.

- It is noted that on behalf of Great Britain and the International Fund for Ukraine, the Defense Equipment & Support company concluded several contracts with the Cook Defense Systems company for the supply of spare parts for 500 Ukrainian armored vehicles.

NATIONAL

6:03 AM: Activity of enemy tactical aviation in the eastern direction, - PS ZSU.

6:54 AM: General Staff: In the Mariinsky direction, the enemy tried to break through the defense 40 times



ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTO: GENERAL STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES

- During the past day, 95 combat clashes took place. The hottest thing is now in the Mariinsky direction: the Defense Forces repelled 40 attacks.
- Details: In total, the enemy launched 11 missile and 98 air strikes, carried out 129 attacks from rocket salvo systems on the positions of our troops and populated areas.
- As a result of Russian terrorist attacks, there are wounded and dead among the civilian population.
- High-rise and private buildings, as well as other objects of civil infrastructure, were destroyed and damaged.
- Last day and this night, the Russian occupiers once again attacked Ukraine, using ballistic and cruise missiles and kamikaze drones. According to preliminary information, our defenders destroyed 3 missiles and 9 unmanned aerial vehicles of the "Shahed" type.
- During the past day, airstrikes have hit settlements in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.
- More than 110 settlements in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions were under artillery fire.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Khortytsia" anti-aircraft defense unit in the Kupyansk direction, 6 enemy attacks were repelled in the area of Sinkivka and Tabaivka settlements of the Kharkiv region.
- On the Lymanskyi direction, our soldiers repelled 5 enemy attacks in the areas of Terna settlements of the Donetsk region and Belogorivka of the Luhansk region.
- In the Bakhmut direction, the defense forces repelled 8 enemy attacks in the areas of Ivanovske and Klishchiivka settlements of the Donetsk region.

- In the area of responsibility of the "Tavria" anti-aircraft defense unit in the Avdiyiv direction, our defenders repelled 25 enemy attacks in the Severne, Stepov, Berdychi, Lastochkina and Nevelske settlements of the Donetsk region.
- In the Mariinsky direction, the defense forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Novomykhailivka, Georgiivka, Pobyeda and Krasnohorivka settlements of the Donetsk region, where the enemy tried to break through the defenses of our troops 40 times.
- The enemy did not conduct offensive (assault) actions in the Novopavlovsk direction.
- In the Zaporizhzhia direction, the defense forces repelled 6 enemy attacks in the area of the Robotyne settlement and 1 - in the area of the Gulyaipilske settlement of the Zaporizhzhia region.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Odesa" air defense system in the Kherson direction, the Defense Forces will continue to hold positions and repulse the assaults of the occupying forces. Despite significant losses, the enemy does not stop trying to knock our units out of their positions. So, during the past day, the enemy carried out 4 unsuccessful assaults on the positions of our troops on the left bank of the Dnieper.
- During the day, the aviation of the defense forces struck 7 areas of concentration of personnel and 2 anti-aircraft missile systems of the enemy. Also, our defenders destroyed 3 missiles and 9 unmanned aerial vehicles of the "Shahed" type.
- Units of the missile forces damaged 3 artillery positions of the enemy.

7:52 AM: During the night, air defense forces destroyed three Kh-59 guided air missiles and 9 Shahed missiles within the Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

9:13 AM: The Bulgarian delegation led by Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov arrived in Ukraine.

- Together with the head of the Bulgarian government, the ministers of justice, environment and energy, deputy ministers of defense and foreign affairs, as well as the head of the Ministry of Defense also arrived.

12:02 PM: The Armed Forces withdrew from the village of Lastochkine.

- This was reported by the spokesman of the "Tavria" OSU, Dmytro Lykhova.
- The units went out to organize defense along the lines of the settlements of Orlivka, Tonenke and Berdychi, in order to prevent the advance of Russian troops in the western direction.

12:42 PM: All of Ukraine is a missile hazard, — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- The takeoff of the MiG-31K was recorded.

1:09 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky's address on the Day of Crimean Resistance to Russian Occupation.

- "Thank you to everyone who does not forget about Crimea, who helps our efforts regarding Crimea. Who helps our soldiers. Who is fighting in Crimea against the occupiers. Who does not give his soul to Russian evil. Who helps to release people who were repressed by the Russian regime, who supports these people and keeps their faith - faith in justice, its power and in Ukraine," the president said.

1:37 PM: Attention! The threat of using ballistic weapons from the east, — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

1:47 PM: Two violators planned to enter Romania illegally, - DPSU.

- The crew of the patrol helicopter discovered the movement of unknown persons towards the neighboring country. The aviators adjusted the border outfit, which in a few minutes detained the men not far from the state border.
- Materials on an administrative offense have been drawn up in relation to the detainees.

2:16 PM: Several million weapons are currently in the hands of Ukrainian citizens.

- This was announced by the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko.
- According to him, numbered weapons that are registered should be handed over to the National Police and the Armed Forces after the war.

2:32 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky met with Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov.

- "_We agreed with Bulgaria to intensify the development of logistics and infrastructure in our region_", the president notes.

3:07 PM: The state will launch a cashback for the purchase of Ukrainian products within the "Made in Ukraine" platform.

- This was announced by President Volodymyr Zelenskyi.
- "_For the purchase of certain types of goods and services made in Ukraine, citizens of Ukraine will be able to receive a refund of part of the funds on a special card_", - says the president.
- The program should start working already this year.

3:38 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

4:01 PM: The capital will increase spending on the "Defender of Kyiv" program to almost 5 billion hryvnias, - Klitschko

- This is planned to be done at the next meeting of the Kyiv City Council, Kyiv Mayor Vitaly Klychko noted. Previously, 1.5 billion hryvnias were planned for the program and the mayor promised to increase funding. In the future, the budget will be adjusted additionally to help the military.

4:23 PM: Ex-National Deputy Serhii Pashynskyi was sent to pre-trial detention center until April 25 with the possibility of a bail of 272 million hryvnias, — VAKS.

- Pashinsky is suspected of the illegal appropriation and sale of 97,000 tons of oil products confiscated by the state.

4:25 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky signed the law on the demobilization of conscripts with a 12-month postponement of mobilization.

5:03 PM: BEB detectives exposed the illegal transportation of cigarettes to Romania.

- A resident of Transcarpathia transported counterfeit goods with home-made drones.
- During the pre-trial investigation, the suspect fully admitted his guilt — he faces a fine of 95,000 hryvnias.

7:55 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on February 26:

- During the day _79 combat clashes took place._
- Aviation of the defense forces struck 9 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the missile forces _hit 2 areas_ of the concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, _1 control point, 1 ground control station of UAVs_ of the enemy.

8:14 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky presented certificates for apartments to Heroes of Ukraine and relatives of fallen Heroes.

- "[...] Ukrainians will never give up their independence and their own state, Ukraine will never betray the memory of its Heroes," the president said.

10:53 PM: The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons in the Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

- Khmelnytskyi, Chernivtsi - the threat of using attack UAVs.

MORDOR – ruZZia

11:57 AM: In 2024, Russia plans to produce 2.7 million shells.

- This was reported by Vadym Skibitskyi, a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Ukraine.

- He noted that last year the Russians produced about 2 million 122 mm and 152 mm projectiles. In February 2024, the Russians planned to release 130 missiles of the Iskander, Caliber, Kh-101, Kh-32, and Dagger class.
- The Russians have already received 1.5 million 122 mm and 152 mm shells from North Korea. These are ammunition 70-80 years old, half of them do not work.

7:43 PM: Explosions are heard in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local channels report.

- We are waiting for official information.

REGIONS

SUMY



8:21 AM: Russians dropped guided aerial bombs on a residential building in Yunakivska hromada, — Sumy RMA.

- Earlier, as a result of the airstrike, two people died - a couple who were at home. One private residential building was destroyed, 5 were damaged.

KHARKIV



1:46 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the Kharkiv region

12:34 PM: the Russians destroyed a hangar with corn in PISOCHYN, Kharkiv region, with an S-300 strike. Two more with grain damaged.

- Serhiy Bolvinov, head of the police investigative department, reports this.
- There was also an arrival on the territory of the enterprise, where trucks were being repaired.

11:50 PM: Enemy UAVs on the border of Sumy region and Kharkiv region. The direction of movement is to the southwest.

- Enemy UAVs headed for Kharkiv, the Air Force reports.

DONETSK



11:05 AM: the Russians shelled populated areas of Donetsk region 21 times during the day.

- This was announced by the head of the RMA, Vadym Filashkin.
- 2 people were injured in Kurakhovo and Kostyantynivka.

10:38 PM: About 700 local residents remained in temporarily occupied Avdiivka.

- Pavlo Dyachenko, an inspector of the communications department of the National Police in Donetsk region and a member of the "White Angel" evacuation squad, told Radio Svoboda about this.
- According to him, when the "White Angels" crew communicated with the residents of Avdiivka, no one openly supported Russia and the occupiers.

ZAPORIZHIA



12:46 PM: Two men were wounded by Russians in Primorskyi Vasylykiv district.

- This was announced by Ivan Fedorov, the head of the Zaporizhzhia RMA.
- Russian troops shelled a front-line village with artillery.

DNIPRO



9:57 PM: Defenders from Pvk "East" shot down an enemy drone in the Dnipropetrovsk region, RMA head Serhii Lysak said.

10:09 PM: Missile danger in the Dnipropetrovsk region, the Air Force reports.

11:25 PM: Air defense forces shot down two cruise missiles in the Kryvorizka district of Dnipropetrovsk region, RMA head Lysak said.

KIROVOHRAD



12:03 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kropyvnytskyi.

4:28 PM: In the Kirovohrad region - an enemy anti-aircraft missile (presumably a reconnaissance), - a PS of the ZSU.

- Air defense works in the region.

8:45 PM: The Air Force reports that a group of unmanned aerial vehicles in the Kirovohrad region is moving in a northwesterly direction. A group of BpLA in Odesa region, moving in the western direction.

KHMELNITSKY



11:12 PM: Unidentified UAVs from the border with Moldova - in the direction of Khmelnytskyi.

- Unmanned aerial vehicle in the Rivne region - heading north.

11:40 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the Khmelnytskyi region.

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 Afghani stan	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 728 days	After 729 days	After 730 days	After 731 days	After 732 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	408,240	409,010	409,820	410,700	411,550

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6526	6534	6,542	6,555	6,556
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	12,410	12,425	12,441	12,478	12,494
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	10,915	10,951	10,980	10,993	11,009
Cruise Missiles		1903	1905	1907	1,910	1,912
Fighters Bombers	118	339	340	340	340	340
Helicopters	333	325	325	325	325	325
Drones		7628	7,659	7,681	7,707	7,729
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		682	684	684	686	686
Cargo/Fuel/other transport	11,369	12,960	12,988	13,011	13,037	13,065
Naval Vessels		25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)
Specialized equipment		1575	1576	1,578	1,580	1,588

SOURCES2

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