

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

February 28 - 29 2024

By: Robert Homans & Bohdan Chomiak

The So-Called “Great Unwashed”

Starting at 13:30 into Denys’ recent video (not “the latest”) he shows [footage](#) from an interview with 2 supporters of Donald Trump, apparently conducted at one of his rallies. The first says, “Putin didn’t invade Ukraine; he just wants back what is his.” She goes on to say that Putin invading Ukraine “is fine with me.” The second person said, “I don’t think Putin is the problem; Zelenskyy is the problem.” He goes on to say, “Putin is trying to save his country from the likes of Zelenskyy and ‘the elitists.’ “

Note that the references are all to Putin, and not to Russia, as if Ukraine belongs to Putin but not Russia. Denys asks a good question, about whether Putin taking back “what’s his” also applies to the State of Alaska.

I don’t blame these two individuals; I will stipulate that they come to their support of Donald Trump honestly, perhaps believing that they have been shunned by “the elitists,” whoever the elitists are. However, based on at least these 2 interviews the Trump campaign, and the rallies, have become vessels for the distribution of Russian disinformation, as has Trump’s congressional supporters, including but not limited to Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Georgia).

Things are made worse by the Biden Administration, that seems incapable of articulating the reasons why the United States is supporting Ukraine and supplying Ukraine with weapons. This void gives Greene, Vance, and Tucker Carlson plenty of vacuum that they can occupy with their own twisted narratives that have ready consumers such as the two who were interviewed.

Sen. Vance has become adept at couching his opposition to U.S. assistance to Ukraine with legitimate-sounding arguments, such as that we need to worry about the Southern border first, while at the same time obscuring his more scurrilous remarks about the lack of religious freedom in Ukraine, and instead saving those for rallies such as the one where the interviews took place. Rep. Greene makes no such pretense, even on one occasion several months ago, when she mocked a group of Ukraine’s wounded warriors who were visiting the Capitol.

Timothy Ash on the Use of Russian Central Bank Reserves to Fund Ukraine’s Military and Non-Military Requirements

Tim Ash has been the leading proponent of using Russian Central Bank Reserves to fund Ukraine’s Military and Non-Military Requirements. His two most recent Substack blogs on this subject are [here](#) and [here](#).

Tim is very effective in setting up the reasons not to release Russian Central Bank reserves as straw men, and then knocking them down. Here are some samples:

- Violation of the “Rule of Law” – “Rule of law? Where was the rule of law when the West accepted the assets of a kleptocratic regime that had already used WMD on the streets of a NATO member, and twice (Litvinenko and Salisbury).”
- Reserve currency risks? – “What’s the difference between immobilisation and seizing? The message has already been sent and there is zero evidence that all this has seen pressure on

reserve currencies. The biggest risk to the reserve currency risk of the euro, in particular, is not freezing, seizing and using Russian assets for Ukraine but not using them for this purpose, and then risking a Ukrainian defeat. I wonder how risk perceptions of the euro would be if Russia wins and its tanks head West. The boffins at the ECB and European treasuries just cannot get their heads around security risks, so our leaders need to take the decision away from them. Euroclear, the ECB et al should not be the lead decision makers here (they should not have veto powers), but national security teams.”

- Russian retaliation; seizing Western assets in Russia? – “Well it is already happening. But Western companies who invested in Russia made bad calls. Why should Western national security interests be subjugated for the profits of greedy Western companies who took Putin’s forty pieces of silver?”
- Equity - On the equity issue, current Western policy of avoiding seizing and allocating frozen Russian assets for Ukraine means that Western taxpayers are footing the bill for Russia. The interests of Russian taxpayers are being put above those of Western taxpayers. The property rights of Russia are being put ahead of Western taxpayers. And Western taxpayers are bailing out their own greedy business lobby who were mistakenly invested in Russia. This should be a national scandal in countries like Germany where its government is blocking the confiscation of immobilised Russian assets.”
- More equity – “Now in pushing for debt relief for Ukraine, before first seizing immobilised Russian assets, Western governments are again in effect taxing their own electorates (taxpayers and pensioners as holders of debt) to the benefit of Russia.”

Ash has long argued that the West’s political leaders need to take over the matter of the use of Russian Central Bank assets from the European Central Bank and national treasuries and finance ministries. If the current inaction in the U.S. Congress on Ukraine assistance has taught us anything, it is that public appropriations cannot be relied on, as a reliable source of funding for Ukraine’s military, non-military, and reconstruction needs.

[“Why Ukrainians Are Still So Optimistic?”/Alexander Motyl – “the Hill”](#)

As my Ukrainian wife pointed out, Ukrainians have no choice but to be optimistic.

Some excerpts:

- “According to a [Ukrainian public opinion survey](#) conducted by the respected Razumkov Center in late January, a whopping 85 percent of respondents believe in a Ukrainian victory, while only 8.5 percent do not. The numbers are fairly uniform across the board, ranging from 78 percent in eastern Ukraine, where all the fighting and most of the death and destruction are taking place, to 88.5 percent in the rest of the country.”

“As to when victory will be achieved, 20 percent say by the end of 2024, 40 percent in one to two years, 14 percent in three to five years, and 3 percent in more than five years.”

- “Even more striking is what Ukrainians mean by victory: 38 percent believe “that the expulsion of Russian troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and the restoration of borders as of January 2014 can be considered a victory.” Amazingly, 27 percent have even higher expectations and “would consider the destruction of the Russian army and the promotion of insurrection/collapse within Russia a victory.
- The optimism is impressive: 60 percent of Ukrainians believe they will prevail by the end of 2025, while 65 percent of that number have a maximalist notion of victory.
- And it’s not just average Ukrainians who are bullish about the immediate future. So, too, are Ukrainian businessmen and women. According to a [survey conducted](#) by the Ukrainian Business News Network this month, “After a quite successful 2023, when 70%+ of companies

hit both revenue and profit targets, for 2024, nearly 60% of the business expect some level of growth, with most of them planning for double-digit growth. Most firms are confident they can hit these targets too.”

One businessperson captured the prevailing mood: “I get scared of the war only when I’m watching it on TV in London.”

- “They, Ukrainians, know that Europeans and Americans are skeptical about their victory. They know what the reality in the West is. But they also know what the reality in Ukraine and Russia is. They know that Russia can’t win a war that is costing it [1,000 deaths a day](#). They know that Putin’s regime is far weaker than it seems. Finally, Ukrainians also know that, to win, they need only to outlast the Russians — which they know they can, not because of some magical belief in resilience and victory, but because the alternative to outlasting the Russians is being exterminated by the Russians.”

As Motyl points out, what pessimism there is comes from most European capitals and Washington, D.C., but not from Ukrainians who are doing fighting and dying. Many of the pundits are likely now recycling articles they wrote at the beginning of the war, that Ukraine will surrender in 5 days.

News From the Battlefield/Destruction of Ukrainian Grain by Polish Farmers

“[Reporting From Ukraine](#)” covers the fighting in the East, south of Marinka, and warns of a developing Russian offensive in the north, near Kupiansk.

The [Latest Denys](#) covers continued Russian air losses, comparable equipment losses (still in favor of Ukraine by more than 3/1 and, most prominently, continued Polish blocking and destruction of Ukraine’s grain exports and, at the same time, allegedly allowing for Russian grain imports from Belarus. 2 reporters from Ukrainska Pravda were recently arrested near the Belarus border for covering this story.

The Ukrainian grain being destroyed by Polish farmers is either destined for Polish buyers, primarily livestock farmers who purchased Ukrainian grain primarily for use as animal feed, or headed for Gdansk, to be shipped to foreign buyers. In my opinion the Polish Government should start arresting those who participated in property destruction (as opposed to blocking roads but short of property destruction), up to and including confiscation of their tractors and hitting their bank accounts. Canada did the same when Canadian truckers blocked Government House in Ottawa.

I have a great deal of respect for Radek Sikorski, the new Polish Foreign Minister. However, rather than going around Western capitals giving soaring speeches about the importance of Ukrainian-Polish solidarity, Sikorski should be back in Warsaw, imploring his colleagues in the Polish Cabinet to start enforcing the law.

3/1/2024 Sitrep

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration

INTERNATIONAL

Thursday, February 29

8:00 AM: The Cabinet of Ministers of Lithuania approved the allocation of an additional 326,000 euros to support refugees from Ukraine.

8:00 AM: Illinois court blocks Trump from primary on 'sedition ban' - CNN.

8:00 AM: Sweden's official NATO accession ceremony has been delayed by at least a week, Bloomberg.

8:00 AM: The American state of Texas is engulfed in forest fires - 3,400 km² of land is burning. The fire reached Oklahoma.

8:00 AM: The US and South Korea are preparing for large-scale military exercises from March 4 to 14 called Freedom Shield.

9:32 AM: Polish farmers hardly miss trucks going from Ukraine to Poland.

- This was reported by the spokesman of the State Border Service of Ukraine, Andriy Demchenko.
- He added that over the past day, 1 truck per hour was actually allowed through. And 10 cargo vehicles followed in the direction of Poland, that is, even less than 1 truck per hour.

10:36 AM: Poland has again declared that they do not intend to send troops to Ukraine.

- "There are no such plans. Poland will not send its troops to Ukraine. We spoke about this clearly and distinctly - both I, Mr. President and the Prime Minister. There are no misunderstandings here. There are no such plans," - said Polish Minister of National Defense Wladyslaw Kosinyak-Kamysh.

12:33 PM: The Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaia Kallas, expressed her position on the idea of French President Emmanuel Macron about the possible introduction of troops into Ukraine.

- "I think that these are also signals that we are sending to Russia that we are not ruling anything out," Kallas said.
- At the same time, the prime minister believes that such decisions should be discussed "behind closed doors".

1:39 PM: Moldova's Foreign Minister Mihai Popshoi responded to Transnistria's appeal to Russia for "protection".

- He noted that Transnistria's call for "help" to Moscow is "another element of the hybrid war" and an attempt to destabilize the situation in Moldova. Moldova continues to be a target for Russia.

4:10 PM: Finnish officials said they did not limit the use of weapons provided to Ukraine, Yle.

- "[...] _Ukraine should have the right to use these weapons against military targets also on Russian territory_" one of the senior officials said.
- In Finland, the Ministry of Defense called on Germany to hand over Taurus missiles to Kyiv so that it could strike even further.

7:05 PM: Denmark has allocated an additional grant of \$1.45 million for the recovery of Ukraine, the press service of the Danish government reports.

- The funds will go to cooperation between the municipalities of Aarhus and Copenhagen and the Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Kyiv and Mykolaiv.
- The municipalities identified several possible areas of cooperation: _energy efficiency, water supply, urban development/climate adaptation_ and others.

8:27 PM: French President Emmanuel Macron noted that his statement regarding the possibility of sending European troops to Ukraine was carefully thought out.

- He announced this on the sidelines of the opening of the Olympic Village in Saint-Saint-Denis.
- However, Macron refused any "geopolitical comments", stressing that it was "not the right place", as "sport should promote unity and reconciliation".

10:46 PM: Polish farmers will partially block traffic on the border with Lithuania for a week starting tomorrow, LRT.

- According to Agriculture Minister Kestutis Navichkas, protesters accuse grain traders of allegedly "converting" Ukrainian grain into Lithuanian grain, which ends up on the Polish market.
- Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė believes that the Polish farmers' action looks like a hybrid operation by Russian special services with the aim of turning Ukraine's allies against each other.

11:04 PM: Olaf Scholz, in a meeting with the residents of Dresden, said that long-range Taurus missiles are weapons that "if used incorrectly can hit a certain target somewhere in Moscow."

- The chancellor of Germany emphasized that in the case of the supply of Taurus, Germany would have to directly participate in the launch of the missiles, and "I believe that this is impossible," emphasized Scholz.

11:21 PM: Poland is increasing its import of agricultural products from Belarus and Russia, — investigation of UP.

- Last year, Poland imported \$450 million worth of goods from Belarus, and \$2.6 billion from the Russian Federation.
- Imports of agricultural products from the Russian Federation reached \$117 million and exceeded the level of 2021. In particular, the import of grain and oilseeds more than doubled. In addition, last year Poland paid Belarusians \$55 million for purchased agricultural products.

11:37 PM: If Ukraine loses the war, NATO will have to fight Russia, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said.

- Speaking before the US House of Representatives Committee on Armed Forces, he said that if Ukraine loses, Russia "will not stop" and will attack neighboring countries, primarily the Baltic states.

11:55 PM: Ministers of foreign affairs of NATO countries will hold another meeting at the Brussels headquarters of the Alliance on April 3-4, 2024, according to the Alliance's website.

11:55 PM: Trump plans to meet with Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán at his residence next week, The New York Times.

11:55 PM: The OSCE has activated the "Moscow mechanism" to investigate the detention of Ukrainian civilians by Russia, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, reports.

11:55 PM: The US and Britain discussed the threat of Russian interference in the elections, Bloomberg.

Wednesday, February 28

1:57 AM: President of Ukraine Zelenskyi has arrived in the capital of Albania, Tirana, Foreign Minister Igli Hasani said.

- "A key moment for strengthening bilateral ties and solidarity with Ukraine in its heroic struggle against Russian aggression," Albanian Minister Kh.

8:00 AM: Lithuania is ready to accept 400 Ukrainians for treatment and provide rehabilitation to 1,200 people who suffered from the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

8:00 AM: A bag containing police plans for security during the 2024 Olympic Games has been stolen from a train at Gare du Nord in Paris, The Guardian.

8:00 AM: An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale has struck near Canakkale province in Turkey, — BNN.

8:00 AM: A group of Russian spies has been exposed in Britain. It is about six people, all of whom are from Bulgaria, — Sky News.

9:06 AM: The Russian Armed Forces rehearsed the use of tactical nuclear weapons at an early stage of the conflict with China, — Financial Times.

- The materials of the exercises show that Russia's Eastern Military District has rehearsed numerous scenarios depicting a Chinese invasion. The drills provide a rare glimpse into how Russia views its nuclear arsenal as the cornerstone of its defense policy, and how it is preparing its troops for a nuclear first strike in some combat situations.

10:41 AM: It is very important for the United States to help Ukraine, says Chuck Schumer, the majority leader in the US Senate.

- "We cannot wait a month, two or three. Because then, most likely, we will lose the war, NATO will be disunited in the best case, and the allies will turn their backs on the USA", - said Chuck Schumer.

11:40 AM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi met with Prime Minister Edi Rama of Albania in Tirana.

- Mass media publish photos from the meeting.

12:29 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi and Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama signed cooperation agreements.

- "The agreement serves to strengthen the friendship between the two countries and peoples by expanding and strengthening cooperation in various areas of mutual interest," the media reported.

12:46 PM: For the grain that Polish farmers spilled from wagons, those who spilled it will pay.

- This was stated by Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Taras Vysotskyi.
- He recalled that from 160 to 180 tons of grain, which was scattered by "protesters", was headed for Morocco.
- "The one who caused the damages must compensate them. This can be decided by court results or voluntarily... We hope for the shortest possible time to bring the case to court, justice and full compensation for the damages by those who caused them," he said.

1:07 PM: The Netherlands ordered the latest DITA self-propelled artillery installations from the Czech Republic for Ukraine, — Ministry of Defense of the Netherlands.

- "The DITA howitzer is a modern fire system capable of hitting targets at a distance of tens of kilometers. Ukraine has a great need for this weapon. That is why the Netherlands recently ordered 9 units for this country," the department's website says.

1:41 PM: Israel intends to provide Ukraine with early warning systems for Russian missile and drone attacks to save civilian lives.

- This was stated by the representative of Israel at the UN, Gilad Erdan, at the session of the UN General Assembly.

2:21 PM: The US Department of National Security has decided to extend the possibility of Ukrainian citizens staying under humanitarian passwords for 2 years.

- This was reported by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA, Oksana Markarova.
- The right to renew their humanitarian password status was granted to both Ukrainians who arrived in the United States under the "Uniting for Ukraine" (U4U) program, as well as citizens who were given a humanitarian password before the introduction of this program.

2:43 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi delivered a speech at the opening of the "Ukraine - South-Eastern Europe" summit:

- "[...] _We are proud of the fact that about 500 defense companies work in Ukraine. But this is not enough to defeat Putin. And we are interested in joint production with all partners_".

3:13 PM: Ukraine received a \$760 million grant from Japan and Norway through a World Bank project, — Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

- The funds will be directed to partial compensation of expenses of the State Budget of Ukraine, not related to the sphere of security and defense: in particular _for pension payments, payments to employees of the State Emergency Service and teachers' wages_.

5:19 PM: Poland is negotiating with Ukraine to temporarily close borders for trade in goods.

- This was announced by the Prime Minister of Poland, Donald Tusk, PAP reports.
- According to Tusk, he has scheduled an agricultural summit to be held tomorrow in Warsaw. There he will meet with the leaders of all the protesting groups and raise the issue of closing the borders.

5:44 PM: Belgium will finance a €200 million Czech initiative to purchase 800,000 shells for Ukraine outside of Europe.

- This was stated by the Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo.

- "_We will never be able to match the sacrifices that Ukraine makes every day. But we can give President Zelensky what he is asking for - more weapons to defend against the Russian aggressor_" the prime minister writes.

6:05 PM: Moldova extended temporary protection for Ukrainians for another year - until March 1, 2025.

- This was reported by the press service of the government of Moldova.
- It is emphasized that the protection will be automatically extended, as will the validity period of the recipient's identity document.

6:40 PM: Ukraine and Poland held talks — closing the border was not discussed.

- This was stated by the trade representative of Ukraine, Taras Kachka.
- "There are no details yet, but a constructive solution is possible," Kachka writes.

7:54 PM: For the first time since 2021, Bitcoin's value has risen to \$60,000, Bloomberg.

8:10 PM: The Council of the EU approved the launch of the Ukraine Facility for 50 billion euros for 2024-2027, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine reports.

- Ukraine Facility is a unique tool for supporting the economic development and recovery of Ukraine on its way to join the EU. The instrument will provide unprecedented predictable support based on jointly agreed plans and priorities by the Government of Ukraine and the European Commission.

8:33 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Croatia Andrii Plenković.

- The parties agreed to facilitate the conclusion of agreements between Ukraine and Croatian private companies - manufacturers in the field of demining, rescue equipment, as well as UAVs.
- "_I want to thank you for accepting our military and Ukrainian children for rehabilitation," said the president.

9:23 PM: While the US Congress is delaying the allocation of funds for Ukraine, the Pentagon is considering the possibility of using \$4 billion in military aid directly from its arsenal, CNN reports.

- This is the last source that the department has. At the same time, the Pentagon is ready to do this without any guarantees that Congress will return even a part of this amount. But such a move puts the replenishment of the US's own weapons stockpile at risk.

11:13 PM: Actor Mark Hamill poked fun at the Russians, saying they still haven't figured out who the "dark side" is in this war.

- "Hey Russian Embassy, tell me you don't understand Star Wars without saying it. (Hint: the Ukrainian people are the Rebels and you are the Evil Empire). So... nice try, screw you, Russians ",_- wrote the performer of the role of Luke Skywalker.

NATIONAL

Thursday, February 29

1:12 AM: Soldiers of the 73rd Naval Special Operations Center died heroically during a combat mission in a clash with Russian invaders.

- "Ensuring the departure of the main forces of the group after the completion of a special task, the soldiers accepted their last battle, remaining in the formation forever," - said the Special Operations Forces.

7:11 AM: Summary of the General Staff as of 06:00 February 29:



PHOTO FROM THE FACEBOOK OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE ZSU

- The occupiers tried to attack along the entire front line, the hottest was in the Avdiiv and Novopavliv directions; the Russians launched 3 missile and 91 air strikes, hit the positions of the Ukrainian troops and populated areas with anti-aircraft missiles 142 times; a total of 83 combat clashes took place at the front last day.
- **Details:** In the area of responsibility of the "Khortytsia" OSU on **Kupyansk direction** The defense forces repelled 2 attacks by the occupiers in the areas of Petropavlivka and Tabaivka settlements of the Kharkiv region.
- On **Lyman direction** Ukrainian soldiers repelled 12 Russian attacks in Terna, Yampolivka, Donetsk region, and Belogorivka, Luhansk region.
- On **Bakhmut direction** The defense forces repelled 2 enemy attacks in the areas of Ivanivske and Klishchiivka settlements of the Donetsk region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Tavria" on **Avdiivskiy direction** the defenders repelled 25 attacks by the occupiers in the areas of Berdychi, Orlivka, Tonenke, Pervomayske, Nevelske settlements of the Donetsk region.
- On **Novopavlovsk direction** The defense forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Krasnohorivka, Georgiivka, Pobeda, Novomykhailivka settlements of the Donetsk region, where the Russians tried 30 times to break through the defenses of the Ukrainian troops.
- On **Orihiv direction** The defense forces repulsed 1 enemy attack in the Robotyn region of the Zaporizhzhia region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Odesa" on **Kherson direction** The Armed Forces continue to hold their positions and repulse the assaults of the occupying forces. During the past day, the Russians carried out 4 unsuccessful assaults on the positions of Ukrainian troops on the left bank of the Dnieper.
- At the same time, the Air Force of the Defense Forces during the past day struck 10 areas where Russian personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroyed three Su-34 fighter-bombers.
- Units of the missile forces damaged 3 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 3 BM-21 "Grad" salvo rocket systems, 2 artillery units, 2 control points, 1 ammunition warehouse, 1 means of radio-electronic warfare of the occupiers.

7:59 AM: The Ukrainian military destroyed an enemy Su-34 in the Eastern direction.

- This was announced by the commander of the Air Force of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mykola Oleschuk.



9:06 AM: The Ukrainian military defeated the Russians who broke through to the outskirts of Orlivka.

- This was announced by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrskyi.

11:28 AM: The Air Force of the Armed Forces destroyed 2 more Russian Su-34s.

- The planes were destroyed today around 9:00 a.m. on the Avdiiv and Mariupol directions.

1:19 PM: The audit of the Ministry of Defense found violations in military units for more than UAH 180 million.

- A number of servicemen were stationed at permanent deployment points and performed functional duties not related to the conduct of hostilities, but received combat allowances.
- All materials have been handed over to law enforcement agencies to establish the degree of guilt of the officials and to compensate the state for damages.

1:53 PM: Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrskyi named the main tasks facing the Defense Forces.

- "_My main task is to effectively use the combat capabilities of the weapons and military equipment of our units to inflict maximum losses on the enemy and destroy a significant part of his artillery and armored vehicles; to maintain the occupied positions and restore the position where we retreated_", he said.

2:52 PM: Ukraine took out 5 more children from the temporarily occupied territories - two girls and three boys.

- Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of the Kherson RMA, announced this.
- Among them is one orphan child, the age of the children is from 4 to 16 years.

3:08 PM: We thank the Ukrainian IT company WEBCASE for the charitable contribution in the amount 🇺🇦200 thousand. UAH🇺🇦 on the SeaBaby marine drone for the SBU!

- The IT company WEBCASE (<https://webcase.ua/>), which is engaged in business digitization, has been collecting funds monthly among employees since the beginning of the full-scale war, purchasing and handing over equipment to front-line units.
- So far, UAH 4,993,367.24 has already been collected in the bank for a maritime drone for the SBU! We continue to move towards the goal

3:28 PM: UAH 5,000,000 is already in the bank for a maritime drone for the SBU!

- You are incredible! Thank you to each of you! Let's move on

3:54 PM: Ukrainian manufacturers have produced about 200,000 FPV drones since the beginning of the year.

- Forbes writes about this with reference to the Ministry of Strategic Industry of Ukraine.
- "_The president spoke about 1 million drones - our capacities already allow us to produce that many, and even more_", - noted the Deputy Minister for Strategic Industries Hanna Gvozdyar.

4:31 PM: The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine published an infographic of the work of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for February.

- In one month, they shot down: 10 Su-34 fighter-bombers, two Su-35 multipurpose fighters and one A-50 radar aircraft.

4:47 PM: GUR MOU received lists of persons whom Russia may involve in the so-called "Maidan-3" operation.

- Andriy Yusov, representative of the State of Ukraine, stated this on the air of "Radio Liberty".
- To spread Russian propaganda, _Moscow massively buys and creates Telegram channels_. Bot farms are also being created to amplify Russian rhetoric in social networks.
- "_There are lists of people on whom the enemy is working, and there is a task to involve them in order to spread their rhetoric and influence the socio-political situation in the country. These are dozens of people, if we are talking about influential categories_", Yusov says.

5:02 PM: More than 900 cultural heritage sites have been damaged in Ukraine as a result of a full-scale invasion.

- This was announced by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal.
- "_The Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in Odesa, the Grigory Skovoroda Museum near Kharkiv, the Drama Theater in Chernihiv and many other objects of history and culture became victims of the Russians_ [...]", Shmyhal clarified.

6:51 PM: In January-February 2024, almost twice as many weapons samples were put into service in the Armed Forces than in the same period last year.

- This was stated by the Deputy Chairman of the Ministry of Education, Lieutenant General Ivan Gavryliuk.
- The list of novelties for the Armed Forces includes _EW equipment, a 120-mm mortar, samples of automotive and special equipment, technical means of demining_, elements of dynamic protection for armored vehicles and ammunition for UAVs.

7:16 PM: Evening address of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi:

- "_Held a meeting today regarding the European direction - our relations with the European Union - regarding tasks for this year and in general on integration and specifically on relations with neighbors in the European Union._ [...] _And this year should be the time for real negotiations regarding accession: more in the spring we can start, take the first negotiating steps_".

7:35 PM: Chief of the Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrsky conducted work in the military units that are defending Avdiivske and Kurakhivske.

- "_Our brigades are fighting tough battles with the enemy's superior forces. The enemy is suffering significant losses in manpower and equipment_", Sirsky reports.

7:45 PM: Losses in the culture and tourism sector of Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation amounted to \$19.6 billion.

- This was reported by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal with reference to the assessment of the World Bank.
- The Prime Minister clarified that these are data only from those territories that are controlled by Ukraine today and from those that were de-occupied.

7:57 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on February 29:

- During the day _73 combat clashes took place._
- Aviation of the defense forces struck 10 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the missile forces _damaged in 2 areas_ a concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, _3 BM-21 "Grad" multiple rocket systems, 1 ammunition depot, 1 means of radio-electronic warfare_ of the enemy.

8:34 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi replaced the commander of the Logistics Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- Volodymyr Karpenko became the new commander.

8:47 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons in areas where an air alert has been declared.

9:16 PM: "Action" will add an assistant based on artificial intelligence, her name will be "Nadia".

- This was announced by the head of the Ministry of Statistics Mykhailo Fedorov.
- It will be a new generation chatbot that will communicate in human language and help solve a simple problem. Its main advantages will be the speed of response and the saving of time and resources of the Action support team.

9:38 PM: Currently, the three regions most mined in Ukraine are Kharkiv, Kherson, and Donetsk.

- Serhiy Reva, the head of the humanitarian demining organization department of the State Emergency Service, said this.
- "[...] These are exactly the main directions in which we are currently working and on which the main efforts are concentrated_", Reva noted.

10:15 PM: Today marks the anniversary of the GUR special unit "Group 13" - hunters for the ships of the occupiers.

- The result of the work of the operators of strike drones is the destruction of the Russian ships "Cesar Kunikov", "Ivanovets", "Shark" and "Serna", as well as the damage of "Ivan Khurs" and "Sergei Kotov".
- From the editor: congratulate the guys with a generous donation to further sink the enemy fleet 🙌_
- 11:46 PM: "Ukraine has a weapon that can take down Russian planes at a long distance," Yuriy Ignat, the spokesman of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, commented on the destruction of 13 planes in 13 days.

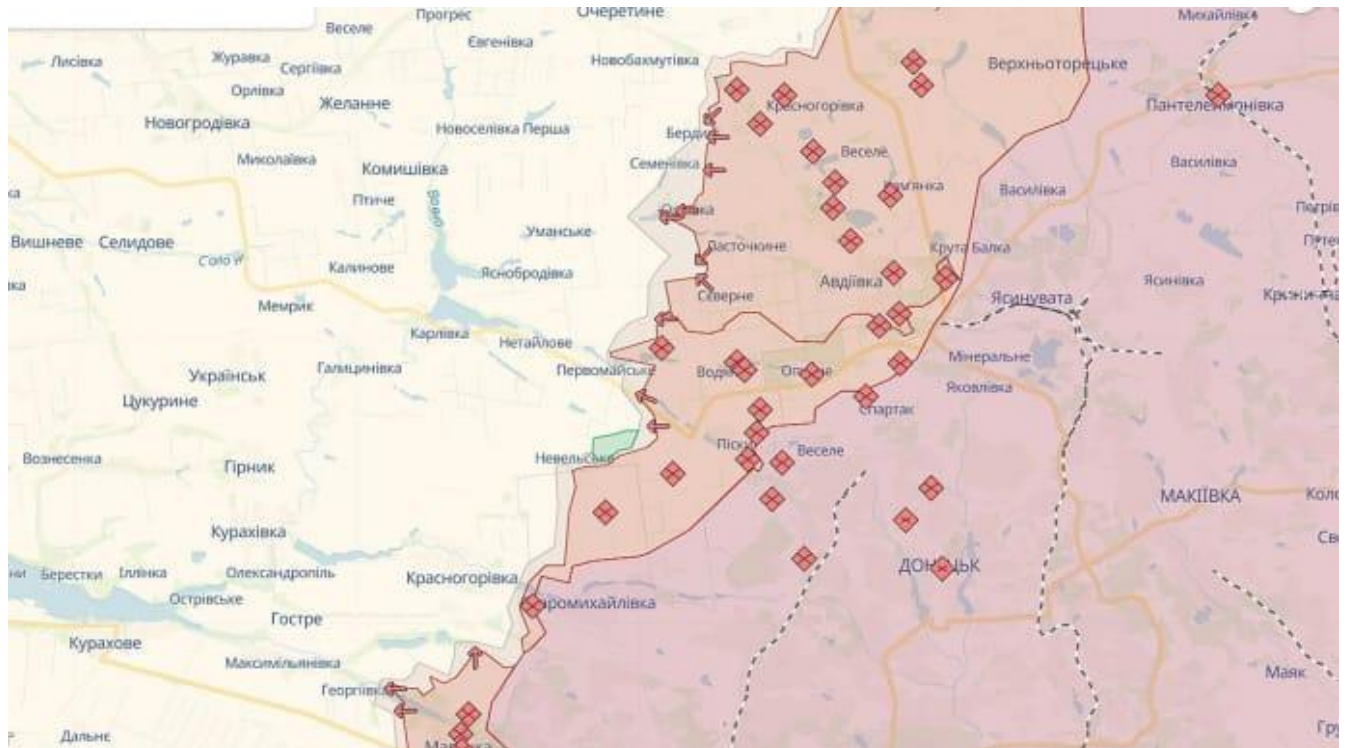
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1:00 AM: Threat of using ballistic weapons in the regions.

4:58 AM: Missile threat in southern regions, — Ukrainian Air Force.

- The activity of the Tu-22m3 strategic aircraft in the waters of the Black Sea. Missile launches are possible.

7:06 AM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 06:00 on February 28:



MAP OF COMBAT ACTIONS IN THE AVDIIV DIRECTION. SCREENSHOT FROM DEEPSTATEMAP.LIVE

- The Russian occupiers continue to press along the entire front line, most actively attacked in the Avdiiv and Novopavliv directions; during the past day, the invaders launched 10 missile and 105 air strikes, carried out 163 attacks from rocket salvo systems on the positions of Ukrainian troops and populated areas.
- **Verbatim General Staff:** "During the past 24 hours, 99 combat clashes took place. The settlements of Ploske, Budarky, Varvarivka, Kupyansk, Synkivka, and Kislivka of the Kharkiv region; Novoehorivka, Makiivka, Belogorivka of the Luhansk region; Terny, Rozdolivka, Vasyutynske, Chasiv Yar, Oleksandropil, Ocheretyne were hit by airstrikes. , Novobakhmutivka, Novoselivka Persha, Orlivka, Netaylove, Kurakhove, Novomykhailivka, Vugledar, Vodyane, Kostyantynivka, Staromayorske, Urozhayne of the Donetsk region; Novodarivka of the Zaporizhia region."
- **Details:** More than 120 settlements in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions were under artillery fire.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Tavria" on **Avdiivskiy direction** defenders repelled 25 attacks by Russians in the areas of settlements of Berdychi, Orlivka, Tonenke, Pervomayske, Nevelske of the Donetsk region.
- On **Novopavlovsk direction** The defense forces continue to hold back the invaders in Krasnohorivka, Georgiivka, Novomykhailivka and Urozhany regions of the Donetsk region, where the Russians tried 38 times to break through the defenses of the Ukrainian troops.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Khortytsia" OSU on **Kupyansk direction** The defense forces repelled 2 Russian attacks in the areas of Sinkivka and Tabaiivka settlements of the Kharkiv region.
- On **Lyman direction** Ukrainian soldiers repelled 12 attacks by occupiers in Terna, Yampolivka, Donetsk region, and Belogorivka, Luhansk region.
- On **Bakhmut direction** The defense forces repelled 9 attacks by Russians in the areas of Ivanovske and Klishchiivka settlements of the Donetsk region.
- On **Orihiv direction** The defense forces repelled 1 enemy attack in the area east of Robotyny, Zaporizhzhia region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Odesa" on **Kherson direction** The defense forces continue to hold their positions and repulse the assaults of the occupying forces. During the past day, the Russians carried out 4 unsuccessful assaults on the positions of Ukrainian troops on the left bank of the Dnieper.

- At the same time, the aviation of the defense forces during the day struck 8 areas of concentration of Russian personnel.
- Units of the missile forces damaged 1 control point, 2 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 4 artillery means, 1 anti-aircraft defense device, 1 EW station and 1 other important target of the occupiers.
- The forces and means of air defense of the Armed Forces of Ukraine shot down 10 "Shaheeds", which the Russians launched at the end of last day to attack Ukraine.
- Units of the missile forces inflicted damage on 4 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 2 artillery means, 1 anti-aircraft means and 2 radar stations of the enemy.

9:48 AM: All the country's educational institutions, located west of Kyiv, should switch to an offline learning format by September.

- This was stated by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Mykhailo Vynnytskyi.
- According to Vynnytskyi, in many cases this will mean the need to switch to several shifts, training in the evenings, but offline training is a priority for the Ministry of Education.

10:08 AM: Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov announced the digitalization of the judicial system.

- "The electronic court will make the judicial system modern and more efficient. Part of the services will be online and in Diya. This will simplify the document flow, speed up the consideration of cases and facilitate communication between the participants in the cases. There will be less paper work and time saved for judges," the message states.
- Thanks to the transformation of the electronic court, Ukrainians will be able to:
 - apply to the court online, without postal correspondence and unnecessary trips
 - receive court decisions in electronic form
 - pay fines, deposit and return court fees and deposits
 - get acquainted with the materials of the electronic court case

11:50 AM: One MP costs Ukrainians UAH 1.6 million in taxes per year.

- This follows from the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on the budget for 2024. Among the expenses:
 - UAH 7,500 per month — travel allowance.
 - UAH 88,418 per month is the salary of their assistants.
 - UAH 237,900 per year for comfortable living in apartments and hotels.
 - In general, more than 640 million per year is spent on the maintenance of the parliament from the budget.

11:54 AM: We believe that these funds could be used with greater benefit - for the defense of the country

- Who is in favor of deputies going to fight on an equal footing with citizens — each of you 150 hryvnias for a sea drone for the SBU 🇺🇦
- Who is against politicians going to war — 1,500 hryvnias per drone for the SBU 🇺🇦
- We remember that each donation increases the defense capability of our fleet 🇺🇦

3:24 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

4:11 PM: The court extended Ihor Kolomoiskyi's detention for another two months (until April 25) and reduced the amount of bail to 2.4 billion hryvnias.

- This was reported by his lawyer Oleksandr Lysak.
- The lawyer stated that Kolomoiskyi will not post bail.

4:33 PM: At the customs, the bus driver who tried to transport more than 550 units of smartphones and tablets across the border with Slovakia was exposed - BEB.

- The driver tried to evade customs payments - the goods were hidden from customs control in different parts of the bus.

- BEB in Transcarpathia has already provided reimbursement to the budget of UAH 4.1 million in unpaid taxes.

5:34 PM: Ukrainian developers have created a reusable drone-bomber — Hummel.

- This was announced by the head of the Ministry of Statistics Mykhailo Fedorov.
- It can carry a weight of up to 2 kg at a distance of up to 20 km — it is already successfully used in units of the Defense Forces in various areas of the front.

6:42 PM: Thank you to the Classic restaurant family from the city of Kovel, Volyn region, for the charitable contribution to 🇺🇦 300 thousand UAH 🇺🇦 on the SeaBaby marine drone for the SBU!

- The Classic family of restaurants in Kovel continues to help the ZSU. To date, they have sent 42 cars, more than 100 FPV drones and many other necessary things for the military to the front!

7:35 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on February 28:

- During the day _79 combat clashes took place._
- Aviation of the defense forces struck 7 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.
- The units of the missile forces hit 1 control point, 1 area of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, _4 artillery means, 1 air defense means, 1 EW station and 1 other important target_ of the enemy.

7:45 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

10:32 PM: during the full-scale war it unleashed, the Russian Federation committed almost 4,000 cases of environmental crimes in Ukraine for a total amount of over 2.4 trillion hryvnias.

- This was reported by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Ruslan Strilets, in an interview with Ukrainian Radio.
- According to the Minister, atmospheric air suffers the most damage - it is almost half of all damages, because explosions and fires are uncontrolled emissions of pollutants into atmospheric air.

10:50 PM: "Dynamo" Kyiv received permission to hold matches with spectators.

- The nearest match open to fans will take place on March 2 at the "Dynamo" Stadium named after Valery Lobanovskyi.

10:57 PM: Threat of using ballistic weapons from the south, Air Force reports.

11:38 PM: The Airborne Alert app will send an additional alert called "High Danger," developers Ajax Systems said

- When a missile or drone approaches, your phone will receive an additional message during general alert. This will make it possible to notify people about the danger in their radius.
- In order for this function to work, you need to update the application to the latest version.

MORDOR – ruZZia

Thursday, February 29

11:46 AM: Putin confirmed the use of Zircon missiles against Ukraine.

- "The sea-based hypersonic strike missile complex "Zircon" was already used in the battle, which was not even mentioned in the 2018 message. But this complex is already in service," Putin said.

3:41 PM: The Ukrainian IT Army attacked the largest Internet portal in Russia — Mail.gu, the Ministry of Digital Affairs reports.

- All users who are outside the territory of the Russian Federation, as well as some internal users, have lost access to their accounts.
- Access to e-mail is not only mail, but also the possibility of recovering passwords, passing two-factor verification, access to devices._

5:13 PM: In the Sea of Azov today, one of the coast guard boats of the border service of the FSB of the Russian Federation, GUR MOU, was on fire.

- "_The enemy suffered losses in the amount of five occupiers. The crew of the boat urgently invited an evacuation group_", - writes Ukrainian intelligence.
- The causes of the fire on the Russian boat, as well as the nature of the enemy's losses, are being clarified.

5:31 PM: A fire broke out on the Yermak icebreaker in the St. Petersburg seaport, — rosZMI.

- "_The vessel is currently not in operation. According to preliminary information, the flash occurred in a storage room on the first deck, when welding work was being carried out there. There were no casualties_" the message reads.

Wednesday, February 28

7:32 AM: As of this morning, there is 1 Russian ship in the Black Sea, the Navy of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

- In the Sea of Azov - 1 ship; in the Mediterranean Sea - 2 ships;
- Caliber cruise missile carriers are absent.

1:25 PM: Explosions are heard in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local channels report.

- We are waiting for official information.

4:49 PM: The self-proclaimed Transnistrian-Moldavian Republic appealed to the Russian Federation for protection, local media reported.

- They are asking for protection allegedly "in conditions of increasing pressure from Moldova."
- Unrecognized Transnistria has already appealed to the Secretary General of the UN, the OSCE, the ICRC and the European Parliament. In the appeals, they again pointed out the alleged "violation by Moldova of the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Transnistria".

7:18 PM: The Armed Forces of Ukraine struck with two HIMARS missiles at the gathering place of Russian personnel during the awards ceremony in the Donetsk region, — rosZMI.

- They write about 19 dead and 12 wounded.

10:02 PM: Fighters of the 47th OMBr showed how two APCs of the occupiers were simultaneously blown up by mines.

REGIONS

KYIV



Thursday, February 29

2:11 PM: The Kyiv City Council has increased spending on the "Defender of Kyiv" program to almost 5 billion hryvnias, the head of the capital Vitaliy Klitschko reports.

- "These are funds, in particular, for the logistical support of the defense and security forces, for the logistical support of the training of UAV operators and the provision of our defenders with drones," Klitschko writes.
- The funds will also go to the reconstruction and construction of civil defense facilities (1.5 billion UAH).

Wednesday, February 28

9:37 PM: An air alert has been announced in Kyiv, — KMVA.

9:39 PM: Kyiv region is a missile hazard, the Air Force reports.

KHARKIV



Thursday, February 29

6:18 PM: A 63-year-old man was injured as a result of enemy shelling in Kupyan Oblast, the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office reports.

- According to preliminary data, the enemy struck with FAB-500 aerial bombs.

6:39 PM: Russians attacked Vovchansk in Kharkiv region with an FPV drone — an 18-year-old boy was injured, the regional prosecutor's office reports.

- "At 14:00, the occupiers attacked the city again. Previously, with artillery. As a result of the shelling, the house was damaged," the message reads.

Wednesday, February 28

3:00 PM: Russians hit the center of Kupyansk with anti-aircraft guns — a 59-year-old man and a 39-year-old man were killed.

- This was reported by the head of the Kharkiv RMA Oleg Sinegubov.
- A woman was also injured. Presumably, there are still people under the rubble. Damaged residential buildings, civil infrastructure.

3:20 PM: the Russians hit the Church of Jesus Christ in Kupyansk with an anti-tank missile — a 58-year-old pastor died there, the Ministry of Internal Affairs clarifies.

- The Russian army also damaged the premises of the cafe. A 31-year-old woman was injured, and her 39-year-old brother died.
- the number of wounded as a result of the attack on Kupyansk increased to five, — RMA.

6:16 PM: the Russians hit the village of Velikiy Burluk in the Kharkiv region with guided aerial bombs — a six-year-old girl and a man were killed.

- Oleksiy Kuleba, deputy chairman of the OP, reports this.
- The child's mother is in serious condition, she is receiving medical assistance.

DONETSK



Thursday, February 29

5:42 AM: Launches of guided air bombs by tactical aircraft in Donetsk region, - Ukrainian Air Force.

1:13 PM: A series of loud explosions rang out in temporarily occupied Mariupol.

- This was announced by the adviser to the mayor of the temporarily occupied Mariupol, Petro Andryushchenko.
- Local channels indicated that the epicenter of the explosions was in the Kalmius district.

2:36 PM: Russians are trying to capture two villages in the Bakhmut direction — Ivanovske and Bohdanivka.

- This was announced by the head of the press service of the "Khortytsia" military group, Ilya Yevlash.
- Battles are already underway there - the enemy is actively using assault groups, special forces and drawing up reserves. Also, Ukrainian defenders are constantly attacked by Lancets, FPV drones, aircraft and shelled by artillery.

5:56 PM: The 3rd OShBr has published footage of the clearing of Krasnohorivka in Donetsk region from the Russians.

- In the negotiations of the Russians, one could hear: " — How is the situation? — Huvo..._".
- Passing the mine barriers, the units of the brigade entered the city on armor and began advancing through the streets.
- The fighters destroyed _over 100 occupiers_ and retook the city from the enemy.

Wednesday, February 28

1:32 PM: The relief of the area helps to contain the Russians near Avdiivka.

- This was reported by the spokesman of the Defense Forces of the Tavria region, Dmytro Lykhovi.
- "The terrain itself should contribute to the defense there: there is a cascade of reservoirs, and this was chosen as a priority. Thus, the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Avdiiv region continue to conduct a defensive operation," the spokesman said.
- He noted that Russian troops were blocked on the outskirts and on the approach to the settlement of Orlivka.

8:14 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by tactical aircraft in Donetsk region, the Air Force reports.

8:43 PM: The third assault unit knocked out the occupiers from Krasnohorivka in Donetsk region.

- Units of the Third Separate Assault Brigade and the 2nd Assault Battalions carried out a combat operation to clear the city of enemy forces. The occupiers lost about 100 people in the 200s and 300s.
- Currently, Krasnohorivka is under the control of Ukrainian troops.

ZAPORIZHIA



Thursday, February 29

2:28 PM: One person died as a result of Russian air strikes on the village of Yuliivka.

- Ivan Fedorov, the head of Zaporizhzhya RMA, reports this.

9:00 PM: In Zaporizhzhia and the region, the duration of the curfew has been reduced — now it will last from 24:00 to 05:00.

- The relevant decision was made at a meeting of the Defense Council of the Zaporizhzhia region.

Wednesday, February 28

7:46 AM: In the Zaporizhzhia region, a woman died and another man was injured due to Russian shelling, the head of RMA, Ivan Fedorov, reported.

- "A 76-year-old woman was killed by an enemy shell in the temporarily occupied village of Nove Pologiv district. A 53-year-old man was wounded by an artillery barrage on the front-line Orichov," the report says.

5:06 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by tactical aircraft in Zaporizhzhia, — Ukrainian Air Force.

- launch of guided aerial bombs by tactical aircraft in the Kharkiv region.

DNIPRO



Thursday, February 29

1:54 PM: Rocket to Kryvyi Rih, — Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

10:03 PM: According to the SBU, an associate of the liquidated Kiva who spied on air defense complexes in the Dnipropetrovsk region was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

- The convict headed a public association in Dnipro, which was under the control of the banned OPZZH party.
- SBU employees detained an enemy henchman during a special operation in the region in the fall of 2022.

Wednesday, February 28

2:07 AM: Threat of using ballistic weapons in the regions

- Rocket in the direction of Pavlograd, — Ukrainian Air Force.

3:56 PM: A 61-year-old woman died as a result of Russian strikes on Nikopol.

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

Kherson



Thursday, February 29

10:01 AM: Russians attacked Kherson district, — Kherson regional prosecutor's office.

- This morning, around 05:40, the Russian military shelled the Daryiv community of the Kherson district.
- A 35-year-old man died as a result of shelling in the village of Poniativka.

11:26 AM: Loud explosions rang out in the area of temporarily occupied Skadovsk in Kherson Oblast this night, Ukrainians beat the occupiers.

- As reported by the Russian media, the explosions were caused by the work of the Russian Air Force against Ukrainian drones. According to information from our sources, SSO fighters worked on Russian positions. The scale of the destruction and the number of dead and injured among Russians are still unknown.

4:15 PM: Russians threw explosives into the yard of a residential building in Berislav — two people were injured.

- This is reported by the Kherson RMA.
- A 91-year-old woman and a 58-year-old man received contusions, blast injuries and shrapnel wounds to their limbs and were hospitalized.

6:08 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

Wednesday, February 28

9:00 PM: As a result of the Russian attack on the residential quarters of Kherson, there is a casualty, RMA reported.

- A 32-year-old man was injured. He has a shrapnel wound in his shoulder.

10:54 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson, subscribers report. There is an air alert in the region.

POLTAVA



Wednesday, February 28

9:45 PM: A missile is moving in the direction of Poltava region, the Air Force reports.

9:50 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Myrhorod, Poltava Oblast.

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 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Feb 29
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 731 days	After 732 days	After 733 days	After 734 days	After 735 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	410,700	411,550	412,610	413,760	414,680

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6,555	6,556	6,570	6,593	6,610
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	12,478	12,494	12,508	12,552	12,582
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	10,993	11,009	11,029	11,070	11,106
Cruise Missiles		1,910	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912
Fighters Bombers	118	340	340	342	342	345
Helicopters	333	325	325	325	325	325
Drones		7,707	7,729	7,753	7,768	7,794
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		686	686	688	690	691
Cargo/Fuel/other transport	11,369	13,037	13,065	13,112	13,152	13,206
Naval Vessels		25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)	25 + 1 (Submarine)
Specialized equipment		1,580	1,588	1,594	1601	1,611

SOURCES2

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