

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

April 13, 2024

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

Ukraine Zoom Call

The Ukraine Zoom Call is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, at 12 Noon Eastern Daylight Time (9AM on the U.S. West Coast, 5PM in London, and 7PM in Ukraine.

If you would like to join the call, and support the effort we make to send out these emails 4 – 5 days/week, please provide your support [here](#), in any amount and in any currency. We'll send you an invitation for the Zoom call.

Why Ukraine Will Win

From Bohdan – “Russia will win if driving over a cliff and building a bridge from a pile of corpses happens before it runs out of people. Ukraine will lose if it stops being united. Weapons won't make a real difference to either side.”

From Me – Today, I'm reminded of the late 1980's when all the pundits and the CIA were predicting that the GDP of the former Soviet Union was destined to exceed the GDP of the United States. Shortly after, the Soviet Union collapsed. Back then Pres. Reagan believed that the United States had a big enough economy to outspend Russia on defense and drive it into bankruptcy, and that's exactly what happened. From what I've seen, Russia is in the same position today as the Soviet Union was in the late 1980s but, as was the case in the West, no one noticed, and the prevailing narrative was that we'll become progressively weaker and the former Soviet Union progressively stronger.

The one difference, between the late 1980s and today, is back then we had a President who was convinced he was holding the high cards, and he was willing to play them. Today, it appears we have leadership on both sides of the Atlantic that doesn't believe we hold any cards (there are exceptions, like Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas). The combined GDPs of the United States and the European Union is ten times that of the Russian Federation, yet we're being told by our leadership that we cannot POSSIBLY match Russia's annual production of 3 million rounds of 155mm ammunition.

["Russia is Sure to Lose in Ukraine"](#)/By Feng Yujun, Professor at Peking University and one of China's leading Russianists (From the Economist via Anton Gerashchenko on "X").

Four reasons why Mr. Feng thinks Russia will lose in Ukraine:

1. "The level of resistance and national unity shown by Ukrainians, which has until now been extraordinary." (**Bohdan said essentially the same thing**)
2. "International support for Ukraine, which, though recently falling short of the country's expectations, remains broad." (**even in the U.S. House of Representatives**)
3. "The nature of modern warfare, a contest that turns on a combination of industrial might and command, control, communications and intelligence systems."
4. "The final factor is information. When it comes to decision-making, Vladimir Putin is trapped in an information cocoon, thanks to his having been in power so long."

Mr. Feng predicts:

1. "Russia will be forced to withdraw from all occupied Ukrainian territories, including Crimea."
2. "Russia's nuclear capability is no guarantee of success."
3. "Kyiv has proven that Moscow is not invincible, so a ceasefire under the "Korean" scenario is ruled out." (**Kyiv has also proven that Ukrainians will never accept Russian suzerainty, and they're willing to keep fighting to preserve their independence and freedom, regardless of the cost**)

4. “The war is a turning-point for Russia. It has consigned Putin’s regime to broad international isolation. He has also had to deal with difficult domestic political undercurrents, from the rebellion by the mercenaries of the Wagner Group and other pockets of the military — for instance in Belgorod — to ethnic tensions in several Russian regions and the recent terrorist attack in Moscow.”
5. “After the war, Ukraine will have the chance join both the EU and NATO, while Russia will lose its former Soviet republics because they see Putin's aggression there as a threat to their sovereignty and territorial integrity. **Amen**

I wonder if the Chinese leadership reads Mr. Feng.

My Prediction of Possible Impacts of Last Night’s Iranian Attack Against Israel

- Acceleration of the Consideration of the Ukraine/Israel/Taiwan Supplemental – On this morning’s CBS news broadcast, “Face the Nation,” Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Tx), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, stated “What happened last night over Israel happens every night over Ukraine.” McCaul could’ve added that Israel, with the help of the U.S. shot down 99% of the missiles that Iran launched against Israel. Ukraine was able to match that when they had adequate supplies of anti-aircraft munitions. Thanks to the U.S. Congress that is not the case today.
- McCaul said he spoke with Bridgit Brink, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, who reported that the supply situation in Ukraine is serious, especially in and around Kharkiv.
- McCaul supports immediate introduction of the Ukraine/Israel/Taiwan Supplemental to the House floor. There is some concern here, as this Friday the House is expected to go on recess – again.
- There is an increased realization that Russia, Iran, and North Korea are acting in consort. Iran was using the same Shahid drones against Israel that Russia is using against Ukraine. To me, it’s a coordinated attack against free countries, particularly Ukraine and Israel.

- The Far Left and Far Right in the House of Representatives, that support withholding of military assistance to Israel and Ukraine, respectively, will become marginalized.

It seems like, from Iran's perspective, and from Russia's perspective, the timing of Iran's attack against Israel couldn't have been worse, because:

- It may galvanize Western support for both Israel and Ukraine.
- It may force the Biden Administration to re-impose sanctions on Iran.

News from the Battlefield

After a bit of a hiatus, the "[Latest Denys](#)" covers the Dnipro Crossings. Ukraine is still there, and they've widened their lodgment a bit. He also reports on a recent analysis by the "Economist" that Ukraine has lost 70,000 soldiers killed.

"[Reporting on Ukraine](#)" covers the fighting around Liman, where he says that a Russian assault has lost momentum.

The daily estimate of Russian killed or seriously wounded went back over 1,000 per day.

4/14/2024 Sitrep

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration UAV = Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

INTERNATIONAL

8:00 AM: The 2024 US-Ukraine Partnership Forum will be held in Washington on April 17 at the Chamber's headquarters.

8:00 AM: Former US diplomat Victor Manuel Roche has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for years of spying for Cuba, Reuters.

8:00 AM: China has dramatically increased sales to Russia of goods for the production of weapons against Ukraine, — AR.

4:12 PM: Germany will send another Patriot system to Ukraine, — NTV with reference to the German Ministry of Defense.

4:52 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a conversation with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

- The President thanked for the supply of one additional Patriot system to Ukraine and missiles to the existing Anti-Aircraft Defense systems.

5:20 PM: From April 15, Finland suspends the operation of sea checkpoints on the border with Russia, — the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation.

- Traffic on the Saimen Canal through Nuyimaa will be closed for pleasure craft. Also, the Haapasaari and Santio sea crossing points are closed indefinitely.

11:01 PM: In Israel, the prime minister's plane was lifted into the sky. This is evidenced by Flight Radar data.

- The move comes amid heightened concern in Israel about an attack by Iran, the Times of Israel reports.

11:12 PM: Israel is ready for an attack from Iran and will respond without mercy, Prime Minister Netanyahu said.

- This statement was made against the background of the fact that information appeared in JPost about the launch of drones by Iran in the direction of Israel.

11:32 PM: The IDF has confirmed the start of an Iranian drone attack on Israel. Anti-Aircraft Defense is on high alert, as are fighter jets with Navy ships.

11:44 PM: Iran launches second wave of drones on Israel, Times of Israel reports

- "Dozens of drones were spotted flying from Iran to Israel over Iraqi airspace," the publication said.
- Earlier today, Iraq also announced the closure of its airspace and the suspension of all air traffic.

NATIONAL

1:49 AM: Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk regions - the threat of using ballistic weapons, the Air Force reports.

7:00 AM: Summary of the General Staff for April 13 as of 06:00 am April, 14



UKRAINIAN WARS, ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTO OF GSH

Over the past day, 76 combat clashes took place at the front, 36 of them in the Bakhmut direction.

- In general, the enemy launched 1 missile and 109 air strikes, carried out 115 attacks from rocket salvo systems on the positions of Ukrainian troops and populated areas.
- During the past day, airstrikes were carried out in populated areas of Sumy Oblast, Kharkiv Oblast, Luhansk Oblast, Donetsk Oblast, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, and Zaporizhia Oblast.
- More than 110 settlements in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions were under artillery fire.
- In the Siver and Slobozhan directions, the enemy continues to maintain a military presence in the border areas, increasing the density of mine and explosive barriers along the state border.
- On **Kupianskyi** and **Limansky directions** the enemy did not conduct offensive (assault) actions.
- On **Bakhmut direction** Ukrainian soldiers repelled 36 attacks in the areas of Bilogorivka settlements of Luhansk region;

Verkhokamyanske, Vyimka, Spirne, Rozdolivka, Ivanivske, Novy, Opytne, Klishchiivka, Andriivka of the Donetsk region.

- On **Avdiivskiy direction** defenders repelled 9 attacks in the areas of settlements of Novokalynove, Novobakhmutivka, Berdychi, Tonenke, Pervomaiske and Nevelske.
- On **Novopavlovsk direction** The defense forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Georgiyivka, Novomykhailivka, and Urozhaine settlements of the Donetsk region, where the enemy tried to break through the defenses 22 times.
- On **Orihiv direction** the invaders attacked the positions of Ukrainian defenders 6 times in the Staromayorsky area of the Donetsk region and in the north-west of Verbovoy in the Zaporizhzhia region.
- On **Kherson direction** during the past day, the enemy made 3 unsuccessful attacks on the positions of the defenders.
- At the same time, the Defense Forces aviation struck 11 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 1 command post, 2 ground control stations of UAVs and 1 anti-aircraft missile complex of the enemy.
- Units of missile forces damaged 2 areas of concentration of personnel and 2 means of air defense of the enemy.

8:00 AM: Ukrainian ships, minesweepers "Chernigiv" and "Cherkasy", will take part in international exercises in Britain, — Navy of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

9:05 AM: As of April 13, there is one Russian warship, Naval Command, in the waters of the Black Sea.

- Caliber cruise missile carriers are missing.

10:50 AM: The situation on the Eastern Front has significantly worsened in recent days, reported the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrskyi.

- This is primarily due to the significant intensification of the enemy's offensive actions after the presidential elections in the Russian Federation. the Russians are actively attacking the Lymansky,

Bakmutsky and Pokrovsky directions - this is facilitated by warm, dry weather.

- "Ukraine is strengthening the effectiveness of units, replenishing stocks of drones and missiles, moving additional forces and reserves to stabilize the situation," the commander-in-chief noted.

11:33 AM: Attention! The threat of using ballistic weapons in areas where an air alert has been declared — Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

12:37 PM: The Ukrainian military has published a video of the destruction of two BTR-82A with the help of attack UAVs.

1:11 PM: BEB detectives exposed officials of well-known companies operating state lotteries.

- The suspects, using their official status, engaged controlled companies and, on the basis of their websites, legal operators of Ukrainian lotteries illegally organized and conducted gambling and bookmaking activities on the Internet, disguising them as state lotteries.

2:21 PM: DTEK Executive Director Dmytro Sakharuk named four conditions under which restrictions may be imposed across the country.

- The first is if heat generation is not restored. Another component is an increase in electricity consumption due to heat. This usually happens in July and August. Thirdly, there will not be enough electricity that Ukraine receives from Europe. And, fourthly, it will not be possible to transfer the required amount of electricity to certain regions.
- "Then the only way to balance the system is to reduce consumption. The only way to reduce consumption is with hourly shutdown schedules," Sakharuk explained.

3:51 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons for the eastern and southern regions.

4:35 PM: Missile threat to northern areas, Air Force Command.

7:47 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of the evening of April 13:

- 60 combat clashes were recorded during the day.

- In general, the enemy launched _1 missile and 65 air strikes, carried out 71 shellings with anti-aircraft missiles_ on the positions of Ukrainian troops and populated areas.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck 11 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, 1 control point, 2 ground control stations of UAVs and 1 anti-aircraft missile complex of the enemy.

8:29 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi in his evening address talked about the measures taken to strengthen Anti-Aircraft Defense.

- "We will continue working with all partners who can also help. This week alone, I have already held conversations and meetings with the presidents of Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, Latvia. A new bilateral security agreement was concluded with Latvia. I spoke with the prime ministers of the Netherlands, Greece, and Ireland. We will do everything for results in the following weeks. Anti-Aircraft Defense and the front are the main topics," said the president.

9:49 PM: The Ministry of Defense has digitized the data of men who may be mobilized, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Ivan Havrylyuk said

- According to him, the "Oberig" system provides digital data management at all stages of the mobilization campaign for each individual subject. It is integrated with the tax, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, migration and border services, as well as the Judicial Administration.
- "To date, 23 million requests for updating citizens' data have been made and the data of men of military age have been digitized in all 24 regions of Ukraine and Kyiv," he said.

RUSSIA'S NEW TACTIC: ATTACKS ON GAS STORAGES

TOP
LEAD

On April 11, 2024, Russia damaged the infrastructure of Ukraine's underground gas storage facility. The attack did not affect the gas itself, but it fits into a new tactic: to destroy the ability of Ukraine and other countries to use these storages.

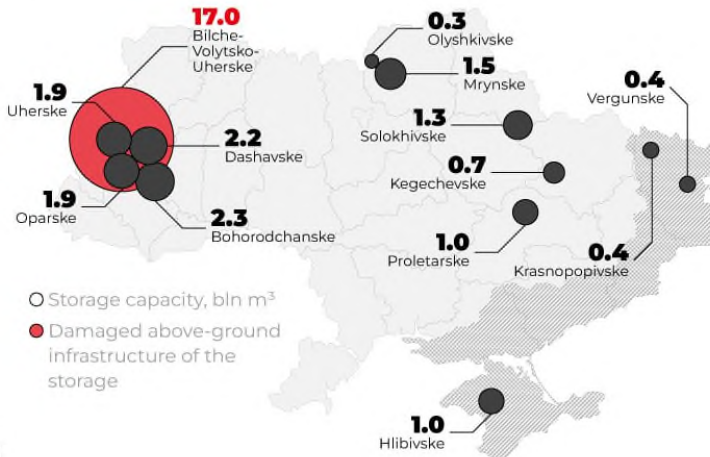
Underground gas storage (UGS) infrastructure in Ukraine

30+ bln m³
total capacity
of UA gas storages

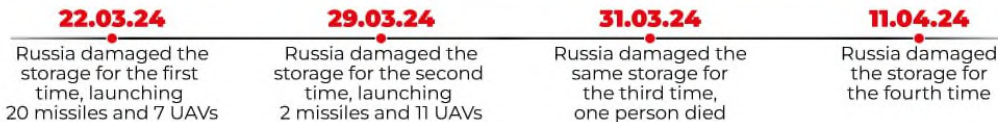
3rd place
in terms of storage
capacity worldwide

27 countries
use Ukrainian
gas storages

400-2,000 m
is the depth of the
gas, this guarantees
the safety of reserves



Russian attacks on gas infrastructure



Sources: ZAXID.NET, Naftogaz of Ukraine, EXPRO Consulting, Galinfo, Ukrtransgas.

10:05 PM: Currently, Ukrainians may have from one to five million weapons, Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko said.

- The head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs also emphasized that, in addition to weapons, Ukrainians have a lot of grenades, and citizens also illegally store trophy equipment, so the department should "do everything so that these weapons and ammunition get into warehouses, so as not to endanger citizens."
- However, according to the minister, almost all weapons issued to Ukrainians have been accounted for.

10:19 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi on the day of the employee of the Military Industrial Complex evaluated the domestic weapons.

- "Already, other countries are interested in our weapons and that we work together. After all, without our strength, there will be no full-fledged strength of the EU and NATO. Ukraine will definitely achieve

security for itself and help others maintain and maintain security," the president said.

11:09 PM: Sumy, Kharkiv regions - the threat of using attack UAVs, the Air Force reports.

- Several UAVs in the northern part of the Kharkiv region, heading east.
- UAVs in the western part of the Kharkiv region, the course is southeast.

MORDOR – ruZZia

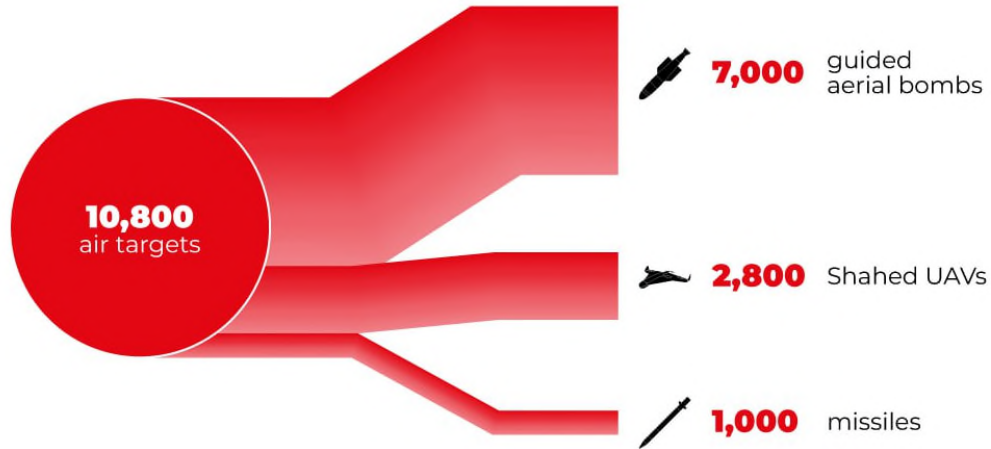
8:11 PM: Tennis players from the Russian Federation and Belarus will be admitted to the 2024 Olympics without the requirement for matches for the national team in the Olympic cycle.

- The relevant decision was made by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- At the same time, the ITF announced that before approving the final list of participants of the 2024 Olympics, it will provide it to the International Olympic Committee. There, the list will be checked for compliance of tennis players from Russia and Belarus with the criteria of "neutrality".

RUSSIA THREATENS CIVILIANS

TOP
LEAD

Air targets launched by Russia since the beginning of 2024



Consequences of Russian strikes

97% of targets hit civilian infrastructure

80% of thermal power stations are destroyed

60% of the power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima is the total power of these strikes

Sources: Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN, own calculations.

Data from January 1, 2024, to April 11, 2024

REGIONS

CHERNIHIV



12:44 PM: This morning, the Russians killed a man in Chernihiv Oblast who was carrying food to residents of border villages, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

- The Russian army targeted a civilian car belonging to a resident of Novgorod-Siverskyi.

KHARKIV



9:39 AM: Russians shelled the center of Kupyansk, in Kharkiv Oblast — DSNS.

- A 62-year-old man was rescued from the rubble of the house. A wounded 73-year-old man was found at another address. A 200 square meter fire broke out in one of the buildings. m.

3:08 PM: This afternoon, the Russians dropped ammunition from an FPV drone on Petropavlivka, Kupyanskyi District, Kharkiv Oblast, — Prosecutor General's Office.

- The driver of the emergency medical assistance team was injured.

6:42 PM: A guided air missile in the direction of Voznesensk, reports the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

11:57 PM: The Air Force warns Kharkiv about the threat of an attack by UAVs.

LUHANSK



11:32 AM: An explosion rang out in temporarily occupied Luhansk, — rosZMI.

- Clouds of smoke rise above the city.

1:33 PM: Arrivals in temporarily occupied Luhansk were on the territory of the machine-building plant.

- This was announced by the so-called "head of the LPR" Leonid Pasechnik.

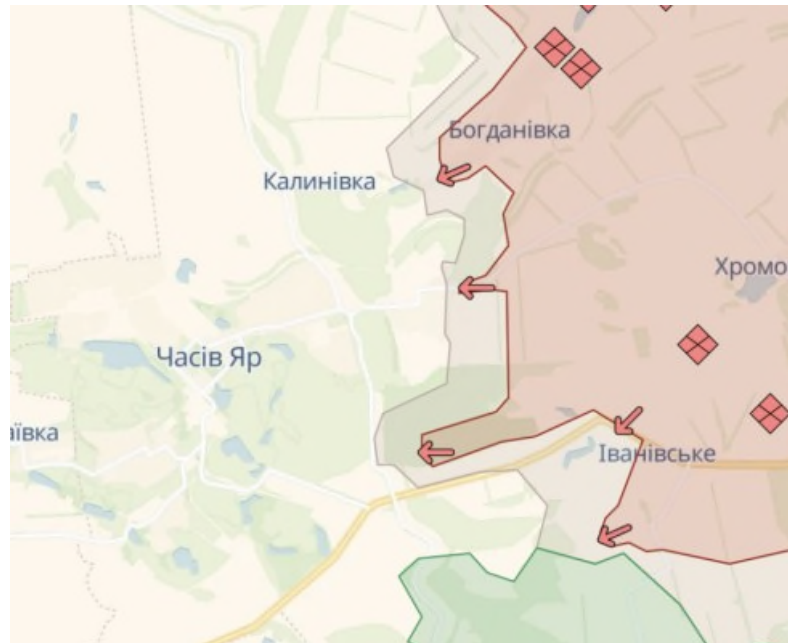
10:52 PM: In the temporarily occupied Luhansk, the Russian command post of the "Center" troop group was hit, the Strategic Committee of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports.

DONETSK



8:40 AM: According to data from the Deep State service, the Russians captured Bohdanivka in the direction of Bakhmut.

- Also, according to his data, the Russians moved to the city of Chasiv Yar.



10:42 AM: Intense fighting continues for Bohdanivka in the direction of Bakhmut, — Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- "At night, enemy assault groups made their way to the northern outskirts of the city. Bohdanivka is now under the control of the Defense Forces. There is a battle going on, the enemy does not stop the assaults," the message states.

5:42 PM: Head of the Donetsk RMA Vadim Filashkin on the situation in the region:

- The Russians dropped a KAB-500 on Ocheretyn, aimed at a 5-story building. It is known about 1 injured. There are probably people under the rubble.
- Netaylové was also affected on the territory of the community - the enemy killed two people there.
- A resident of Novoselydivka died in the Kurakhivska community.
- In the Marinsk community, 1 person was injured in Krasnohorivka.

8:56 PM: Work of the RUBPAK of the 12th "Azov" brigade in the Kremin direction.

- Anti-Aircraft Defense systems, tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery were destroyed thanks to the accurate strikes of Azov FPV drones.

9:31 PM: The Russian military dropped a guided aerial bomb on Ocheretyn, Donetsk region.

- At least six people were hiding in the basement of one of the houses, but the rescue operation cannot be carried out due to the security situation.
- "They may still be under the rubble. The seventh woman was found, doctors discovered a bruise on her forearm," Kovalenko, the head of the settlement VCA, said.



ZAPORIZHZHIA

7:08 PM: the Russians are shelling Zaporozhye from a distance of up to 60 kilometers, so the missiles reach the city in 30-40 seconds, RMA head Ivan Fedorov said.

- "There are currently no attacks on Zaporozhye from the S-300. But the Russians replaced them with "Shakheds", "Iskanders", there were "Calibres", - added the head of RMA.
- However, according to Fedorov, a lot has already been done to protect Zaporizhzhia from air attacks, and this is already affecting enemy drones — they "remain in landings and fields."

9:13 PM: ZNPP put all reactors into "cold shutdown" for the first time since 2022, IAEA reports

- All six reactor units at the ZNPP are now in cold shutdown mode for the first time since late 2022, after the fourth unit entered that operating state earlier today, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said.

10:36 PM: Two people were wounded as a result of enemy strikes on Gulyaipol, RMA head Ivan Fedorov said.

- The occupiers shelled the front-line town with artillery - a man and a woman who were at home were injured. Now they are in the hospital.

KHERSON



8:28 AM: The SBU prevented the assassination of the head of Kherson RMA Oleksandr Prokudin. A resident of Kherson was detained on April 10.

- This was announced by the head of the SBU, Vasyl Malyuk.
- _"The traitor directly on the spot made a visual observation and adjusted fire on Prokudin's car. He was detained at the stage of completion of the attempt. The enemy drone was planted in a timely manner at the expense of our electronic security systems," said the head of the SBU.

6:09 PM: the Russian army struck the village of Kozatske of the Novokakhov community, Kherson RMA.

- Two local residents were injured.

7:30 PM: Russians shelled the village of Veletenske in the Kherson region, — RMA.

- A 65-year-old man and a 63-year-old woman were injured.

MYKOLAIV



6:47 PM Social Networks: An explosion is heard in the Mykolaiv region.

11:52 PM: The enemy launched a point-blank missile attack by an Kh-59 guided missile in the direction of

Mykolaiv Oblast.

- The defense forces of southern Ukraine reported that the missile was destroyed.
- There was no information about damage or casualties.

ODESSA



12:41 AM: Odesa region - missile danger, the Air Force reports.

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	Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 775 days	After 776 days	After 777 days	After 778 days	After 779 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	450,080	450,890	451,370	452,760	453,650

Material Losses

Tanks	147	7,132	7,137	7,146	7,169	7,174
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	13,667	13,679	13,698	13,745	13,765
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	12,444	12,492	12,528	12,563	12,598
Cruise Missiles		2,067	2,069	2,087	2,088	2,089
Fighters Bombers	118	347	347	347	347	347
Helicopters	333	325	325	325	325	325

Drones		9,070	9,104	9,161	9,201	9,235
Anti Aircraft Missile` Batteries		753	754	755	756	758
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	15,248	15,298	15,339	15,396	15,459
Naval Vessels		26 + 1 Submar ine	26 + 1 Submar ine	26 + 1 Submar ine	26 + 1 Submar ine	26 + 1 Submar ine
Specialized equipment		1,876	1,882	1,888	1,893	1,905

- SOURCES

- <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/3>
- [https://espreso.tv/`](https://espreso.tv/)
- <https://t.me/uawarinographics>
- <https://t.me/svobodaradio>
- <https://deepstatemap.live/en#11/47.9070/37.6927>
- <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/>