

# News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

March 7 & 8, 2024

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

## News From the Battlefield

“[Reporting From Ukraine](#),” covers the fighting around Robotyne, the place where, recently, 4 Ukrainian soldiers fought off a Russian column consisting of 3 tanks and 24 infantrymen. My wife’s brother’s son-in-law has been fighting in this area. He had a close call recently. A group of Ukrainian soldiers on their way to relieve his group was ambushed by Russians. They had to spend additional time on station before being relieved, during which time they had almost no food, limited water, and a very limited supply of ammunition. Normally they’re expected to be on station, consisting of a trench, for only 5 days, before being relieved. He was drafted last summer. In that time, he’s been wounded once, and he has been awarded Ukraine’s equivalent of the Silver Star, which is America’s third-highest award from bravery. He’s now home, on a 5-day pass.

“[How Deep Does Corruption Run in Ukraine?](#)”/Adrian Karatnycky via “Foreign Policy”

Some excerpts my comments in **bold face**:

- “A [2018 report](#) by the Kyiv-based Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER), refereed by leading Western experts, documented four years of major anti-corruption reforms in the aftermath of the 2013-2014 Maidan protests, which ousted uber-corrupt President Viktor Yanukovich. The reforms, including transparent government procurement and the deregulation of the notoriously corrupt energy sector, were estimated to have reduced

grand corruption—a category that excludes petty corruption, such as police bribes—by a total of approximately \$6 billion, or some 6 percent of Ukraine’s official GDP.”

- “Reforms of the state tax and revenue authorities also pared the size of the shadow economy, which dropped from an estimated 43 percent of GDP in 2014 to 33 percent in late 2017.” **There are two reasons why the reduction of Ukraine’s shadow economy is important, especially now: 1) Even with the destruction and loss of territory, approximately 50% of the State budget is now supported by Ukrainian personal and business taxes, an extraordinary figure; 2) Businesses that are now operating in the real economy are better able to secure financing from financial institutions to support their growth and recovery, resulting in greater tax revenues.**
- “Before the reforms, Ukraine’s notoriously corrupt gas market alone had sucked billions of dollars in shady profits out of the state treasury. In the years before the all-out war, gas sector reforms added approximately \$3 billion to the state budget. And these efforts are ongoing: Last year, Ukrainian authorities opened a [criminal case](#) against Dmytro Firtash, an oligarch also wanted in the United States for corruption and he is fighting extradition, alleging that his group embezzled \$484 million from the Ukrainian state treasury in a scheme involving gas transit fees.”
- “Another landmark anti-corruption reform came in 2016, when Ukraine unveiled a transparent electronic system for public procurement, [ProZorro](#), which has drastically reduced corruption in bidding for government contracts. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the system has saved Ukraine almost \$6 billion in public procurement costs since 2017, according to a 2021 U.S. government report.”
- “In all, IER calculates that anti-corruption reforms eliminated nearly \$4 billion a year in formerly misappropriated revenues. The number is conservative, since it does not include related efforts to clean up Ukraine’s economy, such as banking reforms that eliminated so-called zombie banks that had misappropriated citizens’ savings and other

assets to bank managers and owners.” **The banking reforms have been led by the National Bank of Ukraine, which has been transformed from what amounted to an ATM for former President Yanukovich, to a well-respected Central Bank. On December 18, 2016 the NBU nationalized Privat Bank, after discovering that \$5.6 billion of the bank’s assets, or 97% of its total assets consisted of loans, largely un-collectable to affiliated companies of the bank’s owners, including Igor Kolomoisky. Another major source of graft in the financial industry was zombie insurance companies. As of 2020, insurance companies are under the direct regulation and supervision of the NBU.**

- “Even as it was hunting globally for stores of Soviet-era munitions and weapons, Ukraine also gave priority to systems that would ensure that Western weapons did not become part of corrupt schemes that could threaten Western support. Given the urgency of moving weapons to the front, it is hardly surprising that in January, the Pentagon’s inspector general found that some [\\$1 billion](#) of U.S.-supplied weapons had not been properly tracked. At the same time, however, Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Patrick Ryder [said](#) that there was “no credible evidence of illicit diversion of U.S.-provided, advanced conventional weapons from Ukraine.”
- “As Ukraine’s war against Russia proceeds, policymakers and the public should expect further corruption scandals. These must be addressed, and their perpetrators punished, but they must also be seen in the proper context. Occasional lurid headlines notwithstanding, Ukraine has made major progress in tackling grand corruption, reducing the power of oligarchs, and managing a vast increase in defense spending without scandals on a massive scale. That in itself is testament to how much has changed in Ukraine since a decade ago.
- Shining a light on corruption while being honest about its scale is not merely a matter of accuracy—it is a matter of Ukraine’s survival.

Unfortunately, I don’t see Sens. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) or Rand Paul (R-Kentucky), or any number of Members of the House of Representatives now

blocking the introduction of the Ukraine funding legislation to the House floor, being disturbed by the facts.

[“The Fight for Hostomel Airport – How the Gates to Kyiv Stayed Locked”/BBC](#)

Well-worth reading. Had Russia succeeded in holding Hostomel Airport, and had they been able to land transport planes yesterday, the prediction by the pundits that Ukraine would surrender in 5 days might have come true.

While extensively covering the fighting in and around the airport, the article also chronicled the negligence of civilian authorities, especially personnel from the Antonov Design Group that controlled the airport, that nearly resulted in a complete Russian success.

From reading the article, what remains a mystery is whether Hostomel wasn't just a Russian airborne operation. Was Hostomel the intended destination of Russian tank columns that got as far as Obolon District of Kyiv on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the war? Also on Day 2, one Russian tank and an armored personnel carrier ended up in front of the Kyiv Opera House. Both columns were destroyed. There were other Russian tank columns that arrived in Makariv, west of Kyiv, on Day 2. Still others were seen northwest of Kyiv, in a town called Olevsk near Korostan in Zhytomyr Oblast.

There were reports that Russians were using maps dating back to WW-II, before Obolon even existed. Was Hostomel their actual objective, but instead they got lost? It's possible that had the Russians been using current maps and, instead of Obolon, Makariv or the Kyiv Opera House, they ended up at Hostomel on Day 2, the Ukrainians who were contesting Russian control of Hostomel might never have had a chance.

[A Washington Bulwark Against Putin Is Being Rocked by Internal Strife. Is It Simple Dysfunction — or Something Worse?/Politico](#)

The article talks about strife within the U.S. Helsinki Commission staff, and about Kyle Parker in particular. The Commission, a bi-partisan organization whose commissioners, members of Congress from both parties and both Houses all of whom support Ukraine, has appeared to become a target for

those who evidence little or no support for Ukraine. As the article states, “Long a bipartisan pillar, the Commission has lately acquired enemies closer to home: Legislation introduced last year by Arizona Republican Rep. Andy Biggs and cosponsored by MAGA figures including Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz would [zero out funding for the organization](#).”

As Bill Browder stated in the Politico article, “Kyle Parker is the most high-integrity, honest and loyal person in Washington. It’s not just his name being rubbished, but the Helsinki Commission being rubbished.”

3/9/2024 Sitrep

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration

**INTERNATIONAL**

**THURSDAY, March 7**

8:00 AM: The US State Department and the Marshall Fund announced an initiative to restore Ukrainian cities.

8:00 AM: The Netherlands will oblige employed refugees from Ukraine to pay a personal contribution of 350 euros, — NOS.

8:00 AM: France supports Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's candidacy for NATO Secretary General, Le Figaro.

8:00 AM: Biden urged Haley supporters to unite with Democrats.

9:56 AM: In Germany, they "persistently" urge not to go to the Russian Federation, the country's Foreign Ministry said.

- The decision was explained by "the continuation of the deterioration of the situation, including the increase in the number of arbitrary arrests in the Russian Federation." The ministry's message states that there is a real risk of arrests of German citizens and people with dual citizenship.

2:15 PM: European conservatives have supported the candidacy of Ursula von der Leyen for the position of president of the European Commission — she can lead the EC for the second time.

- Reuters writes about it.

- According to the publication, 400 delegates supported von der Leyen's candidacy, 89 were "against".

2:34 PM: Norway will allocate about \$153 million to the Czech initiative to purchase ammunition for Ukraine outside the European Union.

- This was reported by the press service of the Norwegian government.

4:01 PM: Sweden officially joined NATO and became the 32nd member of the Alliance.

- The corresponding protocol is published on the website of the US State Department.

4:46 PM: Almost half of the farmers who were detained yesterday at a protest in Warsaw were intoxicated.

- This is reported by the Warsaw police.
- "The record holder had 1.6 ppm of alcohol in his body," the police press service writes.

5:24 PM: Norway has joined the Air Defense Coalition for Ukraine, the press service of the Norwegian government reports.

- "[...] It is necessary to protect military departments, cities and critical infrastructure," - said Norwegian Defense Minister Bjorn Arild Gram.

6:20 PM: France will expand the training program for the soldiers of the Armed Forces in 2024, the Ministry of the Armed Forces of the country reports.

- It is noted that during the two years of the war, France trained almost 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers.

7:12 PM: The necessary amount for the Czech initiative to purchase 800,000 shells for Ukraine has already been collected.

- ČTK writes about this with reference to the statement of the President of the Czech Republic.
- "Another 18 countries will participate in the aid initiated by the Czech Republic. Ammunition should be in Ukraine in the coming weeks," - noted Petr Pavel.

9:25 PM: The US launched an investigation into Elon Musk's company SpaceX after reports of Russian military use of Starlink, The Washington Post.

- House Democrats warned SpaceX President Gwynn Shotwell that Russia's alleged use of Starlink "poses a serious threat to the security of Ukraine, the lives of Ukrainians, and the national security of the United States."
- "We are concerned that you may not have adequate safeguards and policies in place," the lawmakers said.

10:11 PM: In The Hague, a man attacked people with a knife, one person died, and one was injured, NOS.

10:11 PM: The Netherlands and Jordan will drop food parcels over Gaza in the coming days, Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Sloot said.

10:11 PM: France and Moldova signed an agreement on security cooperation, BFM TV.

10:11 PM: Mexican military helicopter crashes into Pacific Ocean, three soldiers dead and two missing, AR.

11:50 PM: The Swiss Parliament supported the use of Russian assets to finance Ukraine.

- The amount of "frozen" Russian state assets in Switzerland is generally estimated at approximately \$8.8 billion.
- "The facts are clear - Russia has seriously violated international law. It must compensate for the damage caused," said Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis.

## **FRIDAY, March 8**

12:29 AM: The embassies of the United States and Great Britain in Russia have warned of the threat of terrorist danger in the Russian Federation in the next 48 hours.

8:00 AM: Ukraine can stop Putin if the US provides weapons — Biden to Congress.

8:00 AM: Canada will join international efforts to build Ukraine's fleet of combat unmanned aerial vehicles. This was announced by the Ministry of Defense of Canada.

8:00 AM: The Taliban have begun arresting women in Afghanistan for disobeying the hijab decree.

12:49 PM: The US has joined the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children.

- This is reported on the website of the US State Department.
- "The United States announces its accession as a member state to the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children in order to support the safe return of all Ukrainian children who were illegally deported or forcibly relocated by Russia, as well as to ensure the accountability of those involved," the message reads.

1:43 PM: The Polish Seimas adopted a decision to introduce restrictions on the import of agricultural products from the Russian Federation and Belarus.

- In the resolution, the Polish Sejm points out that the relevant imports continue to bring huge revenues to producers, traders and budgets of these countries.

2:28 PM: Three French defense companies are planning to expand the production of military equipment in Ukraine.

- This was stated by the Minister of the Armed Forces of France, Sebastien Lecornu, reports BFMTV.
- "We intend to produce spare parts, maybe even ammunition," Lecornu noted.

2:56 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi arrived in Turkey, local media reported.

- Together with Zelenskyi, the head of the Ministry of Defense Rustem Umerov is in Turkey.

3:43 PM: Luxembourg joins the Czech initiative to purchase 800,000 ammunition rounds for Ukraine.

- This was announced by the Minister of Defense of Luxembourg Yuriko Backes.



4:48 PM: During his visit to Turkey, Volodymyr Zelensky inspected the construction of the Ada-class corvette for the Armed Forces Navy.

- The president named the ship "Hetman Ivan Vyhovskyi".
- "I am confident that she will strengthen our Naval Forces," the president said.

7:01 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky met with the President of Turkey, Recep Erdogan.

- The President noted that Ukraine is interested in strengthening bilateral cooperation and joint production with Turkish defense companies.
- "We also need Turkey's help in releasing our prisoners of war and all our people, including the Crimean Tatars who are in Russian captivity," Zelenskyy writes.

7:57 PM: The head of the Ministry of Strategy and Industry Kamyshin and the Minister of Defense of Great Britain Shapps discussed the issue of cooperation in defense projects.

- "BAE Systems is already ready to produce 105-mm L119 howitzers in Ukraine. We are waiting for a contract and financing. We have turned to the British Ministry of Defense for support in this matter," Kamyshin said after the meeting.

8:48 PM: Turkish President Erdogan wants to hold a peace summit with the participation of Russia.

- He announced this intention at a press conference with Volodymyr Zelenskyi.

8:51 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi reacted to the proposal of the President of Turkey.

- "We do not see representatives of Russia at such a summit. We do not see how it is possible to invite people who block, destroy, and kill everything. We want to get the result - a just peace for Ukraine. Civilized countries will first develop a plan, and only then representatives will be invited Russian Federation," he said.

10:25 PM: Another 59 Ukrainians were evacuated from the Gaza Strip.

- As reported in the GUR, among the rescued were 15 children, 37 women, and 8 men.
- Citizens are accommodated in a hotel in Egypt, they will be transported to Ukraine in the near future.

10:56 PM: The diplomatic representation of Canada in the Russian Federation said that in the near future terrorist acts may be committed in Russia.

10:56 PM: The Ministry of Defense of Estonia banned the goods of companies that continue business in the Russian Federation.

10:56 PM: Microsoft says Kremlin-funded Russian hacking group Midnight Blizzard has gained access to some of its source code repositories and internal systems, Reuters.

10:56 PM: Five dead in Gaza after humanitarian cargo misses landing, CBS News.

11:28 PM: Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna announced a new package of military aid and the signing of a security agreement with Ukraine.

- Tsakhkna made the corresponding statement during a press conference following the meeting of the heads of foreign affairs of the Baltic countries, Ukraine and France in Vilnius on March 8.
- \_"We are going to sign a bilateral agreement between Estonia and Ukraine for long-term commitments. When we sign a bilateral agreement between Estonia and Ukraine, we promise and undertake to allocate 0.25% of GDP per year for military support," said the minister .

11:47 PM: The presence of Western troops in Ukraine "is not something unthinkable," said the head of the Polish Foreign Ministry

- He said this on March 8 at a conference in the Polish Sejm dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Poland's membership in NATO:
- "Remember, in the UN General Assembly immediately after the invasion, more than 140 countries out of 190 voted to condemn the aggression as unacceptable. That is why I appreciate the French initiative of the last days. Because I think it is well-intentioned, namely - so that the Russian president would ask himself what our next step

would be, and not so that he was sure that we would not do anything creative, and therefore could plan his scenarios." \_

**NATIONAL**

**THURSDAY, March 7**

7:24 AM: Summary of the General Staff as of 07:00 March 7:



PHOTO FROM THE FACEBOOK OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE ZSU

- The Russian invaders attacked in 7 directions, a total of 86 combat clashes took place on the front during the past day, the occupiers launched 4 missile and 74 air strikes, fired 101 times at the positions of Ukrainian troops and populated areas with rocket salvo fire systems.
- **Verbatim General Staff:** "At night, the Russian invaders once again attacked Ukraine, using 37 UAVs of the "Shahed" type. 33 of these attack UAVs were destroyed by the forces and means of air defense of Ukraine.
- During the past day, the settlements of Babelivka, Sumy region, were hit by airstrikes; Vovchansk, Ivanivka, Stepova Novoselivka, Kharkiv region; Yampolivka, Andriivka, Hryhorivka, Toretsk, Druzhba, Kostyantynivka, Chasiv Yar, Ivanivske, Novobakhmutivka, Ocheretyne,

Umanske, Krasnohorivka, Novomykhailivka, Kostyantynivka, Vugledar, Urozhane of the Donetsk region; Robotyne, Mala Tokmachka, Zaporizhzhia Region".

- **Details:** More than 150 settlements in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions came under artillery fire.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Khortytsia" OSU on **Kupyansk direction** Russians carried out 2 attacks in the area of Sinkivka settlement of Kharkiv region, trying to improve their tactical position.
- On **Lyman direction** Ukrainian soldiers repelled 13 attacks by occupiers in the areas of settlements of Bilogorivka, Luhansk region; Terny, Spirne, Rozdolivka, Donetsk region.
- On **Bakhmut direction** The defense forces repelled 6 attacks by invaders in Andriyivka and Klishchiivka settlements of Donetsk region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Tavria" on **Avdiivskiy direction** the defenders repelled 23 enemy attacks in the areas of Berdychi, Tonenke, Orlivka, Pervomayske, Nevelske settlements of the Donetsk region.
- On **Novopavlovsk direction** The defense forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Georgiyivka, Pobyeda, Krasnohorivka, and Novomykhailivka of the Donetsk region, where the Russians tried 27 times to break through the defenses of the Ukrainian troops.
- On **Orihiv direction** Ukrainian soldiers repelled 2 attacks by Russians in the areas of Robotyny and west of Verbyy of the Zaporizhzhia region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Odesa" on **Kherson direction** The defense forces continue to hold their positions. Over the past day, the occupiers have carried out 3 unsuccessful assaults.
- At the same time, during the past day, the Air Defense Forces struck 11 areas where the occupying personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the missile forces damaged 1 area of concentration of personnel, 2 means of anti-aircraft defense, 1 station of radio-electronic warfare and 1 warehouse of fuel and lubricating materials of the Russians.

10:38 AM: Ukraine needs \$9.5 billion in external financing for priority recovery in 2024.

- This was reported by the Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine Olha Zykova.
- In general, according to her, Ukraine needs about \$15 billion for quick recovery in 2024. Of this, about \$5.5 billion has already been financed from the state budget and at the expense of donor support.

12:38 PM: Almost 500 UAVs of various types, purchased with the funds of the capital, went to the Donbas to the fighters of the 112th brigade of TRO of the city of Kyiv, Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko reported.

- Last year, at the request of the 112th brigade, the city directed more than UAH 236 million to equip it. In total, the brigade has already purchased more than 2,000 UAVs with community funds. In particular, 1,850 FPV drones, 4 heavy strike bombers, 235 reconnaissance UAVs.
- Also, with funds allocated by the capital, the 112th military brigade equipped a training ground for soldiers to perform combat missions, repaired cars and special purpose vehicles.

1:13 PM: Ukrzaliznytsia launches beta testing of ticket monitoring with the possibility of automatic redemption for domestic trains.

- Now two types of monitoring are available in test mode for users authorized via Action.Signature:
- monitoring of trains that are already on sale (with the ability to monitor the availability of specific seats);
- monitoring for directions (with the ability to track the appearance of trains between selected cities).

1:39 PM: Attention! The threat of using ballistic weapons from the east, — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

2:40 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the activity of enemy tactical aircraft.

3:02 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy handed over apartment certificates to 30 more Heroes of Ukraine and the families of fallen Heroes.

- "These are soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, our National Guard - sergeants, senior lieutenants, captains, majors, lieutenant colonels, colonels," the president notes.

4:49 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons.

6:02 PM: Detectives of the Security Intelligence Service ensured compensation of 500 million hryvnias for damages caused to the state.

- Previously, detectives exposed officials who evaded paying taxes and fees.
- It was established that they understated their personal income tax and military service tax obligations.
- The company has already compensated part of the damage caused to the state, and the case has been referred to court.

6:10 PM: The State Intelligence Service will build a system to block enemy TV and radio channels in the border areas.

- The Cabinet of Ministers allocated UAH 152 million from the reserve fund of the state budget for this.
- The system will operate in nine regions: Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Vinnytsia and Odesa.

6:38 PM: "Vitsich" Center continues training on the combat use of drones with the assistance of Favbet

- Specialists of the center work with various units of the Armed Forces, and the training program is adapted to the real needs of fighters on the front line. (<https://bit.ly/4c2OUUnb>)
- In February, with the assistance of Favbet, the "Vidsichi" team held a new course dedicated to the combat support of units using various types of UAVs.
- In particular, the focus is on the technical features of the use of various complexes, means of communication and the safety of use on the battlefield, tactical techniques when using UAVs, and more.

7:15 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved Valery Zaluzhnyi's candidacy for the position of ambassador of Ukraine to Britain, — MFA.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine sent a corresponding request for an agreement to the British side.

7:36 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi met with the British Secretary of State for Defense Grant Shapps.

- During the meeting, they discussed:
  - strengthening of air defense and long-range capabilities of the Ukrainian army;
  - provision of other urgent needs in weapons and ammunition;
  - issue of joint production of weapons.

7:42 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky signed a decree on the release of conscripts into the reserve.

- The corresponding decree was published on the website of the president.

7:53 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of the evening of March 7:

- During the day 70 combat clashes took place.
- Aviation of the defense forces struck 11 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.
- Units of the missile forces hit 1 area of concentration of personnel, 2 anti-aircraft defenses, 1 electronic warfare station and 1 warehouse of fuel and lubricants of the enemy.

8:21 PM: In his evening address, Volodymyr Zelenskyi told the details of Valery Zaluzhny's appointment as ambassador to Great Britain.

- "General Valery Zaluzhny told me about such a direction for himself, a diplomatic one. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine sent a corresponding request for an agreement," the president noted.

9:10 PM: Current air alert map as of 9:10 PM

- Threat of using ballistic weapons from the east, the Air Force reports.

10:46 PM: Restrictions on the use of transport and blocking of accounts for evaders were excluded from the draft law on mobilization, said Vadym Ivchenko, a member of the National Security Committee.

- "All other restrictions, as far as I remember, are supported by the working group and will now be considered by the committee," he said.

11:05 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi will visit Turkey on March 8, President Erdogan's Communications Directorate reported.

- The leaders of the countries will discuss Russia's war against Ukraine, the continuation of the "grain corridor", the prospects for peace in the region and the strengthening of bilateral relations

11:32 PM: Current air alert map as of 11:30 p.m.

- UAVs from Kherson region to Dnipropetrovsk region, in the direction of Kryvyi Rih.
- A group of enemy UAVs is moving along the border of the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions, heading northwest.
- The drone attack on Odesa from the Black Sea continues.

## **FRIDAY, March 8**

12:43 AM: The Air Force informs about the movement of enemy UAVs:

- Drones in the Kharkiv region, heading for Chuguiv.
- A group of UAVs from Mykolayiv region, in the direction of Kirovohrad region.
- A group of drones in the south of Cherkasy is moving to the northeast, along the border with the Kirovohrad region.
- UAVs in the east of Kirovohrad Oblast - heading north.
- UAVs in the east of Dnipropetrovsk region - heading for Donetsk region.
- A group of drones is moving in the direction of Kropyvnytskyi.

1:27 AM: Ballistic weapons threat from the south, Air Force reports.

2:21 AM: Current air alert map as of 02:15.

- The threat of the use of ballistic weapons from the east, - PS of the Armed Forces.

7:21 AM: Summary of the General Staff as of 07:00 March 8:

- During the past day, 63 combat clashes were recorded. In the Novopavlovsk direction, the enemy tried to break through the defense of our troops 22 times.



- **Details:** Also, the enemy launched 8 missile and 107 air strikes, fired 113 rocket salvo fire systems at the positions of our troops and populated areas.
- Populations of Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya regions and the city of Kherson were hit by airstrikes.
- More than 140 settlements in the Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions came under artillery fire.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Khortytsia" OSU on **Kupianskyi** direction, the enemy attacked the positions of our defenders 3 times in the areas of Sinkivka and Kislivka settlements of the Kharkiv region, trying to improve their tactical position.
- On **Lymansky** direction, our soldiers repelled 5 enemy attacks in Terna and Spirne settlements of Donetsk region.
- On **Bakhmutskyi** direction, the defense forces repelled 9 enemy attacks in the areas of Andriivka and Klishchiivka settlements.
- In the area of responsibility of the "Tavria" OSU, at **Avdiivskyi** direction, our defenders repelled 15 enemy attacks in the areas of Berdychi, Orlivka, Tonenke, Pervomaiske and Nevelske settlements.
- On **Novopavlovskyi** direction, the defense forces continue to restrain the enemy in the districts of Pobyeda, Krasnohorivka and Novomykhailivka of the Donetsk region, where the enemy, with the support of aviation, tried 22 times to break through the defense of our troops.
- On **Orihivskyi** direction, 8 enemy attacks were repulsed in the areas of Robotynoye and west of Vervovoye of the Zaporizhzhia region.
- In the area of responsibility of OSUV "Odesa" on **Khersonskyi** in the direction of the Defense Forces will continue to hold positions.
- During the past day, the aviation of the defense forces struck 10 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment of the enemy.
- 12 out of 15 unmanned aerial vehicles of the "Shahed" type launched by the Russian occupiers were destroyed.

- Units of the missile forces damaged 1 area of concentration of weapons and military equipment, 1 control post, 3 electronic warfare stations, including two R-330Zh "Zhitel", 1 TOS-1A "Solntsepek" heavy flamethrower system and 1 enemy ammunition depot.

8:23 AM: Attention! The threat of using ballistic weapons from the east, — the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

9:21 AM: Congratulations to all the women from March 8 🌸

- On International Women's Day, we're just thankful that you are. Incredible, strong, beautiful Ukrainian women. You deserve thousands of compliments, but we want to wish you first of all safety, respect, health, strength and strength.

11:31 AM: BEB completed a pre-trial investigation into an illegal casino operating under the guise of a TV stream.

- The facility was located in one of the central districts of Kyiv and operated more than 10 illegal online casinos.
- In the course of authorized searches, detectives of the Territorial Administration seized gaming equipment, audio and video equipment, computer equipment, servers and network equipment, indicating illegal activity.

11:37 AM: Vice President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis arrived in Kyiv.

12:31 PM: "The fewer invaders - the brighter our spring," - volunteers of the "Ukrainian team" called to celebrate March 8 with donations

- "Friends, Ukrainians, Ukrainian girls! We are usually given flowers on the Spring Festival. But now we want to see flowers on the graves of our enemies. Therefore, the best gift is to donate!\_
- "Ukrainian team" continues the collection for 200 drone-planes, which carry many murderous greetings to the occupiers. Each plane is capable of destroying up to a platoon of invaders. Donate! Let's not stop!" said the volunteers.

1:10 PM: Ukraine will simplify the submission of declarations to the NAKC.

- This was announced by the Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov.
- "Previously, relatives needed to search and collect documents about real estate, cars, other assets, order a certificate of income, and now - a few clicks in Diya. The declarant from the NAZK portal will send a request to the family member in Diya. After confirmation by a family member in Diya, NAZK will collect information about his assets and income from the registers and immediately transfer it to the declarant in the form as specified in the declaration," the message states.

1:22 PM: Zara, Pull&Bear, Massimo Dutti, Bershka, Stradivarius, Oysho, Zara Home are returning to Ukraine.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that work on the return of international brands to Ukraine has been ongoing since 2022.

2:11 PM: There was a combat engagement against enemy aircraft at a distance of more than 150 km yesterday — the Air Force is verifying the outcome of the engagement.

- This was announced by the commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Mykola Oleschuk.
- "According to our data, certain "discussions" have already begun among the Russian pilots regarding the decisions of the military leadership - to send them to one end [...]", writes Oleschuk.

2:48 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi on the Russian attack on Odesa during his visit to the city:

- "There was a ballistic missile strike 300-400 meters away. The missile arrived very quickly. I don't know who the strike was aimed at," the president said.

2:57 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons.

3:29 PM: The beta of educational documents has started in Diya, the head of the Ministry of Statistics Mykhailo Fedorov announced.

- Those who participated in the beta testing have already started to receive documents about their education.

4:06 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reported the threat of using air weapons.
- Odesa region - the threat of using ballistic weapons.

4:10 PM: Ukraine will receive the first tranche from the EU in the amount of €4.5 billion in March, and the second for €1.5 billion in April.

- This was stated by the Executive Vice President of the European Commission, Valdis Dombrovskis, at a briefing in Kyiv.

4:34 PM: The Security Service of Ukraine reported the suspicion of "Sturmovyk V" in captivity, who had previously shot a prisoner of war of the ZSU.

- The attacker turned out to be Dmytro Kurashov, who has been convicted many times - a shooter of the "Storm-V" assault squad of the 127th Motorized Rifle Division of the Eastern Military District of the Russian Federation.
- On January 6 of this year, Kurashov fired at least 3 aimed shots at a captured Ukrainian. The occupier faces life imprisonment.

X5:05 PM: Oleg Nikolenko leaves the position of spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

- Nikolenko wrote about this on his Facebook page.
- "This was my last week as the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. 3.5 years, most of which fell on the most difficult page in the history of our country [...]", Nikolenko concluded.

5:17 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reported the activity of enemy tactical aviation along the border.

5:24 PM: Finland's Minister of Environment and Climate, Kai Mäki, arrived in Kyiv.

- This is reported on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Climate of Finland.
- Mäki came to assess the damage caused to the environment by the war, as well as to discuss Finland's support for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

5:36 PM: According to the special services, attempts were made on Volodymyr Zelensky more than 10 times.

- The president said this in an interview for the Cinque minuti program of the Italian TV channel Rai1.
- "[...] \_But I don't count. All our people, servicemen and civilians, are constantly taking risks. I am the president of the country and accordingly, I also take risks\_" Zelensky said.

6:05 PM: An air alert has been issued in a number of areas.

- The Air Force reports the threat of using ballistic weapons.

6:10 PM: Border guards together with SBU detained a minibus with 34 people in the cargo compartment - they were being taken to Romania.

- According to the DPSU, each of them paid €10,000 for the "trip".
- The organizer faces from 3 to 9 years of imprisonment, administrative proceedings have been filed against the other detainees.

6:47 PM: The government allocates UAH 1 billion for partial compensation to farmers who buy Ukrainian agricultural machinery, Prime Minister Shmyhal reports.

- The state will compensate 25% of the cost of domestically produced equipment.
- According to the Ministry of Economy, the program will double the share of Ukrainian agricultural machinery in the domestic market, and imports will decrease by approximately 10%.

6:57 PM: Combat work of border guards against enemy "shaheeds" this night.

- One attack UAV was shot down by fire teams in the Kharkiv region, one more "shaheed" was shot down by the border guards of the Odesa detachment.

7:45 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of the evening of March 8:

- During the day \_74 combat clashes took place.\_
- The aviation of the defense forces struck 10 areas where the enemy's personnel, weapons and military equipment were concentrated.

- Units of the missile forces hit 3 electronic warfare stations, including two R-330Zh "Zhitel" and 1 ammunition depot of the enemy.

8:27 PM: Current air alert map as of 8:25 PM.

- The Air Force reports a ballistic threat to the eastern regions.
- Launches of guided air bombs by tactical aircraft in Donetsk region.
- Chernihiv, Kyiv, Cherkasy regions - the threat of using ballistic weapons!

9:11 PM: Another 10 children were returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine, who will be under occupation after a full-scale Russian invasion.

9:19 PM: Current air alert map as of 9:20 PM.

- The air alert in the Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Kirovohrad regions is related to the activity of enemy tactical aviation in the southeast direction. The threat of using aviation weapons.

10:11 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his efforts to free Ukrainians from Russian captivity.

- "Today I handed over a list of our citizens of Ukraine, in particular Crimean Tatars who were repressed by Russia in the occupied territory of Ukraine and are held in Russian prisons and camps in extremely cruel, inhumane conditions. We must free them all - both soldiers and civilians, and those who was captured while defending his people, and those who are subjected to Russian repression just because of who he or she is - Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars, everyone," the president said.

**MORDOR – ruZZia**

**THURSDAY, March 7**

8:00 AM: Guerrillas in the Moscow region destroyed a relay box near the Golovkovo railway station to stop Russian military supplies to the front line, ATESH.

8:00 AM: The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation announced the operation of air defense due to a drone attack in the Kursk, Bryansk, and Tula regions.

9:15 AM: Russia can fight with Ukraine at the current intensity for at least two years, Lithuanian intelligence.

- They claim that such an opportunity for Russia is provided by high oil prices, evasion of international sanctions and obtaining state investments.

12:20 PM: In Kazan, the Russian Federation, a tank command school is on fire, — rosZMI.

5:00 PM: An explosion occurred at one of the largest metal plants in the Russian Federation due to an attack by UAVs, — rosZMI.

- The general director of Cherepovets metallurgical plant declared a "technological incident" in blast furnace production, however, local media claim that the real cause of the explosion was an attack by UAVs.
- Subsequently, the so-called the governor of the Vologda region confirmed the hit by an unmanned aerial vehicle "of unknown origin".

5:56 PM: The takeoff of the MiG-31K from the Savasleika airfield of the Nizhny Novgorod region was recorded, — PS ZSU.

7:26 PM: Russian athletes will not perform at the Olympic Games in Paris in gymnastics, even in "neutral" status.

- The last chance for Russian and Belarusian athletes to qualify for the Olympic Games was a series of World Cup stages.
- However, European Gymnastics did not support the return of athletes from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Serbia to the competition, due to which they lost the opportunity to compete for licenses through the European Championship.

## **FRIDAY, March 8**

8:00 AM: The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation claims that they allegedly shot down 12 drones over the Volgograd and Belgorod regions.

4:20 PM: Since 2014, the Russian Federation has issued more than 4 million passports in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.

- This was announced by the head of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, Anton Drobovych.
- "[...] \_Most were forced to get these passports, because they would not have medicine, education, or social services\_" added Drobovich.

6:32 PM: India uncovers 'huge human trafficking network' - Russia lured for employment, then forced to fight against Ukraine, Reuters

- India's Central Bureau of Investigation found that approximately 35 Indians traveled to Russia as part of the scheme.
- Human traffickers operated in several states of the country, they searched for people on social networks.

7:17 PM: Due to a lack of armored vehicles, the Russians are using improvised assault vehicles — golf carts, ATVs and buggies.

- This was announced by the commander of the "Tavria" OSU, General Oleksandr Tarnavskiy.
- "Accordingly, the losses of the Russians are increasing, because these "kolymags" do not provide any additional protection. We already call them "kolymag meat assaults," writes Tarnavskiy.

7:38 PM: Russia has strengthened its IPSO, one of the goals of which is to discredit the Coordinating Staff on the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

- the Russians are speculating on the alleged possibility of "buying" Ukrainian soldiers from Russian captivity for money or entering a captured serviceman into fictional "lists for exchange".
- "\_The perpetrators regularly try to mislead the relatives and friends of the Defenders, fraudulently extorting money from them, allegedly for the return of prisoners from enemy captivity\_" the report says.

## REGIONS

### KYIV



### THURSDAY, March 7

11:15 AM: Construction work has begun on the restoration of a destroyed kindergarten in the village of Bohdanivka, Brovar district, Kyiv region

- The kindergarten in the village of Bohdanivka, which was destroyed during the full-scale invasion of the Russian army, is located on the territory of the Velikodymersk United Territorial Community, where the Ukrainian Coca-Cola plant is located, which has been operating for 25 years.



- As a sign of support and respect for the Ukrainian people and community, the company decided to rebuild and present a new kindergarten to the community of Bohdanivka village. The Coca-Cola Company system invested \$3 million in its reconstruction. USA.
- The project will be implemented by the Ukrainian Red Cross - the country's largest humanitarian organization, which has strong experience not only in the implementation of large-scale humanitarian projects, but also in the reconstruction of social infrastructure facilities.

### FRIDAY, March 8

9:56 PM: An air alert has been announced in Kyiv, — KMVA.

### AMOUNTS



### THURSDAY, March 7

2:43 PM Social Networks: An explosion is heard in Sumy.

5:32 PM: As a result of Russian strikes on the city of Sumy, one civilian, RMA, was injured.

- The premises of the school, the central city hospital, the regional emergency medical center and the water supply were damaged.

8:34 PM: After the Russian attack on Sumy there are casualties, President Zelenskyi said in his address, but did not name the number of victims.

- Previously, only one injured person was reported.

### FRIDAY, March 8

3:09 PM: As a result of yesterday's Russian attack on Sumy, 26 people were injured — 2 people died, six are in medical facilities.

- This is reported by Sumy RMA.
- The premises of the school, the central city hospital, the regional center of emergency medical assistance and the water supply were damaged.

4:57 PM Social Networks: An explosion is heard in Sumy.

8:40 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Sumy region.

9:51 PM: Sumy and Poltava regions - missile danger, the Air Force warns.

## **KHARKIV**



### **THURSDAY, March 7**

12:07 AM: There is a missile threat in the Kharkiv region, the Air Force reports.

1:48 AM: The air alert in the Kharkiv region is related to the activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the north-eastern direction, the Air Force reports.

2:04 AM: The Air Force reports the launch of guided aerial bombs on the Kharkiv region.

- Repeated launches of guided aerial bombs on Kharkiv region.

12:13 PM: Today at 10:00 a.m., Russian troops shelled Vovchansk with a guided aerial bomb.

- This was announced by the head of the Kharkiv RMA Oleg Sinegubov.
- At least 12 private residential buildings were damaged. A 40-year-old civilian woman died as a result of a direct hit to a private house. A 67-year-old woman suffered minor injuries.

11:14 PM: the Russians hit Kupyansk with MLRS, reported the head of the Kharkiv RMA Oleg Sinegubov.

- Two civilians died - a man and a woman, the data is being established. Residential buildings were damaged, a car caught fire.

### **FRIDAY, March 8**

7:41 AM: 5 people, including a three-year-old child, were injured as a result of the Russian attack on Chuguiev, Kharkiv region, - RMA

- 12 cars, several buildings, including a hotel, were damaged.

12:11 AM Social Networks: An explosion is heard in the Kharkiv region.

1:02 AM: The Russian army struck Chuguiev in the Kharkiv region, RMA head Sinegubov said.

- A 17-year-old boy and a 37-year-old man were injured. There is destruction next to a 9-story residential building, damaged shops, a hotel and about 13 cars.

9:12 AM: The number of victims in Chuguyev has increased to seven, the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office.

- A nine-story residential building, a bus station, a hotel, shops and cars were damaged.

7:41 PM: UAVs on the border of Kharkiv, Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk regions. The course is north-west, — PS ZSU.

11:11 PM: Current air alert map as of 11:10 p.m

- The Air Force warns of missile danger in the Kharkiv region.
- The air alert in the Sumy and Poltava regions is related to the activity of enemy tactical aviation in the north-eastern direction. The threat of using aviation weapons!

5:50 PM: In Vovchansk, an enemy FPV drone hit a civilian car, killing a 58-year-old man and a 53-year-old woman.

- This was announced by the head of the Kharkiv RMA Oleg Sinegubov.
- According to witnesses, another person could have been in the car. The information is being updated\_", Sinegubov added.

## DONETSK



## THURSDAY, March 7

3:26 PM: the Russians dropped a KAB-500 aerial bomb on the private sector of Toretsk — three locals were injured.

- This is reported by the Donetsk regional prosecutor's office.
- Among the injured are a 47-year-old citizen and a 63-year-old man and woman. The victims with a contusion, an arm injury and a fracture were given medical assistance.

3:45 PM: "Ukrainian team" transferred a batch of FPV drones of the "Magura" division to the Avdiyiv direction

- Today, the Avdiyiv direction is one of the most difficult on the front. The enemy is trying to break through further, and our soldiers hold back his advance. They are fighting for every meter of Ukrainian land.
- "Ukrainian Team" handed over 50 FPV drones to the company of unmanned attack aircraft complexes of the 47th "Magura" brigade.

This brigade has been in this direction for a long time. Drones are worth their weight in gold. As early as tomorrow, these drones will fly on the heads of the orcs, stressed the head of the "Ukrainian team" Artur Palatny.

9:51 PM: Two people in Kostyantynivka were injured by an aerial bomb dropped by the Russians.

- A 43-year-old man with cut wounds to the head was treated on the spot. A 76-year-old woman was taken to the hospital with a mine-explosive injury and facial injury.
- In addition, the blast wave damaged at least 35 households, 2 apartment buildings, an administrative building, the power grid, and 5 cars.
- The Donetsk regional prosecutor's office has started a pre-trial investigation.

### FRIDAY, March 8

10:22 AM Social Networks: The sounds of explosions are heard in the temporarily occupied Mariupol district.

- This will be reported by the mayor's advisor Petro Andryushchenko.
- \_"In the Granitne-Vodyane-Mariupol square, air defense is working, and our eyes record the flight of "something" in the direction of Taganrog," the message states.

### ZAPORIZHIA



### THURSDAY, March 7

1:44 PM: The Russians are intensifying their offensive in the Zaporozhye direction.

- This was reported by the speaker of the "Tavria" OSU Lykhova.
- "If in the previous days and weeks there were sometimes no enemy assaults there, sometimes there were 1-3, maximum 5, then in the past day 16 attacks were recorded here in the areas west of Verbovoy and Robotino," - he reports.

4:25 PM: The Russian army shelled the village of Bilenke with cluster munitions - a man was injured.

- This was announced by Ivan Fedorov, the head of the Zaporizhzhia RMA.

## DNIPRO



### FRIDAY, March 8

6:41 PM: Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia regions - threat of attack UAVs, — PS ZSU.

- Movement of "Shahed" type UAVs in the Novomykolaiv district of Zaporizhzhya region, course north/northwest.
- UAVs in the direction of Pavlograd.

9:36 PM: During the day, Nikopol suffered 5 attacks by UAVs and 3 artillery shells, reported RMA head Serhii Lysak.

- A 23-year-old girl was injured. She was hospitalized in moderate condition.
- A utility company, an infrastructure facility, a store and an agricultural company were damaged. 12 private houses, outbuildings, garages and cars were mutilated. Caught power lines.

10:41 PM: Enemy UAVs near Kryvyi Rih, the Air Force warned.

## KHERSON



### THURSDAY, March 7

2:21 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

4:02 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

4:13 PM: The Russian army covers the central part and the Naval district of Kherson with fire, — RMA.

### FRIDAY, March 8

10:02 AM: This night, Belozerka came under a massive attack by Russian troops, — RMA.

- As a result of shelling, fifteen residential buildings were damaged, as well as three administrative buildings and an educational institution.

An 81-year-old local woman was injured, she was diagnosed with an explosive and craniocerebral injury.

12:14 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

1:14 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard again in Kherson.

3:20 PM: Around 12:00, the Russian army shelled the village of Olhivka with mortars — one person was killed and another was injured.

- The Kherson Regional Prosecutor's Office writes about this.

3:54 PM: A resident of Shiroka Balka in the Kherson region died after being blown up by a Russian mine.

- This is reported by the Kherson Regional Prosecutor's Office.

10:29 PM: In Kherson, the occupiers hit a house with an aerial bomb. A 7-year-old boy was injured, Kherson RMA reports

- The child is in the hospital. Previously, he had a contusion, explosive and craniocerebral injuries.

## MYKOLAIV



### FRIDAY, March 8

10:59 AM: The combat unit "Shakhed" got stuck in the propeller of a windmill in the Mykolaiv region.

- The wreckage and combat part of the enemy drone, which posed a danger, were dismantled by police explosives technicians from a height of 55 meters, which is equivalent to an 18-story building.
- The disassembly of Shahed was complicated by the fact that part of the drone was in a hard-to-reach place of the propeller of the windmill and at a height.

## ODESSA



### THURSDAY, March 7

7:50 PM: A group of enemy UAVs from the Black Sea area in the direction of Odesa, — PS ZSU.

10:33 PM: A group of enemy UAVs from the Black Sea area is moving in the direction of Odesa.

- UAVs in the Kherson region. Mykolaiv Oblast from the south.

## FRIDAY, March 8

7:27 AM: During the night, 33 out of 37 "shaheeds" were destroyed in Odesa and Kharkiv regions by the forces and means of air defense.

## KIROVOHRAD



### THURSDAY, March 7

9:34 PM: A missile is moving in the direction of the Kirovohrad region, the Air Force reports.

9:38 PM: An explosion is heard in Kropyvnytskyi, subscribers report.

10:21 PM: An explosion during an air raid was heard in Oleksandria, Kirovohrad region.

- According to preliminary information from the rescuers, there were no extraordinary events in the community, said the mayor of Oleksandria Kuzmenko.



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	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 739 days	After 740 days	After 741 days	After 744 days	After 743 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	419,020	420,270	421,430	422,310	423,160

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6,657	6,678	6,695	6,706	6,712
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	12,688	12,728	12,779	12,798	12,823
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	11,265	11,316	11,359	11,386	11,440
Cruise Missiles		1,917	1,918	1,919	1,919	1,919
Fighters Bombers	118	347	347	347	347	347
Helicopters	333	325	325	325	325	325

Drones		7,863	7,921	7,963	7,998	8,041
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		700	701	701	704	707
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	13,423	13,479	13,532	13,598	13,683
Naval Vessels		25 + 1 (Subma rine)	26 + 1 submar ine	26+1 submar ine	26 + 1 submar ine	26 + 1 submar ine
Specialized equipment		1,630	1,642	1,647	1,656	1,666

#### SOURCES

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