

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine
12:00 noon November 3 to
12:00 noon November 4, 2023

By: Robert Homans & Bohdan Chomiak

From my Friend Andrei - "The Ukrainian Offensive"

Andrei is a Ukrainian patriot. He is a Soviet Army veteran, who fought in Angola during the 1980s. After doing very well in private equity in Moscow, he retired to Kyiv where he has written books on military history. His Father-in-Law, roughly the same age as Andrei, is currently in the Army fighting at the front. Andrei himself had his house heavily damaged and looted by Russians during fighting early in the war. As a result of my introduction Andrei has spoken to at least 1 Member of the U.S. Congress. That was several years before the latest Russian invasion started.

Here is what Andrei says about the progress of the war (for those who want to know why Andrei states that the "glass is half full" should read the 3rd-to-last and 2nd-to-last paragraphs) -

"First of all, I should stress that the main aim of writing articles like this one is just to "get it out." Normally I do not share them with anybody. Ironically, it was a recent article by Simon Shuster in the Time magazine (which caused a huge blowback from the so called "patriotic Ukrainians") that convinced me to attract a wider audience.

Second, I hesitated to call my piece "The Failed Offensive" as I still preferred to see the glass half-full. It was General Zaluzhny's article in the Economist which convinced me to call a spade a spade. After all, our Head of General Staff has admitted himself that the war has reached a stalemate. In plain speak it means that our summer offensive has failed to produce desired results. In my humble opinion, he should have taken personal responsibility for this failure and submitted his resignation. I hope he will find the courage to do both in the nearest future.

Now some observations on this sad topic:

1. It is clear to any outside observer that the original plan of the Ukrainian General Staff did not envisage that five months since the official start of this vital operation our forces would be where they are at the moment. After expending at least 50% of precious reserves, over one million rounds of equally precious ammo and thousands of lives our Higher Command does not have much to boast of. All we've got is a narrow salient on Orikhiv-Tokmak axis which is viciously contested by the Russians, and which is still too small and too shallow to be used for a major advance. We are stuck with no clear way to change this situation for the better. Over the last twelve months the Russians managed to take Bakhmut, and the Ukrainian forces achieved equally modest gains in the South. In general, the front line has not changed much. This is indeed a stalemate, and this situation is not working in our favor.
2. Since the start of a large-scale Russian invasion the actions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces could be characterized by three words: **Courage, Tenacity, Ingenuity**. Unfortunately, ingenuity is what

our generals have failed to demonstrate over the last five months – at the expense of its soldiers, sergeants and middle level officers. After all those “probing attacks” in June Zaluzhny and his appointees decided to attack *exactly where they were expected to* by the Russians. In addition, the sluggish tempo of advance allowed our opponents to build new lines of defense behind those that have not been even reached yet.

3. From the start of the offensive many people in Ukraine and abroad were surprised and somewhat disappointed that the man put in charge of that historically important undertaking was General Tarnavskiy. According to some Ukrainian officers, he has a “low IQ” and commands an equally low level of respect and trust among his subordinates. Yes, he managed to liberate Kherson a year ago, but he also allowed at least 20,000 of Russia’s best soldiers to retreat in organized fashion to the left bank of the Dnipro river. This was so unexpected that the rumor appeared (and is still alive) that he struck a deal with the opposing side: they go unmolested and in exchange we do not have to storm Kherson.
4. The more logical choice for such an important command would have been General Syrskiy who planned and conducted the only successful “Blitzkrieg” operation in Europe since WWII – the famous Kharkiv offensive. Instead Syrsky was put in charge of a (yet unsuccessful) attempt to take back Bakhmut, an operation of a rather dubious strategic significance. Again, rumor has it that, as an ethnic Russian (born and raised in a village near the city of Vladimir), Syrsky is considered an outsider among the Ukrainian top brass.
5. According to those Ukrainian officers who are willing to talk about it, General Zaluzhny is a very honorable individual. Unfortunately, he also tends to favor people with whom he studied and served over the years. This often results in promoting lower quality officers over those who are more qualified. The fact that General Tarnavskiy has not yet been relieved of his command could be a direct result of that particular personal trait. According to some Ukrainian military, Zaluzhny is also responsible for the fact that as many as 50% of Ukrainian brigade commanders are not trusted and respected by their subordinates.
6. I would also like to stress that it is General Zaluzhny who bears direct responsibility for the epic level of corruption among supervisors of draft offices. The public discontent reached such a level that last summer President Zelenskiy had to intervene personally and insisted on putting wounded officers in charge of those draft offices while sending the “fat cats” to the front. Even after that Zaluzhny has kept silent about this truly acute problem. His attitude towards it has been indifferent at best. As could be expected under such circumstances, those working in draft offices are actively trying to sabotage every effort to “drain the swamp”.
7. General Zaluzhny (and many around him) instinctively dislike and distrust those who took part in Maidan revolution and who joined the fight against the Russians in 2014 as members of numerous volunteer units. Appointments of this new generation of officers as brigade commanders are extremely rare and happen only due to pressure from public opinion and direct intervention by President Zelenskiy. According to a Mariupol survivor freed from Russian captivity (“Frost”), when he reported for duty at a newly reconstituted “Azov” brigade, he was astonished to find out that the only heavy weapons at their disposal were three mortars (one of which was broken). At least they did not have to *buy* their AKs, machine guns and RPGs from the Ministry of Defense as was the practice in the summer of 2014. Things started to change only after their legendary commander – lieutenant colonel Denys Prokopenko (“Redys”) – and his comrades returned from Turkey where they were interned for several months after release from Russian captivity. It is important to mention that the original “Azov” battalion (later regiment) was not part of the Ukrainian Army. Rather, it belonged to the Ukrainian National Guard – the “alternative” army which reported to the ex-Minister of Interior Arsen Avakov. I personally despise Avakov who was dismissed by Zelenskiy soon after elections. At the same time, he

deserves at least some credit for taking “Azov” and several other volunteer units under his wing. Most likely, he did it not because of kindness of his (largely rotten) heart, but rather to spite our then president Poroshenko/ The latter was afraid of “uncontrollable” volunteers and wanted to get rid of them. Interestingly, “Azov” and its Army off-shoot – the 3rd Separate Assault brigade – are probably the only units in Ukrainian Armed Forces at the moment who still enjoy a luxury of choosing among young, able and highly motivated volunteer recruits. The rest have to compete intensively for those few precious young draftees who ended up serving. Please note that I will devote a separate article (“Old Men’s War”) to this particular “dirty secret” of this conflict.

8. It is a well-known fact that when preparing for their offensive the Ukrainian military have not been given everything they asked for. For example, they have to do what is anathema to any NATO general – conducting offensive operations without command of the air. Moreover, they have to do it without significant numerical advantage in armor, artillery and ammunition. But it is also true that they were still given *a lot*.
9. To my mind, General Zaluzhny and his appointees have so far utterly failed in *concentrating* resources where they are most needed. They (and practically every Ukrainian soldier) knew in advance about things facing them: extensively prepared Russian defense lines, dense mine fields, numerous (and deathly efficient) anti-armor helicopters and the abundance of kamikaze drones. Anecdotal evidence suggests that those brigades tasked with penetrating Surovikin line were not provided with additional sappers, demining equipment, anti-drone rifles and low-level air defense. They were limited only to what they had at their disposal.
10. When commander of one of the battalions of the 47th motorized brigade voiced his objections against advancing through the minefields without sufficient de-mining equipment and proper air defense cover, he was reportedly told by one of the generals in charge (most likely Tarnavskiy himself) to “shut up” and either fulfill his orders or to “go and shoot himself.” The battalion commander complied, but his unit suffered heavy losses as a result (remember those first pictures of disabled “Bradleys” and “Leopards”? – it was them). This story was told to my neighbor in Kyiv by his friend who was at that time the head of recon of that unlucky battalion. According to him, the general talked to his commander in such an offensive manner that he nearly “hit him in the face.” He resigned in disgust as soon as he turned 60 in September (yet another example of a “spring chickens” mobilization). Since that inglorious start the 47th brigade (or what is left of it) is still plagued with internal conflicts and frequent dismissals/resignations of top sergeants and officers.
11. Many Ukrainian military observers openly questioned the wisdom of sending newly formed brigades with limited combat experience against Surovikin Line. Meanwhile “old” brigades (like the elite 72nd Motorized brigade, the 10th “Edelweiss” Mountain Assault brigade, the “Azov” brigade and their “sister-unit” – the 3rd Separate Assault brigade) are used predominantly in Donbass. Against all logic, the “old” brigades are mostly equipped with Soviet era weapons and materiel while the new ones got most of Western-made armor, artillery and assault rifles. Ironically, this particular decision might now be called “wise” after the Russians launched a series of determined (but so far unsuccessful) attacks against Kupyansk, Maryinka, Avdiivka and in the vicinity of Bakhmut. As it happens, due to their combat experience and high motivation, the above mentioned “old” brigades are capable of holding the line against a superior enemy. They do not mind outdated tanks and howitzers, but still dream of German “Leopards” and Swedish SV-90s.
12. Most experts commenting on our offensive are bewildered by a huge number of “probing” attacks that often lead nowhere and result in nothing but avoidable casualties. The perceived logic of those attacks is probably to cause the Russians to move reserves from the main axis of advance in Zaporizhyya area. If so, it is not working. Instead, the Russians have used the months

of relative stalemate to create dozens of fresh units and to launch massive attacks in the above-mentioned areas.

13. The most striking example of those “faints” are multiple crossings of Dnipro followed by rapid withdrawals to the right bank or lack of determination to proceed in force even when the Russians appear too weak to push relatively small groups of attackers back into the river. This example is especially striking as, at least in my humble opinion, a successful crossing of Dnipro followed by a major advance towards Crimea is currently *the only* viable option to achieve strategic success this year.

Whatever the top Ukrainian generals say (and they’ve said often over the last five months), time is an issue. The size of liberated (or, better say, yet unliberated) areas is equally important. A year without noticeable military successes on the battlefield has resulted in very noticeable “change of music.” The sluggish tempo of new hardware deliveries, the recent spats with allies, the fact that Zelenskiy is not met with the same furor as a year before – they are all signs of it. If our generals indeed blew the chance to achieve strategic success this year, this conflict may transform into a long war of attrition. The chances of decisively winning such a war against Russia are 50-50% at best. The deteriorating situation in the Middle East, the forthcoming US elections, the “Ukrainian fatigue” – all of that is playing against us.

Moreover, the lack of progress on the battlefield demoralizes the whole nation. I judge by members of my own family: we are depressed at least half the time. The previous winter was terrible, but the Ukrainians managed to tough it out in large extent thanks to the hope of an approaching victorious offensive. The second winter is coming, and all indications are that it may be even more difficult. Thanks to General Zaluzhny and his appointees, we will have to endure blackouts and “waterouts” without much hope of avoiding the third “war winter.” It does not mean that the nation’s will is (or will be) broken, but we still feel cheated and angry.

As in practically every other kind of human activities, inability of military commanders to achieve success should lead to change of leadership. I understand that Zelenskiy might be unwilling to do anything drastic in this respect. General Zaluzhny is still a very popular figure (although his popularity will most likely suffer if things go as they do now). However, it is clear that dismissing him and his cronies *will have to happen* at some point. As time is an issue, it would be better for the nation if such a decision was made earlier rather than later. Ukraine’s allies, especially their military top brass, could help if their growing (although yet quiet) discontent is voiced more often and more vigorously.

When the new Republican leadership in US Congress demands explanations from Zelenskiy and his generals on what is our strategy, I actually support them. This should focus the minds at the top and accelerate the change within Ukrainian military.

It is well known that Ukrainians can defeat their opponents even when they are outgunned and outnumbered. I am talking not just about the initial period of this war when our forces routed invaders from Northern parts of the country. Over the last five months our (seemingly non-existing) Navy, our Air Force (whose heroic pilots are flying few still remaining grandads’ machines), our Special Forces and our intelligence agencies have accomplished unprecedented successes even with limited resources at their disposal. Equally astonishingly, they learned quickly to co-operate efficiently with each other and with the defense industries.

For example, it is their “asymmetric” actions which forced the Russian Black Sea Fleet to largely abandon its main bases in Crimea. Our artillery manages to keep Russians at bay with much fewer guns and ammo. Our pilots wreak havoc in the Russian rear even when flying antiquated planes. Our intelligence agencies show results that put much lauded Mossad to shame. Our Air Defense specialists are probably the best in the world. Our “drone army” (created initially by civilian volunteers) has changed the modern warfare irrevocably. All of this has become possible due to our

nation's inherent free spirit and several relatively recent appointments of young, enterprising and competent commanders. They succeeded in unleashing their subordinates' ingenuity and strengthened their will to fight.

General Zaluzhny (who, according to his own admission, still worships his opponent Gerasimov) and his Soviet era cronies have become an impediment to this process of "unleashing" and have turned themselves into liabilities rather than assets. They should be fired. The sooner the better."

Interview With Taras Kuzio/From the Telegraph's "[Ukraine-The Latest](#)"

The subject of the interview is a report that Prof. Kuzio wrote for the Henry Jackson Society calling for Russia's military defeat. The interview starts at 31:00 into the Telegraph's podcast and lasts for a little more than 20 minutes. Here are some takeaways:

- As I have been in the past, Kuzio is very critical of the Biden Administration's support for Ukraine, using the term "dithering." In the past, I have used the same term to describe the decision process of the Biden Administration concerning supplying Ukraine weapons when Ukraine asked for them. As Kuzio describes it, first it's a "no," then a "maybe," and eventually it gets sent.
- He pointed out that the UK, the Scandinavian countries, and the Baltics have all declared that Ukraine's victory, and Russia's defeat, is a policy goal but, at least until recently, the U.S. has not.
- Kuzio believes that the origin of the Biden Administration's "dithering" was the result of his being Barack Obama's Vice President, when Pres. Obama, likely prompted by his National Security Adviser Susan Rice, vetoed the shipment of Javelin missiles to Ukraine. I have seen reports that as Vice President, Biden was supportive of sending Javelins to Ukraine. However, Susan Rice has been serving in the Biden White House in various capacities since the time of his election as president.
- Kuzio doesn't agree that Donald Trump, if he was elected President in 2024, would be opposed to continuing to send weapons to Ukraine. Former President Trump agreed to send the Javelins to Ukraine when Pres. Obama did not. Kuzio doesn't agree that Republicans, writ large, are necessarily opposed to sending weapons to Ukraine. Many Republicans want to see Pres. Biden make a stronger case for supporting Ukraine, and they're frustrated that he hasn't done so (until recently). Likely, some of these are considered as "opposed," when they're really not.
- Kuzio believes that Republicans increasingly agree that there is a connection between the conflict in Israel and the war in Ukraine. Just recently the Wagner Group, still operating in Syria, announced that they were going to provide anti-aircraft systems to Hezbollah.
- Kuzio believes that Ukraine can defeat Russia militarily. He said that Ukraine is already ramping up its own military-industrial complex, that was once the main arsenal of the former Soviet Union, by developing new drones and cruise missiles.
- Kuzio believes, as I do, that there will be no "frozen conflict" because, after a truce likely brokered by the West, that Ukraine will continue to fight and eventually win. It will just take longer.

News From the Battlefield

More of the same, via the "[Latest Denys](#)" (originally sent in yesterday's email) – continued Russian attacks around Avdiivka, Vuhledar and Robotyne, and continued Ukraine incursions along the Dnipro.

11/4/2023 Sitrep

Abbreviations:

RMA = Regional Military Administration SBU = Security Service of Ukraine

RASHISTS = russian Facists/all russian invaders

INTERNATIONAL

Saturday, November 4

8:01 AM: Poland wants to take a \$22 billion loan from South Korea to buy weapons, — Reuters.

8:01 AM: The US has raised concerns with Beijing about "dangerous and illegal" activities in the South China Sea ahead of a possible meeting between Presidents Biden and Xi Jinping.

8:01 AM: A powerful earthquake struck Nepal, with authorities in western regions of the country reporting at least 128 dead, Reuters.

10:07 AM: Sweden has officially confirmed the transfer of eight Archer self-propelled artillery systems to Ukraine.

- This was reported by the Swedish TV channel SVT with reference to the Minister of Defense of Sweden Paul Jonson.

Friday, November 3

12:48 PM: The Netherlands will provide Ukraine with a new military aid package worth 500 million euros.

- This was announced by the Minister of Defense of the Netherlands, Kaisa Ollongren.
- The minister noted that about €260 million will be spent on artillery shells and €240 million on ammunition for tanks.

2:31 PM: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba met with the head of the German defense concern Rheinmetall.

- During the meeting, they discussed ways to further strengthen the alliance of the German and Ukrainian defense industries.
- "Ukraine will have more weapons and ammunition to defend itself, to protect the civilian population and infrastructure from Russian attacks," Kuleba wrote.

2:56 PM: Zaluzhnyi's interview with the head of the Armed Forces became a reason to review American support for Kyiv, — Politico.

- The publication notes that the US Congress headed by Mike Johnson was shocked by the head's frankness.
- "Zaluzhny's statements appear to have been intended to influence the debate in the US Congress," writes Politico.

4:29 PM: The US Senate has finally confirmed Admiral Lisa Franchetti as the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations. She became the first woman in this position, Defense News.

4:29 PM: Hamas ready for "full compromise" on prisoner exchange with Israel. This was stated by Hamas representative Gazi Hamad in an interview with the NBC News channel.

4:29 PM: US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken flew to Tel Aviv for the third time since the start of Israel's war with Hamas. He will hold talks with Prime Minister Netanyahu and government officials, CNN.

4:29 PM: Israel begins deporting Palestinian workers to Gaza, The Times of Israel.

6:25 PM: The US allocates a \$125 million Pentagon aid package to Ukraine, as well as \$300 million to strengthen Ukraine's air defenses in the long term.

- This is stated on the website of the US Ministry of Defense.
- The new aid package includes:
 - additional ammunition for NASAMS and HIMARS;
 - 155 mm and 105 mm caliber artillery shells;
 - TOW missile;
 - Javelin and AT-4 anti-tank systems;
 - more than 3 million cartridges for small arms and grenades;
 - explosive munitions;
 - anti-personnel ammunition M18A1 Claymore;
 - additional ammunition with laser guidance to counter drones;
 - 12 trucks for transporting heavy equipment and others.

7:35 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy may visit Israel next week, Times of Israel.

- The publication writes that preparations for his visit are at the final stage.
- "_This will indicate something like a united front of Israel, Ukraine, Europe and the United States against the Russia-Iran axis_" Israel's Channel 12 noted.

10:16 PM: Former commander of the US Army in Europe, Ben Hodges, previously predicted that the Armed Forces of Ukraine would liberate Crimea in the summer of 2023.

- In an interview with Radio Liberty, he admitted that he had made a mistake in his calculations, as he did not expect that the USA and Germany would still not provide Ukraine with the long-range weapons necessary to liberate the peninsula.
- Despite this, the retired lieutenant general believes that Ukraine will still liberate all its territories from Russian occupation. In his opinion, it is only a matter of time.

10:42 PM: Israel believes that Russia wants to divert attention from Ukraine with the war in Gaza, Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN Gilad Erd said.

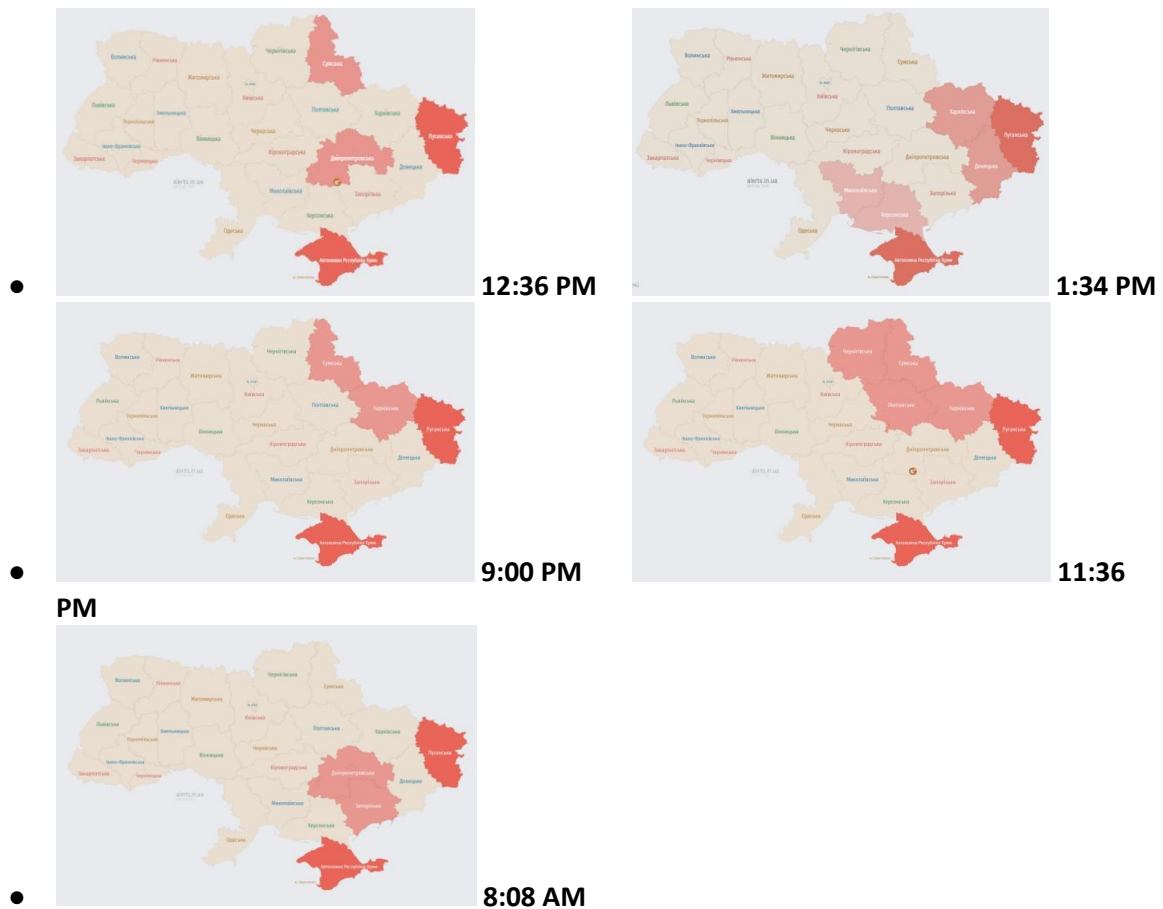
10:42 PM: Italian Prime Minister Maloni's adviser quits after her conversation with Russian pranksters. According to Maloni, this step is a "gesture of responsibility", quoted by Il Sole 24 Ore.

10:42 PM: Israel can pause its war with Hamas only if the militants agree to release all hostages. This was reported by Sky News with reference to Benjamin Netanyahu.

11:01 PM: Military aid to Ukraine will be cut as Congressional money for it runs out, White House press secretary Karin Jean-Pierre said at a press briefing on Friday.

- According to her, today's package practically exhausted the additional budgets for supplies to Ukraine, which remained in the Biden administration: "_For now, we will provide small packages of military aid to stretch the possibilities of supporting Ukraine for as long as possible_".

VISUAL CHRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL ROCKET, DRONE, ARTILLERY, MORTAR AND BOMB ALARMS



NATIONAL

Saturday, November 4

7:08 AM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 06:00 on November 4

- During the day of November 3, there were 53x combat engagements.
 - The enemy launched a total of 1x missile and 67x air strikes, 40x MLRS attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops and various settlements.
 - During the day of November 3, Ukrainian Air Force launched 9x air strikes on the concentrations of troops, weapons, and military equipment, and 2x air strikes on anti-aircraft missile systems of the adversary. Also, the forces destroyed 11x reconnaissance UAVs, 24x Shahed-136/131 strike UAVs, and 1x Kh-59 missile.
 - The Ukrainian missile troops hit 7x concentrations of troops, weapons, and military equipment, 1x electronic warfare station, 1x radar station, 2x ammunition depots, and 10x artillery systems of the adversary.
1. Sivershchyna and Slobozhan shchyna axes: the enemy continues its sabotage and reconnaissance activities, shelling Ukrainian settlements from the territory of russia and increases the density of minefields along the state border of Ukraine. About 20x settlements came under enemy artillery and mortar fire, including Karpovychi, Yeline, Kostobobriv (Chernihiv oblast), Seredyna-Buda, Volodymyrivka, , Stepok (Sumy oblast), Pletenivka, Vovchansk, and Bolohivka (Kharkiv oblast).
 2. Kupyansk axis: the enemy conducted unsuccessful assault operations in the vicinities of Synkivka, Ivanivka (Kharkiv oblast), and Stelmakhivka (Luhansk oblast), where the Ukrainian soldiers repelled 7x attacks. The adversary launched air strikes in the vicinities of

Novoselivka, Petropavlivka, Novoosynove, and Pishchane (Kharkiv oblast). Kamyanka, Krasne Pershe, Dvorichna, Synkivka, Petropavlivka, and Berestove (Kharkiv oblast) came under artillery and mortar fire of the enemy.

3. Lyman axis: the enemy did not conduct any offensive (assault) operations. At the same time, the invaders launched air strikes in the vicinities of Stepove (formerly, Proletarske) (Kharkiv oblast), Serebryanske forestry, and Siversk (Donetsk oblast). Also, the enemy fired artillery and mortars at more than 10x settlements, including Makiivka, Nevske, Bilohorivka (Luhansk oblast), Hryhorivka, Verkhokamyanske, Torske, and Rozdolivka (Donetsk oblast).
4. Bakhmut axis: the enemy made 8x unsuccessful attempts to regain the lost ground in the vicinity of Klishchiivka (Donetsk oblast). At the same time, the adversary conducted unsuccessful assault in the vicinity of Bohdanivka and Khromove (Donetsk oblast). The adversary launched an air strike in the vicinity of Khromove (Donetsk oblast). Around 15x settlements came under artillery and mortar fire, including Orikhovo-Vasylivka, Bohdanivka, Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Chasiv Yar (Donetsk oblast).
5. Avdiivka axis: with the air support, the enemy conducted unsuccessful assault operations in the vicinities of Stepove, Tonenke, Avdiivka, Sjeverne, and Pervomaiske (Donetsk oblast), where the Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 17x attacks. Also, the adversary launched an air strike in the vicinity of Avdiivka (Donetsk oblast). The invaders fired artillery and mortars at more than 10x settlements, including Novobakhmutivka, Stepove, Avdiivka, and Pervomaiske (Donetsk oblast).
6. Maryinka axis: the enemy conducted unsuccessful assault operations in the vicinities of Maryinka and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast). The Ukrainian Defense Forces repelled 14x attacks in that area. Also, the adversary launched air strikes in the vicinities of Maryinka and Novomykhailivka (Donetsk oblast). More than 10x settlements of Donetsk oblast, including Krasnohorivka, Pobjeda, Maryinka, and Novomykhailivka, were under artillery and mortar fire of the occupiers.
7. Shakhtarske axis: the adversary launched air strikes in the vicinities of Vodyane, Vuhledar, Staromaiorske, and south of Zolota Nyva (Donetsk oblast). Around 10x settlements, including Vuhledar, Zolota Nyva, Prechystivka, and Blahodatne (Donetsk oblast), came under artillery and mortar fire.
8. Zaporizhzhia axis: the enemy made unsuccessful attempts to regain the lost ground in the vicinity of Robotyne (Zaporizhzhia oblast). More than 20x settlements, including Poltavkam Hulyaipole, Charivne, Robotyne, and Kamyanske (Zaporizhzhia oblast), came under enemy artillery and mortar fire.
9. Kherson axis: the enemy fired artillery and mortars at Antonivka (Kherson oblast), the city of Kherson, and Solonchaky (Mykolaiv oblast).

8:52 AM: There is 1 Russian ship in the Black Sea, the Naval Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

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

9:06 AM: The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and People's Deputy Yaroslav Zhelezniak arrived in Kyiv.

- "_We are waiting for her speech in the Parliament_" the people's deputy wrote.

9:41 AM: The Ministry of Defense accelerated the delivery of drones for the Armed Forces.

- This was announced on the official website of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- "_From the moment of receiving the equipment from the suppliers to the transfer to the Logistics Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, only three days passed. Previously, this process could last for weeks or even months, as it requires numerous agreements in various departments_", the message said.

Friday, November 3

12:06 PM: There is no reason to believe that the Russian Federation has changed its tactics regarding shelling of Ukraine, — Andriy Yusov, representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Ukraine.

- "_Regarding the winter period and potential attacks on critical infrastructure, in particular on the energy industry, this is an absolutely probable scenario, unfortunately_", Andriy Yusov noted.

1:23 PM: People's Deputy Andriy Nikolayenko confirmed his involvement in a fatal road accident in Zhytomyr region.

- He stated that he was sober and assured that he would contribute to the investigation.

1:49 PM: Since November 1, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has significantly shortened the terms of delivery of equipment and weapons for the Armed Forces.

- This was reported by the press service of the department.
- "_During the period of martial law, the production cycle is shortened, and the testing process is also simplified. From now on, it is the manufacturer who determines the technical parameters according to which he will deliver the products to the customer, and the military approves the list of parameters_", the message reads.

3:13 PM: The Government of Ukraine submits a preliminary draft plan for the Ukraine Facility program to the European Commission.

- This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.
- Ukraine Facility – a program of assistance to Ukraine in the amount of €50 billion for the next 4 years with an emphasis on budgetary support.

3:35 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy has replaced the commander of the Special Operations Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine — the position is now held by Serhii Lupanchuk.

- The corresponding decree was published on the website of the President of Ukraine.

3:56 PM: Ukraine will create a single state register of pets — dogs and cats, the Ministry of Statistics reports.

- "_Now the description of the animals, information on vaccination, sterilization and other data will be contained in the electronic register_", the message reads.
- The register will simplify obtaining documents for animals and help adapt Ukrainian legislation to international standards.

4:47 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded Ukrainian soldiers on the occasion of the Day of Missile Troops and Artillery.

5:12 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy is currently weighing all the pros and cons of holding presidential elections next spring.

- This was stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, Sky News reports.

- According to him, holding elections during the war with Russia will cause "unprecedented" problems.

5:27 PM: Russia may hit Ukraine more massively after the onset of cold weather.

- This was stated by the spokeswoman of the Defense Forces of Southern Ukraine Nataliya Humeniuk.
- "_Currently, we cannot rule out the possibility that a change in weather conditions will affect strikes from the Russian side_" Humenyuk said.

5:50 PM: Ukraine, using information operations, removed 17 thousand Russians from the battlefield without firing a single shot.

- Business Insider writes about this with reference to the statement of US Lieutenant General Jonathan Bragh.
- The publication notes that the Armed Forces or the GUR could collect information about the equipment and personnel of the enemy and use it to undermine the morale of individual troops of the Russian army.

7:08 PM: "Birds of Magyar" together with REP MP eliminated FPV drone operators on the basis of "ghouls", one of whom took responsibility for the destruction of 20 boats with soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

- The SAMOSUD crew of the 11th brigade of National Guardsmen worked on the occupiers, the commander of aerial reconnaissance Magyar said.
- In the first video, the interception of the departure point of the "ghouls" was recorded. On the second - a strike by SAMOSUD pilots on the enemy.

7:21 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on November 3:

- During the day _53 combat clashes took place_. The enemy launched 1 missile and 67 air strikes, carried out 40 attacks from rocket salvo systems on the positions of our troops and populated areas.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces made 9 strikes on the areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment and _2 - on the enemy's anti-aircraft missile systems_.
- In addition, the forces and means of air defense _destroyed 11 reconnaissance UAVs_.
- Units of the missile forces hit 7 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, _EW station, radar station, 2 ammunition warehouses_ and 10 artillery pieces of the enemy.

7:26 PM: Evening address of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi:

- "_Russia wanted Kyiv - but it was forced to flee. It wanted Kharkiv and said it was a Russian city, but our Kharkiv is and will always be free. So is Kherson. So is Odesa._"
- "_And we will not leave our people in the occupied territory - I want them to hear this now. It is about millions of dollars._"
- "_All partners know what is needed. For the front, for our sky, for our cities, for our movement_".

8:41 PM: President Volodymyr Zelenskyi signed the law on national minorities, which is necessary for the European integration of Ukraine.

- He said this in an evening video message on November 3.
- According to the head of state, the law provides additional guarantees for national communities and is one of the recommendations of the European Commission on Ukraine's path to the EU.

9:31 PM: Viktor Khorenko, the former commander of the SSO, said that he learned about his dismissal from the media. According to him, Valery Zaluzhnyi did not know about the dismissal either.

- "Glavkom was supposed to make a corresponding submission, but he answered me that he did not do such a thing. I don't understand what happened. He [Zaluzhny] called me, asked if I was aware of the situation. I said I didn't have the information_".
- In his evening address, Volodymyr Zelenskyy noted that Viktor Khorenko will continue to perform special tasks as part of the State Government.

9:55 PM: According to the materials of the SBU and the SBU, the people's deputy who organized the scheme for evaders received suspicion

- The deputy managed to smuggle his common-law wife's brother to a neighboring European country.
- The issue of selecting a preventive measure for the accused is being resolved. The pre-trial investigation is ongoing.

10:36 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Rostov, Russia.

MORDOR - ruZZia

Saturday, November 4

8:01 AM: The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation said that the Russian air defense system allegedly shot down four drones over the Belgorod and Kursk regions this night.

10:27 AM: The SBU reported the suspicion of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Kirill, who blessed the Russians to kill Ukrainians

- It is documented that in March 2022, an "article" about the liturgy was published on the website of the Russian Orthodox Church, where the cleric blessed Zolotov, the commander of the Rosguard of the Russian Federation, for the war against Ukraine.
- Also, at the end of February 2023, a video was released on the official YouTube channel of the ROC, in which Gundyayev justifies the occupation of eastern Ukraine.

10:51 AM: Unsuccessful tests of Yars and Bulava missiles, carriers of nuclear weapons, took place in Russia, - GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- On November 1, 2023, Russia conducted an unsuccessful test of the RS-24 Yars intercontinental ballistic missile. According to the GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Yars missile went off course.
- Similarly, on October 25, 2023, the test launch of the RSM-56 "Mace" ballistic missile from the underwater missile cruiser "Borey" ended unsuccessfully, which once again proved its unreliability.

Friday, November 3

2:07 PM: In Russia, the car of the general director of the "gosNIIImash" enterprise, which manufactures warheads for missiles, was burned - GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- "_This enterprise is a leader in the field of development and production of warheads for Russian missiles, with which the terrorist Moscow strikes targets in Ukraine_", - the intelligence reports.
- The action of burning the general director's personal car was carried out by representatives of the resistance movement.

9:14 PM: Russian media confirmed the liquidation of the FPV drone operators of the "ghoul" crew, as reported by Magyar.

11:53 PM: The Russians continue the policy of forced passporting in the temporarily occupied territories, reports the Center of National Resistance.

- the Russian government adopted a resolution on the permissible share of "foreign workers" at enterprises. It concerns Ukrainians who refuse to receive Russian passports in the temporarily occupied territories.
- In this way, the Russians plan to increase the pace of passporting, or make Ukrainians dependent on payments from the occupation administrations.

REGIONS

KYIV



Saturday, November 4

9:20 AM: Klitschko was additionally allocated almost UAH 85 million to support military intelligence, — GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

- "_Taxpayers' funds from the capital's treasury will be spent on the purchase of weapons and special equipment to strengthen the ability of Ukrainian soldiers-reconnaissance to repel Russian invaders. Thank you to the community and Kyiv City Council," the Main Directorate of Intelligence said.
- In general, within the framework of the "Defender of Kyiv" target program for 2022-2024, the city budget of the capital provides 250 million hryvnias for Ukrainian military intelligence.

9:48 AM: In Kyiv, the Soviet star is being dismantled on Victory Square.

Friday, November 3

2:18 PM: The capital's rescuers today received 3 new state-of-the-art fire trucks, which were handed over to Kyiv by the German city of Leipzig, the mayor of the capital Vitaliy Klitschko reports.

- "_These are 3 Renault cars with a 4x4 wheel formula and modern fire extinguishing systems_", Klitschko noted.
- Since the beginning of the large-scale war, Kyiv has attracted and received as aid 54 fire engines, 47 modern "fast" and 82 city buses.

9:43 PM: In Kyiv, all houses managed by utility management companies are connected to heat.

- As Vitaliy Klitschko informed, almost all institutions of the social sphere also have heat supply: kindergartens - 99.4%, schools - 97.1%, maternity homes - 92.3%, medical hospitals - 93.3%.

SUMY



Saturday, November 4

8:21 AM: Air defense forces destroyed two Shahed attack drones, which the Russians used to attack Sumyshchyna, during the night.

- This was reported by the Air Force of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

KHARKIV



Saturday, November 4

8:34 AM Kharkiv RMA: Over the past 24 hours, the Russians have continued to shell front-line and border settlements in the Kharkiv region.

- The city of Vovchansk, the outskirts of Kupyansk, Pletenivka of the Chuguyiv district, Blagodativka, Dvorichna, Synkivka, Petropavlivka, Berestov of the Kupyansk district and other settlements were under fire.

DONETSK



Friday, November 3

3:31 PM Mayor of Mariupol: There was an "arrival" in the center of temporarily occupied Volnovakha.

ZAPORIZHIA



Saturday, November 4

8:40 AM Zaporizhzhia RMA: In total, the Russians struck 126 strikes on 26 towns and villages of the Zaporizhzhia region in the past 24 hours.

- the Russians hit Zarichny with a rocket. 9 local residents were injured - 4 men and 5 women.
- 43 reports were received about the destruction of residential buildings and infrastructure facilities.

11:36 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the temporarily occupied Melitopol of the Zaporizhzhia region.

11:58 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the temporarily occupied Berdyansk Zaporizhzhia region.

Friday, November 3

12:22 PM: The SBU reported the suspicion of a businessman from Melitopol who is building "dragon's teeth" for the Russians on the southern front.

- We are talking about local businessman Ihor Skorobogatko. In October 2022, the person involved received a large-scale "contract" from the Russians for the production of more than 1,000 anti-tank barriers, known as "dragon's teeth."

- Also, according to the investigation, Skorobogatko is part of the close circle of Gauleiter Balytskyi, who contributed to his appointment to the "position" of the head of the captured "Melitopol Asphalt Concrete Plant".

1:06 PM: In the direction of Zaporizhzhia, DPSU fighters destroyed 3 enemy FPV drones, the Border Guard Service.

6:34 PM: At night, Ukrainian soldiers in the south destroyed the Russian S-300 air defense system.

- the Russians used it to guide missiles at Zaporozhye.

6:41 PM Komushyvaska Village Council: Russians struck the village of Zarichne in the Zaporizhzhia region, 11 people were injured.

- "_Multi-apartment and private residential buildings were damaged, several buildings were destroyed_" the message reads.

DNIPRO



Friday, November 3

8:26 PM: Thanks to the evidence base of the SBU, the traitor who directed the Russian "Hradi" to Nikopol received 15 years in prison.

- In addition, he tried to establish the locations of units of the Armed Forces near the waters of the Dnipro River.
- According to the investigation, the enemy accomplice turned out to be a serviceman who was serving in one of the military units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

KHERSON



Saturday, November 4

8:28 AM Kherson RMA: Over the past day, the Russians have carried out 97 shelling of the Kherson region.

- the Russian military took aim at the residential quarters of the populated areas of the region. 5 people were injured.

11:29 AM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

Friday, November 3

2:40 PM: The SBU detained two more female collaborators from the occupying "Russian Social Policy Directorate", which operated after the occupation of Kherson.

- One of the collaborators headed the "department of information work and document management", and the other was in charge of the so-called "billing department".
- Currently, both criminals are in custody, they face up to 10 years in prison.

2:59 PM Kherson Municipal Military Administration: The Russian army shelled the center of Kherson, three people were injured.

11:17 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in the suburbs of Kherson.

POLTAVA



Friday, November 3

5:01 PM: The Bureau of Economic Security has informed the head of the Poltava mining and beneficiation plant of suspicion of tax evasion of UAH 2.2 billion.

- "In the period from 2018 to 2021, the suspect entered false information in the company's official documents and understated the payment of funds to the budget for the use of the subsoil of the iron ore deposit by UAH 2.2 billion," the BEB press service writes.

11:49 PM: A missile was launched in the direction of Myrhorod, the Air Force reports.

11:58 PM: The missile changed its course in the direction of Chernihiv region (Nizhyn), the Air Force reports.

Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure from 12:00 November 3 to 12:00 November 4 2023

Civilian Casualties	Killed	0	Wounded	5	Land Mine Injuries	0
Strike Numbers	rocket/UAV strikes	0	bomb strikes	15	artillery or mortar strikes	386
Physical Damage	Residential	43	Commercial Property	0	Public/Infrastructure	0

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	Oct 30	Oct 31	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 610 days	After 611 days	After 612 days	After 623 days	After 624 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	300810	301,490	302,240	303,270	304,100

Material Losses

Tanks	147	5211	5223	5241	5265	5276
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	9804	9834	9877	9901	9939
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	8071	8096	8142	8182	8224
Cruise Missiles		1546	1547	1549	1551	1551
Fighters Bombers	118	321	321	322	322	322
Helicopters	333	324	324	324	324	324
Drones		5440	5468	5488	5495	5534
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		562	563	566	566	568
Cargo/Fuel/other transport	11,369	9590	9624	9658	9691	9716
Naval Vessels		20 + (1 submarine)	20 + (1 submarine)	20 + (1 submarine)	20 + (1 submarine)	20 + (1 submarine)
Specialized mobile electronic communication and jamming, ballistic radars		1016	1019	1032	1034	1038

SOURCES

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