Malcontent News
Russia-Ukraine War SITREP
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SUMMARY – DAY 651

It has been 3,601 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 286 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

Jump to the Action Report.

Summary:

- There are no map updates
- There are no updates to the Daily Assessment
- There are rumors updates
- Russian forces continue attacks in the Kupyansk AO
- Russian S-300 antiaircraft missiles struck Kharkiv, wounding two
- In Luhansk, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on Terny and Yampolivka from the Kreminna AO
- Ukrainian forces destroyed a TOS-1A MLRS in Soledar
- In the Bakhmut AO, Russian forces continued their attempts to set conditions for an attack on Chasiv Yar
- The deputy commander of the Azov 3rd Separate Assault Brigade provided an update on battlefield conditions
• Russian forces have been stopped “butt cold,” to quote the 1984 movie Red Dawn, at the Krasnohorivka Plateau
• Ukrainian forces are holding back Russian troops at Stepove
• A second prominent Russian milblogger used language that suggests Russian troops were pushed back in the Avdiivka industrial district
• Russian attacks continued on the south flank of Avdiivka
• Fighting continued in the Marinka and Vuhledar AOs
• Russia heavily shelled two Ukrainian thermal power plants near the LOC in Donetsk
• Russian occupiers in Donetsk admitted fuel storage tanks were destroyed on December 6, and not liquid asphalt
• In occupied Mariupol, Russian forces are conducting retribution filtration exercises of city residents after insurgents assassinated officers
• Fighting continued in the Orikhiv AO, with new reports suggesting Ukrainian troops advanced toward Kopani from Robotyne
• Insurgents destroyed a Russian truck in Berdyansk, likely using an IED
• The IAEA provided an update on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant
The Truth Matters

- Geolocated video from Krynky confirms our map and that Ukrainian forces are on the western edge of the settlement
- Ukraine attacked a Russian based in occupied Stara Zburivka
- Up to four Kh-101/Kh-55/555 cruise missiles struck Pavlohrad, Ternivka, and Yurivka in Dnipropetrovsk, killing one and wounding four
- Air defenses in Kyiv shot down up to 10 Kh-101/Kh-55/555 cruise missiles
- In Moscow, Russia, the Elektrozavod factory, which is Russia's largest producer of electrical transformers, suffered a significant fire
- Russia attacked Ukraine with seven Shahed-136 one-way drones, with five shot down
- Ukraine had to purchase electricity from Slovakia, Romania, and Poland to support its infrastructure
- Japan pledged to provide $4.5 billion in financial aid to Ukraine in 2024
- The head of the budget committee of the Verkhovna Rada warned that without United States assistance, Ukraine may not be able to meet its social services requirements
- Ukrzaliznytsia officials sent the first batch of trucks over the Polish border by rail to bypass the ongoing blockade
• Australia is sending a new “batch” of Bushmaster MRAPS
• The Defense Committee of the Bulgarian Parliament authorized the transfer of expired S-300 antiaircraft missiles to Ukraine for refurbishment
• The United States Navy will complete the delivery of 14 Vampire anti-drone systems with munitions by the end of the year
• Ukraine signed a contract with two U.S. defense companies to make 155 mm shells, but the start date is “years” away
• A report by the Kiel Institute of World Economics reported that aid to Ukraine dropped 87% between August and October 2023
• Colonel General Ramzan Kadyrov claims great victory against Ukrainian troops by attacking Belgorod, Russia
• You read that right
• Nepal arrested ten handlers who were recruiting men to join the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation
• The Russian commissariat is conscripting and mobilizing college students on academic deferment
• Former PMC Wagner Group mercenaries are now working for PMC Storm V, and it’s going as we predicted – meat
• Former Wagnerites are complaining that President Putin isn’t creating National Guard groups at a federal region level – as we predicted
• Igor ‘Strelkov’ Girkin will spend another six months as a guest of the Lefortovo Prison
• Russia has attempted to force conscript undocumented immigrants who failed to cross the border into Finland and are being held in detention centers
• According to a recent poll, 21% of Russians want to ask President Putin when the war ends
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We maintain that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are facing an increasingly critical shortage of ammunition that is directly impacting the ability to maintain existing defensive lines and increasing casualties.
2. We maintain that Ukrainian forces no longer have the combat potential to achieve tactical success, while Russian troops remain capable of tactical success and have the potential to meet limited operational goals.
3. We maintain that the reduction in Ukrainian combat potential, despite adequate personnel and military hardware, is directly due to delayed and declining military aid from allied nations.
4. Attritional warfare that more closely resembles World War I versus 21st-century combined arms maneuver warfare will likely continue through meteorological winter, which started on December 1.
5. The weather in Ukraine has transitioned to winter. A reduced operational tempo will continue for the foreseeable future with periods of disrupted logistics and limited intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) efforts for both combatants.
6. Russian commanders have put mission objectives over all other considerations and remain committed to capturing the Avdiivka salient regardless of the cost, dedicating a force of sufficient size to collapse the Ukrainian salient for the first time since 2014.

7. Despite these issues, we maintain that without using CBRN weapons or an unforeseen catastrophic event, Russian forces will not achieve their goal of capturing the remainder of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblast by December 31.

8. Our confidence is dropping that Russia is exclusively stockpiling missiles for larger-scale attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure due to the clear arrival of winter weather, which is straining the Ukrainian electrical grid.

9. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously. We are troubled by additional reports of technical failures from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the lack of international attention.
About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted like this, it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

- Russia-Ukraine War Report Map
SOIL SATURATION AND TRACTABILITY

Almost all of Ukraine is at 95% to 100% soil saturation to 40 centimeters depth and 75% to 90% to 100 centimeters. Weather models indicate there won't be much change through December 15. Further, along the line of conflict, soil moisture levels are above the historical average. Tractability will remain a problem anywhere the temperature stays above freezing for more than a few hours.
SNOW DEPTH

Snowpack now extends to the Odesa region and just west of Kherson (city of). Snowpack of 2 to 4 centimeters is also in the Avdiivka and Marinka areas of operation (AO). There is little change through December 12.
The Euro ensemble weather model is little changed, with temperatures between -9 to +12 C through December 12, with the warmest weather on December 8 in occupied Crimea. On Friday, another round of snow and rain/snow mix will cross Ukraine, with winds up to 60 kph in some areas. The cool, cloudy, and snowy pattern will continue through December 12.
**KHARKIV AND LUHANSK**

**Russian Objective:** Repcature all territory from Kupyansk to Pisky Radkivski and push Ukrainian forces from the right bank of the Oskil River, recapture all of the Luhansk Oblast, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict.

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold and harden defensive lines in the Kupyansk, Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk Operational Areas and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.
In the Kupyansk Area of Operation (AO) in Kharkiv, mutual positional fighting continued north of Synkivka, with no change in the situation.\(^1\) \(^2\) \(^3\) \(^4\) Russia has deployed Private Military Company Storm V into the AO, which is comprised of remnants of PMC Wagner Group mercenaries. There is more information in the Russian Mobiks, Mobilization, and Mir section.

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\(^1\) https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
\(^2\) https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244
\(^3\) https://t.me/mod_russia/33304 [Russian Government controlled social media channel]
\(^4\) https://t.me/wargonzoz/16874
The Kholodnohirskyi and Shevchenkivskyi Districts in the city of Kharkiv were hit by six S-300 antiaircraft missiles used for a ground attack. The missiles landed in civilian areas, destroying a playground, a school, and approximately 20 parked cars. Two people were wounded in the overnight attack.

5 https://t.me/synegubov/7697
In the Kreminna AO of Luhansk, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on Terny and Yampolivika [Donetsk] without success.\(^6\) \(^7\) \(^8\)

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\(^6\) https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
\(^7\) https://t.me/mod_russia/33304 [Russian Government controlled social media channel]
\(^8\) https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
NORTHEAST DONETSK

**Russian Objective:** Complete the capture of Bakhmut AO, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire Donetsk region by December 31

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk, stabilize more advantageous defensive lines on the north flank of Bakhmut for winter, harden existing defensive lines, and minimize civilian casualties
In the Soledar AO, a Ukrainian drone severely damaged a Russian TOS-1A multiple-launch rocket system (MLRS).9

In the Bakhmut AO, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on Bohdanivka from the north and advance further west from Khromove.10 11 12 There was no change in the situation. On the southwestern edge of Bakhmut in the community garden dachas, Russian forces

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9 https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18247
10 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
11 https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244
12 https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
made another attempt to advance in the direction of Ivanivske.\textsuperscript{13}

In the Klishchiivka AO, heavy fighting continued north of Klishchiivka and east of Andriivka with no change in the situation.\textsuperscript{14} \textsuperscript{15} \textsuperscript{16} \textsuperscript{17} Deputy Commander of the Ukrainian Azov 3rd Separate Assault Brigade, Maksym Zhorin, described the challenges his troops are facing. “Now the enemy has enough forces to press simultaneously along the entire

\textsuperscript{13} https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
\textsuperscript{14} https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
\textsuperscript{15} https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244
\textsuperscript{16} https://t.me/mod_russia/33304 [Russian Government controlled social media channel]
\textsuperscript{17} https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
front line, and it is felt. First of all, we see the personnel of the engaged enemy units – there are a lot of them. And I hope everyone remembers that losses are not a problem for Russians, no matter what they are. They are sent, [and] they die in large numbers, but this does not reduce the tension. In addition, they have pulled up a large number of drones, and with this, they create a lot of problems in all points of the front line.”18

18 https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126458
**Russian Objective:** Capture Avdiivka from December 13 and the remainder of the Donetsk Oblast by December 31

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold and harden existing defensive lines, prevent the capture of Avdiivka, protect civilian lives
The most intense fighting continues to be in the Avdiivka AO. Russian troops continued their attempts to advance from Novobakhmutivka in the direction of Yurivka with no change in the situation.¹⁹ Ukrainian and Russian sources reported continuing fighting east of Stepove, with the area between the first street in the village and the railroad tracks to the east a no man’s land.²⁰ ²¹ ²²

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¹⁹ https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063  
²⁰ https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244  
²¹ https://t.me/wargonzo/16874  
²² https://twitter.com/lost_warinux/status/1732742780760261051
Fighting continued northeast and east of the Avdiivka Coke Plant complex with no change in the situation.23, 24

On the southern flank, a second Russian milblogger, MultiXAM, claimed that Russian forces were advancing “toward the industrial zone” on the southeastern edge of Avdiivka.25 We did not make changes to the map due to the lack of supporting evidence. Subordinate attacks by Russian forces continued in the no man’s land between

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23 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063
24 https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244
25 https://t.me/multi_XAM/1058
Vodyane, Tonenke, and Sieverne and near Pervomaiske, with no change in the situation.  

In the Marinka AO, Ukrainian forces continue to hold their defensive lines on the western and northwestern edges of the settlement.

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26 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063  
27 https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244  
28 https://t.me/wargonzo/16874  
29 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063  
30 https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
In the Vuhledar AO, Russian forces attempted to advance on Novomykhailivka, suffered heavy losses, and retreated to their defensive positions.\(^3\)

Ukrainian officials reported that a thermal power plant in Donetsk close to the front lines is under constant shelling, causing severe damage to two of the boilers. While the

\(^{3}\) [https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063](https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14063)
facility was not specified, in our assessment, it is likely in Kurakhove.\(^{32}\)

On December 6, we questioned official reports about the attack on the fuel depot in occupied Donetsk, striking tanks with liquid asphalt. Occupation officials are now saying that tanks for area boiler houses were destroyed.\(^{33}\) That’s also unlikely, as the only issue reported in local news is water shortages are causing heating issues.\(^{34}\) Donetsk districts are rotating water access every other day for four hours a day.\(^{35}\)

Insurgents in occupied Mariupol shot an unknown number of Russian officers. Russian special services are tracking ethnic Ukrainians in the occupied territories to see what pages they like and follow on social media and file charges against them as part of their search for partisans, casting a wide net.\(^{36}\)

\(^{32}\) https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126434
\(^{33}\) https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126386
\(^{34}\) https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1732980219437613509
\(^{35}\) https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1732981489774801318
\(^{36}\) https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126407
Russian Objective: Defend against the continued Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Capitalize on the breakthrough of the second echelon of the Surovikin Line, sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians
In Zaporizhzhia, the operational tempo remained low compared to last week in the Orikhiv AO. Russian forces used reconnaissance in force near Novofedorivka, and according to Russian sources, the mission failed. Russian forces also attacked west of Verbove and Robotyne but could not move the line of conflict (LOC). A note in the morning report from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine caught our attention with the Russian

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37 https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
38 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14064
39 https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18244
40 https://t.me/mod_russia/33304 [Russian Government controlled social media channel]
41 https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
Aerospace Forces (VKS) attacking Ukrainian forces near Kopani.42

In occupied Berdyansk, a Russian URAL truck was likely destroyed by a roadside IED.43 Insurgents supported by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the Main Defense Intelligence Directorate (GUR) have been increasingly active over the last week. There was almost nothing left of the truck and a 1.5-meter-deep crater left in the road.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided an update on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).44 Only the 750 kilovolt (kV) external power connection remains, with the 330 kV disconnected since December 2. Repairs to the switchyard from the Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant (ZTPP) will reportedly be completed in the coming week.

During the total power failure on December 1 and 2, Reactor 4, which is in hot shutdown, “briefly” lost all power to its cooling pumps. The reactors at ZNPP can run for 27

42 https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14064
43 https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/3989
44 International Atomic Energy Agency
hours in a hot shutdown state without coolant circulation, but it represents another alarming incident.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said, “The IAEA remains fully focused on doing everything it can to help prevent a nuclear accident during this devastating war. The repeated loss of off-site power at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, sometimes from causes at a considerable distance from the plant, remains one of our main challenges in this context, especially during the winter months. No one would gain from a nuclear accident, and it must be avoided.”

Grossi continued, “The new team of IAEA experts will continue to pay close attention to the staffing situation at the ZNPP, the status of the external power supply, as well as maintenance activities at the site, including any actions the plant may take following last month's detection of boron in the secondary circuit of a steam generator of unit 5. Borated water is used in the primary coolant to help maintain nuclear safety functions.”

“In a continuous reminder of the physical proximity of the conflict to the ZNPP, the IAEA experts continue to hear explosions in the distance, likely from heavy artillery and
rockets. Today, the new team reported that they heard nine explosions closer to the site."

“Also today, the IAEA team conducted a walk down of the turbine halls of all six reactor units. The experts did not observe any mines, explosives, military equipment, or vehicles in the areas they visited. Not all parts of the turbine halls were accessed, so additional access would be required to fully assess whether there were any items present that could potentially impact nuclear safety.”
KHerson

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian forces from reaching the T-2206 Highway south of the Konka River, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

Ukrainian Objective: Further expand existing bridgeheads on the left bank of the Dnipro and Konka Rivers, lock Russian troops and reserves in place, continue a southern advance into eastern Kherson toward the Crimean Peninsula, minimize civilian casualties
In Kherson, intense fighting continued in the forests south of Krynky and on the edge of the settlement.\textsuperscript{45} \textsuperscript{46} A graphic video showed Russian troops suffering heavy losses after engaging with the Ukrainian 35th Naval Infantry Brigade in the western part of the settlement, right on our current LOC. The video is NSWF, not for children, and some may find it disturbing. You can watch the video by \textsuperscript{47} clicking here.\textsuperscript{47}

In occupied Stara Zburivka, a Russian base was likely hit by rockets fired by HIMARS.\textsuperscript{48} The glow of the fire\textsuperscript{49} could be seen from the city of Kherson.\textsuperscript{49}

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{45} https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/14064
  \item \textsuperscript{46} https://t.me/wargonzo/16874
  \item \textsuperscript{47} https://twitter.com/UAControlMap/status/1732929143514271947
  \item \textsuperscript{48} https://t.me/hueviyherson/50049
  \item \textsuperscript{49} https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/12057
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BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Ukraine accused Russia of using aircraft to deploy mines in Black Sea shipping lanes.\(^{50}\) Several cargo vessels struck sea mines from June to November, with no vessels sunk.

Russian state media confirmed that a Su-24M multirole fighter aircraft was shot down near Zmiinyi Island with the loss of the aircrew. Sources have confirmed in the public domain that Ukraine has deployed a Patriot battery in the Odesa region, and it is speculated the system was used to shoot down the Russian plane.\(^{51}\)

Russian launched 14 Shahed-136 drones in the direction of the Danube River ports of Reni and Izmail. Eleven were shot down, with three striking port infrastructure in Izmail. A warehouse, grain elevator, and trucks were damaged, killing one person.\(^{52}\)

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\(^{50}\) https://t.me/Crimeanwind/49625
\(^{51}\) https://t.me/our_odessa/58118
\(^{52}\) https://t.me/odeskaODA/3449
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks and protect civilian lives

In the first cruise missile attack conducted by T-95MS bombers in 79 days, the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast hromadas of Pavlohrad, Yurivka, and Ternivka were hit by missiles or significant debris. There was damage to an “industrial enterprise,” 21 homes, and a church. One person was killed and four wounded in the attack.53

53 https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126504
NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

In Kyiv, Colonel-General Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration (KMVA), reported on the missile strikes against the capital. “After a long pause of 79 days, the enemy resumed strikes with cruise missiles from the Tu-95MS strategic aircraft. Previously, about ten missile-carrying bombers launched cruise missiles of the [Kh]-101/555/55 type from the Engels District of the Saratov Region. The air alarm in the capital lasted almost 2 hours. But not a single enemy target reached the city. All rockets flying in the direction of Kyiv were destroyed...”

At the time of publication, no significant damage or casualties were reported.

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54 https://t.me/VA_Kyiv/3715
RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective: Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

In Moscow, the Elektrozavod factory caught on fire. The enterprise is the largest producer of transformers for electricity in Russia.  

55 https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126429
THEATERWIDE

It has been zero days since Russia last launched Kh-101/Kh-55/Kh-555 cruise missiles at Ukraine and 71 days since the last Kalibr cruise missile launch. Russia launched 14 Kh-101/Kh-55 cruise missiles from nine Tu-95MS strategic bombers, with ten confirmed intercepted at the time of publication.56 57 Earlier in the day, Russia launched seven Shahed-136 one-way drones, with five shot down.58

Ukraine came up with a way to breach the border blockade into Poland, placing trucks with their semi trailers on railroad cars bypassing road-based ports of entry.59

Unrelated to the drone attacks, Ukraine needed to buy electricity from Romania, Poland, and Slovakia to prevent rolling blackouts due to cold weather.60

The budget director of the Verkhovna Rada, Roksolana Pidlasa, told Forbes magazine that if United States financial support ends in December, Ukraine will miss some

56 https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126506
58 https://t.me/Nazars_Look/20377
59 https://t.me/couch_iu/47773
60 https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/12/7/7432091/
social services payments by the early part of 2024. “As for January expenses in the social and humanitarian spheres, without US help, certain difficulties may already arise.”

Japan announced it would provide Ukraine with $4.5 billion in financial aid in 2024.61

Ukrzaliznytsia has officially started moving semi-trucks with their trailers by rail to bypass the Polish border blockade.62 Polish customs and border clearance inspects the trucks, and a bus transfers the drivers over the border. The train returns with a batch of empty trucks and trailers.

On December 6, our chief content officer noted a significant increase in military cargo plane activity in Australia—enough to warrant a “what do you think” to the analysts. On December 7, the Australian Ambassador to Ukraine, Bruce Edwards, announced that his nation was transferring another batch of Bushmaster mine-resistant ambush protection (MRAP) vehicles.63 Now we know what is on those C-17s from three nations.

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61 https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/7362
62 https://t.me/suspinenews/26686
63 https://t.me/couch_iu/47830
The Defense Committee of the Bulgarian Parliament authorized the transfer of all of their date-expired S-300 antiaircraft missiles. Ukraine has the technical capabilities to refurbish them.64

Before the end of the year, the United States Navy will complete the transfer of 14 Vampire anti-drone systems to Ukraine this month.65 The Vampires will be installed on high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), more commonly known as Hummers. These systems were designed to detect and intercept drones. Ukraine will also be receiving the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) AGR-20 missiles. The ARG-20 is loosely based on the 70 mm unguided Hydra rocket and adds a laser-seeking system and guidance system.

Speaking on Marathon, the head of the Ministry of Strategic Industry, Alexander Kamyshin, said that Ukraine had signed contracts with two U.S. companies to start production of 155 mm artillery rounds. “There are long-term solutions, but very important for us...the implementation of these projects will take years.”66

64 https://t.me/couch_iu/47832
65 https://t.me/operativnoZSU/126422
66 https://t.me/uniannet/119347
The Kiel Institute of World Economics reported that between August and October 2023, Ukraine received 2.11 billion euros worth of aid, the smallest amount since January 2022 and an 87% decrease from the spring of 2023. “Out of the 42 surveyed donors, only 20 promised to provide new aid packages during the last three months, which is the lowest figure since the beginning of the war. The European Union and the United States also practically did not undertake new commitments,” the publication says.67

The table for equipment losses was updated on December 5, 2023, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24. The latest data does not include the Su-24M shot down on December 5.

67 https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/50149
RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the Oryx Database from February 24, 2022, to December 5, 2023.

13,293 Russian (including Chef's Rebellion) vs. 4,725 Ukrainian

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<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Russian Losses</th>
<th>Ukrainian Losses</th>
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<td>314</td>
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<td>381</td>
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<td>3.67:1</td>
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<td>331*</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>1.95:1</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>2.40:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLRS</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6.12:1</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMs</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1.55:1</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Radars</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0.56:1</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>EW/ECW</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12.80:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winged Aircraft</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1.22:1</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helicopters</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3.86:1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Vessels and Submarines</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.70:1</td>
<td>↑</td>
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RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR

TikTok video executive producer, aspiring dentist, and fan fiction writer Colonel General Ramzan Kadyrov boldly proclaimed that Chechen Akhmat in Belgorod defeated Ukrainian forces by blowing by a radio communications tower...in Belgorod.\textsuperscript{68,69} The video shows that no Ukrainians were harmed in the latest production.

Nepalese officials arrested ten handlers for recruiting citizens to fight in the ranks of the Russian Federation.\textsuperscript{70} The intermediaries charge up to $9,000 to process fake tourist visas and then transport the men to Russia, where they join private military companies (PMCs) as contract mercenaries.\textsuperscript{71}

The Russian commissariat has started forcing college students who are on deferments into military service.\textsuperscript{72} The conscription of students who went on academic leave during their studies is illegal in Russia since, during this

\textsuperscript{68} https://t.me/RKadyrov_95/4230
\textsuperscript{69} https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/7360
\textsuperscript{70} https://t.me/uniannet/119225
\textsuperscript{71} https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/12/6/7431870/
\textsuperscript{72} https://t.me/astrapress/43559
period, they remain students, and their deferment continues to apply.

Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko reported that the remnants of PMC Wagner Group have been moved to a new company, PMC Storm V. Storm V operates under the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) and is the new brand for the defunct Wagner Group. In the Kupyansk AO, three companies of Storm V are assigned to the Russian 25th and 138th Motor Infantry Brigades and are used in frontal assaults. As we assessed at the end of June 2023, any Wagnerite who signs a new contract with RMOD or is still serving their contract will be scattered into special units used for missions with low chances of survival.

The Wagner Orchestra Telegram channel, not an official PMC Wagner Group channel, reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin has not requested any federal region to create new National Guard units despite receiving the power in October. “If for some reason this project does not take place, then this may mean that personal ambitions and grievances of third parties are placed above the interests of the Fatherland.”

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73 https://t.me/zloyodessit/20585
74 https://t.me/romanov_92/43222
ASSESSMENT: It is stunning that some former members of PMC Wagner Group can’t understand what is going on.

In a closed-door hearing, a Moscow court decided to keep our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, failed mobik, 2024 Russian presidential candidate, and guest of Lefortovo Prison, Igor ‘Streklov’ Girkin, imprisoned for another six months.75 76 His next hearing is on December 14 and will also be closed-door as his case is considered a “state secret.”

The BBC reported that some of the undocumented asylum seekers who attempted to cross into Finland from Russia are being forced into conscription with the Russian Federation Armed Forces.77 After the border was closed by Finland, the undocumented immigrants were arrested for having expired or no visas, fined, and held in detention. They were then offered an opportunity “to work for the state” to avoid deportation. Those who accepted were taken to the military enlistment office and threatened with prison if they didn’t sign a contract.

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75 https://t.me/unianet/119321
76 https://t.me/astrapress/43635
According to a poll conducted by the Levada Center, 21% of Russians want to ask Russian President Putin when the war in Ukraine will end, or similarly worded question. Putin is holding his annual call-in programs, where regular citizens can speak to him on the phone.

**RUMORS**

Many messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.

- Was Russian General Mikhail Teplinksy removed from command of the Dnipro Group? – undetermined and unlikely, but a lot of Russian chatter
- Is Morocco receiving 500 surplus Bradley Fighting Vehicles from the United States – undetermined
- Is the Minister of Defense of Ukraine considering firing two more commanders? – Unlikely

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78 https://t.me/astrapress/43566
• Will Iran provide Russia with short-range ballistic missiles? – Unlikely
Notes on Sourcing Information

Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don’t. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.

⚠️ Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report: We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.

⚠️ Rybar: We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is $20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying all Russian war crimes.

⚠️ War Gonzo: We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for unique claims about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.
Readovka: We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation. This is by no means a complete list of the sources we monitor.

Igor "Girkin" Strelkov: We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units have greater fidelity.

Andrei Morozov: Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detained by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media: We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or unique Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination: The organization has not posted any update since June 9, 2023, and we have ceased monitoring.
Leonid Pasechnik: We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia: We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense: We do not use combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

Denis Pushilin: We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

Ramzan Kadyrov: The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

DeepState: We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or
misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at $10 a month.

✅ Institute for the Study of War: We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠️ Ivan Fedorov: We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✅ Vitaly Kim: When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government officials to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

🚫 Oleksiy Arestovych: We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.