



**MALCONTENT NEWS  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR  
SITUATION REPORT**



**April 16, 2022**







# Malcontent News Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

## 4/16/22 23:15 PDT

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers located in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities. We do not accept advertisers on our website [malcontentnews.com](http://malcontentnews.com).

We are funded through Patreon, grants, donations, and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact [social@malcontentnews.com](mailto:social@malcontentnews.com). For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at [tips@malcontentment.com](mailto:tips@malcontentment.com).

[Patrons at the Bronze level or higher](#) get access to the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patrons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2022, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved.

Authors: David H. Obelcz and Jeff Davis

### Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 52 .....	2
KEY EVENTS MAP .....	6
DONBAS REGION .....	7
KHARKIV REGION .....	14
DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION .....	15
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION .....	16
KYIV REGION .....	17
BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION.....	17
WEST REGION .....	18
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS .....	19
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	24
GEOPOLITICAL.....	26
ECONOMIC.....	26
DISINFORMATION EVALUATION .....	27

## **SUMMARY – DAY 52**

Fighting for control of Mariupol is now in its 44th day. The Russian Ministry of Defense demanded that Ukrainian forces surrender by 13:00 Moscow time on April 17. It is estimated that 2,500 defenders remain concentrated in the Avoztal Metallurgical Plant.

Despite Russian claims they control the rest of the city, multiple videos released in the last 24 hours showed continued fighting in the city center and the eastern neighborhoods.

Fighting in the Donbas continued without any territorial gains. Russian, Chechen, and Russia-backed militias have targeted mainly civilians and civilian infrastructure around Severodeontsk. Of the 130,000 residents, only 20,000 remain. Seventy percent of all buildings have been destroyed, and there is no water, electricity, or natural gas.

Ukrainian forces have turned Marinka outside of Donetsk into a World War I fortress with trenches, bunkers, and tank traps. Reports that Russia-backed militias had overtaken the settlement on April 14 were untrue.

Russian forces shelled and fired missiles at Kyiv, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Lviv, and Kharkiv during the previous 48 hours.

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that 22 Russian Battalion Tactical Groups are staged north of Izyum as forces continue to consolidate for an anticipated offensive.

Outside of Izyum, a Russian Ka-52 attack helicopter and Su-34 were shot down, and a Ukrainian Su-24 was shot down in three separate incidents.

A third mass grave was found in Bucha, where 73 bodies were excavated on April 15. New satellite images show a dramatic increase in the number of graves in Kherson, where FSB agents have begun raiding civilian homes.

Russian General Vladimir Frolov was killed in action in the Donbas while serving with the Southern Military District.

Russian state media released a video showing 80 to 90 sailors from the cruiser Moskva being received in Sevastopol. The status of an estimated 350 to 400 still missing is unknown.

**ASSESSMENT:** Strategically, little has changed in the previous 48 hours. Russia struggles to find replacement troops, and there are growing indications that the military is running low on precision munitions and state-of-the-art equipment.

The Russian Air Force used Tu-22M3 strategic bombers to drop eight 1,500 kilogram “dumb bombs” on the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant on April 15. Using gravity bombs instead of SRBM or Kalibr cruise missiles indicates a lack of supply. It also could have been caused by the Black Sea fleet pulling back from the Ukrainian coast after the loss of the Moskva.

A train was spotted transporting 40 9K55 Grad-1 MLRS mounted on ZIL-131 trucks – these are Cold War museum pieces. The ZIL-131 first started production in 1964, and the 9K55 Grad-1 has a limited range that requires it to be closer to the line of conflict.

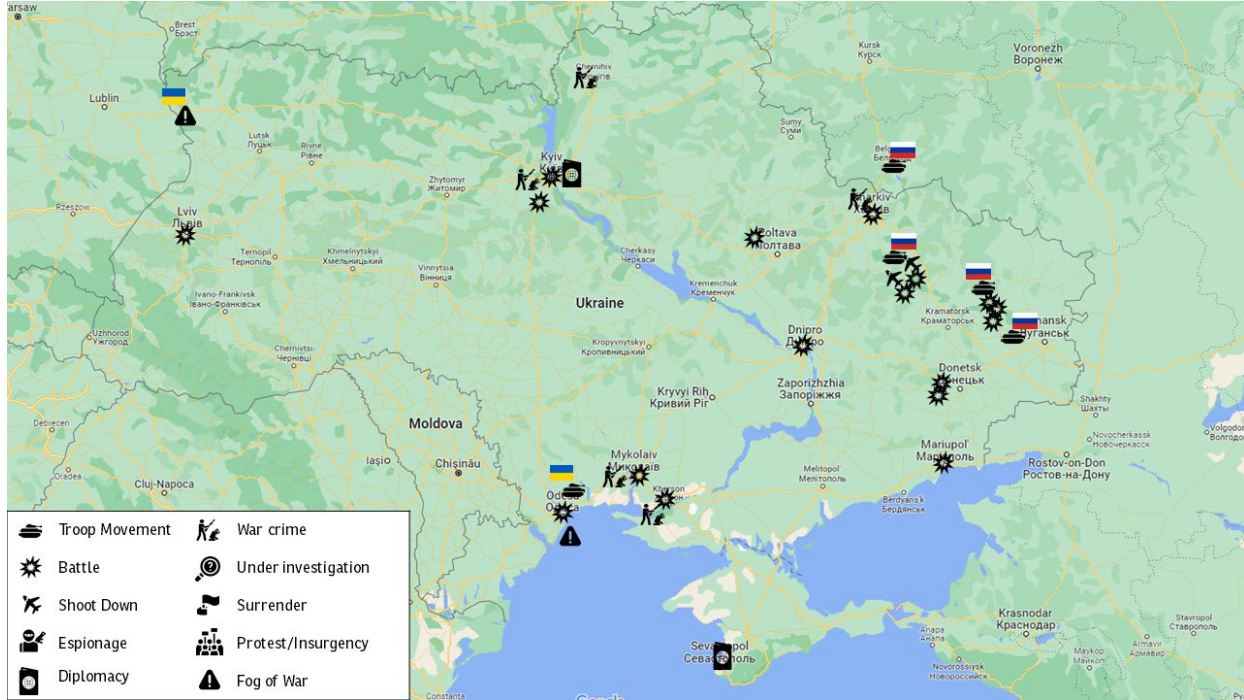
An intercepted phone call revealed a Russian Colonel complaining recent replacement troops arriving in the Donbas are “drunks, grandfathers, and prostitutes of the worst kind.”



**There are reports that some Russian tanks are now operating with only two crew members due to severe staffing issues.**

**We maintain that Russia can overwhelm Ukrainian forces in the Donbas in a coordinated attack along all axes. We do not believe that Russia can hold the territorial gains, and unlike the siege of Kyiv and Chernihiv, defeat will be a crushing blow for Russian ground forces.**

# KEY EVENTS MAP



## DONBAS REGION

The siege of Mariupol continues, now 44 days long. Reports by pro-Russian social media accounts that the remaining Ukrainian forces in the city have surrendered are untrue.

The Russian Ministry of Defense issued a second ultimatum for Ukrainian troops to surrender by 13:00 Moscow time on April 17, 2022. If they lay down their arms before the deadline, The MoD stated the safety of Ukrainian soldiers and foreign mercenaries would be "guaranteed."<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Defense made no declaration on what would happen for forces that don't surrender. The offer was being broadcasted across Mariupol.

The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that 2,500 Ukrainian forces and members of Azov Batallion continue to fight in the city, concentrated in the Avostal Metallurgical Plant. Ukrainian forces released a photo of themselves in Mariupol, stating they refused to surrender.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [BBC](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPR/status/1515316075411386370>



The Russian Air Force used Tu-22M3 strategic bombers to drop eight 1,500 kilogram “dumb bombs” on the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant on April 15.<sup>3</sup>

Ukrainian President Voldoymyr Zelenskyy threatened to end all peace negotiations with Russia if Ukrainian defenders are massacred.

“I want to say that the elimination of our military, our guys, will put an end to all negotiations.”<sup>4</sup>

Zelenskyy called the situation in Mariupol “extremely severe” and reported that only a small part of Mariupol remained under Ukrainian control.<sup>5</sup>

The Mariupol City Council released a drone video showing the city's eastern side, where up to 95% of all residential buildings are destroyed.<sup>6</sup> Images from Russia State Media show Russian T-72 tanks in the main port.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://twitter.com/wolski\\_jaros/status/1515033568682123275](https://twitter.com/wolski_jaros/status/1515033568682123275)

<sup>4</sup> [BBC](#)

<sup>5</sup> [BBC](#)

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/Sky\\_Lee\\_1/status/1515325628609961986](https://twitter.com/Sky_Lee_1/status/1515325628609961986)

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515271628057317377>

Chechen forces released a video showing fighting outside the Azovstal Metallurgical Factory in civilian areas.<sup>8</sup>

Russia-backed militias released a video claiming to have captured Mariupol Plyazh or Yacht Club Beach.<sup>9</sup> The video was taken south of Markokhim, just north of the main port of Mariupol, an area that Russia has claimed to control for a week.<sup>10</sup>

Another video shows the same group removing the Ukrainian flag over the “main police station” in Mariupol.<sup>11</sup> Since the end of March, the area around the central police station has been under Russian control.<sup>12</sup>

Another video from Russian state media showed armor units moving through civilian areas the Ministry of Defense claims are under Russian control and firing into buildings.<sup>13</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Ukrainian resistance is in two pockets, with the main contingent at the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant.

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/RespectIsVital/status/1515259859960307712> [Russian State Media - Rating: Valid]

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/AZmilitary1/status/1515300304119644172> [Russian State Media - Rating: Misinformation]

<sup>10</sup> <https://goo.gl/maps/KZjddc4UP5hFqw9JA>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/AZmilitary1/status/1515290166818189322> [Russian State media - Rating: Misinformation]

<sup>12</sup> <https://goo.gl/maps/1d4feP91kdGp1BYV8>

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPR/status/1515221970127892480> [Euromaidan PR - Rating: Valid]

Videos released by pro-Russian forces showed continued fighting in the central and eastern parts of the city.

We had assessed that the last stand for Mariupol would happen within the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant due to the tactical advantage it provides as a reinforced defensive position. Based on the recent amount of geolocated information and reports from both sides, the final battle for control of Mariupol has begun.

Mariupol will likely fall under Russian control in the next two to ten days. We do not believe Ukrainian forces will surrender en masse on April 17.

Russian General Vladimir Frolov was killed in action in the Donbas while serving with the Southern Military District.<sup>14</sup> Frolov is the eighth Russian general confirmed to have died in action and the fifth to die in the Kherson, Luhansk, or Donetsk Oblasts. His death was confirmed by his funeral, held in Russia on April 15,<sup>15</sup> and by the Russian Ministry of Defense.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/SamRamani2/status/1515452564078268425>

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1515471155829907457>

<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/yarotrof/status/1515343018471006212>

In Luhansk, artillery shelling and rocket attacks continued around the Severodonetsk salient, including Rubizhne and Lysychansk. Only 20,000 residents remain in Severodonetsk, where 70% of the buildings are now destroyed, and the public water supply has been destroyed.<sup>17</sup>

Social media reports indicated a column of 58 Russian vehicles passed through Svatove, about 40 kilometers north of Kreminna.<sup>18</sup> Poor OPSEC from Russian State Media confirmed the report. Kreminna remains under Ukrainian control, with reports of Russian forces now targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.<sup>19</sup>

Russia State Media also showed an armored column, reporting a new “brigade had been formed” heading toward Popasnya.<sup>20</sup> The video showed some Russian T-80 tanks with a new design of cope cages on the turrets.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> <https://omni.se/severodonetsk-nastan-70-procent-forstort/a/BjK6Al>

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1515377896981946370>

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515057529163821062>

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/sirajnoorani/status/1515445361086648321>

<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/sirajnoorani/status/1515445361086648321> [Russian State media - Rating: Valid]



In Donetsk, fighting continues in the settlement of Avdiivka. Russian and Russia-backed militias were attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure.<sup>22</sup>

Reports that Russian forces captured Marinka on April 14 were untrue. The town has been reduced to a World War I battlefield and heavily fortified by Ukrainian troops.<sup>23</sup>

The Deputy of the People's Council of the Donetsk People's Republic, Vladislav Berdichevsky, called for the complete destruction of Marinka and Krasnohorivka on Telegram.<sup>24</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian, DNR, and LNR strategy in the Donbas has remained unchanged. The deployment of the 1st Guards Tank Army elements has not changed the situation or enabled any new territorial gains. The terror campaign against civilians in the region works against Russian forces among ethnic Russians and helps Ukrainian troops to dig in deeper and prepare for urban warfare. The terrain in this region is not favorable for the Russian military strategy of artillery barrages followed by the rapid advancement of armored infantry.

---

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/bjoernstritzel/status/1515358490805612545>

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/Taurevanime/status/1514809765272043525>

<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPR/status/1515234789921484800>

Seasoned Ukrainian troops have been combatting the implementation of this strategy for seven years and have implemented extensive countermeasures.

Russia will need to conduct a coordinated attack along the entire line of conflict from Kasyanivka to the Izyum salient to overwhelm Ukrainian forces. The continued approach of ad hoc deployments of untrained conscripts with minimal air support could still overcome Ukrainian lines in an all-out assault. However, there are insufficient resources to hold territorial gains.

Russia will be incapable of mounting a coordinated offensive without a total operational pause across the Donbas and into the Kharkiv Oblast.

Additionally, Russian forces will remain bogged down in Mariupol. With the loss of the Moskva and two to three Large Landing Ships (LLS), Ukraine has an option to redeploy some forces from Odesa further east to engage in Kherson or the Donbas.

## KHARKIV REGION

Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv.<sup>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</sup>

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian forces advanced south from Izyum and attempted to capture the settlement of Dovhen'ke but were unsuccessful.<sup>32</sup>

The Russian air force bombed civilian areas in Barvinkove, southwest of Izyum.<sup>33</sup>

A Ukrainian Air Force Su-24 was shot down on April 14 outside Izyum and crashed in the Kharkiv Oblast. The pilot was unable to eject and was killed.<sup>34</sup>

A Russian Air Force Ka-52 attack helicopter was shot down on April 15, presumably near Izyum in the Kharkiv Oblast.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1515336477093380102>

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515420814170112002>

<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/OlenaHalushka/status/1515406707391967254>

<sup>28</sup> [https://twitter.com/olex\\_scherba/status/1515421806743674886](https://twitter.com/olex_scherba/status/1515421806743674886)

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1515474889699999747>

<sup>30</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515419177007435779>

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/WIONews/status/1515517906821566467>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/296226396023779>

<sup>33</sup> [https://twitter.com/ukraine\\_world/status/1515293183986573318](https://twitter.com/ukraine_world/status/1515293183986573318)

<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1514704557816913931>

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1514891125793951746>

Pictures of the crash site did not show if the rotor blades had separated, which would indicate the crew was able to eject. This represents the 12<sup>th</sup> Ka-52 lost since February 24, 10% of the entire fleet.<sup>36</sup>

The Ukrainian General Staff reported Russia has built up 22 Battalion Tactical Groups around Izyum as they continue to consolidate their forces for an expected offensive. Weather and ground conditions remain unfavorable due to the cool and wet spring.

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces continue to prepare for an offensive push to secure the Donbas. They will likely launch attacks along two axes in Luhansk and southern Karkhiv Oblasts.

## **DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION**

The Russian Ministry of Defense reported they had bombed an "economic infrastructure" site in the Dnipro Oblast. It was an abandoned poultry processing plant.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.oryxspioenkop.com/2022/03/list-of-aircraft-losses-during-2022.html>

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/Hromadske/status/1515248127313424384>



Russian forces targeted a tank factory in Mykolaiv on April 16. There were no reports of casualties.<sup>38</sup> On April 15, a Russian missile strike destroyed the Nova Poshta post office in Mykolaiv.<sup>39</sup> The facility is used for package distribution. There was no information on casualties.

**OPINION:** This does not seem to be the best use of a Kalibr cruise missile, considering the growing evidence the available supply is becoming restricted.

The Ukrainian General Staff released photos of several Russian Tigr infantry mobility vehicles and one BMP-3 armor personnel carrier that had been destroyed.<sup>40</sup> It is possible the vehicles were destroyed in this attack.<sup>41</sup>

## CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian forces attacked a large farm outside Poltava in the town of Myrhorod,<sup>42</sup> using cruise missiles or SRBM, killing one.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/16/world/europe/russia-missiles-ukraine-kyiv-lviv-neptune.html>

<sup>39</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515102152494039040>

<sup>40</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515441875917938689>

<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/NotWoofers/status/1515068615753711616>

<sup>42</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1515233230479400961>

<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1515266594380959746>

## KYIV REGION

Russian missiles targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Darnytskyi District on April 16.<sup>44</sup> The morning attack killed at least one person.<sup>45 46</sup> (viewer discretion is advised)

Russia has renewed Kalibr cruise missile and SRBM attacks on Kyiv after the sinking of the missile cruiser, Moskva. The Russian Ministry of Defense reports the sinking happened due to a mishap on the ship but reportedly bombed the Ukrainian factory that builds Neptune antiship missiles.<sup>47</sup>

## BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

There were reports that Russian cruise missiles or SRBMs struck the port city of Odesa.<sup>48</sup> There was no additional information.

---

<sup>44</sup> <https://twitter.com/JackDetsch/status/1515406039595855882>

<sup>45</sup> <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1515275343321567232>

<sup>46</sup> [https://twitter.com/Lyla\\_lilas/status/1515426576715898883](https://twitter.com/Lyla_lilas/status/1515426576715898883)

<sup>47</sup> <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1515107702288130049>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/16/world/europe/russia-missiles-ukraine-kyiv-lviv-neptune.html>

With the sinking of the Russian cruiser Moskva and the loss of two to three LLS troop carriers, Ukrainian forces started removing Czech hedgehogs from Odesa for redeployment to eastern Ukraine.<sup>49</sup>

The Russian Ministry of Defense claims it shot down a Ukrainian Air Force transport plane near Odesa and that it was carrying "many weapons."<sup>50</sup> There is speculation the aircraft was an An-26, which can carry up to 5,500 kilograms (12,100 pounds) of cargo. There has been no comment from the Ukrainian General Staff.

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe the threat of an amphibious assault on Odesa is negligible.

## WEST REGION

Russia reportedly fired four cruise missiles at the Lviv area. One was captured on video in flight.<sup>51 52</sup> The Ukrainian General Staff reported air defenses intercepted all four missiles before reaching their targets.

---

<sup>49</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515072069406502917>

<sup>50</sup> <https://twitter.com/BeijingEvening/status/1515533806597709824>

<sup>51</sup> <https://twitter.com/DemeryUK/status/1515265041410543616>

<sup>52</sup> <https://twitter.com/CBSNews/status/1515407688213143557>

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

## **THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

In an interview with CNN, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy reported that 3,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed and another 10,000 wounded in action since the start of the war on February 24.<sup>53</sup> It is the first time Ukraine has released information on troop losses. In addition, Zelenskyy reported 4,633 civilian casualties.

The Sunday Times reported that British SAS forces are in Ukraine and training local troops outside Kyiv. Captain Yuriy Myronenko, whose battalion is stationed in Obolon on the northern outskirts of Kyiv, said that military trainers had come to instruct new and returning military recruits to use NLAWs, British-supplied anti-tank missiles.<sup>54</sup>

The British Ministry of Defense refused to confirm the report.

---

<sup>53</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/15/politics/tapper-zelensky-interview-cnntv/index.html>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sas-troops-are-training-local-forces-in-ukraine-32vs5bjzb>



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has approved a two-billion euro military aid package for Ukraine.<sup>55</sup> Four hundred million euros will go to the European Peace Facility, which currently buys weapons for Ukraine. Another one billion euros would go directly to Ukraine to purchase military hardware. In theory, the money could buy so-called “heavy weapons” such as tanks from German arms manufacturers.

The plan is seen as a compromise among German politicians who have divergent views on how to support Ukraine. The remaining 500 to 600 million euros would go to existing commitments for military improvements.

It is reported Poland has sent 100 modernized T-72/M1R main battle tanks and an undetermined number of BWP-1 infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine.<sup>56</sup> The reports are based on social media reports showing the vehicles being moved by rail toward the Ukrainian border. There has not been any independent verification of the transfer.

Video from Tyumen, Russia, showed 40 9K55 Grad-1 MLRS mounted on ZIL-131 trucks being moved by train.<sup>57</sup> The

---

<sup>55</sup> [de Spiegel](#)

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1514236244263378946>

<sup>57</sup> <https://twitter.com/Caucasuswar/status/1514942079633440768>

video has been geolocated and matched weather conditions.<sup>58</sup>



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons – Mike1979 Russia

The ZIL-131s equipped with missile launchers were pulled from the Russian reserve stock and first entered service in 1976. The platform can fire 36 122mm rockets with a high-explosive warhead that weighs 21 kilograms. The range is very limited at 1.5 to 15 kilometers, putting the launchers

<sup>58</sup> <https://goo.gl/maps/bhk5mSAMMcrhJuwM8>

well within the range of more modern artillery and missile systems.

The ZIL-131 started production in 1964 and ended in 2012 when the manufacturer, AMUR, went bankrupt. The trucks run on gasoline with low compression engines that use carburetors.

**ASSESSMENT:** The Cold War-era equipment will be easier to maintain and require less training for conscripts. The limited range and firepower will need the MLRS vehicles to move closer to the line of conflict, creating a higher risk of receiving incoming fire with no counter-battery support. The reliability and safety of the ordnance is a significant open question.

Russia formally protested the United States's efforts to arm Ukraine.<sup>59</sup> Moscow warned the United States and NATO against sending the "most sensitive" weapons for Kyiv to use in the conflict with Russia, saying such shipments were "adding fuel" to the situation and could come with "unpredictable consequences."

---

<sup>59</sup> <https://news.yahoo.com/russia-warns-us-consequences-ukraine-033334699.html>

Russia sent a similar diplomatic letter to the Czech Republic, according to Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský.<sup>60</sup>

Lipavský called the Russian demand "nonsense" and said the Czech Foreign Ministry would not react to it.

Russian state media released a video of Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, meeting with surviving members of the cruiser Moskva.<sup>61</sup> The footage shows between 80 to 90 sailors in a formation. There is a report that there was a parade of the surviving crew in Sevastopol with 230 to 240 sailors, but we cannot verify the information independently.

The Russian Ministry of Defense reports that the entire crew was rescued. A post on the Odnoklassniki social media network reported the death of midshipman Ivan Vakrushev.<sup>62</sup> After widespread media reports, the original post has been set to "friends only."

---

<sup>60</sup> [Expects Czech](#)

<sup>61</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1515405022690955268](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1515405022690955268)

<sup>62</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1515447005656535041](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1515447005656535041)

The Russian Air Force had a SU-34 fighter shot down with photo confirmation.<sup>63</sup> The tail number 31 has not been previously documented. The photo was released by the Ukrainian General Staff but did not provide a location. Geolocation is impossible with the data provided.

Repeated attacks on supply convoys have forced the Russian military to up-armor trucks that serve behind the frontlines.<sup>64</sup> The upgrades will provide additional protection for crews from small arms fire at the expense of speed, maneuverability, and cargo capacity.<sup>65</sup>

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Russian forces destroyed the facilities of World Central Kitchen in Kharkiv, injuring four.<sup>66</sup> The intentional targeting of civilians, civilian infrastructure, and humanitarian aid is a war crime.

Retreating Russian forces have left thousands of boobytraps, tripwires, and mines in civilian areas.<sup>67</sup>

---

<sup>63</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1514707139268337673>

<sup>64</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515248646077440001>

<sup>65</sup>

<sup>66</sup> <https://twitter.com/natemook/status/1515314537943162880>

<sup>67</sup> <https://twitter.com/leloveluck/status/1515434824823095305>



A Ukrainian farmer working his fields near Chernihiv was killed when his tractor ran over a landmine on April 14.<sup>68</sup> Leaving landmines in a civilian area and not mapping the placement of landmines is a war crime.

The exhumation of mass graves in Bucha continued, with 73 bodies removed on April 15, from a third site discovered earlier in the week.<sup>69</sup> More than 900 bodies of civilians, many of them shot in the head, have been found in the communities around Kyiv since Russian forces withdrew from March 31 to April 3.<sup>70</sup>

Planet's new satellite images released on April 15 show that the number of graves outside the Kherson International Airport has grown dramatically.<sup>71</sup> It is estimated that 18 graves are being added daily. On April 14, the Russian FSB released pictures of the unit carrying out raids on homes in Kherson.<sup>72</sup>

---

<sup>68</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1514765772035440640>

<sup>69</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1515077606554669057>

<sup>70</sup> <https://twitter.com/AP/status/1515000030335283206>

<sup>71</sup> <https://twitter.com/Cen4infoRes/status/1515002639745961989>

<sup>72</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1514811312307535873>



## GEOPOLITICAL

France reopened its embassy in Kyiv, joining a growing list of nations reestablishing their diplomatic missions after the Russian withdrawal from the region on March 31 – April 3.<sup>73</sup>

The Russian government has barred access to the Moscow Times, which has reported on Russian news for 30 years.<sup>74</sup> The decision to block access to the publication happened after the Times ran a story, The Strategic Meaning of Russian War Crimes in Ukraine.<sup>75</sup>

## ECONOMIC

The rouble was unchanged at 82.50 to 1 United States dollar.

WTI decreased to \$105 a barrel, and Brent dropped to \$110 on April 15. Wholesale gasoline climbed was steady at \$3.34 a gallon.

---

<sup>73</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1515201059404365830](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1515201059404365830)

<sup>74</sup> <https://twitter.com/PaulyDeathwish/status/1515552624183025665>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/04/13/the-strategic-meaning-of-russian-war-crimes-in-ukraine-a77345>



## DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

Kseniia took the day off.

COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS