



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

March 23 – 29

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The U.S. negotiations with Ukraine and Russia

- The United States is seeking to reach a ceasefire in Ukraine by April 20, but the prospects for implementation remain uncertain due to Russia's maximalist demands. Europe fears that Washington may compromise Ukrainian interests, while the Kremlin continues to stall, hoping for additional concessions and changes on the frontline. Meanwhile, a series of US talks with Ukraine and Russia have ended in Saudi Arabia. The meetings resulted in preliminary agreements on safe navigation in the Black Sea and an end to attacks on energy infrastructure. The participants pledged not to use commercial vessels for military purposes and to ensure freedom of navigation, but Ukraine emphasized that any violation of these agreements by Russia would be considered a threat to national security. The United States also pledged to facilitate the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of deported Ukrainian children, which was one of the key issues in the negotiations. In addition, the United States said it would help restore Russia's access to the global market for agricultural and fertilizer exports, reduce marine insurance costs, and expand access to ports and payment systems for such operations.
- The talks in Riyadh between the United States and Russia lasted more than 12 hours, and although a joint communiqué was expected, it was not released. The Kremlin called these consultations "technical," and Russian officials confirmed that at the meeting, Moscow demanded that Ukraine withdraw its troops from Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions. Russia also hinted at a possible seizure of parts of the Dnipro or Sumy regions as part of a future "territory swap." The Kremlin hopes that the United States will either pressure Kyiv to make concessions or not prevent Moscow from continuing its offensive on the battlefield.
- During the talks in Saudi Arabia, Ukraine handed over a list of targets that should be subject to a strike ban. Zelenskyi emphasized that although the official statements contained only a clause on energy facilities, the parties actually discussed the protection of civilian infrastructure. An important point was the definition of a sector for the Russian military fleet beyond which it cannot go in the Black Sea. Ukraine's Defense Minister emphasized that if Russia violates these agreements, Ukraine will have the right to self-defense.
- At the same time, Ukraine's Western partners rejected Russia's demands to lift sanctions in exchange for a ceasefire. The European Union has emphasized that the sanctions regime will remain in place until Moscow stops its aggression. Although the US is considering some of Russia's conditions for easing sanctions pressure, Ukraine insists on maintaining a strict sanctions regime and emphasizes that any violation of the agreements by Russia to stop attacks on the energy system or the Black Sea should be met with a corresponding response. Later, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that Washington continues to consult on further policy toward Russia, including possible increased sanctions pressure depending on the Kremlin's further actions.
- The issue of economic cooperation between Ukraine and the United States remains in the spotlight. The United States has submitted a new draft agreement on minerals to Ukraine. The document covers all types of minerals, including oil and gas. Zelenskyi said that the initiative requires a detailed analysis before adoption, and negotiations on certain points are still ongoing.
- At the same time, negotiations continue on the possible involvement of American companies in the management of Ukraine's energy facilities. Zelenskyi denied reports that he was discussing the transfer of Zaporizhzhia NPP to US ownership, but Western media reported that Washington may insist on controlling nuclear facilities as part of a future deal. Russia, on the other hand, claims that ZNPP is its property, and any agreements on joint management of the plant are impossible.

International support

- Amid the ongoing war, Ukraine is receiving new military and technological support. Kyiv has secured expanded access to intelligence, satellite technologies, and ammunition depots from its European partners. It also agreed to obtain licenses for the production of air defense systems. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed that a new meeting of the Ramstein Contact Group on Ukraine's defense will be held on April 11 under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom.
- Ukraine receives financial assistance from international institutions. The International Monetary Fund approved the seventh revision of the Extended Fund Facility program, which will allow Ukraine to receive a tranche of \$400 million to cover critical budget expenditures. In addition, U.S. senators have called on the Trump administration to send Ukraine the full amount of frozen Russian assets - more than \$300 billion - and to persuade allies to follow suit, Reuters reports.
- Russia continues its information attacks on Ukraine. Austrian intelligence services have uncovered a Russian disinformation campaign aimed at changing public opinion about the war through online propaganda, leaflets, and graffiti. At the same time, the EU imposed new sanctions against Belarus, affecting 25 individuals and 7 organizations, including representatives of the judiciary, members of the CEC, and the military-industrial complex supporting the Lukashenko regime.
- The situation around the Conflict Observatory initiative, which recorded the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children, remains controversial. The Washington Post reports that the United States has canceled the decision to close the Conflict Observatory initiative, which recorded the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children. The program will continue to operate for another six weeks before handing over the data to Europol, but its activities will be scaled back.
- Geopolitical pressure on Russia is growing. Bloomberg writes that India did not allow a tanker with Russian oil to unload due to non-compliance with certification requirements. This indicates that international control over sanctions circumvention schemes is tightening.
- Ukraine gets new opportunities to treat wounded soldiers. The Embassy of Japan in Ukraine announced the arrival of two Ukrainian soldiers in Tokyo to undergo rehabilitation and prosthetics at the National Military Medical College of the Ministry of Defense of Japan.

Peacekeepers

- Europe continues to look for ways to expand support for Ukraine, including through the possible deployment of a peacekeeping contingent. French President Emmanuel Macron presented his vision of a European deterrence force. He emphasizes that the key task is to achieve a ceasefire and establish a new front line, after which international forces can be deployed. These could be either peacekeepers under the auspices of the UN or a European military contingent that would monitor the situation but not take part in combat operations. Its role will be to guarantee compliance with peace agreements and to be deployed in strategic locations. Macron emphasized that such a presence would send a clear signal to Russia: any new attack would mean not only a blow to the Ukrainian Armed Forces but also an attack on European troops, who would act in accordance with the orders of their general staff.
- Against this background, a meeting of the "Coalition of the Willing" was held in Paris with the participation of leaders from 30 countries, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyi, the leadership of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, and representatives of the European Council, the European Commission, and NATO. The main focus was on strengthening the Ukrainian army, supporting the -



- - defense industry, peace negotiations, and implementing the first steps towards a ceasefire. The leaders also discussed the possibility of deploying a guarantee force as part of a future peace settlement, in particular with the support of the United States.
- The results of the meeting reflect a certain consensus among Ukraine's Western partners. As German Chancellor Olaf Scholz stated, Russia is "not interested in real peace" and is constantly putting forward new conditions. French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized that the main goal of the coalition is to put Ukraine in the strongest possible position as the Kremlin continues to create obstacles to a diplomatic settlement. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer supported these statements. An important step was the agreement to send a French-British mission to Ukraine to assess the needs of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.
- Germany's position on participation in a potential peacekeeping mission is evolving. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said that he does not rule out Berlin's participation in such a mission if it is agreed upon as part of peace talks. He noted that the final decision would depend on a number of factors, including the number of troops, the mission's mandate, and the level of international coordination. This is an important change, as Germany had previously categorically opposed any military presence on the territory of Ukraine.
- Greece has expressed its position on participation in the international mission. According to Ekathimerini, Athens is ready to join the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine, but under three conditions: a ceasefire agreement, deployment exclusively on the territory of Ukraine (without entering Russian territory), and a clear exit plan in case of renewed hostilities. This demonstrates that European countries are approaching the issue in a balanced manner and are seeking to avoid the risks of being drawn into an open conflict.
- However, according to the WSJ, so far, the plan of Paris and London for a peacekeeping contingent has not received clear support among the allies. During the Coalition of the Willing talks, Macron failed to secure a public commitment from his partners to send their military. Some countries expressed their readiness to do so only in private. The main challenge remains whether the United States will provide support and security for the European contingent. Washington should provide real-time satellite monitoring and air defense systems to cover the troops. France and the United Kingdom expect the United States to also support logistics, including air refueling and transportation of troops.
- At a press conference after the summit, Volodymyr Zelenskyi emphasized that the activities of the potential contingent would include not only security guarantees but also training of the Ukrainian military and technology transfer. The President of Ukraine emphasized that the guarantee forces being prepared by the "coalition of the willing" should be deployed in strategically important locations. So far, key Western countries have agreed to maximize the strengthening of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, but the prospects for a peacekeeping mission remain uncertain. The main issue is the level of support from the United States and the readiness of European countries to make appropriate decisions at the state level.

Other

- Russian explosives manufacturers are circumventing sanctions by using fertilizer companies. Bloomberg reports, citing documents on the supply of raw materials to Russia. Tens of thousands of tons of nitric acid and nitric-sulfuric acid mixture were ordered for enterprises and factories controlled by Spetskhimiya JSC, one of Russia's largest explosives manufacturers. Orders for these companies were placed through subsidiaries that specialize in fertilizer production.
- North Korea sent at least 3,000 soldiers to Russia in January and February to fight the war against Ukraine. According to the South Korean military, 4,000 of the nearly 11,000 North Korean soldiers sent to Russia have already been killed. In addition to deploying troops, South Korea's military says the DPRK continues to supply missiles, ammunition, and artillery equipment to Russia, including a significant number of short-range ballistic missiles, nearly 220 units of 170mm self-propelled howitzers, and 240mm MLRS systems.

Military Support

- The Drone Coalition has allocated €20 million for reconnaissance drones for Ukraine. They will be delivered within three months.
- The Estonian government announces a €100 million military aid package for Ukraine. The list of weapons includes unmanned aerial vehicles, land and sea drones, medical equipment, and other equipment manufactured in Estonia.
- On Friday, the Bundestag Budget Committee approved about 11 billion euros in additional funds to be spent on military aid to Ukraine. The amount includes more than €8 billion allocated for military aid over the period 2026-2029. The German Aid to Ukraine project said that the approved 8 billion euros are so-called "commitment allocations." They guarantee that the German Ministry of Defense can already commit to spending certain amounts. Thanks to these allocations, the Ministry of Defense can already sign contracts with Rheinmetall, Diehl Defense and other defense companies and thus guarantee the provision of billions of euros worth of military equipment to Ukraine in the coming years.
- France will provide Ukraine with a new military aid package worth €2 billion. It will include anti-tank missiles, air defense systems, missiles for Mirage aircraft, armored vehicles, ammunition, and other equipment.
- The Swedish government will almost double its military aid to Ukraine in 2025. The government reportedly received a proposal to increase the budget for planned military aid from \$2.5 billion to just over \$4 billion.
- As part of the Czech initiative to supply ammunition, Ukraine may receive at least as many shells in 2025 as last year. It is likely to be about 1.5 million artillery shells.
- The Danish government has decided to allocate 300 million Danish kroner (almost 40 million euros) for an innovation fund for Ukraine. The fund will support Ukraine's growing need for rapid technological development on the battlefield.
- Following the summit of the "coalition of the willing" in Paris, EU countries pledged to provide Ukraine with 2 million rounds of ammunition for heavy artillery at an estimated cost of 5 billion euros. At the summit, the EU made a number of commitments to provide direct assistance to the Ukrainian army, as well as long-term support and cooperation measures.
- Sweden will provide more than €7 million for Ukraine for demining and drones.



Key Events of the Week:

- Successful operation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Belgorod oblast
- Liberation of Nadiia village in Luhansk Oblast
- Strike on the Engels-2 air base
- Destruction of Russian helicopters in Belgorod oblast
- Increased Russian pressure on the Lyman and Zaporizhzhia directions
- Increased attacks on the Zaporizhzhia direction
- Russia changes tactics of using drones
- Russia mobilizes 18-year-olds in the occupied territories
- A new wave of Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy sector
- Russia's overall strategy is to deplete the Ukrainian Armed Forces

23.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On March 21, the Air Force <u>destroyed</u> a consolidated company of the 205th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade in Dnipriany in the occupied territory of Kherson oblast. It is noted that enemy boats, military property, and a utility room filled with technical equipment were destroyed. ➤ Soldiers of the Third Assault Brigade <u>liberated the village of Nadiia in Luhansk oblast</u>. The 3rd Brigade cleared 3 km² from the Russians: "Taking Nadiia cost the enemy 2 months of effort and 2 wiped out mechanized regiments - the 752nd and 254th of the 20th Russian Army," Andrii Biletsky, commander of the Third Army Corps, says. Liberation of the Nadiia village allows to effectively keep the Chornyi Zherebets river and the settlements of Raihorodka and Dzherelne, currently captured by Russians, under fire control.
24.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ukraine's defense forces launched a missile <u>attack on a Russian helicopter parking lot</u> in Russia's Belgorod oblast, destroying two Mi-8s and two Ka-52s. "All the helicopters were destroyed by missile strikes in the enemy's rear, where he created a platform for aircraft jumping off - a disguised position for rapid movement of the sides or for unexpected attacks on the Security and Defense Forces of Ukraine," the statement said. ➤ According to the DIU, the Kremlin has <u>increased payments to Russians for their participation in the war</u>. In some oblasts, the amount of a one-time payment has been increased to more than 2 million rubles since the beginning of this year, and in the Samara oblast, recruits are offered almost 4 million. ➤ State Border Guard Service spokesman Andrii Demchenko says that Russia is trying to move the fighting from Kursk to Sumy oblast. According to him, the Russian occupiers are using the tactics of small assault groups that seek to cross the border and gain a foothold as quickly as possible. And if earlier most of the enemy subversive reconnaissance groups were "caught" in the north of Sumy oblast, now they are trying to move closer to its southern and southeastern parts. ➤ In March, the Defense Forces liberated some territories near Dvorichna in the Kharkiv region - Oles Maliarevych, a soldier with the 429th separate regiment of the Achilles airborne assault force. According to him, these operations have improved the situation of Ukrainian defenders. Earlier, DeepState reported that the territories near Fyholivka were liberated on March 14, near Holubivka and Synkivka on March 10, and near Zakhidne on March 5. Maliarevych states that the Russians do not stop their assaults in the Kupiansk direction and are working with infantry units. ➤ According to Minister of Strategic Industries Herman Smetanin, <u>Ukraine can produce \$35 billion worth of weapons</u> a year but has funding for only \$14 billion. He says that Ukraine independently produces 30-40% of the required weapons. Additional funds are needed to increase production.
25.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The General Staff reports that the Air Force hit a Russian military concentration site in Kondrativka, Kursk oblast. The strike completely destroyed the facility, killing up to 30 soldiers. ➤ British intelligence considers the attack on the Russian Engels-2 airbase on the night of March 20 to be the most successful operation of the Ukrainian Defense Forces since the beginning of 2025. It is almost certain that a number of aviation munitions used against Ukraine were stored on the territory that was attacked, British intelligence officials say. They admit that significant losses are likely to disrupt strike operations from Engels airfield in the short term. After the Russian Defense Forces attacked the Engels-2 airbase on March 20, <u>the Russians lost 96 air-launched cruise missiles</u>. The Russians planned to use these missiles to strike Ukraine in March and April of this year. In addition, the strikes destroyed large stocks of aviation fuel.
26.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be more "Shaheds". According to RBC-Ukraine, Russia is creating three more new UAV launch sites, all in the Prymorsko-Akhtarsk area, in addition to the seven already in operation. This may allow the aggressor to increase the number of "Shaheds" launched during one attack, i.e. in one day or night. ➤ Ukraine announced the destruction of four Russian helicopters at once. The command of the Special Operation Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine indicates that this happened in the territory of the Belgorod oblast. BBC Verify confirms that the video provided shows the destruction of an object 50 kilometers from the Ukrainian border in the Russian rear.

Losses of the Russian army from 23.03.2025 to 29.03.2025

Liquidated personnel	9 240
Tanks	72
IFVs	164
Artillery systems / MLRS	378/9
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	5
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	704
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	802
Special equipment	2





27.03

- At night, the Ukrainian Armed Forces struck in Briansk oblast, killing 15 to 40 occupiers – the Ukrainian General Staff. The strike destroyed the military infrastructure of the checkpoint, including communications and electronic warfare equipment, a video surveillance system, and other technical equipment.
- According to South Korean officials, North Korea may have sent another 3,000 troops to Russia. They believe that the new North Korean soldiers were sent to Russia in January and February of this year. In addition, the DPRK continues to supply weapons to Russia.
- DeepState reports that the situation in the Lyman region has escalated. Russian forces are actively exerting pressure on Yampolivka, have made advances in Terny, and, in fact, have almost completely occupied the settlement. Unfortunately, the constant pressure has yielded results for Russian troops, and the enemy has come even closer to Yampolivka. Currently, the Russians are moving southeast of the village and are trying to cut off the logistics to Yampolivka along the road from Torske. The situation on the flank is difficult for the units that have been holding the area for several years, in particular, for the fighters of the 60th and 63rd Brigades.
- The situation around Ivanivka on the right bank of the Zherebets River has also begun to escalate. The enemy is putting pressure on Katerynivka, getting close to the village and trying to gain a foothold in this area. At the same time, they are trying to build on their success in the direction of Nove and Zelena Dolyna. The fighting continues.
- The Russian army continues to storm Uspenivka. According to the available estimates, up to 100 Russians have entered and dispersed in the village. Every day, Ukrainian pilots kill at least twenty enemy infantrymen. The Russians are using light vehicles to drive infantry into the village. The Defense Forces are still keeping Uspenivka under fire control, although the enemy has already tried to enter Novooleksandrivka. The situation is difficult but under control. Some of the enemy forces are being destroyed on the approaches.
- According to the Southern Defense Forces, the number of assaults in the Zaporizhzhia direction has increased. “The Russians have accumulated certain forces and means to conduct assault operations, and the number of assaults has increased. For example, there were 16 attacks in the Huliaipole direction over the last day. The enemy tried to seize our positions in the areas of Rivnopil, Novopil, Novosilka,” the spokesman noted. Nine attacks were registered in the Orikhiv direction near Mali Shcherbak, Stepove, Lobkove, and Shcherbak. The enemy conducted air strikes on Ukrainian positions near Kamianske, Komyshevakh, and Novoandriivka.
- In the spring, Russia is preparing a new offensive in Sumy and Kharkiv oblast – Zelenskyi in an interview with Le Figaro. The President believes that amid efforts to establish a ceasefire, Putin is “trying to buy time” by preparing for an offensive in Sumy and Kharkiv oblasts.

28.03

- Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to hold the initiative in certain areas of the Pokrovsk sector. Ukrainian troops continue to push back the enemy in the lower part of Kotlyne and in the forest belt near the railroad. Russians already consolidated their positions, so we can report the results. On the other hand, the enemy continues to put pressure on Pishchane, controlling almost the entire village. Russians continue to try to improve the tactical situation in Udachne, but all attempts fail.

29.03

- The Russian army dropped about 900 glide bombs (KABs) in March 2025 in the Siversk, Kramatorsk, and Toretsk directions, the spokesman for the “Luhansk” task force said. The enemy is concentrating its main efforts on Toretsk, and Kostiantynivka is also affected. The most active fighting in the area of the task force’s responsibility is recorded in Toretsk. In particular, the 51st Russian Army lost almost 13.5 thousand occupiers missing in action in the battles for the city.
- The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine denied the earlier statements of Russian propaganda about Russian troops crossing the border with Sumy oblast and seizing three villages on Ukrainian territory. Currently, Russians are trying to use only small assault groups in the direction of Novenke and Zhuravka. At the moment, occupation groups are being destroyed both on the outskirts of the Ukrainian border, and when they have already crossed the state border, the SBGS press service said.
- According to the BILD media outlet, Russia is launching Shahed drones in Ukraine using new tactics, and the Ukrainian Armed Forces are looking for a countermeasure. The enemy is not attacking with drones, as before, one after the other, with an interval of several minutes. The UAVs now gather in flocks several kilometers from the attack site at an altitude of 2-3 km, and then all together dive at the target. The Ukrainian Armed Forces are reportedly developing tactics to counter this new Russian strategy.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces have advanced 3-4 km deep into Belgorod oblast, Reuters reports. According to analysts, the purpose of the operation is to distract Russian forces from fighting in Kursk oblast. Black Bird Group military expert Emil Kastehelemi believes that Ukrainian forces managed to break through the first line of defense and move 3-4 km deep into the Russian Federation in Belgorod oblast.
- The occupation authorities in the temporarily occupied Luhansk Oblast have decided to mobilize 18-year-olds. “In the so-called Luhansk People’s Republic, a decree has been enacted to draft young men born in 2007 for military service. That is, those who have turned 18 or turn 18 this year. Yesterday’s and today’s eleventh-graders,” Artem Lysohor, head of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration, stated. In addition, educational institutions controlled the registration of young men, forcing them to register for military service from the age of 16 and ensuring their attendance at military commissariats.
- Perhaps the main strategy of the Russians now is to deplete the Ukrainian Armed Forces along the entire front line rather than to achieve operational success. “This tactic of a thousand small cuts, which leads to a general weakening along the entire 1,000-kilometer front, maybe more interesting for them. They want to exhaust the front so much that there will actually be either a collapse or the signing of surrender,” the commander of the 3rd Assault Corps of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said.
- In occupied Mariupol, guerrillas set fire to the occupiers’ base in the “Right Bank” district. The arson destroyed several vehicles and Russian soldiers.

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UAVs	704
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Special equipment	2



Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of March 23:** Ukrainian air defense shot down 97 out of 147 Russian drones. Another 25 were lost in location. Russia deployed a large number of strike drones — at least 122 units. Targets were intercepted in the south, north, west, and center of Ukraine. As a result of the attack, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Odesa, and Donetsk oblasts were affected.
- **Attack on the night of March 24:** During the night, air defense shot down 57 Russian drones. Another 36 were lost in location. The Russians used 99 strike drones of the Shahed type and various UAV decoys. Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Kirovohrad, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts suffered due to the attack.
- **Attack on the night of March 25:** Air defense shot down 78 Russian drones overnight. Another 34 UAV decoys did not reach their targets. Russia also attacked Ukraine with an Iskander-M ballistic missile. The oblasts affected were Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Cherkasy, and Odesa.
- **Attack on the night of March 26:** Air defense shot down 56 out of 117 enemy drones. Another 48 drone decoys were lost in location. As a result of the nighttime attack, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, and Cherkasy oblasts were affected.
- **Attack on the night of March 27:** Air defense shot down 42 drones, while another 26 UAV decoys did not reach their targets. Russia also attacked Ukraine with an Iskander-M ballistic missile.
- **Attack on the night of March 28:** Air defense shot down 89 out of 163 enemy drones. Another 51 enemy drone decoys did not reach their targets. As a result of the attack, the oblasts of Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia were affected.
- **Attack on the night of March 29:** Russia attacked Ukraine with 172 drones; air defense shot down 94 enemy UAVs. Another 69 enemy drone decoys were lost in location. The Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, and Sumy oblasts were affected by the attack that night.

Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, the Donetsk Oblast suffered from attacks using aerial bombs and UAVs. In addition, there were artillery shellings.

On March 25, the Russians shelled the village of Kurtivka in the Druzhkivka community. As a result of the attack, two people were killed, and another was injured. On March 27, Russian forces shelled the town of Rodynske multiple times. During the first strike, a woman was killed and another woman injured; during the repeated strike, a man was wounded. On March 28, the Russian army dropped seven FAB-250 aerial bombs on the Illinivka community.

- In addition, the following settlements suffered from attacks:
 - Volnovakha district: Zelenyi Hai
 - Pokrovsk district: Dobropillia, Pokrovsk, Rodynske, Malynivka, Novoeconomichne, Myrnohrad, Sukha Balka
 - Kramatorsk district: Sloviansk, Donetske, Kramatorsk, Lyman, Kostiantynivka, Markove, Zarichne, Tykhonivka, Rai-Oleksandrivka, Novopavlivka, Pleshchiivka, Ivanopillia, Novodmytrivka, Malynivka, Berestok
 - Bakhmut district: Siversk

Kharkiv and the oblast

- Throughout the week, the Kharkiv oblast suffered from UAV and glide bomb (KAB) attacks.

On March 26, the Russians attacked the city of Kharkiv and the town of Zolochiv using UAVs. As a result, 12 people were injured. Civilian vehicles and utility structures were also damaged. On March 28, the Russians shelled the town of Borova with MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket Systems). One person was injured in the attack. A house and an outbuilding caught fire.

Additionally, the following settlements were affected by attacks during the week: Pechenihiy, Heniivka, Klynova-Novoselivka, Vovchansk, Shestakove, Velyka Babka, Velykyi Burluk, Kupiansk, Novoplatonivka, Lozova, Izium, Zalyman, Stara Pokrovka, Semeniv Yar, Slatyne, Prudianka, Stetskivka, Kozacha Lopan, Novyi Korotych, Buhaivka, Blahodativka, Svitlychne, Fedorivka, Kochetok, Mospanove, Liutivka, Vinnytski Ivany, and Myrne.

Sumy oblast

- Throughout the week, the Sumy oblast suffered from mortar and artillery shelling. There were also attacks using UAVs and incidents involving the dropping of explosive devices.

On March 24, the Russians launched a missile strike on the center of the city of Sumy. As a result of the attack, 101 people were injured, including 17 children. Additionally, 30 apartment buildings, 15 private houses, non-residential and office buildings, as well as educational and medical institutions were damaged. On March 26, Russia attacked Okhtyrka with three UAVs. The strike damaged apartment buildings, shops, several vehicles, utility structures, and kiosks.

The following communities also suffered from attacks during the week: Yunakivka, Khotin, Krasnopillia, Velyka Pysarivka, Myropillia, Bilopillia, Trostianet, Boromlia, Nova Sloboda, Esman, Svesa, Khutir-Mykhailivskiy, Seredyna-Budsa, Sumy, Shalyhyne, Znob-Novhorod, Sadove, Stepanivka, Okhtyrka, Bezdryk, Putyvl, Popivka, Lebedyn, Chernechchyna, and Hlukhiv communities.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Throughout the week, Zaporizhzhia oblast suffered from airstrikes, UAV attacks, and artillery shelling.

On March 24, the Russians attacked Zaporizhzhia using UAVs. As a result of the attack, one person was injured. The blast wave and shrapnel also damaged windows in apartment buildings, a garage, and private homes. On March 27, the Russian army attacked Zaporizhzhia and the surrounding area with 17 Shahed drones. The strike caused a fire at an infrastructure facility. Homes in Zaporizhzhia and Kushuhum were destroyed, and a 19-year-old man was injured.

Throughout the week, injuries and infrastructure damage were reported in the following settlements: Komyshevakh, Huliaipole, Zaliznychne, Novodarivka, Kamianske, Piatykhatky, Shcherbaky, Novodanylivka, Mala Tokmachka, Charivne, Preobrazhenka, Novoandriivka, Orikhiv, Veselianska, Novoivanivka, Bilohiria, Malynivka, Barvynivka, Malokaterynivka, Kushuhum, Mahdalynivka, Stepanohirsk, Prymorske, Lobkove, and Novoakovlivka.



Dnipro and the oblast

- From March 23 to 29, Russian forces carried out massive shelling of the Dnipropetrovsk oblast, targeting both cities and rural communities. Under enemy fire were Nikopol, Kryvyi Rih, and Dnipro, as well as communities in the Nikopol, Synelnykove, and Kryvyi Rih districts: Chervonohryhorivka, Marhanets, Pokrovsk, Myrove, Mezheva, Vasylykivka, Velyka Mykhailivka, Petrykivka, and Zelenodolsk. The attacks involved artillery, Grad multiple rocket launchers, kamikaze drones, and guided aerial bombs. Significant destruction was inflicted on residential neighborhoods, industrial sites, infrastructure, and agricultural enterprises.
- Over the six days of Russian attacks in the region, at least 6 people were killed and 39 injured. The scale of destruction is vast: more than 100 residential buildings were damaged or destroyed, along with dozens of infrastructure and industrial sites, vehicles, and critical utility facilities.
- Nikopol district was constantly under Russian fire. Dozens of private and apartment buildings, utility structures, gas pipelines, power lines, administrative buildings, a stadium, a gas station, and other infrastructure objects were damaged.

Other cities and communities were also targeted. In particular, on March 26 and 28, the enemy launched large-scale attacks on the regional center — Dnipro. On March 26, drone attacks caused multiple fires in the city. Enterprises, educational and cultural institutions, and more than a dozen apartment buildings were damaged. Over 60 cars were damaged, and several were destroyed. Three people were injured. On March 28, over two dozen drones were directed at the city. Several apartment buildings were damaged, fires broke out in nearly ten private houses and a hotel-restaurant complex. As a result of the shelling, 4 people were killed and 23 injured.

On March 25, the enemy attacked Kryvyi Rih with drones — at least 15 explosions were heard, and several fires broke out. An administrative building, warehouses, a business, and vehicles were damaged. On March 29, Russia launched a missile attack on Kryvyi Rih — according to preliminary reports, 7 civilians were injured.

Chernihiv oblast

- Russian forces continue systematic attacks on the border communities of the Chernihiv region. Between March 23 and 29, four communities came under fire: Semenivka, Novhorod-Siverskyi, Snovsk, and Horodnia. The enemy used UAVs (including FPV drones and Lancets), tube artillery, mortars, and dropped explosive devices. Over the course of these days, more than a dozen settlements came under fire.

In particular, on March 26, four explosions were recorded in Chernihiv region due to falling UAVs and their debris. A Russian Lancet UAV exploded in the Koriukivka district. In the Pryluky district, three explosions occurred due to falling debris from Shahed/Geran-type drones. As a result, a business enterprise in Pryluky was damaged. On March 24, the border area came under especially intense fire: 29 explosions were recorded in the direction of five villages.

Odesa oblast

- This week was relatively calm in the Odesa oblast. However, on March 28, the Russians launched an attack on the oblast, which caused fires in garage facilities and a utility structure, and some buildings were damaged. One person was injured.

Kherson and the oblast

- The Russians continue to deliberately terrorize the Kherson oblast and its residents. Over the past week, the Russian army launched nearly 1,700 UAVs targeting towns and villages in the region. The regional center — the city of Kherson — alone suffered between 600 and 700 UAV attacks.
- From March 23 to 29, Russian forces carried out massive shelling of the Kherson region, targeting residential areas, critical infrastructure, and social facilities. The cities of Kherson and Beryslav, as well as dozens of other settlements, came under fire and airstrikes, including: Antonivka, Sadove, Bilozerk, Stanislav, Kizomys, Dudchany, Novoraisk, Zmiivka, Tiahynka, Osokorivka, Kachkarivka, Zelenivka, Llove, Novokairy, Mykolaivka, Pryozerne, Shyroka Balka, and others.
- For these attacks, the Russian army used guided aerial bombs, artillery, mortars, drones, and ballistic missiles. More than 50 residential buildings were damaged, and gas pipelines, storage facilities, agricultural machinery, private vehicles, and a "Point of Invincibility" (emergency support center) were destroyed. In total, 4 people were killed and 39 injured during this period.

In particular, the enemy struck the city of Kherson daily this week. On March 27, the shelling of the city center lasted about an hour and a half. The strikes destroyed the railway station building and several apartment buildings. Two people were killed, and four more were injured. An ambulance dispatched to help civilians came under fire — two medics were wounded. On March 25, Russian aircraft dropped a glide bomb (KAB) on Dudchany in the Kherson region. Later, the occupiers shelled the area with artillery. As a result of these attacks, the local cultural center and an administrative building were damaged.

Other oblasts

- Throughout the week, unrest was also felt in other regions of Ukraine. In particular, on March 23, explosions were heard in Kyiv — a Russian UAV hit an apartment building in the Dnipro district of Kyiv, and a fire broke out at a food establishment and in apartment buildings. As a result of the attack in Kyiv, 10 people were injured, and 3 were killed.
- That same night, the Kyiv oblast was also attacked — 2 civilians were injured. In the Bucha district, three private houses and vehicles were damaged. Another private house was damaged in the Fastiv district. Additionally, the Russians attacked Kyiv and its region on March 24. In the Fastiv district, two houses were damaged, and a fire broke out at a commercial enterprise. One person was injured.
- On March 23, an explosion was heard in Kremenchuk in the Poltava region, and on March 27, the Russians struck an industrial zone in Poltava.
- Throughout the week, the Russians also attacked the Mykolaiv region with drones and conducted artillery shelling of communities in the Kutsurub, Halytsynove, and Ochakiv districts. As a result of these attacks, a warehouse of a medical facility and residential buildings were damaged. Additionally, on March 27, the enemy attacked the city of Voznesensk with Shahed drones — a warehouse at an agro-industrial facility was damaged as a result of the shelling.
- On March 28, the Russian army shelled the facilities of Naftohaz PJSC national oil and gas company — this was the 18th attack on Naftohaz infrastructure since the start of the full-scale invasion and the eighth since the beginning of 2025. There were no casualties, but gas extraction facilities were damaged.

The week of shelling

Donetsk oblast



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Sumy oblast



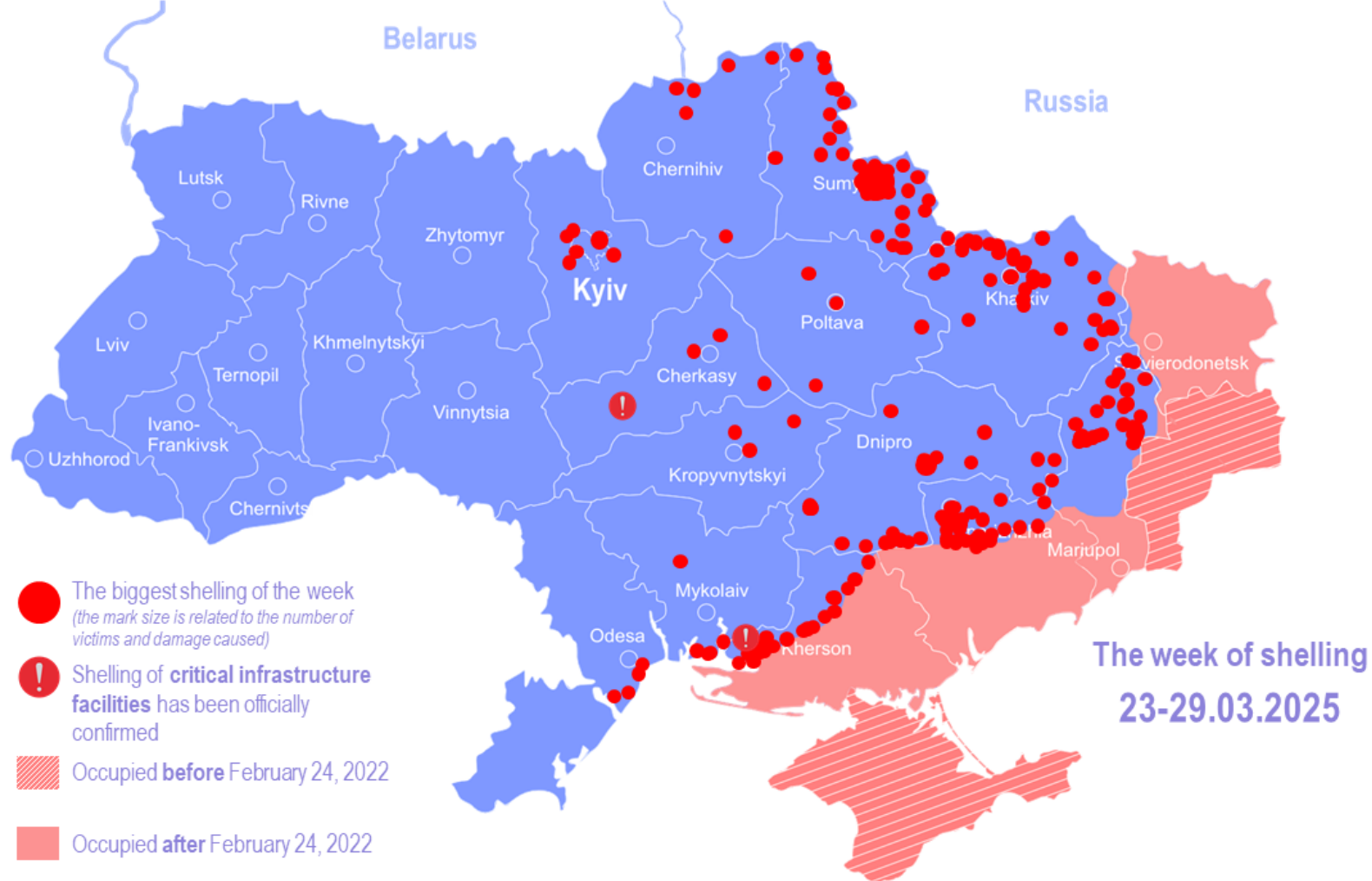
Kherson oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Kyiv



Environmental Consequences of the War

- Environmental damage caused by Russian aggression in Ukraine has reached nearly 85 billion euros. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, there are 850,000 hectares of forests under occupation or in the war zone. More than 8,000 cases of environmental damage due to hostilities have been recorded. Over 230 million tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere. A quarter of Ukraine's territory remains mined and contaminated with ammunition.

Restoration of Ukraine

- Ukraine set a record last year for providing housing to families of war veterans. The Minister of Veterans Affairs reports that the government plans to provide housing to 1,600 such families for UAH 3.9 billion this year. Last year, 4,578 families of combat veterans, including veterans with disabilities, received housing in Ukraine.

Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) and Evacuation

- The zone of forced evacuation of families with children in Donetsk Oblast has been expanded to a 15-kilometer distance from the front line, according to the Donetsk Regional Military Administration. Approximately 500 children currently live in the settlements designated for evacuation.
- Russian authorities plan to increase utility tariffs for residents of the temporarily occupied territories by 75% starting 1 July 2025. The occupiers claim that this is due to 'necessary repairs' after the destruction caused by Russian troops themselves.
- The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that it was impossible to transfer control of the Zaporizhzhia NPP plant to Ukraine or any other country. Meanwhile, on 26 March, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported that a diesel tank at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia NPP had been damaged, posing a threat to the plant's safety. A ministry spokesman stressed that this incident directly resulted from Russia's reckless replacement of certified Ukrainian experts with unqualified temporary Russian operational staff.
- More than 12,000 schoolchildren and students in the temporarily occupied Luhansk Oblast are undergoing military training under the mentorship of Russian army soldiers, who are passing on combat skills to young people. The highest number of participants is in Dovzhansk, Sorokyne, and Alchevsk.
- Ukraine has returned five Ukrainian children, aged 11 to 16, from the TOT of Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts. The children were returned home with the mediation of the State of Qatar and as part of the approved action plan of the President of Ukraine, 'Bring Kids Back UA.'
- The occupiers have opened a so-called 'museum of memory' in a school in Berdiansk to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. According to the Berdiansk City Military Administration, this initiative reflects the gradual introduction of militaristic rhetoric and the promotion of a war cult.

Human Rights Violations

- The bodies of 909 fallen soldiers were returned to Ukraine. Among them are soldiers killed in the Kurakhove, Pokrovsk, Bakhmut, Vuhledar, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia sectors, as well as bodies retrieved from Russian morgues.
- The Southern District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced captured Ukrainians who had served in the Azov military regiment at different times to many years in a maximum security colony. These Ukrainians were taken prisoner in the spring of 2022 in Mariupol and its suburbs. According to SOTA, only 12 of them were present in court, while another 11 were sentenced in absentia, having already returned to Ukraine in a prisoner exchange. The trial of prisoners of war constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law.
- The condition of soldiers returning from captivity has deteriorated significantly. "The longer they remain in captivity, the worse their condition becomes. Their health can be called terrible. Unfortunately, some do not survive long enough to be exchanged due to harsh conditions, prolonged torture, untreated injuries, or advanced chronic diseases," said Olena Tolkacheva, commander of the Angels patronage service of the 3rd Separate Assault Brigade.
- The Russian army has begun using Shahed drones equipped with thermobaric charges to attack civilian infrastructure in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, said Voloshyn, a spokesman for the Southern Defence Forces. "This type of weapon detonates a thermobaric projectile, causing fires. The Russian army deliberately targets residential areas and civilian buildings. This is open and direct terrorism."

International Support

- The Netherlands has agreed to contribute €65 million to the Energy Support Fund for Ukraine.
- The European Union, together with Sweden and Germany, will provide an additional €44 million to support Ukrainian civil society organizations, including initiatives for gender leadership and conflict resolution. Specifically, the EU will allocate €13 million to support democratic reforms, social cohesion, and efforts to combat war crimes.
- On 27 March, a Norwegian delegation visited Kharkiv, inspected sites targeted by Russian shelling, and donated a solar power plant to a local hospital. The project was supported by the United Nations Development Programme, according to the Foreign Ministry.
- Norway, through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, has donated equipment to Ukraine to help mitigate the effects of the Russian drone attack on the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.
- DTEK received an €11 million grant from the French government to build Ukraine's first digital substitution. This project is one of 19 key energy infrastructure initiatives approved under a €200 million grant.
- Sweden has decided to provide SEK 40 million (EUR 3.6 million) to support Ukraine's Mine Action Coalition and the same amount for drone procurement. "This support ensures that Ukraine can advance its drone technology and demining capabilities. This will help the Ukrainian army and Ukrainian society," said Swedish Defence Minister Pål Jonson.

