Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

March 15 – 21

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International situation

Negotiations between the United States, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation

- **The United States' attention to the peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia is waning amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East.** According to European diplomats, the negotiations are at risk due to Washington's shifting focus. At the same time, the Donald Trump administration views a potential rapprochement with Russia as a tool to counter China, which explains the continuation of contacts despite Moscow's support for Iranian attacks. Attempts to involve European countries in the peace process are meeting resistance from Moscow, which has categorically rejected France's proposal for European participation at the negotiating table. To unblock the process, the United States proposed postponing the trilateral meeting due to the Middle East crisis, but the Russian side was not ready for the visit. The Ukrainian negotiating delegation, which included representatives from the National Security and Defense Council, intelligence agencies, and parliament, traveled to the U.S. to set specific dates for future negotiations with Russia and to coordinate documents regarding security guarantees.
- **The Russian Federation is actively supplying Iran with strike drones and intelligence data, which are being used to attack U.S. military bases.** Moscow justifies this exchange of information by citing similar intelligence support provided to Ukraine by Western countries. Iranian officials have publicly confirmed receiving military aid from Russia and China. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry condemned Tehran's actions, comparing the justification of Iranian attacks to the behavior of a serial killer. Russian diplomats are attempting to use cooperation with Tehran as leverage against the U.S. During backchannel meetings, Russian representatives proposed that Washington cease sharing the coordinates of American facilities with Iran in exchange for the United States scaling back its intelligence support for Ukraine. U.S. President Donald Trump avoided directly condemning Moscow's actions, citing the significant amount of previous American aid to Kyiv.
- **Ukraine has deployed interception units in Middle Eastern countries to protect critical infrastructure from Iranian drones.** More than 220 Ukrainian military experts are providing consultation and technical support in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Jordan at the request of the U.S. military. The government emphasizes that this activity is limited exclusively to the transfer of expertise and does not imply Ukraine's entry into a war with Iran. Against the backdrop of expanding technological cooperation, Kyiv is initiating a long-term agreement with the U.S. worth up to $50 billion for the joint production of drones. The project involves equal participation of engineers and the development of defense systems; however, the U.S. leader has expressed skepticism regarding the need for Ukraine's assistance in intercepting drones in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom is considering the use of Octopus anti-drone systems, developed jointly with Ukraine, to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **The conflict in the Middle East has triggered a rise in global oil prices, creating favorable economic conditions for Russia.** The situation in the markets was exacerbated by the U.S. decision to grant a 30-day exemption from sanctions for buyers of Russian oil already at sea. As a result, the price of Russian crude in India reached a record $98.93 per barrel, and China's state-owned energy companies began preparing to resume imports after a prolonged hiatus. >>
- >> The easing of U.S. restrictions has raised concerns within the European Union. According to European diplomatic officials, such a move sets a dangerous precedent that expands Moscow's financial capacity to continue the war. Despite this, Russia's overall export potential remains constrained: oil shipments are falling due to logistical delays caused by effective attacks by Ukrainian drones and weather conditions.

International support

- **Financial support for Ukraine and progress in European integration remain key areas of cooperation with international partners.** The European Union has decided to provide Ukraine with a loan of 90 billion euros for the period 2026–2028, despite attempts by some member states to block this initiative. Norway will provide additional financial assistance in the form of $200 million in budget support through a World Bank program. In the area of European integration, Ukraine has achieved 84% implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU, demonstrating the greatest annual progress in the financial sector, social policy, and customs issues. In addition, the Ukrainian government has officially received the accession criteria for the last three negotiation clusters, which is a necessary step for the further opening of negotiation procedures with the European Commission.
- **The intensification of sanctions pressure on Russia is accompanied by active measures to block mechanisms for circumventing restrictions and by criminal prosecution of the aggressor's accomplices.** The EU Council extended personal sanctions against more than 2,600 Russian individuals and entities for six months and imposed new restrictions on nine Russian military commanders implicated in crimes in Bucha, as well as four Russian propagandists. Lithuanian leadership has publicly called on European partners to expedite the adoption of the 20th sanctions package and begin drafting the 21st, which is intended to target Russia's largest energy companies.
- Practical countermeasures against Russia's **"shadow fleet"** are being implemented by the naval forces of European countries in international waters. The French Armed Forces, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, intercepted the tanker Deyna in the Mediterranean Sea; the vessel was sailing under the Mozambican flag **in violation of international maritime law** to finance the Russian Federation's military needs.
- **Legal proceedings against individuals involved in supporting Russian aggression** are ongoing in European countries. A Latvian court sentenced a foreign national to 11 years in prison for supplying **Starlink terminals** and weapon parts to the Russian military, while a Polish court of first instance ruled to extradite to Ukraine a Russian archaeologist suspected of illegal excavations and the destruction of cultural heritage in occupied Crimea.
- **Military-technical and energy cooperation focuses on the development of defense technologies and infrastructure preparation.** The Israeli government has initiated negotiations with Ukrainian leadership to establish cooperation in the field of intercepting Iranian drones. Energy security remains a critical area of cooperation amid preparations for the upcoming winter season. >>

International situation

- >> Following **negotiations in Brussels** involving the relevant Ukrainian ministry, the creation of a European Strategic Reserve with an **initial budget of 197 million euros** was agreed upon, while Ukraine's total financial needs to get through the winter are estimated at 5.4 billion euros.

Other Developments

- **Foreign states and companies continue to contribute to the development of the Russian military-industrial complex, circumventing international restrictions.** In particular, over the past 2.5 years, North Korea has made at least 112 sea voyages, supplying Russia with up to 11 million rounds of ammunition and sending over 20,000 troops, which could have earned Pyongyang up to $14.4 billion, according to British and South Korean analysts. At the same time, Turkish intermediaries have arranged for the supply of European high-precision machine tools from the DMG MORI corporation to the Russian defense industry, while Iranian intelligence uses Russian children's animation studios as a cover for arms trade and the smuggling of stolen Ukrainian grain. Military cooperation between Russia and Myanmar also continues, with Myanmar's air force having received the latest Russian Su-30SME fighter jets.
- **The Hungarian government systematically blocks European initiatives to support Ukraine and increase pressure on Russia, likely coordinating its actions with Russian intelligence services.** The Hungarian side refuses to approve a €90 billion EU loan to Ukraine and the adoption of the 20th package of sanctions against Russia, demanding the resumption of oil transit via the Druzhba pipeline, and is also pushing for the removal of European tariffs on Russian and Belarusian fertilizers. Meanwhile, Russian intelligence has devised a plan to stage an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to artificially boost his approval ratings ahead of the parliamentary elections on April 12.
- **Slovakia is using energy tools to exert political pressure on Ukraine by halting the transit of Russian oil.** Starting in May 2026, the Slovak state operator SEPS will unilaterally terminate the emergency energy assistance agreement with Ukrenergo. Although the Ukrainian side has not violated the terms of the agreement, Bratislava accuses Kyiv of blocking the Druzhba oil pipeline for political reasons. In response to these accusations, European Commissioner for Energy Dan Jørgensen pointed out that Russia had destroyed the infrastructure and that the situation does not pose a threat to the EU's energy security.
- **Ukraine is expanding sanctions pressure on entities involved in the production of weapons for the Russian military.** On March 15, 2026, a decision by the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) came into effect imposing restrictions on 130 individuals and 48 legal entities from Russia and Iran. The list includes companies supplying components for the "Kometa" equipment and 'Oreshnik' missile systems, as well as Iranian instructors and companies helping to scale up production of "Shahed" strike drones. Additionally, Kyiv has requested that the European Union impose travel bans and European sanctions against nearly 130 Russian commanders. These measures are aimed at disrupting the logistics chains of the Russian military-industrial complex and isolating those responsible for war crimes.
- **The international community is showing solidarity with Ukraine in opposing the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes on the world stage.** The National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine announced a boycott of the closing ceremony of the 2026 Paralympic Games due to the admission of representatives from Russia and Belarus to compete under their own flags for the first time since 2014, when the participation of Russian combatant athletes was recorded. Officials from the European Union and delegations from 15 other countries, who had previously also boycotted the opening ceremony, joined Ukraine's protest.

Military Support

- **Expanding the strategic defense partnership and increasing financial support strengthens Ukraine's long-term defense capabilities.** Spain will allocate a new €1 billion military aid package to Ukraine for 2026, bringing the total amount of Spanish support since the full-scale invasion to €4 billion. Part of these funds will be directed toward joint production of defense equipment with Ukrainian enterprises. Additionally, the countries have signed a series of agreements on cooperation in the economy, diplomacy, and rail transport.
- **The United Kingdom** is deepening strategic cooperation in the security sector by signing a declaration with Ukraine on **the joint development of a defense-industrial and technological ecosystem**. The agreement provides for the creation of joint production lines, the integration of supply chains, and an investment of $667,000 in the Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence under the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, with a focus on the development of interceptor drones.
- The **German government** has significantly **simplified the procedure for exporting weapons** to Ukraine, allowing the supply of air and maritime defense equipment without the need to approve each individual application.
- **The supply of the latest Western weapons is accompanied by the modernization of existing equipment and large-scale training of Ukrainian military personnel.** The Ukrainian Armed Forces will soon receive the latest SAMP/T NG air defense missile system for testing against ballistic targets. According to Ukrainian leadership, this Franco-Italian system is currently the only alternative to the Patriot systems. At the same time, the Ukrainian armored vehicle fleet is being reinforced with modernized Leopard 1 tanks featuring new Cockerill 3105 turrets from the Belgian company John Cockerill, as well as Thales combat modules designed to counter Russian drones.
- A large-scale **training program for over 600 Ukrainian artillerymen has successfully concluded in Germany**. The soldiers mastered the modern RCH 155 wheeled self-propelled artillery systems as part of training that began in the spring of 2025. In addition, the fleet of unmanned systems was expandedwith 86 Sting interceptor drones, which were purchased with funds from the Czech initiative "Dárek pro Putina" and transferred to units of the Ukrainian National Guard.
- **The Ukrainian defense-industrial complex is actively integrating into international production chains and developing proposals for new export markets.** The Japanese government is considering the possibility of purchasing Ukrainian strike drones for its own armed forces. It is expected that Tokyo's easing of export restrictions, tentatively scheduled for April, will allow for the signing of a bilateral agreement to exchange Ukrainian technologies for Japanese weapons, which, according to local media reports, is a less politically controversial step compared to importing Israeli systems.
- Joint ventures and **cooperation with European manufacturers** are expanding in the field of aerospace and drone technologies. The Ukrainian company Fire Point plans to launch **production of solid rocket fuel in Denmark** in 2026, while the Danish company GomSpace will manufacture communications satellites for Ukraine under the UASAT LEO program. At the same time, active joint development of new unmanned systems is underway: Ukrainian manufacturers have joined forces with Germany's Rohde & Schwarz to create reconnaissance systems, with Estonian partners to produce SHADOXinfantry mini-drones, and with the Czech company Pavetra Aerospace to develop cutting-edge defense systems.

Situation at the Front

Key Events of the Week:

- The intensity of combat activities remains very high. From March 15 to 21, more than 150 combat engagements were recorded daily along the front line, peaking at 286 in a single day.
- The Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka areas remain hotspots where Russian forces are carrying out the most assault operations.
- Active hostilities are ongoing in the Huliaipole, Lyman, Kupiansk, and Oleksandrivka areas.
- Ukrainian forces are holding back Russian offensive actions and carrying out counterattacks against their positions, equipment, ammunition depots, and command posts.
- Ukraine continues to conduct long-range strikes against military, logistics, and energy infrastructure in Russia and the temporarily occupied territories
- Russia is increasing its use of drones and scaling up the production of various types of UAVs, thereby reducing its reliance on missile strikes.
- According to Ukrainian officials, Russia has not been able to fully carry out the large-scale offensive operation it had planned for March.
- Russia is reinforcing its forces in the southern sectors, including by redeploying marine units, to continue its offensive operations.
- Amid the risk of a shortage of missiles for Patriot systems, the importance of air defense and interceptor drones is growing.
- Ukraine continues to systematically strike Russian military targets in Crimea, the temporarily occupied territories, and the rear of Russian forces.

15.03	➢ According to aggregated data, the intensity of combat activities remained high, with more than 150 engagements per day. Russian forces conducted the most active assault operations in the directions of Pokrovsk, Kostiantynivka, and Huliaipole. ➢ The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) noted that Ukrainian long-range strikes against Russian military and oil refining facilities could hinder Russia's preparations for a potential offensive in the spring or summer of 2026. ➢ President Volodymyr Zelenskyi stated that Russia is reducing its use of missiles while increasing production and deployment of various types of drones, including FPV drones, fiber-optic drones, and Shahed drones.
16.03	➢ A total of around 152 combat engagements were recorded over the past day. The Kostiantynivka and Pokrovsk directions remained the most intense, with 18–21 attacks reported there throughout the day. ➢ Active hostilities also continued in the Kupiansk and Lyman directions, where Russian forces persisted in their attempts to advance. In particular, reports indicated localized gains by Russian forces in the Pishchane area near Kupiansk. ➢ President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that the Ukrainian Defense Forces had thwarted a Russian offensive operation planned for March. He noted that the scale and intensity of the assaults do not correspond to the Russian command's original plans.
17.03	➢ Over the course of the day, more than 170 combat engagements were recorded, indicating an increase in the intensity of hostilities. Russian forces launched assaults across multiple sectors of the front in an attempt to break through Ukrainian defenses. ➢ The Ukrainian Defense Forces held their positions and inflicted significant personnel and equipment losses on the Russians. ➢ Sergei Shoigu, the secretary of the Security Council of Russia, stated that air attacks on Russian territory have significantly increased and acknowledged that no region can be considered completely safe anymore. ➢ Serhii "Flash" Beskrestnov, Ukraine's Defense Minister's advisor on technology, reported that an attack involving modified Lancet drones on Kyiv was largely demonstrative in nature and caused no damage, while also allowing Ukrainian forces to test countermeasures. ➢ In public statements, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized the need to seek a peaceful settlement while noting that Russia continues to expand its mobilization capacity and drone production.
18.03	➢ Up to 286 combat engagements were recorded over the course of the day, marking a peak in the intensity of hostilities this week. The highest level of Russian activity was observed in the Pokrovsk direction, where more than 70 assaults took place, as well as in the Kostyantynivka direction. ➢ Ukrainian forces repelled offensive actions and struck Russian command posts and areas where troops were concentrated. ➢ President Volodymyr Zelenskyi warned of a potential shortage of missiles for Patriot systems due to high global demand and production strain. ➢ Vladyslav Voloshyn, spokesperson for the Southern Defense Forces, reported that Russia is redeploying marine infantry units and preparing new offensive actions in the Zaporizhzhia direction.

Losses of the Russian army from 15.03.2026 to 21.03.2026

Liquidated personnel	**7 950**
Tanks	**12**
IFVs	**48**
Artillery systems / MLRS	**181/7**
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	**3**
Aircraft / helicopters	**0/1**
UAVs	**9 717**
Ships/boats	**0**
Vehicles & fuel tanks	**1 015**
Special equipment	**7**

Situation at the Front

19.03	➢ The Ukrainian Defense Forces struck Russian military facilities in occupied Crimea. They hit the innovation center of the “Granit” enterprise, which provides maintenance for air defense systems and is part of the Almaz-Antey corporation. ➢ Strikes were also reported against concentrations of personnel, ammunition depots, and fuel and oil storage facilities in temporarily occupied areas of Crimea, as well as in the Donetsk and Kherson Oblasts. ➢ A total of 187 combat engagements occurred over the course of the day. Russian forces continued to put pressure on the Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka areas, and active hostilities continued in the Lyman, Kupiansk, Oleksandrivka, and Huliaipole areas. ➢ Russian forces intensified operations in the Dnipro River island zone and continued attempts to land on the islands using small groups supported by unmanned systems. ➢ According to US intelligence assessments, Russia aims to achieve a battlefield victory and impose its terms for a settlement while continuing to build up its military capabilities. ➢ Oleksandr Syrskyi, The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, stated that Russia plans to recruit approximately 409,000 more troops in 2026.
20.03	➢ As of today, at least 81 combat engagements have been recorded, with the majority of the fighting occurring in the direction of Kostiantynivka, where approximately 12 attacks have taken place. ➢ The intensity of hostilities remained high throughout the front line, with Ukrainian forces continuing to hold back Russian forces and carrying out retaliatory strikes. ➢ In the Nadiivka area of the Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine’s Unmanned Systems Forces shot down a Russian Ka-52 attack helicopter using an FPV drone, indicating an expansion in the operational capabilities of unmanned systems.
21.03	➢ Russian regions and occupied Crimea were hit by a massive drone attack. According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, 283 drones were reportedly shot down. Explosions and fires were reported across several regions. ➢ In particular, there were reports of explosions in Simferopol and its surrounding areas, as well as a fire near the Tavriyskaya Thermal Power Plant. Attacks were also reported on facilities in the Samara and Rostov Oblasts, and in the Moscow area. ➢ The 3rd Army Corps reported that a large-scale attempt by Russian forces to launch a mechanized offensive in the Lyman and Borova direction was thwarted. ➢ The Russian forces, according to their data, involved more than 500 personnel, as well as armored vehicles and motorcycles. However, they began to suffer losses before reaching the line of contact, preventing them from carrying out the planned offensive.

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Vehicles & fuel tanks	1 015
Special equipment	7

This week shelling and strikes

Massive attacks per week

- Attack on the night of March 15: Air defense neutralized 90 UAVs out of 97. 5 strike UAVs were recorded at 5 locations, as well as the fall of downed UAVs (debris) at 2 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 16: Air defense neutralized 194 UAVs out of 211. The main areas of impact were Odesa, Zaporizhzhia and Kyiv oblasts. 16 strike UA Vs were recorded at 10 locations, as well as the fall of downed UAVs (debris) at 11 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 17: Air defense neutralized 154 UAVs out of 178. 22 strike UAVs were recorded at 12 locations, as well as the fall of downed UA Vs (debris) at 2 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 18: Air defense neutralized 128 UAVs out of 147. 15 strike UAVs were recorded at 12 locations, as well as the fall of downed UAVs (debris) at 3 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 19: Air defense neutralized 109 UAVs out of 133. 20 strike UAVs were recorded at 11 locations, as well as the fall of downed UAVs (debris) at 7 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 20: Air defense neutralized 133 UAVs out of 156. 19 strike UAVs were recorded at 13 locations, as well as the fall of downed (debris) at 7 locations.
- Attack on the night of March 21: Air defense neutralized 148 UAVs out of 154. 5 strike UAVs were recorded at 4 locations, as well as the fall of downed UAVs (debris) at 7 locations.

Donetsk oblast

- During the week, Donetsk oblast suffered from UAVs and FAB-250 attacks.
- On March 16, the Russians attacked the city of Mykolaivka. As a result of the attack, one person was killed and another was injured. A two-story residential building was also damaged. On the night of March 17, the Russians attacked the village of Oleksandrivka. Two people were killed in the attack. A private house was also destroyed. On March 18, Russian troops dropped two FAB-250 on the city of Kramatorsk. Ten people were injured in the attack, including two children.
- Private houses and two high-rise buildings were also damaged. On March 20, Russia attacked the vehicle of the Proliska humanitarian mission in the village of Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka with a drone. As a result of the attack, two people were killed and two others were injured.
- The following settlements also suffered from attacks during the week: Pokrovsk district: Zelene, Dobropillia, Chernihivka. Kramatorsk district: Sloviansk, Hromova Balka, Zaparo-Marivka, Novooleksandrivka, Ocheretyne, Kostiantynivka, Raihorodok, Bilenke, Serhiivka, Druzhkivka, Yarova, Lyman, Orikhuvatka, Andriivka, Drobysheve, Maiaky, Starovarvarivka. Bakhmut district: Riznykivka.

Odesa oblast

- During the week, the Russian army shelled the Odesa oblast, using massive strikes by Shahed 131/136 type drones. Residential quarters, critical, port and social infrastructure were hit: a three-story building, a 22-storey building, private dwellings and a kindergarten were damaged.
- Damage was caused to energy facilities, territories of enterprises and production equipment. Hits on two civilian commercial vessels under the flags of Palau and Barbados were also recorded. 6 people were injured.
- In particular, on March 19, Russian troops attacked Odesa with drones. In the Prymorskyi, Kyivskyi and Khadzhybeyskyi districts of the city, a three-story building was partially destroyed and a high-rise building was damaged; four people were injured. On March 20, two civilian commercial vessels under the flags of Palau and Barbados were damaged in a nighttime drone attack. Two people were injured.
- Under shelling were: Odesa, Chornomorsk, Izmail, as well as settlements of Odesa and Izmail districts.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- During the week, Zaporizhzhia oblast suffered from MLRS attacks and UAV attacks.
- On March 15, the Russians attacked the village of Rozumivka using an FPV drone. Two people were injured in the attack. The fence was also damaged. On March 16, the Russians attacked the city of Zaporizhzhia with UAVs. As a result of the attack, one person was killed, three more were injured including one child. In addition, the Russians attacked one of the terminals of the logistics operator. 8 people were injured in the attack.
- On March 19, Russia attacked the city of Vilniansk. One person was killed due to the attack. In addition, one person was killed in the village of Preobrazhenka as a result of a Russian FPV drone attack. On March 21, the Russians attacked the city of Zaporizhzhia with UAVs. The attack killed two people and injured six others, including two children.
- The following settlements also suffered from attacks during the week: Malokaterynivka, Veselianka, Barvinivka, Novoselivka, Liubytske, Orikhiv, Myrne, Huliaipilske, Vozdvyzhivka, Charivne, Kopani, Verkhnia Tersa, Lysohirka, Stepnohirsk, Prymorske, Lukianivske, Pavlivka, Stepove, Mali Shcherbaky, Huliaipole, Zaliznychne, Novoandriivka, Novodanylivka, Mala Tokmachka, Bilohiria, Zelene, Dobropillia, Pryluky, Varvarivka, Tsvitkove, Hirke, Bilenke, Lisne, Zalyvne, Dolynka, Novomykolaivka, Kushuhum, Novoivanivka, Novooleksandrivka, Yehorivka, Shyroke, Rivne, Svitla Dolyna, Zelena Dibrova, Preobrazhenka, Vilnianka, Yurkivka, Zirnytsia, Nove Pole, Chervonodniprovka, Staroukrainka, Mahdalynivka, Tersianka, Liubymivka, Yasna Poliana, Solodke, Olenokostiantynivka, Novopavlivka, Komyshuvakha, Trudove, Kyivske, Novoukrainka, Krynychne, Chervonyi Yar, Svoboda, Luhivske.

Kharkiv oblast

- During the week, Kharkiv oblast was attacked by KAB guided aerial bombs and UAVs.
- On March 16, the Russians attacked the city of Kharkiv with UAVs. 4 people were injured in the attack. Glazing in 3 houses, a civilian enterprise, a car and power grids were also damaged. On March 18, the Russians attacked the city of Kharkiv with UAVs. As a result of the attack, one person was killed, three more were injured, including a teenager. In addition, Russia attacked the village of Ruski Tyshky with UAVs. Two people were injured in the attack.
- In addition, the following settlements suffered from attacks during the week: Klynova-Novoselivka, Zolochiv, Bohodukhiv, Oskil, Cherkaski Tyshky, Cherkaska Lozova, Kovalenky, Slatyne, Derhachi, Chuhuiv, Martove, Prosianka, Myrne, Horokhovatka, Svitlychne, Husynka, Izium, Merefa, Rohan, Staryi Saltiv, Zelenyi Kolodiaz, Zarichne, Volokhiv Yar, Budy, Zmiiv, Zatoka, Kupiansk, Shypuvate, Kozacha Lopan, Artemivka, Hrachivka, Vilkhuvatka, Nova Oleksandrivka, Hrushivka, Starovirivka, Tsyrkuny, Kivsharivka, Ukrainske, Semenivka, Novoosynove, Sadove.

Poltava oblast

- On the evening of March 19 and the night of March 20, the Russian army shelled Poltava oblast using UAVs. The main blow came to the Myrhorod district. As a result of hits and falling of drone debris, the equipment of the industrial enterprise and the power line were damaged. No one was killed or injured.

Lviv oblast

- On the evening of March 18, the Russian army shelled the Lviv oblast. During the air alert, the air defense forces shot down a Russian UAV over Lviv. The debris of the drone fell on the territory of the SBU in Lviv oblast. No one was killed or injured.

This week shelling and strikes

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

- During the week, the Russian army shelled Dnipropetrovsk oblast, using missile strikes, aerial bombs, artillery and strike drones. Residential quarters, critical, transport and social infrastructure were hit: at least 18 private houses were destroyed, more than 70 homes and high-rise buildings were damaged. Several educational institutions and enterprises were destroyed. Dozens of vehicles, including agricultural machinery and private cars, were damaged. Five people were killed and another 39 people were injured, including three children.
- In particular, on March 15, the Russians attacked Dnipro and four districts of the oblast. An apartment building in the city was damaged by an explosion. An elderly man was injured. During the day, as a result of shelling in the oblast, a woman was killed, numerous fires were recorded in the residential sector and at railway infrastructure facilities. On March 16, the Russian troops attacked the Zaitseve community of Synelnykove district. As a result of the strike, 4 people were killed, another 26 were injured, including 3 children. In the village, 15 houses were completely destroyed, the school and the fire department were damaged.
- Under fire were: the cities of Dnipro and Nikopol; communities of Nikopol district (Marhanets, Pokrovske, Chervonohryhorivka, Myrove, Tomakivka), Synelnykove district (Zaitseve, Mezhova, Pokrovske, Ukrainske, Vasylkivka, Shakhtarske, Mykolaivka), Kryvyi Rih district (Zelenodolsk, Hrushivka) and Pavlohrad district (Bohdanivka community).

Mykolaiv oblast

- During the week, the Russian army shelled the Mykolaiv oblast using ballistic missiles, MLRS, Shahed 131/136 type attack drones and massive FPV drone attacks. Residential quarters, energy, educational and transport infrastructure were hit: a high-rise building and an educational institution, 8 private houses, a household building and a power line were damaged. As a result of attacks on powerfacilities, several settlements were temporarily de-energized. 2 people were injured.
- In particular, on March 16, Russian troops attacked a bus with FPV-drone in the Kutsurub ommunity, which was transporting employees of a local enterprise. Two people were injured.
- The following settlements were under shelling: Mykolaiv and Ochakiv; communities of Mykolaiv district (Kutsurub, Ochakiv), Bashtanka district, Voznesensk district and Pervomaisk district.

Sumy oblast

- During the week, Sumy oblast was attacked by KAB guided aerial bombs and UAVs.
- On March 16, the Russians attacked the city of Sumy using UAVs. Three people were injured in the attack. 5 vehicles were also damaged. In addition, one person was killed in the Velyka Pysarivka community as a result of a Russian UAV attack on a motorcycle. One person was also killed in the Sad community as a result of a Russian UAV attack. On March 18, Russia attacked the city of Sumy with UAVs. 4 people were injured in the attack, one of them a teenager. The administrative building, supermarket, cars and houses were also damaged. On March 19, the Russians attacked the Khutir-Mykhailivskyi community using UAVs. As a result of the attack, two people were killed and another was injured. Two people were also injured in the Vorozhba community as a result of a Russian UAV attack. In addition, four people were injured as a result of an attack by KABs in the village of Esman. Also, one person was injured in the Velyka Pysarivka community due to the UAV attack. In addition, two people were injured in the Sumy community as a result of a Russian UAV attack.
- Also during the week, the following communities suffered from attacks: Bereza, Hlukhiv, Shostka, Znob-Novhorodske, Verkhnia Syrovatka, Mykolaivka, Myropillia, Yunakivka, Krasnopillia, Shalyhyne, Nova Sloboda, Kyrykivka, Khotin, Bilopillia, Konotop, Putyvl, Trostianets, Richkivka, Seredyna-Buda, Yampil, Khmeliv, Svesa, Duboviazivka and Chernechchyna.

Kherson oblast

- During the week, the Russian army shelled the Kherson oblast, using air strikes, artillery and drone shelling. Residential quarters, objects of critical, social and administrative infrastructure were hit: 14 high-rise buildings and 72 private houses were damaged, administrative buildings and the museum building were damaged. 3 people were killed and another 27 people were injured, including one child.
- In particular, on March 16, the Russian army launched massive strikes on civilian infrastructure, as a result of which the penitentiary institution and the gas pipeline were damaged. On that day, one person died as a result of shelling, and nine residents of the oblast, including a child, were injured. On March 21, Russian troops shelled the Dniprovskyi district of Kherson. As a result of this attack, a civilian was killed.
- Under fire were: the city of Kherson, Antonivka, Sadove, Molodizhne, Prydniprovske, Naddnipriansk e, Bilozerka, Kizomys, Blahovishchenske, Dniprovske, Romashkove, Yantarne, Veletenske, Rozlyv, Novodmytrivka, Tomyna Balka, Mykilske, Ivanivka, Tokarivka, Beryslav, Tarasa Shevchenka, Borozenske, Nova Kamianka, Chervone, Khreshchenivka, Kostyrka, Novoraisk, Kostromka, Tryfonivka, Osokorivka, Velyka Oleksandrivka, Biliaivka, Zolota Balka, Lvove, Mykolaivka, Mylove, Monastyrske, Respublikanets, Vesele, Kozatske, Komyshany, Darivka, Inhulets, Novotiahynka, Poniativka, Stanislav, Oleksandrivka, Sofiivka, Shyroka Balka, Zmiivka, Rakivka, Urozhaine, Novokairy, Ukrainka, Piatykhatky, Burhunka, Olhivka, Tiahynka, Kucherske, Nezlamne, Odradokamianka, Zymivnyk, Zelenivka, Dudchany, Mykhailivka, Novooleksandrivka, Pryozerne, Honcharne, Sukhanove, Bruskynske, Tomaryne, Sablukivka.

Chernihiv oblast

- During the week, the Russian army shelled the Chernihiv oblast, using attack drones ("Geran", "Gerbera", "Lancet", "Molniia"), FPV drones (including fiber optic), artillery and mortars. Residential areas and infrastructure were hit: a department store was destroyed, educational, medical, judicial and administrative facilities, including the Territorial Recruitment Center and the prosecutor's office, were damaged. Dozens of private and multi-apartment buildings, shops, warehouses and equipment were damaged.
- One person was killed, another 19 people were injured, including servicemen, police officers and medics. In particular, on March 15, the Russian army attacked a checkpoint near Chernihiv near the village of Novoselivka with a Lancet drone. As a result of four explosions, one serviceman was killed, five more soldiers and one policeman received injuries of varying severity. On the same day, due to drone attacks, large-scale fires broke out in the residential sector in several districts of the oblast. On March 16 and 18, the Russians carried out a series of attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure. In Novhorod-Siverskyi, the "Geranium" strikes destroyed a department store and damaged surrounding houses. In the Mena community, a drone targeted a diesel locomotive, and during the provision of assistance to two injured railway workers, the Russians struck again, as a result of which an ambulance worker was injured. In Snovsk, as a result of the hits, the courthouse and the power facility were damaged.
- The following cities were under shelling: Chernihiv, Novhorod-Siverskyi, Semenivka, Snovsk, Mena; communities of Novhorod-Siverskyi (Buchky, Mykhalchyna Sloboda, Yasna Poliana, Hremiach, Medvedivka, Budyshche), Semenivka (Arkhypivka, Karpovychi, Leonivka, Yanzhulivka, Lohy, Yeline, Zoria, Serhiievske, Kuty Druhi, Zarichchia, Liskivshchyna, Oleksandrivka, Lubiane, Prohres), Snovsk (Huta-Studenetska, Kliusy, Khrinivka, Novi Borovychi, Hirsk), Horodnia (Senkivka, Polissia, Sutoky), as well as Ponornytsia, Mena and communities of Nizhyn district.

Kyiv oblast

- During the week, the Russian army attacked Kyiv and the oblast using strike drones. Mostly residential quarters and non-residential infrastructure of the capital city were under attack. There were no deaths and injuries among the civilians during the specified period.
- Under fire were: the city of Kyiv (Shevchenkivskyi, Solomianskyi, Sviatoshynskyi and Holosiivskyi districts), some territories of the Kyiv oblast in the areas of air defense operation.

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The week of shelling

Donetsk oblast

Zaporizhzhia oblast

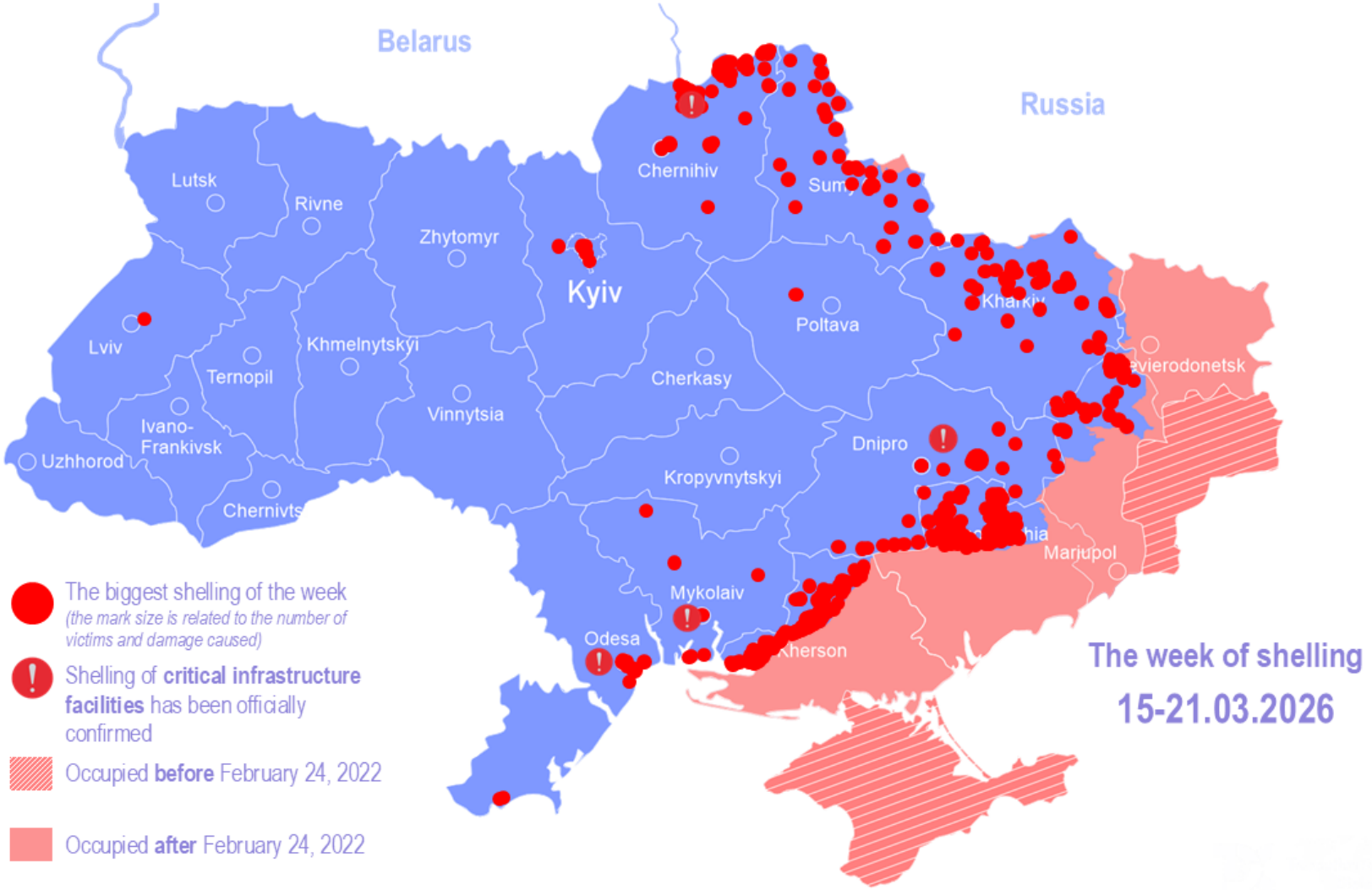
Sumy oblast

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Kherson oblast

Odesa oblast

Chernihiv oblast



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Humanitarian situation

Temporarily occupied territories (TOT) and evacuation:

- Head of the Regional Military Administration, Oleksandr Prokudin, reported that **three children aged 1 to 17 have been returned from the temporarily occupied part of Kherson Oblast**. The rescue took place as part of the **Bring Kids Back UA initiative**, with the support of the organization Save Ukraine.
- The Center for Countering Disinformation reported that in the occupied part of Kherson Oblast, Russian forces continue to **militarize children through the game "Zarnitsa 2.0".** According to the Center, the occupation authorities, the Russian National Guard, and Yunarmiya are involved in its organization. Under the guise of a patriotic game, teenagers are effectively being prepared for war, fostering loyalty to the regime and normalizing violence.
- The Center for National Resistance (CNR) reported that **Russian occupiers are using salt extraction in Henichesk** as a cover for the removal of Ukrainian resources. According to the CNR, **there are plans to export at least 14,000 tons of salt to Russia annually**, without any benefit to the local population. The company **Solprom** is involved in the scheme, and the occupation administration has allocated 40 hectares of land to it to expand extraction.
- Kateryna Andrieieva, a volunteer from Sumy Oblast, travels to border communities **under shelling to evacuate abandoned animals**. Over four years of full-scale war, she has rescued more than a thousand dogs, as well as cats, rabbits, deer, and sheep. She provides treatment and vaccination and finds new homes for the animals both in safer regions of Ukraine and abroad.
- Russian occupation authorities **sentenced a 68-year-old resident** of the temporarily occupied part of Zaporizhzhia Oblast to 11 years' imprisonment for allegedly transferring funds in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, according to Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Right.
- Russian authorities plan **to resettle nearly 114,000 Russian citizens to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by 2045**. This concerns the occupied parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson Oblasts. The occupying authorities intend to carry out large-scale construction in the TOT, including over 13 million square meters of housing, hundreds of social facilities, thousands of kilometers of roads and railways, as well as infrastructure such as airfields and ports.

Infrastructure and Energy

- **Ukrzaliznytsia** has announced **temporary restrictions on certain routes**; Russian forces are regularly striking Ukrzaliznytsia infrastructure, and trains have also been hit, including **passenger trains** in Chernihiv Oblast: **a drone struck a diesel locomotive**, causing a fire, according to the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development.
- Preparations have begun in Ukraine to **resume airport operations**. To this end, a special working group has been established within the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development of Ukraine. The relevant order was signed by Deputy Prime Minister for Recovery and Minister of Community and Territorial Development, Oleksii Kuleba.
- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has approved comprehensive resilience plans for regions and individual cities to **prepare the country for the upcoming heating season**.

Violations of International Humanitarian Law by Russia

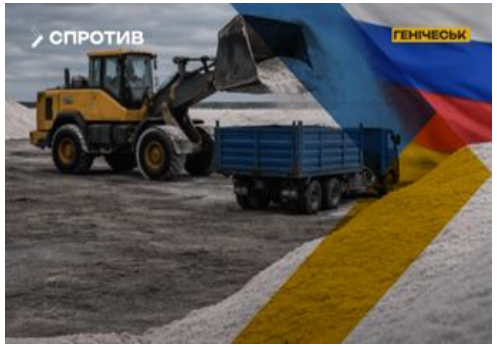
- The **European Union** announced **sanctions against nine Russian military officers** for their involvement in the killing, torture, and looting of civilians during the occupation. As the EU noted, units under their command also forced civilians to remove the bodies of the dead. According to Ukrainian authorities, **501 people were killed in Bucha**, while Russia denies these crimes.
- The Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Ruslan Kravchenko, reported that the **Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Luhansk Oblasts lead in the number of war crimes proceedings** – over 113,000 out of 216,000 nationwide. Last year, approximately 7,500 FPV drones attacks on civilian targets were also documented, resulting in over 450 deaths and nearly 3,000 injuries.
- **Russian forces attacked an ambulance** with an FPV drone in the village of Chervona Khvylia, Velykyi Burluk community, Kupiansk region, Kharkiv Oblast. **The strike killed a medical technician and a 27-year-old paramedic**. Another 53-year-old medical worker sustained multiple injuries and was hospitalized.

International Support

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that **a new shipment of energy equipment from the IAEA** has arrived in Ukraine for Mykolaivoblenergo JSC. According to Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, this equipment will help improve the reliability of the power grid, enable faster detection of damage, and respond more effectively to outages following Russian attacks.
- The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that another **shipment of inverter generators** – 12 units – has arrived **from the Republic of Armenia**. They will be delivered to frontline and affected regions of the country. The generators were purchased as part of Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha's **"WarmthForUkraine" initiative**, with the support of the Armenian Red Cross Society.

Information Threat

- The Center for Countering Disinformation reported that the European External Action Service recorded **540 cases of information manipulation in 2025**. Artificial intelligence was used in 147 of these incidents, which is three times more than previously. **Ukraine was the primary target – 112 attacks** – while France, Moldova, Germany, and the U.S. were also affected. Approximately **30% of the operations are linked to Russia.**

Other

- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Moldovan service reported that the **Moldovan government has declared a two-week environmental emergency on the Dniester River following an oil spill caused by a Russian strike** on the Dniester Hydroelectric Power Plant in Ukraine. The situation is most severe in the city of Bălți, where approximately 50,000 residents have been left without water supply. The oil slick is spreading downstream and poses a threat to Chisinau's water supply.