

Conflict Update # 343

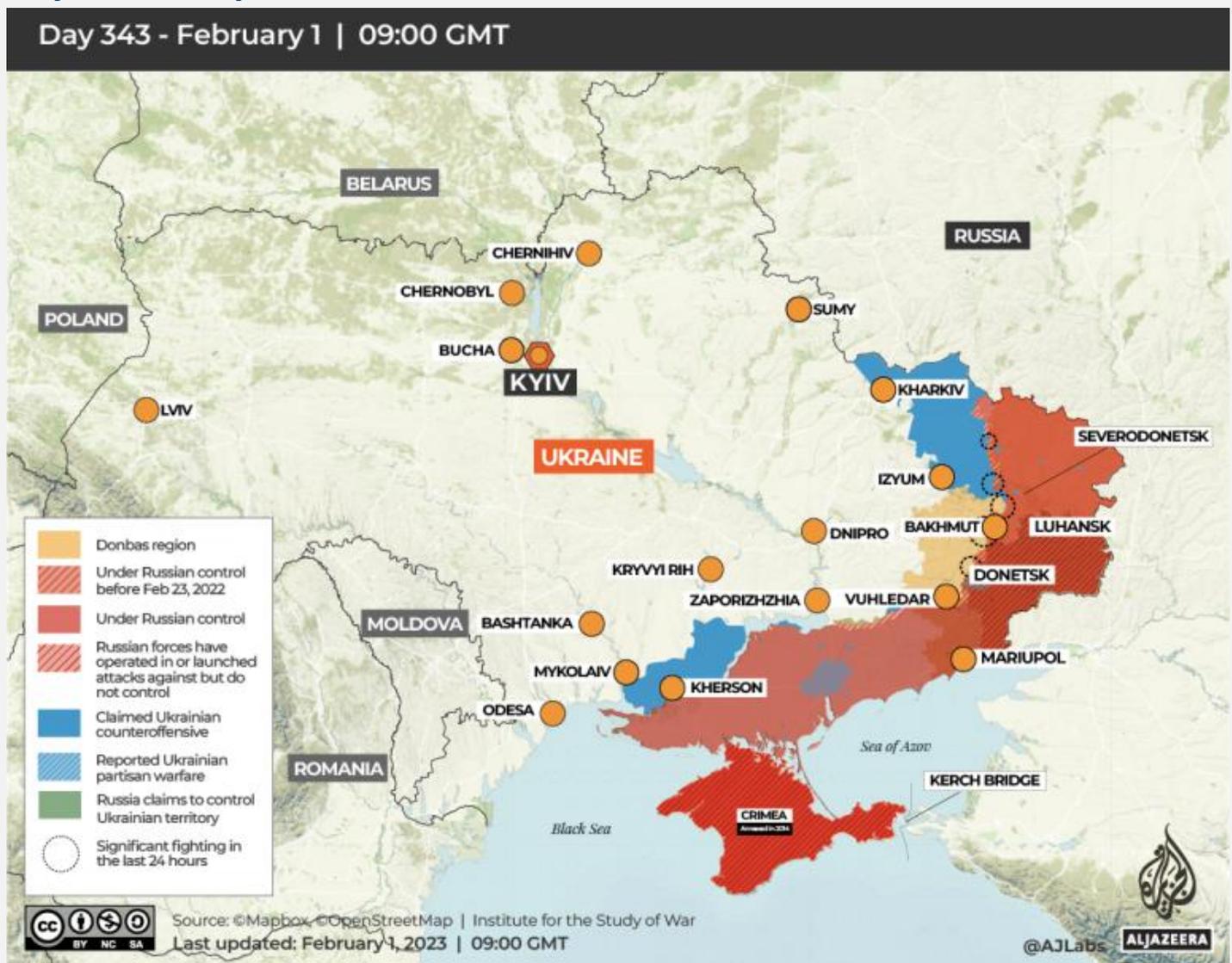
February 1st, 2023

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Conflict Assessment

Russian losses¹ – 128,420 (920) soldiers killed, 3,209 (+8) enemy tanks, 6,382 (+4) armored combat vehicles, 2,207 (+10) artillery systems, 458 (+4) MLRS systems, 221 (+0) air defense systems, 293 (+0) warplanes, 284 (+0) helicopters, 1,951 (+0) UAVs of the operational-tactical level, 796 (+0) cruise missiles, 18 (+0) warships/cutters, 5,061 (+13) trucks and tankers, 4 Iskander Missile Launchers (+0), 239 fuel bowsers (+0) and 200 (+0) units of equipment.

Key Takeaways



Belarus says Iskander ballistic missile systems now in service - Belarus says it has taken Russian Iskander ballistic missile systems into service after its operators had received training in Russia.

The missiles are capable of hitting targets at a range of up to 500km (310 miles), the Belarusian defence ministry said.

“Having completed the theoretical course, the artillerymen carried out practical training at the Belarusian firing ranges,” it added.

Comment – It appears to all and sundry that Belarus is preparing and arming for a conflict.

Ukraine’s astounding kill rate – Ukraine has **killed 15,460** Russian soldiers over the past **three weeks** and injured approximately 47,000, a total of c62,500 – **roughly 7% of Russia’s entire military force – in 3 weeks!**

Truly astounding – and one can see why the Kremlin desperately needs to again mobilize to engage hundreds of thousands more soldiers. At this rate we will shortly see St. Petersburg and Moscow conscripts being killed in similar and higher ratios of attrition. That will surely bring home to Russian Main Street the consequence(s) of illegally invading a neighboring and independent state.

Aside from the obvious implications of losing so many soldiers, the longer-term and devastating societal impact is on earning capacity for the average Russian family. These killed and injured soldiers all provide an income via employment for many more Russian families and citizens. They are the future drivers of the Russian economy and providers for its future workers and intelligentsia, among many others.

This gap is going to be a fundamental and disastrously negative element in any Russian future and, coupled with the globe’s highest rate of alcoholism, highest number of deaths from alcohol consumption and its growing and profound demographic catastrophe, will see Russia as a great power palpably reduced in coming decades.

Reaching Moscow – Ukraine possesses sufficient long-range weaponry to strike relatively deep within Russia.

Reports have indicated that the Ukrainian Grim-2/Hrim-2 launcher variant has a maximum range of 280 kilometers (174 miles), but this may actually only apply to an export version. Some sources suggest that the full range of the variant for the Ukrainian armed forces would be able to strike targets out to distances between 450 and 500 kilometers (some 280 to 310 miles).

Moscow is located some 500 kilometers direct missile flight from the nearest Ukrainian border and with supplementary boosting, can potentially increase this strike distance even further.

That places Moscow within range of Ukrainian rocket attack capability.

No such weapons have been deployed to date by Ukrainian forces, but long-range attacks on Russian airfields on the Crimean peninsula have attracted expert analyses that it is using some form of rocket assault capable of reaching hundreds of kilometers from safe launch pads.

There is also the potential that Ukraine has received assistance from one or more of its international partners, especially the United States, since the February 2022 conflict began to help field a more robust, if still small operational force armed with Grim-2/Hrim-2s or similar missiles.

Other countries, such as the United Kingdom, have helped the Ukrainian Armed Forces field additional non-ballistic ground-based surface-to-surface missile systems, as well.

Regarding the strikes against Russian Crimean airbases, that a single Grim-2/Hrim-2 TEL can fire two missiles also fit with pictures and video that have emerged to show two near-simultaneous major explosions at distinctly separate parts of the base. If this was indeed a missile strike, using domestically-developed weapons would only add to Ukraine’s



propaganda value, having already demonstrated an ability to penetrate past Russia's substantial air and missile defenses to hit a key targets.

This of course ignores the range impact of drone warfare where strike distances are increasingly being "shortened."

Kremlin welcomes 'bounty' offer for destroying Western tanks in Ukraine - The Kremlin has welcomed a Russian company's offer of "bounty payments" for soldiers who destroy Western-made tanks on the battlefield in Ukraine, saying it would spur Moscow's forces to victory.

The Russian company Fores this week offered 5 million roubles (\$72,000) in cash to the first soldiers who destroy or capture US-made Abrams or German Leopard 2 tanks in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian troops would "burn" any Western tanks that were delivered to Ukraine, adding the bounties were extra encouragement for Russian soldiers.

Kherson under continued Russian shelling: UK intelligence - The British Ministry of Defence says some of the war's most intense shelling has likely taken place along the Dnieper River in southern Ukraine in recent days.

Attacks "included continued Russian shelling of Kherson city with artillery firing from the east of the river," the ministry said in its daily bulletin.

"Kherson remains the most consistently shelled large Ukrainian city outside of the Donbas," it said, adding that Russia was likely aiming to degrade civilian morale and to deter any Ukrainian counterattacks across the river.

Ukraine says Bakhmut under renewed fire - Here's a quick roundup of the latest from the battlefield in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region: The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces says Ukrainian forces in Bakhmut came under renewed fire as did Klishchiivka and Kurdyumivka, villages on the southern approaches to the town.

Bakhmut has suffered a relentless bombardment for months, as Russian forces resorted to the same destructive tactics they used to capture two cities further north – Severodonetsk and Lysychansk – in June and July.

Kyiv's military general staff says Russian forces have made no headway in attempts to advance on Avdiivka, the second focal point of Russian attacks in the Donetsk region.

Russian forces also tried to advance near Lyman, a town further north in the Donetsk region that was recaptured by Ukrainian forces in October, the military said.

Russia was reaching further west in Donetsk by firing on the town of Vuhledar and a half dozen other towns and villages, the Ukraine military said. Vuhledar is about 148km (90 miles) southeast of the main fighting in and around Bakhmut.

Britain's MoD said the Russian force in the new Vuhledar assault was at least the size of a brigade, a unit typically comprising several thousand troops.

Ukraine intelligence suggests Russian military is struggling - Andriy Chernyak, a representative of the ministry, said that "the Russian Federation will continue offensive actions because it has not achieved its main goal - the full occupation of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. And it is in the units located there that we observe that the occupiers have serious problems with commanders at the platoon or company level. Those who stand on the front line do not want to fight, to go on the offensive, many want to mutilate themselves in order to return to the territory of Russia and stop fighting. The majority do not plan to extend the contract, but no one asks them.

"We have already seen and continue to see the frequent replacement of generals and commanders of various levels who have not been able to complete their tasks. Apparently, this is their last chance to correct the situation and at least partially achieve their goals. Therefore, according to our estimates, staffing problems with the team composition of the Russians will only increase every day," concluded Andriy Chernyak.

In January, the Russian military replaced the head of their Western Group Forces after the previous head had been in the position for only three months. Four people have taken the position in the last year since the invasion began.

Ukraine making Crimea 'untenable' for Russian Forces—retired Lt. General - Reported Ukrainian strikes on a railway bridge near a city considered a gateway to Crimea signal a push by Kyiv to make the peninsula Moscow seized "untenable," a former U.S. general has said.

The Twitter account NOELreports, which provides updates on the war in Ukraine, tweeted how Kyiv's forces had destroyed a bridge near Melitopol on Sunday which was one of the main supply routes for Russian forces.

The bridge was reportedly attacked by US-supplied HIMARS when a convoy of Russian vehicles had passed through.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, former commander general of U.S. Army Europe shared the tweet, adding in the message that the move was "part of disrupting the 'land bridge' and isolating Crimea, which Russia seized in 2014.

"This is a step towards the employment of long-range precision fires which will make Crimea untenable for Russian forces," he added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has pledged to expel Russian forces out of all occupied territory in his country, including Crimea, as Kyiv says it can never be free from the threat of Russian aggression if the peninsula remains in the Kremlin's hands.

But Hodges is among military experts who believe that reclaiming Crimea is required for Ukraine's long-term survival. He told Britain's Channel 4 News last Wednesday that Crimea is the "decisive terrain" and that it should be isolated "with long range precision weapons."

In his view, these would include F-16 jets and ATACMs (Army Tactical Missile Systems) and armed drones, which can "reach beyond the current HIMARS being used that could isolate Crimea" and "make Crimea untenable."

Inside the battle for Bakhmut, where Ukraine's tech-savvy troops say Russia treats men like meat - The city of Bakhmut was home to around 70,000 people before it found itself on the front line of Russian President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked war to seize Ukrainian territory. Almost 12 months of war have left Bakhmut barely recognizable.

Once renowned for sparkling wine, the small city has been reduced to a hollowed-out shell of its former self. But Bakhmut, and the Ukrainian forces defending it, have hung on. "Bakhmut holds" has even become a battle cry for the nation as it fights back against the Russian invaders. But it's only just holding on. **Comment** – Another city obliterated by Russian barbarity and war crimes.

Even a quick trip to see the central square must be undertaken with one eye on the clock, and the other vigilantly surveilling the sky. The barrage of artillery fire is constant. The sound of shells, incoming and outgoing, fills the air, punctuated by bursts of small arms fire.

The city is absolutely decimated and all but deserted, though CBS News did see a few civilians, astoundingly still trying to eke out a living amid the rubble and ruin.

Seva Kozhemyako, founder and commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' Khartia Battalion, and his men are among the forces battling to keep Russia from seizing what little remains of Bakhmut.

It has been one of the most fiercely contested and bloody battles of the war, and as the thunder of artillery continued, Kozhemyako ushered CBS News quickly underground into one of the bunkers from which much of it has been directed.

While the trench warfare along a front line that stretches hundreds of miles from north to south Ukraine looks like something from the battlefields of Europe 100 years ago, Ukraine's fight to hold onto Bakhmut is being waged from high-tech underground command centers.

Inside Kozhemyako's bunker, a small army of volunteer tech warriors — many of them gamers and IT nerds in their pre-war life — carefully monitored screens showing video being live-streamed straight from the front line.

A fleet of inexpensive drones revealed the landscape in astounding detail, from slain Russian soldiers, to fields pockmarked by shells and shattered civilian homes caught up in the battle.

The drone picture to the right shows a Russian soldier peering skywards just before the drone's hand grenade kills him.



One drone watched recently as Russian troops crawled into a back yard to try to escape a Ukrainian grenade. Often the drones capture images of seemingly helpless Russian forces huddling in trenches before a grenade falls on them. Such clips have spread far and wide on social media in recent months – valuable propaganda for Ukraine and its supporters.

"We are observing all the movements of the enemy with the help of drones," said Oleksander Pyvenko, commander of the Ukrainian National Guard's 3rd National Brigade.

Pyvenko said the real-time information is used primarily "to support artillery — we see the advances of the enemy and destroy them."

The biggest challenge is detecting Russian incursions before it's too late.

"It can be at night, can be during the day," said Pyvenko, but detecting enemy movements and warning ground forces about them is saving Ukrainian lives.

Gains along the front line just east of Bakhmut, where Russian forces are dug in, have been counted in inches. Russia has thrown wave after wave of soldiers and mercenaries at the fight. Many of them were recently prisoners, lured into the private army of the Kremlin-backed Wagner Group. If they survive, they're promised their freedom.

Ukrainian forces told CBS News the Russian men are being treated like meat.

Wagner troops see rise in diseases, infections due to poor hygiene - Wagner Group mercenaries saw a spike in infectious diseases due to their poor hygiene, Ukraine said on Tuesday.

Ukraine's latest statement about the dire condition of Russian troops comes more than 11 months after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the Ukraine "special military operation" in February 2022. Putin initially hoped his troops would carry him to a quick victory, but Ukrainian successes have translated to losses for Putin's troops, compelling Moscow's military leaders to turn to the Wagner Group, a paramilitary unit founded by Putin ally Prigozhin.

Ukrainian intelligence has now suggested the group could be experiencing widespread illness. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said diseases were spreading throughout the troops, largely comprised of ex-prisoners, in their daily update on Tuesday.

Comments, Developments & Reports

Attempt to retake Crimea will spark global nuclear war, official warns – A global nuclear war will "immediately" break out should any attempt be made to return Crimea to Ukrainian control, the head of Sevastopol's Civic Chamber said on Tuesday. Alexander Formanchuk, the chairman of Crimea's Civic Chamber, made the remarks in an interview with state-run news agency RIA Novosti.

"Any attempt to seize Crimea and return it to Ukraine will immediately escalate into a thermonuclear global conflict. Russia will not forgive this," he warned.

EU "Military-Defense-Psychological" impact of Russian invasion of Ukraine – Russia's illegal invasion of its neighbor has not only seen a rallying of fellow European nations supplying it (Ukraine) with weaponry, funding and support, but also an acute sense of vulnerability to future Russian aggression.

Russia invaded Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, Afghanistan in 1979, Chechnya in 1999 and Georgia in 2008.

It has a centuries-old pattern of invading surrounding countries and regions. It is not solely or purely a Soviet or Communist of behavior and invasion, but a repetition of one dating back to pre-Communist Peter the Great times.

It is in their blood.

They will not stop at Ukraine.

It is also not unexpected that the other surrounding present-day states, such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Bulgaria will feel increased tension and threat from future Russian motives of expansion and invasion.

Past masters of subterfuge and geopolitical manipulation, the Kremlin and its Russian leaders are no strangers to interfering and invading smaller countries in their geographical belt of influence.

Small wonder then that these threatened states are rendering huge relative assistance to Kyiv in its fight against another chapter of Russian colonialism – but this time right on their doorsteps with no pretension of it not extending its warring ways further west.

Small states such as Latvia and Lithuania are extremely vocal in their decrying of Russian aggression and in their demands for further, deeper and far more extensive military assistance to the invaded nation from countries such as the US, UK, Germany and others.

Poland, itself the subject of previous invasions by its Russian neighbor, is at the forefront of assistance to Ukraine, not only in providing weaponry and ordnance, but also in being the primary avenue and route of incoming military consignments and supplies destined for Ukraine. It is also providing ample and fundamental training facilities for Ukrainian troops in handling western arms and systems.

With an ever-increasing war-cost and geopolitical isolation drain of the Russian reserve of wealth, in all its forms and formats, the prospect of a weakened Russian Bear looms larger by the month.

This imperils the desires of Russian and Kremlin-aligned countries for a new bi-polar World Order.

There is a sudden plethora of attention and visits to African and South American countries by China and Russia, shadowed by western statesmen and women. Promises of financial and other assistance are pouring into these countries, most of whom being the offspring of historical colonialization over past centuries.

This speaks of an fast-growing geopolitical urgency to rally behind this pursuit of a bi-polar world led by China and Russia, the threat against which is in and of itself a further menace and danger to an existing world order and system.

Circling back to the EU states threatened by the Ukrainian invasion, it harkens ever-deeper fears of further Russian aggression in support of its self-assumed role of an international power player.

The world is undergoing a dramatic period of change and re-alignment, evidenced by dwindling fraternal relationships, accelerated by COVID-19 and fuelled by a group of self-appointed wannabe “custodians” of global stewardship.

Nothing here for the meek-minded mind you.

Putin & Russia

Former Putin aide: Coup a ‘real possibility’ – A former speechwriter for Russian President Vladimir Putin predicted that a military coup was possible for the country in the next year, pointing to a deteriorating economy and the growing unpopularity of the war in Ukraine.

Abbas Gallyamov, Putin’s former speechwriter who is now a political commentator, said the Russian president could be facing a rising tide of opposition at home as the war wears on, in an interview with CNN.

“The Russian economy is deteriorating,” Gallyamov said. “The war is lost. There are more and more dead bodies returning to Russia, so Russians will be coming across more difficulties and they’ll be trying to find explanation why this is happening, looking around to the political process and they’ll be answering themselves: ‘Well, this is because our country is governed by an old tyrant, an old dictator.’”

Kremlin says longer-range US rockets will escalate war - The Kremlin says the US will escalate the war in Ukraine, albeit not change its course, if it supplies Ukraine with longer-range rockets as part of a new package of military aid reportedly being readied.

“Yes, this is a direct way to escalate tensions, to increase the level of escalation, we can see that,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. “It requires us to make additional efforts, but, once again, it will not change the course of events. The special military operation will continue,” he added, using the Kremlin’s phrase for its offensive in Ukraine.

Comment – Yes, of course the Kremlin will engage in increasing rhetoric given a bully always detests any resistance.

Russian military power - According to the Global Firepower ranking, which ranks countries based on 60 individual factors, Russia is the second most powerful nation on Earth. In first place is the United States. Ukraine is placed 15th.

The Power Index assesses the number of military units, financial standing, and geography among other variables.

According to World Population Review, Russia has the 6th largest number of military personnel per 1000 per capita. The United States falls 7th on the list.

Diplomacy

Russian spy chief says NATO ‘raising the stakes’ in Ukraine - Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia’s SVR Foreign Intelligence Service, has accused NATO of “raising the stakes” in Ukraine by supplying Kyiv with additional military support, including more advanced weapons.

“They still have dreams of a strategic defeat over Russia,” Naryshkin said in a televised interview with the state-run RIA news agency. “But this will not happen,” he added.

NATO allies have sent billions of dollars’ worth of weapons and military hardware to Ukraine to help it fend off Russia’s full-scale invasion.

Naryshkin’s comments come as the US is readying its latest package of military aid for Ukraine. Supplies are expected to include rockets with a range of up to 150km (94 miles) for the first time.`

Comment – And the world accuses Russia of starting the war and “raising the stakes” in Ukraine. Unsurprisingly Russia as the illegal aggressor does not like anyone rising to the defense of a sovereign state they are invading and violating. Unsurprisingly because they have been doing this for centuries.

Hungarian official says Sweden should ‘act differently’ to join NATO - Sweden’s government should “act differently” if it wants to clinch Turkish support for its bid to join NATO, Hungary’s foreign minister has said, adding that a recent Quran-burning protest outside the Turkish embassy in Stockholm was “unacceptable.”

Peter Szijarto made the remark at a news conference following talks with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Hungary’s capital Budapest. Both diplomats addressed a January 21 anti-Turkish protest in Sweden that increased tensions between Ankara and Stockholm.

“As a Christian and as a Catholic, I must say that burning of a holy book of another religion is an unacceptable act,” Szijarto said. He also criticized a statement by Sweden’s prime minister that while the burning of the Quran was inappropriate and “deeply disrespectful,” it fell under Swedish freedom of speech protections.

“Stating that the burning of a sacred book is part of freedom of speech is just plain stupidity,” Szijarto said, adding that “perhaps they [Sweden] should act differently than that” if they want to secure Ankara’s backing.

US says Russia violating New START nuclear arms control treaty - The US has accused Russia of violating the New START treaty, the last major pillar of post-Cold War nuclear arms control between the two countries, saying Moscow was refusing to allow inspection activities on its territory.

The treaty came into force in 2011 and was extended in 2021 for five more years. It caps the number of strategic nuclear warheads that the US and Russia can deploy, and the deployment of land and submarine-based missiles and bombers to deliver them.

“Russia’s refusal to facilitate inspection activities prevents the United States from exercising important rights under the treaty and threatens the viability of US-Russian nuclear arms control,” a State Department spokesperson said in emailed comments to Reuters.

Russian ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that “arms control cannot be isolated from geopolitical realities” and Russia saw it as inappropriate to invite the US military to its strategic facilities at the moment.

Containment

US to send new missiles to Ukraine with a 93-mile range - Washington is preparing to send missiles to Ukraine which could strike almost the entire Russian-occupied region of the country, US officials have said.

Two officials said the weapons announcement would be made this week in a new \$2 billion package of military aid, according to Reuters. It would be the first time Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDB), a new weapon designed by Boeing, were sent.

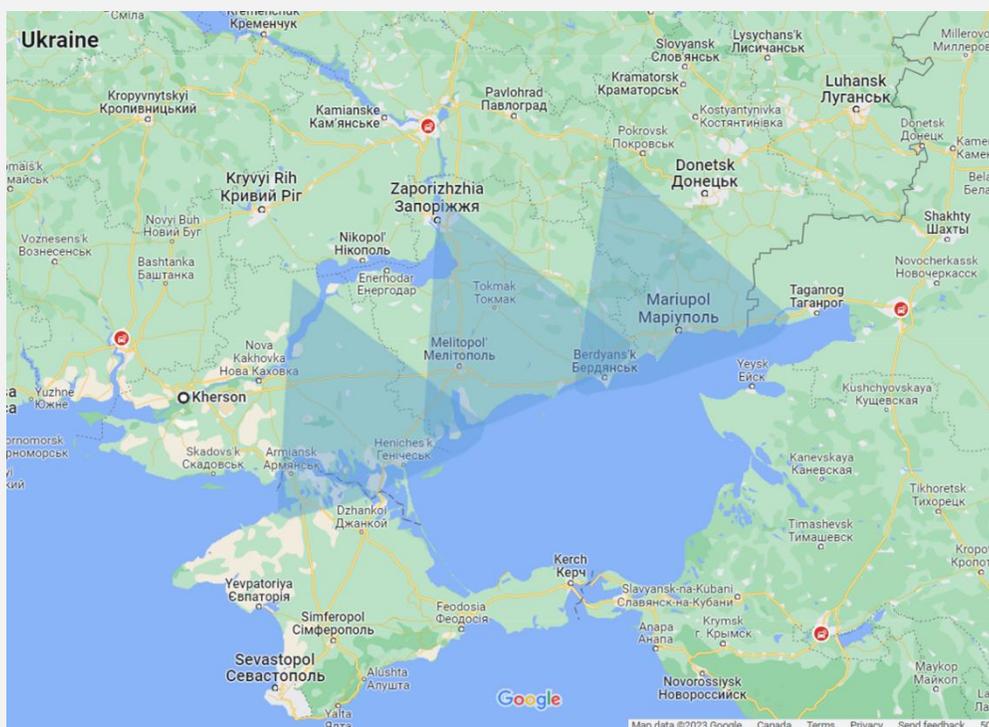
The cheap gliding missiles have a range of more than 93 miles due to fold-out wings which extend their range, a dramatic increase over the 50 miles range of the HIMARS rocket systems which changed the face of the war when Washington sent them last summer.

It would mean every inch of Russian-occupied Ukraine, apart from most of the Crimean peninsula, would be in range of Ukrainian forces, likely forcing Moscow to redistribute ammunition and fuel storage sites – see map below.

The small, GPS-guided bombs, which are reportedly capable of hitting targets as small as 3ft-wide, are fitted onto abundantly available rockets that can be fired from HIMARS, M270 launchers and aircraft.

Mykhilo Podolyak, the Ukrainian Presidential aide, said talks on the supply of the longer range missiles and attack aircraft were under way.

“Each war stage requires certain weapons. Amassing [Russia’s] reserves in the occupied territories requires specifics from [Ukraine] and partners,” Mr Podolyak wrote on Twitter.



Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said supplying the longer-range rockets “would not change the course of events” but would “escalate tensions,” a response often used by Moscow to stoke fears of nuclear escalation.

The GLSDB combines the GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb with the M26 rocket motor, both of which are common in American inventories.

Ukraine pushes France for fighter jets - Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov visited Paris for talks with French leaders yesterday, pushing for fighter jets to help Kyiv's fighters fend off Russia's nearly year-long invasion.

Ukrainian officials have called on their Western allies to send the jets in order to better respond to the Russian attack, but so far those calls have been met with wariness.

When asked by reporters if France would consider sending fighter jets to Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that "nothing is excluded" but laid out multiple conditions before such a step could be taken. Those

included that the equipment would not touch Russian soil, would not lead to an escalation of tensions and would not "weaken the capacities of the French army."

US President Biden said Monday the US would not supply its F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine.

France, however, has agreed to ship 12 more Caesar truck-mounted howitzers and new air defense equipment to Ukraine to bolster the fight against Russia, Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu said Tuesday in Paris. The artillery pieces add to the 18 already delivered.

The move comes with France yet to commit to sending its main Leclerc battle tanks to Ukraine, after spending weeks pressuring Berlin to supply its Leopard 2 and allow allies to re-export the German-made tanks.

Alongside other Western mobile cannons such as the German Panzerhaubitze 2000, the Caesar was credited last year with helping Ukraine strike targets deep behind Russian lines, undermining Moscow's offensive.

Ukraine hails French gift of radar as 'cherry on the Wednesday that Ukrainian lives will be saved by a France is supplying and which is powerful enough to spot in the skies over all of Ukraine's capital and its surrounding

The minister, Oleksii Reznikov, was so enthusiastic about what he that he quickly coined a nickname for the Ground Master

"This radar will be the cherry on will be called 'Grand Master.'"

The French defense minister, GM200's range of 250 kilometers the skies over Kyiv and the region, although it wasn't clear forces intend to deploy it.



cake' - Ukraine's defense minister said sophisticated air-defense radar that incoming missiles and exploding drones region.

called Ukraine's new "electronic eyes" 200 radar – the "Grand Master."

the cake," he added. "That's why it

Sebastien Lecornu, said the (155 miles) would enable it to watch Ukrainian capital's surrounding whether that's where Ukrainian

Poland aims to get training time on Leopard tanks down to 5 weeks - Poland aims to get training time on Leopard 2 battle tanks down to five weeks at a centre where Ukrainian soldiers are likely to be taught how to operate the Western battlefield workhorse against Russia's invasion.

The village of Swietoszow in western Poland, near the German border, hosts one of just three Leopard training centres in Europe - the others are in Germany and Switzerland.

The Polish military declined to confirm where Ukrainian soldiers would be trained, but military experts said Swietoszow was the most likely location.

"It is possible or even likely that the training of Ukrainian Leopard 2 tank crews will take place in Swietoszow, but other locations cannot be ruled out," said Jakub Pawlowski, military expert and deputy editor-in-chief of Defence24.pl.

Talks under way on long-range missiles, attack aircraft for Ukraine: Official - Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak says Ukraine is "in talks" with its allies for the supply of "longer-range missiles and attack aircraft" to help repel Russian forces.

"Each war stage requires certain weapons. The concentration of RF's [the Russian Federation's] reserves in the occupied territories requires specifics from Ukraine and its partners," Podolyak said in a post on Twitter.

“So there is already a tank coalition (logistics, training, supply) and there are already talks on longer-range missiles & attack aircraft supply,” he added.

US readying new \$2bn Ukraine weapons package

- The US is readying more than \$2bn worth of military aid for Ukraine that is expected to include longer-range rockets for the first time as well as other munitions and weapons, according to a report by the Reuters news agency.

The aid is expected to be announced as soon as this week, Reuters reported, citing two US officials briefed on the plan.

Spain to send up to six Leopard tanks to Ukraine

- Spain plans to send between four and six German-built Leopard 2A4 tanks to Ukraine, El Pais newspaper reported, citing unidentified government sources.

The actual number will depend on the condition of the battle tanks in storage and how many other countries will eventually supply to Ukraine, the sources told El Pais.

The news comes after Kyiv secured Western allies’ pledges to dispatch heavy tanks to help repel Russian forces that are making incremental gains in the east of the country.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR
F-16 fighter jet

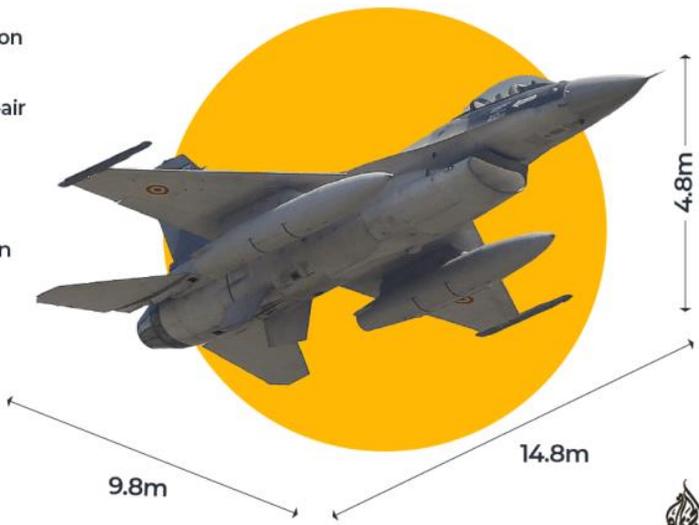
Ukraine is pushing for Western fourth-generation supersonic fighter jets, including the American F-16, to help it fight Russia. The US says it is discussing the request carefully.

Max speed 2,400km/h (1,500 miles/hour)	Max range 3,220km (2,002 miles)	Altitude 15km (50,000 feet)	Crew F-16C - one F-16D - one or two
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Armament
M-61A1 20mm cannon with 500 rounds

Conventional air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions and electronic counter-measure pods

External stations can carry up to six air-to-air missiles



9.8m 14.8m 4.8m

Source: United States Air Force | Date: January 30, 2023

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