

Conflict Update # 340

January 29th, 2023

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Conflict Assessment

Russian losses¹ – 126,1600 (650) soldiers killed, 3,197 (+8) enemy tanks, 6,366 (+22) armored combat vehicles, 2,195 (+7) artillery systems, 453 (+0) MLRS systems, 221 (+0) air defense systems, 293 (+0) warplanes, 284 (+0) helicopters, 1,947 (+0) UAVs of the operational-tactical level, 796 (+0) cruise missiles, 18 (+0) warships/cutters, 5,037 (+10) trucks and tankers, 4 Iskander Missile Launchers (+0), 239 fuel bowsers (+0) and 199 (+0) units of equipment.

Key Takeaways



Russia reconstituting its armed forces – Post-Afghanistan Russia set about reconstituting its armed forces, having suffered significant reversals during their 1979-1989 campaign in the Central Asian country.

They were found severely lacking in most spheres of battle engagement, allocating funds to modernize their forces.

In following military actions in Georgia, Chechnya and Syria this was again found to be the case and successes followed the typical Russian “Scorched Earth” approach of obliterating civilian infrastructure by 24-hour blanket bombing and missile attacks leveling any structure within range, and then incrementally advancing in similar fashion until victory could be seen to be achieved. But victory at stupendous civilian cost.

Once again the Kremlin successfully lobbied for funding to modernize its forces which had been found extremely wanting in martial parlance throughout these murderous campaigns.

And then in 2014, they again discovered they had a long way to go in modernizing both equipment and tactic with corruption and military ineptness ruling the way and the day during their Crimean invasion.

So once again Putin authorized funding to convert a slovenly military force into a nimble and mobile attacking entity.

And then came February 2022 when they discovered to their absolute horror that they were – again! - even further behind western technology and tactical prowess.

But this time they do not enjoy the benefit of sufficiently deep financial pockets and foreign revenue to fund any military reconstitution, not at this stage in any event.

They fully understand they need to “catch up,” failing which their “Asiapolitical” situation will worsen, directly affecting their international and geopolitical positioning, something Russian foreign policy is entirely dependent upon.

They are in dire political straits in Central Asia with relationships faltering, in danger of increasing regional insecurity in their southwestern gateways, losing a war against a far smaller neighbor, and about to see the huge real gap in Russian military effectiveness and efficiency compared to traditional enemies when modern western arms and technology arrive in Ukraine in the weeks and months ahead.

This is primarily why they are now rushing into military action along occupied oblast boundaries ahead of spring and summer when Ukraine will launch further offensives.

Russia has its nuclear arsenal to fall back on, always a menace when a nuclear country is in calamitous threat of defeat.

Oligarchic power seems to be on the wane in Russia, with military power on the rise.

The deep-rooted extent and pervasiveness of the Russian level of corruption, both in oligarchical and military circles, remains to be seen, but eradicating the former’s control of the vast sources and funnels of Russian capital and raw materials, and re-directing these into infrastructure and technological expenditure will assist in providing funding to reconstitute military prowess.

This is something the Kremlin will be intensely aware of and an objective uppermost in thought and mind.

They are being humiliated and militarily eviscerated in Ukraine, Kremlin generals personally blamed for every military failure and soon to be held accountable for the hundreds of thousands of Russian soldier deaths and injuries, not so much the former as “dead men don’t talk,” but the latter where returning invalidated young folk, now destitute and without work, will be vociferously and negatively verbose.

Which places the oligarchs at risk, something I am sure they are as equally and profoundly aware of.

However, Putin is the Oligarch-in-Chief, so it is moot whether fallout reaches him.

Known to be the ultimate Russian institutional survivor, he will move quickly in repelling any power usurpation or political trespass that threatens his longevity.

But the Russian military will, in the long run, need and be compelled to reinvent itself should Moscow harbor any desire to remain a great power.

This is essential in order to maintain its global prowess and (existing) zones of influence, as well as advancing any future global bi-polar world order with a semi-dominant Russian presence.

So we should look to Russia re-grouping at some future stage, reformulating its capital structure, rebuilding a military with new and modern equipment and tactic, and seeking solid relations with China and other similarly-minded states.

Talk of any Russian federal collapse is premature, with outlying provinces and member-states entirely dependent upon Moscow for funding and political survival. The sole means' of transport and capital is centrally controlled via the Kremlin cyclone of power. Exiting this centrifugal force of reward will be federal and personal political suicide.

There are no interstate roads out in the Russian hinterland, only a rail system owned and managed by Moscow, there are limited means of production outside Russian government contracts and food systems, all be they sparse and poorly run with yields per acre far below global standards, and there are extremely limited sources of capital outside those controlled by the Kremlin. So we shouldn't be looking for any "Soviet-style" implosion anytime soon.

That always leaves us in the conundrum of nuclear weaponry with Russia the world's largest nuclear power insofar as sheer number of weapons, said to be somewhere north of 6,250.

Shown below is a nuke.fas.org map of Russia's ICBM nuclear launch sites. Most of Russia's arsenal lies close to the EU, but there is a spread across multiple federal provinces and states, and there is limited to zero appetite in Moscow for these to secede whilst in possession of any nuclear material and weapons.



The superpower spent a whopping \$8 billion (£5.9 billion) on its nuclear arsenal in 2020 and has around 20 known missile bases throughout the world.

Amongst its weapons are 527 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles and strategic bombers.

In geopolitical terms, so long as Moscow and Putin control such a large nuclear force or “deterrent” agency, it holds many trump cards in terms of international leverage and threat.

Again, we should not be seeking any Russian collapse anytime soon, it will not happen, and should it happen the fallout and consequences are dire – for all.

Conventional Russian forces are likely replacing exhausted Wagner Group³ forces to maintain the offensive in Bakhmut after the Wagner Group’s offensive in Bakhmut culminated with the capture of Soledar around January 12.

The Wagner Group’s assault on Bakhmut has likely culminated with its surge on Soledar. And its forces in Bakhmut have not made significant gains since capturing Soledar. Conventional Russian units are now participating in fighting in Bakhmut to reinvigorate the Russian offensive there. Combat footage posted on January 20 indicates Russian Airborne Forces (VDV) are operating around Bakhmut as the footage shows a Russian BMD-4M – niche mechanized equipment exclusively used by the VDV. A Russian source reported that Wagner and VDV elements conducted joint operations in Bakhmut on December 27.

The Russian MoD has been increasingly reporting that their VDV are operating in the Bakhmut area since early January 2023, indicating conventional Russian forces are augmenting if not replacing likely culminated Wagner forces in the area. Wagner Group forces - particularly convicts - have taken heavy casualties in Bakhmut since the fall of 2022. One anonymous US official reportedly stated on January 5 that the Wagner Group’s forces have sustained more than 4,100 deaths and 10,000 wounded, including over 1,000 killed between late November and early December near Bakhmut.

Ukrainian officials have maintained that the Russian offensive on Bakhmut has not culminated. ISW has previously assessed that the Russian offensive on Bakhmut was culminating. We continue to assess that the Wagner offensive has culminated, but now assess that the Russians are committing conventional units to continue the fight. The larger Russian effort against Bakhmut has likely thus not culminated.

Russian forces are attempting to prevent Ukraine from regaining the initiative possibly ahead of a planned decisive Russian offensive in Donbas³. Chief of the Russian General Staff Valery Gerasimov stated on December 22 that Russian forces are focusing most of their efforts on seizing Donetsk Oblast, which likely entails Russian forces capturing key positions in western Luhansk Oblast and northeastern Donetsk Oblast to reach the oblasts’ administrative borders.

They have resumed ground attacks in the Vuhledar area (unsuccessfully attempted in late October) and are conducting small-scale assaults in Zaporizhia Oblast and around Donetsk City. Russian forces are conducting a large-scale offensive operation on the Bakhmut frontline as their current main effort and a defensive operation, for now, on the Svatove-Kreminna line.

The localized attacks on Vuhledar and settlements in Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts are likely intended to disperse Ukrainian troops and set conditions for a decisive Russian offensive in western Luhansk Oblast, as ISW had previously assessed.

Their forces may be attempting to disperse the Ukrainian grouping of forces on the Svatove-Kreminna line to enable a Russian recapture of Lyman, Donetsk Oblast which they could seek to use as a launching point for a decisive offensive

to secure Donbas by conducting an offensive from Lyman in tandem with a drive on Bakhmut or from Bakhmut toward Slovyansk if the Russians succeed in capturing Bakhmut.

The Russians may imagine that they can drive from their current positions directly to the Donetsk Oblast border along several independent lines of advance, although it is unlikely that they would not recognize the extreme improbability of success in such an attempt. They more likely intend to pursue several phases of offensive operations culminating with securing the borders of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These phases would likely require anywhere from six to 12 months of Russian campaigning, if they are possible at all, extrapolating from past Russian operational patterns and assuming higher levels of Russian combat power and capability than ISW has observed since the start of the war.

Russian forces likely lack the combat power necessary³ to sustain more than one major offensive operation while fixing Ukrainian forces in western Donetsk and eastern Zaporizhia oblasts. There is no open-source evidence to suggest they have regenerated sufficient combat power from their losses in the early phases of the war to enable them to conduct simultaneous large-scale mechanized offensives in the next several months.

The Russian military has not demonstrated any capability to conduct simultaneous combined arms offensive operations since early 2022 with their recent gains around Bakhmut relying on months of human wave attacks to secure territorial gains around Bakhmut by brute force at tremendous human costs.

Russia's earlier capture of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk in the summer of 2022 also did not utilize combined arms but instead relied on large-scale rolling artillery barrages to methodically destroy Ukrainian positions.

Their forces are experiencing growing artillery ammunition shortages that would prevent them from repeating these tactics. It is unlikely, moreover, that their conventional military will be willing to take the kinds of horrific losses the human wave tactic has inflicted on Wagner's convicts. The Russians' ability to execute large-scale rapid offensives on multiple axes this winter and spring is thus very questionable.

The conventional Russian military still must undergo significant reconstitution before regaining the ability to conduct effective maneuver warfare. Russian MoD plans to significantly increase the size of Russia's military with 12 new maneuver divisions will take at least until 2026, if this effort succeeds at all.

Western intelligence and defense officials have not issued any indications that Russia's effective mechanized warfare combat power has recently increased, and ISW has not observed any indicators along those lines.

The Russian military's decreasing reliance on Wagner forces³ around Bakhmut is likely reducing Wagner Group financier Yevgeny Prigozhin's influence.

Russian forces reportedly continued limited counterattacks³ to regain lost positions along the Svatove-Kreminna line.

Ukrainian forces³ continued to strike Russian rear areas in Luhansk Oblast.

Russian forces continued offensive operations in the Bakhmut³ and Avdiivka-Donetsk City areas. Russian forces continued a localized offensive near Vuhledar in western Donetsk Oblast.

Russian sources did not report any Russian ground attacks³ in Zaporizhia Oblast for the second consecutive day on January 28.

Some Russian citizens continue limited efforts³ to sabotage Russian force generation efforts.

Russian occupation officials³ continue to set conditions for the long-term forced deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia.

German arms maker Rheinmetall² is ready to significantly boost its output of tank and artillery munitions to satisfy strong demand in Ukraine and the West, and may start producing HIMARS multiple rocket launchers in Germany, CEO Armin Papperger told the Reuters news agency.

Talks are under way among Ukraine and its allies about Kyiv's requests for long-range missiles² that it says are needed to prevent Russia from destroying its cities, a top aide to Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine has been promised 321 heavy tanks² by several countries, its ambassador to France said.

Poland will send an additional 60 tanks to Ukraine² on top of the 14 German-made Leopard 2 tanks it has pledged, the Polish prime minister said in an interview with Canadian television.

Russia fired 2 hypersonic Kinzhal missiles Thursday, Ukraine says¹⁰ - Two of the 70 missiles fired by Russia toward Ukraine on Thursday were Kinzhal-type hypersonic missiles, the Ukrainian Air Force said, calling on the West to provide them with advance air defense systems that are capable of shooting these down.

"We need Patriot and SAMP/T systems to be able to (intercept these missiles)," Ukrainian Air Force Command spokesperson Yuri Ihnat said during a briefing.

SAMP/T systems are used for air defense primarily in Europe.

The United States has said it will send Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine, but the systems do not appear to be operational in the country yet. Ukrainian troops were set to begin training on the Patriot system this month at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, where the US conducts its own training on operating and maintaining the advanced air defense system.

France and Italy are finalizing an agreement to send SAMP/T systems to Ukraine, with an agreement expected in the coming weeks.

Comments, Developments & Reports

Retired U.S. General: "I Expect Ukraine Will Liberate Crimea By The End Of This Summer"⁷ - Lieutenant General (Retired) Ben Hodges made the bold prediction in an exclusive interview. He is the Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Policy Analysis, was Commander of US Army Europe from 2014 to 2017 and is also the author of Future War and the Defence of Europe, published by Oxford University Press.

"What's happening in Ukraine is about much more than Ukraine. This is about defense of the international rules-based order from which most of the World has benefitted since the end of WWII... respect for sovereignty as enshrined in the UN Charter, respect for human rights, accountability for war crimes, and respect for international law. It's also about deterring China... The CCP [The Chinese Communist Party – CJ] needs to see that the West is prepared to do whatever it takes to protect liberal democratic values and our strategic interests."

"I don't know why we, the West, have been so incremental in our decisions on what to provide to Ukraine. I think we have been self-deterring out of an exaggerated fear of Russian nuclear escalation, which I believe is a risk which must be taken seriously but which is extremely unlikely. Patriot is of course the best system in the world for what it was designed to do – knock down missiles and aircraft to protect a specific site. But it is not a 'sky shield' that will protect all of Ukraine. It must be integrated into a network, or system of systems, with layers of air/missile defense...what we call Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD). Don't use a Patriot against a drone...use other systems in one of the layers to do that. One battery of Patriot, with about six launchers, can help protect one major city."

“Ukraine will continue building up an armored force – a division or more – that is trained and prepared to serve as the breakthrough formation for the next major offensive phase of the Campaign. I’d anticipate that it’ll be at least three months before they’re able to do that. It will be built around Ukrainian armor that they already have or have captured, but Western tanks/IFV’s/artillery will be key to making it lethal. I can’t judge the weather for March/April yet nor can I be confident of the delivery of tanks to complement the IFV’s that are now being delivered, but it does seem that the dam is about to finally break on Western tanks. Maintenance and training and logistics for all of this is of course part of the build-up.”

“Training is already underway. The Ukrainians have impressed me with how quickly they can learn/adapt to new equipment and technologies. I estimate they will be proficient in about 1/3 of the normal time for training. The longer time requirement is for teaching mechanics and for building up the maintenance capabilities.”

“I was always confident that the Ukrainian Soldiers would do well. But I underestimated the resilience and tenacity of the Ukrainian population and their elected officials. I grossly overestimated the capabilities of the Russian forces, which is, for me, professionally embarrassing. I failed to appreciate the depth and effect of corruption within the Russian Ministry of Defense, the lack of real operational experience, and their failure to conduct realistic, demanding training.”

“I am confident that there will continue to be strong, bi-partisan support in the Congress for support to Ukraine, surely through the end of this year. I therefore expect that the West and other partners will also continue to support Ukraine. If we continue this, and if we provide the long-range systems Ukraine needs to isolate Crimea and render it untenable for Russian forces and which will enable them to deny sanctuary for Russian forces attacking civilian targets, then I expect Ukraine will liberate Crimea by the end of this summer. And Crimea is the decisive terrain.”

“Decisive terrain for this war is Crimea. Ukraine knows that they cannot settle for Russian retaining control of Crimea... They’ll never be safe/secure or able to rebuild their economy so long as Russia retains Crimea. Therefore Kyiv cannot accept any negotiated settlement which gives up Crimea, nor should the West... If we are serious about the international rules-based order then we cannot allow the Kremlin to be rewarded for its illegal actions. Additionally, war crimes tribunals should be established already. Every level of Russian commander and authority should know that their names and crimes are already being catalogued.”

“The US Government will finally have to develop a strategy for the greater Black Sea region, thanks to bi-partisan legislation crafted by Senators Shaheen and Romney. This is now the Law. Repairing/strengthening our relationship with Turkey and other nations in the region will be a key part of that strategy.”

Nearly 5,500 Russians killed last week in war: Defense Ministry⁴ - The daily and weekly death toll of Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine keeps rapidly climbing, the defense department in Ukraine claims. More than 5,000 Russian soldiers died within the last week alone, the Ukraine Ministry of Defense posted.

As the war rapidly approaches its one-year mark next month, the estimated death count of Russians keeps mounting higher by the week. So far, there have been more than 125,000 dead Russian soldiers since the war began in late February 2022.

Ukraine's Ministry of Defense posted Saturday that another 800 Russian soldiers had been killed the previous day, bringing that estimated total to 125,510 deaths. According to the ministry's numbers, there have been 5,350 casualties within the last seven days.

Comment – Previously reported in these Updates.

Vessel on fire, another damaged in Ukraine port-side attack² - The Black Sea Grain Initiative, a UN-led food export drive run from Istanbul, could be in jeopardy after two Turkish vessels came under attack at the Port of Kherson.

Footage received from Turkish television shows a 43-year-old general cargo ship, Tuzla, on fire.

The vessel, like many other Turkish ships that have been stuck at port since the war in Ukraine began, has been unable to leave Kherson since it first arrived on February 23, two days before Russia started firing missiles into its neighbor's territory.

The other vessel, also a general cargo ship, the Ferahnaz, is apparently close to the Tuzla and has been stranded for about the same amount of time.

An official from the Cakiroglu Shipping Company, which owns the Ferahnaz, said their vessel had been damaged by shrapnel from a missile that had struck the Tuzla.

To date, 19 cargo vessels had been damaged or destroyed since the start of the war, a source said.

40,000 of Russia's Wagner Group soldiers 'killed, missing or deserted'⁸ - 80% of the soldiers, previously prisoners, provided by the Wagner group are reportedly dead, missing, surrendered or deserted.

40,000 Russian soldiers from the Wagner group are "either killed...or missing, or deserted, or surrendered," leaving only some 10,000 fighting, according to independent Russian outlet Meduza.

The 40,000 form a significant part of Russia's military, as 20% of the Russian prisoners that have been recruited to fight are from the Wagner group, according to Newsweek.

Olga Romanova, head of a Russian charity, collaborated with the "My Russian Rights" project and declared in a video that prisoners who go missing are automatically declared dead. In reality, many could simply be missing or have defected, she said.

Family members of Wagner Russian fighters have reportedly held funerals for their loved ones, only to find out that they are still alive in Ukraine.

One woman reportedly received a coffin from Wagner, only to discover it was empty. She said, "They told us that there was no need to open the coffin, because before sending [fighters to the war], they take some DNA, and when the corpses are found, they compare them," said the woman. "They told us that they gave us a 100 percent guarantee that it is him." The woman also added that she did not believe her husband had joined the invasion voluntarily.

EU accuses Russia of "indiscriminate attacks" against Ukraine, taking war to a "different stage"¹⁰ - Senior European Union official accused Russia on Friday of taking its war against Ukraine to a "different stage" by taking aim at civilians and non-military targets, prompting Germany and the US to supply military equipment to Ukraine in order for the country to better defend themselves.

Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, the secretary general of the European Union's European External Action Service, Stefano Sannino, said Russia had "moved from a concept of special operation to a concept now of a war against NATO and the West."

"I think that this latest development in terms of armed supply is just an evolution of the situation and of the way Russia started moving the war into a different stage," Sannino, said, adding that Putin was launching "indiscriminate attacks against civilians and against cities."

The EU's latest actions are aimed at "just giving the possibility of saving lives and allowing the Ukrainians to defend (themselves) from these barbaric attacks," he added.

Tanks promised: The leaders of the United States and Germany each announced Wednesday they will send contingents of tanks to Ukraine, reversing their longstanding trepidation at providing Kyiv with offensive armored vehicles and unleashing powerful new tools in Ukraine's efforts to retake territory seized by Russia.

The announcement by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that he will send Leopard 2 tanks was coupled with an announcement from US President Joe Biden that he was providing 31 M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, reversing the administration's longstanding resistance to requests from Kyiv for the highly sophisticated but maintenance-heavy vehicles.

The dual announcements made for a landmark moment that followed weeks of intense pressure on Berlin from some of its NATO allies. The decisions were the result of prolonged diplomacy between Germany, the United States and other European allies, and come as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky prepares for a new Russian offensive this spring.

Containment

The Covert Polish Repair Shop Patching Up Ukrainian Arms⁵ - Poland has set up a major repair operation aimed at returning damaged Ukrainian artillery and armor to the battlefield.

In a sprawling factory complex surrounded by derelict buildings, hundreds of technicians are working around the clock on one of the biggest challenges of Ukraine's war: repairing artillery and heavy armor and returning it to the front line.

Mechanics buzz around the football-field-sized workshop housing three AHS Krab guns, the air thick with the smell of metal dust and automotive grease. Two of the Krabs, which look like tanks but are self-propelled 155mm howitzer guns, are missing parts of their caterpillar tracks and are riddled with bullet holes and contorted metal.

Another Krab stands sparkling clean, ready to be ferried back into Ukraine along a route that has seen the biggest transfer of arms in Europe since World War II. Each weapon can take up to two months to repair by technicians who must pass layers of security checks before they are allowed onto the floor of the factory at a location The Wall Street Journal agreed not to disclose.

Uranium 'bullets': How US military tanks dominate in battle⁶ - Penetrating the armor of an enemy tank is the name of the game in tank warfare. The M1A2 Abrams main battle tank can fire a highly-accurate kinetic energy sabot round. This shell uses depleted uranium that can be deadly against any tank around the world. Still, the shells could cause health problems for soldiers and civilians who are exposed to potential radiation.

Why Depleted Uranium Rounds Are So Effective

The 120mm M829 depleted uranium shell packs a wallop when shot by the Abrams.

Nicknamed the "Silver Bullet," during Operation Desert Storm, the M829 dominated the battlefield and took out numerous enemy tanks in that conflict.

It has different variants that have taken advantage of the Abrams upgrades over the years.

The M829 round has an electric primer, propellant, sabot projectile, and depleted uranium penetrator with fins and a tracer. The ballistic tip keeps the shot flat, so it doesn't drop in the air.

The U.S. Army had previously used tungsten-tipped penetrators. They found that depleted uranium was tougher and heavier than the tungsten rounds.

The depleted uranium causes the round to burst into flames once it penetrates the armor of the targeted tank. M829 series (now upgraded to the M829A4 variant) can go through half a meter of armor at a range of over one mile.

The Silver Bullet Is Better in Tank-on-Tank Battles

However, the Silver Bullet is not that effective against other targets as the round goes straight through walls and buildings. It is more oriented to armored warfare.

For different targets such as structures, bunkers, and other emplacements, the Abrams is switching to the 120 mm Advanced Multi-Purpose (AMP) round. The AMP will take the place of the main high-explosive anti-tank shell and three other rounds such as the anti-personnel cannister and the obstacle reduction round. The AMP can take out an anti-tank missile team hiding behind a wall, for example.

PM Orbán: NATO may officially enter the war in Ukraine this spring¹¹ - "We are in great trouble", PM Orbán said yesterday in the Carmelite Monastery, his seat in the Buda Castle. He added that provided Russia conducts a successful spring offensive, NATO would have to decide whether to enter the war physically. That would mean sending soldiers to die in Ukraine against the Russians. He said the Americans do not think about that, but the number of European leaders concerned with such an option grows.

Therefore, it is not madness to imply that soon NATO soldiers will fight in Ukraine, he said. Orbán did not exclude the use of "tactical" nuclear weapons in Ukraine, rtl.hu wrote. He added history showed the Russian army regularly struggled in the first phase of the war. Afterwards, it becomes unstoppable.

Instead of ratcheting up war rhetoric and risking escalating the conflict in Ukraine, the international community should focus on creating peace, Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's foreign minister, said on Thursday in New York, adding: "Dialogue is needed as soon as possible."

Western allies have committed to sending tanks to Ukraine. Here's how those vehicles stack up⁹.

Several countries have offered to send the fighting vehicles, but not all have confirmed how many they plan to send. Here's what we know:

- Leopard 2 - 32 tanks total
 - Germany - 14
 - Poland - 14
 - Canada - 4
- M1 Abrams - 31 tanks total
 - United States - 31
- Challenger 2 - 14 tanks total
 - United Kingdom - 14
- In addition to the 14 Leopard 2 tanks pledged, Poland said on Friday that it will send 60 more modern battles tanks to Ukraine.
- Spain has is "willing to send some of its Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine," according to its defense minister.
- Norway is reportedly considering whether to send some Leopard 2 tanks.
- The Netherlands would "seriously consider" purchasing 18 Leopard 2 tanks it leases from Germany and sending them to Ukraine, the prime minister said. It doesn't own any of the tanks.

The first tanks pledged to Ukraine

Germany, the UK and the US have committed to sending their Leopard 2, Challenger 2 and M1 Abrams tanks, respectively. Those are advanced and powerful armored vehicles that equip most NATO countries. Below are the technical specifications of the standard models of these vehicles.

	Leopard 2	Challenger 2	M1 Abrams
	9.67 m. 32 ft.	8.3 m. 27 ft.	9.77 m. 32 ft.
			
Made in	Germany	UK	US
Crew	4	4	4
Weight (tons)	52	63	63
Speed	72 kph 45 mph	56 kph 35 mph	68 kph 42 mph
Range (main fuel supply)	450 km 280 miles	550 km 342 miles	426 km 264 miles
Ammunition	42	50	40
Armaments	1x 120 mm L/44 smoothbore gun 2x 7.62 mm MG3 machine gun	1x 120 mm L30A1 rifled gun 1x 7.62 mm L94A1 machine gun 1x 7.62 mm L37A2 machine gun	1x 120 mm M256 smoothbore gun 2x 7.62 mm M240 machine gun 1x 12.7 mm M2 HB machine gun 12x smoke-grenade launcher (2 x 6)

 Sources: Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, NATO, General Dynamics, Janes
Graphic: Jhasua Razo, CNN

Sources

¹ <https://www.mil.gov.ua/en/news/2022/09/22/the-total-combat-losses>

² <https://www.Aljazeera.com>

³ <https://www.understandingwar.org/>

^{4, 5, 6} <https://www.newsweek.com/>

⁷ <https://www.zenger.news/>

⁸ <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-729938>

⁹ <https://edition.cnn.com/>

¹⁰ <https://edition.cnn.com/>

¹¹ <https://dailynewshungary.com/pm-orban-the-nato-is-at-war-with-russia/>