

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

December 31, 2024 & January 1, 2025

By: Robert Homans & Bohdan Chomiak

From Bohdan

Was it shrewd of Zelensky to offer Trump preferred US access to Ukrainian natural resources in exchange for continued support? Short of equal access to Ukraine's resources the other allies may stop being allies.

Unfair treatment is the swift path to discord.

I tend to agree. It seems like blatant pandering to Donald Trump, and it ignores the fact that, taken together, Europe has provided more overall assistance to Ukraine than has the U.S.

The Rose Parade

On New Year's Day 2014 I, along with my Ukrainian wife and stepdaughter, fresh from a flight from Kyiv walked out of a parking structure in Pasadena to attend the Annual Tournament of Roses Parade, held annually in Pasadena, California (near Los Angeles). It was still dark with the temperature just above freezing. I stepped onto Colorado Boulevard, the main parade route, to see people sleeping on the sidewalk. Many had arrived the night before, to get a prime viewing spot.

I looked at my stepdaughter, and she looked at me. We both thought we had been somehow transported back to Kyiv, where people were also sleeping on the sidewalk in far more difficult and serious circumstances. This is a [video](#) of the 2014 Parade.

There is also a football game played later in the day. We went to the game. For me, the wrong team won. At 26:20 into the video, you can see the Stanford Band.

Now, back to reality.

[“How Suicide Drones Transformed the Front Lines in Ukraine”](#)/New York Times Magazine

If you have time, you should read every word. Here are a few excerpts from a very long article:

- Ukraine began rolling out a weapon unlike anything the world’s militaries had previously seen. FPV drones blended the power of anti-tank projectiles, the range of mortars and the accuracy of sniper fire, but with an added feature: aerial agility. Here was a weapon that could fly horizontally or vertically, change speed or direction, stop in midair, loop around corners and slip through windows, doors or an open hatch. If an FPV drone overshot a target, which for any other weapon would be a miss, it could swing around and try again — all while transmitting video of its panicked victim.
- Serhii Sternenko, a young Ukrainian lawyer, prominent YouTuber and impassioned drone advocate, visited a brigade of surviving Ukrainian soldiers where they regrouped. There they shared descriptions of a “shell hunger” so severe the entire brigade received only 11 artillery shells a day to fight off endlessly replenished waves of invaders. Sternenko, an activist who fought in the street melee in Kyiv in 2014, had raised money to supply units with FPV drones. He wanted feedback on how they were working. What he heard was both jarring and illuminating. Shell-rationing forced Ukraine to make kamikaze drones primary tools of defense. Pressed into service, they produced astonishing results. “I found that 90 percent of the Russian equipment that was destroyed by Ukraine was destroyed by drones,” Sternenko said of the siege. The country’s survival, he thought, had come to depend on drones.
- After describing the efficacy of FPV drones and relative costs (\$320 to \$600 per drone; \$3,200 or more for an artillery shell), Sternenko

shared his analysis: “In many places, our defense is holding only because of these drones.”

- If we can’t solve the artillery shell shortage right now, let’s find an alternative.” FPV drones, he said, would determine Ukraine’s fate: “Whoever wins the drone race will win this war.”
- One million FPV drones a year required sweeping changes to national policy. First came deregulation. Beginning in late 2022, the Ukrainian government slashed taxes, simplified customs clearance and streamlined contracting procedures for armament manufacturers, including for drone firms, and increased profit margins for sales of unmanned weapons to 25 percent from 1 percent. It also granted exemptions from military conscription to employees of drone manufacturers, a plum welcomed by citizens hoping to avoid frontline duties legally and by businesses facing wartime labor shortages, and it opened a drone-testing range and created [a new multiagency office, Brave1](#), **(don’t forget to visit!)** where manufacturers, investors and entrepreneurs collaborate with government officials on defense-related proposals. Together the changes helped companies swiftly engage in R&D, find funding and ramp up production. “We’ve created the best conditions in the world for private companies to produce drones,” says Mykhailo Fedorov, Ukraine’s minister of digital transformation.
- The million-drone goal also required newly specialized soldiers to fly and maintain them, and tactical adaptations at all levels. To manage such shifts, in June 2024 Ukraine established a new armed service, the Unmanned Systems Forces, and appointed Col. Vadym Sukharevsky to lead it. In an interview in Kyiv, Sukharevsky discussed plans. He said his forces had about 2,000 drone specialists as of autumn and would have 10,000 by the end of 2025. The expansion, he said, was elevating drone warfare from “a kind of subculture” to the military’s core. To meet these goals, his service ran courses on drone operation and tactics, including instruction for deep strikes into Russia and drone-on-drone dogfighting.
- Like the decomposing Russian beside the home from which Buryi’s team flew its drones, he was left behind, another luckless soul in a human-hunting routine brought to the world after a cornered people,

choosing between collective life and collective death, opened Pandora's box.

["Long-range Ukrainian drones having a "massive effect" on Putin's army"/Times Radio](#)

This video focuses on the long-range drones, used by Ukraine to hit Russian logistics inside Russia, including oil refineries, air bases, ammunition factories, etc. Ukraine will soon be adding their own ballistic and cruise missiles, effectively negating the restrictions put on by the U.S., and others, on the use of long-range weapons on targets inside Russia.

This seems to be amounting to a contest between Russia's manpower and some ability to learn from mistakes, and Ukraine's innovation and its realization that Ukrainians are fighting for its survival and are able to successfully apply its technological advantages. Bet on Ukraine.

[An Interview With Robert Fox, the Defense Editor of the Evening Standard](#)

Worth watching in its entirety. Some excerpts:

- Fox senses, "slight signs of panic" in Russia. He says that much of it comes from the actions of Central Bank of Russia Governor Elvira Nabiullina.
- Fox thinks that because of economic pressures in Russia, in the next 2-3 months Russia is going to try to knock Ukraine out by increased attacks on the civilian population.
- "The great thing about Trump and Putin is that each thinks he is smarter than the other."
- Trump will put more responsibility on the Europeans, including the UK that is looking weak at the moment.
- Finland's arrest of the Russian tanker "Eagle S" may be very significant in terms of Russia's ability to get its oil exports out.
- Difficult for Europe to acknowledge that the "Peace Dividend" is dead.
- In the short-term, no ceasefire.
- Putin wants to claim absolute power, but it's "flaking at the fringes."

- “Putin is trying to do too much in too many different directions, with scarce resources.” Example – the collapse of Syria.
- Putin is in danger when there are “more body bags coming back to Moscow & St. Petersburg.”
- The “tipping point” should come in 2025.
- In the sinking of the Ursa, in the Eastern Med, meant the loss of 2 critical cranes that were to be used in building 2 nuclear power icebreakers.
- A new call-up of North Koreans, which Fox thinks is imminent, will anger China.
- Trump will abandon Putin, because he’ll be seen as a nuisance in areas that Trump believes is important.
- “Musk is on borrowed time”
- Kim can afford to lose up to 100,000 men – Kim thinks his alliance with Russia is “win win.”
- Could be a “leakage” of North Korean citizens into Russia via the point where North Korea, China and Russia come together – already happening with Chinese.
- “Clause 4 of the Russia – North Korea mutual defense treaty is a mirror image of NATO Article 5.”

From listening to the interview, Fox appears to think that Putin seems to have gotten himself into a vise, caught between Trump, who doesn’t like losers, an increasingly assertive Europe bucked up by Finland’s recent action, and China, that cannot afford the distraction that Putin represents.

1/2/2025 Sitrep

INTERNATIONAL

Tuesday, December 31

9:31 AM: A South Korean court has approved an arrest warrant for President Yun Seok-yeol. He was removed from power due to the decision to introduce martial law in the country in early December.

9:31 AM: Chinese hackers hacked the US Treasury and stole documents.

9:31 AM: A US court upheld the jury's verdict finding Trump guilty of sexually assaulting writer Jean Carroll. The president-elect's request for a new trial was denied.

2:31 PM: Italy allocates €13 million to restore the Ukrainian energy structure, the country's Foreign Ministry reports.

3:15 PM: In his New Year's address, Scholz promised to support Ukraine

- In a pre-recorded speech for television, Scholz assured that Germany will not leave Ukraine without help and will continue its support "like no other in Europe."
- He emphasized that many Germans are anxiously watching the events in Ukraine.

6:20 PM: The population of the planet on New Year will be 8.09 billion people, — AP.

- In 2024, the world's population increased by more than 71 million, that is, by 0.9%.
- In January 2025, 4.2 births and 2 deaths are expected to occur on Earth every second.

8:00 PM: The US imposed sanctions against the Russian Federation and Iran for interfering in the elections.

9:03 PM: Turkey's priority in 2025 is the end of the war in Ukraine, - Erdogan.

- "We hope that a new era will begin north of us in 2025," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in his New Year's address.

9:57 PM: A massive crash has occurred in the Telegram app.

- Users massively complain about interruptions in downloading the application, lack of connection to servers and problems with sending messages.

10:03 PM: Germany bans entry of nine people responsible for violence against peaceful demonstrators during pro-European integration protests in Georgia

10:08 PM: More than 35,000 Syrians returned to their homeland from Turkey in 3 weeks after the fall of the Assad regime, CNN Türk.

10:08 PM: This year, the fortunes of the world's 500 richest people exceeded \$10 trillion — a new record, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

10:08 PM: India launches first docking mission in space, BBC.

Wednesday, January 1

8:19 AM: From January 1, 2025, Poland took over the presidency of the Council of the EU on a rotating basis, which will last until July 1. Poland replaced Hungary in this role, whose presidency events were partially boycotted in protest of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's foreign policy actions, which radically diverge from the EU's general line.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Radosław Sikorski, stated that Warsaw expects to use the period of the Polish presidency to strengthen its position as one of the five most important EU countries.

9:33 AM: On January 1, Canada takes over the one-year presidency of the G7, taking over the role from Italy on a rotating basis.

- Ottawa's priorities in this role are mutually beneficial development of the economy, combating climate change and responding to the rapid development of technology.

12:50 PM: Amid the shutdown of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine, Austria's climate and energy minister Leonor Gewessler said her country is no longer dependent on Russian gas, "and that's a good thing."

2:36 PM: Heating and hot water were turned off in "Pridnistrovya" after the stoppage of transit of Russian gas, "Tirasteploenergo".

- the Russians refused to supply gas via other routes. Locals are encouraged to dress warmly, hang blankets on the windows and use electric heaters.

3:14 PM: A car plowed into a crowd of people celebrating New Year's Eve in New Orleans, USA, CBS News.

- After that, the driver got out of the car and opened fire on people. It is known about 10 dead and 30 injured.

4:45 PM: On January 1, Finland took over the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), focusing on upholding OSCE principles, supporting Ukraine and strengthening the organization's resilience to address complex security challenges.

- As the chair country, Finland emphasizes the OSCE principles of promoting opportunities for people to live freely in democratic societies governed by the rule of law.
- "Today, we face an unprecedented need to defend this collectively agreed security order. As the Helsinki Final Act marks its 50th anniversary, Finland will consistently emphasize the principles set forth in this OSCE foundational document.
- When Russia challenges the foundations of our common security, the rest of us must stand up for them and stand firm," emphasized Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Elina Valtonen, the new OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

7:41 PM: The head of the Polish Foreign Ministry reacted ironically to the cessation of the transit of Russian gas through the territory of Ukraine.

- "Putin built Nord Stream to bypass Ukraine and blackmail Eastern Europe by threatening to close the gas tap, and today Ukraine blocked his gas exports directly to the EU. Who is digging a hole..." - writes the Polish minister.

7:47 PM: There was an explosion and smoke near Trump Tower in Las Vegas, The Mirror.

- Initially a Tesla Cybertruck exploded.

8:30 PM: In the capital of Georgia, on the night of January 1, tens of thousands of protesters came to a rally near the parliament building.

- One of the main and central avenues of Tbilisi was filled with demonstrators demanding new parliamentary elections.
- They also demanded the release of all activists and protesters detained during the protests.

8:59 PM: Lithuanians do not see the need to loosen restrictions for visiting Belarusians

- Against the background of the fact that the entry and exit of Belarusians to and from Lithuania decreased by almost one million over the last year, Interior Minister Vladyslav Kondratovych says that he does not see the need to relax the existing restrictions, [LRT](#).
- Except for some cases, the acceptance of applications for obtaining Schengen and national visas from citizens of Belarus has been suspended due to the current national sanctions.
- Belarusians arriving in the country from outside the EU are subject to additional checks regarding threats to national security, public order, public policy, internal security, public health or international relations.

10:28 PM: In Britain, 200 Ukrainian pilots received basic training for flying F-16 fighter jets, the country's embassy reported.

- "Royal Air Force instructors trained pilots in general aircraft handling, instrument flying, low-altitude navigation, and flying in complex formations," the statement said.

NATIONAL

Tuesday, December 31

9:16 AM: Soldiers of Ukrainian Military Intelligence for the first time in the world destroyed an aerial target with the help of Magura V5 marine drone.

- During the battle off Cape Tarkhankut of temporarily occupied Crimea, a Russian Mi-8 helicopter was destroyed as a result of the use of P-73 "SeeDragon" missiles.
- Another similar enemy helicopter was damaged but was able to reach the base airfield.

10:45 PM: The state operator announced the purchase of 1.7 million dry rations for 2025

- The main difference between this year's purchases of dry rations is the strengthening of control over the fulfillment of contract conditions. Control points were added where food products will be checked by the Food Safety Authority, and all non-food items by the DOT.

11:22 AM: Philip Pronin was appointed head of the State Financial Monitoring Service, and Ruslan Kravchenko was appointed head of the State Tax Service.

- This was reported by the representative of the Cabinet of Ministers in the Council, Taras Melnychuk.

12:36 PM: In Ukraine, on New Year's Eve, curfew violators will be detained and taken to the branches, the National Police.

12:40 PM: Air defense forces destroyed 6 missiles and 16 Drone(s).

- In total, the Russians used 61 means of air attack. The following was shot down:
 - 1 Kh-47M2 "Kinzhal" aero ballistic missile;
 - 5 Kh-69 guided air missiles;
 - 16 strike Drone(s) of the "Shahed" type, another 24 simulator drones of various types are lost in location (without negative consequences).

13 MASSIVE RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON ENERGY SECTOR IN 2024

RESULTS OF
2024

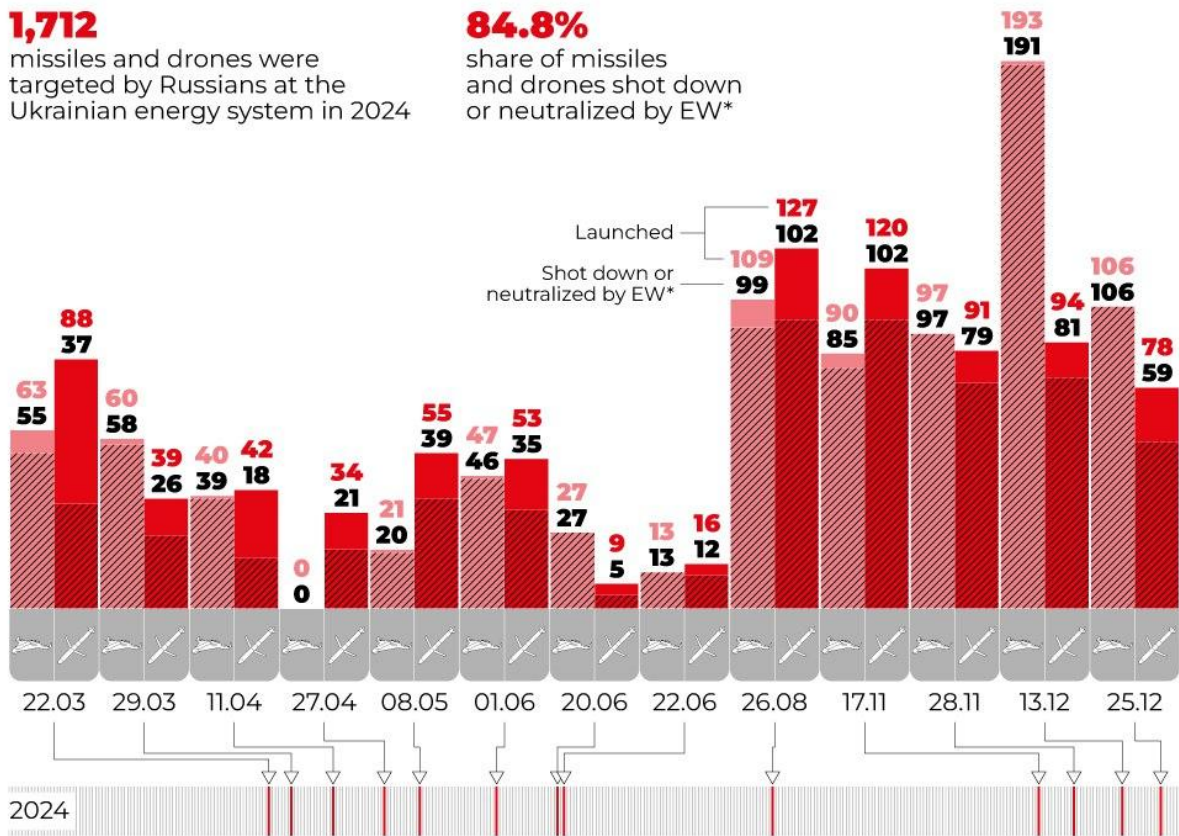
Number of missiles and attack drones launched during massive shelling of the Ukrainian power system in 2024, pcs.

1,712

missiles and drones were targeted by Russians at the Ukrainian energy system in 2024

84.8%

share of missiles and drones shot down or neutralized by EW*



Sources: Ukrainian Air Force, Ukrenergo.
Data as of 28.12.2024..

*"Destroyed by electronic warfare" means locationally lost drones, as well as those that were redirected to the territory of Russia or Belarus.

@TopLeadEU

TOP
LEAD

1:09 PM: A reservation cancellation service for military servicemen has appeared on the Diya portal.

- This was reported in the press service.
- The service is available for managers and authorized employees of companies. If the company has reached the limit of booked employees, it can unbook an employee and give a reprieve to another.

1:40 PM: More than 21,464 air alarms sounded in Ukraine in 2024.

- The longest alarm in the Kharkiv region lasted 50 hours and 31 minutes.
- Leaders in the number of alarms: Kharkiv (2,100), Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Zaporizhia regions.
- Most explosions: Sumy, Kherson and Donetsk regions.
- 13 attacks on energy infrastructure — about 1,100 missiles.

4:10 PM: Ukraine manufactures more self-propelled artillery systems than any other country in the free world, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said.

- According to him, the capabilities of the Ukrainian defense industry have increased 6 times.

4:34 PM: The "thousand cuts" tactic: how in 2024 logistics facilities were burning all over Russia.

- The wide geography of the incidents — from Moscow and St. Petersburg to Omsk, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk and Altai Krai — significantly slows down the Russian war machine.

5:01 PM: 11 museum items were added to the state register of national cultural property

- Among them are the works of two outstanding Ukrainian artists - Kazimir Malevich and Ilya Repin.
- Another important artifact that was entered into the State Register is the Aprakos Gospel of 1707 (a print of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra) from the collection of the Sumtsov Kharkiv Historical Museum. The Gospel is a unique polygraphic masterpiece, an original copy of a rare large-format illustrated Ukrainian Cyrillic old print and one of the most outstanding projects in the history of Ukrainian book publishing before the 19th century.

5:30 PM: The cost of biometric documents will increase from January 1, State Migration Service.

- The changes will affect the passport of a citizen of Ukraine in the form of an ID card, the passport of a citizen of Ukraine for traveling abroad, as well as permits for temporary and permanent residence in Ukraine.

5:46 PM: Timur Tkachenko was appointed head of the Kyiv City Military Administration.

- Previously, this position was held by Serhiy Popko for more than two years.

6:37 PM: Zelensky has appointed a new head of the SBU Counterintelligence Department — the position will be filled by Andrii Tupikov.

6:40 PM: Zelenskyy held the second meeting of the Technological Stavka.

- "In the future, we are strengthening our mobile fire groups. There are already some system solutions for protection against Russian missiles and bombs. We are focusing specifically on internal industrial capabilities. The main thing is our production, our internal industrial power, which gives greater strength to the defense. And after the war, this will ensure the growth of Ukrainian exports: Ukrainian weapons, our experience in defending our country will certainly help our partners," the President of Ukraine emphasized.

6:41 PM: Gas tariffs for the population will remain unchanged, NKREC.

- The change in the cost of gas transportation will not affect household consumers, as there is a moratorium on increasing tariffs for gas, heat and hot water.

6:55 PM: The president signs a law granting a deferment from mobilization to civilians who have been captured.

- The law also grants the right to be exempted from military service to those people whose full-blood/non-blood relatives died or went missing during the war.

7:22 PM: In 2024, the Ukrainian air defense destroyed:

- more than 1,300 missiles of various types;
- 11,200 attack drones;
- 3,200 operational-tactical reconnaissance Drone(s);
- 40 enemy planes and 6 helicopters.
- Aviation made more than 20,000 sorties during the year.

8:15 PM: How to meet the year of the Wood Snake 2025 for good luck all year?

- Choose elegance in green, silver, black or gold. Decor of wood, plants and candles will create coziness. Light dishes are on the table: fish, seafood, vegetables, fruits and tender meat.
- Meet the year with harmony and positivity, and the Snake will bring you good luck

8:37 PM: It is possible to close your FOP (sole proprietorship – ed), again through the Diya portal, even though the Unified State Register is unavailable.

- To do this, you need to be authorized, choose the service "Closing the FOP", check the data and sign the application with KEP or "Action.Signature".
- The services were suspended after a large-scale attack on the resources of the Ministry of Justice on December 19, but they are gradually being restored.

9:22 PM: Over 32,000 Ukrainians applied for consultations at army recruiting centers in 2024, — Ministry of Defense.

- Of them, 7,198 are already being selected for the Defense Forces. The most active were residents of Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Zaporizhzhia regions and Kyiv.
- There are 47 centers operating in Ukraine, which ensure transparent entry into the service. Candidates are offered more than 10,000 vacancies in the Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Service and the SBU.

Wednesday, January 1

9:54 AM: Air defense forces destroyed 63 Drone(s).

- Due to the active opposition of the Defense Forces, 46 enemy drone simulators were lost in location (without negative consequences), two more flew to Russia and Belarus.

10:06 AM: At 07:00 on January 1, in the interests of national security, the transportation of Russian natural gas through the territory of Ukraine was stopped.

- This is reported by the Ministry of Energy.
- "We stopped the transit of Russian gas, this is a historic event. Russia is losing markets, it will suffer financial losses," said Energy Minister Galushchenko.

11:08 AM: On January 1, the Program of Medical Guarantees for 2025 began to operate in Ukraine.

- The relevant resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers is published on the Government portal.
- The Medical Guarantee Program provides for 44 packages of medical services. Among them is a new package of medical services "Psychosocial and psychiatric care for adults and children provided in mental health centers and mobile multidisciplinary teams."

3:45 PM: Today, Ukraine became a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the spokesman of the International Criminal Court, Fadi el-Abdallah, said.

- "This means that the country is now a full-fledged state party to this international treaty and has all the rights and obligations assigned to the state parties. The most important among them is the right to vote when approving the budget, adopting changes, amendments to the Rome Statute, when choosing judges, the future prosecutor and his deputies," said the ICC spokesman.

4:05 PM: Ukrainian Military Intelligence conducted a cyber attack on the Russian oil company Lukoil, which supports the Russian army, intelligence sources told Suspilno.

- The attack caused inconvenience and damage to commerce, as people were unable to purchase goods due to payment failures.

5:03 PM: In Ukraine, the conditions for retirement at the age of 60 have changed on January 1.

- According to the law, those who have reached the age of 60 in 2025 have the right to receive an old-age pension if they have at least 32 work years of insurance.

5:20 PM: The specialized anti-corruption prosecutor's office and the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, in cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office, achieved the extradition to Ukraine of the head of the company that illegally won tenders.

- From June to December 2022, the leader of the group, with support of Ukrainian railway (UZ) officials, ensured that a predetermined company was selected as a supplier of power transformers at an inflated cost.
- Then NABU found that the ex-adviser of the Office of the President and former head of the Main Department of Counterintelligence Protection of the State's Interests in the Field of Economic Security of the SBU, Artem Shil was behind the scheme.
- NABU points out that he organized the preparation and sending to the UZ of the letter "Regarding threats to state security", which became the basis for rejecting the offers of other procurement participants with significantly more favorable price terms.
- The winning company **controlled by a citizen of Belarus with ties to Russia.**
- The SAP together with NABU achieved the extradition from Bulgaria of the head of a private company that illegally won the tender for the supply of transformers to JSC "Ukrzaliznytsia" at artificially inflated prices.
- The extradition took place thanks to cooperation with the competent authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Poland.

6:46 PM: On New Year's Eve, 300 people were detained across Ukraine for violating curfew, the National Police reports.

- Law enforcement officers received 35 reports of violations, among them: conflicts at home, drunken behavior and the use of pyrotechnics.

7:25 PM: Military personnel without officer education will be able to be appointed to officer positions, — Ministry of Defense.

- Those with a master's degree and at least two years of leadership experience in civilian life will be able to be appointed to various positions, including the rank of colonel.
- At the same time, they will be assigned the rank of officer.

11:09 PM: Ukraine will supply electricity to Moldova on the night of January 2, NewsMaker reports.

- The Moldovan state company Energocom purchased the necessary electricity to cover the deficit.
- "We will additionally purchase electricity from the Ukrainian Energoatom - at night, when our colleagues have a surplus of energy and can export it," Energocom said.

11:15 PM: report of the General Staff of the Armed Forces as of 10 p.m

On January 1, since the beginning of the day, 125 combat clashes took place at the front and in the Kursk region, the Russians attacked 33 times, using 7 missiles and 11 guided aerial bombs.

Literally: "In **Kursk** Ukrainian defenders on Wednesday repelled 32 attacks by the invaders, one battle is ongoing. In addition, the enemy launched one rocket and nine air strikes, using seven rockets and eleven guided bombs, and carried out 202 artillery barrages.

Details: In total, the enemy carried out one missile and 26 air strikes, using 7 missiles and 34 guided bombs, 562 strikes by kamikaze drones, and carried out more than 3,000 attacks on the positions of Ukrainian troops.

The enemy attacked Ukrainian fortifications seven times **Kupianskyi** direction in the districts of Kolisnykyvka, Zagryzovy, Lozova and Nova Kruglyakivka. At this time, five clashes are ongoing.

On **Lymansky** during the day, Russian troops stormed the positions of Ukrainian defenders 16 times in the vicinity of Novoserghiivka, Tverdokhlibovo, Kopanok, Makiivka, Ivanivka, and Serebryansky Forest. Two enemy attacks in the Torsky and Terni districts continue until now.

On **Kramatorsk** direction, Ukrainian troops repelled 14 enemy attacks in the areas of Chasiv Yar, Stupochki and Predtechine settlements. Two clashes are still ongoing.

On **Toretskyi** direction, the occupiers stormed the positions of the Ukrainian defenders seven times on Wednesday. All attacks were repulsed in the Shcherbynivka area, and three enemy attacks continue in the Toretsk area and in the direction of Diliivka.

On **Pokrovsky** direction during the day, the enemy carried out 35 assault and offensive operations. The greatest activity of the Russian occupiers remains in the districts of Vozdvizhenka, Myrolyubivka, Lysivka, Novy Trud, Solony, Kotlyny, Pischany, Pokrovsk, Novooleksiivka, Zeleny, Novoolenivka, Dachensky, and Novovasylivka. Thirteen assaults on the positions of Ukrainian troops continue until now.

According to preliminary calculations, on Wednesday, Ukrainian soldiers eliminated 161 and wounded 143 occupiers in this direction; destroyed an armored personnel carrier and five cars, also damaged three units of motor vehicles and one enemy armored combat vehicle.

The enemy attacks intensively and on **Kurakhivskyi** direction At this time of the day, there are already 18 clashes near Ukrainka, Petropavlivka and Kurakhovo, four clashes are currently underway. The losses of the enemy in this direction amounted to 86 occupiers killed and wounded; in addition, five armored fighting vehicles were destroyed and one infantry fighting vehicle of the invaders was damaged.

On **Vremivskyi** direction, Ukrainian troops repelled 17 enemy attacks near Dachny, Konstantinopol, Yantarny, Novosilka, Rozlyv, and Novy Komar, six clashes are still ongoing.

On **Orihivskyi** direction, Ukrainian troops successfully repelled one enemy attack near the settlement of Novoandriivka.

On **Prydniprovskyi** direction, the enemy conducted two unsuccessful assaults in the area of Zabych Island.

Insights – Eaton & Woodward Clipping Service – The No Bargains Clipper

https://www.counteroffensive.news/p/a-horrific-year-for-putin?utm_source=post-email-

[title&publication_id=1547592&post_id=153854864&utm_campaign=email-post-](https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/27/war-on-children-how-russia-is-stealing-generations-of-ukrainians?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=today_newsletter&utm_medium=referral&insEmail=1&insNltCmpld=209&insNltSldt=10080&insPnName=euronewsfr&isIns=1&isInsNltCmp=1)

[title&isFreemail=false&r=1ktt&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email](https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/27/war-on-children-how-russia-is-stealing-generations-of-ukrainians?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=today_newsletter&utm_medium=referral&insEmail=1&insNltCmpld=209&insNltSldt=10080&insPnName=euronewsfr&isIns=1&isInsNltCmp=1)

https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/12/27/war-on-children-how-russia-is-stealing-generations-of-ukrainians?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=today_newsletter&utm_medium=referral&insEmail=1&insNltCmpld=209&insNltSldt=10080&insPnName=euronewsfr&isIns=1&isInsNltCmp=1

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/america-needs-maximum-pressure-strategy-ukraine>

MORDOR – ruZZia

Tuesday, December 31

12:28 AM: Strong explosions were heard in the area of Kozacha Bay near Sevastopol, local media reports.

1:05 AM: A photo of a possible explosion in temporarily occupied Sevastopol appeared online.

- Locals report that such explosions have not been heard for a long time.
- Previously, the Russians reported on the work of air defense on drones.

1:39 AM: An explosion is heard again in temporarily occupied Sevastopol.

7:42 AM: An oil depot is on fire in the Smolensk region of the Russian Federation, — rosZMI.

- The governor of the region reported that the fire was caused by Drone wreckage.
- In addition, explosions were also heard in the Oryol region of the Russian Federation.

9:31 AM: Russia withdrew border guards from the Border Crossing Control Point on the border of Armenia with Iran. the Russians together with the Armenians were at this Border Crossing Control Point for more than 30 years.

11:37 AM: SSO liberated a village in Kursk region.

- Artillery worked before the assault, after which SSO soldiers entered, repelled and cleared the settlement as part of a special operation.
- Together with the Russians, the military from North Korea held the village.

3:58 PM: 8 occupiers were killed and 22 others were injured as a result of the strikes on Lviv in Kursk region, rosZMI reports.

- According to the network, six Storm Shadow missiles hit a building used by the Russian military yesterday.

5:05 PM: The Central Command of the Ukrainian Armed Forces confirmed the destruction of the Yartsevskaya oil depot in the Smolensk region.

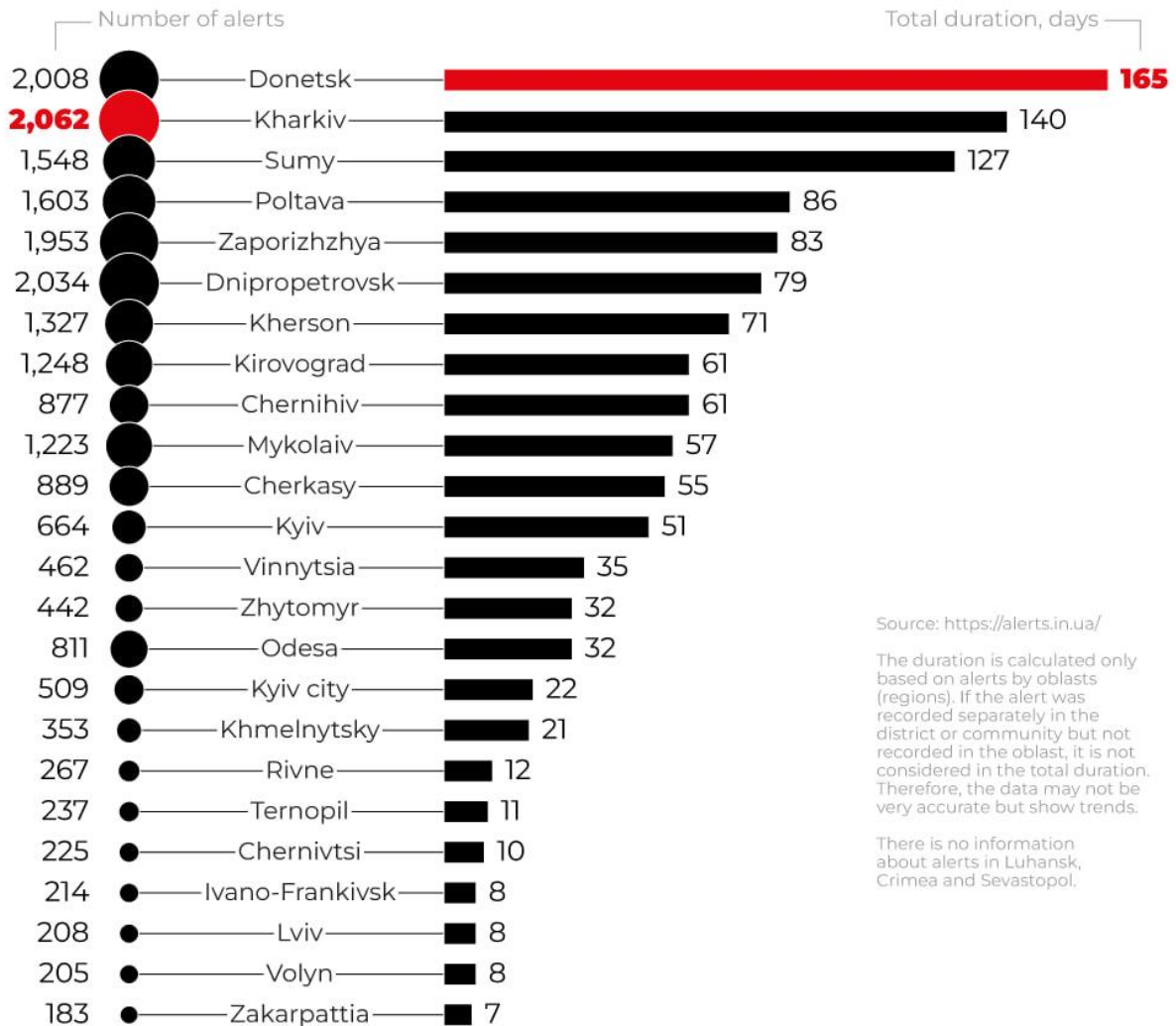
- Powerful explosions and a fire were recorded at the facility, and heavy smoke was observed.
- According to the available information, tanks with oil products were hit.

6:01 PM: The Russians have started to use FPV-drones with a cable en masse - they cannot be stopped with the help of Electronic Countermeasures, according to the head of Ukrainian Military Intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov.

- "This is what is called optical fiber. Yes, it is a huge problem for us now," says Budanov.
- At the same time, the head of Ukrainian Military Intelligence noted that "Ukraine is still winning the drone war."

AIR RAID ALERTS IN UKRAINE IN 2024

Data as of 11:24 30.12.24



Source: <https://alerts.in.ua/>

The duration is calculated only based on alerts by oblasts (regions). If the alert was recorded separately in the district or community but not recorded in the oblast, it is not considered in the total duration. Therefore, the data may not be very accurate but show trends.

There is no information about alerts in Luhansk, Crimea and Sevastopol.

@TopLeadEU

TOP LEAD

6:01 PM: The Russian Federation can continue the war: Budanov said that in 2025 the enemy is waiting for "systemic decisions" to be made

- According to Kirill Budanov, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the economy of the Russian Federation is slowly regressing, but in 2025 we will see the Russian economy and financial sector approach a dangerous point.
- "This is the limit after which they will need to make serious, systemic decisions at the state level. Until then, it will be difficult for them, but

they will hold on. After that, they will have to make serious decisions. Yes, they can go completely on military rails. But will do they want it - that's a big question," added the head of Ukrainian Military Intelligence.

7:39 PM: Russia tested the air defenses of Japan and South Korea and had a list of targets for attacks, writes the FT with reference to secret documents from 2013-2014.

- This list includes 160 targets that the Russian Federation could hit during a potential war with the above-mentioned countries. We are talking about nuclear power plants, bridges, factories, military and civilian infrastructure.
- The documents are still considered relevant because Russia is "concerned" about its eastern flank — it fears that these borders will be vulnerable in any war with NATO.

7:59 PM: In December, 9 units of railway transport were burned in Russia - the enemy used them to transport weapons and ammunition, Ukrainian Military Intelligence writes.

- "New Year's Eve lights" were lit in the Moscow, Ryazan, Tyumen, Rostov and Sverdlovsk regions.

8:58 PM: Russia may attack Ukraine's gas transportation system after the completion of the gas transit contract, Bloomberg reports.

- Over the past three years, the GTS has avoided shelling thanks to transit, but if it stops, the situation may change. This will complicate the supply of heating in winter and create new risks for the power system.

10:23 PM: "Animators" were brought to Temporarily Occupied Territories to brainwash children

- Russian narratives and anti-Western rhetoric were traditionally included in the plays.
- "Children were exposed to cultural characters from American cartoons as criminals, special attention was paid to the character of Santa Claus.

In this way, the Russian policy of chauvinism and hatred of other peoples was imposed on children," writes the CNS.

Wednesday, January 1

4:25 AM: Russian troops lost more than 420,000 soldiers advancing through Ukraine and the Kursk region in 2024. At the same time, they gained only 4,168 square kilometers of territory, which mostly consists of fields and small settlements.

- Russian troops lost more than 420,000 soldiers advancing through the territory of Ukraine and the Kursk region in 2024. At the same time, they gained only 4,168 square kilometers of territory, which mostly consists of fields and small settlements.

2:51 PM: On Tuesday, December 31, the websites of several French cities were taken down after being attacked by pro-Russian hackers.

- In particular, the websites of the cities of Marseille and Tarbes, as well as the website of the Haute-Garonne department, did not work.
- The attacks were carried out by a hacker group calling itself NoName. The group called the attacks revenge for France's support for Ukraine.
- In their account in X (Twitter), the hackers said that they also attacked the sites of such cities as Nantes, Bordeaux, Poitiers, Pau, Nimes, Nice, Angers, Le Havre and Montpellier, as well as the department of Le Land, French Polynesia and New Caledonia. But they all continued to work on Tuesday.

4:22 PM: Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the Russian government and the country's largest bank, Sberbank, to develop cooperation with China in the field of artificial intelligence, Reuters.

- Putin's brief was published on the Kremlin's website on Wednesday, January 1, three weeks after he announced that Russia would join its BRICS partners and other countries to develop artificial intelligence.

5:24 PM: The losses of the enemy in the battle amounted to more than 38 thousand personnel and more than a thousand units of equipment.

- This was announced by the head of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrskyi.

8:06 PM: A "carpet" regime was introduced in Saransk.

- All departure and arrival flights have been canceled due to the threat of drone attacks.

8:39 PM: temporary restrictions have also been introduced at the airports of Kaluga, Penza and Saratov, — Rosaviatsia.

8:57 PM: Explosions are heard in Taganrog, Russia.

11:36 PM: In the Smolensk region of the Russian Federation, as a result of a drone attack on the "Yartsevskaya" oil depot, two tanks with fuel, Astra, caught fire.

- Tanks with a volume of 700 cubic meters were damaged, one of which contained gasoline and the other diesel fuel. The tanks were not full.
- The air attack using drones took place on the night of December 31.

REGIONS

KYIV



Tuesday, December 31

3:08 AM: Explosions are heard in Kyiv.

- Explosions are heard again in the capital.

3:23 AM: Explosions were also heard in the Kyiv region.

10:02 AM: Fragments of downed targets damaged 3 private houses and 2 cars in Darnytsia district, KMVA.

- There is currently no information about victims.

Wednesday, January 1

11:16 AM: A dead woman was found under the rubble of a house in the Pechersk district, KMVA.

1:00 PM: 2 dead, 6 injured, 4 rescued in Kyiv due to an enemy attack, — DSNS.

SUMY



Tuesday, December 31

8:18 AM: Explosions in Sumy Oblast.

8:48 AM: 12 multi-story residential buildings were damaged in Shostka, Sumy Oblast.

- This was reported by the head of the community, Mykola Noga.
- It is also known about the damage to two educational institutions. As a result of the Russian attack, some infrastructure objects were destroyed.

12:00 PM: Russia fired 13 missiles at Shostka, Sumy OVA.

- Today at 03:00 the enemy fired 4 rockets, and at 08:00 - nine more rockets. As a result, infrastructure was significantly damaged: three boiler houses. 45 houses remained without heating.

KHARKIV



Wednesday, January 1

8:27 PM: Explosions were heard in Kharkiv.

9:51 PM: Ukrainian Military Intelligence published a video of the assault on the Vovchan aggregate plant in the Kharkiv region.

- The footage shows the clearing of 40 buildings, 120-mm mortar fire support, capture of the occupiers, and the work of combat medics.
- "One of the most difficult front-line missions of 2024 was carried out by the soldiers of the Timur Special Unit," the message reads.

ZAPORIZHIA



Tuesday, December 31

10:08 PM: The sound of an explosion is heard again in Zaporizhzhia.

10:13 PM: Explosions are heard in Zaporizhzhia, air defense works against enemy drones.

10:33 PM: A second explosion was heard in Zaporizhzhia.

11:00 PM: Explosions are heard again in Zaporizhzhia, air defense works against enemy drones.

- Explosions were heard in Kherson.

KHERSON



Tuesday, December 31

9:36 AM: Explosions are heard in Kherson, subscribers report.

7:48 PM: Explosions are heard in Kherson, subscribers report.

9:37 PM: Four more children were evacuated from the temporarily occupied left bank of the Kherson region, reported the head of OVA Oleksandr Prokudin.

- Two boys and two girls aged between 3 and 17 returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine. Together with their relatives, they are safe and receive medical and psychological assistance.

Wednesday, January 1

3:09 PM: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

6:53 PM: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

10:46 PM: On the evening of January 1, a resident of the village of Mykilske in the Kherson region died as a result of the dropping of explosives from an enemy drone, Regional Government Administration.

MYKOLAIV



Wednesday, January 1

2:36 PM: An explosion rang out in Mykolaiv.

ODESA



Tuesday, December 31

1:21 AM: Explosions are heard in Odesa. Previously, the work of air defense.

10:31 AM: An explosion rang out in Odesa, Mayor

Trukhanov said.

1:30 PM: A monument to the Russian actor and singer Volodymyr Vysotsky was dismantled in Odesa

- "At the insistence of the Odesa Film Studio, the monument was handed over to our enterprise for safekeeping. Now the sculptural composition is on our territory and measures are being taken for its proper storage," the Odesa Film Studio said in a statement.

Wednesday, January 1

11:23 PM: Explosions are heard in Odesa.

VINNYTSIA



Tuesday, December 31

3:33 PM: There was an explosion in Kryzhopol in Vinnytsia region — three people were killed and one injured, the police reports.

- According to preliminary information, a former employee of one of the enterprises entered the manager's office, after which an explosion rang out.

- An investigative team is working at the scene, the circumstances are being established.

KHMELNITSKY



Tuesday, December 31

10:26 AM: All 67 prosecutors of the Khmelnytskyi region have the status of persons with disabilities, but there is no confirmation whether these certificates are fake, the Office of the Prosecutor General at the request of the Central Committee of the People's Republic of China.

- During the official investigation, the OGP did not establish the facts of document forgery, so no prosecutor was dismissed.
- The CPC also asked the Prosecutor General's Office whether Khmelnytskyi prosecutors were brought to justice, but did not receive an answer.

LVIV



Wednesday, January 1

8:52 PM: A torchlight procession is held in Lviv on Stepan Bandera's birthday.

Comparison of russian losses in 9 years and 9 months in Afghanistan to losses in russian invasion of Ukraine using Wikipedia and Ukraine Ministry of Defense Daily Bulletins. Soviet and Russian military losses not including captured equipment or damaged and destroyed equipment outside of Ukraine.

	Soviet Afghanistan	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 1
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 1039 days	After 1040 days	After 1041 days	After 1042 days	After 1043 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	785,390	787,940	789,550	790,800	792,170

Material
Losses

Tanks	147	9,656	9,663	9,668	9,672	9,676
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	19,981	20,003	20,030	20,043	20,056
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	22,706	22,750	22,784	22,788	22,808
Cruise Missiles		3,003	3,003	3,003	3,003	3,003

Fighters Bombers	118	369	369	369	369	369
Helicopters	333	329	329	329	330	330
Drones		21,038	21,069	21,081	21,131	21,200
Air Defense Systems		1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,36 9	32,410	32,551	32,626	32,675	32,729
Naval Vessels		28 + 1 submari ne	28 + 1 submari ne	28 + 1 submari ne	28 + 1 submari ne	28 + 1 submari ne
Specialized equipment		3,670	3,670	3,671	3,672	3,675

SOURCES

www.pravda.com.ua/eng/3

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uawarinfographics

freeradio

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Lightning.com

SUMMARY OF BOMB, MISSILE, DRONE, UAV AND ARTILLERY THREATS TO CIVILIANS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025 - Regions where civilian targets were hit by rashist terrorists



Tuesday, December 31

3:04 AM: Threat of using ballistic weapons from the northeast.

3:12 AM: High-speed target in the Shostka area of the Sumy region, heading west. Explosions are heard in Sumy Oblast.

5:55 AM: Air defense works against enemy drones in the Kyiv region, KOVA.

7:29 AM: High-speed target in the Kharkiv region, heading south.

07:30 AM: High-speed target on the border of Sumy Oblast and Kharkiv Oblast, heading south-west!

7:33 AM: Guided air missile in Poltava region, heading for Myrhorod!

7:36 AM: Guided air missile in Sumy Oblast, headed for Poltava Oblast!

7:44 AM: Missiles in the north of Poltava region, heading west and in Sumy region, heading for Poltava region.

7:48 AM: Rocket in the north of Cherkasy region, heading southwest.

- The rocket is on the border of Sumy Oblast and Poltava Oblast, heading west.

7:50 AM: Missile in the south of Chernihiv Oblast, heading west.

7:59 AM: The threat of using ballistic weapons throughout the territory of Ukraine.

8:01 AM: Rockets in the direction of Vasylkov.

8:29 AM: MiG-31K takes off from Savasleika airfield.

2:06 PM: Missile threat in air alert areas.

- Rocket to the south of Sumy region from the east.

2:21 PM: Threat of using ballistics from the south.

3:01 PM: High-speed target on Odeshchyna!

- Chornomorsk is a shelter.

3:14 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the north-east direction.

5:03 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the east.

5:50 PM: Gliding Aerial Bombs on Donetsk region.

9:19 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the east.

9:26 PM: Activity by enemy tactical aircraft to the southeast.

9:29 PM: Launch of Gliding Aerial Bomb on Zaporozhye.

9:39 PM: Repeated launches of Gliding Aerial Bombs on Zaporozhye.

Wednesday, January 1

2:23 PM: Rocket in Sumy Oblast.

2:25 PM: Rocket from Belgorod Region to Sumy Region.

2:27 PM: A rocket from the south of Sumy Oblast is moving in the direction of Poltava Oblast.

- The rocket continues its movement in the direction of Myrhorod.

2:33 PM: Threat of using ballistic weapons in areas where air alert has been declared.

- High-speed target in Mykolaiv Oblast in the direction of Kirovohrad Oblast.

2:36 PM: More rockets from Mykolaiv Oblast to Kirovohrad Oblast.

- Mykolaiv - in shelter.

2:50 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Kharkiv Oblast.

2:52 PM: Gliding Aerial Bomb in the direction of Zolochiv (Kharkiv region).

3:10 PM: Gliding Aerial Bomb in the direction of Kharkiv.

4:31 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the eastern direction!

- There is a threat of using aviation means of destruction for the frontline areas!

4:35 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on the border of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

4:55 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the northeast direction! There is a threat of using aviation means of destruction for the frontline areas!

6:53 PM: Threat of using ballistic weapons in areas where air alert has been declared.

7:01 PM: High-speed targets from Belgorod Oblast in the direction of Sumy Oblast.

8:01 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the north-east direction.

8:09 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Kharkiv region.

8:18 PM: Gliding Aerial Bomb in the direction of Kharkiv.

8:25 PM: Another Gliding Aerial Bomb in the direction of Kharkiv.

8:42 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Sumy Oblast.

8:59 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the southeast direction.

8:59 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on the Zaporizhzhia region.

9:02 PM: Gliding Aerial Bomb in the direction of Zaporozhye.

9:07 PM: Repeated launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Sumy Oblast.

9:09 PM: Gliding Aerial Bombs in the direction of Zaporozhye.

9:34 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the north-east direction.

9:48 PM: Launches of guided air bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Sumy Oblast.

10:15 PM: Repeated launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Sumy Oblast.

11:06 PM: Activity of enemy tactical aircraft in the eastern direction.

11:08 PM: Launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Donetsk region.

11:57 PM: Repeated launches of guided aerial bombs by enemy tactical aircraft on Donetsk region.