

Humanitarian aspect

As of the morning of July 4, 2022, more than 989 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation. **The official number of children who have died has increased to 344. The number of children wounded has increased to more than 644.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, the temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

As a result of enemy shelling on July 3, a 9-year-old girl died in Slovyansk, Donetsk region. On July 3, Russian Federation troops again shelled Bakhmut, Donetsk region. A 2-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl were injured.

The Russians shelled the **Sumy Region** this afternoon. They launched two rockets at the Esman Territorial Community with a helicopter from the Russian territory. A school is damaged, the North Operational Command reported.

The Russian occupiers attacked **Kharkiv**. A projectile hit a school in the city's Shevchenkiv district. According to preliminary information, there are no victims.

The Russians shelled the **Dnipropetrovsk Region**, hitting towns and villages.

Six people died as a result of yesterday's shelling of **Slovyansk**, including a 10-year-old girl. Another 19 people were injured, the city mayor Vadym Lyakh said.

Operational Situation

The day of the strategic air-ground offensive operation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces against Ukraine continues ('Donbas Defense Operation' in the official Russian terminology). The enemy is trying to establish full control over the territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and maintain the land corridor with temporarily occupied Crimea; they are continuing their offensive in the east of Ukraine, attempting to defeat the Ukrainian Joint Forces.

The Ukrainian Defense Forces left the city of Lysychansk and moved to a previously prepared line, thereby avoiding the encirclement of the Lysychansk garrison.

Russian Federation Defense Minister Shoigu reported to Putin on the completion of the operation to "liberate" the so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).

From the Kursk region of Russia, the enemy used artillery and army aviation to defeat the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the areas of Vasylivske, Bilopillya, Bachivsk, and Vovkivka in the Sumy region.

The enemy continues to launch rocket attacks on military and civil infrastructure in the Mykolayiv area with the aim of reducing the offensive capabilities of the Ukrainian troops.

The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low. The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low. For the third day, the Russian military command, using army aviation in the rear of its grouping in the Zaporizhzhya direction, has been searching for a group of 50-60 servicemen who deserted from their positions and seized small arms. The probable path of their movement is to Crimea to evade participating in combat.

Kharkiv direction

Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 177 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10, an average width of combat area of one BTG - 17.7 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *north of Kharkiv - 7 BTGs from 1st and 6th armies, 11th Army Corps, and 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR,*
- *in the area of Malynivka - 3 BTGs from 29th and 36th armies,*
- *operational reserve of the grouping in the area of Olkhovatka, Russia: 9 BTGs from 1st and 20th armies and Airborne troops.*

In the area of Prudyanka, Ukrainian troops repelled an enemy attempted assault.

The enemy's primary efforts are focused on preventing the advance of Ukrainian troops in the direction of the state border. The enemy fired artillery at the Ukrainian Defense Forces' positions in Zolochiv, Khrestyshche, Malynivka, Cherkaska Lozova, and Chepil. With the support of army aviation, the enemy is trying to restrain the actions of the Defense Forces and prevent them from going on the offensive. In order to disrupt the communication of the Defense Forces, the enemy is actively using electronic warfare.

Kramatorsk direction

Balakleya - Kostiantynivka section: approximate length of the combat line - 300 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 54, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 5.6 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *in the area of Izyum - 20 BTGs from 1st, 20th, 35th, and 36th armies, 11th Army Corps, 106th airborne division,*
- *in the area of Lysychansk - 7 BTGs from 5th, 8th, and 41st armies, 2nd, and 7th brigades of Rosguard; 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR;*
- *in the area of Popasna - 17 BTGs from 1st, 5th, 8th, 41st, and 58th armies, 68th Army Corps, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR;*
- *reserve (in Starobilsk district) - 2nd, 41st armies, and 201st military base.*

Ukrainian troops successfully repelled enemy attacks in the directions of Nyrkovo-Berestove and Pasika-Dolyna. The enemy unsuccessfully tried to carry out a reconnaissance attack in the direction of Vasylivka-Berestove and conducted assaults in the directions of Vovchovyarivka-Spirne and Mykolaivka-Spirne, but suffered significant losses and retreated.

The enemy ammunition depot was destroyed in the Snizhne district.

In the **Kramatorsk** direction, enemy units are trying to capture Bohorodychne, Mazanivka, and Dolyna; fighting continues. The aggressor shelled with artillery the territory near Dolyna, Kurulka, Bohorodychne, Adamivka, Husarivka, Hryhorivka, and Bilohorivka. The enemy is regrouping troops to resume the offensive. For this purpose, a BTG was moved from the Izyum area to Snizhkivka, and additional artillery units were deployed.

In the **Sloviansk** direction, after the preliminary artillery shelling, the enemy crossed the Siverskyi Donetsk River and consolidates in the areas of Lysychansk and Bilohorivka.

In the **Siversk** direction, the enemy grouping's primary efforts are focused on the gradual pushing Ukrainian Defense Forces off the Siversk-Fedorivka-Bakhmut line. The enemy captured Zolotarivka.

In the **Bakhmut** direction, the enemy intensified artillery shelling of the Ukrainian Defense Forces positions along the contact line and launched rocket attacks in the areas of Pokrovske, Berestove, Spirne, Soledar, Bakhmut, Klynove, and the Vuhlehirsk thermal power plant (TPP). With artillery support, the enemy conducted offensive actions in the areas of Vasylivka, Berestove, Spirne, Klynove, and Mayorsk, with no success.

Zaporizhzhya direction

Konstantynivka - Nikopol section: approximate length of the line of combat - 310 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 14 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *from 8th, 58th armies, Airborne troops, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR*

Ukrainian units in the area of Pavlivka-Yehorivka-Mykilske repelled the attempt of three enemy BTGs (consisting of the 136th separate motorized rifle brigade and 163rd tank regiment) to return the previously lost positions.

The enemy carried out assaults in the direction of Pobieda and Maryinka. The enemy's attack aircraft struck the eastern outskirts of Avdiyivka, Maryinka, Kamianka, and Shevchenko. Pisky, Novomykhailivka, Vremivka, Hulyaipole, and Charivne were shelled by enemy artillery.

In the Polohy area, units from the enemy's 503rd motorized rifle regiment were forced to retreat under Ukrainian Defense Forces' pressure to the frontier along the Orihiv-Polohy highway. In the area of Mali Shcherbaky and Stepove, units of the enemy's 83rd separate airborne assault brigade, with the support of several motorized rifle and tank companies of unknown affiliation, are fighting fiercely with units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and are trying to prevent their breakthrough to Vasylivka.

To the south of Novosilka, several BTGs (consisting of the 291st and 71st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division) are with significant effort restraining the advance of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the direction of Rivne and Novomayorske.

The enemy has problems with tactical reserves and is forced to use the 22nd separate SOF brigade. Its operational reserves in this direction have been exhausted.

Kherson direction

Nikopol - Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 19 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *from 8th and 59th armies, 7th Air assault division, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of so-called LPR*

Advanced units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces reached the suburbs of Kherson as close as the range of rifle fire. The defense forces liberated Ivanivka. Ukrainian units are developing an offensive in the Potemkin area, which creates a threat of the enemy losing positions near Visokopillya and near the Zelenodol reservoir, which, in turn, will deprive the occupiers of the opportunity to fire at the Kryvyi Rih TPP.

In the Arkhangel'sk-Novopetrivka-Kostyrka area, the enemy is trying to hold the occupied positions, for which he reinforced the units of the 205th separate motorized rifle brigade, which suffered significant losses, with a new BTG from the 11th separate airborne assault brigade.

Fierce fighting continues to the north and west of Kherson. A grouping of Russian troops, specifically a BTG consisting of the 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th ranger brigade, and 255th motorized rifle regiment, is trying to prevent Ukrainian advance units from entering the near approaches to Kherson. For this purpose, the enemy constantly, but unsuccessfully, counterattacks in the direction of Klapaya-Kiselivka and Myrne-Pravdyne and tries to bypass Ukrainian troops in the direction of Shmidtovo-Novohryhorivka.

Over the past 4-5 days, the enemy has been actively transferring reserves previously deployed in the Zaporizhzhya direction to the Kherson direction: at least one BTG from the 429th motorized rifle regiment has arrived in the Mykolaiv direction from the Tokmak area. The transfer of other combined units from the 42nd motorized rifle division is underway.

The enemy is improving the engineering fortifications of the positions in the Novoskresensky area. As part of the logistical support of the enemy troops, 17 train cars with ammunition arrived at the Kalanchak railway station (Myrne, Kherson region) from the temporarily occupied Crimea.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area

Russian BSF ships continue operations at sea to isolate the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ships are located mainly along the coast of western and southern Crimea. The grouping of surface forces is headed by the Russian Navy flagship, the Admiral Makarov frigate. One submarine (project 636.3) went to sea. Three Russian BSF ships patrol the Sea of Azov; one of them, a minesweeper, is searching for sea mines.

There are three missile launchers combat-ready for a salvo in the sea; the total volley is 14 Kalibr missiles.

All the large landing ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet are moored in the ports of Sevastopol and Novorossiysk, repairing and replenishing supplies. No signs of preparation and formation of landing forces are observed on the ships.

The enemy continues the remote survey of central and southwestern Black Sea, Zminny (Snake) Island, and the areas near the coast of Odesa and Mykolaiv regions. The enemy involves aviation: more than 10 Su-30SM, Su-24M, and Be-12 aircraft from the Crimean air group.

The UN has prepared an objective and realistic plan to export grain from Ukraine, the head of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, announced on July 4. "The UN plan meets the export interests of both the Russian Federation and Ukraine. However, to export Ukrainian grain, it is necessary to create a safe corridor without the threat of sea mines. Today, food prices in the world have risen sharply. We are advocating that the problem be resolved in favor of Kyiv and Moscow," the minister explained.

The enemy's total combat losses from February 24 to July 4 amounted to approximately:

Personnel - almost 36,200 people (+230)
Tanks – 1,589 (+5)
Armored combat vehicles (APC) – 3,754 (+10)
Operational tactical missile systems – 4 (0)
Artillery systems – 804 (+3)
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) – 246 (0)
Anti-aircraft warfare systems – 105 (0)
Vehicles and fuel tanks - 2,629 (+11)
Aircraft – 217 (0)
Helicopters – 187 (0)
UAVs of the operational-tactical level - 658 (+4)
Intercepted cruise missiles - 144 (0)
Boats/cutters – 15 (0)

Ukraine, general news

The special operation to liberate Zmiiny (Snake) Island from Russian occupiers was successfully completed, and the Ukrainian flag was raised on the island, reported the head of the joint coordination press center of the southern Ukraine Defense Forces, Natalya Humenyuk. "The military operation is over. Currently, this territory has been returned to the jurisdiction of Ukraine," Humeniuk said.

Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal announced that before the start of the full-scale war, Ukraine had spent 156 billion hryvnias (\$5.28 billion) per year on the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Now the expenses have increased to 130 billion hryvnias per month (\$4.4 billion), he said.

The EU will create an international platform for the reconstruction of Ukraine after the end of the war, said the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. According to her, the platform will determine strategic directions and priorities for Ukraine's recovery.

The restoration of Ukraine will consist of three stages, said Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. The first stage is the construction of critically important facilities. The second is a fast reconstruction because a lot of the essential infrastructure has been destroyed. The final stage will be a long-term transformation that will affect all spheres.

On July 6, Lithuania will hand over the Bayraktar drone Vanagas to Ukraine, for which Lithuanians all over the country donated, stated the Minister of Defense of Lithuania, Arvydas Anusauskas, adding that the drone will be handed over along with ammunition.

International diplomatic aspect

Turkish customs detained a Russian-flagged bulker carrying stolen Ukrainian grain. Though, there is still no information about its arrest or confiscation. It's still a significant move after several deliveries of stolen grain to Turkish ports and weeks of appeals from the Ukrainian side to stop it. *Zhibek Zholy* vessel carries 4,500 tonnes of Ukrainian grain from the Russian-occupied port of Berdyansk. According to the Ukrainian government, Russia has illegally taken at least half a million tonnes of grain. So far, eight bulkers have been employed to deliver stolen cereal to foreign customers. The Russians will wait and see how the situation is resolved before deciding on the several cargo ships that have already been loaded with Ukrainian grain in Crimea.

"The Kremlin wants to destroy Ukraine, we will never allow this to happen," stated the President of the EU Commission. "Ukraine's recovery from Russia's war of aggression will be a symbol of the power of democracy over autocracy," the Foreign Secretary expressed the UK support at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano. The Ukrainian government presented a decade-long post-war reconstruction plan worth \$750 bln. Volodymyr Zelensky outlined the key principles of reconstruction: security, technological edge, environmentally friendly, driven by green technologies, barrier-free, focus on the interests of communities, utmost transparency, and projects aimed at creating new jobs and new industries in Ukraine. The plan envisages grants, loans, credits, and FDIs.

The UK government expressed its desire to follow the example of Canada and seize the Russian assets in the UK to redirect them to Ukraine's reconstruction. The other nations are to follow. It is critical to make Russia pay for the destruction it caused. It is also important to signal other regimes across the globe that their crimes and damage to others won't go with impunity, even for those possessing nuclear arms.

Russia, relevant news

Since February 24, Russian regulator *Roskomnadzor* has blocked more than 82,000 Internet resources, including many independent media.

More than 70% of Russians support the actions of their army in Ukraine, according to research by the Levada Center.

IKEA announced a complete sale of products in Russia before the final pull-out.

Kommersant wrote, with reference to market participants, that the American company MSD, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, is ceasing to supply the Russian Federation with vaccines against chicken pox, rubella, measles, and mumps, which other manufacturers also produce. But it will maintain sales of its drugs, which have no equivalents.

Centre for Defence Strategies (CDS) is a Ukrainian security think tank. We operate since 2020 and are involved in security studies, defence policy research and advocacy. Currently all our activity is focused on stopping the ongoing war.

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