

**Humanitarian aspect:**

As of the morning of August 17, 2022, more than 1073 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation. **The official number of children who have died and have been wounded is 361 and more than 712, respectively.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, the temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

According to the information made public in the Oblast Military Administrations' morning round-up, as of 08:00 on Wednesday, August 17, the situation in **Kherson Oblast** is consistently difficult. The occupying authorities increased pressure on the local population, and the frequency of document, telephone and car checks increased. Apartment raids, abductions, and marauder raids continue.

In **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast** the Russian forces again shelled the Kryvy Rih and Nikopol districts. The latter was hit three times during the night. In Nikopol, 6 private houses, cars and low-pressure gas pipelines were damaged. In the Chervonohryhorivska community, a local enterprise and the recently repaired Nikopol highway were affected.

In **Kharkiv Oblast** the Russian forces intensively attacked the city of Kharkiv and the region with artillery and rockets. The Saltivsky district of Kharkiv was shelled several times with MLRS. Residential high-rise buildings, critical transport infrastructure were damaged, and open areas were hit. No casualties. On Wednesday morning, the Defense Headquarters recorded the launch of more than 5 rockets from Belgorod.

On the evening of August 17, the Russian occupiers once again shelled the Saltivsky district of Kharkiv. A dormitory was completely destroyed. Preliminary, 7 people died, and 17 were injured (4 people have been rescued from under the rubble). A rescue operation continues. Among the victims were people with hearing impairment, adviser to the head of the Kharkiv Regional Council, Natalya Popova, said. People physically could not hear the alarm. According to preliminary information by the director of the regional department of civil protection, Ivan Sokol, Russia hit the dormitory with a Caliber cruise missile. According to him, more than 30 people lived in the building, including pensioners and children.

At night, the Russian forces again hit **Mykolaiv** with S-300 missiles. Petro Mohyla National University and one of the city's enterprises were hit. Private houses were also damaged. No victims were reported.

On the night of August 17, 2022, the Russian military launched rocket attacks on a resort village in the Bilhorod-Dnistrovski district, **Odesa Oblast**, Prosecutor General Office reported. 2 recreation centers and 2 residential buildings were destroyed. At least 30 private households

were affected. 4 people were injured and hospitalized. The attack was carried out with Kh-22 surface-to-air missiles.

Hostilities continue in Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts. Townships of Kurakhove and Kurakhivka in **Donetsk Oblast** were hit with missiles at night. A private house in Kurakhivka got hit directly. The morning shelling of Druzhkivka damaged about a dozen private houses. During the day, 2 civilians were killed and 7 civilians were injured in Donetsk Oblast.

**Over 40% of Ukrainian schools have [bomb] shelters.** The situation is the worst in Mykolaiv Oblast, where only 16% of educational institutions have protective structures, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Denys Monastyrskyi, said. The best situation is in Lviv Oblast, where 83% of institutions are ready to start offline schooling. In Kyiv, 740 out of 1,063 schools were recommended for opening, which makes 68%.

About 22,000 Ukrainian teachers went abroad after the start of the war. This comprises 5% of their total number, the educational ombudsman Serhiy Gorbachev said in a briefing. According to various estimates, there are currently 700,000 to 1.5 million school-age children outside of Ukraine. Gorbachev noted that Ukraine would not experience a shortage of teachers, but in some places, there are not enough children to fill the first grade [of schools].

### **Occupied territories**

The Russian occupation authorities established a checkpoint at the entrance to the Kerch Strait Bridge, and those who leave **Crimea** have their documents, cars, and personal belongings checked, said Crimea SOS coordinator Denys Savchenko. Approximately 38,000 vehicles left for Russia from the temporarily occupied Crimea after the explosion at the ammunition warehouse near Dhzankoy. Earlier, about 37,000 cars left for Russia after the explosions in Novofedorivka, Savchenko said.

According to Petro Andryushchenko, advisor to [the legally elected] **Mariupol** city mayor, the city's second filtration point was opened on the Left Bank. There are more than 1,300 Mariupol residents in line for the filtration. To go through the filtration process, one must submit a passport, phone and employment record [a government-mandated document left over from the soviet times]. It is impossible to get a pass to leave the city and evacuate without a certificate of filtration. Obstacles to the evacuation of Mariupol residents are at every step."

An empty *Lavrentiy* ferry docket in Mariupol port. It came from the Russian port of Yeysk. Its purpose is unknown, but it came on orders from the Russian Defense Ministry, Petro Andryushchenko said, citing the captain. The occupation administration of Mariupol port reported that regular sea travel to Russia would begin on September 5.

On August 16, 2022, around 11:00 a.m., Svitlana Korotun, the head of the Verkhnyorogachytska amalgamated community, **Kherson Oblast**, was abducted from her home. She was taken to an unknown destination, probably to Kakhovka, Yuriy Sobolevskyi, First Deputy Chairman of the Kherson Oblast Council, reported.

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## **Operational situation**

*The 175th day of the strategic air and ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbass") continues. The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, maintaining the temporarily captured areas of the Kherson Oblast and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv oblasts, creating favorable conditions for resuming their offensives in certain directions, and blocking Ukraine's maritime communications in the Black Sea.*

The enemy continues to carry out air and missile strikes on military and civilian objects in Ukraine.

The Russian forces launched artillery fire near Kamianska Sloboda in Chernihiv Oblast, and Khodyno and Svarkovo in Sumy Oblast. Reconnaissance by enemy UAVs continues.

A Russian Su-34 aircraft attacked infrastructure facilities in Zhytomyr Oblast from the territory of the Republic of Belarus. The threat of further missile and air strikes from the territory of the Republic of Belarus remains.

Russian President Putin concluded his speech at the "Army-2022" forum on August 15 with a statement that Russian and Donbas forces are "fulfilling their duties" to fight for Russia and "liberate" Donbas. Such a limited statement about Russian goals contrasts sharply with the previously formulated Russian military goals regarding the "denazification" and "demilitarization" of all of Ukraine. It is also incompatible with Russia's actions regarding the integration of the occupied parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhya oblasts into the Russian Federation.

The 3rd Army Corps of the Russian Armed Forces, constituting a strategic reserve, received an order to move by rail to the area of operational assignment in Ukraine on August 20 without completing recruitment and combat coordination. It is planned to transport 3,954 pieces of equipment, including 697 armored weapons, 1,780 vehicles, 537 artillery munitions, 309 units of communication equipment, 10 units of NBC service equipment, 309 units of engineering equipment, and 434 units of rear service equipment. The corps commander is Major General V. A. Belyavsky (a graduate of the Kharkiv State Technical University the year 1990) and the former first deputy commander - chief of staff of the 68th Army Corps of the Eastern Military District.

## **The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low.**

Russian forces continue to face recruitment problems, even for the most prestigious military units. Local mass media in the Russian Novgorod Oblast reported that recruitment was announced for candidates without military experience for military service on the B-268 submarine Velikiy Novgorod. Out of the 60 stipulated by the staffing requirements, there are eight vacant positions to fill. The B-268 diesel-electric submarine is taking part in the "special military operation" and is shelling the territory of Ukraine with missiles from the Black Sea.

Officials of the Novgorod Oblast announced the start of recruitment for the "Novgorod" battalion, which will be formed in Luza, Leningrad Oblast, where the formation of volunteer units from St. Petersburg and the Vologda region is already underway. Candidates are offered a one-time payment of 250,000 rubles (about \$4,000). Previously, to participate in aggression against Ukraine, candidates were offered daily payments of 8,000 rubles (about \$53) and a monthly salary of 200,000 rubles (3,250 US dollars). Compared to March, officials in charge of recruiting volunteers are forced to offer additional payments due to a lack of volunteers.

A new volunteer unit of 350 servicemen is being formed in Bryansk Oblast. It has currently recruited 77 people. Bryansk Oblast officials offer a one-time payment of 210,000 rubles (about \$3,400).

The *Kuzma Minin* volunteer tank battalion, formed in Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, recruited only 30 volunteers out of 160, indicating that Oblasts of the Russian Federation are incapable of meeting the recruitment plan.

At the same time, Russian troops are less interested in recruiting women for combat operations.

#### **Kharkiv direction**

- *Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 147 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10-12, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 13.3 km;*
- *Deployed enemy BTGs: 26th, 153rd and 197th tank regiments, 245th motorized rifle regiment of the 47th tank division, 6th and 239th tank regiments, 228th motorized rifle regiment of the 90th tank division, 1st motorized rifle regiment, 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 25th and 138th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army, 27th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Tank Army, 275th and 280th motorized rifle regiments, 11th tank regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division of the 11 Army Corps, 7th motorized rifle regiment of the 11th Army Corps, 80th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 14th Army Corps, 2nd and 45th separate SOF brigades of the Airborne Forces, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, PMCs*

To adjust their artillery fire and determine the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces' units, the Russian military continues to actively engage reconnaissance by UAVs. It is shelling military and civilian infrastructure in the areas of Kharkiv, Petrivka, Dementiivka, Odnorobivka, Sosnivka, Duvanka, Dementiivka, Pytomnyk, Ruska and Cherkaska Lozova, Cherkaski Tyshki, and Petrivka. The enemy carried out airstrikes near Stary Saltiv, Mospanove, Verkhniy Saltiv, Husarivka and Sosnivka, and attacked near Lebyazhe and Bazaliivka; the fighting continues. In addition, the Russian occupiers remotely mine the area near Lebyazhe, Peremoha, and Ukrainka.

Ukrainian troops continued to fire on Russian ground logistics routes from Kharkiv to Izyum; the railway bridge near Hrushivka, west of Kupyansk, was destroyed.

#### **Kramatorsk direction**

- *Balakleya - Siversk section: approximate length of the combat line - 184 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17-20, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.6 km;*
- *252nd and 752nd motorized rifle regiments of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 1st, 13th and 12th tank regiments, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 201st military base, 15th, 21st, 30th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Combined Arms Army, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 3rd and 14th separate SOF brigades, 2nd and 4th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Army Corps, 7th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps, PMC*

The Russian forces fired from tanks and artillery in the areas of Brazhkivka, Velyka Komyshevakha, Verkhnyokamianske, Virnopillya, Hryhorivka, Hrushuvaha, Dibrivne, Dolyna, Zvanivka, Ivano-Daryivka, Kramatorsk, Krasnopillya, Mazanivka, Mykolaivka, Pereizne, Ridne, Rozdolivka, Sloviansk, and Spirne, carried out remote mining of the area near Dovhenke. They used incendiary munitions in the areas of Nova Dmytrivka and Dibrivne, and conducted aerial reconnaissance in the Kramatorsk area.

The Russian troops tried to advance in the area of Bohorodychne, Spirne, and Ivano-Daryivka, but were unsuccessful and retreated. Fighting continues near Mazanivka and Novodmytrivka.

The units of the 3rd motorized rifle division of the 20th Combined Arms Army (BTGs of the 752nd and 252nd Motorized Rifle Regiments), which are trying to restore lost positions along the Dolyna-Bohorodychne frontier, are gradually exhausting in fruitless frontal attacks for over a week. Even their reinforcement by the remnants of a BTG compiled from the 12th tank regiment of the 4th tank division and the 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division of the 1st Tank Army does not allow them to return to previously lost positions.

Ukrainian forces carried out a high-precision strike and destroyed a Russian ammunition warehouse in Rodakovo, Luhansk Oblast.

To the south of Izyum, BTGs from the 254th motorized rifle regiment of the 144th motorized rifle division and two artillery divisions of the 856th self-propelled artillery regiment of the 144th motorized rifle division are concentrated with the task of being ready to attack Dmytrivka or engage in battle on the Brazhkivka - Sulyhivka section. Among the personnel of the newly arrived units, there are rumors about "an early offensive on Slovyansk." Most likely, these rumors are spread by the Russian command to maintain morale and increase the motivation of the personnel.

### **Donetsk direction**

- *Siversk - Maryinka section: approximate length of the combat line - 235 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13-15, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 17 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 68th and 163rd tank regiments, 102nd and 103rd motorized rifle regiments of the 150 motorized rifle division, 80th tank regiment of the 90th tank division, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 31st separate airborne assault brigade, 61st separate marines brigade of the Joint Strategic Command "Northern Fleet",*

*336th separate marines brigade, 24th separate SOF brigade, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 15th, and 100th separate motorized rifle brigades, 9th and 11th separate motorized rifle regiments of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called DNR, 6th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LNR, PMCs*

The Russian forces continue to concentrate their efforts in the Bakhmut area. In Kramatorsk and Avdiivka areas, the Russian military is trying to improve the tactical position of its troops, focusing on advances in the directions of Kramatorsk, Bakhmut, and Avdiivka.

The Russian artillery shelled Avdiivka, Bakhmut, Bilohorivka, Vodyane, Zaitseve, Kostyantynivka, Krasnohorivka, Mayorsk, Maryinka, Nevelske, Novobakhmutivka, Novokalynove, New York, Alexandropol, Opytne, Pisky, Soledar, Shumy, and Yakovlivka. The enemy carried out airstrikes on civilian infrastructure near Soledar, Yakovlivka, Maryinka, Krasnohorivka, and Yasynuvata, and conducted UAV aerial reconnaissance near Krasnohorivka and Opytne.

The Russian military attacked Opytne, Nevelske, Soledar and Bakhmut; the fighting continues.

The Russian forces attacked the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces near Zalizne, Shumy, Zaitseve, Soledar, and Mayorsk, but had no success and retreated. They tried to conduct a reconnaissance attack near Vershyna but withdrew after facing fire damage.

Russian troops launched a missile attack on the energy infrastructure and local enterprises in Kurakhove.

In the Bakhmut and Siversk directions, in the areas around Volnovakha and Donetsk, the Russian command anticipates the possibility of the Ukrainian high-precision strikes at concentrations of Russian troops. For the second day, the Russian forces are building up the air defense system in these areas and deploying additional forces and EW means to suppress the missile control channels, in particular:

- in Irmino area - up to "Buk-M3" anti-aircraft missile battalion;
- in the area southeast of Berestove - up to three "Tor-M1" missiles;
- in Loskutivka area (south-west of Lysychansk) - "Buk-M2" anti-aircraft missile battery;
- east of Spirne - two Buk-M2 self-propelled fire installations;
- in Rivnopil area - S-300B anti-aircraft missile battery with anti-aircraft missile battalion means of control;
- in Staromlynivka area - "Tor-M2" anti-aircraft missile battery;
- in the area around the village of Kolosky - up to S-300B anti-aircraft missile battalion;
- in Loskutivka - Podlisne - Rai-Olexandrivka areas – a "Borysoglebsk-2M" type radio reconnaissance and satellite communication channels suppression complex is deployed.

The Russian military is actively trying to prevent fire on the positions of its forces and equipment, including from the long-range artillery of the Ukrainian Defense Forces. In the area of Yasynivka (Donetsk Oblast) and Novozvanivka (Luhansk Oblast), the enemy deployed "Zoopark-1" artillery fire control and reconnaissance radar stations.

### **Zaporizhzhya direction**

- *Maryinka – Vasylivka section: approximate length of the line of combat - 200 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 11.7 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Combined Arms Army, 38th and 64th separate motorized rifle brigades, 69th separate cover brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, 5th separate tank brigade, 37 separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 429th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58 Combined Arms Army, 46th and 49th machine gun artillery regiments of the 18th machine gun artillery division of the 68th Army Corps, 39th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 68th Army Corps, 83th separate airborne assault brigade, 40th and 155th separate marines brigades, 22nd separate SOF brigade, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

The Russian forces carried out shelling with artillery and tanks in the areas of Bohoyavlenka, Burlatske, Velyka Novosilka, Volodymyrivka, Vremivka, Vuhledar, Hulyaipilske, Hulyaipole, Dorozhnianka, Zaliznychne, Kamianske, Lukyanivske, Novoandriivka, Novodanilivka, Novomykhailivka, Novopil, Novosilka, Novoukrainka, Orihiv, Pavlivka, Poltavka, Sontsivka, Stepanohirsk, Charivne, and Shevchenko. Russian troops hit Nikopol with 40 “Grad” missiles and the nearby village of Marganets with the heavy self-propelled 2s7 "Pion" guns. The enemy launched airstrikes near Volodymyrivka, Novosilka, Shcherbaky, Novoandriivka, Pavlivka, and Poltavka. It attacked in the area of Shevchenkove, but was repulsed. Fighting continues near Novomykhailivka. The occupiers mined the areas around Inzhenerne and Ukrainske.

### **Kherson direction**

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zburiivka and Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 27, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.3 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 114th, 143rd and 394th motorized rifle regiments, 218th tank regiment of the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 57th and 60th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division, 51st and 137th parachute airborne regiments of the 106th parachute airborne division, 7th military base of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 16th and 346th separate SOF brigades*

The operational situation remains unchanged.

A series of explosions occurred at the Russian ammunition depot and transformer substation in the area of the Azov railway station, at the airfield near Gvardiyskyi in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. It caused significant damage to the Russian materiel and seriously disrupted the logistics of the enemy grouping. Russian troops used Dzhankoy as a railway hub for transporting

troops and equipment to occupied villages in the south of Zaporizhzhya Oblast, including Melitopol. The Russian authorities have temporarily suspended passenger rail service from the Russian Federation to Crimea. In the area of the Azov station, up to four 203 mm 2s7 "Pion" self-propelled guns, up to nine 152 mm 2s19 "Msta-S" self-propelled guns, six 152 mm 2s3 "Akatsiya" self-propelled guns, and up to six 122 mm BM-21 "Grad" MLRSs were concentrated, along with two mobile intelligence and control centers, two BMPs, and ten trucks and special vehicles. There were also significant amounts of stored ammunition.

Ukrainian forces continued to shell Russian ammunition depots and strongholds in the southern direction. Ukrainian aviation struck two Russian strongholds and two ammunition and military equipment warehouses in Novopetrivka and Maksimivka. Ukrainian artillery destroyed the Russian supply point in Sukhyi Stavok near the Ukrainian bridgehead in the northwest of Kherson Oblast.

Russian troops are deploying Rosgvardia police units and Chechen units on the left bank of the Dnieper to block Russian personnel who may be retreating from the northern part of the Kherson region. Russian troops are increasingly transferring Chechen units to the Kherson region as police forces aimed at stopping the desertion of Russian servicemen.

The Russian forces increased the number of attack helicopters in the area of Chaplynka, where the logistics center of the Russian troop grouping "South" and the advanced airfield of the army aviation base are located. In particular, three Ka-52 attack helicopters, three Mi-28 attack helicopters, two Mi-24/35 fire support helicopters, and five Mi-8/17 transport helicopters are concentrated at the airfield.

The enemy is taking measures to replenish losses.

### **Kherson-Berislav bridgehead**

- *Velyka Lepetikha – Oleksandrivka section: approximate length of the battle line – 250 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces – 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG – 11.8 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 108th Air assault regiment, 171st separate airborne assault brigade of the 7th Air assault division, 4th military base of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, 33rd and 255th motorized rifle regiments of the 20th motorized rifle division, 34th and 205th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 224th, 237th and 239th Air assault regiments of the 76th Air assault division, 217th and 331 Air assault regiments of the 98th Air assault division, 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th separate ranger brigade, 11th separate airborne assault brigade, 10th separate SOF brigade, PMC*

The Russian military's main efforts are focused on maintaining the occupied positions and preventing the advance of the Ukrainian troops.



The Russian military fired from artillery and tanks in the areas of Mykolaiv, Stepova Dolyna, Nova Zorya, Prybuzke, Shevchenko, Kyselivka, Blahodatne, Shyroke, Kobzartsy, Andriivka, Dobryanka, Osokorivka, Potemkine, Trudolyubivka, Velyka Kostromka, and Chervonohryhorivka. It carried out airstrikes in the areas around Posad-Pokrovsky, Bilohirka, Bila Krynytsia, and Lozove.

The Russian forces attacked near Bilohirka and Novohryhorivka, but suffered significant losses and retreated. The enemy continues UAV reconnaissance.

BTGs of the 64th separate motorized rifle brigade ("criminals of Bucha") from the 35th combined arms army were transported by ferries across the Dnipro and marched to the region northeast of Snihurivka.

#### **Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area:**

*The forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet continue to project force on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine (through missile strikes and possible amphibious assaults) and control the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the sea and connect unrecognized Transnistria with the Russian Federation by land.*

There are currently 8 Russian warships and boats in the Black Sea, headed by the Admiral Makarov frigate. 2 ships (a frigate and a Buyan-M type corvette) carry up to 16 Kalibr missiles ready to launch.

All large amphibious ships are in the ports of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol for replenishment and scheduled repairs. There are no signs of preparation for an amphibious landing.

2 Russian ships are on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

All four submarines of project 636.3 are at the ports of Sevastopol and Novorossiysk.

Russian aviation continues to fly from Crimea over the northwestern part of the Black Sea; 7 aircraft from the Crimean Air Grouping of the Russian Federation were involved in the past day. After the explosions at the Saki airfield, the intensity of flights decreased by about half.

On the night of August 17, Russian troops hit Odesa Oblast with Kh-22 missiles from Tu-22M3 strategic aircraft. As a result of the impact of 2 rockets, destruction and fires broke out at one of the coastal resort centers and in several private buildings nearby. 4 civilians were injured, and the fire spread over a total area of more than 600 square meters. The enemy continues to launch missile strikes (MLRS and S-300) on Mykolaiv and Ochakiv.

Another 4 ships with sunflower meal, sunflower oil, and corn left the ports of Odesa and Chornomorsk. Grain shipments are implemented according to the schedule. In total, since August 1, 21 ships with agricultural products left Odesa oblast ports.

#### **Operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 17.08**

Personnel - almost 44,100 people (+200);  
Tanks - 1,886 (+6);  
Armored combat vehicles - 4,162 (+10);  
Artillery systems - 993 (+4);  
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 263 (0);  
Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 136 (0);  
Vehicles and fuel tanks - 3,054 (+5);  
Aircraft - 232 (0);  
Helicopters - 196 (+1);  
UAV operational and tactical level - 792 (+2);  
Intercepted cruise missiles - 190 (+3);  
Boats / ships - 15 (0).

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### **Ukraine, general news**

A crisis coordination center involving representatives of the Ukrainian Government and its departments, which can be involved in the event of an emergency at the Zaporizhzhya NPP, was set up on the basis of the state-owned Nuclear power company "Energoatom". It operates 24/7, and monitors the situation around the ZNPP, Minister of Energy Herman Galushchenko said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, the adviser to the head of the President's Office, said that the Kerch Strait Bridge should be destroyed as a legitimate military target. This is an illegal construction and the main gateway for supplying the Russian army in Crimea.

According to the poll conducted by "Rating" public opinion poll company on August 6-7,

- the feelings Ukrainians have towards the veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war are gratitude (64%) and pride (50%). A quarter feels sad when they meet veterans; the same number feel joy. 3% feel guilt, 2% feel shame and fear, and only 1% feel indifference, anger, and dislike.
- 54% have relatives who fought or are fighting at the front, starting from February 24, and 44% have relatives and friends who participated in the war in Eastern Ukraine in 2014-2021.
- More than 90% of those surveyed trust the Armed Forces of Ukraine, veterans of the current war, and veterans of the Anti-terrorist Operation (ATO) of 2014-2021.

Since the launch of the government program for business relocation, 710 Ukrainian enterprises have been relocated, mainly from the east to the west of Ukraine. 500 of them have already resumed work, said Deputy Minister of Economy Oleksandr Hryban. He noted that 1,796 relocation applications had been registered to date.

### **International diplomatic aspect**

"Their [Western] hegemony means stagnation for the rest of the world and for the entire civilization; it means obscurantism, cancellation of culture, and neoliberal totalitarianism," Vladimir Putin, in his address at the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security, blamed all global problems on the US and the UK. "The unconditional dominance of the US and its allies

is a thing of the past. On February 24, 2022, the start of a Special Military Operation in Ukraine marked the end of the unipolar world," Sergei Shoigu announced "the historical" turn.

Overall, both speeches show that Russia's political leadership lives in a distorted reality with conflicting internal elements. The main messages are that the world has departed from the unipolar world and is transitioning to a multipolar one. They claim that Russia enjoys full sovereignty and, from now on, is one of the poles. Moscow sides with Beijing to restrain Western hegemony and warmongering and to "go back to the bases" of the UN and international law system.

"The US and its vassals grossly interfere in the domestic affairs of sovereign states: they organize provocations, coups d'état, civil wars," Vladimir Putin clearly referred to Ukraine. "They [the US] prepared the fate of cannon fodder for the people of Ukraine, implemented the "anti-Russia" project, turned a blind eye to the spread of neo-Nazi ideology, to the massacres of Donbas residents," Russian president justified his war of choice. He went on to say that his invasion is in complete correspondence with the UN Charter and is aimed at "protecting interests of Russia, its citizens and protection of the people of Donbas from a genocide." Sergei Shoigu believes that the Russian invaders are "confronted by the combined forces of the West, who control the leadership of this country [Ukraine] in a hybrid war against Russia". He put forward "alternative facts" that the war proved meaningless of Western super-weapons. Moreover, he is sure that it's the Russian weapons that have shown their best qualities.

The Russian defense minister insisted that the Geneva conventions are the focus of the Russian forces. He falsely claimed that the Russian troops provided local populations with humanitarian aid on the "de-occupied" [occupied by Russia] territories, as was the case in Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh. And that the Russian forces are constructively cooperating with the UN and the ICRC.

None of these is even partially true. The world has witnessed the Bucha and Borodyanka massacre, levelling of Mariupol and Volnovakha, and filtration camps in the East of Ukraine. Along with levelling hundreds of cities, towns and villages and deliberately destroying the industry, agriculture and critical infrastructure, the Russian forces are purposely targeting healthcare, educational and cultural objects. Since the start of the all-out invasion, 5,401 Ukrainian civilians have been killed, including 361 children. Russia has caused damage to 2,211 educational institutions (kindergartens, schools, universities etc.), including 230 completely destroyed. In addition, Russian forces have caused damage to 817 health care institutions, including 122 levelled. Four hundred sixty-four cultural heritage objects were destroyed, including 162 religious' buildings, 44 libraries and 34 museums etc. Moscow rejected the evacuation of civilians from besieged cities many times, first and foremost – Mariupol. In violation of a deal negotiated with the mediation of the UN and ICRC, Russia is not releasing Ukrainian POWs that laid their arms at the Azovstal. Instead, the Russian proxies are preparing to hold a show trial of those POWs. Ukrainian POWs were murdered on multiple occasions, and the Olenivka massacre is one of the most brutal episodes.

Sergei Shoigu called accusations of the possible use of weapons of mass destruction absurd. He said there is no military need to employ nuclear arms in the conflict in Ukraine. He referred to guiding documents on the use of such weapons and stated that “the main purpose of Russian nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack”. However, his assurances are worthless because they don’t consider the irrational behavior of Putin, who has no democratic checks on him, nor the provisions of Russia’s nuclear doctrine. “The Basic principles of state policy of the Russian Federation on nuclear deterrence” of 2020 defined the principal military risks that might evolve into direct military threats to Russia “deployment by states that consider Russia as a potential adversary, of medium- and short-range cruise and ballistic missiles, non-nuclear high-precision and hypersonic weapons, strike unmanned aerial vehicles”. The Kremlin is ready to employ nuclear arms if “aggression against Russia with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is in jeopardy.”

Sergei Shoigu accused the US of possessing chemical weapons while insisting that Russia fulfilled its obligations about their elimination. He accused NGOs “sponsored by the West” like White Helmets of provocations with chemical weapons. However, he didn’t mention the Kremlin’s use of the chemical agent Novichok on British soil (the Skripals poisoning case) and at home (Navalny poisoning).

A fake allegation of the US biological warfare laboratories in Ukraine found its new development. Shoigu stated that there are such laboratories in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the respective governments cannot do anything with them despite a mortal threat to the local population. Therefore, one should expect new Russian PSYOPS on this subject and possible provocations.

While employing old narratives of NATO’s “aggressiveness” in expanding eastwards, the Kremlin doubled down on “anticolonial” and pro-Chinese rhetoric.

“The US escapade towards Taiwan is not just a voyage by an irresponsible politician, but part of the purposeful and deliberate US strategy designed to destabilize the situation and sow chaos in the region and the world,” Vladimir Putin elaborated. The message about Taiwan was coordinated between Moscow and Beijing. In Russia, pro-Chinese theses were voiced by various actors, from Putin down to mid-level diplomats and members of the Parliament.

### **Russia, relevant news**

The government of the Russian Federation will increase the amount of aid to idle airports in the south and center of Russia by almost 2.5 billion rubles, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin announced. The Russian aviation sphere has been heavily affected by sanctions and airport closure in the country's centre and south.

In an interview with Interfax, Russian Vice Prime Minister Denis Manturov said that since the “parallel import” was authorized in May 2022, deliveries under this scheme amounted to \$6.5 billion, and by the end of the year, the flow may reach \$16 billion. Under such a scenario, parallel imports will equal only about 4% of goods Russia legally imported last year.

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