

Malcontent News Ukraine SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 37

Russian forces are attempting a retreat in the areas northwest of Kyiv, with 20 settlements, towns, and cities confirmed as liberated in the last 48 hours. The retreat has been haphazard, with evidence of numerous convoys being attacked between Borodyanka and Orane.

Ukrainian troops are in Ivankiv, Borodyanka, Hostomel Bucha, and Vozel. The M4 and M7 highways are reopened. Up to 12,000 Russian and Chechen troops are loosely

encircled, passing to the east of Orane over pontoon bridges.

There is significant evidence that Russian troops committed war crimes in Bucha, including the execution of civilians.

To the east of Kyiv, Russian forces were pushed back to the Supiy River and the town of Kalyta, which is northeast of Kyiv and adjacent to the Zalissia National Park. Road access to Chernihiv has been established, breaking the encirclement.

Russian forces captured the city of Izyum after attacking Ukrainian defensive positions for 24 days. It is likely they will continue to push southeast in an attempt to connect with LNR militias in the Luhansk Oblast.

Ukrainian forces liberated settlements and towns in Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts. Russian forces were pushed back from Kryvyi Rih, and Ukrainian forces continued to harass the city of Kherson.

On Thursday, Russian troops denied access to Mariupol, blocking a previously agreed to Ukrainian rescue convoy,

the Red Cross, and a United National relief team. On April 1, the convoy was allowed to proceed, and the Red Cross was given access, but they were not allowed to bring any medical or relief supplies.

The Ukrainian Air Force was accused of attacking an oil tank farm in Belgorod, Russia. Multiple videos show two Mi-24 helicopters striking the oil depot on the city's eastern edge with missiles. The attack created panic among Russian citizens who waited in long lines to buy gasoline and fought each other in grocery stores. The Russian government declared a state of emergency and has limited fuel purchases to 15 liters per citizen.

Fighting for control of Rubhizne, Severodonetsk, and Popasnya continued with no change in the situation.

Heavy rain was falling over many regions of Ukraine, with colder weather and snow expected in some areas on April 3 and 4.

ASSESSMENT: Russian forces retreating from Hostomel, Bucha, Vozel, and Boradyanka, left their war dead behind and abandoned critical military equipment. The retreating

troops laid antitank mines and fired artillery in areas northwest of Kyiv.

It is our assessment that between 8,000 to 15,000 Russian and Chechen forces are loosely encircled northwest of Kyiv. The route to Belarus is tantamount to threading the eye of a needle close to Orane on narrow forest roads. Ukrainian SOF, local militias, and drones appear to be causing heavy losses.

Additionally, an undetermined number of Russian forces are encircled in pockets between Brovary and the Supiy River.

Russian troops being reassigned to the Donbas from the north and northeastern parts of Ukraine are comprised of combat ineffective units, poorly equipped reserve units, and local militias.

In conclusion, we do not believe that Russia has the infrastructure or resources to change the situation in southern and eastern Ukraine significantly. Mariupol has held out longer than we assessed on March 28, with Russian and Chechen forces unable to make additional gains in the last 72 hours.

Regardless of who did the airstrike on Bologrod, Russia, it has had a Doolittle Raid psychological impact on the Russian people. Gas and food rationing, three significant events in Bologrod in the last 48 hours, and a state of emergency do not communicate "special military operation" and "all is going to plan."

CHERNIHIV REGION

Ukrainian forces liberated the town of Shestovytsya, about 15 kilometers south of Chernihiv.¹ It is located a few kilometers from the bridge that the Russian Air Force destroyed over the Desna River² on March 23, cutting the city off from supply lines. The Ukrainian General Staff reports that over 50 pieces of military equipment were destroyed.³

The village of Novyi Bykiv was liberated⁴ ⁵, with Ukrainian forces securing the vital bridge over the Supiy River and connecting to moving eastern troops from Nova Basan. A

¹ https://twitter.com/With__Ukraine/status/1510074215797559304

² <https://goo.gl/maps/4srH5tPGSxgNi8XW8>

³ <https://twitter.com/GeneralStaffUA/status/1510109929536987136>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/Balu11611047/status/1510070023783878658>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510026835333107715>

damaged TOS-1 flamethrower thermobaric MLRS was captured.⁶

Despite breaking the siege and pushing Russian forces back, some remain in defensive positions northeast of the city and continue to shell the northeast outskirts.

The area around the city is heavily mined,⁷ with Ukrainian EOD and combat engineers starting the effort to defuse and remove the explosive devices.⁸

ASSESSMENT: Chernihiv is no longer encircled, and the humanitarian crisis shows signs of improvement. Russian forces will likely remain to the city's northeast to tie up Ukrainian military assets.

The city remains strategically important if Russia decides to siege Kyiv again. Because of its strategic location, the city will remain at risk until hostilities end.

⁶ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1509929481988984841/photo/1>

⁷ [WENY – Associated Press](#)

⁸ <https://twitter.com/ArmedForcesUkr/status/1509752419760189455>

KHARKIV & SUMY REGION

Artillery continues to hit the city of Kharkiv with no significant change in Russian or Ukrainian posture.

South of Sumy, the International Red Cross arrived in Okhtyrka to evaluate the city and what resources were needed.⁹

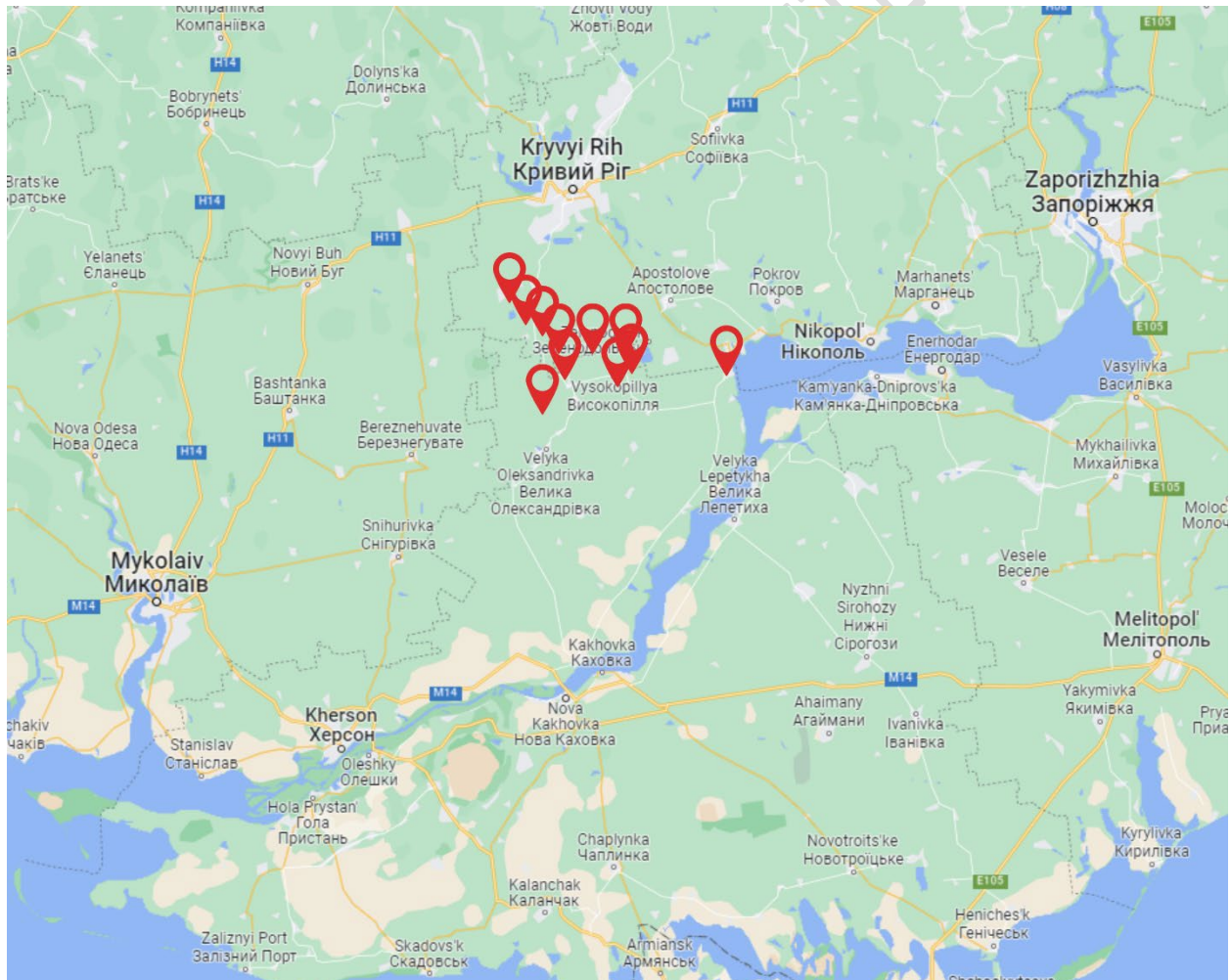
ASSESSMENT: The arrival of the ICRC into Okytyrka indicates that Ukrainian forces could assure the safety of the survey team. Russian troops would have to be pushed out of artillery range from the city, suggesting the boundary between opposing forces is as far east as Ryabayna.

Russian forces took control of the city of Izyum on April 1 after 24 days of continuous attacks. Fighting southeast of the city in Krasnopillya has continued since March 27, with no change in the situation.

⁹ https://twitter.com/ICRC_ua/status/1509891699794980878

KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION

In the Kherson Oblast, Ukrainian forces liberated the settlements of Novovorontsovka, Mala Shesternya, Novohryhorivs'ke, Topolyne, Knyazivka, Krasnivka, Svobodne, Kam'yanka, Pryhir'ya, Kochubeyivka and Orlove, south of Kryvyi Rih.¹⁰



¹⁰ <https://liveuamap.com/en/2022/31-march-ukrainian-army-liberated-novovorontsovka-mala-shesternya>

Russian forces fired Grad rockets using MLRS on the settlement of Inulets.^{11 12}

Ukrainian forces continue to push southeast from Posad Pokrovske, with heavy artillery fire shelling Chornobaika.¹³
¹⁴The village is the location of the now-abandoned Kherson Airport. There is a large tank farm just east of the airport, under Russian control.¹⁵

There appears to be a significant crackdown on the insurgents in Kherson. More information is in the War Crimes and Human Rights section.

A missile strike damaged a fuel depot in Kremenchuk, in the center of Ukraine.¹⁶

ASSESSMENT: We continue to believe the Ukrainian General Staff does not have much interest in liberating the city of Kherson. By threatening an offensive, Ukraine is

¹¹ https://twitter.com/With__Ukraine/status/1510053353404997633

¹² https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1510096750404534283

¹³ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1510007626746245120>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/federicoborsar1/status/1510025379070808077>

¹⁵ <https://goo.gl/maps/r2Ro3f4apMTnhQSC8>

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/KhersonFrom/status/1510110056414691329>

bottling up Russian forces that otherwise could be used to bypass Mykolaiv, reinforce Russian troops in the Donbas, or aid in the siege of Mariupol. We acknowledge that the Ukrainian forces are slowly encroaching on Kherson from the southeast, and the artillery strike appears to have hit targets outside the airport.

DONBAS REGION

Mariupol was under a ceasefire again on April 1. Yesterday we reported that 45 Ukrainian buses arrived in the city for an agreed evacuation, backed by the Red Cross and the United Nations. The buses, the UN, and Red Cross were not allowed entry into the city by Russian forces.

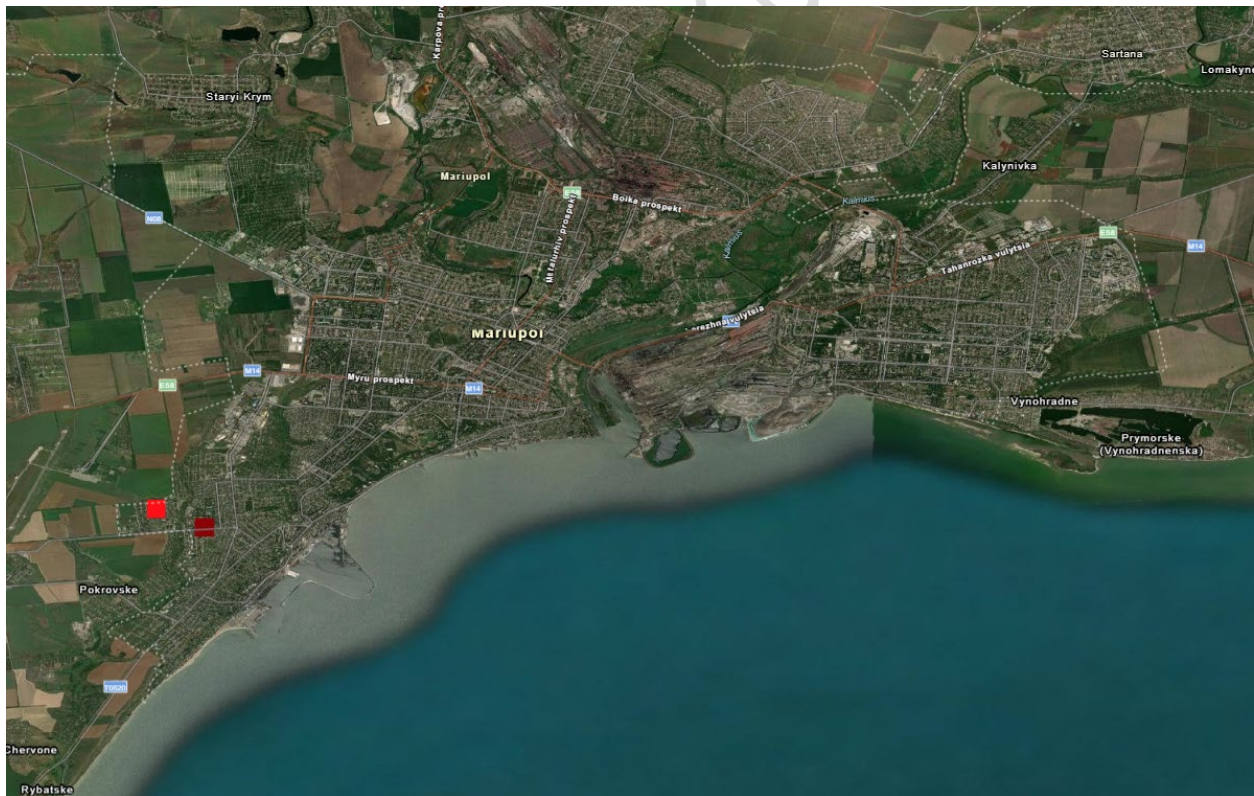
We appreciate your understanding that the situation in Ukraine is dynamic, and cutting through the fog of war can be a challenge.

The Red Cross attempted to enter the city again on April 1 with 54 Ukrainian buses and a load of humanitarian aid, including medical supplies. The convoy was blocked again

by Russian troops. The organization is also barred from bringing any aid resources into the city.¹⁷

The Red Cross will attempt to enter the city on April 2.¹⁸

Russian and Chechen forces have made no gains within the city against a resistance that has fought for 31 days. NASA FIRMS data showed little activity across the city.



¹⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/red-cross-teams-way-mariupol-without-aid-2022-04-01/>

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/Reuters/status/1510104957353091075>

ASSESSMENT: Our assessment Mariupol would be under Russian control within three to five days was incorrect. We continue to believe the city will fall under Russian control and assess that the time is measured in days, not weeks. The end of large-scale hostilities is unlikely to release combat-effective units for redeployment to other regions. Given the scale of destruction, the city will have little value as a port or hub for further invasion activity.

Fighting continued in Rubizhne today and Popasna, with no change of control. Russia-backed militias again claimed they had captured Rubizhne.¹⁹ Battle in Popasna continues to be intense.²⁰

There are reports of fighting in Alchevsk, resulting in 30 Chechen soldiers hospitalized.²¹

A Russian Mi-28 helicopter was shot down in the Luhansk Oblast. The video of the missile strike indicates a British Starstreak SAM hit the aircraft.²²

¹⁹ https://twitter.com/A7_Mirza/status/1509993597629865993

²⁰ https://twitter.com/Mariia_Zolkina/status/1509917791083765761

²¹ [News Reader Online – Local Coverage](#)

²² <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510094022970417160>

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

The Ukrainian General Staff reports that three Russian cruise missiles were shot down outside Odesa.²³ The debris landed in residential areas, and there were casualties.²⁴ Russia has increased its use of Kalibr cruise missiles to target energy infrastructure in Ukraine.

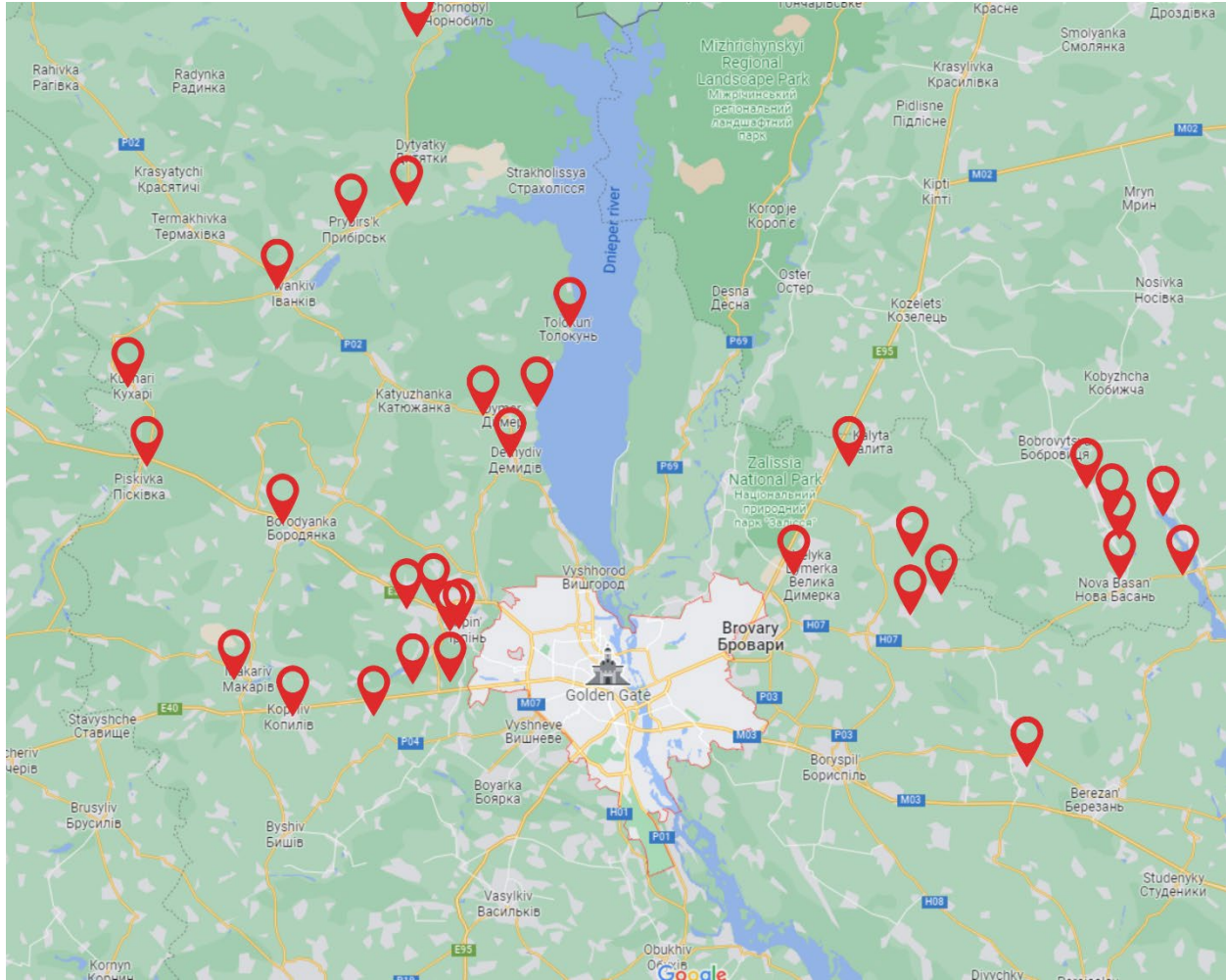
ASSESSMENT: An amphibious assault on Odesa would be audacious and disastrous for the Russian military. Russia does not have the available ground forces or air support. Most naval infantry BTGs have been deployed within Ukraine and have suffered heavy losses.

KYIV REGION

Ukrainian forces liberated over 30 settlements, villages, and cities around Kyiv in the last 48 hours.

²³ [Reuters](#)

²⁴ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1509959443517259790



To the west, the list includes Myla, Bucha,²⁵ Hostomel, Vorzel,²⁶ Borodyanka,²⁷ Maryanivka, and Kolonschina.²⁸

²⁵ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1509886063904448519

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/ThomasVLinge/status/1509911549217054721>

²⁷ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1509886244712591372

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1509574079858290694>

To the northwest, Demydiv, Dmyer, Yasnohorodka, Ivankiv,²⁹ ³⁰ Tolokun,³¹ and Orane.³²

East of Kyiv, Velka Dymmerka, Nova Basan,³³ Baryshivka, Ploske,³⁴ and Kaltyanske.

Antonov Airbase in Hostomel is under Ukrainian control, with the airfield suffering significant damage.³⁵ The world's largest aircraft, the AN-225 is in ruins in its hangar.

Many other smaller settlements were liberated.

ASSESSMENT: An estimated 8,000 to 12,000 Russian troops based at and around Antonov Airbase are likely surrounded in a pocket to the west of Kyiv, with no viable path to retreat.

There have been graphic reports of multiple war crimes and atrocities committed by Russian forces in Bucha and

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/KSergatskova/status/1509896394387120130>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1509858479644753923>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/BackAndAlive/status/1509851323705012224>

³² <https://twitter.com/georgewbarros/status/1510037610550468612>

³³ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1509857295886336000>

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/Danspiun/status/1509502112450891788>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510034475299835916>

Mira. More information is in the War Crimes and Human Rights section.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military activity today.

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine, given the collapse of the Russian offensive west of Kyiv and a growing focus on Eastern Ukraine.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the predawn hours of April 1 over Belgorod, Russia, two Mi-24 helicopters, flying at treetop level to avoid radar, struck a fuel depot in an industrial area 35 kilometers past the Ukrainian border.

Eight of 16 storage tanks were destroyed with the fire still burning in the morning.³⁶ Residents of Belgorod choked gas

³⁶ https://twitter.com/L_Team10/status/1509761638454505481

stations with massive lines as residents panic-bought fuel, worried about additional attacks.³⁷

The tank farm is located on the city's eastern edge in an industrial area, away from any civilian housing or commerce areas.³⁸

Russia claims Ukraine did the airstrike. Earlier in the day, the Ukrainian General Staff would neither confirm nor deny the incident. Later in the day, they denied that Ukraine did the attack.³⁹

Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesperson Oleksandr Motuzyanyk said, "Ukraine is currently conducting a defensive operation against Russian aggression on the territory of Ukraine, and this does not mean that Ukraine is responsible for every catastrophe on Russia's territory."⁴⁰

Up to 1.5 million gallons (5,678,118 liters) of fuel were destroyed.⁴¹ Russian oil firm Rosneft said there were no injuries.

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1509779208817496065>

³⁸ <https://goo.gl/maps/622tUCBx1y7yUg5ZA>

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1509797087109599258>

⁴⁰ [Reuters](#)

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/MarkHertling/status/1510074832544841732>

Kremlin spokesperson Dimitry Peskov received hard questions from Russian state media, asking if the Ukrainian Air Force was destroyed, as reported on March 25, and Russia has air superiority, how could this have happened.

Peskov told state media he would not provide an analysis of the situation and leave it up to investigators. He went on to say that the attack would not help ongoing peace talks.

The third incident in Belgorod in 48 hours panicked the civilian population. Russian civilians in the western part of the nation collapsed the gasoline supply and swarmed grocery stores. In response, the Russian government put the Kursk Region under a state of emergency.⁴² ⁴³ Gasoline and diesel fuel purchases are restricted to 15 liters for individuals effective April 2, with no end date.

ASSESSMENT: This was an audacious attack and almost certainly carried out by the Ukrainian Air Force.

One cannot discount the destruction of 1.5 million gallons of fuel and the strategic impact on military operations in

⁴² <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1509966843859116032>

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1509966846782578693/photo/1>

Eastern Ukraine. The psychological implications for Russian and Belarusian citizens who believed they were safe from the "special military operation" are more significant.

The Russian Ministry of Defense is now put in an impossible position due to the disinformation campaign on their own citizens.

If they confirm the attack was significant and from Ukraine, they confirm Ukraine still has an Air Force, and Russian air superiority is overstated.

Due to social media, webcams, and security cameras, it was impossible to control the flood of public information about the attack. There was no way to dismiss or cover up the event as an accident unrelated to the ongoing "special military operation."

Implementing a state of emergency in Western Russia has an additional psychological impact and panic buying, which has created fuel and food shortages. Additionally, the state of emergency exposes how fragile the Russian supply chain is compared to Ukraine, which has suffered far more damage to its infrastructure.

For some people in Russia, this is no longer a “special military operation” against a foe who has no operational military as of March 25.

A dashcam video shows the moment an artillery shell struck the roadside south of Belgorod, Russia, about 19 kilometers over the Ukrainian border.⁴⁴ We have been able to geolocate the video from either March 30 or April 1 between the villages of Yasnye Zori and Nikolskoe.⁴⁵ A second video shows the aftermath at the exact location.^{46 47}

Later in the day, Russian officials claimed the artillery shell was fired on April 1.⁴⁸

ASSESSMENT: Based on this new evidence and the ability to geolocate two videos, we assess that artillery shells did land in the area of a Russian FOB. We cannot validate that the artillery strike came from Ukraine. The video shows a relatively small artillery piece was fired. Theories include

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1509890019120533507>

⁴⁵ <https://goo.gl/maps/aZssXdJT8fnMvtMn8>

⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1509896391434379270>

⁴⁷ https://twitter.com/offstream_news/status/1509065414436958210

⁴⁸ [Reuters](#)

an accident at the military base, a false flag, or Ukrainian SOF operating in the area and firing from within Russia.

The United States government is preparing to send MOPP 4 protection kits to Ukraine for their armed forces. The kits include a gas mask, full-body suit, gas mask hood, chemical gloves and boots, and chemical/biological weapon detection.⁴⁹

Russia is drafting 134,500 recruits as part of its bi-annual conscription program. The number of new draftees is not unusual, and The Russian Ministry of Defense claims they will not be sent to Ukraine for combat operations.⁵⁰

Ukrainian forces captured an intact Russian Barnaul-T 9S932-1 air defense command post.⁵¹ They also captured a Russian Auriga-1.2V Satellite Communications terminal. The unit is designed to send high-quality, secure audio and video signals.⁵²

ASSESSMENT: Beyond the high value of these assets for western military intelligence, the abandonment of high-

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1509992598815059971>

⁵⁰ <https://news.yahoo.com/russia-drafts-134-500-conscripts-101839663.html>

⁵¹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510136039159046146>

⁵² <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510026002298294282>

value assets indicates a lack of command and control and a haphazard withdrawal.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Video and photographic evidence from Bucha that has been geolocated show Russian forces did mass executions of civilians during the occupation.

A video from Bucha from April 1 shows bodies strewn on the road, outside of homes.⁵³ (NSFW, viewer discretion advised) Ukrainian forces found entire families outside their homes, men, women, and children, bound and executed.⁵⁴ (NSFW, viewer discretion advised). The bodies litter multiple streets. The location of the corpses, and because many are bound, suggests Russian forces methodically rounded up people from their homes and executed them.⁵⁵ (NSFW, viewer discretion advised).

Ukrainian forces made similar finds in Mria and Myla, southwest of Bucha. Along the E40 highway, there is evidence of executions of civilians on the roadside and

⁵³ <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1510035808975212549>

⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1510039148299751424>

⁵⁵ <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1510040278228508680>

attempts to cover up the war crimes by burning the bodies.⁵⁶ (viewer discretion advised)

Two of the dead included a couple attacked by Russian forces on March 7, captured in a drone video.⁵⁷ (viewer discretion advised). The occupants of the car were identified as Maksim and Ksjena lowenko. They were part of a convoy of ten vehicles trying to get to Kyiv.

The vehicle was set on fire, and the charred remains of the lowenkos were still in their car on April 1.

Under the laws of war, civilians are protected, and when they are killed in defiance of those laws, their deaths amount to war crimes.

Work Central Kitchen has seen a dramatic increase in supplies to Chernihiv, enabling the organization to increase bread production exponentially.⁵⁸

Russian forces are accused of shooting at civilian vehicles attempting to evacuate Kharkiv through Mala Rohan on the

⁵⁶ [BBC](#)

⁵⁷ <https://au.news.yahoo.com/shocking-drone-footage-shows-russian-troops-gun-down-civilian-235225384.html>

⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/WCKitchen/status/1509963823633022976>

M03 highway.⁵⁹ (NSFW – viewer discretion advised).
Ukrainian medical examiners removed Russian soldiers' corpses left behind in the retreat and dead civilians.

Russian troops kidnaped the mayor and deputy mayor of Kakhovka on April 1. Their whereabouts and condition are unknown. The town is located on the Dneiper River, east of Kherson in the Kherson Oblast. The civilian population has become increasingly aggressive in their insurgency through the Oblast.⁶⁰

In signs of a further crackdown on the insurgents, journalist Kostiantyn Ryzhenko disappeared on March 30 from Kherson. He is the Chief Editor of the Kherson News City and has been reporting on the resistance in the Oblast.⁶¹

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant geopolitical events today.

⁵⁹ <https://twitter.com/RFERL/status/1509943305924231183>

⁶⁰ <https://twitter.com/Hromadske/status/1510025505721958407>

⁶¹ <https://khpg.org/en/1608810330>

ECONOMIC

On April 1, oil prices were steady, with WTI at \$99 a barrel and Brent at \$104.

The rouble declined to 85 to one US dollar.