

Malcontent News Ukraine SITREP

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Russian forces continue to regroup, bringing the quietest day militarily since February 24.

Thirty ballistic missiles struck the Ukrainian military training base northwest of Yavoriv.¹ The base is just 10 kilometers from the Polish border, and before the war was a joint training center for NATO and Ukrainian forces.

Currently, the base is likely used as a logistics hub for military aid shipments. Thirty-five people were killed, and at least 130 were wounded.²

¹ <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-march-13>

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/air-strike-launched-ukraine-military-base-near-polish-border-lviv-authorities-2022-03-13/>

The missile attack happened at 3:20 in the morning, local time, and targeted barracks and dining areas.³ The pictures of the attack have been confirmed through geolocation.⁴

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov [Rhib-kov] had warned yesterday convoys carrying foreign weapons into Ukraine would be considered "legitimate military targets."⁵

Combat engineers with the Russian military established a pontoon bridge across the Irpin River northwest of Kyiv, enabling a column of light armored vehicles to advance into Bucha.⁶ The pontoon bridge failed⁷, cutting off the advance.

Russian forces have moved to a defensive posture in Chernihiv and Sumy and continue a slow retreat in the Kharkiv Oblast.⁸

In Southeast Ukraine, Russian troops and militias of the DNR captured several small towns north of Mariupol in the Donetsk Oblast.

³ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1502884166593040384>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/VashonBlackberr/status/1502924451880468481>

⁵ <https://www.yahoo.com/video/convoys-carrying-foreign-weapons-ukraine-175305825.html>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/DraconicIntel/status/1503039478310518791>

⁷ https://twitter.com/Arslon_Xudosi/status/1503016810563702786

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/271471665165919>

Today, evidence emerged showing the Ukrainian military is using landmines. Geolocated confirmed images show a supply convoy⁹ and a T-90 tank destroyed¹⁰ by the devices in separate attacks.

Award-winning United States journalist, Brent Renaud, was killed today by Russian troops at a checkpoint while entering Irpin.¹¹

Renaud, a second journalist, and their driver had cleared a Ukrainian checkpoint and were approaching the next checkpoint controlled by Russians when their vehicle was fired upon.

The driver turned the car around while sustaining fire, and Renaud was killed after being shot in the neck. Documentary maker Juan Arredondo was wounded in the attack and is in hospital.

Videos emerged in Kherson showing growing protests against Russian occupiers. One Russian soldier fired his gun into the air

⁹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1503067540502859778>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/oryxspioenkop/status/1502984353055391750>

¹¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/brent-renaud-ukraine-russia-american-journalist-killed/>

when their vehicle became surrounded. Protesters didn't flinch, and no gunfire was directed at civilians.¹²

The Russian ministry of defense has activated military units in Eastern Russia for deployment in Ukraine.¹³ Additionally, they are drawing down troops in Armenia and Syria for redeployment and recruiting Lybian volunteers.

Volunteers are being offered \$300 to \$600 a month in pay.

The disputed President of Belarus, Lukashenko, is increasingly resistant to pressure from the Kremlin to commit his ground forces in the fight against Ukraine.¹⁴ Statements reported by Tass quoted the Belarusian leader more concerned with internal conflict than supporting the Russian invasion.

Instagram is no longer available in Russia¹⁵, with multiple Internet providers showing blocked IP addresses.

Diplomats from China and the United States will meet on Monday in Italy for high-level talks. It is believed the United

¹² <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/kherson-protesters-black-sea-people-b2034929.html>

¹³ <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounders/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-march-13>

¹⁴ <https://tass.com/world/1264997>

¹⁵ <https://netblocks.org/reports/instagram-restricted-in-russia-as-online-space-continues-to-shrink-JBQXVVAo>

States will ask for the country to apply pressure on Vladimir Putin.¹⁶

Finally, we were wrong in our initial assessment of the political response to the Iranian missile attack on Iraq yesterday. It appears that American politicians could see the pieces moving on the geopolitical chessboard.

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/1503007981641871362>