

Planetary Scare: Russian Doomsday Space Weapon Steals Headlines of Avdeevka Collapse



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16 FEB 2024

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Yesterday, reports of a new Russian DOOMSDAY WEAPON sent corporate media into a shark-feeding frenzy:

The New York Times

Russia's Advances on Space-Based Nuclear Weapon Draw U.S. Concerns

A congressman's cryptic statement about new intelligence set Washington abuzz and infuriated White House officials.

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WORLD NEWS

How Russia's alleged nuclear space weapon threatens to radically upend modern life

By [Ryan King](#)

Published Feb. 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m. ET

Nukes in space or nothing new? The science behind the intel frenzy over a Russian weapon

Russia is developing a nuclear space-based weapon designed to target American satellites, three sources familiar with the matter told NBC News.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

TECH Help Desk Artificial Intelligence Internet Culture Space Tech Policy

With a dire warning, concerns rise about conflict in space with Russia

Revelations that Russia may be seeking to deploy a nuclear weapon in space raise fears that go back to Sputnik and the dawn of the Space Age.

By Christian Davenport, Ellen Nakashima, Abigail Hauslohner and Shane Harris
February 15, 2024 at 5:23 p.m. EST

politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2024 Elections

House Intel Chairman announces 'serious national security threat,' sources say It is related to Russia



By Natasha Bertrand, Katie Bo Lillis, Annie Gray and Kevin Liptak, CNN
2 minute read · Updated 12:49 PM EST, Wed February 14, 2024



RVvoenkory



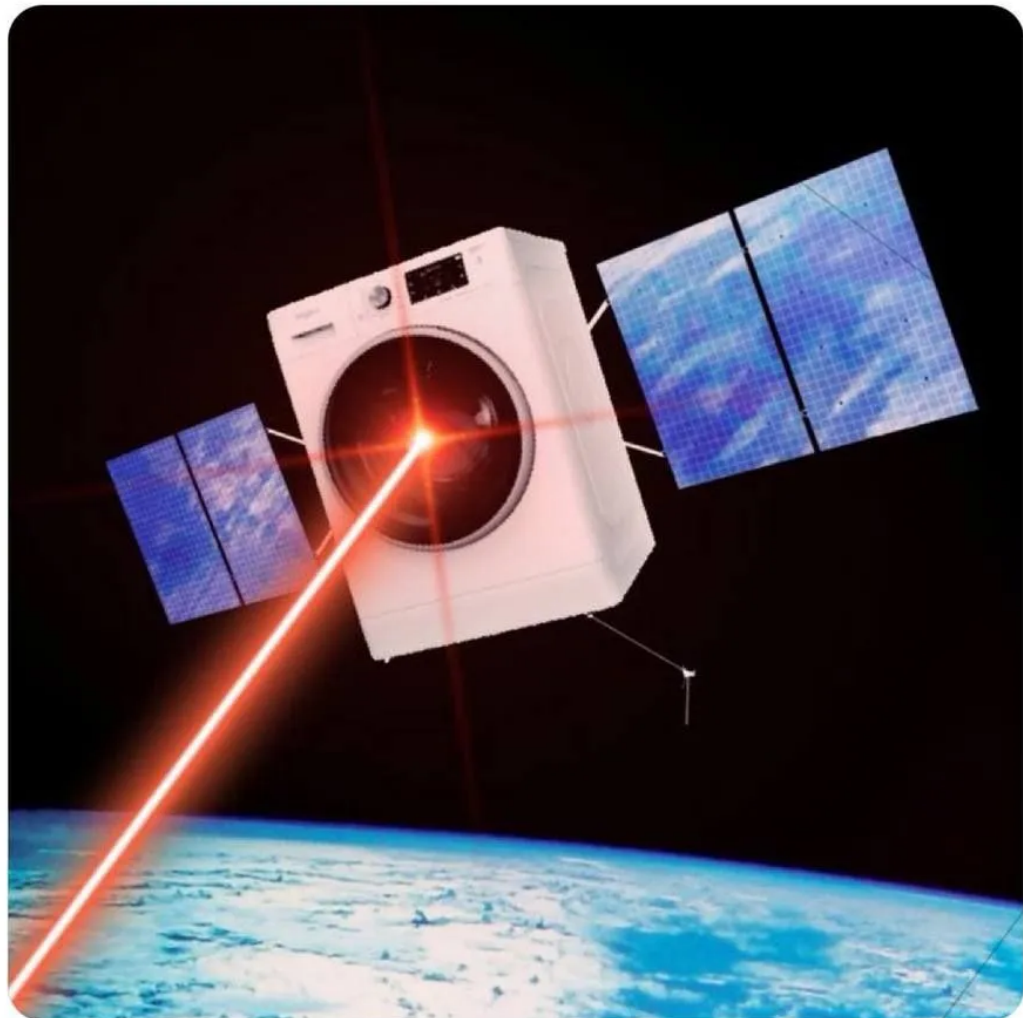
Jake Sullivan broke the news to a wide-eyed pressroom, keeping mum but claiming he will be having what sounded like emergency meetings with ‘the gang of eight’— these are the top Congressional leaders who are privy to the most classified information.

Of course, the irony of the scare tactic was not lost on some:



Glenn Diesen  @Glenn_Diesen · 12m 

Russia is allegedly fighting with shovels and stealing washing machines to harvest computer chips for its collapsing army, and at the same time they can invade all of Europe and are now accused of building an all-powerful space weapon
- Simultaneously being hopelessly backward... [Show more](#)



The customary ‘leaks’ followed soon after and pointed to some type of new Russian “space capability” that reportedly threatens US and its partners, though Sullivan seemed to even imply that it’s a threat to the population while claiming he didn’t want to ‘cause mass panic.’ Ironically—or not—everything about his announcement appeared designed to do precisely that. Gee.

The announcement sparked a swell of theories on the internet from an endless array of people who aren’t really knowledgeable on the subject matter, and used their ignorance to further the attempt at scaremongering. And most likely this was the whole point: people immediately and rightfully pointed to the obvious timing of this scare tactic.

The Senate had *just* passed its side of the Ukraine-Israel aid bill and the bill once more had the door slammed shut in its face in the House, courtesy of Speaker Johnson and co. So what do they do? Predictably roll out some deus ex machina doomsday weapon totally out of thin air to terrify defiant Republicans into enriching the MIC with another cool ~\$100 billion.

But getting to what it actually is, as I said wild rumors flew about everything from the ‘**Rods of God**’ kinetic weapons, to **FOBS** space nukes for hitting cities in the same way a conventional ICBM would, to EMP weapons and beyond.



Trent Telenko @TrentTelenko · 29m

So, an EMP FOBS.

This is far more than an anti satellite weapon.

This is a nuclear first strike weapon.



Davis @DLT649 · 3h

This is what the Russian Soyuz-2-1V launched on Feb. 9th and the threat that Congress is being briefed on.

This satellite weapon called "Goldeneye" is capable of firing an EMP blast and frying all the electronics at a target, city, or even a military ...

[Show more](#)



Yes, this is one of the top pro-UA experts actually falling for a Goldeneye meme.

Let's try to demystify it, and see what the actual platform realistically and most likely does.

The main misconception around the usage of this potential weapon from armchair 'experts' on social media revolves around a misunderstanding of how satellite warfare works. To sum it up very briefly: everyone knows Russia has anti-satellite missiles that can fly into orbit and shoot down satellites. But in the modern age, this ability has become nearly meaningless and, in some ways, neutralized by the advent of mass saturation of small satellite constellations.

Anti-satellite weapons like Russia's [A-235 'Nudol'](#) are some of the most advanced and expensive assets, and are primarily designed to take out the large flagship Electro-Optical style spysats like US's 'Keyhole' systems, which are \$4-5 billion dollar a pop and few in number. Yes, it's critically important to have the capability to take out these E/O satellites, which create regular high-res optical imagery of military targets.

However, there are many other types of much smaller and cheaper satellites like ELINT/SIGINT and GPS ones which number in the thousands, and most certainly cannot be taken out by conventional anti-satellite missiles like the Nudol as they are simply too numerous. The latest and biggest intractable problem is of course SpaceX's Starlink, which now numbers nearly ~4,000 total small satellites in orbit at this time. There is simply no way to take them all out via manual targeting of each, one by one.

So: what is the only other option? To blow vast swaths of them out at the same time, either via [space Kesslerization](#), of which I wrote about several times, or via triggering several large nuclear/EMP explosions to wipe out entire constellations in one go, even if it doesn't trigger total breakaway Kesslerization of common orbits.



Dmitri Alperovitch
@DALperovitch



Interesting thought from [@james_acton32](#) that this rumored Russian nuclear energy-powered ASAT weapon could be a response to the proliferation of large constellations of LEO comms and sensing satellites by western companies like [@SpaceX](#) Starlink/Starshield and [@amazon](#) Kuiper



(((James Acton))) @james_acton32 · 1h

Replying to @james_acton32

More speculatively, I wonder if this is a reaction to U.S. military interest in proliferated constellations, i.e. constellations comprising large number of small satellites that are resilient against kinetic attack. (3/n)

10:03 PM · Feb 14, 2024 · **26.7K** Views

What the 'Russian threat' sounds like is potentially some version of the old American-attempted *Project Excalibur*, of which I also wrote about several times in [past mailbags](#). A quick primer from wiki:

Project Excalibur

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Project Excalibur was a [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#) (LLNL) [Cold War](#)-era research program to develop an [X-ray laser](#) system as a [ballistic missile defense](#) (BMD) for the [United States](#). The concept involved packing large numbers of expendable X-ray lasers around a [nuclear device](#), which would orbit in space. During an attack, the device would be detonated, with the X-rays released focused by each laser to destroy multiple incoming target missiles.^[1] Because the system would be deployed above the Earth's atmosphere, the X-rays could reach missiles thousands of kilometers away, providing protection over a wide area.

It's a very complex topic and much of it remains classified, but the basic gist is a sort of satellite that has special 'rods' which can point toward and target other objects like Soviet ICBMs or satellites. At the center of these 'rods' made of special reactive material, is a nuclear bomb. When that bomb is detonated, the 'rods' are heated up and create ultra powerful 'x-ray lasers' which shoot out and can zap objects like ICBMs/satellites from thousands of kilometers away in space, as long as they're within the visual field of view of the Excalibur system. The nuclear explosion is necessary and therefore central to the system.

Chapline attended a meeting where Sobel'man's work on X-ray lasers was presented. He had learned of the unique underground nuclear tests made on behalf of the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA), where the burst of X-rays produced by the nuclear reactions were allowed to travel down a long tunnel while the blast itself was cut off by large doors that slammed shut as the explosion approached. These tests were used to investigate the effects of X-rays from exoatmospheric nuclear explosions on reentry vehicles. He realized this was a perfect way to pump an X-ray laser.

The Soviets created a somewhat related system called *Skif*, which was a space-based laser that could reportedly take out other satellites. Neither project got off the ground for either country.

So here's what some of the 'experts' are saying about the current secret doomsday weapon:

Top line: It appears that Russia is in the process of deploying (via multiple recent satellite launches), or is preparing to deploy, an anti-satellite-based nuclear weapons system into space. Concerns have escalated amid Russian military-related satellite launches, the most recent of which occurred last week.

My sources say that this is a Russian anti-satellite weapons capability designed to destroy or degrade U.S. and allied satellite constellations. Radiation produced by a nuclear explosion would likely cause widespread disruption to these constellations. As Lt. Col. Robert Vincent **noted** in 2022, "Most satellites with a line of sight to the nuclear detonation **will be destroyed** from the resulting x-rays. Military space capabilities for command and control along with reconnaissance assets may still function for a period following the detonation, but the economic impact of degraded informational space products will be immediate."

Nick Schifrin:

Two officials confirmed to me that Russia recently showcased a new capability in space, Geoff. That is what this threat is all about.

Russia regularly launches space — has space launches. You see one right there. And the officials describe that Russia recently launched a new anti-satellite capability, meaning a satellite that can attack other satellites. The officials tell me that this satellite, which is possibly nuclear-powered, has an electronic warfare capability to target American satellites that are essential for U.S. military and civilian communication.

The United States has informed Congress and its allies in Europe about Russian advances on a new, space-based nuclear weapon designed to threaten America's extensive satellite network, according to current and former officials briefed on the matter.

Such a satellite-killing weapon, if deployed, could destroy civilian communications, surveillance from space and military command-and control operations by the United States and its allies. At the moment, the United States does not have the ability to counter such a weapon and defend its satellites, a former official said.

James Acton, co-director of Carnegie Nuclear Policy, writes on Twitter:

NewsHour reporting that the Russian mystery weapon may be a nuclear-POWERED (not a nuclear-armed) anti-satellite system. If so, it could be highly effective, though also grossly irresponsible.

I assume the advantage of a nuclear reactor is that it could generate large amounts of energy that could be used for electromagnetic attacks across a large volume of space. (2/n)

More speculatively, I wonder if this is a reaction to U.S. military interest in proliferated constellations, i.e. constellations comprising large number of small satellites that are resilient against kinetic attack. (3/n)

It appears to be grossly irresponsible because what do you do with a nuclear reactor in orbit when the satellite has finished its useful life? You really, really don't want it to burn up on re-entry which is the normal disposal "solution" for satellites in LEO..

Caveat: There's a ton we don't know. Is it nuclear powered or nuclear-armed? What orbit? Has this thing been launched or is it at an earlier phase of development?

Here's [another account](#) writing on Russian 'Super-EMP' capabilities. And this astrophysicist clarifies a bit of semantics in that 'EMP' is not precisely the effect that kills other objects in space:

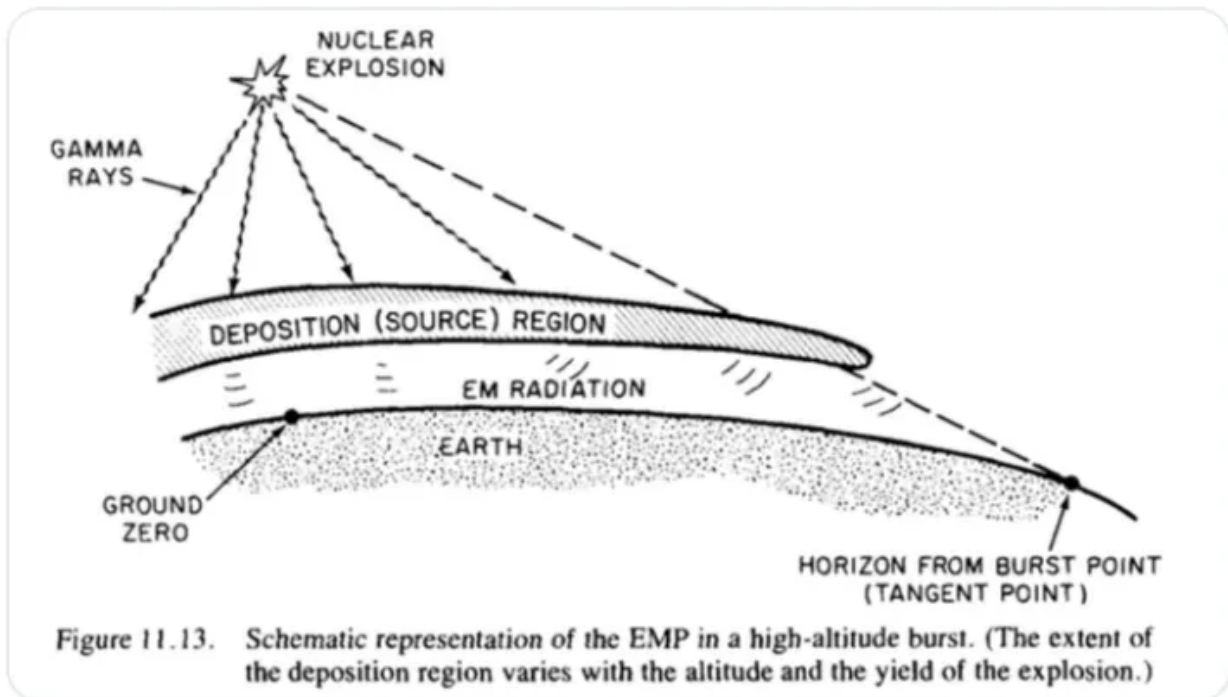


Peter Hague PhD

@peterrhague



Some confusion about nukes in space - the mechanism by which they kill satellites is not EMP. EMP happens when the gamma radiation hits air, and creates a charge separation. So the nukes in space would create an EMP on the ground, but it's the direct impact of the gamma rays from the explosion which would kill the satellites on orbit.



6:41 PM · Feb 14, 2024 · 80.1K Views



47



125



546

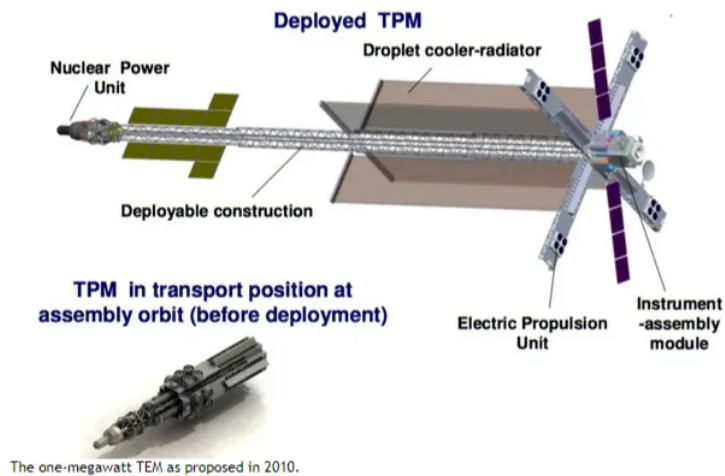


108



Rather, according to him, it is the direct gamma ray radiation from a nuclear explosion that would destroy all other objects like satellites in line-of-sight.

Lastly, we get to the possibility of secret Russian project [Ekipazh](#).



Ekipazh: Russia's top-secret nuclear-powered satellite

by Bart Hendrickx
Monday, October 7, 2019

There is strong evidence from publicly available sources that a Russian company called KB Arsenal is working on a new type of military satellite equipped with a nuclear power source. Called Ekipazh, its mission may well be to perform electronic warfare from space.

The article is a very interesting investigative attempt to put together clues as to what the top secret project could potentially be about, and one of the conclusions they come to is the following:

*While not going into too much detail, the articles acknowledged that Plazma-2010 had been designed with the possibility of installing **EW payloads**. The presence of a nuclear reactor would make it possible to install “**jammers operating in a wide range of frequencies**” and place such payloads into highly elliptical and geostationary orbits for “**uninterrupted suppression of electronic systems in large areas.**”*

The spacecraft would be delivered to their operational orbits by an electric propulsion unit and are therefore referred to in the articles as “transport and energy modules.” The EW mission would require a reactor generating at least 30 to 40 kilowatts, allowing the satellites to be launched by the Soyuz-2-1b rocket. For more advanced EW missions, the performance would have to be increased to 100 kilowatts, necessitating a switch to the more powerful Angara-A5 rocket. The 2016 article (as quoted by Izvestiya) said KB Arsenal was working on two types of reactors with a capacity of 30 and 50 kilowatts respectively. It was also noted that satellites flown under KB Arsenal's Liana program could provide intelligence in support of the EW mission. It would even be possible to adapt the solar-powered Liana bus for a “more limited” electronic warfare mission requiring less power.

They quote a Russian dispatch that states:

More specifically, it talks about the need to deploy “multifunctional space-based EW complexes for reconnaissance and suppression of radio-electronic systems used by radar, navigation and communications systems.”

The article was written in 2019, and says that a testflight could be done within several years by 2021, give or take, so the timing is interesting, particularly given that some of yesterday’s reports claimed this asset may even already have been launched by Russia and is already in space. They conclude with the following:

It is hard to say what exactly the role of the space-based component is. Assuming that the EW satellite is indeed Ekipazh, the most plausible objective would be electronic attack, the only of the three that would seem to require the amount of energy warranting the use of a nuclear power source. However, a combination of the various functions is also possible.

In essence, it’s a satellite requiring a huge (nuclear) power source, as much as 1 megawatt, or a million watts, for some type of very powerful electronic suppression of enemy satellites.

So, as a summary: land-based anti-satellite weapons are useless against the mass proliferation of small satellite constellations like GPS, Starlink, etc., because it’s far too impractical to shoot them down this way. Even the mass amounts of NATO/Western/Five-Eye larger electro-optical, SARs, etc., satellites poses a problem as the fleet has now grown pretty large and would likely present a challenge—or be nigh impossible—to shoot down or significantly degrade in its entirety.

Thus, the only truly ‘economic’ option that exists is by using some sort of space-based nuclear weapon that can take out dozens or even hundreds of such satellites in a single blow.

Interestingly, last year the Resident channel reported the following—check the date below:

Resident



⚡ ⚡ ⚡ #Inside

MI6 transmitted intelligence to the President's Office and the General Staff that the Kremlin had again begun discussing the option of destroying satellites over Ukraine. British intelligence recommends that the Armed Forces of Ukraine be prepared for such a scenario and start using additional horizontal communication systems in the Ukrainian army.

t.me/rezident_ua/15818

515. 5K © Jan 6, 2023 at 04:40

But let's broach the most important point: why this, why *now*?

There are several options:

1. The entire story is either fake or exaggerated and being rolled out by Democrats at a strategic time to achieve several purposes: scaremongering Congressmen into voting on Ukraine aid, as well as potentially conditioning the masses and setting the stage for a black swan falseflag to cancel the 2024 elections later this year. What better way to do a 'mail-in voting hoax' redux than to claim a secret Russian nuclear satellite "disabled" all communications and thus voting machines, allowing the deepstate to either fiddle with the results or outright cancel/postpone elections if things are getting dire for them.

At least that's the theory if you ask this guy:



Alex Jones ✓

@RealAlexJones

Exclusive: Secrets of Russia Space Based Nuclear Lasers Exposed

Are the Globalists Planning a Nuclear Laser / EMP False Flag To Escalate a War With Russia



20:50 · 15/02/2024

2. U.S. establishment wants to use some new scare tactic to take attention away from the current ongoing Avdeevka collapse—a standard headline-smothering tactic. They know that support for Ukraine is hanging by a final tiny thread, and emerging news of the total collapse of the AFU could be the last nail in the coffin, potentially spurring ‘on-the-fence’ lawmakers to question what the point of any further “aid” is when Ukraine is already collapsing. This is doubly possible given the recent headline-dominating fiasco about Zelensky firing his entire general staff, which has already soured appetites for conflict extension by a large margin. Following this recent news, for example, many headlines have turned *particularly* despondent, even compared to some of the previous most ‘downer’ examples. For instance:



MILITARY & DEFENSE

Things are going badly for Ukraine — really badly

[Mia Jankowicz](#) and [Tom Porter](#) Feb 13, 2024, 12:08 PM ET

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Anadolu via Getty



- **Ukraine is experiencing serious problems in fighting Russia's invasion.**

- **IT'S RUNNING LOW ON TROOPS AND AMMO, AND TOP COMMANDERS ARE SQUABBLING.**
- **HOWEVER, UKRAINE IS HOPING TO BOOST ITS DOMESTIC WEAPONS PRODUCTION.**

<https://www.businessinsider.com/things-going-badly-for-ukraine-war-russia-putin-zelenskyy-aid-2024-2>

3. This explanation is something I've been thinking about for some time. The constant slow encroachment from NATO/U.S. has been making itself increasingly painfully felt for Russia. Not only have red lines famously been eroded a little at a time, but most of it has to do with the West's ISR overmatch, allowing them to have total strategic informational awareness of Russia's military designs at all times.

This has increasingly led to painful losses like the recent attack on Russian Black Sea Fleet ships, as well as various infrastructure terror strikes happening over the course of the past few weeks, on oil and gas refineries, civilian cities like Belgorod, and much more. There had to have come a point where Russia says "enough" and flexes some sort of asymmetrical muscle to signal for the West to back off.

Thus, this could be a potential new escalation on Russia's behalf to draw a final red line and issue the implied threat that if you continue meddling and harming us with these assets, we will consider wiping out your entire space-based ISR assets.

Of course, the problem with such an approach—if we're talking about the nuclear/EMP-style option, at least—is it would indiscriminately wipe out everything in sight, including friendly and allied space assets. But I agree with one analyst who said that China likely wouldn't mind trading a few of its own destroyed satellites in exchange for seeing the entire fleet of U.S./NATO assets go up in smoke.

Such a weapon could truly be a 'hand of god' that totally erases the Empire's most crucial capabilities, instantaneously blinding it in every theater all over the world, allowing Iran, Yemen, North Korea, China, and anyone else to run rampant. I said before that Russia knows how to fight blind—hundreds of videos attest to its artillerymen, for instance, using **Bussols** and other scopes to accurately hit targets

day in and out, while NATO relies primarily on satellite-guided GPS for almost everything.

We'll see over the coming days or weeks which option may prove true—it could even be a mixture of both: a well-timed propaganda release of an actual legitimate Russian asset/threat to serve the deepstate's interests at a strategically opportune moment.



Now onto the actual most pressing and significant news: Avdeevka is undergoing a catastrophic terminal collapse:

Ukraine on verge of losing Avdiivka, strategic city long targeted by Russia



By [Isabelle Khurshudyan](#)

February 15, 2024 at 11:38 a.m. EST



Presented in three parts here by the ever-dependable Jihad Julian:



Julian Röpcke 🇺🇦 ✓
@JulianRoepcke

Follow

Isch over.

Die russische Flagge an dem Ort, an dem Selenskyj noch Ende Dezember ein Selfie von sich am Eingang von [#Awdijiwka](#) machte. Die Stadt ist nun taktisch von Russland eingekesselt. Größte Aufgabe für die Ukrainer wird es sein, dort noch lebend rauszukommen.

Translated from German by Google

I'm over.

The Russian flag at the place where Zelenskyj took a selfie of himself at the entrance to [#Awdijiwka](#) at the end of December. The city is now tactically surrounded by Russia. The biggest task for the Ukrainians will be to get out of there alive.



17:14 · 15 Feb 24 · **39.3K** Views



Julian Röpcke  
@JulianRoepcke

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It's beyond my understanding how Russians could advance N-W in this area. Right to where the 47th Mech.Brig. & the 3rd Assault Brig. *should* be deploying to secure the withdrawal of the 110th. I can only explain this by guessing, only 1-2 companies were sent as "reinforcements".



18:40 · 15 Feb 24 · **10.1K** Views



Julian Röpcke  
@JulianRoepcke

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#NewsMap

The Ukrainian army is in the process of pulling out of #Avdiivka. Russian invasion forces are quickly advancing inside and around the town. Let's hope as many as possible Ukrainian soldiers will make it out alive.



18:32 · 15 Feb 24 · **23.1K** Views

We spoke last time of lines being overrun, with Syrsky having brought in the AFU's most elite units to try to stem the Russian advance. Now it's being reported they're

merely acting as cover for the mass retreats:

FORBES > BUSINESS > AEROSPACE & DEFENSE

Ukraine Has Two Specialized Assault Brigades. It Sent One To Avdiivka To Cover The Garrison's Retreat.

The 3rd Assault Brigade is engaged in an 'active defense.'

David Axe Forbes Staff

I write about ships, planes, tanks, drones, missiles and satellites.

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Europe

Ukraine withdraws units from parts of Avdiivka, sends in crack brigade

By Tom Balmforth and Yuliia Dysa

February 15, 2024 6:47 PM EST · Updated 5 hours ago



A view shows residential buildings heavily damaged by permanent Russian military strikes in the front line town of Avdiivka, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, Ukraine November 8, 2023. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty/Serhii Nuzhnenko via REUTERS/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

Here's one alleged report on that matter:

*The headquarters inside Avdeevka received a directive to withdraw along three “logistics corridors.” **The key role was played by the commanders of the 3rd “Azov” brigade** of the Ukrainian Armed Forces; after entering, they quickly understood the situation, lost one and a half battalions and decided to leave “due to the lack of positions and logistics routes prepared for defense.” (there were also reports on TG channels about Ukrainian soldiers leaving position without permission in the very eastern part of the cauldron - I think what we see now is a sort of narrative damage control - Russian sources also report: We won't let them leave - they can surrender or they will die - there is no escape)*

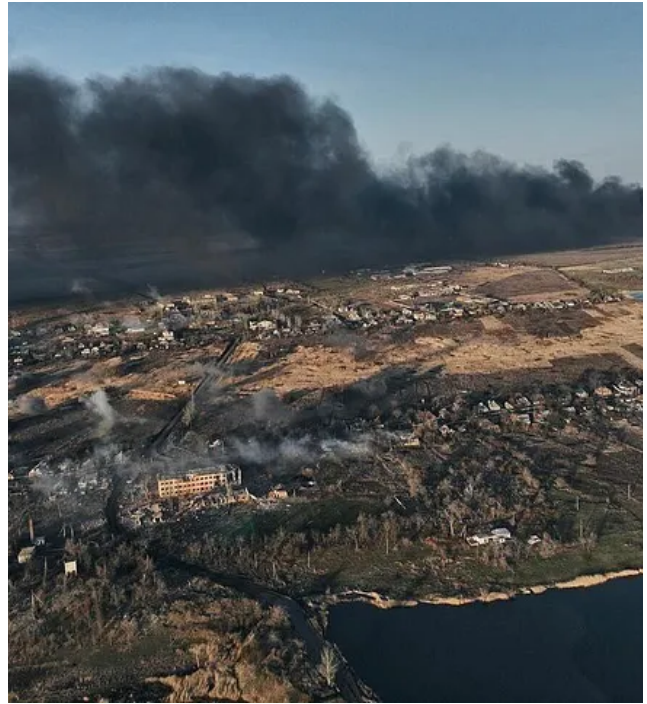
This highlights pervasive rumors that the Azov Brigade in fact countermanded direct orders and *fled* due to heavy losses. One claimed report directly from Azov itself

seems to corroborate the brutality of the foregoing clashes:

*Ukrainian TG channel reports: Avdeevka . Briefly from the deputy commander 3rd Brigade (AZOV): “Our **third assault carries out combat missions in conditions that were difficult even for us to imagine.** The confrontation is not just with superior enemy forces - there are a huge number of enemies, coming from all sides. The battles in Avdievka were several times the hellish of the hottest battles of this phase of the war, which were in Bakhmut.”*

Some videos and photos have come out depicting a hellish landscape in Avdeevka:





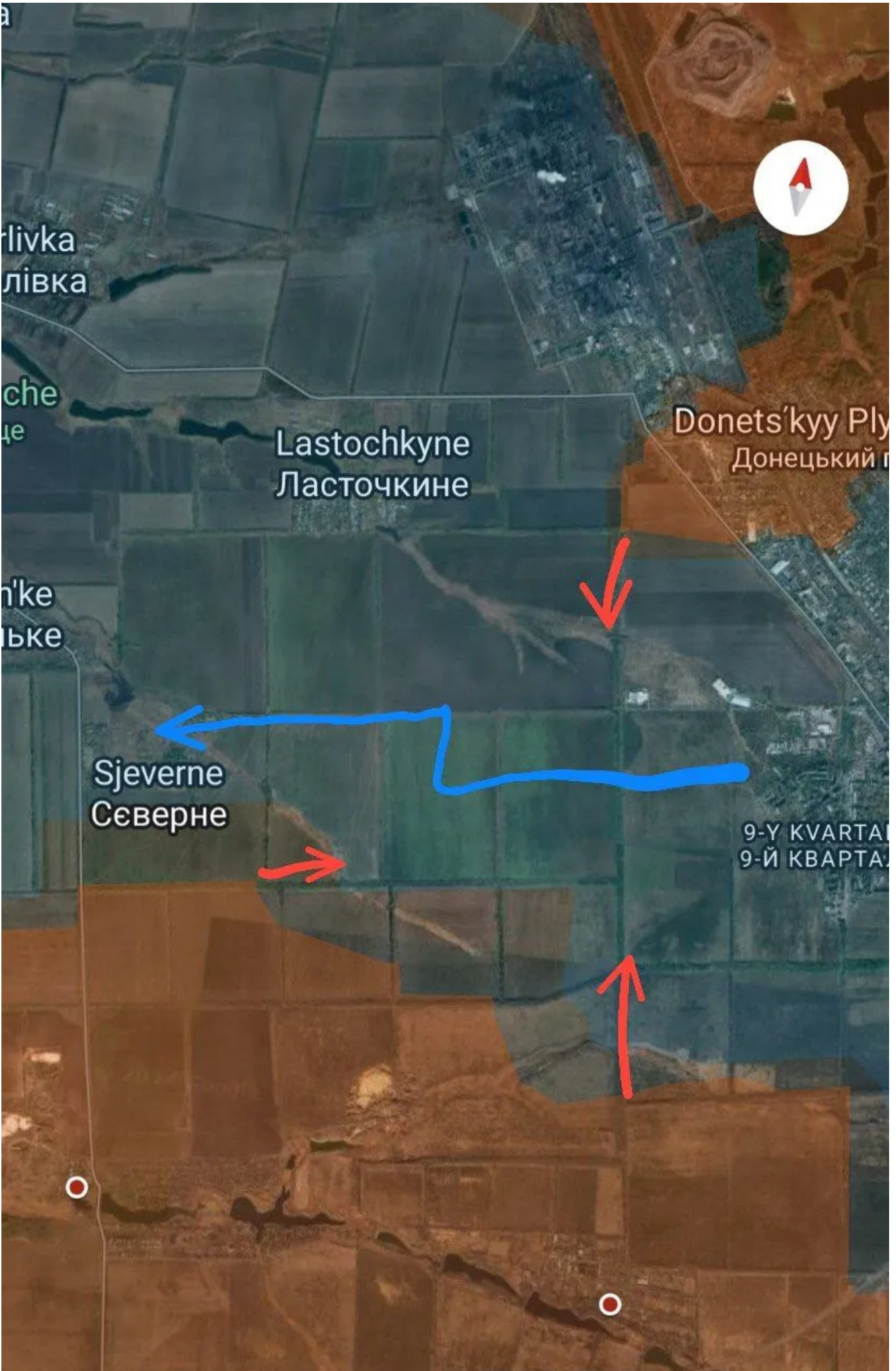
Avdeevka

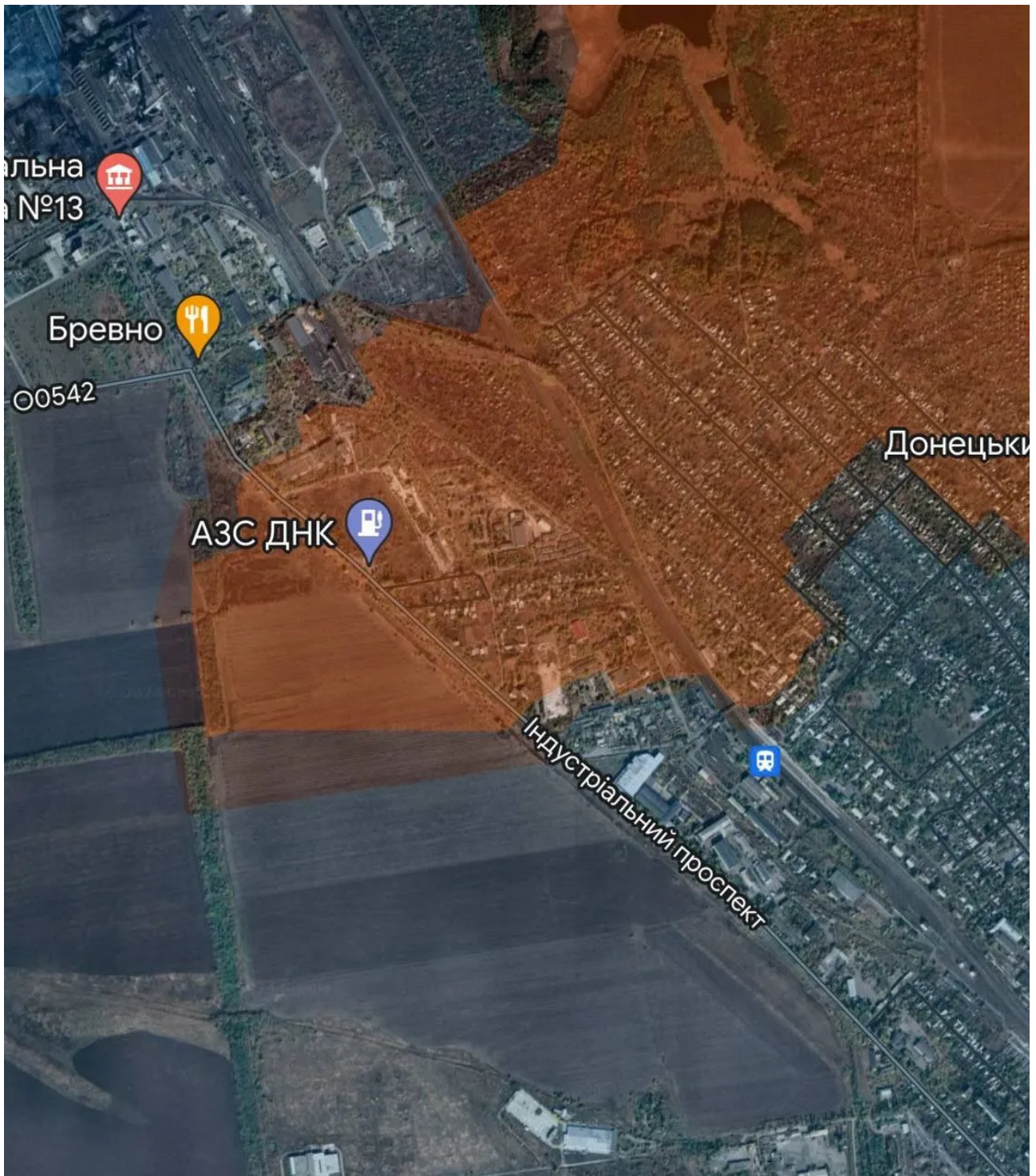
02/15/2024 photo of a day going down in history.

FABs continue to fly now...

The main breakthroughs occurred in the suburb sector, totally bisecting the city and even extending a deep salient outward toward supply lines:







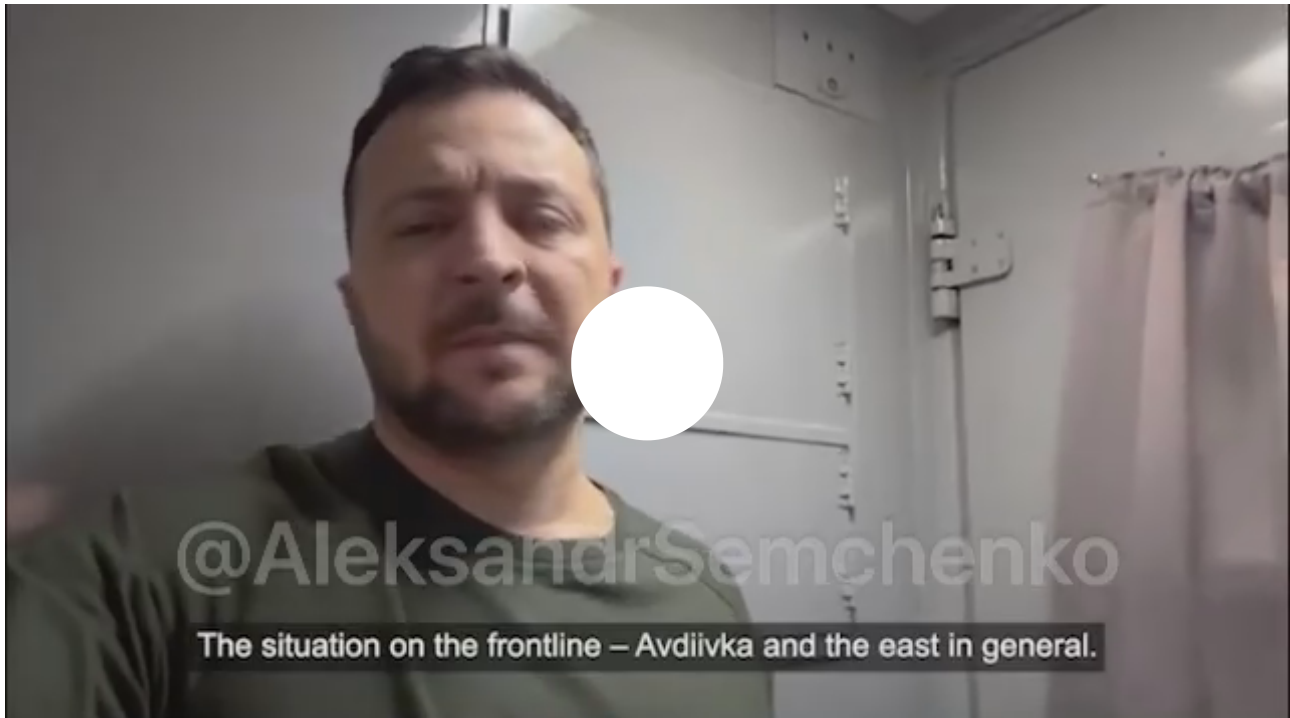
Sensing the coming collapse, yesterday Russian forces were said to have broadly transmitted a surrender ultimatum to the entire Avdeevka garrison, giving them upwards of one day to lay down their arms en masse:

Avdeevka. "Ultimatum" . "The command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine this morning, on their frequencies, was asked to surrender and avoid losses of personnel. In return, a safe corridor was proposed to reach our rear and guarantee the preservation of lives. No

answer. The Ukrainian Armed Forces continue to conduct fierce resistance. Over the course of 24 hours, about 50 people reached our positions. All of them were frostbitten."

Soon after, the rapid collapse began as Russian forces pushed in virtually from every single side of the embattled town.

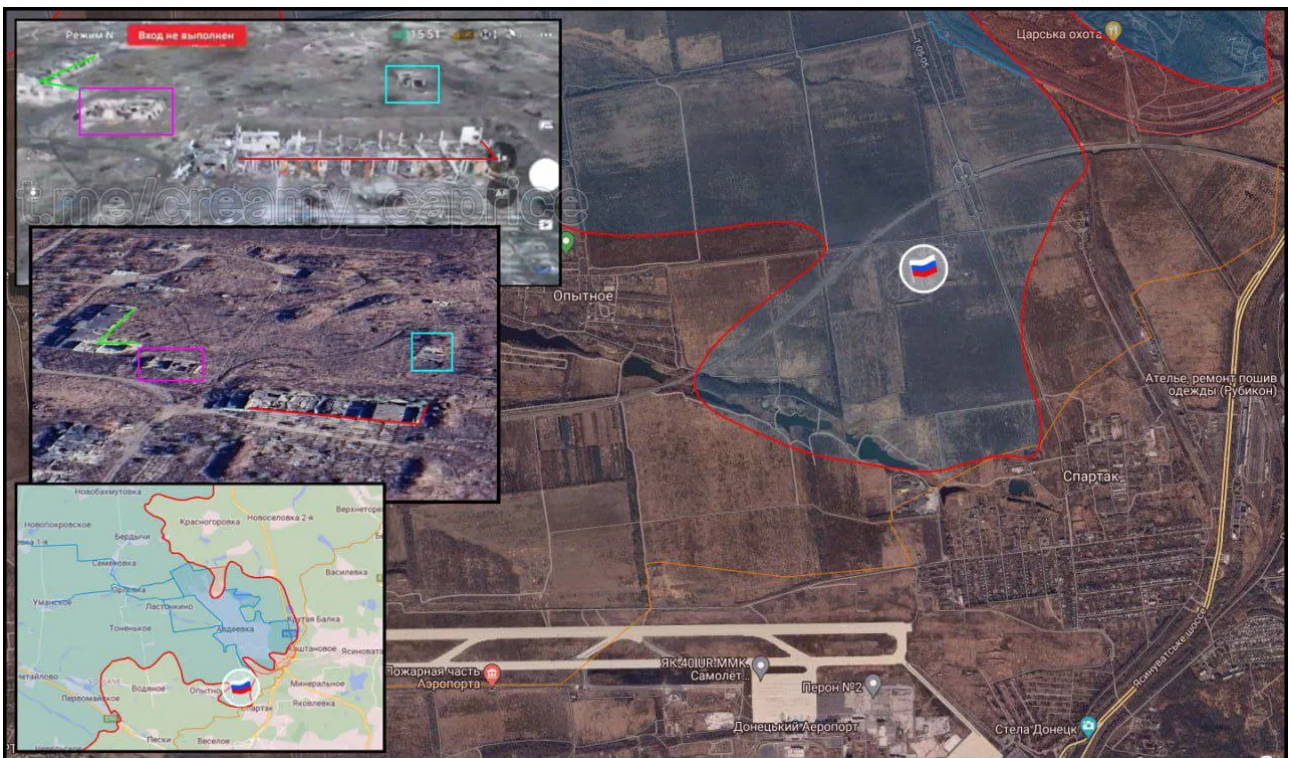
Zelensky himself reported on the situation, seemingly referencing “saving personnel”—a euphemism for “retreat”:



And the AFU spokesman confirmed an evacuation “to more advantageous positions” was in order, while trying to downplay the situation:



Geolocation:



And as Jihad Julian referenced earlier, they reportedly put up flags at the entrance to the Coke Plant where Zelensky took selfies last month (yes, the joke writes itself...):

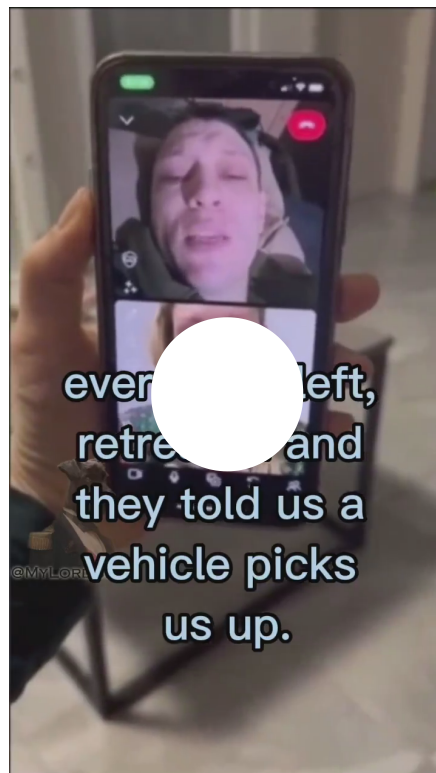


My understanding is that the geolocation for that is here:



And the map further shows that Russian troops have reportedly now begun even entering the premises of the Coke Plant at the south and southeastern sides.

All sorts of reports have been streaming out from the Ukrainian side about the catastrophic nature of some of the proceedings. For instance, this video of a trapped AFU soldier speaking to his loved one:



John Kirby and the administration went into overdrive begging for aid to help the foundering AFU:



Note his laughable characterization of Russian ‘conscript forces’. If Russia is able to decimate and humiliate the combined power of NATO just with its ‘conscripts’ then I’m frightened to imagine what would happen if Russia put its real professional troops into the fight.

Biden’s handlers desperately chimed in as well:



President Biden ✓
@POTUS



Failure to support Ukraine at this critical moment will never be forgotten.

5:15 PM · Feb 15, 2024 · 1M Views



7K



5.7K



22K



195



Meanwhile half-conscious Floyd conspicuously sported a Ukrainian flag in his hospital roo—I mean ‘Pentagon office suite’:



Unfortunately for Ukraine: the House went into recess until basically March without voting on or approving any Ukrainian aid:

15 FEB, 20:39

US House of Representatives takes pause until February 28, aid to Kiev still not approved

White House spokesperson Andrew Bates slammed the decision, made by House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), as "running away for an early vacation"

That means, once again, the timeline gets so compressed as to be extremely unfavorable for the AFU: even if the House returns and manages to approve something in March—unlikely in itself—aid would not begin streaming in to Ukraine until potentially two months after that; and recent statements from Ukraine's own Rada deputy Arakhamia claimed Ukraine could last "two more months" on their current munitions:

WORLD 10.02.2024, 14:46

"Ukraine has enough resources without Western support for two months, so we feel safe"



"Ukraine has enough resources without Western support for two months, so we feel safe," David Arakhamia said

The head of the Servant of the People faction noted that during this time the United States will definitely vote for the allocation of aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan - there is nothing to fear.

He added that the country will look for ways to finance the new mobilization from domestic sources.

But he wasn't as sure about internal sources as he was about U.S. aid.

<https://pravda-en.com/world/2024/02/10/313388.html>

Though it should be said, I don't put *particular* store in such reports, but it's merely something to take note of.

One of the only last remaining things to be seen is how much of the AFU garrison can escape Avdeevka without being captured. There are various contending and often contradictory reports: some from the Russian side claim upwards of 2000-3000 AFU are trapped, while the Ukrainian side claims an orderly retreat.



A screenshot of a Twitter post from the account 'WarMonitor' (@WarMonitor3). The profile picture shows a soldier in a green uniform. The post text reads: 'Ukrainian units are now engaged in horrific close combat fighting within Adiiivka from multiple directions tonight. Measures are being taken that cannot be discussed at this moment.' The post was made at 19:06 on Feb 24 and has 200K views. A 'Follow' button is visible in the top right corner of the tweet.

WarMonitor  
@WarMonitor3

Follow

Ukrainian units are now engaged in horrific close combat fighting within Adiiivka from multiple directions tonight.
Measures are being taken that cannot be discussed at this moment.

19:06 · 15 Feb 24 · **200K** Views

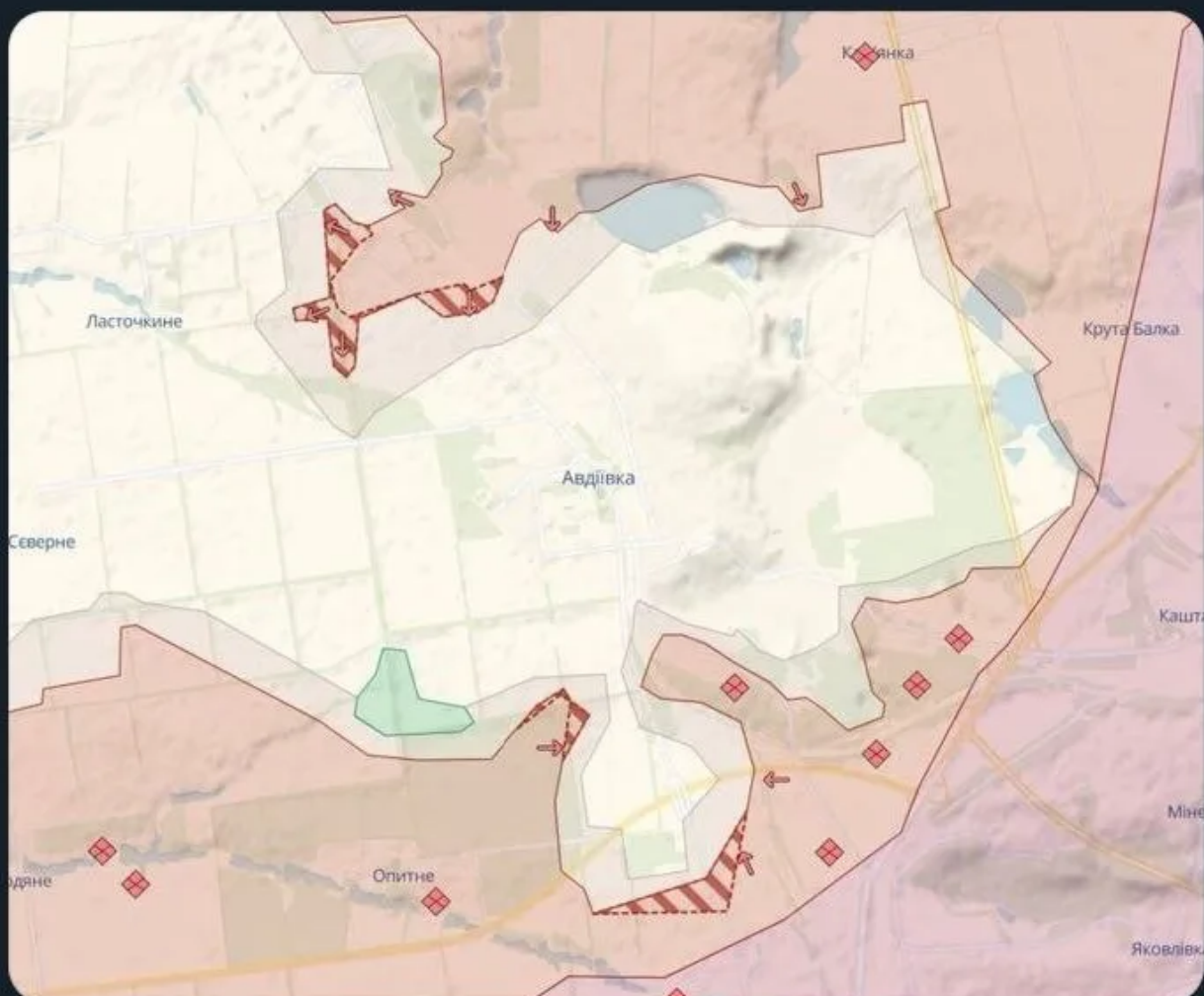


OSINTdefender 

@sentdefender

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The Situation for the Ukrainian Ground Forces within the City of Avdiivka in Eastern Ukraine appear to have gone from Bad to Worse, with several Units being Withdrawn from the City while roughly 1,500-2,000 Troops now Trapped under Fire in the Southern District after their Evacuation Route was Captured recently by Russian Forces; the 3rd Assault Brigade while assisting in the Controlled Withdrawal have attempted a number of Breakthroughs, but so far they seem to have Failed.



22:46 · 15 Feb 24 · **126K** Views

From the official 35th of the AFU:

🇺🇦 Герої. 35 бригада ЗСУ

Evacuation from Avdeevka and Krynok is being prepared. A large-scale counter-retreat begins.

👉 57

😱 14

🔥 11

🙏 10

😍 6

👂 2

👁️ 3K 06:41

There is no bullshit on my channel, I only tell the truth, because I myself may die today. There will be bad news soon.

🔥 34

😱 19

👉 14

😍 7

😱 1

👉 1

👁️ 2.7K 06:44

Syrsky is ready to take responsibility for the retreat, because he does not need PR like Zaluzhny. He cares about the life of every soldier, everyone knows that.

😱 47

🙏 8

👂 5

😍 4

👉 3

⚡ 2

👉 2

👁️ 2.7K 06:45

🇺🇦 Герої. 35 бригада ЗСУ

We fucked for two years, now it hurts to realize the truth. But it is very necessary.

👉 23

😱 9

😍 6

👁️ 2.3K 06:59

A final interesting aspect of ongoing events is the brewing theory, posited by the famed hackers of DPR Joker and others, that the most rabid 'nationalistic' formations were in fact 'fed' into the grinder of Avdeevka for a very specific purpose. According to the theory, Syrsky was onboarded precisely to help 'destroy' the nationalist groups that Zaluzhny husbanded and cultivated in order to facilitate the proper conditions for an ensuing negotiations or surrender—which the nationalist groups would not have allowed, were they at full strength:

←  The Joker of the DNR ✖
236K subscribers

 96  61  30  22

 18  7  3  241.1K 20:31

February 15

The Joker of the DNR

In short, everything is clear. Syrsky is called upon to merge the most ideological and combat-ready part of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, so that it would be easier to conclude a truce on Russian terms. It's a great plan, I like it.

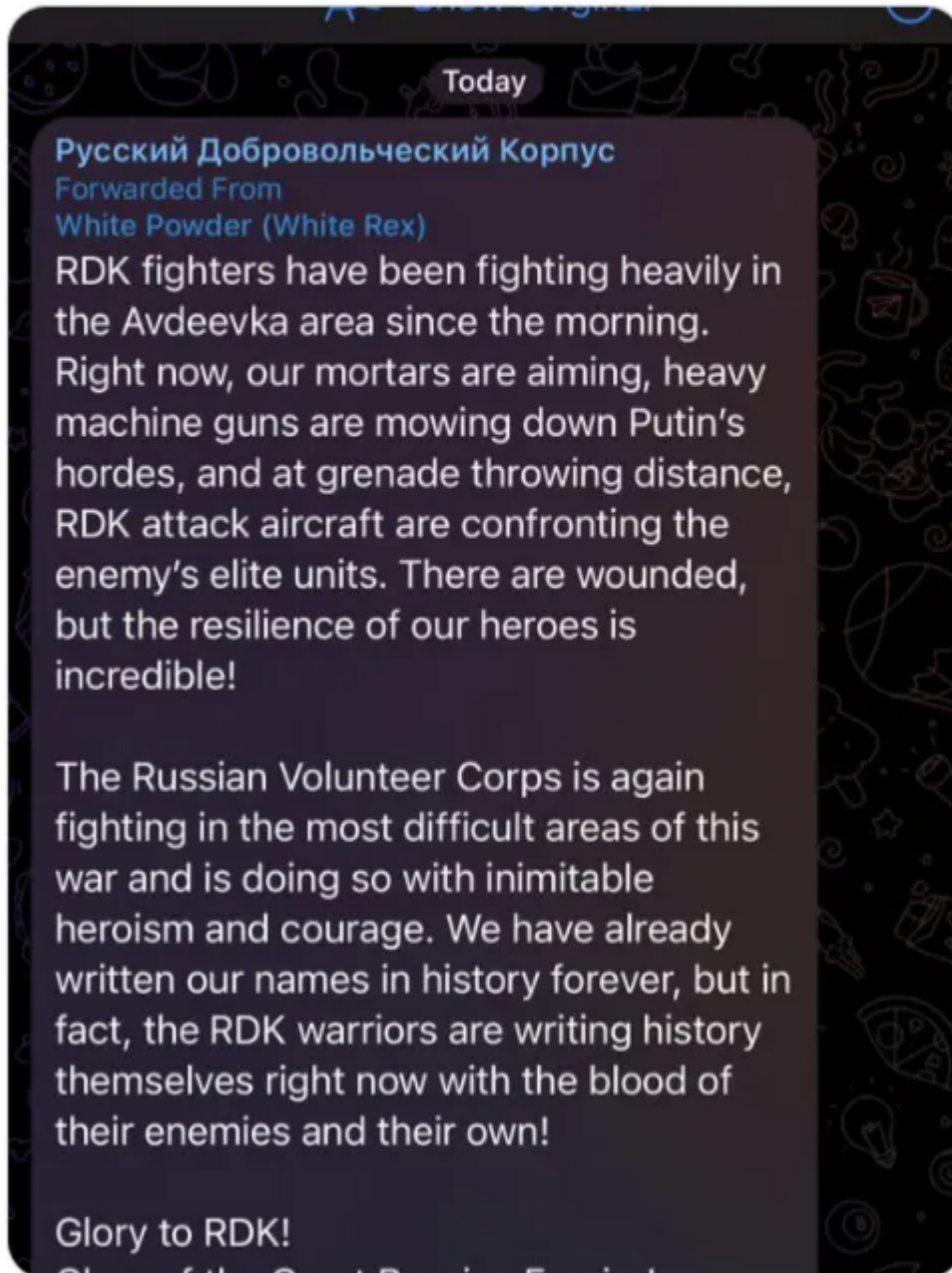
 2.1K  504  298  70

 37  36  24  22  7

🇺🇦🇷🇺🇷🇺🇷🇺!! Besides Azov, the Russian Volunteers Corp was deployed in Avdeevka.

So, looks like Zelensky's getting rid of nationalist units.

I bet the Russian army is not shying away from taking these traitors out.



I don't necessarily buy the theory, but as usual, it's something to file away just in case. Even so, the reports from the front claim the nationalist Azov, for their part, are being torn apart. From Slavyangrad:

I just received good news from the officers who are killing the enemy in Avdeevka. Azov residents are simply rolled into the ground. The neo-Nazis' losses are colossal. They don't

retreat, they remain in their positions as corpses. Soldiers and commanders of the Russian Army, especially after today's tragedy in Belgorod, are tearing the enemy to pieces. Artillery and aviation are burning enemy positions.

In the north of Avdeevka, west of the coke plant, the Russian flag is already flying. And this means that the noose is tightening. The Avdeevka meat grinder has already become the site of colossal losses for the formations of the Kyiv regime. The situation is such that even if the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine decides to withdraw personnel, the flight will be accompanied by significant losses.

Glory to the Russian soldier. Thank you, brothers.



Some last items:

British Intelligence published an official endorsement of Ukraine's findings that Russia used the Zircon hypersonic missile for the first time in strikes on Kiev:

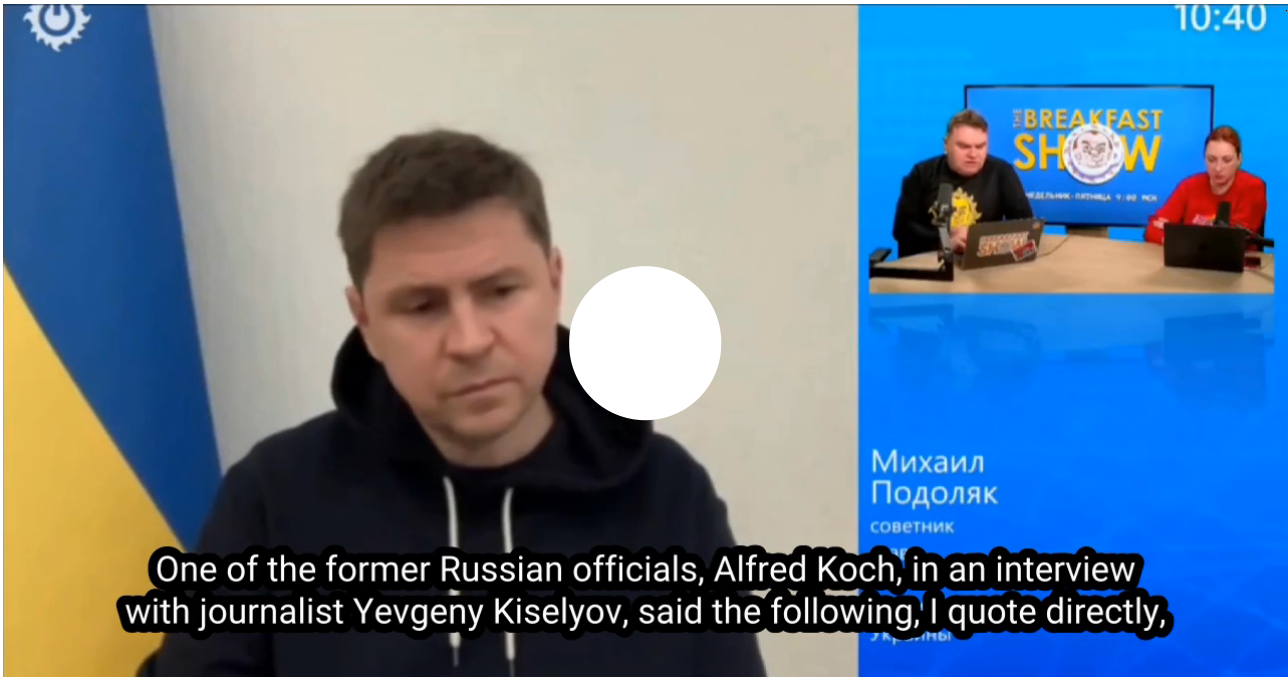
INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- According to analysis conducted by the Kyiv Scientific Research Institute for Forensic Examinations, Russia utilised its Tsirkon hypersonic missile in an attack on Ukraine for the first time on 7 February. A video of the wreckage allegedly shows fragments of the engine and steering mechanisms with specific markings that are, according to the report, 'characteristic of the 3M22 Zircon missile'.
- Reportedly capable of travelling at Mach 9 up to an effective firing range of 1,000km, Tsirkon was initially developed for use by the Russian Navy. The absence of vessels known to carry the missiles in the Black Sea raises questions about the method of launch. It is likely the Russian land-based K-300 coastal defence system has been adapted for this purpose. If its use is confirmed, this would present a significant challenge to Ukrainian air defences due to its speed and manoeuvrability.
- It is likely the Russians are testing a newly operational weapon system in a live conflict environment to provide assurance and demonstrate capability.

An earlier Kiev report claimed that they found the missile “did not match the stated characteristics”—a somewhat awkward, if not humorous, assertion given that the missile penetrated Kiev’s formidable air defenses and hit its target.

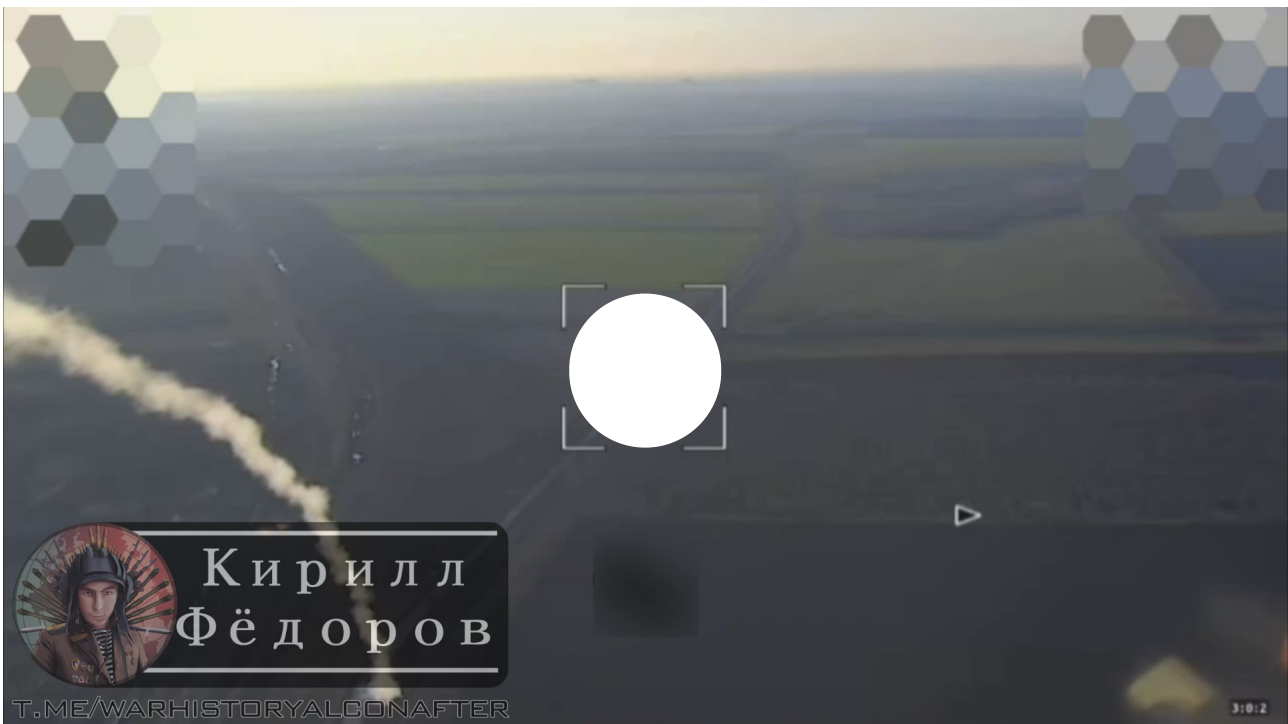
Next:

Last time I reported on Syrsky and Yermak having Russian relatives still living in Russia. Now the Head of Presidential Office Podolyak has been exposed as not only having an older brother who lives in Russia, but one who may be working in the FSB:



Next:

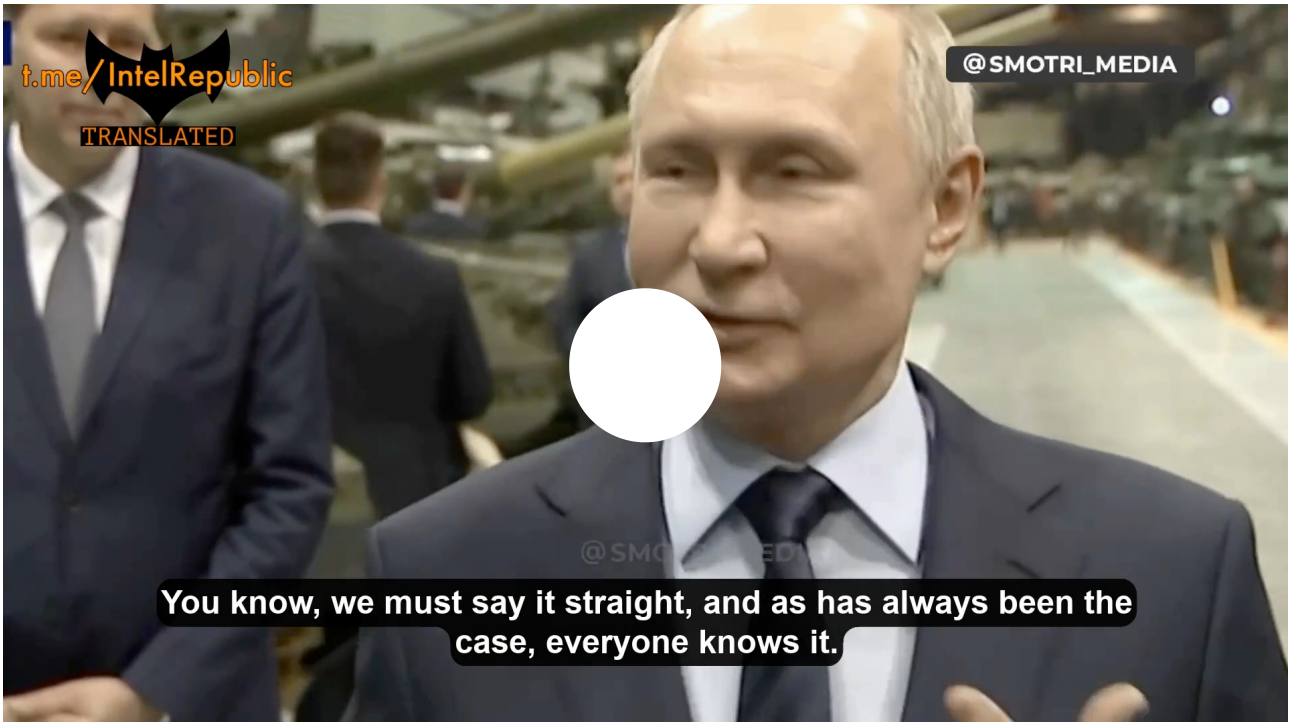
The American 'Avenger' AD system, equipped with Stinger missiles, had an encounter with the Russian Lancet. While the Lancet couldn't catch the truck, which fled at high speed, the Avenger missiles tried several times to shoot the drone down, missing each attempt:



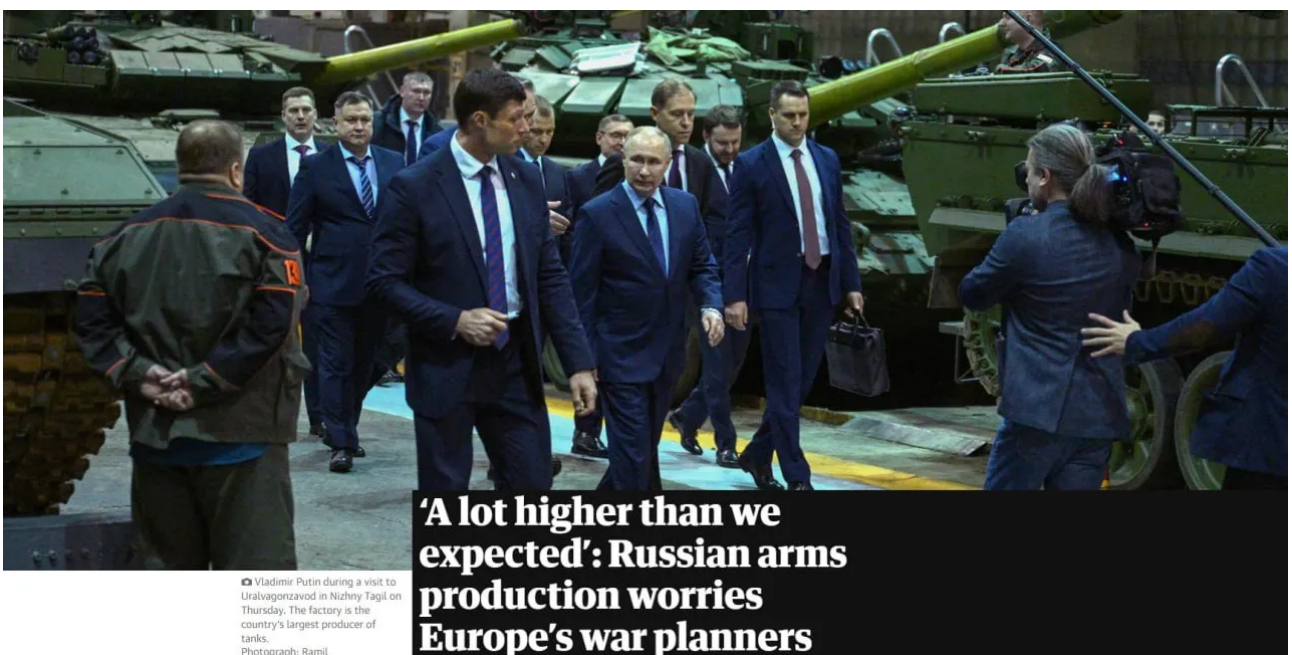
The Avenger is the same system which failed multiple times in protecting American troops in al-Tanf from various rockets/drones. It seems to be quite a dud.

Lastly:

Putin visited Russia's premier tank building plant of Uralvagonzavod, inspecting T-90M, T-72BM3, and BMPT Terminator production lines as well as praising workers for their 5x tank output boost:



Noteworthy in light of this is the fact that Western press suddenly bemoaned just how vast Russia's productive capacities were revealed to be:



'A lot higher than we expected': Russian arms production worries Europe's war planners

Moscow has massively ramped up its industry, giving it advantages in Ukraine and leading to a redistribution of wealth

Andrew Roth

Thu 15 Feb 2024 12.16 EST

All this while Europe and allies circle the drain:

 **The Spectator Index** 
@spectatorindex

[Subscribe](#) 

Countries that have entered recession today:

 Japan

 United Kingdom

3:17 AM · Feb 15, 2024 · **5.7M** Views

Economics

Germany's Days as an Industrial Superpower Are Coming to an End

As political paralysis grips Berlin, the energy crisis was the final blow for a growing number of manufacturers

Even a top Ukrainian analyst yesterday admitted that Russia has *more* modernized tanks now than before 2022, but appears to claim units have fewer tanks due to structure changes—if I'm understanding correctly:



The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter thread. The top tweet is from 'Wolfhound Fellá' (@Justinhead1982) dated Feb 14. The text of the tweet asks: 'What is your gut feeling given what you see the Russians throwing at the frontlines? Does it feel like Russia is running out of quality tanks or they send a steady stream of modern tanks and these T62 attacks are rare?'. Below the tweet are icons for replies (2), retweets, likes (68), and views (19K). The bottom tweet is from 'Kriegsforscher' (@OSINTua) and contains the following text: 'I disagree that this the end of their modern tanks. On the contrary, in general right now they have more modernised then before 22. But the point is that typical Russian tank company (or even regiment) it's mostly 60-65% before the pre war amount (due to the sstructure)'. At the bottom of the thread, it says '2:56 PM · Feb 14, 2024 · 17.3K Views'.

Wolfhound Fellá 🇮🇹 🇪🇺 🇺🇸 🇬🇧 #TeamYuri @Justinhead1982 · Feb 14 ...

What is your gut feeling given what you see the Russians throwing at the frontlines? Does it feel like Russia is running out of quality tanks or they send a steady stream of modern tanks and these T62 attacks are rare?

2 68 19K

Kriegsforscher @OSINTua ...

I disagree that this the end of their modern tanks. On the contrary, in general right now they have more modernised then before 22.

But the point is that typical Russian tank company (or even regiment) it's mostly 60-65% before the pre war amount (due to the sstructure).

2:56 PM · Feb 14, 2024 · 17.3K Views

Most striking in all the latest admissions like that of the article above is how closely they match the hubristic revelations of Hitler vis a vis Russia's productive potentials. Some may have seen the infamous [train ride video](#) where a dumbfounded Hitler expresses disbelief at the sheer inhuman scale of Russia's manufacturing capacities,

admitting that if he knew how large their tank factories were before hand, he would have never invaded:



And does this sound familiar, also?



How does the saying go? History doesn't repeat itself, *but it does rhyme.*

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190 Likes · 18 Restacks

69 Comments



 Victor 6 hrs ago
.
♡ LIKE (1) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE ...

 Richard Roskell 5 hrs ago ❤️ Liked by [Simplicius The Thinker](#)
The last throws of an empire always defile its own existence.
♡ LIKE (15) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE ...

1 reply

67 more comments...

