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MESSAGE:

The usual anti-Russian "ecumenical coalition" has a new member!

Sitrep: Operation Z

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📅 April 16, 2022

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By Nightvision for the Saker Blog

Let's start off with some significant Mariupol updates. The Primorski / port area was further captured, some say dividing it in half, and guys on the ground are now saying the entire section may fall by tomorrow or at latest by the end of this weekend.

That would leave only the Azovstal factory because the other big news was that the Illych factory has completely fallen to our forces as well, and this was the only other pocket of UAF left. There is a lot of footage from the Illych capture.

Footage from inside the factory

<https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1515350944510267392>

Drone footage of DPR/RF forces storming it and capturing the last few UAF Marines

<https://twitter.com/MapsUkraine/status/1515318107832791053> (alt link:
<https://www.bitchute.com/video/aY4HS5Bpawm5/>)

A lot of UAF equipment recovered there, hidden in the factory, including many American hummers <https://www.bitchute.com/video/G1HMTwSk6OH5/>

Full interview of one of the POWs with subtitles:

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/m4P2yIBghv3W/>
Another British merc captured as well: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/Erio4G6vzPJS/>

He is this guy, Shaun Pinner <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10569039/Ex-British-soldier-Shaun-Pinner-says-chaos-line-Ukraine-Russian-conflict.html>

This merc also served with Cossackgundi in the YPG for years in Syria, and it's been said he's even served in Bosnia in the 90's and is likely part of British Intel forces.

And for those that haven't seen the previous British merc, Cossackgundi, here are a few outtakes from his interrogations: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/z6hfHjgWGhaX/>

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/sAGrE1IhNtPj/>
<https://www.bitchute.com/video/3jHSMwehXGR4/>
<https://www.bitchute.com/video/zMIJYtgBAk4Q/>

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And a Russian news report states the following: <https://iz.ru/1321114/2022-04-15/v-sf-zaiavili-o-nalichii-soldat-stran-nato-sredi-plennykh-na-ukraine>

“Among those captured in Ukraine there are military personnel from the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO). This was announced on Friday, April 15, by Andrei Klimov, deputy head of the commission of the United Russia party for international cooperation...

“We already have prisoners among the military personnel of NATO countries, we will show all this when we conduct trials, and the whole world will see what really happened,” he said during a briefing with the media. The senator also said that there are mercenaries in Ukraine from Asia, Africa, Great Britain, the USA and other states. He recalled that mercenaries are not military personnel and they are not subject to international law.”

So it seems according to this they do intend to put them on trial.

This is how the map is looking now. That small sliver of Primorski section in the SW by the port, and then just the massive Azovstal factory complex.

And as many of you know, the factory was reportedly already bombed by Russian long range heavy bombers, Tu-22m's in what is reportedly the first usage of the bombers in the conflict so far. Footage:

<https://ok.ru/video/3397653039744>

<https://twitter.com/Suriyakmaps/status/1515285368073068547> (alt link)

There's still no word on the general strategy, as we've all seen rumors Russia would flood the factory, or etc. We don't know if this bombing run is a one-off, and only to bomb certain sections/positions, or a general strategy they will employ to level the entire complex (doubtful). Personally I don't see the point of bombing now, unless with bunker busters, as we know Azov troops are secured deep in the basement, but there may have been some strategic positions to hit for now, to soften them up before the next phase of the Azovstal assault. For instance, Azov forces likely mined the entire area, and perhaps this is an attempt to first demine and clear all booby traps via large bombing run to prepare the area for ground assault.

In the time of writing this, the Russian MOD apparently reported that the full urban area of Mariupol has been captured, and the map would now look like this:

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However, I leave the previous up because once in a while the Russian MOD has been known to jump the gun and I personally haven't seen the on-the-ground indication yet that Primorski has fully been cleared, although there were several indications it was very close, so maybe it is true. If that's the case, then there is literally nothing left apart from the Azovstal factory complex.

Either way, we get closer and closer to the end where Mariupol comes home. And on that note there's some interesting updates. Firstly, apparently anchors at the Crimea24 news station in Crimea are already referring to Kherson as the 'Kherson People's Republic', *that is, an entirely separate and seceded political entity from the Ukrainian Central Government.*

And not far away, the Energodar city sign changed from a Ukrainian to Russian flag:

<https://twitter.com/myrevolutionrus/status/1515260755687391237>

As for news about Phase 2, here are some assorted updates:

There continue to be reports from both sides that a largescale Russian Phase 2 offensive is *days away*. One source in Donbass even said this: *"The head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration believes that the Russian troops do not start the offensive because of bad weather."*

Meanwhile a regional administrator in Barvinkove and separately, the head of Donetsk regional military administrations, urged evacuations as *'Russia is set to launch a large-scale military operation in a few days.'*

My view has been that it won't come until Mariupol is done, but with that said, they may begin it anyway because some reports indicate forces have already been disengaged from Mariupol and sent both north and towards Kherson because so few UAF remain in Mariupol, they don't need a large force anymore. Wargonzo / Pegov reports that the famous Somali battalion of DPR will be re-deployed to Avdiivka outside of Donetsk where a large offensive is planned to break through the densest of enemy lines, and some of them have already been redeployed there.

In short, various 'chirps' from both sides continue to indicate Russia is almost ready with the preparations for Phase 2, we just have to wait and see if they're waiting for the 'symbolic' fall of Mariupol to begin, or whether they'll begin without it. We know the Pentagon said last week that the offensive would start "within a week".

As some others have posted this already, unconfirmed but it matches the general gist I'm hearing everywhere else:

"The Pentagon instructed the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to withdraw all the remaining artillery to the cities on the eastern front – Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, where they can fire behind civilians. Restraining the offensive of the Russian troops is prescribed by small mobile groups armed with mortars and anti-tank systems, moving across the steppe in civilian vehicles. There is nothing surprising in the fact that the Americans impose terrorist tactics on their pets, in which their people are taken hostage. But the fact that Ukrainian resources write about

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this quite openly, and treat such methods with understanding, and as the only correct one, cannot but amaze.”

There is video evidence of this now that's emerged where UAF is mostly operating in the style of ISIS 'technicals' where they mount a machine gun on a pickup truck and drive around the countryside in search of fast ambush opportunities on RF rearguards, supply lines etc., but unlike ISIS they're armed with tons of ATGMs and Manpads.

One Russian T-72B3 came home to base last night near Izyum having been reportedly struck as many as 2 or 3 times by Javelins and NLaws, but its Kontakt-5 reactive armor had no problem shrugging them all off. Photos show Kontakt-5 damage around the turret indicating possible "top attack" (such as NLAW and Javelin) as opposed to normal RPG style weapons hitting lower broadside on the hull. Just further proof that Western weapons are performing abysmally. In fact the **ONLY consistently confirmed** proof I have seen, out of thousands of videos, of tank kills on Russian armor all comes from the Ukrainian Stugna-P ATGM, which is a Ukrainian/Belarusian produced weapon.

One frontline reporter several days ago said, upon breaching a UAF position they found a bunch of spent Russian/Soviet legacy RPGs laying on the ground, while next to them was several western (NLAW/Javelin) units that were completely unused. You can figure out what this implies.

But of course the U.S. continues to offload its stock of junk on Ukraine:

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/cW8vv4om4cJJ/>

Czech sends MLRS <https://twitter.com/Cyberspec1/status/1514471276437401601>

While British SAS go straight to Kiev to train the Nazis directly

<https://www.rt.com/russia/553973-uk-commandos-train-ukrainians/>

U.S. also expands its intel sharing with Ukraine, and has stated it will help Ukraine in preparing strikes onto Crimea. U.S. says it won't overtly help Ukraine with strikes on RF territory, but it doesn't recognize Crimea as RF territory so it considers it legal to give the UAF signal/satellite intel to strike Crimea.

<https://www.rt.com/news/553853-us-intelligence-attack-crimea/>

Meanwhile the Pentagon says, *"The Pentagon now says Russia is in the midst of a major jamming operation attempt of Ukraine's access to GPS signals, which if successful would have a huge impact on Ukraine's ability to navigate the battlefield and operate advanced aerial systems such as drones."*

<https://www.zerohedge.com/military/russia-ratcheting-efforts-jam-us-provided-gps-signals-ukraine-pentagon>

The article mentions Switchblade drones, and how they use GPS which is disrupted by Russian jamming. On that front, we have new reports that as of yesterday, two Switchblade drones were already used against Russian tanks in the Kharkov / Izyum area, neither of which did any damage.

"Two American Switchblade UAVs ("Flipknife") attacked the positions of Russian tankers, but did not cause any damage. Apparently, the operators are just beginning to master the new technique." (reported by the reliable frontline correspondent Sasha Kots)

It is confirmation the drones are now in theater. But there's 2 varieties, the 300 and 600 series. We don't know yet which they have. The 300 is fairly useless against vehicles.

You can see an inside look into these unparalleled Russian jamming systems which have no equal in the world: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/dFe6qSXQF3IX/>

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/niAYpgvVlb2u/>

If you read my last report with this video: https://youtu.be/_CMby_WPjk4?t=1584

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You'll know it spoke a lot about Russian ability to shutdown all communications on the front via these various EW stations like the famous Krasukha. In the bitchute videos above, the soldiers talk about how these systems shutdown all cellular communications, fry Bayraktar drones, etc., and this is exactly corroborated in the Dr. Karber presentation at West Point above, where he says all cellular and military radios go blank in a wide swath of territory.

Here's some more info on the particular complex: <https://military-wiki.com/the-power-of-russias-murmansk-bn-electronic-warfare-complex/>

Also yesterday the S-400 was used for possibly the 2nd time of the conflict. The first was in the opening days, a S-400 system in Belarus destroyed a Ukrainian Mig-29 over Kiev (very long distance) which was piloted by one of Ukraine's most legendary pilots.

The new usage was said to be against one of the helicopters that attacked the Russian Klimovo village in the Bryansk region. The helicopter apparently was shot over the village of Gorodnya in the Chernihiv region of Ukraine, about 35 km from the Russian-Ukrainian border.

One analyst writes:

"1. This means that air defense has been strengthened in the border areas. S-400 divisions "do not go alone." At least a regiment, at least two divisions and a command post. 2 combat vehicles for each

2. The helicopter was shot down at low altitude at a distance of about 35 km from the border, read at least 50-60 km from the division. This means that the target for the division was below the radio horizon, which, on flat terrain and an antenna post deployed not on a 40V6M tower, but on a conveyor, would be about 40 km. This is possible only in the interaction of the S-400 air defense system with the A-50 AWACS aircraft or with the Su-30 fighter and the use of the 9M96E2 missile with an active homing head, which is capable of independently capturing an over-the-horizon target according to the data of the air defense system itself or the specified aircraft."

Video of the shot down helicopter

<https://twitter.com/Cyberspec1/status/1515294027608104965>

In that same region were huge losses for the UAF yesterday. Reported several squads to be completely destroyed while there were many prisoners. You can see photos of the prisoners on most of the popular telegram channels.

Meanwhile in the risible and deteriorating U.S. Navy, humiliation continues to mount:

<https://www.rt.com/news/553992-navy-commander-fired-f35/>

Here's a good current map of the overall situation:

https://twitter.com/War_Mapper/status/1515118706682122244

And here's how British Intel reportedly views the coming Phase 2 operation:

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By the way, one last note. Some have asked about the news that 'General Aleksandr Dvornikov' was appointed as supreme commander of the entire operation, particularly since I previously posted a snippet that had his name in it. The truth is, there is no actual proof or confirmation whatsoever from the Russian side that he has been 'appointed' or 'promoted' in any way. Even if you search his name in cyrillic on Russian official news sites like Tass there is nothing whatsoever on it, and no such announcement from the MOD. So keep in mind all such information is only as per the "Pentagon's" alleged secret intel, albeit on sites like wikipedia it is already listed as 100% official and confirmed that he is in fact the supreme commander.

With that said, it may very well be true. And if it is, that's a good thing, because Dvornikov by all qualifications appears to be a very strong commander who was responsible for much of the success of Russia's Syrian campaign. Keep in mind he is officially the commander of the entire Russian Southern Military District, with its famed 58th Army, etc., and he continues to be listed as the commander of this district. The Southern is arguably Russia's most experienced command post due to its involvement in some of the hottest Russian frontlines of the past years, such as the 2008 Georgian war which was *primarily* prosecuted by the 58th Army of the Southern, stationed in Vladikavkaz. To the 2014 Crimean crisis as well, which was primarily handled by this district. Not to mention it appears the Southern District has possibly the highest contract servicemen percentage of any of the districts, which wikipedia lists at 98% as of 2016.

Though the 'Western' district is the 'prestige' one, as it guards Russia's most vital western European flank, and was previously headed by Gerasimov himself, and is probably outfitted with the highest percentage of technologically advanced units (such as the 4th Guards Tank army which is mostly comprised of modernized T-80U's as opposed to the T-72's of many other districts), the Southern is the one that has seen the most action in recent years, and has acted as the 'shock troops' for various Russian crises.

So the fact that Dvornikov, who was given the highest honors, "Hero of the Russian Federation" medal for his work in Syria, was then promoted to the head of the Southern District after his Syrian service, means the utter trust Russian leadership has in him. So if it is true he is internally now running the entire SMO, then that can only be viewed as a positive. But let it simply be stated that this is completely unconfirmed, and may never be confirmed officially by the Russian side.

And some final assorted things:

DPR troops humanely feed their POWs (quite a contrast to how Russian POWs are treated): <https://www.bitchute.com/video/GyMLSCgz3rhn/>

Russian White Swans of death spotted in the skies of Russia not far from Ukr border, but reportedly this is practice for the upcoming parade (or is it?)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/kl6OSbWtGSzM/>

An interesting look at the logistical side, Russian mobile kitchens and laundromats – how daily troop life functions: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/lbyWPdJXtXy2/>

Chechens put finishing touches on Mariupol districts: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/zH6ZymTy6EZ7/>

Russia ships mass Bm-21 Grad reinforcements: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/fbCOVZvcygVI/>

More reinforcements head through Kharkov: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/kcnOFC8OeDvQ/>

Zelensky brags behind the scenes how Macron is his "bestie" who texts him privately (is this legal?) <https://www.bitchute.com/video/4OCZ4XRxfAHs/>

Crew of the sunken Moskva cruiser re-enlists to continue service in Navy. So much for fake rumors they were all killed, etc:

Схимонах Арсеније Пејчић: Молимо Русе да не поистовећују српски народ са влашћу

Пензионисани пуковник Војске Србије о специјалној операцији у Украјини

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<https://www.bitchute.com/channel/nnwlaOOuDM1W/>

Another UAF base in Nikolayev destroyed.

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/LqyoUGfEwKLC/>

There've been many huge strikes in Kiev, Kharkov, Nikolayev, etc, that have flattened a lot of bases and factories in the past 2 days since the sinking of the Moskva. In fact in the past day alone, over 300 UAF soldiers were reportedly killed in these strikes all over Ukraine.

Today Zelensky revealed for the first time that UAF losses are alleged to be only 2500-3000 total. But this is a clear lie as the Donbass alone has 3000 POWs. The Russian MOD countered with new realistic losses of the UAF today, which are in excess of 23,000+ troops. <https://www.rt.com/russia/553998-russia-ukraine-casualties/>

Graphic (18+) Russian Spetsnaz force once again ambushed a UAF squad near Izyum: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/qoqS4oNnHmtD/>

Also slightly (18+), Chechens in Mariupol show the clearing of one of the last districts: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/yoEdnDP6jUUT/>

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