

SITREP 4/19/24: A Small Gust for Ukraine's Sails?



SIMPLICIUS

APR 20, 2024



428



396

Share

Today we have some interesting thematic developments in the context of Ukraine's future sustainment outlook.

The most talked about of course is the headway being made for the Ukrainian aid bill, which is set to be voted on in both the House and Senate this weekend and early next week, owing to Speaker Mike Johnson's eye-opening U-turn. The U-turn was in fact so 'sudden' as to imply sinister developments behind the scenes—perhaps kompromat waving, threats, and the like. From an alleged CIA/NSA whistleblower:



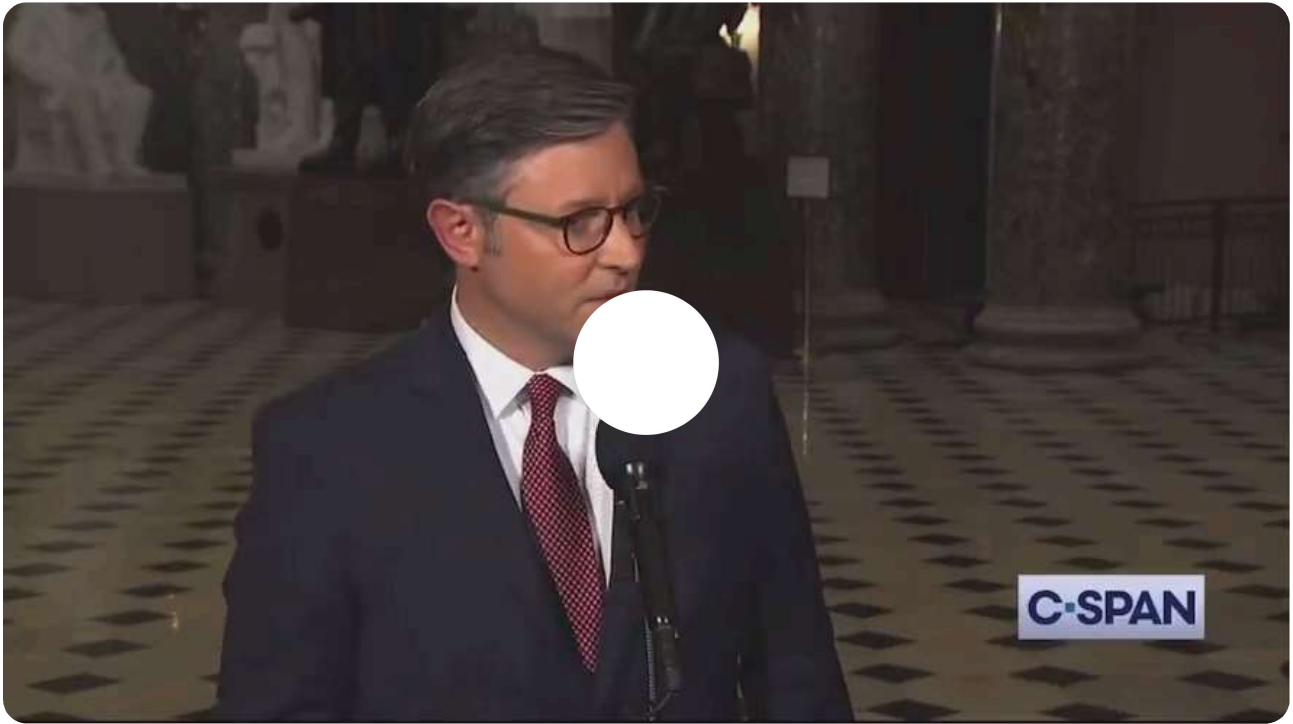
Tony Seruga ✓
@TonySeruga



Friends of [@SpeakerJohnson](#) are saying he changed instantly after exiting that SCIF. He is scared to death, but not necessarily for our country but his fear seems more personal, more likely his personal life is about to blow up if he doesn't cooperate with the deep state.



You can see below how drastically his tone has changed into an uncharacteristically histrionic one:




This comes after he suddenly proclaimed himself a “wartime speaker”, which was echoed ominously by other congressmen:



Rep. Carlos A. Gimenez 
@RepCarlos

...

Mike Johnson is our leader, a wartime Speaker of the House, and an American patriot doing everything possible to protect our freedom! 

In any case, the voting is moving forward, though there is no clear indication yet what will happen; Matt Gaetz has reportedly signaled that unfortunately the vote stands a good chance to pass, though they are still bitterly fighting it. Here's the latest update:



Greg Price

@greg_price11

Subscribe

...

BREAKING: The House just voted overwhelmingly to advance the foreign aid bill for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and Gaza.

The vote was 316-94 with 165 Democrats and 151 Republicans voting yes.

Up next, there's going to be separate vote on foreign aid to each nation which will then be fused together in one package that will be sent to a senate in a procedural move known as MIRV.

No border security, no amendments, just Republican leadership working with Democrats to fund wars across the globe.

11:10 AM · Apr 19, 2024 · 208.6K Views



Colby Badhwar

 @ColbyBadhwar · 19h

!  Senator Cornyn, along with Sens Coons, Shaheen and Scott (SC), has legislation to reauthorize his **Lend Lease** for Ukraine Act. Would extend it until the end of FY26. It had expired at the end of FY23 and did not make it into the final conference report for the FY24 NDAA....

Show more

118TH CONGRESS
2d Session

S. _____

To extend and modify the lend-lease authority to Ukraine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To extend and modify the lend-lease authority to Ukraine.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF LEND-LEASE AUTHORITY TO UKRAINE.

Section 2 of the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-118; 136 Stat. 1184) is amended—

HR24713-9501

2

SLC

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "fiscal years 2022 and 2023" and inserting "fiscal years 2022 through 2026";

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the use of the authority under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

"(1) a description of the defense articles loaned or leased to the Government of Ukraine, or to the government of an Eastern European country impacted by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, under such authority; and

"(2) a strategy and timeline for recovery and return of such defense articles.".

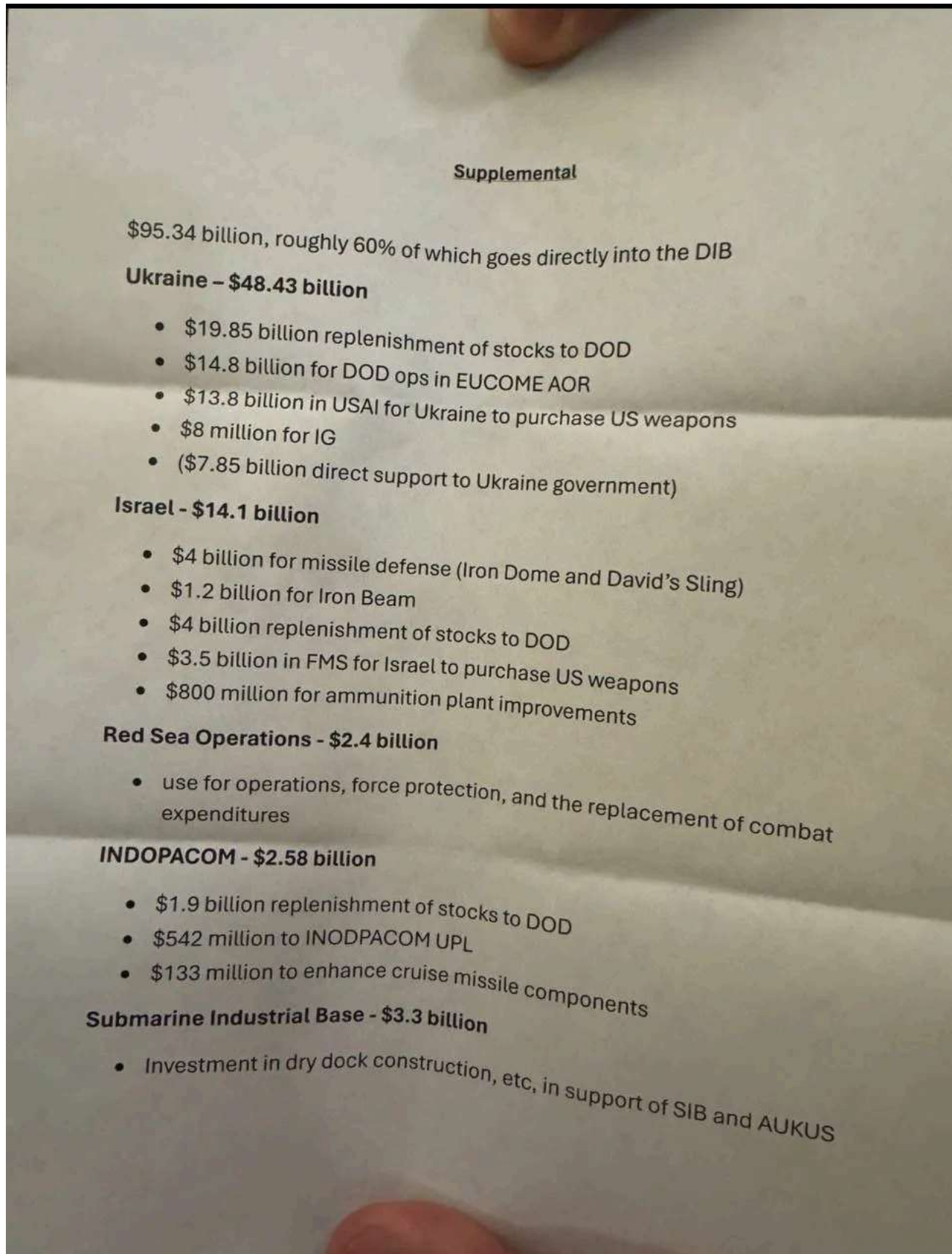
11

125

629

36K

However, while the pro-Ukrainian crowd rejoices, it's not clear what real benefit the aid would bring, should it pass. For instance, days ago the provisions of the alleged bill had leaked which apparently showed the vast majority of the \$48B Ukrainian aid going to various American DOD scams:



If there's any accuracy to the above, it appears that when you take away the civil funds to the Ukrainian government, and the DOD's own beak-wetting double-dip, all that's really left for Ukrainian 'weapons' is about \$14B or less. And in fact Johnson appears to confirm this when he says that he changed the bill so that 80% of it now represents replenishment of American stocks, rather than new weapons for Ukraine:



Certainly that's still a fairly significant amount of money, all things considered, but it doesn't even begin to address the much bigger issue of there not being any arms left to spend that money on.

For instance, recall the claimed million shells that Czech Republic was said to have found for Ukraine. Now Peter Pavel has confirmed they've only made agreements for an alleged 180k and have possibly found another "120k" shells, though they haven't been purchased yet. That entire number is basically what Russia manufactures per month.

That's not to mention the fact that Western ammo factories continue to mysteriously go up in smoke these past two weeks:



Intelschizo ✓
@Schizointel

...

Third 155mm factory to suffer explosion/fire this week.
2 in the United States
1 in the UK

2 Russian saboteurs were arrested in Germany.

Russia has a long track record of this
Since 2014 they have blown up
6 in Ukraine
2 in the Czech Republic
1 in Bulgaria



Sergej Sumlenny, LL.M ✓ @sumlenny · Apr 18

UK's only 155-mm shells plant reports a blast (no serious damage for the factory) tonight. Two days ago, fire started at a US ammo facility in Scranton, producing shells for Ukraine. Today, in Germany, two Russian saboteurs have been arrested. /1
msn.com/en-za/news/oth...?

9:30 AM · Apr 18, 2024 · 276.7K Views

Huge Fire Erupts at Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, the U.S.'s Primary Producer of 155mm Artillery Shell Bodies

✍ By Jim Hoft 📅 Apr. 15, 2024 6:30 pm 💬 417 Comments



Witnesses say BAE Systems weapons factory explosion felt like an earthquake' when blast rocked Britain's only ammunition factory as 'shell exploded'

By Jon Brady

13:37 17 Apr 2024, updated 16:30 17 Apr 2024



I wonder what it could be?

Some logically suspect that the urgent increase in production schedules has simply overtaxed the aging and stressed infrastructure and workforce at these sites, which understandably results in elevated risks of industrial 'accidents'.

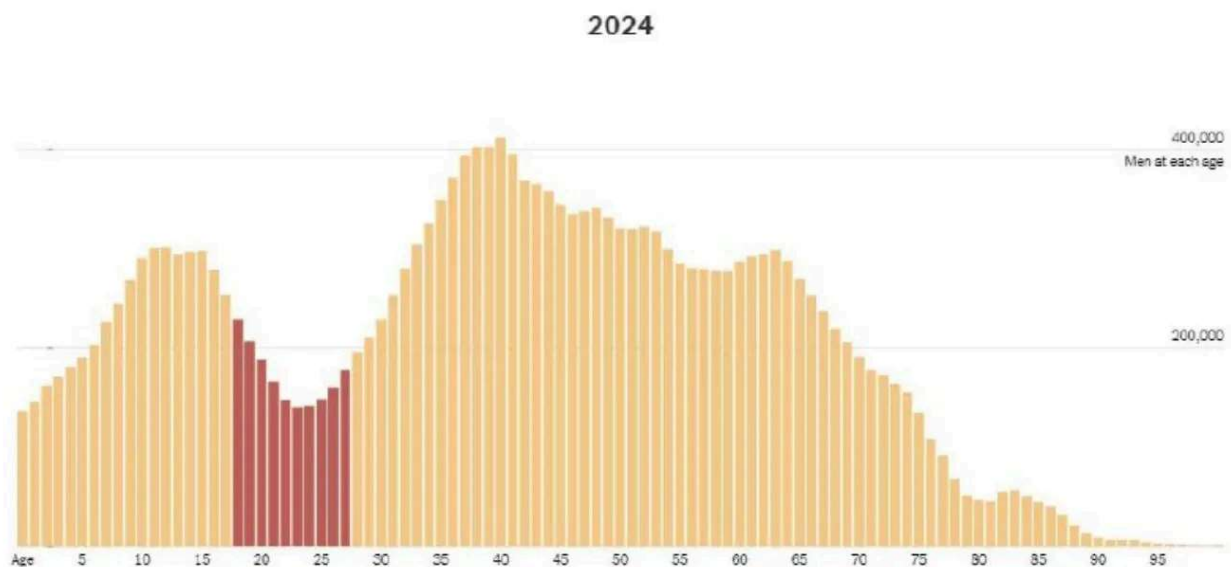
But moving on.

The other significant event which dovetails with the aid bill is that **Zelensky has finally signed the mobilization bill**, which—most significantly—lowers the mobilization age from 27 to 25. By far the most controversial was the removing of the provision that allowed Ukrainian servicemen who've served 36 months to be demobilized. This has created an uproar with soldiers posting death threats to the Rada, like this one:



In spite of that, the final ratification of the bill means Ukraine could now stand to mobilize a significant amount of new troops, some estimating 200-500k—or at least that's the wishful target.

This new chart purports to show the amount of eligible men in each age group. Each bar below represents a year, so one can see for instance that 25 and 26 are somewhere around the 180k or so:



Since the mobilization opened up those two extra years, together that would open up a bit under 400k newly eligible, if the chart is accurate. But when you factor in all the various forms of attrition that realistically happen, i.e. draft dodging in all its varieties, then the real amount could be less than half of that, or even worse.

And for those wondering why there is such a dip in Ukrainian men in their 20s, the explanation I got was that these were men born precisely in the ‘dark ages’ period of the post-Soviet collapse, which means the birthrates were falling drastically then, resulting in far less people being born. It shoots up for the age 5-15 group because presumably in the 2000s the birthrate rose a bit in those brief economically hopeful internet bubble years, before collapsing again in the post-Maidan period.

Anyway, this further means that we’re set for quite a showdown for sometime this summer. That’s because if the aid bill is to pass and the heavy mobilization begins, the influx of new money, weapons, plus large amounts of men could coincide with the long-expected Russian offensive. Of course, it will not change the course of the war, but it *could* mean a much bloodier meatgrinder that will result in Russia incurring far more losses as it advances. That’s because the cheap defensive weapons most effective against advances, like mines, basic RPGs, small arms ammunition, drones, mortars—are things that have never been in short supply, and a flush of new aid cash could bring a new bonanza of replenishment for them.

Another example. Some sources state that a large batch of new ATACMs missiles will be opened up with the aid bill, and these missiles have proved to be relatively

effective. Not wunderwaffe by any means, but effective enough to incur losses and potentially—in large enough number—hamper Russia's logistics rear to make advance much more painful. A new ATACMs strike has just successfully been carried out on Dzhankoi airbase in Crimea, destroying what's said to be an entire deployment of S-300s, or what Ukrainians claim were S-400s. The missile parts have now been recovered and identified as ATACMs:



Ukraine released the launch footage, showing around 6 ATACMs being launched from the right bank of the Dnieper, while Russian sources claimed there were up to 12 missiles, with 7+ being shot down:



That said, the Russian MOD has claimed that up to 10 ATACMs were shot down in another direction the very next day—though we have no real evidence.

The point being, given the somewhat questionable shootdown ability against the ATACMs demonstrated thus far, it could pose a bit of a problem if provided in much larger quantity, particularly at a time when Russia will be gearing up for a large offensive, which means huge stores of munitions will be laid up at brigade HQs, as well as large manpower concentrations, etc.

As an aside, for every such occasional blow that Ukraine delivers, Russia gives back at least 4 or 5 big ones. In the past week alone we've had several major successful strikes, such as on the Ukrainian base in Dnipro, with several Mig-29s and S-300 systems destroyed:



For which AFU obituaries already began rolling in:



As well as a big blow on another AFU and mercenary troop concentration in a Chernigov hotel, which Western cretins like McFaul tried to spin as an attack on a civilian complex, but—as I attached below his message—one can see admissions from AFU accounts of the large amount of military casualties at the site:



Michael McFaul 
@McFaul

Читать

This is terrorism. More people died in Chernihiv tonight than died in the horrific Iranian attack against Israel. But it won't be reported that way. We have become numb & indifferent to Russian terrorist atrocities.



kartenko_masha 3г

From create mode >



Chernihiv



MAX REPOST



A great tragedy More

than 40 soldiers are no

longer with us



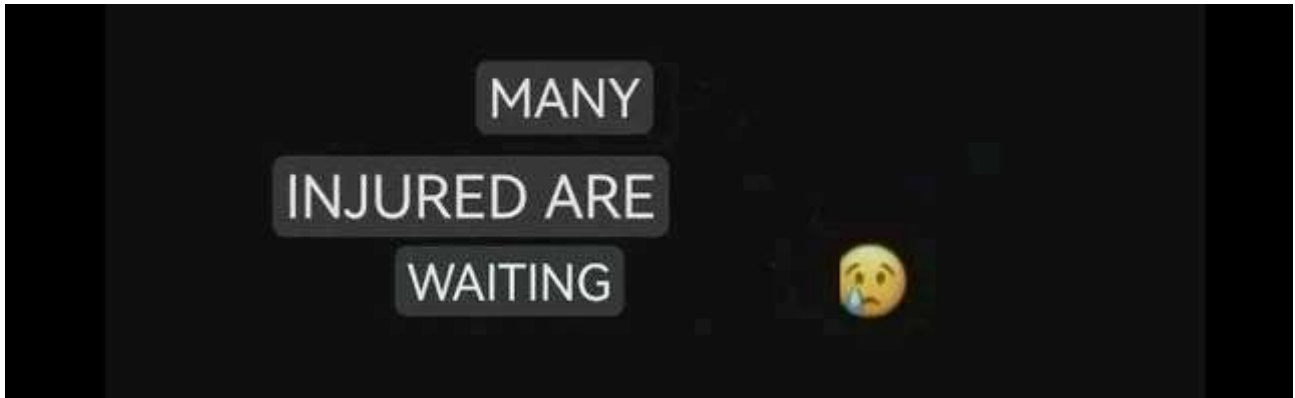
...COME TO THE

HOSPITAL

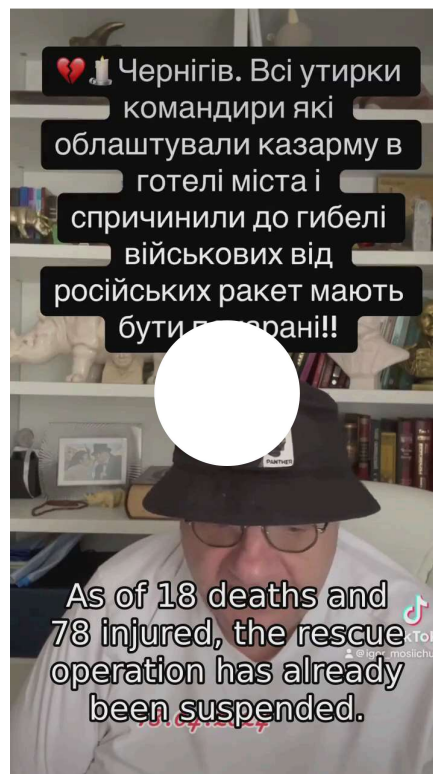
URGENTLY AND DONATE

BLOOD

ALL GROUPS!!!!



That includes ex-Aidar dep. cmdr. Mosiychuk angrily admitting to many military deaths:



And as of this writing there's a new attack on a Dnipro complex said to house many AFU troops as well:



So, clearly, whatever minor successes Ukraine has, Russia continues vastly out-attributioning them.



A quick article round up to gauge the mood this week:

Europe

Charlemagne

What happens if Ukraine loses?

Russian victory would be debilitating for the West, and especially for Europe



Russian Attacks on Ukraine Stoke Fears Army Near Breaking Point

- Kyiv at most fragile moment in two years of war, officials say
- Risk emerges of Ukraine force collapse, Russian breakthrough





Ukraine could face defeat in 2024. Here's how that might look

By Frank Gardner
BBC security correspondent

13 April 2024, 01:28 BST



OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

J.D. Vance: The Math on Ukraine Doesn't Add Up

April 12, 2024, 5:05 a.m. ET



In Scranton, Pa., 155-millimeter artillery shells are being manufactured. Brendan McDermid/Reuters

By J. D. Vance

Mr. Vance, a Republican, is the junior senator from Ohio.

**The Telegraph**

4 hours ago

Subscribe



👉 'Russian fast jets are now able to strike from outside the range of Ukrainian air defences – with devastating effect' | Writes Mike Sutton

Read the full column below ↓

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024...>



Russian glide bombs are pounding Ukraine into surrender

MIKE SUTTON



The Telegraph

15 minutes ago

Subscribe



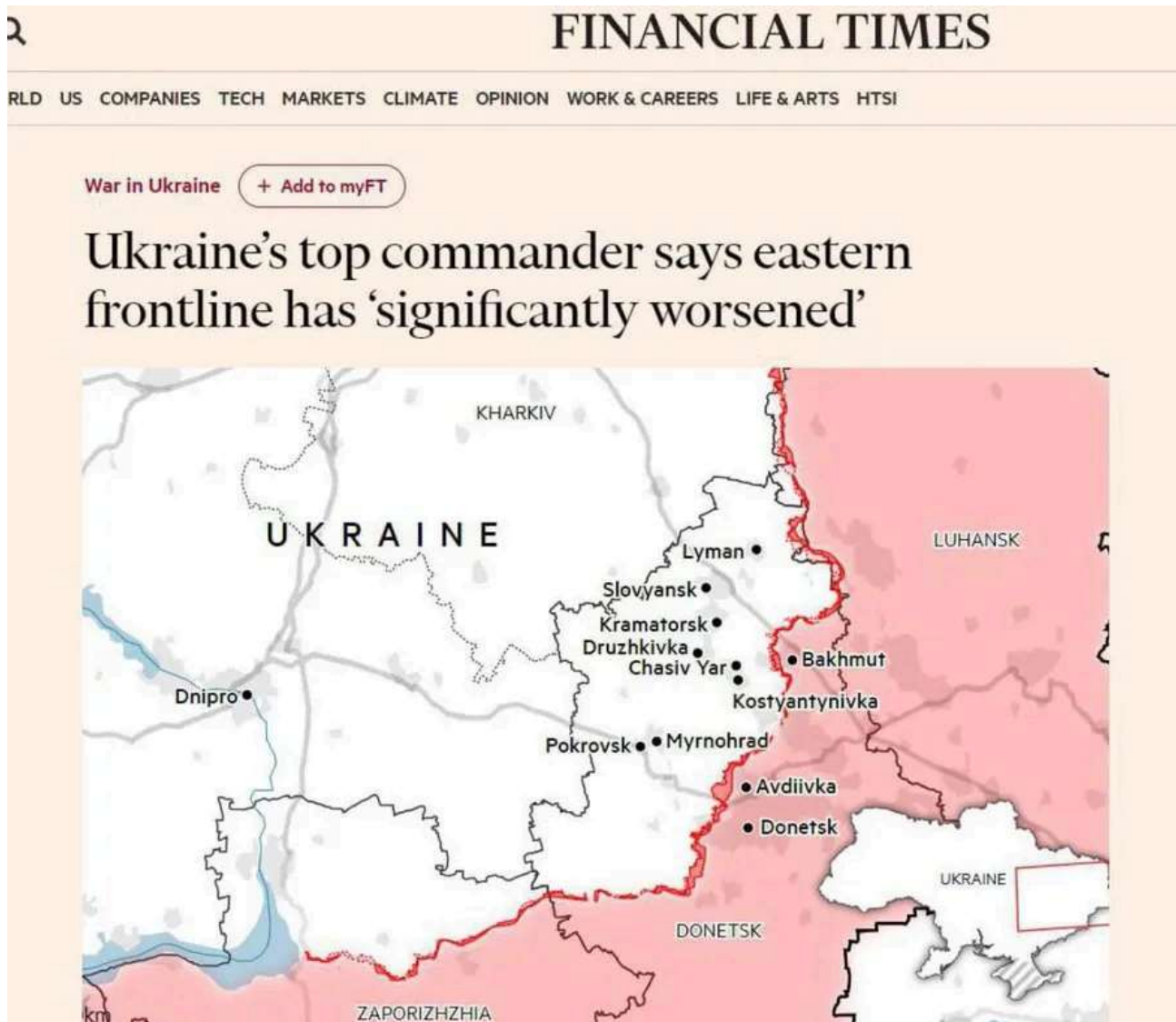
➤ "Unless we get a grip fast, we will not be going to polling stations in November, but to the enlistment centres" | Writes Hamish de Bretton-Gordon

Read the full comment below ↓

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024...>



The two most pertinent ones are the following:



Ukrainian and western officials have told the Financial Times that Russia may be gearing up for a large-scale attack in late spring or summer in hopes of capturing more of the regions of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. The Kremlin partly occupies these areas, which Putin illegally claimed to have annexed in September 2022.

Officials in Kyiv are also concerned that Moscow might be planning an assault on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city in the north-east. It is mobilising hundreds of thousands of forces and pummeling the city with rockets in preparation.

The above again mentions a potential Kharkov offensive by Russia.

And the [new Politico piece](#) likewise echoes fears of a Kharkov assault:

POLITICO

kraine Israel-Hamas war Farmers' protests Newsletters Podcasts Poll of Polls Policy news Eve

Ukraine is heading for defeat

The West's failure to send weapons to Kyiv is helping Putin win his war.

By JAMIE DETTMER
in Kyiv

<https://www.politico.eu/article/why-ukraine-losing-russia-war/>

Putin's big target is Ukraine's second largest city

Right now, Ukraine's most urgent need is for artillery shells — millions of them. Moreover, Ukraine says it needs at least two dozen Patriot air-defense systems to protect troops on the front lines and to defend **Kharkiv**, the country's biggest city after Kyiv, which has been under ferocious missile and artillery attack for weeks.

Fears are growing that Russia may target Ukraine's second city for a ground offensive soon.

"It's symbolic because they say that **Kharkiv** was the first capital of Ukraine. It's a big target," Zelenskyy said in an interview with POLITICO's parent company Axel Springer media outlets last week.

Today Resident UA channel reported the following:

#Inside

*MI-6 transferred new intelligence to the Office of the President and the General Staff about the **plans of the Russian army to introduce new 10 brigades to Ukraine by the end of May**. For these purposes, heavy equipment is also accumulated, and assault groups with new weapons are also being prepared.*

And another Russian channel reported that some major new training has been launched about a month ago, which is likely the eastern Siberian echelons being prepared about which I reported last time. This could be the 10 new brigades referenced above.

In fact, BILD has now reported on the large scale fortifications Ukraine is building in the Kharkov region in anticipation:

The first line of new fortifications of the Armed Forces of Ukraine near Kharkov runs 10 km from the Russian border, said BILD deputy editor-in-chief Paul Ronzheimer, who visited the construction.

***"It is expected that the Russian Armed Forces may go on the offensive there in the coming weeks or months. The first line of trenches runs just 10 km from the state border. Construction workers are working with shovels, without special equipment. They said that they are under constant Russian fire, including glide bombs",** the material says.*

At the same time, Carlo Masala, a professor at the Bundeswehr University in Munich, said in a comment to BILD that "a possible offensive will initially go through Kramatorsk."

"If so, then the path of Russian troops to Kharkov would be open. But even if there is no new ground offensive, Putin's goal may be to shell Kharkov in preparation for the assault. Make a new Mariupol out of it and force people to flee," said Masala.

At the end they mention forcing citizens to flee Kharkov, which is another common theme shared amongst several recent tabloids:

Russia Is Trying to Force Ukrainians to Abandon Their Second-Biggest City

- Ukraine, Western officials see Moscow plan to cut Kharkiv off
- Kyiv increasingly asking for power supplies, air defense



Ukrainian law enforcement officers outside a residential building following missile strikes in Kharkiv on March 27. *Photographer: Sergey Bobok/AFP/Getty Images*

By Daryna Krasnolutska, Jennifer Jacobs, and Alberto Nardelli

16 апреля 2024 г. at 12:21 GMT+3

Updated on 16 апреля 2024 г. at 14:52 GMT+3

Kharkiv at risk of becoming 'second Aleppo' without US aid, mayor says

Residents of Ukraine's second city tell of the impact of increasing Russian attacks targeting suburbs and power supplies



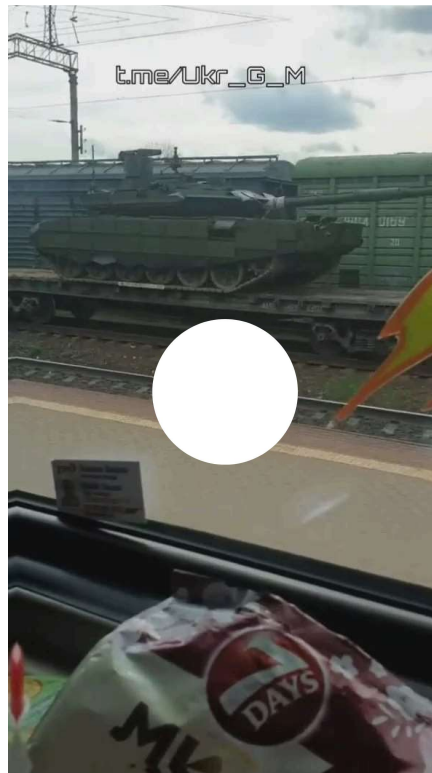
📷 The site of a recent Russian bombing at an unused shopping mall which killed seven people.
Photograph: Julia Kochetova/The Guardian

So, as you can see, Kharkov is really becoming more and more of a focused worry for them. That being said, I still don't see particularly big signs that Russia will go there directly any time soon, but we're merely keeping track of the movements and sentiments. It makes far more sense that for now, any potential phantom Russian brigades purported to be in the pipeline will be sent to one of the current breakthrough areas in the Donetsk or Bakhmut directions. There Russian forces have been making huge headway in a variety of settlements, from Novomikhailovka, to Pervomaisk, Krasnogorovka, etc. In the Bakhmut direction it's Chasov Yar, as well as continued advances in the Avdeevka direction. So this whole connected front makes more sense for where new forces might be injected to develop breakthroughs and keep pushing in order to not give the retreating AFU here any chance to dig in, which will keep the momentum going like an avalanche.



Let's cover a few disparate but important items.

Russia continues to show its massive industrial output. A new T-90M echelon was sent to the front:



And Shoigu visited Omsktransmash, where Russian T-80BVMs are being manufactured en masse. You can see the sheer scale and vast multitude of tanks being produced:



Scoffing doubters have brought up the fact that these are not brand *new* T-80s, as Russia still no longer produces them. These are all old hulls being restored and upgraded to T-80BVM status. However, in the video Shoigu notes that phase 1 of the resumption of a full T-80 production line has been completed, which is that Russia is now producing the turbine engines from scratch—which you can see in the video as well. The final phase will be for Russia to start actually manufacturing the hulls themselves, which is planned.

Another extremely significant development is that the tanks are now being rolled out with a native anti-drone EW system some are calling the 'ZIP':





This is a major deal, and is a first for the tanks to be equipped at the factory level, rather than with a field upgrade/attachment later on. That means Russia now has the world's first and only main battle tank with native EW of this kind. That's a big milestone and a testament to Shoigu's hard work in pushing the equally hard-working defense industry to their limits.

CIA director burns openly stated that Ukraine will lose by end of 2024 if aid is not rendered immediately:

Menu Politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2024 Elections

CIA director warns Ukraine could lose war with Russia by the end of the year unless US sends more aid

By Katie Bo Lillis, CNN
3 minute read · Published 3:12 PM EDT, Thu April 18, 2024

f X e



Actual speech:



or at least put Putin in a position where he could essentially dictate the terms of a political settlement.

And the topic of speeches by globalist cretins, here's a remarkable soundbite from Boris Johnson who says the quiet part aloud, that the Ukraine war is actually all about preserving Western Atlanticist hegemony:



It's fascinating how "mask-off" these elites go when all the chips are down and the situation is so desperate that there's literally nothing left to lose.

And a final fascinating speech demonstrating their desperation comes from Stoltenberg. Here he openly admits that Europe's stocks are so depleted that they must send Ukraine even their own personal strategic supplies, dangerously dipping below strict NATO reserves requirements for their own armies:



So, in essence, he's now admitting that NATO is being totally demilitarized for Ukraine. Good news.

Another vindication. Many pro-UA trolls mocked me when I said online that Ukraine's laughable attacks on Russian oil refineries were nearly inconsequential as Russia has some of the deepest oil heavy equipment infrastructure in the world and can repair any such damage fairly quickly. Now once again I've been vindicated as Western MSM broke the news that damage caused by Ukraine's attacks was in fact quickly restored:

Exclusive-Russia restoring oil refining capacity knocked out by drones

Story by Reuters • 1d • 2 min read

MARKETS TODAY

INX ▼ -0.21%

DJI ▲ +0.17%

COMP ▼ -0.12%



The logo of Taneco are seen on tanks at its refinery complex, which is part of Russia's oil producer Tatneft group of companies, in Nizhnekamsk, in the Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, July 26, 2017. Picture taken July 26, 2017. REUTERS/Sergei Karpulkin/File Photo
© Thomson Reuters

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia has been able to swiftly repair some of key oil refineries hit by Ukrainian drones, reducing capacity idled by the attacks to about 10% from almost 14% at the end of March, Reuters calculations showed.

“Drone attacks do not destroy entire refineries and usually do not even destroy individual units, but only damage them,” Sergey Vakulenko, an oil industry expert, wrote in an analysis for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. “The Ust-Luga and Ryazan refineries were both back in operation a few weeks after being attacked.”

[Share this article](#)



In recent weeks, Russia has unleashed a barrage of exploding drones and missiles on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, leaving millions without power and raising fears that the attacks could bring Ukraine’s economy to a halt. The attacks destroyed a power plant in the Kyiv region and damaged Ukraine’s biggest hydroelectric power plant and multiple thermal power plants.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the attacks were in direct response to Ukraine’s drone strikes on refineries and other infrastructure deep within its territory.

Not to mention:

Bloomberg

[Live TV](#) [Markets](#) [Economics](#) [Industries](#) [Tech](#) [Politics](#) [Businessweek](#) [Opinion](#) [More](#)

Markets

Russian Oil Is Once Again Trading Far Above the G-7's Price Cap Everywhere

- Exported Urals crude is near \$75 a barrel, about \$15 above cap
- Almost a quarter moved with western insurance in March

That’s all for now—now, we must sit and wait to see how the U.S. Congress and Republican spectacle plays out, vis-a-vis the Ukrainian aid. Depending on which way that goes, will have major consequences on the remainder of the war. Not even necessarily so much from the actual aid itself—which I already explained may not

end up amounting to much real material gain at the end of the day—but even from the standpoint of support and morale for Ukraine. At this critical juncture, if the aid were to stall or end forever, it could have devastating effects on the Ukrainian army's morale and ability to continue fighting for the rest of this year, particularly as Russia launches its onslaught in a few months. But the shadow cast by the aid, whether it brings any real value or not, could lift the AFU's spirits with the knowledge that 'America still has their back', though even that won't ultimately change much, just prolong the suffering a bit longer.

I'll leave you with a thought-provoking [quote I came across from the German philosopher and Russophile Walter Schubart](#). What do you think, any truth to his generalizations?

"Western European man views life as a slave whose neck he has stepped on... He does not look with devotion at the sky, but, full of lust for power, looks down at the earth with evil, hostile eyes. Russian people are obsessed not with the will to power, but with a feeling of reconciliation and love. He is filled not with anger and hatred, but with the deepest trust in the essence of the world. He sees in man not an enemy, but a brother." An Englishman wants to see the world as a factory, a Frenchman as a salon, a German as a barracks, a Russian as a church. The Englishman wants loot, the Frenchman wants glory, the German wants power, the Russian wants sacrifice. The Englishman wants to profit from his neighbor, the Frenchman wants to impress his neighbor, the German wants to command his neighbor, but the Russian doesn't want anything from him. He does not want to turn his neighbor into his means. This is the brotherhood of the Russian heart and the Russian idea. And this is the Gospel of the future. The Russian all-man is the bearer of a new solidarity. Promethean man is already doomed to death. The era of John's man is coming - a man of love and freedom. This is the future of the Russian people. The West is driven by unbelief, fear and selfishness; The Russian soul is driven by faith, peace and brotherhood. That is why the future belongs to Russia..."

Your support is invaluable. If you enjoyed the read, I would greatly appreciate if you subscribed to a **monthly/yearly pledge** to support my work, so that I may continue providing you with detailed, incisive reports like this one.

Alternatively, you can tip here: [Tip Jar](#)

Type your email...

Subscribe



428 Likes · 22 Restacks

396 Comments



Write a comment...



Gerrard White Apr 20
20 April 2024 Zombie CBR Confiscation Rises from the Dead

US desperate for money for Ukraine

« US proposes debt to fund Ukraine using profits from frozen Russian assets’

<https://www.ft.com/content/6cb21054-ccfc-4cb9-ab58-516d80be94de>

The FT headlined this plan, in an increasingly frequent show of desperation

Adept at selling other people’s futures back to them, this proposal takes the current windfall tax applied to Eurcolear’s profits made from the management of frozen CBR assets

This plan is just that, not voted through- faces a number of objections, by their nature this EUC tax windfall must be a one off, Euroclear’s profits according to the market are their’s, profits from assets belong to the asset holder, and so on

The US wrinkle is to scavenge a bond issue backed by the future profits – but these are incalculable, liable to be interrupted by the end of war, plus would get in way of any future cease fire or peace arrangements

– who would wish to guarantee these bonds ? and why would any prospective buyers believe this guarantee ?

Theft is a lot harder than you think

♡ LIKE (10) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE



41 replies by Simplicius and others



GM Apr 20 · edited Apr 20

>The point being, given the somewhat questionable shutdown ability against the ATACMs demonstrated thus far, it could pose a bit of a problem if provided in much larger quantity, particularly at a time when Russia will be gearing up for a large offensive, which means huge stores of munitions will be laid up at brigade HQs, as well as large manpower concentrations, etc.

Nobody has strong defenses against ballistic missiles. This has been quite clearly demonstrated these last two years, especially now with the Iran strike on Israel.

The only somewhat reliable defenses are:

- 1) Area denial
- 2) Deterrence.

Russia has been failing abysmally on both.

It remains a mystery why the Polish and Romanian borders have not been sealed.

And it remains a mystery why weapons transfer is allowed in the first place.

Until those things change, there will be many more such painful hits. And eventually NATO might sneak in some nukes too.

P.S. Same applies to the Belgorod shelling. Never in history previously has a nuclear superpower allowed its own cities to be terror bombed daily without really doing anything to stop it. Loud promises were made that if such attacks occur, there will be retaliatory strikes on those who produced the weapons. Well, we are still waiting for mushroom clouds in Prague...

And people in Belgorod are really pissed, don't mistake the fact that you have not seen any reports on what the mood is there for evidence for absence of resentment. Which is achieving precisely what the West intended with these strikes -- to cause resentment towards Putin by showing regular Russians that he doesn't care about their lives. The problem is it indeed very hard to argue that the Kremlin cares about Belgorod based on the events of the last four months, the evidence is in exactly the opposite direction.

♡ LIKE (9) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE

...

94 replies by Simplicius and others

394 more comments...

© 2024 Simplicius76 · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Collection notice](#)
[Substack](#) is the home for great culture