

SITREP 5/26/24: NATO's Yipping Chihuahuas Strain Their Leash as Russia Gears Up for Next Wave



SIMPLICIUS

MAY 27, 2024



568



595

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We start today with a new Hollywood production that must be seen to be believed for its crass dramatization and phony caricaturization of the war by the actor Zelensky:



He's trying to galvanize European support on the eve of the Swiss "Peace Conference" coming up in the middle of June, where he hopes to make some grand gesture toward solidarity against Russia.

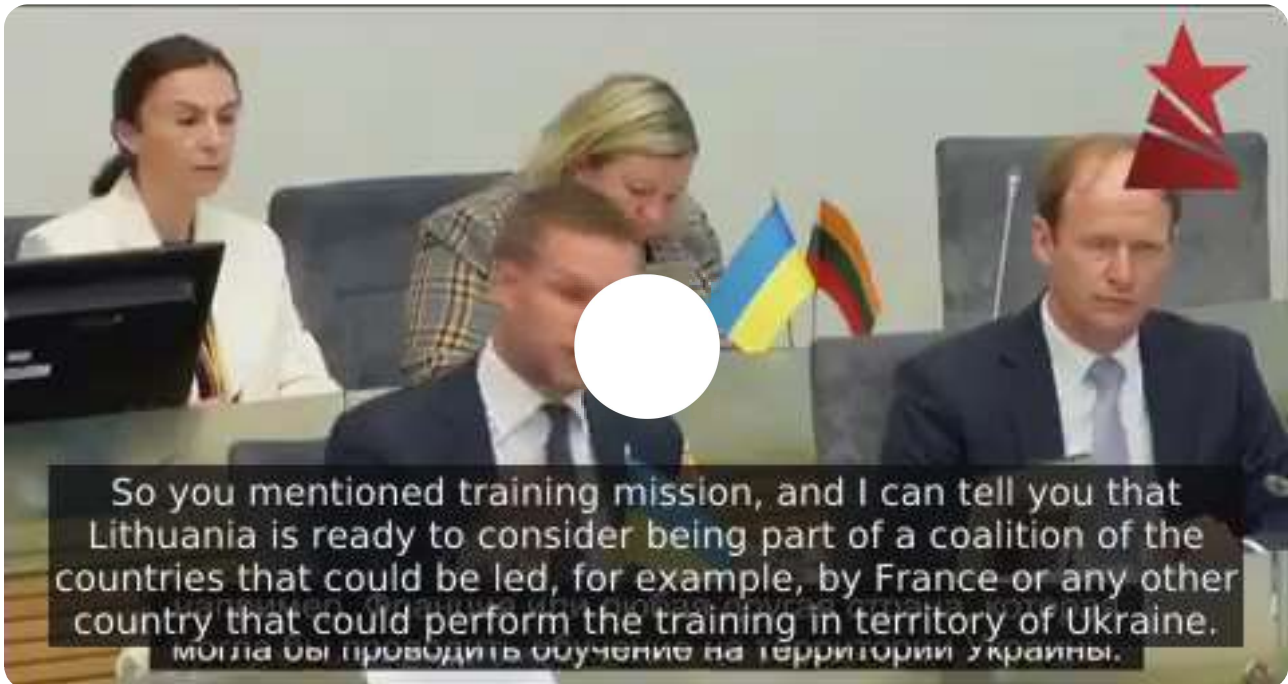
In the above performance, by the way, he cites Russia's destruction of Ukrainian books as some sort of tragedy, even crudely invoking *Fahrenheit 451* for some emotive effect; how convenient, then, that he leaves out his own Guy Montag moment:



Funny how some books are more valuable than others.

But getting back:

The ongoing effort being coordinated from the highest offices of the shadow deepstate of the Atlanticist West sees a major campaign of European/NATO pressure against Russia with threats of boots on the ground. This has picked up pace, with Lithuanian foreign minister Landsbergis attempting to take the lead in sending troops for the putative purpose of 'training' on Ukraine's territory:



Meanwhile, Der Spiegel writes that the Baltics and Poland “will not wait” for Russian troops to be “deployed on their border” and would send troops to Ukraine *if* Russian forces achieve a major breakthrough:

Possibly the decisive phase of the war

On the sidelines of the Lennart Meri Conference on foreign and security policy in the Estonian capital Tallinn last week, Baltic MPs warned government representatives from Berlin about the consequences of German policy. Their argument goes like this: If the Russians manage to achieve a strategic breakthrough in eastern Ukraine because the West is only half-heartedly helping Kiev, the situation could escalate dramatically.

In such a case, the Baltic states and Poland would not wait until Russian troops were deployed on their border, the Baltic politicians warned - they would send troops into Ukraine themselves. And what that means is clear: NATO would become a party to the war. This is exactly what the Chancellor and the US President are rightly afraid of. Anyone who wants to limit the war through excessive restraint actually risks it getting out of control, according to the analysis.

I suppose the Baltics aren't great with geography, given that they already share a border with Russia.

But beyond that, they continue to seed the ground with potential falseflag justifications for some type of war against Russia. This week, the new claim of 'threat' is Russia allegedly seeking to capture Finland's Åland Islands:

NATO Cries Wolf Over Finnish Islands to Hype 'Russian Threat' Narrative

Yesterday

NATO Faces Dilemma over Baltic Sea Islands Eyed by Russia

Published May 24, 2024 at 9:16 AM EDT

Updated May 24, 2024 at 9:29 AM EDT

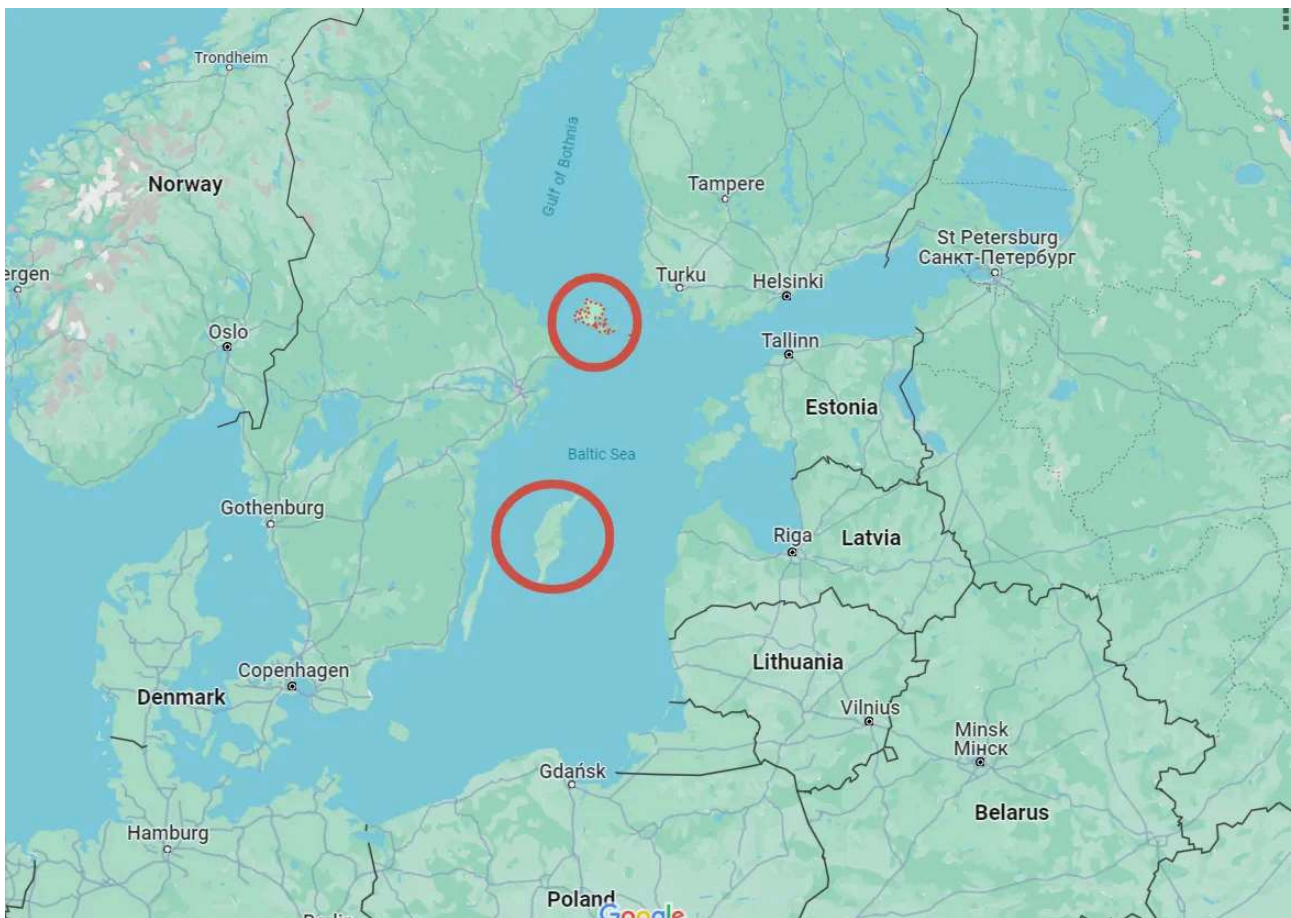
<https://www.newsweek.com/nato-dilemma-baltic-sea-islands-eyed-russia-gotland-aland-1904436>

This is lurid absurdity and tragicomedy in one. How abjectly brainwashed and brainless does one's populace have to be to truly believe Russia seeks to invade those worthless islands belonging to two insignificant countries? From the Newsweek article above:

Sweden's NATO accession has made the Gotland issue even more pointed. "I'm sure that Putin even has both eyes on Gotland," Micael Bydén—the supreme commander of Sweden's armed forces—told the German editorial network RND this week. "Putin's goal is to gain control of the Baltic Sea."

"If Russia takes control and seals off the Baltic Sea, it would have an enormous impact on our lives—in Sweden and all other countries bordering the Baltic Sea. We can't allow

that," Bydén added.



This is of course all part and parcel to the longstanding 3SI or **Three Seas Initiative**, the cabal's plan to extend the Empire's hegemony over all the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Sea.

The hysteria continues apace with the corporate deepstate mill churning out one fake after another to propagandize European chattel into total fear and obedience into accepting the corporo-banking cabal's need for global war:

The New York Times

[Russia-Ukraine War >](#)[Photos](#)[Maps](#)[Zelensky Interview](#)[Disrupting Starlink Service](#)[A White House Debate](#)**RVvoenkory**

Russia Steps Up a Covert Sabotage Campaign Aimed at Europe

Russian military intelligence, the G.R.U., is behind arson attacks aimed at undermining support for Ukraine's war effort, security officials say.

Sure, it's *Russia* that's sabotaging everything, not the guys who did Nordstream.

The U.S. in the meantime has stepped up provocations of its own by flying nuclear bombers over the Baltics in a clearly threatening continuation of the campaign to pressure and rattle Russia, displaying some sort of 'solidarity of strength':



-- GEROMAN -- time will tell - 🌐 -- ✓
@GeromanAT

...

When US is doing it it is called deterrence - when Russia is doing it it is called blackmailing.

(International Rules based Order)

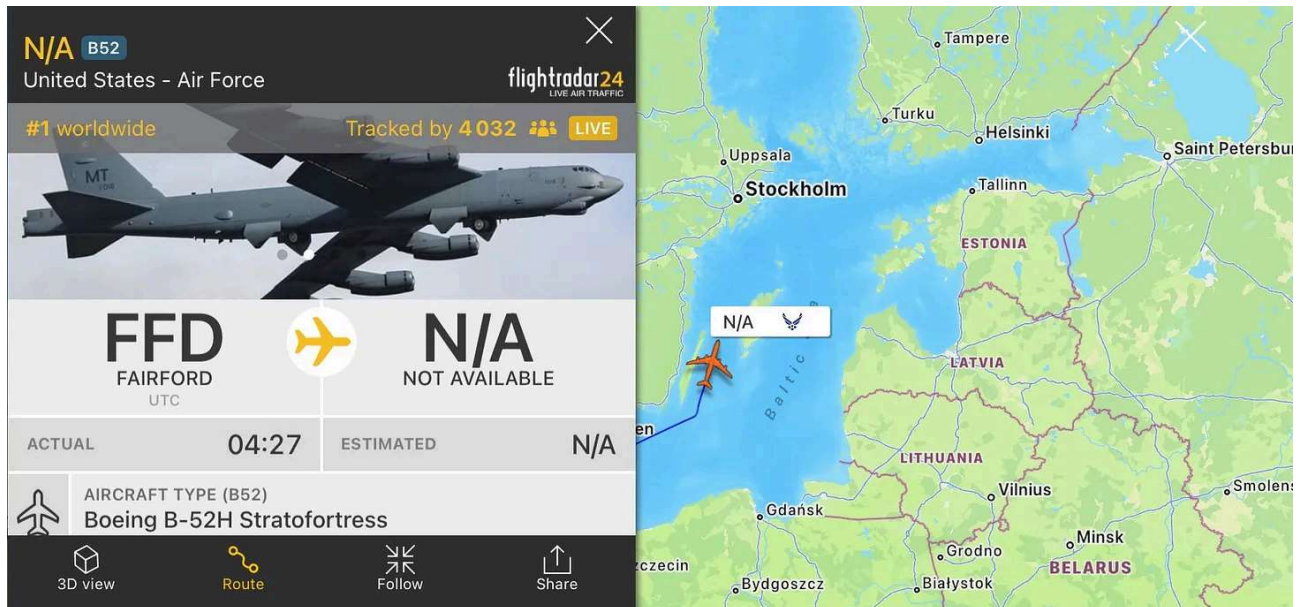


MenchOsint ✓ @MenchOsint · May 24



US Air Force B-52 Stratofortress Nuclear Strategic Bomber over the Baltics. (Reg. 61-0018)

Alrrady many USAF B-1 Bombers have been deployed near the Russian border. Deterrence ? Threatening ?



Interestingly, [a video has appeared](#) showing Russian troops dismantling navigation buoys on the Narva River between Russia and the ‘dwarf country’ of Estonia:

⚡ 🔥 ⚡ In the video, Russian border guards dismantle navigation buoys installed by Estonia.

The line of control on the Narva River is reviewed every spring as the course of the river changes over time.

Before the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine, the buoys were mainly installed by mutual agreement between Russia and Estonia, but since 2023 the Russian side no longer agrees with Estonia's position on the location of the buoys, the Estonian department reports ⚡ 🔥



Visegrád 24 @visegrad24 · 6h



BREAKING:

Last night, Russia removed the light buoys delineating the border between Russia and Estonia in the Narva river.

This happened after previous reports stating that Russia intends to unilaterally change its maritime borders with Finland and Estonia.

   is



While Russian MOD reportedly proposed moving Russia's border within the Baltic Sea:

Russian Ministry of Defense proposed moving Russia's border with Lithuania and Finland in the Baltic Sea

Russia believes that the current border was approved in 1985 and does not correspond to the current "geographical situation."

The new border will allow the use of the Baltic Sea as internal sea waters. Rosreestr was instructed to take into account changes in the Russian state border in the Baltic Sea, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was instructed to deposit copies of the adjusted and reissued maps with the UN Secretary General.

The changes are expected to come into force in January 2025

"Hybrid Pressure": Russian Proposal To Change Baltic Sea Border Briefly Appears Online



BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024 - 02:45 AM

Russia just **gave its Baltic neighbors a big scare this week**, after a new draft decree appeared on a government website published by the defense ministry which proposed redrawing 100+ year old borders around Russian islands in the Gulf of Finland as well as around the exclave of Kaliningrad.

The draft appeared briefly on Russia's TASS news agency **only to disappear by Wednesday**, where a page at the link said "draft deleted". Russian media has since denied that there are any such plans to move sea borders deeper into Baltic waters.

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/hybrid-pressure-russian-draft-proposal-change-baltic-sea-border-briefly-appears-online>



Maritime boundaries in the Baltic Sea. Source: The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission



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2/ The Russian MoD produced a since-deleted document proposing that the Russian government should reassess the 1985 maritime borders in the Gulf of Finland because these borders were based on outdated "small-scale nautical navigation maps" developed in the mid-20th century.

The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) proposed on May 21 that the Russian government reassess Russia's maritime borders in the Baltic Sea so that these borders "correspond to the modern geographical situation." [1] The Russian MoD produced a since-deleted document, which appeared on the Russian government's legal portal on May 21, proposing that the Russian government should reassess the 1985 maritime borders in the Gulf of Finland because these borders were based on outdated "small-scale nautical navigation maps" developed in the mid-20th century. [2] The document proposed to partially recognize the 1985 resolution as "defunct." The document suggested that the Russian government should adjust the maritime border coordinates in the Gulf of Finland in the zone of Jähi, Sommers, Gogland, Rodsher, Malyy Tyuters, and Vigrund islands and near the northern delta of the Narva River. The document also proposed that the Russian government revise the area of the Curonian Spit, Cape Taran, a cape south of Cape Taran, and the Vistula Spit in the Baltic Sea. Sommers, Gogland, Rodsher, Malyy Tyuters, and Vigrund island are under Russian control, while Russia and Finland split control over the Jähi island. The northern delta of the Narva River is located between Russia and Estonia, while the Curonian Spit leads to the international border between Russia and Lithuania. The Vistula Spit (also known as the Baltic Spit in Russia) is split between Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia and Poland, and Cape Taran is just northwest of Kaliningrad City. The document stated that these proposed changes would establish a system of baselines for maritime borders on the southern part of the Russian islands in the eastern part of Gulf of Finland as well as in the areas of Baltiysk and Zelenogradsk, both in Kaliningrad Oblast. The document also noted that these changes will allow Russia to use corresponding water areas as Russian internal sea waters, and that the line of the Russian state border will shift due to the changes in the position of the external border of the territorial sea.

Well, two can play the game of cheap theater. Plus, if true, the above is likely a preemptive prophylactic against a move the Baltics had already threatened for a while since the start of the SMO: to play 'games' with their EEZs (Economic Exclusivity Zones) by widening them in the Gulf of Finland and elsewhere to prevent the Russian fleet's ability to make passage of any kind.

Estonian foreign ministry wants to extend controlled maritime area

NEWS

ERR

17.01.2023 11:00



<https://news.err.ee/1608853667/estonian-foreign-ministry-wants-to-extend-controlled-maritime-area>

Zone's width would vary

Both Lott and Land explained, that Estonia and Finland have established their territorial sea boundaries in the Gulf of Finland, in a way that allows for a three-nautical-mile-wide free navigable area on either side of the gulf's central line.

While under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a contiguous zone could extend up to 12 nautical miles from the outer limit of a state's territorial sea, that would not be possible in the Gulf of Finland. Therefore, the zone's size would need to be limited to the center line of the gulf. That is, a maximum of three nautical miles from the outer limit of the Estonian territorial sea.

Further west however, the zone could extend up to 24 nautical miles from the baseline of Estonia's territorial sea.

Similar move by Finland would be welcomed

Meanwhile the [Estonian president Alar Karis](#) stated that the West “*must bring Putin and Russia to their knees*” before any serious negotiations can ensue:

- We will do everything we can to bring Russia and Putin to their knees. Then the serious discussions can begin to end the war in Ukraine.



Estonian President Alar Karis shares his views on Russia's future.

<https://yle.fi/a/74-20090085>

More and more the Atlanticist cabal of the EU and DC-controlled West are demonstrating just how totalitarian and undemocratic they've become. Yesterday a quite revealing story surfaced from the current Georgian prime minister Irakli Kobakhidze about how he was essentially threatened with assassination by EU commissioner Olivér Várhelyi for his perceived 'pro-Russian' foreign agent law.

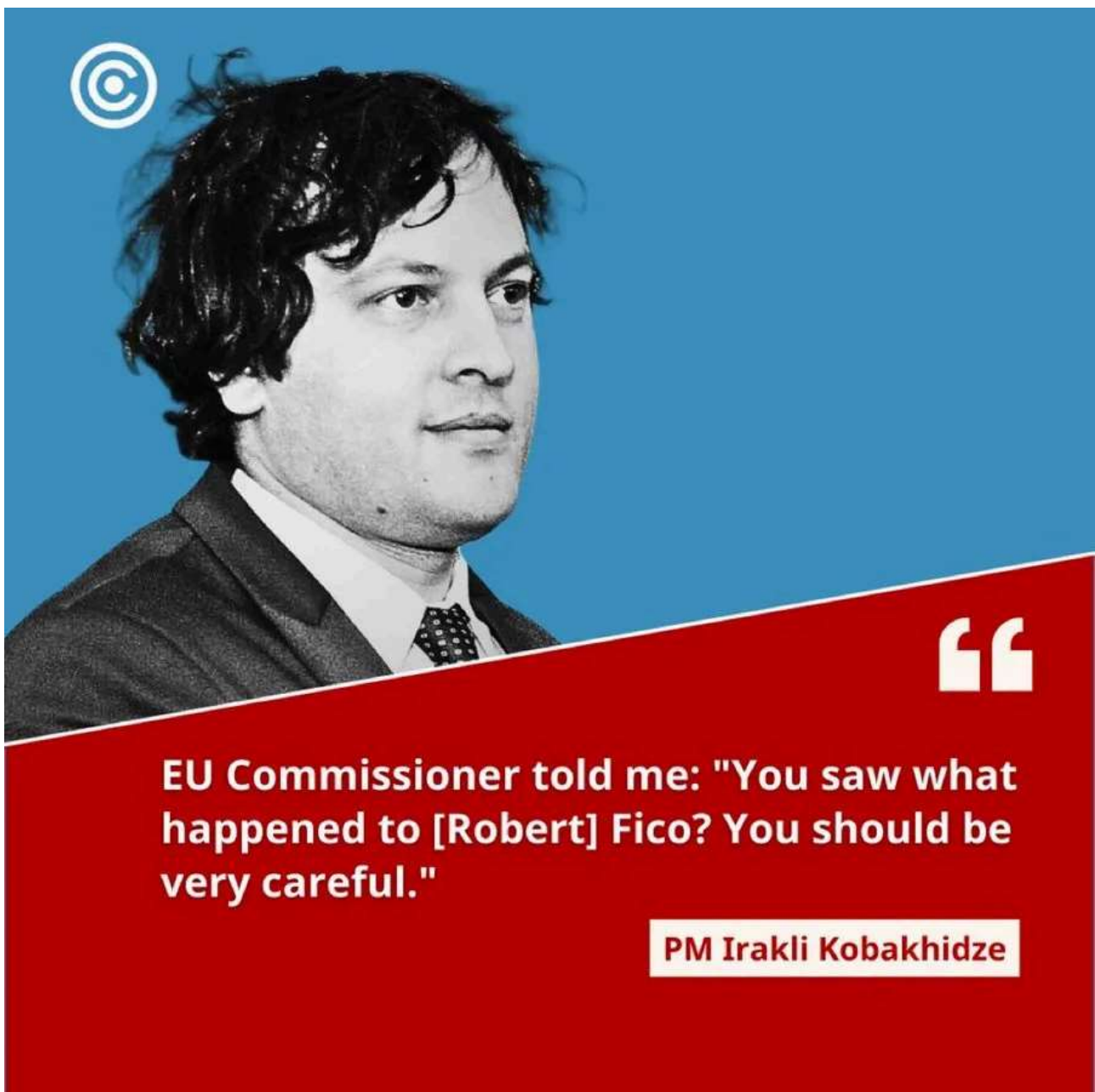
Shock: EU Official Appears to Issue Mafia-Like Threat to Georgian Prime Minister

Yesterday

DEATH THREAT: Georgian PM Says EU Commissioner Menaced Him With 'The Fate of Robert Fico', as the US Increases Pressure Against 'Foreign Agent Law'


By Paul Serran May. 23, 2024 8:40 pm

 Georgian PM accuses EU of 'blackmailing' him with assassination threat




But most shocking of all, instead of being buried in the mill of the ‘interesting/probable but unverifiable’ as is usually the case with such juicy rumors, the actual EU official in question came out and *outright admitted it*—but, of course, he

couched it with an excuse about how he was actually trying to *help* Kobakhidze by warning him that he was engendering a 'dangerous' sentiment which could lead to a similar fate as that of the recently shot Robert Fico:

 An official EU website


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STATEMENT

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23 May 2024

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Brussels

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1 min read

Statement by Commissioner Várhelyi

In the current political situation of Georgia, I have been investing major efforts in dissuading the Georgian political leadership to adopt the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence which can undermine Georgia's EU path.

Being fully aware of the very strong pro-EU sentiment of the Georgian society, **during my phone conversation I felt the need to call the attention of the Prime Minister on the importance not to enflame further the already fragile situation by adopting this law which could lead to further polarisation and to possible uncontrolled situations on the streets of Tbilisi. In this regard, the latest tragic event in Slovakia was made as an example and as a reference to where such high level of polarisation can lead in a society even in Europe.**

Once again, I regret that one part of my phone call was not just fully taken out of context but was also presented to the public in a way which could give rise to a complete misinterpretation of the originally intended aim of my phone call.

I am still urging the Georgian authorities not to adopt this law.

Commissioner Várhelyi: "Being fully aware of the very strong pro-EU sentiment of the Georgian society, during my phone conversation I felt the need to call the attention of the Prime Minister on the importance not to enflame further the already fragile situation by adopting this law which could lead to further polarisation and to possible uncontrolled situations on the streets of Tbilisi. In this regard, the latest tragic event in Slovakia was made as an example and as a reference to where such high level of polarisation can lead in a society even in Europe. Once again, I regret that one part of my phone call was not just fully taken out of context but was also presented to the public in a way which could give rise to a complete misinterpretation of the originally intended aim of my phone call."

How noble of him!

Do you see how these gangsters operate? Is it any coincidence that just as their global cabal begins crumbling at speed we witness them resort to the furthest scale of desperate tactics? Iran's entire ruling government taken out, Robert Fico shot, now Georgian PM being openly threatened with assassination; that's likely just the tip of the iceberg we can see—many other resistance sphere leaders and politicians most likely face quieter threats which they don't make public.

Kobakhidze also gave another interesting statement about how the U.S. has been trying to turn Georgia into a war front against Russia since 2002:



Naturally, the timing comes right after Putin took office, and was merely the continuation of the Chechen war of the caucuses that the CIA lost and for which it needed a replacement to keep Russia from ever rising from its knees. Of course, the first Ukrainian color (Orange) revolution occurred not long after that in 2004—the opening sallies of a long multi-vectored war to destroy Russia and balkanize the Slavic people, which are not only the most numerous ethnicity in all of Europe, but represent the greatest threat to the Anglo-Atlanticist Empire.



On the heels of all the hysteria amid Ukraine's ongoing collapse, we have the latest establishment publication from another neocon writing for the CFR's 'Foreign Affairs':

A Theory of Victory for Ukraine

With the Right Support and Approach, Kyiv Can Still Win

By **Andriy Zagorodnyuk and Eliot A. Cohen** May 21, 2024

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/theory-victory-ukraine>

If you want a laugh, by the way, check 'Eliot Cohen's' reputation:

Political views [edit]

Statements on US foreign policy [edit]

Cohen was one of the first neoconservatives to publicly advocate war against [Iran](#) and [Iraq](#). In a November 2001 op-ed for *The Wall Street Journal*, Cohen identified what he called *World War IV* and advocated the overthrow of Iran's government as a possible next step for the [Bush Administration](#). Cohen claimed "regime change" in Iran could be accomplished with a focus on "pro-Western and anticlerical forces" in the Middle East and suggested that such an action would be "wise, moral and unpopular (among some of our allies)". He went on to argue that such a policy was as important as the then identified goal of [Osama bin Laden's](#) capture: "The overthrow of the first theocratic revolutionary Muslim state and its replacement by a moderate or secular government, however, would be no less important a victory in this war than the annihilation of bin Laden."^[13]

Later in 2001, Cohen, in what was becoming a dominant theme of his writing, advocated war against Iraq once again and proceeded to outline how effortless such a military campaign would be:

In short, another racist warmongering Zionist neocon responsible for millions of deaths in the Middle East.

His latest masterpiece attempts to belly our sails with the laughable "theory" that Ukraine can still win the war. In the farcical piece the scheming little vermin openly salivates over doing grave damage to Russian 'society':

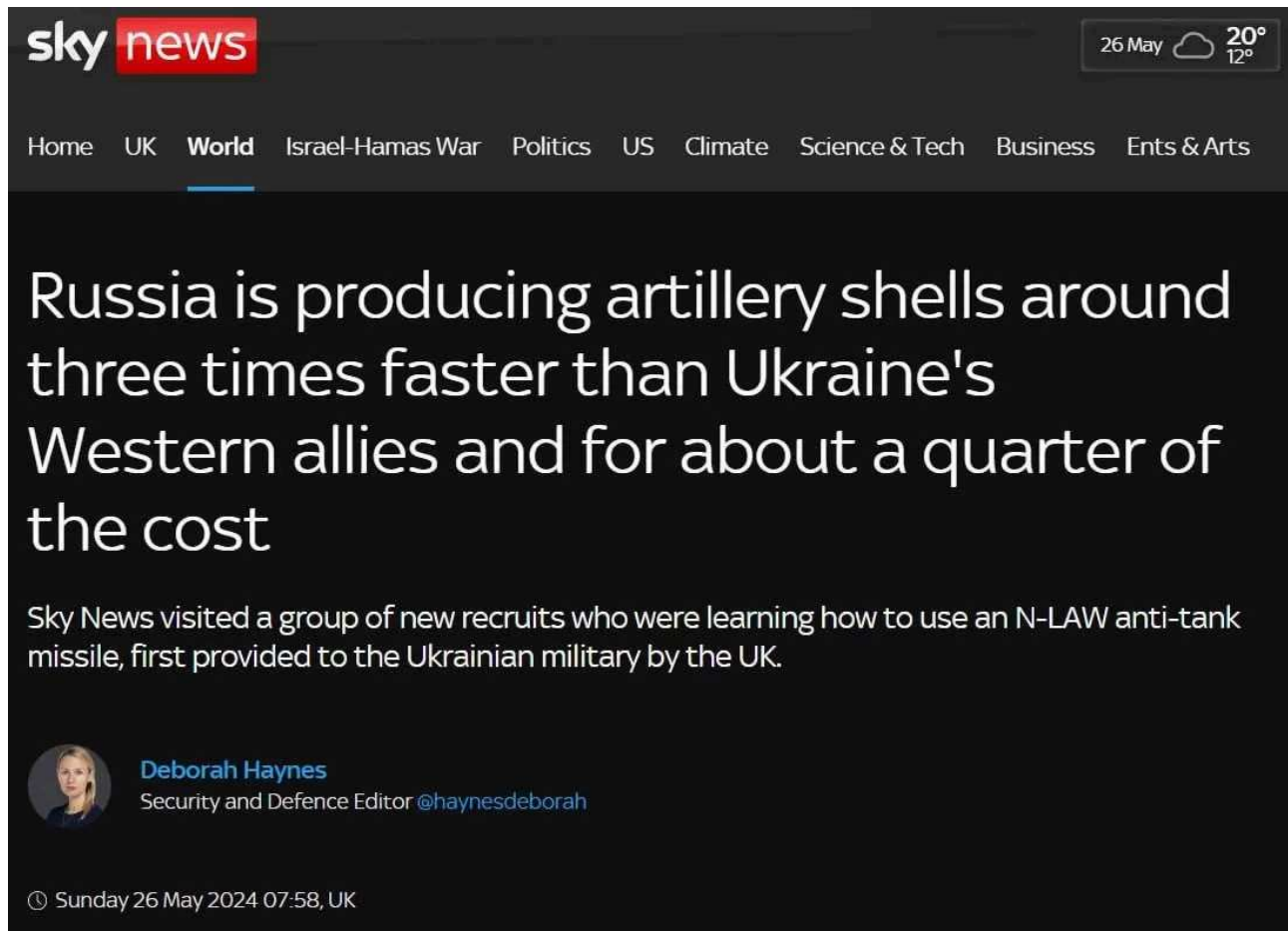
Threatening Russia's control of Crimea—and inflicting grave damage to its economy and society—will, of course, be difficult. But it is a more realistic strategy than the proposed alternative: a negotiated settlement while Putin is

Unfortunately most of his laughable analysis is premised on total narcissistic hubris:

[Russia's] artillery systems are based on old models and lack precision and long-range capabilities, and its multiple-launch rocket systems, tanks, and aviation equipment are no match for Western models. If Ukraine can increase precision strikes by long-range artillery, it can turn the war's arithmetic against Russia and impose an unacceptable rate of attrition on Moscow.

He goes on to cite ISIS's "shocking success" in striking Moscow as clear evidence of the vulnerability of Putin's putative regime. Need one say more about such analysis? And this is the Empire's best on offer.

Now, mainstream press continues squealing about Russian production advantages.



The image is a screenshot of a Sky News website page. At the top left is the 'sky news' logo. At the top right, it shows the date '26 May' with a cloud icon, and the temperature '20°' with a '12°' below it. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: 'Home', 'UK', 'World' (which is underlined), 'Israel-Hamas War', 'Politics', 'US', 'Climate', 'Science & Tech', 'Business', and 'Ents & Arts'. The main headline reads: 'Russia is producing artillery shells around three times faster than Ukraine's Western allies and for about a quarter of the cost'. Below the headline is a sub-headline: 'Sky News visited a group of new recruits who were learning how to use an N-LAW anti-tank missile, first provided to the Ukrainian military by the UK.' Below this is a profile picture of Deborah Haynes, followed by her name 'Deborah Haynes' and her title 'Security and Defence Editor' with a Twitter handle '@haynesdeborah'. At the bottom left, it says '🕒 Sunday 26 May 2024 07:58, UK'.


sky news

26 May 20° 12°

Home UK **World** Israel-Hamas War Politics US Climate Science & Tech Business Ents & Arts

Russia is producing artillery shells around three times faster than Ukraine's Western allies and for about a quarter of the cost

Sky News visited a group of new recruits who were learning how to use an N-LAW anti-tank missile, first provided to the Ukrainian military by the UK.

 **Deborah Haynes**
Security and Defence Editor @haynesdeborah

🕒 Sunday 26 May 2024 07:58, UK

The research on artillery rounds by Bain & Company, which drew on publicly available information, found that Russian factories were forecast to manufacture or refurbish about 4.5 million artillery shells this year compared with a combined production of about 1.3 million rounds across European nations and the US.

On cost, it said the average production cost per 155 mm shell - the type produced by NATO countries - was about \$4,000 (£3,160) per unit, though it varied significantly between countries. This is compared with a reported Russian production cost of around \$1,000 (£790) per 152 mm shell that the Russian armed forces use.

So, they claim Russia is now or soon to be doing 4.5M shells per year, which is 375,000 a month, which further allows the firing of 12,500 per day. Recall the U.S.

recently celebrated achieving 36,000 per month production:



OSINTtechnical ✓
@Osinttechnical



Per VOA, the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant is now producing more than 36,000 155mm shells per month.

The numbers of Russia's daily firing rate appear to accord with recent Ukrainian battlefield updates, like this one from a UA soldier's Twitter today:



Kriegsforscher @OSINTua · 49m

...

And now the most important thing: from 6:00 till 15:00 EVERY minute Russians were firing from 6 to 12 artillery shells. Every minute without stopping. U may count the approximate total amount.

And 5 guided bombs.



6



24



249



9.7K



Kriegsforscher @OSINTua · 48m

...

Our forces also fired back. Approximately 25-35 mortar shells, 10-20 artillery shells and 15-20 MRLS rockets.

That's about artillery shelling advantage.



3



10



244



9.7K



Kriegsforscher @OSINTua · 45m

...

Thanks God they were not firing at us.

All their artillery placed in Russia. They are firing everywhere and burning everything: villages, Vovchansk, forest.

But we cannot fire back with US (and others) supplied artillery from a safe distance.

Using the median of 9 shells per minute, 60 minutes x 9 hours = 4,860 shells per day fired just on the Volchansk front alone.

The West, however, *claims* to be steadily building up their productive capacities. A new Ukrainian report alleges that France is building a new 155mm shell plant in Belgium, which will be completed soon:

23 May, 2024

Production of artillery ammunition at o
Rheinmetall plants. Photo credits: Rhei
Munitions

France to open plant for production of 155mm shells in Belgium

Belgium # Europe # France # Military assistance # World

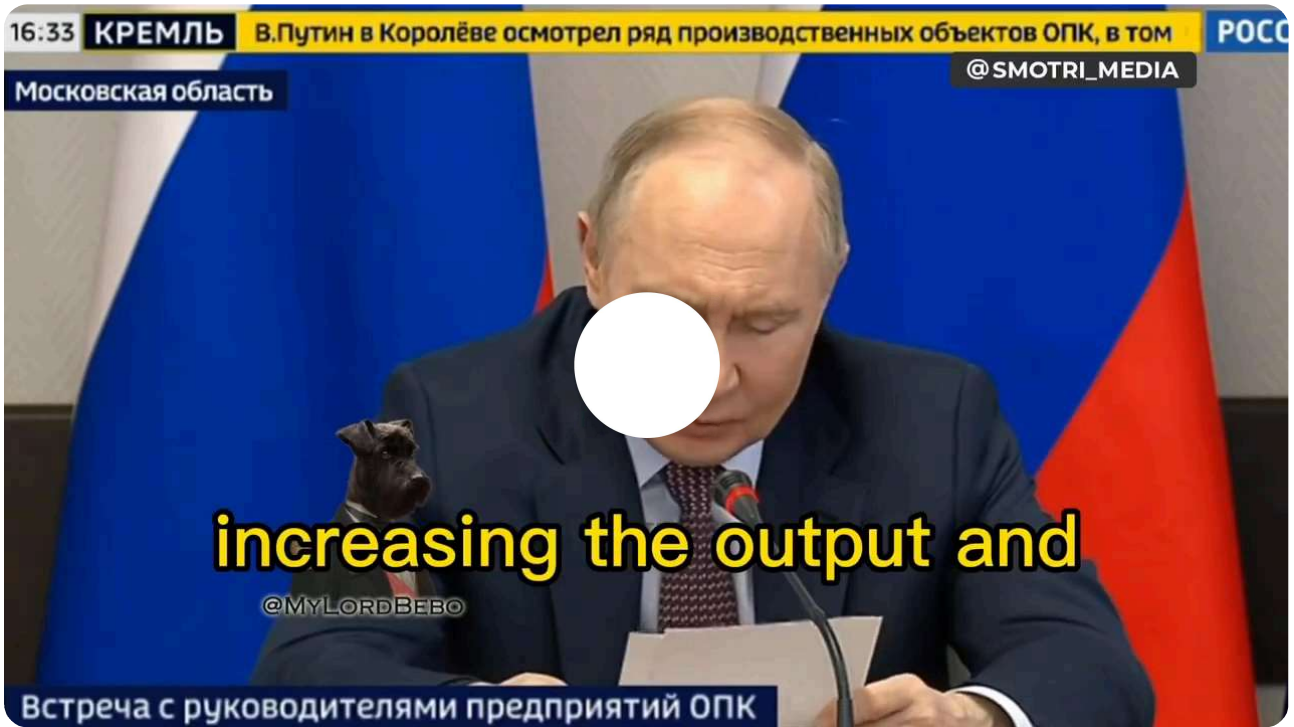
<https://mil.in.ua/en/news/france-to-open-plant-for-production-of-155mm-shells-in-belgium/>

Of course, the fine print on the bottom, as always, goes like this:

Despite the opening, the plant's full operation will begin no earlier than 2025, excluding the increase in production rates.

Meanwhile, Putin has continued to acknowledge our previous reporting about Russia's main aims in restructuring the armed forces. In a new speech given during his visit to the JSC Tactical Missile Corporation production site near Moscow, he openly announces the creation of a **People's MIC**.

Listen carefully below—he spells out precisely what I have been writing for the past several weeks, the dynamic collaboration and synthesis of both civilian/private innovation with the military technical enterprises of the State:



You see how he says that each Ruble has to work not only for the military but for the economy as a whole? This is the “dual use” technologies I was referring to. It is the development of technologies which can have versatile applications. For instance, an autonomous robotic vehicle which can both be used by the military for logistics transportation and deliveries as well as civilian markets in factories, foundries, etc. Although the ‘dual use’ concept extends to far more intricate manifestations like individual chips or components which can be interchanged between civilian/military systems and thus ordered wholesale en masse.

He further clinches it:

*The country’s defense industry, which has been booming amid the hostilities, must not only become more efficient in meeting the needs of the military, **but also diversify and become more involved in civilian manufacturing, according to Putin.***

“Delivering on this systemic objective is instrumental for streamlining the defense sector’s manufacturing potential and helping talented professionals advance their careers. Overall, this would create a more sustainable footing for defense manufacturers by offering them a solid economic and financial foundation in the long run,” he explained.

And the most important:

The president also touched upon the civilian crowd-funded military manufacturers that have emerged amid the hostilities. The solutions they offer – such as radio-electronic warfare devices or sophisticated drones – must be fast-tracked for adoption by the military, the president said.

“We must also be effective when using assets supplied by the so-called grassroots defense manufacturing sector. We must enable it to develop and expand its manufacturing operations, and introduce a fast-track procedure for supplying its most effective solutions to the army,” Putin stated.

In essence, when independent Russian teams innovate and create something functional and effective, there will now be a much more fluid pipeline connecting their designs directly to the MIC which will allow the instantaneous scaling and mass production of the product. This includes the things which Russian engineering teams are cobbling together on the frontline itself. As you know, many of the top Russian drone systems and other jury-rigged EW and other gizmos are made by soldiers on the front themselves, who have the direct frontline experience and capacity to immediately test them in real-world conditions, which no scientist sitting in some MIC lab can dream of expediently doing.

Now, Russia has identified this precise pipeline as critical to future development and will do everything possible to nourish and support its actualization and growth; *this* is what a major part of Putin and Belousov’s new initiative is all about.

If it wasn’t any clearer, here’s Russia’s chief of the Trade and Industry Ministry, Denis Manturov emphasizing the point:

⚡ In Russia, a new state weapons program is being formed with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Industry and Trade , said Denis Manturov.

In fact, this was part of a huge new initiative already launched, according to Manturov, which will entail a program for the years of 2025-2035. Critical to this sweeping initiative is the inter-marriage of Russia’s more ‘insular’ defense contractors with outside civilian developers that will loosen the innovation bottleneck. New defense minister Belousov [expanded on this further](#):

*According to Belousov, **the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation should "open" the Ministry of Defense for constructive work with scientific centers, participants in***

economic activities, manufacturers of military-technical products and components that are needed for the production of military equipment.

On the topic of Ukraine's mobilization bad news continues to pile up.

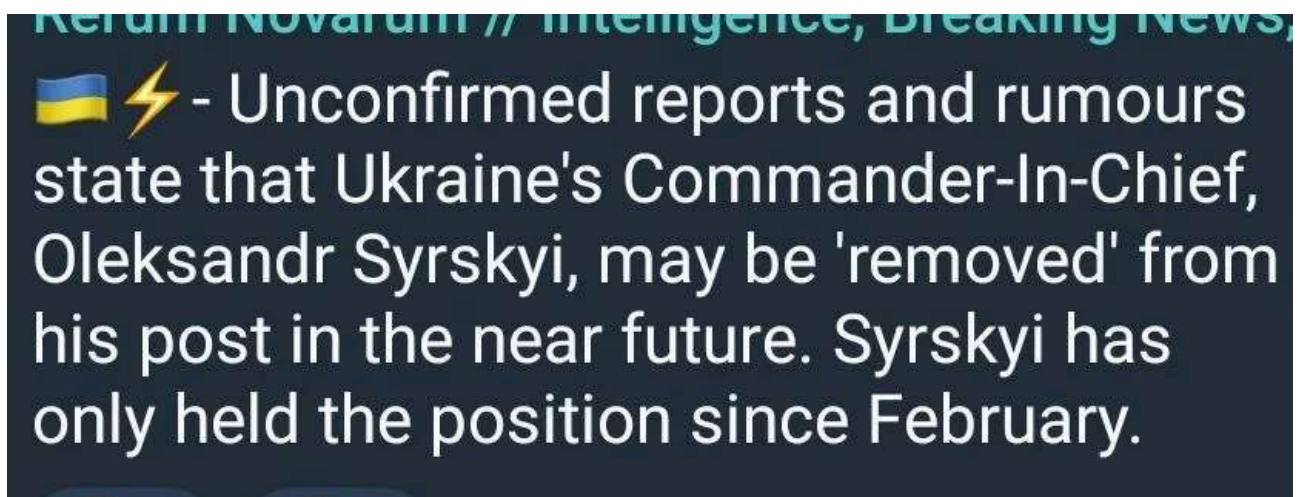
Firstly, as we know Ukraine began pulling mass amounts of men from brigades on other active fronts to staunch the territorial losses in the north Kharkov breakthrough. This has already had a deleterious effect, causing multiple losses of territory on other fronts as they have become majorly undermanned.

One of these is Khrynki, wherein immediately after UA's 36th Marines were pulled from there to help reinforce Kharkov it was announced that Khrynki was finally folding for good and that AFU were abandoning it for other more defensible islands nearby, though it hasn't been fully confirmed on the ground yet.

Elsewhere Russian forces have continued plowing along to the AFU's cries:



This has resulted in rumors that Syrskyi would be scapegoated by Zelensky:



As well as the reported announcement that the Ukrainian general staff would be 'scaled down' by 60%, with many sent to the front:

The General Staff of the Armed Forces is planned to be reduced by 60%, some soldiers will be sent to combat units

STANISLAV POHORIOV — FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024, 4:34 p.m.



8141

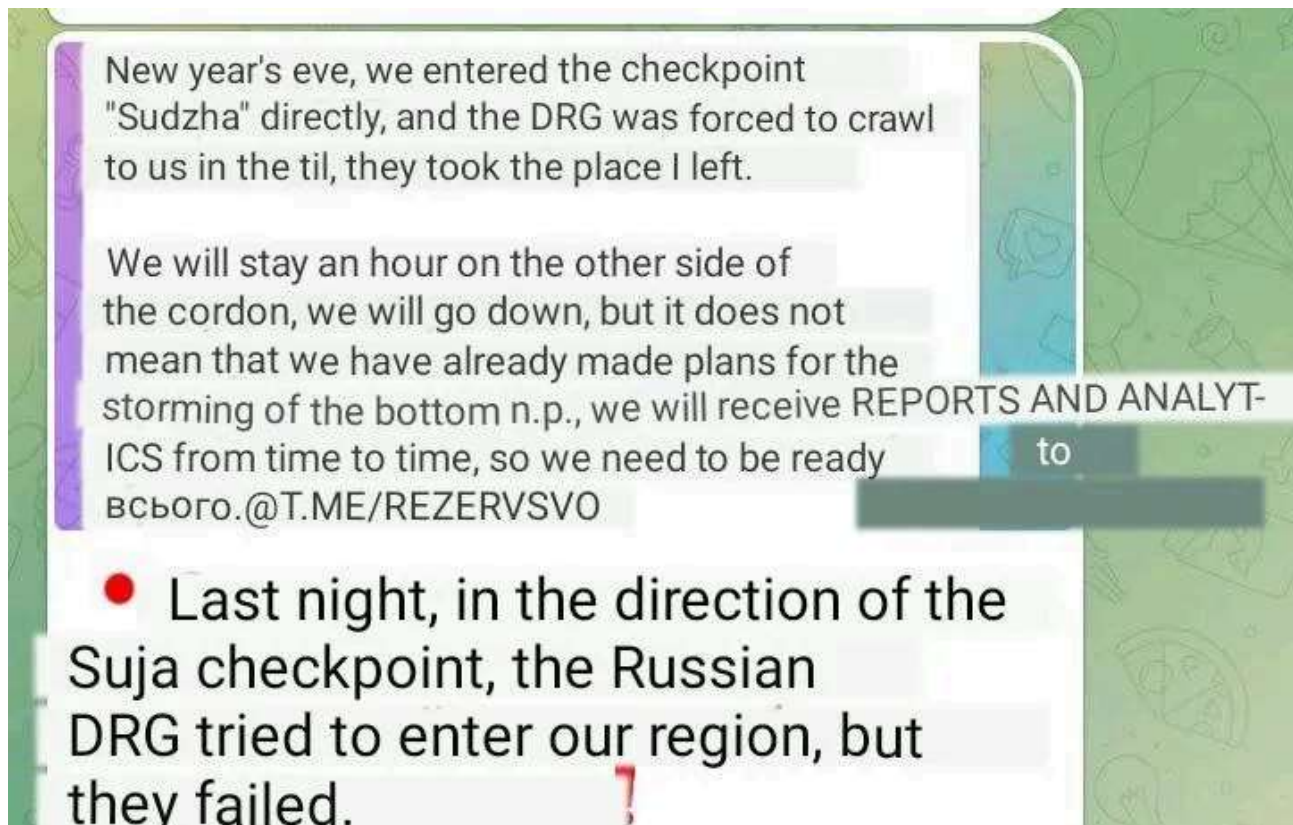


If there's even a hint of truth to the above, I'd far likelier wager the real reason being Zelensky's need to crop the command a tad in order to rein in growing prospects of military coup.

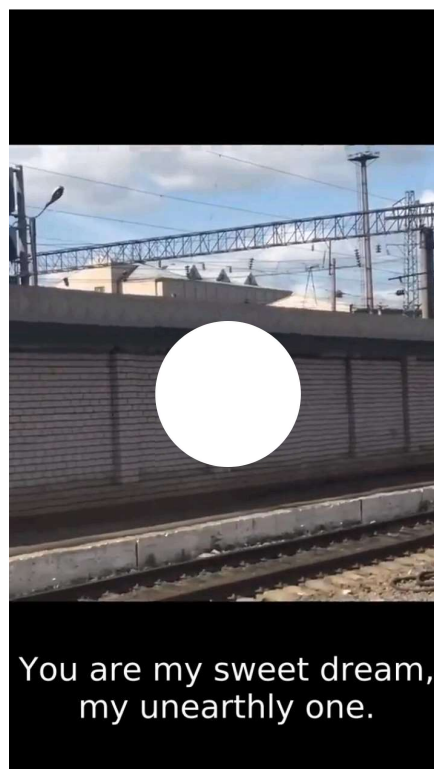
Now, rumor has it that after a small hiatus of regrouping, Russian forces are poised to make another large-scale broad-fronted attack across the entire front:

*In the coming Days/Weeks the entire Front will be activated from our side. In the coming hours the Regrouping and Rotation along the front will be completed. As already happened this morning in the Avdeevka area. And then our Troops began Offensive Operations again. This will happen in a timely manner from Zaporozhye to Kharkov. **Now the enemy is exhausted and forced to jump from A to B.** The Meat Grinder will start up at full speed shortly.*

This was followed by reports from the Ukrainian side that the Sumy border is getting hotter and hotter:

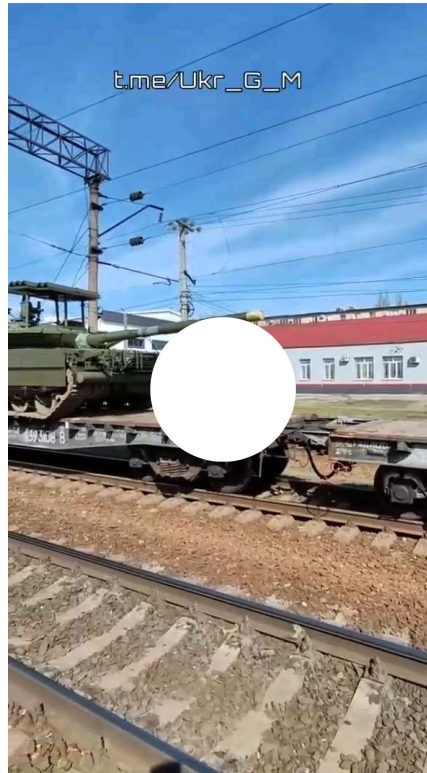


In light of this, large new echelons of equipment were spotted in Vologda, Russia headed to the northern front, sporting the new tactical markings:



The T-80BVM Obr. 2022 have the code 133 painted on their mudguards, which means they likely belong to Russia's 4th Guards Tank Division, 1st Guards Tank Army, Moscow (Western) Military District. 26 May 2024 Vologda, Vologda Oblast

And this is just a portion of the recent echelons seen being sent to the front elsewhere days ago:

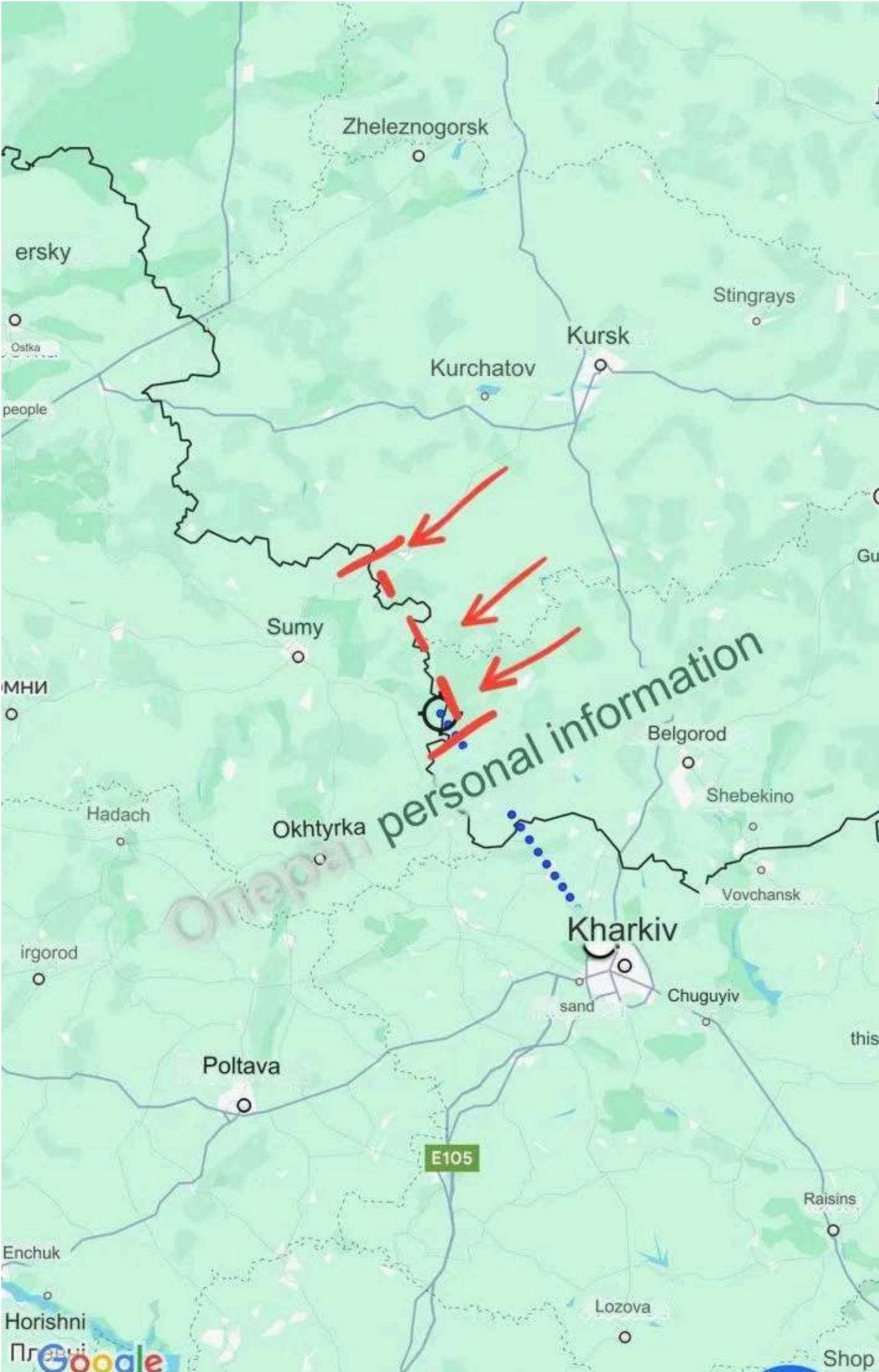


And finally, if you watched the end of the Zelensky presentation posted at the outset of this report, you'd note that he reveals that Russia is building a sizable force "90km northwest of Kharkov". This would put that force precisely opposite Sumy, slightly to its east:

Russia Plans New Offensive in Ukraine's Northeast, Zelensky Says

Moscow is again amassing forces near the border, President Volodymyr Zelensky said. His comments came as officials said that a Russian strike had killed at least 14 people in Kharkiv.

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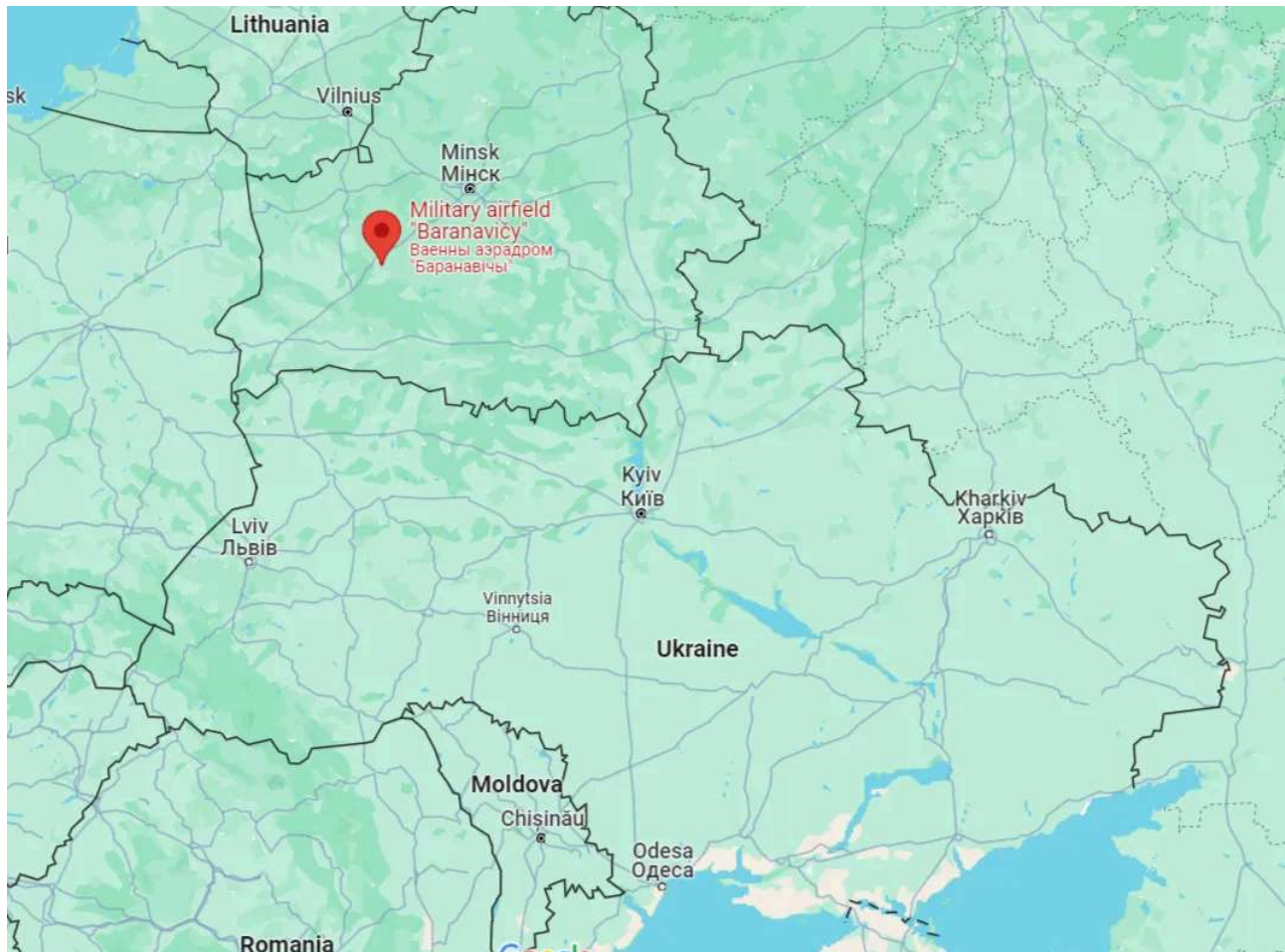
This may be the first time Zelensky has openly declared Russia's intention to strike in Sumy region, which means that time is likely nigh.

And lastly, in light of this, there is now the following very interesting report:

For the first time since the withdrawal in August last year, Mi-24 attack helicopters and multi-purpose Mi-8s of the Russian Army Aviation were deployed to the territory of the Baranovich military airfield near Minsk.

#Belarus

That being said, I'm not sure what that means, exactly, given that that airfield is far to the west of Belarus and not concomitant with a prospective Sumy incursion—or so it would seem.



But it could simply be Russia ‘loading the deck’ and getting all the old positions ready for combat for a variety of future incursions in different directions.

—

By the way, there was some chatter from concern trolls or doomsayers that Russia has gotten “bogged down” in Kharkov and that UA has even managed to retake a tiny bit of land near Lipty. The fact is, this is all according to plan thus far because Russia’s chief aim for now is not to retake much land up there but to do precisely what is being done—get Ukraine to redeploy mass amounts of reserves so they can be ground down there while thinning lines everywhere else and allowing Russian forces to bear down with disproportionate numbers on Ukrainian defenders in other key areas.

It’s like the old feint maneuver: you dash out aggressively while making a lot of noise to draw out your opponent, then quickly dig in and let him impale himself on your defensive bulwarks as he over-eagerly believes he’s “driving you out”. It’s the same tactic in stirring up a hornet’s nest to bring them out of hiding only for the exterminator to be lying in wait. This is called the rhythm and tempo of combat.

Russia is dancing all over NATO's dimwitted command at the moment, nimbly advancing, resetting, defending with the *ballon* of a ballerina. NATO dimwits simply can't wrap their heads around it and, judging by their "analysis" seen decorating the latrine stalls of social media, they're capable of interpreting only the straightforward, one dimensional, telegraphed tactical actions like "attack from point A to B and capture the objective". They don't have the instinct for multilevel planning and therefore can't possibly grasp the strategic throughline of the ongoing Kharkov operations.

A smattering of new headlines as a quick temp gauge:

Far from broken – analysis reveals shocking pace of ‘rebuilt’ Russian military

GEOPOLITICS & POLICY

23 MAY 2024 | By: Stephen Kuper

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Germany's Ukraine air defense initiative falls flat

Berlin promised to help Ukraine source crucial air defenses, but the reality has been disappointing.



MILITARY & DEFENSE

Western fighters in Ukraine are getting killed because they assumed the war would be easy, says a US veteran who fought there

Sinéad Baker May 23, 2024, 3:44 PM GMT+3

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Ukrainian servicemen fire a 122mm mortar towards Russian positions at the front line, near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine, in March 2024. AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky

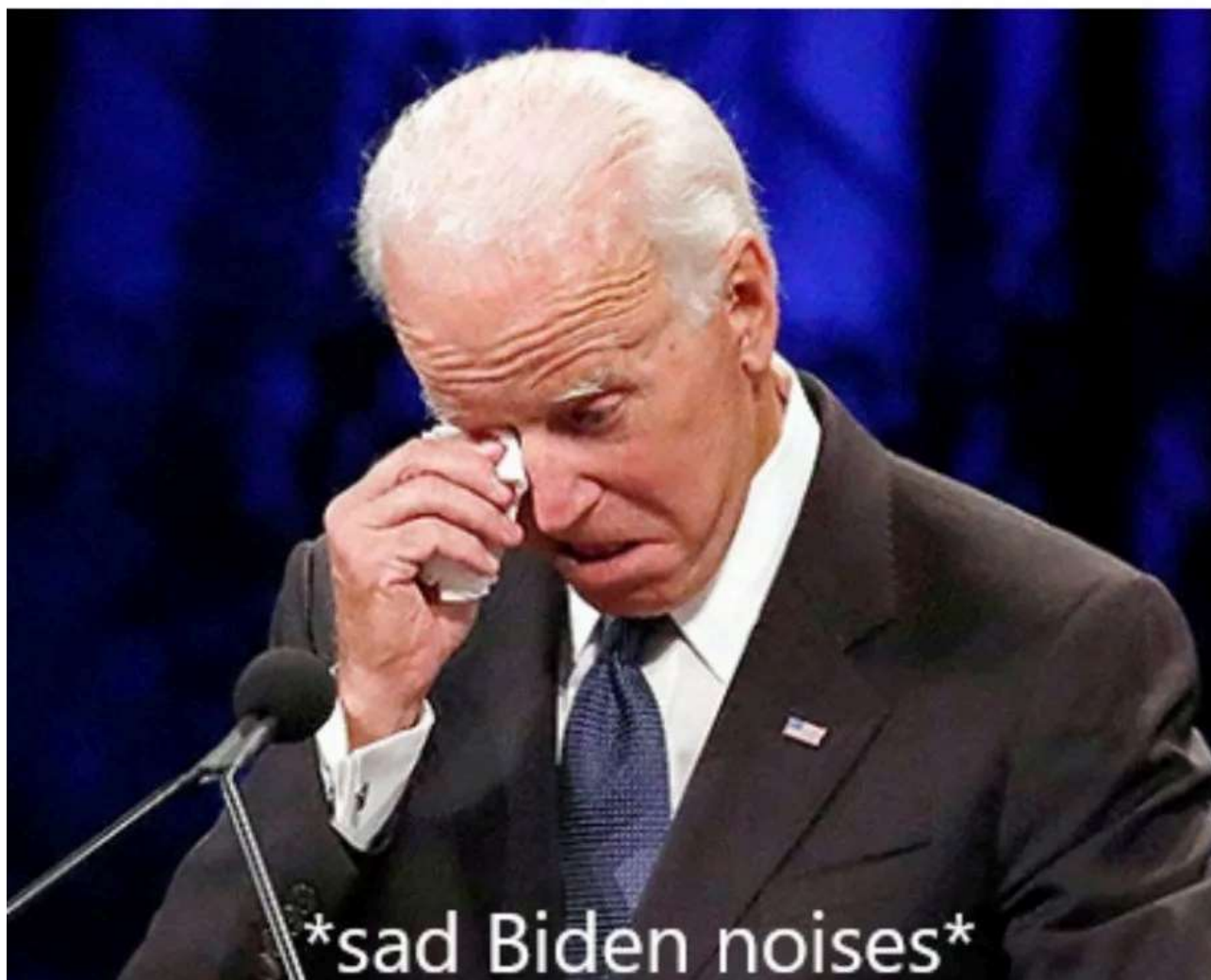
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sad Biden noises

‘Everyone will fight.’ Ukrainian men weigh their options as new draft law comes into effect

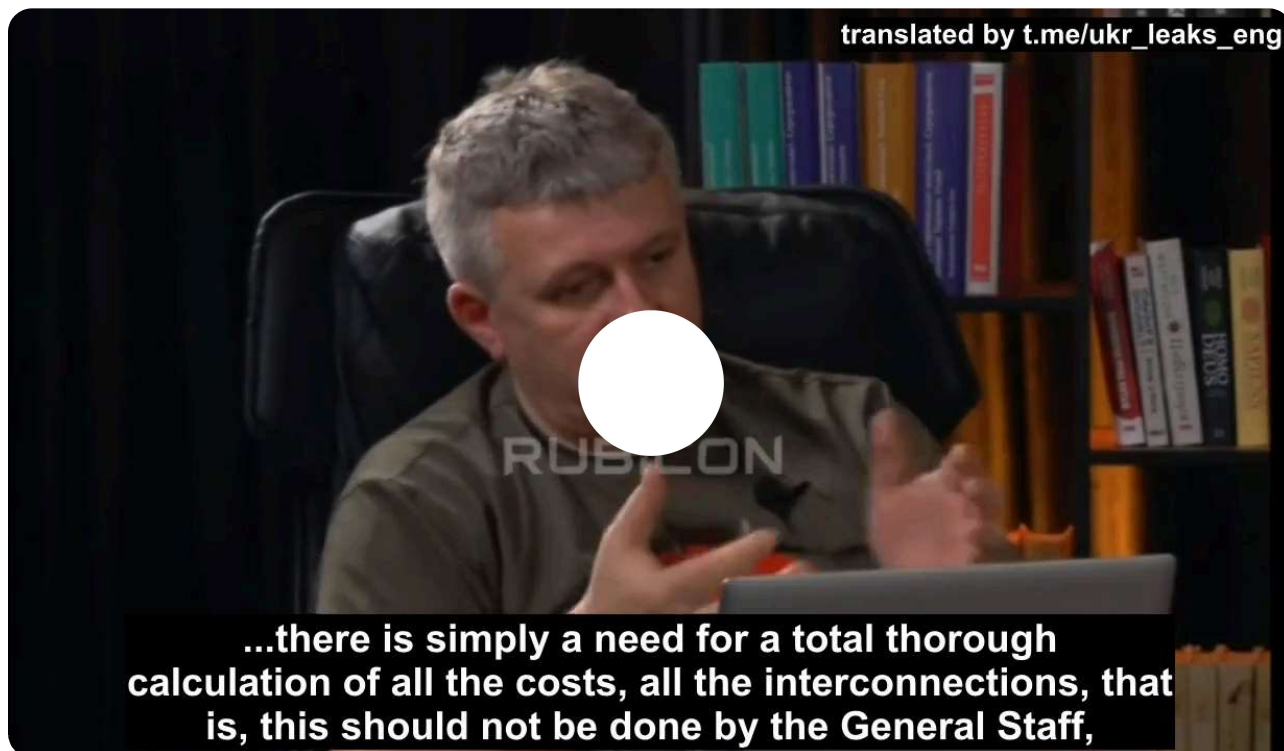
By Daria Tarasova-Markina, Svitlana Vlasova, Maria Kostenko, Olga Voitovych and Ivana Kottasová,
CNN

🕒 8 minute read

Published 1:00 AM EDT, Sat May 25, 2024



The above CNN piece about the draft in particular segues into this video where a Ukrainian official declares that all “women and children” must be driven into Ukraine’s enterprises (read: factories) to save the country:



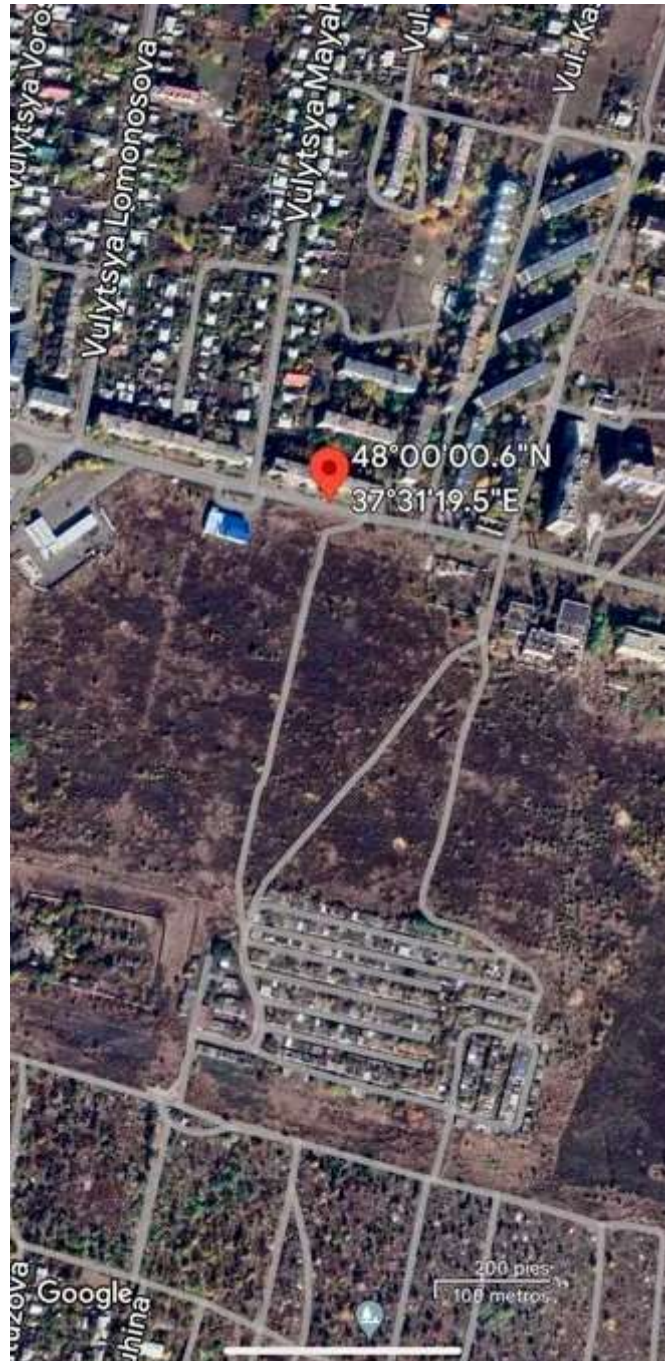
A last few interesting videos:

Two showcasing new Russian tank assaults, one where the tank is rinsing Ukrainian trenches at point blank range:



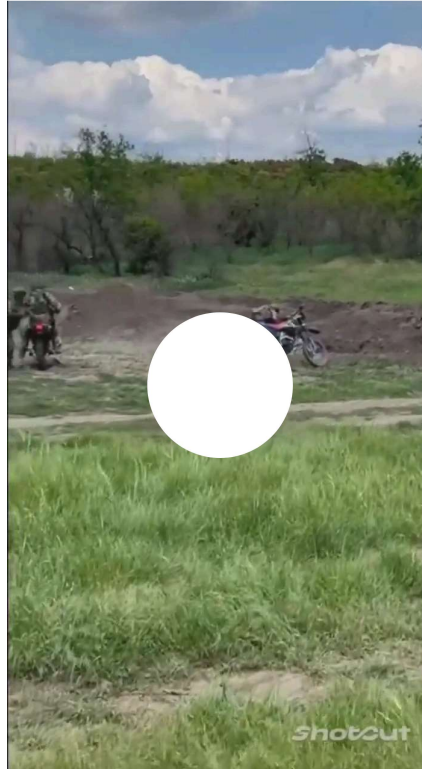
And another which shows the advancement and strengthening of successful Russian small armor unit maneuver tactics, in this case in Krasnogorovka:





At least two tank platoons (presumably T-72B/B3) of the 5th motorized rifle brigade named after the first head of the DPR A.V. Zakharchenko are advancing into the urban areas of Krasnogorovka with the aim of promptly providing fire support to platoon-tactical infantry assault groups of the Russian army. The vehicles operate direct and semi-direct fire at the firing positions of anti-tank systems, grenade launchers, as well as sniper groups of the AFU in multi-storey buildings in Krasnogorovka. At the moment, more than 50% of the territory of the settlement is under the physical control of the Russian army. Fire contact shifted to the central region and to the private sector in the northwestern part of Krasnogorovka

A video showcasing Russian forces training their new motorbike trench assault tactics, which have been seen used more and more on the frontline:



This is one way Russian units have successfully worked around the drone threats recently, by advancing very quickly in highly dispersed motorbike squads. Sure, there have been some spectacularly gruesome losses via successful drone hits on these bikes, but they lead to poor analysis via selection bias by Ukrainian “analysts” as one or two gruesome kills always has an overt emotional/psychological exaggerative effect while not accurately representing the vast successes the tactic has provably yielded thus far, as seen in many videos. *Any* assault has losses, obviously: but losing one or two bikes with a guy or two on each does not equate to losing several slow APCs filled with 10 men each. But critical thinking has never been the strong suit of the pro-NATO faction.

However, this tactic, too, will eventually lose its luster as drones get even more ubiquitous, autonomous, and generally accurate.

Lastly, as wanton demonstration of the U.S.’ flaunting of any real ethical global strictures or standards, compromised (and probably *kompromatized*) Zionist puppet Mike Johnson has now openly declared the U.S. does *not* follow international law, because no international law supercedes American sovereignty:



While that sounds great and is true on paper, it sets quite the obvious precedent for every other nation to follow. Why the hypocrisy and double standards on Russia and China, then? If international law should never take priority over national interests and sovereignty then why bleat about Russia's putative "breaking of international law", putting on theatrical virtue signaling performances of the enshrined 'hallowedness' of these 'inviolable' statutes? But everything is clear: it's why the U.S. itself is strategically clever in never using the designation when it applies to itself or allies. For Russia and China it's the hallowed 'international law', for the Atlanticist Empire and its putrid dependents and vassals, it's "Rules Based Order", which allows them to semantically skirt the inherent hypocrisy.

I'll leave you with this video of new defense minister Belousov being consecrated by Patriarch Kirill in the famed temple of the Russian Armed Forces near Moscow:



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