



*And must have whiskey  
Oh, you know why*

## « Recycling Old News Media Push For More War In Ukraine | Main

**May 28, 2025**

### **U.S.-Supplied Air Defenses Fail In Ukraine**

On May 23 the former Commander in Chief of the Ukrainian army had a pessimistic assessment of the war in Ukraine (machine translation):

Former commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and now Ambassador to the UK Valery Zaluzhny said that Russia has overtaken Ukraine in innovations on the battlefield.

...

According to him, Ukraine at the moment "does not manage to continuously generate and scale innovations, even in those areas where yesterday we were ahead of the enemy."

"The enemy has already overtaken us and we are lagging behind – and we must be honest about this," he said.

...

The ex-commander-in-chief believes that the Russian Federation is now waging a war of attrition. In response, it is necessary, according to Zaluzhny, "to undermine the economy and social component in order to deprive Russia of the possibility of scientific and technological development and start the processes of civil unrest and disintegration."

**How to do this, the ex-commander-in-chief does not specify, ...**

Zaluzhny was likely not only referring to the drone war which Russia is winning but also to the mediocre state of Ukraine's air defenses.

A day after Zaluzhny, the spokesman of the Air Force of Ukraine confirmed his take (machine translation):

Russia has improved its ballistic missiles, so Patriot systems have become worse at shooting them down. This was stated by the head of the Communications Department of the Air Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Yuriy Ignat, commenting on today's night shelling of Kiev.

Iskander-M missiles, which attack along a ballistic trajectory, have been significantly improved and upgraded

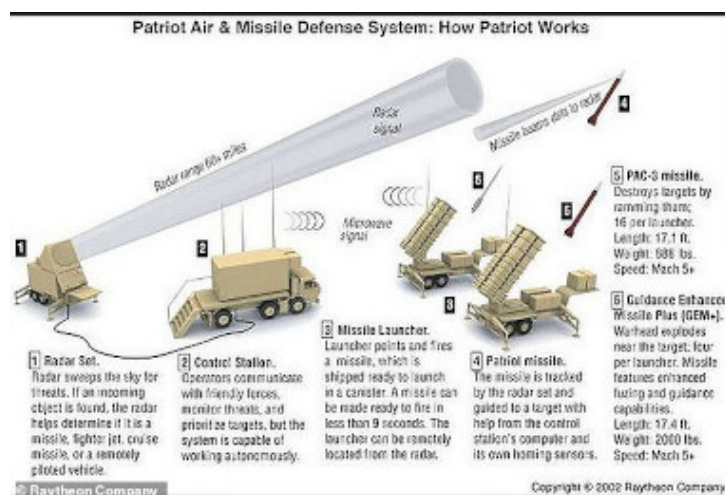
"We are talking about shooting radar traps, which each missile can shoot during the approach to the target. Another is the flight of a ballistic missile along a quasi-ballistic trajectory, when the missile does not fly in a straight line, but already performs maneuvers," he said on the telethon.

The new Iskander versions use decoys to confuse the air defense radars. They also maneuver during the last phase of their flight making their interception nearly impossible.

Reporting on the large scale Saturday night attack on Ukraine the *Washington Post* noted that the U.S. provided Patriot air defenses systems in Ukraine [had failed](#) ([archived](#)):

The Russian assault involved nearly 400 missiles and drones, **including nine ballistic missiles that Ukrainian air defenses**, already strained and in short supply, **failed to intercept**, Ukraine's air force said.

Some of the Russian missiles destroyed at least one Patriot air defense battery. Each battery consists of a radar, a combat control station and two or more launcher vehicles. The cost for a full battery is about \$1 billion. Each fired missile comes at a price of \$2-4 million.



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The Patriot battery killed during the weekend strike was not the first one to meet that fate.

The *Military Watch Magazine* [has documented](#) the history of the system in Ukraine:

The Iskander system was first confirmed to have successfully destroyed a Patriot system on February 23, 2024, with a subsequent strike destroying another system near the Sergeevka locality on March 10 that year, leaving ground forces in the region exposed. Subsequently in the second week of July, 2024, new footage confirmed the destruction of two batteries in the Odessa region, while on August 11 three more missile batteries and an AN/MPQ-65 radar were reported to have been destroyed in Iskander-M strikes. One of the Iskander-M's more recent successes saw the destruction of the Patriot's AN/MPQ-65 multifunctional radar station, combat control cabin, and missile launch vehicles all destroyed in the Dnepropetrovsk region.

Together with the one on Saturday/Sunday that sums up to a total of ten destroyed systems. That is likely more than half of the total provided by the U.S. and its allies.

The Patriot air defense system is quite old. The first version was used 35 years ago during the first U.S. war on Iraq. It largely failed to achieve its mission:

In 1992 a military report titled 'Patriot Missile System Effectiveness During Desert Storm' found that of the 158 missiles fired during the Gulf War, 45 percent were launched against false targets. An early 1990s study by Theodore Postol, professor of Science, Technology and International Security at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and prominent expert on missile technologies, highlighted: "The Patriot's intercept rate during the Gulf War was very low. The evidence from these preliminary studies indicates that Patriot's intercept rate could be much lower than 10 percent, possibly even zero." Even "the most primitive of adversaries" could easily evade interception, his study concluded.

New versions of the Patriot's radar and missiles, PAC-2 and PAC-3, were introduced but continued to fail:

Following the revelations of the Patriot system's shortcomings in the Gulf War, there were considerable hopes in the Western world that its modernisation would allow it to provide a much more viable defence against ballistic missile attacks. Such hopes were disappointed by its performance during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and moreso 14 years later when further modernised variants failed to intercept a strike by makeshift ballistic missiles launched by Yemeni paramilitaries against Saudi Arabia in 2017. The Yemeni missiles were shown by satellite imagery and by photos and videos of the attack not to have been neutralised, despite claims by the Saudi and U.S. government sources to the contrary. Analysis conducted by a research team of missile experts showed a warhead flying unimpeded over Saudi Arabia despite its large arsenal of modernised Patriot batteries protecting the affected area.

The magazine concludes:

The questions more recently raised by Ukrainian officials regarding the Patriot system's reliability against Russian ballistic missile attacks thus fit in with a long history of underwhelming performances in such a role. This has significant implications for militaries across the Western world and in Northeast Asia that rely on the system for their defence.

Another failure point of the Patriot system is the notorious lack of ammunition needed for it. According to [\*The Economist\* \(archived\)](#) the current production rate for Patriot systems is 650 missiles per year. Over the same time frame Russia is producing 750 ballistic missiles each at about 10% of the price of one Patriot missile.

Despite the poor record of the system Ukraine is, according to the *Washington Post*, still [\*eager to acquire more of them\* \(archived\)](#):

KYIV — Ukraine is increasingly worried about securing more U.S.-made Patriot air defense systems, as stockpiles sent during the Biden administration are drying up and the new administration is resistant to sending more, according to six Ukrainian and Western officials.

...  
Ukraine's dire need for Patriots was apparent over Memorial Day weekend when **its air defense forces failed to intercept any of the nine ballistic missiles launched Saturday night and early on Sunday**. Two of the missiles were directed at Kyiv, according to Ukraine's air defense forces, where at least two Patriot units are believed to be stationed.

One of those Patriot units most likely no longer exists.

The *Post* fails to explain why Ukraine should or would ask for more Patriot systems when, as the same report says, these fail their purpose.

The *Post's* opinion editors are even worse. Despite multiple reports in their own paper that Patriot systems are not able to defend against Russian missiles they falsely state ([archived](#)) that they can do so, only to then repeat that they don't:

What scares Ukraine more than the drones, however, is its diminishing stockpile of U.S.-made Patriot air defense systems. **Ballistic missiles fired by Russia can be reliably countered only with Patriot launchers. On Saturday night, Ukraine failed to intercept nine such missile launches.**

The editors seem to imply that Ukraine failed to intercept the Iskander missiles because it was lacking Patriot air defense missiles. But that was not the case. Video from the Saturday night attack shows the firing of at least 14 Patriot missiles by two batteries before one of them goes up in flames.



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None of the 14 fired air defense missiles had hit the incoming ballistic missile.

[The *Post* editors are lobbying for secondary sanctions in form of additional tariffs on products from anyone who buys basic materials from Russia. The tariffs would have to be paid by U.S. consumers. They would hurt the U.S. more than they would hurt Russia and certainly fail to help Ukraine.]

To summarize: Patriot air defenses are a chimera. The system has failed its purpose, to reliably defend against ballistic missile, since its creation.

The only reliable target it manages to intercept each and every time a missile is launched is taxpayer money. One wonders how many bribes are flowing to generate further requests for it.

Posted by b on May 28, 2025 at 16:41 UTC | [Permalink](#)

## Comments

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The forces that support Project Ukraine are powerful: they have used the war to enrich themselves & the bloc but at the expense of their actual citizens. Ukrain-ocracy permits Brussels to approve, for instance, a 150 billion euro borrowing plan (\$170 billion) aimed @ funding arms production & military procurement.

-----> Dude, that sounds like brunch to me: bottomless mimosas & avocado toast-!

Splashing bundles of cash can't solve a paucity of air defenses, however, for Kiev or other Ukrainian cities. The things money \*can't\* buy are the very interceptor missiles that the U.S. MIC no longer manufactures in requisite numbers for a lengthy engagement of conventional warfare like we see in Ukraine.

NATO was kitted out for a fast Shock & Awe stand-off engagement, w/ middle-of-the-night pyrotechnics decimating the enemy below.

NATO has no answers for the kind of grind to which they consigned their proxy.

Posted by: steel\_porcupine | May 28 2025 17:00 utc | [1](#)

thanks b...

not to worry! russia is running out of missiles, lol..

this war experiment at the cost of ukrainian and russian lives is sickening, but the war culture must continue according to the losers in the eu, under guidance from the losers in the usa... the winners are the bankers - kind of sick how they need innocent people murdered to profit..

Posted by: james | May 28 2025 17:07 utc | [2](#)

I think it was Danny Davis who had Kyiv footage of the Patriot batteries getting hit and he said something about emergency mode where it shoots off all its missiles to 1) try to intercept incoming 2) not have them all blow up on the ground wiping out all the gear (the incoming might leave you something repairable). And the count was IIRC, 30 missiles and it was pointed out that official/admitted US production is 600/year so that was 5% of a year's production in one incident.

I hope this finds you well

Posted by: ockham | May 28 2025 17:08 utc | [3](#)

I'm under the impression that many US military weapons tanks, (Abrams) ships (Littoral) etc, are overly complicated to work, full of flaws, and cost a fortune to be serviced by the private sector - of course this is surely built in to the equipment - so that the manufactures can make more from their sales - I've even read that the USA's Aegis System is full of flaws, that can be exploited by a competent enemy.