



Updates on the War, 03-13-23

US Government Actions

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Defense and Other Arms

- **More Leopard Training Complete:** Around 40 Ukrainian soldiers and 15 mechanical specialists sent to Spain to train on Leopard-2 Battle Tanks have completed their course. A Spanish trainer praised their new knowledge and noted their motivation to learn ([source: Ukrinform](#)).

Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Serbia Calls for Sanctions:** Serbia's Economic Minister has called on his government to impose sanctions against Russia, claiming Serbia is paying a high price for refraining. Serbia is a traditional ally of Russia's ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **A Call from Xi Jinping?:** Chinese leader Xi Jinping reportedly intends to first visit Moscow next week, then speak with President Zelenskyy afterwards. The latter would be the first conversation between the two leaders since the beginning of the full-scale invasion ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **On The Grain Deal:** Russia has suggested extended the Black Sea Grain Deal for only 60 days, half of its previous extension period ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

Other

- **GDP Shrinking:** According to Ukraine's State Statistics Service, Ukraine's GDP fell by 31.4% year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2022. The Economy Ministry also revised its forecast for 2023, predicting that Ukraine's economy will only grow by 1% ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Cases at the ICC:** The International Criminal Court intends to open two war crimes cases against Russia as a result of their actions in Ukraine. They will likely center on issues of kidnapped children and of deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure ([source: New York Times](#)).



Updates on the War, 03-14-23

US Government Actions

- **Senators Call for F-16s:** A bipartisan group of eight senators led by Senator Mark Kelly wrote a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin calling for F-16 Fighter jets to be transferred to Ukraine. They claim that the conflict is currently at a critical juncture and that the jets could give Ukraine an edge ([source: Politico](#)).

Defense and Other Arms

- **UK MoD Assessment:** The UK's Ministry of Defense's latest update notes that Russia has probably been unable to make any major offensives lately due to a lack of artillery ammunition. It also probably is using old munitions stock which was previously categorized as unfit for use ([source: UK MoD on Twitter](#)).
- **Dutch Minehunter Ships Incoming:** The Netherlands has pledged two Minehunter ships to Ukraine. These ships will be delivered by 2025, suggesting they are part of a longer buildup of Ukraine's navy ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Lithuania Recognizes Wagner as Terrorist:** The Parliament of Lithuania has recognized the Wagner Group as a terrorist organization, adding to a growing list of countries to make such a recognition ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

Other

- **Russian Jet-US Drone Collision:** The US is claiming today that a Russian fighter jet clipped a US' spy drone's propeller, forcing it to crash into the Black Sea. If true, this would be the first major direct encounter between the two countries since the full-scale invasion ([source: Reuters](#)).



Updates on the War, 03-15-23

US Government Actions

- **Conflicting Reports on US Stance:** Two different narrative have emerged from US sources in the past two days. Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley has stated that Russia's stocks are depleting and its soldiers are demoralized. He also stated that Ukraine's troops are both "capable and trained" and that their precision mentions continue targeting logistics effectively (**source: Ukrinform**). However, anonymous sources in **this** Washington Post article report similar concerns about Ukraine's military; Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov has disputed these allegations (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

Defense and Other Arms

- **Aid Roundup:** On the day of another Ramstein Summit, Canada announced another major military aid package to Ukraine, mostly consisting of ammunition and air defense missiles (**source: Anita Anand on Twitter**). Spain also confirmed that it will transfer an additional four tanks to Ukraine after rumors that it would do so (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **Tank Update Number:** According to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, nine countries have pledged more than 150 Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine. In addition to this, Germany has announced that Ukraine will receive around 100 Leopard-1 tanks, and will also be receiving Abrams and Challenger tanks. (**Source: Kyiv Independent**). Currently, Ukraine has around 14 Leopard-2 tanks, all from Poland.

Other Diplomatic Developments

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Other

- **Drone Collision Updates:** The US assesses that the downing of a drone over the Black Sea by a Russian jet was likely unintentional and demonstrates a "lack of competence", according to State Department spokesperson Ned Price. Russia will attempt to recover the remains of the drone (**source: Reuters**). Secretary Austin held a telephone call with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu after the incident, initiated by the United States (**source: Eurointegration**).
- **On Moldova:** **This** article details some of Russia's attempts to destabilize Moldova, Ukraine's neighbor and fellow EU applicant.
- **Serbian Issues:** Serbian ultra-nationalists are using the example of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to fight against Kosovo's independence, yet another example of spillover as a result of the war (**source: Politico**).



Updates on the War, 03-16-23

US Government Actions

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Defense and Other Arms

- **Europe Aid Round-Up:** Today, Sweden announced they will provide eight Archer self-propelled artillery systems, which according to Swedish sources will allow them to regain territory faster ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)). Denmark is going to provide an aid package worth around \$140 million around ammunitions, anti-tank mines, machine guns, and air defense missiles ([source: Ukrinform](#)). Estonia will also transport more weapons and ammunition in a defense package valued at around \$500,000 ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **MiGs from Poland Update:** Poland will hand over four MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine in the next few days, with more aircraft being serviced and prepared for transfer ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Exports from Israel:** Israel has approved export licenses for the possible sales of anti-drone jamming systems to Ukraine. This would be the first defense export to Ukraine amidst the war ([source: Axios](#)).

Other Diplomatic Developments

- **UN Finds War Crimes:** A United Nations commission has found that Russia has committed numerous war crimes in Ukraine, including sexual assault, torture, imprisonment, murder, forcible transport of children, and deliberate attacks on energy infrastructure. The last of these may amount to crimes against humanity, with the commission “struck by the extent of the destruction” ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

Other

- **PRC's Thumb on the Scale?:** New reporting from Politico indicates that Chinese companies, including a government-connected one, have sent assault rifles and dual-use materials to Russia through other countries. PRC spokespeople have emphasized their government’s interest in peace in Ukraine ([source: Politico](#)). Meanwhile, Ukrainians shot down a Chinese-made Mugin-5 drone, which the Mugin company called a “deeply unfortunate” incident ([source: CNN](#)).



Updates on the War, 03-17-23

US Government Actions

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Defense and Other Arms

- **MiGs from Slovakia:** The day after Poland announced it would transfer four MiG-29s to Ukraine, Slovakia also announced that it would transfer some MiGs to Ukraine. In total, they will be providing Ukraine with 13 jets and some anti-aircraft systems (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **Other Aid Roundup:** Canada will be preparing another batch of Leopard-2 tanks for Ukraine, though the exact number is unclear (**source: Ukrinform**). Belgium will be providing 240 Volvo military trucks, which will allow for the transportation of troops and equipment more smoothly (**source: Kyiv Independent**). The EU will also be providing Ukraine with the next tranche of macro-financial assistance next week (**source: Valdis Dombrovskis on Twitter**).
- **Drone Strike:** Russia launched a drone strike on Ukraine overnight with Shahed drones; the Ukrainian air defense shot down 11 of the 16 launched drones. The total amount of damage done is unclear (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

Other Diplomatic Developments

- **NATO Expansion Clearer:** Turkey and Hungary have announced that they will ratify Finland's NATO membership. There is no word on the status of Sweden's membership yet (**source: Politico**).

Other

- **Arrest Warrant For Putin:** The ICC has issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova over the crime of illegally deporting children from Ukraine. If Putin were to set foot on the territory of any country that is party to the ICC, they are now obligated to arrest him and transfer him to the Hague, though the ICC has no formal enforcement mechanism (**source: Reuters**). Ukraine's security service is working to gather evidence of these crimes to ensure that both perpetrators are brought to justice (**source: Ukrinform**). President Biden has called the move justified and said that Putin has indeed committed war crimes (**source: Reuters**).