



# UKRAINE: MARCH SITUATION REPORT

EIGENRAC

ICOD: 08:00GMT 02 April 25

## Aerial Strikes

Throughout March, Ukraine faced an intensified campaign of aerial strikes from Russian forces (RFAF), significantly impacting civilian infrastructure and energy facilities. On 7 March, RFAF launched a coordinated assault involving 67x missiles and approximately 200x Shahed drones targeting key Oblasts including Odesa, Poltava, Chernihiv, and Ternopil. These strikes resulted in widespread damage to energy infrastructure and civilian casualties, with reports indicating at least 10x civilians injured, including children in the Kharkiv and Poltava Oblasts. Despite the severity of these attacks, Ukraine's air defence systems demonstrated resilience by intercepting a substantial amount of the incoming munitions. In response to these aggressions, Ukrainian forces (UAF) adopted innovative countermeasures. Notably, the employment of drones equipped with double-barrelled shotguns to intercept and destroy Russian Mavic drones near Bakhmut. This tactic underscores Ukraine's adaptive strategies in drone warfare, leveraging commercial drone technology to counteract Russian aerial threats effectively.

## Political Context

Efforts to broker a ceasefire have encountered significant obstacles. European Union (EU) foreign ministers accused Russia of deliberately delaying ceasefire negotiations, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov acknowledging the protracted nature of the process. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas emphasised Russia's apparent disinterest in peace, while Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski advocated for setting a deadline for Russia to accept a ceasefire. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot called on Russia to clearly state its peace intentions to the US. POTUS Trump meanwhile, has threatened sanctions on entities purchasing Russian oil if a ceasefire is not achieved. On its part, Ukraine continues to actively seeking security guarantees, whilst President Volodymyr Zelensky announced plans for in-depth discussions with a select group of foreign nations regarding the formation of a multinational contingent to provide security assurances for Ukraine. These talks aim to address various components of the potential contingent, including land, air, and maritime elements, reflecting Ukraine's proactive approach to bolstering its defence capabilities through international collaboration.

## Military Situation

On the ground, the conflict has seen fluctuating control over strategic territories. In early March, RFAF intensified offensive operations in areas such as Kupyansk, Chasiv Yar, Toretsk, and Velyka Novosilka, aiming to capitalise on the suspension of US military aid to Ukraine. This strategic shift allowed RFAF troops to recapture significant portions of Kursk Oblast, with President Vladimir Putin visiting the region and ordering the expulsion of remaining UAF. Reports indicate that RFAF have reclaimed 86% of previously occupied territory in Kursk, capturing 24x settlements and taking 400x prisoners. Despite these setbacks, UAF continue to demonstrate resilience, remaining actively engaged in defensive operations around Toretsk, employing one-way attack drones and strategic tank manoeuvres to repel RFAF advances. However, challenges such as manpower shortages and continuous enemy pressure have imposed significant strains on UAF units.

## Ukrainian Operations in Russian Territory

In a strategic move to divert RFAF resources and apply pressure, UAF has conducted operations within Russian territory. Following the loss of control over Kursk, UAF troops launched incursions into the Belgorod region, targeting over 20x villages and engaging in heavy fighting in areas such as Popovka. These actions aim to fragment RFAF and create operational dilemmas for Russian military planners. Additionally, Ukrainian intelligence units executed strikes against critical Russian infrastructure. Notably, a drone attack targeted the Kirishi Petroleum Organic Synthesis (KINEF) oil refinery in Leningrad Oblast, a facility integral to Russia's fuel production and military supply chain. This operation underscores Ukraine's capacity to extend its operational reach and disrupt Russian logistical networks.

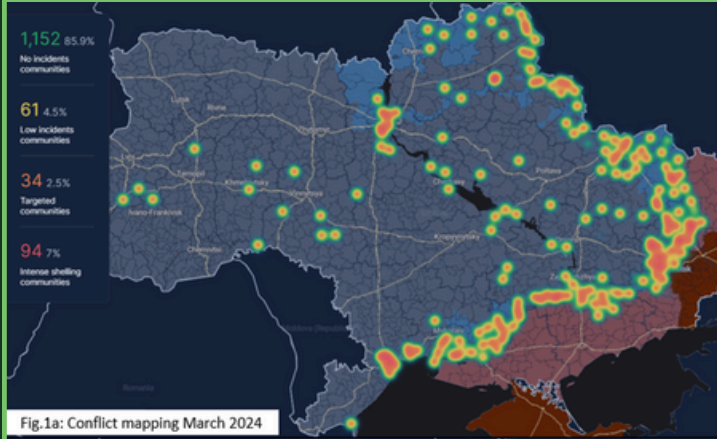
## Situation on the Frontlines

The frontlines remain highly volatile, with intense engagements occurring across multiple sectors. In the Donbas region, UAF successfully repelled numerous RFAF assaults, particularly around Donetsk, Bakhmut, and Avdiivka. Over a 24-hour period, Ukraine reported 146x combat engagements, inflicting significant casualties on RFAF, including approximately 1,150x soldiers killed or wounded, and the destruction of military equipment such as tanks and armoured vehicles. Despite these defensive successes, RFAF continue to exert pressure, employing precision artillery, loitering munitions, and drone attacks against both military and civilian targets. The sustained intensity of these operations highlights the protracted and attritional nature of the conflict, with both sides incurring substantial losses and logistical challenges.

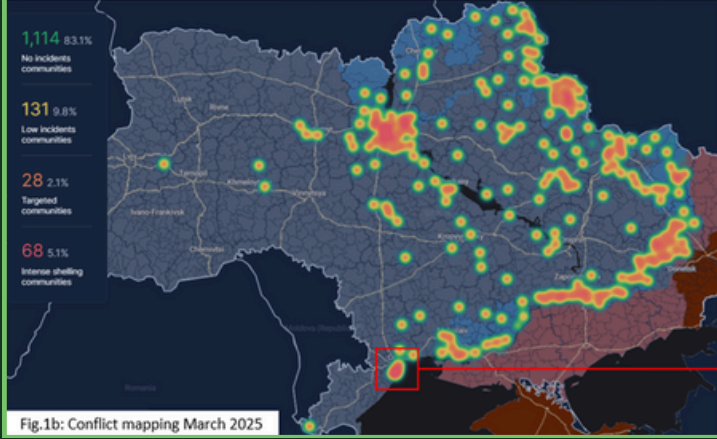
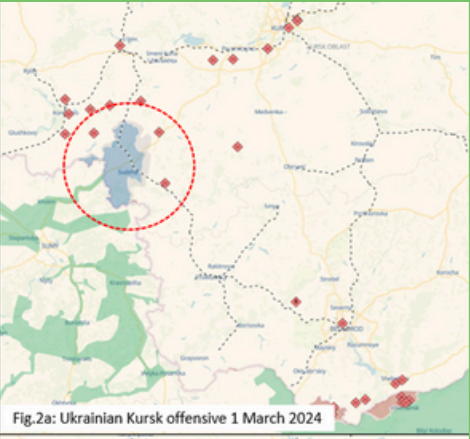
## Assessment

April is poised to be a month of sustained conflict, with no immediate resolution in sight. Russia is likely to continue its offensive operations in the Donbas and eastern Ukraine while maintaining aerial strikes on infrastructure. The pattern of Russian aerial strikes is likely to persist, with a focus on degrading Ukraine's critical infrastructure, particularly energy facilities and logistics hubs. Given the demonstrated resilience of Ukraine's air defence systems, Russia may escalate its use of mass drone and missile swarm attacks to overwhelm defensive systems. In response, Ukraine is expected to continue refining its counter-drone tactics, including the use of modified commercial drones and electronic warfare systems. The West's ongoing supply of advanced air defence assets, such as Patriot and NASAMS systems, will play a key role in mitigating these strikes, though concerns remain over the depletion of interceptor missile stockpiles.

Ceasefire negotiations are expected to remain stalled as Russia exploits delays to consolidate its territorial gains, prompting increased Western diplomatic pressure, including potential sanctions and military aid. While POTUS Trump's threat of sanctions on Russian oil purchases could strain Russia's economy, alternative buyers like China and India may mitigate its impact. Ukraine's push for international security guarantees, particularly among NATO allies, could heighten tensions with Moscow, but Kyiv is likely to continue seeking defence agreements. On the battlefield, Russia will highly likely attempt to solidify gains in Kursk and advance in Kupyansk and the Donbas, while Ukraine's defensive strategies, including drone warfare and targeted strikes, will focus on disrupting RFAF supply lines. Despite mounting pressure, UAF will likely prioritise key defensive positions in Toretsk and Velyka Novosilka, relying on incoming Western reinforcements. Meanwhile, Ukraine's cross-border operations into Belgorod and attacks on Russian infrastructure, such as the Kirishi oil refinery, aim to weaken Russia's logistical network which will likely persist, forcing Russia to divert resources while increasing the risk of retaliatory strikes.



**Conflict analysis:** Pre-Spring season conflict activity in Ukraine has notably shifted focus from typical norms of heavy conflicts in the Oblasts of Luthansk, Donetsk and Mykolaiv to heavy aerial strike packages in key strategic cities such as Kyiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Odesa, specifically against power infrastructure (see below). This is highly likely part of a broader Russian strategy to gain an advantage in any ceasefire negotiations, particularly short-range discussions around securing guarantees of protecting power infrastructure. The pre-Spring conflict has shifted from intense shelling along frontline communities to high-saturation drone and missile strikes in population centers around key cities. Heat mapping (left) shows population centers along the Dniro river have become increasingly affected. Meanwhile, Ukraine's offensive in Kursk has suffered a significant setback, almost certainly due to the temporary loss of US intelligence support in March. Mapping of the offensive (right) indicates that throughout March, Ukrainian forces have withdrawn from Sudzha and have returned to a defensive posture around the Sumy Oblast border which is likely unable to prevent imminent short-range strikes into Sumy Oblast. Ukraine may shift focus to Belgorod Oblast to relieve Russian military pressure in Kursk.



**Destroyed substation building**  
07/03/2025

**Description:** Destroyed substation building

**Graphic Content Level:** Mild

**Link:** <https://x.com/AlexRivan/status/1...>

**Coordinates:** 46.344383, 30.629606

**Type of area:** Affected Infrastructure

**Country:** Ukraine

**Oblast / Province:** Odessa Oblast

**Town / City:** Malodolyn'ske

