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Crimea - a retreatable fortress, but penetrated by Ukrainians

<https://youtu.be/MsWAx16Sk8w>



The Kerch Bridge / Telegram channel of Odessa regional administration spokesman Serhii Bratchuk

Over the more than 7 months of the invasion, Crimea, despite being turned into a real fortress by Russia, has been hit several times. Although Ukraine has avoided recanting that its special forces were behind the attacks, neither has it denied it. In the most recent incident, a car bomb exploded yesterday on the Kerch bridge linking Crimea to the Russian Federation, making the incident particularly serious. Although the bridge did not collapse but was only damaged, and traffic was later resumed today, the incident shows Russia's major weaknesses.

A number of serious incidents have also occurred in Crimea this summer.

In August there were explosions at Sevastopol's main airport, and in another incident the Russian Defence Ministry announced that a fire at a military facility in the Dzhankoi district of the Crimean peninsula had detonated ammunition in a temporary storage facility. The Russians did not provide further details. But by far the worst incident took place at Novofedorivka in Crimea, where a series of explosions destroyed numerous Russian Black Sea Fleet military aircraft. Moscow has denied that the incident was Ukraine-generated, saying only that the fires were the cause of safety irregularities by base personnel.

[https://www.defenseromania.ro/fortareata-crimeea-armand-gosu-doar-f-35-american-de-pe-kogalniceanu-ar-putea-lovi-tinte-din-crimeea\\_618681.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/fortareata-crimeea-armand-gosu-doar-f-35-american-de-pe-kogalniceanu-ar-putea-lovi-tinte-din-crimeea_618681.html)

Vladimir Putin: The perpetrators, perpetrators and clients of the terrorist attack on the Crimean bridge are Ukraine's special services



Russia's Federal Security Service has identified those involved in organising the terrorist act on the Crimean bridge. This was announced by the head of Russia's Investigative Committee Bastrykin at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The head of Russia's Investigative Committee, Alexander Bastrykin, reported to the president that a criminal case has been opened for the Crimean bridge blast under the heading "terrorism". The fact of the terrorist attack is confirmed by the data of the initial examination as well as other evidence. FSB officers were able to identify those involved in the bridge explosion.

According to Bastrykin, the attack was organised by Ukraine's special services and its task was to destroy civilian infrastructure. In addition to Ukrainian special services employees themselves, Russian citizens as well as citizens of foreign states were involved in the terrorist attack. Putin asked the head of the Investigative Committee to confirm his findings, to which Bastrykin again stressed that the attack was organised by Kiev. Afterwards, the Russian president said there was no doubt that the terrorist attack on the Crimean bridge was directed against Russia's critical civilian infrastructure.

As you have just reported, there is no doubt. This is a terrorist attack aimed at destroying the critical civilian infrastructure of the Russian Federation. Authors, interpreters, clients - Ukrainian special services

Putin said.

According to the head of the Investigative Committee, both the FSB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia are simultaneously conducting operational search actions in this case.

Recall that the explosion on the Crimean bridge thundered on Saturday morning, the cause was a truck going from Armavir to Simferopol. As a result of the attack, two girders of the car part of the bridge collapsed and fuel tanks caught fire.

The Crimean fortress? Armand Goşu: Only US F-35s on Kogalniceanu could hit Crimean targets



A Dutch F-35 Lightning II, photo credit: Lockheed Martin

Historian and professor Armand Goşu drew attention in 2019 to the fact that the Russian Federation has turned the illegally annexed Crimea in 2014 into a veritable fortress.



Armand Goşu, among the leading experts on the Russian Federation, in his book "Russia, a complicated equation", drew attention in March 2019, two years before the invasion of Ukraine, to the fact that the Russian Federation has developed an A2/AD (Anti Access/Area Denial) system - 'protective sphere' - in Crimea, turning the peninsula into a redoubtable bastion. The militarisation of Crimea since 2014 has indeed been a goal for the Russian Federation after the illegal annexation of the peninsula. In his volume, Professor Armand Goşu pointed out that only US F-35 Lightning II 5th generation aircraft could strike targets in Crimea.

"Crimea is a formidable bastion. With A2/AD (Anti Access/Area Denial) systems installed there, Russia strategically dominates the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, and the Straits. The peninsula is an impregnable fortress. No neighbour can penetrate the space covered by those military installations to strike at them. Only if the Americans brought 5th generation F-35s to Kogalniceanu would they be able to hit targets in Crimea," Armand Goşu wrote in March 2019.

Armand Goşu also recalled the Russian narrative in which propaganda portrays the US facility at Deveselu as a danger to the Russian Federation and used the missile shield to justify the militarization of Crimea. "Deveselu is a kind of universal allusion in Moscow. Crimea was occupied to keep it out of American hands; the Russians brought Iskander missiles there because the Americans sat on Deveselu; they built new submarines because of Deveselu; they installed S-300 .... Deveselu; they say they installed S-400s, too, because Deveselu. Soon, Moscow will say that ordinary citizens have empty refrigerators because of Deveselu ... And Putin will drop out of the election and remain president for life. Obviously .... Deveselu", adds Armand Goşu.

[The beginning of the end for Putin? Ukrainian army's counteroffensive gives hope that war will be over by Christmas, but must continue at the same pace - The Times](#)



Russian tech destroyed in Ukraine. Генеральний штаб ЗСУ / General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Russia's phantasmagorical ceremony of annexing 15% of Ukraine's territory has once again exposed the discrepancy between the Kremlin's triumphalism and the reality on the ground.

Russia is stretching itself as far as it wants, to paraphrase a bitter joke that circulates especially in countries that have been behind the Iron Curtain. That's how Putin acted when he put the Russian flag on territories in Ukraine, some of which are not even controlled by Russian forces. Yet the successes in the Ukrainian Armed Forces' counter-offensive give Westerners hope that Ukraine will defeat Russia in war by the end of 2022, *The Times* writes. Thus, a senior British official suggested that "the Armed Forces will push the invaders back to the borders on 23 February before Christmas". At the same time, according to him, this will only happen if Ukrainian defenders continue the counterattack at the same pace. Journalists noted that the politicians' opinion is not based on information, but rather on the achievements of Ukrainian soldiers on the front.

Pros and cons



The former commander of US forces in Europe, Ben Hodges, also said that the Russian army has already lost the war. "Based on everything we're seeing, there's a sense of collapse, at least in Donbas, and I think by the end of the year, the Russians will be pushed out," he stressed.

According to him, the turning point could be the liberation of Herson, because after that the Armed Forces of Ukraine will approach Crimea and will be able to attack the enemy with artillery. In this way, the invaders will fall into a trap.

On the other hand, political scientist Mattia Nelles doesn't think the war will be over by the end of the year because of the high concentration of Russian troops in Herson.

Franz-Stefan Gadi of the International Institute for Strategic Studies said both sides had not yet exhausted their options. He stressed that both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are currently working on creating tactically and strategically advantageous positions to continue fighting in 2023.

"The temperature will hit the battlefield, it will become more difficult for soldiers to act, and their ability to conduct offensive operations will be limited," the expert added.

Recall that the head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence, Kirilo Budanov, said that during winter the war will "decline" to a large extent. Already after winter the first stage of the war's end will begin - the entry into the administrative borders of Ukraine in 1991.

Currently, the counter-offensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Herson region is underway.

[https://www.defenseromania.ro/inceputul-sfarsitului-pentru-putin-contraoferensiva-armatei-ucrainene-da-speranta-ca-razboiul-se-va-termina-pana-la-craciun-dar-trebuie-sa-continue-in-acelasi-ritm-the-times\\_618683.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/inceputul-sfarsitului-pentru-putin-contraoferensiva-armatei-ucrainene-da-speranta-ca-razboiul-se-va-termina-pana-la-craciun-dar-trebuie-sa-continue-in-acelasi-ritm-the-times_618683.html)

Kim launches two more ballistic missiles, a possible signal to resume nuclear tests. Pentagon assesses response

North Korea launched two ballistic missiles Sunday morning, officials in neighboring countries said.



It is the seventh such launch by Pyongyang in recent days, which has raised alarm bells in Washington, Tokyo and Seoul. Officials in the South Korean capital said the North's increased missile launches could signal it is closer than ever to resuming nuclear tests for the first time since 2017, with preparations seen at its test site for months, scire Reuters. Both missiles on Sunday reached an altitude of 100km and flew 350km, Japan's state defence minister Toshiro Ino told reporters. The first launch was around 1:47 a.m. (1647 GMT) and the second launch about six minutes later. They fell outside Japan's exclusive economic zone and authorities were investigating what type they were, including the possibility that they were submarine-launched ballistic missiles, he added.

US assesses response



The US military said it was consulting closely with allies and partners in the wake of the launches, which it stressed had the "destabilising impact" of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. The United States has assessed that the latest launches pose no threat to US personnel or US allies.

However, the Americans have brought the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan into the Sea of Japan.

The US and its allies in Southeast Asia are determined to increase the level of response to challenges from Pyongyang, as demonstrated by the bringing into the Sea of Japan of the US aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, along of course with its strike group.

Bringing in the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier should demonstrate "the determination of South Korea and the United States to respond to any challenges or threats from Pyongyang," South Korean military officials say.

Unprecedented challenges

The latest missile launches from the Muncheon area on North Korea's east coast are a "serious provocation" that damages peace, South Korean officials say.

On Tuesday, North Korea tested a ballistic missile further than ever before, sending it over Japan for the first time in five years and warning residents there to take cover. Ino said Tokyo would not tolerate North Korea's repeated actions. The incident was the seventh such launch since September 25.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said nuclear envoys from the United States, South Korea and Japan had a telephone conversation and shared the view that the North's ballistic missile launches threaten the peace and security of the region and the international community, in addition to posing a risk to civilian aviation. North Korea, which has pursued missile and nuclear tests in defiance of UN sanctions, said Saturday that its missile tests were for self-defense against direct US military threats and did not affect the security of its neighbors. "Our missile tests are a normal, planned self-defense measure to protect our country's security and regional peace from direct US military threats," state media KCNA quoted an Air Force Administration spokesman as saying. South Korea and the United States held joint maritime drills on Friday, a day after Seoul scrambled fighter jets in response to an apparent North Korean bombing exercise. The United States also announced new sanctions on Friday in response to North Korea's latest missile launches.

[https://www.defenseromania.ro/tensiuni-in-asia-kim-lanseaza-inca-doua-rachete-balistice-un-posibil-semnal-pentru-reluarea-testelor-nucleare-sua-evalueaza-raspunsul\\_618682.html](https://www.defenseromania.ro/tensiuni-in-asia-kim-lanseaza-inca-doua-rachete-balistice-un-posibil-semnal-pentru-reluarea-testelor-nucleare-sua-evalueaza-raspunsul_618682.html)

Report on the situation in Ukraine: A European vote calls for the supply of Leopard tanks



The European Union has adopted a comprehensive but non-binding resolution condemning Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and, among many other things, calling on member states to begin immediately transferring Leopard main battle tanks to the Ukrainian military and training troops in their use.

On 5 October, the European Parliament adopted a "Joint motion for a resolution on the escalation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine". The document includes 40 points outlining Russia's perceived transgressions against international law and calls on European nations to "massively increase their military assistance, especially in areas where it is requested by the Ukrainian government, to enable Ukraine to regain full control over all of its internationally recognised territory and successfully defend itself against any further aggression by Russia".

The resolution states that "the Ukrainian army needs modern main battle tanks, more ground-to-air and ground-to-surface systems, armoured personnel carriers, as well as additional training centres and additional ammunition contributions".



A Polish Leopard tank during a live-fire demonstration in September 2022. Omar Marques/Getty Images

Specifically named in the text are Leopard tanks, third-generation main battle tanks developed in the 1970s for the West German army.

At the heart of the document is a call to "coordinate arms deliveries ... of advanced weapon systems such as Leopard tanks" and "calls on member states to immediately start training Ukrainian soldiers in this regard".

The tanks would be a massive help to the Ukrainian army as it advances against and through Russian lines in its ongoing multiple offensive. Currently, according to the British Ministry of Defence, up to half of Ukrainian tanks are refurbished vehicles captured or recovered from retreating Russian troops. Its latest intelligence assessment of the war finds that "Ukraine has probably captured at least 440 Russian main battle tanks and around 650 other armoured vehicles since the invasion" in February.

"More than half of Ukraine's tank fleet currently on the ground is potentially made up of captured vehicles," the UK Ministry of Defence said. "The failure of Russian crews to destroy intact equipment before withdrawing or surrendering highlights their poor state of readiness and low level of combat discipline."

That's an impressive intake of enemy weaponry. However, many vehicles are Soviet-era models, or upgrades of them, that are not as advanced as modern models such as the Leopard, the US Abrams and the UK Challenger II, all third-generation tanks. Older tanks, such as the T-62, have outdated armour, ammunition storage and other vulnerabilities that make them good prey for modern anti-tank guided missiles.

However, Soviet-designed T-80 tanks, some of which were requisitioned by Ukrainian forces, are third-generation tanks. Ukraine has even captured even more advanced T-90s.

It's not immediately clear whether the resolution was referring specifically to potential transfers of older Leopard 1s from the 1960s armed with 105mm guns, which have been largely taken out of service in Europe, or newer Leopard 2s, which have 120mm main guns and are in the service of 14 European nations, Canada and others. In the past, there has been talk of refurbishing older Leopard 1s, now in storage, and sending them to Ukraine.

Gustav Gressel, senior policy researcher at the European Council on Foreign Relations think tank, says at least 268 Leopard tanks could be transferred to Ukrainian service quickly.

Tank battles have broken out in the east and south as Ukrainian forces advance on Russian lines. The Kiev government has been asking for modern tanks for months, but so far has been rebuffed, if not flatly refused. European nations, notably Poland, have donated modest fleets of second-generation T-72 tanks to the Ukrainian army. The US has also said Abrams tanks are on the table, but has not pledged any for the cause.

#### Latest news



Although Ukraine has recently liberated town after town in its continuing advance east and south, the ground war map is largely unraveling in recent days. As seen below, the UK Ministry of Defence shows ongoing offensives in the Kherson region in the south and the Kharkiv region in the northeast. Ukraine is approaching wide rivers in both areas, which could slow their progress forward. These are the same rivers that presented Russian forces with so much difficulty in advancing at the beginning of the conflict and which are now retreating as Ukraine has systematically targeted the bridges behind them.

As well as calling for the donation of tanks, the EU resolution covers the possibility of Russia deploying a tactical nuclear weapon to change the course of its disastrous invasion. Putin hinted at this possibility when he announced the mobilisation of at least 300,000 recruits in late September and has done so repeatedly since.

The EU "calls on Member States and international partners to prepare a swift and decisive response should Russia carry out a nuclear attack on Ukraine" and "calls on Russia to immediately cease its threats of nuclear escalation, given the global consequences of any nuclear catastrophe for human life and the environment for decades to come".

Any attempt by Russia "to present attacks on occupied territories as an attack on Russia and therefore as a reason for a nuclear attack is illegal and unfounded and will not deter the European Union from providing further assistance to Ukraine in its self-defence," the EU resolution states.

In this case, the EU is referring to the "hastily held mock 'referendum'" held on 27 September, which Putin claims overwhelmingly voted to include Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia in Russia.

The vote totals were "pre-determined and unrealistic percentages of voter turnout and approval of annexation by Russia; while the voting process included systemic human rights abuses and intimidation, in particular the presence of armed Russian soldiers," the EU resolution states.

We raised the possibility that Putin orchestrated these circumstances to justify the use of a nuclear weapon in this earlier article, although experts say the chances of that happening are low.

Meanwhile, the threat of Russia using a nuclear weapon seems to be at the forefront of President Biden's mind. Last night, he went so far as to warn how close we are to a potential nuclear armageddon and how he doesn't

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1578111945856536576>

Finland continues to offer military aid to Ukraine, at least in the form of mortar bombs. In the video below, a Ukrainian soldier fires a 120mm high explosive mortar, which appears to be a JVA 1571 from Sweden.

The Prime Minister of Finland remains no less supportive of the Ukrainian war effort. In a moment when she slipped away from the microphone, Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin gave the following answer when asked about a "way out of the conflict".

"The way out of the conflict is for Russia to leave Ukraine," she said. "This is the way out of the conflict. Thank you." Then she left.

Ukrainian servicemen were filmed using a US-supplied M113 armoured personnel carrier with a Browning M2 heavy machine gun. Troop carriers are Vietnam-era technology and are not considered survivable against modern anti-armour weapons. The US Army and Marine Corps have relegated them mainly to behind the lines. Ukraine's use of them in offensive operations speaks to the inability of Russian forces to counter their advance and the

fact that the artillery shrapnel these APCs are capable of defeating remains a great risk to Ukrainian troops.

Despite this risk, Ukrainian troops seem undeterred by Russia's efforts to halt their advance. In the video below, Ukrainian troops are seen calmly driving down a rain-soaked road littered with visible Russian anti-material mines.

In a strange turn of events, Iran claims it never supplied kamikaze drones to Russia, which The War Zone has reported on extensively. Tehran "has never and will never send" weapons to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine, the Tashim news agency reports, citing Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

There is plenty of evidence, including fully captured drones, that Iran did indeed supply these weapons to Russia and did so en masse. Denial is absurd, even for Iran.

Do you know who is definitely using kamikaze, or "suicide", drones in Ukraine? Ukrainians. More evidence of the US-made and supplied Switchblade 300 kamikaze drone recently surfaced on the internet. In the video below, you can see the deployment of the forearm-sized drone ammunition, the control device, and two Ukrainian soldiers deciding where to aim what amounts to a flying shotgun blast.

On Friday, several news agencies reported outages of the Starlink satellite internet constellation over parts of Ukraine. There has been much back and forth between some Ukrainian units claiming "acute" Starlink outages in the south and east. "Another official in Kiev said the connection outages were widespread and had prompted panicked calls from soldiers to helplines," the Financial Times reported.

But some soldiers who used Starlink communication devices said they worked fine in most places.

Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX, which owns Starlink, responded to the article, saying only that his company had donated satellite communication devices to Ukraine at a loss of \$80 million. "As far as what happens on the battlefield, it's classified," Musk said. Disabling Starlink around Ukraine would be a massive win for Russia, even if only temporarily, as the technology has been an essential means of communication on the battlefield in Ukraine and beyond.

It's also possible that Ukrainian forces will almost literally overtake the internet as they advance into certain sectors of the front. Starlink may have internet provider filters that prevent it from operating in some Russian-occupied territories. Several experts in the field have opined on this possibility, as seen below.

Although almost all of the reports come from anonymous sources, several media outlets say Putin has lost control of his cabal as the war becomes increasingly off the rails for Russia. Much palace intrigue spills into the mainstream media about Putin's "destructive personality" playing various factions of his government and military regime against each other.

The Washington Post reports that a member of Putin's inner circle confronted Putin about his handling of the conflict, an incredible breach of Kremlin protocol.

Newsweek reports that Putin has "lost control" of his elite cadre of Russian oligarchs. "If Prigozhin is using Wagner to stage videos to undermine Shoigu, then Putin really has lost control of the situation," Bellingcat founder Eliot Higgins told the magazine.

Now, the Russian-installed leader in the Kherson region, which Ukraine is quickly reclaiming, says Sergei Shoigu, Russia's top uniformed officer, should "shoot himself," according to the Jerusalem Post

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/ukraine-situation-report-european-vote-calls-for-providing-leopard-tanks>

Damen could build Sigma 10514-type ships similar to Romania's proposed corvettes for Colombia



SIGMA 10514-type ship of the Indonesian Naval Forces (Damen)

Colombian company COTECMAR and Dutch shipbuilder Damen recently signed a contract to co-develop the Design Project for the next generation of frigates for the Colombian Navy. The signing ceremony took place aboard the ARC Almirante Padilla at the ARC Bolivar Naval Base in Cartagena, Colombia.

The design for the Strategic Surface Platform ("SSP") program is based on the proven SIGMA 10514 design, which has been successfully built in other non-Damen shipyards. During the course of the contract the design will be adjusted to meet the requirements of the end user, the Colombian Navy.

The ambition to further develop Colombia's established maritime industry fits perfectly with Damen's strategy of cooperating with local shipyards such as COTECMAR. We are proud of the successful cooperation, in the ongoing project with COTECMAR, for the DIMAR Maritime Authorities and look forward to continuing in this important milestone. We are grateful for the trust placed in us by the Colombian Navy and COTECMAR.

The agreement was signed by Olivier van Papenrecht (Regional Director Colombia, Damen Shipyards), Admiral Juan Ricardo Rozo Obregón (on behalf of the Colombian Navy), Ernst Noorman (Ambassador to Colombia for the Kingdom of the Netherlands), Admiral Luis Fernando Márquez Velosa (President of COTECMAR).

The shipbuilder Damen is also offering Romania SIGMA 10514 corvettes to be built at the Mangalia and Galati shipyards.

Romania has been trying for over six years to start building four corvettes, but so far not even the contract has been signed. The defence ministry in Bucharest has indicated that it will look for another solution for the purchase of the corvettes if talks with Naval Grup do not lead to an agreement.

In spring this year, General (r) Gheorghe Savu, director of Damen Naval Romania, explained in an interview with Umbrella Strategica at the BSDA 22 exhibition that the ships

could be built both at Damen Shipyard Mangalia, 51% owned by the Romanian state, and at Damen Shipyard Galati.

The "Multipurpose Corvettes" programme, which foresees the construction of four corvettes and the modernisation of the frigates Regina Maria and Regele Ferdinand, was launched in 2016. The partnership between French shipbuilder Naval Group and Constanta Shipyard was declared the winner in July 2019, but to date the €1.2 billion contract has not yet been signed.



Under this programme, shipbuilder Damen has proposed SIGMA 10514 type corvettes, which would be adapted to MAPN requirements at the Marine Engineering Galati (MEGA) design institute, part of the Dutch group.

Schematic of a SIGMA 10514 type ship of the Indonesian Naval Forces (Damen)

Main features of the SIGMA 10514 ships

- Roles: - Anti-air warfare (AW);
- Anti-surface warfare (ASuW);
- anti-submarine warfare (ASuW);
- Maritime security.

Dimensions:

Overall length: (approx.) 105 m

Width: 14 m

Draft: 3.7 m

Displacement: (approx.) 2360 tonnes

Maximum speed: 28 knots

Crew: 122 persons

Equipment:

3D radar for surveillance and target identification;

Electro-optical and radar fire control system;

Sonar in the keel;

Combat management system;

Electronic warfare systems (ESM & ECM);

Integrated external and internal communications system;

Weapons:

76 mm naval gun;

1 x CWIS very short range anti-aircraft system;

2 x 4 anti-ship missile launchers;

1 x 12-cell anti-aircraft missile launch system;

1 x Rolling Airframe Missiles short-range anti-aircraft missile launcher;

2 x triple torpedo launch systems  
2 x countermeasure launchers;  
1 x helicopter of up to 10 tonnes.

Source: <https://umbrella-strategica.ro/olandezii-de-la-damen-ar-putea-construi-pentru-columbia-nave-tip-sigma-10514-similare-cu-corvetele-propuse-romaniei/> and <https://www.resboiu.ro/cotecmar-si-damen-au-semnat-un-contract-pentru-co-dezvoltarea-proiectului-de-design-pentru-urmatoarea-generatie-de-fregate-pentru-marina-columbiana/>

There are new images from the site of the damage to the Crimean bridge



There are new images from the scene of the emergency at the Crimean bridge. As Military Review has already reported, local residents early this morning heard a sound similar to an explosion, then a fire broke out on one of the sections of the bridge over the Kerch Strait. A fuel wagon caught fire. Pictures from the scene testify to a large fire that broke out on the railway side of the bridge in Crimea. However, it can be seen that there is damage to the carriageway on its car side.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the site of the collapse of the car-side deck is located near where the tank car caught fire on the railway side. In this respect, the main question remains what caused the incident. In connection with the developing events, the possibility of sabotage cannot be excluded. In any case, the reason will be established, but the fact remains that the bridge, as a special infrastructure facility, needs special security measures. If the tanker fire occurred without, shall we say, external influence, then the fact of the incident on the bridge leaves many questions. Once again, we recall that the Ukrainian side has repeatedly threatened to attack the Crimean bridge with serial interpretations: 'As soon as possible'. Meanwhile, Ukrainian public pages are flooded with reports that "the work of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has been carried out".

Source: <https://topwar.ru/203017-pojavilis-novye-kadry-s-mesta-povrezhdenija-krymskogo-mosta.html>

'A glut of officers': how Russia's higher military education was destroyed

The first military universities were abolished in 1992 - these were the Higher Military-Political Air Defense School in Leningrad and the Higher Military Construction Command School in Khabarovsk. If on the basis of the latter they created the FSB Frontier Institute, which is functional, then the Radio Command School for Air Defence in Vilnius was transferred in place of the former, which was subsequently closed in 2010. By the late nineties, at least twenty-five military schools had been downsized or redesigned. At the same time, we must pay tribute, the "reformers" had convincing arguments in favour of reducing military education. For one thing, there was no need for officers in such numbers. The Soviet Army had 5 million servicemen, and the officer corps was trained by 166 military universities. Managers felt that a fivefold reduction of the army would require a large-scale reform of military education, disbanding, downsizing or reprofiling. Only here it is worth remembering that a considerable proportion of military schools, once the USSR collapsed, had nothing to do with Russia at all. To put it simply, the country that broke up into separate states optimised itself in terms of military education. For example, only in Ukraine there are unique military air defence military academies, like military schools in Poltava and Kiev. Thoughtful strategists in the Ministry of Defence were particularly impressed by the two hundred flight school graduates who had to retire from the military in the mid-1990s in their first year of service. Supposedly because of a shortage of staff positions. The strategists did not take into account the months-long backlog of pay, the total lack of fuel and the general atmosphere of the army's collapse. Maybe that's why the young lieutenants quit? The second reason why military education required serious reorganisation was the high depreciation of fixed assets. The consequences of perestroika were revealed in all their glory. According to the Ministry of Defence, by the early 2000s educational equipment and other infrastructure had not been updated for twenty to thirty years. There could be no question of re-equipping - funding the military was not in vogue then, so it seemed very logical to everyone to simply disband the schools. It's probably not entirely fair to draw parallels, but in 2022, after seven months of special operations in Ukraine, the Ministry of Defence had to mobilise officers up to the rank of colonel. Should this be seen as an echo of the "optimization" of military schools in the 1990s and 2000s? The question, of course, is both rhetorical and debatable. Another reason for the reduction in the number of military schools was the imperfection of legislation and the declining prestige of the profession. It so happened that four years of military school were equivalent to two years of military service. For a certain section of those responsible for military service, this was a rather convenient prospect - whatever one might say, it is much more comfortable to be a temporary cadet than a private or a sergeant. After four years of service, military schools lost up to 40 percent of their students - this was particularly the case at the Orenburg anti-aircraft missile command school. The reasons for the closure of most military schools were also recorded as poor academic performance and physical training of cadets, poor teaching staff and other problems, primarily related to the unwillingness to fund the military industry. As a result, we see the following picture. If until 1991 the Ministry of Defence graduated up to 60 thousand officers annually from 166 military universities, by 2007 the number of educational institutions had dropped to 68, and by 2012 to 45.

#### Academies are not needed

Evaluate the decision of the Ministry of Defence at the time, explaining the necessity of closing part of the military academies: "an economically unjustified and excessively costly mechanism for the implementation of a non-optimal structure of educational programmes for the training of officers by a non-optimal network of military universities". Under reduction were not only schools but also military academies. Among others, they lost their independence and were dissolved into VUNTS "Combined Arms Academy", Academy of Military Engineering and Military Academy of RKhBZ (CBRN). Under the wing of the same

educational institution, in 1998, the Single Academy of Armored Forces was attached, named after the Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovsky. The Academy existed since 1932 and died quietly at the turn of the century. The global craze of underestimating tanks on the battlefield was one of the reasons for the shutdown of the famous academy. It is worth mentioning separately that every school, let alone the academy, is also a research institute doing serious applied and fundamental work in the military. With the reorganization, the educational institutions lost both their unique testing base and teaching staff.

Who to retire and who to fire?

According to the most conservative estimates, it will take at least 10 years to restore the training system for tank officers to its previous academic level. The same amount of time is needed to rebuild the scientific schools and feed the teaching staff. Probably, I will write a biased thought, but if the armoured academy had not been dissolved into the Combined Arms Academy, the tanks in Ukraine would not be covered by Javelins with bars on turrets. The situation is similar to the military medical institutes disbanded in 2010 in Tomsk, Saratov and Samara. The rule is simple - the fewer specialists lobbying to promote a particular solution (e.g. a modern first-aid kit for a soldier), the less likely it is to come to the fore.

If the armoured academy could not be defended or restored, then the Military Aerospace Defence Academy. G.K. Jukov was luckier. Mr. Serdyukov signed the verdict in 2012 of this educational institution, which trained air defense officers at the operational level. The single academy was to join the Air Force Academy. Mozhaisky, i.e. to dissolve almost without trace. It was only possible to revive the university after Serdyukov's resignation by a special order from Shoigu in 2013. One of the innovations in the military education system was the shift from two-year training for officers of operational-tactical specialties to ten-month courses. This is most likely appropriate in wartime, but not for the 21st century. Military technique and art require more time to master. As if they didn't realise this, in 1996 most military academies reduced the time of study from three years to two. There were also absolutely stunning, if not more powerful, incidents. So in 2010, all military universities in Russia did not produce a set of warnings. Why? According to the deputy head of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Defence Fraltsova, this is due to "the overabundance of officer personnel and the lack of relevant posts in the armed forces". And now calculate how critically this has affected senior command staff numbers after only ten to twelve years. In 2018, came another news - the Ministry of Defence decided to accelerate the release of combined arms commanders. You can now become an infantry lieutenant in four years. In conclusion, we can say that not all liquidations of military universities should be remembered with regret. For example, the above-mentioned Higher Military-Political Air Defence School in Leningrad had to disband in connection with the destruction of the CPSU institution itself. But the total liquidation of military construction schools, of course, is a mistake. Spetsstroy didn't need specialists? Especially now, when there is an urgent need to restore the destroyed economy of four new regions of Russia. The state has lost at least four specialist schools. There are two tank schools on the list of reduced schools - in Chelyabinsk and Blagoveshchensk. It turned out that in future network-centric wars, which the General Staff so zealously promoted, and artillery will not be so significant. Please destroy the artillery schools in Tula, Kazan, St. Petersburg, Kolomna and Yekaterinburg. About how important the artillery and especially the training of military cadres, the special operation showed in all its glory.

GOT and military aviation.

Defense Ministry analysts felt that military aviation schools of various profiles in Kurgan, Stavropol, Barnaul, Yeisk, Volgograd, Orenburg, Tambov, Ufa, Irkutsk, Tambov, Achinsk, Kirov, Kaliningrad, Krasnodar, Lebyazhye and Perm would be superfluous. I hope that at least reservists will be placed in the buildings of these schools. By the way, about the

partial mobilisation. You will laugh, but in 2011 in Saratov the Military Institute for Advanced Training of Mobilization Corps Specialists was abolished as useless. They created it for a reason immediately after the Great Patriotic War, as they fully understood the complexity and importance of operational mobilization of the reserve. The Institute trained officers in ten specialties in five departments. It turned out not to be necessary.

Source: <https://topwar.ru/202900-pereizbytok-oficerskih-kadrov-kak-razrushali-vysshee-voennoe-obrazovanie-rossii.html>

Western world awaits Russia's response in "submarine warfare"



After the Nord Stream sabotage at the bottom of the Baltic Sea, the Western world is nervously awaiting Russia's inevitable response in the "submarine war", writes Politico. The biggest concern, according to the publication, is the safety of underwater communications (pipelines, communication lines and power supplies) between North America and Europe, as well as island Britain and mainland European countries. But in addition to these areas of the planet, there are many more critical areas for the West. Nearly all the world's internet traffic is carried over a global network of more than 400 submarine fibre-optic cables, totalling 1.3 million km in length. In the North Atlantic, a dozen or so lines lie on the seabed between the US and the UK, and are considered the most important. There are other undersea cables linking Canada and the US to European countries. But all of them, without exception, are very vulnerable because their length allows submarines, as well as manned and unmanned underwater vehicles, to approach them freely. Most pipelines, communication lines and power supplies run in international (neutral) waters. It is therefore difficult for companies and governments to provide protection there. At the same time, uninterrupted gas supply is a particular concern in London now. They suspect that pipelines carrying gas from Norway to the UK may already be exploited by the Russians. British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has sent British navy forces to the North Sea to "deter alleged actions by Moscow" to disrupt underwater communications and to carefully examine the most important sections of the seabed, media summarised. Recall that in November 2021, the West already tried to accuse Russia of "stealing 10 tons of valuable and useful submarine cable". At the same time, it is no secret that Russia continues to improve not only its military submarine fleet. The Western world awaits Russia's 'submarine war' response After the Nord Stream sabotage at the bottom of the Baltic Sea, the Western world is nervously awaiting Russia's inevitable 'submarine war' response, writes Politico. The biggest concern, according to the publication, is the safety of underwater communications (pipelines, communication lines and power supplies) between North America and Europe, as well as island Britain and mainland European countries. But in addition to these areas of the planet, there are many more critical areas for the West. Nearly

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Source: [https://topcor.ru/28558-zapadnyj-mir-zhdet-otveta-rossii-v-ramkah-podvodnoj-vojny.html?utm\\_source=warfiles.ru](https://topcor.ru/28558-zapadnyj-mir-zhdet-otveta-rossii-v-ramkah-podvodnoj-vojny.html?utm_source=warfiles.ru)

### [Putin to hold Security Council meeting on 10 October](#)

Dmitry Peskov did not say whether the situation with the Crimean bridge will be discussed at the meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold an operational meeting with permanent members of the Security Council on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS. "Tomorrow, the president is scheduled to hold a meeting with the permanent members of the Security Council," he said. Peskov did not say whether the situation with the Crimean bridge would be discussed at the meeting. "We will let you know after the results [of the meeting]," he said. On Saturday morning, a truck exploded on the Crimean Bridge, collapsing two eastern sides of its road section and subsequently setting fire to a train of fuel tanks on a separate, adjacent stretch of the bridge. Three people died as a result of the explosion. A government commission chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin was set up after the incident. Rail traffic was restored on the bridge, which was also partially reopened for buses and cars. Putin holds regular operational meetings with the Security Council, usually on a weekly basis.

Source: <https://tass.com/politics/1519997>

### [Russia launches Project 23550 patrol ship "Purga"](#)

On 7 October 2022, the Russian shipyard Vyborg, a part of United Shipbuilding Corporation, launched the Project 23550 patrol vessel named "Purga", which is planned to serve the Russian Coast Guard.

The icebreaker is intended for the Border Guard (Coast Guard) service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of the Russian Federation. The ceremony was attended by: Head of the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia - Vladimir Kulishov, Deputy Chairman of the Leningrad Region Government - Dmitry Yalov, Chairman of the Board of Directors of United Shipbuilding Corporation - Georgy Poltavchenko, representatives of contractors and employees of the company (Vyborg Shipyard). "Every launch of a warship is a historic event. Today's launch marks the beginning of a new era of border protection on the borders of the Russian Federation. We are launching the first ice-class heavy tonnage ship built specifically for the Coast Guard." Georgy Poltavchenko, Chairman of the Board of

Directors of United Shipbuilding Corporation Chairman of the Board of Directors of USC stressed the importance of such ships in the current situation: "As the recent act of international terrorism on the Nord Stream gas pipelines showed, the West has overstepped the bounds of reason and is trying with all its might to deprive our country of strategic advantages. Therefore, such border ships like Purga will be much needed for our fleet to protect and preserve Russian borders." "Just over two years ago, we celebrated the launch of a border protection ship, and today we are launching it. In that time, much has happened at the factory, much has changed in the outside world. The threats that existed for our country still exist, and we, the shipbuilders, are ready to tell the homeland that the ship will be ready on time, the borders will be safely protected and the enemy will not cross, thanks in part to our work," said Alexander Solovyov, VZZ's general director.

Vladimir Kulishov, head of the Border Service of Russia's FSB intelligence agency, spoke about the history of the ship's name and expressed confidence that it would provide worthy service, saying: "Today is an important day for both shipbuilders and employees of Russia's FSB Border Service - the launch of a patrol vessel. The Navy has strong traditions, and one of them is continuity in the choice of names. Purga's predecessor, the Coast Guard flagship, was an ice-class ship that served for more than thirty-three years in the northern latitudes and the Far East. Of course, the modern Purga is a better equipped ship, but I am confident that, like her legendary namesake, she too will adequately perform border security duties." Chila Purga was laid down at Vyborg Shipyard on 25 July 2020 and is built according to the design of Almaz Central Design Bureau. The ship is designed to secure the Russian Federation's borders in the Arctic and can overcome ice up to one and a half metres thick. It will be armed with modern weapons, electronic equipment and navigation devices. Purga will have a high level of automation and crew comfort and can operate in Russia's Arctic waters all year round.

Two Project 23550 vessels are being built for the Russian Navy and two for the Russian Border Service (Coast Guard). The main ship Ivan Papanin for the Russian Navy was laid down by the Admiralty Shipyard on 19 April 2017 and floated on 25 October 2019. Nikolai Zubov was laid down on 27 November 2019. The ships are due to become operational in 2023 and 2024. The third hull, Purga, is under construction for Russian border guards (keel laid in July 2020, launched yesterday). For the record, Project 23550 is a multirole icebreaker that combines the functionalities of a tug, a patrol vessel and an icebreaker capable of breaking ice up to 1.7 metres thick. Project 23550 vessels are designed to protect and monitor Arctic water resources; escort and tow other vessels; act as support vessels; participate in rescue operations; transport various cargoes in the Arctic. The vessel has a total displacement of about 9,000 tonnes; a length of about 114 metres; a width of about 20 metres and a draught of about 6.0 metres. Its maximum speed is 18 knots; economy speed 10 knots; crew/additional crew of about 60/50 persons. Endurance is 70 days at sea. In terms of weapons systems and equipment, the Project 23550 vessels are equipped with a 76 mm AK-176MA main gun; portable air defence systems; helipad and helicopter hangar capable of accommodating a Ka-27 class helicopter and unmanned aerial vehicles; two Raptor-type high-speed assault boats and a Project 23321 hovercraft. Last but not least, the ship can be equipped with a containerised version of the Kalibr-NK missile system.

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/10/russia-launches-project-23550-patrol-ship-purga/>

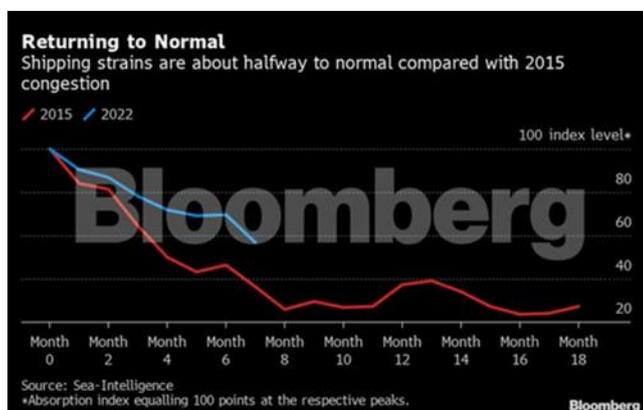
### When will the supply chain return to normal?

Few observers have had a better stinger to watch the pandemic slowly blocking - and now unleashing - one of the greatest arteries of global trade than Captain J. Kipling "Kip"

Louitt. Two years ago this week, as fully loaded container ships piled up off the Southern California coast, Louitt's team of marine traffic managers for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach began keeping daily records on a spreadsheet that today measures 736 lines and 13 columns. Their mission: to organize a holding system to ensure that ships, as long as the Empire State Building stands tall, sail into San Pedro Bay in a safe and orderly manner. The blockade began with five ships on October 15, 2020, then grew to 40 in February 2021, when the Americans bought cargo for their Covid insulation.

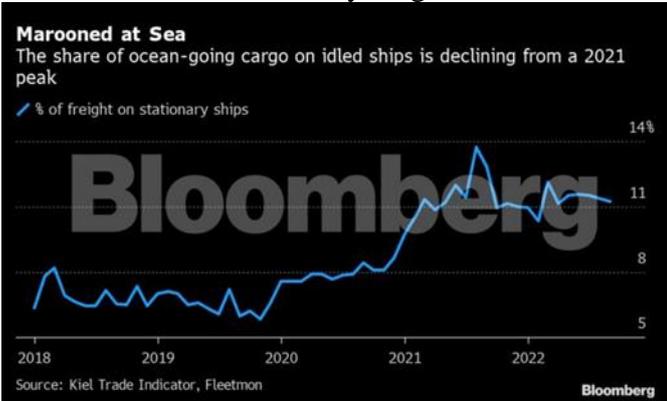
The line dropped to nine in June 2021, then rose above 60 this time last year before peaking at 109 in January. But like many supply chain pressure benchmarks of late, it is declining. Only eight ships were on the manifest at the end of last week. Even Louitt's staff feels relieved of the pressure. "Our workforce is now managing reasonable levels, and stress levels are down," said Louitt, a former Coast Guard officer who is executive director of the Southern California Naval Traffic Service and Los Angeles and Long Beach. "We're back in a good place." In supply chain circles battered by two years of chaos, the word "normal" creeps into the outlook for 2023. According to the latest Logistics Managers Index, "September's future predictions suggest normalization and business as usual in the coming year." That doesn't mean everything will go smoothly in the global economy anytime soon. Companies are still struggling with shortages of parts and workers. Fragile supply chains are heading into another holiday season vulnerable to shocks, from freak weather and dockworker strikes to China's standoffs over Covid and Russia's war in Ukraine. 'Still bad' "International shipping capacity has improved considerably," said Jason Miller, associate professor of supply chain management at Michigan State University, who cautions against getting too optimistic about the speed of recovery. For U.S. companies trying to secure raw materials and components, "things are still bad and have not improved substantially," he said. The following charts show how much progress has been made towards ending the logjam, according to analysts at Copenhagen-based Sea-Intelligence. They noted in a report last week that about half of the shipping congestion has been resolved and, by one measure, "a full return to normality should occur by March 2023." Another Sea-Intelligence model comparing the current situation with the snarls experienced in 2015 agreed that "normal" is within reach in early 2023, barring further unexpected disruptions:

Evidence of the shipping slowdown can be seen in weekly traffic figures at the busiest US port in Los Angeles, where 17 container ships were docked on Thursday, compared with about 30 in early 2022. The decline has been gradual, and nearby intermodal warehouses continue to operate. through delays, but weekly import volumes lately are lower than year-ago levels. Some of this can be blamed on earlier-than-expected storage this summer, as well as the rerouting of goods through East Coast ports to avoid a possible strike:



Port congestion is also recovering in Germany, according to the latest reading of the Kiel Trade Indicator. The reason has to do with both demand and improvements on the supply

side. "Trade in September was characterised by weak demand for goods from China through Europe and North America," said Vincent Stamer, head of the Kiel Trade Indicator. But there's still work to be done to free up cargoes that have been stuck globally on waiting ships, some of Kiel's numbers show many cargo carriers are still stuck:



Source and Continued: <https://gcaptain.com/when-will-the-supply-chain-return-to-normal/>