

**DIGEST OF UKRAINIAN NEWS**

01-02 April 2016

**The situation in the ATO zone****01 April 2016**

Combat actions in the ATO zone in eastern Ukraine intensified. Adversary deployed several artillery batteries to the contact line and massively shelled positions of ATO forces. Shelling was conducted from 122-mm and 152-mm caliber – these are howitzers D-30 and MSTA-B. Over the day, occupants fired over 100 artillery shells and over 370 mortar mines. A total weight of warheads of the above ammunition is over 6.5 tons.

In the Donetsk sector, combat actions continue along the entire contact line. 47 hostile attacks occurred over the day, each third attack was made with the use of heavy weapons. Most tense situation observed in ZAITSEVE and AVDIIVKA, combat actions lasted there incessantly. The most powerful attacks with the use of artillery and mortars took place in the morning and as the darkness settled down. Near LUHANSKE militants fired upon the positions of ATO forces from an infantry-fighting vehicle. Over 50 shells were fired from a 73-mm howitzer mounted on the armored vehicle over a half of an hour.

In the Luhansk sector, militant groups violated ceasefire 4 times in POPASNYANSKY district between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Proxy forces used mortars, anti-aircraft mount and other types of weapons in course of their attacks. In the result of the militant aggressive actions, work of the recently launched ZOLOTE checkpoint (across the contact line) was suspended.

In the Mariupol sector, there were 26 hostile attacks, nearly each second one was made from heavy weapons. Thus, militants attacked the positions of Ukrainian troops in MARYINKA, NOVOTROYITSKE as well as between HNUTOVE and SHYROKYNE, mortars were frequently used in these attacks. ATO forces were returning fire.

Because of the hostile attacks in MARYINKA, equipment of a repair brigade that was working to fix the gas pipeline was damaged, works were suspended. Due to the frequent militant attacks repair works are being interrupted from time to time, 27 thousand residents of MARYINKA and KRASNOHORIVKA still cut off the gas supply. In MARYINKA because of a hostile attack, a residential building was damaged. There are no casualties.

One Ukrainian soldier was killed in action (KIA) and eight servicemen were wounded in action (WIA).

According to the information by the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Defense Ministry militants of the so-called "1<sup>st</sup> Army Corps of the DPR" had 4 fighters KIA and 6 WIA in action over the past several days; 2 militants of the so-called "5<sup>th</sup> motor-rifle brigade" deployed to DONETSK were KIA and 3 militants were WIA; a militant of the so-called "3<sup>rd</sup> motor-rifle brigade" deployed to HORLIVKA was KIA and 2 were WIA; a militant of the so-called "9<sup>th</sup> assault motor-rifle regiment of naval infantry" deployed to NOVOAZOVSK was KIA and another

one was WIA. 5 more fighters from the above regiment tried to desert: one fled to Russia, another one was detained at the border by the internal troops unit of the Russian Federation, and locals detained three more fighters during their attempt to steal a car. Ukrainian intelligence also reports that in the so-called “2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps of the LPR” the cases of open disobedience by mid-level commanders became more frequent. Three days ago a commission of the Center for Territorial troops of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation Armed Forces based in NOVOCHERKASSK arrived at the so-called “2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps” to investigate the incidents.

The law enforcement staff seized an RPG-29 from a resident of AVDIIVKA who faces up to seven years in prison for illegal possession of weapons.

Total of 1549 hostile attacks and combat engagements took place in Donbas over March. 39 of them happened in the Luhansk sector, 1200 in the Donetsk sector and 310 in the Mariupol sector. Each fourth attack conducted from heavy weapons including mortars, howitzers, tanks or a multiple rocket launcher systems.\



**02 April 2016**

Militants continue shelling ATO troops' positions in all the sectors. Russia-backed militants violated the armistice 8 times in POPASNA district in the Luhansk sector of the ATO zone. In all the cases, militants shot from the direction of villages adjacent to temporarily occupied PERVOMAISK.

46 hostile attacks took place in the Donetsk sector. Same as before, ZAITSEVE and AVDIIVKA remain the flashpoints. Moreover, the enemy became active to the south, near PISKY and NEVELSKE. During the day, 90 mortar shells were launcher at ATO forces positions.

MARIINKA became the center of hostilities in the Mariupol sector. Militants repeatedly opened sniping fire and used rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms. Moreover, they shot twice from an anti-tank rocket system in NOVOTROITSKE. Flight of a militants' unmanned aerial vehicle was observed near LEBEDYNSKE village. In total, 11 hostile attacks took place in the Mariupol sector.

Ukrainian Armed Forces incurred no losses, but 4 soldiers were WIA.

According to the Chief Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Russia-backed militants received another batch of weapons, military equipment, ammunition and other war-fighting resources. An echelon arrived at KHARTSYZK railway station carrying four multi-purpose light-armored towing vehicles, ten trucks, 120 tons of combustible and lubrication materials and three wagons with spare parts for tanks. Echelon with 240 tons of combustible and lubrication materials came to KRASNODON railway station, and 15 tanks and 7 trucks with ammunition brought to LUHANSK.

Officers of the Security Service of Ukraine and police together with servicemen of the National Guard of Ukraine detained a militant in POPASNA district of Luhansk region. It has been identified that the militant was keeping watch at a checkpoint of Russia-backed militants in May-June 2014 but quickly disappointed with the "Russkiy Mir" ideas. He was afraid of the advance of Ukrainian troops, laid down arms and returned home, where he was hiding from law enforcements. An unauthorized shotgun was seized from the militant during search.

### **President: OSCE police operation will ensure security guarantees and ceasefire in Donbas**

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko informed that he had discussed the issue of security mission in Donbas with leaders of the United States, the United Nations, the European Union, Presidents of France and Poland. "We have an absolutely clear plan - we will not let Russia create an image in the world as if both sides are guilty of failing the Minsk agreements," the President said in the interview with Ukrainian TV channels.

According to the President, elections must have clear preconditions: ceasefire, access for the OSCE officials to all territories, including the occupied part of Donbas, and full withdrawal of Russian troops.

"The OSCE SMM must be deployed on the combat line and in the areas of permanent storage of weapons that haven't been withdrawn by Russia yet. It should also be deployed along the uncontrolled part of the Ukraine-Russia border. The OSCE posts must also be armed," Petro Poroshenko noted.

## UKRAINE/NATO UNCLASSIFIED

The Head of State emphasizes that unarmed OSCE officials face attacks, which means they cannot effectively perform their functions.

Petro Poroshenko noted that he had addressed the authorities of Germany, which presides in the OSCE now, to raise that issue in the course of the negotiations in the Normandy format. “Armed police units of the OSCE will guarantee preparation and holding of elections, as well as the regime of transferring power to officials chosen by democratic, fair and transparent elections under the Ukrainian legislation,” the President said.

### **President: We demand efficient actions of the international community aimed at prevention of deterioration of the security situation in the Black Sea region caused by deployment of Russian nuclear weaponry in Crimea**

President Petro Poroshenko noted that Ukraine was concerned over a possible relocation of Russian nuclear weaponry, because under the international law, Ukraine bears full responsibility for the deployment of nuclear elements on its territory.

“We demand efficient steps of the international community aimed at preventing drastic deterioration of the security situation in the Black Sea region,” the Head of State noted.

The President is confident that consultations with the international community will lead to prevention of such actions on the Ukrainian territory and Crimea.