

НОВИНИ УКРАЇНИ



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRES DES UKRAINIEN-CANADIENS

We must be resolute and uncompromising in the face of aggression from the unpredictable country that casts a shadow from the east.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
 f/VicePresidentPence @VP @VP



Ukraine may change ATO format if situation in Donbas aggravates

■ Gen. Staff Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Viktor Muzhenko says the format of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) may be changed if the situation in Donbas aggravates, according to LIGA.net. According to Muzhenko, now the ATO format meets the threats that exist. "In the future, in case of an aggravation, I think the format of this operation will change," Muzhenko said in an interview with Liga.net. Answering the question, whether it is necessary to strengthen the power of the military in the ATO zone, Muzhenko said it is enough of those that they have. "In the

long run, a large centralization of the management system is envisaged in case of an aggravation of the situation. We have two laws—on the state of emergency and martial law. It really provides for strengthening the role of the military in the regions where martial law has been introduced, since the main ones in the overall structure of government bodies will become military authorities," he added.

—UNIAN:

<https://www.unian.info/war/2072266-ato-format-may-be-changed-if-situation-in-donbas-aggravates-ukraine-gen-staff.html>

Atlantic Council: Why the Case Against Arming Ukraine Doesn't Hold Water



Atlantic Council

■ John Herbst, former US Ambassador to Ukraine and Director of the Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council, stated, "Armchair strategists have come out of the woodwork to explain why it would be a mistake for the United States to arm Ukraine. They argue that Russia is stronger than Ukraine and can outmatch any escalation, Moscow has a greater interest in Ukraine than Washington, and Ukraine's government is corrupt and undeserving of such support.

These arguments are based on hoary myths, outdated analyses, and an incomplete understanding of Kremlin policy and American interests. [...]

The United States has a vital interest in keeping the peace in Europe, and a vital interest in the strength and viability of NATO and the European Union. The Kremlin seeks to weaken both institutions and the ties binding the United States to Europe. The most cost efficient way to counter the Kremlin's revisionist policies is to increase the cost of its aggression in Ukraine. Thanks to Congress, we are raising the

economic costs on Moscow through sanctions. But that is not sufficient. [...]

Ukrainians have fought the Kremlin to a standstill, but there are casualties every day, and since the Minsk II ceasefire, Moscow has taken hundreds of additional square kilometers of Ukrainian territory. Providing anti-tank missiles will help deter Moscow from taking more. [...]

The United States made a commitment to guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity when it gave up its nuclear weapons in 1994. Providing defensive weapons to Ukraine will honor that commitment and raise the cost of the war for Moscow. Over time, that may help persuade the Kremlin to withdraw from the Donbas. Even if it does not, it will force Moscow to waste additional resources in Ukraine and make them think twice about challenging us in the Baltics, where our NATO commitments would compel us to respond more forcefully. Providing defensive weapons to Ukraine actually decreases the odds of a dangerous US-Russian confrontation."

Human rights group report: Jailed in Russian-occupied Crimea for a Ukrainian Flag

Volodymyr Balukh. Photo - KHPG

■ The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG) reported, "46-year-old Volodymyr Balukh, a Ukrainian farmer, activist and recognized political prisoner, has been sentenced to 3 years, 7 months after a gravely flawed trial which human rights groups have condemned as reprisals for his open opposition to Russia's occupation of his native Crimea—and, effectively, for a Ukrainian flag. The de facto judge at the Razdolne District Court—Maria Bedritskaya—claimed that all evidence had been gained lawfully, and also imposed a 10 thousand rouble fine.

Bedritskaya was warned by the defence from the outset that even under Russian legislation a judge faces criminal liability for imprisoning people on the basis of overtly rigged evidence. She chose to ignore the weight of proof that the charges against Balukh are politically motivated and fabricated, and merely accelerated the final verdict in order to go on holiday.

Balukh was arrested on Dec 8, 2016 after 90 bullets and several trotyl explo-



sive devices were allegedly 'found' in his attic. He had no record of violence and the constant searches and series of administrative prosecutions he had faced since Russia's invasion of Crimea for his openly pro-Ukrainian position made it inconceivable that he could have held anything illegal in his home. This was one of the grounds for the Memorial Human Rights Centre's decision to declare the 46-year-old a political prisoner well before the trial. There were many other compelling reasons, including scarcely concealed falsifications and procedural irregularities which the 'judge' has not only refused to consider, but has even taken part in."

Russian Invasion of Ukraine August 9, 2017

■ The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces reported at 12:30 PM Kyiv time that in the last 24 hours, three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and nine Ukrainian soldiers were wounded in action. Towards Donetsk, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions near Avdiivka with mortars and grenade launchers. At Kamyanka, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions with mortars. Russian-terrorist forces fired on Ukrainian positions near Luhanske village. Towards

Mariupol, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions at Krasnohorivka, Talakivka and Shyrokyne with mortars. At Chermalyk and Maryinka, Russian-terrorist forces fired on Ukrainian positions. Towards Luhansk, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions near Troitske, Novto-shkivske and Novozvanivka with mortars. At Shchastya, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions with grenade launchers.

How the US can help Ukraine Defend Itself

■ Michael Carpenter, former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Senior Director at the Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, analyzes possible next steps for US security assistance to Ukraine. In Defense One, Carpenter writes, "With Defense Secretary James Mattis considering a trip to Ukraine in the coming weeks, here's what the U.S. should do to maximize the effectiveness of his visit:

(1) Announce that the Pentagon will provide Ukraine with defensive wea-

pons and more expansive military training so Kyiv can better defend itself against Russian aggression.

(2) Press Prime Minister Groysman and President Poroshenko to step up anti-corruption efforts and allow the National Anti-Corruption Bureau to do its job unimpeded.

(3) Help Ukraine devise a strategy to attract badly needed investment so its defense-industrial sector can produce and even export its own weapons and ammunition."