

Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Latest Developments

(August 16, 2024)

Military Operations

Ukrainian Incursion into Russian Territory:

Ukraine's incursion in Kursk continues to expand, Ukraine claims to have expanded up to 35 kilometres in Kursk region with 1,150 sq. kilometres of Kursk in control of Ukraine [1].

Russian Response:

Russia has reportedly diverted several thousand troops from occupied territories in Ukraine to counter the Ukrainian offensive in Kursk. Multiple brigade-sized elements, each comprising at least 1,000 troops, are believed to have been shifted to the region [2].

Casualties and Equipment Losses

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces reported that Russia has lost approximately 596,950 personnel in Ukraine since February 24, 2022, including 1,330 casualties over the past day [3]. Equipment losses include:

- 8,496 tanks (+12 in the past day)
- 16,461 armoured fighting vehicles (+35)
- 16,927 artillery systems (+59)
- 1,159 multiple rocket launchers (+5)
- 13,659 UAVs (+61)

Air Defence Operations

Ukraine's air defences were activated in Kyiv overnight to counter Russian drone attacks. The Kyiv City Military Administration reported that attack UAVs were launched from the Kursk region, but no damage or casualties were recorded in the capital [4].

Other developments

International Reactions

The United States remains reluctant to allow Ukraine to use *ATACMS* missiles inside Russia's Kursk region. U.S. officials believe these long-range missiles would be better used to continue targeting Russian-occupied Crimea. The hesitation is primarily due to limited supply rather than escalation concerns [5].

Humanitarian Situation

In the Sumy region of Ukraine, 36 settlements were shelled over the past day, resulting in one civilian death and three injuries [6]. The shelling damaged administrative buildings, vehicles, and residential structures.

Ukrainian Perspective

Ukraine has established a military commandant's office in the Kursk region to maintain law and order and ensure priority needs of the population in controlled territories. Major General Eduard Moskaliov has been appointed as its head [1].

Conclusion

As the conflict enters its 905th day, Ukraine's incursion into Russian territory continues to reshape the dynamics of the war. While Ukraine claims significant territorial gains in Kursk, the long-term implications and sustainability of this operation remain uncertain, especially considering the potential impact on Ukraine's own frontlines.

References:

[1] Ukrinform. (2024, August 16). Military commandant's office created in Kursk region – CinC Syrskyi.

[2] CNN. (2024, August 16). U.S. reluctant to allow Ukraine to use ATACMS inside Kursk region.

[3] Ukrinform. (2024, August 16). Russian army loses 1,330 soldiers in Ukraine over past day.

[4] Ukrinform. (2024, August 16). No damage and casualties in Kyiv after overnight drone attack.

[5] CNN. (2024, August 16). U.S. reluctant to allow Ukraine to use ATACMS inside Kursk region.

[6] Ukrinform. (2024, August 16). One person killed and three wounded in Sumy region over 24 hours as result of shelling.

Some AI 😊