

Russians disabling U.S. arms in Ukraine

Kyiv documents show how accuracy rates fall amid electronic jamming

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND ALEX HORTON

KYIV — Many U.S.-made satellite-guided munitions in Ukraine have failed to withstand Russian jamming technology, prompting Kyiv to stop using certain types of Western-provided armaments after effectiveness rates plummeted, according to senior Ukrainian military officials and confidential internal Ukrainian assessments obtained by The Washington Post.

Russia's jamming of the guidance systems of modern Western weapons, including Excalibur GPS-guided artillery shells and the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, which can fire some U.S.-made rockets with a range of up to 50 miles, has eroded Ukraine's ability to defend its territory and has left officials in Kyiv urgently seeking help from the Pentagon to obtain upgrades from arms manufacturers.

Russia's ability to combat the high-tech munitions has far-reaching implications for Ukraine and its Western supporters — potentially providing a blueprint for adversaries such as China and Iran — and it is a key reason Moscow's forces have regained the initiative and are advancing on the battlefield.

The success rate for the U.S.-designed Excalibur shells, for example, has fallen to about 10 percent, according to Ukrainian officials. SEE UKRAINE ON A10

Fla. law's impact seen at clinics up East Coast

30% have longer wait times for abortions as women make trek north

BY CAITLIN GILBERT, CAROLINE KITCHENER AND JANICE KAI CHEN

Clinics up the East Coast have seen a surge in patient traffic since a law banning most abortions in Florida went into effect on May 1 — but so far they have not experienced the collapse in care that many providers had feared before the new restrictions began in the country's third most populous state, according to new data collected by a research team at Middlebury College.

Wait times for abortion appointments have increased at approximately 30 percent of clinics across North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and D.C., the areas closest to Florida where abortion remains legal after six weeks of pregnancy, according to the data, which is based on a survey of clinics before and after the law went into effect. North Carolina experienced the sharpest increases, with wait times rising in half of the state's 16 clinics.

The average Florida resident now lives about 590 miles from the nearest clinic that offers abortions after six weeks and will need to travel more than 1,000 miles to reach the nearest clinic, according to the research team. SEE ABORTION ON A8

Boy Scouts love this scenic river.



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Locals say they're ruining it.

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER IN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VA.

Anne McClung was tending horses in her 19th-century barn one day last summer when she noticed a change in the Maury River flowing swiftly nearby. She's known the river all her 76 years, but it didn't take a practiced eye to recognize clouds of silt in the normally clear waters.

McClung could think of only one cause: The Boy Scouts.

The National Capital Area Council of the Scouts, based in Bethesda, has maintained a campground and lake a few miles upstream from McClung's home for almost six decades. In recent times, the Scouts have drained the lake every fall, causing sediment to pour into one of Virginia's most famous and well-loved rivers.

Last year, the Scouts drained the lake in August at peak season for the Maury, driving anglers, kayakers and swimmers out of the water. Resentment among local residents boiled over. Now they've organized an effort to fight back against what they see as mounting damage to a precious local resource. But with little legal authority and conflicting governmental mandates, the Maury River Alliance is struggling to make a difference.

"We have to do something. We can't let it go unaddressed, unchallenged," said alliance member George Kosovic, 73, whose family has long owned property along the river. The situation has created an unusual standoff between local residents and an organization known for honor and stewardship, though plagued in recent years by controversy and financial trouble, leading to a decision this month to rebrand as Scouting America. The Boy Scouts have taught generations of young people how to enjoy and care for the outdoors in these mountains, but letters to local newspapers regularly cast the D.C. group as out-of-touch. SEE RIVER ON A5

Anglers cast lines in the Maury River as it comes through Goshen Pass near Lexington, Va. A Boy Scout chapter maintains a lake nearby, sediment from which pours into the river when the lake is drained.

VETERANS, INC.

Shadow industry swoops in for a slice of victims' benefits

Firms pledge to boost disability checks under new law allocating billions for burn-pit exposure

BY LISA REIN

Senators savored the moment on a summer day outside the Capitol — the passage of a sweeping, bipartisan agreement to add \$280 billion in new benefits and health care for millions of veterans exposed to toxic burn pits.

More than a year after taking effect, the Honoring our Pact Act has proved enormously popular. This week, President Biden announced that more than 1 million disability claims have been approved under the new law.

But glitches, slowdowns and other mishaps have dogged the program's rollout by the Department of Veterans Affairs, enabling the growth of an unregulated shadow industry that promises to drastically boost tax-free disability checks, according to lawmakers, advocates and leaders in the claims industry — in exchange for veterans signing away thousands of dollars in future benefits.

SEE VETERANS ON A6



ILLUSTRATION BY KAT BROOKS/THE WASHINGTON POST; DOCUMENTS COURTESY OF GRANT GALLAGHER; ISTOCK

Ruling deepens Israel's isolation

ICJ DEMANDS HALT TO RAFAH ASSAULT

Order difficult to enforce without U.S. support

BY LOUISA LOVELUCK AND ELLEN FRANCIS

A ruling Friday from the International Court of Justice ordering an immediate halt to Israel's military offensive in Rafah marked a stunning rebuke of the Israeli leadership's prosecution of the war in Gaza, including the decision to send troops and tanks into a city where more than a million Palestinians had sought refuge.

The incursion into Gaza's southernmost city, which began May 7, has already displaced more than 800,000 people, the court said, calling the developments "exceptionally grave." Israel must halt the operation and open the Rafah crossing for the "unhindered" provision of aid, the judges said, adding that the offensive could destroy Palestinian life in Gaza.

Israeli officials swiftly indicated that they would ignore the ruling, which is binding but difficult to enforce, even as the high-profile judgment deepened Israel's isolation on the world stage.

On Monday, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said that he was seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. SEE GAZA ON A11

Lawsuits tie 3 companies to massacre in Uvalde

Victims' families allege rifle maker, Activision, Meta bear responsibility

BY ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ AND NAOMI NIX

SAN ANTONIO — The lawyer who won a record-setting settlement for Sandy Hook families announced two lawsuits Friday on behalf of the relatives of Uvalde school shooting victims against the manufacturer of the AR-15-style weapon used in the attack, as well as the publisher of Call of Duty video games and the social media giant Meta.

The lawsuits against Daniel Defense, known for its high-end rifles; Activision, the manufacturer of the Call of Duty first-person-shooter series, and Meta, the parent company of Facebook, may be the first of their kind to connect aggressive firearms marketing tactics on social media and gaming platforms to the actions of a mass shooter.

The complaints contend the three companies are responsible for "grooming" a generation of "socially vulnerable" young men radicalized to live out violent video game fantasies in the real world with easily accessible weapons of war.

One of those men, the legal team argues, was Robb Elementary School shooter Salvador Rodriguez. SEE UVALDE ON A4

IN THE NEWS

Gang attack Three people from a U.S.-based missionary group, including the daughter and son-in-law of a Missouri lawmaker, were shot and killed in Haiti. A10

A proper send-off College graduations are even sweeter for students whose high school ceremonies were canceled due to covid. B1

THE NATION **Cancer-causing** benzene pollution from oil refineries is down, an analysis concluded. A3 **The drug Ozempic** lowers the risk of death from kidney disease, a major study found. A8

THE WORLD **The U.S.** is largely financing and arming the Kenya-led mission to stop gangs in Haiti. A9 **The pope** cleared the way for the first millennial saint, teen blogger Carlo Acutis. A11

THE ECONOMY **Retailers** such as Target, Walmart and Aldi are rolling back costs in their food aisles as consumers pull back. A12

OBITUARIES **Morgan Spurlock**, 53, created a hit while eating only McDonald's for 30 days for his film "Super Size Me." B4

THE REGION **A Marine** war veteran who prosecutors said carried a tomahawk during the Jan. 6 riot was sentenced to two years in prison. B1 **A lawsuit** seeking to hold a Bethesda, Md., prep school liable for a student's suicide is likely to move forward. B1

STYLE **President Biden's** state dinner at the White House for the leader of Kenya included an unexpected guest. C1

SPORTS **D.C. is attempting** to host an NFL draft in the nation's capital as soon as 2027, but the competition is intense. D1

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