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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Russia strikes Kyiv suburb, presses offensive in Mariupol ruins

KYIV/MARIUPOL, Ukraine, April 16 (Reuters) - Russian air raids and missile strikes hit Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other major cities on Saturday as Moscow launched more long-range attacks following the sinking of its Black Sea fleet's flagship.

In the besieged port of Mariupol, scene of the war's heaviest fighting and worst humanitarian catastrophe, Russian troops pressed their advances, hoping to make up for their failure to capture Kyiv by seizing their first big prize of the war.

"The situation is very difficult" in Mariupol, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the Ukrainska Pravda news portal. "Our soldiers are blocked, the wounded are blocked. There is a humanitarian crisis ... Nevertheless, the guys are defending themselves."

Moscow said its warplanes had struck a tank repair factory in Kyiv. An explosion was heard and smoke rose over the southeastern Darnytskyi district. The mayor said at least one person was killed and medics were fighting to save others. read more

The Ukrainian military said Russian warplanes that took off from Belarus had fired missiles at the Lviv region near the Polish border and four cruise missiles were shot down by Ukrainian air defences.

The western city has been relatively unscathed so far and serves as a haven for refugees and international aid agencies.

In Mariupol, Reuters journalists in Russian-held districts reached the Ilyich steelworks, one of two metals plants where defenders have held out in underground tunnels and bunkers. Moscow claimed to have captured it on Friday.

The factory was reduced to a ruin of twisted steel and blasted concrete, with no sign of defenders present. Several bodies of civilians lay scattered on nearby streets, including a woman in a pink parka and white shoes.

Someone had spraypainted "mined" on a fence by an obliterated filling station. In a rare sign of life, one red car drove slowly down an otherwise empty street, the word "children" scrawled on a card taped to the windshield.

The Russian defence ministry said its troops had cleared the entire urban area of Mariupol of Ukrainian forces and had blockaded a few fighters in the Azovstal steelworks, RIA news agency



said. It cited ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying that as of Saturday, Ukrainian forces in the city had lost more than 4,000 people.

The governor of Kharkiv province in the east said at least one person had been killed and 18 were injured in a missile strike.

Smoke billowed from burning cars and the remains of what appeared to be an office building at the scene of an attack in the city as rescuers cleared mounds of debris that blocked the road outside.

In Mykolaiv, a city close to the southern front, Russia said it had struck a military vehicle repair factory.

The attacks followed Russia's announcement on Friday that it would intensify long-range strikes in retaliation for unspecified acts of "sabotage" and "terrorism", hours after it confirmed the sinking of its Black Sea flagship, the Moskva.

Kyiv and Washington say the ship, whose sinking has become a symbol of Ukrainian defiance, was hit by Ukrainian missiles. Moscow says it sank after a fire and that its crew of around 500 were evacuated.

Russia's Defence Ministry published video of the head of the navy, Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, meeting on a parade

ground with about a hundred sailors it said were members of the crew.

Ukraine says it has so far held off Russian advances elsewhere in the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where at least one person was killed in shelling overnight. read more

In the front-line Luhansk town of Lysychansk, civilians crouched and then fled for safety from incoming shells as thick smoke rose from a blackened shop and burned-out cars.

Ukraine gained the upper hand in the early phase of a war, in part by successfully deploying mobile units armed with anti-tank missiles supplied by the West against Russian armoured convoys confined to roads by muddy terrain.

But Putin appears determined to capture more Donbas territory to claim victory in a war that has left Russia subject to increasingly punitive Western sanctions and with few allies.

An advisor to Zelenskiy said the country needed a swifter supply of weapons from its European Union partners. "Ukraine needs weapons. Not in a month. Now," Mykhailo Podolyak said in a Twitter post.

Zelenskiy said about 2,500-3,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed so far and up to 20,000 Russian troops.

Moscow has given no updates on its casualties since March 25, when it said 1,351 had died. Western estimates of Russian losses are many times higher, while there are few independent estimates of Ukraine's losses.

Ukraine says civilian deaths are impossible to count, estimating at least 20,000 killed in Mariupol alone.

Overall, around a quarter of Ukrainians have been driven from their homes, including a tenth of the population that has fled abroad.

Despite the attack in Darnytskyi, Kyiv continued to reopen slowly in the wake of the Russian withdrawal from its outskirts in recent weeks, with the French embassy staging a flag-raising ceremony to mark its reopening.

Zelenskiy held a ceremony to award medals to soldiers in the lobby of an office building with sandbags partly blocking the doors.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

04/16/2022

## Ramadan Month of Mercy

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims worldwide as the month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. People pray to Allah and do extra good deeds during this time.

During Ramadan the people fast with patience. Fasting also helps people to be thankful for all the blessings we have. Fasting teaches the people to have patience not to be angry. We need to be nice to people and care for one another.

I was invited to a big Ramadan event sponsored by local community leaders at the Sugar Land Marriott hotel. More than one thousand

people and members of the Consular Corp were in attendance.

We should be very grateful that we came to

this land from all over the world. We brought our own culture and religion to practice the way we like. The most important thing is that our next

generation will still keep their traditional language and culture.

We believe that religion is a very important moral

power for our nation. No matter what religion you may follow, religious beliefs always want you to be good man. This kind of power can really keep many people from committing crimes.

Fasting is also a shared experience between Muslims and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood. Overall, it benefits our bodies and the society as a whole.



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## Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



Nuns take part in the Catholic Washing of the Feet ceremony on Easter Holy Week in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City, April 14. REUTERS/Ammar Awad



Penitents belonging to Los Gitanos brotherhood wait inside a church to take part in a Palm Sunday procession, after processions were cancelled for the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic, in Ronda, Spain, April 10, 2022. REUTERS/Jon Nazca



A man sits on a domestic gas cylinder as he waits in line to buy gas on a main road, amid the country's economic crisis in Colombo, Sri Lanka. REUTERS/Dinuka Liyanawatte



Pilgrims celebrate Easter as they walk over the tidal causeway to Lindisfarne during the final leg of their Good Friday pilgrimage in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, Britain, April 15. REUTERS/Lee Smith



Western lowland gorilla Fatou, the world's oldest according to the Berlin zoo, receives a rice cake with fruit on her 65th birthday at the zoo in Berlin, Germany. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner



A man dressed as a demon rests as he participates in a ceremony known as Los Talciguines, as part of religious activities to mark the start of the Holy Week in Textistepeque, El Salvador, April 11. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas



## Hundreds Of Russian Troops And Equipment Are Being Pounded Elon Musk's Starlink Internet Connection Dominates The Ukraine Skies Allowing Zelinsky's Drone Warriors To Rule The Digital War



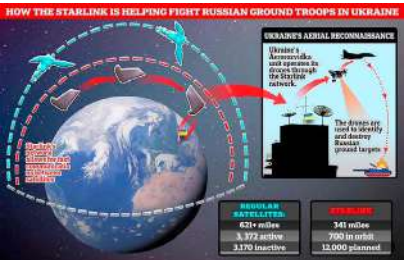
Artist Depiction Of Elon Musk (Left) And Ukraine President Zelinsky (Right) Showing Their Partnership With The Starlink Satellite System And Drone Initiative. (Artist/Alex Andro/Donna, Texas)

### Key Points

- \*Aerorozvidka (Aerial Reconnaissance) is being used to attack Russian drones and target Vladimir Putin's army of tanks with the help of the newly available Starlink system which improves internet and connection speeds.*
- \*US billionaire Elon Musk's new technology helps to keep Ukrainian drones connected with their bases.*
- \*It comes as the country has continued to suffer through internet and power outages throughout the invasion.*
- \*The Starlink app is the most downloaded in Ukraine with global downloads tripling in the last two weeks.*

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Elon Musk's Starlink satellite system is giving Ukrainian forces the edge in winning the drone war as the nation fights back with technology to track down invading Russians. Aerorozvidka (Aerial Reconnaissance) is being used to attack Russian drones and target Vladimir Putin's army of tanks and track down their positions in the conflict, which has been ongoing since February 24, according to The Telegraph. Drones used in the field are able to use the newly available Starlink to keep connected and provide intelligence as internet and power outages plague Ukraine. With the technology, the drones can be directed to drop anti-tank munitions to help ward off the Russian attack. The so-far-successful implementation of the satellites into the defense of the war-torn nation makes good on a promise outspoken mogul Musk - who



Drones used in the field are able to use the newly available Starlink to keep connected and provide intelligence as internet and power

er outages plague Ukraine. The president of the embattled country took to Twitter to thank the Tesla CEO, 50, for the support, and invited the tech mogul to visit Ukraine once the war is over. 'Talked to @elonmusk. I'm grateful to him for supporting Ukraine with words and deeds. Next week we will receive another batch of Starlink systems for destroyed cities,' Zelensky wrote at the time. Meanwhile, more Musk satellites are still coming. Early Saturday morning, a further 53 Starlink internet satellites were launched into space via rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, further bolstering the burgeoning surveillance network. SpaceX said Saturday that the 230-foot rocket, dubbed the Falcon 9, launched the satellites into low orbit without a hitch. The Ukrainians are also enlisting the help of PD-1 unmanned aerial vehicles fitted with infrared sensors. With a wingspan of 10 feet, the vehicles are being used to collect vital information on the movements of Russian troops.



Musk (pictured above) delivered the terminals for satellite-based internet following a request by Ukraine's minister of digital transformation, Mykhailo Fedorov. The Ukrainian drone unit uses a 'Delta' system, which has been perfected in recent years with the help of Western advisers. It can be accessed by basic laptops, and has a 'situational awareness' software installed, which creates an interactive map using images from drones, satellites, human intelligence and sensors to build a physical picture to help in tracking the enemy. The system, which is said to be on par with similar NATO technology, is believed to have been tested in the Sea Breeze military exercise held in the Black Sea in 2021, which involved the USA, Ukraine and 30 other countries. The Ukrainians have perfected the system with

the help of Western countries, who have provided radio communications superior to Soviet-era technology. The US is said to have spent millions of dollars on the system to protect against Russian hacking. Over the past week, the US has contributed roughly \$1 billion in new assistance to Ukraine. **The Most Downloaded App In Ukraine** More than 100,000 people have now downloaded the Starlink app, with global downloads more than tripling in the last two weeks. Sensor Tower, a firm that provides App Store and Google Play data, said the app was downloaded 21,000 times globally across the two stores on Sunday. That is the most global installs in a single day, the company added, with the majority of the downloads coming from Ukraine.

### SWITCHBLADE 600



The US has opted to send Switchblades - known as kamikaze drones - to Ukraine, which were initially designed for US special forces, and have the ability to take down a tank. US President Joe Biden on Wednesday detailed how much military aid the US is already providing - and will provide - to the country, after President Zelensky recorded an impassioned plea for aid from the superpower, asking Biden to back a no-fly zone his administration has repeatedly rejected. In the remotely held address to the US senate, Zelensky urged Americans to remember Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 attacks when looking at the recent events in Ukraine, and firmly asked the president, by name, in English, to step in. 'It's not enough to be the leader of the nation. Today it takes to be the leader of the world,' Zelensky said. 'Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace. Peace in your country doesn't depend anymore only on you and your people. It depends on those next to you and those who are strong.' Following Zelensky's speech, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell also criticized the Biden administration for what he's seen as a lackadaisical response to the conflict in Ukraine.



Early Saturday morning, a further 53 Starlink satellites were launched into space by rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, further bolstering the relatively new surveillance network. Biden Wednesday called Zelensky's speech 'convincing and significant,' as he announced an additional \$800 million in military assistance on top of an already \$13.6 billion aid package for the country, in a spending bill signed into law Tuesday, which includes weapons sought-after by Ukrainian forces to quell the Russian onslaught, such as anti-armor and anti-air systems. Speaking from the White House, Biden said the new package will consist of 9,000 anti-armor systems, 7,000 small arms, 800 Stinger anti-aircraft systems, 20 million rounds of ammunition, and 100 drones, 'so [Ukrainians] can continue to defend their space.' During the speech, Biden asserted that the US is 'fully committed' to getting those weapons to Ukraine in the coming days.



SpaceX said Saturday the 230-foot rocket, called the Falcon 9, successfully launched the satellites into orbit without a hitch. Watch Full Starlink Rocket/Satellites Liftoff Video Here:

[https://videos.dailymail.co.uk/video/mol/2020/01/07/7861132804827099738/640x360\\_MP4\\_7861132804827099738.mp4](https://videos.dailymail.co.uk/video/mol/2020/01/07/7861132804827099738/640x360_MP4_7861132804827099738.mp4) With that said, there are still fears that the system could be impacted by internet disruption as Russia continues its assault, leading to power outages and internet connectivity issues. Starlink, however - now the most popular app in Ukraine, with more than 100,000 downloads in the few weeks since it went live - uses terminals that resemble TV dishes equipped with antennas that have so far addressed those concerns, with the satellites mounted on roofs to allow Ukraine citizens to access the Internet via satellite in rural or disconnected areas. (Article Continues Below)

## (Article Continues From Above) Elon Musk's Starlink Internet Connection Dominates The Ukraine Skies Allowing Zelinskiy's Drone Warriors To Rule The Digital War



Drones used in the field are able to use the newly available Starlink to keep connected and provide intelligence as internet and power outages plague Ukraine.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Ukraine has so far received thousands of antennas from Musk's companies and European allies, which the country's minister of digital transformation, Mykhailo Fedorov, saying the tech has already proved 'very effective,' in an interview with The Washington Post Friday. 'The quality of the link is excellent,' Fedorov, 31, told the paper from an undisclosed location in , the country, in remote interview made possible by a Starlink connection. 'We are using thousands, in the area of thousands, of terminals with new shipments arriving every other day,' the official revealed, speaking on how the satellites have proved instrumental in helping citizens and leaders communicate as the Kremlin continues its large-scale attacks in cities across Ukraine.

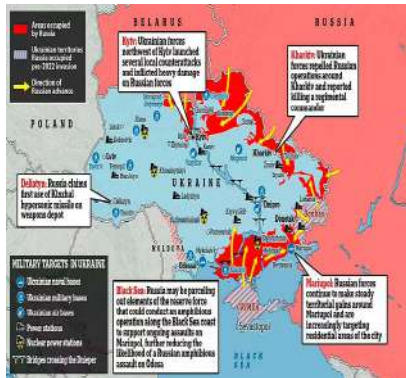


Shortly after the invasion, Fedorov, who also serves as the country's vice-prime minister, had sent a tweet to Musk, asking to be given access to Starlink stations. Musk, currently valued at \$232 billion according to the



A Russian tank destroyed by Ukrainian forces. The lower orbit of Starlink also allows signals to trav-

el even faster. Over 2,000 satellites have been sent up to space so far, and there are plans to launch around 12,000 in total. The usefulness of the system has now reached into military operations, with the Ukrainian drone armies of 'Aerorozvidka' being able to use it to continue communicating with their bases by sending signals from Starlink terminals and using ground stations in neighboring countries, including Poland. The Aerorozvidka unit was formed by a group of civilian model airplane enthusiasts and those with a background in engineering in 2014 following the outbreak of war in eastern Ukraine. The group helped to build drones and sensors for the military to monitor the border, and helped to adapt commercially available drones to gather intelligence and even drop home-made explosives. Eventually, the system was integrated into the Ukrainian armed forces. It is proving so effective that the US feels supplying the Ukrainians with aircraft is unnecessary, and have opted to send Switchblades - known as kamikaze drones - which were initially designed for US special forces, and have the ability to take down a tank. General James Dickinson, commander of US Space Command, told the Senate armed services committee: 'What we're seeing with Elon Musk and the Starlink capabilities is really showing us what a megaconstellation, or a proliferated architecture, can provide in terms of redundancy and capability.'



**Prior To Deployment Of Satellite-Guided Drones, Russian Forces Made Steady Gains** The US however, has remained adamant about not deploying actual troops into Ukraine, out of fears for its own national security - or as Biden has put it, to avoid a possible 'World War III.' White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki reiterated Tuesday that the administration does not and will not support Zelensky's no-fly zone request for those reasons. 'We have the responsibility to do here is to assess what the impact is on the United States and our own national security,' the White House spokesperson said. But Russians have so far reacted angrily to the US' - and particularly Starlink's - support for Ukraine. Dmitry Rogozin, director general of Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, said: 'This is the West that we should never trust. 'When Russia implements its highest national interests on the territory of Ukraine, Elon Musk appears with his Starlink which was previously declared as purely civilian. 'I warned about it, but our 'muskophiles' said he is the light of world cosmonautics. Here, look, he has chosen

the side.' The use of Starlink as a method for citizens and the government to stay connected during the invasion serves a major test of the relatively new technology, experts say, and could have lasting implications for the future of conflict. Aside from powering weapons and aiding the military, Musk's satellites have so far allowed citizens to stay informed against an enemy known for their misinformation efforts. Britain's Ministry of Defense warned last week that Moscow is 'probably' targeting Ukraine's communications infrastructure. With that said, despite repeated attempts by Putin's forces to disconnect Ukrainians from the web, Russia has threatened its own independent journalists with jail time if they report 'fake' news about the war. The Russian forces have been using their fair share of hypersonic weapons, unleashing its 'unstoppable' Kinzhal hypersonic missiles for the first time in Ukraine this week. Russia has never before admitted using the high-precision weapon in combat, and state news agency RIA Novosti said it was the first use of the Kinzhal hypersonic weapons during the conflict in pro-Western Ukraine. Moscow claims the 'Kinzhal' - or Dagger - is 'unstoppable' by current Western weapons. The missile, which has a range of 1,250 miles, is nuclear capable. This was a conventional strike. Aerial footage released by the Russian military claimed to show the missile strike. Large, long buildings are shown in the footage in a snowy region, before one is obliterated by a huge explosion - sending flames, earth and debris high into the air. People can be seen on the ground fleeing as smoke pours from the site. **A Virtual Graveyard Of Totally Destroyed Russian Tanks And Armored Vehicles Is Left After Direct Hits From Rockets Deployed By Drones Guided By Ukraine Forces**



**Photos of destroyed or captured Russian BM-21 Uragan MLRS 9P140 launcher, Tigr-M, and a T-72B3 tank near Pryluky in Chernihiv Oblast, Ukraine. With the technology, the drones can be directed to drop anti-tank munitions to help ward off the Russian attack. Drones have been instrumental in targeting Russian equipment as it travels into Ukraine.** Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ignat confirmed that a storage site had been targeted, but added that Kyiv had no information regarding the type of missile that was used. Russia reportedly first used the weapon during its military campaign in Syria in 2016 to support the Assad regime, although it was unclear if this was the same model.

Some of the most intense bombing came in 2016 during the battle for Aleppo, resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths. Russian President Vladimir Putin has termed the missile 'an ideal weapon' that flies at 10 times the speed of sound and can overcome air-defence systems. Hypersonic missiles can be used to deliver conventional warheads, more rapidly and precisely than other missiles. But their capacity to deliver nuclear weapons could add to a country's threat, increasing the danger of a nuclear conflict. Russia's announcement of the missile strike came as Kyiv's army high command claimed to have killed a fifth Moscow general since the war in Ukraine began. Lieutenant General Andrey Mordvichev was one of Vladimir Putin's most senior commanders, in charge of the 8th All-Military Army of the Kremlin's vast Southern Military District. Moscow did not initially confirm his death in keeping with most previous claims of the 'liquidation' of Generals. Ukraine now claims to have killed five holding the rank of General. The Ukrainians also claimed that wounded Russian soldiers have filled all hospital facilities in Gomel city in Belarus.



Kiev's Missiles Are All That Stand Between The Russian Air Force And Control Of Ukraine's Skies

Overnight, Zelensky said Russian forces are blockading his country's largest cities to wear the population down into submission, but he warned Saturday that the strategy will fail and Moscow will lose in the long run if it doesn't end its war. Zelenskyy accused the Kremlin of deliberately creating 'a humanitarian catastrophe' and appealed for Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet with him, using a huge Moscow stadium rally where Putin lavished praise on Russian forces Friday to illustrate what was at stake. 'Just picture for yourself that in that stadium in Moscow there are 14,000 dead bodies and tens of thousands more injured and maimed. Those are the Russian costs throughout the invasion,' Zelenskyy said in a nightly video address to the nation recorded outside the presidential office in Kyiv. The rally took place as Russia has faced heavier-than-expected losses on the battlefield and increasingly authoritarian rule at home. The event was surrounded by suspicions it was a Kremlin-manufactured display of patriotism. Russian police have detained thousands of people from protests of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Fighting continued on multiple fronts in Ukraine. In the besieged port city of Mariupol, the site of some of the war's greatest suffering. (Courtesy <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/>)