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Ben Kessler

Ukraine shows off US-made weapons, material amid Russia attack fears

Україна демонструє озброєння американського виробництва на тлі побоювання Росії щодо нападу

. Україна відзначила День Збройних Сил показовою демонстрацією американської бронетехніки та озброєння. Як заявив Президент України В. Зеленський військовослужбовці Збройних Сил України продовжують виконувати свою найважливішу місію – захищати свободу та суверенітет держави від російського агресора. В. Зеленський відзначив державне свято зустріччю з солдатами у зруйнованій війною Донецькій області.

<https://nypost.com/2021/12/07/ukraine-shows-off-us-made-weapons-amid-russia-attack-fears/>

Ukraine celebrated its Day of the Armed Forces holiday Monday with a showy display of American armored vehicles and weapons in an attempt to flex its power [as tensions escalate with neighboring Russia](#).

“The servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to fulfill their most important mission – to defend the freedom and sovereignty of the state from the Russian aggressor,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a statement [obtained by Reuters](#). “The Ukrainian army ... is confident in its strength and able to thwart any conquest plans of the enemy.” The exhibition came on the same day as the publication [by Fox News](#) of satellite images showing tens of thousands of Russian forces [gathering at several key strategic points](#) along the Ukrainian border.

US officials have expressed fears that Russia could launch an invasion of Ukrainian territory as soon as early next year and deploy up to 175,000 troops in the effort. On Monday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Zelensky by phone and restated America’s “unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression,” according to the State Department. The department added that Blinken and Zelensky agreed on the need for “full restoration of Ukrainian sovereignty over its internationally recognized borders” — including the province of Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014. Blinken and Zelensky spoke ahead of [President Biden’s much-anticipated Tuesday video call](#) with Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to Reuters, Zelensky marked the public holiday by meeting with soldiers in the war-torn Donetsk region before flying on to the northeastern city of Kharkiv. While there, Zelensky talked up the country’s [relationship with NATO countries](#) that have provided Ukraine with weapons and other military supplies. Russia has described Ukrainian membership in NATO as a “red line,” while Ukraine has urged the military alliance to accelerate its entry and said Moscow had no right to veto such a move. NATO’s leadership has been supportive but said Ukraine must carry out defense reforms and tackle corruption first. The holiday marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the armed forces of Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.