

The Russian hybrid war against Ukraine

The 41stA CMD elements are likely redeploying from temporary positions in Voronezh to permanent basing facilities in Yelnya, from which they could support several operational directions. It suggests that they will be permanently transferred to the Western Military District (WMD) and remain on the Ukrainian and/or Belarusian border for a time (Yelnya may not be their final destination within the WMD).



Political component:
 The rhetoric of complete seizure of the territory of Ukraine is intensifying. Messages from Russia: "Both Ukraine and Poland serve as US-led NATO strongholds in Russia's geopolitical encirclement strategy".

Economic component:
 Russia intensification of the energy crisis through blackmail with energy resources.



This recent series of Russian redeployments, along with energy pressure and destabilization at the border, is part of Russia's hybrid war against Ukraine. Conditions are being created to increase pressure on Ukraine and Belarus. The situation is constantly closely monitored by Ukraine, the United States and NATO.

The situation unfolding today on the border between Belarus and Poland, on the border between Belarus and Ukraine, and before that on the border between Belarus and Lithuania, is just a manifestation of the Kremlin's hybrid war.

The group of Russian forces includes troops of the 8th and 20th armies of the SMD and WMD, as well as forces and means of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation, separate units and parts of the 4th and 6th Armies of the Air force of the Armed Forces of Russia.

1st and 2nd Army Corps, are fully part of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. At least 2,000 Russian personnel officers are directly present in the temporarily occupied territories.

Belarus has pushed migrants into the EU and Ukrainian border

Russia uses OTS "Iskander" as an element of intimidation of NATO countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Latvia

Russian armour and troops build-up on Ukrainian border sparked recent US warning of invitation

Russia threatens to seize Kakhovka reservoir in order to restore water supply to occupied Crimea

The command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continues to increase the combat and mobilization readiness of formations and units of the 1st (Donetsk) and 2nd (Luhansk) army corps of the operative group of the Russian occupation troops. In the temporarily occupied territory the occupiers began another collection of conscripts. Combat training classes and combat readiness trainings were organized with those called to the meeting.

The Kremlin is distributing Russian passports and organizing illegal elections in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, trying to de facto integrate these territories with Russia.

Russia has suspended the right of peaceful passage for foreign warships and other state vessels in three areas of the Black Sea near the occupied Crimea for military exercises. The restriction will run from April 24 to October 31, 2021.

Four battalion tactical groups and combat support elements from the 41stA CMD, (the equivalent of a division), deployed to Voronezh from their permanent base in Novosibirsk, in the Russian interior, in April 2021. The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed at the time that this deployment would support Russia's Zapad-2021 military exercise (though the 41stA CMD did not participate in the main Zapad-2021 exercises from September 10-16).

