



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 828th FSC Plenary Meeting
(14 September 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first regular plenary meeting of the FSC in the third trimester of 2016 let me first of all warmly welcome the new FSC Chairmanship of Portugal and wish them every success in guiding our work in the third trimester of 2016. We are grateful to H.E. Dr. Augusto Santos Silva, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, for his opening statement outlining the main priorities and planned activities of the FSC Chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,

Over the FSC summer recess the security situation in Donbas along the contact line had been markedly deteriorating. Continuous ceasefire violations by the combined Russian-separatist forces had been on a sharp rise in August, which further worsened the humanitarian situation. The attacks employed battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, 152mm artillery, 120mm and 82mm mortars along the entire line of contact with an average intensity of **94** times per day. Over past two months **43** Ukrainian soldiers lost their lives and **192** were wounded.

In compliance with the recent arrangement on silence regime from 1 September, Ukrainian armed forces strictly observed the ceasefire. During the first day the security situation across the contact line became controlled, number of attacks decreased significantly, and the use of prohibited by Minsk agreements weapons, stopped. However, after two days the combined Russian-separatist forces again launched attacks using mortars of caliber 82mm and 120 mm. Of particular concern is the shelling on 11 September, when the militants used 122mm artillery systems in the vicinity of Vodyane in the Mariupol direction. In the first ten days of

September, 214 attacks provocatively targeted the Ukrainian armed forces positions, settlements and critical infrastructure facilities of Donbas. Unfortunately, there is now a tendency to deterioration of security. On 12 September the combined Russian-separatist forces 35 times shelled the Ukrainian armed forces positions. During the past night the Russian hybrid forces again employed high caliber artillery and mortars.

The volatility of the security is strongly influenced by Russia's continuing direct involvement in the conflict and constant procurement of resupplies and reinforcements. Only in August 2016 Russia sent into the occupied areas of Donbas 59 battle tanks, 24 armoured combat vehicles, 4 multiple rocket launchers, 104 heavy trucks, 95 automobile vehicles with ammunition, as well as 96 cisterns of fuel. The main fuel supplier is the Russian oil company "Bashneft".

Mr. Chairman,

Since the beginning of 2016 up to 260 cases of illegal crossings of the state border with Ukraine by the Russian railway echelons and columns with military equipment have been registered. The main routes supplies are to the railway stations of Ilovaysk, Krasnodon, Rovenky, Kvashyno and Donetsk.

The total number of military equipment in the occupied areas of Donbas since the beginning of the Russian aggression in period summer 2014- September 2016 increased drastically: - battle tanks from 30 to 600; - armoured combat vehicles from 124 to 1260; - artillery and multiple rocket launchers from 110 to 1060; - anti-aircraft installations from 50 to 470.

As we have repeatedly stated during many FSC plenary meetings it is absolutely critical to establish permanent OSCE monitoring and verification at the Ukraine-Russia state border, aiming at real de-escalation and stabilisation of security environment.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly condemn the illegal practice regularly used by Russia of sending the so-called "humanitarian convoys" in violation of international norms, Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as principles of international humanitarian law. Russia continues to use so-called "humanitarian convoys" to loot, disassemble and remove to the Russian Federation the equipment of the Ukrainian enterprises from the occupied areas of Donbas. Notably, on 25 August a Russian so-called "humanitarian convoy" of 70 trucks illegally crossed into Ukraine with a load of up to 30%.

But later these so-called "humanitarian" trucks left Ukraine being overloaded by looted property and equipment. In particular, the occupants dismantled and transported to Russia the equipment from Stakhanov Wagon Plant (town of Kadiivka).

Distinguished colleagues,

SMM continues to register an unacceptable situation when significant limitations are imposed on the international monitors in the occupied areas to impede proper monitoring and distort the real situation on the ground. Access of SMM observers is denied or hindered. The SMM teams are imposed direct threats, escorts on their visits, demanded patrol plans in advance. Russia and its proxies do not allow freedom of the SMM's movement in large part of the territory under their control, including along Ukraine-Russia state border. Such restrictions breach the agreed mandate of the SMM and its ability to report objectively on the situation on the ground. It remains absolutely essential to seek that Russia delivers on its commitment on the SMM's full freedom of movement.

We fully support the position of SMM Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug, expressed during his briefing in this hall on 5 September that restrictions and denials of access must be brought to zero level. This must be viewed as a critical factor for objective monitoring and verification.

Mr. Chairman,

We are seriously concerned about the increasing number of military manoeuvres in the occupied territories of Crimea, Donbas and near the Ukraine-Russia state border. On 25-31 August 2016 a sudden inspection of combat and mobilization readiness of the Russian armed forces was conducted, which engaged 100.000 servicemen, more than 10 thousand pieces of weapons and military equipment, 60 war ships and up to 400 aircraft and helicopters. This inspection of combat readiness of the Russian armed forces became the final stage of preparation for the strategic command-staff exercise "Caucasus-2016", held on 5-10 September 2016. During this training, Russian military commanders assessed the "readiness of the armed forces to localization of an international armed conflict".

According to the competent authorities of Ukraine, there are at least 8 military bases established on the Russian territory near the Ukrainian state border in the settlements of Yelnya, Klinty, Valuyki, Boguchar, Millerovo, Persianovskiy, as well as the military bases of Rostov-1 and Rostov-2, where a large number of soldiers and combat force were deployed ready to move into the territory of Ukraine.

In August 2016, the Russian side has cynically accused Ukraine by resorting to threatening provocations, like alleged “Ukrainian subversive group”. We consider the actions by Russian security service as a provocation with the aim to prepare ground for a new stage of aggression against Ukraine. Ukrainian side highly appreciates a strong stance of its partners dismissing Russia’s unfounded allegations.

In view of the time constraints for the statements the Ukrainian delegation will distribute in the OSCE net the photo presentation on Russia’s regular troops and military equipment presence on the occupied territories of Ukraine (Attachment, 24 slides).

Mr. Chairman,

We expect from Russia to implement the necessary initial steps: securing ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons, and full freedom of movement for the SMM for effective monitoring. These steps are an exact reflection of immediate measures as agreed by Russia in the Minsk package. We deplore the latest signals from Moscow that sets conditions for ceasefire and stabilisation of security. The decisions taken in Moscow led to the conflict, it requires decisions in Moscow to stop the conflict and progress to resolution.

We urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



THE ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION ON TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE AND AROUND UKRAINE (as of Aug. 29, 2016)



DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE OF UKRAINE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF UKRAINE

The situation around Ukraine and in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as in the Crimea is characterized by:

serious violations of the Minsk Agreement concerning ceasefire regime and withdrawal of heavy weapons from the line of contact by Russia, as well as overall supply of Russian occupation troops in the East of Ukraine

build-up of the Russian Joint Task Forces in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and deployment of strike weapons to the peninsula

increase of Russian military power in Western and South-Western strategic directions, in immediate proximity to the state border of Ukraine

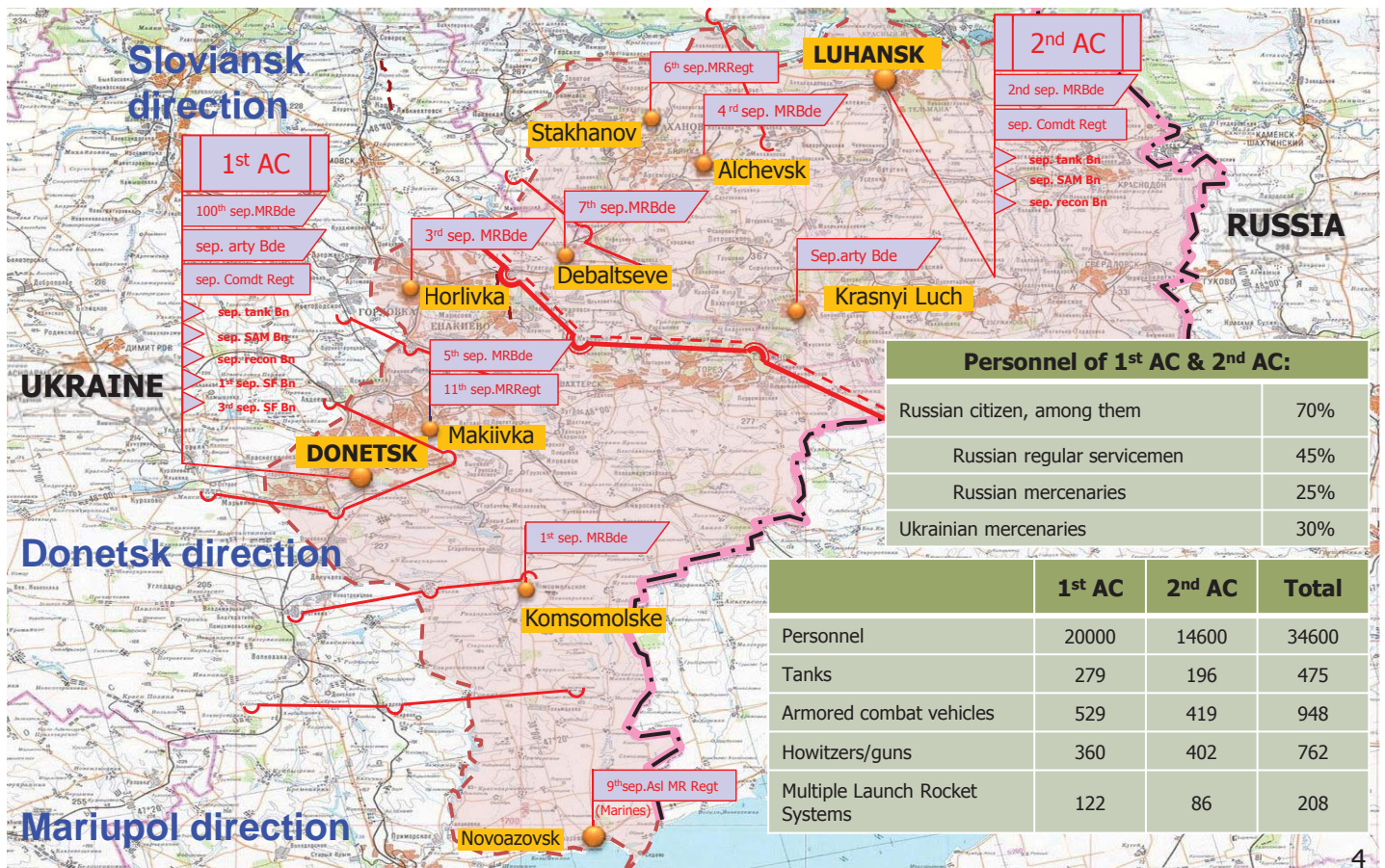
large-scale military-demonstrative measures of Russia, which are aimed at convincing the West and NATO that Moscow is ready to defend its own interests, e.g. with the use of military power



The Situation in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of the East of Ukraine

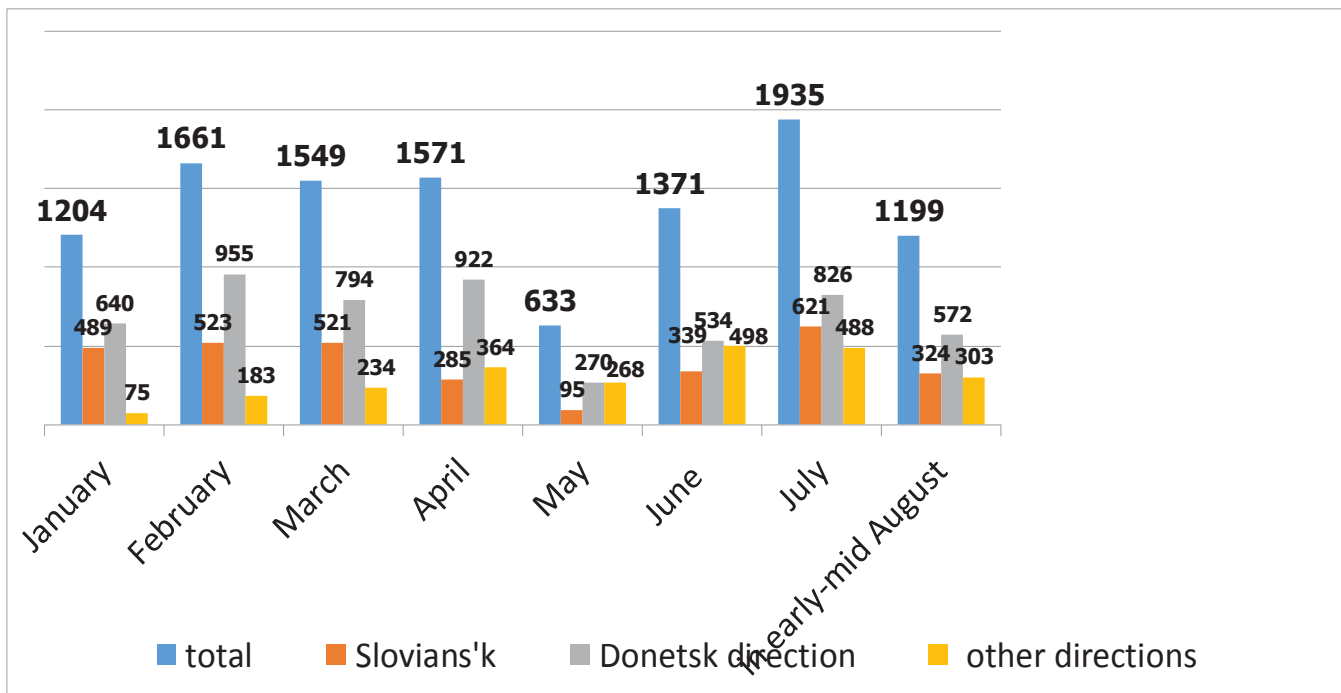


Dislocation of the 1st and 2nd AC of the Center of Territorial Forces of the Southern MD of Russia





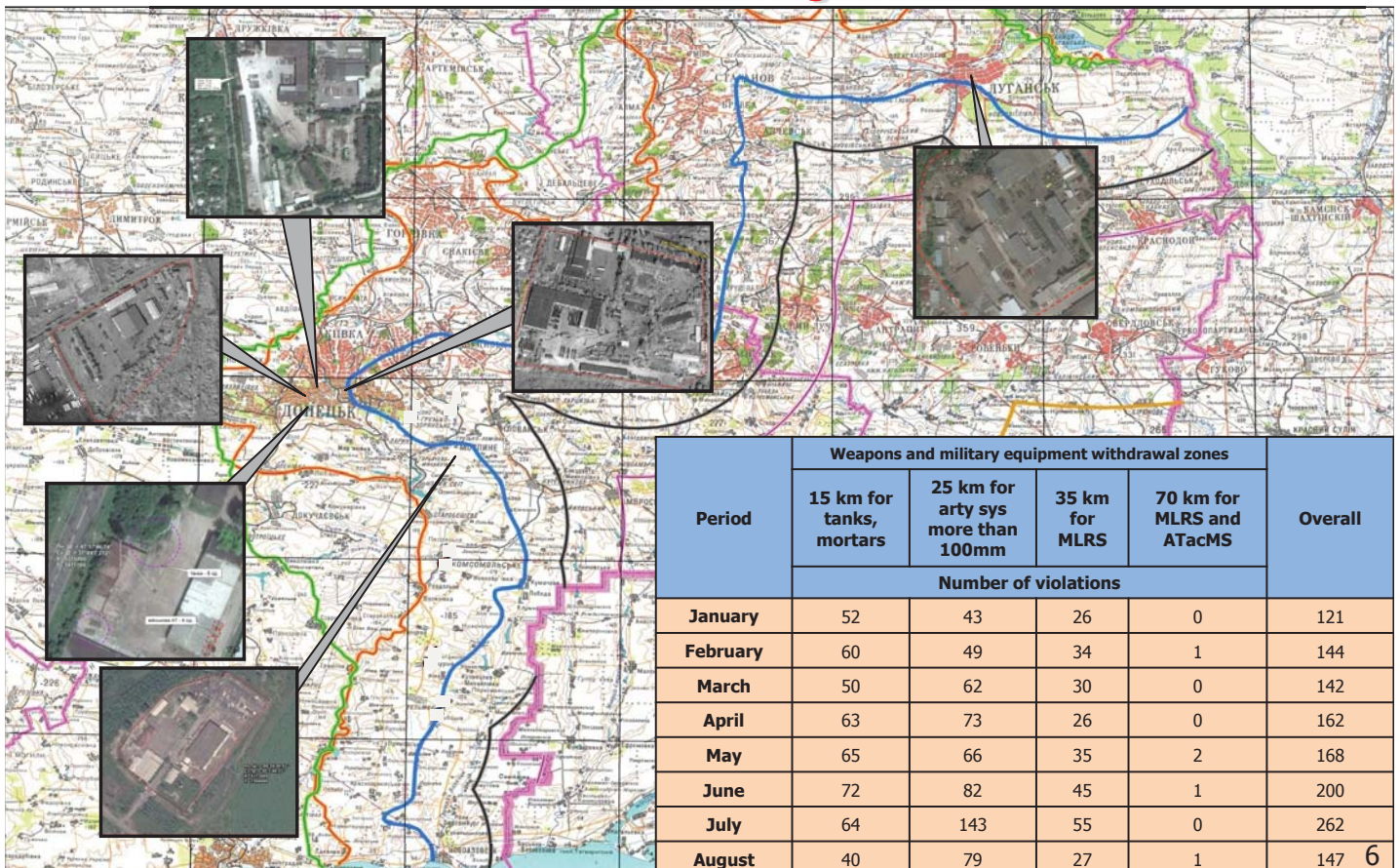
Minsk Agreements Violations by Russia (number of shelling)



During July-August 2016, the average intensity of shelling and assault operations of Russia, including the use of heavy weaponry, has substantially increased



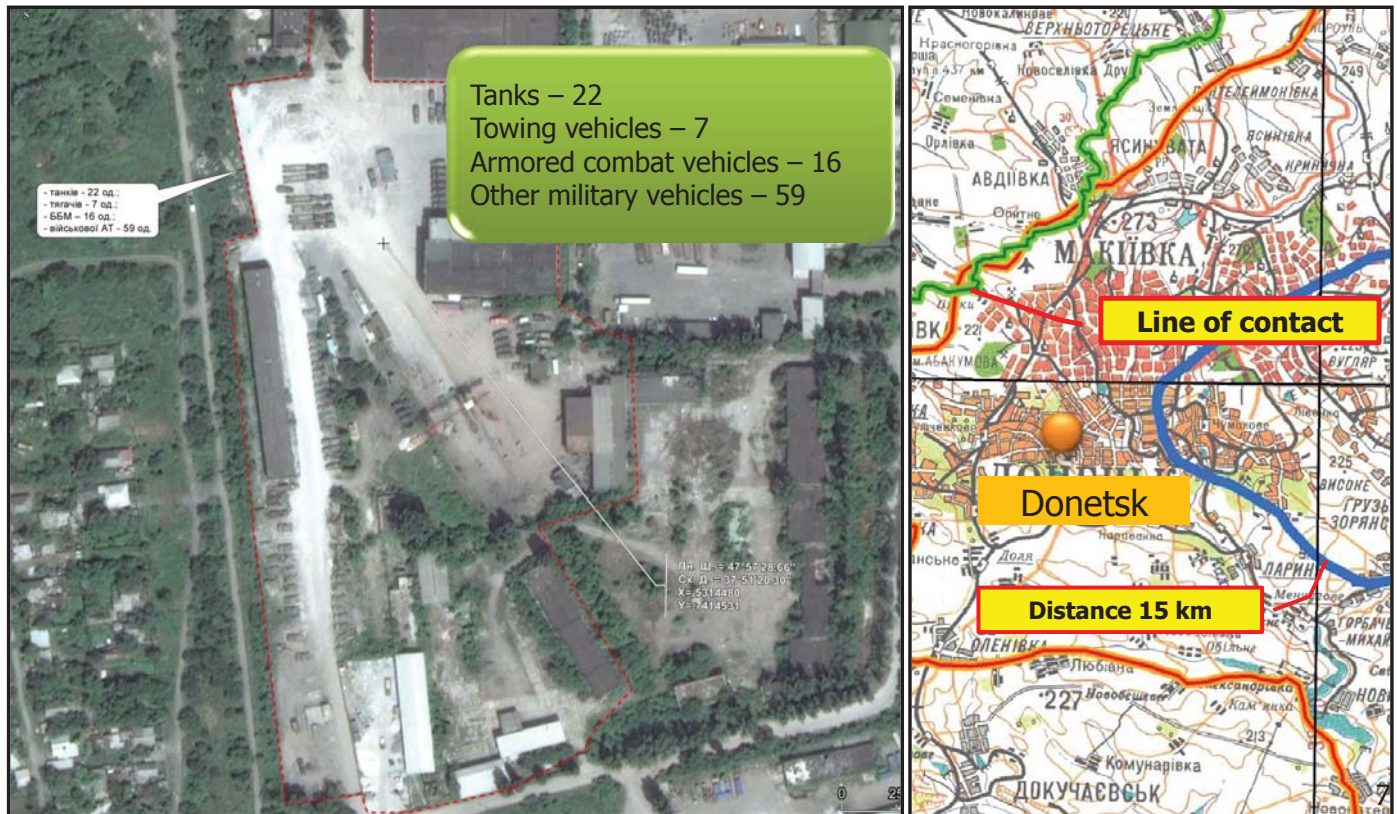
Verified cases of Russia's noncompliance with the Minsk Agreements



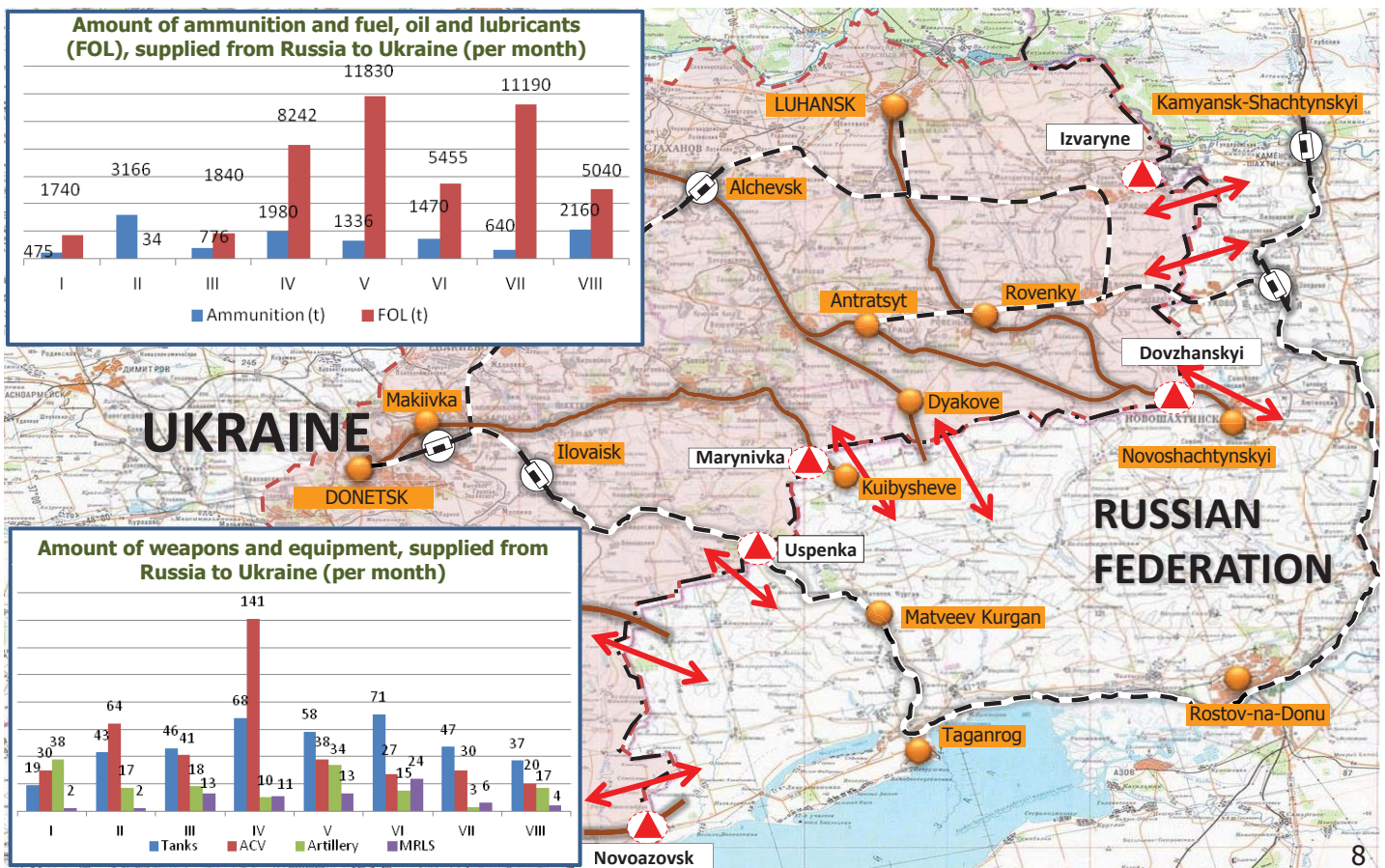


Facts of Hiding Heavy Equipment (weapon) Near the Line of Contact

June 23, 2016: Southern part of Donetsk, 14.7 km from the line of contact



Russia's Supplies of Weapons, Military Equipment, Ammunition and Other Materials to Ukraine



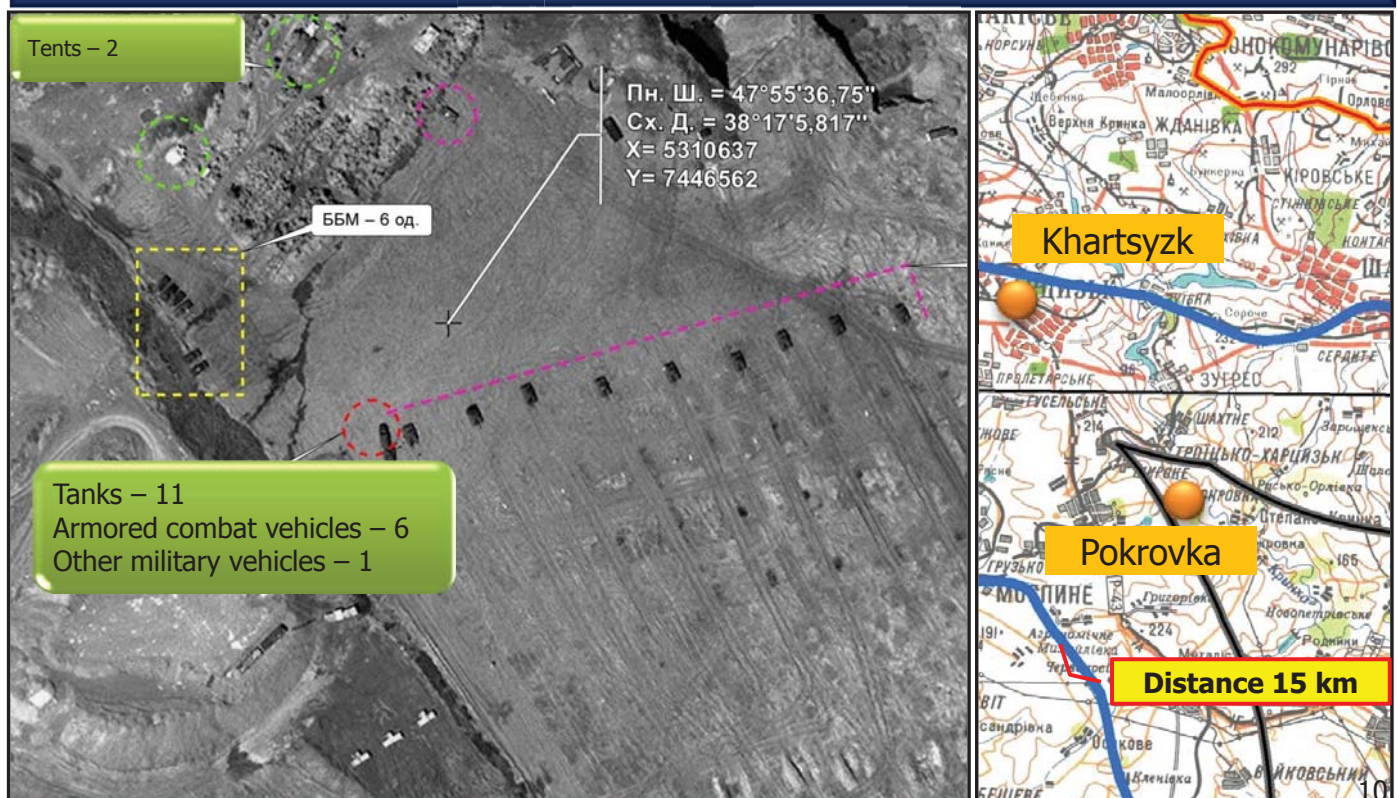


Combat Trainings of Russian Occupation Forces in the East of Ukraine



Combat Training of the Tank Company of the 5th Separate Motorized Brigade, 1st Army Corps

"Pokrovka" Military Range, south-western outskirts of Pokrovka, Donetsk region, July 8, 2016, 14.2 km from the line of contact





New Appointments of Top Military Commanders of the Southern and Western Military Districts, Russian Federation



**Lt.Gen.
Gurulev A.V.**
Deputy Commander,
Southern Military District

**In 2014-2015 – Commander
of the 12th Reserve Command,
Southern Military District (as
of today – Center of
Territorial Forces)**



**Maj.Gen.
Kuzovlev S.U.**
58th Army Commander,
Southern Military District

**In 2014-2015 – Commander
of the Russian Occupation
troops in Ukraine**



**Maj.Gen.
Nikiforov E.V.**
20th Army Commander,
Western Military District

**In 2015-2016 – Commander
of the 2nd Army Corps,
Center of Territorial Forces,
Southern Military district**



Situation in the Temporary Occupied Territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol



The Structure of Russian Joint Forces in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea












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Russia's military capacity in Crimea

as of August 2016

	At the moment of separation of the USSR Black Sea fleet (May 1997)	Before the Russia's annexation of Crimea (January 2014)	After illegal annexation (August 2016)	Future plans of Russia till 2020-2025
	70,000	12,500	29,300	43,000
	258	—	40	100
	742	92	583	1,150
	229	24	162	400
	170	22	101	150
	115	37	56	95
	6	—	16	50
	105	26	30	33
	4	2	5	7

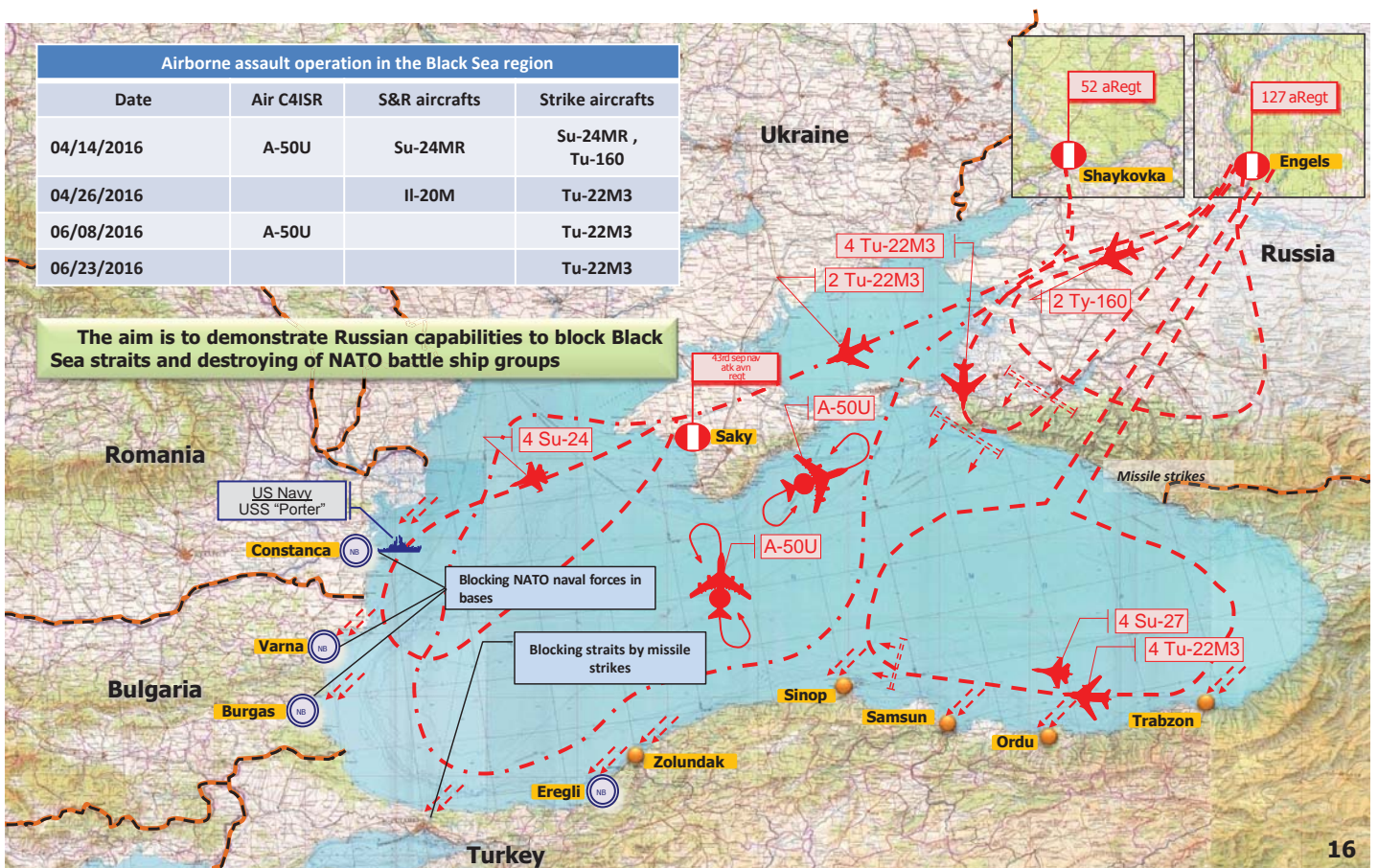
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Striking Range of 15th Separate Coastal Defence Missile Bde of Russian Black Sea Fleet



Military trainings





Situation in the Northern Regions of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea



Strengthening the Russian Joint Task Force in Crimea







Preparation to the "Caucasus-2016" Strategic Command-and-Staff Exercise



"Caucasus-2016" Strategic Command-and-Staff Exercise



Date: September 5-10, 2016.

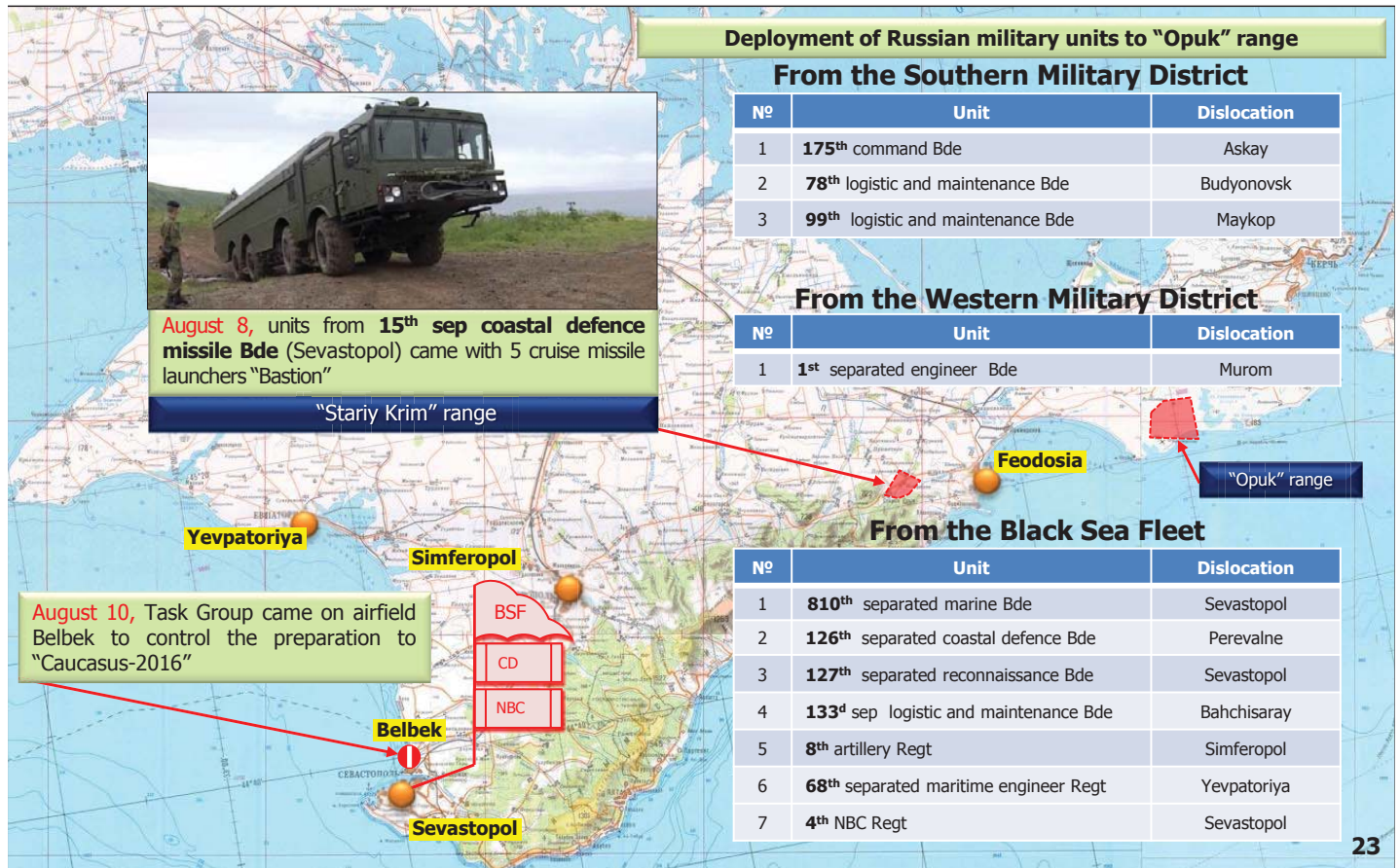
Aim: the joint forces preparation to a combat in order to guarantee Russia's military security in South-Western strategic direction.

Participants: Southern Military District (SMD) units, airborne assault forces, long-distance and transportation aviation units.

Area of operation: SMD training ranges, Black and Caspian Seas.



Preparation to "Caucasus-2016" Strategic Command-and-Staff Exercise



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Conclusions

Russian Federation does not abandon its strategic aim with regard to Ukraine and continues preparation to possible military conflict with Western countries and NATO

Russia does not stop armed provocations in the temporary occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, along with strengthening its Joint Forces in temporarily occupied Crimea and increasing its military capabilities along Ukraine's border

During "Caucasus-2016" Strategic Command-and-Staff Exercise Russia is going to demonstrate to the West and NATO its capabilities to defend Russian national interests in the Black Sea and Caucasus regions