

# OPERATION COMPEL

Ukraine's 40-Day Influence Operation Against Russia

June 25 – August 3, 2026

START DATE	END DATE	TODAY	DAYS ELAPSED	DAYS REMAINING
25 JUN 2026	03 AUG 2026	09 JUL 2026	15	25

"I approved a 40-day influence operation for the Service against the aggressor state aimed at compelling it to end the war." — President Volodymyr Zelensky, June 25, 2026

This document is a living operational record of Ukraine's 40-day strategic pressure campaign against Russia, authorized by President Zelensky and executed primarily by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the Unmanned Systems Forces (USF), and Ukraine's General Staff. It tracks confirmed and reported strikes, economic damage, Kremlin reactions, and strategic context — day by day — from launch through conclusion.

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## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### WHAT IS OPERATION COMPEL?

On June 25, 2026, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced he had approved a 40-day 'influence operation' by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), aimed at compelling Russia to end the war. The announcement came after a briefing by SBU Acting Chief Major General Yevhen Khmara, who reported on Ukraine's long-range and mid-range strike plans and the battlefield results of the elite SBU Alpha special operations unit.

The operation was not framed as a traditional diplomatic ultimatum. No specific demands were publicly announced, no deadline consequences enumerated. Instead, the language was deliberately operational: Ukraine would escalate its strike campaign against Russian military, logistical, and energy infrastructure to a level sufficient to change Moscow's cost-benefit calculation regarding continuation of the war.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov summarized it in three words: "Hell is beginning."

### KEY PLAYERS

ACTOR	ROLE	CALLSIGN / UNIT
Pres. Volodymyr Zelensky	Authorized operation; strategic direction	Commander-in-Chief
Maj. Gen. Yevhen Khmara	SBU Acting Chief; operation architect	SBU Alpha
Maj. Robert 'Madyar' Brovdi	Commander, Unmanned Systems Forces	Birds of Madyar
414th OBr SBS	Primary strike brigade; drone warfare	Kairos / Birds of Madyar
SBU Alpha Center	Special operations; front-line drone strikes	Center of Special Ops Alpha
Ukraine General Staff	Coordination of deep strikes into Russia	General Staff

### STRATEGIC TARGETS — THE FOUR PILLARS

PILLAR	TARGET CATEGORY	OBJECTIVE
1. Energy	Oil refineries, fuel depots, pipelines	Collapse Russian fuel production; force rationing
2. Maritime Logistics	Shadow fleet tankers, ferries, cargo ships	Strangle fuel/ammo supply to Crimea
3. Infrastructure	Power grids, bridges, substations, rail	Isolate Crimea; blind air defense
4. Defense Industry	Missile plants, drone factories, arms depots	Degrade Russia's strike capacity

### PRE-OPERATION CONDITIONS (BEFORE JUNE 25)

The 40-day operation did not launch into a vacuum. Ukraine had been conducting an escalating long-range strike campaign for months, with the following pre-existing conditions:

- Russian crude output had already fallen to 8.7 million barrels/day in May — about 10% below target — due to Ukrainian drone strikes on refineries (International Energy Agency).
- The Moscow Oil Refinery had been struck and shut down by back-to-back drone raids in June 2026, bringing the war home to Moscow's civilian population for the first time.
- Fuel rationing had been imposed across more than 20 Russian regions. Russia had begun importing gasoline from India — an extraordinary humiliation for the world's largest oil exporter.
- Ukraine's 'Madyar's Birds' (414th OBr SBS) had already established dominance over the Sea of Azov drone corridor, conducting increasing maritime strikes.
- Russian federal deficit had reached 6 trillion rubles — well above the full-year target.
- Occupied Crimea was experiencing widespread power outages and a declared regional state of emergency.
- A senior Ukrainian official disclosed that U.S. President Trump privately urged Zelensky to act 'more boldly' against Russia — providing significant political cover for escalation.

### THE SHADOW FLEET — WHAT UKRAINE IS DESTROYING

Russia's 'shadow fleet' is a clandestine network of aging oil tankers and cargo vessels operating outside Western maritime regulation, insurance, and oversight. These ships are the lifeblood of Russia's sanctions-evasion strategy and the primary fuel lifeline to occupied Crimea.

CHARACTERISTIC	DETAIL
Fleet size (2026)	Over 1,500 vessels; roughly one-fifth of global oil tanker capacity
Primary registries	Panama, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Russia, Malta
Ownership structure	Shell companies in Hong Kong, UAE, Seychelles, Azerbaijan
Insurance	None — no Western P&I insurance; extreme environmental risk
Tracking	AIS transponders routinely disabled; frequent name/flag changes
Age profile	70%+ over 15 years old; average age over 20 years
Azov tanker specs (struck)	~7,000 DWT, ~140m long, built 2006–2012
Russian crude via shadow fleet	72% of Russian oil exports in late 2025
Value per hull (struck class)	Estimated \$5–15 million per vessel + cargo value
Legal status of struck vessels	All confirmed struck tankers under international sanctions

"The shadow fleet is leaving the chat." — Maj. Robert 'Madyar' Brovdi, USF Commander, July 7, 2026

### NAMED VESSELS CONFIRMED STRUCK (JULY 6–9, 2026)

VESSEL NAME	DAY	DATE	STATUS
Captain Barmin	Day 12	Jul 6	Struck — Sea of Azov
Sanar-3 (Primemax class)	Day 12	Jul 6	Struck — Sea of Azov
Venera-3	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Sanar-1	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Sanar-17	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Klimena (Climene)	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Teti	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Aleksey Savrasov	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Penelope	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
[8th tanker, name withheld]	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck/burning — sanctioned
Tanker #9 (unnamed)	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck — 4pm follow-up strike
Tanker #10 (unnamed)	Day 13	Jul 7	Struck — 4pm follow-up strike
[12 vessels — names pending]	Day 15	Jul 9	12 tankers struck overnight — names TBC
[Dry cargo ship — unnamed]	Day 15	Jul 9	Struck overnight Sea of Azov
[Tugboat — unnamed]	Day 15	Jul 9	Struck overnight Sea of Azov

Note: Total vessels struck Days 11–15 (96-hour campaign): 35 confirmed per USF Commander Brovdi. Full after-action report pending.

## DAY-BY-DAY OPERATIONAL LOG

All entries sourced from Ukrainian General Staff, Kyiv Independent, Kyiv Post, Ukrainska Pravda, Reuters, AP, ISW (Institute for the Study of War), Critical Threats, and DEFCON Warning System. Strike claims reflect Ukrainian reporting; independent verification noted where applicable.

DAY 1	June 25, 2026	LAUNCH	OPERATION LAUNCH
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- Zelensky announces operation approval after meeting SBU Chief Khmara
- SBU Alpha unit reports highest performance metrics for front-line drone strikes
- Russian-installed Crimea authorities immediately declare regional state of emergency in response
- Ukraine conducting near-nightly strikes on Crimea logistics, military infrastructure
- Crimea: half the peninsula without electricity from prior strike campaign

**Context:** Operation announced as Ukraine's domestic fuel rationing across 20+ Russian regions is already in effect. Rosneft chief Sechin privately describes refinery damage as 'unprecedented.'

DAY 2	June 26, 2026	ACTIVE	Strike campaign continues; NATO partners briefed
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- Ukrainian forces continue nightly drone strikes on Russian-occupied territories
- Ukraine ramps up strikes on logistics and energy infrastructure in Crimea
- Fuel shortages deepen across Russia; gasoline import talks confirmed by Peskov
- Bloomberg reports Zelensky's 40-day campaign widely; international attention increases

**Context:** Belarus: Lukashenka reportedly accepts Ukrainian ultimatum to remove communications equipment used to support Russian drone strikes — a significant early diplomatic win for Kyiv.

DAY 3	June 27, 2026	ACTIVE	Deep strike operations; Russia mobilizes rhetoric
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- Ukrainian forces maintain strike tempo on Russian military assets

- SBU Alpha unit leads in strikes on Russian personnel and equipment
- Crimea: continued power outages; infrastructure degradation accelerating
- Fuel crisis spreading to additional Russian regions

**Context:** Kremlin rhetoric escalates. Russian MoD threatens to 'increase number and intensity of strikes' on Ukraine. Analysts note this as standard pressure tactic with no new military capability disclosed.

DAY 4	June 28, 2026	ACTIVE	Russia's federal deficit exceeds full-year target
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- Continued drone operations across occupied territories
- Ukraine targeting rail bridges in western Crimea used for military logistics
- Strike on fuel tankers along M-17 Kalanchak-Armyansk highway reported

**Context:** Russia Matters reports: Putin states in interview that 'no agreements' signed at Alaska summit (August 2025), attempting to reset diplomatic baseline. Russia's federal deficit hits 6 trillion rubles. One ex-official describes 'state of total uncertainty' inside Kremlin.

DAY 5	June 29, 2026	ACTIVE	Energy and logistics pressure sustained
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- Strikes on Crimea energy infrastructure continue
- Railway bridge targeting campaign intensifies on western Crimea supply routes
- Ukraine drones strike Russian fuel infrastructure in occupied southern Ukraine
- Reports: Russia seaborne crude exports hit wartime record — forced by damaged refineries pushing crude abroad instead of refining domestically

**Context:** Paradox emerges: Russia's crude exports hit wartime high as damaged refineries can no longer process domestic output — but Urals crude prices tumble, leaving weekly revenues at lowest since March.

DAY 6	June 30, 2026	ACTIVE	133 million barrel oil backlog accumulates offshore
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- Ukrainian forces continue systematic degradation of Crimea military infrastructure
- SBU Alpha operations ongoing at front
- Polish media Onet reports (citing 5 sources): Moscow may be preparing limited military provocation against Poland

**Context:** Record 133 million barrel buildup of Russian oil at sea, with tankers idling off Egypt and Singapore. Unable to refine at home, unable to sell at profit. Energy weapon turning inward.

DAY 7	July 1, 2026	ESCALATION	Strike on Ufa refinery — 1,300km from front
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- Kyiv strikes Ufa refinery — over 1,300 kilometres from the front line
- Strike on strategic plant in Penza — involved in components for cruise and ballistic missiles
- Deep strike campaign demonstrates continued long-range reach deep into Russian heartland

**Context:** Ufa is in Bashkortostan, deep in the Russian interior. Striking this far demonstrates Ukraine's long-range drone capability has reached operational maturity. Penza missile component plant strike signals direct targeting of Russia's capacity to manufacture the weapons hitting Ukrainian cities.

DAY 8	July 2, 2026	ACTIVE	Russia mass-strikes Kyiv; Ukraine destroys 2 Orion drones in Crimea
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- Ukraine GUR: struck and destroyed two rare Russian Orion strike/reconnaissance drones in occupied Kerch
- Orion drones carry Kh-50 cruise missiles, Kh-UAVs, and Banderol loitering munitions — high-value targets
- Ukrainian forces strike fuel tankers along M-17 highway in occupied Kherson Oblast
- Strikes on Russian ground lines of communication (GLOCs) in occupied Kherson Oblast

**Context:** Russia launches large-scale strike on Kyiv — Moscow describes it as 'retaliation' for Ukrainian infrastructure attacks. Kremlin likely timed strike to generate pressure ahead of NATO summit in Ankara. Pattern: Russia bombs civilians; Ukraine bombs military infrastructure. Strategic asymmetry increasingly visible to international observers.

DAY 9	July 3, 2026	ACTIVE	Crimea isolation campaign accelerates
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- Ukrainian forces strike railway bridges on western side of Crimea near occupied Kherson Oblast
- Bridges targeted: used for military logistics, personnel, weapons, ammunition transport
- Continued strikes on Crimea energy infrastructure — power outages reported
- 47 targets struck in occupied Crimea in 24-hour period per Ukrainian General Staff

**Context:** Ukraine's strategy to fully isolate Crimea is systematic: hit power (blind air defense), hit bridges (cut ground logistics), hit tankers (cut fuel), hit depots (cut supply). The peninsula is being methodically strangled.

<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>July 4, 2026</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b>	<b>Sustained pressure; NATO summit approaches</b>
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- Ukrainian drone operations continue across Russian-occupied territories
- Strikes on Russian military assets in occupied Zaporizhia Oblast
- Continued pressure on Crimea logistics and energy nodes
- Ukraine signs drone cooperation agreements with Estonia, Denmark, Netherlands (Drone Deal framework)

**Context:** NATO summit scheduled for July 7–8 in Ankara, Turkey. Ukraine and partners coordinating. NATO members pledging €70 billion in military equipment, assistance and training for Ukraine in 2026. Canada pledges \$900 million for vehicles and ammo.

<b>DAY 11</b>	<b>July 5, 2026</b>	<b>MAJOR STRIKE</b>	<b>Omsk/NORSI refinery struck; Baltic oil terminal hit; Yaroslavl hit</b>
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- OMSK: Ukraine strikes Omsk Oil Refinery (NORSI) — Russia's largest operational refinery. Satellite imagery confirms 4+ drone hits on ELOU-AVT-11 processing unit (15M ton/year capacity)
- YAROSLAVL: Slavneft-Yanos Oil Refinery struck — one of Russia's largest, 15M ton/year capacity
- LENINGRAD OBLAST: Novatek Ust-Luga Oil Refinery struck in Slobodka
- BALTIYSK: Oil terminal at Vysotsk, Baltic Sea struck; Ust-Luga port damaged
- LENINGRAD OBLAST: Base of Russian 26th Missile Brigade (6th CAA) near Luga struck — geolocated confirmed
- CRIMEA: TES-Terminal-1 oil depot in occupied Kerch struck
- CRIMEA: 330 kV Simferopolska electrical substation in occupied Simferopol struck — blinds regional air defense
- SEVASTOPOL: Blackout reported

**Context:** Tier-1 Russian energy targets struck across a geographic span from the Baltic to Siberia. Russia acknowledges Vysotsk and Ust-Luga port damage. The most operationally dense single day of the operation to date.

<b>DAY 12</b>	<b>July 6, 2026</b>	<b>MAJOR STRIKE</b>	<b>FIRST AZOV TANKER STRIKES — Captain Barmin and Sanar-3 hit</b>
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- SEA OF AZOV: First shadow fleet tanker strikes of the operation — Captain Barmin and Sanar-3 struck carrying 7,000 tons of fuel each from Taganrog to occupied Crimea
- Both vessels confirmed under international sanctions
- Kairos Battalion, 414th OBr SBS conducts strikes — opens new maritime front
- Continued strikes on Crimea energy and logistics infrastructure

**Context:** The Azov tanker campaign opens. This is the first use of the maritime drone corridor at scale against the shadow fleet supply chain feeding Crimea. Both tankers were operating inside what Russia had previously treated as its internal lake. The operation has now crossed into Russia's self-declared maritime sanctuary.

<b>DAY 13</b>	<b>July 7, 2026</b>	<b>HISTORIC STRIKE</b>	<b>INDUSTRIAL-SCALE AZOV MASSACRE — 10 tankers in one night</b>
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- SEA OF AZOV — NIGHT: Kairos unit, 414th OBr SBS strikes 8 shadow fleet tankers in single night operation
- Confirmed struck: Venera-3, Sanar-1, Sanar-17, Klimena, Teti, Aleksey Savrasov, Penelope + 1 unnamed
- All confirmed under international sanctions | 7,000 DWT each | ~140m | built 2006–2012
- Fuel tanks confirmed 'badly damaged and burning'
- 1 dry cargo ship struck | 1 ferry struck (total: 10 vessels, night of Jul 6–7)
- SEA OF AZOV — 4PM: 2 additional tankers struck (Tankers #9 and #10 for the day)
- Brovdi: 'That's tankers No. 9 and 10 for today, 12 vessels in total. Long night for the worms.'
- CRIMEA: Energy facilities in occupied Crimea attacked
- CRIMEA: 58 additional legitimate military targets struck behind Russian lines
- Madyar: 'The shadow fleet is leaving the chat.' | 'We will stand. Moscow will fall.'
- Crimea state of emergency: fuel shortages confirmed; cars queuing at Simferopol gas stations

**Context:** Madyar describes results as 'industrial-scale.' Russia does not comment publicly on specific ship losses. Ukraine Deputy PM Kuleba files formal letter to IMO defending strikes as targeting active war financiers, not commercial vessels. Expert assessment: 'Russia still seems to lack a good answer.' — John Hardie, Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

<b>DAY 14</b>	<b>July 8, 2026</b>	<b>ACTIVE</b>	<b>Russia strikes Kyiv with ballistic missiles; 72-hour total reaches 21 vessels</b>
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- KYIV: Russia launches overnight ballistic missile attack on Kyiv — explosions heard; fires break out in Vyshneve suburb; 1 killed, 2 injured
- SEA OF AZOV: Madyar confirms 72-hour running total of 21 vessels (19 tankers + 1 cargo + 1 ferry)
- Ukrainian drone operators continue pressure on Crimea fuel and logistics infrastructure
- Bryansk Oblast: 2 defense industry enterprises struck
- Belgorod Oblast: oil depot struck
- NATO summit ongoing in Ankara — Zelensky meets Trump; diplomatic track active alongside military
- Ukraine signs defense cooperation deals with Estonia, Denmark, Netherlands under Drone Deal framework

**Context:** Pattern consistent with prior behavior: Russia strikes Ukrainian civilians in response to catastrophic Ukrainian military successes. No Russian air or naval response to Azov tanker campaign. The Sea of Azov — historically Russia's 'internal lake' — is now an active Ukrainian drone operations zone.

<b>DAY 15</b>	<b>July 9, 2026</b>	<b>ACTIVE — TODAY</b>	<b>14 vessels overnight; 96-hour total reaches 35 ships</b>
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- SEA OF AZOV — OVERNIGHT: Ukraine strikes 14 Russian vessels in the Sea of Azov, including 12 tankers, 1 dry cargo ship, and 1 tugboat
- USF Commander Brovdi confirms 96-hour cumulative total: 35 vessels struck (supersedes prior 72-hour figure of 21)
- CRIMEA: 45 military targets struck overnight in occupied Crimea and southern Ukraine
- Targets included: Saky thermal power plant, 3 fuel storage facilities, 2 logistics sites, Zhitel electronic warfare system, communications towers
- Rostov Region Governor Yuriy Slyusar confirms two tankers damaged in Taganrog Bay — rare Russian acknowledgment
- NATO summit concludes in Ankara — military and diplomatic tracks running simultaneously

**Context:** As of Day 15, the shadow fleet tanker campaign has fundamentally altered the logistics calculus for Crimea. Slyusar's acknowledgment is significant — Russian regional officials rarely confirm Ukrainian strike damage. The Zhitel EW system destruction degrades Russia's ability to jam Ukrainian drones. Halfway through Operation Compel, Crimea is isolated by sea, blinded in the air, and running dry on fuel.

## DAYS 16–40: FORWARD TRACKER

The following pages provide a structured tracking grid for the remaining 25 days of the operation (July 10 – August 3, 2026). Entries will be updated as events occur. Current status: PENDING.

DAY	DATE	KEY EVENTS / STRIKES	SIGNIFICANCE
16	Jul 10, 2026	— Pending —	—
17	Jul 11, 2026	— Pending —	—
18	Jul 12, 2026	— Pending —	—
19	Jul 13, 2026	— Pending —	—
20	Jul 14, 2026	— Pending —	—
21	Jul 15, 2026	— Pending —	—
22	Jul 16, 2026	— Pending —	—
23	Jul 17, 2026	— Pending —	—
24	Jul 18, 2026	— Pending —	—
25	Jul 19, 2026	— Pending —	—
26	Jul 20, 2026	— Pending —	—
27	Jul 21, 2026	— Pending —	—
28	Jul 22, 2026	— Pending —	—
29	Jul 23, 2026	— Pending —	—
30	Jul 24, 2026	— Pending —	—
31	Jul 25, 2026	— Pending —	—
32	Jul 26, 2026	— Pending —	—
33	Jul 27, 2026	— Pending —	—

DAY	DATE	KEY EVENTS / STRIKES	SIGNIFICANCE
34	Jul 28, 2026	— Pending —	—
35	Jul 29, 2026	— Pending —	—
36	Jul 30, 2026	— Pending —	—
37	Jul 31, 2026	— Pending —	—
38	Aug 1, 2026	— Pending —	—
39	Aug 2, 2026	— Pending —	—
40	Aug 3, 2026	— Pending —	—

## ECONOMIC & STRATEGIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The following table aggregates confirmed and reported economic damage to Russian military and energy infrastructure during the 40-day operation and its immediate precursor period. All figures from open-source Ukrainian and Western reporting. Updated through Day 15.

CATEGORY	METRIC	STATUS / SOURCE
Russian refinery output	-25% gasoline output in one week (June)	IEA / Moscow Times
Drone strikes on refineries	194+ strikes since Jan 1, 2026 (11x year-over-year)	FT / Rochan Consulting
Russian fuel rationing	20+ regions with restrictions on gasoline sales	Multiple Russian regional reports
Russian gasoline imports	~400,000 tons/month from India, Belarus, others	Reuters
Russian crude output (May)	8.7M bbl/day — ~10% below target	International Energy Agency
Oil at sea (backlog)	133 million barrels idling off Egypt, Singapore	Bloomberg / Kpler
Russian federal deficit	6 trillion rubles — above full-year target	Russia Matters / Moscow Times
Shadow fleet tankers struck	35 vessels in 96 hours (Days 11–15) — UPDATED	Kyiv Post / Kyiv Independent / Reuters
Named tankers struck (Jul 6–7)	Captain Barmin, Sanar-3, Venera-3, Sanar-1, Sanar-17, Klimena, Teti, Savrasov, Penelope + 3 unnamed	Madyar / Ukrainska Pravda
Crimea fuel crisis	State of emergency declared; queues at Simferopol gas stations	AP / Reuters
Major refineries struck (op)	Omsk/NORSI, Yaroslavl/Slavneft-Yanos, Ust-Luga/Novatek, Ufa, Moscow	GS Ukraine / ISW
Crimea power status	~50% of peninsula without electricity (pre-Day 1 and continuing)	Euronews / Kyiv Post
Russian cruise missile capacity	2 rare Orion drones destroyed in Kerch (Day 8)	Ukraine GUR
Missile production	Penza plant (cruise/ballistic components) struck (Day 7)	Ukraine GS
Baltic energy exports	Vysotsk terminal and Ust-Luga port struck and damaged (Day 11)	Reuters / Russian authorities
Crimea military targets (Day 15)	45 overnight strikes including Saky power plant, EW systems, fuel depots	Ukraine GS / Kyiv Post
Russian EW capability	Zhitel electronic warfare system destroyed (Day 15)	Ukraine GS

## KREMLIN RESPONSE PATTERN

KREMLIN BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	ANALYSIS
Public denial of tanker losses — no comment on specific ship losses	Standard tactic when losses are embarrassing

KREMLIN BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	ANALYSIS
'Terrorism' label for strikes — accused Kyiv of attacking commercial shipping	Legal/rhetorical deflection; undermined by Kuleba's IMO letter
Nuclear threats (re: tankers) — None specific to tanker campaign	Nuclear threats reserved for land strikes on Russia proper
Retaliatory civilian strikes — Kyiv ballistic missile strike Jul 8 (Day 14)	Pattern: military failure → civilian terror response
Diplomatic signaling — NATO summit Ankara; Trump-Putin-Zelensky calls	Military and diplomatic tracks running simultaneously
Fuel import acknowledgment — Peskov confirmed gasoline import talks	Extraordinary admission for world's largest oil exporter
Air/naval defense of Azov — None observed; strikes conducted unopposed	Assets committed to front; Azov undefended
Peskov standard response — Russia will 'intensify pressure' on Ukraine	Boilerplate; no new capability disclosed
Russian Governor confirms tanker damage (Day 15) — Slyusar, Rostov Region	Rare acknowledgment; signals domestic pressure on leadership

## GLOSSARY & KEY TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
414th OBr SBS	414th Separate Brigade of Special Purpose Unmanned Systems — Ukraine's premier drone warfare brigade
Birds of Madyar	Callsign/nickname of the 414th OBr SBS, named after commander Robert 'Madyar' Brovdi
Kairos	9th battalion within the 414th Brigade; primary operator of Azov tanker strikes
Shadow Fleet	Clandestine network of aging, sanctions-evading tankers moving Russian oil outside Western oversight
DWT	Deadweight tonnage — measure of how much cargo a ship can carry
AIS	Automatic Identification System — maritime tracking transponder, routinely disabled by shadow fleet
SBU	Security Service of Ukraine — primary intelligence/security agency executing the 40-day operation
USF	Unmanned Systems Forces — Ukraine's dedicated drone warfare command, led by Brovdi
SBU Alpha	Center of Special Operations Alpha — elite SBU strike unit; front-line drone operations
GLOC	Ground Line of Communication — military supply route
NOE	Nap of the Earth/Water — ultra-low-altitude flight to evade radar
ISW	Institute for the Study of War — U.S.-based think tank tracking daily Ukraine conflict developments
GFM	Global Flashpoint Monitor — this publication; independent geopolitical intelligence
NORSI	Omsk Oil Refinery — Russia's largest operational refinery, struck Day 11
P&I Insurance	Protection & Indemnity insurance — maritime coverage; shadow fleet vessels carry none
Long-range sanctions	Ukrainian military term for drone strikes on targets inside Russia (1,000+ km)
Mid-range sanctions	Ukrainian military term for drone strikes on occupied territories (20–200 km range)
Zhitel	Russian electronic warfare system; one destroyed in occupied Crimea, Day 15

## SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

- Kyiv Independent (kyivindependent.com) — Primary Ukrainian conflict reporting

- Kyiv Post (kyivpost.com) — Ukrainian English-language daily
- Ukrainska Pravda (pravda.com.ua) — Ukrainian investigative outlet
- Reuters — Wire service; independent verification of Ukrainian claims
- Associated Press (AP) — Wire service
- Bloomberg — Economic and political reporting
- Institute for the Study of War / Critical Threats (criticalthreats.org) — Daily operational assessments
- DEFCON Warning System (defconwarningsystem.com) — Nuclear risk and strategic threat assessments
- Russia Matters (russiamatters.org) — Harvard Kennedy School Russia analysis
- International Energy Agency (IEA) — Russian crude output and energy data
- Kpler / Lloyd's List Intelligence — Maritime tracking and shadow fleet analysis
- S&P Global / Rochan Consulting — Tanker market and sanctions data
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies — Expert commentary (John Hardie, Russia Program)
- Meduza (meduza.io) — Independent Russian-language journalism in exile
- Moscow Times — Independent English-language Russia reporting
- Naval News (navalnews.com) — Maritime strike analysis and documentation
- Robert 'Madyar' Brovdi Telegram channel — Primary source; USF Commander direct reporting
- Ukraine General Staff official Telegram — Daily operational summaries
- GFM original reporting and translation — Ukrainian-language source material translated by GFM

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