

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	17 JUL 2026	23	17

"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

 **OPERATION MoLoChKa [DAIRY] — Maritime Strike Sub-Operation | July 6–Ongoing**
CURRENT TOTAL: 159 VESSELS STRUCK (117 Sea of Azov + 42 Black Sea) | Days 12–23 (Jul 6–17)

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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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KEY OPERATIONAL MILESTONES — UPDATED THROUGH DAY 23

DATE	DAY	MILESTONE	CUMULATIVE VESSEL COUNT
Jul 6	12	First shadow fleet strikes: Captain Barmin & Sanar-3 struck in Sea of Azov	2 vessels
Jul 7	13	HISTORIC: 10 vessels in single night — 8 tankers + cargo + ferry. Brovdi: "The shadow fleet is leaving the chat."	12 vessels
Jul 9	15	14 vessels overnight; 96-hour total reaches 35. Russian Gov. Slyusar confirms damage.	35 vessels
Jul 10	16	13 vessels struck; ports of Taganrog and Azov struck. Russia CLOSES Kerch Strait and Don-Azov Canal.	~50 vessels
Jul 11	17	SINGLE-NIGHT RECORD: 28 vessels struck in Sea of Azov — 21 tankers, 4 tugboats, 2 dry cargo, 1 specialized. 73 confirmed hits recorded.	76 vessels
Jul 12–13	18–19	Kuban-Crimea power bridge struck — main electricity entry from Russia to Crimea. 11 energy hubs hit. "Operation Crimean Switch Off" named. 90 vessels cumulative.	~90 vessels
Jul 13	19	15 vessels overnight (7 tankers, 5 dry cargo, 1 ferry, 2 tugboats). Brovdi: "Operation MoLoChKa will continue until the Russian shadow fleet is listed in the Red Book of the Sea of Azov."	105 vessels (8 days)
Jul 14–15	20–21	THEATER EXPANDS: First Black Sea strikes — 20 vessels overnight (17 tankers, 2 gas tankers, 1 tugboat). Dedicated to Ukrainian Statehood Day. Crimea total blackout in Kerch reported.	116 vessels (Azov); +20 Black Sea
Jul 16	22	11 vessels struck (10 Black Sea, 1 Azov): 5 oil tankers, 1 LNG, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tugboats. Omega special forces destroy Su-24M bomber at Saky air base in Crimea.	147 vessels (Jul 6–16)
Jul 17	23	TODAY: 12 vessels struck in Black Sea (9 dry cargo, 1 tanker, 1 gas carrier, 1 tugboat). Crimean Bridge suspended ~7 hrs. Explosions across Crimea — Kerch rail fires, Koktebel, Feodosia, Arabat Spit.	159 VESSELS (Jul 6–17)

DAY-BY-DAY OPERATIONAL LOG — FULL RECORD (DAYS 1–23)

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

DAY	DATE	KEY EVENTS / STRIKES	SIGNIFICANCE
1	Jun 25	OPERATION LAUNCH: Zelensky announces operation. SBU Alpha reports peak metrics. Crimea declares state of emergency.	LAUNCH
2	Jun 26	Strike campaign continues. NATO partners briefed. Belarus: Lukashenka removes comms equipment — early diplomatic win.	ACTIVE
3	Jun 27	SBU Alpha leads front-line strikes. Crimea power outages accelerate. Kremlin rhetoric escalates.	ACTIVE
4	Jun 28	Russia's federal deficit exceeds 6 trillion rubles — surpasses full-year target. Rail bridges in western Crimea struck.	ACTIVE
5	Jun 29	Railway bridge targeting intensifies. Russian seaborne crude exports hit wartime high as damaged refineries push crude abroad — prices tumble.	ACTIVE
6	Jun 30	133 million barrel oil backlog offshore. Tankers idling off Egypt and Singapore. Polish media reports possible Russian military provocation toward Poland.	ACTIVE
7	Jul 1	DEEP STRIKES: Ufa refinery struck — 1,300km from front. Penza missile component plant struck. Ukraine's long-range reach at operational maturity.	ESCALATION
8	Jul 2	2 rare Russian Orion strike drones destroyed in Kerch. Russia launches mass strike on Kyiv. Strategic asymmetry visible internationally.	ACTIVE
9	Jul 3	47 targets struck in Crimea in 24 hrs. Railway bridge targeting campaign intensifies on western Crimea. Crimea isolation campaign accelerates.	ACTIVE
10	Jul 4	Ukraine signs drone cooperation agreements with Estonia, Denmark, Netherlands. NATO summit approaches (Ankara, Jul 7–8). Canada pledges \$900M.	ACTIVE
11	Jul 5	MAJOR ENERGY STRIKES: Omsk/NORSI (Russia's largest refinery), Yaroslavl/Slavneft-Yanos, Ust-Luga/Novatek, Baltiysk terminal, Simferopol 330kV substation, Sevastopol blackout. Missile brigade base near Luga struck.	MAJOR STRIKE
12	Jul 6	FIRST AZOV TANKER STRIKES: Captain Barmin and Sanar-3 struck. Both sanctioned. Kairos Battalion, 414th OBr SBS opens maritime front. Operation MoLoChKa begins.	MAJOR STRIKE
13	Jul 7	HISTORIC: 10 vessels in single night. Venera-3, Sanar-1, Sanar-17, Klimena, Teti, Aleksey Savrasov, Penelope + 3 unnamed. Brovdi: "The shadow fleet is leaving the chat." 58 military targets struck.	HISTORIC
14	Jul 8	Russia launches ballistic missile strike on Kyiv — 1 killed, 2 injured. 72-hr total: 21 vessels. NATO summit Ankara. Bryansk defense plants struck.	ACTIVE
15	Jul 9	14 vessels overnight. 96-hr total: 35 vessels. 45 military targets in Crimea. Saky thermal power plant, 3 fuel depots, Zhitel EW system destroyed. Gov. Slyusar confirms damage — rare Russian admission.	MAJOR STRIKE
16	Jul 10	13 vessels struck in Sea of Azov. Ports of Taganrog and Azov struck directly. Substations at Berehove, Mainaki, Saky, Novoozerna, Medvedeve hit. RUSSIA CLOSES Kerch Strait (FSB, 18:10 local) and Don-Azov Canal — first time in war history. Wheat futures spike 4% on Euronext (6-week high). Crimea residents driving to Russia to buy gasoline and carry it back.	STRATEGIC THRESHOLD
17	Jul 11	SINGLE-NIGHT RECORD: 28 vessels struck in Sea of Azov — 21 tankers, 4 tugboats, 2 dry cargo ships, 1 specialized vessel. 73 confirmed hits. 6-day	SINGLE-NIGHT RECORD

		total: 76 vessels. Brovdi: "The shadow oil fleet is visibly shrinking. The technological humiliation of the empire continues." Traffic through Kerch Strait confirmed halted. Taganrog Bay: 4 vessels struck overnight (incl. methanol tanker) per Gov. Slyusar.	
18	Jul 12	Crimea: 90 tankers struck in Sea of Azov since July 6 (ISW). 14 vessels overnight incl. 4 ferries and 10 tankers. Crimea: Widespread power outages in Dzhankoi, Armyansk, Yany Kapu; restrictions imposed on Simferopol, Yalta, Sudak, Yevpatoriya, Saky. Sevastopol governor limits power supply. Milblogger reports Russian fleet deploying fire teams to intercept drones.	MAJOR STRIKE
19	Jul 13	Kuban-Crimea power bridge struck — PRIMARY electricity link from Russia to Crimea. 9 electrical substations + gas pumping station hit across Crimea. Operation "Crimean Switch Off" named alongside MoLoChKa. 15 vessels overnight (7 tankers, 5 dry cargo, 1 ferry, 2 tugboats). Cumulative: 105 vessels in 8 days. Brovdi: "Will continue until shadow fleet is in the Red Book of the Sea of Azov."	STRATEGIC: POWER BRIDGE
20	Jul 14	Cumulative: 116 vessels in Sea of Azov. Crimea: Complete blackout in Kerch city reported. Explosions near Kerch Bridge — traffic blocked. Arabat Spit fires reported. 11 vessels struck (5 tankers, 5 dry cargo, 1 tugboat).	MAJOR STRIKE
21	Jul 15	THEATER EXPANSION — BLACK SEA: First Black Sea phase of MoLoChKa. 20 vessels struck overnight (17 oil tankers, 2 gas tankers, 1 tugboat) near occupied Crimea. Dedicated to Ukrainian Statehood Day. Brovdi: "Goal is irreversible paralysis of oil, fuel, and cargo logistics." CNN: Azov Sea "Strait of Hormuz-style crisis" for Russia. Both Kerch Strait + Don-Azov Canal remain closed. Satellite imagery confirms ship queues on both sides.	THEATER EXPANSION
22	Jul 16	11 vessels (10 Black Sea, 1 Azov): 5 oil tankers, 1 LNG tanker, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tugboats. Cumulative: 147 vessels (117 Azov, 30 Black Sea). SBU tankers Louise 1 and Banda struck by Sea Baby naval drones in Black Sea. Omega special forces (National Guard) destroy Su-24M bomber at Saky air base — intercepted as aircraft was preparing combat sortie. Kairos 9th Battalion leading Azov strikes; multiple USF brigades now committed.	MAJOR STRIKE
23	Jul 17	TODAY: 12 vessels in Black Sea (9 dry cargo, 1 tanker, 1 gas carrier, 1 tugboat). CUMULATIVE: 159 VESSELS (117 Azov + 42 Black Sea). Brovdi: "FLEETfall continues." Large-scale overnight strikes across Crimea — explosions in Kerch (railway station fires), Koktebel, Feodosia, Arabat Spit fires near Baherove airfield. Crimean Bridge suspended ~7 hours (21:43–05:13). Two air raid alerts in Sevastopol. Ukraine upgraded Hornet drone destroys Russian Su-24M deep in Crimea (reported).	TODAY — DAY 23
24	Jul 18	— Pending —	—
25	Jul 19	— Pending —	—
26	Jul 20	— Pending —	—
27	Jul 21	— Pending —	—
28	Jul 22	— Pending —	—
29	Jul 23	— Pending —	—
30	Jul 24	— Pending —	—
31	Jul 25	— Pending —	—
32	Jul 26	— Pending —	—
33	Jul 27	— Pending —	—
34	Jul 28	— Pending —	—
35	Jul 29	— Pending —	—

36	Jul 30	— Pending —	—
37	Jul 31	— Pending —	—
38	Aug 1	— Pending —	—
39	Aug 2	— Pending —	—
40	Aug 3	— Pending —	—

ECONOMIC & STRATEGIC DAMAGE ASSESSMENT — UPDATED THROUGH DAY 23

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 vessels struck — UPDATED	159 vessels in 12 days (Jul 6–17): 117 Sea of Azov + 42 Black Sea	Brovdi / Kyiv Post / Kyiv Independent
Kerch Strait / Don-Azov Canal	CLOSED by Russia Jul 10 — no reopening date confirmed; satellite imagery shows ship queues	Reuters / Euromaidan Press / CNN
Global wheat market impact	Euronext wheat futures +4% (6-week high, Jul 10); up to 25% of Russian wheat exports transits Azov	Reuters / Bloomberg
Crimea power grid	Kuban-Crimea power bridge struck (Jul 13); Kerch complete blackout (Jul 14–15); peninsula-wide restrictions across 10+ cities/raions	Ukrainska Pravda / Kyiv Post
Crimea fuel crisis	State of emergency; car queues at Simferopol stations; residents driving to Russia to buy fuel	AP / Reuters / ISW
Major refineries struck (op)	Omsk/NORSI, Yaroslavl/Slavneft-Yanos, Ust-Luga/Novatek, Ufa, Moscow, Penza missile plant	Ukraine GS / ISW
Russian aircraft destroyed	Su-24M destroyed at Saky (Jul 16, Omega NG); Su-24M + 6 aircraft Saky (Jul 3); Su-24M destroyed Saky (Jul 17, Hornet drone)	RBC-Ukraine / Ukrainska Pravda
Baltic energy exports	Vysotsk terminal and Ust-Luga port struck and damaged (Day 11)	Reuters / Russian authorities
Russian EW capability	Zhitel EW system destroyed (Day 15); multiple S-400, Pantsir-S1, Tor, Nebo-U elements struck (Days 18–19)	Ukraine GS / USF

KREMLIN RESPONSE PATTERN — UPDATED

KREMLIN BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	ANALYSIS
Public denial of tanker losses — no comment on specific ship losses	Standard tactic when losses are embarrassing; Governor Slyusar exceptions (Days 15, 17) signal domestic pressure
"Terrorism" label for strikes — accused Kyiv of attacking commercial shipping	Legal/rhetorical deflection; undermined by Kuleba's IMO letter citing Russia's 59 attacks on merchant vessels
Closure of Kerch Strait + Don-Azov Canal (Jul 10) — no reopening date given	UNPRECEDENTED: Russia acknowledged its own maritime routes are indefensible; effectively conceded Sea of Azov to Ukrainian drone dominance

Wheat exports disrupted — Azov routes paralyzed	Up to 25% of Russian wheat exports transited Azov; now backed up. Global commodity market impact confirms strategic weight of maritime campaign
Retaliatory civilian strikes — Kyiv ballistic missile strike Jul 8 (Day 14)	Pattern: military failure → civilian terror response. No naval/air response to Azov tanker campaign
Diplomatic signaling — Trump-Zelensky-NATO summit Ankara; ceasefire talks ongoing	Military and diplomatic tracks running simultaneously; Operation Compel designed to strengthen Ukraine's negotiating position
Fuel import acknowledgment — Peskov confirmed gasoline import talks	Extraordinary admission for world's largest oil exporter; India and Belarus now supplying Russia
Air/naval defense of Azov and Black Sea — None observed	Assets committed to front; both Azov and Black Sea operations conducted largely unopposed. Russia deploys improvised fire teams with drones — ineffective

OPERATION MoLoChKa — MARITIME STRIKE BREAKDOWN (Jul 6–17)

DATE	THEATER	VESSELS STRUCK	BREAKDOWN	RUNNING TOTAL
Jul 6 (Day 12)	Sea of Azov	2	Captain Barmin, Sanar-3 (tankers, 7,000 DWT each)	2
Jul 7 (Day 13)	Sea of Azov	10	Venera-3, Sanar-1, Sanar-17, Klimena, Teti, Aleksey Savrasov, Penelope +1 unnamed (tankers); 1 cargo, 1 ferry (SKS One)	12
Jul 8 (Day 14)	Sea of Azov	9	9 tankers — overnight operation	21
Jul 9 (Day 15)	Sea of Azov	14	12 tankers, 1 dry cargo, 1 tugboat	35
Jul 10 (Day 16)	Sea of Azov + ports	13	10 tankers + 3 others; ports of Taganrog and Azov struck	~50
Jul 11 (Day 17)	Sea of Azov	28	RECORD NIGHT: 21 tankers, 4 tugboats, 2 dry cargo, 1 specialized; 73 confirmed strikes	76
Jul 12 (Day 18)	Sea of Azov	~14	4 ferries, 10 tankers	~90
Jul 13 (Day 19)	Sea of Azov	15	7 tankers, 5 dry cargo, 1 ferry, 2 tugboats	105
Jul 14 (Day 20)	Sea of Azov	11	5 tankers, 5 dry cargo, 1 tugboat	116 (Azov)
Jul 15 (Day 21)	BLACK SEA — NEW	20	17 oil tankers, 2 gas tankers, 1 tugboat — dedicated to Ukrainian Statehood Day	116+20=136
Jul 16 (Day 22)	Black Sea + Azov	11	5 oil tankers, 1 LNG tanker, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tugboats; incl. Louise 1 and Banda (SBU Sea Baby)	147
Jul 17 (Day 23)	Black Sea	12	9 dry cargo ships, 1 tanker, 1 gas carrier, 1 tugboat	159 TOTAL
TOTALS	117 Azov / 42 Black Sea	159	Multiple vessel classes; tankers, cargo, LNG, gas, ferries, tugboats	159 / 12 days

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 / Kairos	Callsign of 414th OBr SBS; Kairos is the 9th battalion, primary Azov tanker strike unit
Operation MoLoChKa	Maritime sub-operation of Compel (Jul 6–ongoing); "Dairy" in Ukrainian; targeting shadow fleet across Azov and Black Sea
Operation Crimean Switch Off	Energy sub-operation; systematic strikes on Crimea substations, power bridge, EW systems
Shadow Fleet	Clandestine network of aging, sanctions-evading tankers moving Russian oil outside Western oversight

Kuban-Crimea Power Bridge	Primary electricity transmission link from Russia to occupied Crimea; struck Jul 12–13
Don-Azov Canal	Navigable waterway connecting River Don to Sea of Azov; closed by Russia Jul 10
Kerch Strait	Chokepoint connecting Sea of Azov to Black Sea; closed by Russia Jul 10 — no reopening date given
DWT	Deadweight tonnage — measure of cargo capacity; struck tankers ~7,000 DWT
SBU	Security Service of Ukraine — primary intelligence/security agency executing the 40-day operation
USF	Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces — dedicated drone warfare command, led by Brovdi
Omega Special Forces	National Guard elite unit; conducted Su-24M strike at Saky air base (Jul 16)
Su-24M	Sukhoi Su-24 Fencer modernized — Soviet-designed supersonic bomber used by Russia for ground strikes; multiple destroyed at Saky in operation period
Zhitel	Russian EW system; one destroyed in occupied Crimea (Day 15)
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

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
- ArmyInform (armyinform.com.ua) — Official Ukrainian military information agency
- Interfax-Ukraine (interfax.com.ua) — Ukrainian wire service
- CNN, Al Jazeera — International independent verification
- Euromaidan Press — English-language Ukrainian news
- United24 Media (united24media.com) — Ukrainian government-affiliated reporting
- 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
- MarineTraffic — Vessel tracking and Kerch Strait closure confirmation
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies — Expert commentary (John Hardie, Russia Program)
- Robert "Madyar" Brovdi Telegram channel — Primary source; USF Commander direct reporting
- 414th Magyar's Birds official Telegram — Unit operational 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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