



## **Fact Sheet: Biden's Failure to Equip Ukraine**

*February 21, 2023*

While the Biden Administration pays lip service to supporting Ukraine, Biden's top officials have gone to great lengths delaying, denying, and downgrading military aid for Ukraine that is needed to repel the Russian invasion. We previously documented the repeated failures to arm Ukraine before the war. This fact sheet documents Biden's ongoing failure to do so.

### ***Biden's Strategy to Arm Ukraine: Delay, Deny, Downgrade.***

**March 9, 2022:** U.S. [rejects](#) Poland's offer to give it Russian-made fighter jets for Ukraine, claiming it could provoke Russia (which had just started a land war in Europe).

**March 10, 2022:** The United States [won't give](#) Patriot air defense system to Ukraine, claiming it may provoke Russia (which had [bombed](#) a maternity hospital killing hundreds of children, mothers, and doctors the day before).

**May 18, 2022:** Biden [rules out](#) giving Ukraine Multiple Rocket Launch Systems (MLRS) that can strike into Russia because it doesn't want to provoke Russia (which had been bombarding apartments and other civilian infrastructure in Kharkiv).

**May 31, 2022:** Biden finally [agrees](#) to give Ukraine MLRS, but only if Ukraine promises not to fire them inside Russia. WWIII does not commence.

**June 15, 2022:** Biden finally [agrees](#) to send Harpoon anti-ship missiles to Ukraine, which will take several months to reach Ukraine. If the Harpoon missiles had been in Ukraine before the war (or even at the start of the war) they could have been used to deny Russian naval access and dominance. WWIII does not commence.

**August 9, 2022:** Biden [refuses](#) to send ATACMS munition that Ukraine has requested, because the administration is concerned it would provoke Russia (which had recently struck residential buildings, a supermarket, and pharmacy in the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv).

**September 16, 2022:** Biden administration [holds off](#) Ukrainian request for more long-range missiles for fear of provoking Russia (which had recently set up torture chambers in occupied Kharkiv).

**October 10, 2022:** Biden finally [agrees](#) to give Ukraine advanced air-defense systems after the Russians strike Kyiv with several missiles. The systems will take two months to arrive – if they had been sent two months earlier, they could have intercepted incoming missiles. WWIII does not start.

**November 29, 2022:** Eight months after saying it couldn't provide Ukraine with Patriot missile defense systems, the Pentagon is [considering](#) sending Patriot batteries to Ukraine.

**December 21, 2022:** Nine months after refusing to provide Ukraine with Patriot missile defense systems, the United States reverses course and [agrees](#) to send Patriot batteries to Ukraine. WWII does not commence.

**January 20, 2023:** Eleven months into the war, the Pentagon [argues](#) against sending tanks to Ukraine, saying they won't get there in time and that training on the tanks takes months.

**January 25, 2023:** Pentagon [sends](#) Ukraine 31 M1 Abrams tanks. WWII does not commence.

**February 13, 2023:** The U.S. tells Ukraine it [won't send](#) long-range ATACMS missiles because it has few to spare – despite having nearly a whole year of war to increase production. This is a changing excuse from six months prior, when the justification was that it could provoke Putin.

→ **Key Takeaway:** If Biden had sent all the systems Ukraine asked for when Ukraine needed them, many thousands of Ukrainian lives would have been saved and WWII still would not have started. Russian forces would be far weaker today, and the prospect of peace could be far closer.