
Current Intelligence Report Circular

CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Report Topic: Military Developments in the Russo-Ukrainian War

Production Date: 1 March 2022

CMC Director: Scott Boster

Report Author(s): Nathaniel Cannon and Scott Boster

Russia struggles to establish air superiority over Ukraine

In the first two days of its invasion of Ukraine, Russia launched a barrage of precision air strikes and medium-range ballistic missile attacks on Ukrainian air bases and air defense sites, but failed to deliver a decisive blow to the Ukrainian air force and defense systems. An anonymous US official said on 1 MAR that Ukraine has retained most of its fighter aircraft and helicopters, as well as its surface-to-air missile systems. This contradicts Moscow's claim that it has achieved total air superiority over Ukraine. Multiple videos have surfaced showing Russian helicopters being shot down over Ukraine, and Ukrainian general Valeriy Zaluzhnyi claimed that a Russian IL-76 personnel transport aircraft was shot down. END

CMCD Note

Until Russia can achieve air superiority, we estimate with high confidence we will continue to see the Russian reliance on artillery and rocket sites. Russian ground forces will likely continue to target airports and airbases to create landing points for forward air operations. Until Ukrainian forces can receive replacement aircraft from partner countries, we estimate we will see an increase of reliance on anti-aircraft weapons, such as the FIM-92 stinger missiles, to defend against Russian air operations.

Sources

Business Insider, Ukraine and Russia are still fighting for control of the skies 5 days into the war, US defense official says

<https://www.businessinsider.com/ukraines-skies-remain-contested-says-us-defense-official-2022-2>

Evening Standard, Russia claims it has taken control of strategic Antonov airport in Hostomel outside Kyiv

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/russia-claims-it-has-taken-control-of-a-key-strategic-airport-of-just-outside-kyiv-b984689.html>

Moscow Times, Russian Air Force Struggling to Claim Total Superiority, Experts Say

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/03/01/russian-air-force-struggling-to-claim-total-superiority-experts-say-a76694>

Twitter, ArmedForcesUKR

<https://twitter.com/ArmedForcesUkr/status/1496813259021852673>