

# Current Intelligence Report Circular

**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Belarusian Front in Ukraine War

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## Belarusian incursion into Ukraine still unclear, but new evidence may suggest possible timeframe

On 17 NOV, it was reported that Russia launched at least 18 new missiles into Ukraine, but this time coming from Belarusian territory. The new wave of missile strikes targeted energy and rocket booster factories in the Ukrainian towns of Odesa, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro. One of Ukraine's major energy companies, Naftogaz, reported these strikes severely damaged and destroyed some of their facilities in eastern Ukraine. A day prior to this attack, a Belarusian-American political strategist, Vitali Shkliarov, stated it was only a matter of time before Belarus sent its own troops into Ukraine. Shkliarov explained that due to sanctions on Belarus and Russia, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko has become heavily dependent on Russia for his political survival and the survival of the Belarusian economy. Shkliarov did not provide any clear time frame of when a possible Belarusian incursion into Ukraine could take place, however. On 16 NOV, it was reported that the Belarusian government has been calling up an increasing number of civilians for military training. The military documents handed to these civilians have reportedly outlined mobilization instructions following completion of their military trainings, indicating the possibility that a Belarusian incursion is being organized. END

### CMCD Note

We can assess with moderate confidence that a northern incursion into Ukraine from Belarus is likely to happen after the new year. With the news of Russia launching missiles into these five critical areas, it is likely Russia is heading towards a more missile-heavy front. This could be because of the coming winter months and Russia attempting to shrink the number of troops it has on the ground in Ukraine. Another indication of this comes from the Kherson retreat. News signs of retreat may potentially lead to Russia taking these next few months to regroup and focus on making it through the winter. Now with Belarus becoming more involved in Russia's deployment, we can assess with high confidence that Belarus joining a joint incursion in the future is highly likely. For now, Belarus and Russia will work to train their new troops in the Union Shield joint military exercise. The countries are highly unlikely to send in troops with no physical military training, considering that troops are still arriving in Belarus. We can assess that due to these indications, it is highly unlikely that a joint northern incursion will occur by the end of the month.

### Sources

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