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Y. Hanneko, PhD¹
Lee K. Levy II²

(0000-0002-5684-5593)

¹ - National Defence University of Ukraine, Kyiv;

² - The Levy Group, LLC, USA

International military assistance to Ukraine

Resume. The article analyzes the provision of international military assistance to Ukraine by partner countries during the Russian-Ukrainian war.

During the large-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of sovereign and independent Ukraine, the most pressing problems are the provision of weapons and military equipment, missiles and ammunition, food, clothing, fuel and lubricants, engineering equipment, and other necessary material resources. Also, special attention is paid to one of the main functions of logistics - transportation of international military assistance to Ukraine, which must be done covertly and with the use of camouflage means.

Many countries around the world have united to help Ukraine with the necessary military, humanitarian and financial resources. Many countries around the world are training members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in operational and tactical planning according to NATO standards, training units in diverse combat situations, and in the use of weapons and military equipment and its maintenance and repair.

The International Coalition provides Ukraine with military, political, financial, humanitarian, human rights and reform support, as well as sanctions policy against the aggressor country that unleashed the war against Ukraine. The provision of international military assistance to Ukraine is a key point in equipping and preparing the Armed Forces of Ukraine to repel a Russian attack.

This analysis makes it clear that it is important to provide troops (forces) with the necessary material resources, which directly affect the successful execution of operations (combat operations).

Keywords: logistics, logistics support, materiel, international military assistance, movement and transportation, russian-Ukrainian war.

Statement of the problem. Since the beginning of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine in 2014, international military assistance has become a hot topic for discussion and research. The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation had advantages in terms of available material resources, which were very necessary for Ukraine. Since 2014, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have been on the path to reforming the supply system, adopting the successful experience of NATO partner countries. The Russian-Ukrainian war is not only a confrontation between human, material, information and financial resources, but also between logistics systems, i.e. timely and complete supply of troops (forces).

Analysis of recent research and publications. An analysis of recent research and publications [1-4] shows that a number of works by predecessors who made a significant contribution to the development of the theory of military science are devoted to the analysis of logistics in the Russian-Ukrainian war. Scientists have studied the conditions and factors of logistics that affect the beginning of a large-scale invasion of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the territory of Ukraine, but paid little attention to the provision of international military assistance.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the functioning of international military assistance to Ukraine during the Russian-Ukrainian war and the impact of logistics on the conduct of operations (combat operations).

Summary of the main material. President of Ukraine and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that if NATO is not yet ready to protect us and take us into its alliance, we ask them to give us everything we need to protect ourselves [5].

International technical assistance (hereinafter referred to as ITA) has been provided to Ukraine on a free and non-refundable basis by donor countries and international organizations since 1992 in almost all areas of the economy and public life by donor countries and international organizations. However, on the eve of the beginning of the large-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, international technical assistance has become particularly important.

International technical assistance may be attracted in the form of:

any property necessary to ensure the implementation of the tasks of ITA projects (programs), which is imported or acquired in Ukraine, except for goods, the movement of which across the customs border of Ukraine is prohibited;

works and services;
 financial resources (grants) in national or foreign currency;
 other resources not prohibited by the legislation of Ukraine [6,7].

In the framework of international technical assistance to Ukraine, cooperation was carried out with the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia and more than 20 international organizations.

The Japanese State has also provided a variety of support to Ukraine, including non-lethal equipment such as trucks and unmanned aerial vehicles, a contribution to the NATO Comprehensive Assistance Package Trust Fund for Ukraine, treatment of wounded Ukrainian servicemen; and cooperation in the field of intelligence in the security and defense sector. Japan provides assistance to Ukraine in accordance with its constitutional and legal requirements and provisions.

Since 2024, in accordance with the regulations of Ukraine, international military assistance has been established, which is considered as targeted assistance provided to the security and defense forces in accordance with their identified needs by partner states on a free and irrevocable basis to support Ukraine during martial law in the form of weapons, military and special equipment, logistics, works and services, other resources not prohibited by law, except for financial resources in national or foreign currency [3].

Given Russia's great advantage over Ukraine in terms of manpower, weapons, and military equipment, it is necessary to meet the needs of Ukraine in terms of material resources to deter Russian aggression and to win. Unfortunately, the balance of power and resources was not in Ukraine's favor from the very beginning. For example, in 2021, the Russian economy was 7.6 times larger than Ukraine's in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) calculated at purchasing power parity (PPP) at current prices. Russia's GDP in PPP terms amounted to \$4 trillion 494 billion, while Ukraine's GDP in PPP terms was \$558 billion. Russia's population is 3.3 times larger than Ukraine's. In 2021, the population of the Russian Federation amounted to 143.4 million, while in Ukraine it was 43.81 million.

The total number of military formations of the Russian Federation in 2021 amounted to 1.454 million against 261 thousand servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which is almost 5 times higher. Russia's superiority over Ukraine is 9.6 times in combat aviation, 6.5 times in

armored vehicles, and 2.6 times in artillery, mortars, and MLRS. That is, the advantage was on average 5 times in favor of the Russian Federation.

In December 2022, the ratio of the parties in manpower was at least equalized. The RF Armed Forces were even 14% ahead of the AFU after the "partial mobilization" in Russia. Although in the summer, the number of Ukrainian Armed Forces at the front was twice as high as the Russian military formations in some parts of the contact line.

The number of Russian Armed Forces in December 2022 increased by 70% compared to February. The numerical advantage was achieved at the expense of quality, but the new numerous units need to be provided with the necessary weapons and military equipment, equipment and food.

In a comparison of armaments, Russia is twice as superior to Ukraine in terms of tanks (2000 vs. 1000), and retains a threefold advantage in artillery systems. Despite serious supplies of various types of armored vehicles to Ukraine, the Russian Armed Forces still has a more than 3.5-fold advantage in this type of weaponry.

In 2022, the Russian army lost 60% of the total stock of tanks, 40% of armored combat vehicles, 20% of artillery and 70% of missiles.

In 2022, the Ukrainian army fired 6,000 to 7,000 artillery shots daily, while the Russians fired 40,000 to 50,000. In the course of hostilities, both sides of the conflict are consuming weapons and ammunition at a rate unseen since World War II. For example, in Afghanistan, where NATO troops fired 300 artillery rounds a day. Ukraine's armed forces sometimes fire up to a thousand missiles a day, and they still need military assistance to counter the Russian army.

In early 2022, Russians were producing about 250,000 152mm shells per year. In early 2023, the Russians increased their production of 152mm shells to 1 million per year. Throughout the year, this number grew and currently stands at 1.325 million shells as of 2024. In addition, the number of 122mm artillery shells produced by Russia has increased to 800 thousand as of 2024. Thus: 1.3 million 152-mm and 0.8 million 122-mm per year.

Russia used 12 million artillery shells in 2022, 8 million in 2023, and about 4 million in 2024, including North Korean supplies.

Given the need for the Armed Forces of Ukraine to perform combat missions to repel the enemy, at the beginning of Russia's large-scale armed aggression, 1000 tanks, 2000 artillery systems, 3000 light armored vehicles, as well as

up to 100 fighters and massive supplies of air defense systems and large quantities of ammunition were required.

In order to reduce Ukraine's dependence on Western supplies, it is necessary to develop its own production of weapons, shells, and equipment. But it is dangerous to do this on the territory of the country, so to ensure its survivability, it is done on the production base of Eastern and Central European countries. For example, the Czech Republic has launched the production of reconnaissance and attack drones for Ukraine. UAC has launched mass production of Leleka-LR reconnaissance UAVs and Bulava attack drones for the Ukrainian army. The company plans to supply about a hundred reconnaissance and attack UAVs per year.

Therefore, the provision of international military assistance is one of the most important sources of providing the Armed Forces of Ukraine with material and technical means to deter Russia's armed aggression. In this regard, Ukraine desperately needed international military assistance.

The provision of international military assistance by the United States began before Russia's large-scale armed aggression on the territory of independent Ukraine.

Thus, the United States and other NATO countries supplied non-lethal equipment, armored vehicles, boats, and radars in rather limited quantities until the end of 2021. Only Lithuania has been supplying Ukraine with small arms and ammunition since 2015, and the United States has begun to transfer limited quantities of FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile systems and other weapons since 2018. The situation began to change only in the fall of 2021, when, amid the concentration of Russian troops on Ukraine's borders, there were larger supplies of small arms, anti-tank and portable anti-aircraft missile systems.

In 2022, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, international support for Ukraine was announced totaling €113.11 billion or \$119.07 billion, and including the assistance of international institutions such as the UN, the Red Cross, the IMF and others, €128.99 billion or \$135.7 billion, of which €71.26 billion or \$75.02 billion was promised to support the economy and social sphere of Ukraine, and €16.58 billion or \$17.45 billion for humanitarian needs.

The international community, mainly represented by the United States, the United Kingdom, the British Commonwealth and the EU members that make up the NATO bloc, has assumed the bulk of the military commitments in

the amount of €40.97 billion (\$43.13 billion) in 2022.

Since the beginning of its large-scale armed aggression, Russia has been spending an average of \$8 billion in budgetary and extra-budgetary funds per month, while Ukraine spends \$4.4 billion per month on the war, about half of which comes from allied assistance. If Ukraine were to receive all of the aid in full, it would be able to spend \$6.7 billion on military needs every month. And this would still be 15% less than what Russia spends. That is, it would be enough to maintain defense capabilities, but not enough to achieve victory in a relatively short time.

As a result, from February 24 to December 31, 2022, Ukraine's budget received \$28.1 billion from international partners, according to a report by the Center for Economic Strategies. Among these funds, about UAH 12 billion are grants.

The largest contributions to the Ukrainian state budget were made by the United States, the EU, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Aid from these countries accounts for one third of the expenditures of the Ukrainian consolidated budget in 2022.

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression, the United States has provided the Ukrainian army with more than \$20 billion worth of weapons. The United States is also the largest foreign donor to the Ukrainian budget. The total amount of international aid that has been transferred to the Ukrainian budget since February 24 has exceeded \$28 billion. We summarize military aid from the United States and total aid from countries and international organizations.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine have the most urgent needs: Air defense systems, anti-aircraft guns, man-portable air defense systems, artillery shells and armored vehicles.

The first group of needs relates to all air and missile defense systems without exception, including ammunition. Ukraine needs as many high-tech air defense systems as possible, and that is why we are negotiating not only new Patriot batteries, but also the supply of new NASAMS, IRIS-T, and Crotale systems.

Ukraine is also interested in additional anti-aircraft systems such as Gepard and Vulcan; man-portable air defense systems such as Stinger and others.

Artillery shells of all calibers remain an extremely important need.

In other words, for Ukraine to win, it needs to achieve superiority in weapons, ammunition, and equipment. This advantage can be gained if

the support of the allies reaches \$16 billion per month.

In order to turn the tide of the war and win by reducing military and civilian casualties, Ukraine needs \$168 billion in aid from the EU, NATO, the US, and other countries in 2023.

Currently, Ukraine receives defense resources from the United States under five free assistance programs and two programs for the purchase of defense resources for money:

1) Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) - presidential authority to transfer defense resources;

2) Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) - an initiative to promote Ukraine's security;

3) Foreign Military Financing (FMF) - foreign military financing;

4) Excess Defense Articles (EDA) - surplus defense resources;

5) Third Party Transfers (TPT) - transfer of defense resources from a third party. There are also two programs for purchasing defense resources for money. These are Foreign Military Sales (FMS) and Direct Commercial Sales (DCS).

In 2022, the US Department of Defense financed the repair of 45 T-72B tanks from the Czech reserve and 20 MI-17 units belonging to the former Afghan government.

The total amount of US military assistance from February 24, 2022 to October 2024 amounted to \$64 (-8.2) billion (2022 - \$21.2 billion, 2023 - \$25.0 billion).

The basic program is PDA, the supply of weapons from the US Army's stockpile. Other programs include the USAI program, orders to manufacturers or purchases from partners, and the FMF program, grants for the purchase of weapons and military services.

At the beginning of the war, Ukraine asked for logistical assistance from NATO in order to defeat Russia. In a couple of months, Western allies created the Ramstein platform and gave Ukraine hundreds of military aid packages. Some of the countries donated more than 40% of their own stockpiles of weapons and military equipment.

For example, on April 22, 2022, the head of the Pentagon, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin invited representatives of 40 allied countries to meet in Germany to discuss Ukraine's long-term security needs in the event of a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. US Department of Defense spokesman John Kirby said that defense ministers and senior generals from NATO and non-NATO countries had

accepted the invitation to meet on April 26, 2022, at the US-controlled Ramstein air base in Germany. He described the meeting as a "consultation" that looks at how to provide military strength and reinforcements to Ukraine. This includes cataloging the industrial capabilities of the partners to see how their weapons manufacturers can continue to help Ukraine. Kirby emphasized that the meeting was not held under the auspices of NATO, but that all NATO member states were represented in full[8].

Subsequently, the meetings took place in different formats and locations (in particular, the third meeting was held in Brussels, but was unofficially called "Ramstein-2", ..., "Ramstein-25", etc. within the framework of the "Consultative Group on Ukraine's Defense".

The first meeting was attended by 30 NATO member states, as well as partners from the Pacific region (Australia, South Korea, New Zealand, Japan), the Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Qatar) and Africa (Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Tunisia). The Ukrainian delegation was headed by the Minister of Defense of Ukraine Oleksiy Reznikov.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that NATO and its allies would try to help Ukraine with the most necessary supplies as soon as possible. According to White House press secretary Jen Psaki, more than 30 countries pledged more than \$5 billion in aid during the meeting.

The parties also agreed to organize a new "Ukraine Defense Advisory Group" that will meet monthly online or in person. The purpose of the meetings will be to coordinate urgent assistance to Ukraine [8].

The next 25 meetings were attended by more than 50 states to provide timely international military assistance to Ukraine. A series of diplomatic meetings of defense ministers from several dozen countries in the Ramstein format were held to synchronize and accelerate the provision of military weapons to Ukraine to counter a full-scale Russian invasion and to discuss support for Ukraine after the war.

In addition to the Ramstein format, many associations and coalitions of countries have been created to provide international military assistance to Ukraine. For example, on the eve of the emergency meeting in the Ramstein-8 format, the defense ministers of nine European countries signed the Tallinn Declaration, which provides for unprecedented military assistance to Ukraine. Thus, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Slovakia expressed their

determination to jointly provide an unprecedented set of military assistance to Ukraine, including tanks, armored personnel carriers, air defense systems, heavy artillery, and ammunition.

As part of the supply of weapons and equipment to Ukraine during the Russian invasion to repel Russian aggression, a drone coalition was created by an organization of 16 countries that are involved in the production and transfer of drones to Ukraine.

At a meeting of the Contact Group on Ukraine's Defense, a coalition in support of Ukraine's air defense was launched with NATO colleagues.

A tank coalition was created to successfully counterattack and inflict significant losses on the enemy. Coalitions with partner countries on demining and an IT coalition consisting of 14 countries have also been created.

Ukraine took part in the largest Cyber Coalition exercise in NATO's history, which took place in the Estonian capital of Tallinn at the end of 2023.

In 2023, the UK and Norway created a "maritime coalition" to help Ukraine, and in 2024, Spain joined.

A coalition of aviation capabilities is also being created to organize 14 countries that will participate in the transfer of Western-style multi-purpose fighters to Ukraine under the ITA to repel Russian aggression starting in 2022.

24 NATO countries (the UK, Germany, France, Denmark, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, the US, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Luxembourg, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia) and Japan, Ireland and the EU have signed a Security Cooperation Agreement with Ukraine. So far, 8 out of 32 NATO countries have not signed the agreement: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Turkey, Hungary, and Turkey.

International military assistance includes not only the provision of material and technical means, but also training of Ukrainian soldiers in NATO standards, rules of use of weapons and military equipment, and tactical actions in various types of combat.

Training of the Ukrainian military abroad is a very important factor in improving the combat capability of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Almost all EU and NATO countries have joined various training programs for Ukrainian military personnel.

In the UK, about 50,000 Ukrainian military personnel, including military medics, engineers, helicopter crews, and search and rescue missions, have gradually gained combat experience, taking turns. In Germany, NATO instructors are training Ukrainian units in tactical operations. And this is of great benefit. After all, the training will take place in many areas: from acquiring skills in providing medical care at the hospital stage and targeted fire to coordination within units.

The training of personnel and combined arms units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is conducted in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and by U.S. forces in Germany. In 2022, brigade headquarters, as well as battalion, company, artillery, and air defense units were trained in partner countries. In addition, specialists are being trained to use foreign models of weapons and military equipment provided as part of technical assistance. In 2022, almost 10,000 people were trained in 17 countries.

With the help of our partners, we provide professional training for narrow specialists, including pilots, drivers, engineers, combat medics, advanced aviation and artillery gunners, mechanics, divers, scouts, non-commissioned officers, and CBRN specialists. Over 10,000 people were trained in European countries over the year. The training program has been very successful overall, with Denmark, Canada, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and the Netherlands also sending instructors to train Ukrainian soldiers.

In addition, Ukrainian artillerymen have successfully completed a training course in Germany to ensure the effective combat use of weapons provided as part of international assistance from partner countries. In total, over 70,000 Ukrainian servicemen were trained by partner countries in 2022-2024.

Ukrainian military also undergo shooting training in winter conditions under the leadership of Danish instructors in Great Britain.

Ukrainian servicemen learned to drive Challenger 2 on the territory of Great Britain. Crews of heavy artillery systems also trained there.

In 2023, training of Ukrainian crews as part of battalions on Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and Abrams tanks was carried out in the USA. About 100 Ukrainian servicemen were also trained to work on PATRIOT air defense systems at the Fort Sill base in Oklahoma.

In addition to the provision of weapons, military equipment, and material resources for personnel training, Ukraine was provided with

specialized NATO software. Thus, for the effective management of logistics processes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, it is necessary to use a system solution regarding the formation of an automated logistics management system, the selection of an information and software platform of appropriate functionality and scale for the automation of logistics management processes, the construction of the information infrastructure of the logistics system, and ultimately, the creation of an automated management system logistics of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

NATO uses specialized LOGFAS software for this purpose, which is an integrated set of software systems designed to support NATO logistics. LOGFAS is used to meet technical requirements to minimize planning time and maximize the ability to quickly exchange relevant (logistical) plans, reports and other information.

Three levels of specialized logistics software are used in Ukraine:

- on the tactical level - an information and communication system based on SAPS/4 HANA "LIS 1.0";

- on operational basis - information and communication system LOGFAS;

- on the strategic side - the Karavai military equipment accounting and logistics program based on the SOTA program.

The module of IAS "SOTA" regarding the monitoring of arms supplies to Ukraine from partner countries was put into effect on February 24, 2022. It makes it possible to monitor new supplies of weapons and analyze them over time. The "Karavai" system was created to manage the process of submitting applications for aid from Ukraine and the process of processing these applications by partner countries.

In the Armed Forces of Ukraine, work is underway to optimize participation with an emphasis on such areas as medical support (MED), intelligence support (INTEL), cyber protection (CYBER), defense planning (DPB) and logistics support (LOG) - the main focus was on the implementation of the NATO LOGFAS electronic logistics planning and support system.

In 2022 and 2024, Ukrainian instructors were trained by NATO LOGFAS specialists in Poland and the Czech Republic, who in recent years have been training Ukrainian logisticians in specialized software.

More than 1,000 specialists-operators of LOGFAS for the Armed Forces of Ukraine have been trained in military educational institutions and military educational units of higher education institutions of Ukraine.

Thus, for the successful victory of Ukraine in the Russo-Ukrainian war, continuous, timely and complete provision of appropriate weapons and military equipment, ammunition and material resources is necessary.

With the beginning of Russia's armed aggression, Ukraine turned into a testing ground for various types of modern weapons and military equipment. In this situation, the appearance of the modern army of the 21st century is being formed, and the influence of hybrid warfare is changing the requirements and operational characteristics of weapons and military equipment. Therefore, NATO should not save money on outdated types of weapons and military equipment, but first of all, provide modern types of weapons to show superiority over the Russian army. In addition, the supply of weapons and equipment to the Armed Forces of Ukraine will lead to even heavier losses of Russian military equipment, which will significantly weaken the potential of the Russian army and, ultimately, bring the end of the war closer.

Ukraine's transition to NATO arms in this war is inevitable. But NATO will have to increasingly replenish its reserves and plan new orders for the production of modern weapons. After all, this war showed that only a country with modern armed forces can guarantee peace.

Therefore, restrictions on military supplies only increase losses among Ukrainians and Russians, as they create the illusion in the military and political leadership of the Russian Federation that it is possible to reverse the course of hostilities by switching to a strategy of attrition.

Conclusions. Therefore, as a conclusion, it can be noted that in order for Ukraine to win the war with Russia, it is necessary to increase the supply of military equipment and equipment. Ukraine has a combat-ready army capable of solving combat tasks of any complexity, but there are not enough resources for the army to have something to fight.

The key to Ukraine's victory over the Russian aggressor is the international military assistance of partner countries, thanks to which peace will come sooner in Ukraine, in Europe and in the whole world, it will be an example of the unity of civilized and democratic countries in solving dangerous potential threats to peace.

It is advisable to focus **further research** on the analysis of the impact of logistics on the conduct of operations (combat operations).

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Міжнародна військова допомога Україні
Анотація

У статті представлено аналіз надання міжнародної військової допомоги Україні країнами-партнерами під час російсько-української війни.

Під час широкомасштабної збройної агресії Російської Федерації на території суверенної та незалежної України актуальними проблемами є забезпечення озброєнням та військовою технікою, ракетами і боеприпасами, продовольством, речовим майном, паливо-мастильними матеріалами, інженерним майном, іншими необхідними матеріальними засобами. Також, особлива увага приділяється однієї з основних функцій логістики – перевезенню міжнародної військової допомоги Україні, яку потрібно робити приховано і застосовувати маскувальні засоби.

Багато країн світу об'єдналися заради допомоги Україні необхідними військовими, гуманітарними і фінансовими ресурсами. У багатьох країнах світу здійснюється підготовка військовослужбовців Збройних Сил України щодо вивчення процесів оперативного та тактичного планування за стандартами НАТО, підготовка підрозділів у різномірних ситуаціях бойових дій, а також використання озброєння та військової техніки і її технічного обслуговування та ремонту.

Міжнародна коаліція надає Україні військову, політичну, фінансову, гуманітарну, правозахисну та реформаторську підтримки, а також веде санкційну політику щодо країни-агресора, яка розв'язала війну проти України. Надання міжнародної військової допомоги Україні є ключовим моментом забезпечення і підготовки Збройних Сил України для відбиття нападу РФ.

Проведений аналіз дає зрозуміти важливість забезпечення військ (сил) необхідними матеріальними засобами від яких безпосередньо залежить успішне виконання операцій (бойових дій).

Ключові слова: логістика; матеріально-технічне забезпечення; матеріальні засоби; міжнародна військова допомога; перевезення; російсько-українська війна.