Shelling of Kievskiy District, Donetsk, using HIMARS MLRS on January 10, 2025

PUBLIC INVESTIGATION

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CONTENT

ABBREVIATIONS

UAF - Ukrainian Armed Forces

DPR - Donetsk People’s Republic

LPR - Luhansk People’s Republic

SABr - Separate Artillery Brigade

MLRS - Multiple Launch Rocket System

JCCC - Joint Centre for Control and Coordination

GMLRS - guided multiple launch rocket system

MLRS - multiple launch rocket system

MT&A - missile troops and artillery

LoC – Line of Contact

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

RF IC - Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation

PREAMBLE

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched a special military operation in the territory of Ukraine, stating that its goal was to protect the population of Donbass, which, according to Russian President Vladimir Putin, had been subjected to genocide by the Kyiv regime for eight years[1]. This step became the culmination of a years-long confrontation, the roots of which lie in the events of 2014, when the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LNR) broke away and were not recognized by the Ukrainian authorities.

By the end of 2023, the front line mostly ran through the territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions[2]. However, in February 2024, the situation changed dramatically: control over the strategically important town of Avdeyevka passed to Russian troops, allowing the Russian Federation to take the initiative into its own hands. Throughout 2024, the Armed Forces of Ukraine (UAF) suffered significant losses, retreating from one settlement after another[3]. The only exception was the UAF's Kursk operation, which, however, failed to change the overall dynamics of events.[4]

The political situation in the world also underwent significant changes. The election of Donald Trump as President of the United States on November 5, 2024[5] became a turning point for international diplomacy. Trump's promise to end the war in Ukraine[6] drew sharp criticism from Ukrainian authorities and their supporters[7], who increased pressure to derail the impending peace process. This led to an escalation in tensions and a rise in the number of artillery attacks on civilian infrastructure in territories controlled by Russia.

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[1] Message of the President of the Russian Federation (published on 24.02.2022) Official website of the President of the Russian Federation URL: http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67843/videos (accessed on 06.07.2022)

[2] Maps of hostilities on December 31 (published on 01.01.2024) СМИ Readovka Media. URL: https://readovka.news/news/176013 (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[3] Chronology of the Special Military Operation. Internet Encyclopedia – Runiversalis. URL: https://руни.рф/Хронология_специальной_военной_операции (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[4] Kursk offensive (2024–present) «Wikipedia» The Free Encyclopedia URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kursk_offensive_(2024–present) (accessed on14.03.2025)

[5] 2024 President Results: Trump wins (published on 05.11.2024) NBC NEWS. URL: https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-elections/president-results (accessed on14.03.2025)

[6] How Trump Promised to Resolve the Military Conflict Between Russia and Ukraine (published on 06.11.2024) /RBC Media. URL: https://www.rbc.ru/politics/06/11/2024/672b39d09a7947ad7f9dd4ab (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[7] Zelenskyy responded to Trump's idea to "quickly resolve" the conflict in Ukraine (published on 07.11.2024) RBC Media. URL: https://www.rbc.ru/politics/07/11/2024/672d06ec9a7947695a060757 (accessed on 14.03.2025)

Particularly alarming were the events of January 2025, when the Armed Forces of Ukraine intensified the use of HIMARS Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) to attack civilian population. The morning shelling on January 10, 2025, of the *Moloko* supermarket, located in the Shakhtyorskaya Square in the Kievskiy district of Donetsk, became one of the most outrageous examples of a deliberate attack on civilians. As a result of this attack, six rocket projectiles struck an area densely populated with people, injuring four civilians: a woman born in 1963 and another in 1940, a male employee of the *Moloko* supermarket born in 2002, and a male worker from a utility company born in 1968.[8]

This incident demonstrates a deliberate disregard for international humanitarian law, which prohibits targeted attacks on civilian population and objects without military significance[9]. This investigation is aimed at establishing all the circumstances of the incident, including identifying those responsible and analyzing the consequences of this act of aggression. We urge the international community to pay attention to these tragic events and take measures to protect human lives, as well as to prevent further human rights violations in the course of the conflict.

This investigation aims to establish the truth about what happened, gather objective data and evidence, and ensure justice for the victims of this crime.

[8] Consequences of the armed attack in the Kievskiy district of Donetsk at 08:45 on 10.01.2025 (published on 10.01.2025) Facts of Ukraine's war crimes Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/20733?single (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[9] Norm 1. The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants. Official Website of the International Committee of the Red Cross. URL: https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ru/customary-ihl/v1/rule1 (accessed on 14.03.2025)

INCIDENT LOCATION

After examining the incident location in the Kievskiy district of Donetsk, talking with witnesses of the shelling, and collecting materials from open sources, we managed to identify **6** artillery shell hits. All of them have been explored and mapped using the Yandex Maps service (see Fig. 1).

Also, based on the footage captured by surveillance cameras[10] and a car dash cam,[11] it was determined that the shelling began at approximately 8:45 AM Moscow time and lasted about 35 seconds, with explosions occurring every 6-8 seconds.

Shell hit 1 The rocket detonated on the paved sidewalk approximately 5 meters south of the main entrance to the *Moloko* supermarket, located at 169, Artioma Street. As a result of the detonation, a round through hole approximately 1 meter in diameter was formed in the concrete ceiling of the underground parking lot located beneath the square. The fragments damaged the façades and glazing of surrounding buildings, and vehicles parked nearby (see Fig. 2).

Shell hit 2 The rocket detonated upon hitting the end of the wall of the cylindrical superstructure on the building of the *Moloko* supermarket, located at 169, Artioma Street, in the north-eastern part of the superstructure. As a result of the detonation, the wall and a metal fire escape located in close proximity to the explosion site were partially destroyed. Additionally, significant damage was inflicted on the roof, and on the surrounding multi-story buildings (see Fig. 3).

Shell hit 3 The rocket projectile detonated upon hitting the roof of the *Moloko* supermarket, located at 169, Artioma Street, approximately 2 meters south of the southern wall of the adjoining multi-story residential building. The detonation resulted in a hole about 1 meter in diameter in the roof. To the north of the hole, a scattering of yellow stone fragments is visible. Additionally, significant damage was

[10] Another instance of strikes on the MOLOKO supermarket in Shakhtyorskaya Square (published on 18.06.2022) Typical Donetsk Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/itsdonetsk/18164 (accessed on

[11] The moment of the shelling of Shakhtyorskaya Square in the Kievskiy district of Donetsk (published on 16.04.2023) AGS of the Russian Donbass Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/Ags_Donbass/331217 (accessed on

inflicted on the roof, and on the façades and glazing of the surrounding multi-story buildings. (see Fig. 4).

Shell hit 4 The rocket projectile detonated upon hitting the ground in the courtyard of a multi-story residential building located at 1B, Kievsky Avenue. The projectile detonation resulted in a round shell crater in the ground, reaching approximately 1 meter deep and up to 2 meters in diameter. Multiple fragmentation marks are visible on the concrete fence to the west of the crater, at a height of up to 2 meters. Shrapnel also damaged the glazing and façade of the residential building at 1B, Kievsky Avenue, located to the east of the crater, and cars parked in the courtyard of the building (see Fig. 5).

Shell hit 5 The rocket projectile detonated upon hitting the roof of the metalworking shop building located at 169M, Artioma Street. As a result of the detonation, the roof, made of metal profile sheeting, was pierced, and the explosion itself detonated at the level of the concrete slab between the first and second floors. As a result, the roof, the western wall of the building, and the floor slab between the levels were partially destroyed. The equipment located inside the workshop was also damaged (see Fig. 6).

Shell hit 6 The rocket projectile detonated upon hitting the concrete fence of the metalworking shop building located at 169M, Artioma Street. As a result of the detonation, two sections of the fence were completely destroyed, and a round crater formed in the ground, reaching up to 1 meter in depth and up to 2 meters in diameter. Shrapnel damaged the façades and glazing of the surrounding buildings (see Fig. 7).

WEAPON TYPE

Projectile debris

At the sites of shell hits 4 and 6, directly in the craters from the detonation of the projectiles and around them, we discovered flat fragments of heavy metal. On one side, these fragments have a pattern of grooves dividing the surface into identical diamond-shaped sections measuring 16 x 8 mm (see Fig. 8). Additionally, near shell hit 6, a fragment of lightweight metal was discovered, bearing traces of characteristic yellow-green paint and remnants of markings (see Fig. 9). The numbers “136” and the letters “MFR” remained legible.

Moreover, photos of metal fragments found by investigators from the Investigative Committee[12] and representatives of the DPR in the JCCC have been published in open sources.[13].

Alongside the heavy metal fragments with diamond-shaped grooves, similar to those we found, the photos provided by the employees of the RF IC and the DPR Representation in the JCCC also show debris of a stabilizer block with remnants of tail fins (see Fig. 10 and Fig. 11). Characteristic bolts securing the tail fins to the rocket body are visible on both blocks. Moreover, based on the fragment presented by the employees of the DPR Representation in the JCCC, it is possible to roughly determine the caliber of the projectile, which is approximately 22-23 cm.

It is worth noting that after the shelling of the town of Krasny Luch on July 24, 2022, fragments and unexploded munitions were found that were unequivocally identified as GMLRS M31 series rocket projectiles[14]. These objects made it possible

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[12] Consequences of the shelling of Donetsk (published on 10.01.2025) Vesti Donetska RuTube Channel. URL: https://rutube.ru/video/d6c8f0b2f860b691dda18daaf8df9149/?r=wd (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[13] Consequences of the armed attack in the Kyivskiy district of Donetsk at 08:45 on 10.01.2025 (published on 10.01.2025) Facts of Ukraine’s war crimes Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/20733?single (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[14] The LPR Representation in the JCCC reported that at the site of the shelling of Krasny Luch (https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/6802), three unexploded M31 GMLRS rockets from the American M142 HIMARS MLRS were discovered, along with their warheads and fragments of the rocket bodies (published on 09.08.2023) The DNR Representative Office in JCCC Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/16351 (accessed on 04.03.2025)

to gain a fairly complete understanding of the design features of this munition (see Fig. 12).

In the case of the fragments found at the site of the shelling we are examining, they have identical stabilizer block elements to those found in Krasny Luch, the same diamond-shaped grooves inside the warhead casing, the same yellow-green color of the rocket motor casing, and the same caliber.

The above information allows us to assert that **six GMLRS M31 series rocket projectiles were used** in the shelling under consideration.

Munition of the GMLRS M31 series

The M31 rocket projectile is a derivative of the M30 (cluster munition) but equipped with a unitary high-explosive fragmentation warhead weighing 90 kg (of which the fuze weighs 1.5 kg, and the explosive PBXN-109 , consisting of 64% hexogen, 20% aluminum powder, binder, plasticizer, and stabilizer, with a detonation velocity of 7,600 m/s, weighs 23 kg)[15] designed for use in urban and mountainous terrain (see Fig. 13). A new ESAF fuze was employed, which has three operating modes: approaching, impacting, and delaying after the impact.

In October 2003, Lockheed Martin signed a contract for 86 unitary variant missiles. The first missiles were delivered in May 2005. In August 2005, field testing began in Iraq.[16].

The M31 rocket has two modifications: M31A1 and M31A2. M31A1 is an upgraded version of the M31. It has a capability for air-burst detonation added. M31A2 differs from the M31A1 by its rocket motor, which incorporates insensitive munitions technologies[17]. It has been in production since 2020.

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[15] M31 GMLRS Unitary. GlobalSecurity. URL: https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/munitions/m31.htm (accessed on 04.03.2025)

[16] Guided MLRS Electronic Safety & Arming Devices (ESAD) & Electronic Safety & Arming Fuze (ESAF) (published on 08.2008) 43rd Gun & Missile Conference URL: https://web.archive.org/web/20220629051826/https://ndiastorage.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/ndia/2008/gun_missile/6484KurtzWilliam.pdf (accessed on 29.06.2022)

[17] HIMARS. Specifications: Foto (published on 03.12.2022) AviaPro Internet Portal. URL: https://avia.pro/blog/himars-tehnicheskie-harakteristiki-foto (accessed on 14.03.2025)

The range of the M31 family rocket projectiles is as follows: minimum — 15 km, maximum — 70 to 85 km (depending on the modification); the length of the rocket is approximately 3.9 meters, caliber — 227 mm; flight stabilization is achieved through foldable stabilizers that deploy after the projectile exits the launch tube; the speed is supersonic (approximately Mach 2.5).[18]

It is compatible with the following launch platforms: HIMARS (M142) is a lightweight mobile platform mounted on a truck chassis; MLRS (M270) is a heavier tracked platform[19] (see Fig. 14)

It is worth noting that the most commonly supplied ammunition for HIMARS MLRS, is the M31A1 GMLRS (Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System) guided rockets, M31A1 GMLRS (Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System) equipped with a unitary high-explosive warhead[20]. Thus, it is highly probable that the rockets used in the shelling under consideration were exactly of this type.

[18] GMLRS: The Precision Fires Go-To Round. Official web-site of Lockheed Martin military corporation. URL: https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/products/guided-mlrs-unitary-rocket.html (accessed on 29.06.2022)

[19] M270 MLRS and M142 HIMARS. Armed Forces web-portal. URL: https://armedforces.eu/compare/rocket_artillery_M270_MLRS_vs_M142_HIMARS (accessed on 29.06.2022)

[20] Ukraine armed forces use HIMARS M31A1 GMLRS rocket as a precision weapon killer (published on 04.08.2022) The Global Defense News MEDIA. URL: https://armyrecognition.com/focus-analysis-conflicts/army/conflicts-in-the-world/russia-ukraine-war-2022/ukraine-armed-forces-use-himars-m31a1-gmlrs-rocket-as-a-precision-weapon-killer (accessed on 29.06.2022)

DETERMINATION OF THE SHELLING SECTOR

Determining the direction from which the shelling under consideration was conducted is challenging for two reasons.

First, at the final stage of their flight trajectory, rockets from the GMLRS M31 family reorient themselves to strike the target at an angle close to 90 degrees. This results in circular craters and causes uniform fragmentation damage, affecting the surrounding area evenly with shrapnel. Determining the direction in such cases is challenging.

Second, GMLRS M31 rockets are guided munitions capable of adjusting their flight trajectory. Thus, even if we were able to determine the direction based on physical evidence, it would only represent the direction of the final rocket flight segment, rather than its initial launch point or overall trajectory.

In this regard, it is important to highlight and consider the following facts:

1) HIMARS MLRS is only in service with one side of the conflict, namely Ukraine;

2) An expensive MLRS like the HIMARS is not deployed closer than 15 km from the Line of Contact (LoC);

3) The most probable (operational) firing range does not exceed 70 km, although there remains a small possibility of using this MLRS at ranges up to 85 km.

Considering all of the above factors, and possessing data on the Line of Contact (LoC) as of the event date[21], we can plot on the conflict map a line 15 km away from the LoC and two maximum range radii (70 km and 85 km). Thus, we will obtain two sectors from which the shelling under consideration could have been conducted. These sectors represent the possible launch zones based on the technical capabilities and operational constraints of the HIMARS system (see Fig. 15).

[21] Map of the Special Military Operation in Ukraine (published on 10.01.2025) LOSTARMOUR Internet resource. “Losses of military equipment in local conflicts of the 21st century” URL: https://lostarmour.info/map#map (accessed on 14.03.2025)

Thus, **the most probable shelling sector from which the Kievskiy District of Donetsk was fired on January 10, 2025, is located within the triangle formed by the towns of Druzhkovka, Kostiantynovka, and Dobropolliye.**

MILITARY PRESENCE

On January 3, 2023, the Russian Ministry of Defense reported that, as a result of missile and air strikes on a concentration of military equipment near the Druzhkovka railway station in the DPR, two launchers of the HIMARS multiple rocket systems were destroyed, among other things.[22]

Russian military-affiliated Telegram channels reported that on July 3, 2024, one of the UAF HIMARS rocket launchers exploded in the Druzhkovka area while firing toward Donetsk. It was also claimed that the "Druzhkovka-Kramatorsk sector is often used by 'chimeras' (a slang term for HIMARS) to shell Russian positions".[23]

And on July 27, 2024, a video was published showing a strike on the Stary Kramatorsk Mechanical Plant, where an ammunition depot for rocket and artillery weapons of the 56th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade was located. The Russian Ministry of Defense stated that the Iskander-M operational-tactical missile system destroyed one M142 HIMARS multiple launch rocket system, five BM-21 Grad systems, an equal number of main battle tanks, and more than a dozen other armored vehicles.[24]

It is worth noting that Kramatorsk and Slavyansk form a powerful fortified area and rear hub, where warehouses and reserves of UAF units from several directions are located. There are also factories producing military equipment in the area.[25]

After the destruction of the first HIMARS systems, their crews were reorganized into roving combat groups. Under normal circumstances, they are positioned 130–150 kilometers behind the front line and only emerge from their

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[22] The Ministry of Defense confirmed a strike on the area near the Druzhkovka railway station in the DPR (published on 03.01.2023) Izvestiya Media. URL: https://iz.ru/1450334/2023-01-03/minoborony-podtverdilo-udar-po-raionu-zhd-stantcii-druzhovka-v-dnr (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[23] Telegram channels from Kramatorsk and Druzhkovka report that today, one of the UAF HIMARS rocket launchers exploded while firing toward Donetsk (the Druzhkovka-Kramatorsk sector is often used by "chimeras" to shell Russian positions) (published on 03.07.2024) "Osvyedomitel" Telegram channel. URL: https://t.me/infomil_live/7724 (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[24] The Russian Ministry of Defense published footage of a strike on a UAF weapons depot in Kramatorsk (published on 26.07.2024) "Russian Weapon" Special Project. URL: https://rg.ru/2024/07/26/v-rezultate-udara-po-skladu-v-kramatorske-vsu-poteriali-himars-i-piat-gradov.html?ysclid=m6j4xz6f12924174006 (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[25] The explosion following the arrival of a Russian missile in Kramatorsk was heard in another city (published on 30.01.2025) Rambler Internet Portal. URL: https://news.rambler.ru/army/54127126-vzryv-posle-prileta-russkoy-rakety-v-kramatorsk-uslyshali-v-drugom-gorode/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

shelters a few hours before firing begins. The presence of these systems in specific units of the UAF is thoroughly guarded secret information.

It is known that at least two units are equipped with the HIMARS MLRS, which could potentially have been involved in the strike on Donetsk: the **26th Separate Artillery Brigade of the UAF and the 27th Rocket Artillery Brigade of the UAF.**

26-th SABr of the UAF

26-th Separate Artillery Brigade of the UAF under the command of **Andranik Gasparyan**[26] is based 50–60 km north-west of Makeyevka.[27]

The 26th Separate Artillery Brigade named after General-Corporal Roman Daszkewycz (*Ukrainian*: 26-та окрема артилерійська бригада імені генерала-хорунжого Романа Дашкевича, abbreviated as 26 SABr, military unit A3091, postal code V3231) is a tactical formation of the Rocket Forces and Artillery (RV&A) within the Ukrainian Ground Forces. It is based in the city of Berdychiv in the Zhytomyr region. The brigade is part of the "North" Operational Command (see **Fig.** 16).

Since 2014, the brigade has been actively involved in combat operations in the Donbas. Its current commander, Andranik Gasparyan (see **Fig.** 17) who rose to the top from the rank of a junior lieutenant, was sentenced in absentia by a Russian court for ordering the deliberate shelling of civilian infrastructure in the city of Stakhanov in the LPR in July 2020[28].

Since the beginning of 2022, Western weapons have been actively supplied to the brigade[29]. There is a fairly high probability that, among other systems, the brigade received MLRS capable of firing M31 family rockets.

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[26] Parade and a new flag: how the 26th Artillery Brigade of the UAF celebrated its 15th anniversary (published on 05.07.2019) "5th Channel Media. URL: https://www.5.ua/ru/rehyoni/parad-y-novii-flah-kak-26-ia-artylleryiskaia-bryhada-vsu-otmetyla-svoe-15-letye-195223.html (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[27] What is known about the UAF brigade that struck Makeyevka with a HIMARS? (published on 03.01.2023) Life.ru Media. URL: https://life.ru/p/1549867 accessed on 14.03.2025)

[28] The commander of the UAF brigade, who ordered the shelling of Stakhanov, was sentenced in absentia to 20 years (published on 09.07.2024) Komsomolskaya Pravda Media. URL: https://www.kp.ru/online/news/5891888/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[29] The 26th Artillery Brigade demonstrated the PzH 2000 self-propelled guns in action. The Brigade named after General-Corporal Roman Daszkewycz was armed with German PzH 2000 units (published on 26.10.2022) Military Internet Portal. URL: https://mil.in.ua/uk/news/26-ta-artbrygada-pokazala-u-diyi-sau-pzh-2000/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

27-th RoABr of the UAF

Units of the **27-th Rocket Artillery Brigade** of the UAF under the command of Colonel **Dmitry Khrapach** were spotted in the area of the town of Druzhkovka.[30]

As early as 2022, it became known about special units within the UAF, whose primary purpose is to operate American HIMARS MLRS. The 27th RoABr, established in 2008 but having lost nearly all its equipment in the early days of the special military operation, is one of the brigades tasked with operating these HIMARS systems.[31]

The 27th Rocket Artillery Brigade named after Cossack Leader Petro Kalnyshevsky (*Ukrainian*: 27-ма реактивна артилерійська бригада імені кошового отамана Петра Калнишевського, abbreviated as 27 RoABr, military unit A1476, postal code V1060) is a formation within the artillery forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (see

Fig. 18).

Since July 2014, the 27th RoABr has been involved in military operations in the Donbas region. Since 2022, it has participated in combat against Russian forces in Ukraine.

The commander of this unit was also sentenced by a Russian court. The Western District Military Court issued an in-absentia verdict against Colonel Dmitry Khrapach (see **Fig.** 19), the commander of the 27th Rocket Artillery Brigade of the UAF, sentencing him to life imprisonment for shelling the Belgorod region.[32]

It is definitively known that the 27th RoABr has American M142 HIMARS MLRS in its arsenal. This information was reported by “Forbes” in August 2024[33].

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[30] Consequences of the armed attack in the Kievskiy district of Donetsk at 08:45 on 10.01.2025 (published on 10.01.2025) Facts of Ukraine’s war crimes Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/20733?single (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[31] The UAF revealed who operates the American HIMARS MLRS (published on 24.06.2022) Public News Service Media. URL: https://www.osnmedia.ru/world/bojtsy-vsu-rasskazali-kto-upravlyaet-amerikanskimi-rszo-himars/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[32] The UAF commander Khrapach sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment for shelling Belgorod (published on 04.09.2024) Komsomolskaya Pravda Media. URL: https://www.kp.ru/online/news/5977105/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

[33] More Ukrainian Brigades Roll into Russia’s Kursk Oblast as Ukrainian Artillery Blocks Russian Reinforcements (published on 09.08.2024) Forbes. URL: https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2024/08/09/more-ukrainian-brigades-roll-into-russias-kursk-oblast-as-ukrainian-artillery-blocks-russian-reinforcements/ (accessed on 14.03.2025)

CONCLUSIONS

It follows from the above that on January 10, 2024, at about 08:45 a.m. (MSK) the Kievskiy district of Donetsk came under artillery fire from a HIMARS multiple launch rocket system. Six rockets were fired. The shelling was carried out using 227-mm M-21OF high-explosive fragmentation projectiles with a unitary warhead from the M31 GMLRS family.

The units potentially involved in the shelling from the identified sector could have been the 26th Separate Artillery Brigade of the UAF under the command of Andranik Gasparyan or the 27th Rocket Artillery Brigade of the UAF under the command of Colonel Dmitry Khrapach. The latter are responsible for the actions of their subordinates.

Moreover, the highest military-political leadership of Ukraine is responsible for crimes committed during this armed conflict. Namely: President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Volodymyr Zelensky and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Oleksandr Syrskiy.

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS

Indiscriminate shelling of a densely populated residential area inthe town of Makeyevka, in which civilians were killed and injured, is a crime for which responsibility is provided by the norms of national legislation of Ukraine and by the norms of international law.

In compliance with **Art. 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine**, for "... use of methods of the warfare prohibited by international instruments, or any other violations of rules of the warfare recognized by international instruments consented to be binding by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, and also giving an order to commit any such actions", shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years, and if the same acts accompanied with an intended murder, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years, or life imprisonment.

In compliance with **Art. 13 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions** of 12 August 1949, concerning the protection of victims of armed conflicts of a non-international character, dated 8 June 1977: "The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited".

In compliance with **Rule 71 of Customary International Humanitarian Law (Volume 1, ICRC 2006)**: "States must never make civilians the object of attack and must consequently never use weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilian and military targets".

"The use of weapons which are by nature indiscriminate is prohibited".

In compliance with **Art. 3 common to all Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949,** extending its effect to non-international armed conflicts, "persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed 'hors de combat' by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any

adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria".

To this end, violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds and mutilation, are prohibited inter alia with respect to the above-mentioned persons.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1

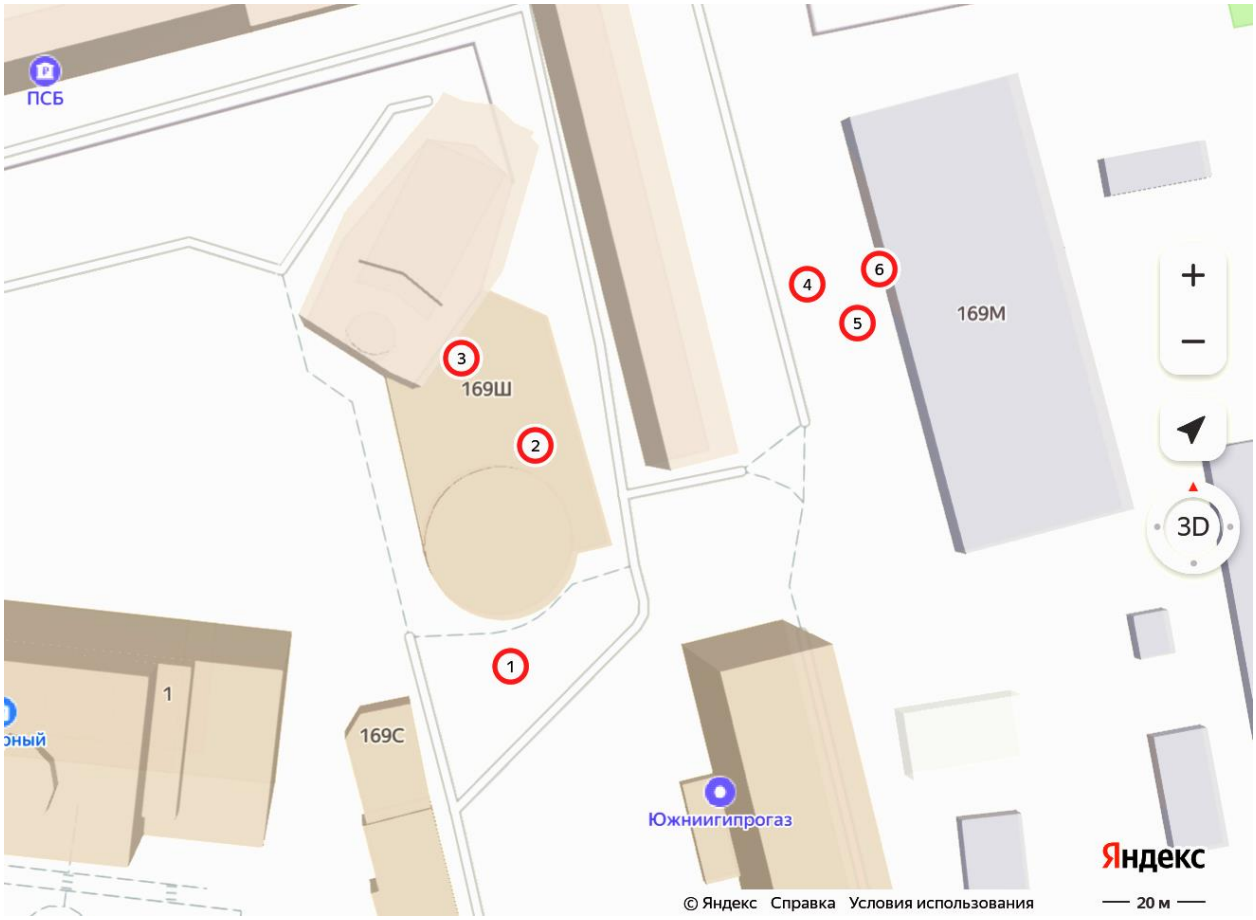

Fig. 1 - Scheme of the shelling site that occurred on January 10, 2025, at 8:45 AM.

Fig. 2 - Shell hit 1: On the left — view from the underground parking; on the right — view from the square opposite the entrance to the Moloko supermarket.

Fig. 3 - Shell hit 2: on the upper end of the wall of the cylindrical superstructure of the "Moloko" supermarket.

Fig. 4 - Shell hit 3 in the roof of the Moloko supermarket.

Annex 3

Fig. 5 - Shell hit 4: in the courtyard of the residential building at 1B, Kievskiy Avenue.

Fig. 6 - Shell hit 5: on metalworking shop building at 169M, Artioma Street.

Fig. 7 - Shell hit 6: on the concrete fence of the industrial facility at 169M, Artioma Street

Fig. 8 - Fragments of the fragmentation jacket of a rocket projectile found at the sites of shell hits 4 and 6.

Fig. 9 - Fragment of the rocket body found next to shell hit 6.

Fig. 10 - Shell fragments found by an investigator from the RF IC.

Fig. 11 - Shell fragments found by employees of the DPR representative office in the JCCC.

Annex 9

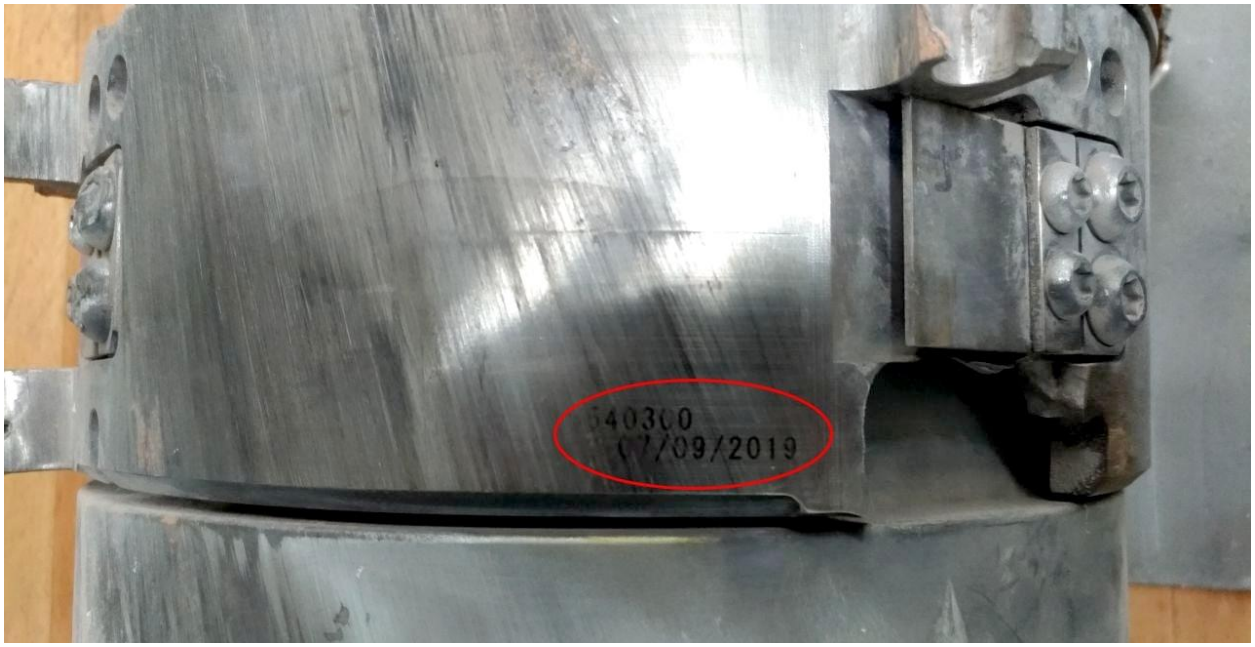

Fig. 12 - Shell fragments found by employees of the LPR representative office in the JCCC after the shelling of Krasniy Luch on July 24, 2022.

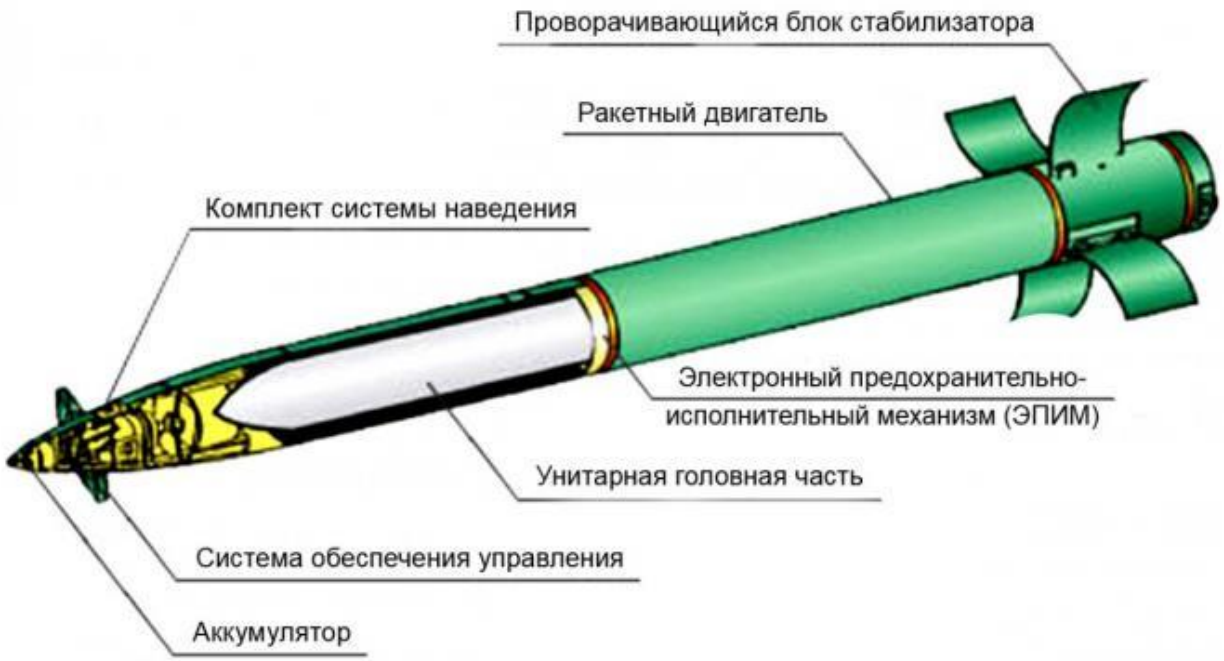

Fig. 13 - Projectile structure diagram of M31A1 GMLRS.

Name:	**M270 MLRS**	**M142 HIMARS**
Origin:	USA	USA
Produced:	1980–2003	2004
Unit cost:	2.3 million $	5.1 million $

Fig. 14 - Launching platforms: on the left - MLRS (M270) and on the right - HIMARS (M142).

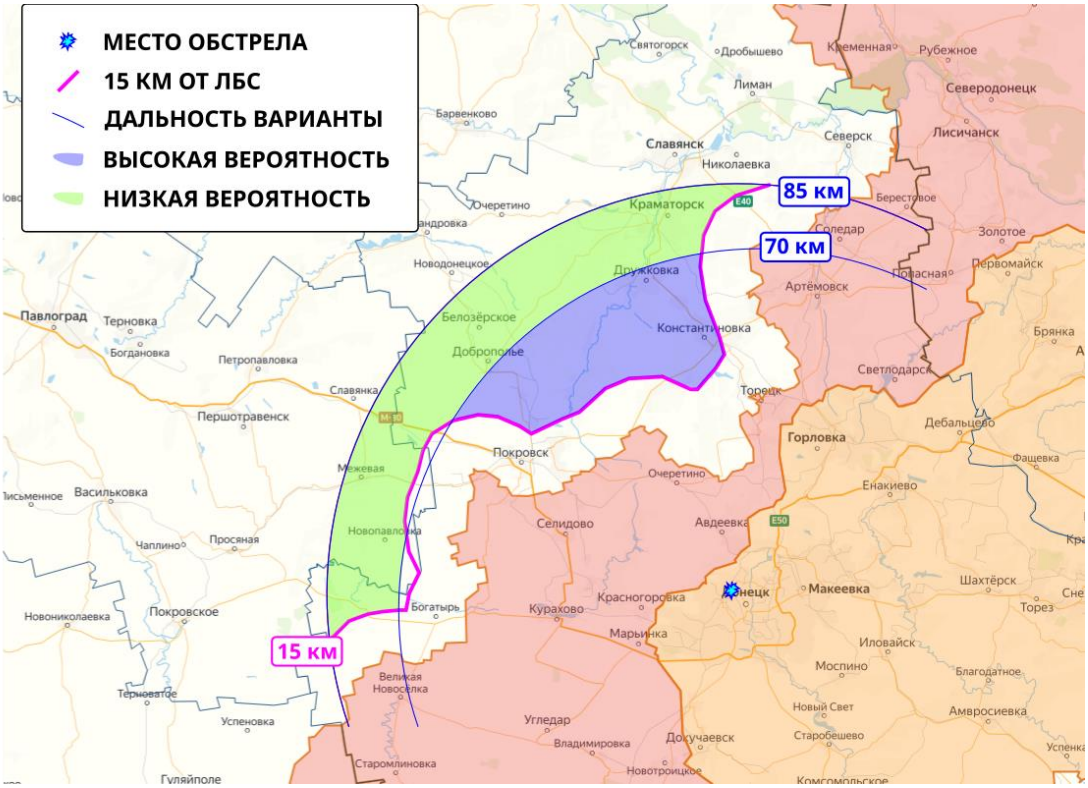

Fig. 15 - The sector from which the shelling of the Kievskiy district of Donetsk was conducted on January 10, 2025.

26 - я артиллерийская бригада

ULTIMA RATIO

Активный	1942–настоящее время
Страна	Украина (с 1992 года)
Филиал	Сухопутные войска Украины
Тип	Артиллерия
Размер	Бригада
Часть	Оперативное командование " Север "
Гарнизон / ШТАБ-КВАРТИРА	Бердичев
Девиз (ы)	"Последнее средство"
Обязательства	Война на Донбассе Российское вторжение в Украину • Бахмутская битва • Битва при Часовом Яре
Украшения	ЗА МУЖНІСТЬ ТА ВІДВАГУ За Мужество и Отвагу
Командиры	
Текущий командир	Подполковник Андраник Гаспарян[1]

Fig. 16 - Brief information about the 26th Separate Artillery Brigade (26th SABr) on the free encyclopedia "Wikipedia".

Fig. 17 - Commander of the 26th SABr Colonel Andranik Gasparyan.

27-я реактивная артиллерийская бригада имени кошевого атамана Петра Калнышевского

укр. *27-ма реактивна артилерійська бригада імени кошового отамана Петра Калнишевського*

Годы существования	14 мая 2008 — н. в.
Страна	Украина
Подчинение	Генеральный штаб
Тип	Ракетные войска и артиллерия
Вид	Сухопутные войска Украины
Дислокация	Сумы, Сумская область
Снаряжение	9К57 «Ураган», M142 HIMARS
Участие в	Вооружённый конфликт на востоке Украины: — Бои за Славянск — Бои за Саур-Могилу (2014) Вторжение России на Украину — Бои за Сумы — Бои в Курской области
Знаки отличия	

Командиры

Действующий командир	полковник Дмитрий Храпач[укр.]
Сайт	27reabr.info

Fig. 18 - Brief information about the 27th Rocket and Artillery Brigade (27th RoABr) on the free encyclopedia “Wikipedia”.

Fig. 19 - Commander of the 27th RoABr Colonel Dmitry Khrapach.