



We Are Not “Enabling” Or “Encouraging” Ukraine To Strike Within Russia: White House

Description

Update(1645ET): A top US State Department official on Tuesday suggested that the Ukrainians were indeed behind the spate of likely drone attacks which hit Russian airbases from Monday into the overnight hours.

Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland [told](#) CNN that while “nobody has claimed responsibility” for the drone strikes – at least one of which struck a base hundreds of miles inside Russian territory, it remains that the “targets were the very precise bombers that the Russians have been using to attack critical infrastructure,” and that’s when she said, “the Ukrainian people are incredibly innovative; **they are making their own drones, air and sea, that are incredibly effective.**”

However, she underscored that the US policy of wanting the Ukrainians to avoid direct attacks on Russia hasn’t changed. A separate State Dept. briefing also sought to distance the Biden administration from the brazen cross-border attacks, which reportedly resulted in multiple Russian troop casualties and likely damage to [long-range bombers](#):

*The US State Department said **the US is not “enabling” or “encouraging Ukraine to strike beyond its borders” with lethal aid**, after Russia blamed several recent attacks on Russian military infrastructure on Ukraine.*

“We are providing Ukraine with what it needs to use on its sovereign territory, on Ukrainian soil, to take on Russian aggressors, Russian aggressors that have crossed over the border,” State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

[#Russia](#): The first image of the results of a Ukrainian long-range strike against Dyagilevo Air base near Ryazan shows that a Russian Tu-22M3 strategic bomber received damage, along with a fuel truck.

More photos required, but the damage to the bomber appears to be minor.
pic.twitter.com/P7Ke2DUFz

— ?? Ukraine Weapons Tracker (@UAWeapons) [December 5, 2022](#)

Price followed by again emphasizing that the US has not “provided Ukraine with weapons that it is to use inside of Russia.”

He said: “We have been very clear that these are defensive supplies.”

[#Ukraine/#Russia](#) ????:

Damage to a ??[#Russian](#) Tu-22M3 bomber at [#Dyagilevo](#) air base near [#Ryazan](#) after a ??
[#Ukrainian](#) strike. pic.twitter.com/LqqZhiQ9W1

— ?????? ??? ?????? (@praisethesteph) [December 5, 2022](#)

On Monday *The Wall Street Journal* reported based on anonymous American officials that the Pentagon had secretly modified HIMARS long-range rocket systems to limit their range to 50 miles, before they were transferred to Kiev.

??AFU are shelling residential areas of Donetsk again pic.twitter.com/1leDjXUFAq

— War Monitor (@WarMonitors) [December 6, 2022](#)

* * *

earlier

Overnight into Tuesday a **third airfield deep inside Russia came under attack**, suffering a fire after an oil storage depot was bombarded by what the Kremlin described as a drone attack that was repelled after the initial blast. A large blaze raged throughout the night as emergency crews responded.

It came the day after two explosions rocked a pair of air bases even further inside Russian territory, which killed three military personnel in the Ryazan region, and Russian Engels-1 airbase in Saratov. Those incidents were also subsequently described by the defense ministry as **the result of drone attacks**.

The Russian city of Kursk, which lies closer to Ukraine than the other two sites of attack, had thick black smoke rising over its airfield in the early Tuesday hours. “**Oil tankers at a base near the city of Kursk, around 60 miles from the border**, were on fire and streaming smoke into the sky early Tuesday morning,” [The Daily Mail](#) writes based on regional sources.



International reports say the large Kursk fire has burned for some ten hours, given a large oil depot was ignited, following [the attack](#):

The inferno covered almost 5,500 square feet and new teams of firefighters were being rushed to the scene, local media said.

Suspected Ukrainian drones also attacked the Belbek military airport in Sevastopol – but were downed by air defenses, say reports.

Increasingly it is looking like Ukraine has made the decision to try and hit much more aggressively *inside* Russian territory, whether utilizing drones or possibly the longer range missiles being provided by the West, marking a huge escalation.

In Russia tonight there was a new attack by an unknown drone on the Khalino military airfield in Kursk. As a result of the attack, an oil reservoir near the airport caught fire.
pic.twitter.com/d14c1P JW1N

— Special Kherson Cat ??? (@bayraktar_1love) [December 6, 2022](#)

“Drones were also targeted at a fuel store in Bryansk region, but failed to cause major damage, said Russian sources,” *Daily Mail* continues.

The Monday attacks had **damaged** “**two nuclear-capable bombers** that were thought to be preparing for an attack on Ukraine, killed three ground crew and injured two more.”

As for the fresh probable drone attack on the Kursk base, Britain’s ministry of defense [said](#), “If Russia assesses the incidents were deliberate attacks, it will probably consider them as **some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since** its invasion of Ukraine.”



DW/Russian MoD: “The Engels airfield is hundreds of miles from the border to Ukraine, and houses some of Russia’s largest warplanes.”

The UK defense official was quoted further as saying, “The Russian chain of command will probably seek to identify and impose severe sanctions on Russian officers deemed responsible for allowing the incident.”

So it seems this is **Ukraine’s response to the widespread aerial attacks on its national energy grid**, namely to extend its counteroffensive toward conducting risky cross-border raids on major Russian bases.

??Ukro drones hit fuel depot in Kursk pic.twitter.com/vc0VyBPyl9

— War Monitor (@WarMonitors) [December 6, 2022](#)

This significance of this can’t be overestimated – it takes all sides into dangerous, new and unpredictable territory which makes eventual direct Russian-NATO confrontation all the more likely.

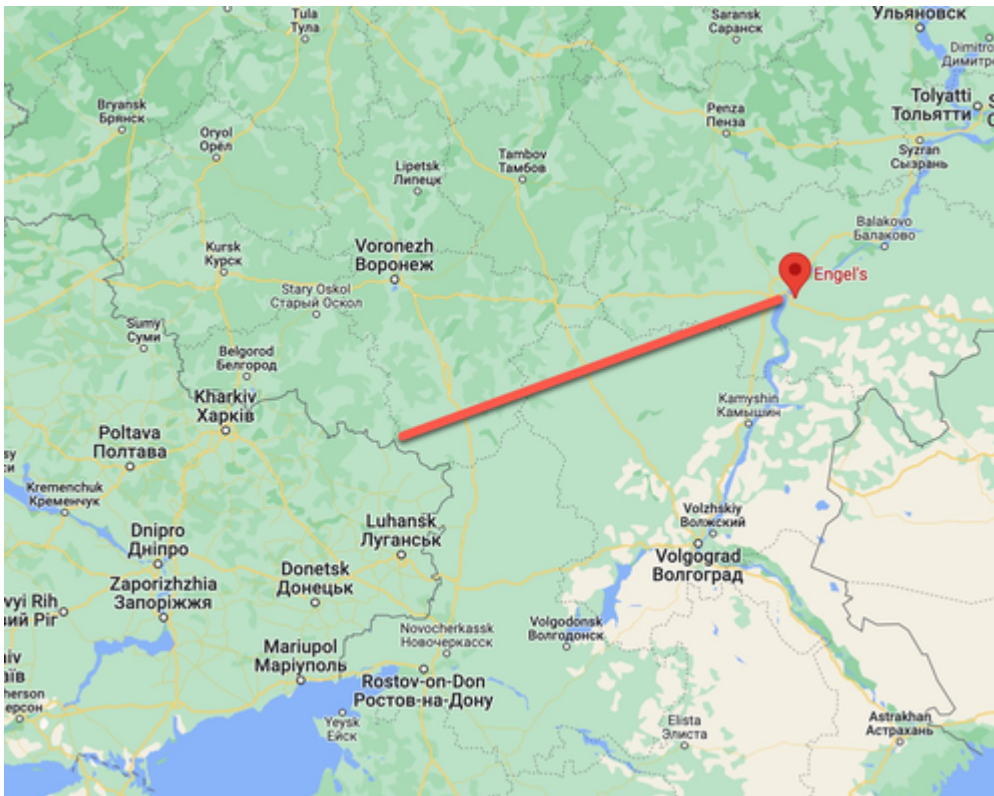
NYT confirms US-backed Ukraine forces carried out their “most brazen attack” yet, 300 miles into “the heart of Russia” — including a base with Russia’s nuclear bombers. Not long ago this scenario would’ve sounded totally unfathomable and insane. Dwarfs anything from the Cold War pic.twitter.com/fKNoT42YBP

— Michael Tracey (@mtracey) [December 6, 2022](#)

Ukraine’s Ukrenergo is meanwhile warning the population of more emergency power shutdowns to come across the country. “Due to the consequences of shelling... to maintain the balance between the production and consumption of electricity, a regime of **emergency shutdowns will be introduced in all regions of Ukraine**

“In priority, electricity will be supplied to critical infrastructure facilities,” Ukrenergo said of the rationing measures on Telegram Monday, during the fresh wave of many dozens of Russian airstrikes.

The 400 mile distance of Engels airbase from the Ukrainian border raised eyebrows following Monday’s attack. It also hosts long-range nuclear-capable strategic bombers, some of which were likely damaged.



Russian defense minister Sergei Shoigu is at the same time vowing that Russia will not stop **until the “military potential” of Ukraine is crushed**, according to *Interfax*. Shoigu said in a defense ministry conference call, “The Russian Armed Forces are inflicting massive strikes with long-range precision weapons on the military command and control system, defense industry enterprises, and related facilities to crush Ukraine’s military potential.”

“The Russian armed forces continue to liberate the Donbas. Recently, Mayorsk, Pavlovka, Opytnoye, Andreevka, Belogorovka Yuzhnaya and Kurdyumovka have come under our control,” he added.

Curious that this leak to the WSJ was published hours after Ukraine carried out by far its longest-range attacks yet inside Russia pic.twitter.com/aBSy42IMBw

— Michael Tracey (@mtracey) [December 6, 2022](#)

Independent journalist Michael Tracey summarizes the game-changing nature of the events of the last 24 hours as follows, and the significance of Washington clearly encouraging it, or at least not pressing Ukraine's forces to put on the brakes as far as the fresh [cross-border attacks](#)...

“So the US is engineering the war effort of a client state now bombing targets 400 miles inside Russia — confirmed via the usual tactic of oblique, cheeky acknowledgment from top Ukraine officials.
Definitionally an “escalation” — this is what the US has signed onto indefinitely.”

by Tyler Durden

Category

1. Army-Wars-Conflict Zones-Military Tech.
2. Main

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