


## Operational and Tactical Level Observations from Russia's war against Ukraine

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In this factsheet you can read about some of the key findings in the JALLC's report operational and tactical level observations from Russia's war against Ukraine. Download a full copy of the report from the classified version of the NATO Lessons Learned Portal, or contact the JALLC to obtain a copy.\*

### Introduction






Part of the NATO Joint Force Training Centre's (JFTC) mission is to provide and improve training for NATO forces. Such training should incorporate current experiences and Lessons Learned (LL) from ongoing conflicts and operations. From 2022-2024 the JALLC delivered annual reports to the JFTC presenting operational- and tactical-level observations from Russia's war against Ukraine. This 2025 edition of the report focuses on what has changed in the war.

### Overview

The 2025 edition of the JALLC's report on Operational and Tactical Level Observations from Russia's war against Ukraine boasts a larger scope than previous editions as well as general topics of interest, including Manoeuvre, Fires, Command and Control (C2), Intelligence, Information, Logistics and Sustainment, Force Protection, and Civilian-Military Cooperation (CIMIC). Additional topics were added at the request of the JFTC covering Uncrewed Systems, Contested Logistics, Evolving Tactics, Special Operations, Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDT), and Civilian Security. This broad range of topics made the 2025 edition of the report one of the most comprehensive reviews the JALLC has conducted of available documents, observations, and lessons from Russia's war against



NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte and the leaders of the E5 countries meet with President Zelensky



The data set for this study drew from published information relating to Russia's war against Ukraine collected between November 2024 and October 2025. Sources included documents provided by the NATO Enterprise and Nations, entries from the NATO Lessons Learned Portal (NLLP), and relevant open-source publications.



# JALLC Analysis Report: Operational and Tactical Level Observations from Russia's war against Ukraine

## Key Findings

Both Russia and Ukraine have continued to adapt, innovate, and evolve both tactically and technologically. Ukrainian forces have been particularly effective in exploiting emerging and disruptive technologies, while 2025 has seen significant Russian improvements in logistics, firepower, and electronic warfare.

Russia's shift from an initially ineffective manoeuvre-based strategy to a more attritional, positional approach reflects both the constraints and adaptability of its command structure; despite an overall rigid, top-down system, Russian forces have increasingly employed decentralized small-unit tactics supported by advanced drone-enabled capabilities like surveillance. Conversely, Ukraine's decentralized command model has enabled rapid adaptation and agile, innovative responses across its front.

The widespread employment of uncrewed systems and the decisive role of the electromagnetic spectrum have reshaped the battlefield: mass-produced, low-cost drones now provide ISR, strike, and mine-laying capabilities at scale, challenging traditional cost-benefit assumptions, while pervasive electronic warfare has created a highly contested electromagnetic spectrum that limits air dominance and exposes the fragility of conventional communications.

Together, these dynamics highlight the accelerating technical arms race within the conflict and underscore the need for NATO deterrence and defense training to incorporate the evolving realities of modern warfare as has been observed throughout Ukraine.

You can download a copy of the report from the JALLC Analysis Community of Interest in the classified version of the NLLP subject to access and appropriate security clearances.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and Supreme Allied Commander Europe Alexis G. Grynkeiwich attend a joint press conference at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, 12 September 2025.



The Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) for Ukraine is the overarching framework through which NATO provides practical support to Ukraine. It covers two main areas of work: urgently needed, non-lethal military assistance based on Ukraine's requests for support, and longer-term capacity-building projects designed to assist Ukraine with its reforms in the defence and security sector and post-war recovery.