

U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE

SEPTEMBER 2022

THE BIG PICTURE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 sparked the largest European war since World War II. The response of the United States and its partners in providing military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and its neighboring countries has been swift and continuing. The Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division N of Public Law 117-103) and the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-128) were enacted in March and May of 2022, respectively. They provided billions of dollars in emergency supplemental appropriations in response to the war in Ukraine. Russia has invested heavily in efforts to check U.S. strengths and impede the United States' ability to defend its interests and allies around the world, according to the March 2021 *Interim National Security Strategic Guidance*.

Figure 1: Map of Europe, October 2021–July 2022



Source: GAO analysis of Departments of Defense and State, Congressional Research Service, and NATO information; Map Resources (map). | GAO-22-106079



KEY GAO FINDINGS

GAO has a large body of work assessing areas relevant to the war in Ukraine. This includes the U.S. military posture in Europe, development assistance, the information environment, military readiness, and intelligence issues. Among other things, we found that:

- ▶ The Department of Defense (DOD) could better plan and prioritize European posture and deterrence through the European Deterrence Initiative, including estimating long-term costs to sustain prepositioned equipment and other infrastructure projects. [GAO-18-128](#)
- ▶ The State Department has not effectively shared information on democracy assistance projects in Ukraine as well as in other countries. [GAO-20-173](#)
- ▶ DOD could improve leadership and integration of information operations across the department. [GAO-21-525T](#)
- ▶ DOD does not have effective metrics to measure readiness in each of the five warfighting domains. [GAO-21-279](#)
- ▶ DOD's open source intelligence mission area could benefit from metrics, standardized terminology, and clarification of roles and responsibilities. [GAO-21-295](#)

NATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND KEY GAO RECOMMENDATIONS

The war in Ukraine underscores the importance of five national security considerations and key relevant GAO recommendations, as listed below.

Figure 2: Selected National Security Considerations and Relevant GAO Recommendations, September 2022



Source: GAO (information). | GAO-22-106079

IMPLICATIONS

The war in Ukraine continues to pose long-term challenges to the United States and its interests that extend beyond the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Successful assistance to Ukraine and deterrence of Russia from further aggression will depend on continued efforts by DOD to enhance the department’s ability to provide military assistance and to deploy trained and ready forces using timely and accurate intelligence. It will also depend on the ability of the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to effectively provide humanitarian, including refugee, assistance to Ukraine and its neighboring countries.

U.S. federal agencies must act in a timely manner going forward, and congressional oversight of ongoing efforts will be vital to help ensure accountability. There are nine key relevant GAO recommendations for the reports listed in figure 2. Agencies concurred with seven of those recommendations and partially concurred with two. Seven recommendations remain open.

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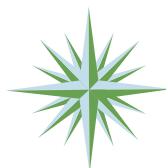
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