

Provided by Malcontent News
Russia-Ukraine War Civilian and Military Terms and Acronyms

TERM OR ACRONYM	PRONOUNCE	ACRONYM	DEFINITIONS
200		N/A	The same as KIA - Ukraine and Russia use 200 as the transit code for bodies Killed In Action
300		N/A	The same as WIA - Ukraine and Russia use 300 as the transit code for soldiers who were wounded in combat or while transitioning to or from a combat zone
500		N/A	A 500 is a deserter or someone who refuses to continue to fight. Not all 500 are rioters, and may be refusing because their contracts have expired or are being violated
AD	A D	Air Defense	Abbreviation for air defense and it is used when referring to larger defensive systems like mobile missile launchers, radar stations, and command and control centers
AFV	A F V	Armored Fighting Vehicle	Wheeled or tracked, moderately armored, equipped with a main gun from 30mm to 105mm - crewed by 2 or 4 and capable of carrying 6 to 10 light infantry soldiers, can directly engage other armored vehicles, provide cover fire for dismounts, and used for penetration and extraction
Air Dominance		N/A	A state where a belligerent can fly air combat missions in an area with some degree of control of the air space
Air Parity		N/A	Air parity is when combatants have equal control of the skies either due to air assets, air defense, or both
Air Superiority		N/A	A state where a belligerent can fly air combat missions in an area without significant interference from enemy air defense or air force capabilities
Air Support		N/A	Helicopters or ground attack aircraft such as the Su-25 (or United States A-10 not in theater in Ukraine) that bring fire power to enemy troops in support or defense of their ground forces
Air Supremacy		N/A	A state where a belligerent can fly air combat missions in an area with impunity, the risk of being shot down is never zero, but it is very low
APC	A P C	Armored Personnel Carrier	Wheeled or tracked, the main difference between an APC and an IFV is an IFV is built to provide cover fire and engage the enemy, an APC is designed to deliver and extract troops
Area of Uncertainty		N/A	Not a military term but a Malcontent News term - we don't have enough intelligence to determine which belligerent has control of an area, and we do not assess that the area is within a gray zone
Army		N/A	An army is made up of 2 or more divisions (or 4 or more brigades)
ATACMS	at-ah-cams	Army Tactical Missile Systems	Army Tactical Missile Systems, ATACMS are United States designed missiles that can be fired from M142 and M270 HIMARS launchers with a range of 310 kilometers
ATGM	A T G M	Antitank Guided Missile	A system that can be man-portable, moved by a support vehicle, towed, or self-propelled that is armed with precision munitions that are used to destroy armored vehicles.
Attritional Warfare		N/A	When two belligerents are fighting each other in an effort to maximize personnel losses, with the goal of collapsing your enemy's resources before you collapse your own
AWOL	a wall	Absent Without Leave	A soldier that left their post or unit against orders - they are absent from their duties without permission - an AWOL soldier is not equivalent to a deserter
Barrel Artillery		N/A	Barrel artillery is what you picture in your head as artillery - typically a towed artillery piece on two wheels with a long barrel, typically rifled, that fires munitions of 100mm or larger

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Battalion		N/A	A battalion is comprised of 2 to 4 companies and typically has 800 to 1200 troops - Russia is fielding undersized battalions of 400 to 800 soldiers
Battery		N/A	A battery is the same size as a company, 100 to 250 soldiers - the key difference is a battery is explicitly a unit that fires artillery
Bezдорizhzhia		N/A	Ukrainian word that translates to "roadlessness," this is the same as the Russian word Rasputitsa which refers to the season within a year where unpaved roads become impassable due to mud
Breakthrough		N/A	A breakthrough is when a belligerent literally breaks through an enemy's line of contact, it can be done to break out of an encirclement or during an offense, breakthroughs imply rapid advancement
Bridgehead		N/A	The area on either side of a wet crossing where a belligerent has established control to protect and maintain the crossing point
Brigade		N/A	A brigade is comprised of 2 to 4 battalions and typically has 2,400 to 4,800 troops
BTG	B T G	Battalion Tactical Group	A battalion tactical group is how the Russian Federation forms battalions, they are a Combined Arms Battalion with tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, armored personnel carriers, supply trucks, fuel, and light infantry. This is archaic and the structure has been abandoned by the Russian Ministry of Defense
Bulge		N/A	The same as a salient, a bulge is an offensive or defensive line that extends out from a line of conflict
CAA	C A A	Combined Arms Army	A Combined Arms Army is 2 or more brigades that combine battalions for artillery, armor, motor infantry, electronic warfare, or other disciplines together to provide tight integration between military units
CAP	cap	Combat Air Patrol	When aircraft fly within an assigned area for the express purpose of establishing or maintaining air dominance, air superiority, or air supremacy, can provide protection to a ground area
Casualty		N/A	A casualty is anyone who is KIA, WIA, or MIA - POWs are not counted as casualties because they are accounted for and in custody
Cauldron		N/A	See encirclement
CBRN	see burn	Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear	CBRN refers to weapons of mass destruction including chemical, biological, radiological (dirty bomb), and nuclear. Military units may carry CBRN equipment or be skilled in dealing with CBRN attacks
Close Air Support		N/A	The same as air support, but firing closer to the line of contact and their own forces, typically done to provide defensive protection when ground units could be overrun or are under overwhelming fire
Cluster Munition			A single device such as a bomb, rocket, or missile that contains smaller bomblets that scatter over an area, some can explode on contact or proximity, while others can be delayed

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Collateral Damage		N/A	Collateral damage is unintentional or, after evaluation during the planning phase potential and acceptable losses to one's own military assets or nearby non-military targets. This is different from friendly fire (fratricide) where the damage or casualties were unpreventable during a planned attack, fire mission, or airstrike.
Combat Destroyed		N/A	Combat destroyed is when a military unit has lost 50% or more of its combat capabilities, it may not be directed related to personnel, a combat destroyed unit is incapable of defensive or offensive operations
Combat Drone		N/A	the same asUCAV
Combat Ineffective		N/A	Combat ineffective is when a military unit has lost 30% to 49% of its combat capabilities, it may not be directly related to personnel, a combat ineffective unit can maintain defense lines
Combat Potential		N/A	Combat potential is the theoretical power a combatant can have that they can apply. It could reference the theater of war, an axis, an operational area, or a point within an operational area
Command Post		N/A	A command post may be located at a FOB or a more secure area - the post will have military leaders, communications, and handle classified information to prepare strategies and tactics
Company		N/A	A company is comprised of 2 to 5 platoons of 100 to 250 soldiers
Containment		N/A	A military tactic of holding an enemy in place so they cannot advance or retreat, typically achieved through fire control with artillery and/or air strikes, but can be done using ground forces
Contested Wet Crossing		N/A	A contested wet crossing is when a belligerent is setting up or maintaining a wet crossing while under direct or indirect fire, it is the hardest and most dangerous ground military action in warfare
Counterbattery		N/A	The attempt to locate where enemy artillery fire is coming from, barrel or tube (MLRS/GMLRS), and firing on that location using artillery, to destroy and disrupt the enemy artillery capabilities
Cruise missile		N/A	A cruise missile is typically fired from a ship, submarine, or aircraft and designed to travel at subsonic or supersonic speed on a specific path toward a specified target, it has a larger warhead than artillery
CS Gas		N/A	CS gas is a white crystalline powder of chlorobenzylidene malononitrile invented by Corson and Stoughton in 1928 that causes uncontrollable coughing, drooling, intense eye-watering and pain, light sensitive, and a sensation that the skin is burning. Also known as riot control gas or tear gas, CS is considered a chemical weapon and illegal for use in combat.
Culmination		N/A	Culmination is when a combatant has launched offensive operations and consumed their combat potential. This may be due to supply, logistics, terrain, weather, achieving objectives, or losses. Reaching culmination does not mean that all offensive operations are over, but it means the current battle plan that was being executed has ended.

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DEAD	Deed	Destroy Enemy Air Defenses	The destruction of enemy air defenses, including missile launchers, anti-aircraft guns, command and control sites, forward observers and other equipment. This is an archaic acronym
Deserter		N/A	A soldier that has deserted their unit with no intention of ever returning or fighting again - an AWOL soldier can be reclassified as a deserter if that was the intent, a deserter can be reclassified as AWOL
Detcord		N/A	Detcord, or detonating cord, is a thin, flexible plastic tube filled with a high explosive. It can be used for demolition, clearing mines, or as an offensive weapon.
Direct fire		N/A	Direct fire is when a larger caliber main gun is used to target and destroy a specific site, which usually is in line of sight (can be seen from the firing position) - tanks typically perform direct fire, but not always
Dismount		N/A	In an APC, IFV, AFV, a dismount refers to the soldiers that are carried that are trained in light infantry tactics and who would exit the vehicle to engage in fighting
Division		N/A	A division is comprised of 2 to 4 Brigades and has between 5,000 to 25,000 troops
DRG	D R G	N/A	DRG is a term used by Ukrainian and Russian sources. From Cyrillic, it is an abbreviation for sabotage, reconnaissance, and intelligence groups. It is not interchangeable with SOF as DRG units are not comprised of elite forces but typically have advanced training
DU	D U	Depleted Uranium	Depleted Uranium is used in munitions, typically anti-tank rounds. The depleted uranium core is dense, providing additional kinetic energy when it strikes a target, increasing its ability to punch through armor. Depleted uranium is encased in another metal and is not a nuclear or radiological weapon.
Encirclement		N/A	When a group of troops have been surrounded by enemy forces on all sides and can't withdraw, an encirclement can be technical - held in place due to fire control, or literal, surrounded from all sides
Engineering Vehicle		N/A	An engineering vehicle is a purposely built military vehicle that provides engineering capabilities that could include bridging, mine clearing, digging, or recovery of other equipment from the field. In military terms, an engineering vehicle is not a civilian vehicle, for example, an excavator, that is being used to build or dismantle military defenses.
EOD	E O D	Explosive Ordnance Disposal	Individuals with expertise in the disarming and removal of explosive devices including land mines, artillery shells, mortars, rockets, warheads, and IEDs
EW	E W	Electronic Warfare	Electronic Warfare is any system that can interfere with an enemy's electronics. This includes but is not limited to radar, GPS, satellite, or radio communication jamming.
Feint		N/A	A feint is when a tactic where military units mass or attack a region to convince a belligerent they need to reinforce an area to weaken defenses where the real attack will occur
Fighter Aircraft		N/A	A fighter aircraft is a plane that was specifically designed to fight other aircraft in air-to-air combat

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Fire Control		N/A	Fire control is when a belligerent controls an area, typically without ground forces in that area, due to superior artillery, MLRS, and/or GMLRS coverage, this prevents the enemy from moving in/out/through that area
Fire Mission		N/A	A fire mission is when barrel or tubed artillery is given orders and executes those orders to attack a target. A Fire mission includes the time, the target, the mission objective, the type of munitions to be used, and the quantity to be fired.
Firebase		N/A	The same as a FSB or Fire Support Base
Flank		N/A	The flank is the side of a military position or a military unit that is typically advancing - it can also apply to GLOCs that are overextended - flanks that aren't well defended can be attacked risking interdiction or encirclement
Flanking		N/A	Flanking is the tactic of not attacking an enemy position head on, but attempting to go around the enemy position to sever the GLOC, cause encirclement, or attack from the rear, which is typically the weakest area
FLOT	F-lot	Forward Line of Friendly Troops	The forward line of friendly troops is the most forward position of a combatant's forces that they control. Both combatants will have a FLOT with a gray area between them.
FOB	F O B	Forward Operating Base	A forward operating base is a hub where a military unit or units will launch attacks, observe enemy movements, provide supply and logistics, and/or provide field medical services
Force Multiplier		N/A	Training, equipment, excellent command, or even high morale which provides a boost to the impact a single soldier has in combat - some multipliers are small like good morale while others are large like accurate weapons
Fragmentation		N/A	An adjective used to describe a round or warhead, e.g. "fragmentation round." The warhead is designed to break apart into smaller pieces, typically using a proximity fuse, to maximize casualties and area covered
Fratricide		N/A	The accidental or planned killing of your own troops. Although this can be used interchangeably, it is used more to describe troop-on-troop violence
Friendly Fire		N/A	Nothing friendly about it - it is when a belligerent accidentally fires on its own forces - it can be ground to ground, ground to air, air to ground, sea to sea, etc.
Frozen Front		N/A	A frozen front is when both belligerents have established extensive defenses along the line of contact, and fighting is limited and concentrated within the gray area, there is little change in territorial control
FSB	F S B	Fire Support Base	Also known as a firebase, an FSB is a temporary military base, typically a battery (can be larger), that provides artillery support for troops closer to the line of conflict, FSBs may be a satellite location to a FOB
FSB	Fiss-bah	Russian Federal Security Service	The principal agency for providing internal security to Russia - heavily involved in monitoring Russian citizens with an extensive spy network outside of Russia
GLOC	G-Lock (got to keep TikTok happy)	Ground Line of Communication	A supply line - the term goes back to when communications between two points were cabled and a "ground line" was required, these typically followed supply lines for security, can be road or rail

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GMLRS	G M L R S	Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System	Also referred to as tubed artillery, typically mounted on a mobile vehicle and can fire 6 or more high-precision guided rockets
Gravity Bomb/Dumb Bomb		N/A	A gravity bomb or dumb bomb is a non-precision bomb dropped by an aircraft that freefalls to its target through the force of gravity - it is not steered or guided in any way
Gray Zone or Gray Area		N/A	The gray zone is no man's land - it is an area where neither belligerent maintains control, but may advance into and out of the area during attacks
GRU	G R U	Main Intelligence Directorate of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation	The GRU is the Russian Federation military intelligence organization and includes Russian Spetsnaz units under its command
Guard Designation		N/A	A Russian military unit with the "Guards" designation, such as the 1st Guards Tanks Army is an elite unit that historically provided meritorious service in the defense of Russia - the designation is tarnished
GUR	G U R	Main Intelligence Directorate of the Armed Forces of Ukraine	The military intelligence arm of the Ukrainian armed forces
HARM	harm	High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile	HARM is a missile that travels at supersonic speeds (but under Mach 5.0) and homes in on a radar signal, it is specifically designed to destroy radar sites to blind air defenses
HE	H E	High Explosive	HE is typically used to describe the type of ordnance is being delivered by an artillery shell, missile, SRBM, bomb, etc. - H E stands for high explosive
HEAT	heat	High-Explosive Anti-Tank	HEAT is typically an artillery shell that has been specifically designed to punch through armor using kinetic energy and then explode after the breach using a high explosive, they are designed to destroy tanks
HIMARS	hi Mars	High Mobility Artillery Rocket System	HIMARS is the same as GMLRS - typically mounted on a mobile vehicle and can fire 6 or more high-precision guided rockets, HIMARS uses a cartridge loading system for faster operation
Howitzer		N/A	A howitzer is a short barrel gun that is designed to fire an artillery round on a high, arced trajectory with a low muzzle velocity.
Hromada		N/A	A hromada is an administrative region around a larger city or town. In urban settings, it could include one town and the immediate suburbs, while in rural areas it could be as large as a county
Hugging		N/A	Hugging is a tactic developed by the Soviet Union used in urban warfare when there is little to no gray zone and the FLOT is adjacent to each combatant. This tactic is meant to neutralize suppressive fire from artillery and close air support from aircraft due to the increased risk of friendly fire or collateral damage.
Human Wave Attack		N/A	A human wave attack is a frontal assault using densely concentrated light infantry against an enemy's defensive line without any attempt to conceal intent or movements with the goal of using shock and awe to force the enemy to withdraw
IED	I E D	Improvised Explosive Device	An IED is taking explosives or munitions meant for one purpose, such as an artillery shell, and repurposing it for it a different military or terroristic use such as a remotely detonated explosive

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IFV	I F V	Infantry Fighting Vehicle	Wheeled or tracked, lightly armored, equipped with a main gun from 30mm to 105mm - crewed by 3 or 4 and carry 6 to 10 light infantry soldiers, provides protection to get in and out
IMV	I M V	Infantry Mobility Vehicle	A heavy four-wheel vehicle that has been up armored to enable infantry to move across terrain with a degree of portection. It may be equipped with a turret or a gunner position.
Incendiary Weapon		N/A	A weapon or munition that is specifically designed to start fires
Indirect Fire		N/A	Indirect fire is when a larger caliber main gun is used to fire at a target or area that is not in the line of sight, it may be drone directed, a spotter may call in by radio where to fire, or it could be to blanket an area with artillery
Interdiction		N/A	Interdiction is a common military term to block and deny. It is typically used for destroying GLOC, preventing troop movements, intercepting supply boats, or destroying enemy aircraft before they cross into your territory
JDAM	J-dam	Joint Direct Attack Munition	A joint direct attack munition is a guidance kit added to a non-precision munition, like an unguided bomb, that enables it to maneuver to a target
JDAM-ER	J-dam E R	Joint Direct Attack Munition Extended Range	A joint direct attack munition extended range is a guidance and glide kit added to a non-precision munition that converts it to a precision stand-off weapon that can "fly" to its target without propulsion. It has a range in excess of 40 kilometers under the proper conditions
Kettle		N/A	See encirclement
KIA	K I A	Killed In Action	A soldier that has been killed in combat or moving to or from the field of combat
Light Tank		N/A	Loosely defined as a lightly armored vehicle that weighs less than 17 tons with a smooth bore or rifled main gun in excess of 105 mm that is capable of destroying a medium-duty or main battle tank or other armored vehicles. The main gun is designed to primarily be used for direct fire
Line of Conflict		N/A	See line of contact
Line of Contact		N/A	The main line of fighting - the dividing line of control between belligerents - the line of contact typically has a gray zone on both sides
LLS	L L S	Large Landing Ship	A troop transport that can be 100 meters long or larger, designed to carry hundreds or thousands of troops, their equipment, smaller landing craft, and sometimes helicopters meant to support a beach landing
LOC	lock	Line of Communication	Similar to a GLOC, a LOC is a supply line that may traverse a larger body of other obstacle where no road is available
Loitering Munition		N/A	A loitering munition can also be called a kamikaze drone - they are designed to fly over an area and await, or track a target and crash into it to damage or destroy - they can be anti-personnel to anti-armor
MANPAD	man pad	Man Portable Air Defense System	A MANPAD is a shoulder-fired antiaircraft missile that can be carried and operated by an individual soldier - the United States designed Stinger is an example of a MANPAD
MBT	M B T	Main Battle Tank	A large, heavily armored tracked vehicle with a main gun in excess of 105mm - examples would include the T-64, T-72, T-80, T-90, Leopard, Challenger, and M1A1 Abrams

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Medium Tank/Medium Duty Tank		N/A	Loosely defined as an armored and tracked vehicle, from 17 to 40 tons, with a smooth bore or rifled gun in excess of 105 mm that is capable of destroying main battle tanks or other armored vehicles. The main gun is designed to primarily be used for direct fire
MIA	M I A	Missing In Action	A soldier that is not present or accounted for within their military unit, a hospital, or as a prisoner of war - neither belligerent knows their location and the person went missing during combat action
Mission Objective		N/A	Mission objective is the defined goals of a military operation - this can be at the squad, platoon, company, battalion, regiment, or army level, strategy defines the objectives and tactics is how the objective is achieved
MLRS	M L R S	Multiple Launch Rocket System	Also referred to as tubed artillery, typically mounted on a mobile vehicle and can fire 6 to 40 unguided rockets
Mobik	Mo-bic	N/A	Mobik is slang for a Russian conscript that was either forcibly mobilized (forced conscript) or mobilized by a draft order
Mobile Defense		N/A	Mobile defense is maneuver warfare meant to repulse an attack by using a counterattack versus fighting along a line of static defenses
MRAP	M rap	Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected	An MRAP is a heavily armored infantry vehicle, typically with high clearance specifically designed to protect the occupants from antitank mines and improvised explosive devices, they provide more protection than a IMV
Multirole Fighter Aircraft		N/A	A multirole fighter aircraft is a plane that is capable of engaging in air-to-air combat competently but can be used for other missions including but not limited to bombing, close air support, surveillance, or electronic warfare.
NASAMS	nas-ams	National/Norwegian Advanced Surface to Air Missile System	NASAMS is a medium-range ground-based air defense system developed by Norway and the United States to provide comprehensive air defense over a large area
NBC	N B C	Nuclear Biological Chemical	Similar to CBRN, it is the older designation for equipment and trained troops for handling nuclear, biological, or chemical warfare incidents. This is archaic, see CBRN
NCO	N C O	Non-Comissioned Officer	A non-commissioned officer is a senior enlisted soldier that has advanced training and experience, they are responsible for the execution of tactics, training junior soldiers, and solving problems to achieve mission objectives
Node		N/A	A specific location where military assets that require mobility (moved on foot, vehicle, boat, or aircraft) where travel originates, ends, or is processed. A node is smaller than a logistical hub but larger than a FOB.
Non-Precision Munition		N/A	Ordnance of some type with no guidance system (artillery shell, rocket, missile, cruise missile, SRBM, bomb) and receives no input after being fired to find a target, accuracy is reliant on the skill of the person aiming
Oblast		N/A	An oblast is equivalent to a province or a state
Operational Area		N/A	Operational Area is a geographic region where military activity is ongoing without combatants moving in a direction, for example a city that is being attacked or an area of fixed defenses

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Operational Direction		N/A	Operational Direction is when a combatant is executing offensive operations, and they are moving in a direction. Using an Operational Direction - enemy troops are moving in the direction of Townsville - this is used for larger scale operations
OPSEC	op-sec	Operational Security	Maintaining secrecy and not sharing information about troop movements, locations, tactics, strategy, fire power, battle damage assessment, losses, injuries, equipment, or other information that could help the enemy
Pill Box		N/A	A pill box is a reinforced defensive position, typically with concrete and earth, where machine guns or artillery are mounted to provide direct fire in a specific direction
Platoon		N/A	A platoon is comprised of 2 to 4 squads of 20 to 50 soldiers
PMC	P M C	Private Military Company	A company (business) that employees people for the specific purpose of combat in war zones using military grade equipment - professional mercenaries for corporate profit
Point Attack		N/A	Point attack is when a combatant attacks a specific point with the goal of breaking through defenses. This may be done to break through a weak point or because of limited resources
Positional Fighting/Battle		N/A	Positional fighting, battles, or warfare is done along an established line of conflict that is heavily fortified, fighting is conducted to gain a better location to fire on prepare to break through defenses, but specifically does not have a goal of breaking through defenses or force a retreat
Precision Muniton		N/A	A precision muniton is ordnance of some type (artillery shell, rocket, missile, cruise missile, SRBM, bomb) that has a guidance system that aids it in striking a specified target with a high degree of accuracy
Proximity Fuse		N/A	A proximity fuse typically refers to artillery or mortar shells that can be set to explode at a certain height above the ground - they detonate when they come within "proximity" of the setting
Psyop	Sigh-op	Psychological Operation	These can be directed toward civilians or the military, it can include leaflets, radio, television, social media, intimidation, deprivation, censorship, etc. It can be used to create distrust or to build trust through lies.
Raion	ray-ON	N/A	A raion is similar to a county or parish, representing a smaller region within an oblast with a central city - referred to as the "center" - it is rooted in Soviet Russia (1922)
Rasputitsa		N/A	Russian word that references the season within a year, typically the spring and sometimes the fall, when unpaved roads become impassable due to mud
Reconnaissance		N/A	A reconnaissance unit or "recon," is typically a group of soldiers squad or platoon sized (8 to 25) moving into an area controlled by the enemy with the goal of spotting enemy locations and gaining intelligence
Reconnaissance in-Force		N/A	Reconnaissance in-force is typically a group of soldiers that is company-sized or smaller, moving into an area not with the intent to capture but to probe enemy defenses with the capability to fight if they make contact

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Reconstitution		N/A	Reconstitution is when a military unit (platoon, company, battery, brigade, army) stops combat operations and retreats from an area for new equipment, replacement troops, and leave from fighting
Refusnik		N/A	Refusnik is slang for a rioter or a 500 - a person who refuses to follow orders to continue to fight. A refusnik may not be breaking orders, and could be rioting because their contract has expired is being violated
Retreat		N/A	Unlike a tactical withdrawal (or fighting withdrawal) a retreat is moving away from the line of conflict while no longer fighting - retreats can cause significant casualties and imply disorganization in the withdrawal
Retrograde Operation		N/A	A planned withdrawal or retreat from an area. Unlike a retreat, a retrograde operation or retrograde action is a planned defensive action
RF	R F	Radio Frequency	A broad term used to define that a number is a radio frequency (the spectrum would be included such as VHF) or that a weapon system is designed to impact certain or all radio frequencies such as RF jamming
Rifled		N/A	Rifled refers to the inside of a gun barrel, which has spiral grooves inside. These grooves cause the round fired to spin, providing greater range and accuracy, at the expense of muzzle velocity. Rifled barrels are typically used by artillery.
Riot/Rioter		N/A	A translation anomaly from Ukrainian and Russian to English, a riot or rioter refers to a group of soldiers or soldier who is insubordinate and refusing to follow orders
RPG	R P G	Rocket Propelled Grenade	A man-portable launcher is used to fire an explosive charge that fragments like a grenade using a rocket to propel it, better used for fighting light infantry than on modern armored vehicles but still commonly used
Salient		N/A	A salient is also called a bulge, it is an irregular area on the line of contact that has the enemy belligerent or three sides - salient can be large or small, and may not represent a looming encirclement
SAM	Sam	Surface to Air Missile	A missile fired from the ground or ship, can be static, towed, wheeled, or tracked, designed to shoot down drones, helicopters and aircraft
SEAD	seed	Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses	A tactic of destroying enemy air defense tracking and command and control capabilities including radar sites through electronic warfare or kinetic attacks
Shaping		N/A	Shaping is when military units attack defensive positions to improve the line of conflict to their benefit, typically in preparation of a larger offensive or to better distribute military resources
Shock Troops		N/A	A Russian and Ukrainian term for light infantry that received specific training to attack from the FLOT (Zero Line) with additional training and man-portable heavy weapons meant to break through enemy defenses
Smooth Bore		N/A	Smooth bore refers to the inside of a gun barrel, which is smooth. Smooth bore has a shorter range but a higher muzzle velocity, creating more kinetic energy. At longer ranges it starts to lose accuracy. Smooth bore is typically used by tanks because of the higher velocity

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SOF	S O F	Special Operation Forces	Elite troops trained in advanced tactics with diverse skillsets - typically move as platoons or smaller and can be self-sufficient for days or weeks, tasked with the most challenging military objectives
Sortie		N/A	A sortie is when a single airplane carries out a single mission. For example, if four aircraft carry out an air strike on the same target, that would be a single air strike but counted as four sorties.
Spetsnaz	Spehts-naz	N/A	Russian special forces. Like other militaries Spetsnaz receive more advanced training and have access to better military equipment
SPG	S P G	Self-Propelled Gun	A self-propelled gun is a wheeled or tracked vehicle with a mounted artillery piece - most common in Ukraine are 152mm (Russia-Soviet) and 155mm (NATO provided). An SPG can be equipped with a howitzer, smooth bore, or rifled bored gun
Spoiling Attack		N/A	Attacking an area that a belligerent has captured or liberated but not with enough strength to retake it - meant to lock forces in places and "spoil" any attempt to move them to a different location
Squad		N/A	A squad is the smallest element within a military unit - typically 6 to 14 soldiers depending on the nation and how they comprise their units
SRBM	S R B M	Short-Range Ballistic Missile	An SRBM is a missile designed to travel up to 480 kilometers to deliver a warhead. The missile travels faster than the speed of sound and can reach an altitude that is considered outer space but can't break into orbit
Standoff Weapon		N/A	A standoff weapon is a precision munition, such as a bomb, rocket, or missile, that can be fired at a target outside of defensive capabilities, so the aircraft delivering the weapon can evade air defenses and/or fighter aircraft
Static Defense		N/A	Static defense is a defense position that a number of means, including trenches, bunkers, pill boxes, mine fields, and other engineering improvements. Troops defending these positions are immobile and won't engage in mobile defense, instead waiting for a combatant to advance on the position
Strategy		N/A	Strategy is the overall campaign plan - it goes beyond "secure Donetsk Oblast by August 31" and represents how and when units will be deployed in what way - unlike tactics, which is the execution of strategy
Suppression/Supressive Fire		N/A	Suppression or suppressive fire is when ground forces request from artillery or armored vehicles or use heavy weapons to suppress an enemy's movement.
Tactical Nuclear Weapon		N/A	Also called a battlefield nuclear weapon a tactical nuclear weapon is from 1 KT to 100 KT and is designed to alter a battlefield, destroy hardened targets, or create fear and panic
Tactical Withdrawal		N/A	A tactical withdrawal is when a belligerent retreats from a line of contact with the intent of falling back to a new defensive line, but maintains combat actions while fighting, also known as a fighting withdrawal

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Russia-Ukraine War Civilian and Military Terms and Acronyms

TERM OR ACRONYM	PRONOUNCE	ACRONYM	DEFINITIONS
Tactics		N/A	Tactics is the means to achieve a military goal - it represents the units and equipment that will be used, how they will work together, and when they will time their actions to achieve an established military goal
Technical		N/A	A technical is a civilian vehicle that has been converted for combat use - typically these are pickup trucks with mounted machine guns or rocket launchers, but can include SUVs, vans, and 4-wheelers
Theater		N/A	Theater of operations or "theater" or "theaterwide" refers to the entirety of an area engaged in war. This expands beyond the battlefield and includes areas where active support is ongoing. Examples of theater for the Russia-Ukraine War would include the Black Sea, Romania, Poland, and Moldova, even though they are not actively engaged in direct combat.
Theater of War		N/A	Unlike theater, which includes areas where fighting is not actively happening, theater of war is the regions where active fighting is occurring.
Thermite		N/A	Commonly confused with white phosphorus when photographed or recorded - it has the appearance of a brilliant firework, is typically magnesium based and can burn up to 4,000 degrees, designed to start fires
TOS-1	toss-one	N/A	A TOS-1 is a MLRS system specifically designed to fire thermobaric weapons - the weapons create a significantly larger blastwave/concussive force and is meant to destroy reinforce defenses, it has a range of 10 km
Towed Artillery		N/A	A heavy artillery piece that needs to be towed by a truck or other vehicle to move it to a new location, more vulnerable to counterbattery because it takes longer to move and can't relocate quickly after firing
Tubed Artillery		N/A	Tubed artillery refers to MLRS - it can also refer to GMLRS
UAV	U A V	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	A drone - it is a broad term that includes small consumer drones to large drones such as the United States Global Hawk - a UAV is unarmed
UCAV	you cav	Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle	A drone that has armaments and can fire at a target - this is a broad category that can include modified consumer drones to the Bayraktar TB-2
Unguided Bomb		N/A	An unguided bomb is a non-precision weapon dropped by an aircraft that freefalls to its target through the force of gravity - it is not steered or guided in any way
Unlawful Combatant		N/A	Unlawful combatant is terminology to define someone who is not a sworn member of a military or authorized militia engaged in fighting - it is a complex concept with many tests and exceptions
VDV	VDV	Russian Airborne Troops	VDV is the Russian acronym for airborne troops - it comes from the Cyrillic alphabet
VKS	V K S	Russian Air Force	The VKS is the Russian Air Force
Wet crossing		N/A	A wet crossing is when a belligerent has to cross a water obstacle like a stream or river, it typically involves setting up a pontoon bridge

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TERM OR ACRONYM	PRONOUNCE	ACRONYM	DEFINITIONS
WIA	W I A	Wounded in Action	A soldier that has been wounded in combat or moving to or from the field of combat and had to leave the line of conflict to receive medical attention - wounds can be light and require a couple of stitches or life altering
Willy P		N/A	Willy P is military slang for white phosphorous, which is used in munitions because it will continue to burn if it has contact with air or water, not a banned weapon, but cannot be used against civilians or civilian areas
Zero Line		N/A	See FLOT
			This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Definitions may have been simplified from US DoD official definitions to reduce complexity and provide brevity