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**MILITARY AND DEFENSE
COOPERATION BETWEEN
UKRAINE AND THE USA
AT THE CURRENT STAGE**

This article examines the history of military and defense cooperation between Ukraine and the United States since 2014. It analyzes changes in the approach of cooperation in these spheres; it also examines the transformation of U.S. views on cooperation in these spheres after the start of full-scale war in 2022. It will also consider the assistance the U.S. has shown over the past nine years to stop the conflict and help restore territorial integrity to Ukraine; also mention will be made of Washington's actions to prevent a full-scale war on the territory of Ukraine.

Key words: *Ukraine, USA, military cooperation, security cooperation, NATO, Russia.*

Introduction. Military and defense cooperation between Ukraine and the United States has a long history, dating back to Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The United States recognized Ukraine as an independent country on December 26, 1991, and diplomatic relations were established on January 3, 1992. An important stage in the development of relations between the United States and Ukraine occurred in 2013–2014, when the Revolution of Dignity took place. The United States, first, stood by the Ukrainian people, and second, fully supported Ukraine and condemned the Russian Federation for both the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the war in Donbas. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, the United

States has become one of the most significant partner of Ukraine, which provide multidimensional assistance to our country in its fight for freedom and independence.

Therefore, **the purpose of the article** is to examine the development of military-defense cooperation between Ukraine and the United States since 2014 and trace how it has changed over time, as well as to see how these relations have been transformed since the outbreak of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.

Analysis of current research and publications. In the process of writing this paper, a number of sources were used that covering various aspects of the of the topic under study. But also because the topic is quite relevant there are not many research papers on it, but you can find many official statements of both countries about these areas of cooperation. For example, this article examined official statements from the White House [10] and a statement from the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine [12]. There were also analyzes of various analytical articles that cover the history of the conflict since 2014 such as an article from the Center for Preventive Action [3]. In addition, various articles have been analyzed that reveal U.S. actions before the start of a full-scale war. For example, an article by Shane Harris, Karen DeYoung, [4] which describes how the U.S. was trying to warn Ukraine of Russia's aggression.

Presentation of the main material. Since 2014, the United States has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, providing significant military assistance and training to Ukrainian forces. In 2014, the United States began providing non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, including communications equipment, body armor, and night vision goggles. One of the key areas of cooperation between Ukraine and the United States is military exercises. The two countries have regularly conducted joint military exercises, which contribute to improving interoperability between their forces and increasing their overall readiness. Another important aspect of military and defense

cooperation between Ukraine and the United States is intelligence sharing.

In March 2018, the US State Department approved the sale of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, the first sale of lethal weapons since the beginning of the conflict. In October 2018, Ukraine joined the United States and seven other NATO countries in a series of large-scale air exercises in western Ukraine. The exercises followed Russia's own annual military drills in September 2018, the largest since the collapse of the Soviet Union [3].

With the new administration in the White House led by Biden, cooperation between the US and Ukraine has become even closer. For example, in 2021, the United States issued a joint statement on the US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership where the United States emphasized the important principles of supporting all deep and comprehensive reforms in Ukraine to achieve its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

The United States supports Ukraine's plan to reform the Security Service of Ukraine by streamlining and clearly defining its powers and strengthening norms that protect human rights and ensure effective public oversight. Cooperation in cybersecurity: The United States and Ukraine are prioritizing cybersecurity issues at the leadership level. In October, the U.S. and Ukrainian governments plan to hold the 4th U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Cyber Dialogue in Kyiv to strengthen bilateral cybersecurity cooperation, information sharing, and U.S. support for building Ukraine's cybersecurity capacity, particularly in Ukraine's financial sector [12].

In addition, a Ukrainian delegation visited Washington, for the first meeting of the new US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission. At this meeting, the US-Ukraine Charter was adopted, which emphasized the Biden administration's commitment to Ukraine's security. The Charter contains a clear commitment to deepen U.S.-Ukrainian security cooperation. "The United States and

Ukraine intend to continue a series of substantive measures to prevent external direct and hybrid aggression against Ukraine and to hold Russia accountable for such aggression and violations of international law, including the seizure and attempted annexation of Crimea and Russian-led military forces" [1].

In mid-December 2021, the Russian Foreign Ministry called on the United States and NATO to cease military activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, commit not to expand NATO to Russia, and prevent Ukraine from joining NATO in May. The United States and other NATO allies rejected these demands and threatened to impose harsh economic sanctions if Russia takes aggressive action against Ukraine [6].

However, all the efforts America has made to prevent a major conflict between Ukraine and Russia have failed. For example, in the days and weeks before the invasion, the Joe Biden administration made an unconventional decision to ease restrictions on information sharing and allow for greater dissemination of intelligence and findings both with allies, including Ukraine, and publicly. The goal of this strategy was to strengthen allied defenses and dissuade Russia from aggressive actions [4].

Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts, and published intelligence data from November and December 2021 showed armored vehicles, missiles, and other heavy weapons moving toward Ukraine without official explanation from the Kremlin. By the end of 2021, more than one hundred thousand Russian troops were stationed near the Russian-Ukrainian border, and US intelligence officials warned of a Russian invasion in early 2022 [5].

At the end of February 2022, the United States warned that Russia intended to invade Ukraine, citing Russia's increased military presence on the Russian-Ukrainian border. President Putin then ordered troops into Luhansk and Donetsk, claiming that the troops were performing a "peacekeeping" function. The United States responded by imposing sanctions on the regions and the Nord Stream 2

gas pipeline a few days later [11]. However, just before the invasion, U.S. and Ukrainian leaders remained at odds over the nature and likelihood of an armed Russian threat, with Ukrainian officials downplaying the possibility of an invasion and delaying the mobilization of their troops and reserve forces [9].

After the outbreak of full-scale war on February 24, 2022, the world was shocked. No one seriously thought that Russia would start the largest war in Europe since World War II. U.S. President Joe Biden declared the attack "unprovoked and unjustified" and imposed severe sanctions on top Kremlin officials, including Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov; Russia's four largest banks; and the Russian oil and gas industry in coordination with European allies [10]. After Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the U.S. Congress on March 16, 2022, Biden announced an additional \$800 million in military aid to Ukraine. Since Russia's invasion, the United States has provided about \$4.6 billion in security assistance to the country, including heavy weapons and artillery. The United States has also dramatically increased the presence of U.S. troops in Europe, bringing the total number to over one hundred thousand [7].

Weapons and training provided by the United States and other Western nations have been vital in turning Ukraine's readiness to fight into success on the battlefield. The United States provided much-needed anti-tank weapons, howitzers, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), anti-ship missiles, air defense equipment, and infantry fighting vehicles and tanks. The Ukrainian armed forces quickly learned how to use the new weapons systems and liberated thousands of Ukrainian civilians from Russian occupation in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Kherson regions [2].

On the one-year anniversary of the war, the Biden administration provided or agreed to provide Ukraine with a long list of defense

equipment, including Abrams battle tanks, anti-aircraft missiles, coastal defense ships, and advanced surveillance and radar systems [8].

Conclusions. After the beginning of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine in 2014, which included the illegal annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the war in Donbas, the United States itself was a decisive player in world politics that fully supported Ukraine and began to deepen relations in the military and defense sectors. It was the United States that was Ukraine's most important ally when it came to reforming its army. Of course, in addition to military reform, the US supported Ukraine's desire to reform other areas of the country. The United States was also an active supporter of a diplomatic solution to the conflict. However, Washington still supported Ukraine's military changes and supplied it with only non-lethal weapons at the beginning of the Donbas conflict, as well as provided radio communications upgrades and protection. Starting in 2018, the United States began selling anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, such as Javelins.

With the advent of the Biden administration, the US and Ukraine have become even more active in military and defense cooperation. For example, in 2021, a new Charter on U.S.-Ukraine Partnership was adopted, which emphasized the Biden administration's commitment to Ukraine's security. This charter unambiguously defines security as "countering Russian aggression" and refers to the Budapest Memorandum of December 1994, according to which Ukraine gave up nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees.

February 24, 2022 was a real shock to the whole world, but the United States was aware of the threat posed by the Russian Federation, so it expected Ukraine to lose in a few days. However, Ukraine performed a miracle on the battlefield that completely destroyed all the predictions of Western military analysts. Therefore, the US began to help Ukraine even more with weapons, of course, at first there

were various restrictions on the supply of various types of weapons.

However, the successes of the Ukrainian army assured officials in Washington that Ukraine could handle new types of weapons, such as the HIMARS Highly Mobile Artillery Rocket System, and then the issue of tanks was put on the agenda, but it was resolved. Now we are talking about the transfer of F-16 aircraft to Ukraine. If we summarize the relations between the United States and Ukraine in the military and defense spheres, we can see how the alliance between the two countries has been strengthening all the years since 2014, and after February 24 and the full-scale war, the United States became the most important ally for Ukraine.

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ВІЙСЬКОВЕ ТА ОБОРОННЕ СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВО УКРАЇНИ ТА США НА СУЧАСНОМУ ЕТАПІ

Метою даної статті є визначення особливостей відносин між Україною та США у сфері військового та оборонного співробітництва. Як саме змінилися ці сфери з 2014 року? Як сторони з кожним роком конфлікту дедалі сильніше й сильніше починали поглиблювати кооперацію? І про те, як Вашингтон постійно посилював підтримку України на міжнародній арені. Крім того, як саме Білий Дім намагався зупинити початок військової агресії Російської Федерації проти України. І яку форму набула співпраця між двома країнами після початку війни Росії проти України.

Ключові слова: Україна, США, військове співробітництво, безпека, НАТО, Росія.

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