

“Operation Crimea ’14” An Incomplete Victory?



Background to
Military
Deployments
&
Analysis
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Ukrainian Naval and Border Guard Deployments, Pre Feb 2014

Chornomorske

Border Guard

Detachment (15 strong)

Naval Missile Depot (40-50 sailors)



Lake Dunuzlov - Naval Base South

fleet of 6-8 warships

Yevpatoriya

Border Guard Division HQ



Novofedorivka

10th Saksi Naval Aviation Brigade
(10 x Ka-27/29, 7 x Mi-14,
helicopters, 3 x An-26, 1 x An-2 and
7 x Be-12 aircraft)

Sevastopol

HQ Ukrainian Navy
3-4 major warships
191st Training unit
39th Training unit
Naval SIGINT base A3009
Helicopter Repair Centre
Ammo depot - Inkerman



Border Guard Division HQ

Maritime radar site, Cape Fonar

Coast Guard Detachment (100 strong)

Coast Guard patrol boat detachment

Simferopol

Azov-Black Sea Border Guard Regional HQ

Border Guard Detachment (30 strong)

Border Guard radio station at airport

Interior Ministry Troops Detachment?

Military Recruiting Centre

Military Hospital

Fuel depot

Schelkino

Border Guard Division HQ

Kerch

Border Guard
base (30 strong)

Krym-Kuban
Border Guard
Check Point

Feodosia

1st Marine Battalion

Border Guard Detachment

Yalta

Border Guard

Base and patrol boat detachment

Yalta/Masandra

Mobile Border Guard unit

Perevalne

36th Coast Guard Brigade

Bakhchisary

Naval supply base

Navy Motor

Transport

Battalion base

Balakhava

Border Guard
base

Troop Strength

Coast Guard/Border Guard para-military – 2,000

Navy – 10,000 (including 2,000 marines)

Ukrainian Air Force and Air Defence Deployments, Pre Feb 2014

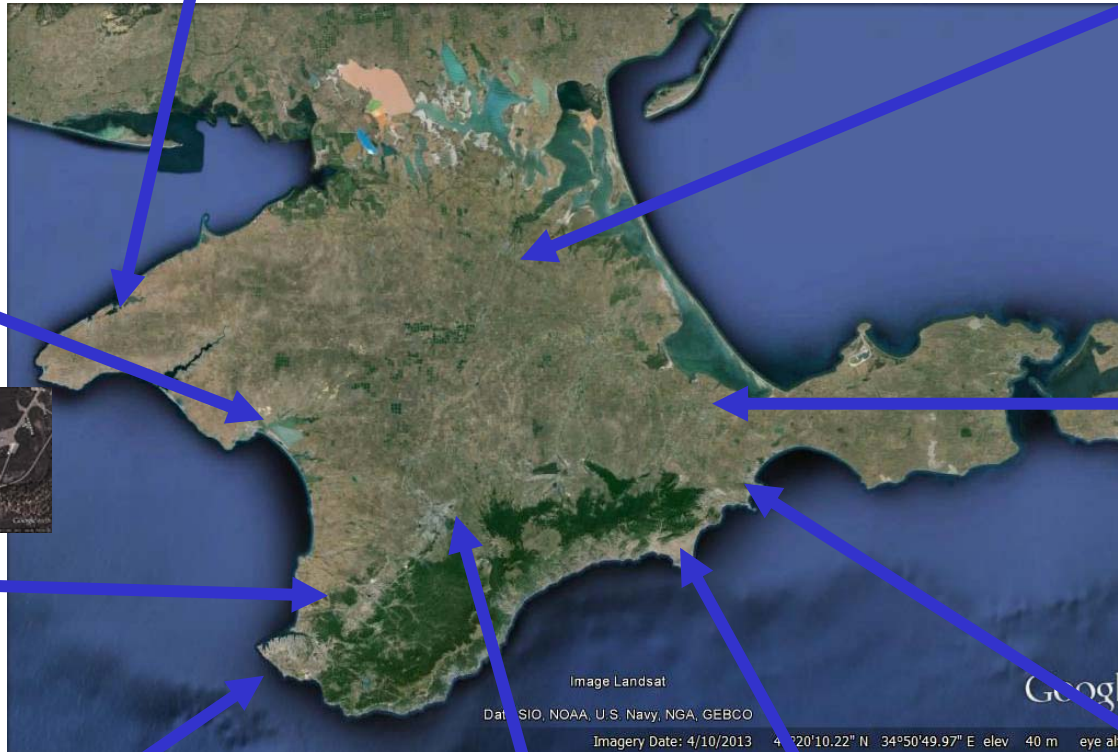
Yevpatoriya

55th Anti-Air Defence Regiment
50th Air Defence Regiment
(S-200, S-300, BUK SAM)
Mobile radar company
Aircraft Repair Centre



Chornomorske

Air defence radar site



Dzhankoy

Military Airbase
(transport aircraft)



Kirvoske

Airbase,
Aviation Test Centre
Detachment 204th
Aviation Brigade
(13 x MiG-29)



Belbek

62nd Fighter Regiment,
204th Aviation Brigade
(39 x MiG-29 fighters)
Civilian Airport



Feodosia

radar station, SAM site



Sevastopol

Crimea air defence command post (A2355 Bass)
174th Air Defence Regiment (S-300 SAM) Fiolent
S-300 SAM site in port

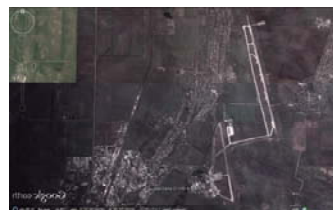


Sevastapol

Fiolent

Simferopol

Civilian Airport



Sudak, Cape Mehonom
radar

Ukrainian Troop Strength

Air Force – 2,000 (including 700 air defence)

Russian Military Deployments, Pre-Feb 2014

Kacha airbase

25th ASW Squadron
(10 x Ka-28 helicopters)
917 Transport Squadron
(14 x An-26/28 aircraft)



Sevastapol

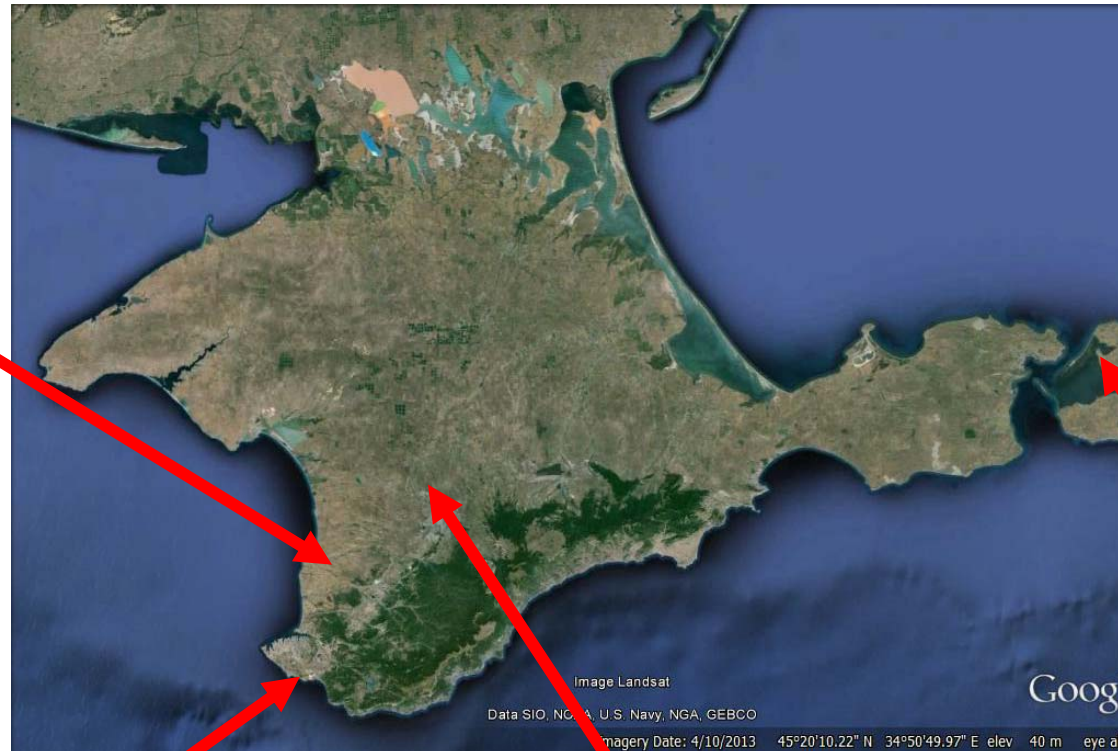
HQ Black Sea Fleet

(5 x destroyers/frigates, 7 x landing
Ships, 1 x submarine, Corvettes,
10 x minesweepers, 10 x missile
Boats)

810th Separate Naval
Infantry Brigade

- 382 Separate Naval Infantry Battalion
- Naval Construction Battalion

Reinforced by Aleksandr Otrakovskiy, Georgiy Pobedonosets,
Kalingrad and Minsk LSLs and Naval Infantry from Northern
Fleet in 2012/2013



Taman
Russian base
at port



Gvardeyskoye airbase

43rd Independent Naval
(Assault) Air Squadron
(14 x Su-24 bombers)

Russian Troop Strength

Authorised by Ukraine-Russia
Agreement, 25,000 personnel in total

Deployment in Feb 2014

Russian Navy 10-11,000
(including 4,000 Naval Infantry)

Operation Crimea '14 - Overview

Aim of Russian Forces

Secure the Crimea Peninsular to allow the establishment of a Pro-Russian regional government

Political Narrative

The operation is being conducted in a way that is portrayed as a Russian forces are responding to “spontaneous” requests for “humanitarian protection” from the majority local Russian population

Objectives

- Seize government building to allow setting up of pro-Russian regime
- Blockade, neutralise and disperse Ukrainian Military and Para-Military Units to prevent them interfering with Russian operation
- Persuade Ukrainian military commanders and units to defect to new Crimea regime
- Interrupt Communications to prevent co-ordinated Ukrainian Response
- Neutralise Ukrainian air defence to secure air space
- Allow Russian reinforcement to arrive by air and sea
- Block arrive of Ukrainian reinforcements and political activists by air, land and sea
- BUT no use of fire arms to ensure political narrative is achieved and maintained



Russian Forces – Operation Crimea '14



Moscow – Kremlin/MOD/General Staff

Southern Military District HQ – Rostov-on-Don
Col Gen. Aleksandr Galkin



Crimea Regional Government Forces
Simferopol

Berkut Riot Police veterans Organisation
Cossack Volunteers
Serbian Volunteers
Pro-Russian Militia Groups
New pro-Russian Police and Border
Forces set-up from 5 March
New Army parades at
Simferopol on 10 Mar

Southern Military District Forward HQ
Gvardeyskoye airbase

(Lt Gen Igor Nikolayevich Turchinyuk, Southern MD Deputy Commander)

Black Sea Fleet
HQ Sevastopol
Vice Admiral

Aleksandr Viktorovich Vitko

810th Naval Infantry Brigade
(Lt Col Vladimir Valeryevich Karpushenko, deputy
commander)

- 880 Naval Infantry Battalion
- 881 Naval Infantry Battalion
- 888 Recce Battalion
- 1613 Art Battalion (4 x 122mm 2S1)
- 1619 AD Battalion

382 Separate Naval Infantry Battalion
(arrive 23& 27 Feb)

- Naval Construction Battalion
- ?? Naval Infantry Battalion (arrive 7 Mar)
- Naval Spetsnaz Detachment – Kerch port

76th Airborne Division Contingent (arrive
27/28 Feb)

HQ Gvardeyskoye airbase

- Airborne Battalion - Belbek
- 31st Guards Airborne Brigade?
- Elements 22nd Spetsnaz Brigade (Gaz jeeps & BTR)
- Elements 10th Spetsnaz Brigade (50 x BTR APC)
- Motor Rifle Battalion (30 x BTR-80)
- Elements 45 Spetsnaz Recce Regiment
- Artillery Regiment – BM-21 MLRS battery, D-30
122mm battery, AS65 152mm battery
- Attack Helicopter Squadron (11 x Mi-24/8)

Private Security
Companies
Assault Teams

FSB Intelligence
Agency
Paramilitary Contingent



Russian Troop Strength on Crimea
(including pre-crisis garrison)
3 March – 16,000
9 March 20,000 +
18 March – 22,000 +



Operation Crimea '14, 27 Feb – 1 Mar Opening Phases

Russian Offensive Operations



Preparation

21 February

Kiev Government overthrown

23 February

Naval infantry reconnaissance
Kherson isthmus

24 February

LSL Nikolai Fil'chenkov lands
200 troops of 328 Naval Infantry
Battalion in Sevastapol harbour

25 February

Putin gives final approval for
Operation Crimea '14

26 February

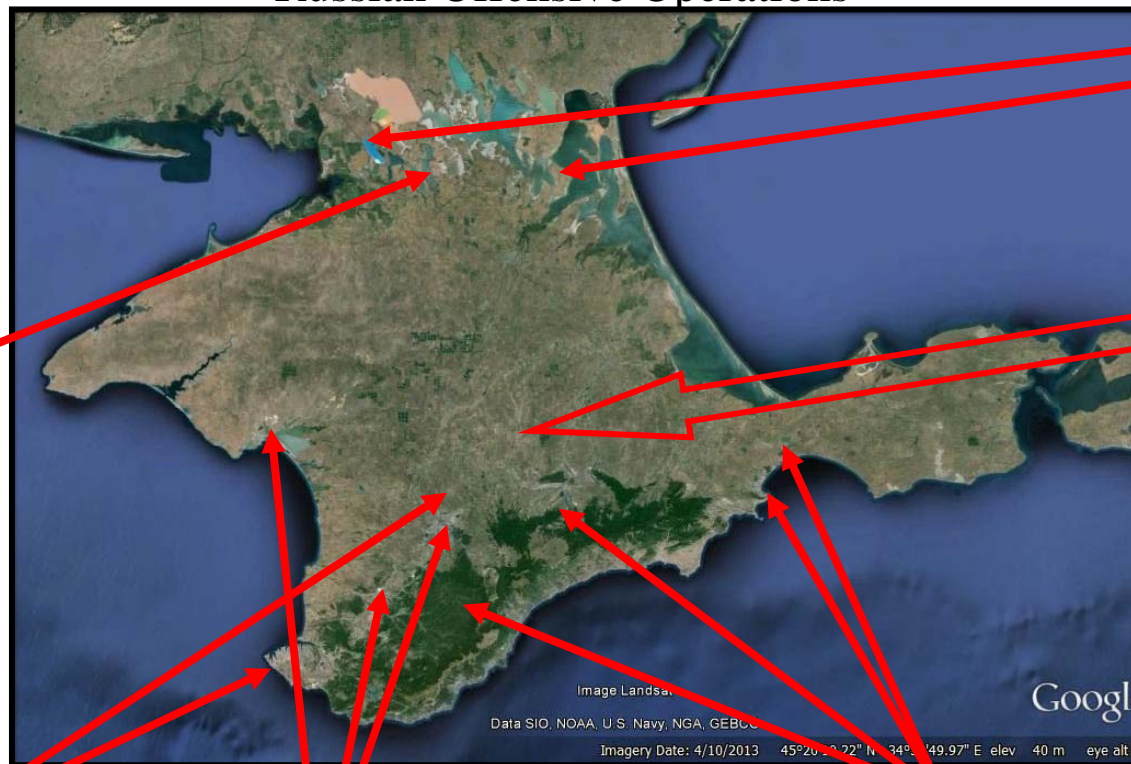
Naval Infantry units move from
Sevastapol to vicinity of
Simferopol

27 February – Phase 1

Simferopol civilian airport seized
by Spetsnaz and PSC
Parliament Seized by PSC and
then secured by Naval Infantry
Naval Infantry landed from LSL
Azov in Sevastapol
Evening – Naval Infantry begin
blockading Ukrainian naval
bases in Sevastapol

28 February – Phase 2

Crimea Government declares for Putin
Azov-Black Sea Border Guard Regional HQ blockaded by PSC
Border Guard bases in Simferopol blockaded by PSC
Interior Ministry Troops base blockaded by PSC
Ukrtelecom cell phone company seized
Balbek airbase blockaded and runway blocked in evening
Paratroops of 76th Airborne Division begin flying in
Gvardeyskoye airbase on Il-76s from Pskov and Taganrog
Air defence units at Yevpatoriya and Cape Fiolent blockaded
11 x Mi-8/24 gunships fly into Gvardeyskoye airbase
Military Recruiting HQ Simferopol seized



*Chongar and Peredop
Border positions set
up 28 Feb – 1 Mar*



*Airbridge from
Russia starts 28 Feb*



1 March – Phase 3

Dzhankoy tower and runway seized
Kirvoske airbase seized
36th Coast Guard Brigade blockaded at Perevalne
Bakhchisary supply depot blockaded
Marine Battalion blockaded at Feodosia
Defensive positions set up at Chongar and Perekop
Bakhchisary Navy supply base blockaded



Operation Crimea '14, Occupation Phase - 2nd March onwards

Crimea Border

Ukrainian paratroops with BTR dig in

Russian Occupation Operations

Gvardeyskoye airbase
Forward HQ South Military District
Main Russian Helicopter Base
Airlift and Logistics Hub

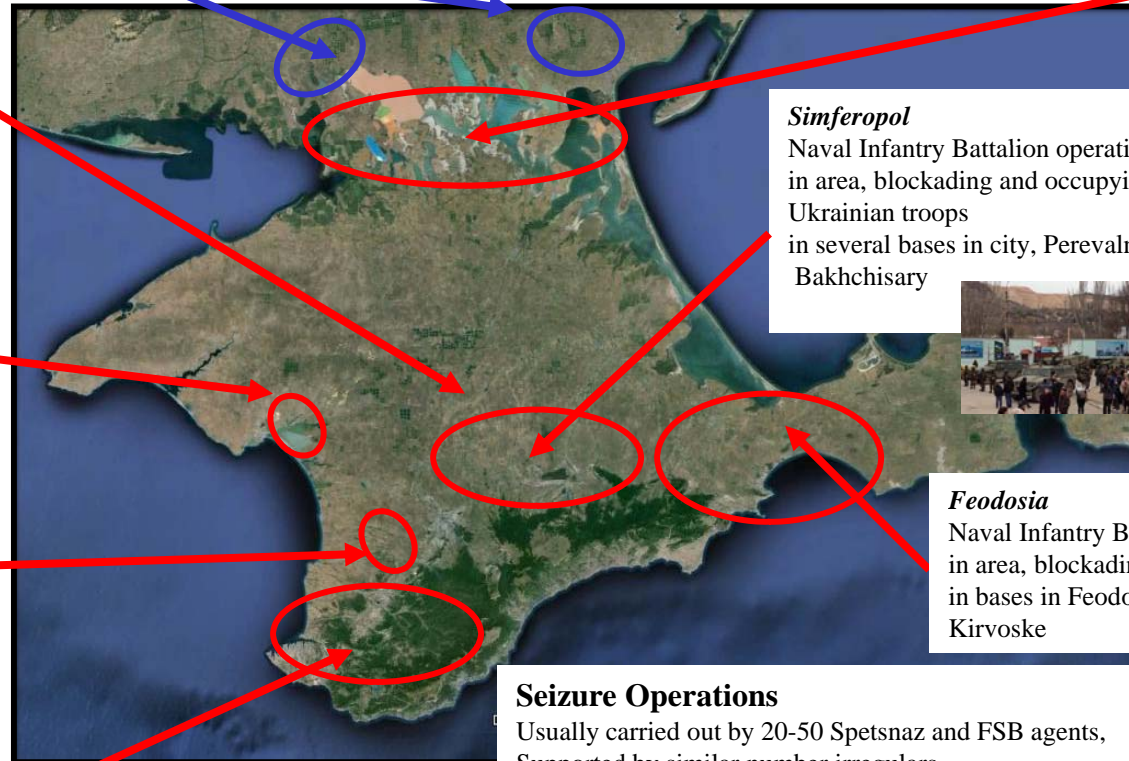


Yevpatoriya garrison and Novofedorivka airbase
Naval Infantry battalion operational in area

Belbak airbase
Airborne battalion operational in area



Sevastapol
Naval Infantry units blockade Ukrainian ships, several naval, border guard and air defence sites around city



Ukraine-Crimea 'border'

Secured by Naval Infantry Battalion dug-in in two blocking positions. Minefields laid.
Ukrainian Border Guard Aircraft fired upon on 8 + 13 Mar
Dzhankoy set up as main logistic base

Simferopol

Naval Infantry Battalion operating in area, blockading and occupying Ukrainian troops in several bases in city, Perevalne and Bakhchisary



Feodosia

Naval Infantry Battalion operating in area, blockading Ukrainian troops in bases in Feodosia and occupying Kirvoske

Seizure Operations

Usually carried out by 20-50 Spetsnaz and FSB agents, Supported by similar number irregulars

- 1 Mar – Dzhankoy and Kirvoske airbases (successful)
- 3 Mar – Belbek airbase (successful)
- 5 Mar – Border Guard comms site at Simferopol airport (successful)
- 6 Mar – Kerch ferry port (successful)
- 7 Mar – Sevastapol SIGINT base (failed)
- 8 Mar- Schelkino Border Guard Base (successful)
- 8 Mar – Yevpatoriya Border Guard Base (failed)
- 8 Mar - Masandra Border Guard Base (failed)
- 10 Mar - Bakhchisary Motor Transport Battalion base (successful)
- 10 Mar – Simferopol Military Hospital (successful)
- 10 Mar – SAM battery in Sevastapol port (successful)
- 10 Mar – Chornomorske missile depot and air defence radar site (successful)
- 10 Mar - Novofedorivka airbase runway blocked by lorries
- 12 Mar – Self-defence units attack fuel depot in Simferopol (unsuccessful)
- 15 Mar – 120 Paratroopers move into Kherson region backed by 4 BTR, 2 Mi-24 and 1 Mi-8
- 17 Mar - Bakhchisary Navy supply base surrenders

Blockades continue

Usually 50-100 Naval Infantry or Paratroopers With similar number in irregulars providing outer cordon

- Naval Base South
- Novofedorivka airbase
- Fiolent and Yevpatoriya air defence base
- Sevastapol Naval HQ
- Inkerman naval ammo depot
- Warships in Sevastapol port
- Feodosia Marine and air defence bases
- Perevalne coast guard base
- fuel depot in Simferopol
- Air defence command post Sevastapol
- 10 Border Guard bases blockaded



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Russian Reinforcement Operations – 27 Feb Onwards

Armyansk, northern Crimea

9 Mar – copnvoy 20-30 GAZ TIGR vehicles parked in town



Simferopol

10 Mar – Convoy of 8+ trucks and 8 x BTR moves north out of city

Sevastapol

Russian Landing ships deliver troops and vehicles

24 Feb - Nikolai Fil'chenkov

•27 Feb - Azov

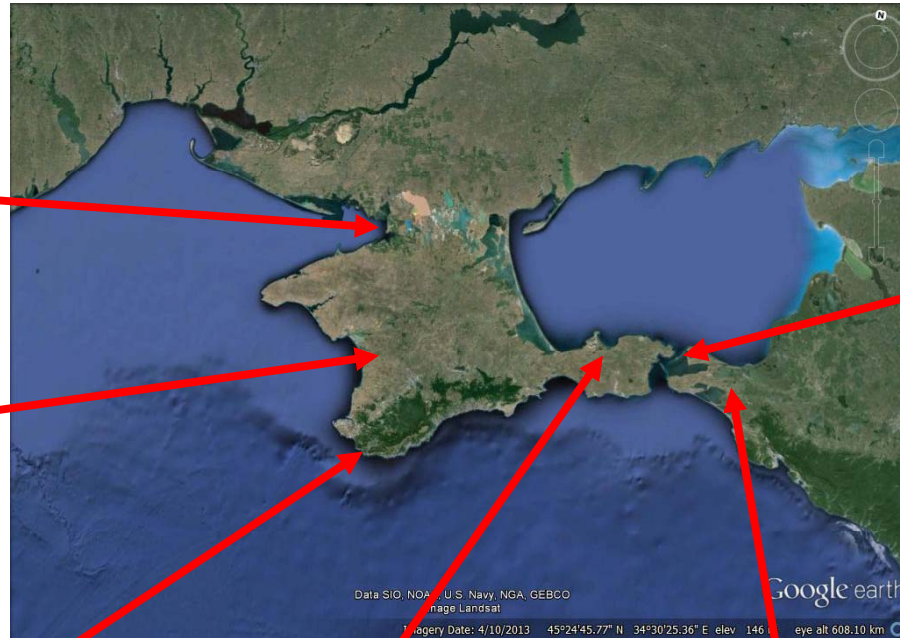
•1 Mar - Kaliningrad and Minsk

•2 Mar - Olenihorsky Gorniak and

George Victorious

7 Mar – 1 x LSL??

8 Mar – 2 x LSL



Kerch-Feodosia Road

6 Mar - 7 trucks, 3 minibuses and 2 light vehicles move through ferry port

7 Mar - 20 vehicles of logistic convoy 8 Mar - 15 trucks “Kamaz”

8 Mar - 10 “Kamaz” trucks more, 6 trucks “Ural” and one ambulance

8 Mar 20 approx trucks and jeeps seen

10 Mar – convoy spotted near Sevastapol, containing 10+ x Gaz, 10 x trucks and 9 x D30 122mm towed howitzers

Taman Peninsula

7 Mar – build up 200 Russian vehicles reported

7 Mar - Large convoy spotted 25 x BTR, 52+ x truck, 8 x BM21 MLRS, 2 x cranes (projected to Land on Crimea 10-11 Mar)



Kerch-Taman Ferry

6 Mar -Kerch port seized by Naval Spetsnaz Operated by Russian forces to

Deliver reinforcements and supplies, possibly supported by Russian navy landing ships Small size of vessels creates bottleneck of Russian vehicle traffic



Naval Operations – 27 Feb Onwards

Lake Dunuzlov – Naval Base South

Russian cruiser Moskva leads
fleet of 6 warships, including Kostiantyn Olshansky
landing ship to blockade Ukrainian
Fleet between 28 Feb and 6 Mar. Moskva
then remains off shore



Odessa

Rump of Ukraininan Navy concentrated
8 warships, including flagship Hetman Sahaydachniy



Balaklava

Russian missile
boat Ivanovets
blockades bay

Ukrainian Navy Units – March 2014

- U130 Hetman Sahaydachniy - Krivak III class frigate (Odessa)
- U205 Luts'k - Grisha V class corvettes
- U206 Vinnitsya - Grisha II class corvettes
- U208 Khmelnytskyi - Pauk class corvettes
- U209 Ternopil Grisha V class corvettes (Sevastapol)
- U310 Chernihiv - Natya class minesweepers
- U311 Cherkasy - Natya class minesweepers
- U330 Melitopol - Sonya class base minesweepers
- U331 Mariupol - Sonya class base minesweepers
- U136 Henichesk - Yevgenia class harbour minesweepers
- U401 Kirovohrad - Polnocny-C class landing ship
- U402 Kostiantyn Olshansky - Ropucha I class landing ship (Crimea)
- U500 Donbas - Amur class command ship
- U510 Slavutych - Bambuk class command ship (Sevastapol)
- U511 Simferopol - Moma class intelligence ship
- U512 Pereyaslav - Muna class costal survey ship
- Tankers and transport ships x 5
- Support vessels x 9 tugs and survey vessels
- Cutters/small craft x 27

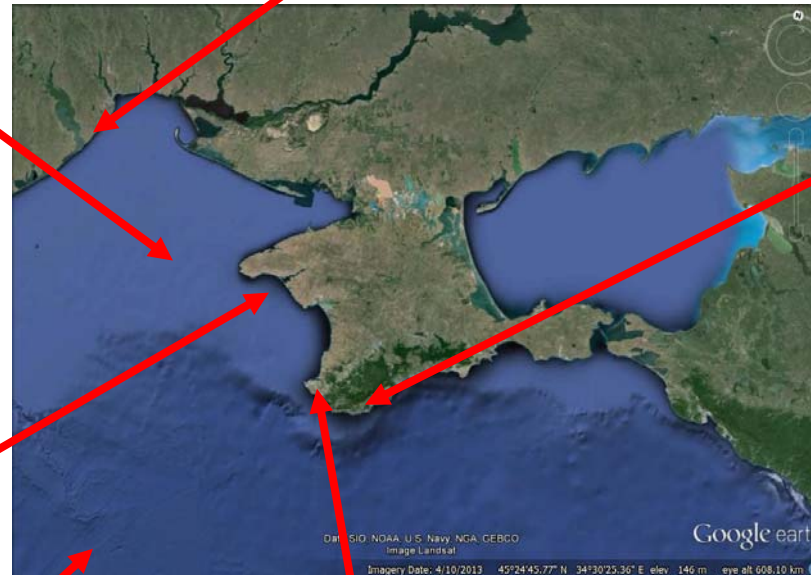
Lake Dunuzlov

Ochakov and two other Russian ships sunk
to block channel to sea from naval base
6-8 Ukrainian warships blockaded



Dardanelles Straits

USS Truxton enters Black Sea, 7 Mar



Sevastapol



Ukrainian command ship
Slavutych and corvette
Ternopol blockaded in port
From 28 Feb
12 Ukrainian Coast Guard ships escape
to Odessa 2 Mar

Kiev

6 Mar – Russian air force Il-76 attempts to land at Kiev international airport. Aborts when Detected by Ukrainian air defence radar



Naval base South

6 Mar – 2 x Russian Mi-24 fly over port

Novofedorivka

5 Mar – 1 x Ka-29, 3 x Mi-14 helicopters and ?? Be-12 aircraft of Ukrainian 10th Saksi Naval Aviation Brigade fly to Odessa

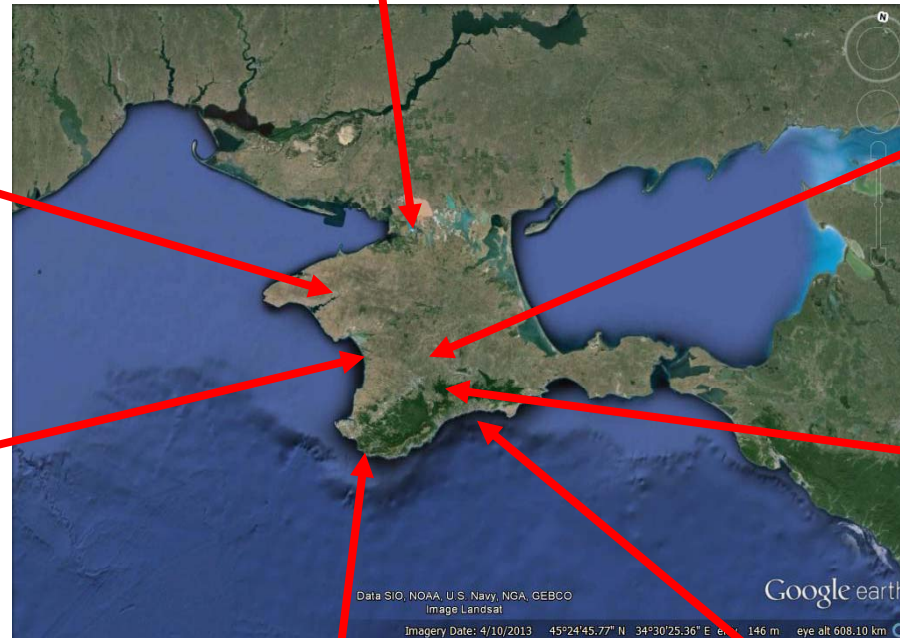


Romanian and Polish Airspace
10 Mar – announced that NATO and RAF E-3 AWACS begin surveillance ops over Ukraine and Black Sea

Crimea Air Operations – 27 Feb Onwards

Perekop

7 Mar – Ukrainian Border Guard Dianmond DA42 surveillance aircraft shot at. Safely returned to base



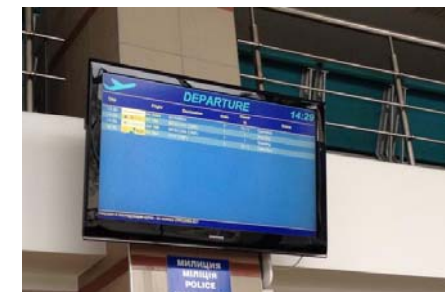
Sevastapol

7 Mar – Russian 2 x Mi-24 fly over port
7 Mar – Russian 2 x Mi-24 fly over port



Simferopol

11 Mar - Civilian airport closed to non-Russian traffic



28 Feb – Airbridge from Russia open

Paratroops of 76th Airborne Division begin flying in Gvardeyskoye airbase on Il-76s from Pskov and Taganrog



28 Feb - 11 x Mi-8/24 gunships fly into

Gvardeyskoye airbase from Taman



Opening Phase – 28 Feb- 1 Mar 2014

Factors

- Operation Launched at three to five days notice after fall of former Ukrainian President on 21/22 February mean planning and preparation time is short
- Need to achieve strategic and tactical surprise prevented pre-deployment of significant force
- On-going security operation at Sochi for Olympics and Para-Olympics ties up 30,000 of best Russian para-military, security and special forces units until 15th March
- This lack of troops means initial phase of operation has to rely on 810th Naval Infantry Brigade and Private Security Company (PSC) operatives (who are mostly ex-Spetsnaz troopers)
- Deception measures, such as units not wearing insignia, allows 48 hours of confusion in Ukrainian military command, Western capitals and international media
- The lack of a land route to Crimea and need to ensure surprise, meant the Russians have so far not been able to deploy heavy armour, including main battle tanks or tracked troop carriers.

Result

- Operation Crimea '14 achieved initial political objective and established pro-Moscow regime
- Mobilised pro-Russian militia groups
- Secured airport and port infra-structure to allow reinforcements to arrive
- **BUT**

Russians did not have have overwhelming numbers, tanks and heavy weapons available to intimidate Ukrainians into quickly surrendering or defecting

- All significant Ukrainian military commanders and units on Crimea remain loyal to Kiev Government
- Only handful of small Ukrainian bases were successfully occupied in the first 48 hours.
- Heavily armed Ukrainian units with tracked troop carrier and heavy anti-aircraft guns and missiles remain in place on the Crimea.
- Internet and cell phone communications not yet under full Russian control
- Ukrainian Navy helicopters and Coast Guard helicopters able to escape from Crimea. Russian control of airspace in doubt.

Operation Crimea '14 – Possible Crisis Evolution

Key Dates

- 15th March. End Para-Olympics at Sochi will release Russian troops to reinforce Crimea operation
- 16th March. Proposed Referendum on autonomy/independence/merger with Russia to be held on Crimea. The success of this is central to Russian plans.

Russian Objectives

- Russian troops will continue to blockade Ukrainian bases on Crimea to ensure referendum goes Moscow's way
- Prevention of reinforcements or political activists from Ukraine proper entering Crimea
- Neutralisation of local political support for Kiev Government

Russian Actions

- Build up defences along Ukraine-Crimea land border and naval forces off coast
- Increasingly tight blockades of Ukrainian bases to accelerate surrender or defections
- Escalation of intimidation of families of Ukrainian military personnel and supporters of Kiev Government

Extreme Measures

- Use of pro-Russian militia to intimidate ethnic Ukrainians to leave Crimea
- Banning of Ukrainian political parties
- Rigging of Election
- Propaganda campaigns to discredit pro-Kiev political parties and Ukrainian military in Crimea
- Eviction of international media
- Naval blockade of Odessa port and Ukrainian coast

SITUATION ON CRIMEA LOOKS LIKE GETTING VERY UNPLEASANT AS RUSSIANS TRY TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL

Ukrainian Responses

- Non-violent resistance and demonstrations
- Declaration of “Liberated Zones” on Crimea inside Ukrainian military bases
- Armed resistance from Ukrainian forces on Crimea to preempt arrival of Russian reinforcements and disrupt referendum