

# Military Stand-off in Eastern Ukraine



Background to  
Military  
Deployments  
&  
Analysis  
by  
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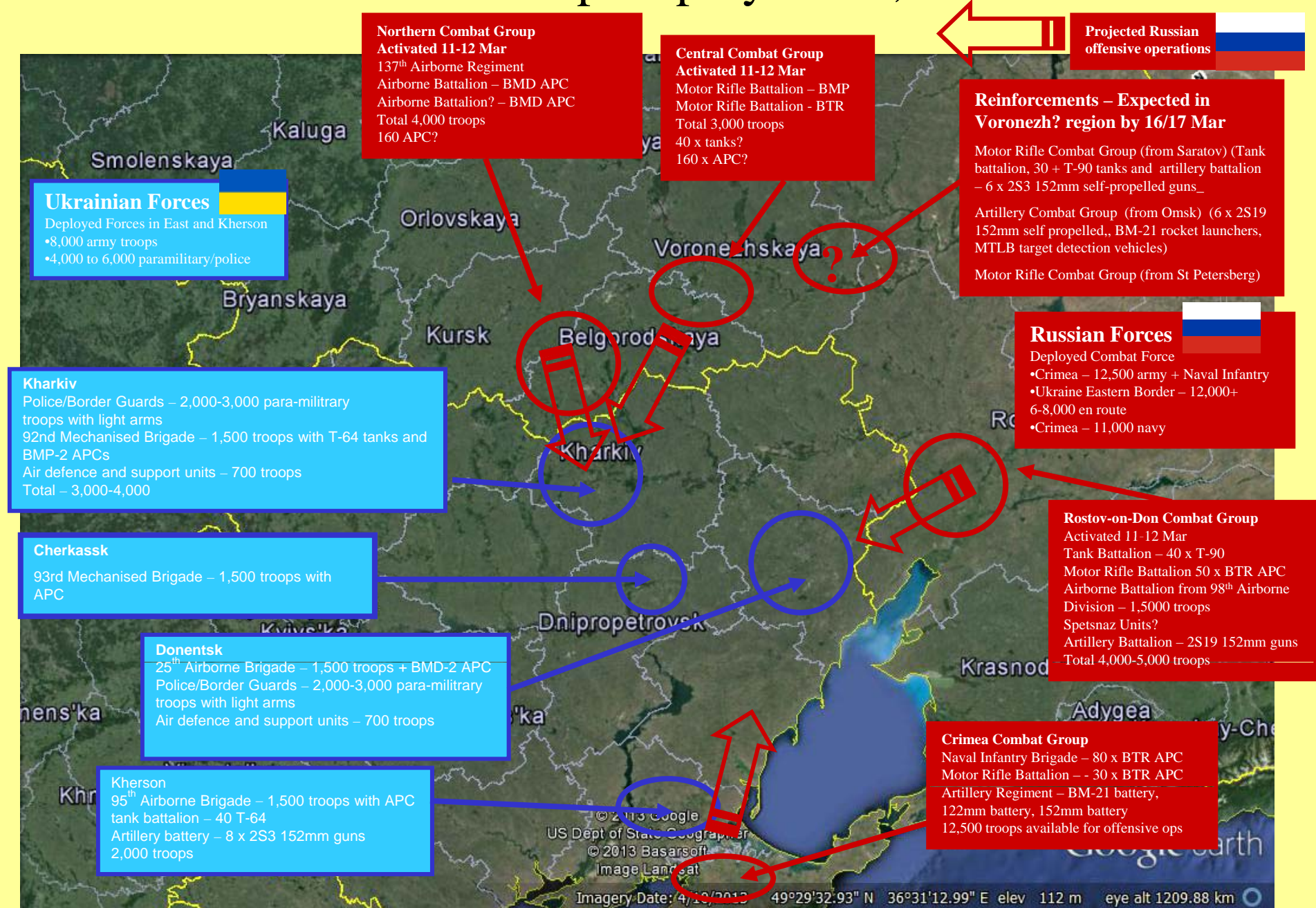
## Sources and Assessment Methodology

This assessment is based on:

- Open Source military information
- Media reports
- Social media video and pictures, which have been cross referenced with Googleearth and other open source satellite imagery
- Identification of 'signature' equipment types and numbers in above

Note: this methodology is now used by US/NATO intelligence because of run down of Cold War era blanket satellite surveillance of old Soviet Union

# Eastern Ukraine Troop Deployments, 18 Mar 2014



# Military Assessment, 18 Mar

- The first wave of Russian troops have capability to launch limited offensive operation
- These troops will only be able to seize Kharkiv and Donetsk rapidly and decisively if they have the active support of local population.
- Donetsk (population 1 million) and Kharkiv (population 1.4 million) will require larger follow-on occupation force to secure in long term.
- Level of Ukrainian resistance will depend on loyalty of units and population in the two cities. If population does not side with Russians or at least remain ambivalent, then the Ukrainian military will have the potential to bog the Russians down in street fighting in Kharkiv and Donetsk, at least against the first wave of Russian troops.
- Russian reinforcement – From information available the Russians appear to be deploying two more combat groups – three to four armoured and artillery battalions. These forces will be in vicinity of Ukrainian border by 16-17 Mar. They will raise the odds of a successful operation considerably.
- With Addition forces the Russians will have more ability to provide long term occupation force in Kharkiv and Donetsk, as well as rapid offensive operations and the ability to resist any Ukrainian counter attack.
- Deployment of Su-27 to Belarus on 14 March threatens NATO and RAF E-3 AWACS surveillance radar aircraft operating along Ukrainian border and give Russian air force option of striking against Ukrainian targets around Lviv.



# Positive identification of Unit Movements from 28 Feb onwards





# Ukrainian Land Forces Peacetime Deployments, Feb 2014

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## Major Land Units

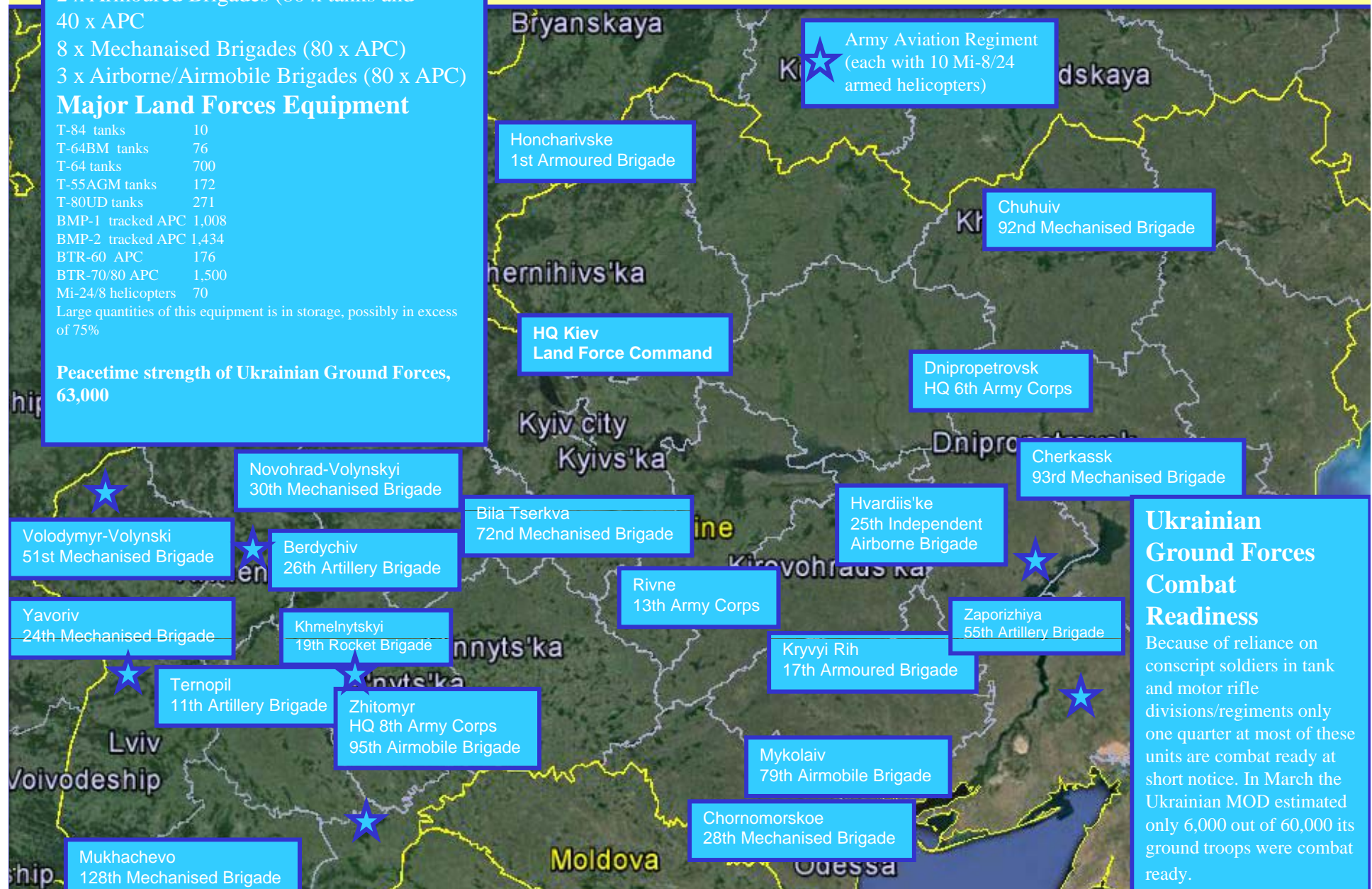
- 2 x Armoured Brigades (80 x tanks and 40 x APC)
- 8 x Mechanised Brigades (80 x APC)
- 3 x Airborne/Airmobile Brigades (80 x APC)

## Major Land Forces Equipment

T-84 tanks	10
T-64BM tanks	76
T-64 tanks	700
T-55AGM tanks	172
T-80UD tanks	271
BMP-1 tracked APC	1,008
BMP-2 tracked APC	1,434
BTR-60 APC	176
BTR-70/80 APC	1,500
Mi-24/8 helicopters	70

Large quantities of this equipment is in storage, possibly in excess of 75%

**Peacetime strength of Ukrainian Ground Forces, 63,000**



## Ukrainian Ground Forces Combat Readiness

Because of reliance on conscript soldiers in tank and motor rifle divisions/regiments only one quarter at most of these units are combat ready at short notice. In March the Ukrainian MOD estimated only 6,000 out of 60,000 its ground troops were combat ready.

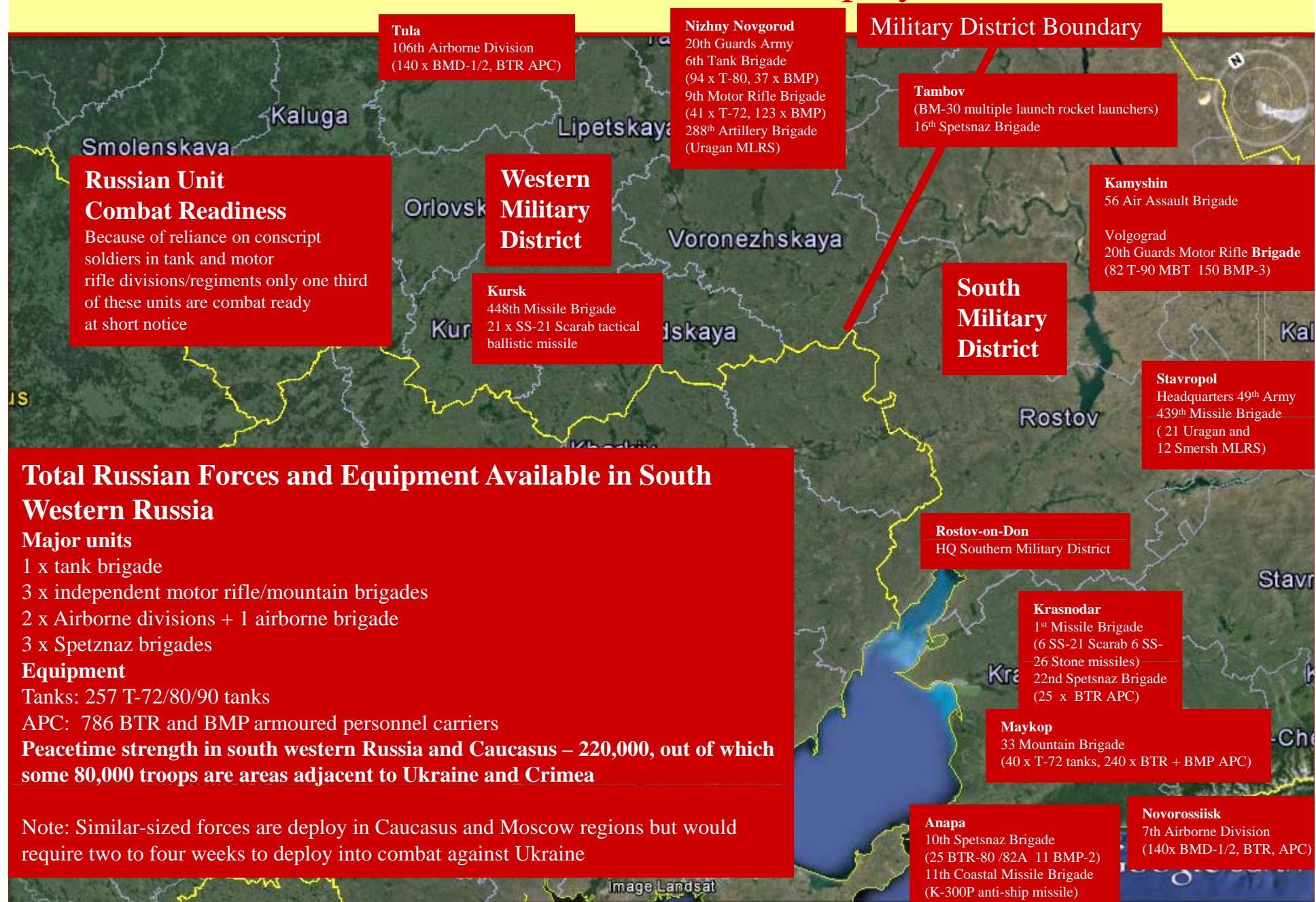


# Ukrainian Air Force and Air Defence Peacetime Deployment, Feb 2014





# Russian Ground Forces – Peacetime Deployments, Feb 2014





# Russian Air and Air Defence Peacetime Locations, Feb 2014

Total Russian Aircraft strength available for operations against Ukraine

80 x MiG-29 fighters

78 x Su-27 fighters

78 x Su-24 bombers

88 x Su-25 attack jets

**Total 300+ combat aircraft**

70+ armed helicopters

Reinforcements could potentially double or the triple the number of aircraft available over a period of one to two weeks.

Also strategic Tu-95 and Tu-22 heavy bombers could be available, as well as Il-76 AWACS radar surveillance aircraft.

