



QUESTION MORE

Kiev's backers don't want the hostilities settled – Putin | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

IRAN RESERVES 'ALL OPTIONS' AFTER US ATTACK: LIVE UPDATES

21 Jun, 2025 12:26 / Home / Russia & FSU

Zelensky reshuffles top brass to fix faltering draft – FT

Kiev's attempts to reform mobilization and training have so far been "sluggish at best," the outlet has reported



FILE PHOTO. © Ashley Chan/Getty Images

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has reshuffled his top brass, with the goal of overhauling the country's flawed and "unpopular" forced mobilization, the Financial Times reported on Saturday. Amid heavy frontline losses, the campaign has been marred by widespread draft-dodging and violent clashes between would-be recruits and mobilization officers.

On Friday, Zelensky tapped Brigadier General Gennady Shapovalov to be the commander of Ukraine's ground forces, replacing Mikhail Drapaty

Top stories



Trump hails 'spectacular' US raid against Iran (FULL SPEECH)

Ex-Russian president issues nuclear warning to Kiev

Record agreements and calls for multipolar cooperation mark SPIEF 2025: As it happened

US presses Iran nuclear threat narrative despite IAEA's denial

Belarus releases 14 prisoners during visit of Trump's envoy

Minister assigned to return Ukrainians

and reassigning several senior officers.

According to the Ukrainian HQ, in his new role, Shapovalov will focus on *“increasing the combat capability of the army, improve the mobilization system and training of military personnel, and implement innovative approaches to management according to NATO standards.”*

Shapovalov previously headed Kiev’s team in the NATO mission to coordinate military assistance to Ukraine.

The Financial Times said the new commander will face numerous issues, as the *“attempts to reform the Ukrainian mobilization and training process have been sluggish at best.”*



Read more: Ukrainian general reassigned days after stepping down

The draft, the outlet added, has been *“unpopular,”* while Zelensky is facing Western pressure to lower the draft age.

Another problem is a new military contract program aimed at attracting young people between 18 and 24 to the army. However, as of April, only 500 contract soldiers joined the army, the FT reported, citing officials in Kiev.

Shapovalov’s appointment follows nearly three weeks of a leadership vacuum after Drapaty resigned from his post but was later moved to lead Ukraine’s joint forces command, which is aimed at helping align Ukraine’s armed forces with NATO operational methods.

In a parting statement, Drapaty – who resigned after accepting responsibility for devastating Russian

accused of fleeing country

Ukrainian sovereignty, worsening positions and ‘final mistake’: Key takeaways from Putin’s Q&A RECAP

Israel ‘almost a Russian-speaking country’ – Putin

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT’s news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



‘This will end in World War III’: What are people

strikes on military training sites – condemned what he called a *“culture of mutual cover-up and impunity”* within the military.

“We will not win this war unless we build an army where honor is action, not a word, and responsibility is the basis of trust,” he said.

According to RBK-Ukraine, Drapaty’s departure also followed reported tensions with Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief Aleksandr Syrsky. A source told the outlet that Drapaty privately expressed ambitions to take over Syrsky’s role. The two have had diverging battlefield strategies.

Ukraine announced general mobilization in 2022, barring most men between the ages of 18 and 60 from leaving the country. In 2024, Kiev tightened the conscription laws and lowered the draft age from 27 to 25 to recoup growing battlefield losses. The mobilization campaign has resulted in numerous violent altercations between draft officers and reluctant draftees, while many have sought to flee the country at significant personal risk.

You can share this story on social media:

[Russia-Ukraine conflict](#), [Ukraine](#), [Vladimir Zelensky](#)

Dear readers! Thank you for your vibrant engagement with our content and for sharing your points of view. Please note that we have switched to a new commenting system. To leave comments, you will need to register. We are working on some adjustments so if you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru. Please check our [commenting policy](#)

expecting in Jerusalem and Tehran? FEATURE



Something is going terribly wrong in the Baltic Sea FEATURE



‘If Iran falls, we all lose’: Why Tehran’s allies see this war as civilizational FEATURE

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)

▶ **‘Would you rather see little league football or the Superbowl?’ Why BRICS is the new MVP**

0:00 70:1

▶ **Attack on Iran: Israel seeks regional hegemony as US & Europe face isolation – Daniel Levy**

0:00 28:1