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## RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN DELEGATIONS MEET IN ISTANBUL: LIVE UPDATES

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# Ukraine admits to losing third F-16

Kiev said “an emergency occurred” on board the US-designed jet



FILE PHOTO. F-16 fighter jet. © Getty Images

The Ukrainian military has confirmed the loss of another US-designed F-16 fighter jet as it was repelling a Russian strike. This marks the third such incident since Kiev started receiving the advanced warplanes from the West.

According to the Ukrainian Air Force, all communication with the jet was lost at approximately 3:30am on Friday while it was

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carrying out a defensive combat mission. No data was provided regarding the location of the crash.

Officials said that the unnamed pilot had *“destroyed three aerial targets and was engaging a fourth using the aircraft’s cannon when an onboard emergency occurred.”* The pilot steered the jet away from populated areas and ejected; he was later picked up by a rescue team in satisfactory condition.

A commission has been appointed to investigate the circumstances of the incident, the air force added.

The Russian Defense Ministry has yet to comment.

The delivery of F-16 fighters from European NATO members to Ukraine was approved by former US President Joe Biden in August 2023, but the first jets did not arrive in the country until a year later. Kiev was promised a total of more than 80 jets, with many to be supplied in the years to come. It is unclear how many operational F-16s the country has at the moment.

The current F-16 crash is the third known reported case of Ukraine losing this type of jet. One jet was shot down by Russia in April 2025, according to the Defense Ministry in Moscow. At the time, Kiev confirmed that its pilot was killed during an *“unidentified combat mission”* but did not reveal any additional details. Another F-16 was lost in 2024 while responding to a Russian airstrike; its pilot was also killed.

Some Ukrainian officials had hoped that the F-16 would boost Ukraine’s air defenses, but Western experts had warned that it would be unlikely to significantly alter the situation on the battlefield. Later, officials in Kiev acknowledged that the F-16 could not withstand the most advanced Russian jets and complained about the numerous logistical hurdles



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involved in deploying the US-designed fighters.

Russia has condemned Western arms shipments to Ukraine, warning they only prolong the conflict without changing its outcome.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Ukrainian-operated F-16s will “burn” just like other Western-supplied equipment.

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### Russia-Ukraine conflict

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**T Tom Max** 5/16/2025 at 1:02 PM 0

We do not hear about the stealth Su-57 but they are flying there, so they might not know what hit them There were reports that India shot down F16 in Pakistan at very long range with S-400, the same could happen in Ukraine.

[Reply](#)

**T Tim Mahoney** 5/16/2025 at 12:50 PM 0

A lot of bragging and propaganda here .How come no mention of Russia aircraft loses ? As of February 2025 Russia lost 35 Su -34 in combat. And 4 Su 34s in non combat incidents. The number of total aircraft losses is in the hundreds.

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**J John McRae** 5/16/2025 at 10:36 AM 5

Start hitting the F16s airfields knock them out with Oreshnik and Thermobaric weapons

[Reply](#)

**M Martin Shaw** 5/16/2025 at 11:25 AM ↑ -3

There's something fishy why Putin doesn't take them out on the ground and, indeed, why this war is being dragged out in general.

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**Ivana Plavsic** 5/16/2025 at 12:07 PM ↑

3

It's a war of attrition. Learn what that means already, you had 3 years, ffs.

Reply



**Jim Davies** 5/16/2025 at 12:38 PM ↑

0

Perceptive, Ivana!

It's easy to become impatient with the slow progress on the ground. But if it's true that eight or ten Ukes are being killed for every Russian, the math is not difficult.

Reply



**tony p** 5/16/2025 at 12:48 PM ↑

0

I agree, there is something going on as to why it's taking so long.

Reply



**tony p** 5/16/2025 at 12:47 PM

0

"destroyed three aerial targets and was engaging a fourth using the aircraft's cannon . The Ghost of Kiev is back.

Reply



**Mechyuda** 5/16/2025 at 12:46 PM

0

This crashed F-16 was another tens of millions of dollars that was incinerated & shattered, because NATO has been propping up insidious ZOG to rule over Ukraine (which has been a nation of 99% Christians), & to turn Ukraine into a spearhead against sovereign Russia & Belarus.

NATO uses its illusion of choice, quintuple-standard rule-by-law, freely lying press, entertainment agitprop, & education indoctrination to pretend it's innocent, on defense, & the hero across the planet, but in truth NATO is the greatest threat to the planet (even to NATO's own commoners who are being dragged down by corporate profiteering + rent

seeking, open borders, multicultural mairfunctions, & cultural marxism).

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 **mog404** 5/16/2025 at 12:42 PM 0


The next «game changer» Zelensky will demand – The F/A 18 sub.

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 **Arturo Toscano** 5/16/2025 at 12:21 PM 2

Emergence.... Engine failure.... Pilot error.... new names for Russian missiles shooting down Ukrainian F-16s!

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 **Sachidanandam Vivekanandan** 5/16/2025 at 12:12 PM 0

what about Russia said F-16 cannot fly as the ukrains runways have all been destroyed.!!

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 **Earthling** 5/16/2025 at 12:07 PM 0

I've said it many times before. For the F16 to operate missions successfully, Ukraine needs Tom Cruise. Ukrainian pilots struggle to herd donkeys

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 **Eileen Dover** 5/16/2025 at 11:39 AM 1

on-board emergency= plane got hit by Russian AD. LOL!

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 **Kelvin Joseph Bwalya** 5/16/2025 at 11:38 AM 2


I think it was downed by on-coming fire

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 **erik kutzer** 5/16/2025 at 11:34 AM 0

I think maybe the US trained Ukrainian & indian pilots in the same program.

[Reply](#)

 **erik kutzer** 5/16/2025 at 11:28 AM

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The first F-16 to fall out of the sky was flown by pilot Moonfish. What can I say other than, the Ukrainian pilots are doing a fine job at destroying the F-16 on their own. I'm not sure how the F-16 was ever supposed to be a game changer when Ukrainian pilots have just somehow managed to take off, but keeping the planes flying has been the issue.

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**M Malcolm Powell** 5/16/2025 at 11:28 AM

2

American rubbish. Last few weeks planes have been falling off boats and aircraft carriers running away from a fight.

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**R Ruover endy** 5/16/2025 at 11:26 AM

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It's a war, equipment gets lost, old used F-16s Ukraine got given for free. Oryx documents much of it with photo and video evidence shown for every separate piece of gear they can, although much more is probably lost without documentation. At the moment they show Russia's aircraft losses to be about 120 combat jets destroyed. The most being 38 Su-34 and 39 Su-25, with 7 of the very latest Su-35S fighter destroyed at this point. Those Su-35S are about \$75m each currently to replace from production. Half a billion dollars give or take lost in those. That's war for you.


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 **Jim Beauchamp** 5/16/2025 at 11:26 AM

-3

Remember when F-16s were a «red line»? Or HIMARS? Putin is a cuck.

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 **Joël Pichette** 5/16/2025 at 11:23 AM

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» he was later picked up by a rescue team in satisfactory condition.»

...he was later picked up by a rescue team in a military commando  
to be beaten up and spit on the face ?


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 **Artful Dodger** 5/16/2025 at 10:09 AM

4

Let's not discourage Kiev from using F-16s.


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 **Retired Troll** 5/16/2025 at 10:29 AM ↑

1

Kiev Zionist cocaine cabal should be encouraged to buy French «super» Rafale and pilots trained in India. That would be a match made in heaven.


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 **crime scene** 5/16/2025 at 11:17 AM ↑

0

Hehehehehe


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 **Castro** 5/16/2025 at 10:48 AM ↑

0

Let's just shut up!


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 **Sjaak Spoiler** 5/16/2025 at 10:14 AM

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That is still 21 Dutch F16s left, who never lost any F16 in the 45 years they had them.


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 **Abayomi** 5/16/2025 at 10:43 AM ↑

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In which battles were they used?

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 **Bob Droidsky** 5/16/2025 at 11:09 AM ↑

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