



QUESTION  
MORE



Russian troops advance on key  
Donbass town – MOD | Russia-  
Ukraine conflict

LIVE

24 Sep, 2025 15:58 / [Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

## Russian troops advance on key Donbass town – MOD

The village of Kirovsk has been liberated in a rapid strike, paving the way to the town of Krasny Liman



© Sputnik / Stanislav Krasilnikov

The Russian military has mounted a surprise attack on Ukrainian positions in the north of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), capturing the village of Kirovsk, the Defense Ministry in Moscow announced on Wednesday.

The Russian village, known in Ukraine as Zarechnoye, was turned into a major stronghold by Ukrainian forces with *“every house and basement converted into well-fortified positions,”* and the approaches to the villages densely mined, the ministry said in a statement.

Difficult terrain and Ukrainian forward positions along the Zherebets River, which covers Kirovsk from the east, further hampered the Russian advance.

### Top stories



**Trump trying to get  
under Putin's skin –  
former US diplomat**

Trump's praise of  
Ukrainian military a  
'strategic move' to entice  
talks – NYP

NATO warplane struck  
Polish home during  
'Russian' drones incident –  
media

Von der Leyen's  
communications under  
new investigation

Multiple powerful  
earthquakes rock  
Venezuela (VIDEOS)

African state's president  
loses second-term bid

The Ukrainian military gathered a sizable force in the immediate vicinity of Kirovsk, with up to 19 battalions involved in the defense of the stronghold, according to Russian estimates.

*“Units with the troops grouping ‘West’ took advantage of the element of surprise and... immediately*

*crossed the river and penetrated deep into the enemy’s defenses,”* the ministry said, adding that the Russians have already reached the western outskirts of the village.



**READ MORE:** Russian drone maker releases VIDEO of strikes on Ukrainian hardware

The troops are currently conducting search and destroy operations in the village, hunting down the remnants of Ukrainian units with the 63rd Mechanized Brigade, the ministry stated.

The liberation of Kirovsk paves the way to the town of Krasny Liman, a major logistics hub held by Ukrainian forces in the north of the DPR. The town is located around 8km west of Kirovsk. Krasny Liman was liberated by Russia early on in the conflict but was recaptured by Ukraine in late 2022.

**You can share this story on social media:**

[Donbass](#), [Russia-Ukraine conflict](#),

[Russian Defense Ministry](#), [Russian military](#)

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](mailto:feedback@rttv.ru). Please check our [commenting policy](#).

Poland weighed asylum for Nord Stream bombing suspect – media

**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 man called currency a tool of power. France called him a threat** FEATURE



**‘Shot in the foot’: Indians are outraged over Trump’s H-1B move** FEATURE

[SHOW COMMENTS](#)

25 Sep, 2025 12:26 / [Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

## Trump trying to get under Putin's skin – former US diplomat

Despite changing his rhetoric on Ukraine, the US president still wants a deal to make money with Russia, Kurt Volker has said



FILE PHOTO. US President Donald Trump. © Getty Images / Win McNamee

US President Donald Trump's description of Russia as a *"paper tiger"* is a jab at his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, not a signal of renewed support for Kiev, former US envoy Kurt Volker has said. He added that Trump remains focused on striking a deal with Moscow and making money.

After months of saying Ukraine has *"no cards to play,"* Trump shifted his rhetoric on Tuesday following a meeting with Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky at the UN General Assembly. He wrote on Truth Social that Ukraine is *"in a position to fight and win all of Ukraine back"* with European and NATO support. He also called Russia a *"paper tiger"* facing an economic crisis, saying *"this is the time for Ukraine to act."*

Volker, who served as Trump's special envoy for Ukraine during his first term, told Bloomberg that the president's remark was only an attempt *"to get under Putin's skin,"* and that he *"doesn't suggest that he's going to do*



How Ukraine became Russian FEATURE

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)

- ▶ Peacekeepers in Africa  
 0:00 / 14:16 🔊 📄 🔗
- ▶ Decolonization of the mind  
 0:00 / 13:12 🔊 📄 🔗

*anything about it.”*

He stressed that Trump still wants to reach a deal with Putin, adding that the president's statements are an attempt to shift the burden of supporting Kiev onto Western Europe.

The White House also said the administration's policy remains unchanged and called Trump's sharp rhetoric a *“negotiating tactic”* to pressure Moscow.



Moscow has dismissed Trump's *“paper tiger”*

**Read more:** Trump changes rhetoric on Ukraine conflict

comments. Kremlin

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia is a *“real bear,”* not a paper tiger, and that the economy has adapted to sanctions and continues to supply the military despite difficulties. He reiterated Moscow's openness to talks but noted that Kiev's battlefield situation is worsening and urged Ukraine to negotiate.

Zelensky hailed Trump's remarks, telling Fox News they show that America will stand with Ukraine. Ukrainian opposition MP Aleksey Goncharenko criticized Zelensky for treating Trump's words as a commitment, claiming the US president is actually disengaging. He warned that this misinterpretation could lead to new offensives costing more Ukrainian lives.

**You can share this story on social media:**

[Donald Trump](#), [Russia](#), [Russia-Ukraine conflict](#), [US](#), [Vladimir Putin](#)

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