Briefing on the Situation in the South-East of Ukraine
(05 – 10.05.2016)
May 4, 2016 - During the conference in the National Center for Defense Management the minister of Defense, General SHOIGU raised the next issues:

the formation of three new divisions (two in Western MD and one - in the Southern MD) - to counter NATO buildup on the western border of the Russian Federation (the completion of infrastructure construction for new divisions areas is scheduled for 2017);

testing the main "Soviet Union Fleet Admiral Gorshkov" frigate 22350 (six 22350 frigates by the end of 2025);

combat training on the "Soviet Union Fleet Admiral Kuznetsov" aircraft-carrying heavy cruiser. By 1 July there should have been test flights executed by the carrier-based aircrafts (after ship repair). In autumn this cruiser is planned for a long-term patrol in the Eastern Mediterranean.
The Russian Federation continues to impose international community their own approaches to shaping the international security system. According to the statement of Foreign Minister Lavrov, to normalize relations with Russia, the Western countries have to:

- refuse deployment on a permanent basis in the Baltic States, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria joined military units;
- cancel the international political and economic sanctions against Russia;
- improve attitude to Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, simplifying the process for them to obtain citizenship of the host country;
- review relations with Ukraine and to stop cooperation with Ukrainian politicians involved in the Maidan events.

The major reasons that provoked aggravation of existing security situation in the European Region Lavrov sees firstly in "approaching" of NATO to the borders of Russia, as well as the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.
Highlights in the occupied territories of Ukraine

1. Still there is a tendency of Donbass industrial facilities destruction and removal to the territory of RF. In Gorlovka town there is a "Шахта 2-бис" enterprise industrial equipment dismantling procedure started (production of mercury).

In case of termination permanent water pumping from the canned mine there is an increased risk of "Siversky Donets - Donbass“ water canal contamination and flooding the surrounding residential areas of the Gorlovka town.

2. The Russian Federation officials continue to visit Donbas and Crimea together with foreign delegations.

During 05-13.05.2016 KRYYS Roman (founder and head of public-political organization "Euro-Russia") was present in Lugansk region. 07.05.2016 took part in the anti-Ukrainian activities in the Krasnodon town.

He supports the aggressive policy of Russia and promotes unrecognized "Novorossiya" project, funded by Russian special services.
3. The Crimea suffers from economic problems leading to protest sentiment among the peninsula population. Because of insufficient medical sphere funding there is a reduction of medical staff, payment and medical facilities (during occupation allowance reduced by 30%).

4. The Russian Federation authorities seeks to ensure the stability of passenger flow to the temporarily occupied Crimea. Increased list of Russian cities (from 15 to 58) which can provide air flights discount for certain categories of Russian citizens.

5. Russian diplomatic establishments (situated in the territory of the former USSR) are ordered to promote recreation in the Crimean peninsula. Re-privatization and transfer of Crimean spa facilities.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION FRONTIER ZONE ON ARMED FORCES
COMPONENT IN A WITH UKRAINE

RF Armed Forces composition

- 34,600
  - до 257
  - до 1,102
  - до 303
  - до 461
  - до 149
  - до 4

BTG – до 16
CTG – до 8

RF AF composition on the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk (LNR/DNR)

- до 6,510
  - до 117 (+110 at storage bases)
  - до 619
  - до 145
  - до 91
  - до 66 AAC

Up to 9 BTG
6 CTG

Up to 2 BTG
1 CTG

Up to 1 BTG

Up to 2 BTG
1 CTG
ATO Area Situation

**RF AF new units arrival:**
- in **STAKHANOV** – up to 400 pax accommodated in “Donbas” hotel (19, B.Khmelnytskyi Street);
- in **KOMINTERNOVE** district (from NOVOAZOVSK) – up to a company (one is specifying its connection with 45 special forces separate brigade (KUBINKA));
- in **DONETSK** (6, R.Liuksemburgh Street) up to 38 pax (one is specifying its connection with 3 special forces separate brigade (TOLIATTI) of RF AF Central Military District.

**ATO forces electronic surveillance conduct:**
Within the border **HUSELSCHYKOVE-NOVOAZOVSK-SIEDOVE** – 3 posts of communications surveillance were deployed;
- **Donetsk** (territory of former enterprise “Topaz”) – 2 EW stations “Leer-3” from the component of the separate EW company of 1 AK;
- **NOVOAZOVSK** – EW station “Leer-3”.
- **ZAYICHEMOKO** – radio surveillance and suppression station “INFAUNA”;
Since May, 8 in order to monitor communication nets it has been used mobile radio control station “Svet-KU” (used for search, detecting, analysis, direction finding of sources of radio emission and data protection from leakage by technical channels of wireless communications) and EW station “Leer-3” from the component of the separate EW company (Donetsk) 1 AK.
**UAVs usage:**

In order to attack ATO forces objects one ordered man-held hollow charge grenades RKG-ZEM with the aim of their further dropping on the positions of our forces (designed for destroying of equipped positions and armored combat vehicles) (penetrating efficiency up to 220 mm).

In order to conduct reconnaissance one used 3 UAVs at Novoaydar, Donetsk and Mariupol` directions. Also it was observed the activation in Svitlodarsk district (in direction of NOVOLUHANSKE).
1. RF leadership continue imposing on international community own approaches regarding formation of the system of European security trying to renew its influence on former soviet countries and avoid further NATO extension to the East of the Europe.

2. RF leadership have activated international political-economical and public-outreach activities with the countries, which didn`t join international sanctions against Russia, in order to minimize the budget loss from the acting restrictions of the West.

3. RF leadership far and wide provides low intensity conflict support on the East of Ukraine with the aim of the usage of its negative consequences on political-economical situation in Ukraine and in the interest of the international legitimization of Crimean annexation.

4. Activation of local combat activities of 1AK and 2AK of “DNR/LNR” possibly will be directed at the attempts to capture separate important infrastructure objects of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (steam power plant and water-storage reservoir), that is impossible nowadays without involvement of the regular RF AF units.
Thank You for Your attention!
Situation in the ATO area as of May 9, 2016

Despite the cease-fire, the enemy continued fire influence on the ATO forces units. It was recorded that the adversary shelled 9 times from the small arms and grenade launchers. The attacks were, as follows: 1 attack – Stanytsia Luhanska (Novoaidar direction), 1 attack – Luhanske (Sloviansk direction), 4 attacks – Avdiivka, Mariinka (Donetsk direction), 2 attacks – Taramchuk (Volnovakha direction), 1 attack – Shyrokyne (Mariupol direction).

The Ukrainian side informed the representatives of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine about the presence of tanks, artillery systems with more than 100-mm and 122-mm MLRS “Hrad” in the areas of Lozove, Horlivka, Molodizhne and Donetsk.

The POL supplies in the occupied territory from the territory of the Russian Federation continue. It was noted that railway echelon with the personnel and military equipments (three tanks, eight IFVs, two 122-mm MLRS “Hrad”, six trucks, up to 100 servicemen) arrived to Khartsyzk. After unloading, they were deployed to Donetsk.

It was confirmed the location a unit of the Russian Armed Forces servicemen, the Chechen by origin, within the 100th separate motorized rifle brigade (Donetsk) of the 1st AC.

It was established a personal data of two servicemen: Renat YELMULIRZAIEV, born in 1981, and Khalid UMAROV, born in 1982.

It was noted other casualties among the personnel of the units and formations of the 1st AC (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces:

on May 7, 2016, three deceased were delivered to the First Municipal Hospital in Makiivka, and six wounded servicemen of the 1st separate Special Forces battalion (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces – to the hospital section. The commander of the 1st separate Special Forces battalion is Major of the Russian Armed Forces V.SUKUIEV (was born in 1979, in Buriatiia) who in March 2015, arrived in the temporarily occupied territories of the East of Ukraine from the position of the commander of the separate reconnaissance battalion of the 33rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Maikop) of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces.

Officer of the Russian Armed Forces SUKUIEV Vitalii Volodymyrovych
On May 8, 2016, as a result of blowing up at the own mine field, one serviceman was killed and one serviceman received wounds of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) as well as one serviceman was wounded of the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiivka) during the unsuccessful raid within sabotage-reconnaissance group.
Situation in the ATO area as of May 10, 2016

Despite the cease-fire, the enemy continued fire influence on the ATO forces units. It was recorded that the adversary shelled 15 times from the small arms, grenade launchers, ZU-23-2 antiaircraft mounts and IBVs. The attacks were, as follows: 1 attack – Novooleksandrivka (Sieversonetsk direction), 4 attacks – Troitske, Luhanske (Sloviyansk direction), 4 attacks – Avdiivka (Donetsk direction), 4 attacks – Starohnativka (Volnovakha direction), 2 attacks – Shyrokyne (Mariupol direction).

The Ukrainian side informed the representatives of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine about the presence of tanks, artillery systems with more than 100-mm, SP artillery systems and 122-mm MLRS “Hrad” in the areas of Zaichenko, Holmivskyi, Stakhanov, Luhansk and Donetsk.

The POL supplies in the occupied territory from the territory of the Russian Federation continue. It was noted the arrival of railway echelon with the diesel fuel (700 tons) to Luhansk.

It was reported other losses among the personnel of the units and formations of the 1st AC (Donetsk) and 2nd AC (Luhansk) of the Russian Armed Forces.

On May 9, 2016, three servicemen of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) and the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiivka) of the 1st AC as well as the 2nd separate motorized rifle brigade (Luhansk) of the 2nd AC, acting within sabotage-reconnaissance groups, were wounded.

In view of constant battle casualties and danger of renewal of active combat actions with the approach of so-called “summer campaign”, the number of the servicemen among the 1st AC and 2nd AC of the Russian Armed Forces, who manifests desire to return to Russia, increases. To restrain a stream of those who has desire to come back Russia, the command of the Russian occupation troops threatens to discharge “according to discredit of them” (premature breach of contract at initiative of the Command forfeiting the right to receive payments and social benefits).

On May 7, 2016, three servicemen of the 9th separate motorized rifle regiment of Marines Corps (Novoazovsk) of the 1st AC wrote reports with requests to return them to Russia. The commander of the mentioned above regiment Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces D.BONDARIEV refused to entertain requests of the personnel and triggered the transferring of “rebels” to the 5th separate motorized rifle brigade (Makiivka) of the 1st AC.

On May 8, 2016, EO of the 6th separate motorized rifle regiment (Stakhanov) of the 2nd AC of the Russian Armed Forces (in daily phone and radio exchanges uses the codename – “Bielyi”) but regiment’s command, under threat of premature breach of contract with the losing of payment and benefits, demands withdrawing his report and to wait a scheduled replacement.

Taking into consideration a low level of military discipline in the units and formations of the 1st AC of the Russian Armed Forces, there were noted cases of weapon employment against inhabitants during household conflicts because of alcohol overindulgence.
On May 9, 2016, it was observed 3 cases of weapon employment against local civilians by the servicemen of the 1st and 2nd motorized rifle battalions of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) in the settlements of Horlivka and Yenakiieve as well as the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiivka) in Donetsk. As a result, one local citizen received easy gunshot wound, two servicemen received permanent injuries, and two motor cars were damaged.

It was established other facts of destruction of the infrastructure and industrial objectives in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas, that could lead to deterioration of ecological situation in region.

On May 6, 2016, the servicemen of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC of the Russian Armed Forces began dismantling and transporting the equipments of “Mine 2-bis” of the former Mykytiv mercury plant (it hasn’t worked since 1990, nowadays it is in the regime of “dry close-down”) for scrap metal. In the case of close-down of dewatering pumps at the mentioned above object, it is possible a landslide of course water supply “Siverskyi Donets – Donbas”, that in turn, lead to stopping of drinking-water supply at the most part of Donetsk oblast, its pollution with mercury and flood of villages of Rtutnyi, Michuryne and Bessarabka neighboring to the plant.

On May 7, 2016, the servicemen of the 6th separate motorized rifle regiment (Stakhanov) of the Russian Armed Forces 2nd AC began cutting and transporting metal constructions of VAT “Teplohirsk plant of hydraulic equipment” for scrap metal.
Situation in the ATO area as of May 11, 2016

The enemy continued fire influence on the ATO forces units. It was noted that the adversary shelled 11 times from the small arms, grenade launchers, IFVs. The attacks were, as follows: 1 attack – Shechastia (Novoaidarsk direction), 1 attack – Luhanske (Sloviansk direction), 5 attacks – Avdiivka, Mariinka (Donetsk direction), 4 attacks – Taramchuk, Novotroitske, Starohnativka (Volnovakha direction).

In the area of industrial zone of Avdiivka, it was found out deployment of the units of the 1st motorized rifle battalion of the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiivka) of the 1st AC (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces at the frontline and an active involvement of the SRGs.

During twenty-four hours, the adversary carried out air reconnaissance of the forefront and the ATO forces objectives, for this purpose, three UFVs were used.

It was noted arrival of a unit of the Russian National Guards (about 70 servicemen) to Debaltseve. Above-mentioned unit is not subordinate to the commander of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 2nd AC (Luhansk) Russian Armed Forces Colonel O. BUSHUIEV and assigned for counteracting the cases of desertion by the Russian Armed Forces servicemen, in a case of resumption of warfare.

It was established the projection of the POL, weapons and military equipment from the territory of Russia to the following settlements:
- Krasnodon – 15 tracked armoured vehicles;
- Novoazovsk – 3 fuel servicing trucks.

It was found out that the 1st AC and 2nd AC are armed with up-to-date Russian military equipments’ models, as part of:
- the units of unmanned aviation of the 1st AC – “Orlan-30” UFV;
- the artillery units of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 2nd AC (Luhansk) of the Russian Armed Forces – mobile reconnaissance post PRP-4A “Arhus” (on the basis of BMP-2 (IFV)).

The Ukrainian side informed the representatives of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine about the presence of tanks, artillery systems with more than 100-mm, SP artillery systems and 122-mm MLRS “Hrad” in the areas of Karlo-Marksove, Yasynuvata, Donetsk, Poliove and Krasnoarmiisk.

Despite the efforts of the command of the 1st AC (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces, the moral and psychological condition of the Russian servicemen remains as an unsatisfactory.

Due to the anticipation of offensive employment, unwillingness to take part in the combat actions, there are observed a running off the servicemen from the 2nd motorized rifle battalion (Telmanovo) of the 1st separate motorized rifle brigade (Komsomolske). As a consequence, the manning level of the units of the 2nd motorized rifle battalion is less than 35%.

At the same time, the cases of disease on AIDS among the personnel of the 2nd motorized rifle battalion become more frequent that is influenced on fighting efficiency. During April, 2016, there was confirmed diagnosis of three servicemen.
Situation in the ATO area as of May 12, 2016

The enemy continued fire influence on the ATO forces units. It was noted that the adversary shelled 15 times from the small arms, grenade launchers and mortars. The attacks were, as follows: 1 attack – Shchastia (Novoaidarsk direction), 1 attack – Novooleksandrivka (Sieverodonetsk direction), 4 attacks – Popasna, Luhanske, Zaitseve (Sloviansk direction), 2 attacks – Avdiivka, Mariinka (Donetsk direction), 3 attacks – Berezove, Hranitne (Volnovakha direction), 4 attacks – Chermalyk, Pavlopil, Shyrokyne (Mariupol direction).

The command of the 1st AC (Donetsk) and 2nd AC (Luhansk) of the Russian Armed Forces uses a decreasing of firing intensity with the aim of maintaining the formations and units in readiness for immediate employment.

The adversary conducted rotation and strengthened the advanced units in the following directions:

- **Sieverodonetsk:** a tank platoon of the tank battalion of the 6th separate motorized rifle regiment (Stakhanov) of the 2nd AC was deployed in the direction of Pervomaisk;
- **Sloviansk:** it was conducted rotation of the units of the 3rd motorized rifle battalion of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 2nd AC in the area of Sanzharivka;
- **Volnovakha:** motorized and firing platoons of the 5th separate motorized rifle brigade (Makiivka) were deployed to Komunarivka. It is planned rotation of the units of the 1st motorized rifle battalion of the 1st separate motorized rifle brigade (Komsomolske) of the 1st AC in the areas of Petrivske and Novolaspa.

The Ukrainian side informed the representatives of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine about the presence of tanks, artillery systems with more than 100-mm, SP artillery systems and 122-mm MLRS “Hrad” in the areas of Luhansk, Makiivka, Donetsk and Krasnoarmiisk.

It was established other losses among the personnel of the units and formations of the 1st AC (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces.

On May 11, 2016, one serviceman of the 5th separate motorized rifle brigade (Makiivka) was killed and one serviceman of the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiivka), which acted as sabotage-reconnaissance groups, was wounded.

In view of the danger of renewal of high-intensity battlefields and losing of motivation to continue participation in the armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine, the servicemen of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 2nd AC of the Russian Armed Forces continue attempts to willfully leave the unit. They are trying to singly come back Russia and turn to human rights organizations for protection.

On May 11, 2016, a unit of the Russian National Guards which arrived to Debaltseve, in order to counteract the cases of desertion, it was detained two servicemen of the motorized rifle battalion of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade, who tried to singly return to Russia. During armed clash, one National Guards man was wounded and army vehicle was damaged.
It was noted other cases of ammunition supplies from the Russian Federation, which requires utilization, in view of service life termination, has defective features and partial demolition, and has a threat for personnel’s life and health. On May 11, 2016, the servicemen of the 9th separate assault motorized rifle regiment of Marine Corps (Novoazovsk) of the 1st AC of the Russian Armed Forces expressed an open indignation with other cartridges’ consignment, produced in 1970s, during the shooting, 75% of which miss fire, and tried to execute lynch law to an officer who accompanied the delivering of this cartridges’ consignment from the territory of Russia. It was established a personal data of serviceman who accompanied ammunition: Lieutenant Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces HALANOV Aiur Erdemovych (GALANOV Ayur Eredemovich). He used passport of the Russian Federation citizen 8102 401420, when he passed Russian-Ukrainian frontier in the area that are not temporarily over the control of Ukraine.

To reduce a tension among the servicemen of the 9th separate assault motorized rifle regiment of Marine Corps, the command of the 1st AC of the Russian Armed Forces gave order to destroy the consignment of defective ammunition via explosion.