

# **Dysfunctional Ukrainian Military**

By Stephen Lendman

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It operates like a slapdash Keystone cops bunch – its ranks filled with unhappy conscripts wanting no part of fighting their own people.

Corruption is rampant. Hundreds of millions of dollars disappear into the pockets of high-ranking military officials.

Ordinary Ukrainians suffer enormously from impoverishment, unemployment, skyrocketing inflation, unaffordable goods and services, and hugely repressive regime practices.

Documents obtained by Donbass military intelligence show "poor morale leads to alcohol abuse and violation of military discipline among (Ukrainian) soldiers, according to statistical data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (along with) the growth of crime committed against the civilian population."

Mass desertions continue – fed up Ukrainian soldiers going AWOL. They're underpaid, poorly fed and clothed, deplorably treated overall, and opposed to fighting their own people.

Cell phone use is banned. Soldiers can't stay in touch with families and loved ones. They're prohibited from going into cities. They can't leave Ukrainian controlled southeastern areas.

Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) intelligence believes mass desertions will follow Kiev's resumption of full-scale war.

Ukrainian soldiers aren't trained to evacuate their wounded and dead. "The command considers this training unpractical as evacuation attempts result in mounting death(s) among the personnel," a Kiev report said.

"(O)nly three percent of units passed a battle training check. Only five percent of servicemen know their spheres of action," it explained.

In late May, DPR's Defense Ministry said "(i)n certain units, military tasks will not be executed without the use of additional compulsory measures. There is a threat of entire units leaving their positions."

"(M)ost (Ukrainian) military personnel will be inactive, will not put up resistance because (they're) not properly organized...prepared" or motivated to fight.

"(I)f a command is given to begin military actions, (they'll) seek to leave the dangerous areas to save their own lives" – including officers and rank-and-file soldiers.

Desperate for recruits avoiding conscription, Kiev is practically drafting the lame, halt and

blind.

Reports indicate epileptics and tuberculosis sufferers are being conscripted. So are alcoholics, drug addicts and "morons," according to Poroshenko advisor Yuri Biryukov.

Official policy is "take all we can get. The quality is not important," he said. Volunteer battalions demonstrate a "quantitatively different level of motivation, discipline and support," he added.

They include Nazi-infested elements committing horrendous war crimes. Most Ukrainian youths want no part of fighting. Many vote with their feet and leave. Others go into hiding to avoid imprisonment for draft-dodging.

On May 29, <u>Sputnik News</u> cited volunteer Azov battalion member Serhiy Korotky saying only 10 of 400 Ukrainian generals want to wage war. Others prefer leaving.

"The whole generalship of the Ukrainian army...must be 'dragged' through a lie detector. Only 10 of them will stay, as the others want to (go to) Russia," he said.

Military budget theft is rampant, he added – from gasoline to most everything else.

In contrast, Donbass freedom fighters are highly motivated. They reject fascist rule. They want real democracy. They routed Ukrainian forces earlier. They're prepared to do it again if necessary.

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