

Ukraine: “The Americans are in Charge” of the War on the Ground

How NATO’s Defense Contractors Assisted Ukraine in War

By [Nauman Sadiq](#)

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The veteran French journalist who returned from Ukraine after arriving with volunteer fighters [told broadcaster CNews](#) that Americans were directly “in charge” of the war on the ground.

*“I had the surprise, and so did they, to discover that to be able to enter the Ukrainian army, **well it’s the Americans who are in charge,**” said Malbrunot.*

Adding that he and the volunteers “almost got arrested” by the Americans, who asserted they were in charge, the journalist then revealed that they were forced to sign a contract until the end of the war.

“And who is in charge? It’s the Americans, I saw it with my own eyes,” said the French reporter, adding, “I thought I was with the international brigades, and I found myself facing the Pentagon.”

British Special Forces

British special forces were training Ukrainian troops in Kyiv since early this month, Ukrainian commanders [told The Times](#) in mid-April. **Captain Yuriy Myronenko**, whose battalion is stationed in Obolon on the northern outskirts of Kyiv, [told the news outlet](#) that military trainers had come to instruct new and returning military recruits to use NLAWs, British-supplied anti-tank missiles that were delivered in February as the invasion was beginning.

Former British soldiers, marines and special forces commandos are also in Ukraine working as training contractors and volunteers, but the Ukrainian officers were adamant that their training this month was carried out by serving British soldiers.

“The elite SAS special forces units [a British army special forces unit] have been present in Ukraine since the start of the war, as have the American Deltas [a US special forces unit],” Georges Malbrunot, a reporter for French Le Figaro newspaper, citing a French intelligence source, [tweeted on April 9](#). The reporter spilled the secret the same day when British **Prime Minister Boris Johnson** made his surprise visit to Kyiv. The British leader was reportedly surrounded by guards from the elite SAS force.

In addition to British SAS units and United States special forces and covert CIA operatives, approximately 6,824 “foreign mercenaries” from 63 countries came to Ukraine to fight for the Zelensky government, the Russian Defense Ministry [revealed last week](#).

Of these, 1,035 have been “eliminated,” while several thousand remain. Four hundred foreign fighters are holed up in Mariupol, where ultra-nationalist forces, including the neo-Nazi fighters, have refused to surrender.

The most numerous group of foreign fighters, numbering 1,717, arrived from Poland, while around 1,500 came from the US, Canada and Romania. Up to 300 people each came from the UK and Georgia, while 193 arrived from the Turkish-controlled areas of Syria.

These figures were announced on April 17 by Defense Ministry spokesman **Major General Igor Konashenkov**. According to the general, 1,035 “foreign mercenaries” had been killed by Russian forces and 912 fled Ukraine, leaving 4,877 active in the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Nikolaev and Mariupol.

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