

HOW THE SKY SHAPES THE GROUND

Persistent drone coverage can make even short movements extremely slow. In one recently examined sector:

10 km

2 to 3 days on foot

2+ months

commonly in position, including when wounded

GROUND-DRONE EVACUATIONS

Used for an increasing number of casualties each month

Drone reconnaissance, FPV attacks, artillery observation, and thermal cameras repeatedly exposed the routes into and out of these positions.

WHAT "FAVORABLE WEATHER" MEANS

For soldiers on the ground, "favorable weather" often means poor flying conditions for small drones. Fog, heavy rain, low cloud cover, or strong winds can reduce visibility, flight stability, and target identification.

These conditions can permit faster foot movement and limited vehicle use.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SHOE LEATHER

22,000+

ground robots contracted for 2026

16,600+

logistics and evacuation missions in June

+122%

increase from January

Ukraine contracted nearly twice as many ground robotic systems for 2026 as during all of 2025. Ground robots carry supplies and evacuate casualties.

Artificial intelligence supports sensor analysis and navigation. Fiber-optic drones can operate where radio-frequency interference disrupts conventional control links.

Even with these advances, moving resources and supplies to frontline positions is becoming more difficult. Aid arriving in Ukraine must still cross the drone-observed final miles before reaching the soldiers who need it.

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND FIELDING

30,000

new personnel entering each month

~ HALF

estimated monthly training-and-fielding capacity

Field reporting indicates a growing backlog within the training pipeline.

TACTICAL EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINMENT

1:7

FRIENDLY : ENEMY
FATALITIES

REPORTED RATIO

What was reported

One Ukrainian regiment reported about seven Russian personnel killed for every Ukrainian service member killed.

What it means for sustainment

This reflects strong local tactical efficiency but does not guarantee sustainability. A larger force can absorb greater losses while maintaining pressure. A smaller force must replace each trained casualty through a narrower recruitment, training, and integration pipeline.

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