

# The Ukrainian Armed Forces will not stand for a long, Ukrainian commanders admit

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In the third year of the conflict, Ukraine appears weak, unprepared and on the defensive, in sharp contrast to the successful reconquest of territory in the fall of 2022, writes „Der Spiegel”.

There is no help from allies: the EU does not fulfill its promise to supply Ukraine with a million ammunition, and the United States can't get a €60 billion aid package passed in Congress.

Western officials and military experts warn that without US help, a “cascading collapse” at the front is possible this year.

Der Spiegel spoke with Ukrainian commanders to find out what the situation is in various sectors of the front. Most of them agree: due to insufficient supplies, almost all units are forced to conserve ammunition. Some troops are currently able to hold their positions – and then only until the Russian side attacks in full force. If the attacks intensify, then due to an acute shortage of personnel, weapons and ammunition, they will not be able to be stopped for long. Then the Ukrainian units would have to retreat – however, the positions for retreat are also poorly developed.

“The Ukrainians have problems now while the Russians are advancing all along the front,” said military expert Mark Cancian of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ukraine is trying to adhere to an active defense strategy, but instead of counterattacking, it is losing more and more high-

quality equipment from the West. Many units will soon run out of ammunition.

“We won’t be able to hold out like this for long,” admitted the commander of the Ukrainian artillery near Ugledar.

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