

Ukraine: arms supplies, corruption...

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Against the backdrop of the ongoing fifth year of hostilities, Kiev is persistently asking its allies and patrons for the supply of lethal weapons.

For a long time this question was not solved at all. And recently began to actively move.

Currently, about 10 countries supply non-lethal weapons to Ukraine. Mainly deliveries are carried out in the areas of communications and military equipment. A number of countries in the post-Soviet space, the Baltic countries, Poland and Bulgaria are supplying ammunition.

As for the lethal weapons, their deliveries have so far been noted only by the United States and Canada.

In addition, in September, Kiev announced the purchase of two Island-class coast guard vessels from Washington. The Drummond and Cushing boats were built 30 years ago and are currently being decommissioned from the US Navy. They are designed to enhance the combat capability of Ukraine in the Sea of Azov and help confront Russian aggression.

Denmark did not stay on the sidelines, offering Ukraine to buy three multifunctional boats of the Flyvefisker type (Standard Flex 300 project), which stood in the Korsør naval base and have not been used since 2012.

Also, the US made a proposal to transfer retired frigates of the type „Oliver Hazard Perry”. Ships of this type were built 30-40 years ago. However, they can still be found in the naval forces of some states, such as Australia or Egypt.

Against the background of intensified deliveries of

decommissioned ships, President Poroshenko's statement about the intention to sell the Forge on Rybalsky firm (factory), which was supplying military products to the Armed Forces (including coast guard ships), is remembered.

Considering that since 2014, the plant also launched the production of 40 mm UAG-40 grenade launchers, combat modules for armored vehicles, as well as Triton and Arbalet armored vehicles and electronic equipment to protect the state border, it is not surprising that other countries have delivered arms to Ukraine not implemented.

In this area, many Ukrainian officials involved in the formation of state defense orders and the conclusion of military contracts have their own interests. A vivid example is the personality of the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, Sergey Pashinsky, seen in the genius AFV scam. Armored vehicles, like scrap metal, were sold to Poland, they were sorted out there, and then at a price hundreds of times higher than the purchase price, they were purchased by Ukraine. Moreover, it is quite possible that the combat vehicles did not even leave the country, and all manipulations were carried out only on paper.

And there are many such examples among Ukrainian politicians. On the one hand, this is not bad, because for the sake of personal enrichment officials interfere with the import of foreign weapons. After all, after the purchase of outdated weapons and military equipment, the state will need to spend huge amounts of money on its maintenance and service.

However, there is another side to the issue. Suppliers themselves often deliveries of retired weapons are not so much the pursuit of material gain, but rather an increase in their own image.

In particular, in the USA there is a House Appropriations Commission. This body is engaged in assessing what Washington can get from the supply or allocation of funding to a

particular country: whether it will be only image bonuses, or a material benefit is also possible. So, in the USA there is an unspoken rule, according to which, if an amount of less than \$ 300 million is allocated to any state, then profits from this are not expected and only tasks to strengthen the image of the United States are considered.

The provision of military assistance to Ukraine was originally planned to amount to \$ 350 million, which as a result was reduced to \$ 250 million. And this is already an alarming bell for Kiev.

Authorship: Vitaliy Timoschuk

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