



**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION POLICY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE**

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№ 4

**Operational summary of the situation in Crimea
(04 March 2014, 19:00)**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF UKRAINE

11.30 The cruiser "Moskva" has blocked the sea lane in Novoozerne, stopping Ukrainian ships from sailing out. According to residents of Novoozerne, Russian soldiers are buying up Ukrainian field camouflage uniforms.

11.40 According to the Regional Media Center of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine in Simferopol, most foreign journalists working in Crimea are accredited in the Russian Federation and have arrived with Russian translators. There have already been instances where interpreters have distorted information provided by residents of Crimea and the Ukrainian military and commented their own version of events.

In addition, when foreign journalists have been travelling to the scene of events taking place, they have been "intercepted" by what they believe were representatives of the Russian special services and offered help in gathering information and advised not to ask Ukrainian soldiers to make any comments.

STATE BORDER SERVICE OF UKRAINE

1. The actual state of affairs at military facilities of the State Border Service of Ukraine where armed unknown persons are located

There **continue** to be provocative military pressure applied by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation at posts of the **State Border Service of Ukraine** which they have occupied, in particular:

Azov-Black Sea Regional Administration

In the occupied district administrative building there continue to be some 50 armed soldiers of the Russian Federation in special outfits. They are regulating admission of people into the building.

Simferopol Border Detachment

There are around 30 Russian soldiers in special outfits at the captured detachment headquarters.

Kerch Maritime Security Detachment

On the territory of the detachment there continue to be 37 soldiers of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, who are posted at the sentry post and the headquarters building, but are not blocking entry. The detachment's military staff is able to enter at will. The commander of the Kerch Maritime Security Detachment, together with most of his personnel is in the Berdiansk border detachment, to where he has sailed 11 naval vessels (2 ships, 9 Maritime Security launches). Currently he has organized protection of the sea border along the Azov Sea and the approaches to the Kerch Strait.

Sevastopol Naval Defence Unit

Fifty armed men are constantly in occupation here; they arrived in two cars and the present time are to be found on the detachment territory and in its offices.

This information has been entered into the Unified Register for Pre-trial Investigation and the necessary materials have been provided to military prosecutors to initiate criminal charges of armed seizure of the above-listed units.

The "Kerch" Border Guard Service Department

Twenty armed men in military fatigues are stationed here continually.

"Sevastopol-Air" Checkpoint

Forty armed men in military fatigues are stationed here continually.

"Crimea – Ferry" Checkpoint

From the Ukrainian mainland side the border crossing is being blocked by a group of Russian troops, up to 100 men in armoured vehicles. Up to 35 armed soldiers have entered the checkpoint itself.

At some of these locations the soldiers periodically conduct partial rotations and replacement of personnel. At the same time the Kerch Strait remains blocked –in the south by the Small Anti-Ship Vessel "Povorino", and in the north – Trawler 426 № 455.

2. Analysis of crossing operations at checkpoints across the state border of Ukraine.

According to an analysis made between 27 February and 3 March, 2014, of numbers of people crossing checkpoints of the state border of Ukraine under Eastern Regional Control, there was no increase in numbers of persons or vehicles leaving Ukraine. This is contrary to reports issued by the media of the Russian Federation, stating that there is a mass exodus out of Ukraine.

Sample for a week last year (2013)

Date	Numbers Entering	Numbers Leaving
03.03.13	32923	32044
02.03.13	28721	26613
01.03.13	26320	27989
28.02.13	24005	26362
27.02.13	22952	30280
26.02.13	24036	28116
Total for Week	158 957	171 404

Numbers for period prior to invasion of Crimea by Russian troops

Date	Numbers Entering	Numbers Leaving
21.02.14	24788	26319
22.02.14	27261	28723
23.02.14	28668	28073
24.02.14	20873	22771
25.02.14	20320	24877
26.02.14	24307	25534
Total for Week	146 217	156 137

Numbers for period while Russian troops are in Crimea

Date	Numbers Entering	Numbers Leaving
27.02.14	24307	22681
28.02.14	22839	23388
01.03.14	27672	27239
02.03.14	25726	26620
03.03.14	21092	22214
Total for Week	121 636	122 142

Additional: on weekends and holidays there is a slight increase in the numbers of people and vehicles crossing the border.