

Opposed Expeditionary Operations in the Russo-Ukraine War

Takeaways from the War in Ukraine
Expeditionary Operations
NIDA Expeditionary Warfare Conference
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Russian Expeditionary Operations in the Ukraine Invasion 2022-2023.



- Russia started the conflict with 12 medium amphibious warships
- One *Ivan Gren*, three *Alligator*, and eight *Ropucha* type vessels
- Potential for several thousand troops and hundreds of vehicles "from the sea." Or at least three battalions?



No Major Russian Expeditionary operations Why?

- Failure of sequencing operational movements elsewhere in theater.
- Not enough amphibious lift for desired operations.
- Lack of sea control/air superiority over the landing zone.
- Readiness and maintenance issues.
- Lack of trained forces (despite ZAPAD series)
- Or, a combination of these?
- Effect: Lack of an additional Russian pincer or front at the start of the war, or assistance in conquering cities like Odessa?



What have Russian Amphibious Ships Accomplished during the Ukraine War?

- Small scale landings
 - Mariupol, Snake island.
- Movement of supplies along the Black Sea littoral.
- Mix of beach types



Photos courtesy USNI and Japan Times



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Implications for U.S. Defense Strategy (in other places like the Indo-Pacific)



- How does the Russian experience inform the Indo-Pacific expeditionary warfare situation?
- Can any nation stage a "6 June 1944" level of effort without previous combat experience?
- How "ready" is the PRC to conduct expeditionary operations?



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