

## U.S. Approves \$322 Million Arms Package for Ukraine, Adding Bradley's and Hawks

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The United States has approved a \$322 million arms package for Ukraine, delivering a fresh injection of military aid as the war with Russia drags on. The deal includes Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) and Hawk surface-to-air missile systems, key assets intended to reinforce Ukraine's defensive capabilities and vehicle sustainment under battlefield pressure.

The U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) notified Congress of the proposed sale, which still requires legislative approval. According to the DSCA, the Bradleys will support Ukraine's need to sustain and maintain U.S.-provided equipment at high operational rates. The Hawk missile systems, meanwhile, are expected to bolster Ukraine's mid-range air defense capabilities, closing existing gaps and complementing other systems like the IRIS-T and S-300.

This military support comes amid mounting challenges for Kyiv. Recent Russian airstrikes damaged key infrastructure in Odesa, including its historic market. In response, Ukrainian drones struck targets inside Russian territory, including areas near Sochi and Adler. Both sides have reported civilian casualties in the wake of the latest wave of attacks.

Domestically, Ukraine faces its own political turbulence. Mass protests erupted following President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's decision to limit the autonomy of key anti-corruption agencies. Responding to the backlash, Zelenskyy has since promised to introduce legislation to preserve the independence of these institutions. Observers have pointed out that while the protests are critical of the government, they do not reflect an anti-war sentiment, rather, they highlight Russia's efforts to exploit internal unrest in Ukraine.

Strategically, the U.S. arms deal signals a firm commitment to Ukraine's long-term security. The Bradley vehicles will enhance mobility and firepower for frontline infantry units, allowing Ukrainian forces to operate more effectively in contested areas like Donbas. The Hawk missile systems, capable of intercepting mid-range aerial threats, provide Ukraine with additional layers of defense against Russia's continued use of airpower and drones.

More than just a tactical upgrade, the arms sale reflects Washington's broader intent to back Ukraine through both military and political means. By reinforcing Ukraine's defense posture and supporting democratic accountability, the United States is reaffirming its strategic interest in countering Russian aggression and stabilizing Eastern Europe.

As Congress reviews the package, its likely approval would further cement the U.S.–Ukraine defense relationship at a critical juncture in the conflict, combining combat support with a message of enduring alliance and shared democratic values.