

Ukrainian forces planning Crimea withdrawal

Ukraine is drawing up plans to withdraw thousands of its soldiers and sailors from military bases in Crimea surrounded by heavily-armed Russian forces and pro-Russia militia



TIMELINE OF RUSSIA'S MILITARY TAKEOVER OF CRIMEA

Feb 27-28: Pro-Moscow gunmen seize government buildings and airport in Crimean capital, Simferopol. Belbek military airport captured

Mar 1: Russia's upper house of parliament approves request by President **Vladimir Putin** to use military force in Ukraine. Armed men in unmarked uniforms begin surrounding and taking control of Ukrainian military bases in Crimea. Balaklava coast guard base blockaded and captured

Mar 2: Kerch ferry terminal seized by pro-Russian forces. Ten Ukrainian navy vessels manage to escape Sevastopol for Odessa

Mar 6: Russian Black Sea Fleet blockades seven Ukrainian warships at Novoozerne naval base

Mar 9: Airfields at Novofedorivka and Dzhankoy seized

Mar 10: Russian forces capture motorized infantry battalion at Bakhchisaray and missile base at Chornomorskoye

Mar 18: Ukrainian officer killed in Russian assault on army cartographic unit in Simferopol

Mar 19: Pro-Russian forces take Ukraine's naval headquarters in Sevastopol. Bakhchisaray naval transport facility captured