

ICBUW NEWSLETTER - SPECIAL EDITION

Dear members and friends of ICBUW, dear colleagues,

This is a special issue of our newsletter in which we want to provide an update on our work.

ICBUW has been closely monitoring the reports about the use or deployment of military equipment with depleted uranium components or ammunition (see for instance our articles [here](#) and [here](#)). During our continued research work we could certainly observe a (further) decline of rational discourse (a fairly recent example: untrue [allegations](#) that MILAN and Javeline use DU components) in relation to the depleted uranium issue. In this overview, a kind of factual update, we aim to provide information on weapon systems/military equipment which is either already in use in Ukraine or the delivery of which is either discussed or confirmed.

Kind regards,
ICBUW Team



STOP THE WAR IN UKRAINE!



Please note: This overview is focused on military vehicles, which are either already in use or for which delivery is planned and their **potential** ammunition. Tanks usually rely on multiple ammunition types. The fact that certain ammunition is listed here is also **not a confirmation of use or delivery**,

unless explicitly stated otherwise!

Military Equipment	Ammunition	Commentary
<p>T-90 (Russia)</p> <p>T-72BZ (Russia)</p> <p>T-80BVM (Russia)</p>	<p>3BM-32 "Vant" (DU)</p> <p>3BM-60 „Svinets 2” (DU)</p> <p>3BM-59 „Svinets” (DU)</p>	<p>The use of depleted uranium ammunition by the Russian armed forces was confirmed by GICHD (Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining). 3BM-32 "Vant" ammunition was found on the ground in Ukraine.</p> <p>As Russian Tanks in question use the same ammunition, it is not possible to identify which ones are using DU ammunition. All three types of tanks mentioned here were seen in use in Ukraine. It must be noted, that all of the tanks also have another ammunition types, which do not include depleted uranium components.</p>
<p>Challenger 2 (UK)</p>	<p>L23A1 (tungsten-nickel-copper)</p> <p>L23A2 (tungsten-nickel-copper)</p> <p>L31A7 (HESH)</p> <p>CHARM 1 (DU)</p> <p>CHARM 3 (DU)</p>	<p>UK has confirmed sending Challenger 2 to Ukraine.</p> <p>Challenger 2 tanks can also be equipped with L28A1 and L28A2 (both produced for export and without DU components).</p>

<p>Bradley Fighting Vehicle (US)</p>	<p>M919 sub-caliber 25mm rounds (DU)</p>	<p>Bradley will be <u>delivered</u> to Ukraine within few weeks. US Senior administration official has <u>neither confirmed nor denied</u> the delivery of DU rounds.</p> <p>Bradleys are using M242 Bushmaster chain gun and can fire a wide range of ammunition (including NATO equivalents). General Dynamics Website <u>does not provide</u> any information on M919 DU rounds probably due to the ongoing demilitarization and disposal programme, but certain amount of such ammunition is likely still stockpiled in the arsenals.</p>
<p>M1 Abrams (US)</p>	<p>DU is used as one layer in the armor for the tanks manufactured after 1988.</p> <p>M829 APFSDS-T (DU rounds)</p>	<p>According to Politico, the US <u>will not send</u> tanks with depleted uranium armor to Ukraine. There is no information in relation to the ammunition.</p>
<p>Marder (Germany)</p>	<p>No DU rounds</p> <p>MILAN Missiles (thorium)</p>	<p>Marder are equipped with 20mm Rheinmetall MK20 Rh 202 automatic cannon. There are no DU rounds in its usual arsenal.</p> <p>MILAN missiles are used as secondary equipment, which</p>

		also do not have DU components, however, contain small amounts of thorium.
Leopard 2 (Germany)	DM63/53 (tungsten-based) M829A1 (DU)	<p>Leopard 2 have 120mm smoothbore tank guns. Due to NATO ammunition compatibility, M829A1 rounds could potentially be used with some modifications of the gun.</p> <p>However, Leopards mostly rely on the DM63/53 ammunition, which is also produced by Rheinmetall and uses tungsten instead of DU. Use of depleted uranium ammunition was subject to a political discussion in Germany in 2015 and it was decided against DU- and in favor of tungsten-based ammunition.</p>
Leopard 1 (Germany)	M774 105mm (DU)	<p>Leopard 1 tanks are using British-made Royal Ordnance L7 105mm gun in a L7A3 variation, manufactured specifically to fit the size of the tank. American M60 tanks rely on another variation of L7 and in order to improve its performance, M774 105mm ammunition with depleted uranium sabot was developed.</p> <p>There are multiple alternatives to DU ammunition and it is impossible to say what ammunition type will be</p>

		shipped to Ukraine.
AMX-10 RC (France)	No DU rounds	AMX-10 RC use 105mm F2 BK MECA L/47 guns, France does not produce 105mm DU ammunition.

This overview would also be incomplete without (again) addressing the concerns about Javelin Missile Systems containing depleted uranium, which still surface from time to time in various articles and reports. Javelin neither has nor requires depleted uranium components in order to be effective, as it employs a so-called "top-attack" strategy, striking the tank where the armor is the thinnest (for more information see e.g. [this paper](#)). NLAW have a similar operation strategy and also do not require armor-piercing components such as a DU sabot.

ICBUW has started to work on the "[Ukraine Project](#)" stays in touch with Ukrainian NGOs and international experts and regularly exchanges data and planned activities. We examine news reports, photos from the grounds and information on arms deliveries.

Investigating various reports and articles requires a significant amount of fact-checking, including the dismantling of fake news patterns. We invite anyone who is willing to contribute to this overview to contact us at info@icbuw.eu with information, hints and corrections. So we will continue our work on the DU issue in a balanced and critical way, for the sake of protecting the environment in this horrible war.

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