

Location: Donbass

Four Ukrainian marines were shot dead by their fellow servicemen on the Ukrainian-held territory in Donbass. It was alleged that prior murder the naval infantry troops were heavily drunk. The press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) which has been waged by Ukraine since 2014 reported the incident.

According to the press centre of the ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation) headquarters, Ukrainian naval infantry troops have shot dead their comrades on the territory of Donetsk region controlled by Ukraine.

“Representatives of the military law enforcing service of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the National Police of Ukraine are investigating the motives and details of the death of servicemen of a naval infantry brigade. According to preliminary information, the bodies of the marines were found in the home in which they temporarily lived. Criminal proceedings have been initiated within the framework of the investigation.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian media outlet LB.ua [reported](#) that as per their source the crime which followed in the death of four Ukrainian marines took place in their military unit A-2802 stationed in a former resort of the village of Berdyansk, Donetsk Region. The soldiers were killed by two of their fellow servicemen with Kalashnikov assault rifles.

For its part, Ukrainian private news channel 112 Ukraine [revealed](#) the two culprits had been arrested, [citing](#) Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine. According to Lysenko, the tragedy took place near the village of Shirokino. The media outlet specified that the marines had been drinking, after which the shooting began.

The ATO operation aimed at cracking down on the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Lugansk was launched by Kiev by the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) in April 2014, following the February 2014 coup in Ukraine also known as the Euromaidan Revolution.

Both Ukrainian military personnel and ultra-right volunteer battalions have taken part in the operation with Western instructors and advisers spotted in the region. Commenting on the reported arrival of US military instructors in in eastern Ukraine's Donbass region, Russian

military expert Viktor Baranets described it as a [direct interference in the Ukrainian conflict](#) by the White House.

In December 2017 it was reported that the State Department approved [the delivery of lethal weapons to Ukraine](#) including anti-tank Javelin missiles.

On January 10, 2018 US Department of Defense spokesman Johnny Michael [told Sputnik](#) that “there [were] no plans for either FMS [foreign military sales] or transfers of TOW [anti-tank weapons] to Ukraine.”

Moscow has repeatedly warned the US against providing Kiev with more lethal weapons adding that Washington was acting not as a broker in the Ukrainian conflict, but as an “accomplice in fueling war.”

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