# Drone Attacks and Tensions Between Russia and Ukraine Rise



### Drone Attacks Escalate Tensions Between Russia and Ukraine

**Overview:**
Several drone and missile attacks between Russia and Ukraine have intensified hostilities, leading to significant infrastructural damage and heightened diplomatic confrontations.

**Events in Russia:**
On Wednesday, Russia reported that Ukrainian drones targeted military sites in the Smolensk region. The Russian defense ministry stated they intercepted two Ukrainian aerial drones over the region. Vasily Anokhin, the Smolensk regional governor, noted on Telegram that the attacks occurred in the Vyazemsky district, with no casualties or damage reported.

Additionally, Ukrainian drones recently destroyed two ammunition depots in Russia's Voronezh region, causing massive fires and explosions. Similar attacks obliterated an army base in Moshenoye, Belgorod region, with the regional governor declaring a state of emergency.

**Events in Ukraine:**
Overnight on Tuesday, a Russian aerial attack with a ballistic missile damaged an administrative building in an industrial site in Odesa, Southern Ukraine. Oleh Kiper, Odesa's regional governor, confirmed via Telegram that no casualties resulted from the strike.

**US-Russia Tensions:**
Amid these escalations, the US and Russian defense chiefs held a rare phone call on Tuesday. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin emphasized the importance of communication amid the ongoing war. In his first conversation with Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, Belousov highlighted the dangers of further escalation due to continued US arms supplies to Ukraine.

This call followed Russia's summoning of the US ambassador over alleged use of US-supplied ATACMS missiles in an attack on Crimea, claiming it led to four deaths. On Monday, Pentagon press secretary Major General Pat Ryder reaffirmed that Ukraine independently decides its operations and targeting.

**Black Sea Incident:**
A notable incident in the Black Sea involved a Russian MiG-31 intercepting a US Global Hawk surveillance drone, forcing it to return to its base in Italy. The Russian side suggested the drone had been involved in coordinating a missile strike on Sevastopol, linked to prior tensions where an MQ-9 Reaper drone was downed by a Russian Su-27 in March.

**Conclusion:**
These events represent a critical escalation in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, with both military confrontations and diplomatic tensions escalating, drawing in significant international involvement.