# Russia Bolsters Kerch Bridge Defenses Amid Continued Ukrainian Drone Threats



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Russia has intensified its efforts to protect the strategic Kerch Bridge connecting it to Crimea from Ukrainian naval drone attacks. Recent satellite images reveal that Russia has implemented additional defensive measures, including the placement of barges and floating boom defenses.

In early May, the British defense ministry reported that Russia had started placing barges as barriers on the southern side of the 12-mile-long bridge. By June 8, satellite imagery showed that the defenses had increased to include numerous barges and floating booms. These measures aim to restrict the approach angles for Ukrainian unmanned surface vehicles.

Despite these defenses, Ukraine, known for its innovative naval drone programs, continues to adapt. Previous attacks on the bridge and other targets around the Black Sea and Crimea have demonstrated the effectiveness of Ukraine’s evolving strategies. Dmytro Pletenchuk, a Ukrainian navy spokesperson, commented that the bridge’s significance has diminished, as Russia relies less on it for its war efforts, turning instead to ferry crossings.

The Kerch Bridge, a symbol of Russia’s control over Crimea, has been a frequent target of Ukrainian attacks. According to Brady Africk from the American Enterprise Institute, Russia's recent layered defensive measures, though cost-effective, may not guarantee the bridge's safety against the adaptive Ukrainian naval drones, which have been upgraded to include larger warheads and extended ranges.

While these defenses complicate Ukraine’s operations, they are not insurmountable barriers, reflecting Moscow's strategy to compensate for their quality of defenses with quantity.

**Title: Ukrainian Drone Strike Hits Ammunition Depot in Russia's Voronezh Region**

On June 25, Ukrainian forces attacked an ammunition depot in Russia’s Voronezh region using drones, causing significant damage. Satellite images captured by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) show two pockets of fire at the depot located in the Olkhovatsky district, about 70 kilometers from Ukraine’s Luhansk Oblast.

The Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate (HUR) claimed responsibility for the strike, releasing a video showing plumes of smoke rising from the site, with the blaze reported to cover approximately 3,500 square meters. Voronezh Governor Alexander Gusev declared a state of emergency to address the detonation's aftermath, confirming no casualties.

Ukrainian forces frequently target Russian military infrastructure and industrial facilities through drone strikes and sabotage operations. This incident follows a recent drone strike on a Russian base for Shahed drones in Krasnodar Krai, highlighting the ongoing conflict's intensity.