

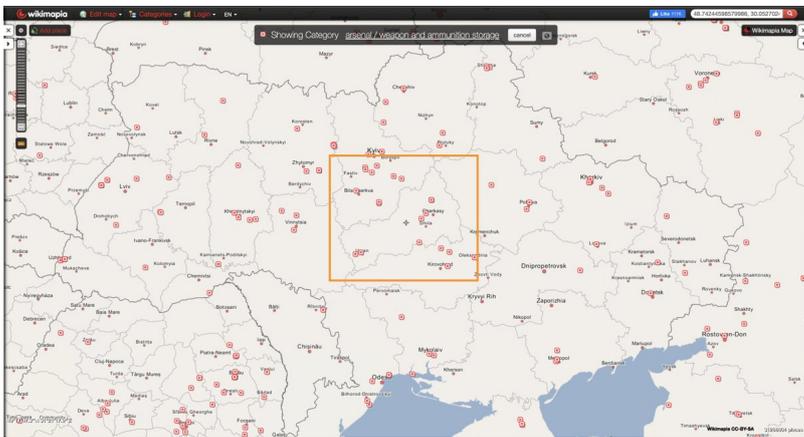


**Christiaan Triebert** @trbrtc Sun Feb 27 22:18:26 +0000 2022

This video of a huge explosion in (allegedly) Ukraine is making the rounds. When mis/disinformation during war is rife, verification is key. Here's how online investigators quickly established the where, when, and what of the video: <https://t.co/IUhzkwKu9W>

First, the where: determining the exact filming location, otherwise known as geolocation. The initial uploads of the video on Telegram and Twitter suggested this happened in the Cherkasy Oblast, so that's a good first place to start looking.

That's exactly what [@john\\_marquee](#) did. Given that the explosion appears so large, he toggled on the “ammunition storage” filter, resulting in only six tagged locations in the Cherkasy Oblast. <https://t.co/X0So5k7QIs>



In the area around the second Wikimapia-tagged ammunition depot he looked at, he found a match: the junction, the trees, even the shape of an apparent bus stop lit up by the explosion. <https://t.co/IZZe5dbYoB>

Now that the exact location of the videographer is known, the approximate location on of the explosion can be established as well. And that is one of those locations tagged as a “ammunitions depot” on Wikimapia. <https://t.co/EiTbwDK7QH>

A location specifically labelled as “222nd Central Artillery Ammunition Base” on Wikimapia. <https://t.co/ZulxAguDtw>

But, similar to Wikipedia, Wikimapia is based on user input — the labels are not necessarily factual (but often are). [@Rebel44CZ](#) did some corroboration and found a news article that mentions a 222nd Central Artillery Ammunition Base in the Cherkasy Oblast. <https://t.co/zDeXyd3z31> <https://t.co/lBHsns300c>

In the course of the exercise, spec-op troops managed to gain unhindered access to all sites on their task list. That is, in the event of an actual subversive act, the sites would have been destroyed by similar enemy teams, [Censor.NET](#) Chief Editor Yuri Butusov wrote in an article for ZN.UA, according to [UNIAN](#).

The journalist says the efforts to enhance security measures at ammo storage sites remain insufficient. Today, there is a sabotage threat to the three remaining strategic arsenals: the 47th Arsenal of the Ground Forces Command, (the Khmelnytskyi region), the 222nd Central Artillery Ammunition Base (the Cherkasy region), and the 1322nd Artillery Ammunition Base, the expert notes.

One of the groups participating in the exercises secured unhindered access to one of the ammunition storage facilities in central Ukraine in broad daylight, being unnoticed by security, Butusov wrote and attached a picture the commandoes took at the arms depot to prove that their conditional subversive attack was successful.

With the where (48.7421, 30.1018) and what (likely an exploding ammo depot) known, [@AuroraIntel](#) wanted to know the when too — because why would so many cars still be out if there would be a curfew, they thought? They turned to satellite imagery to answer the when question.

And satellite imagery, courtesy of [@sentinel\\_hub](#), shows that something — likely an explosion — happened between Feb. 21 and Feb. 26. Satellite imagery is not collected every day, and sometimes it's cloudy too, hence a time period and not an exact day. <https://t.co/RiaehkStf9> <https://t.co/ui2zGZ1dVg>



But besides optical data, some satellites can collect other information too, like thermal anomalies. NASA's active-fire data picked up a big hot spot at the ammo depot in question on Feb. 24 — the day Russia invaded Ukraine. <https://t.co/gybS1nTU7F>

In words of my satellite-savvy colleague [@ckoettl](#), “Active-fire data doesn't provide the cause of a fire, so one must exercise caution in interpreting it, especially when researching violence.” In other words: we can't say anything about why it happened, or how.

Oleksandr Skichko, the governor of Cherkasy Oblast, said on Facebook that the video is a fake. While it shows it may not have happened today but on Feb. 24, all the info outlined above strongly suggests a big explosion did happen in the Cherkasy Oblast. <https://t.co/43uF8XYabR>

 **Олександр Скічко** ✓  
1h · 🌐

!!! RESPECT !!!  
This video is NOT Cherkasy.  
Don't spread the FAKE !

⚙️ · See original · Rate this translation



0:08 / 0:22

484 43 comments 278 shares

Good question. Tweet mentioned “Cherkasy” so I searched for that in Cyrillic (Черкаси) on Telegram, where videos are often uploaded before they end up on Twitter. <https://t.co/wXf7TM0Tzk>

There's roughly 10 seconds between seeing the explosion and hearing it. That bit of information is also useful for corroboration, as you can calculate the distance between the videographer and the explosion (and it matches). <https://t.co/DhRLxq2zip>

And, one would almost forget while looking for visual clues.. check local media! (Important reminder by [@ProstoGavrylo](#)). Local media, like [@segodnya\\_life](#), reported on the huge explosion already back when it happened on Feb. 24. <https://t.co/mCnTnsyKos> <https://t.co/xrY5BuEnCM> <https://t.co/biRY8uTSSL>



Наслідки обстрілів. Фото: "Сьогодні"

## На Черкащині масово евакуюють людей через обстріли, багато поранених (фото)

[Читати на русском](#) Змінити розмір [A+](#) / [a-](#)

24 лютого, 15:52

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Сталася повітряна атака військової частини та складів біля села Розсішки



На Черкащині вдарили по мирних жителях. / Фото: Колаж: Сьогодні

(Someone else mentioned a local media report yesterday to in the comments, but can't find it back. Thanks anyway! Another good reason to always support local media, anywhere in the world.. they usually know it first.)

Another satellite data source to corroborate the Feb. 24 ammo depot explosion: Sentinel-2's short-wave infrared (SWIR) band appears to have captured it too. Striking image. Thanks [@WED\\_explorer](#) and [@kosmi64833127](#) for flagging and processing. <https://t.co/LToc7FOxOi> <https://t.co/wQCngxANSk>



GIF of the above. <https://t.co/sWb8qfyghK>