

# Canadian Special Forces Don't Deny New York Times Report that Commandos Are in Ukraine

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Global Research, June 29, 2022

[Ottawa Citizen](#) 27 June 2022

Region: [Canada](#), [Europe](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

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*The Times reported Saturday that Canadian special forces personnel were in Ukraine as part of a NATO network to provide weapons and training as well as gather intelligence about the Russians.*

*Canadian Special Operations Forces Command won't deny the U.S. report. Canadian defence sources told this newspaper the New York Times report is accurate.*

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Canadian special forces had been in and out of Ukraine for various missions. In September 2020, the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command publicly acknowledged its personnel were in Ukraine conducting training but provided no other details.

The Liberal government is strongly supportive of Ukraine. It is still in discussions with South Korea to purchase 100,000 artillery shells for Ukraine in a deal that could cost Canadian taxpayers several hundred million dollars. Retired chief of the defence staff Gen. Rick Hillier has called on the Canadian military to give up about half its armoured vehicles and all of its remaining artillery to Ukraine as part of Canada's efforts to arm that nation.

NATO nations have been sending large amounts of weapons to Ukraine since the Feb. 24 invasion. Some NATO officials view the war as an opportunity to either force regime change in Russia or seriously weaken that country militarily.

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*Featured image: A 2019 file photo of the downtown Ottawa headquarters of the Department of National Defence on Colonel By Drive. PHOTO BY ASHLEY FRASER /Postmedia*

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