# US announces $5.9B in Ukraine assistance

**Steve Holland and Andrea Shalal** REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The United States on Monday announced nearly $6 billion in additional military and budget assistance for Ukraine as President Joe Biden uses his final weeks in office to surge aid to Kyiv before President-elect Donald Trump takes power.

Biden announced $2.5 billion in additional security assistance for Ukraine.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States has made available $3.4 billion in additional budget aid to Ukraine, giving the war-torn country critical resources amid intensifying Russian attacks on Ukrainian civilians and infrastructure.

"At my direction, the United States will continue to work relentlessly to strengthen Ukraine's position in this war over the remainder of my time in office," Biden said in a statement.

Biden's announcement includes $1.25 billion in military aid drawn from U.S. stockpiles and a $1.22 billion Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative package, the final USAI package of Biden's time in office.

Under USAI, military equipment is procured from the defense industry or partners, rather than drawn from American stocks, meaning it can take months or years to arrive on the battlefield.

Yellen said in a statement the direct budget assistance, provided in coordination with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department, marked the final disbursement under the 2024 Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Yellen

Congress has approved $175 billion in total assistance for Ukraine since Russia's invasion of its neighbor nearly three years ago, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. Recently the Russians have been using North Korean troops to bolster their fighting position.

North Korean forces are experiencing mass casualties on the front lines, with 1,000 of their troops killed or wounded in the last week alone in Russia's Kursk region, White House spokesperson John Kirby said Friday.

Biden said the new assistance will provide Ukraine with "an immediate influx of capabilities that it continues to use to great effect on the battlefield and longer-term supplies of air defense, artillery, and other critical weapons systems."

Since the war began, Washington has committed billions of dollars in aid for Ukraine, but it is uncertain if the aid will continue at that pace under Trump, who succeeds Biden on Jan. 20.

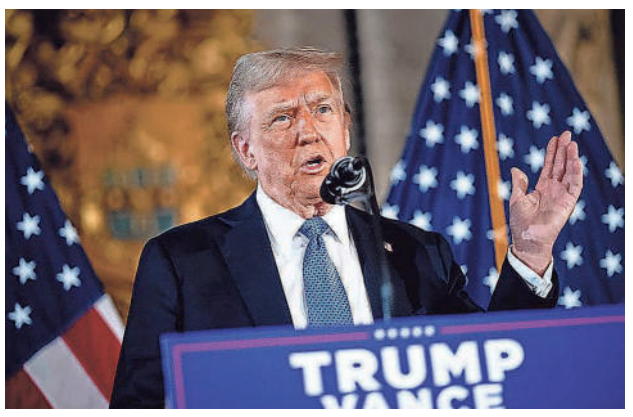
Trump has said he wants to bring the war to a swift end. During the presidential campaign, Trump questioned the level of U.S. involvement in the conflict, suggesting European allies should bear more of the financial burden.

Some of his fellow Republicans – who will control both the House of Representatives and Senate next month – have also cooled on sending more aid to Kyiv.

A U.S. official said the $3.4 billion in budget funding brings the total in U.S. budget aid to Ukraine to just over $30 billion since Russia's invasion in February 2022. Most of those funds are used to keep Ukraine's government running by paying salaries to teachers and other state employees.

Washington has separately provided approximately $61.4 billion in security assistance to Kyiv since the start of the war, according to the Pentagon.

Biden said the Defense Department is in the process of delivering hundreds of thousands of artillery rounds, thousands of rockets and hundreds of armored vehicles.



**President-elect Donald Trump says he'll invoke laws to allow the military to handle deportations.**
ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES FILE

# Trump wants military to deal with deportations

**Daniel Gonzalez** Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

President-elect Donald Trump repeatedly has indicated he plans to use the military to help carry out mass deportations by declaring a national emergency to stop what he calls an "invasion" at the border.

But it is questionable whether Trump would have the legal authority to deploy the military to be directly involved in immigration enforcement even if he declares a national emergency, experts say.

Declaring a national emergency is "not going to give him all the powers that he wants," said Ariel Ruiz Soto, a senior policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research organization.

While active-duty military personnel and National Guard troops have been used multiple times in the past to provide support to the Border Patrol along the southern border, they have not been used to carry out actual immigration arrests and other enforcement duties, Ruiz said.

That is because there is a law on the books, the Posse Comitatus Act, that prohibits the military from being used for law enforcement purposes, Ruiz said.

"They could patrol the border, but they could not necessarily arrest and remove (undocumented immigrants) by themselves," Ruiz said. "That continues to be the Border Patrol that would do that at the border and ICE in the interior."

Trump, however, has said he plans to declare a national emergency and invoke two other laws, the Insurrection Act and the Alien Enemies Act, to give him the legal authority to use the military to help carry out mass deportations, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Trump's use of the military in immigration enforcement stems from the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 conservative blueprint for the next presidency. The document calls for the next president to take the unprecedented step of using active-duty military personnel at the border to carry out arrests.

"In addition to finalizing the southwestern land border wall, the next Administration should take a creative and aggressive approach to tackling these dangerous criminal organizations at the border," the document said. "This could include use of active-duty military personnel and National Guardsmen to assist in arrest operations along the border – something that has not yet been done."

During a recent interview with Time magazine, Trump reiterated that he plans to use the military to help carry out mass deportations and would go up to the "maximum level of what the law allows."

The Posse Comitatus Act, Trump said, "doesn't stop the military if it's an invasion of our country, and I consider it an invasion of our country. We have criminals coming into our countries that we've never seen, we've never seen before."

During Trump's first term in office, Trump declared a national emergency to access billions of dollars earmarked for military construction projects to build a wall along the southern border after he was unable to get Congress to approve his request for border wall funding.

Some Republicans opposed Trump declaring a national emergency to build a border wall in 2019, Ruiz noted. But the political climate has changed and Trump may not face the same pushback in his second term in declaring a national emergency to use the military to help carry out mass deportations, Ruiz said.

## NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

### Ukraine says it brought home 189 POWs in swap with Russia

KYIV, Ukraine – Ukraine and Russia carried out a new exchange of prisoners of war on Monday, with Kyiv bringing home 189 former captives, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday.

Zelenskyy thanked the United Arab Emirates and other partners for facilitating the swap.

"The return of our people from Russian captivity is always very good news for each of us. And today is one of such days: our team managed to bring 189 Ukrainians home," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messaging app.

The Russian Defense Ministry reported earlier Monday on the prisoner swap, saying each side had freed 150 prisoners of war. There was no immediate explanation of the discrepancy in the numbers reported.

### Pelicot won't appeal guilty verdict in mass rape trial, lawyer says

PARIS – Dominique Pelicot, s[illegible] 20 years in jail by a French court for repeated [illegible]ing and raping his then-wife Gisele for almost a[illegible]le and inviting dozens of strangers to rape her, wh[illegible]o-peal, his lawyer said on Monday, although a new trial will take place as 17 co-defendants have appealed.

Gisele Pelicot, 72, has become a symbol of female courage and resilience during the three-month trial of her now ex-husband and his 50 co-defendants, in a case that has horrified the world. All were found guilty by the court on Dec. 19.

"He decided not to appeal, because he says it would be a new ordeal and new confrontations for his wife, who he always said in the debates was not his adversary," Dominique Pelicot's lawyer, Beatrice Zavarro, said on FranceInfo Radio.

### Iran confirms arrest of Italian journalist

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – Iran confirmed the arrest of Italian journalist Cecilia Sala for "violating the laws of the Islamic Republic," Iran's official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

Sala, 29, who works for the newspaper Il Foglio and the podcast company Chora Media, was detained in Tehran on Dec. 19, according to the Italian foreign ministry. Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani declined to say whether the case might be linked to the arrest of an Iranian in Italy this month at the request of the United States.

*— USA TODAY Network and Reuters*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County Local Planning Agency and the Board of County Commissioners will conduct public hearings on the following item:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING DIVISION 5, HOBE SOUND, ARTICLE 12, COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY CODE; ASSIGNING THE CRA SUBDISTRICT, CORRIDOR (10 UNITS PER ACRE) TO THE 7.98-ACRE FLORIDAYS MOBILE PARK, LLC, PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; SEVERABILITY; APPLICABILITY; FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND CODIFICATION.**

**Subject:** This is a request by Engineering Design & Construction, Inc., on behalf of Floridays Mobile Park, LLC, for approval of an amendment to the Martin County Land Development Regulations, Division 5, Hobe Sound, Article 12, Community Redevelopment Code, for a Subdistrict change from the current General Subdistrict to the Corridor Subdistrict. The subject property is an existing recreational vehicle park located at 10705 SE Federal Highway, south of SE Porter Boulevard and west of SE Dixie Highway, within the Hobe Sound CRA.

This item was originally scheduled for the December 19, 2024, Local Planning Agency hearing and the January 14, 2025, Board of County Commissioners hearing. However, the item has been rescheduled to the dates below.

**Public Hearing:** **Local Planning Agency**
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025
Time 7 PM or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard
Place: Martin County Administrative Center
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

**Public Hearing:** **Board of County Commissioners**
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
Time: 9 AM or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard
Place: Martin County Administrative Center
2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

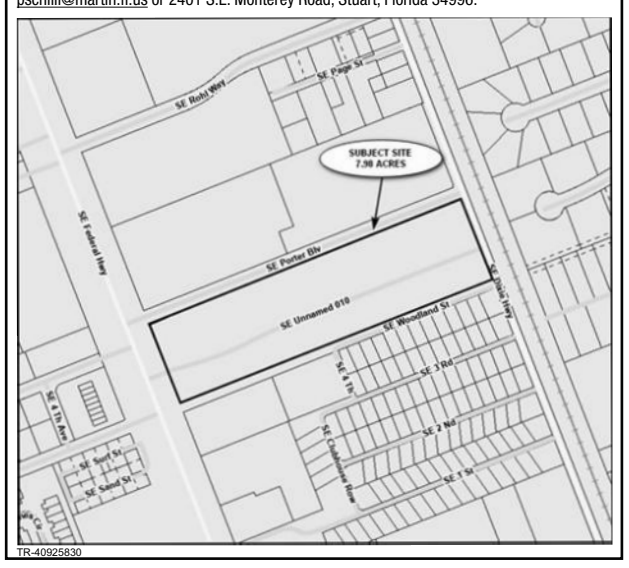
All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

When attending a public hearing, a person may speak during the public comment portion of the public hearing. A person may also participate as an Intervenor. An Intervenor may ask questions of the staff, applicant and provide testimony. In order to be an Intervenor, a person must qualify to receive mailed notice of the application in accordance with Section 10.6.E, Land Development Regulations, Martin County Code. In addition, an Intervenor must file a form of intent with the County Administrator at least 7 business days prior to the LPA or BCC meeting. No fee will be assessed. If the Intervenor is representing a group/association, he/she must file a letter on official letterhead signed by an authorized representative of the group/association, stating that he/she is authorized to speak for the group. Forms are available on the Martin County website www.martin.fl.us. Any documentation, including all digital media intended to be proffered as evidence must be submitted to the Growth Management Department at least 7 business days prior to the LPA or BCC meetings.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

For further information, including copies of the original application documents or agenda item materials, please call the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495. Prior to the public hearings, written comments should be sent to Paul Schilling, Growth Management Director, pschilli@martin.fl.us or 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996.



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County **Local Planning Agency** will conduct a public hearing on **January 16, 2025**, beginning at **7:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard.

The Martin County **Board of County Commissioners** will conduct a public hearing on **January 28, 2025,** beginning at **9:00 A.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard to consider transmittal to the State Land Planning Agency. Both public hearings will consider the following item:

**Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) 24-21 Nine Gems, a Future Land Use Map change from Agricultural to Institutional-Public Conservation on ±1,533 acres approximately four miles south of SW Bridge Road between SW Pratt-Whitney Road and Florida's Turnpike.**

Martin County Board of County Commissioners has initiated the amendment to the Future Land Use Map on the above-referenced property, owned by Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Both public hearings will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Written comments may be mailed to: Paul Schilling, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. For further information, including copies of the original application or agenda items, contact Amy Offenbach, Planner at (772) 288-5520.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

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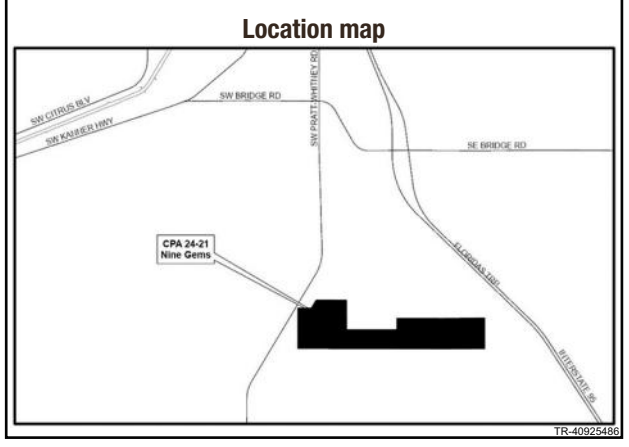
**Location map**



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