

Russian Attack Helicopter Crashes Near Annexed Crimea

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Igor Dvurekov / Wikimedia

A Russian Mi-24 attack helicopter crashed off the coast of annexed Crimea on Wednesday morning, according to a Defense Ministry statement [shared](#) with state news agencies.

“At around 6:00 a.m. Moscow time, the Mi-24 helicopter crashed near the western coast of the republic of Crimea while performing a scheduled flight over the Black Sea,” the statement [reads](#).

The ministry named aviation equipment failure as a preliminary cause of the crash.

Prominent pro-war bloggers meanwhile blamed Russia’s air defense systems for the incident, the independent news website The Insider [noted](#).

The Defense Ministry said a search-and-rescue mission was working at the crash site, without indicating whether the Mi-24 pilots were thought to be dead or alive.

Russia has [lost](#) at least four Mi-24 helicopters since invading Ukraine in 2022, according to

the Dutch open-source intelligence project Oryx.

Earlier Wednesday, the Ukrainian armed forces claimed that a different Russian military helicopter, a Ka-27, was either [downed](#) or [exploded](#) near the western Crimean settlement of Chornomorske. It was not immediately clear whether these were separate or identical incidents.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and launched a full-scale invasion of the country in 2022.

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