

Ukraine battles sky-high expectations ahead of counteroffensive

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Sometimes, war is sold like a consumer product, where there's a lot of hype and a lot of hope, but that is contrary to the reality we often see, said Bill Astore, a retired U.S. Air Force veteran.

WASHINGTON - Ukraine is facing sky-high expectations ahead of its upcoming counteroffensive, raising a litany of dangers if Kyiv fails to make major advances against entrenched Russian forces.

Lackluster results could hurt Ukraine's international support moving forward, embolden critics of continued military support and ultimately benefit Russia.

Ukraine has received nearly all of the promised military aid from Western allies, including infantry fighting vehicles and main battle tanks, all of which are upping the global pressure for Ukrainians to succeed.

But victory is far from assured.

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