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**John Robbins** 281-965-6390  
**Jun Gai** 281-498-4310

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**President:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins

**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com)



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday, February 08 2023

## Ukraine says Russians endure deadliest day, German minister in Kyiv announces tank

NEAR MARINKA, Ukraine, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Ukraine said on Tuesday the last 24 hours were the deadliest of the war so far for Russian troops as Moscow pressed on with an intensifying winter assault in the east, bringing tens of thousands of freshly mobilised troops to the battlefield.

The Ukrainian claim could not be independently verified and Russia has also claimed to have killed large numbers of Ukrainian troops in recent weeks.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius visited Kyiv later on Tuesday as Berlin, Denmark, and the Netherlands said they would pool funds to restore Leopard 1 tanks from industry stocks and supply them to Kyiv in the coming months.

Pistorius announced the supply of about 80 Leopard 1s this year and about 100 in 2024, more than previously announced.

"I'm full of admiration for your efforts, for how fast you and your comrades learned handling our weapon systems. It was very fast, and this way you'll apply it effectively in your defence against the Russian aggressors," he told a press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Oleksii Reznikov.

UK's Sunak shuffles cabinet to bolster pledges on economy 'Fences protect Europe', Hungary's Orban says ahead of EU migration summit EU considers ban on 'forever chemicals', urges search for alternatives London policeman jailed for 32 years after 'monstrous' serial rape U.S. says associate of Russian oligarch Vekselberg charged over sanctions

evasion Since the New Year, Western countries have pledged hundreds of tanks and armoured vehicles to Ukraine to give it the firepower and mobility to push through Russian lines and recapture occupied territory later this year.

A new U.S. package of weapons is expected to include longer-range rockets, which would give Ukraine the ability to hit Russian supply lines in all of the territory it occupies in Ukraine's mainland and parts of the Crimea peninsula.

But it will take months before they arrive, and meanwhile Ukraine faces a Russian force with its manpower replenished by Moscow's call-up of reservists. The Kremlin says Western supplies of arms only widen and extend the conflict.

"The U.S. and its allies are trying to prolong the conflict as much as possible," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday in a conference call with military officials.

"To do this, they have started supplying heavy offensive weapons, openly urging Ukraine to seize our territories. In fact, such steps are dragging NATO countries into the conflict and could lead to an unpredictable level of escalation."

His use of the phrase "our territories" appeared to refer to four Ukrainian provinces Russia claimed to have annexed last year, as well as Crimea, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014.

**ESCALATING CASUALTIES**  
The Ukrainian military increased its running tally of Russian military dead by 1,030 overnight to 133,190,



and described the increase as the highest of the war so far. For its part, Russia said it had inflicted 6,500 Ukrainian casualties in the month of January.

Although tallies of enemy casualties from either side have typically been seen as unreliable, and Kyiv offered few details of the latest battles, Ukraine's assertion that the fighting was the deadliest day so far for Russian troops fits descriptions from both sides of escalating close-contact trench warfare.

Close to the town of Marinka, some 30 km (18.6 miles) from the eastern city of Donetsk, a marine unit of Ukraine's armed forces fired rockets on Russian positions from a Soviet-era launch system. Soldiers said Russians had changed tactics since arriving in vehicle columns at the start of the invasion.

"They storm in small infantry groups, trying to creep in further and further. Even without previous artillery strikes (on Ukrainian positions), their infantry attempts to move in," said a soldier who gave his name only as Ievhen.

"The enemy adapted quite well, they learn as fast as we do. They

adopted different kinds of tactics," he added.

Kyiv and the West say Russia has been pouring troops and mercenaries into eastern Ukraine in recent weeks in hopes of being able to claim new gains around the time of the first anniversary of its full-scale invasion on Feb. 24.

The war is entering its second year at a pivotal juncture, with Moscow trying to regain the initiative while Kyiv holds out for Western tanks to mount a counter-offensive later in 2023.

After Russia failed to capture the Ukrainian capital Kyiv last year and lost ground in the second half of 2022, Moscow is now making full use of hundreds of thousands of troops it called up in its first mobilisation since World War Two.

The last few weeks have seen Russia boast its first gains for half a year. But the progress has still been incremental, with Moscow yet to capture a single major population centre in its winter campaign despite thousands of dead.

Fighting has focused for months around Ukrainian-held Bakhmut

in eastern Donetsk province, a city with a pre-war population of around 75,000. Russia has made clear progress towards encircling it from both the north and south, but Kyiv says its garrison is holding fast.

Moscow has also launched an assault further south against Vuhledar, a Ukrainian-controlled bastion also in Donetsk province on high ground at the strategic intersection between the eastern and southern front lines.

Ukraine's national security chief Oleksiy Danilov said Russia is expected to include the northeastern Kharkiv or southern Zaporizhia regions as targets of an anticipated offensive.

The past few weeks meanwhile have seen a purge of Ukrainian officials in an anti-corruption campaign, the first big shake-up of Ukraine's leadership since the war began.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on Tuesday for an end to the spread of rumours that could undermine unity in the war against Russia - remarks that appeared intended to end public speculation over whether Reznikov will be removed.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/06/2023

## A Tribute To Professor James Tsao

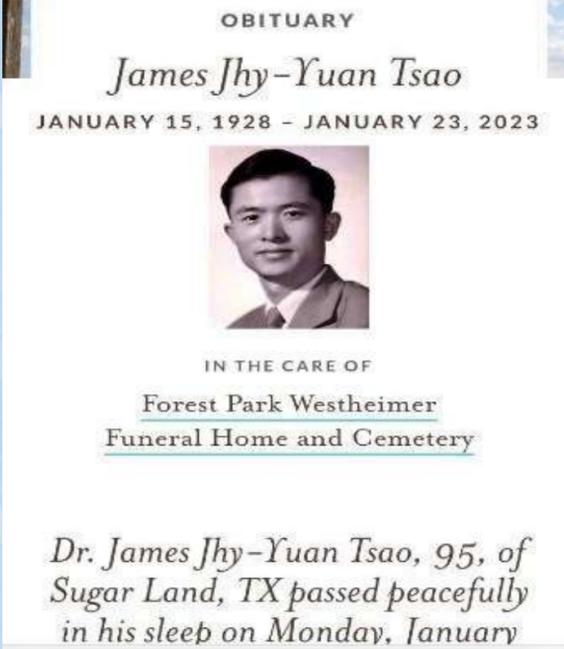
Dr. James Tsao, a senior professor at Houston Baptist University passed away last week. He was born in his hometown of Hunan, China. In his 95 years of life, he was also a model of scholars and Chinese intellectuals.

When my wife and I started to published a small newspaper in Houston, Texas, we were facing very strong challenges. In that time, the political environment was also quite complicated. There were many people talking about how could a young publish a newspaper by themselves? They actually even wanted to stop our plan. Only Professor Tsao strongly supported us. He told me, "Young man, you need to continue to fight in order to serve our community."

Over the years, we paid visits to Dr. Tsao. Every autumn festival we also brought moon cakes to enjoy with him. We even published and printed his biography with about one thousand pages which is a real piece of Chinese community history. About nine years ago we also had party for him in our TV studio to celebrate the new book.

Professor Tsao was also a diplomat who served in Washington, D.C., and later got his Ph.D degree from American University. He was a very outstanding student in early years.

He was recognized two times as the best professor at Houston Baptist University. He was a Christian since his young age. He has completed a wonderful journey and now he has returned to Heaven without any regrets.



**Wea H. Lee**  
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas  
**Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee**  
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Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center  
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



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## Editor's Choice



U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) delivers remarks on the debt ceiling, outside of his office on Capitol Hill in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



The 3rd Separate Assault Brigade (Azov Unit) of the Armed Forces of Ukraine fire 152 mm howitzer 2A65 Msta-B, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near Bahmut, in Donetsk region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



People walk past rubble of damaged buildings, in the aftermath of the earthquake, in Aleppo, Syria. REUTERS/Firas Makdesi



A woman reacts while embracing another person, near rubble following an earthquake in Hatay, Turkey. REUTERS/Umit Bektas



Muay Thai boxers perform the "Wai Khru" to set a Guinness World Record during a Thai martial art festival at Rajabhakti Park in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan province, Thailand. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha



A man looks on while taking shelter, as the search for survivors following an earthquake continues, in Osmaniye, Turkey. REUTERS/Suhaib Salem

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

BUSINESS

“Amazingly High” Immune Response Discovered In Fully Jabbed People Who Also Caught The Disease

Study: How To Get ‘Super Immunity’ To Covid



(Photo/Malte Mueller/Getty Images)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Fully vaccinated people who catch Covid, as well as those who had the disease prior to the jabs, get rewarded with the best immune responses, a new study has found.

Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) researchers took samples from 104 people, double-jabbed with the Pfizer vaccine. Forty-two of them had never tested positive for Covid, 31 were vaccinated after an infection, and 31 had “breakthrough” infections following the vaccination.

After the scientists exposed the volunteers’ blood samples to the Alpha, Beta, and Delta variants of Covid-19, they discovered that the combination of vaccine and natural immunity creates antibodies “at least 10 times more potent — than immunity generated by vaccination alone.”

As a result, the scientists concluded that “additional antigen exposure from natural infection substantially boosts the quantity, quality, and breadth” of immune response to the disease, “regardless of whether it occurs before or after vaccination.”

“In either case, you will get a really, really robust immune response — amazingly high,” co-senior author Fikadu Tafesse, who is an assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology in the OHSU School of Medicine, said.

Moreover, the study, published on Tuesday in Science Immunology magazine, claims that “while age negatively correlates with antibody response after vaccination alone, no cor-

relation with age was found in breakthrough or hybrid immune groups.”

Tafesse noted that the likelihood of getting infected after vaccination is still high due to the wide spread of the virus, but with the jabs “we’ll get a milder case and end up with this super immunity.”

The new findings suggest that “each new breakthrough infection potentially brings the pandemic closer to the end.” (Courtesy rt.com)

Related Natural Covid Delta Immunity More Effective Than Vaccination – CDC study

Despite contradicting previous advice from health officials, the study still insists that vaccination is the “safest strategy” against the coronavirus.

The study, published on Wednesday by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that as the Delta variant became the dominant coronavirus strain during the second half of 2021, people who were vaccinated were six times less likely to catch Covid-19 than those who hadn’t been jabbed.

However, those who had been infected with an earlier variant of the coronavirus, but hadn’t been vaccinated, were between 15 and 29 times less likely to catch the virus.

A similar difference was noticed in hospitalization rates, with prior immunity conferring better protection against hospitalization than vaccination.



Despite its disadvantage compared to natural immunity, the CDC stressed that “vaccination remains the safest strategy” for preventing Covid-19 infections. This is because “having Covid the first time carries with it significant risks,” study co-author Dr. Eli Rosenberg told CNN. Likewise Dr. Erica Pan, state epidemiologist for the California Department of Public Health, recommended that even those with prior infection get vaccinated to ensure they get a layer of “additional protection.”

The study’s conclusion contradicts earlier claims from top US health officials. At the beginning of the Delta outbreak last May, White House Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci insisted that vaccines “are better than the traditional response you get from natural infection.” Fauci has also been accused by Republican lawmakers of ignoring studies touting the benefits of natural immunity, “because it foils his plans to get everybody possible vaccinated.”

As it was conducted during the surge of Delta infections, the study offers no insight into the efficacy of vaccines against the now-dominant Omicron variant.

WHO Says, ‘No Evidence’

For Boosting Children And Teens The World Health Organization says Covid-19 boosters should be a priority for the highest-risk populations instead



A teenager gets a Pfizer Covid-19 booster at a vaccine clinic in Bellows Falls, Vermont, January 14, 2022. (Photo/The Brattleboro Reformer / Kristopher Radder/AP)

There is currently no evidence that Covid-19 booster shots should be administered to healthy children and adolescents, the WHO’s top scientists said. The organization is still trying to work out the appropriate booster schedule.

“The aim is to protect the most vulnerable, to protect those at highest risk of severe disease and dying, those are our elderly population, immunocompromised with underlying con-

ditions and also health care workers,” WHO chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said at a news briefing on Tuesday, adding that “there’s no evidence right now” for administering them to otherwise healthy children and teens.

The WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization will meet later this week to consider how governments should think about boosters, Swaminathan said.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the WHO’s executive director for health emergencies, said the organization hasn’t figured out yet how many doses people may ultimately need.



“I think people do have a certain fear out there that this booster thing is going to be like every two or three months and everyone’s going to have to go and get a booster. And I don’t think we have the answer to that yet,” Ryan said.

SAGE may eventually redefine how many doses will make up the “primary series” of shots, Ryan added, explaining that most healthy people may need just two, but the elderly or immunocompromised could require three or four.

Last week, the WHO’s Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-Co-VAC) said that a vaccination strategy “based on repeated booster doses of the original vaccine composition is unlikely to be appropriate or sustainable,” urging member countries to prioritize primary vaccinations for high-risk groups over universal boosting.

TAG-Co-VAC experts also said that current vaccines focus on reducing severe disease and protecting healthcare systems, while there is an ongoing need for vaccines that prevent infection and transmission of the virus.

WHO Experts Criticize

‘Repeated Booster’ Strategy The World Health Organization’s vaccine advisory body has voiced concerns about using current Covid-19 vaccines as boosters



(Photo/Morsa Images/Getty Images)

Using the original vaccines against Covid-19 as boosters against emerging variants is the wrong approach, said a WHO expert group, adding that the world needs new vaccines that protect against infection and transmission.

“A vaccination strategy based on repeated booster doses of the original vaccine composition is unlikely to be appropriate or sustainable,” the Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-Co-VAC) said on Tuesday.

While some countries may recommend boosters, “the immediate priority for the world is accelerating access to the primary vaccination, particularly for groups at greater risk of developing severe disease,” the group added, pointing out the “need for equity in access to vaccines across countries to achieve global public health goals.”

While the currently available vaccines focus on “reducing severe disease and death, as well as protecting health systems,” there is a need for vaccines “that have high impact on prevention of infection and transmission.” Until such jabs are developed, the existing vaccines may need to be updated to better target emerging virus variants such as Omicron, the group said.



Developers should work to create vaccines that “elicit immune responses that are broad, strong, and long-lasting in order to reduce the need for successive booster doses,” the TAG-Co-VAC urged.

On Tuesday, the EU drug regulator EMA’s head of Biological Health Threats and Vaccines Strategy said they don’t yet have enough data to recommend a second booster — the fourth jab so far — even as some countries urged such a move.

Marco Cavaleri said they were “rather concerned about a strategy that entangles repeat vaccination within a short term,” adding that “we cannot really continuously give a booster dose every three-four months.”

The WHO said that Omicron could infect more than half of the EU population over the next two months and urged the bloc’s authorities not to treat the virus as endemic. (Courtesy rt.com)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

Decades After Polio, An Iron Lung Is Still Relied On To Breathe By Patient

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Martha Lillard needed a large respirator called an iron lung to recover from polio, which she caught in 1953. She still uses a form of the device at nights. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard)

On June 8, 1953, Martha Lillard celebrated her fifth birthday with a party at an amusement park in Oklahoma. A little over a week later, she woke up with a sore throat and a pain in her neck. Her family took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with polio.

She spent six months in the hospital, where she was put in a giant metal tank — a ventilator informally called an iron lung — to help her breathe. To this day, Lillard is one of the last people in the U.S. who still depends on an iron lung to survive.

Polio is a potentially life-threatening disease, once among the world’s most feared. In the late 1940s, polio disabled an average of 35,000 people in the U.S. every year.

A polio vaccine became widely available in 1955, and millions of Americans got vaccinated. Since 1979, no cases of polio have originated in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disease has been nearly eradicated — the World Health Organization documented only 175 cases of wild polio in 2019. It remains endemic in only Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although most people who contract polio will not have visible symptoms, a severe case can infect the brain and spinal cord and cause paralysis. Lillard’s breathing muscles were weakened by the disease, and she survived thanks to the iron lung.



Iron lung respirators are prepared in an emergency polio ward at a Boston hospital in August 1955. (Photo/AP)

The machines are giant ventilators about 7 feet long. Patients lie inside with just their heads resting outside; a seal around the patient’s neck creates a vacuum. Bellows at the base of the device do the work of a human diaphragm — they create negative pressure so the user’s lungs fill with air, and positive pressure allowing the person to exhale.

Sixty-eight years later, an iron lung is still keeping Lillard alive — she sleeps in it every night. While many people who had polio or post-polio syndrome either weaned themselves off the machines or switched to another form of ventilator, Lillard never did.

“I’ve tried all the forms of ventilation, and the iron lung is the most efficient and the best and the most comfortable way,” she told Radio Diaries.

The antiquated machines are now more likely to be found in a museum than in someone’s home. In the 1990s, when her iron lung was breaking down, she called hospitals and museums that might have had old ones in storage. But they’d either thrown them away or didn’t want to part with their collection. She eventually bought one from a man in Utah — the machine she still uses today.

The machines were once serviced by Philips Resperonic, but Lillard says the assistance she received from the company was minimal. Once, she says a technician was sent to service her machine and prepared to leave before putting the machine back together.

Lillard has gotten stuck in the iron lung. She lost power when an ice storm came through Oklahoma and her emergency generator didn’t kick on, leaving her trapped in the device without heat.

“It’s like being buried alive almost, you know — it’s so scary,” Lillard says. She tried to call 911, but the cell towers weren’t working. “I was having trouble breathing. And I remember saying out loud to myself, ‘I’m not going to die.’” Lillard was eventually able to get a signal, but she remembers the emergency responders had no idea what an iron lung was. Luckily, they were able to get the generator going for her.



Martha Lillard says she worries about running out of replacement parts to make her iron lung respirator function properly. (Photo courtesy of Martha Lillard)

Wear on parts is her main issue now. The belts need to be replaced every few weeks, the cot inside every six months, the motor every 12 years or so. Her most immediate need is collars. The collars create the critical airtight seal around the neck. Each one lasts only for a few months. And she has bought all the back stock of collars from places that don’t produce them anymore.

“That’s the main thing I’m having a hard time with, because I try to stretch out, make these collars last longer,” Lillard says. “And when they start deteriorating, it gets harder and harder to breathe as they leak more.”

She has only a handful of collars left. “I really am desperate,” she says. “That’s the most scary thing in my life right now — is not finding anybody that can make those collars.”

Today, Lillard spends much of her time alone. She paints, watches old Hollywood movies and takes care of her beagles. She has been mostly isolating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, seeing her sister, Cindy, and her brother-in-law, Daryl, in the evenings.



Dr. Jonas Salk administers vaccine to young patient.

Being affected by polio at such a young age has meant Lillard hasn’t been able to have all the experiences others have had. She attended school from home for much of her childhood and couldn’t participate in most extracurricular activities — she still remembers longing to go camping with her siblings. She was not able to have children or hold a steady job because of her physical limitations.

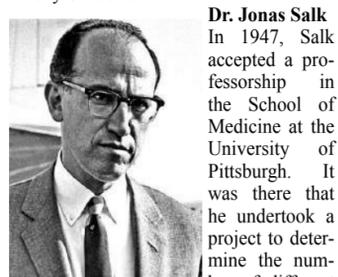
Although some of her life experiences were limited, Lillard thanks a childhood friend named Karen Rapp for teaching her to appreciate small things. Together, they observed ants and built little villages of grass huts.

“There’s much more to see if you really look for it,” she says.

And she’s grateful for the iron lung. “It’s what sustains me. It’s what heals me. It’s what allows me to breathe the next day,” Lillard says. “I look at it as a friend, as a very dear friend.” (Courtesy npr.org)

Related Jonas Salk Creator Of The Salk Vaccine

Jonas Edward Salk (Born Jonas Salk; October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines. He was born in New York City and attended the City College of New York and New York University School of Medicine.



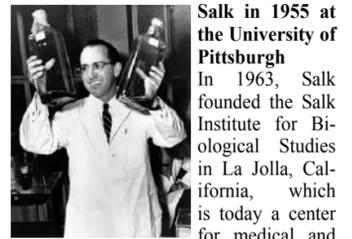
Dr. Jonas Salk In 1947, Salk accepted a professorship in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. It was there that he undertook a project to determine the number of different types of poliovirus, starting in 1948. For the next seven years, Salk devoted himself towards developing a vaccine against polio.

Salk was immediately hailed as a “miracle worker” when the vaccine’s success was first made public in April 1955, and chose to not patent the vaccine or seek any profit from it in order to maximize its global distribution. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and the University of Pittsburgh looked into patenting the vaccine but, since Salk’s techniques were not novel, their patent attorney said, “if there were any patentable novelty to be found in this phase it would lie within an extremely narrow scope and would be of doubtful value.”



Jonas Salk wrote about the polio vaccine trial project, “the most elaborate program of its kind in history, involving 20,000 physicians and public health officers, 64,000 school personnel, and 220,000 volunteers,” with over 1.8 million school children participating in the trial. A 1954 Gallup poll showed that more Americans knew about the polio field trials than could give the full name of the current U.S. president.

An immediate rush to vaccinate began in both the United States and around the world. Many countries began polio immunization campaigns using Salk’s vaccine, including Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium. By 1959, the Salk vaccine had reached about 90 countries. An attenuated live oral polio vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin, coming into commercial use in 1961. Less than 25 years after the release of Salk’s vaccine, domestic transmission of polio had been completely eliminated in the United States.



Salk in 1955 at the University of Pittsburgh In 1963, Salk founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, which is today a center for medical and scientific research. He continued to conduct research and publish books in his later years, focusing in his last years on the search for a vaccine against HIV. Salk also campaigned vigorously for mandatory vaccination throughout the rest of his life, calling the universal vaccination of children against disease a “moral commitment”. Salk’s personal papers are today stored in Geisel Library at the University of California, San Diego. (Courtesy Wikipedia)