

Ukraine will get long-awaited F-16 jets ‘this summer’ to counter Russian air attacks

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian pilots will take to the skies in American-made F-16 fighter jets in the coming weeks to deter Russian airstrikes, the leaders of the US, Denmark and the Netherlands announced Wednesday.

Kyiv is set to receive 78 F-16s from a consortium of NATO countries that got President Biden’s permission last year to dispatch the American-made aircraft and train Ukrainian pilots.

“The transfer process for these F-16s is now underway, and Ukraine will be flying operational F-16s this summer,” Biden, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in a joint statement.

Denmark and the Netherlands previously announced that they would donate 42 of the 78 promised F-16s to Ukraine, while Belgium is sending another 30.

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