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	And it had threatened a global **tinderbox.**
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	Last week, a missile slammed into a Polish village just a few miles from Ukraine last week. It killed two local residents.
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In the end count, it turned out that it was probably **a wayward** Ukrainian air defense missile.	

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WARSAW — A missile slammed into a Polish village just a few miles from Ukraine last week. It killed two local residents. After the deaths, the incident surged uneasiness that Russia had attacked a NATO country. And it had threatened a global **tinderbox.** In the end count, it turned out that it was probably _____ **a wayward** _____ Ukrainian air defense missile.

NATO is _____ **hellbent** on helping Ukraine battle Russia but wants no direct part of the war. A new promise of air defense weapons for Poland may **thicken the plot** _____

Just how _____ **tenuous** the situation however, was **dragged to the fore** _____ remains, announced that it had accepted a German offer of Patriot air defense systems. Further, it would deploy the above-mentioned system "near the border" with Ukraine.

Poland, like the United States, has provided its _____ **stallwart** support to Ukraine. It has done so since Russia made **its foray** into the country in _____ February. After the invasion, Poland supplied weapons **by hook or by crook** and unwavering _____ diplomatic backing. But in the final count, it has no desire to get into a war with Moscow.

Dedicated and constant	Explosive situation	Brought to national attention	A move into something/where	A stray
Unstable/unsure	Complicate the story	By any means possible	Obsessively resolved	

Still, even though the new missiles from Germany will not be fully operational for years, by which time the war in Ukraine may well be over, Poland's plans to deploy them close to the conflict zone signals growing worries that its own security may be at risk, and that the war next door could spread, by accident or by design. Putting American-made Patriot interceptor missiles, some of which should be working at least partially by next August, close to Ukraine raises a host of difficult questions rooted in NATO's eagerness to help Ukraine while staying outside the conflict zone.

"What happens if our radar shows rockets are coming and they need to be intercepted inside Ukraine?" asked Jacek Bartosiak, the head of Strategy and Future, a Warsaw research group focused on security issues.

That scenario, he said, is unlikely to drag NATO into a direct clash with Russia, but would push it into an uncharted "gray zone."

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In a possible sign that Poland is getting queasy about that happening, the defense minister in Warsaw, Mariusz Blaszczak, suggested on Wednesday that the German Patriots be sent to western Ukraine instead of eastern Poland as he had said on Monday. That, he said on Twitter, would help Ukraine to ward off Russian missiles directly while also increasing Polish security along the border.

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