



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



February 12, 2023



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

12/02/23 23:59\* PST

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, Israel, Georgia, and the United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, and donations and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact [social@malcontentnews.com](mailto:social@malcontentnews.com). For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at [tips@malcontentment.com](mailto:tips@malcontentment.com).

[Patrons at the Bronze level or higher](#) can access the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patrons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2023, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Jeff Davis, and with special thanks to David Batashvili of the [Rondeli Foundation](#) and Linnea Hubbard, the voice of the Russia-Ukraine War Update Podcast.

***The reader accepts that the information contained in the Malcontent News Situation Report will not be used for travel, navigation, or personal security assessment. The reader agrees to get real-time information from official channels provided by national, oblast, raion, hromada, city, or local officials and follow their security recommendations.***

***The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.***


## Notes on Sourcing Information


**Malcontent News** uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, which is the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


⚠️ **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


⚠️ **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.

⚠️ **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for *unique claims* about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by units of the Russian Federation 1st Army Corps have greater fidelity.

 **Andrei Morozov:** Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detailed by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

 **Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

⚠ **Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia:** We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

⊖ **Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

⊖ **Denis Pushilin:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

⚠ **Ramzan Kadyrov:** The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

✅ **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:** We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate

Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of information as Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for real-time reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government official to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after he was fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.



## Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 354.....	7
DAILY ASSESSMENT .....	9
TODAY’S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP.....	12
UKRAINE WEATHER .....	13
DONBAS REGION .....	15
LUHANSK .....	15
NORTHEAST DONETSK.....	21
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK.....	29
ZAPORIZHIA.....	35
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION .....	36
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE.....	37
NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE.....	39
RUSSIAN FRONT .....	41
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	41
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS.....	43
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	48
GEOPOLITICAL.....	49
ECONOMIC.....	50

## **SUMMARY – DAY 354**

It has been 3,272 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on February 27, 2014.

It is challenging to assess the ongoing wide-scale counteroffensive. Russian forces are making gains in the Dvorichna, Kreminna, Soledar, and Bakhmut Operational Areas. The only area where there has been significant progress in the last 3 to 5 days has been south of Soledar. There have not been any major breakthroughs in the Ukrainian defensive lines, and Russian forces are suffering the most losses since March 2022.

In the last 72 hours, three Russian battalions from Tuva, Republic of Tatarstan, and Kaliningrad have mass refused to fight. It is the largest number of rioters we have noted since June 2022. The overall mood among Russian milbloggers and even some commanders is darkening about the ability to turn marginal operational successes into tactical victories.

It is undeniable that Ukraine is losing ground, but our analysis that Russian forces don't have enough combat



power to change the situation on the battlefield dramatically is surviving the test of time.

There was very little information from the Russian information sphere over the weekend. We cannot assess if this is due to a tightening of operational security (OPSEC) by the Kremlin, an attempt to minimize the lack of progress, or because the fighting is so widespread between squad and platoon sized units, it is increasingly difficult to report combat in specific locations.

Finally, Yevgeny Prigozhin is fighting back against the Kremlin's narrative that Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group only provides a supporting role in Bakhmut and Soledar. This comes hours after the RIA advised Russian State Media to provide less coverage about PMC Wagner and Prigozhin and another grizzly sledgehammer execution of a penal mercenary.

One last footnote, the Pentagon said it has not ruled out the possibility that the automobile-sized hexagonal objects shot down over Alaska, Michigan, and the Yukon Territory of Canada over the weekend are of extraterrestrial origin. We did not have World War III started due to an alien invasion on our 2023 BINGO card.

## DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

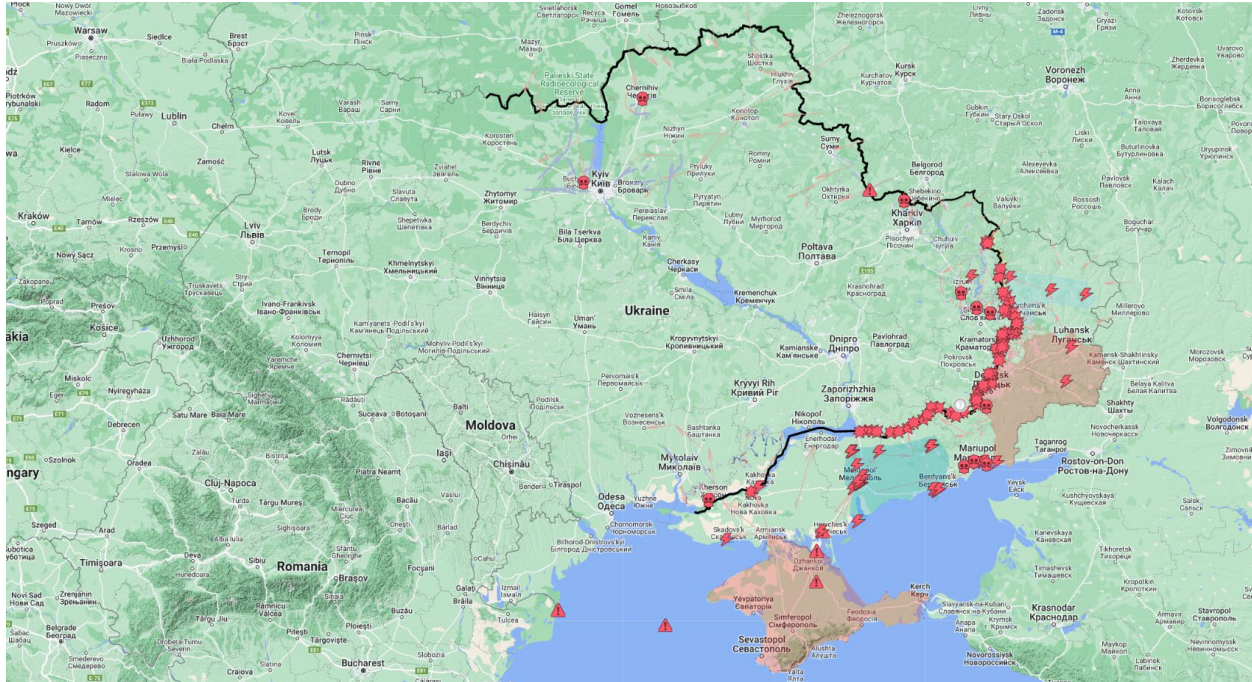
1. We maintain that Russia's large-scale offensive started in the Theater of War, and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) is attempting to retake the initiative throughout the theatre of war.
2. We have less confidence that Russian forces will launch a larger, concentrated offensive in one or more directions before February 24, with some Russian milbloggers and field commanders losing confidence outside of Bakhmut.
3. We maintain that early data indicates that Russian tactics and the quality of training for mobik units is only incrementally better than the first wave into Ukraine in October, and the Russian military within Ukraine remains incapable of **dramatically** changing the battlefield situation in the coming weeks.
4. We maintain the situation in Bakhmut remains critical for Ukrainian forces.
5. We assess that Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu has politically outmaneuvered Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin, but the power struggle continues.

6. We maintain that the significant increase in disinformation and misinformation from Russian sources is being directed by Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, as part of his hybrid warfare doctrine.
7. We maintain the risk of punitive missile and drone strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure continues, with weather unfavorable from February 13 to 15. We further assess the risk of a major attack from February 23 to 25 as extremely high.
8. We maintain that Russian forces will continue to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.
9. We maintain that the Russian Federation's inventory of Kalibr cruise missiles is critically low based on the continued decline of launches from the Black Sea Fleet, with even fewer Kalibr missiles involved in the February 9-10 attacks compared to January 25-26.
10. We maintain that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the de-energization of Ukrainian nuclear power plants caused by Russian electrical infrastructure destruction is possible.
11. We maintain that stealth mobilization has started in the Russian Federation due to stop loss orders for active duty troops deployed in Ukraine and mobilization requests from the Kremlin in the occupied territories.

12. We maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of an offensive operation is negligible. Further, this will be the last day we include this assessment unless the situation changes.

COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS

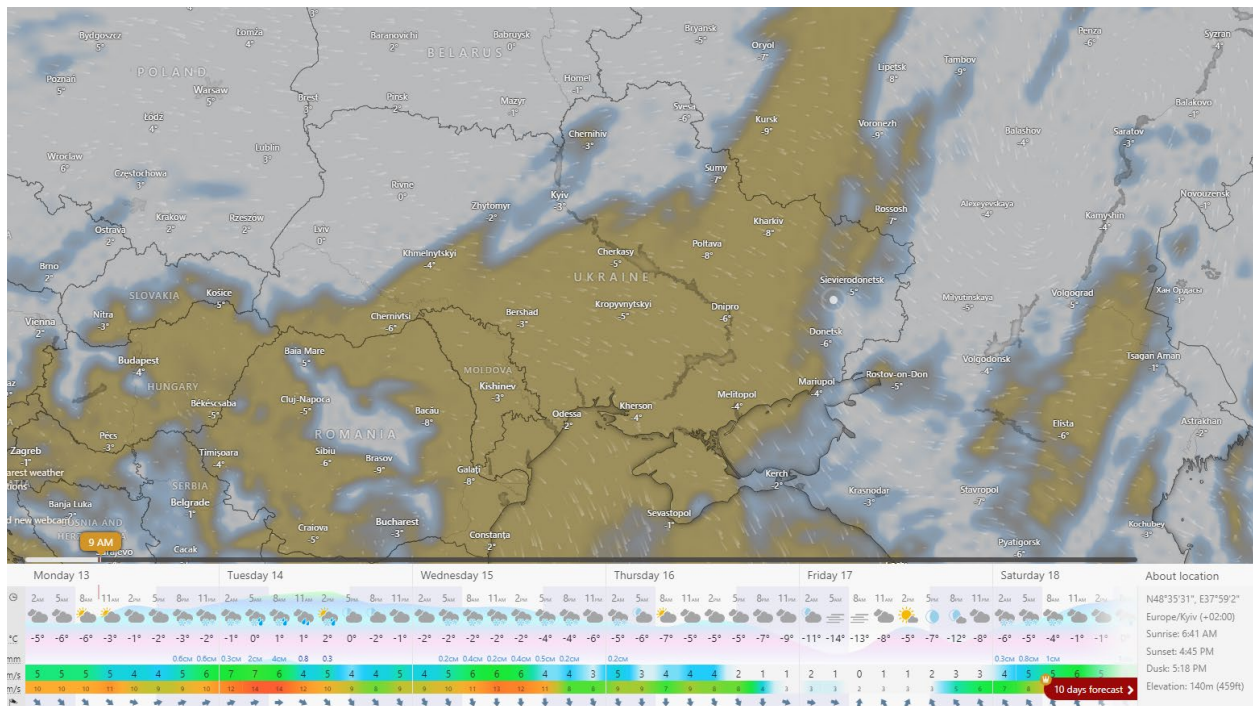
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



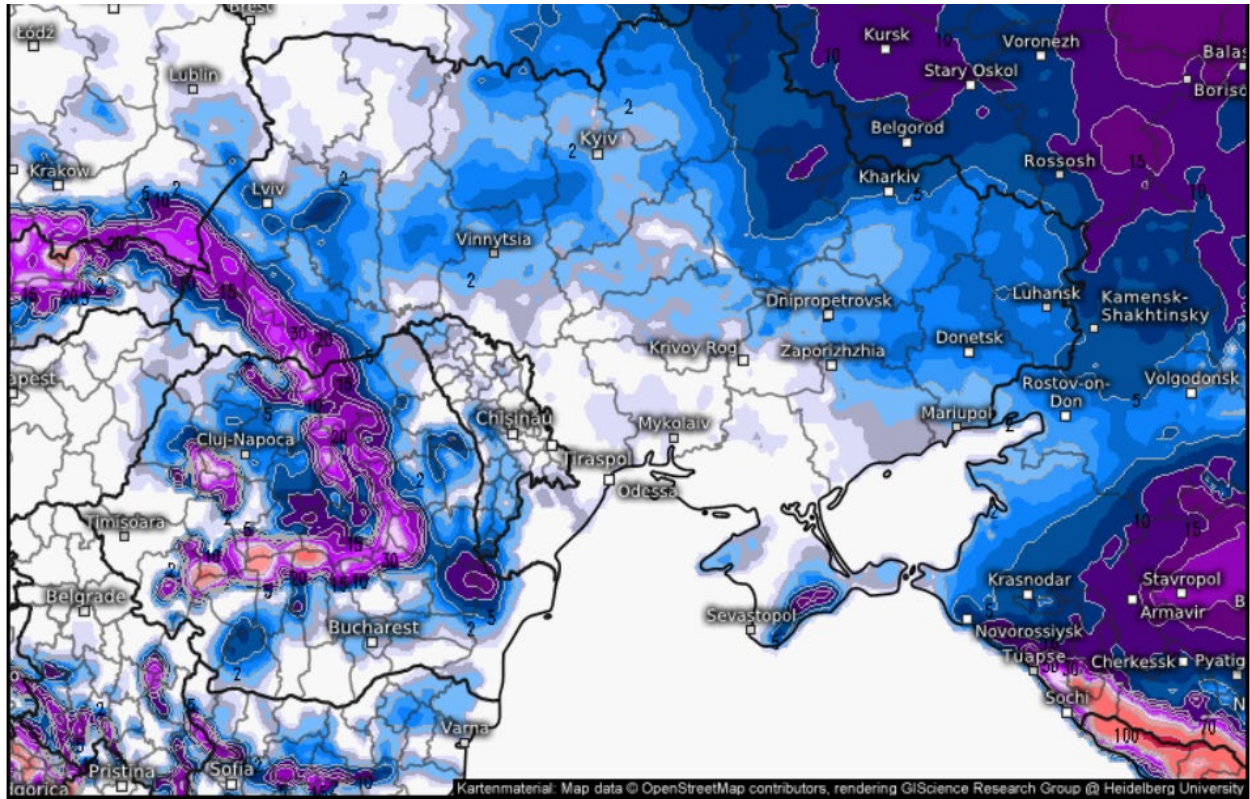
**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>

# UKRAINE WEATHER

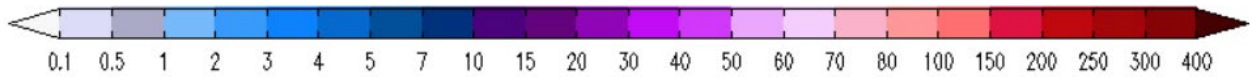


Clear weather in eastern Ukraine will be short-lived, with a significant storm system moving across the country on Tuesday and Wednesday. High winds and the most significant snow of the year in eastern Ukraine are forecasted by the ECMWF on February 14 and 15, with a brief transition to rain late on the 14th, before a return to snow. Temperatures will be nearly freezing before dropping to -8 to -20 on Thursday. The long-range forecast indicates another round of snow by the end of the week.



Snow depth (cm)

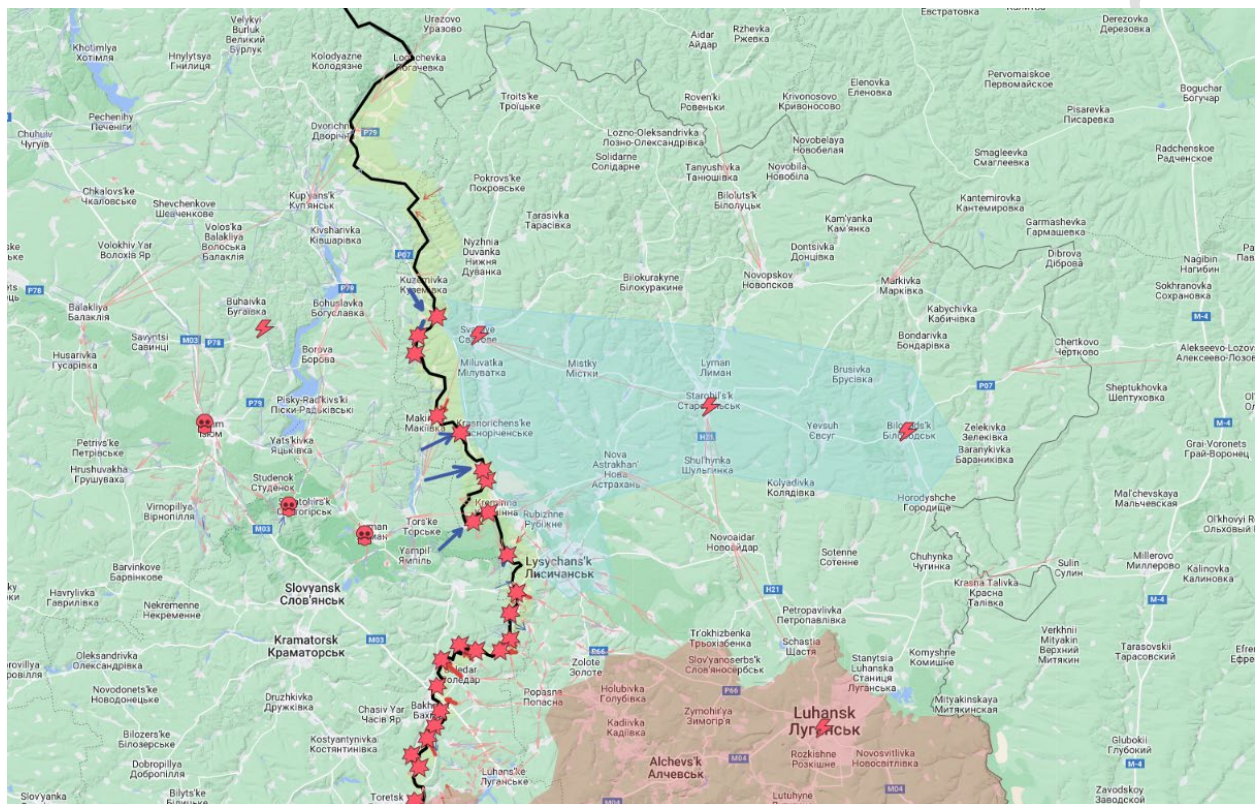
Valid for Mon 02/13/2023, 02:00am CST



In south-central Ukraine, the snowpack continues to retreat with Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, and parts of Zaporizhzhia with no cover. Eastern and northern Ukraine received snow on Saturday, with 2 to 4 centimeters covering most areas where fighting continues.

# DONBAS REGION

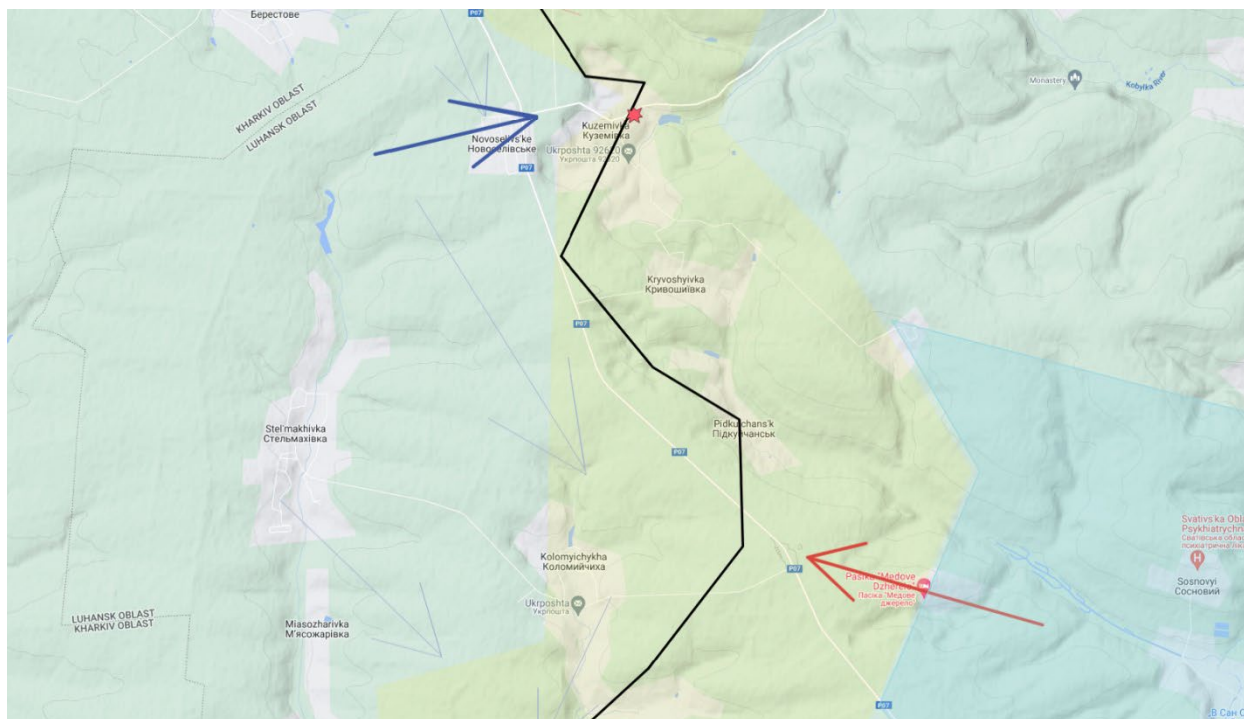
## LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, recapture lost territory, and control insurgency

**Ukrainian Objective:** Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents

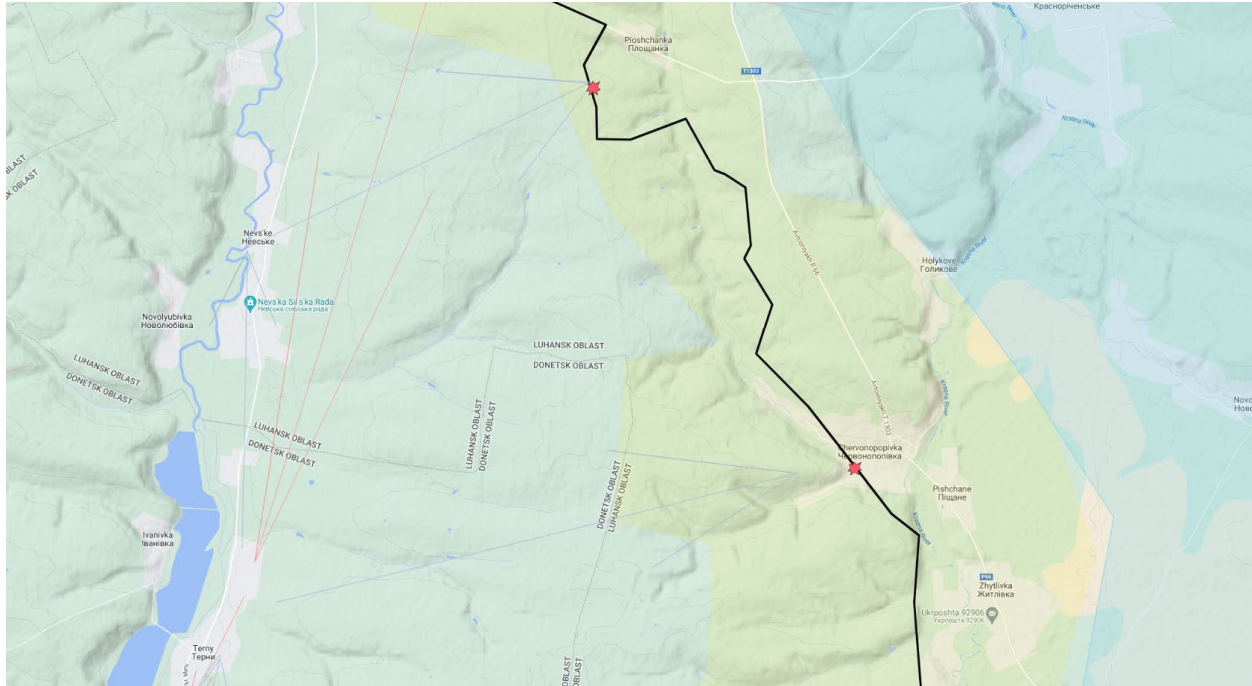




In the Svatove Operational Direction, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that [Novoselivske](#) was shelled.<sup>1</sup>

---

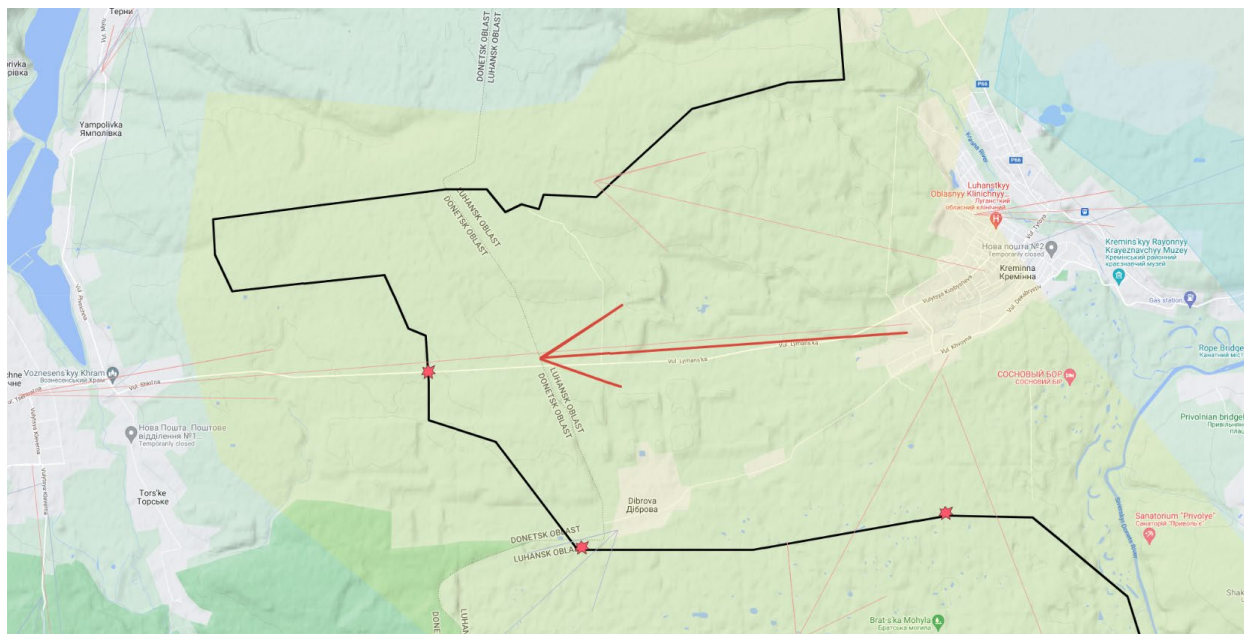
<sup>1</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)



In the Kreminna Operational Area, there was widespread positional fighting between squad and platoon sized units near [Ploschchanka](#), [Chervonpopivka](#), [Pischchane](#), and [Zhytlivka](#).<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15577>

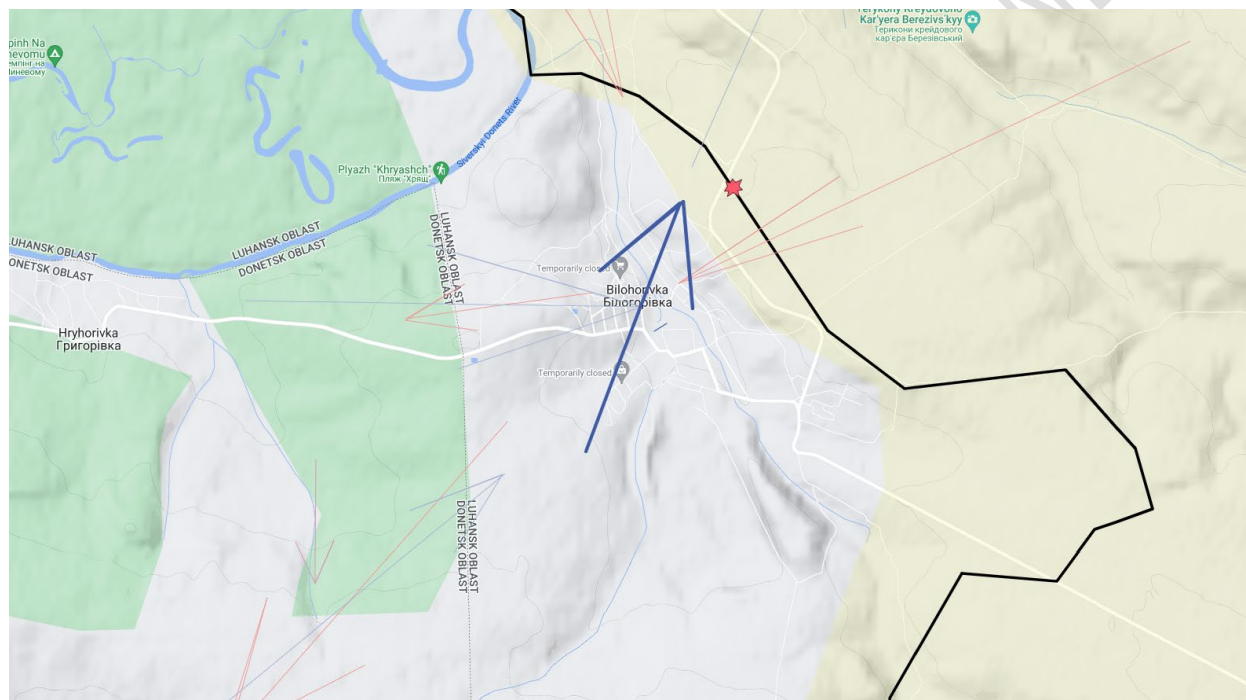



In [Kremynna](#), a video showed a Russian advance between Yampolivka and Torske in Donetsk being hit by artillery and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). Although we have low confidence that Russian troops have established new positions in an area with limited over, we extended the line of conflict west into the Donetsk Oblast. Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Serhei Haidai stated that Russian forces had pulled “a little bit” back to resupply.<sup>3</sup>

Fighting west, southwest, and south of Kremynna and in the Serebryansky Woods continued between squad, and

<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8574>

platoon sized units and remains very heavy.<sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> The Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) reported Kreminna was heavily shelled.<sup>6</sup>



In the Lysychansk Operational Area, GSAFU reported an attack on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] was repelled.<sup>7</sup> A geoconfirmed video by the LNR 2nd Army Corps showed tanks providing  [indirect or direct fire on Ukrainian positions](#) in Bilohorivka, cementing that Russian troops

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15577>

<sup>5</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>6</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/8057](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8057)

<sup>7</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

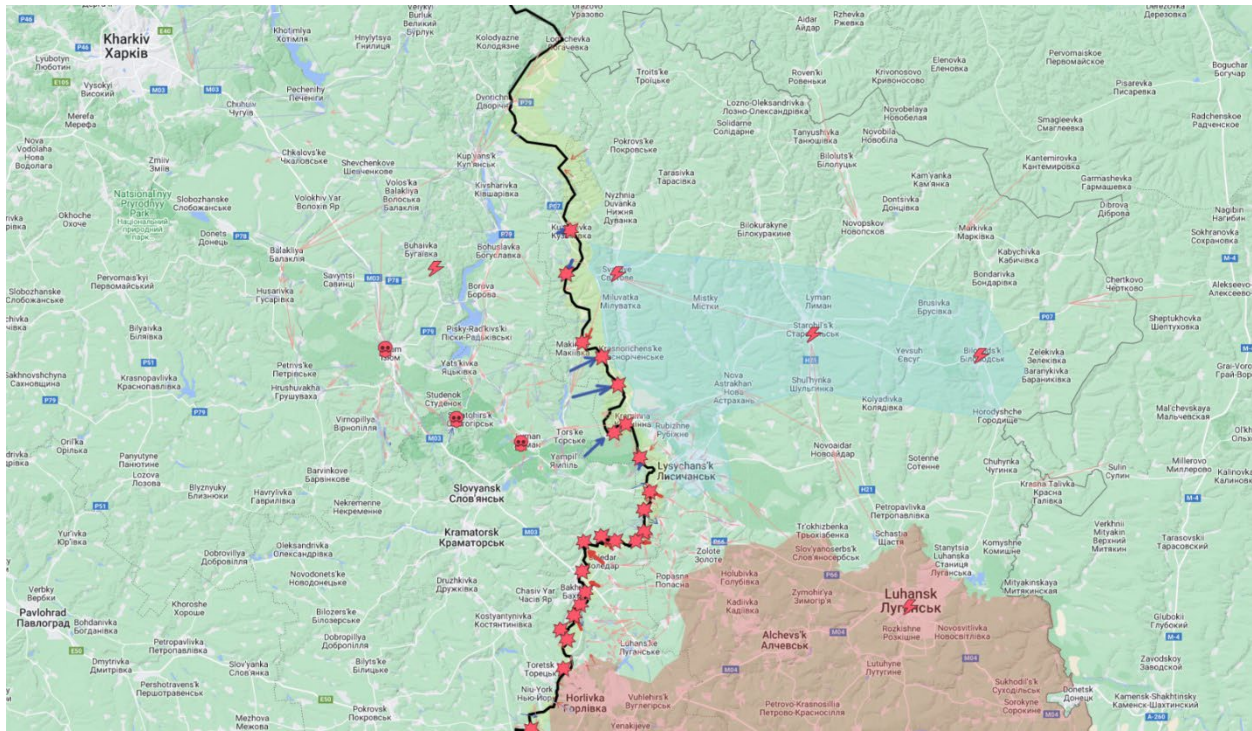
have no positions within the town. The weather conditions of the tank firing did not match the weather conditions in the target area, with one exception. Further analysis of the video also has us questioning if this is a composite video showing staged tank fire intermixed with previously recorded attacks on the settlement. We could not find any terrain within range of the target area that matched where the tanks were located.

The LNR JCCC claims Ukrainian forces struck the settlements of Lysychansk, Pervomaisk, Pokrovske, and Novodruzhesk with rockets fired by HIMARS and Pysarivka with a Tochka-U short-range ballistic missile.<sup>8</sup> They did not provide any additional information.

---

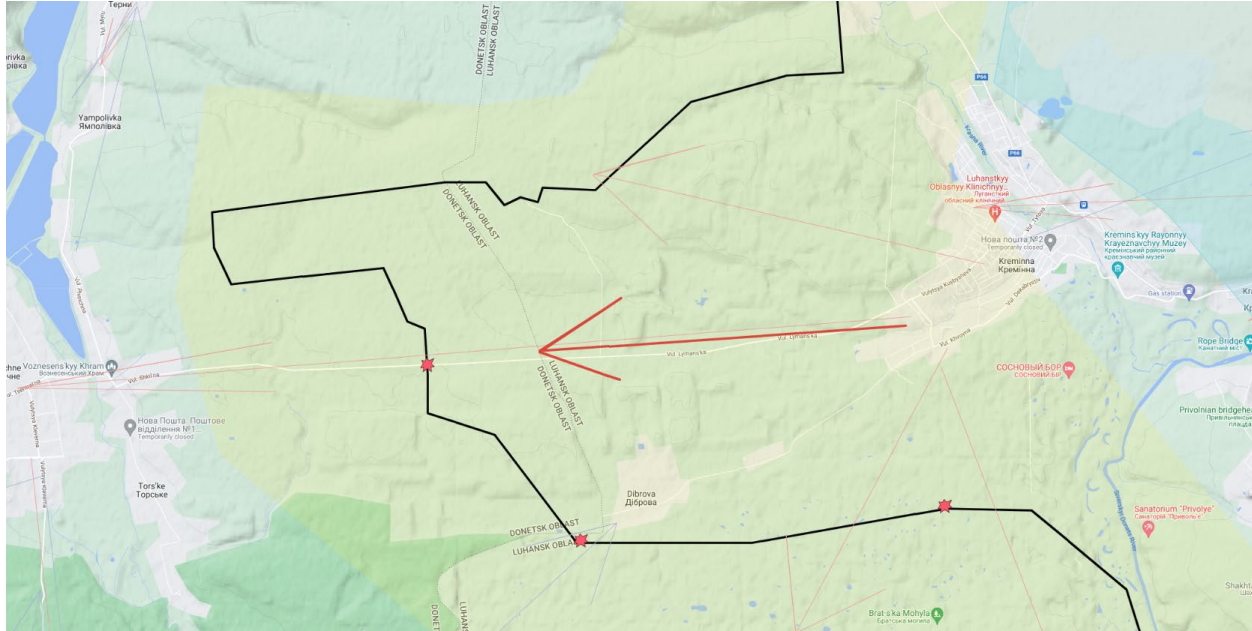
<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/8057](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8057)

# NORTHEAST DONETSK



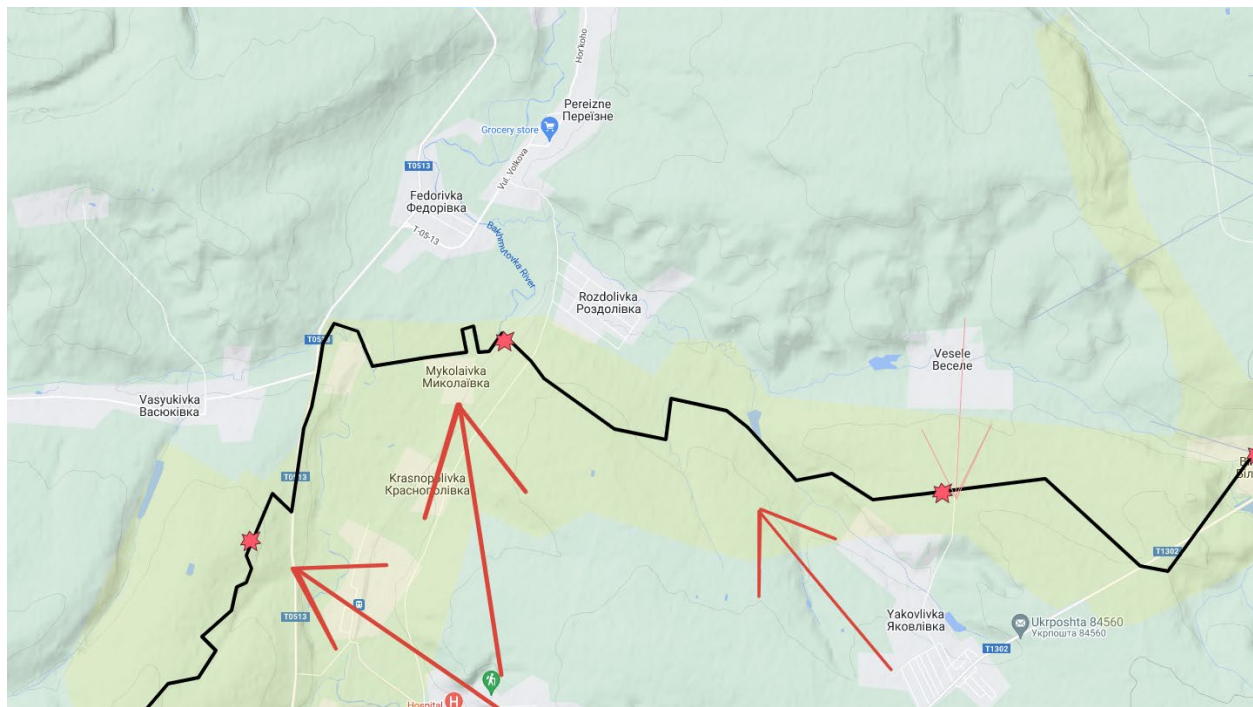
**Russian Objective:** Capture the entire region and integrate the oblast into Russian Federation

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



In the Kreminna Operational Area, Ukrainian forces repulsed an attack on [Torske](#).<sup>9</sup> We maintain that Russian forces are attempting to advance on Lyman as part of an attempt to reestablish lost positions and continue an advance toward Slovyansk. GSAFU reported that Torske and Zarichne were heavily shelled, which could be part of setting conditions for a larger offensive.<sup>10 11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)  
<sup>10</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)  
<sup>11</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

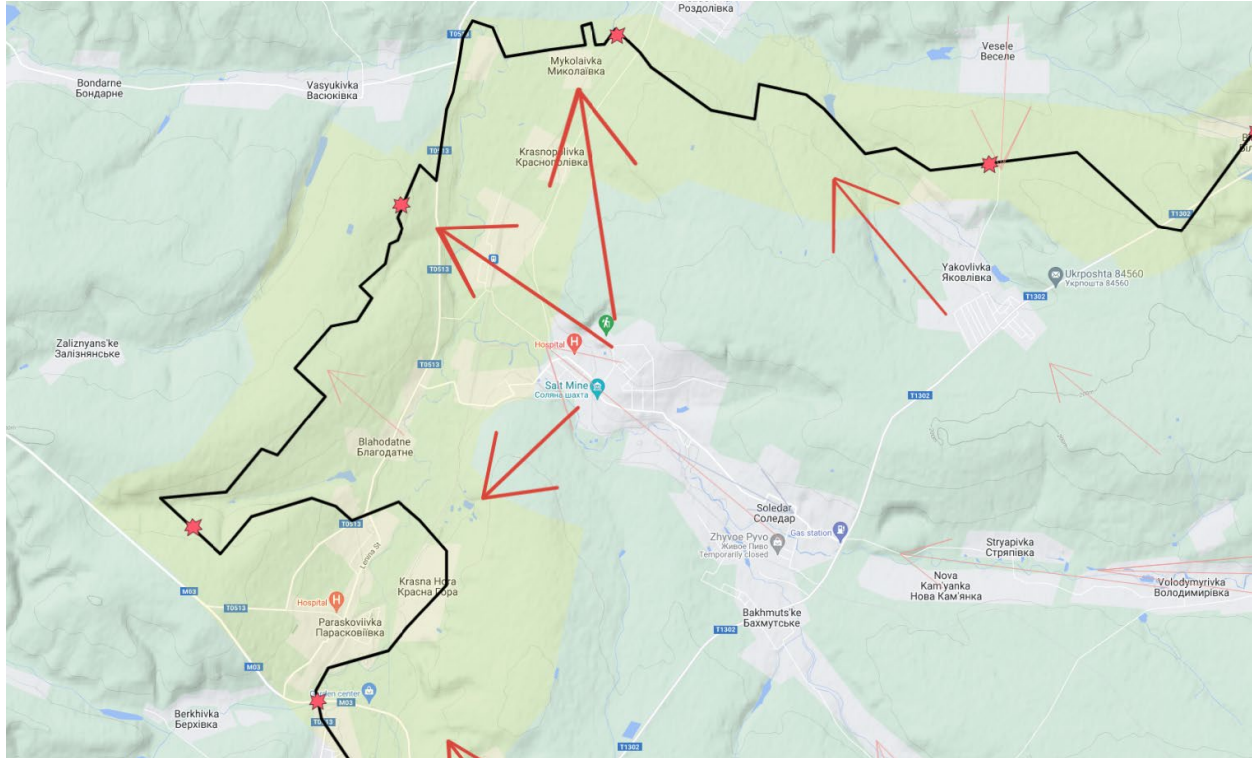


In the Siversk Operational Area, Russian forces continued attempts to advance on [Fedorivka](#) without success.<sup>12</sup>

---

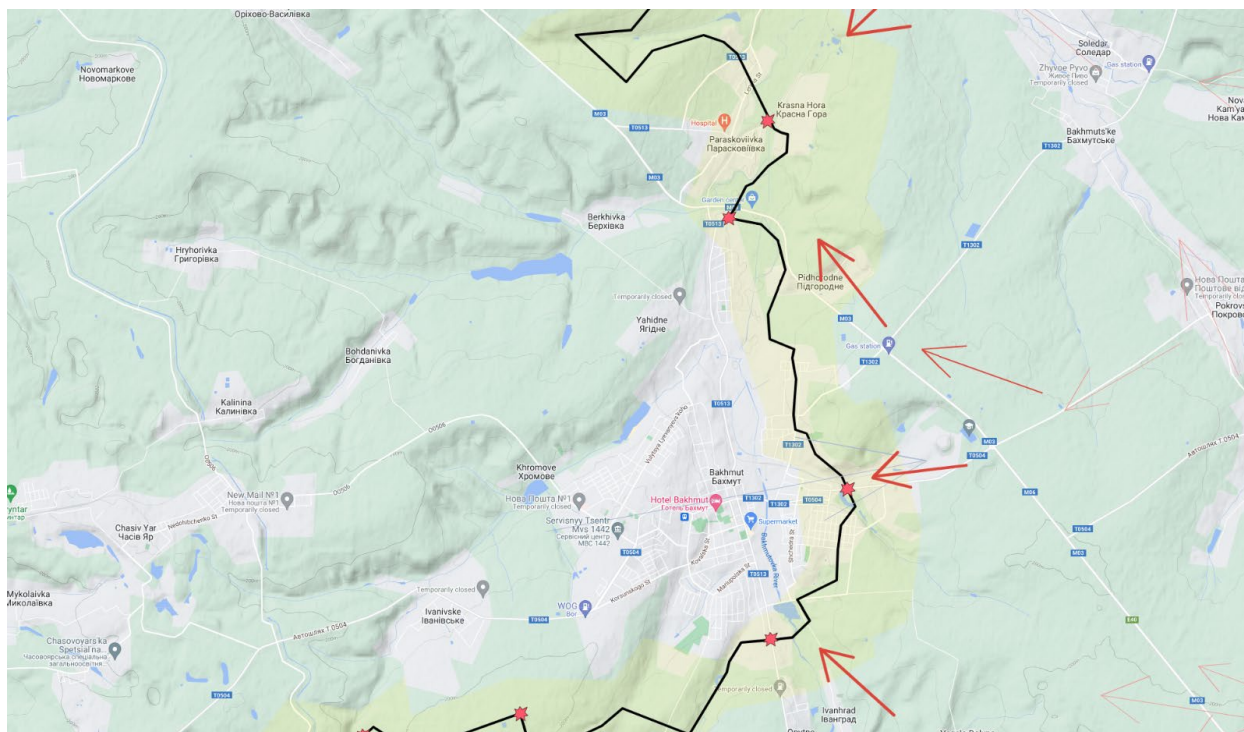
<sup>12</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)






In the Soledar Operational Area, PMC Wagner captured [Krasna Hora](#), releasing a picture of a squad of mercenaries on the western edge of the village.<sup>13</sup> The reports of Ukrainian troops being encircled were false.

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15570>



In the Bakhmut Operational Area, Intense fighting continued in [Paraskoviivka](#), which is being attacked in three directions.<sup>14</sup> The situation is very difficult, but the risk of encirclement has been reduced.

Intense fighting in the northern, eastern, and southeastern regions of [Bakhmut](#) continue.<sup>15</sup> A geolocated drone video showed a  [Ukrainian BMP-4 providing cover fire](#) in the northeastern part of the city.<sup>16</sup> Based on the locations of where the infantry fighting vehicle was located and the

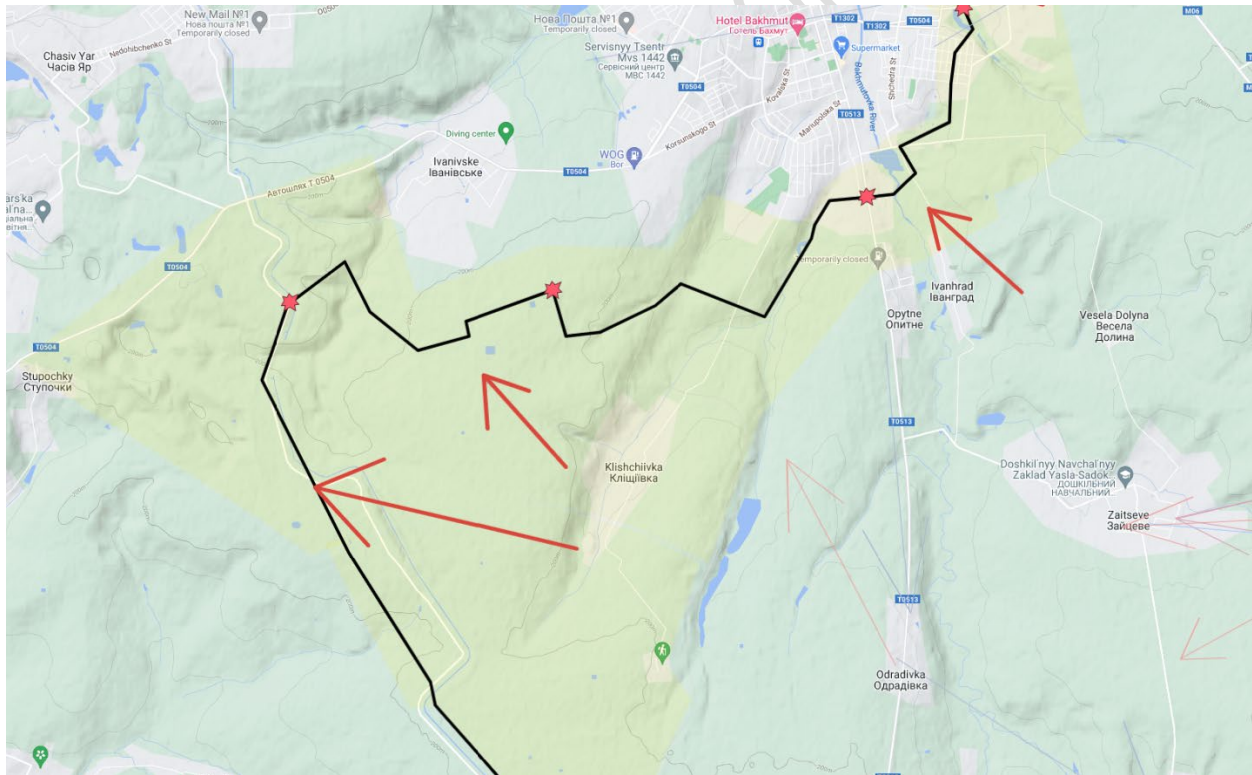
<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15577>

<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15577>

<sup>16</sup> [https://twitter.com/am\\_misfit/status/1624570931585892353](https://twitter.com/am_misfit/status/1624570931585892353)

target area, we moved the line of conflict east and north.<sup>17</sup> Street-to-street fighting continues, but the video indicates that Ukrainian forces are pushing PMC Wagner forces back in this part of the city.

Ukrainian forces report experiencing shortages of ammunition, having to conserve artillery, and lacking secure radio communications.



<sup>17</sup> [https://twitter.com/am\\_misfit/status/1624570931585892353](https://twitter.com/am_misfit/status/1624570931585892353)

In the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, heavy fighting continued. The Terra Unit of Ukraine [released a 20-minute video](#) showing a number of artillery and drone strikes and positional fighting west and northwest of Klischchiivka. Our team analyzed the video, geolocated numerous locations, and determined the video was likely recorded toward the end of January based on weather conditions. Despite the outdated intelligence, it is an improvement from no intelligence. Based on our analysis, we made a minor adjustment to our map, moving Russian troops about 500 meters farther south of [Ivanivske](#) and 1,500 meters farther east of [Stupochky](#). We no longer believe that PMC Wagner or Russian forces have a significant presence west of the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal.

Our analysis is supported by reports that Ukrainian forces have stabilized the situation along the T-504 Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) between Kostyantynivka and Bakhmut and a late report from GSAFU of an attack repelled in the area of [Klischchiivka](#) versus [Chasiv Yar](#).<sup>18 19</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Although this is a positive assessment, it does not change the fundamental situation that PMC

---

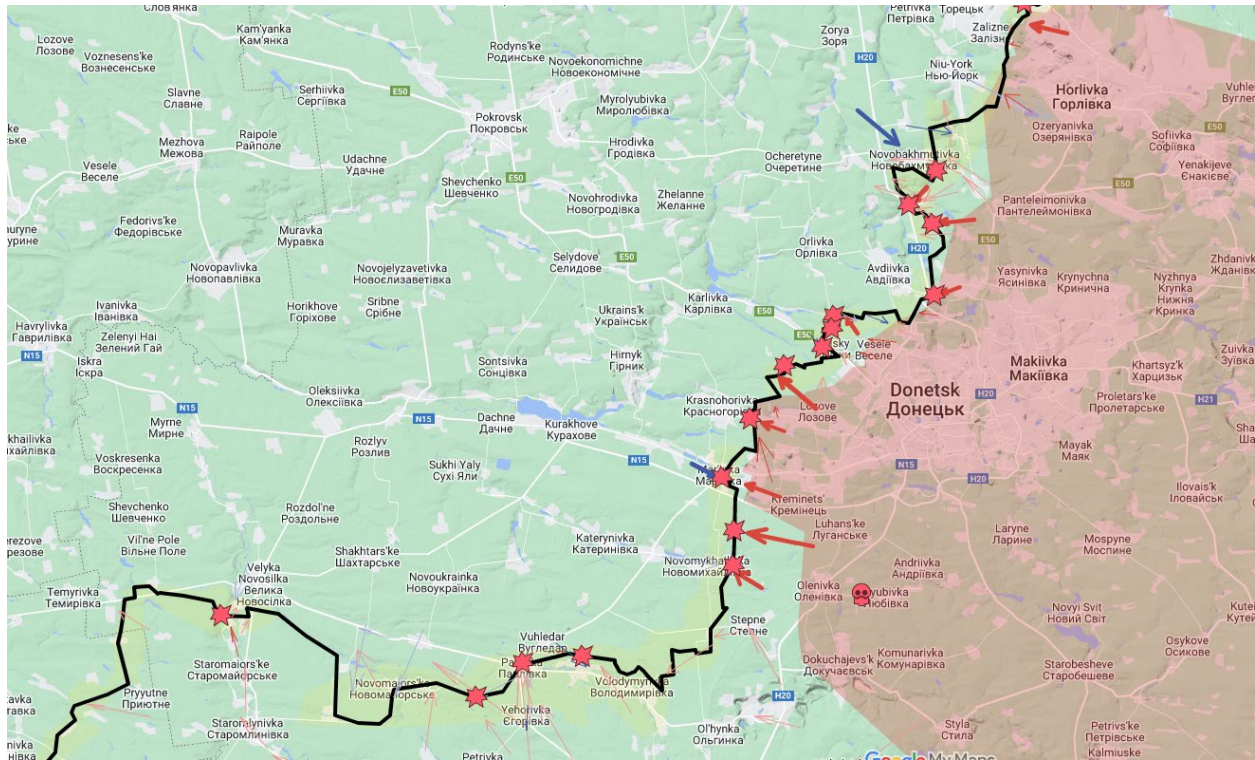
<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15577>

<sup>19</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report February 13, 2023 AM EEST](#)

**Wagner and Russian forces are slowly pushing into Bakhmut from three directions, and the situation is fluid. Both combatants are suffering significant losses, and we maintain our assessment that Russia will fight to capture Bakhmut at all costs.**

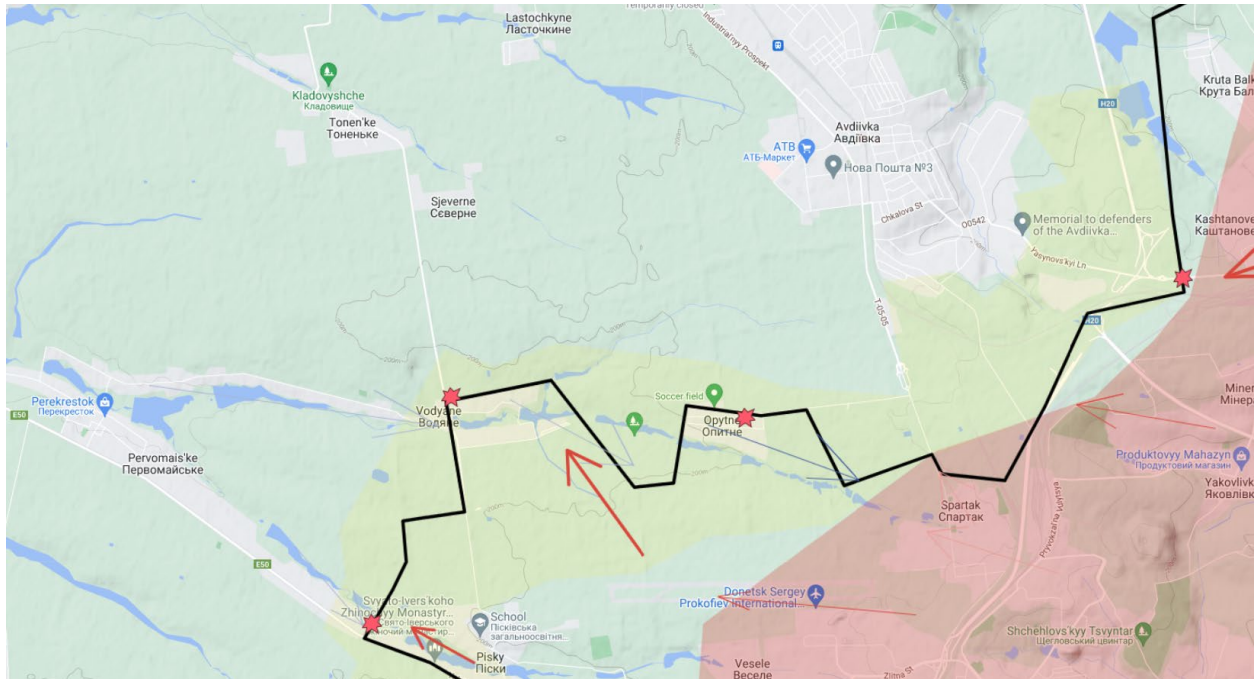
COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS


## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Capture the entire region, integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

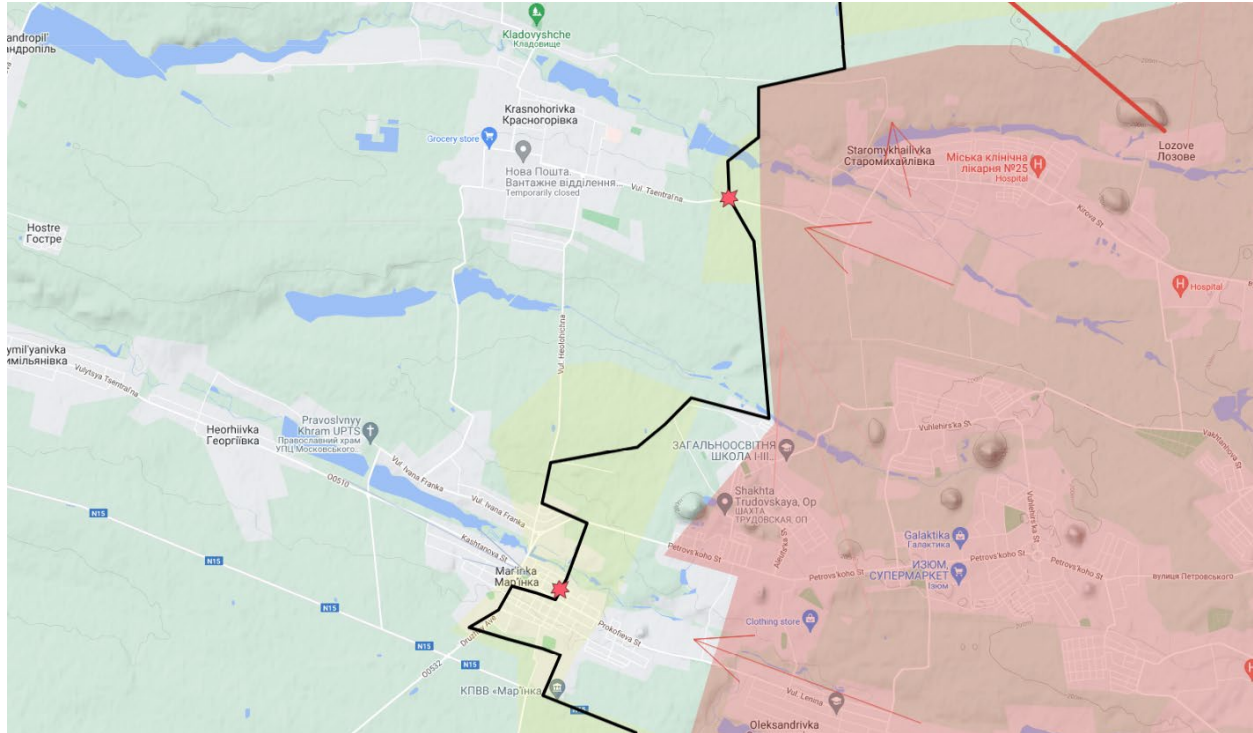
**Ukrainian Objective:** Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



In the Avdiivka Operational Area, Russian offensive operations were scaled back. The reason is unclear. The residential quarter of Avdiivka was  [heavily shelled](#) in the morning.<sup>20</sup> Russian forces attempted to advance into [Pervomaiske](#) without success.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/57029>

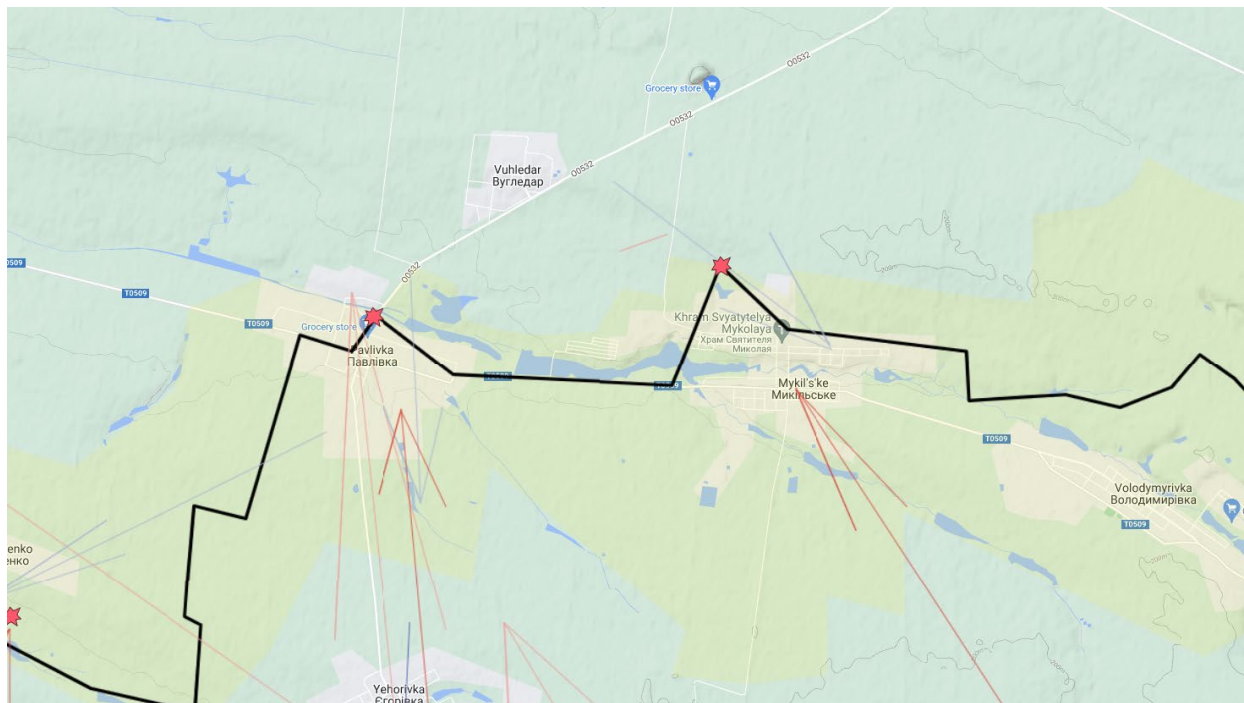
<sup>21</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)





In the Marinka Operational Area, there was positional fighting in the center of [Marinka](#), and Russian forces attempted to advance on [Pobjeda](#) without success.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)





In the Vuhledar Operational Area, the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported their forces shelled Ukrainian troops in [Pavlivka](#).<sup>23</sup> GSAFU reported that a Russian offensive on [Vuhledar](#) was repelled, supported by videos.<sup>24</sup> One video showed two Russian tanks traversing the northern edge of the gray zone on our map,  [driving over landmines](#).<sup>25</sup> A second video showed  [three Russian tanks were destroyed](#) by Ukrainian artillery fire in the gray zone northeast of [Shevchenko](#).<sup>26</sup> Alexander Khodakvosky reported that his operational headquarters near Vuhledar

---

<sup>23</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24120](https://t.me/mod_russia/24120) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>24</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1624946385396158465>

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1624615709702586368>

was destroyed in a HIMARS strike, killing at least one senior officer.<sup>27</sup>

There were reports of fighting on the eastern edge of Krasnohorivka, but it was unclear if it was the settlement north of Avdiivka or the one north of Marinka. Both are on the line of conflict and have been subject to recent attacks.

Russian propagandist Rodion Miroshnik reported a major explosion in Mariupol's Ilyich Steel and Iron Works area.<sup>28</sup> Russian forces have a growing base of operations in that part of the city, including a helicopter base. There was no other information at the time of publication.

Insurgents in Mariupol reported three loud explosions in Nikolske, near [School Number 3](#). Russian occupiers claim the blast was caused by a Tochka-U SRBM being intercepted, while local residents reported multiple explosions that were "heard for some time."<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1625074578404831232>

<sup>28</sup> [https://t.me/miroshnik\\_r/10488](https://t.me/miroshnik_r/10488)

<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6666>

Large numbers of semi-trucks headed east toward the [Novoazovsk border crossing into Russia](#).<sup>30</sup>

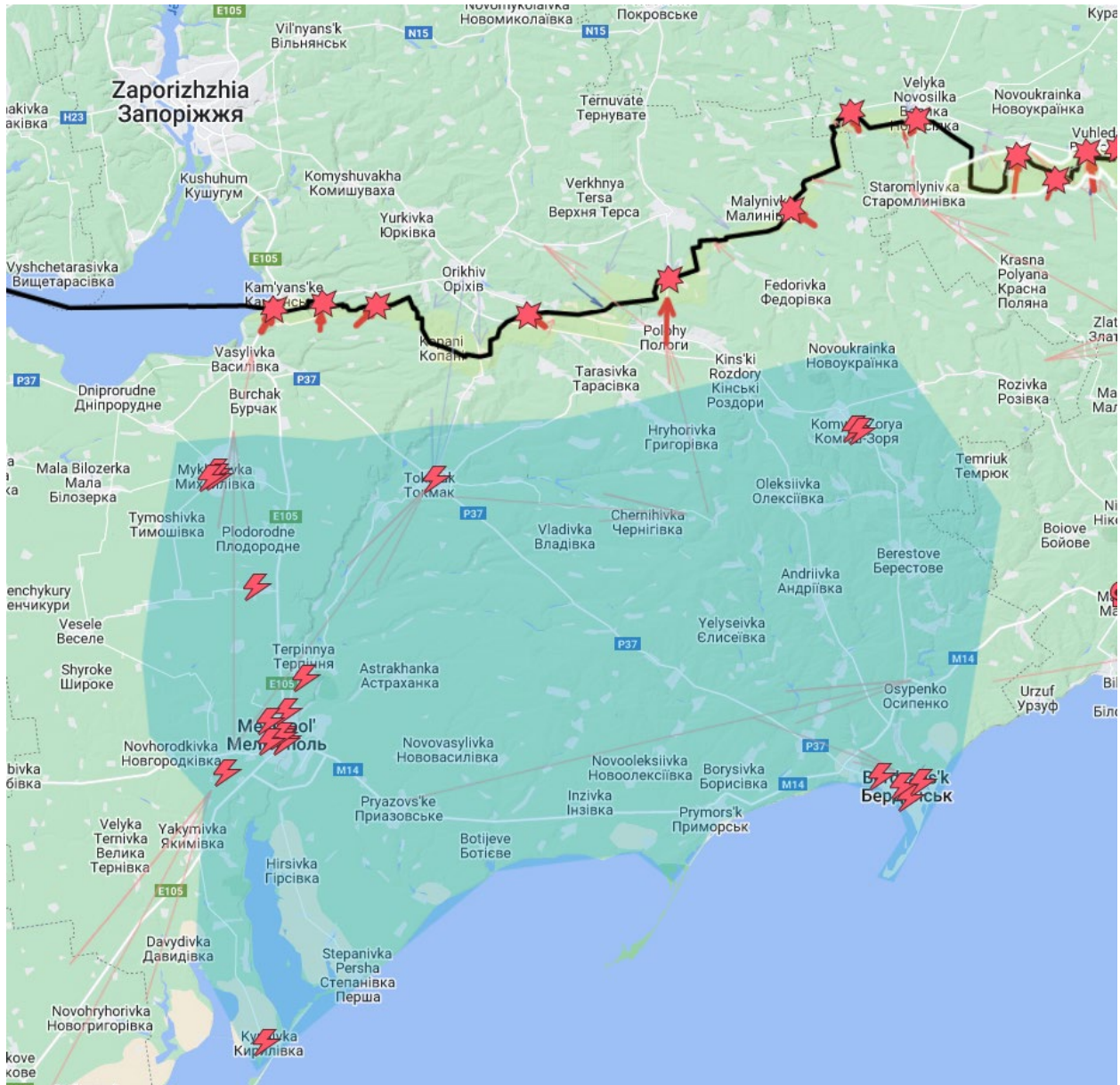
The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) reported that the Petrovskiy District was shelled by Ukrainian forces, killing one person. What they neglected to add in the report is the video showing the strike hit an ammunition depot at the base of a mining waste heap [in the middle of a residential neighborhood](#).<sup>31</sup> There wasn't a statement from Amnesty International about the Russian practice of placing ammunition and fire bases in residential neighborhoods of Donetsk.

---

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6660>

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15576>

# ZAPORIZHIA




**Russian Objective:** Prevent a Ukrainian offensive into Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, capture the remainder of the oblast

**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

There was no change in the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

## **BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION**

Operational Command South (OCS) reported there are 12 vessels of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol, including two Kilo-class submarines capable of launching up to eight Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>32</sup>

Russian engineers were working on  [surfacing the new bridge deck](#) on the second span of the Kerch Strait Bridge.<sup>33</sup> The Kremlin has set a deadline of March for the highway section to reopen, while the rail bridge isn't expected to be operational until late summer.

---

<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77787>


<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/57098>

## WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery strikes across the Dnipro River.<sup>34 35</sup> Russian forces carried out 49 fire missions, nine on the city of Kherson, killing three and wounding one.<sup>36</sup>

Ukrainian forces  [continued to shell Nova Kakhovka](#), and OCS reported that two more private boats carrying Russian DRG units were destroyed on February 11.<sup>37</sup>

---


<sup>34</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>35</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3707>

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/57094>

In Dnipropetrovsk, Russian forces appear to be testing Ukrainian air defenses. A reconnaissance drone was launched with several balloons. The balloons had an array of corner radar deflectors to create very low-budget decoys. "They began to attack in small groups in the evening. They are studying the work of our air defense, and reconnaissance drones may appear to examine the consequences of the strikes. You can't call it preparation [for a new missile attack]," a Ukrainian official said.<sup>38 39</sup> If you're wondering if the radar reflectors match the mystery objects the United States Air Forces shot down over the Yukon Territory of Canada, Alaska, and Michigan over the weekend, the answer is "no."

Russian forces shelled Nikopol and Marhanets, killing one, wounding two pensioners, and putting one in the hospital.<sup>40</sup> In Nikopol,  [private homes, apartment buildings, a college](#), and critical infrastructure were targeted, while in Marhanets, 20 private homes and farm buildings were damaged or destroyed.<sup>41</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77900>

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77901>

<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77878>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77758>

## **NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE**

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

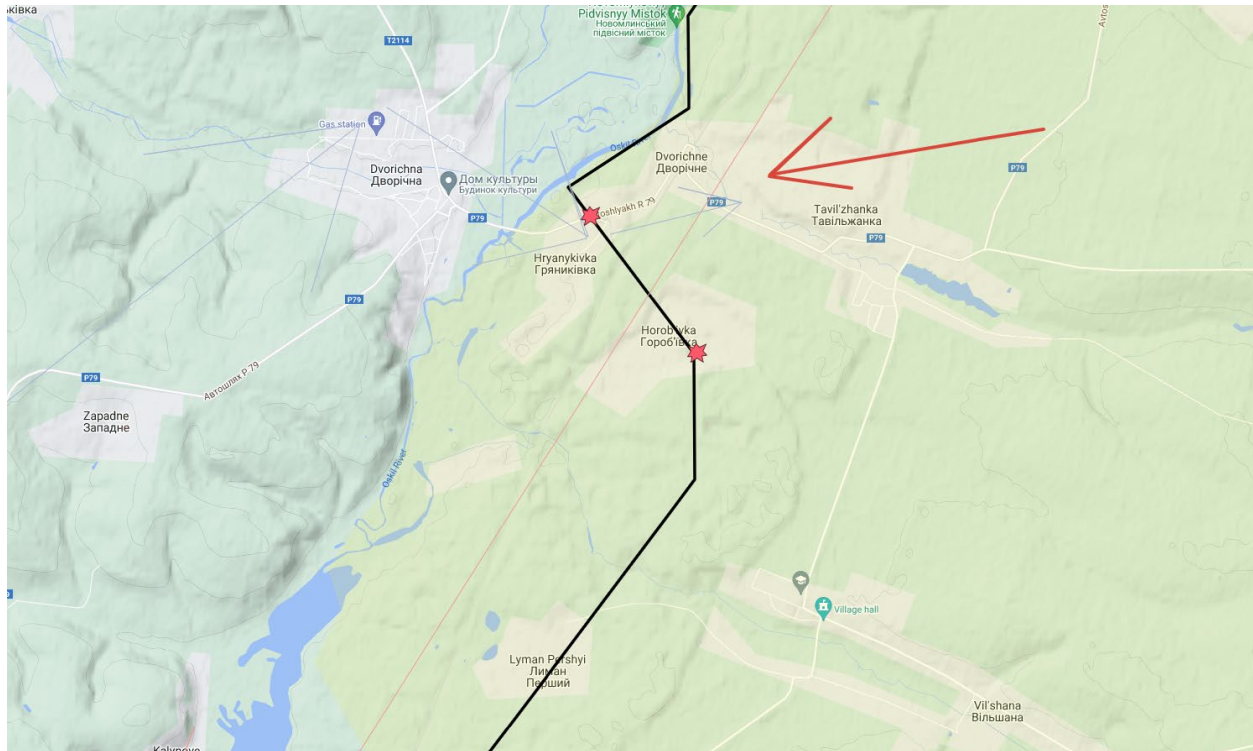
**Ukrainian Objective:** Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

In the Sumy oblast, 52 artillery shells and mortars struck the hromadas of Esman, Znob-Novogrod, Krasnopillya, and Yunakivska. Esman was hit by 32 mortars, with a café damaged. There were no casualties reported.<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77897>





In the Dvorichna Operational Area in Kharkiv, mercenaries with Rybar felt compelled to remind everyone that Russian forces captured [Dvorichne](#) last week.<sup>43</sup> Claims about the capture of [Hryanykivka](#) may have been overstated, with Rybar claiming that Russian troops are only in the “northern outskirts.”<sup>44</sup> The number of artillery strikes continues to increase, with Kupyansk and Dvorichna heavily targeted.


---

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43559>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43559>


Kharkiv was hit by three more S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack, damaging civilian infrastructure and wounding one person.<sup>45</sup>

## RUSSIAN FRONT

The border town of  [Shebekino was shelled](#), damaging homes.<sup>46</sup>

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukraine is restricting journalist and civilian access to Bakhmut starting on February 13. Reporters and aid workers will still be admitted with a pass provided by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense.<sup>47</sup>

Ukraine released a video of an  [internally developed drone](#) powered by a piston engine but used rocket assist take-off (RATO) to launch.<sup>48</sup> There was no other

---

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77692>

<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/57009>

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77825>

<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77805>

information about the drone's capabilities or a confirmation that this is the 1,000-kilometer drone in development.

On the night of February 11, four Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were launched from the Azov Sea region. All four were shot down without incident.<sup>49</sup>

Kremlin-supported hacker group Killnet launched a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on the NATO Special Operation Forces website, knocking the public page offline over the weekend.<sup>50</sup>

Pakistan is providing Ukraine with 10,000 Grad rockets.<sup>51</sup>

There continue to be reports that the United Kingdom is considering providing Ukraine with Stormshadow cruise missiles with a range of 400 kilometers and Harpoon antiship missiles with a range of 240 kilometers.<sup>52</sup> At 240 kilometers, Sevastopol remains out of reach, but the area of safe operation for the Black Sea Fleet would get significantly smaller if launched from the Odesa region.

---

<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77733>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/02/13/7389065/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77842>

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/15026>

## RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

Russia reportedly received additional drones from Iran, including 12 Shahed-129 and Shahed-191s and six Mohajer-6.<sup>53</sup> The Shahed-191 is loosely based on a United States RQ-170 Sentinel drone that Iran shot down in 2011. The 191 is a flying wing with a range of 300 kilometers and a payload of 53 kilograms. The Mohajer-6 has an operational range of 2,000 kilometers, a payload of 150 kilograms, and four hard points to mount guided missiles or small bombs. The Shahed-121 is a reconnaissance drone.

PMC Wagner executed another mercenary with a sledgehammer and shared the video. Dmitry Yakushenko, a penal mercenary convicted of robbery and murder, was returned to Russia in a POW exchange on December 1. He was visible in RMOD and Russian state media videos.<sup>54</sup> Despite the evidence, Wagner claims that Yakushenko defected to Ukraine four days after arriving and was captured in Dnipro. The video is extremely graphic, is NSFW, not for children, and although the version we share

---

<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77883>

<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22542>

is blurred, many will find it disturbing. You can watch the video by   [clicking here](#).<sup>55</sup>

Yevgeny Prigozhin attacked the Kremlin and its narrative that Russian troops are now leading the fight in the Soledar and Bakhmut Operational Areas. "After the capture of Soledar and the mass hype that there was [others] in Soledar [beyond], the fighters of the Wagner PMC, of course, [my mercenaries] were very [unhappy]. Therefore, I want to emphasize that there is no one on Bakhmut. There are no special units that cover, pick up and intercept [some of our tasks]. Within a radius of 50 kilometers, plus or minus, there are only Wagner PMC fighters, who will take Bakhmut."<sup>56</sup> <sup>57</sup>

Video and picture evidence shows that statement isn't true, and PMC Wagner has received support from Russian artillery and the VKS.

In another post, PMC Wagner Telegram channels condemned the conviction of Alexander Leshkov, who was sentenced to 5.5 to 7 years in a "strict regiment" penal

---

<sup>55</sup> <https://twitter.com/igorsushko/status/1624926204263542784>

<sup>56</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/17167](https://t.me/grey_zone/17167)

<sup>57</sup> <https://t.me/vrogov/7672>

colony for pushing his commander during mobilization. The social media network of the mercenary company encouraged regular Russian troops to commit fratricide. "I tell you without joking and exaggerating, several middle-level commanders in the combat zone in Ukraine were simply 'lost in the attack' under the guise of an accident or enemy actions. Only [due] to this, the fighters did not go and...perform another...[suicide mission]."<sup>58</sup>

The strongest statements against the Kremlin to date come hours after the RIA advised Russian State Media to provide less coverage of Prigozhin and PMC Wagner.

Russian milblogger Andrei Morozov (Murz) claims that tension is growing between Wagner and mobiks, with mercenaries threatening to kill Russian troops.<sup>59</sup> "While working on the evacuation of wounded Wagners, they receive threats," Murz claimed. "We will shoot you if you do not bring our wounded [out alive]."

Murz closed with, "People don't want to get a bullet in the back from their own for something they can't influence. We didn't sign up for this."

---

<sup>58</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/17167](https://t.me/grey_zone/17167)

<sup>59</sup> <https://t.me/wehearfromyanina/1408>

State Duma deputy from United Russia (President Putin's political party), Sultan Khamzaev, proposed introducing criminal liability in the Russian Federation for insulting the Heroes of Russia or the USSR. According to the deputy, the defenders of Russia do not have the time to respond to insults directed at them, so they require state protection. He used the criticism leveled at Lieutenant General Rustam Muradov for the disaster at Vuhledar as an example of actions that should be illegal.<sup>60</sup>

Even before Khodakovsky's headquarters got destroyed in a HIMARS strike, he had gone full doomer after bold predictions of a victory at Vuhledar in late January. In a recent Telegram post, Khodakovsky believes Russia should stop the current offensive. "I said and continue to think that now it is more optimal to act from the defense on the held lines, accumulating and preparing the potential necessary for a full-scale offensive."

***Editor's Note: Wait, what was Russia doing since September 21?***

---

<sup>60</sup> <https://t.me/vladlentatarsky/19256>

Khodakovsky continued, "We do not have time to accumulate the potential necessary for solving larger tasks. But not only the military is to blame for this technique. To a large extent, subjective factors influence their decisions today: competition, [being] provoked to unprepared actions, [and unrealistic] expectations. When millions of consumers are waiting for good news, and when the army does not give [it], the public mood is not formed [as] you would like."

Two more Russian battalions have rioted and refused to fight in Donetsk. Mobiks from the Republic of Tartarstan [appealed to the regional governor](#) to be returned to the command of the Russian military.<sup>61</sup> Twenty-four later, a battalion from [Kaliningrad made an identical appeal](#).<sup>62</sup>

Both units claim they were not trained in infantry fighting techniques and were told they would be territorial guards away from the frontlines. They were transferred to the command of the Donetsk People's Republic, who stripped them of their heavy weapons and critical kit, such as winter sleeping bags, and told them they would be shock troops.

---

<sup>61</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1624536177863802881>

<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1624753486545014787>



Both units reached out to the Russian Ministry of Defense Prosecutors office requesting they be transferred back to their old command, and their request was refused. The Kremlin told them that the DNR was separate from RMOD, and they would have to file a complaint with the DNR prosecutor's office.

However, RMOD claimed that the DNR 1st Army Corps was integrated into the Russian military as part of annexations, and there is no distinction. This is the third unit to refuse to fight in 72 hours and the largest number of rioters we have observed since June 2022.

All is going to plan.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Jehovah's Witnesses leaders and followers who were mass arrested in Yalta (occupied Crimea) have been sentenced to 3.5 to 7.5 years in a penal colony for following the religion.<sup>63</sup> One of the defendants, Daria Kuzio, received a

---

<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22483>

deferred sentence and then 3 years in a penal colony which she will serve when her youngest (now 8) turns 14.

## GEOPOLITICAL

Russia claims it is ready for negotiations with Ukraine.<sup>64</sup> Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Zvezda TV, "The classics say that any hostilities end with negotiations, and naturally, we have already said that we will be ready for such negotiations. But only to negotiations without preconditions, negotiations based on the reality that exists, negotiations taking into account the goals that we have publicly announced."

***Editor's Note:*** *The goals publicly announced by Moscow can be summarized as turning Ukraine into a rump state with a puppet government. That doesn't sound like negotiations.*

---

<sup>64</sup> [https://www.rbc \[dot\] ru/politics/11/02/2023/63e73b7c9a794767073266c0](https://www.rbc.ru/politics/11/02/2023/63e73b7c9a794767073266c0)

The US State Department issued another alert for US citizens in Moscow to depart immediately due to “the high risk of illegal detention, persecution, and terrorism.”<sup>65</sup>

Argentinian government officials are blocking pregnant Russian women from the country. They are accusing criminal gangs of organizing birth tourism to the South American nation because children born in Argentina receive automatic citizenship. Officials say thousands of women have entered the nation before the crackdown.<sup>66</sup>

***Editor's Note:*** *Would it be wrong to point out that the Russians are putting Jehovah's Witnesses in prison camps, militarizing school children, and their citizens are fleeing to Argentina? Where have we heard about these types of actions before?*

## ECONOMIC

Swiss bank Credit Suisse has frozen more than \$19 billion of Russian assets, representing over one-third of all funds

---

<sup>65</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77918>

<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/15008>

that Moscow has declared are held in Swiss bank accounts.<sup>67</sup>

The Kremlin released data that shows that sanctions are taking a bite out of import duties despite increasing the fees to bolster revenue. Custom fees collected by the Russian Federation are down by 172 billion rubles compared to January 2022, when 549.5 billion roubles were collected.<sup>68</sup>

Russia announced it is cutting back oil production by 500,000 barrels a day from the current level of 9.9 million barrels. They claim the measure is not being done to over-supply or lack of customers but an attempt to bolster oil prices. Earlier, we had reported that Russian oil sales were down 46% from a year ago.<sup>69</sup>

The rouble continues to decline as the new oil and gas price cap continue to cause demand destruction. In early trading, the exchange rate was 74 for 1 US dollar.

WTI and Brent crude are starting the week down, with West Texas Intermediate at \$79 and Brent down to \$85 a barrel.

---

<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77837>

<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22256>

<sup>69</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22327>

Russian Urals crude is up, with an “official” price of \$58 a barrel.

United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market is starting the week down at \$2.48 a gallon (65 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures gave back its modest gains from last week, dropping to 52 euros per megawatt hour for March contracts and 53 for April.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures drifted downward to \$7.89 a bushel for May 2023 delivery.