



**MALCONTENT NEWS  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR  
SITUATION REPORT**



January 16, 2023





# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 326 .....	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT .....	3
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP .....	5
DONBAS REGION .....	6
LUHANSK .....	6
NORTHEAST DONETSK.....	12
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK.....	19
KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA.....	27
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION .....	31
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE.....	32
NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE.....	33
RUSSIAN FRONT .....	34
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	34
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS.....	40
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	43
GEOPOLITICAL.....	45
ECONOMIC.....	47

## **SUMMARY – DAY 326**

It has been 3,245 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

### **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

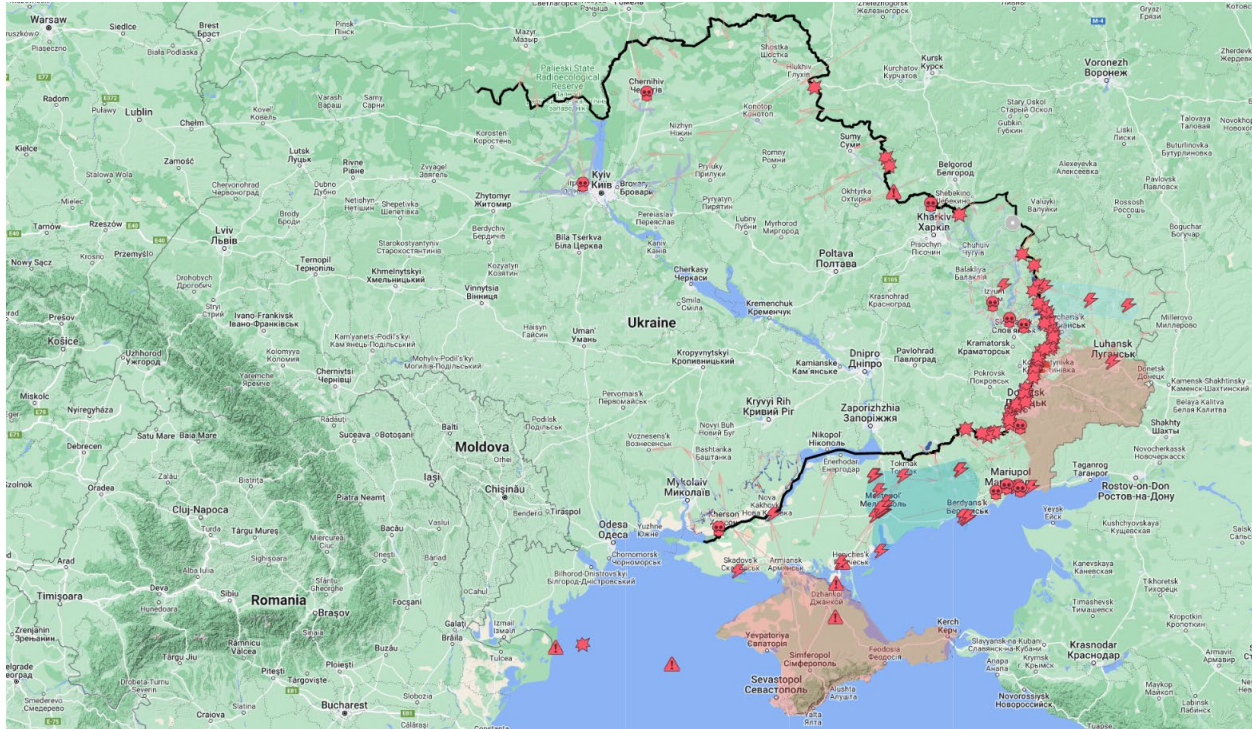
We assess the following:

1. We maintain that the power struggle between military leaders aligned with Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu versus those aligned to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin will continue.
2. We maintain the ongoing information warfare between the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) and PMC Wagner is a byproduct of the strife within the Kremlin.
3. We maintain that the current winner of the ongoing infighting between factions loyal to Shoigu versus Prigozhin is Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has shifted negative attention back to the Ministry of Defense while his former caterer.
4. We assess there is a very high risk of punitive missile strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure from January 19 to 21 and that Russian forces will continue

to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.

5. We maintain that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the deenergization of Ukrainian nuclear power plants caused by Russian electrical infrastructure destruction is possible.
6. We maintain that Russian forces led by PMC Wagner Group have taken the initiative on the Soledar-Bakhmut axis but remain largely defensive throughout the rest of Ukraine.
7. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount **effective** defensive operations, despite the slow success on the Soledar axis.
8. We maintain there will be a second wave of partial mobilization in the Russian Federation in January or February 2023.
9. We maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of a **major** offensive operation is only a remote possibility.

# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



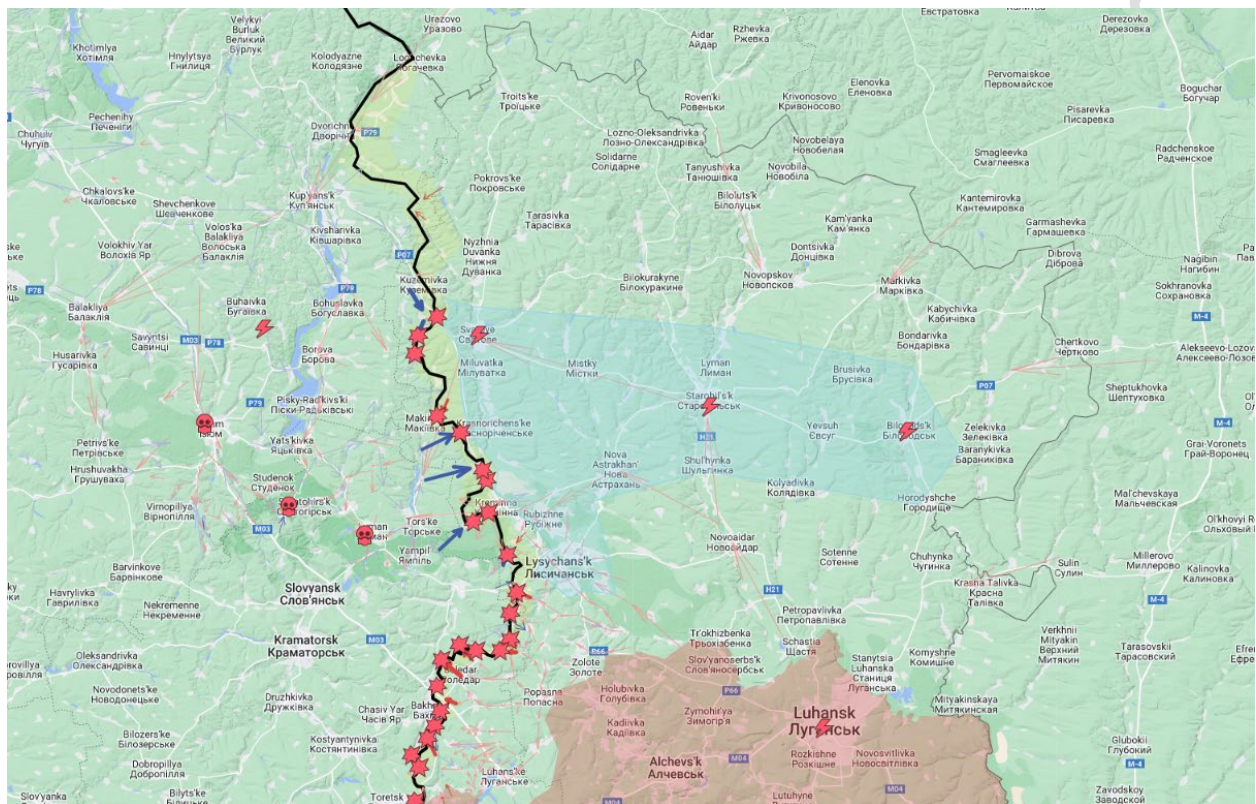
**Information about changes made to the map:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval Airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The 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, the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

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



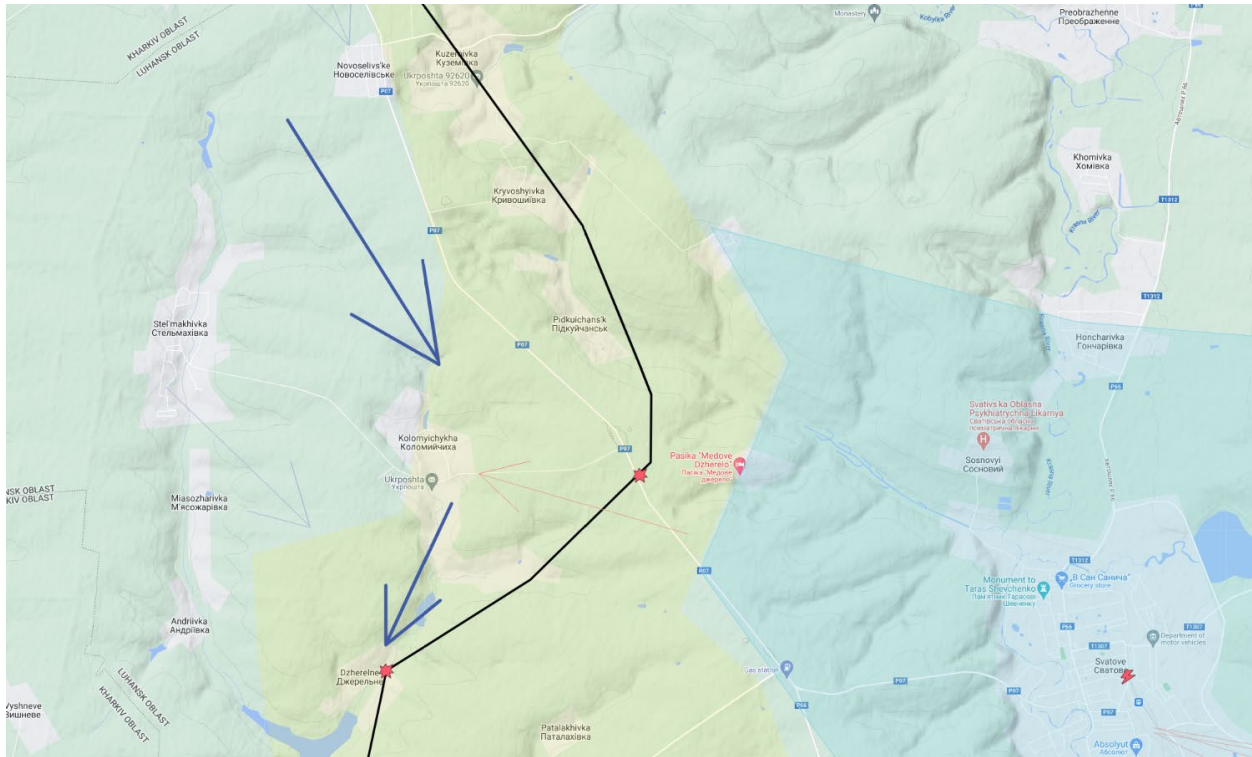
# DONBAS REGION

## LUHANSK




**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

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



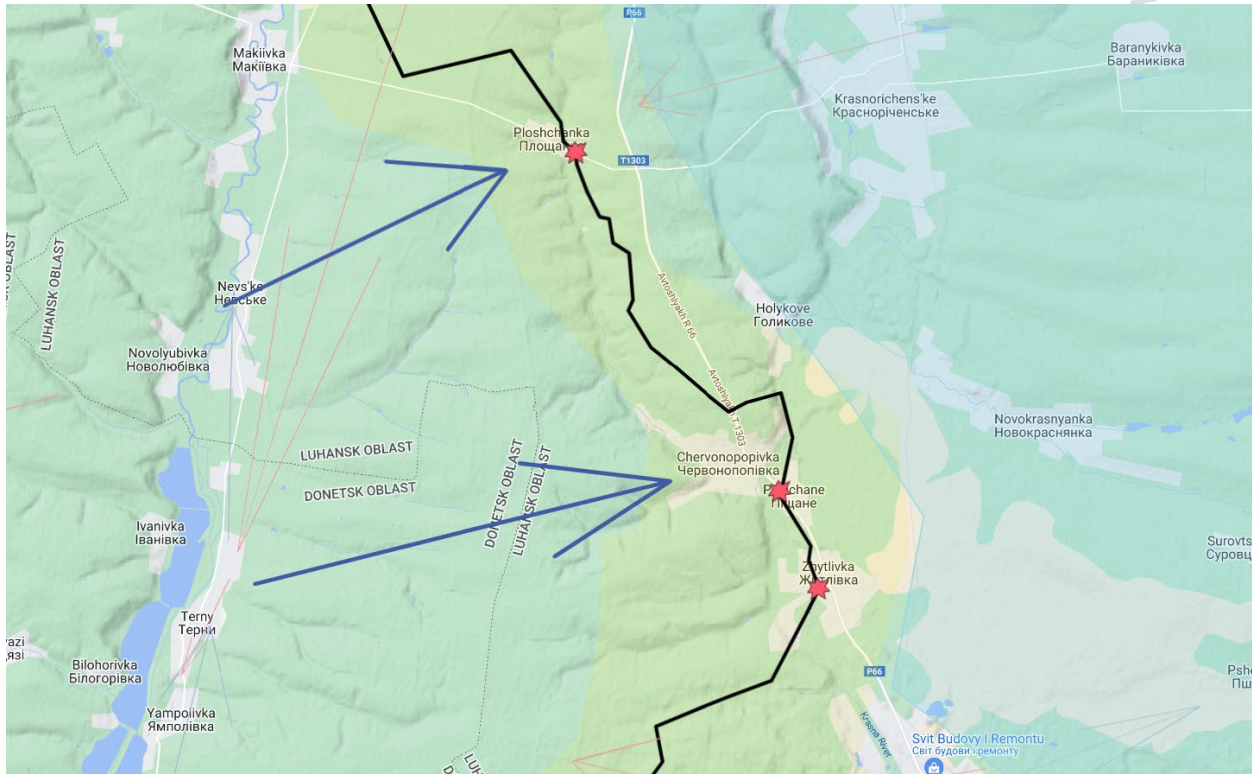
Across Luhansk, there was a lull in fighting with very little information shared.

On the Svatove axis, a video showed a  [Russian T-90M main battle tank \(MBT\) destroyed](#) between [Novoselivske](#) and [Kuzermivka](#) by direct fire from Ukrainian troops. The final blow was delivered by 155-mm artillery.<sup>1</sup> The video supports that fighting is continuing at the P-07 Highway as

<sup>1</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1614928196423516161](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1614928196423516161)



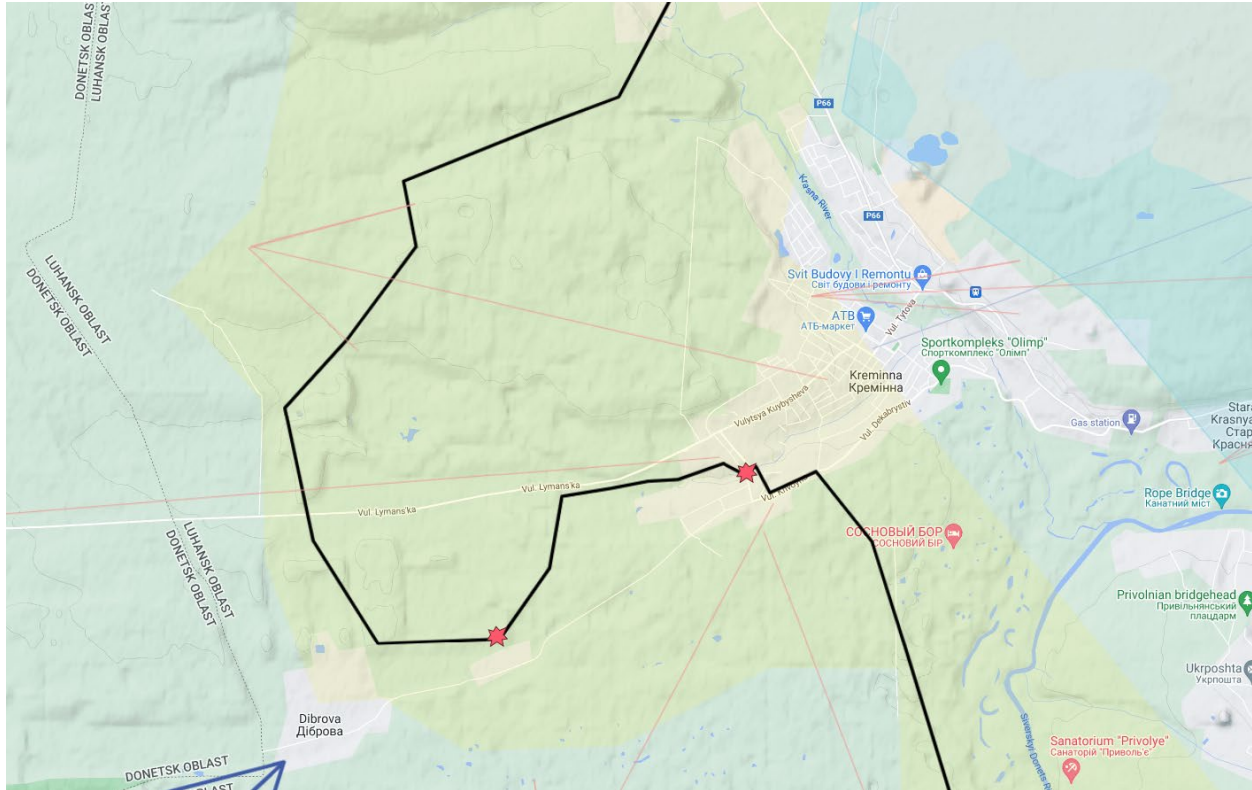
assessed on January 15, and Ukrainian forces remain in Novoselivske.



On the Kreminna axis, mercenaries with War Gonzo reported that Russian forces attempted a counteroffensive on [Chervonopopivka](#) but did not report on the outcome.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>

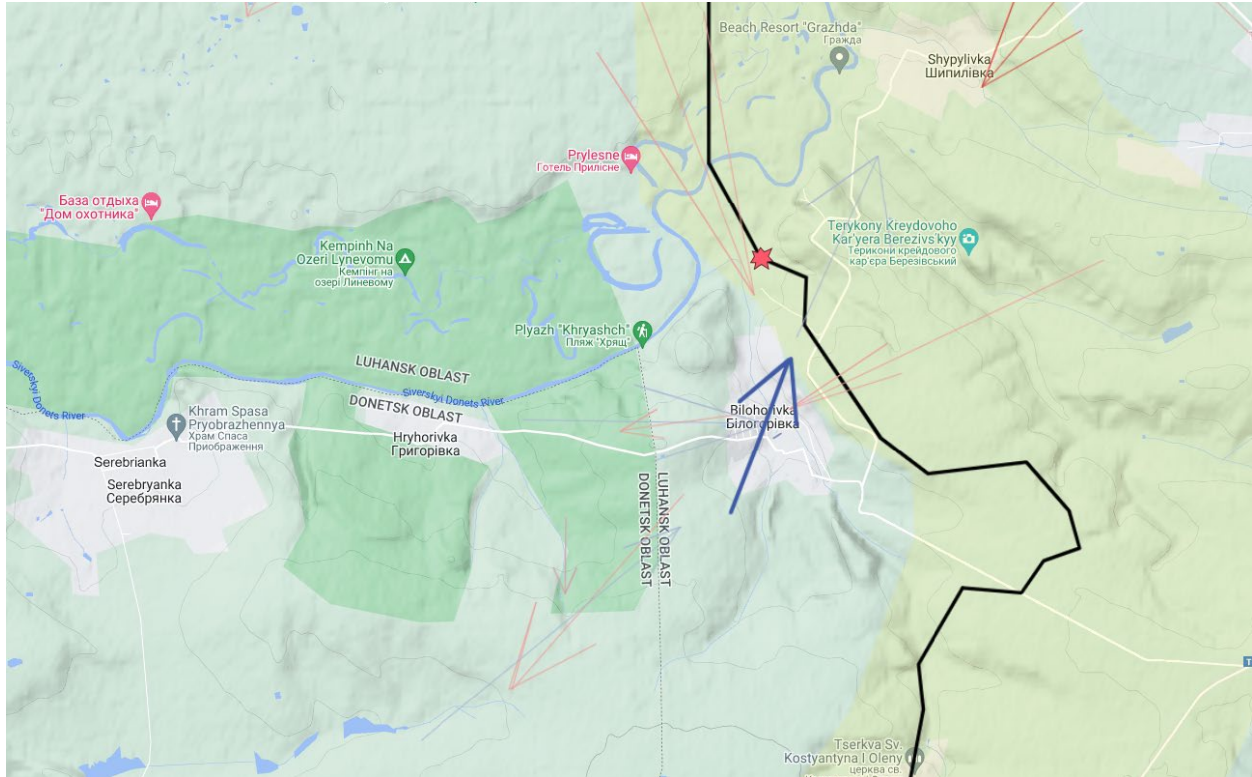


Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported fighting continued in the area of [Kreminna](#), and Russian propagandist Rodion Miroshnik reported that the city has been under constant mortar and artillery attack by Ukrainian forces.<sup>3 4</sup> We made some small adjustments to the war map based on better intelligence.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8017>

<sup>4</sup> [https://t.me/miroshnik\\_r/10228](https://t.me/miroshnik_r/10228)



On the Lysychansk axis, Ukrainian forces repelled a Russian attack on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].<sup>5</sup> Based on terrain analysis, we made a small adjustment to the map, expanding the area of Ukrainian control southeast of the town.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GASFU) disputed the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) claim that the town of Novoposkov was struck by rockets fired by rockets HIMARS

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



or Alder-M multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS).<sup>6</sup> Ukrainian government officials claim the blast was caused by an S-300 anti-aircraft missile that failed after launch and crashed into the town.<sup>7</sup> In the January 15 Situation Report, we questioned the veracity of the LNR claims of a strike on the settlement, which is over 90 kilometers from the known line of conflict.<sup>8 9 10</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** We maintain we cannot conclude the type of weapon used or decide on what kind of warhead without physically inspecting the site. We also maintain our assessment that it was impossible for rockets fired by HIMARS to reach the town, and the use of Alder-M is highly unlikely.

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<sup>6</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

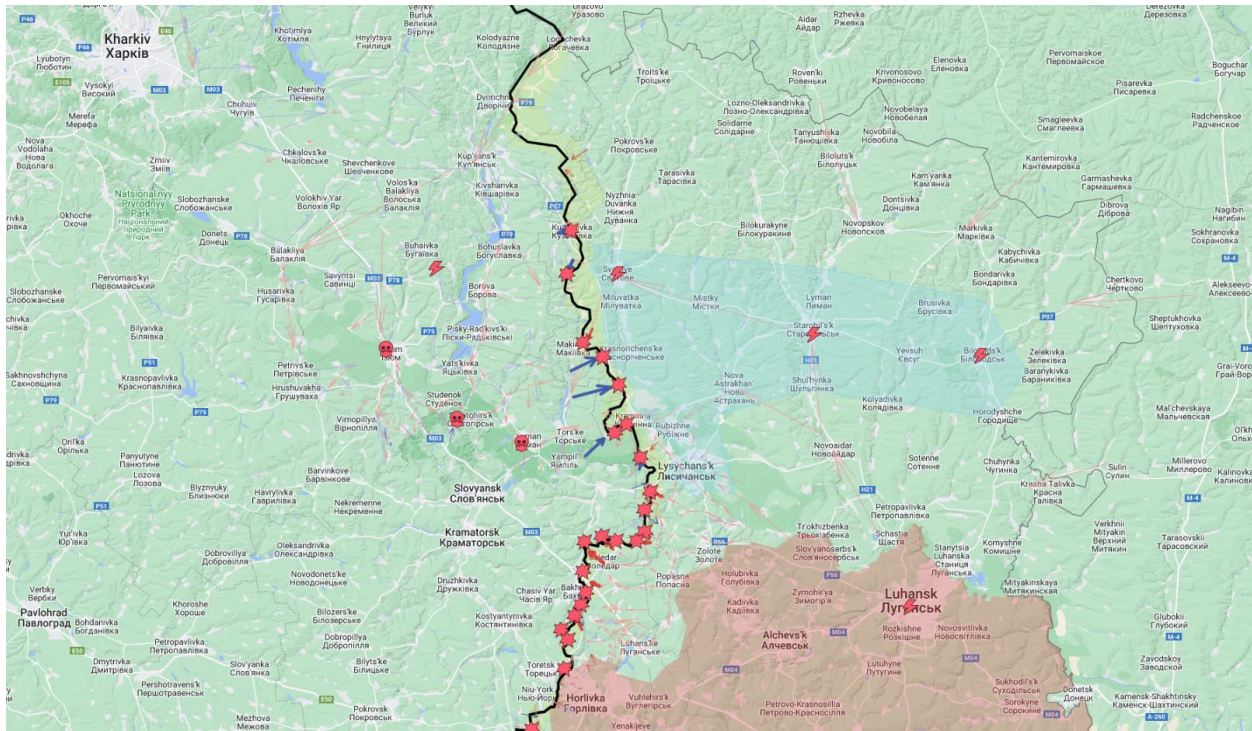
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/16/7385117/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/7933](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7933)

<sup>9</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/7924](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7924)

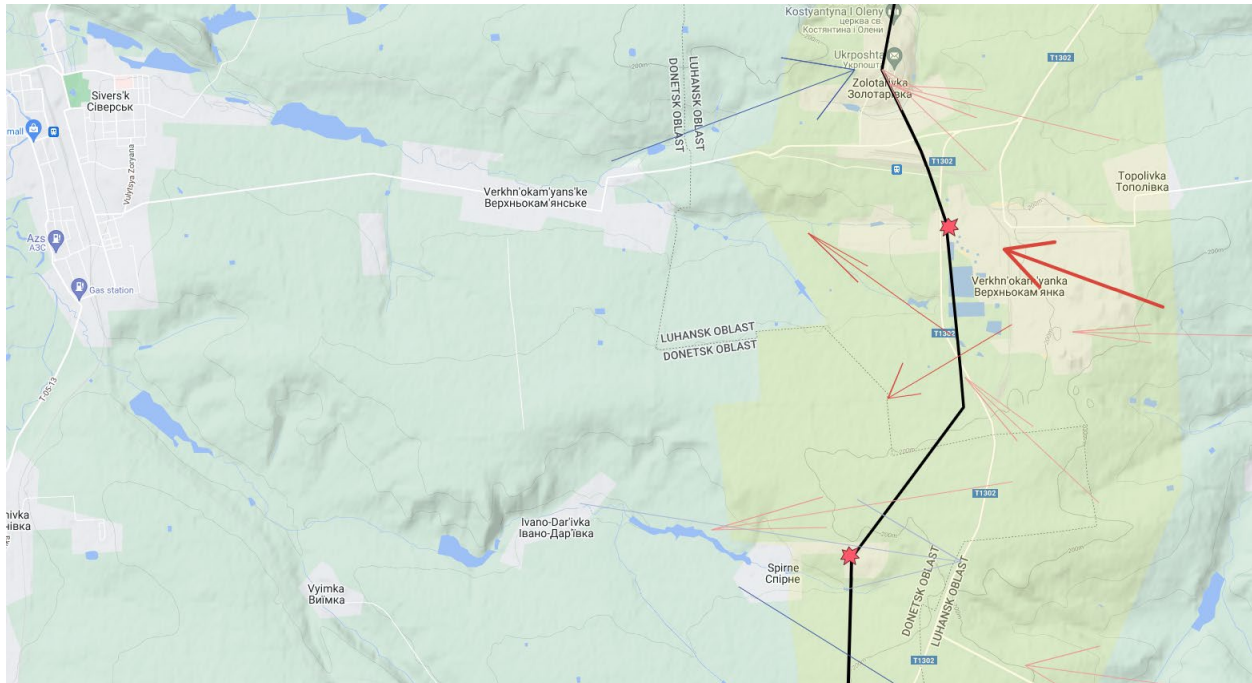
<sup>10</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/7924](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7924)

# NORTHEAST DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut-Soledar

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



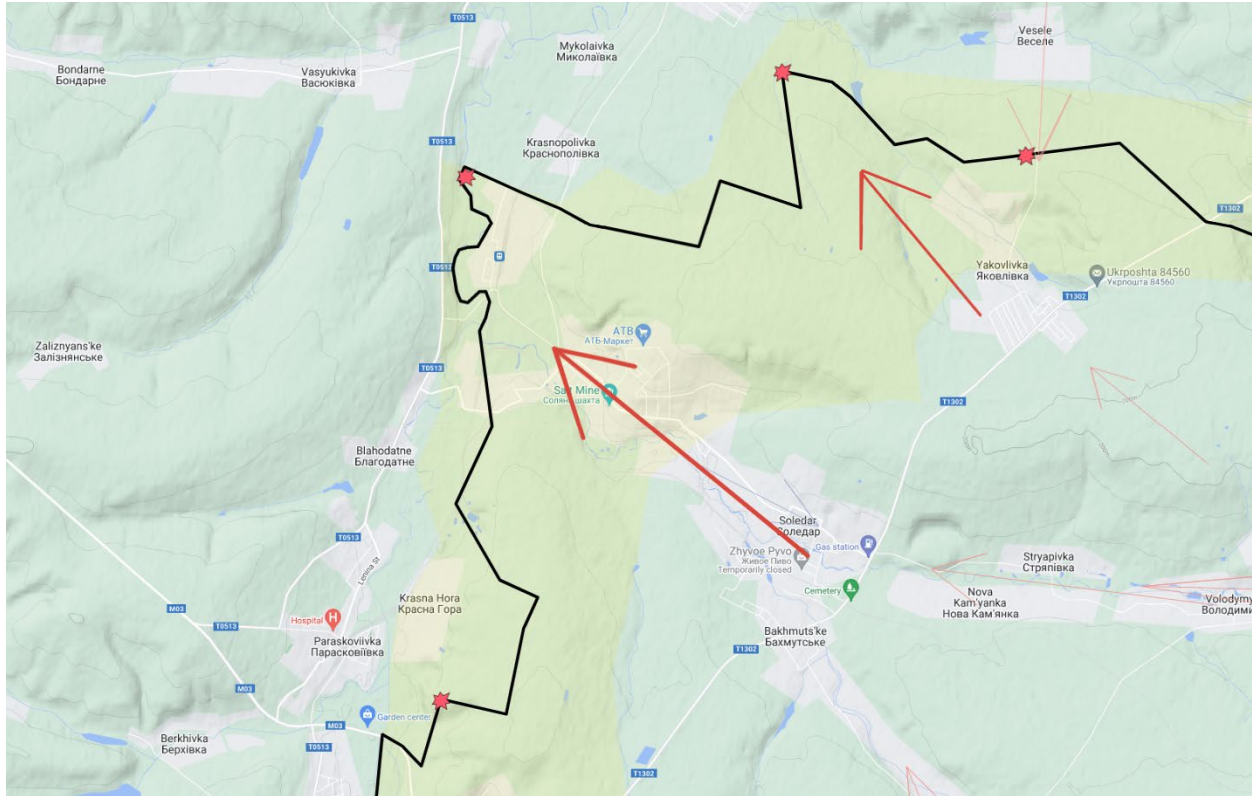
On the Siversk axis, GASFU reported that Russian forces continued to attack [Verkh'okamyanske](#) from the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border but remained unable to advance.<sup>11</sup> Fighting for control of [Spirne](#) also continued, with no change in the situation.<sup>12 13</sup>


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

<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>

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





Based on available information, we assess that Russian forces have captured [Soledar](#) and the satellite town of [Sil'](#). PMC Wagner Telegram channels shared a picture of a  [squad of mercenaries wearing Ukrainian uniforms](#) at the railroad station in Sil'.<sup>14</sup> Although GSAFU reported fighting continued in the town in their morning report, Ukrainian forces likely lost control during the day on January 16.<sup>15</sup> Mercenaries with Rybar claimed that Russian forces (regular Russian military and PMC Wagner) were expanding control "in the vicinity" of Soledar.

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/16670](https://t.me/grey_zone/16670)

<sup>15</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

GSAFU reported that Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on [Krasnopolivka](#), north of the Sil' railroad station.<sup>16</sup>

Southwest of Soledar, Russian sources claimed there was fighting on the "outskirts" of [Blahodatne](#).<sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> Ukrainian and Russian sources reported fighting in the area of [Krasna Hora](#), with a Ukrainian source stating that Russian forces were "advancing closer."<sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup>

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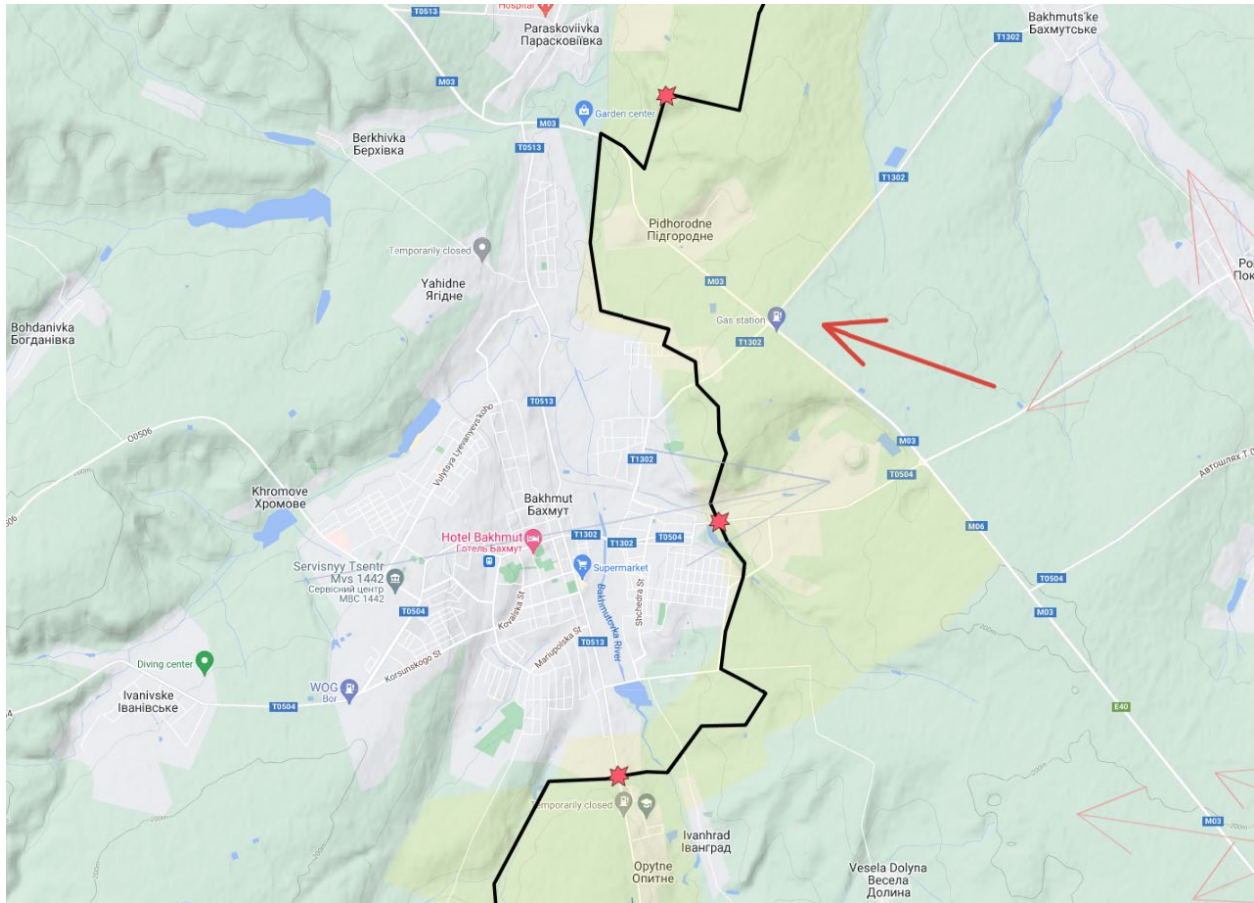
<sup>16</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)


<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/42765>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>

<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15220>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>



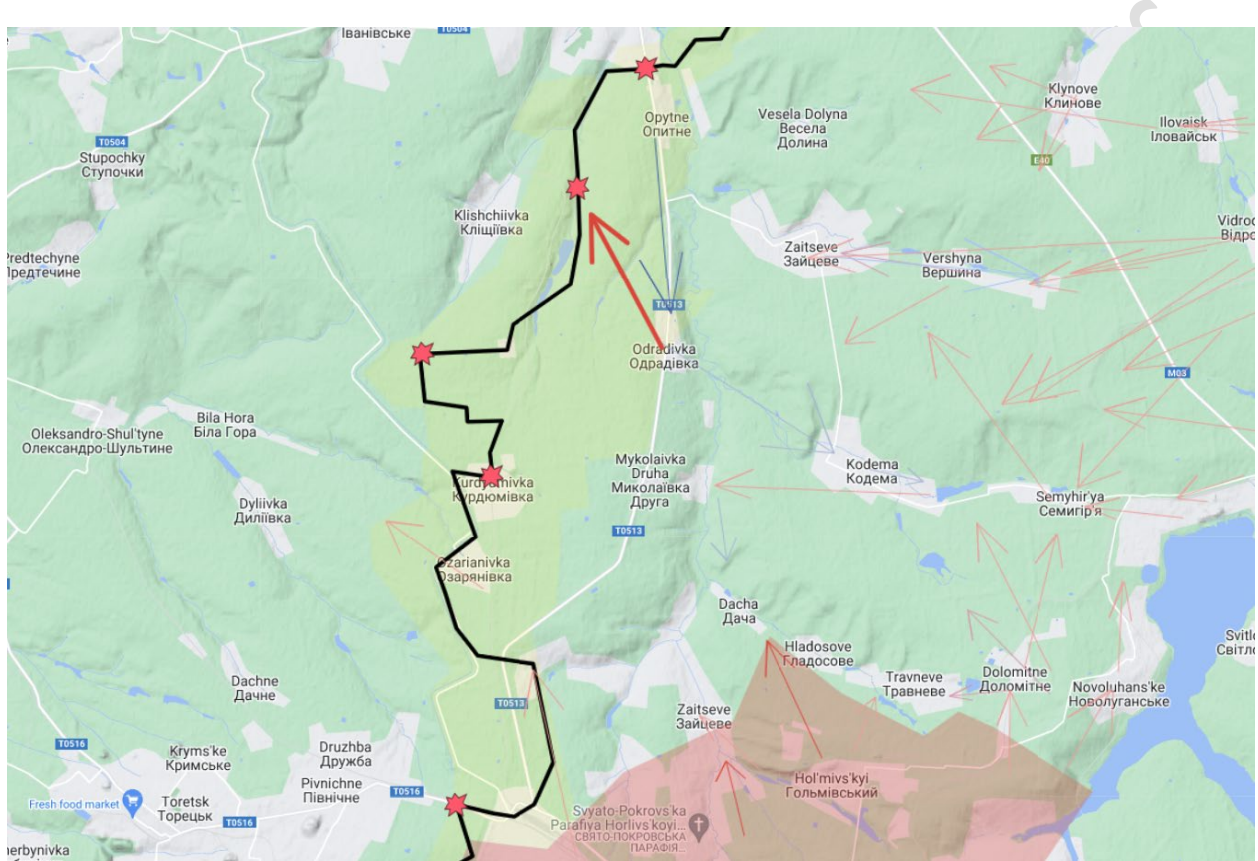
Fighting continued northeast, east, and southeast of [Bakhmut](#), with PMC Wagner making marginal gains in the forest plantation and dachas in the northeast and advancing from the garbage dump to the  [recycling sorting center to the southeast](#).<sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> Several Russian sources claimed there was fighting in Yahidne, which is geographically impossible. There continue to be no reports

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

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1614706201484460037>



from any source of fighting in the southern part of the city or Opytne.



South of Bakhmut, Rybar, War Gonzo, and PMC Wagner denied reports that Russian forces had entered and/or captured [Klishchiivka](#). Wagner's social media channels called the reports "premature" and said fighting continued, while Rybar stated, "Ukrainian command [is] making every effort to hold the settlement."<sup>23 24</sup> GASFU and the Ukrainian

<sup>23</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/16670](https://t.me/grey_zone/16670)

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/42765>

channel DeepState reported continued fighting, with DeepState claiming Russian forces had improved positions.<sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> We expanded the no man's land west of Opytne. We maintain our assessment that Russian success in this area has been exaggerated. If PMC Wagner or Russian troops reached the settlement, there would be picture reports.

On the southern edge of the Bakhmut axis, GASFU reported that fighting continued in [Mayorsk](#).<sup>27</sup>

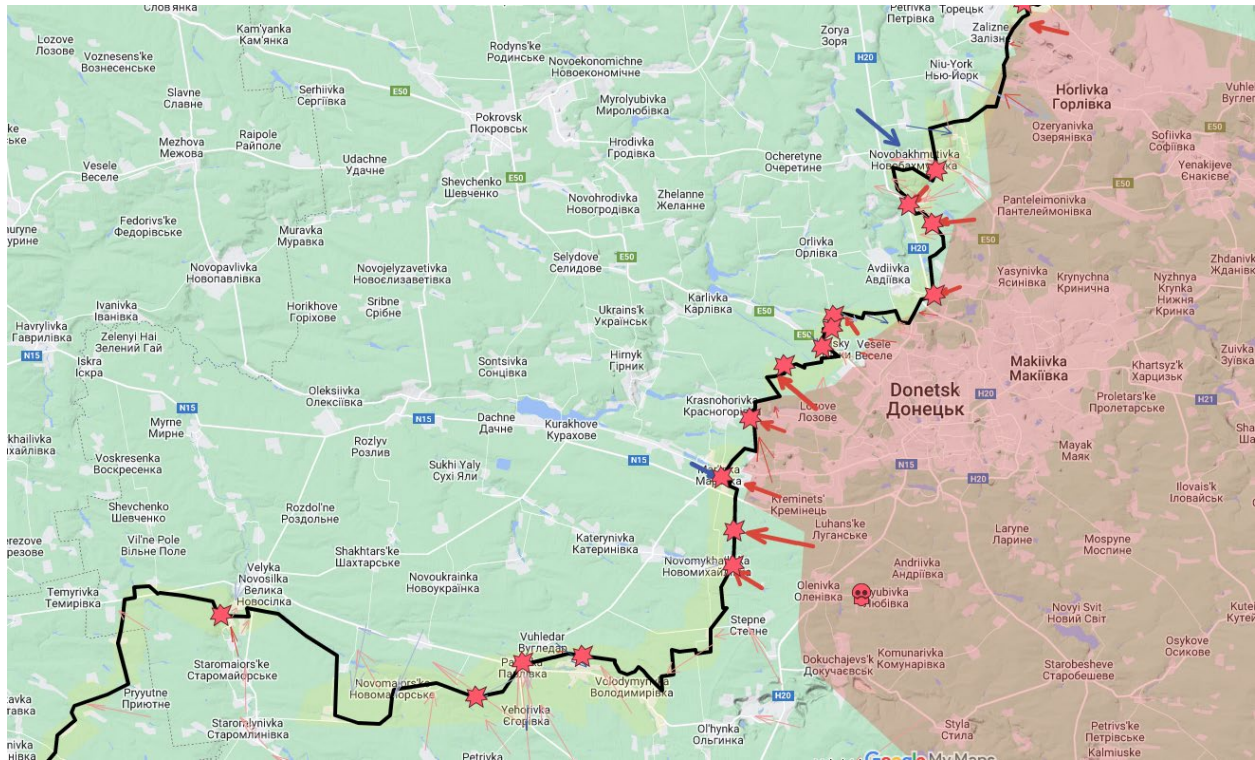
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<sup>25</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15220>

<sup>27</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

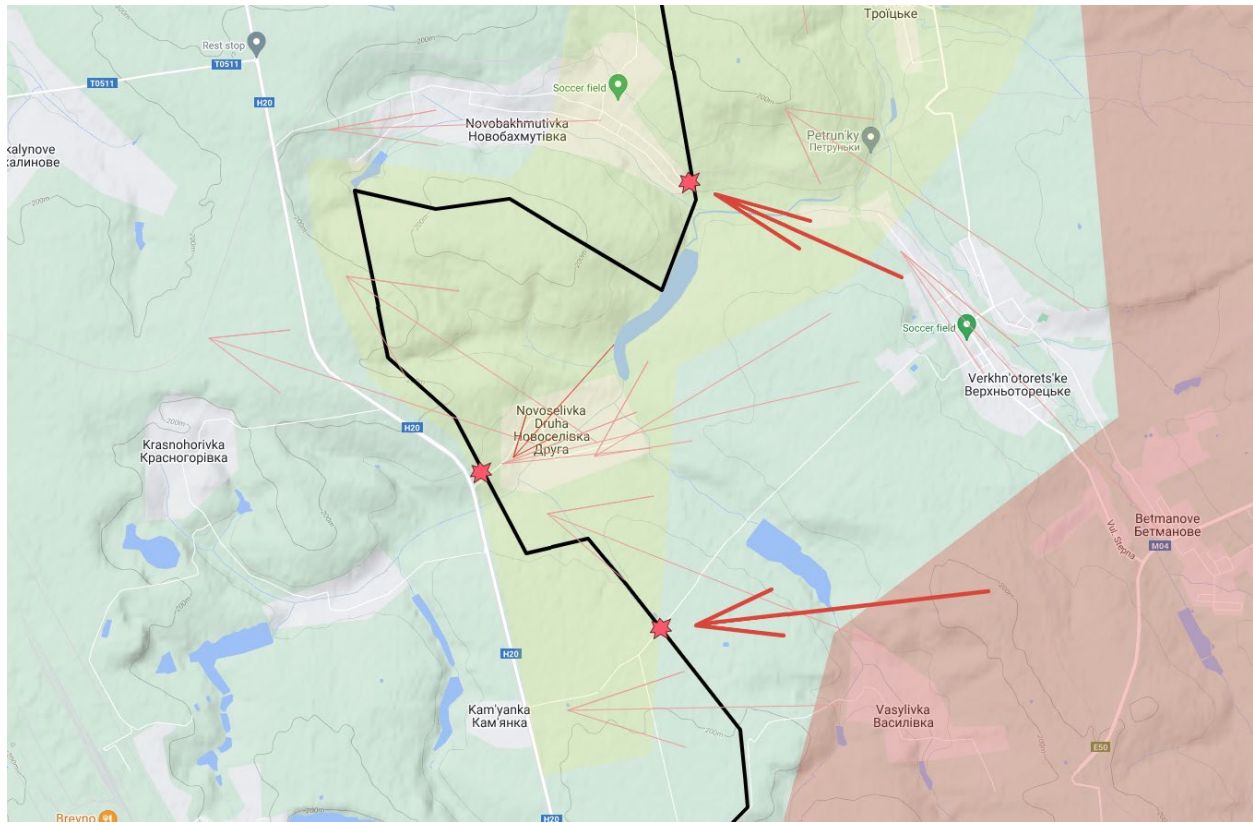
## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, 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





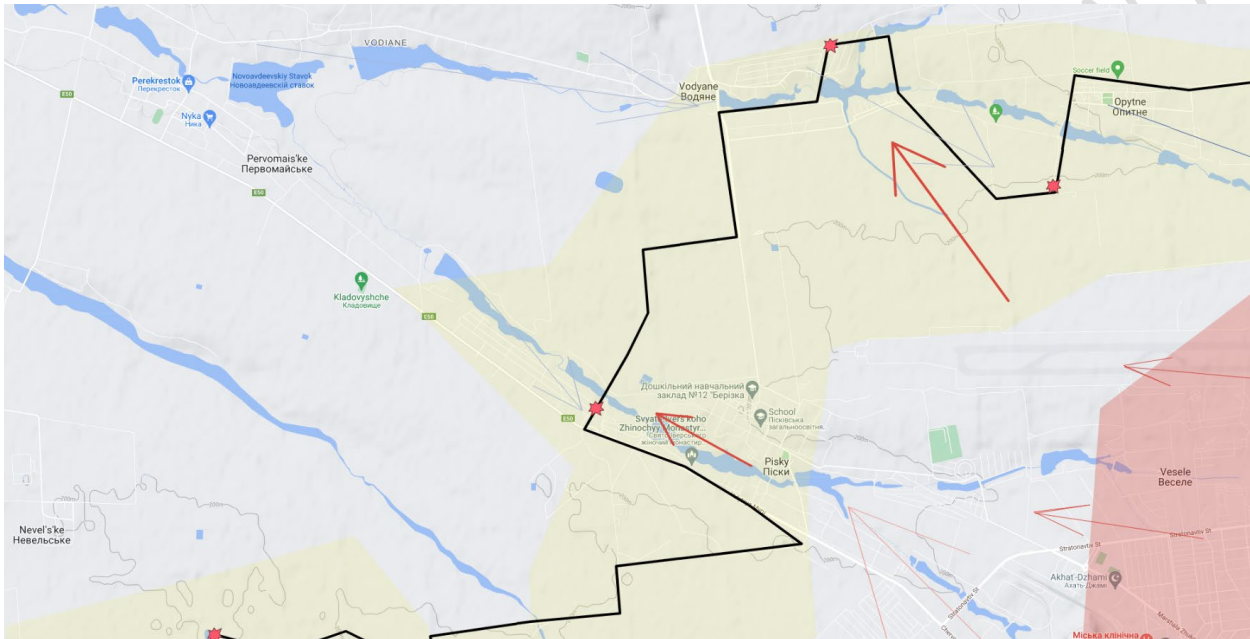
From Niu York to Marinka, it was second verse, same as the first.

On the Niu York axis, the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) continued attempts to advance on [Novobakhmutivka](#), which were unsuccessful.<sup>28</sup>

On the Avdiivka axis, a January 15 video validated our assessment of the location of the line of conflict near

<sup>28</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

Kamyanka, with Ukrainian and Russian troops fighting near the H-20 Highway.<sup>29</sup>



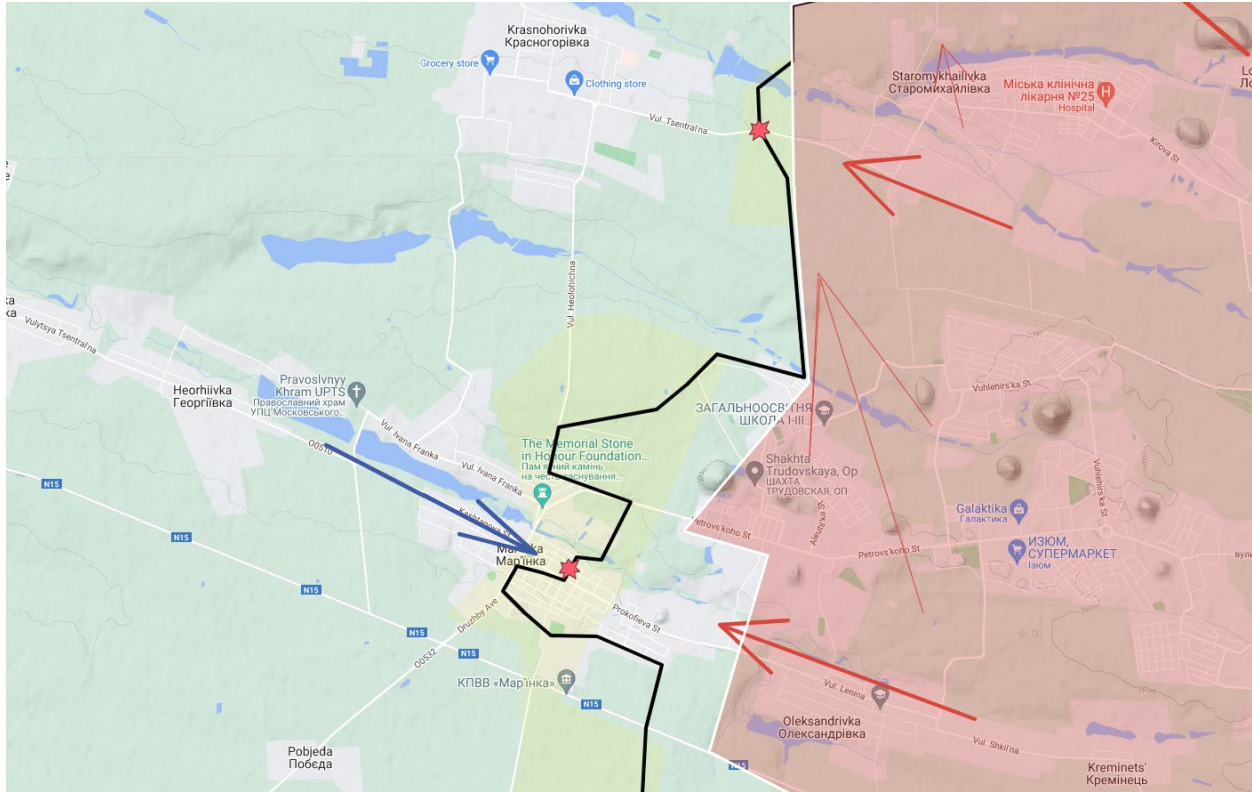
South of Avdiivka, there was no change in the situation. Elements of the 1st Army Corps tried to advance out of Opytne (north of the Donetsk International Airport), fighting continued in Vodyane, and separatists failed to advance in Pervomaiske. Russian forces also failed to move closer to the Ukrainian firebase at Nevelske.<sup>30 31 32</sup>

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAControlMap/status/1614667201155301376>

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/42765>

<sup>32</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

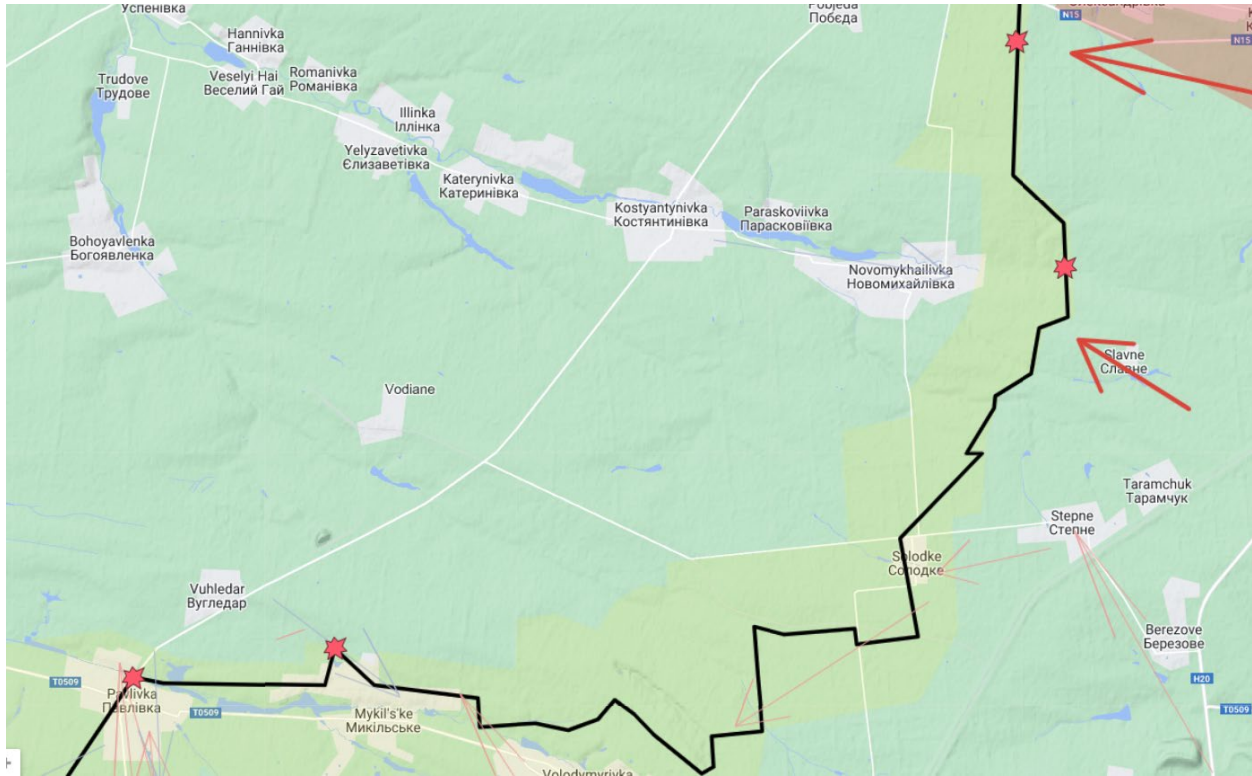


On the Marinka axis, the 1st Army Corps tried to advance on [Krasnohorivka](#), fought positional battles near the center of [Marinka](#), and attempted an advance on [Pobjeda](#).<sup>33 34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10350>

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

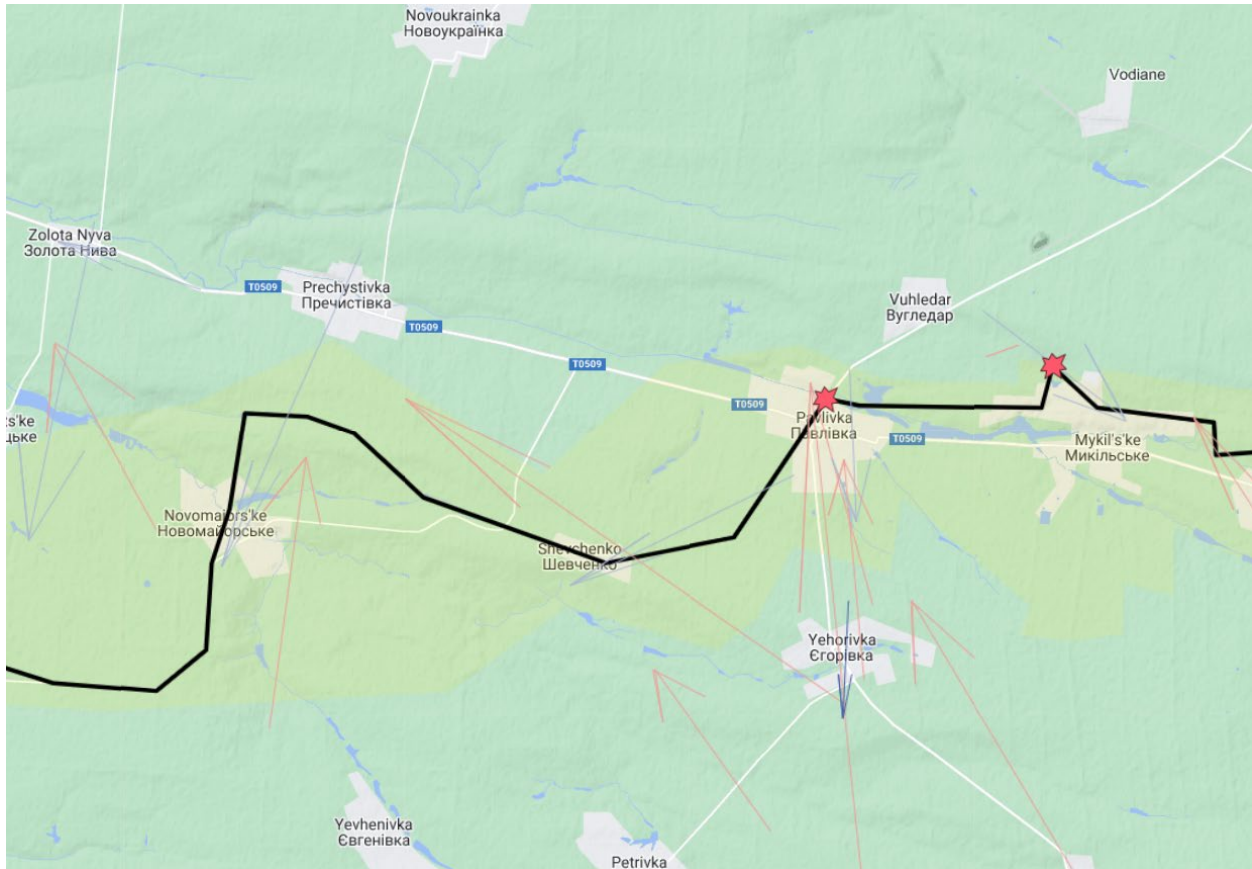




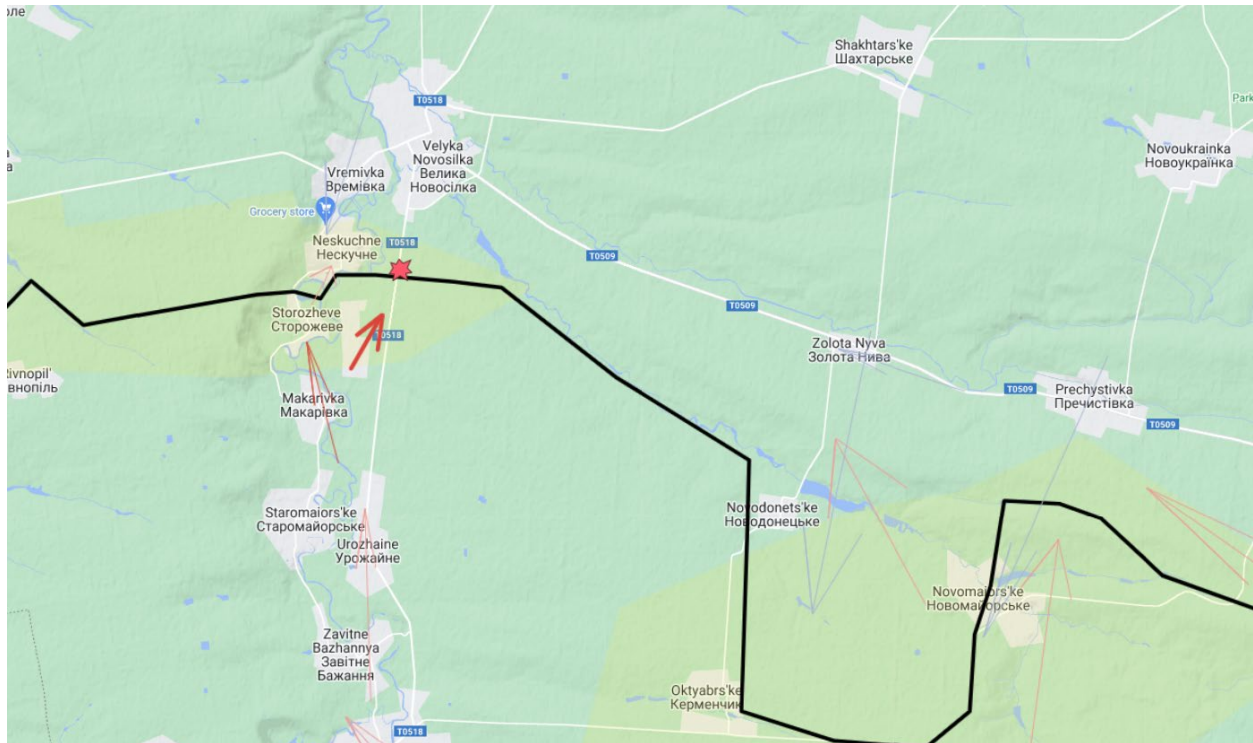
On the Vuhledar axis, the 1st Army Corps renewed attempts to advance on [Novomykhailivka](#) and maintained the almost nine-year tradition of being unsuccessful.<sup>35</sup>

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



Russian forces also attempted to advance on [Prechystivka](#) without success.



On the Donetsk-Zaporizhzhia administrative border, Russian troops attempted to advance on [Velyka Novosilka](#) and were pushed back to their earlier defensive positions.

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that 12 Russian MBTs and ten trucks with troops  [moved through the city](#), heading toward Berdyansk [Zaporizhzhia].<sup>36</sup>

In Russian-occupied Makiivka, DNR officials broke operational security by , [providing a battle damage](#)

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/5957>



assessment after an apparent HIMARS strike.<sup>37</sup> No information was provided on casualties.

In occupied Donetsk, an apparent HIMARS strike destroyed a liquor distillery holding military equipment in the Kalinisky District.<sup>38</sup> Civilian areas adjacent to the building were heavily damaged, including a grocery store, with DNR officials claiming two people were killed.

The purge of the judicial branch of the DNR continued, with Minister of Justice Sirovatko Yury Nikolayevich dismissed by self-declared leader Denis Pushilin.<sup>39</sup> No reason was given for the termination.

***Editor's Note: What happened to the DNR five o'clock follies? We didn't make an editorial decision – the DNR stopped posting them shortly after the start of the new year.***

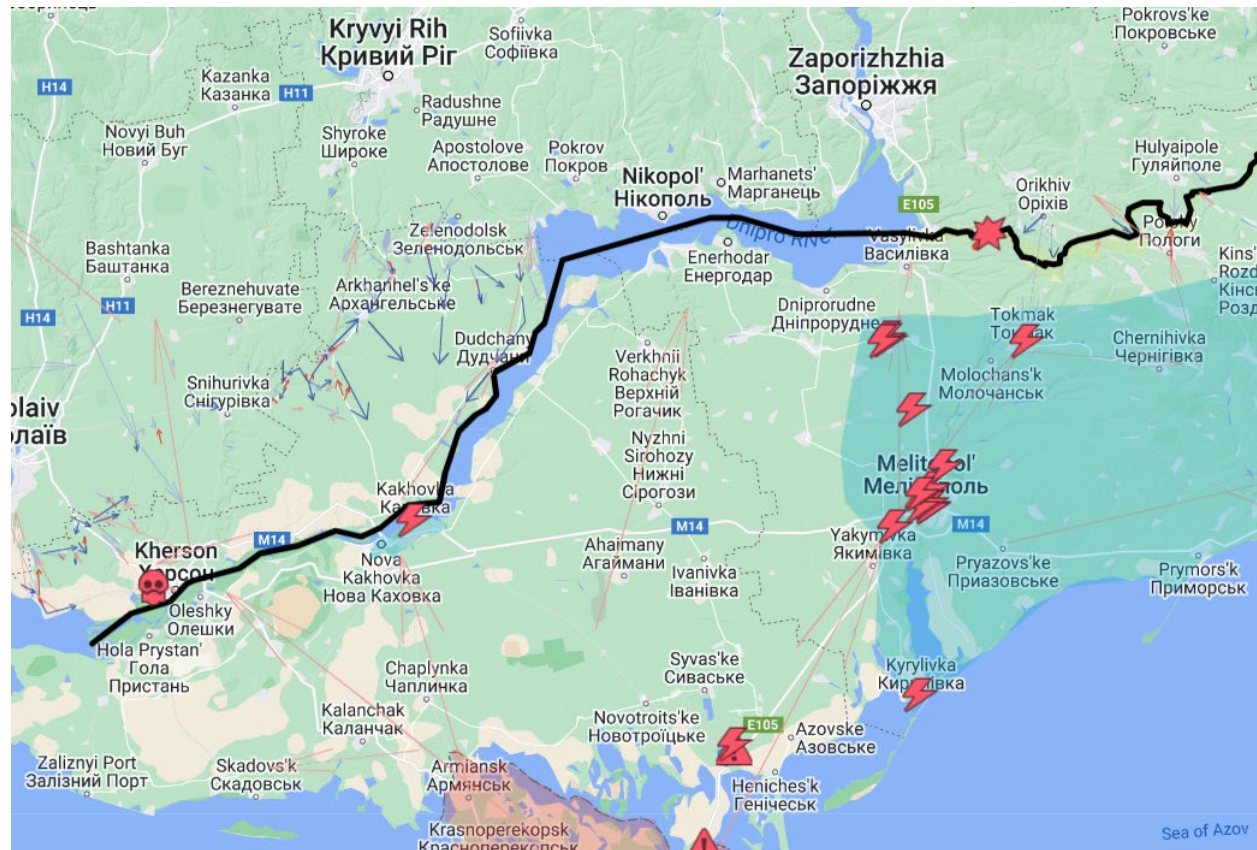
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<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52261>

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52171>


<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52310>

## KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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

There was mutual shelling on the west and east banks of the Dnipro.<sup>40 41</sup> Russian forces carried out 90 fire missions on free Ukraine, wounding 14, with 21 strikes in the city of Kherson.<sup>42</sup> Unspecified "critical infrastructure,"  [civilian housing](#), shipyards, and medical facilities were hit by artillery shells and rockets fired by MLRS.<sup>43</sup> There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

On the east bank of the Dnipro, occupied Kakhovka and Oleshky were shelled.<sup>44 45</sup> Ukrainian officials accused Russian forces of shelling Oleshky in a continued attempt to force remaining civilians to leave for Crimea, where they will face deportation to Russia – the O.G. pre-2014 Russia, not the Russia that Russia claims is Russia.

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<sup>40</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>41</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

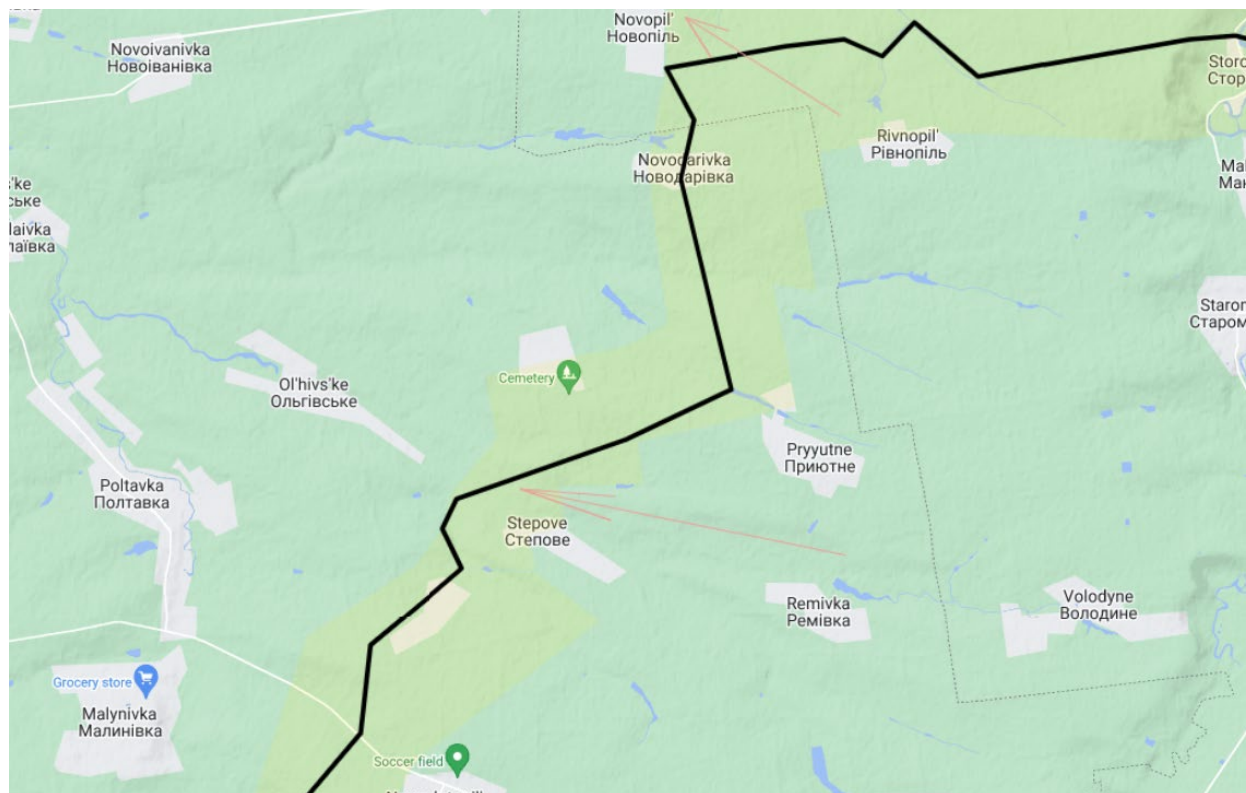
<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3097>

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3108>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/33041>

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/33030>





In Zaporizhia, RMOD claimed Ukrainian forces attempted to advance on [Stepove](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>46</sup> No details were given, but this was likely positional fighting, special operation forces (SOF), or a DRG unit. No other source, Russian or Ukrainian, reported fighting in the area.

There were no reports on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant status.

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<sup>46</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/23476](https://t.me/mod_russia/23476) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

A January 13 HIMARS strike on Sosnivka, northeast of occupied Melitopol, destroyed a Russian fuel depot and an unspecified number of military vehicles. There were no reports of casualties.<sup>47</sup>

A brief video recorded the sound of a large explosion in occupied Berdyansk. There was no other information available at the time of publication.<sup>48</sup>

Otherwise, Russia and Ukraine exchanged sporadic artillery fire from the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv, with Ukrainian officials reporting that Russian forces fired 130 shells, mortars, and rockets along the entire line of conflict.<sup>49 50 51</sup>

***Editor's Note:*** That is close to the number of fire missions Russian forces completed in the Soledar area.

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<sup>47</sup> [RIA Melitopol](#)

<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52304>

<sup>49</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>50</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/starukhofficial/4588>

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

The composition of the Black Sea Fleet did not change, with 16 ships on patrol, including six surface vessels and one Kilo-class submarine capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>52</sup> Operational Command South (OCS) clarified that the deployed ships could fire up to 30 Kalibr cruise missiles.

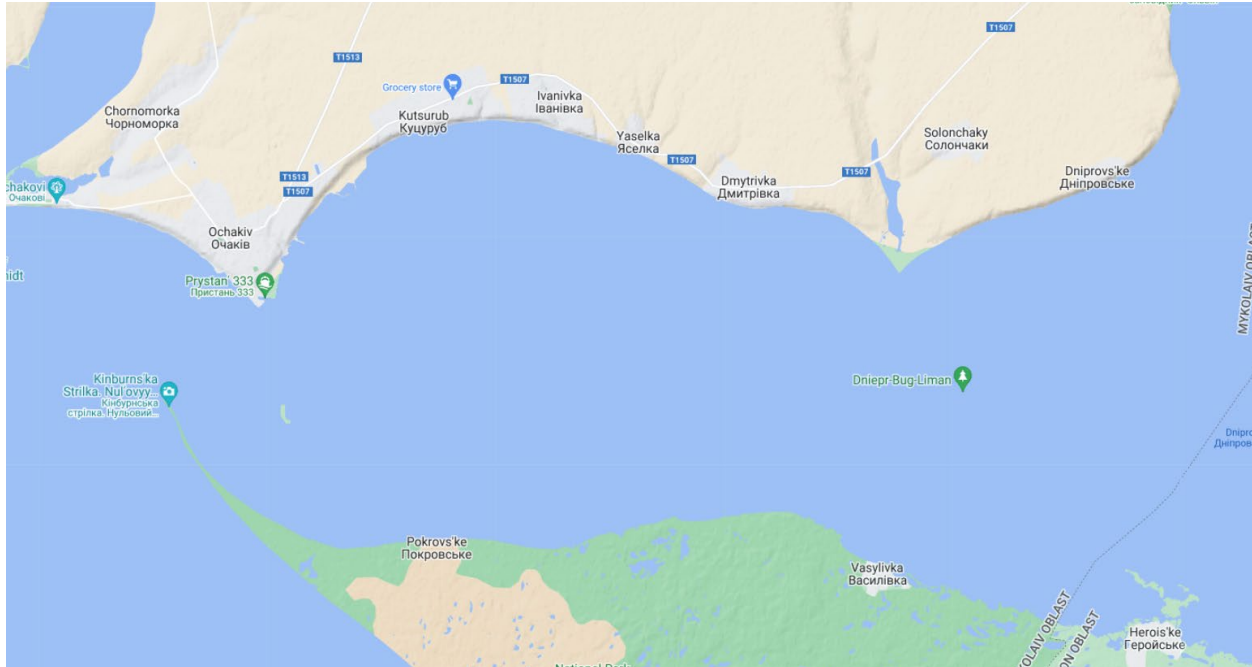
In Russian-occupied Sevastopol, air defense was very active, with local officials claiming that ten Ukrainian drones were shot down.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70965>

<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20389>





Vitaly Kim, Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Russian forces shelled the coastal city of Ochakiv again, killing one civilian.<sup>54</sup>

## 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

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<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/4058>

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

There weren't any significant developments in this region.

## **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



On January 14, we assessed the RMOD claims of Ukrainian attacks on [Tokarivka](#), and [Pershotravneve](#) called into question the status of Vilshana.<sup>55</sup> GASFU reported that Vilshana was shelled for the second day in a row. Both militaries are maintaining tight operational security on the

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<sup>55</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/23415](https://t.me/mod_russia/23415) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

line of conflict in Kharkiv, so we cannot verify the situation beyond what each belligerent reports.

## RUSSIAN FRONT

Air defense was active in Belgorod, Russia, with officials tight-lipped on what happened. A video recorded  [a loud explosion](#) followed by several smaller ones. Another video showed what appeared to be  [possible missile fragments](#) found in the snow.<sup>56</sup>

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency power outages continued in nine regions of Ukraine due to the January 14 missile attacks, increased electrical consumption as people returned to work, and poor weather in parts of the country, causing wind and ice damage to power lines.<sup>57</sup>

Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament) have asked the Head of the President's Office, Andriy

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<sup>56</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52327?single>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/16/7385027/>



Yermak, to dismiss Presidential Advisor Aleksey Arestovich. Deputy Oleksiy Goncharenko started collecting signatures on a formal statement calling for Arestovich's firing.<sup>58</sup> The Mayor of Dnipro, Boris Filatov, said that "the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and counterintelligence are obliged to respond" to the words of Arestovich about the Russian missile strike in Dnipro. Arestovich walked back his January 14 claim the Kh-22 missile that struck a Dnipro apartment complex was deflected by Ukrainian air defenses, claiming he misspoke due to "fatigue." This is not the first time that Arestovich has "misspoken" on military matters.

Responding to a request made by Ukrainian officials last year, the International Atomic Energy Agency has established a permanent presence at the South Ukraine and Rivne Nuclear Power Plants and the Chornobyl site.<sup>59 60</sup> Two IAEA inspectors have been assigned to each facility and will be rotated. Ukraine requested a permanent presence after the Russian Ministry of Defense made a now-debunked and forgotten claim that Ukraine had produced dirty bombs and would use them for a false-flag attack.

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<sup>58</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20421>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/16/7154244/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://twitter.com/rafaelmgrossi/status/1614876470563700737>

Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, and failed mobik Igor "Girkin" Strelkov, went full doomer on his Telegram account and brought back his Russian MOD zinger, "Planet of the Pink Ponies."

"No matter how much the Kremlin inhabitants of the Planet of the Pink Ponies would like to seat Medvedchuk (or some other similar [piece of] s\*\*\*) "on the Ukrainian throne, this will not happen. Simply because with all these "systemic" Medvedchuks, Gerasimovs, Shoigus, etc. We cannot win this war. These – [are] not about winning. These - can only lose everything, even in the most favorable situation. And our problem is that the situation is very far from being favorable. Rather, [it is] strictly the opposite."<sup>61</sup>

It is unclear why Strelkov is not celebrating the capture of Soledar, but we maintain that since May, his analysis and predictions have been extremely accurate. We hope he does not get a five-point defenestration or is invited to have tea with President Putin. We would rather see him where he fears he will end up – at the Hague in handcuffs.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3741>

A misinformation campaign spread panic in occupied Crimea and Donetsk, with Russian social media channels sharing a recording of an unknown person claiming they worked for the gas company and telling a child to turn on all the burners on the stove to “test the system.” Russian social media channels claimed the calls were being made by Ukrainian intelligence to cause widespread fires. Russian officials were trying to squash the panic because the call occurred almost five years ago and was recorded in Kazakhstan.<sup>62</sup>

In Belarus, Russia has deployed approximately 11,000 troops and 50 aircraft, which isn't a significant change from November. The Belarusian government announced another round of readiness drills that includes joint flight and tactical training of air force units.<sup>63</sup> Ukrainian officials do not believe this is a prelude to a cross-border attack but are concerned that the exercises could serve as a cover to make another round of missile attacks on Ukraine.

United Kingdom's Defense Secretary Ben Wallace announced that the UK was providing Ukraine with the

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<sup>62</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52186>

<sup>63</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)



largest military aid package to date.<sup>64</sup> Britain will provide Ukraine with:

- 14 Challenger 2 MBTs with armored recovery and repair vehicles, ammunition, and spare parts
- 24 AS90 155-mm self-propelled howitzers (SPG), with eight ready for delivery and 16 more to follow
- “Hundreds” of armored and mine-resistant ambush protection vehicles, including 100 FV-432 Mark 3 Bulldog armored personnel carriers (APC)
- Minefield breaching and bridging capabilities
- Dozens of military-grade drones – the type was unspecified
- 100,000 artillery rounds, doubling the amount already committed since February 24
- Hundreds of rockets for the M142, M270, MARS II and LRU guided multiple launch rocket systems (GMLRS), more commonly known as HIMARS
- Starstreak air defense missiles
- Medium-range air defense missiles
- Equipment, spare parts, and support package to refurbish up to 100 Ukrainian tanks and infantry fighting vehicles

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/defence-secretary-oral-statement-on-war-in-ukraine--2>

The tracked Bulldog APC only requires two crew and can carry up to ten dismounts in its standard configuration. It is a true APC, equipped only with a 7.62 mm general-purpose machine gun as its main armament, but it can be configured with various other weapon systems. The Mark 3 modernization program started in 2006 to meet combat challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan. It included reactive armor, up armor to the undercarriage to survive landmines and IEDs, and radio jamming equipment.

Secretary Wallace addressed German reluctance to provide Leopard 2 tanks saying during his speech, "After discussion with the United States and our European allies, it is hoped that the example set by the French and us will allow those countries holding Leopard tanks to donate as well. I know there are a number of countries wanting to do the same. No one is going it alone, as I have said."

The United States started expanded military training for Ukrainian soldiers in Germany, intending to process 20,000 troops in 2023 through the five-week program that includes combined arms and urban warfare training.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/16/7384999/>

## RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

The Kremlin announced that foreigners who voluntarily enlist in the Russian military would automatically be given Russian citizenship. Previously a person would have to wait three years, with the threshold lowered to one year last summer. Russian milbloggers criticized the summer change, pointing out several avenues to semi-legally bribe your way to receiving a Russian passport. The new change provides a simpler path. Side effects of instant citizenship by enlistment may include frostbite, hypothermia, hearing or vision loss, uncontrolled bleeding, traumatic brain injury, loss of mobility or extremities, uncontrolled bladder or bowel releases, and death.

Russian milblogger Vysoky Govorit complained that Russian border officials were not allowing civilian cars and SUVs bought by donors for the Russian military into Ukraine, err Russia, well the after October 4, Russia, which is still Ukraine.<sup>66</sup>

Valery Gerasimov is shaking things up in Ukraine with a new decree requiring Russian troops to shave and maintain proper haircuts, have clean uniforms, and be otherwise

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<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10546>



presentable – including frontline units in combat.<sup>67</sup> Russian troops are also forbidden from using tablets or cell phones. Milblogger Vladlen Tatarsky called the mandate “intentional sabotage” and an impossible standard. While cell phones and sharing live streams and videos have resulted in dozens, if not hundreds, of strikes on Russian troops, Tatarsky rightly points out it also prevents Russian forces from communicating, being able to operate drones, or using digital maps. If RMOD provided their troops with military-grade radios, fixed the problems with the ERA communications system, didn’t have Orlan-10 drone production destroyed by sanctions, and provided maps from this century, none of this would be an issue in the first place.

PMC Wagner Telegram Channel Reverse Side of the Medal mocked the order, making the most aggressive public statement against Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu, without mentioning his name, to date, writing, “Someone in high offices decided to speed up the transition of the military to the Wagner Group.”<sup>68</sup>

That’s called saying the quiet part out loud.

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<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/vladlentatarsky/18688>

<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/rsotmdivision/3999>

Russian state media claimed the first Poseidon nuclear torpedoes, capable of producing tidal waves over 1,000 meters tall, had been built. The torpedoes will be deployed to the Russian submarine Belgorod. It is important to note the torpedoes have never been successfully tested. Other nations examined the possibility of using nuclear weapons to produce large tidal waves during open-air nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s. They concluded it was mostly impossible beyond very specific geographical areas due to several factors, including the laws of physics.

Hey! Do we change the sign?

No.

What are you going to do if you're a Russian soldier in Melitopol and you're alone? Walk into the Econom Store when drunk and demand that they sell you a bottle of alcohol. And what do you do when the employee tells you that they can't because it is illegal and the FSB will do terrible things to them if they sell the alcohol to the soldier? You set your service weapon to automatic, shoot the store up, and throw a grenade inside after leaving. However, because you're drunk, you forget to pull the pin

as horrified employees and customers run away in every direction.<sup>69</sup> There was no information on whether the soldier was clean-shaven, had a military haircut, and wore a proper uniform.

There are reports that Colonel General Aleksey Dorofeev, who was in charge of the FSB for the Moscow Region, has joined the unemployed general's club. Dorofeev was allegedly fired and blamed for the intelligence failure that led to the bombing of the Kerch Bridge on October 8.<sup>70</sup> He was considered one of the most powerful men in Moscow because of his role, and in our assessment, the job opening is more fuel for the ongoing Kremlin Game of Thrones.

All is going to plan.


## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**


At the time of publication, the death toll from the missile strike on a Dnipro apartment complex had risen to 40, with 79 people injured, 28 still hospitalized, and 10 in serious or

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<sup>69</sup> [RIA Melitopol](#)

<sup>70</sup> <https://twitter.com/igorsushko/status/1614439429531394049>

critical condition. Almost three days after the attack, searchers were  [still trying to locate 25 victims](#).<sup>71</sup>

In occupied Kherson, Russian Telegram channels shared a graphic picture that some find disturbing of the  [extrajudicial execution of a civilian](#) accused of collaborating with the Ukrainian military.<sup>72</sup>

Turkish Ombudsman Sheref Malkoch reported that Russia and Ukraine were working on a prisoner-of-war swap that could involve up to 1,000 people.<sup>73</sup> Ukraine provided a list of 800 service members they wanted to be released, while Russia provided 200 names.

In Beryslav,  [UNICEF delivered a 120-kilowatt generator](#) which will restore the water supply in the region.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/3054>

<sup>72</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/33037?single>

<sup>73</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52316>

<sup>74</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3114>



## GEOPOLITICAL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke by telephone on Monday. The two leaders reportedly discussed finding a path to a peace agreement, reopening the green corridor border crossing in Zaporizhia, POW exchanges, and the Black Sea Grain Initiative.<sup>75</sup> During the call, it was reported that Putin complained that Ukraine was being uncooperative after not honoring a request for a 36-hour cease-fire during Orthodox Christmas, ignoring the fact that Russia launched a massive offensive on Soledar minutes after the alleged pause was going to begin.

Republican party state Senator Nathan Dahm of Oklahoma said, "we don't want Ukrainian soldiers training here in Oklahoma," claiming it would make the state, near the geographical center of the lower 48, a "target for potential attacks."<sup>76</sup>

Other Republicans from Oklahoma distanced themselves from Dahm, including Senate President Pro Tem Greg Treat and six others, saying: "Oklahoma has had partnerships

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<sup>75</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/16/7154252/>

<sup>76</sup> [Fox 23 – Tulsa Oklahoma](#)

with military forces from partner countries to train and maintain the safety and security of the United States and other allied countries for decades. To cut these ties would be akin to jeopardizing our national security. The resolution that was issued [by Dahm] does not speak for the vast majority of the Oklahoma Senate or Oklahomans, who welcome training exercises to defend the lands we love and our neighbors in other countries. We hope the troops from other countries currently training on our beloved military installations in Oklahoma feel welcomed and experience what makes our state the best in the country."<sup>77</sup>

Dahm wasn't getting the reaction he expected on social media, yet he had the time to reply to each critical comment with memes from the TV show *The Office*. He further doubled down, claiming on social media that he didn't want missiles to hit Oklahoma by irresponsible Ukrainian troops killing people "like in Poland."

***Editor's Note:*** Clearly, Senator Dahm has spent zero minutes and seconds at any United States military facility where weapons training is done. I've spent time as an observer at Indian Head, Maryland, with American troops being trained in explosive ordnance disposal.

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<sup>77</sup> [Fox 23 – Tulsa, Oklahoma](#)

*Servicemembers dealing with explosives are incredibly well-trained people with a strange sense of humor and what they consider "fun." Like, making IEDs out of 155-mm shells because to learn to defuse a bomb, you must learn how to make one. But to make things more interesting that particular day, they also placed a small boulder on top of the buried IED and then made bets on whose rock will land closest to the observation bunker, assuming the rock wasn't just blown to bits in the process. I will never forget one of the instructors, a large and rather old NCO who suddenly screamed for everyone to shut up two to three seconds before one of the small boulders struck the bunker. I don't know how he knew or heard that rock coming down, but clearly, he had experienced...things.*

## **ECONOMIC**

The rouble gave up last week's gains, with an exchange rate of 69 for 1 US dollar.

Western oil prices were unchanged, with WTI crude holding at \$80 a barrel and Brent at \$85. Russian Urals crude was also unchanged, with an "official" price of \$56 a barrel. The Russian Ministry of Finance reported the average selling price for Russian crude from December 15 to January 14

was \$46.82 a barrel.<sup>78</sup> United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market was stable, holding at \$2.52 a gallon (67 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures has collapsed, dropping to 54 euros per megawatt hour for February and March 2023 delivery – the lowest point since December 2021. The winter has been so warm in Western and Eastern Europe that almond trees and rose bushes are already blooming in Russian-occupied Crimea.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures declined to \$7.30 a bushel for March 2023 delivery, the lowest price point since September 2021.

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<sup>78</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/5951>