



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 330

Russian forces are inching closer to taking the initiative away from Ukraine, launching offensive operations on a limited scale in Zaporizhia. The situation south of Bakhmut has also become concerning. Russian forces are using World War I tactics of repeated charges on Ukrainian positions resulting in astonishing casualties. Some Ukrainian commanders report that the continuous attacks of squad and platoon-size units are overheating weapons, forcing Ukrainian forces to withdraw. Russian forces are also relying on perfidy to attack Ukrainian positions from the flanks.

At the time of publication, Operational Command South reported the missile carriers of the Russian Black Sea Fleet had moved to their launch areas.

Germany would not budge on releasing Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine but agreed to permit Ukrainian forces to start training in their operation immediately. There appears to be some real momentum in providing F-16 fighter aircraft to Ukraine.

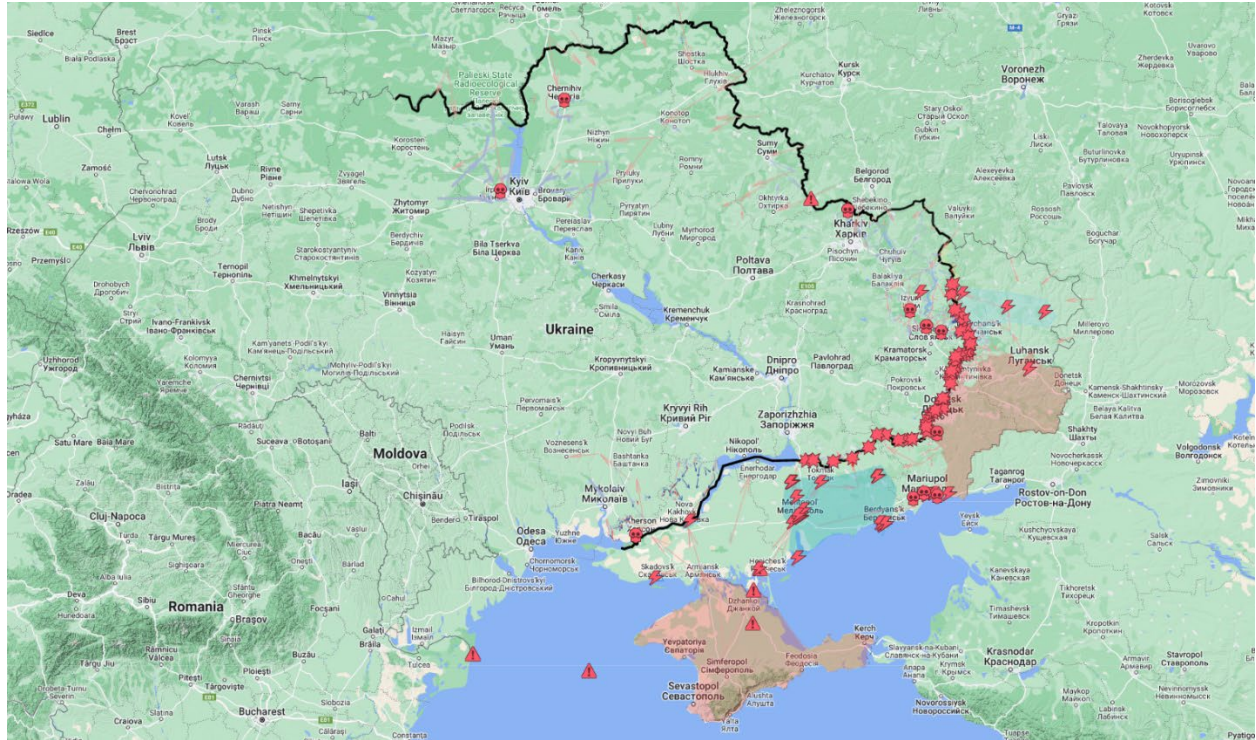
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We assess that Russia's shift in tactics is starting to tip the battlefield initiative in its favor but is being achieved through unsustainable losses.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. We assess a very high risk of punitive missile strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure on January 21, with the threat continuing past the weekend.
6. We further assess that Russian forces will continue to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.

7. 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.
8. We assess that the Russian military within Ukraine remains combat ineffective and has resorted to using World War II tactics that Field Marshal Georgy Zhukov would recognize to move the line of conflict.
9. We maintain there will be a second wave of partial mobilization in the Russian Federation in January or February 2023.
10. 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

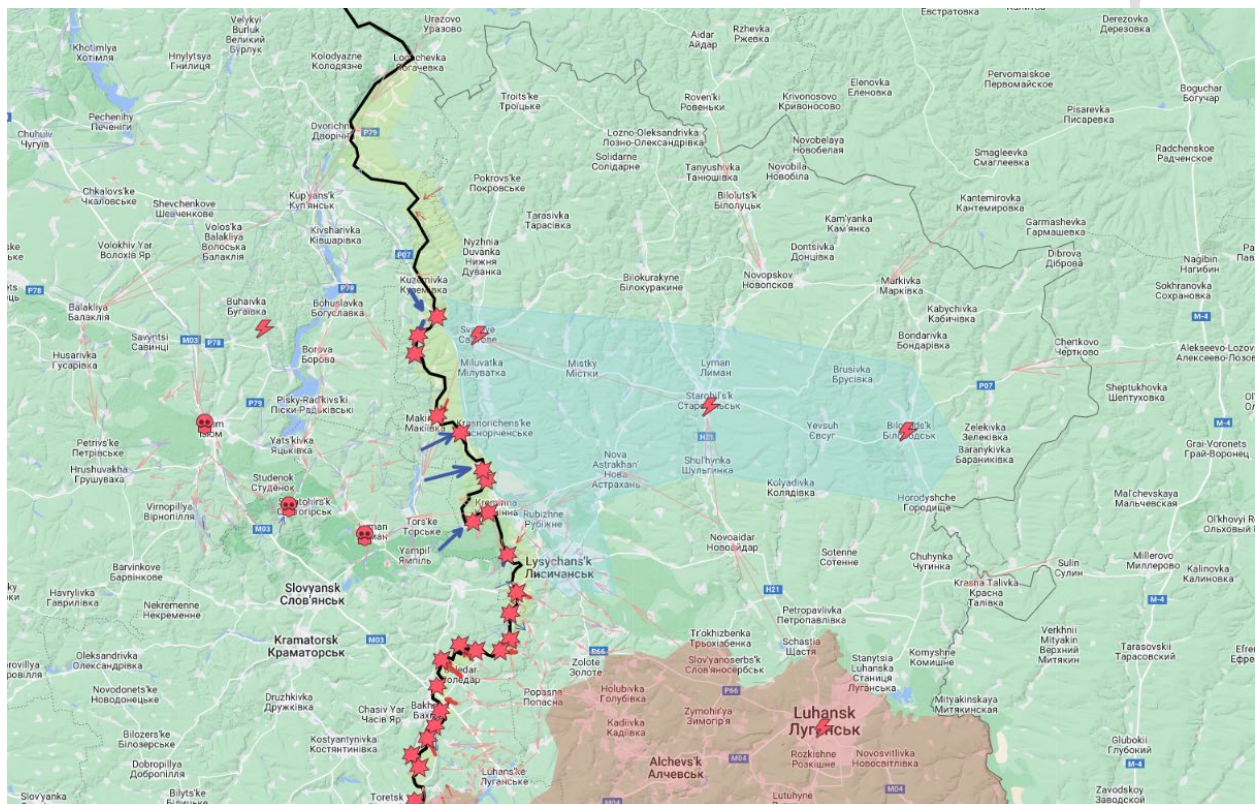


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The 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>

DONBAS REGION

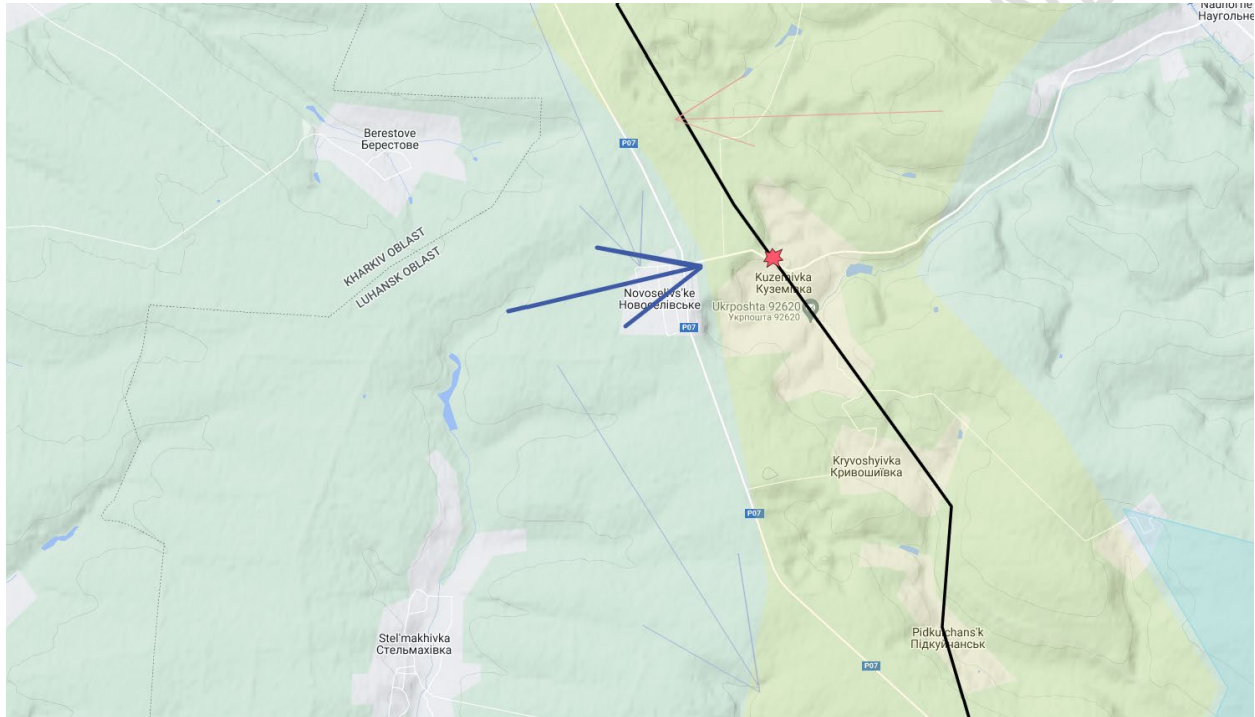
LUHANSK



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

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

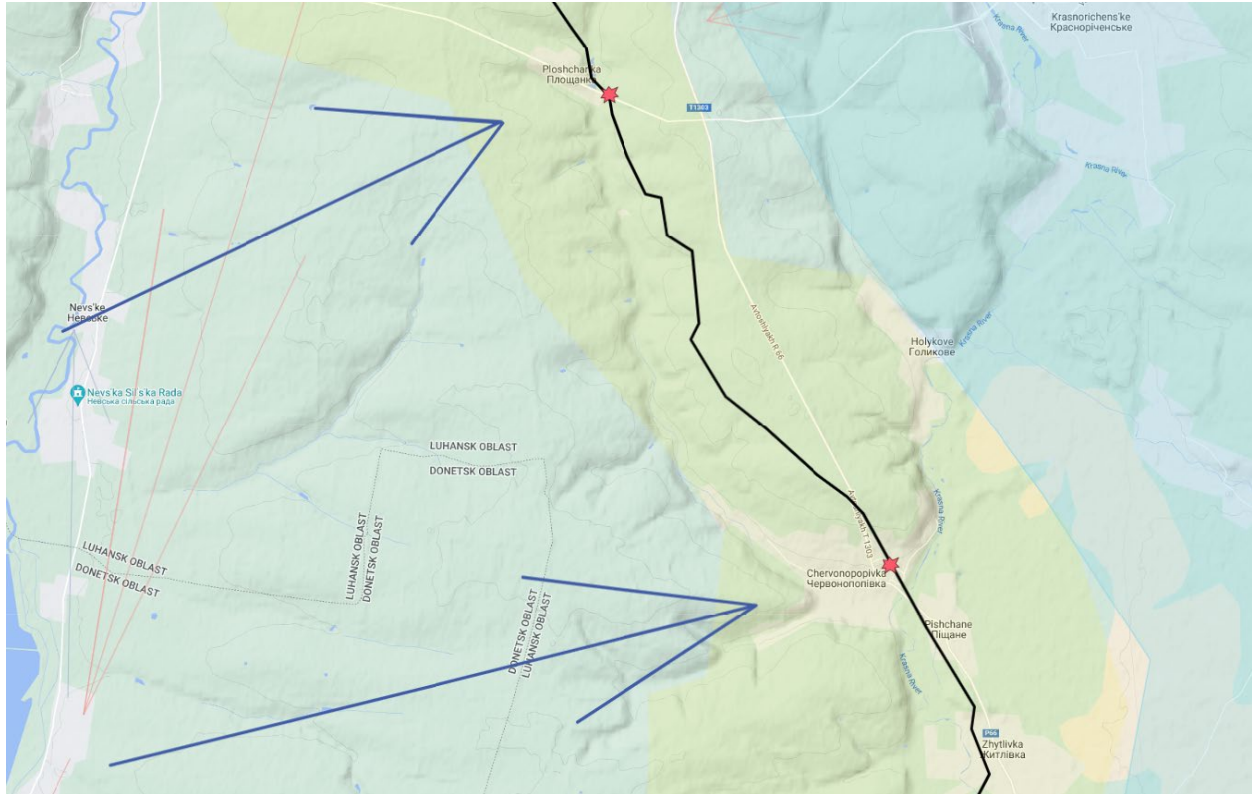
Fighting remained positional in Luhansk, with Ukrainian forces holding most of their advance from a week ago against a Russian counterattack.



On the Svatove axis, Ukrainian forces are mounting an offensive on [Kuzermivka](#) from Novoselivske.^{1 2} A breakthrough at Kuzermivka would provide Ukraine with high ground for artillery and further offensive operations.

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

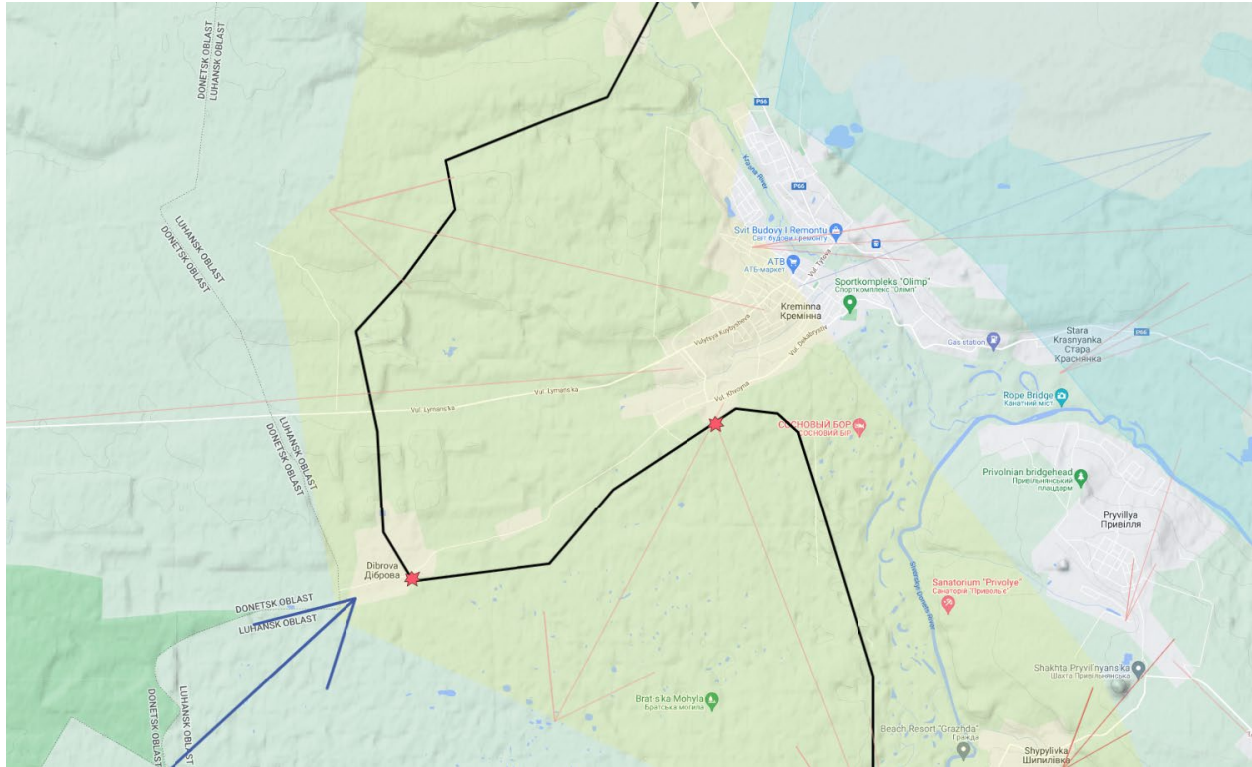
² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>



On the Kremynna axis, there are only generic reports of positional fighting. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GASFU) and mercenaries with Rybar reported [Ploshanka](#) and [Chervonpopivka](#) were shelled throughout the day.^{3 4} For the second day in a row, GASFU reported that [Holykove](#), east of Chervonpopivka, was shelled.

³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)



There were only positional fighting and artillery battles near [Kremynna](#), [Dibrova](#), and in the Serebryansky Forest, south of Kremynna.^{5 6 7 8} Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Russian forces were bringing in additional reserves, but there have been issues.⁹ There is more information in the **Russian Mobilization** section.

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

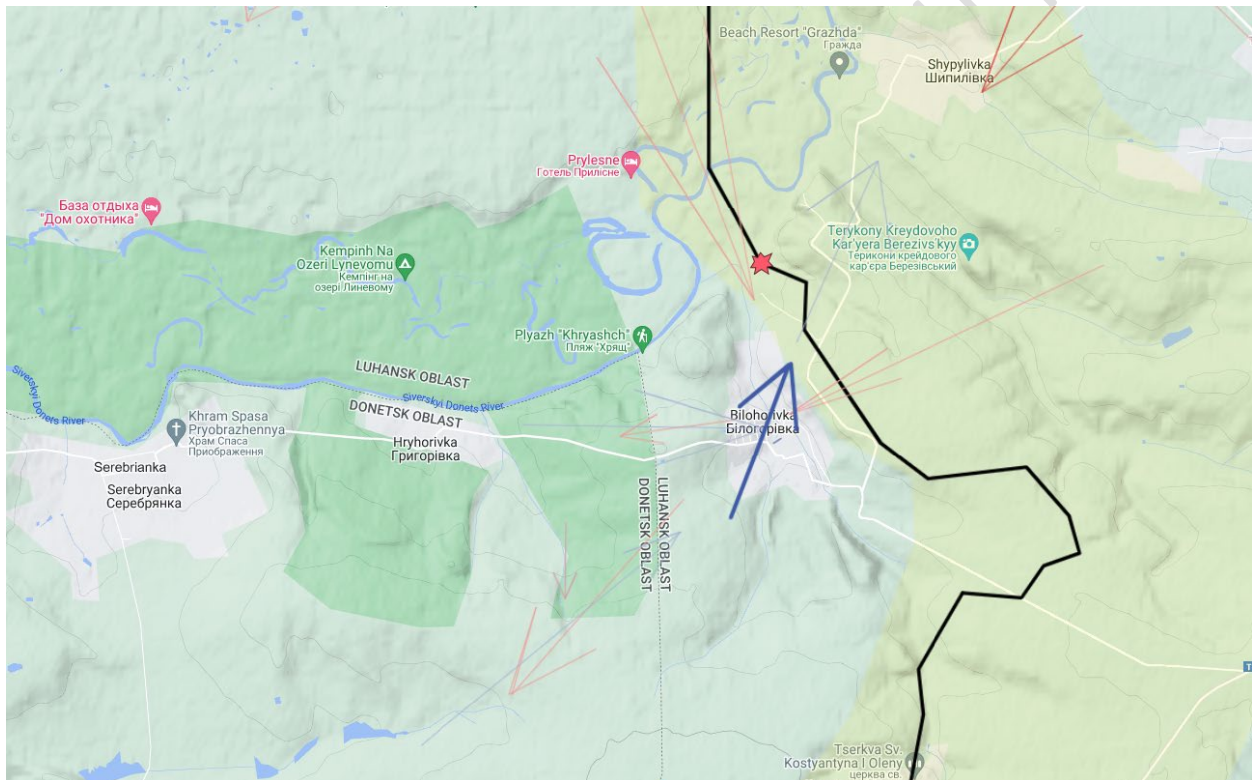
⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/23592 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁸ <https://t.me/rybar/42881>

⁹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8082>

In breaking news at the time of publication, there were reports of a significant Ukrainian offensive on Kreminna with “heavy battles ongoing.”¹⁰ There were multiple reports of Russian forces heavily shelling the western part of the settlement.



On the Lysychansk axis, Russian forces continued their attacks on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] without success.¹¹ ¹² We made a small correction to the line of conflict north of the

¹⁰ https://twitter.com/Flash_news_ua/status/1616728121801117697

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

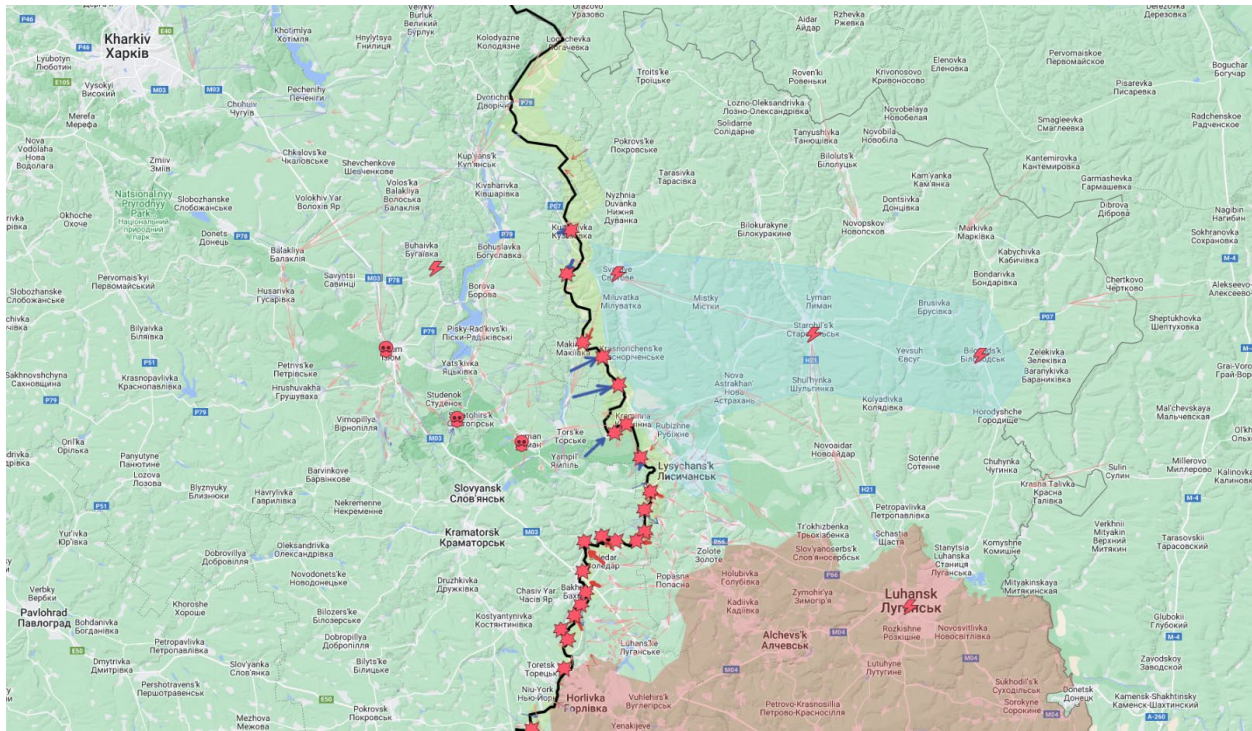
¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>



settlement based on new intelligence, which does not represent a change in territorial control.

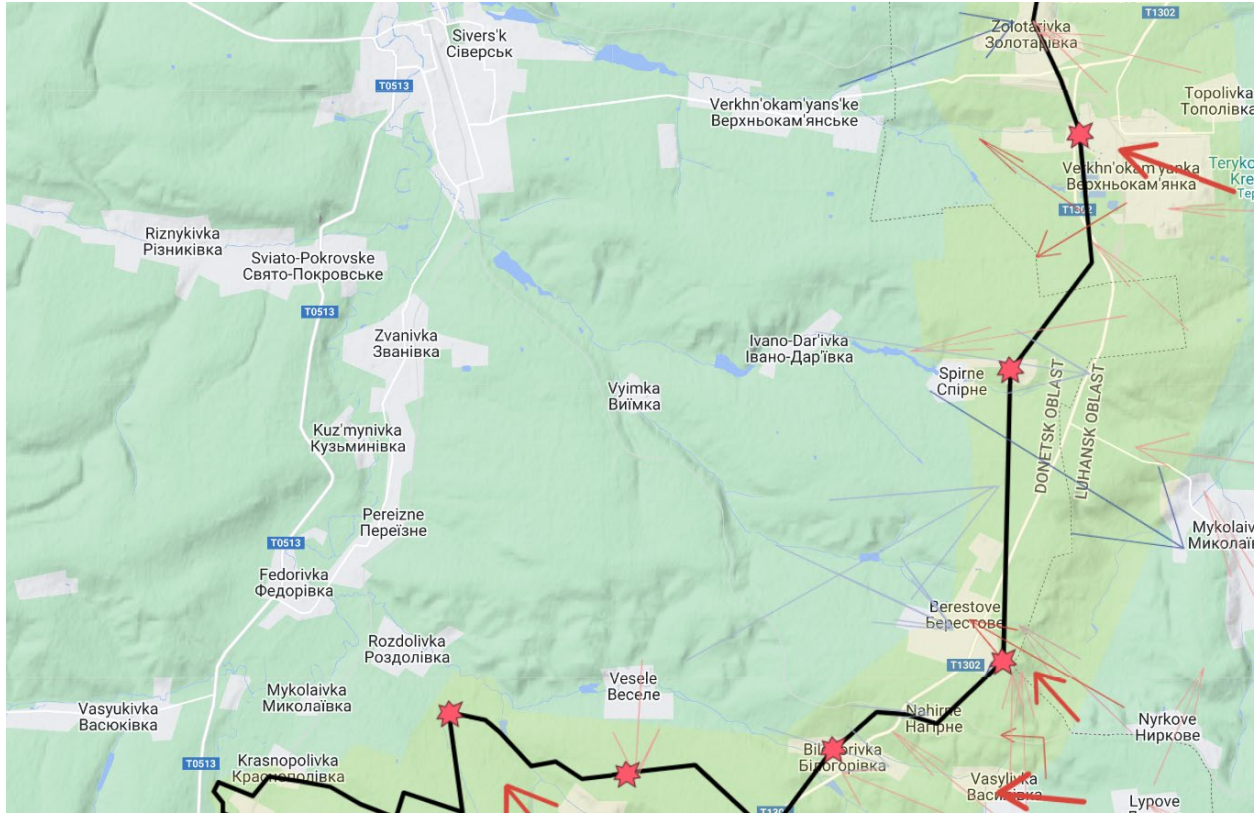
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NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

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

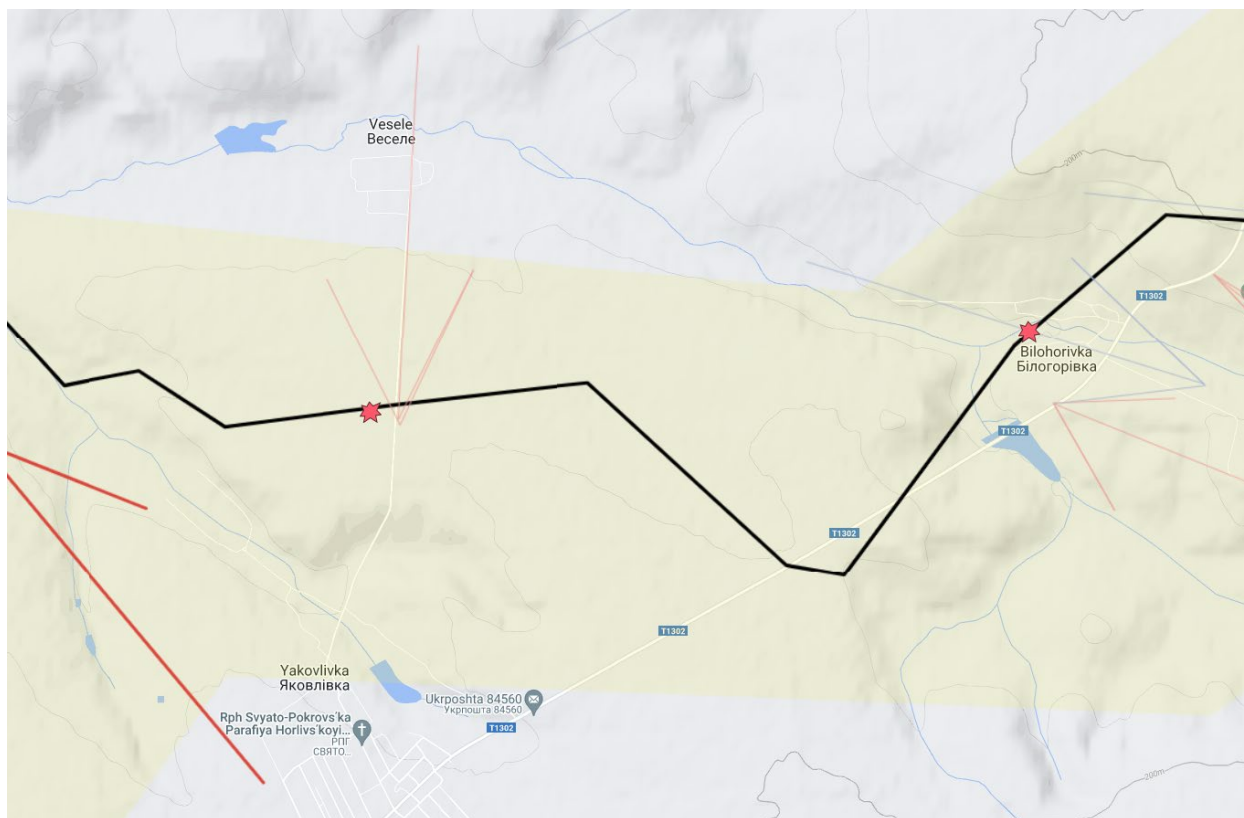


On the Siversk axis, Russian forces continued their attempts to push into [Verkh'okamyanske](#) and [Spirne](#) with no change in the situation.^{13 14 15}

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

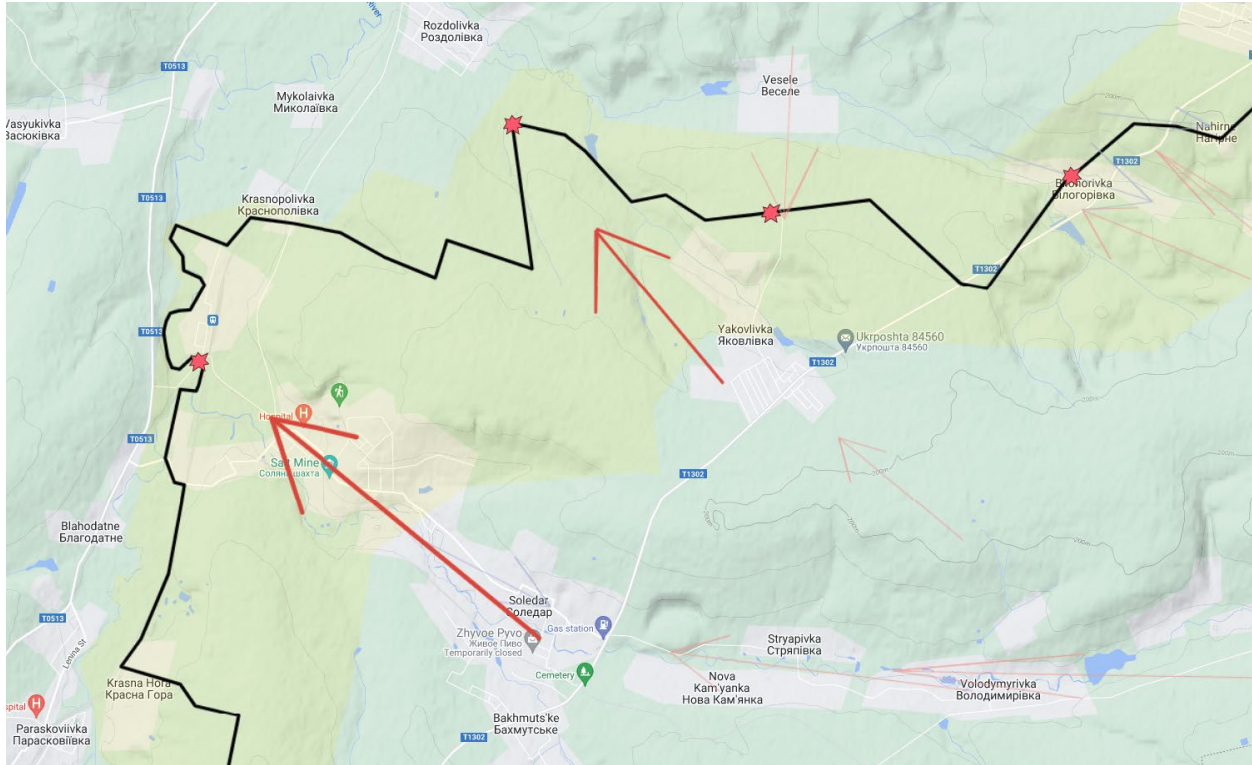
¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>



A Ukrainian source reported that fighting continued in [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk], and PMC Wagner attempted to advance on [Vesele](#) from Yakovlivka.¹⁶

¹⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>




On the Soledar axis, Ukrainian forces remain under significant pressure to hold their current lines of defense, potentially making minor gains west of Soledar while losing ground to the north. A Ukrainian source reported continued attempts by Russian forces to advance on [Rozdolivka](#) from Yakovlivka.¹⁷

GASFU reported that the Russian attack on [Krasnopolivka](#) was repelled, but our analyst team is skeptical and believes

¹⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>

the hamlet is contested or fully occupied by PMC Wagner.¹⁸
19

While Russian sources maintain [Soledar](#) has been brought completely under their control, there were reports from GSAFU and anecdotal evidence that fighting on the western edges of the town and within [Sil'](#) continues.²⁰ A geolocated video showed a PMC Wagner ammunition depot and Forward Operating Base (FOB)  [destroyed by Ukrainian artillery fire](#).²¹ You will need a Telegram account to watch the video.

Southwest of Soledar, Russian forces continued to press Ukrainian defenses in [Krasna Hora](#) and attempted to advance on [Blahodatne](#).^{22 23 24 25} The situation remains very fluid but has stabilized after PMC Wagner made marginal gains north of Krasna Hora on January 19.

¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

¹⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>

²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

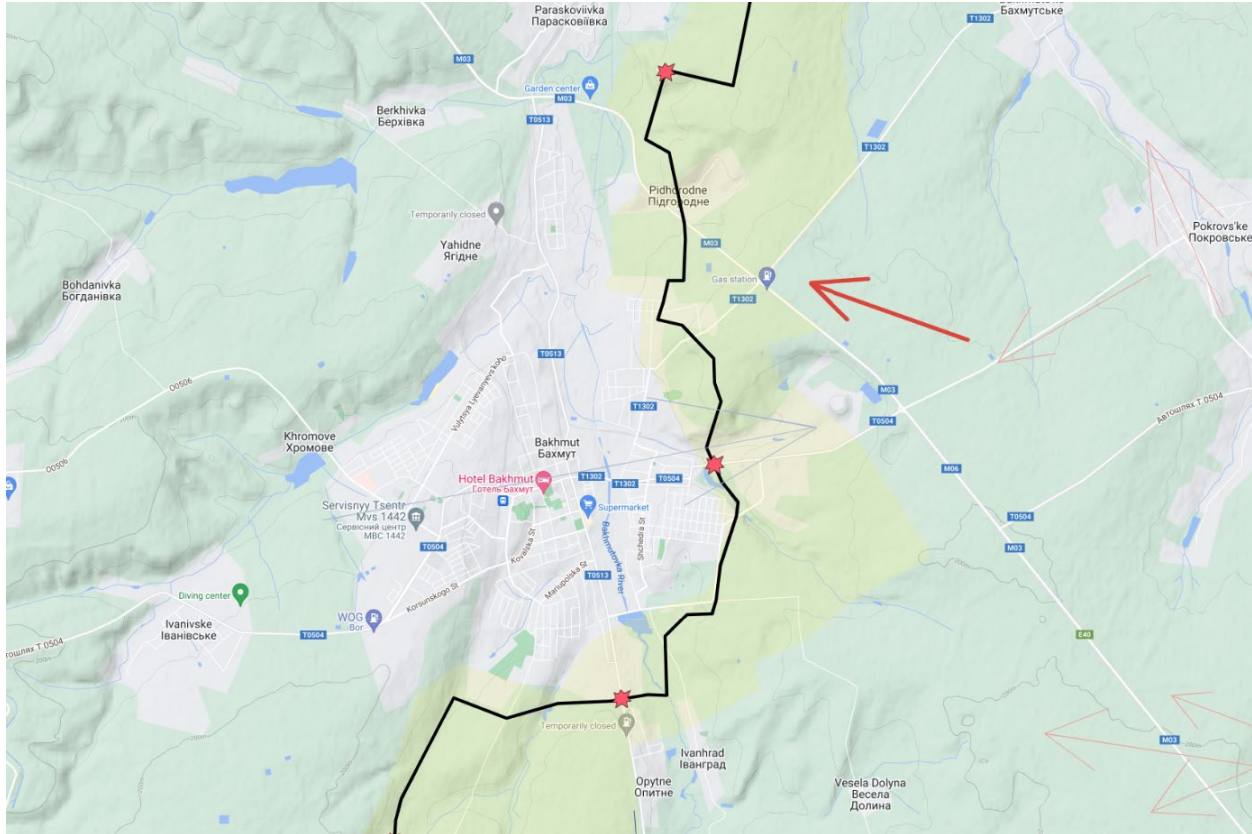
²¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72063>

²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

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

²⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/42881>



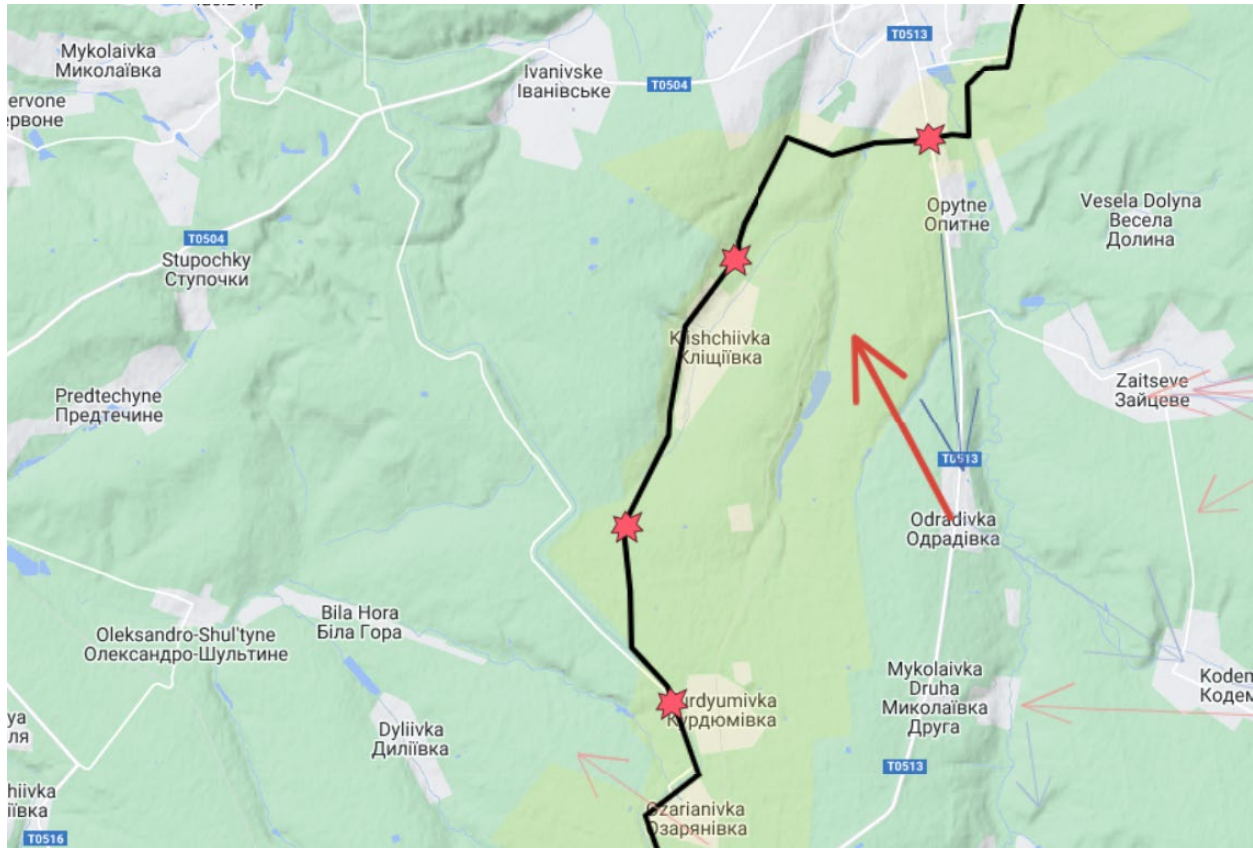
On the [Bakhmut](#) axis, fighting continued on the eastern and southern edges of the city.^{26 27 28} GASFU reported that a Russian attack on [Paraskoviivka](#) was repelled, and there were no reports of new gains by Russian sources.²⁹

²⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/42783>

²⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

²⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)




South of Bakhmut, there is growing uncertainty if PMC Wagner has captured [Klishchiivka](#). No pictures or videos have been published almost two days after the claim was made. RMOD once again minimized PMC Wagner's contribution to the offensive, declaring the settlement was captured by "volunteers of assault detachments, with fire support from operational-tactical and army aviation, missile troops and artillery of the Southern Military District."³⁰ We did not change the map, but the lack of visual evidence calls the veracity of the claims into question.

³⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

GASFU reported that Ukrainian forces repelled advances on [Ivanivske](#) and [Dyliivka](#). There weren't any claims of widescale fighting by any other source except PMC Wagner's claim of an advance on Dyliivka on January 19.

ASSESSMENT: If PMC Wagner or Russian troops advance to Ivanivske, Ukraine's ability to maintain Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) into Bakhmut will become challenging.³¹ We expanded the area of uncertainty toward both settlements but did not move the line of conflict.

Our January 19 assessment that the Russian attack that was repelled near [Oleksandro-Shultuynе](#) was a DRG or reconnaissance unit and not a larger advance was accurate.

Russian forces continued punitive strikes on Kramatorsk,  [attacking the city](#) with three S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack.³² One person died from their

³¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

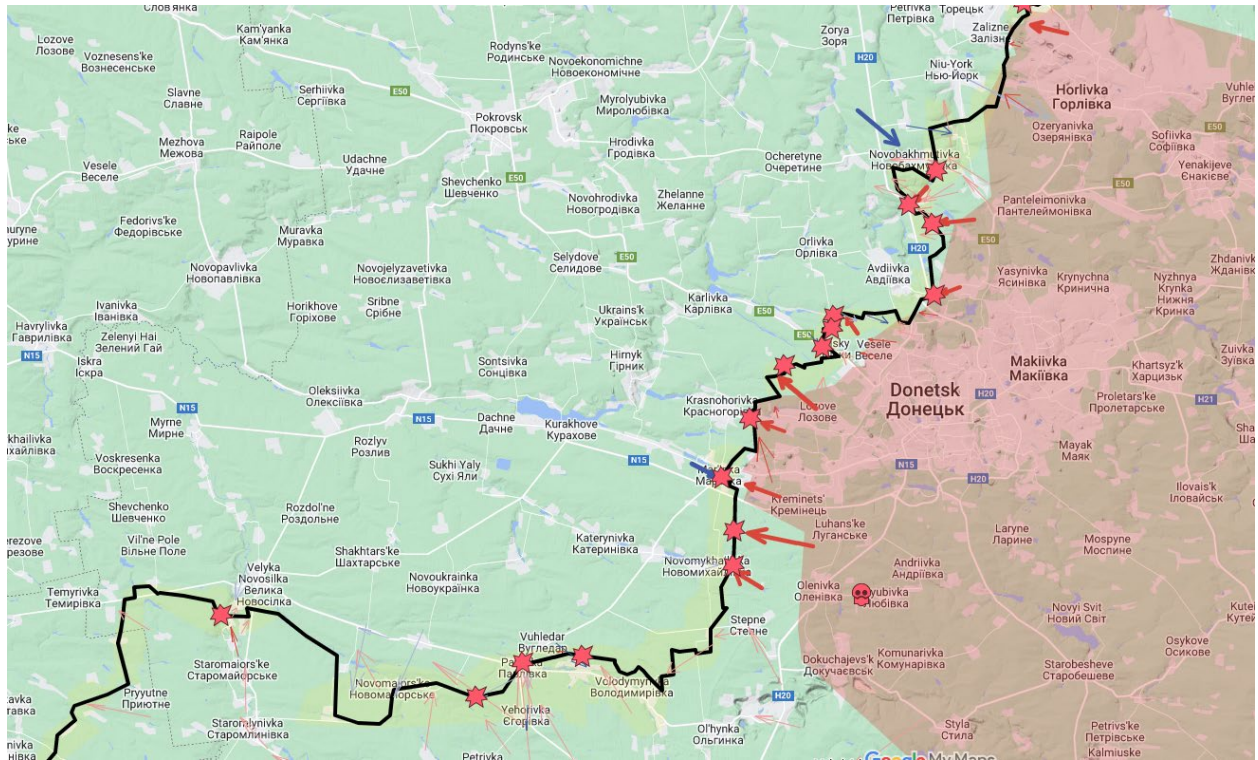
³² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72103>

injuries after 📷 [apartment buildings, a medical facility,](#)
and 📷 [two schools were hit.](#)³³

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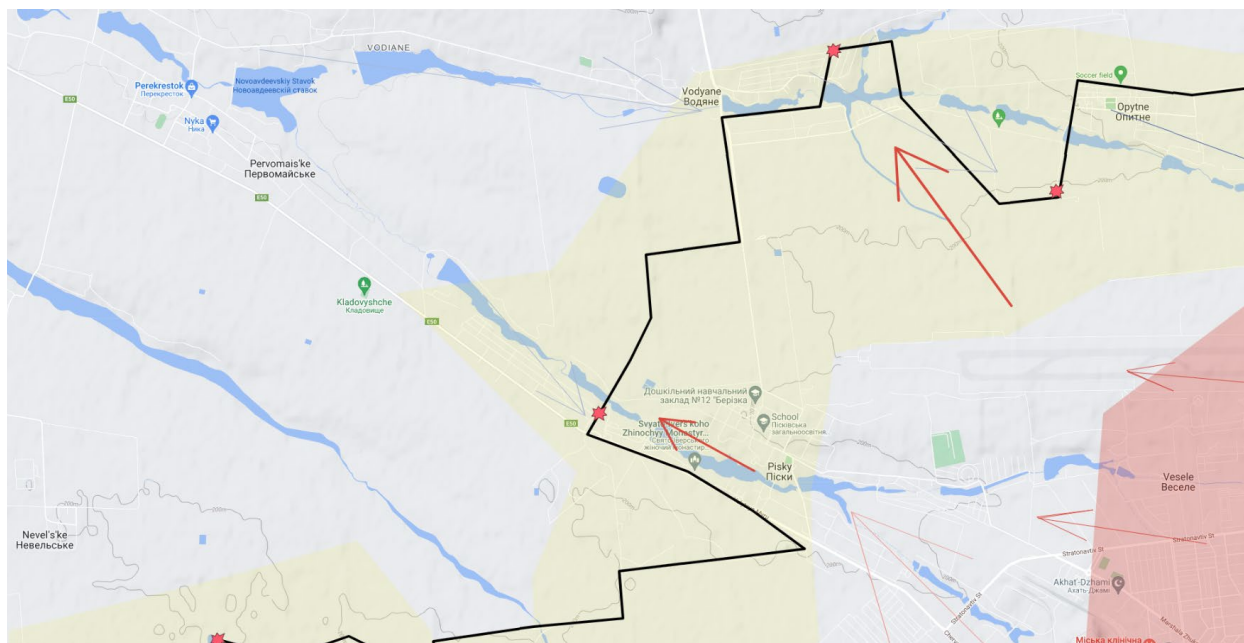
³³ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/6341


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

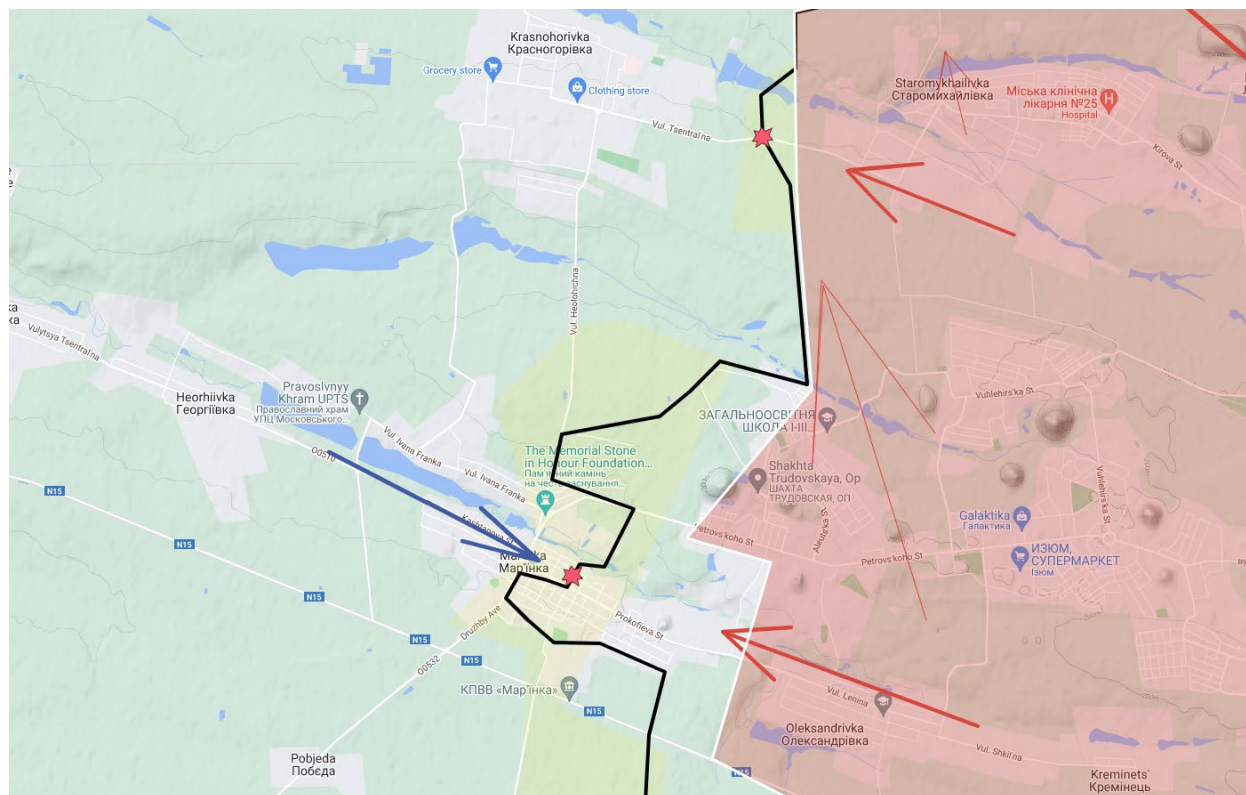


On the Avdiivka axis, there weren't any significant changes. Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) engaged in positional fighting near [Vodyane](#).^{34 35} A geolocated video showed Ukrainian forces firing on DNR separatists in [Pisky](#) from [Pervomaiske](#)  [with a 30-mm autocannon](#).³⁶ Based on the video we moved the contested area further west.


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

³⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1616594837234409472>




On the Marinka axis, intense fighting continued east of [Krasnohorivka](#), with DNR separatists attempting to sever one of the GLOCs into Marinka.³⁷

A video released by the People's Militia of the DNR showed a  [Russian tank firing on Ukrainian positions in Marinka](#). Geolocation confirmed that the line of conflict hasn't changed since November 24, and the claims that Ukrainian troops have been pushed to the western outskirts are false.³⁸ A second video showed what is likely the same T-

³⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15246>

³⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15253>

90M tank  [operating in eastern Marinka](#) and firing blind at the rubble.³⁹ GASFU and multiple Russian sources reported continued fighting.^{40 41 42} Are we amused when Russia releases “see how good we are at war” videos that expose disinformation campaigns?

Yes.

GASFU also reported that attacks on [Pobjeda](#) were repulsed.⁴³

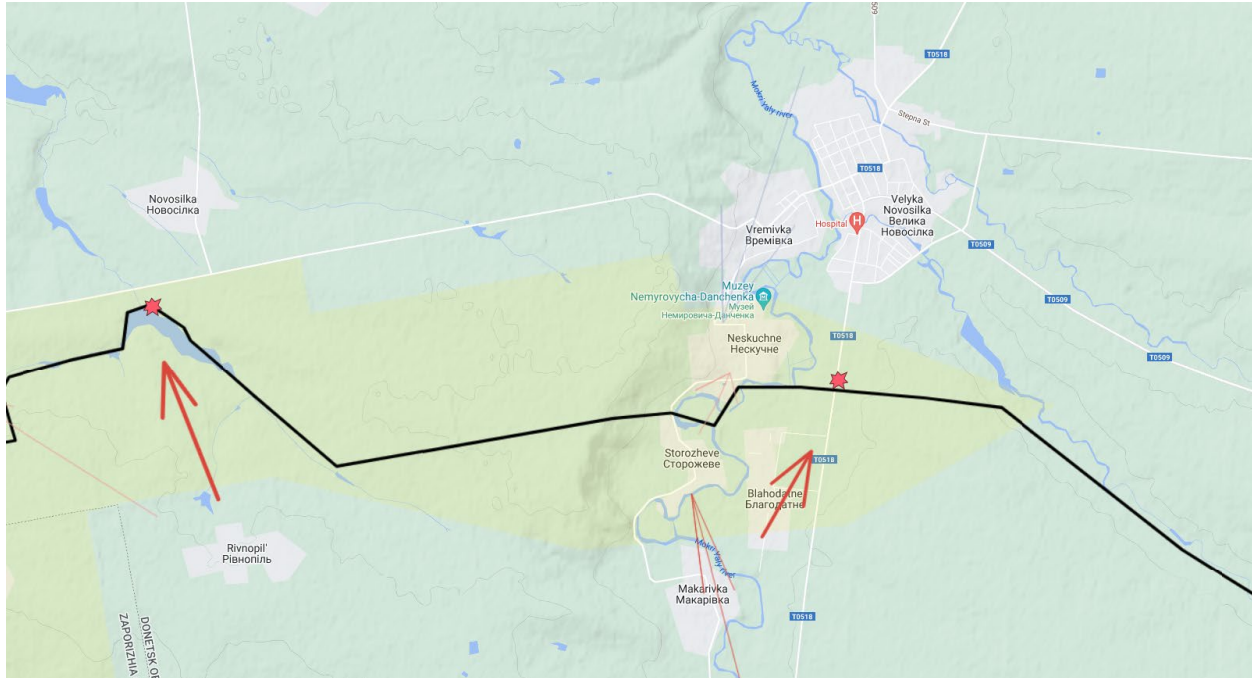
³⁹ <https://twitter.com/tankdiary/status/1616713743378915329>

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

⁴¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

⁴² <https://t.me/rybar/42881>

⁴³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



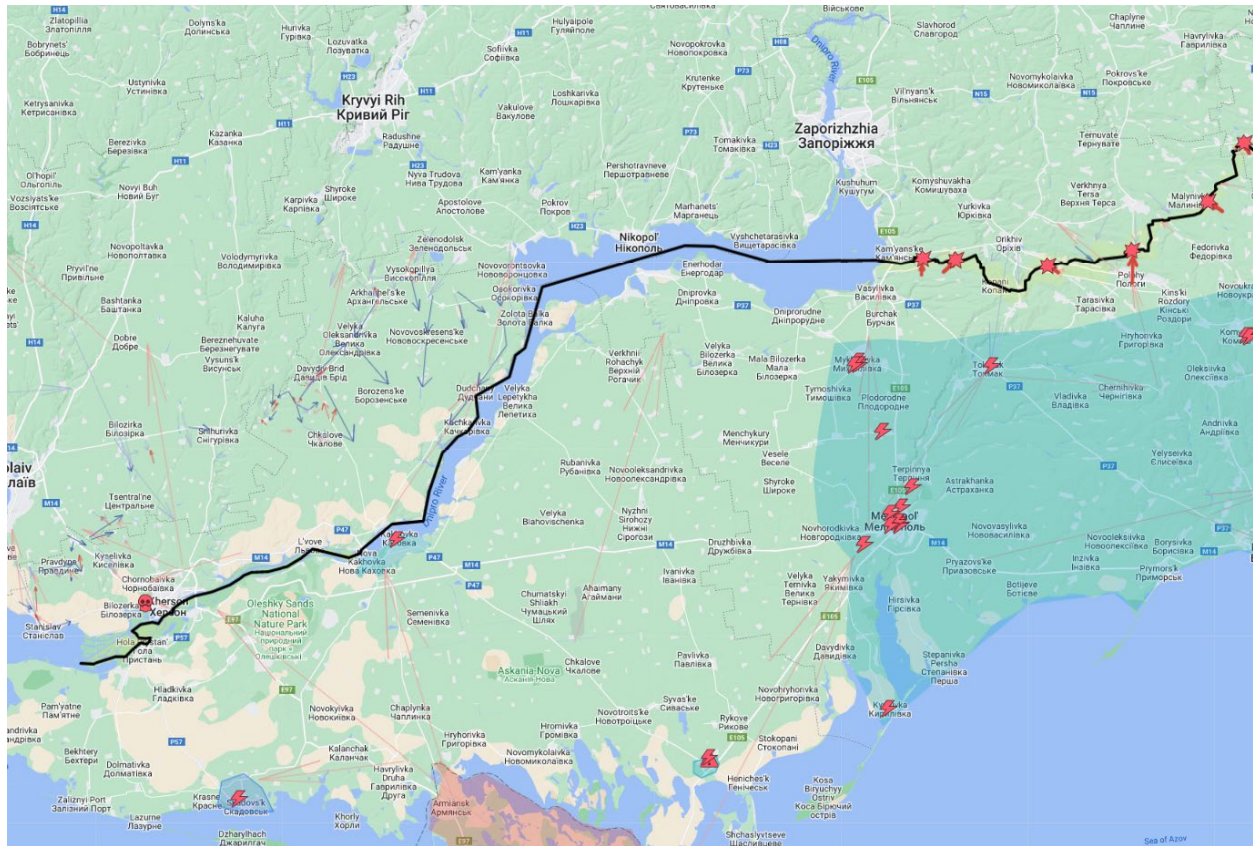
On the Velyka Novosilka axis, a Russian attempt to advance toward [Novosilka](#) was unsuccessful.⁴⁴

In Russian-occupied Mariupol, a car bomb exploded in the Central Market area. There was no information at the time of publication on casualties.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)


⁴⁵ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6065>

KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA

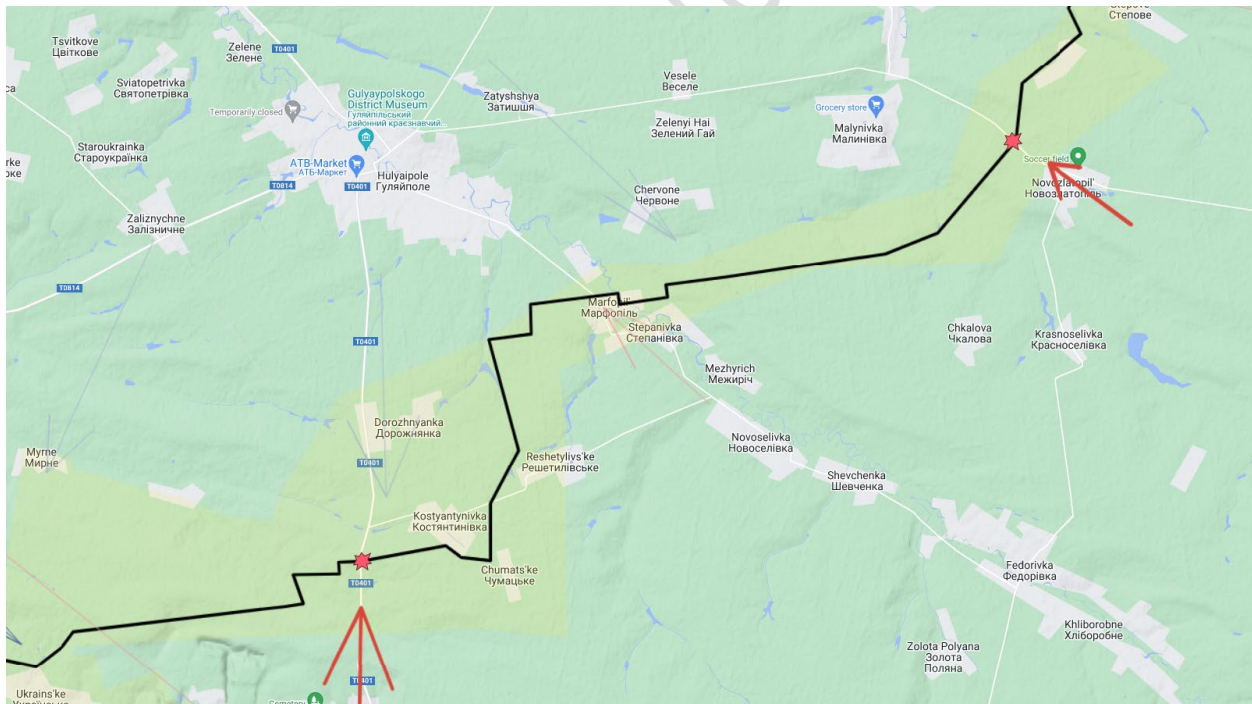


Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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, with free Ukraine shelled 36 times, including  [11 strikes on the city of Kherson](#), wounding two people.^{46 47 48 49} In the Beryslav raion, two people were wounded by Russian shelling, including a 15-year-old who lost their leg.⁵⁰

In occupied Kherson,  [Kakhovka was shelled](#).



⁴⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁴⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3196>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/33307>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3190>

Vladimir Rogov, a Pro-Russian Ukrainian collaborator and member of the Russian-appointed council over Zaporizhia, made unsupported claims of a major offensive on the Zaporizhia axis. The claims were repeated by several Russian milbloggers, while other nationalists questioned the veracity of Rogov's claims.^{51 52}

ASSESSMENT: Our team spent extensive time trying to validate Rogov's claims but could only find visual confirmation of marginal gains in one location and two videos showing Russian troops being annihilated during failed advances.

On the Hulyaipole axis, mercenaries with Rybar claimed Russian forces advanced to "more strategic positions" near [Malynivka](#), while a geolocated video showed the Russian attack failed after suffering significant losses from drone-directed artillery fire.^{53 54}

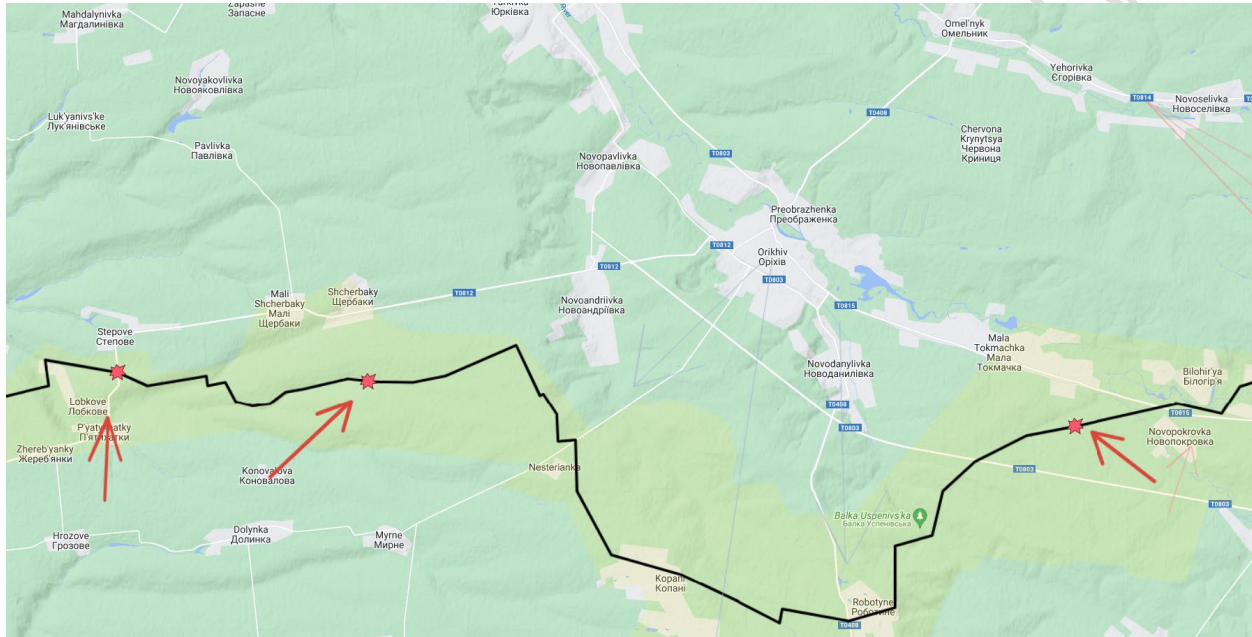
⁵¹ <https://t.me/kommunist/15100>

⁵² <https://t.me/kommunist/15100>

⁵³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15254>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/42881>

Rybar reported fighting for control of [Dorozhnyanka](#), based on Rogov's claim and with no other evidence. We expanded the area of uncertainty but did not move the line of conflict.



On the Orikhiv axis, GASFU reported a Russian attack on [Mala Tokmachka](#) was unsuccessful.⁵⁵ RMOD reported the settlement was shelled while Rybar claimed it was partially captured, and mercenaries with War Gonzo reported continued fighting.^{56 57 58} We expanded the area of uncertainty into the eastern part of the settlement.


⁵⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁵⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/23592 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/42881>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10417>

Rogov claimed that [Novodanylivka](#) was captured without evidence. In our assessment, we believe this claim is false.⁵⁹

GASFU reported that Russian attacks on [Mali Shcherbaky](#) and [Stepove](#) were unsuccessful. War Gonzo claimed that Stepove was captured. On January 19, we shared a video of elements of the Russian 58th Combined Arms Army (CAA)  [attempting to advance on Stepove](#) through a minefield with no armor support, which ended with heavy losses.⁶⁰ PMC Wagner's social media channels condemned the commanders of the 58th CAA for the tactics used in the attack, writing that whoever planned it should be "castrated."⁶¹

RMOD claimed that the settlement of [Lobkove](#) was captured, which left the analyst community scratching their heads.⁶² We coded Lobkove under Russian control in March 2022. We didn't make any changes to the map because there was nothing to change.

Some of the same Russian milbloggers who claimed a major Ukrainian offensive was coming in this direction are

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/vrogov/7245>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15245>

⁶¹ https://t.me/grey_zone/16718

⁶² https://t.me/mod_russia/23592 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

now claiming that Ukrainian defenses were weak. There is no evidence that Ukraine moved troops from the axis to Bakhmut or other regions and the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence Defence Intelligence agency assessed that a significant Ukrainian force remains in this area.⁶³ Oleksandr Starukh, Zaporizhia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Russian forces completed 166 fire missions on 21 communities.⁶⁴

ASSESSMENT: When Ukraine started its major offensive in Kherson, it completed more than 530 fire missions to set conditions and almost 440 on the first day of offensive operations. On January 19, Russian forces fired 224 mortars, shells, or rockets along the Zaporizhia axis. In the short term, this does not look like a widescale offensive. The UK Defence Intelligence Agency described the fighting as "skirmishes," and the axis deadlocked.⁶⁵ We're highly suspicious of single-source claims, especially from ultranationalists like Rogov. Our final assessment is based heavily on a gut feeling due to limited visual evidence and no acknowledgment from local officials. For example, we believe if Russian forces had captured Novodanylivka, Zaporizhia Governor Starukh would be making a public

⁶³ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1616684398342029312>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/starukhofficial/4604>

⁶⁵ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1616684398342029312>

appeal for civilians to evacuate Orikhiv, Mala Tokmachka, and Preobrazhenka.

Energoatom reported that none of the reactors at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant could be brought into low power mode because of acute staffing shortages at the plant.⁶⁶ Rosatom is continuing recruiting efforts for engineers and technicians in Russia, which isn't attracting many takers.


The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported two explosions near ZNPP that did not impact plant operations.⁶⁷ Director General Rafael Grossi hinted that negotiations to create a green zone around the plant and have Russian troops withdraw are no longer progressing. "Everybody agrees that the plant – located on the frontline in an active combat area – needs to be protected, but these are very complex negotiations. I will not stop until the much-needed zone is a reality. I will continue my intensive consultations with both Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the coming days and weeks," he said.

⁶⁶ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/11587

⁶⁷ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

The composition of the Black Sea Fleet is unchanged, with 11 ships on patrol, including six missile carriers capable of launching up to 40 Kalibr cruise missiles.⁶⁸ Natalya Gumenyuk, Director of Communications for Operational Command South (OCS), reported that the ships had moved to their launch positions at the time of publication.⁶⁹

Due to stormy weather, an  [antiship sea mine washed ashore](#) on an Odesa beach.⁷⁰ Explosive ordnance disposal technicians were evaluating the situation.

The electrical grid is severely damaged in Odesa, with DTEK reporting only having enough capacity to meet 30% to 40% of needs.⁷¹ It requires 25% of pre-damage capacity to maintain critical infrastructure such as drinking water, sewage processing, communications, heat, hospitals, and trains, leaving little margin for future attacks.

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72174>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20694>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72144>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/odesacityofficial/14350>

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

There wasn't any significant activity 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

Kupyansk was hit by another Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile used for a ground attack. The rocket landed  [near a school](#), causing significant damage.⁷²

RUSSIAN FRONT

After almost a year of war, the mood of Russians on the Ukrainian border is starting to sour. In Belgorod, residents have started  [surrounding their homes and businesses with sandbags](#) and building bunkers in their basements.⁷³ In the city, signs pointing to community bomb shelters have started to appear.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukrainian officials said they were "satisfied" with the outcome of the eighth meeting of the Ramstein working group on January 20. Military representatives from almost 50 nations and Ukrainian officials said that not all military aid commitments were made public.

⁷² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72076>

⁷³ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1616734636125683712>

Boris Pistorius, the Federal Minister of Defence of Germany, said that Western allies did not agree on providing Ukraine with Leopard 2 main battle tanks, but he instructed the Ministry to prepare for "the day that may come."⁷⁴ An agreement that was reached was to immediately start the training of Ukrainian troops in operation and maintenance of German tanks, accelerating any future deployments.⁷⁵ Ukrainian troops will also start training on the British Challenger 2 MBT in the coming days.⁷⁶ Ukrainian officials believe that training for command, maintenance, gunnery, and operation can be completed in six weeks. In our assessment, that's very optimistic.

Protests broke out in Berlin and outside the German embassies of several nations, demanding that Olaf Scholz, "free the Leopards."

The Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic released a statement denying rumors that the nation would transfer recently delivered Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine instead of T-72s.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/21/7385881/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/20/7385877/>

⁷⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/20/7385875/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/21/7385896/>

"Foreign media have reported that the Czech Republic and Slovakia were allegedly ready to give up Leopard 2 tanks in favor of Ukraine. This information is not true. No one has asked or proposed that the Czech Republic send the tanks which, according to a previous agreement, it will receive from Germany as compensation for aid to Ukraine," the statement reads.

Lithuanian publication Delfi reported that United States Ambassador to the OSCE Michael Carpenter said he expected "broad support" in the United States to provide Ukraine with F-16 fighter aircraft, which Denmark indicated they were prepared to do on January 19.⁷⁸

The 2023 omnibus United States budget included \$100 million to train Ukrainians in operation and maintenance of F-16 aircraft. There were reports in the summer of 2022 that unofficial flight training in military simulators had already started on the F-16, F-15 Strike Eagle multirole fighter, and the A-10 ground attack aircraft. In an indication that the Russian Ministry of Defense is nervous about the momentum to provide Ukraine with modern fourth-generation fighters, a massive disinformation campaign on

⁷⁸ https://twitter.com/Flash_news_ua/status/1616722591632490497

social media started just minutes after the story broke of the potential US approval.

Polish officials said they would train an armored brigade of Ukrainian troops (estimated 4000) on the T-72 main battle tank, and they would be ready for deployment at the end of March. Using NATO standards, that would represent a minimum of 84 MBTs – 14 per company, three companies per battalion – and two battalions to form the brigade.

Germany announced a 1 billion euro aid package that includes 500 border protection vehicles – mostly desperately needed trucks, 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles (IFV), seven additional Gepard mobile short-range anti-aircraft vehicles, and one IRIS-T medium-range anti-aircraft battery.⁷⁹

Canada announced that it had purchased a NASAM air defense system on behalf of Ukraine.⁸⁰

Assistant Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Lieutenant General Alexei Pavlov (former FSB) was

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72164>

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/20/7385839/>

dismissed by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Pavlov was the author of the October paper "The Witches Cauldron" which called for the "desatanization" of Ukraine. The paper was initially embraced by the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church, but it created a firestorm out of sight to the West. In a matter of days, the Kremlin talking points of a war against Satanism and the LGBTQ community returned to denazification.

Pavlov claimed Ukrainian Satanic roots came from Lubavitcher Hasidim and the Jewish Chabad faith. The paper was considered offensively antisemitic, even by the Russian audience, and was condemned by the Chief Rabbi of Russia, Berl Lazar.

Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev apologized, dismissing Pavlov's erroneous words about Lubavitcher Hasidim and the Jewish Chabad religion in Ukraine. "I apologize to the readers of the publication and would like to note that this interpretation reflects the personal point of view of A.A. Pavlov and is by no means the official position of the Security Council of the Russian Federation."^{81 82}

⁸¹ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51074>

⁸² [https://www.rbc\[dot\]ru/politics/20/01/2023/63ca83be9a7947057726254e](https://www.rbc[dot]ru/politics/20/01/2023/63ca83be9a7947057726254e)

Amazingly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov still has a job.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

The Russian Ministry of Defense denied that a change had been made to provide mobilization deferments to fathers of disabled children or adult men who are the only living relative of a single parent who is a pensioner.⁸³ "I did not tell the head of the Committee on Family, Women, and Children, Nina Ostanina, about the Ministry of Defense's support for a deferment for fathers of disabled children," said the head of the State Duma Committee on Defense.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmytry Peskov denied that additional mobilization was coming. "We are guided by what the President said. As part of the partial mobilization, the number that was planned to be mobilized was provided. And then the usual call for military service began. The President spoke about this several times, and we suggest focusing on this," he told reporters.⁸⁴

⁸³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52901>

⁸⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/52887>

While claiming mobilization was done, pictures emerged of approximately 25 men standing outside of the commissariat office in Russian-occupied Sevastopol because they had received mobilization notifications.⁸⁵

Russian milblogger Alexander Kots reported that the 640th and 641st artillery battalions, which received three months of training on the D-30 howitzer, upon arrival into Ukraine, were transferred to the infantry of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR and sent to the front line.⁸⁶ Family and unit members claim they are willing to fight but not in the infantry because they received no training in frontline combat and were not equipped to be in the infantry when deployed.

The Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) has started forced mobilization in Alchevsk, conscripting employees of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.⁸⁷ The Ministry of Emergency Situations includes firefighters, emergency medical technicians, utility repairs, and resources to aid civilians during disaster and war.

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20716>

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/sashakots/38149>

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8090>

The Ministry of Information of the DNR appealed for journalists and milbloggers to maintain operational security and not help “the enemy.”⁸⁸ This is an ironic request as we have repeatedly documented that the 1st Army Corps and the Ministry of Emergency Situations for the DNR do an amazing job of ignoring operational security.

The Kremlin is attempting to tighten its grip on the information space. Roskomnadzor recognized Telegram as a foreign messenger, and as a result, beginning March 1, the ability to transfer payment information through the social media app will be limited. This includes a ban on integrating donations and subscriptions to the messenger app.⁸⁹ This is not being well received by Russian organizations that collect donations to buy basic military equipment for volunteers and mobiks.

Russian milblogger Vladlen Tatarsky wrote another blistering piece, questioning Russian mobilization and revealing major supply problems. Tatarsky questioned why new units were formed with artillery divisions that had no

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/voenkorKotenok/44605>

⁸⁹ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51103>

artillery pieces, mobile infantry brigades with only one truck, tank divisions with no tanks, and light infantry units deployed with only assault weapons.⁹⁰ He also called out the creation of new units comprised only of mobiks across the entire command structure instead of integrating mobiks into existing units with experienced troops.

In Starbolisk, Russian troops got a hold of some homemade vodka to celebrate the Orthodox calendar new year. The alcohol was either poisoned or poorly made and contained excess amounts of methyl alcohol. Thirty are hospitalized, with reports that several have died.⁹¹

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS



A meeting was held in Moscow between the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, Colonel-General Alexander Fomin, and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spolyarić.⁹²

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/vladlentatarsky/18737>

⁹¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72123>

⁹² https://t.me/mod_russia/23607 [Russian Federation Controlled Social Media Channel]

The Russian Ministry of Defense wrote a brief statement declaring, "The parties discussed the most pressing issues of cooperation between the Russian Defense Ministry and the ICRC in the Ukrainian direction, including compliance with international humanitarian law, the treatment of prisoners of war, and the search for missing persons."

Readovka propagandist Anastasia Yelsukova of Luhansk was badly wounded in Sil' near the railroad station when the PMC Wagner unit she was embedded with came under artillery fire. She received a severe wound to her knee, which was described as crushed, and shrapnel wounds to her hip.⁹³ A video showed her  [conscious and talking while being treated](#) shortly after she was hit by shrapnel.⁹⁴ Yelsukova received surgery in Luhansk before being transferred to Rosotov-on-Don, where she received a second surgery  [before being transferred to Moscow](#) on a VIP aircraft.⁹⁵ Yelsukova was on the front lines in an area of intense fighting and wearing a military uniform at the time of the artillery strike.

⁹³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10432>

⁹⁴ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51091>

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51101>

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant developments.

ECONOMIC

The rouble closed the week slightly improved, with an exchange rate of 68 for 1 US dollar.

Western oil prices continued to climb, with WTI crude reaching \$82 a barrel and Brent creeping upward to \$88. Russian Urals crude was unchanged at \$59 a barrel. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market closed the week up, reaching \$2.65 a gallon (70 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures ended the week up, reaching 68 euros per megawatt hour for February and March 2023 delivery.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures also ended the week with a price bump, reaching \$7.43 a bushel for March 2023 delivery.