



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 609

It has been 3,530 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 245 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

Summary:

- The map is unchanged
- The situation in Kharkiv and Luhansk is stable
- An M39 Block 1 ATACMS missile struck the occupied city of Luhansk
- Russian forces continued spoiling attacks on the north flank of Bakhmut
- Ukrainian forces continued offensive operations on the south flank of Bakhmut
- Poor weather and ongoing troop rotations slowed the operational tempo in the Avdiivka AO, with no new Russian advances recorded
- Russian blocking troops have started executing refusniks
- Long ground lines of communication is straining Russian battlefield fuel reserves

- Russia did Russian things at Marinka and Novomykhailiva
- Fighting continued in the Orikhiv AO, where the front remained frozen
- Four FSB officers were killed by a bomb in occupied Beredyansk
- Romania had deployed anti-drone weapon systems at the mouth of the Danube River
- The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine said there were no issues with grain exports from Odesa
- Fighting continued on the left bank of the Konkra River in Kherson as Ukrainian forces continued to expand their landings
- A Russian artillery strike near Sumy killed a teenager
- Russian residents of the Belgorod region are unhappy because promised home repairs after June's fighting have not been made
- Partisans in the Kursk region of Russia damaged a Russian electronic warfare station
- The United States believes that Russia can achieve "certain tactical successes" over the winter
- The U.S., Japan, and South Korea confirmed that North Korea is sending significant quantities of ammunition to Russia
- The foreign minister of Lithuania blasted the E.U.'s slow rollout of military aid to Ukraine

- Russia is running defense factories 24 hours a day and building new factories
- Mice and rats are overrunning Russian bunkers and trenches
- Ukrainian company Metinvest has developed an antitank trawl that is being domestically produced
- The Prime Minister of Slovakia officially cut off all military aid to Ukraine
- U.S. political leaders are signaling they will not consider a joint Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan defense bill
- Denmark announced a \$500 million military aid package for Ukraine
- The U.S. announced a \$150 million military aid package for Ukraine
- Kyiv suggested that they would receive missiles with a 300-kilometer range by January 2024 (2025? 2026???)

DAILY ASSESSMENT

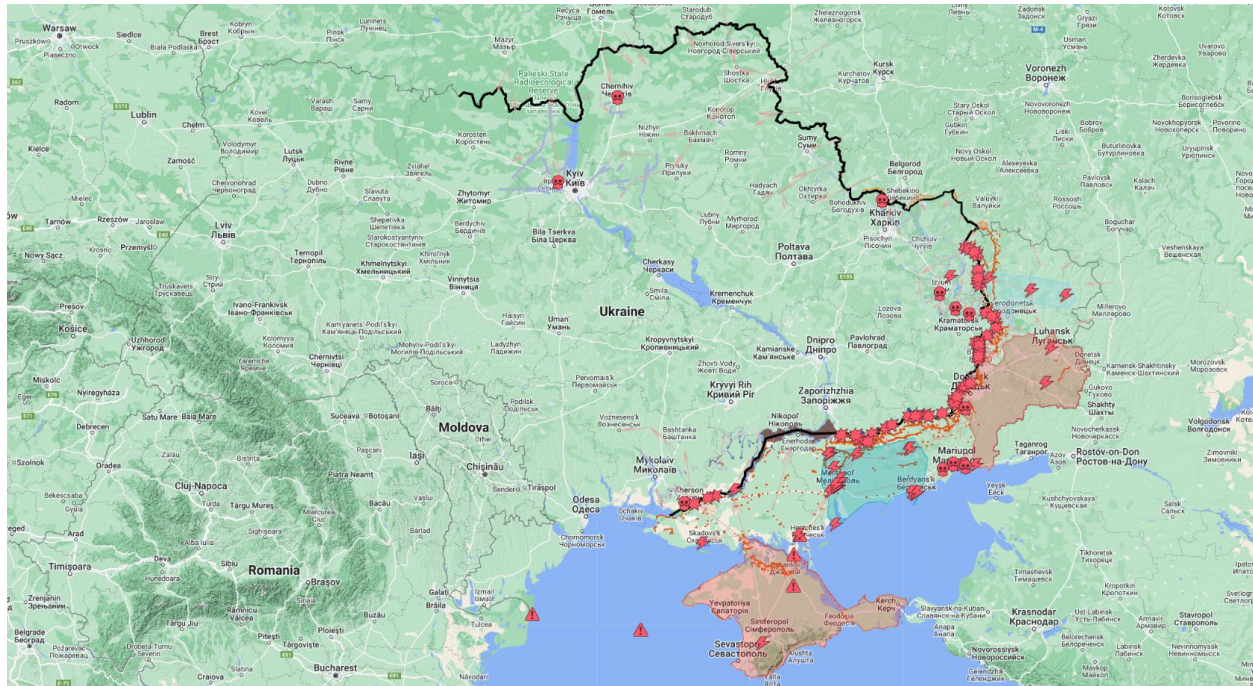
We assess the following:

1. Russia's use of human wave attacks has caused rapid deterioration of the situation in the Avdiivka area of operation (AO) despite catastrophic losses, and the Ukrainian garrison is in the deepest salient since February 24, 2022.
2. Russian commanders have put mission objectives over all other considerations, and they are committed to capturing the Avdiivka salient regardless of the cost.
3. In our assessment, there is a small chance of Ukraine attempting a larger-sized wet crossing near Kherson.
4. The soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border will eventually lead to a significant incident that could result in military intervention.
5. We assess the commitment made by Ukraine's allies to provide the same level of military aid in 2024 as provided in 2023 as negative news due to Russia bypassing ineffective sanctions, increasing defense production, and receiving significant support from Iran and North Korea.

6. We maintain that Russia is stockpiling missiles and drones for large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure as the weather continues to degrade.
7. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.



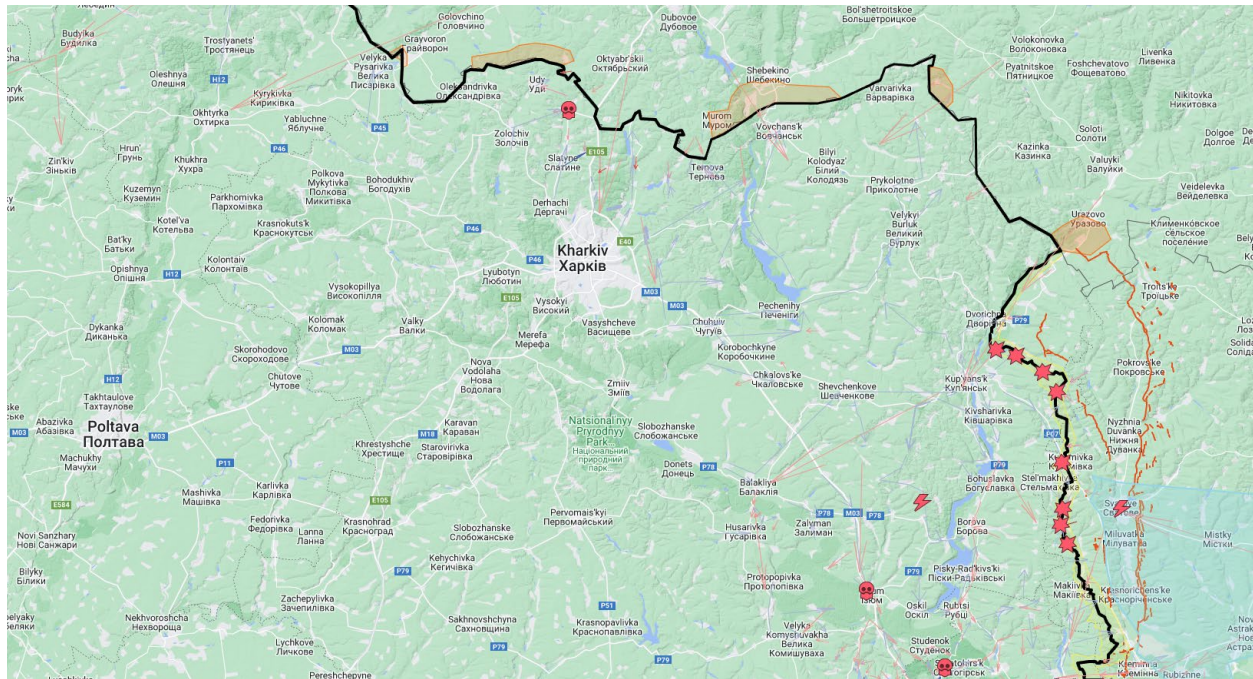
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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.

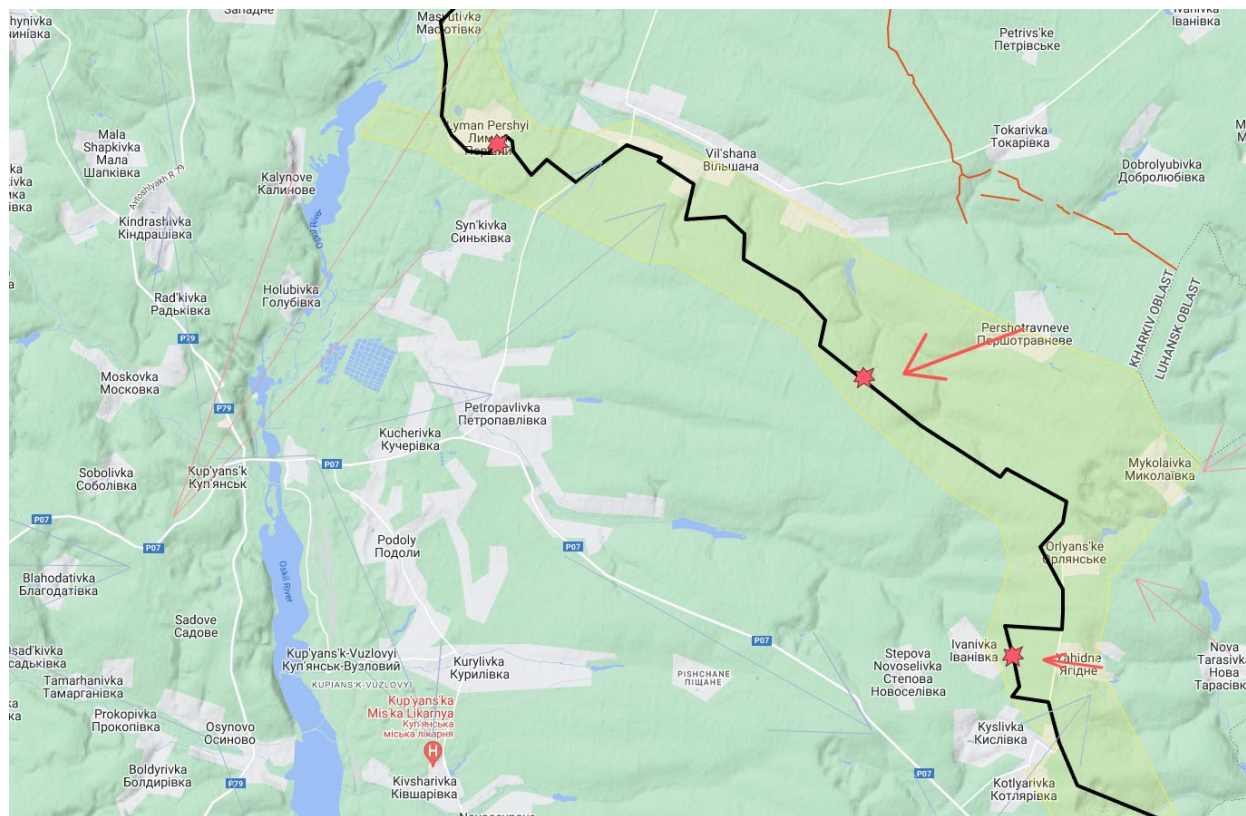
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvornichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



The front remains stable in the Kupyansk Operational Area (AO). Mutual fighting continued near [Synkivka](#), and Ukrainian forces completed stabilization work on the western edge of [Lyman Pershyi](#).^{1 2 3} Russian forces continued their attacks in the area of [Ivanivka](#) with no change in the situation.⁴

¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

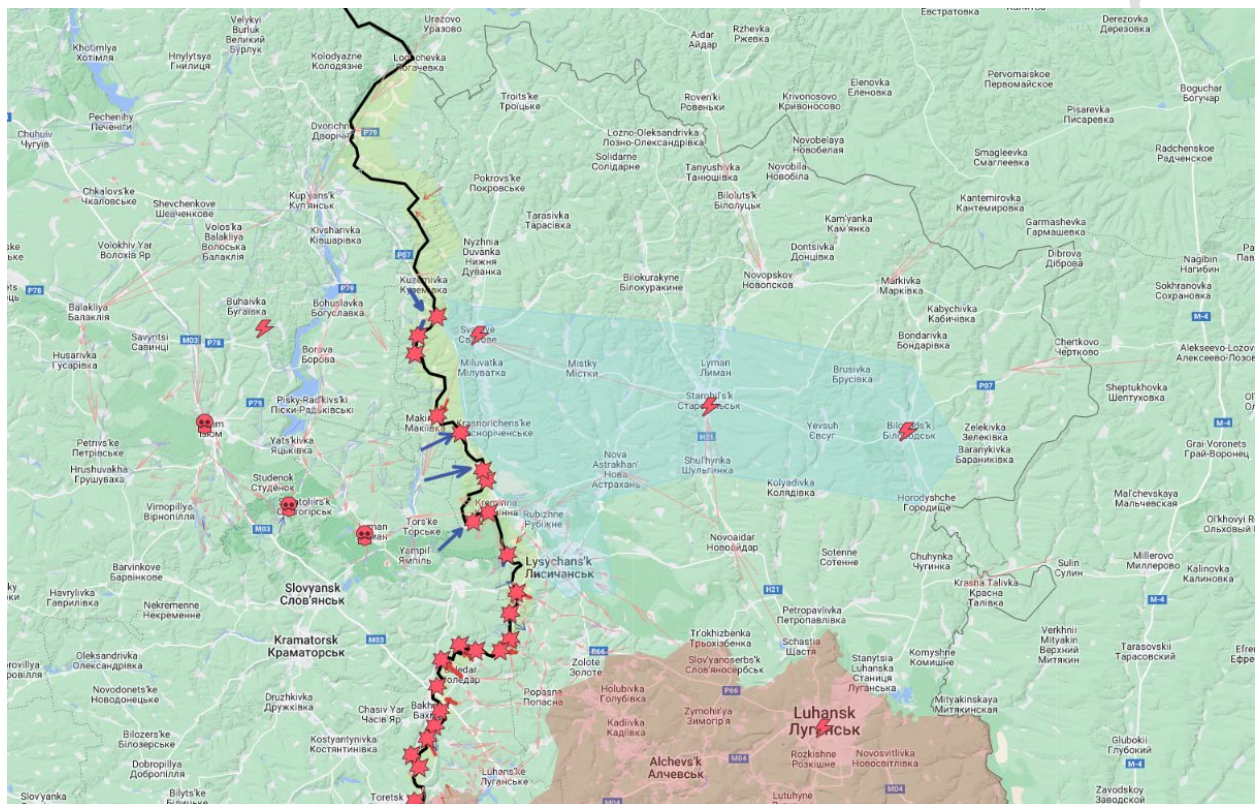
² https://t.me/mod_russia/31833 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

DONBAS REGION


LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, and capture the rest of the oblast

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

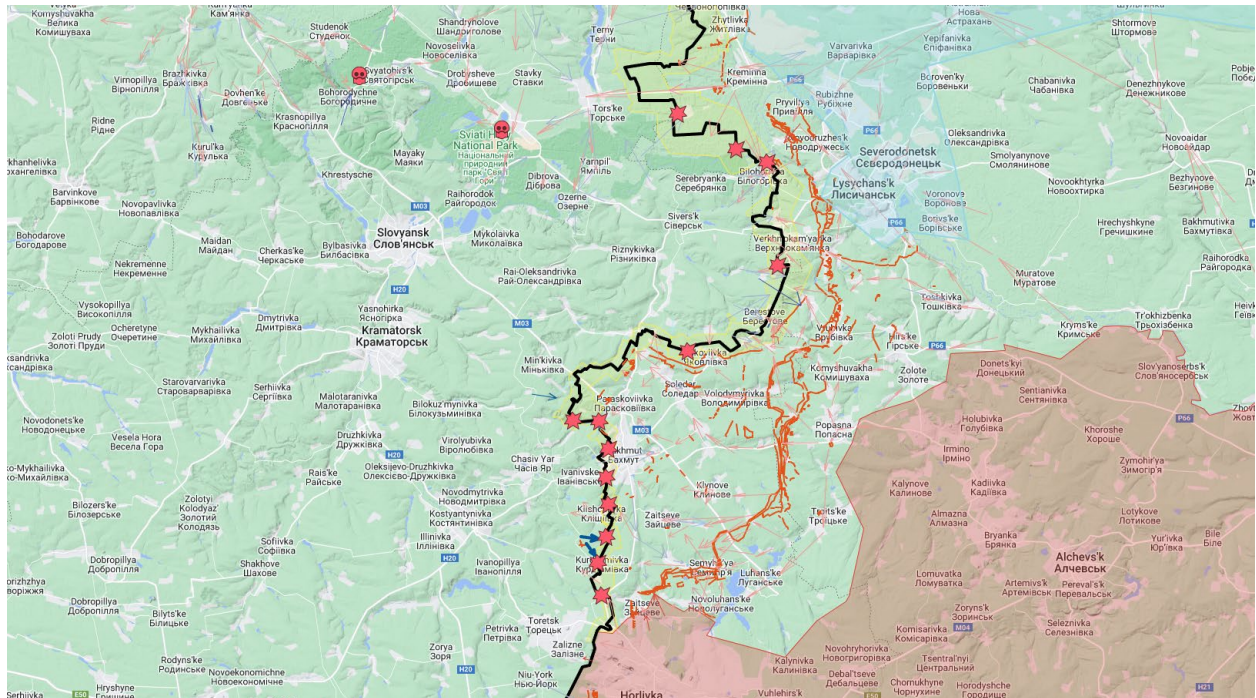
The situation remains stable in the Svatove and Kreminna AOs. The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported fighting near [Serhiivka](#), west of Svatove and made its daily claim of fighting near [Dibrova](#).⁵

In occupied Luhansk, Russian sources claimed a M140 ATACMS Block 1 M39 missile struck an air defense complex in the occupied city of Luhansk. A video was shared across many Russian channels claiming three S-400 complexes were destroyed. In our assessment, this is likely referencing MZKT-7930 launchers. The video shared through social intelligence is not supportive of a strike on S-400 launchers. Other modules of the S-400 complex may have been hit, but there is no way to confirm. The video does  [conclusively show something was hit](#).⁶

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/31833 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

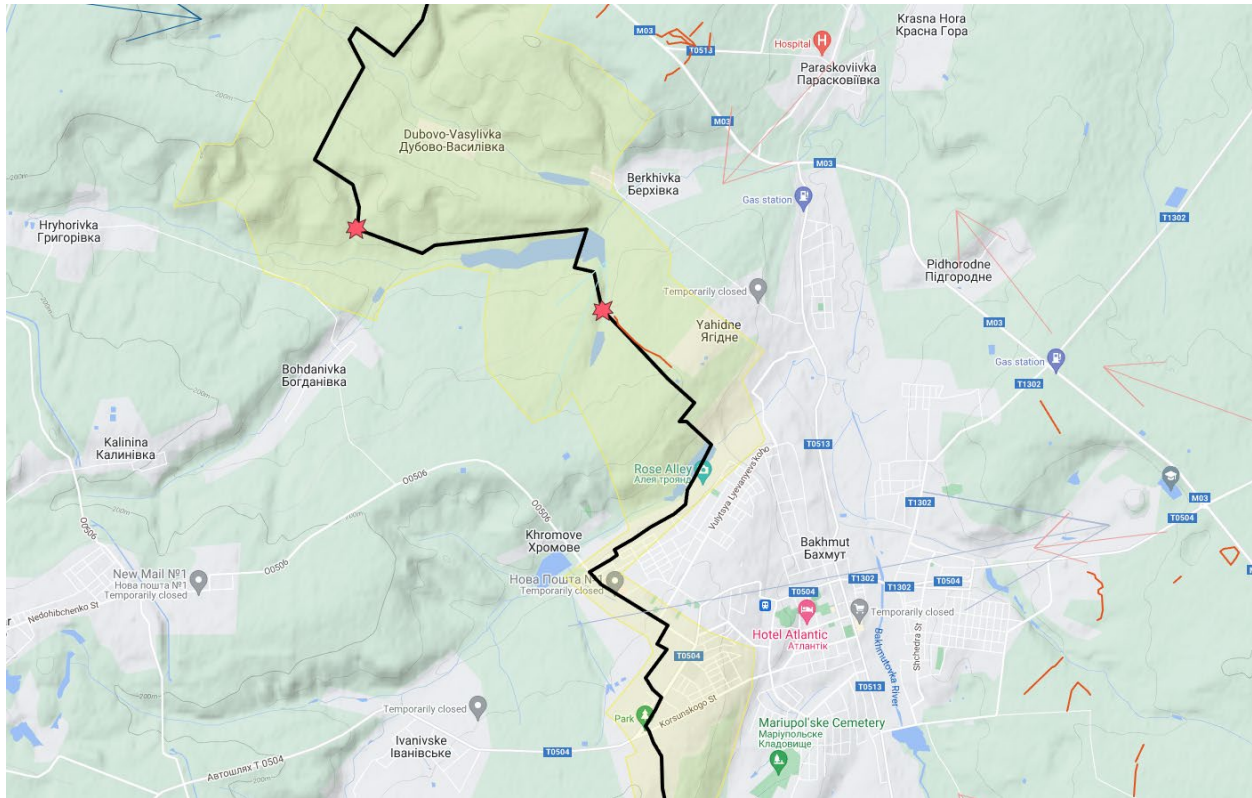
⁶ https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1717618432529539243

NORTHEAST DONETSK



Russian Objective: Complete the capture of Bakhmut AO, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire Donetsk region by December 31

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north of Bakhmut, capture the T-513 Highway south of Bakhmut, liberate the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, advance to the administrative border of Luhansk, and minimize civilian casualties

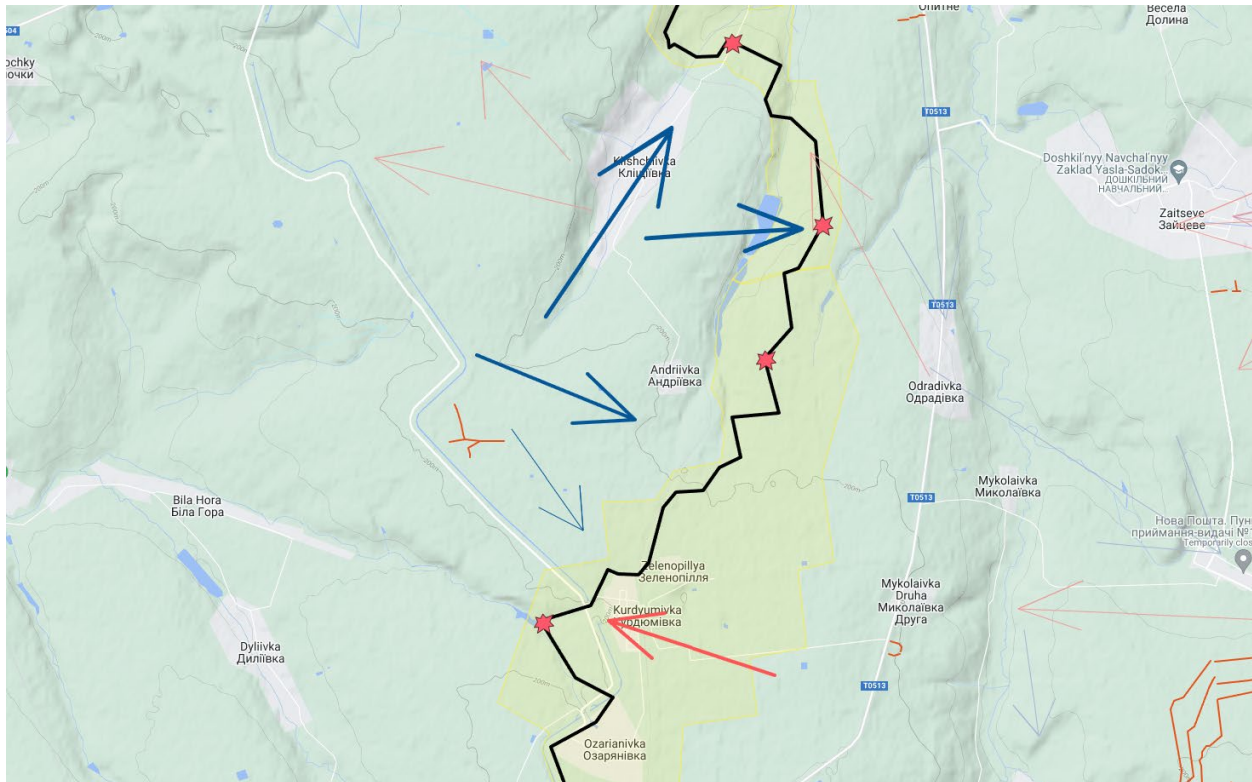


Russian forces continued intense spoiling attacks northwest and southwest of Bakhmut. Attempts to advance toward [Bohdanivka](#) from the north and [Khromove](#) continued.^{7 8 9} A prominent Russian milblogger claimed that Russian troops crossed the drainage north of the Khromove retaining pond without evidence.

⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>



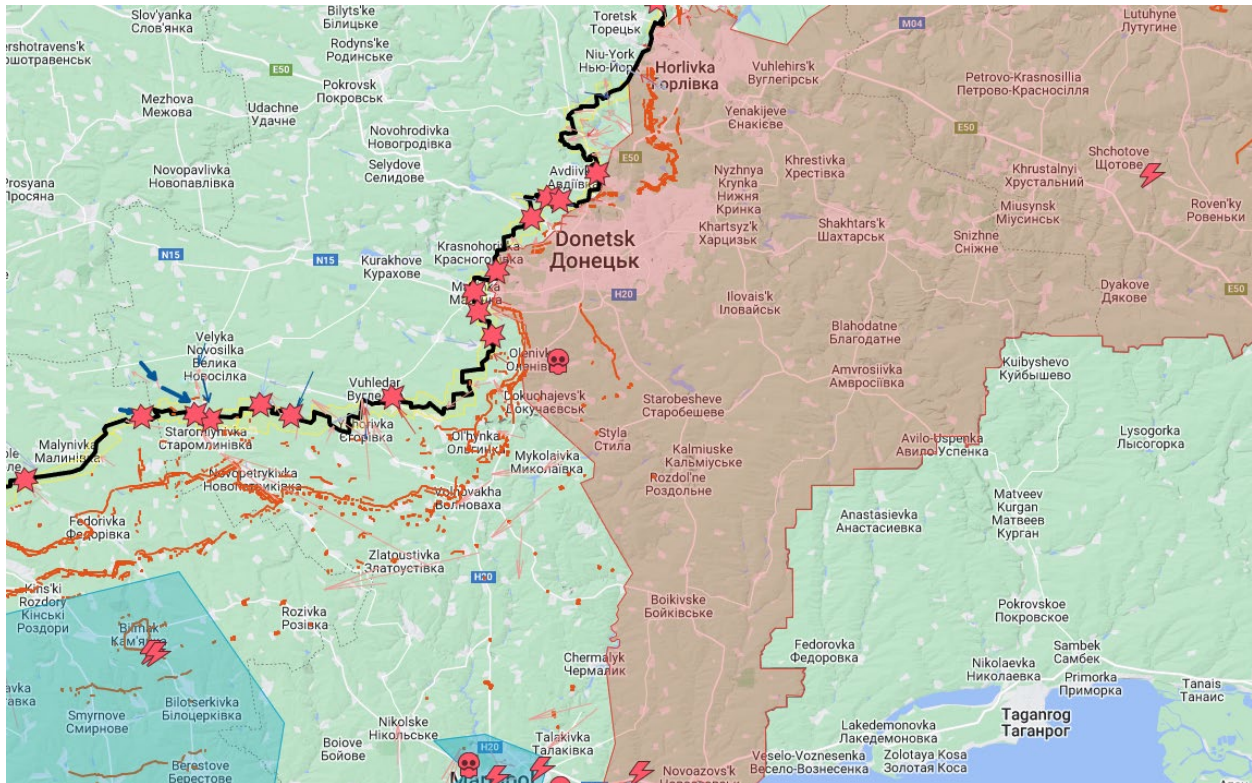
In the Klishchiivka AO, fighting continued north and east of [Klischiiivka](#), east of [Andriivka](#), and west and north of [Kurdyumivka](#) with no change in the situation. Weather conditions were poor and likely slowed the operation tempo.^{10 11 12}

¹⁰ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

¹¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Capture the remainder of the Donetsk Oblast by December 31

Ukrainian Objective: Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, lock Russian troops in place, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

Weather conditions and ongoing Russian troop rotations slowed the operational tempo in the Avdiivka AO, but in our assessment, this is only a temporary pause. Rain and very windy conditions are predicted through October 28.

The head of the Avdiivka City Military Administration (MBA), Vitaliy Barabash, discussed the weather conditions. "Let's put it this way: now we hear a little less from the positions of rifle battles. They are probably less active because since the evening, we have had very heavy rain, and the soil is wet."¹³

In Washington, D.C., the Coordinator for Strategic Communications of the National Security Council of the White House, John Kirby, addressed the situation in Avdiivka, saying, "Since October 11, Russia has suffered significant losses during the attempted offensive, including at least 125 units of armored vehicles around Avdiivka and more than a battalion's worth of military equipment. We have information that the Russian military actually executed soldiers who refused to follow orders. We also have information that Russian commanders are threatening to shoot entire units if they try to retreat under the fire of Ukrainian artillery."

¹³ https://t.me/couch_iu/45503

Kirby's statement aligns with the intelligence we've evaluated, indicating there has been an increase in the number of Russian refusniks and the use of blocking troops to prevent desertion.¹⁴

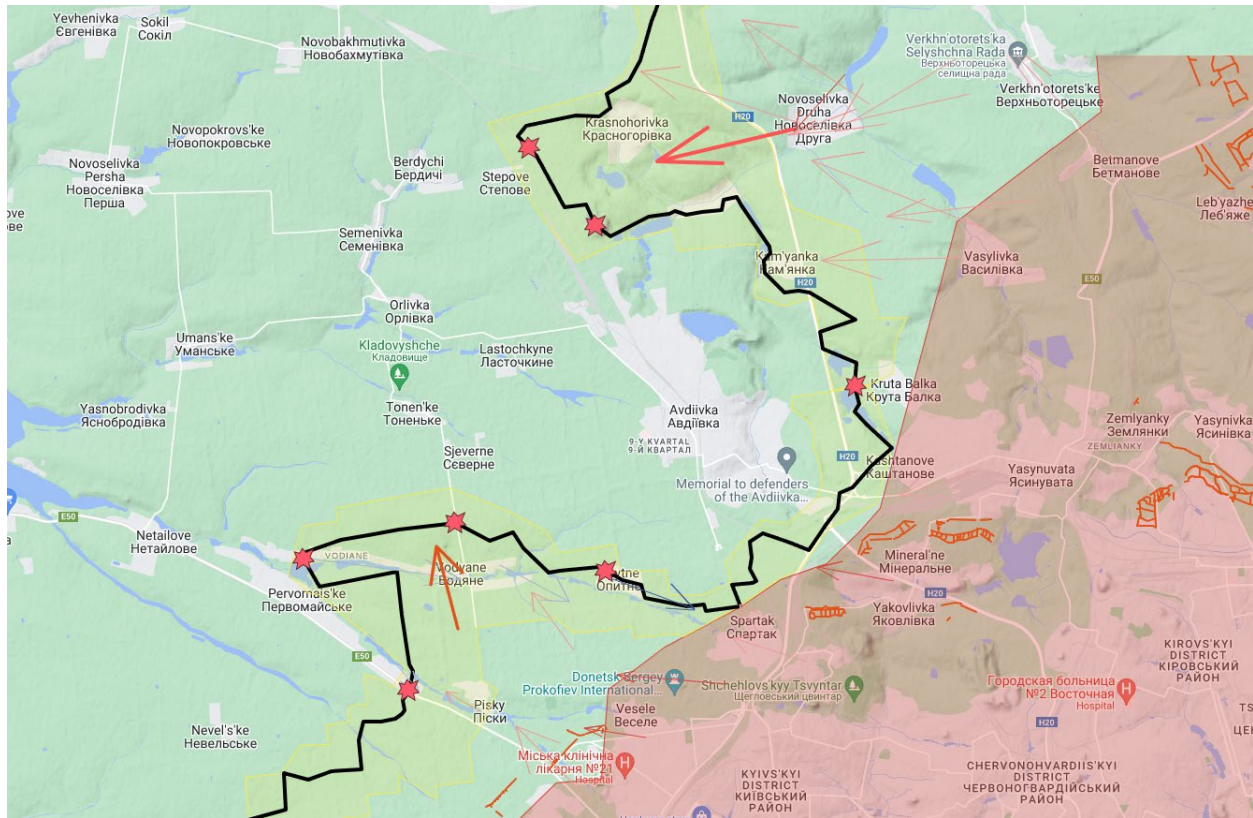
The spokesperson for the Defense Forces of the Tavria Region, Alexander Shtupun, talked about Russian refusniks in today's press briefing, saying, "The enemy continues to chase the infantry [he's referring to Russian blocking troops]. [They] no longer want to go forward. There are cases of refusal, in particular, by representatives of the Storm-Z units, [with some] who are starting to rebel."¹⁵ Storm-Z has had a limited role in the Avdiivka AO since October 10, so we cannot validate the specific claim of battlefield desertion, but we have shared intelligence about rioters within Storm-Z units.

The Crimean Tatar insurgent organization ATESH reported that spot fuel shortages are starting again due to the intensity of the ongoing offensive and the amount of personnel that is being transported to support it.¹⁶

¹⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120617>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120541>

¹⁶ https://t.me/atesh_ua/2394



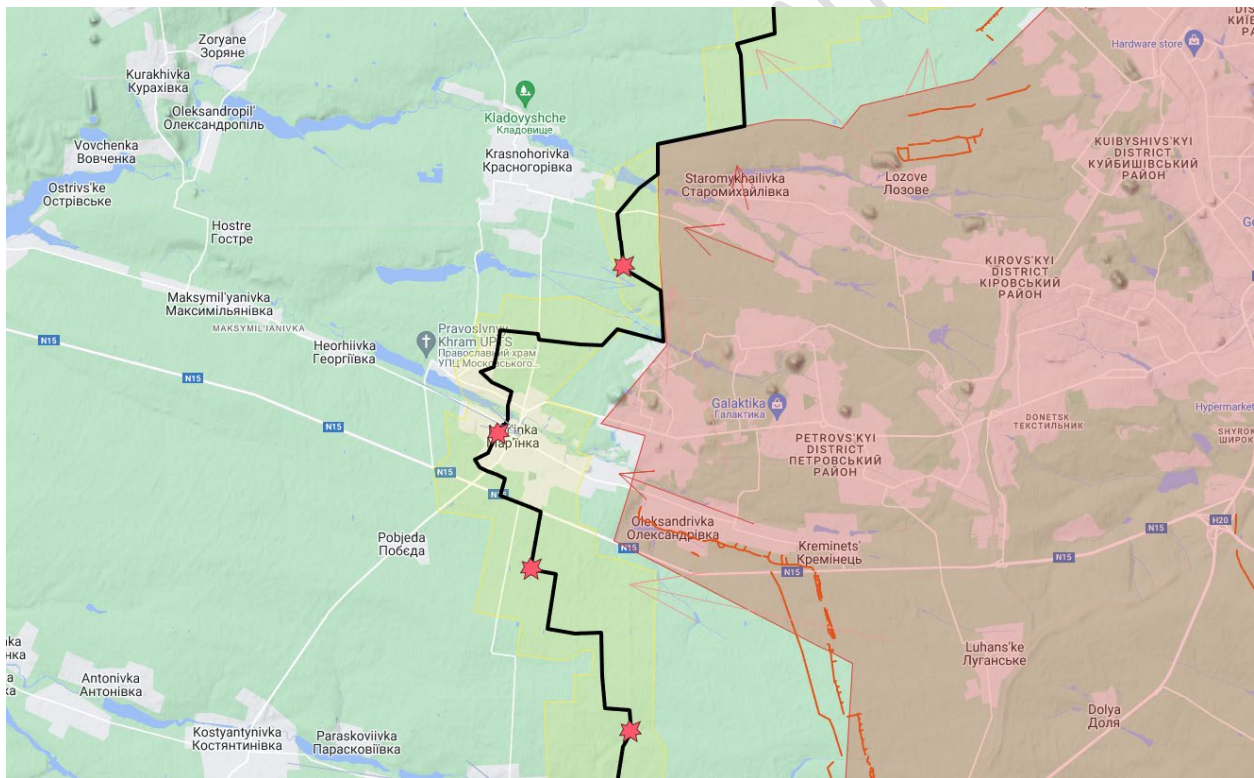
North of [Avdiivka](#), Russian forces continued attacks to support ongoing troop rotation and consolidation. Fighting occurred east of [Stepove](#), along the [railroad tracks](#) toward Avdiivka, and around [the terrikon](#) northeast of the iron coke plant.^{17 18 19}

¹⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

East of Avdiivka, Russian milbloggers reported that Ukrainian forces continued offensive operations on the northern edge of [Spartak](#).²⁰ On the southern flank, Russian forces continued attempts to advance through the no man's land between [Vodyane and Sieverne](#) while making additional attempts to bypass Sieverne from the west towards [Tonenke](#).^{21 22 23}



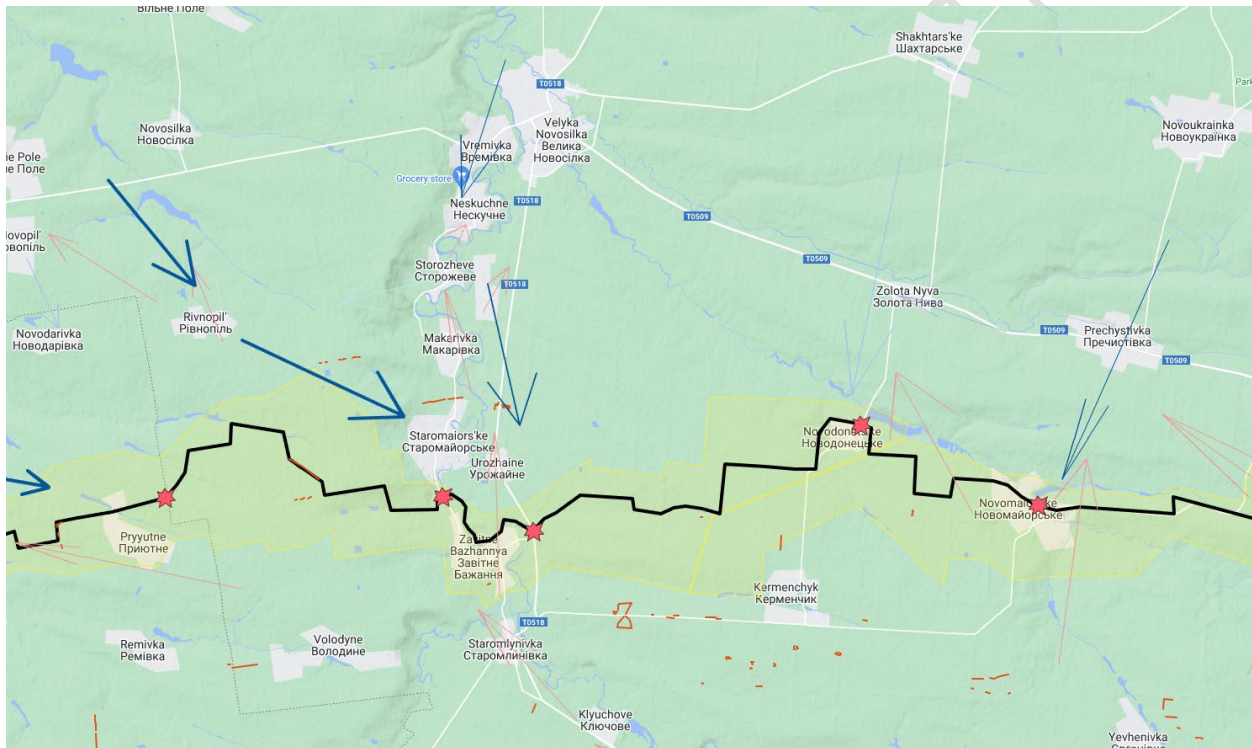
²⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

²¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

In the Marinka and Vuhledar AOs, Russian forces continued positional fighting in [Marinka](#). South of [Novomykhailivka](#), Russian forces suffered significant losses, with geolocated photos confirming the placement of the line of conflict (LOC) on our war map.²⁴

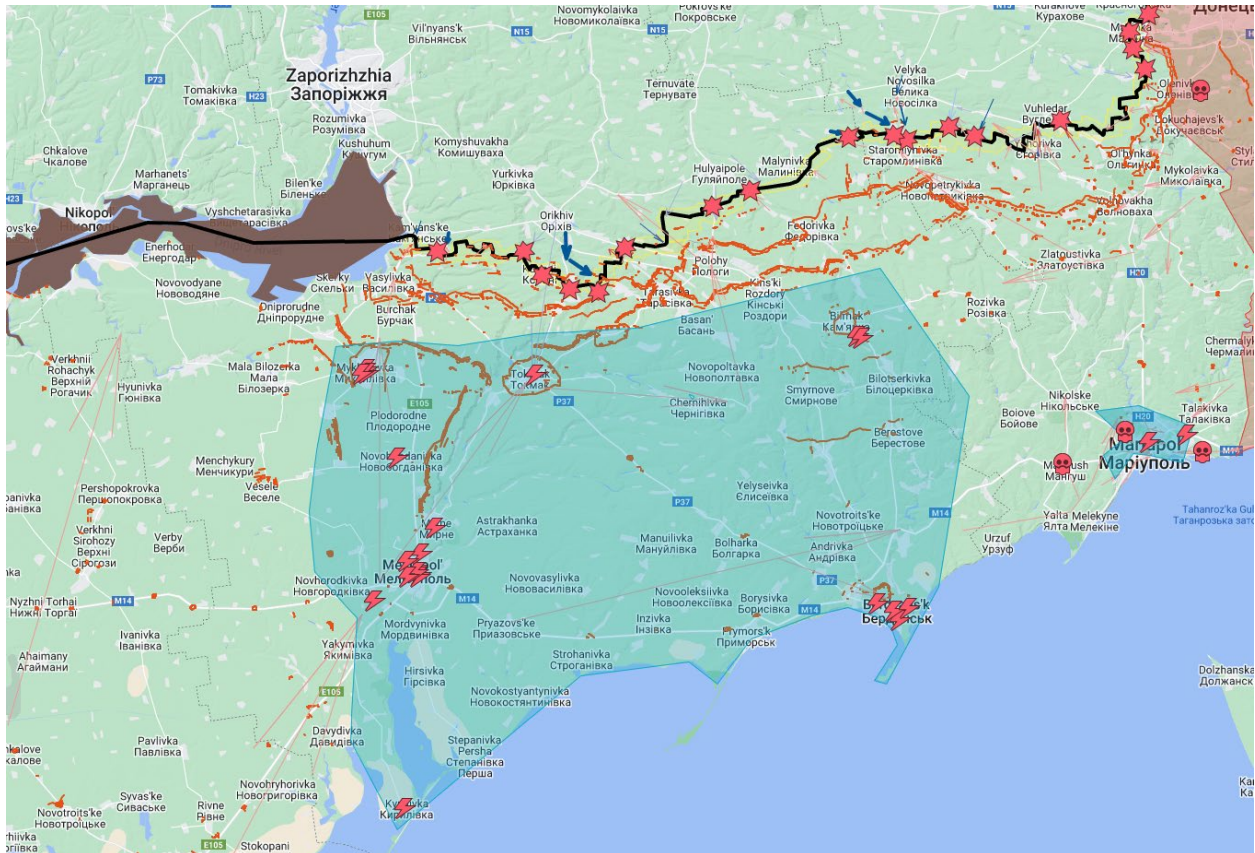


In the Staromlynivka AO, Ukrainian sources reported that Russian forces made new attempts to retake lost positions north of [Pryyutne](#) on the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border without success.²⁵

²⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/13213>

²⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

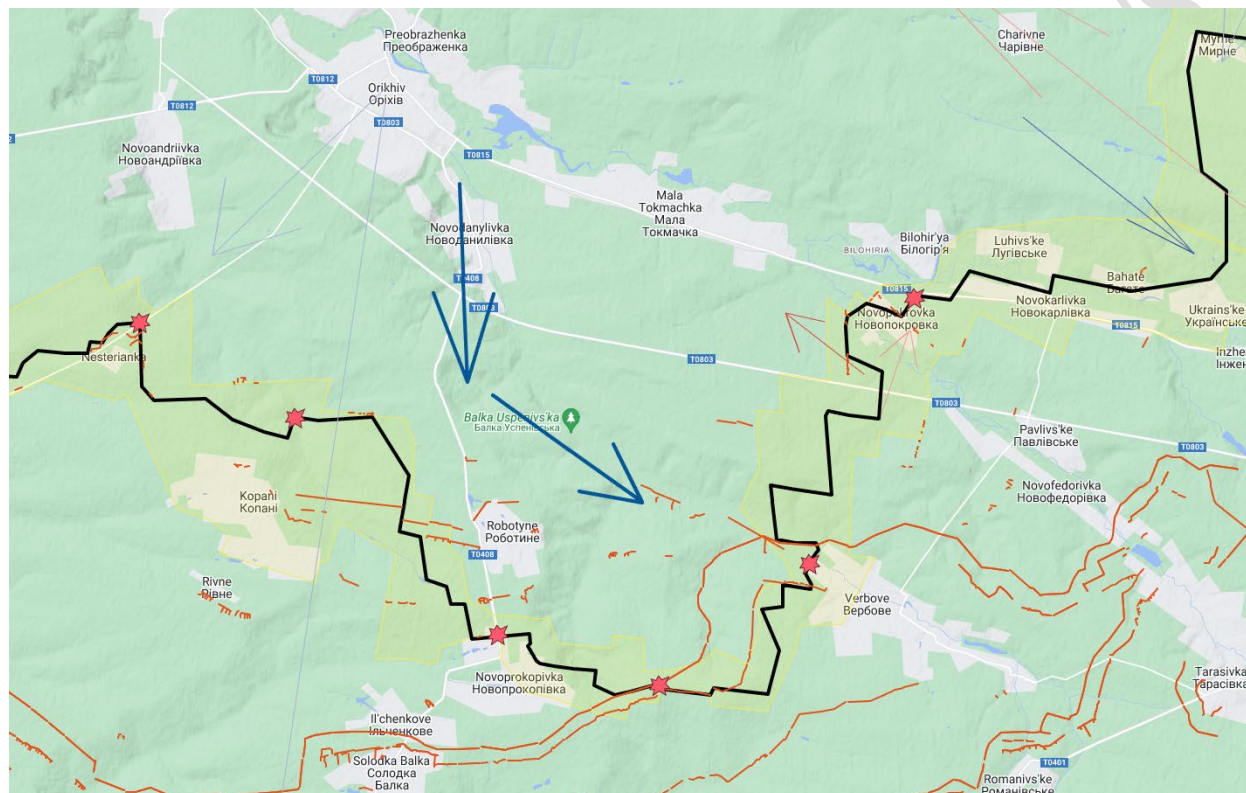
ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, prepare to launch a fall-winter offensive to capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Expand the breakthrough at the second echelon of the Surovikin Line, sever the Russian

landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



The LOC remained stable in the Orikhiv AO. Mutual fighting was reported on the western edge of [Verbove](#) and north of [Novoprokopivka](#).²⁶ ²⁷ Russian forces continued attempts to push Ukrainian forces back to the west of [Robotyne](#) without success.²⁸ Ukrainian source DeepState

²⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

²⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

²⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/31834 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

reported that Ukrainian troops had made marginal gains near [Kopani](#) and [Nesteryanka](#).²⁹

In occupied Berdyansk, four Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) officers were killed in an explosion at the Jasmine Guest House Hotel, where they were billeted.³⁰ Occupiers responded by expanding the city curfew and conducting house-to-house searches in the neighborhood.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Operational Command South reported there were five vessels of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on patrol, including a Kilo-class submarine capable of launching up to four Kalibr cruise missiles.³¹

Despite the current lull in Shahed-136 drone strikes, The Ministry of Defense of Romania has deployed systems for "combating drones" along the Danube.³²

²⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17929>

³⁰ <https://t.me/investigatoua/7403>

³¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/46347>

³² <https://t.me/uniannet/115639>

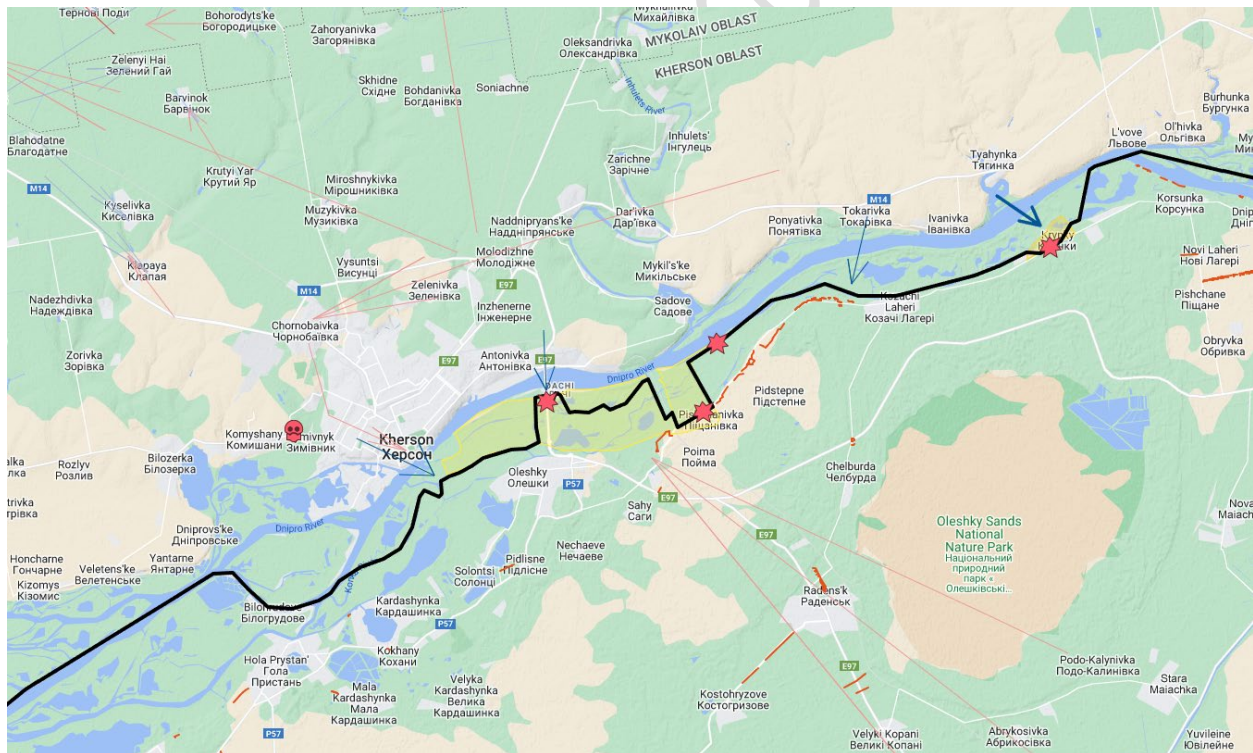
The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine said the reports that there have been loading cancelations or other work stoppages at Odesa ports are untrue. "The Ports of Great Odesa continue to process ships that passed through the temporary corridor. Currently, 23 vessels are loading in the ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Pivdenny. A total of 51 vessels used the entrance corridor [and] 33 vessels exported more than 1.3 million tons of Ukrainian agricultural products and other cargo."³³

³³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120593>

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent further Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives



In Free Kherson, Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that Ukrainian forces further expanded their presence on

the left (east) bank of the Konka River, with one prominent milblogger describing the area held as a bridgehead. In our assessment, Ukrainian forces are engaged in a shaping operation, but the mission objective remains unclear. Based on available intelligence, we would not define the landings Ukraine controls as a bridgehead. Fighting intensified in [Krynky](#) and near [Pishchanivka](#) and [Pidstepne](#), with Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) dropping UMPK glide bombs.³⁴ The land and sea line of communication from the [Antonivskiy Zaliznychnyy Mist Railroad Bridge](#) to the [bridge over the Verkhnia Konka River](#) remains stable, and our current map is likely conservative. Ukrainian forces reported that movement across the Dnipro has become challenging and can only be done at night or in poor weather. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Russian Ministry of Defense have been silent about the ongoing activity.

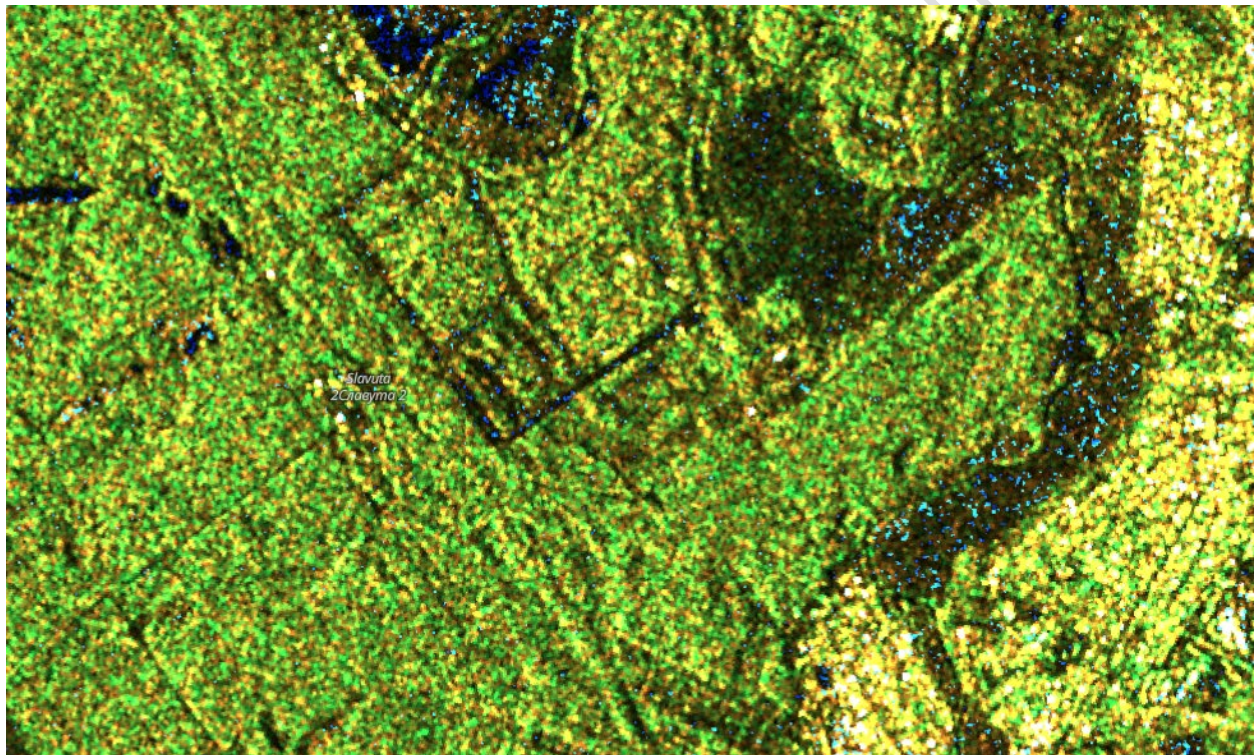
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

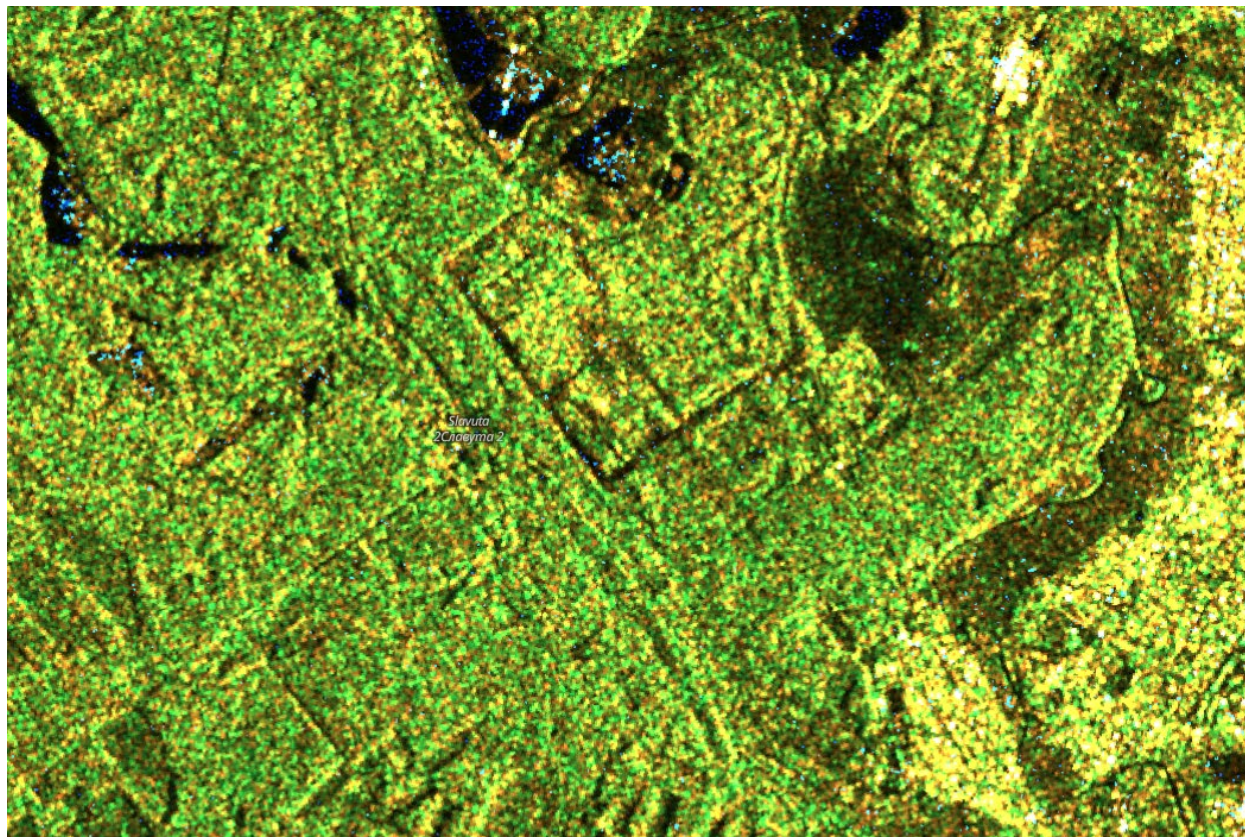
³⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/16024>

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks and protect civilian lives

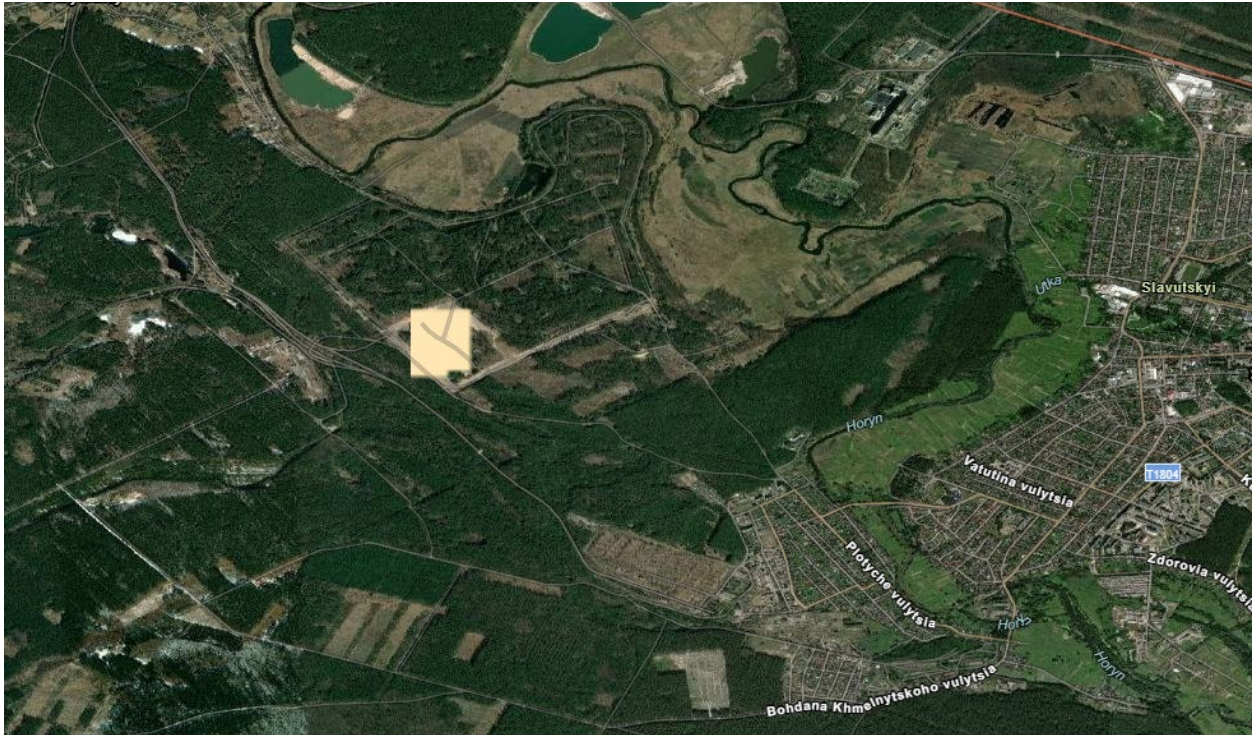
We reviewed Sentinel Hub Sentinel-1 Enhanced Visualization satellite imagery from Slavuta and have high confidence that the October 25 explosion was at the former Soviet Union Military Unit A3845.



The October 22 satellite pass showed the fire breaks and security zone around the facility.



The October 26 image showed the three rows of breaks in the trees in the southwest corner are gone, and the indication of a crater or significant blast damage toward the center of the former depot.



On October 25, NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed a thermal anomaly at the same location.

The official position from Kyiv is the explosion, which damaged over 2,000 buildings, was caused by a drone being hit by air defense at a higher altitude and spreading debris over a wide area.³⁵ The Spokesperson for the Ukrainian Air Force, Colonel Yuriy Ihnat, said, "It is necessary to explain what is happening...If a Shahed drone or a missile crashes, an explosion occurs in the air, an anti-aircraft missile

³⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/10/26/7425860/>

explodes, an enemy air target explodes, and the blast wave may damage windows. This is how anti-aircraft combat takes place. If there is a small number of Shahed drones or missiles, and settlements and houses fall into the air defense area, then such things happen. The wreckage is sure to fall on the ground, which is why we ask people to go to the shelter."

Ihnat later clarified that 11 drones were shot down over the Khmelnytskyi Oblast on the night of October 24 – 25.

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Russian shelling of the Sumy Oblast killed a teenager in Velyka Pysarivka.³⁶

³⁶ https://t.me/Sumy_news_ODA/20971

RUSSIAN FRONT


Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective: Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

In the Belgorod region of Russia, residents in Shebekino who had their homes damaged during cross-border fighting in June are approaching winter with no roofs and windows.³⁷ Belgorod Oblast governor Vyacheslav Gladkov is getting called out on social media and through letters to his office. "Our house has not yet been restored, and when the heating was turned on, everyone up to the 2nd floor was flooded." The woman, who only gave her first name of Irina, added that she has to live in a rented apartment while paying for heat in her unoccupied windowless condo. Another homeowner complained that the state-hired contractors are refusing to do any work because the Russian government can't pay them. Gladkov, who had

³⁷ <https://t.me/astrapress/41133>

assurances from Moscow and made promises to make prompt repairs, said there was a 900 million rouble shortfall with no available budget to fill the gap.

Partisans in the Kursk region  [damaged an R-330Zh Zhitel electronic warfare station](#) with a first-person view kamikaze drone.³⁸ Kyiv denied it provided support to the Russian partisans and praised the attack.

THEATERWIDE

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valery Zaluzhnyi, met with the Supreme Commander of the Joint NATO Forces in Europe, the Commander of the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, General Christopher Cavoli, and the Chief of the Defense Staff of Great Britain, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin. "During the negotiations, he spoke in detail about the situation on the battlefield. We discussed our offensive and defensive operations, the situation in the most difficult directions, as well as the actions and probable plans of the enemy. We focused on the actual needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in shells, drones, and military equipment. Separately, they discussed the key

³⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120542>

issues of strengthening our air defense and covering critical infrastructure objects in the autumn-winter period."

National Security Council spokesperson Kirby said that the Russian Federation "retains a certain offensive potential" and said Washington believes Russia can achieve "certain tactical successes in the coming months."³⁹

The U.S., Japan, and South Korea confirmed North Korea is supplying Russia with weapons and ammunition in a joint statement released by the U.S. State Department.⁴⁰ "Such arms deliveries, some of which we can confirm, will significantly increase human casualties in Russia's aggressive war...In light of Russia's attempt to continue the war with the help of North Korea, we remain determined to support Ukraine's sovereignty and its efforts to counter the consequences of Russia's aggressive war."



The Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, called out the European Union for failing to meet its promised ammunition delivery schedule. "The E.U. has supplied Ukraine with 300,000 shells [and] the DPRK has already supplied Russia with 350,000. The E.U. promised

³⁹ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/46141

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120563>

Ukraine one million artillery shells...We certainly have the resources to surpass North Korea. We must stop standing still while brave Ukrainians die."⁴¹

Satellite images showed that Russia is rapidly expanding its defense industry despite sanctions, and factories are working 24 hours a day. Expansion is ongoing at the Kazan Aviation Plant, which builds Su-30 fighters, and the Dubnyan Machine-Building Plant, which builds Kh-22, the nuclear-capable Kh-55, and Kh-101 cruise missiles.⁴²

Mice and rats have   [become a major problem](#) in Russian positions throughout Ukraine as the rodents seek warmer and dryer locations.⁴³ A combination of dry spaces in bunkers, poor sanitation standards, and pests thriving in the detritus of the battlefield has caused an explosion in the population. A frustrated Russian drone operator glued a field mouse to an FPV drone and then shared the video of a strike on a Ukrainian bunker. We're not sharing the video, I hope, for obvious reasons. He didn't get the clout he was chasing, with many commenters revulsed by his cruelty directed at the "brave kamikaze paratrooper."

⁴¹ <https://t.me/uniannet/115604>

⁴² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120595>

⁴³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120621>

Ukrainian enterprise Metinvest has finished field testing antimine trawls and has started mass production. Several companies have been working on developing a Ukrainian antimine system. Currently, Ukraine can build five a month and is looking for partners to expand production.⁴⁴

Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, officially cut off military aid to Ukraine. Echoing Kremlin talking points, Fico said, "It is better to negotiate peace for ten years than to kill each other for ten years without any result."⁴⁵

Members of the U.S. House and Senate are saying the White House's plan to bundle military aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan together, along with money for the southern border, is a non-starter.⁴⁶ While new Speaker of the House Mike House (R-LA) said, "We can't allow Vladimir Putin to prevail in Ukraine because I don't believe it would stop there," he is tying continued military aid to Ukraine to deep social services cuts in the United States.^{47 48}

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/uniannet/115615>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/120561>

⁴⁶ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/46116

⁴⁷ https://t.me/couch_iu/45532

⁴⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/10/27/7425938/>

Bloomberg confirmed that the E.U. is behind on its promised ammunition deliveries to Ukraine. Aligning with the report from Foreign Minister Landsbergis, after eight months, the E.U. has only met 30% of its commitment.⁴⁹

Denmark announced a \$500 million aid package for Ukraine, which includes BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles, T-72EA tanks, and other weapon systems.

The United States announced a \$150 million military aid package using available Presidential Drawdown Authority money. The latest tranche includes,

- Air defense missiles for NASAMS
- AIM-9M Sidewinder missiles for air defense
- Stinger anti-aircraft MANPADs
- Unspecified additional ammunition for HIMARS
- An unspecified quantity of 155 and 105 mm artillery rounds
- TOW antitank guided missiles (ATGM)
- Javelin antitank missile systems (ATGM)
- Two million cartridges for small arms
- Night vision devices

⁴⁹ https://t.me/smolij_ukraine/46110

- Demolition equipment and explosives
- Cold weather equipment
- Spare parts for maintenance and other support equipment

Ukrainian officials hinted that 300-kilometer range ATACMS missiles had been approved and would arrive by January.^{50 51}

The table for equipment losses was **updated on October 21, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁵⁰ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6926

⁵¹ https://t.me/couch_iu/45522

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to October 21, 2023. 12,780 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,626 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2261	302	7.49:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	158	371	0.43:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	1010	333	3.03:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2927	783	3.73:1	↑
Armored Personnel Carriers	367	358	1.03:1	—
MRAPs	49	170	0.29:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	219	386	0.57:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	254	17	14.94:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	355	90	3.94:1	—
Towed Artillery	328	163	2.01:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	578	232	2.49:1	↑
MLRS	296	50	5.92:1	↑
SAMs	188	130	1.45:1	↑
Mobile Radars	46	80	0.58:1	—
EW/ECW	57	4	14.25:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	94	77	1.22:1	—
Helicopters	138	37	3.73:1	↑
Naval Vessels and Submarines	17	27	0.63:1	—

RUMORS

Many messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.

- Have more than 295,000 Russian soldiers died in Ukraine since February 24, 2022?
- Were two Russian generals seriously wounded and one admiral killed in Sevastopol? We're still waiting to find out, but it appears unlikely.


Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, 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 only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying 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. This is by no means a complete list of the sources we monitor.

 **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 of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units 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 detained 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:** The organization has not posted any update since June 9, 2023, and we have ceased monitoring.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate 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 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 illegitimate 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 Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information 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 realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government officials to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being 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.