



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 324	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT	3
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP	6
DONBAS REGION	7
LUHANSK	7
NORTHEAST DONETSK.....	15
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK.....	25
KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA.....	29
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION	32
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE.....	34
NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE.....	37
RUSSIAN FRONT	41
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	42
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS.....	46
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	47
GEOPOLITICAL.....	51
ECONOMIC.....	52

SUMMARY – DAY 324

It has been 3,243 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

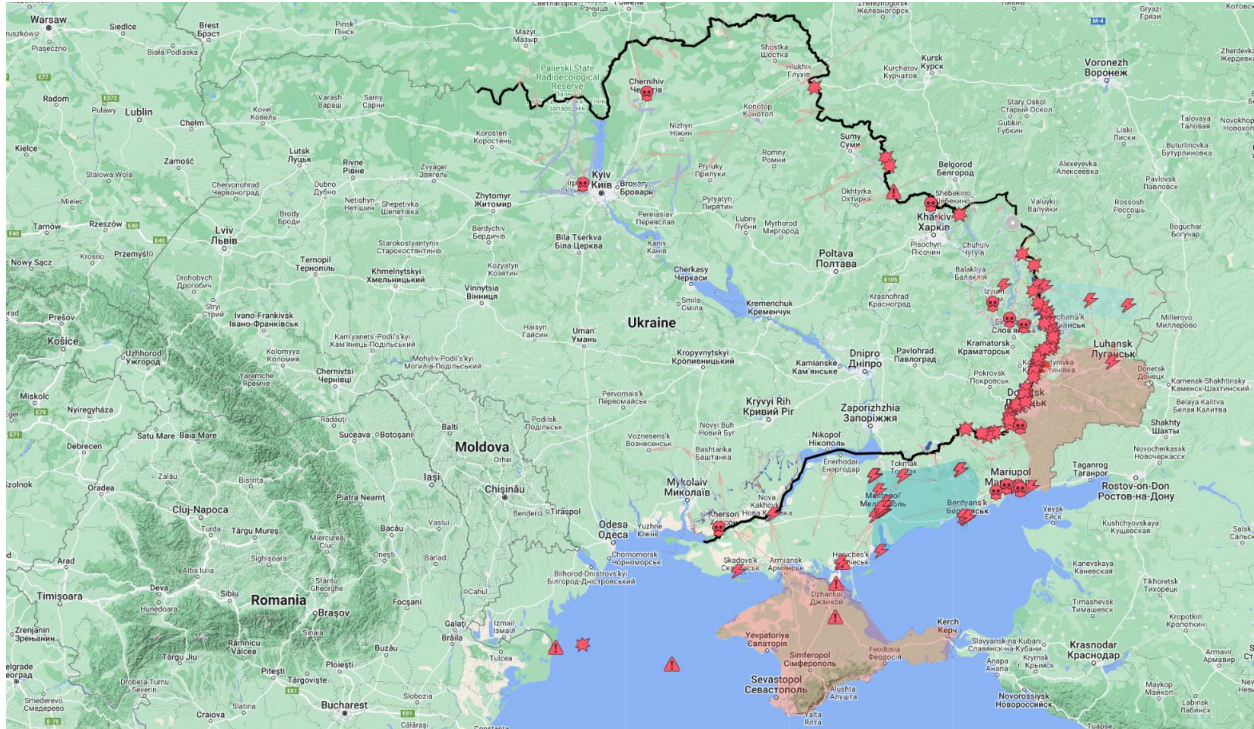
We assess the following:

1. We maintain that the power struggle between military leaders aligned to Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu versus those aligned to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin will continue and risks undermining offensive efforts on the only axis Russia is making progress.
2. We maintain the ongoing information warfare, which continued on January 14 between the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) and PMC Wagner, is a byproduct of the strife within the Kremlin.
3. We assess 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. Our assessment that there would be a short operational pause in ground fighting with the removal of General of the Army Sergei Surovikin as strategy is reset due to Russia's top-down command approach appears to have been accurate.
5. Our assessment that the risk of punitive missile and drone attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure would continue was accurate, and we maintain there is an elevated risk of additional strikes from January 19 to 21.
6. Our assessment that future attacks would be on a smaller scale was also accurate, with 38 missiles launched, including 12 to 15 sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles.
7. While the weather was not a factor, we remain unsure if the smaller-scale attack was due to precision munition shortages, a change in command, or a change in strategy.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. We maintain there will be a second wave of partial mobilization in the Russian Federation in January or February 2023.
12. 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

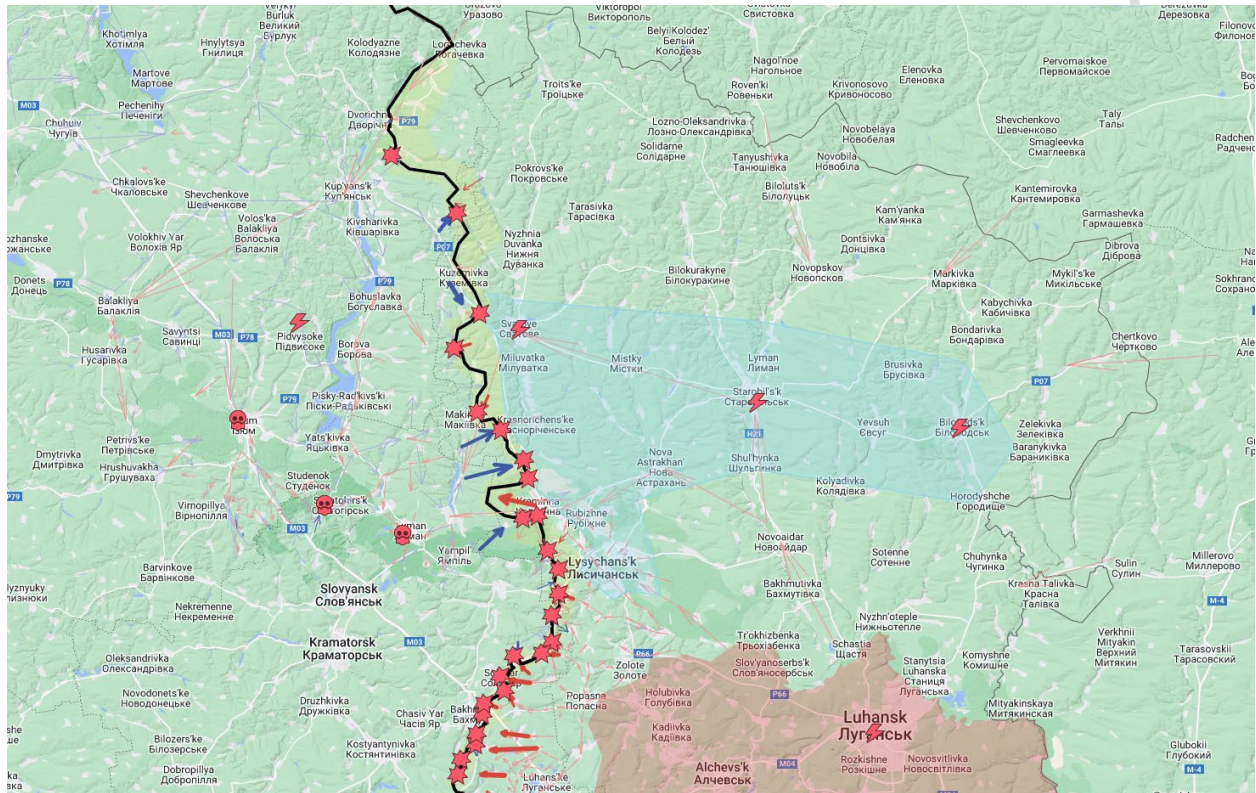


Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval Airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." 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>

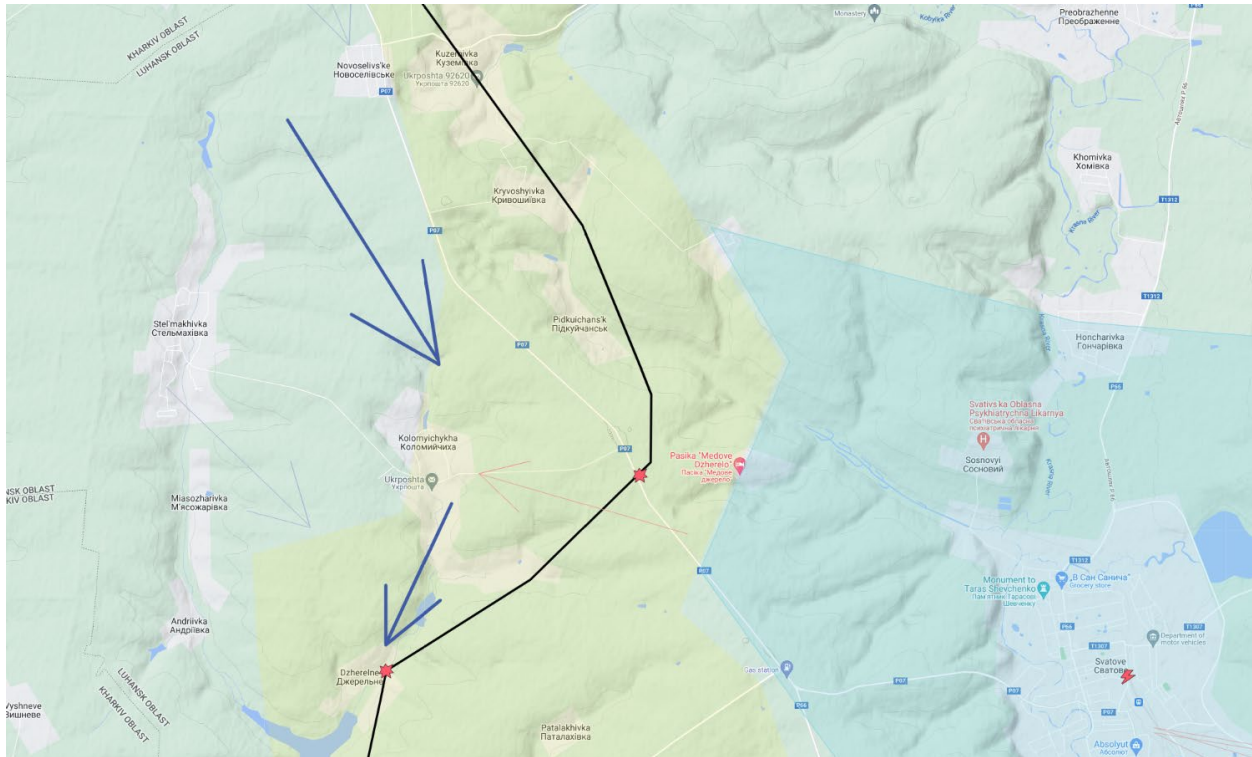
DONBAS REGION

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



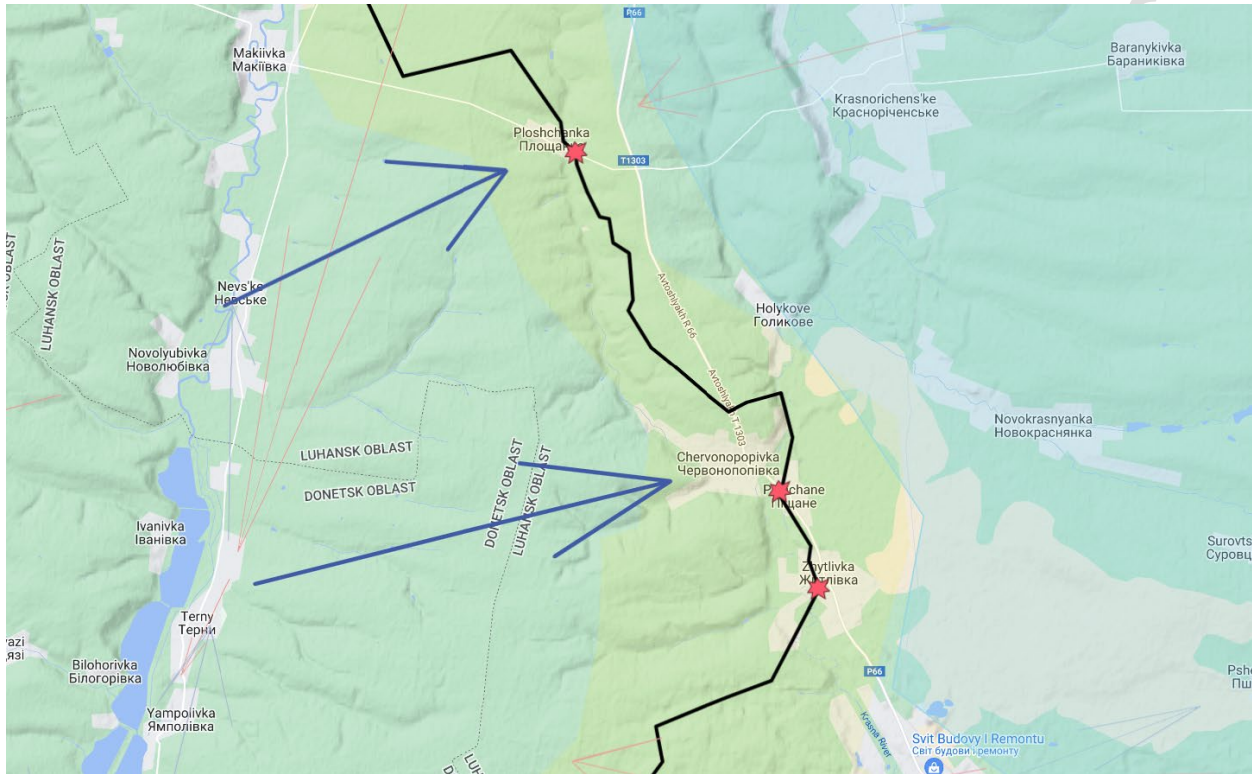
On the Svatove axis, RMOD reported they shelled Ukrainian positions in the village of [Novoselivske](#), indicating Ukrainian forces still occupy the settlement.¹

Geolocated video showed the  [Ukrainian 92nd Motor Infantry Brigade capturing](#) the western part of [Dzherelne](#), 13 kilometers from Svatove.² Russian troops were taken prisoner wearing Ukrainian uniforms, which is not only

¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/23415 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

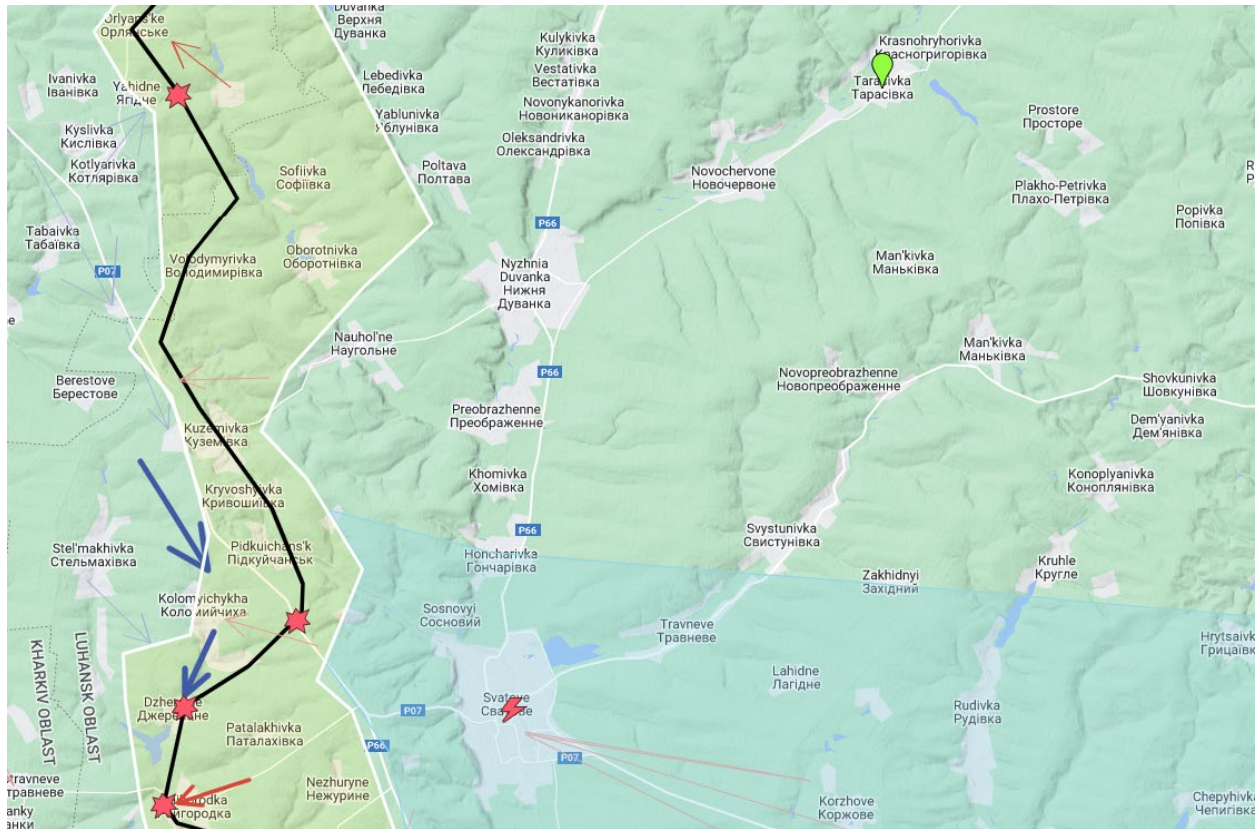
² https://twitter.com/walter_report/status/1614126116402520066

seen as an act of cowardice by professional militaries but also considered a war crime.



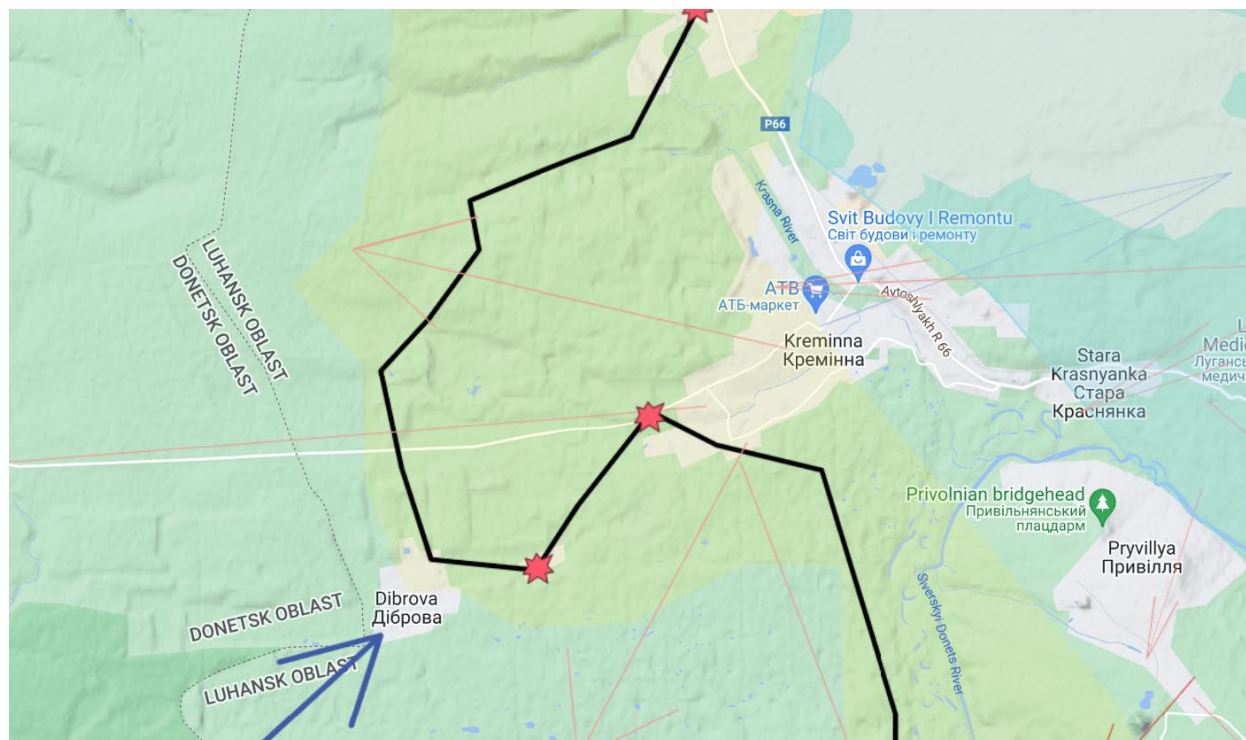
On the Kreminna axis, Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported another failed Russian attack on [Makiivka](#).³

³ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7997>




The Luhansk People’s Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) reported that rockets fired by HIMARS hit Tarasivka.⁴ The village is northeast of Russian-controlled Nyzhnia Duvanka and on a secondary Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) that connects to Svatove.

⁴ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7923




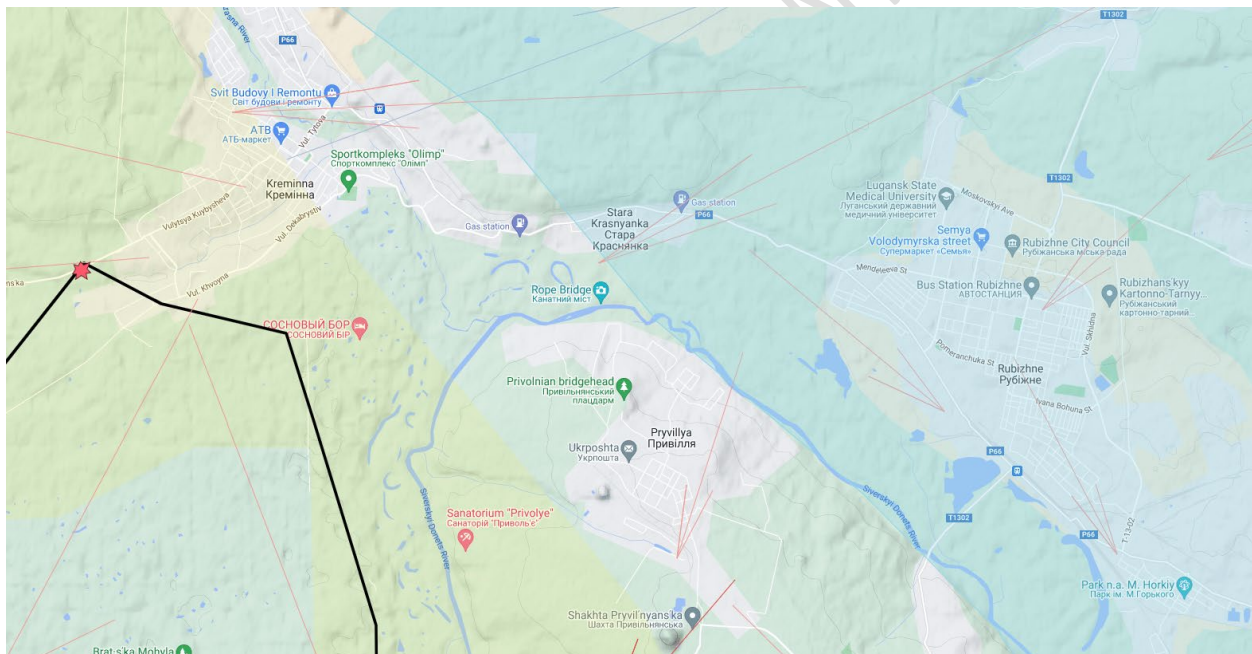
The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Ukrainian forces successfully defended [Ploschanka](#) and [Chervonopopivka](#).⁵ An indication that Ukrainian forces likely control most if not all of both settlements – no Russian source mentioned either settlement in their reports today.

Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on [Kreminna](#), and there were no reports from Russian or Ukrainian sources of continued fighting in [Dibrova](#) or [Kuzmyne](#).⁶ A recent video showed  [Ukrainian infantry fighting vehicles and towed](#)

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

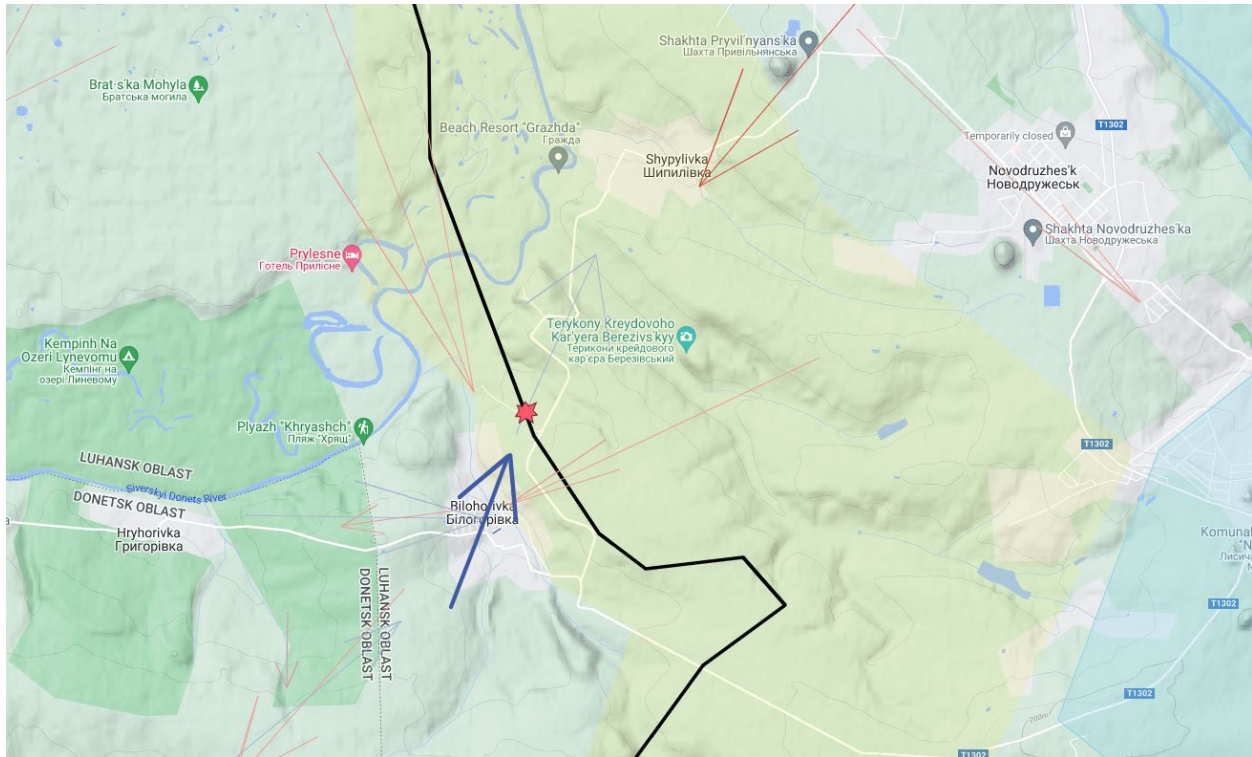
⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

artillery on a forest road in the area of Kreminna.⁷ The presence of towed artillery west of the city implies that the first echelon of Ukrainian forces is further east than reported. We maintain our assessment that Ukrainian troops are on the southwestern edge of the town. Another video showed a group of  Russian soldiers that had been taken as POWS in a forested area that appeared to be near Kreminna but could not be geolocated.



The LNR JCCC also reported that rockets fired by HIMARS struck Rubizhne, east of Kreminna, on the P-66 Highway, the main Russian GLOC.

⁷ <https://twitter.com/noelreports/status/1614366524445265921>



On the Lysychansk axis, RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces made an unsuccessful attempt to advance on [Shypylivka](#).⁸ The village is northeast of Bilohorivka and in a geographical salient due to the Siverskyi Donets River to the west and north. Because the report came from the Kremlin, we did not move the line of conflict. Russian and Ukrainian sources reported fighting continued near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], with no change in the situation.^{9 10}

⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/23415 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

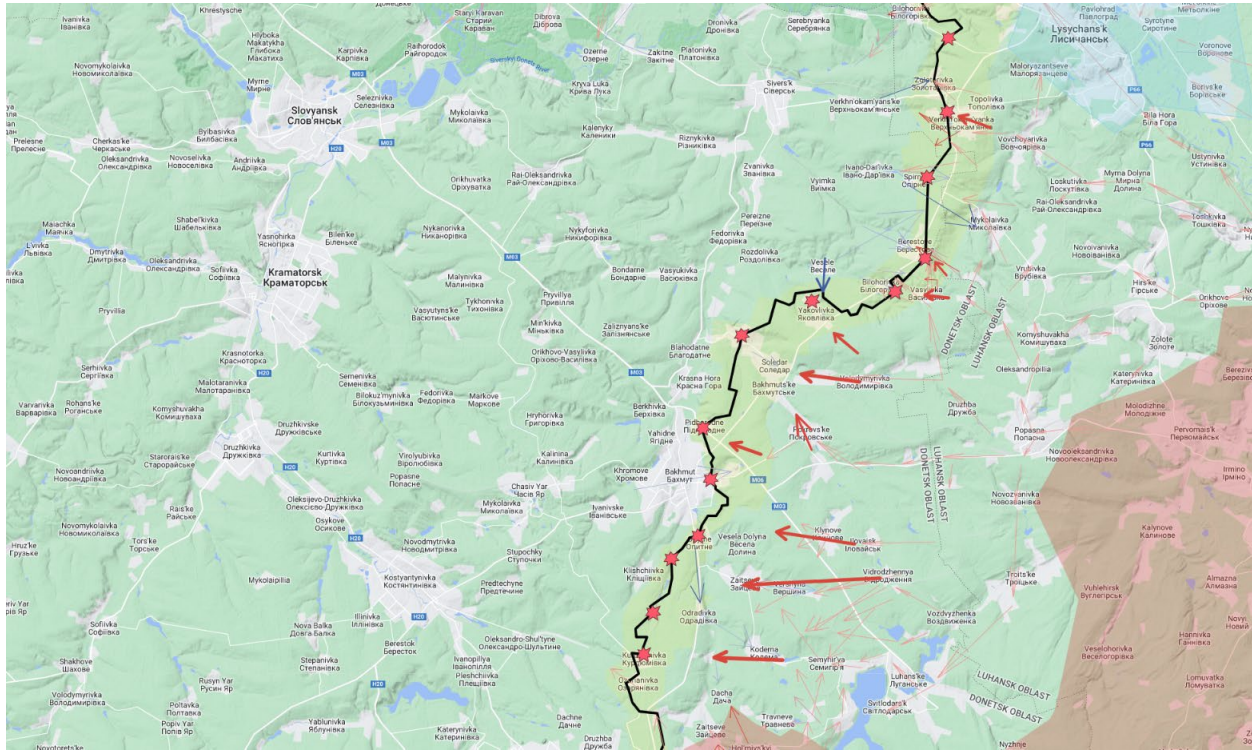
⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

¹⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>

Governor Haidai reported that Russian-occupied Lysychansk had been closed off to non-residents, including Russian passport holders.¹¹

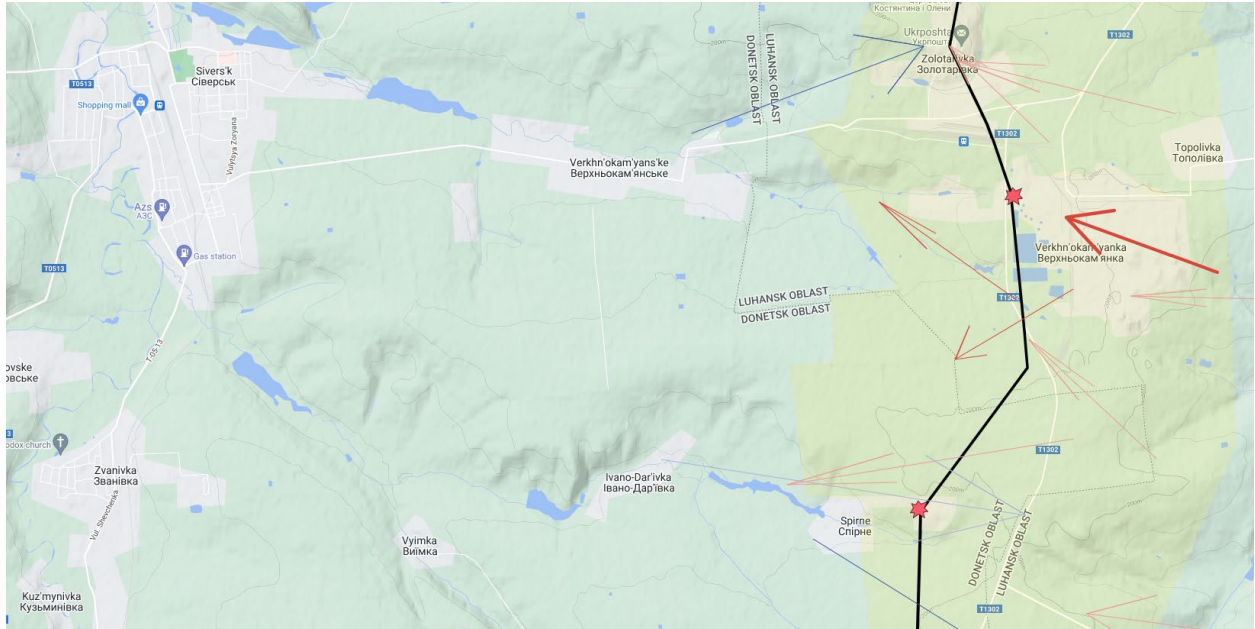
¹¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7996>

NORTHEAST DONETSK



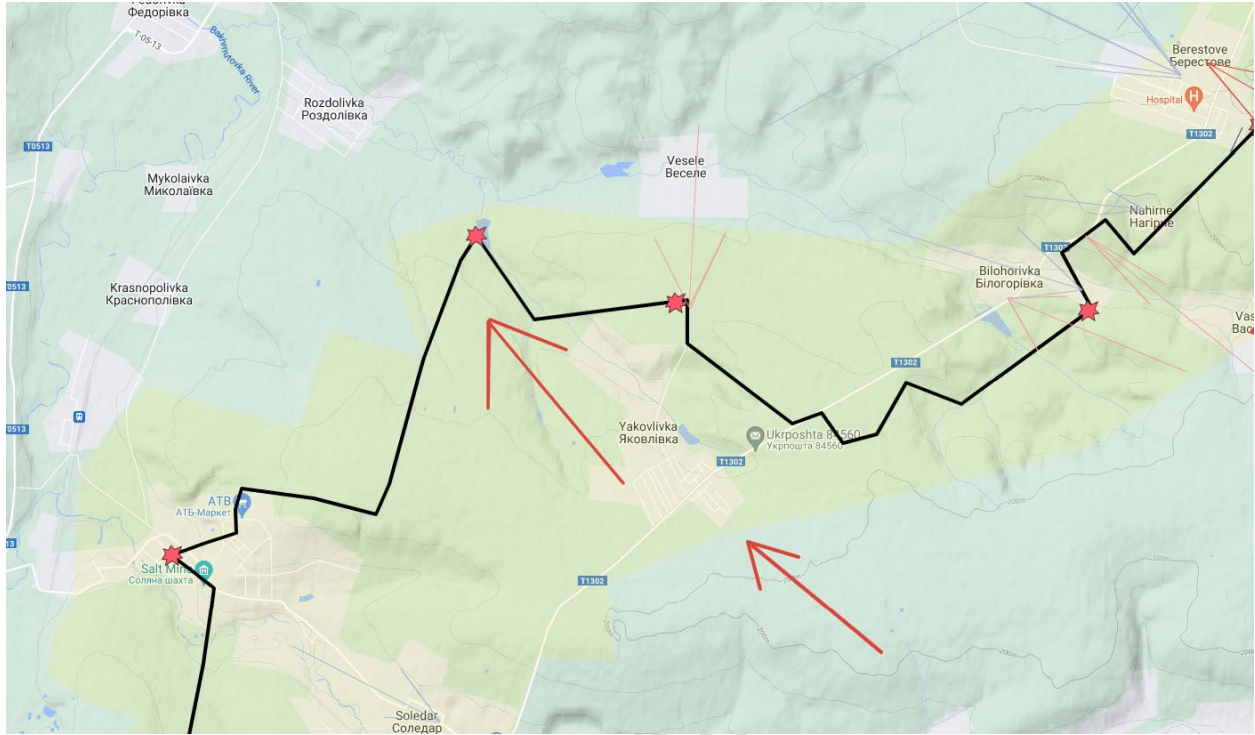
Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut-Soledar

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



On the Siversk axis, mercenaries with War Gonzo reported continued fighting near [Spirne](#) with no change in the situation.¹²

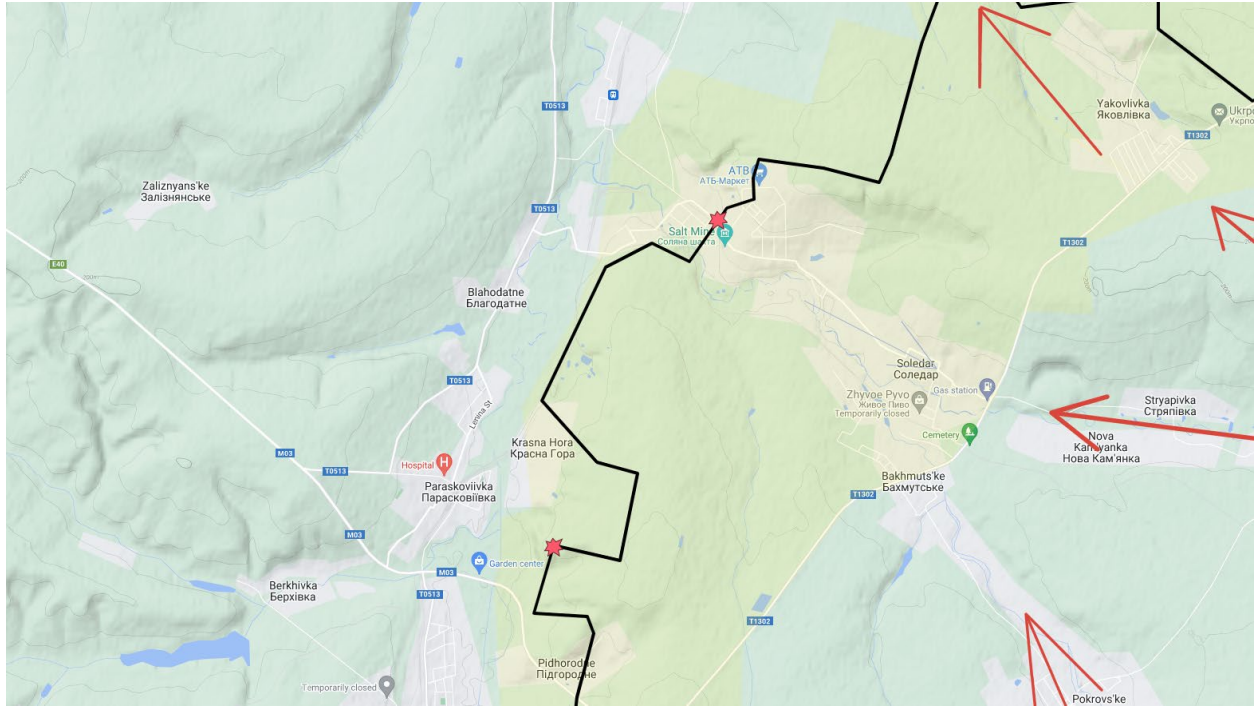
¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>





Further south, Ukrainian forces continue to defend [Rozdolivka](#).^{13 14}

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

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>



Based on all available information, we do not believe that Russian forces have secured full control of [Soledar](#), despite previous claims by PMC Wagner and RMOD.


The Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, Pavlo Kryylenko, and Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar  [reported "fierce fighting"](#) in the western part of Soledar and indicated that the situation was stabilizing.¹⁵ ¹⁶ A geolocated video showed  [the Ukrainian flag flying](#) in the city's western edge, and a Ukrainian soldier who goes by the call sign Magyar (also


¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx-y073bXMk>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/annamaliar/513>

known as the Hungarian) analyzed video  [that showed fighting continued](#).^{17 18}

Editor's Note: You will need the Telegram app to watch Magyar's video.

PMC Wagner head Prigozhin  [praised a Wagner commander](#) for leading the attack on Soledar.¹⁹ Russian milblogger Vladlen Tartarsky took a swipe at the Ministry of Defense, writing that the attack was accomplished "without tyranny, servility, and lies."

Wagner's social media channels somewhat ironically mocked the Russian MOD use of picture reports, writing, "To be honest,  [the guy in the video is pretty dubious](#). I don't understand how a commander who stormed the city can be in uniform even without a commemorative badge certifying graduation from the General Staff Academy?! And actually, where is the dress uniform itself? Do the "Wagnerites" have no parades? I didn't see any shiny boots or a cap with a cockade on this commander, either. Some kind of filthy haunting form. Couldn't he put himself in

¹⁷ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/5917?single>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70784>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/vladlentatarsky/18642>

order before watching Prigozhin and filming a reporting video on the Internet?"

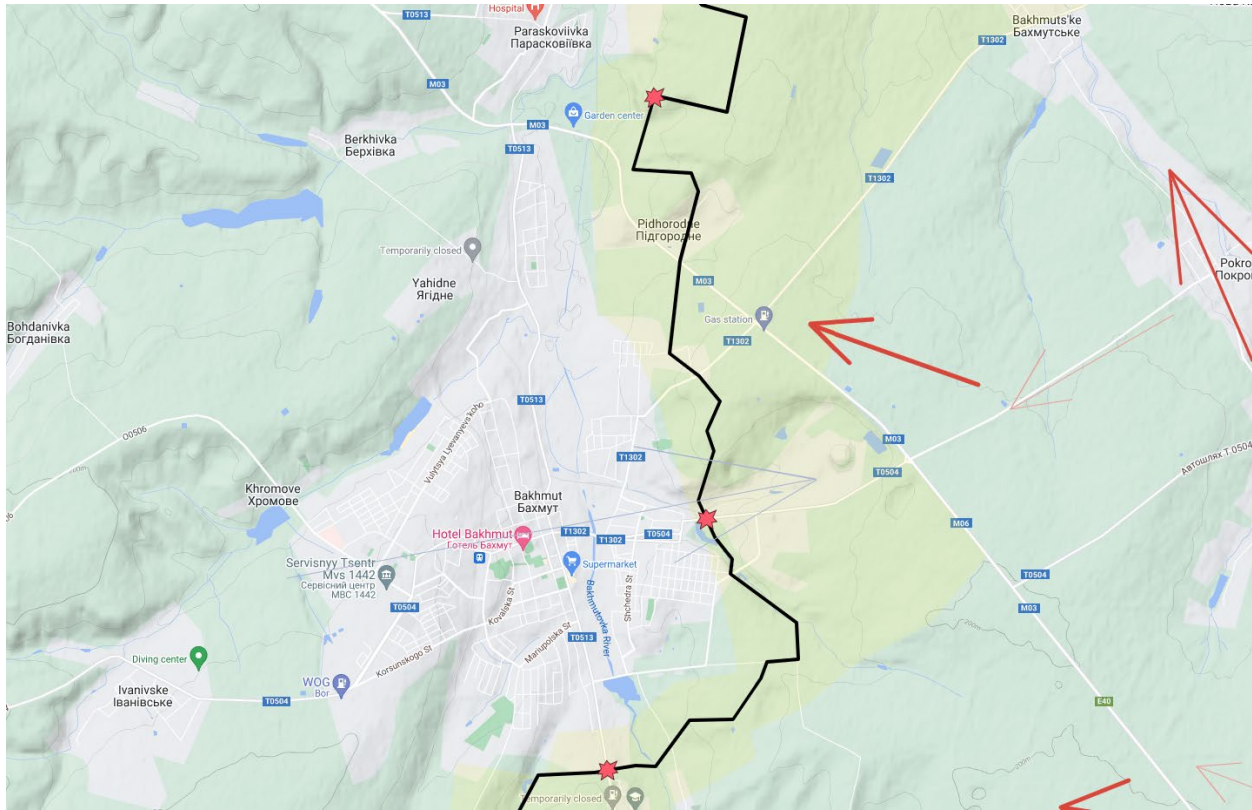
Russian and Ukrainian sources reported continued fighting in [Sil'](#), technically part of Soledar.^{20 21} This validates our assessment from January 13 that mercenaries with Rybar falsely claimed Sil' was captured. Fighting continued near [Krasna Hora](#), with a geolocated video showing PMC Wagner mercenaries 📷 [reaching the northern edge of the town](#).²² A graphic video that is NSFW and some may find disturbing showed the squad of ten contract fighters coming under direct fire and being eliminated.²³ You can watch the video by 📺 [clicking here](#).

²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/23415 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

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

²² <https://twitter.com/neonhandrail/status/1614544433344831488>

²³ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1614541460472303616>



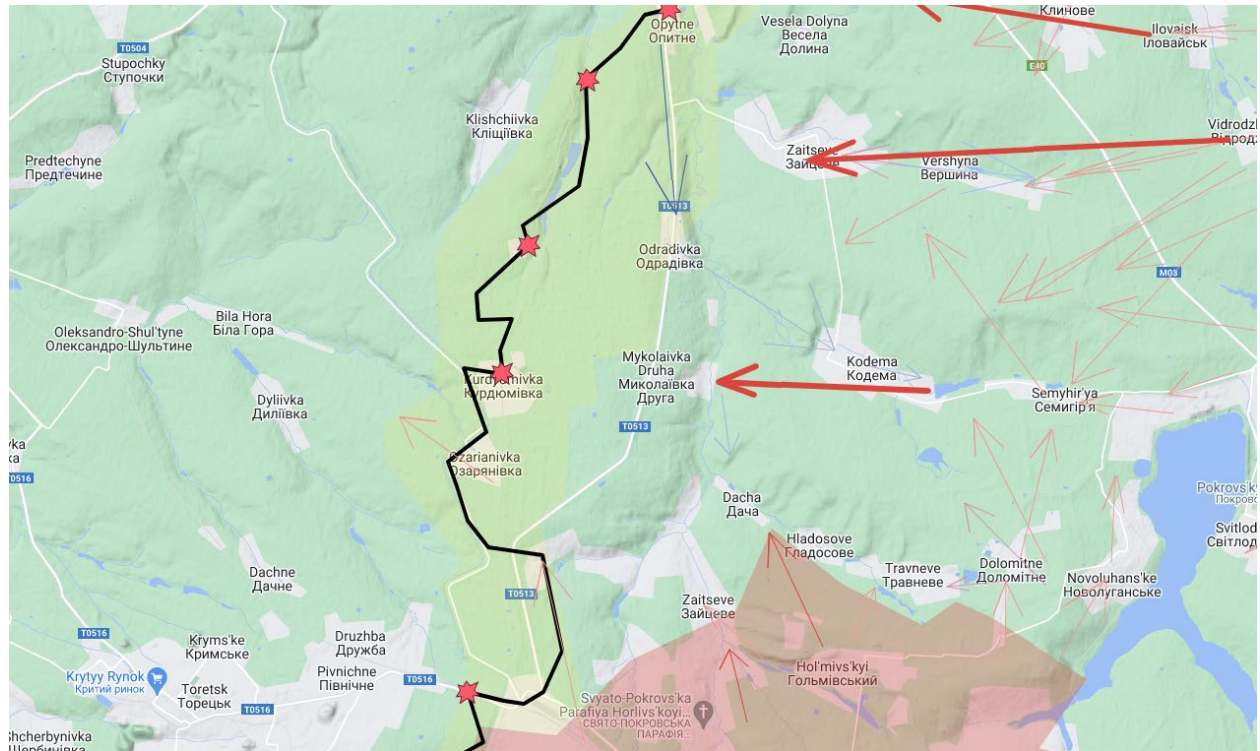
On the Bakhmut axis, War Gonzo reported PMC Wagner “seeks to advance in the area of” [Pidhorodne](#).²⁴ Fighting continued north and east of [Bakhmut](#).^{25 26 27} Ukrainian sources indicated that fighting was concentrated in the forested regions northeast of the city. There were no reports from any source of fighting in the southern part of the city or Opytne.

²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>

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

²⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15212>

²⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>



South of Bakhmut, Russian and Ukrainian sources reported continued fighting near [Klishchiivka](#) with no significant change in the situation.^{28 29 30} We maintain that prior claims of Russian success have been exaggerated.

The Ukrainian Terra unit released a video that was geolocated, showing  [astonishingly accurate artillery fire](#) at Russian positions in [Kurdyumivka](#).³¹

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

²⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15212>

³⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1614523603843702786>

War Gonzo has used GASFU reports within their own. We believe their report of fighting at Dyliivka and advance on [Predtechyne](#) was embellishing the GSAFU report on January 13 of an attack on the latter. We maintain our assessment that the fighting near Predtechyne reported on Friday was a PMC Wagner squad or platoon-sized DRG unit that was eliminated.

GASFU claimed that Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on [Mayorsk](#), indicating that positions near the edge of the railroad station and customs office continue to switch control.³²

ASSESSMENT: We believe that the situation has stabilized in the short term around Soledar, with the scale and intensity of attacks reduced from mid-week. We maintain the situation is extremely difficult and very fluid. It is critical to remind our readers and listeners that although we maintain Soledar remains contested, we believe Ukrainian forces control 10% of the city, which includes the Sil' railroad station – at best. There were several assessments that PMC Wagner had rendered itself combat destroyed in attacking Soledar and will have difficulty refilling its ranks and dealing with the infighting between

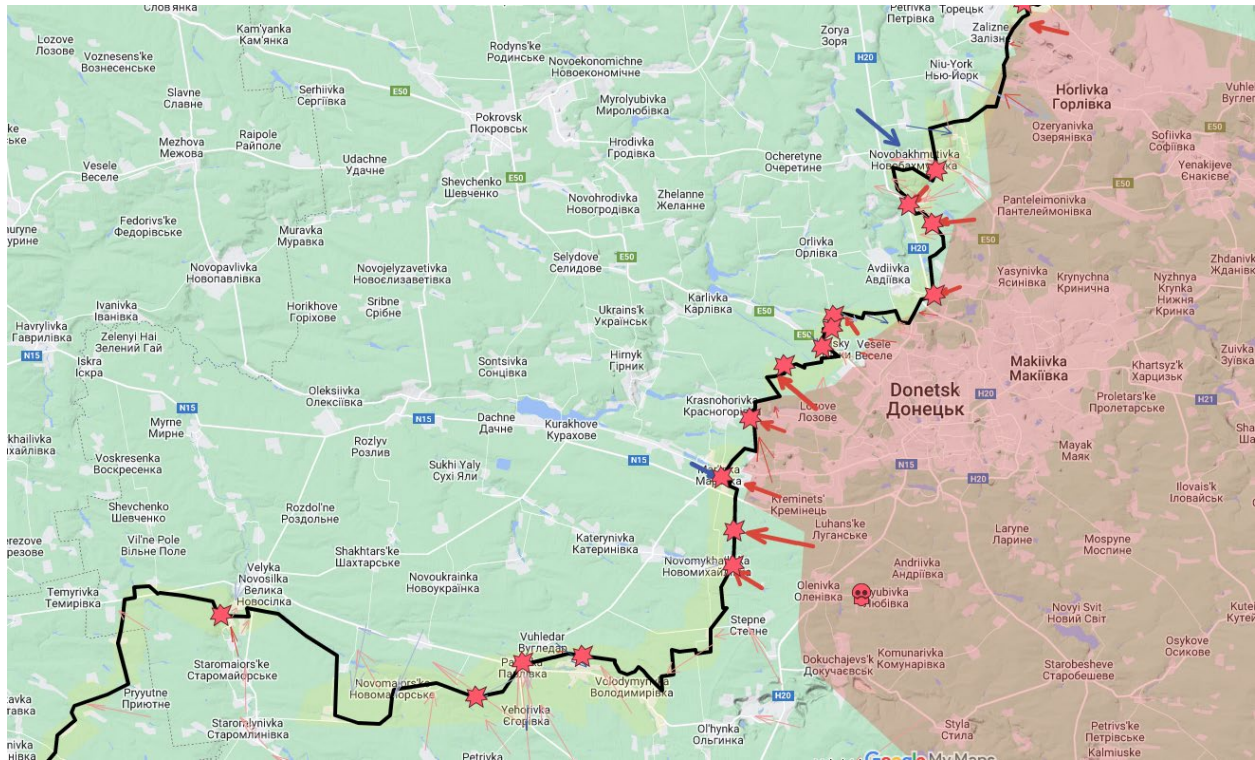
³² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

factions loyal to Shoigu versus Prigozhin.³³ We are not prepared to make a similar assessment at this time.

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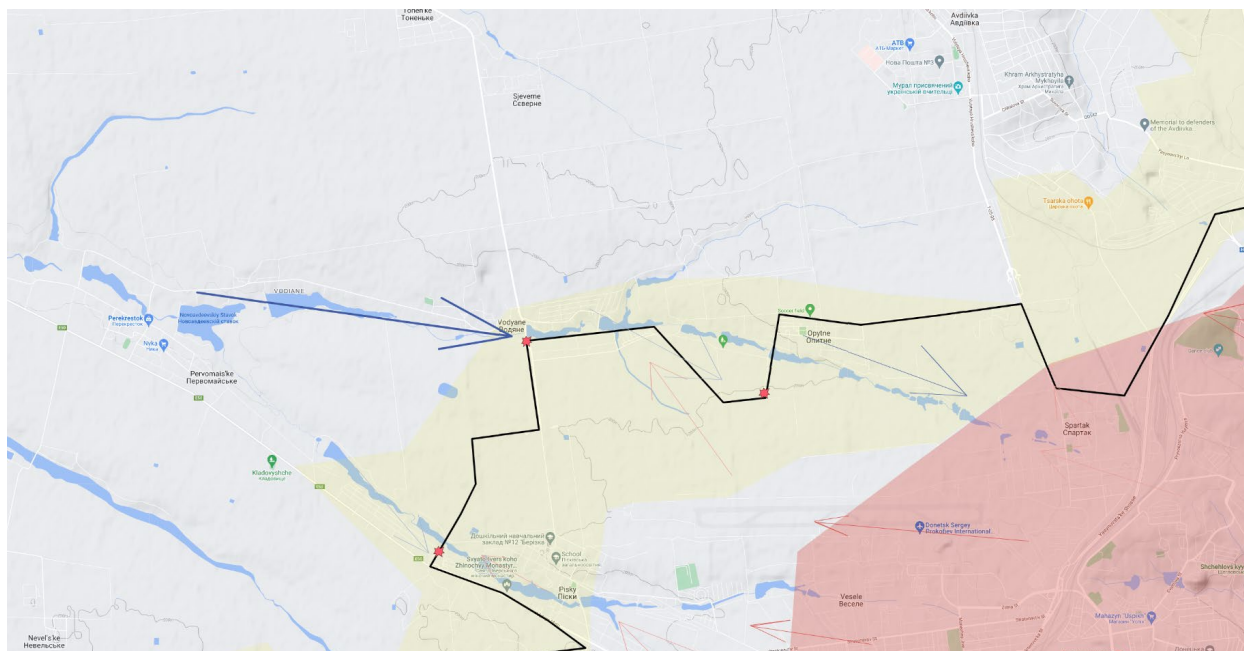
³³ https://twitter.com/ChrisO_wiki/status/1613474459389939712


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. The city of Avdiivka was  [massively shelled in the morning](#), killing five civilians.³⁴ ³⁵ The city had been fully evacuated when the fighting was more intense, and regrettably, some people likely started to return against the advice of Ukrainian officials.

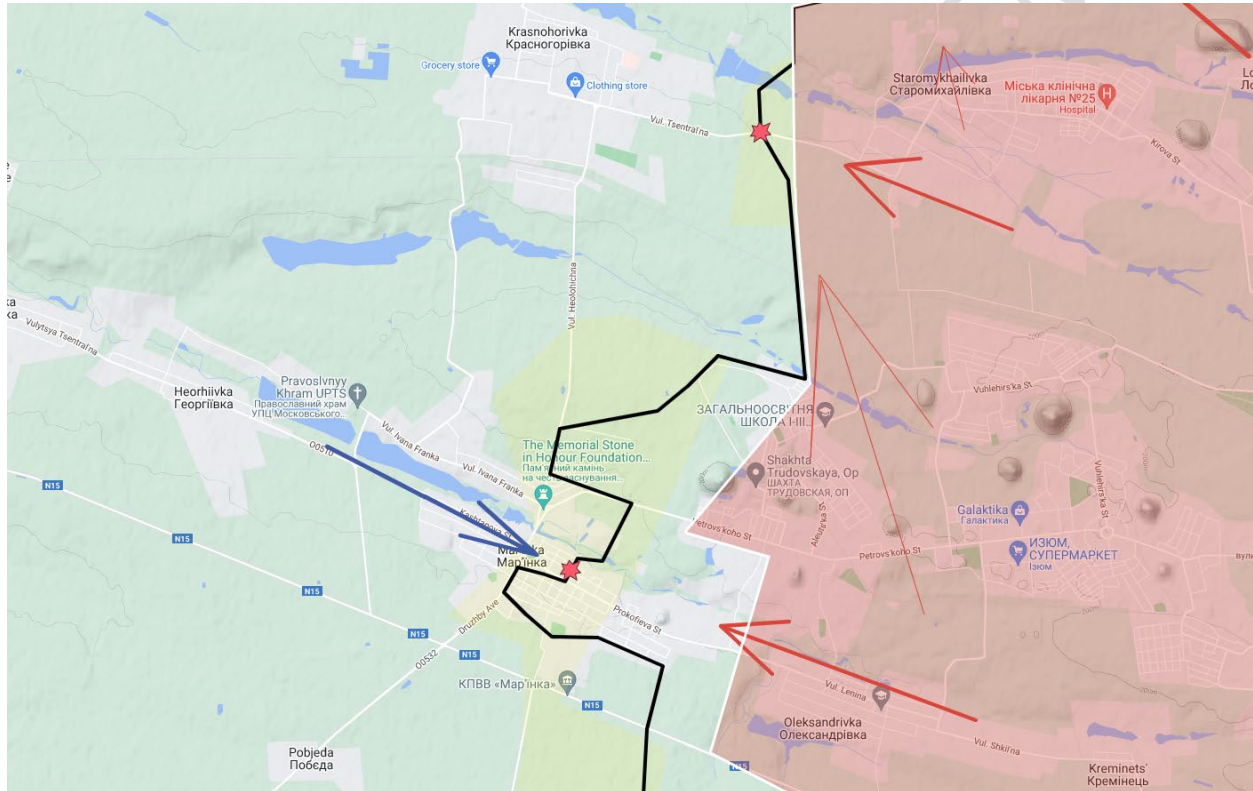
Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) attempted to advance out of [Opytne](#) (north of the Donetsk International Airport) without success.³⁶ After almost nine years of fighting, DNR separatists

³⁴ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/6277

³⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51892>

³⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>

continued to attack using armor without infantry support or infantry without armor support, with failed attempts to advance on [Vodyane](#), [Pervomaiske](#), and the Ukrainian firebase at [Nevelske](#).^{37 38 39}



On the Marinka axis, positional fighting continued near [Krasnohorivka](#), in the center and the southern edge of [Marinka](#), and near [Pobjeda](#).^{40 41}

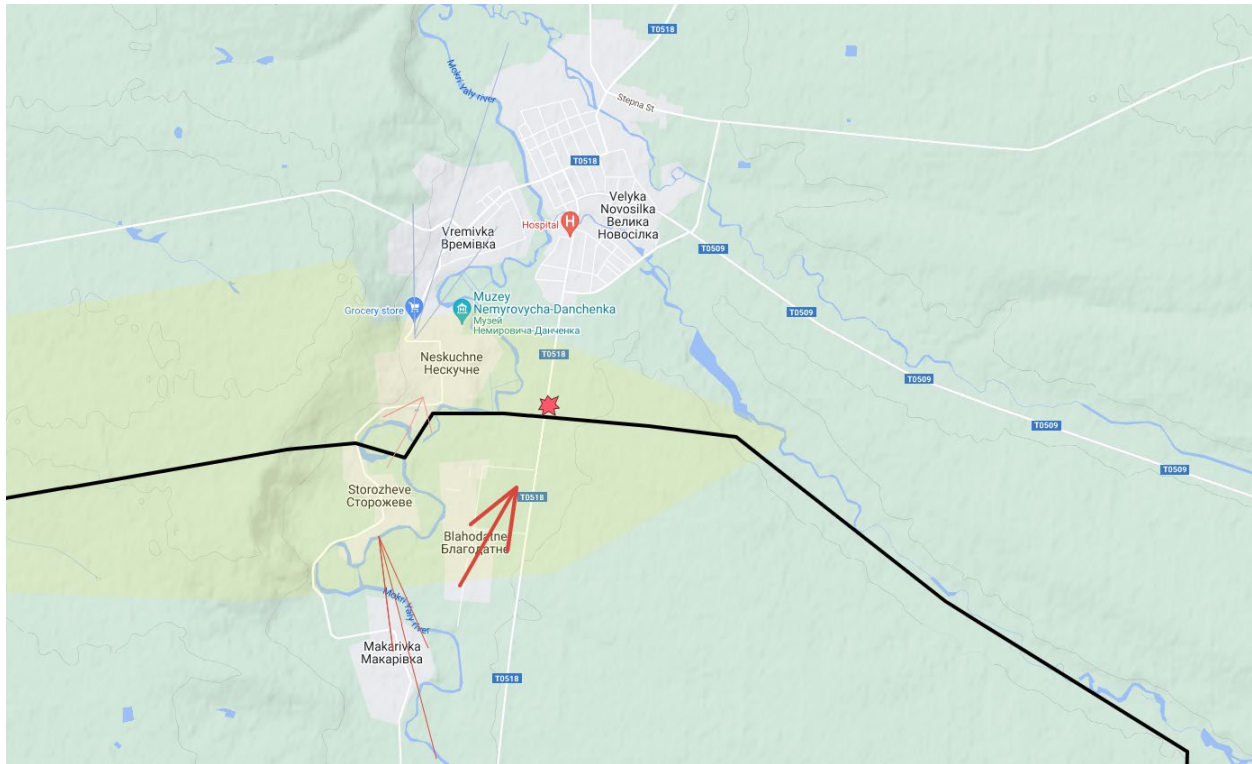
³⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

³⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15212>

³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>

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

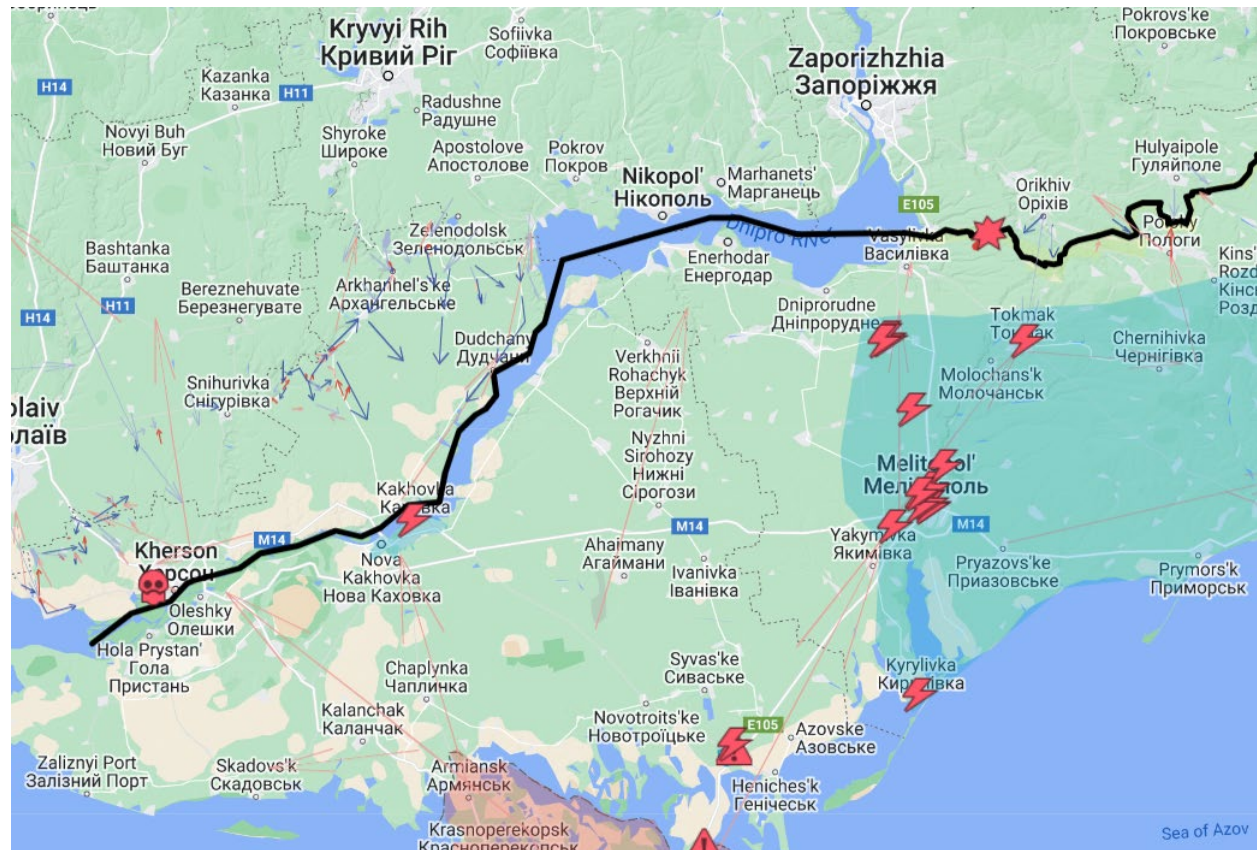
⁴¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10319>



On the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border, GSAFU reported continued fighting near [Velyka Novosilka](#), with Russian forces unable to advance.⁴²

⁴² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



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.^{43 44} There were 66 fire missions on free Ukraine, wounding three, with 19 artillery strikes in the city of Kherson.⁴⁵

Civilians were targeted in Kherson,  [damaging homes](#).⁴⁶
⁴⁷ A video showing a burning structure indicated that  [small arms ammunition might have been cooking off](#).⁴⁸ It is worth noting that firefighters were adjacent to the structure and appeared unconcerned, and other materials can create popping noises in a fire.

Due to a widescale missile attack on Ukraine, Yaroslav Yanushevich, Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported the electrical grid was de-energized preemptively to prevent possible overloads from damaging transformers. At the time of publication, power had been mostly restored.⁴⁹ There is information about the January 14 missile attack throughout today's Situation Report.

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

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

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3079>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/32884>

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/32903>

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/32905?single>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3093>

There were no reports on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant status and if today's missile attacks on Ukraine's power grid had impacted operations.

The city of Zaporizhzhia was attacked with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack fired from near Enerhodar, damaging electrical infrastructure.^{50 51} The missiles struck four hours before the larger cruise missile attack.

Ivan Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol, reported another large explosion happened in the center of the Russia-occupied city.⁵² There was no other information at the time of publication.

Otherwise, Russia and Ukraine exchanged very sporadic artillery fire from the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv.^{53 54}

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/starukhofficial/4582>

⁵¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384871/>

⁵² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384806/>

⁵³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁵⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Shortly after we published our January 13 situation report, five missile carriers of the Black Sea Fleet exited Sevastopol capable of launching up to 36 Kalibr cruise missiles.⁵⁵ There were conflicting reports stating between 12 to 15 Kalibrs were launched, with the 🇷🇺 [Russian ships hugging the coast](#) due to Ukrainian unmanned surface vessels, drones, and antiship missile capabilities.⁵⁶

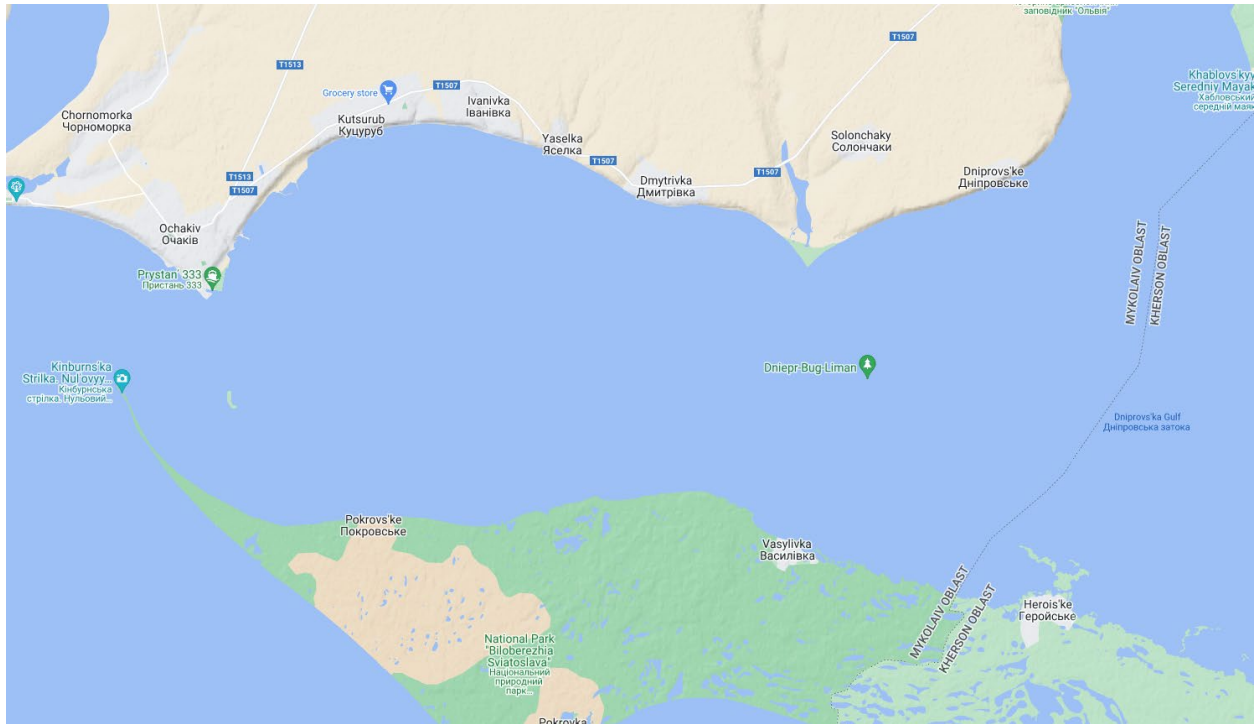
Pictures emerged in the Russian-occupied Crimean city of Chornomorske of defensive trenches built along the beach.⁵⁷ In another sign that Russian officials have growing concerns about a Ukrainian attack on Crimea, the road and directional signs near the Russian stronghold of Dzhankoi were painted over.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20230>

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20235>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20274>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20223>



In Mykolaiv, the coastal town of Ochakiv was attacked by S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack, 📷 [causing damage to several homes](#).⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ There weren't any casualties reported. The adjacent town of Kutsurub was also shelled.⁶¹

Ukrainian Operational Command South (OCS) reported that air defenses shot down three Russian cruise missiles over Mykolaiv during today's missile attack.⁶²

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/4039>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51839>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/4048>

⁶² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20255>

In Odesa, Ukrainian energy company DTEK proactively de-energized the electrical grid after Russian missile carriers left their port in Sevastopol.⁶³ About 30 minutes later, the first missiles entered Ukrainian air space, with four shot down and a fifth, striking critical electrical infrastructure.⁶⁴

⁶⁵ ⁶⁶

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


In the Dnipropetrovsk region, six Russian cruise missiles were shot down, with a Kh-22 air-to-sea antiship missile from the Cold War era striking the entryway to a nine-story

⁶³ <https://t.me/odesacityofficial/14200>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/4039>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20255>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/odesacityofficial/14207>

apartment building – home to 1,700 people.⁶⁷ Oleksiy Arestovych, National Security and Defence Advisor to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Andriy Yermak, claimed that the Kh-22 missile had been hit by Ukrainian air defenses and crashed into the building.⁶⁸ A video posted to social media moments after the strike and before Arestovych's statement,  [does not record the sound of air defenses](#). It shows a single explosion, followed by the blast wave reaching the filming site three seconds later, indicating the person recording was approximately a kilometer away.⁶⁹ The Armed Forces of Ukraine released a statement claiming that air defenses cannot shoot down a Kh-22 cruise missile.⁷⁰ Ukraine had made prior claims of downing Kh-22 missiles, and it is unclear why Arestovych, who has misspoken in the past, would make the statement he made, given the existing video evidence that the cruise missile was not intercepted. We cannot verify the circumstances of the strike on the building, but the ultimate culpability belongs to the Russian Federation Armed Forces.


The War Crimes and Human Rights section contains additional information about the attack.


⁶⁷ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/3004>

⁶⁸ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1614413135527694336>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70759?single>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70776>

Kryvyi Rih was struck by S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack, killing one person  [and damaging private homes](#).⁷¹

Russian forces also  [shelled Nikopol, Marhanets, and Chrvonohyrhorivka](#). A water pumping station in Marhanets was damaged, cutting off the water supply to 60,000 homes.⁷²

In the Cherkasky region, the power grid was de-energized to prevent overloads from damaging transformer farms. At the time of publication, power had been restored.⁷³

In the Vinnytsia oblast, three Russian cruise missiles were shot down, with Herman Halushchenko, the Minister of Energy of Ukraine, reporting at least one more missile struck electrical infrastructure.^{74 75}


⁷¹ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/3005>

⁷² <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/3023>

⁷³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70599>

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20255>

⁷⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384871/>

In the Ivano-Frankivsk region, a cruise missile struck a power plant,  [destroying the turbine deck](#), causing a fire, knocking the plant offline, and wounding two workers.^{76 77}

78

Maksym Kozytskyi, Lviv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported "several" missiles hit critical energy infrastructure.⁷⁹ There wasn't any additional information at the time of publication.

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

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70803>


⁷⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70706>

⁷⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384875/>

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70679>

Up to six explosions were reported in Kyiv during the early morning hours. Initial reports stated the blasts were unrelated to military action, with Mayor Vladimir Klychko later reporting that the explosions were related to a Russian missile strike. There was no air raid alert before the strike.

There were initial reports that an area of "critical infrastructure" was damaged. Electrical infrastructure was targeted, with Ukrainian officials claiming that the most vital areas were missed, with a warehouse struck by the attack.⁸⁰

Ukrainian officials, and a trusted source in Kyiv, reported that the strikes were made by up to six S-300 or S-400 anti-aircraft missiles that used a ballistic trajectory to avoid detection.⁸¹ There were denials from state media in Belarus that the missiles were launched from their country. The attack also  [damaged 28 homes in the Kyiv region](#) without causing casualties.⁸²

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384839/>

⁸¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51825>

⁸² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70654>

After the first round of strikes, the electrical grid was de-energized about an hour later due to the main cruise missile attack starting, adding to the confusion.⁸³ During his evening address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the most difficult power situations were in Kyiv and Kharkiv, with engineers working to fix the problems. Keep reading because "difficult" may not have been that bad. We cannot confirm damage to the Kyiv region's energy infrastructure and are not making inquiries to respect operational security.

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that the hromadas of Khotin', Bilopillia, Esman, and Shalyhyne were hit by mortars and artillery shells.⁸⁴ There were 63 strikes on border villages, with one man in Kindrativka critically injured when shrapnel punctured his lung.

DTEK officials also de-energized the electrical grid in the Sumy region proactively to prevent damage to transformer farms. At the time of publication, power had been restored.⁸⁵

⁸³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70601>

⁸⁴ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/7169> <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/7181>

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/7166>

Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles were used to attack the city of Kharkiv, disabling power in the city.⁸⁷ As of 01:00 hours local time on January 15, power had been fully restored.⁸⁸

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin reported that planned repair activity on the second highway section of the Kersch Bridge was completed as scheduled.⁸⁹ The next phase will begin in February to start working on the road deck.⁹⁰

Due to the work and poor weather, over 500 cars and more than 200 trucks were waiting to use the ferry to cross the Kersch Strait.⁹¹ Drivers waiting were told that less than half would be able to cross on Saturday, creating a two-day-long backup.

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/syngubov/5310>

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/syngubov/5311>

⁸⁹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51845>

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20217>

⁹¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20268>


THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukrainian officials reported a total of 38 cruise missiles were fired by Russia, with 25 shot down.⁹² It was significantly smaller than previous attacks. However, Ukrainian air defenses only had a 65% success rate. The 38 missiles do not include the S-300/S-400 anti-aircraft missile strikes on the Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, or Mykolaiv regions. There was no information on why air defenses did so poorly compared to the much larger attack on December 27, with Ukrainian forces previously reaching an 80% to 90% success rate.

The Ukrainian Air Force reported that five Kh-59 missiles were launched by Su-35 multirole fighter aircraft, Tu-22M3 strategic bombers launched five Kh-22 missiles, and Kh-101/102/555 missiles were launched by Tu-95 strategic bombers. There were different numbers of Kalibr cruise missiles launched from the Black Sea Fleet, and there were no reports of Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones used. We cannot determine if the lack of drones was due to a tactical decision, if the most recent supply was exhausted in the December 27 strikes, or if reports that the drones can't operate in cold weather are accurate.

⁹² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20263>

ASSESSMENT: The assortment of missiles used in today's attack and the size of the strike support earlier assessments that the Russian Federation has to tap into strategic reserves. The Kh-22 is an air-to-sea cruise missile developed in the 1950s specifically to destroy NATO aircraft carriers. It has proven to be highly unreliable, with a failure rate as high as 60% due to its hypergolic fuel and production ending in 1988. In its final approach, the Kh-22 pitches upward to 27 kilometers and uses a ballistic trajectory to achieve an almost hypersonic speed of Mach 4.6. In its flight phase, the missile can be shot down by air defenses, but not during its final approach. The missile isn't very accurate, using inertial guidance and radar to find its target instead of GLONASS/GPS or cameras. Given its main purpose, it didn't need to be very accurate to strike a large floating target when armed with a 350-kiloton to 1-megaton nuclear warhead.

Missile debris  [landed in Moldova for the third time](#), outraging government officials.⁹³ Natalia Gavrița, Prime Minister of Moldova, condemned the border incursion and the attack on Ukraine. "There is no political, historical and even more so moral justification for killing civilians and

⁹³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51940>

attacking the infrastructure that ensures the survival of the population," she wrote. "I express deep indignation at the new large-scale attack on Ukraine, and I express my support for the heroic Ukrainian people and our support for the victims of Russia's barbaric attacks."⁹⁴

Sweden's domestic security agency warned that Russian security-threatening activity against Sweden would increase.⁹⁵ SAPO head Charlotte von Essen said that telecommunications, electrical, and transport infrastructure were of particular concern and that domestic extremism driven by the spread of foreign disinformation was also a threat.

After a call between United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, it was confirmed that Britain would be sending Ukraine 14 Challenger 2 main battle tanks (MBT) and 30 AS90 155-mm self-propelled howitzers (SPG).⁹⁶ British officials confirmed that Ukrainian troops would start training in a matter of days, with the first batch of modern NATO tanks provided to Ukraine arriving in country "within a matter of weeks."⁹⁷

⁹⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/14/7384888/>

⁹⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/nato-politics-sweden-government-5fd3396022aaf766b0670348fb10d847>

⁹⁶ <https://news.sky.com/story/uk-to-send-challenger-2-tanks-to-ukraine-number-10-confirms-12786361>

⁹⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70785>

In the last 30 days, France and the UK have committed to sending light tanks and MBTs, while German officials continue to be a barrier to up to five countries that want to transfer Leopard 2 MBTs to Ukraine. So far, the United States has not committed to sending M1A1 Abrams tanks, which are mechanically complex and have significant fuel requirements.


Additional announcements of arms for Ukraine are expected after the Rammstein working group meets on January 20, which is why we assess the risk of additional cruise missile strikes on Ukraine as elevated from January 19 to 21, despite today's attack.

Switzerland blocked Spain from supplying Aspide air defense systems to Ukraine, forbidding the transfer due to its "neutral state" status.⁹⁸ Spanish Defense Minister Margarita Robles blasted the decision. "In order to send material, we need some kind of permission from Switzerland, which they are not granting us," an exasperated Robles told reporters.

⁹⁸ <https://switzerlandtimes.ch/politics/spain-wanted-to-deliver-these-weapons-to-ukraine/>

The Aspide medium-range anti-aircraft system was jointly developed by Italy and Switzerland and built by Rheinmetall Air Defense, based in Zurich. Swiss officials caused delays in the shipment of German Gepard anti-aircraft systems because the ammunition is produced in Switzerland. A solution for ammunition was reached, and the Gepard has proven effective against drones.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

A group of Russian mobiks appealed to be sent home after frontline duty near Kreminna. The platoon size group claims they were told they would be integrated into a Russian VDV unit for training and "glory," only to be sent to the front untrained, suffering a 50% casualty rate in ten days. The unit claimed they were fighting  [without the support of artillery or armored vehicles](#).^{99 100 101}

In the Belgorod region, a mobik detonated a RGD-5 grenade in a building occupied by Russian troops. The blast started a fire, killing three mobiks and wounding at least ten more.¹⁰² It was not clarified if the incident was an accident

⁹⁹ <https://twitter.com/JayinKyiv/status/1614206991551074306>

¹⁰⁰ <https://twitter.com/JayinKyiv/status/1614207530275586049>

¹⁰¹ <https://twitter.com/JayinKyiv/status/1614207530275586049>



¹⁰² <https://t.me/bazabazon/15385>

or intentional. Also, near Belgorod, ammunition was accidentally detonated during the repair of Russian T-72 tanks. One T-72 tank that was in for light repairs was destroyed, and two more suffered severe damage.¹⁰³ Russian officials claim no one was injured or killed in the accident.

Uh-huh. 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 21, with 73 people injured, including 14 children. Thirty-five people are still missing as search and rescue efforts continue.¹⁰⁴ The rest of the report on the Dnipro strike will contain details and links to content that some may find disturbing.



In the seconds after the strike, video recorded the sound of survivors trapped in the debris  [screaming for help](#).¹⁰⁵ Rescuers  [combed through the rubble](#), calling out to

¹⁰³ [https://bel \[dot\] ru/news/2023-01-13/vo-vremya-remonta-tanki-v-belgorodskoy-oblasti-sdetoniroval-boepripas-2636495](https://bel[dot]ru/news/2023-01-13/vo-vremya-remonta-tanki-v-belgorodskoy-oblasti-sdetoniroval-boepripas-2636495)

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/15/7384910/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/51939>

survivors through loudspeakers as the screams became fainter.¹⁰⁶ A 23-year-old woman  [photographed sitting in the debris](#) that used to be her home became an icon of the attack.¹⁰⁷ A widow, she lost her husband in September when he was killed in action fighting for Ukraine. She refused to leave the pile as searchers dug for her parents and cat.

As darkness fell, drone video showed  [a line of ambulances and rescue vehicles](#) donated from around the world, as far as the eye could see.¹⁰⁸ A mother's  [grief and rage](#) were caught on camera after she learned her son had been killed in the attack.


"Why did you kill him," she screamed red-faced to no one there. "You used to come here to our city. We treated you as normal people – as normal relatives. What have you done to my son? Bastards! I curse you until the seventh generation. Let you be cursed your whole life. By all people, by me, and by all mother's tears, let your whole country be cursed."¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20253>

¹⁰⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20282>

¹⁰⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70722>

¹⁰⁹ <https://twitter.com/saintjavelin/status/1614313188300066816>

As efforts to find the trapped continued, a graphic video showed rescuers and medical personnel  [trying to save the trapped](#).¹¹⁰ "Do you feel my hand," a person asks. "No? Now move your fingers. The doctor will make an injection so that it will be easier..."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denis Shmygal condemned the attack, saying, "Today's missile strikes on Ukrainian cities are yet another proof that Russia is a terrorist and has no place in the civilized world. We will never forget and forgive the grief that Russian barbarians brought to our land. A trail of blood will follow Russia for more than one generation. Punishment for what has been done will be inevitable."

The White House released a statement after the strike. "These strikes are another example of the brutal and barbaric war that Russia is waging, attacking the critical infrastructure of Ukraine, which provides light and heat for the Ukrainian civilian population. The United States will continue to provide Ukraine with the, which it needs for self-defense, including air defense systems, with our allies and partners – and we will continue our work to hold Russian forces accountable for their war crimes and

¹¹⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20280>

atrocities. Russia continues to underestimate the strength and determination of the Ukrainian people, and these latter attempts to demoralize him will fail again."¹¹¹

Russian officials canceled a planned prisoner-of-war exchange at the last minute with no reason given.¹¹²

In Melitopol, the Russian FSB shut down a humanitarian center that Valery Gazaev had created.¹¹³ With 43 people waiting in line for the center to open on January 12, Russian occupation security officials broke in and conducted a search, finding only basic medical supplies, diapers, and food. They inspected the cell phones of all of the aid workers, taking two briefly into custody for further questioning and then releasing them. Despite finding nothing to support the operation was a security risk, the FSB closed the center, stating, "your fund worked illegally. From today it is closed."

¹¹¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70782>

¹¹² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/70693>

¹¹³ [RIA Melitopol](#)

GEOPOLITICAL

Former Russian President and Putin lapdog Dmitry Medvedev accused Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of being a puppet of the United States who should commit seppuku to redeem himself.¹¹⁴ The statement was made after Kishida and United States President Joe Biden met at a security summit, with Japan continuing its efforts to expand its military capabilities that started in 2012.

Technically, Russia and Japan have been in a state of war since 1945, never signing a finalized peace agreement at the end of World War II. Control of the Kuril Islands on the northern tip of Japan has been disputed for almost 80 years, with the issue relegated to almost joke status before 2021. Russia's aggressive intentions toward Japan increased in the summer of 2021, and relations hit a low point after Japan implemented sanctions on the Russian Federation for its widescale invasion of Ukraine.

¹¹⁴ [Reuters](#)



ECONOMIC

We do not provide economic news coverage on the weekends.

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