

MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 524

It has been 3,444 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 159 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- Fighting continued near Lyman Pershyi in Kharkiv
- Intense fighting between platoon sized units continued in the Serebryanskyy Woods, with Russian forces making marginal gains and Ukrainian forces taking prisoners
- Russian forces made marginal gains south of Bilohorivka
- Ukrainian forces made marginal gains east of Spirne
- Ukrainian forces continue to clear Klishchiivka and Andriivka
- Ukrainian forces made tactical gains northwest of Kurdyumivka
- Ukrainian forces gain fire control over two critical Russian ground lines of communication in the Lyubmivka-Staromlynivka area of operation (AO)
- Hospital No. 2 in occupied Mariupol is over capacity with wounded Russian troops from Zaporizhzhia
- Preliminary: Storm Shadow strike on Russian ammunition depot in Prymorsk, Zaporizhzhia

- Two Storm Shadow cruise missiles hit the Hvardiiske Airfield in occupied Crimea
- Since July 17, Russia has destroyed enough grain to feed one-million people for a year
- Ukrainian air defenses successfully intercepted 15 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones
- Parts for Russian Lancet kamikaze drones include off-the-shelf consumer parts for hobbyist remote control aircraft
- Ukraine has developed and brought to serial production a non-precision bomb for drones
- Ukraine introduced its FPV Mk.10 drone, which has started serial production
- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukrainian pilots would start F-16 training this month
- Russia returned strategic bombers to Engel-2 Airfield in Svatov after moving them to Murmansk in November 2022
- One of PMC Wagner's Council of Commander members was spotted in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad
- Russian courts have declared their case against Igor Strelkov Girkin as a "state secret," and all future hearings will be classified
- Twelve more commissariat offices were firebombed in Russia on August 12

- Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov of the Belgorod Region armed the Territorial Guard without authority from the Kremlin infuriating Russian milbloggers
- PMC Wagner graveyards in Sverdlovsk are already falling into disrepair
- Russia had 35 detention and torture centers in the western part of Kherson during the occupation, where at least 320 Ukrainians were brutally treated
- Ten Ukrainian children who were illegally removed to Russia have been repatriated
- Brazil said it would not attend the peace summit in Saudi Arabia
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan talked with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone, with Putin agreeing to come to Anarka in the future
- Russian oil exports to India are plummeting and may reach pre-December 2022 sanction levels in August
- The Russian rouble dropped to 94 for 1 US dollar
- Aeroflot pilots complained that aircraft are operating without functional brakes, risking an accident

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

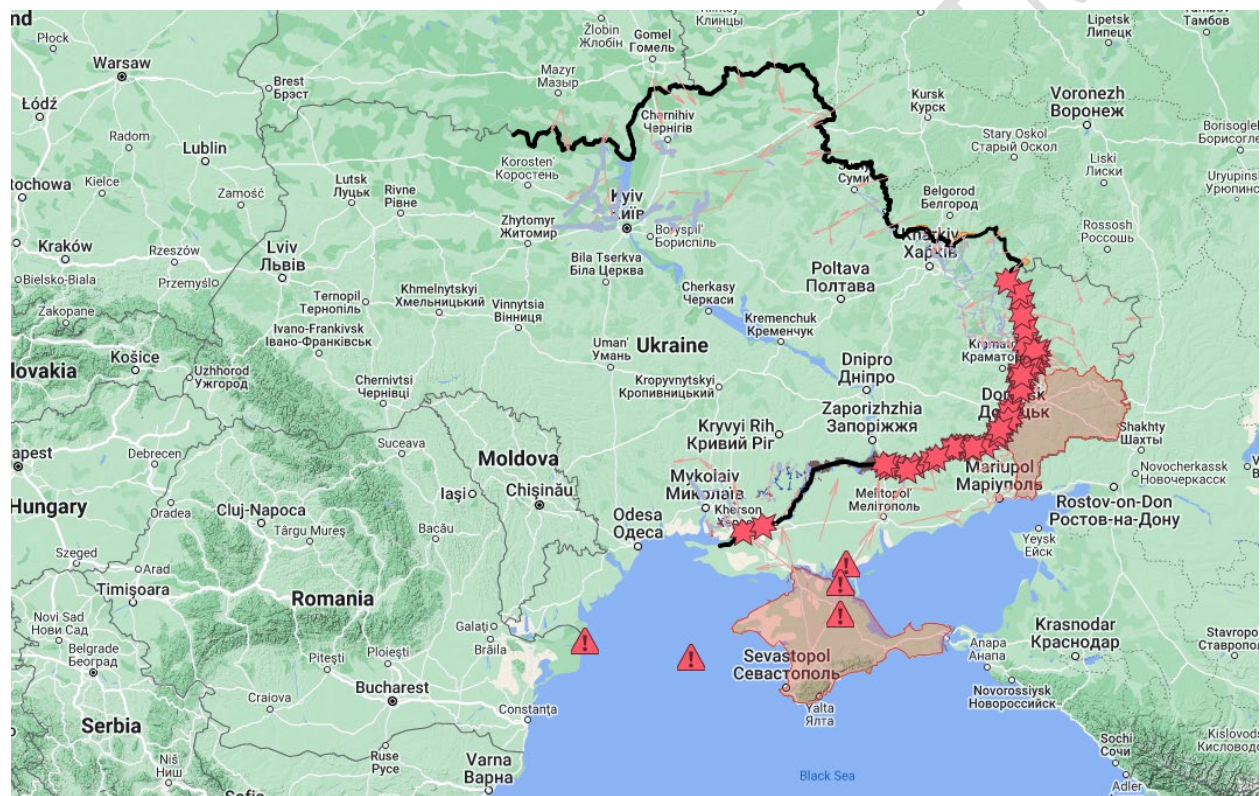
1. We maintain that Ukraine's application of tight operational security, an apparent operational pause, and a Stavka limited to security and military leaders indicates that larger military action is likely in the coming days.
2. Due to a lack of troop rotation, growing ammunition shortages, and weak commanders, we maintain that Russian combat potential is reaching the point of exhaustion, facilitating Ukrainian advances.
3. We maintain that the current Ukrainian military activity is subordinate offensives and shaping operations, and the main operation has not started.
4. We maintain that signals from Kyiv indicating the next phase of the summer offensive is being prepared are accurate. There are three operational areas where we believe the next phase could start.
5. Despite Ukraine's plans to move to the next phase, we maintain that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition dates, negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
6. The Russian Federation's defacto blockade of the western Black Sea has put shipping in the territorial waters of Bulgaria and Romania at risk. The August 1 attack on the Romania border and Belarus's incursion into Polish air space are partially due to a lack of

- response from earlier incidents by the European Union, United Nations, and/or NATO.
7. We assess that Russian aggression on the borders of Ukraine and the Black Sea will continue to expand and lead to an international incident if Ukraine's allies do not take a stronger posture.
 8. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains weakened after the failed Prigozhin Insurrection, and there continues to be a small but very real possibility of another insurrection or coup attempt.
 9. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, PMCs, and proxy forces.
 10. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine.
 11. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
 12. 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.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

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



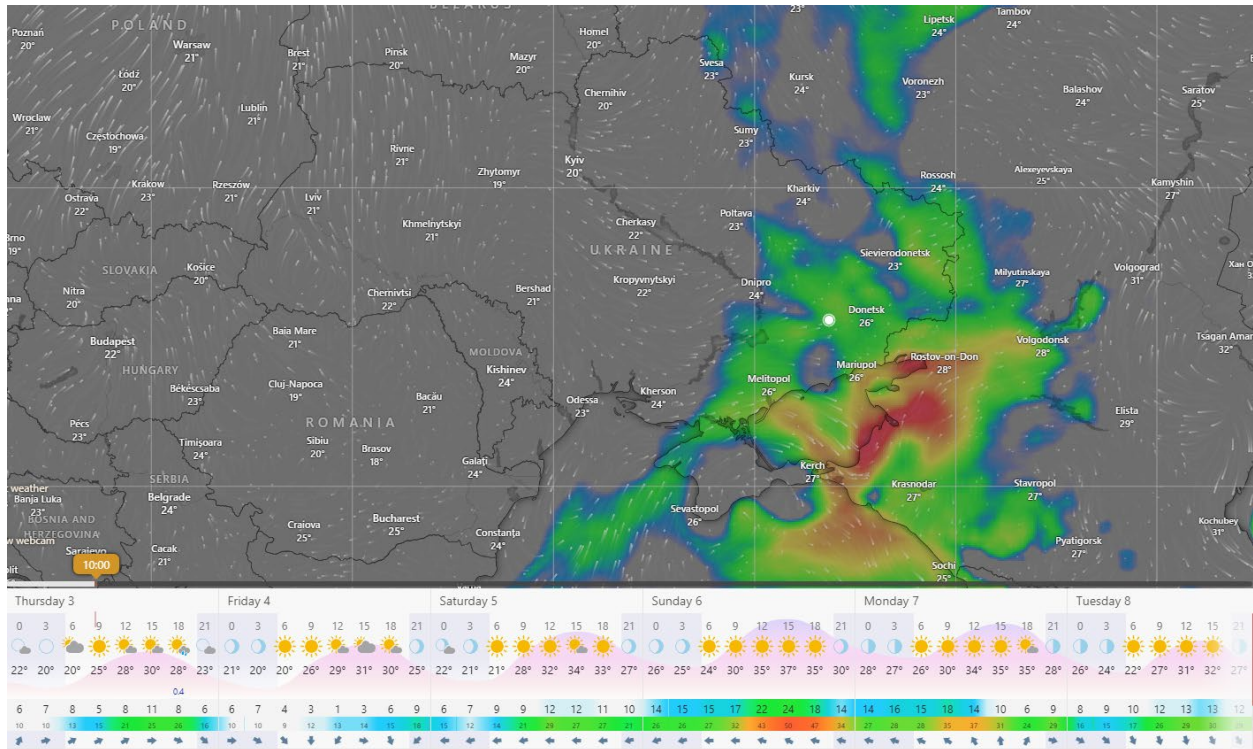
link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

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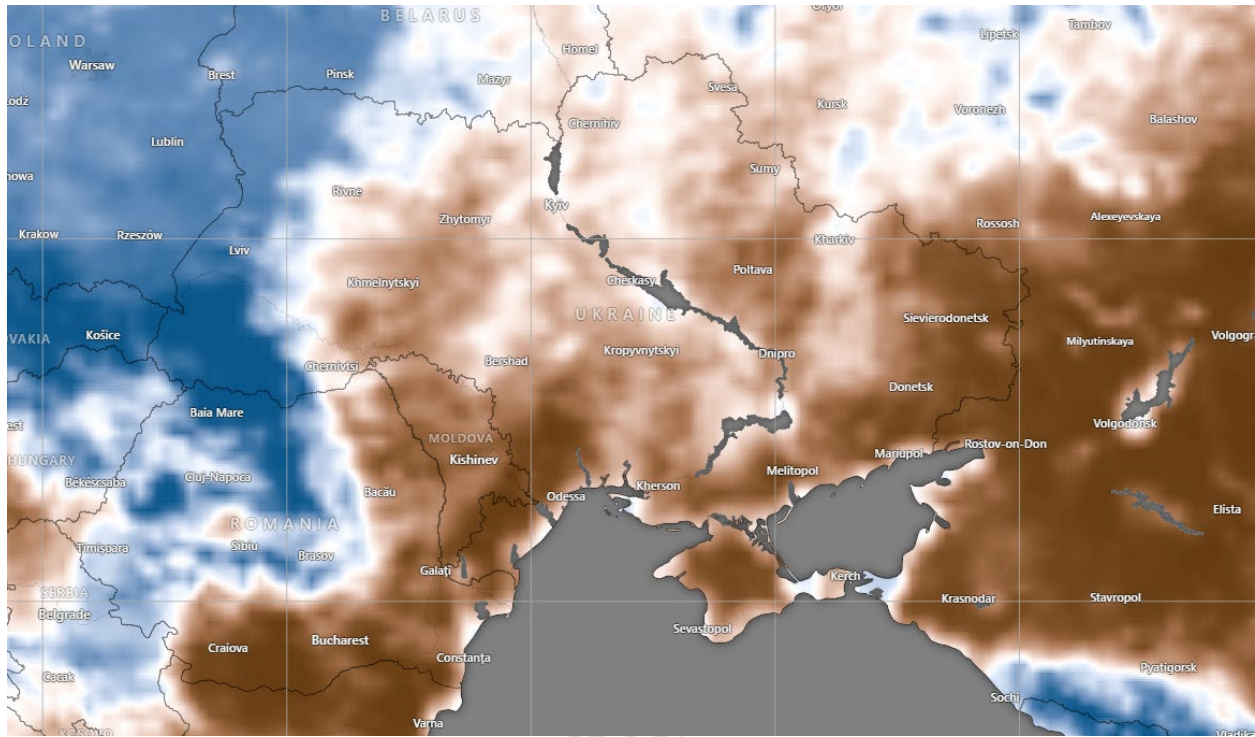


UKRAINE WEATHER



Hot and dry weather continues as far as the ECMWF ensemble forecast model predicts, with thunderstorms, including possible waterspout and tornadic development, along the coast, occupied Crimea, and the southern edge of the Donbas. High temperatures will be between 27° and 38° Celcius, with temperatures climbing each day through Monday—lows from 17° to 29°. Heavy rain and strong winds are possible around mesocyclones, with CAPE up to 3,500 in eastern occupied Crimea and north to Mariupol.

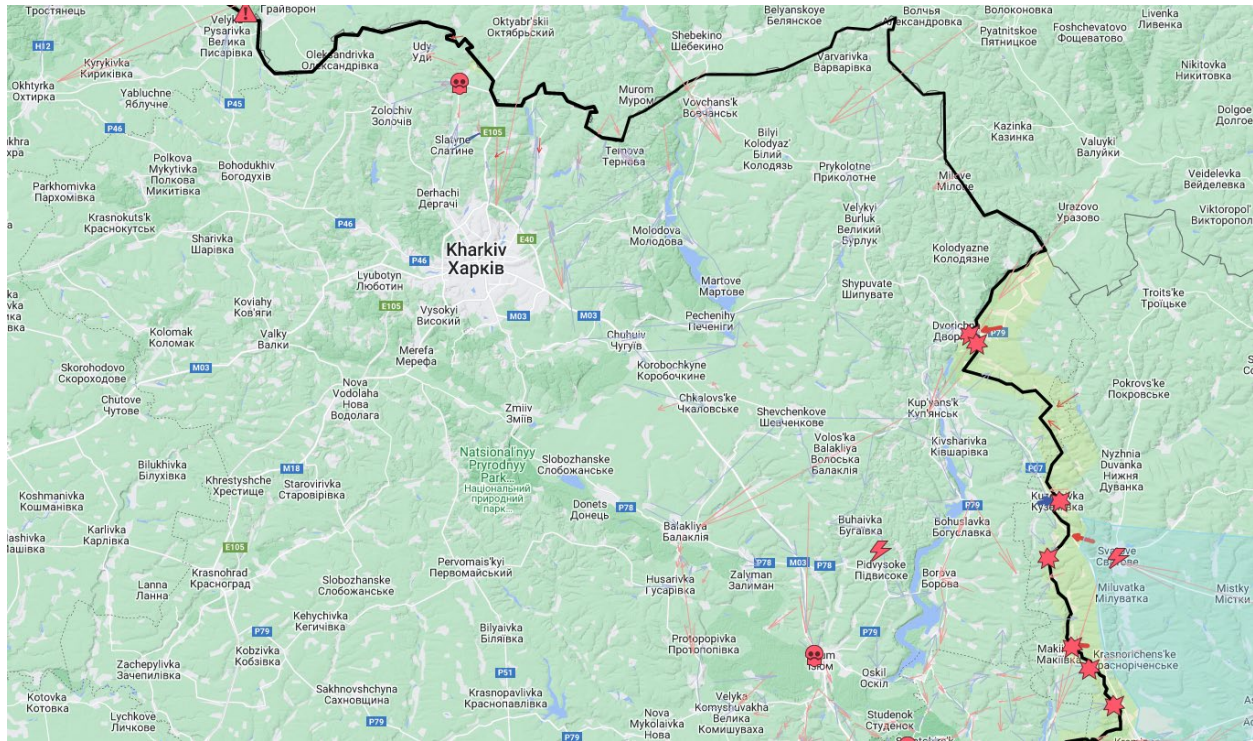
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



On August 10, 2023, the GFS model predicts soil saturation will be between 5% and 20% in eastern and southern Ukraine.

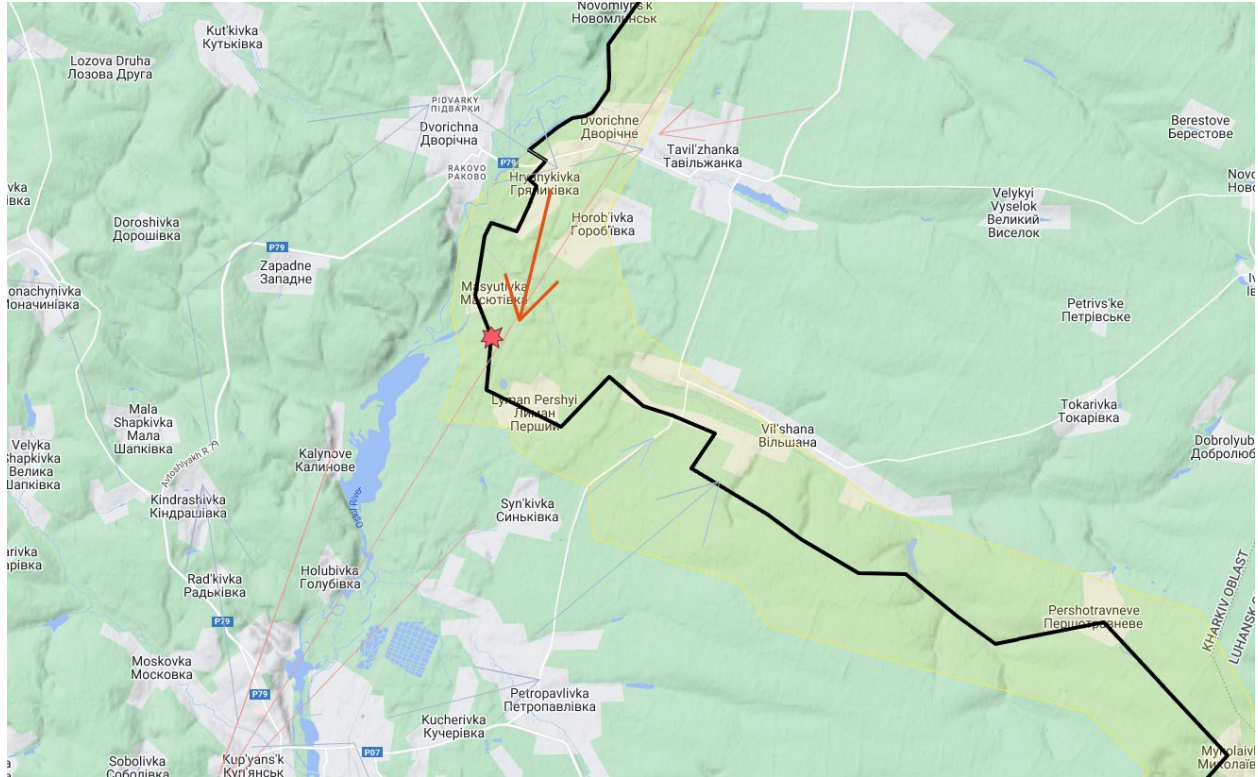
The soil saturation model does not consider the lakebed of the Kakhovka Reservoir. Soil saturation is between 10% to 50% in the theater of war. Hot and dry weather is expected through August 10. There is the potential for thunderstorms throughout the period.

KHARKIV



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

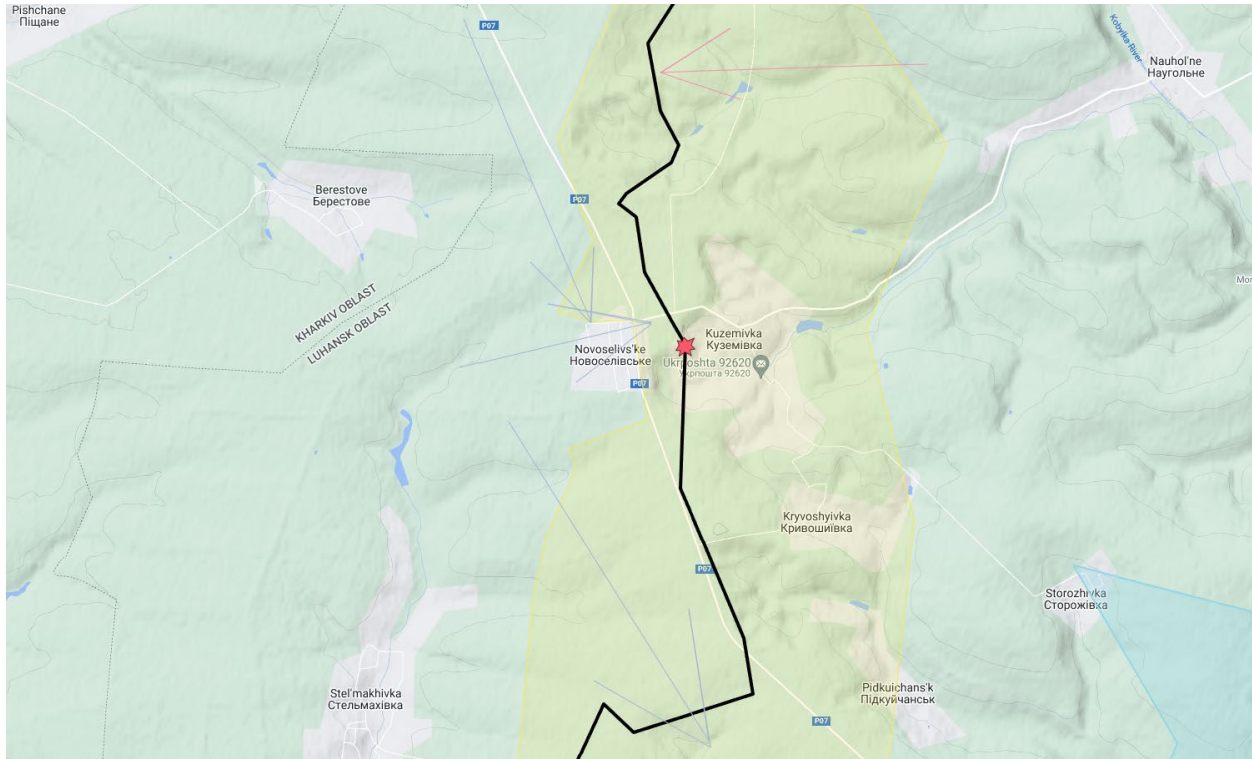
Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



Dvorichna Operational Area

Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar claimed there was renewed fighting west of [Lyman Pershyi](#).¹ No other source reported significant fighting in the area.

¹ <https://t.me/rybar/50376>



Svatove Operational Area

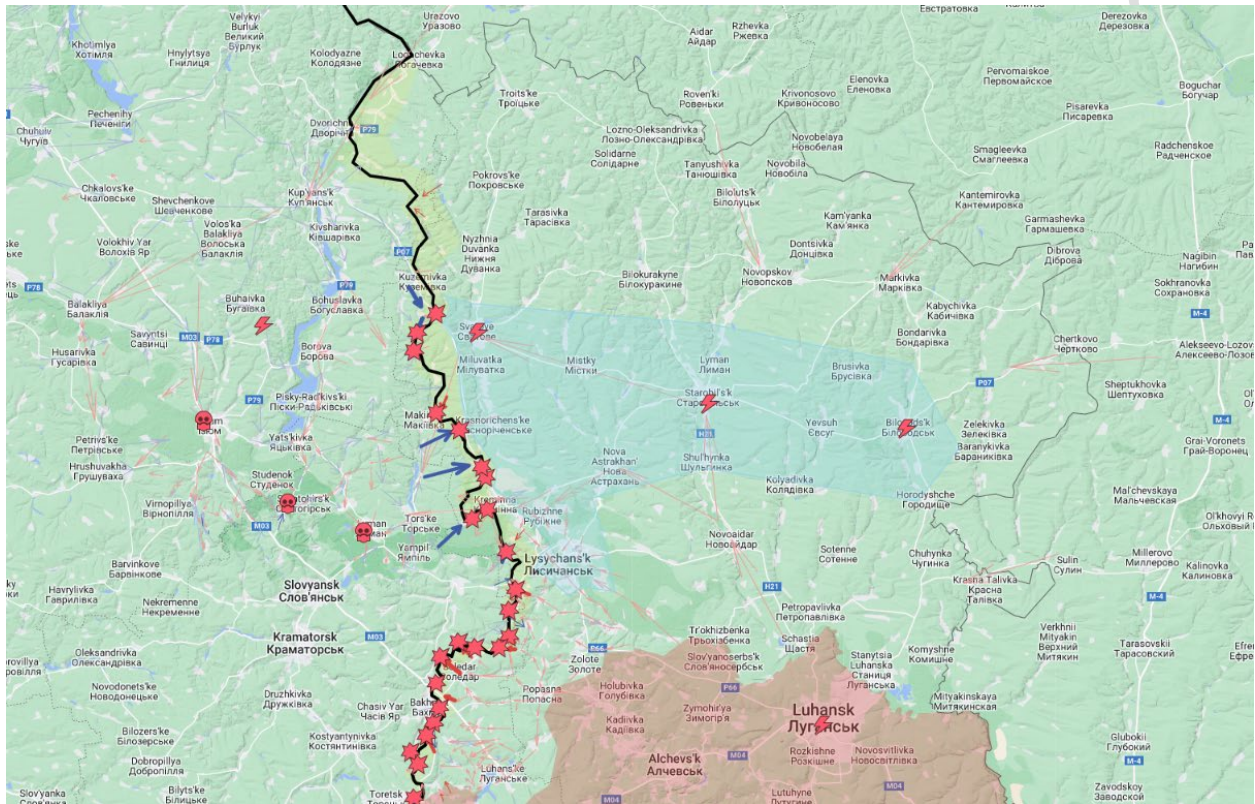
Mutual fighting continued east of [Berestove](#), with no change in the situation.^{2 3}

² https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14148>

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



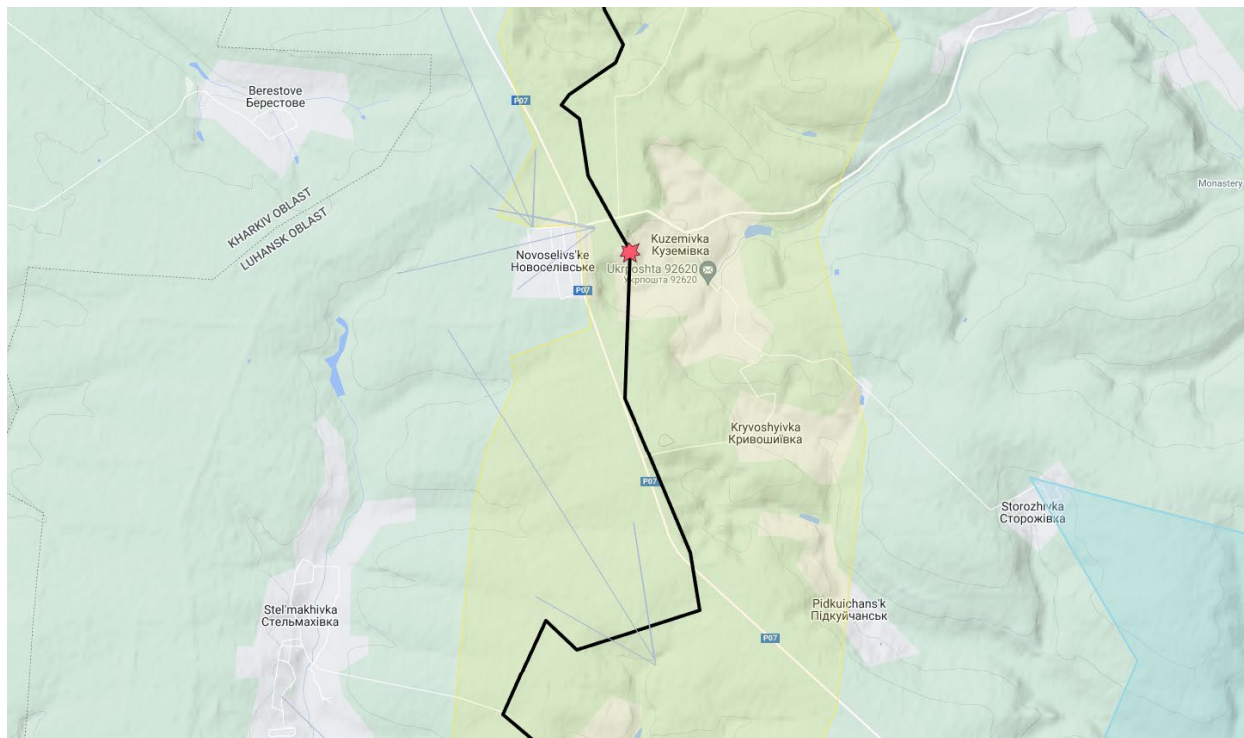
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections

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

Free Luhansk

Operational Command East spokesperson Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty reported that Russian forces fired 555 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs on Ukrainian positions and civilians from Dvorichna [Kharkiv] to Bilohorivka [Luhansk].⁴ The Russian Air Force and army aviation (VKS) carried out 15 airstrikes, and there were 11 reported combat clashes, five in the Serebyrsky Woods.

⁴ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12504>

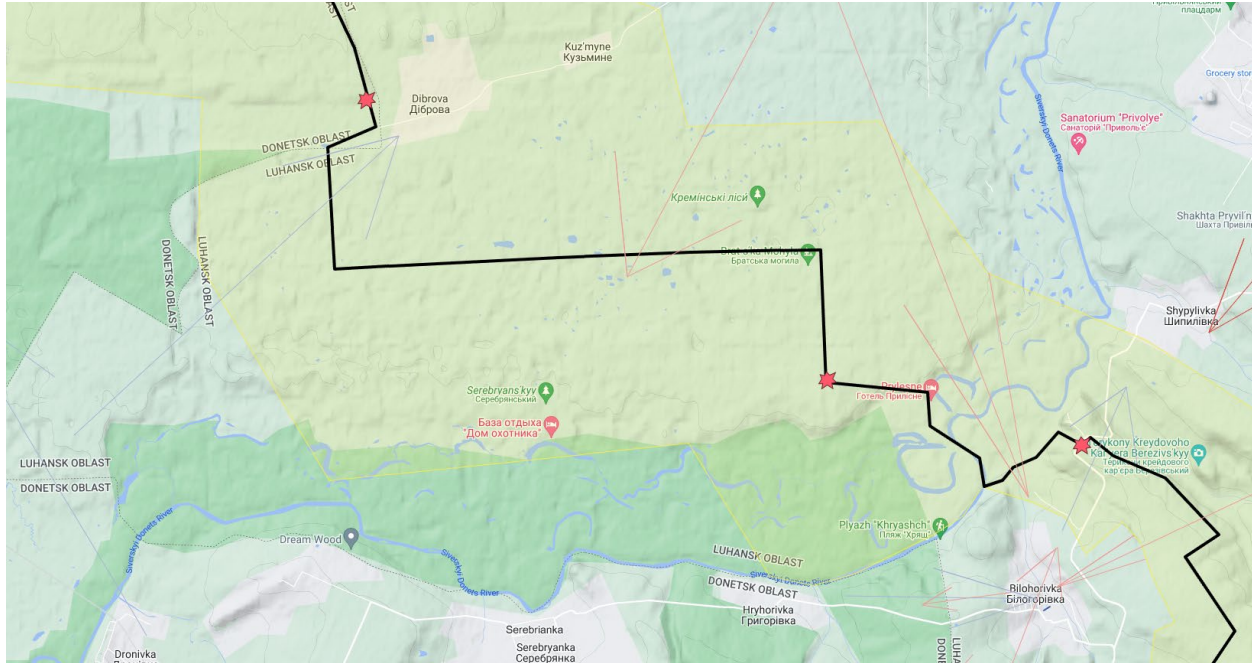


Svatove Operational Area



Mutual fighting was reported on the eastern edge of [Noveselivske](#), with no change in the situation.^{5 6}

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

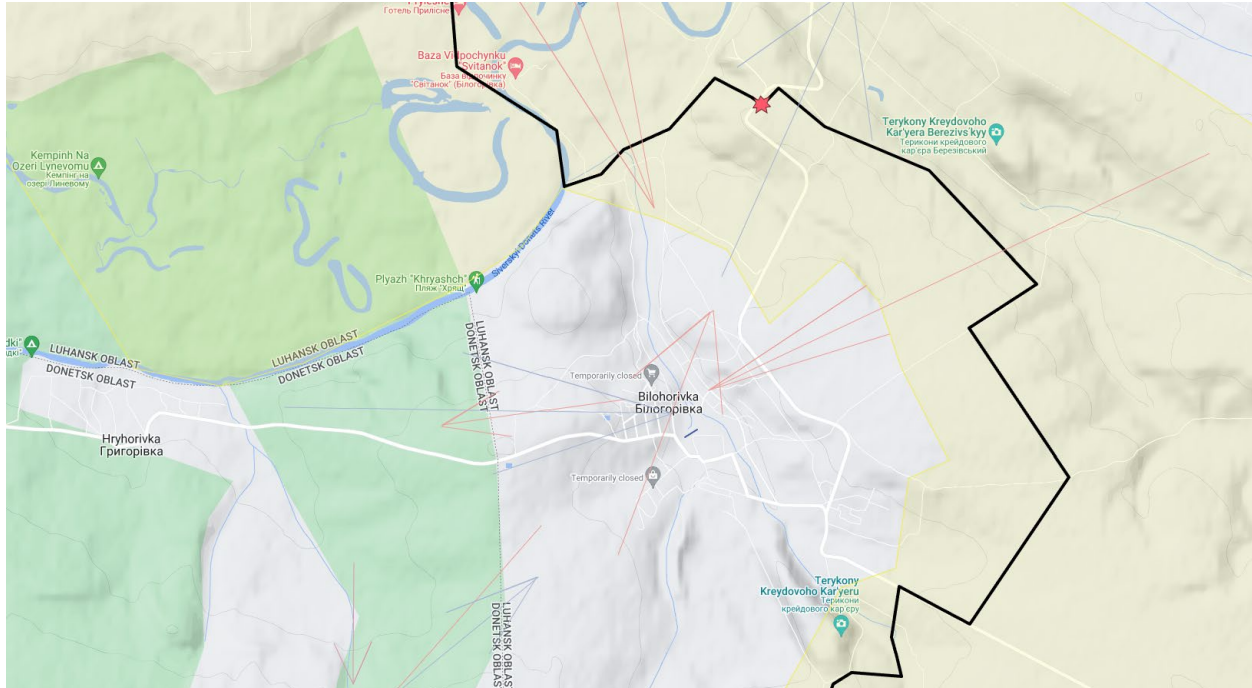
⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14148>



Kremynna Operational Area

Intense fighting of platoon-sized units continued in the [Serebryansky Woods](#), with both combatants firing significant amounts of artillery. A geolocated video showed that Russian forces had made marginal gains south of Kremynna, advancing 200 meters in the direction of Hryhorivka. The video showed the Russian troops   [being hit by 155 mm high explosive \(HE\) and 864 DPICM \(cluster munition\) rounds.](#)⁷ Ukrainian forces captured a full squad of Russian troops in another region of the forest.

⁷ https://twitter.com/antiputler_news/status/1686021686410235906

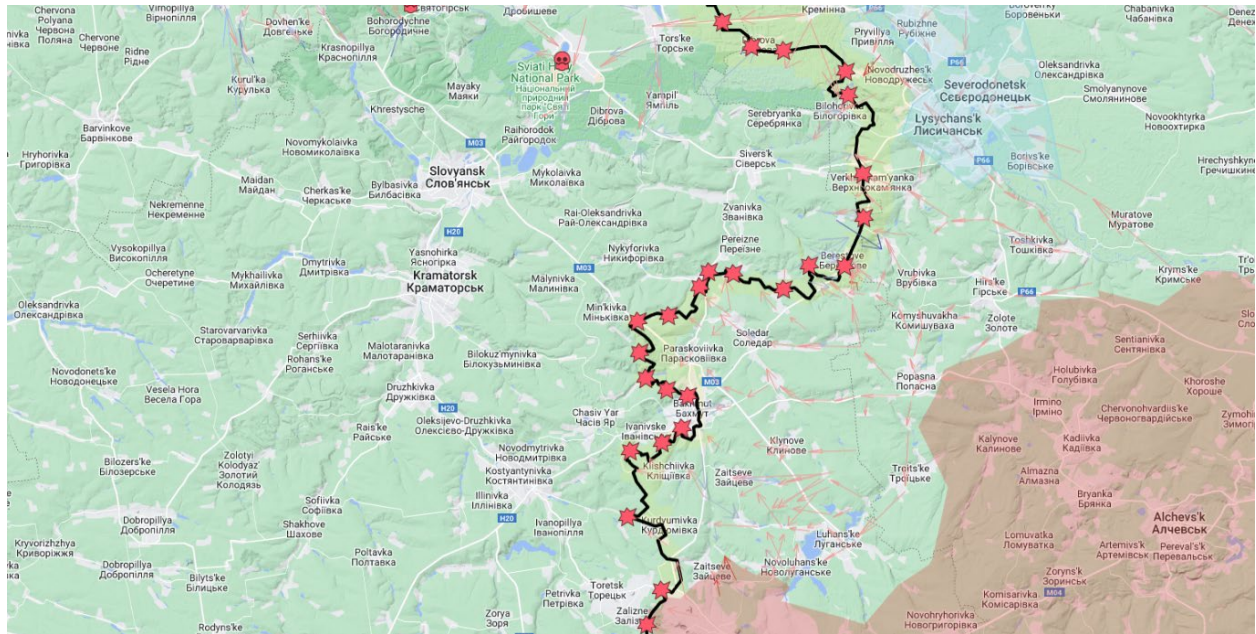


Lysychansk Operational Area

South of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], a geolocated video showed Russian troops had made a [marginal advance in the area of the chalk mine](#).⁸ Ukrainian and Russian troops have traded defensive positions in this area for a year.

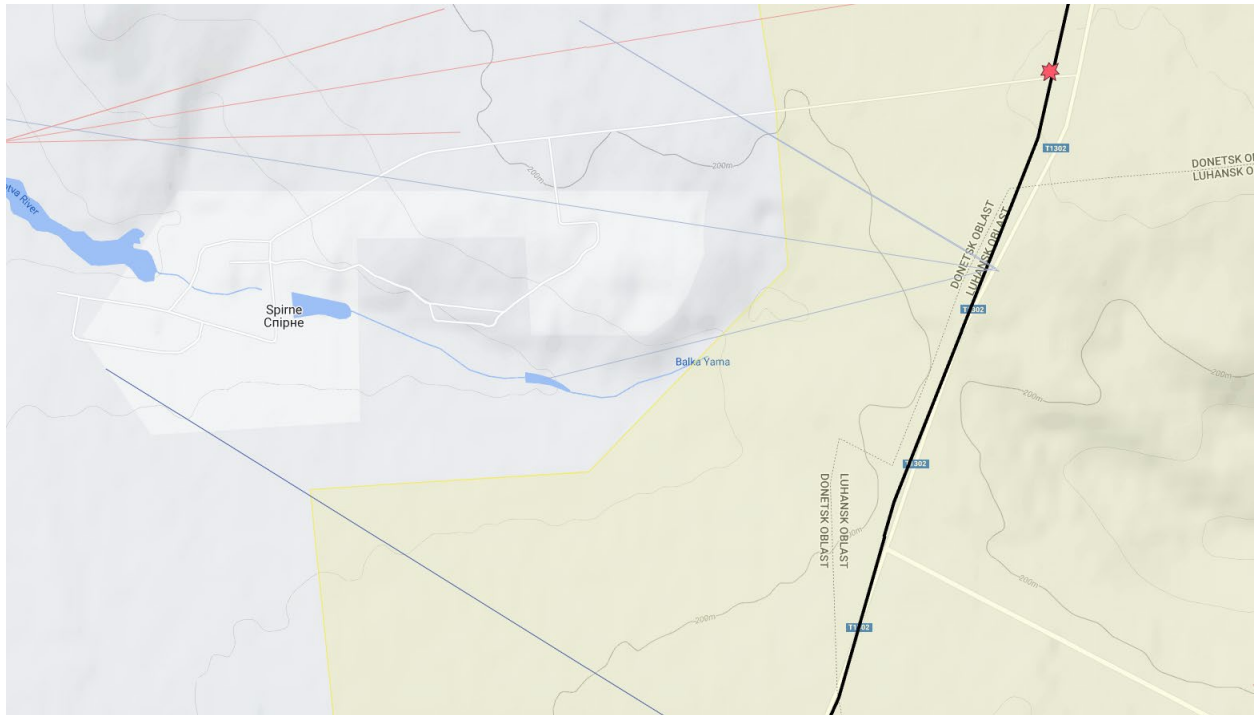
⁸ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1686758651032125440>

NORTHEAST DONETSK




Russian Objective: Complete the capture of Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region, set conditions for September 2023 elections

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, collapse the Russian flanks while maximizing casualties, draw Russian reserves into the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

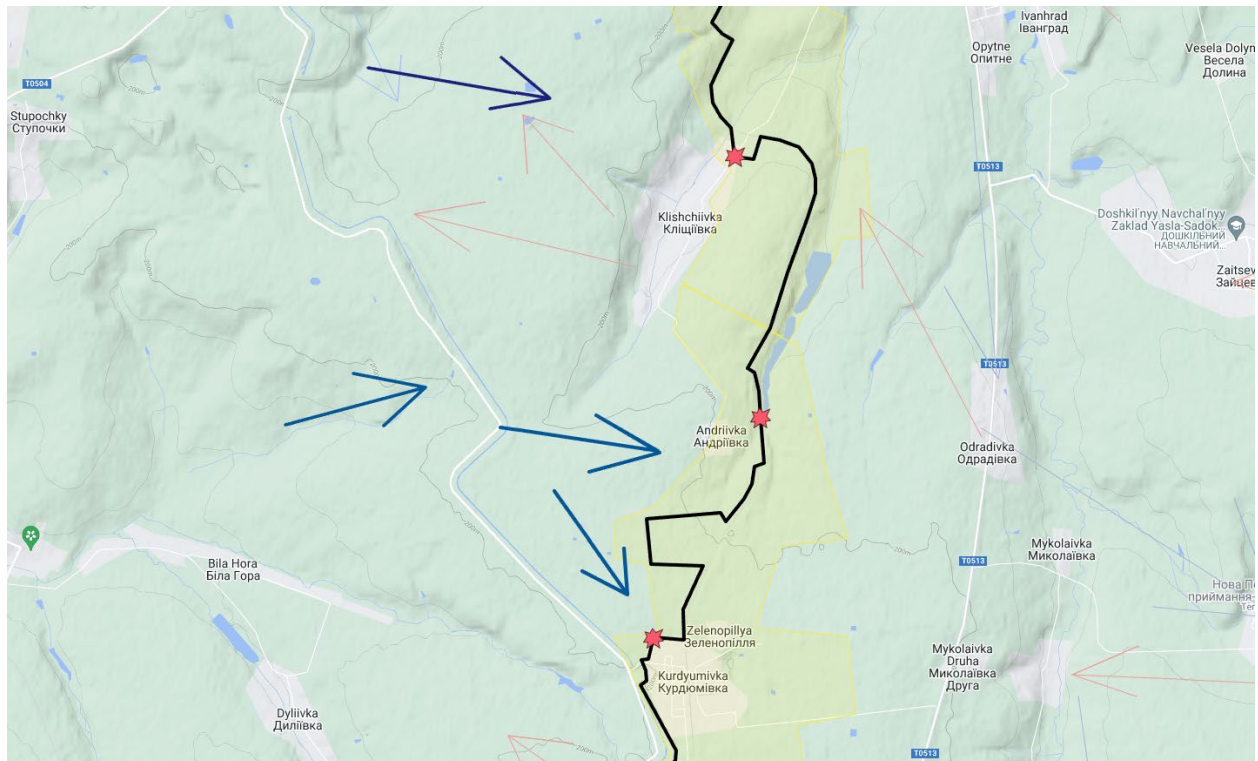


Siversk Operational Area

The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) falsely claimed that Russian forces repulsed a Ukrainian attack at [Spirne](#).⁹ The attack was little more than a touch, with Russian troops dug in at the T-1302 Highway  [attacked by drone-delivered IEDs](#), destroying a T-90 tank, a bunker, and forcing a squad of Russian forces to retreat.¹⁰ Based on the location of the Russian troops and their retreat to the east in our assessment, their positions at the gas compressor plant have been abandoned or are held by Ukraine. Based on the new intelligence, we updated the map.

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁰ https://twitter.com/_skripka_/status/1686814214940217344



Klishchiivka Operational Area

[Klishchiivka](#) and [Andriivka](#) remain unoccupied, with Ukrainian forces pushing Russian troops further east. At Klishchiivka, Russian troops were able to hold their positions on the northern edge of the settlement and along the railroad tracks. Russian attempts at a counterattack ended in failure.^{11 12} Ukrainian sources confirmed that Andriivka is unoccupied with Russian troops retreating

¹¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10809>

¹² <https://t.me/rybar/50376>

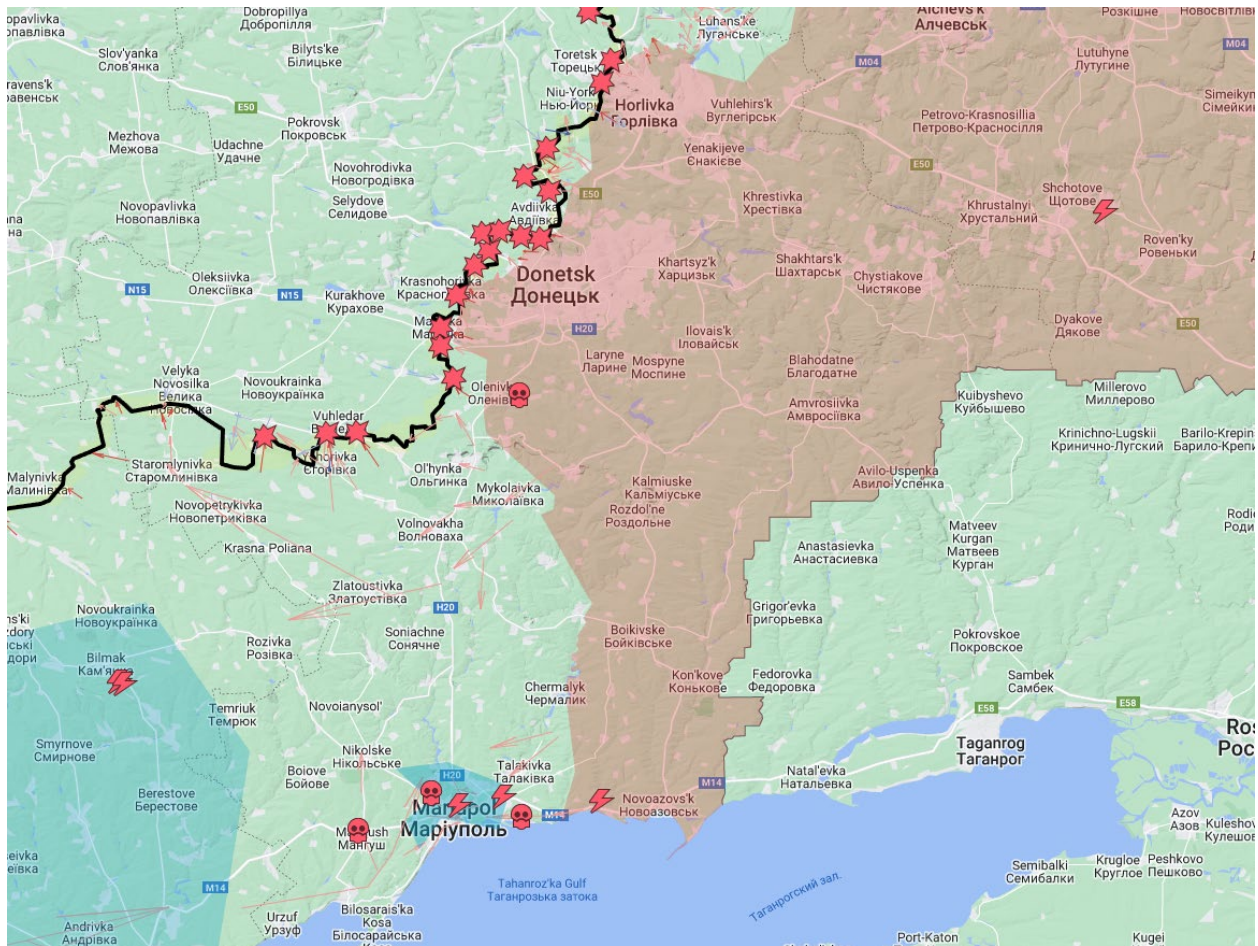
south toward Kurdyumivka, but the hamlet is under intense artillery fire.

At [Kurdyumivka](#), a Russian attempt to push Ukrainian forces back across the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal failed. At the same time, Rybar reported that Ukrainian forces had occupied the cemetery at the northwest edge of the administrative border of Kurdyumivka.¹³ ¹⁴ We updated the map based on the new intelligence and other reports of unspecified marginal gains in the area.

¹³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10809>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/50376>

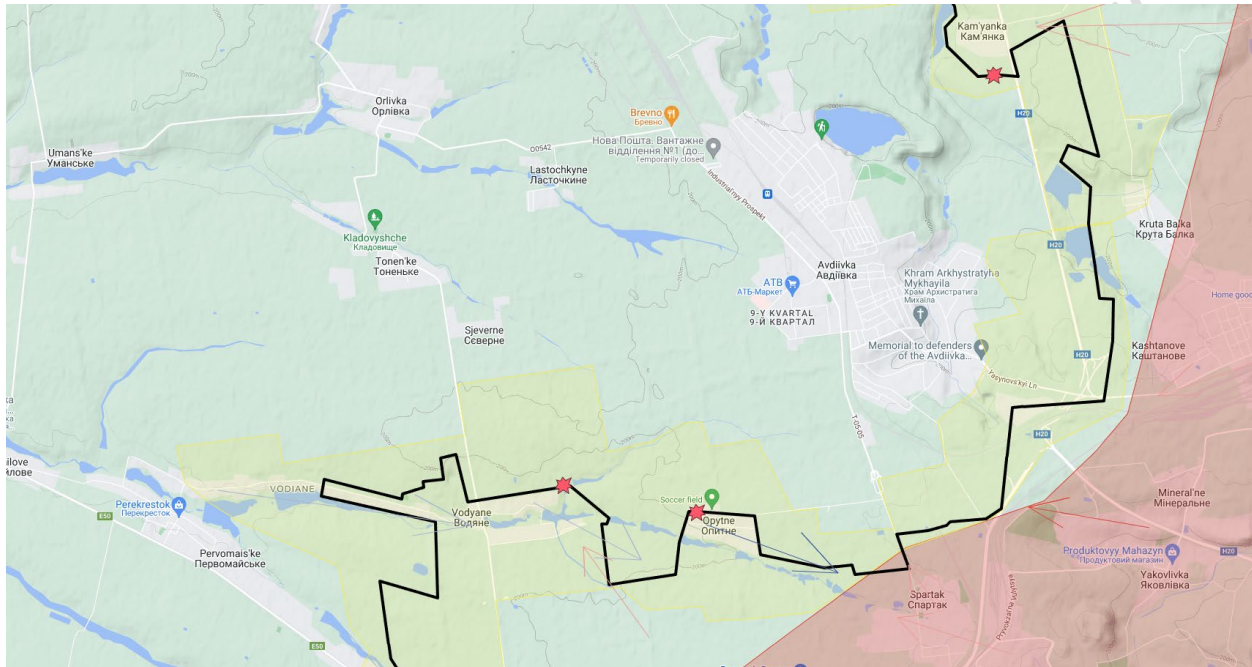
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast

Ukrainian Objective: Set conditions for larger offensive operations, find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses,

destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

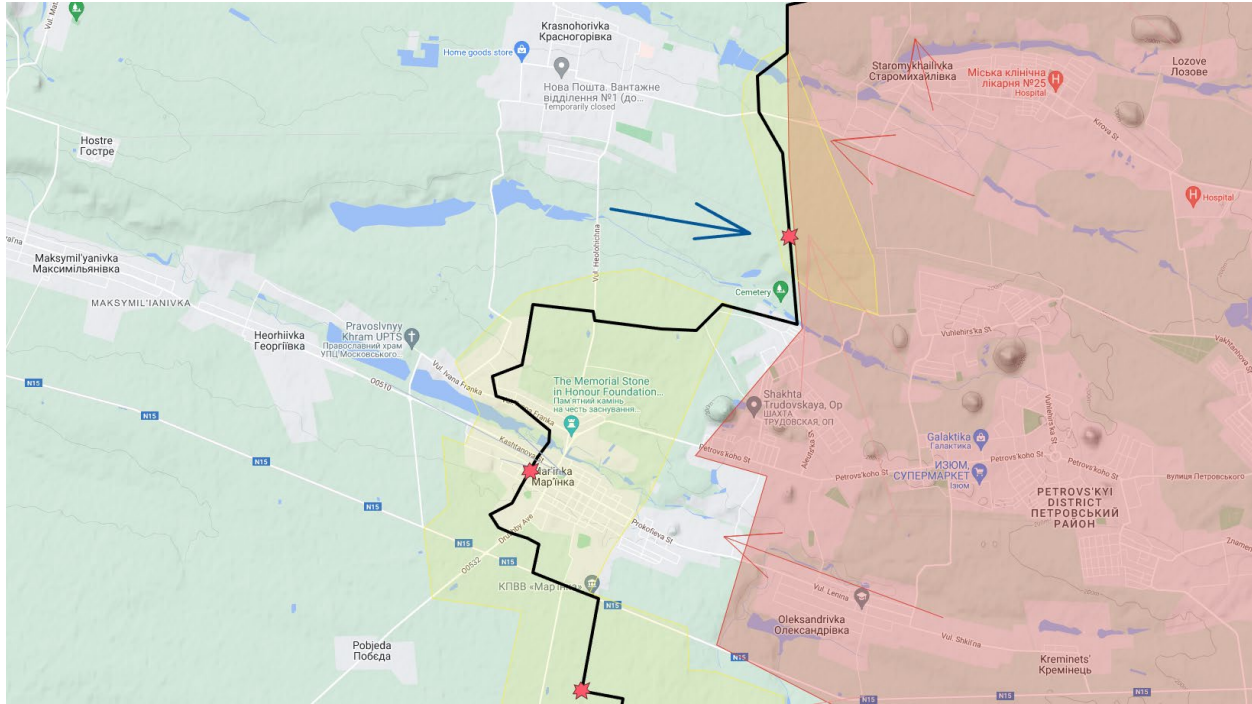


Avdiivka Operational Area

RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the gray area between [Sjeverne and Vodyane](#), another case of a Ukrainian touch.¹⁵ A Ukrainian drone attacked Russian positions in the gray area north of Vodyane, [finishing off a disabled tank](#) and striking a foxhole dug under it.¹⁶

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



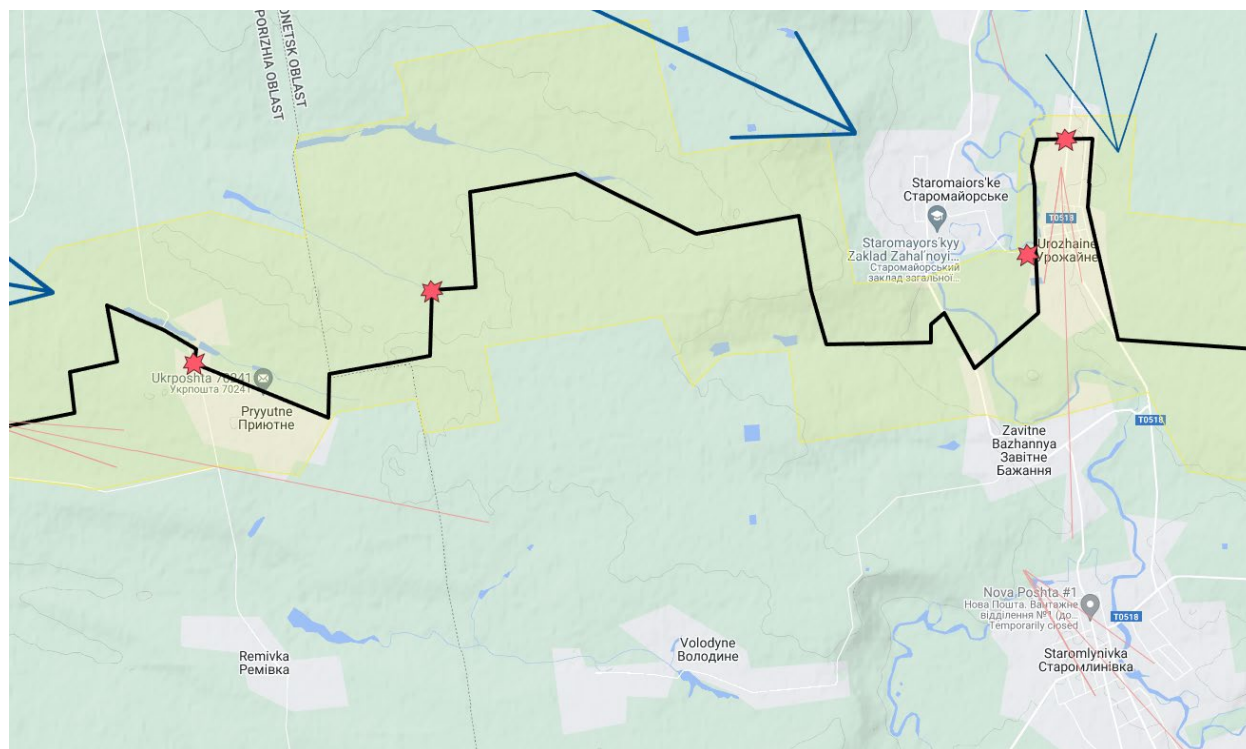
Marinka Operational Area

Yes, mutual fighting was reported in [Marinka](#), with no change in the situation.^{17 18 19}

¹⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10809>

¹⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14148>



Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Russian attacks from the northern part of [Urozhaine](#) were unsuccessful.²⁰ Russian forces, supported by Russian Air Force and army aviation (VKS), attempted to advance on [Staromaiorske](#) from the west and were unsuccessful.^{21 22 23} Ukrainian military leaders said that fire control had been established on the Russian ground line of communication (GLOC) from Novozlatopil to Lyubymivka to Staromlynivka, as well as holding fire control on the GLOC

²⁰ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10809>


²¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10809>

²² https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14148>

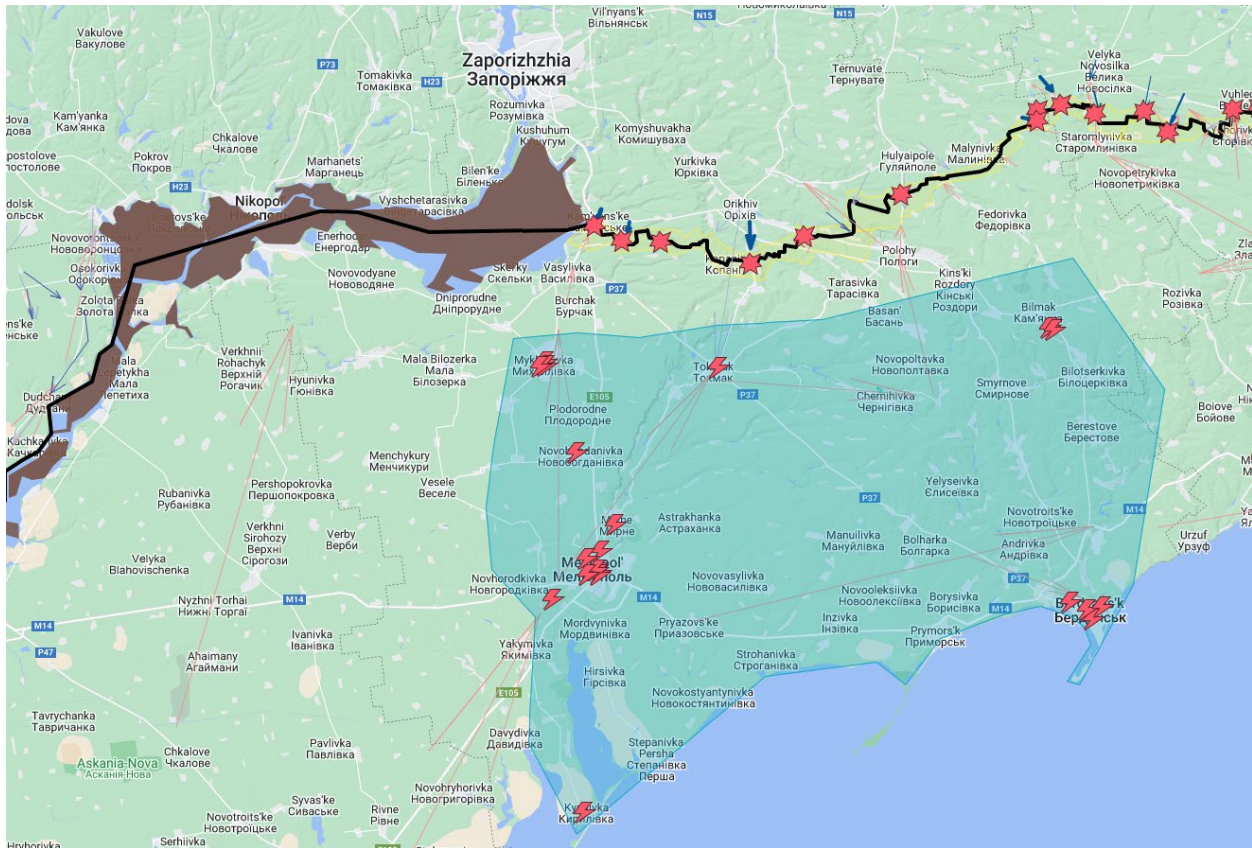
from Kermenchyk in the direction of Novodonetske, which remains a no man's land.

Occupied Donetsk

Insurgent in Mariupol recorded a convoy of 30 KamAZ trucks with Russian troops and ammunition being stationed at a  [school converted into a barracks in the city](#).²⁴

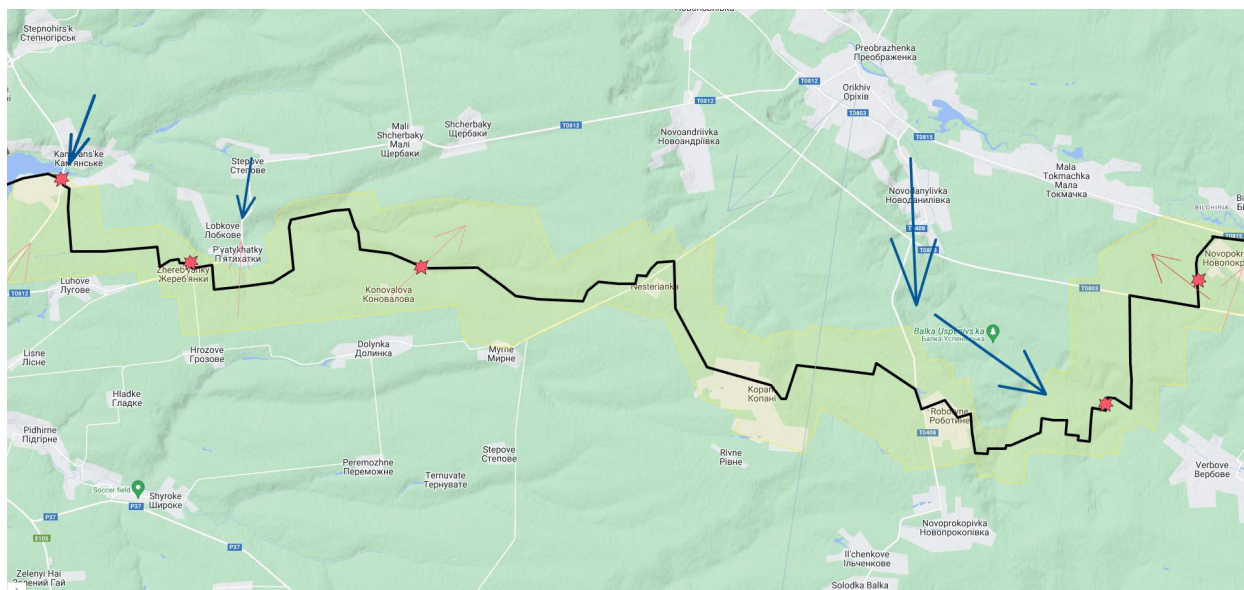
²⁴ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/12183>

ZAPORIZHIA




Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, break Russian defensive lines, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



Orikhiv Operational Area

Positional fighting and probing attacks continued between [Robotyne](#) and [Verbove](#), with no change in the situation.^{25 26}

The operational tempo remains low. RMOD's claim of a Ukrainian offensive in the direction of [Zherebyanky](#) was also false, with the "battle" consisting of  [harassing attacks and drone strikes](#).²⁷

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that eight medical buses arrived at Hospital No. 2 with patients from Zaporizhzhia, overwhelming the facility.²⁸

²⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28879 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14148>

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/blinzka/status/1686677955655741441>

²⁸ v

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There was no update on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

At the time of publication, there were multiple reports from two different sources of a Storm Shadow missile strike near Prymorsk, west of Berdyansk, with a Russian ammunition depot destroyed and cooking off. We could not verify the report at the time of publication.^{29 30 31}

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Operational Command South (OKS) reported 17 vessels of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol, with a frigate and Kilo-class

²⁹ <https://t.me/brdnews/13582>


³⁰ <https://t.me/brdprotiv/1107>

³¹ https://twitter.com/Maks_NAFO_FELLA/status/1687024253361606656

submarine capable of launching up to 12 Kalibr cruise missiles.^{32 33}

Igor Konashenkov, the spokesperson for the Russian MOD, claimed that Ukraine attacked an unnamed Russian warship with an uncrewed surface vessel. There was no other information released.³⁴

Occupied Crimea

The Hvardiiske airfield, home of the Russian 37th Aviation Regiment, was hit by at least two Storm Shadow cruise missiles, destroying two hangars.³⁵ Bad Russian operational security (OPSEC)  [made it impossible to deny the strike](#), or claim that air defense around the base was active.³⁶ This is the second military base hit on Crimea in 48 hours.

Odesa

The attack of Russian drones on the port infrastructure at Izmail destroyed 40,000 tons of grain, awaiting export to African countries, China, and Israel. Since July 17, Russian

³² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108263>

³³ https://t.me/our_odessa/51703

³⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413887/>

³⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108342>

³⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108278>

attacks have destroyed 220,000 tons of Ukrainian grain slated for transport to other nations. According to the World Food Programme, which estimates, 1,660 pounds of grain would feed one person for one year. In our analysis, just the destroyed grain was enough to feed one million people and has been destroyed in less than three weeks. The infrastructure of the Danube Shipping Company, the key Ukrainian freight carrier on the Danube, suffered the greatest damage, according to the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine.^{37 38}

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

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

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Free Kherson

Russian forces conducted 55 fire missions on free Kherson, firing 264 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets fired by

³⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108310>

³⁸ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/18857>

multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs. The city of Kherson was hit 72 times, wounding two people, with one requiring hospitalization.³⁹

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

There wasn't any significant activity in this area.

³⁹ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1064>

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, 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

There wasn't any significant activity in this area.

THEATERWIDE

Russian launched 15 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, mostly toward Kyiv, with all 15 intercepted without incident.⁴⁰ In July, Russia used 246 Shahed-136 UAVs, with 205 shot down. Russia improved its success rate by targeting areas with thinner air defenses. In May, 413 drones were launched; in June, there were 197.⁴¹ After today's attacks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108374>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19757>

said, "Another night of war, another night of work for our heroic air defense units. We are defending ourselves to the maximum of our capabilities. We shot down a lot of Shaheds drones. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Unfortunately, there is damage [*referring to the August 1 attacks – Ed.*]. The most significant ones are in the south of the country. Russian terrorists have once again attacked ports, grain, and global food security. All our operational services worked efficiently. The world must respond. When civilian ports are targeted, when terrorists deliberately destroy even grain elevators, it is a threat to everyone on all continents. Russia can and must be stopped."⁴²

The mayor of Ceatalchioi, Tulcea, Romania, and several residents claim that on August 1, several Russian-launched Shahed-136 kamikaze drones flew over their homes, and one crashed on the Romanian side of the border.⁴³

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis wrote on Twitter, "Russia's continued attacks against the Ukrainian civilian infrastructure on [the] Danube, in the proximity of Romania, are unacceptable. There are war crimes, and they


⁴² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413825/>

⁴³ <https://t.me/Romanianintell/3914>

further affect Ukraine's capacity to transfer their food products towards those in need in the world."⁴⁴

Editor's Note: DO SOMETHING BEYOND ANGRY TWEET OR X OR XEET OR WHATEVER IT IS CALLED NOW. HOW ABOUT MOVING AIR DEFENSES TO THE DANUBE? HOW ABOUT FLYING COMBAT AIR PATROLS WHEN YOUR RADAR SEES THE DRONES COMING?

Ukraine arrested 18-year-old Dmytro Pientsov and 20-year-old Eduard Isinov and accused the pair of treason. The duo reportedly pretended to be bike tourists, mapping and photographing the location of Ukrainian troops, checkpoints, and defenses and sending the information along with a marked Google map to their Russian handler. The pair were arrested by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).⁴⁵

Analysis of Russian Lancet kamikaze drone debris indicated that Russia is resorting to dual-use products that aren't blocked by sanctions in their assembly. One drone had a  [hobbyist motor from the Czech Republic in it](#).⁴⁶ During

⁴⁴ <https://albaniandailynews.com/news/romania-condemns-russian-war-crime-near-its-border>

⁴⁵ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5705

⁴⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5715

assembly, Russia wrapped the engine's label showing it was made by the Model Motors company, in electrician's tape.⁴⁷

Ukraine has developed a ground launch decoy (GLD) using the Trembita cruise missile design. The Trembita can be armed with a guidance system but can also be built cheaply and launched unarmed as a decoy to confuse Russian air defense. The new GLD has entered serial production.⁴⁸

The Economist reported Ukraine has developed a non-precision bomb specifically built to be delivered by drones. The Bunny weighs 800 grams and is manufactured using 3D printing technology. Developed specifically to meet the challenge of warfare in Ukraine, Bunny has been in serial production for four months, with approximately 8,000 made a month.⁴⁹

Oleksii Reznikov, Ukraine's Defence Minister, announced that the Ukrainian FPV drone Mk.10 had entered serial production and service with the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The small quadcopters are assembled in Ukraine mostly from foreign source parts using a distributed production

⁴⁷ <https://twitter.com/slovyanskasil/status/1686784148101382236>

⁴⁸ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5714

⁴⁹ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5712

network. While Reznikov held the Mk.10 FPV drone in a photo, no technical specifications were given.⁵⁰

Ukrainian pilots will begin training on F-16 fighter jets in August 2023, President Zelenskyy said. "This month, the training of our Ukrainian pilots will begin. Now it is worth working one hundred percent with the countries that have these planes, and that will be able to transfer them to us after training. This is a powerful, complex task. The delivery and combat use of F-16 by our pilots should take place as soon as possible."⁵¹

After relocating all strategic air assets from Engels-2 Strategic Aviation Airfield near Saratov in November 2022, after Ukraine successfully hit the airbase with at least one drone, the Russian VKS repositioned nine Tu-95MS bombers at the base that had been at Murmansk.^{52 53}

One of the members of the so-called "Council of Commanders of PMC Wagner," who goes by the call sign "Mehan," was photographed arriving at Khrabrovo airport in Kaliningrad. Mehan has previously received the Hero of

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413874/>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/DPSUkr/12700>

⁵² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108345>

⁵³ <https://twitter.com/TreasChest/status/1686826286746935296>

Russia from Russian President Vladimir Putin and is considered a close ally of Yevgeny Prigozhin.⁵⁴

The Belarusian Hajun Project, an opposition group, reported that the aircrews of the Belarusian Mi-24 Hind gunship and a Mi-8 troop transport that crossed the Polish border on August 1 were diverted to Machulishchy Airfield and taken into custody by security officials.⁵⁵

The table for equipment losses was **updated on July 31, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/40456>

⁵⁵ https://twitter.com/Hajun_BY/status/1686767040000925697

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to July 31, 2023. 11,495 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,067 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2047	250	8.19:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	141	345	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	936	305	3.07:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2595	671	3.88:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	337	313	1.08:1	—
MRAPs	46	134	0.34:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	198	344	0.58:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	245	16	15.31:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	327	73	4.48:1	—
Towed Artillery	266	142	1.87:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	473	188	2.52:1	↑
MLRS	251	50	5.02:1	↑
SAMs	139	118	1.18:1	↑
Mobile Radars	40	70	0.57:1	—
EW/ECW	49	4	12.25:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	85	69	1.23:1	—
Helicopters	107	31	3.45:1	↑
Naval Vessels	12	26	0.46:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Russian investigators decided to classify the criminal case against Igor Strelkov Girkin as a state secret. The former Defence Minister of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic has been accused of "extremism" for a May 2022 Telegram post criticizing the Kremlin for not paying Russian troops. Girkin's lawyer Aleksandr Molohov, refused to provide further comment, saying that this was the only information he could disclose.⁵⁶

ASSESSMENT: We will not be seeing or hearing from Girkin again.

There were 12 more firebombings of Russian military registration and enlistment offices reported on August 2, bringing the two-day total to 28. The youngest person arrested is 18, and the oldest is 84.^{57 58}

Belgorod Regional Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov began distributing weapons to the territorial guard without waiting for President Putin to sign the new law enabling

⁵⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413947/>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9770>

⁵⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413910/>

Russian regions to create their own PMCs with Putin's permission. At the time of the public distribution of hunting rifles, drones, and vehicles, no presidential order on creating such a company in the Belgorod region had been published by the Kremlin.⁵⁹ Gladkov claimed the guards were receiving "machine guns," but pictures showed they were issued Saiga MK hunting rifles. Some of the weapons issued in the pictures had no magazines.⁶⁰

Russian collaborator and the self-declared Chairman of the Parliament of Novorossiya, Oleg Tsaryov, wrote that in Sverdlovsk, the graveyards for PMC Wagner mercenaries are already falling into disrepair, with some graves sinking due to soil instability. "Now, all of Wagner's activities are financed exclusively from Prigozhin's funds. But he does not have enough strength for the lifelong rehabilitation of disabled veterans, for the maintenance of cemeteries, and for everything else."⁶¹

According to residents of the occupied territories that embraced Russian Mir, many Russian banks are refusing to issue the Russian equivalent of home equity lines of credit on property located in the Donetsk People's Republic,

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9769>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/dshrg2/1108>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/olegtsarov/7548>

Luhansk People's Republic, occupied Kherson and occupied Zaporizhzhia. Who would have thought putting up your home in an illegally-occupied war zone would be considered a bad risk by Russian banks?

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A report prepared by the Mobile Justice Team of the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA) for Ukraine, financed by the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United States, and set up by Global Rights Compliance, to support Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office (OPG) found there were 320 cases of extrajudicial detention in western Kherson under occupation at 35 sites where widescale torture and sexual violence occurred. "Of those victims, at least 43% explicitly mentioned practices of torture in the detention centers, citing sexual violence as a common tactic imposed on them by Russian guards, on both male and female prisoners, with preliminary results showing military personnel were most likely to experience torture in the detention centers," the report said. According to the report, at least 36 victims mentioned the use of electrocution during interrogations, often genital electrocution by Russian guards. Other victims mentioned threats of genital mutilation, and at least one victim was

forced to witness the rape of another detainee using a foreign object covered in a condom."⁶²

Deep breath.

In breaking news, ten Ukrainian children who were illegally deported to Russia have been repatriated. We will have more information on August 3.⁶³

GEOPOLITICS

Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Belarus's diplomat over the helicopter border incident. According to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Pawel Jablonski, the conversation with the Belarusian diplomat was "very short." Jablonski told the Belarusian attache that there had been a decrease in the level of security at the border by Belarusian border guards due to the transfer of "Wagner" mercenaries to Belarus, as well as attempts by migrants to illegally cross the Belarusian-Polish border.⁶⁴

⁶² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413928/>

⁶³ https://t.me/Nazars_look/15613

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108303>

Jablonski was going through some things, telling a Polish radio station that relations with Ukraine "have not been the best."

"The conversation will be frank. It will be very specific, as always. We will convey our assessment of the current state of our relations, which, unfortunately, due to the remarks made by some representatives of the Ukrainian authorities recently, is not the best. No one is hiding this." Jabłoński added that Ukraine "expressed some emotions," adding Poland remains "lenient" because Ukraine is under attack. "We follow a policy of Polish national interests. We support Ukraine to the extent that it aligns with Polish national interests. This has always been the case and will always be the case."⁶⁵

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke with President Putin by phone, and the two leaders agreed that Putin would visit Anarka at a future date. Erdoğan said that steps should not be taken to escalate tensions during the Russia-Ukraine war, underlining the importance of the Black Sea Initiative, which he considers a "bridge of peace." During the call, Erdoğan said that the long-term shutdown of the Black Sea Initiative does not benefit anyone and that

⁶⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/2/7413853/>

the countries in need of grain and the low-income will suffer the most.

The special representative of the President of Brazil said he would not go to Saudi Arabia for peace talks. "There is no consensus around Zelensky's peace formula, [and] developing countries do not agree with it."⁶⁶

ECONOMICS

At the end of July, the average 4-week volume of oil exports from Russia amounted to 2.98 million barrels per day. According to an analysis by Bloomberg, it was the lowest level since the first week of January. Oil exports have declined 25% since May. For the second month in a row, the supply of Russian oil to India also dropped, and in August, this figure may reach the pre-sanction level of December 2022.⁶⁷

Whistleblowers at Aeroflot reported that unmaintained aircraft are at risk of an accident. As of July 31, there were only five Boeing 777s, two Airbus A321s, one A320, and an

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/rusbrief/142214>

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/rusbrief/142216>

A330 with red-tagged brakes. Russian airliners were permitted by the Kremlin to essentially steal hundreds of commercial aircraft in the spring of 2022 after discontinuing lease payments on the airframes.

The rouble continues to fall, trading at 94 for 1 U.S. dollar.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures for December 2023 delivery have skyrocketed after last week's attacks and spiked again on August 1 before declining to its July 17 price. At the time of publication, SRW Wheat Futures were trading at \$6.72 a bushel.


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 use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.


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

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

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is 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:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

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

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

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

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

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

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

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or

misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of 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 official 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.