



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 229

It has been 3,135 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Very little fighting was reported across Ukraine, with the nationwide missile attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure dominating the information space. There was likely more combat than reported, with the loss of communication networks in Ukraine reducing the amount of available social intelligence.

Russia fired 85 missiles and used 24 kamikaze drones in the largest wave of attacks since June 28-29. The strikes were designed to appease the Russian people, who are becoming increasingly vocal about the lack of progress for the "special military operation."

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. The attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure did not impact Ukraine's ability to wage

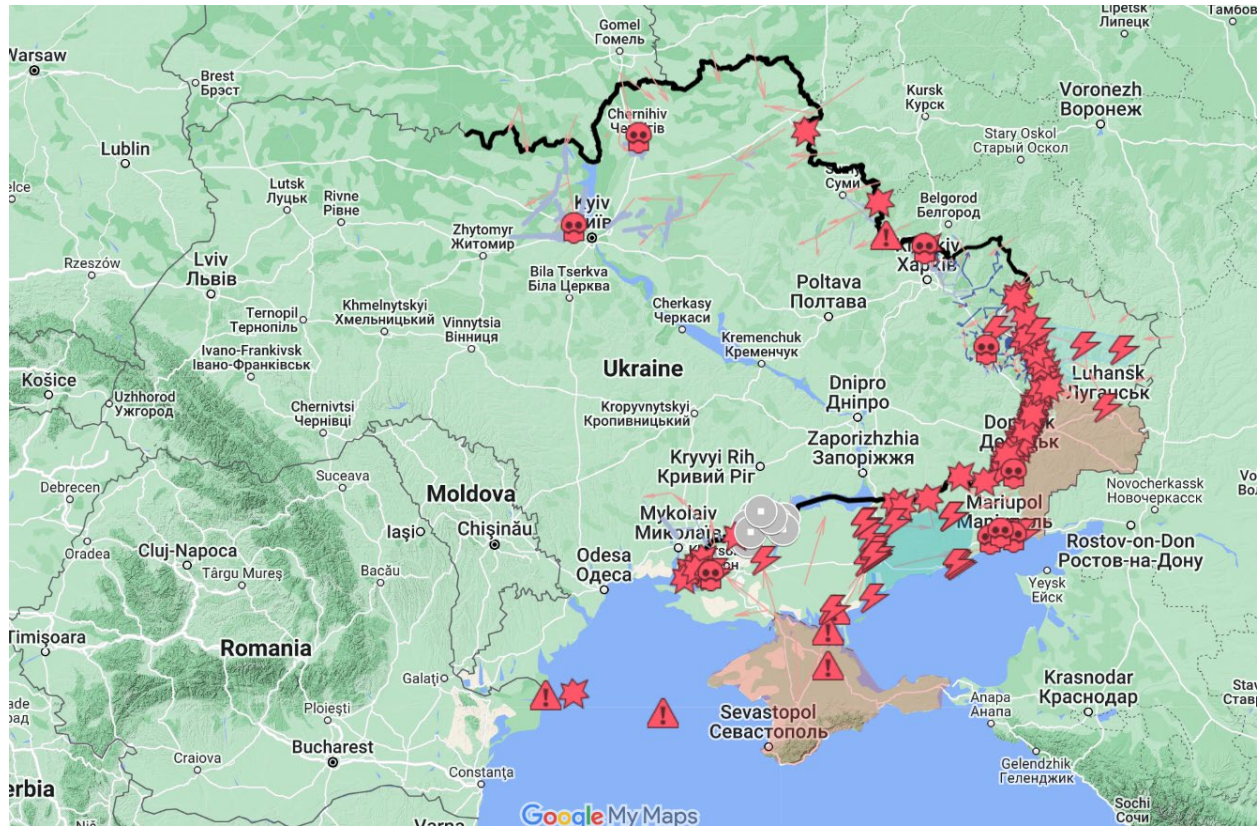
war and only succeeded in reinforcing Western support and bringing the war back into the news cycle.

2. In our assessment, the only way these attacks could be impactful is if Russia can maintain a sustained campaign over weeks at the same level of intensity, but the Russian armed forces no longer have the inventory to accomplish this.
3. Russian terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure will likely continue as Russia wastes its limited military cruise missile assets on non-essential targets that won't change the war's outcome.
4. We maintain our assessment that Russia is incapable of responding simultaneously to three counteroffensives in Luhansk, Kharkiv, and Kherson.
5. We maintain that if a Russian force of company size or larger surrenders in northern Kherson, it will create a cascade of surrendering Russian troops.
6. We maintain that mass surrenders could become a logistical problem for Ukraine, which could overwhelm the ongoing counteroffensive.
7. We maintain that using tactical nuclear weapons on the battlefield is highly unlikely as it would require striking what the Kremlin believes is Russian soil and Russian forces are incapable of fighting in a conventional environment, let alone a CBRN setting.
8. We maintain Russia's mobilization efforts are ineffective due to corruption, a lack of preparation,

violation of the social contract with the Russian people, and conscripts being sent en masse to Ukraine without vital equipment or training.

9. We maintain we are in the Mutually Assured Destruction Instability Paradox due to irresponsible language from the Kremlin, looming decisions from Moscow leadership, and the deteriorating kinetic warfare situation for Russian troops in Ukraine.
10. We maintain our assessment that the Russian military in Ukraine is combat destroyed is accurate, and the Russian military has no meaningful way to respond to the ongoing and accelerating collapse on multiple fronts. Conscripts that were rushed to the Donbas in the past week have not slowed the deterioration and are not contributing to improving combat power.

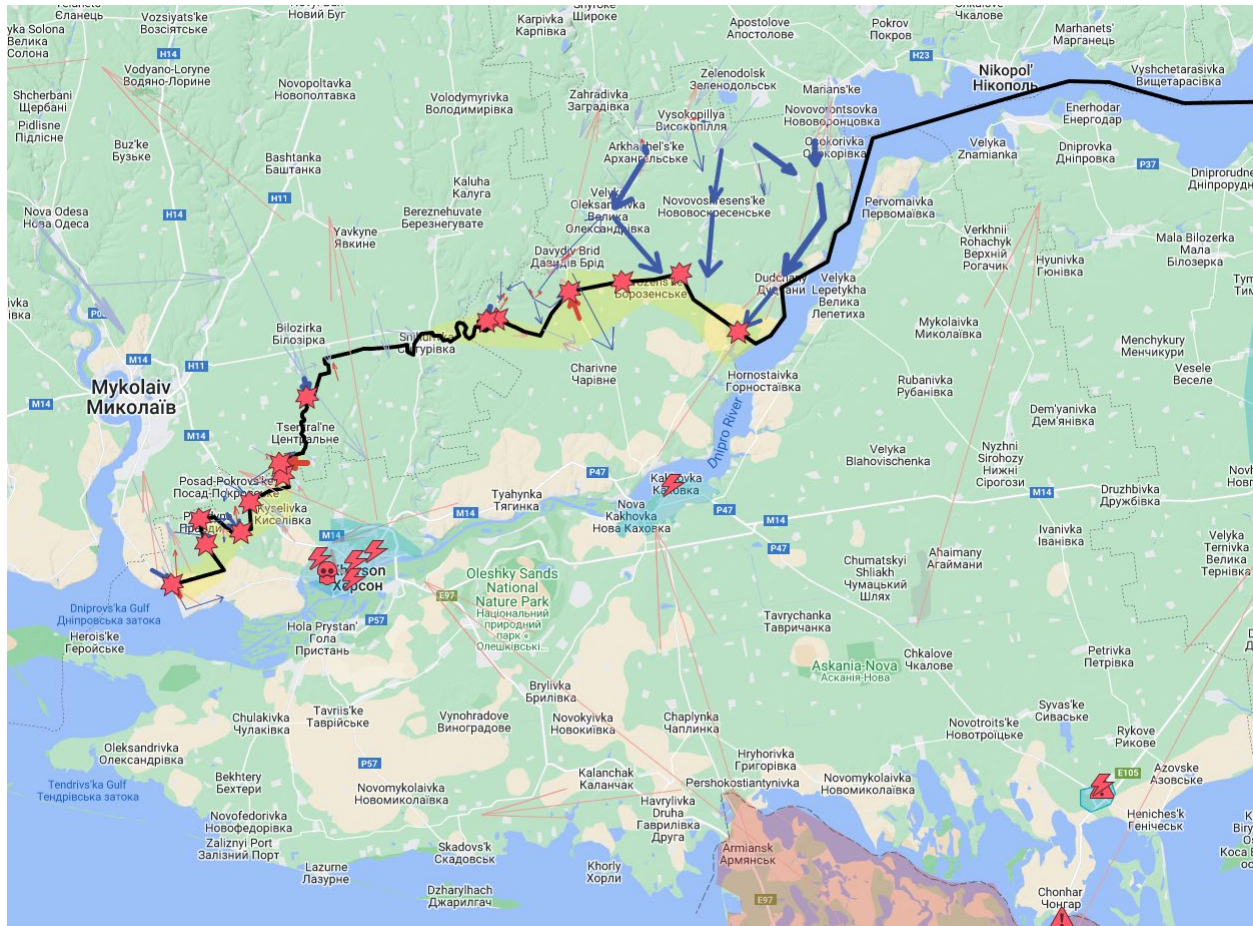
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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 [Kherson](#), 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>

KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV



Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold existing defensive lines, protect remaining Lines of Communication (LOC – supply lines), defend Kherson, prevent envelopment on the western side of the Dnipro River, restrict insurgent activity

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to

end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

Neither belligerent reliably reported significant fighting along the Kherson axis today, which appears to have stabilized after the second phase of the Ukrainian counteroffensive. The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that Ukraine tried to advance on [Sadok](#) and [Borozenske](#) using the equivalent of a full combined arms brigade and was unsuccessful. No other intelligence or social intelligence information was reported from any source, including Pro-Russian milbloggers, supporting the Russian MOD's claim.¹

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported a significant increase in Russian artillery fire along the entire line of contact.² There were no indications that this was part of a pending offensive push. Ukrainian artillery activity was subdued, with Operational Command South (OCS) reporting four airstrikes and 205 fire missions.³ Ukraine continued to focus on Suppress and Destroy Enemy Air Defense (SEAD/DEAD) activity and reportedly shot down a Russian Su-25 ground attack

¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/20714

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT](#)

³ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=430700115838291>

aircraft near [Dudchany](#). GSAFU reported that a hangar holding Russian military equipment was destroyed in Beryslav.⁴

Russian sources claimed the Antonovsky Bridge had been hit by rockets fired by HIMARS as Ukrainian forces continued to interdict lines of communication (LOC, aka supply lines).⁵ At the time of publication, Russian positions in the city of Kherson area were under attack by GMLRS, but there was no other information.⁶

NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed heat anomalies near Russian-occupied [Kizomys](#) at the mouth of the Dnipro near the Staryi Rvach River.

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

⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/40042>

⁶ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1579551192799383552

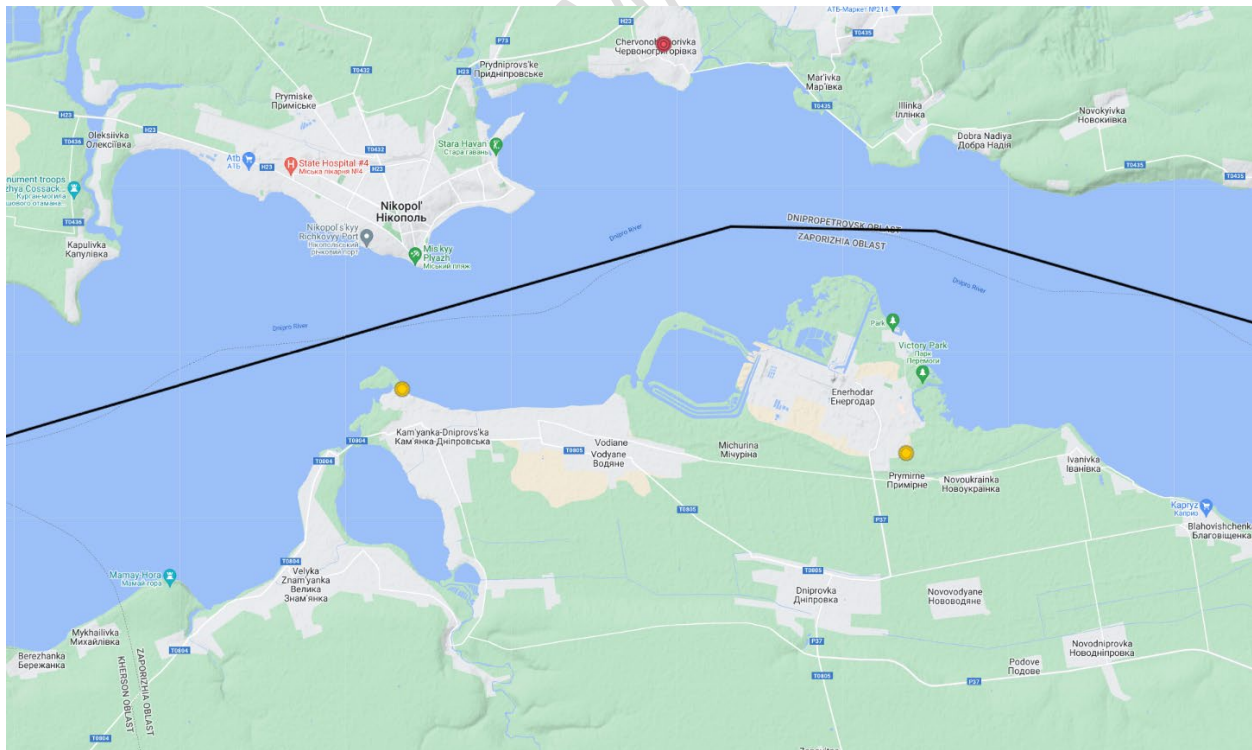


Russia continues to shell southeastern Mykolaiv from the Kinburn Spit, with the coastal town of [Kutsurub](#) coming under fire. There weren't reports of significant damage or casualties. Russian chatter of a looming Ukrainian amphibious assault on the Kinburn Spit has vanished, but the shellings of Ochakiv and the surrounding towns have not.

DNIPROPETROVSK & NORTHERN ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and prepare the area's civilian population for a nuclear accident



The status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was unchanged from yesterday, and there were no reports of shelling or mine explosions at or near the plant.

Nikopol, Chervonohryhorivka, and potentially Marhanets were attacked again with Grad and Urgan rockets fired by MLRS. There were no casualties reported, and the damage appeared to be light.⁷

Longer-range Tornado-S rockets fired by MLRS hit the town of Velykomykhailivka. The scope of the damage was unclear, but Russian forces have increased the use of unguided Tornado-S rockets, which can have a range of up to 120 kilometers.

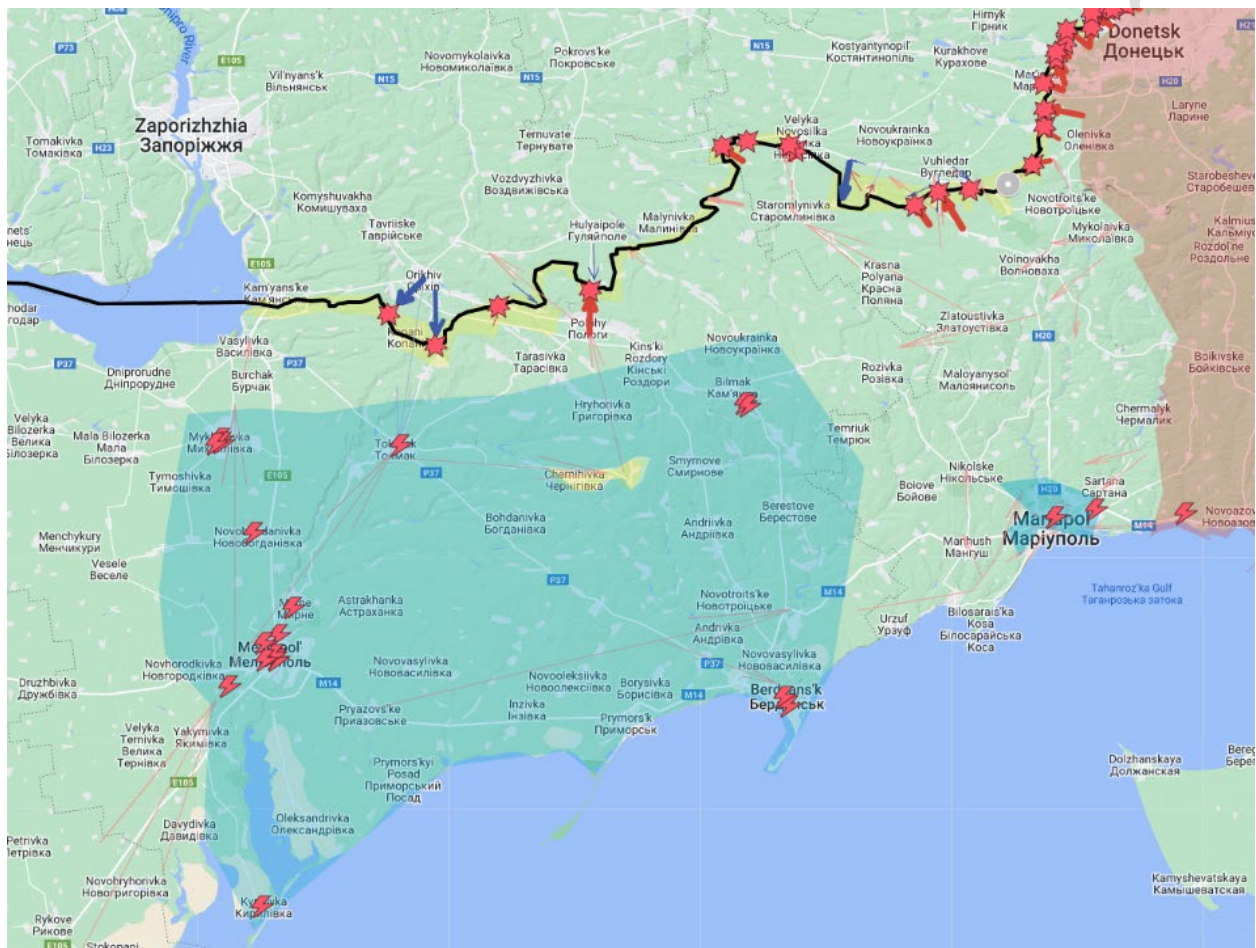
During the overnight hours, Zaporizhzhia was hit again by Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for ground attack. The missiles damaged civilian and city infrastructure, including a school and a hospital.⁸

⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371362/>

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371359/>

DONBAS REGION

SOUTHERN ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, defend the existing line of conflict, and end the insurrection that is throughout the Russian-controlled territory

Ukrainian Objective: Fix Russian assets in place to prevent redeployment, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, support and expand the insurrection in occupied territories

We can only report very sporadic artillery fire from the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikiiv to Shcherbaky.^{9 10} Russian milbloggers continue to report that Ukraine is preparing a large counteroffensive in the Orikiiv region.¹¹

The Ukraine Territorial Defense Forces reported that a Russian Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopter [was shot down](#) by the Zaporizhia Territorial Defense Brigade using a MANPAD.¹² Russian helicopter pilots have paid a heavy price in Zaporizhia, where 20% of all Ka-52 choppers shot down since the start of the war kissed the ground near Rivnopil.

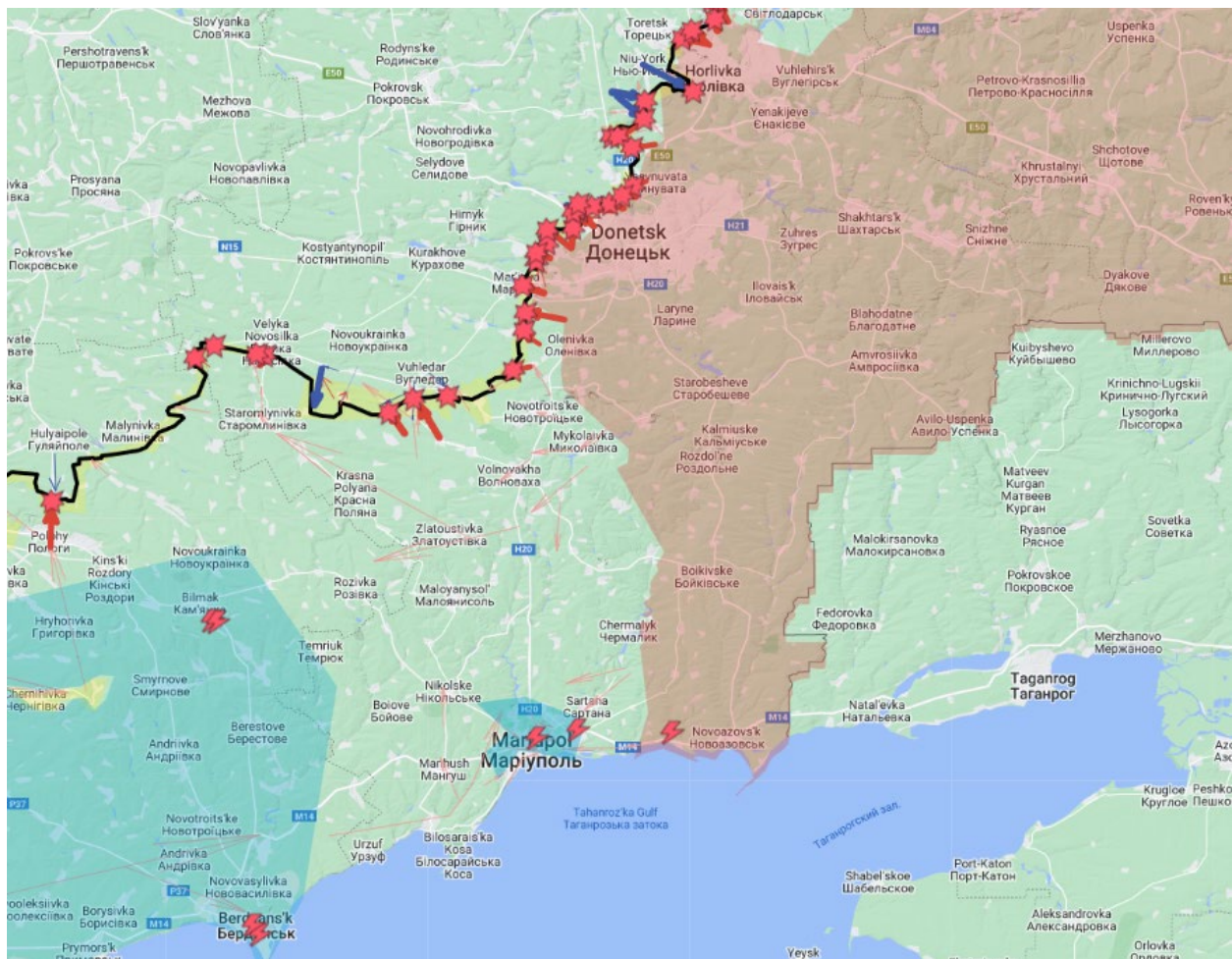
⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT](#)

¹⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

¹¹ <https://t.me/rybar/40042>

¹² https://twitter.com/TDF_UA/status/1579433959280480256

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



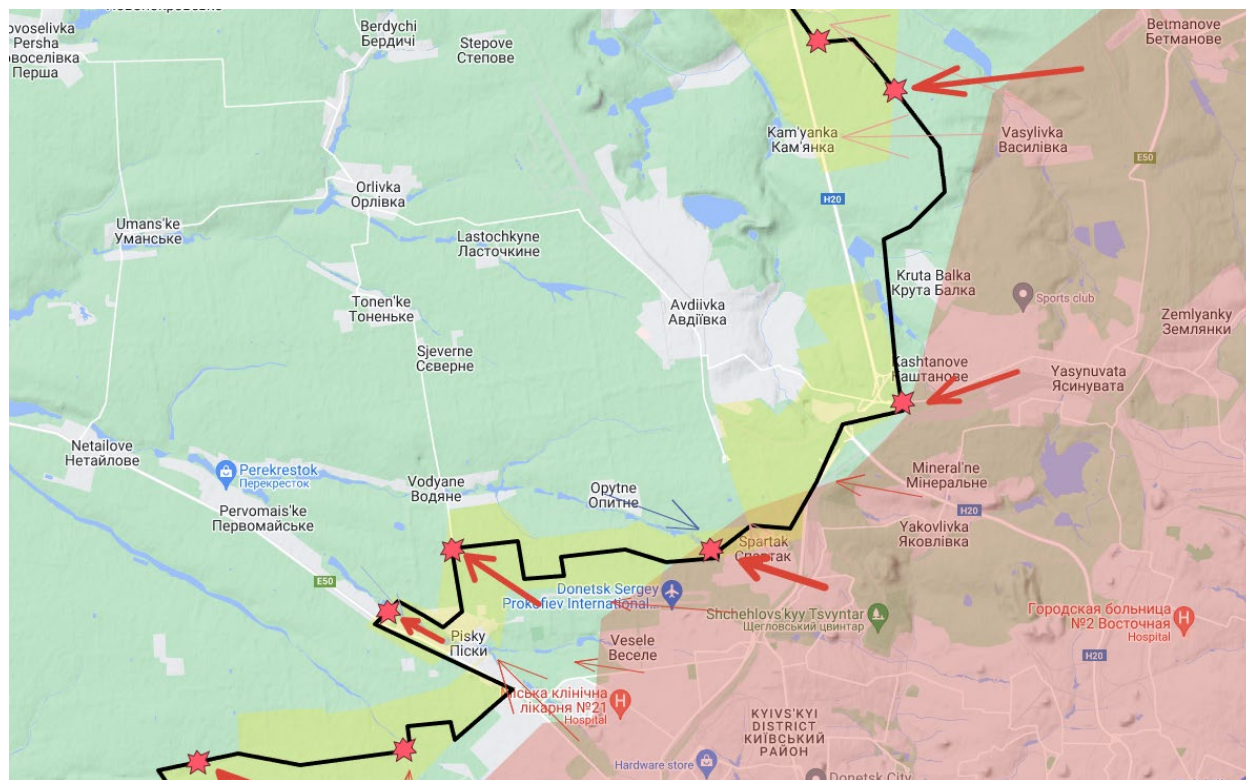
Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, maintain existing defensive lines, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

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

The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) militia public relations channel did not release a report today, so we have no information on the alleged Ukrainian equipment destroyed or the number of artillery and rocket strikes. They did [release a video showing mortar units firing](#), but in our analysis, the video was staged, and the drone video showing where the shells were landing did not match the weather and lighting conditions of the firing positions.¹³

¹³ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9197



Positional fighting continued near [Pervomaiske](#) with no change to the line of conflict. Shelling of Marinka was reportedly intense, but there wasn't any ground fighting.¹⁴

¹⁵

The widescale missile attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure knocked out power to as many as 42 communities in the self-declared Donetsk People's

¹⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/40042>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14360>

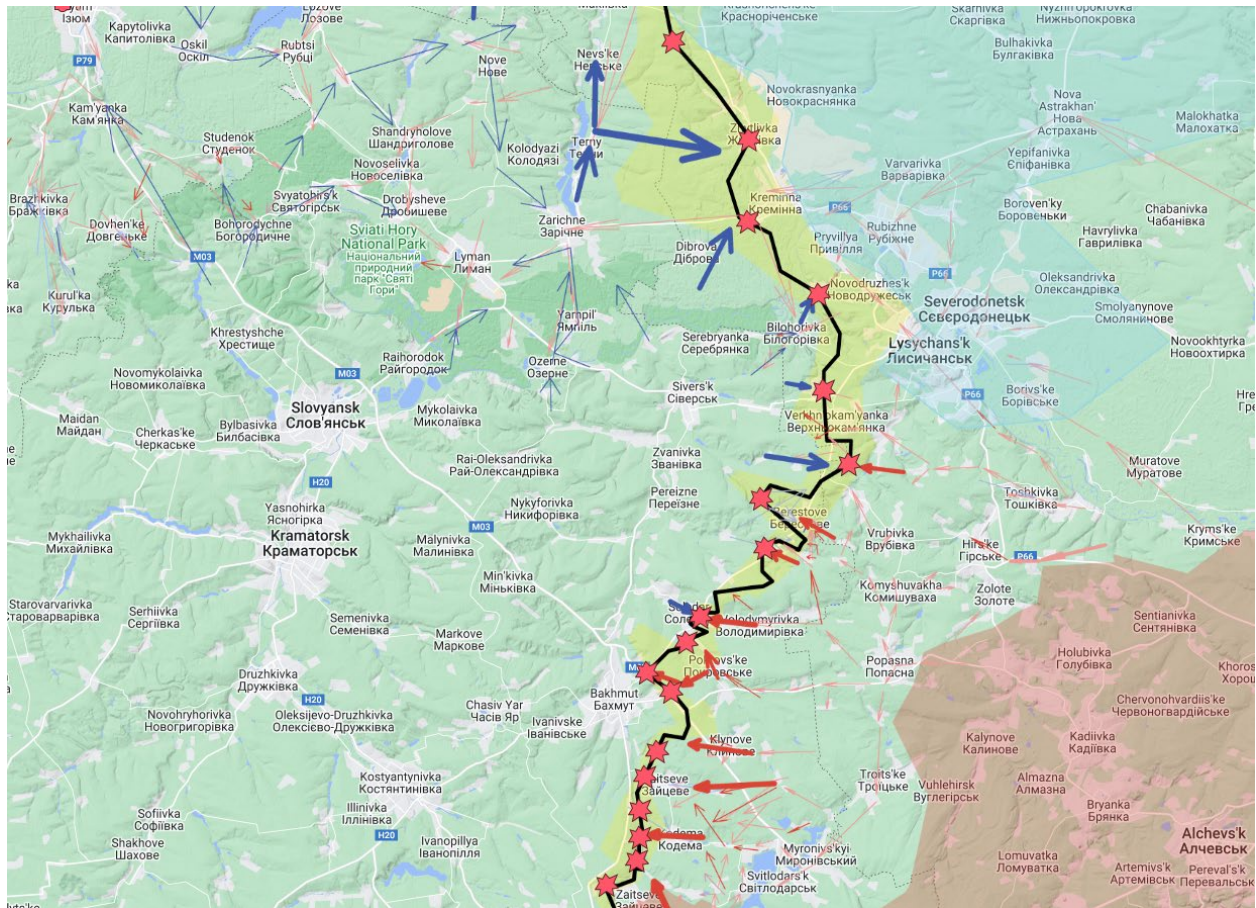


Republic due to transformers being damaged by power spikes through the lines.¹⁶

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¹⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/34203>

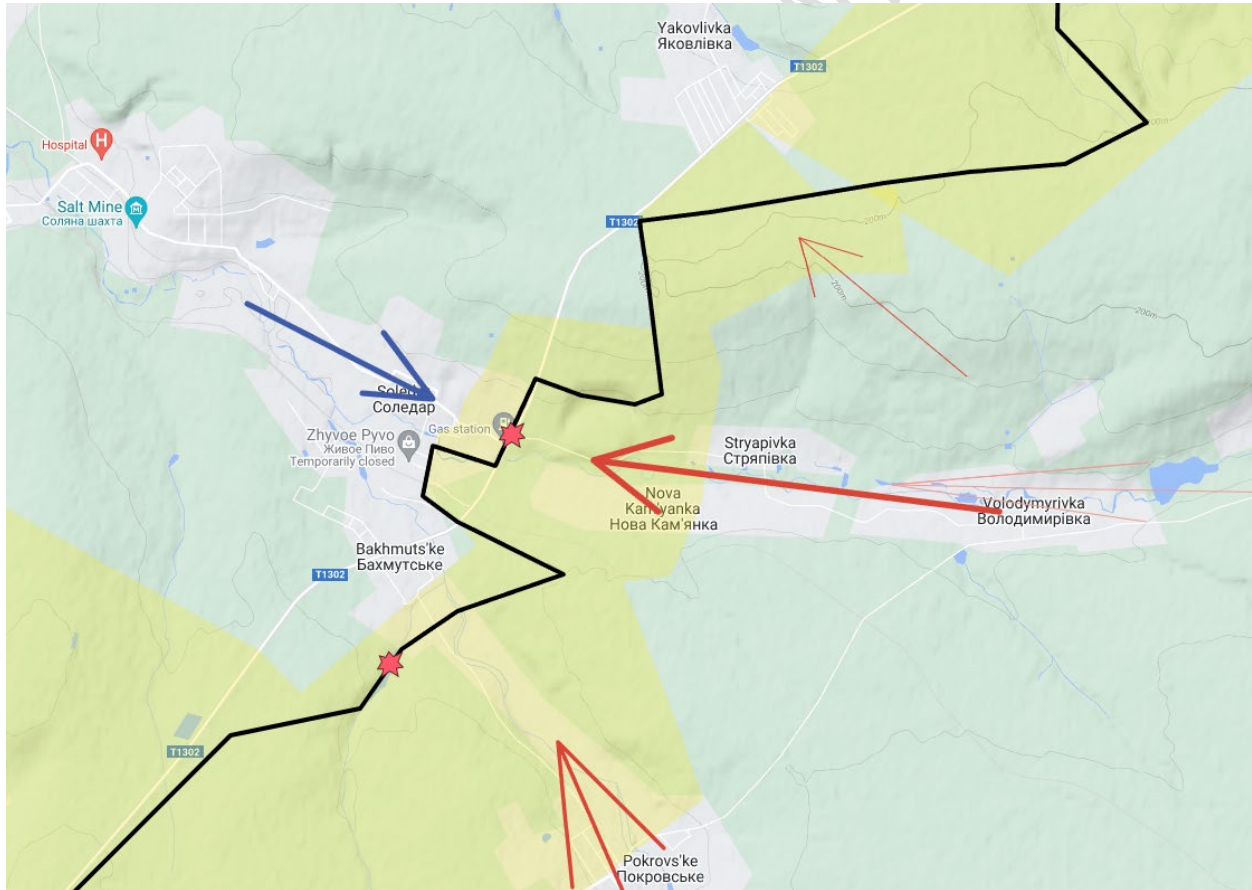
NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

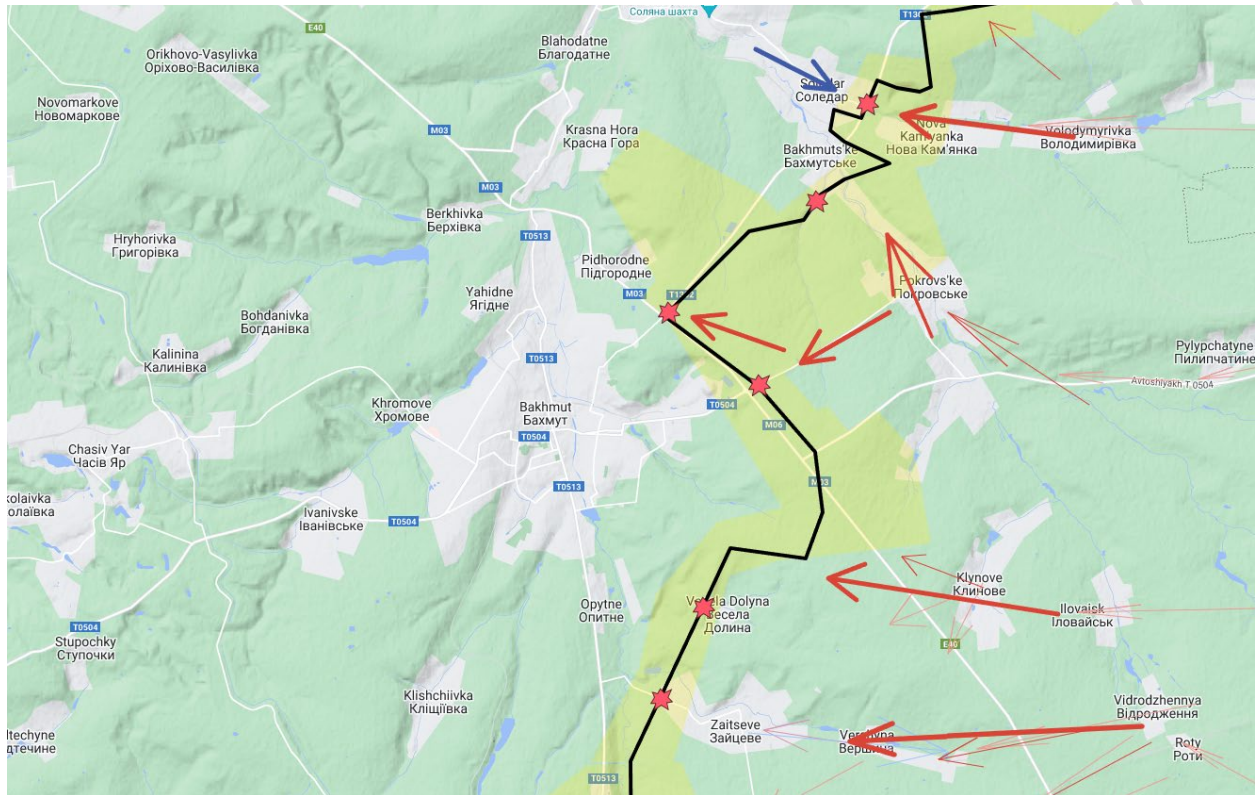
Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, and defend GLOCs

Video shows that the fresh reinforcements of penal units from the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group were used as cannon fodder – and that is a candid assessment.¹⁷ Poorly trained troops advanced across open areas in broad daylight under artillery fire and followed marked paths. Heavy casualties were suffered. The losses were likely significant due to a sharp drop in ground fighting today.



¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1579675745315876864>

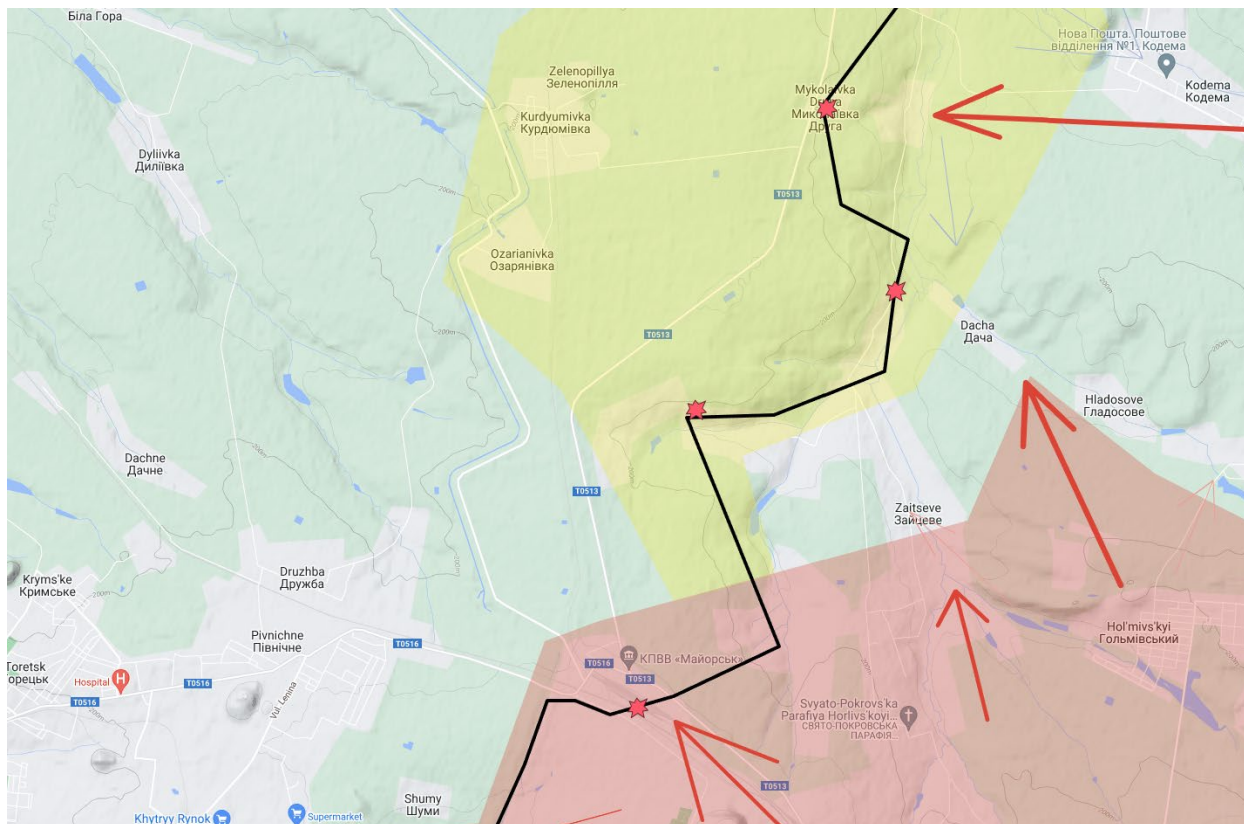
There was positional fighting and probing for weaknesses in [Soledar](#) and [Bakhmut](#).¹⁸



Fighting along the eastern edge of [Bakhmut](#) continued, with video recorded yesterday showing the torn and unclaimed bodies of Wagner mercenaries littering the terrain.¹⁹

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

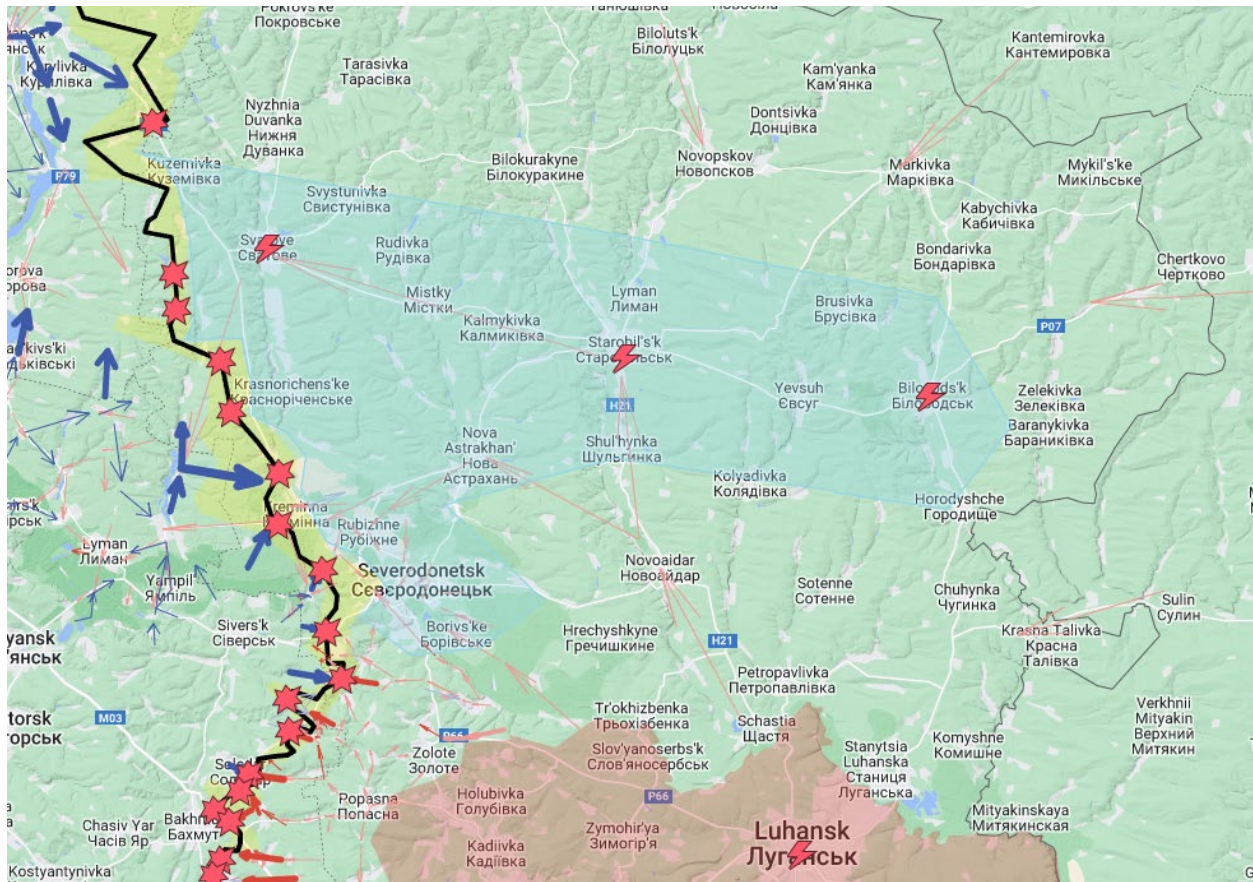
¹⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/40042>



Earlier reports by Pro-Russian sources of an advance into Kurdyumivka were false. Further south, the 1st Army Corps of the DNR, 3rd Brigade, renewed attempts to advance into [Mayorsk](#) and were unsuccessful.

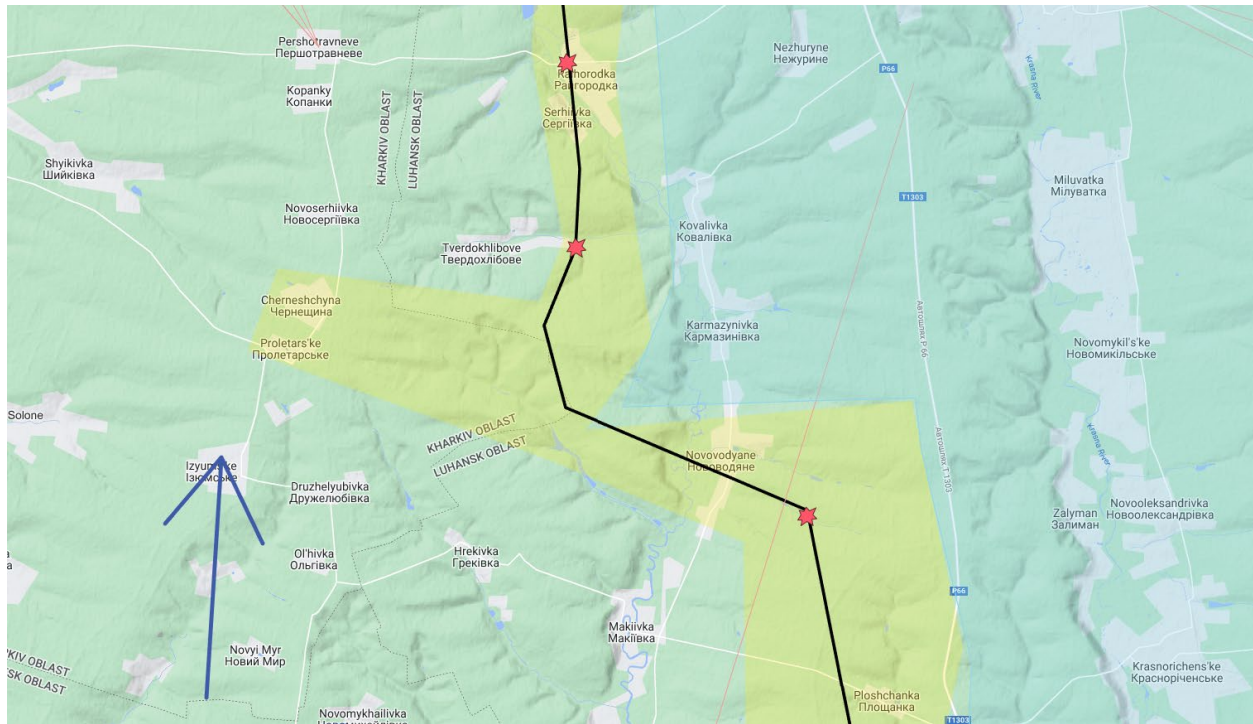
SIDEBAR: We've noticed a somewhat odd pattern: there are no attempts to attack Mayorsk on Sundays, and this has been consistent since attempts to advance past the train station started in August. It doesn't matter which forces are leading the attack. It is an oddity of war.

LUHANSK



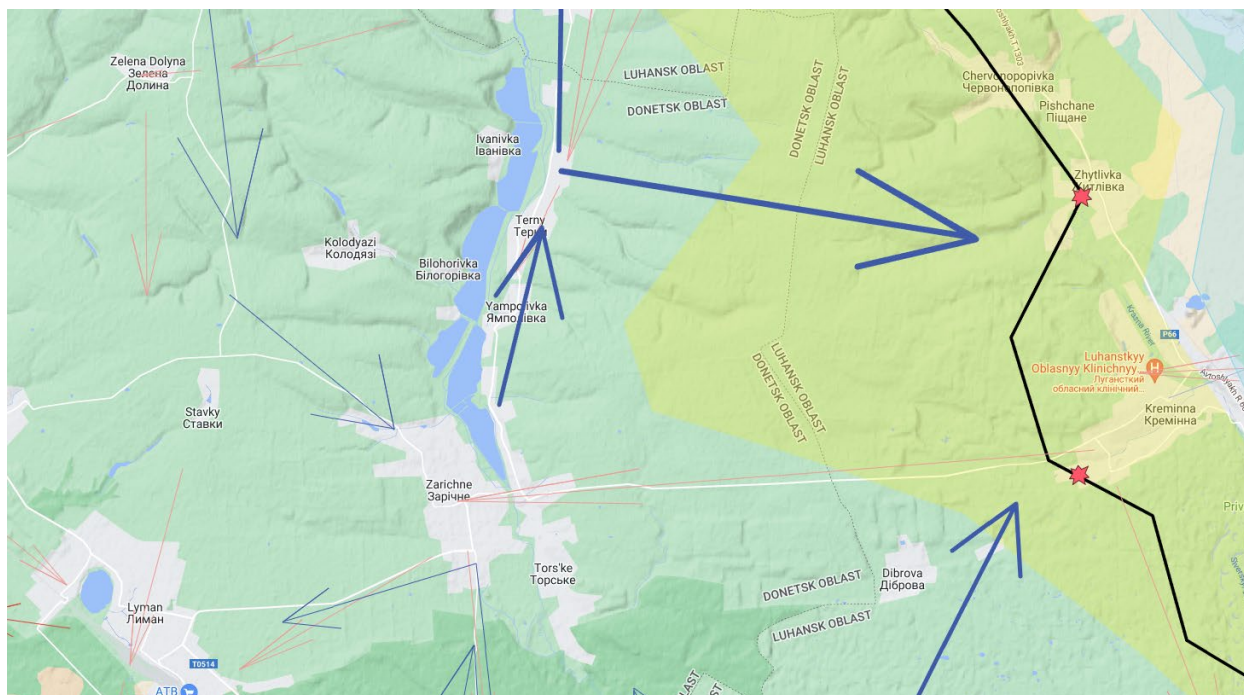
Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, prevent the retreat of Russian soldiers from Lyman, make opportunistic territorial gains, support insurgents, interdict supplies



The Russian MOD falsely claimed that Ukrainian forces had not crossed the Zherebets River and were held back at [Raihorodka](#) and [Makiivka](#).²⁰ Makiivka was confirmed to be liberated over the weekend and has received humanitarian aid, and Ukraine hasn't made any claims on Raihorodka.

²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/20714



Pro-Russian sources also claim that [Terny](#) and [Torske](#) were recaptured, likely extrapolating from the Russian MOD claim that Ukrainian forces never crossed the Zherebets.²¹ There were no photos, videos, or claims in social intelligence from multiple sources. GSAFU reported on October 9 that an attack on Terny was successfully repulsed, which we covered in our previous Situation Report. Additionally, GSAFU reported that Ukrainian positions in Terny and Makiivka were shelled by Russian forces, indicating both settlements are under Ukrainian control.²²

²¹ <https://t.me/rybar/40042>

²² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

Pro-Russian sources also reported that Russian troop concentrations in Rubizhne [Luhansk] were struck by rockets fired from HIMRARS. GSAFU reported that Bilohorivka [Luhansk] came under particularly heavy artillery fire by Russian forces.

A video recorded last week during the Ukrainian counteroffensive showed [M31 fragmentation rockets fired by HIMARS](#) destroying an entire battery of Russian Urgan 220mm MLRS and another battery of 2S19 Msta-S 152mm self-propelled howitzers.²³ Up to 15 Russian vehicles were destroyed in the attacks, which were geolocated in Novolyubivka and Makiivka.

The M31 rockets were recently provided to Ukraine. Unlike cluster munitions which include bomblets that may not all detonate, the M31 is a shaped charge with 182,000 tungsten BBs that can cover up to 1.3 square kilometers (half a mile) of high-velocity flaming hot metal shards.

ASSESSMENT: If Ukraine is using HIMARS and M270 launchers for targets of opportunity, it doesn't bode well

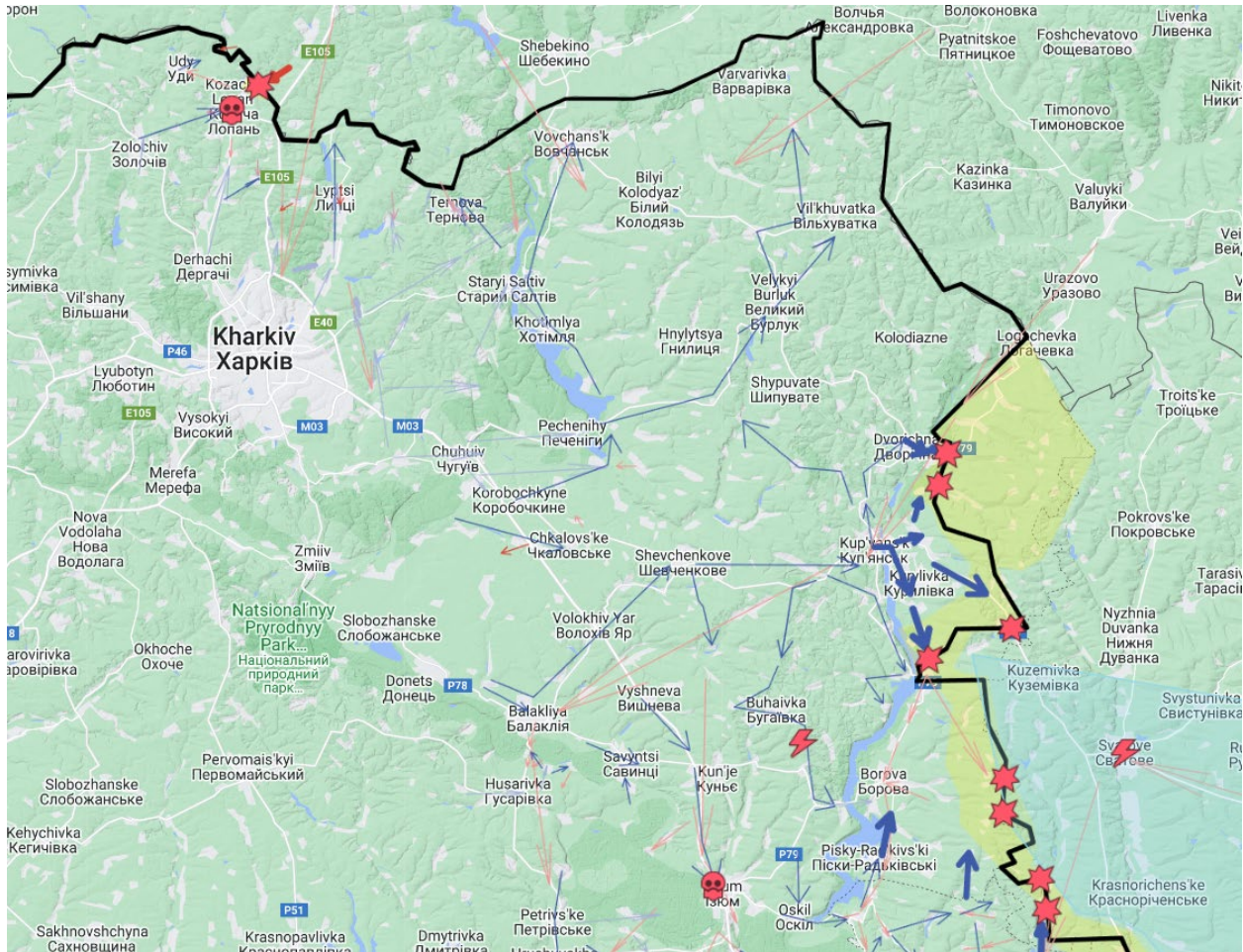
²³ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1579522577021964288>



for the state of Russian logistics and command and control structure.

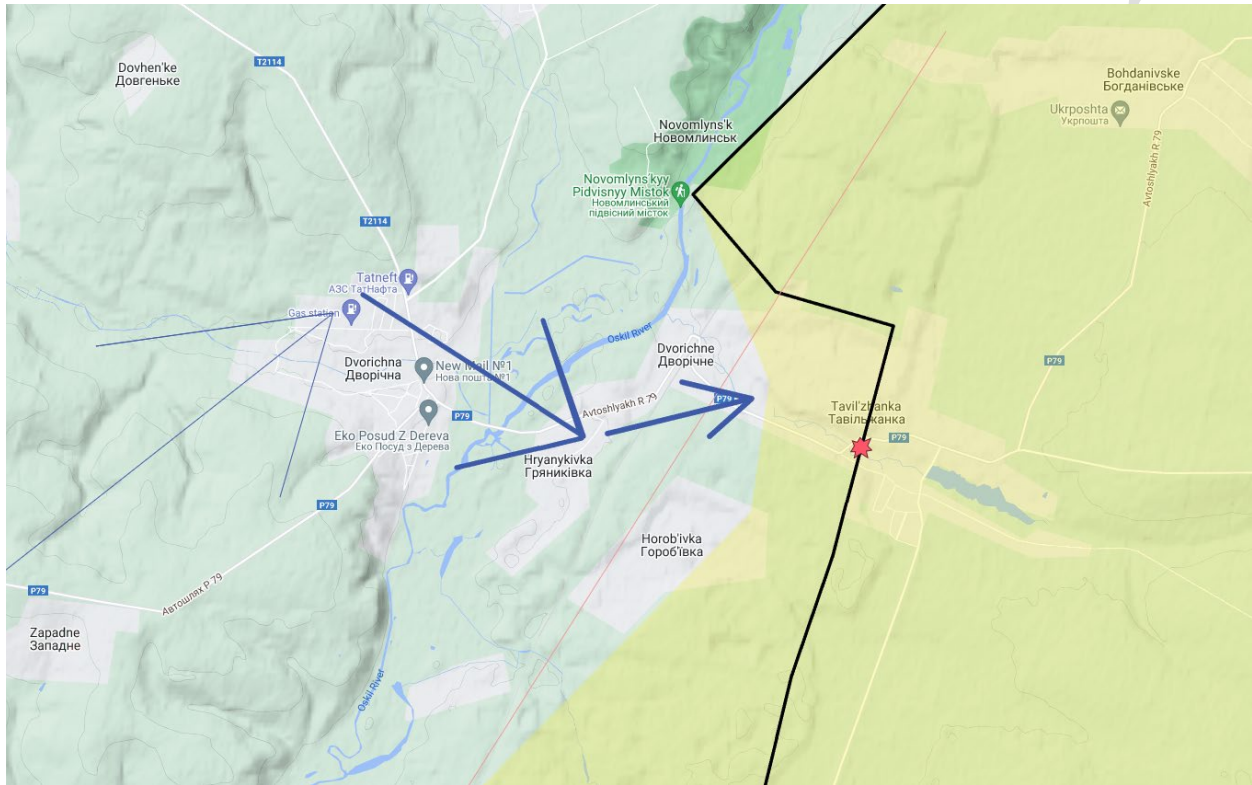
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KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Retreat and minimize casualties, prevent Ukrainian forces from advancing from their bridgeheads on the east bank of the Oskil River, and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate all of Kharkiv oblast, sever GLOCs into Luhansk, protect civilian lives, and defend the Ukrainian border



There was little activity reported, with Ukraine controlling over 98% of the Kharkiv oblast. Pro-Russian sources claimed that Ukrainian troops attempted to advance into [Tavilzhanka](#), east of the Dvorichna-Hryanykivka bridgehead, but were unsuccessful.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported the hromadas of Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Velyka Pysarivka, and, Yunakivka were hit by artillery and mortar shells fired from across the international border.²⁴ There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

Governor Zhyvytskyi also reported there was a border skirmish in the Shostka district with an exchange of machine gunfire.

²⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371357/>

KYIV REGION

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

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

Up to eight Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down from the skies over Odesa and Mykolaiv overnight.²⁵ At the time of publication, there were no reports of significant damage or injuries.

²⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371363/>

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Ukraine shelled the Russian border town of Tetkino, which is the location of a firebase that has repeatedly shelled several villages in the Sumy oblast for months. The strikes set a small factory on fire.²⁶

Thanks to bad Russian operational security (OPSEC), a [thorough battle damage assessment](#) was provided on the railroad line of the Kersch Bridge.²⁷ The video showed significant damage to the railroad tracks where the tanker cars were parked and caught fire. Some of the railcar trucks were fused to the tracks, which were severely deformed from the intense heat. At the 26-second mark in the video, evidence suggested the parallel railroad tracks also suffered heat damage. Toward the end of the video, another set of trucks for a tanker car appeared to have

²⁶ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1579494667129065472

²⁷ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1579544919794159618

fallen through the upper decking of the bridge, indicating potential structural damage lurking below that area.

Editor's Notes: Trucks are the wheels of railroad cars.

Russian state media reported that up to 1.2 kilometers of railroad tracks would have to be replaced on the damaged line but continued to report that cargo and passenger traffic was using the other side. The new video doesn't support that report, with the second rail line being used for the continued recovery effort to remove the damaged railcars.

The same video showed that the single-lane roadway opened earlier was closed while additional repair work and evaluation were happening.

Russia lost two more airframes due to accidents. A Su-24 crashed in the Rostov region during a training flight. The crew was able to eject, but the plane was a total loss.²⁸ A Russian Su-25 crashed near Rogalik shortly after takeoff.

²⁸ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1579109169013006336

The pilot was unable to eject in time and was killed in the crash.²⁹

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Russian Ministry of Defense authorized a widespread missile attack across Ukraine that utilized various weapons, including Iskander-M short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM), Kalibr, Kh-101, Kh-555, and Kh-59 cruise missiles, S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for ground attack, Tornado-S rockets fired from MLRS and Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 combat drones. The attack utilized Russian ground and air forces and the Black Sea fleet. GSAFU reported 84 rockets and missiles, and 24 drones were used in the attack. At least one more missile experienced a [catastrophic failure in flight](#), crashing in Russia's Rostov region.³⁰

GSAFU reported that Ukrainian air defenses intercepted 43 missiles and 13 drones. One cruise missile was shot down in a very lucky strike by a Ukrainian soldier [firing a MANPAD](#).³¹

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1579483789746925569>

³⁰ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1579465022887317509

³¹ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1579433829789765632>

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian air defenses reported they shot down just under 50% of incoming drones and missiles. Given the scope of the attack, the amount of air space that had to be protected, and the available resources, Ukrainian air defenses were admirable. The defense would have been considered successful by almost any other nation.

Despite the efforts of the Ukrainian air defenses, over 20 cities were struck, including Kyiv, Lviv, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, Pryluky, Nizhyn, Konotop, Kharkiv, Kremenchuk, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, and Odesa.

Russian missiles and drones targeted Ukraine's electrical and communications infrastructure, and at the height of the attacks, 15 oblasts experienced partial or total power outages.³² The loss of power impacted water and sewer services and Internet and cellular communications. The Ukrainian government prioritized restoring Internet and cellular service in impacted areas and distributed diesel generators to restore communications in the most hard-hit regions.

³² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/10/7371269/>

At the time of publication, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported the situation had improved significantly. The most significantly impacted oblasts were Kyiv, Lviv, Sumy, and Ternopil, where 301 communities still lacked electrical power.^{33 34} Chernihiv and Dnipropetrovsk were still heavily impacted, and total restoration could take additional time. Power had been restored to half of the Kharkiv oblast, and full restoration was expected by October 12. Poltava and Khmelnytskyi oblasts were still experiencing scattered power outages, while the rest of Ukraine already had electrical service restored.³⁵

Many missiles missed their targets. A video from Kyiv shows two Russian cruise missiles [missing the power plant they were targeting](#), with one striking outside the complex and the other overshooting.³⁶ Two more missiles that were likely targeting a power plant struck [an office tower](#) that holds the Ukrainian headquarters of Samsung and the passport office of the German consulate.³⁷ Other missiles made direct hits on what were likely their intended targets.

³³ <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-719341>

³⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371366/>

³⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/10/7371322/>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/COUPSURE/status/1579465601231507457>

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1579364423948701696>

More than 1,000 firefighters and rescue personnel were involved in the emergency response to the attacks.

A \$13 million Kh-101 cruise missile targeted a pedestrian bridge in a Kyiv park and missed by such a wide margin that the glass structure suffered light damage, and no pedestrians were injured. The missile left a [crater in the ground](#) on a dirt pedestrian walking trail below the bridge.³⁸

A Forbes article claimed Russia used \$400 to \$700 million worth of munitions in today's attack – that would be equivalent to almost 1% of the nation's entire military budget for the year.³⁹ The figure is imprecise because the exact number of each type of missile, drone, and rocket used is unknown.

Russian President Putin called the attacks “proportionate” to the strike on the Kersch Bridge and threatened further attacks if other Russian infrastructure targets were struck.

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1579542681319264256>

³⁹ [Forbes](#)

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply shocked" by Russia's attack through a spokesperson. "This constitutes another unacceptable escalation of the war, and, as always, civilians are paying the highest price," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric wrote.

European Union President Ursula von der Leyen wrote, "Shocked and appalled by the vicious attacks on Ukrainian cities. Putin's Russia has again shown the world what it stands for: brutality and terror. I know that Ukrainians will stay strong. [The EU] will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, with all the means we have."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg condemned the attack and reported he had consulted with Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba after the attacks.⁴⁰ Stoltenberg wrote on Twitter, "NATO will continue supporting the brave Ukrainian people to fight back against the Kremlin's aggression for as long as it takes."

United Kingdom's Prime Minister Liz Truss called for a full meeting of all NATO members in response to Russia's aggression.⁴¹ She also labeled the attacks a sign of

⁴⁰ [Reuters](#)

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/igorsushko/status/1579651017763061765>

desperation and proof that Ukraine was succeeding in fighting against the Russian invasion.⁴²

United States President Joe Biden "strongly condemns Russia's missile strikes across Ukraine," according to a statement given on Monday. "Attacks killed and injured civilians and destroyed targets with no military purpose; we will continue to impose costs on Russia for its aggression. They once again demonstrate the utter brutality of Mr. Putin's illegal war on the Ukrainian people." The US President said.

Lithuania's foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis, declared an even stronger message. "It's time for more than just air defense systems. It's time to give Ukraine all the weapons she needs to fully defend her people, land, sea, and sky against the genocidal aggression of Putin's terrorist state."

China and India offered muted responses, with the diplomatic community stating that any response was significant. The New York Times reported that Mao Ning, a China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said "all countries

⁴² <https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1579497043558830082>

deserve respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity" and that "support should be given to all efforts that are conducive to peacefully resolving the crisis."⁴³ It was the strongest statement yet from China.

India's response was more tepid. Arindam Bagchi, a spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, said, "India is deeply concerned at the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, including [the] targeting of infrastructure and deaths of civilians."

ASSESSMENT: In our assessment, these attacks smacked of desperation. They were done to appease growing discontent among the Russian population after a series of high-profile defeats caused public criticism of President Putin's leadership abilities and the Kremlin running out of scapegoats to blame. The secondary goal was aimed at breaking the will of the Ukrainian people. History has shown that terror bombings of a united people's population centers only galvanize resistance. The secondary reaction in the global diplomatic space was equally damaging. China's messaging after the attack was noteworthy, given their mention of respecting territorial integrity, which appears to signal Beijing's disapproval of the sham

⁴³ <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/10/china-india-russia-deescalation-ukraine>

referendums. The other failure for the Kremlin is this put the Ukraine war back into the public information sphere, with the attacks dominating the global news cycle.

Finally, Russia's missile reserves are reaching a critical state. Today's attack appears to have been cobbled together from various weapon systems that continue to demonstrate poor performance and low precision. Russia has repeatedly demonstrated that it will waste limited military resources on low-value targets, which include a playground, a pedestrian bridge, two colleges not used for military functions, museums, and civilian office buildings.

Today's attack did not target any command and control structures, Ukrainian military leaders, troop concentrations, ammunition storage, airbases, or other vital military infrastructure. Unless the Russian Ministry of Defense intends to attack Ukraine's energy infrastructure until it is turned into dust, the only thing Russia succeeded in doing today was reinforcing broad support for Ukraine and pushing weak allies deeper toward neutrality.

In our final assessment, we believe Russia does not have the missile and drone inventory to run a Syria-style terror campaign across the largest European nation with 40

million people. If this is General Sergey Surovikin's intent, Russia runs the real risk of going so deep into its strategic missile reserve to have little left if a second front were to erupt somewhere else.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

The flood of mobiks moving into training has reduced to a trickle as Russia struggles to train and equip the new soldiers properly. There are unconfirmed reports that there are a growing number of surrenders from fresh conscripts. The newly minted and untrained soldiers are attempting to return to Russia and stumble into Ukrainian positions or get captured by special operations forces (SOF).⁴⁴ Total numbers are still low and likely are measured in the dozens.

In the short term, the new mobiks have been ineffective in Kharkiv, Luhansk, Kherson, and Donetsk, with high casualty rates.

A training video was released showing how PMC Wagner prepares recruits for combat. The video shows trainers

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/6257>

firing at recruits at point-blank range while making them put on tourniquets and maneuver. We recommend you [watch the video for yourself](#).⁴⁵

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian terror attacks across Ukraine killed 19 and wounded 105, with the numbers expected to climb.⁴⁶

One civilian was killed and four wounded when Russian artillery fire destroyed an apartment building in the Bilopillia hromada in the Sumy Oblast.⁴⁷ Russian forces have been shelling the border villages in Sumy since May.

An extremely graphic video emerged from near Kupyansk, showing a stripped and bound person rolled into a mass grave after execution. The video showed that it was possible other victims in the grave were still alive. This video is NSFW, not for children, and viewer discretion is advised. If you want to watch the video, [you can click here](#). [A second video clip](#) emerged showing Russian troops walking the execution victim was still alive past the mass

⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/eideticeye/status/1579274697484959744>

⁴⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371366/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/11/7371357/>

grave to the top of the ridge, where they were killed.⁴⁸ The grave has at least four bodies of civilian men and women partially buried.

GEOPOLITICAL

Estonia passed legislation officially recognizing Russia as a terrorist state.⁴⁹ Urmas Reinsalu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said: "The Republic of Estonia considers Russia a state sponsor of terrorism, and the international community must do likewise." Reinsalu also condemned the missile attacks on Ukraine, calling the act cowardly.

ECONOMIC

Ukraine announced it was suspending electricity exports after today's attack so it could stabilize its own power grid.⁵⁰ The war caused millions of Ukrainians to flee and dramatically reduced industrial output, creating a glut of electrical generation capacity. To aid the European Union and to provide a stream of revenue, Ukraine was connected to the European grid enabling the nation to sell its excess

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/grahworin/status/1579702508939014144>

⁴⁹ [Euro Weekly News](#)

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/10/7371263/>

electrical power. Income from electricity sales was expected to top \$2.5 billion this year. Russian forces severed the lines connecting to Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, cutting excess power generation in half and today's attack eliminated the reserves.

The rouble declined further, with an exchange rate of 64 for one US dollar.

Oil prices declined as China announced more COVID-19 lockdowns. WTI crude fell to \$90 a barrel, while Brent dropped to \$95. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline on the spot market dropped to \$2.61 a gallon (69 cents a liter).

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures was steady, trading at \$9.26 a bushel for December 2022 delivery.