

# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

August 5, 2023





# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 527**

It has been 3,447 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 162 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. Today is a full report minus the weather, which continues to be hot and dry.

- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine confirmed that fighting is ongoing in the areas of Synkivka and Vilshana
- Russian Ministry of Defense claims that the village of Novoselivske has been captured
- Russia bombed a blood transfusion center in Kharkiv, killing two and wounding four
- The Donetsk Oblast Military Administration announced that 130 children would be evacuated, by force if needed, from nine settlements in the Lyman area
- The occupied city of Donetsk was hit by artillery rounds and Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems
- The Motor Sich plant in Zaporizhzhia was hit by rockets
- Russia shelled and destroyed the pathology department building at Karabeles Hospital in Kherson

- Russian forces did a “double tap” attack on St. Catherine’s Cathedral in Kherson, wounding three initially and then wounding four first responders in the follow on strike
- Ukraine issued a warning to mariners, declaring that a military threat exists at the Russian ports of Sochi, Gelendzhik, Novorossiysk, Tuapse, Taman, and Anapa
- Russia attacked the Ukrainian military airfield at Starokostyantynov three times
- Russian shelling of the border promadas of Sumy killed one person
- Russian officials announced they were tightening port security in Sochi due to expanding Ukrainian attacks
- Russian engineers are struggling to keep the Project 775 Ropucha-Class large landing ship Olenegorski Gornjak afloat at its berth, with intelligence reports indicating the vessel is listing between 30 and 40 degrees
- Russian launched its largest combined missile and drone attack on Ukraine since June 24, 2023
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced there would be sweeping arrests the week of August 7 to clear out corruption in “public institutions”
- The Polish government is considering sealing the border with Belarus due to threats made and alleged border incursions

- The United Kingdom provided Ukraine with ground launchers for the AIM-132 air-to-air missile, and Ukrainian air defense forces want more
- Lithuania will be providing Ukraine with a NASAMS anti-aircraft missile complex
- Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was sentenced to 19 additional years in a strict regime penal colony after being found guilty of six new criminal charges
- Russia is using cadets from their military flight academies to fly combat air support missions on the border of Sumy
- Russian military units reported cases of fratricide, abuse in the form of the "terror of the grandfathers" for trainees, and "ghost soldiers" sent to Storm-Z penal units
- The Ukrainian peace conference is ongoing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with representatives from 42 nations, including China, India, South Africa, and Brazil

## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. With a successful strike on the Russian-flagged SIG, Ukraine has demonstrated they have expanded its

reach of power in the Black Sea, and the new Mk.5 uncrewed surface vessel, with 450 kilograms of explosives and a better mesh Internet connection, has solved the technical issues of earlier models.

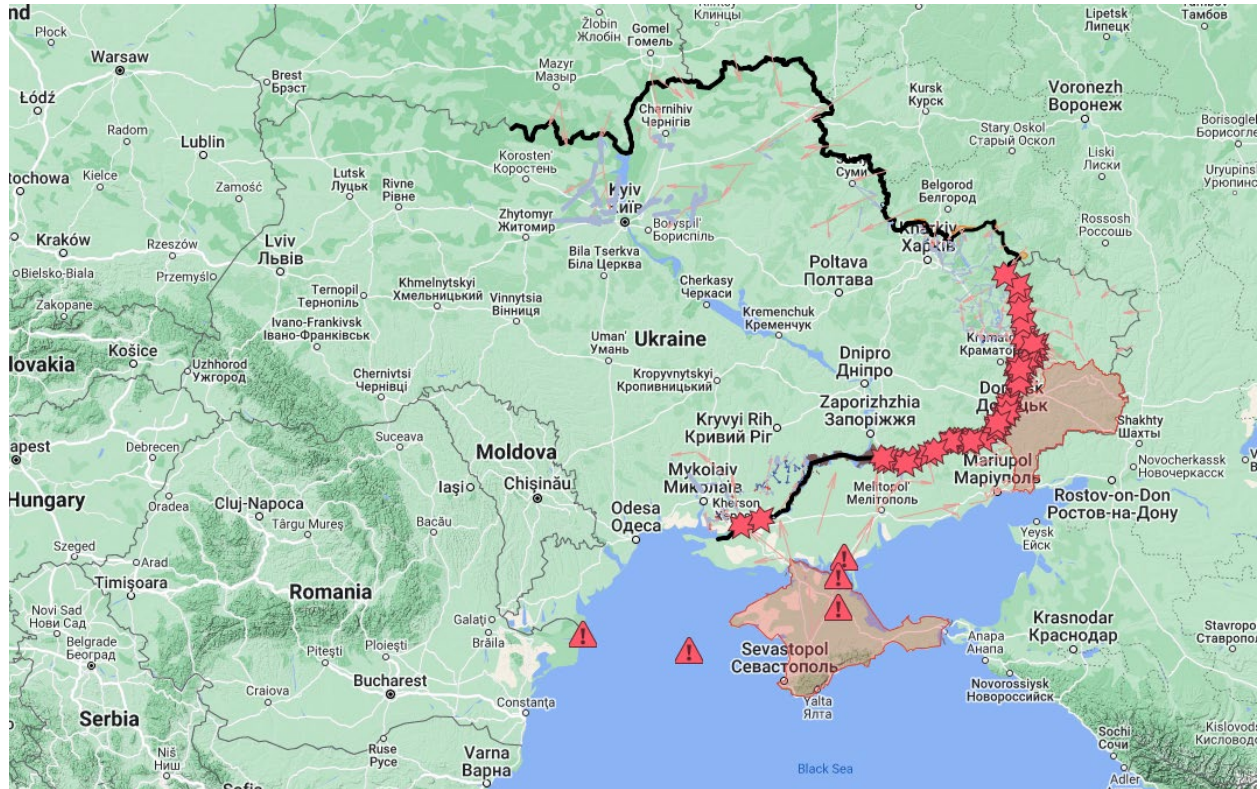
2. Due to a lack of troop rotation, growing ammunition shortages, and weak commanders, Russia is pushing combat ineffective and combat destroyed units to the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT), engaging in attritional warfare against Ukrainian units.
3. We maintain that the current Ukrainian military activity is subordinate offensives and shaping operations, and the main operation has not started.
4. We have growing concerns that Ukrainian forces may be incapable of setting conditions for a breakthrough attack in 2023. However, we maintain that signals from Kyiv indicating the next phase of the summer offensive is being prepared, and there are three operational areas where 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. We assess that Russian and Belarusian aggression and threats on the borders of Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Black Sea coast will continue to

- expand and lead to an international incident if Ukraine's allies do not take a stronger posture.
7. 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.
  8. 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.
  9. 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.
  10. 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.
  11. 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.](#)



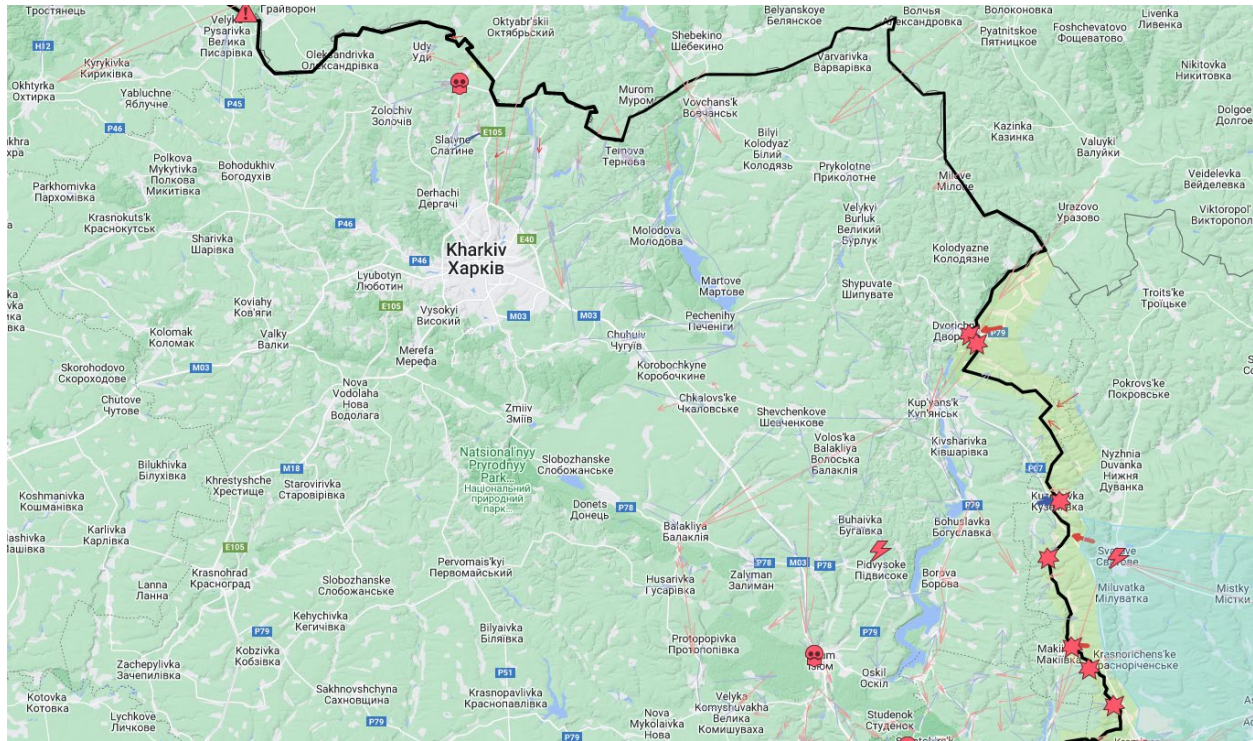
## TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



**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](#)

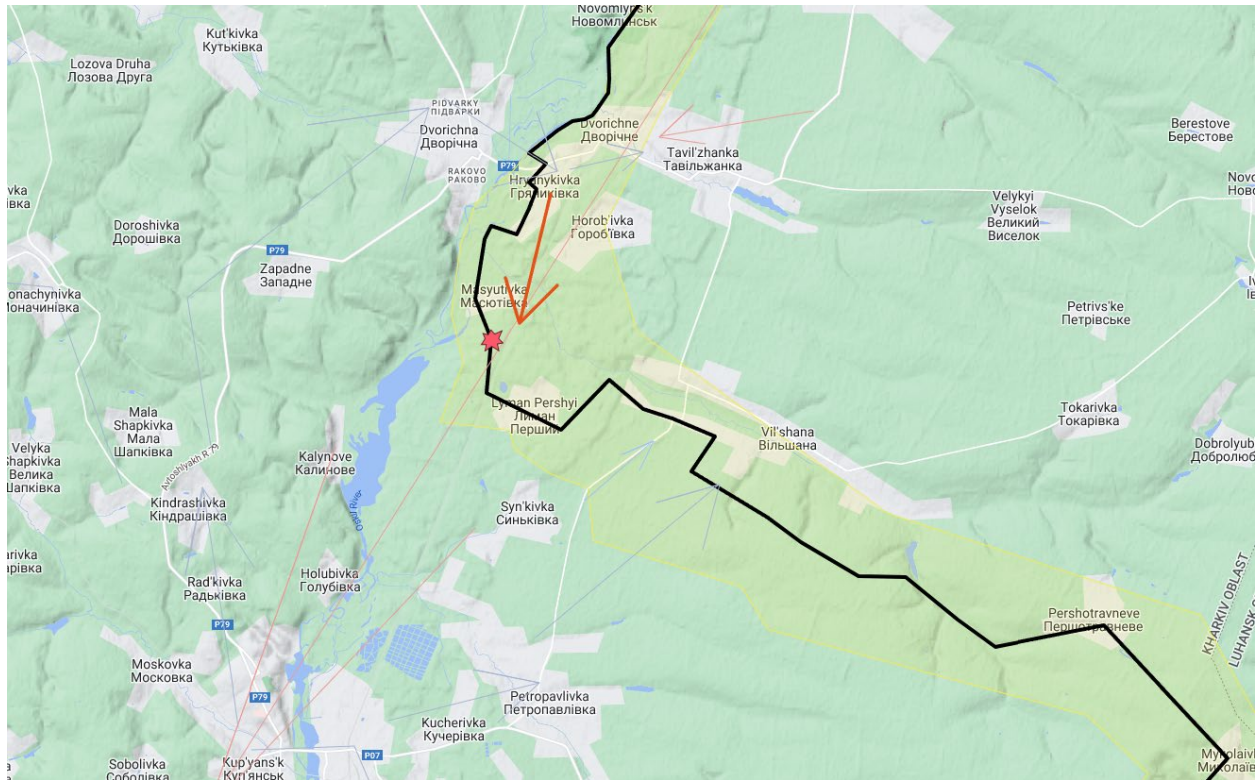
# KHARKIV



**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 Dvorychna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure





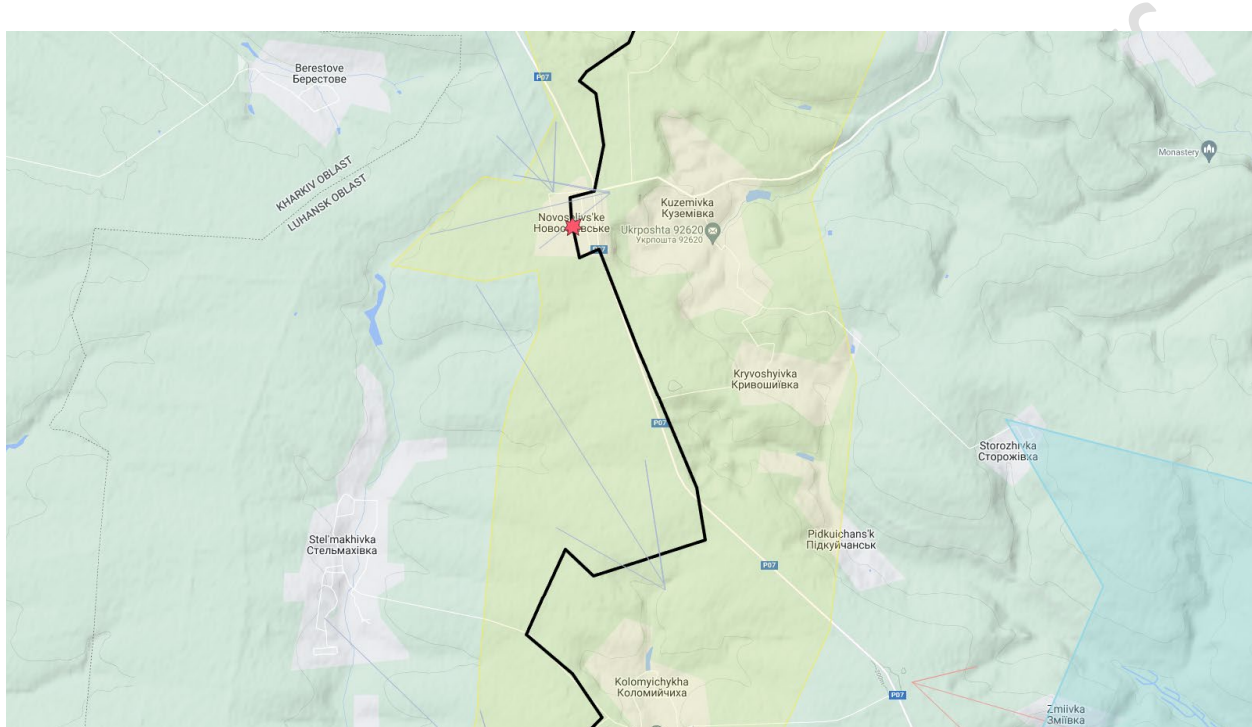
## Dvorichna Operational Area

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported mutual fighting in the areas of [Synkivka](#) and [Vilshana](#), with Russian forces increasing the intensity of their attacks.<sup>1 2</sup> While there have been some reports that Russian forces have captured [Pershotravneve](#), we have the settlement coded as under Russian control since the culmination of the

<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

<sup>2</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Ukrainian Kharkiv Counteroffensive in October 2022. There were reports of fighting in the area of the settlement.<sup>3</sup>



## Svatove Operational Area

RMOD claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive east of [Berestove](#).<sup>4</sup>

The Russian Air Force (VKS) dropped two FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bombs on a blood transfusion center in

<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

<sup>4</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



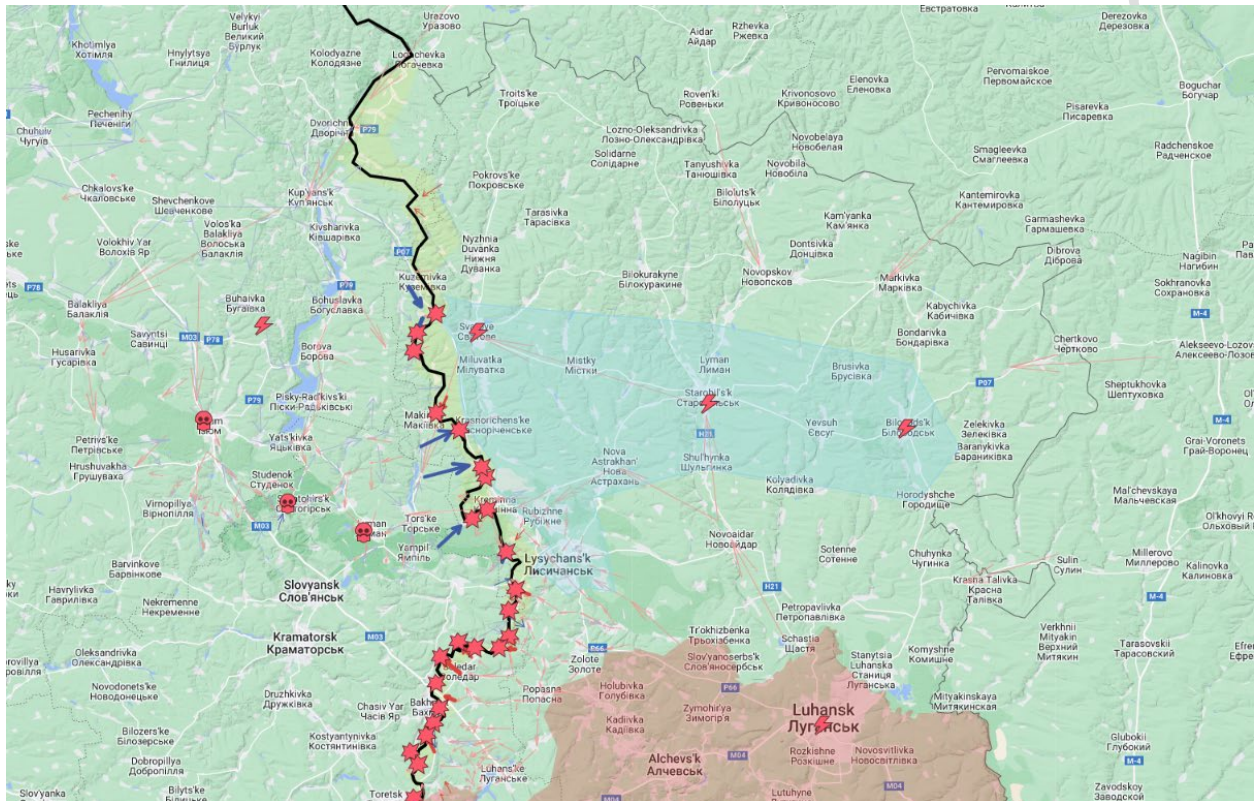


**Kruglyakivka. There is more information in the War Crimes and Human Rights section.**

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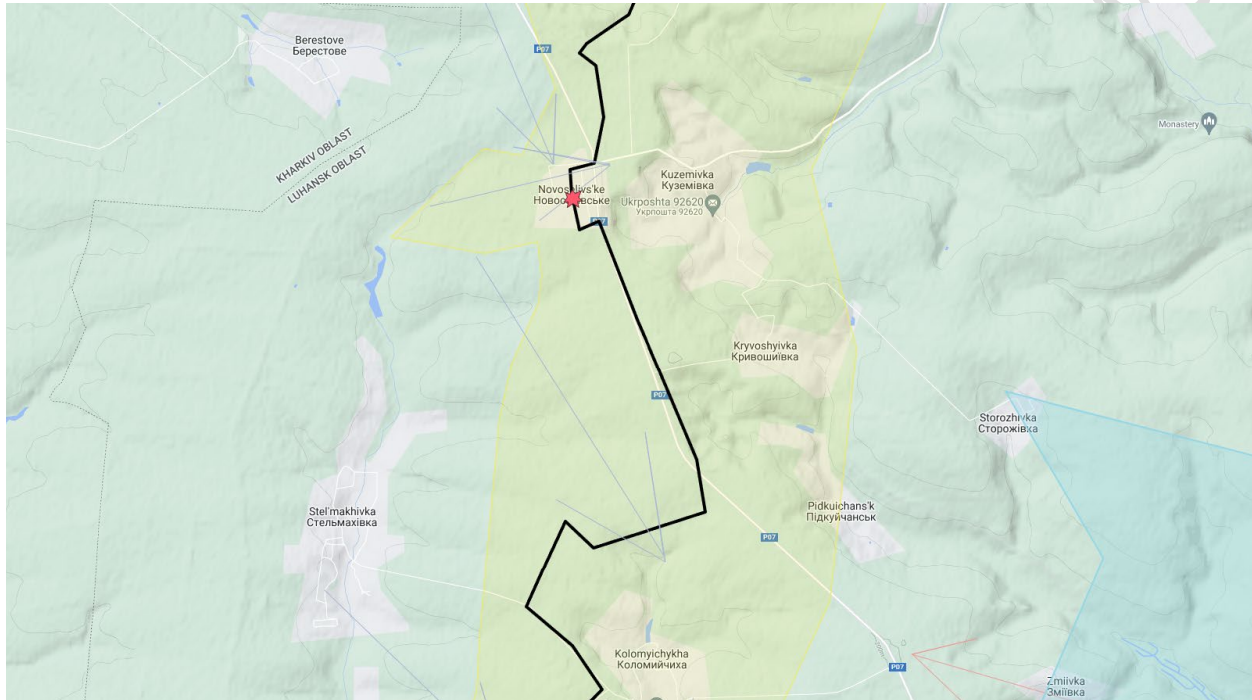
# DONBAS REGION

## 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

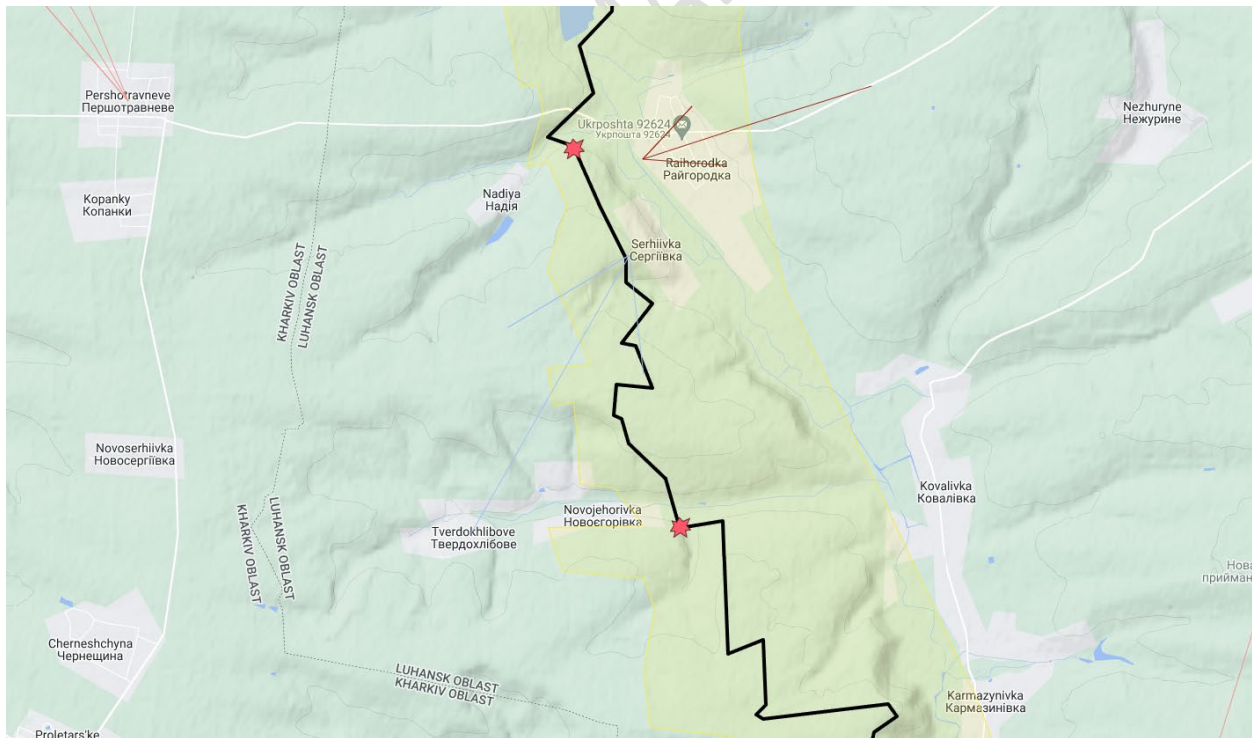


## Svatove Operational Area

RMOD claimed that Russian troops had captured [Novoselivske](#), sharing a brief video showing Russian artillery, mortars, and small arms fire killing six Ukrainian soldiers as proof. Some viewers may find the video disturbing. You can watch the video by   [clicking here](#).<sup>5</sup> Two  [Russian tanks were destroyed](#) in fighting

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/albir2024/status/1687837623488794624/video/1>

within the village.<sup>6</sup> Operational Command East (OKE) spokesperson Serhiy Cherevaty reported that Russian forces were focusing their combat power on Novoselivkse.<sup>7</sup> We adjusted the map to note a Russian advance, maintaining the village is contested.<sup>8</sup> Both videos demonstrate the size and type of fighting that is happening. In its morning report, RMOD claimed that “up to 140 Ukrainian servicemen, two armored combat vehicles, [and] three vehicles” were destroyed.<sup>9</sup> The video evidence shared by RMOD and TASS speaks for itself.



<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/Teoyaomiquu/status/1687474504186970112>

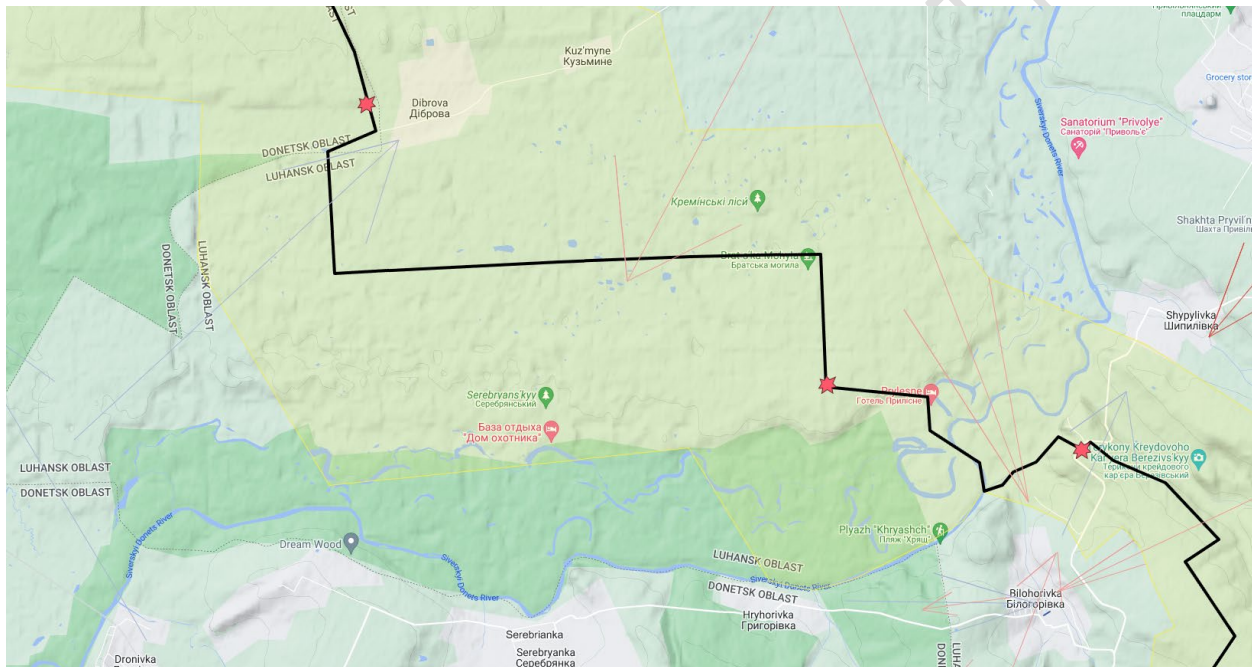
<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12604>

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

<sup>9</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



Touch and harassment attacks turned into intense positional fighting west of [Raihorodka](#) and east of [Novojehorivka](#), with Russian forces attempting to advance in the direction of Barova.<sup>10</sup>

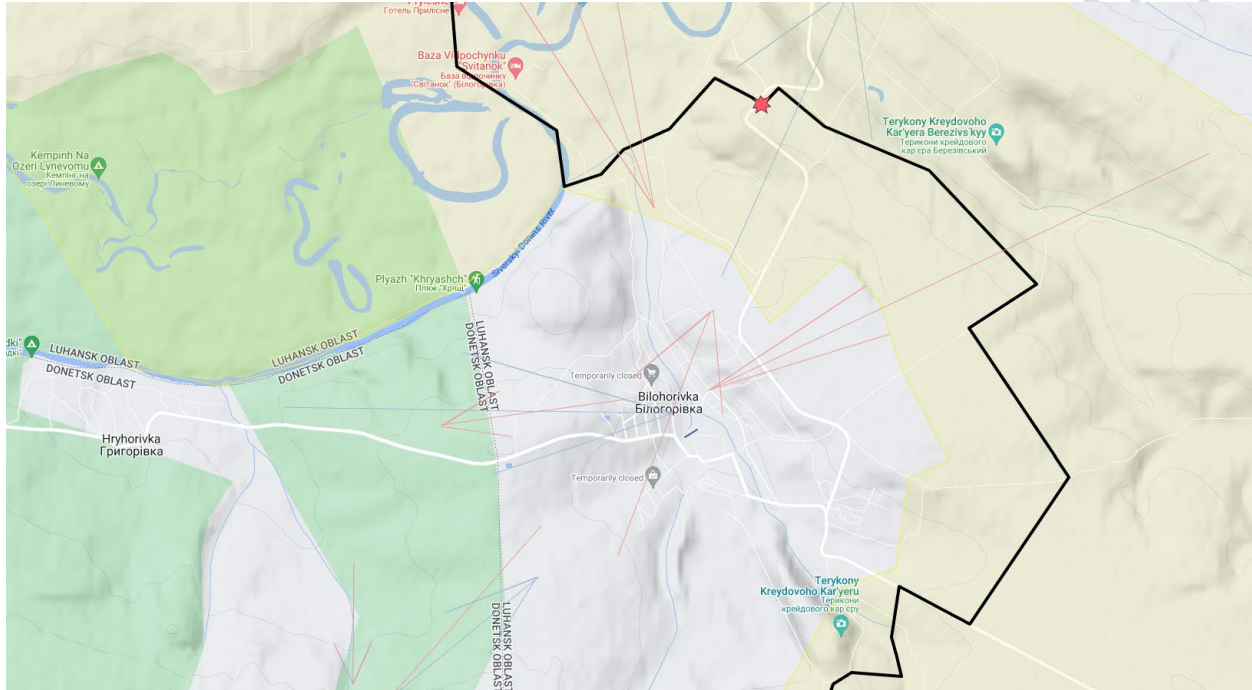


## Kremynna Operational Area

Intense positional fighting of platoon-sized units with artillery support continued in the [Serebryansky Woods](#) with no change beyond Russian and Ukrainian forces

<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

trading defensive positions in the same 500 to 750-meter-wide strip along the powerlines.<sup>11 12</sup>



## Lysychansk Operational Area

Significant mutual fighting continues in the area of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], with no change in the situation.<sup>13 14</sup>

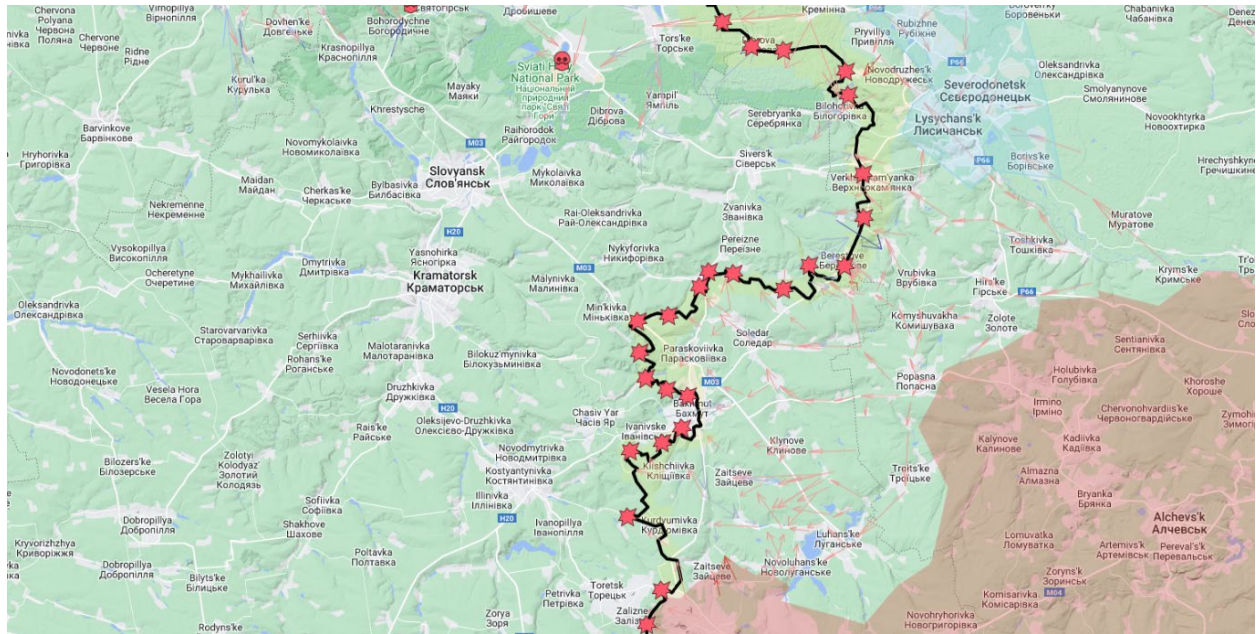
<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

<sup>12</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

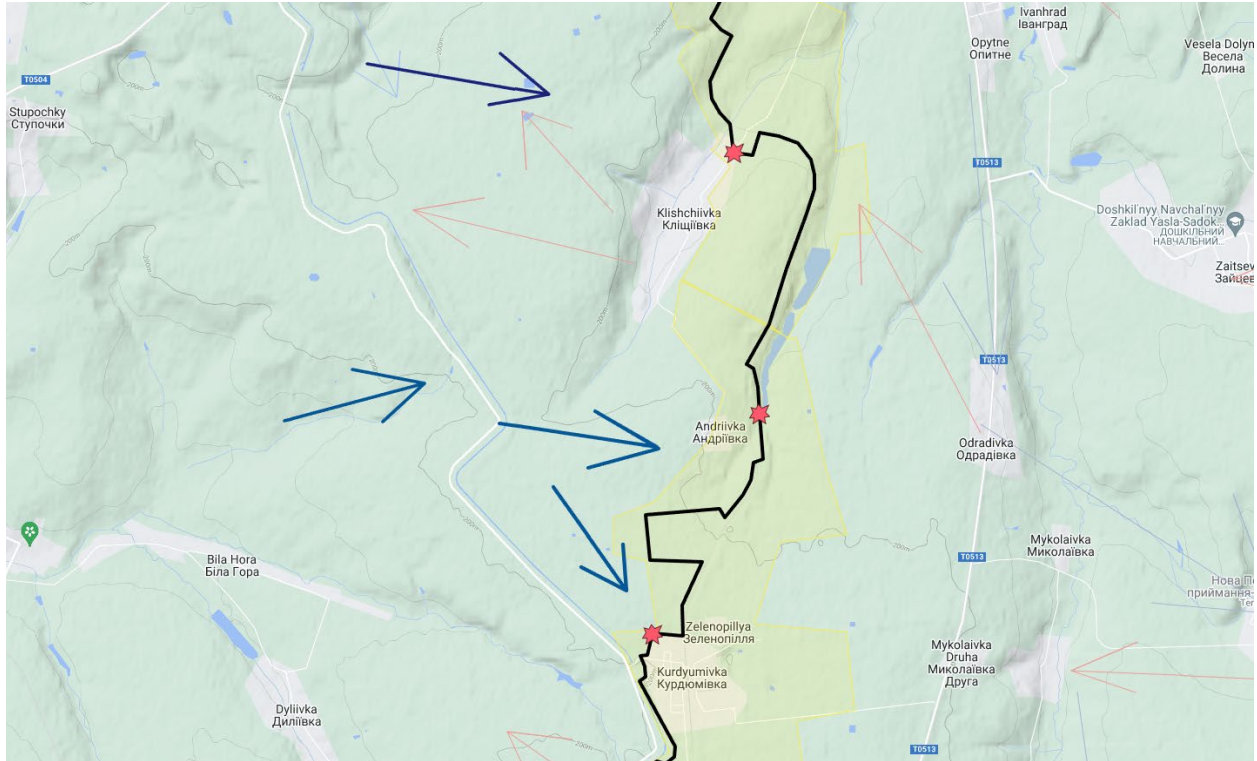
# NORTHEAST DONETSK



**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





## Klishchiivka Operational Area

There is no change in the situation at [Klishchiivka](#) and [Andriivka](#). One Ukrainian soldier wrote, "Things are really quite dynamic here – if today some positions are controlled by one of the parties, then tomorrow this situation may change. But at least half of Klishchiivka is fully controlled by our forces. In the second half, we have fire control. Many Russian f\*\*\*ers died here, and they also lost all important points in this settlement. Therefore, I am sure there will be complete control over Klishchiivka."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9822>



Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo stated that a Russian counteroffensive in Klishchiivka failed.<sup>16</sup>

In [Kurdyumivka](#), GSAFU reported "defense forces engage the enemy," which is atypical, as they rarely confirm ongoing offensive operations until they are complete.<sup>17</sup> Russian milbloggers went silent on the status of the settlement after house-to-house fighting started on the first streets in the northwest corner. We have no additional intelligence. Historically, when Ukraine is on the offensive, and Russia stops reporting it, things are going well for Ukrainian troops.<sup>18</sup>

## Free Donetsk

The Donetsk Oblast Military Administration announced the mandatory evacuation of 130 children, by force if necessary, in the settlements of [Yampil](#), [Zarichne](#), [Torske](#), west and southwest of Russian-occupied Kreminna, and [Orikhuvatka](#), [Nykonorivka](#), [Malynivka](#), [Tykhonivka](#), [Vasiutynske](#), and [Rai-Oleksandrivka](#), southeast of Slovyansk and Kramatorsk.<sup>19</sup> The children are being

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<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

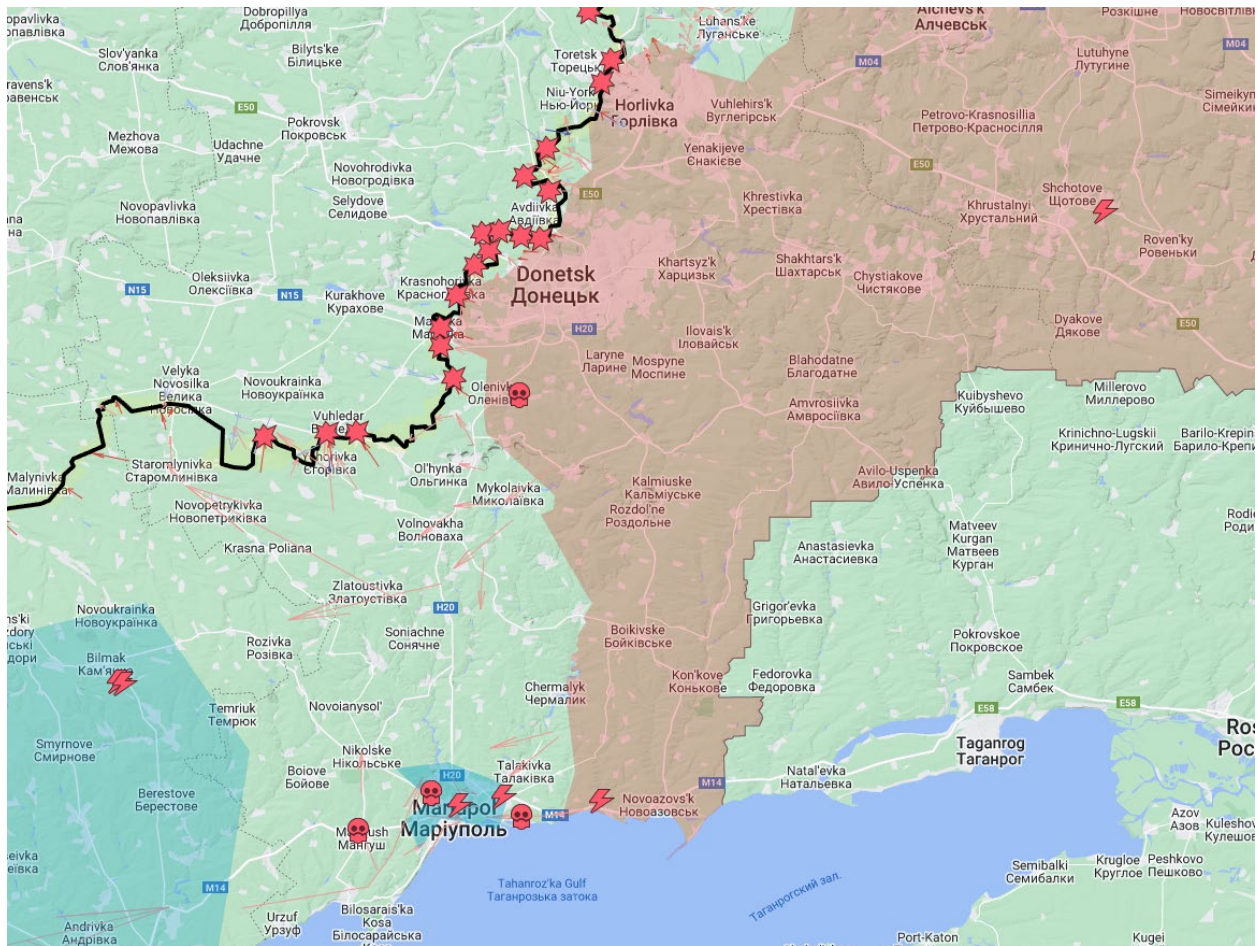
<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/5/7414352/>

removed because of their proximity to the “combat zone.” Ukrainian officials will remove the children only as a last resort, preferring to have their parent or guardian evacuate with them.

**ASSESSMENT:** The evacuations west of Kreminna are concerning, given the last time an order was given to evacuate children forcibly was when Russian forces were attacking Avdiivka from multiple directions. The evacuations between Slovyansk-Kramatorsk and Bakhmut-Soledar are more puzzling. There haven't been reports of widespread shelling in these settlements, which by all reports, are a significant distance from fighting where Russian troops are purely defensive. Ukraine has become more aggressive in evacuating children when their parents and guardians refuse to leave after high-profile deaths in Bakhmut and Avdiivka in February.

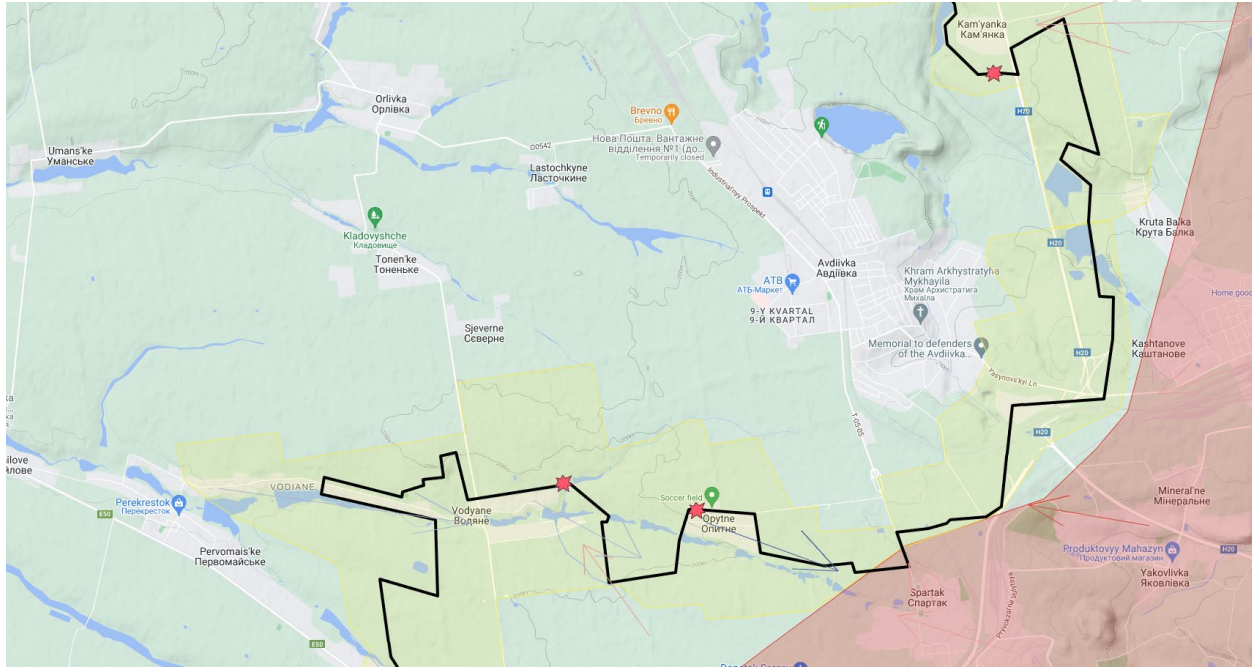
# SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**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



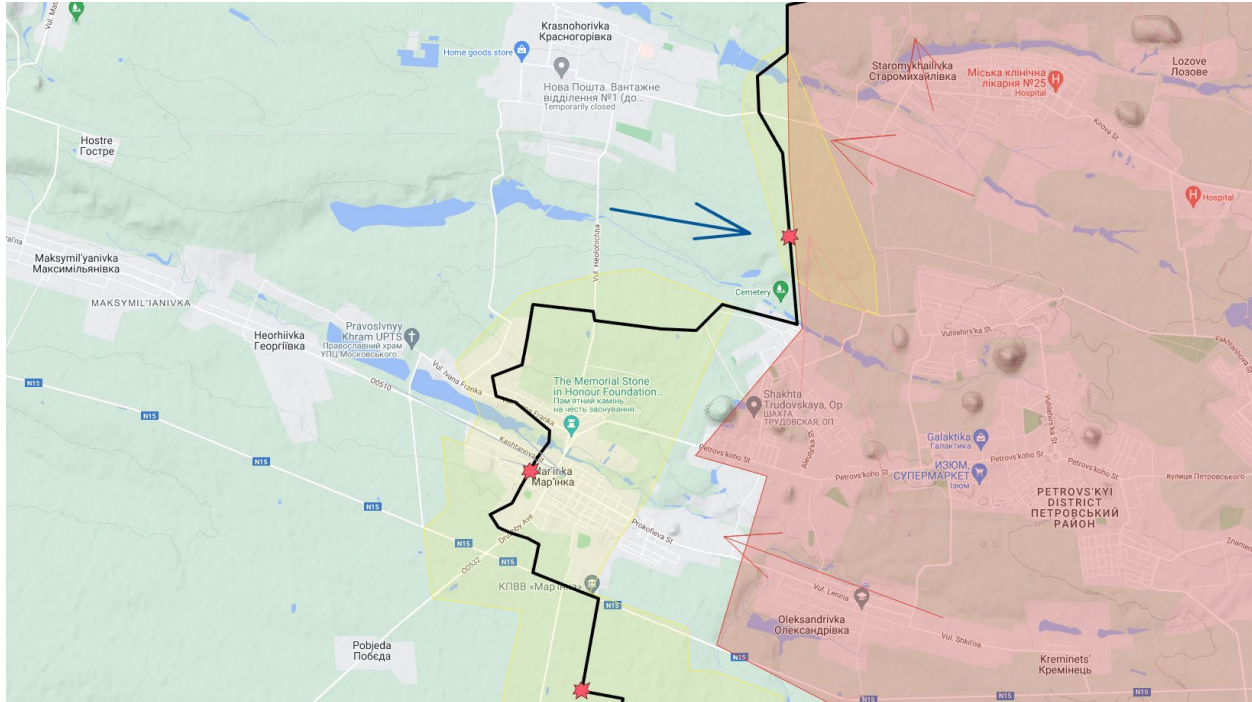
## Avdiivka Operational Area

The operational tempo remains low, with mutual fighting reported near [Avdiivka](#).<sup>20 21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

<sup>21</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]





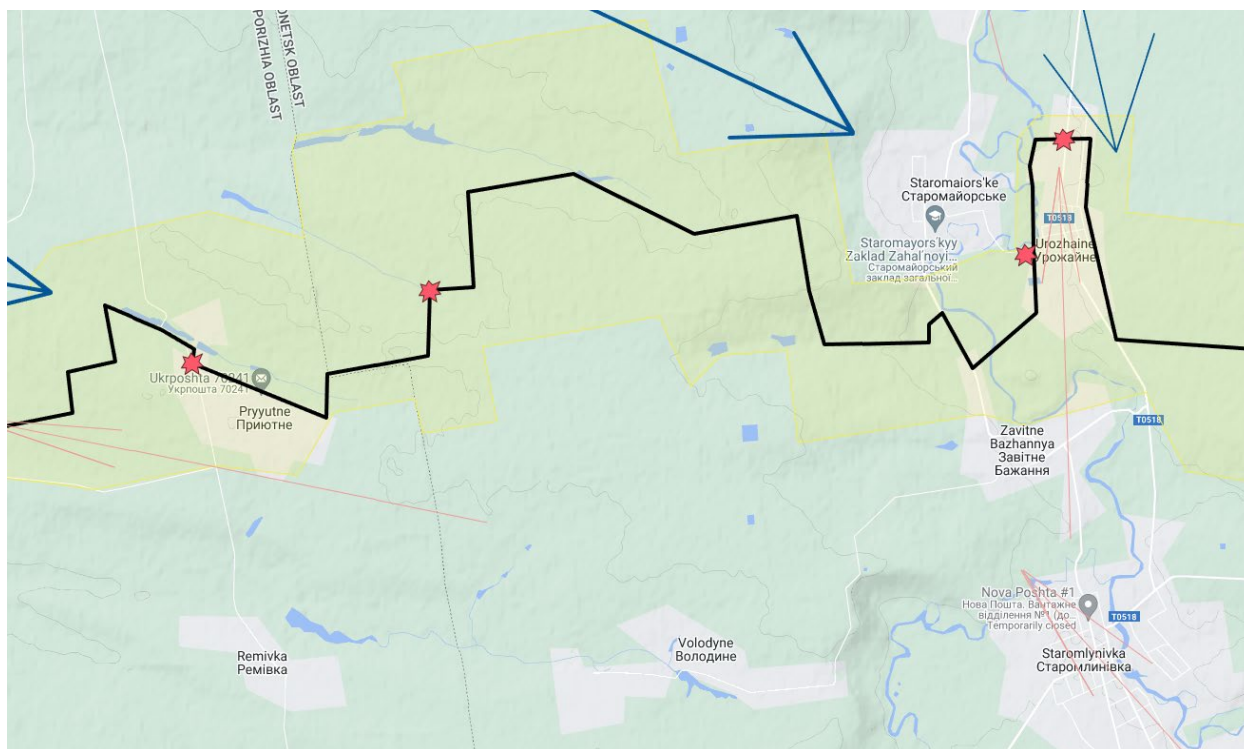
## Marinka Operational Area

RMOD repeated their claims that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive toward [Staromykailivka](#).<sup>22</sup> Russian offensive operations in [Marinka](#) ended in failure.<sup>23 24</sup>

<sup>22</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/28972](https://t.me/mod_russia/28972) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>



## Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction



Russian milblogger MultiMAX reported that Russian troops in [Urozhaine](#) are in a technical encirclement with Ukrainian forces preventing troop rotations, resupply, and retreat. This is the second source to align with our earlier assessment that Ukraine had no intentions of taking Urozhaine by a head-on attack and is seeking to either destroy the Russian units trapped in the settlement or force their surrender.<sup>25</sup> Russian and Ukrainian forces engaged in mutual fighting in the area of [Staromaiorske](#), with Russian attempts to regain lost positions ending without success.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10880>

<sup>27</sup> Russian forces launched a counterattack on the eastern edge of [Pryyutne](#) without success.<sup>28</sup>

## Occupied Donetsk

The center of the occupied city of Donetsk was attacked by artillery rounds and Grad rockets, sparking several large fires. The self-declared acting leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, claimed that Ukrainian forces used DPICM (cluster munitions). The damage and fires  [do not support the use of cluster munitions](#), and the claim was so bad that some Russian milbloggers dismissed it, including PMC Wagner-aligned Gray Zone.<sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> The picture of a "cassette" claimed to be used in the attack doesn't align with Smerch rockets or 155 mm 864 DPICM rounds. Just before the strikes,  [Russian air defenses were active over the city](#).<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>

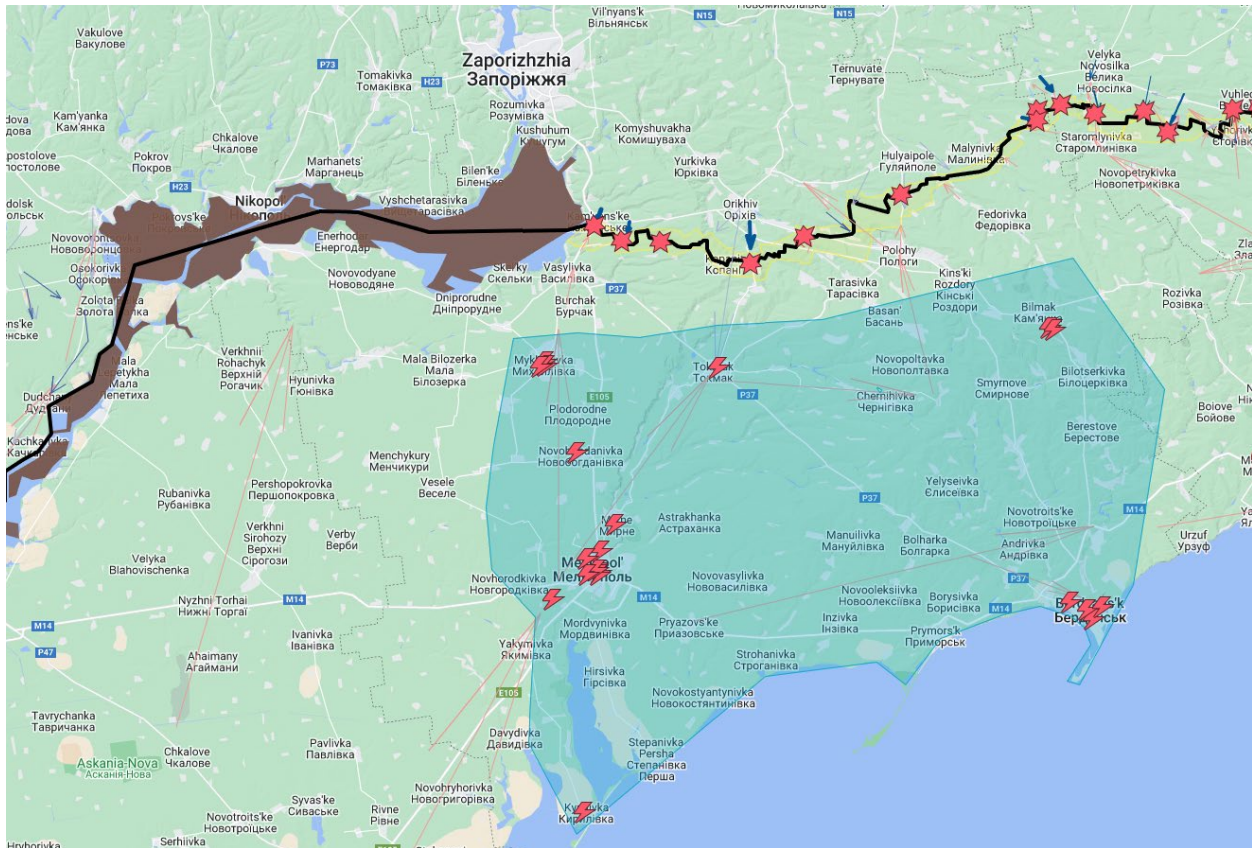
<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

<sup>29</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/19876](https://t.me/grey_zone/19876)

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/92389>

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/92394>

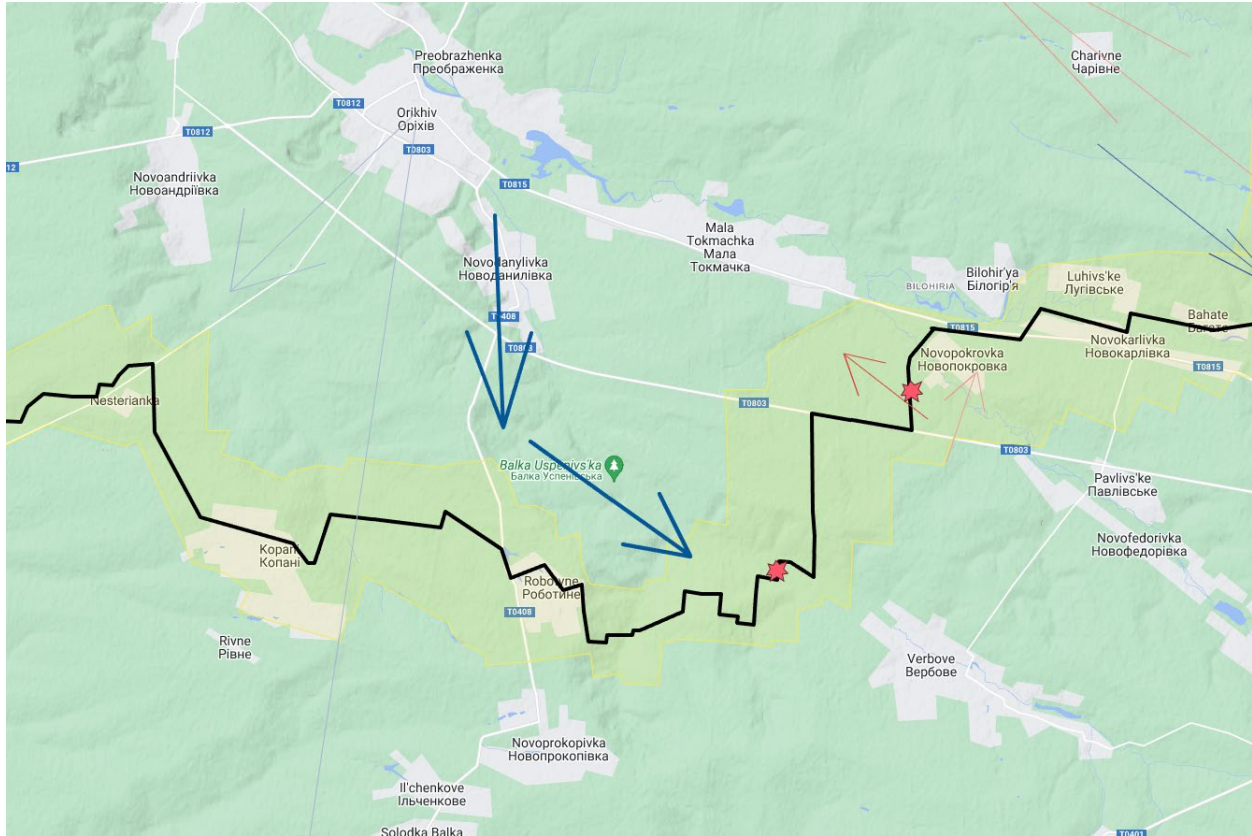
# ZAPORIZHIA



**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

In our assessment, the unofficial ceasefire to support the International Atomic Energy Agency personnel rotation continued in the Kamyanske area. There were no reports of fighting or significant artillery fire in the area. If the area remains quiet, Russian and Ukrainian forces may be concentrating combat potential in the and [Verbove](#) area.

Very intense positional fighting continued on the edge of [Robotyne](#) and northwest of [Verbove](#).<sup>32 33</sup>

On Saturday evening, Russian rockets (either Smerch or S-300, it was unclear at the time of publication) struck the Motor Sich Plant in Zaporizhzhia. The extent of damage was not reported, but there were no casualties.<sup>34</sup>

### **Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant**

There was no update on the status of the facility.

## **BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION**

### **Black Sea**

The composition of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol is unclear after today's missile strikes on Ukraine, which included 20 Kalibr cruise missiles fired in two salvos—the largest single-day attack in 2023.

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<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17298>

<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14201>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/5/7414371/>

Ukraine issued a coastal warning to the Black Sea ports of Sochi, Gelendzhik, Novorossiysk, Tuapse, Taman, and Anapa. The six ports in Russia are considered under “a military threat” as of August 4, and the warning period is indefinite.<sup>35</sup> <sup>36</sup> Vessels sailing in and out of the ports are considered legitimate military targets, making getting insurance for commercial vessels near impossible.

## 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

### Khmelnytskyi

On August 5, Russian missiles struck the Ukrainian military airfield at Starokostyantyniv three times. The last strike was in July, with the Russian Ministry of Defense claiming Ukraine's supply of Storm Shadow missiles was destroyed. Multiple successful Storm Shadow missile strikes on

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<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17294>

<sup>36</sup> [https://hydro.gov.ua/?page\\_id=144](https://hydro.gov.ua/?page_id=144)

occupied Kherson, Zaporizhia, and Crimea followed this. While Ukrainian officials won't comment on the status of the airfield, in our assessment, critical assets were moved to other locations months ago. NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) did not indicate any direct hit on the base that caused a large fire. As we've repeatedly reported, just because Russia puts its ammunition in giant exposed piles does not mean other militaries do.<sup>37 38</sup>

Local officials reported that roofs were damaged by falling debris and concussions, shattered windows, ripped doors off their hinges, damaged a bus station, and set a corn waste warehouse on fire. We were able to verify the report of the fire using NASA FIRMS.<sup>39</sup> One person at the warehouse was injured.

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/6/7414390/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/5/7414378/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/khmelnytskaODA/1939>



## 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

### Sumy

Russian forces carried out 15 fire missions on seven hromadas in the Sumy Oblast, firing 119 artillery rounds, mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades at 11 border villages.<sup>40</sup> One civilian was killed in Novoslobodsk.

## RUSSIAN FRONT


**Russian Objective:** Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

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<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108775>

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

## Krasnodar Krai

New satellite images show the crippled Russian Project 775 large landing ship Olenegorski Gornyak is  [maintaining a list of 30 to 40 degrees](#) despite the major effort to keep the ship from capsizing or sinking at its berth.<sup>41</sup> <sup>42</sup> The Russian Ministry of Defense has still not acknowledged the severity of the damage or released any information on casualties.

Authorities in the Russian city of Sochi plan to "increase the level of protection" of the city's water and coastal infrastructure. Alexey Kopyaygorodskiy, Mayor of Sochi, wrote, "A set of additional measures to improve the level of protection of Sochi's water area and coastal infrastructure have been discussed," adding that the security perimeter would be strengthened.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1688105674700451840>

<sup>42</sup> <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1687697529918373889>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/4/7414159/>

## Moscow

Partisans destroyed another railroad relay cabinet, causing railroad delays between Moscow and St. Petersburg.<sup>44</sup>

On Friday, a warehouse in Moscow allegedly holding lithium-ion batteries, or as part of the production of lithium-ion batteries, caught on fire, [sending a huge white plume of smoke over the city](#).<sup>45</sup> While Russian sources declared the warehouse held lithium-ion batteries, extinguishing a battery fire on this scale is highly technical and could take up to a month, depending on how many units were stored at the facility. We hate to be the bearer of bad news, but we're skeptical of the reports – however – it is clear that something was violently burning.

## THEATERWIDE

Russia executed the largest combined missile and drone attack on Ukraine since June, launching 20 Kalibr cruise missiles from the Black Sea Fleet, the largest barrage since February 2023, 20 Kh-101/Kh-555 air-launched cruise

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<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108474>

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108435?single>



missiles, three, Kh-47 Kinzhal air-to-surface ballistic missiles, and 27 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. The attack was launched in two waves, during the early morning of August 6 and then in the evening. Eighteen out of 20 Kalibr cruise missiles, 13 out of 20 Kh-101/Kh-105, and all 27 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down. Kyiv has declared the defense against Kh-47 Kinzhal missiles a state secret.<sup>46</sup> At the time of publication, the successful hits appear to have been in the Khmelnytskyi region.

After months of testing and evaluation, a female field uniform has been accepted by Ukraine. Currently, there are 42,000 women in the Ukrainian armed forces. Five thousand serve in combat units in roles such as combat medics, snipers, machine gunners, and artillery commanders.<sup>47</sup>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that "Next week, our work on cleaning public institutions from those who tried to drag from the past all those old habits, old schemes that weakened Ukraine for a very long time – for decades – will continue. There will be no more old formats in our country – those formats when some

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<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108810>

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108709>

defended the state and people, and others tried to put both the state and people at the service of their own benefit. No matter who this person is – whether he is a military commissar, whether he is an MP, or whether he is an official – everyone must work only for the sake of the state. So be it."<sup>48</sup>

***Editor's Note:*** Part of our upcoming analysis will include exposing ongoing misconduct in one of the structures of the Ukrainian government. The truth matters, even when the truth can be painful. We learned about the upcoming arrests like you did, hearing Zelenskyy's speech. Because we do not want to interfere with ongoing investigations in Ukraine, we will hold until either the subject of our investigation is arrested, or arrests are over. We do not want to endanger or expose people who came forward to share information or risk the accreditation of journalists collaborating with us. I thank you for understanding that this is a very delicate matter.

The Polish government is considering sealing the border with Belarus due to the presence of "Wagnerites," said Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland Pavel Yablonsky in an interview with CNN. Yablonsky said a border closure would

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/5/7414373/>

be a measure of “last resort” and that Warsaw would prefer not to have to take the measure. “If attacks continue, attempts to destabilize our country continue, we may have no other choice,” said Yablonsky. He did not clarify what he meant about “attacks” but did say that “Wagnerites” had already tried to cross the border.<sup>49</sup>

The United Kingdom has provided Ukraine with ground launchers for the air-to-air missile AIM-132 ASRAAM, mounted to trucks, and the Armed Forces of Ukraine are asking for more. The ground launch system is proving to be highly effective against cruise missiles and Iranian drones. The AIM-132 is also more economical than NASAMS and Patriot.<sup>50</sup>

On Friday, Lithuania announced a new military aid package that includes a NASAMS air defense system, unspecified drones, logistical equipment, and other supplies.<sup>51</sup>

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

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<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38657>

<sup>50</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108700>

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/18921>



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

## RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Alexei Navalny was sentenced to an additional 19 years in a special regime colony for creating an extremist community. Prosecutors had asked for 20 years, the maximum sentence, but Kremlin observers quickly pointed out that 19 years in a special regime colony is tantamount to a death sentence.<sup>52</sup> Navalny was found guilty of six charges – financing extremist activities, public calls for extremist activities, involving a minor in acts that posed a danger to his life, creating an NGO that infringed on the personality and rights of citizens, and rehabilitating Nazism.


**ASSESSMENT:** This does not bode well for Igor Strelkov Girkin, who is facing a single charge of extremism in a sealed case. While no tears should be shed for Girkin, who fought in five wars for the Kremlin and sent others to the same fate he now faces, the false charges against Navalny and Girkin show that Moscow is taking aggressive steps to silence critics.

Cadets of Russian flight schools have been conducting combat air missions on the Sumy border, highlighting the growing pilot shortage in the Russian Federation, impacting


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<sup>52</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/55146](https://t.me/shot_shot/55146)

civilian and military aviation. Cadets fly sorties in helicopters and fire unguided missiles, but due to the lack of experience, some hits have occurred in Russian territory.<sup>53</sup>

Ukraine released a video of a soldier with the 114th Regiment surrendering to a Ukrainian drone, guiding him to await Ukrainian troops. The  [Russian soldier was lightly wounded and used a stick as a cane](#) as he was taken into custody.<sup>54</sup>

There were new reports of fratricide between Russian troops and Chechen Akhmat forces in the Bakhmut AO.<sup>55</sup> Reports indicated that within Bakhmut, a fight broke out between frustrated units that devolved into grenades thrown and gunfire.

A Russian brigade commander  [forced recruits to undress and perform humiliating acts](#), including plucking individual blades of grass.<sup>56</sup> The video was filmed at the training grounds and base of the 4th Tank Division in Naro-Fominsk, Moscow. "People are furious that he's torturing

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<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38440>

<sup>54</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1687373435863756800>

<sup>55</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108465>

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1687146310674341888>

people," a person can be heard saying in the video, "They'll get a mutiny if they keep going that way." Humiliation and violence as part of training are endemic in the Russian military. The practice is known as "the terror of the grandfathers" in Russia and is an open secret. As recently as 2018, there was a push to end sexual humiliation and violence, to no avail.

Russian soldiers of the 126th Brigade are being sent to the front lines and placed into Storm-Z penal units as "ghost soldiers." "It has been going on for three weeks. Three [or] four people every week. It has already reached such an absurdity that the commanders are looking for an excuse to dig in," indicating an attempt to preserve unit members. The mobik in the video claims that this is happening to replenish Storm Z units on the left bank of the Dnipro River in occupied Kherson.<sup>57</sup>

In a graphic and shocking video, a Ukrainian drone captured Russian troops cremating their own in a bit near FLOT. The video showed a dugout with Russian soldier bodies in it. The drone video cuts away, with the pit then on fire. A Russian soldier puts another body into the conflagration while another pours fuel. The video is NSWF,

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<sup>57</sup> <https://t.me/investigatorua/6593>



not for children; some may find it disturbing. You can watch the video by   [clicking here](#).<sup>58</sup>

The Russian Ministry of Defense quickly removed videos and all mentions of the congratulations on the Day of the Airborne Forces from the Commander of the Airborne Forces, Colonel General Mikhail Teplinsky.<sup>59</sup> In the video, Teplinsky revealed that the elite Russian parachute forces (VDV) had suffered 8,500 wounded since February 24, 2022. Teplinsky said more than 5,000 wounded paratroopers had been returned to the front, and another 3,500 refused medical treatment.

The British Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense estimated that at least 50% of the 30,000 VDV forces deployed to Ukraine had been killed or wounded in action.<sup>60</sup>

## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy reported Russians struck a blood transfusion center in the Kupyansk hromada in

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<sup>58</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108575>

<sup>59</sup> <https://t.me/vchkogpu/40484>

<sup>60</sup> <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1688064194665455616>

Kharkiv Oblast. "Dead and wounded are reported—my condolences. Our rescuers are extinguishing the fire. This war crime alone says everything about Russian aggression. Beasts that destroy everything...Defeating terrorists is a matter of honor for everyone who values life."<sup>61</sup>

The attack on Kruhlyakivka between Barova and Kupyansk killed two and wounded four.

On Friday morning, Russia shelled the pathology department of the Karabeles Hospital in Kherson, destroying it. There were no injuries in the overnight attack as Karabeles is too damaged to operate after an earlier strike that killed a doctor and wounded five more healthcare workers. During the same artillery barrage, the Russians targeted a shopping mall.<sup>62 63</sup>

On Thursday, Russian forces targeted St. Catherine's Cathedral in downtown Kherson, damaging the historic building and setting it on fire. Three people in a trolley in the area at the time of the attack were severely wounded. During the rescue effort, Russian forces did a "double tap"

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/5/7414380/>

<sup>62</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/91956>

<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/23070>

attack, targeting emergency workers, wounding four.<sup>64</sup> <sup>65</sup> Construction of St. Catherine's Cathedral started in 1791, and the building survived the Bolsheviks, Nazis, Stalin, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The bodies of 44 dead Ukrainian servicemembers were repatriated, with 160 Russian corpses returned to their homeland. The Ministry of Reintegration noted that the transfer of fallen soldiers' bodies was carried out per the Geneva Conventions.<sup>66</sup>

## GEOPOLITICS

President Zelenskyy discussed the ongoing peace summit hosted by Saudi Arabia in Jeddah. "In total, 42 countries are represented there. Different continents, and different political approaches to global affairs, but everyone is united by the priority of international law. And it is for this that Ukraine proposed the Peace Formula because the international order, based on rules and violated by Russian aggression, must be restored. It is very important that there, on the sidelines of the meeting in Jeddah, bilateral

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<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/23055>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/3/7413983/>

<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108582>

negotiations with partners take place. Thanks to our delegation for this work. Consolidation of the world is one of the most important tasks."<sup>67</sup>

While Russian and pro-Russian sources were celebrating that a joint statement was not released, they conveniently ignored that the goal of the meeting was not to create a joint statement. Saudi Arabia convinced representatives from China, India, South Africa, and Brazil to attend. Russia was not invited.

There were reports that China was highly engaged in the talks, and there was positive progress. Beijing is reportedly frustrated with Moscow due to the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the attacks on Ukrainian ports. China was the biggest recipient of grain from Ukraine.<sup>68</sup>

In September, the Directorate for Citizenship and Migration Affairs of Latvia is set to expel up to 6,000 Russian nationals hiding from conscription in the Russian armed forces. According to Ingmars Lidaka, the head of the Sejm Commission on Citizenship, Migration, and Social Cohesion, the Russian nationals facing removal did not even try to

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<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108766>

<sup>68</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/5717](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5717)



pass the background check for obtaining the status of a permanent resident of the EU, take the Latvian language exam, or obtain a temporary residence permit.

***Editor's Note: So many Russian expats claim that Russian Mir is better than anything in the world from a safe distance from the Russian Federation.***

## 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.