



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



April 30, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

4/30/22 20:00 PDT

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers located in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, donations, and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact social@malcontentnews.com. For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at tips@malcontentment.com.

[Patreons at the Bronze Level or higher](#) get access to the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patreons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2022, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Jeff Davis, Kseniia Panteleeva, with special thanks to David Batashvili of the [Rondeli Foundation](#)

Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 66	2
KEY EVENTS MAP	8
DONBAS REGION	9
LUHANSK	9
Severodonetsk Salient.....	9
Severodonetsk Westward Offensive.....	9
DONETSK.....	10
SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA.....	10
KHARKIV REGION	11
DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION	16
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION	16
KYIV REGION	17
BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION	17
WEST REGION	18
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	18
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	19
GEOPOLITICAL	19
ECONOMIC.....	19
DISINFORMATION EVALUATION.....	20

SUMMARY – DAY 66

The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and provide maps in the public domain.

It has been 2,984 days since Russia first invaded Ukraine.

Russian forces lost territory south and southeast of Izyum and northeast and east of Kharkiv city. While both sides have suffered heavy losses, particularly in the Severodonetsk Westward Offensive and the Izyum Axis, Russian losses have been unsustainable.

Russian troops in Dibrovne and Kurulka are at risk of encirclement and giving back 10 kilometers of territorial gains if they retreat. Ukrainian forces in Oskil were able to push Russian forces back north and west, temporarily ending the risk of becoming surrounded.

Ukrainian artillery destroyed over 30 vehicles, including more than a dozen tanks, on the Izyum front in a targeted attack on the command post of the 2nd Combined Arms

Army in Zabavne. The location was targeted through signal intelligence, and there are reports Major General Andrew Simonov was killed. We have not confirmed these claims, but we believe these reports have significant weight.

Sanctions and logistical issues have degraded Russia's ability to resupply and replace losses. Ukraine has used superior tactics and battlefield medicine to suffer fewer losses while being resupplied with superior weaponry faster than battle losses.

Northeast of Kharkiv city, Ukrainian forces liberated Monotove, Slobidske, Prelesne, and Verkhnya Rohanka. The line of conflict has been pushed to the edge of Shestakove. Russian troops from Pechenihiy north to Staryi Saltiv are protected by a 10-kilometer strip west of the banks of the Siverskyi Donets River.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared that "important tactical success" was achieved in Kharkiv and the Donbas.¹

¹ https://twitter.com/imminent_news/status/1520410125118451713

There was no change in territorial control in the Donbas from Donetsk to Hulyaipole.

Shelling and aerial bombardment of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant in Mariupol continued. A brief ceasefire allowed the United Nations to evacuate 20 to 25 civilians from the plant.

There wasn't significant fighting in Kherson. Russian troops took control of Klapaya, northwest of Kherson city. Otherwise, there weren't any changes in territorial control.

A Russian missile strike on the civilian airport in Odesa caused significant damage to the runway. The airport is inoperable until repairs can be made.

Tensions remain high in Transnistria. NATO has significantly increased aerial surveillance of the region from the Black Sea. However, this could be related to ongoing recovery operations where the Moskva sank or monitoring of Russian submarine activity.

Social media reports of F-16 activity along the Black Sea coast are exaggerations. Aircraft from 510th Expeditionary

Fighter Squadron (EFS) temporarily stationed at Fetesti Air Base in Romania swapped out with the 480th EFS on April 29. The 480th arrived in February and is being relieved by the 510th EFS, scheduled for a 90-day deployment.

ASSESSMENT: Combat activity over the previous 48 hours reinforces our earlier assessments; the Russian military mission in Ukraine has become combat ineffective.

A week ago, Russian forces were making slow but steady progress, employing a pragmatic strategy. Heavy artillery barrage, followed by armored and mechanized infantry advance with some support from infantry. Additionally, advances were provided with significantly better air cover than six weeks ago, and some supply and logistics issues had been improved.

During April 24 - 27, Russian forces were able to attack along multiple axes, straining Ukrainian resources and inflicting heavy casualties. During this period, somewhat coordinated attacks happened on the Severodonetsk Salient, the Severodonetsk Westward Offensive, and the Izyum Axis. From April 25 to 27, the offensive south of Izyum was the most efficient operation conducted by the Russian armed forces since the start of the war. This

peaked on April 27, when Russian troops recaptured Zavody, overran multiple Ukrainian defensive lines, and captured 20 square kilometers of territory.

Over the last 48 hours, there has been a transition to the previously used ineffective tactics — piecemeal assaults of infantry with minimal armor and air support against well-entrenched Ukrainian defensive lines. The shrinking availability of Main Battle Tanks (MBT), Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), and field artillery is putting the Phase 2 offensive by Russia in jeopardy.

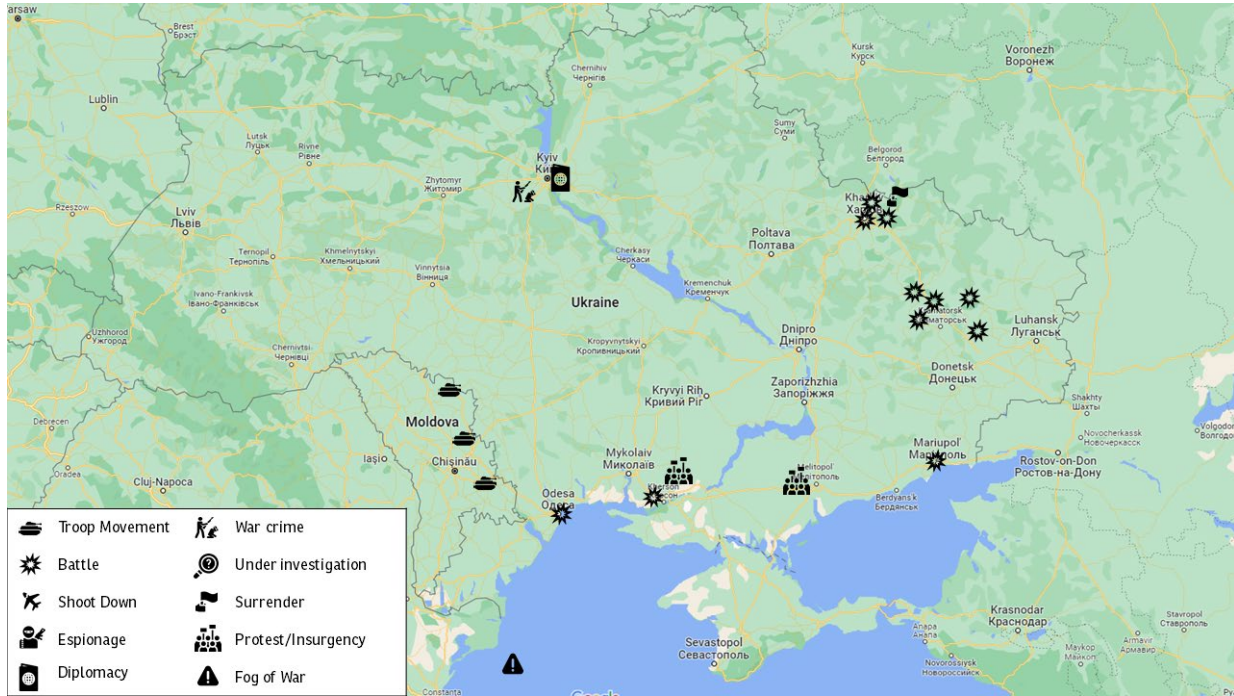
Additionally, there hasn't been an equally strong offensive from Donetsk to Huyaipole, nor in the Mykolaiv, Kherson, or Deniproterovsk Oblasts since the Phase 2 offensive began. Russian forces continue to waste an increasingly limited supply of munitions on civilians and civilian targets in Kharkiv, Sumy, and Odesa Oblasts.

Missile attacks from the Black Sea are being made using submarines due to the loss of the missile cruiser Moskva and potentially because of a dwindling supply of Kalibr cruise missiles.

We have less confidence that Russian forces can overwhelm Ukrainian positions in Eastern Ukraine, let alone encircle large areas. We are already seeing signs that Russian troops are struggling to hold the minimal territorial gains they've achieved in the last 11 days.

We remain concerned that we are stuck in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox. In our assessment, the Kremlin is running out of viable options to carve out any semblance of a victory in Ukraine.

KEY EVENTS MAP



DONBAS REGION

Russian forces made no advances in the Donbas.

LUHANSK

Severodonetsk Salient

Fighting continued in Rubizhne, Popasna, and west of Severodonetsk with no change in territorial control.

ASSESSMENT: It is unlikely the addition of available forces will alter the situation.

Severodonetsk Westward Offensive

There was reduced fighting along the offensive line. Ukrainian forces have held defensive positions in Yampil and prevented any advance toward Lyman.

DONETSK TO WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

There was scattered fighting and artillery barrages along the entire line of conflict from Horlivka to Velyka Novosilka and further west into the Zaporizhia Oblast to Huyaipole. There was no change in territorial control.

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

In Mariupol, the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant was bombed by the Russian Air Force using non-precision munitions early on April 30. The United Nations entered the city and evacuated 20 to 25 women and children from the Azovstal factory.^{2 3} Officials continue to try and broker a more significant evacuation. It is estimated that 1,000 civilians are hiding in bunkers under the factory protected by 2,000 Ukrainian marines.

Russian forces continue to attack civilian areas outside of Azovstal.⁴ A video showed a tank firing on an apartment building at point-blank range on April 29.⁵ On April 30, Chechen forces released a video claiming to have “rescued”

² [Sky News](#)

³ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1520461443291832320>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1520445054095134721>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/KSergatskova/status/1520431605587881984>

nine civilians, including two children, from the building. The status of the other seven to nine people hiding in the basement is unknown. The video does not show any civilians.⁶

KHARKIV REGION

Ukrainian forces bombarded the 2nd Combined Arms Army command post in Zabavne, north of Izyum. The Ukrainian General Staff reported they used "signal intelligence" to identify Russian Major General Andrew Simonov was at the command post at the time of the attack.

ASSESSMENT: This indicates General Simonov used unsecured communications to share his position and/or was carrying or using an unsecured cell phone.

General Simonov is reportedly dead, with drone video showing over 30 vehicles destroyed in the attack, including at least a dozen tanks.

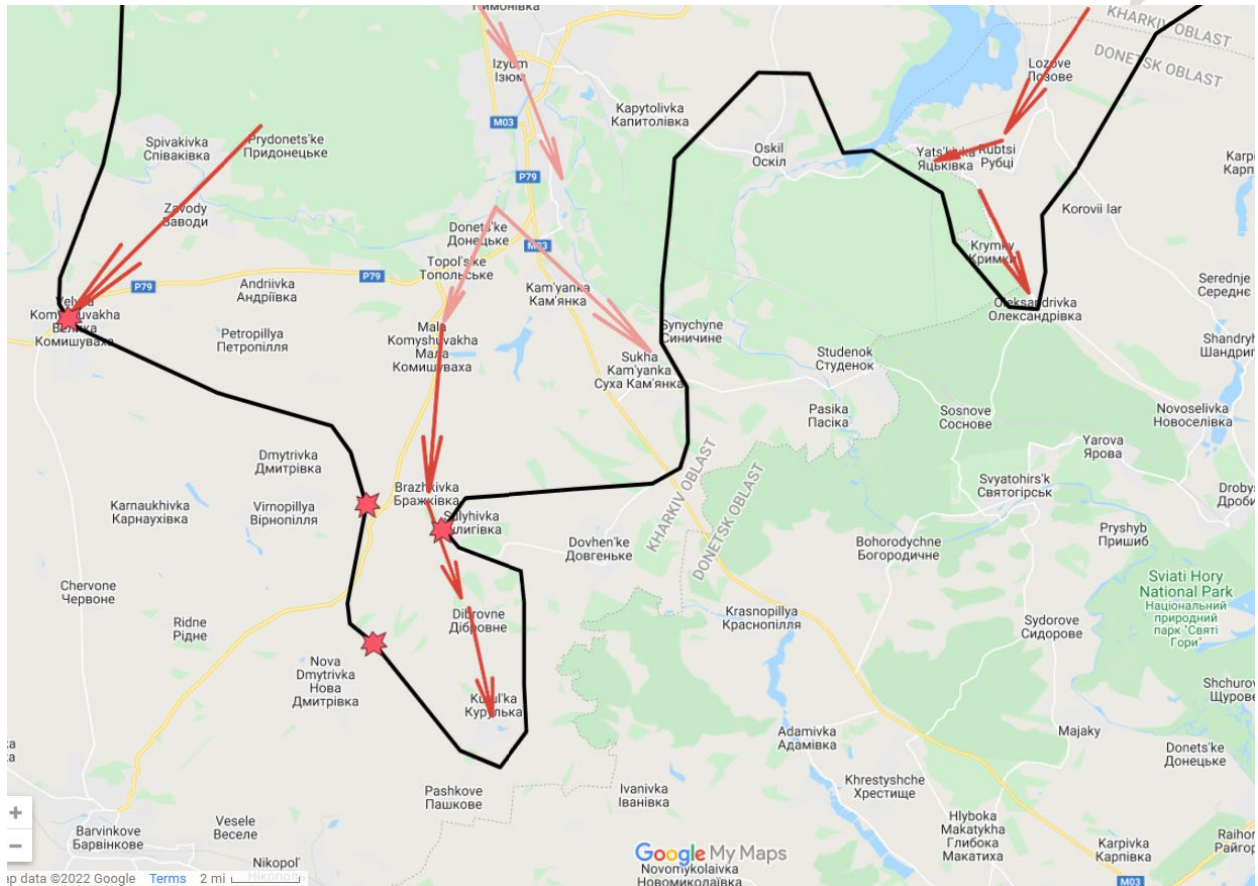
⁶ <https://twitter.com/Ukraine66251776/status/1520542737963102208> [Russian State Media Rating: Questionable and Staged]

ASSESSMENT: The equipment losses are enough to render an entire BTG "destroyed." Due to the specifics provided about the attack with confirming video, it is our assessment that General Simonov was likely killed. We do not have independent verification.



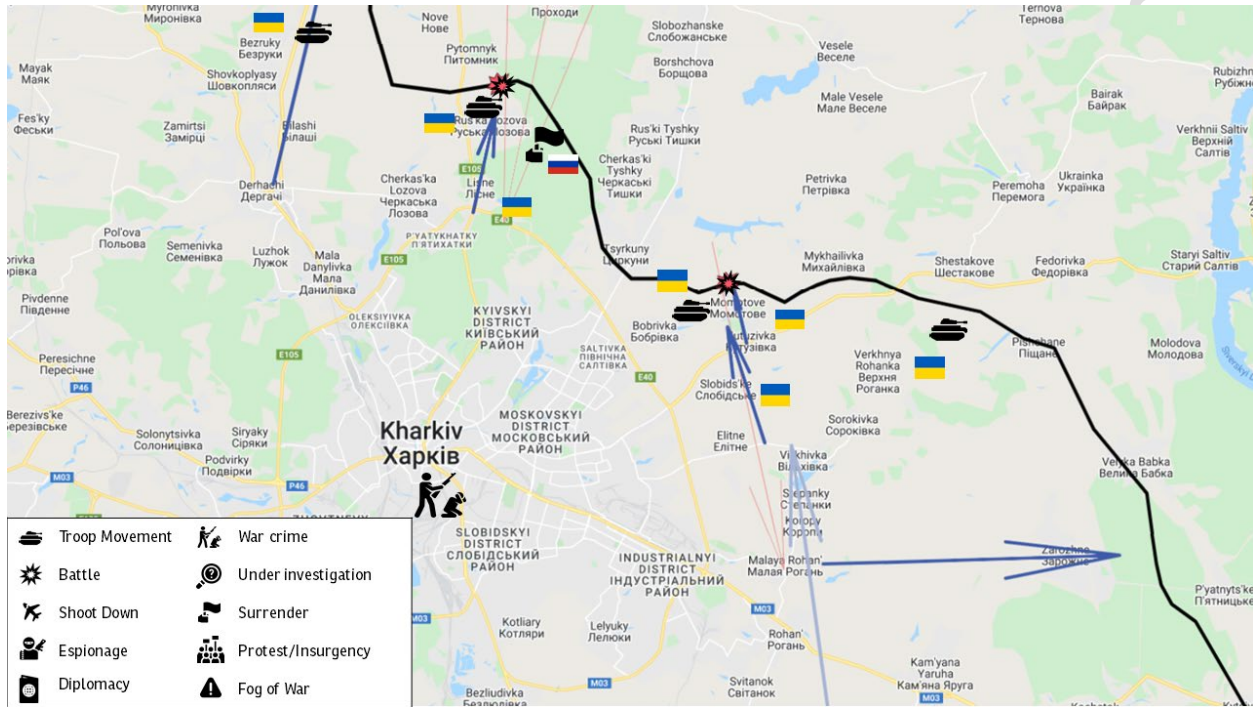
Ukrainian forces were able to liberate Dovhenke and contest control of Sulyhivka. Russian troops in Dibrovne and Kurulka are connected by a 3-kilometer-wide gap between Sulyhivka and Virnopillya. The area has minimal roadway infrastructure, and the Russian forces risk being encircled.

ASSESSMENT: If the salient were to collapse, Russian forces would lose 10 kilometers of gains made between April 25 and 27.



Pro-Russian social media accounts continue to claim that Ukrainian forces are or are near encirclement in Oskil. There is nothing to support this, and further, there is strong evidence that the Ukrainian troops advanced 2 or 3 kilometers north from Oskil and 1 kilometer west.

Russian troops were pushed back from Oleksandrivka, which is now under Ukrainian control by military definition. The settlement of Krymky is now contested.



The Ukrainian counteroffensive north and northeast of Kharkiv city continued on April 30. The settlements of Momotove, Verkhnya Rohanka, Slobidske, and the village of Prelesne were liberated. The line of conflict has been pushed to the T2104 highway and the outskirts of Shestakove.

Ukrainians evacuated civilians from liberated Ruska Lovoza and Lisne into Kharkiv.⁷

Due to these advances, Russia's ability to fire artillery and rockets into the civilian areas of Kharkiv has been degraded. Despite the improving conditions, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continue.^{8 9 10}

ASSESSMENT: Kharkiv is no longer partially isolated with open supply and communication lines from Poltava. If Russian forces intend to maintain pressure on the city, they will be forced to pull resources from the Izyum front or limited reserve forces in Belgorod.

Ukrainian forces reported capturing 70 Russian soldiers.¹¹
(some viewers may find this video disturbing)

⁷ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1520309059165069313>

⁸ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1520463030185775107>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1520395187704508417>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1520349074603581441>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/SlavicWorld/status/1519743638686871553>

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

Insurgents knocked out cellular and Internet service across the Kherson Oblast. Vodafone confirmed that services were done, stating the outage was “not because of an accident.”¹²

In Russian-controlled parts of Zaporizhia and Kherson, the transition to the rouble started a minute after midnight. The Kremlin said the conversion would take four months.¹³

Earlier today, we received reports that Russian forces are contesting control of Kyselivka northwest of Kherson. Due to the ongoing Internet and cellular outage, we could not confirm the information.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

¹² https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1520515682382884866

¹³ <https://twitter.com/ZOONewsTV/status/1520603522072739841>

KYIV REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

A Russian diesel-powered submarine fired Kalibr cruise missiles on Odesa, with three striking the international airport's runway. The runway was cratered in the attack, leaving the airfield unusable.¹⁴

ASSESSMENT: We believe that an amphibious landing by Russian forces in the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi region of Odesa is remote. Ukrainian troops have been provided with antiship weapons, in addition to the Ukrainian Neptune system, and are receiving real-time intelligence from NATO.

ASSESSMENT: We believe a land invasion by Russian forces backed by Transnistrian militia is possible but unlikely.

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1520442868812419073>

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Poland has agreed to provide air policing capability to Slovakia through 2024.¹⁵ In 2019 The United States State Department approved the sale of 14 F-16 fighter aircraft to Slovakia to replace their aging fleet of Mig-29 fighter planes.

Slovakia has 11 operational Mig-29s, one converted into a training aircraft. The deal would enable Slovakia to transfer the Migs to Ukraine, while Poland would provide air space policing until they could take delivery of the F-16s and train their aircrews.

President Emmanuel Macron said France would step up military and humanitarian support to Ukraine during a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy on

¹⁵ <https://theaviationist.com/2022/04/30/poland-to-provide-air-policing-to-slovakia/>

Saturday. Neither leader shared the details on the package.¹⁶

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Three more bodies of executed civilians were found in Bucha. Investigators said the victims were bound, blindfolded, and some were gagged. They showed signs of torture and were shot in the head.¹⁷

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant developments today.

ECONOMIC

Russia avoided default on overdue international debt late on April 29.¹⁸ Bowing to international pressure, Russia backed down on its insistence that the payments would be

¹⁶ [Reuters](#)

¹⁷ [The Times of Israel](#) [Media Rating: Valid]

¹⁸ [Reuters](#)

made in roubles only and paid using United States dollars and Eurobonds, per the existing terms and conditions.

The Russian Finance Ministry said it had managed to make the \$564.8 million payment. Had Russia not made the payment by May 4, the nation would have gone into default.

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

No update