MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

September 19, 2023

Malcontent News
Russia-Ukraine War SITREP
9/19/23 23:59* PST

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SUMMARY – DAY 572

It has been 3,492 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 207 days

since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. Today's SITREP is combat only.

It is likely there was more activity than what was reported. Renewed fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was a distraction for many Russian milblogger. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in New York for the General Assembly, and Minister of Defense Rustem Umerov was in Germany for the 15th meeting of the Ramstein Working Group. The entire body of Deputy Ministers of Defense was dismissed on September 18.

We expect September 20 to be a hectic news cycle (sorry, Marina – baptism by fire!). Reminder: today is the last day of the bullet summary because the podcast is restarting.

[Jump to the Action Report](#).

- There were minor updates made to the war map
- Russian VKS bombing of Kupyansk kills six civilians
- Russian counteroffensives at Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Kurdyumivka failed
- Heavy fighting continued west of Verbove and south of Robotyne

- Up to five Storm Shadow cruise missiles hit a Russian command and control base in Melitopol
- The number of Black Sea Fleet large landing ships that remain seaworthy is smaller than we previously assessed
- The Turkish-owned Togolese-flagged cargo ship Seama struck a landmine off the coast of Romania
- Russian forces unleashed the heaviest artillery barrage on free Kherson since November 2022, killing two and wounding four
- The headquarters for the Russian 7th Guards Air Assault Division was attacked
- Russian drones that struck Lviv on September 18 – 19 destroyed 300 tons of humanitarian relief provided by a Vatican-backed NGO
- At least four Shahed-136 kamikaze drones struck an oil refinery in Kremenchuk
- Two civilians in the Sumy oblast were wounded in an artillery strike
- Less than 1,000 Private Military Company Wagner Group mercenaries remain in Belarus
- Latvia closed the Silene border checkpoint on the Belarusian border
- A Ukrainian kamikaze drone destroyed a tank of aviation fuel at Sochi airport
- Ukraine was attacked by 24 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, with 17 shot down

- Germany, Norway, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom announced new military aid packages for Ukraine
- Germany is not sending Taurus cruise missiles, and the United States is not sending ATACMS
- Ukraine rejected the delivery of ten Leopard 1A5 tanks because they were inoperable
- The United States has not started F-16 pilot training

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.
2. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government is in the largest purge of dissident voices and perceived internal enemies since the Soviet era, including the leaders, mercenaries, and employees of PMC Wagner, objective state media journalists and war bloggers, far-right nationalists who want the Kremlin to take more aggressive action in Ukraine, and human rights activists.

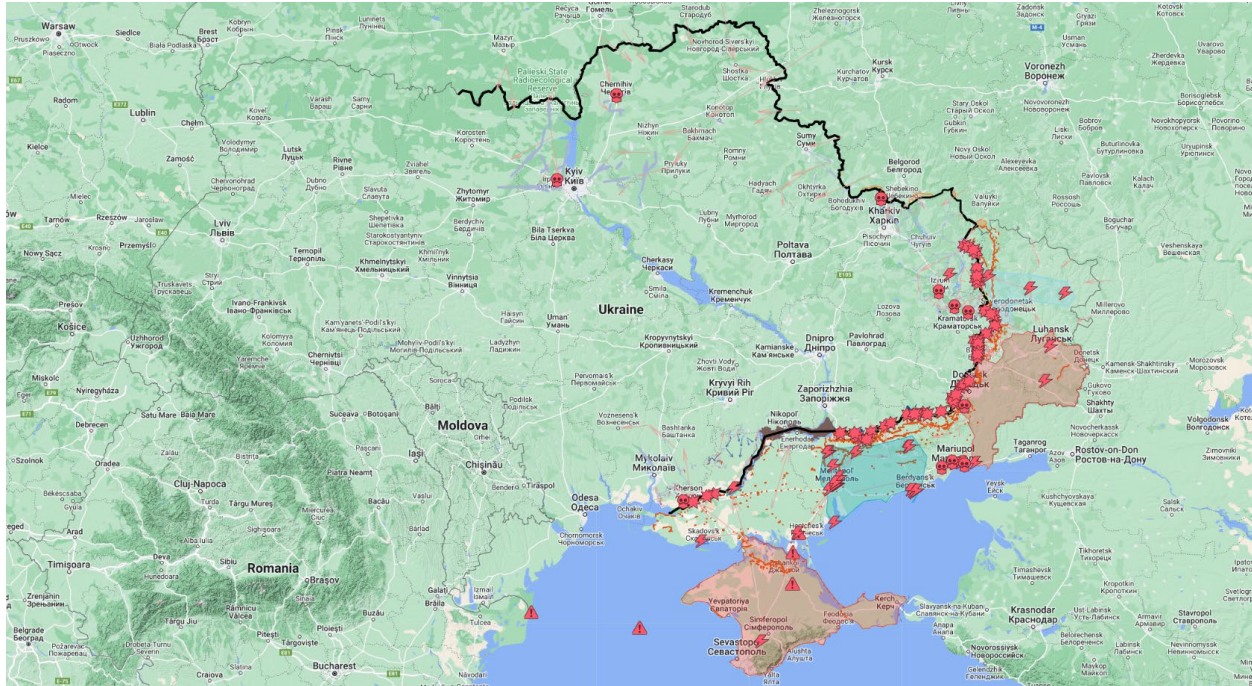   Wednesday, September 20, 2023

3. There remains a possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin. President Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.

4. 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.

5. The soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border has further emboldened Moscow to take increasing risks, which could cause a significant international incident.

6. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer-fall offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.

7. Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.

8. The growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units has forced commanders to

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commit strategic reserves meant for a fall-winter counteroffensive into defensive operations. Additionally, due to declining combat potential, Russian commanders are activating the reserves from the second and third echelons of the Prigozhin and Surovikin Lines.

9. 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.
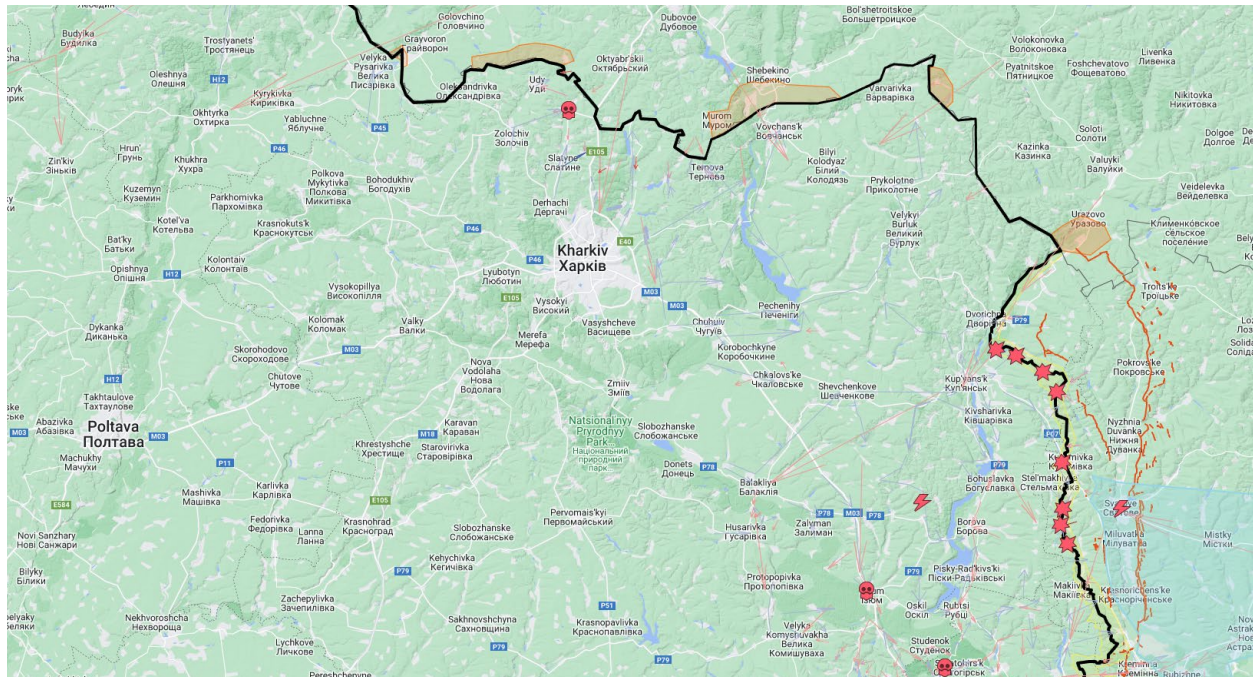
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted like this, it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

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KHARKIV

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

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure
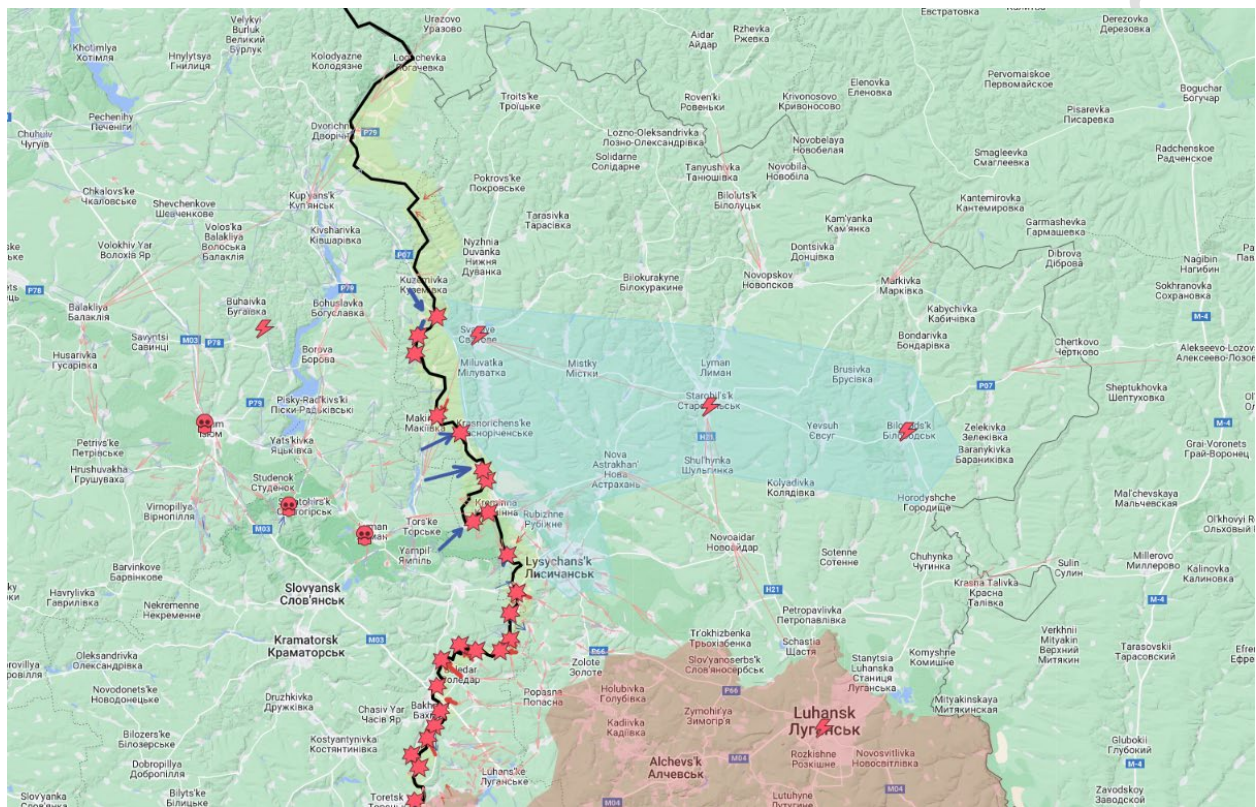
Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleg Sinegubov reported that six civilians, four men and

two women, were killed when a Russian FAB-1500S-E UPMK glide bomb struck the frontline city of Kupyansk.[1] Kupyansk and another 36 area settlements have been under mandatory evacuation orders since July, but many ignored the order.

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[1] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115223
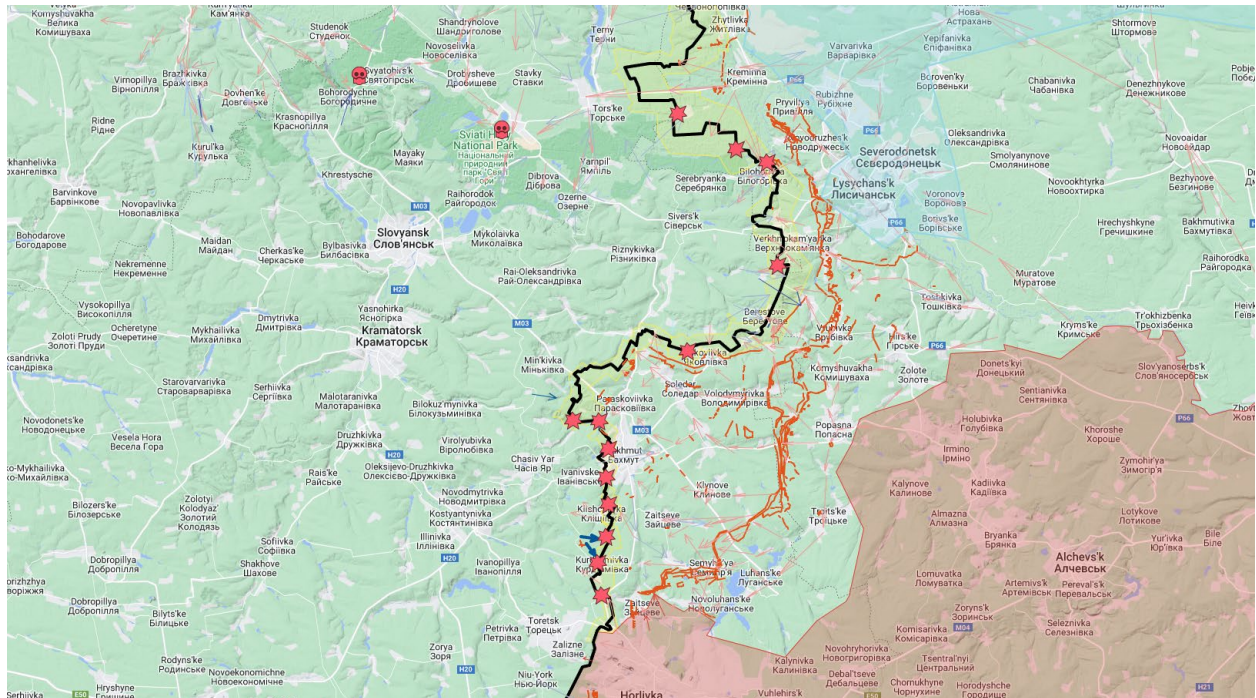
DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

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

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

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Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk Operational Areas

There wasn't any significant ground combat in this region. There were artillery duels, and Ukrainian forces made marginal gains at Novoselivske. Russian attempts to advance in the Serebryanskyy Woods are in an operational pause after suffering significant losses last week.

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NORTHEAST DONETSK

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

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north and south of Bakhmut, cut off the ground lines of communication into Bakhmut and Soledar and liberate both operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

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Soledar, Bakhmut, and Klishchiivka Operational Areas
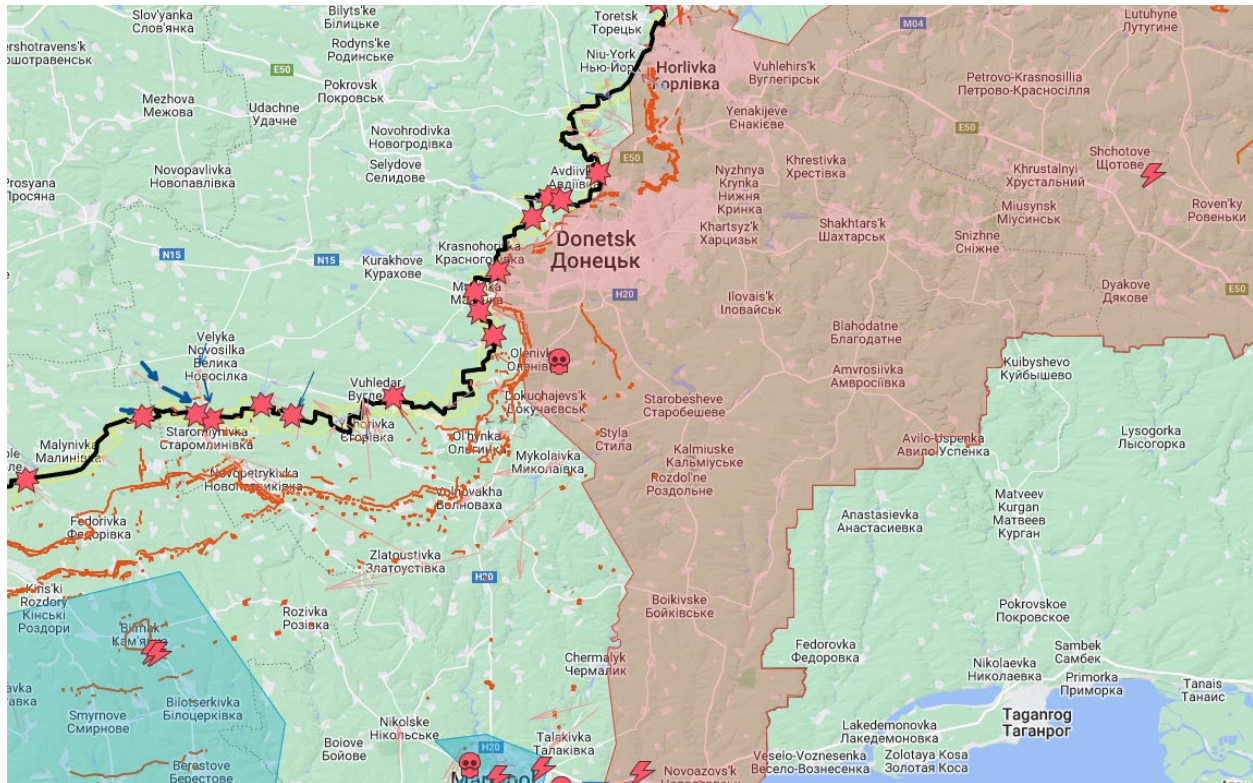
Russian forces attempted to advance west of Yahidne and tried to retake lost positions east of Klishchiivka and Andriivka.[2][3][4] A prominent Russian milblogger reported a Russian counterattack near Kurdyumivka also failed. The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the area of Mayorsk. As we've previously assessed, this is likely between the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal and the T-513 Highway south of Ozarianivka.

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[2] https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12119
[3] https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17642
[4] https://t.me/wargonzo/15124

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SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK

Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and capture the remainder of the oblast

Ukrainian Objective: Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, set conditions for an offensive in the Volnovakha and Mariupol directions, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

Avdiivka, Marinka, Vuhledar, and Staromlynivka Operational Areas

Ukrainian and Russian sources reported continued fighting in [Marinka](#), with no change to the situation.[5] [6]

Multiple Russian sources reported mutual fighting south of [Staromaiorske](#) and did not make any claims about changes in territorial control.

Occupied Donetsk

Editor's Note: *A sharp eyed subscriber and our new co-host, Marina Yevshan, held your editor-in-chief's feet to the fire for an entry in the September 18, 2023 Situation Report. They correctly asked if our editorial policy of reporting dubious attacks in the Donetsk area had changed.*

No.

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[5] https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12119
[6] https://t.me/wargonzo/15124

Under our current editorial policy, the report about the alleged strike on the Administration Building for the illegitimate government of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) should not have been in the report. Marina accurately evaluated that the damage was inconsistent with a strike by a rocket fired by HIMARS.

After spending hours researching other strikes, we have repeatedly proved that many attacks in the Donetsk area originated from Russian-occupied territory through damage and crater analysis. We have repeatedly proven, including on September 18 in Makiivka, that the Russian Ministry of Defense uses the civilians of Donetsk as human shields, placing firebases, ammunition depots, supply nodes, and troop concentrations near civilians and civilian infrastructure, including stores, schools, and hospitals.

*To recap our editorial policy. Unless there are three **independent reports** from trusted sources, we will not investigate or report on any claims of attacks on civilians in Oleksandrivka, Kreminets, Staromykhailivka, Lozove, Vesele, Spartak, Yakovlivka, Mineralne, or the Petrovskyi, Kirovskyi, Kuibyshivskyi, Kyivskyi, and Kirovskyi districts of Donetsk. There is ample evidence that Russian forces intermix military operations in civilian areas within 8*
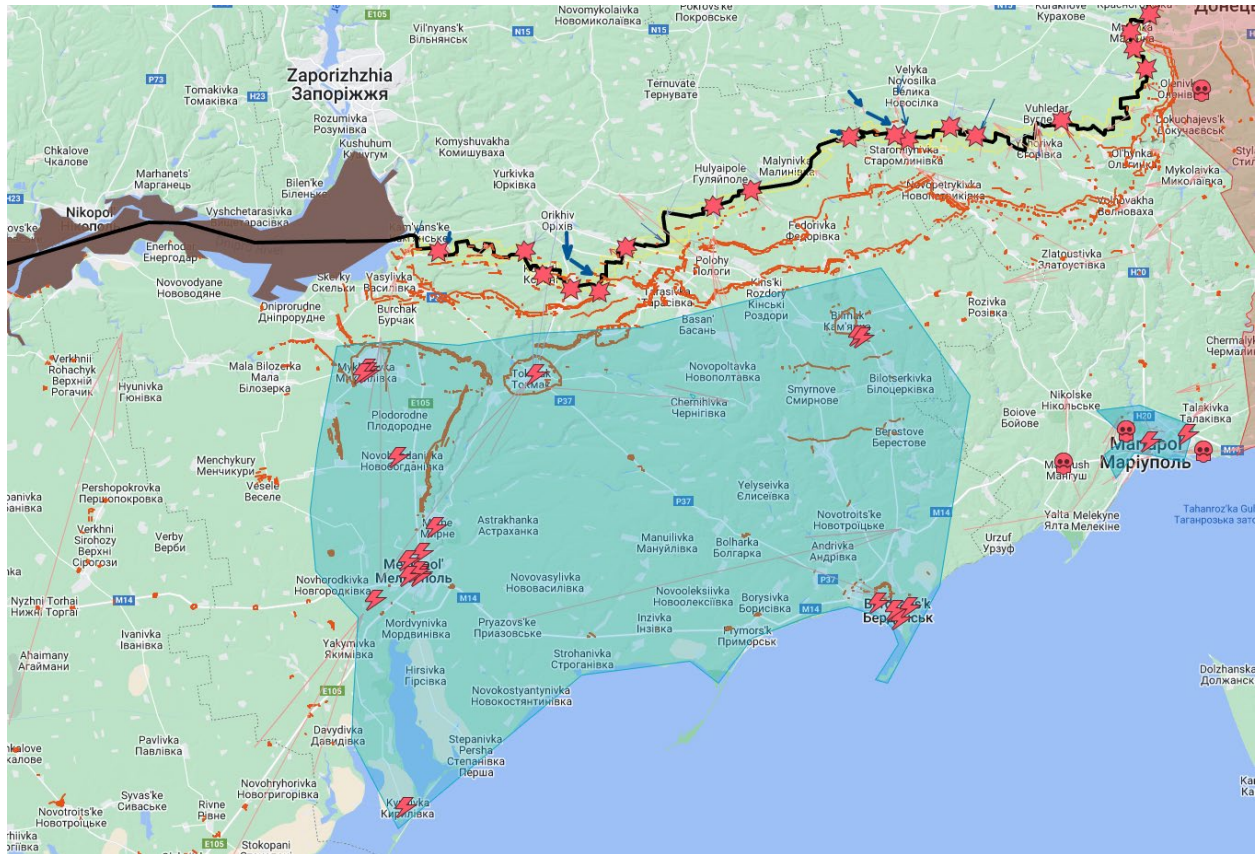
kilometers of the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT).

While many sources shared yesterday's strike in central Donetsk, our editorial policy was violated because a root source analysis was not done. There was only one source for the claim – former pyramid scheme salesman and the self-declared acting leader of the so-called DNR, Denis we're going to capture Marinka tomorrow, and I promise you I'm not lying this time, Pushilin.
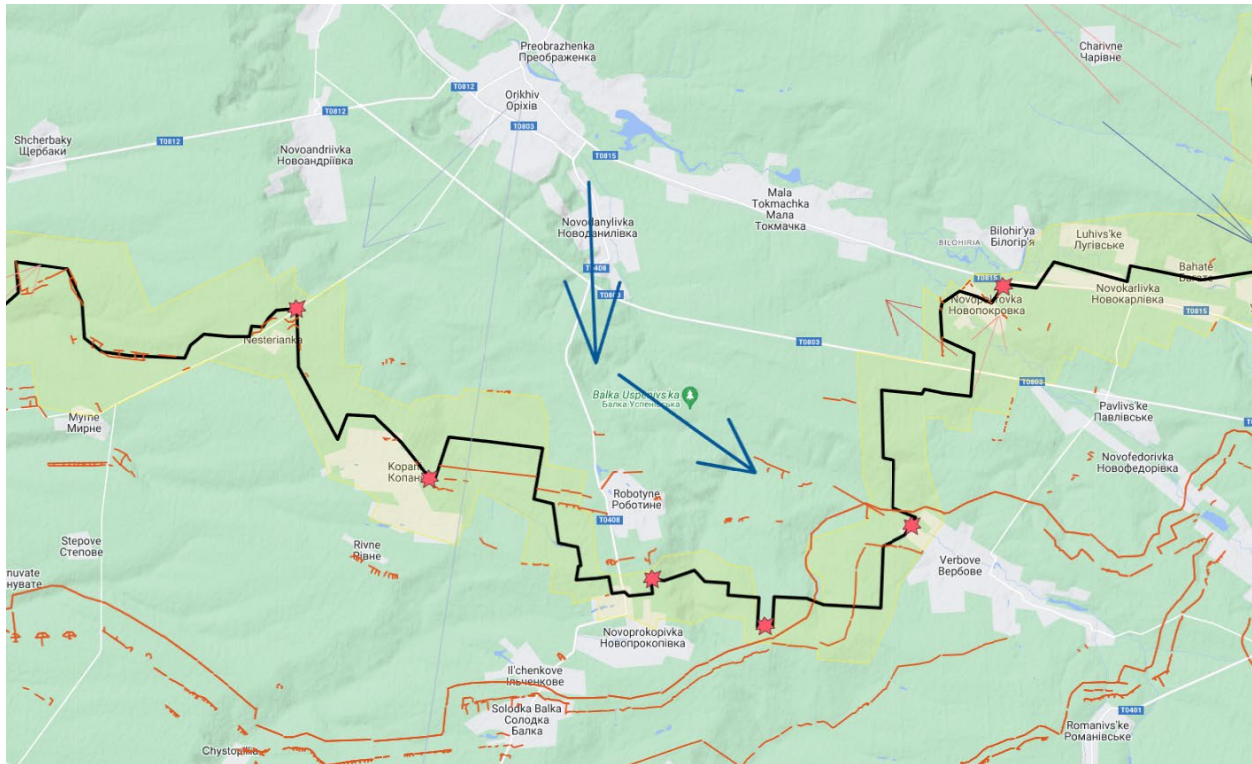
Thank you for defending the truth. The truth matters.

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ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, prepare to launch a fall-winter offensive to capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Break through the Surovikin Line and sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians

Orikhiv Operational Area

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported intense fighting continued on the western edge of Verbove and south of Robotyne, with no changes in the situation that we can report at this time.[7] [8] [9]

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[7] https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17642
[8] https://t.me/wargonzo/15124
[9] https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12119

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Occupied Zaporizhzhia

Yesterday, we reported "a massive explosion near Melitopol at the time of publication, but no other information was available."

We have more information.

Up to 📺 [five Storm Shadow cruise missiles struck](#) a Russian command and control base in the area of the Autosvetlit Plant, with the video showing one potential interception.[10] How do we know it was Storm Shadow cruise missiles? This 📺 [video was very convincing](#).[11] There hasn't been any open-source intelligence published that would permit a battle damage assessment.

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There was no change in the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

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[10] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115167
[11] https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42778

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

The situation with the fleet of Russian large landing ships (LLS) assigned to the Black Sea is worse than we had previously evaluated. After the destruction of the Project 775 Ropucha-Class LLS Minsk, we identified one Project 775 destroyed, one Project 1171 Tapir-Class LLS destroyed, and three Project 775 LLSs damaged and irreparable due to a lack of parts. We also identified Project 775 LLS Azov as being perpetually in repair. Two more Project 775 vessels are unseaworthy due to constant breakdowns, with satellite images showing the two vessels rarely move.

There were no reports on the number and type of vessels from the Black Sea Fleet on patrol.

Romania

The captain of the 2,350-ton Turkish-owned, Togolese-flagged general cargo ship Seama 📷 reported the vessel struck a mine 40 kilometers east of the Romanian port of Sulina.[12] The Romanian coast guard evacuated the crew of

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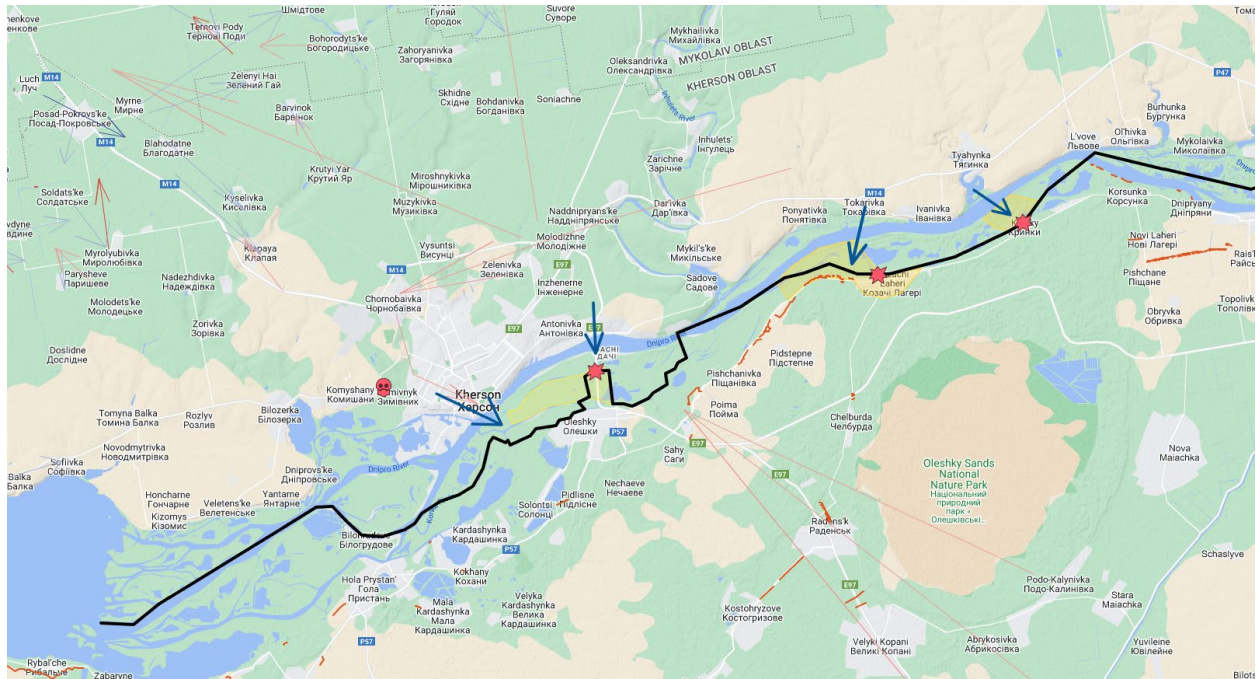
12 https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1704392027524440232

12. The Ministry of Transport of Romania deployed the Tugboat Sulina 2 to assist. The Seama departed the Turkish port of Bartin and was waiting to be unloaded at Sulina when the blast occurred. The crew reported the engine room was flooded, with recent pictures suggesting the fire on the vessel had been extinguished. The next port of call from Sulina would have been the Ukrainian port of Izmail. At the time of publication, Romania had not confirmed a sea mine caused the explosion, and Turkish authorities had not released a statement.

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives

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There was a slight map adjustment at [Dachi](#) on the left (east) bank of the Dnipro River, with open-source intelligence showing that Ukrainian forces have expanded the area of control.

Free Kherson was subjected to one of the heaviest artillery barrages since November 2022. Russian forces conducted 118 fire missions, firing 589 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets from multiple launch rocket systems, antitank guided missiles, indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs,

and UPMK glide bombs. Two 📺 [people were killed](#) and four injured.[13] [14] [15]

Occupied Kherson

The headquarters for the 7th Guards Mountain Air Assault (VDV) Divison, which includes the 56th Regiment, the 108th Regiment, the combat destroyed 247th Regiment, and the 1141st Artillery Regiment, was attacked while senior officers were meeting.[16] There was no information on casualties.

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

Lviv

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[13] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115293
[14] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115148
[15] https://t.me/suspilnenews/24337
[16] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115229

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United Nations Coordinate for Ukraine Denise Brown confirmed that the warehouse destroyed in the city of Lviv on September 19, 📺 [contained 300 tons of humanitarian aid](#) from the non-governmental agency Caritas Spes, including aid from the Vatican.[17] Brown condemned the attack, calling the warehouse "an important humanitarian site."[18] The search of the rubble ended with rescuers discovering the body of an unidentified man.

Fun fact – this is the second time Russia has attacked a humanitarian effort with UN involvement while Russian officials were in New York for meetings at the UN.

Awkward.

Poltava

Multiple Ukrainian officials, including the chief of the Poltava Regional Police Department, Dmitry Lunin, reported that the Oil Refinery in Kremenchuk was hit by up to four Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. Plant operations have been suspended, and emergency services are working to

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[17] https://t.me/uniannet/111844?single
[18] https://t.me/uniannet/111843

extinguish the fire and evaluation the damage. No one was injured in the attack.[19] [20] [21]

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: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Sumy

Russian forces conducted 32 fire missions, firing 202 artillery rounds, mortars, indirect tank fire, air-to-ground rockets, and rocket-propelled grenades, targeting eight hromadas on the Russian border.[22] In Seredyna-Buda, two civilians were injured.

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[19] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115295
[20] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115287
[21] https://t.me/uniannet/111898
[22] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115259

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RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

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

Krasnodar Krai

A Ukrainian drone struck a fuel tank holding 1,200 tons of Jet-A aviation fuel at the Sochi airport. A 📺 [large fire erupted](). [23] [24]

Moscow

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine reported that on September 18, unknown saboteurs damaged two airplanes assigned to the 354 Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Chkalovsky

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[23] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115273
[24] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115275

Military Airfield.[25] The mid-resolution 📷 [satellite image isn't conclusive but strongly suggests](#) that an AN-148 regional cargo plane had its tail section heavily damaged, and an Il-20M special electronic intelligence and communications intelligence aircraft was struck.[26]

BELARUSIAN FRONT

Less than 1,000 Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner mercenaries are left in Belarus. Two hundred are working as instructors attached to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of Belarus. The remainder don't want to return to Russia, don't want to work for one of the Kremlin-aligned PMCs, and don't want to go to Africa.[27]

Latvia closed another border checkpoint with Belarus at Silene. The closure was due to illegal migration and smuggling attempts at the crossing.[28]

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[25] https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1704426794043035781
[26] https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1704426794043035781
[27] https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/09/18/7420344/
[28] https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17637

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THEATERWIDE

Russian launched 24 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones into Ukraine overnight. Seventeen were shot down, and we accounted for four hits in the Poltava region.[29]

United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, told reporters that "Ukraine continues to make steady progress in liberating its homeland from Russian occupation," adding that "Ukraine has liberated more than 54% of the territory occupied by Russia, and they continue to maintain the strategic initiative."[30]

The Permanent Representative of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Taras Melnychuk, announced the dismissal of all deputy ministers of defense of Ukraine, including,[31]

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained the deputy of the Kherson Military Committee, Yuriy Lavrynenko, for providing fake medical exemptions. Lavryneko was charging between $4,500 to $6,000 per exemption. In the

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[29] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115295
[30] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115247
[31] https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17628

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Ivano-Frankivsk region, the deputy director of the medical department of the Rozhnativ Hospital, Oleksandr Pytskiv, was detained for the same crime. Pytskiv was less ambitious, charging $2,000 for fake health certificates. Both are facing up to 10 years in prison.

Verkhovna Rada representative Taras Melnichuk reported that the Cabinet of Ministers dismissed Oleg Kotenko from the post of Commissioner for Missing Persons due to special circumstances. There was no other information provided.[32]

Errors and Omissions: *Marina Yevshan, Russian-Ukraine War Report co-host and defender of the Ukrainian language, identified mangled translations of three names of Deputy Ministers of Defense who were dismissed on September 18.*

- *Rostyslav Teodoziyovych, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine, should have been Rostyslav Zamlynskyi*
- *Olehovych Deinegu, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine for digital development, digital*

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[32] https://t.me/uniannet/111831

transformations and digitalization, should have been Vitaliy Deinega

- *Oleksandrovych Vashchenko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, should have been Kostiantyn Vashchenko*

The analyst team determined that including the patronyms in the Raw Intelligence Report and mixing the name order confused the editorial team. In the case of Vitaliy Deinega, there was a transcription and translation error by an analyst. To prevent this in the future, patronyms will not be included in our internal intelligence report, which is the foundation for the SITREP, and analysts will use first names first. Thank you for your understanding.

Germany announced a new military aid package for Ukraine, which includes,[33]

- 30,000 155 mm rounds
- 3,800 155 mm DM125 smoke shells
- 105,000 120 mm mortar shells
- 480 M26 AT2 antitank mines that are distributed by guided multiple launch rocket systems (GMLRS), better known as HIMARS

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[33] https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17639

- 200 unspecified MRAPs
- Demining systems
- An unspecified number of Dachs armored engineering vehicles
- An unspecified number of Bergenpanzer support combat vehicles
- 50 unspecified surface drones
- Winter uniforms
- Generators
- Explosive ordnance disposal materials

No Taurus cruise missiles.[34]

Norway announced it was transferring 50 M548 tracked transporters to Ukraine.[35]

The Czech Republic agreed with Denmark and the Netherlands to provide Czech heavy weapons to Ukraine. The first package will include 15 T-72EA main battle tanks, howitzers, infantry fighting vehicles, and air defense systems with munitions.[36]

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[34] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115207
[35] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115178
[36] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115221

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Denmark announced it would transfer another 30 Leopard-1A5 tanks to Ukraine.[37]

Lithuania also announced a new military aid package that includes ammunition for the Carl Gustaf antitank system and maritime surveillance radars. Additionally, Lithuania will start repairing Leopard tanks.[38]

The United Kingdom announced another aid package that includes tens of thousands of artillery rounds.[39]

The United States still hasn't started training Ukrainian pilots to fly the F-16, with the first English language lessons set to start in Texas – soon.[40]

Ukraine rejected the delivery of ten Leopard-1A5 tanks from Germany because they were inoperable. "Since there are neither trained technical personnel nor sufficient spare

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[37] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115169
[38] https://t.me/uniannet/111887
[39] https://t.me/uniannet/111877
[40] https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115142

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parts, there is no point in transporting Leopard to Ukraine," the German publication Der Speigel wrote.[41]

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin told the Ramstein Working Group that Ukraine needs air defense systems more than long-range missiles, stating, "Russia will again try to use the cold and darkness to break the Ukrainians."[42][43]

The published report that the Pentagon "found" extra inventory of ATACMS missiles that we didn't report on was false.[44] The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has 1,138 ATACMS in active inventory and another 1,281 expired missiles.

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 13, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

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[41] https://t.me/uniannet/111852
[42] https://t.me/uniannet/111858
[43] https://t.me/couch_IU/42865
[44] https://t.me/mortisaeterna/5219

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the Oryx Database from February 24, 2022, to September 13, 2023. 12,153 Russian (including Chef's Rebellion) vs. 4,433 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2165	283	7.65:1	⇩
Medium Duty Tanks	148	366	0.40:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	977	325	3.01:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2781	746	3.73:1	—
Armored Personnel Carriers	351	345	1.02:1	⇩
MRAPs	47	157	0.30:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	207	370	0.56:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	251	17	14.76:1	⇩
Engineering Vehicles	342	81	4.22:1	⇩
Towed Artillery	299	159	1.88:1	⇧
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	521	215	2.42:1	⇧
MLRS	269	50	5.38:1	⇧
SAMs	169	129	1.31:1	⇧
Mobile Radars	45	77	0.58:1	⇩
EW/ECW	54	4	13.50:1	⇧
Winged Aircraft	91	71	1.28:1	⇧
Helicopters	112	35	3.20:1	⇩
Naval Vessels and Submarines	17	27	0.63:1	⇧

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RUMORS

Many messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.

- Did Russia destroy two Mig-29s and three Su-25s at Kryvyi Rih with new long range Lancet kamikaze drones?
- Have more than 260,000 Russian soldiers died in Ukraine since February 24, 2022?
- North Korean ammunition is coming to Russia?
- Is ATACMS coming to Ukraine – no last day of entry

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 only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying 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.

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🛑**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.

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⛔**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

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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.

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