



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 523

It has been 3,443 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 158 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. While fighting continues, both combatants report that their enemies have reduced operational tempo and are engaged in troop rotations or pulling up reserve forces.

- The Russian Ministry of Defense reported Ukraine was on the offensive in the area of Raihorodka, confirming that the Russian salient in the direction of Borova is collapsing
- Klishchiivka and Andriivka are unoccupied, with Ukrainian forces targeting Russian artillery and mortar units to push them east of the railroad tracks
- Our long-standing assessment that the line of conflict northeast and south of Avdiivka has been moving through the same gray area since February 2023 was confirmed
- Ukrainian forces made marginal gains from Novomykhailivka in the direction of Sodoke
- Motor fuel prices in occupied Donetsk are skyrocketing due to supply disruptions and the destruction of storage terminals

- Fighting continued in the area of Staromaiorske, and Ukrainian forces improved their positions north of Pryyutne
- Fighting at Robotyne-Verbove is intense but positional
- We have reliable intelligence that the Russian corvette Sergei Kotov or Vasily Bykov was damaged by Ukrainian uncrewed surface vessels (USV) on July 31, with casualties
- A cruise missile or drone struck the 3413th Missile Technical Base near Sevastopol, but it does not appear that the ammunition storage was hit
- The Ukrainian port of Izmail was hit by multiple Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones less than 24 hours after multiple cargo vessels ran the Russian blockade
- The Russian training base at Dzharylhach Island was hit by five M30A1 rockets fired by HIMARS, causing a mass casualty event
- At least ten Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shotdown over Kyiv
- A sawmill in the center of the Russian city of Bryansk was on fire for unknown reasons, with small arms ammunition cooking off
- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a Stavka with leaders of the security forces and military, with a classified report given by Kyrylo Budanov

- Enhanced security is being implemented in the Boryspil Raion, where Kyiv's civilian international airport is located, during the first week of August
- A Belarusian Mi-24 Hind and Mi-8 helicopter violated Polish airspace, traveled 3 kilometers across the border below radar, and returned to Belarus
- The military commissariats for Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk were arrested for fraud and personal enrichment
- Sixteen military commissariat offices across Russia were firebombed on August 1
- A new video shows PMC Wagner mercenaries torturing Russian soldiers
- Russian forces intentionally shelled Karabelesh Hospital in Kherson, killing a doctor and wounding five healthcare workers
- A Russian man was arrested for sexually molesting girls from the so-called Donetsk People's Republic who were sent to summer camps in Russia
- Iceland broke off diplomatic relations with Russia
- The Polish Foreign Ministry summoned the Ukrainian ambassador in a tit-for-tat war of words over military support
- Turkmenistan Airlines ended flights to Moscow, citing the "air situation in the Moscow air zone"

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

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

waters of Bulgaria and Romania at risk. The August 1 attack on the Romania border and Belarus's incursion into Polish air space are partially due to a lack of response from earlier incidents by the European Union, United Nations, and/or NATO.

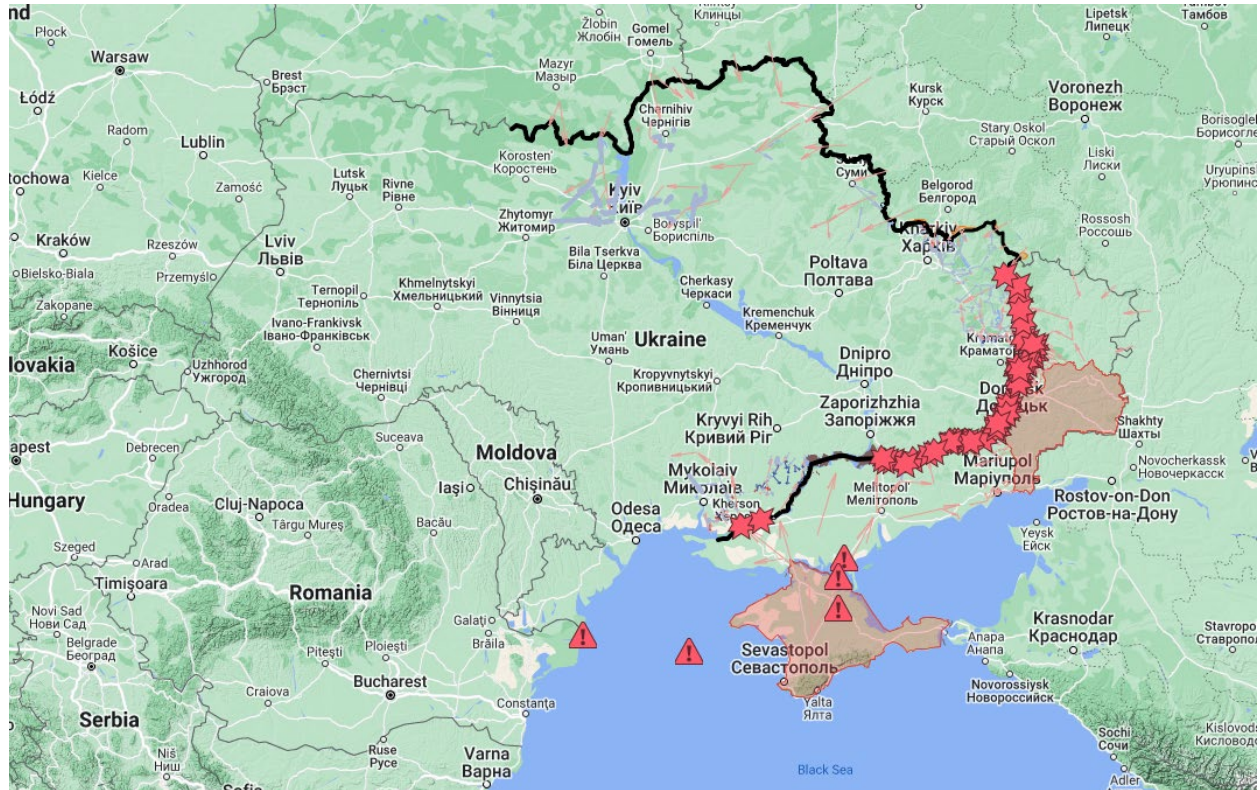
7. We assess that Russian aggression on the borders of Ukraine and the Black Sea will continue to expand and lead to an international incident if Ukraine's allies do not take a stronger posture.
8. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains weakened after the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

infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.

12. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

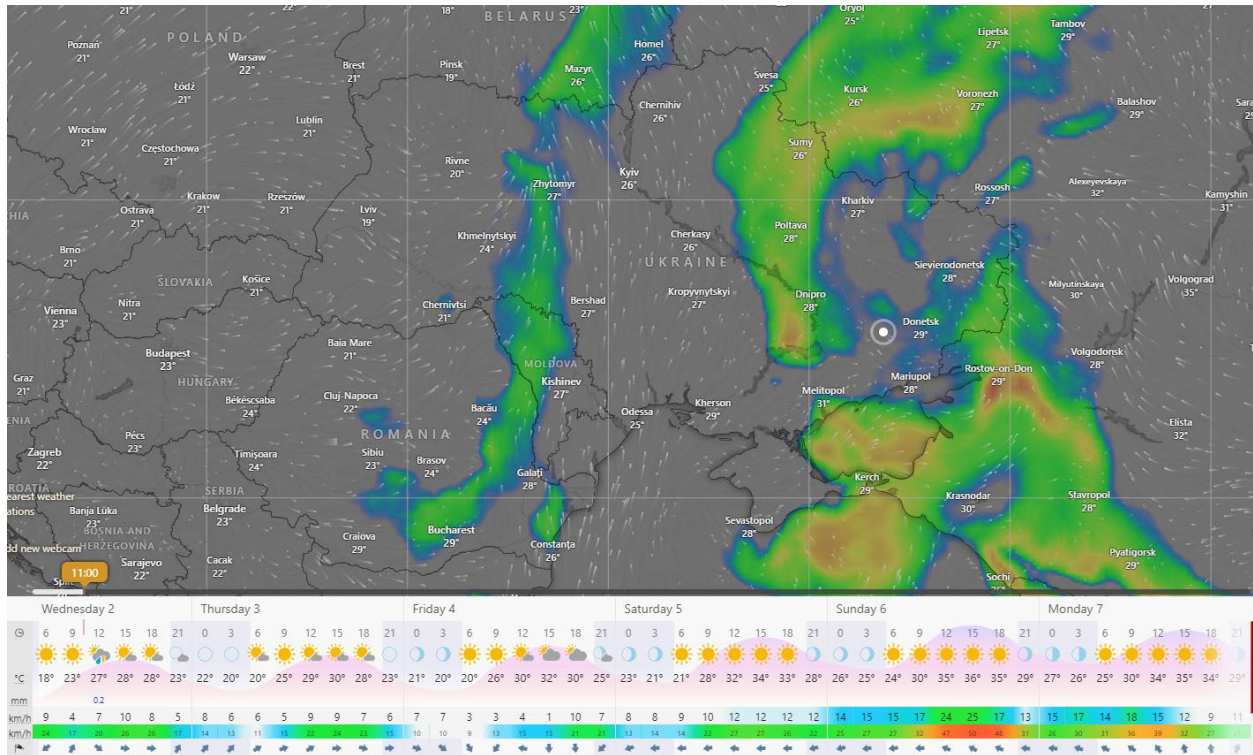
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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

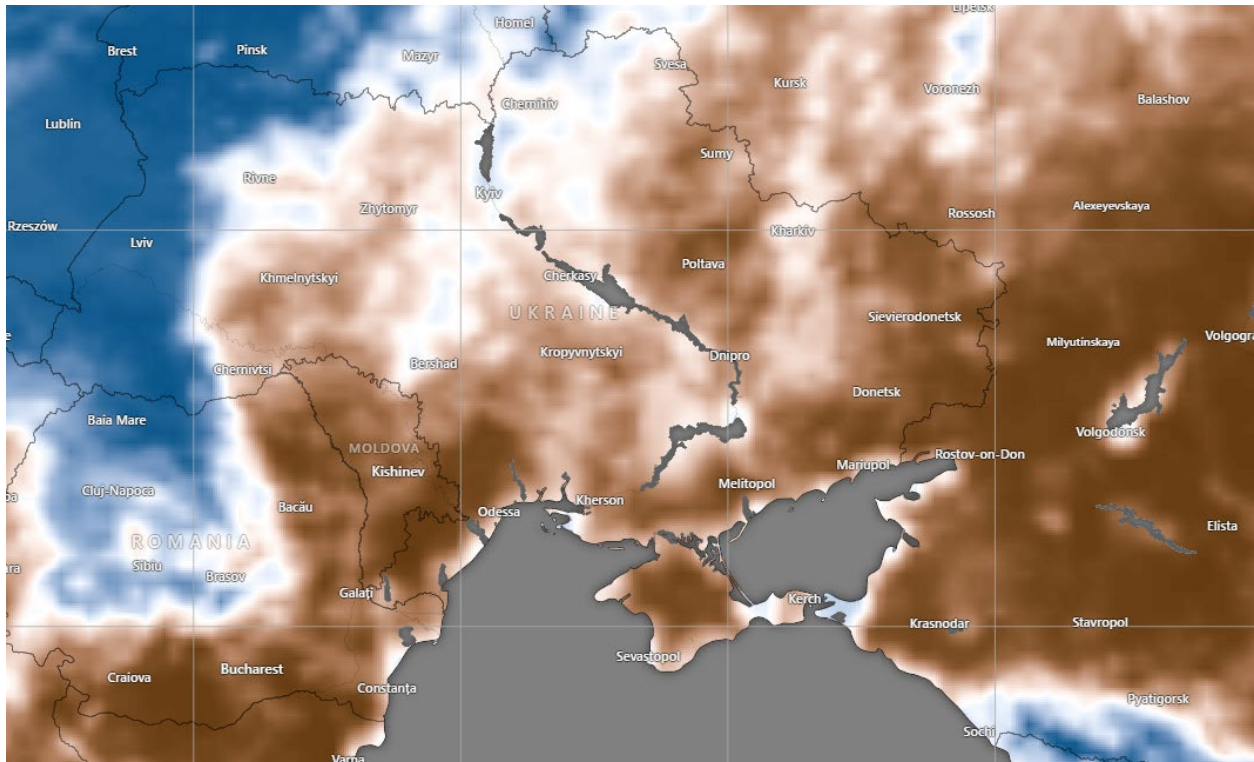
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

UKRAINE WEATHER



Hot and dry weather continues as far as the ECMWF ensemble forecast model predicts, except for occupied Crimea and the southern Donbas. High temperatures will be between 25° and 39° Celcius, with temperatures climbing each day through Sunday—lows from 17° to 28°. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are possible in the coastal areas, with CAPE up to 2,000.

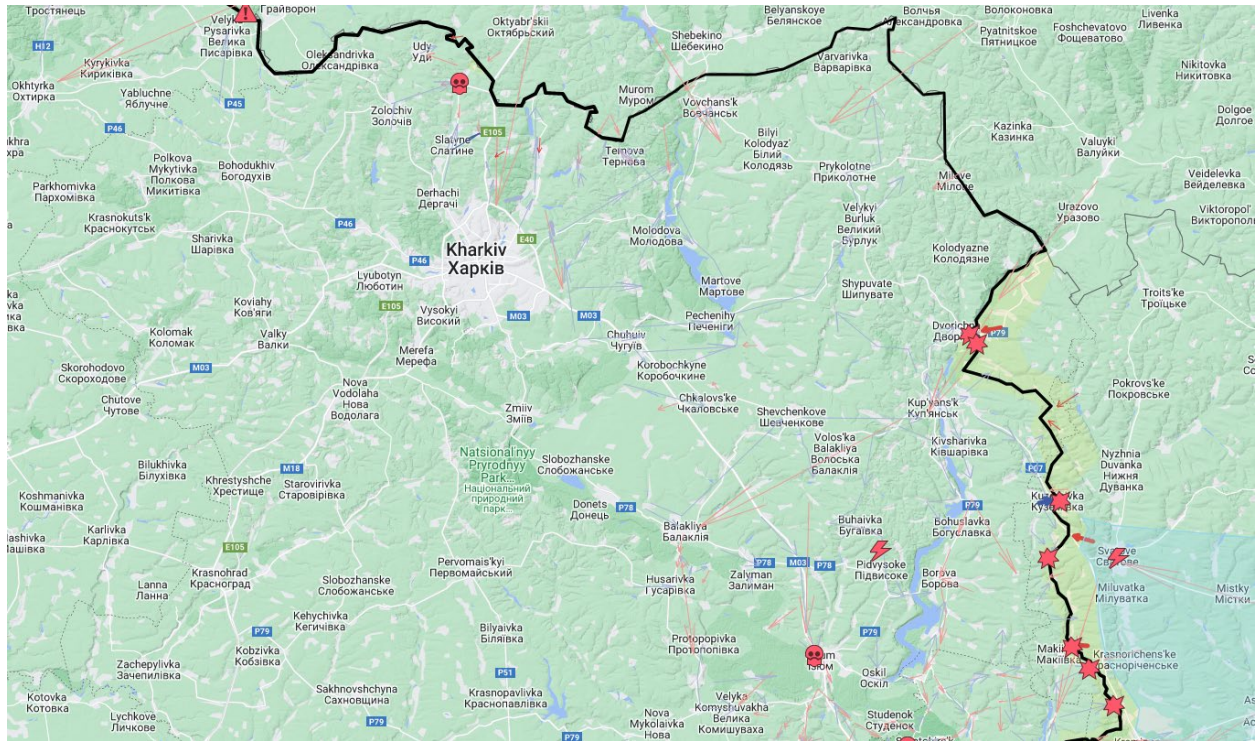
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



On August 9, 2023, the GFS model predicts soil saturation will be between 5% and 25% in eastern and southern Ukraine.

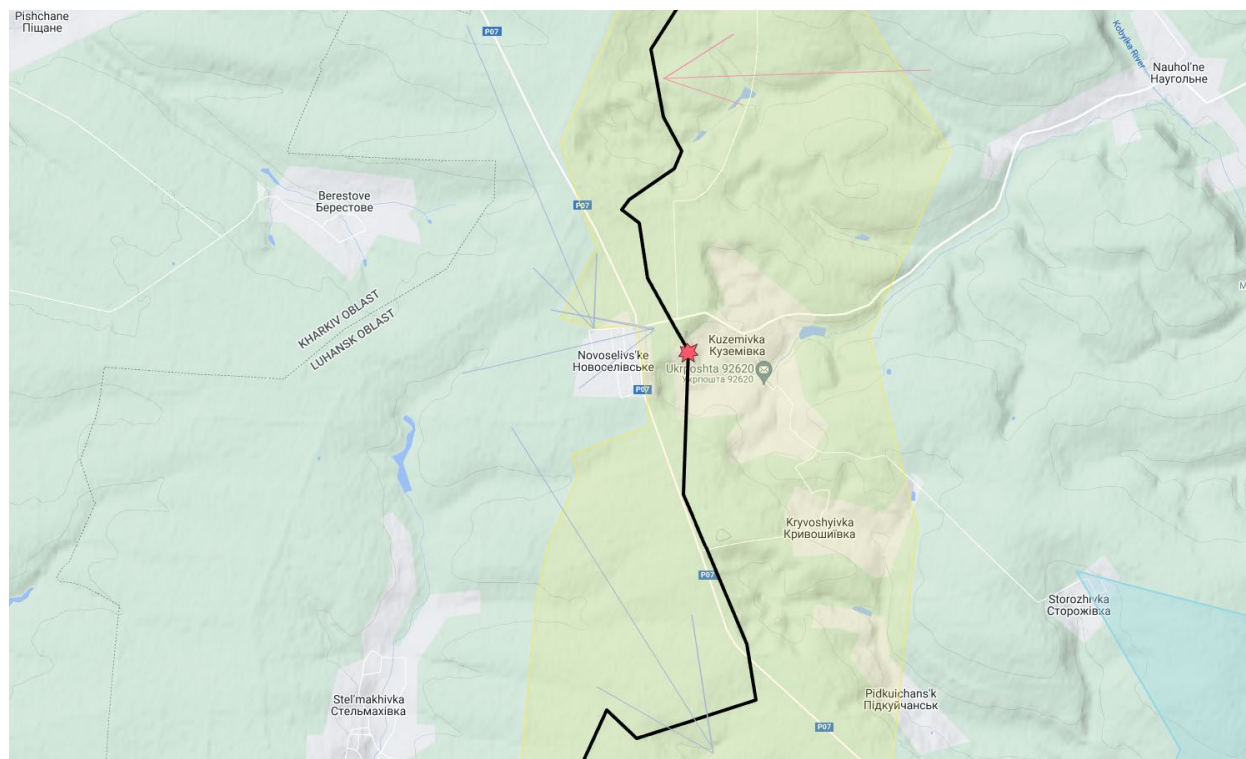
The soil saturation model does not consider the lakebed of the Kakhovka Reservoir. Soil saturation is between 15% to 55% in the theater of war. Hot and dry weather is expected through August 9.

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



Svatove Operational Area

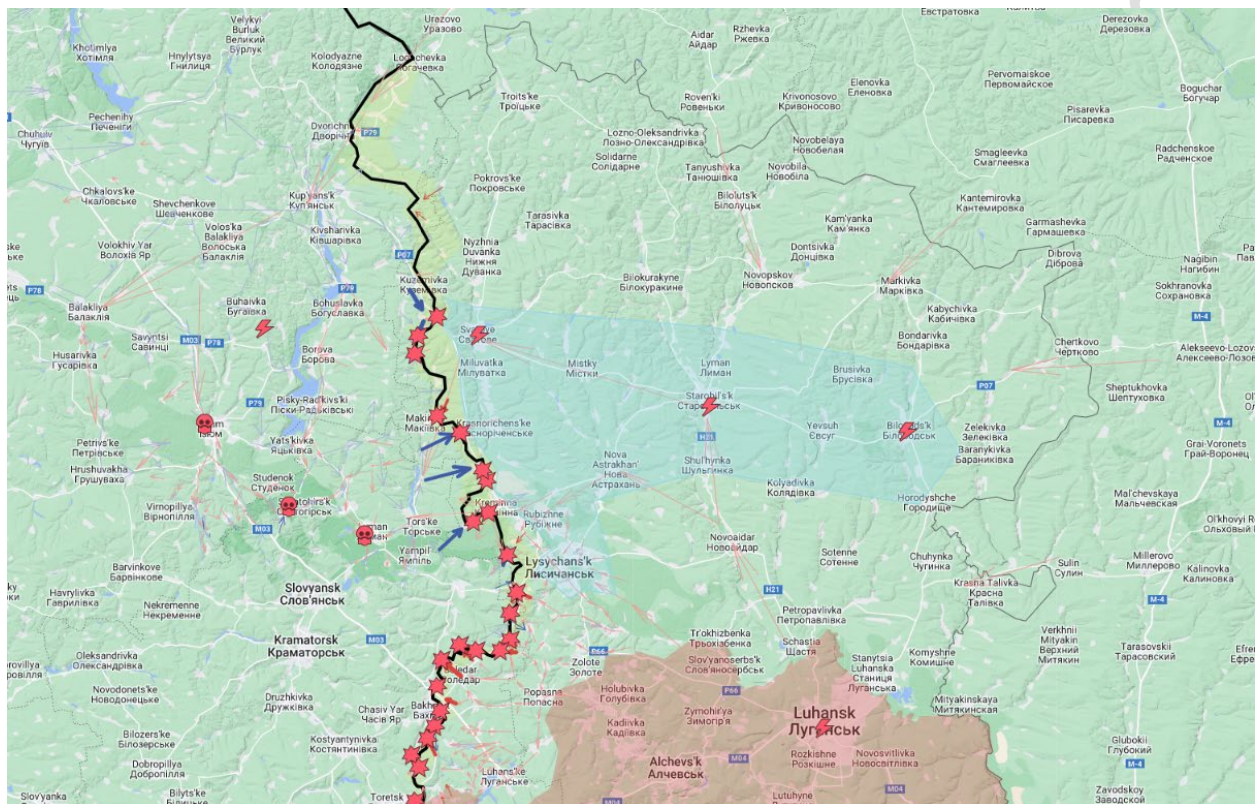
Mutual fighting continued east of [Berestove](#), with no change in the situation.^{1 2}

¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

² <https://t.me/wargonzo/14131>

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



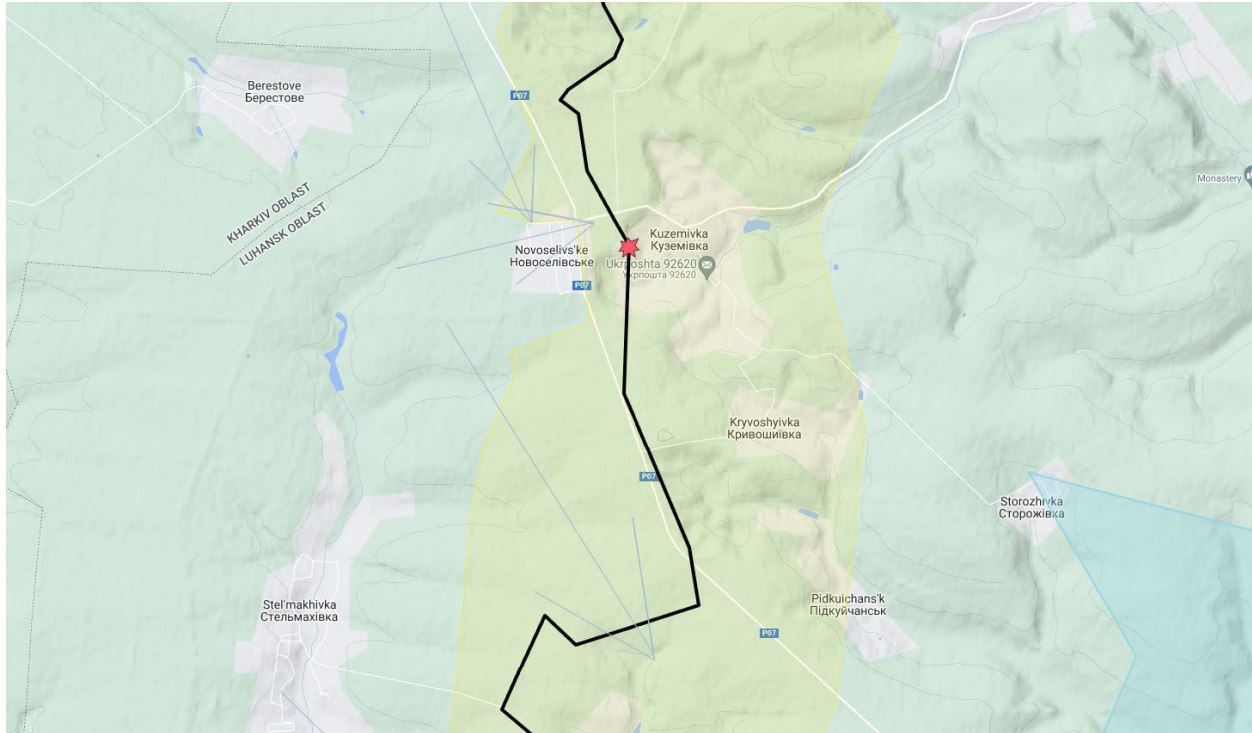
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections

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

Free Luhansk

Operational Command East spokesperson Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty reported that Russian forces fired 617 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs on Ukrainian positions and civilians from Dvorichna [Kharkiv] to Bilohorivka [Luhansk].³ The Russian Air Force and army aviation (VKS) carried out seven airstrikes, and there were 13 reported combat clashes.

³ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12504>

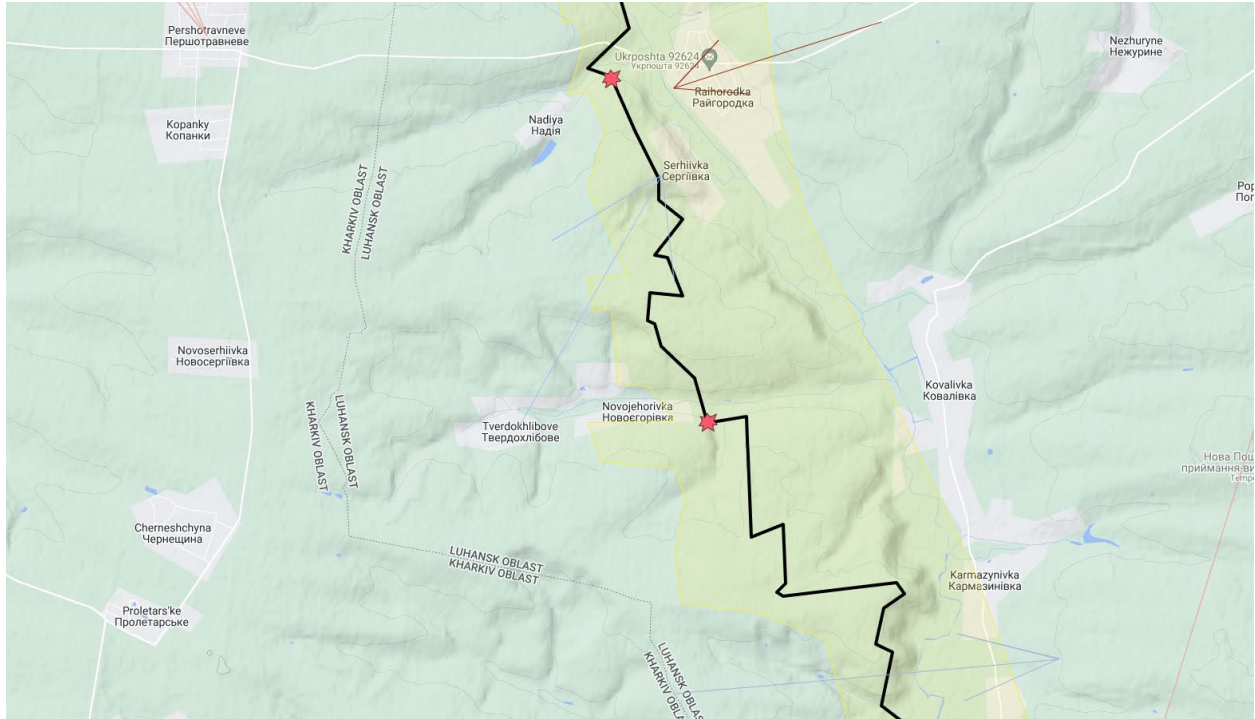


Svatove Operational Area

Mutual fighting was reported between [Noveselivske](#) and [Kuzemivka](#), with Ukrainian source DeepState reporting that Russian forces were probing Ukrainian defenses and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) claiming Ukraine was on the offensive.^{4 5}

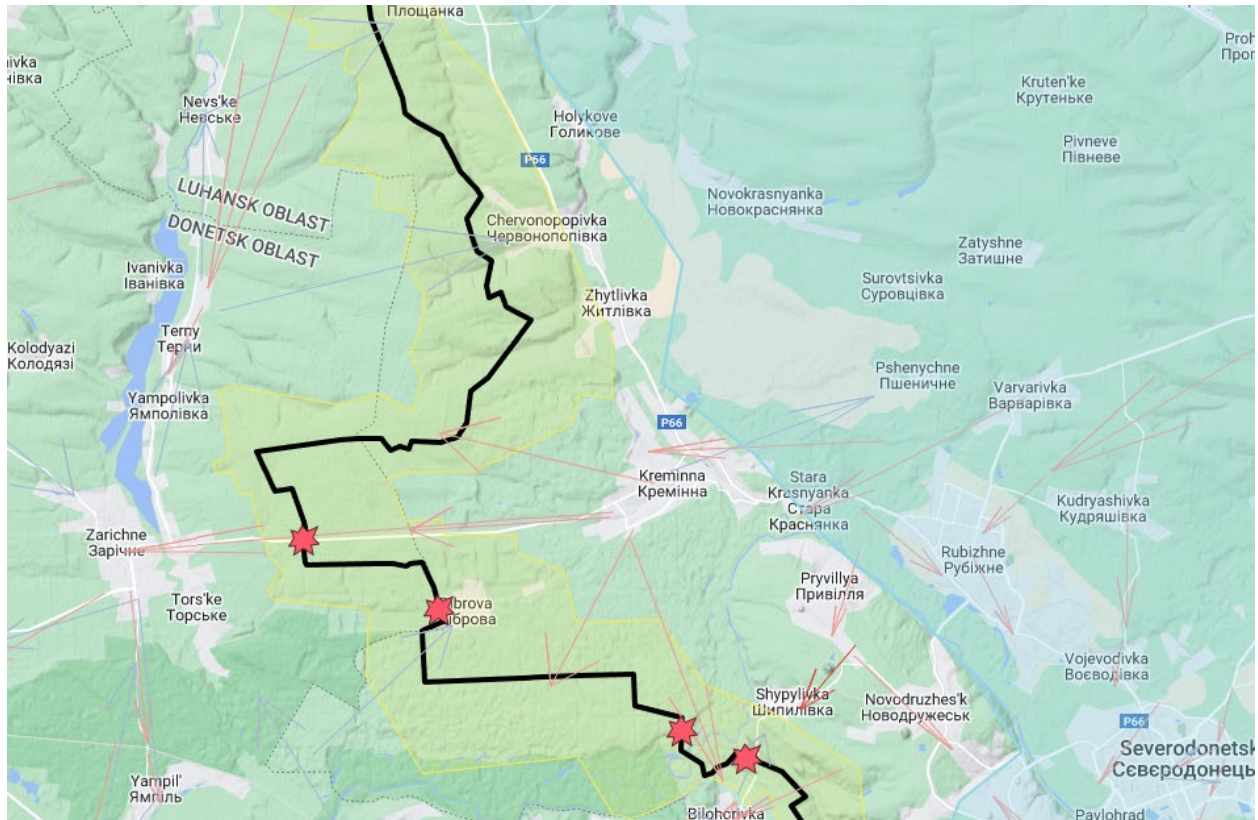
⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17262>

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



RMOD claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the direction of [Raihorodka](#), confirming that the Russian advance in the direction of Pershotravneve and Kopanky failed, and the salient is collapsing back to the Zherebets River.⁶ Russian forces still occupy the ridge above the river.

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

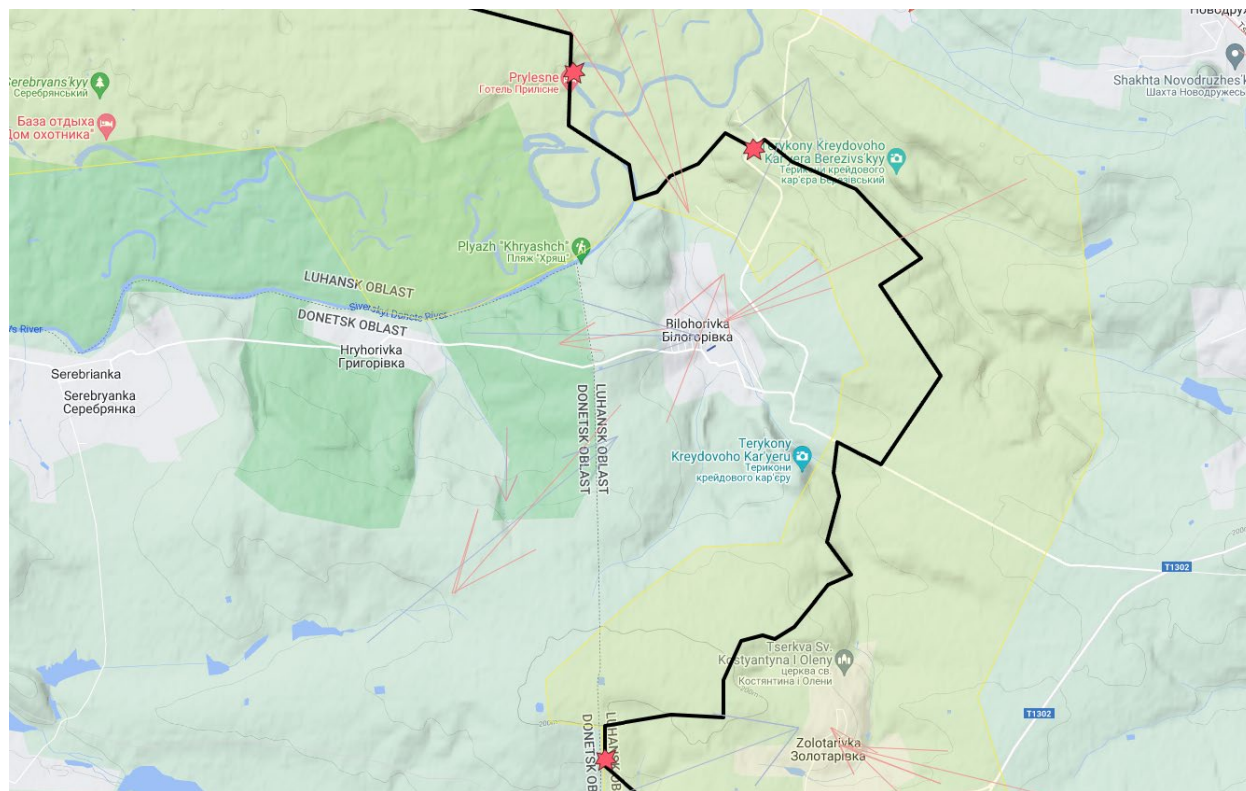


Kreminna Operational Area

RMOD also claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive east of [Nevske](#) and south of [Dibrova](#).⁷ Intense positional fighting continued in the [Serebryansky Woods](#).⁸

⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/28841 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17262>



Lysychansk Operational Area

RMOD also claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the area of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].⁹

Occupied Luhansk

Russian state media reported a 17-kilogram bomb was found in the Lyschansk Prosecutor's Office on Lenin Street.¹⁰ The IED was reportedly connected to a remote

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

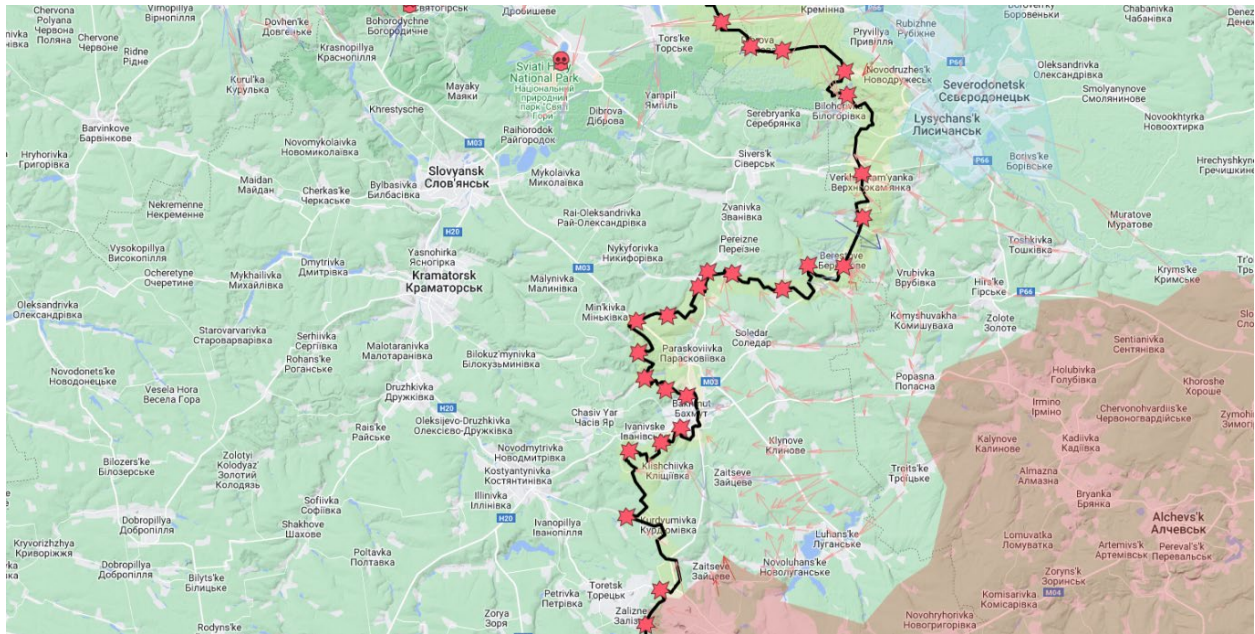
¹⁰ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20091>



detonator. Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) engineers removed the device.

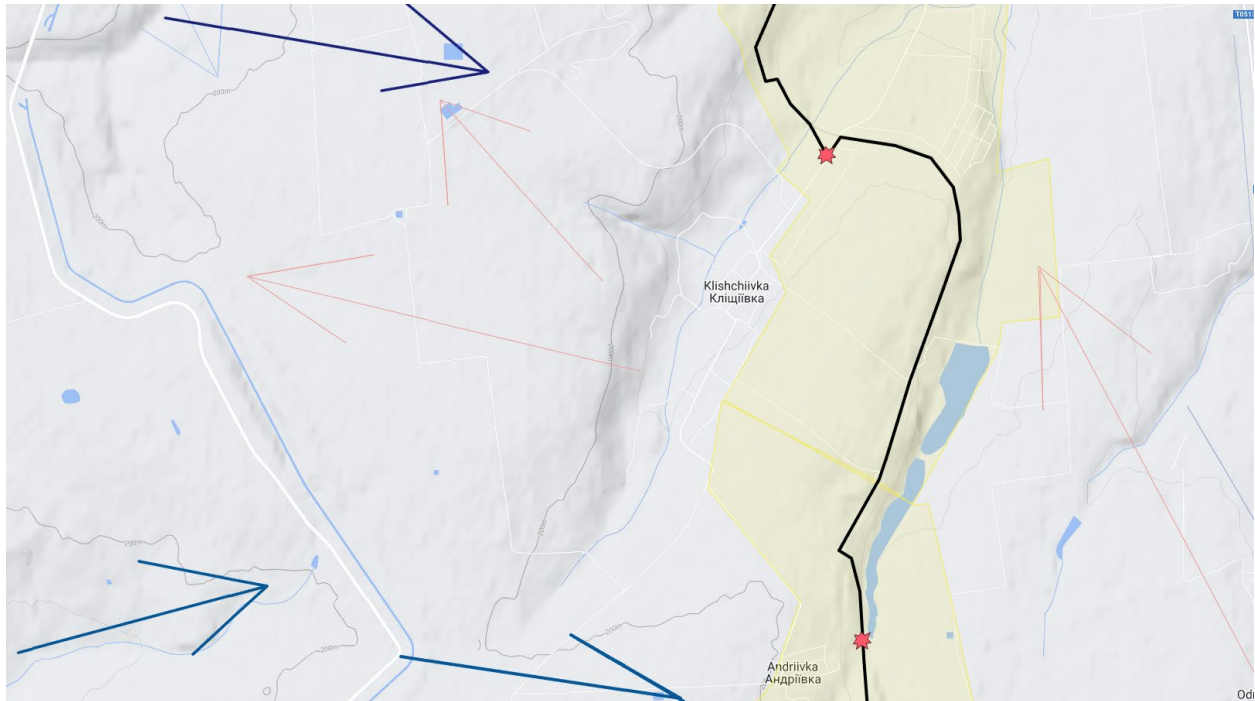
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NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

In our assessment, [Klishchiivka](#) and [Andriivka](#) are unoccupied, but Ukrainian forces need to do additional counterbattery work and push Russian forces east of the railroad tracks to occupy both settlements.¹¹ The press officer for the Ukrainian 3rd Brigade, Oleksandr Borodin, said, "The occupiers are throwing a large amount of manpower in the Bakhmut direction in order to hold their positions," aligning with our previous assessment that the Russian forces will continue to push low-quality troops to the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT) in an effort

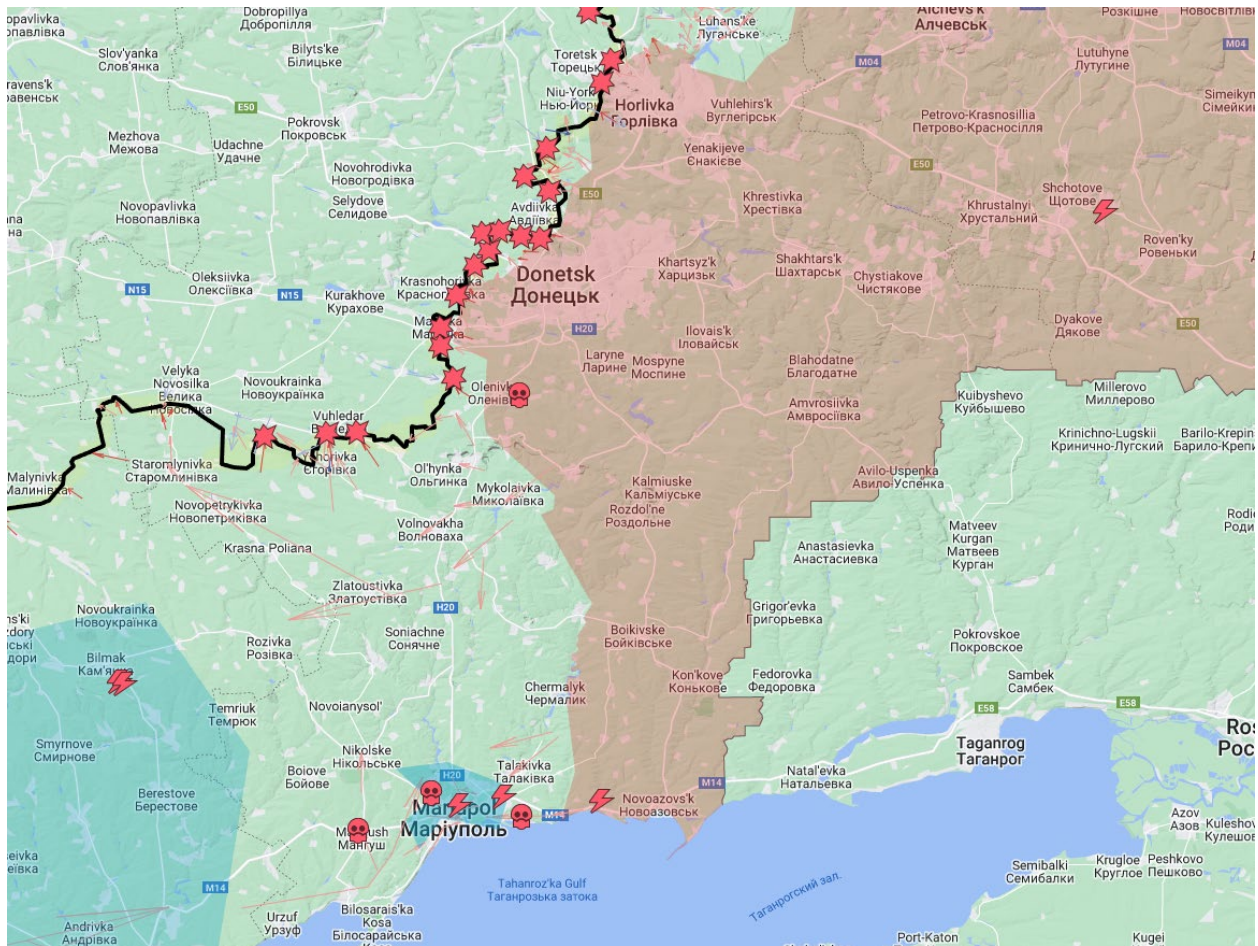
¹¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17262>

to protect the T-513 Highway ground line of communication (GLOC).¹²

Breaking News: While preparing the report for August 1, 2023, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian troops had been clear south of Andriivka, with Ukrainian forces advancing to the railroad tracks. The map in the report is not updated, but the online map  [has been changed](#).

¹² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108076>

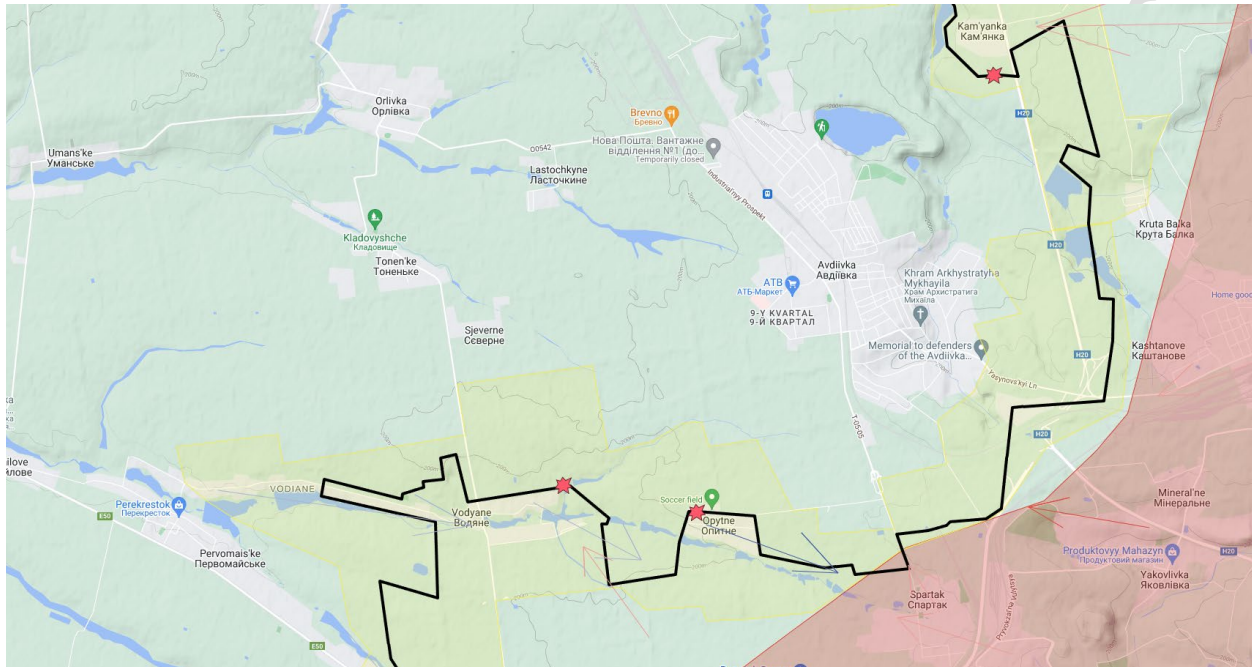
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

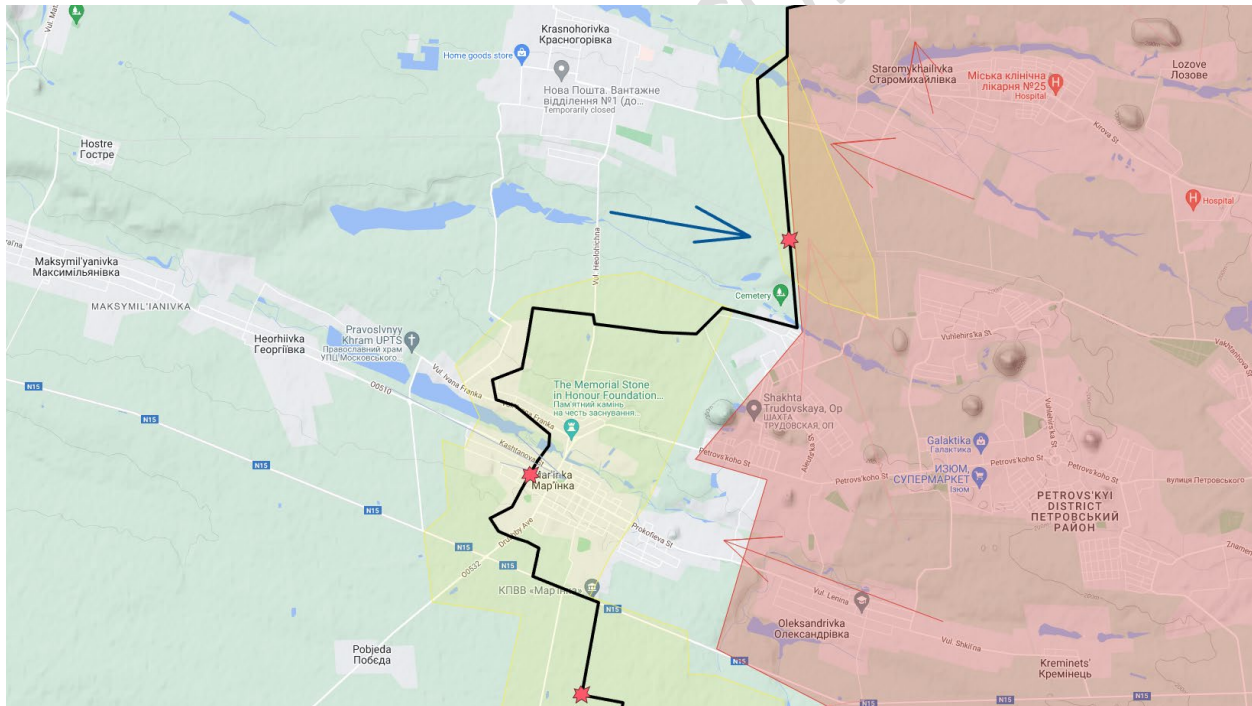


Avdiivka Operational Area

We have maintained since February 2023 that the line of conflict around Avdiivka from Vesele to Pervomaiske has moved back and forth in a 1,000 to 1,500-meter-wide strip, with neither combatant able to turn limited operational success into tactical gains. Ukrainian source DeepState made the same assessment, addressing the difficulty in mapping this area.¹³ This is why we have mapped a significantly larger gray area compared to other analysts.

¹³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17262>

Russian forces made another head-on attack on Ukrainian defenses in [Avdiivka](#), launching their attack from Kruta Balka, ending in the same result of losses and retreat to prior defensive positions.¹⁴ RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the gray area between [Sjeverne and Vodyane](#).¹⁵

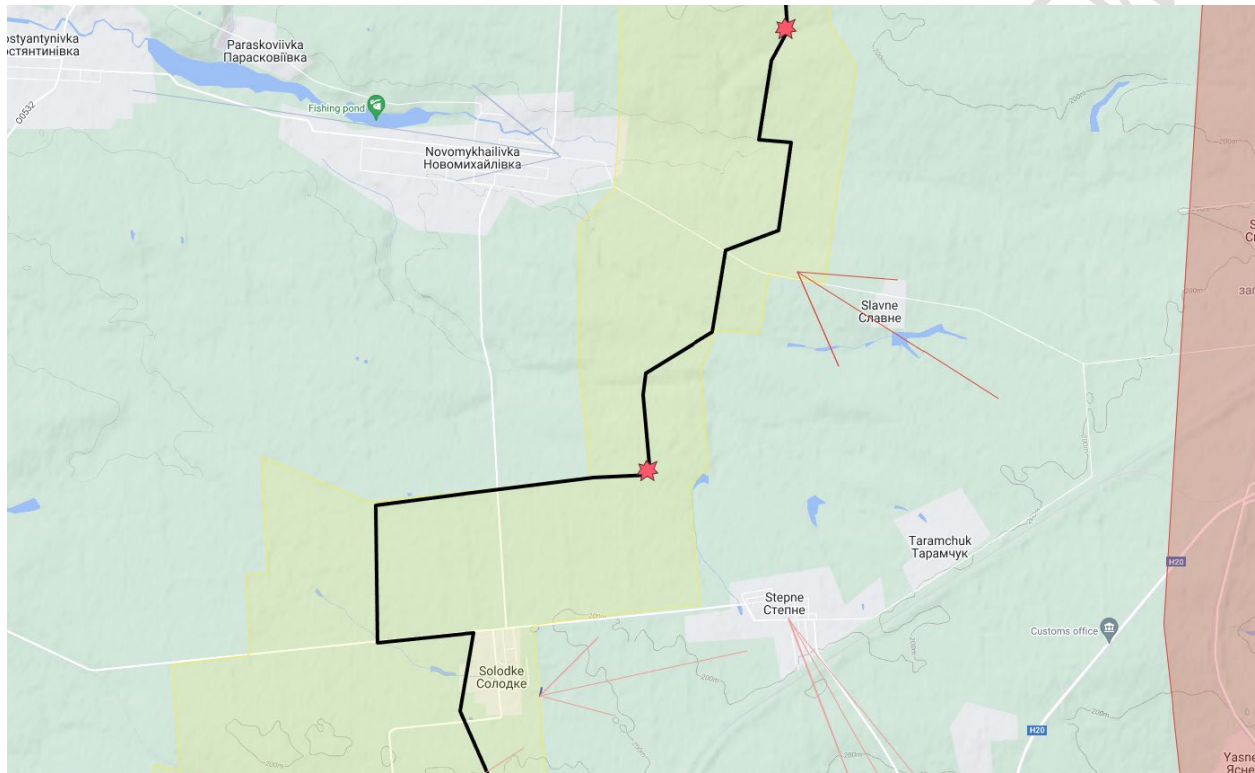


¹⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10799>

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Marinka Operational Area

Mutual fighting was reported in [Marinka](#), with no change in the situation.^{16 17}



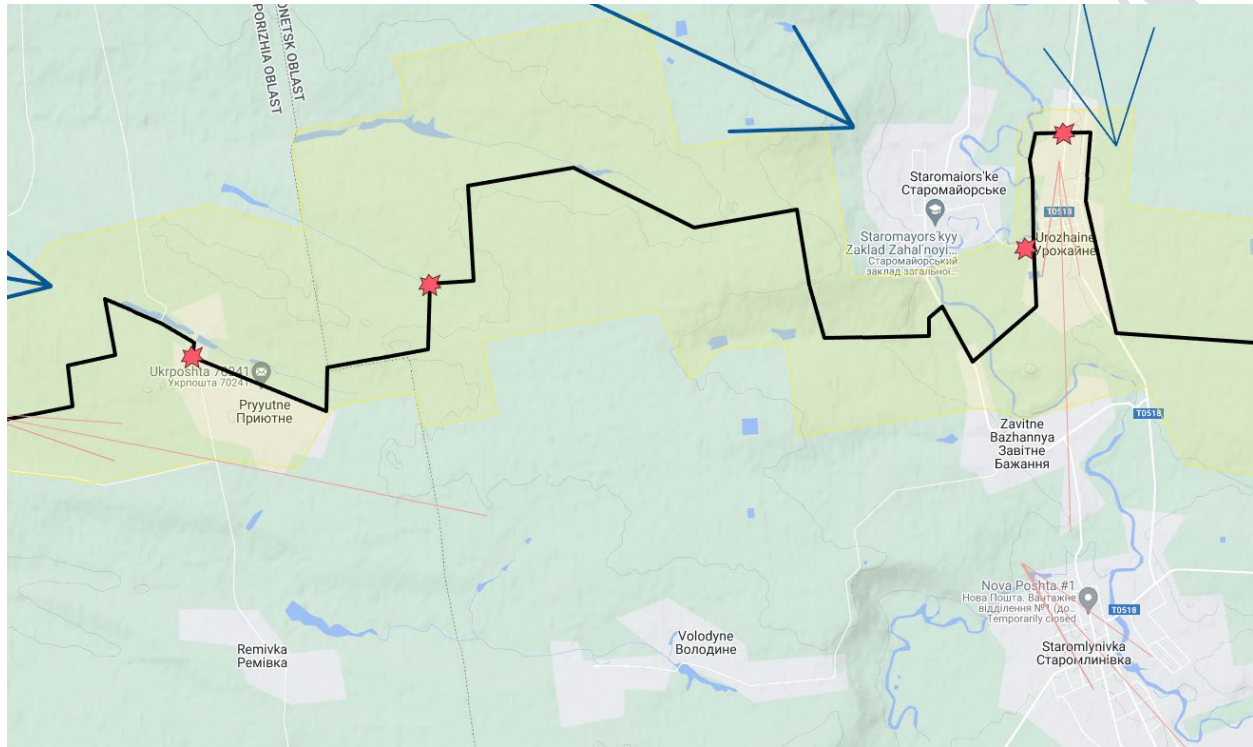
Vuhledar Operational Area

South of Novomykhailivka, Ukrainian forces advanced [south and east of Solodke](#), severing a dirt road that Russian troops were using to launch attacks on the southern flank


¹⁶ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10799>

¹⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/28840 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

of Novomykhailivka. Ukrainian troops are now 1.5 kilometers northwest of Stepne.



Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that Russian forces attempted another counterattack on [Staromaiorske](#), which was unsuccessful.^{18 19} A geolocated video from July 29, 2023, showed that a Russian counterattack on the settlement ended in a rout, with Russian troops  [making a chaotic retreat](#).²⁰ There continues to be reports that

¹⁸ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10799>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14131>

²⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17254>

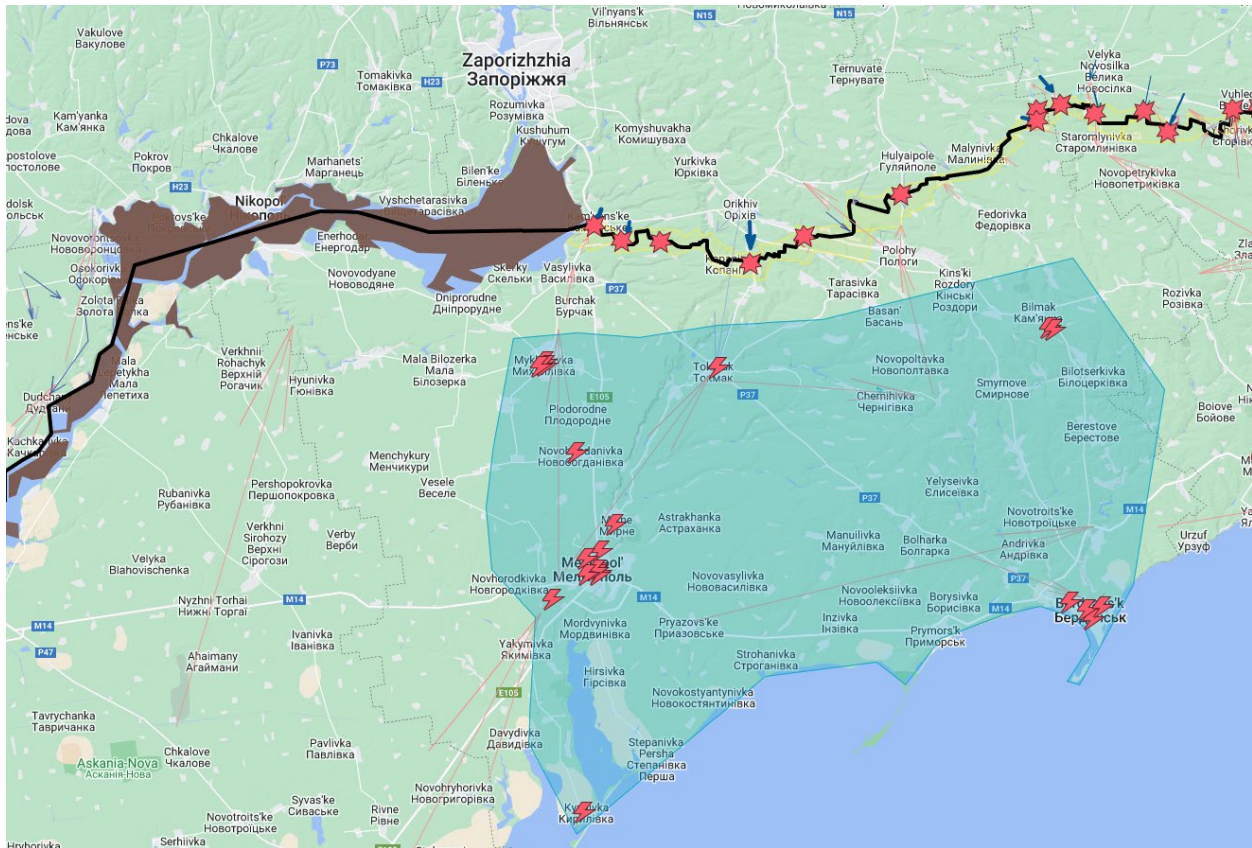
Ukrainian forces control the northern part of [Urozhaine](#), but there has been no visual proof. We can now share that Ukrainian forces made tactical gains north of [Pryyutne](#) on July 29, and we have updated the map showing a 1,000-meter advance to the east.

Occupied Donetsk

The illegitimate Minister of Coal and Energy of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) tried to assure people there were no fuel shortages in the region as the price of motor fuel skyrocketed. The minister said the St. Petersburg Stock Exchange in Russia set the price and that the DNR cannot purchase fuels with any reserve margins due to strained logistics and the destruction of fuel storage facilities.²¹

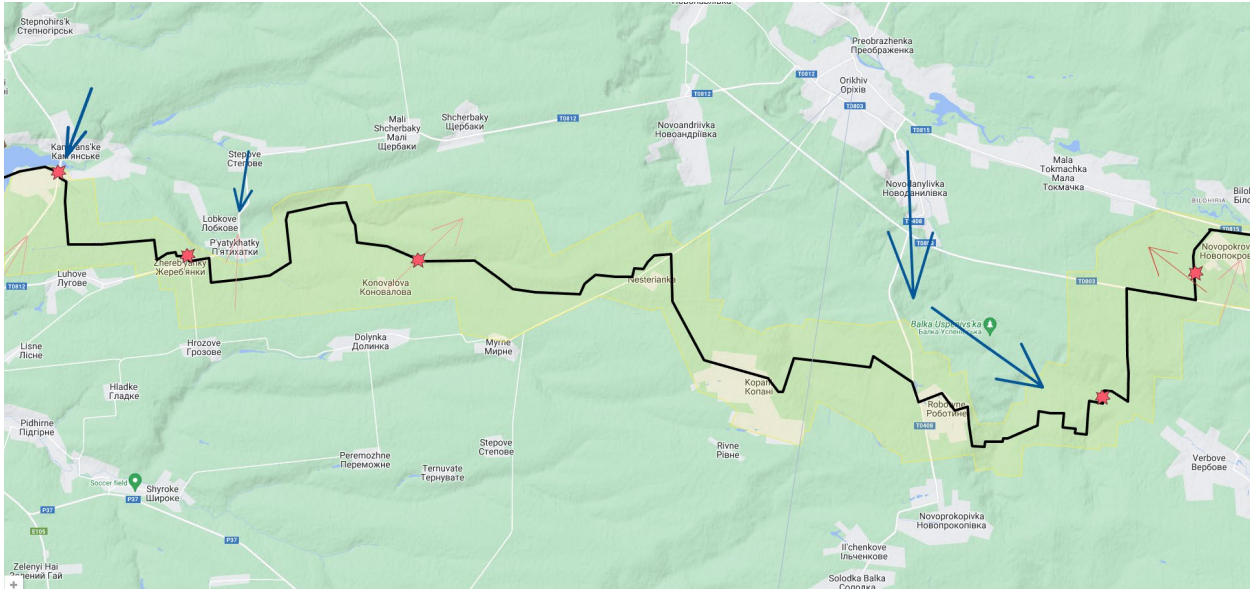
²¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/91275>

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

Credible Ukrainian and Russian sources reported that fighting has been in a lull for the last three to four days in the Orikhiv area of operation (AO) and that intense positional fighting and probing attacks continued between [Robotyne](#) and [Verbove](#).^{22 23}

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

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


²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17254>

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14131>

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

There was no update from Operational Command South (OKS) on the composition of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol. Without a new report, we maintain that 14 vessels are on patrol, including one frigate and two submarines capable of launching up to 16 Kalibr cruise missiles.^{24 25 26}

We received credible intelligence that the Russian corvette Sergey Kotov or Vasily Bykov was damaged by a Ukrainian uncrewed surface vessel (USV), despite denials by the Russian Ministry of Defense.²⁷ After we received the report, Ukrainian sources shared an intercepted unencoded message requesting a helicopter evacuation from one of the vessels  [for five wounded and one dead](#).^{28 29} The source for this information is the same source that provided intelligence on the sinking of the Moskva and the non-sinking of Admiral Makarov and Ivan Khurs. The

²⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/107998>

²⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108003>

²⁶ https://t.me/our_odessa/51548

²⁷ https://t.me/shot_shot/54956


²⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38271>

²⁹ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19753>

damaged vessel is unspecified but was reportedly not in danger of sinking.

The Cameroon-flagged cargo ship Almeria and the Vanuatu-flagged cargo ship Florica ran the Russian blockade from the Odesa oblast port of Izmail on the Danube River on July 31.^{30 31} The Almeria arrived in Izmail on July 22 and the Florica on July 19. On August 1, the Almeria was at the mouth of the Danube, and the Florica was entering Romanian territorial waters. The Sierra Leone-flagged bulk carrier ASI left Israel two weeks ago, ran the blockade, and arrived in Izmail on August 1.³²

Occupied Crimea


The 3413th Missile Technical Base, an outdoor storage site for S-300 anti-aircraft missiles just outside Sevastopol,  [had a major explosion](#).³³ There are claims that the ammunition was hit, but a large open storage area of anti-aircraft missiles would have produced secondary explosions with missiles flying in multiple directions. Russian sources claim that a drone crash caused the

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1686471554845335552>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1686469256295350272>


³² <https://twitter.com/auonsson/status/1685253387162411008>

³³ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9751>

explosion. The  [size of the explosion was larger](#) than one that a drone would produce.³⁴

Russian claims in mid-June that the remaining water in the North Crimean Canal would last for one to two years, aged like room-temperature milk. The water supply in the North Crimean Canal will last no more than three months, said the illegitimate governor of occupied Crimea, Russian collaborate Sergei Aksyonov. Aksyonov insisted that there was a "sufficient" water supply for domestic needs, partly due to an unseasonably wet July.³⁵

Odesa

Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones struck the port of Izmail on the Danube River, with explosions 200 to 500 meters from the Romanian border.³⁶ A video from Romania  [showed a large fire burning in the area of fuel storage and grain warehouses](#) and a secondary strike further west at the main port.³⁷ Multiple fires erupted from the strikes, but there were no casualties.³⁸ The attack occurred less than 24 hours after the cargo ships Almeria



³⁴ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1686522455782014976

³⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38247>

³⁶ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/7479

³⁷ https://twitter.com/Global_Mil_Info/status/1686551650780033024

³⁸ <https://t.me/odeskaODA/2221>

and Florica departed Izmail and the AS1 docked.^{39 40} The  [port was heavily damaged](#), and  [grain silos were severely damaged](#).^{41 42}

ASSESSMENT: While many analysts insisted that there is no blockade and cargo traffic to Izmail has been uninterrupted by Russia, the targeted attack on fuel storage, grain storage, and port infrastructure less than 24 hours after vessels arrived and departed the port is for all intent and purposes a blockade. While Ukrainian has enough air defenses to protect the most critical areas in the nation, they lack the resources to protect second-tier targets.

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


³⁹ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1686471554845335552>

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1686469256295350272>


⁴¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108231>

⁴² https://twitter.com/maria_avdv/status/1686629842588954624

Free Kherson

Russian forces conducted 74 fire missions on free Kherson, firing 441 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets fired by MLRS, indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs. The city of Kherson was hit 31 times.⁴³ One person was killed and eight wounded. There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section. During the evening of August 1 – 2, Kherson was  [attacked again by Grad rockets](#).⁴⁴

Occupied Kherson

A Russian training area on Dzharylgach Island was struck by five drone-directed M30A1 rockets fired by HIMARS,  [distributing 910,000 flaming hot tungsten BBs](#) on exposed Russian troops in formation.⁴⁵ Insurgents reported that 65 wounded Russian soldiers were brought to the Skadovska Central City Hospital, and based on the available intelligence, the number is likely accurate and does not represent all Russian casualties.⁴⁶

⁴³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108219>

⁴⁴ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/9316

⁴⁵ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1686369527741710336

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/investigatorua/6539>

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

Kyiv

Ukrainian air defenses shot down ten Shahed-136 kamikaze drones over Kyiv, with debris landing in the Solomyansky, Holosiivskyi, and Svyatoshynskyi Districts.⁴⁷ There was minor damage to some non-residential buildings and roads, with no injuries.


RUSSIAN FRONT

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

⁴⁷ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/7480

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

Bryansk Region

In the center of the city of Bryansk, a sawmill caught on fire for unknown reasons. The  [sound of small arms ammunition could be heard cooking off](#).⁴⁸

Moscow Region

On July 31, conflicting reports stated the IQ Center in Moscow was struck by a Ukrainian drone on the 17th or 20th floor. Russian sources have confirmed that the drone struck the 21st floor, damaging the Ministry of Economic Development offices. The building was closed, with small groups allowed to access their offices to remove personal belongings.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/christogrozev/status/1686475384605310979>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20099>

THEATERWIDE



President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, held a Stavka with only the leaders of security and military forces.⁵⁰ In a video, Zelenskyy said, "I heard a report from Zaluzhnyi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, about the situation at the front. Commanders Syrskiy and Tarnavskiy also presented their reports. Details of the use of air defense systems – Commander Oleshchuk. There was also a classified report from Defence Intelligence Chief Budanov."

ASSESSMENT: The reduced group Stavka with a classified briefing, coupled with the recent Ukrainian advances to the edges of the first line of Russian defenses, and the ongoing apparent operational pause, indicates that there is a high probability of some significant activity in the next 48 to 72 hours. The last classified Stavka did not end in military action but significant changes to the Ukrainian government and multiple arrests for corruption.

Ukrainian officials announced there would be "security measures" in the Boryspil Raion during the first days of August. "During the implementation of the specified

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/1/7413674/>

measures in certain areas of the community, it is possible to temporarily restrict the movement of vehicles and pedestrians, as well as check documents. We urge you to remain calm, understand the possible restrictions and contribute to the implementation of safety measures. All actions will take place within the limits of the current legislation," said the head of Boryspil, Ruslan Dyachenko. Kyiv's civilian international airport is located in Boryspil, and the city is a central hub for road and rail connections.⁵¹

Two Belarusian military helicopters, a Mi-24 Hind gunship, and a Mi-8, crossed the Polish border and flew 3 kilometers into the NATO nation undetected by radar due to low altitude. Belarus and Poland initially denied the incident, but  [geolocated videos](#) and  [pictures confirmed the incursion](#) into Poland.^{52 53} Warsaw later confirmed the incident, with Minsk claiming the event never happened and Poland was making an excuse to escalate border tension. The Belarusian helicopters flew in the Białowieża area, passing over two villages. Poland informed NATO about the incident and summoned the temporary chargé d'affaires of

⁵¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108089>

⁵² https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5700

⁵³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17258>

Belarus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to explain the incident.^{54 55}

The United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said that “any attack by the Wagner Group will be regarded as an attack by the Russian government” when asked about possible military action against Poland.⁵⁶

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained military commissariat official Oleksandr Bugriy, the Myrhorod Center for Recruitment and Social Support in the Poltava Oblast, for accepting bribes of \$6,000 to avoid military service.⁵⁷ Recruits would receive a certificate with a fake diagnosis indicating they were unfit for military service. In a separate incident, the military commissar of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast was also detained for illegal enrichment.⁵⁸

At the United Nations daily press briefing with Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq, Haq responded to a question

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17261>

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9756>

⁵⁶ https://t.me/grey_zone/19800

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108098>

⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1686355041215451136>

from a reporter asking, "I was wondering if the Secretary-General has made any kind of statement about the Ukrainian sending of drones...the attack of drones over Moscow and if he hasn't made a statement already. Does he have a view that this might exacerbate the crisis by moving it to another country, to Moscow?"

Haq replied, "Well, we don't have any first-hand information about the sending of drones. But clearly, we are against all attacks on civilian facilities wherever they are held. So if they were, for example, civilian buildings in Moscow, we're against that, and we would want that to stop."⁵⁹

The United States reportedly finalized agreements with Bulgaria and South Korea on providing 155 mm ammunition to Ukraine., while continuing to work with Japan.⁶⁰

An audit of the Oryx Database found that 1.2% of all Russian losses and 2.8% of Ukrainian losses were duplicates. The investigators noted that they are quickly removed when they notify Oryx of duplicates. The error

⁵⁹ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/db230801.doc.htm>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108088>

rate is statistically insignificant, and the higher rate for Ukrainian losses is due to Russian propagandists sharing the same damaged or destroyed equipment repeatedly using different camera angles and careful cropping.⁶¹

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

⁶¹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9759>



RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES


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

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

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Crimean Tartars insurgent organization Atesh claimed that Russian blocking troops have set up a detention and torture center in the basement of a home for Russian soldier refusniks in occupied Zaporizhzhia. Local insurgents report that screams are heard coming from the house.⁶²

A disturbing and graphic video found on the phone of a dead Wagnerite mercenary showed PMC Wagner fighters committing unspeakable violence against Russian soldiers. In the 88-second video, one Russian soldier is called a "sieve" after being stabbed to death, while others are forced to douse themselves in and drink urine before being thrown into a pit. The video is NSWF, not for children; many will find it disturbing. Viewer discretion is advised. You can watch the video by   [clicking here](#).⁶³

In Russia, state media agency Baza and Shot reported that 16 military commissariat offices in Kazan, Omsk, Saratov, St. Petersburg, Podolsk, Kaluga, Verkhneural'sk, Kpeysk, Ulan-Ude, the Kuzminski District of Moscow, Nakhodka, Sestroretsk, Stavropol, Maykop, and Ishimbay  [were](#)

⁶² https://t.me/atesh_ua/1390

⁶³ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38321>

[firebombed on August 1.](#)^{64 65 66} The commissariat office in Podolsk was struck twice on the same day. Damage was light, and there were multiple arrests. Partisan attacks were executed by people in their teens to their 70s, with some alleging they were blackmailed, scammed, or offered payments to make the attacks.

Russian Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Sergei Savenok, 62 years old and the deputy director for military and technical training of the Usolsk Guard Cadet Corps, was killed in action on July 31, 2023, in Ukraine.⁶⁷

The former head of the Academy of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, Alexander Krymov, was arrested by the Russian Federation Security Services (FSB) and other codefendants.⁶⁸ Krymov is accused of embezzlement that started in 2019. In addition, the former acting head of the Academy of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, Colonel Roman Efremov, was arrested.⁶⁹ Efremov reportedly resigned from the academy when an embezzlement investigation was opened but refused to

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20087>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20109>

⁶⁶ https://t.me/shot_shot/54988

⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1685955609936465920>


⁶⁸ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/40440>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/40441>

vacate the government-provided apartment. The academy evicted Efremov, his wife, and five children under a court order and was billed 195,555 roubles which he refused to pay.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On March 9, 2022, the Russian Air Force (VKS) dropped two FAB-500 bombs on two 5-story buildings in Izyum, killing 47 people. War crimes investigators have started a search of the rubble based on missing person reports and believe that five or six corpses may remain in the ruins.⁷⁰

Russian forces intentionally shelled Karabelesh Hospital in Kherson,  [killing ENT doctor Dmytro Bilyi](#), who was on his first day of work after completing his residency, wounding four other medical workers, including critically injuring a nurse.^{71 72 73 74} The strike caused severe damage to the upper two floors of the hospital and destroyed the surgical department. United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Denise Brown called the attack unacceptable,

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/108158>

⁷¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/1/7413749/>

⁷² <https://twitter.com/euromaidanpress/status/1686495419029721088>


⁷³ <https://t.me/investigatorua/6533>

⁷⁴ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/9306

adding that not even those providing vital services to people whose lives have been torn apart by the war are being spared.⁷⁵

In the Voronezh region, Russian state media reported that 49-year-old Gennady Izmailov was arrested for sexually assaulting five girls at the Happy Childhood summer camp in Anapa. The five known victims were assaulted in a bathroom, ranging in age from 10 to 13 years old, with four from the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and one from the Moscow region.^{76 77} Izmailov reportedly has a prior criminal record, and the Ukrainian victims are being returned to the DNR.

GEOPOLITICS

Iceland broke diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation, closing its embassy in Moscow and  [removing the flag and sign from the building](#).⁷⁸ Iceland is the first European nation to sever relations in direct response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

⁷⁵ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/db230801.doc.htm>

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20091>

⁷⁷ https://t.me/shot_shot/54986

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/LXSummer1/status/1686278588381704193>

Poland's Foreign Ministry has summoned Ukraine's ambassador Vasyl Zvarych after the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry summoned the Polish ambassador amid Warsaw's criticism of Kyiv's alleged "lack of appreciation." On Tuesday, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Polish ambassador after statements by Marcin Przydacz, the Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of Poland. Przydacz said that Ukraine had received significant support from Poland, and it was time for Ukraine to start appreciating the role Poland played in it.⁷⁹

Editor's note: There is nothing constructive I can write here.

Matthew Miller, a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State, said Washington's position on drone strikes in Russia is "we neither encourage nor enable strikes outside Ukraine's borders...but as we have said many times, it is up for...Ukraine to decide how to conduct this war."⁸⁰

⁷⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/1/7413789/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/1/7413700/>

Editor's note: *There is nothing constructive I can write here.*

ECONOMICS

Turkmenistan Airlines announced that it was suspending flights to Moscow "due to the air situation in the Moscow air zone, as well as based on a risk assessment in order to ensure flight safety."⁸¹

ASSESSMENT: Turkmenistan Airlines announced that it was suspending flights to Moscow "due to our insurance carrier telling us they would not cover continued flights to Moscow." Fixed it.

Bloomberg reported that Armenia had become the fourth-largest exporter of semiconductors for the defense industry in the world, with exports to Russia increasing 187% from 2021 to 2022.⁸²

Hundreds of companies continue to import dual-purpose microchips to Russia, including those that support their

⁸¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38288>

⁸² <https://t.me/rusbrief/141202>

defense industry. The largest importers include American Analog Devices Inc., Xilinx, Microchip Technology, Texas Instruments, and Infineon. Computer processors from Intel and AMD are still being shipped to Russia through Hong Kong by Time Art International Limited, Union Tech Inc., and Dexp International Limited. Despite being under international sanctions, Analog Devices Inc., VMK, and Testkomplekt continue to use parallel imports to bring microchips into Russia. The components are being found in Kh-101 missiles and other weapon systems used by the Russian Federation.⁸³

⁸³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/107947>


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 Melitopol.

✔ **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.