



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 272

It has been 3,178 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Too late for a summary and a reminder there will only be a summary Situation Report on November 24 due to the United States Thanksgiving Day holiday.

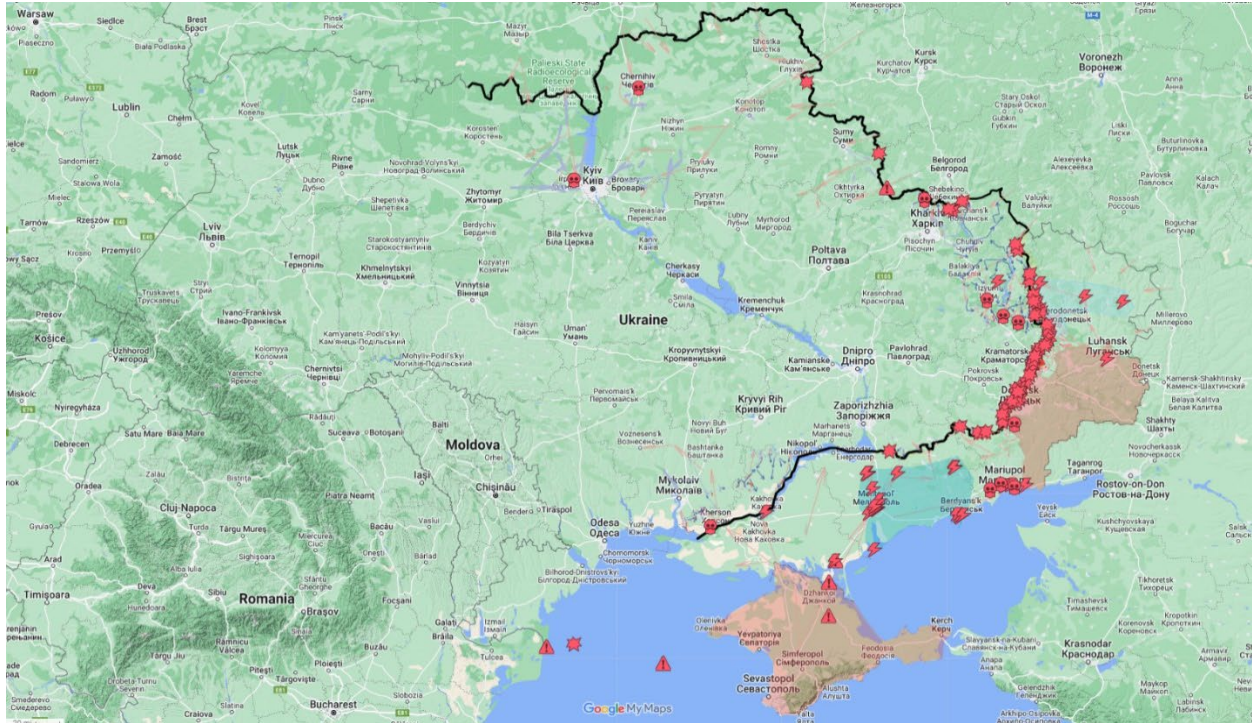
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We maintain that Russia is conducting stealth mobilization and may be preparing for the second wave of partial mobilization in January 2023.
2. We maintain that Russian forces will maintain terror attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure and conduct these missions in large-scale waves due to improving Ukrainian air defenses. These attacks will not stop until the Ukrainian electrical grid and natural gas network are completely destroyed, or Russia's supply of missiles and drones is exhausted.

3. We maintain the slowdown in combat operations on multiple axes as a mirage, with rasputitsa creating an outlier situation in the short term.
4. We maintain that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause.
5. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.
6. We maintain that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing renewed unrest inside and outside the Kremlin. If there continue to be military failures, there is a remote chance Russia could face a regime change.
7. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount effective defensive operations.
8. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.
9. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.
10. We assess that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine has diminished but remains a possibility in the next 50 to 80 days.

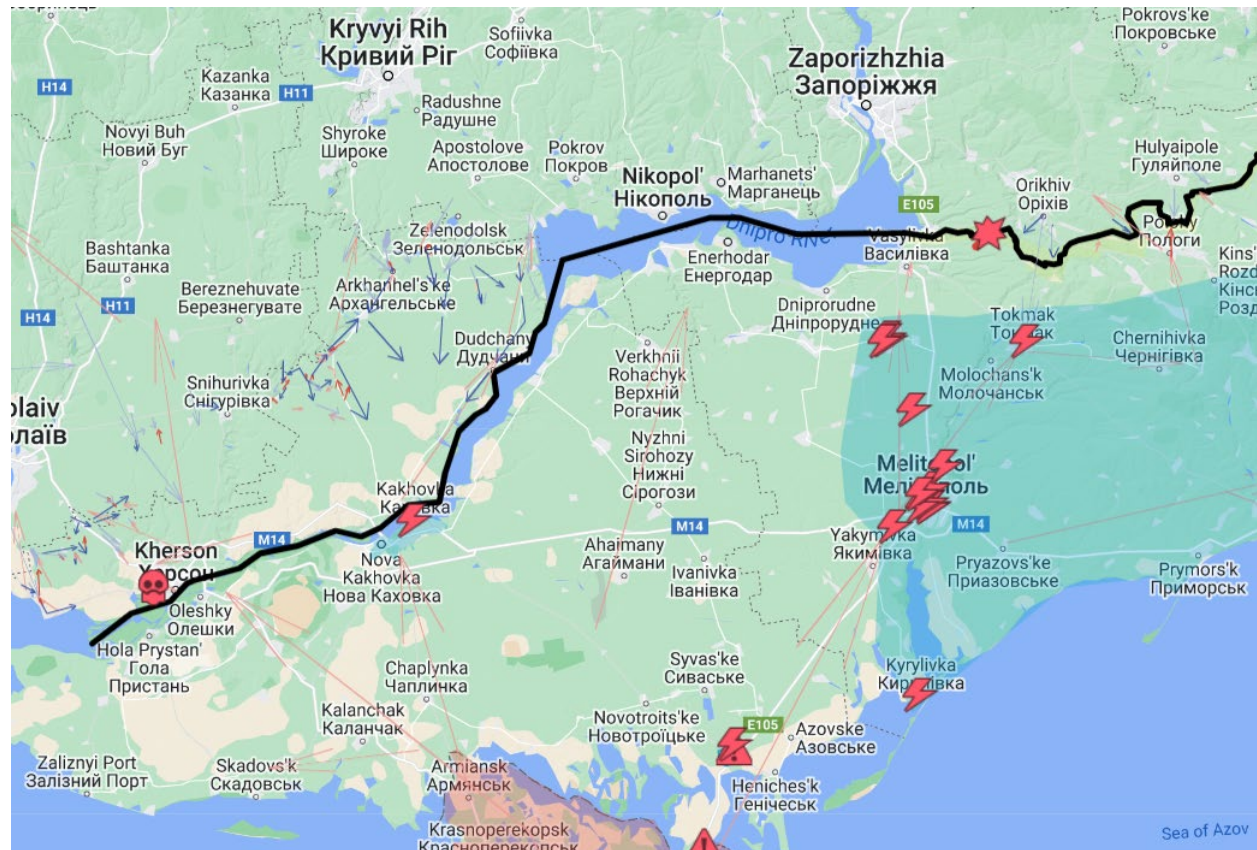
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval Airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like, the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>

KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

Russian forces significantly increased the number of artillery and rocket strikes in Kherson and Zaporizhia.^{1 2}

Social media accounts reported multiple artillery strikes in the city of Kherson, despite ongoing work to try and restore the infrastructure destroyed by Russian troops during their retreat from November 8 to November 10.^{3 4 5 6} Halyna Luhova, the head of the Kherson City Military Administration, reported the main pipeline for natural gas was damaged in the attack, killing one person.^{7 8} We had previously assessed that Russia had started targeting Ukrainian natural gas infrastructure in its ongoing genocidal campaign to kill the population of Ukraine over the winter.

Ukrainian forces continued to interdict Russian Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) and supply nodes east of the Dnipro River, with local reports that Nova Kakhovka and Oleshky were shelled. Residents of Russian-occupied Tokmak reported six large explosions, according

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

² https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1595297060634259458

³ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/29630>

⁴ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/29638>

⁵ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/29635>

⁶ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/29624>

⁷ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/29637>

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377466/>

to Ivan Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol.⁹ Insurgents claimed the strikes were on Russian positions, but there wasn't any additional information at the time of publication. Hours after the report of the strike, GSAFU claimed Russian troops withdrew from some positions and abandoned checkpoints in Molochansk, southwest of Tokmak.¹⁰

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GASFU) reported that a Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile complex in Polohy was destroyed, destroying five military vehicles and wounding 40 Russian soldiers.¹¹ Strikes on Vesele and Melitopol reportedly caused 45 casualties, but we cannot verify the veracity of the report.

There was no change in the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The Russian Ministry of Defense accused Ukraine of shelling the industrial area adjacent to the plant with eight "large caliber shells."¹² We reported yesterday that international observers with the International Atomic Energy Agency documented the

⁹ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/919

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/noelreports/status/1595319840331415553>

¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

¹² https://t.me/mod_russia/21950 [Russian State Agency]

shelling of Enerehodar, with the watchdogs stating the barrage did not represent a threat to the plant.¹³

Russian artillery units fired a total of 324 artillery shells and Smerch and Grad rockets from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) at the town of [Orikhiv](#), 10 kilometers from the line of conflict.¹⁴ The settlement, once home to 15,000 people, has been shelled daily since early March. The deputy mayor, Svitlana Mandrych, said that approximately 10% of the population remains despite the continued attacks and almost every apartment building and private home damaged or destroyed.

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that a convoy of 350 Russian troops is establishing defensive positions at the Kamyana Mohyla Nature Preserve.¹⁵ The archeological site is a unique sandstone feature with petroglyphs dating back to the Neolithic Age, including cave paintings of mammoths.

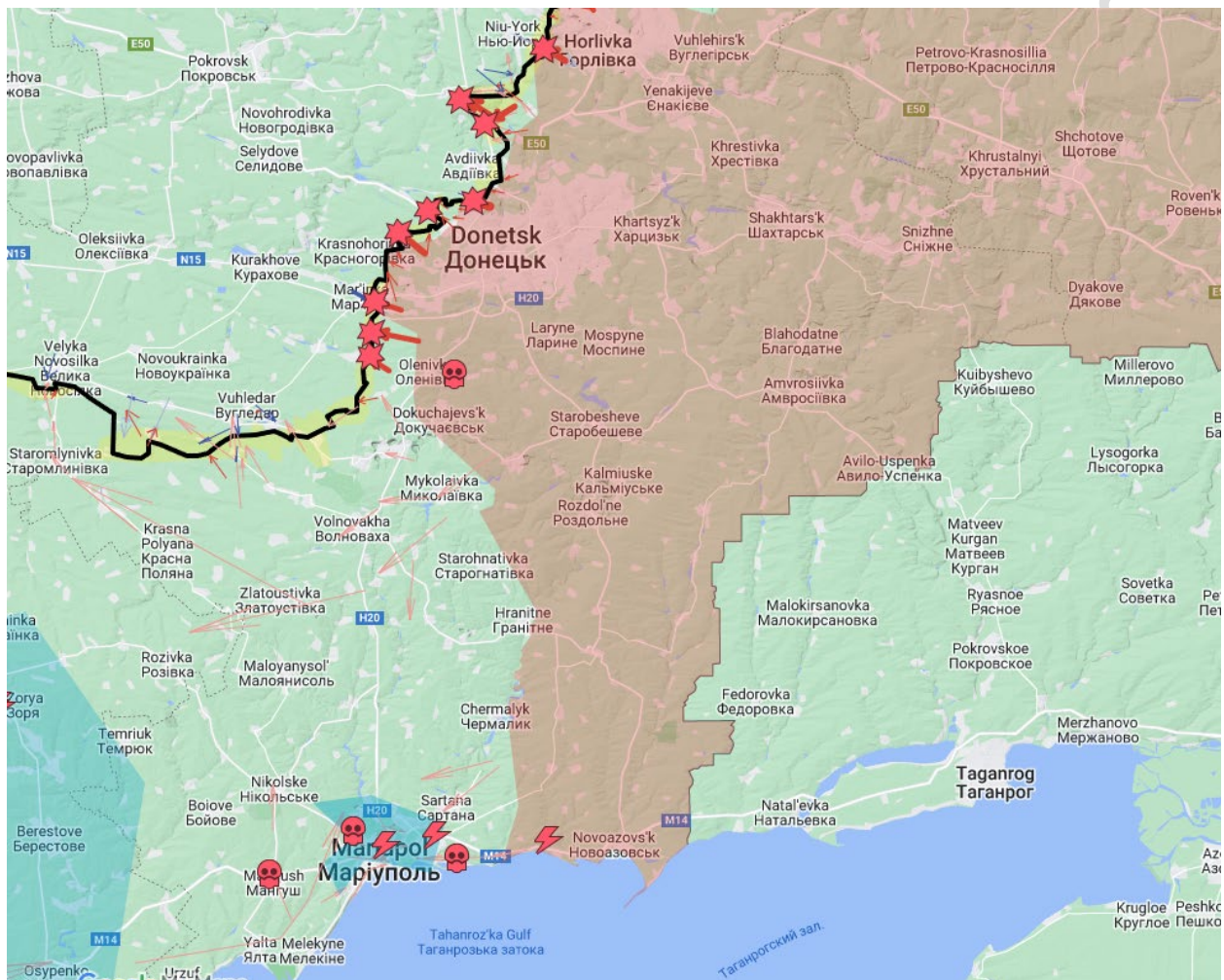
¹³ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

¹⁴ <https://tsn.ua/ato/ponad-300-prilotiv-za-den-rashisti-neschadno-kriyut-orihov-2207698.html>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/4512>

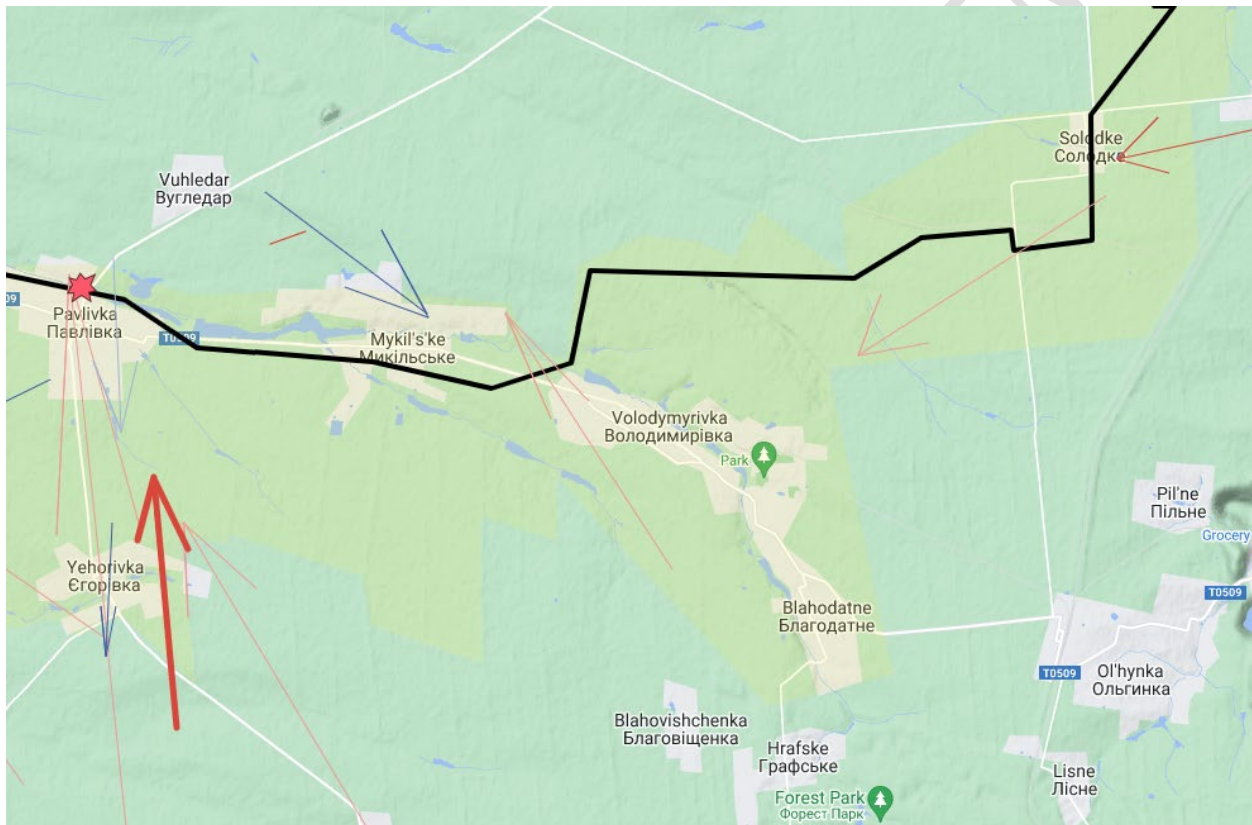
DONBAS REGION

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



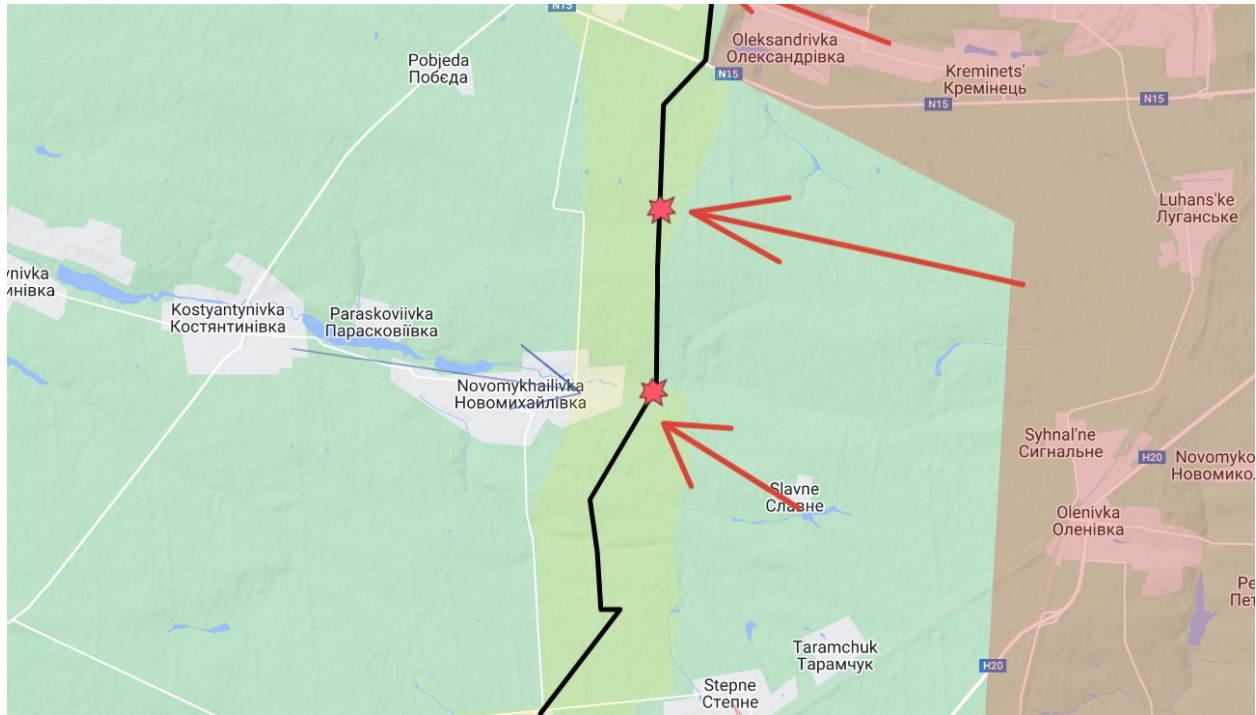
Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics



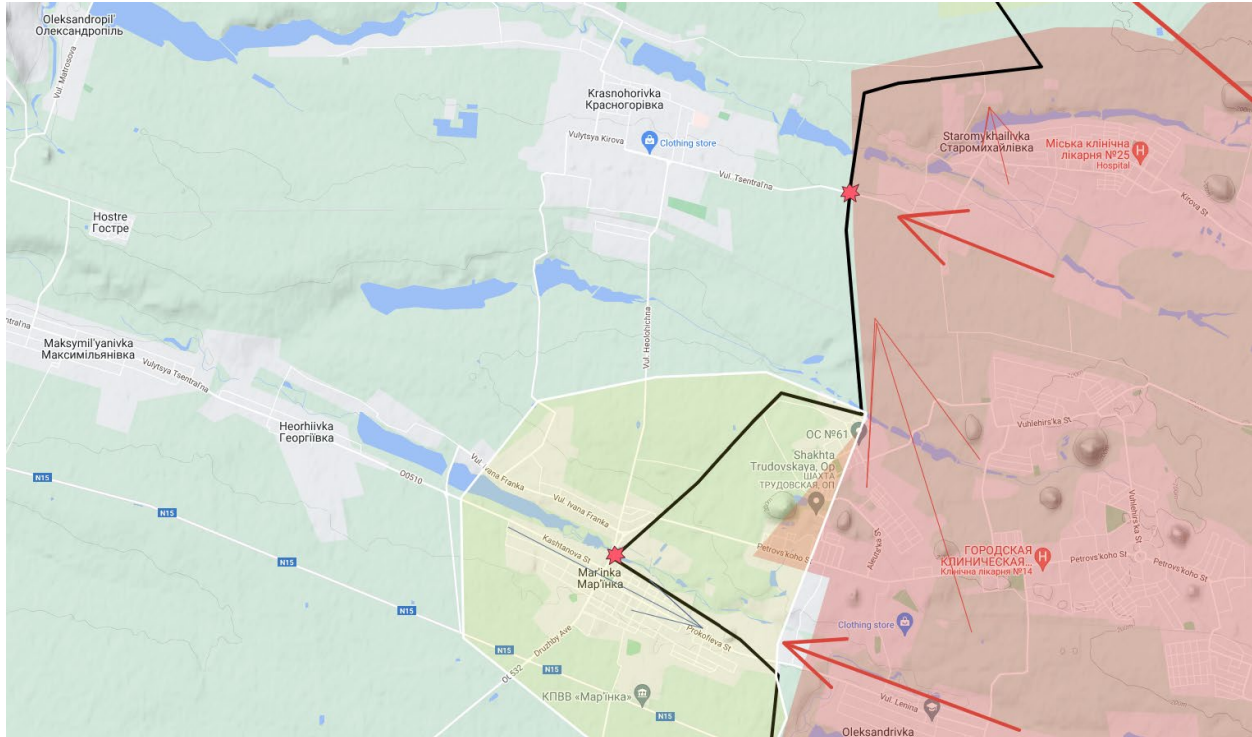
Fighting continued in [Pavlivka](#), according to the Russian MOD and Russian milbloggers.¹⁶

¹⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/21950 [Russian State Agency]



Mercenaries with War Gonzo said that the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) maintained their military traditions east of [Novomykhailivka](#) with another failed attack.¹⁷

¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9398>

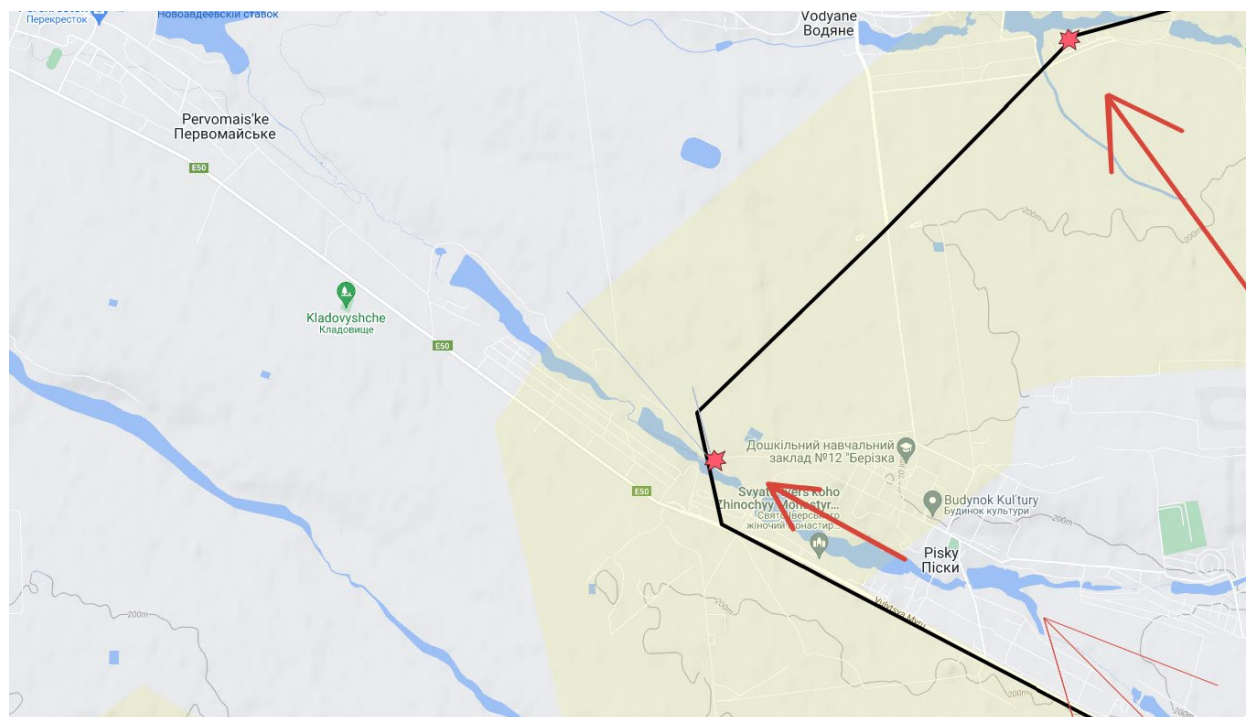


Ukrainian and Russian sources reported continued fighting in [Marinka](#) and another attempt to flank the city from the north with an attack on [Krasnohorivka](#).¹⁸ ¹⁹ The DNR militia was unable to improve their positions in eastern Marinka and could not advance from the north. Pavlo Kyrylenko, Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Marinka was heavily shelled.²⁰ The artillery barrage implies the Russian offensive is not going to plan, and the DNR is falling back to the Georgy Zhukov doctrine.

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

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9398>

²⁰ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/5636



Positional fighting continued near [Nevelske](#) and [Pervomaiske](#).^{21 22} The People's Militia of the DNR public relations channel released a video of fighting near Nevelske. Based on weather and terrain conditions, the video is at least a week old and was likely released to try and bolster morale. If you want to watch the video, you can [click here](#).²³

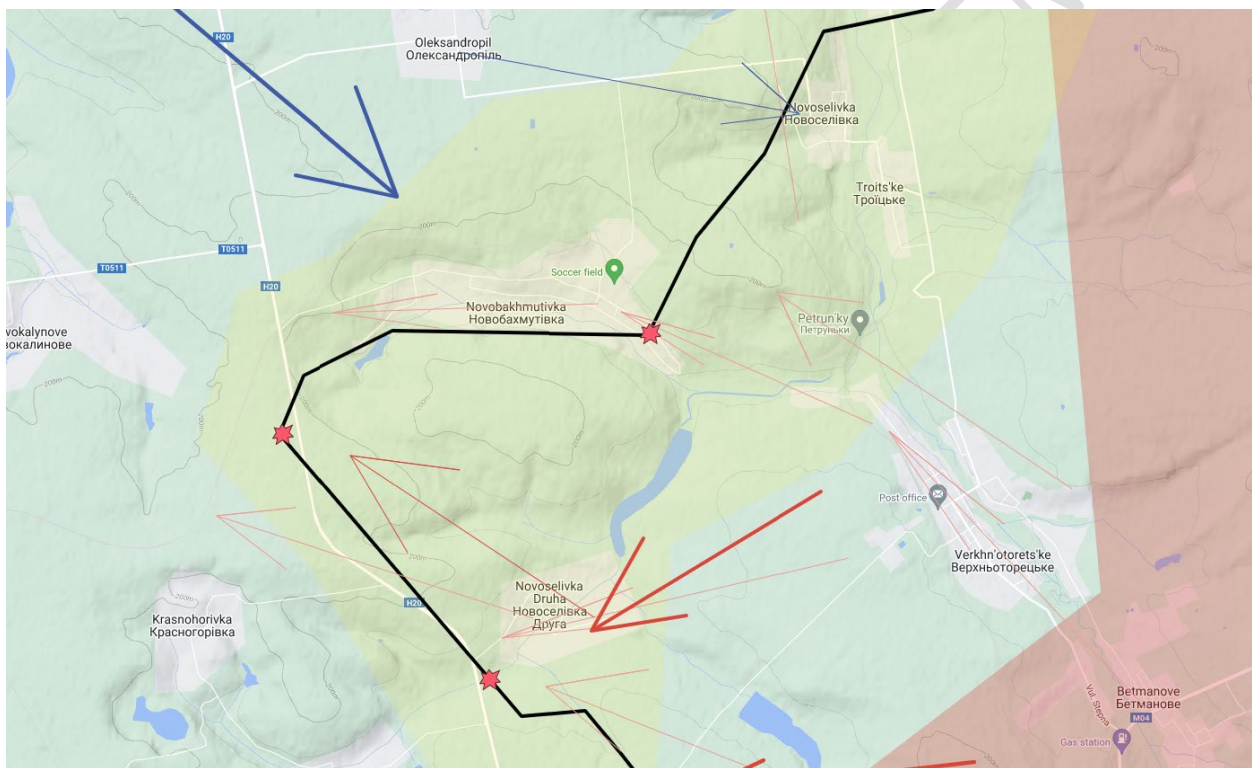
Errors and Omissions: On November 21, we reported that Ukrainian forces had repelled an attack on the Vesele in northeast Donetsk, west of Spirne. The consensus was the

²¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

²² <https://t.me/wargonzo/9398>

²³ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9444

attack was on Vesele, just west of Donetsk, where the International Airport is located. There hadn't been any previous information that Ukraine had retaken positions in Vesele, so it was our belief the failed advance was closer to Lysychansk. We appreciate your understanding as we cut through the fog of war.



GSAFU reported that Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on [Novobakhmutivka](#), northeast of the stronghold in Krasnohorivka. We have moved the line of conflict south and east of Novobakhmutivka based on the information, but consider the town a no man's land.

Military commanders with the DNR completed the repeat of events from August 21 to September 3, when they lost control of the same town after the DNR launched a three-day attack on Novokalynove that failed.

ASSESSMENT: The loss of territorial control after an eight-day offensive by the DNR 1st Army Corps indicated that they attacked without reserves to hold the defensive lines at their starting point or committed those troops in the failed attempt to surround Krasnohorivka. This indicates that the Russian MOD continues to use its light infantry in ad hoc attacks without a cohesive strategy. We do not believe this represents a Ukrainian offensive or a tactical victory but was a target of opportunity due to poor resource management by Russian military leaders aided by bad weather.

Power was out to over 24,000 homes in occupied Donetsk, and water service had completely failed.²⁴ The water system issues extended to boiler houses and thermal plants, disabling heat within the city on the same day as its first snowfall.²⁵ ²⁶ The self-proclaimed leader of the DNR,

²⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41481>

²⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41363>

²⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41443>

Denis Pushilin, said that utility workers from Russia were working “around the clock” but “cannot yet say that the heating season is going on as usual.”²⁷ Officials with Water of Donbass did not expect service to be restored before November 24.²⁸

The weather forecast is significantly worse than earlier models, with strong winds and freezing rain expected as far south as the coast of the Azov Sea.²⁹ In our assessment, this will slow down combat operations and potentially ground air assets and drones over the next 24 hours.

Supporting our assessment that the Private Military Company (PMC) Wanger Group is being spread too thin with an increasing role of replacing elite Russian troops, members of the PMC, along with Chechen forces, arrived in occupied Debaltseve, 50 kilometers northeast of Donetsk.³⁰ Historically, Chechen forces and PMC Wagner have not cooperated with documented fratricide incidents.

GSAFU claimed that mobiks forcibly conscripted in the DNR are receiving military training at a vocational school in

²⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41417>

²⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41430>

²⁹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41443>

³⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377501/>

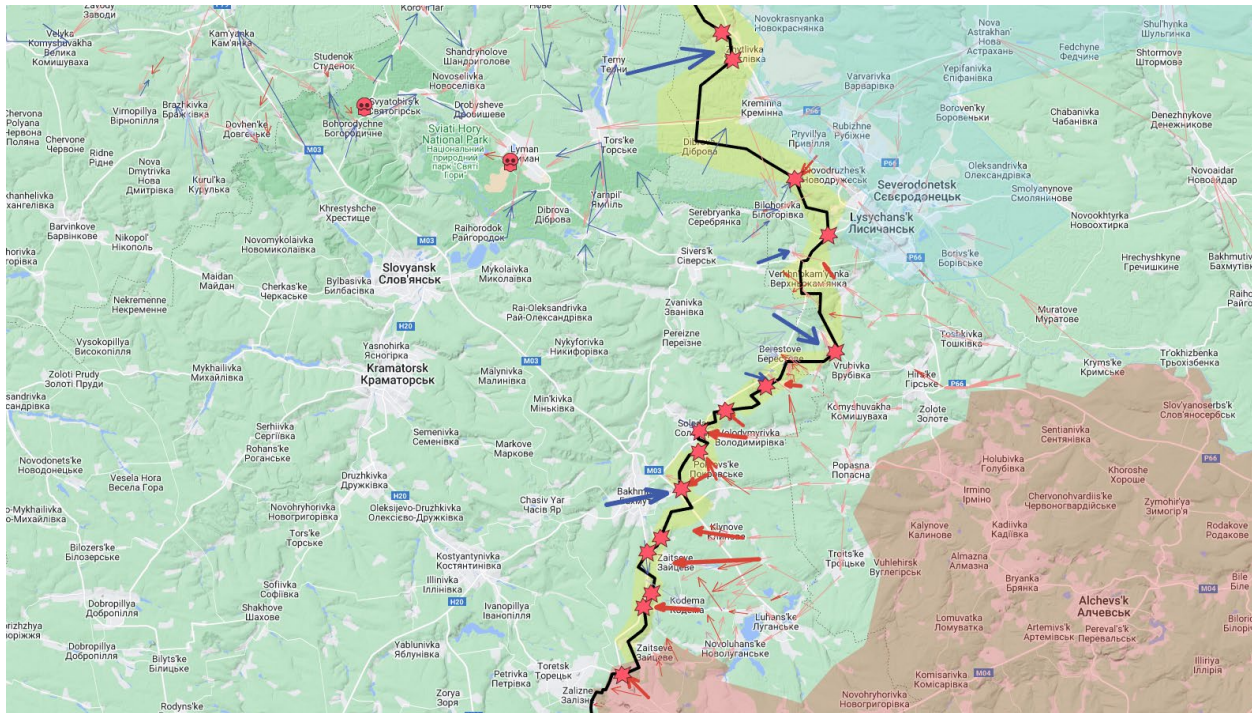


Yenakieve, where in-person classes are being held in parallel.

The DNR Militia PR Telegram channel released their five o'clock follies claiming their forces destroyed one S-21 MLRS launcher, three 152mm howitzers, and eight units of "armored and automotive vehicles" without any supporting evidence.³¹ Ukrainian forces executed 143 fire missions on the occupied territories.

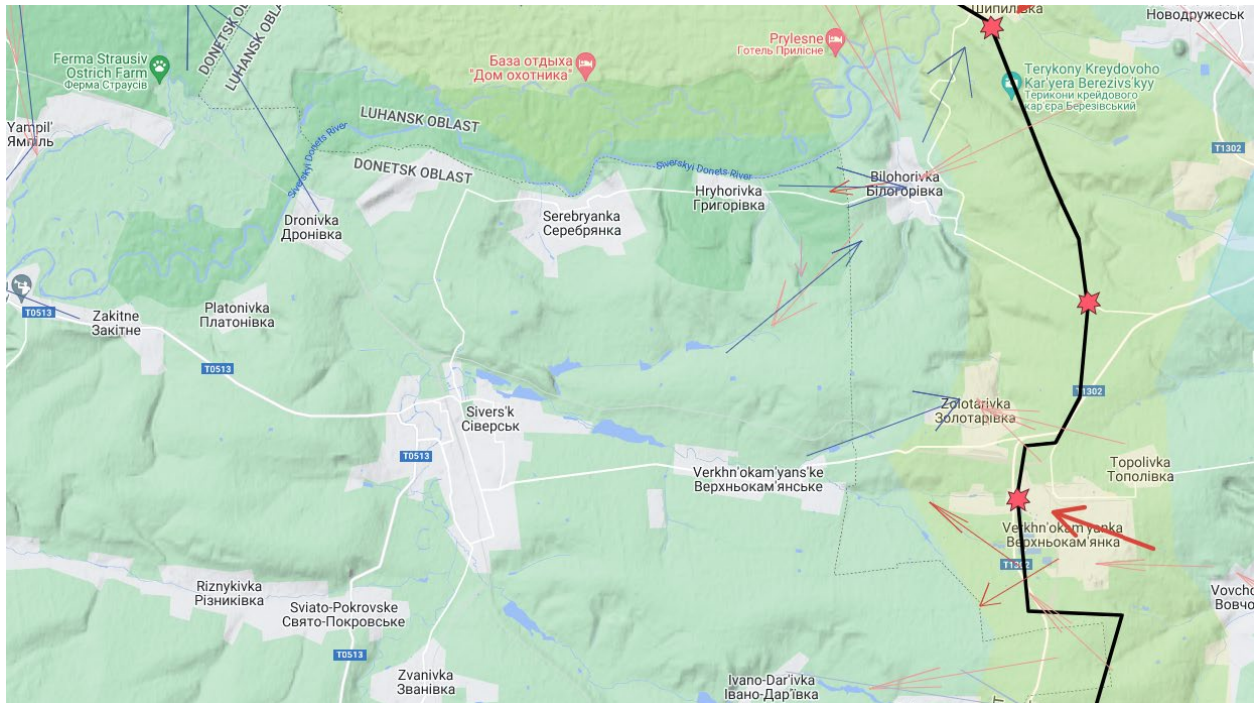
³¹ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9448

NORTHEAST DONETSK



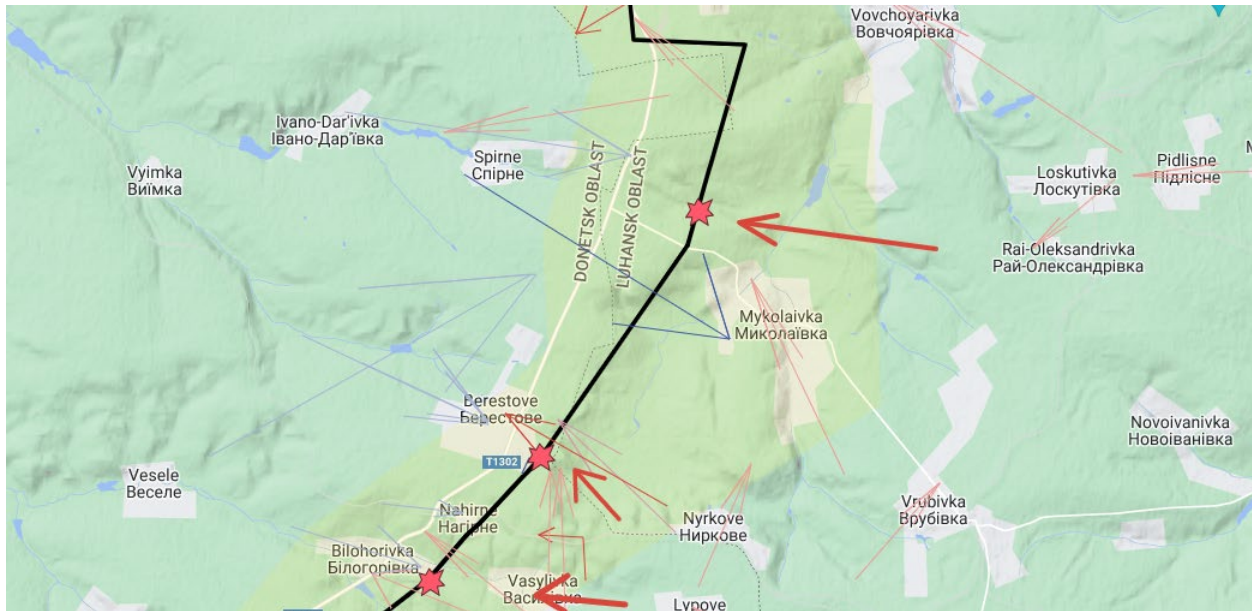
Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



GSAFU reported a Russian attack on [Siversk](#) was repelled. There were no reports of an advance on the key logistic hub for Ukraine from any Russian source, so in our assessment, this was likely a Russian DRG or reconnaissance group.³²

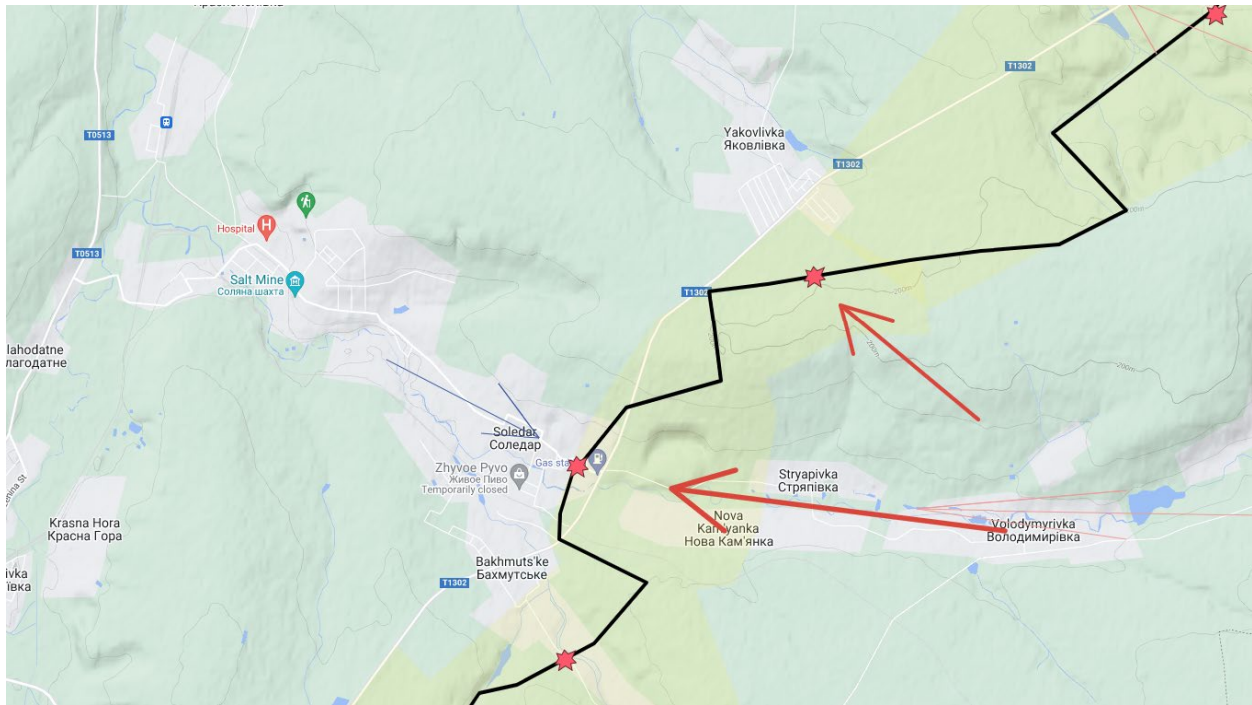
³² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)



PMC Wagner Group, supported by the tattered remains of the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR), engaged in positional fighting east of [Spirne](#), [Berestove](#), and [Bilhorivka](#) [Donetsk].^{33 34}

³³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9397>

³⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

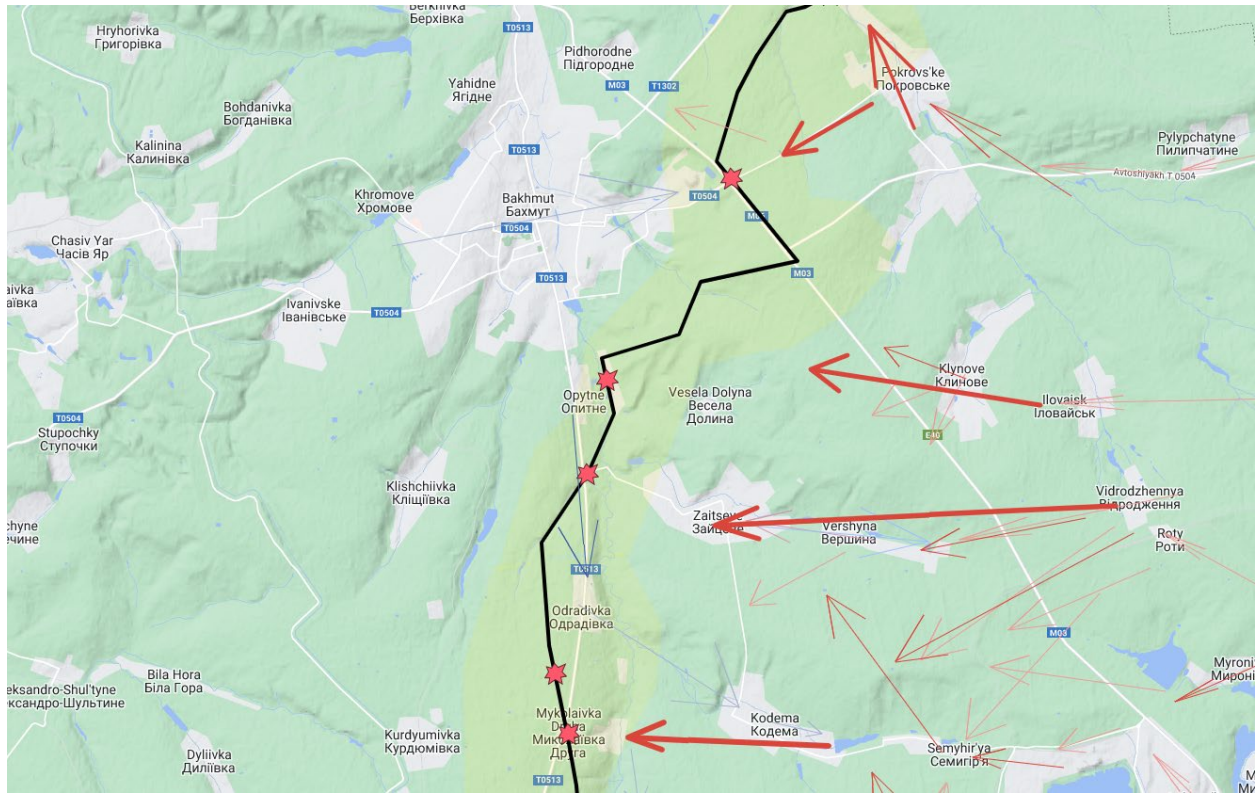


Wagner also attempted to flank [Soledar](#) with attacks on [Yakovlivka](#) and [Bakhmut'ske](#) and Soledar itself, bolstered by up to 2,000 reinforcements of penal mercenaries.^{35 36}
³⁷Fighting was intense and supported by Russian artillery units, but there was no change to the line of conflict.

³⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

³⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9397>

³⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7005>



Intense fighting was reported east and southeast of [Bakhmut](#) along the E-40 Highway in the mud and inhumane conditions.³⁸ A Ukrainian milblogger reported that the battle conditions are out of the Second World War. Mercenaries with PMC Wagner and Russian troops repeatedly advance during the day across an open, mud-covered moonscape and are mowed down. The battlefield is reportedly covered in bodies, and despite the cold, some soldiers play dead for hours before attempting to retreat after failed attacks.³⁹

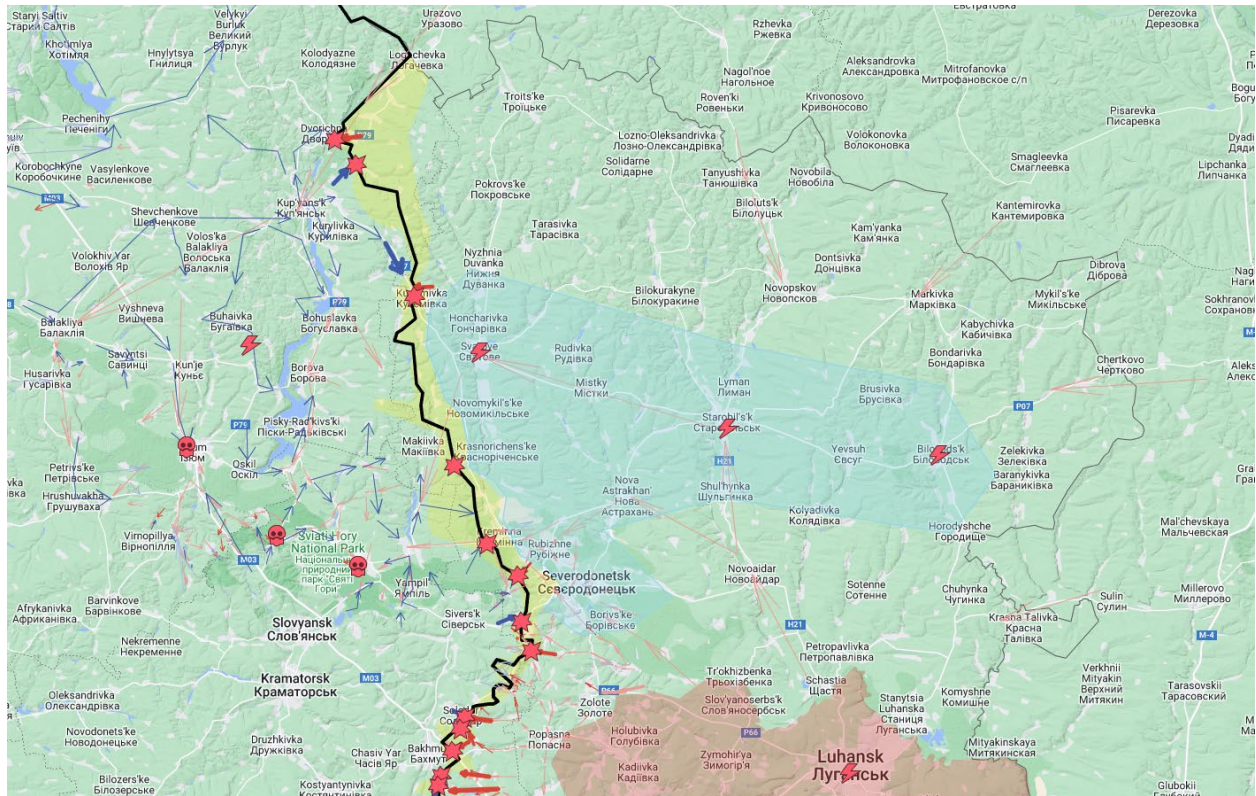
³⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

³⁹ https://t.me/military_u/11605

GSAFU reported that Russian troops attempted to advance on [Kurdyumivka](#) without success.⁴⁰

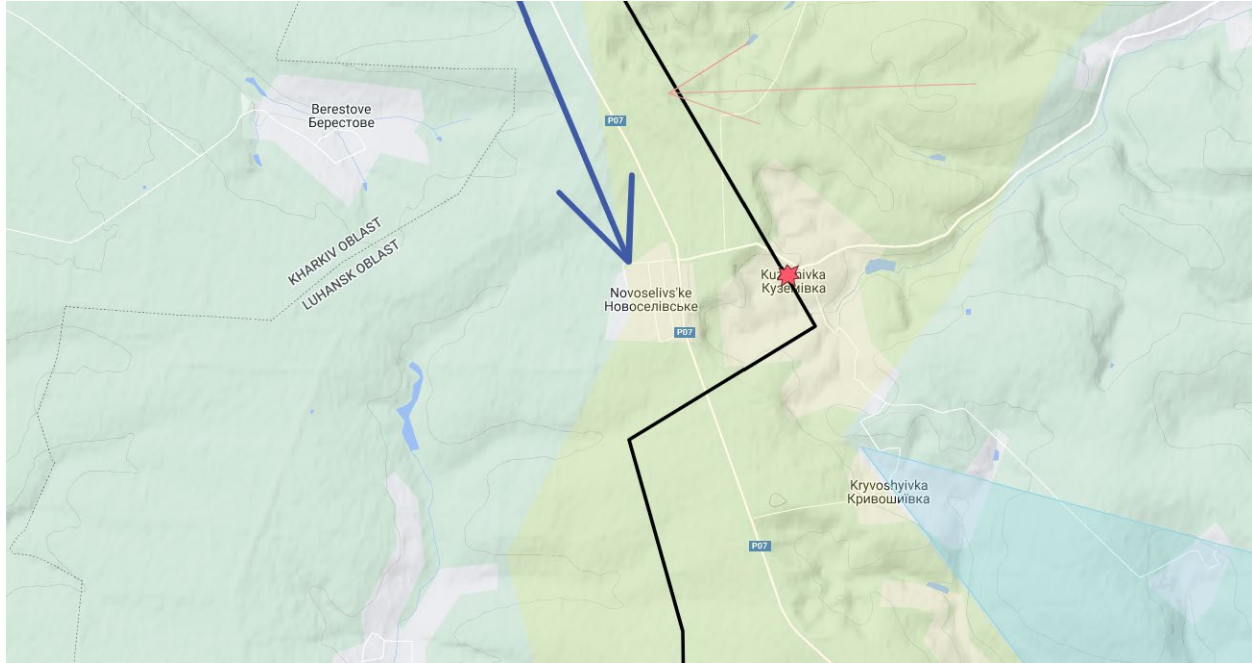
⁴⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

LUHANSK



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

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



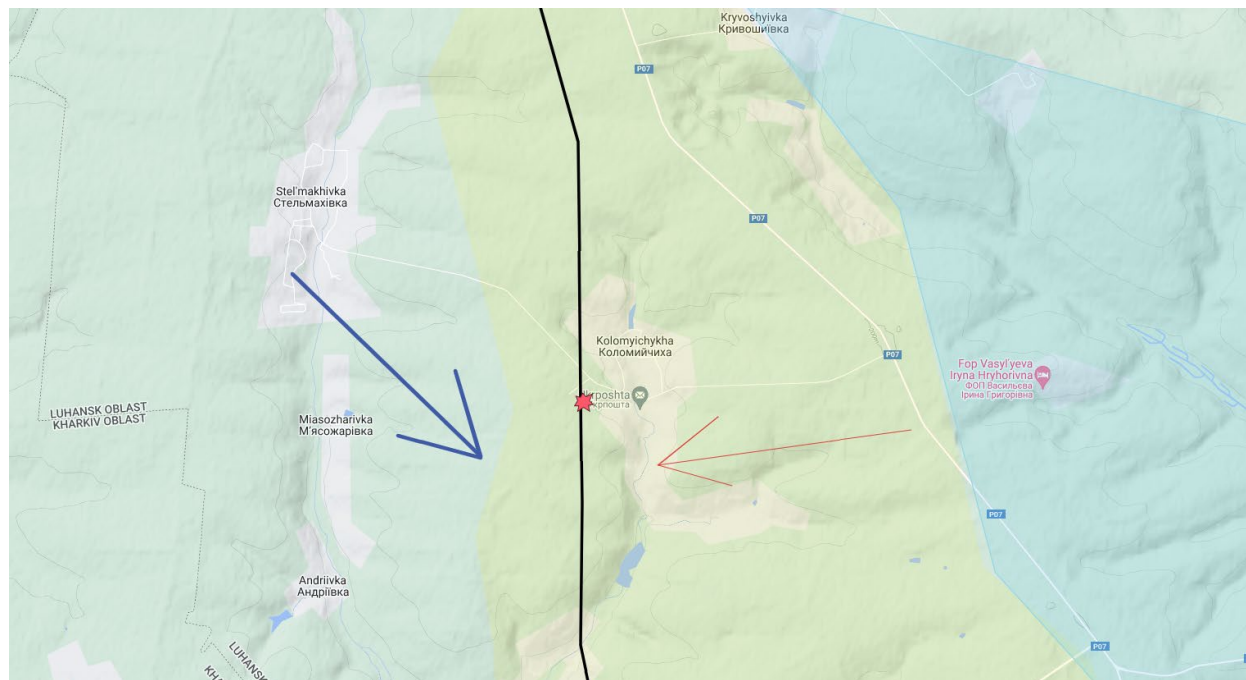
Russian and Ukrainian sources reported continued fighting in [Kuzemivka](#), which was subdued by poor weather conditions, making the use of armored vehicles near impossible.^{41 42 43} Serhiy Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor hinted that Ukraine would increase military operations once the ground becomes frozen in an interview on Espresso TV.⁴⁴

⁴¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/21950 [Russian State Agency]

⁴² <https://t.me/rybar/41401>

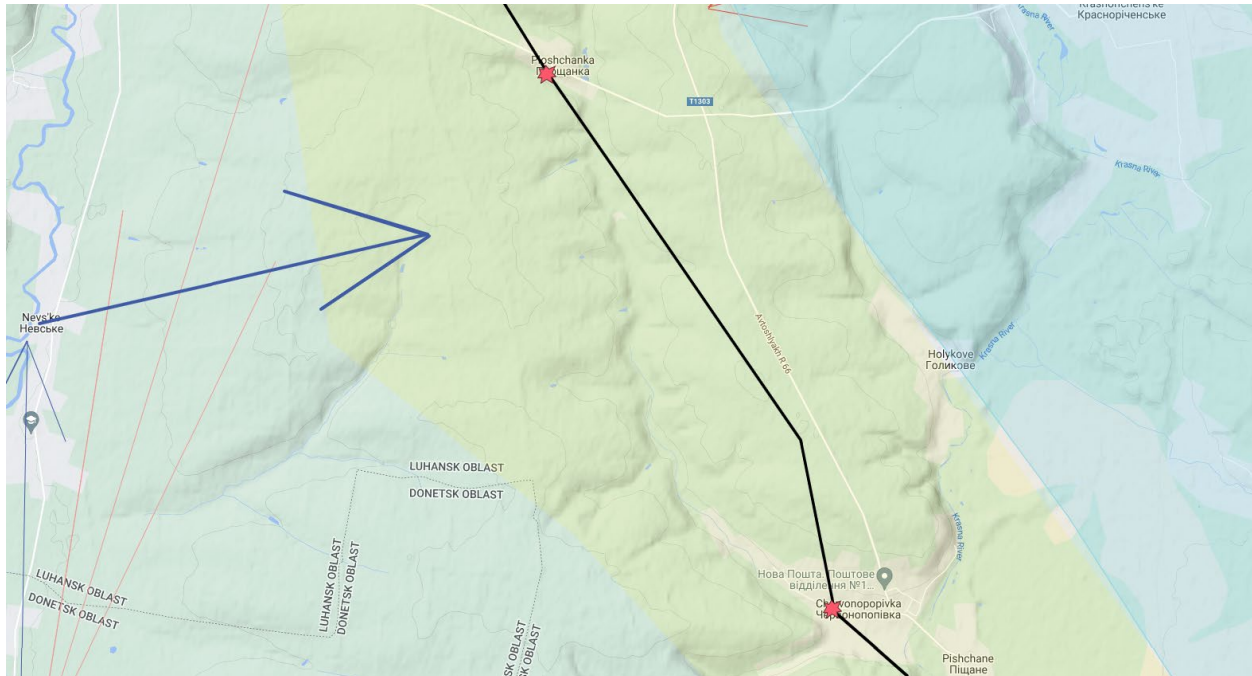
⁴³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14740>

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/6995>



The Russian MOD reported continued fighting east of [Stelmakhivka](#), claiming Ukrainian forces attempted an advance without success.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/21950 [Russian State Agency]



War Gonzo reported fighting on the outskirts of [Chevronopivka](#), and GSAFU reported [Ploschanka](#) was shelled for the fifth day in a row.^{46 47}

ASSESSMENT: With Ploschanka hit by artillery for almost a week, our confidence level is high that Ukrainian forces have established positions within part of the town. Additionally, Governor Haidai reported “in the direction of...Kreminna, the Armed Forces are gradually moving forward.”⁴⁸

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9397>

⁴⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

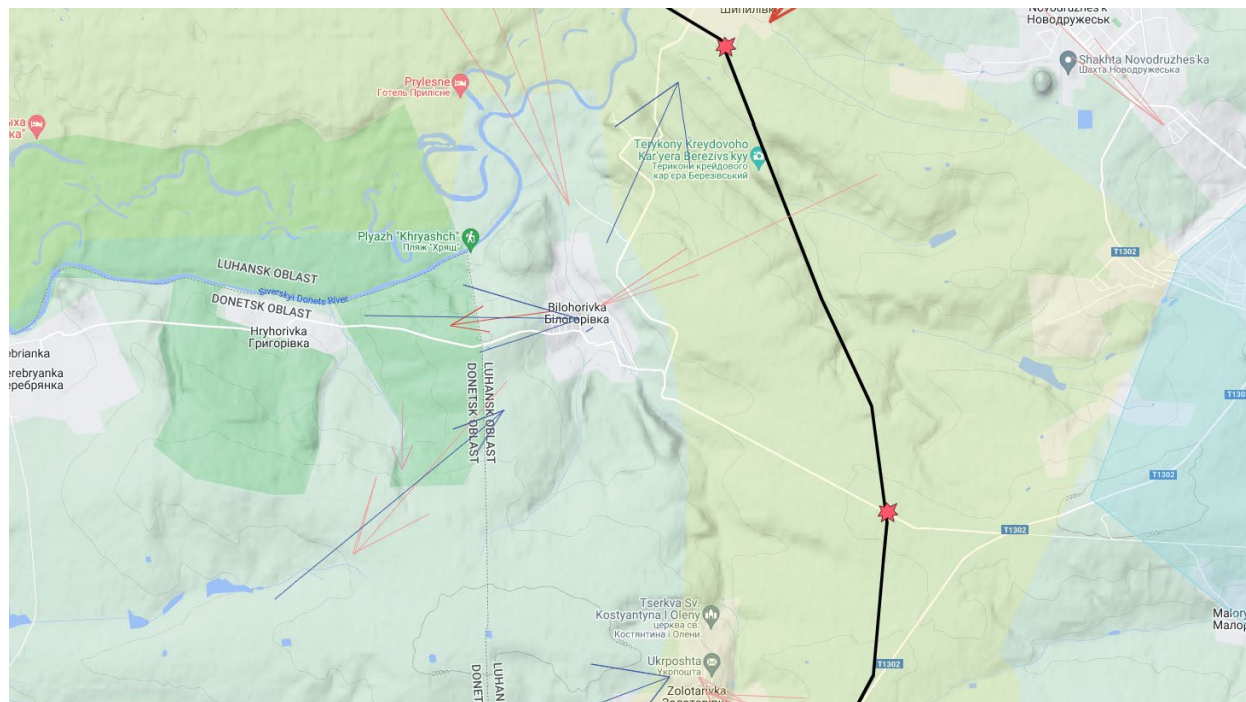
⁴⁸ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7005>

A Russian milblogger expressed shock that Ukrainian forces attacked Russian troops looting belongings from the bodies of fallen Ukrainian troops. After an artillery barrage, the Ukrainians recovered the corpses while under fire.⁴⁹ The same blogger, on the same day, an hour earlier, wrote how Russia needs to apply some of the same techniques in military training as used by NATO.⁵⁰ Unconvinced that troops that are well trained, with good leaders, unit cohesion, and high morale will leave no one behind, it was suggested these forces must have some secret information on them.

Editor's Note: Do you mean honor, pride, duty, and treating the words "no one is left behind" as more than a patriotic slogan? Maybe you shouldn't be boasting about looting corpses on the battlefield in your military blog.

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10037>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10035>



Fighting continued east of [Bilhorivka](#) [Luhansk] and was reportedly difficult, with Governor Haidai claiming the forested strips and areas outside the town are littered with Russian bodies.^{51 52}

ASSESSMENT: We have never seen more pictures and videos of dead Russian troops than we have processed in the last 30 days. Tracking losses in war is almost a fool's task because neither belligerent in a war of this scale, sorry Russia, special military operation, will provide accurate information. Anecdotal data implies that losses,

⁵¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/6995>

⁵² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

particularly around penal units and mobiks, have been extreme since the first mobilized Russian troops arrived in late September.

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CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

Ukrainian Objective: Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported the hromadas of Putyvl, Znob-Novhorodske, Druzhba, and Shalyhyne were shelled from across the international border.⁵³ The barrage was light, and no damage or casualties were reported.

Territorial guards exchanged machine gun fire with Russian troops in skirmishes in the hromadas of Esman and Hlukhiv at the international border. There were no casualties reported.⁵⁴

⁵³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377542/>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/6117>

GSAFU reported Semenivka in Chernihiv has attacked with artillery and rockets fired by MLRS. There wasn't additional information at the time of publication, but the town has been a frequent target since the Russian withdrawal around Chernihiv in April.⁵⁵

KYIV REGION

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant activity reported.

⁵⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Russian milblogger Rybar reported the 73rd Maritime Special Operations Center soldiers of Ukraine were conducting patrols and reconnaissance of the Russian-controlled coastline of the Kinburn Spit.⁵⁶

In Russia-occupied Crimea, air defenses were activated in Sevastopol and Uytne, with officials claiming three Ukrainian [drones were shot down](#).^{57 58} Officials suspended ferry service in Sevastopol after the attack.⁵⁹

The paranoia of Russian military leaders that Ukraine may attempt an attack on Crimea increased, with the terrorist threat level increased to "yellow" through December 7, which is the highest level.^{60 61} Rumors that Armyansk would be evacuated or that partial evacuation had begun continued to swirl on social media. Despite the near panic, Sergey Aksyonov, puppet leader of Crimea, said everything is "completely under control."

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/41401>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16149>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16152>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16153>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16127>

⁶¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377449/>

In a demonstration that there is nothing to worry about, in Sevastopol, occupation officials are creating bomb shelters in a 500-meter wide grid across the city.⁶²

Viktor Medvedchuk, who was exchanged to the Kremlin for 200 Ukrainian prisoners of war, was spotted in occupied Crimea in Yalta, eating dinner with his wife, Oksana Marchenko, without an apparent security detail.⁶³ Crimean residents expressed shock as the word spread that he was staying in the town. This is the definition of FAFO.

Due to poor weather conditions and continued concern about putting ships on patrol, only six ships with the Russian Black Sea Fleet were on patrol, and none were capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles. The Kilo-class submarine operating in the area of Snake Island returned to port.⁶⁴

⁶² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16123>

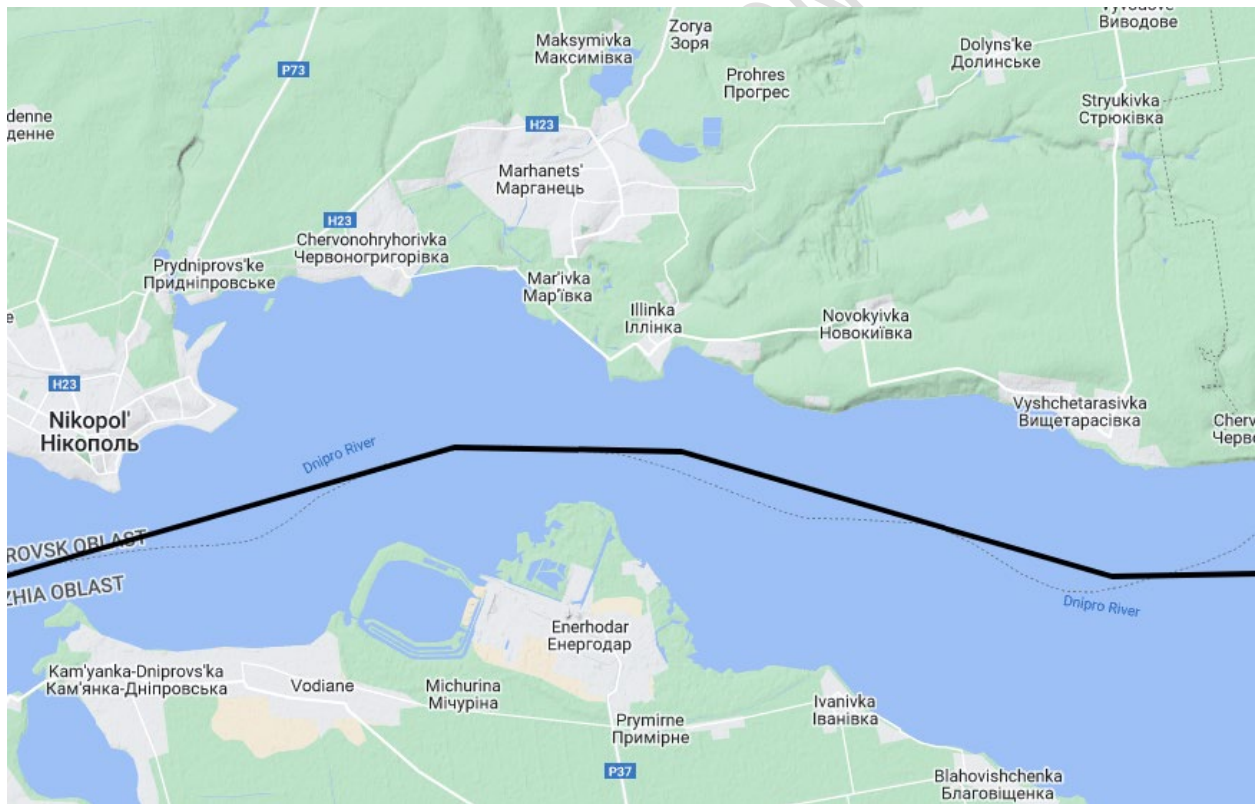
⁶³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377499/>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16132>

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives



In Dnipropetrovsk, Marhanets was hit with 30 Grad rockets fired by MLRS.⁶⁵ There wasn't significant damage or any casualties reported.

Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack struck a maternity hospital in Zaporizhzhia. There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

RUSSIAN FRONT

The Russian town of Shebekino in the Belgorod federal district was shelled a day after the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed they destroyed four M-777 artillery pieces in Ukraine, which would end the attacks. The shells landed in the Veterans of War Hospital area but not the hospital itself. One civilian in a different part of the city was reported killed.⁶⁶

The Kremlin is reportedly setting conditions to launch a false flag attack in the Belgorod region to claim Ukraine has launched an invasion into Russia.⁶⁷ The claims are, in a

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/2521>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/belgorod01/28044>

⁶⁷ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1595297045023055872

word, preposterous. They are likely being made to prop up support for the special military operation and set conditions for further mobilization.

In Belgorod, local officials have opened an investigation into why a woman who reported a quadcopter drone was flying over the city was told to shoot it down herself.⁶⁸ Belgorod federal district governor Vyacheslav Gladkov partially blamed the woman for not getting the name of the 112 dispatcher, saying, "Next time, please provide more detailed information about the employee who told you this."

Residents in Belgorod took to social media to complain about poor road conditions and a lack of snow removal after the year's first snowstorm hit the city.⁶⁹ City officials reported there was a shortage of drivers, and four vehicles were inoperable because they required maintenance.

⁶⁸ https://t.me/pb_032/12968

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/belgorod01/28073>

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Someone change the sign! It has been zero days since someone in Russia threatened nuclear war. Russian propagandist Olga Skabeeva, pushing [the narrative that Ukraine is preparing to invade Russia](#), told her viewers, "In the event, God forbid, [if] the capture of Shebekino or Valuyek [by Ukraine], without hesitation - nuclear missile in Kyiv!"⁷⁰

In nine months, we've gone from Kyiv in three days to what will we do if Ukraine invades us? Here is an idea, take the L and go home. No, you don't need to start digging your background bunker. So over it.

Ukraine opened more than 4,000 Points of Invincibility" as part of a national campaign across free Ukraine.⁷¹ The centers will be activated in areas experiencing power loss for more than a few hours so that citizens can have free access to a heated place with food, drinks, Internet access, cellular phone coverage, basic first-aid, and charging stations for electronics. A website was set up so people

⁷⁰ https://t.me/pb_032/12970

⁷¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377536/>

could find the closest hub in heated tents, schools, and other state facilities. Maps are being posted in towns across Ukraine showing where local centers are located if Internet access has been disabled. Ukraine plans to open more centers as more resources become available.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held another Staff of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief meeting to discuss protecting the nation's remaining energy facilities and what work needs to be done to protect Ukrainians during the winter months.⁷² The president wrote, "We have discussed three main problems. The first is to provide our army with equipment and weapons. The second is the protection of energy infrastructure facilities. The third is to ensure the high-quality work of infrastructure facilities throughout the winter."

Ukraine's Security Service (SSU) conducted counterintelligence operations at the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra monastery in the Kyiv oblast and the Koretsky Holy Trinity Monastery and the Sarny-Polissia Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate in the Rivne oblast.⁷³

⁷² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377430/>

⁷³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377416/>

Ukrainian officials said the raids were made to look for sabotage and reconnaissance groups, weapons, and to prevent the use of religious communities as a hub for Russian Mir. The searches drew a sharp rebuke from the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Ukraine had liberated 1,886 settlements since February 24, with approximately 2,000 still occupied, according to President Zelenskyy when he addressed the 104th Congress of Mayors and Heads of Municipalities of France via teleconference.⁷⁴

Ukraine's former Minister of Education, Dmytro Tabachnyk, was notified that he was under suspicion of treason.⁷⁵ On May 1, he contacted the collaborators of the occupied territories in the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions, Volodymyr Saldo and Yevgeny Balytskyi, with the Deputy Minister of Health of the Russian Federation, Andrey Plutynitsky, using the Telegram messenger "to organize processes in the field of security in captured settlements." At the same time, he acted as a representative of the highest authorities of the Russian Federation. Tabachnyk

⁷⁴ [Unian Ukraine](#)

⁷⁵ <https://suspilne.media/322832-eksministra-osviti-tabacnika-pidozruut-u-derzradi/>

left Ukraine in 2014 after the Russian occupation of Crimea and the formation of self-declared republics of the DNR and LNR.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied media reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin was offered a framework for peace negotiations before the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia.^{76 77} Putin didn't attend the meeting in person or virtually. During the Summit, the Russian Federation launched almost 100 cruise missiles and more than two-dozen Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones at civilian infrastructure targets in Ukraine.

Russian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Andrey Kelin, told the BBC that Russia is not holding informal talks with Ukraine on a ceasefire because "Kyiv is very stubborn and is under the illusion it can in this war," as reported by the Russian state news agency TASS.⁷⁸ Interestingly, the article in TASS used the word "war" multiple times. Kelin said Western nations should stop supplying Ukraine with weapons since Ukraine has already lost "a lot of territory, economic, and agricultural potential."

⁷⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7377428/>

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41415>

⁷⁸ <https://tass.ru/politika/16400739> [Russian State Control Media]

If you're hearing laughter in the background as you read/listen to this, that is our map editor.

Ukrengergo reported they had improved the situation with the Ukrainian electrical grid, and unscheduled emergency blackouts are not expected on Wednesday.

UK Minister of Defense Ben Wallace reported that Ukraine would receive three British military Sea King helicopters. Training of maintenance and flight crews is already completed, and the first helicopter is already in Ukraine.⁷⁹ Wallace also reported that another 10,000 artillery shells would be transferred to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The UK retired Sea King helicopters in 2018 and will be used for search and rescue missions.

A bipartisan group of 16 United States Senators appealed to United States President Joe Biden to override a Pentagon decision not to supply Ukraine with Gray Eagle drones.⁸⁰ It was announced in July that Ukraine would receive four, but a technology review by the United States military

⁷⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63725431.amp>

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16155>

determined there was a risk to national security and blocked the equipment drawdown.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that "NATO does not yet plan to introduce a no-fly zone in the sky of Ukraine, yet."⁸¹ Also, interestingly, Russian milbloggers and Russian state media left off the "yet" part of the quote, which changes the context of the quote.

The head of the NATO Military Committee, Rob Bauer, praised the Ukrainian Armed Forces.⁸² "One of the reasons that the Ukrainian Armed Forces managed to repel the Russian invasion is their skillful use of new technologies. And we have all witnessed the decisive role of technology companies supporting Ukraine. Help came both from Ukraine's own well-developed technology sector and from large and smaller international players."

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

Reports from the UK Defense Intelligence Agency and Ukrainian officials supported our assessment that the

⁸¹ https://t.me/miroshnik_r/9662

⁸² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16182>

Russian Federation exhausted their initial supply of Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones and is running out of precision standoff weapons.^{83 84 85} The UK Defense Intelligence organization wrote, "No OWA UAVs strikes have been publicly reported since around 17 November 2022. Russia has likely very nearly exhausted its current stock, but will probably seek resupply."

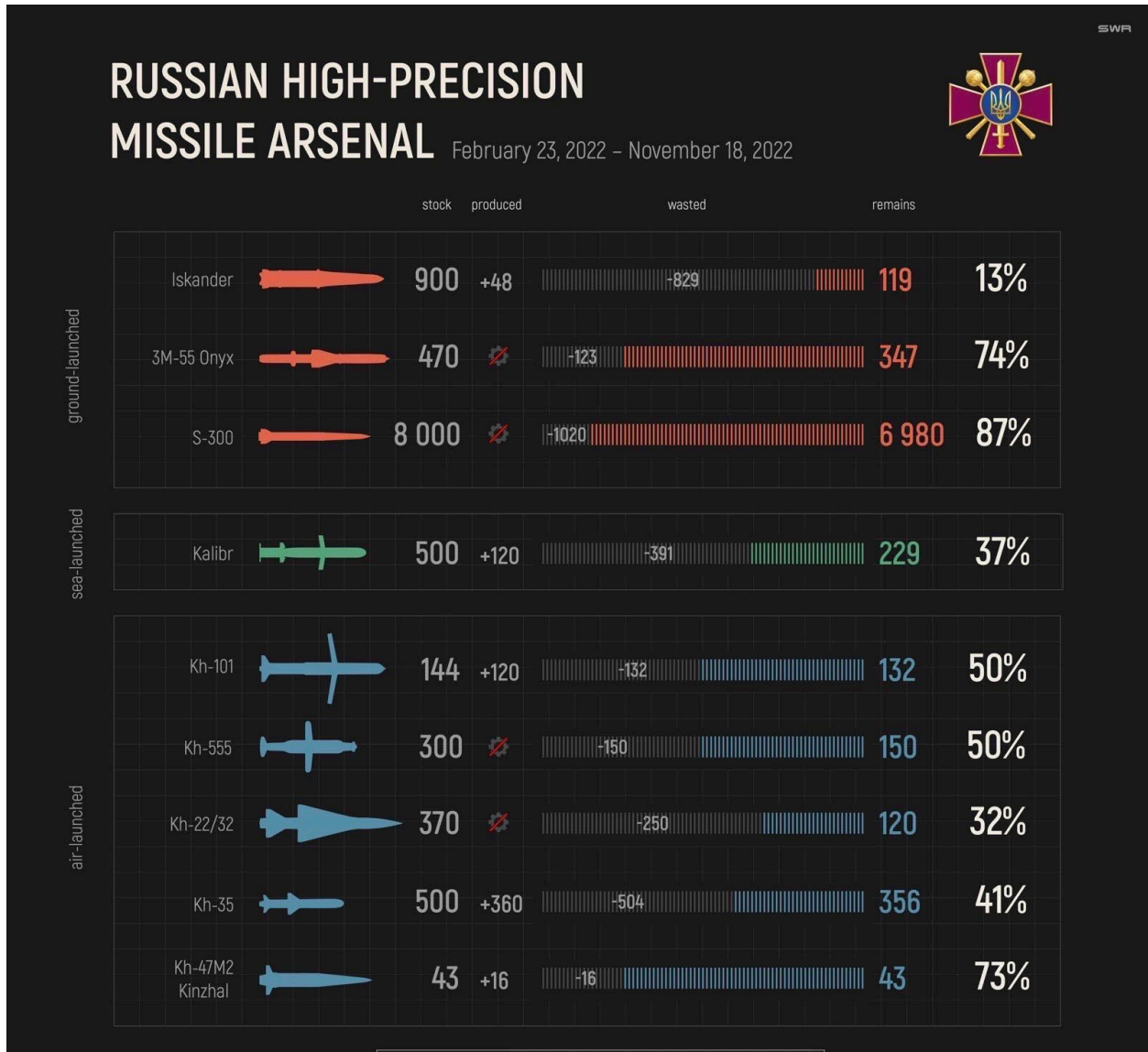
The Ukrainian Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, Oleksiy Danilov, said in an interview that Russia has enough cruise missiles and drones left in reserve for three or four more massive attacks on Ukraine. According to Ukrainian officials, Russia has used 87% of its Iskander short-range ballistic missiles, 68% of its Kh-22, 63% of its Kalibr, half of its Kh-101 and Kh-55, and cruise missiles.⁸⁶ Russia has almost 7,000 S-300 anti-aircraft missiles remaining, but not all of them are modernized versions that can be used for ground attacks. The estimated supply accounted for ongoing production, which is becoming increasingly harder due to sanctions and an ongoing brain drain within Russia.

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1595308425906647040>

⁸⁴ <https://www.unian.ua/war/skilki-u-rosiji-zalishilosya-raket-vidpovid-danilova-12054132.html>

⁸⁵ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1595297053906587648

⁸⁶ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1595202000655884290>



Adding to potential woes, there were reports that talks between Iran and Russia to procure Iranian short-range and mid-range ballistic missiles had broken off.

Russian Lieutenant Colonel Nikulin Sergey Leonidovich, the head of communications of the 76th Guard Airborne

Assault Division, was killed in action in Ukraine on October 11. The 76th was deployed in Kherson west of the Dnipro and held defense of Davydiv Brid.

In the November 21 Situation Report, we reported that Russian President Putin would meet with the mothers of soldiers in Ukraine “in the coming days.”⁸⁷ We also speculated that this would be little more than a photo opportunity because, with all due respect, the most fearsome force left in Russia is an angry babushka. The Russian “Council of Mothers and Wives” have been demanding an audience with President Putin for days, blasting him on Moscow streets.

The council organizer, Olga Tsukanova, [recorded a video message](#) after learning none of the “Council of Mothers and Wives” representatives was invited to this meeting. In her video, Tsukanova said, “Are you a man or what? [Do] you have the courage to meet face to face, openly, not with pocket women, mothers agreed by you, but with real ones who from different cities came here to you at their own expense? We are here in Moscow, ready to meet with you. We are waiting for your reply! Or [do you] hide again?”⁸⁸

⁸⁷ <https://news.yahoo.com/putin-meet-soldiers-mothers-vedomosti-073449688.html>

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/SOVETMATERI/950>

She added, "it's too late to be afraid," with the organization demanding a return of troops from the front and the start of earnest peace negotiations with Ukraine.

Leonid Pasechnik, whom the Russian state news agency TASS referred to as the "acting head" of the LNR, reported that by their census, 640 members of the 2nd Army Corps are being held as POWs by Ukraine.⁸⁹ While the admission that 640 troops of the LNR have been captured is interesting, the words "acting head" is even tastier.

Retired Russian army general Vladimir Boldyrev came to the defense of now disgraced Russian Colonel General Alexander Lapin, saying that he should be reinstated. Boldyrev rightly pointed out that Lapin executed the only successful Russian offensive of the entire war, [saying](#), "He is able to hold the defense in the LNR and not give up and will stand to the end. This is without a doubt. Now is the time to fight to the death. Lapin is quite capable of coping with this task."

Brothers, morale is high!

⁸⁹ [https://tass \[dot\] ru/armiya-i-opk/16401125](https://tass.ru/armiya-i-opk/16401125) [Russian Controlled State News Agency]

Governor Haidai reported that the number of desertion of Russian troops continues to increase, forcing occupation forces to deploy units to block troops and man checkpoints.⁹⁰ Some Russian mobiks have walked more than 100 kilometers after deserting to the Russian border to attempt to end their military contracts.

Russia has expanded the number of military police officers in the occupied territories to 52,000, despite losing half of the area they used to occupy since March 25.⁹¹ While 52,000 may sound high, if the occupied territories hold two-million civilians, a belligerent would need 100,000 troops to prevent an insurgency from forming.

Russian State Duma deputy Dmitry Gusev has suggested militarizing Russian computer hackers and IT professionals to stop the ongoing brain drain.⁹² "Our programmers are the best in the world, and everyone knows it. Unfortunately, they are now leaving abroad, thinking that they [will be conscripted] into the army and go to serve

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7005>

⁹¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16181>

⁹² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16125>

with weapons in their hands. But their weapon is a computer."

ASSESSMENT: Deputy Gusev is ignoring two key points. First, if Russian hackers that are part of the military launch cyber warfare on a NATO nation, it could spark an Article V declaration because the Kremlin would no longer have plausible deniability. It also ignores that many mobiks that ended up on the front lines with a rusty AKM or AK-74 in their hands had different specialties but were sent to the light infantry anyway. Our computer programmers are the best in the world! And they're leaving. Damn it.

Dutch investigators, Bellingcat, reported that a Russian couple who lived in Sweden for 20 years was arrested for espionage.⁹³ The couple's villa in Stockholm was raided by Swedish authorities who descended from Blackhawk helicopters and smashed through the windows.

What is it with Russian soldiers and washing machines? Russian Colonel Ivan Mertvishchev was arrested after he was caught demanding a bribe from a military commissar.⁹⁴ Mertvishchev, who was responsible for

⁹³ <https://twitter.com/christogrozev/status/1595030435452575751>

⁹⁴ [New Voice of Ukraine](#)

mobilization in parts of the Moscow federal district, found that enlistment was not going to plan in the Ramenki district. He told the commissar that regardless of his performance, he would tell his superiors the man had failed his job unless he provided the colonel with one brand new washing machine. Not just any washing machine, it had to be worth at least 70,000 roubles – about \$1,150.

The threatened man contacted authorities, who had him buy the washing machine. When Mertvishchev came to pick it up, he was greeted by OMON and arrested for receiving a bribe related to extortion and is now facing up to 12 years in prison. The ironic part? If the colonel is imprisoned, he could potentially be recruited by PMC Wager.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was recruiting spies from Russian nationals dissatisfied with the political situation at home.⁹⁵ CIA Director David Marlow said, "We are looking all over the world for Russians who are just as disgusted as we are. We are open to cooperation."⁹⁶

Everything is going to plan.

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16174>

⁹⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16160>

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In Zaporizhzhia, the Vilnius Maternity Hospital suffered a direct hit from a Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile used for a ground attack.⁹⁷ The hospital partially collapsed, killing a newborn boy and burying a woman in active labor in the debris. Two doctors and one medic were also injured in the attack. The mother of the deceased child was in another location in the hospital and survived the attack.

In Kupyansk, Russian forces targeted a medical clinic, killing two people in the attack.

⁹⁷ [TSN Ukraine](#)



The European Union Parliament is considering a vote to declare the PMC Wagner Group a terrorist organization.⁹⁸ Beyond Ukraine, the company's mercenaries operate in Syria, Lybia, the Central Africa Republic, Mali, Sudan, Madagascar, and other nations. Wagner has been accused of war crimes and human rights atrocities in every nation they operate, most recently at least one massacre in Mali.

⁹⁸ [TSN Ukraine](#)

In Dzhankoy in Russian-occupied Crimea, something odd has been discovered in local grocery stores. Western products in the Ukrainian language with price tags in the hryvnia replaced by a sticker showing roubles.⁹⁹ It is suspected the merchandise was looted from Kherson during the Russian retreat.

GEOPOLITICAL

Delegates from 19 nations and a delegate with the European Union visited Mykolaiv and Kherson in a show of support and as a working visit to see firsthand what kind of aid Ukraine needs to rebuild.¹⁰⁰ The delegation included First Secretary Srinivasan Rangachari of India, a nation that has taken a neutral stance on the war in Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials confirmed that they met with Iranian counterparts to discuss Russia's use of Iranian kamikaze drones.¹⁰¹ The story was first reported in TASS on November 22. Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oleh Nikolenko told United States news agency CNN, "Such an expert meeting did take place. I cannot disclose the details,

⁹⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16126>

¹⁰⁰ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/3532>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7151146/>

but I can assure you that the Ukrainian side continues to take the most drastic measures to prevent the use of Iranian weapons by Russia for the war against Ukraine."

In Yerevan, Armenia, people gathered to protest against Russia at the start of the CSTO Summit.¹⁰² CSTO is Russia's version of NATO, with six members, including two that just concluded a three-day border war against each other. Protesters waved Ukrainian, Armenian, and United States flags. Pro-Russian sentiment took a nose dive after Armenia made an Article IV declaration for mutual protection after Azerbaijan invaded on September 13. Russia said, sorry, we got nothing, but offered to send military observers.

SpaceX is suing the Ukrainian company Starlink for trademark violation.¹⁰³ The Ukrainian company was formed in 2011 and provides IT services and plans to fight the suit. Musk's Starlink communication system began operations in 2015 and became available to the public in 2018. No, we are not picking on Elon Musk; he appears to be seeking a lot of attention right now, so everyone needs to cope.

¹⁰² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41470>

¹⁰³ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16165>

ECONOMIC

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that it would provide 2.5 billion euros in financial assistance to Ukraine and planning for another 18 billion euros in 2023.¹⁰⁴ "We will keep on supporting Ukraine for as long as it takes," she said.

United States Treasury Secretary Jante Yellen said that \$4.5 billion in non-military financial aid will be disbursed to Ukraine "in the coming weeks."¹⁰⁵ The funds were approved by Congress in September and aren't a new allocation.

The World Bank is also providing Ukraine with \$4.5 billion in support to ensure the nation can meet "urgent needs" through the winter season.¹⁰⁶

The Russian State Duma tabled a measure banning information and displays of LGBTQIA materials with up to a 10 million rouble fine. The Duma was convinced that the overreaching law would ban almost all video games in

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/22/7151124/>

¹⁰⁵ [Reuters](#)

¹⁰⁶ https://twitter.com/Denys_Shmyhal/status/1595113472643457024

Russia in the way it was written and cause economic damage.¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁸ We're not exactly sure how poorly written the law was and how LGBTQIA "propaganda" was defined, but on the surface, this sounds like it was a hot mess.

China announced they were suspending oil purchases from Russia due to the upcoming price ceiling and European Union sanctions that begin on December 5.¹⁰⁹ The door remained open in Beijing that oil imports could restart after considering the legal and geopolitical implications. To date, China has respected global sanctions against its weakening neighbor to the north.

Gazprom said that it was carrying through with its threat to restrict gas supplies to Moldova further and started reducing the flow of natural gas through Ukraine.¹¹⁰ The company has accused Moldova of stealing natural gas through an elaborate scheme working with Ukraine – allegations both nations deny. The energy cuts will also hit the breakaway republic of Transnistria, which receives gas through the same pipeline and has already been forced to

¹⁰⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41214>

¹⁰⁸ https://t.me/pb_032/12953

¹⁰⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16130>

¹¹⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41397>

shut down steel and concrete mills due to a lack of electrical power.

Russia's attempt to create its own payment system, Mir, to replace Visa and Mastercard after they withdrew from Russia has failed.¹¹¹ Nine nations initially signed up to support Mir, but only three moved forward with implementation. Banks in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Vietnam have ended supporting the transactions or reduced it to a trickle. Turkey allowed the payment system to be deployed for tourism but never implemented the technology.

The rouble was steady, with an exchange rate of 61 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices continued to decline, with WTI crude trading at \$79 a barrel and Brent at \$86. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market was almost unchanged, trading at \$2.47 per gallon for November contracts. (65 cents a liter)

¹¹¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16180>

Dutch TTF Gas Futures for December 2022 continued to climb, reaching 124 euros per megawatt hour, and January 2023 contracts rose to 132 euros.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures dropped over 5%, trading at \$7.86 a bushel for March 2022 contracts.