



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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SUMMARY – DAY 73

It has been 2,991 days since Russia first invaded Ukraine on February 27, 2014.

The Ukrainian counteroffensive north and east of Kharkiv continued. Tsyrkuny, Cherkaski Tyshky, and Ruski Tyshky were liberated in the last 24 hours. The settlements of Petrivka, Verknii Saltiv, and Rubizhne (Kharkiv Oblast) are contested. Multiple reports showed that Ukrainian forces crossed the causeway at Staryi Saltiv and fought south of Zarichne (Kharkiv Oblast). Russian troops destroyed several bridges during their retreat from Cherkaski Tyshky and Ruski Tyshky.

It was reported retreating Russian troops were under artillery or MLRS attack in Prylipka on May 7. Pro-Russian accounts said that the Ukrainian advance north of Kharkiv city was further, claiming that the settlements of Borshchova, Slobozhanske, and Lyptsi were liberated. NASA FIRMS data showed indications of possible fighting at Lyptsi two days ago, but we cannot verify these reports.

Ukrainian forces are likely working on pushing Russian troops to the international border and have the initiative.

At the Severodonetsk salient, Russian forces attempted to capture Vojevodivka in an attempt to encircle Ukrainian defenders in Rubizhne and were unsuccessful. To the southeast of Severodonetsk, Russian troops captured Voronove and were advancing towards the Mizhnarodnyy Airport.

Chechen forces claimed to have captured Popasnya (Popasna), with many repeated claims made by Pro-Russian social media accounts. Geolocation of the latest videos showed that they were recorded in the same areas Russian, Chechen, Wagner Group PMC, and Russian-backed militias have been previously located. Additionally, NASA FIRMS data late on May 7 showed renewed fighting in areas Russia claims to control. We consider Popasnya contested with no change in territorial control.

Along the Severodonetsk westward offensive, Russian forces continued to use artillery and MLRS east of Lyman. There was no further attempt to capture Shandryolove on May 7.

On the South Donbas Axis, there was artillery fire along the entire front from Horlivka to Velyka Novosilka and further

west into the Zaporizhia Oblast to Huyaipole. There were no changes in territorial control.

Early on May 8, a platoon-sized group of Russian forces made an amphibious landing on the southeastern edge of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant in Mariupol. Open Source Intelligence reported the soldiers would set up an observation post on a slag heap. The video recorded the sounds of explosions and gunfire, indicating fighting was ongoing.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk reported that “all women, children, and the elderly have been evacuated from Azovstal.”

There are mixed reports on whether a May 9 Victory Day parade will be held in Mariupol.

On the Izyum front, Russian forces attempted to widen the pinch in the southern advance by attacking Virnopillya. They were unsuccessful and Russian troops in Kurulka remain at risk of encirclement.

Russian forces did not attempt to advance from Krmky or Korovii Yar and appear to be moving into a defensive posture. Oskil remains under Ukrainian control.

There is significant evidence that Ukrainian forces are firing artillery and MLRS both west and east of Izyum. There are unconfirmed reports of Ukrainian troops operating in the area. We cannot confirm if there are ground forces east of Protopivka and Velkya Komyshevakha. There is a significant area we now consider under disputed control.

Russian forces didn't launch any offensives in the Zaporizhia, Kherson, or Mykolaiv Oblasts.

The Ukrainian Air Force decimated Russian troops occupying Snake Island, south of Odesa. On May 7, a Ukrainian TB-2 drone sunk the Serna-class amphibious landing ship as it was starting to unload anti-aircraft weapons. The same TB-2 then fired on the barracks occupied by Russian forces. Shortly after, two Ukrainian Su-27 bombed the island.

The Russian Air Force fired six cruise missiles into Odesa, with at least two striking the already damaged runway at

Odesa International Airport and the rest hitting a factory that reportedly makes furniture.

Tensions remain high in Transnistria, with more attempts to create false flag attacks. Russia-backed Transnistrian government officials claim a Ukrainian drone dropped four bombs close to an airport on May 6.¹ President Maia Sandu said, "Moldova is not threatened now," on May 7.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian forces are working on collapsing the North Kharkiv salient and made remarkable progress in the last 24 hours. Russian troops appear to be retreating independent of the offensive, blowing up bridges in Cherkaski Tyshky and Ruski Tyshky. They employed the same tactics when Russian troops withdrew from Kyiv and Chernihiv. The Ukrainian General Staff reported Russia was deploying reserve troops to reinforce positions north of Kharkiv. In our assessment, Ukrainian forces will likely push to the international border within the next 7 to 14 days.

The Izyum front remains stalled out, and there are growing indications that the Ukrainian military is performing

¹ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1522896271454916610>

military action north of the Siverskyi Donets River and west of Izyum. We cannot verify that there is a counteroffensive in this area.

Russian forces backed by Chechen, Wagner Group PMC, DNR, and LNR militias are making a furious attempt to capture Severodonetsk and have had limited success west of the city. Ukrainian forces in Rubihzne are likely under pressure due to a Russian advance on their eastern flank.

The Ukrainian Air Force was reportedly very active today in southern and eastern Ukraine. Approaching three months since the start of the Russian invasion, Ukraine has demonstrated it holds air superiority over the southwestern part of the country, including the western Black Sea. The Russian occupation of Snake Island is untenable.

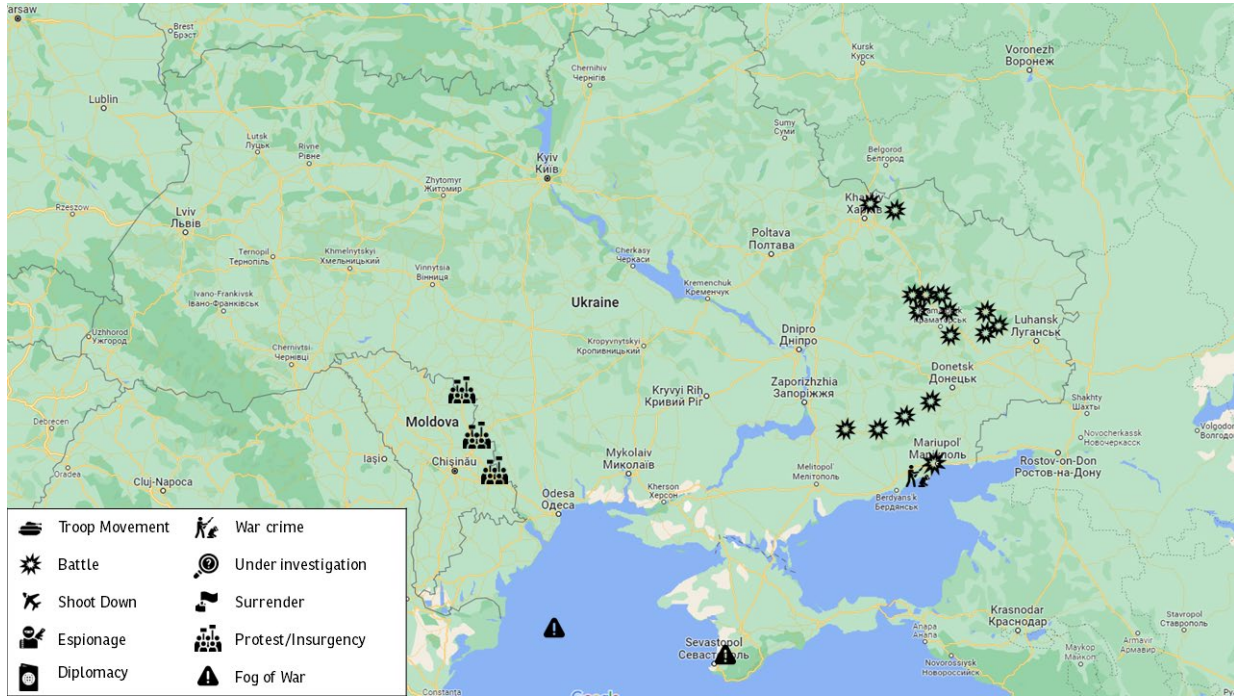
Unless Russian forces use chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons (CRBN) on Mariupol, we believe that the Ukrainian marines in Azovstal will hold off surrender or collapse at least through May 9 victory day. We anticipate a furious attack on the factory through the morning of May 9.

We expect Russian forces to be very active theaterwide on May 8 and into the morning of May 9. It is possible pockets of Ukrainian forces could be overrun, but we have no confidence Russia can maintain territorial gains.

We maintain the conflict has entered Phase 2A, a war of attrition. We have no insight or prediction on what the Russian Ministry of Defense or Russian President Vladimir Putin will announce (if anything) on May 9, Victory Day.

We remain concerned that we are stuck in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox.

KEY EVENTS MAP



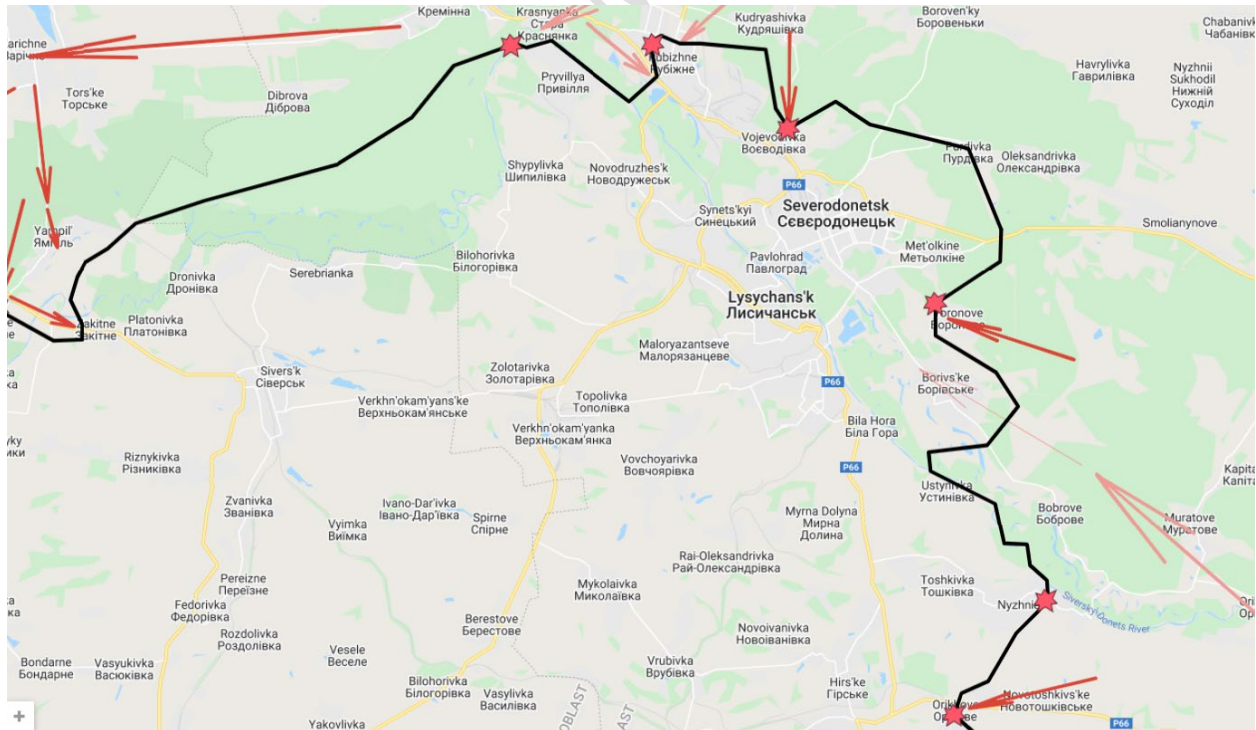
DONBAS REGION

There were minor changes in territorial control in the Severodentsk salient.

LUHANSK

Severodonetsk Salient

Fighting continued in Rubhizne with no change in territorial control.

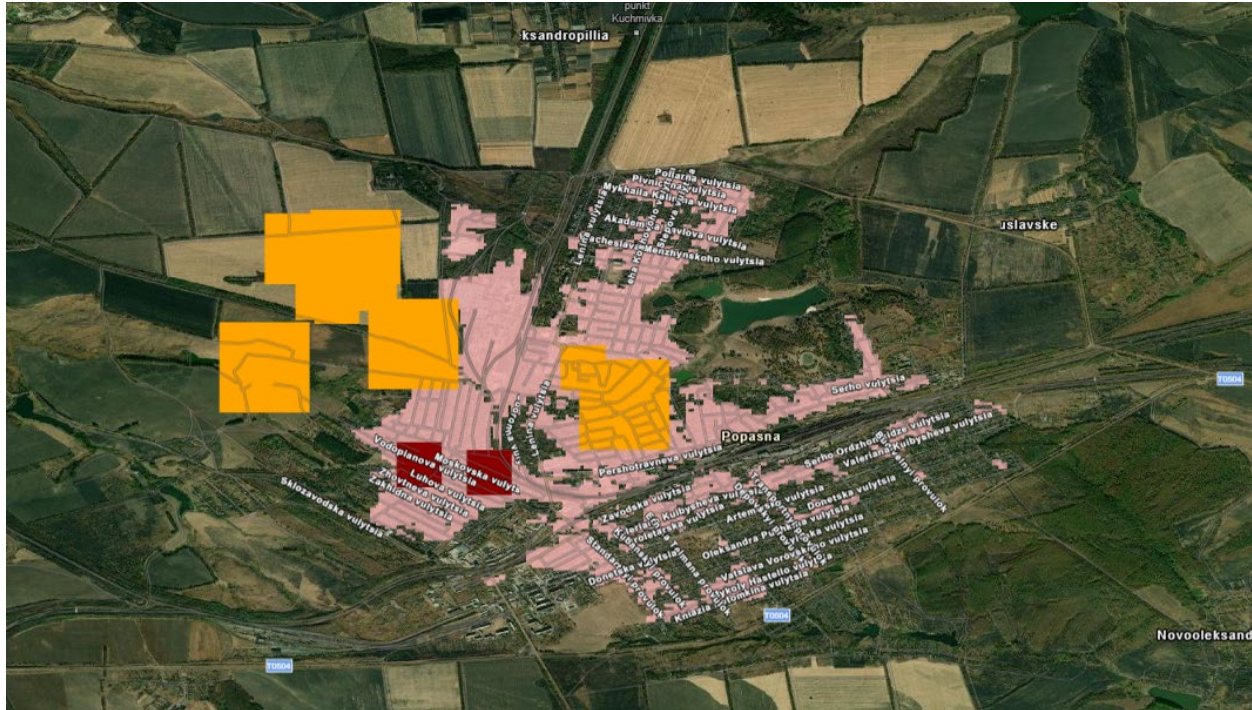


Russian, Chechen, Wagner Group Private Military Company (PMC), and Russian-backed militias fired artillery and MLRS on the western outskirts of Severodonetsk. Russian forces captured the settlement of Voronove, southeast of Severodonetsk.

The suburb of Vojevodivka remains contested. Russian forces are continuing to attempt to outflank Ukrainian positions in Rubihzne to interdict Ukrainian Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC), preventing resupply, troop rotation, and reinforcements.

There was intense fighting in Popasnya, with Russian and Chechen forces claiming that the town of 20,000 had been captured.² Geolocation showed the videos were recorded 250 meters from the city's administration building, where Wagner Group PMC was on May 5, and in a residential area about 350 meters from Train Station 1. This area was previously documented as under Russian-backed militia, Chechen, and PMC control since May 5.

² <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1523118536947687425> [Russian State Media Rating: Disinformation]



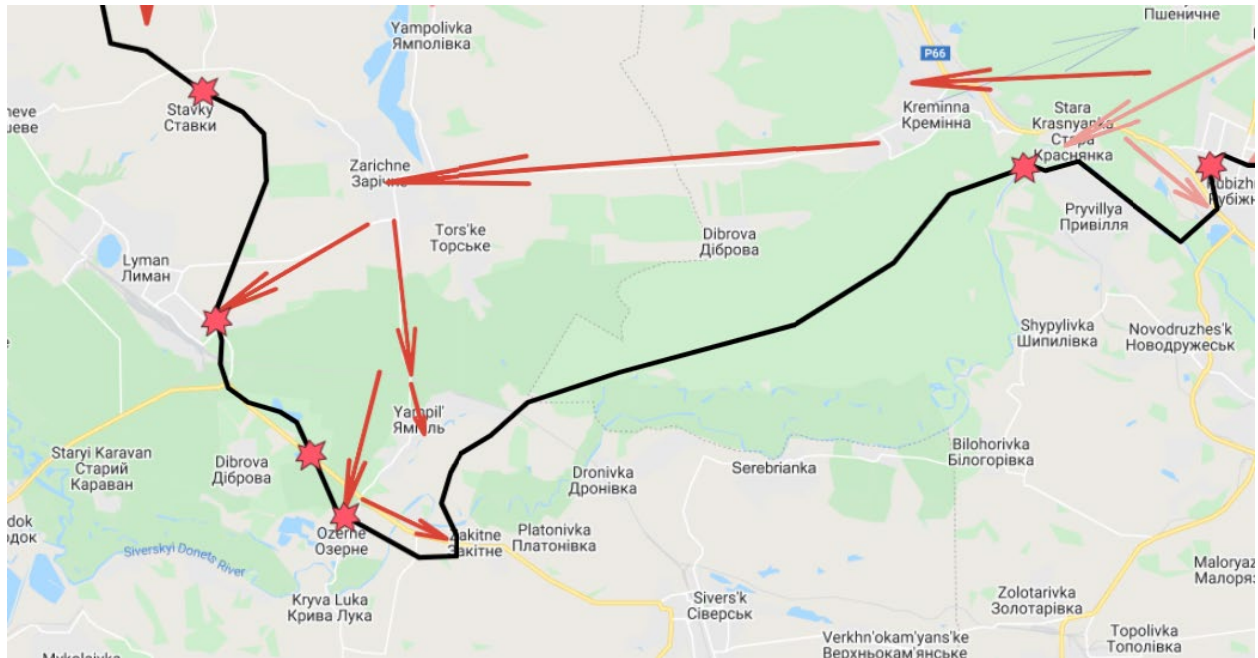
Additionally, NASA FIRMS data indicated renewed fighting (dark red regions) in established Ukrainian-controlled areas on May 8, local time. Further, there are multiple denials from government and military officials that the city is under Russian control.³

Severodonetsk Westward Offensive

There was no change in territorial control. Russian forces continued to fire artillery and MLRS weapons in the same areas since May 4. Russian troops made no attempts to

³ [Reuters](#)

gain new territorial control towards Lyman.



DONETSK TO WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

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

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

Russian ground forces continued their attack outside and within the compound of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant in Mariupol. Early on May 8, local time, a group of

approximately 20 Russian-backed militia soldiers made an amphibious landing on the edge of the Azovstal factory.⁴ It was reported the small force was setting up a forward observation post on the slag heaps south of the main complex. The video showed the landing party was in this area of Mariupol.⁵

ASSESSMENT: This is a significant statement on how much control Ukrainian forces maintain around Azovstal. This area is accessible from the eastern region of Mariupol and obscured by a high retaining wall that extends 330 meters south of slag piles. Additionally, the video is another example of terrible OPSEC.

Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said, "all women, children, and the elderly have been evacuated from Azovstal" on May 7.⁶ Despite at least two violations of its own ceasefire agreement, it is worth noting that the Russian Ministry of Defense followed through on its assurance it would permit the evacuations to occur.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1523136333484503040>

⁵ <https://goo.gl/maps/aymFfe2FJB5sZKKT6>

⁶ <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/07/1097413091/steel-plant-mariupol-azovstal-civilians-evacuated>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that over 300 civilians were evacuated today, and there are continuing negotiations. In a statement, Zelenskyy said preparations were being made to remove the wounded and medical staff from Azovstal.

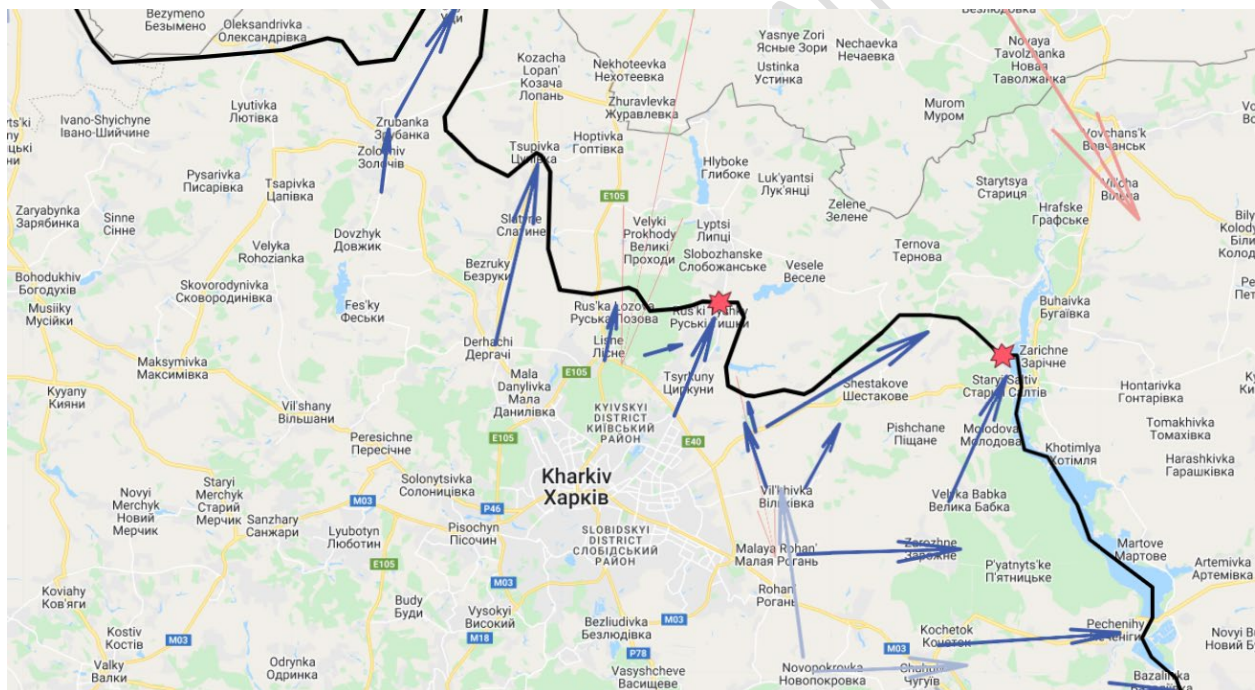
There are mixed reports on whether the Victory Day parade will go on as planned on May 9. Russian occupiers are accused of using the residents of Mariupol as slave labor to clean the area around the Drama Theater in continued preparation. We cannot independently verify these claims.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian marines have held for 16 days since “victory” was declared in Mariupol and 67 days after encirclement. We can no longer assess when or if the defensive forces will collapse, be eradicated, or surrender. We believe there will be a significant assault on the Azovstal complex on May 8 or the morning of May 9.

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHERN KHARKIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Ukrainian forces continued their counteroffensive north and northeast of Kharkiv. The settlements of Tsyркuny, Cherkaski Tyshky, and Ruski Tyshky were liberated.



Pro-Russian and Ukrainian accounts are both reporting that Lyptsy was liberated.⁷ We cannot verify these reports, and there is no video or photographic evidence we can

⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/32276>

geolocate. Although NASA FIRMS data indicated some potential fires north of Lyptsi last week, we believe this was caused by artillery or MLRS being fired at the city of Kharkiv.

There are reports of fighting in Petrivka, but we are unable to verify these reports.

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that units of the 20th General Army and 1st Tanks Army were reinforced with reserve troops. The Russian Ministry of Defense probably intended these reserves to be used in Izyum.

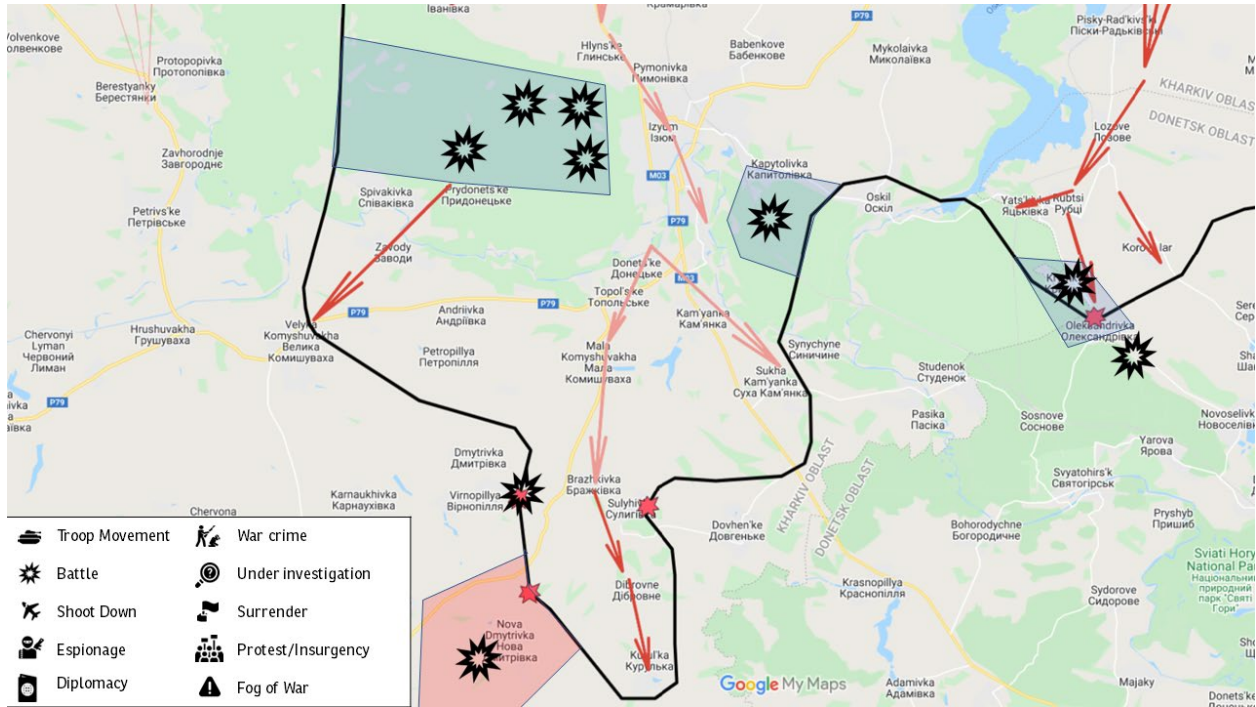
ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian forces are advancing faster than we expected, and there are multiple reports that Russian troops are not resisting as much as anticipated. It is unlikely the introduction of reserve forces will slow the counteroffensive. Ukrainian troops will probably move Russian tube artillery out of range of the city of Kharkiv in the next seven to ten days.

IZYUM AXIS

There was no change in territorial control we could verify nor significant offensive operations. Ukrainian and Russian forces traded artillery and MLRS fire across the whole axis. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that the Russian troops attempted to advance toward Barvinkove but were pushed back.⁸ Russian troops are possibly further south than we have assessed, but we cannot verify they have firm control of territory southwest of Nova Dmytrivka.

ASSESSMENT: We anticipate significant offensive operations on May 8. Based on various reports, we have assessed significant areas on the Izyum front as under disputed control. We have not been able to verify if this interdiction by artillery fire or if Ukrainian ground forces are active west and east of Izyum.

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/311567034489715>



There are large areas of fire burning west of Izyum, some as close as 600 meters from the city limits.⁹

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

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

⁹ <https://twitter.com/Nrg8000/status/1522861125100240896>

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

Ukrainian forces launched multiple airstrikes on Snake Island south of Odesa, destroying almost all of the infrastructure and sinking a Serna-class amphibious landing ship. A Bayraktar TB-2 drone fired on the vessel when it became beached adjacent to the pier on the island. The warship carried missiles and replacement anti-aircraft equipment when it was hit, causing multiple secondary explosions.¹⁰ (some viewers may find this video disturbing) The TB-2 fired a second missile at a warehouse, destroying it. It is possible the building held fuel or ammunition due to the intensity of the fire.

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1522853902101667842>

Before the TB-2 strike, two Ukrainian Air Force Su-27 bombed the island, while the TB-2 observed the attack.¹¹



The infrastructure on the island is almost completely destroyed after the airstrikes. The wreck of the Serna-class amphibious ship is shown beached and partially sunk approximately 100 meters from where it was hit.

ASSESSMENT: The loss of the Moskva has had a significant impact on sea operations for the Russian navy. The Ukrainian Air Force has demonstrated air superiority in southwest Ukraine and the western Black Sea. The occupation of Snake Island by Russian forces is untenable and will remain that way unless Russian forces can contest

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/OSINT88/status/1523033230903222272>

Ukrainian air assets. An attempt to make an amphibious landing in the Odesa region would likely fail.

The Russian Air Force fired six cruise missiles at Odesa. Four hit a furniture factory, and two caused additional damage to the runway at Odesa International Airport.¹² There were no reports of casualties.

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

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the British Ambassador to Moscow, Deborah Bronnert, to issue a

¹² [Reuters](#)

warning about the United Kingdom's continued support of Ukraine.¹³

"The Ambassador was told about the unacceptability of such destructive actions, the continuation of which will inevitably lead to the final destruction of bilateral ties and damage to relations between the peoples of Russia and the United Kingdom," the statement read.

The Transnistrian Ministry of Internal Affairs accused Ukraine of firing artillery near the village of Voronkovo and using a drone to drop four "bombs" on the breakaway republic.¹⁴ There were no reports of injuries. Tensions remain high in Transnistria, but many intelligence experts now believe that the activity of the past two weeks has been a psychological operation.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Kingdom announced it was donating another 287 mobile generators to Ukraine with the capacity to power up to 8,000 homes. The generators are designated to

¹³ [BOL News](#)

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/Crnogorosavlje/status/1522840123116826624>

power hospitals, shelters, and other critical services.¹⁵ The UK is also relaxing export rules for fossil fuels to boost the supply within Ukraine.



Russia bombed a high school in Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk Oblast. The building was being used as a bomb shelter by 30 civilians. It is reported two were killed and another nine wounded.¹⁶

¹⁵ [Reuters](#)

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1522899870725689345>



The Russian Air Force also bombed a school used as shelter in Bilohorivka (Luhansk), destroying the facility. It has been reported that 90 people, nearly the entire population, had taken refuge in the school. Two are reported killed, 30 have been rescued, and over 50 are missing.¹⁷

The intentional bombing of civilians and civilian infrastructure is considered a war crime. The destruction of cultural, educational, and scientific sites is a war crime.

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/olgatokariuk/status/1523044546829066243>

The Russian Air Force destroyed the National Literary and Memorial Museum of Hryhorii Skovoroda in Skovorodynivka, west of Kharkiv city.¹⁸ A cruise missile hit the museum on May 7. The son of the museum director was injured in the attack. The museum's collection had been relocated at the start of the war, but the building, an 18th-century mansion, was a total loss.

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant events.

ECONOMIC

There weren't any significant events.

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

No update

¹⁸ [Kyiv Post](#)