



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

July 19, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 510

It has been 3,430 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 145 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- Russian claims of battlefield success near Kupyansk are exaggerated
- Ukrainian forces made important tactical gains in northwestern Bakhmut, taking control of more sections of the M-03/E-40 Highway
- Russian attempts to advance on Ivanivske backfired
- There continue to be reports that Ukrainian forces have reached the southern edge of Klishchiivka, with fighting in the settlement
- Ukrainian forces made gains in the direction of Novopokrovka
- Ammunition cook-off at the Russian training base in occupied Stary Krym continued for over 12 hours, with evacuations still in place
- Russia attacked Odesa, Chernihiv, Sumy, and Mykolaiv with missiles and drones, wounding dozens and intentionally targeted areas with weaker air defenses
- Russian missile attacks have destroyed the Ukrainian port infrastructure at Chornomorsk

- Russian Colonel Denis Ivanov, the 123rd Motor Rifle Brigade commander, was killed in a drone strike
- Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin of PMC Wagner addressed their surviving members in Belarus and outlined their future mission
- There have been calls for the International Criminal Court to issue warrants against self-declared Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and the General Secretary of the Red Cross of Belarus, Dmytro Shevtsov, for the deportation of Ukrainian children out of the occupied territories
- Russian President Vladimir Putin issues a list of demands for Moscow to return to the Black Sea Grain Initiative
- President Putin will attend the BRICS Summit in South Africa virtually, after threatening South Africa with a declaration of war, before backing down
- The United States is preparing a sanctions package against Kyrgyzstan

DAILY ASSESSMENT

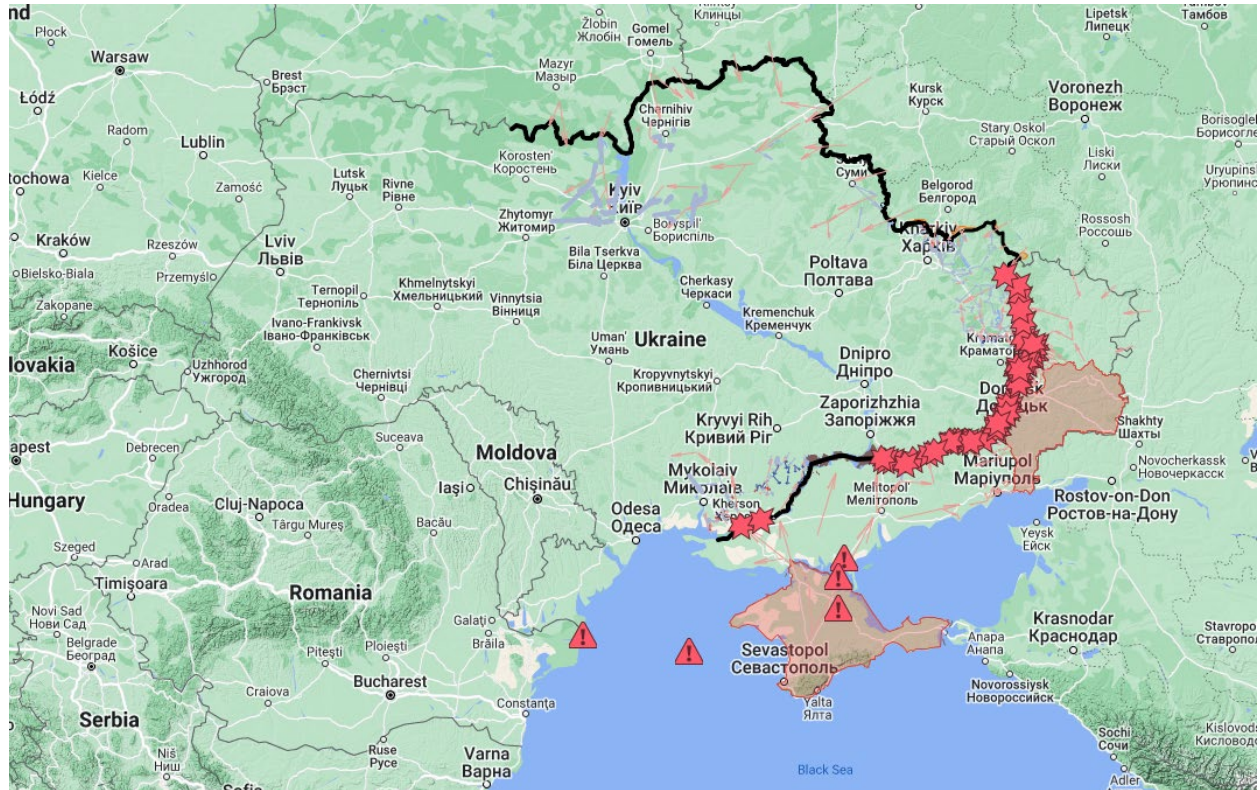
We assess the following:

1. Russia's defacto blockade of the Ukrainian coast and threats to shipping interests in Bulgaria and Romania has created another potential international flashpoint that could expand the ongoing war into a regional conflict.
2. Our July 14, 2023, assessment that Yevgeny Prigozhin was alive and in Belarus was accurate, with Prigozhin addressing a group of Wagnerites about their future mission on July 19.
3. We maintain that Ukrainian forces have entered an artillery-centric war of attrition against Russian forces, leveraging an advantage in range, accuracy, capacity, and in the Zaporihia region, firepower.
4. The current Ukrainian military activity is subordinate offensives and shaping operations, and the main operation has not started.
5. Russian President Vladimir Putin remains weakened after the failed Prigozhin Insurrection, with a small but very real possibility of a future attempt to change the Moscow regime.
6. 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.
7. 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.
 8. Russian troops in key areas of operations continue to suffer from critical shortages of heavy weapons, effective radio communications, food and potable water, and suffering from increasing casualties and low-quality battlefield medical care.
 9. The Russian military-industrial complex is rebuilding its Kh-47/Kh-101/Kh-555 missiles inventory – it has been 25 days since any of these missiles have been used.
 10. 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.
 11. 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.](#)

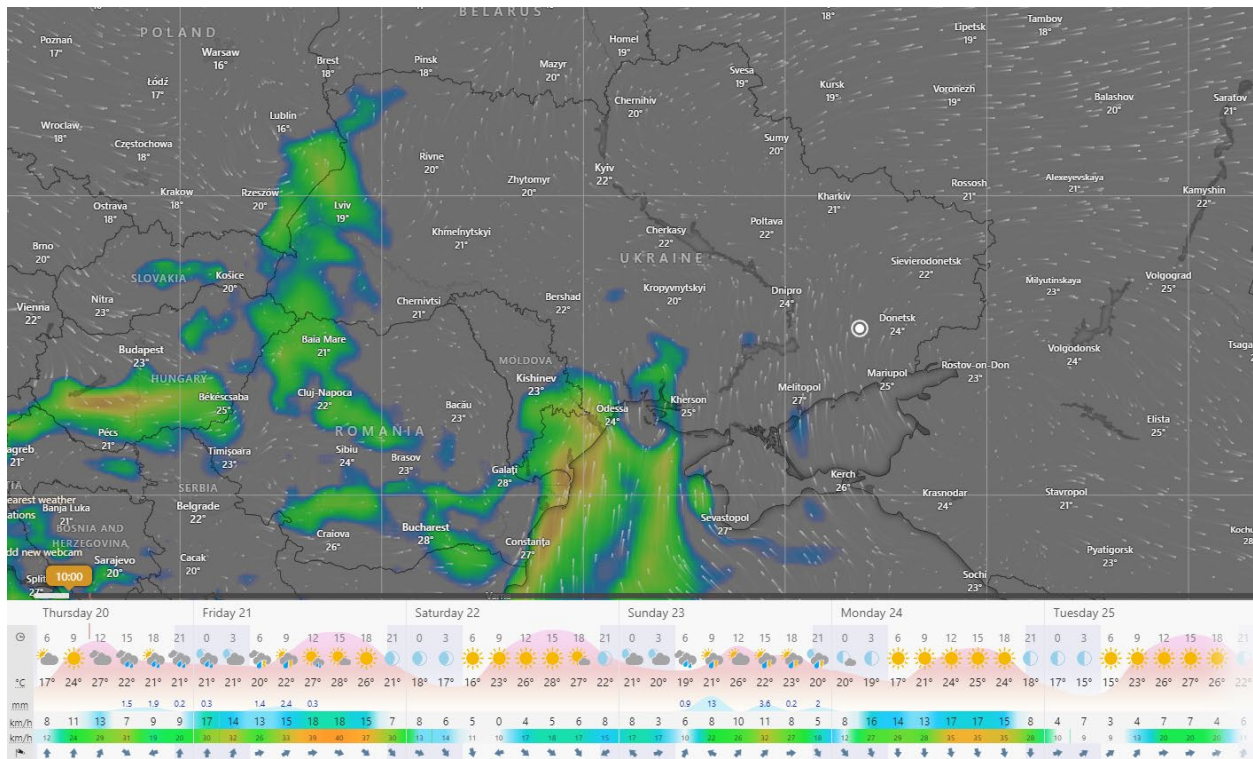
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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.

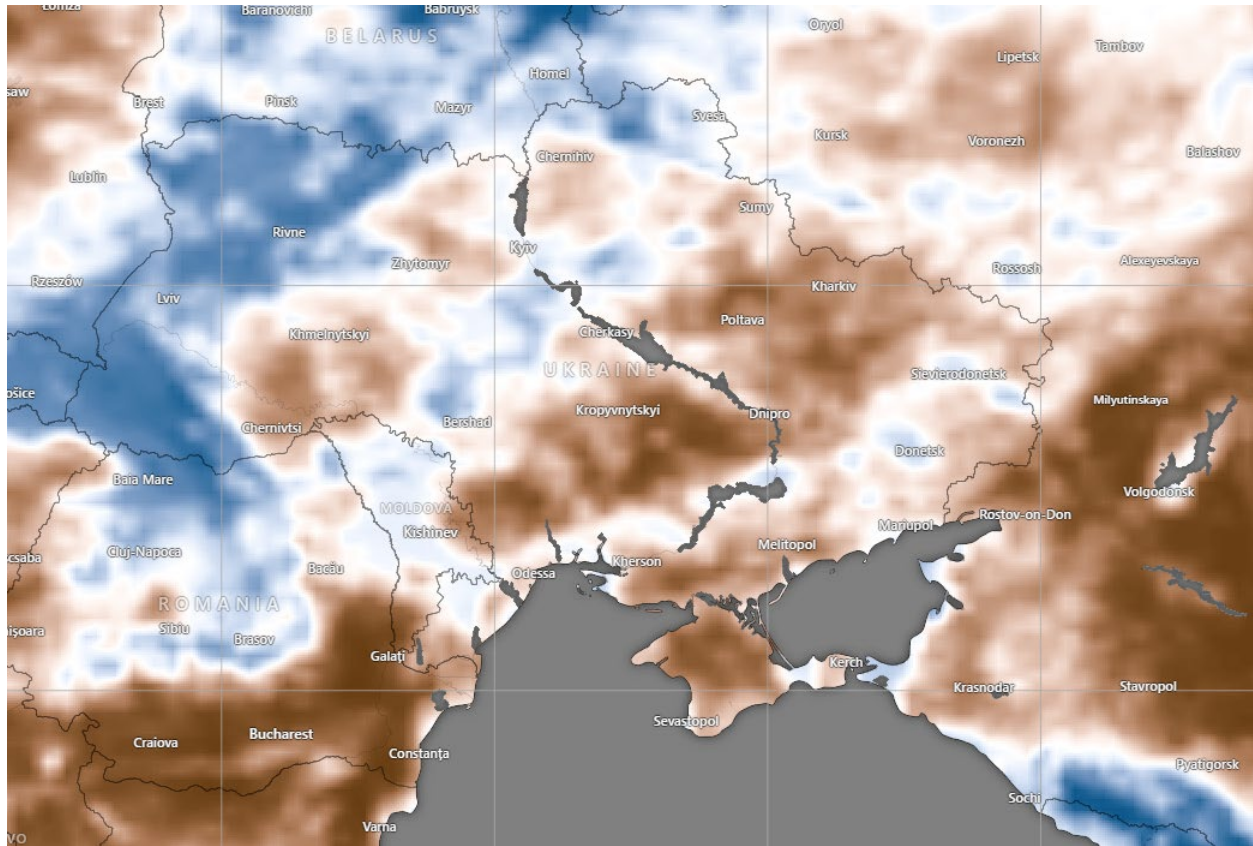
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

UKRAINE WEATHER



The near-global weather pattern causing an enhanced thunderstorm season in the northern hemisphere continues in Europe, including Ukraine. Thunderstorms, possibly severe, are possible through July 23. High temperatures will be from 22° to 31° Celcius, with July 22 forecasted as the hottest day. Low temperatures will be from 12° to 23°. Localized rainfall of up to 15 millimeters is possible in stronger cells.

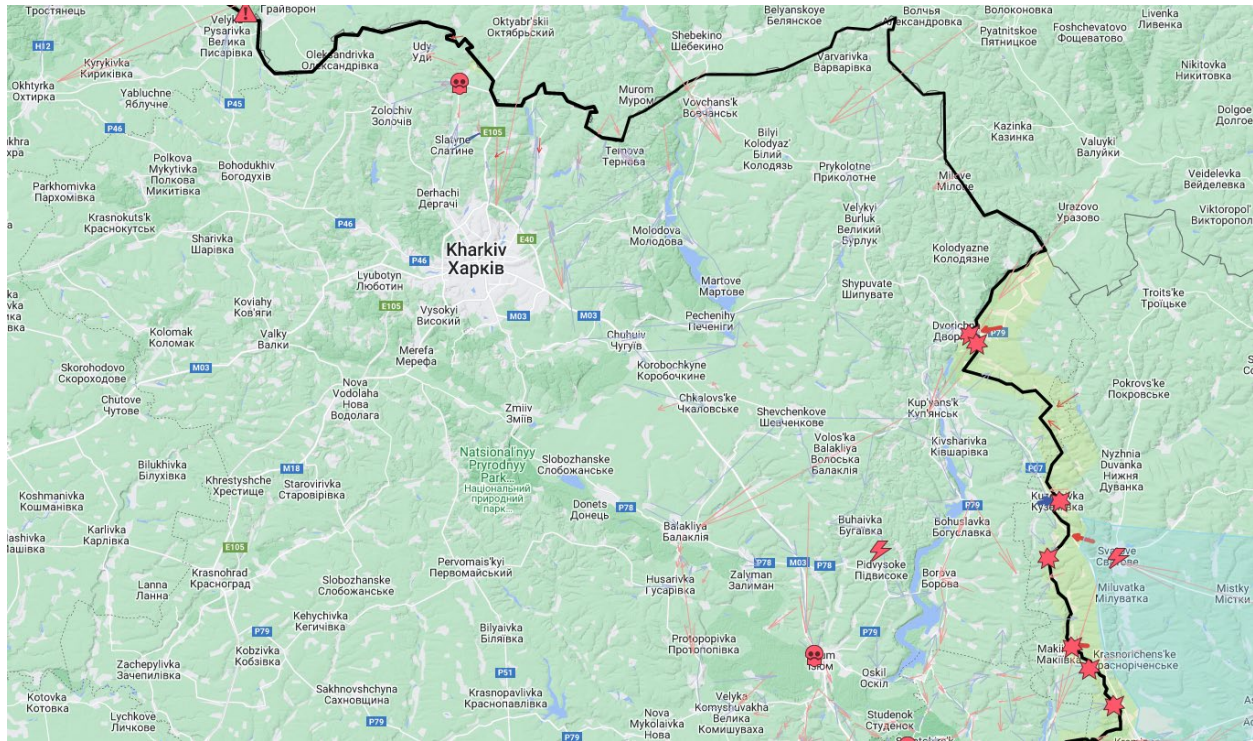
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



July 27, 2023, GFS forecast predicts soil saturation will range from 10% to 60% across most of the theater of war.

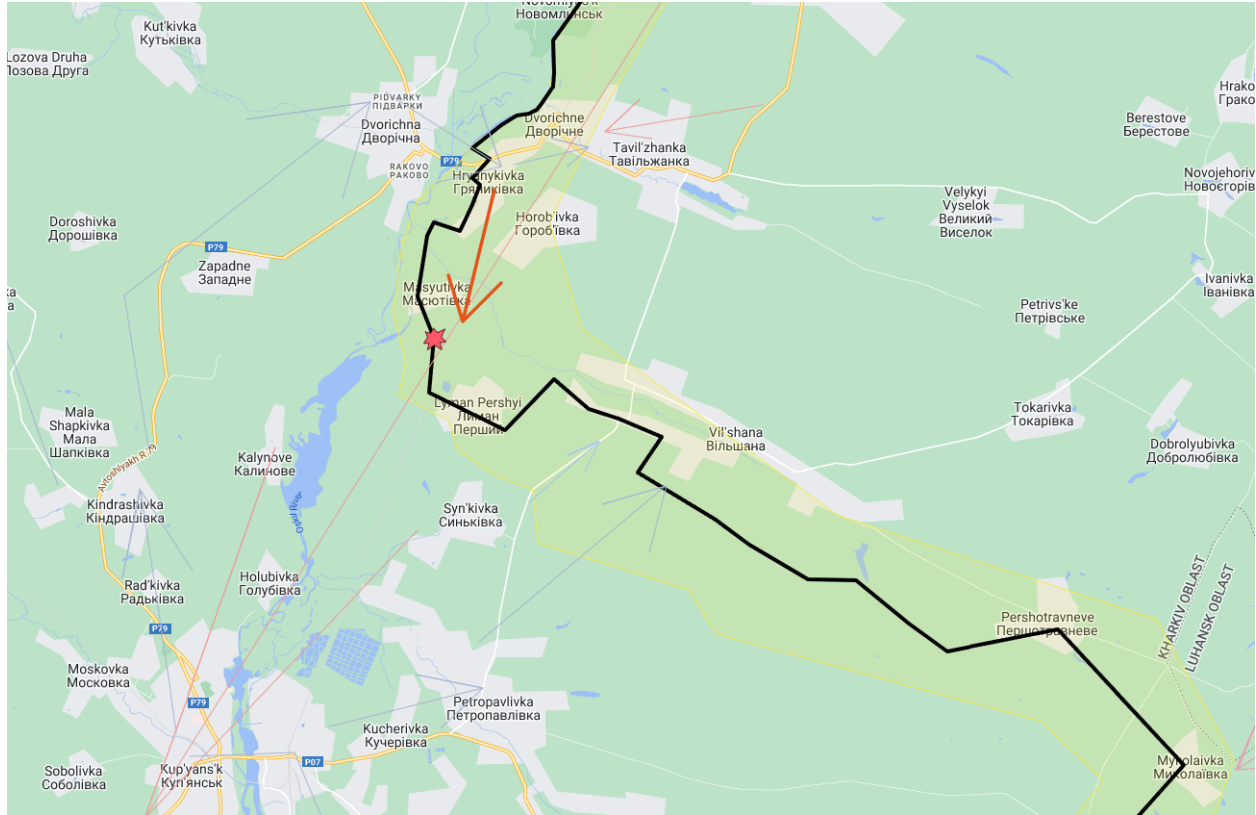
The soil saturation model does not consider the lakebed of the Kakhovka Reservoir. Soil saturation is between 5% to 30% in southern and most of eastern Ukraine, with pockets in the Kreminna area up to 60%. While thunderstorms are expected on July 22 and 23, the impact on tractability will be minimal.

KHARKIV



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

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



Dvorichna Operational Area

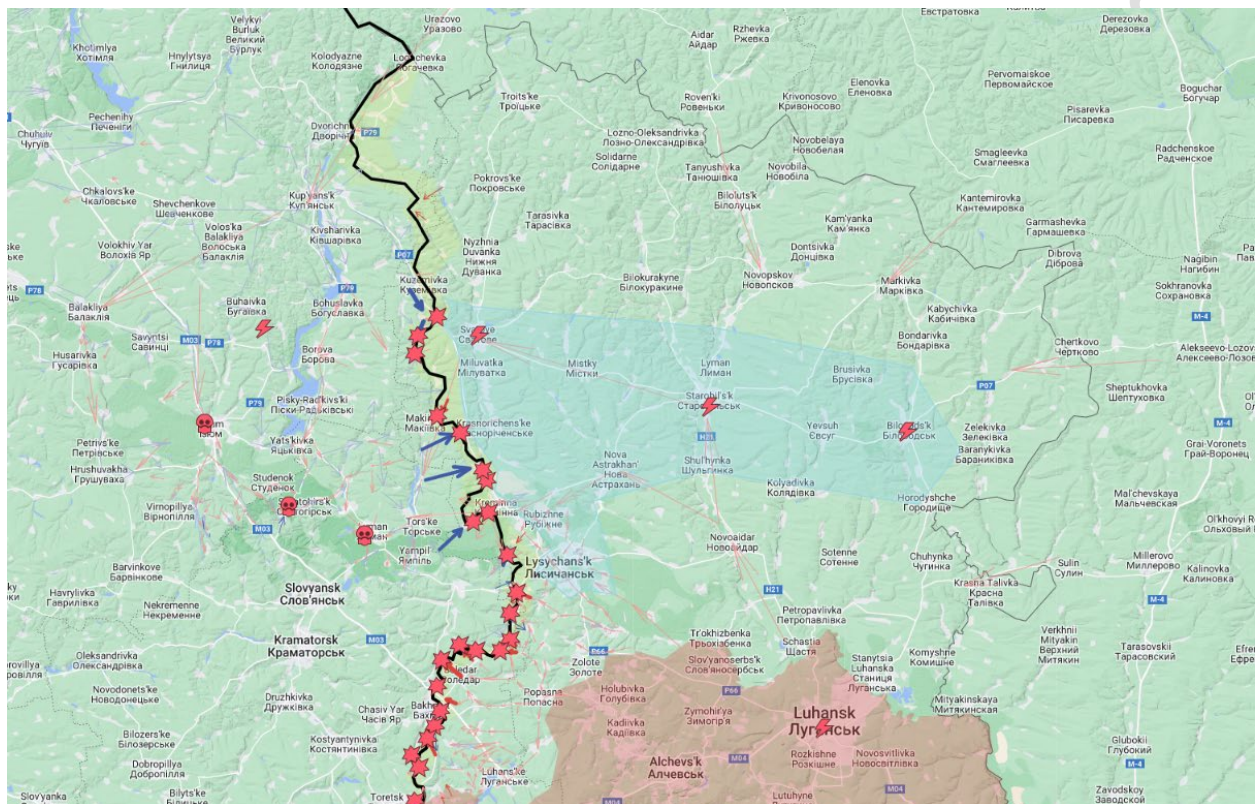
Fighting continued south of [Masyutivka](#) and west of [Lyman Pershyi](#) with no change in the situation.^{1 2} Russian reports of fighting south of Synkivka are false.

¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

² https://t.me/mod_russia/28453 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



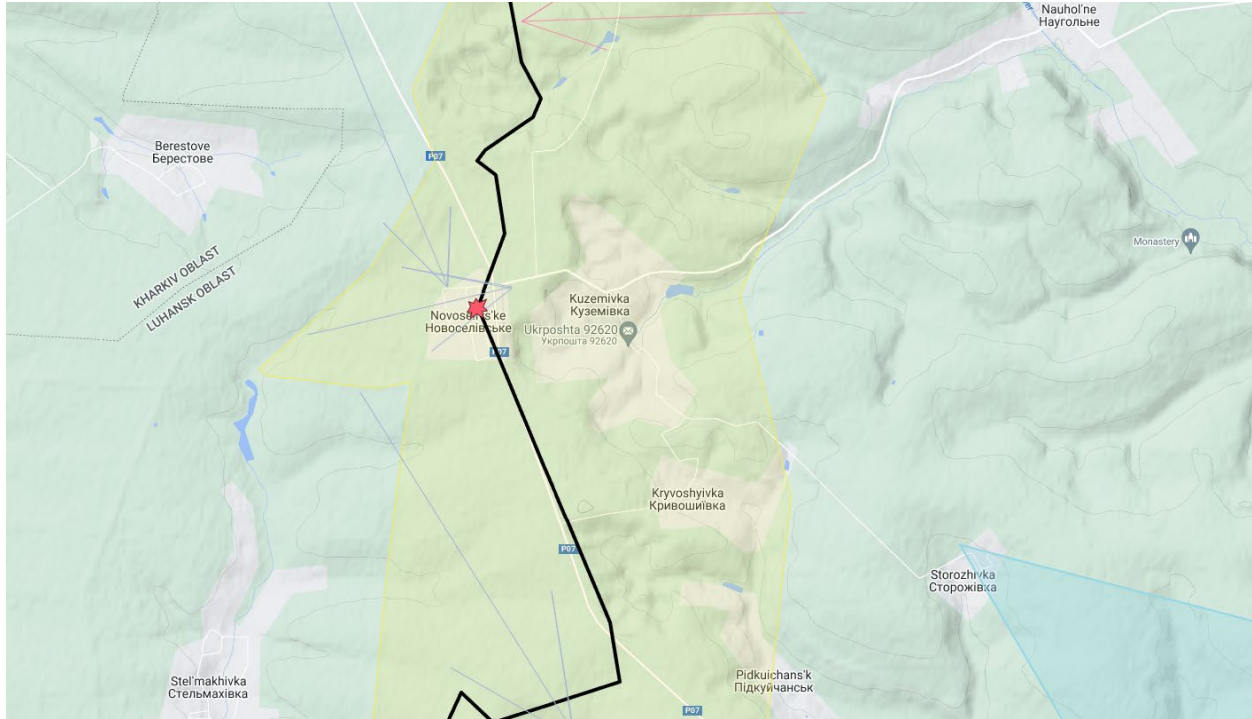
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections

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

Free Luhansk

The spokesperson for Operational Command East (OKE), Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty, reported that Russian forces fired 420 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, and the Russian Airforce and army aviation (VKS) launched 14 airstrikes from Dvorichna in Kharkiv to Bilohorivka in Luhansk.³ Three combat clashes were reported, further reinforcing that Russian propagandists are overstating the situation in Kharkiv and Luhansk.

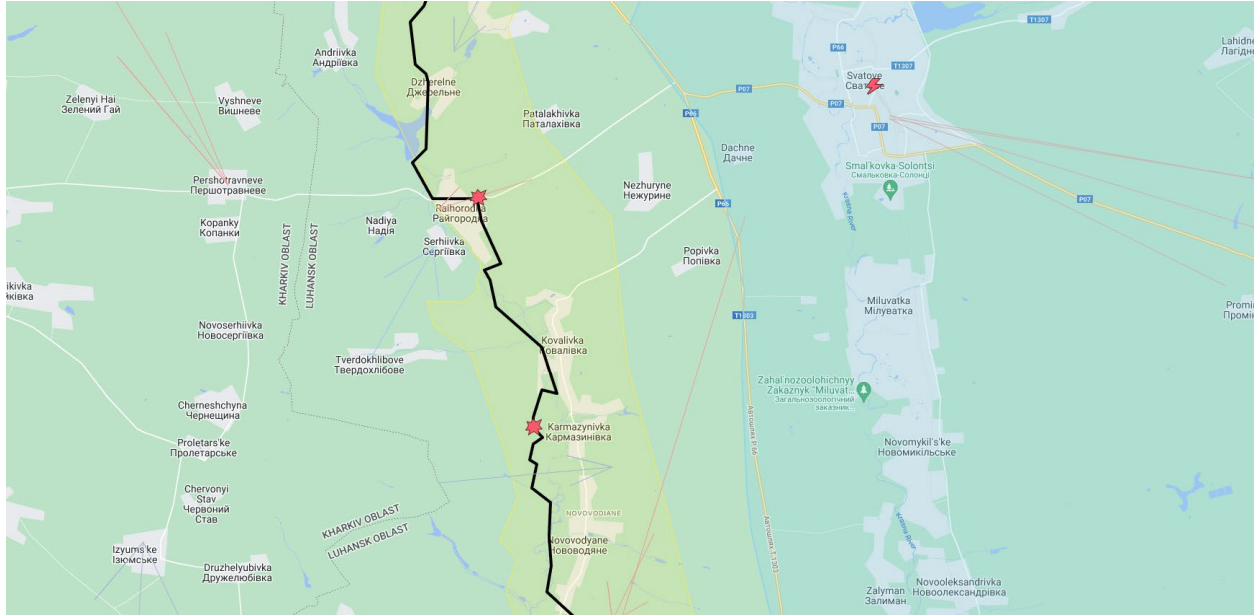
³ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12167>



Svatove Operational Area

Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on [Novoselivske](#) but at a reduced operational tempo and with no change in the situation.⁴

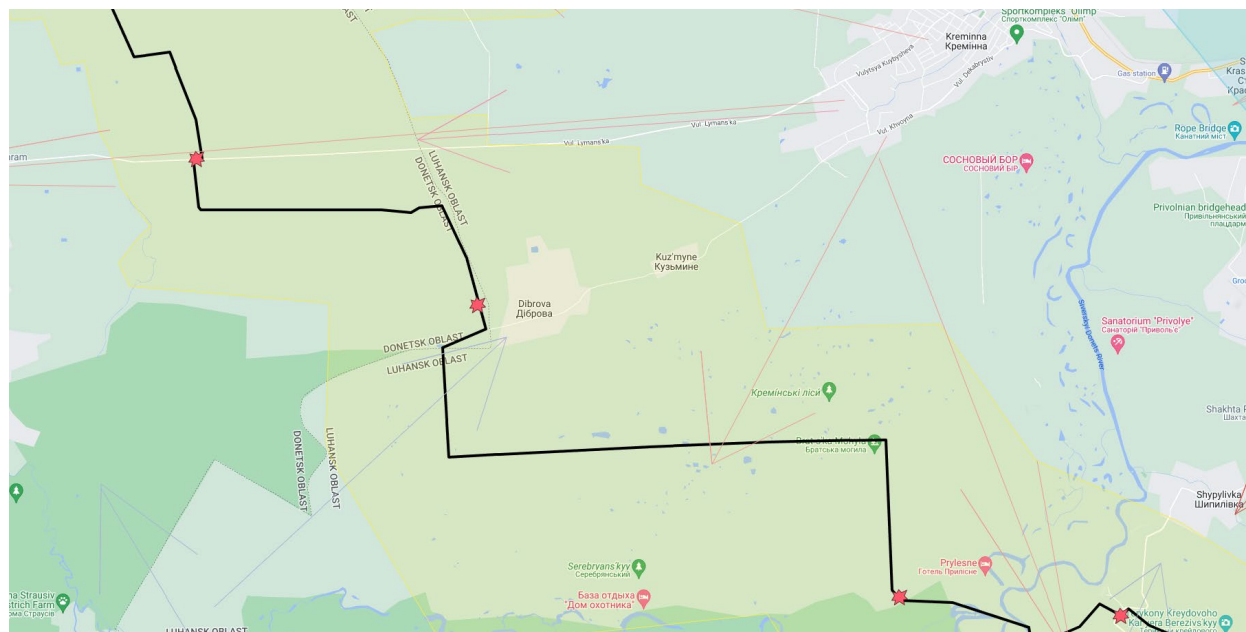
⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>



Russian sources claimed there was mutual fighting on the western edge of [Karmazynivka](#), with the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMD) reporting Ukraine was on the offensive and Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar reporting Russian forces were on the offensive.^{5 6}

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28453 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/49867>



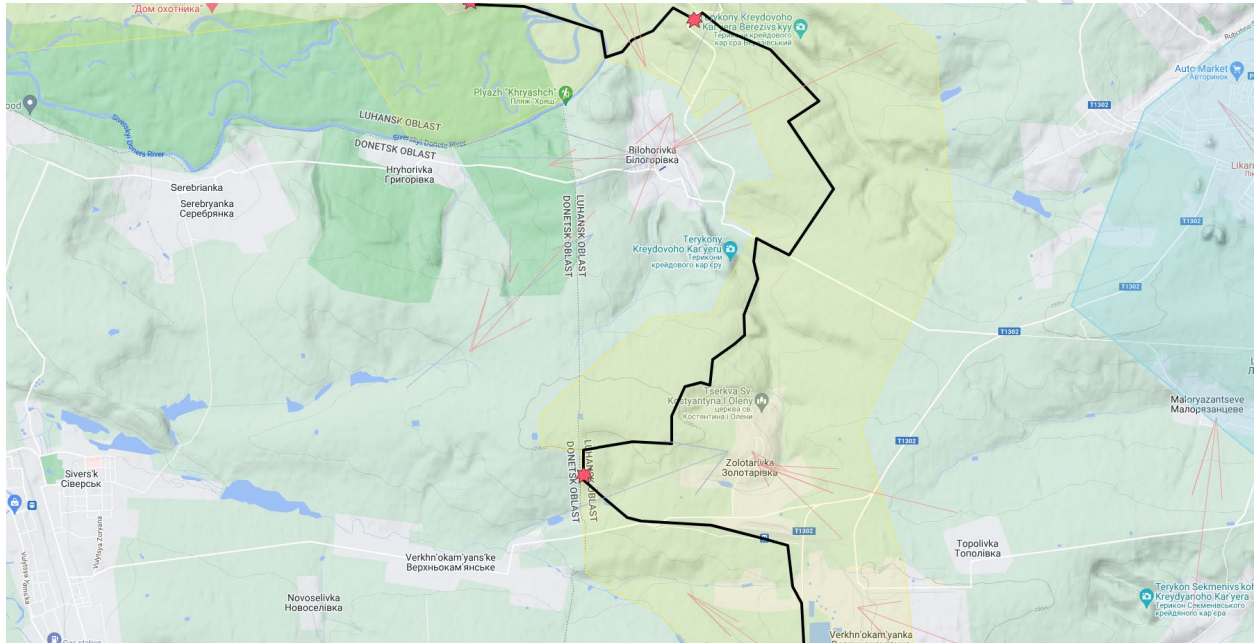
Kreminna Operational Area

Operational tempo has declined significantly in the last week, and there is significant chatter that Ukrainian forces have pushed Russian troops back to the forested areas west of Kreminna and through parts of the Siverskyi Donets floodplain west of Shpylyivka. We have not updated the map because no visual evidence supports the claims.

RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the direction of [Kreminna](#) and suggested, surprisingly, that Ukrainian troops were attempting to advance on [Shpylyivka](#).⁷ It is possible the Ukrainian attack came from the direction of Bilohorivka instead of the Serebryansky

⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/28453 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Woods, but RMOD didn't specify, and there were no pictures or videos to review. Ukrainian sources reported that positional fighting continued in the [Serebryansky Woods](#) with no change in the situation.⁸



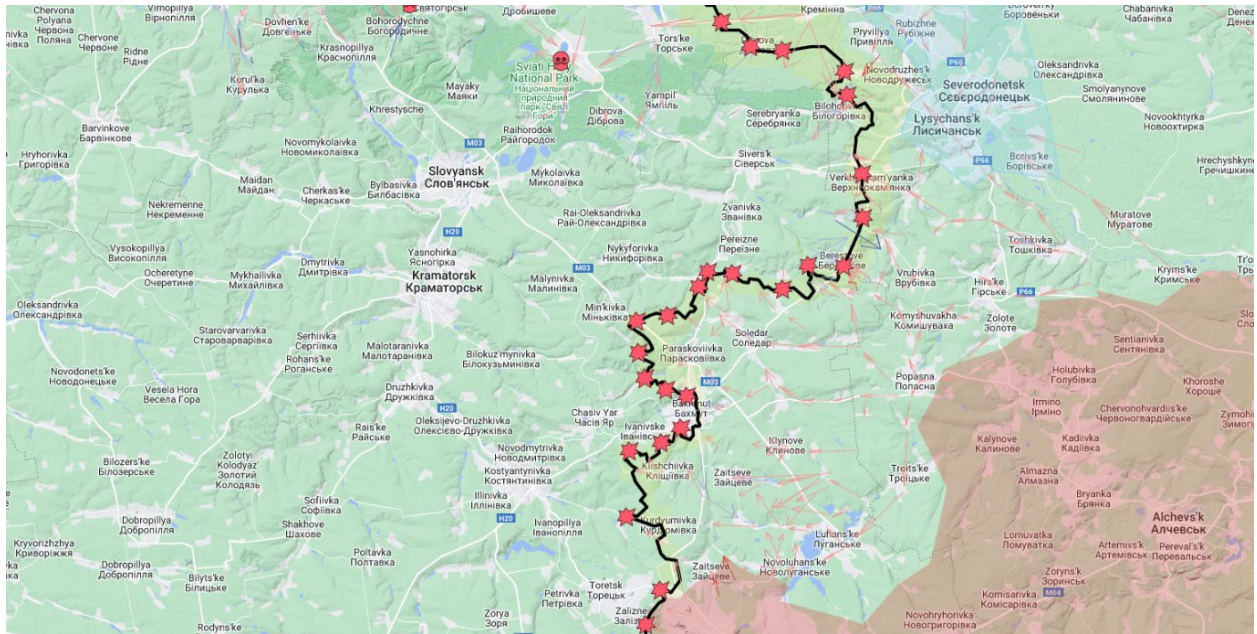
Lysychansk Operational Area

RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].⁹

⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

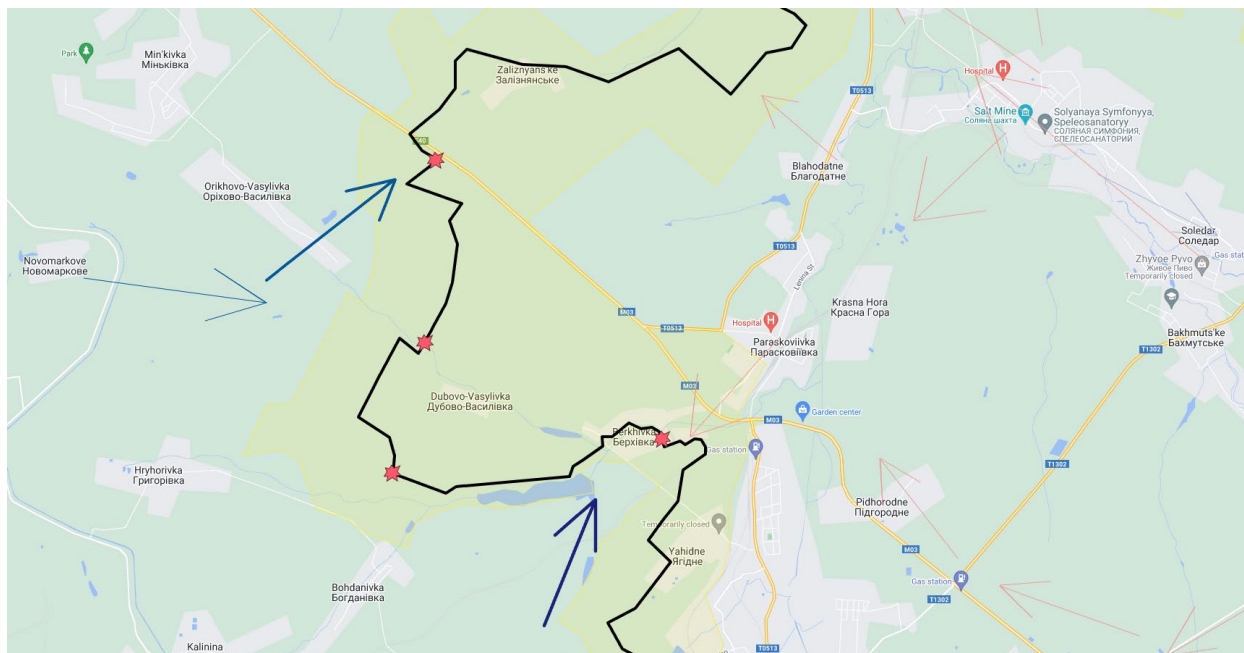
⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/28453 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

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



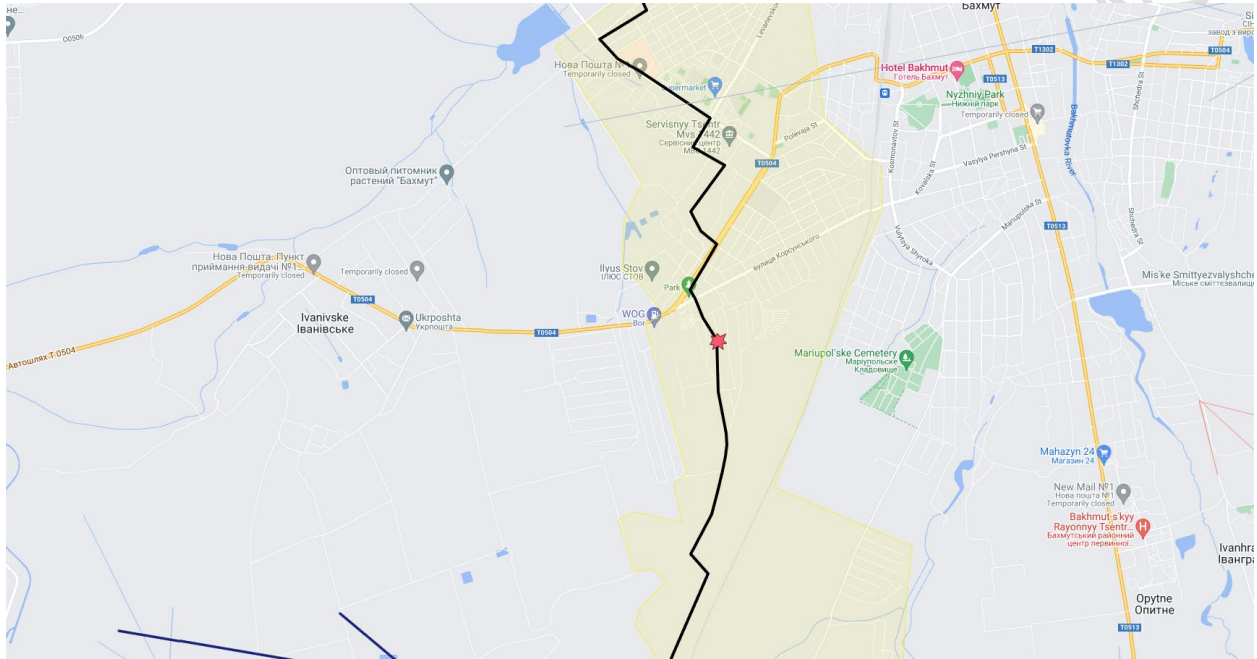
Bakhmut Operational Area

The situation for the Russian garrison in Dubovo-Vasylivka has become more challenging. Ukrainian forces were able to fully secure [the ridge overlooking the M-03/E-40 Highway](#) ground line of communication (GLOC – supply line) to the Russian GLOC that supports [Zaliznyanske](#).¹⁰ It will be extremely difficult for Russian troops to hold Zaliznyanske. Ukrainian artillery and drones have taken fire control of the M-03/E-40 from Pidhorodne west to the line of conflict. Ukrainian forces attempted to advance further in the direction of [Dubovo-Vasylivka](#), squeezing the Russian salient.¹¹ Russian forces continued their attempts

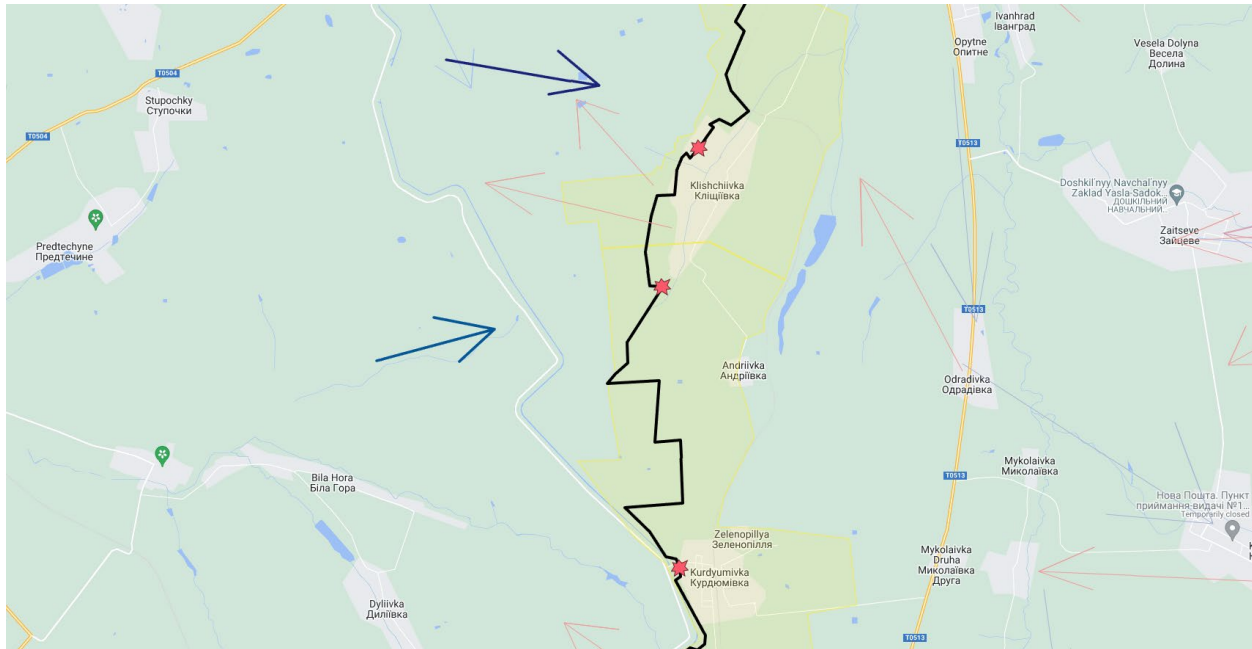
¹⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

¹¹ <https://t.me/rybar/49867>


to break Ukrainian defensive lines south of the village, with repeated attacks in the direction of [Bohdanivka](#), supported by the Russian Air Force and army aviation (VKS), without success.



Earlier Russian attempts to advance on [Ivanivske](#) from the southern tip of Bakhmut backfired. While the line of conflict did not change, Ukrainian forces were able to bring more of the gray area under their control.



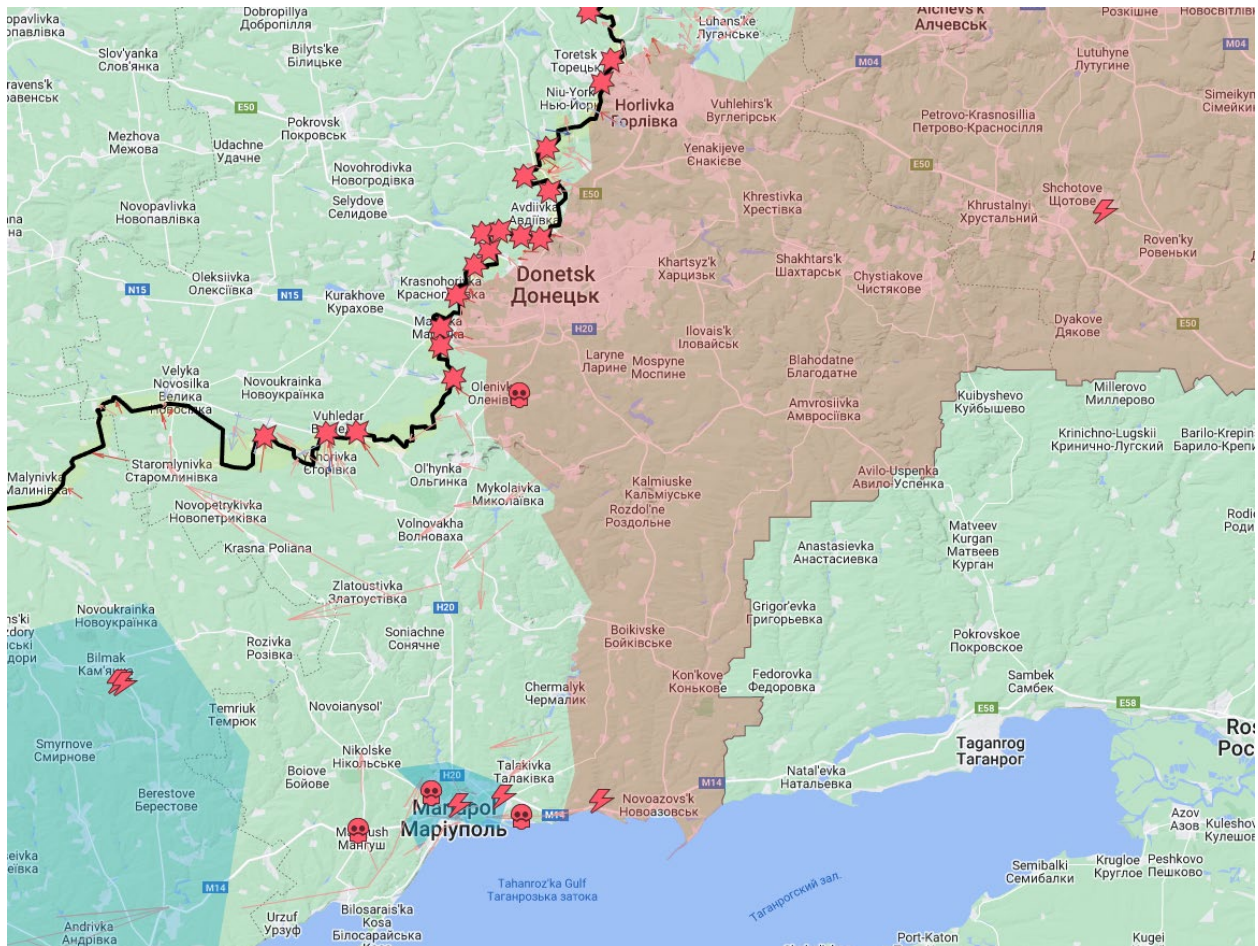
Klishchiivka Operational Area

Ukrainian forces could not make significant advances at [Klishchiivka](#) today, but video  [confirmed our current line of conflict](#) west of the settlement.^{12 13} We had reported on July 18 that Ukrainian forces had secured the heights over the village, including the easternmost trench lines. Ukrainian forces are methodically advancing east in two treelines toward [Andriivka](#) and taking full control of the area east of the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal. We adjusted the map and gray area based on the new intelligence.

¹² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/GermanObserver1/status/1681730361691127824>

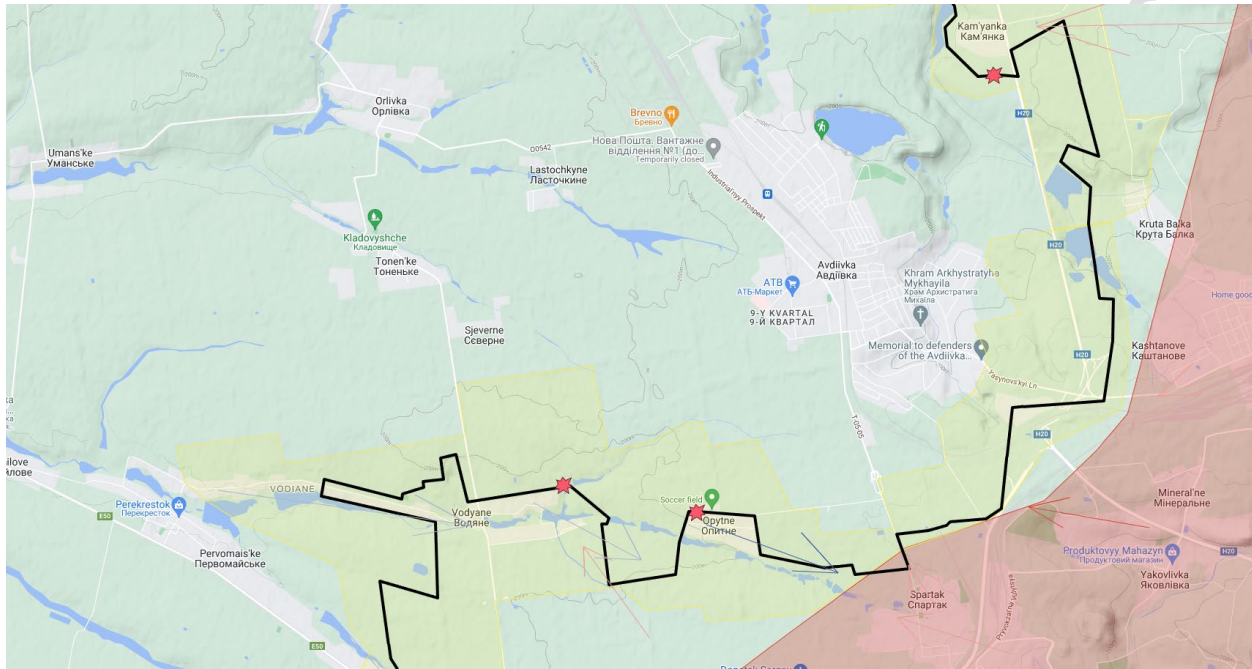
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

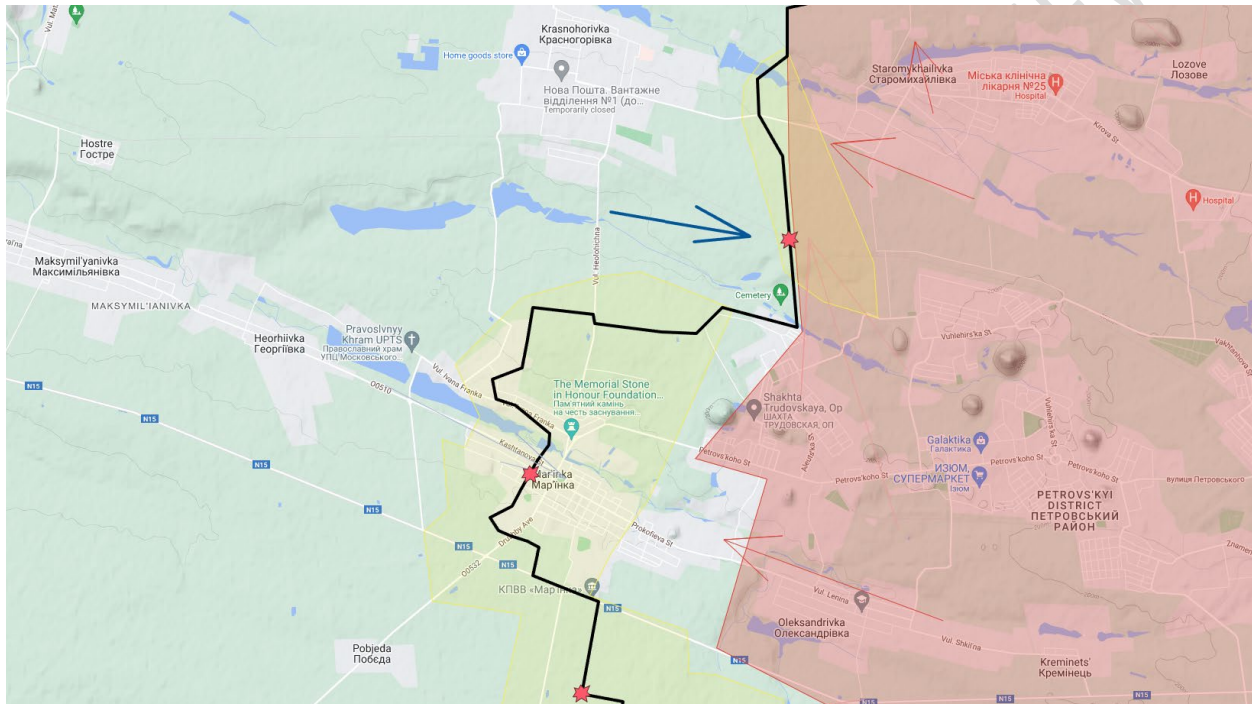


Avdiivka Operational Area

There were no significant changes, with the operational tempo significantly lower than a week ago. Russian forces made marginal gains near [Vesele](#) at the approach of the Krasnohorivka plateau, where fighting in the western part has continued for over a week.¹⁴ Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported fighting near [Avdiivka](#), with the Russian advance failing. Fighting continued south of [Pervomaiske](#) and east of the Ukrainian firebase at

¹⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

Nevelske. A geolocated video of a 📺 **Ukrainian offensive action east of Nevelske** confirmed our existing line of conflict.¹⁵



Marinka Operational Area

Russian attacks on southern **Krasnohorivka** and **Marinka** did not change the situation.^{16 17 18} Video confirmed that Russian forces briefly occupied the Trudovskaya Mine Shaft Complex before being **pushed out by Ukrainian forces**

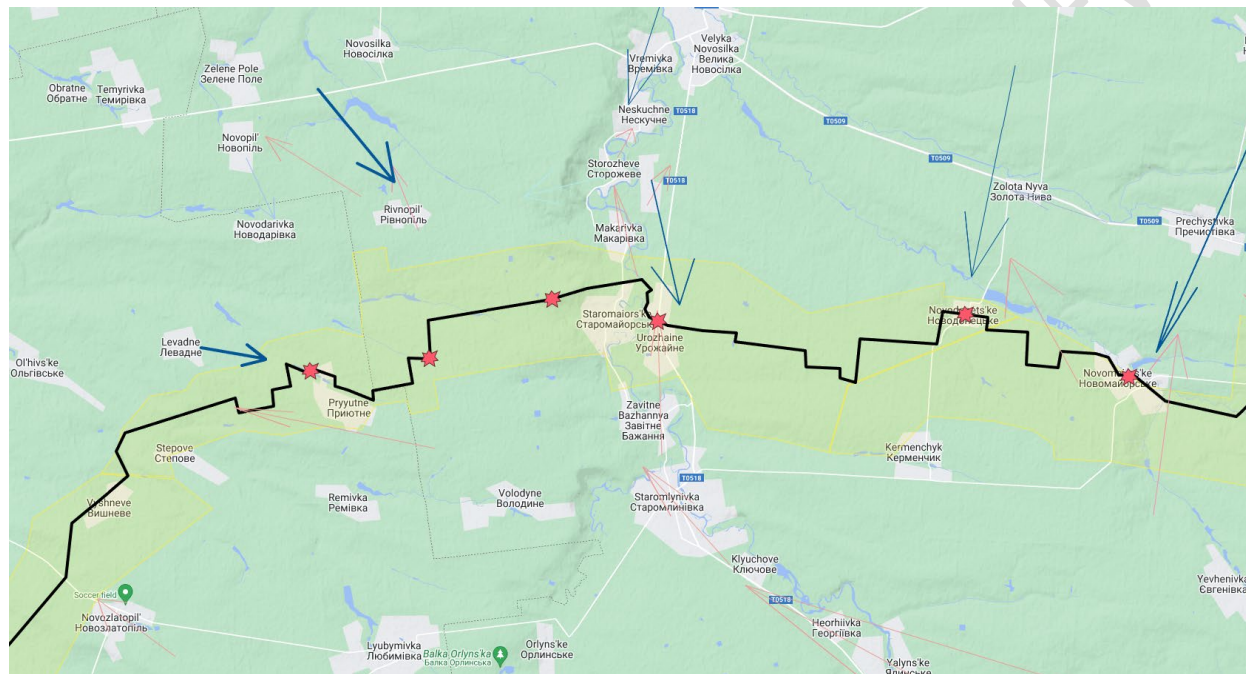
¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/JagdBandera/status/1681675088679120896>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10495>

¹⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10510>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13853>

supported by drone-delivered IEDs and artillery.¹⁹ Five Russian tanks and three Russian infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed in the failed attack, leaving at least one Russian company combat destroyed.




Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

There weren't any significant changes in the Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction. Fighting continued in the northern part of [Staromaiorske](#), the northern edge of [Pryyutne](#), and a Russian attempt to regain lost positions

¹⁹ https://twitter.com/auditor_ya/status/1681663837177511937

south of [Rivnopol](#) and in the direction of [Novodarivka](#) failed.^{20 21 22 23}

Occupied Donetsk

The  [Ukrainian House Palace of Culture in occupied Mariupol was on fire](#), with occupation officials having issues fighting the fire due to a lack of water pressure and equipment. It is unclear what started the fire or if it was being used as a Russian military facility.²⁴

In occupied Donetsk, The Water of Donbas Pipeline project promised to bring reliable tap water service to the city of 600,000 but has not delivered.²⁵ Despite the completion of the main infrastructure from Rostov, half of the city of Donetsk still does not have reliable water service, with some districts having none. The self-declared acting leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic had promised the project would solve the chronic water problems by the end of June.

²⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

²¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13853>

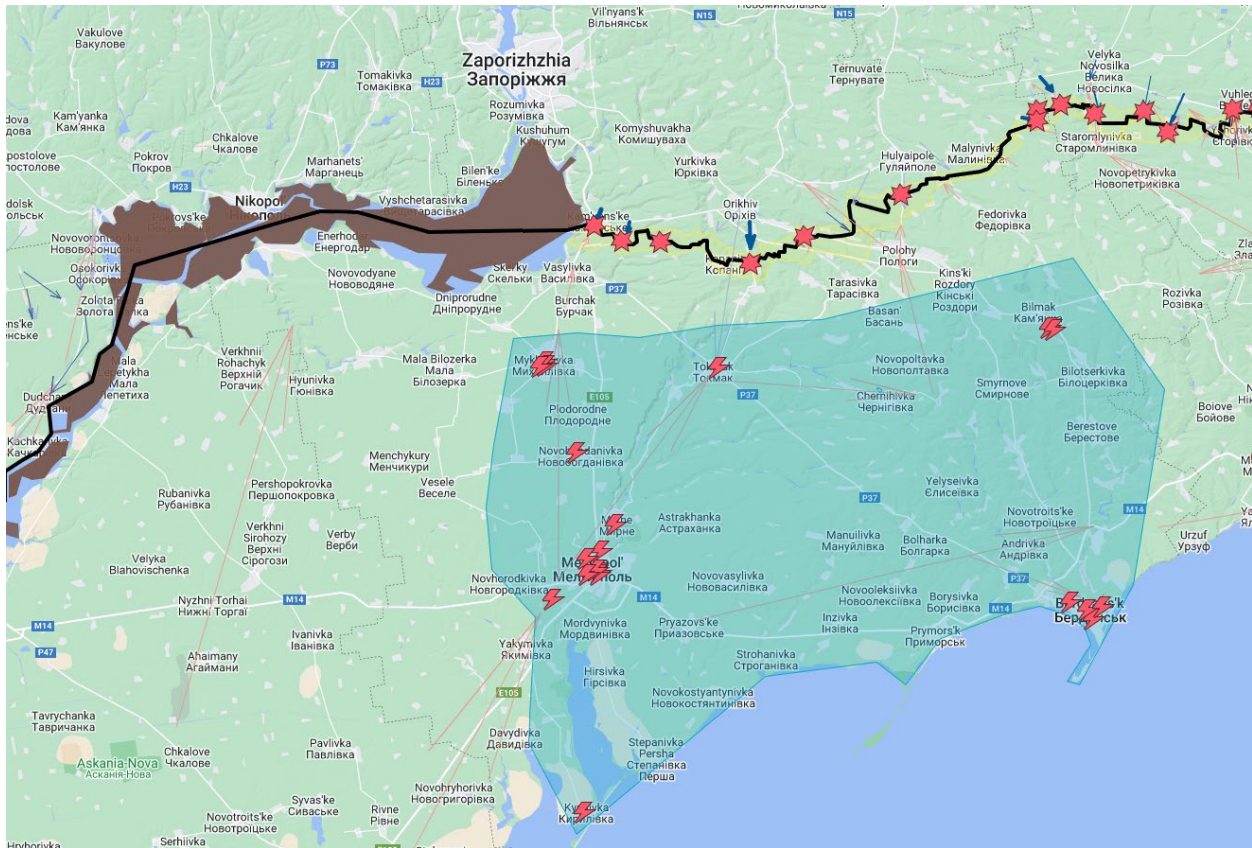
²² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10495>

²³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10510>

²⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5485

²⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/88595>

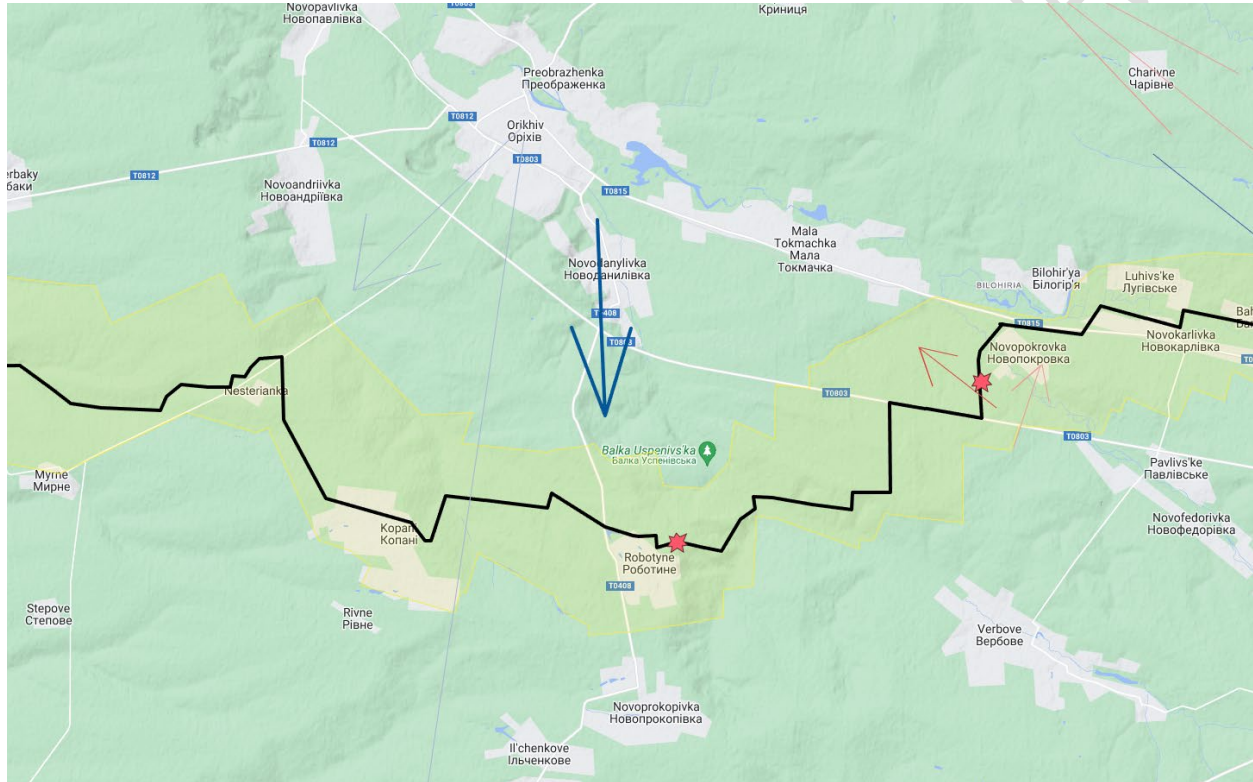
ZAPORIZHIA



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

Free Zaporizhia: Ukrainian forces carried out 1,573 fire missions on Russian positions in Kherson and Zaporizhia, with Ukrainian officials claiming up to two companies of Russian troops were eliminated by artillery fire.²⁶




Orikhiv Operational Area

Ukrainian forces advanced to the western edge of [Novopokrovka](#), with a treeline and field between the occupied positions and the settlement. Fighting continued near [Robotyne](#), with Russian milbloggers descending into a

²⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/19/7412055/>

panic over a “massive” Ukrainian attack that involved an armored platoon (you read that right).^{27 28 29 30}

Occupied Zaporizhia

Near the settlement of Novomykhailivka, drone-directed rocket artillery fired by HIMARS  [destroyed a Russian column of towed howitzers](#) and their support vehicles.³¹

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) reported that Russia is planning a provocation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).³² “For this purpose, the FSB ‘department of military counter-intelligence’ disseminates information among the personnel of the occupation contingent about the alleged preparation of the Ukrainian Security and Defense Forces for an assault on the ZNPP. The special service of the occupiers claims that an ‘assault’ on the nuclear plant will be organized at the end of July, in which ‘assault groups’

²⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17152>

²⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/28453 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13853>

³⁰ https://t.me/romanov_92/40622

³¹ <https://twitter.com/moklasen/status/1679918745248989201>


³² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106183>

and unnamed 'volunteer armed units of Ukraine' are supposed to take part."

The Ukrainian GUR accused Russia of preparing to shell ZNPP as a false flag and will blame Ukraine for the attack.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION


Black Sea

White House National Security Council spokesperson Adam Hodge said that the United States has intelligence indicating that Russia had already mined the sea lanes leading to Ukrainian ports, even before Russia withdrew from the Black Sea Grain Initiative.³³ ³⁴ U.S. officials are not ruling out that Russia might expand its attacks against civilian shipping in the Black Sea and blame Ukraine. This aligns with our  [July 19, 2023, Flash Report](#) assessment.

³³ https://twitter.com/Global_Mil_Info/status/1681796571912871938

³⁴ [ABC News – United States](#)

Occupied Crimea

The fire near the Stary Krym  [continued to burn out of control](#), but the ammunition cook-off ended after more than 12 hours of explosions.³⁵ ³⁶ Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Russian President Putin was aware of the explosions at the depots. The illegitimate leader of occupied Crimea, Serhii Aksyonov, reported that a section of the Tavrida Highway, a critical Russian GLOC had been closed [due to the explosions and smoke](#).³⁷ President Putin has demanded an investigation into the cause of the fire and explosion.³⁸ Evacuations were expanded to a fifth village, with residents expected to return home no later than July 21. Currently, 217 people are in refugee centers.

A Ukrainian drone struck Rozdolne in western Crimea, damaging four administrative buildings.³⁹ A 14-year-old girl who had broken the military curfew was killed.

According to the illegitimate Russian Ministry of Transport of Crimea, Nikolai Lukashenko, the Kerch Ferry has suspended overnight operations indefinitely.⁴⁰ "For the

³⁵ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5461

³⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36949>

³⁷ <https://t.me/informnapalm/18095>

³⁸ https://t.me/shot_shot/54339



³⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36966>

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36939>

convenience of passengers, carriers are advised to arrive at the crossing no later than 6 p.m. and no earlier than 5 a.m. because from 21:00 hours to 05:00 hours, the work of the crossing will be suspended on a regular basis until further notice." Lukashenko gave no reason for the reduction in service. Russia has pressed large military landing ships (LLS) to relieve traffic congestion and move tourists in occupied Crimea back to Russia.

Odesa

The Russian VKS and Navy continued missile and drone strikes on Ukraine for the third day in a row.



The overnight attack on July 18 – 19  [destroyed the grain terminal and port infrastructure at Chornomorsk](#), with Ukrainian officials declaring it would take at least a year to make repairs.⁴¹ ⁴² The Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine, Mykola Solskyi, reported that 60,000 tonnes of grain awaiting export for two months was destroyed in the attack, and the commercial facilities of Kernel, Viterra, and CMA CGM Group were heavily damaged. The  [overnight attack wounded ten](#), including a 9-year-old.⁴³ ⁴⁴

⁴¹ https://t.me/our_odessa/50412


⁴² https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5465

⁴³ https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1681574062043037696

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/investigatoua/6359>

Russian launched another wave of missiles and drones on Odesa on the night of July 19 – 20, shattering the city again.⁴⁵ Strikes were concentrated in the city center,  [causing severe damage to administrative offices](#).⁴⁶ At least four people were hospitalized, and one is  [reportedly missing in the rubble](#).⁴⁷ One firefighter suffered heat stroke.⁴⁸

Mykolaiv

A missile or drone  [struck a three-story apartment building](#) in the center of Mykolaiv during the July 19 – 20 missile and drone attacks.⁴⁹ The building was engulfed in flames, with 19 injured, including five children, with nine hospitalized.^{50 51 52 53}

⁴⁵ https://t.me/our_odessa/50496

⁴⁶ https://t.me/our_odessa/50512?single

⁴⁷ https://t.me/our_odessa/50523

⁴⁸ https://t.me/our_odessa/50524?single

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/luliiaMendel/status/1681918759710126081>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36974>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/22646>

⁵² <https://t.me/senkevichonline/4994>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106296>

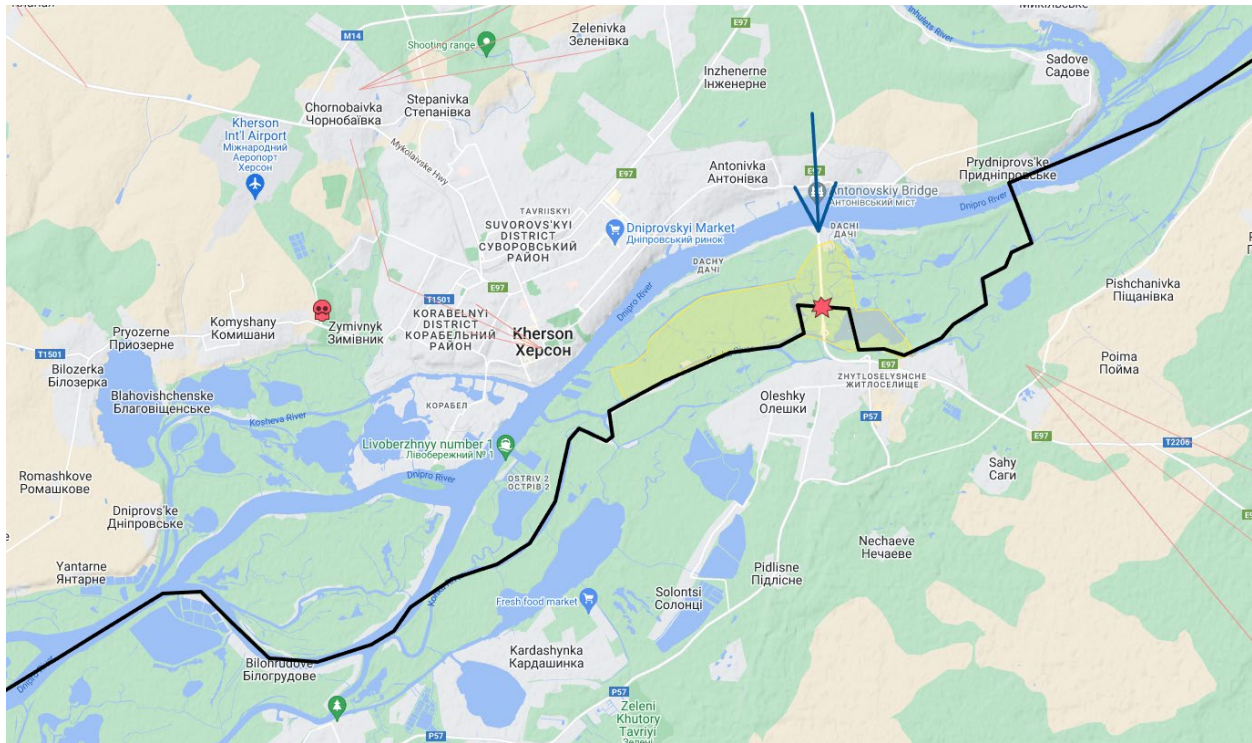
WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives


Russian forces conducted 72 fire missions on free Kherson, firing 277 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets from multiple launch rocket systems, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, wounding four people.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/994>



Ukrainian forces continue to occupy [Dachi](#) and the surrounding areas.

Occupied Kherson

Parts of occupied Hola Prystan remain flooded over six weeks after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam. Water that breached Solyane Lake and the adjoining salt ponds cannot return to the Dniro,  [leaving homes and businesses standing in brine](#).⁵⁵

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/88472>

Residents of occupied Skadovsk reported an explosion at a Russian base. There was no other information at the time of publication.⁵⁶

Zhytomyr

An Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone damaged an “infrastructure” facility in the Zhytomyr region on July 18 – 19, with no other information released.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/22615>

⁵⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/19/7411930/>

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

Chernihiv

The Chernihiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, Vyacheslav Chaus, reported that Shahed-136 kamikaze drones hit residential buildings in Semenivka.⁵⁸ Chaus reported there were casualties, but the information was unavailable at the time of publication.

Sumy

During the evening of July 19 – 20, Russian forces attacked an empty children's camp in Sumy, destroying several buildings [and causing a fire](#).^{59 60}

⁵⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/20/7412106/>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106299>

⁶⁰ https://t.me/Sumy_news_ODA/17936

RUSSIAN FRONT

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

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

Novosibirsk Region

A partisan attempted to burn down the commissariat office in Berdsk, dousing the front with up to five liters of a flammable liquid. The fire burned itself out, causing damage to the front doors.⁶¹

⁶¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/54347

THEATERWIDE

On July 18 – 19, Russian forces launched 16 Kalibr cruise missiles, eight Kh-22 antiship cruise missiles, six P-800 Onix antiship cruise missiles, one Kh-59 guided missile, and 32 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. Ukrainian air defenses intercepted 13 Kalibrs, one Kh-59, and 23 UAVs. The Russian VKS and land-based launchers targeted areas where Ukrainian air defense could not intercept the near hypersonic Kh-22, which uses a ballistic trajectory to strike its target, and the P-800 antiship missiles.

On July 19 – 20, Russia launched seven P-800 Onix missiles, four Kh-22 antiship missiles, three Kalibr cruise missiles, five Iskander-K land-based winged ballistic missiles, and 19 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. Two Kalibrs, three Iskander-K, and 13 UAVs were intercepted.⁶²

The United States announced a new \$1.3 billion security assistance package, which includes critical air defense capabilities and munitions, will be provided as part of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI).⁶³ Assistance

⁶² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106284>

⁶³ [United States Department of Defense](#) [United States government website]

from USAI is not drawn down from existing stock but will be produced for future shipment. The package includes,

- Four National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) and munitions
- 152mm artillery rounds
- Mine clearing equipment
- Tube-Launched, Optically-Tracked, Wire-Guided (TOW) missiles (ATGM)
- Phoenix Ghost and unspecified Switchblade Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)
- Precision aerial munitions
- Counter-UAS and electronic warfare detection equipment
- 150 fuel trucks
- 115 tactical vehicles to tow and haul equipment
- 50 tactical vehicles to recover equipment
- Port and harbor security equipment
- Tactical secure communications systems
- Support for training, maintenance, and sustainment activities

Because the package is for future production, the Switchblade model is almost certainly the 600 series, with

the Pentagon terminating its contract for the antipersonnel Switchblade 300.

Spain announced another military aid package to Ukraine, which includes,⁶⁴ ⁶⁵

- 4 Leopard 2A4 tanks
- 10 unspecified armored personnel carriers (likely M113)
- Unspecified infantry mobility vehicles
- Light trucks
- Ambulances

The table for equipment losses was **updated on July 14, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/22625>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/DPSUkr/12491>


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 14, 2023. 11,154 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 3,892 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	1996	236	8.45:1	↑
Medium Duty Tanks	139	337	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	916	297	3.08:1	↓
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2514	629	4.00:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	329	299	1.10:1	—
MRAPs	45	119	0.38:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	198	335	0.59:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	246	15	16.40:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	318	71	4.48:1	↓
Towed Artillery	258	134	1.93:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	446	178	2.51:1	↓
MLRS	235	47	5.00:1	↑
SAMs	125	115	1.09:1	↑
Mobile Radars	38	69	0.55:1	↑
EW/ECW	43	4	10.75:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	84	68	1.25:1	—
Helicopters	106	31	3.42:1	—
Naval Vessels	12	26	0.46:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Russian confirmed that Colonel Denis Ivanov, the 123rd Motor Rifle Brigade commander, was killed in a targeted drone attack.^{66 67} Ivanov regularly appeared on Russian state media and propaganda programs as a subject matter expert, including Olga Skabeeva's program on Russia 1.

A Russian military unit received six 2K22 Tunguska self-propelled anti-aircraft guns armed with supplemental anti-aircraft missiles, and all are inoperative,  [according to Russian state media](#).⁶⁸ Three experienced transmission failures after 30 kilometers of travel, two had malfunctioning fire control systems, and the sixth was described as "completely unsafe to operate."

Russian milblogger, curmudgeon, and semi-retired colonel Andrei Morozov complained that Russian anti-drone weapons are near "useless" as Ukrainian forces have adapted commercial drones to rotate their frequencies, making them harder to jam.⁶⁹ "...all these expensive guns have become useless. Well, OK, let me say this publicly

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/OSINTGeorgia/6111>


⁶⁷ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5458

⁶⁸ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1681569162684932096>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/wehearfromyanina/2297>

because the enemy understands all this very well and, most likely, is already preparing. Yes, special calculations of UAV fighters are needed since, in the competition between electronic warfare equipment and means of signal transmission from UAVs, we lose to the enemy in most places on the front...Antidrone guns, whose effectiveness has already been crippled by the massive use of boosters by the enemy, have very little left to work, at least to some extent."

Morozov suggested Russian forces switch to ramming Ukrainian drones to knock them out of the sky.

Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin addressed a large force of PMC Wagner Group mercenaries in Belarus,  [confirming both men were alive and free](#).⁷⁰ Prigozhin confirmed what we had assessed almost a month ago – PMC Wagner is not returning to Ukraine in the short or middle term and will focus on Africa.

Prigozhin condemned the Russian Ministry of Defense and its operations in Ukraine, saying, in part, "Greetings, guys. We are glad to welcome you all on our arrival on the

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/informnapalm/18104>

Belarusian land. We fought with dignity. You have done a lot for Russia. Now what is happening at the front is a disgrace in which we do not need to participate. And now, we need to wait for the moment when we will be able to show ourselves in full. Therefore, it was decided that we will be here, in Belarus, for a while. During this time, we will make Belarus, and I am sure of it, the second army in the world. And if necessary, I will stand up for them. Let's get ready, raise our level, and go on a new path – to Africa. But it is possible that we will return to the war in Ukraine at the moment when we are sure that we will not be arrested and will embarrass ourselves and our experience."⁷¹

After an introduction, Utkin then spoke. "Yes, if anyone does not know, I am that very Wagner. Most of you know me, most of you I know personally. Thanks for the work you've done. Thanks to this work, the name of the 'Wagner Group' thundered throughout the world. Thanks to all! Guys, thank you very much! This is not the end. This is just the beginning of the biggest work in the world that will be done very soon. Well, welcome to Hell!"⁷²

⁷¹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/956>

⁷² https://t.me/grey_zone/19625

The Russian State Duma passed a law to equip the Rosgvardia with heavy weapons, including main battle tanks, in response to the failed Prigozhin Insurrection.⁷³ The biggest beneficiaries may be Colonel Ramzan Kadyrov's forces, which as part of the Rosgvardia, have been prohibited from operating certain weapons.

Further angering the detractors of Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu and how he is conducting the war against Ukraine, a criminal case has been opened up against Angry Patriot Club member and GRU Colonel Vladimir Kvachkov.⁷⁴ Kvachkov is accused of "discrediting the Russian Federation Armed Forces" and has been even more outspoken against Russian President Putin than former FSB Colonel and convicted war criminal Igor Strelkov Girkin.

During a meeting in the Russian State Duma, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko urged women to give birth as early as possible rather than pursue getting an education and forging a career path. "A belief has been formed that a woman should first get an education, make a career, and then only worry about childbearing. It leads to many problems afterward. A woman should realize that the

⁷³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106216>

⁷⁴ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1681580265703976961>

sooner she gives birth, the better." Murashko called it a "vicious practice" to postpone childbirth.⁷⁵

Publication Mediazona reported the number of cases against Russian soldiers for desertion more than doubled in the first half of 2023, with 2,076 cases referenced to the courts.⁷⁶ Approximately 100 cases are being processed a week, with some receiving multi-year prison terms.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for the General Secretary of the Red Cross of Belarus, Dmytro Shevtsov, who publicly confessed to illegally deporting children from the occupied territories of Ukraine. In an interview on Belarus 1, a TV channel, he stated that the Red Cross had facilitated the removal of almost 2,000 children from Ukraine.⁷⁷

Members of the European Parliament are also urging the ICC to issue an arrest warrant for the self-declared and

⁷⁵ https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1681606069729075200

⁷⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/19/7411996/>

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/informnapalm/18099>

illegitimate President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko.⁷⁸ The representatives called for prosecuting those responsible for "crimes against humanity and genocide" by supporting attacks on Ukrainian civilians and the forced deportation of children. A recent report commissioned by the E.U. Parliament also condemned the Lukashenko regime for human rights violations against its people and called for the immediate release of 1,500 political prisoners.

Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council Secretary Oleksii Danilov said Kyiv was considering asking its partners and the United Nations to create and protect a green corridor in the Black Sea to maintain grain exports from Ukraine.⁷⁹

GEOPOLITICS

Russian President Putin spelled out his requirements to permit grain exports from Ukraine to restart. He demanded "the removal of sanctions on Russian grain and fertilizer supplies, the reconnection of all banks to SWIFT and the end of all restrictions, the unrestricted supply of spare

⁷⁸ https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1681594526119387138

⁷⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/19/7412083/>

parts for farm machinery to Russia should be resumed, the issue of freight and insurance of Russian ships should be resolved, the Tolyatti-Odesa ammonia pipeline should be restored, and all Russian assets related to agriculture unblocked."^{80 81}

Despite the Kremlin's insistence that sanctions and disconnection from SWIFT had helped the Russian economy soar to previously unachieved heights, Putin made these demands.

More than half of the government officials and dignitaries invited to the Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg on July 27-28 have declined to attend, as questions of Russia's intentions are raised with action against Private Military Company Wagner Group, providing security services to at least six African nations, Moscow's dismissal of the African peace plan, and ongoing grain shipment restrictions before July 17.⁸²

In May, the Kremlin threatened South African President Cyril Ramaphosa with war if Russian President Putin was

⁸⁰ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5480

⁸¹ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1681744389104709632>

⁸² <https://t.me/informnapalm/18094>

arrested while attending the BRICS Summit in August. Ramaphosa fought to keep the closed discussion out of the public eye, with the courts ordering the release of his comments to the Parliament earlier this week. After weeks of negotiations and trying to find an offramp, it was agreed that President Putin would attend the meeting virtually and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov would attend in person.^{83 84}

The tit-for-tat diplomatic mission closures continued, with Finland ordering the Russian consultant office in Turku close by October 1, 2023.⁸⁵

ECONOMICS

President Putin said that Russia expects to replace Ukrainian grain in the food market, both commercially and free, using stolen Ukrainian grain as part of the ongoing genocide. During the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), Russia promised free grain and stabilized world markets, but significant shipments never materialized. Grain prices

⁸³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106171>

⁸⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/88549>

⁸⁵ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/19/7166094/>

have skyrocketed over 10% since Russia withdrew from the BSGI and started destroying Ukraine's port infrastructure.⁸⁶

Croatia is offering Ukraine its railroad network and ports in the Adriatic Sea to ship Ukrainian grain to world markets.⁸⁷

The United States newspaper Washington Post reported that the U.S. State Department was preparing sanctions against Kyrgyzstan for supporting the shipment of Western and Asian goods to Russia and bypassing sanctions.⁸⁸ "After months of fruitless visits by American and European diplomats to the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, the Biden administration is preparing new economic measures to pressure the country to end trade with the Russian Federation," the paper stated. Imports to Russia from Kyrgyzstan increased by 250% in 2022 and continue to grow.

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/106205>

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/22619>

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9565>



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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 real-time 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.