



**MALCONTENT NEWS  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR  
SITUATION REPORT**



February 8, 2023



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

08/02/23 23:59\* PST

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## Notes on Sourcing Information


**Malcontent News** uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, which is 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 lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by units of the Russian Federation 1st Army Corps 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 detailed 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 any 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 information as Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for 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 he was fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.



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## **SUMMARY – DAY 350**

It has been 3,268 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on February 27, 2014.

In our assessment, Russia's large-scale offensive has started along the line of conflict from Dvorichna in Kharkiv to Vuhledar in Donetsk. Because of the significant increase in operational tempo, we will be suspending most non-combat coverage and may shift to creating multiple but smaller, Situation Reports a day as we did in September during the Ukrainian Kharkiv counteroffensive. We will switch to producing live streams if the news cycle becomes too overwhelming for written reports.

## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. We assess that Russia's large-scale offensive has started throughout most regions of Ukraine, and the Russian Ministry of Defense is attempting to retake the initiative throughout the theatre of war.
2. We assess that despite the launch of the large-scale offensive, early reports of Russian tactics and

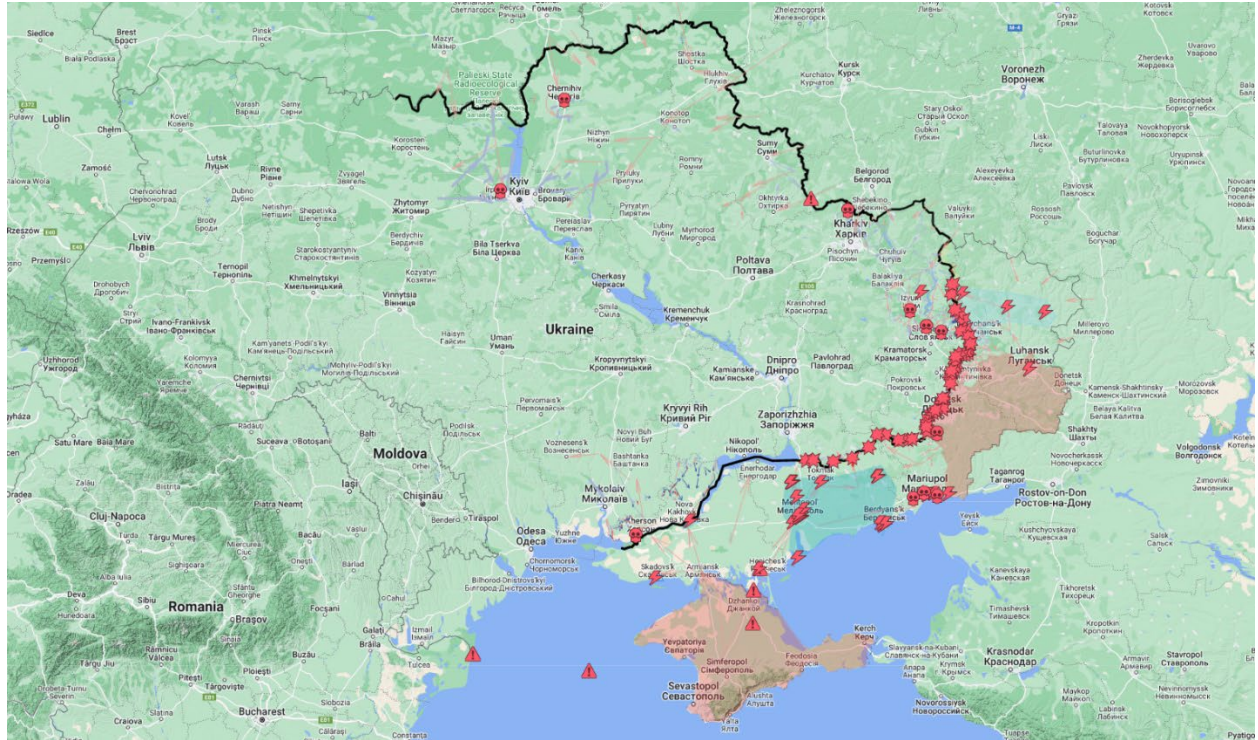


successes indicate that the mobik units that reportedly received longer and better training are as poorly trained as their predecessors, and the Russian military within Ukraine remains incapable of **dramatically** changing the battlefield situation in the coming weeks.

3. We assess that Russian forces have severed two Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) into Bakhmut. Ukrainian military leaders must consider withdrawing or committing their significant reserves if the Ukrainian General Staff is employing a counterstrike strategy.
4. We assess that the power struggle between military leaders aligned with Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu versus those aligned to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin has further escalated to the Kremlin actively seeking to reduce Prigozhin's influence and power.
5. We maintain that the significant increase in disinformation and misinformation from Russian sources is being directed by Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, as part of his hybrid warfare doctrine.
6. We maintain that ongoing severe weather in the Black Sea, Crimea, and the Rostov-on-Don region of Russia

- will continue to delay the next Russian punitive missile strike on civilians and civilian infrastructure.
7. We maintain that Russian forces will continue to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.
  8. We maintain that the Russian Federation's inventory of Kalibr cruise missiles is critically low based on the continued decline of launches from the Black Sea Fleet.
  9. We maintain that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the deenergization of Ukrainian nuclear power plants caused by Russian electrical infrastructure destruction is possible.
  10. We maintain that stealth mobilization has started in the Russian Federation due to stop loss orders for active duty troops deployed in Ukraine and mobilization requests from the Kremlin in the occupied territories.
  11. We maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of an offensive operation is negligible.

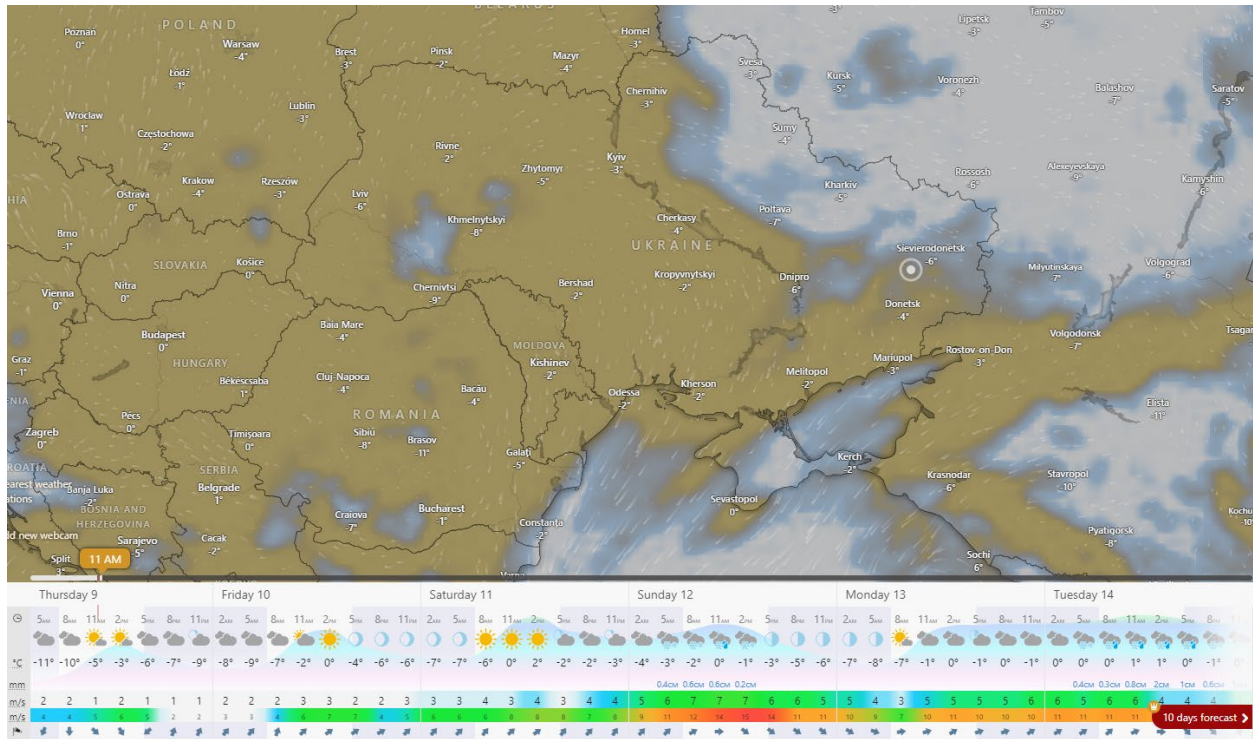
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



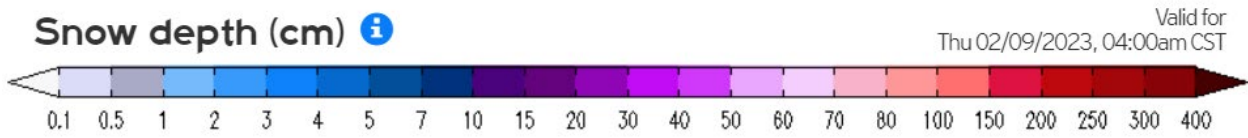
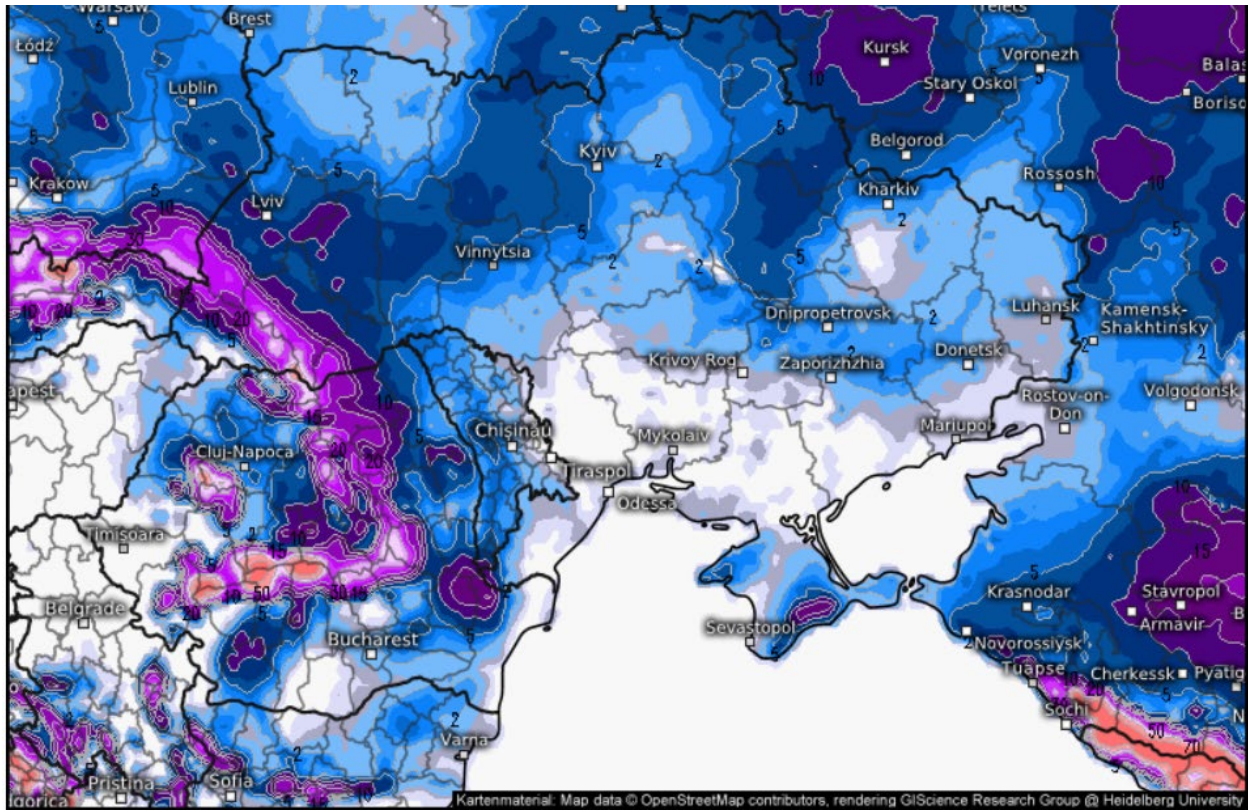
**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. 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.

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

# UKRAINE WEATHER



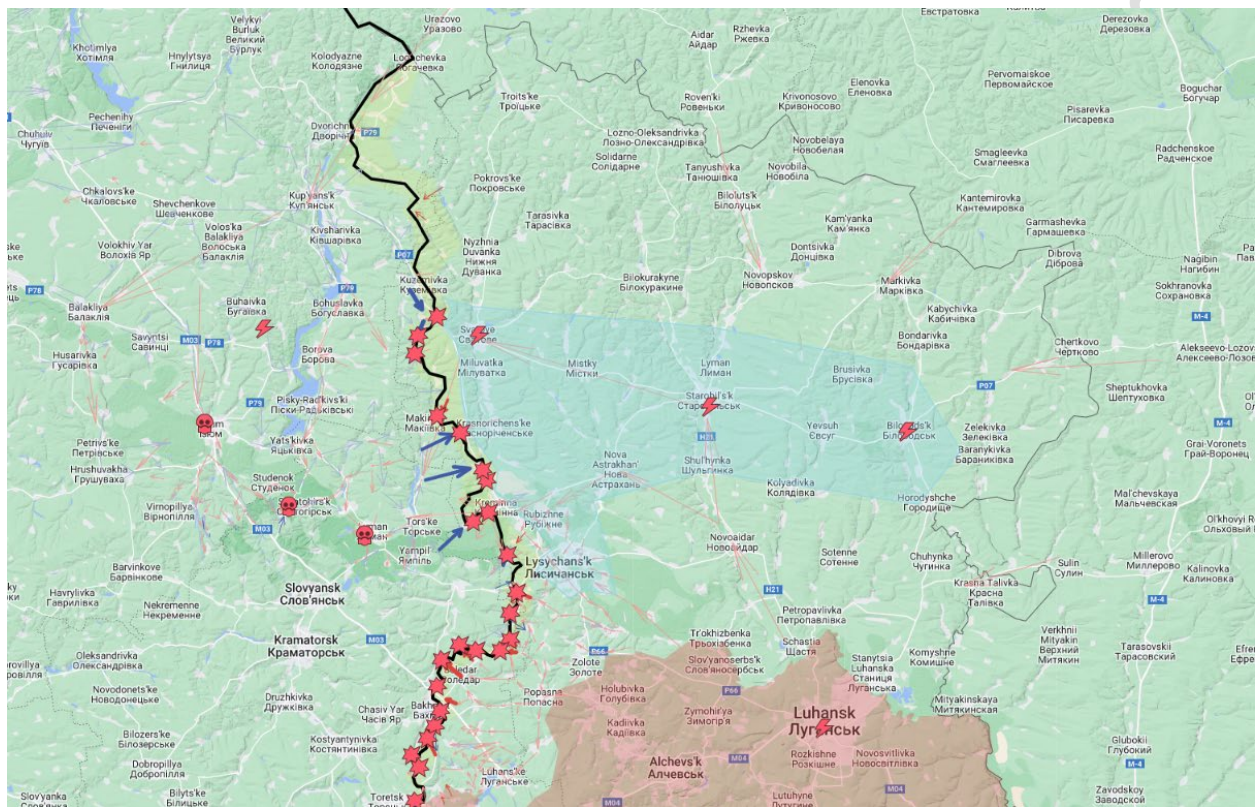
Most of Ukraine was under clear skies, with cloud cover over northeastern Ukraine along the Russian border and most of occupied Crimea. Due to high winds and poor sea conditions, the Black Sea Fleet has only one vessel on patrol. Temperatures are starting to moderate, with highs expected to be close to or above freezing by the weekend. Snow will move back into parts of Ukraine on Saturday, but not in significant amounts.



The thin snowpack in eastern Kherson, southern Zaporizhia, has melted and evaporated. One to three centimeters of snow covers most regions where heavy fighting is ongoing.

# DONBAS REGION

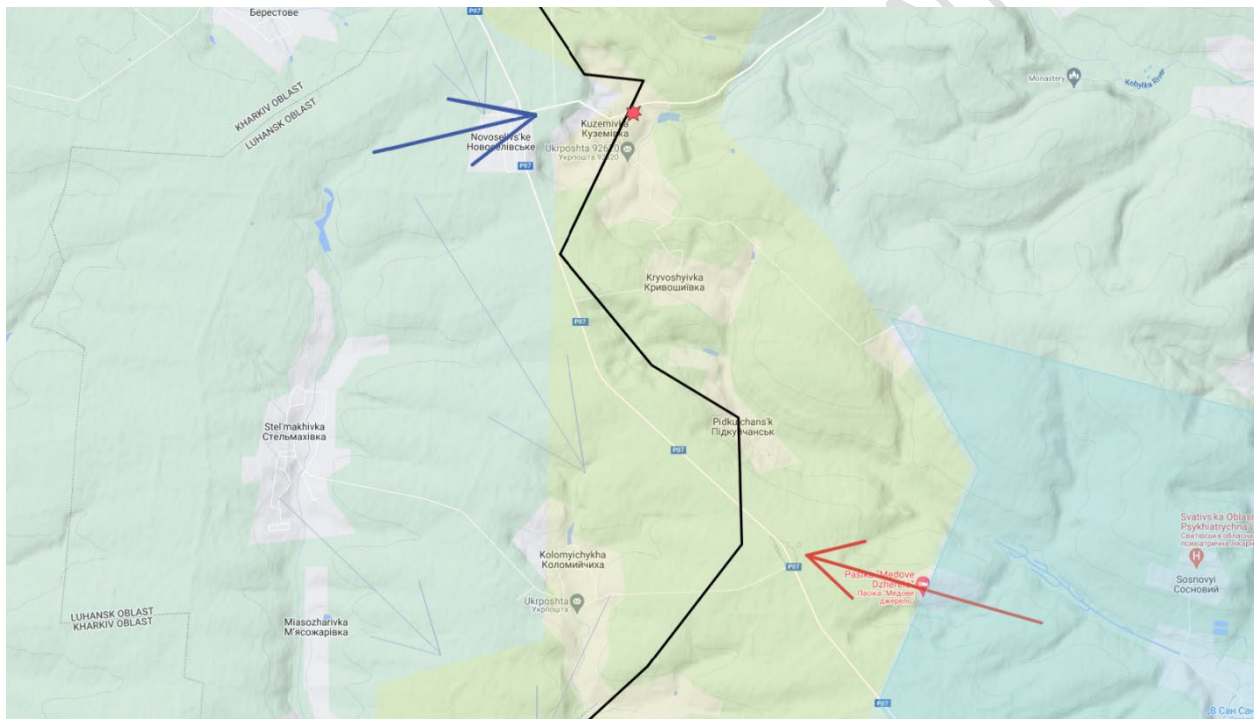
## LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, recapture lost territory, and control insurgency

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

The Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, Serhei Haidai, reported a significant increase in artillery fire along the entire line of conflict in Luhansk and described Russian attacks as constant using squad and platoon size units in repeated attacks on Ukrainian positions.<sup>1</sup>



In the Svatove Operational Direction, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported continued fighting on the eastern edge of [Novoselivske](#) while the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported Ukrainian

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<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8438>

positions were shelled.<sup>2 3</sup> Russian forces continued attempts to advance from [Kuzemivka](#) through a no man's land using tanks, [with a T-80B destroyed by Ukrainian artillery](#).<sup>4</sup>

In Makiivka, Russian forces are using their doctrine of destroying an area with artillery to make it indefensive. Ukrainian officials continue to bring humanitarian aid to the 20 remaining residents who refuse to abandon their livestock, even though the constant shelling is killing their animals.<sup>5</sup>

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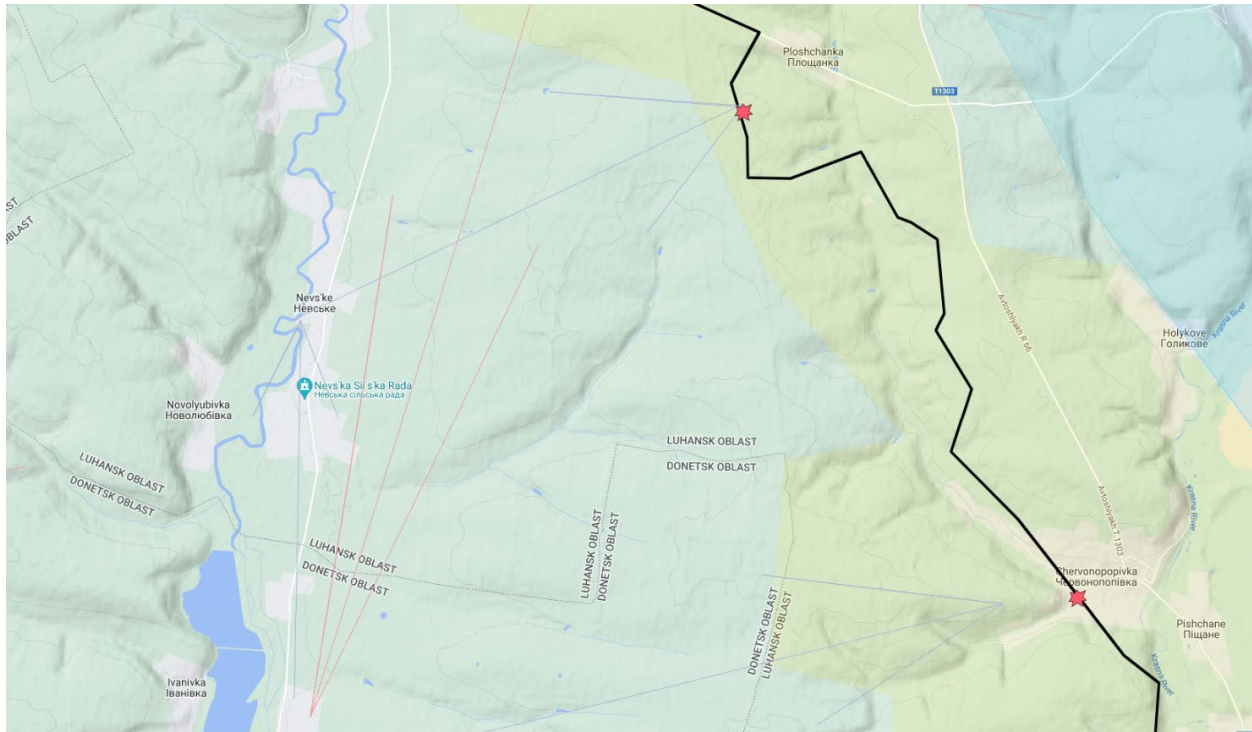
<sup>2</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>3</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15503>

<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8454>





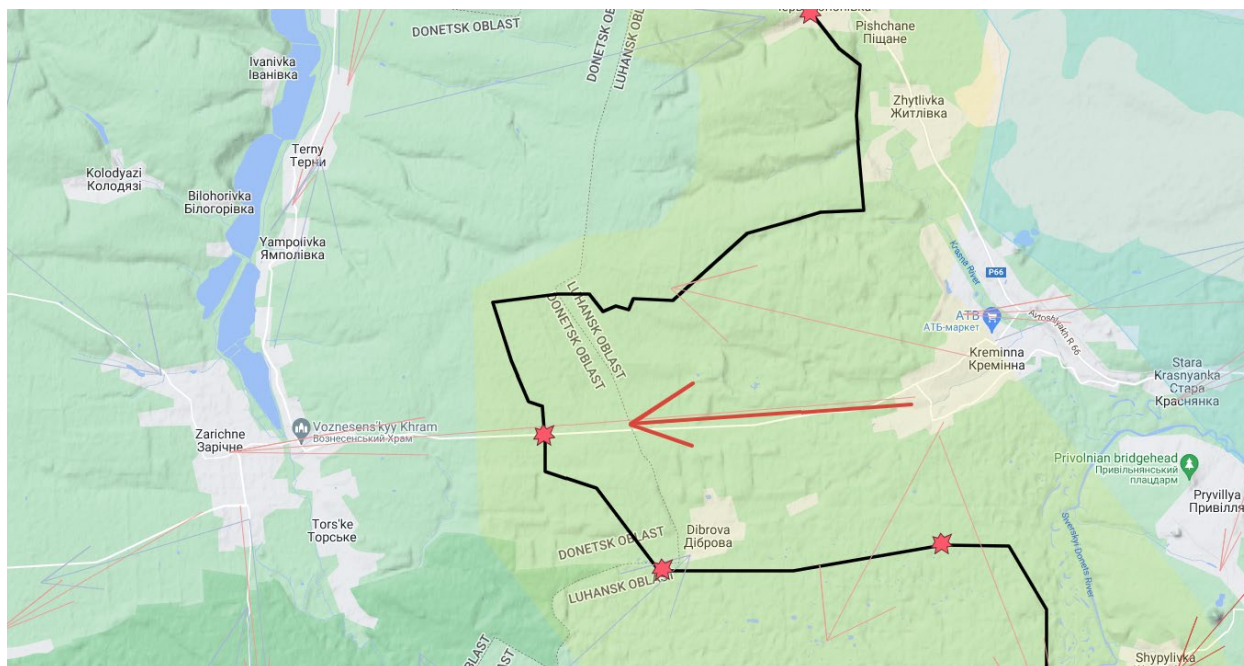
In the Kreminna operational area, the situation is the same in Nivske, where 140 civilians remain and live in their basements due to the constant artillery shelling, venturing out only to tend to their farm animals.<sup>6</sup>


GSAFU reported that Russian attacks in the area of [Chervonpopivka](#) were repulsed.<sup>7</sup> For the second day in a row, RMOD reported that the settlement was shelled.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8454>

<sup>7</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



In the [Kremmina](#) Operational Area, Russian forces shelled the area around the town throughout the day, with fighting among squad and platoon-sized forces occurring northwest, west, southwest, and south of the town and in the Serebryansky Woods.<sup>9 10</sup> Ukrainian forces  [increased artillery strikes on Russian positions](#).<sup>11</sup> Russian and Ukrainian forces heavily shelled the areas around [Dibrova](#), with heavy fighting among small groups continuing in the forested areas.<sup>12 13 14</sup> The situation was similar near [Kuzmyne](#), with fighting in the area of the

<sup>9</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)




<sup>10</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56277>

<sup>12</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>13</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

hamlet reported by a reliable Ukrainian source.<sup>15</sup> Luhansk Oblast Governor Haidai shared still images of the  [first combat loss](#) of a  [Russian BMPT Terminator](#).<sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> The BMPT Terminator is a tank support combat vehicle, that had been specifically developed for urban warfare from lessons learned in Syria. The Russian Federation Armed Forces had less than a dozen on February 24, 2022, and the one destroyed had been used in several Russian state media propaganda videos. Another video showed a Russian forward operating base near Kreminna that had been  [destroyed by artillery and light infantry](#).<sup>18</sup>

Mercenaries with War Gonzo reported that Russian forces attempted to advance from [Shypylyvka](#) in the Kreminna direction through the Siverskyi Donets River floodplain, and GSAFU reported that Ukrainian forces repelled an attack in the area.<sup>19</sup> Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, PMC Wagner target, and failed mobik confirmed War Gonzo's claim, adding that the attack through the "flood plain of the Siverskyi Donets" failed.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15508>

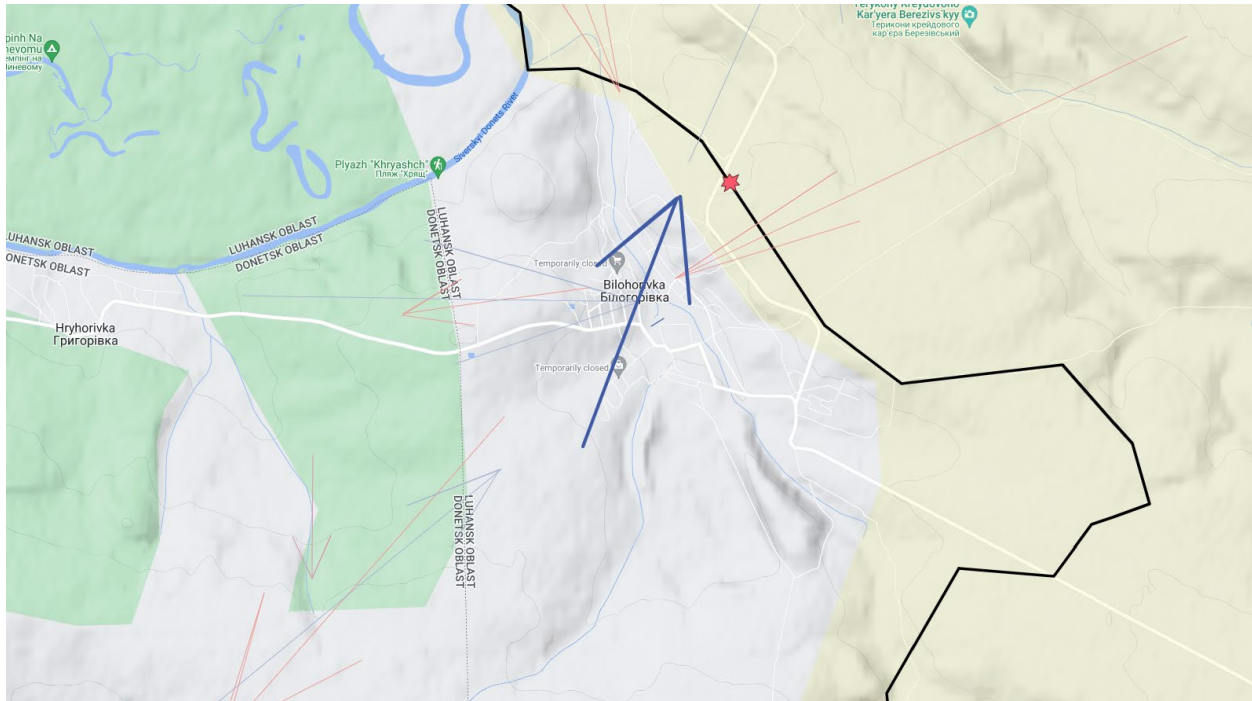
<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1623613174170759171>

<sup>17</sup> [https://t.me/serhiy\\_hayday/9361](https://t.me/serhiy_hayday/9361)

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/tendar/status/1623620927341600768>

<sup>19</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>



In the Lysychansk Operational Area, Russian attacks on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] failed, with War Gonzo reporting that Russian troops tried to attack from the north.<sup>21</sup> Governor Haidai stated that Russian forces have not been able to make any progress, with Russian milblogger Strelkov making a similar claim.<sup>22 23</sup>

The Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center of Control and Coordination claimed that Ukrainian forces

<sup>21</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8438>

<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

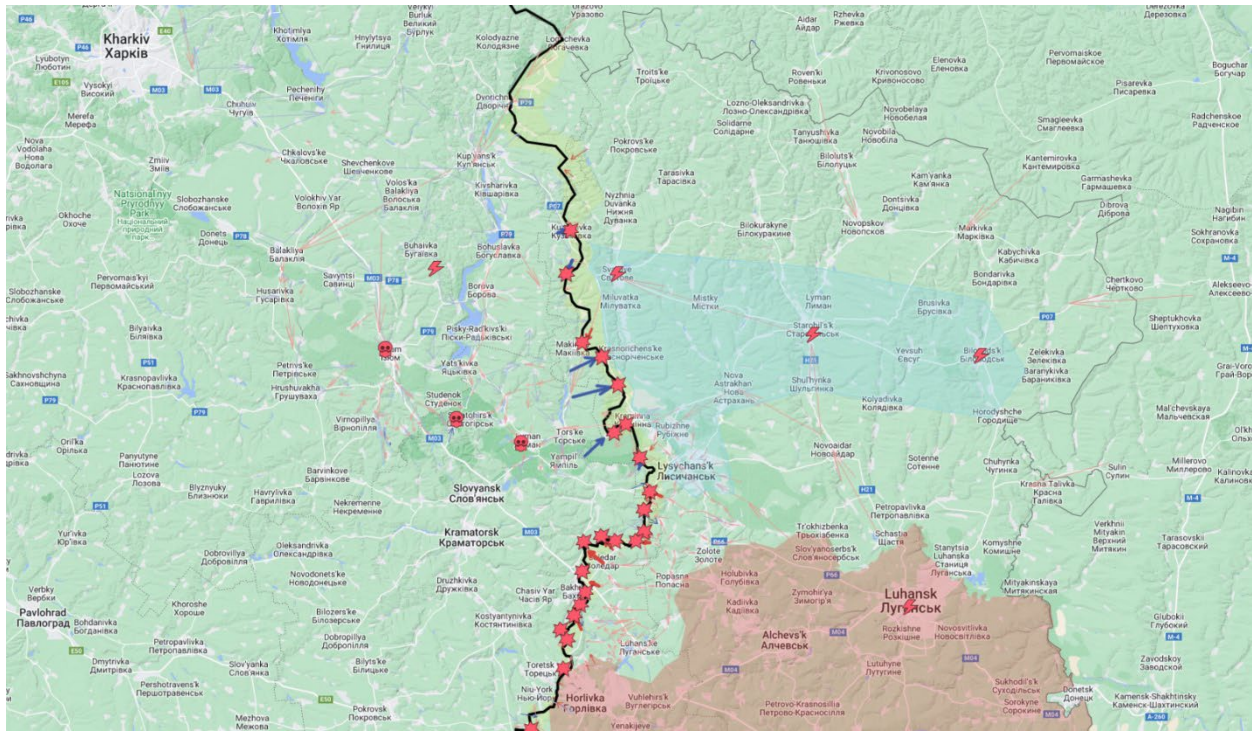
attacked Pysarivka with a single rocket fired by HIMARS. The settlement is 89 kilometers from the line of conflict, putting the village, which is 31 kilometers northeast of Starobilsk, out of HIMARS range.<sup>24</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** This is the third claim in the last ten days made by the LNR JCCC of HIMARS strikes on civilians in regions that are out of range of the guided multiple launch rocket system (GMLRS). We cannot assess who is behind the attacks or their point of origin. With the ongoing Russian offensive, there is no evidence to support that Ukrainian forces are further east than the current assessment.

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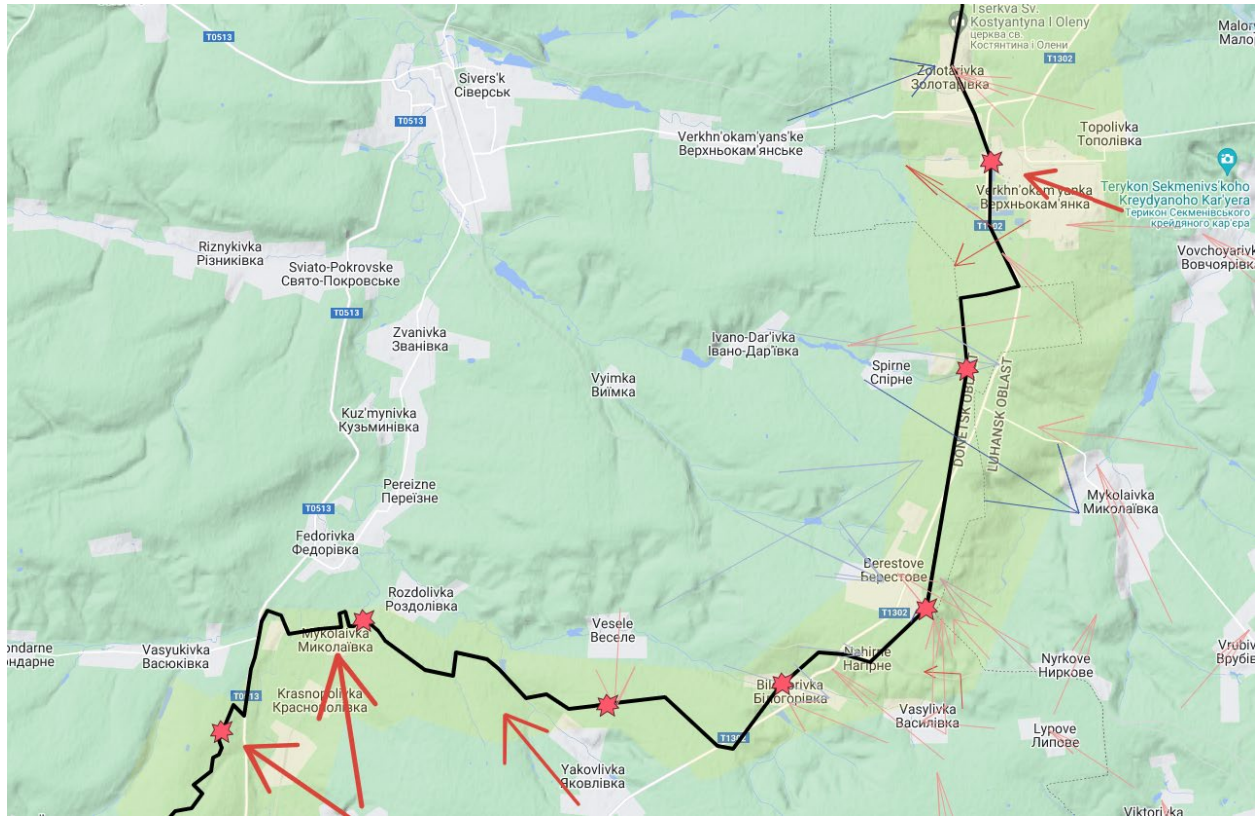
<sup>24</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/8052](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8052)

# NORTHEAST DONETSK



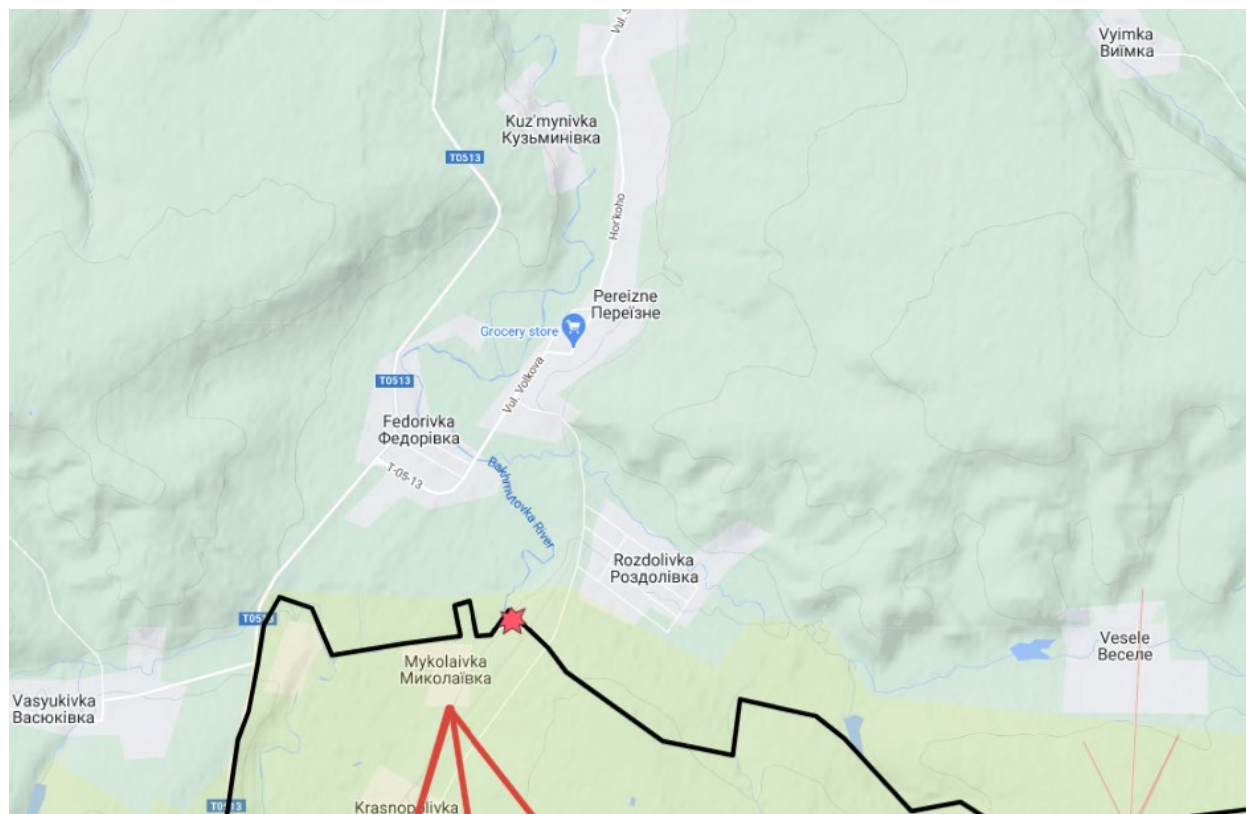
**Russian Objective:** Capture the entire region and integrate the oblast into Russian Federation

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



In the Siversk Operational Area, Russian forces continued attempts to advance on [Verkhnyokamianske](#) and [Spirne](#) without success.<sup>25</sup> GSAFU reported an attack on [Vyimka](#) was repulsed, with Russian forces likely advancing through a treeline from Nahirne. We did not update the war map due to the nine-month history of Russian squad and platoon size DRG units operating in this area.

<sup>25</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



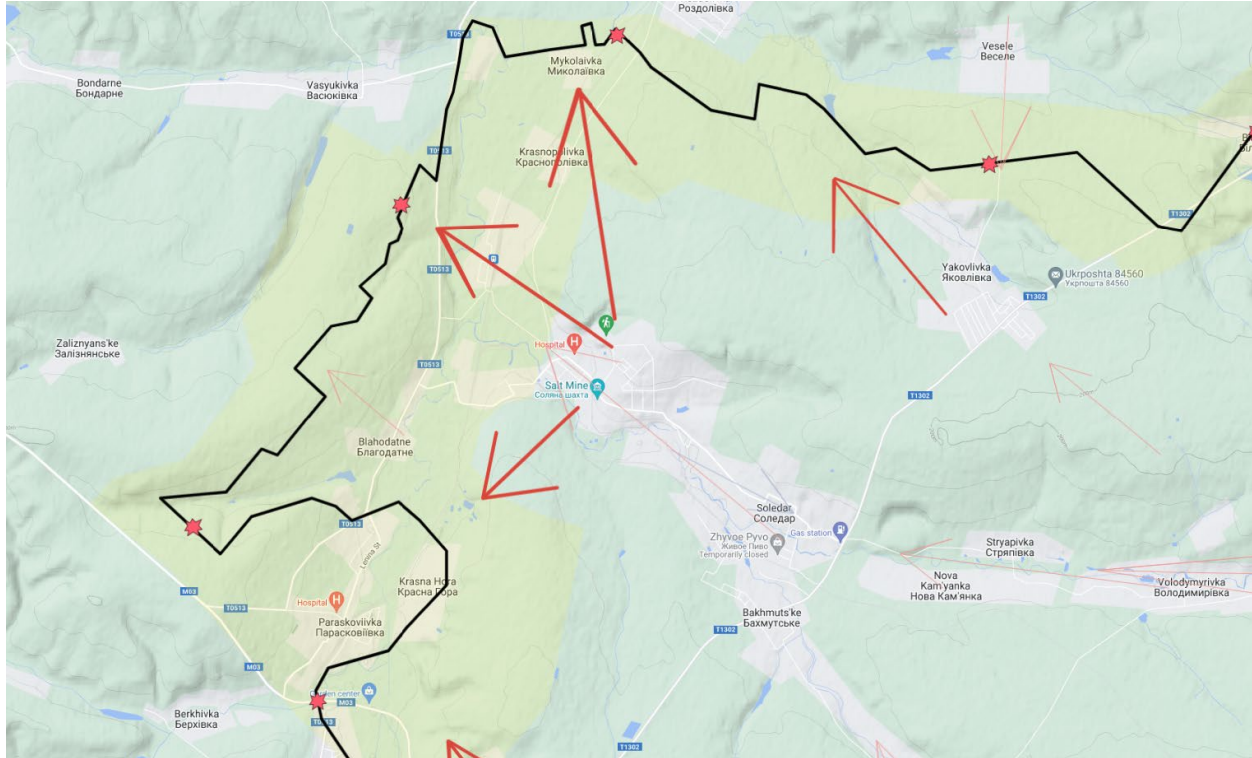
Russian forces attacked [Fedorivka](#), attempting to advance in the Siversk direction from the Soledar Operational Area.<sup>26 27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>





In the Soledar Operational Area, the situation for Ukrainian forces has become critical. Russian forces attacked [Rodzolivka](#) and [Vasyukivka](#), with the Ukrainian 93rd Mechanized Brigade holding defensive lines.<sup>28 29</sup>

***Errors and Omissions:*** There was a typographical error in the February 7, 2023 Situation Report, indicating that Blahodatne is northwest of Soledar. The correct direction is southwest, and we appreciate your understanding.

<sup>28</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

Southwest of Soledar, PMC Wagner and Russian forces continued to push through Ukrainian defenses from Blahodatne toward [Zaliznyanske](#) and [Berkhivka](#), operationally severing the M-03 Highway GLOC and putting [Krasna Hora](#) and [Paraskoviivka](#) in a deep salient.<sup>30 31 32 33</sup>

Russian Milblogger Strelkov reported that PMC Wagner had captured Krasna Hora while other sources reported heavy fighting continued, with Ukrainian forces being pushed out of the salient.<sup>34</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Losing operational control of the M-03 Highway will enable Russian forces to advance toward Slovyansk, but we maintain they lack the resources to convert the operational successes into tactical and strategic victories.

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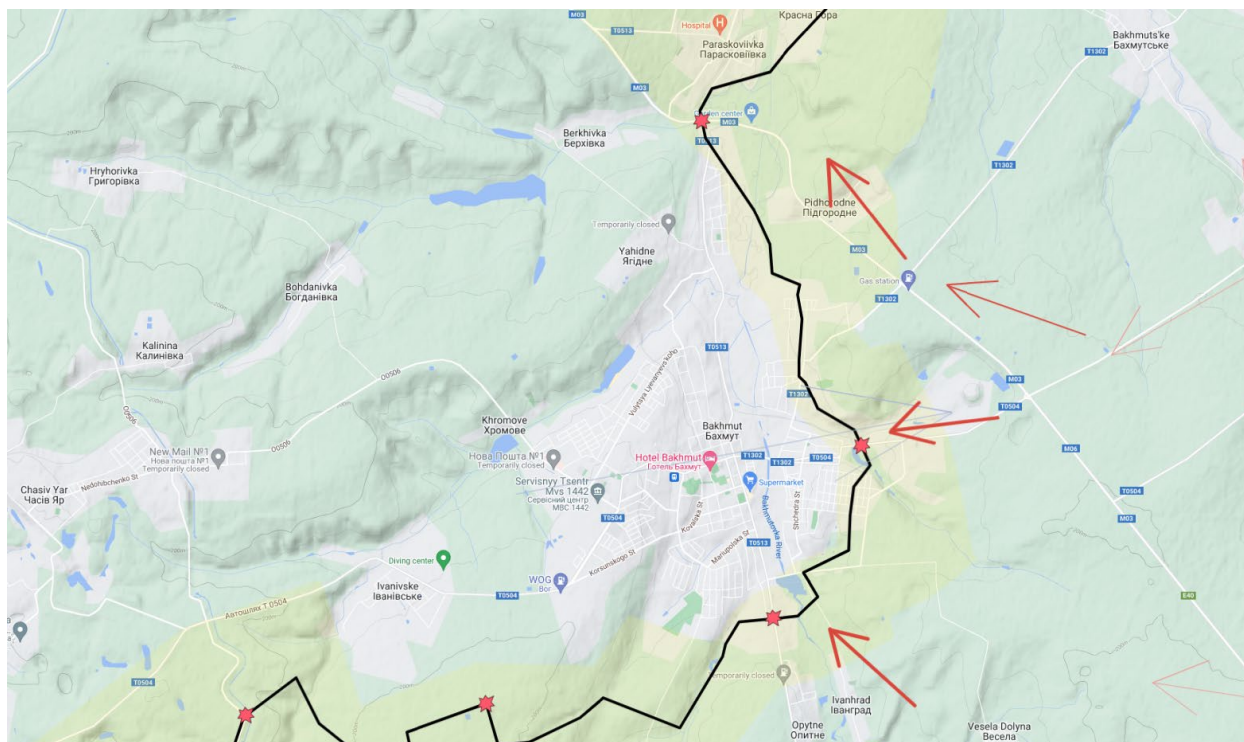
<sup>30</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15508>

<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>



In the Bakhmut Operational Area, PMC Wagner and Russian forces supported by the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and the 2nd Army Corps of the LNR sent waves of squad and platoon sized attacks into the northern northeast, southeast, and southern part of the city.<sup>35</sup>

Composite forces from Russia and PMC Wagner continued attempts to advance on [Paraskoviivka](#), with Russian forces reaching the garden center and the M-03 and T-513

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<sup>35</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

Highway junction.<sup>36 37 38</sup> The situation north of the highway junction is unknown, but Ukrainian forces are at high risk of encirclement.





NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed several thermal anomalies in eastern and central Bakhmut, indicating significant artillery activity and fighting east of the Bakhmutovka River.

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<sup>36</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15508>

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

Mercenaries with Rybar reported heavy fighting in the northern part of the city, with a geolocated video showing a Ukrainian  [BTR-4 providing infantry dismounts with fire support](#) from its 30 mm autocannon.<sup>39</sup> A second video showed that  [Ukrainian artillery](#) was targeting advancing Russian troops.<sup>40</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Both videos show how Ukrainian forces have evolved over the last 11 months, demonstrating effective combined arms tactics utilizing and coordinating armor, infantry, artillery, and surveillance.

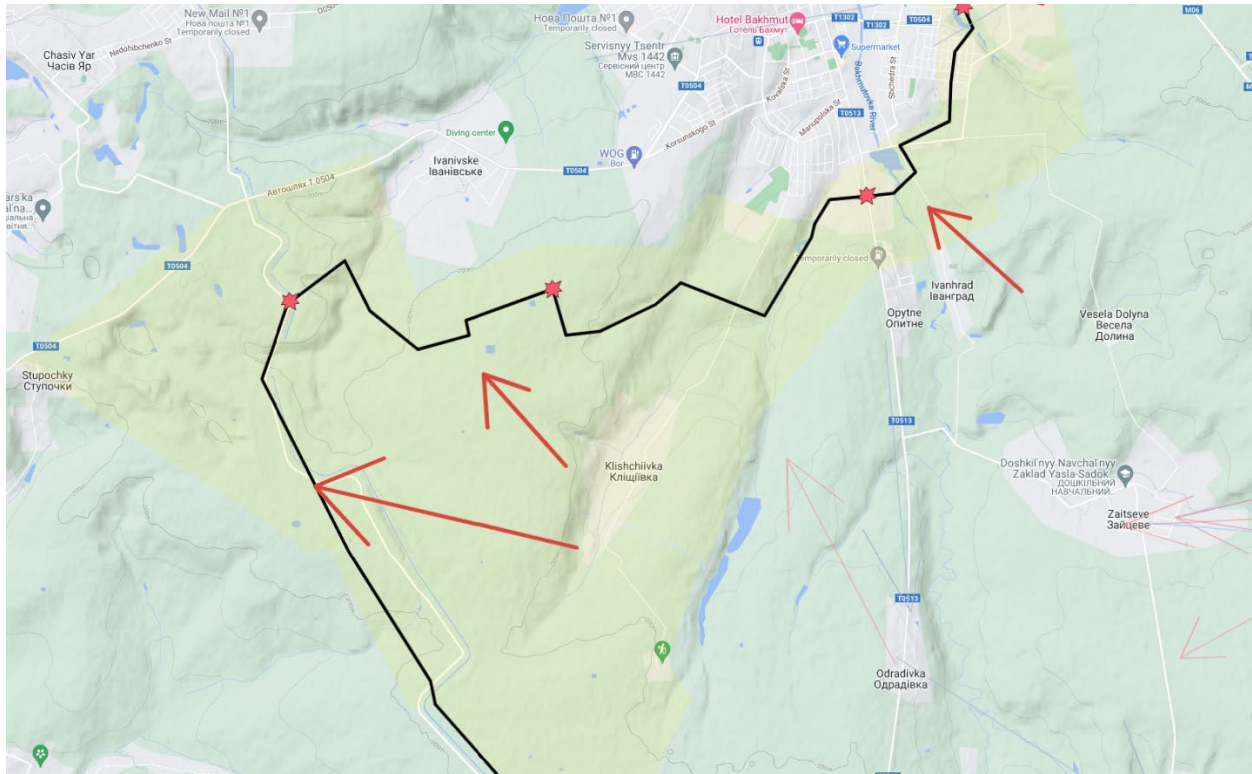
Milblogger Strelkov agreed with our assessment from September about the Russian strategy in Bakhmut, writing, "For the Wagner command and the RF Armed Forces, the capture of Bakhmut is of fundamental importance, so the battle will continue on our side until victory or until complete exhaustion of forces."<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1623291004890619904>

<sup>40</sup> <https://twitter.com/markito0171/status/1623549676384571392>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>




In the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, heavy fighting continued, with Russian forces advancing toward [Chasiv Yar](#) and [Stupochky](#).<sup>42 43</sup> PMC Wagner and Russian forces are advancing along the Siverskyi Donetsk-Donbas Canal and are within 1 to 1.5 kilometers of the T-504 Highway GLOC. Milblogger Strelkov claimed that a section of the highway between Stupochky and Ivanivske is now under Russian fire control, severing the route.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>42</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

PMC Wagner and Russian forces have not been able to advance on [Ivanivske](#), with intense fighting continuing 2 kilometers to the south and Ukrainian defensive positions attacked by Russian air assets.<sup>45 46 47</sup>

Sloviansk was attacked overnight, with a single rocket or missile striking an open area. The  [crater size was consistent](#) with an S-300 anti-aircraft missile impact.<sup>48</sup>

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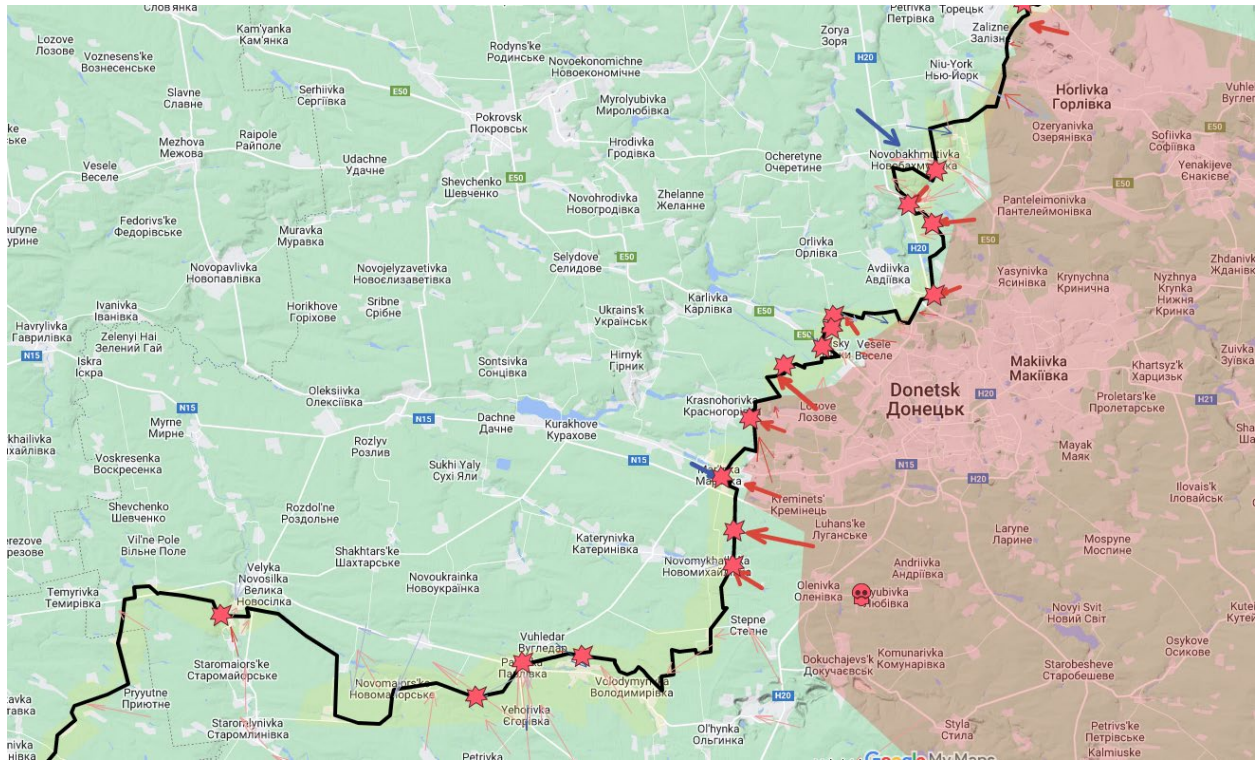
<sup>45</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>46</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

<sup>48</sup> [https://t.me/kramatorsk\\_rada/8885](https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/8885)

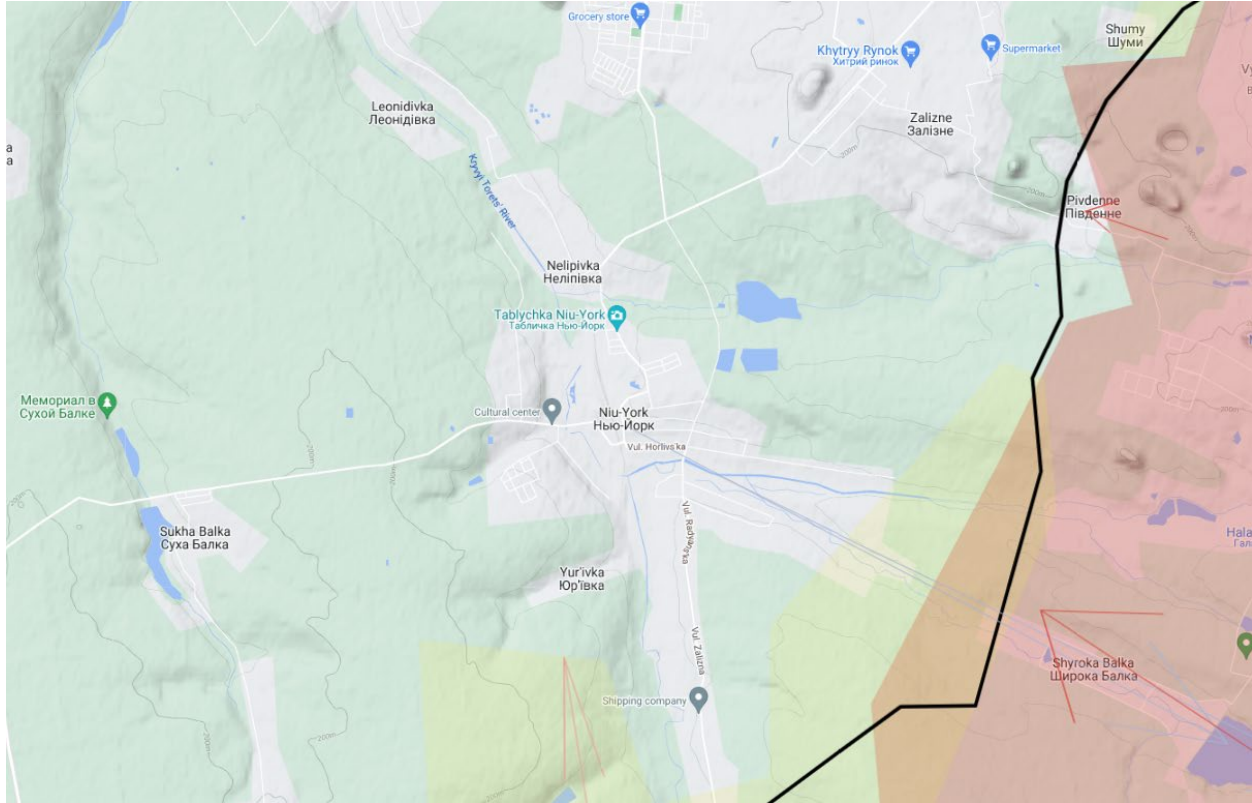
## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK




**Russian Objective:** Capture the entire region, integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, 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



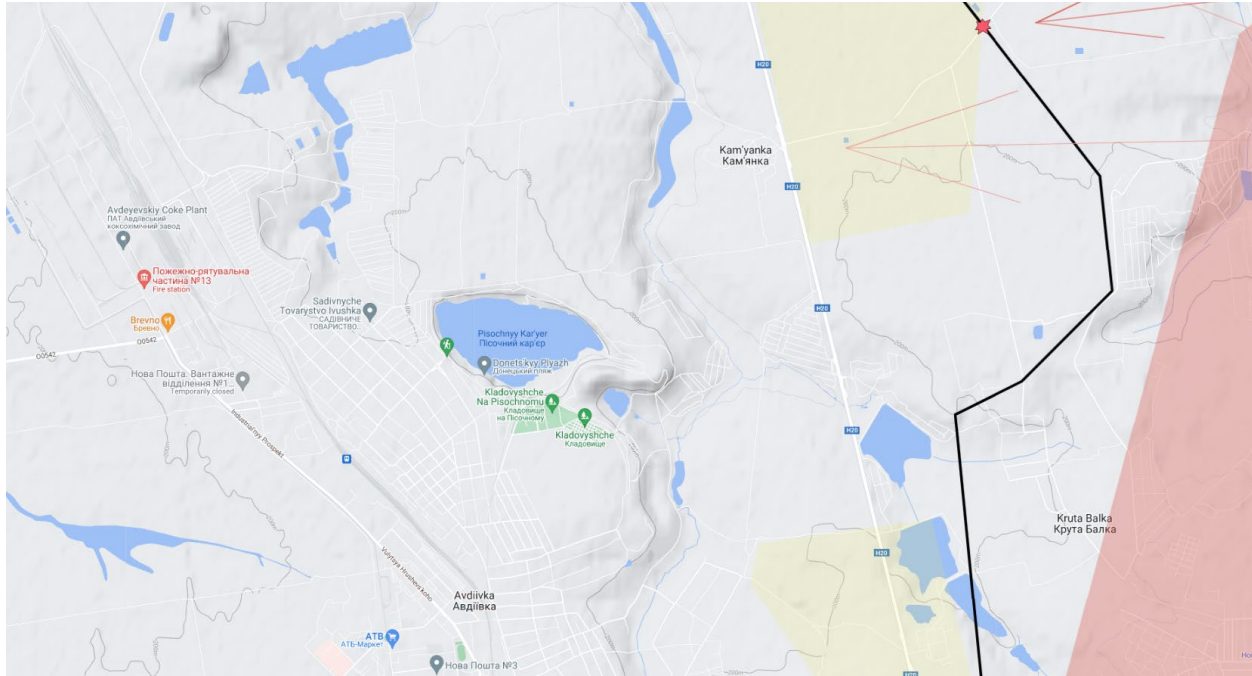


In the Toretzsk-Niu York Operational Area, Russian milblogger Strelkov reported a Russian attempt to advance on [Niu York](#), which failed.<sup>49</sup> Russian forces shelled the settlement,  [causing significant damage](#).<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

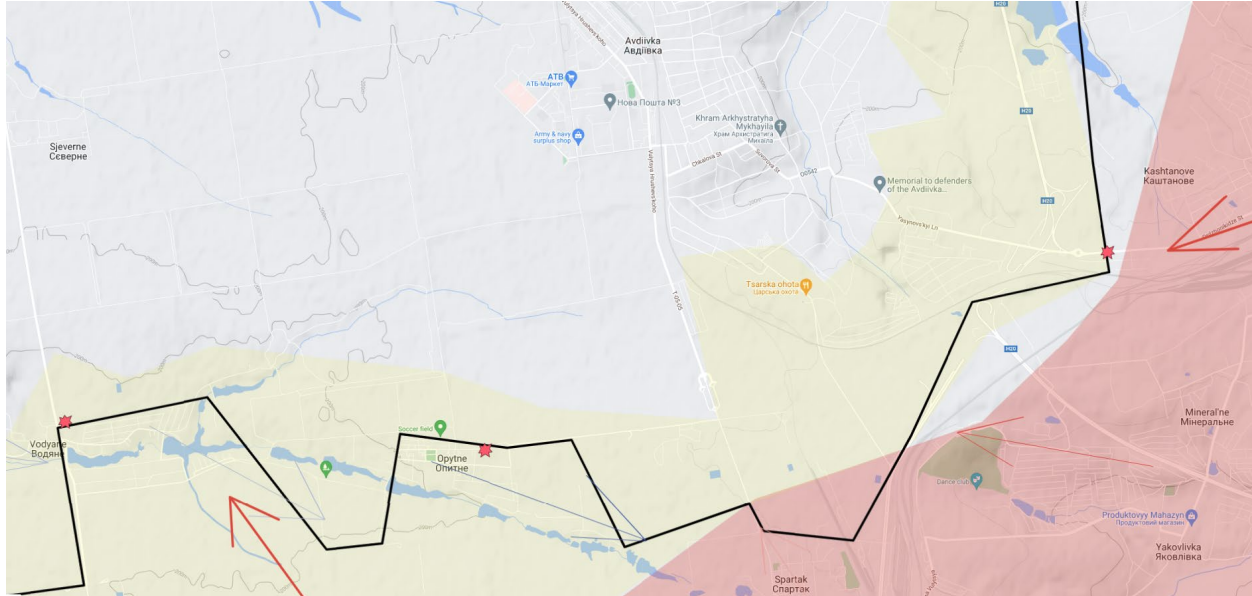
<sup>50</sup> [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/6629](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/6629)



In the Avdiivka Operational Area, elements of the Russian 1st Army Corps (previously DNR) attacked Ukrainian defensive positions near [Kamyanka](#), attempting to cross the H-20 Highway without success.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



Russian forces attempted a direct assault on Ukrainian defensive positions east of [Avdiivka](#) from Yakovlivka (the one west of Donetsk, not the one northeast of Soledar), and were unable to move the line of conflict.<sup>52 53 54</sup>

To the south, Russian forces attempted to advance from the recently fully recaptured [Vodyane](#) with support from the Russian VKS.<sup>55 56 57</sup> Elements of the 1st Army Corps also

<sup>52</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

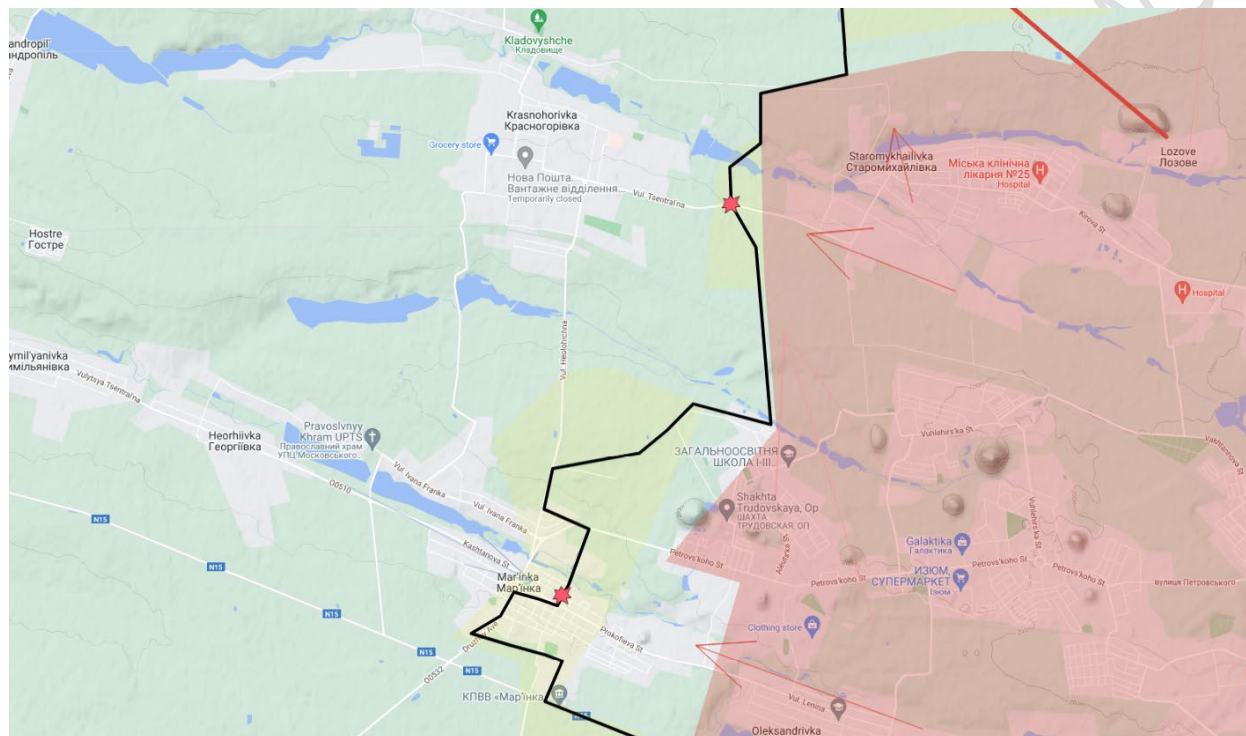
<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>


<sup>55</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>56</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>57</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

attempted to push into [Pervomaiske](#) from Pisky and remained unable to advance.<sup>58 59 60</sup>



In the Marinka Operational Area, Russian forces renewed their attempts to advance on [Krasnohorivka](#).<sup>61 62</sup>  [New videos](#) and pictures showed that fighting continued in the center of [Marinka](#) along Druzhby Avenue, with Russian milblogger dropping earlier claims that Ukrainian forces


<sup>58</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>59</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

<sup>60</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

<sup>61</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>62</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/43413>

had been pushed to the western outskirts.<sup>63</sup> Russian forces have deployed the 150th to lead the new assault,  [which did not start well](#), and Strelkov described the effort as "sluggish."<sup>64</sup>

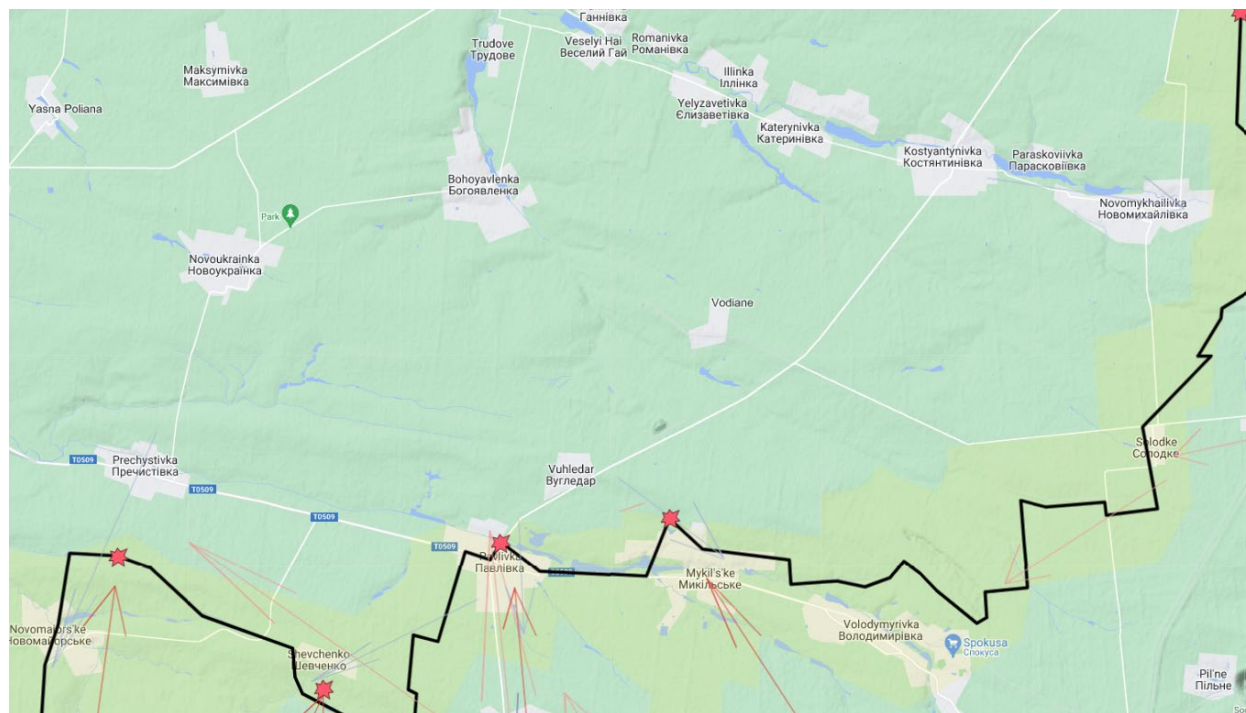
**ASSESSMENT:** In the above-referenced video, a platoon of Russian troops came under mortar fire from Ukrainian forces. Any NATO-trained non-commissioned officer will start screaming, "spread out," watching the opening seconds. The Russian troops cluster in an open area during the attack while still taking fire. They retreated through an open pathway, leaving their wounded behind while demonstrating a lack of discipline and training.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15506>

<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

<sup>65</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15492>



In the Vuhledar Operational Area, GSAFU reported an attack in the area of [Bohoyavlenka](#) was repulsed.<sup>66</sup>


**ASSESSMENT:** This is well behind the known line of conflict, and we are unsure if this report is in error or if there is a second Bohoyavlenka we could not locate.


RMOD reported that Ukrainian positions in [Vuhledar](#) were hit by artillery and airstrikes.<sup>67</sup> Ukrainian milbloggers reported that Russian assaults continued that were


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<sup>66</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>67</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

ineffective and caused catastrophic losses of equipment and personnel. Strelkov wrote, "Based on the analysis of incoming...information, the [recent] assault on Vuhledar was repelled with heavy losses for the units of the Russian Federation Armed Forces participating in it."<sup>68</sup> A video showed a Russian armored platoon  [driving into a minefield](#) and coming under artillery fire.<sup>69</sup> Only one vehicle escaped, abandoning the rest of the unit. The survivors mounted a second infantry fighting vehicle, with some fleeing on foot, abandoning a T-80 tank that appeared to have either hit a mine or suffered a mechanical failure.

After months of speculations and a handful of questionable pictures, the DNR People's Militia Telegram channel showed members of the 1st Army Corps using a  [World War 2-era 152 mm D-1 towed artillery piece](#) in combat.<sup>70</sup> The D-1 was introduced in 1943 and built through 1949. It requires a crew of eight and has a maximum range of 12 kilometers.

Russian-occupied Horlivka and Donetsk were shelled. In Donetsk,  [near the Galaxy shopping center](#), DNR officials

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<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/3896>

<sup>69</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1623532179220500480>

<sup>70</sup> <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1623598116342755328>

claimed two people were killed.<sup>71</sup> <sup>72</sup> Overnight, the Leninsky District was hit by rockets,  [causing a large fire](#).<sup>73</sup>

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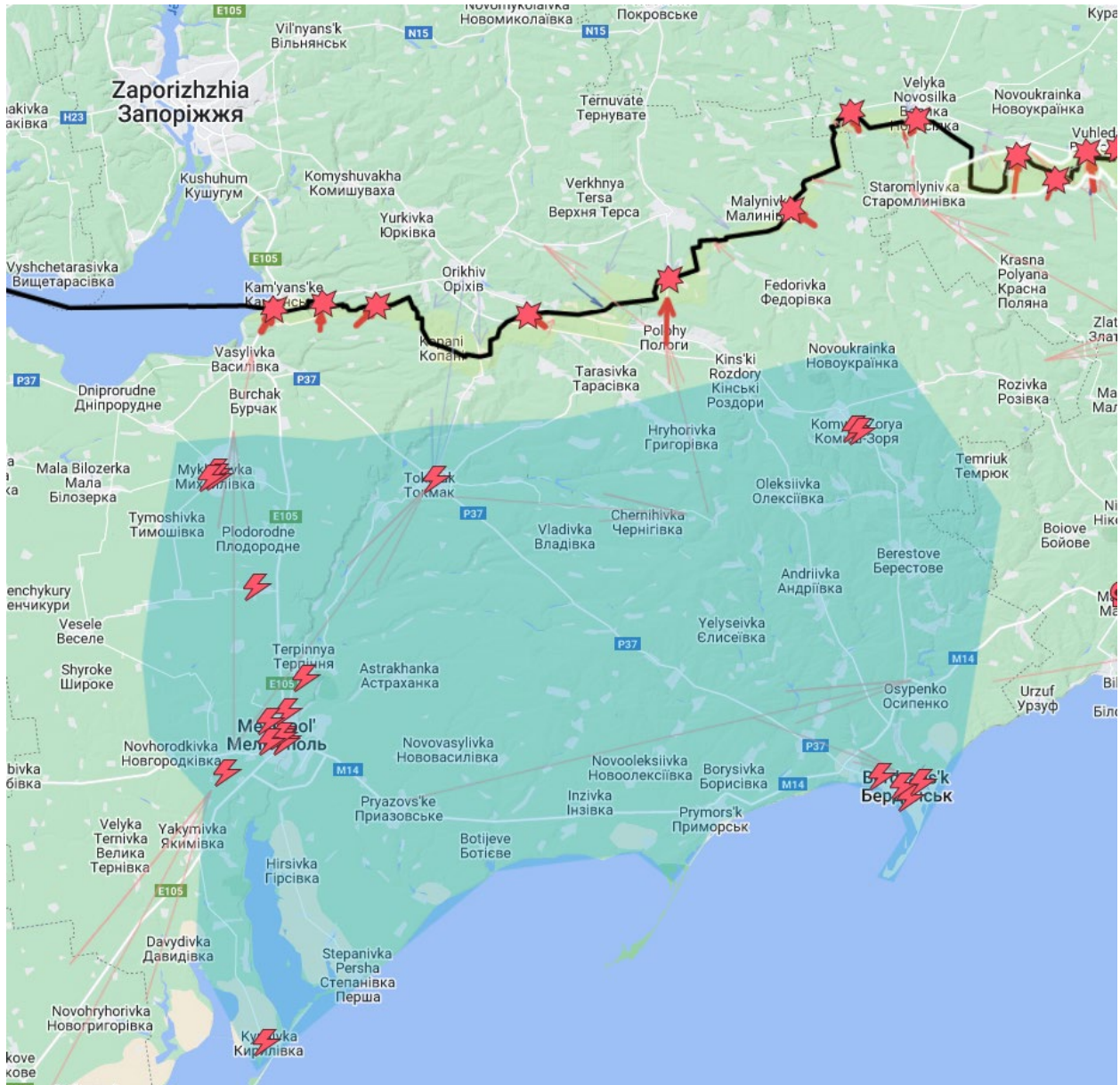
<sup>71</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56336>

<sup>72</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56312>

<sup>73</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56401>

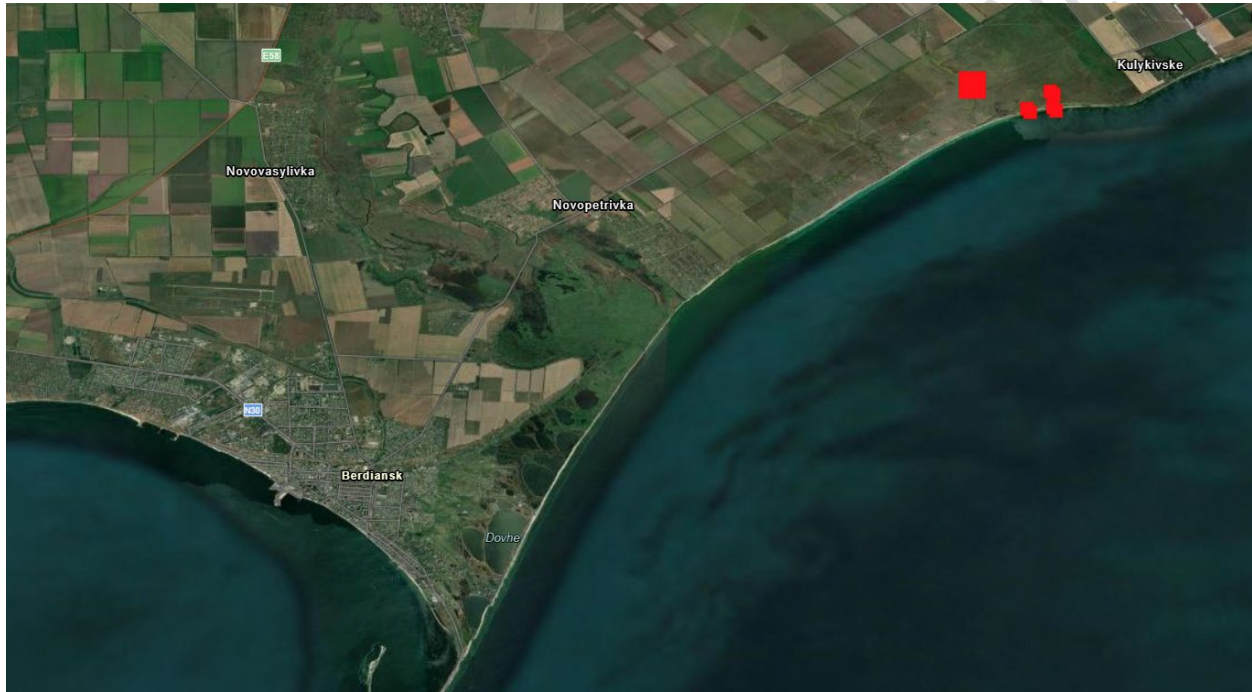


# ZAPORIZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Prevent a Ukrainian offensive into Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, capture the remainder of the oblast

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




In Berdiansk, there were reports of several loud explosions on social media.<sup>74</sup> NASA FIRMS showed a large area of thermal anomalies in the coastal area northeast of the city.


The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is unchanged.

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<sup>74</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6520>

## BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Severe weather kept the Black Sea Fleet in port, with one vessel on patrol and no missile carriers.<sup>75</sup> High winds created waves as high as three meters and  [damaged coastal areas](#).<sup>76</sup> The Kerch Strait Ferry was suspended for a fourth day due to the high seas, and there were significant traffic jams to cross the bridge.<sup>77</sup>

In Sevastopol near Yashmovy beach, Russian engineers are building  [concrete defensive structures and pillboxes](#) into the hillside.<sup>78</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** The ferry closure entering the fourth day and the reduction in car and bus traffic across the bridge is likely delaying shipments of material to support Russian forces in Crimea, Kherson, and Zaporizhia.

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<sup>75</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22111>

<sup>76</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22132>


<sup>77</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22144>

<sup>78</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22155>

## WESTERN AND 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

Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery strikes across the Dnipro River.<sup>79 80</sup> In Kherson, a children's outpatient and rehabilitation clinic was shelled for the fourth time, killing one person.<sup>81</sup> Water and sewer infrastructure was also attacked, critically wounding two employees making repairs from previous attacks.<sup>82</sup> The  [residential areas were also shelled](#), causing significant damage.<sup>83</sup>

East of the Dnipro, Russian-occupied Nova Kakhovka and Kakhovka were shelled.<sup>84 85</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>80</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)


<sup>81</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3616>

<sup>82</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/34453>

<sup>83</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3613>

<sup>84</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56262>


<sup>85</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/34436>

In Dnipropetrovsk, Nikopol was heavily shelled overnight,  [damaging or destroying more than two dozen residential buildings.](#)<sup>86</sup> One person was killed in the attack.

## NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE

**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

In Chernihiv, Russian air assets attacked Semenivka, striking an  [industrial area and collapsing a building.](#)<sup>87</sup> Two people were killed, and two more were missing at the time of publication.<sup>88</sup>

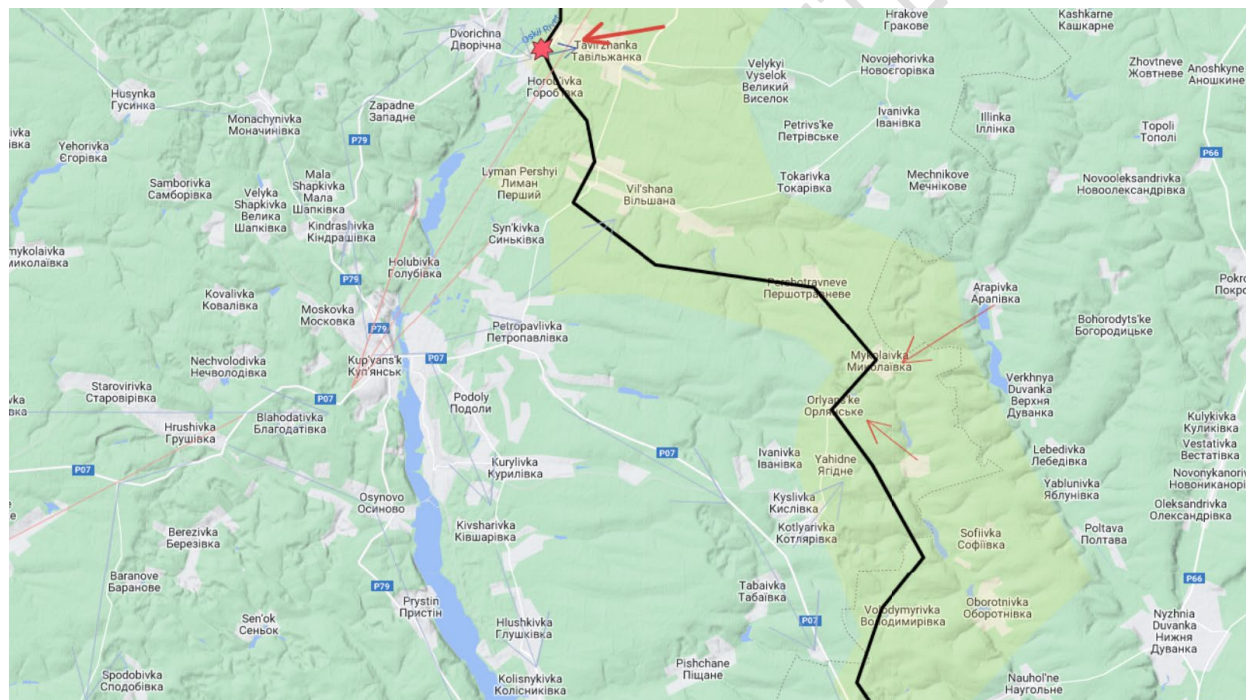
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<sup>86</sup> [https://t.me/mykola\\_lukashuk/3444](https://t.me/mykola_lukashuk/3444)

<sup>87</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/76767>

<sup>88</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/76749>

In the Sumy oblast, 87 artillery shells and mortars fired by Russian forces from across the border struck the hromadas of Krasnopillia, Bilopillia, Esman, Nova Sloboda, Yunakivka, and Seredyna-Buda. Krasnopillia was hit 33 times, while Nova Sloboda was struck 22 times. There weren't any casualties reported.<sup>89</sup>



The Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Oleg Sinegubhov reported a significant increase in artillery fire and positional fighting along the entire line of conflict

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/9/7388559/>

on the Kharkiv-Luhansk administrative border.<sup>90</sup> In Dvorichna, two civilians were killed by Russian artillery. Russian and Ukrainian sources reported widespread artillery strikes but were non-specific about the fighting locations.<sup>91 92 93</sup>

Both combatants have significant military resources in the Kupyansk operational area.

## **RUSSIAN FRONT**

There wasn't significant activity.

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<sup>90</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/5521>

<sup>91</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

<sup>92</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

<sup>93</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/24039](https://t.me/mod_russia/24039) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]