



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



February 9, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.


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 351

It has been 3,269 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on February 27, 2014.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

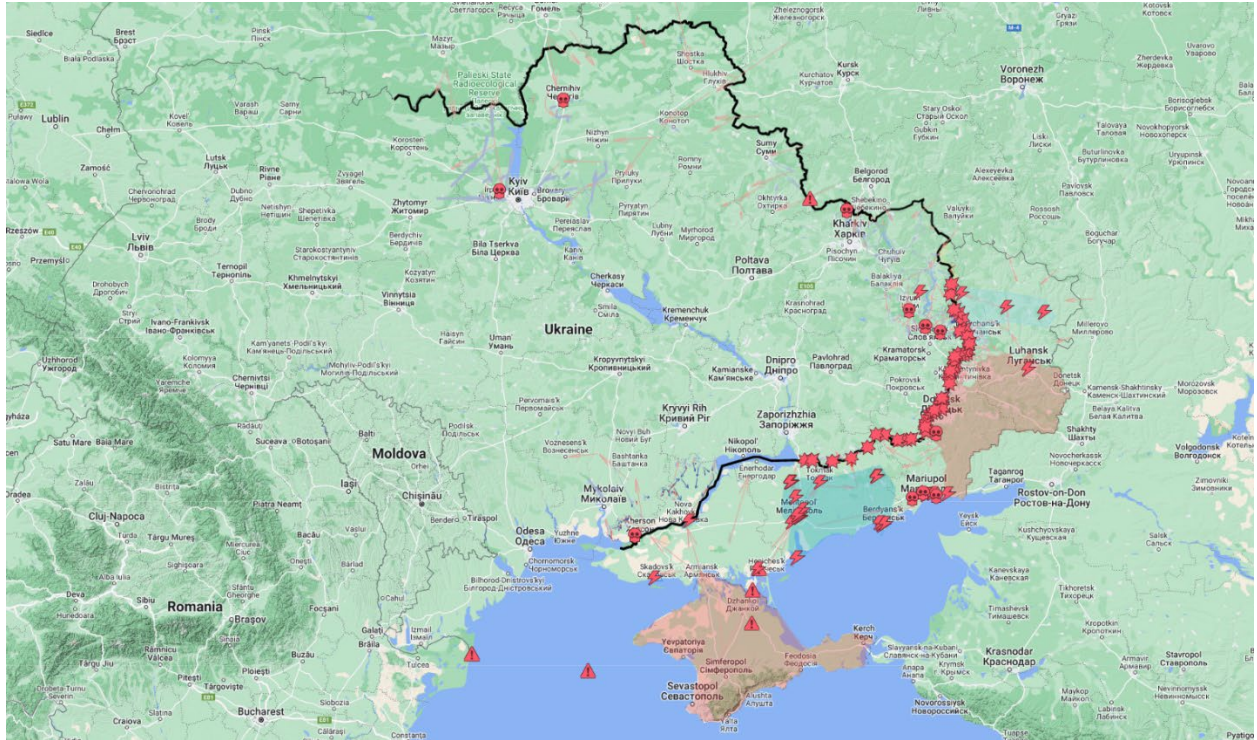
We assess the following:

1. We maintain that Russia's large-scale offensive started in the Theater of War, and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMD) is attempting to retake the initiative throughout the theatre of war.
2. We maintain there is a high chance that Russian forces will launch a larger, concentrated offensive in one or more directions before February 24.
3. We maintain that early data indicates that Russian tactics and the quality of training for mobile units is only incrementally better than the first wave into Ukraine in October, and the Russian military within Ukraine remains incapable of **dramatically** changing the battlefield situation in the coming weeks.
4. We maintain the situation in Bakhmut remains critical for Ukrainian forces.

5. We assess that Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu has politically outmaneuvered Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin, with Prigozhin confirming that he is longer recruiting from Russian penal colonies.
6. 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.
7. Russian forces continued punitive missile strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure, launching seven Shahed-136 kamikaze drones and 71 cruise missiles over the last 24 hours during a break in the weather.
8. We maintain that Russian forces will continue to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.
9. 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, with even fewer Kalibr missiles involved in the February 9-10 attacks compared to January 25-26.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. We maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of an offensive operation is negligible.

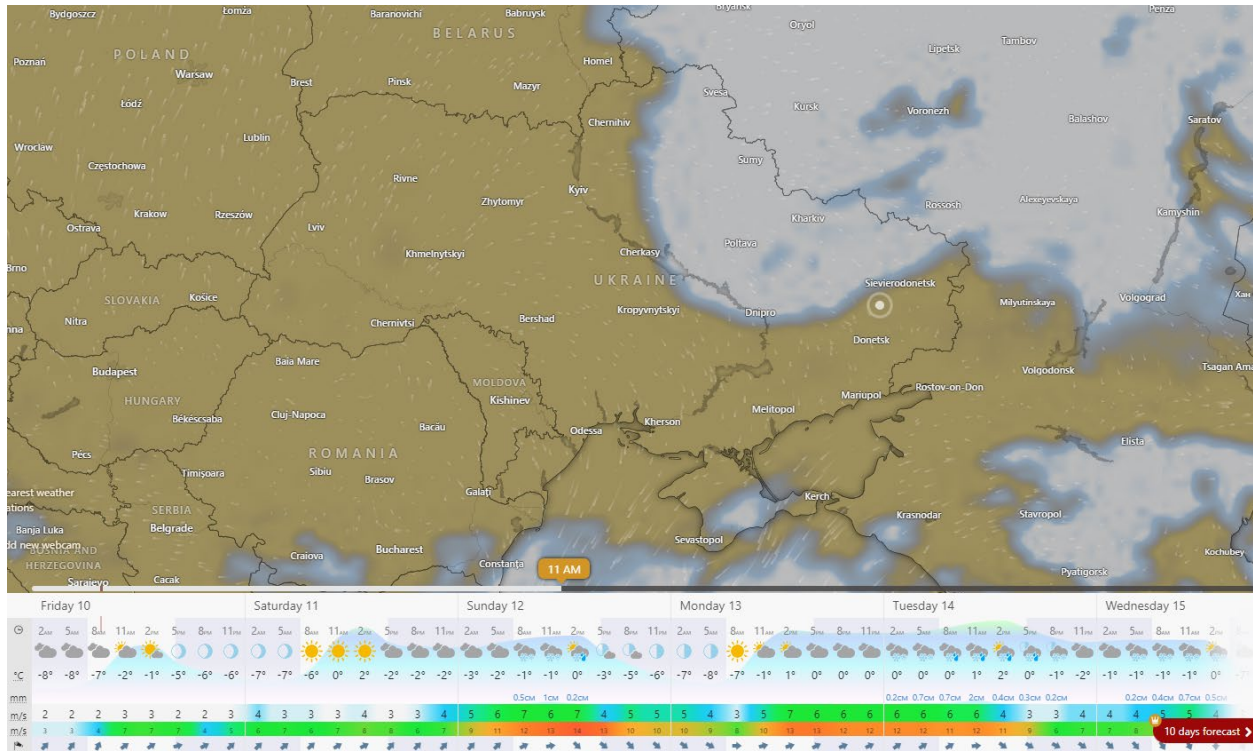
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



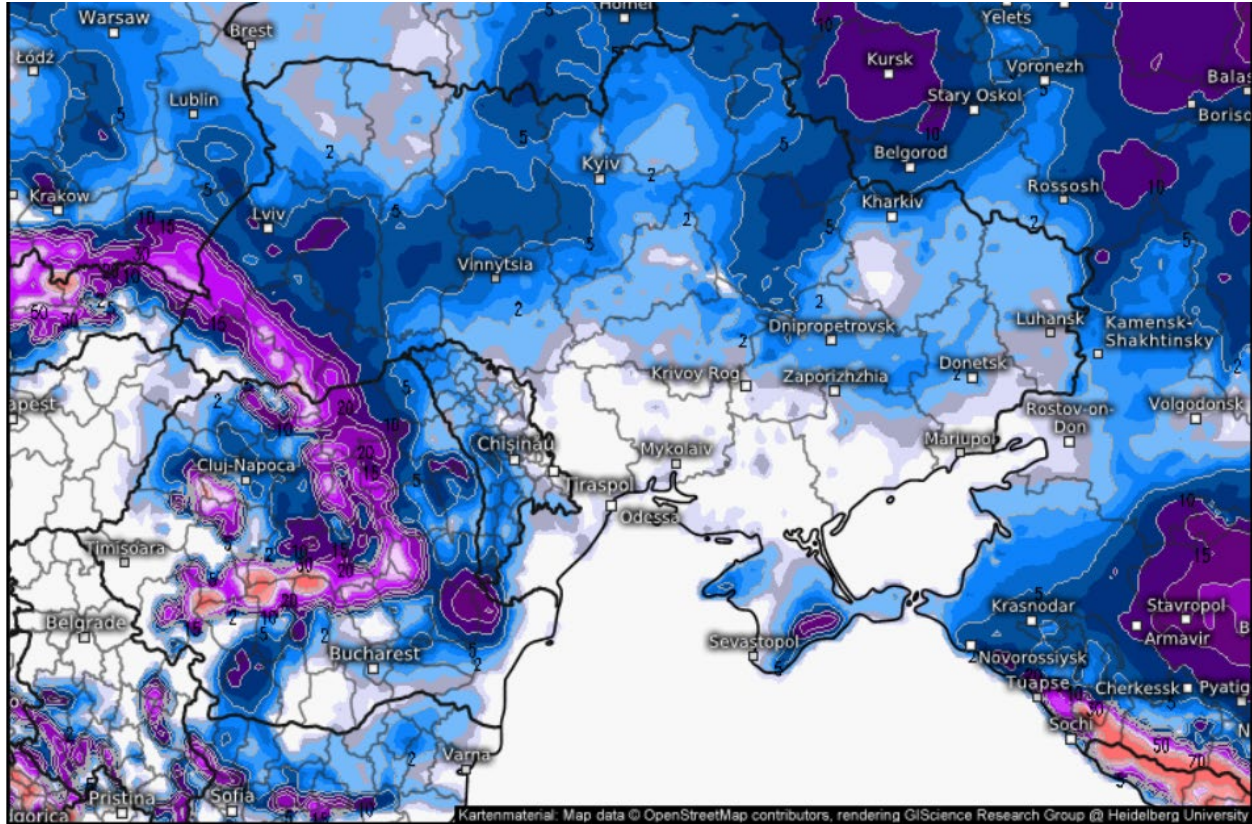
About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

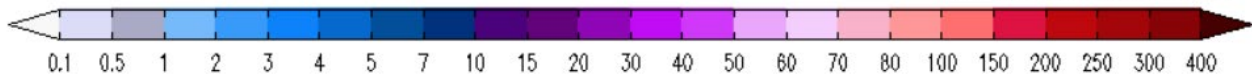


Most of Ukraine was clear, with cloud cover over parts of Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and the southern part of occupied Crimea oblasts. Temperatures are moderating, with a storm system moving into western Ukraine on Saturday and spreading across most of the country on Sunday. High temperatures will range from +5 to -10 Celcius.



Snow depth (cm)

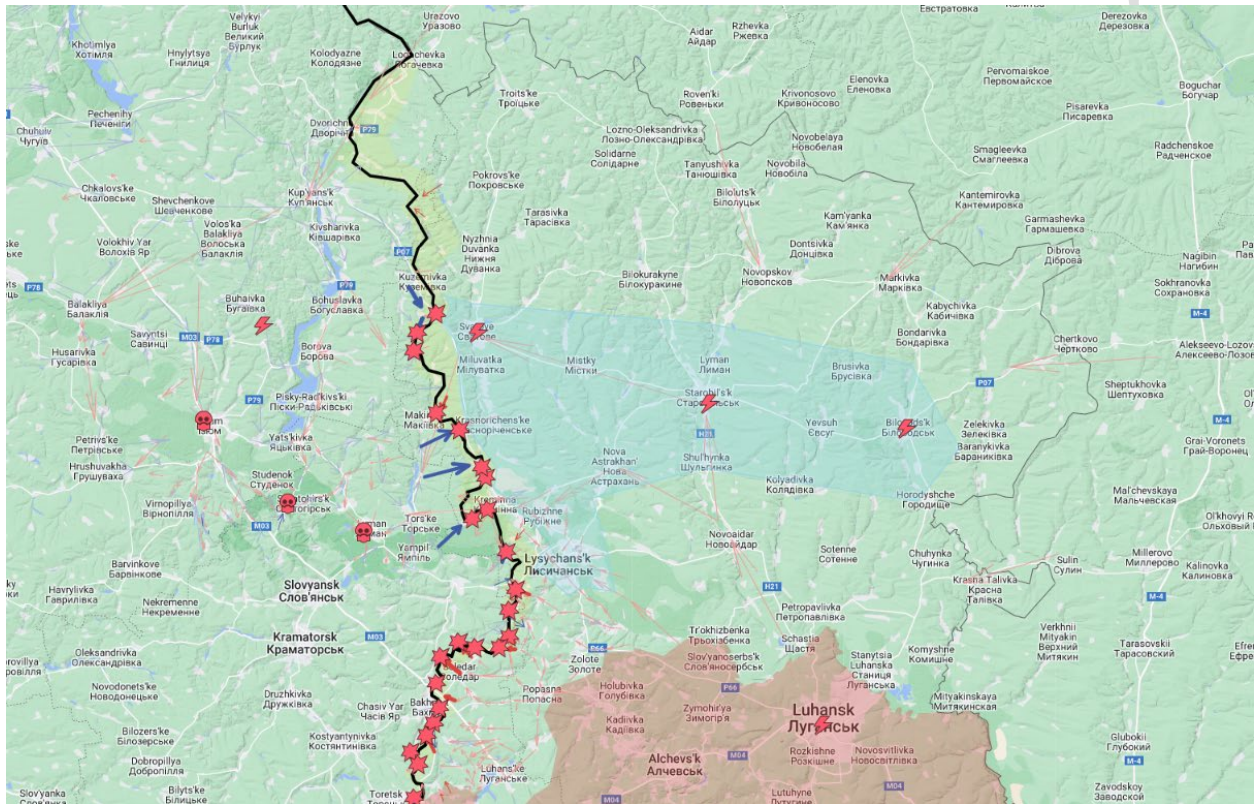
Valid for
Fri 02/10/2023, 01:00am CST



Snowpack continues to melt and evaporate in southern Ukraine, except in Crimea, which has experienced stormy weather for four days. One to three centimeters of snow remains in many areas along the line of conflict.

DONBAS REGION

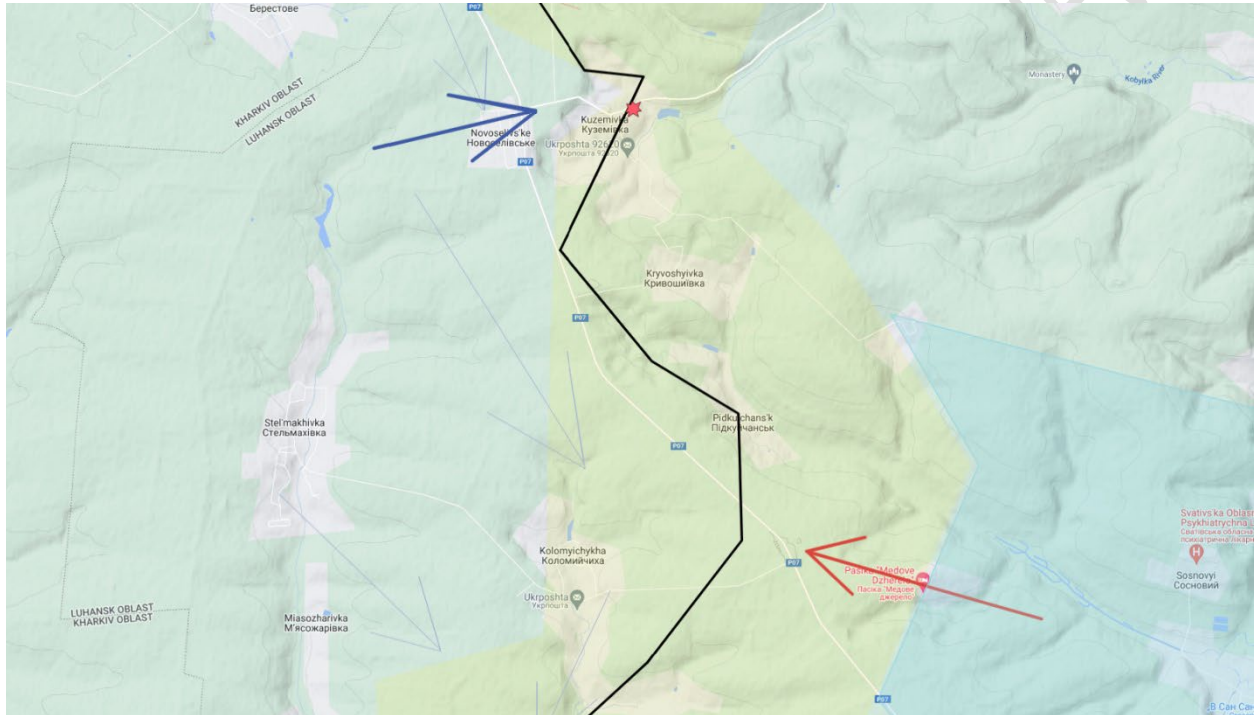
LUHANSK



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

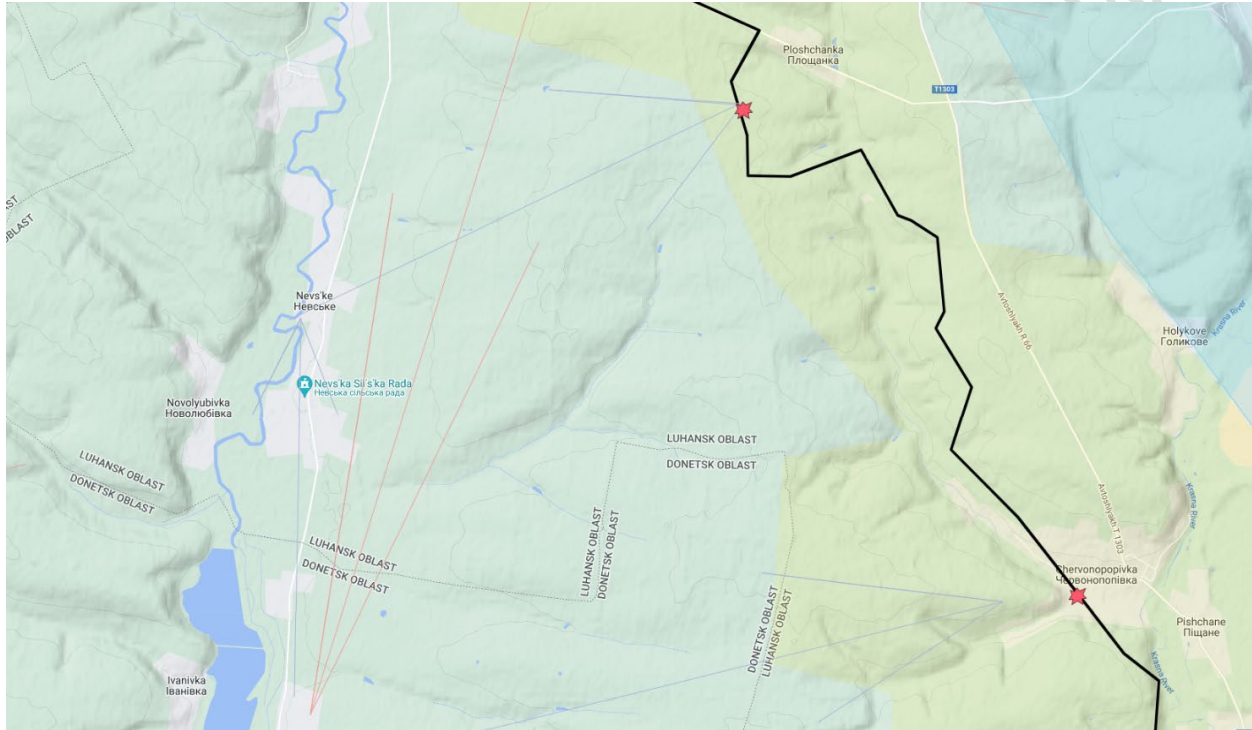
The Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, Serhei Haidai, reported that the Russian offensive continued with the most significant fighting concentrated in the Kreminna Operational Area.¹



In the Svatove Operational Direction, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported that artillery exchanges continued in [Novoselivske](#) with no change in the

¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8503>

situation.^{2 3 4} Russian forces attempted an advance on [Stelmakhivka](#) and were unsuccessful.⁵



In the Kreminna Operational Area, GSAFU reported that Russian forces shelled the area of [Chervonpopivka](#) throughout the day.^{6 7}

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

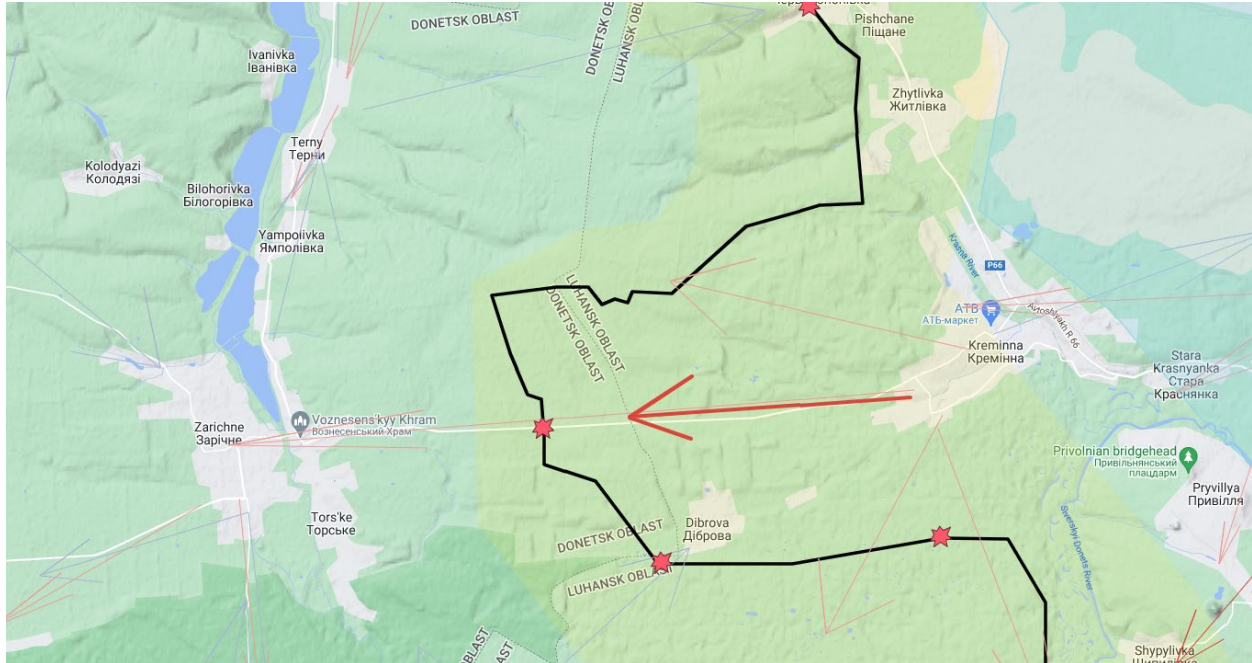
³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/24064 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)



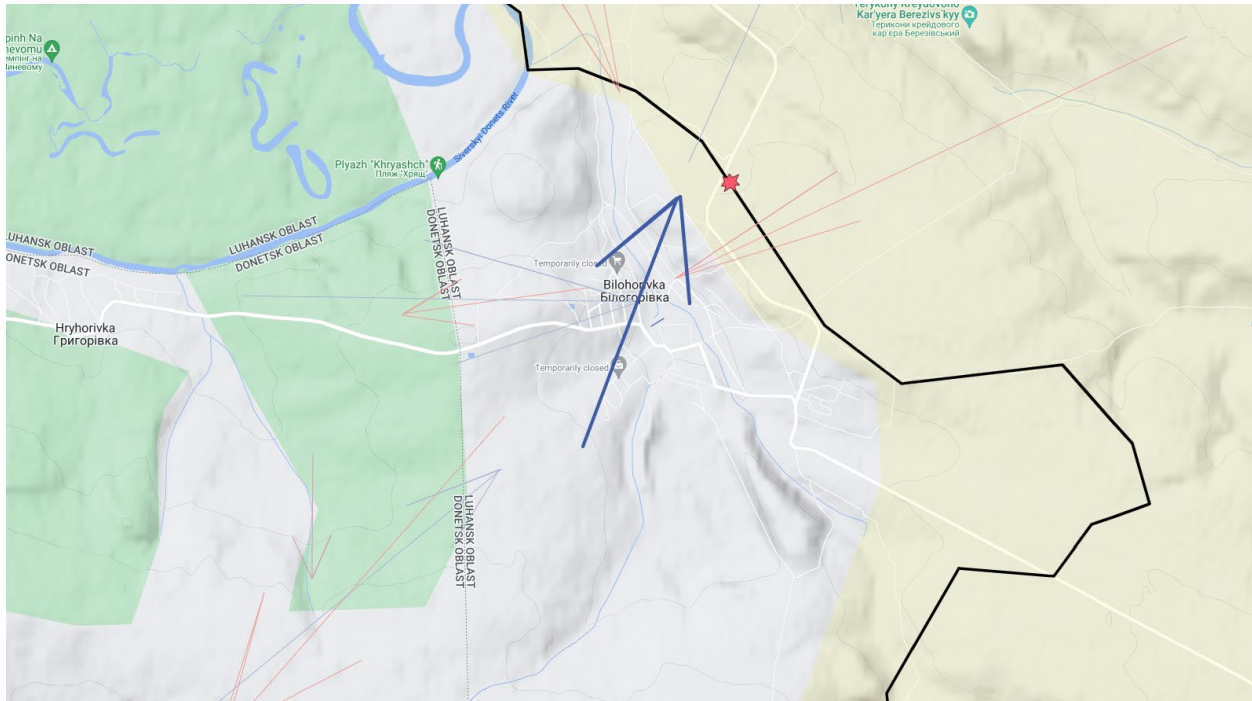
West of [Kremmina](#), heavy fighting continued between squad and platoon sized units, with Russian and Ukrainian forces trading artillery fire near [Dibrova](#), [Kuzmyne](#), and the Serebryansky Woods.^{8 9 10 11} All reports indicated that Ukrainian forces held the existing defensive positions.

⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

¹⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

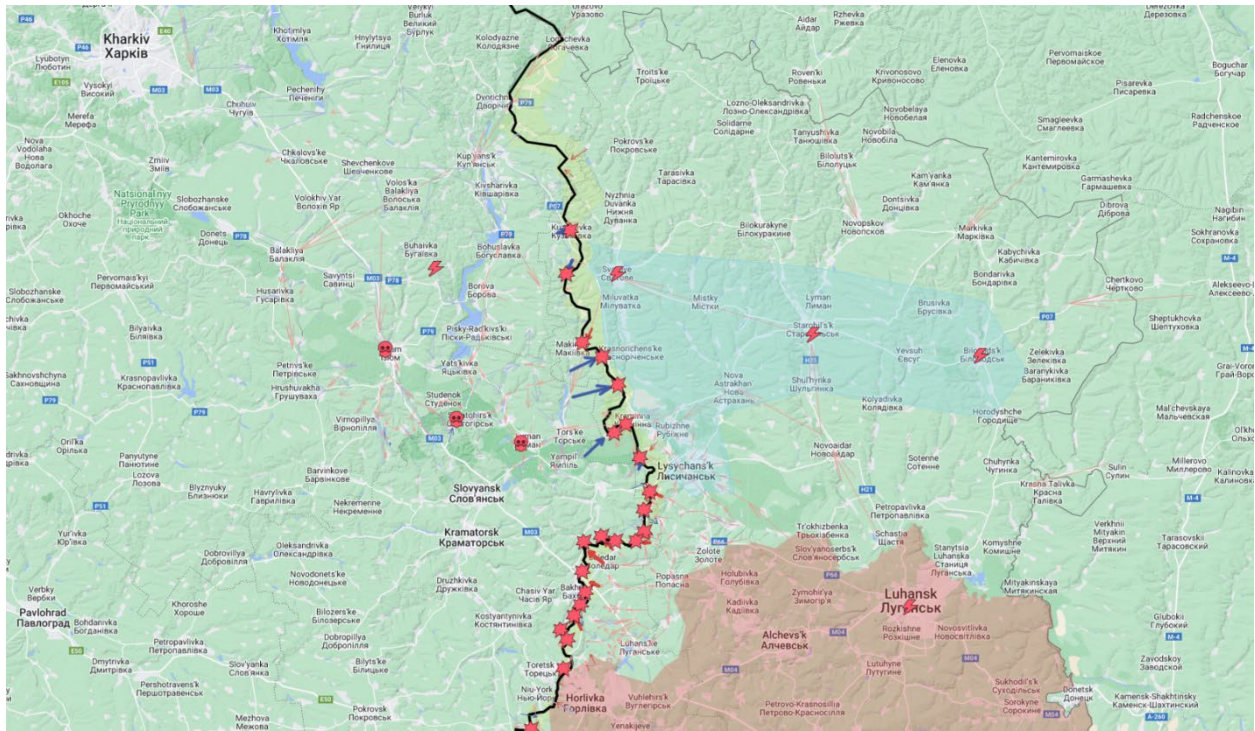
¹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/24064 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



In the Lysychansk Operational Area, Russian forces continued their attacks on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] with no change in the situation.¹²

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

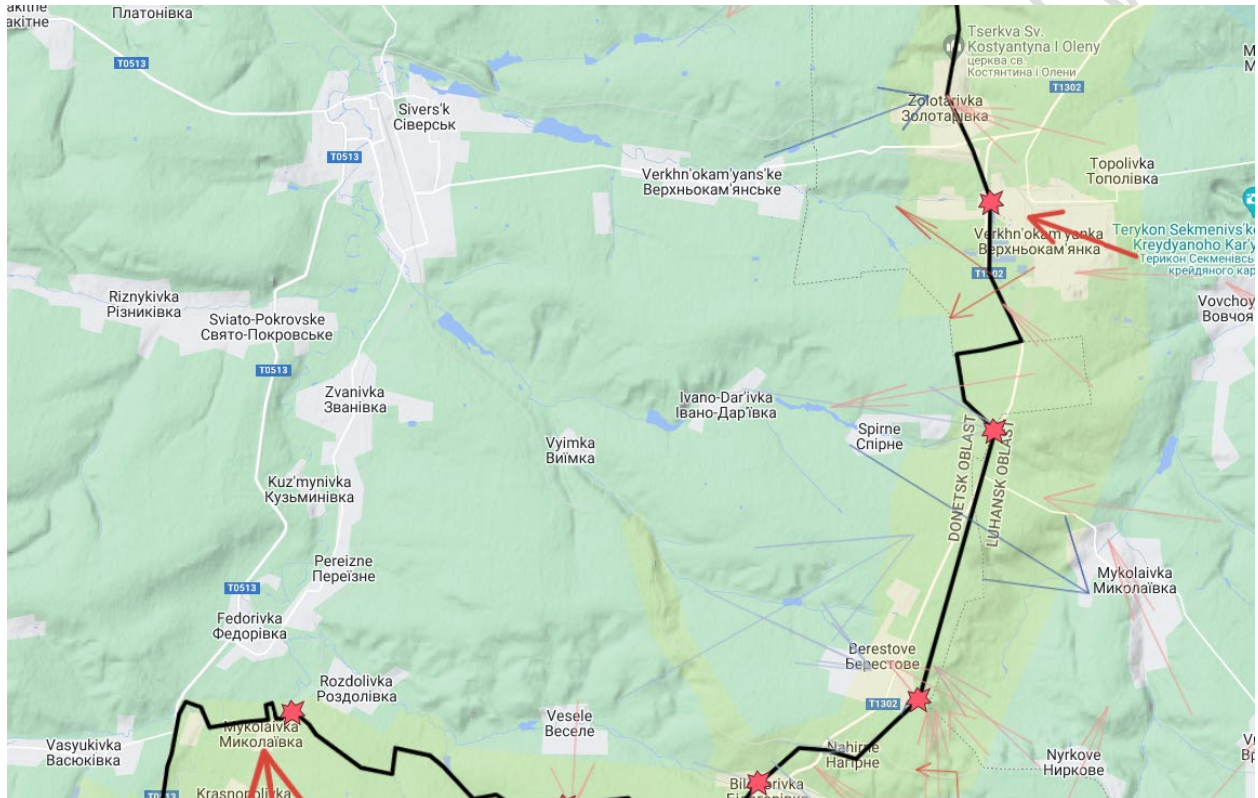
NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko reported that “the escalation of hostilities has been felt throughout the frontline in recent days.”¹³



In the Siversk Operational Area, elements of the Russian 2nd Army Corps (previously the Luhansk People's Republic Militia) continued fighting east of [Spirne](#).^{14 15 16} Mercenaries

¹³ <https://youtu.be/1QaEnLBfZjw>

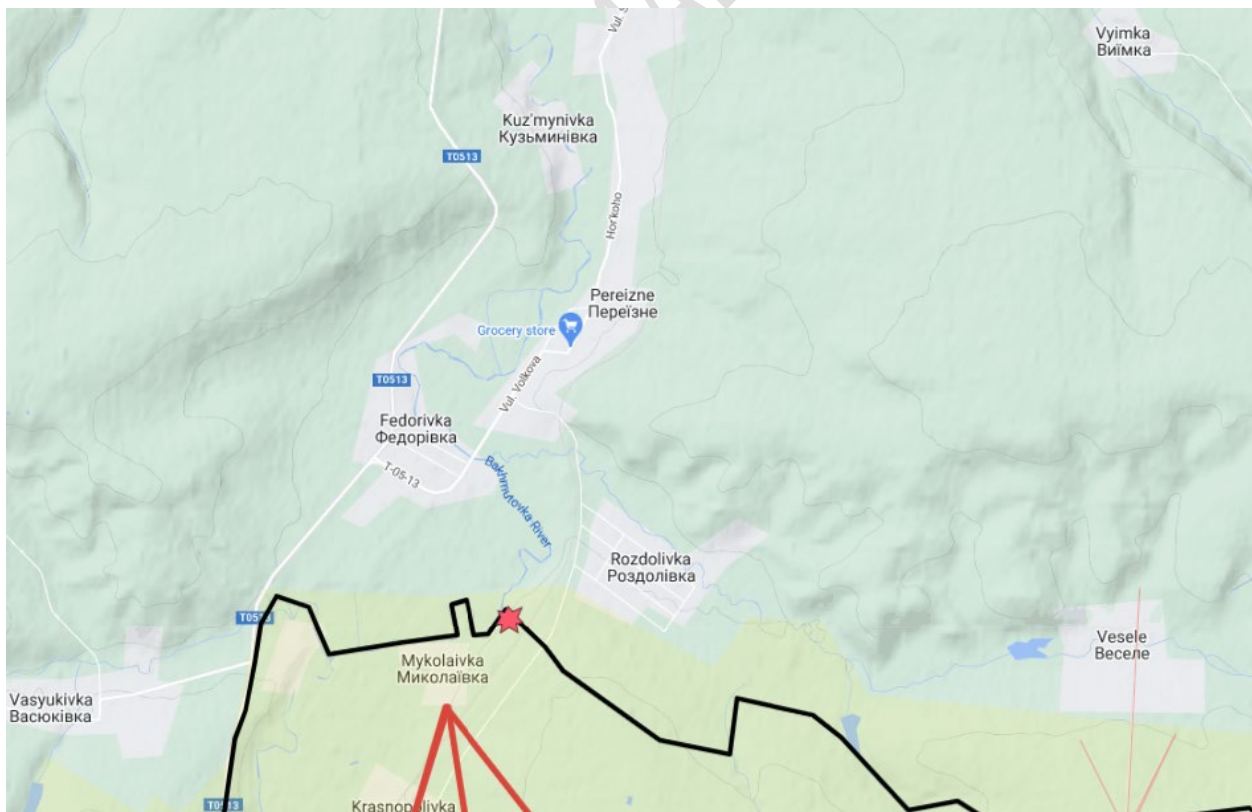
¹⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/43461>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

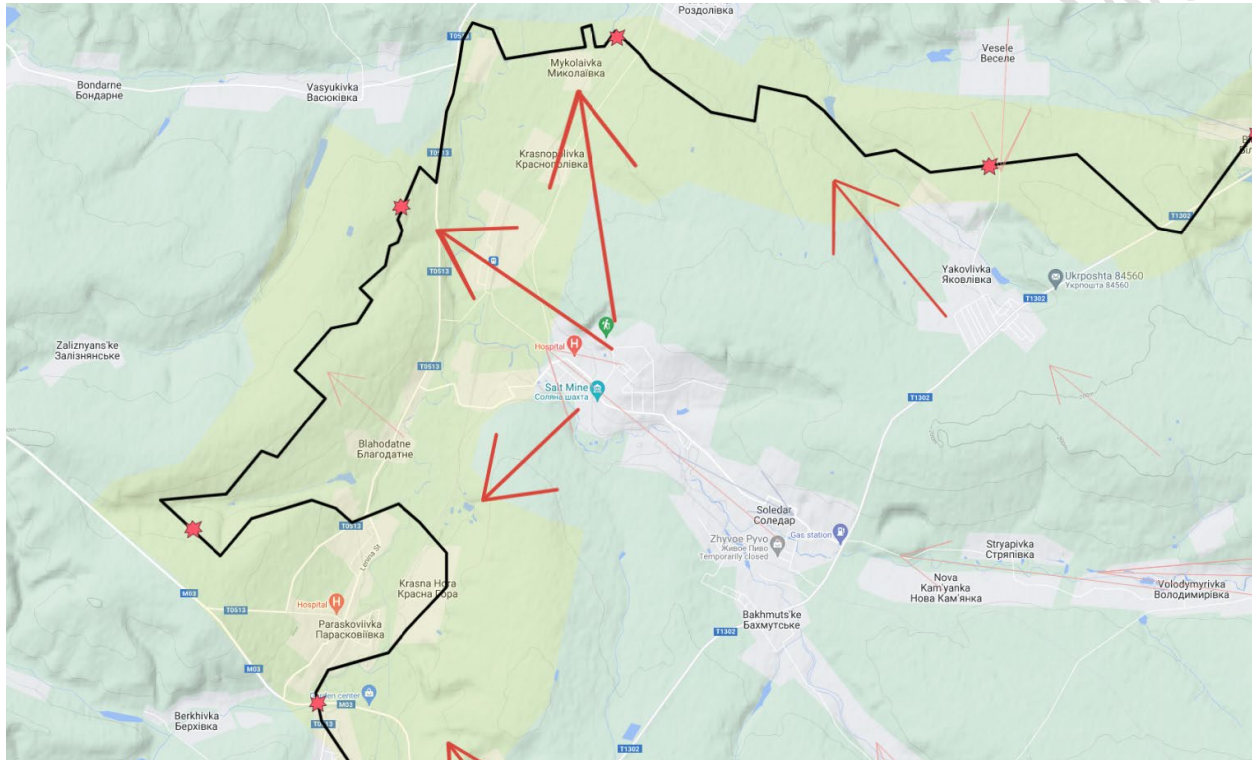
¹⁶ https://t.me/ghost_of_novorossia/9683

with Rybar reported that Ukrainian forces now control the gas compressor station and are using it as a strong point.

GSAFU reported [Vyimka](#) was attacked for the second day in a row, and Russian forces were repulsed. We maintain our previous assessment that these attacks are being conducted by squad or platoon sized units moving along a tree line that extends northwest from Nahirne. We updated the map to show that region as contested but did not move the line of conflict as there is no evidence this is part of a larger offensive.



Russian forces continued attacks in the direction of [Fedorivka](#) from the Soledar Operational Area without success.^{17 18}

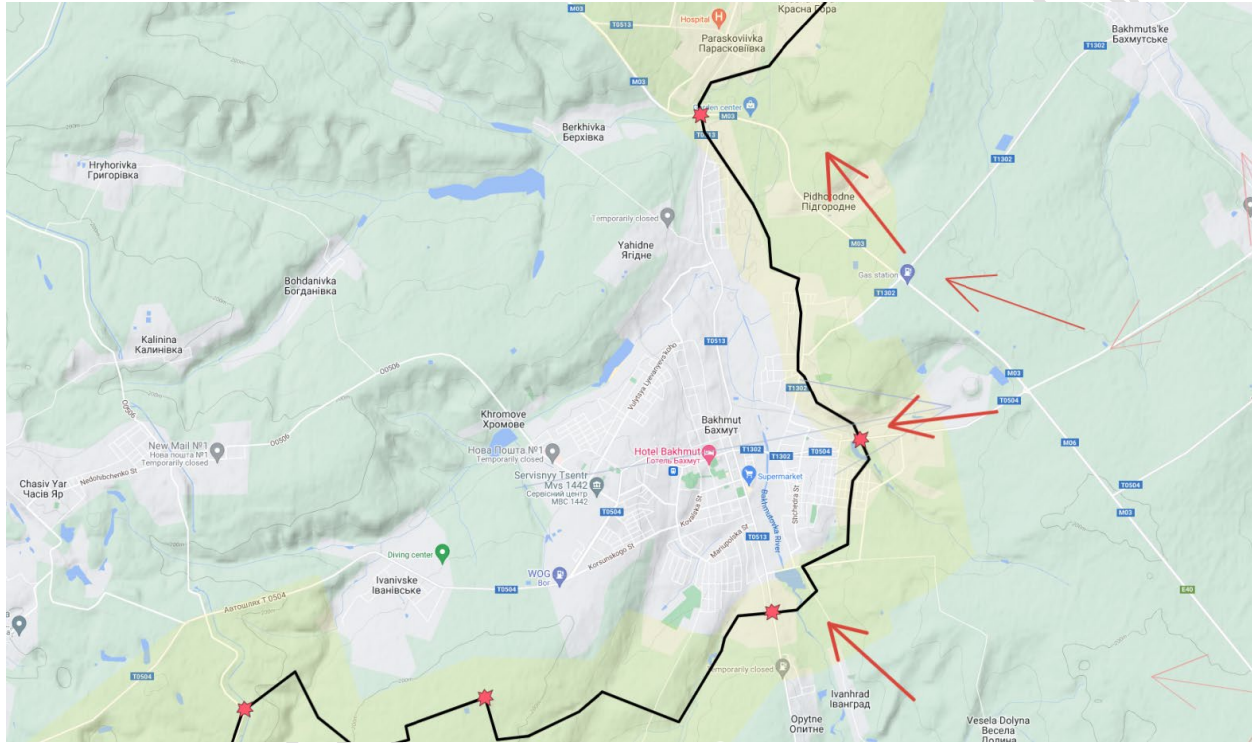


In the Soledar Operational Area, PMC Wagner and Russian forces continued to attack Ukrainian forces in [Krasna Hora](#), with Wagner denying the settlement was captured on

¹⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

¹⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

February 8.^{19 20 21 22 23} The situation remains very critical, with Ukrainian forces at risk of encirclement.



In the Bakhmut Operational Area, Intense fighting continued east of [Paraskoviivka](#).^{24 25 26} There were no reports of attacks in the direction of [Zaliznyanske](#) and unconfirmed reports that Ukrainian troops were able to

¹⁹ https://t.me/grey_zone/17134

²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>


²³ <https://t.me/rybar/43461>

²⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

²⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/43461>

incrementally push Russian troops away from [Berkhivka](#) and the M-03 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line). There wasn't visual confirmation of these claims, but most of the reliable Russian milbloggers backed away from capture and/or Ukrainian troops are surrounded claims. We did not update the map due to a lack of verifiable intelligence.

The intensity of fighting on the northern, eastern, and southern edges of [Bakhmut](#) was  [reduced compared to the last two days](#), with the situation temporarily stable.^{27 28}

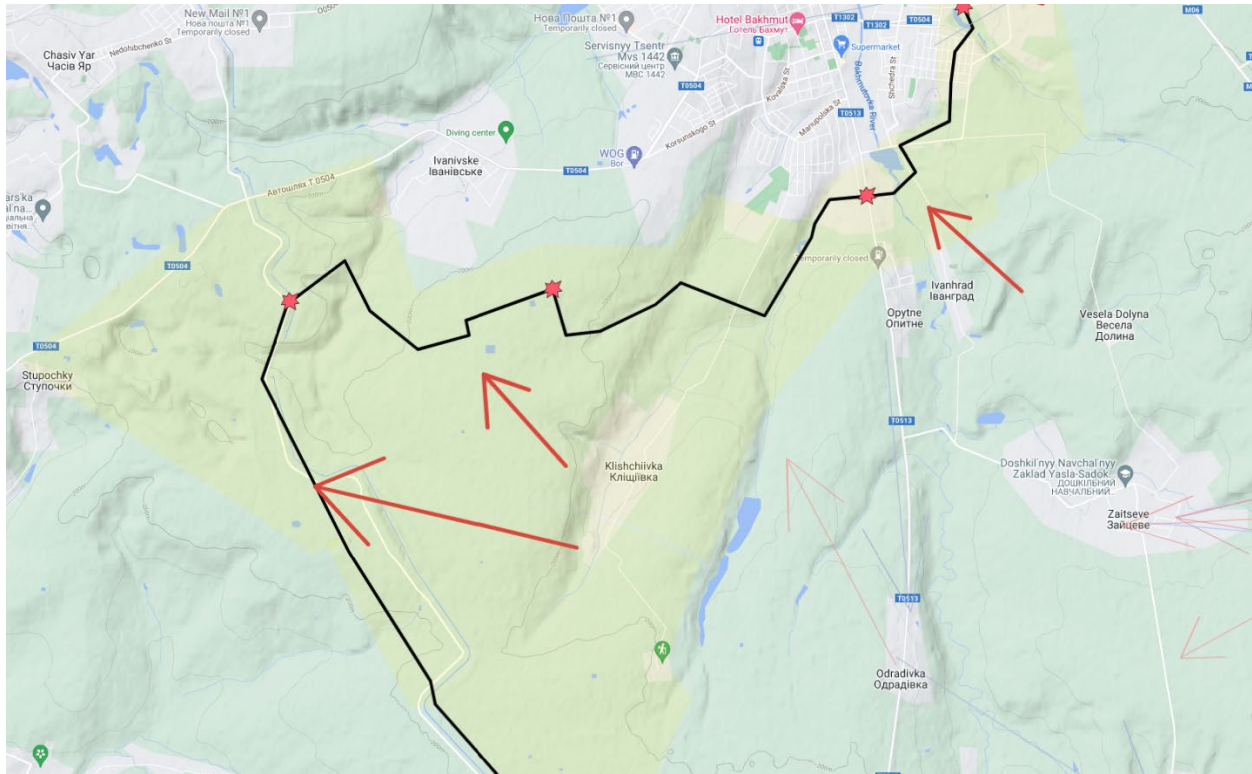
29 30

²⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

²⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/43461>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1623978706573074432>



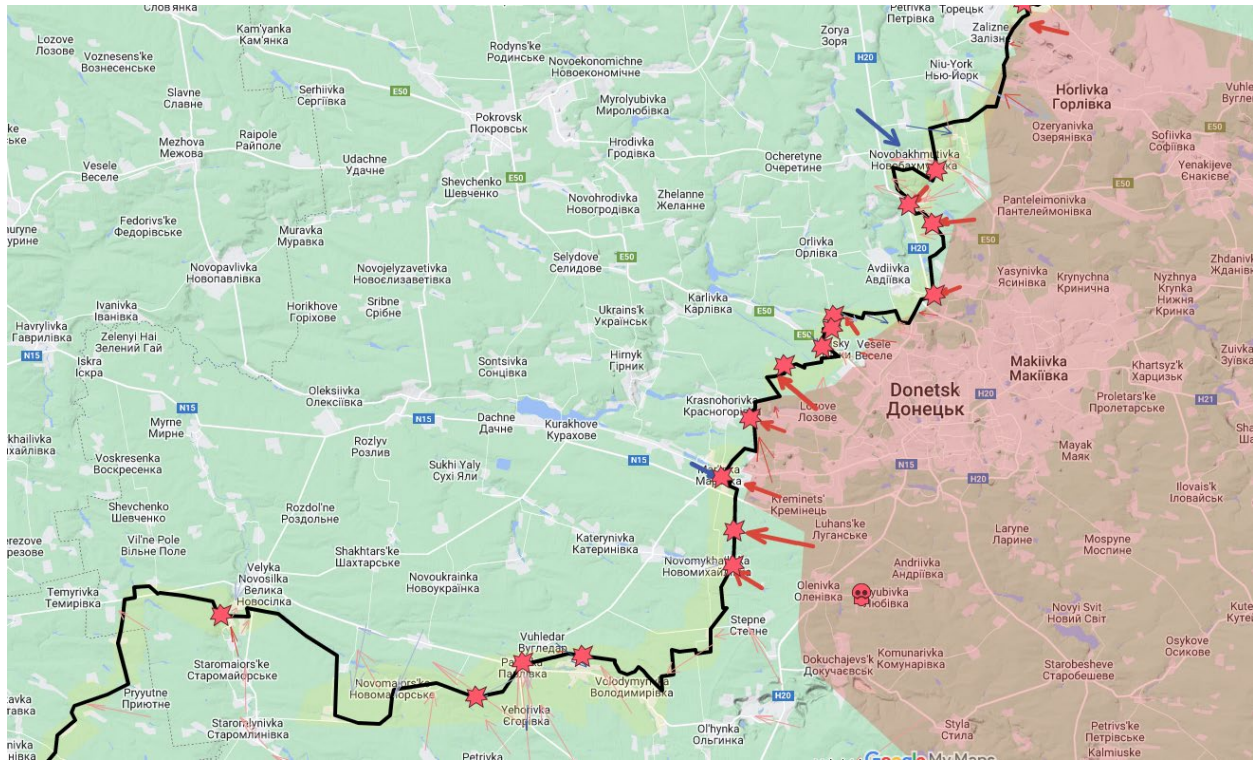
In the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, heavy fighting continued, with depleted PMC Wagner units being replaced by Russian Federation Armed Forces soldiers. Ukrainian forces were able to hold defensive lines east of [Chasiv Yar](#) and [Stupochky](#) and south of [Ivanivske](#).^{31 32 33}

³¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

³² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

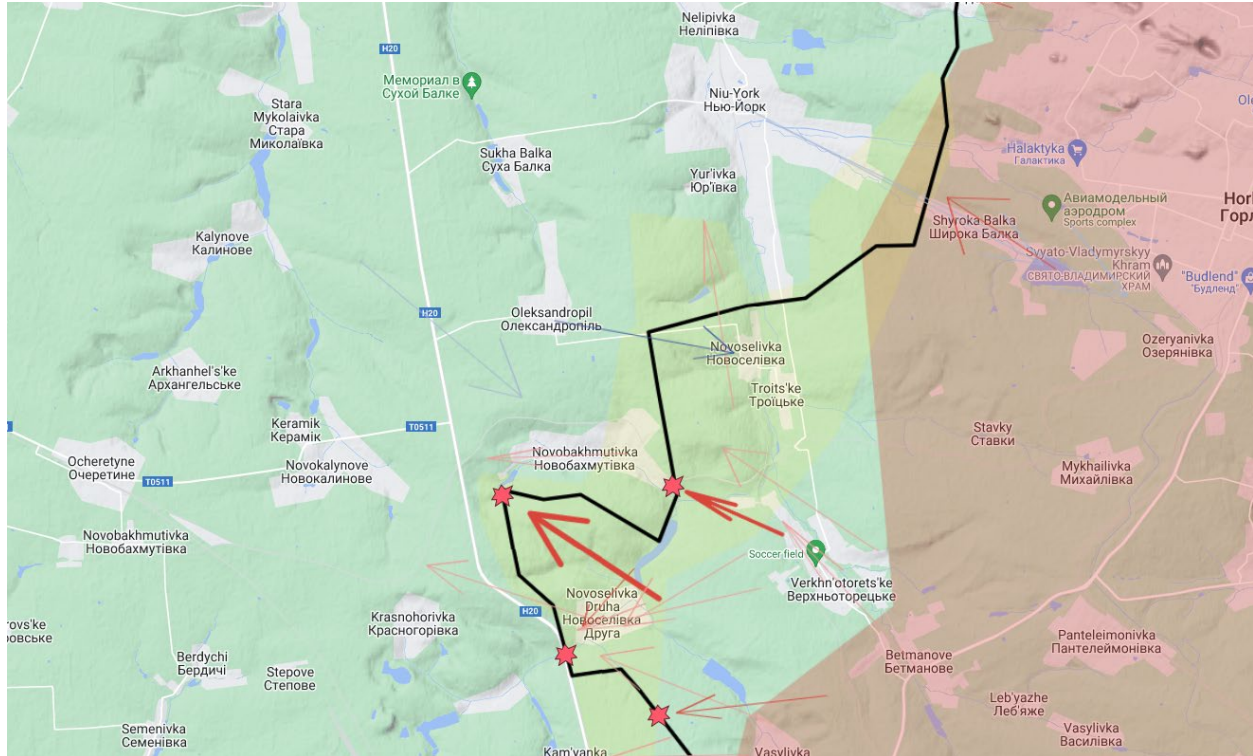
³³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



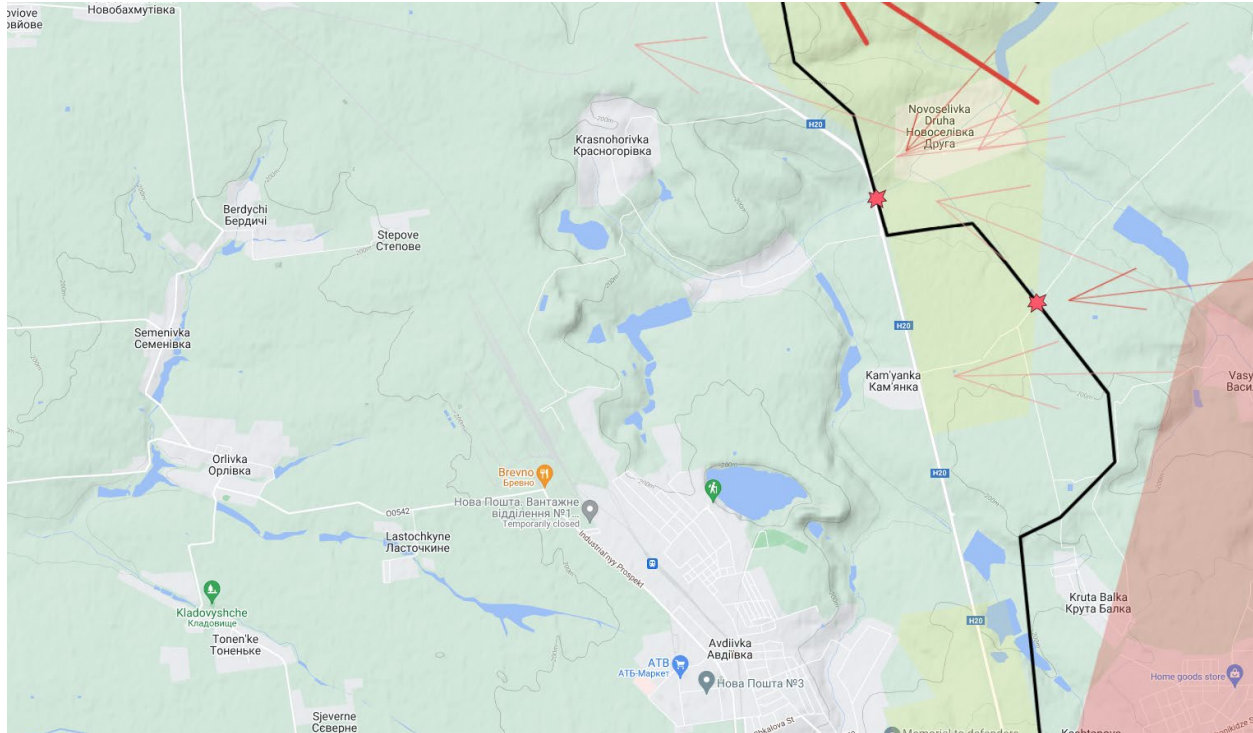
Russian Objective: Capture the entire region, integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

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



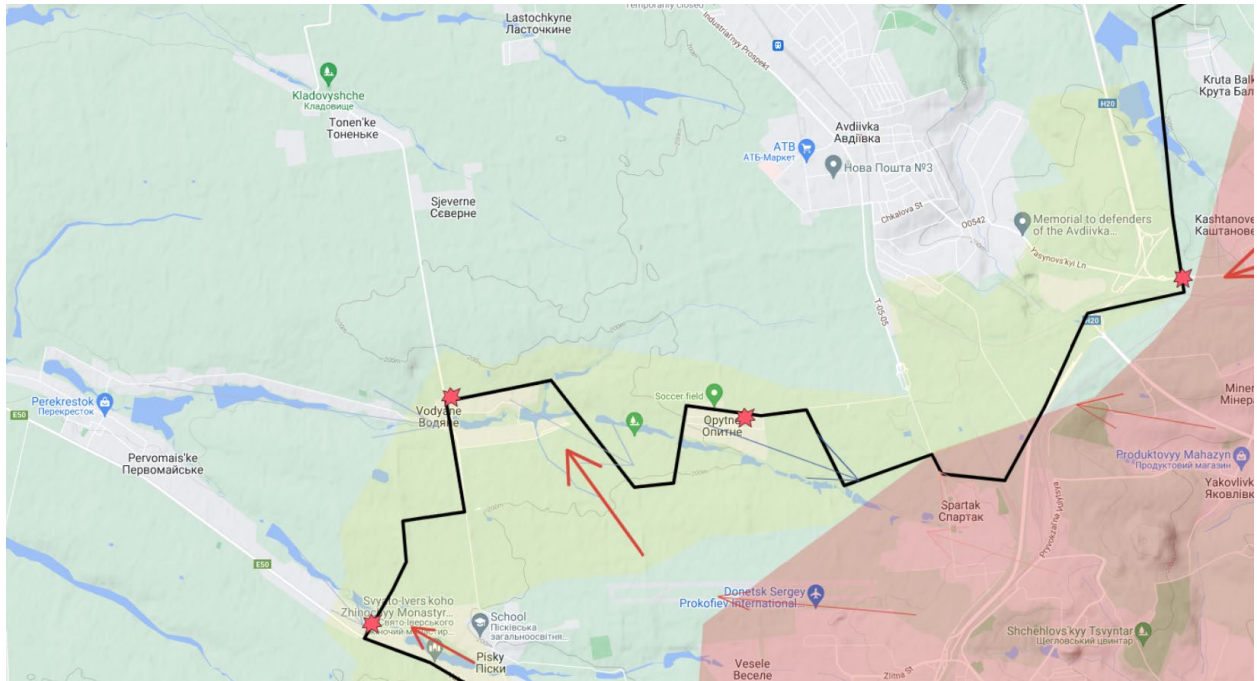
In the Turetsk-Niu York Operational Area, the Russian 1st Army Corps attacked in the direction of [Novokalynove](#). There were unable to advance and returned to their defensive positions.³⁴

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



In the Avdiivka Operational Area, GSAFU reported an attack on [Vesele](#) that was repelled but did not specify which one. With the Ukrainian 93 Mechanized Brigade defending Vesele northeast of Soledar and Russian forces controlling Vesele near the Donetsk International Airport, we are taking an educated guess this is the Vesele between Novoselivka Druha and Krasnohorivka. The attack was unsuccessful.³⁵

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



GSAFU reported an attack on [Avdiivka](#) itself, which was unsuccessful and added to the stress of our analyst team wondering if the attack came from the Vesele direction – that is, the one by the airport.³⁶ South of Avdiivka, Russian forces continued attempts to advance from [Vodyane](#), with RMOD reporting that Ukrainian troops were shelled and hit by airstrikes in the “area of” the settlement.^{37 38 39} Elements of the 1st Army Corps continued their attempts to push into [Pervomaiske](#) from Pisky and remained unable to advance.⁴⁰

41

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

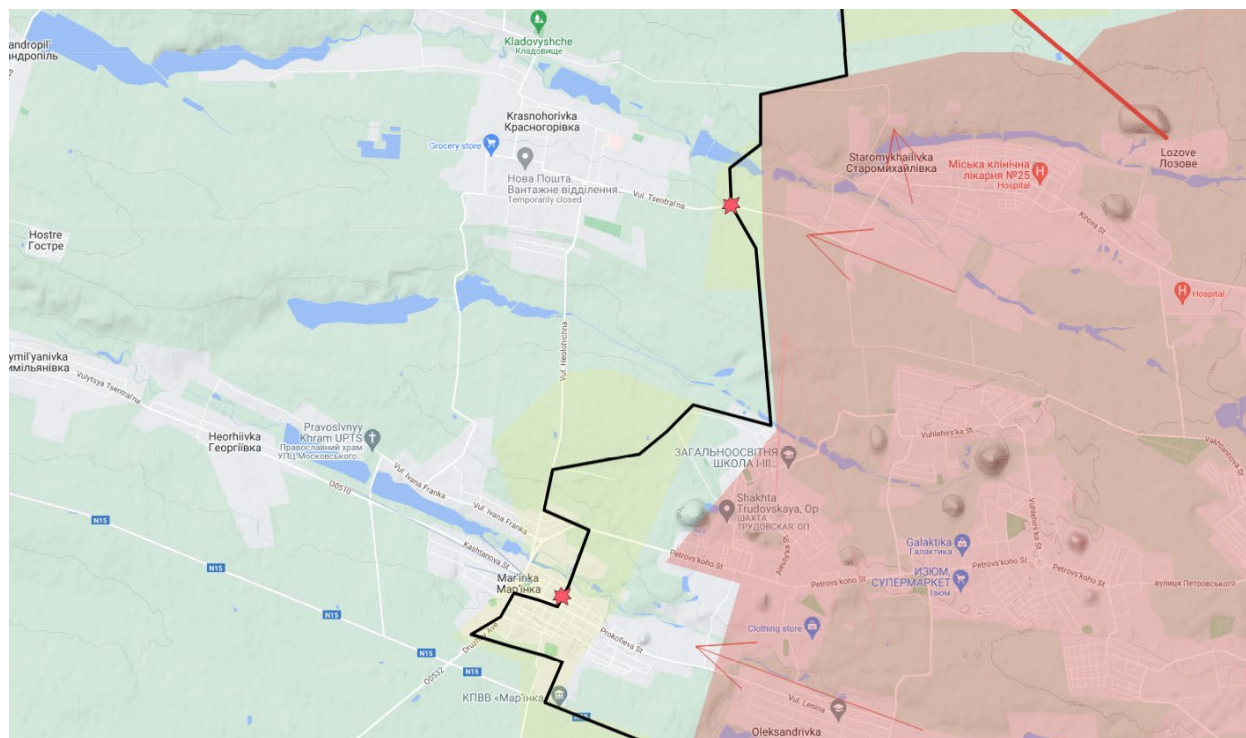
³⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)


³⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/24064 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

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

⁴¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>



In the Marinka Operational Area, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on [Krasnohorivka](#) without success.^{42 43} Positional fighting continued in [Marinka](#), with the big success of the day being the 1st Army Corps striking a building with direct fire from a tank,  [forcing two Ukrainian soldiers to run](#) to the building next to it.^{44 45 46 47} The last sentence is not snarky. The Donetsk People's

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

⁴³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

⁴⁴ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9867

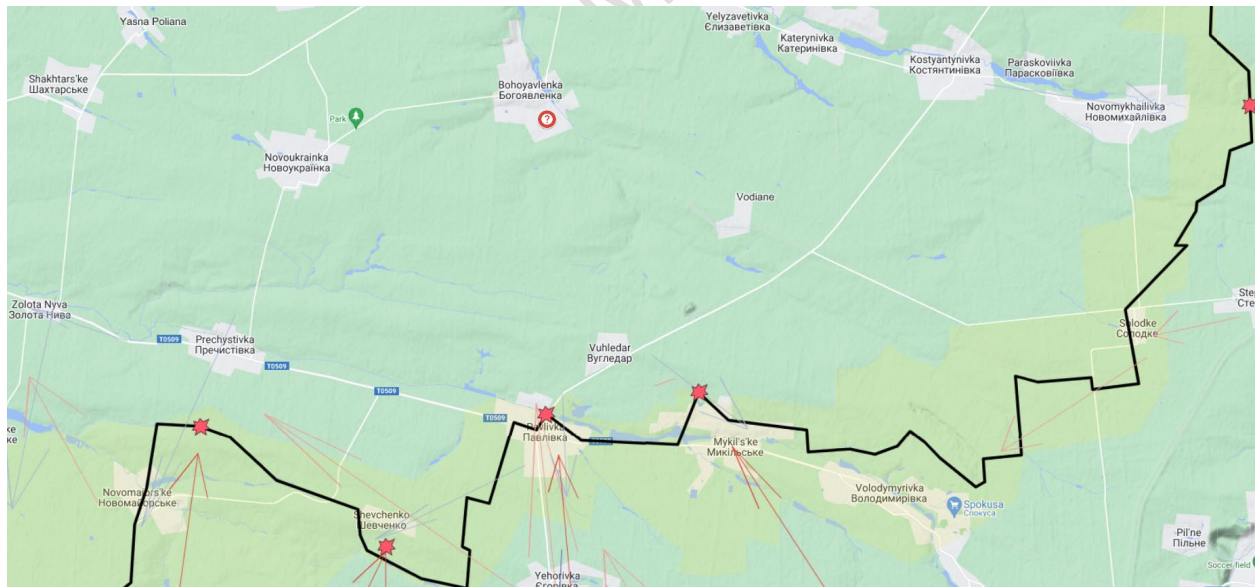
⁴⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10787>

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

Republic (DNR) People's Militia Telegram channel shared this video as one of the day's high points.

Errors and Omissions: A few of our podcast listeners questioned the geolocation of the video showing a Russian platoon coming under mortar and machine gun fire in Marinka when the incident occurred between Marinka and Novomykhailivka. While admittedly, it is a coin toss given its location, Radio Liberty and Ukrainian officials reported the location as Marinka. We deeply appreciate our readers and listeners keeping us honest, but we're going to say, "we got this one right."



In the Vuhledar Operational Area, the 1st Army Corps appears to have restarted its tradition of daily attacks that fail in the direction of [Novomykailivka](#).⁴⁸

GSAFU reported an attack in the area of [Bohoyavlenka](#) for the second day in a row, and we believe that almost every war analyst following the Russia-Ukraine war is puzzled.⁴⁹ The settlement is 10 kilometers from the line of conflict that cuts through Pavlivka and 20 kilometers northwest of Russian-controlled Solodke. None of the semi-reliable Russian sources we follow (or unreliable ones) have made any claims in this area or direction.

RMOD reported that Ukrainian positions in [Vuhledar](#) were hit by artillery and airstrikes for a second day in a row, as many Russian milbloggers condemned the failed Risoam offensive from January 25 to February 2 as a repeat of the Bilohorivka disaster on May 8, 2022.⁵⁰

GSAFU reported that a Russian attack on [Prechystivka](#) failed.⁵¹ Some Russian milbloggers claimed the advance was a success, and Russian troops are now 3 kilometers


⁴⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

⁴⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁵⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/24064 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

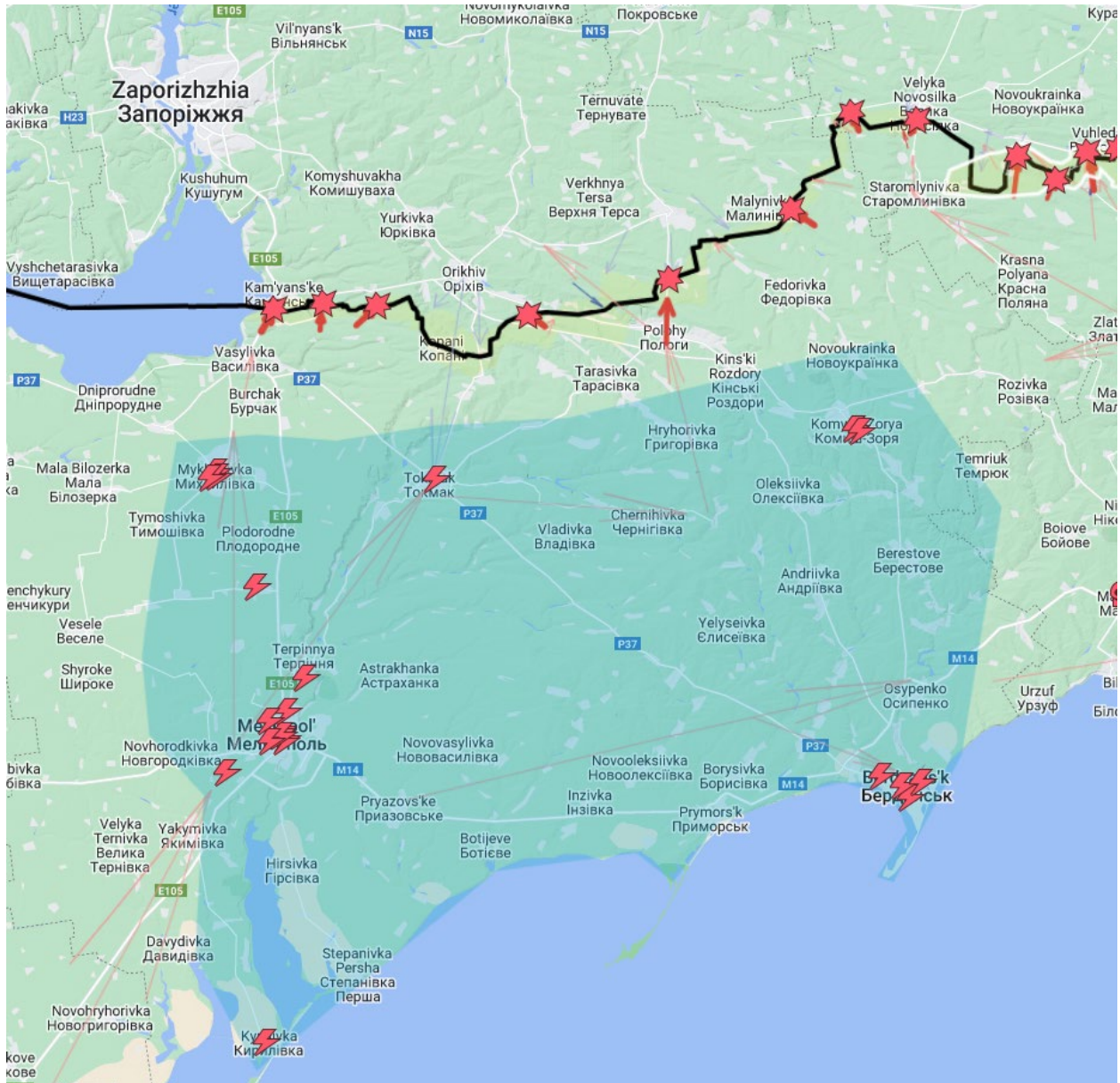
⁵¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

from the settlement. Russian troops were already 3 kilometers from the settlement.

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that up to 1,000 Russian troops arrived in the seaside town of Melekyne and are being billeted in private homes.⁵² They also reported trucks loaded with personnel were moving toward Berdyansk while  [tanks were observed moving](#) in the direction of Volnovakha.

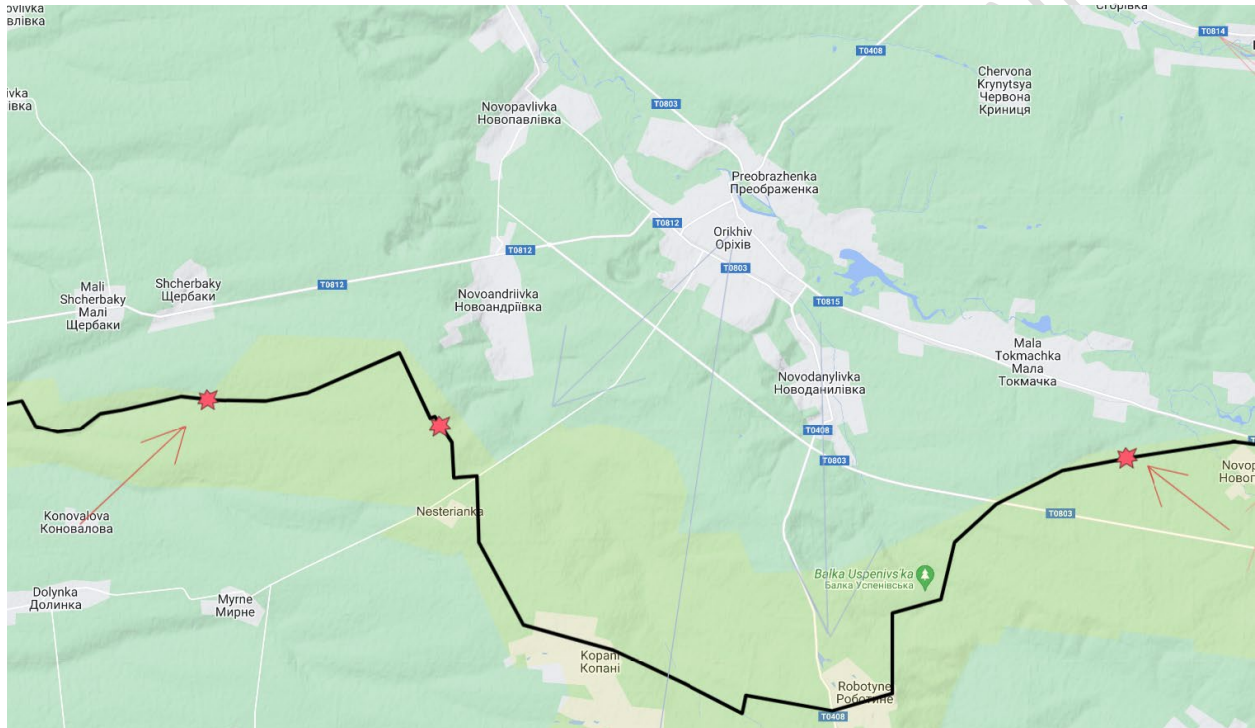
⁵² <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6547>

ZAPORIZHIA



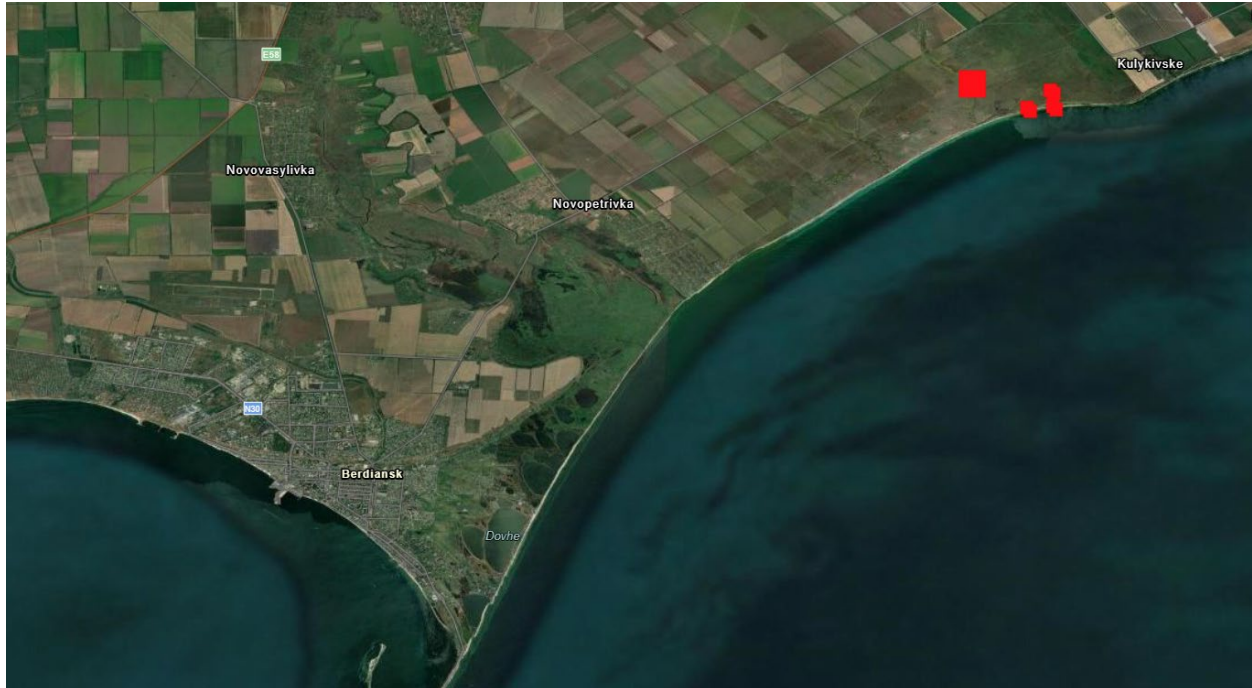
Russian Objective: Prevent a Ukrainian offensive into Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, capture the remainder of the oblast

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



In the Orikhiv Operational Area, GSAFU reported a Russian attack in the area of [Novoandriivka](#) was repulsed.⁵³


⁵³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



Explosions reported in Russian-occupied Berdyansk were at an airbase. The base is out of the HIMARS range, so it is unclear if this was a major accident, an air-to-ground attack, or sabotage by a DRG unit. Up to 100 Russian troops were killed or wounded, with ammunition and fuel destroyed and a radar station damaged. The multiple thermal anomalies detected by NASA Fire Information Resource Management System (FIRMS) on February 8 are consistent with missiles cooking off, but we cannot verify the report.^{54 55}

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/berdmisk/1804>

⁵⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/9/7388715/>

Zaporizhzhia was attacked by an Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone, which damaged critical electrical infrastructure. The drone was one of seven launched against Ukraine on February 9.⁵⁶ Overnight, Zaporizhzhia was hit by  [17 S-300 anti-aircraft missiles](#) used for a ground attack, causing significant damage across the city, including civilian infrastructure.⁵⁷ In the morning of February 10 local time, at least two Russian cruise missiles struck the city, with one hitting critical infrastructure as part of a massive nationwide attack.⁵⁸

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is unchanged, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has not released an update on creating a green zone or Russian demilitarization of ZNPP since January 26.

In Russian-occupied Tokmak, residents in the southeastern part of the city are complaining about the stench of death from mobile crematoriums that the Russian occupiers have started operating on the edge of the settlement.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77205>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56633>

⁵⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388771/>

⁵⁹ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1320

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

With weather conditions improving, three missile carriers, two surface ships, and a Kilo-class submarine left Sevastopol, went to their firing positions, and launched up to 20 Kalibr cruise missiles toward Ukraine.

At least one reportedly entered Romanian airspace before transiting over Moldova and then turning west toward Ukraine.⁶⁰ In breaking news, Odesa Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that 13 Russian cruise missiles were shot down in the region.⁶¹

Ukrainian General Valeriy Zaluzhnyy reported that at 10:18 hours local time, two Russian Kalibr cruise missiles entered Moldovan airspace and 15 minutes later crossed into Romanian skies, a nation that is part of the NATO alliance. The missiles then transited into Moldovan airspace again before reentering Ukraine.⁶² Ukrainian officials elected not to intercept the missiles over Moldova or Romania due to the risks of causing collateral damage.

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22300>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77271>

⁶² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77264>

The Romanian Air Force denied the claim, saying the missiles came within 35 kilometers of their border but never entered the nation's airspace. They did confirm that the missile did violate Moldovan airspace. Officials said that two Romanian Air Force Mig-21s were already airborne for exercises and were diverted at 10:38 hours local time to intercept one missile observed on radar.⁶³

ASSESSMENT: Romania is a NATO nation, but even if the reports are accurate, this isn't enough to trigger an Article V mutual defense request, and likely doesn't reach the level of an Article IV request. However, it is a highly provocative action by Russia that could have catastrophically ended in an accident or misunderstanding. The incident occurred as French and United States forces were engaged in joint training with the Romanian military at Capu Midia on the Black Sea coast.⁶⁴

The Kerch Strait Ferry remained closed, and local officials reported 277 cars and trucks in the queue. Based on previous data, this is a two-and-a-half-day backlog.⁶⁵

⁶³ [Stiri Non-Stop Hot News Romania](#)



⁶⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/nato-politics-romania-government-e2d0466e727284f8b89f0d1e44eebc3d>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/22204>

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.⁶⁶ ⁶⁷ The railroad station was shelled in Kherson as Russian forces continued targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.⁶⁸ A five-story apartment building was hit by artillery, causing significant damage.⁶⁹ In the evening, the city was  [intensely shelled by thermite munitions](#).⁷⁰ The center of Beryslav was also shelled,  [causing significant damage and fires](#).⁷¹

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

⁶⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77233>


⁶⁹ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3634>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56623>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/34500>

In Russian-occupied Kakhovka, explosions were reported.⁷²

Marhanets in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast was heavily shelled, hospitalizing four civilians, including a severely injured child. The attack damaged 18 homes, the solar power plant, the post office, a café, three city administration buildings, and critical civilian infrastructure.^{73 74}

Dnipro was attacked by Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones,  [with at least two intercepted](#).⁷⁵ The debris of one caused a fire in a remote region on the edge of the city, and a power plant was reportedly severely damaged in Kryvyi Rih.⁷⁶

Suspilne, the equivalent of PBS in the United States, reported that Russian cruise missiles struck Vinnytsia and Khmelnytskyi.⁷⁷ Oleksandr Symchyshyn, Mayor of Khmelnytskyi, confirmed there was an explosion in the city and that power outages were possible.

⁷² <https://t.me/hueviyherson/34500>

⁷³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/9/7388637/>

⁷⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/9/7388711/>

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56628>

⁷⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388730/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388759/>

In the Zolochiv district, near the village of Kizliv in the Lviv region, a Russian cruise missile appeared to have malfunctioned in flight and crashed intact near the bus station. At the time of publication, an explosive ordnance disposal team was onsite.⁷⁸

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

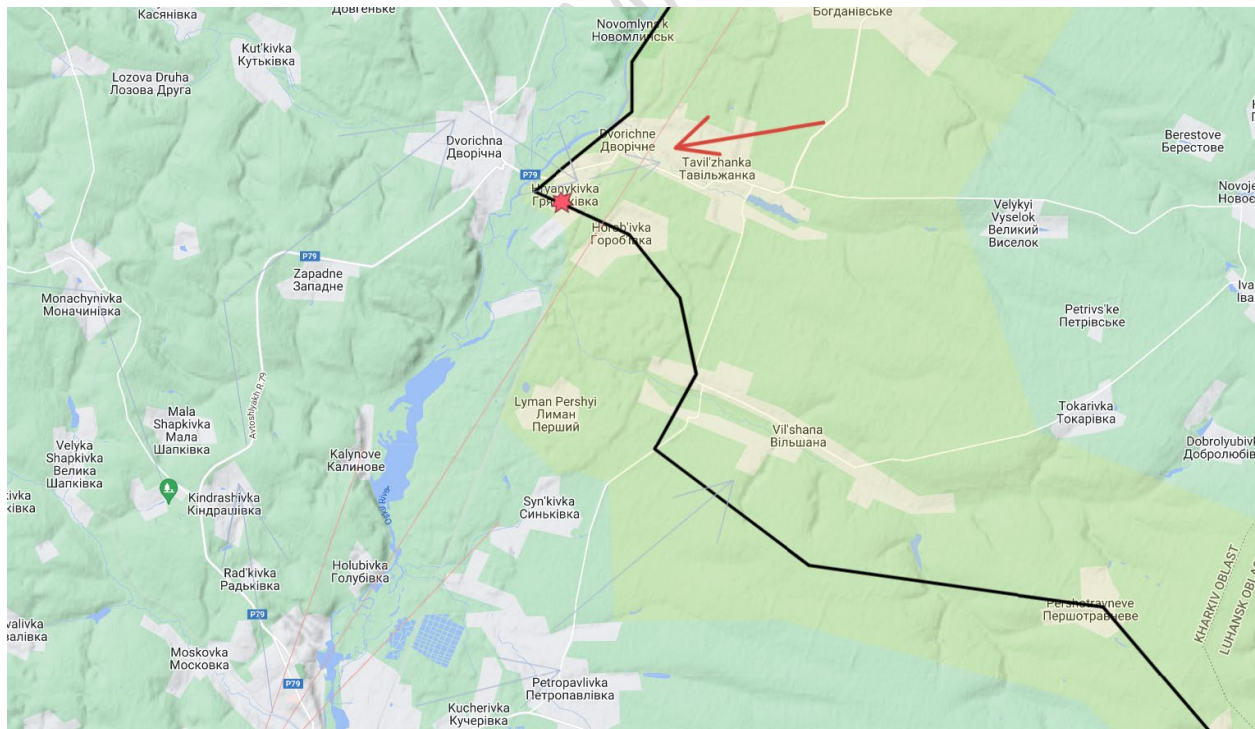
In Kyiv, an explosion at a former factory caused major damage, killing four and wounding five.⁷⁹ The blast occurred in the early morning and not during an air raid. Local officials said a gas explosion caused the blast, and

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77272>

⁷⁹ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1623752703208837120>

there were no signs or reports of secondary explosions. On the morning of February 10, 10 cruise missiles were shot down in the Kyiv region, with the debris of one landing in the Holosiivskyi District, damaging a home.^{80 81}

In the Sumy oblast, 97 artillery shells and mortars fired by Russian forces from across the border struck the hromadas of Bilopillia, Esman, Znob-Novhorodske, and Yunakivka. One civilian was wounded in Yunakivka, and homes were damaged across the targeted area.⁸²




⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388767/>

⁸¹ <https://twitter.com/Mylovanov/status/1623998472675332097>

⁸² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388719/>

In the Dvorichna Operational Area - Kharkiv, Russian forces made marginal gains in Hryanykivka, moving further southwest as fighting along the entire line of conflict continued.⁸³ A Russian Mi-24 attack helicopter was destroyed by Ukrainian artillery fire after it landed just south of Tokarivka.⁸⁴ The video does not make it clear if the helicopter landed to deploy dismounts, extract Russian troops, or due to a mechanical issue.

Kharkiv was hit by  [ten S-300 anti-aircraft missiles](#) used for a ground attack, targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, knocking out power to parts of the city.⁸⁵ ⁸⁶ The barrage was one of the largest launched on Kharkiv since the initial siege almost a year ago, wounding seven.⁸⁷ One Kalibr cruise missile headed in the direction of Kharkiv was shot down in the Kherson/Mykolaiv area on February 9, which was part of six Kalibr cruise missiles launched from the Black Sea fleet on February 9.⁸⁸

⁸³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15536>

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1623742529211363328>

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56625>

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/synegubov/5525>

⁸⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/10/7388767/>

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/3451>

RUSSIAN FRONT

There wasn't significant activity.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Russian forces launched a large-scale missile and drone attack over 24 hours on February 9 and the morning of February 10. On February 9, five of seven Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 drones and five of six Kalibr cruise missiles were intercepted.⁸⁹ Additionally, Russia fired a record-setting 35 S-300 anti-aircraft missiles into Ukraine from Belogord and Russian-occupied Zaporizhia. In a second wave, Russia launched another 65 cruise missiles.⁹⁰

Ukrainian air defenses preliminarily shot down 61 missiles, with one additional cruise missile failing in flight, and downed five drones. Ukrainian air defenses were 86% successful.

DNR-turned-Russian military commander Alexander Khodakovsky wrote on Telegram that the "concentration of

⁸⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77205>

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/77316>

[Russian] forces" is quite impressive and that the "birth" is about to begin, hinting at a further increase in operational tempo.⁹¹ Responding to questions on why he doesn't write about the situation in Vuhledar, he responded, "It means that there is nothing special to write about."⁹² Other Russian milbloggers and social media accounts found the confirmed loss of 32 tanks and infantry fighting vehicles was very much worth talking about, calling for the firing of the commanders involved in the debacle.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has formally requested the government of Slovakia to provide the 11 single-seat Mig-29s, and one dual-seat Mig-29, to the Ukrainian Air Force. Slovakia retired the aircraft on August 27, 2022, and is replacing its fighter aircraft fleet with F-16s. Additionally, Kajsa Ollongren, the Dutch Defence Minister, has confirmed that Ukraine has formally requested the Netherlands to supply F-16 fighter jets to the nation.

German stated the first Leopard 2 tanks would arrive in Ukraine by April, and the UK said the first Challenger 2 main battle tanks would be in theatre by March.⁹³

⁹¹ https://t.me/Khodakovsky_m/313

⁹² https://t.me/Khodakovsky_m/313

⁹³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/56375>

After SpaceX officials reported blocking Starlink terminals for certain offensive military operations in Ukraine, Mykhailo Fedorov, the Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, clarified the situation.⁹⁴ Fedorov said there are no problems now with the Starlink terminals in Ukraine. "Changes were made to geofencing a few months ago, but as of now, all the Starlink terminals in Ukraine work properly. Today we received the first few thousand [additional] Starlinks as part of a 10,000 terminal batch from the German government."⁹⁵

Hours after SpaceX revealed the restrictions, they announced a new government version of Starlink called Starshield.⁹⁶ The system is explicitly not designed for military applications, according to SpaceX, and is meant for earth observation, communications, and hosted payloads. No information on pricing has been provided.

⁹⁴ [Reuters](#)

⁹⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/02/9/7388696/>

⁹⁶ <https://www.space.com/spacex-starshield-satellite-internet-military-starlink>

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

Russian milblogger Vladlen Tatarsky reported that the entire formation of mobiks from "one region" in Russia, which he refused to name because it is a "shame," mass refused to go into battle.⁹⁷ He called for the entire group to face tribunals and court martials. Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, PMC Wagner target, and failed mobik Igor "Girkin" Strelkov reported the same, indicating that the troops were meant for a new offensive on Vuhledar. If you're a regular listener or reader, we're thinking what you're thinking. Still, we cannot confirm that these are the same mobiks billeted in Yalta who, three days ago, got drunk after trading rations for alcohol and told the locals they were Vuhledar bound.

Russian social media is having a meltdown over the announcement of a new uniform design for Russian troops that will be rolled out. The new camouflage uses seven colors and is assembled in China with Russian material. OKB Gardarika, the company that received the contract, is one month old and was founded by Artem Stepanenko, the son of the deputy head of the Federal Agency for State Property Management of Russia.⁹⁸ The summer uniforms

⁹⁷ <https://t.me/vladlentatarsky/19178>

⁹⁸ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1623898666754019330>

cost an eye-watering 180,000 roubles each, and a corresponding baseball-style hat is 4,500 roubles. That means a complete summer uniform kit is \$2,500 each, and the hat is \$62.

Colonel General Ramzan Kadyrov and State Duma Deputy Lt. General Viktor Sobolev are in a war of words after Kadyrov suggested destabilizing Poland's upcoming elections and then occupying the former Warsaw pact nation militarily. Sobolev thinks it is a bad idea because it could start World War 3. Kadyrov wasn't having it, saying, "I don't understand. Should we be afraid of a third world war, or should we protect the interests of the Russian people?" He then added, "If someone else, except Sobolev, is preparing to lose the war in advance, then let them surrender to the Poles right now."⁹⁹ Sobolev, who is a war hawk even by Moscow standards, fired back, "No one is going to surrender to the Poles," he declared. Sobolev said that Russia could fight all of NATO with conventional weapons and win, but the military "needs to be restored to...combat capability that it would be possible to repel the aggression of any geopolitical adversary." The Kremlin was asked about the dispute and would not comment.

⁹⁹ MKRU - [https://www.mk dot\] ru/politics/2023/02/09/kadyrov-i-general-sobolev-posporili-na-temu-sdatsya-polyakam.html](https://www.mk dot] ru/politics/2023/02/09/kadyrov-i-general-sobolev-posporili-na-temu-sdatsya-polyakam.html)

Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner Group has crossed the redline with the Kremlin, with the PMC cut off from Russian penal units for recruits. When he was asked why Wagner had stopped visiting penal colonies a month ago, Prigozhin answered, "The recruitment of prisoners in PMC Wagner is completely stopped. All obligations are being fulfilled to those who work for us now."

Our favorite FSB Colonel Strelkov believes that the termination of the recruitment of prisoners by PMC Wagner was made by "command from above" in the Kremlin and condemned how PMC Wagner and the Kremlin operate. "I will only repeat for the hundredth time," he wrote, "the war cannot be won by 'death battalions' in the absence of normal military discipline and order [found] in the rest of the active army." Strelkov then targeted the Kremlin with acerbic snark, adding, "Everything [in the active army] remains the same, an amazing state...of decay."¹⁰⁰

You can read more of our [detailed analysis](#) on our Patreon, but the Twitter version is this is the beginning of the end of PMC Wagner, and Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu has cemented his grip on the Russian military.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3913>

¹⁰¹ <https://www.patreon.com/posts/russia-ukraine-78471927>

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In Russian-occupied Skadovsk, the leaders and adherents of the Jehovah's Witnesses were arrested for being part of an "extremist" organization and creating and distributing extremist materials. The entire congregation faces ten years in prison. While the organization is highly controversial, it is not banned in Ukraine. In Nazi Germany, Jehovah's Witnesses were among many other smaller minority and religious groups sent to concentration camps that history has long forgotten.

GEOPOLITICAL

Moldovan Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita abruptly resigned after 18 months in power, collapsing the government.¹⁰² In a press conference, Gavrilita said, "time has come for me to announce my resignation," claiming that she could have never foreseen the string of crises that

¹⁰² [ABC News – United States](#)

have shaken Chisinau due to the “Russian aggression in Ukraine.” President Maia Sandu will have to form a new government, which will have to be approved by the 101-seat parliament. The collapse comes less than 48 hours after Ukrainian intelligence shared that the Kremlin was actively working to destabilize and collapse the Moldovan government in 2023.

Adding to the chaotic environment, the Chisinau government has summoned the Russian ambassador after Russian cruise missiles flew across the nation. Moldova only has a token military force, choosing to be a neutral state, and lacks modern air defense systems.

President Putin announced that working agreements had been established between the Afghanistan Taliban government and Moscow for trade and economic development. Moscow also indicated that since the United States' withdrawal, terrorism in Afghanistan and drug trafficking into Russia have increased to the point of creating border tension.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ <https://t.me/readovkanews/52283>

Editor's note: Is it 2023 or 1983? We are not liking Cold War II.

United States Congressman Matt Gaetz (Florida – Republican) has introduced a bill called the Ukraine Fatigue Resolution, calling for ending all military and economic aid to Ukraine.¹⁰⁴ Gaetz, who is a member of the Donald Trump and MAGA-aligned Freedom Caucus, has voted against almost every measure to aid Ukraine and sanction Russia since March 2022. The co-sponsors of the bill are all members of the Freedom Caucus and include Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, Rep. Anna Paulina Luna of Florida, Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Rep. Mary Miller of Illinois, Rep. Barry Moore of Alabama, Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, and Rep. Matt Rosendale of Montana.

Even if the measure passes a House vote along party lines, it will be dead on arrival in the Senate.

¹⁰⁴ [Newsweek](#)

ECONOMIC

The rouble continues its decline due to demand destruction, falling to an exchange rate of 74 for 1 US dollar.

Western oil prices drifted upward, with WTI crude advancing to \$80 a barrel and Brent rising to \$86. Russian Urals crude rose to an “official” price of \$55 a barrel, while the Kremlin reported the average price in January 2023 was \$49.46. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market was little changed, ticking upward to \$2.50 a gallon (66 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures dropped, with March 2023 falling to 53 euros per megawatt hour and April 2023 dropping to 54.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures climbed to \$7.65 a bushel for May 2023 delivery.