



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

August 30, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 553

It has been 3,473 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 188 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- Russian forces are attacking in the direction of Novojehorivka with a battalion supported by tanks
- Artillery duels continued in the Serebryansky Wood and near Dibrova
- Russian forces continued attempts to advance on Bilohorivka
- Russian forces continued attempts to advance in the direction of Bohdanivka
- Fighting continues in Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Kurdyumivka
- Russian forces attempted to counterattack from Ozarianivka
- Multiple sources reported there was more intense fighting in Marinka
- Partisans in Mariupol attacked a Russian base
- Intense fighting continued near Robotyne and on the western edge of Verbove
- Ukrainian explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) engineers removed five antipersonnel mines on the route used by

International Atomic Energy Inspectors (IAEA) to cross into free Ukraine at Kamyanske

- **Russian officials claim they shot down a Ukrainian drone in the Moscow, Bryansk, and Kursk regions**
- **Ukrainian released a video showing how their cardboard drones are armed with a fragmentation warhead**
- **Russia and Belarus conducted a joint readiness exercise for the release of nuclear weapons, and it didn't go well**
- **There are reports that the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Oleskii Reznikov, will be replaced as early as next week**
- **The Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, sharply criticized the commentariat who are complaining about the perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian offensive**
- **The head of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, dismissed a recent New York Times story claiming Ukraine has suffered over 70,000 killed in action**
- **The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) reported that since February 24, 2022, over 2,000 traitors and 300 Russian collaborators have been exposed**
- **The 93rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade of Ukraine has been reconstituted and rearmed after months of intense training**

- Ukrainian is standardizing its artillery and mortar systems around platforms from five nations
- British company BAE announced that it will start building L-119 and M-777 artillery systems and CV-90 infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) in Ukraine
- The Netherlands provided a military aid package to Ukraine and humanitarian aid from Serbia
- President Zelenskyy said that the Ukrainian Air Forces needs 160 F-16s to establish air dominance
- The United States is purchasing AMRAAM air-to-air missiles for Ukraine
- The United States announced the first ten M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks (MBTs) will arrive in Ukraine by mid-September
- Ukraine has deployed 25 Chabla remote-controlled gun turrets to the front lines
- Private Military Company Wagner Group's military leader, Dmitry Utkin, was buried with military honors
- Russia has removed its S-300 air defense systems from the disputed Kuril Islands in the Far East
- Andrey Kurshin, the administrator of the Russian Telegram channel Moscow Calling, was arrested for spreading "fakes" about the Russian Federation Armed Forces
- It is reported that Russian milblogger Romanov Light is wanted by the Russian Military Counterintelligence

Directorate (VKR) for discrediting the Russian Federation Armed Forces

- British Minister of Defense Ben Wallace resigned and has been replaced by Grant Shepps
- The United States has deployed 50 nuclear-capable F-35 multirole fighters to the United Kingdom
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, called for the re-establishment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative while visiting Moscow
- Minister of Energy of Russia, Nikolay Shulginov, said he would address the skyrocketing cost of diesel fuel and growing shortages
- Russia's state-controlled energy company, Gazprom, has become unprofitable for the third time in its history as operating costs increase and demand shrinks

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our concern about Ukraine's ability to turn tactical gains into operational success and strategic victories has been tempered by recent successes in the Orikhiv area of operation (AO) and the declining quality of Russian troops.

2. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.
3. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government has started the largest purge of dissident voices and perceived internal enemies since the Soviet era, including the leaders, mercenaries, and employees of PMC Wagner, objective state media journalists and war bloggers, far-right nationalists who want the Kremlin to take more aggressive action in Ukraine, and human rights, activists.
4. There is a significant possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin. President Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.
5. The threat of aggression from Belarus is diminished after Prigozhin and Utkin's death. Still, we believe that aggressive posturing directed at Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, and Russia's threats to blockade the Baltic and Black Seas, risk causing an international incident. The continued soft response by Ukraine's allies has only encouraged Minsk and Moscow to take further risks.
6. 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.

7. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.
8. Our assessment that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates was reinforced by the United States announcement that only 30% of the promised M1A1 Abrams MBTs will be delivered on time. These continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
9. It is unlikely that Ukraine will execute a wet crossing of the Dnipro River with a battalion-sized or larger force. This is the last day for this entry.
10. We assess that the growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units has forced commanders to commit strategic reserves meant for a fall counteroffensive into defensive operations. Additionally, due to declining combat potential, Russian commanders are activating the

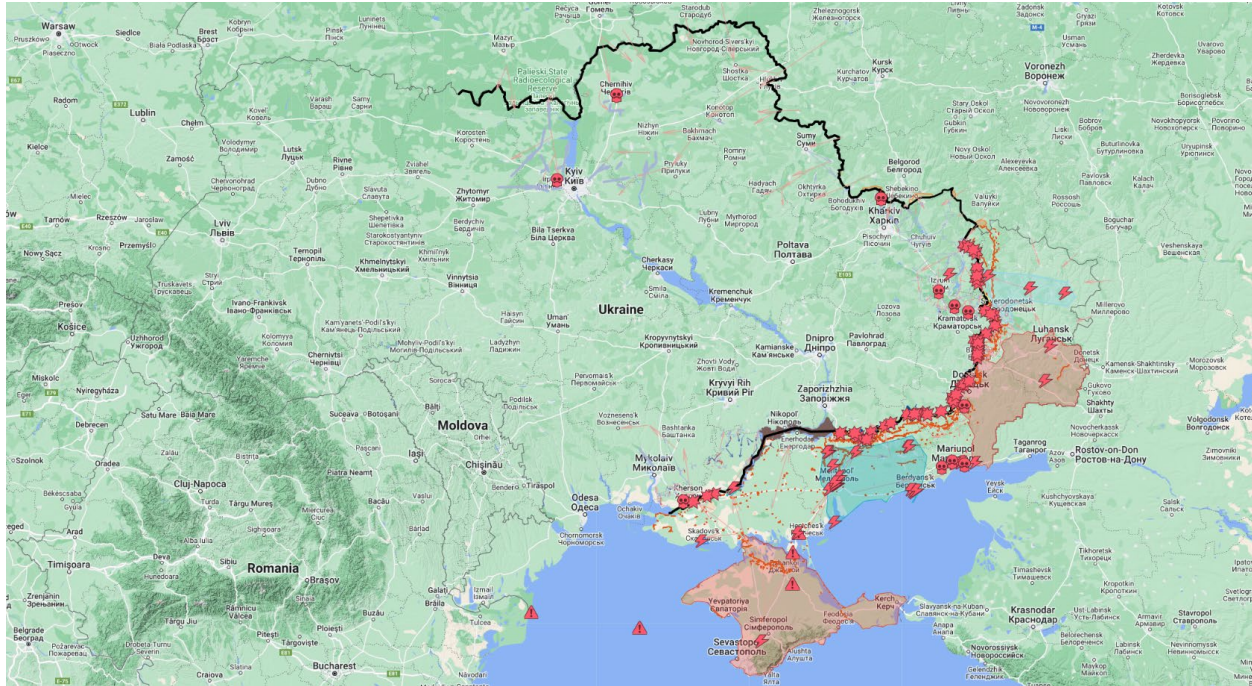
reserves from the second and third echelons of the Prigozhin and Surovikin Lines.

11. 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.
12. 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.](#)



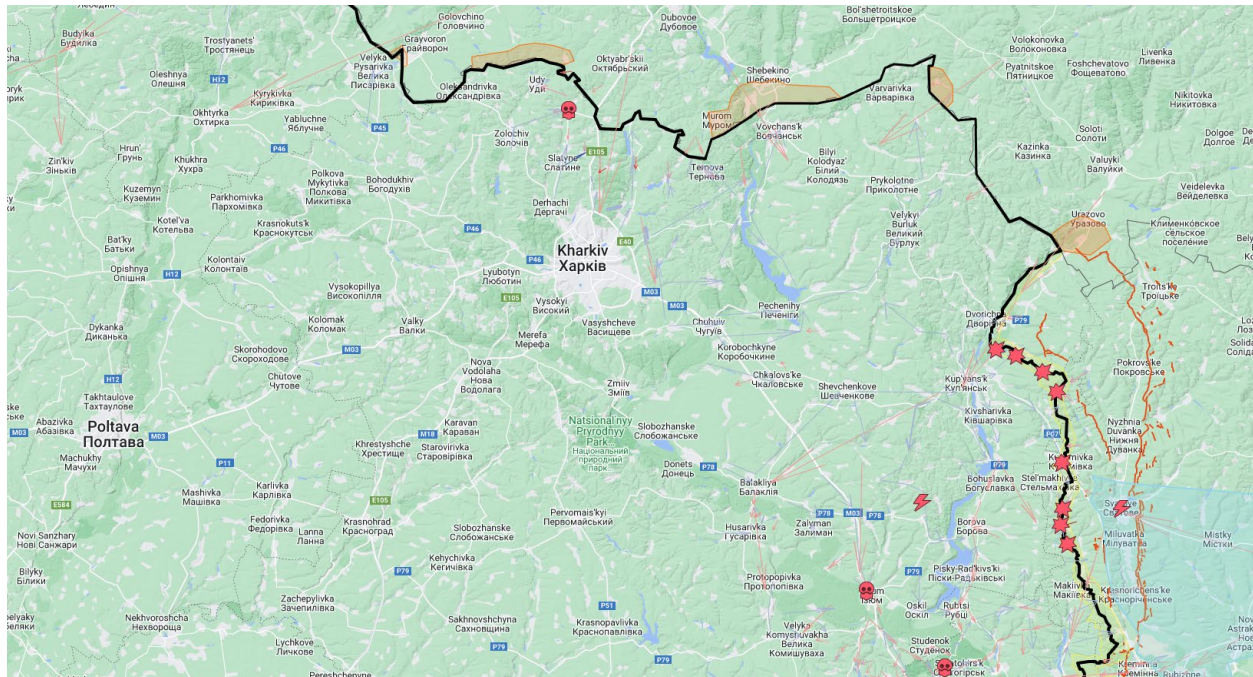
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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](#)

KHARKIV



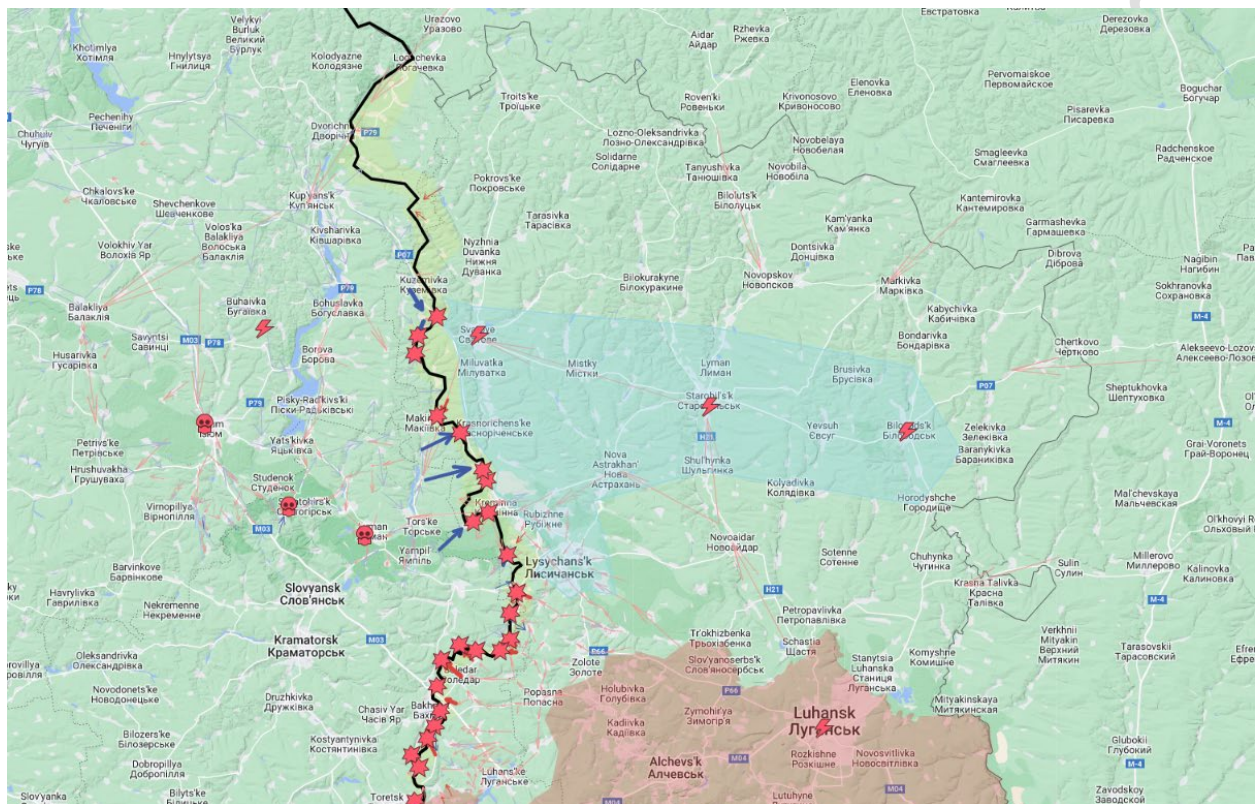
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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

There were no reports of significant activity.

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

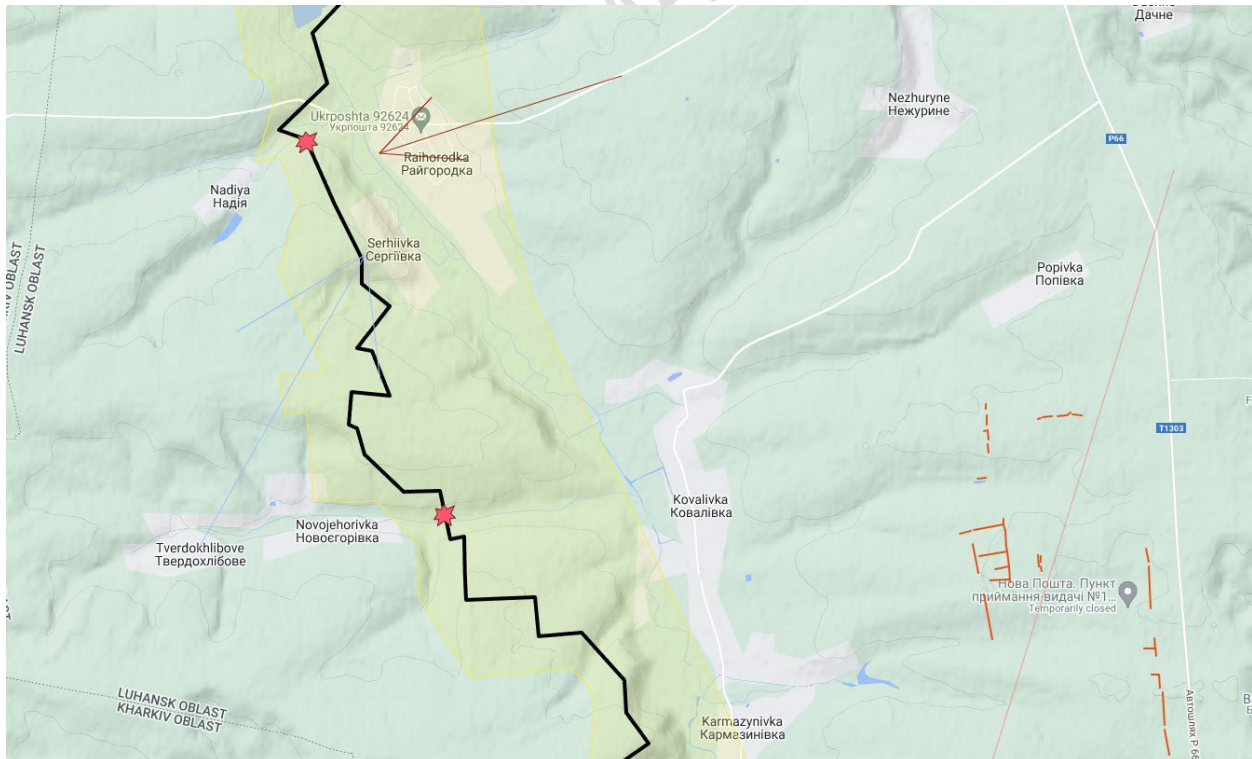


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support the September 2023 elections

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

Free Luhansk

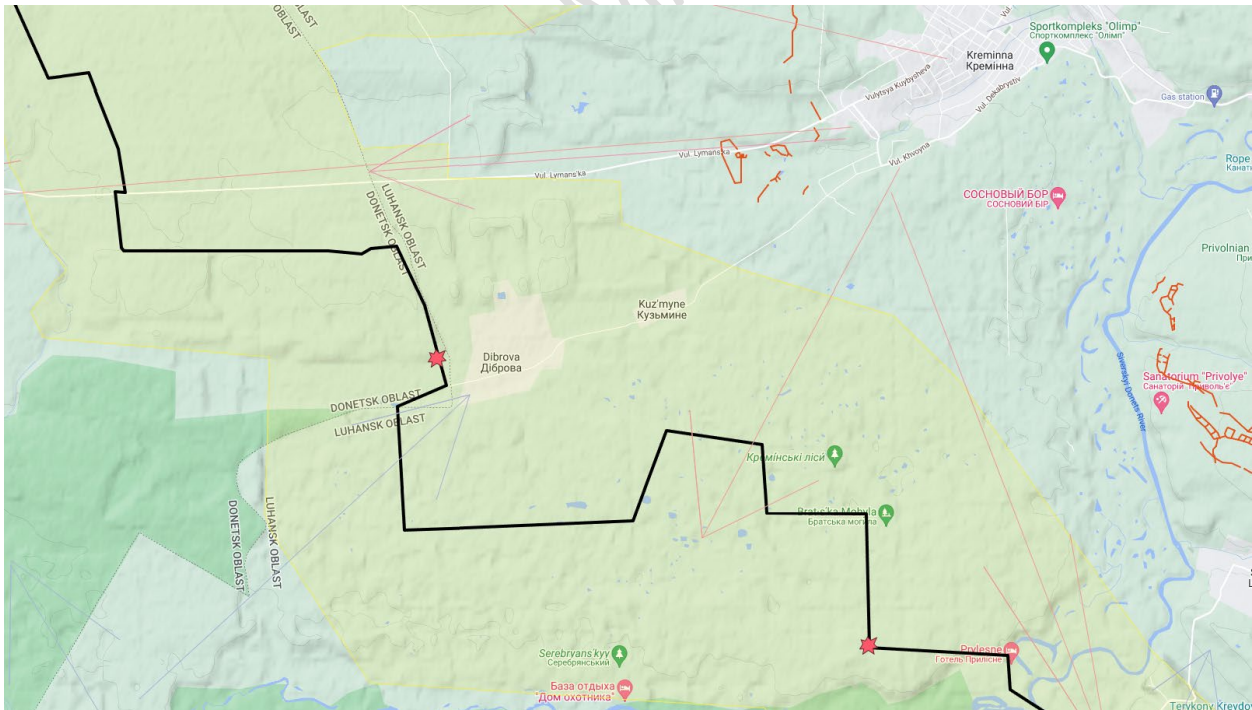
Operational Command East (OKE) spokesperson Ilya Yevlash reported that Russian forces concentrated their offensive efforts at Novojehorivka. Russian forces fired 495 munitions, and the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) carried out 15 airstrikes.¹



¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/13289>

Svatove Operational Area

Ukrainian source DeepState reported that Russian forces were reinforcing their wet crossing at the Zherebets River west of Raihordoka and attacking in the direction of [Novojehorivka](#) with a battalion-sized force supported by MBTs.^{2 3 4} Russian sources made similar claims. The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) claimed that Ukrainian forces continued offensive operations in the area of [Serhiivka](#).⁵



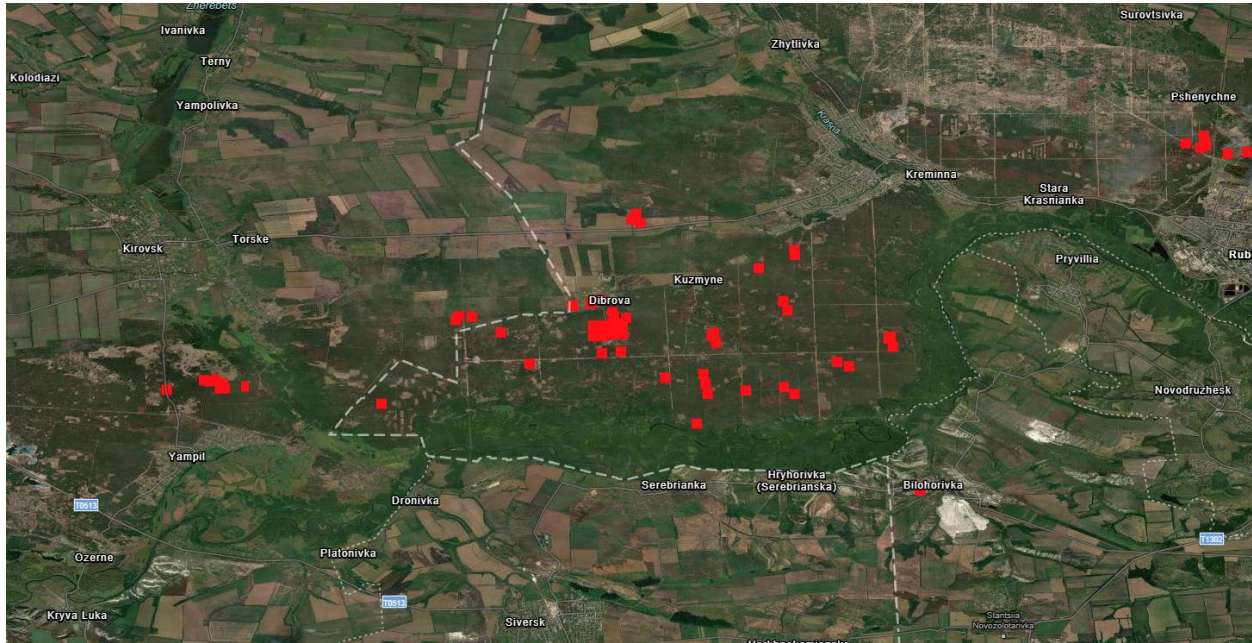
² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

³ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

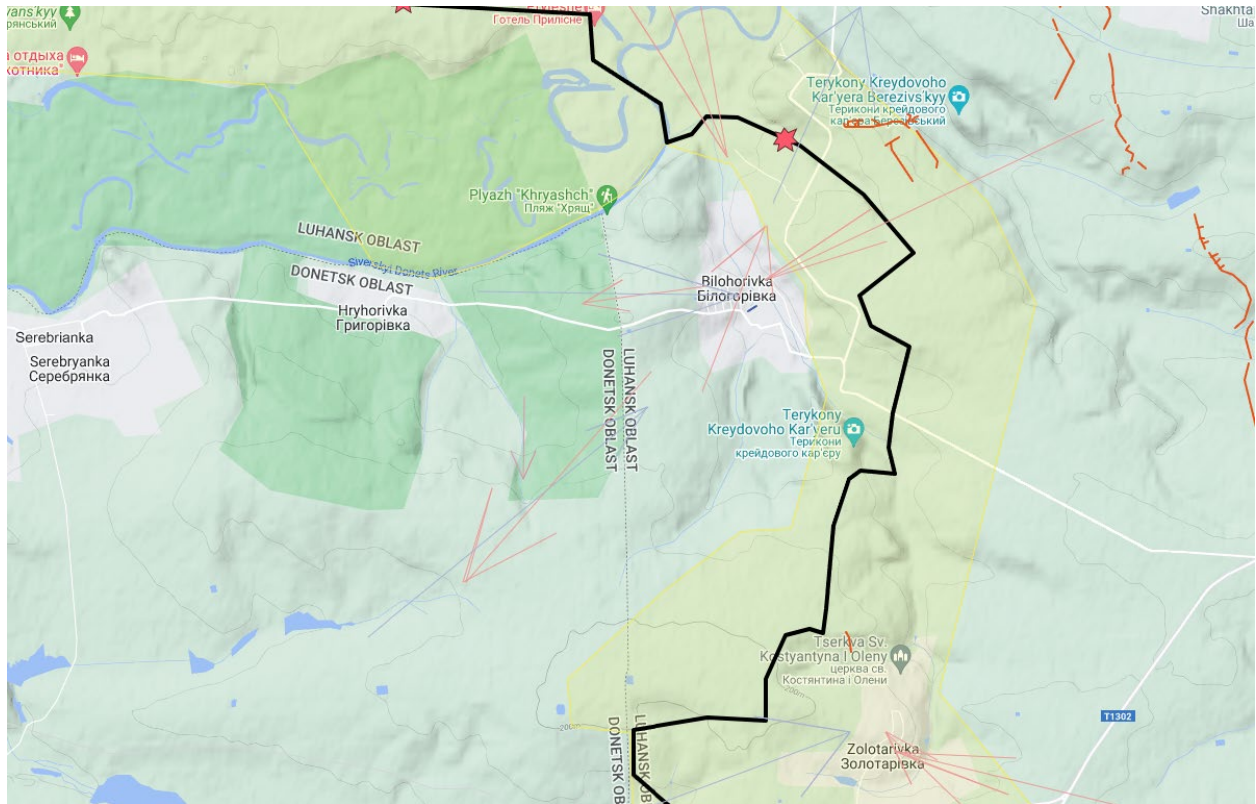
⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Kreminna Operational Area



NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed significant fires across [Serebryansky Woods](#), but it is important to note that large swaths of Ukraine are under fire weather warnings. Fighting continued, with RMOD claiming Ukrainian forces were on the offensive near [Dibrova](#).⁶ As a policy, we only report where the RMOD morning report claims fighting is ongoing. Still, NASA FIRMS showed extensive thermal anomalies in Dibrova, representing a rare case where Moscow may be telling the truth.

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



Lysychansk Operational Area

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar and OKE spokesperson Yevlash reported that fighting continued in the area of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].^{7 8} Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that a Russian attack on Bilohorivka was unsuccessful.⁹

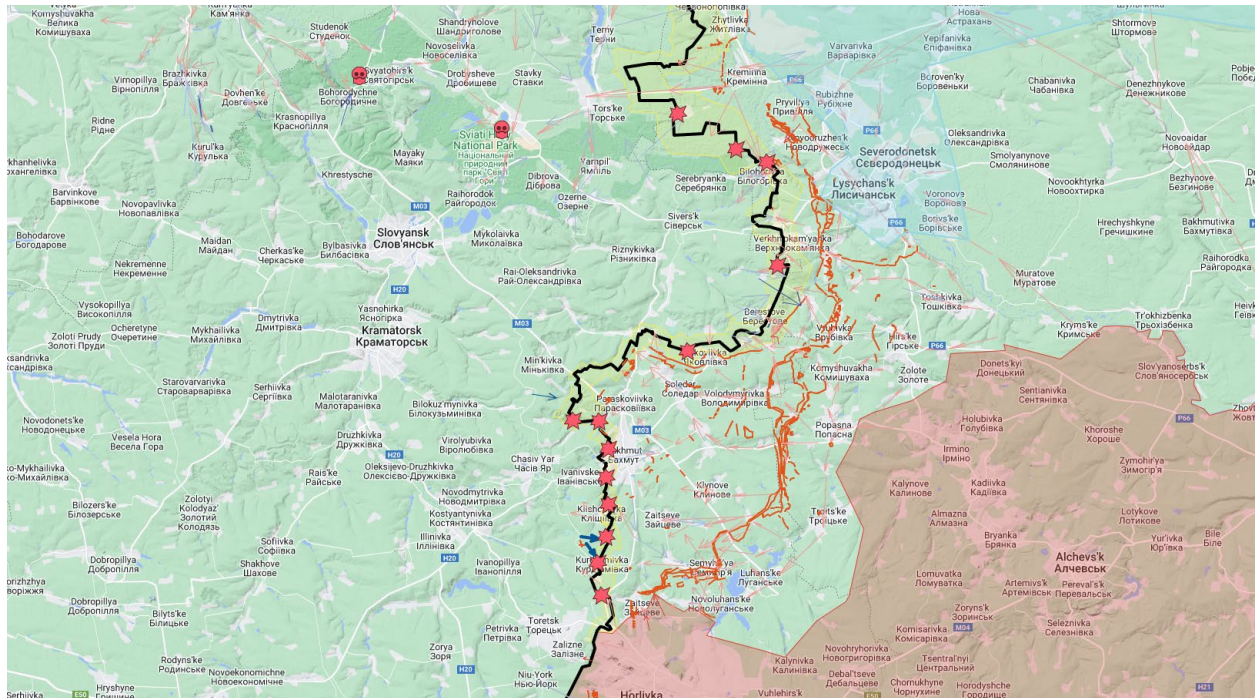
⁷ <https://t.me/annamaliar/1046>

⁸ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/13289>

⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

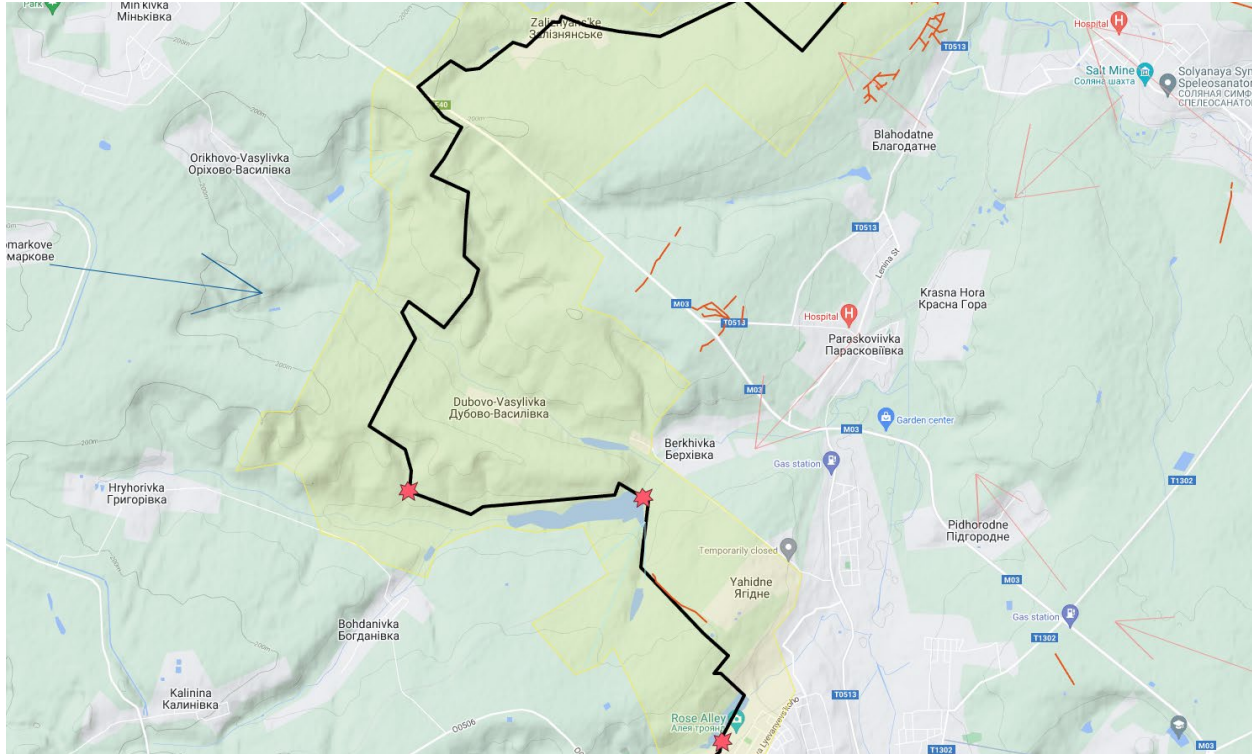


NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported renewed fighting in the areas of [Bohdanivka](#) and [Orikhovo-Vasylivka](#) with no claims of territorial control changes.^{10 11 12}

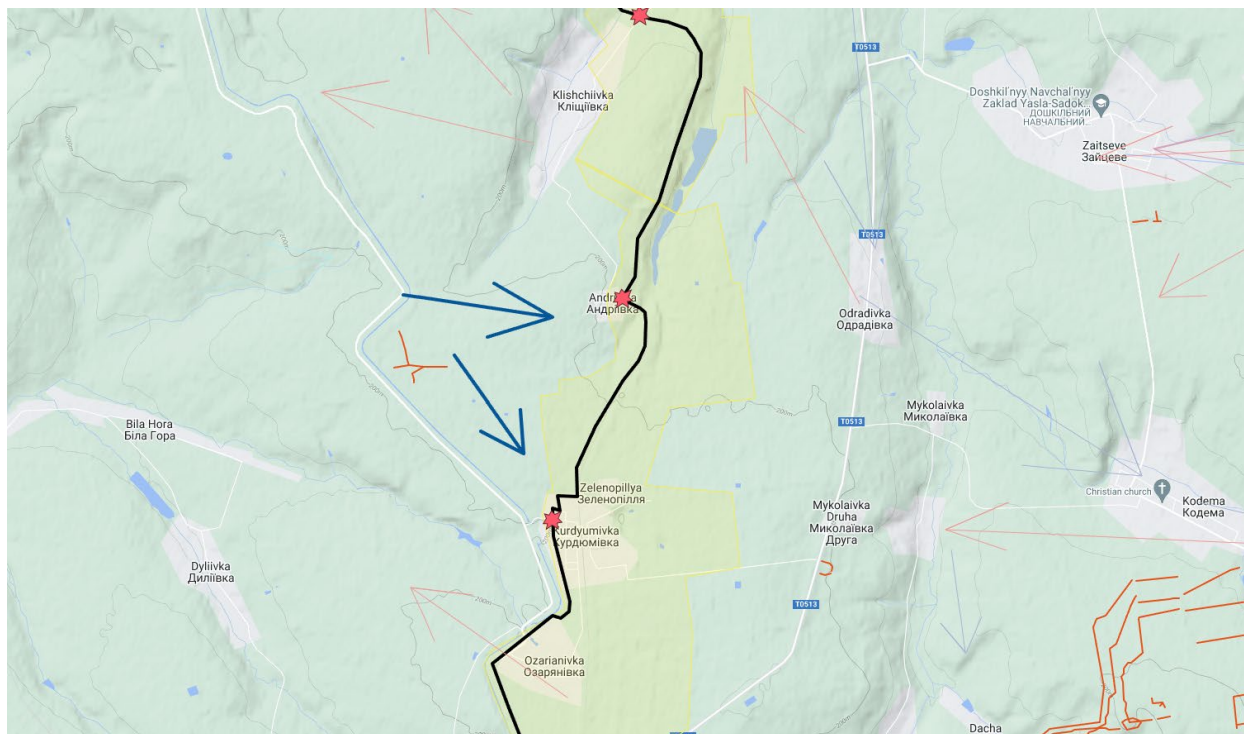
¹⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

¹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>



NASA FIRMS showed a significant number of thermal anomalies in Bakhmut, almost exclusively in Russian-controlled areas, including the T-1302 Highway ground line of communication (GLOC – supply line), the medical college area, the industrial complex in the north and east of Litak.



Klishchiivka Operational Area

Deputy Minister of Defense Maliar reported intense fighting continued in [Klishchiivka](#), [Avdiivka](#), and [Kurdyumivka](#).^{13 14 15} RMOD reported Ukraine was on the offensive near Mayorsk, while WarGonzo reported a failed Russian offensive near [Ozarianivka](#).^{16 17} They are likely reporting fighting in the same area, south of the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal near the T-513 Highway.

¹³ <https://t.me/annamaliar/1046>

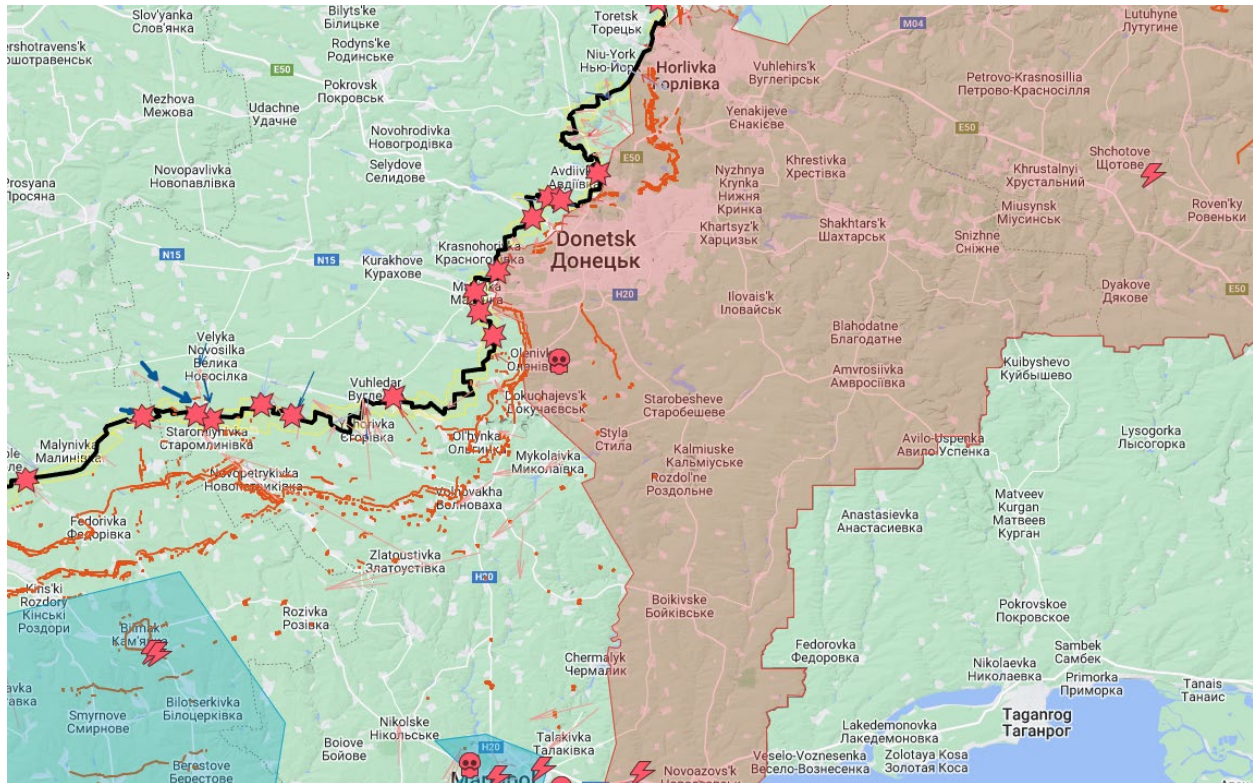
¹⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/29976 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

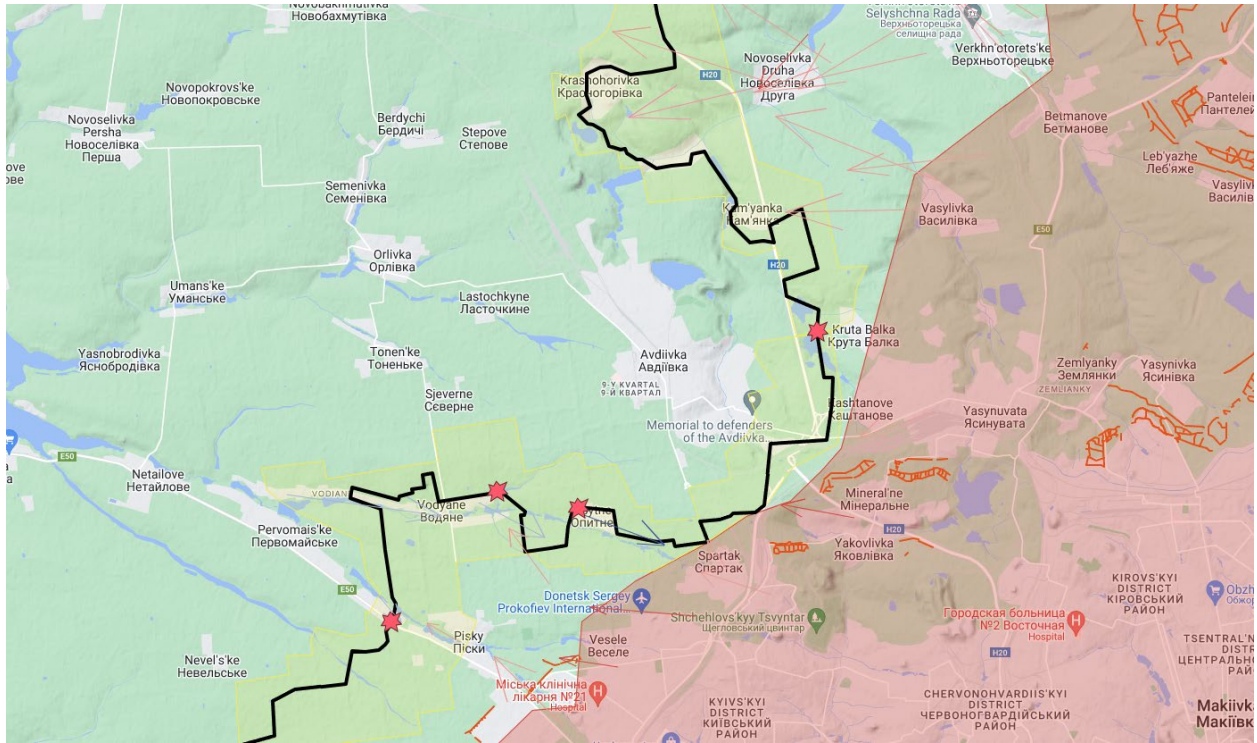
¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

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

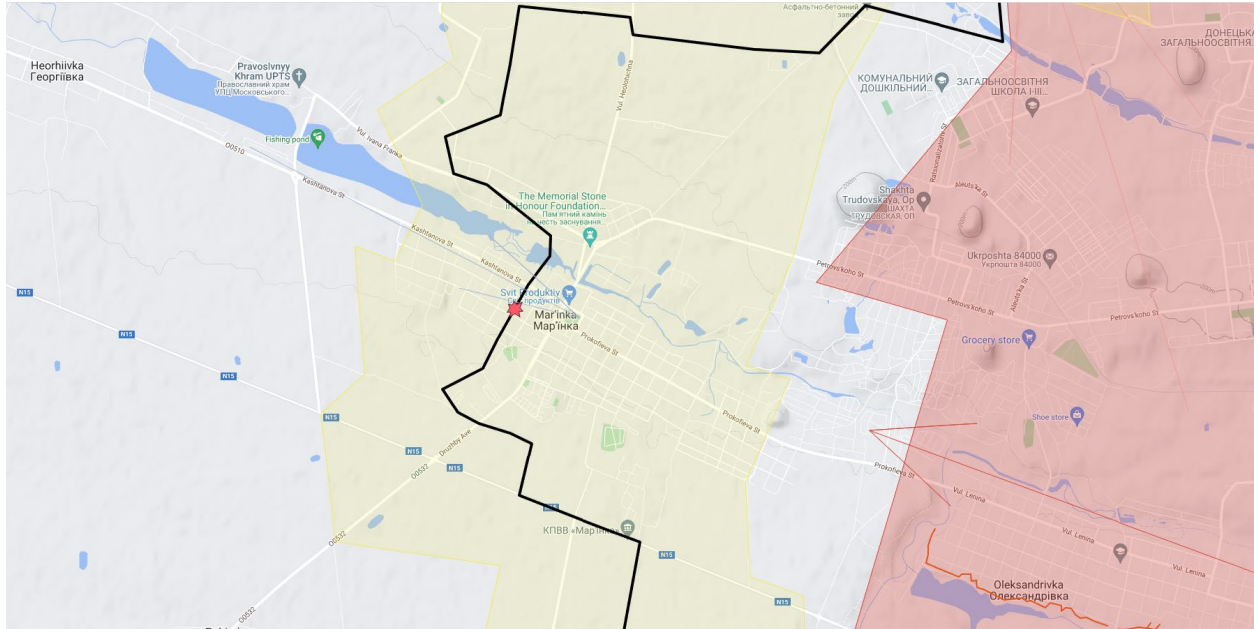


Avdiivka Operational Area

Russian forces restarted offensive operations near [Avdiivka](#) with no change in the situation.^{18 19}

¹⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

¹⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/29977 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



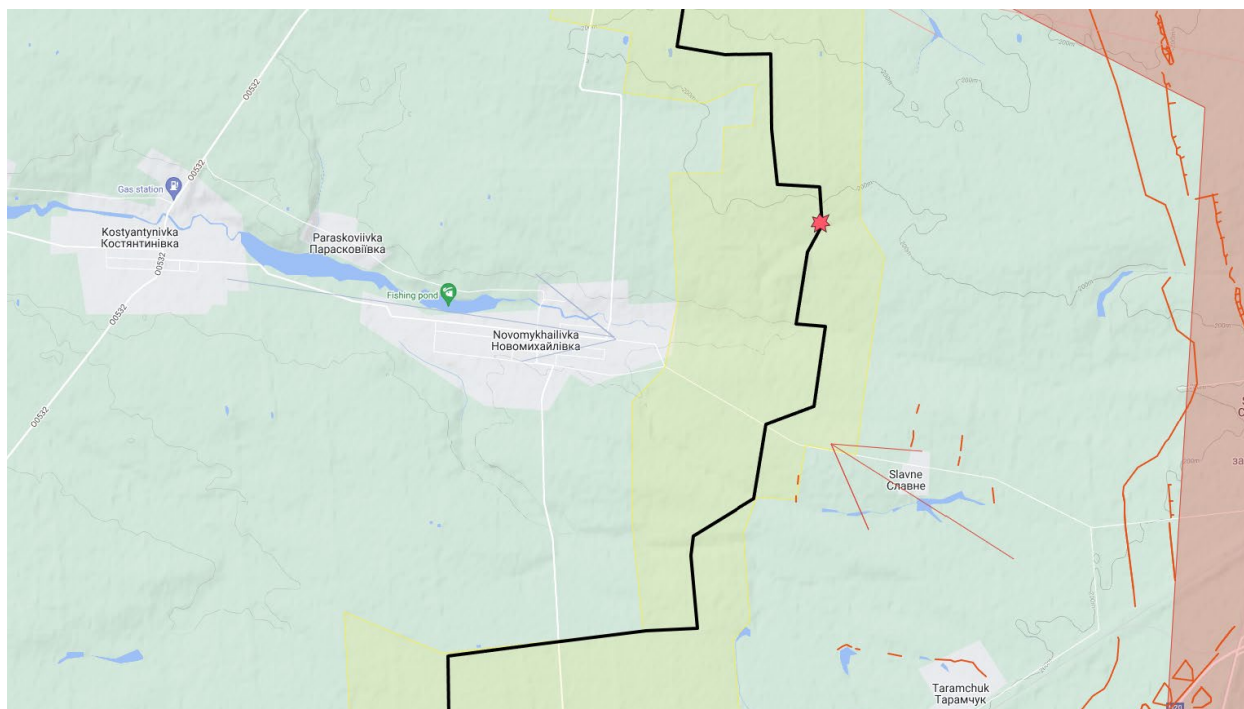
Marinka Operational Area

Multiple Ukrainian and Russian sources reported an increase in the intensity of fighting in [Marinka](#), with Russian troops supported by the VKS. There continues to be no change in the line of conflict.^{20 21 22}

²⁰ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11547>

²¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

²² <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

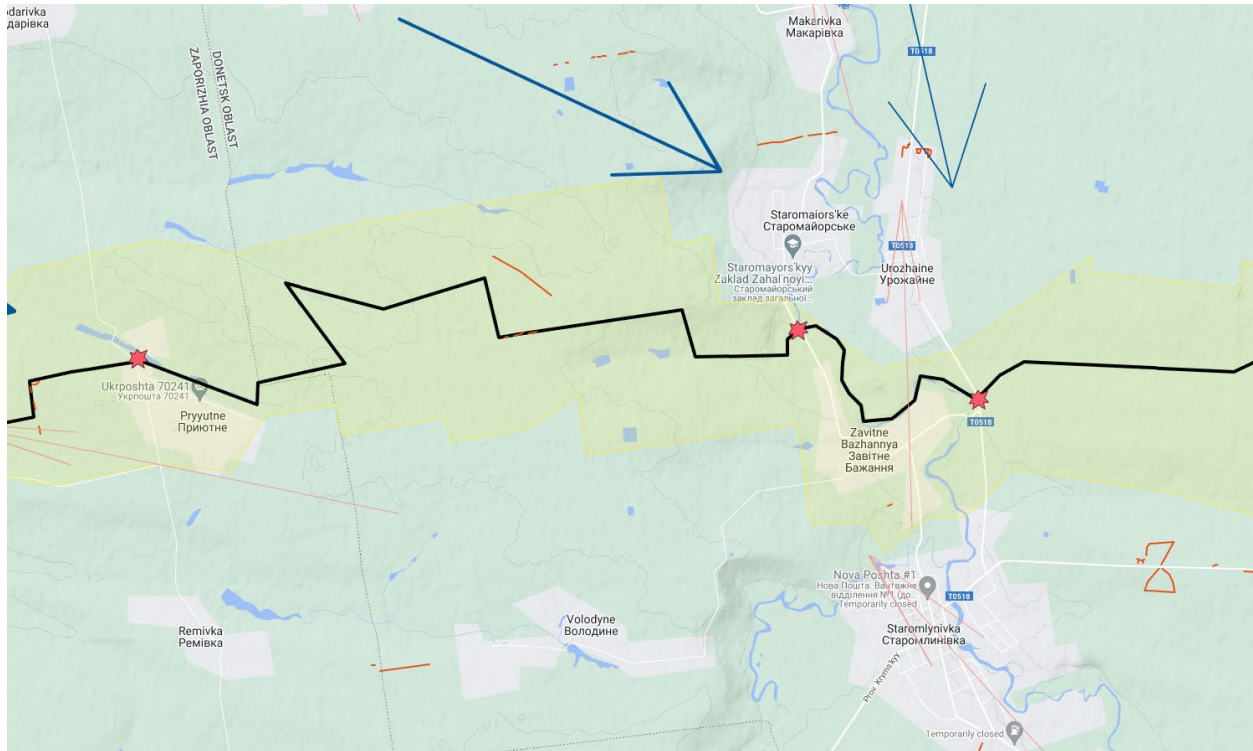


Vuhledar Operational Area

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that Russian troops tried to advance on [Novomykailivka](#), suffered losses, and retreated to their defense positions.^{23 24}

²³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11547>

²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>



Staromlynivka Operational Area

The only reports of fighting were near [Pryyutne](#).²⁵

Occupied Donetsk

In Mariupol, insurgents set fire to one of the Russian bases, destroying four vehicles, including a box truck, two SUVs, and a UAZ-452 Loaf, also known to Westerners as a Scooby-Doo van.²⁶

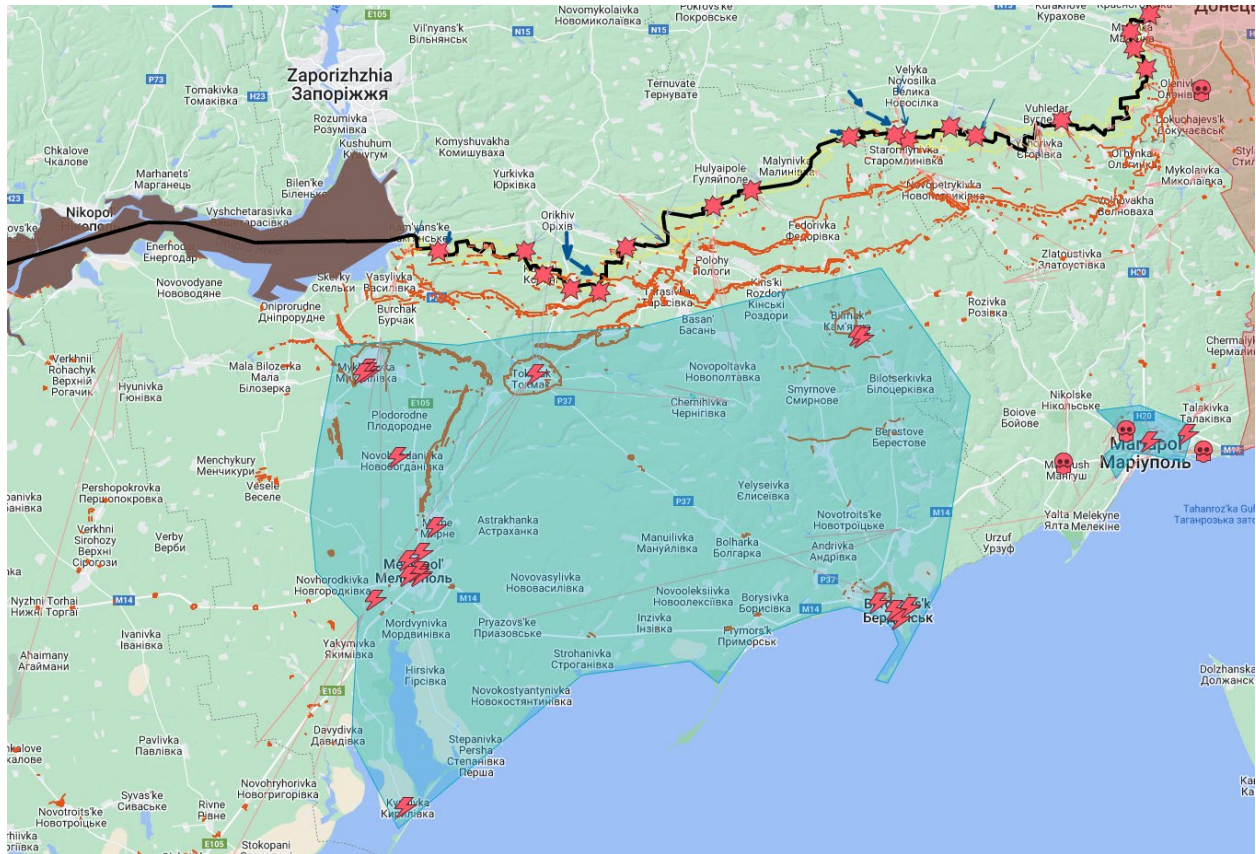
²⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/29976 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/109886>

In Kalchynivka, insurgents beat a Russian collaborator who is one of the administrators for the ongoing sham referendum in the occupied territories. They broke his arms, and Russian occupiers aren't helping with medical bills and refuse to investigate the attack.²⁷

²⁷ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/13079>

ZAPORIZHIA

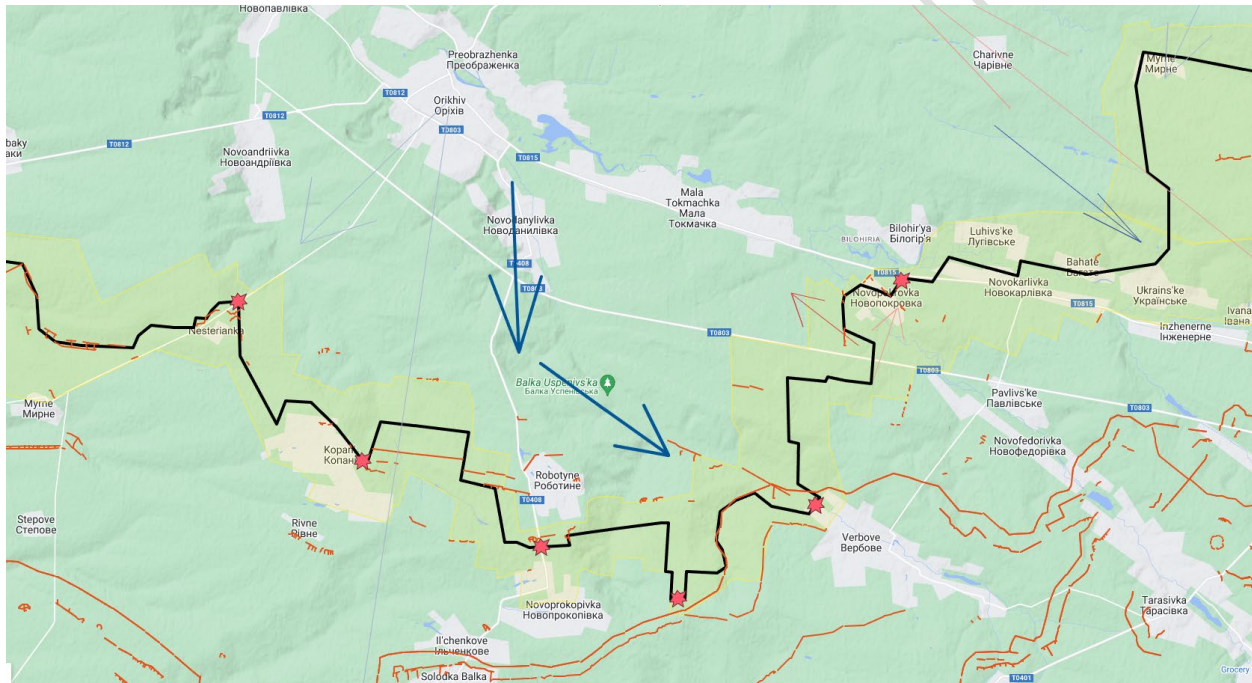


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, break Russian defensive lines, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians

Free Zaporizhzhia

Brigadier General Alexander Tarnavskiy reported that Ukrainian forces executed 1,186 fire missions in Zaporizhzhia and eastern Kherson.²⁸



²⁸ <https://t.me/otarnavskiy/222>

Orikhiv Operational Area



A review of the August 31 EO Browser Sentinel-2 L2A true color satellite images shows a clear breach 1,000 meter wide breach of the second echelon of the Surovikin Line west of [Verbove](#). The artillery damage patterns in the settlement are too accurate for Russian troops, indicating that Ukrainian forces remain on the western edge. However, the damage within Verbove is extensive. Intense fighting continues.^{29 30 31}

²⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17490>

³⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/29976 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

The Wall Street Journal ~~copied off our report again~~ wrote that the liberation of Verbove will open the way to Berdyansk and Mariupol.³² They verified intelligence that the amount of drone activity in the region is becoming problematic for Russian and Ukrainian operators. Ukrainian troops call it Boryspil, referencing the international airport outside of Kyiv.

Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko shared how challenging it was to breach the support zone, what we've called the first line of Russian defenses. "The breakthrough here was carried out along the front up to 9 kilometers [in depth]. The density of mining was 45,000 mines per kilometer of depth."³³ The total number is staggering, representing over 575,000 mines along the current 13-kilometer front!


Fighting south and southeast of [Robotyne](#) continued.³⁴ Russian sources report that their troops are under "massive" shelling.

³² https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/4961

³³ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19994>

³⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14728>

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

Insurgents  [firebombed the home](#) of Russian collaborator Katyushchenko Galina, who is helping Russian occupiers organize the ongoing illegal elections.³⁵

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians defused five antipersonnel mines found on the route IAEA inspectors will use to travel to and from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).³⁶ The mines were located in Kamyanske, where the inspectors will transition from occupied to free Ukraine.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

There was no report on the composition of the Black Sea Fleet. Operational Command South (OKS) reported there were three surface vessels on patrol capable of launching up to 24 Kalibr cruise missiles.³⁷

³⁵ <https://t.me/krympartizans/2018>

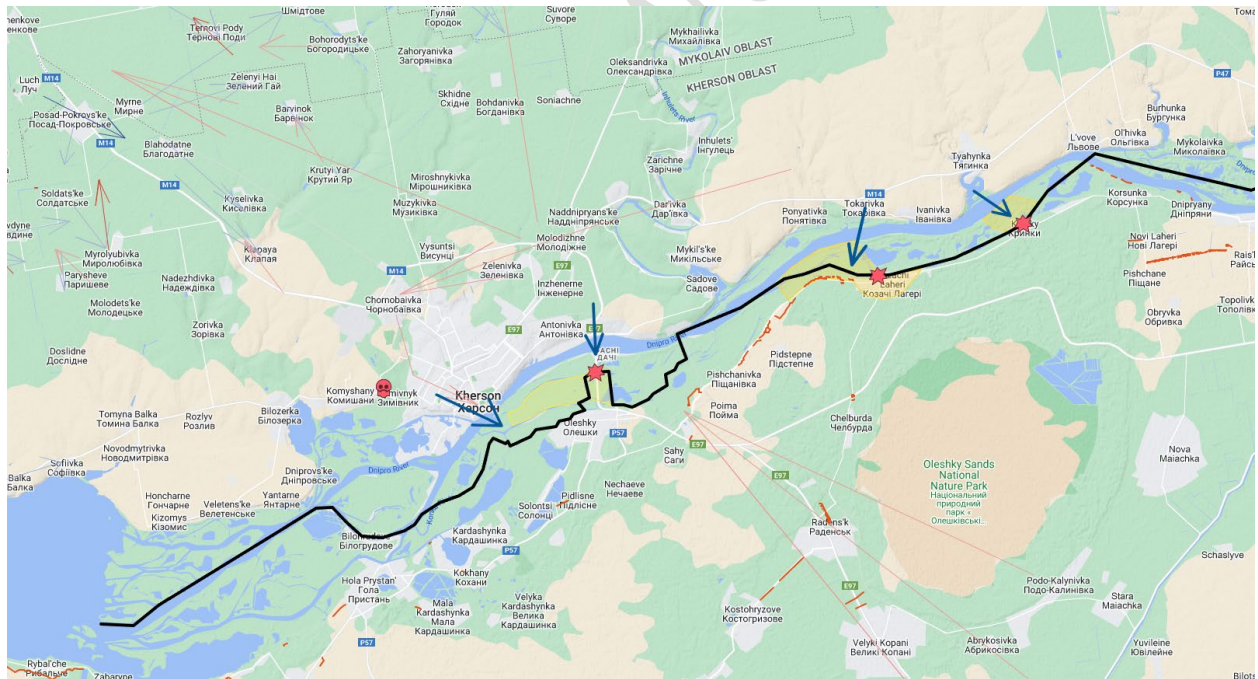
³⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/109951>

³⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112435>

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, prepare the region for illegitimate elections in September 2023, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives



Free Kherson

There weren't any significant developments.

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


There weren't any significant developments.

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

Kyiv

British newspaper The Guardian released a video showing a  [Russian missile or drone striking Kyiv](#), or a low altitude intercept, on the night of August 29 – 30.³⁸ The debris caused significant damage to an Auchan Hypermart (similar to a Super Walmart). Auchan management said the damage is extensive and was evaluating if part of the store could be reopened while the damaged section is rebuilt.³⁹

³⁸ <https://t.me/uniannet/109822>


³⁹ <https://t.me/uniannet/109846>

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


Moscow



Unknown drones were spotted  [circling over the Krasnohorsk District of Moscow](#) earlier in the day.⁴⁰ In the evening, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin reported that a Ukrainian drone was shot down near Lyubertsy.⁴¹ Moscow airports were put on a ground hold, delaying dozens of flights.

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112471>



⁴¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/56412

Pskov

Russian air defenses were active,  [firing wildly near Pskov Airfield](#) due to a "single unidentified object."^{42 43}

Satellite images from August 31, taken during better weather conditions, confirmed that  [two Il-76 transports were completely destroyed](#) and two more were  [significantly damaged](#) by a Ukrainian drone attack.^{44 45 46}

Bryansk

The city experienced  [another drone attack](#) during the daytime, which  [caused brief panic among residents](#).^{47 48} There was no information on damage.

Kursk

The Russian Volunteer Corps (PAK), a partisan organization fighting with Ukraine, claimed responsibility for the August 27 attack on the Kursk Military Airfield.⁴⁹ "Having once

⁴² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112534>

⁴³ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41504>

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/COUPSURE/status/1697319185506853061>

⁴⁵ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1697317011498610730

⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/bradyafr/status/1697361116886970666>


⁴⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112436>

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112474>

⁴⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/31/7417846/>

again seamlessly crossed the border full of holes, on the night of 27 August, we attacked a military facility with drones: an airfield full of Putin's vultures. All the targets were destroyed. We emphasize only legitimate targets that have brought grief and death to peaceful Ukrainian cities."

Ukrainian officials claim that the strike involving 16 cardboard drones, which damaged four Su-30s, one Mig-29, an S-300 radar complex, and two Pantsir S-1 air defense systems. Like the rest of the analyst community, we examined satellite images as soon as they were available and concluded there was no damage.

Not so fast, Ukrainian officials say. A video was released showing the testing done to weaponize the Australian-designed cardboard drones,  [armed with a directional fragmentation payload](#) that fires shrapnel over a roughly 5 square meter area.⁵⁰ The shrapnel was able to penetrate 2X4 and 2X6 lumber. Detonation over an aluminum-skinned aircraft would likely cause damage similar to a near miss from an air defense missile, causing mission kill damage. For analysts, these drones will be as nightmarish as they are for the Russians because publicly available satellite-based battle damage assessment doesn't have the

⁵⁰ <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1697229084957216873>

resolution to show fuselage penetration. Previously, we reported no damage, but based on this new video, we can no longer ascertain the results of the drone strike.

Two drones were downed near Kurchatov, with one striking an administrative building. There were no reports of casualties.⁵¹

BELARUSIAN FRONT

The head of the Main Directorate of Intelligence for the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GRU), Kyrylo Budanov, said Russia and Belarus did a joint exercise to simulate preparations for a nuclear strike.⁵² "I read the original documents based on the training results. Pretty ugly documents for a Belarusian. The Russian 12th Main Directorate, which is responsible for these means, wrote that according to the results of training with nuclear simulators for the Iskander system, Belarus was recognized as completely unprepared for the use of such weapons."

⁵¹ https://t.me/dva_majors/24714

⁵² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112507>

THEATERWIDE

Multiple Ukrainian sources are reporting that the head of the State Property Fund, Rustem Umerov, is being considered for the position of head of the Ministry of Defense. The resignation of the current minister, Oleksii Reznikov, could come as early as next week.⁵³ A growing list of scandals has rocked Reznikov and the Ministry of Defense during a time when Kyiv is ruthlessly targeting corruption. Problems include grossly overpaying for eggs and military uniforms, continuing to issue contracts to Polish military contractor Alfa despite repeated failures, problems within the military commissariat system, and low-quality tourniquets. People's Deputy Yaroslav Zheleznyak claimed that Reznikov will become the ambassador to the United Kingdom while Umerov will get the nod to be Minister of Defense because there has not been a single scandal while he has led the State Property Fund.⁵⁴

The head of the Foreign Ministry, Dmytro Kuleba, sharply criticized Western analysts, talking heads, and journalists complaining about the perceived slow pace of the Ukrainian counteroffensive. "Criticizing the slow pace of the

⁵³ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/23841>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/41087>

counteroffensive is like spitting in the face of a Ukrainian soldier who sacrifices his life every day, moving forward and liberating one kilometer of Ukrainian land after another," a frustrated Kuleba said. "I would advise all critics to close their eyes. Come to Ukraine and try to free one square centimeter yourself."⁵⁵

amid procurement scandals, could probably be considered as early as next week

The head of the NSDC, Oleksii Danilov, dismissed a recent New York Times article suggesting that Ukraine has lost tens of thousands of troops in the last four months. "As for our losses, this account does not correspond to reality at all. Our army was not at all large enough to talk about losses of 70,000 soldiers."⁵⁶


Editor's Note: We reached the same conclusion in an earlier SITREP, stating that the Ukrainian offensive would be long over if they suffered this many losses.

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112532>

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/109918>

If it seems like Ukraine has charged and arrested a lot of collaborators and Russian agents in the last couple of months, you would be correct. The spokesperson for the SBU, Artem Dekhtyarenko, said, "Since the beginning of the full-scale war [*February 24, 2022 – Ed.*], the SBU has exposed more than 2,000 traitors and more than 300 personnel agents of the Russian special services."⁵⁷

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired the Ivano-Frankivsk Administrative and Military (OVA) Governor, Alexander Yaroshchuk, for showing up at work drunk.⁵⁸

The 93rd Motor Infantry Brigade, or as we called them, the Gods of War, has been reconstituted after suffering heavy losses during the defense of Bakhmut.⁵⁹ The unit reports that they will soon return to the battlefield in "an important" direction. The 93rd  [has been training for months with modern Western equipment](#), including the CV-90 IFVs, and retained most of its leadership from Bakhmut, creating a well-armed, well trained, and well-led unit. The Gods of War are coming. If you're a Russian soldier facing the 93rd, we recommend calling **I Want to Live** at 380-95-68-86-888.

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112531>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/uniannet/109957>

⁵⁹ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1697287760388767979>

The Ukrainian military announced they were standardizing their barrel artillery units to the following systems,⁶⁰

- Slovakian DANA 152 mm self-propelled howitzer
- Slovakian Zuzana-2 155 mm self-propelled howitzer
- French CEASAR 155 mm self-propelled howitzer
- United States M777 155 mm towed howitzer
- United States M101 105 mm towed howitzer
- Finnish M/41D 120 mm mortar
- Bulgarian EM-82 82 mm mortar
- Bulgarian Warrior 82 82 mm mortar

British defense contractor BAE Systems will be entering into an agreement for localized production of L119 and M777 artillery systems and the Swedish CV90 IFV in Ukraine.⁶¹ After meeting with company CEO Charles Woodburn, President Zelenskyy said, "A joint result for the sake of the security of our country, the whole of Europe and the free world. Together, we make freedom stronger. Thank you for your visit to Ukraine and the meaningful start of cooperation."

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112470>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/khmelnytskaODA/2008>

The SBU has identified over 3,500 collaborators helping organize or running for illegitimate government positions in the sham Russian plebiscite in Ukraine's occupied territories, which has already started.⁶² "By using fake voting, the aggressor country hopes to legalize its proteges in the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied areas of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions."

Early voting is ongoing in 375 occupied frontline settlements. The Kremlin predicts that Putin's United Russian party will receive 89% of the vote because they will force people to – with violence.⁶³

The Netherlands announced a new military aid package that includes,⁶⁴

- 17 rigid-hull Boston Whaler fast attack boats for special operation forces (SSO)
- 5 BIBER (Beaver) bridging units
- 2 portable field hospitals
- 9 mine plows

⁶² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112430>

⁶³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112468>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/mortisaeterna/5000>

- 6 sets of demining rollers for IFVs
- Unspecified quantity of 155 mm ammunition

President Zelenskyy said Ukraine would need 160 F-16 fighters to achieve air dominance over the nation's airspace.⁶⁵ The discrepancy from previous requests for 60 to 80 aircraft is that it is considered the minimum number needed to intercept cruise missiles in the rear areas and establish air dominance along the line of conflict. As the largest European nation, Ukraine would need a larger air force to protect every square kilometer of its skies.

Ukraine received 14 truckloads of humanitarian aid in Kherson, delivered by Serbia.⁶⁶

The United States plans to purchase \$192 million of AMRAAM medium-range air-to-air missiles for Ukraine, with the Department of Defense signing a contract with Raytheon Missile Defense.⁶⁷ Russia thought it was upset about the AIM-9 sidewinder news last week. If Ukraine and the boys at Langley figure out how to hotwire AMRAAM to

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/uniannet/109917>


⁶⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/109927>

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/uniannet/109971>

Mig-29s before F-16s arrive, it will make life miserable for the VKS.


Ten Abrams M1A1 MBTs are slated to arrive in Ukraine in the next two weeks, only one-third of the number previously promised.⁶⁸ A Pentagon official had the audacity to say, "The arrival of the tanks will give Kyiv forces the edge they need to break through Russia's fierce defenses in their grueling counteroffensive."

RANT: So ashamed. So, so ashamed right now. Our team understands the complexity of preparing the tanks for export, but 31 were promised, and Ukrainian military planners weren't planning for 10, 15, or 20. They were planning for 31. So when the rest of the over 65-ton M1A1s show up in October or November, they can be the equivalent of garage queens hiding from Russian cruise missiles and drones until May 2024 while Russian forces build even more complex defenses. FULFILL YOUR PROMISES AND STOP BEING AFRAID OF VLADIMIR PUTIN.

NSDC leader Oleksii Danilov shared a video  [showing the test launch](#) of the internally developed ground-to-ground

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/rusbrief/150787>

P-360 Neptune cruise missile.⁶⁹ The GPS and inertial guided cruise missile has entered serial production. Ukraine has kept **ITS PROMISES** not to use ally-provided weapons to strike within Russia, developing its own intermediate and long-range systems.

Ukraine's Chabla remote-controlled turrets. They aren't AI-based like in the  [1986 movie Aliens](#) but similar in concept.⁷⁰ Developed internally, the head of the Ministry of Digital Development, Mikhail Fedorov, said the system could be used on vehicles, in a pillbox, trenches, or other locations while the operator controls it remotely. Five Lynx military transport ground robots have also been introduced into the theater of war and can be armed with the Chabla turrets.⁷¹

The 15th meeting of the Ramstein Working Group will be held on September 19.⁷²

The Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gabrielus Landsbergis, became the first Ukrainian ally to say it out loud. "The West should openly set itself the goal of

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112477>

⁷⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PL4cXMLfkVE>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/uniannet/109912>

⁷² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112460>

Ukraine's victory in the war, and not talk about 'support for as long as necessary.'"

ASSESSMENT: Yes.


The table for equipment losses was **updated on August 21, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to August 21, 2023. 11,791 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,206 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2108	268	7.87:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	145	351	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	949	308	3.08:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2680	698	3.84:1	—
Armored Personnel Carriers	343	325	1.06:1	—
MRAPs	46	142	0.32:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	202	359	0.56:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	247	16	15.43:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	335	74	4.52:1	↑
Towed Artillery	283	148	1.91:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	499	206	2.42:1	↓
MLRS	256	50	5.12:1	↑
SAMs	162	127	1.28:1	↑
Mobile Radars	43	73	0.59:1	↑
EW/ECW	50	4	12.50:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	86	69	1.25:1	↑
Helicopters	109	32	3.41:1	↑
Naval Vessels	13	27	0.48:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Yesterday, we reported that PMC Wagner military leader Dmitry Utkin was buried at the  [prestigious Mytishchi cemetery outside Moscow](#).⁷³ Russian state media reported that, unlike Prigozhin, Utkin was buried with military honors.⁷⁴

Kyodo News of Japan reported that Russia had removed the S-300 air defense systems from the disputed Kiril Islands of Iturup and Kunashir for likely redeployment in western Russia or Ukraine.⁷⁵

ASSESSMENT: Japan should make a new map like China did.


The destruction of PMC Wagner destroyed the industrial catering services that were responsible for feeding hundreds of thousands of troops. Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Maliar claimed that Russian commanders in the rear areas of occupied Svatove were notified that their food shipments would end in September,

⁷³ https://twitter.com/Mike_Eckel/status/1697162698075566352

⁷⁴ https://t.me/shot_shot/56377

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/uniannet/109932>

with priority given to frontline forces.⁷⁶ Mobilized workers who claim they were sent to Donetsk to provide forced labor are being provided Russian dry rations, and the supply is close to exhausted.

Russian state media agency Shot! is reporting that Andrey Kurshin, the administrator of the Moscow Calling Telegram channel,  [was arrested in Moscow](#).⁷⁷ He is facing up to 10 years in a penal colony for spreading "fakes" about the Russian Federation Armed Forces. Kurshin is the sixth high-profile milblogger to be arrested (seven if you count Igor Strelkov Girkin) as the Kremlin tightens its grip on the information space.^{78 79}

Russian milblogger Thirteenth, who is associated with the semi-defunct PMC Wagner Group, stated that fellow milblogger Romanov Light is wanted by the Russian VKR for discrediting the Russian Federation Armed Forces. "Hello 1937! Everyone who can be removed is removed, some are imprisoned, some are eliminated forever, a mess and lawlessness are created at the front, and those who speak the truth are trying to be eliminated by any available

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/annamaliar/1047>

⁷⁷ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1697274161960218663

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/uniannet/109940>

⁷⁹ v

means. ***Instead of fixing these situations, they remove those who give the truth.*** [Emphasis Thirteenth – Ed.]⁸⁰

GEOPOLITICS

Grant Shepps was appointed as the new Minister of Defense of Great Britain after the resignation of Ben Wallace.^{81 82} Wallace had submitted his resignation in July after four years of service. Shepps told reporters after his appointment, "As I enter the Department of Defense, I look forward to working with the brave men and women of our Armed Forces to guard the security of our country. And the UK's continued support for Ukraine in its fight against Putin's barbaric invasion."

Shepps once called Putin a megalomaniac who tries to justify acts of inhuman violence with monstrous excuses. In Shepps' view, the best way to push back is by fully supporting Ukraine and demonstrating the strength of the global coalition.⁸³

⁸⁰ https://t.me/Separ13_13/18456

⁸¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112439>

⁸² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112434>

⁸³ <https://t.me/uniannet/109902>

Two squadrons of U.S. Air Force F-35s capable of delivering nuclear weapons will be stationed in the United Kingdom at Lakenheath Airbase in Suffolk, England. While the report is headline-grabbing, the 50 F-35s have the required system to receive an order to use nuclear weapons and the codes required to arm and release them.⁸⁴ This isn't a unique force of aircraft.

ECONOMIC

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, who is visiting Moscow, called for restoring the Black Sea Grain Initiative after meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov.⁸⁵

The Russian Ministry of Energy, Nikolay Shulginov, promised – he promised – to resolve the growing gasoline and diesel fuel crisis that is spreading across the occupied territories and Russia. Representatives of the ministry said that during a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture on August 30, Shulginov was told that the shortages risked disrupting the ongoing harvest season and the fall sowing campaigns. The hardest hit areas are illegally occupied

⁸⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6184

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/112512>

Crimea, and the Russian regions Stavropol and Krasnodar. One proposal was to restrict refined fuel exports to improve the domestic supply.⁸⁶

Gazprom reported that it is operating in the red for the third time in its 25-year history. The first time was during the global energy price crash of 1998, and the second time was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The reasons are a sharp drop in export earnings and a reduction in gas transportation by the gas transmission system." Officials warned the financial outlook was grim as the world pulls away from Russian natural gas exports. Revenue in the first half of 2023 was down 65%, with a net operating loss of 255 billion roubles.⁸⁷

On the subject of the rouble, the exchange rate was 97 for 1 US dollar, with the Central Bank of Russia struggling to prop up the currency value due to a continued outflow of foreign investment.

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/rusbrief/150820>

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/41146>


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 only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying 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 Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime 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.