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Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 568

It has been 3,488 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 203 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

- There is strong evidence that the Black Sea Fleet Project 1239 Bora-class hovercraft corvette Samum (also translated to Sumum) was damaged by an uncrewed surface vessel
- Multiple geolocated videos indicate that Russian forces have withdrawn from Klishchiivka
- At least four Iskander SRBMs hit the city of Kharkiv
- Russian attacks north of Bakhmut near Yahidne and Bohdanivka failed
- Multiple videos show that Russian troops have withdrawn from Klishchiivka
- The Ukrainian 3rd Separate Assault Brigade surrounded Russian troops in Andriivka when they liberated the village and took prisoners
- Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that the Russian 72nd Motor Infantry Brigade was destroyed
- The only fighting in southwest Donetsk was in Marinka

- Ukrainian troops made marginal gains west of Verbove
- The International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Rosatom and Russian occupiers continued to block inspectors from key areas of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant
- A Ukrainian USV attacked the Russian corvette Askold in the Kerch Strait
- The Russian corvette was almost certainly damaged by a USV on September 14 and was photographed at a repair dock in Sevastopol
- Romanian military officials said they deployed 600 troops to the Danube River delta and will shoot down Russian drones that pose a threat
- The bulk dry cargo ship Puma left the port of Odesa in defiance of Russia's blockade declaration
- A Russian FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bomb malfunctioned and struck the occupied city of Nova Kakhovka
- Ukrainian partisans attacked Russian troops in occupied Henichesk
- On September 14 – 15, Ukrainian air defenses shot down 17 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones in the Khelnytskyi region
- In Samara, Russia, a factory that produces bearings had a major fire
- The GUR reported that Ukrainian troops are capturing "dozens" of Russian soldiers a day

- Ukrainian People's Deputy Nestor Shufrych was arrested and charged with treason
- The United States Senate Armed Services Committee is investigating Elon Musk to determine if he interfered with national security
- Belgium will provide F-16s to train Ukrainian pilots
- The M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks have not arrived in Ukraine
- The Saab-developed GLSDB bombs for the HIMARS system are delayed until 2024
- U.S. Congress wants the U.S. Army to explain why 250 M1117 armored mobility vehicles promised to Ukraine last year still haven't been delivered and won't be ready for another 18 months
- The U.S. will increase 155 mm artillery round production to 100,000 a month by 2025
- The State Duma of Russia announced they were lowering health requirements for mobilization and conscription and issued a blanket stop-loss order for all mobilized
- Russia has started using the very rare 2S31 Vena self-propelled mortar in Ukraine
- Russian state media shared a video of T-55A medium-duty tanks being deployed in Zaporizhzhia with the 1430th Motor Infantry Regiment

- Russia is mobilizing recent graduates in Primorye and Khabarovsk into the newly formed 25th Combined Arms Army
- The bodies of 51 Ukrainian soldiers were repatriated
- In occupied Luhansk, a Russian military truck ran over a pedestrian, and no one cared
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will meet with U.S. President Joe Biden on September 21 in New York City
- Finland has decided to bar Russian-registered vehicles from entry, and Norway is considering doing the same
- The United Kingdom declared Private Military Company Wagner Group a terrorist organization
- The Cuban government said they don't care if their citizens fight in Ukraine and then said they still do
- The European Commission dropped restrictions on agricultural imports from Ukraine
- Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland said they don't care what the EU decided and will continue their embargo
- The Russian Central Bank raised the prime lending rate 100 basis points to 13%
- The fuel crisis in Russia continues to worsen as RON AI-92 gasoline reached a record price
- In 2024, residents and businesses in the Moscow region won't be able to buy co-insurance for terrorist attacks anymore

- We created a new section dedicated to rumors because the truth matters

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. 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.
2. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government is in 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.
3. There remains a 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.
4. We maintain that the soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border has

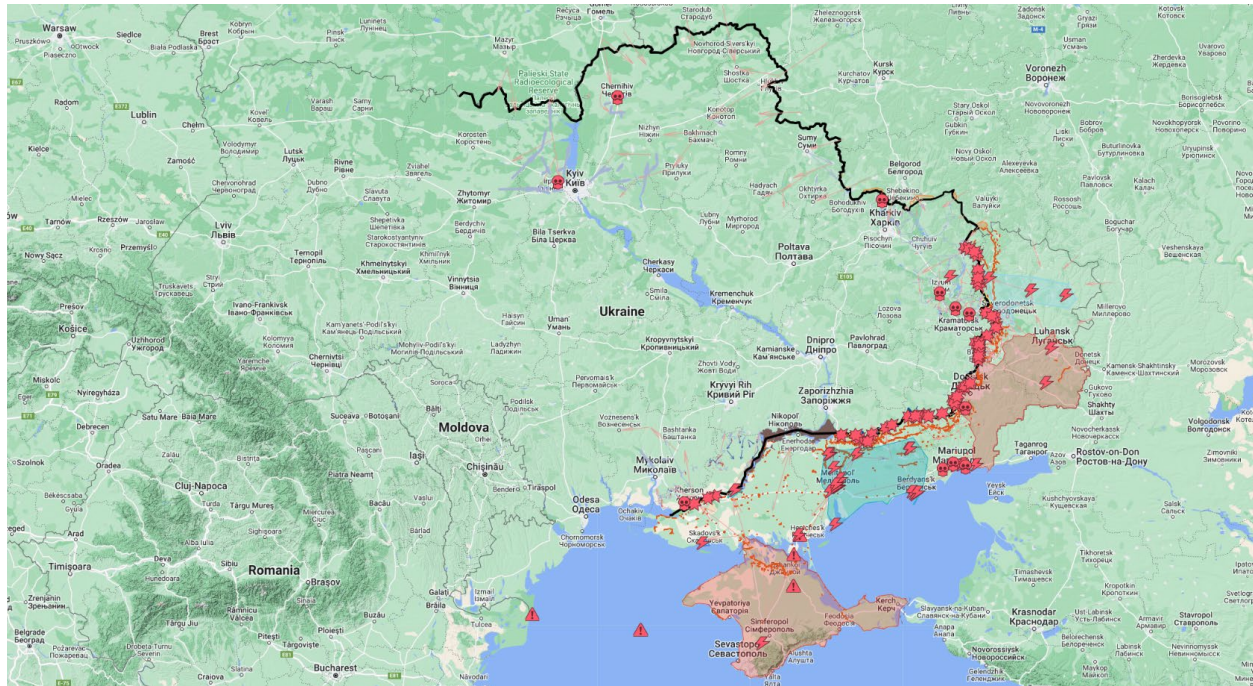
- further emboldened Moscow to take increasing risks, which could cause a significant international incident.
5. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
 6. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer-fall 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.
 7. Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
 8. The growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units has forced commanders to commit strategic reserves meant for a fall-winter 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.

9. 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.

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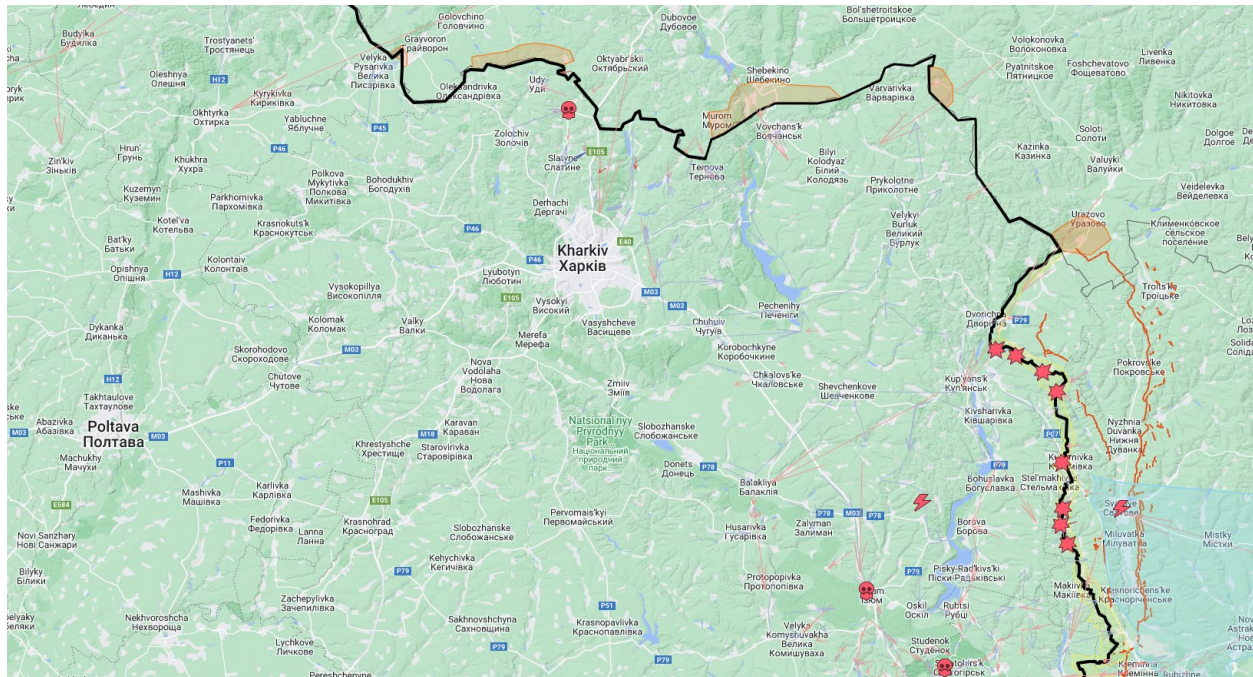
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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

Breaking News: At the time of publication, Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleg



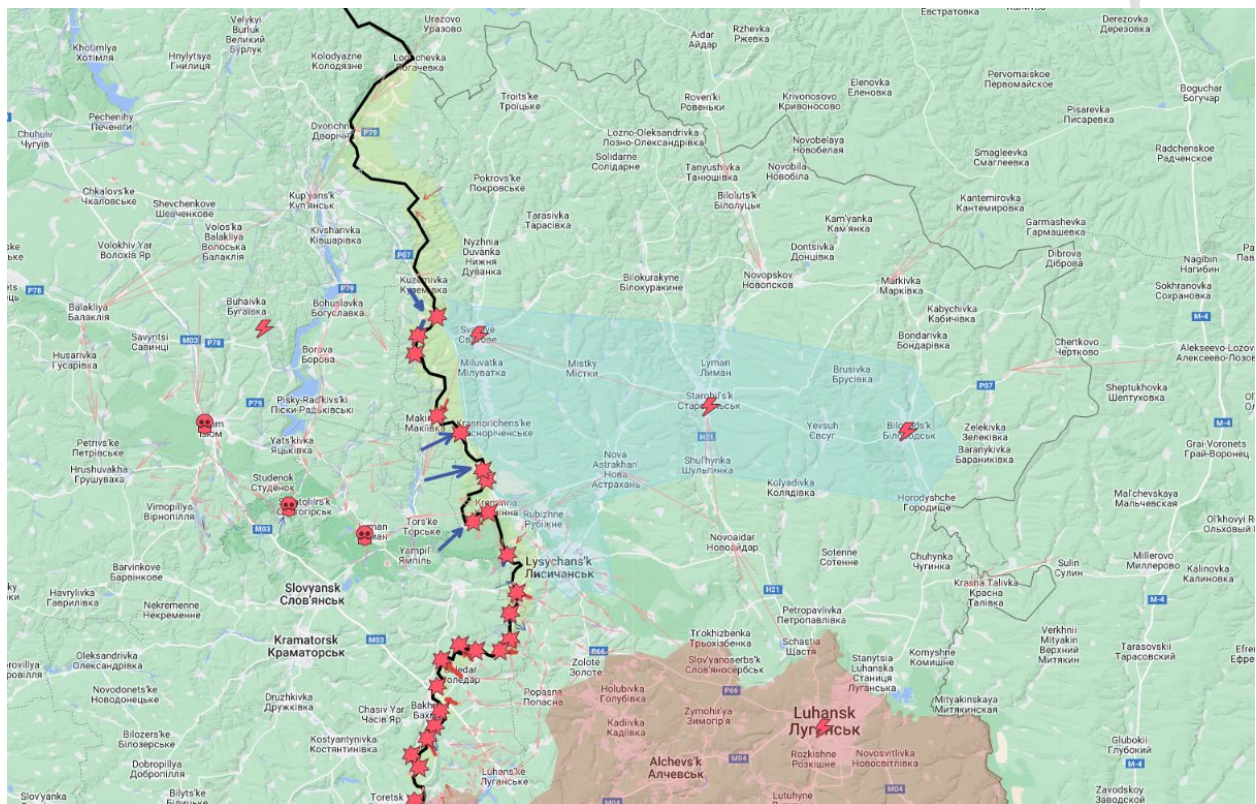
Sinegubov reported that four Iskander short-range ballistic missiles struck the city of Kharkiv.¹ There was no other information available.

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¹ <https://t.me/synegubov/7066>

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



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

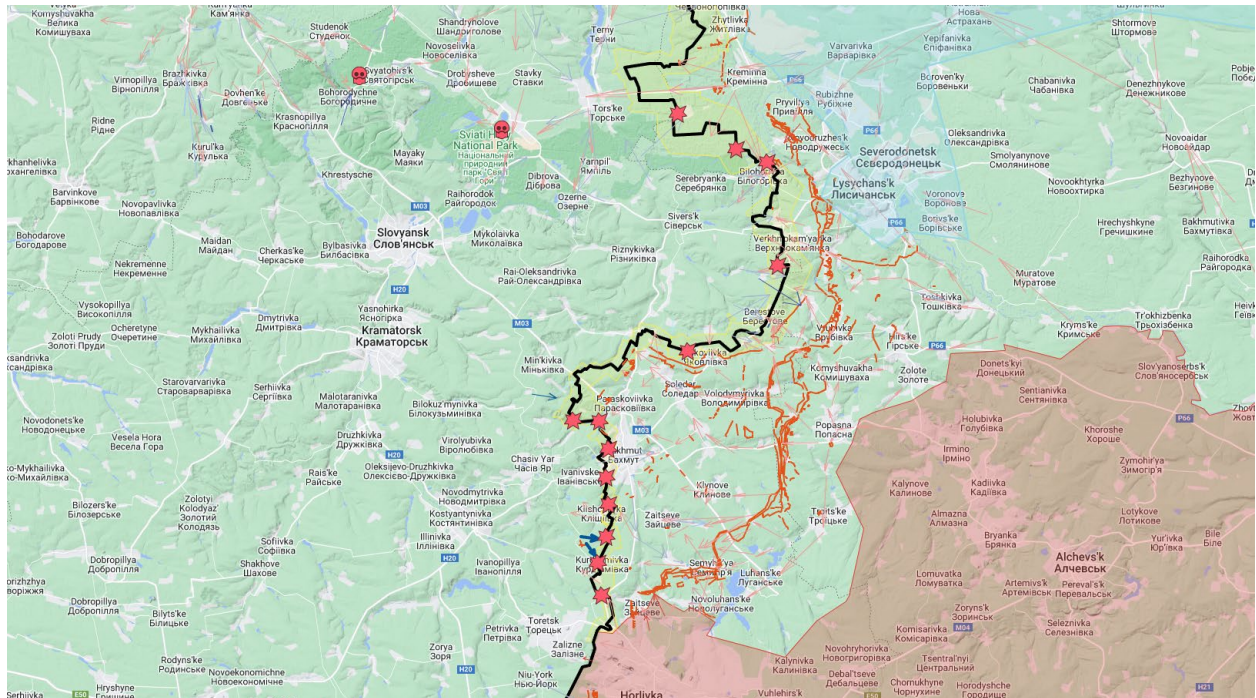
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

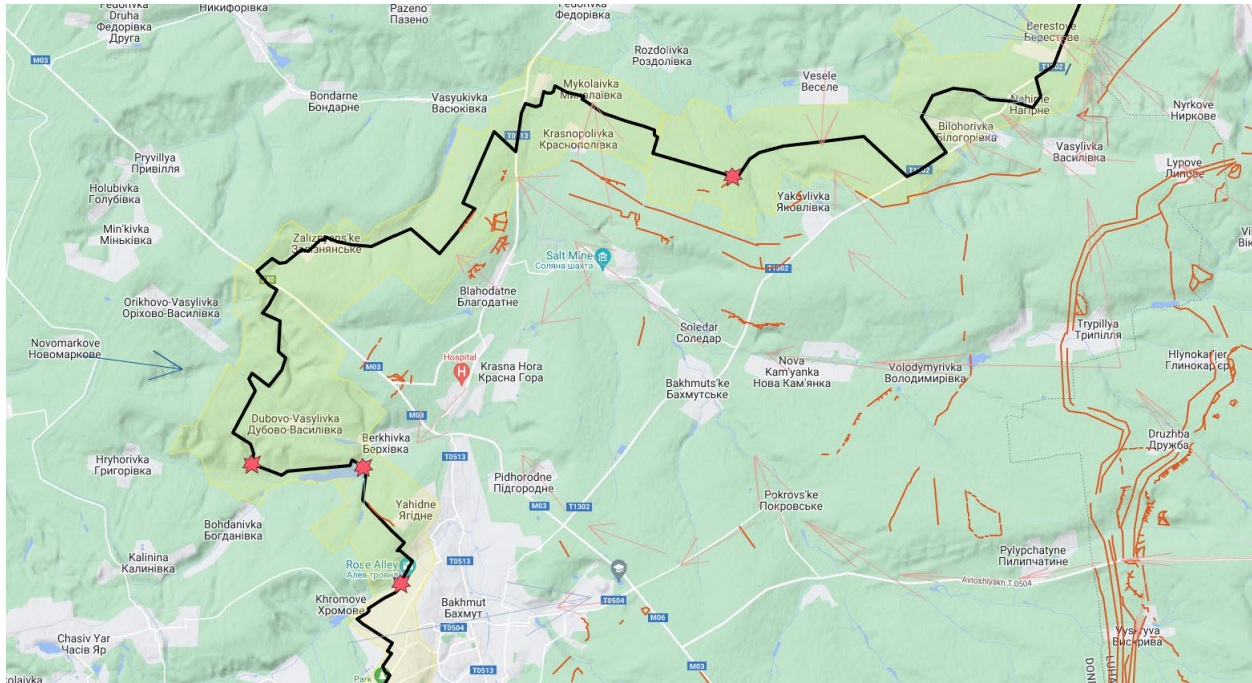
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NORTHEAST DONETSK



Russian Objective: Complete the capture of Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north and south of Bakhmut, cut off the ground lines of communication into Bakhmut and Soledar and liberate both operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

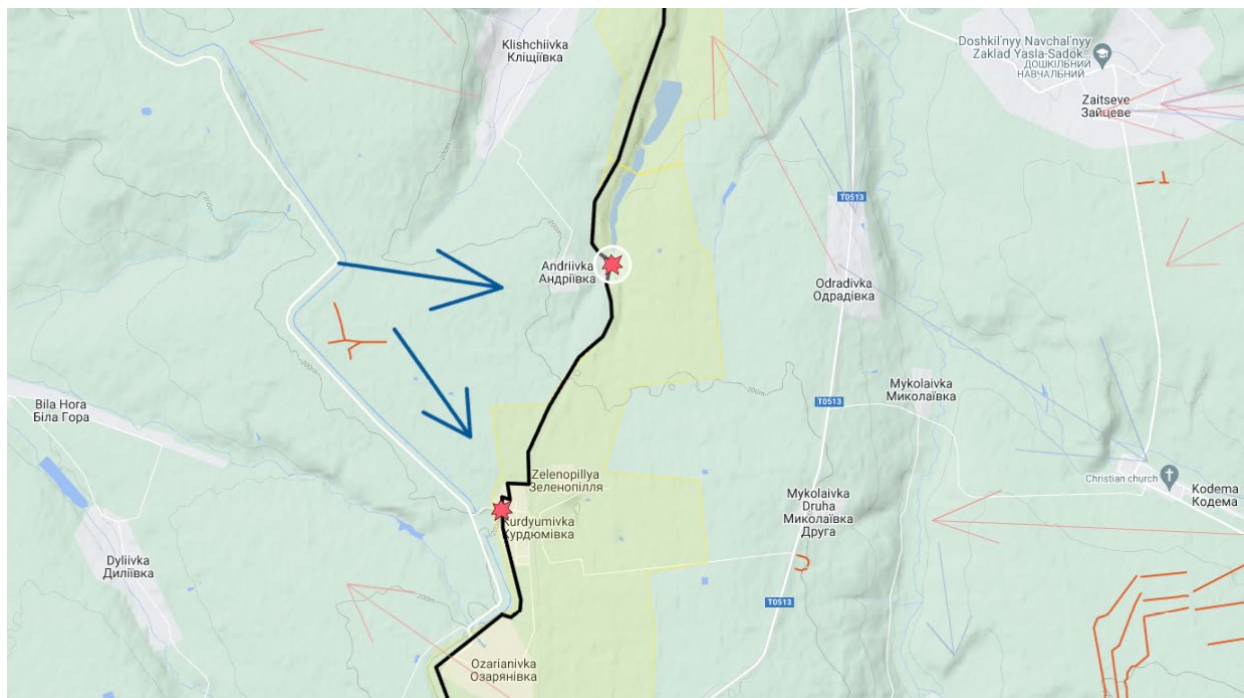


Soledar and Bakhmut Operational Areas

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian forces conducted offensive operations near [Yahidne](#) and [Bohdanivka](#) in an attempt to restore previously lost positions. Both attacks were unsuccessful.²


ASSESSMENT: This activity was likely spoiling attacks attempting to divert Ukrainian military resources from the south flank of Bakhmut, where Russian defenses are crumbling.

² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12018>



Klishchiivka Operational Area



GSAFU reported that the clearing of [Klishchiivka](#) continued, stating that “partial success” was achieved in the last 24 hours.³ Two geolocated videos and Russian claims strongly indicate that Russian troops have withdrawn from Klishchiivka and have been pushed north of the railroad tracks.


The first video is from a Russian first-person view (FPV) kamikaze drone that flies south to north, and  [claims to have hit a Ukrainian ammo cache](#).⁴ The video doesn't show

³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12018>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1702802069067845799>

the result of the strike. If we accept the Russian claim at face value, the Ukrainian ammo depot is 625 meters from the railroad tracks to the north and 450 meters west of the treeline on the eastern edge of the settlement. If Ukrainian forces have been able to move an ammunition cache past the center of the village, Ukrainian forces have established military control both north and east of the location.

The second video supports our assessment and shows  [Russian troops withdrawing from Klishchiivka](#) across the railroad tracks.⁵ The video was geolocated to the northernmost point of the settlement with  [no signs of occupation or remaining defenses](#) at the crossing.⁶

Another video showed medics with the Ukrainian Kastuś Kalinoŭski Regiment  [walking down the main road through Klishchiivka](#). The unit declared the settlement liberated, but after admonishment by the General Staff, apologized and said fighting was still ongoing.⁷

ASSESSMENT: After analyzing Russian and Ukrainian videos and the premature statement by the Kastuś


⁵ <https://twitter.com/Alfaiomi/status/1702745693809426910>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1702873752852455706>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1702649556716888519>

Kalinoŭski Regiment, we expect the General Staff to announce that Klishchiivka is under Ukrainian military control. Despite the available evidence, we have not adjusted the map due to our policy that all liberation announcements must come from the General Staff, the Ministry of Defense, or President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Our official position is that the northeast corner of Klishchiivka remains contested.

The Ukrainian 3rd Separate Assault Brigade released a video showing the liberation of the ruins that was [Andriivka](#). "As a result of a lightning operation, the Russian garrison of Andriivka was surrounded, cut off from the main forces, and destroyed. In two days, the 3rd [Brigade] eliminated the chief of intelligence for the enemy's brigade...and almost all the infantry of the 72nd brigade."⁸

A video showed that after Russian troops were surrounded, a drone was used to broadcast a message that Russian troops had ten minutes to surrender. Otherwise, they would be destroyed. Part of the surviving garrison  [surrendered to the drone](#).^{9 10}

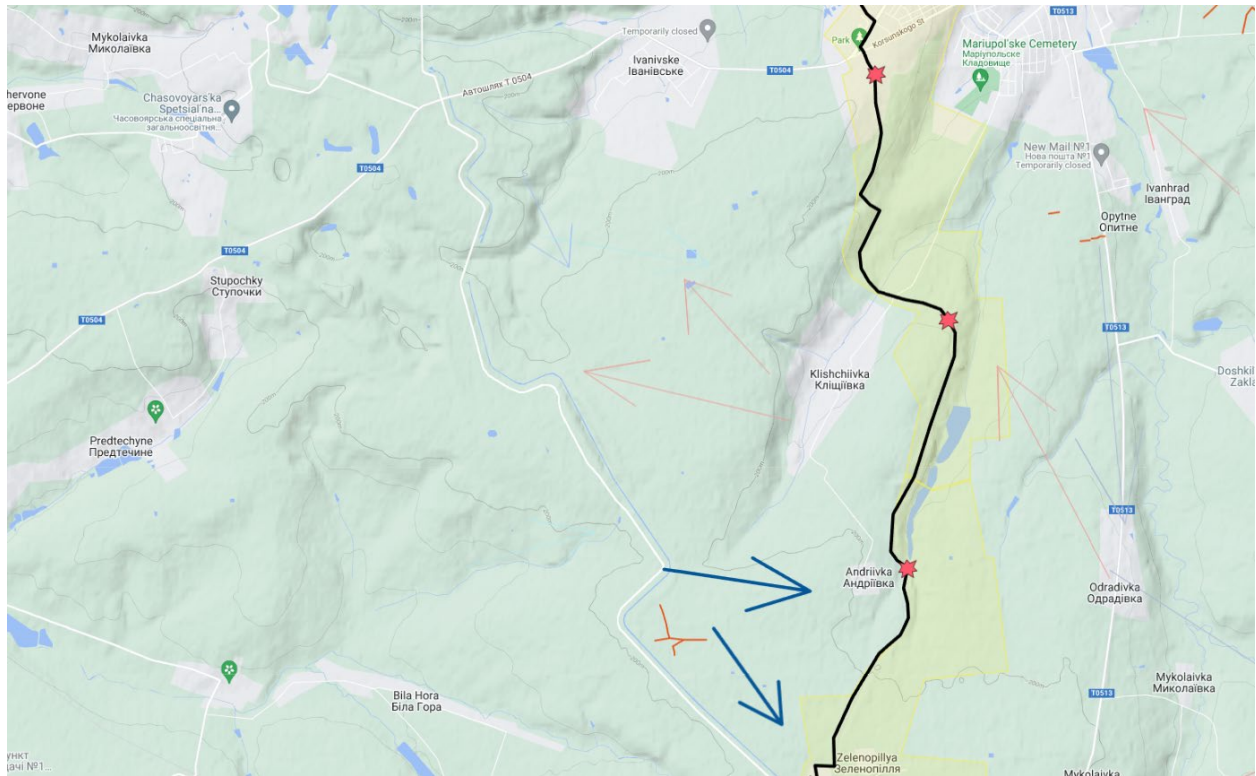
⁸ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19825>

⁹ <https://t.me/uniannet/111476>

¹⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114609>

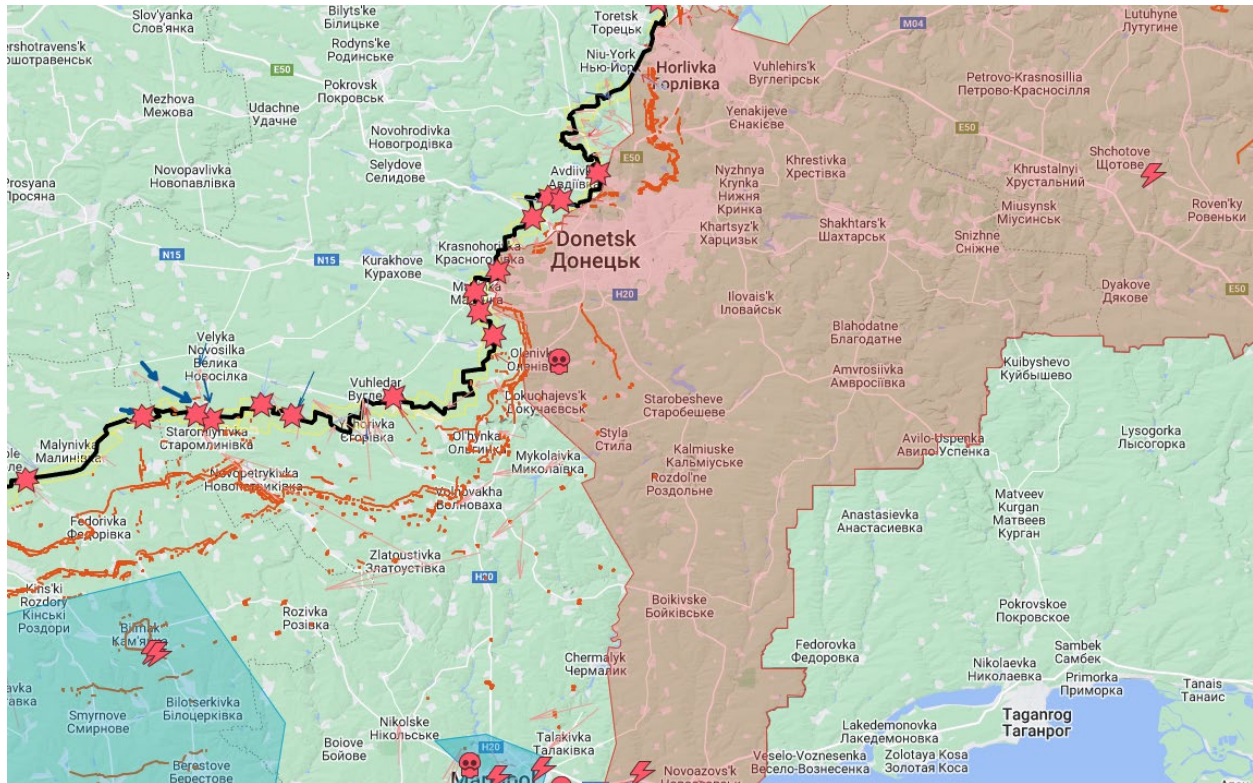
A prominent Russian milblogger reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive at [Kurdyumivka](#), and the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed Ukrainian forces were on the offensive near [Mayorsk](#).

ASSESSMENT: The capture of Andriivka provides the shortest route to the T-513 Highway at Odradivka and enables Ukrainian forces to use mortars to establish fire control on the critical Russian ground line of communication (GLOC – supply line). In our assessment, Klishchiivka will pass over to Ukraine, followed by Zelenopillya and Kurdyumivka. Ukrainian forces can advance east or northeast toward Opytne on the edge of Bakhmut. Additionally, Ukrainian forces could consolidate their gains, reposition their forces to the northern flank, and restart efforts to clear the E-40/M-03 Highway.



While the offensive has appeared slow, on May 20, Russian forces were on the outskirts of Ivanivske and west of the Siverskyi-Donets Donbas Canal, almost reaching the T-504 Highway and on the edge of the settlement of Bila Hora. Ukrainian forces had to clear forested highlands, make multiple wet crossings over the canal, and drive Russian forces back, sitting in the defenses Ukraine had built over eight years. What Russia established over four months, Ukraine unwound in three. Russian forces have been pushed into unfavorable terrain.

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and capture the remainder of the oblast

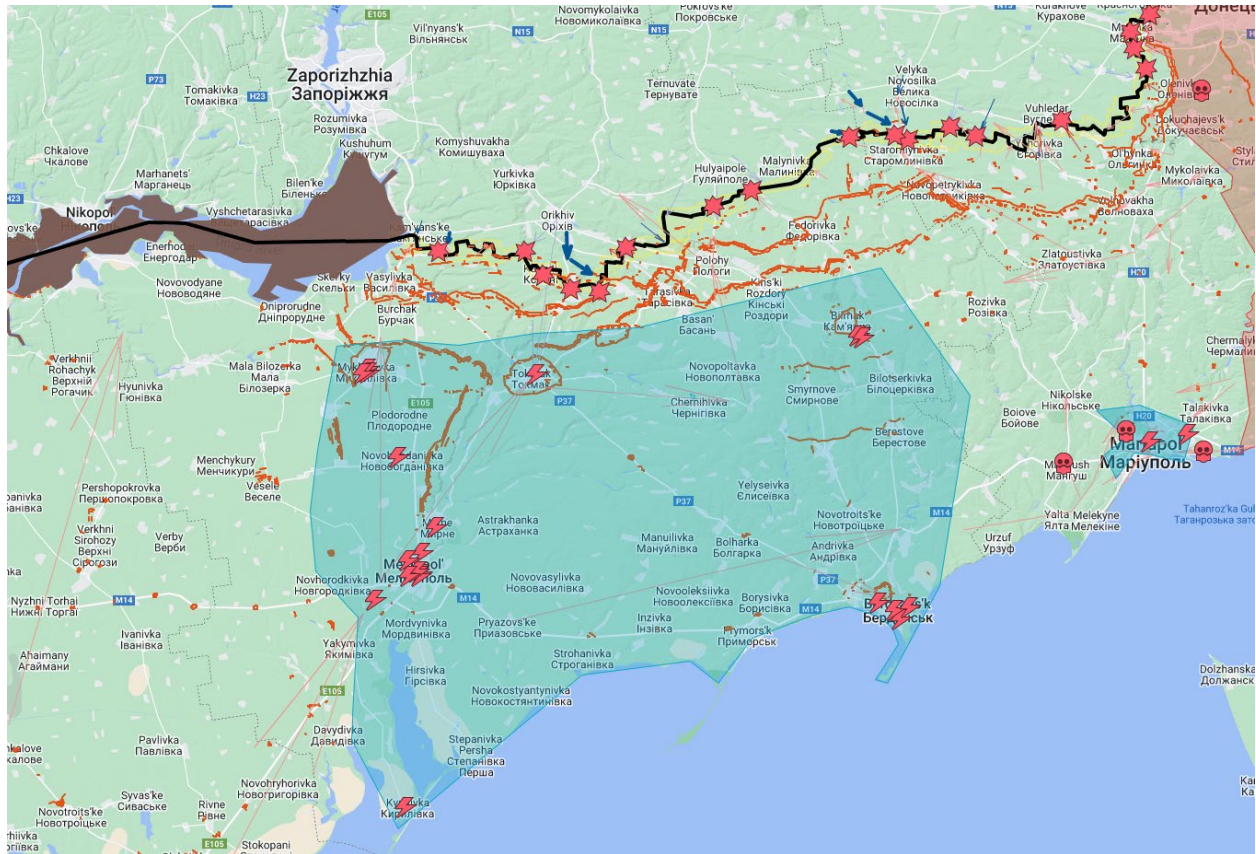
Ukrainian Objective: Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, set conditions for an offensive in the Volnovakha and Mariupol directions, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

Avdiivka Marinka, Vuhledar, and Staromlynivka Operational Areas

Positional fighting continued in [Marinka](#).¹¹

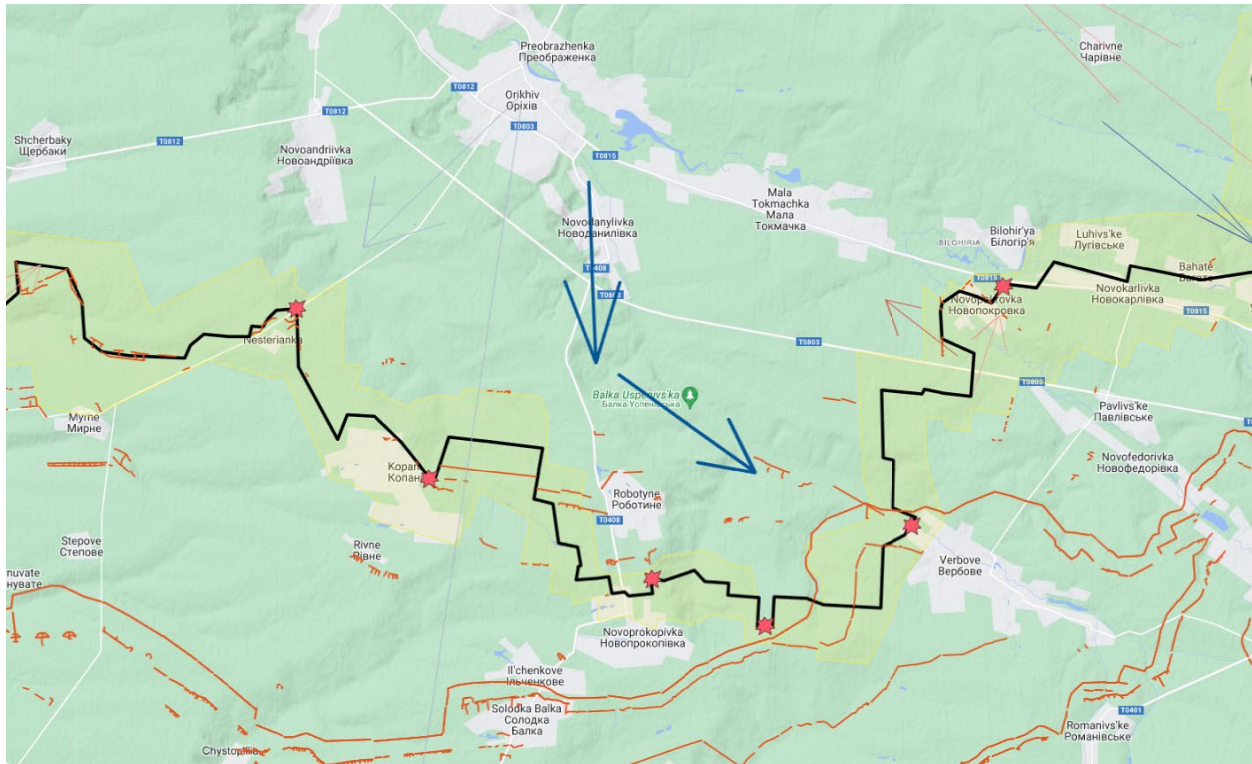
¹¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12018>

ZAPORIZHIA





Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, prepare to launch a fall-winter offensive to capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Break through the Surovikin Line and sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



Orikhiv Operational Area

Operational security remained tight, with very little information shared by Ukrainian and Russian sources. Fighting continued from [Verbove](#) to [Novoprokopivka](#).^{12 13} A major Russian milblogger reported that Ukrainian forces were just outside of Verbove, and a   [geolocated video provided confirmation](#).¹⁴

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/15052>

¹³ https://t.me/mod_russia/30493 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/moklasen/status/1702747843620991310>

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided an update on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).¹⁵ "IAEA experts have continued to conduct walk-downs of specific areas at the site and meet with staff there. They have not observed the presence of any new mines or explosives but confirmed the continued presence of mines in the buffer zone between the site's internal and external perimeter barriers. The IAEA continues to request access to the rooftops of Reactor Units 1, 2, 5, and 6 and to all six turbine halls, one after the other."

Rosatom and Russian occupation forces have refused access to the roofs since May 2023 and have prevented a walk-through of the turbine halls to verify that Russian troops aren't moving military equipment or ammunition for inspections.

"The six reactor units remain in shutdown, with Units 1 to 5 in cold shutdown and Unit 6 in hot shutdown to generate steam for various nuclear safety functions."

¹⁵ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

The IAEA repeated its position of strongly encouraging Russian occupiers to “investigate all possible options to install an external boiler to generate the steam required, which would enable the plant to bring all units into a cold shutdown state.”

The inspectors reported hearing numerous explosions. “some distance away” from the ZNPP, but no attacks on the facility.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

There were no reports on the number and type of vessels from the Black Sea Fleet on patrol. Insurgents documented numerous vessels leaving and returning to Sevastopol.

The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that the Project 22800 Karakurt-class corvette Askold was attacked by an uncrewed surface vessel (USV) in the Kerch Strait and was

undamaged.¹⁶ ¹⁷ Karakurt-class corvettes can carry up to eight Kalibr cruise missiles.

On September 14, the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) claimed a USV also attacked the Project 1239 Bora-class hovercraft corvette Samum (also Sumum).¹⁸ Several hours before RMOD claimed the Samum was attacked,  [insurgents documented the vessel leaving Sevastopol](#) to go on patrol.¹⁹ Analyst M.T. Anderson shared satellite images of Sevastopol on September 15, which  [showed both Bora-class corvettes at the repair bays](#) in the north harbor.²⁰ One was in a flooded floating dock. The other was at a repair bay. A Russian Telegram channel shared a picture of the Samum at a dock in Sevastopol as proof that it was undamaged, but it only provided proof that it was docked at the repair facility, with  [the smaller blue-roofed vessel visible](#) in the satellite images and the Russian photograph.²¹

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said a "SeaBaby [USV – **Ed.**]" hit the rear right side of the vessel, causing

¹⁶ https://t.me/couch_IU/42549

¹⁷ <https://t.me/investigatorua/7039>

¹⁸ https://t.me/dva_majors/25519

¹⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42328>

²⁰ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1702771420017627172

²¹ https://t.me/kchf_ru/2201

significant damage and causing the ship to lose speed." The SBU claimed that an experimental model surface drone was used, capable of operating on high seas to avoid detection. During the operation to target the Samum, the seas were 1.5 to 2 meters.²²

ASSESSMENT: It is almost certain the Samum was damaged by a USV and had to return to port for repairs. It is unclear if the damage was minor or moderate, but in our assessment, the quick return to port and arrival at the repair dock indicates it suffered mission kill damage.

Satellite images also showed that the Project 775 Ropucha-Class large landing ship Minsk was still on fire, and a tarp had covered the aft section of the Kilo-Class submarine Rostov-on-Don to block additional surveillance.²³

Romania

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Romania, General Vlad Gheorghita, said that if they present a threat, Romania is prepared to shoot down Russian drones.

Gheorghita said Romania had deployed 600 troops and radar systems in the Danube River delta. "Depending on the

²² <https://t.me/uniannet/111477>

²³ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10455>

level of threat, we are ready to use all our military power to defend Romanian territory. We deployed several radars, stepped up our defenses, and discussed our NATO partners to find a solution to counter Russian aggression."²⁴

ASSESSMENT: About time, and we're pleasantly surprised.

Occupied Crimea

There weren't any significant developments.

Odesa

The Cayman Islands-flagged, German-owned, dry bulk carrier Puma departed Odesa in defiance of Russia's so-called blockade carrying 30,000 metric tons of rapeseed and metal.^{25 26 27} The Puma was approximately 90 kilometers north of the Bosphorus Strait, with a destination of Rostock, Germany. The cargo ship had been stuck in Odesa since February 19, 2022.

²⁴ <https://t.me/uniannet/111486>

²⁵ [Maritime Executive](#)

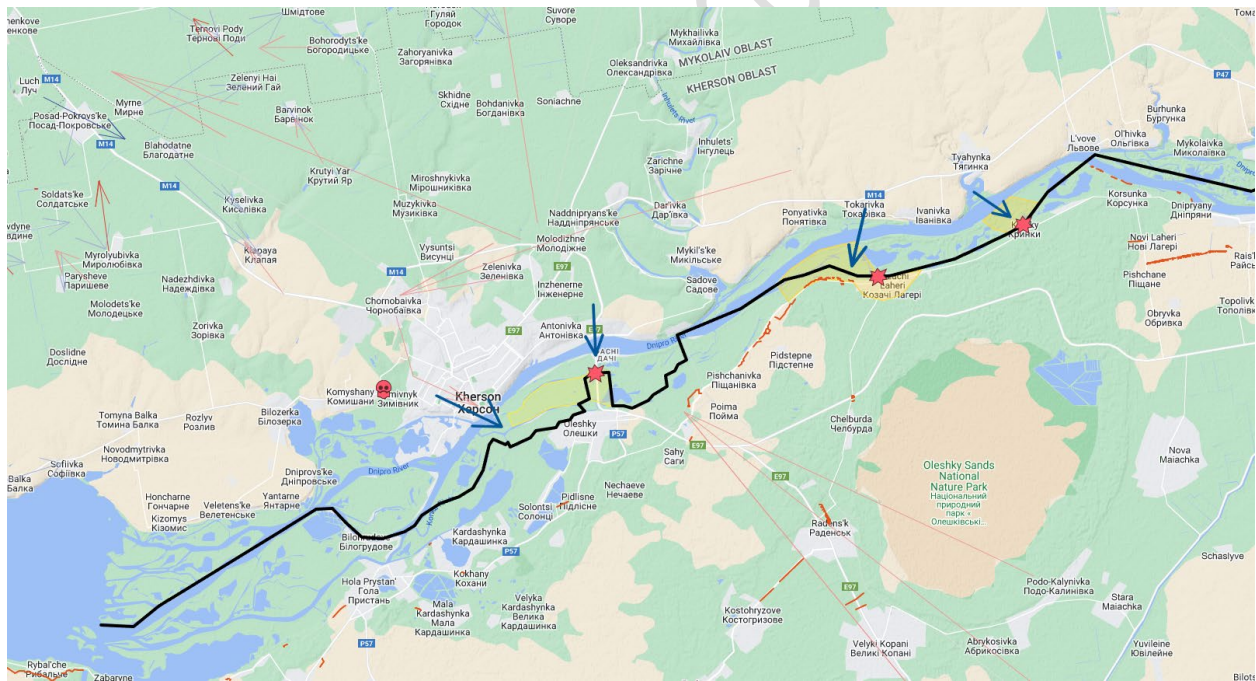
²⁶ <https://t.me/rusbrief/155330>

²⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42424>

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

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



Occupied Kherson

A Russian Su-34 aircraft launched two FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bombs at Beryslav, with  [one malfunctioning and](#)

[striking Nova Kakhovka](#).²⁸ ²⁹ Russian propagandists blamed Ukraine for the explosion, claiming it was an attack by Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems, a ballistic missile attack, and an artillery strike. The video, recorded by Russian sources, shows the bomb falling and striking the settlement. Russian occupiers claim one person was killed and up to 15 wounded, with one hospitalized.³⁰

The Crimean Tartar insurgent group ATESH shared pictures of an attack on Russian troops in Henichesk using a 10-kilogram IED.³¹ They claim two military trucks were destroyed and the personnel killed.

²⁸ <https://t.me/uniannet/111487>

²⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114578>

³⁰ <https://t.me/astrapress/37807>

³¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114636>

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

Khmelnytskyi

Khmelnytskyi Oblast Deputy Administrative and Military Governor Serhii Tyurin reported that on September 14 – 15 night, 17 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones attacked the region, with air defenses shooting down all the UAVs.³² Falling debris damaged 12 homes, a boiler house, and broke windows at a school.³³ Ukrainian Air Forces spokesperson Colonel Yuri Ignat said the drones targeted Ukrainian airbases in response to the missile strikes on Sevastopol.³⁴

³² <https://t.me/khmelnytskaODA/2027>

³³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114570>

³⁴ <https://t.me/uniannet/111412>

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: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There weren't any significant updates in this region.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, 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

Samara

A factory that produces bearings, which are critical for mechanical assemblies, experienced a major fire.³⁵ Sanctions have hit the Russian bearing industry hard, and it is unclear if the factory provided materials for military equipment.

³⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114573>

BELARUSIAN FRONT

There were no significant developments.

THEATERWIDE

The spokesperson for the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR), Andriy Yusov, said, "Every day, we record the arrival of dozens of Russians in Ukrainian captivity. Among them are those who were captured as a result of hostilities and those who surrender voluntarily."³⁶

We had previously reported that the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine had started caring for Russian prisoners of war because the growing numbers had overwhelmed the military justice system.

People's Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, Nestor , was arrested and charged with treason. He faces 15 years in prison and was remanded to custody for 60 days without

³⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114602>

bail.³⁷ ³⁸ According to investigators, Shufrych allegedly worked with former National Security Defense Council secretary Volodymyr Sivkovich, a Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia agent. After the Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014, one of Shufrych's main tasks was to systematically spread the Kremlin's narratives that the Ukrainian state doesn't exist, Ukraine and Russia have a single history, and that Ukrainians and Russians are supposedly "one nation."

The United States Senate Armed Services Committee is examining the actions of Elon Musk and how he could have potentially impacted national security.³⁹ Speaking with Bloomberg, Committee Chairman Jack Reed said that reports on the use of Starlink revealed "serious accountability issues in the area of national security, and the committee is actively studying this issue from all angles.

Editor's Note: For our readers and listeners outside of the United States, which is 55% of you, Congressional Committees constantly conduct investigations. It is part of their function. It is highly unlikely we will see televised

³⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114640>

³⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114594>

³⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114611>

questioning similar to what the CEO of TikTok, Shou Zi Chew, went through.

The Ministry of Defense of Belgium announced that they would provide ~~worn-out and near inoperable F-16s, so they can't give them to Ukraine~~ F-16s for training Ukrainian pilots.⁴⁰

Remember those ten Abrams M1A1 main battle tanks the United States said would arrive in Ukraine by now? National Security Defense Council secretary Oleskiy Danilov reported that a dozen Abrams tanks would arrive "in the near future."⁴¹

Remember the Ground-Launch Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDB) that were reported to arrive in Ukraine by "the fall?" The Saab Group took a GBU-39 129 kilogram bomb, attached an M26 rocket motor to it, gave it a guidance system and folded wings, and created a GPS-guided glide bomb that can be launched six at a time by a M-142 guided multiple launch rocket system, better know as HIMARS. A story in the Wall Street Journal reported that GLSDB, with

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114620>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114647>

a range of up to 150 kilometers, would arrive “in a few months.”⁴²

Remember last year when the United States announced a military aid package that included 250 M1117 Armored Security Vehicles? The M1117 was designed based on lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan and is more reliable than the Stryker while providing more protection and flexibility than an HMMVW and MRAP. The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee has requested the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology) to provide a briefing to Congress no later than December 15 to explain why not a single M1117 has been delivered and that the equipment “reset” will take an additional 18 months.⁴³

Editor's Note: Why all these reports on Friday? Because public relations experts will tell you, Friday is where news goes to die.

Deputy Secretary of Defense of the United States for Arms Procurement, William LaPlante, said that by 2025, the United States would be producing 100,000 155 mm artillery

⁴² https://t.me/couch_IU/42586

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/ColbyBadhwar/status/1702822856218817006>

shells per month. The single factory producing the artillery rounds in the U.S. is presently manufacturing 28,000 a month.^{44 45}

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 13, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114639>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/uniannet/111500>

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to September 13, 2023.

12,153 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,433 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2165	283	7.65:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	148	366	0.40:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	977	325	3.01:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2781	746	3.73:1	—
Armored Personnel Carriers	351	345	1.02:1	↓
MRAPs	47	157	0.30:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	207	370	0.56:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	251	17	14.76:1	↓
Engineering Vehicles	342	81	4.22:1	↓
Towed Artillery	299	159	1.88:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	521	215	2.42:1	↑
MLRS	269	50	5.38:1	↑
SAMs	169	129	1.31:1	↑
Mobile Radars	45	77	0.58:1	↓
EW/ECW	54	4	13.50:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	91	71	1.28:1	↑
Helicopters	112	35	3.20:1	↓
Naval Vessels and Submarines	17	27	0.63:1	↑

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

State Duma Deputy and Deputy Defense Committee member Viktor Sobolev said that in Russia, the current health requirements for military service are “inflated.” “We used to serve with flat feet. There were no problems. This *[change – Ed.]* will certainly change towards reducing such diseases, which do not harm the performance of official duties.”⁴⁶

While Sobolev was enraging current members of the Russian military, State Duma Deputy and the head of the Defense Committee, Andriy Kartapolov, said hold my vodka and watch this. “Mobilized Russians will not return home until the end of the war.”⁴⁷

On September 9, he told Russian state media that mobiks should be rotated “at the expense of contract soldiers.”

Kartapolov added that mobiks are “entitled to leave for every six months of service, and they now go on these holidays.”⁴⁸

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/101468>

⁴⁷ https://t.me/couch_IU/42600

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/dshrg2/1271>




There was widespread outrage across Russian social media channels directed at Kartapolov, with even so-called turbo patriots accurately stating that even the most mentally fit needed to be rotated from the front lines more frequently than once every six months to prevent an emotional collapse. Current mobiks also turned to social media to express their frustration.

"We are lucky if you go every six months; many have not seen a vacation for a year. And if they do let you go, it's only for ten days, without travel expenses. No one is released for two weeks, and this is the case throughout the 8th Army...For family leave [*such as the death of a parent or sibling – Ed.*], you went on vacation – that's it, for another six months – you won't go anywhere for a year."⁴⁹

We had reported in late 2022 that Russia had issued a stop-loss order, which is keeping Russian troops in service until the so-called "special military operation" ends, the soldier reaches age 65, is killed, or permanently disabled. This is part of their stealth mobilization to increase available resources.

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/dshrg2/1272>


The Russian 2S31 Vena self-propelled gun/mortar has appeared in Ukraine. Built for export, less than 20 have been produced, and the Russian Armed Forces have less than ten. The Vena has a 120 mm 2A80 rifled mortar mounted to a BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) chassis and has a claimed range of 18,000 meters, far exceeding other mortars currently fielded by Russia.⁵⁰ It is unclear if Russia has made the 2S31 to test it under combat conditions, make propaganda claims of a new wonder weapon, or if the Kremlin is bolstering the declining number of artillery pieces.

On the subject of the declining number of artillery pieces, Russian state media released  [video](#) and pictures   [of T-55A medium-duty tanks](#) being deployed with the 1430th Motorized Rifle Regiment in the Zaporizhzhia region.⁵¹ ⁵² Russian officials claim they will be used as makeshift self-propelled guns (SPG) and won't engage in combat. Russian officials made the same claim in June 2022 when T-62 tanks arrived in Zaporizhzhia.

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19828>

⁵¹ https://t.me/grey_zone/20598

⁵² <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1700996350429868067>

In late June, one of the tanks in the video, number 429,  [was recorded being shipped on a train in Liski, Voronezh](#) region of Russia.⁵³ It took almost three months for the T-55 to enter service.

GSAFU reported that mobilization orders are being issued to the graduates of vocational and technical schools in the Primorye and Khabarovsk regions into the currently forming 25th Combined Arms Army.⁵⁴ Contract soldiers are being offered a 600,000 rouble signing bonus (which they'll never get if past performance is a teacher) and 200,000 additional roubles for "financial support."

Editor's Note: They won't get that either, and they'll be expected to buy their own equipment.

The head of the Federal Air Transport Agency of Russia, Alexander Neradko, was dismissed after his office was raided in an ongoing corruption probe.⁵⁵

⁵³ <https://twitter.com/Rhaescuporis/status/1702623882631365118>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12019>

⁵⁵ https://t.me/shot_shot/56942

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The Coordinating Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War of Ukraine reported that the bodies of 51 Ukrainian service members were repatriated.⁵⁶ Since February 25, 2022, the remains of 1,832 Ukrainian servicemembers have been recovered.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Great Britain added the Private Military Company Wagner Group to the list of recognized terrorist organizations. The government's website states that "belonging to or actively supporting a Wagner Group in the UK will be a criminal offense with a potential sentence of 14 years in prison, which may be handed down with or in lieu of a fine."⁵⁷

It is not a war crime, but a glimpse into Russian mir and the value of a human life. In the occupied city of Luhansk, a security camera captured the moment a pedestrian was run over by a Russian military truck at a busy intersection. After both wheels rolled over the body, the driver continued, and the other pedestrians continued across the street. In the video clip, which is almost a minute long, no

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114601>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17607>

one stops to check on the pedestrian's condition, and traffic continues, including drivers navigating around the victim. The video is NSWF, not for children; some may find it disturbing. You can watch it by   [clicking here](#).⁵⁸

GEOPOLITICS

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan confirmed that President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy will meet in New York on September 21.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ Zelenskyy will be in New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly during the week of September 18.

Following Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, Finland closed its borders to cars with Russian vehicle registration.⁶¹ The last automotive road crossing north of Belarus is now in Norway, which is also considering closing the border to Russian-registered vehicles.⁶²

⁵⁸ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/5085

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114645>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/uniannet/111489>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114562>

⁶² <https://t.me/rusbrief/155338>

The Cuban ambassador to Moscow, Julio Antonio Garmendia, said his nation was not against the "legal" participation of its citizens in Russia's war against Ukraine.⁶³ Shortly after Garmendia made his statement, the Foreign Minister of Cuba, Bruno Rodriguez, said his country is against the participation of Cuban citizens in wars as mercenaries. "The unequivocal and unshakable position of the Cuban government, in accordance with its national legislation, is contrary to the participation of Cuban citizens in conflicts of any kind and is directed against mercenaries and human trafficking," said Rodriguez.⁶⁴

ECONOMIC

The European Commission announced that it would not extend restrictions on importing agricultural products from Ukraine after September 15, opening up the trading bloc for food shipments.⁶⁵ Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia announced they would continue their restrictions in defiance of the EU decision.^{66 67 68}

⁶³ https://t.me/couch_IU/42588

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/rusbrief/155071>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114627>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114638>

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/101579>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/101575>

The Russian Central Bank increased the prime lending rate by 100 basis points to 13% as the rouble remains rattled and inflation worsens.⁶⁹ The monetary supply tightened at the start of the week, improving the rouble briefly to an exchange rate of 93 to one dollar. The gains were lost, with the Russian currency ending at 97 per dollar.

The fuel crisis is worsening in Russia with no end in sight. The price of RON AI-92 gasoline at the St. Petersburg exchange exceeded 70,000 roubles per ton for the first time, and AI-95 continued to creep towards 80,000 a ton.⁷⁰ Russian state media agency TASS reported that Moscow was considering two options to stabilize prices and improve supply. "The first is an increase in the export duty to \$250 per ton. The payment will be returned to those bona fide exporters who supply to the domestic market that percentage of petroleum products that will be determined by government decree. The second is a complete ban on the export of petroleum products for a certain period to achieve saturation market."⁷¹

Editor's Note: Yes, the report in TASS used \$250 as in greenbacks, petrodollars, the unipolar world currency, the

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10447>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/rusbrief/155247>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/rusbrief/155335>

green evil; it's all about the Benjamins, make it rain – they didn't use roubles. Take all the time you need.

The Russian National Reinsurance Company (RNPC) announced that from January 1, 2024, it will no longer provide reinsurance policies against terrorism risks in the territory of Moscow.⁷²

RUMORS


Many of the messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.


- ATACMS is coming to Ukraine
- Taurus cruise missiles are coming to Ukraine
- Aspiring dentist and Colonel General Ramzan don don Kadyrov is in a coma – again – and is going to die at any moment – again


⁷² <https://t.me/rusbrief/155313>


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.