



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



November 15, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 265

It has been 3,171 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Today's report is abbreviated due to senior staff traveling.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our assessment that there would be a massive retaliatory attack on civilians and civilian infrastructure this week due to the Russian loss of Kherson was accurate. We maintain that additional attacks are highly likely.
2. We maintain our assessment that significant war crimes and atrocities will be discovered in Kherson during the coming week.
3. We maintain the slowdown in combat operations on multiple axes as a mirage, with intense fighting creating little progress. Both belligerents have significant military assets they can reallocate to new axes.
4. We maintain that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause.

5. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.
6. We maintain that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing renewed unrest inside and outside the Kremlin. If there continue to be military failures, there is a remote chance Russia could face a regime change.
7. Our assessment that the Russian navy's presence in the Black Sea is irrelevant was partially incorrect, with up to 20 Kalibr cruise missiles fired from the Black Sea today. Missile-carrying vessels remain very close to Sevastopol.
8. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount effective defensive operations.
9. We maintain it is likely that the Russian Ministry of Defense will concentrate its available firepower on a small area but will likely return to a combat destroyed state after making marginal gains that they won't be able to leverage into a strategic victory. Further, we assess that this will likely occur on the Donetsk axis.
10. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.

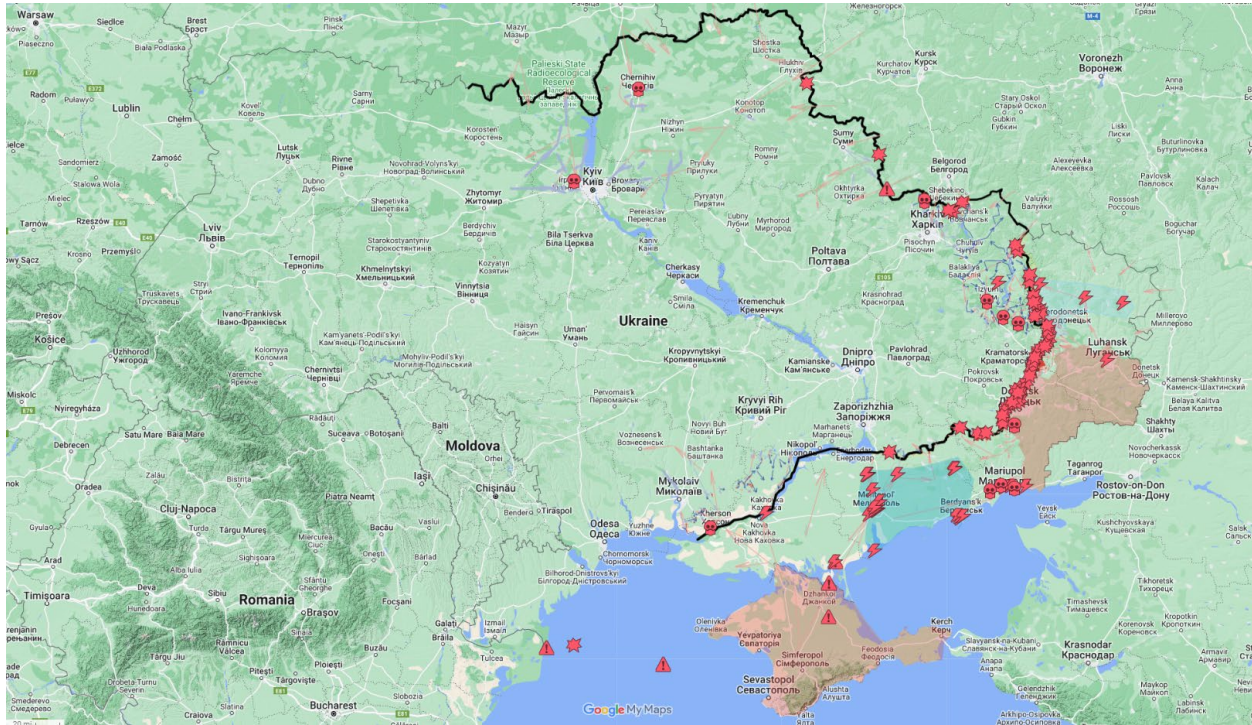


11. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.
12. We maintain that Russian forces in Belarus remain a credible threat for an invasion of western Ukraine, but we now assess the possibility has pushed further out to the next 55 to 85 days.

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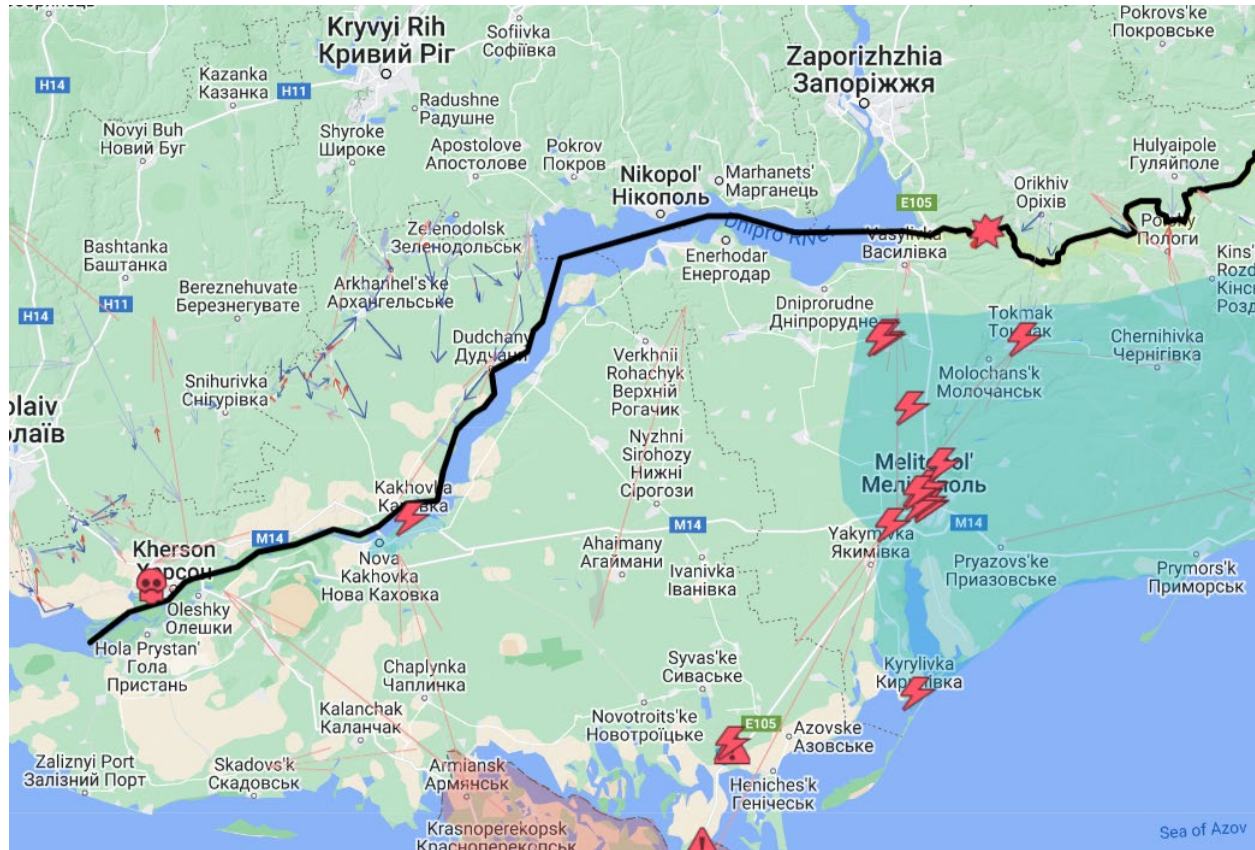
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to “gray circles.” The 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, the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

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

KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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

The claims that Ukrainian forces had liberated Hola Prystan, Oleshky, and/or Nova Kakhovka on the east bank of the Dnipro River and parts of the Kinburn Spit were inaccurate and have been abandoned by social media users. The truth matters.

Operational Command South reported that more than 50 fire missions were carried out mostly on Russian positions on the east bank of the Dnipro River. Russian ammunition depots in Nova Kakhovka and Oleskhy were destroyed.¹

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian troops have continued to withdraw from parts of Kherson, with the garrisons in Skadovsk and Henichesk being drawn down and sent to Russian-occupied Crimea.²

The strike on School 24 in Russian-occupied Melitopol, which was being used as a barracks by Russian troops, left at least soldiers wounded.³

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains unchanged, and there were no reports that the 750 kilovolt (kV)

¹ [Armed Forces of Ukraine Operational Command South – Facebook Report](#)

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

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



line was knocked out of service during today's attack on energy infrastructure.

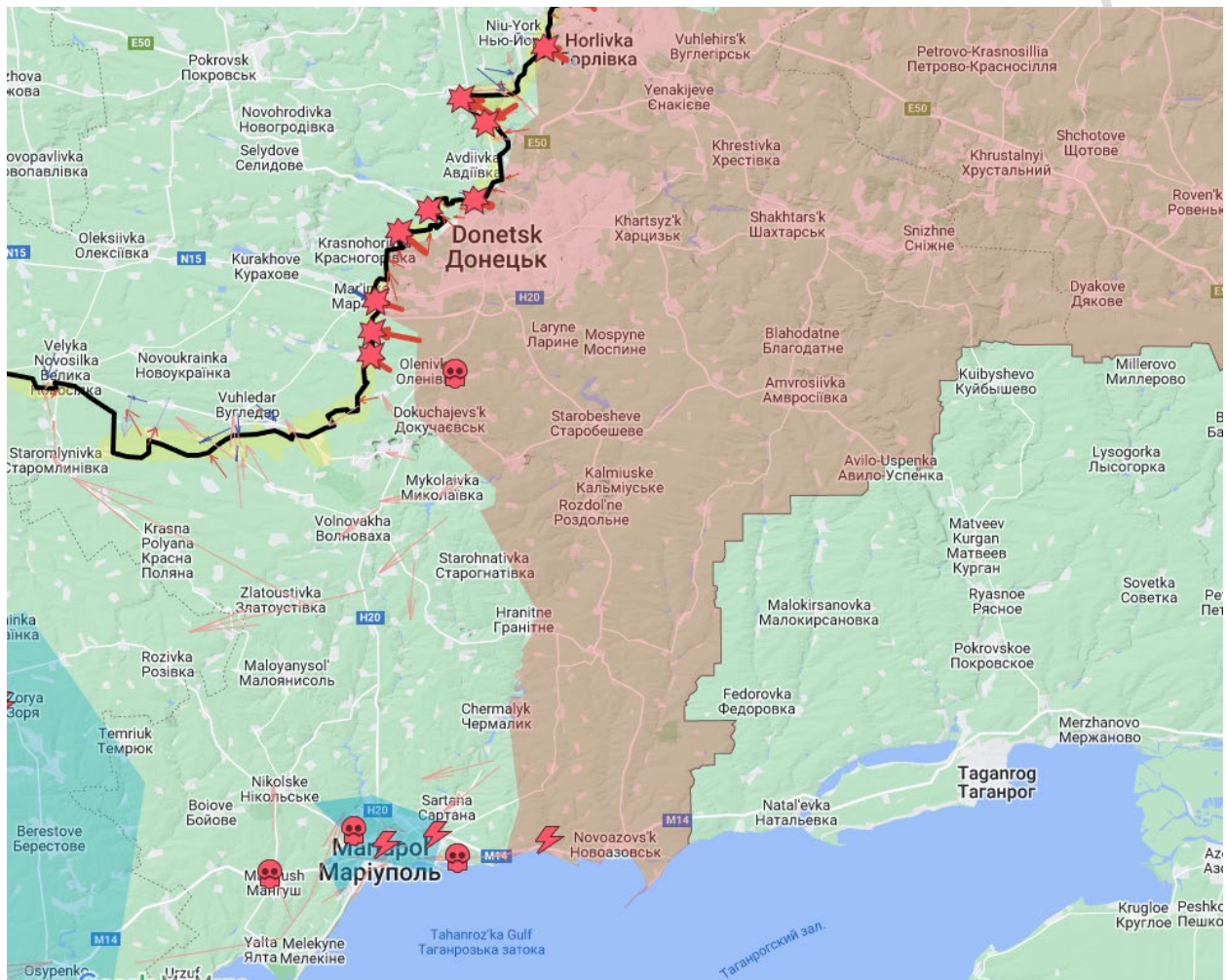
There was scattered artillery fire from the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Mali Shcherbaky.^{4 5}

⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

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

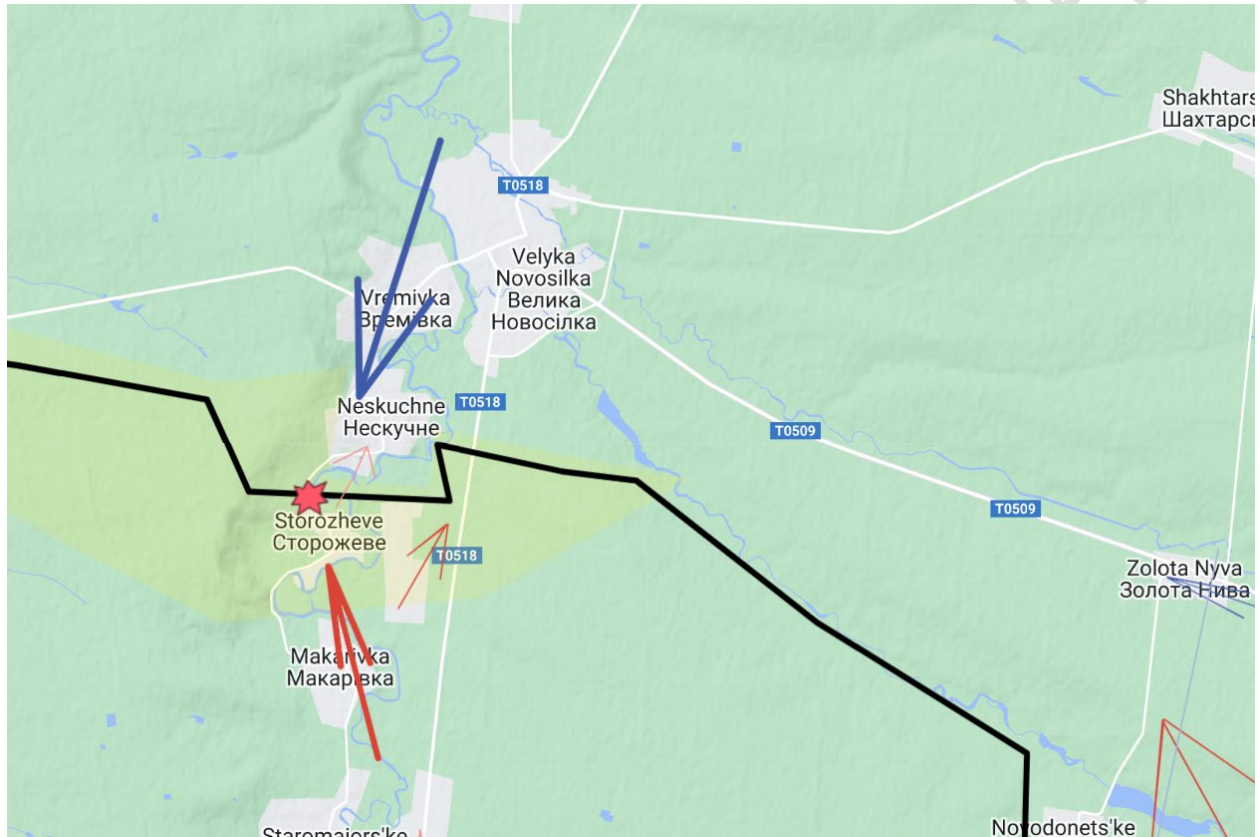
DONBAS REGION

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



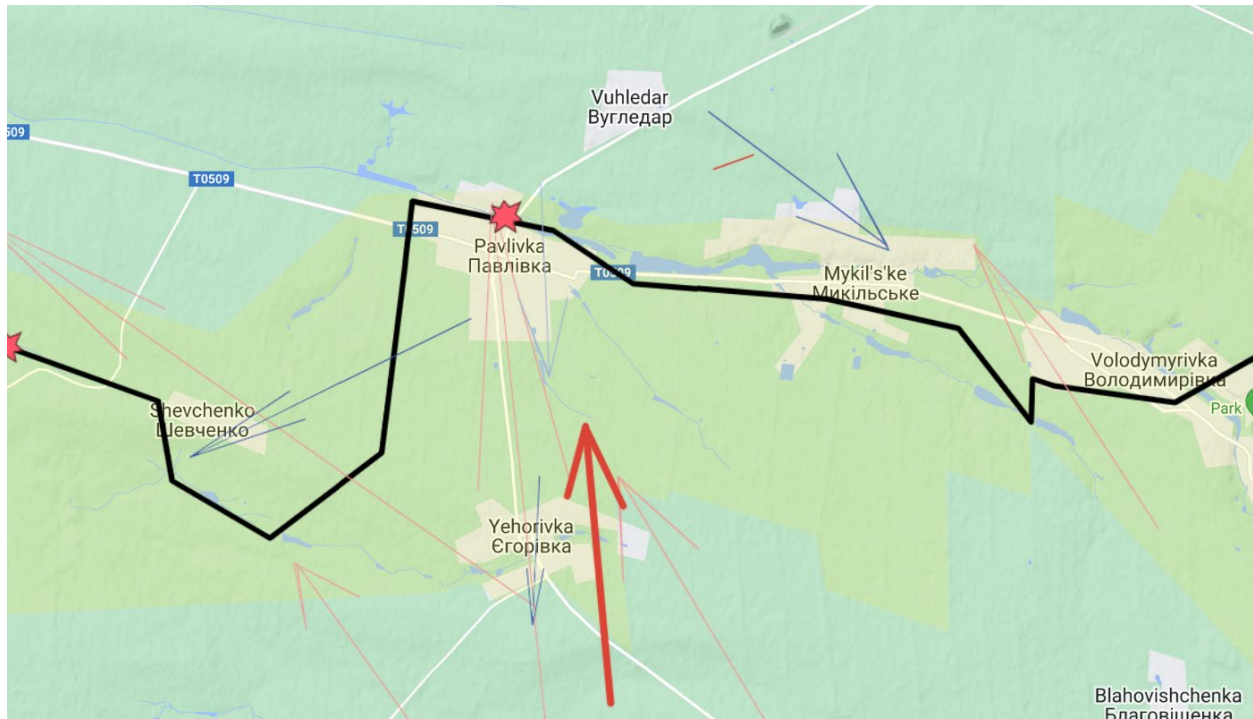
Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics



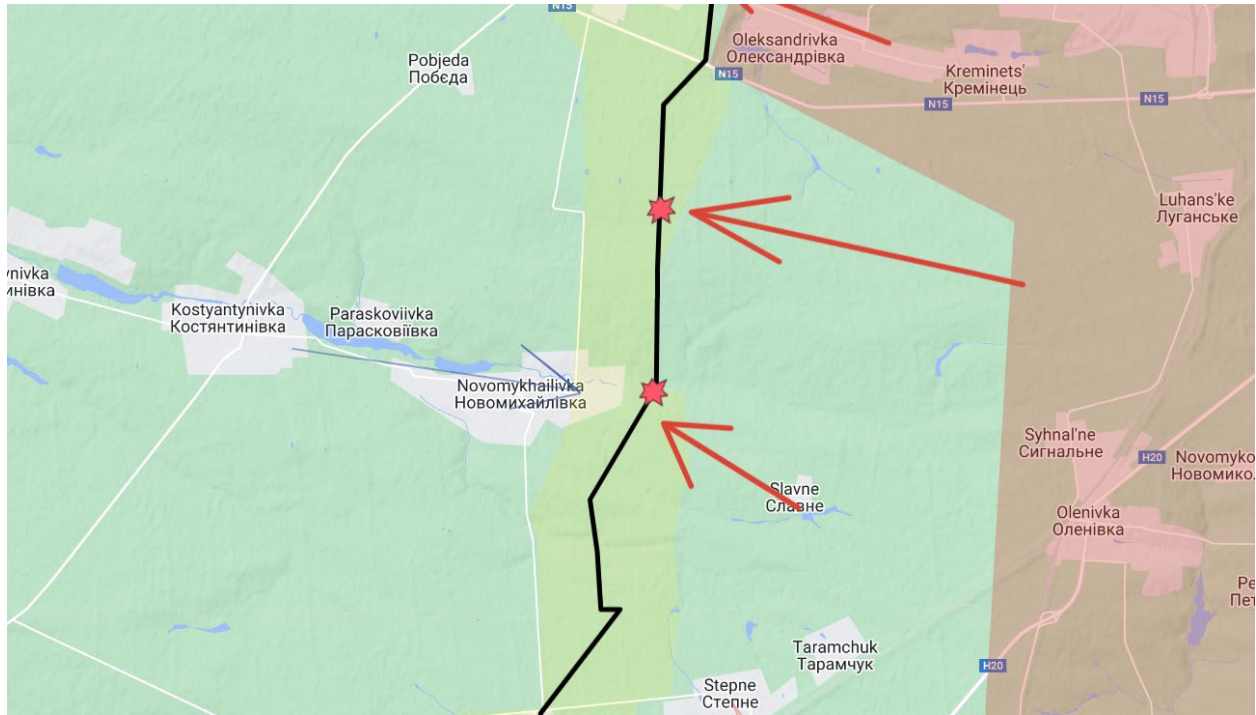
Fighting continued on the outskirts of [Vremivka](#), according to GSAFU, with no change in the situation. Russian sources did not report combat operations in the area.⁶

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



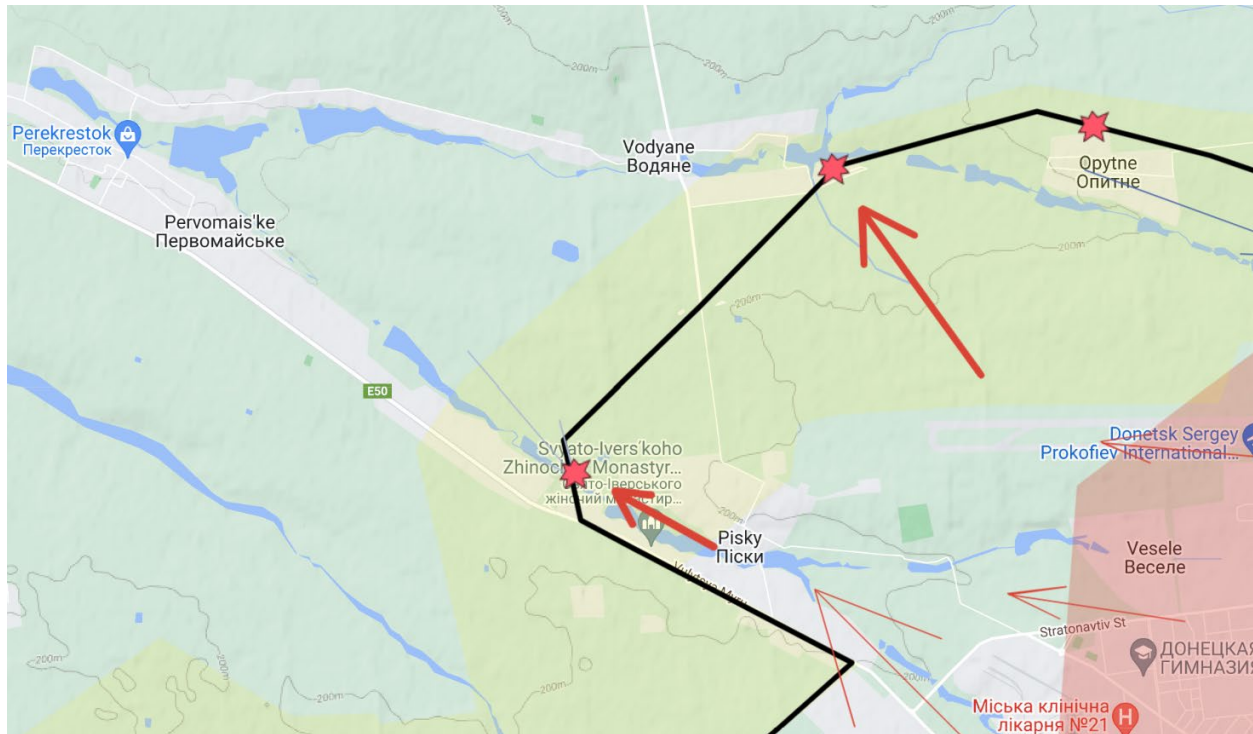
Most of [Pavlivka](#) remains unoccupied by either belligerent after the Ukrainian withdrawal on November 13 due to continued heavy shelling and rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) by Ukraine. Russian milbloggers reported that Ukraine has an artillery advantage making an advance impossible.⁷

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

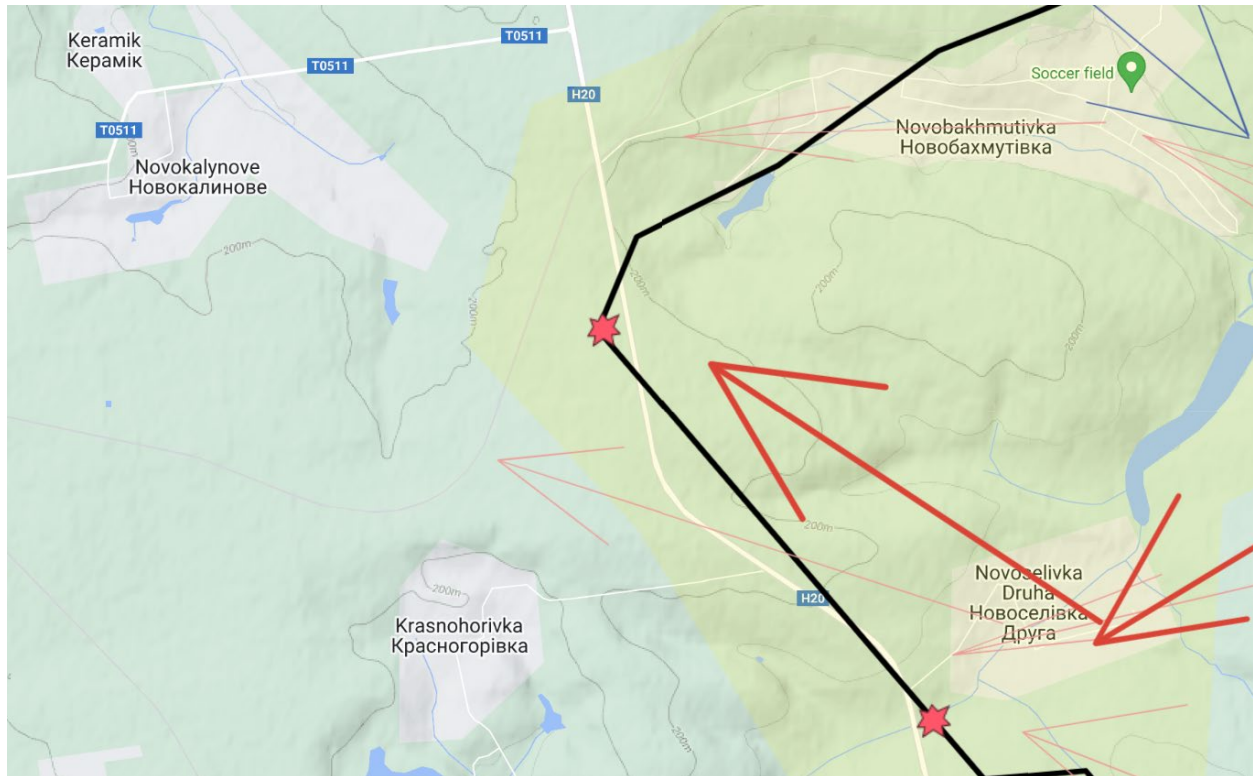


GSAFU reported that the 1st Army Corps of the DNR continued to throw troops at the eastern outskirts of [Novomykhailivka](#) without any change in the situation.⁸

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



Russian milbloggers reported continued fighting in [Optyne](#), after the Donetsk People's Republic claimed they had captured the town and provided an almost four-minute video as proof. This is why the staff has significant trust issues. Positional fighting for control of [Pervomaiske](#) continued without any significant progress. The 1st Army Corps of the DNR has advanced to within 1,600 meters of [Nevelske](#) after four months of trying (about one mile). The DNR claimed it captured [Vodyane](#), which appears to have been untrue. Both Russian and Ukrainian sources reported fighting, which was described as intense at times in the southern region of the village. Russian proxy forces also attempted a direct assault on [Avdiivka](#), which caused significant losses for the DNR.



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Novokalynove](#) for the second day in a row, trying to flank the Ukrainian stronghold of Krasnohorivka. There was no change in the situation.

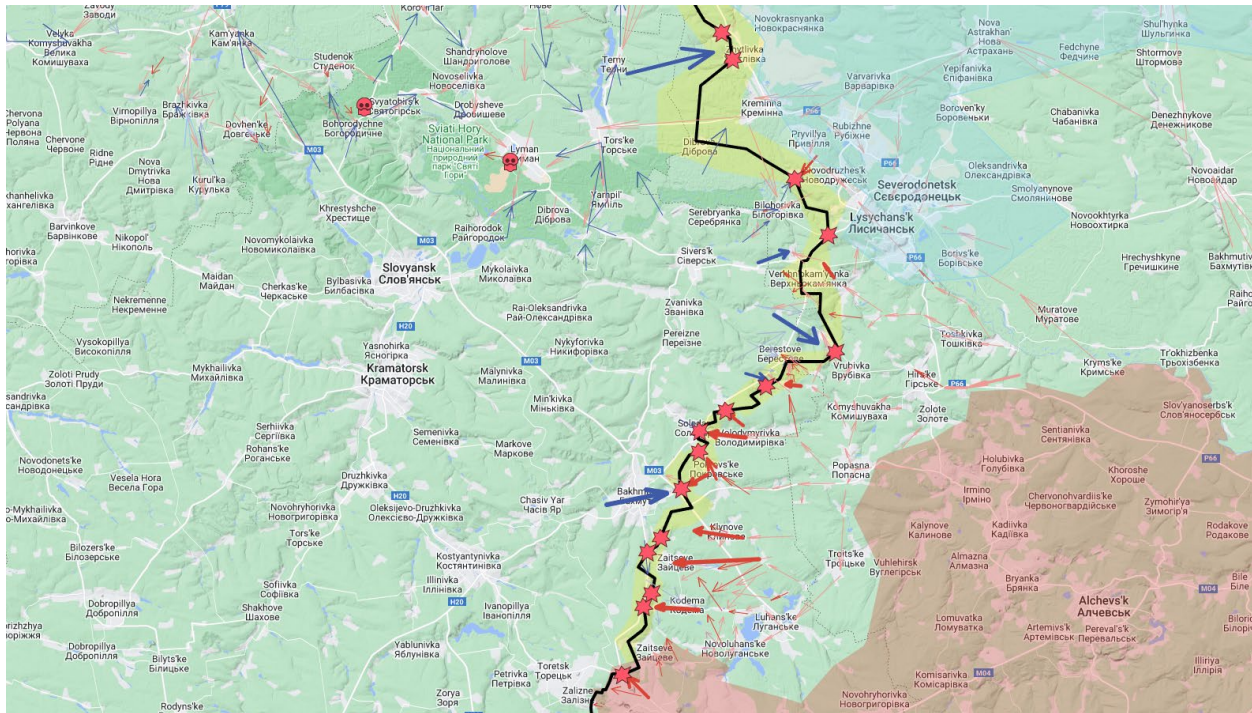
Russian milbloggers claim that some of the Ukrainian troops formerly in Kherson are being deployed west of Donetsk. We cannot confirm the veracity of the report, but it would be a logical decision by GSAFU.

We have elected to stop sharing the daily DNR People's Militia public relations channel report because of their continued

unsupported claims of massive Ukrainian equipment losses. For the third day in a row, DNR officials reported they destroyed more Ukrainian equipment in Donetsk than the Russian Ministry of Defense reported was destroyed theaterwide. It is understandable that the political leaders of the DNR are desperate for a meaningful win after two and half months of repeated major defeats. We had started sharing the reports because there was some value in the information, and some claims could be verified. Today's report added another 24 vehicles and weapon systems to the three-day tally, which would be 80 pieces of military hardware destroyed. That is equivalent to the losses suffered by the Russian military at the failed Bilhorivka [Luhansk] river crossing on May 8 in a similar period. There were pictures, videos, first-hand accounts by Russian survivors and Ukrainian troops, and drone videos. In three days, the DNR has shared nothing to support the claim of destroying a brigade. We will happily eat crow if videos and pictures are released or return to sharing their reports when they get closer to reality.

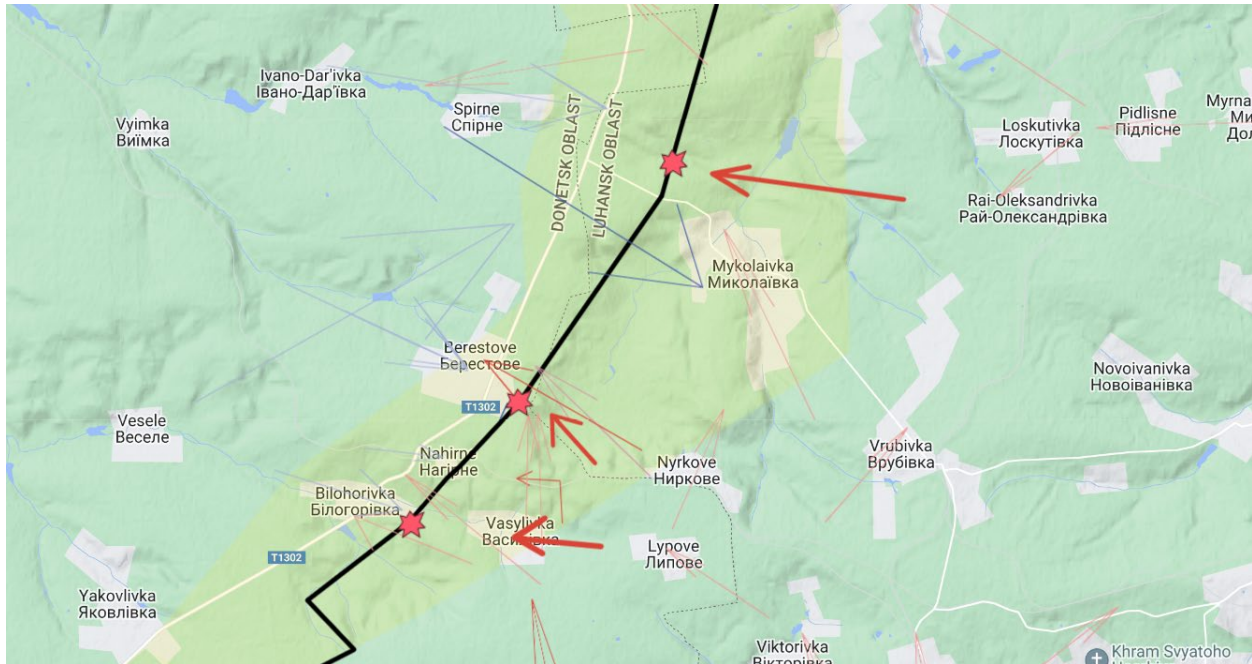


NORTHEAST DONETSK

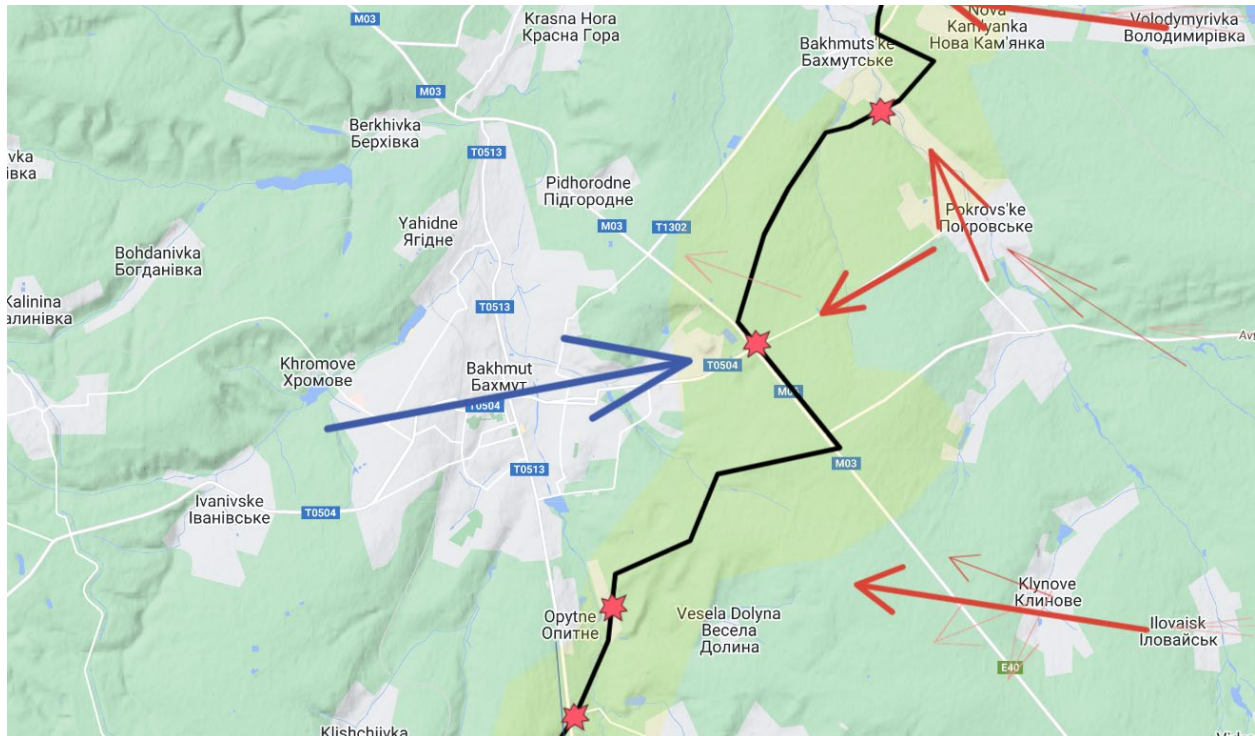


Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

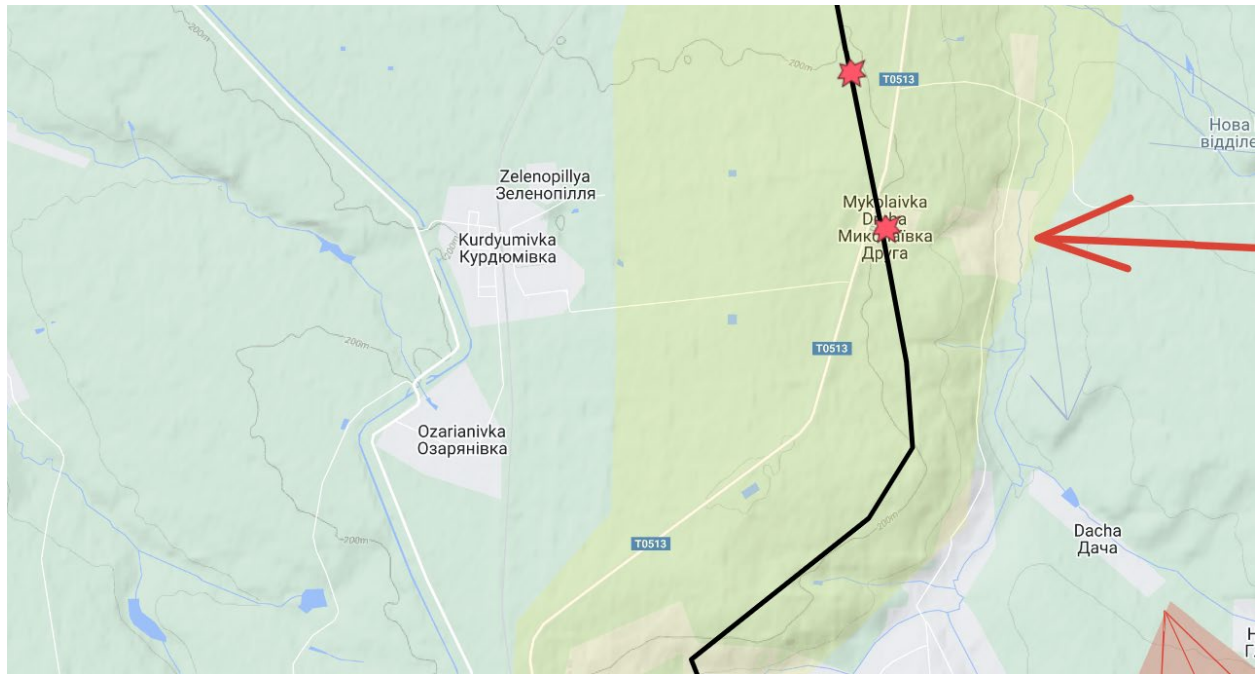
Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



Fighting for control of [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk], led by the Private Military (PMC) Company Wagner Group, continued, according to Ukrainian and Russian sources. The area remains a no man's land, with Bilohorivka being strategically important as it is the highest point on the T-1302 Highway, which neither belligerent can use as a Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line).



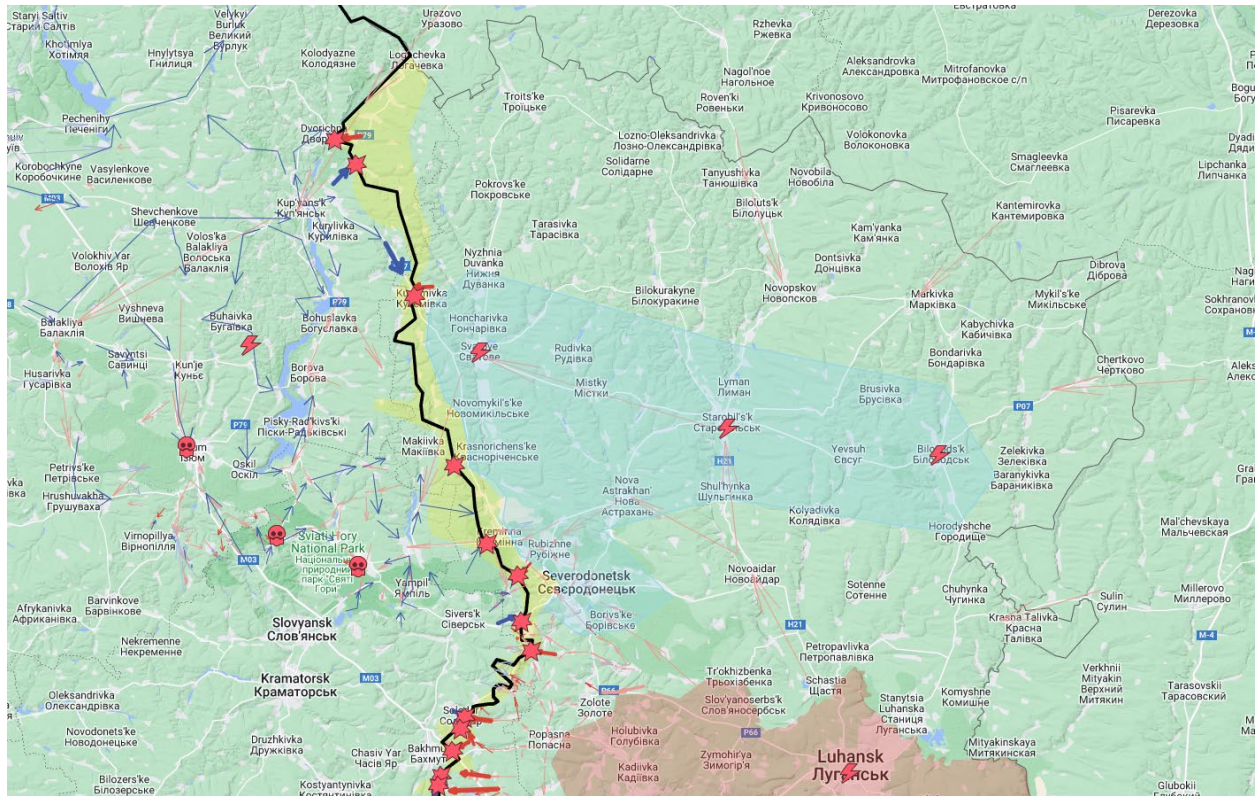
The trench warfare southeast of Soledar and east of Bakhmut has become so ordinary after four months of fighting there were no reports from Ukrainian or Russian sources on the situation. Anecdotal reports say the situation remains “difficult” for both belligerents, with no change in the situation. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group has been spread too thin along a 60-kilometer front and is facing serious challenges in maintaining troop strength due to losses approaching 3,000 mercenaries a month – killed and wounded in action.



Ukrainian forces repelled attacks on [Kurdyumivka](#) and the hamlet of [Vesele](#), south of Bakhmut.

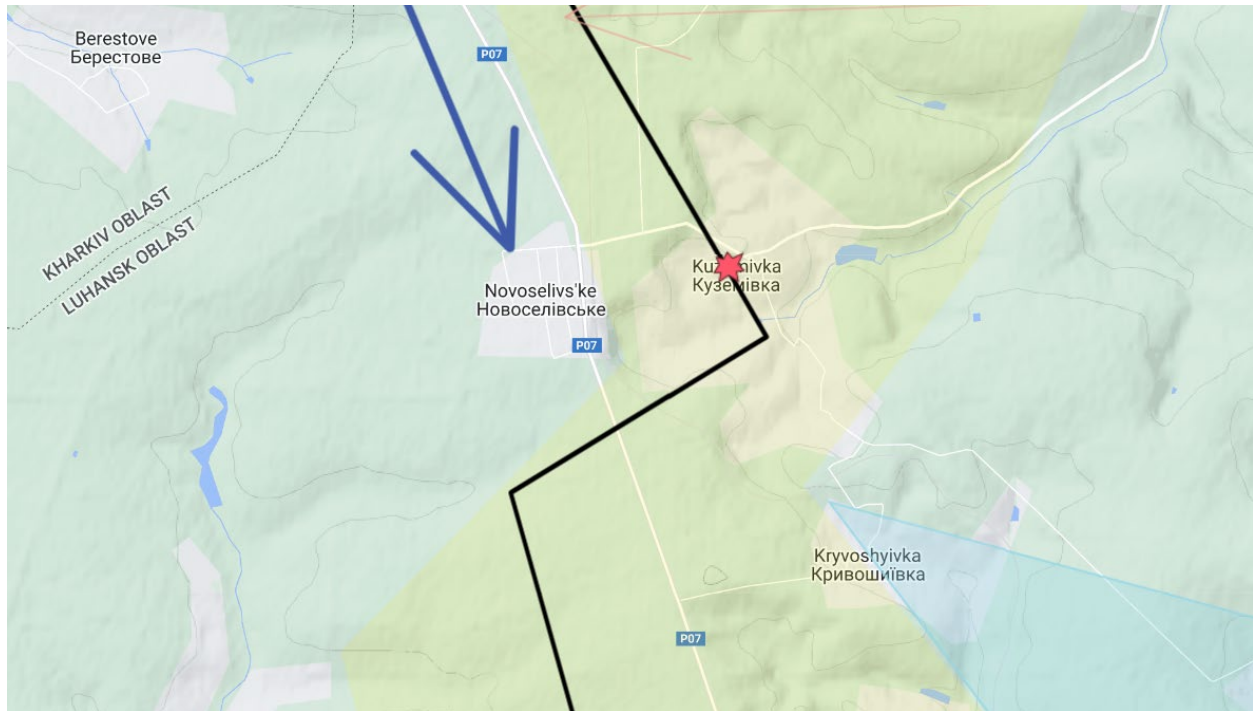


LUHANSK

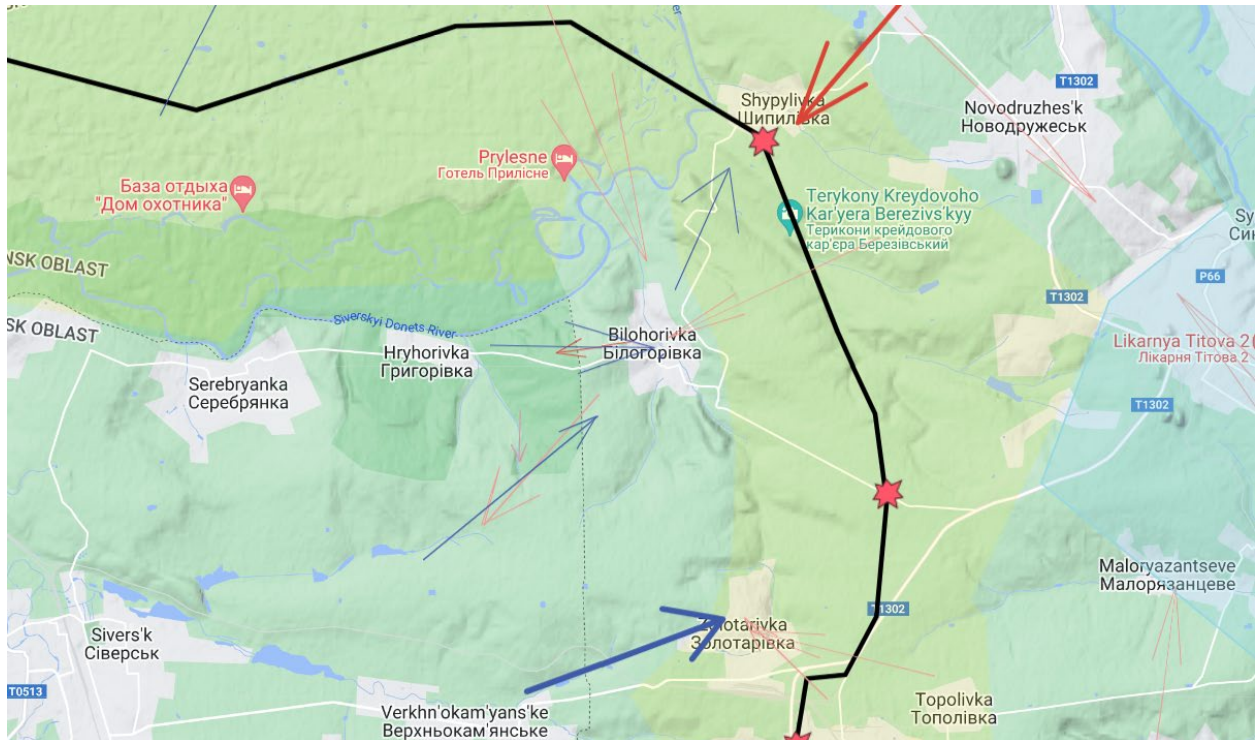


Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

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



Russian sources reported Ukraine attempted to advance on [Kuzemovka](#) and had partial success.



Russian sources also reported that the Lugansk People's Republic (LNR) 2nd Army Corps and PMC Wagner attempted to advance on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] without success. We are not surprised that the LNR Territorial Guard Telegram Channel has fabricated the capture of Bilohorivka for the third time in the last 30 days.

CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

Ukrainian Objective: Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

KYIV REGION

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

RUSSIAN FRONT

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Russia launched its largest missile attack on Ukraine since the start of the war, using an estimated 100 cruise missiles and 20 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. Cruise missiles were launched by Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers flying over the Caspian Sea and western Russia, as well as up to four ships of the Black Sea Fleet. Kh-101 and Kh-55 air-to-surface cruise missiles and Kalibr cruise missiles were used in the morning attack, which struck central and northern Ukraine.

GSAFU reported that 73 cruise missiles and all 10 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down, while 15 areas of critical civilian infrastructure were hit, including power plants, transformer farms, and thermal plants that provide heat and hot water. The attacks damaged previously unscathed parts of the power grid in Ukraine, knocking out power to an estimated 10 million people, over 25% of the remaining population.

Kyiv, Lviv, Ternopil, and Kharkiv oblasts were the hardest hit, with a significant number of residents remaining in the dark at the time of publication and Lviv without heat and hot water. Ukraine announced there would be rolling blackouts nationwide and spontaneous shutdowns as needed. Residents of Kyiv were told that the power could be out for a long time and they should prepare accordingly.

The missile strikes knocked out power in large parts of Moldova, including Russian-occupied Transnistria. Moldovan President Maia Sandu condemned the attacks and thanked the nation for its patience with the continued power shortages. Power outages also impacted natural gas delivery to Hungary, which to date has taken a more neutral stance toward Russian aggression.

Air defenses shot down four Russian missiles over Kyiv, with two more striking residential buildings, killing one person. It was unclear if the buildings were hit by debris from destroyed missiles, which is more likely given the available images and videos showing the damage.

Two explosions were reported in the Polish town of Przewodów, 9 kilometers from the Ukrainian border. At least one missile struck a farm where workers were drying grain,

killing two. The blast sparked international outrage, with the Polish government calling an emergency meeting to discuss national security and scrambling its air force. Later in the day, Poland invoked Article IV of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a formal request to have an emergency meeting to discuss a NATO security matter and plan a response. Just before publication, Polish officials withdrew the request based on new evidence indicating the source of the missiles.

United States President Joe Biden held an emergency meeting of the G7 leaders, who condemned the blasts and pledged their support to Ukraine. An emergency meeting of the G20 leaders was being held at the time of publication, and a joint statement by some members was expected. The Ramstein Working Group, established in April to discuss the coordination of military aid to Ukraine, will be holding its eighth meeting on November 16.

Polish officials reported that the missile or missiles were “made in Russia” after examining the debris but was not prepared to state if Russia fired the ordnance. Ukraine and Belarus also field Soviet-era and Russian Federation-made munitions.

Overnight, United States officials said that the missile’s origin was “probably” from Ukraine, and it was an errant S-300 air defense missile fired at Russian cruise missiles in the area. The

Russian Ministry of Defense denied they fired any missiles or drones near the border of Poland on November 15, which would be laughable if not due to the circumstances and the targets that were struck today, including areas near the Polish border. It remained unclear if the S-300 missile or missiles intercepted a Russian cruise missile and debris landed on the agricultural area or if an S-300 anti-aircraft missile had a technical malfunction.

Despite Russian State media and Kremlin claims that Poland would use the missile strike to evoke Article V of the NATO treaty and start World War III, calmer heads have prevailed in Bali at the G20 Summit and in Brussels, where NATO headquarters is located.

Given all of the NATO reconnaissance and spying assets along the borders of Ukraine, it is highly likely that the origin and path of the targeted cruise missile or missiles, if they were intercepted, where, and the path of the S-300 air defense missiles was captured and are being analyzed.

There is no need to build a backyard bunker at this time.

ASSESSMENT: We have repeated in our Situation Reports when Russian missiles have targeted facilities close to the Polish border and cities such as Lviv that the environment is ripe for an error and cross-border incident. We are less surprised that this happened and more surprised it took almost nine months.

Ukrainian officials again appealed for fourth-generation fighter airplanes from Western sources and more advanced air defense systems. Pundits claimed that the blast, which appears to have been an accident, wouldn't have happened with more modern and effective air defense systems.

The missile strikes were condemned by the PMC Wagner social media channel Grey Zone. The authors questioned the wisdom of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the continued terrorizing of Ukrainian citizens.

“I cannot explain the agony. Why leave cities without the possibility of maintaining life where according to you [*Ed. The Kremlin*], Russians live and wait for Russia.”

“No, it's some bulls***. Let's make it so that even the pro-Russians in Kyiv are twisted. Destroy other transport infrastructure used for military purposes? Reveal the

intelligence of the supply of foreign technology? Strike at the standing military [formations] of the enemy at the front? Nope.”

“Every night - explosions in Mykolaiv. Boom. Bach. Bam. Four months later, Oh, [Ukrainians] broke the bridge to Kherson and Kakhovka. Oh, [Ukrainians] came so close that it's time for us to retreat and blow up bridges behind us.”

Grey Zone rightly pointed out that the missile strikes are not endearing Russian Mir upon the Ukrainian population and are a waste of military resources. The milbloggers predicted that Russia would lose more territory in the coming months, followed by more pointless attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure as punishment.

ASSESSMENT: Yup. That’s it.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

Short report due to travel.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Short report due to travel.

GEOPOLITICAL

Short report due to travel.

ECONOMIC

The rouble was unchanged, with an exchange rate of 60 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices stopped their slide and rose slightly, with WTI crude inching up to \$87 a barrel and Brent trading at \$94. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market was stable at \$2.53 per gallon for November contracts. (67 cents a liter)

Dutch TTF Gas Futures for December 2022 remained highly volatile, dropping sharply to 119 euros per megawatt hour. January 2023 contracts were also down, trading at 127 euros.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures fell to \$8.12 a bushel for March 2022 contracts after a report indicated Ukraine would request to expand grain shipments to include the port of Mykolaiv.