



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

May 9, 2023 – A



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

5/09/23 23:59* PST

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, Israel, Georgia, and the United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, and donations and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact social@malcontentnews.com. For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at tips@malcontentment.com.

[Patrons at the Bronze level or higher](#) can access the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patrons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2023 by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Jeff Davis, Katie Livingstone, Oskar Hallgrímsson, Ryan Evans, Michael Hering, and special thanks to David Batashvili of the [Rondeli Foundation](#), Ana Ras, Spanish Editor in Chief, Robert Gaudette, Editor in Chief, and Linnea Hubbard, the voice of the Russia-Ukraine War Update Podcast.

The reader accepts that the information contained in the Malcontent News Situation Report will not be used for travel, navigation, or personal security assessment. The reader agrees to get realtime information from official channels provided by national, oblast, raion, hromada, city, or local officials and follow their security recommendations.

The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation.


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 use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.


⚠️ **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for **unique claims** about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is 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.



SUMMARY – DAY 439 7

DAILY ASSESSMENT 8

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP 10

UKRAINE WEATHER 11

SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY 12

KHARKIV 13

DONBAS REGION 16

LUHANSK 16

NORTHEAST DONETSK 21

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK 29

ZAPORIZHIA 32

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION 35

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE 35

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE 37

RUSSIAN FRONT 37

THEATERWIDE 39

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES 41

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MILITARY, AND MIR 42

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS 43

SUMMARY – DAY 439

This is the first update for May 9, 2023.

It has been 3,358 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 75 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- The Daily Assessment will be updated with each report
- Weather and soil conditions will be in the last report of the day
- If an anticipated report is not created, weather and soil conditions will be released as a Flash Report
- Each report will contain unique information and continue in a condensed format

The map is back! [War Map](#)

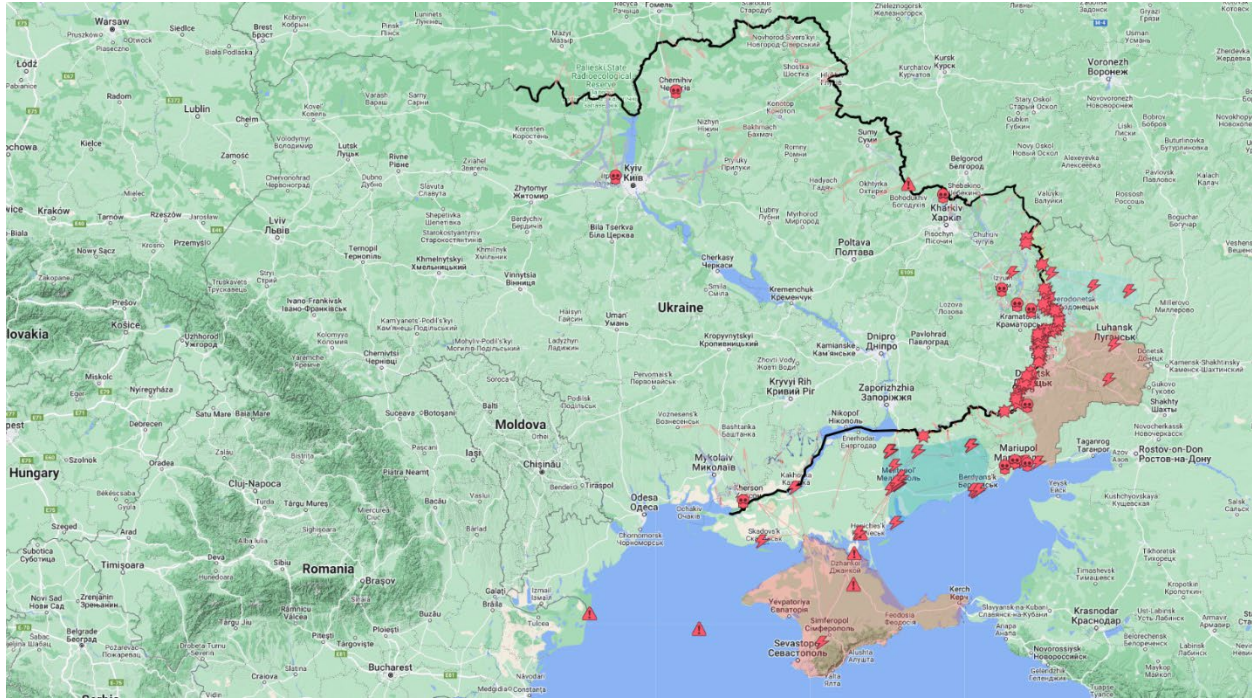
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. The risk remains high for continued missile and drone strikes but at a reduced pace compared to the summer and fall of 2022.
2. Ukrainian air defenses have rendered recent attacks ineffective, successfully intercepting 90% to 96% of missiles and drones.
3. The rift between Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group's leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and the Kremlin has reached an impasse where it is highly unlikely Wagner will receive the demanded ammunition or be permitted to withdraw from the theater of war.
4. Wagner Group is dependent on Russian logistics for transportation in and out of Ukraine, and all Russian military units are on allocation restrictions for ammunition and powder charges.
5. Ukrainian forces may have suspended their retrograde operation in Bakhmut and opportunistically launched limited offensives due to the chaos among Russian military leaders.
6. We remain uncertain if Ukrainian forces will restart their retrograde operation in Bakhmut if PMC Wagner

- will receive ammunition as promised, and if Chechen Akhmat will deploy to Bakhmut as reinforcements.
7. We maintain that Ukraine has seized the battlefield initiative in all operational areas.
 8. In preparation for larger offensive operations, Ukrainian forces continue shaping operations on multiple axes, creating panic and uncertainty among gauleiters, Russian administrators, and military leaders.
 9. We have identified shaping activity by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in four locations that could indicate a larger attack is being prepared.
 10. Weather models remain favorable for larger offensive operations using armor and mobility after May 11, indicating that bezdorizhzhia for spring 2023 will end this week.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

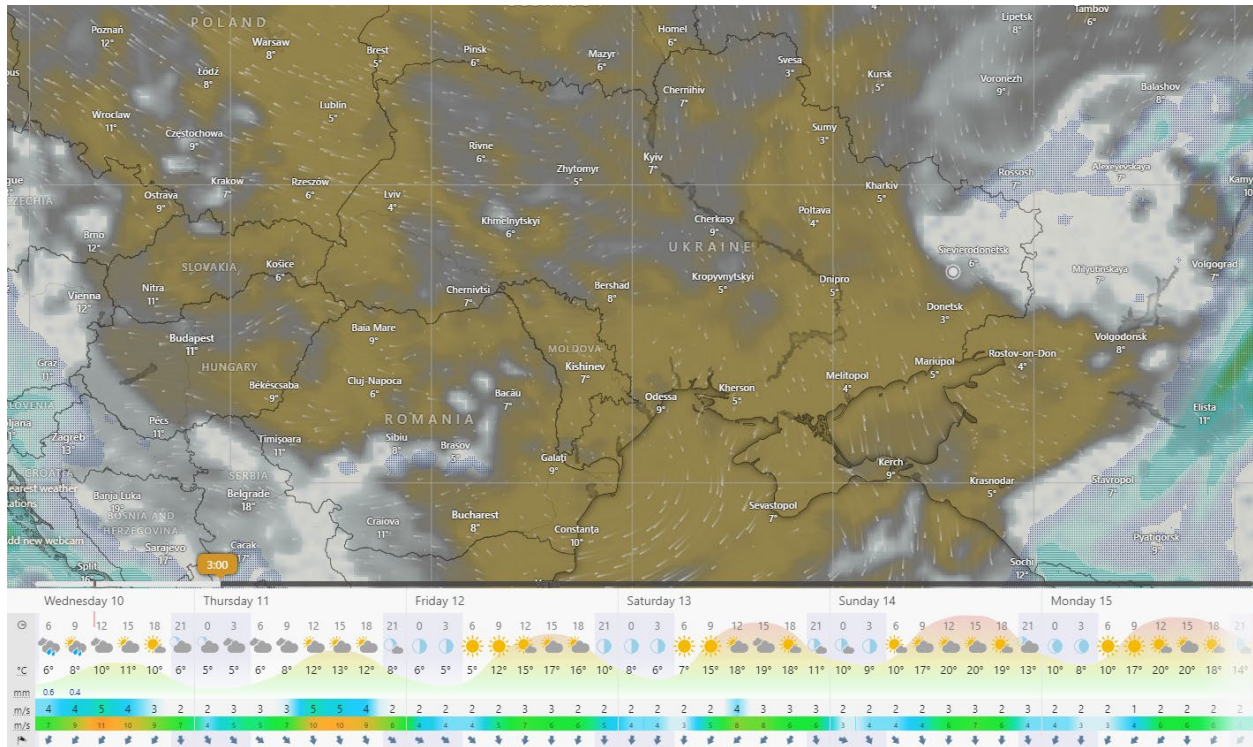


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

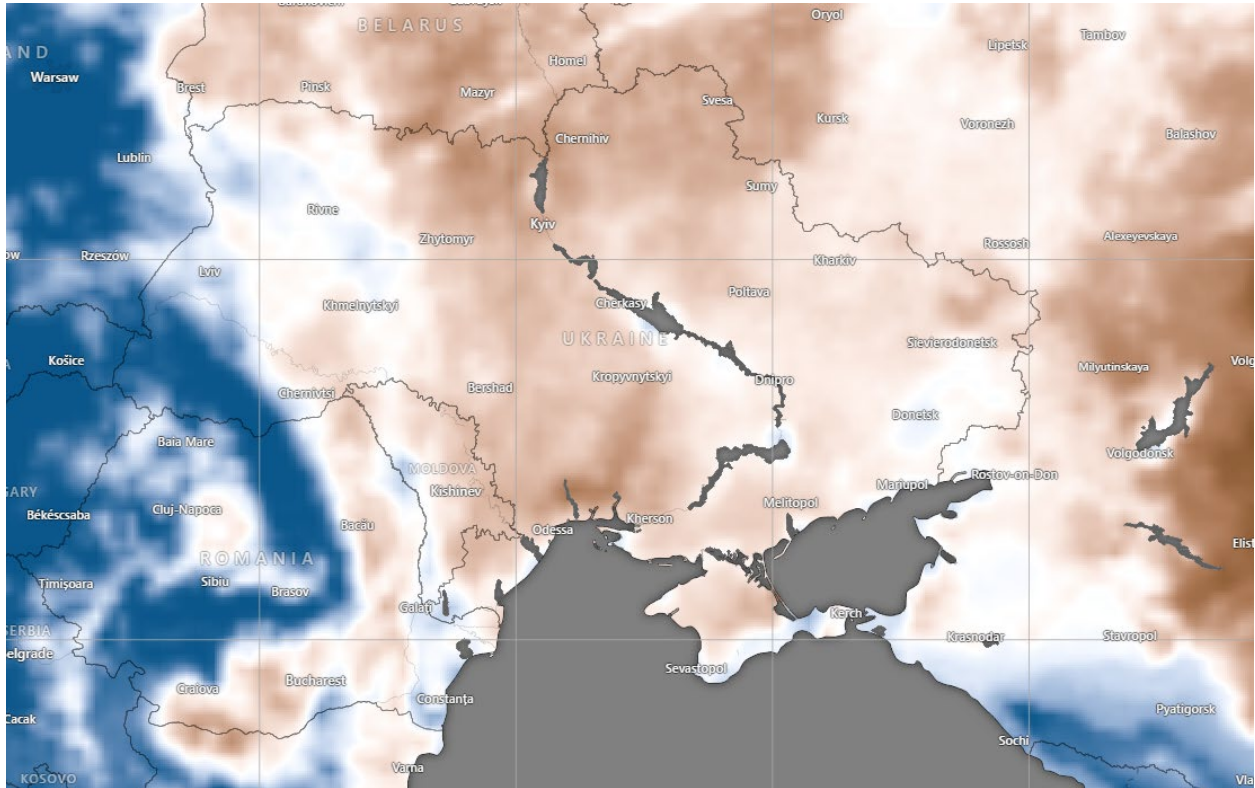


UKRAINE WEATHER



The ECMWF Euro weather model backed out most of the rain in eastern Ukraine, with 2 millimeters expected on Wednesday before clearing, and sunny to partly cloudy weather arrives for as far out as the model predicts. Highs will be from 8° to 23° Celcius, with lows from 2° to 12°. Wednesday will be the coldest day, with Thursday and Friday mornings seeing lows near freezing. Sunny and warm weather is forecasted at least until May 15.

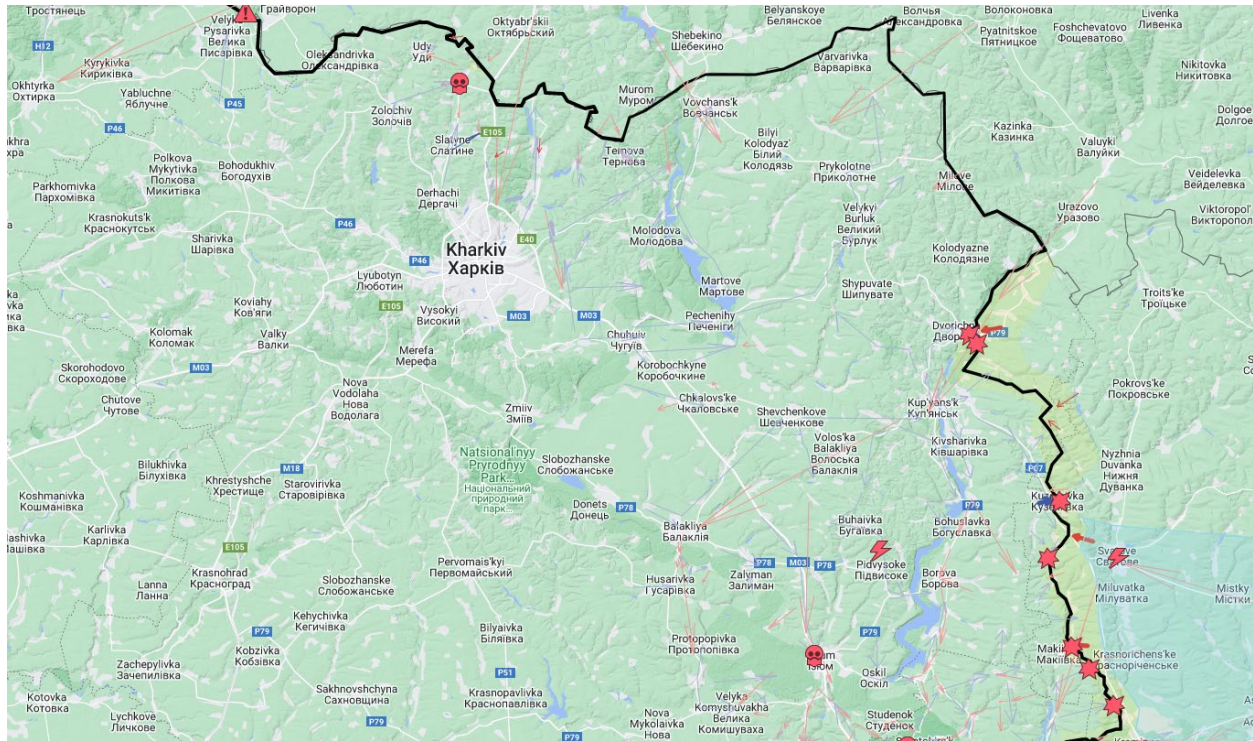
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



May 17, 2023, GFS forecast showing a complex picture with 30% to 55% soil saturation to 40 centimeters depth in Zaporizhzhia and the Donbas.

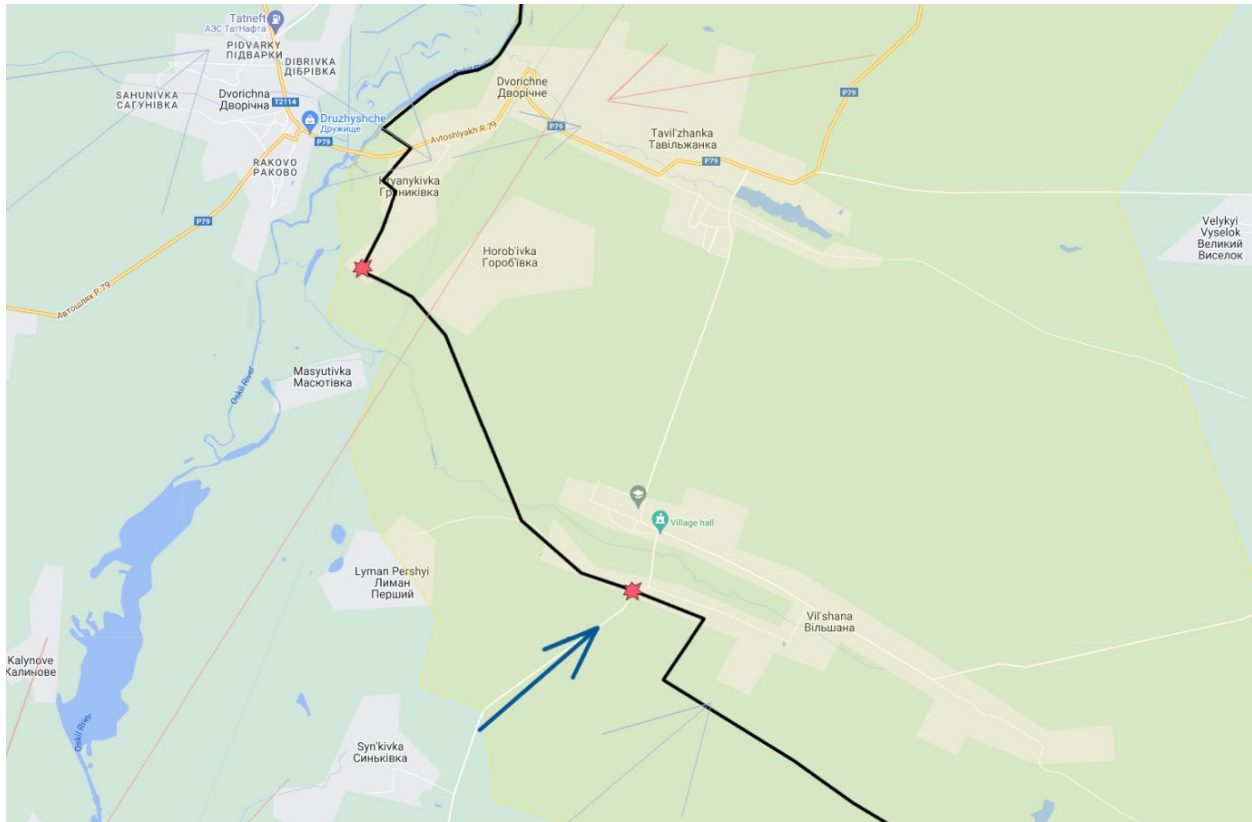
Soil saturation along the line of conflict is at 50% to 95%, with 2 millimeters of rain forecasted for the remainder of May 10. Ground conditions will be favorable for Ukrainian combat action in the Donbas starting on May 12 and will be ideal theaterwide on May 15.

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, hold current defensive lines, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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



Dvorichna Operational Area

- Russian mercenary milbloggers Rybar and WarGonzo reported that fighting was ongoing in [Hryanykivka](#) and Ukrainian forces were pulling in additional troops into the operational area^{1 2}
- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) and Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA), Oleg Sinegubov, reported a Russian attack on [Masyutivka](#) failed³

¹ <https://t.me/rybar/46844>

² <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

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

- GSAFU reported that the village of [Lyman Pershyi](#) was shelled throughout the day^{4 5}
- GSAFU reported that Ukrainian troop positions in [Vilshana](#) were shelled, while WarGonzo reported a Ukrainian offensive was ongoing and success was achieved without indicating how much territorial change occurred^{6 7}
- **ASSESSMENT:** The increasing activity by Ukrainian forces, which have moved to an offensive posture, has caught our attention, but it is too early, and it would be wrong to speculate if this will be one of the points where the larger offensive will start

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

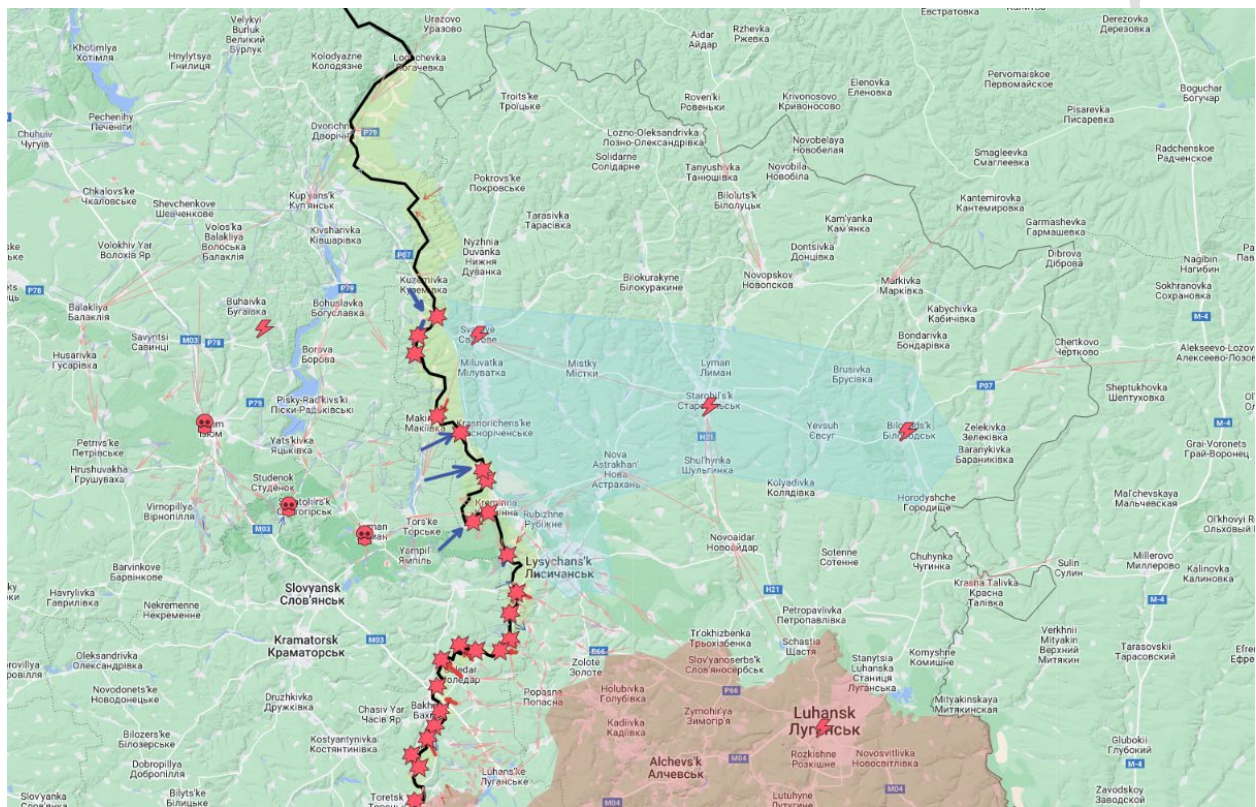
⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

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

⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

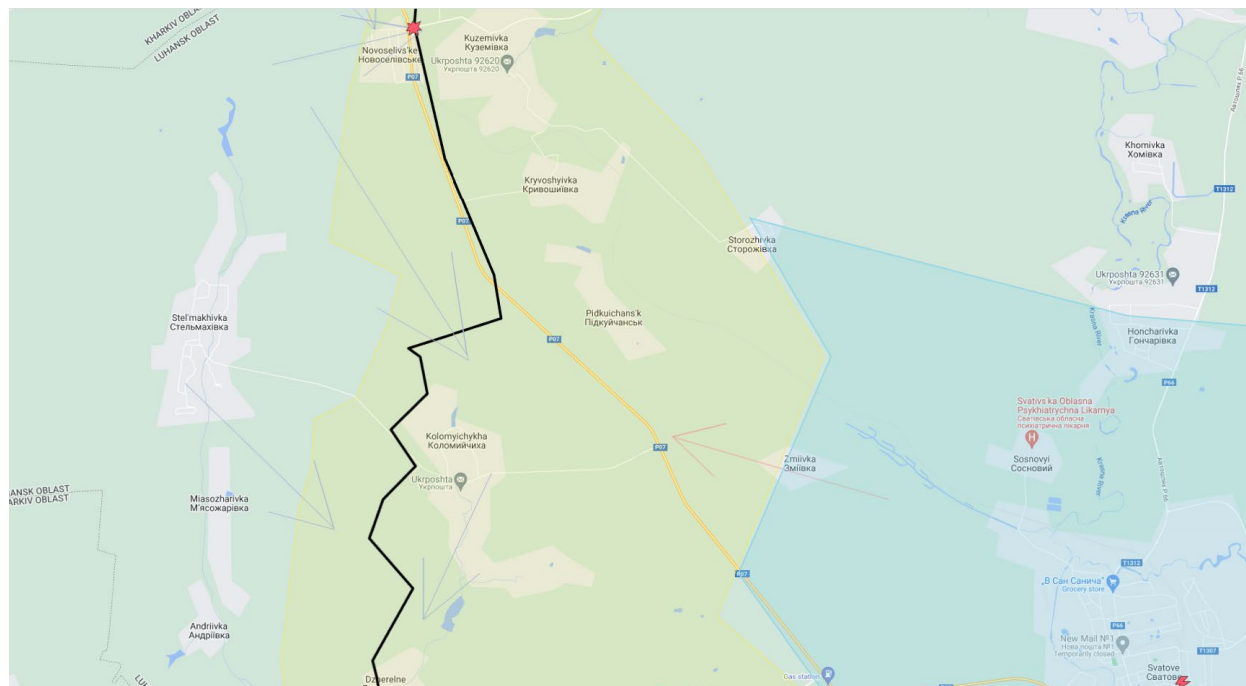
DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, prevent further Ukrainian advances, control insurgent activity

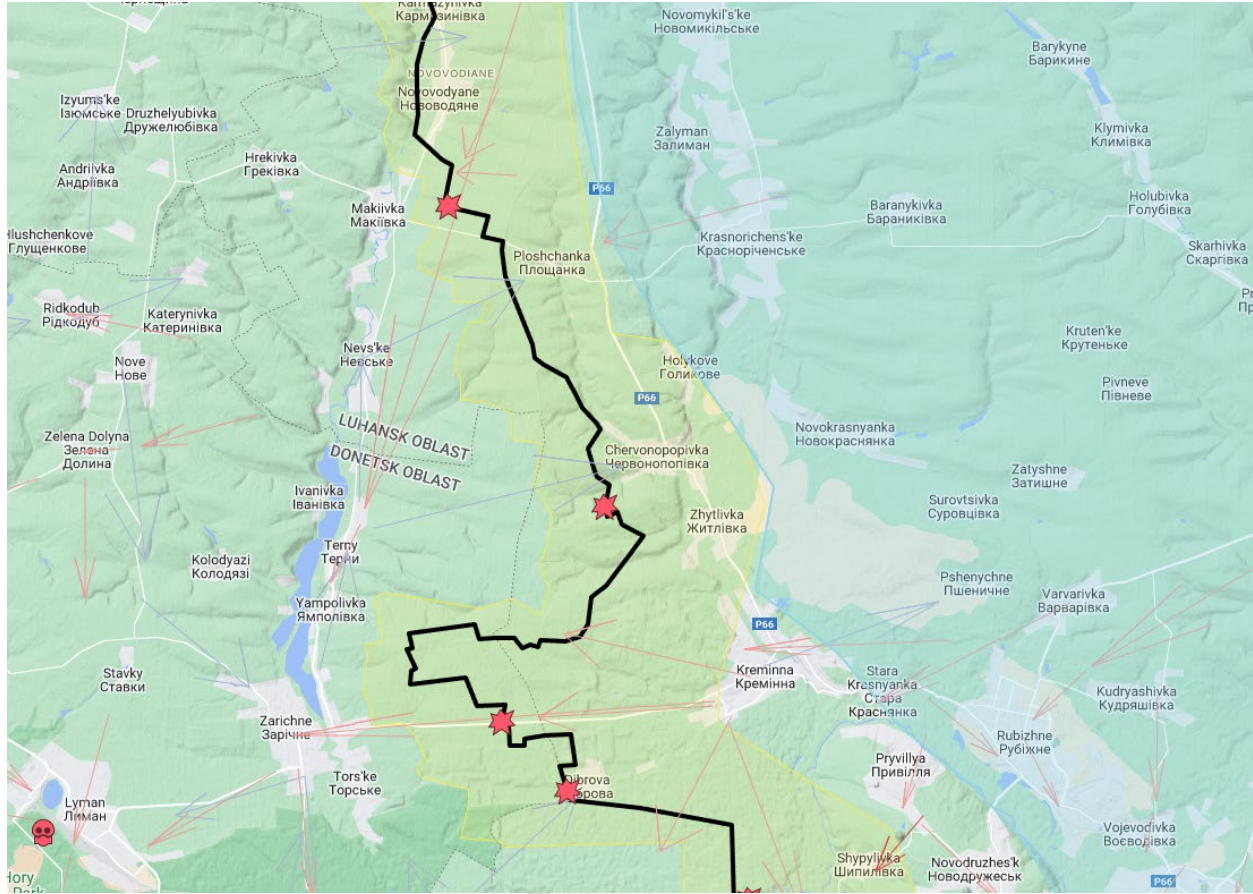
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kremynna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



Svatove Operational Area

- GSAFU reported a Russian attack in the direction of [Stelmakhivka](#) was repulsed⁸

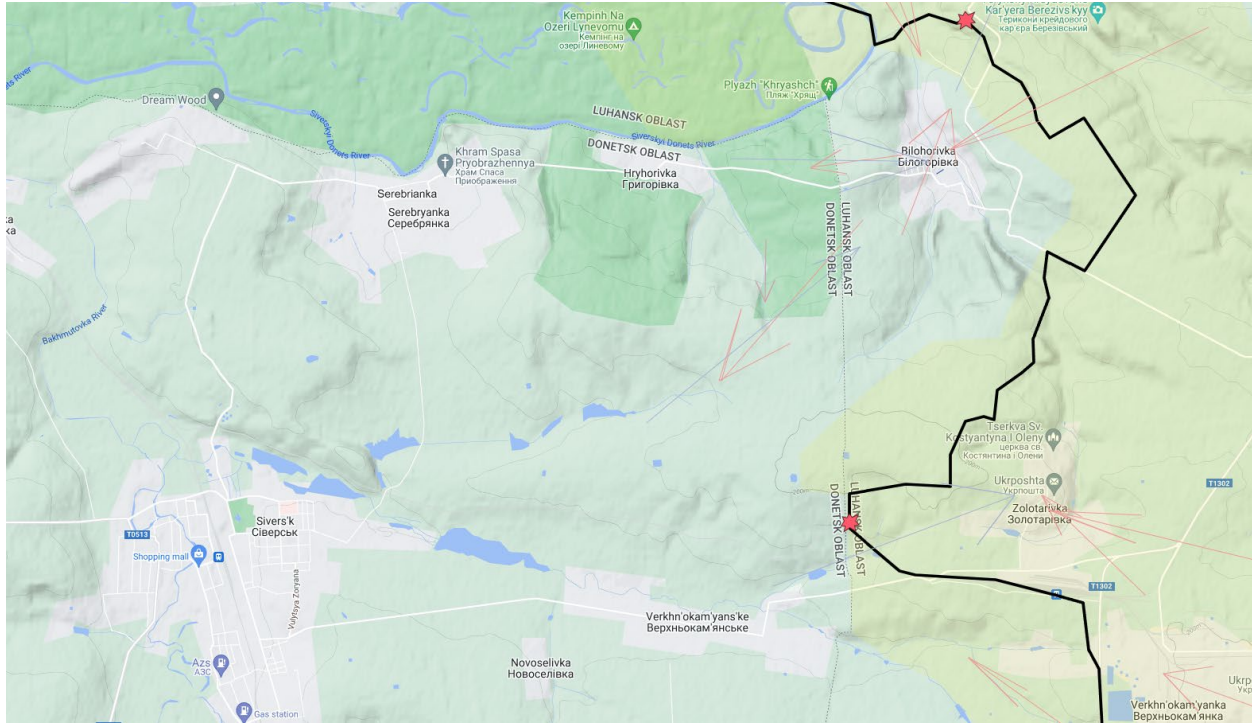
⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)



Kreminna Operational Area

- Positional fighting in the [Serebryanskyy Woods](#) was reported by Ukrainian sources, with no change to the situation⁹

⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>



Lysychansk Operational Area

- GSAFU reported Russian forces made multiple attempts to advance on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] and were unsuccessful^{10 11}

¹⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

Free Luhansk

- Russian forces fired 448 artillery shells, mortars, and rockets on free Luhansk and carried out 13 airstrikes¹²

Occupied Luhansk

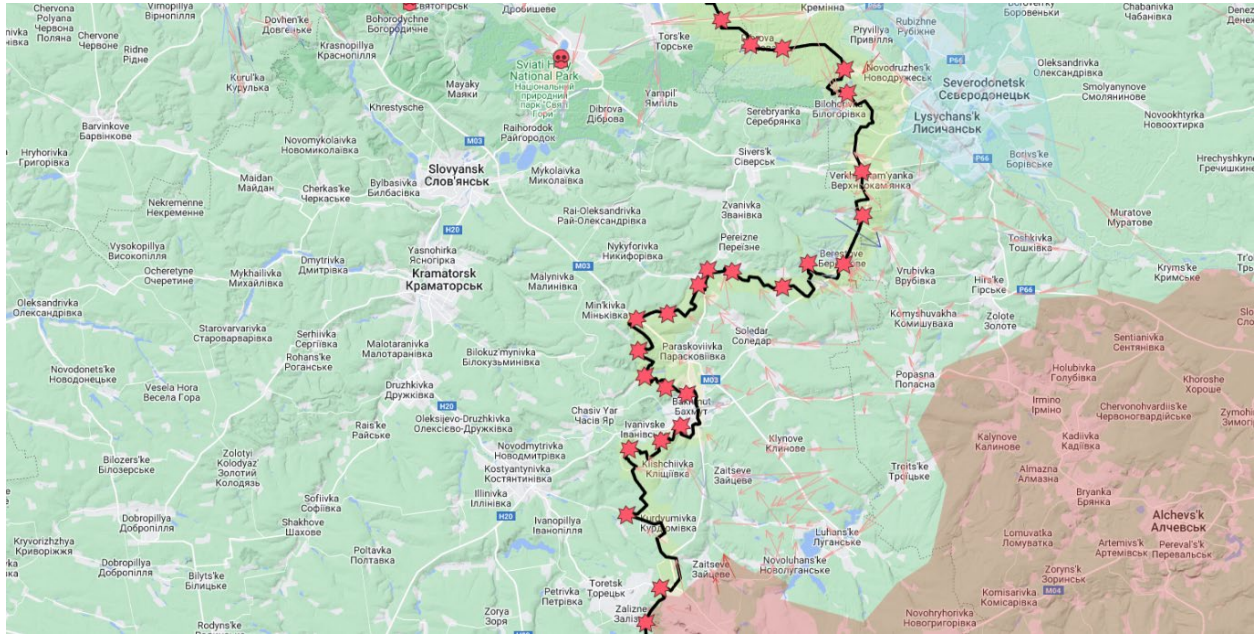
- Russian milblogger Andrei Morozov reported  [rockets fired by HIMARS struck Pervomais'k](#)^{13 14}

¹² <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10377>

¹³ <https://t.me/wehearfromyanina/1864>

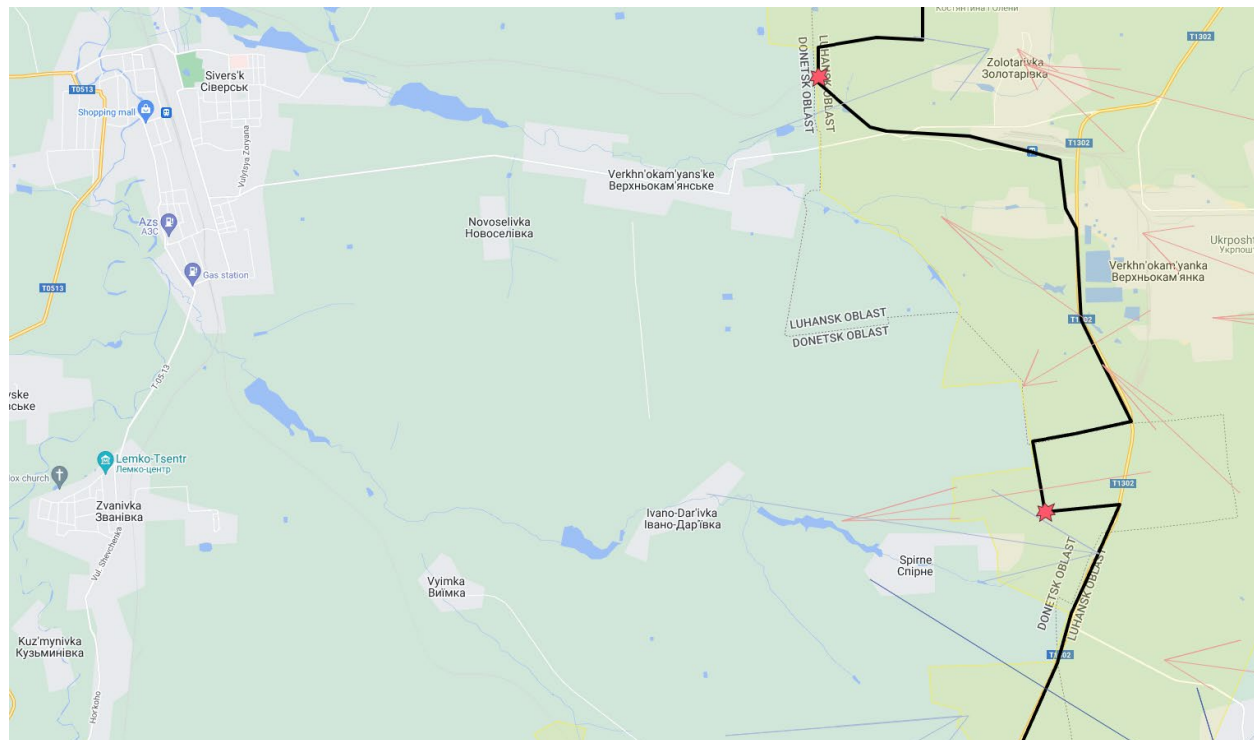
¹⁴ https://t.me/miroshnik_r/11360

NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

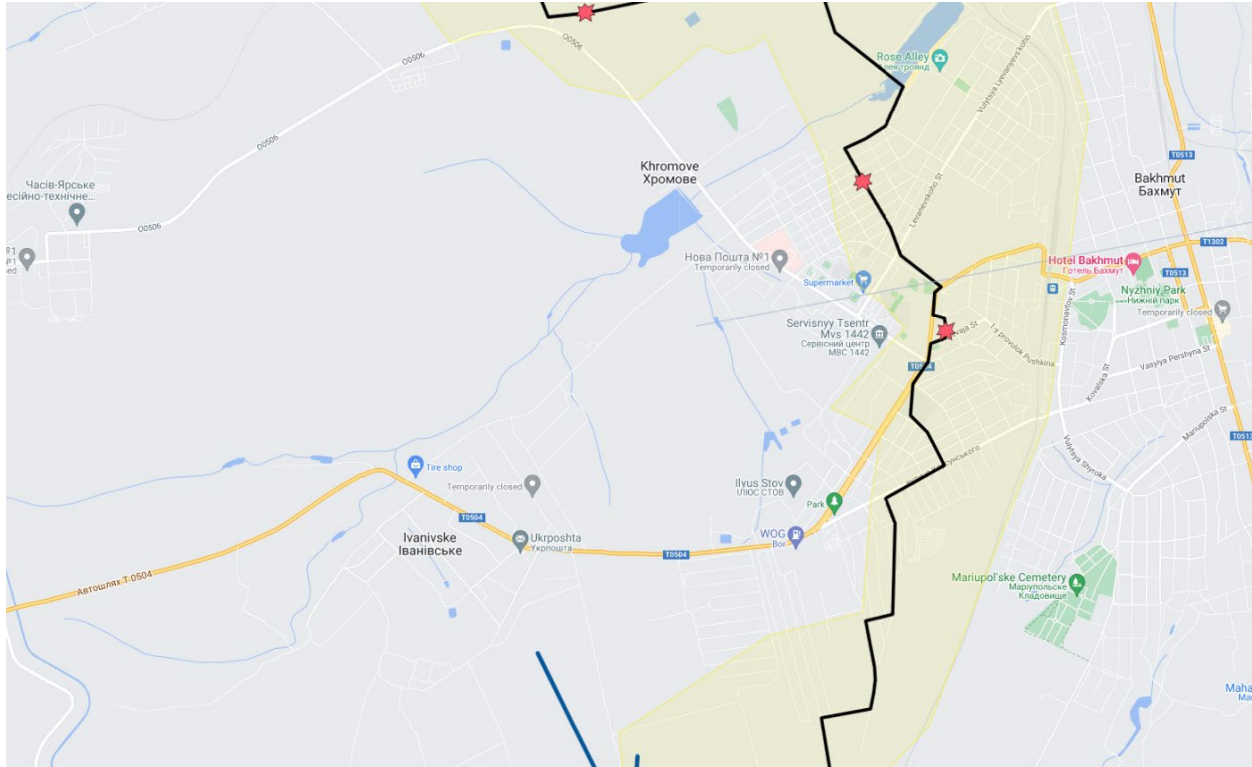
Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



Siversk Operational Area

- WarGonzo reported that Russian forces made another attempt to advance on [Spirne](#), which failed¹⁵

¹⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>



Bakhmut Operational Area

- PMC Wagner attacked [Khromove](#) and was unable to advance, with Ukrainian forces launching a limited counterattack that pushed the Wagnerites back 200 meters^{16 17}
- PMC Wagner attacks in the northern, west-central, and southern parts of the city were unsuccessful^{18 19 20 21 22}

¹⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

¹⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>

¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

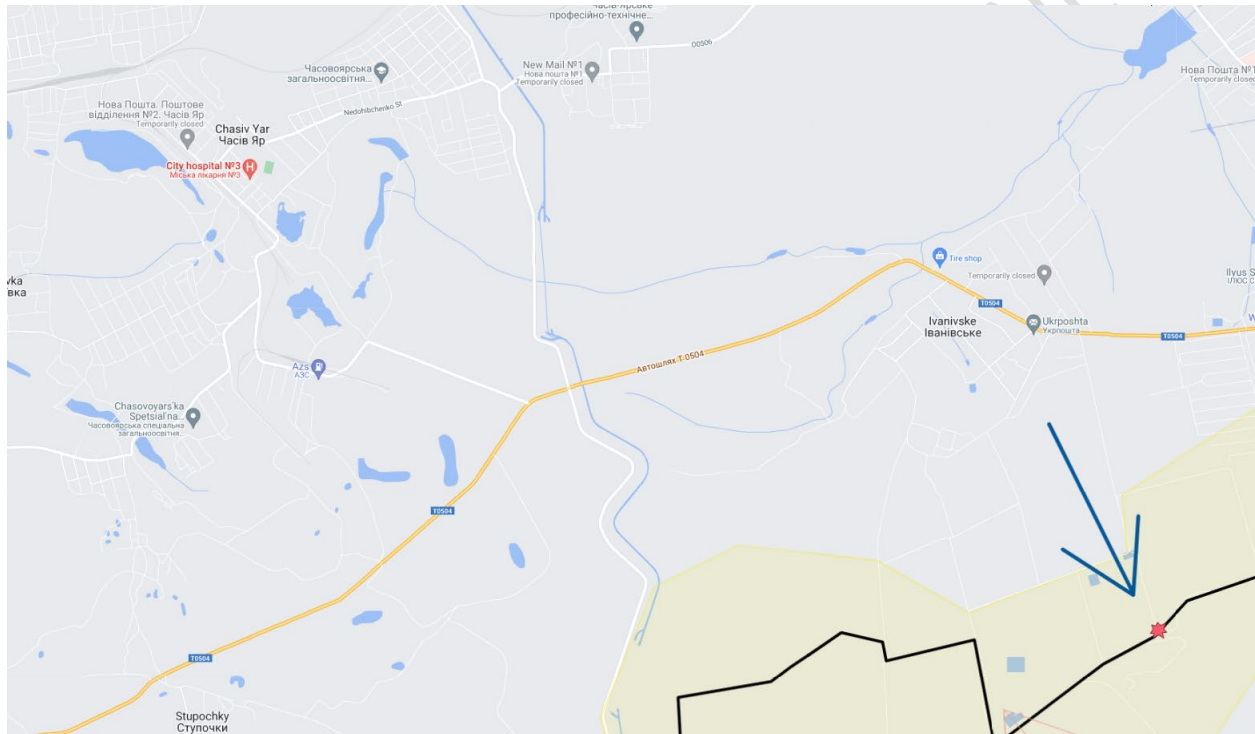
¹⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

²⁰ <https://t.me/brussinf/5955>

²¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>

- In western Bakhmut, Russian artillery strikes [destroyed the Church of the Holy Annunciation](#), setting the main chapel on fire²³



- PMC Wagner reported Ukraine went on the offensive south of [Ivanivske](#) and was able to advance further south, retaking the communal garages^{24 25 26 27 28}

²³ <https://twitter.com/ianbremmer/status/1656021217240023041>

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

²⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

²⁶ <https://t.me/brussinf/5955>

²⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>

²⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

- Russian forces made another attempt to advance in the direction of [Chasiv Yar](#) from the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal and failed²⁹

Bakhmut

- The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported their forces carried out 73 fire missions, and Russian army aviation and Airforce (VKS) conducted five close air support sorties³⁰
- PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin released a 27-minute long video claiming he still has not received promised ammunition, accusing the Russian Ministry of Defense of committing treason, calling Russian President Vladimir Putin the happy grandfather, stating that Russia was incapable of defending itself, and once again threatening to withdraw from Bakhmut in a few days^{31 32}
- Prigozhin: "Our soldiers are being killed, and the happy grandfather thinks they are fine. And how will we win the war if it turns out that this grandfather is a 'complete asshole.'"
- Russian milbloggers and Russian state media largely ignored Prigozhin's latest demands

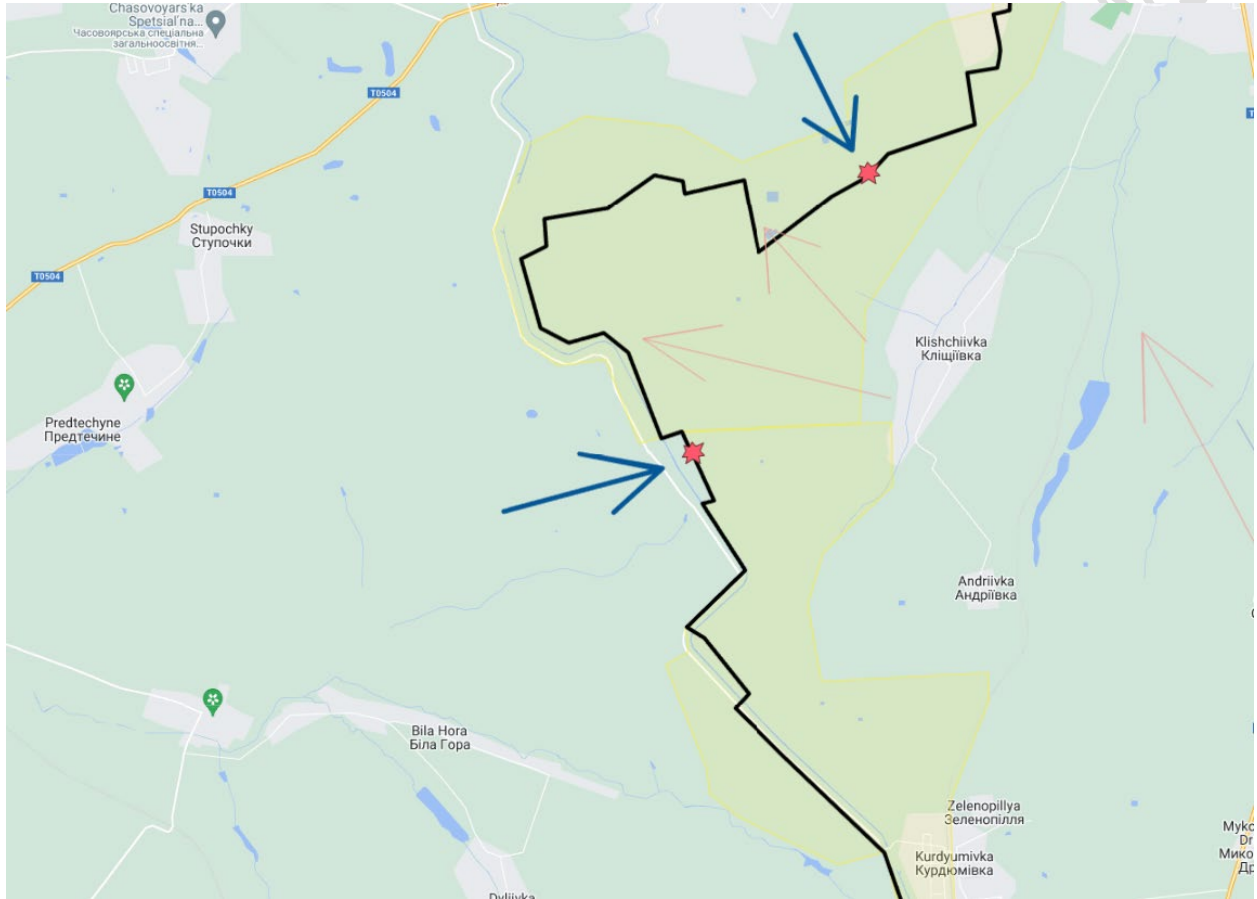
²⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/26388 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



³¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29908>

³² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/73155>

- We estimate that Ukrainian forces maintain control of 2.8 square kilometers of Bakhmut (1.08 square miles), or roughly 6.7% of the city, which is 41.6 square kilometers



Klishchiivka Operational Direction

- The Ukrainian 3rd Assault Brigade, part of the Azov tactical group,   [launched a two-day combined arms offensive](#) against the Russian 72nd Independent Mechanized Brigade west of the Siverski Donets-

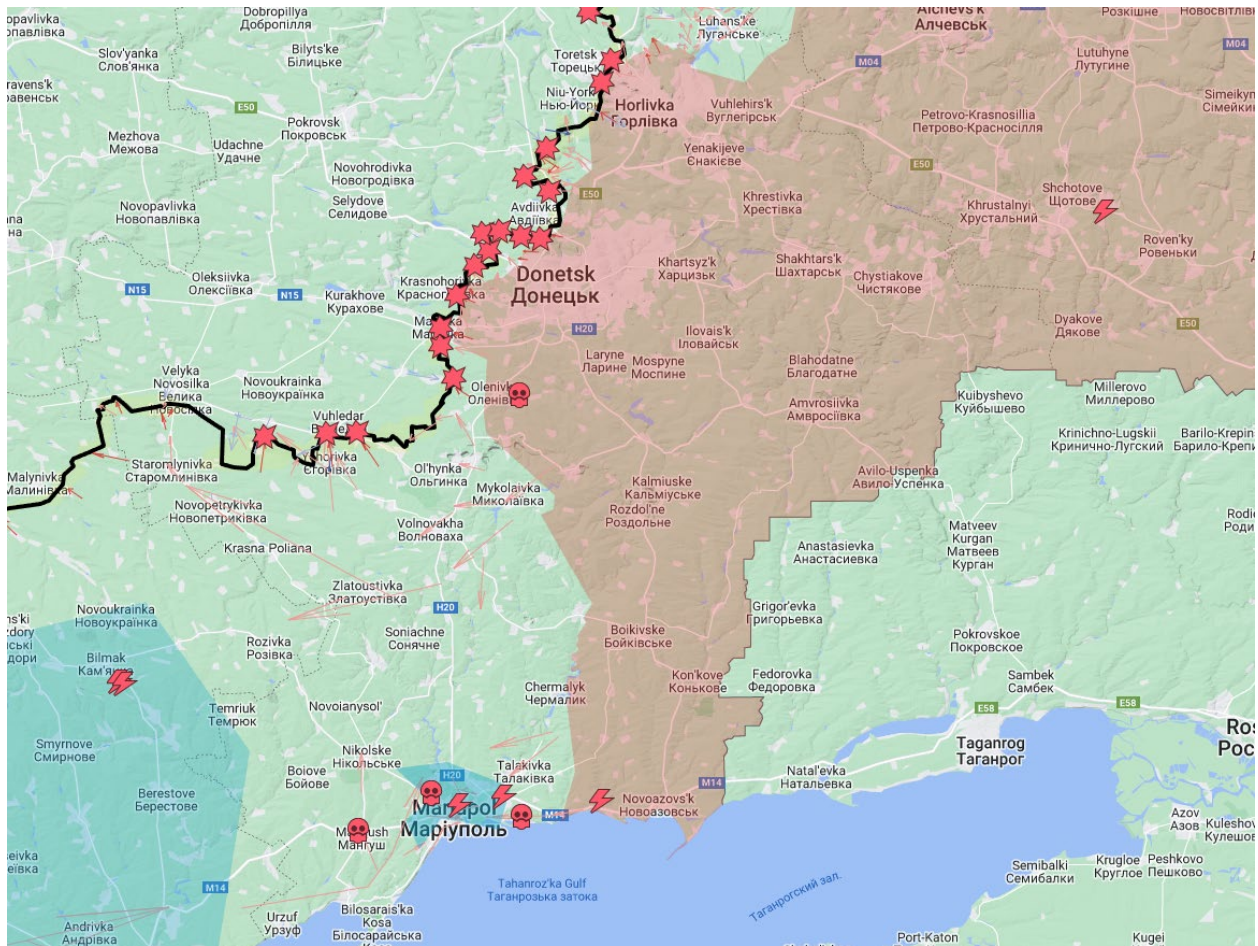
Donbas Canal, killing over 60 Russian soldiers and liberating 7.8 square kilometers of territory³³

- PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin claimed that the 72nd Brigade retreated against orders, giving up in 12 hours what took weeks and the death of 500 Wagnerites to capture
- Prigozhin cited this as an example of treason by the Russian Ministry of Defense, adding that he was told if PMC Wagner retreated from Bakhmut, it would be considered treason
- The video of the attack highlighted the continued critical lack of antitank guide missiles (ATGM), with Ukrainian armor operating with impunity, including running over bunkers and trenches
- At least five Russian soldiers and Wagnerites were taken as POWs
- Ukrainian forces are now 2.6 kilometers from Klishchiivka and eliminated the entire Wagner bridgehead west of the Siverski Donets-Donbas Canal
- We have additional information about the success of this offensive that we will not share to support operational security
- **ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces have likely been pushed out of the forests east of Stupochky while Ukrainian forces are advancing on Klishchiivka in two directions

³³ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1656064355539058688>

- The details that were released by Prigozhin and confirmed by GSAFU reveal why the PMC Wagner leader is so confirmed about the flanks of Bakhmut not being properly defended
- A small but critical salient of Russian forces and Wagnerites has formed south of Ivanivske and is blocked by the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal to the west
- This is not part of the larger Ukrainian offensive but a well-executed counterattack conducted by the Ukrainian 3rd Assault Brigade
- Klishchiivka is not threatened at this time, but Ukrainian forces are 2.6 kilometers to the west and 2 kilometers to the north of the Russian forward operating base used as a supply and artillery node
- Our late February assessment that the infighting between the Kremlin and Prigozhin would damage Russian offensive operations if it went unchecked was accurate
- PMC Wagner's attempts to reestablish positions west of the canal in the direction of [Stupochky](#) failed³⁴

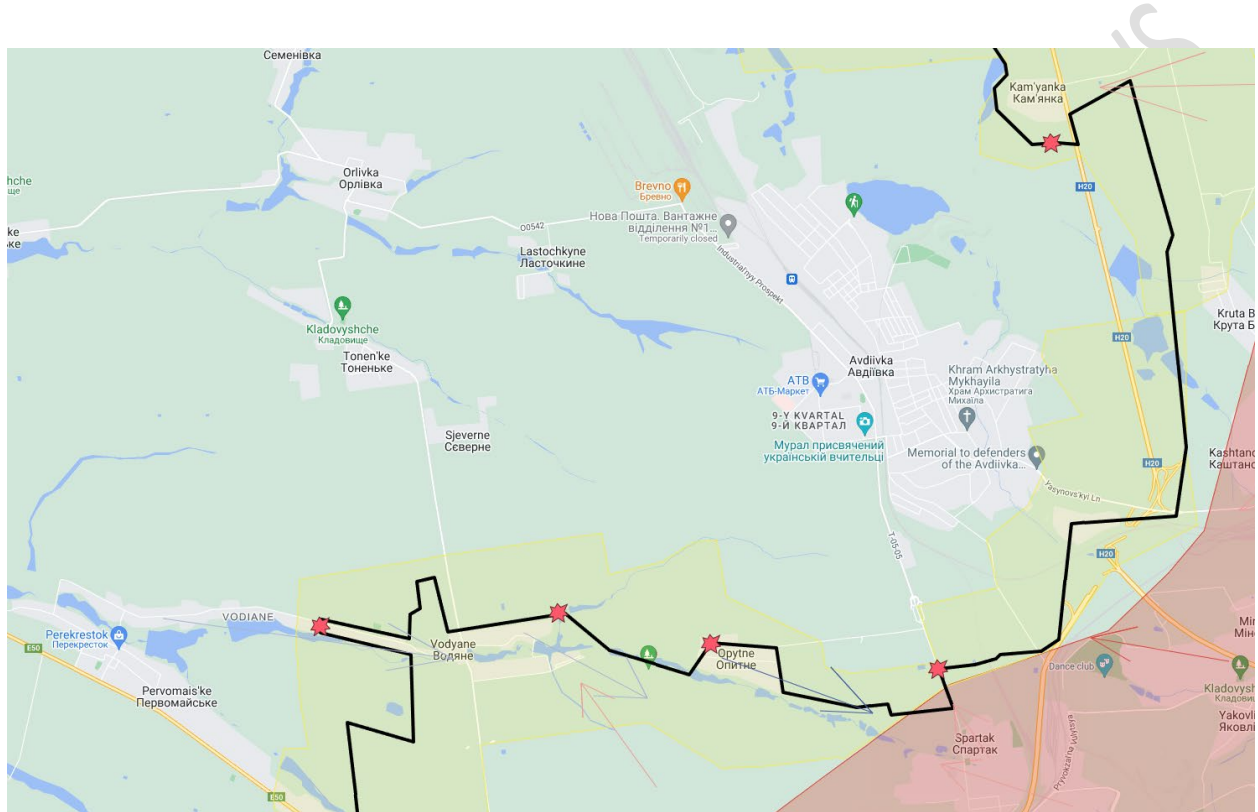
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, consolidate gains made during the winter offensive, and set conditions for September 2023 elections

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



Avdiivka Operational Area

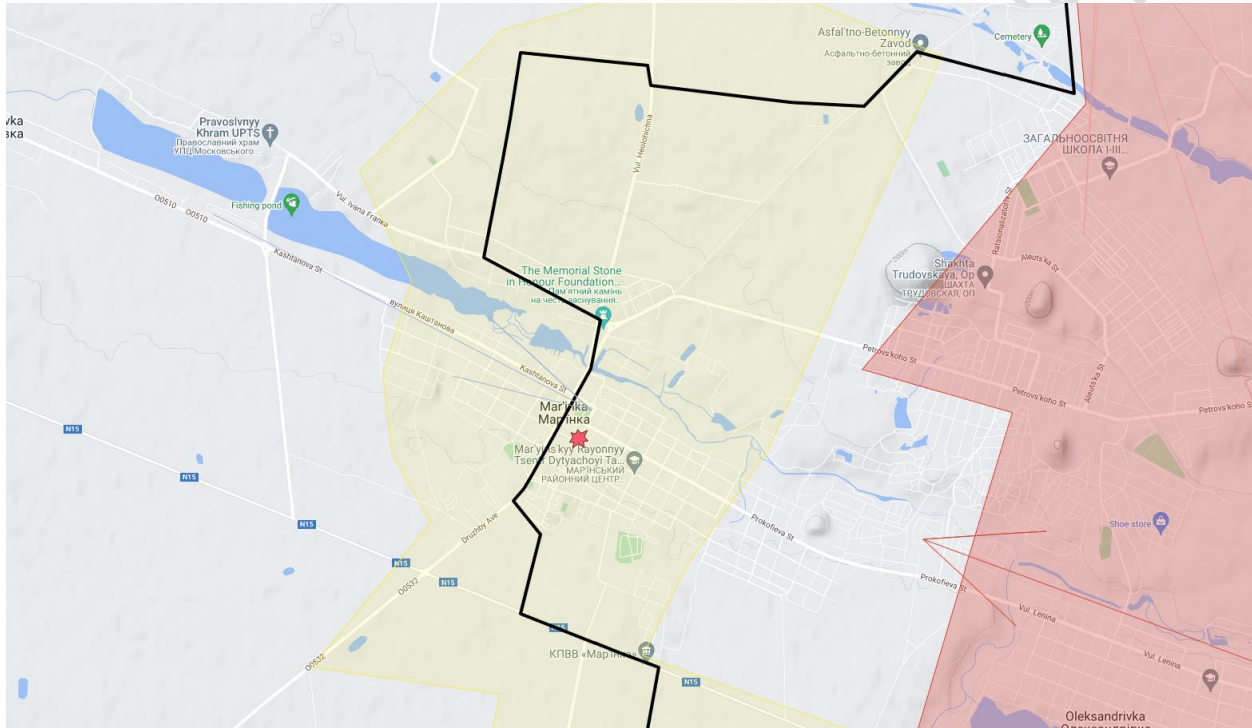
- Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that the 1st Army Corps continued attempts to advance on [Avdiivka](#) from Vesele, suffered heavy losses, and retreated to their defensive positions^{35 36 37}

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

³⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>

³⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

- Russian forces continued their attempts to recapture lost positions in eastern Pervomaiske without success^{38 39}



Marinka Operational Area

- Fighting for Marinka continued with no change in the situation^{40 41 42}

³⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

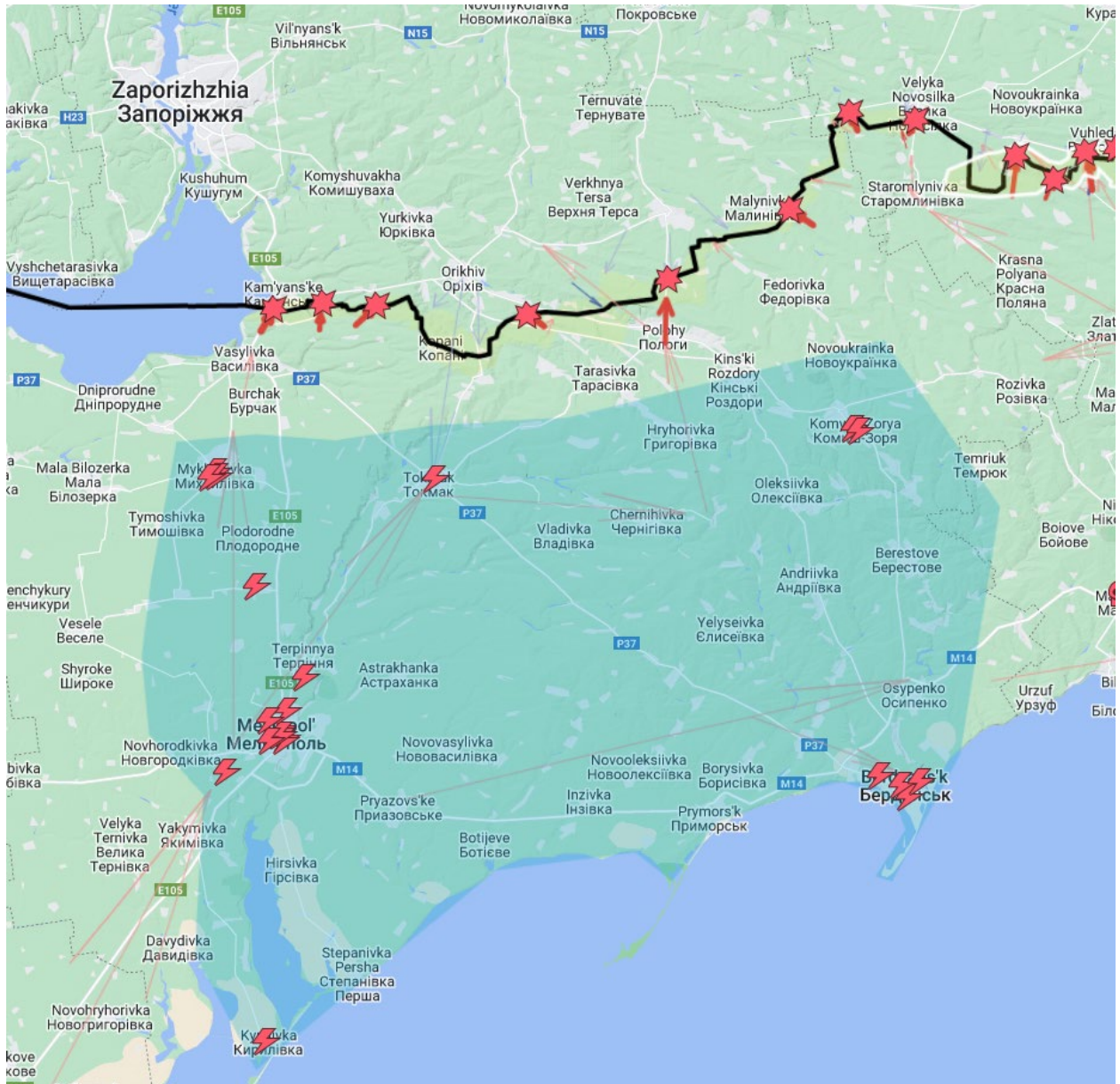
³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

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

⁴¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

⁴² <https://t.me/wargonzo/12388>

ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian offensive, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

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

Free Zaporizhia

- Russian forces carried out 103 fire missions, three drone attacks, and one airstrike along the line of conflict in Zaporizhia⁴³

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

- No update

Occupied Zaporizhia

- Passportization has been put on hold, with passport offices closer to the line of conflict closed and records either taken or destroyed⁴⁴
- As was the case in Kharkiv and Kherson, collaborators are having their Russian passports taken away and exchanged for a certificate⁴⁵
- In Berdyansk and Melitopol, pictures of Yevhen Balytskyi, the Gauleiter of the Zaporizhzhia region, and

⁴³ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/18652

⁴⁴ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1918

⁴⁵ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1918

Vladimir Rogov, the so-called "head of the Zaporizhia movement "We will be with Russia" and occupied territory administrator, appeared with a warning that the "Russian Spring" is ending because the "Ukrainian Summer" is coming with a date of August 1, 2023⁴⁶

- Exiled Mayor of Enderhodar, Dmytro Orlov, reported that Russian occupiers are looting the city as it is being evacuated and that shops, pharmacies, and gas stations have been closed to force residents to leave⁴⁷

⁴⁶ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/3232

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95560>

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

- Operational Command South (OKS) reported that Black Sea Fleet has 19 vessels on patrol, including three Kilo-class submarines and two frigates capable of launching up to 28 Kalibr cruise missiles⁴⁸
- After a Russian Su-35 buzzed a Polish L-410 turboprop aircraft last week, almost forcing it to crash after the crew lost control in the jet wash, three NATO surveillance aircraft and one RQ-4B Global Hawk drone operated in unison with fighter aircraft maintaining a protective combat air patrol (CAP)^{49 50 51}

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

⁴⁸ https://t.me/Nazars_look/14111

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29910>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29911>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29925>

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Free Kherson

- Russian forces carried out 63 fire missions, firing 354 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets, indirect tank fire, and drone-delivered IEDs, bombs, and rockets⁵²
- The city of Kherson was attacked seven times with 44 munitions, injuring one person

Occupied Kherson

- Because of ongoing forced evacuations, it has become much harder to gather intelligence east of Dnipro River

Dnipropetrovsk

- The Ukrainian Airforce reported that three Shahed-136 kamikaze drones flying over the region were shot down^{53 54}

⁵² <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/5730>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95614>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95602>

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

- No significant activity

RUSSIAN FRONT

- In Valuyki, Belgorod, Russian officials claim they shot down a Ukrainian Tockha-U short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)⁵⁵
- Russian partisans sabotaged a railroad signal relay cabinet, destroying it and impacting freight service, in the Svatov region, near Engels⁵⁶

⁵⁵ https://t.me/shot_shot/51157

⁵⁶ https://t.me/shot_shot/51159

- Russian state media agency Baza reported that two drones filled with explosives hit a Russian military training base in the Voronezh region, wounding 14⁵⁷
- Russian sources claim that three drones were downed in the Moscow region, including near Kaluga, the Bitsevsky Forest, and the Lomonosov District of Moscow – we cannot verify the report
- Members of the Freedom of Russian Legion claimed they destroyed a Russian Su-24 in Novosibirsk - the aircraft was awaiting maintenance and modernization⁵⁸
- In St. Petersburg, Ukrainian hackers changed the audio track for the broadcast of Moscow's Victory Day Parade to  [something a bit more - Ukrainian](#)⁵⁹

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/38396>

⁵⁸ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3045

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95512>


THEATERWIDE

- Ukrainian officials clarified that 32 cruise missiles were launched from the Black Sea Fleet and the Russian VKS on May 8 – 9, with 30 missiles intercepted⁶⁰
- Ukrainian Airforce spokesperson Yuri Ignat said the two missiles that were not intercepted caused "no critical consequences."
- United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "According to my own assessment, they have everything they need to continue to successfully retake the territories that have been captured by the Russian Federation for the past 14 months," adding that readiness isn't only about weapons but the quality of military training.⁶¹
- NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg declared that "all NATO allies agree that Ukraine will become a member of the alliance. All allies agree that Ukraine has the right to choose its own path and that the decision is made not by Moscow, but by Kyiv. And, thirdly, all allies agree that NATO's doors remain open."⁶²

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95519>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95591>

⁶² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29932>

- There were no reports that Hungarian President Viktor Orbán was tied up in a corner when Stoltenberg made the statement
- The United States Department of Defense announced another \$1.2 billion military aid package to Ukraine as part of the Ukraine Security Assistance Package, which is providing long-term funds for 155 mm ammunition, air defense systems, and missiles, and support to integrate NATO and Ukrainian air defense systems and radar together
- Romanian APR-40 multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) that fire 122 mm Soviet standard rockets were  [documented in Ukraine for the first time](#) – the transfer of the Romanian MLRS units was not previously announced⁶³

⁶³ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3048

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to May 7, 2023. 10,179 Russian vs. 3,264 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	1814	193	9.40:1	—
Medium Duty Tanks	123	302	0.40:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	838	266	3.15:1	↓
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2317	530	4.37:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	309	253	1.22:1	—
MRAPs	43	55	0.78:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	190	290	0.65:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	239	12	19.92:1	—
Engineering Vehicles	302	50	6.04:1	—
Towed Artillery	201	121	1.66:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	388	143	2.71:1	↓
MLRS	195	45	4.33:1	↑
SAMs	107	98	1.09:1	—
Mobile Radars	31	58	0.53:1	↓
EW/ECW	36	2	18.00:1	↓
Winged Aircraft	80	66	1.21:1	—
Helicopters	84	29	2.89:1	—
Naval Vessels	12	26	0.46:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MILITARY, AND MIR

- In March, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov claimed that approximately 125 vehicles and 12,000 troops would participate in the Moscow Victory Day Parade, and there would be no flyover by the Russian VKS and army aviation.
- Only 8000 personnel marched through red square, mostly auxiliary forces, paramilitary, and cadets from military schools supplemented by Railway troops and OMON⁶⁴
- Only 51 vehicles took part in the procession, including 10 Z-STS Infantry Mobility Vehicles from Chechnya and not used by the Russian Federation, and three prototype YPK-7829 Boomerang infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) which have not entered production
- There were 63% fewer vehicles than in 2022 and 75% fewer vehicles than in 2021
- The flyover of the Russian VKS was likely canceled due to a pilot shortage unrelated to the Russia-Ukraine War
- The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Defense Intelligence Directorate speculated that "Despite heavy

64

<https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/10/7401455/>

losses in Ukraine, Russia could have fielded more armored vehicles. The authorities likely refrained from doing so because they wanted to avoid domestic criticism about prioritizing parades over combat operations."

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- AFP French war correspondent Arman Soldin was killed in Chasiv Yar, 10 kilometers from the line of contact, during a Russian rocket attack
- A video of Soldin was widely circulated on May 5 of the reporter saving a hedgehog⁶⁵

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95585>