



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 233	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT	3
TODAY’S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP	5
KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV	6
DNIPROPETROVSK & NORTHERN ZAPORIZHIA	12
DONBAS REGION	15
SOUTHERN ZAPORIZHIA.....	15
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK.....	17
NORTHEAST DONETSK.....	23
LUHANSK	29
KHARKIV	31
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION	33
KYIV REGION	33
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION	33
WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE.....	34
RUSSIAN FRONT	34
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS	37
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS.....	42
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	46
GEOPOLITICAL	47
ECONOMIC.....	48

SUMMARY – DAY 233

It has been 3,139 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

The only significant kinetic warfare was in the Donetsk oblast.

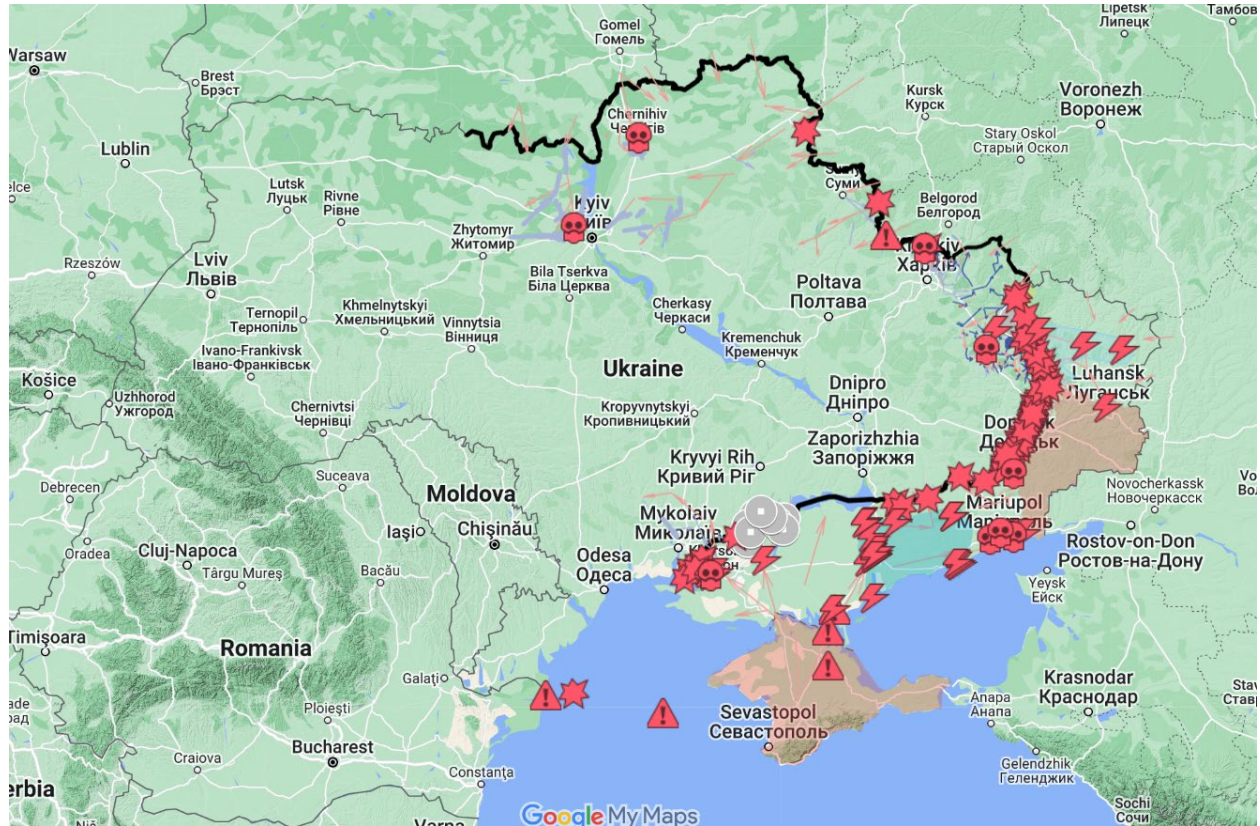
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We maintain that Ukraine still holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain defensive on all axes except Soledar/Bakhmut, and there were reports at the time of publication Ukraine had renewed its counteroffensive in Kherson.
2. We maintain that Russian terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure will continue and could intensify starting on October 17.
3. We maintain that using tactical nuclear weapons on the battlefield is highly unlikely as it would require striking what the Kremlin believes is Russian soil and Russian forces are incapable of fighting in a conventional environment, let alone a CBRN setting.

4. We maintain we are in the Mutually Assured Destruction Instability Paradox due to irresponsible language from the Kremlin, looming decisions from Moscow leadership, and the deteriorating kinetic warfare situation for Russian troops in Ukraine.
5. We maintain our assessment that the Russian military in Ukraine is combat destroyed is accurate, and the Russian military has no meaningful way to respond to the ongoing and accelerating collapse on multiple fronts.

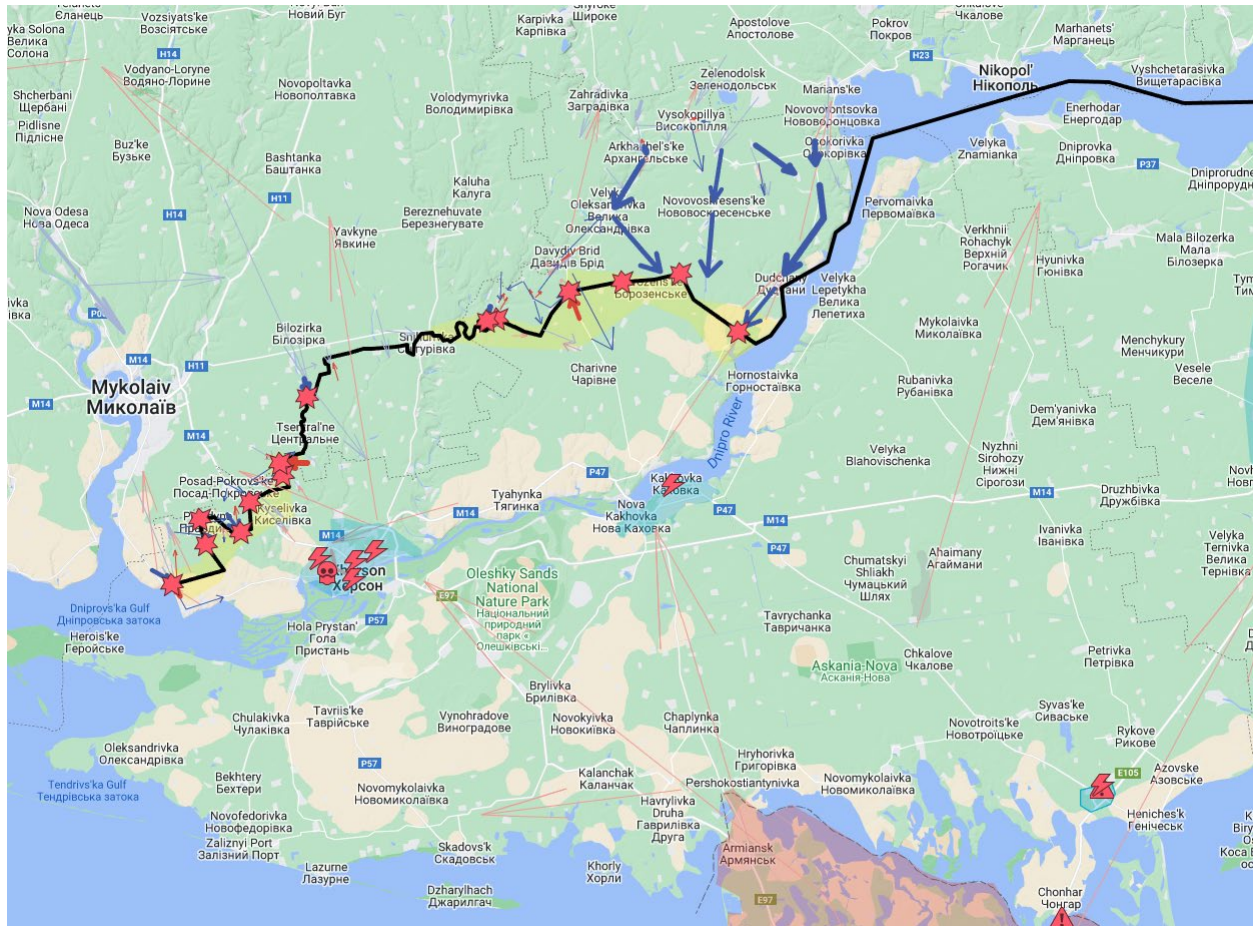
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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 [Kherson](#), 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 COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV



Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold existing defensive lines, protect remaining Lines of Communication (LOC – supply lines), defend Kherson, prevent envelopment on the western side of the Dnipro River, restrict insurgent activity

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to

end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

BREAKING NEWS: There are multiple reports on Russian Telegram channels that a large Ukrainian offensive in northern Kherson had started. We could not verify these reports at the time of publication, but there is a high degree of panic in the Russian social media space.

Ukrainian officials appeared to have tightened operational security in Kherson. Russian sources did not report any large-scale fighting of note across the Kherson oblast. The line in northern Kherson from [Bezimenne](#) to [Sukhanove](#) is where Russian sources noted ongoing hostilities but no change to the line of conflict.

Operational Command South reported that Davydiv Brid was attacked six times by Russian aviation while the Ukrainian air force made 13 air strikes.¹ They did not release information on the number of fire missions.

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=665184745004157>

Ukrainian officials [released photos](#) from recently liberated Velyka Oleksandrivka of a captured ammunition cache.² Ukrainian forces secured 500 Grad and 500 Urgan rockets for multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) along with 100 antitank guided missiles and landmines. OCS was feeling snarky when they wrote their report, promising the captured munitions “will soon be sent to their owners by the shortest delivery method” possible.³

In Khreshchenivka, Ukrainian troops captured a large cache of 115mm ammunition for Russian T-62 tanks.⁴ The shells were manufactured in the 1970s and included armor-piercing and high-explosive shells. Ukraine has captured two companies worth of T-62 tanks in the last two weeks. Although woefully outdated, with the supply of ammunition captured, the tanks could be handed off to territorial guard units and used for defense along quieter areas such as the Belarusian border.

Russia is continuing to struggle with logistics due to Ukrainian supply interdiction on the Dnipro.⁵ It was reported that Russian forces seized 13 out of 15 available barge-type civilian vessels from the riverport to continue

² https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1581136533310083074

³ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=665184745004157>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1580940615269117952>

⁵ https://twitter.com/Svidomi_En/status/1581019692558258177

attempts to move personnel and equipment across the river. It was reported that some of the vessels taken were pleasurecraft.

Satellite imagery showed that the pontoon bridge at Dariivka, last photographed on October 11, was still intact.⁶ The road bridge is too badly damaged for truck traffic, but light vehicles are navigating around the damage.

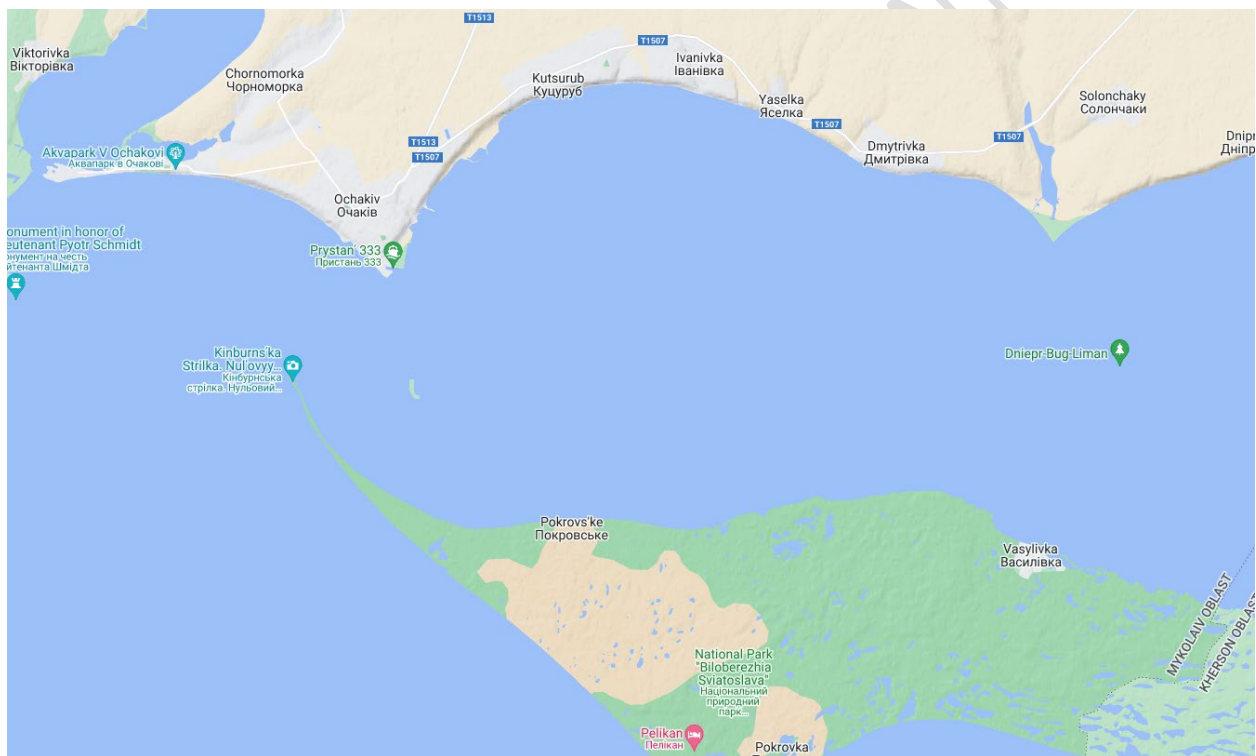
The Financial Times reported that Ukraine could take back Kherson by next week – as in everything west of the Dnipro. We can't confirm their report's veracity, and when asked, a Ukrainian official said, "I am prohibited from commenting," and [started eating a piece of watermelon](#) during his TV interview.⁷

Editor's Note: Kherson is famous for its heirloom watermelons, which are said to be some of the finest in Europe. The watermelon became a symbol of resistance when the counteroffensive entered its second phase.

⁶ <https://twitter.com/ArtisanalAPT/status/1581138626217316354>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/ukrarmyblog/status/1581018419918315520>

In our assessment, the report is inaccurate, but if the purpose was a psychological operation on Russian troops on the west side of the Dnipro – then the mission was accomplished. Russian social media channels and at least one milblogger bought into the idea that a renewed counteroffensive would start as soon as this weekend.



The Ukrainian Navy reported they attacked a Russian observation post on the Kinburn spit overlooking the town of [Ochakiv](#).⁸ The attack also destroyed two Iranian-sourced

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371956/>



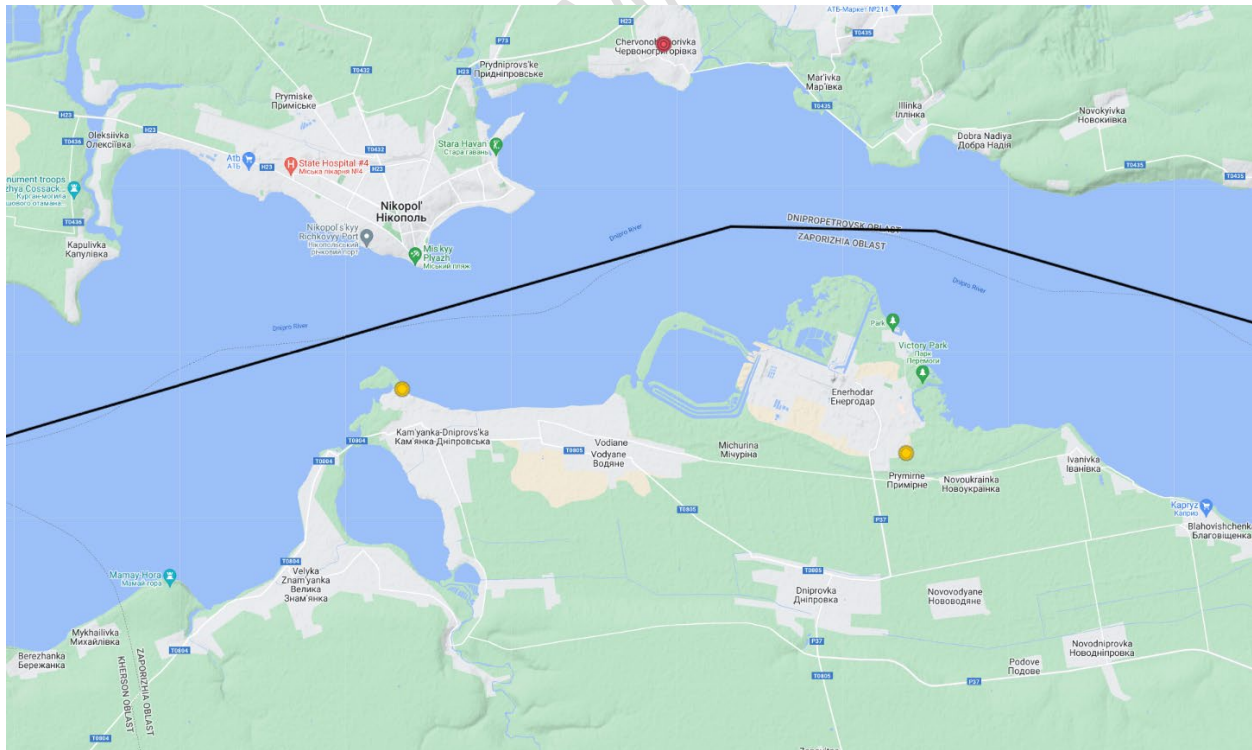
Shahed-136 drones. The report did not clarify if the strike was made by a vessel or naval infantry in a ground attack.

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DNIPROPETROVSK & NORTHERN ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and prepare the area's civilian population for a nuclear accident



From a technical standpoint, the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has improved. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that in addition to the 750 kilovolt (kV) line being reconnected on Thursday, a second 330 kV line was reestablished at a transformer farm near the Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant.⁹ Additionally, seven fuel trucks have arrived at the plant, five from free Ukraine and two from the Russian-occupied territories, providing a ten-day emergency fuel reserve for onsite diesel generators.

Energoatom employees are working to restart Reactor 5 and will begin work to restart Reactor 6 on Saturday. Restarting the reactors will provide much-needed electrical power to the Ukrainian grid after missile and drone strikes damaged or destroyed 30% of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Director General Rafael Grossi reported that Russian state company Rosatom was trying to force Ukrainian employees to sign work contracts or face termination. He said workers at the plant were facing "unacceptable pressure" and that the staff must be "allowed to carry out their vital tasks without undue interference or pressure." There continues

⁹ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

to be no update on the status of the Deputy General Director of ZNPP, Valery Martynyuk, who was kidnapped by Russian troops four days ago.

Grossi added that there had been little shelling in the vicinity of the plant, but two more landlines spontaneously exploded on Friday around the facility's perimeter.

Despite the lack of shelling on the Russian-controlled side of the Dnipro, Russian forces continued to pound Nikopol, Chervonohryhorivka, and Marhanets. Over 50 Grad and Urgan rockets were fired from MLRS, and artillery shells hit the three communities. Many civilian buildings were damaged, including high-rise apartments. Fortunately, there were only two people injured in the barrage.

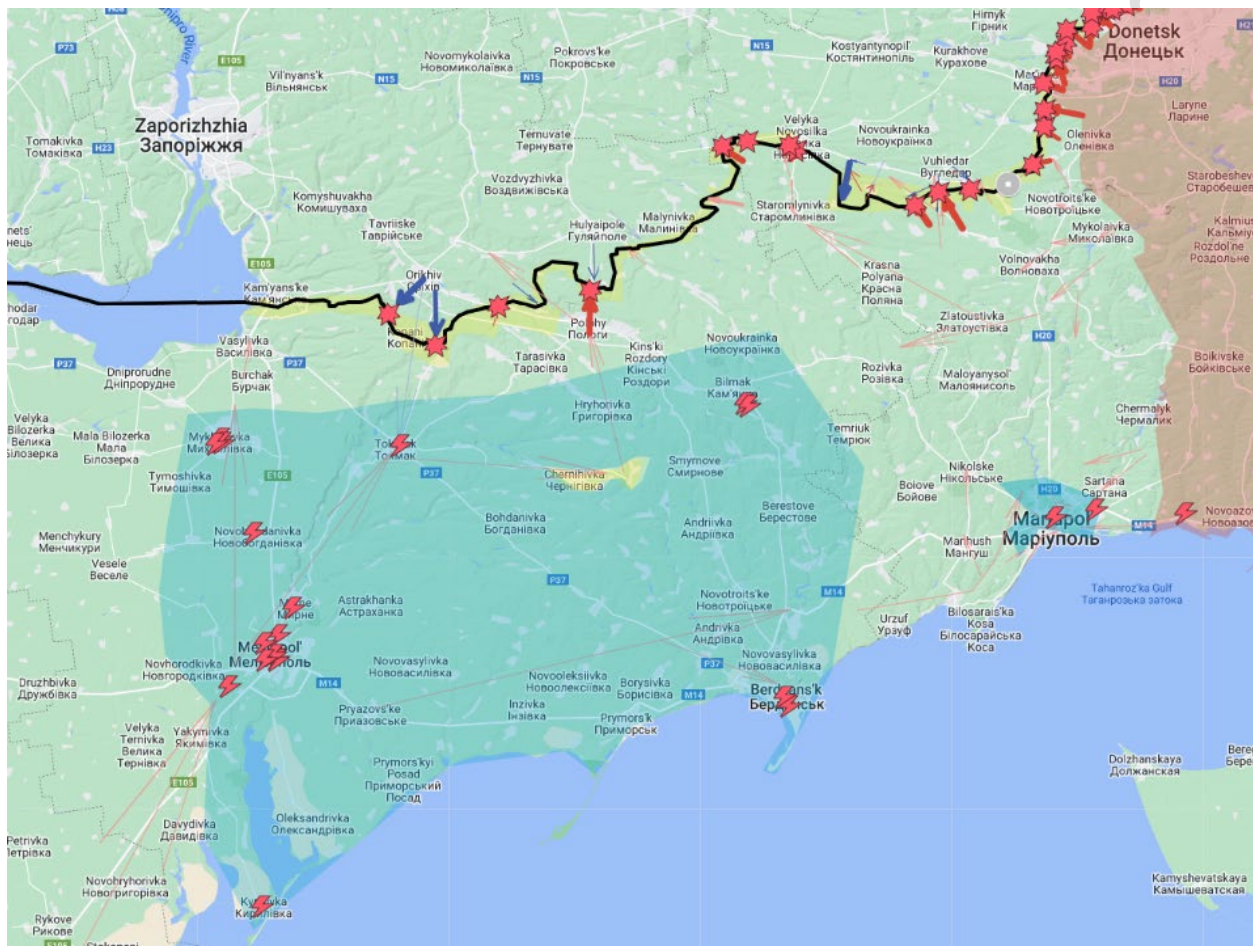
Zaporizhzhia was attacked overnight by S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack and Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. The S-300 missiles hit the administrative center of the city. At the time of publication, no injuries were reported.^{10 11}

¹⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/15/7372063/>

¹¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/15/7372067/>

DONBAS REGION

SOUTHERN ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, defend the existing line of conflict, and end the insurrection that is throughout the Russian-controlled territory

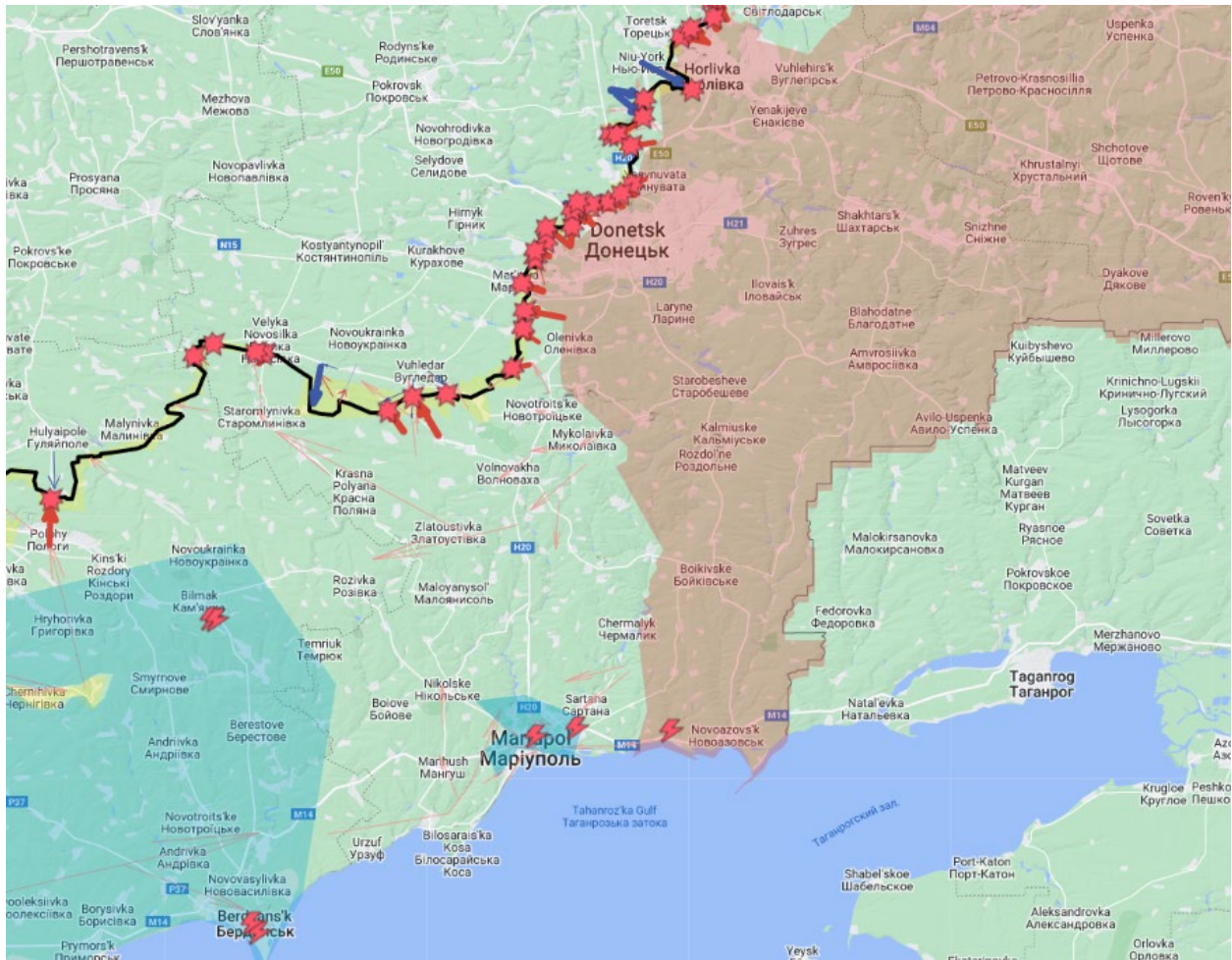
Ukrainian Objective: Fix Russian assets in place to prevent redeployment, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, support and expand the insurrection in occupied territories

Russian forces shelled settlements from the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv.¹²
¹³ Otherwise, there wasn't any significant fighting reported by any source.

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

¹³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

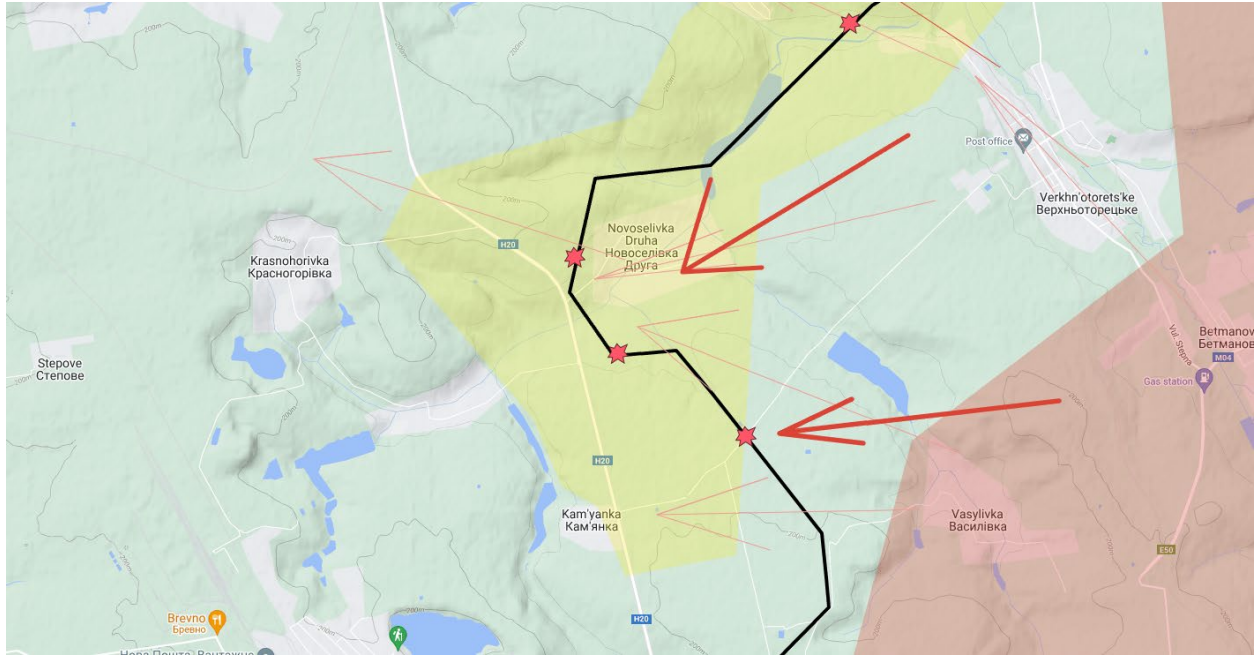
Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and

exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

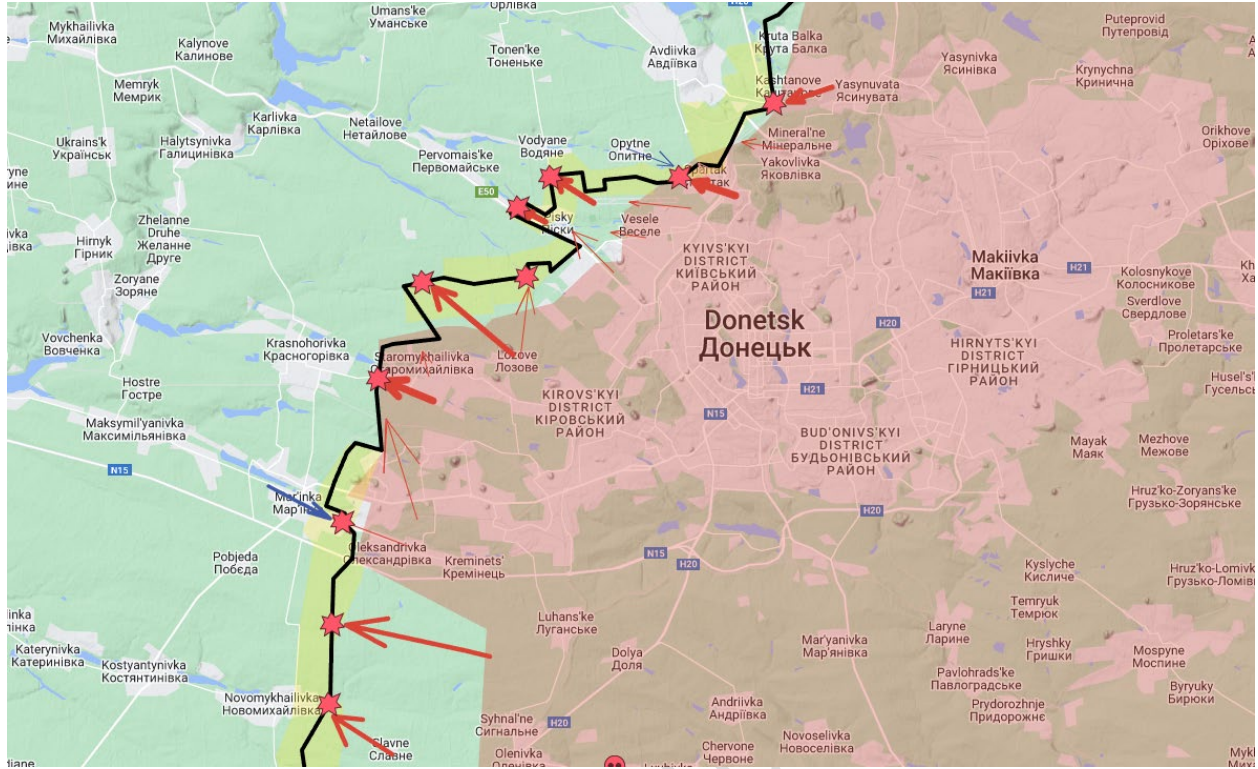
The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) militia public relations channel did not report any offensive action today and claimed their units destroyed two MLRS launchers, one tank, and four armored personnel carriers.¹⁴ Ukrainian forces carried out 281 fire missions on the Russian-occupied territory, a sharp increase from earlier in the week.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported increased activity along the entire axis. Due to a lack of reporting from DNR officials or the Russian Ministry of Defense, we assess this was likely positional fighting and reconnaissance units probing for weaknesses.

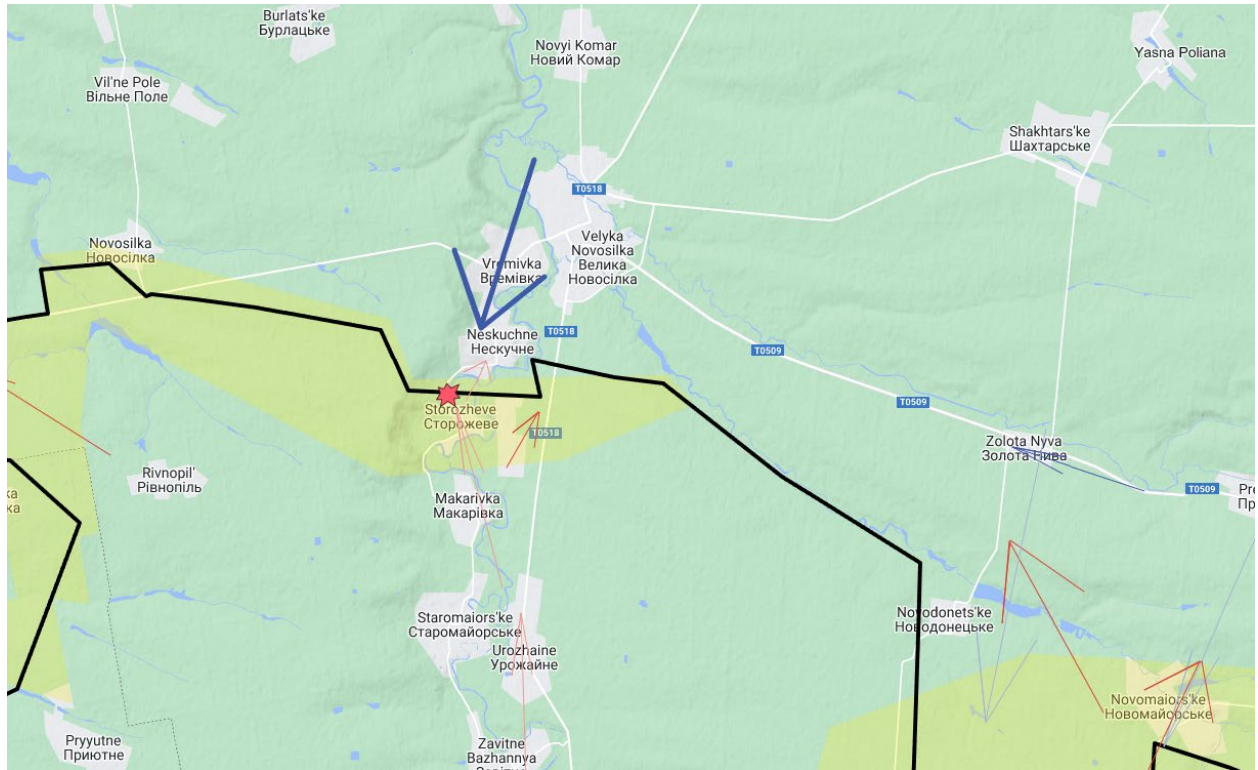
¹⁴ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9218



There was fighting reported northwest of Donetsk near [Krasnohorivka](#), with Russian units pushed back.



West of Donetsk, there was positional fighting in [Nevelske](#), [Marinka](#), and [Novomykhailivka](#).



The Russian Ministry of Defense issued another very optimistic report, claiming that the “dominate heights” of [Vremivka](#) were captured.¹⁵ Not even Readovka regurgitated the claim, and there were no reports of any success by the DNR militia.¹⁶ The GSAFU reported that all of the towns south of Velkya Novosilka, including Vremivka and Neskuchne, were shelled.^{17 18}

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/20831

¹⁶ <https://t.me/readovkanews/44313>

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

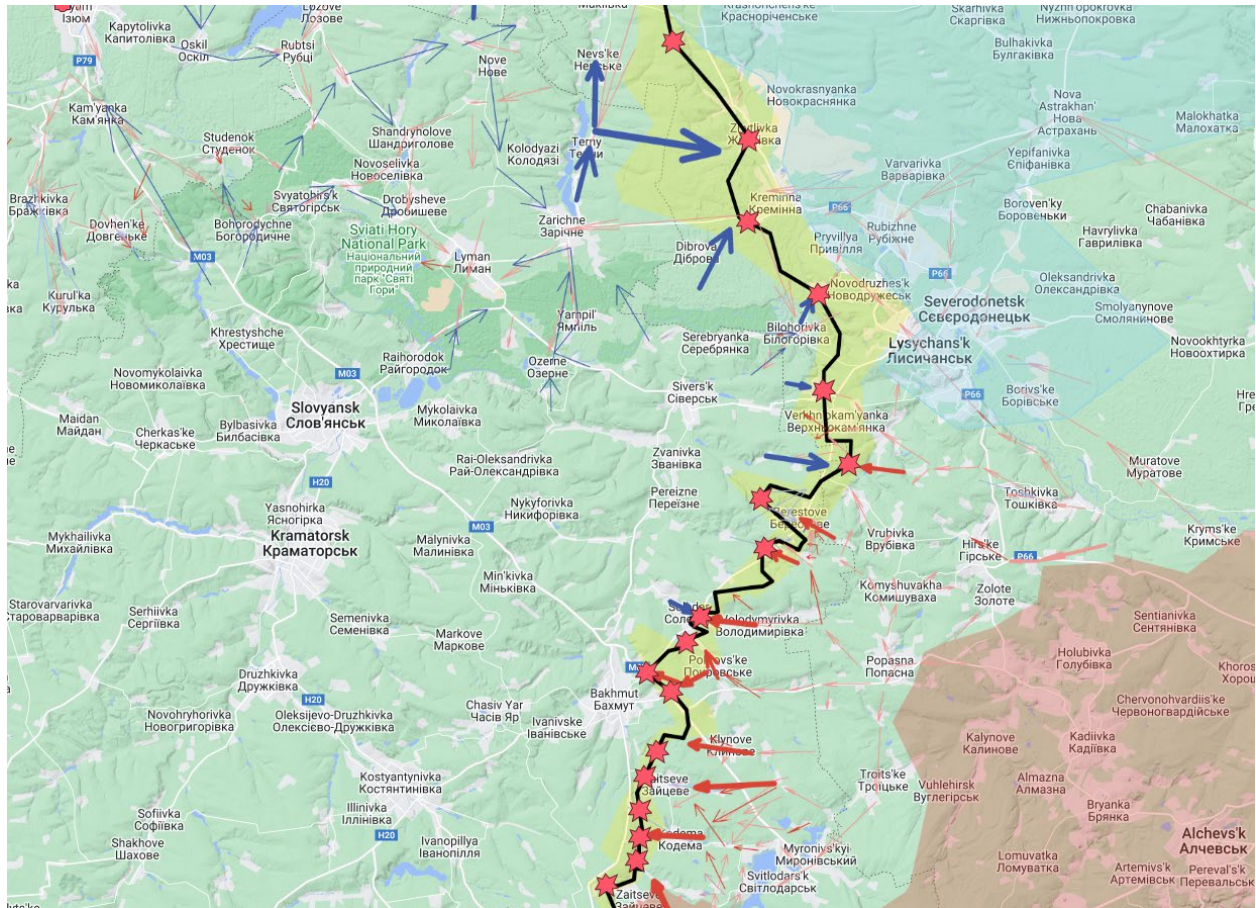
¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

ASSESSMENT: The lack of amplification from sources that are quick to repeat even tenuous evidence speaks for itself. We doubt that Russian forces shelled themselves.

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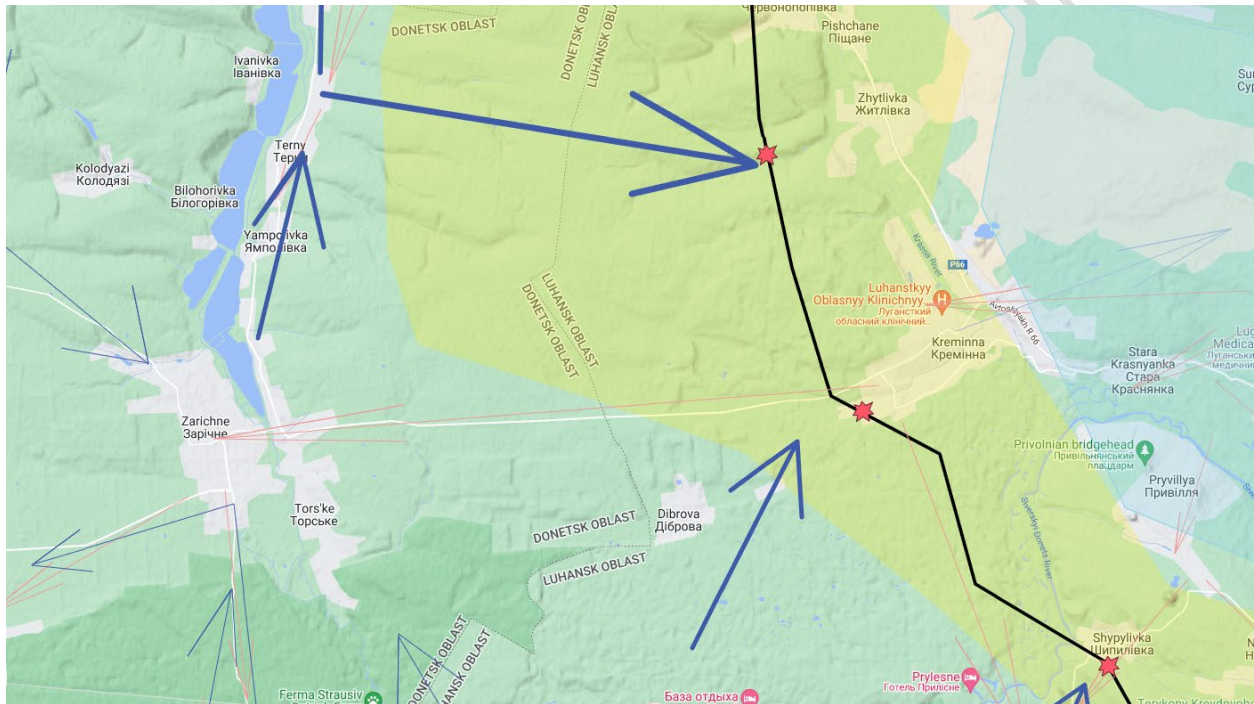
NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, and defend GLOCs

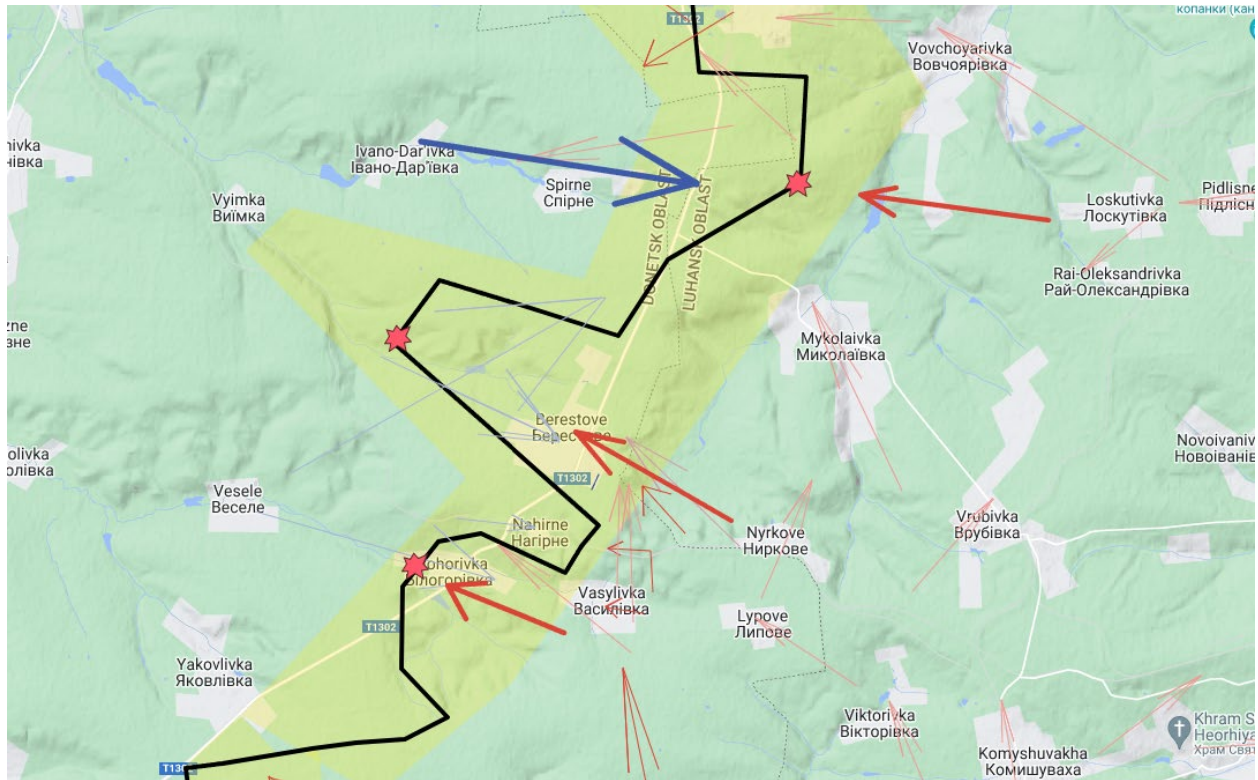
The most significant fighting in Ukraine was in northeast Donetsk, with Russian forces struggling to hold back Ukrainian advances into Luhansk and continued fighting for control of Bakhmut.



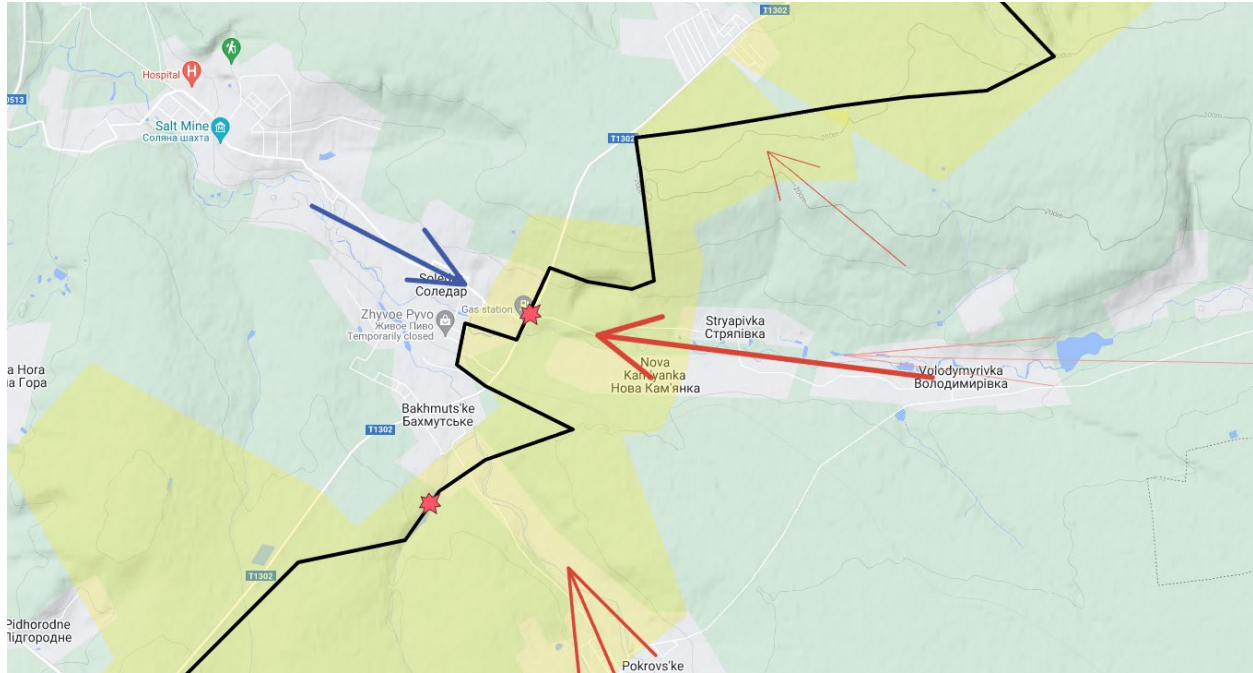
Shelling by Russian forces continued on the east bank of the Zherebets River, with Russian forces attacking Ukrainian positions in [Terny](#) and [Torske](#).^{19 20}

¹⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/40229>

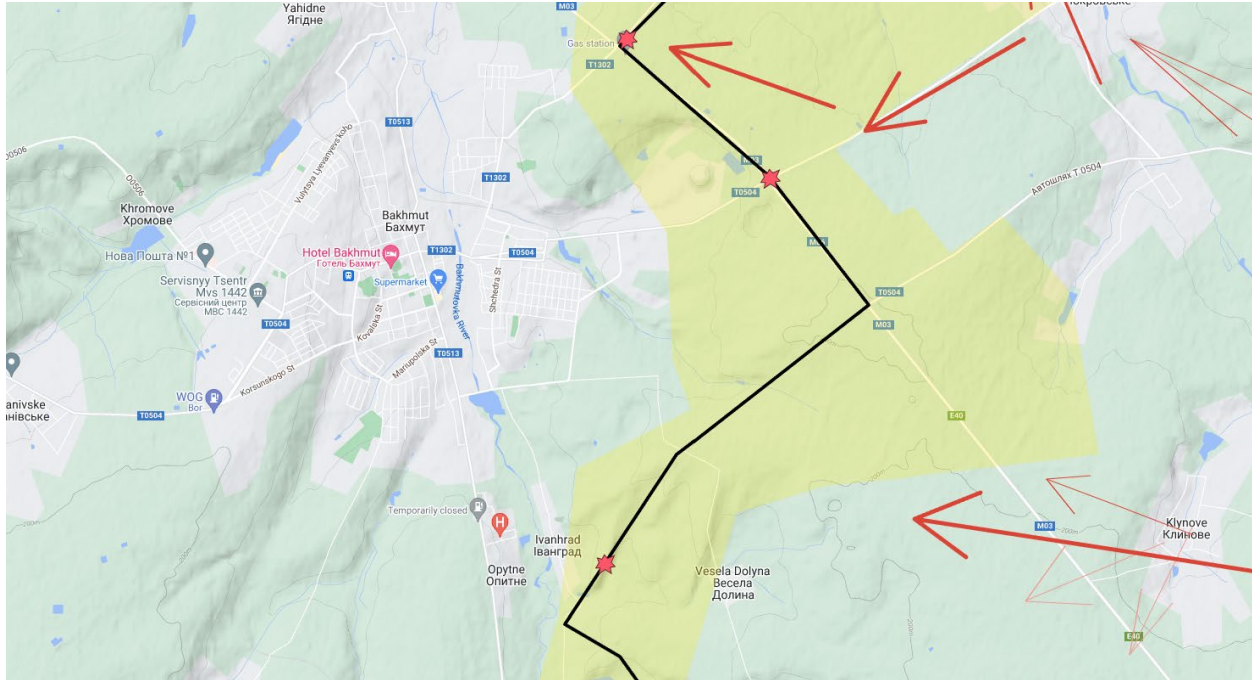
²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)



There were reports of renewed fighting along the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border, including [Spirne](#), [Berestove](#), [Bilhorivka](#) [Donetsk], and [Yakovlivka](#). We currently have Berestove and Bilhorivka coded as under Russian control. We aren't prepared to adjust the map based on this limited information, and GSAFU used the language "in the area of," which doesn't support that fighting occurred within the settlements.



Russian forces, likely Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, continued attacks on [Bakhmutske](#). There has been no change in the line of conflict around Soledar for a month.



Heavy fighting continued east of [Bakhmut](#) and in [Optyne](#) and [Ivanhrad](#) to the south. There was a report that a Russian flag was flying over a furniture factory located on the eastern edges of Bakhmut, but even Pro-Russian sources were skeptical.²¹ Based on the skepticism of Russian milbloggers, we did not adjust the map but will update it if more evidence comes forward.

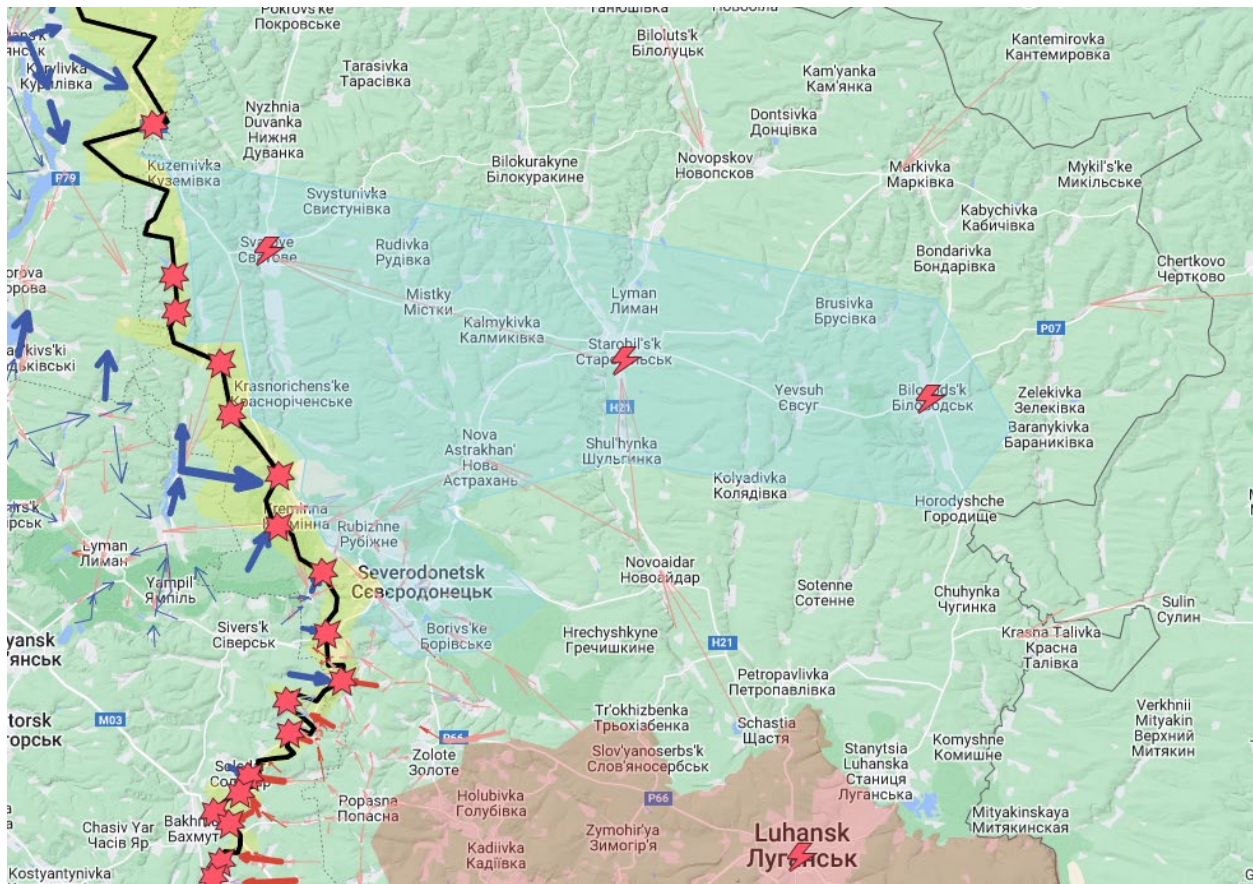
It appears that Ukraine is preparing for an anticipated larger Russian attack on Bakhmut. After 11 weeks of siege, it is starting to appear that Russian forces, mostly led by PMC Wagner, have committed to capturing Bakhmut at all

²¹ <https://t.me/rybar/40229>

costs. Russian forces will likely try to encircle the city. We don't see this being effective unless they can push through the defense of Bakhmutske and Soledar.

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LUHANSK



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

Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, prevent the retreat of Russian soldiers from Lyman, make opportunistic territorial gains, support insurgents, interdict supplies

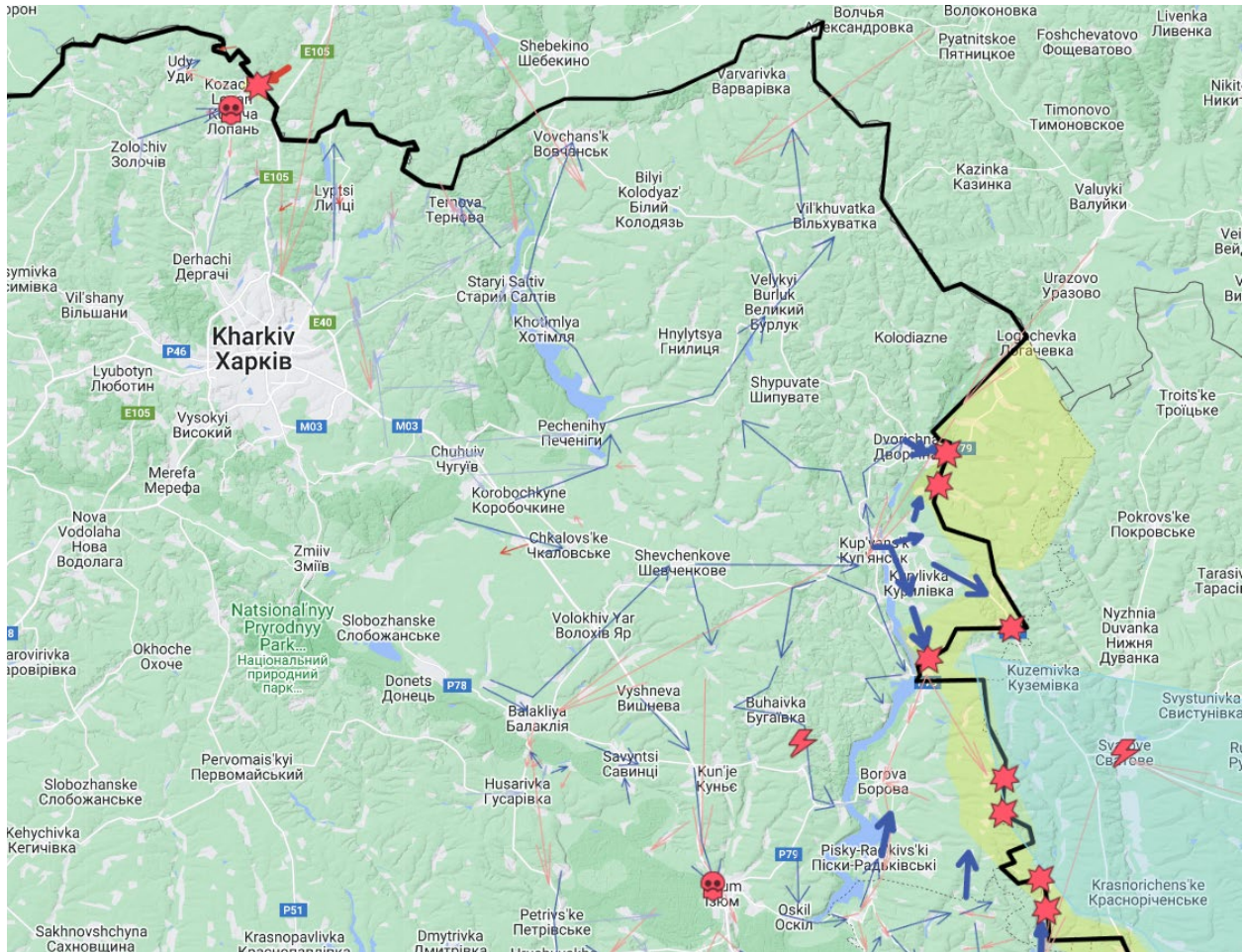
There wasn't significant fighting reported in this region.

Serhiy Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Russian 144th Motorized Rifle Division members committed insubordination and abandoned their posts in Kreminna.²² A total of 27 soldiers walked off the line, with 22 arrested and five returning to their positions.

²² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371970/>



KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Retreat and minimize casualties, prevent Ukrainian forces from further advancing from their bridgeheads on the east bank of the Oskil River, and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate all of Kharkiv oblast, sever GLOCs into Luhansk, protect civilian lives, and defend the Ukrainian border

It was reported that Kharkiv was hit by four S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack. There wasn't information about damage or casualties at the time of publication.²³

²³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371955/>

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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 wasn't significant activity reported in these regions.

KYIV REGION

At the time of publication, there was a report of a rocket attack in the Kyiv oblast.²⁴ Reporters confirmed an explosion, but the exact location was not shared. It was reported that air raid sirens did not sound before the blast and were activated after. Based on the limited evidence, it is possible the strike was done using a Kinzhal hypersonic missile.

²⁴ <https://t.me/OleksiyKuleba/2594>

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Ukrainian forces targeted a power plant in Belgorod, destroying a transformer farm and knocking power out to parts of the city. Social media video [captured the impact](#) of a missile or rocket striking the facility's center.²⁵ The 110 kV [substation was destroyed](#), knocking out power to parts of the city.^{26 27}

A Russian ammunition depot exploded at a sugar factory in Oktyabrsky, with a video [showing a large fire](#) and multiple secondary explosions as small arms ammunition cooked

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/Faytuks/status/1580961839701032975>

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/Faytuks/status/1580961130364534789>

²⁷ https://twitter.com/spook_info/status/1580968783241310210

off.²⁸ The fire [incinerated a tent encampment](#) for the Russian National Guard located adjacent to the ammunition depot.²⁹ Russian officials did not claim a Ukrainian attack caused the explosion and fire. It is believed new mobiks accidentally started the fire while trying to stay warm.

The Kerch Bridge that leads to Crimea is confirmed to be more severely damaged than initially reported, with Russian officials setting a goal for repairs to be completed by July 2023.^{30 31}

ASSESSMENT: The construction of the bridge, coupled with the fuel train fire and how the fire was extinguished, resulted in more severe damage than initially reported. It is unclear if the July 2023 goal applies to just the destroyed highway section or includes the parallel rail bridge.

Russian military logistics haven't evolved much since World War II and remain heavily dependent on railroads supported by large supply hubs. The Kerch Bridge and the two rail lines that enter southern Ukraine from Crimea

²⁸ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1580605102729367553

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/officejsmart/status/1580933437321797632>

³⁰ <https://www.ibtimes.com/moscow-orders-crimea-bridge-repaired-july-2023-3624140>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/SputnikATONews/status/1580832834667032576>

have served as the primary Lines of Communication (LOC, aka supply lines) into southern Ukraine and Kherson before the bridges across the Dnipro were destroyed. The further away Russian troops are from the railroad-supported supply depots, the worse they perform.

When Russia gained control of Mariupol in May, it was believed that they would be able to establish a second GLOC from the Donbas, connecting Crimea, Southern, and Eastern Ukraine. Rail connections that once ran into the Donbas were destroyed when the Minsk II boundaries were agreed to, and Russia never restored them. Additionally, the GLOC route, if it were rebuilt, would run just 5 to 10 kilometers from the line of conflict.

Russia now has to resupply its troops in southern Ukraine through ferry boats across the Kerch Strait and trucks traveling up to 500 kilometers through areas Ukraine maintains fire control. Complicating things further, Russia does not have deep logistical expertise in using trucks, and even if they did, it is far less efficient than trains. It is unlikely Russia could use ships to carry military cargo into Berdyansk and Mariupol, with ships at high risk of attack by NATO-provided Harpoon antiship missiles.

The loss of the Kerch Bridge will become a more critical issue for Russian supply and logistics as time goes by. Additionally, the loss of the bridge is a blow to the Crimea Peninsula's economy and will dramatically impact tourism.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held another meeting of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on Friday.³² Zelenskyy released a statement after the meeting, saying the meeting "reviewed the situation on different fronts and discussed the possible actions of [Russia] in the near future. We have planned the next steps for the liberation of Ukrainian territories."

ASSESSMENT: Previous meetings have frequently preceded large offensive operations, particularly when limited details are shared.

Editor's Note: At the time of publication, multiple Russian Telegram channels reported that Ukraine had started a new counteroffensive push.

³² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371947/>

The United States Department of Defense announced a new military aid package of \$725 million.³³ The package includes:

- Unspecified rockets for HIMARS systems
- 23,000 155mm artillery shells
- 500 155mm Excalibur GPS-guided artillery shells
- 5,000 projectiles for remote mining that are Ottawa compliant
- 5,000 antitank weapons
- Additional AGM-88 HARM anti-radiation missiles
- More than 200 HMMWV multi-purpose up-armored vehicles
- Small arms ammunition
- Medical supplies and first aid kits

The United States reported the first NASAMS air defense system would be delivered to Ukraine by the end of October.³⁴ NASAMS is considered the best air defense system in the world and is used to protect cities such as Washington, D.C.

³³ [Reuters](#)

³⁴ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7148700/>

France announced they had sent 15 towed 155mm TRF1 howitzers to Ukraine, and the artillery pieces were in service.³⁵

Estonia announced another aid package that included winter clothing and equipment as well as additional ammunition.³⁶

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the large-scale attacks on Ukraine were over and that 22 of the 29 intended targets had been hit.³⁷ At a press conference in Kazakhstan, Putin said, "There is no need for massive strikes for now. Now there are other tasks."

ASSESSMENT: Our earlier assessment that Russia did not have the resources to maintain a sustained attack on Ukrainian infrastructure was accurate. The strikes committed by Russia did not have any meaningful impact on Ukraine's war effort, galvanized the Ukrainian population, put the war back into the news cycle, and enraged Ukraine's allies. The strikes have concluded

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1580489249534926849>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/kajakallas/status/1580484874707693575>

³⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371988/>

almost certainly due to a dwindling supply of precision munitions.

Elon Musk announced that SpaceX would no longer be able to foot the bill for Starlink service to Ukraine and has requested the Pentagon to start paying for Internet access that he voluntarily provided Ukraine.³⁸ The move was condemned by some Ukrainian officials, while others attempted to appeal to Musk to maintain the service.³⁹ Starlink is believed to be a game changer for the Ukrainian military due to the rural nature of wide areas of Ukraine and the long distances that other communication methods can't bridge.

Musk claims that the service costs \$4,500 a month per terminal, which officials are questioning. Numerous organizations are expressing outrage over the claims, providing receipts showing that hundreds, if not thousands, of Starlink terminal monthly access fees, are being paid for already through crowdsourcing. Others have noted that most Starlink terminals have been paid for through crowdsourcing and by Poland and that SpaceX only donated a fraction of the 18,000 terminals in use.

³⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/13/politics/elon-musk-spacex-starlink-ukraine/index.html>

³⁹ [CNBC](#)

On Friday, the Pentagon stated they were actively negotiating on continuing the service and pricing. However, Press Secretary Sabrina Singh noted that SpaceX is not the only company that can provide the service.⁴⁰

Musk inserted himself into diplomatic circles after tweeting a derided peace plan that included Russia holding Crimea. His tweet included many Kremlin talking points, and Ian Bremmer claimed that Musk had talked with Russian President Putin directly before posting his tweet. If the claim is true, Musk may have violated a 1700s United States law called the Logan Act, which forbids private citizens to negotiate diplomatic matters on behalf of the United States.

The Russian state Duma deputy Alexander Tolmachev said that any state in the United States that wanted to join the Russian Federation could apply for annexation.⁴¹ "Such initiatives are a signal that the citizens of the United States are dissatisfied with their leadership and are ready to take extreme measures, up to secession, if the current policy of America continues," he said. The United States Constitution only allows secession through an act of Congress.

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1581182897142124546>

⁴¹ [Newsweek](#)

Norway has detained a 50-year-old Russian man who will be held in custody for two weeks after he admitted to flying two drones over the country documenting energy infrastructure.⁴² The man was detained on Tuesday and held three passports in his baggage – two Russian and one Israeli. He had four terabytes of video data stored, which has been encrypted. The man is accused of violating sanctions established in Norway after the February 24 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Under the measure, Norway prohibits aircraft, including drones, operated by Russian nationals or companies "to land on, take off from or fly over Norwegian territory." Currently, the man is not accused of espionage or being a spy, and Norwegian authorities are working to unlock the video content to review what was recorded.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

There were multiple reports of forced mobilization occurring in Moscow. Commissariats were [detaining men of military age](#) on subways outside stores and waiting for men to leave their apartment buildings during the morning

⁴² <https://www.dw.com/en/norway-russian-man-detained-with-2-drones-near-arctic/a-63441134>

hours.⁴³ Some men attempted to resist and were forced into vehicles. Others were handed conscription papers on the spot.

We thought we would write about how our favorite FSB Colonel, wanted war criminal, and Kremlin pariah Igor "Girkin" Strelkov hadn't posted anything since October 10, and had reportedly disappeared. We thought we would write about how he appeared on a Kremlin list signed by Russian Chief of the General Staff General Valery Gerasimov to be criminally investigated for disparaging the Russian military in violation of the so-called "don't say war" laws. Instead, we are reporting that Strelkov's wife shared a picture of him in a Russian military uniform, and he is fighting in Ukraine.⁴⁴ We'll miss Strelkov's updates and hope he is captured alive to face his war crime charges for downing flight MH-17 in 2014. Additionally, given Strelkov's disastrous time as a military leader in 2014, we hope he is given a large command of Russian or DNR troops.

Russian President Putin admitted that 16,000 mobilized soldiers were already in Ukraine and fighting in combat, despite not receiving the previously promised six to eight

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/igorsushko/status/1580957369265029120>

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1581194751763972098>

weeks of training before deployment. He added that another 35,000 are already in Ukraine and working on completing training, which appears to be a suspect claim.⁴⁵

PMC Wagner channel Gray Zone, also allegedly under criminal investigation for violating Russia's "don't say war" laws, condemned the mobilization strategy.^{46 47} The milbloggers predicted that by February, if 200,000 mobiks are deployed to Ukraine, 50,000 will have been killed or gravely wounded in action due to a lack of training and equipment.

"Now I see that most likely...they will be used, yes, they will be used, and not involved, to fill the ranks by command on the spot. Adequate command on the spot can leave them at checkpoints or simply bury regiments in frontal operations, as was the case with the mobilized LNR/DNR. The fact is they will be used for the latter."

Editor's Note: When they wrote, "simply bury regiments," they were not using a metaphor. They are saying the mobiks will be used as cannon fodder.

⁴⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7371987/>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/breakingmash/39083>

⁴⁷ https://t.me/grey_zone/15284

President Putin also announced that the current wave of mobilization was winding down, even as press gangs were roving the streets of Moscow. Putin claimed that 222,000 men had been enlisted out of the 300,000 planned, and enlistment goals would be met within the next two weeks. Putin claimed that the mobilization was “mismanaged” due to old military registries being used and the information is being updated.

On Telegram, a woman pleaded for help to get her boyfriend out of Ukraine. She claimed that he was deployed on October 6 and reported that of the 100 mobiks in his unit, only 20 were left alive.⁴⁸ She claims the unit has no ammunition and wasn't issued winter clothes. Additionally, it is claimed that there is no record of their enlistment or deployment with the 3rd Tank Army, 47th Division.

Mobiks from Tatarstan made a video claiming that Russian state employees were extorting them to buy their own military equipment, including ammunition.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ https://twitter.com/r_evolutie/status/1580995579521687552/photo/1

⁴⁹ https://twitter.com/A_Kapustin/status/1580876578212364288

PMC Wagner Telegram Channel fact-checked a video by the 126th Coastal Defense Brigade of the Russian Black Sea Fleet asking for help to be supplied with transport vehicles.⁵⁰ Their commander claimed the unit only had one armored personnel carrier to transport 80 soldiers. The claim was true, and in a public relations coup, Wagner leadership issued four pickup trucks to the ill-equipped Russian military unit.

In Ufa, Russia, a co-pilot of an Azur Air flight was removed from the cockpit because he was forcibly mobilized. Passengers were told they would have to deplane because one of the aircrew members was being "enlisted" and was barred from traveling.⁵¹

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

An officer with PMC Wagner Group and a Russian FSB agent have requested political asylum in France and said they were prepared to testify against the Russian

⁵⁰ https://t.me/grey_zone/15313

⁵¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/14/7372016/>

Federation to document war crimes committed in Ukraine.⁵² Allegedly, their testimony will detail the corruption in Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), as well as the history of the establishment of the Wagner Private Military Company as a defacto branch of the Russian GRU.

GEOPOLITICAL

The President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon addressed Putin at the ongoing political summit in Kazakhstan, telling him publicly, "Please do not treat the countries of Central Asia as the former USSR."⁵³

As Russia has been exposed as a paper tiger with waning economic prospects, numerous Central Asian allies are starting to distance themselves as China and the United States court them in an attempt to gain influence and improve diplomatic relations.

⁵² <https://theins.ru/en/news/256042>

⁵³ https://twitter.com/Flash_news_ua/status/1580974371879145472

ECONOMIC

The rouble closed the week flat, with an exchange rate of 63 for one US dollar.

Oil prices plunged, with WTI dropping to \$85 a barrel and Brent falling to \$92. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline on the spot market was almost unchanged, trading at \$2.63 a gallon (70 cents a liter).

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures also ended the week down, trading at \$8.61 a bushel for December 2022 delivery.