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SITUATION REPORT**

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 577

It has been 3,498 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 213 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

- There are updates to the war map
- There are updates to the *Notes on Sourcing Information*
- The table of Russia vs. Ukraine heavy equipment losses has been updated using data from the Oryx Database through September 24, 2023
- Storm-Z penal units have reappeared in the Luhansk region
- Heavy fighting continued south of Bakhmut
- Operational Command East claims that fire control has been established on parts of the T-513 Highway
- Fighting increased in the Avdiivka area of operation (AO)
- Ukrainian forces are fighting within Verbove with armored vehicle support
- Tokmak was attacked multiple times by rockets fired by HIMARS

- Russia is intensifying its defense of the Kerch (Crimean) Bridge and the entrance to the Port of Sevastopol
- Brigadier General Alexander Tarnavskiy said the attacks in Crimea are subordinate to the ongoing offensive in Zaporizhzhia
- Russia launched more than a dozen cruise missiles and 23 drones at Odesa, destroying an iconic but abandoned hotel and damaging the cruise ship terminal
- Two people were killed and 11 wounded by Russian attacks on free Kherson
- Moscow closed area airports twice due to reported drone attacks
- Power was knocked out at Pulkovo Airport and in the Shushary District of St. Petersburg after an explosion
- In Tula, Russia, local officials claim they shot down drones
- In Kursk, Russia, the FSB headquarters building was struck by a drone
- There were conflicting reports about a drone strike on Halino Military Airfield near Kursk
- A drone-delivered IED struck a Russian military KamAZ truck in the village of Novy, Belgorod, Russia
- Partisans vandalized a Russian troop war memorial in Pavlo-Fedorovka in Primorsky Krai, Russia

- Near Kaluga, Russia, partisans destroyed four military trucks and semitrailers
- Belarus sent groups of migrants to the border of Poland, where they harassed Polish troops
- United States Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy announced he would not strip out military aid for Ukraine in two bills that are awaiting a vote in Congress
- Germany will provide Ukraine with 50 uncrewed surface vessels
- Ukraine and Poland announced they are creating a joint military-medical hub
- Stealth mobilization of up to 20,000 men per month continues in Russia
- Private Military Company Wagner Group's memorial to mercenaries who died in Ukraine has more than 25,000 names on it
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia is lowering recruiting standards due to a shortage of men
- Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called the CSTO Alliance "ineffective"
- Up to 500 former Wagnerites may return to Ukraine, employed by a new Kremlin-controlled PMC
- The Russian 810th Naval Infantry Brigade is likely destroyed

- The first Russian MT-LB with a naval A-22 Ogon 140 mm multiple launch rocket system grafted to it has been destroyed
- Russia is ending development of the previously announced Zmeevik intermediate-range missile due to resource and budget constraints
- Igor Strelkov Girkin was severely beaten in Lefortovo Prison
- Former Ukrainian POW Orest Hrytsyuk accused the International Committee of the Red Cross of being a participant in Russian human rights abuses
- The international human rights group Global Rights Compliance is preparing a dossier of Russian war crimes to present to the International Criminal Court
- A Russian bombing of Beryslav caused significant damage to a hospital
- The illegitimate leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, issued a decree of draconian laws and restrictions
- The Tuareg and Azawad movement has declared war on the Mali junta government and PMC Wagner Group
- Up to 140 Malian soldiers and PMC Wagner mercenaries were killed when a chartered Il-76 transport plane was shot down near Gao, in Mali
- Serbia and Kosovo are on the brink of war (there is no way to explain this in a bullet)

- In Ireland, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had an unscheduled meeting with the Chairman of the Sovereign Council of Sudan, Abdel Fattah al-Burgan
- PM of Armenia Pashinyan accused Russia of conducting hybrid warfare against his nation
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz accused Polish issues of issuing thousands of fraudulent work visas to Asian and African migrants

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our assessment that Russia would launch a punitive missile and drone strike targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure within the next two to four days was, regrettably, accurate.
2. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.
3. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government is in the largest purge of dissident voices and perceived internal enemies since the Soviet era, including the leaders, mercenaries, and employees of PMC Wagner, objective state media journalists and war bloggers, far-right nationalists who want the Kremlin to take more aggressive action in Ukraine, and human rights activists.
4. There remains a possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin. President Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.
5. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to

- their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
6. The soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border has further emboldened Moscow to take increasing risks, which could cause a significant international incident.
 7. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer-fall offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.
 8. Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
 9. We maintain Ukraine holds the initiative theaterwide, and the number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units is growing, eroding Russian combat potential in numerous areas of operation.
 10. We maintain that Russia will attempt to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure over the fall and winter.
 11. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia

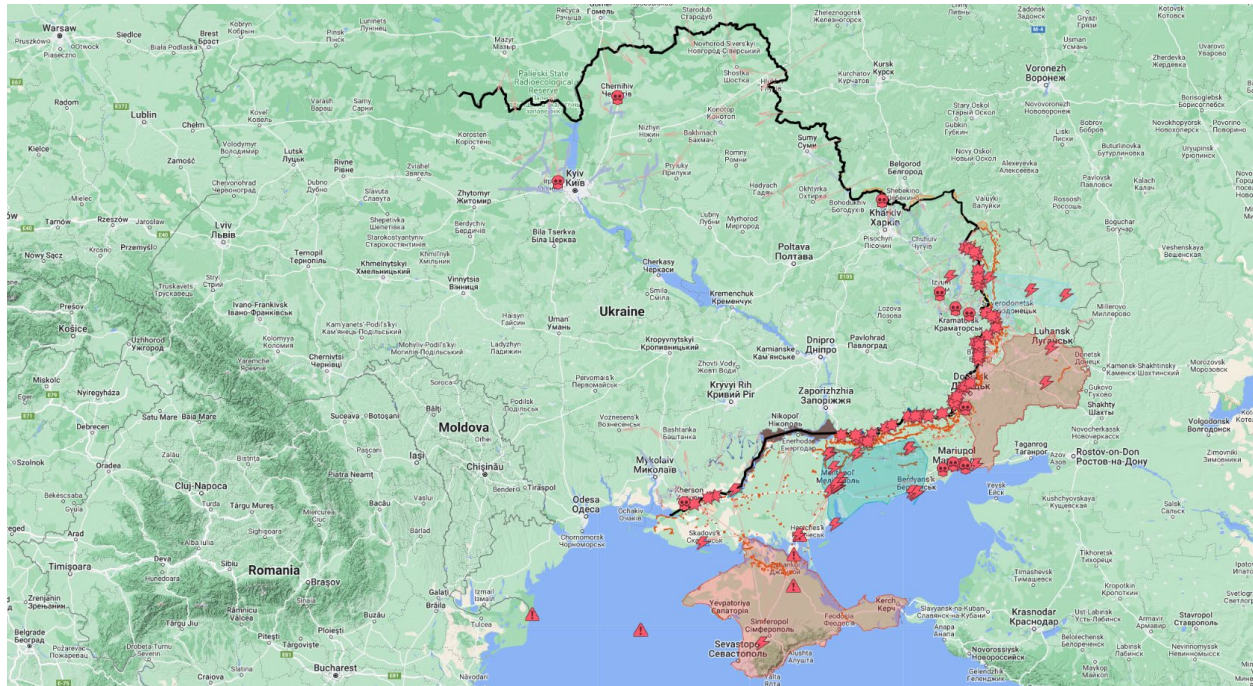


Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.

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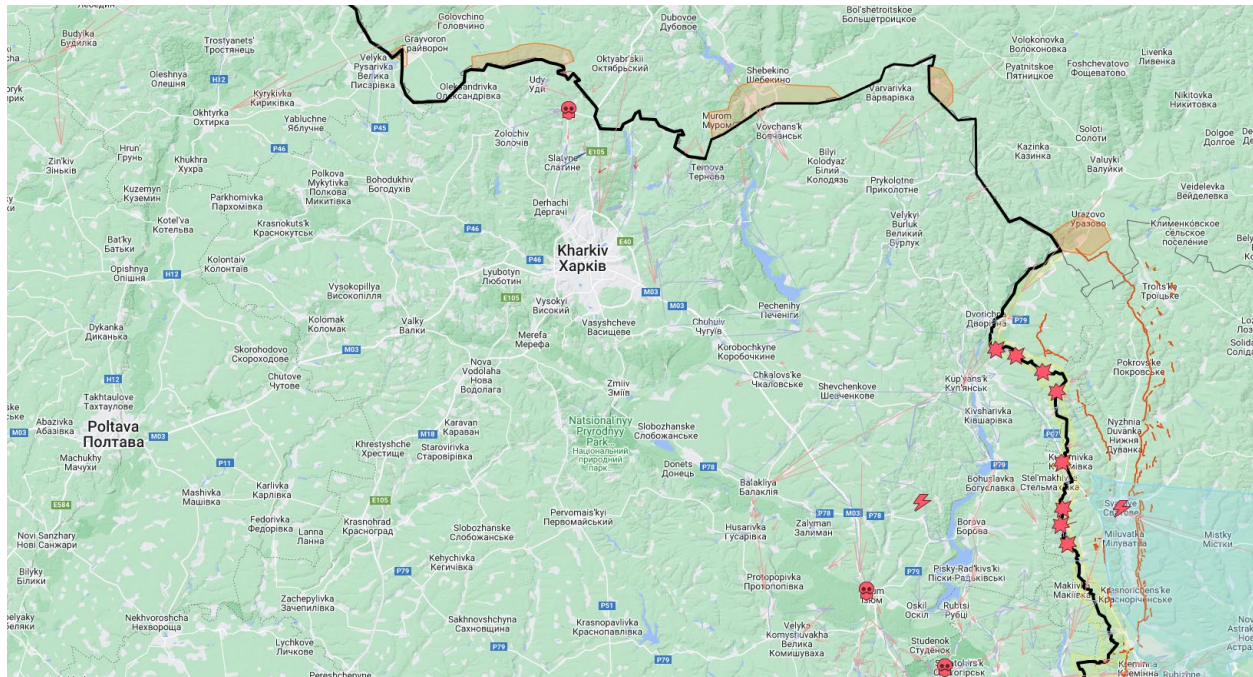
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

KHARKIV



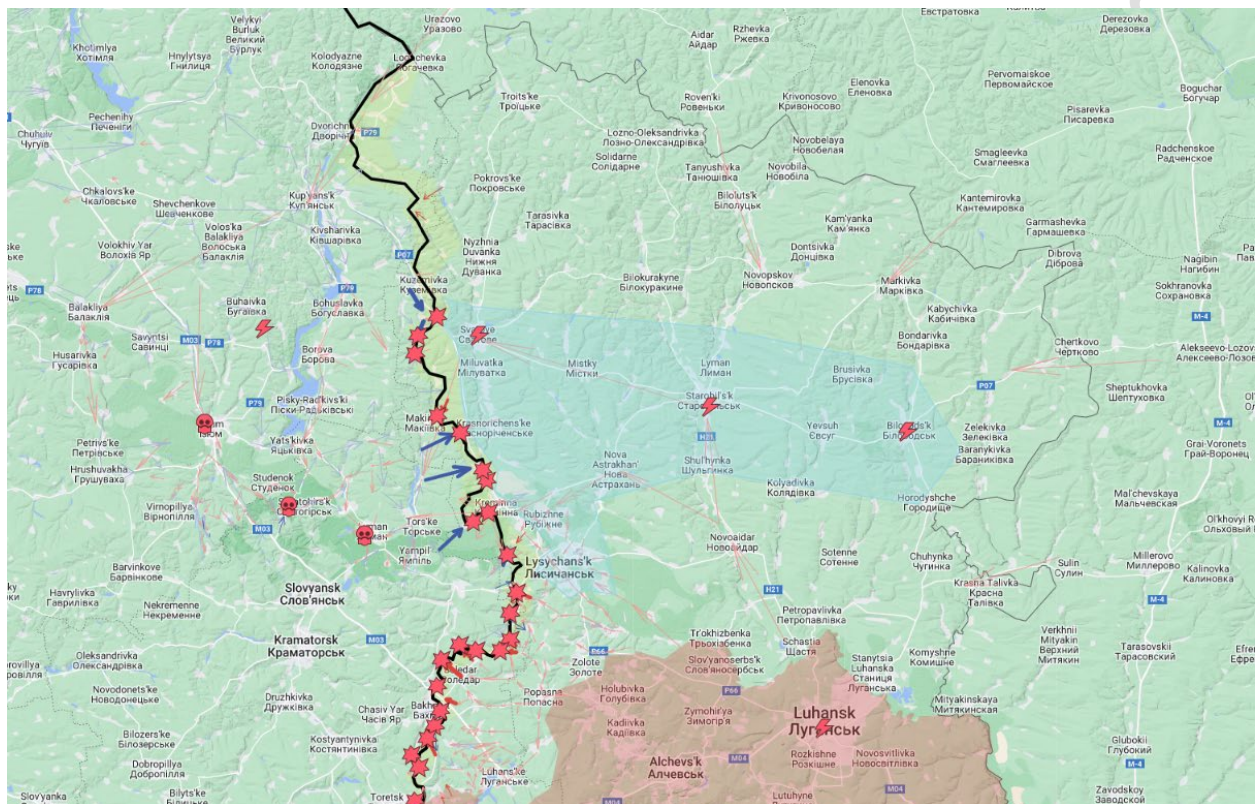
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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

There weren't any significant events in this region.

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

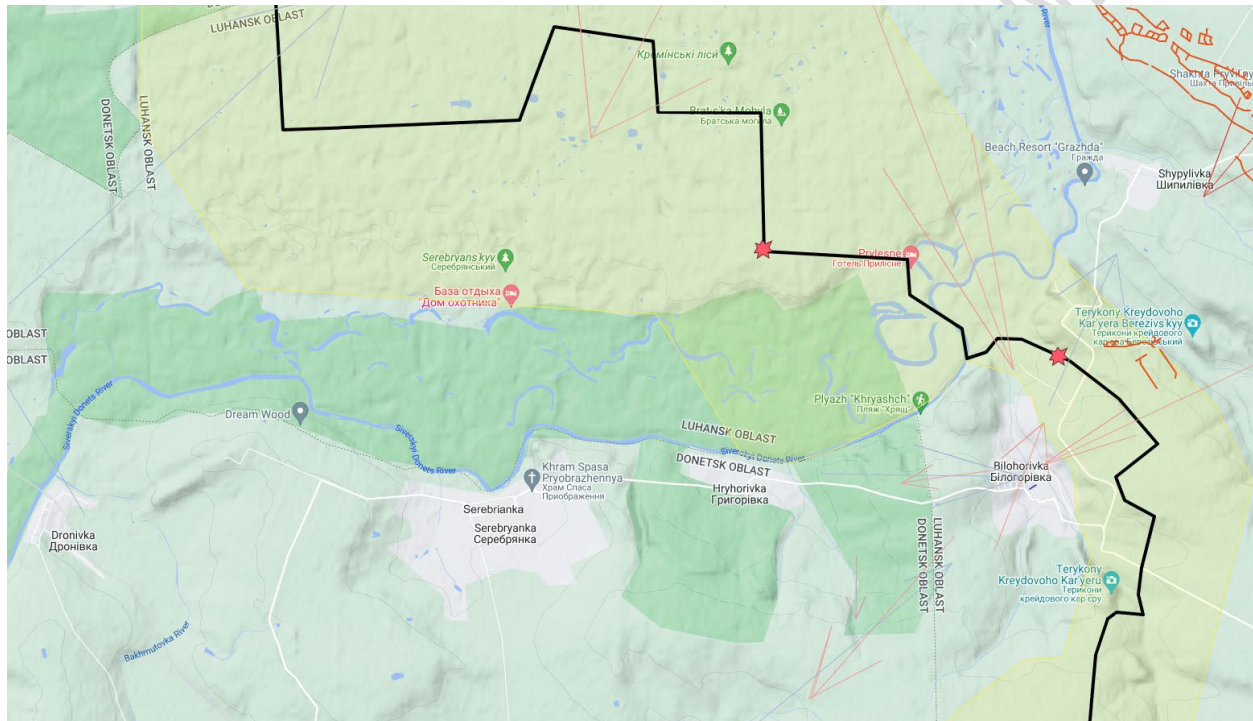


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, and capture the rest of the oblast

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

Kreminna Operational Area

The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the [Serebryansky Woods](#).



Lysychansk Operational Direction

Operational Command East (OKE) spokesperson Ilya Yevlash said Russian Storm-Z penal troops were involved

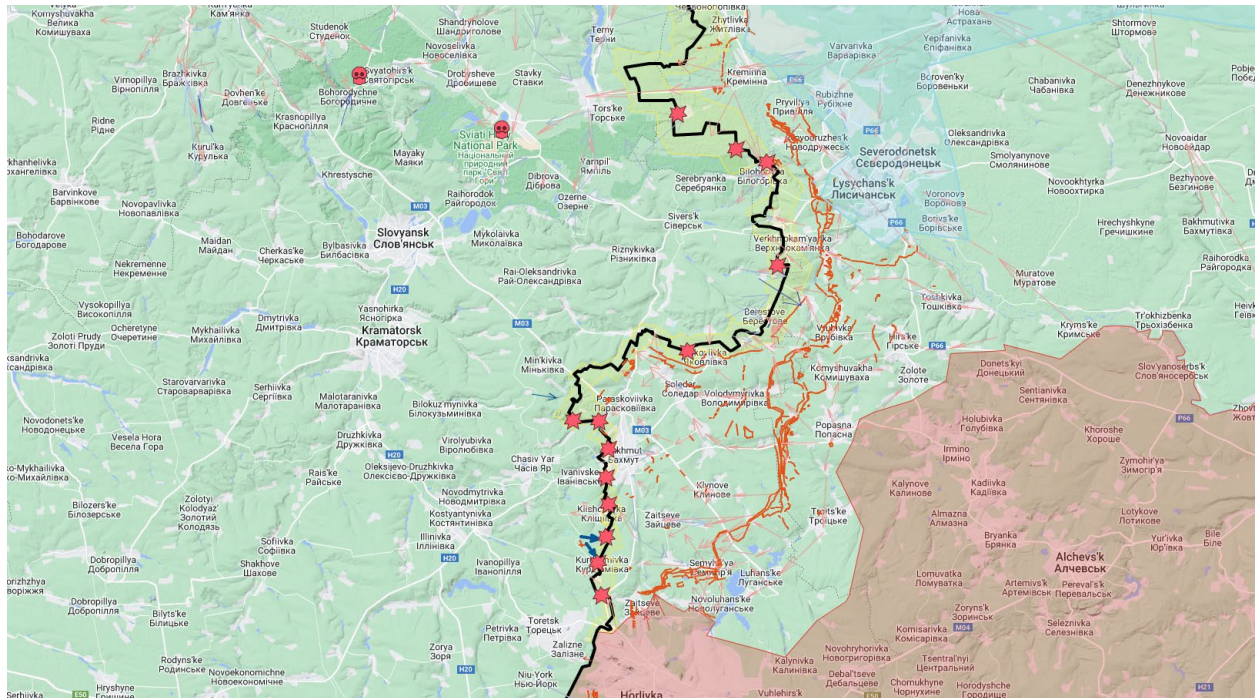


in a skirmish near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].¹ The attack was unsuccessful.

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¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/13833>

NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north of Bakhmut, capture the T-513 Highway south of Bakhmut, liberate the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, advance to the administrative border of Luhansk, and minimize civilian casualties

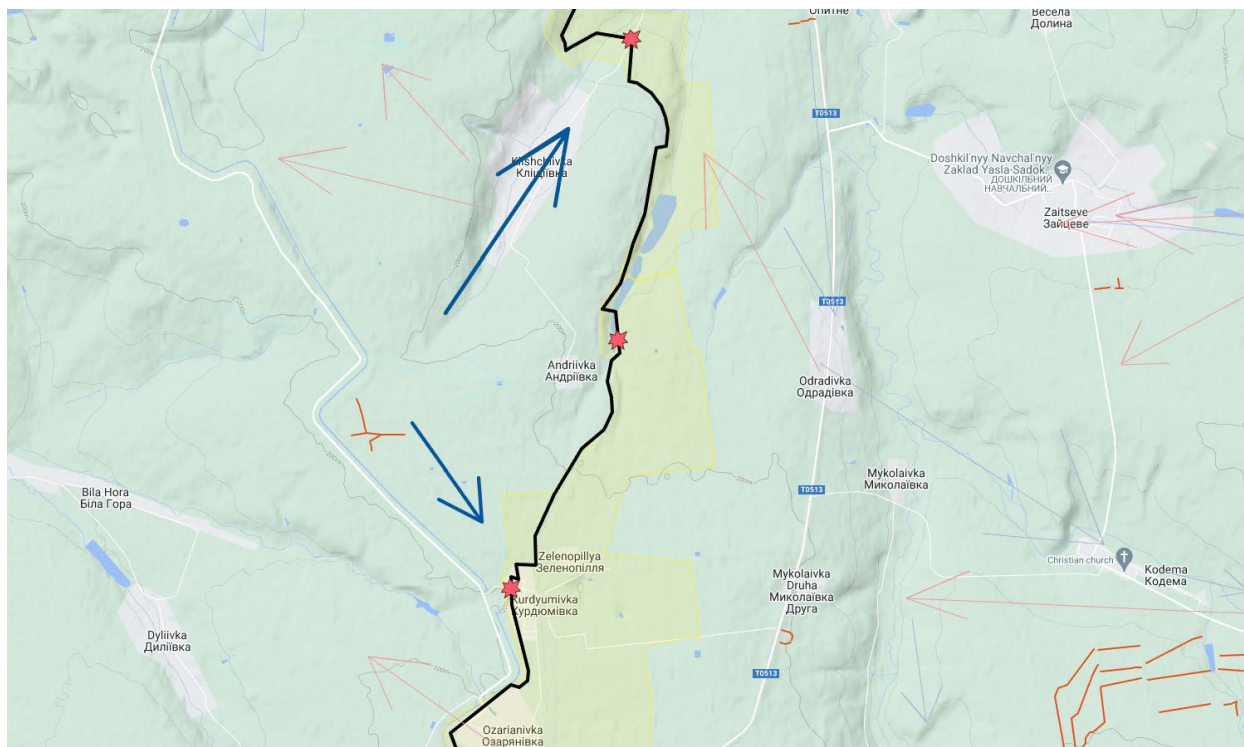
Siversk and Bakhmut Operational Area

East of Siversk, Russian soldiers between [Verknokamyanske and Zolotarivka](#) on the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border appealed online for drones and electronic warfare equipment, stating that they are being “haunted” by Ukrainian drones with no way to respond.²

Northwest of Bakhmut, Russian forces attempted to advance in the direction of [Bohdanivka](#), suffered losses, and returned to their defensive positions.³

² https://t.me/i_strelkov_2023/208

³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>



Klishchiivka Operational Area

Russian forces, supported by the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS), continued counterattacks near [Klishchiivka](#) without success.⁴ Russian and Ukrainian sources reported intense fighting on the western edge of [Kurdyumivka](#).⁵ Russian troops tried to break through the defensive lines at the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal, with Ukrainian forces holding their positions.

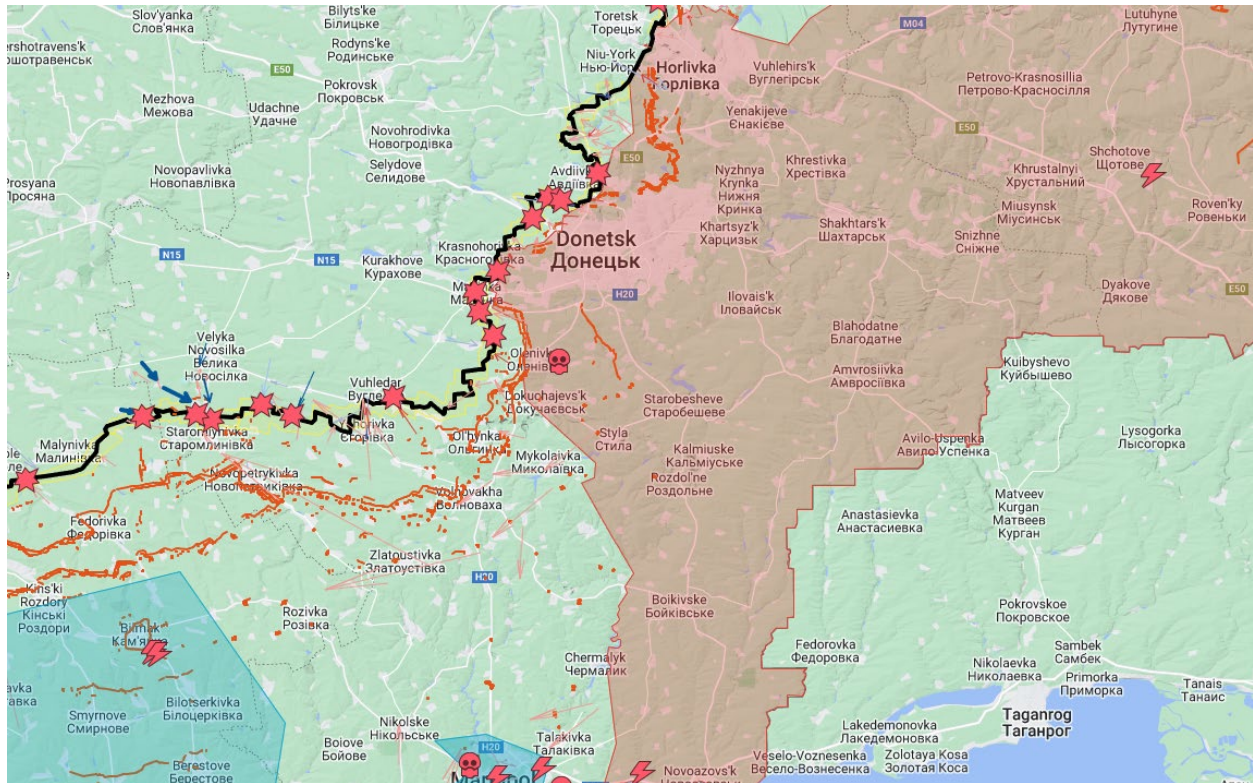
⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>

⁵ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>

OKE spokesperson Yevlash said that Ukrainian forces were establishing fire control of the T-513 Horlivka Highway, a critical Russian ground line of communication, and confirmed our earlier assessment that Ukrainian troops are 3 kilometers west of the highway.⁶

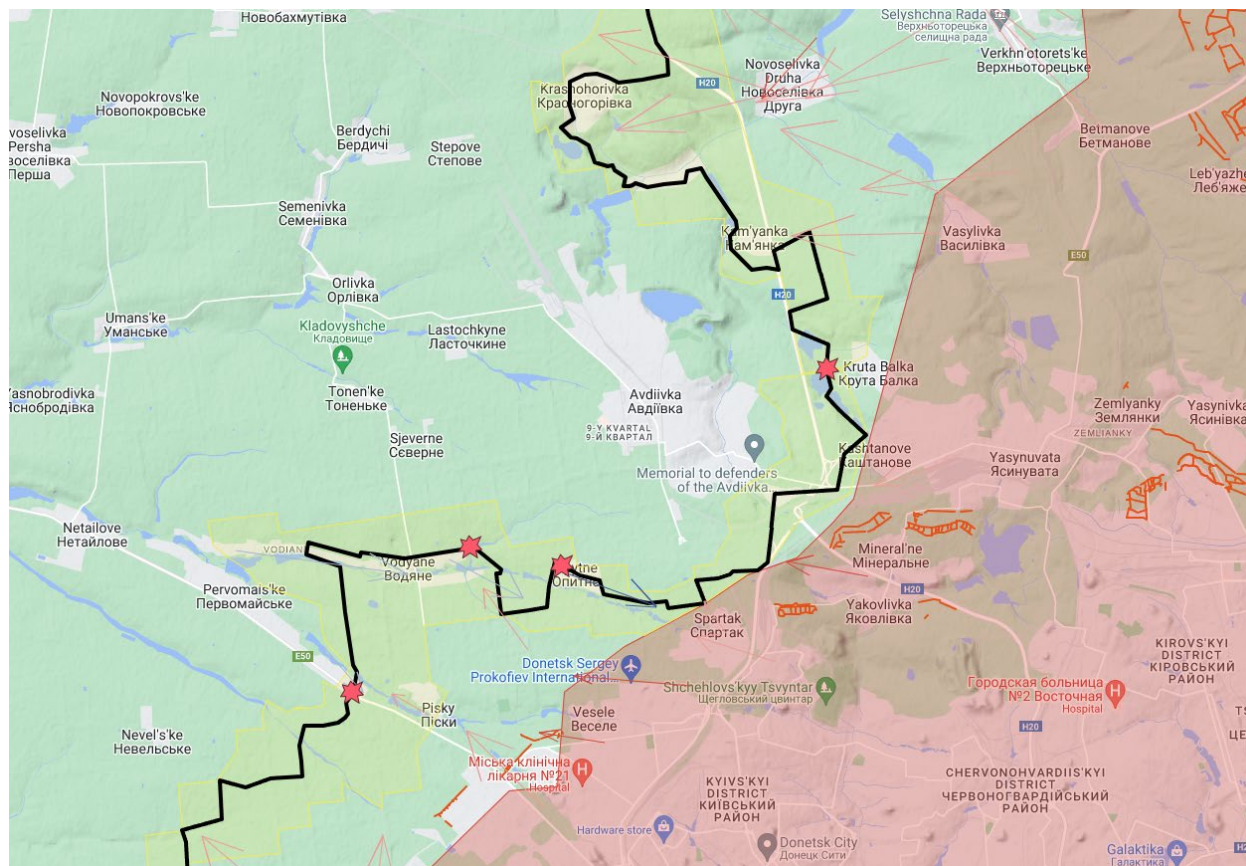
⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116006>

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive until the winter and maximize casualties

Ukrainian Objective: Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, lock Russian troops in place, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



Avdiivka Operational Area

Russian sources reported that Ukrainian troops were on the offensive at the approach of the Krasnohorivka plateau near [Vesele](#).⁷ Russian forces tried to advance from [Kruta Balka](#) and [Opytne](#) in the direction of [Avdiivka](#) without success.^{8 9}

⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/30759 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁸ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>

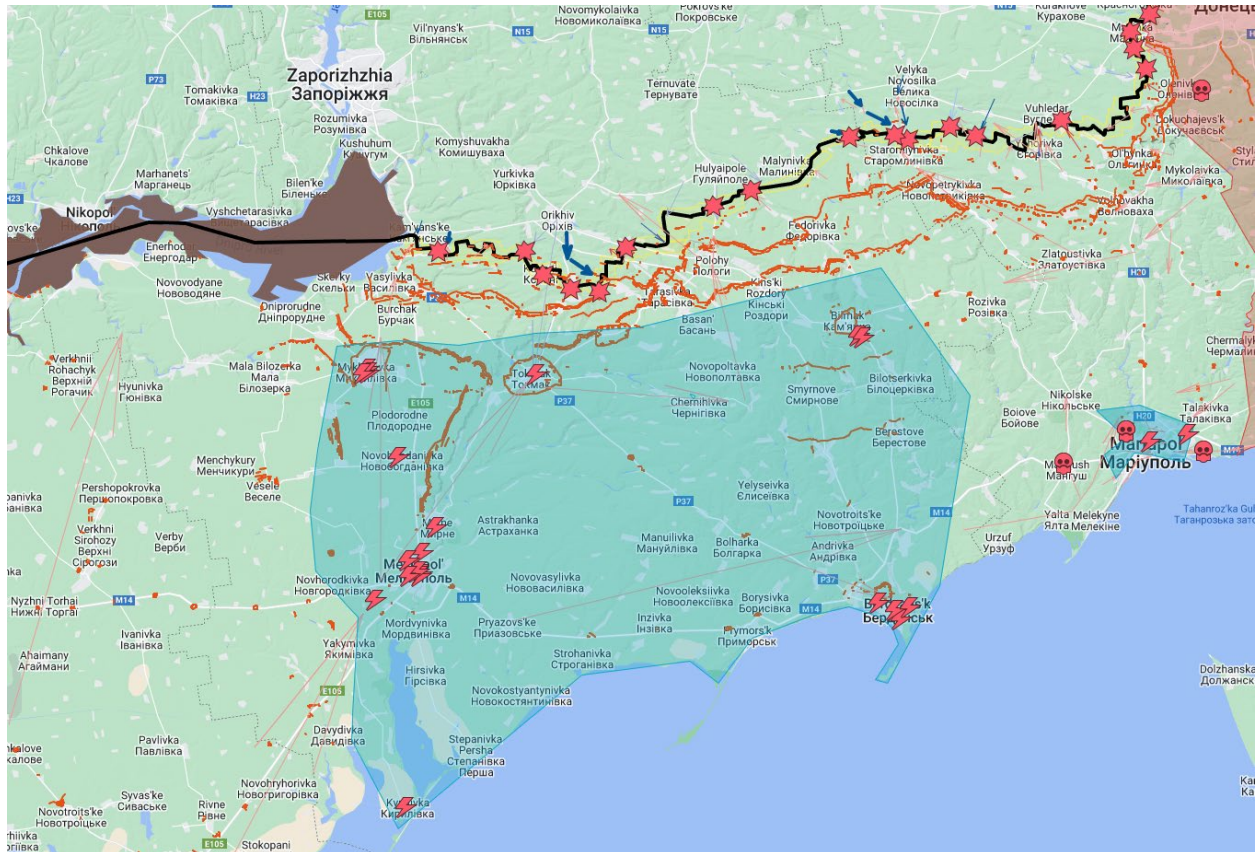
⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/15245>

Marinka Operational Area

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported fighting in [Marinka](#) and east of [Krasnohorivka](#), with no change in the situation.

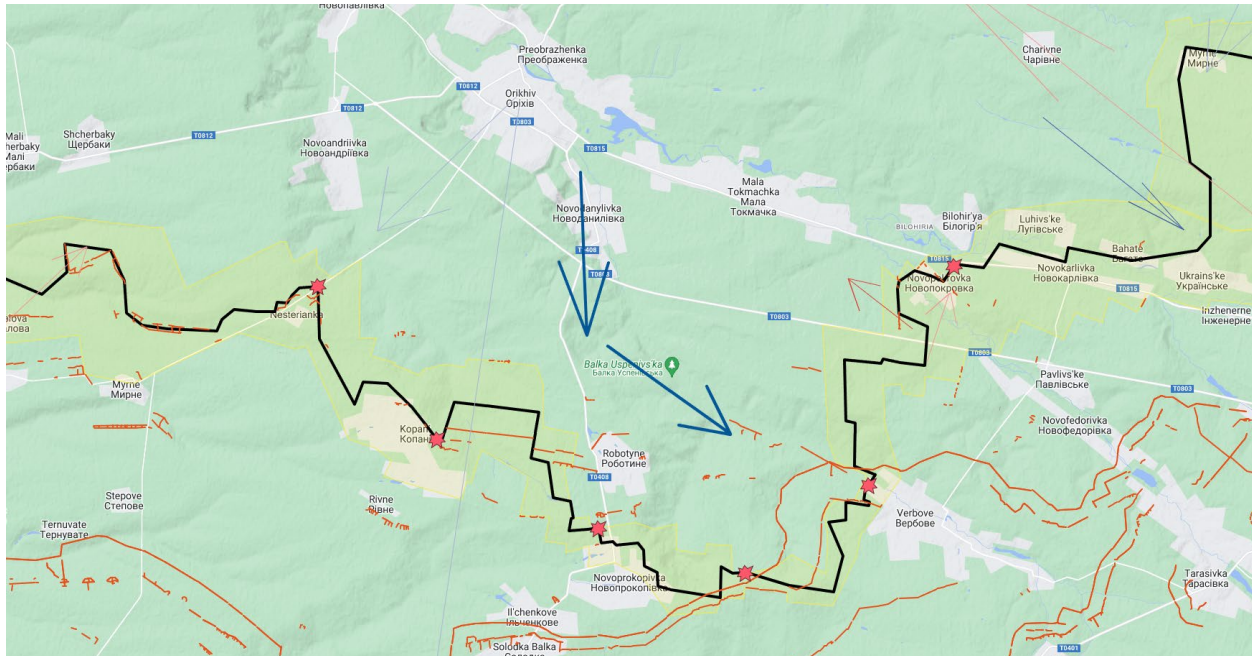
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ZAPORIZHZHIA



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


Ukrainian Objective: Expand the breakthrough at the second echelon of the Surovikin Line, sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



Orikhiv Operational Area

Fighting continued along the entire axis from west of [Robotyne](#), the outskirts of [Novoprokopivka](#), along the Surovikin Line following the 160-meter and 140-meter heights, to [Verbove](#) and in the direction of [Novofedorivka](#).¹⁰

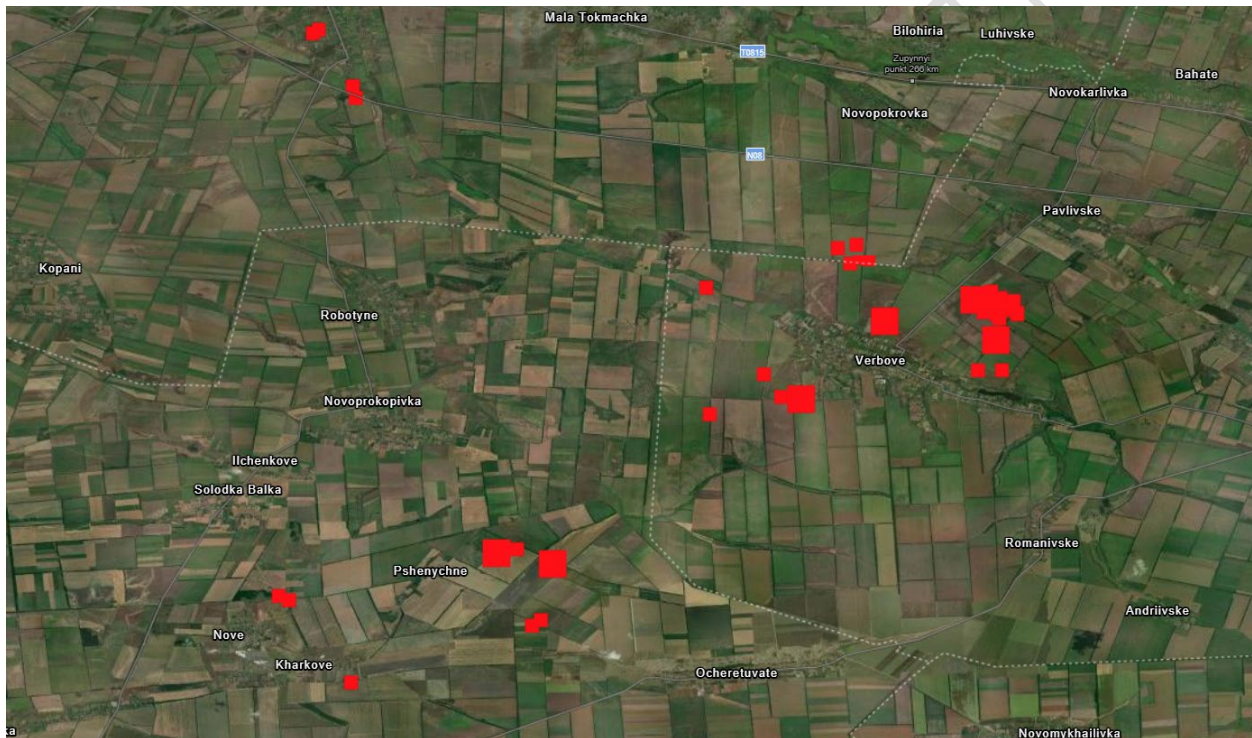
11

Videos showed Ukrainian  [armored vehicles operating in the western part of Verbove](#), confirming that Ukrainian forces have breached the second echelon of Russian

¹⁰ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>

¹¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/15245>

defenses, created a gap, and are advancing to the 3rd echelon in the direction of [Romanivske and Tarasivka](#).¹² This confirms claims that started on September 22 by multiple Russian sources that Ukrainian troops supported by armor are in Verbove.



NASA Fire Information for Resources Management Systems (FIRMS) indicated there are significant fires in and around Verbove and near Pshenychno, where Russian defensive lines are located.¹³

¹² <https://twitter.com/EjShahid/status/1706035601965748699>

¹³ [NASA FIRMS](#) [United States Government Website]

Fighting continued west of Robotyne, [following the Russian trenches](#) toward Kopani.¹⁴ Russian forces, supported by the VKS, tried to counterattack but were unsuccessful.

Multiple Russian sources are claiming regiments with the Russian 7th and 76th Airborne Assault (VDV) Divisions are suffering heavy losses.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian forces have broken through Russian defenses, creating a breach that has developed into a gap. The recent tactical gains have led to operation success at Verbove, but there is still no breakthrough. A breakthrough would include at least the localized collapse of Russian defenses and a rapid advance by Ukrainian troops. The ongoing advances are tactically significant, but Ukrainian forces must penetrate several additional layers of significant engineered defenses. This must be done while preserving combat power so that when the 3rd echelon is breached, there is enough combat potential to exploit the gap.

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

¹⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12267>

Occupied Tokmak was hit by rockets fired by HIMARS, with Russian air defense missile debris 📷 📺 [landing in numerous areas of the city.](#)^{15 16 17} Outside Tokmak, a single rocket fired by HIMARS 📺 [destroyed a Russian observation post.](#)¹⁸

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There were no updates on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).

¹⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116030>

¹⁶ https://t.me/couch_IU/43362

¹⁷ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/5195

¹⁸ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/3285

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Operational Command South (OKS) reported there are two Russian Black Sea Fleet vessels on patrol, with one surface ship capable of launching up to eight Kalibr cruise missiles.¹⁹

The Greek-owned Palauan-flagged bulk carrier Aroyat, which departed the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk on September 22, arrived in Istanbul, carrying almost 18,000 metric tons of grain. The Aroyat was the second vessel to sail to Chornomorsk since Russia exited the Black Sea Grain Initiative, take cargo, and depart.²⁰

Occupied Crimea


Russian forces are increasing security at the Kerch (Crimean) Bridge, which is still undergoing repairs from the July 17 attack. The Rosgvardiya 39th Naval Detachment is

¹⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115998>

²⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116024>

now operating nine coast guard patrol boats near the bridge, searching for uncrewed surface drones.²¹

At the port entrance to Sevastopol, Russia has also added defenses, including antisubmarine nets, sinking barges to create obstacles, increasing patrols, restricting ship traffic, and using trained dolphins.²²

In Dzhankoi, an  [IED destroyed a Russian soldier's car](#) overnight.²³ The blast was equivalent to 500 grams of TNT and broke the windows in nearby buildings. The car was parked at the time, and no one was injured.

Brigadier General Alexander Tarnavskiy, commander of the operational-strategic group of troops in the Tavria region, told the United States news agency CNN that the missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters was a subordinate attack. "The success of offensive operations lies not only in destroying the enemy in front of you but also in destroying places where equipment and personnel are concentrated, and especially in destroying command

²¹ <https://t.me/krympartizans/2159>


²² <https://t.me/brdnews/14009>

²³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116052>

posts." Tarnavskiy added that destroying high-level command and control "leads to chaos on the battlefield."²⁴

ASSESSMENT: The Russian Ministry of Defense has demonstrated an increasing capacity to adapt to battlefield conditions compared to a year ago. However, it remains hobbled by a top-down command structure and the lack of a non-commissioned officer corps. Russian officers are not empowered to problem solve and are expected to follow their orders as given. When there is a disconnect or change in command, field commanders focused on preserving their careers become reluctant to carry out their existing orders. This remains one of the biggest deficiencies of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and will remain unaddressed with the current command structure.



Odesa

Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, Kalibr, and Oniks cruise missiles attacked the city of Odesa. Odesa Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleh Kiper said port infrastructure was hit. The Hotel Odesa and adjacent cruise ship terminal were  [heavily damaged](#).²⁵ While Russian propagandists excitedly declared it was full of

²⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/43433>

²⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/103503>

NATO soldiers and foreign mercenaries, the property was abandoned in 2011 and is in disrepair.²⁶ A warehouse was also hit, and private homes and grain storage were damaged. One woman was injured by flying debris.^{27 28}

Breaking News: Pictures have been published showing the  [damage to the hotel](#) and  [the cruise ship terminal](#) in Odesa.^{29 30}

²⁶ [Odessa Journal](#) [Editor's Note – they spell it with two s]

²⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116096>

²⁸ https://t.me/our_odessa/54316

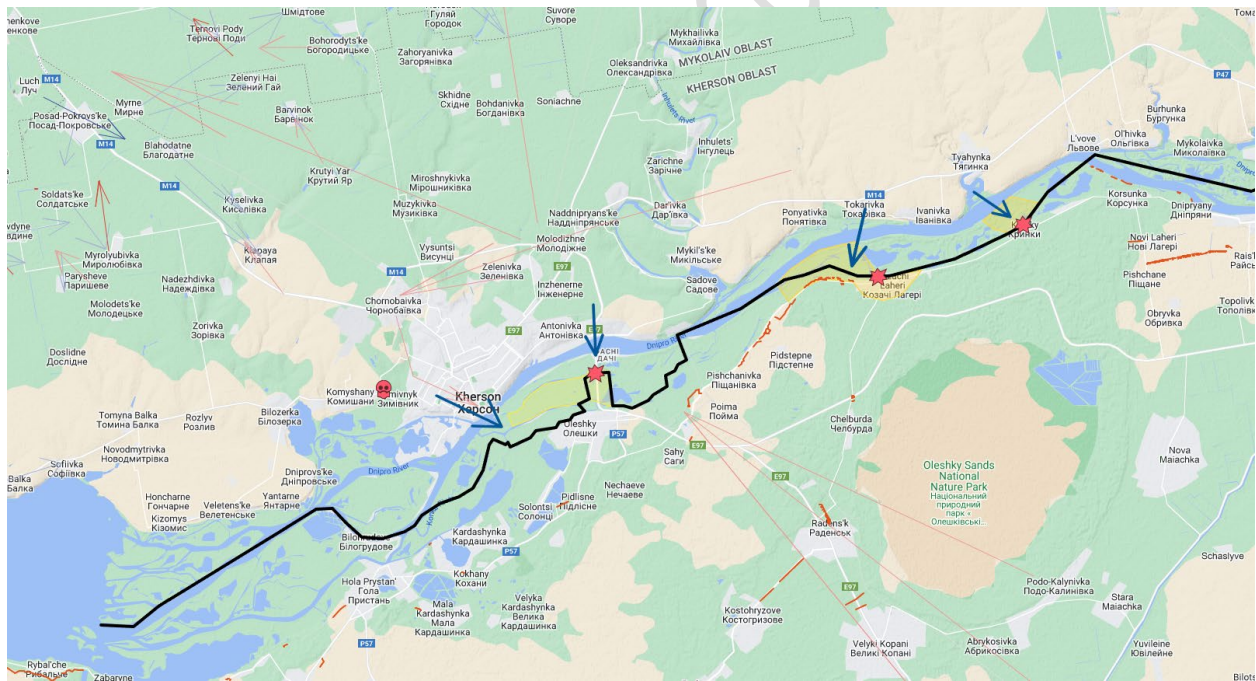
²⁹ https://t.me/our_odessa/54333




³⁰ https://t.me/our_odessa/54343

KHERSON

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

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



Russian forces  [continued the intense bombardment](#) of free Kherson on the right (west) bank of the Dnipro River.³¹ The city of Kherson was  [hit by two FAB-500S-E UMPK glide bombs](#), wounding one.^{32 33} Shelling in a different part of the city wounded six people, including pensioners, with four in hospital.^{34 35} Lvove was also  [bombed by the Russian VKS](#), killing a 67-year-old man.^{36 37}

Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Alexander Prokudin said Russia carried out 87 fire missions, using 497 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), indirect tank fire, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs.³⁸

³¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/103480>

³² https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/10306

³³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116041>

³⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116054>

³⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116031>

³⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/112384>

³⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116018>

³⁸ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1407>

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

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

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

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


There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective: Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

Kursk

Several geolocated videos showed the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia building in the city of Kursk was  [hit by a smaller kamikaze drone](#), damaging the roof.³⁹ The governor of the Kursk region, Roman Starovoyt, said that an "administrative building" was hit in the attack.⁴⁰

There was significant fog of war about a potential drone strike at the Halino Military Airfield outside of Kursk. Starovoyt said a drone was shot down and crashed in a tank farm near the airport but did not spark a fire. Several

³⁹ https://x.com/Euan_MacDonald/status/1705865222752182327

⁴⁰ [Meduza](#)

Russian social media accounts claimed that the drone hit the airbase and there were casualties.^{41 42 43} We could not independently verify the claims.

In response to the drone attacks, the mayor of Kursk, Igor Kutsak, canceled City Day festivities, including planned fireworks.⁴⁴

Belgorod

Belgorod regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said that a KamAZ truck was hit by a drone-delivered IED in the village of Novy, wounding the driver.⁴⁵

Moscow

Flights were halted twice at Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports due to claimed drone attacks.⁴⁶ There were no reports of damage or injuries.

⁴¹ <https://x.com/TreasChest/status/1706009162876895684>

⁴² <https://x.com/PStyle0ne1/status/1706020155262665017>

⁴³ <https://t.me/rybar/52325>


⁴⁴ <https://t.me/rusbrief/158000>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/astrapress/38651>

⁴⁶ https://t.me/shot_shot/57368

ASSESSMENT: While the ground stops that last 30 to 90 minutes may appear to be only a nuisance, they significantly impact Russian logistics. Russian air lines of communication (that's a supply line) converge into Moscow's airports. Passenger service, commerce, and military flights are equally impacted when flights are halted.

Leningrad

Power and water were  [knocked out in the Shushary district](#) of St. Petersburg and Pulkovo Airport after residents reported seeing a bright flash.^{47 48}

Kaluga

Partisans destroyed four trucks and semitrailers at a weapons arsenal near Kaluga. There were no reports of secondary explosions or injuries.⁴⁹

Primorsky Krai

In Pavlo-Fedorovka, partisans destroyed a memorial built in an alleyway for fallen Russian soldiers. A dedication

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116063>

⁴⁸ https://t.me/shot_shot/57360


⁴⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116037>

ceremony was supposed to be held on September 24. The nameplates were broken overnight, and "For the children of Ukraine" was spray painted on the memorial.⁵⁰

Tula

Russian state media reported an unspecified number of drones were  [shot down over the region](#).^{51 52}

BELARUSIAN FRONT

On the Polish-Belarus border, Belarusian officials have restarted pushing undocumented migrants to the border,  [where they harass and throw rocks at Polish border guards](#).⁵³ The Ministry of Defense of Poland accused Belarus of trying to "destabilize the situation in Poland and jeopardize the security of the Poles."

ASSESSMENT: Before the Ministry of Defense released its statement, our analysts called this "an act of hybrid warfare." We concur with Polish officials that this is an

⁵⁰ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6437

⁵¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/57369


⁵² https://t.me/shot_shot/57370

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116042>

attempt to manipulate upcoming elections by agitating isolationists and nationalists.

THEATERWIDE

Russian launched a large missile and drone attack on the night of September 24 – 25, including 23 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones in two waves, 12 Kalibr cruise missiles, and two P-800 Oniks antiship missiles used for a ground attack.⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ The Ukrainian Air Force intercepted 19 drones, and the Navy intercepted four. Eleven Kalibr cruise missiles were also destroyed.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy  [told his nation it was a productive week](#) on the diplomatic front last week. He praised the agreement between the United States and Ukraine to start joint arms production, saying, “There is a historic decision by the United States to jointly produce weapons and defense systems. In particular, air defense. This is something that was an absolute fantasy until

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116112>

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116113>

recently. But it will become a reality. We will make it a reality."⁵⁶ ⁵⁷

United States Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) backtracked, telling reporters he would not strip out \$300 million in aid to Ukraine in an upcoming bill nor strip out aid from a funding package for the foreign operations of the State Department.⁵⁸

Germany will provide Ukraine with 50 uncrewed surface vessels as part of a previously announced military aid package.⁵⁹ The first batch will include ten vessels. Nothing is known about their capabilities.

Ukraine and Poland have agreed to create a large military-medical hub to exchange experience and techniques, saving people with battle injuries and for mutual assistance.⁶⁰

U.S. Lieutenant General Ben Hodges (retired) said he believed the United States would provide Ukraine with ATACMS missiles but with limited range. Occupied Crimea

⁵⁶ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7969

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/uniannet/112419>

⁵⁸ [KHON 2](#)

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/43384>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116075>



and the deep rear areas of occupied Donetsk and Luhansk could be out of reach.⁶¹

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

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116062>

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

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

12,286 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,486 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2182	289	7.55:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	150	366	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	982	327	3.00:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2797	755	3.70:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	354	344	1.02:1	↓
MRAPs	48	161	0.30:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	210	373	0.56:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	251	17	14.76:1	—
Engineering Vehicles	343	84	4.08:1	↓
Towed Artillery	308	160	1.93:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	536	220	2.44:1	—
MLRS	275	50	5.50:1	↑
SAMs	181	129	1.40:1	—
Mobile Radars	45	78	0.58:1	—
EW/ECW	54	4	13.50:1	—
Winged Aircraft	92	72	1.28:1	—
Helicopters	112	35	3.20:1	—
Naval Vessels and Submarines	17	27	0.63:1	—

MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) confirmed our earlier assessment that Russian forces are conducting stealth mobilization of 20,000 mobiks a month. GUR spokesperson Andrey Yusov said Russian leaders are waiting to announce a larger mobilization after the March 2024 elections.⁶²

The Russia partial mobilization decree on September 21, 2022, was never rescinded by the State Duma, giving the Kremlin the power to add more troops at will.


The Oplot Militia in Rostov-on-Don, originally formed in Kharkiv in 2014, said that former PMC Wagner mercenaries were joining the group to provide training to Russian reservists.⁶³

There were several reports that up to 500 former Wagnerites who did not participate in the insurrection had signed contracts with an unnamed PMC. Several Wagner-aligned Telegram channels shared a video two weeks ago

⁶² <https://t.me/uniannet/112383>

⁶³ <https://t.me/rusbrief/158012>

hinting that a new PMC would return to Ukraine.⁶⁴ The new company is reportedly aligned with the Kremlin and run by Dmitry Troshev, a former police colonel from the Special Rapid Response Unit (SOBR) of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and a man with the call sign "Khrustal," who was the head of personnel for Wagner Group.⁶⁵ The group may be deployed to the Bakhmut area of operation or in Zaporizhzhia.

In the Russian town of Goryachy Klyuch in Krasnodar Krai, a memorial was erected at the Wagner Group Chapel for the mercenaries who died in Ukraine. The  [black triangular stele contains more than 25,000 names](#).⁶⁶ ⁶⁷ PMC Wagner officially operated in Ukraine from March 19, 2022, to June 20, 2023.⁶⁸

Due to the growing demographic crisis in Russia and a shortage of men, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is lowering its recruiting standards. Russian citizens who can no longer serve in the military due to injuries and those unfit for military service can now join. The age limit for entry-level

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/astrapress/38638>


⁶⁵ <https://t.me/astrapress/38638>

⁶⁶ https://t.me/couch_IU/43336

⁶⁷ https://t.me/grey_zone/20733

⁶⁸ https://t.me/couch_IU/43336

officers and management was raised from 35 years old to 50 years old.⁶⁹


Mid-resolution satellite images published by the National Resistance Center of Ukraine showed multiple Russian defense positions built a year ago in  [Kursk are unmaintained and unmanned](#).⁷⁰

Credit goes to the Institute for the Study of War, as our analyst team had just started asking, "Where did the Russian 810th Naval Infantry Brigade go?" According to ISW, the 810th has been destroyed during the three months it was deployed in Zaporizhzhia. This is the fifth Russian brigade or regiment declared combat destroyed or completely destroyed in the last three weeks and is the fourth time the brigade needs reconstitution.

In August, we shared pictures of a Russian "Frankenweapon," an MT-LB armored personnel carrier with a navy A-22 Ogon flamethrower. The A-22 fires 140 mm rockets with a range of 4,500 to 9,500 meters, with high explosive thermobaric or fragmentation warheads. The A-22 is meant to be mounted on littoral warships and

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/rusbrief/157975>

⁷⁰ https://twitter.com/Heroiam_Slava/status/1705841814295429387

landing craft. They're operating on the front lines because the first one was  [destroyed](#).⁷¹

ASSESSMENT: The growing number of improvised solutions using naval armaments indicates that Russia faces shortages. What is unclear is if those shortages are ammunition for the TOS-1A multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) or the hardware. While Russia seems to have an infinite supply of heavy weapons, 45% to 50% of its military hardware has been destroyed, damaged, abandoned, or captured in the last 19 months. Mocking these solutions is underestimating the capability of the combatant, but the Ministry of Defense would not be fielding these types of solutions if they weren't facing an ammunition or equipment crisis.

Russian state media agency TASS reported that the Kremlin suspended further work on the mid-range aircraft carrier killing ballistic missile Zmееvik. The system has been inaccurately called a hypersonic in the Western press and may have been under development since the Soviet era. TASS said the program was axed because "all the efforts of

⁷¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116045>

the defense industry are aimed at improving all the missile weapons that are already flying."⁷²

Former FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, failed mobik, and prisoner at Lefortovo Prison, Igor Strelkov Girkin, was reportedly severely beaten by another inmate at the infamous facility.⁷³

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan criticized the CSTO, calling the Russian-led alliance "ineffective," and believes that Armenia needs to modify and supplement internal and external security.⁷⁴

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Military medic Orest Hrytsyuk, a prisoner of war for nine months, said that the International Committee of the Red Cross in Moscow took part in the abuse of Ukrainian POWs. "They came there, their Russian representatives...we walked there and sang songs. They filmed all this,

⁷² <https://t.me/rusbrief/157924>

⁷³ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/43072

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/rusbrief/157943>

laughed...slapped us on the shoulder, and called us all kinds of bad words."⁷⁵

The Red Cross has been heavily criticized for its actions and inactions during the Russia-Ukraine War. We reported earlier in the month how the Red Cross verified the detention of the legitimate mayor of Kherson 16 months after his detainment. The agency, which is supposed to have regular access to prisoners, could not report on the location or condition of the mayor.

The international human rights group Global Rights Compliance, working with the Ukrainian prosecutor's office, is preparing a report documenting Russian war crimes, human rights abuses, and acts of genocide.⁷⁶ The report will focus on the siege of Mariupol, using hunger and food scarcity as a weapon in the occupied territories, and the limiting of Ukrainian food exports and its global impact.^{77 78}

The Russian VKS dropped UMPK glide bombs adjacent to the hospital in Beryslav, Kkerson, blowing out windows and

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17669>

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/uniannet/112402>

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/uniannet/112402>

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/astrapress/38664>

doors and damaging the ambulance garages. Medical equipment was destroyed in the attack.⁷⁹

A day after being selected as the illegitimate leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, collaborator Denis Pushilin instituted curfews, border closures, and other restrictions.⁸⁰

Temporarily occupied Donetsk will be under curfew on weekdays from 23:00 to 04:00 hours, and the movement of non-military vehicles without a pass is prohibited.⁸¹ Military censorship has been ordered, with all mail, Internet communications, and telephone conversations to be monitored and reviewed. Pushilin's decree also prohibits meetings, rallies, demonstrations, marches, picketing, and worker strikes.⁸² Further, blocking posts, filtration camps, and control posts will be added to the administrative borders of "neighboring regions."⁸³ At the Novoazovsk border crossing, the line was 20 kilometers long to enter occupied Donetsk.

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116004>

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/uniannet/112403>

⁸¹ <https://t.me/uniannet/112403>


⁸² <https://t.me/uniannet/112403>

⁸³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/103474>

Human rights experts worry that the declarations are a trial for other regions to implement total martial law.

GEOPOLITICS

Editor's Note: *The geopolitical situation directly or indirectly impacting Russia or Ukraine is intense.*

In Mali, the Tuareg have  [declared war on the pro-Russian junta](#), PMC Wagner, and other aligned forces.⁸⁴ Separatists from the Azawad movement announced total mobilization, and the Tuareg claimed to have shot down eight PMC Wagner and Malian aircraft. The Il-76 transport plane that crashed near Gao on Saturday was owned by Ruby Star of Belarus and was chartered by Mali. Officials report 140 people were killed, including Malian soldiers and mercenaries with PMC Wagner.⁸⁵

Serbian President Alexander Vucic said his country would never recognize Kosovo's independence after a shootout in Banjska, Kosovo. Dozens of Serb gunmen dressed in military uniforms killed a Kosobar police officer who

⁸⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6436

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/20149>

stormed a monastery. A gun battle erupted, leaving up to four dead. Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti said “masked professionals armed with heavy weapons” attacked a Kosovar-Albanian police patrol. Three attackers and one police officer were killed. Pilgrims and an abbot were still trapped inside the monastery.

Vucic denied his government has any involvement, and when asked why the attackers wore Serbian uniforms, he said that they could be bought anywhere. “If we are talking about de-escalation, no one has done anything about it. Because the international community gave Kurti carte blanche for terror after the murder of a policeman,” fumed Vucic. “You can kill us all. Serbia will never recognize the independence of Kosovo, that monster creation that you made by bombing Serbia.”^{86 87}

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz threatened to restore border controls with Poland, accusing its neighbor of fraudulently issuing tens of thousands of expedited work visas to migrants from Africa and Asia. Polish officials said

⁸⁶ https://t.me/couch_IU/43384

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/rusbrief/158052>

they were conducting an investigation but only found 300 cases.^{88 89}

On Saturday in Ireland, President Zelenskyy held an unscheduled meeting with the Chairman of the Sovereign Council of Sudan, Abdel Fattah al-Burgan.⁹⁰ The pair reportedly discussed common security challenges of fending off illegally armed groups financed and supported by Russia.⁹¹ Zelenskyy said they also discussed grain shipments and strengthening African relations. Fighting erupted in Sudan over the summer between two rival factions, with the Rapid Support Forces aligned with Moscow and backed by PMC Wagner Group. Russia wants to build a naval base in Sudan on the Red Sea.⁹² The meeting comes days after U.S. news agency CNN reported that the GUR is operating in Sudan, targeting PMC Wagner mercenaries who committed atrocities in Ukraine.^{93 94}

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan accused Russia of engaging in hybrid warfare against Armenia. "It should be noted that a hybrid war is being waged against Armenia

⁸⁸ https://t.me/couch_IU/43309

⁸⁹ <https://t.me/mortisaeterna/5271>

⁹⁰ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7960



⁹¹ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7960

⁹² https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7960

⁹³ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7960

⁹⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/09/24/7421151/>

in the information field, and in this situation, our communication with society should be more active. It is very important that we can maintain trust in official information."

On the same day Azerbaijan launched military action in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh, our analyst team recorded a significant   [increase in disinformation and Kremlin-backed narratives](#) against Pashinyan.⁹⁵

RUMORS

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


- Did Russia destroy two Mig-29s and three Su-25s at Kryvyi Rih with new long-range Lancet kamikaze drones?


⁹⁵ [Malcontent News](#)


- Have more than 260,000 Russian soldiers died in Ukraine since February 24, 2022?
- North Korean ammunition is coming to Russia?
- Will Ukraine get Taurus cruise missiles?
- Will Russia announce a surge in mobilization with the fall conscription?
- Were two Russian generals seriously wounded and one admiral killed in Sevastopol?


Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


 **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


 **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying all Russian war crimes.


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

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

 **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:** The organization has not posted any update since June 9, 2023, and we have ceased monitoring.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate 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 illegitimate 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 officials 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.