

**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

May 8, 2023 – A



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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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 Melitopol.

✔ **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.



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SUMMARY – DAY 438

This is the first update for May 8, 2023.

It has been 3,357 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 74 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

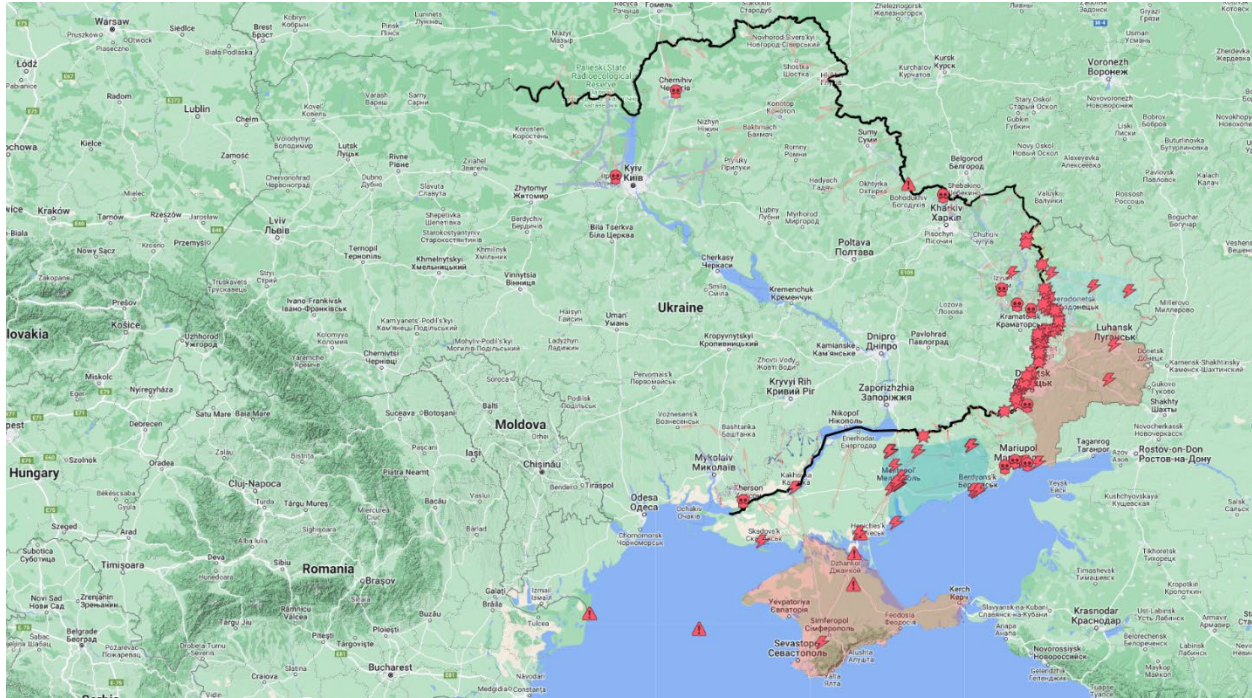
We assess the following:

1. Our assessment of an extremely high risk of additional drone and missile strikes through May 9 was accurate, with 27 additional cruise missiles launched at Ukraine.
2. PMC Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin stated that his forces have yet to receive promised ammunition, despite a documented increase in artillery activity and the number of Wagner attacks. These machinations may serve as excuses for Wagner's inability to capture Bakhmut, which has been under siege for 273 days.
3. We remain uncertain if Ukrainian forces will continue their retrograde operation in Bakhmut, if PMC Wagner will receive ammunition as promised, and if Chechen Akhmat will deploy to Bakhmut as reinforcements.
4. We maintain that Ukraine has seized the battlefield initiative in all operational areas.
5. 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.

6. Long-range weather models have degraded but remain favorable for larger offensive operations using armor and mobility after May 11.

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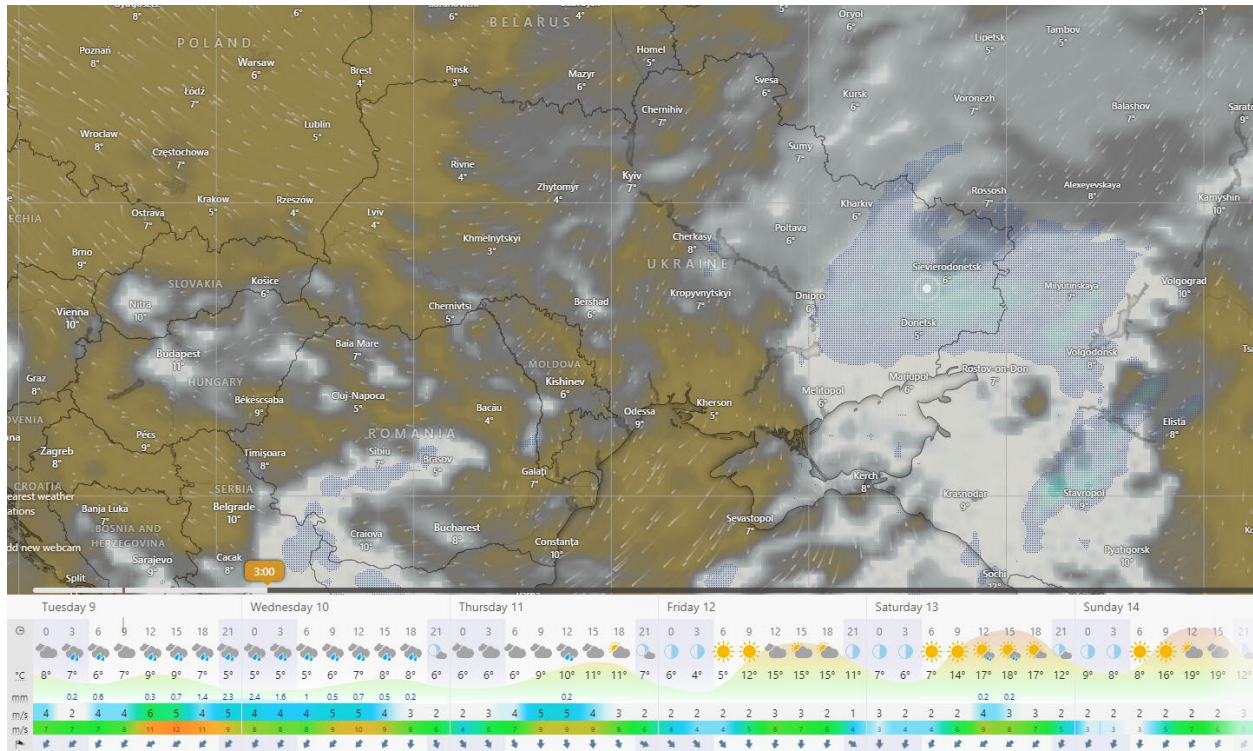
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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.

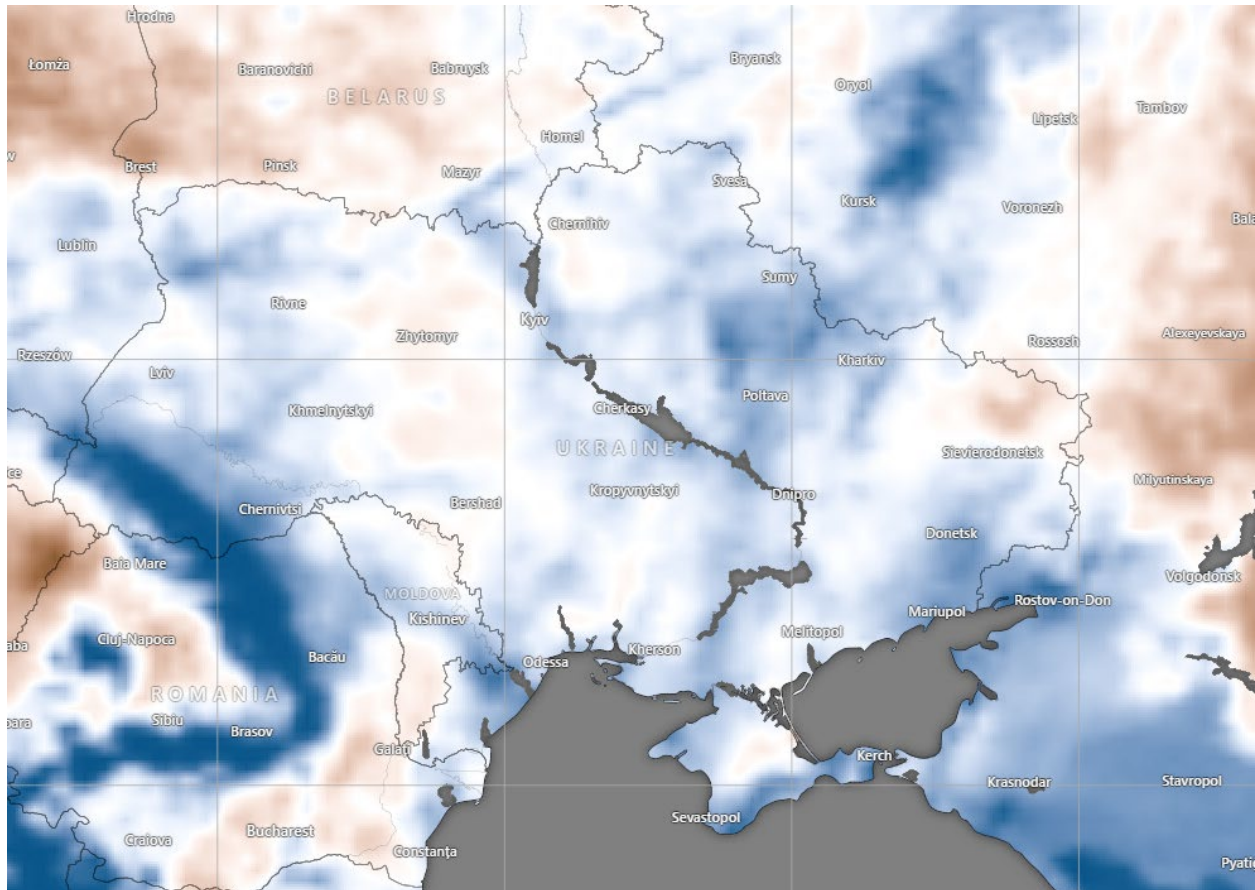
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

UKRAINE WEATHER



The ECMWF Euro weather model forecasts up to 12 millimeters of rain in eastern Ukraine for Tuesday night and Wednesday and a small chance of scattered showers on Thursday morning. Cloudy and unseasonably cool weather will persist through Thursday before seasonable weather returns. Highs will be from 5° to 22° Celcius, with lows from 1° to 11°. Wednesday will be the coldest day, and Friday morning will see lows near freezing.

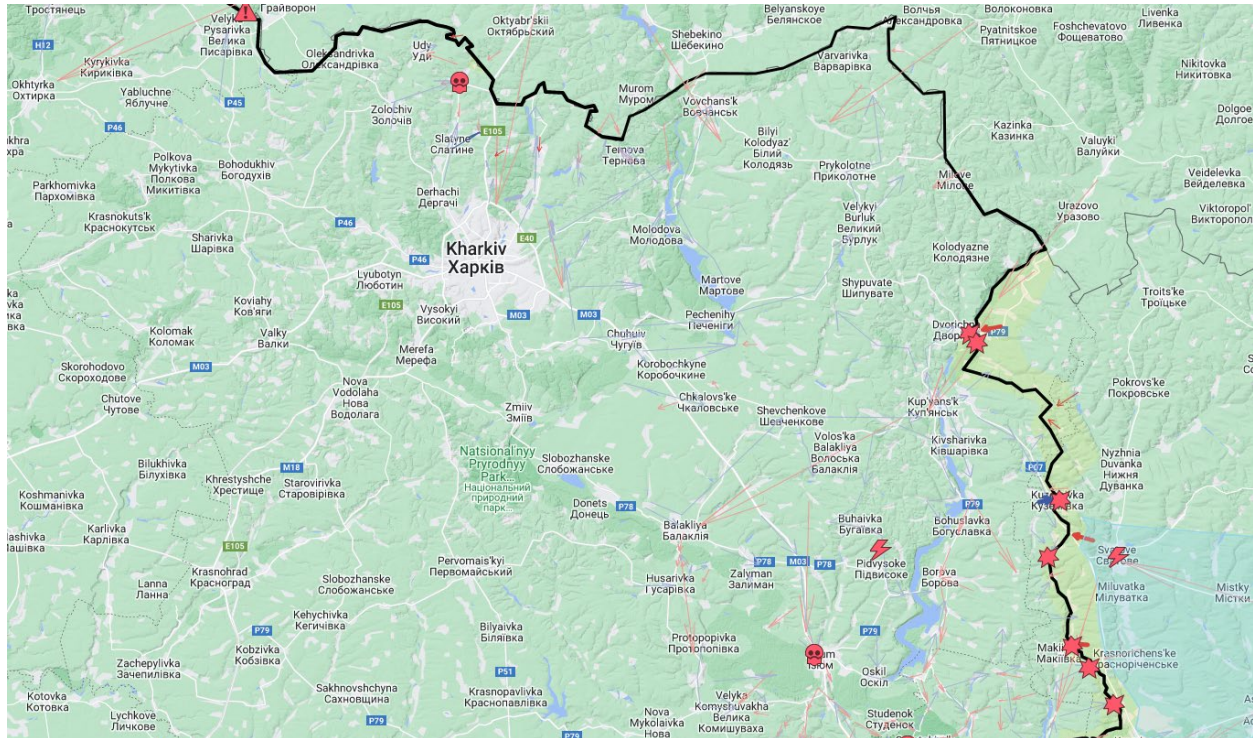
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



May 15, 2023, GFS forecast showing a complex picture with 45% to 85% soil saturation to 40 centimeters depth in Zaporizhzhia and the Donbas.

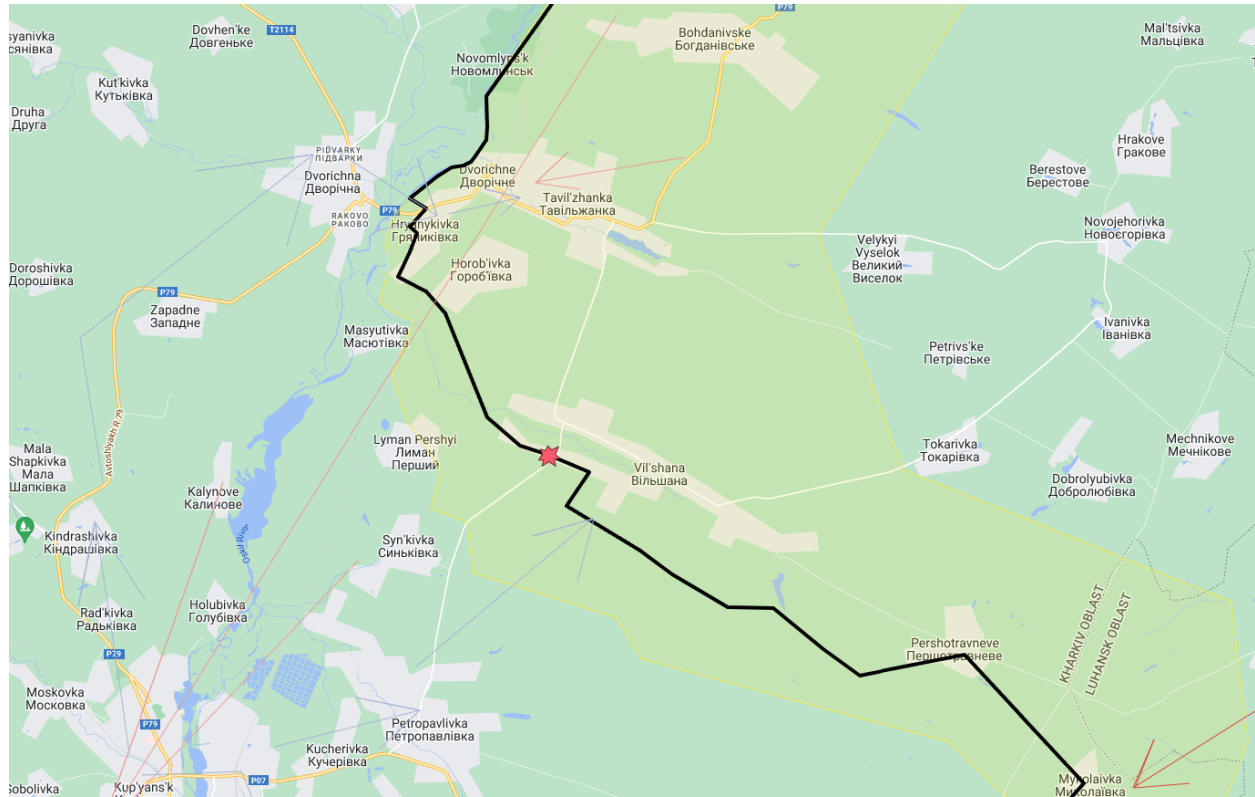
Soil saturation along the line of conflict is at 45% to 95%, with up to 12 millimeters of rain forecasted for May 9 and 10. The rain will impact occupied Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia the most, with soil saturation reaching 100% in some areas. Ground conditions will be the most favorable for Ukrainian combat action in the Donbas on May 12, with drier soil conditions in Luhansk, Kharkiv, and western Zaporizhzhia.

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 Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



Dvorichna Operational Area

- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) and the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported continued fighting near [Synkivka](#)^{1 2}
- GSAFU reported that the Russian Airforce (VKS) carried out airstrikes on [Vilshana](#) and [Hryanykivka](#) and reported Vilshana was hit by artillery^{3 4}

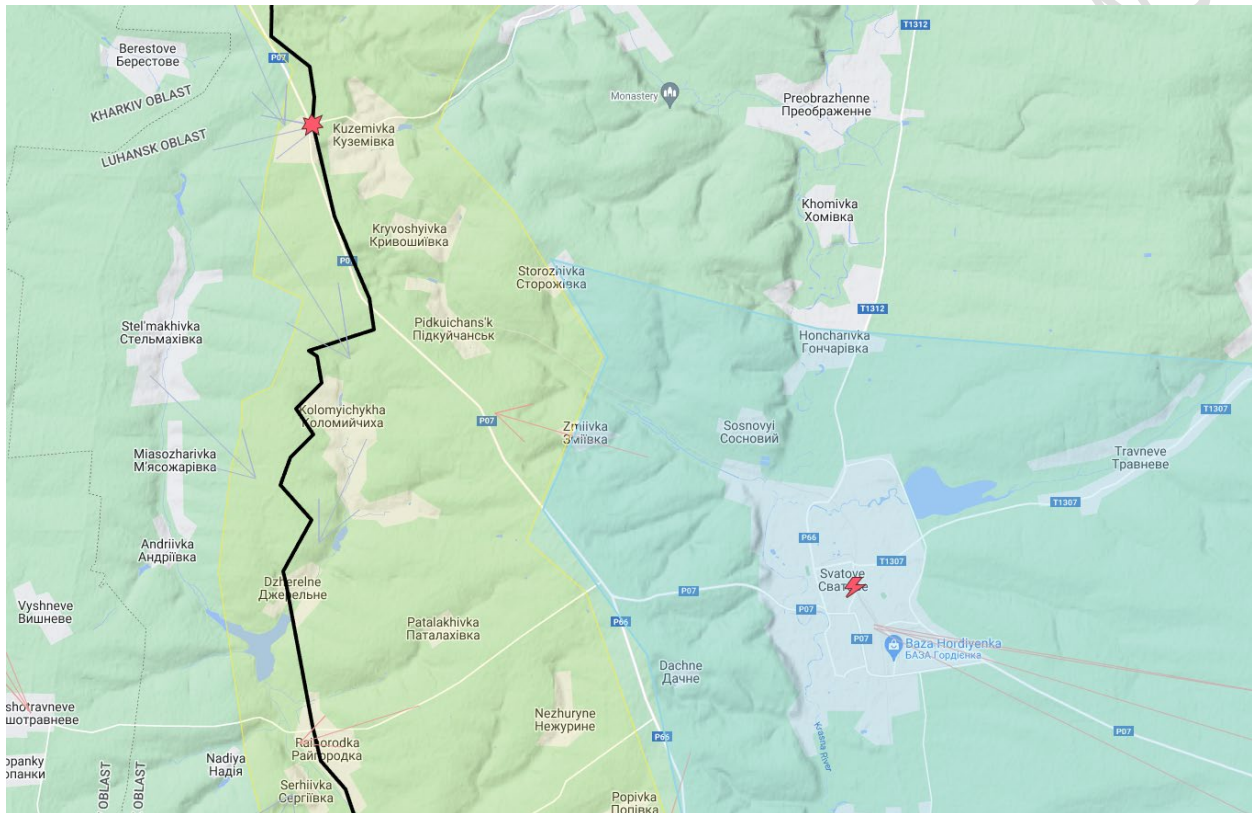
¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

² https://t.me/mod_russia/26296 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

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

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

- **ASSESSMENT:** There continue to be indications that Ukrainian forces are carrying out more combat activity in the operational area than being broadly reported



Svatove Operational Area

- RMOD reported that Ukrainian reconnaissance, observation, and sabotage units (DRG) were operating in the area of [Berestove](#)⁵

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/26296 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

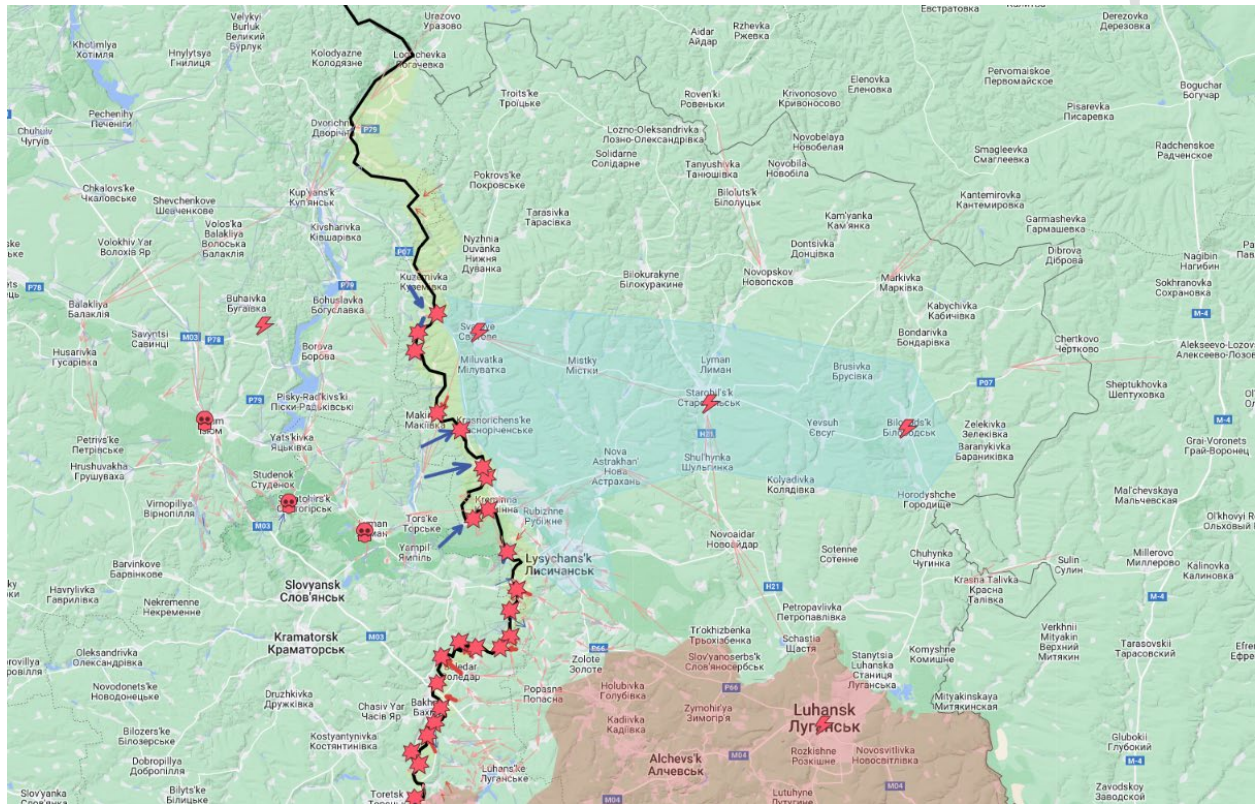
Kharkiv Region

- Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleg Sinegubov reported that the suburbs of the city of Kharkiv were hit with up to six short-range ballistic missiles, likely Iskander-M launched from the Belgorod region – there was no information on targeted areas, damage, or casualties⁶

⁶ <https://t.me/synegubov/6142>

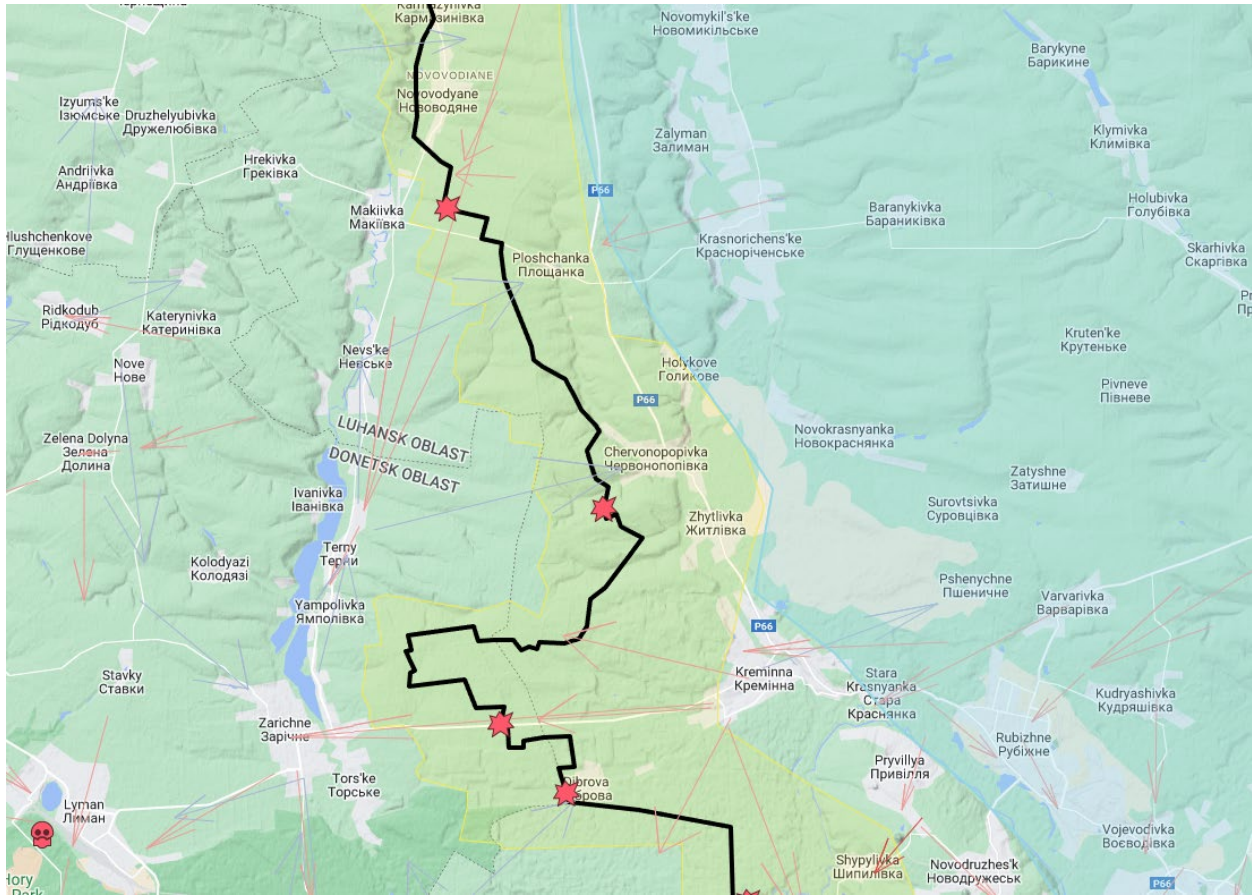
DONBAS REGION

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

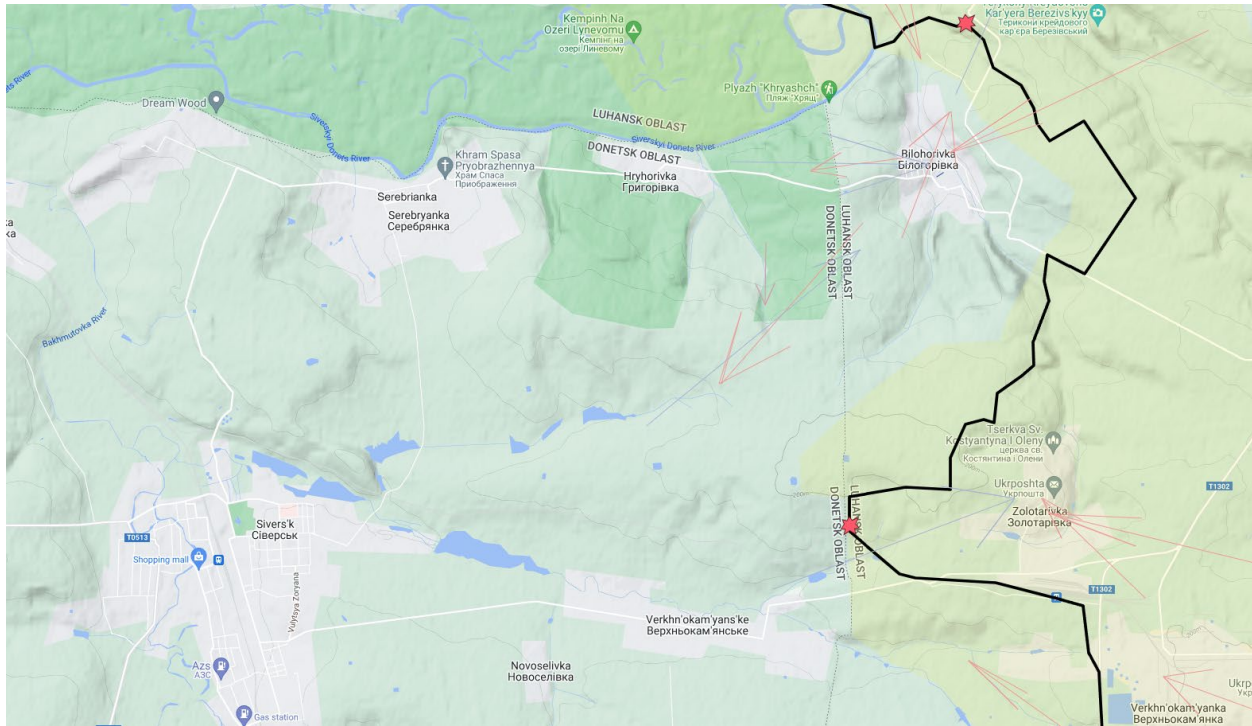


Kreminna Operational Area

- Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on [Makiivka](#) and were unsuccessful⁷
- WarGonzo also reported that Russian forces attempted to advance from the [western forests of Kreminna](#) without success⁸

⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>

⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>



Lysychansk Operational Area

- GSAFU and WarGonzo reported that Russian forces probed Ukrainian defenses near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], found out they were quite effective defenses and withdrew^{9 10}

⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

¹⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>

Free Luhansk

- Luhansk Oblast OVA Artem Lysohor reported that Russian forces carried out 97 fire missions across Luhansk on civilian and military targets, including striking Nevske with 48 artillery shells¹¹

Occupied Luhansk

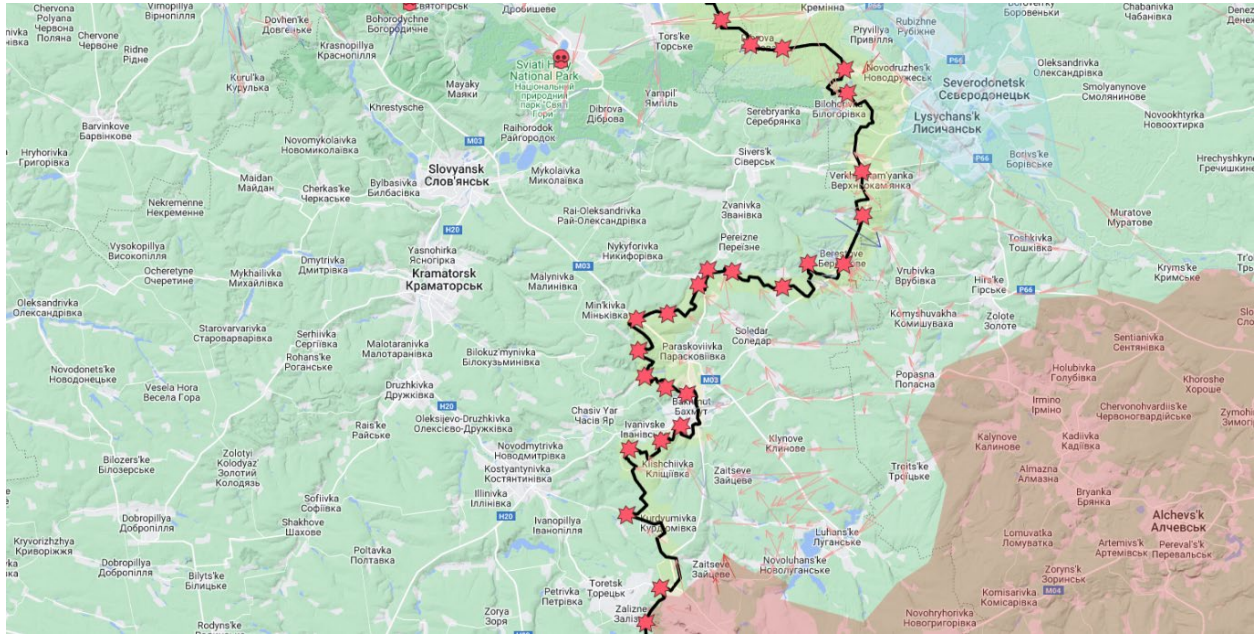
- The so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) reported that rockets fired by HIMARS hit Ruzizhne, Molodizhne, and Alchevsk – at the time of publication, no information was shared on targeted areas, damage, or casualties^{12 13}

¹¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10343>

¹² https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8258

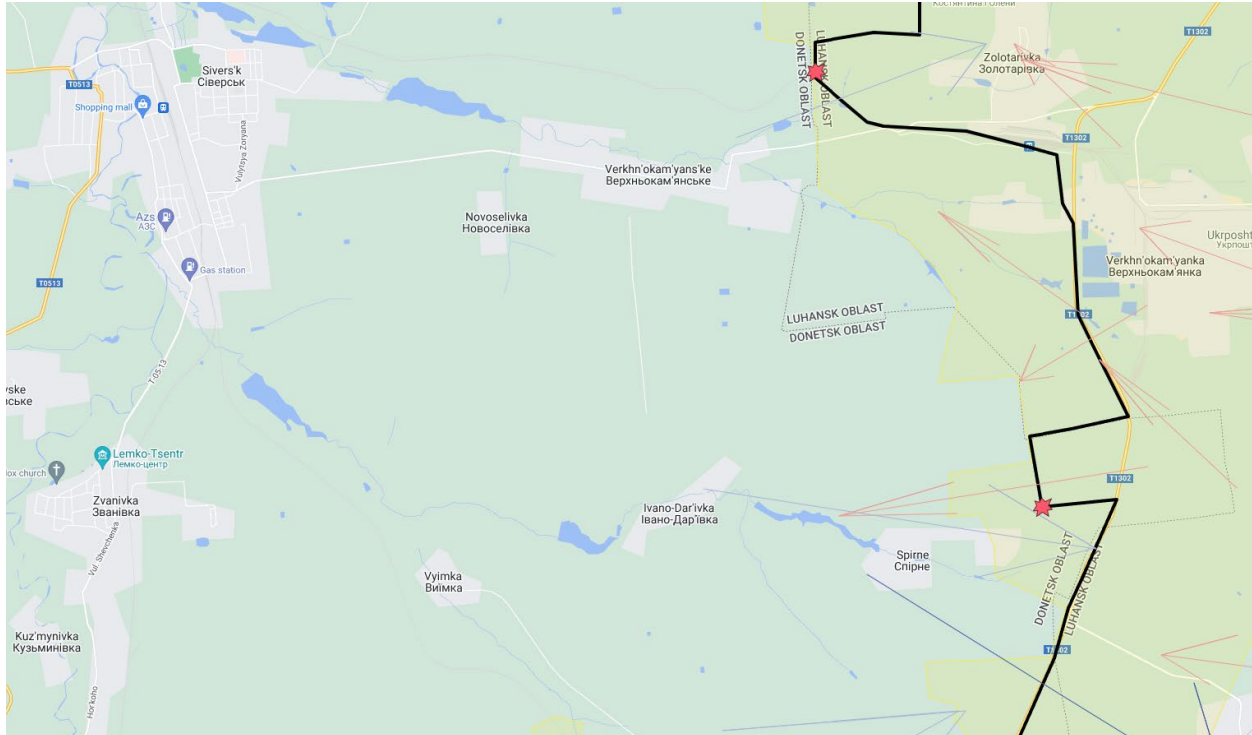
¹³ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8259

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

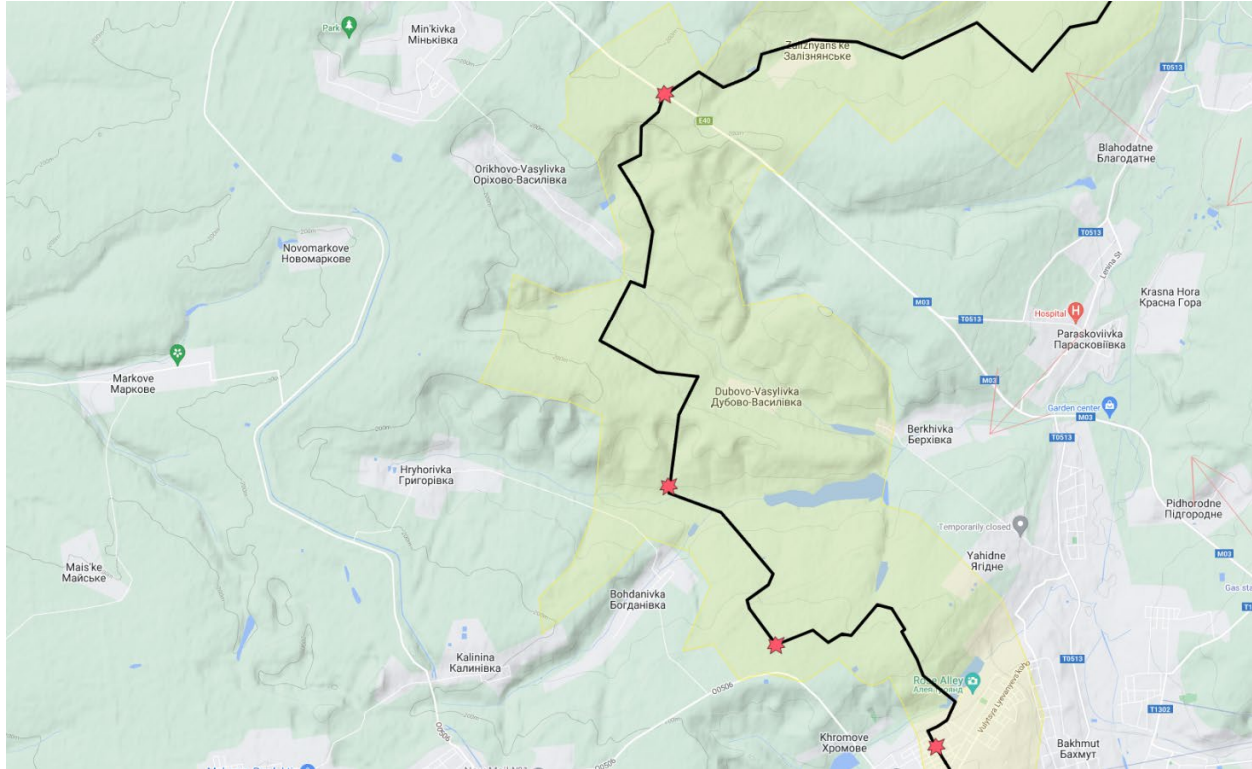


Siversk Operational Area

- GSAFU and WarGonzo reported that Russian forces continued their attacks on [Spirne](#) and remained unsuccessful^{14 15}

¹⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

¹⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>



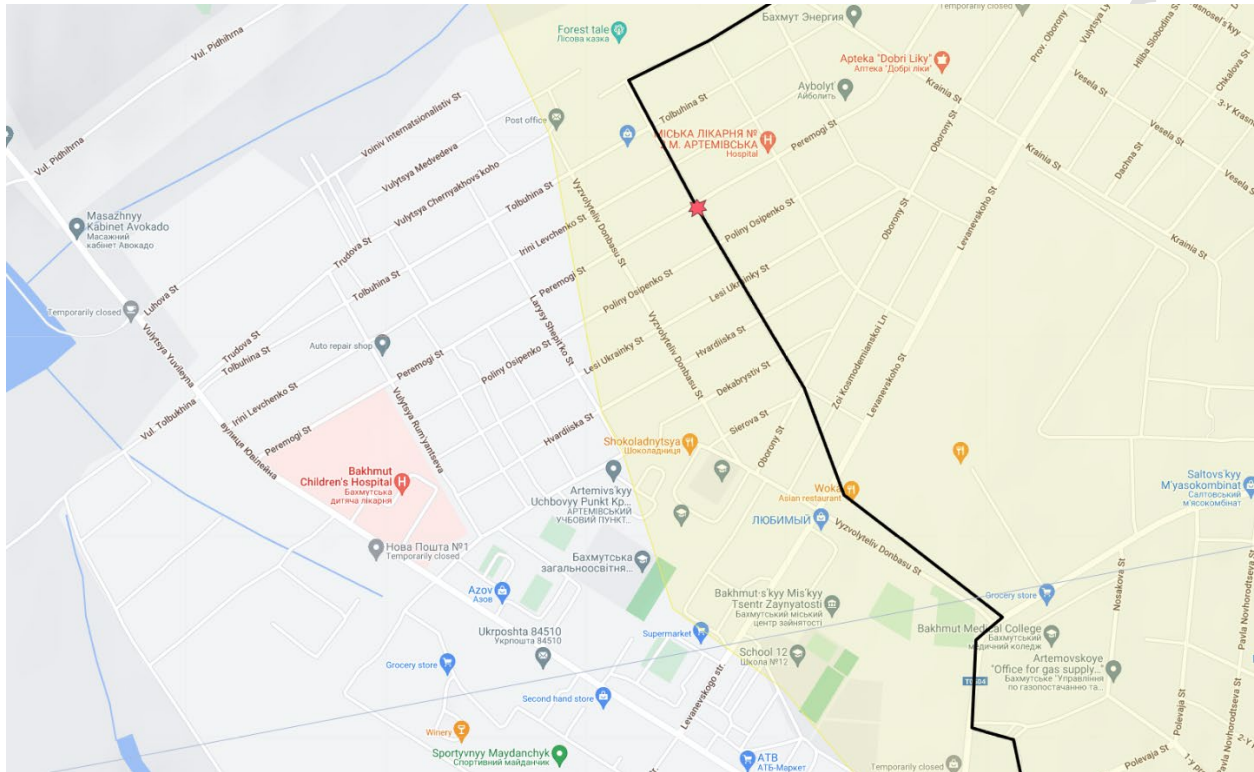
Bakhmut Operational Area

- PMC Wagner attacked [Khromove](#) and was unable to advance¹⁶
- Ukrainian forces counterattacked and pushed Wagner back up to 250 meters – the T-506 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) remains open but difficult¹⁷
- We made adjustments to the map that do not represent new territorial gains, but improved intelligence on

¹⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

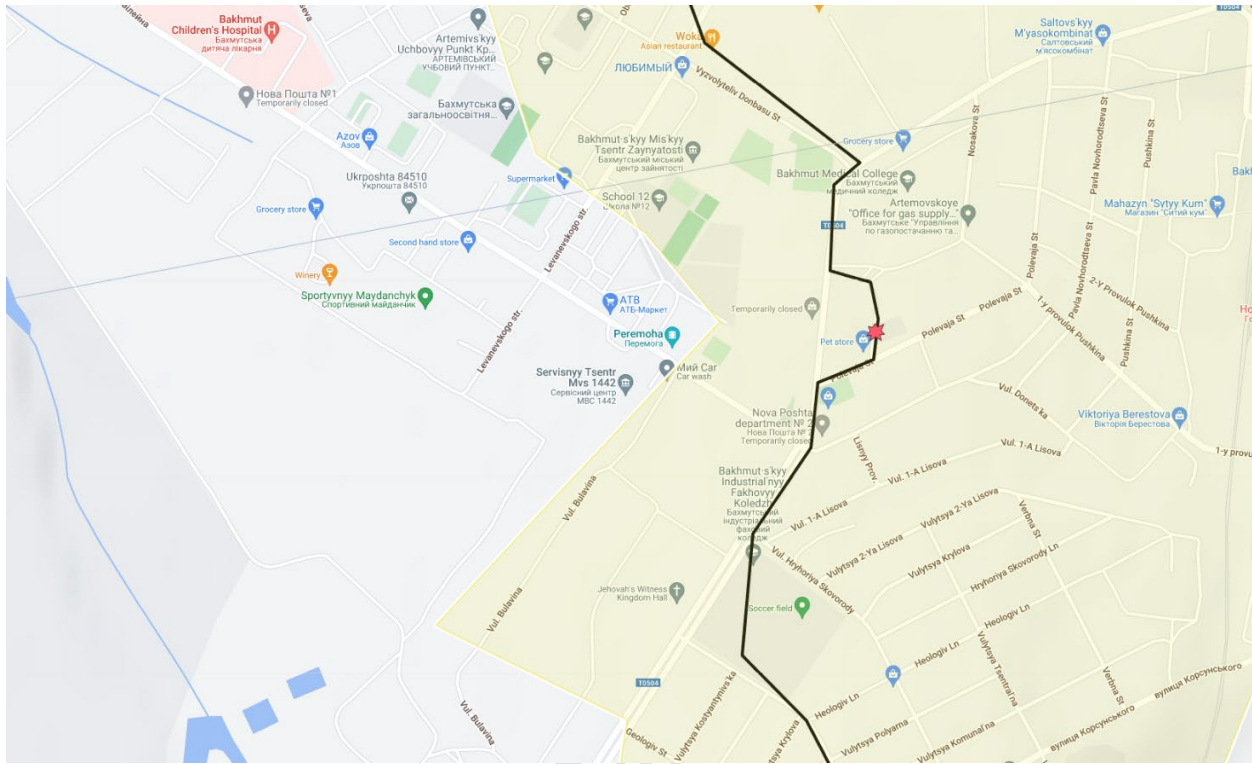
¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>

where the line of conflict is located near Bohadnivka, Khromove, and Minkivka



- In northern Bakhmut, we moved the line of conflict one block north of the [Liberators of Donbas Street](#) based on improved intelligence¹⁸
- The heaviest fighting within Bakhmut continued in the northern part of the city, with PMC Wagner attempting to break through into the residential neighborhood

¹⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>



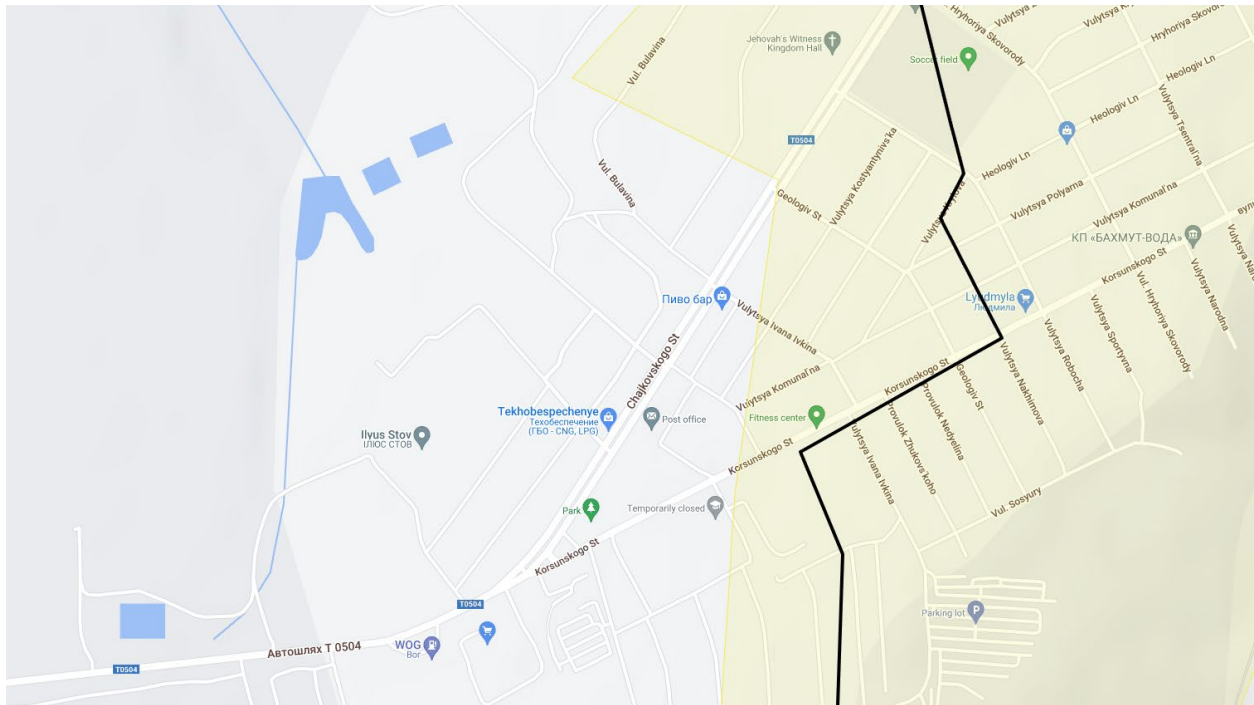
- There were no observed changes in west-central Bakhmut, where fighting continued^{19 20 21 22}


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

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

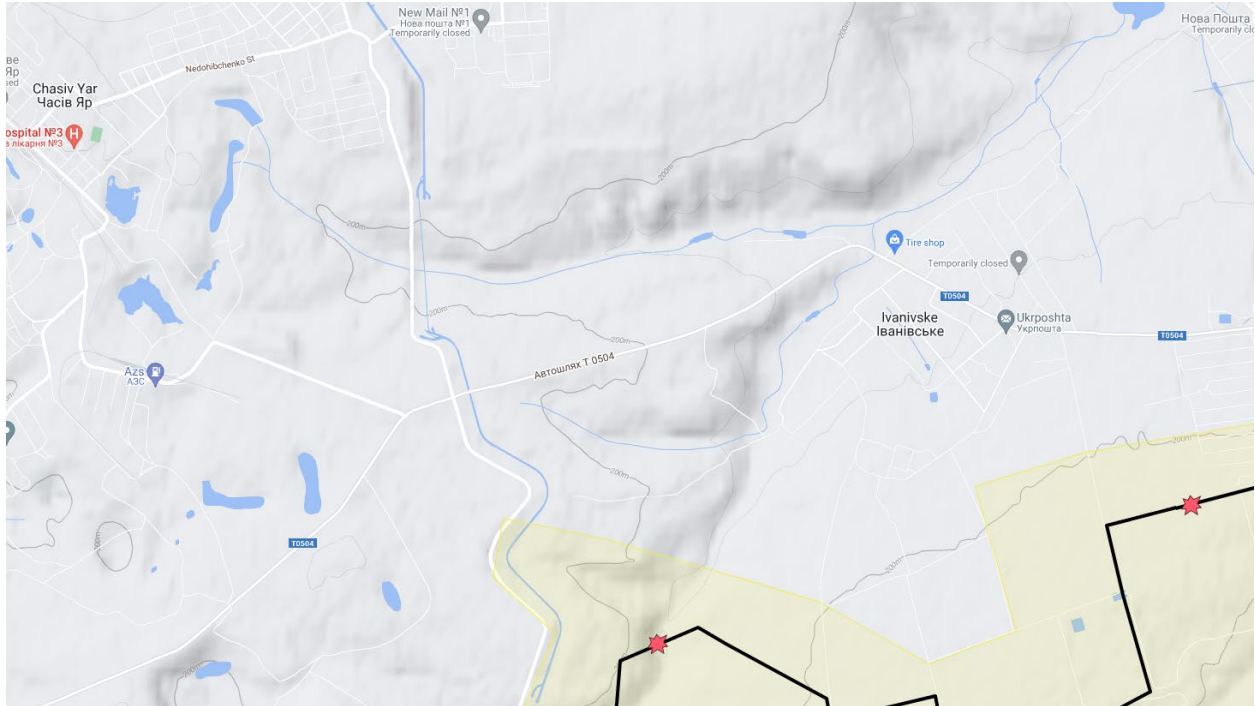
²¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12373>

²² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>



- There were no changes in western Bakhmut, and the T-504 Highway GLOC remains open but difficult to use
- Fighting remained intense but positional in nature
- The western part of the city was  [shelled by Russian forces with thermite munitions](#) during the night of May 8 – 9²³

²³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/73091>



- PMC Wagner's attempt to advance in the direction of [Ivanivske](#) was unsuccessful, with the Wagnerites pushed back 200 to 300 meters^{24 25 26}
- Russian forces made another attempt to advance in the direction of Chasiv Yar from the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal, which failed^{27 28}

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/wargonzo/12373>

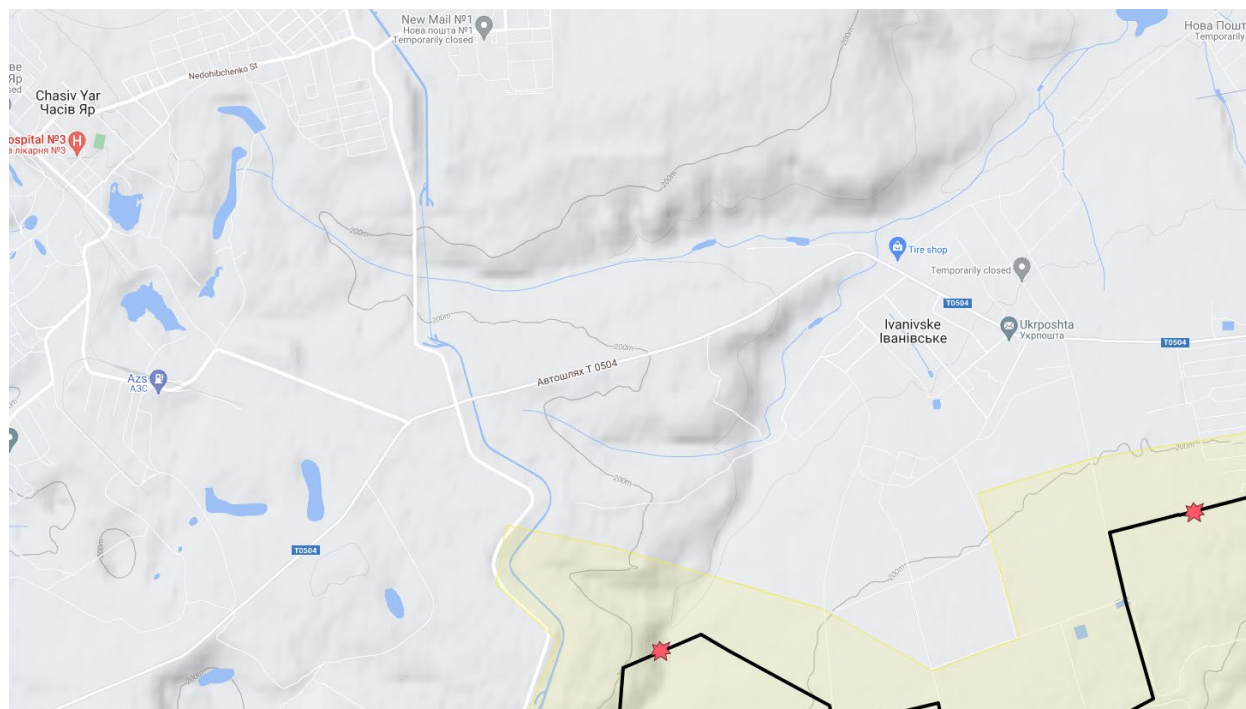
²⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

²⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

Bakhmut

- RMOD reported they completed 69 fire missions, and Russian army aviation and the Airforce (VKS) completed five close air support sorties²⁹
- In the last 24 hours, PMC Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed that additional ammunition shipments had already started and then claimed there has been no increase in ammunition shipments as promised
- Ukrainian officials reported artillery strikes in Bakhmut have increased, as well as the number of ground attacks, and the number of fire missions reported by RMOD on May 8 was similar to May 6 and 7
- 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

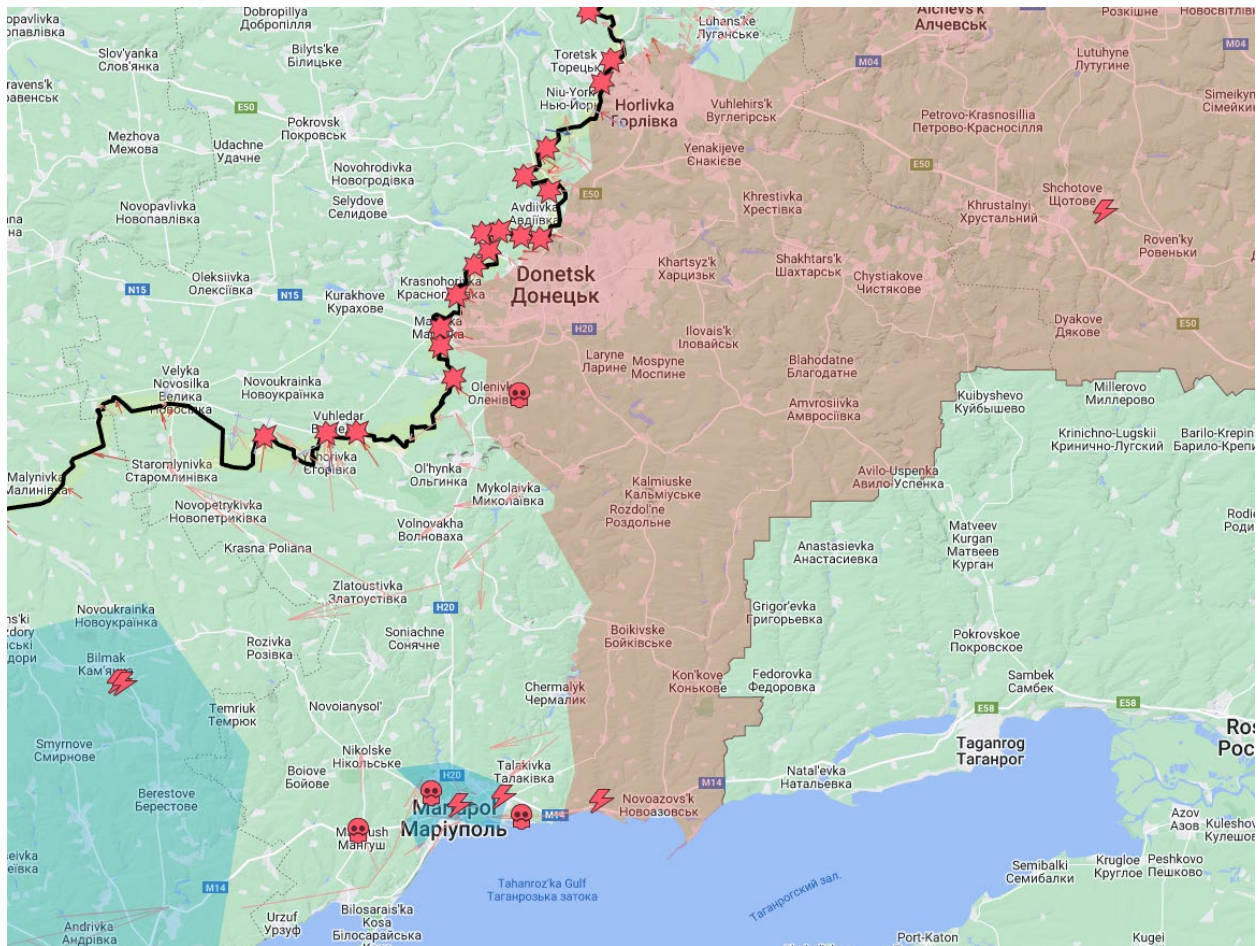
²⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26296 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



Kostyantynivka Operational Direction

- Russian forces made another attempt to advance toward [Stupochky](#) from the Siverski Donets-Donbas Canal and were unsuccessful³⁰

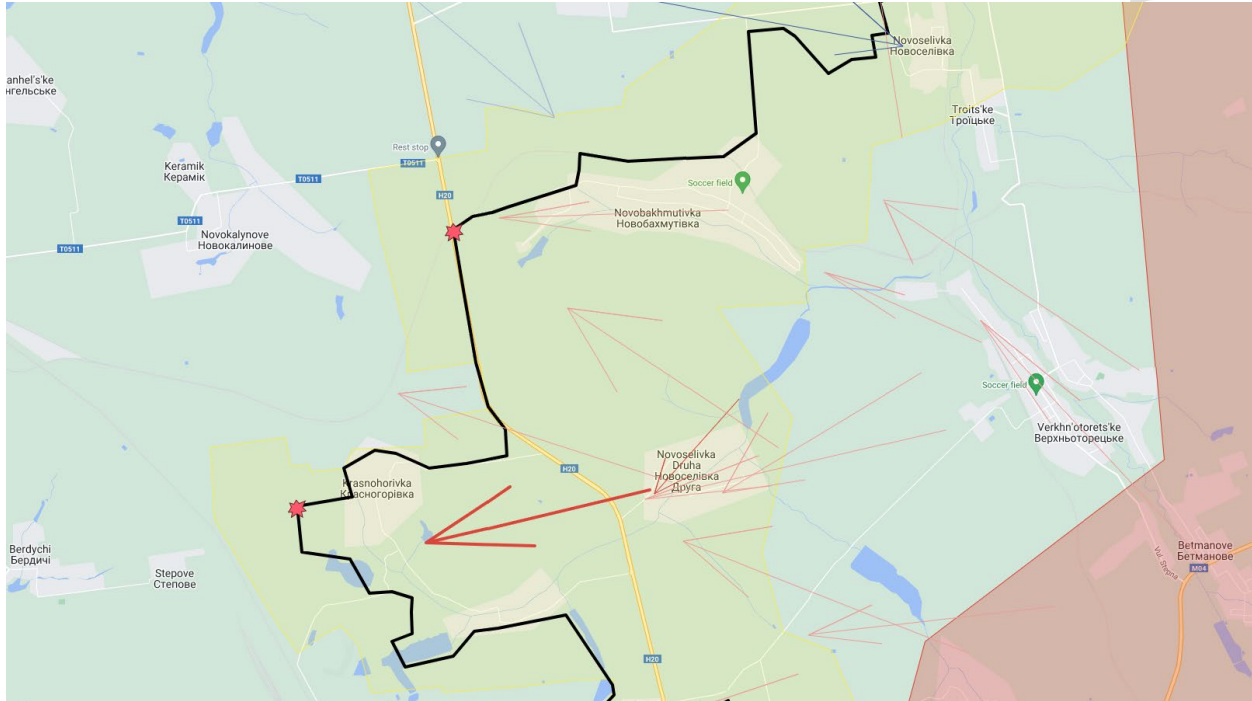
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

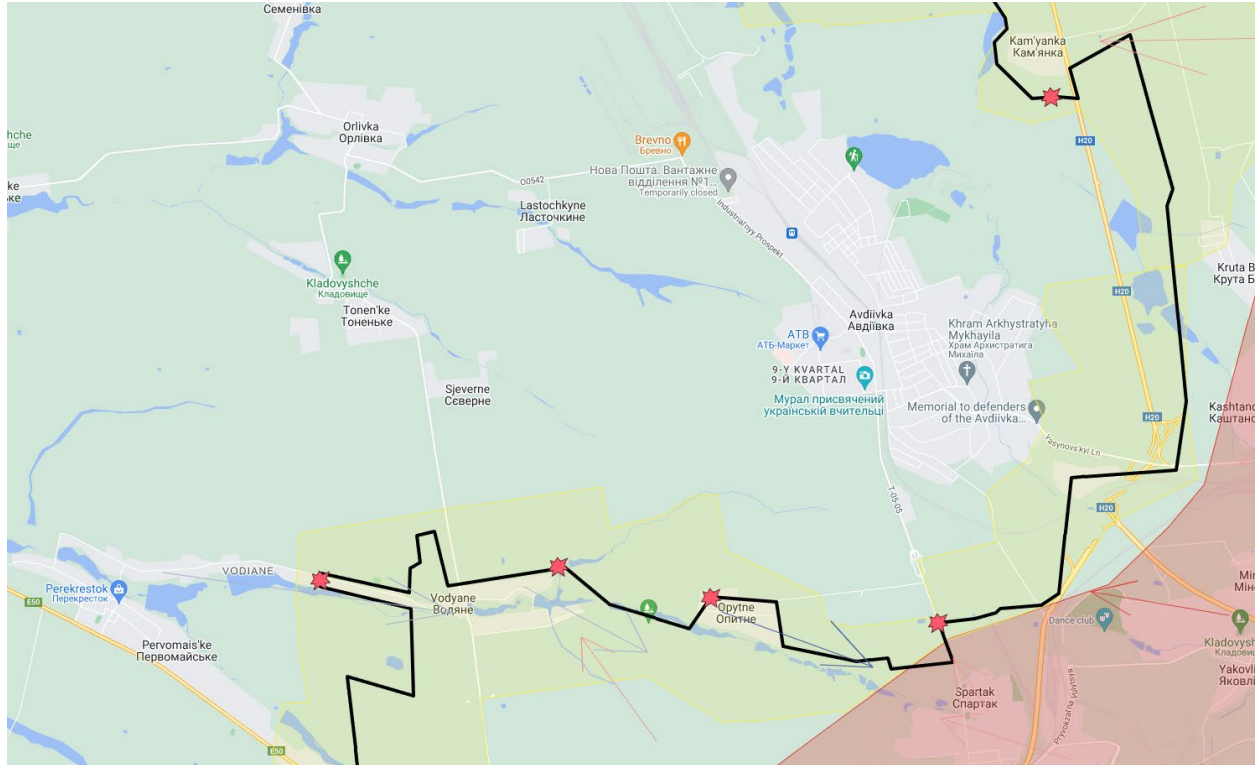
command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



Avdiivka Operational Area

- Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar reported that fighting was ongoing along the H-20 Highway west of [Novobakhmutivka](#)³¹

³¹ <https://t.me/rybar/46787>



- Multiple Ukrainian sources reported that the 1st Army Corps attempted to advance on [Avdiivka](#) from Vesele without success^{32 33 34}
- Russian forces continued their attempts to recapture lost positions in eastern [Pervomaiske](#) without success^{35 36}

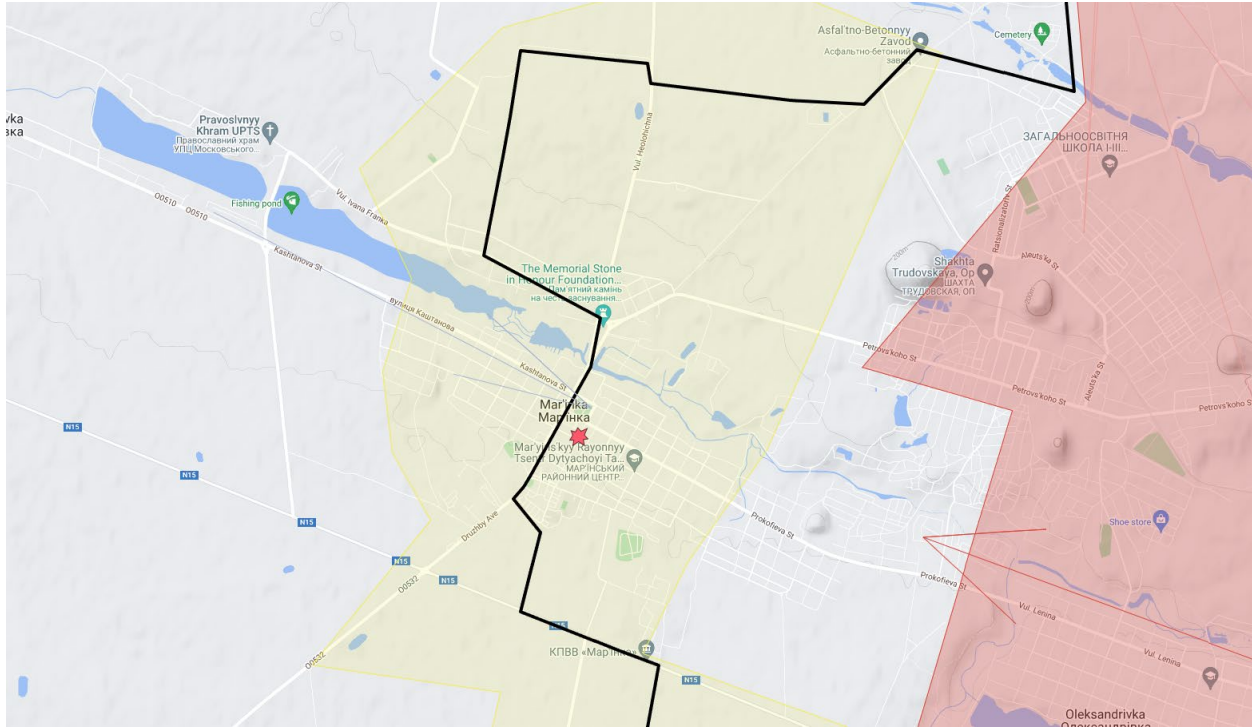
³² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

³⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>

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

³⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)



Marinka Operational Area

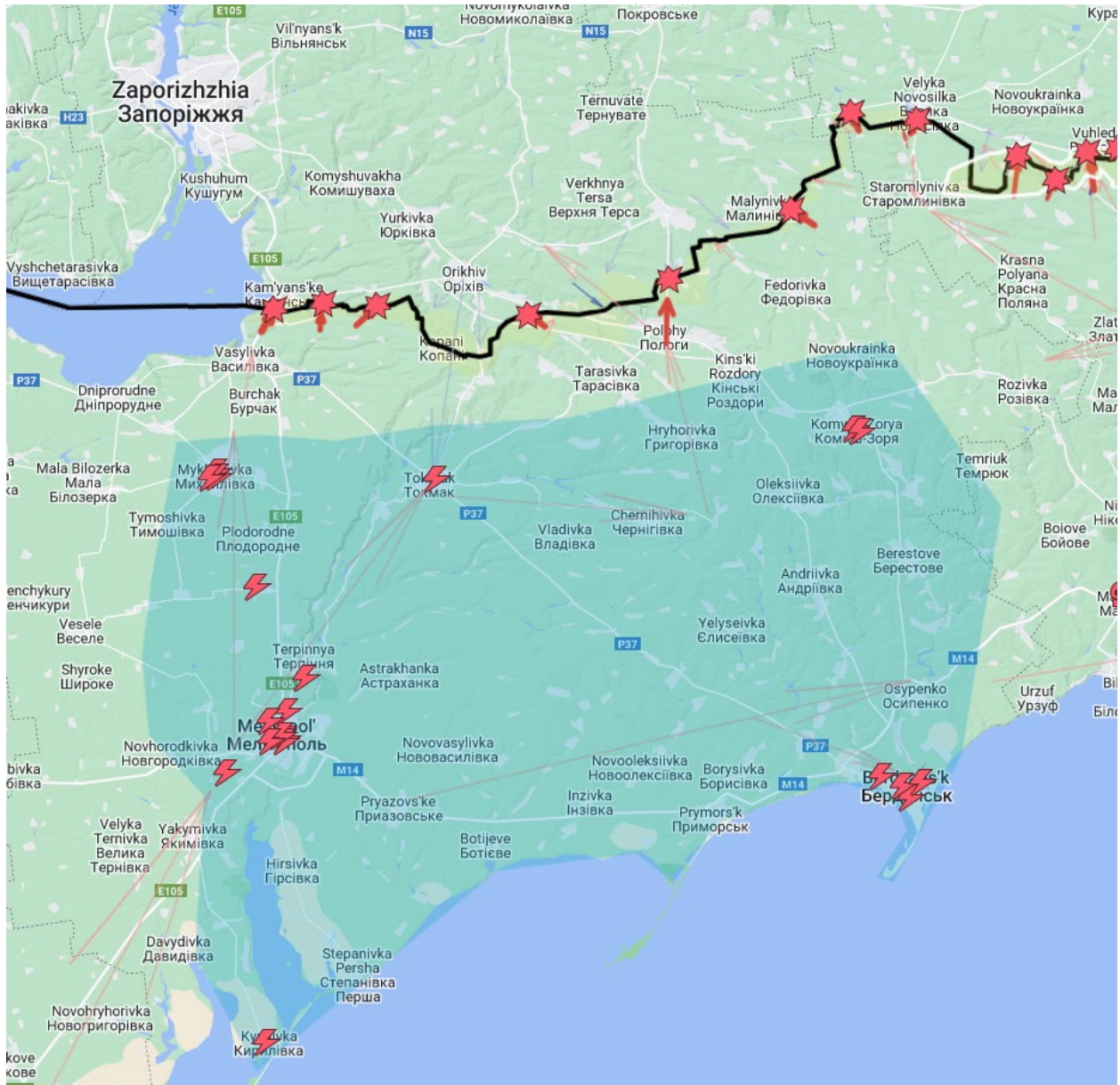
- Fighting for [Marinka](#) continued with no change in the situation^{37 38 39}

³⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

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

³⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16507>


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 67 fire missions and one drone attack  [along the line of conflict in Zaporizhia](#), wounding one civilian⁴⁰

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

- **ASSESSMENT:** The announcement by Russian collaborator and illegitimate governor of occupied Zaporizhia, Yevgeny Balitsky, that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has suspended "the operation of units" to avoid "provocations" was an attempt to frighten residents of the occupied territories that Ukraine is planning to attack the facility⁴¹
- The International Atomic Energy Agency reported all reactors were shut down on May 6
- We cannot confirm the report by the Washington Post that Russian forces are going to make a so-called "temporary resettlement" of the 3,100 workers still at ZNPP and question the veracity of the claim as the

⁴⁰ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/18643

⁴¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/73064>

plant cannot be abandoned by its workforce, even in a cold shutdown state

Occupied Zaporizhia

- Russian blocking troops are inspecting civilian cars and trucks fleeing to Crimea from occupied Kherson and Zaporizhia, looking for Russian soldiers and occupation police officers who have dressed as civilians and are deserting⁴²
- Local residents reported that the Russian occupation police burned the records in Vesele, northwest of Melitopol, and left the city - the same was reported in Mykhailivka⁴³
- There were multiple reports to accommodate the influx of up to 70,000 people facing alleged "temporary resettlement," Russian occupation officials have nationalized hotels, hostels, resorts, and 300 private homes in Berdyansk⁴⁴

⁴² https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1916

⁴³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

⁴⁴ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1906

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION


Black Sea

- Operational Command South (OKS) reported that Black Sea Fleet has 15 vessels on patrol, including four frigates capable of launching 32 Kalibr cruise missiles⁴⁵
- Eight Kalibr cruise missiles, the first since March 9, 2023, were launched toward Dnipro during the evening of May 8 – 9

Occupied Crimea

- Russian officials claim a drone was shot down over the Azov Sea near the coast of Crimea, but no other information was provided⁴⁶

Odesa

- The  [warehouse destroyed on May 7](#) by a Russian Kh-22 cruise missile was run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was filled with

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95329>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29880>

humanitarian aid, according to Ukrainian officials and the ICRC⁴⁷

- The ICRC was forced to suspend humanitarian operations in the area, and the body of a security guard was found in the rubble
- The May 7 missile strike on Zatoka destroyed one summer resort, badly damaged five adjacent resorts and 20 homes
- There were no casualties as Zatoka is a seasonal city, and last year's missile strikes made tourism impossible
- There is no evidence to support claims that the disabled and irreparable Zatoka Bridge was targeted during the May 7 missile attack

Mykolaiv

- Ukrainian air defenses shot down a Kalibr cruise missile


WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

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

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/72973>

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Free Kherson

- Russian forces carried out 46 fire missions, firing 320 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets, indirect tank fire, and drone-delivered IEDs, bombs, and rockets⁴⁸
- The city of Kherson was attacked once with two artillery shells
- Kherson Oblast OVA Alexander Prokudin reported the coastal settlement of Stanislav  [was heavily shelled](#), wounding ten civilians with one requiring hospitalization⁴⁹
- Antonivka was shelled by Russian forces, wounding two civilians, one critically⁵⁰

Occupied Kherson

- Russian occupation officials, who relocated from Kherson in November to the self-declared government center of occupied Kherson, Skadovsk, have reportedly

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/5704>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/466>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/5681>

evacuated almost all personnel and their families to Crimea⁵¹

Dnipropetrovsk

- Dnipropetrovsk OVA Serhii Lysak reported seven Kalibr missiles launched toward Dnipro were intercepted⁵²
- Debris from one missile, including its warhead, struck a four-story apartment building. The warhead did not detonate, and explosive ordnance disposal experts disarmed it and have already removed it from the building; 40 people were evacuated, and one woman was hospitalized⁵³
- The hromada of Mezhyrich, a Pavlohrad suburb, was hit by two Iskander SRBM – the only information provided was there were no injuries⁵⁴

⁵¹ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5871

⁵² https://t.me/mykola_lukashuk/4482

⁵³ https://t.me/mykola_lukashuk/4482


⁵⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95391>

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

Kyiv

- The Kyiv region was targeted by 15 Kh-101/Kh-55 cruise missiles launched by four Tu-95 strategic bombers over the Caspian Sea – all missiles were intercepted⁵⁵
- An additional missile struck an empty field,  [creating an 8-meter-deep crater](#)⁵⁶


Sumy

- 55 artillery shells and mortars struck 12 border villages on May 8⁵⁷




⁵⁵ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5875

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95439>

⁵⁷ https://t.me/Sumy_news_ODA/16030

- The hromada of Nova Sloboda was hit by seven artillery shells and one mortar, damaging five homes and powerlines
- Znob-Novhorod was hit by a Russian airstrike, injuring three civilians and  [destroying several buildings](#)^{58 59}

RUSSIAN FRONT

- In the Belogord region, the settlements of  [Spodaryushino](#) and  [Shebekino were shelled](#), with local officials reporting four people were wounded^{60 61}
- In the Kursk region,  [the village of Tetkino was shelled](#)⁶²

THEATERWIDE

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held another meeting of the Stavka with a public readout
- Kyrylo Budanov, head of the Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/72919>

⁵⁹ https://t.me/Sumy_news_ODA/16007

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/73078>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/72989>

⁶² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/72972>

(GUR), and Alexander Lytvynenko, head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), provided detailed briefings and recommendations on how to strengthen the defense of Ukraine⁶³

- During his evening address, President Zelenskyy said, "I held a meeting with the Minister for Strategic Industries concerning ammunition. There is some good news in this regard. Of course, now is not the time to make them public."
- Eight more companies (a military unit of 100 to 250 personnel) of drone operators were activated after completing their training and receiving all necessary equipment to deploy – Ukraine now has 13 companies of dedicated drone operators
- Russian-aligned hackers launched a cyberattack on the Ukrainian eCHERGA service used for customs clearing of trucks and drivers at the border - the system was working normally by the end of the day, although it did impact logistics, customs, and border crossings⁶⁴
- Poland delivered another ten Mig-29 fighter aircraft to Ukraine – Slovakia, and Poland transferred 39 of the late Soviet-era fight aircraft to the Ukrainian Airforce over the last two months

⁶³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/8/7401253/>

⁶⁴ https://t.me/Nazars_look/14098

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

- ***Errors and Omissions:*** *It took 437 days, but we finally got razzled dazzled by a Russian satire news site. On May 5, we reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not attend the Moscow Victory Day parade in person due to a scheduling conflict. We had previously reported that Putin had other meetings scheduled on the same day, and finding more than one source for the report and a recording of a statement from Peskov, we accepted this as fact. The story originated from a Russian satire news site, and the audio statement by Peskov was faked. We'll work to do better in the future, and we thank you for your understanding.*
- Russian President Putin will be flanked by the leaders of the five CSTO nations - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, and Belarus^{65 66}
- The commander of the 111th regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Oleg Bezmen, died on May 8 after being wounded in combat near Avdiivka on May 2 – Bezmen

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/73003>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/8421>

had been fighting in the ranks of the 1st Army Corps since 2014 and returned to service in February 2022⁶⁷

- Yevgeny Prigozhin visited the PMC Wagner graveyard in the Yekaterinburg region and  [unveiled a monument for dead Wagnernites](#)⁶⁸
- Ukrainian officials started messaging Russian collaborators and forces in Zaporizhia with a message to surrender: "Russians and lovers of Russia, I appeal to you. There are a lot of you sitting here. Lay down your weapons and surrender. Or you can injure yourself and go to the hospital. Or get lost somewhere. The elite assault special forces and paratroopers were defeated in the Kyiv region, and then they fled in disgrace. There was no question of NATO technology. Then the liberation of almost the entire Kharkiv region without heavy weapons. It is 3800 square kilometers. More than 300 settlements. HIMARS appeared, and you ran away from Kherson. Now it's time for the Zaporizhia Front. You are aware of how much the NATO countries delivered to Ukraine during the liberation of Kherson, and that was on November 11th. It has already been six months of intensive arms deliveries. A huge number of deliveries are not shared. You say you want to stand until the end? You are not a zombie Wagner convict. No one even imagines what is about to happen.

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/RtrDonetsk/17346>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/95386>

Everything will burn, your assholes first, if you do not leave this holiday of life [May 9 - **Ed.**] in time. In the best scenario, your morons will launch ten crooked missiles, of which two will hit their target. The wheel will never stop."

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Some people who were moved to Berdyansk for "temporary resettlement" are being told they will be transferred again to Dagestan, confirming fears that the evacuations would be used to commit additional forced deportations⁶⁹

⁶⁹ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1915