



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



July 31, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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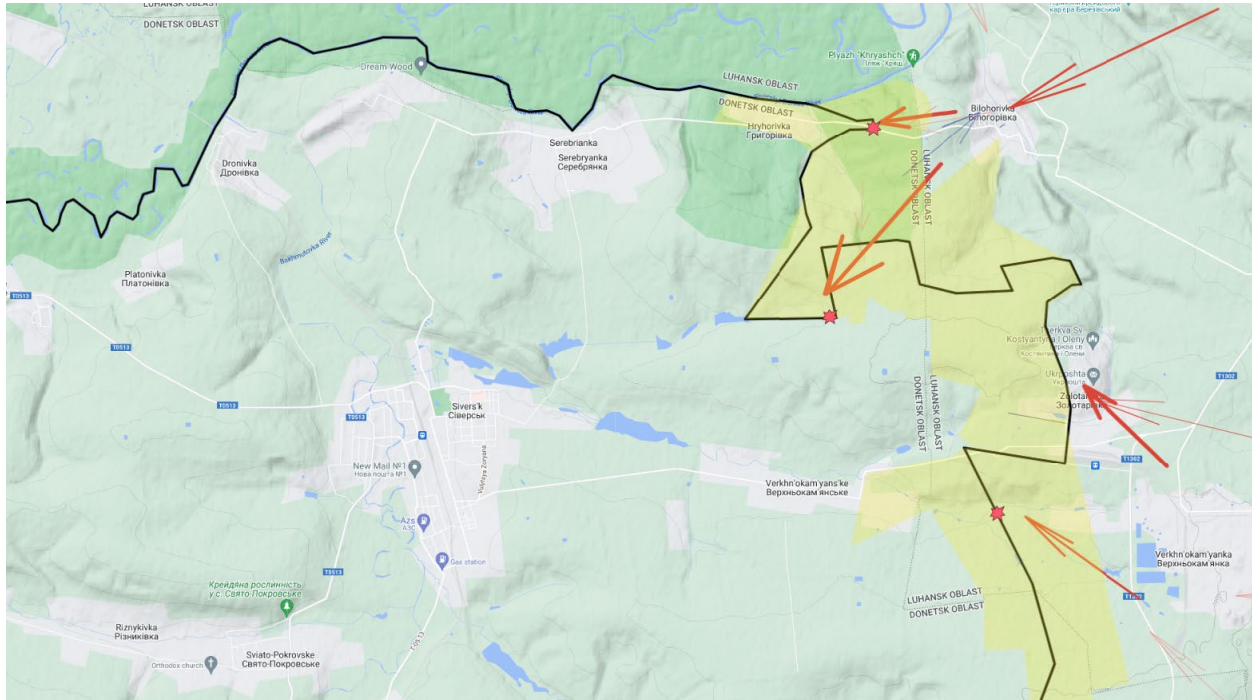
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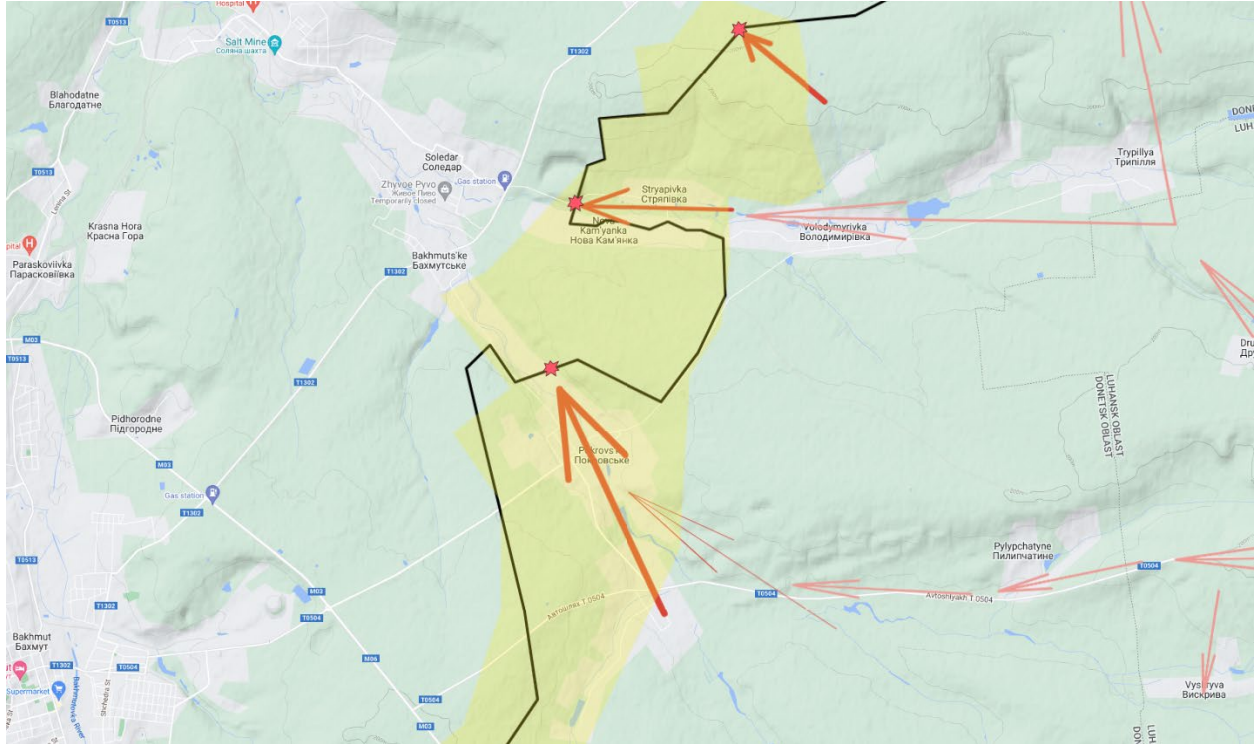
SUMMARY – DAY 158

It has been 3,075 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

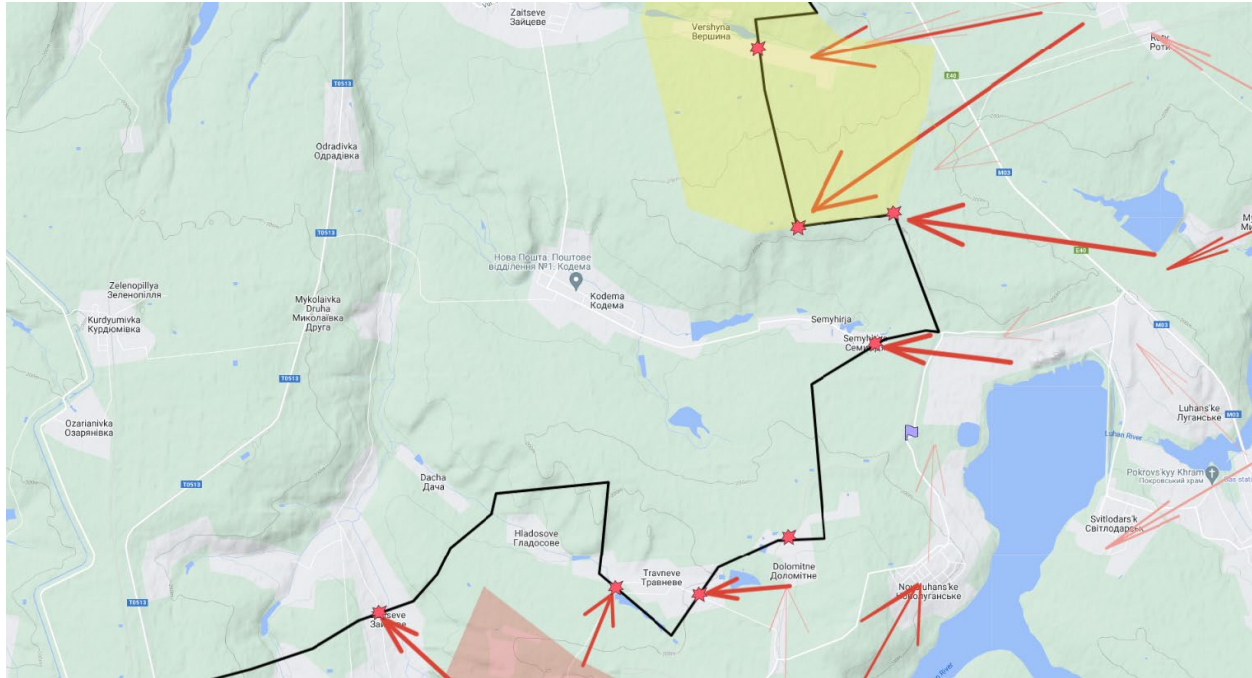
Editor's Note: *It was a quiet day across Ukraine, and there was very little intelligence we could analyze. We've had to increasingly rely on Russian sources for data due to Ukraine tightening operational security and the nation respecting government appeals to stop inadvertently helping Russian commanders. Many Pro-Russian sources were fixated on the Kosovo-Serbia situation today, providing little to no analysis of Ukraine. The Russian Ministry of Defense published their version of the "5 o'clock follies." The MoD reports provide little factual information. Igor Girkin hasn't provided an update on the situation west of Donetsk in almost 36 hours, which indicates nothing happened as he has posted on other topics. Readovka, prone to wild exaggerations, only mentioned Pisky as a place of ongoing fighting in their report. Based on the absence of information, we've added several new areas of uncertainty, but we believe it was a very quiet day in Ukraine. We did get solid intelligence in a couple of locations and adjusted the map accordingly. Today's report will not have axis-by-axis coverage due to the information vacuum and our adversity to speculation and assumptions.*



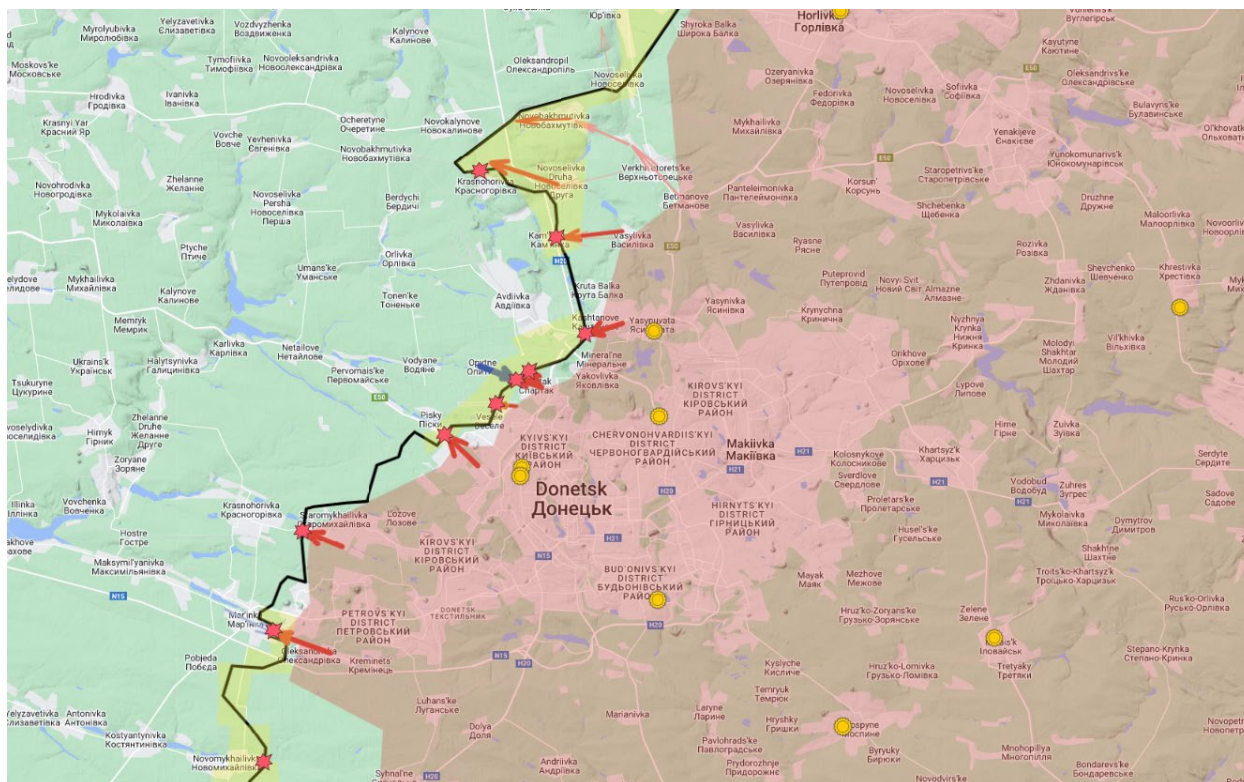
A Russian reconnaissance group probed Ukrainian positions in the [Serebrianka](#) area in the direction of Siversk. The unit was destroyed. We cannot determine if the forces crossed the Siverskyi Donets River, which is low, and a small group crossing could be made by boats or advanced through the forested area south of [Hryhorivka](#). The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports an airstrike on Ukrainian positions “near” Hryhorivka. Based on this information, we consider the settlement contested but have not moved the line of conflict.



Fighting continues in [Stryapivka](#), with Russian forces attempting to advance on Soledar. Fighting has also continued in [Pokrovske](#). We maintain the northern half of the settlement is a no man's land with neither belligerent able to hold control of the area.



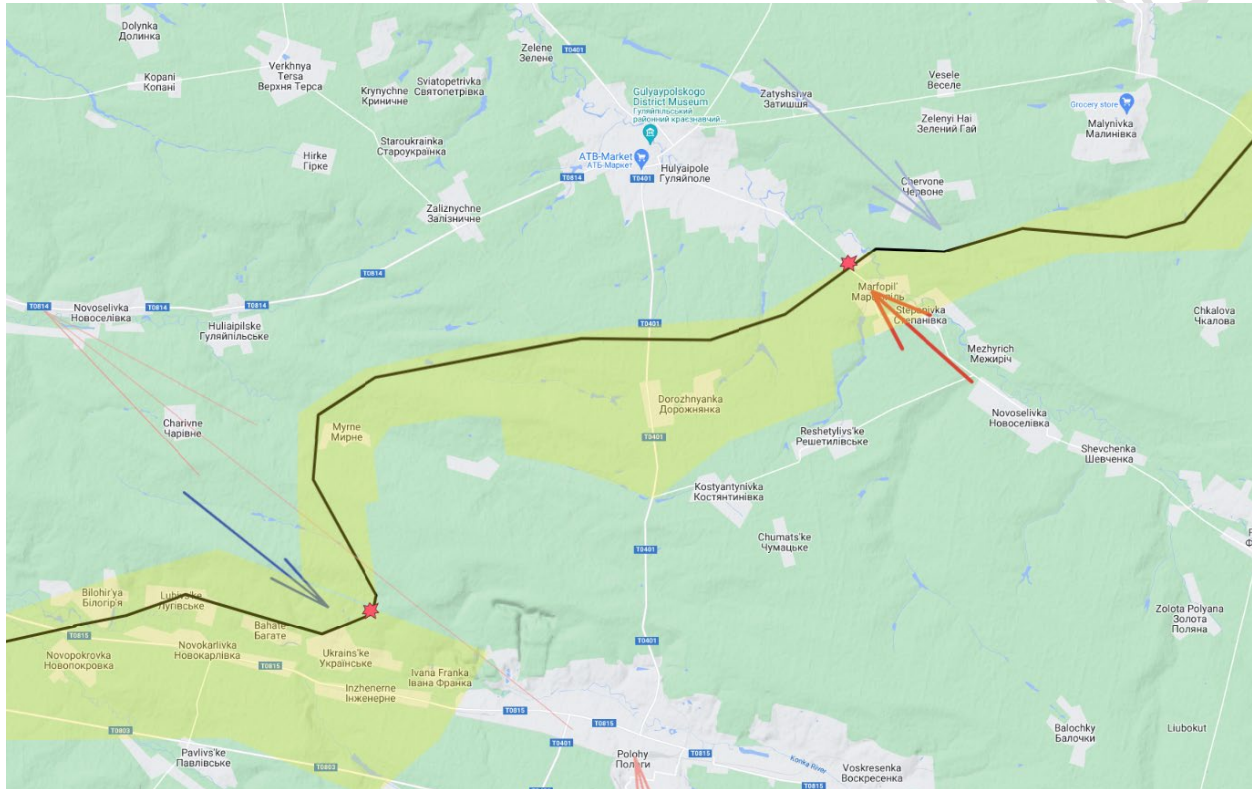
Limited information from Pro-Russian accounts indicated that Russian forces had not made additional progress in [Vershyna](#), [Semyhirya](#), or [Travneve](#).



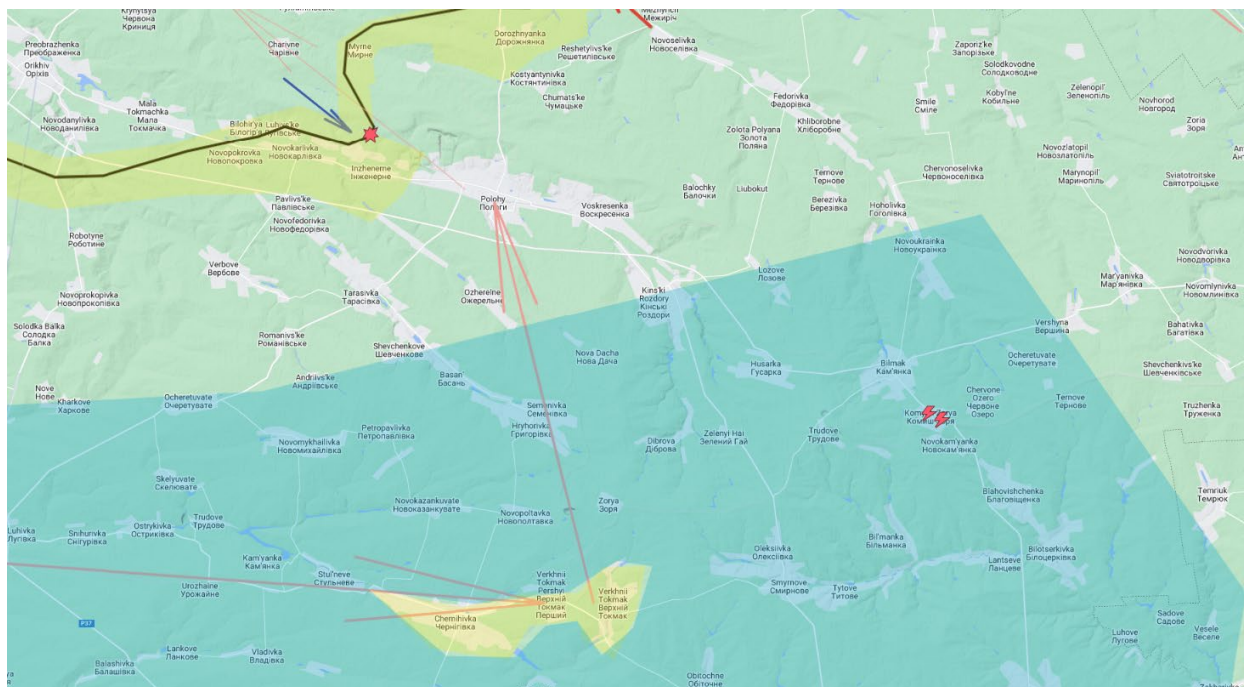
Fighting continued west of Donetsk along a broad front, including [Kamyanka](#), [Avdiivka](#), [Pisky](#), and [Krasnohorivka](#). Other analysts have aligned with our July 30 report, published on July 31 at 01:00 PDT.

ASSESSMENT: The lack of any update from FSB colonel and alleged war criminal Igor Girkin indicates that the situation has likely not changed in the last 24 to 36 hours. Girkin is emotionally invested in this offensive for political and personal reasons. If there had been new successes, he would have shared them. He would almost certainly criticize current military leadership if there had been

failures today. We increased the area of uncertainty in the southeastern part of Avdiivka, but we have not moved the line of conflict. Our confidence is low that Russian forces have advanced into the city.



There were reports that Ukrainian forces had launched a limited counteroffensive south of Hulyaipole last week, and fresh reports today that advances toward [Polohy](#) were made.



The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian troops almost totally withdrew from [Verkhni Tokmak](#) and [Chernihivka](#) after intense shelling by Ukrainian forces. One hundred Russian troops remained in Chernihivka to maintain checkpoints. Otherwise, the remaining forces withdrew to [Tokmak](#).

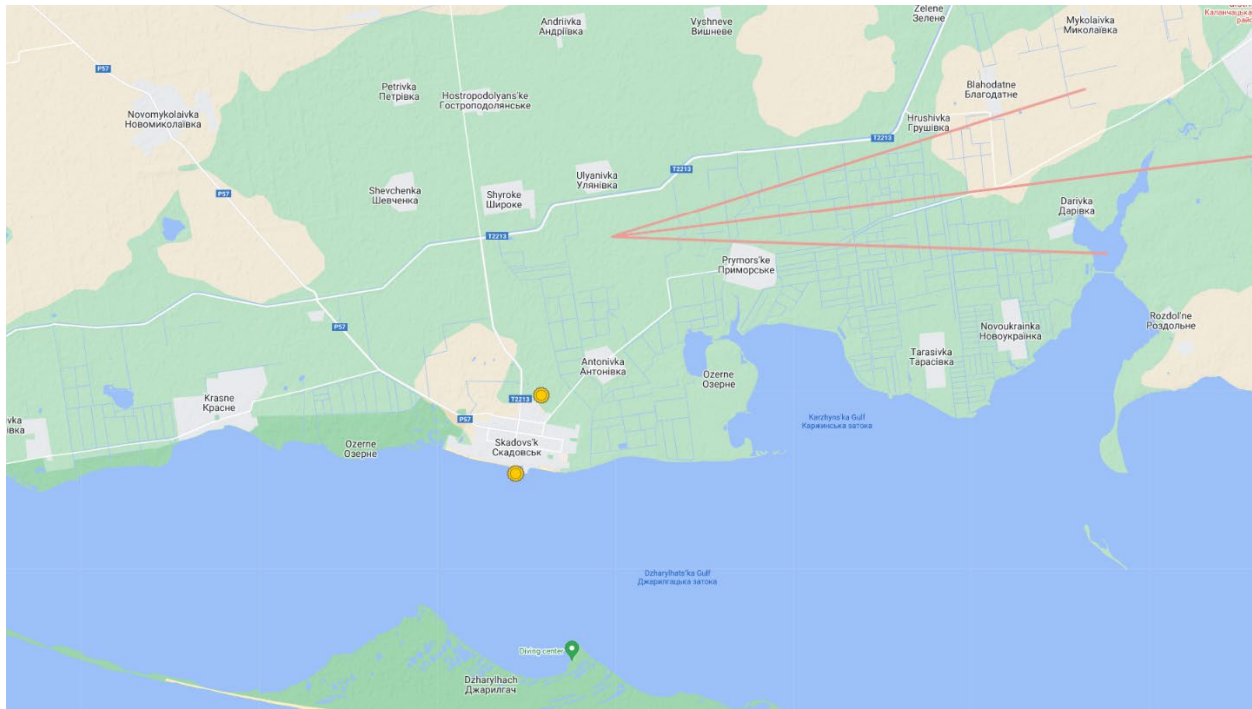
ASSESSMENT: We have coded Verkhni Tokmak, and Chernihivka contested based on the withdrawal, but this does not implicate a Ukrainian advance or imply that insurgents have or will take control. We have added a region of uncertainty south of Hulyaipole, but there isn't enough information to determine what direction the counteroffensive came from or how successful it has been.

It is reported that the artillery attack on Verknii Tokmak and Chernihivka resulted in 40 casualties. With Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) now considered operational with two companies, this would be a significant loss.

There were reports of a large explosion at the airbase northwest of [Melitopol](#) and some local pictures of smoke rising from the area.¹

ASSESSMENT: We have coded this as a Ukrainian missile strike but cannot rule out this was an accident at the base.

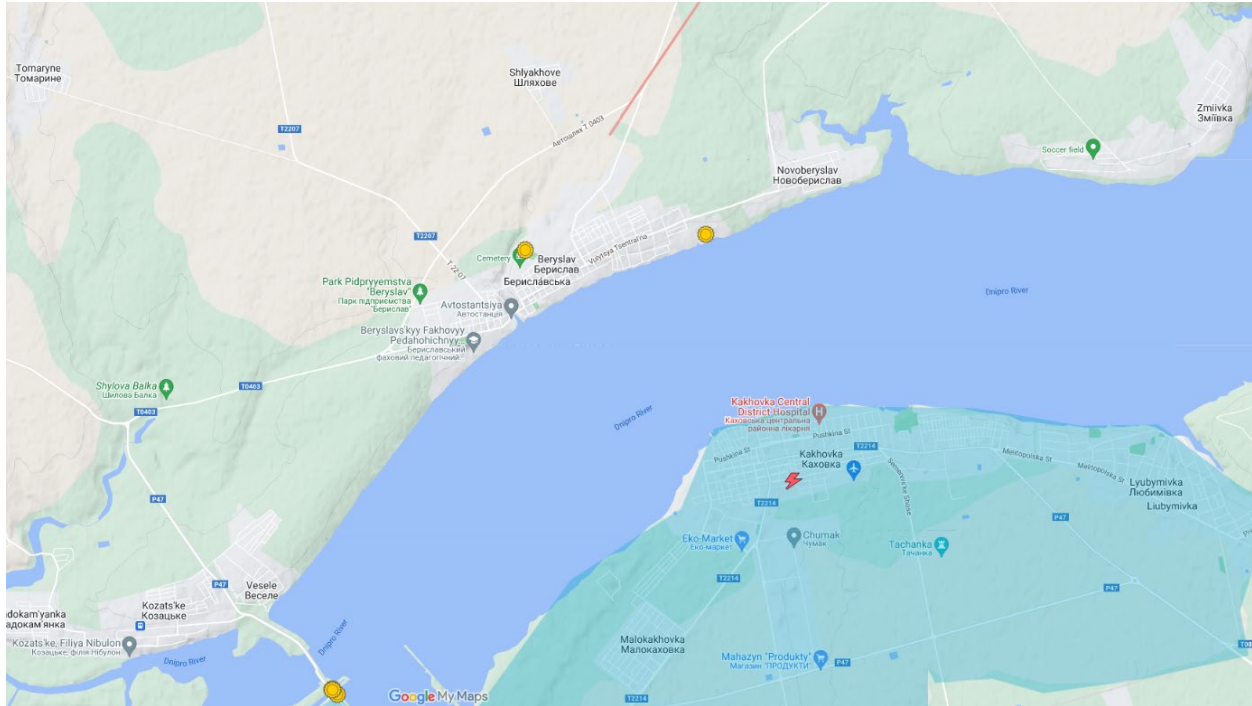
¹ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1553703000899784709>



In Kherson, Ukrainian forces hit a large Russian ammunition depot using rockets fired by High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) in settlement of [Skadovsk](#).² Residents reported that Russian troops had been bringing large quantities of the ammunition “for days” into the area. The depot was still burning hours late with multiple secondary explosions.³

² <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23155?single>

³ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23179>



An ammunition depot was hit in Russian-controlled [Berislav](#), also producing a large fire.⁴

In [Kakhovka](#), Insurgents destroyed the car of Russia-collaborator Vitaliy Efimenko.⁵ The vehicle he was driving was armored, with Efimenko suffering injuries in the attack. We have coded the region as having an active insurgency.

In Kherson, Russian troops have dug trenches and defensive positions on the north bank of the Dniro River at

⁴ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23155>

⁵ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23164>

the entrance of the disabled [Antonovskiy Bridge](#).⁶ A long line of cars waiting to leave the city via ferry was photographed in a satellite image. Russian forces continue to mix civilian and military traffic on the military-operated ferry. Combat engineers have started repairs on the deck of the bridge.⁷



At the [Nova Kakhovka Dam](#), the railroad tracks that cross the spillway have been destroyed. The bridge has received

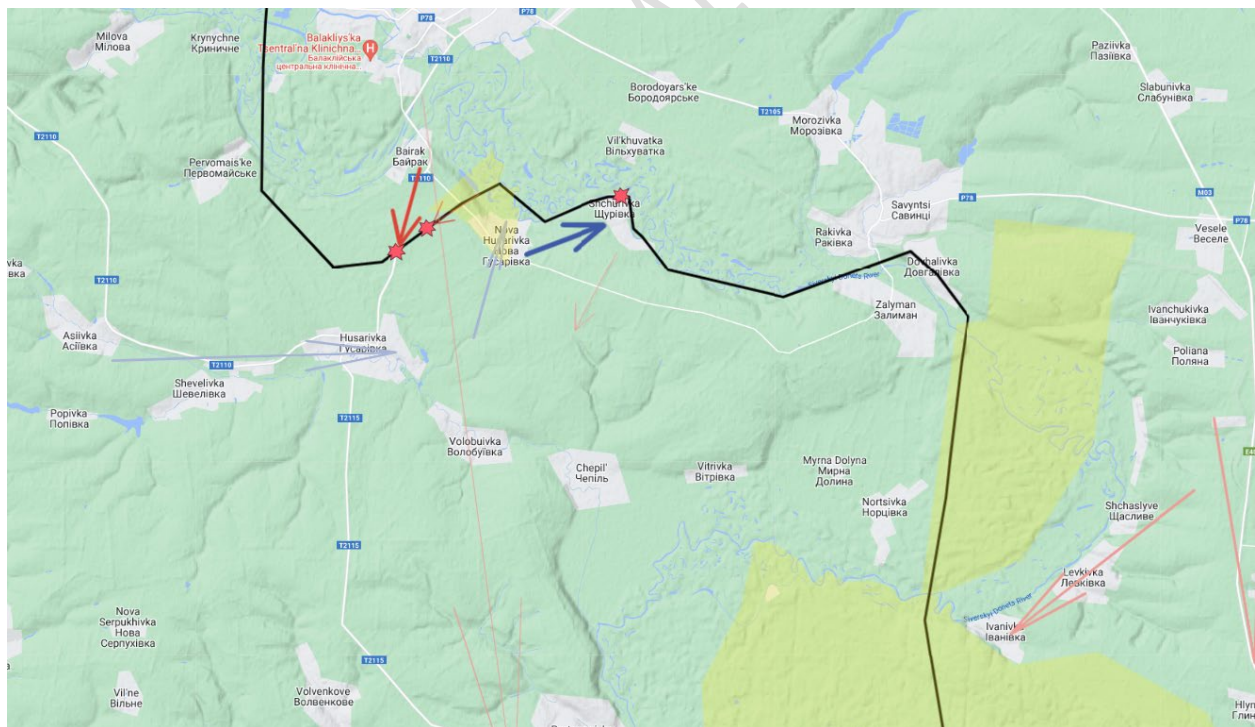
⁶ <https://twitter.com/ArtisanalAPT/status/1553680084862730241>

⁷ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1553700858889732096

a temporary repair using steel plates to cover the damaged area.⁸ The road is operational but reduced to a single lane.

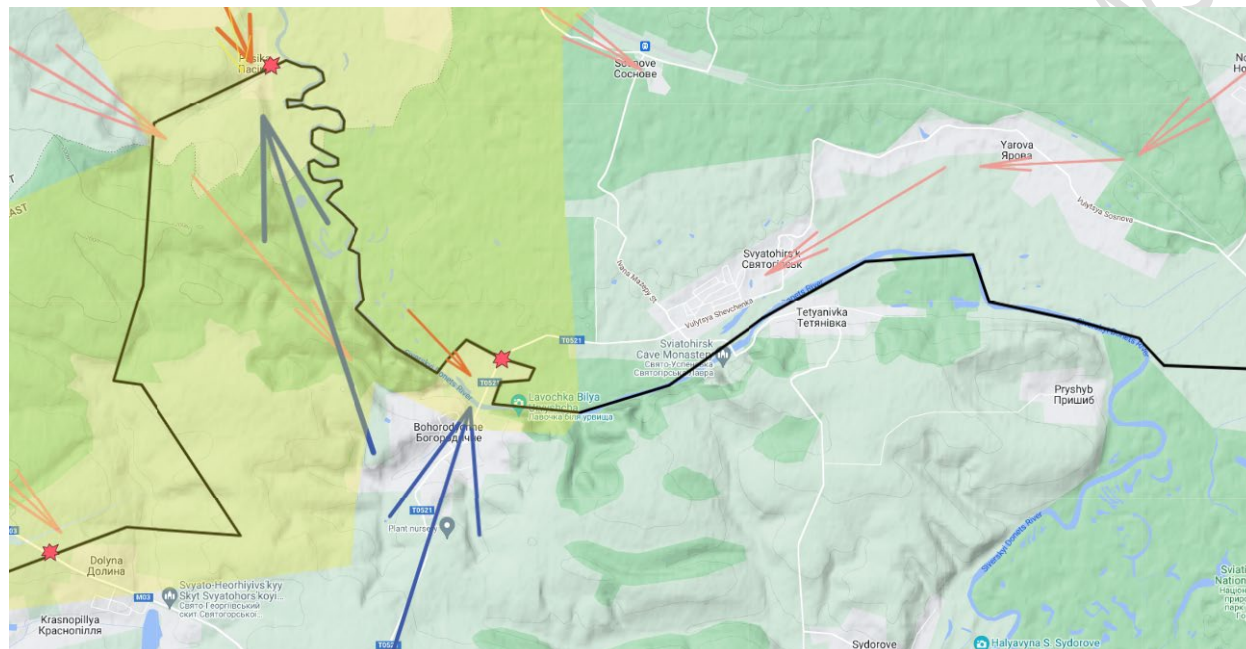
There are reports that [Oleksandrivka](#) [Kherson] is under Russian control again. We've moved the line of conflict north and coded the settlement contested.

North of Kharkiv, neither belligerent launched any ground offensives north of Kharkiv as the front remained frozen.



⁸ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1553661473213276160

Northwest of Izyum, Russian forces launched an unsuccessful offensive on [Husarivka](#). There continues to be an increase in activity in this region, and we created a small area of uncertainty northwest of [Nova Husarivka](#).



We moved the line of conflict into a small area north of Siveskyi Donets River at [Bohorodychne](#). We made this change based on the reports that civilian evacuations from [Sviatohirsk Cave Monastery](#) are passing through the settlement. Local officials report that all of Bohorodychne is under Ukrainian control – but only within the military definition. The settlement receives daily artillery fire. This change does not represent a new territorial gain but represents added clarity on where the line of conflict is.

Two missiles were fired into the Odesa oblast, landing in a sparsely populated area near a quarry. The strike caused a brush fire, but there wasn't any additional information on damage or casualties.⁹

Russian authorities are now claiming the attack on the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters in Sevastopol was a locally launched attack using modified consumer drones.

⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/31/7361219/>

DAILY ASSESSMENT

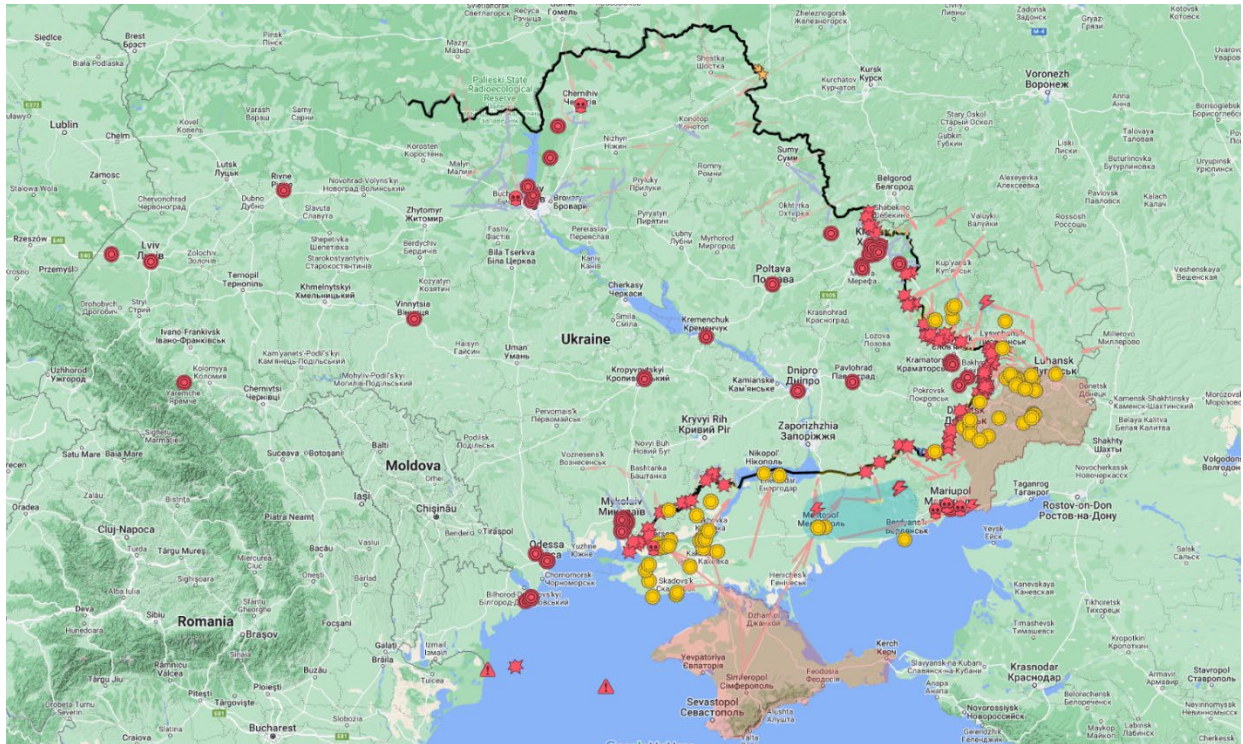
We assess the following:

1. The number of areas with an active insurgency in Ukraine is expanding with increasing attacks and assassination attempts in Russian-occupied territory.
2. A deficit in trained light infantry, disruption of logistics, and the continued destruction of ammunition depots are impacting Russia's offensive capabilities.
3. Russian troop movements indicate that offensive operations toward Bakhmut and Donetsk are being prioritized while defensive operations in Kherson and Zaporizhia are being reinforced.
4. Russian forces are attempting broad offensive operations to spread Ukrainian military resources and attempt to force a delay in pending larger counteroffensives.
5. Increased shelling and reconnaissance in the Chepil region of the Izyum axis is probably not a precursor to a larger offensive in this direction, given Russian failures at contested water crossings.
6. Russian troops are likely attempting to push Ukrainian artillery resources further away from Donetsk city at all costs, giving up the earlier strategy of an encirclement of Avdiivka [Donetsk].

7. It is unlikely that Russian forces will be capable of taking the initiative in the next two to five weeks anywhere in Ukraine.
8. The balance of power and tide of war has shifted in the direction that favors Ukraine, but both belligerents have fought to a stalemate in July.

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TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



We have made significant improvements to our map solution. The updated map now shows contested areas and missile strikes by both belligerents. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report. We have also added areas where there are active insurgencies (blue) and the regions that were under Russian control on February 1, 2022 (red).