

MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 544

It has been 3,464 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 179 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- Positional fighting continued in Kharkiv and Luhansk
- Ukrainian forces made marginal gains in Klishchiivka and tactical gains at Andriivka
- Russian sources claim that Russian troops in Pryyutne are at risk of encirclement
- Fighting in the southeast corner of Robotyne continues as Ukraine starts to evacuate liberated civilians
- The Russian 810th Naval Infantry Brigade released a video showing the successful demilitarization of their own tank
- Another field grade officer of the 810th Naval Infantry was killed in action
- Kryvyi Rih was hit by at least one Iskander ballistic missile
- Rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed a Russian command and control post in occupied Tokmak
- The International Atomic Energy Agency released an update about the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant
- The Russian corvette Cyclone, commissioned on July 12, 2023, is on its first combat patrol

- Ukraine likely destroyed the Russian radar stations and anti-ship missile systems at Olenivka
- Russian forces are preparing unconventional defenses for the Kerch (Crimean) Bridge
- Occupation officials have made an emergency request to resorts, hotels, and inns to report on how much reserve fuel they have for their emergency generators as fuel shortages expand
- Shahed-136 kamikaze drones attacked the Ukrainian ports of Izmail and Reni on the Romanian border
- Ukrainian Beaver kamikaze drones attacked the Russian capital of Moscow
- A cargo ship carrying two 32-meter patrol boats for Ukraine crossed the Bosphorus Strait on its way to Romania
- In cooperation with two NATO nations, Ukraine is producing thousands of 120 mm mortar rounds a month
- Ukrainian pilots and technicians have already started training on the F-16 in Denmark
- Croatia announced it was providing Ukraine a 30 million euro military aid package
- France reported that the “test batch” of SCALP-ER cruise missiles had been fully delivered to Ukraine
- General of the Army Serhey Surovikin has reportedly been relieved of command of the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS)

- Russian soldiers with the 247th Parachute (VDV) Regiment rioted on August 20
- Soldiers with the Russian 177th Naval Infantry Regiment abandoned their positions in Verbove
- There was a fratricide incident between Russian soldiers with the 61st Separate Naval Infantry Brigade near Rybalche in occupied Kherson
- Repeated Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow are disrupting military logistics
- Russian Colonel Vladimir Kochetkov, commander of the Tartarstan Regiment No. 1232, died on August 17
- Russian returned the bodies of 12 Ukrainian servicemembers who the International Committee of the Red Cross has documented as being prisoners of war
- The number of Russian POWs in Ukrainian custody has grown so large that some Russian soldiers are being held by the Ministry of Justice
- Ukraine and Poland will create joint border checkpoints that adhere to European Union standards
- The BRICS New Development Bank has suspended its work with Russia due to international sanctions
- 17.7 million of Russia's 75.6 million working-age population have defaulted on bank loans, a 23.3% increase from 2022

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We assess a high probability of Russian missile strikes that target civilians, civilian infrastructure, and Ukrainian cultural sites in the next 72 hours due to the impending Ukrainian Independence Day holiday.
2. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer 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.
3. We remain unprepared to declare that the next phase of the summer offensive has started in two operational areas.
4. Despite Ukraine's likely start of the next phase of its summer offensive, we maintain that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition dates, negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
5. While acknowledging recent operational successes in Zaporizhzhia, we remain concerned about Ukraine's capacity to turn tactical gains in other areas of operation (AO) into operational success and strategic victories.

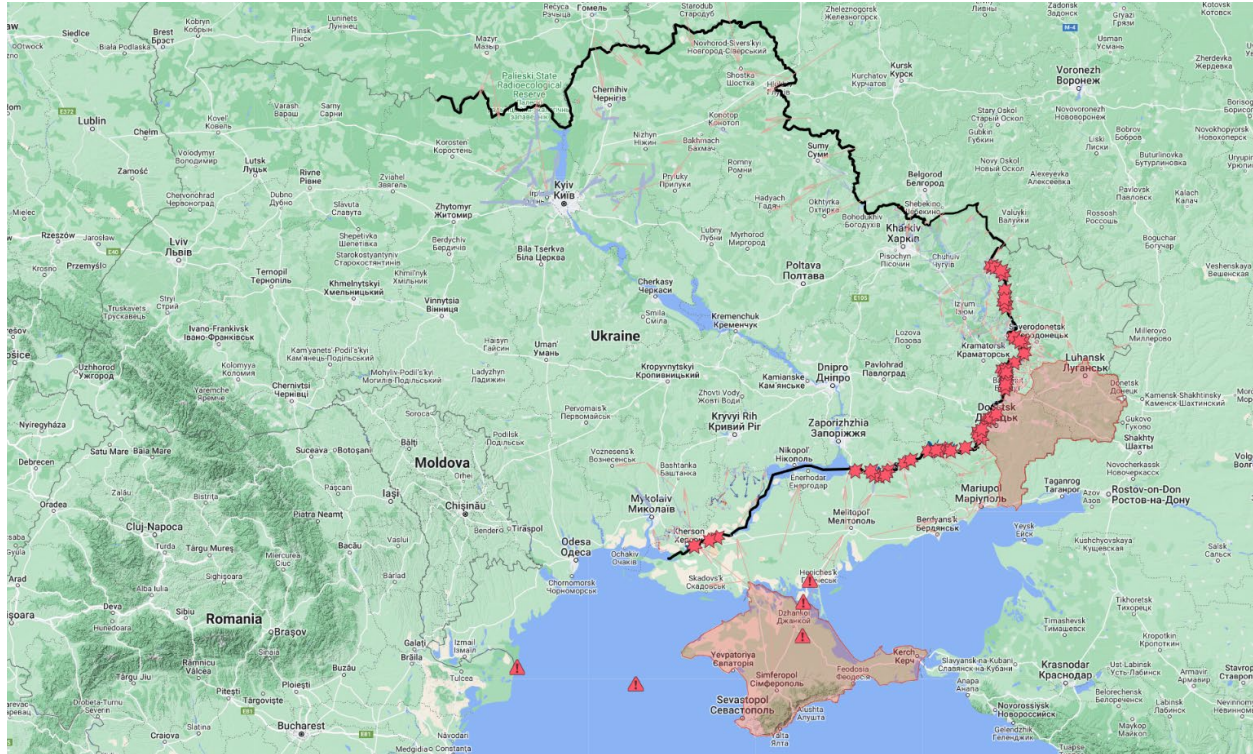
6. It is unlikely that Ukraine will execute a wet crossing of the Dnipro River with a battalion-sized or larger force.
7. The growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units is forcing Russian commanders to rotate remaining reserves to hotspots in regions outside their assigned AO.
8. While the threats of aggression from Belarus are subsiding, we maintain that aggressive actions and posturing directed at Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania and by Russia on the Black Sea risk causing an international incident. The soft response by Ukraine's allies has only encouraged Minsk and Moscow to take further risks.
9. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains weakened after the failed Prigozhin Insurrection, and there continues to be a small but very real possibility of another insurrection or coup attempt. Additionally, his weakened political state and Russia's economic uncertainty make doing another wave of formal mobilization more difficult.
10. Our assessment that the Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, PMCs, and proxy forces, was

accurate, with *continued* reports of fighting between units, fratricide, and desertions.

11. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine.
12. 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.
13. 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.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

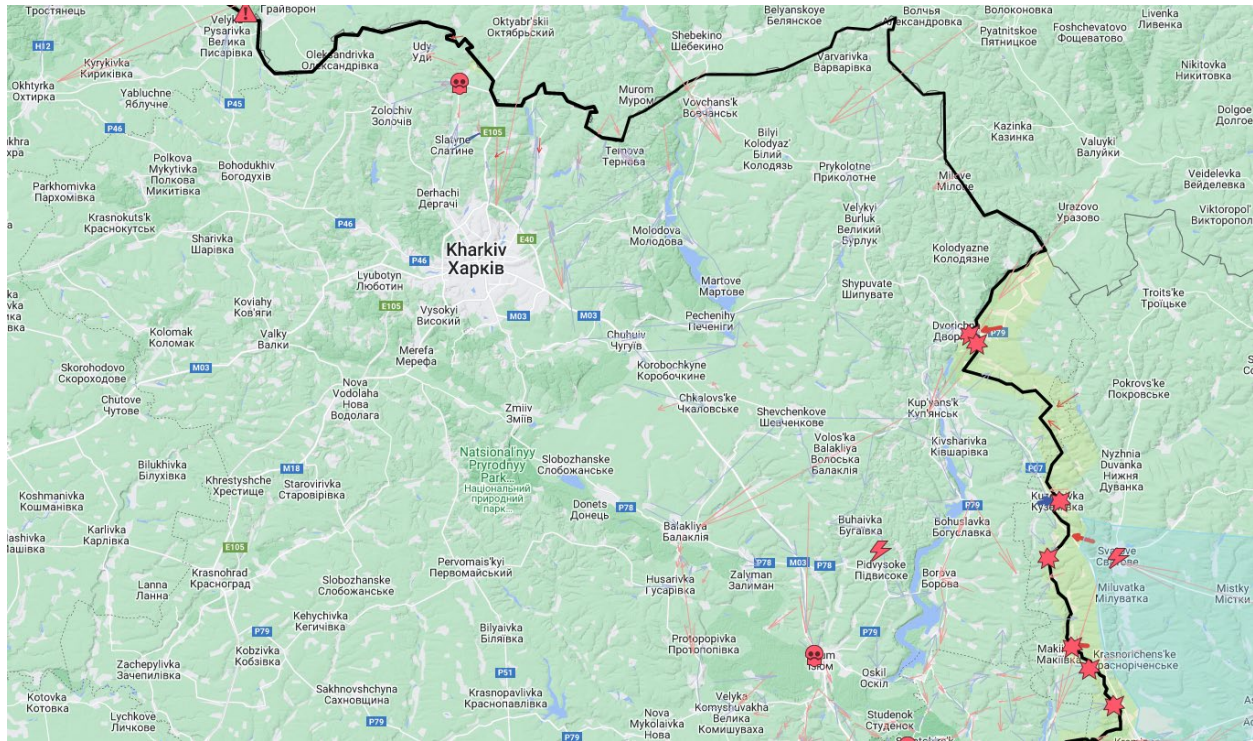
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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.

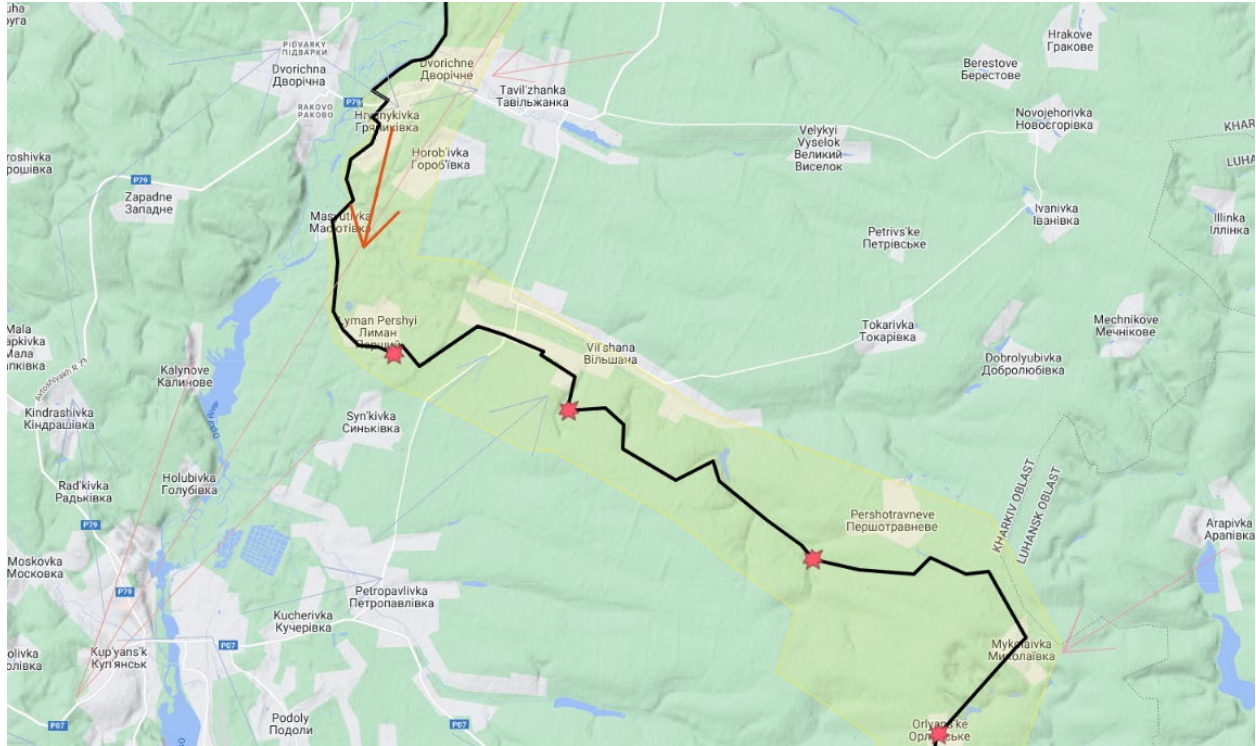
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

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



Dvornichna Operational Area

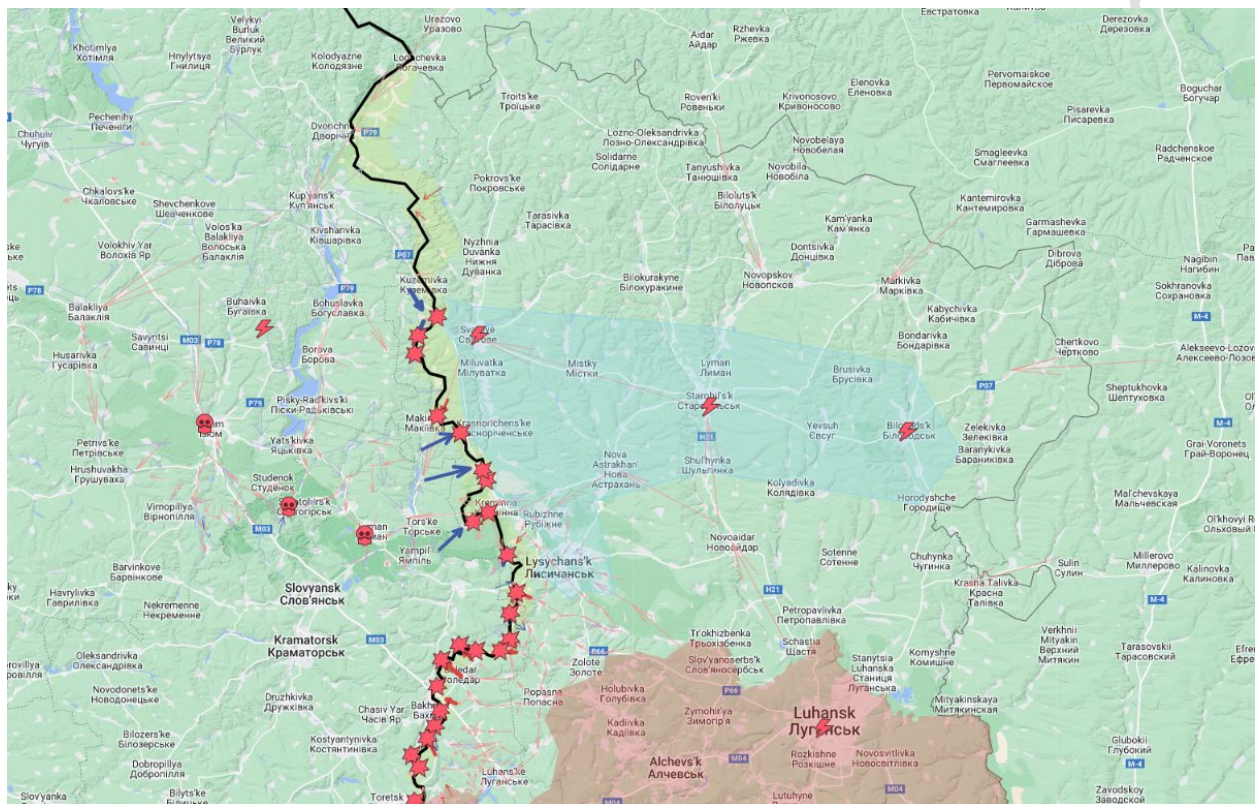
Fighting continues to be positional northeast of [Synkivka](#), with no change in the situation.^{1 2}

¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/29683 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

² <https://t.me/wargonzo/14507>

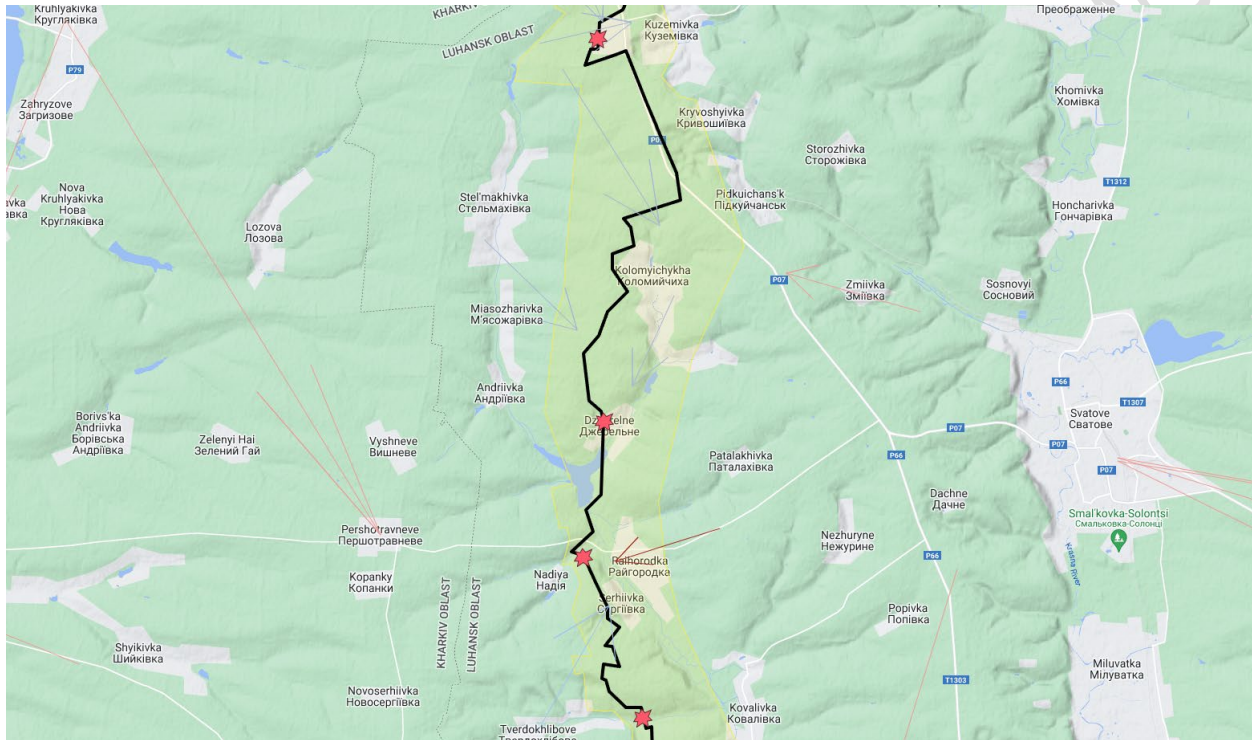
DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections

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

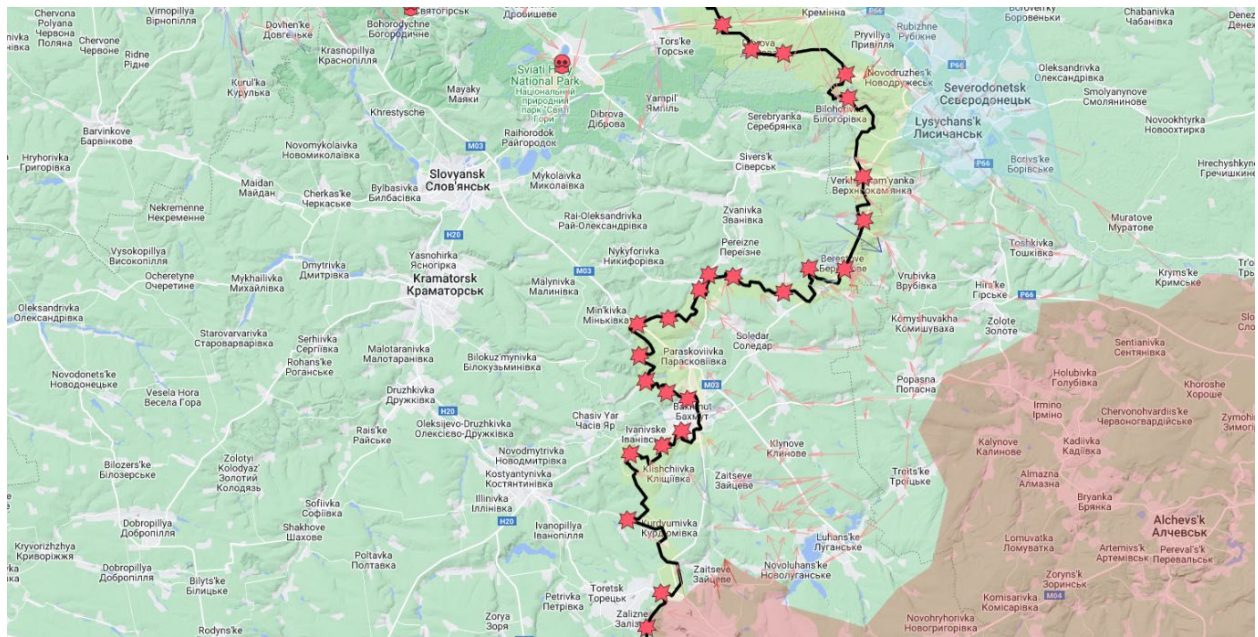


Svatove Operational Area

The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in [Novoselivske](#) and near [Raihordka](#).³ There have been reports of Russian forces being pushed out of Serhiivka.

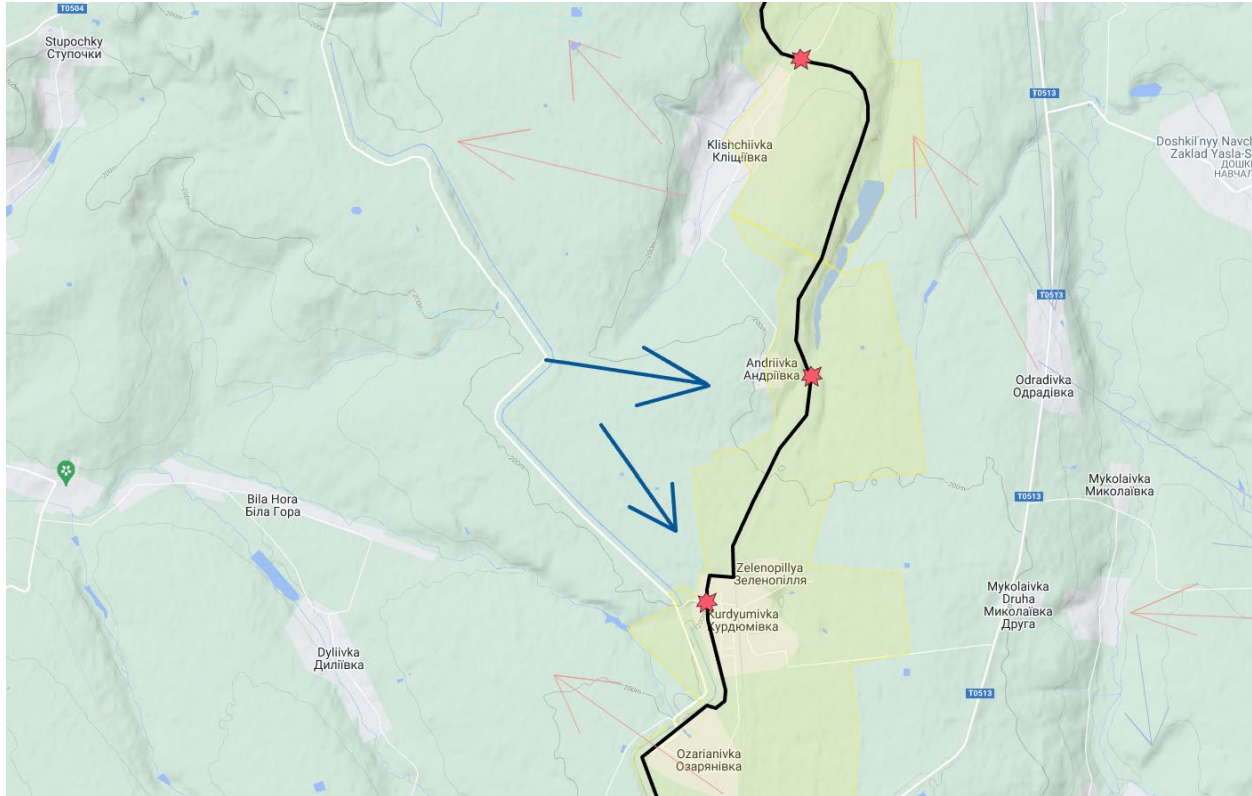
³ https://t.me/mod_russia/29683 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

NORTHEAST DONETSK



Russian Objective: Complete the capture of Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region, set conditions for September 2023 elections

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, collapse the Russian flanks while maximizing casualties, draw Russian reserves into the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



Klishchiivka Operational Area

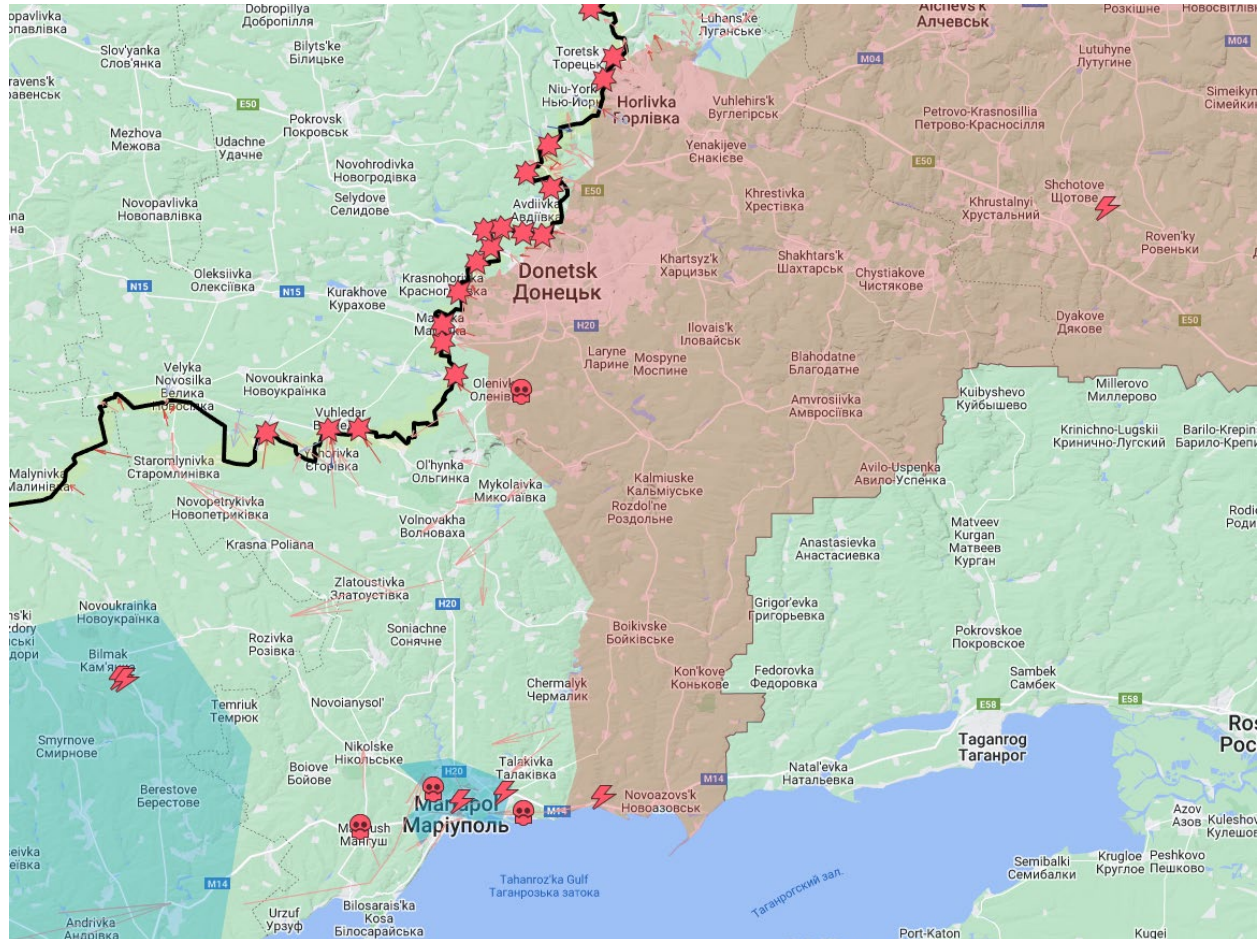
Ukrainian forces made marginal gains in [Klishchiivka](#), regaining full military control of the southern and center part of the settlement.⁴ Intense fighting continued.

Ukrainian forces made tactically significant advances to the north and south of [Andriivka](#).⁵ Ukrainian forces have taken full control of the road between Klishchiivka and Andriivka to the edge of the settlement while holding newly liberated positions to the south. The hamlet itself remains a no man's land.

⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17424>

⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17424>

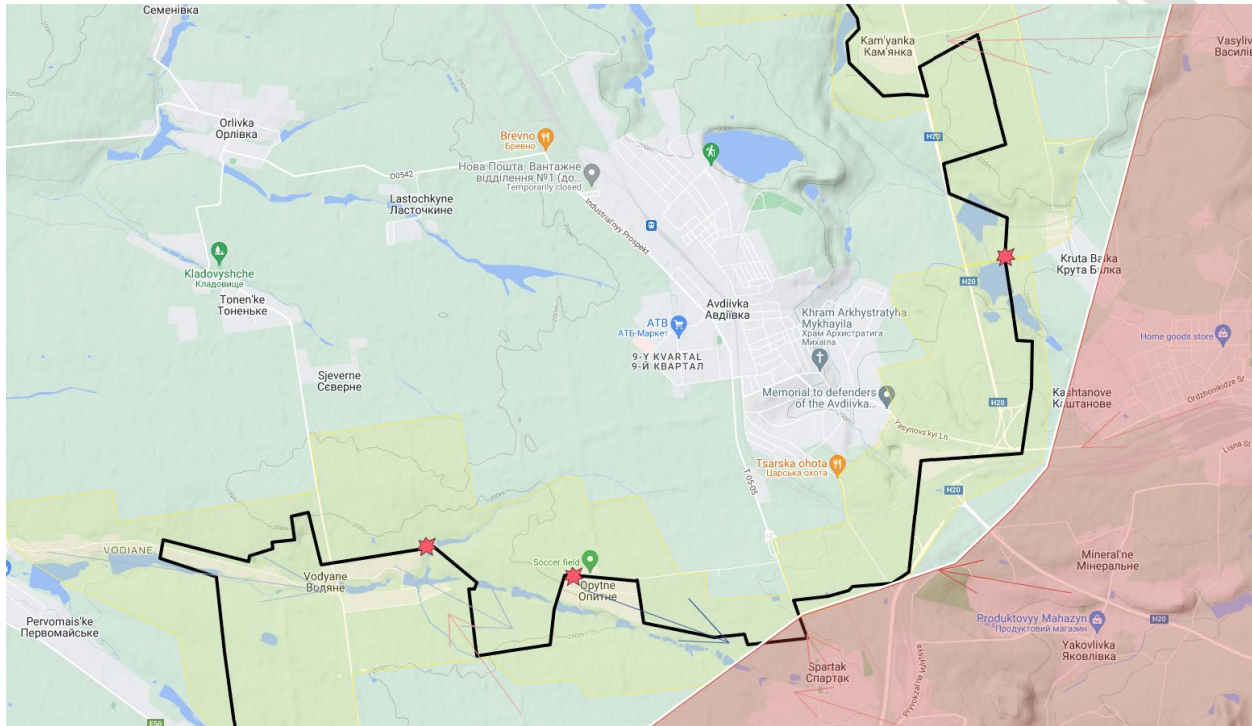
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast

Ukrainian Objective: Set conditions for larger offensive operations, find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses,

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



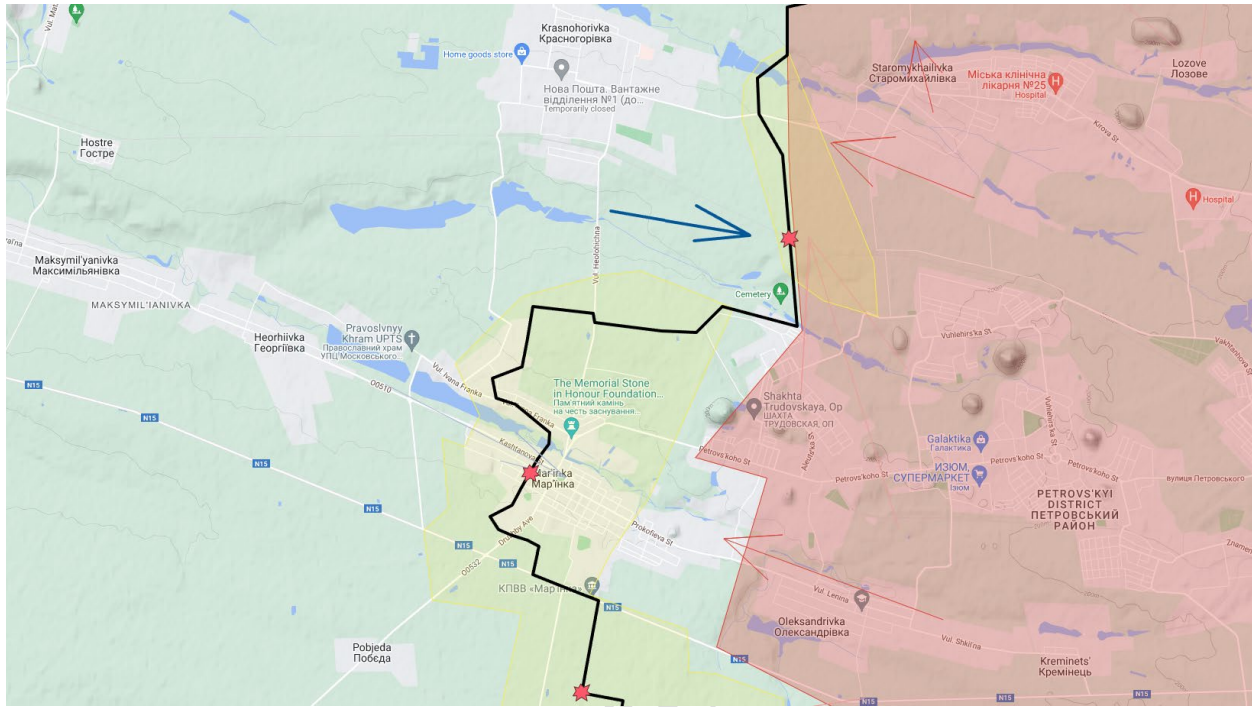
Avdiivka Operational Area

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and RMOD reported a Russian attack “in the area” of [Avdiivka](#).⁶
⁷ Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko reported a platoon of Russian tanks attempted to advance on the city, fired, and retreated to their defensive line.⁸

⁶ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11320>

⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/29683 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

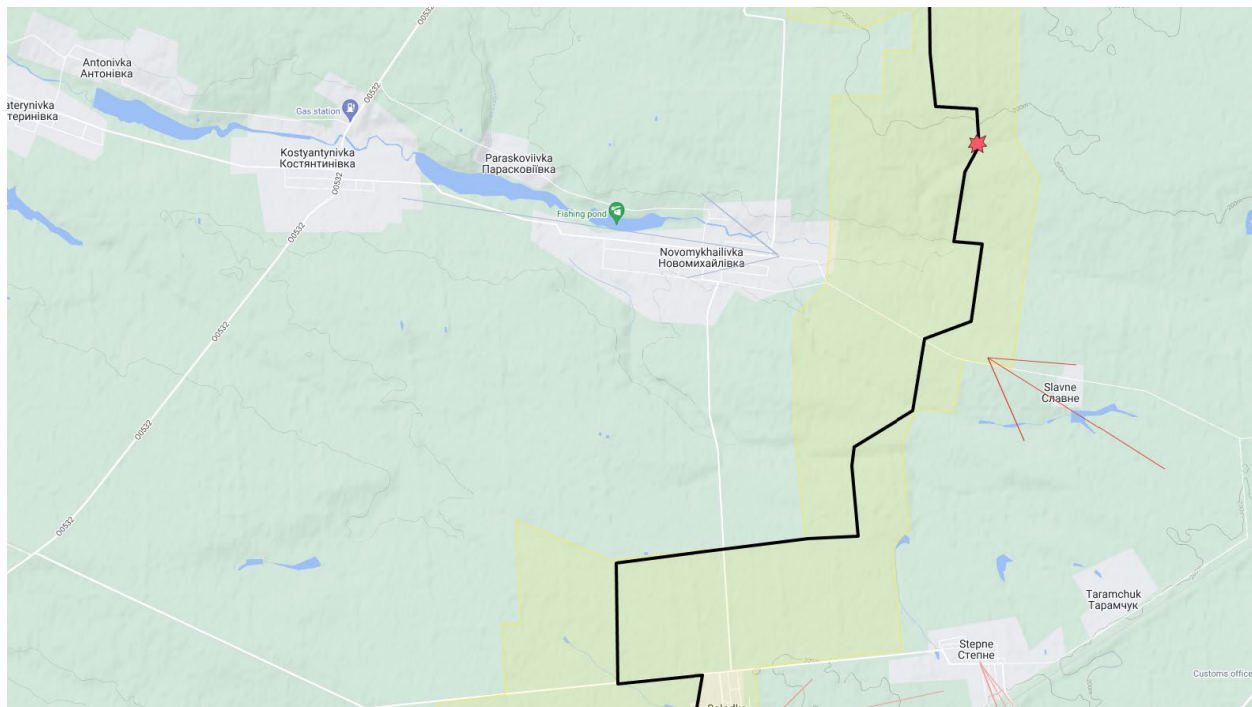
⁸ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/9240



Marinka Operational Area

Positional fighting continued in [Marinka](#).⁹

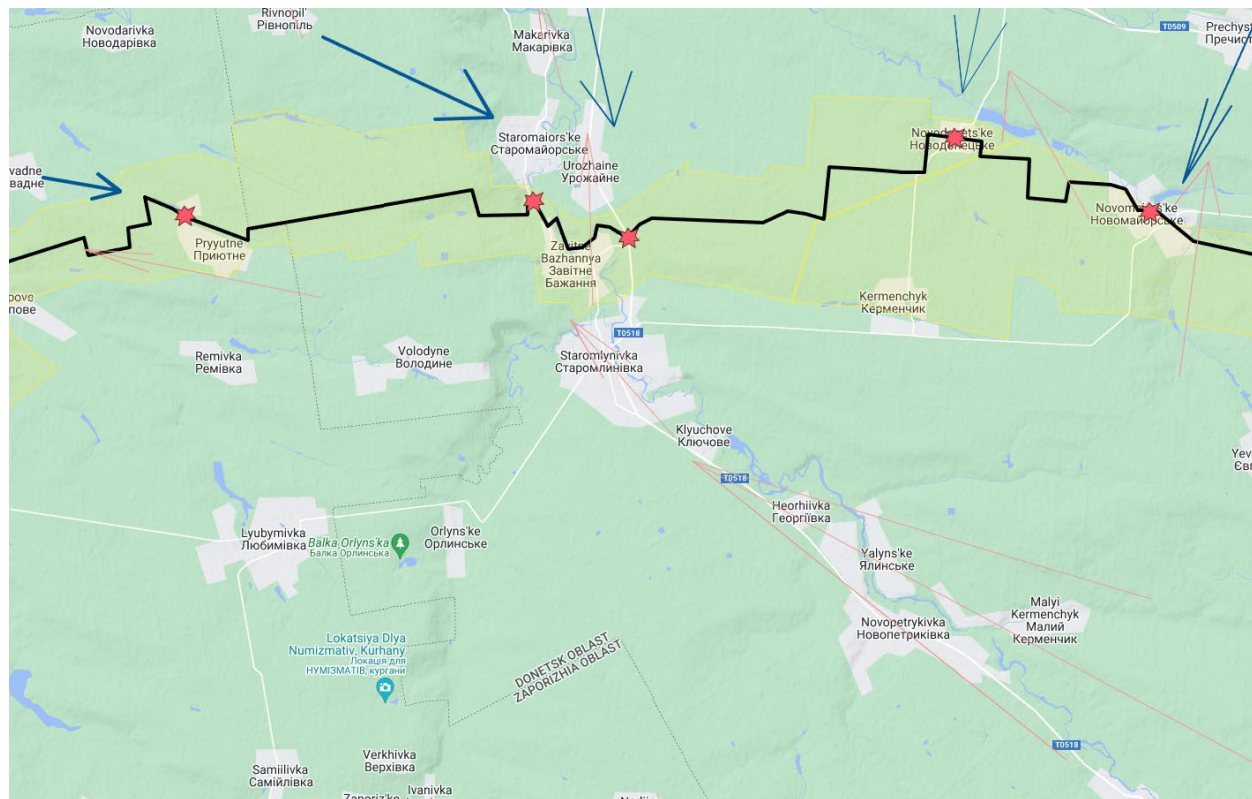
⁹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11320>



Vuhledar Operational Area

Russian forces made another attempt to advance on [Novomykailivka](#), which ended in failure.¹⁰

¹⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/29683 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

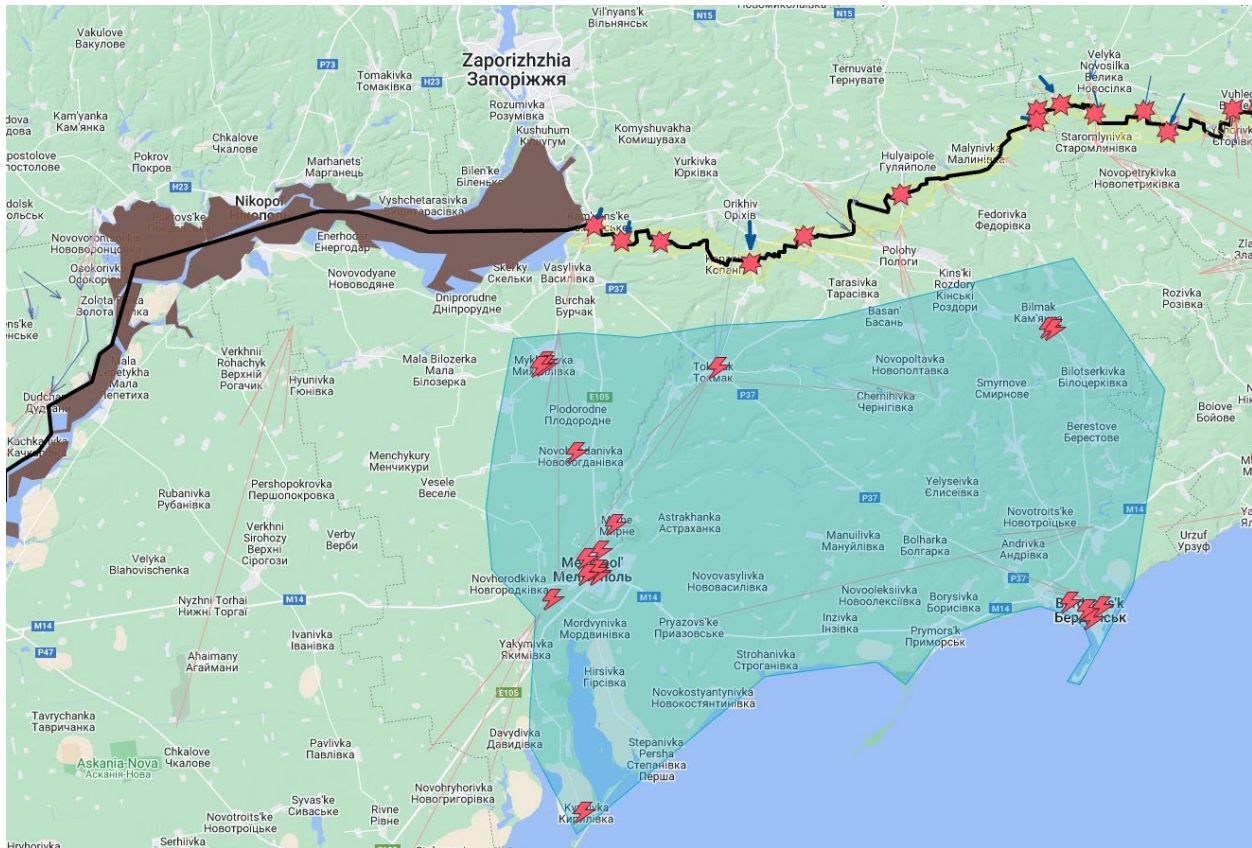


Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Area

The only significant report came from Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo, who claimed that Russian troops in [Pryyutne](#) were under “the real threat” of being encircled by Ukrainian forces.¹¹ There were no other reports of fighting in the area, but this is the second report in four days that Russian troops in the settlement are at risk of encirclement.

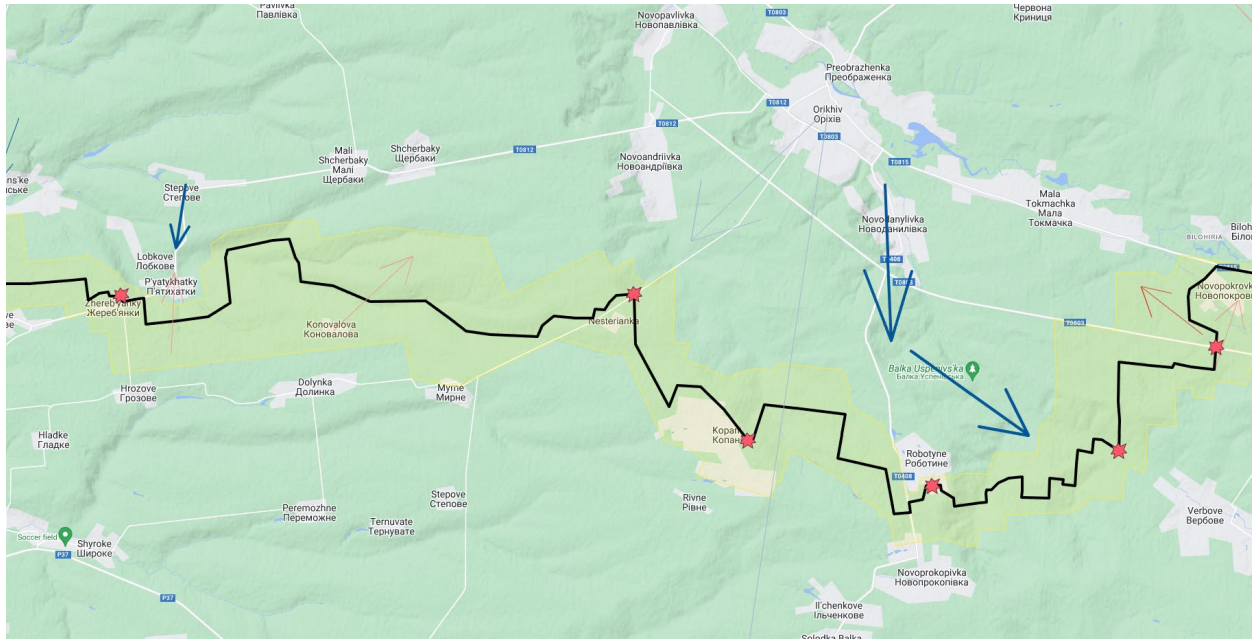
¹¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14507>

ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, break Russian defensive lines, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians




Orikhiv Operational Area

Fighting continues in the southeastern corner of [Robotyne](#), with GSAFU spokesperson Andriy Kovalev saying, "In the direction of Robotyne, they were successful. They are consolidating on the achieved milestones."¹²


"First there was no water, then no electricity, then no bread."

- Liberated Ukrainian from previously occupied Robotyne

¹² <https://t.me/militarymediacenter/2924>

Ukrainian forces evacuated civilians from the [liberated parts of the settlement](#), including five women and one man.¹³ ¹⁴ The evacuees were able to make short phone calls to their families to let them know they were  [now safe in free Ukraine](#).¹⁵ "We waited a year and a half for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. We took our belongings, documents and fled, throwing these packages away along the way, because life is the most valuable thing. And then these guys from the 47th brigade took us out in a tank," one person said.

Have a tissue for when you watch the video.


Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Hanna Maliar confirmed the evacuation. "Soldiers of the 47th Brigade, which  [entered the village of Robotyne](#), organized the evacuation of civilians on the Bradley armored personnel carrier. Our fighters perform planned combat work and destroy the enemy. In response, the Russians are continuously shelling Robotyne with artillery."¹⁶

¹³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111084>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11320>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/DefenceU/status/1693922011951542408>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/annamaliar/1034>

The Russian 810th Naval Infantry Brigade released a video claiming that they guided a Lacent drone to a Ukrainian M-55S medium-duty tank, resulting in its destruction.¹⁷ Geoconfirmed videos and pictures from the same area verified that they destroyed  [an abandoned Russian T-90M main battle tank](#).¹⁸ The 810th lost its second field grade officer in 72 hours, with Major Vyacheslav Pogrebnoy, commander of the mortar battery for the Naval Infantry Brigade, killed in action in Robotyne.¹⁹

Due to recent advances, Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko stated that occupied Tokmak is now within range of Ukrainian barrel artillery.²⁰ This provides a faster and more cost-effective solution than rockets fired by HIMARS.

Kryvyi Rih was hit by at least one Iskander ballistic missile.²¹ Ukrainian officials reported that 55 houses and 15 commercial structures were damaged. Windows were broken in 24 additional buildings. A building on a college campus and transportation infrastructure was damaged, along with high voltage powerlines, plunging 50,000 people

¹⁷ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19930>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19930>

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1694071490780577829>


²⁰ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19932>

²¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111132>

into the dark.²² One person received minor injuries. At the time of publication, DTEK reported that power had been restored.²³

During an overnight attack of Shahed-136 kamikaze drones across Ukraine, air defenses in Zaporizhzhia shot down two.²⁴

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

A Russian command and control base was  [hit by rockets fired by HIMARS](#) on August 22.²⁵ There was no information on Russian losses.

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided an update on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) status.²⁶ Groundwater has started to be pumped from the first well drilled to provide cooling water to ZNPP.

²² <https://t.me/vilkul/3978>

²³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/22/7416586/>

²⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111225>

²⁵ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/2958

²⁶ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

While the water in the main cooling pond drops one centimeter a day, the IAEA reported sufficient water for “many months.”

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said the overall security situation “remains precarious,” adding, “In order to prevent a nuclear accident that could affect people and the environment, it continues to be of paramount importance that the five basic principles for the protection of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant are respected and adhered to.”

The onsite IAEA inspectors still do not have full site access and remain barred from inspecting the roofs of reactor buildings 1, 2, 5, and 6. There are no signs of new explosives being placed by Russian occupiers, but the directional and land mines observed in July remain.

Reactor 6 is in hot shutdown and is generating steam for plant operations. Repairs to the number 3 steam generator on Unit 4 and other maintenance work are ongoing. No information was provided on Reactor 5, which had been brought to a cold shutdown state last month to undergo maintenance.

Radiation levels at the plant are normal, and the 330 and 750 kilovolt (kV) outside power connections were operational.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Operational Command South (OKS) only reported on the status of the Cyclone, a newly commissioned corvette that joined the Black Sea Fleet on July 12. The Cyclone is on its first combat patrol and can launch up to eight Kalibr cruise missiles.²⁷ There were no reports of ship activity by insurgents in Sevastopol.


Occupied Crimea

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) reported that Russia had started sinking ferry boats along the Kerch (Crimean) Bridge to create an additional barrier against drone attacks.²⁸ The first derelict ferry has been sunk, with a second brought

²⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40183>

²⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111152>

into position. The plan is to sink six vessels and surround the area with booms.

A the time of publication, there were seven  [large explosions in Olenivka](#).²⁹ Partisans reported that the radar stations at Tarkhankut were destroyed, blinding the integrated air defenses in western Crimea. The attack also destroyed a Bastion anti-ship missile battery.^{30 31}

Resorts, hotels, and inns in occupied Crimea were issued an emergency order to indicate if they have emergency generators at their properties and how much fuel is available in their reserves no later than noon on August 23.³² The fuel shortages in Crimea are worsening as shipments remain delayed due to repeated closures of the Kerch Bridge.

Odesa

At least ten Shahed-136 kamikaze drones attacked the Ukrainian ports of Izmail and Reni, with at least one striking the transshipment complex and grain hangars at

²⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40246>

³⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40254>

³¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40251>

³² <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1694265520944795728>

Izmail. A [700 square meter facility holding grain burned](#), with the contents a total loss.^{33 34 35} Nine drones were shot down.³⁶

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, prepare the region for illegitimate elections in September 2023, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

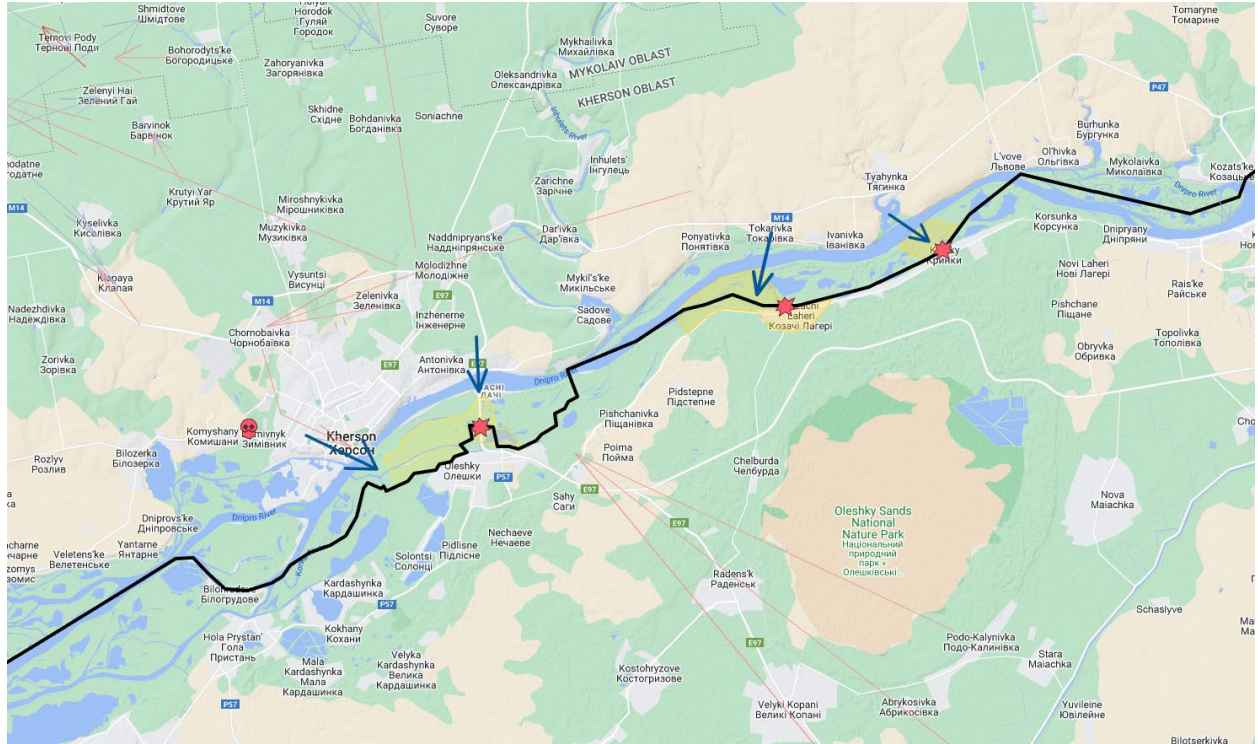
Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives

³³ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40232>

³⁴ https://t.me/our_odessa/52710

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/TreasChest/status/1694233866729316684>

³⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111225>



Ukrainian forces maintain their forward operating bases along a 42-kilometer stretch between the Dnipro and Konkva Rivers. The morale of Russian forces is low, with numerous complaints of casualties, ineffective counterbattery fire, a lack of resources, and poor command.

Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Alexander Prokudin reported that at 04:00 hours local time on August 23, two Russian FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bombs struck the city of Kherson, destroying a kindergarten and damaging numerous homes. One person was taken to the



hospital due to their injuries, and five others were treated at the scene and released.³⁷

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³⁷ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1175>

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 major 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: Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any major activity in this region.


RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, 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



Moscow

At least three Ukrainian Beaver kamikaze drones attacked the Moscow region, with two shot down and a third striking the city. Moscow Mayor Sobyenin claims that one UAV hit a partially occupied highrise building under construction in Moscow City.³⁸

Air raid sirens didn't sound. A video showed what appears to be a Ukrainian Beaver UAV flying past a highrise, and while it isn't under fire, the  [sound and flashes of air defense systems](#) are visible.³⁹ Security video captured one

³⁸ <https://t.me/uniannet/108934>

³⁹ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41124>

drone [striking a Moscow highrise](#).⁴⁰ In the Khimki District,  [drone debris littered a street](#), and at least  [one home was destroyed](#).^{41 42}

BELARUSIAN FRONT

There wasn't any major activity in this region.

THEATERWIDE

The Swiss edition of Le Temps claimed that Kyiv was barring almost all foreign journalists from traveling to the front lines in Ukraine, known as red zones, by reporters. According to Le Temps, journalists can only visit these areas with written permission from Commander-in-Chief Valerii Zaluzhny.⁴³

Editor's Note: While we have noted an information clampdown by Kyiv and Moscow, we talked with a

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41126>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41127>

⁴² <https://t.me/uniannet/108939>

⁴³ <https://t.me/uniannet/108875>

journalist today who is going to a very active area in Ukraine, and they do not have a note from Zaluzhny.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said that about a million people have fought against Russia since 2014. "For 9.5 years of this war, we already have about a million combatants...everyone will have veterans among their relatives or close friends, so the support of veterans is very important."⁴⁴


White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters that the Ukrainian counteroffensive has not culminated. "We have always clearly understood that the battlefield is very dynamic. Both sides are attacking and defending at different points along a very long front line. We see how Ukraine continues to methodically and systematically win back territories," adding that the war has not reached a "dead end."⁴⁵

A cargo ship passed through the Bosphorus Strait carrying two 32-meter aluminum hull littoral patrol boats for Ukraine's State Border Guard Service.⁴⁶ While the Montreux

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40177>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111162>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40172>

Convention prevents the passage of warships without Türkiye's permission, the treaty has no clause about a  [civilian cargo ship carrying military ships onboard](#), as long as they don't exceed the 15,000-ton limit established in 1936.⁴⁷ At least, that's our team interprets it.

Ukraine is increasing production of 120 mm mortars in cooperation with two NATO nations at an ammunition factory outside its borders.⁴⁸

Reuters reported that the training of eight Ukrainian pilots to fly American F-16 fighter jets and 65 technicians who will service the aircraft has already begun at the Danish Military Airbase in Skridstrup.⁴⁹

Croatia announced it would provide Ukraine with a 30 million euro military aid package. No other details were given.⁵⁰

France reported that the "test batch" of SCALP-ER cruise missiles has been shipped to Ukraine and that the

⁴⁷ [Text of the Montreaux Convention](#)

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19312>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111173>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111142>

munitions have “proven themselves well.” Ukraine's Ambassador to France, Vadym Omelchenko, said the supply would continue.⁵¹ The SCALP cruise missile is the French version of the British Storm Shadow.

The table for equipment losses was **updated on August 21, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁵¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111124>

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to August 21, 2023. 11,791 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,206 Ukrainian

| Equipment | Russian Losses | Ukrainian Losses | Ratio | Change |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Main Battle Tanks | 2108 | 268 | 7.87:1 | ↓ |
| Medium Duty Tanks | 145 | 351 | 0.41:1 | — |
| Armored fighting Vehicles | 949 | 308 | 3.08:1 | — |
| Infantry Fighting Vehicles | 2680 | 698 | 3.84:1 | — |
| Armored Personnel Carriers | 343 | 325 | 1.06:1 | — |
| MRAPs | 46 | 142 | 0.32:1 | ↓ |
| Infantry Mobility Vehicles | 202 | 359 | 0.56:1 | — |
| Command and Communications Vehicles | 247 | 16 | 15.43:1 | ↑ |
| Engineering Vehicles | 335 | 74 | 4.52:1 | ↑ |
| Towed Artillery | 283 | 148 | 1.91:1 | — |
| Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars | 499 | 206 | 2.42:1 | ↓ |
| MLRS | 256 | 50 | 5.12:1 | ↑ |
| SAMs | 162 | 127 | 1.28:1 | ↑ |
| Mobile Radars | 43 | 73 | 0.59:1 | ↑ |
| EW/ECW | 50 | 4 | 12.50:1 | ↑ |
| Winged Aircraft | 86 | 69 | 1.25:1 | ↑ |
| Helicopters | 109 | 32 | 3.41:1 | ↑ |
| Naval Vessels | 13 | 27 | 0.48:1 | — |

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Russian state media agency RBC and Russian journalist Alexei Venediktov reported that General of the Army Sergey Surovkin had been relieved of command of the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS). Surovkin has been in custody since the failed Prigozhin Insurrection of June 24 and is under house arrest.⁵² Even without the insurrection and his connections to Yevgeny Prigozhin, Surovkin was likely already on thin ice due to repeated failures of Russian air defenses, which fell under his command. RBC claims that Surovkin will be given a new command.

On August 20, a company with the Russian 247th VDV refused to carry out orders to attack fortified Ukrainian positions in the area of Staromaiorske. The company commander has been arrested. The 247th is in a combat destroyed state and has experienced repeated riots by its unit members.⁵³

On August 16 in Verbove, Russian 177th Naval Infantry members abandoned their positions after a heavy

⁵² <https://t.me/uniannet/108897>

⁵³ https://t.me/atesh_ua/1585

Ukrainian artillery barrage. The deserters are under criminal investigation.⁵⁴

On the eastern edge of the Kinburn Spit near Rybalche, unit members with the Russian 61st Separate Naval Infantry Brigade got into an argument which resulted in gunfire, killing one and wounding two others.⁵⁵

Israel Defense Officer and military analyst Yihal Levin said that the repeated drone attacks on Moscow are negatively impacting Russian logistics.⁵⁶ "Moscow is the largest transport hub of the Russian state. All logistics chains are concentrated through it, including air ones. The modern economy must work without interruption. A delay of even one hour means tens of millions of losses...It is also impossible to completely block the sky on the approach to Moscow...This is a real asymmetry [*warfare – Ed.*] in action."

The commander of the Republic of Tatarstan Regiment Number 1232, Russian Colonel Vladimir Kochetkov, died in action on August 17. With no offense meant to those who

⁵⁴ https://t.me/atesh_ua/1585

⁵⁵ https://t.me/atesh_ua/1585

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/informnapalm/18548>

spend too much time at a desk like your editor-in-chief, Kochetkov was not exactly in fighting condition and died of a heart attack.⁵⁷

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The bodies of 12 Ukrainian servicemembers who were previously verified as in captivity by the International Committee of the Red Cross were repatriated to Ukraine.⁵⁸
⁵⁹ There was no information on the capture date or how they died while in captivity in Russia. The Geneva Conventions provides for a process where three doctors, one from the detaining nation and two from neutral nations, can examine a prisoner and recommend repatriation to their home or neutral country for medical care. Both combatants have exchanged critically wounded soldiers in the last 18 months in accordance with accepted norms. A Ukrainian official said, "There were no reports from Russia either about the deterioration of their health or about their serious condition."

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/OSINTGeorgia/6684>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17419>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/militarymediacenter/2928>

Ukraine is holding so many Russian prisoners of war that some have been transferred to the Ministry of Justice, Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine Olena Vysotska said during a press briefing. "This is a new function for us, but we have proved both to the domestic expert community and to our international partners about our humane and civilized attitude towards such a category of persons as enemy prisoners of war."⁶⁰

GEOPOLITICS

Ukraine and Poland have agreed to build a joint border checkpoint, where representatives from both governments will work. This will be the first of nine checkpoints built by Ukraine and the E.U. nations on its border to modernize its systems, speed up logistics, minimize corruption, and meet E.U. integration standards.⁶¹

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Serbian President Alexander Vucic privately. Zelenskyy wrote, "An open, honest, productive conversation with the President of Serbia. About respect for the UN Charter and the inviolability of borders, the future of our peoples in a

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/militarymediacenter/2929>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17422>

common European home, [and] the development of relations, which is our common interest," after his meeting.⁶²

Ten nations signed a declaration of support for Ukraine after two days of meetings. The countries support the Ukrainian ten-point "peace formula," with the leaders of Serbia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Greece signing the document.⁶³

The President of Hungary, Katalina Novak, visited the Zakarpattia Oblast of Ukraine on August 22 as part of her visit to Ukraine. During her visit to the ethnic Hungarian region of Ukraine, assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region, organization of summer vacations for Ukrainian children in different parts of Hungary, the implementation of joint environmental, educational, cultural, and other initiatives were discussed.⁶⁴

⁶² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111099>

⁶³ <https://t.me/uniannet/108928>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111081>

ECONOMIC

On the first day of the BRICS Summit in South Africa, Dilma Rousseff, the head of the BRICS New Development Bank, announced that he was forced to suspend all operations in Russia due to international sanctions.⁶⁵

The Russian economy control panel had another indicator light turn red as Russians defaulted on loans at record levels. In the first half of 2023, 17.7 million of Russia's 75.6 million working-age residents had defaulted on their consumer loans.⁶⁶ The total amount in default is equal to \$26.5 billion. While the average defaulted debt of \$1,497 per capita appears low, Russia's average annual household income is \$7.932.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40171>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/rusbrief/147727>

⁶⁷ <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/russia/annual-household-income-per-capita>

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.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units have greater fidelity.

 **Andrei Morozov:** Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detained by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

 **Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

⚠ **Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia:** We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

⊖ **Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense:** We do not use combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

⊖ **Denis Pushilin:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

⚠ **Ramzan Kadyrov:** The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

✅ **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:** We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or

misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government official to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.