



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR
SITUATION REPORT**



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 336

Editor's Note: After our winter break, our days of war count was off by one. We didn't skip Day 335 but corrected the report. We appreciate your understanding.

It has been 48 weeks since Russia's widescale invasion of Ukraine and 3,254 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on February 27, 2014.

There was less ground combat activity in Ukraine, with the heaviest fighting on the Bakhmut and Vuhledar axes. The Russian Ministry of Defense did not make specific reports about ground combat in Ukraine, and several Russian milbloggers wrote their obituaries for the Zaporizhia offensive.

Ukrainian officials announced they had pulled all troops out of Soledar, ending DRG and Special Operation Forces resistance efforts. Ukrainian forces made some small gains in Opytne, south of Bakhmut, while losing ground south and southwest of Klishchiivka.

There were multiple air raid alerts across Ukraine, culminating with an attack by 24 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones. Ukrainian air defenses intercepted all 24, with debris landing in populated areas in Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro. At the time of publication, Ukraine was under a cruise missile attack with 25 to 35 launches from Tu-95 bombers and the Black Sea Fleet.

The United States announced it would provide 31 M1 Abrams main battle tanks (MBT) to Ukraine. The announcement came after Germany confirmed it was transferring 14 Leopard 2A6 MBTs and would allow third-party transfers. Between announced commitments and published numbers, Ukraine will gain another 100 to 125 tanks, in addition to the 14 British Challenger 2 and ten French AMX10-RC tank destroyers already committed.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

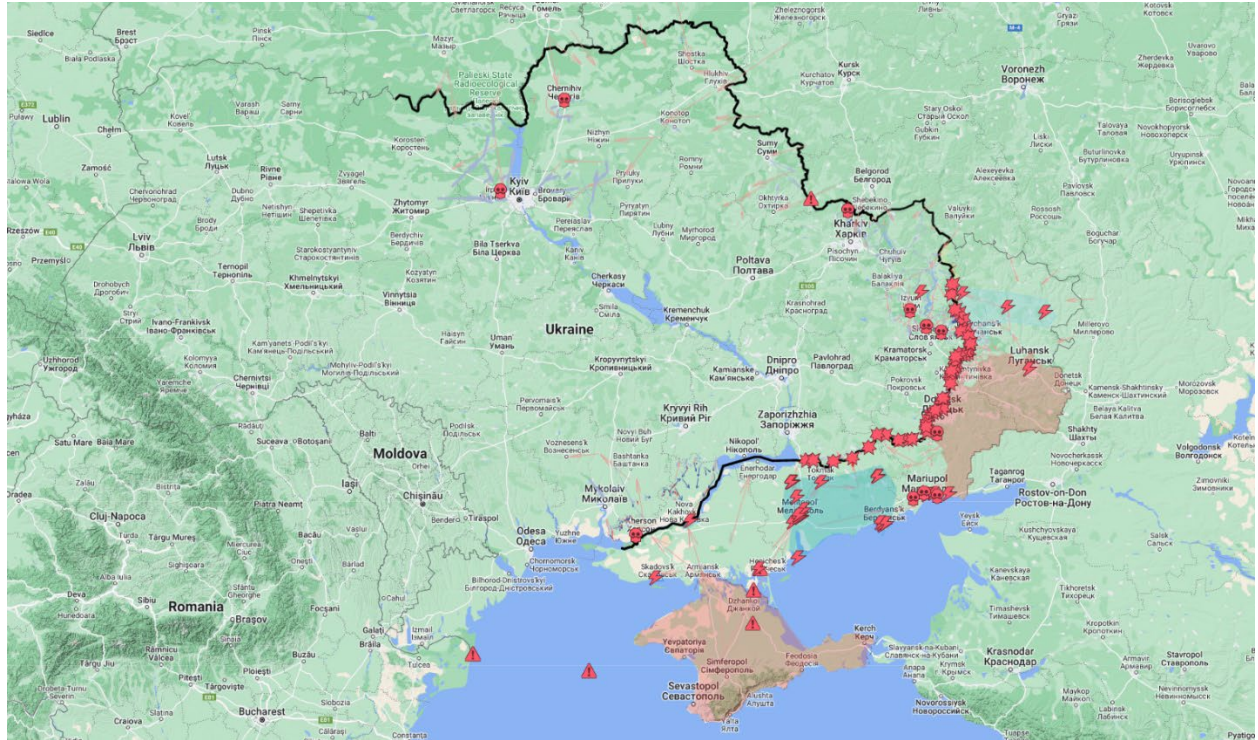
1. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative except on the Soledar-Bakhmut axis.
2. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine remains combat ineffective and continues to use

- World War II tactics that Field Marshal Georgy Zhukov would recognize to move the line of conflict.
3. We maintain that the power struggle between military leaders aligned with Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoigu versus those aligned to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group head Yevgeny Prigozhin will continue.
 4. Regrettably, our assessment that there would be a punitive missile strike after the announcement of military aid to Ukraine was accurate – with the ongoing attack coordinated with the German and United States announcements of providing main battle tanks to Ukraine, which we previously anticipated would come between January 19 to 21.
 5. We further assess that Russian forces will continue to target electrical, heating, and potable water infrastructure.
 6. We maintain that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the deenergization of Ukrainian nuclear power plants caused by Russian electrical infrastructure destruction is possible.
 7. We maintain there will be a second wave of partial mobilization in the Russian Federation in January or February 2023, which may have already started after a statement made by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

8. We assess that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of a **major** offensive operation is extremely unlikely.
9. We assess that the threat of a Russian amphibious or airborne assault on Odesa is negligible.

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TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

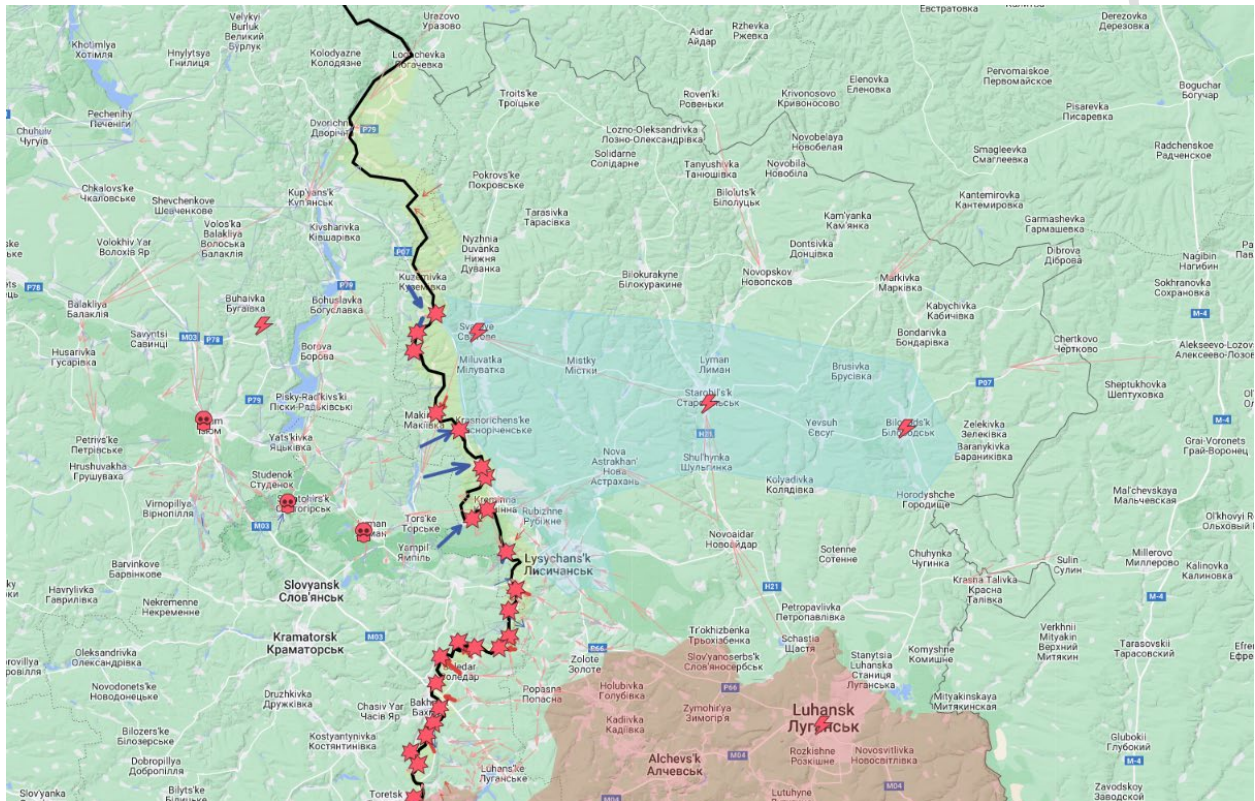


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The 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.

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>

DONBAS REGION

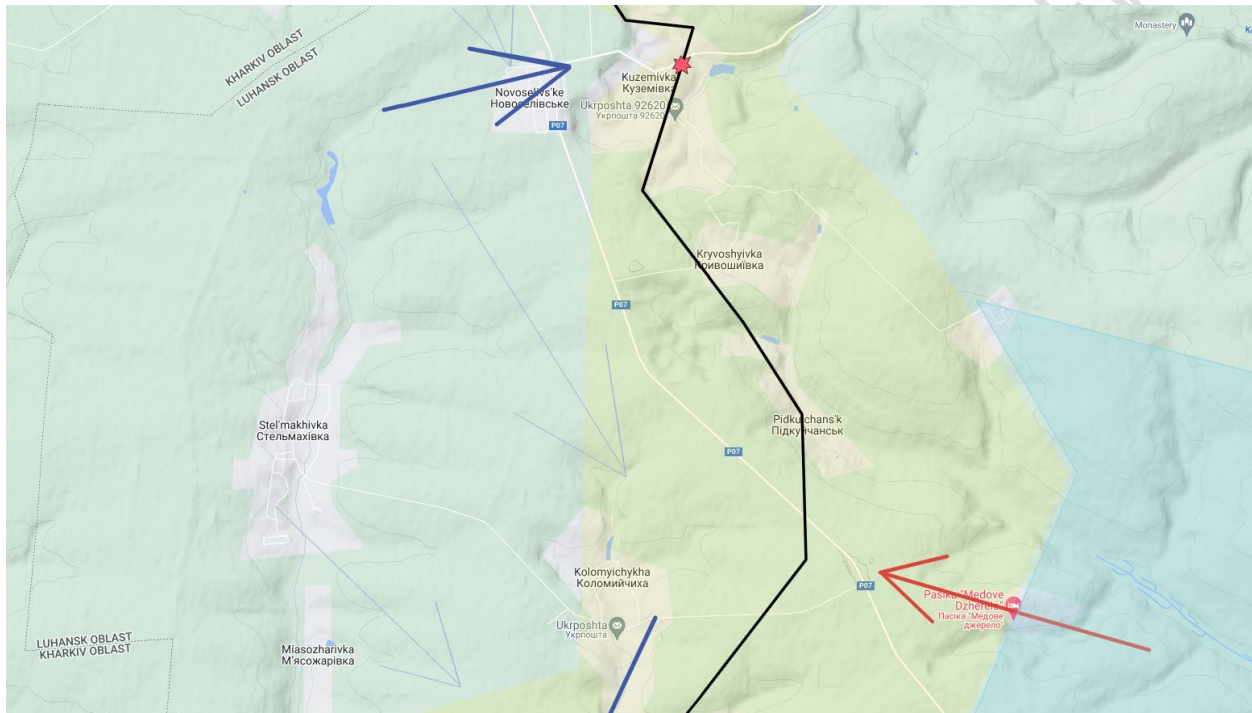
LUHANSK



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

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

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that fighting continued to be light and positional along the entire axis.

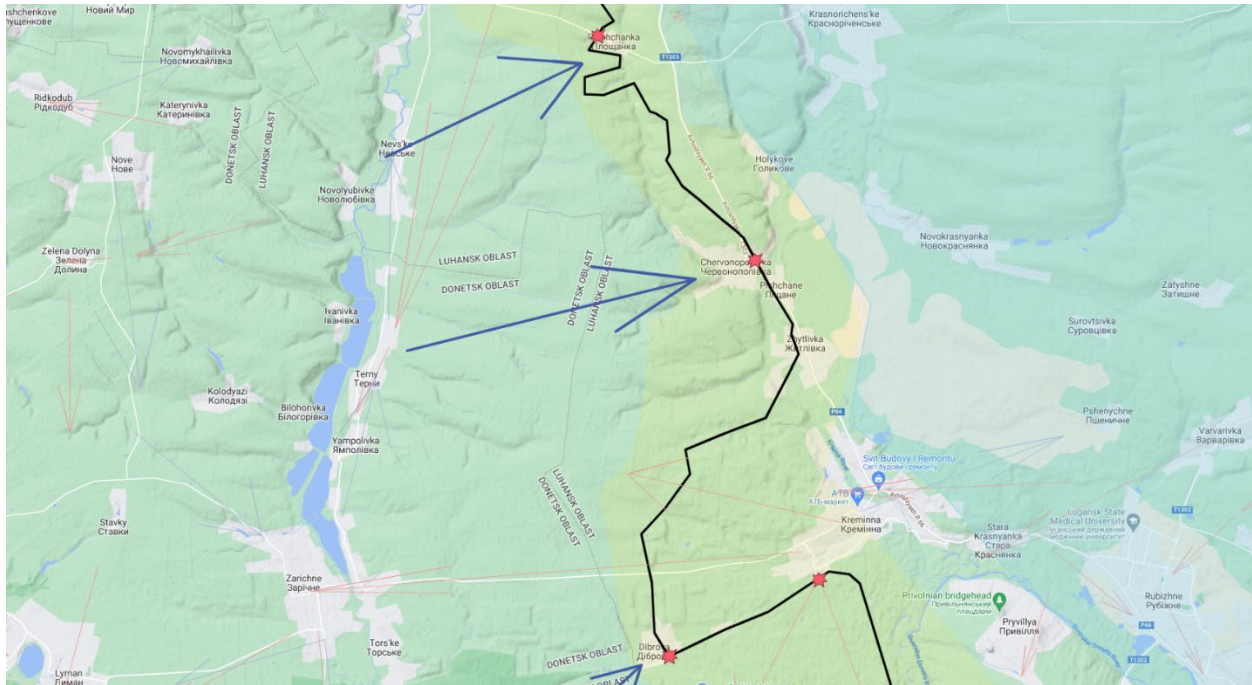


On the Svatove axis, positional battles continued on the eastern edge of [Novoselivske](#), with Ukrainian and Russian forces trading artillery strikes.^{1 2 3}

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

² https://t.me/mod_russia/23753 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15313>



On the Kreminna axis, a reliable Ukrainian source reported that positional fighting continued in [Ploshanka](#), [Chervonpopivka](#), and near [Kreminna](#).⁴ The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) and Russian milblogger Vysoky Govorit reported there was mutual shelling along the entire line of conflict, with NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) validating their reports.^{5 6}


⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15313>

⁵ <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10622>


⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)





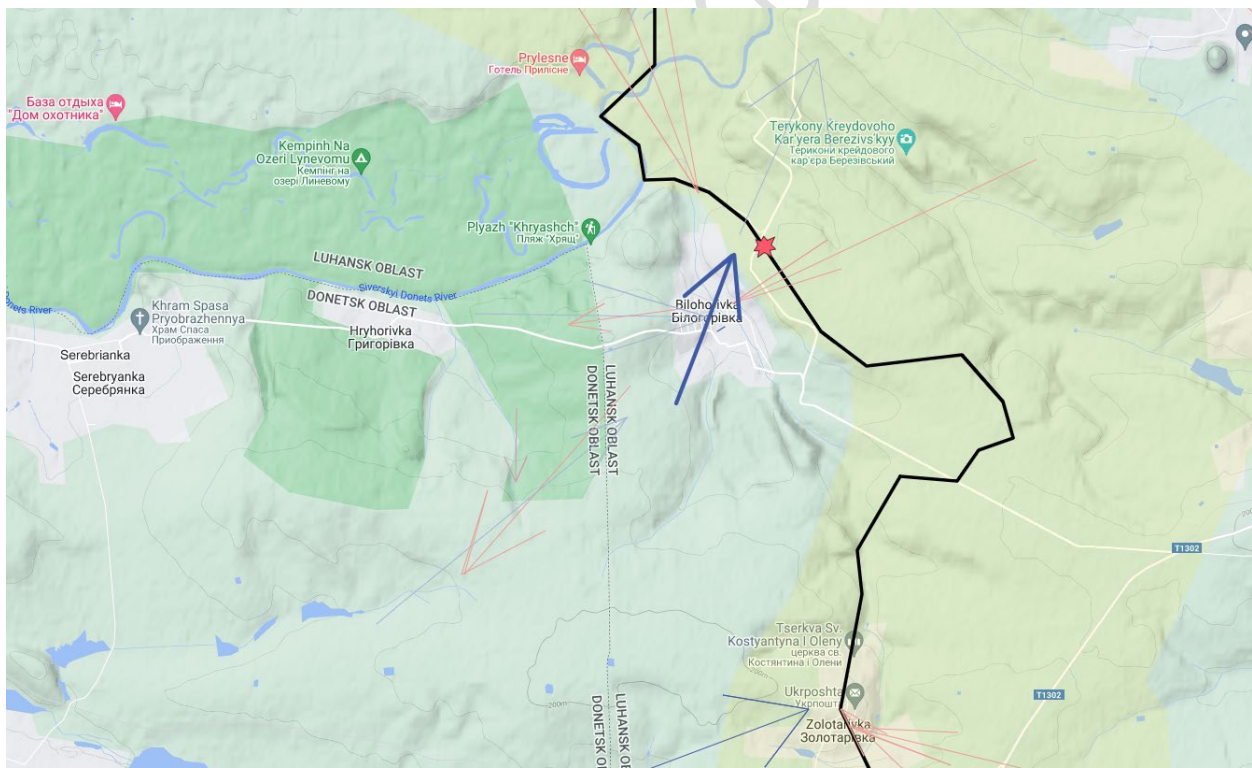
The Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) ignored Operational Security (OPSEC), providing three detailed battle damage assessments after HIMARS rocket attacks on Kreminna and Rubizhne.

On January 23 in Kreminna, mercenaries with Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group broke OPSEC after  [publishing selfies outside a music school](#) they were using as a barracks.⁷ The LNR JCCC reported that the area

⁷ <https://twitter.com/BenDoBrown/status/1617535904331059200>

was hit by six rockets on January 25, with photographs showing  [the building was obliterated](#).^{8 9}

In Rubizhne, a HIMARS strike  [destroyed a hotel](#), and a second attack hit the  [bus station, a thermal plant](#) that provides heat and hot water, and several surrounding buildings. Detailed photos of the effectiveness of the attacks were published online.



⁸ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7994

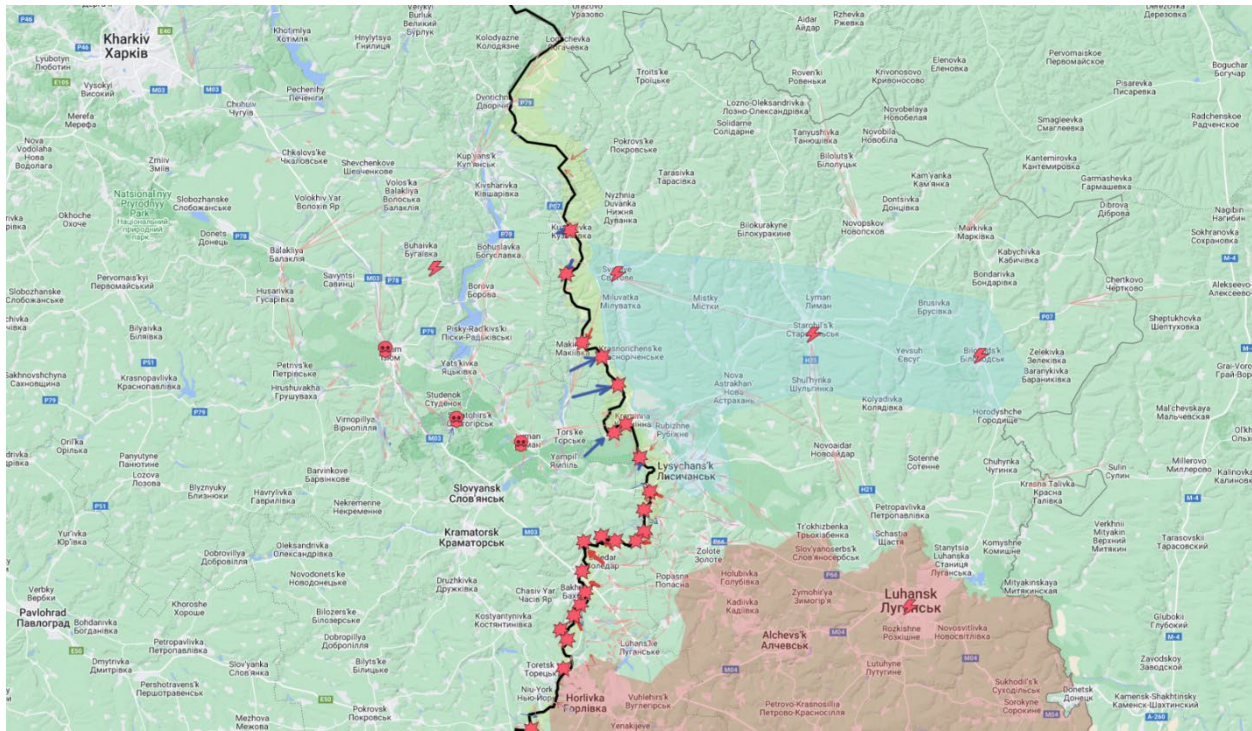
⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

On the Lysychansk axis, fighting continued near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], with Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Military and Administrative Governor, reporting that Ukrainian forces hold the initiative.^{10 11}

¹⁰ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8167>

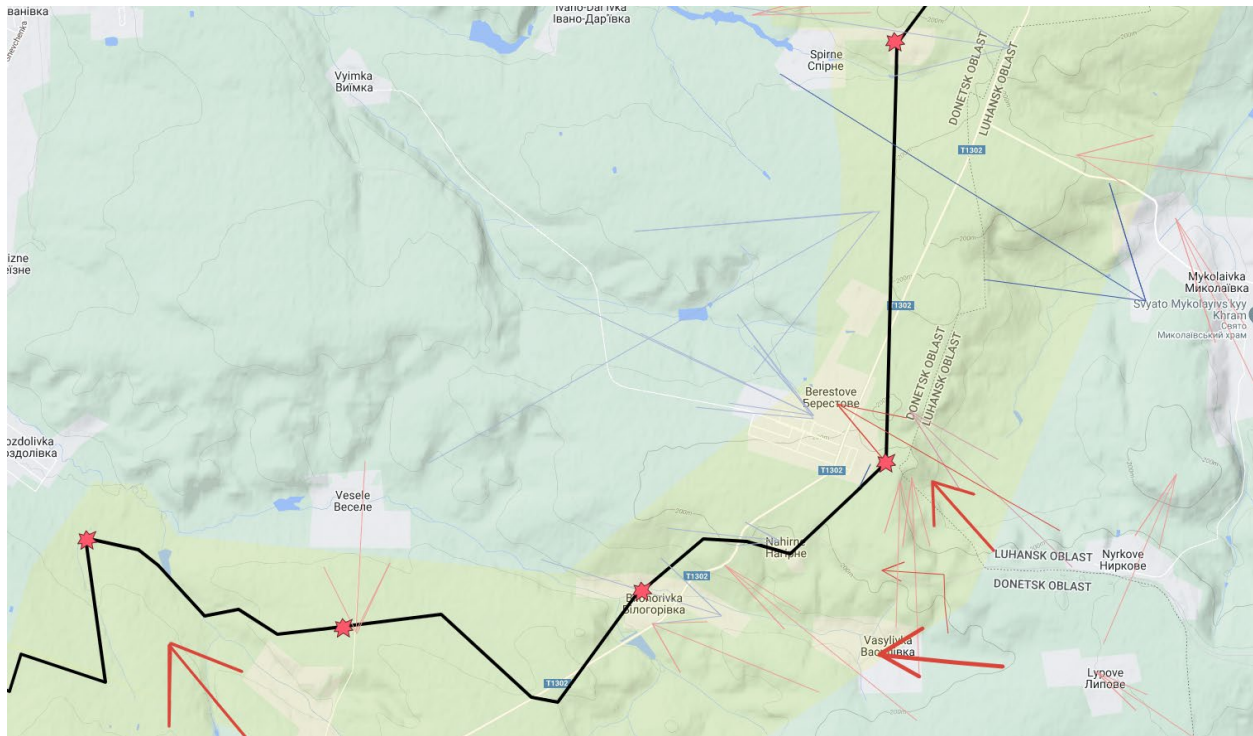
¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

NORTHEAST DONETSK




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

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties




On the Siversk axis, there was renewed fighting near [Spirne](#), according to mercenaries with War Gonzo.¹²

GSAFU reported that fighting continued in [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk] with no change to the situation.¹³ The Russian advance failed,  [with a video showing the destruction](#) of four BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) and a BTR-82A armored personnel carrier (APC).¹⁴

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>

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

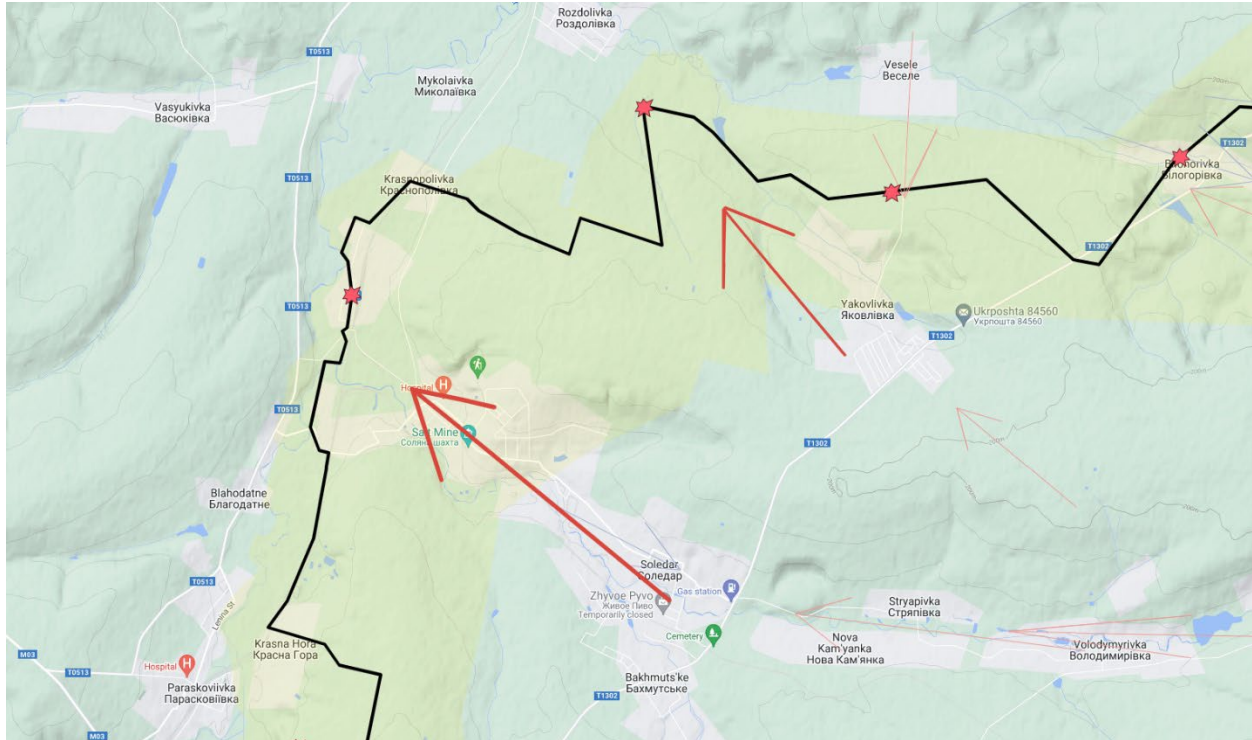
¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/BarracudaVol1/status/1618324523224567809>

On the Soledar axis, Ukrainian forces appear to have maintained their defensive lines. Operational Command East Commander Serhiy Cherevaty reported that all Ukrainian forces had been withdrawn from Soledar to “preserve human life.” PMC Wagner made the first capture claim 13 days ago, with numerous Russian reports, pictures, and videos indicating that pockets of resistance, Special Operation Forces (SOF), DRG, and sniper teams were still operating in the town.¹⁵ ¹⁶ A Russian video in Soledar confirmed Denis Pushilin’s, the self-declared leader of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DNR), assessment that the  [settlement is completely destroyed](#).¹⁷ We encourage you to watch the video to understand the scope of the devastation.

¹⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-64270001>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15313>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/officejsmart/status/1618106682692800512>



PMC Wagner continued their attempts to advance on [Rozdolivka](#) from Karsnopolivka without success.^{18 19}

Fighting for control of [Blahodatne](#) and [Krasna Hora](#) continued, with no change in the situation.^{20 21 22}

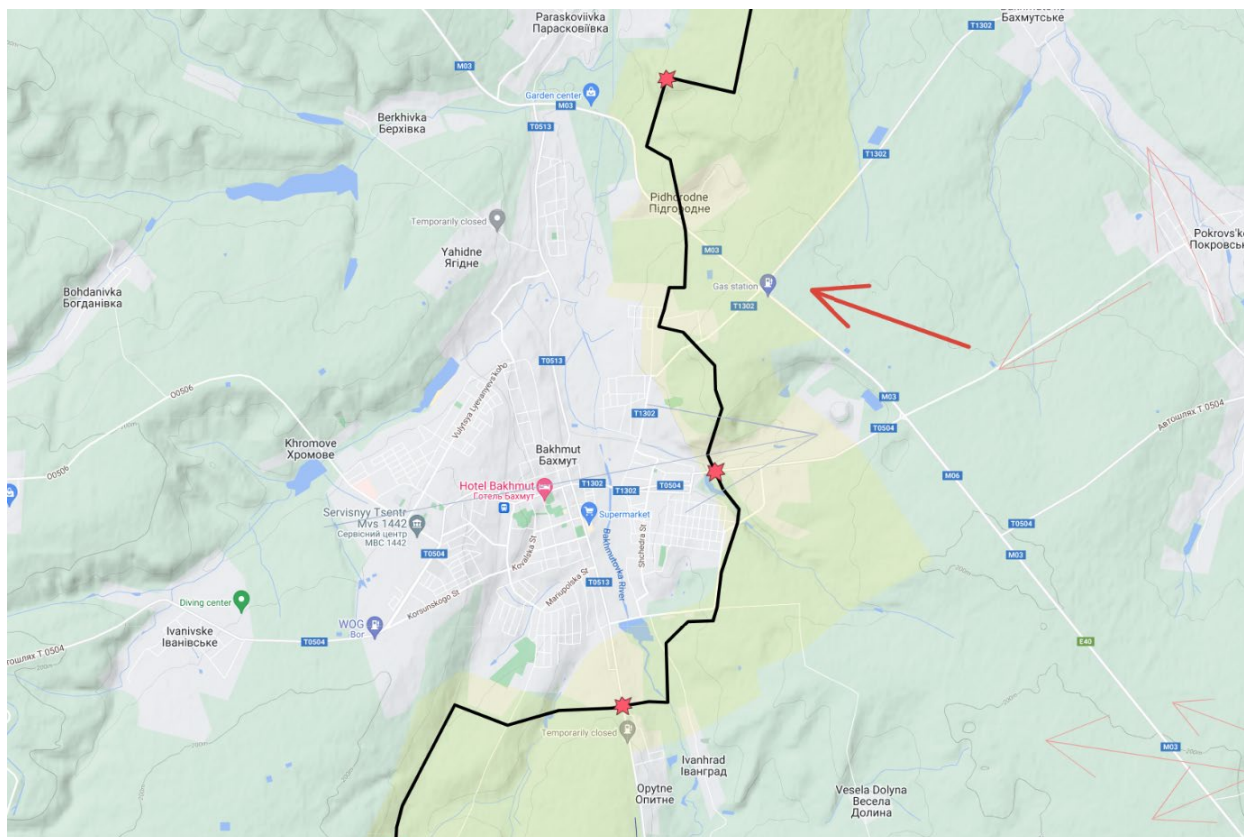
¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>

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

²¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15313>

²² <https://t.me/rybar/42994>



On the [Bakhmut](#) axis, fighting continued on the city's northern, northeast, east, and southern edges.²³ ²⁴ PMC Wagner forces attempted to advance from [Pidhorodne](#) toward [Paraskoviivka](#) but could not break through Ukrainian defenses.²⁵ Mercenaries with Rybar reported that fighting continued around the meat packing plant, with no change in territorial control.²⁶ A geolocated video released by Russian State Media agency Zvezda News indicated that Ukrainian forces made marginal gains back into [Opytne](#),

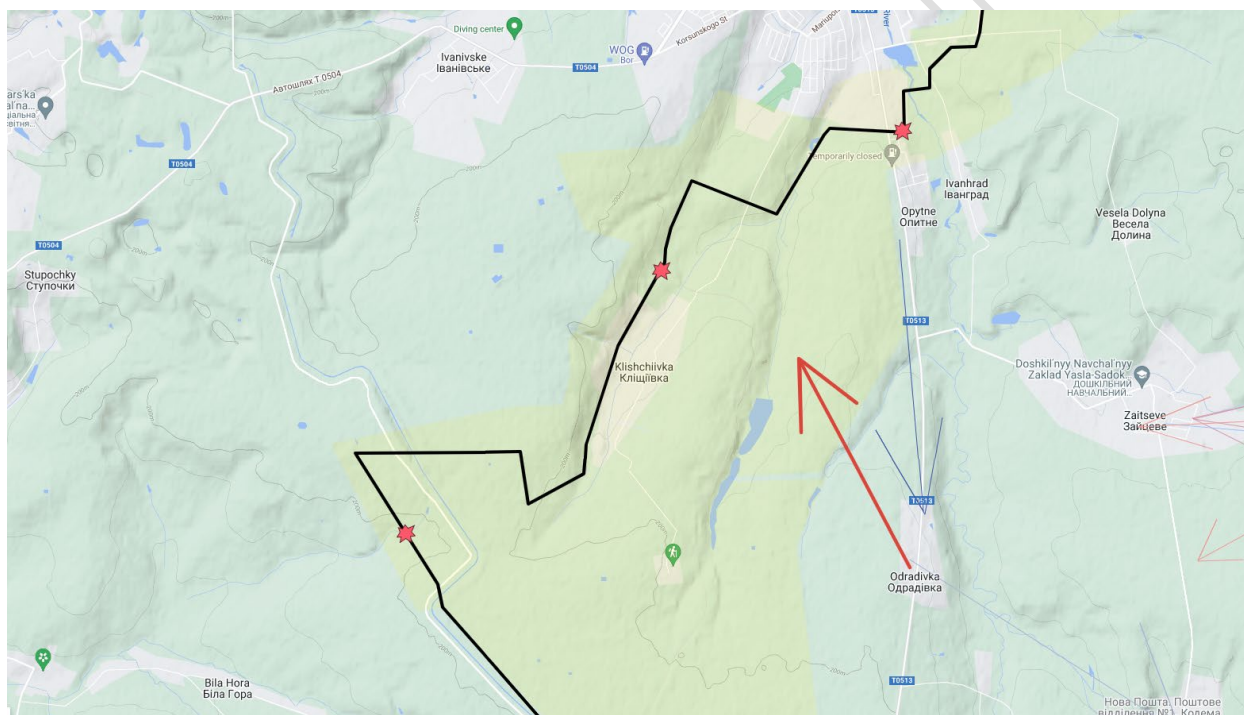
²³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)


²⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

²⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>

²⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

which likely explains why there have not been any claims of further Russian advances from the south for over a week.²⁷ We adjusted the map based on the updated intelligence. In our assessment, the advance was positional and did not represent a larger Ukrainian counteroffensive.



South of Bakhmut, a geolocated video showed that PMC Wagner had  [crossed the canal southwest of Klishchiivka](#) and established new positions.^{28 29 30} There were unconfirmed reports that Ukrainian forces had been pushed

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/Nikolai11449196/status/1617552709011357701>

²⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15310>

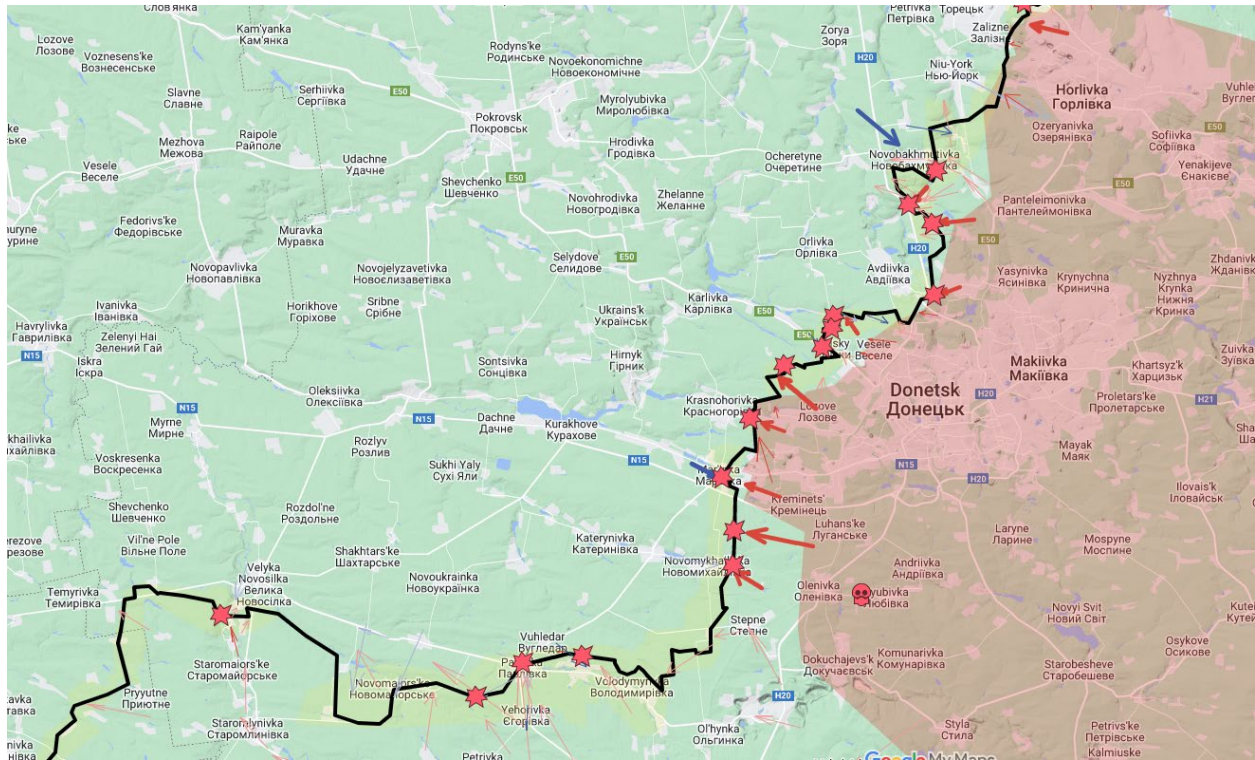
²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>

³⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15313>

out of the highlands to the west of the settlement, but a week after PMC Wagner claimed they had captured the town, there still are no pictures or videos.

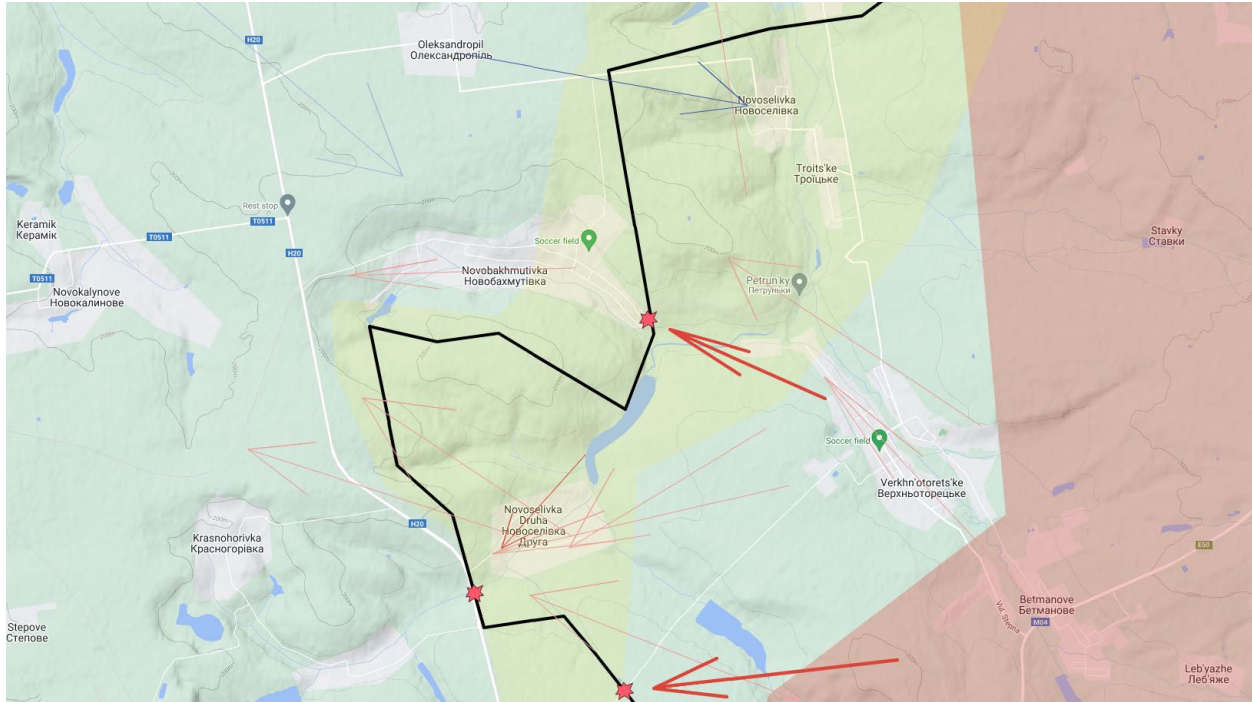
ASSESSMENT: If Ukrainian forces are pushed out of their strong points west of Klishchiivka, it will complicate the defense of Ivanivske and the T-504 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) which supports Bakhmut. There continues to be a lack of verifiable intelligence in this area, with numerous false claims by Russian social media sources complicating assessment. Several analysts have suggested that PMC Wagner is exhausted its combat power by capturing Soledar, citing that as a key reason for the slowing advance. Wagner still has a pool of over 300,000 convicts in Russian penal colonies to recruit from and can provide additional enticement with a handful of success stories from former convicts who received pardons. We are not prepared to bet against Wagner's ability to reconstitute.

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



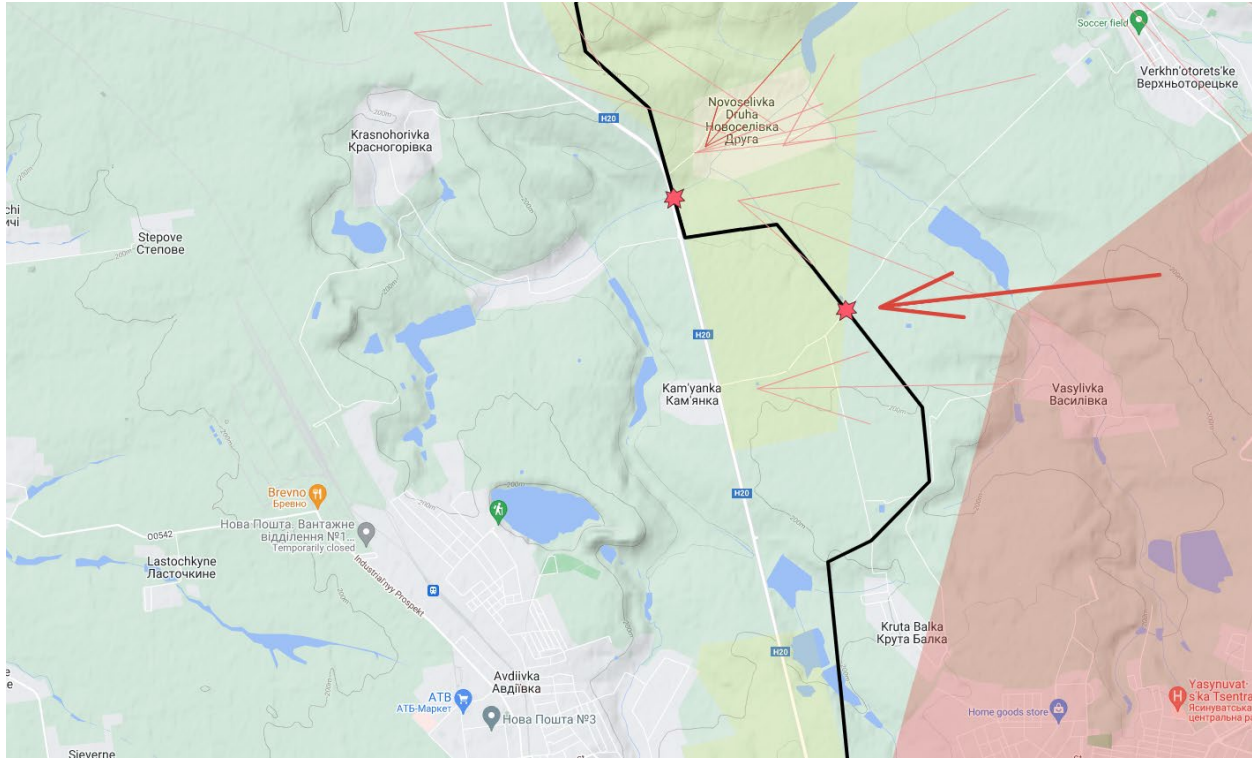
Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics



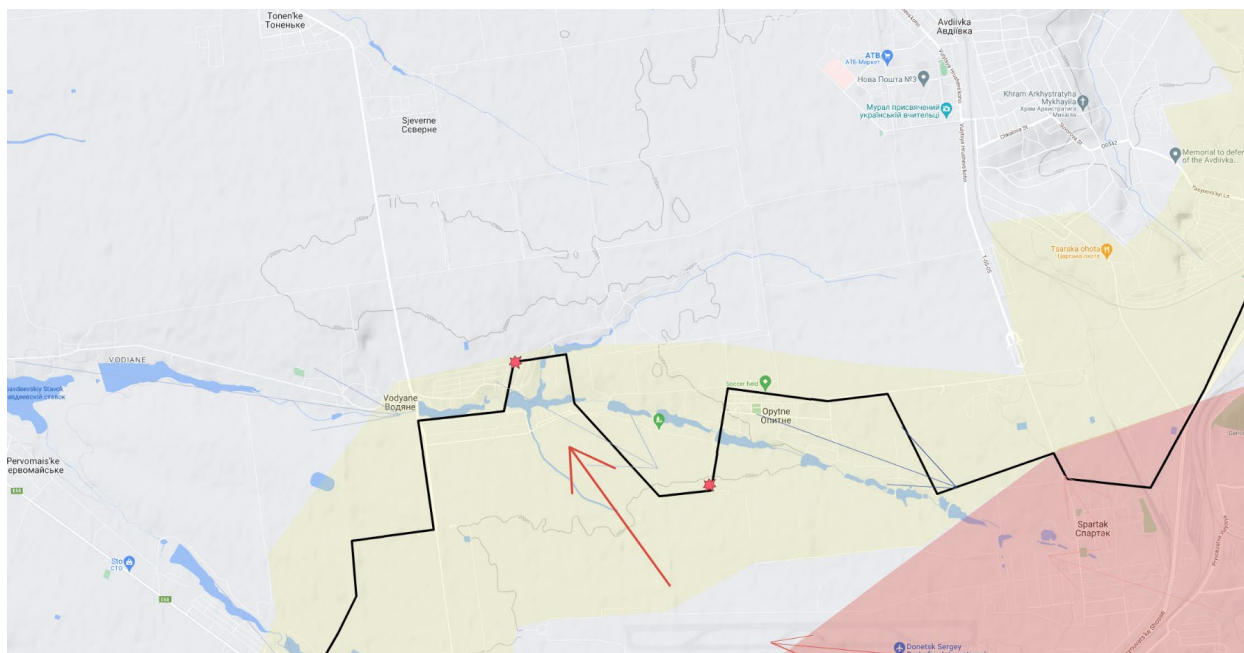
On the Niu York axis, elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR continued their attacks on [Novobakhmutivka](#) without success.³¹

³¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



On the Avdiivka axis, DNR separatists continued their attempts to advance on the Ukrainian stronghold in [Krasnohorivka](#) without success.³²

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



DNR separatists  [continued to shell the center](#) of Avdiivka and nearby Ukrainian positions.^{33 34} A geolocated video indicated that Ukrainian forces [recaptured defensive positions](#) at the former anti-aircraft site in [Spartak](#), which the 1st Army Corps captured on September 11.³⁵ We adjusted the map based on the new intelligence.

DNR separatists reportedly recaptured [Vodyane](#), with Russian milblogger Boris Rozhin writing why it is more likely the town will remain a no man's land.³⁶ Because Vodyane lies in a valley surrounded by empty fields,

³³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53828>

³⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73373>

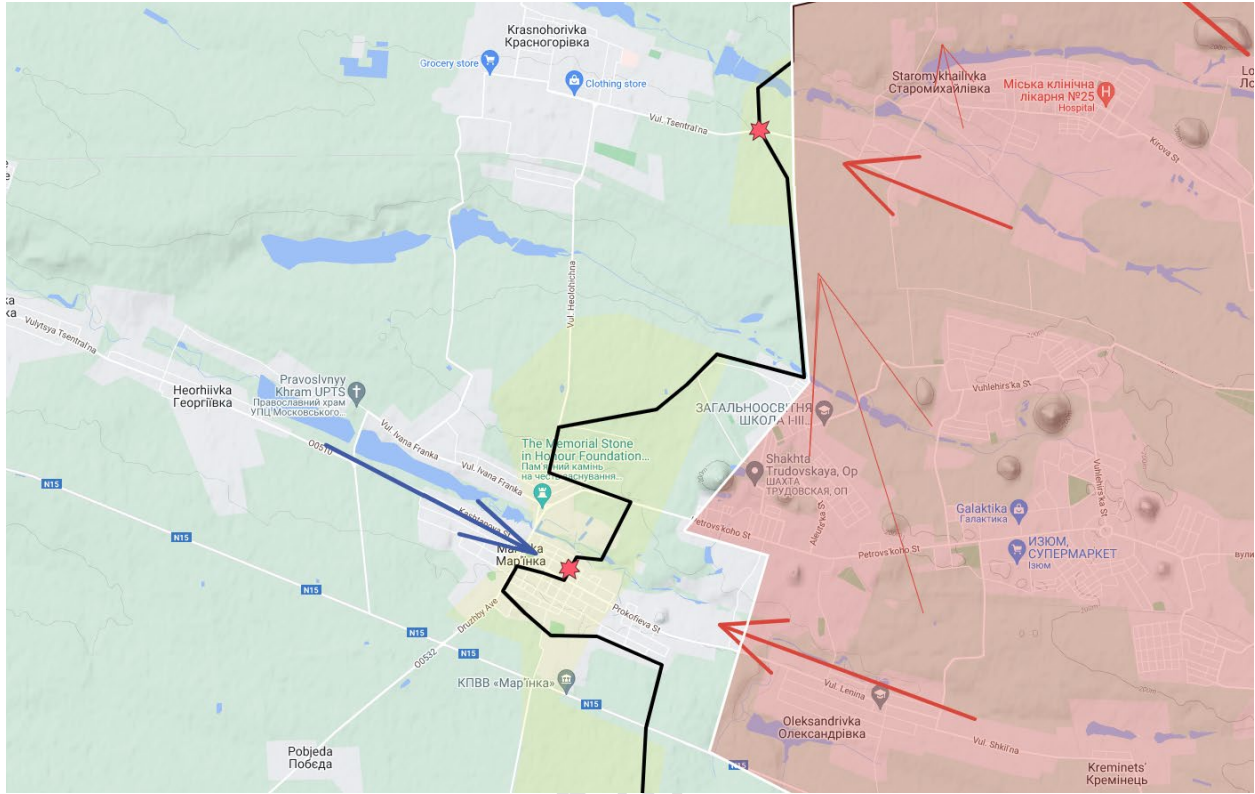
³⁵ <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1617944243083018240>

³⁶ <https://t.me/voenkorKotenok/44725>

Ukrainian forces retreated to the northern edge, attacking Russian forces from higher terrain. He shares the same assessment we have made about Avdiivka. Due to a lack of personnel, armored vehicles, close air support (CAS), and low-quality military intelligence, operational success cannot be turned into a tactical victory, citing the failure to advance from Pisky as an example of this problem. Rozhin's assessment goes on to take a swipe at the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD), writing that PMC Wagner would be more successful but lacks sufficient numbers to expand beyond Soledar and Bakhmut.

On the subject of Pisky, War Gonzo reported that Ukrainian forces were attacking from [Pervomaiske](#) but did not indicate the direction of the attack or the outcome.³⁷

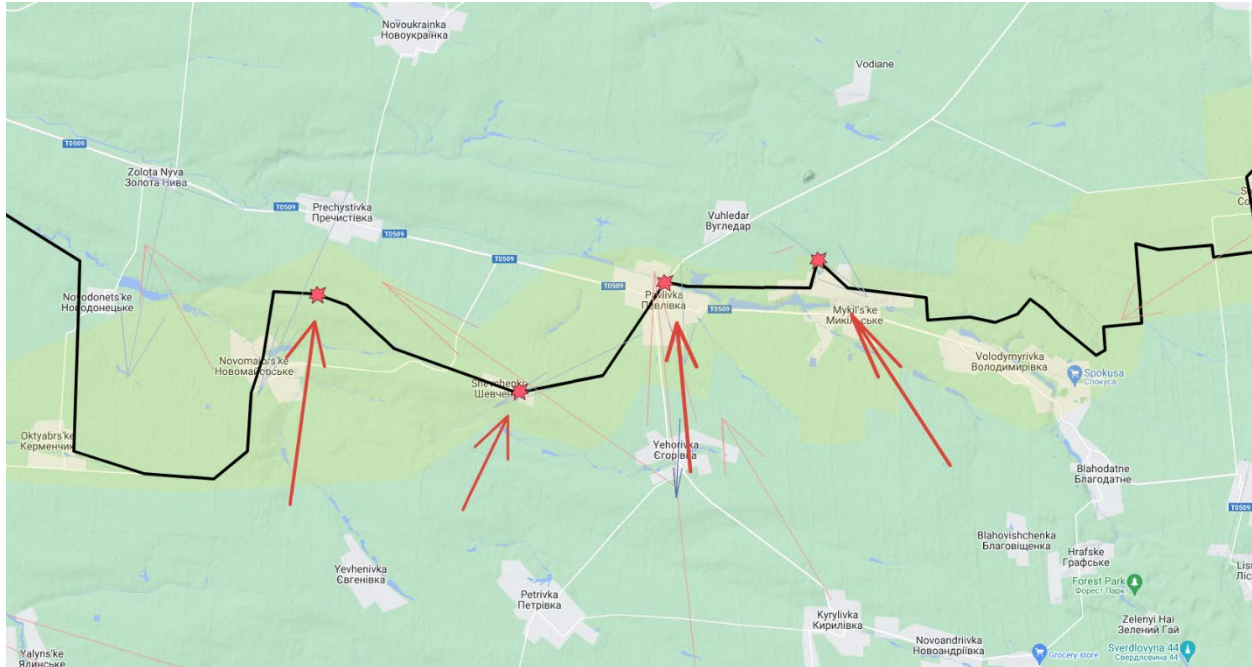
³⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>



On the [Marinka](#) axis, positional fighting continued in the city center.^{38 39}

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

³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10501>



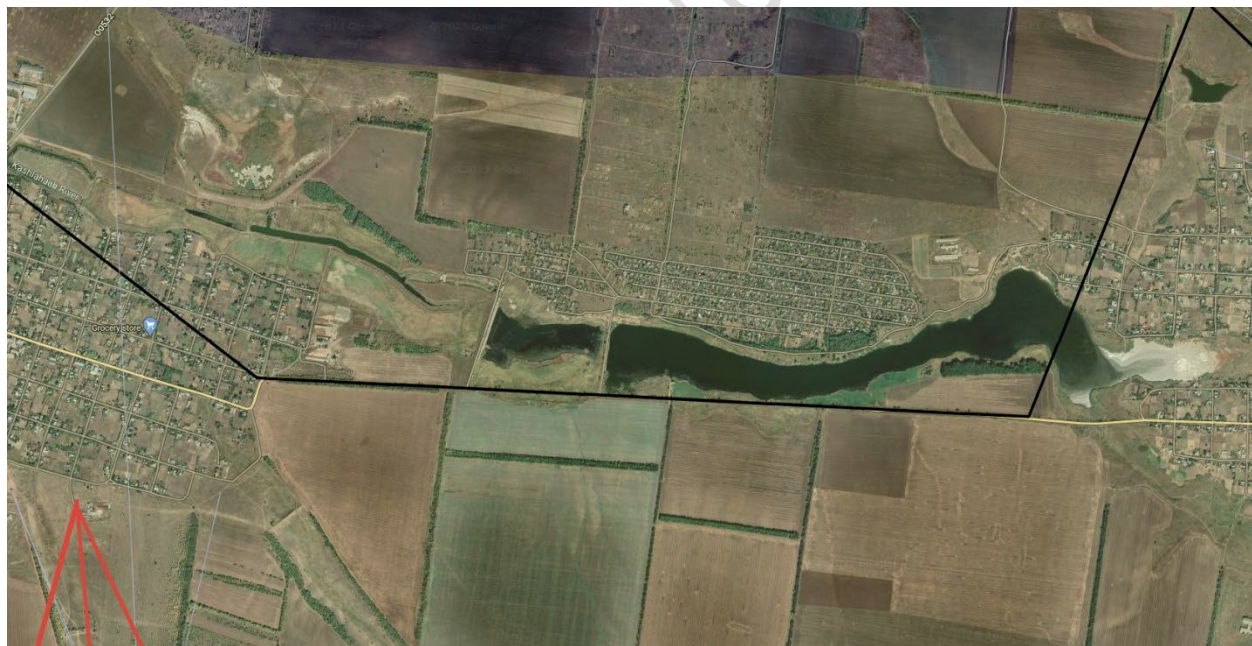
On the Vuhledar axis, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Khodakovsky, commanding officer of the Vostok Brigade of the DNR 1st Army Corps, reported a large-scale offensive had been launched by his unit.⁴⁰ Other Russian sources minimized the DNR role, claiming the reconstituted Russian 155th Guards Naval Infantry was leading the offensive.

Lt. Col. Khodakovsky wrote on Telegram, The pace of our progress slowed down towards evening. The enemy pulled up reserves and increased resistance...[with]...our artillery...suppressing them. The infantry is regrouping. Our losses are significantly lower than the first day of the

⁴⁰ https://t.me/smotri_z/10441


offensive on Pavlivka, but there are no pronounced results yet."⁴¹



Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Anna Maliar reported, "The enemy increases pressure on the...Vuhledar area. Heavy fighting continues. [They] throws a significant number of personnel, weapons, and military equipment into battle, trying to break through our defenses, suffers significant losses, but does not abandon his plans."⁴²




⁴¹ https://t.me/grey_zone/16814

⁴² <https://t.me/annamaliar/524>

Geolocated video from Russian sources showed Ukrainian positions being  [attacked with TOS-1 thermobaric rockets](#) north of the Kashlahach River in the same area of dachas between [Mykilske](#) and [Pavlivka](#) that DNR separatists claimed they captured yesterday.^{43 44 45} RMOD only reported that the Vostok Brigade was able to advance to "more advantageous lines and positions."⁴⁶

Vuhledar was constantly shelled,  [including with TOS-1 thermobaric weapons](#). Russian forces are repeating their tactics of destroying an area  [until nothing worth defending is left](#).^{47 48} Rybar dismissed Russian social media claims that there was fighting in Vuhledar.⁴⁹

The People's Militia of the DNR shared a  [thermal image video](#) of the Vostok Brigade firing Grad rockets from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) on Ukrainian positions somewhere on the axis.⁵⁰ At least one rocket hits a vehicle or a small ammunition cache, causing a secondary explosion.

⁴³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15311>

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1618212157119926272>

⁴⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/23753 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁴⁷ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1618302430583869440>

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1618217517167828992>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/42993>

⁵⁰ https://t.me/nm_dnr/9778

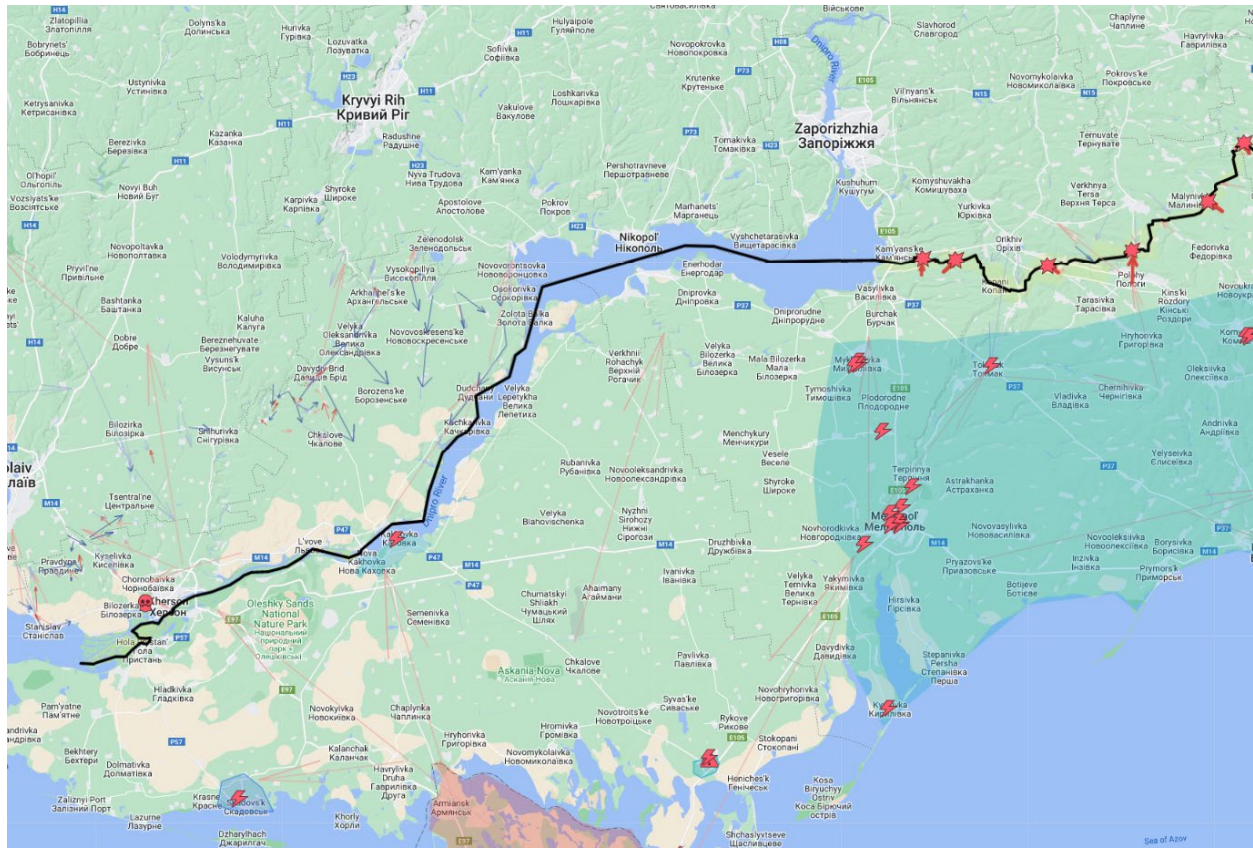
ASSESSMENT: Unlike the claims from Russian collaborator Vladimir Rogov about the Zaporizhia offensive, DNR separatists and Russian forces are making another attempt to capture Vuhledar. After the second day, the available intelligence indicates that there has been very little success. Our team was surprised to learn that Russian forces did have territorial control north of the Kashlahach River before the current offensive.

In Russian-occupied Horlivka, an electrical substation was destroyed, knocking out power to 124,000 households.⁵¹ ⁵² It is the second major transformer farm Ukrainian forces have targeted in the Donbas this week.

⁵¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53815>



⁵² <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

There was mutual shelling on both sides of the Dnipro in Kherson, with Russian forces firing 52 times into free Ukraine with 12 strikes on the city of Kherson, killing three and wounding six.^{53 54 55} Russian forces targeted  [residential areas](#), civilian infrastructure, and the river port, with more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section. The Turkish-flagged bulk carrier Tuzla was hit by a missile on January 24,  [destroying the bridge](#) and superstructure.⁵⁶ The vessel has been docked in Kherson since February 24, when Russia launched its widescale invasion and had no crew onboard. Beryslav was shelled, accounting for two of the three fatalities.⁵⁷

Pictures showed  [significant damage in Nova Kakhovka](#) after the Russian-occupied town east of the Dnipro was heavily shelled overnight.⁵⁸

⁵³ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3291>

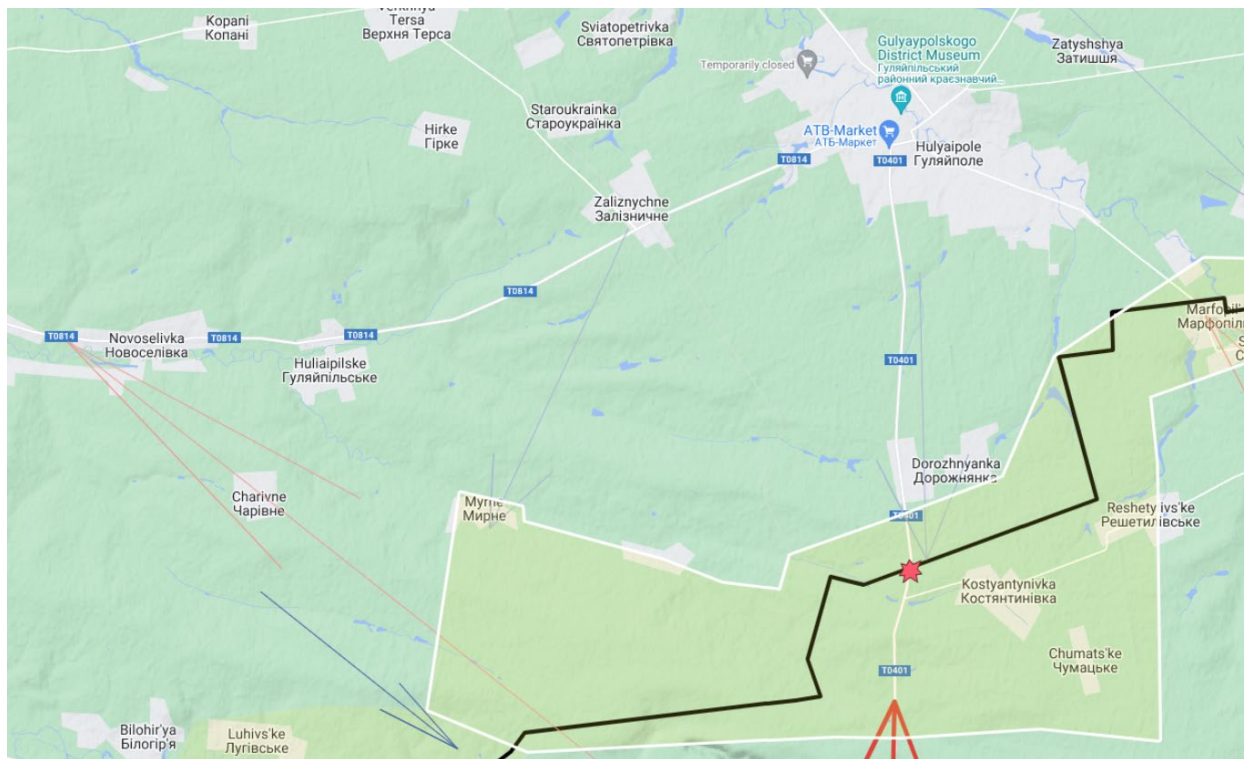
⁵⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁵⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/informnapalm/15344>

⁵⁷ killed <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73358>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53796>



In Zaporizhia, on the Hulyaipole axis, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Charivne](#) using reconnaissance in force and were unsuccessful.^{59 60} Although GSAFU reported this was in Donetsk, we believe that was an error in their report based on additional information from Russian sources.

Our favorite FSB colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, PMC Wagner target, and failed mobik Igor “Girkin” Strelkov wrote off the Zaporizhia offensive. On Telegram,

⁵⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/rybar/42994>

he accurately reported no meaningful updates to support Rogov's earlier claims.⁶¹

Russian forces struck the Pavlivka hromada in Zaporizhia with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack, damaging critical electrical infrastructure.⁶² There was no other information at the time of publication.

Based on available information, there is no change in the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant status and no reports that the power lines that supply the facility were de-energized. Rosatom is struggling to maintain staffing levels after denying entry to up to 1,500 Energoatom workers who refused to sign contracts with Russian state-controlled enterprise. The Russian company is trying to recruit up to 150 engineers and technicians from Belarus to work at ZNPP after recruitment efforts in the Russian Federation failed.⁶³

⁶¹ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3798>

⁶² <https://www.epravda.com.ua/news/2023/01/26/696368/>

⁶³ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/11647

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

The composition of the Black Sea Fleet changed, with 11 ships on patrol, including four missile carriers capable of launching up to 28 Kalibr cruise missiles.⁶⁴ At the time of publication, there were reports of at least four Kalibr cruise missiles launched at Ukraine on the morning of January 26.

Editor's note: Our report is finalized in Seattle, Washington, USA, 10 hours behind Kyiv.

Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmytry Medvedev, told reporters that "The Kyiv regime will soon have no access to the sea."⁶⁵ The chances of Russia launching an amphibious or airborne troop assault on Odesa or any other coastal area of Ukraine is never zero, but it is very close. The chances of any such offensive operation being successful are also not zero but very close.

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73285>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/kommunist/15203>

Odesa Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Yuriy Kruk reported that two critical electrical infrastructure facilities had been damaged by Russian cruise missiles on the morning of January 26.⁶⁶ The power grid was de-energized before the attack to prevent additional damage. The Odesa region was already struggling to maintain enough electrical generation capacity to support critical infrastructure. In our assessment, the January 26 attack may cause a tipping point in the ability to provide the minimum amount of power required for communications, drinking water, transit, hospitals, and other vital civilian services.

⁶⁶ <https://www.epravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/696370/>

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Sergei Borzov, Vinnytsia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Ukrainian air defenses were active with reports of explosions in the region.⁶⁷ At the time of publication, there was a report of one missile strike with no casualties.

In Dnipropetrovsk, debris from a Shahed-136 kamikaze drone that was shot down struck a factory with its warhead still intact. No one was killed, but the impact caused significant damage.⁶⁸

We won't be able to compile and verify the results of the January 26 missile attack on Ukraine in today's report. We

⁶⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386564/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386546/>

can confirm that Russian reports of missile strikes in Lviv are part of a disinformation campaign, and as of noon local time, there weren't any successful missile strikes in the region.

NORTH AND NORTHEAST UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

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

Air defenses were able to shoot down all 15 Shahed-136 drones that entered the Kyiv region on January 25, with no damage or injuries reported.⁶⁹ The mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, said one person was killed and two wounded on January 26 in the Goloseevsky district of Kyiv after debris landed on a non-residential building.⁷⁰ Klitschko also

⁶⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386554/>

⁷⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386585/>

verified an explosion in the Dnieper District but had no other information at the time of publication. DTEK de-energized the electrical grid during the air raid to prevent further damage from overloads if the power grid was damaged. Outside of the city, Andrey Nebytov, Chief of Police of the Kyiv Oblast, reported that missile debris from downed Russian cruise missiles and air defense were found in several locations. There were no reports of injuries or fatalities.⁷¹ An update from the Kyiv Regional Military Administration stated a critical energy facility was hit by a Russian missile during the morning attack.^{72 73}

RUSSIAN FRONT

There weren't any significant events in this region.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

On January 25, Ukrainian air defenses shot down all 25 Shahed-136 drones that entered the nation's air space – the first 100% success rate of the war for a medium-sized attack. We estimate that the Russian VKS launched 25 to 35

⁷¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386592/>

⁷² <https://t.me/kyivoda/8125>

⁷³ <https://www.epravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/696379/>

cruise missiles using Tu-95 and potentially Tu-22M3 strategic bombers on the morning of January 26.

Before today's missile strikes started, insurgents in Mariupol reported a sharp increase in activity at the Primorsky-Akhtar airfield, with frequent sonic bombs over the city.⁷⁴ The Russian VKS is flying missions with two or three aircraft, with one firing at ground targets and the other plane, or planes, providing Combat Air Patrol (CAP) and Suppress and Destroy Enemy Air Defense (SEAD/DEAD) support.

Someone change the sign because it's been zero days since someone in the Russian government threatened nuclear war.⁷⁵ Konstantin Gavrilov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks in Vienna on military security and arms control, said the "delivery of Western-made [depleted] Uranium (DE) shells to Kyiv will be regarded by Moscow as the use of dirty nuclear bombs" and warned that if Ukraine is supplied with DE munitions, we will consider this as the use of dirty nuclear bombs against Russia with all the ensuing consequences."

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6168>


⁷⁵ <https://ria.ru/amp/20230125/snaryad-1847362826.html>

The Russian Federation, and almost certainly Ukraine, is already using 115 mm and 125 mm DE rounds fired by the T-62, T-64, T-72, T-80, and T-90 tanks.

Editor's Note: *Russia is suddenly worried about irradiating Ukraine. Is this the same Russia that attempted to cover up the meltdown at Chornobyl that irradiated most of Europe, left wide swaths of Ukraine and Belarus uninhabitable, and got into armored shooting battles on the Chornobyl and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in February and March 2022? The same Russia that dug trenches and built bunkers in the red forest cut down trees and burned them for cooking and firewood? Ran heavy equipment and armored vehicles through the Belarus and Ukraine exclusion zones kicking up radioactive dust that was detected as far away as Kyiv in March 2022? Are we talking about Russia here?*

Kremlin-backed hacker group Killnet launched a series of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks on Germany, targeting airports and the intelligence service of the Bundestag. There were only minimal disruptions.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51331>

The Ukrainian military claimed to have destroyed a fifth 2S4 Tyulpan (Tulip) 240 mm self-propelled mortar and the second in 48 hours. In the video, which could not be geolocated, the 2S4 appeared to have been disabled and abandoned and became  [a target of opportunity](#) for a drone.⁷⁷

During an address to the nation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said ""Today is a day of extremely good news for Ukraine. There is a tank coalition. There is a decision to launch the supply of tanks for our defense – modern tanks. I thank all of our allies for their willingness to provide us with modern and much-needed tanks. All this proves the most important fact for the world right now – the fact that freedom is only getting stronger. And the way we are all working together to strengthen freedom, to defend Ukraine and Europe, is a historic achievement of the leaders who are working now.""⁷⁸

United States President Joe Biden announced that Ukraine would receive \$400 million in military aid, including 31 M1

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73371>

⁷⁸ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/4894

Abrams tanks, eight M88 repair and recovery vehicles, and 120 mm and “other” ammunition.^{79 80}

Germany announced during the early morning hours of January 25 they would approve third-party transfers of Leopard 2 MBTs and would provide Ukraine with 14 Leopard 2 A26 tanks within the next three months. While all commitments are unknown, it is estimated that Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, and Canada will provide an estimated 80 A24, A25, and A26 Leopard 2.⁸¹ Norway confirmed they would be transferring tanks, while Canada reported Ottawa had not reached a decision.^{82 83}

Sweden announced they had not ruled out sending Stridsvagn 122 MBTs to Ukraine, while French officials were inching closer to not sending Leclerc tanks.⁸⁴ The already pledged French AMX10-RC tank destroyers (armored scout vehicles or light tanks) will arrive in Ukraine in February, with the training of Ukrainian troops in their maintenance and operation almost completed.⁸⁵

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73421>

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386537/>

⁸¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386477/>

⁸² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386553/>

⁸³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386522/>

⁸⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73283>

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73423>

President Zelenskyy discussed with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg the further consolidation of partner support, expanding the tank coalition, and unlocking access to new types of weapons. During their virtual meeting, they also covered the necessary steps for Ukraine to integrate further into NATO.⁸⁶

Slovakia announced the nation would not transfer Leopard 2 MBTs to Ukraine, adding "with the necessary support from Western countries," they can send up 30 Soviet-era T-72 tanks that are combat-ready tomorrow.⁸⁷ Slovakian officials also indicated they were open to discussing the transfer of 11 airworthy Mig-29 fighter planes, which they retired on August 27, 2022.

Hints and discussions about providing Ukraine with fourth-generation fighter planes were intensifying. Lockheed Martin COO Frank St. John said the manufacturer of F-16s is increasing production at the Greenville, South Carolina factory "to reach a level where we can effectively support any country that decides to transfer aircraft to third parties." Any transfer of F-16s or other warplanes, such as

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73403>

⁸⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386530/>

the F-15 Strike Eagle, would require approval from the White House. A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators appealed to President Biden to transfer fighter aircraft and longer-range missiles to Ukraine without further delays.⁸⁸

Media reports in Poland claim that the nation supplied Ukraine with Mig-29s by disassembling the aircraft and shipping them as spare parts.⁸⁹ During the same period, Germany transferred a significant amount of its Cold War-era Mig-29 parts to Ukraine, which the nation gained when East and West Germany went through reunification.

Ukraine submitted an order to purchase 11 additional Susana 2 155 mm self-propelled howitzers (SPG). The Susana 2 is produced in Slovakia, and eight were provided in 2022. Ukraine signed a second contract for 16 to be shipped in 2023.⁹⁰

Germany will deliver another 10,000 Starlink terminals to Ukraine in February, expanding Internet coverage for civilians, commerce, and the military.⁹¹

⁸⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386542/>


⁸⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386595/>

⁹⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386534/>

⁹¹ <https://www.epravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/696363/>

Turkish company Bayrak transferred two Bayraktar TB-2 reconnaissance drones to Ukraine.⁹² During the opening months of the war, the TB-2s was highly effective because of Russia's inability to establish effective air defenses. Coastal surveillance missions are the primary use now.

In its latest aid package, Austria provided 33 electrical generators valued at 91,000 euros to Ukraine.⁹³

In news of the truly bizarre, last year, we reported that a herd of camels had escaped in Ukraine and created a stir as they happily ate grass on the side of the road. Linnea Hubbard recapped this story  [during her January 7, 2023 podcast](#).⁹⁴ In that report, we joked that maybe they were secret weapon bio lab-raised camels. It was a joke.

In Omsk, Russia, a man died after being kicked in the head by a camel. On the same day, another Russian man in Bataysk, Russia, was severely injured after being bitten by a camel he was harassing.⁹⁵ We're not saying this was a

⁹² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73405>

⁹³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73395>


⁹⁴ <https://www.russiaukrainewarpodcast.com/2020397/11999657>

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20988>

special operation camel force NATO bio lab division exercise, but we didn't not say it either.

Say the line, Linnea.

All is going to plan.

The news agency Nexta made a time-lapse video of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, showing how the last year has aged him.  [It is shocking to watch.](#)⁹⁶

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

To quote a popular TikTok creator, "Oooh! The girls are fighting!" Our favorite FSB Colonel Strelkov, is in another social media spat. After several jabs at PMC Wagner, an unnamed representative of Wagner called Strelkov, "A sofa expert, thanks to which we have to recapture those cities that were surrendered in 2014. As for his insulting phrases [concerning] PMC Wagner, Strelkov behaves like the last

⁹⁶ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1618337967730458624

coward and scoundrel. He makes his statements from a warm studio and not at the front."⁹⁷

Bizarrely, Strelkov declared he was innocent. Not for the downing of flight MH-17; he boldly declared sole ownership for that today in another Telegram post. He claimed that he had never criticized Wagner or its fighters.^{98 99} On January 23, Strelkov compared Wagner, named after Hitler's favorite musical composer, to Neo-Nazis, pointing out the Death's Head on their logo. Then on January 24, Strelkov mocked Prigozhin's request to the State Duma to expand the so-called "don't say war" laws to protect his private military company from defamation.¹⁰⁰

Wait, there is more! Earlier in the day, Strelkov took another veiled swipe at Prigozhin's company, writing about how certain milbloggers would respond after Russia's defeat in Ukraine. When he reached his thoughts on Vladlen Tatarsky, he wrote, "But we, the Wagners, don't give a damn! We'll kill everyone and rob everyone anyway!"¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ ⁹⁷

⁹⁸ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3802>

⁹⁹ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3804>

¹⁰⁰ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3791>

¹⁰¹ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3797>

We're not sure we like edge lord Strelkov.

In Breaking news, as we were finishing the report, PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin invited Strelkov to join Wagner's mercenaries in Ukraine.¹⁰² Girkin said he would consider the proposal, with Prigozhin putting multiple conditions on the offer. Strelkov would be moved to Luhansk at a low rank in a frontline meat-wave assault group to prove his capabilities.

"Oooh! The girls are fighting!"

PMC Wagner embraced equal opportunity in what we have to admit was a glorious post mocking the Kremlin and its numerous redlines.¹⁰³

**March 20, 2022: "Transports and convoys with weapons and ammunition supplied to Ukraine by NATO countries are a legitimate target for the Russian Armed Forces."
Russian Ministry of Defense**

¹⁰² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/26/7386616/>

¹⁰³ https://t.me/grey_zone/16809

April 19, 2022: "Western weapons supplied to Kyiv are a legitimate target for those conducting the special military operation of the Russian Armed Forces."

Petr Ilyichev, director of the Department of International Organizations of the Russian Foreign Ministry

April 21, 2022: "Russian troops have the right to consider U.S. or NATO transport of weapons through Ukrainian territory as a legitimate target."

Sergey Koshelev, deputy director of the North America Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry



December 22, 2022: "All military equipment sent to Ukraine will be monitored and considered as a legitimate target."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

January 24, 2023: "We are sending more and more signals that some red lines have been crossed, but perhaps the reddest ones have not yet been crossed."

Dmitry Polyansky, First Deputy Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations

We thank PMC Wagner for doing our work.

A lot of Wagner Group news today. The New York Times analyzed  [satellite pictures](#) of the PMC Wagner-owned cemetery in Baku, Krasnodar Krai federal district in Russia. In the last 60 days, the  [cemetery grew by 700%](#).^{104 105}

There are reports within Russia that Wagner Group is having a difficult time replacing losses in their penal units. Disgraced former Marine American Paul Whelan, who remains in a Russian penal colony convicted on espionage charges, told his brother that inmates are increasingly aware of what is happening to penal units and are refusing the offer to receive a pardon by fighting in Ukraine.¹⁰⁶ In a recent recruiting attempt at the facility where Whelan is held, only eight volunteered to join Wagner – 115 signed up during the first recruiting mission. New attempts to recruit convicts were happening in occupied Ukraine, with representatives visiting the Crimean Correctional Colony Number 1 in Simferopol.¹⁰⁷

RMOD is reportedly considering sending a company-sized group of T-14 Armada tanks to Ukraine, apparently in

¹⁰⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/73296>

¹⁰⁵ <https://twitter.com/trbrtc/status/1618256416091017222>

¹⁰⁶ https://twitter.com/ChrisO_wiki/status/1618541590599065602

¹⁰⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/20982>

response to Western military aid. The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Defense Intelligence Directorate (UKMDDID) reported that the soldiers trained to operate and service the T-14 MBTs are refusing deployment because the build quality is poor and there are many technical issues. The T-14 debuted in 2014, and less than 15 operational examples are available. Up to 25 more are either hand-built prototypes or still being assembled.¹⁰⁸

The number of Russian troops in Belarus has declined to an estimated 5,800.¹⁰⁹ UKMDDID stated that the nearly 5,000 Russian troops removed from Belarus are with the 2nd Guards Motor Rifle Division, part of the 1st Guards Tank Army.¹¹⁰ The once elite division was combat destroyed and reconstituted with mobiks who received approximately four weeks of training using Soviet-era equipment. While bringing an undersized division into the theater, likely in Luhansk, will add more combat power, the unit is less capable than a year ago with inferior equipment.

A video showed three Russian soldiers [detained in an open pit in occupied Zaporizhia](#) covered by a grate made of logs and weighed down by tubs of soil.¹¹¹ The soldiers claim they

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386414/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386440/>

¹¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1618497646838030337>

¹¹¹ <https://twitter.com/vidtranslator/status/1618389013668167680>

had been there for 2-1/2 days, accused of a "violation," and had not been fed in 24 hours. Another claimed he told his commander that he was sick and needed a doctor to see him, and the request was denied. When he asked his commander what he should do, the imprisoned soldier claimed he was told to "die."


ASSESSMENT: What a great way to build esprit de corps, build trust in military command's ability, and motivate troops to act selflessly.


In Mariupol, Russian mobiks stationed in the city and the surrounding towns have started trading their "dry rations" to the underfed residents for homemade moonshine again. Under the leadership of General of the Army Sergey Surovikin, a crackdown on the use of alcohol and drugs was implemented to improve discipline, which was having a material impact. There was no information if the troops trading their rations were clean-shaven with perfect haircuts.¹¹²

All is going to plan.

¹¹² <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6164>

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In Kramatorsk, a Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile used for a ground attack  [struck a hospital](#) causing significant damage.¹¹³

In Kherson, just hours after neonatal incubators for premature babies that the residents of Odesa had crowdsourced were delivered to a hospital's ICU, the  [Prenatal clinic and neonatal ICU were destroyed](#) by a Russian artillery strike.^{114 115}

The Russian Federation government liquidated the Moscow-Helsinki Group, the oldest human rights organization in Russia.¹¹⁶ Created during the Soviet era in 1976, the Moscow City Court claimed the organization had violated 11 laws, including monitoring courts, participating in online events, and contacting government agencies. Wouldn't that be some of the core duties of a human rights organization?

¹¹³ https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/8602

¹¹⁴ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3292>

¹¹⁵ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/3305>

¹¹⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/21038>

GEOPOLITICAL

Spain has arrested a 74-year-old man in the northern city of Burgos, with officials accusing him as the author of six letter bombs mailed in November and early December of 2022. Recipients included Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and Madrid's Ukrainian and U.S. embassies. One device exploded, wounding a security official at the Ukrainian embassy in November. The suspect, who has not been named, is a Spanish citizen and is believed to have acted alone. The investigation is ongoing.¹¹⁷

Rasmus Paludan, who burned the Quran in Stockholm, kicking off a firestorm between Turkey, Sweden, and Finland over NATO membership, doesn't deny he burned the religious text. Paludan claims the political stunt wasn't his idea and was done in collaboration with far-left activist Chang Frick, who is allegedly connected to the Kremlin.¹¹⁸ If you're wondering how the far left and right could work together, accelerationists care less about political ideology and more about creating chaos. In the United States, the Bugaloo movement embraces far-left and right ideology, with members unified in the desire to accelerate the destruction of the United States government. The Kremlin

¹¹⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/7386433/>

¹¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/HarladF/status/1618187472286134274>

works with political extremes to sow discord as part of its hybrid warfare policies. In this case, it appears that all did go to plan.

The United States requested Israel to transfer its Cold War-era Hawk anti-aircraft missile system to Ukraine, with the Netanyahu government refusing out of concern it would anger the Kremlin.¹¹⁹

ECONOMIC

Russians reported that the Apple AppStore and Steam game site was not working anymore, even with a VPN.¹²⁰ We cannot verify the reports.

The American company International Paper, the largest foreign investor in the timber industry in Russia, has agreed to sell its assets in the Russian Federation. Owning a 50% stake in the Ilim Group, International Paper agreed to liquidate its stake to Russian partners for \$484 million.

¹¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1618303636404330498>

¹²⁰ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51329>

French company Ingenico, which makes credit and debit card payment terminals, is planning to withdraw from Russia at the end of February. Currently, the company holds a 50% market share. If they leave, the terminals will still work, but parts and repair services will no longer be available.¹²¹

The rouble was unchanged, with an "official" exchange rate of 69 for 1 US dollar.

Western oil prices increased, with WTI crude rising to \$81 a barrel, Brent climbing to \$87. Russian Urals crude declined to \$58 a barrel. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market dropped to \$2.60 a gallon (69 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures continued to drop, falling to 56 euros per megawatt hour for February and 57 euros for March 2023 delivery.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures were unchanged at \$7.45 a bushel for March 2023 delivery.

¹²¹ <https://www.epravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/25/696338/>