



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



January 23, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

01/23/23 23:59* PST

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SUMMARY – DAY 333

It was another relatively quiet day across all axis in Ukraine. Both belligerents were consolidating forces in new positions, rotating troops, resupplying, and moving reinforcements. The heaviest fighting continues to be around Soledar-Bakhmut.

We made some adjustments to the map on the Luhansk axis. These adjustments do not represent territorial control changes but an attempt to normalize the line of conflict, which has become frozen, and is moving back and forth as much as a kilometer, sometimes more than once a day.

Multiple Russian sources continue to conduct psychological operations by making false claims about the situation on the Bakhmut, Advdiivka, and Zaporizhia axes.

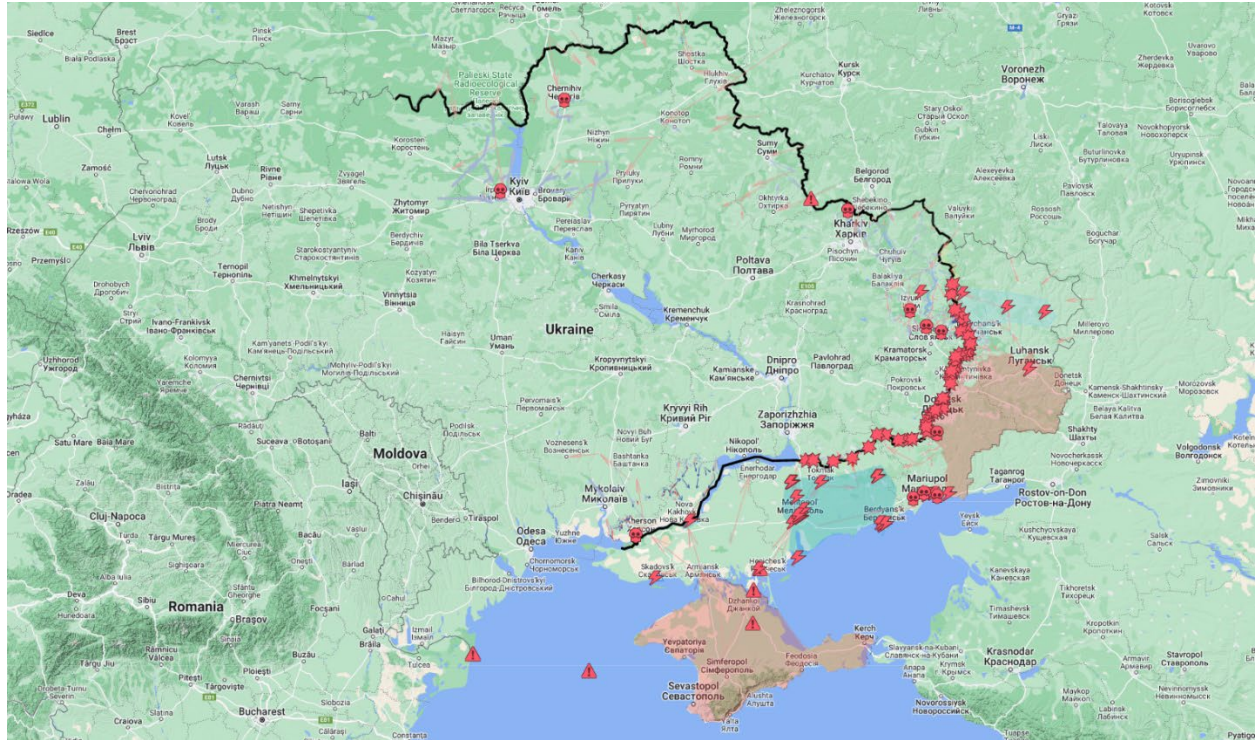
DAILY ASSESSMENT

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. We assess there remains a very high risk of punitive missile strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure before the end of January.
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 maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine as part of a **major** offensive operation is only a remote possibility.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

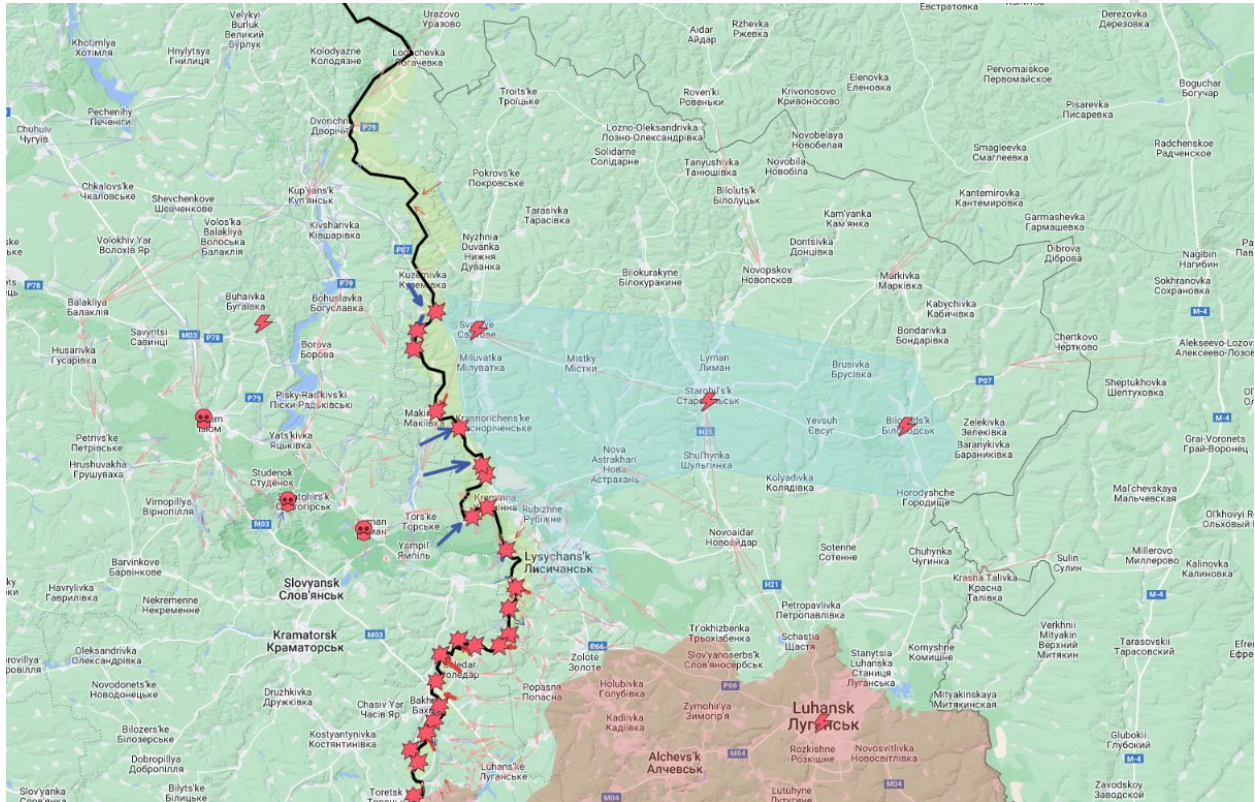


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

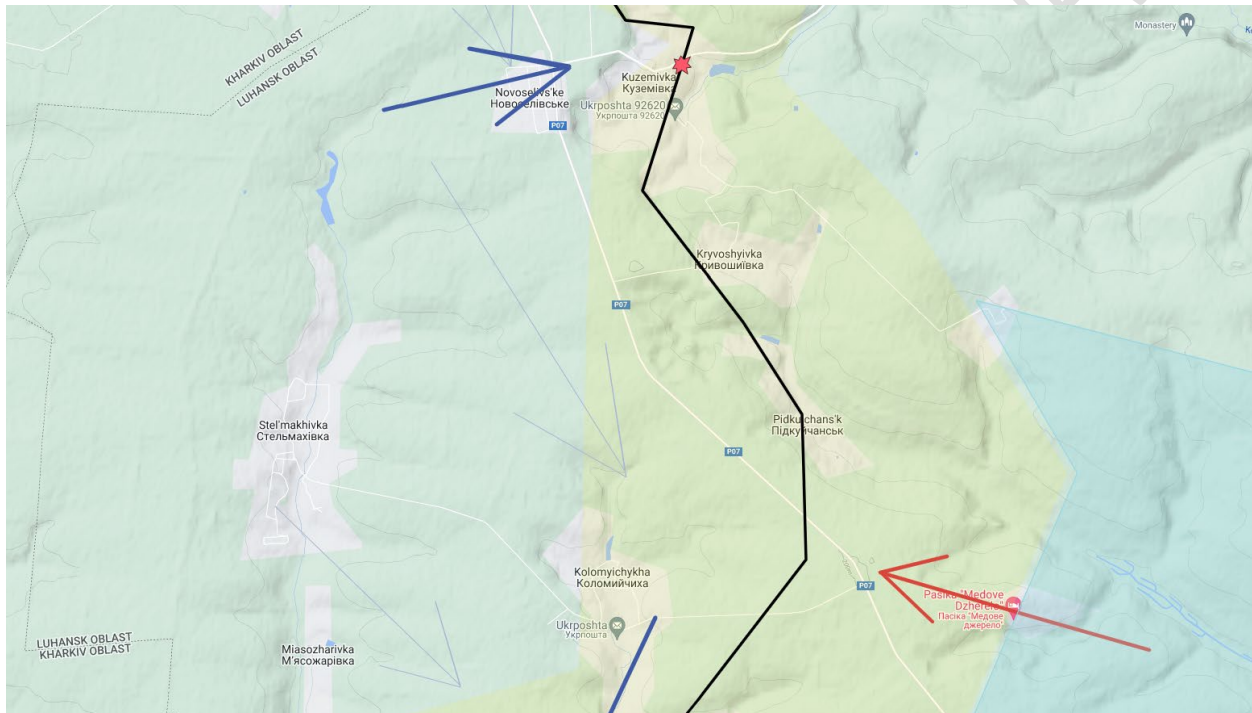
LUHANSK



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 was light and positional along the entire axis.



On the Svatove axis, positional battles were fought around the railroad tracks in eastern [Novoselivske](#) and into [Kuzermivka](#) with no significant changes in the situation.^{1 2 3}

4

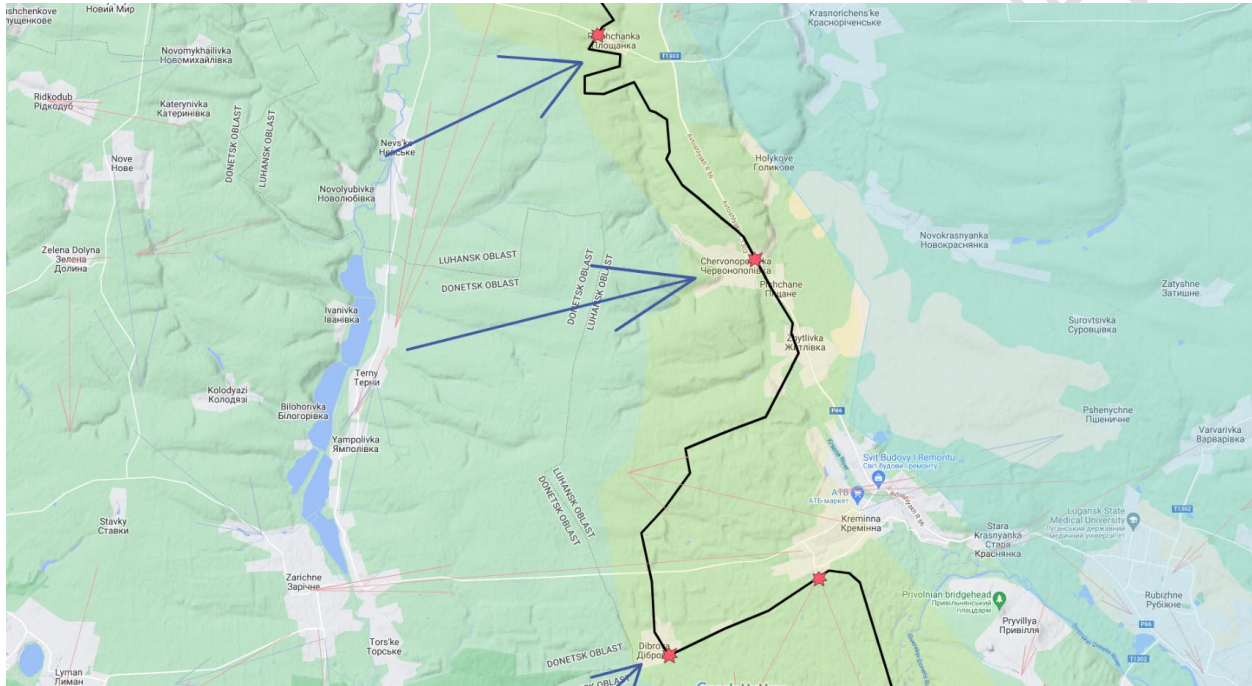
¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)


² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/23691 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Russian forces attempted to flank the Ukrainians in Novoselivkse with an attack toward [Stelmakhivka](#), which was unsuccessful.⁵



On the Kreminna axis, Ukrainian sources reported positional fighting in [Ploshanka](#), with Russian forces  [advancing down a narrow forested area](#) to the southwest of the village.^{6 7 8 9} Based on weather conditions the video looked recent, so we adjusted the map to show the advance.

⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

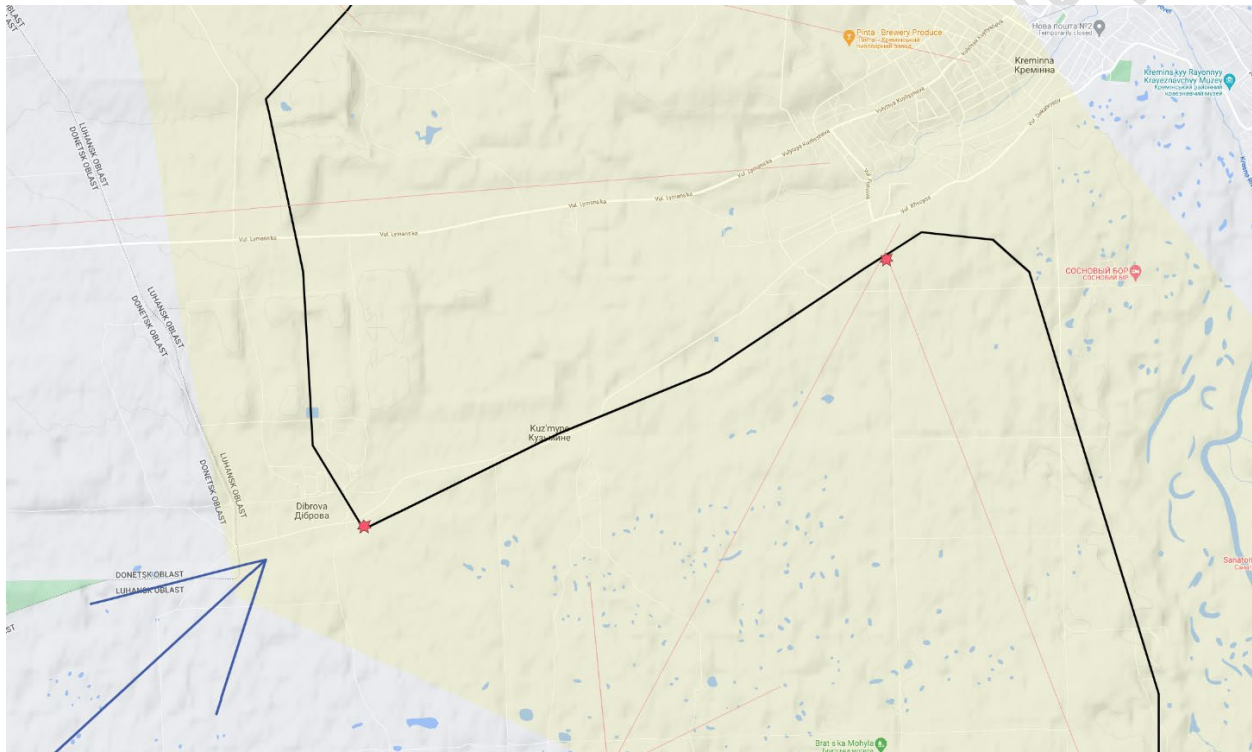
⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁹ <https://twitter.com/busnitized/status/1617465195416399873>

Positional fighting continued in [Chervonpopivka](#) with no change in the situation.^{10 11}



A reliable Ukrainian source reported continued fighting near [Kreminna](#), with the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) stating that Ukrainian positions near the settlement were shelled.^{12 13} Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported


¹⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

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


¹² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

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

fighting continued to the west, southwest, and south of Kreminna, with [Dibrova](#), [Kuzmyne](#), and the Serebryansky Woods shelled.^{14 15 16 17}

In Russian-occupied Zolote, the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Coordination and Control (JCCC) reported  [the Zolote-5 400 kilovolt \(kV\) substation was hit](#) by two M31 rockets fired by HIMARS, causing heavy damage and knocking out power.¹⁸

Governor Haidai reported the January 21 HIMARS strike on Kadiivka killed at least a dozen Kadyrovites.¹⁹ We cannot verify the claim.

Yesterday we shared a video released by War Gonzo, which allegedly showed one of their mercenaries,  [barely escaping with their life](#) in Bilohorivka. War Gonzo claimed the video was shot in Bilohorivka, Donetsk, and we expressed doubts about the geography. Geolocation proved the video was staged and recorded over six kilometers from

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

¹⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

¹⁶ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8119>

¹⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/23691 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁸ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/7974

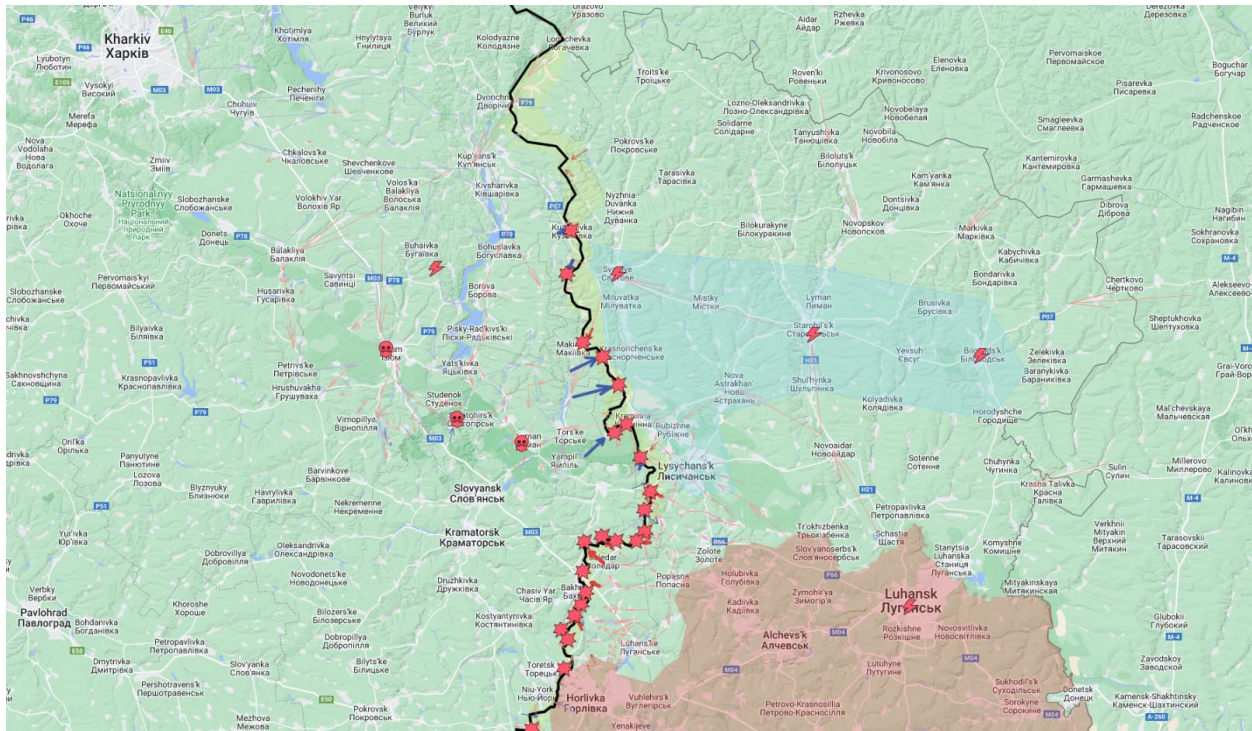
¹⁹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/8119>



the front line in southeastern Pryvillya at a mine complex.
This is why we have trust issues.

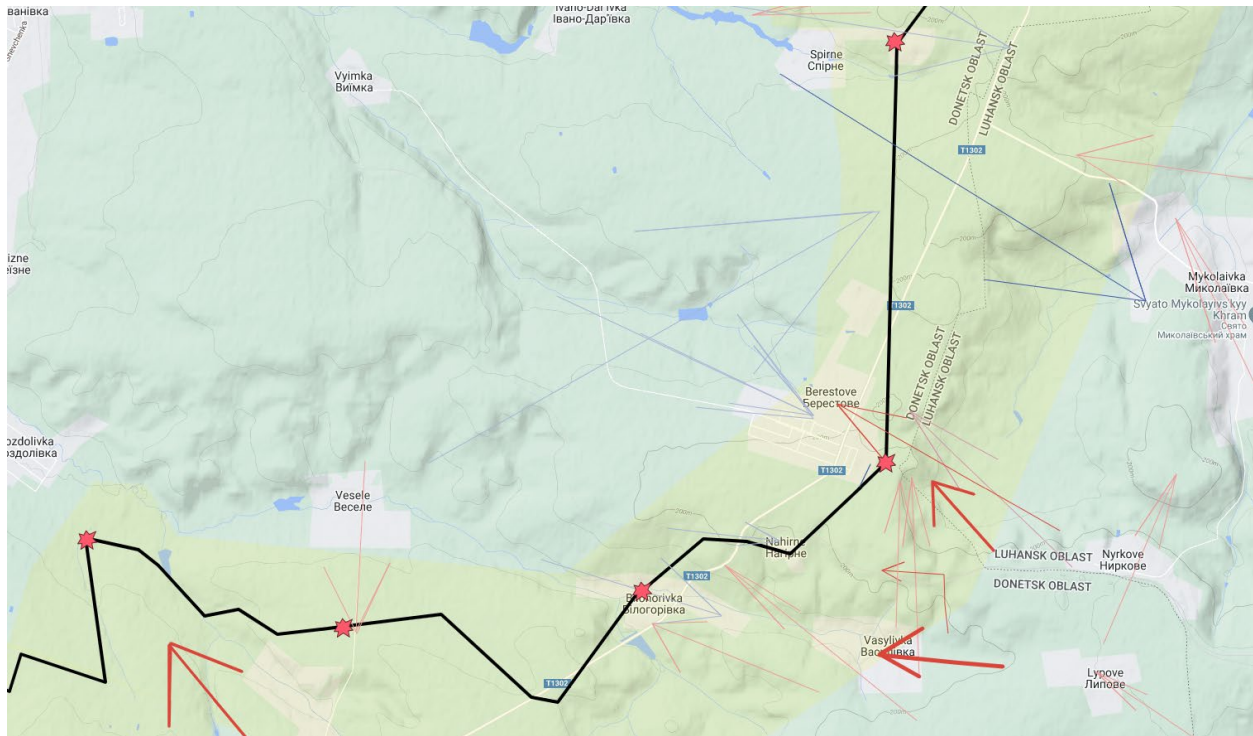
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NORTHEAST DONETSK



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, A Russian DRG unit operating in the area of [Vyimka](#) was discovered engaged by Ukrainian troops.²⁰

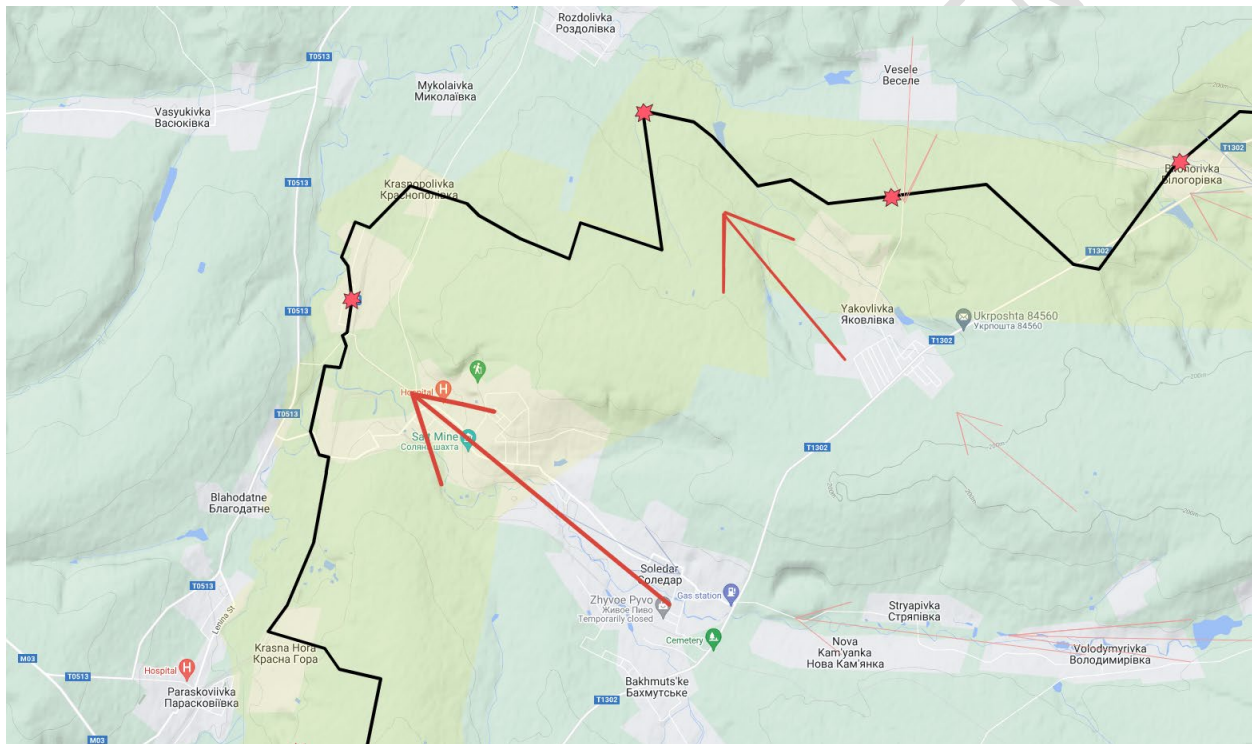
GSAFU reported that fighting continued in [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk] with no change to the situation.²¹ Mercenaries with War Gonzo reported that PMC Wagner continued attempts to advance from Yakovlivka toward [Vesele](#) without success.²²

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

²¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

On the Soledar and Bakhmut axis, propagandists with Readovka reported no territorial control changes, and a series of geolocated videos indicated that PMC Wagner and their proxies had overstated Russian gains in several areas.²³



On the Soledar axis, Ukrainian forces have stabilized their defensive lines but remain under significant pressure.

²³ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51247>

There were new reports that Russian forces captured the hamlet of [Krasnopolivka](#) north of Sil', which we have maintained was between contested and captured.^{24 25 26} We adjusted the map to show the settlement is under Russian control. Russian forces were reportedly attempting to advance on [Rozdolivka](#) using the Ground Line of Communication (GLOC - supply line) from Krasnopolivka.²⁷
28 29

A Russian milblogger reported that sporadic fighting continued in [Soledar](#), with Ukrainian Special Operation Forces (SOF) and DRG entering behind the line of conflict using the salt mines.

Self-declared leader of the DNR, Denis Pushilin, stated that Soledar had been "completely destroyed" but vowed to return the Artyomosl salt mines to operational status, claiming there were enough men and specialists to make it possible.³⁰ Pushilin made identical promises about the Ilyich and Azovstal Metallurgical factories, both in the process of being torn down and illegally transferred to

²⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/23691 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/42935>

²⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

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

²⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

³⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53416>

Russia as scrap metal. There are no plans to rebuild either facility.

Multiple sources reported fighting for [Blahodatne](#) continued, despite earlier claims by RMOD that the village was captured.^{31 32} PMC Wagner has not been able to make any progress into [Krasna Hora](#) after Ukrainian forces stabilized the line of defense.^{33 34 35}

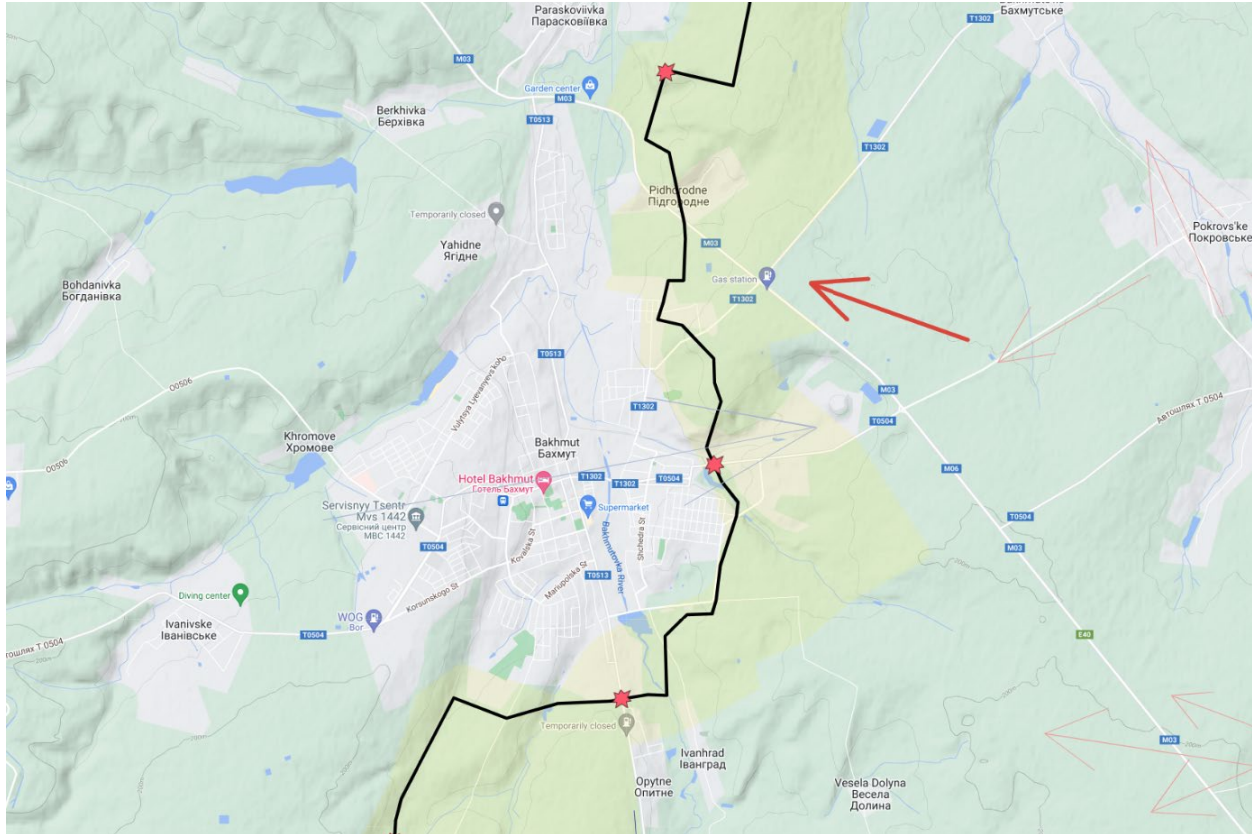
³¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

³² <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

³³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

³⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/42935>

³⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>



On the Bakhmut axis, an advance led by PMC Wagner on [Paraskoviivka](#) failed.³⁶

In [Bakhmut](#) itself, fighting was only positional on the eastern, southeastern, and southern fringes.^{37 38 39} The geolocated video showed PMC Wagner firing on Ukrainian positions in the residential areas on the eastern edge of Bakhmut, indicating that the reports of advances in this

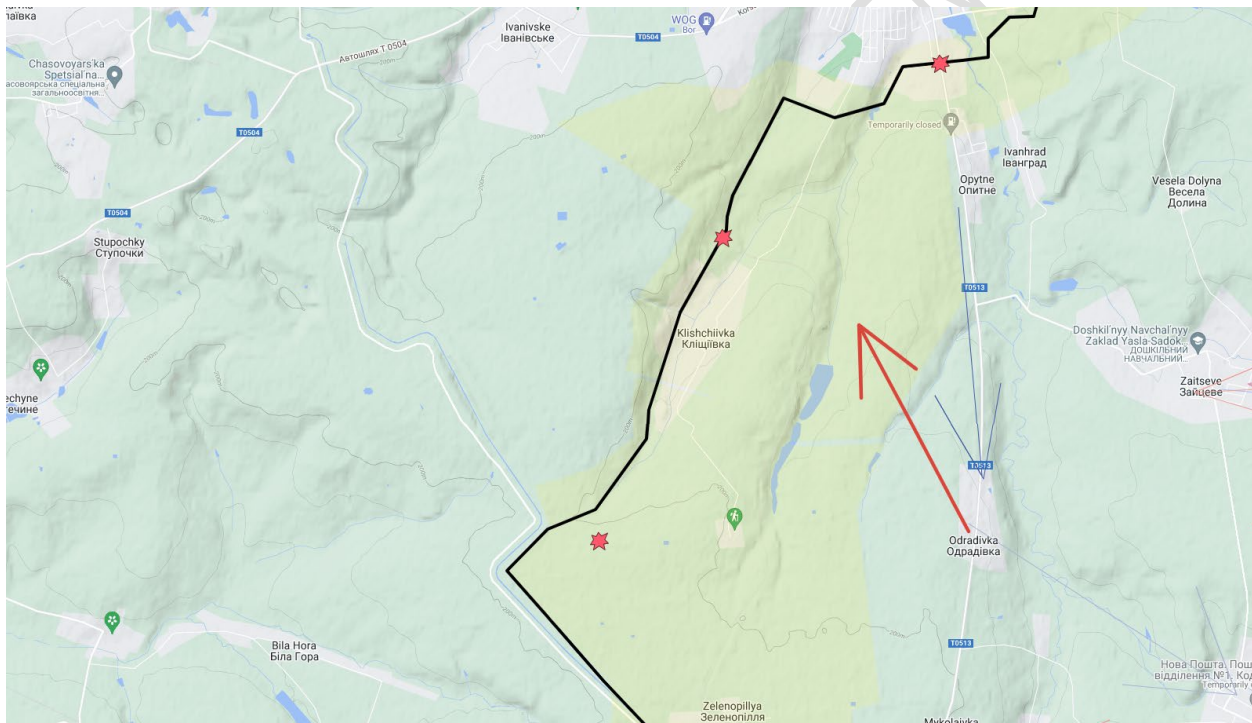
³⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

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

³⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

³⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/42935>

area were false or repulsed.⁴⁰ Fighting continued around the meat packing plant, with Russian social media channels spreading false information about the situation.⁴¹ [Opytne](#) is under the full control of PMC Wagner, but they have not been able to turn the capture into tactical success and remain stuck within the Bakhmut suburb.⁴²




South of Bakhmut, PMC Wagner continues to force penal units to conduct DRG probes of Ukrainian defenses, attempting to find a way to bypass [Klishchiivka](#). GSAFU

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15288>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15286>

⁴² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

reported an attack was repulsed in the area of [Stupochky](#), which we assess was a squad or platoon-sized reconnaissance unit.⁴³

War Gonzo reported that a “massive artillery campaign” was pounding PMC Wagner mercenaries within Klishchiivka, and  [a video recorded over the last week](#) supported the claim.⁴⁴ Wagner forces occupied Ukrainian defensive positions near the railroad line just north of the village and were attacked by drone-directed artillery. Mercenaries with Rybar and Ukrainian source DeepState reported continued fighting in the area.^{45 46 47} It has been five days since PMC Wagner claimed to have captured the settlement, and there still have not been any pictures or videos released.

Kramatorsk was struck by  [Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles](#) used for a ground attack.  [There was only minor damage](#).⁴⁸

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


⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/markito0171/status/1617671245763608576>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15293>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/42935>

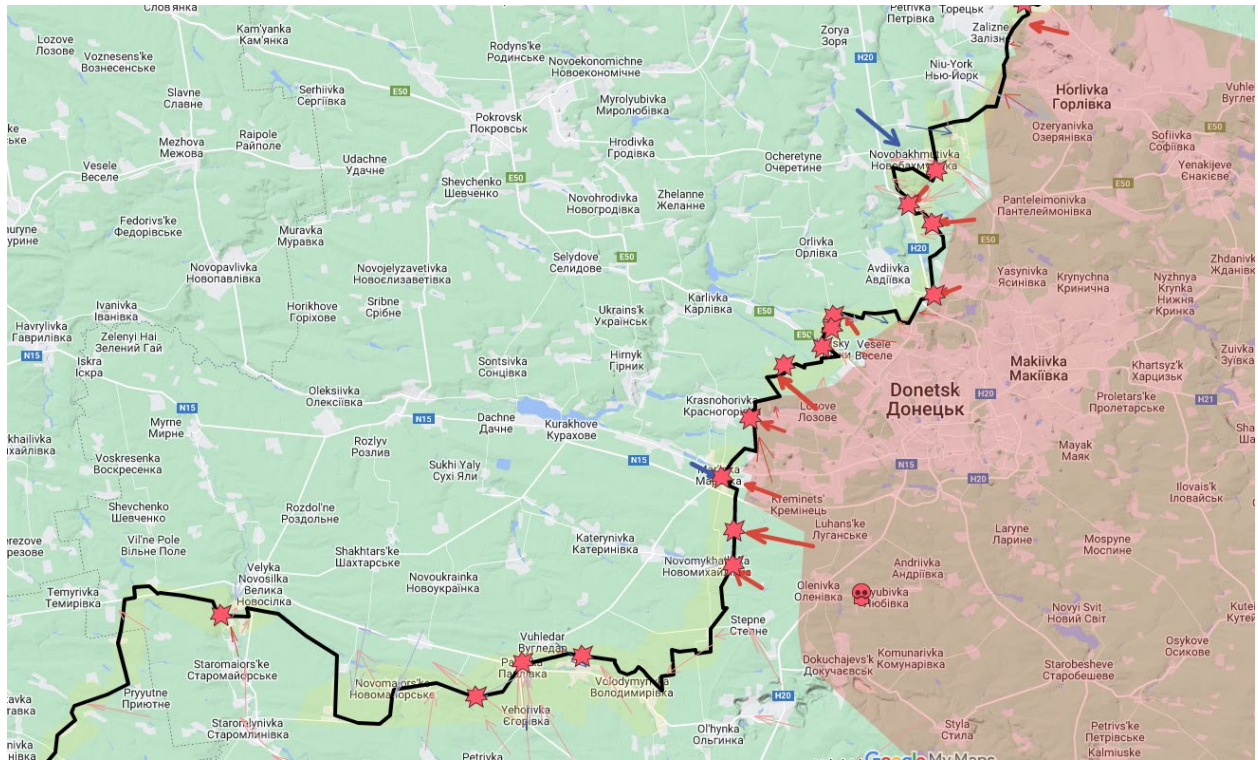
⁴⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

⁴⁸ https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/8549

Southwest of Bakhmut, Chasiv Yar  [was attacked by Grad or Smerch rockets](#) fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). One civilian was killed and two wounded.⁴⁹

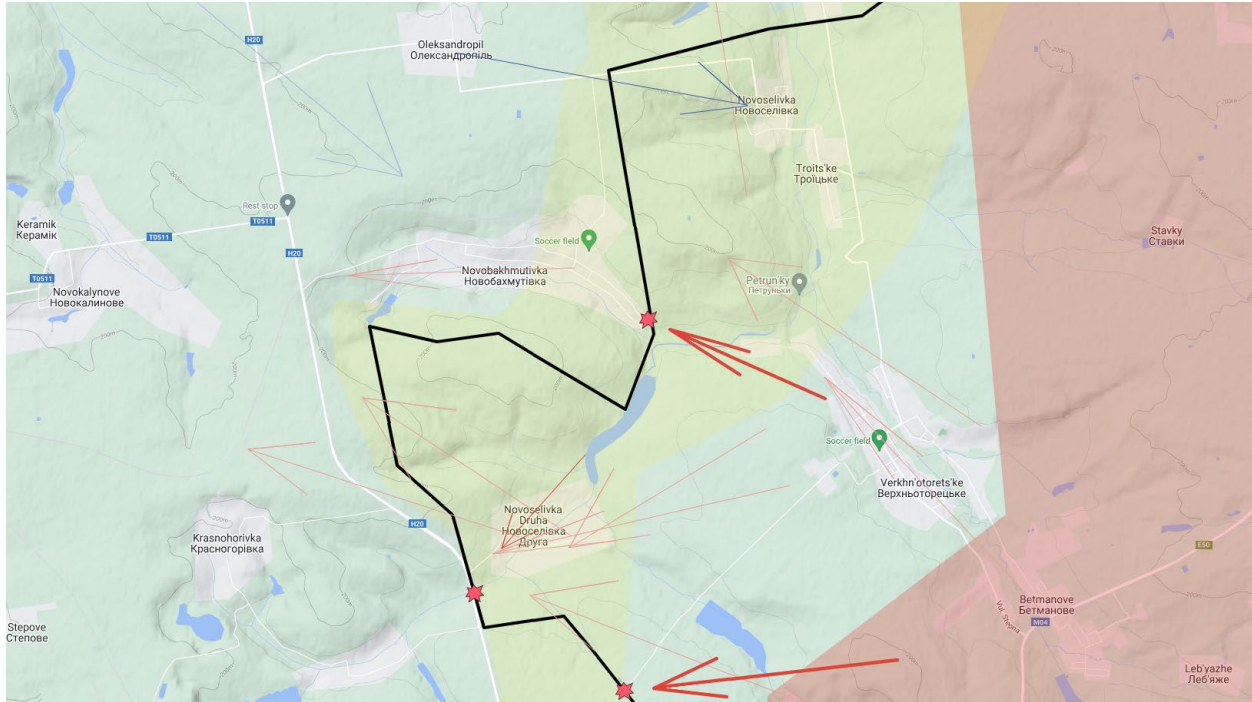
⁴⁹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/6385

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

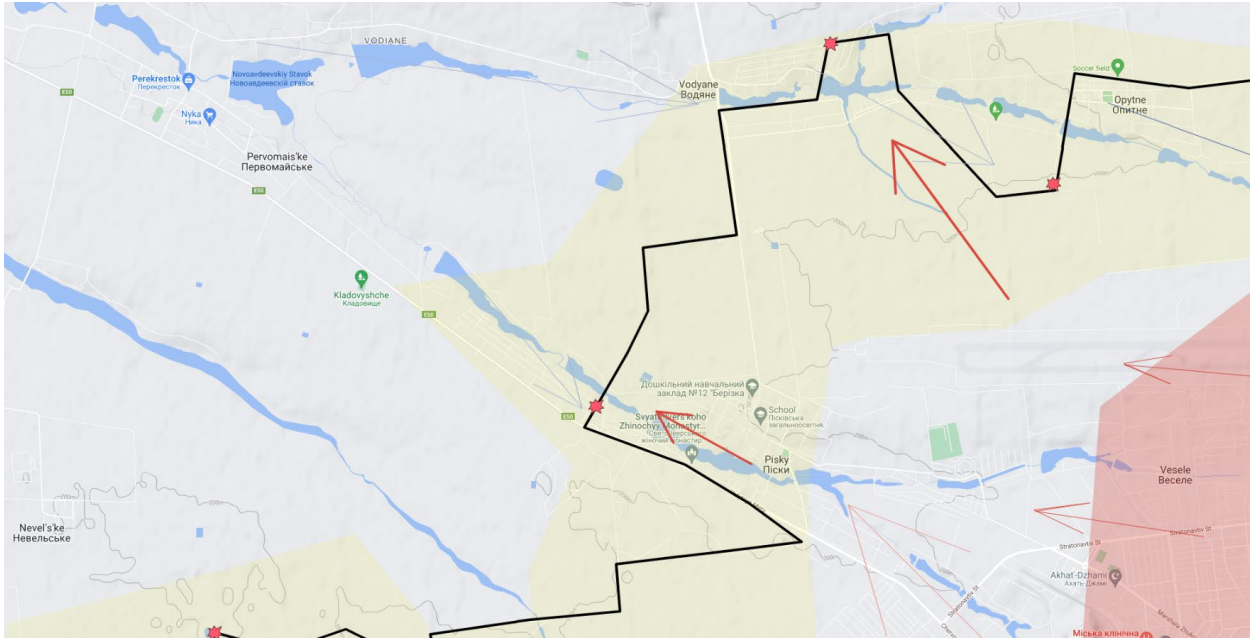


On the Niu York axis, Russian forces attacked [Novobakhmutivka](#) and were unsuccessful.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed thermal anomalies east of the settlement, indicating the fighting was near the dam west of Petrunky.



On the Avdiivka axis, there was only positional fighting. The 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) heavily shelled Avdiivka again and attempted to advance from [Spartak](#) without success.^{51 52}

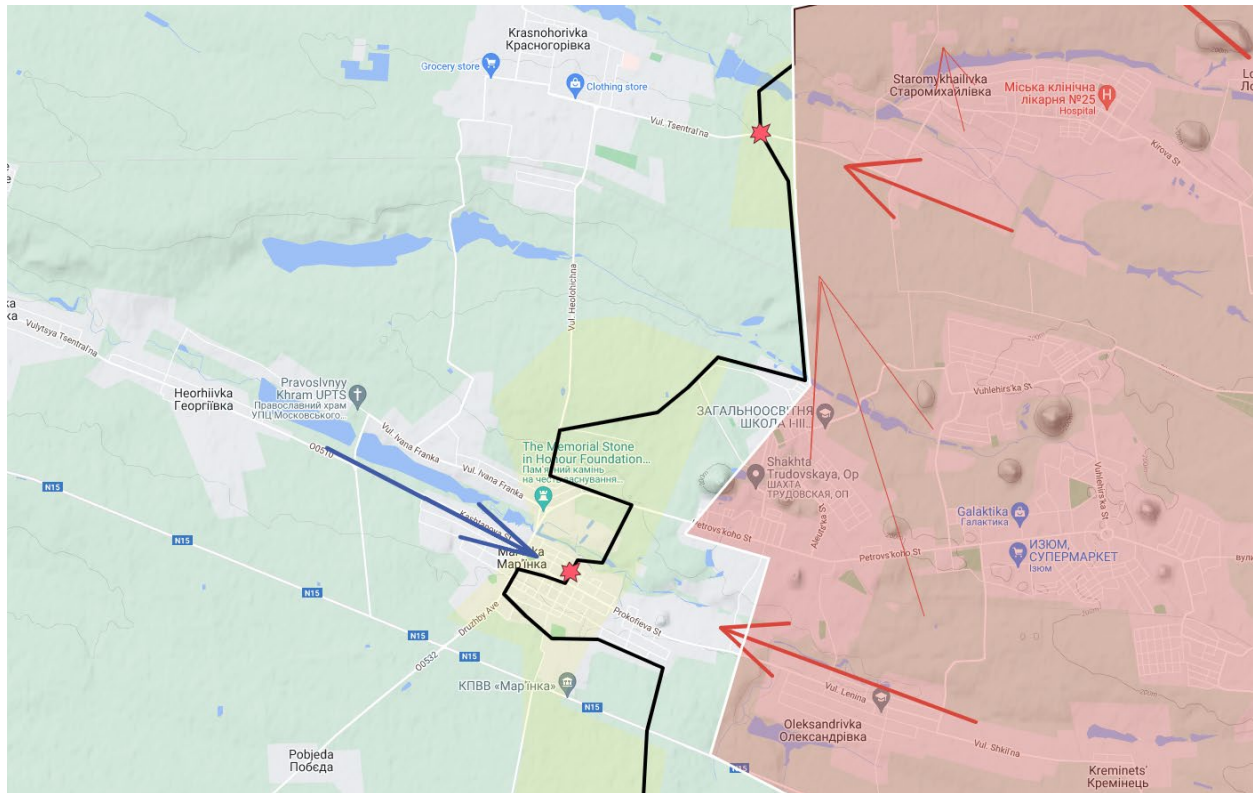
DNR separatists tried to push into [Pervomaiske](#) again with no change in the situation.^{53 54}

⁵¹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/6376

⁵² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15289>

⁵³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>



On the Marinka axis, Russian attacks on Krasnohorivka came to an end. War Gonzo finally admitted that Ukrainian forces remained in the city center but claimed this was due to a counterattack. If you're a new subscriber or listener, Ukrainian forces never left the city center.⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ A geolocated video showed Ukrainian forces in the center of Marinka being attacked with TOS-1 thermobaric weapons.⁵⁷ Another video showed that Ukrainian forces destroyed a 240-mm Tulip self-propelled mortar (SPM) – the largest mortar

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

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/10459>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15285>

system in the world.⁵⁸ The strike killed several Russian soldiers and destroyed the fourth out of eight 240-mm SPMs active in the Russian military. The Russian Federation has reportedly brought six to eight more out of storage for restoration to backfill the losses.

In Mariupol, gauleiter Konstantin Vladimirovich, the puppet mayor, was fired by the Mariupol occupation administration.⁵⁹ No reason was given for termination, and a replacement was not named.

Insurgents report that Russian forces are moving equipment at night during the civilian curfew and using alternate roads that don't pass through the city to conceal transfers.⁶⁰ They reported a sharp increase in traffic, with convoys moving northeast toward the direction of Donetsk. Mariupol Resistance reported a car bomb killed three Russian military officers.⁶¹

Also, in Mariupol, the freeze-thaw cycle caused by the warmer-than-expected winter is forcing the bones of those





⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72936>


⁵⁹ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6105>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/6103>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/mrplsprotyv/6289>

killed during the siege and never properly buried to surface across the city.

Social media videos showed Russian-occupied  [Khartysyzsk](#) and  [Ilovaisk](#) being hit by rockets.⁶² Horlivka also came  [under artillery fire](#).⁶³ Yasynuvata, which is a launching for Russian attacks on Avdiivka and a location of several firebases,  [was also shelled](#).

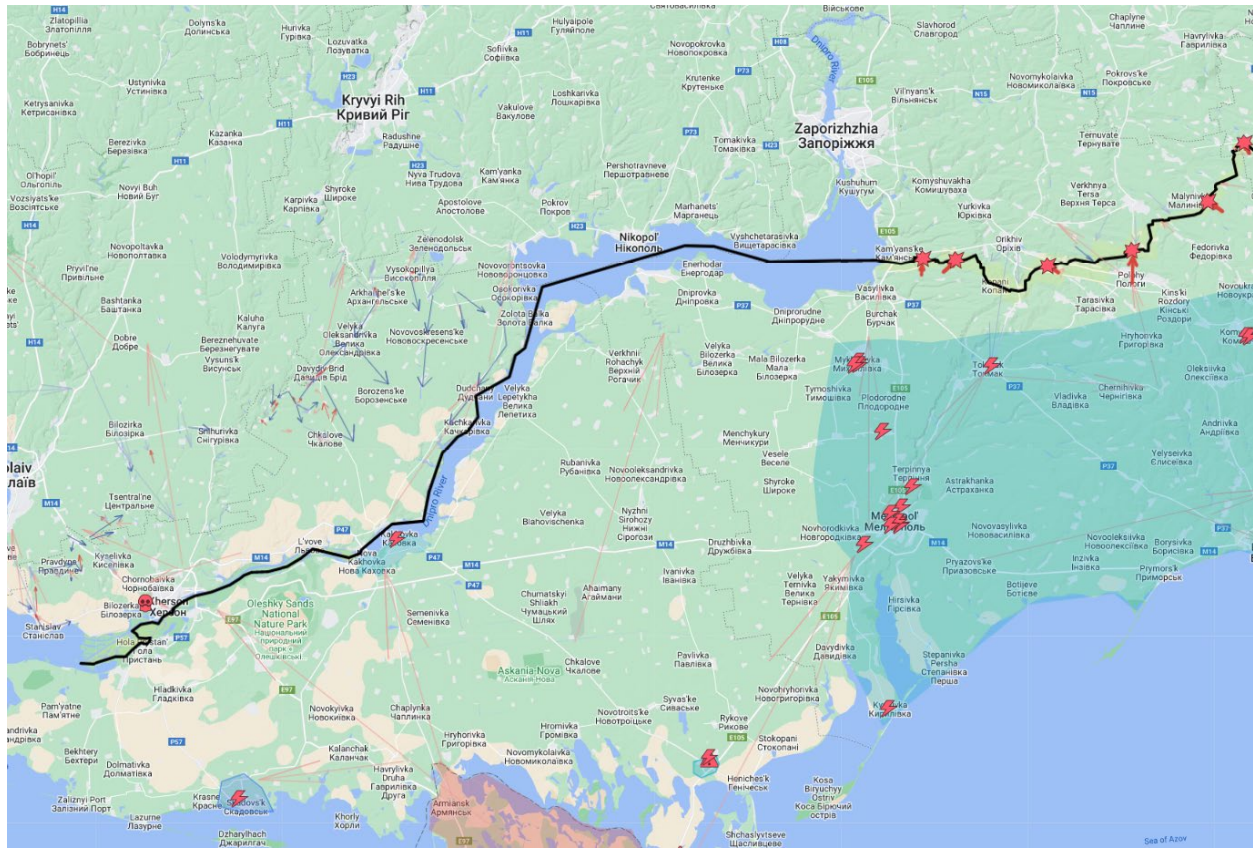
In Russian-occupied Shakhtarsk, civil engineers who repair the heating systems are likely experiencing a cold night after the  [water was drained from the thermal plant](#).⁶⁴ Self-declared leader of the DNR, Pushilin, had vowed last week that those responsible for the repair and maintenance of thermal plants would stay in unheated homes until problems were fixed.

⁶² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53522>

⁶³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53518?single>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53480>

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 the west and east banks of the Dnipro.^{65 66} For the second day in a row, Yaroslav Yanushevich, Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, had not released the daily report outlining artillery strikes on free Ukraine at the time of publication. Social media reports hinted that activity was light.

In the Kherson suburb of Antonivka, one person was killed by Russian shelling.⁶⁷

Operational Command South (OCS) reported that Russian forces using a civilian boat, attempted to cross the Dnipro to the Potemkin Islands. The vessel and the SOF or DRG unit aboard were eliminated.⁶⁸

Rybar admitted that the Russian offensive in Zaporizhia failed and reached a culmination point.⁶⁹ Undeterred that none of his reports are supported, Russian collaborator Vladimir Rogov wrote more fan fiction, claiming that a large area of the front had become a gray zone and that

⁶⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

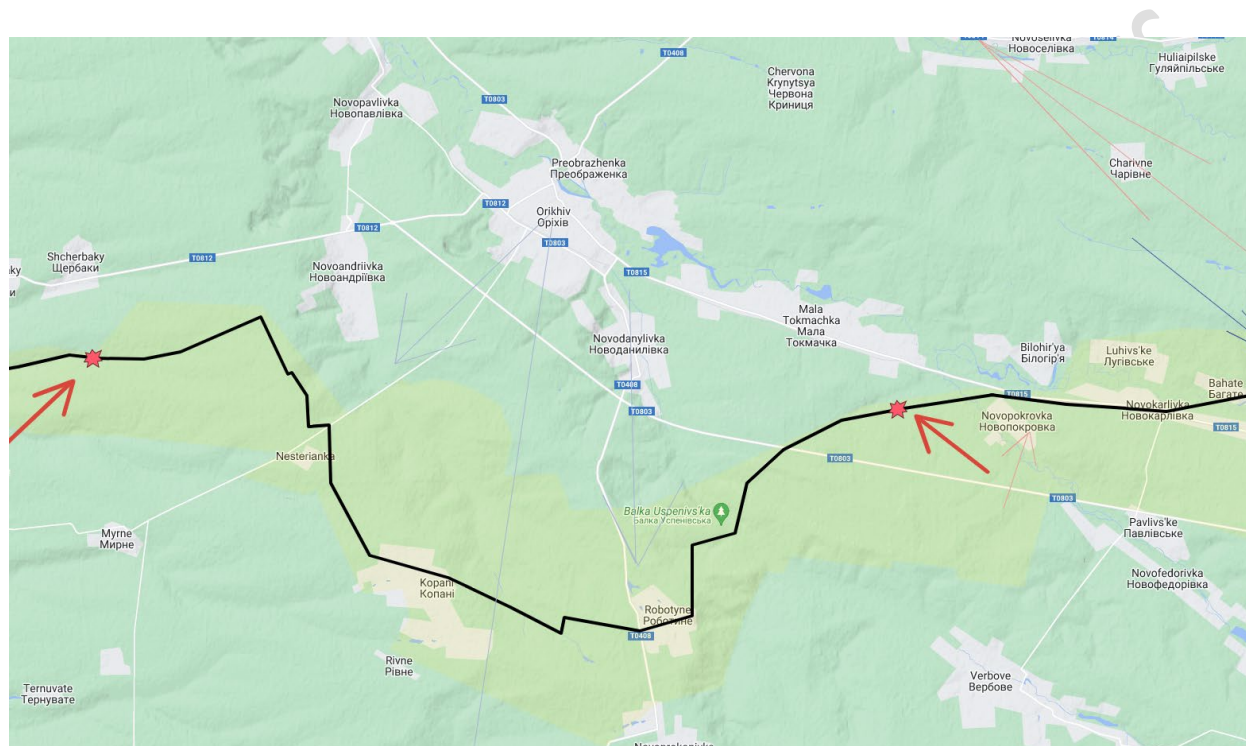
⁶⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/33449>

⁶⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/01/23/7386101/>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/42935>

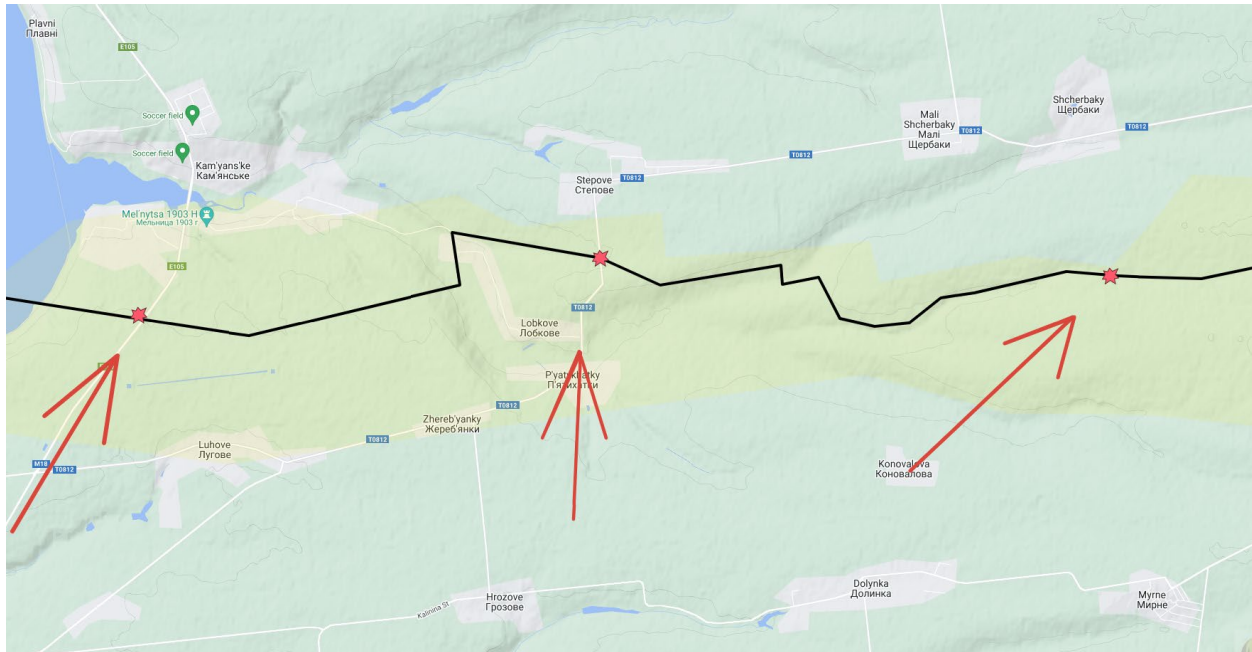
Russian forces had advanced up to 8 kilometers in some areas.⁷⁰ These claims are completely false.



On the Orikhiv axis, a geolocated video showed that the settlement of [Bilohirya](#) is under Ukrainian control.⁷¹ We cannot validate if our map was conservative or if this represents new territorial gains. Based on the intelligence, we updated the map and coded the adjacent settlement of [Luhviske](#) as contested. In our assessment, [Luhviske](#), north of the Konka River and protected by a marshy area, is likely under Ukrainian control due to the terrain.

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/vrogov/7286>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15284>



On the Orikhiv axis, Rybar reported that Russian forces could not advance into [Kamyanske](#) on the east bank of the Dnipro River due to Ukrainian artillery.

In a further indication that the offensive ended as quickly as it began, Oleksandr Starukh, Zaporizhia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Russian forces fired 111 shells, mortars, or rockets along the entire Zaporizhia axis.⁷² This is close to the operational tempo before the so-called offensive.

⁷² <https://t.me/starukhofficial/4623>

There is no change in the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

The composition of the Black Sea Fleet changed, with 11 ships on patrol, including three missile carriers capable of launching up to 24 Kalibr cruise missiles.⁷³


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

The Ukraine war continues to resemble World War I and II more closely than a 21st-century battlefield. In the

⁷³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72766>

Dnipropetrovsk region, powerful searchlights were installed in Kryvyi Rih to help anti-aircraft gunners spot kamikaze drones at night.⁷⁴ Pictures  [are straight from a history book](#), circa 1943 instead of 2023.

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

Russian forces pounded the Sumy oblast, striking the hromada of Bilopillya, Znob-Novhorodske, Yunakivka, Krasnopillya, Myropillya, and Esman with mortars, artillery shells, and rockets.⁷⁵

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72801>

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/7335>


The village of Vorozhba was hit by at least ten artillery shells fired from the Russian border, striking the village center, apartment buildings, and the train station.⁷⁶

Near Seredyna-Buda, there was a border skirmish, with the territorial guard exchanging small arms and machine gun fire with Russian troops.

Putyvl' was hit with up to six S-300 anti-aircraft rockets used for a ground attack. There was no information on damage or injuries from the strike.

The village of Kucherivka was hit with 30 Grad rockets fired by MLRS, killing one person and wounding two.

RUSSIAN FRONT

There were reports of an  [explosion and fire in the Bryansk region](#), with no indication if it resulted from military activity.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72854>

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51226>

Vyacheslav Gladkov, Governor of the Belgorod federal district, claimed that Russian air defenses shot down a missile over the village of Kazinka, which crashed into a field. There was no damage or injuries reported.⁷⁸

Satellite images suggest that the Russian VKS completely withdrew from Engels-2 airbase. On January 21, only six aircraft were visible – three partially disassembled Tu-95 strategic bombers, two inoperative Tu-160 strategic bombers, and one Il-62M transport, which is a museum piece on static display.⁷⁹

We know Russia says they have the best air defense system in the world, but they are being extra sure.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Someone change the sign because Dmitry Medvedev is talking about nuclear war again. At the meeting of the Bureau of the Supreme Council of United Russia, Medvedev said, "The world has come close to the threat of the Third World War due to the upcoming aggression against the

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51213>

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72943>

Russian Federation. The "special military operation" has become a forced last resort in response to the preparation of aggression by the United States and its satellites...and political forces that are trying to engage in anti-state politics should be eliminated from the political landscape."⁸⁰

Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Lavrov echoed the United States and West are going to destroy Russia sentiment, stating that Ukraine was being turned into a bridgehead to attack Russia and that the "Anglo-Saxons" want to build naval bases in the Sea of Azov, calling it "a serious matter."⁸¹

No navy on the planet would have any interest in building bases on the shores of the Azov Sea. It is shallow, requires passing through two narrow straights to reach the Mediterranean, and freezes over, even during the ongoing historically warm winter in Europe. We have written in prior Situation Reports how Russia is keenly interested in Odesa because it represents a second warm weather port that would allow the Russian Federation to compete with Turkey for dominance of the Black Sea.

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51232>

⁸¹ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1617664385039863808>

Kremlin spokesperson Dmytry Peskov threw ice water on the back and forth of who doesn't want to negotiate with who, saying, "There are currently no conditions for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, either de facto or de jure."⁸² Almost at the same time, Lavrov, who refrained from talking about Nazis, Jews, or nuclear war, said Ukraine was refusing to negotiate with the Russian Federation.

Orwell's 1984 was not supposed to be an owner's manual.

The Deputy Head of the President's Office of Ukraine, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, submitted his resignation in an ongoing shakeup of the Ukrainian government.⁸³ There were widespread reports that the Military and Administrative Governors of Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhia oblasts will submit their resignations on January 24 as part of an ongoing corruption probe.

⁸² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72784>

⁸³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/23/7386195/>

Among issues, Tymoshenko is under fire for driving a donated Chevrolet Tahoe for his personal use. The vehicle was provided to Ukraine by General Motors to evacuate civilians out of war zones and to support humanitarian aid missions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed several decrees on January 23, including one that bars government officials and civil servants from traveling abroad beyond official business.⁸⁴

"It applies to all officials of the central government and various other levels of local government. It applies to law enforcers, people's deputies, prosecutors, and all those who are supposed to work for the state and in the state," Zelenskyy said in his evening address. "If they want to rest now, they will rest outside the civil service. Officials will no longer be able to travel abroad for vacation or any other non-governmental purpose."

Zelenskyy indicated that a larger shakeup of the Kyiv government would be announced on January 24.

⁸⁴ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/4862

The Ukrainian Armed Forces claimed to have shot down five Russian Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopters in 24 hours without evidence. It is one of the largest claims of Russian airframe losses Ukrainian officials have made since February 24.

Moldova announced they would conduct military readiness drills from January 24 to February 4. People in the country were advised to expect military equipment movement involving up to 400 soldiers, which is more than 5% of the Moldovan military.⁸⁵

Germany moved its promised Patriot Missile System to Poland, which will be stationed 60 km from the border of Ukraine to protect operations and logistics.⁸⁶ Italy is sending a SAMP-T anti-aircraft system to Slovakia so that the Patriot Missile System provided by the United States can be relocated to Germany.

The European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said, "The issue of

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51233>

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/72863>

supplying tanks to Ukraine will be discussed at a meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers" in an upcoming meeting.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz reiterated that he has not, and at this time, will not approve the transfer of Leopard 2 main battle tanks to Ukraine. Scholz is under internal and external pressure to authorize the transfer. European sources claim that a dozen nations are ready to transfer 100 Leopard 2 MBTs if Germany stops blocking the transfer.⁸⁷ Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said his government would request formal authorization from Germany to send the Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine.

The United States has offered to supply any nation providing Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine with M1A1 or M1A2 Abrams replacements, which would be a serious blow to the German weapons industry. German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall appears to understand the long game and announced they could supply Ukraine with 139 Leopard type 1 and 2 MBTs if the German government grants permission. Company leaders said they could initially provide 29 2A4 tanks by May 2023, a faster timeline than previously announced.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ [ABC News – United States](#)

⁸⁸ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/24/7154724/>

European nations, particularly in Eastern Europe, are increasingly looking to the United States and South Korea to supply heavy weapons.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov stated the obvious – Russia's mobilization system was unprepared to support the self-made staffing crisis within the military. "Our mobilization system in this form had not been [used] since the time of Comrade Stalin. It managed to rust over the decades, not to mention the consequences of Perestroika and the saints of the 90s."⁸⁹ Gerasimov claims the problems didn't reveal themselves until after mobilization started, and they had to learn as they went to fix problems.

With the admission of problems, you would think Gerasimov would want to address the most pressing issues: equipment shortages, improving battlefield medicine, radio communications, or training. Instead, the now comical

⁸⁹ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51245>

debate raging about shaving, haircuts, and clean uniforms for frontline troops raged on.

PMC Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin waded into the debate, having one of his controlled publications ask him a "random" question about shaving. "Women warriors climb into the...inferno and [get wounded] [**Editor's Note** – *This is about Anastasia Yelsukova*]. [Penal units] fight better than Guard [**Editor's Note** – *This references elite units like the 64th, 76th, 155th.*] units. Fighters with broken spines, like robots, go to transfer their experience to training camps. And a bunch of clowns is trying to teach the fighters, exhausted by hard military labor, how many times they should shave and what kind of spirits to meet the higher authorities. I believe it is necessary to adopt a legislative restriction and severe punishment with a prison term of up to 50 years for the glamorization of the army."⁹⁰

Prigozhin was also asked about casualties within the PMC and admitted that deserters are not counted among losses and are listed as "missing," even if they know they deserted.

⁹⁰ https://t.me/grey_zone/16763

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu replaced the commander of the Southern Military District. Colonel-General Sergei Kuzovlev was dismissed as leader of the Western Military District in the final days of General of the Army Sergei Surovikin's leadership in Ukraine. General Kuzovlev has been named the new commander of the Southern Military District.⁹¹ The announcement indicates the changes Surovikin made and the movement of Kremlin leaders who are allies of Wagner's Prigozhin into more direct leadership roles in Ukraine are being unraveled.

Propagandist Voenkor Yury Kotenok claims that stealth mobilization is ongoing and never stopped in the first place. "I believe that mobilization should be for the fulfillment of the tasks of a special military operation, and it continues. We know that the military registration and enlistment offices are carrying out planned work to call up reserve servicemen of certain categories [and] certain military specialties. I know that this process has not stopped. I wouldn't call it a wave. I'm talking about a process that is inevitable."⁹²

Kremlin spokesperson Peskov confirmed that mobilization has never ended, stating that Putin's Decree on

⁹¹ <https://t.me/kommunist/15169>

⁹² [RTVI – Russian Controlled State Media](#)

mobilization provides not only for the call of the required number of people but also for other activities. Therefore, it continues to operate."⁹³

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

After mocking Ukrainian points of invincibility, Russian propagandist Readovka celebrated Mariupol comfort stations set up by United Russia and Readovka after the heating systems completely failed in the city, and the donated electric heaters provided by propagandists proved to be inadequate and overloaded the electrical system starting fires.⁹⁴ According to Readovka, three tents have 200 people accessing them daily. They offer heat, hot tea, and a place to charge phones.

Assistant Minister of Health of Russia Alexei Kuznetsov said that Readovka propagandist Anastasia Yelsukova is at the National Research Center for Traumatology and Orthopedics in the intensive care unit and will require

⁹³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/53397>

⁹⁴ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51236>

multiple surgeries and long-term rehabilitation after a sniper's bullet in Sil shattered her knee'.⁹⁵ This contrasts Seymon Pegov of War Gonzo experience, who got the best medical care Donetsk had to offer after he stepped on a mine.

Rumors that PMC Wagner commander and defector Andrey Medvedev was facing deportation back to Russia are untrue, according to his lawyer, Brynjulf Risnes. Risnes told the BBC that the 26-year-old had been moved to a detention center in the Oslo area, and Medvedev, who is not related to Dmytry Medvedev, was likely confused due to a language barrier during his arrest that had him believe he was being deported.⁹⁶

GEOPOLITICAL

Russia and Estonia expelled their ambassadors, with the Russian Foreign Ministry summoning Estonian Ambassador Margus Laidre, who must leave the country by February 7.⁹⁷ In response, Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/readovkanews/51235>

⁹⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64374948>

⁹⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/estonia-tallinn-business-67182f99b4eaae30d1fd41d12da8fa48>

announced that the Russian ambassador also must leave by February 7 “in the interest of parity.”

In a sign of further escalation, it was reported that Estonia was considering establishing a “contiguous zone” within 24 nautical miles of the nation’s coast, which would encompass the entire Gulf of Finland and cutoff Russian ships transiting the Baltic Sea from St. Petersburg’s regional ports.⁹⁸ If Estonia were to expand its claims over the coastal waters, it would have the legal authority to inspect military and civilian ships sailing through the zone. Currently, the territorial zone extends 12 nautical miles from the coast.

Later in the day, Latvia’s Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics announced that they were expelling Russia’s ambassador effective February 24. The Russian foreign ministry accused the Tallinn government of being Russophobic and creating a culture of hostility.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed that his nation would not ratify Sweden or Finland’s application to

⁹⁸ [Novaya Gazeta](#)

NATO, citing a Koran-burning incident outside the Turkish embassy in Stockholm as the final straw.⁹⁹

Erdogan said, "if Sweden does not show respect for Turkey or Muslims, then "they will not see any support from us in the NATO issue." On January 21, an anti-Turkish rally took place in Stockholm led by activist Rasmus Paludan, who burned the Koran. Paludan is a self-admitted far-right ethno-nationalist Danish-Swedish politician and lawyer. In 2021, Denmark found him guilty of racism and defamation, resulting in a suspended sentence, and he admitted to engaging in graphic sexual conversations with boys ages 13 to 17 on his Discord server. Journalists have accused Moscow of funding Paludan and his Hard Line Danish political party years before the widescale invasion of Ukraine.

In our assessment, this feels like nothing more than a convenient excuse. A Quran was burned in the United States at Arizona State University in December 2021, which elicited no response from Ankara. The real issue is Sweden and Finland providing asylum to Kurdish minorities, which Turkey claims are members of the Kurdistan Workers'

⁹⁹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/rus/news/2023/01/24/7154726/>

Party, also known as the PKK, which is recognized as a terrorist organization.

ECONOMIC

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

Western oil prices were also unchanged, with WTI crude holding at \$82 a barrel and Brent at \$88, while Russian Urals crude hit its price ceiling of \$60 a barrel. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market climbed to \$2.68 a gallon (71 cents a liter).

Dutch TTF Natural Gas Futures dropped over 9%, falling to 60 euros per megawatt hour for February and March 2023 delivery.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures also dropped, reaching \$7.25 a bushel for March 2023 delivery, the lowest price since April 2021.