



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 235

It has been 3,141 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Ukraine has requested a complete blackout of information from Kherson and analysis, and we are honoring that request.

There are signs that Russia may be preparing troops in Belarus for military action along the northern Ukraine border, but the probability remains low.

The main fighting we can report on remains around Bakhmut.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our assessment that Russian terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure would increase

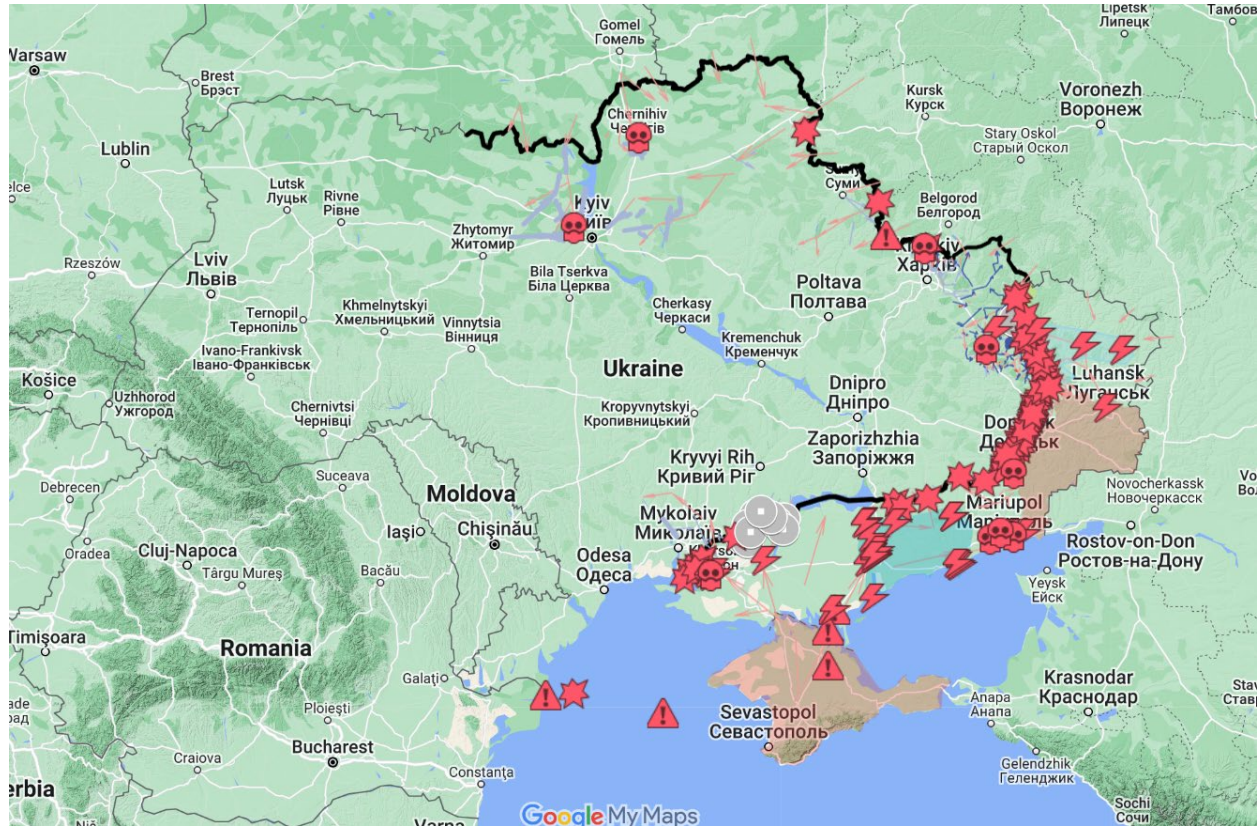
during the week of October 17 was, regrettably, accurate.

2. We assess that the Kherson counteroffensive is restarting or will restart imminently.
3. Absent a renewed counteroffensive, we assess the battlefield across Ukraine as currently frozen, with almost no territorial changes in the last week.
4. We assess that the mobilization of up to 300,000 troops will have little impact on the battlefield due to poor morale, discipline, and a lack of equipment among mobiks.
5. We maintain that Ukraine still holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain defensive on all axes except Soledar/Bakhmut.
6. We assess that terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure will continue for the rest of the week due to ongoing NATO and Russian military drills driving political posturing in Eastern Europe.
7. We maintain that using tactical nuclear weapons on the battlefield is highly unlikely, and the chances of the use of nuclear weapons are in decline.
8. Despite the improvement in the political situation, we maintain we are in the Mutually Assured Destruction Instability Paradox due to previous irresponsible language from the Kremlin.
9. We maintain our assessment that the Russian military in Ukraine is combat destroyed is accurate, and the

Russian military has no meaningful way to respond to the ongoing and accelerating collapse on multiple fronts.

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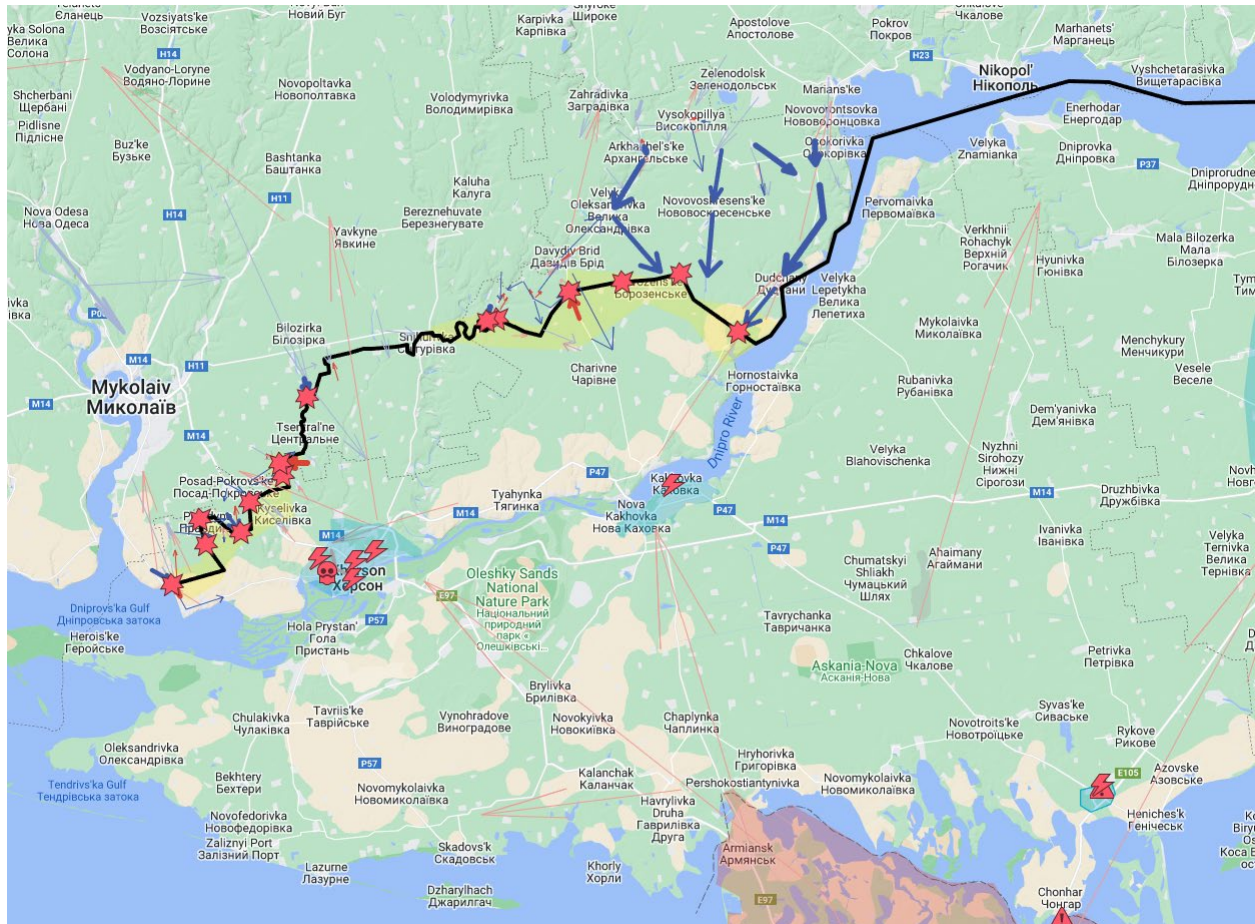
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The 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 [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

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

KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV



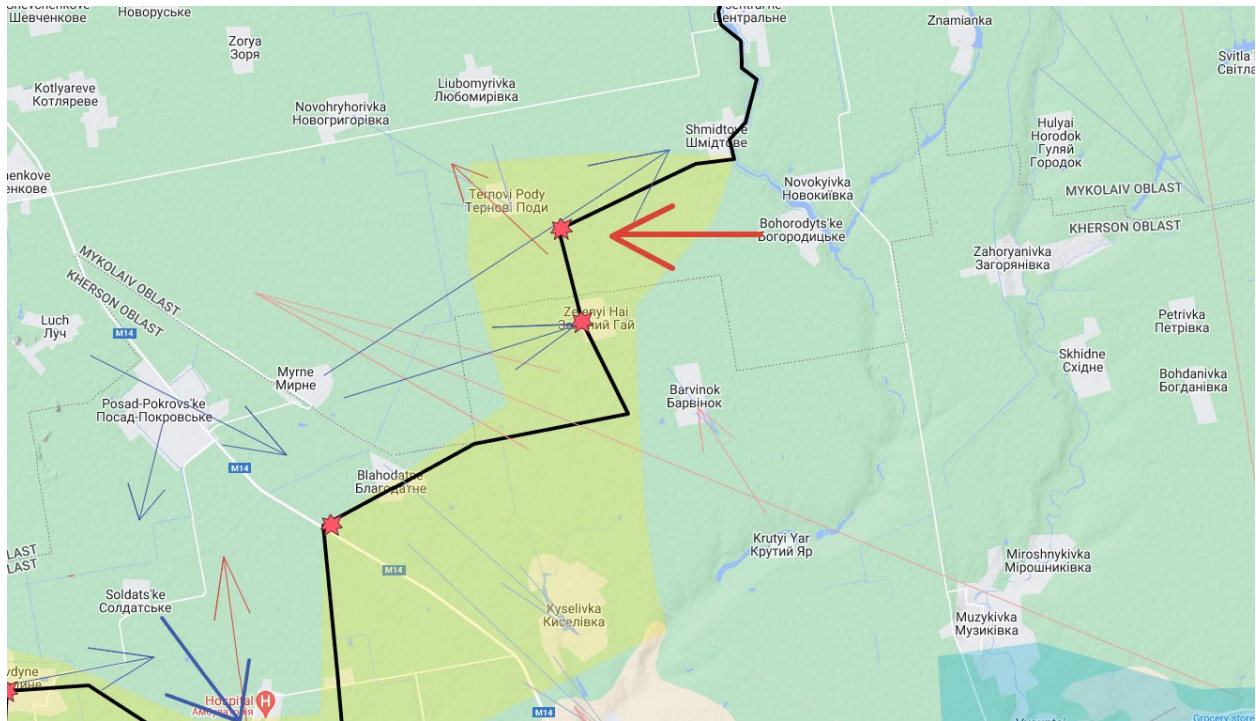
Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold existing defensive lines, protect remaining Lines of Communication (LOC – supply lines), defend Kherson, prevent envelopment on the western side of the Dnipro River, restrict insurgent activity

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to

end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) has requested a media and analysis blackout to respect operational security in Kherson. We will continue to provide high-level information from GSAFU and Operational Command South (OCS) and use other sources to confirm the veracity of any claims they make.

During this time, we will not be updating our war map for the entire Kherson oblast or a small area in west-central Zaporizhia oblast on the banks of the Dnipro River until authorized by GSAFU, OCS, or the office of the president of Ukraine. We thank you for your understanding. This includes amplifying information available through open-source intelligence.



There wasn't any fighting that we could report. GSAFU reported that [Terni Pody](#) was shelled, indicating that the area remains a no man's land leaning toward Ukrainian control.¹ OCS reported that Russian forces fired artillery along the entire line of conflict.² The Ukrainian air force executed 15 air strikes, and ground forces carried out 230 fire missions. Geographical and target information was not provided.

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

² <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1570542296707463>

We can confirm that Ukrainian forces continued supply interdiction along the Dnipro River and maintained fire control on the north and south banks.

Russian-appointed administrators reportedly are withdrawing "state" institutions from the oblast, such as banking information, property records, and pension funds. The administrative and financial systems are being transferred to Russian-occupied Crimea.

There continue to be anecdotal reports of a growing number of Russian surrenders, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dropping a hint in a televised address, stating, "I would like to mention today those units that provided us with a replenishment of the exchange fund...I thank the 54th Separate Reconnaissance Battalion named after Mykhailo Tysha, the 80th Separate Airborne Assault Brigade, and the 92nd Separate Mechanized Brigade, which during the offensive significantly increased our ability to bring Ukrainians home."

Editor's Note: Exchange fund refers to the number of prisoners of war (POW) in the custody of Ukraine, which creates leverage for future exchanges with the Russian

Federation. Not all of the units mentioned by Zelenskyy are located in Kherson, but it is the area with the most activity.

OCS reported that air defenses shot down 16 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones across their command area.³ Earlier in the day, Ukrainian air defenses shot down nine of 13 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones targeting Mykolaiv.⁴ Four drones hit the city, damaging fuel storage and a medical supply warehouse.⁵ There were no injuries in the attacks.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian air defenses are becoming more effective in targeting the Iranian-sourced combat drones in the last week, with a success rate of 75%.⁶ This indicates they are formulating effective tactics to identify, track and destroy the UAVs. Russia is using 400 to 600 drones a month, and it is unlikely that Iran can provide replacements at a sustained level.

³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372239/>

⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372216/>

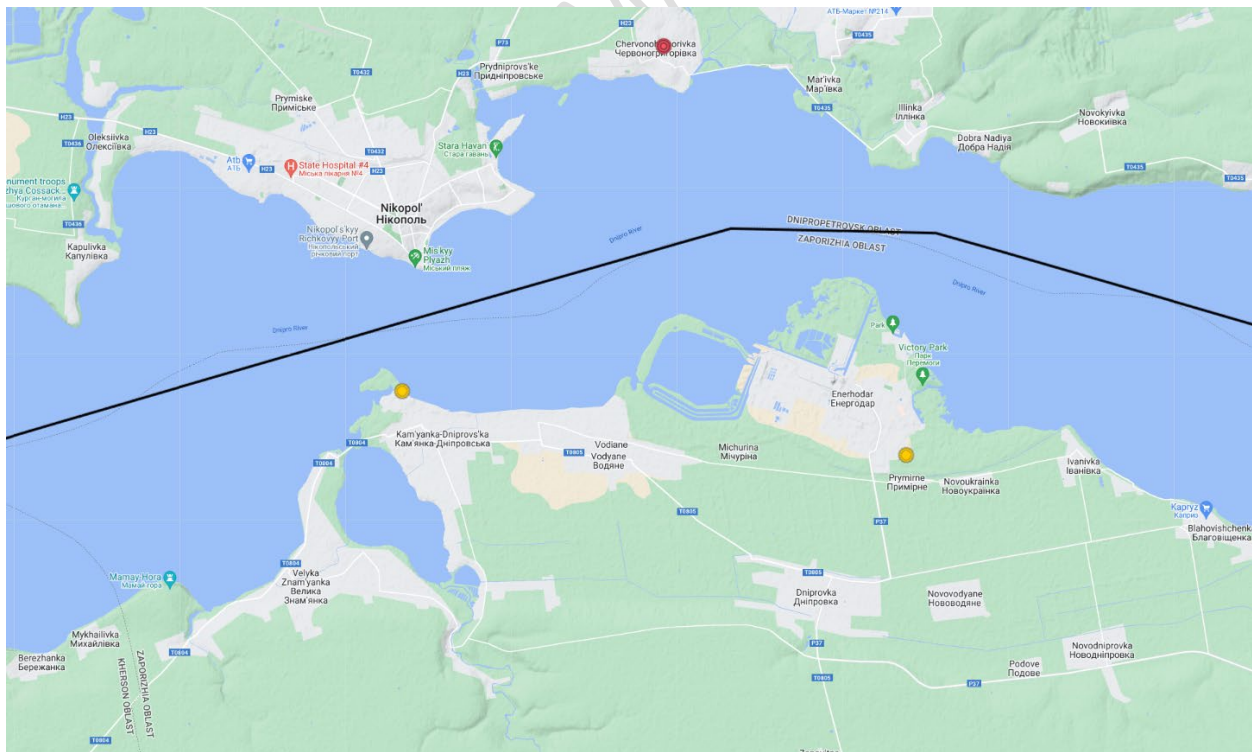
⁵ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1581861308789673986

⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372239/>

DNIPROPETROVSK & NORTHERN ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and prepare the area's civilian population for a nuclear accident



There was no change in the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. There continues to be no update on the status of the Deputy General Director of ZNPP, Valery Martynyuk, who was kidnapped by Russian troops six days ago. We did not have a progress report on the restart of Reactors 5 and 6. The Ukrainian National Resistance Center reported that Kadyrovites of the SOBR unit Akhmat had been assigned to defend ZNPP.⁷

Overnight, Nikopol and Marhanets were struck by more than 40 Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), injuring one person.⁸ Russian rockets targeted apartment buildings, housing, and an industrial area and damaged gas pipelines and the electrical grid. The attacks have continued despite the lack of shelling of the ZNPP or Enerhodar in over a week.

Russia fired four cruise missiles into the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. Air defenses were able to shoot down three, but the fourth hit "critical energy infrastructure," causing a major fire.⁹

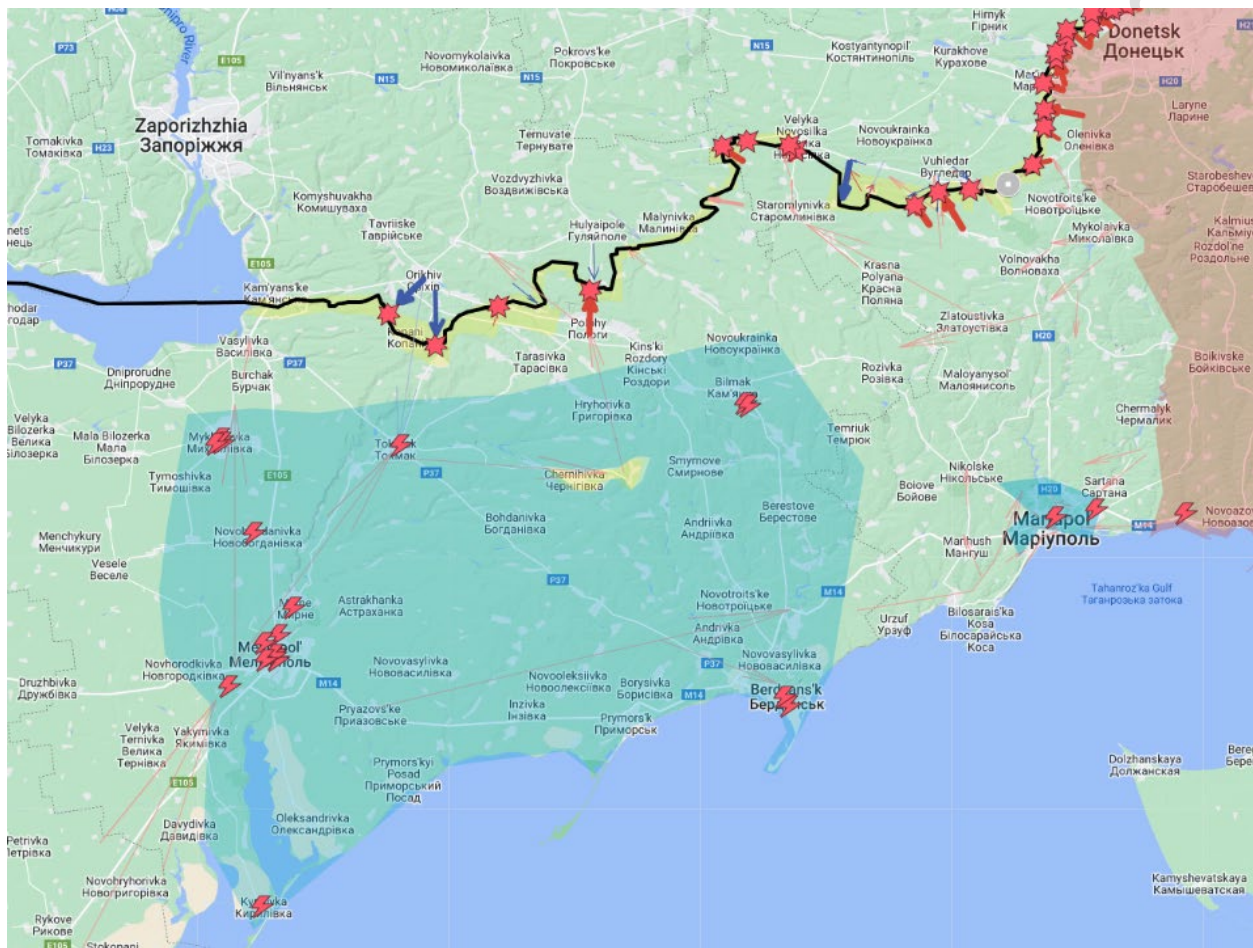
⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/16/7372202/>

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/16/7372149/>

⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372226/>

DONBAS REGION

SOUTHERN ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, defend the existing line of conflict, and end the insurrection that is throughout the Russian-controlled territory

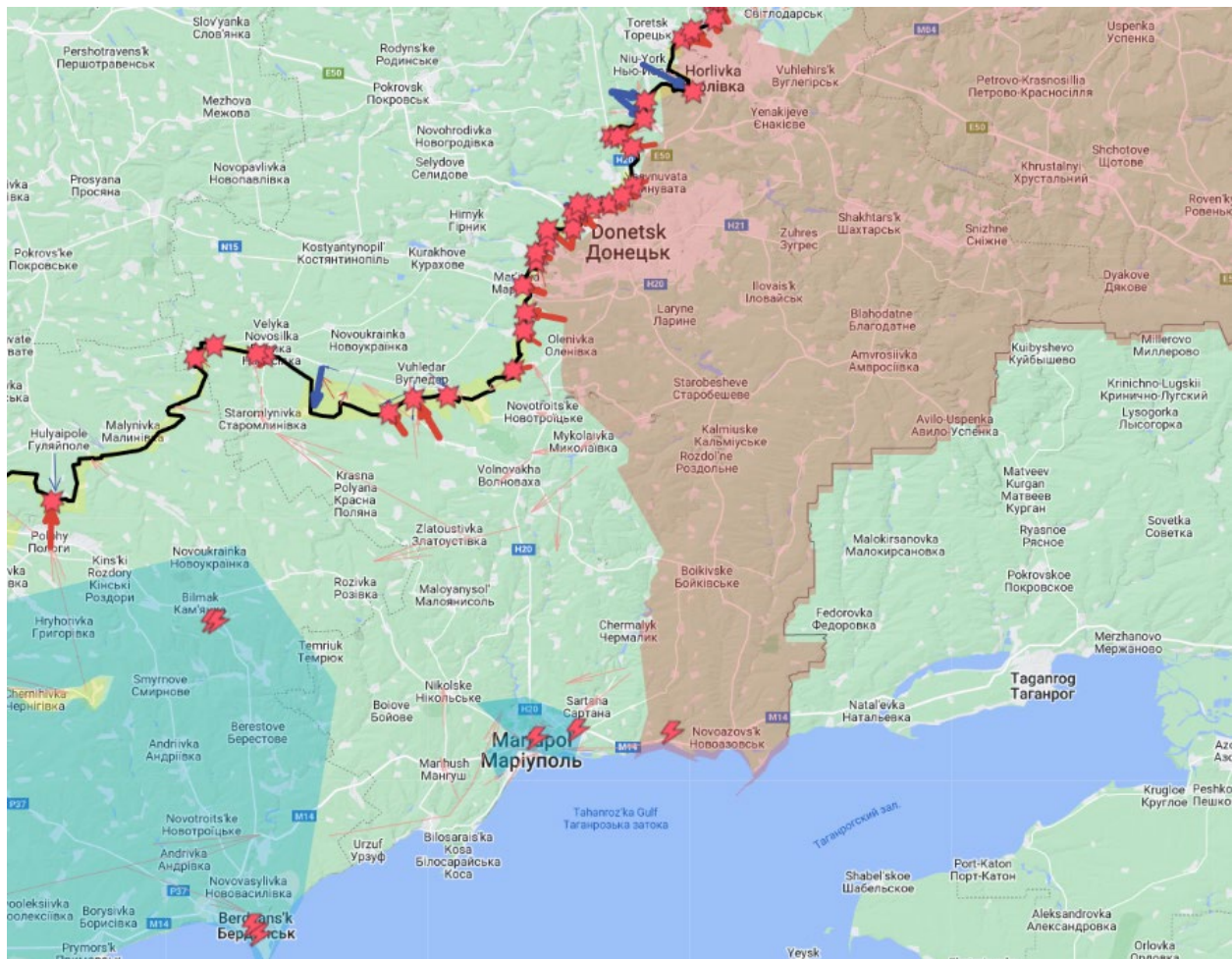
Ukrainian Objective: Fix Russian assets in place to prevent redeployment, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, support and expand the insurrection in occupied territories

Russian forces shelled settlements from the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Shcherbaky.^{10 11} Otherwise, there wasn't any significant fighting reported by any source.

¹⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT](#)

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

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, maintain existing defensive lines, 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

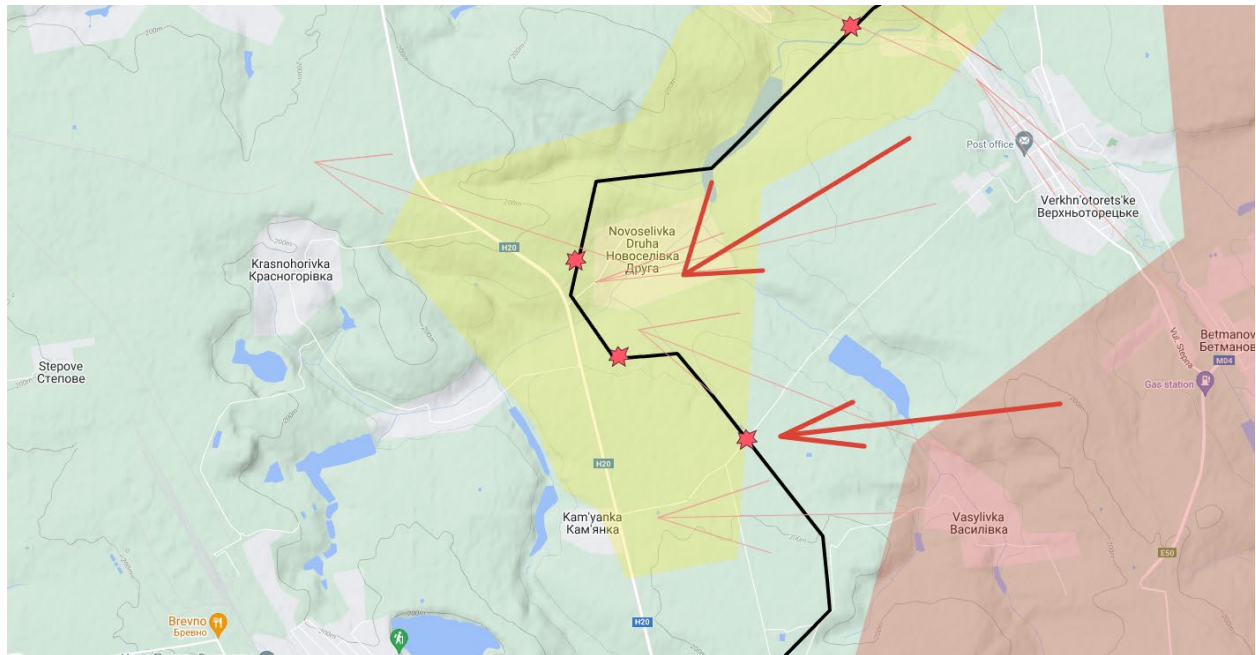
exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) militia public relations channel did not report any offensive action today and claimed their units destroyed a self-propelled artillery system and one tank.¹² Ukrainian forces carried out 175 fire missions on the Russian-occupied territory.

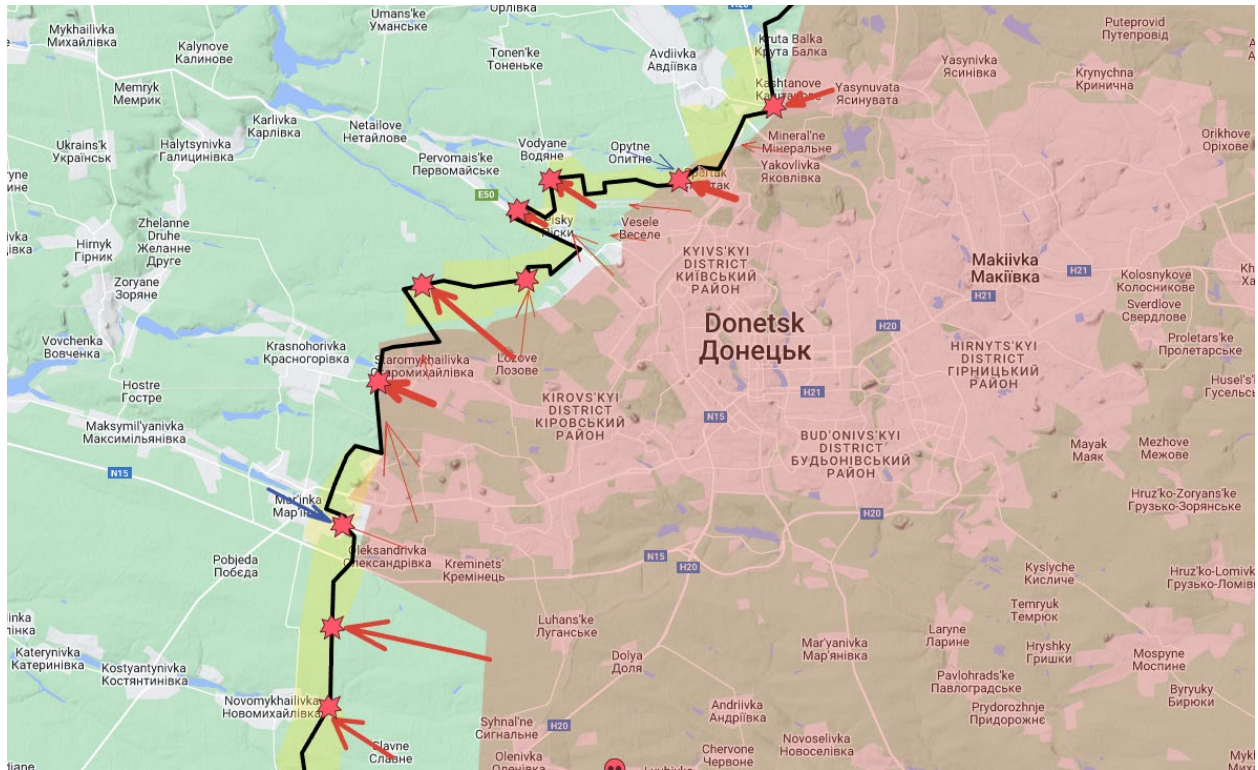
Artillery fire increased, with GSAFU reporting that the DNR and Russian forces fired along the entire line of conflict.

Positional fighting continued northwest and west of Donetsk.

¹² https://t.me/nm_dnr/9229



Elements of the 1st Army Corps continued to push west toward [Krasnohorivka](#) but could not move the line of conflict.



West of Donetsk, there was positional fighting in [Vodyane](#), [Marinka](#), and [Novomykhailivka](#).^{13 14}

ASSESSMENT: The DNR militia remains combat destroyed and ineffective. The push to take Pisky and open the road to Dnipro started almost three months ago with no appreciable gains after reaching the E-50 Ring Road in mid-August. Fall has been warmer and drier than historical norms, but it is increasingly unlikely that any gains can be

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

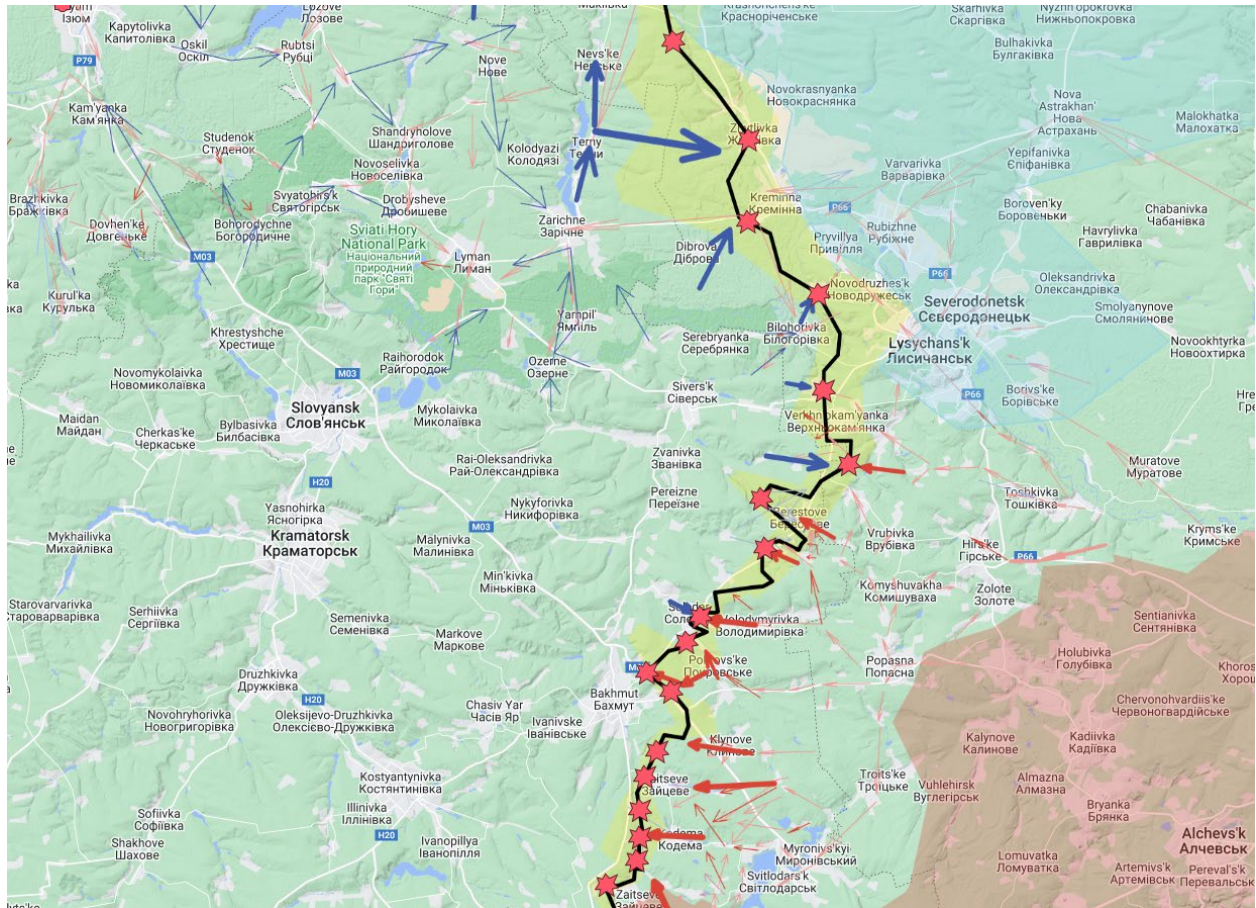
¹⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)



made west of Donetsk before late fall weather arrives in Ukraine.

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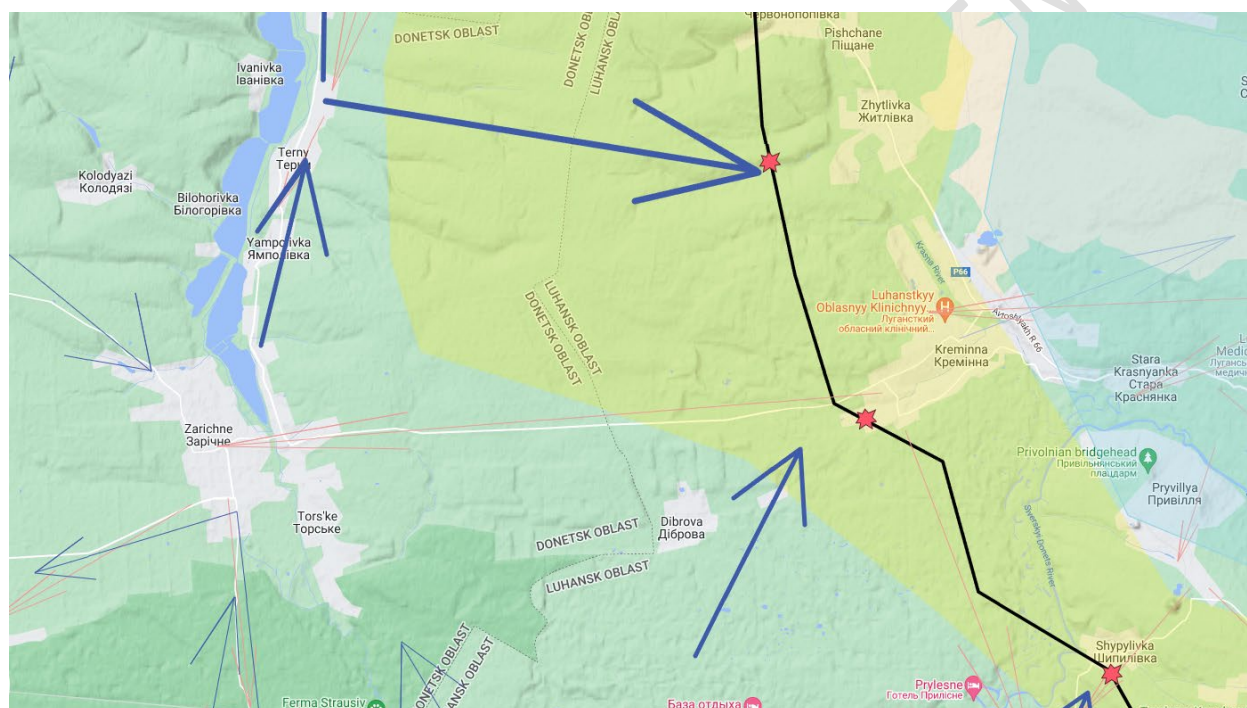
NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

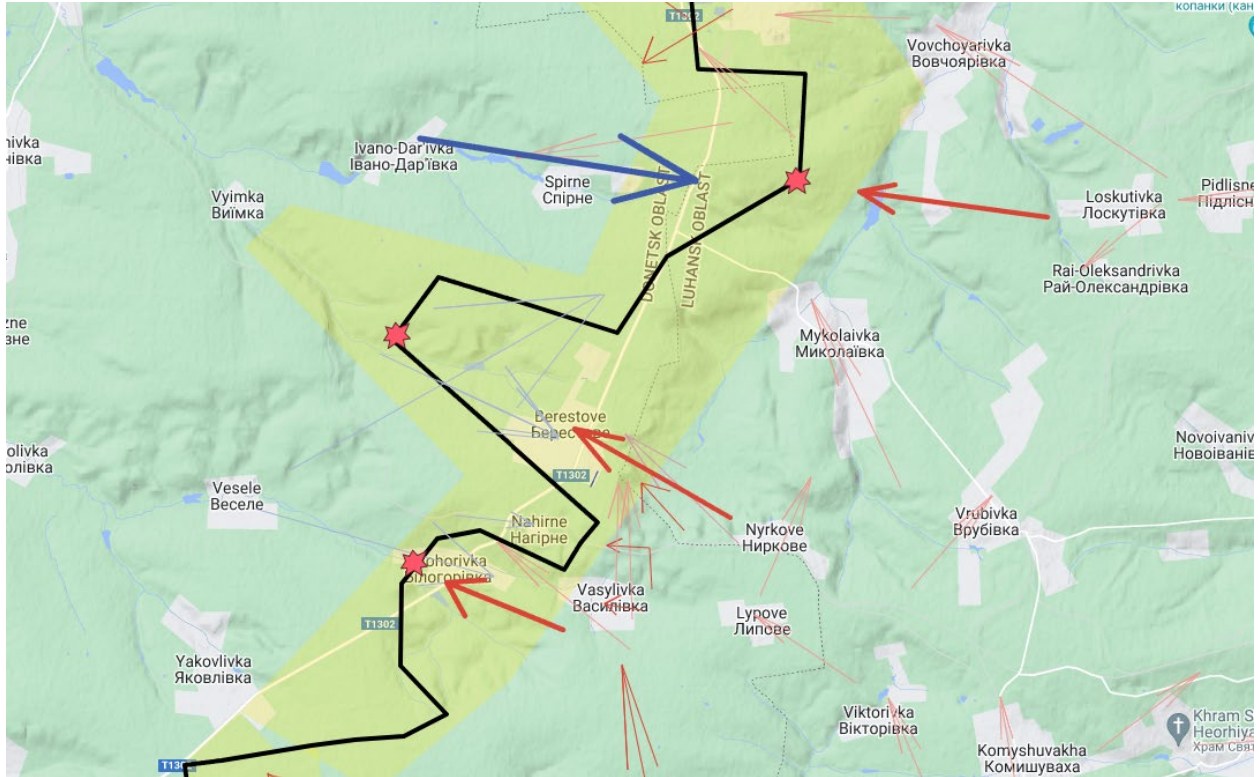
Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, and defend GLOCs

The most significant documented fighting continues to be in northeast Donetsk. The biggest drama is once again on social media with a candid assessment of the situation around Bakhmut by Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group financier Yevgeny Prigozhin.

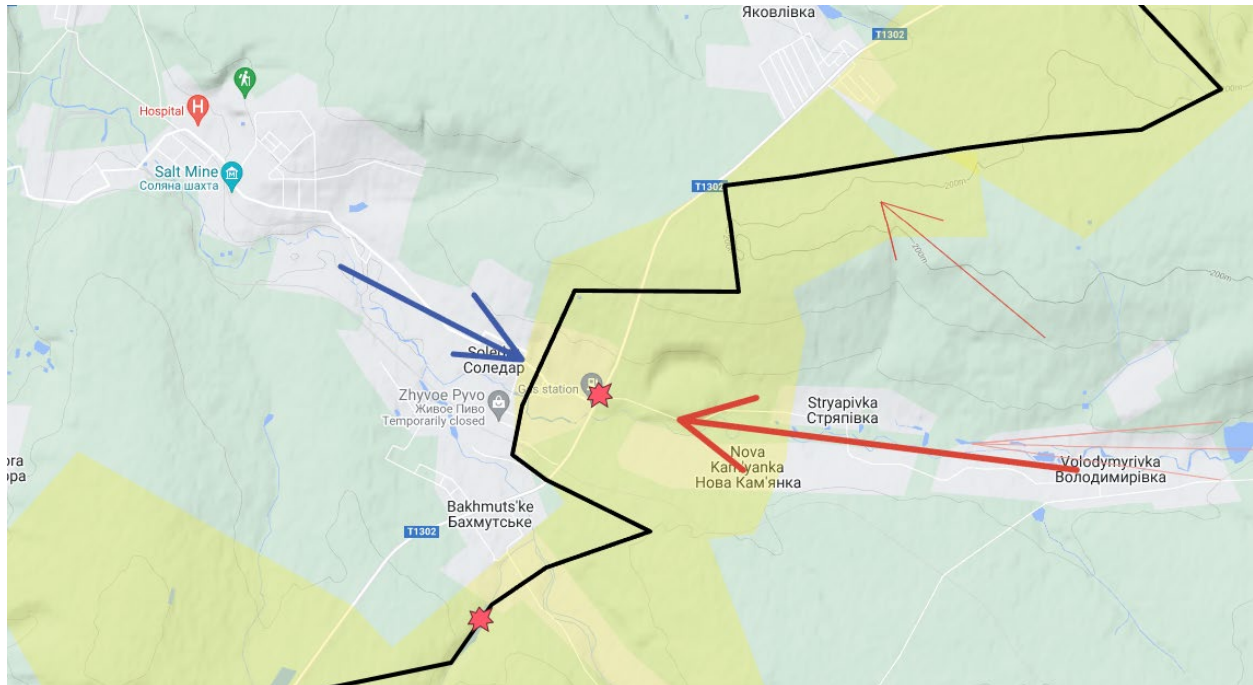


Russian forces continued defending the Donetsk-Luhansk administrative border and attacked Ukrainian troops in [Terny](#).¹⁵ There wasn't any change in the situation. Ukrainian sources reported that Russian troops made marginal gains on [Neveske](#), measured in meters.

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



Positional fighting continued on the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border south of Lysychansk in [Spirne](#).



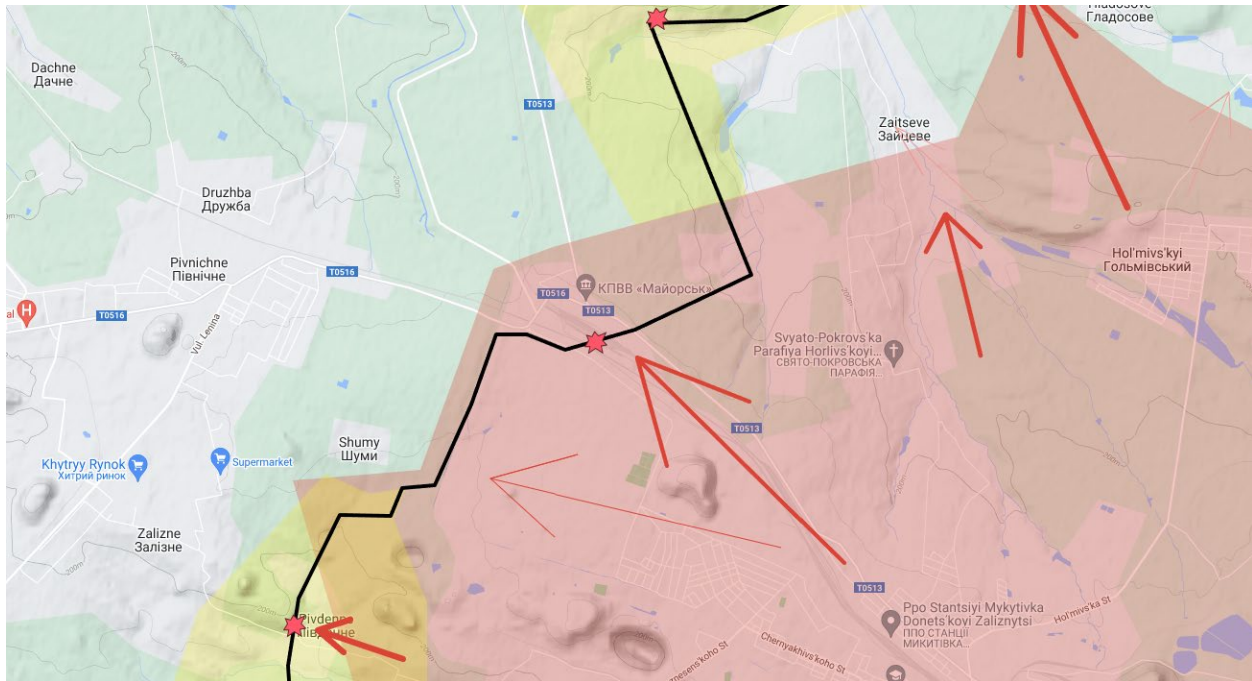
PMC Wagner financier Prigozhin threw shade at the DNR, 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic, Chechen forces, and unaffiliated journalist organization WarGonzo, without mentioning any by name.¹⁶ He claimed that reports of Optyne and Ivanhrad being captured were untrue and that Wagner forces had not made significant gains toward Bakhmut. Prigozhin added that reports of Ukrainian troops retreating, a rumor started by WarGonzo, were untrue and that Ukrainian forces were effective fighters beginning to adapt to NATO techniques, saying, "The legend of the fleeing Ukrainians is just a legend. Ukrainians are guys with the same iron balls as we are."

¹⁶ https://t.me/grey_zone/15357

He stated Wagner preferred to fight independently because “it’s more reliable,” appearing to dismiss DNR, LNR, and Chechen troops. It is the first time Wagner's leadership has acknowledged that they view Ukrainian troops as equals on the battlefield, and there has been a lack of progress.

To his point about the lack of progress, Ukrainian forces filmed themselves [burning Russian flags on the outer edge of Bakhmut](#) and standing comfortably without any artillery fire in the background.¹⁷ As previously noted, fighting continued south and east of [Bakhmut](#), with no progress made. There was also fighting east of [Soledar](#), with the situation unchanged.

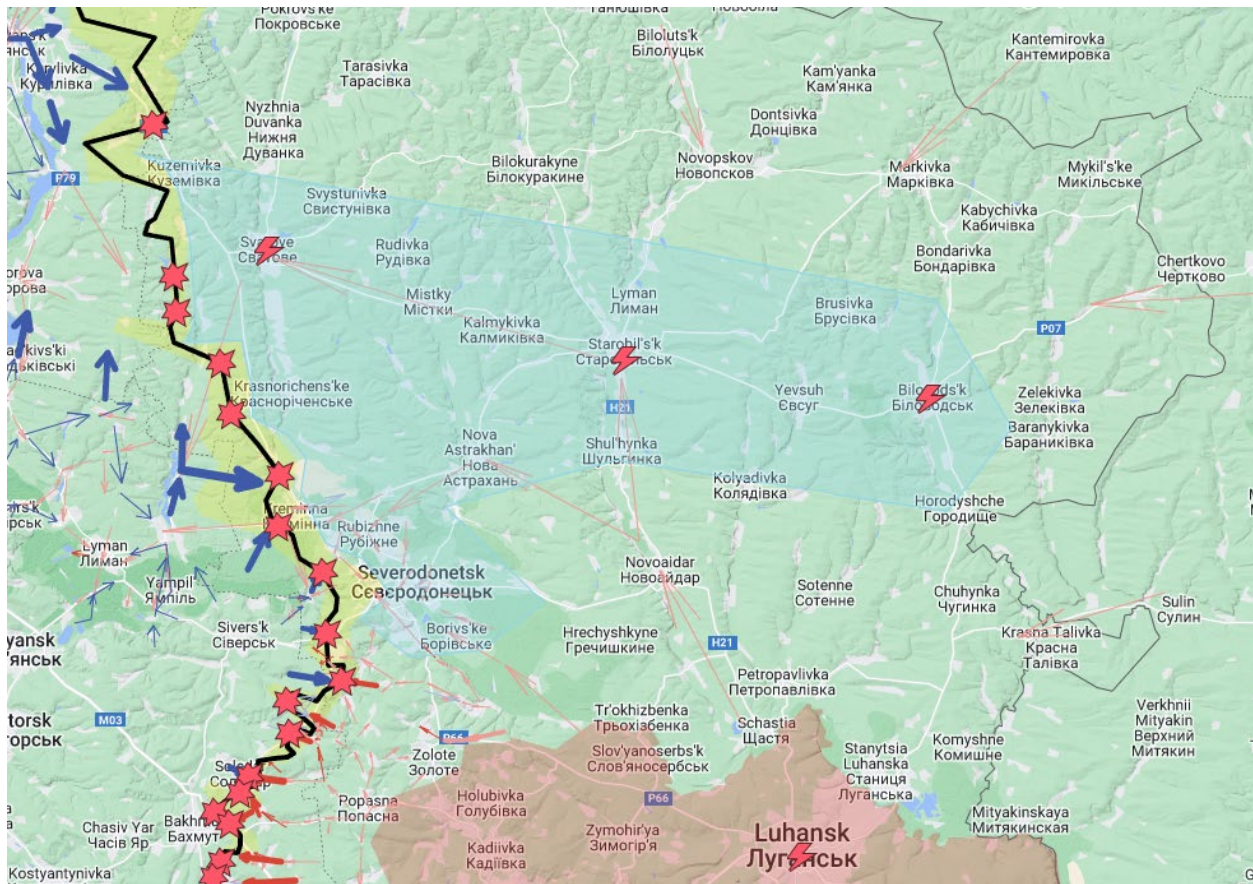
¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/samotniyskhid/status/1581584483983446017>



Maybe the DNR or Chechens read our Situation Reports because, after weeks of never on a Sunday, there was an attempted advance on [Mayorsk](#) past the railroad station that failed.

ASSESSMENT: We maintain our assessment that PMC Wagner is committed to capturing Bakhmut at all costs due to financial and political motivations. The acknowledgment by Prigozhin that Wagner is having battlefield difficulties and that the PMC's success has been oversold is likely setting conditions for what will continue to be a long siege due to recruitment issues and coming winter weather.

LUHANSK



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

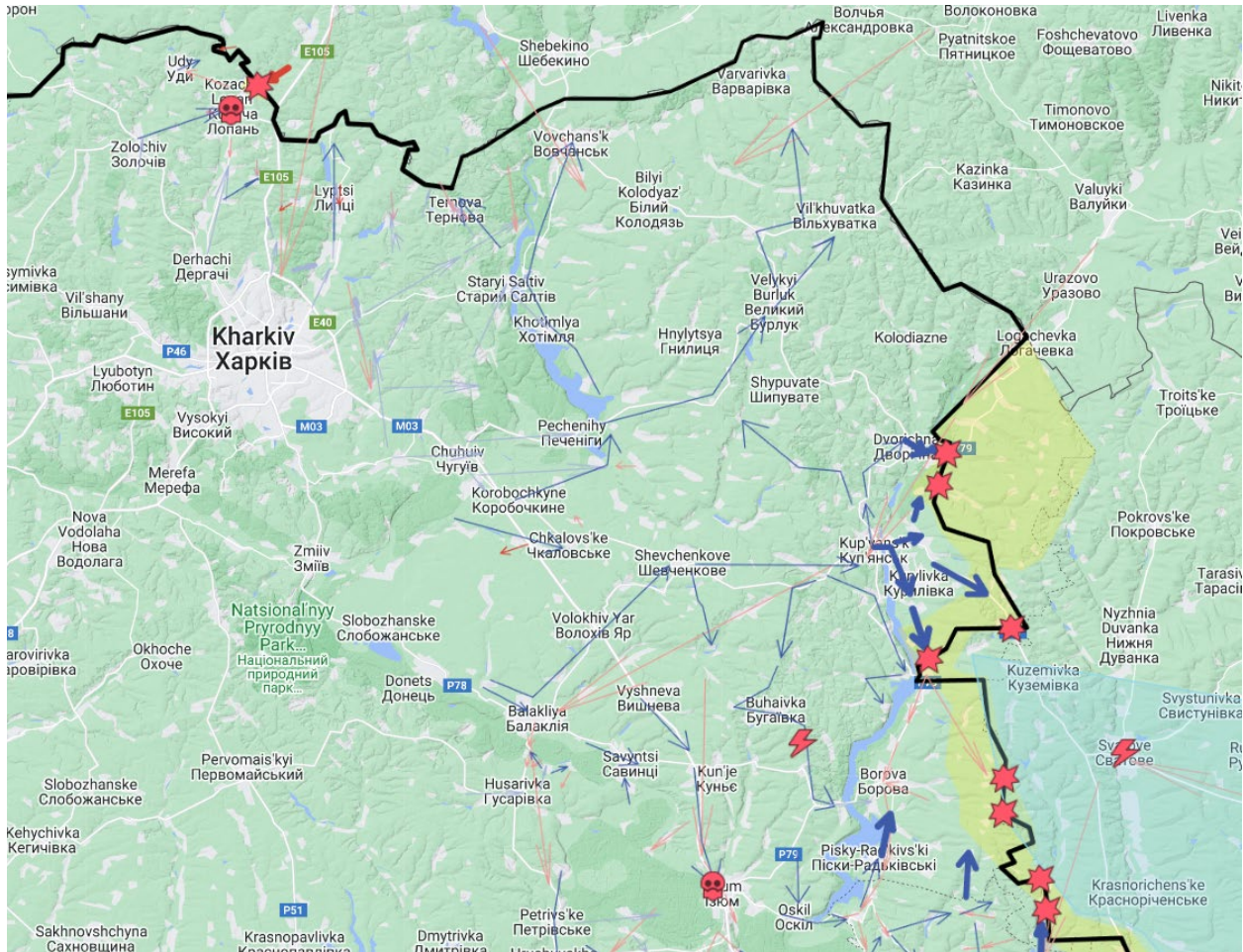
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, prevent the retreat of Russian soldiers from Lyman, make opportunistic territorial gains, support insurgents, interdict supplies

No significant fighting was reported in this region beyond the conflict along the administrative border reported in the Northeast Donetsk section.

Zarichne and Bilohrivka were shelled by Russian forces, with no reports of significant ground fighting.



KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Retreat and minimize casualties, prevent Ukrainian forces from further advancing from their bridgeheads on the east bank of the Oskil River, and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate all of Kharkiv oblast, sever GLOCs into Luhansk, protect civilian lives, and defend the Ukrainian border

Neither belligerent reported significant fighting in Kharkiv, where Russia controls less than 2% of the territory.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported the hromadas of Velyka Pysarivka, Bilopillia, and Krasnopillia were attacked by Russian helicopters, mortars, and Grad rockets fired by MLRS.¹⁸ Velyka Pysarivka suffered the heaviest attack with 54 strikes from mortars and rockets. Additionally, two Russian helicopters fired 20 unguided rockets into the region.

Mortar attacks on Bilopillia knocked out electrical power to 2,100 households but did not damage the regional power plant. There was a border skirmish near Krasnopillia, with machine gun fire exchanged along the border.

¹⁸ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/5298>

Russian missiles struck the Romny district, damaging "critical infrastructure" and causing casualties. There wasn't any additional information at the time of publication.¹⁹

In the Chernihiv oblast, the villages of Senkivka, Hasychivka, Mykolaivka, and Prohres were shelled from across the international border by Russian forces.²⁰

KYIV REGION

At the time of publication, Kyiv had been struck by at least one Iranian-sourced kamikaze drone.²¹ It was reported that one drone landed near a train station setting residential buildings on fire, and [the second one was shot down](#), with the debris landing in the city center.²² Officials reported three more drones had hit the Shevchenkivskiy district and that roads in that part of the city have been closed.²³

¹⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372227/>

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

²¹ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1581859141039292416>

²² <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1581874259684491265>

²³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372224/>

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

There wasn't significant fighting in this region.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Ukrainian missiles hit the airport in Belgorod, with the attack caught on video.²⁴ Russian air defenses [failed to prevent the attack](#), which appeared to target S-300 antiaircraft launchers located at the airport. The antiaircraft site is believed to have been responsible for shooting down two Ukrainian aircraft in recent weeks and may have been struck by an AGM-88 HARM anti-radiation missile.

Pictures were circulating online showing Russian military equipment on the Kerch Bridge on October 15.²⁵ The

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/Tendar/status/1581568038624980992>

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1581512440894099456>

pictures were geolocated, and the equipment is stuck on the approach to the bridge. Railroad access remains closed, and the ferry routes are suspended until at least Tuesday due to strong winds. New pictures showed that the damaged rail cars had been removed.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Videos show [significant amounts of Russian military hardware](#) being transferred into Belarus. Some of the equipment [was marked with a triangle](#), which is a new tactical marking.^{26 27 28} Up to 9,000 Russian troops will be deployed, and the Belarusian Ministry of Emergency Situations was distributing weapons and checking bomb shelters for readiness.^{29 30} We had previously reported the renewed presence of Russian multirole fighter planes in Belarus, which some sources are blowing out of proportion because of their nuclear weapons capabilities.

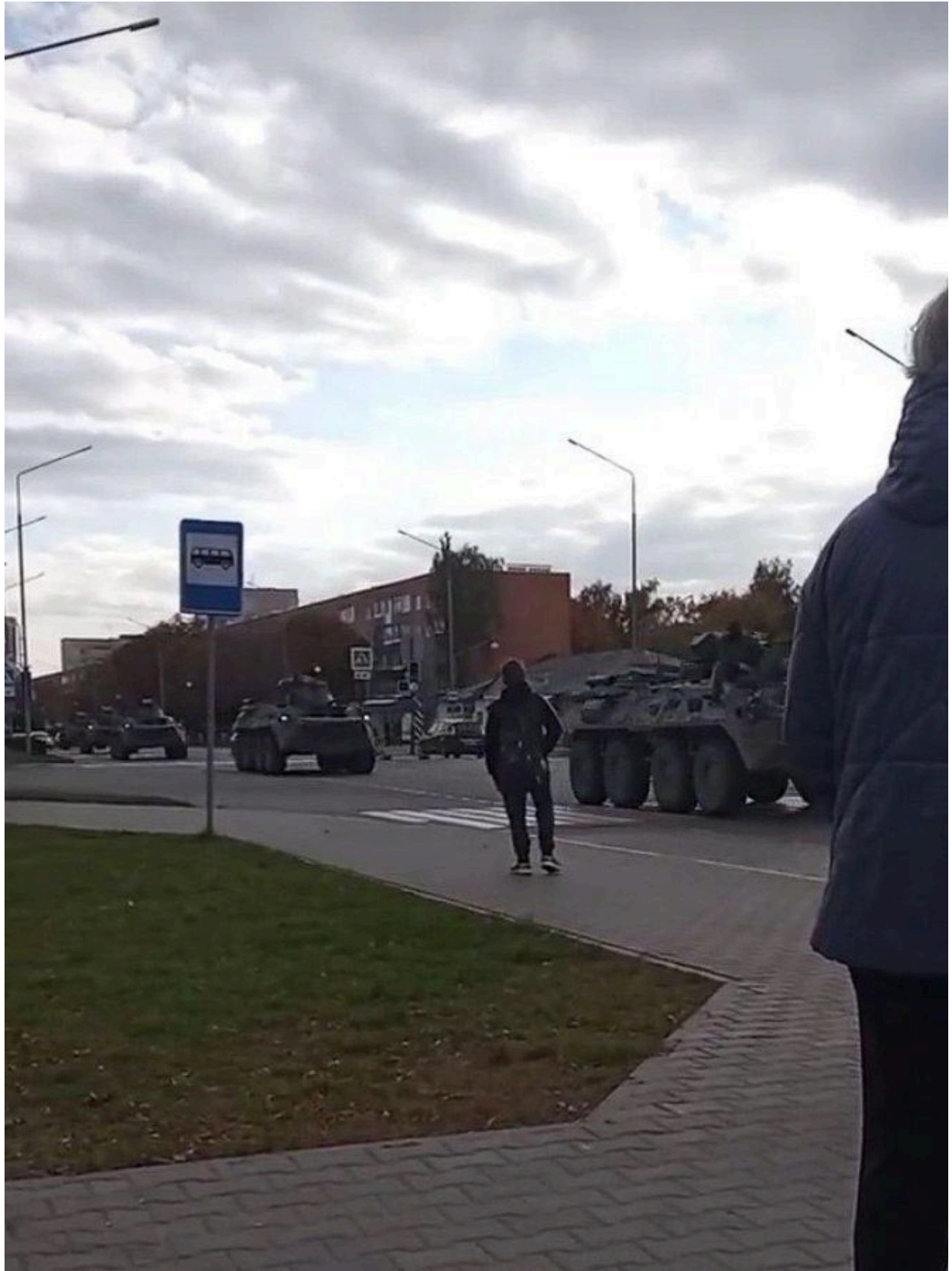
²⁶ <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1581596578778710016>

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/NomadIntel/status/1581706752525242369>

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1581628973401853952>

²⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/16/7372204/>

³⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/16/7372184/>



ASSESSMENT: The presence of new tactical markings on the incoming military hardware raises questions about Russia's intent and if they will attempt to move across the Ukrainian border. We maintain that the risk is low and remind our readers and listeners that when Russia was bogged down in Mariupol and had withdrawn from Kyiv, the Kremlin stirred the pot in Belarus and Transnistria and rattled nuclear sabers. It all was sound and fury that amounted to nothing.

If we think rationally, Russian forces opening up a second front north of Kyiv or attempting to push into western Ukraine toward Lviv would be ill-advised. Any renewed offensive operation in the northern forests of Ukraine in November or December has a high risk of failure. Unfortunately, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle have not acted rationally, so it is hard to conclude what Belarus may do. Ukraine has significant military resources along the Belarusian border and has worked to strengthen defensive lines since Russia retreated in early April. Further, the Russian Ministry of Defense has been stripping Belarus of ammunition and military hardware for months.

In a further sign that Russia is running out of precision munitions, Iran will be transferring Fateh-110 and Zolfaghar ballistic missiles.³¹ The Fateh-110 is a short-range missile with a range of 300 kilometers, while the Zolfaghar is a medium-range missile with a range of 700 kilometers and a warhead of up to 800 kilograms of high explosives. Both missiles are more accurate than the Russian Iskander-M and will likely have a lower failure rate.

ASSESSMENT: For an alleged superpower, Russia having to source combat drones and ballistic missiles from Iran and requesting ammunition from North Korea is, in a word – embarrassing. Although this proves the state of Russian precision munition inventory, the Iranian-supplied missiles should not be dismissed. The shorter range Fateh-110 has a reported accuracy of +/- 5 meters. Based on nine months of data, it is highly unlikely that the Russian Ministry of Defense will use the new missiles effectively to strike critical military targets. It is more probable they will be used to attack civilians and civilian infrastructure.

³¹ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1581599789493284864

France announced they would provide Ukraine with motorized floating bridges, although a delivery date was not set.³²



After irresponsible headlines caused minor panic about the Russian nuclear submarine Belgorod leaving port, the vessel was spotted by satellites back in port in Severodvinsk, Russia.³³

³² <https://twitter.com/oryxspioenkop/status/1581394981637406722>

³³ <https://twitter.com/CovertShores/status/1581671176946216960>

ASSESSMENT: There are no indications that Russia has been mobilizing its nuclear forces or is preparing for a nuclear weapons test. It is almost certain that if any nation saw indications that Russia was changing its nuclear weapons posture or preparing for a weapons test, the world would hear about it. There is no need to dig a backyard bunker.

The bounty on the head of our favorite FSB Colonel, wanted war criminal, and Kremlin pariah, Igor "Girkin" Strelkov, has grown to at least \$130,000. Girkin is apparently in Ukraine as a volunteer fighter, and his sentencing hearing at the Hague is on November 17 for the downing of Malaysian Air Flight 17 in 2014. The bounty will be awarded if he is captured alive.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

Forced mobilization continues in St. Petersburg and Moscow, with commissariats [rounding people up](#) at hostels, subways, and off the street.³⁴

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/Tendar/status/1581738771288330241>

More families are receiving death notices and desperate phone calls from mobiks who were promised up to two months of training but were deployed days after reporting for military service onto the front lines. In Chelyabinsk, the wife of a dead mobik is seeking answers on how her husband could have been deployed and killed in action just a week after reporting for training.³⁵ In Svatove, mobiks report that the only training they got was firing three rounds at the rifle range before being deployed into one of the hottest areas of fighting.³⁶

Pictures and video show that the DNR and LNR are using D-1 artillery pieces, first deployed in 1943, and [S-60 57mm antiaircraft guns](#) (AA), first deployed in 1950.³⁷ ³⁸ The LNR uses the S-60 AA for direct fire at ground targets, with the Cold-War era system providing an effective range of 6 kilometers.

³⁵ https://twitter.com/Flash_news_ua/status/1581532938445148161

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/SpencerGuard/status/1581831380010291200>

³⁷ https://twitter.com/auto_glam/status/1580227064027676673

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1581831950158901248>



The LNR militia released pictures of recently mobilized conscripts into the 2nd Army Corps at a small swearing-in ceremony at the Verkhnokamynaka Oil Refinery.³⁹ The official PR photograph is stunning when you consider this is the best of the best. The images show men in their mid-40s to 60s in an assortment of uniforms and equipment. The image harkens back to 1945 Germany and the Volkssturm. With reports of significant fighting at the edges of the refinery, including in Spirne, these men will likely be immediately thrown into intense combat.

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/mhmck/status/1581704168561029122>



The Governor of the Kursk oblast in Russia visited a military training camp and sounded alarm bells on the deplorable conditions. Roman Starovoi reported the dining room was ruined while the showers were broken and rusted. There weren't enough beds for the mobiks, and the available ones were completely worn out. Conscripts don't have uniforms, and Starovoi said the parade ground "looks like it was bombed."⁴⁰

In Russian-occupied Melitopol, Russian passports come with a high price. Exiled mayor Ivan Fedorov reported that

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1581493225420124160>

up to 3,000 residents had been forcibly mobilized into “volunteer” battalions of the DNR.⁴¹

Due to increasing attacks and vandalism, Russia has been forced to increase security at military enlistment offices nationwide.⁴²

In Russian-occupied Crimea, recent mobiks complained that the plate receiver they were issued for body armor was full of holes and stained.⁴³ Some of the issued equipment is held together with duct tape. At least their body armor has useable plates. Ukrainian soldiers recorded a video showing the body armor issued to recently captured Russian troops. The thin metal was [bendable with their bare hands](#) and would offer no ballistic or shrapnel protection.⁴⁴

An American company was selling Russian IRP 24-hour military rations, sealed, with a production date of May 2022.⁴⁵ The equivalent of a 24-hour MRE pack was for sale for \$49.95 each and sold out quickly. The stacks of newly

⁴¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/17/7372220/>

⁴² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/15/7372086/>

⁴³ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1581233543270711298?t=Uc8R8wGoryNwkZLvkgmSlg&s=19

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1581708111500279808>

⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1581404493924962309>

produced Russian military rations for sale in the US market indicate a stunning level of corruption within the Russian military, with troops being provided outdated dry rations or reduced to looting due to a lack of supplies.

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian troops executed celebrated Ukrainian musician and conductor Yurly Kerpatenko in his Kherson home after he refused to participate in a concert.⁴⁶ "The Russians' actions were 'pure genocide,' said conductor Semyon Bychkov. The tragic irony of this is that [Russians] talk about the superiority of Russian culture, its humanism, and here they murdered someone who is actually bringing beauty to people's lives. It is sickening."

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant developments.

⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/JuliaDavisNews/status/1581643055740129280>

ECONOMIC

The rouble improved slightly with an exchange of 62 for one US dollar.

Oil prices were steady over the weekend, with WTI crude expected to open at \$86 a barrel and Brent at \$93. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline on the spot market was set to trade at \$2.65 a gallon (70 cents a liter).

European Union natural gas futures continue to plummet in price. Natural Gas EU Dutch TTF was trading at 132 euros per megawatt-hour. It was the lowest price for natural gas in the EU since late June.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures were unchanged over the weekend, with trading expected to open at \$8.65 per bushel in Monday morning trading.