



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 533

It has been 3,453 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 168 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- The Kherson section has returned
- Widespread thunderstorms created significant urban and small stream flooding in Kherson and Donetsk
- Ukrainian forces held defensive lines at Lyman Pershi, Synkivka, Vilshana, and Pershotravneve
- Mutual fighting continued near Novoselivske
- Only 63 residents in the Kupyansk raion and along the Oskil River mandatory evacuation area agreed to leave
- Fighting continued in the gray area that was Novoselivske and in the Serebryansky Woods
- Intense mutual fighting was reported near Bilohorivka [Luhansk]
- In occupied Luhansk, Russians are looking for illegal satellite dishes for Internet and TV
- Ukrainian forces are on the offensive at Yahidne
- Fighting continued in Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Kurdyumivka
- Severe weather limited fighting in the Avdiivka and Marinka areas of operation

- Russian propagandists falsely claim that Donetsk was attacked by cluster munitions when a small ammunition depot was struck and cooked off
- Ukrainian forces reached the center of Urozhaine, dropping JDAM-ER bombs on Russian positions
- More pictures and videos from the Robotyne area suggest Ukrainian forces have advanced deeper than reported
- At least 20 Ukrainian drones attacked the Russian military base at Novoozerne in occupied Crimea
- Multiple Russian sources continue to report that Ukrainian troops are in Koazachi Laheri on the left (east) bank of the Konka River
- Russian fired four Kh-47 Kinzhal air-to-surface ballistic missiles, with one shot down and three striking Ivano-Frankivsk near a military airfield
- Three Mugan-5-style drones attacked Moscow, with one crashing near a park and two more shot down
- The CEO of the Piro-Ross company, Sergei Chankaev, was formally arrested and put into pre-detention for violating industrial safety requirements in relation to the August 9 explosion in Sergiev Posad, Russia
- After a meeting with the National Security Council, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired all military commissars in Ukraine due to rampant corruption

- The British Royal Marine Commandos have trained almost 900 Ukrainian Naval Infantry soldiers to conduct coastal raids and amphibious operations
- A Priest with the Russian Orthodox Church who went to serve in the Russian Federation Armed Forces as a priest was instead given a gun with no training and sent to the zero line
- Eight-year-old Vova Balabanik was killed while playing in his yard when a Russian Kh-47 Kinzhal missile struck his home
- The Russian collaborator mayor of occupied Lazurne declared anyone without a Russian passport would not receive any medications and threatened to send the town's children to the front lines
- The Russian rouble collapse accelerated, reaching 100 roubles for \$1 US dollar

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. In our assessment, Ukrainian forces may still be able to establish a breakthrough of Russian defensive lines, but we have serious concerns about the ability to turn operational success into strategic gains.

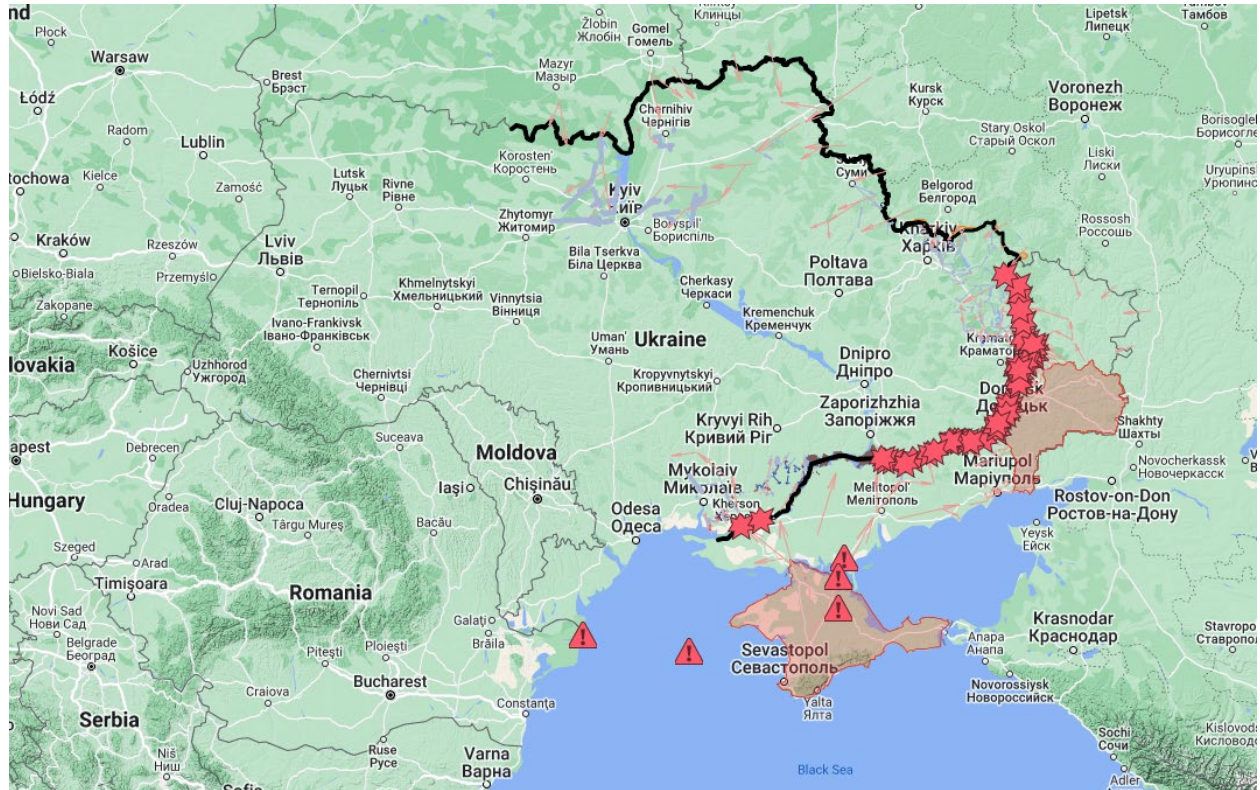
2. We maintain that signals from Kyiv indicating the next phase of the summer offensive are being prepared, and we now believe there are five operational areas where the next phase could start.
3. In our assessment, the reduced format Stavka on August 9 indicates Ukraine is preparing significant activity in the next 48 hours. However, the meeting may have been about firing all the commissariats in Ukraine.
4. It is highly unlikely that Ukraine will execute a wet crossing of the Dnipro River with a battalion-sized or larger force. However, the ongoing media blackout, the declaration of the entire right bank from Beryslav to the mouth of the Dnipro as a combat area, and an expanding number of Ukrainian bridgeheads on the left bank could be setting conditions for a larger offensive operation.
5. Our assessment that the loss of the road bridges at Henichesk and Chongar, and the previous damage to the railroad bridge at Syvash, would degrade Russian logistics appears to be accurate, with the number of Russian fire missions in decline theaterwide.
6. Due to a lack of troop rotation, growing ammunition shortages, and weak commanders, Russia is pushing combat ineffective and combat destroyed units to the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT), engaging in attritional warfare against Ukrainian units.

7. The current Ukrainian military activity is subordinate offensives and shaping operations, and the main operation has not started. This is the last day of this entry, as it is almost a duplicate of assessment two.
8. Despite Ukraine's plans to move to the next phase, we maintain that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition dates, negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
9. We assess that Russian and Belarusian aggression and threats on the borders of Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Black Sea coast will continue to expand and lead to an international incident if Ukraine's allies do not take a stronger posture.
10. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains weakened after the failed Prigozhin Insurrection, and there continues to be a small but very real possibility of another insurrection or coup attempt.
11. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, PMCs, and proxy forces.
12. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine.

13. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
14. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

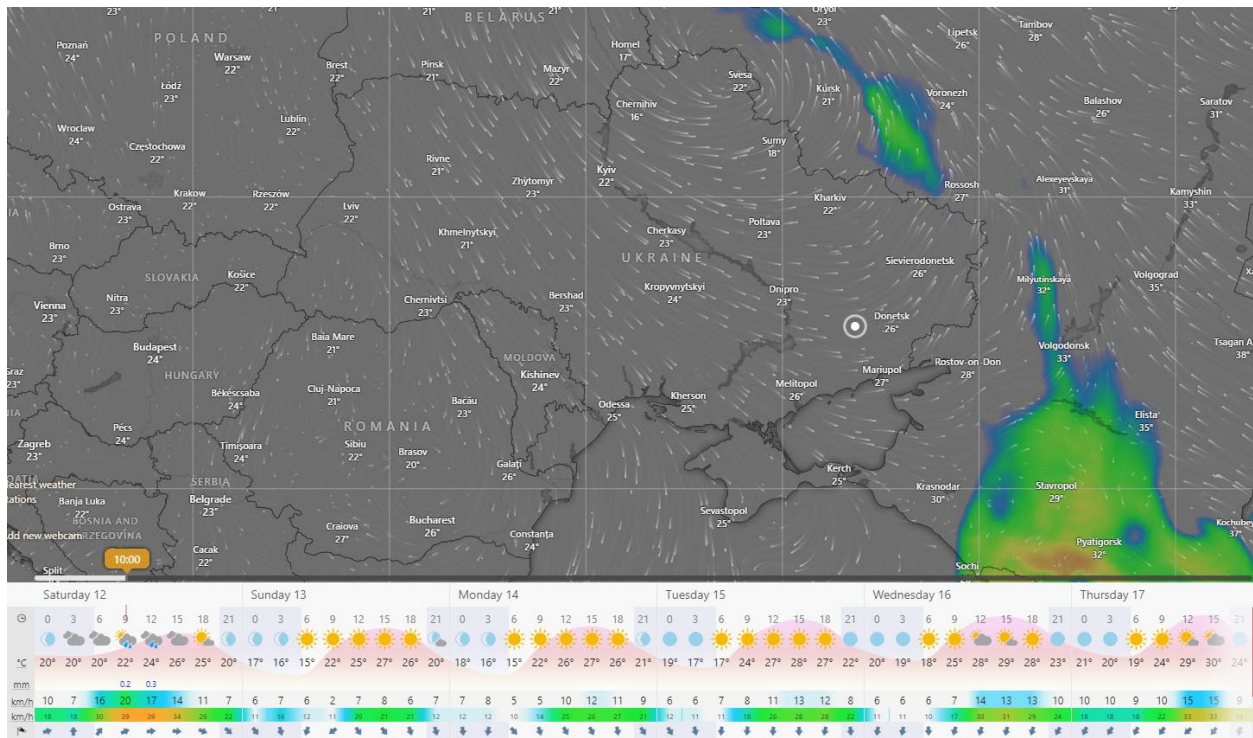
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the *Moskva* and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

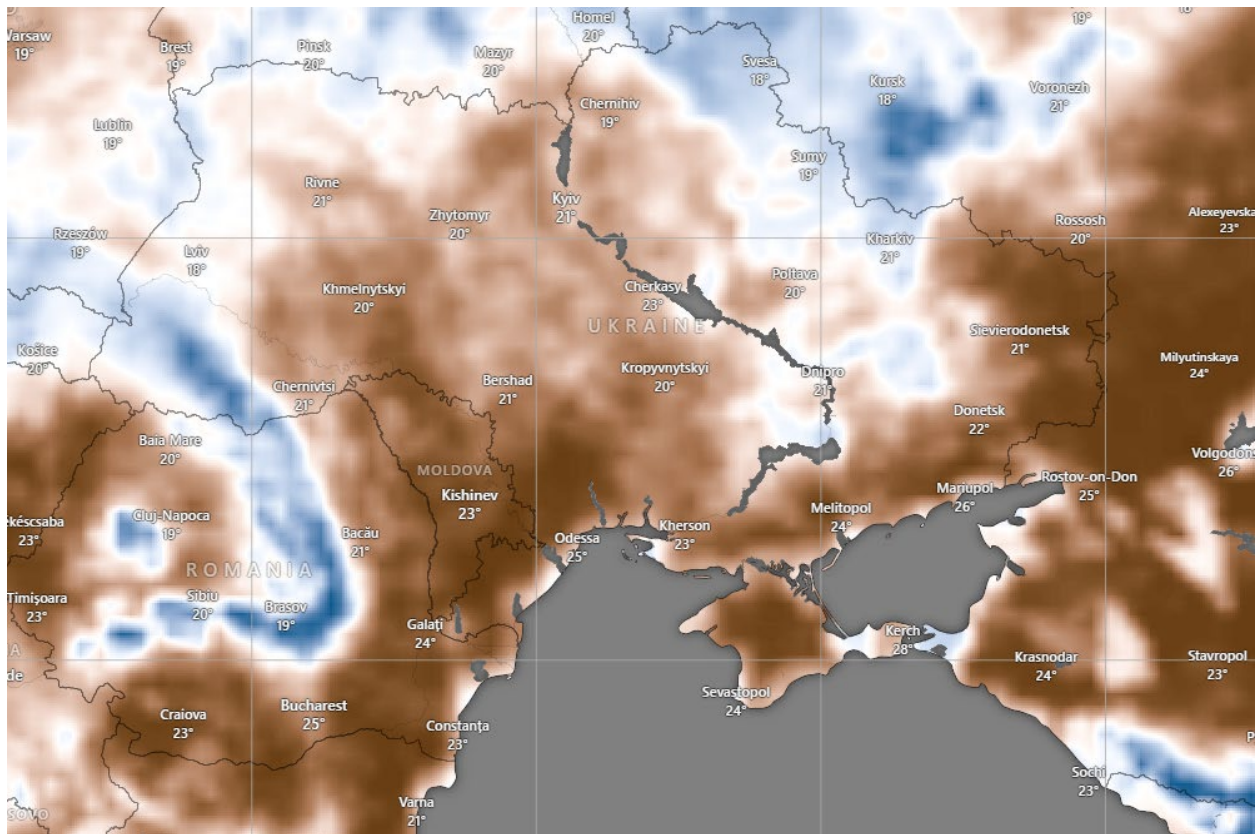
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

UKRAINE WEATHER



The ECMWF ensemble forecast model is unchanged and accurately predicted the severe weather that crossed Ukraine on August 11. Seasonal pop-up showers and thunderstorms remain possible across most of Ukraine through August 17. High temperatures will be between 23° and 33° Celcius, and lows of 12° to 22°. The weather models for the Black Sea coast of the Krasnodar Krai region of Russia have become calmer, but there is still a significant chance for rain and thunderstorms.

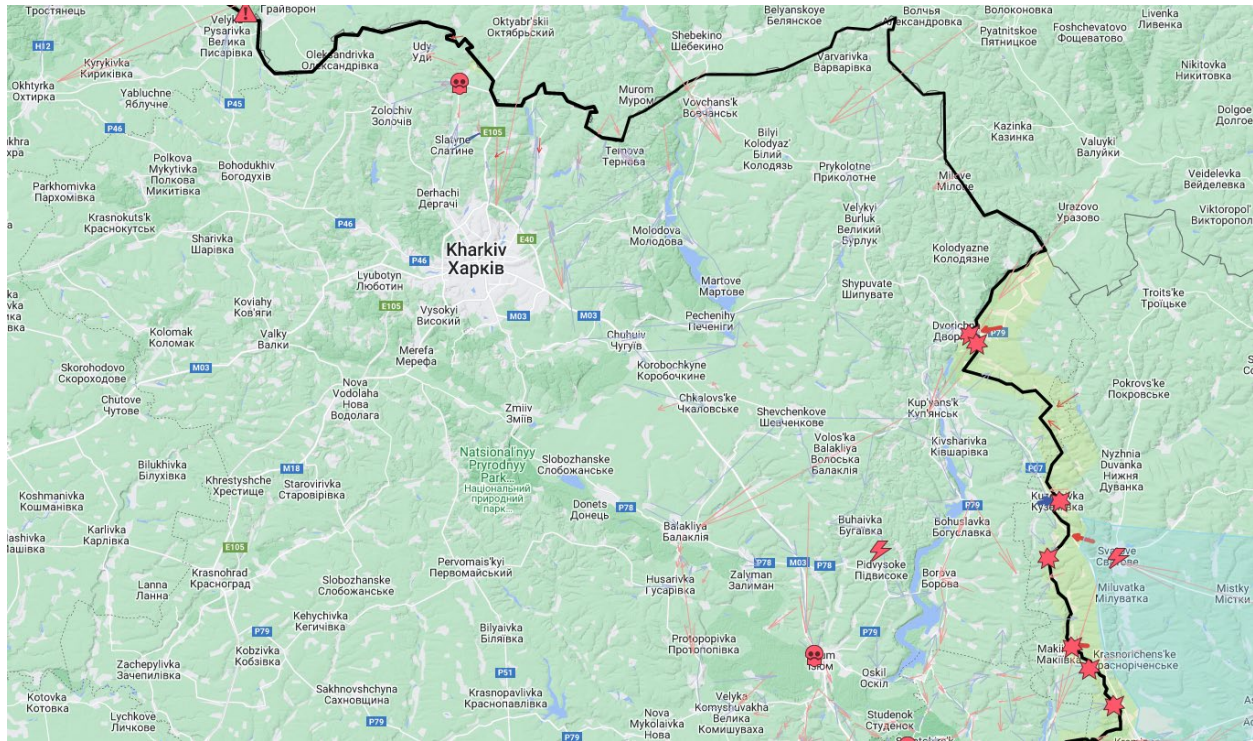
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



The GFS model for August 19, 2023, predicts soil saturation will be between 5% and 30% across the theater of war. Tractability should not be impacted.

The soil saturation model does not consider the lakebed of the Kakhovka Reservoir. In the theater of war, soil saturation is between 15% to 50% in most areas. While Kherson experienced localized flooding, it was quickly absorbed and ran off. Pockets of up to 75% exist in the Siversk and Lysychansk areas of operation (AO). A drying trend is predicted through August 19.

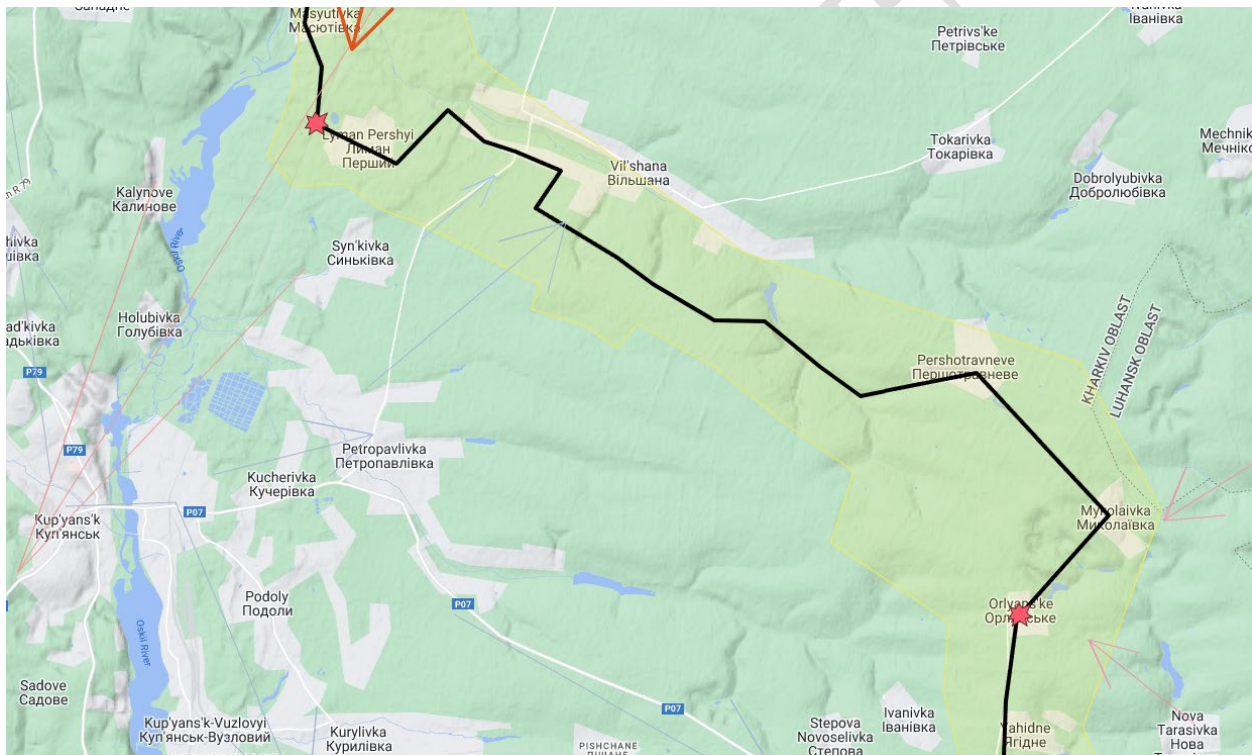
KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure

Free Kharkiv/Luhansk: Spokesperson for Operational Command East (OKE), Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty, reported Russian forces fired 502 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs from Dvorichna [Kharkiv] to Bilohorivka [Luhansk] and carried out 15 airstrikes. Only five combat clashes were reported, with the heaviest fighting in Luhansk.¹



¹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12754>

Dvorichna Operational Area

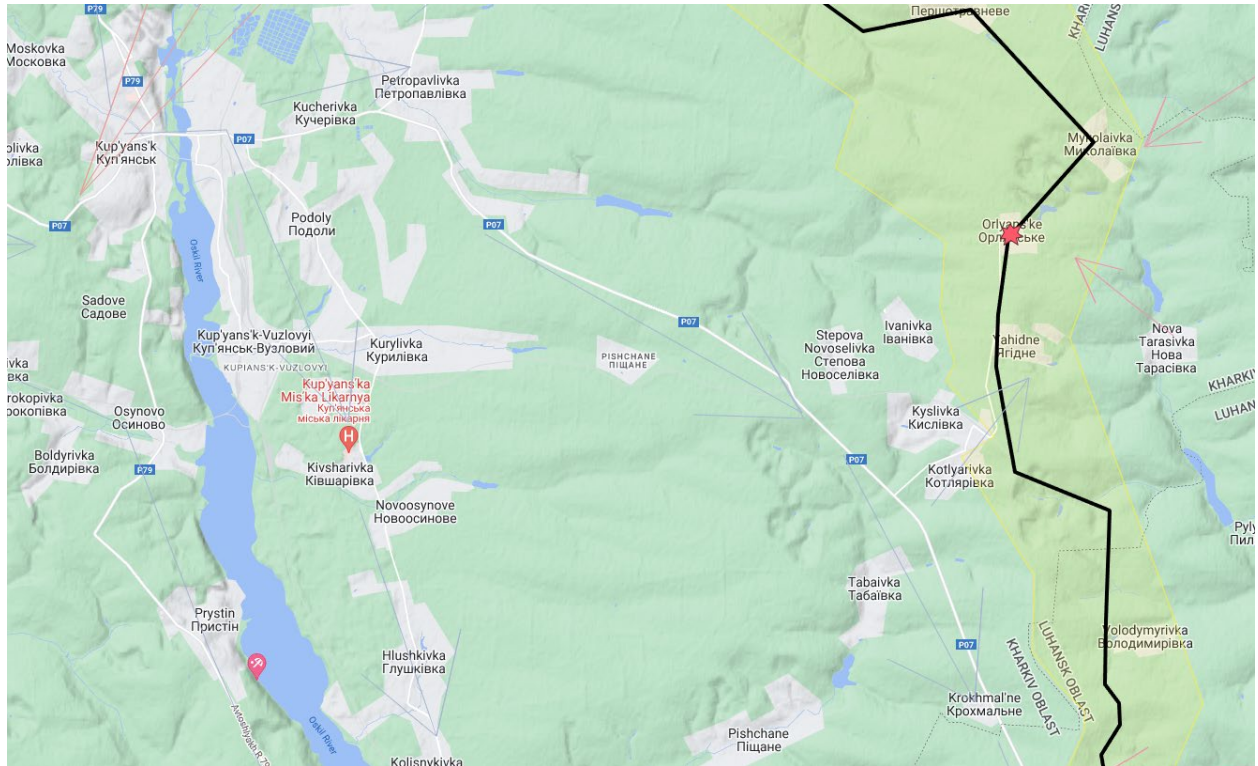
Russian forces are having to pull in their reserve forces to maintain their offensive east of Dvorichna. We've been reluctant to assess that Ukrainian forces have stabilized their defensive lines, but there hasn't been any notable progress for the last three days. Based on available intelligence, we compressed the gray area south of Lyman Pershi and Vilshana.

Mutual fighting continued west of [Lyman Pershi](#), north of [Synkivika](#), and south of [Vilshana](#).^{2 3 4} Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo claimed that Russian forces advanced in the Vilshana area but provided no supporting evidence.

² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



Kupyansk Operational Area

Mutual fighting was also ongoing northeast of [Ivanivka](#) and southwest of [Pershotravneve](#). We expanded the gray area in this region out of an abundance of caution.^{5 6 7}

Ukrainian citizens living along the Oskil River in Kharkiv north of Dvorichna and in the Kupyansk raion widely rejected mandatory evacuation orders.⁸ Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleh

⁵ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/11/7415252/>

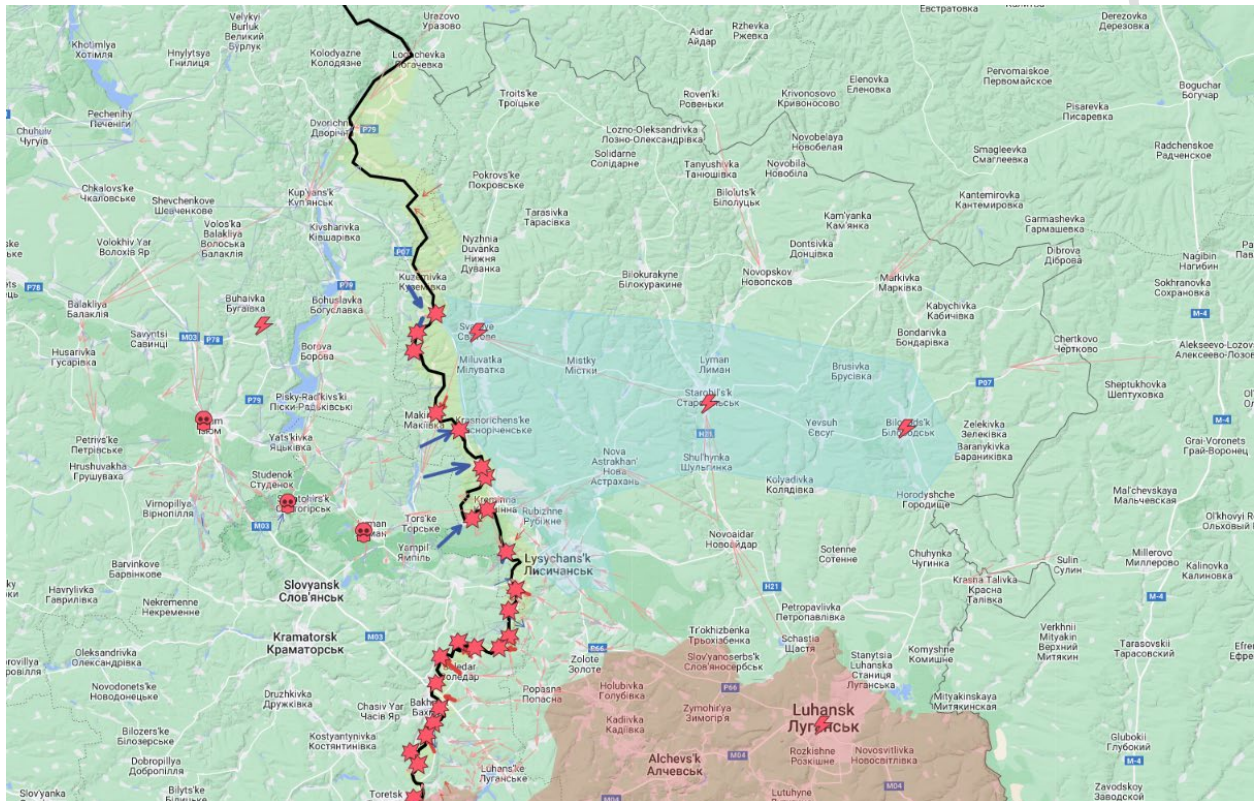


Syniehubov reported that only 63 people agreed to leave, including 9 of 600 children within 7 to 10 kilometers of the line of conflict. Many who have remained behind are pensioners.

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DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



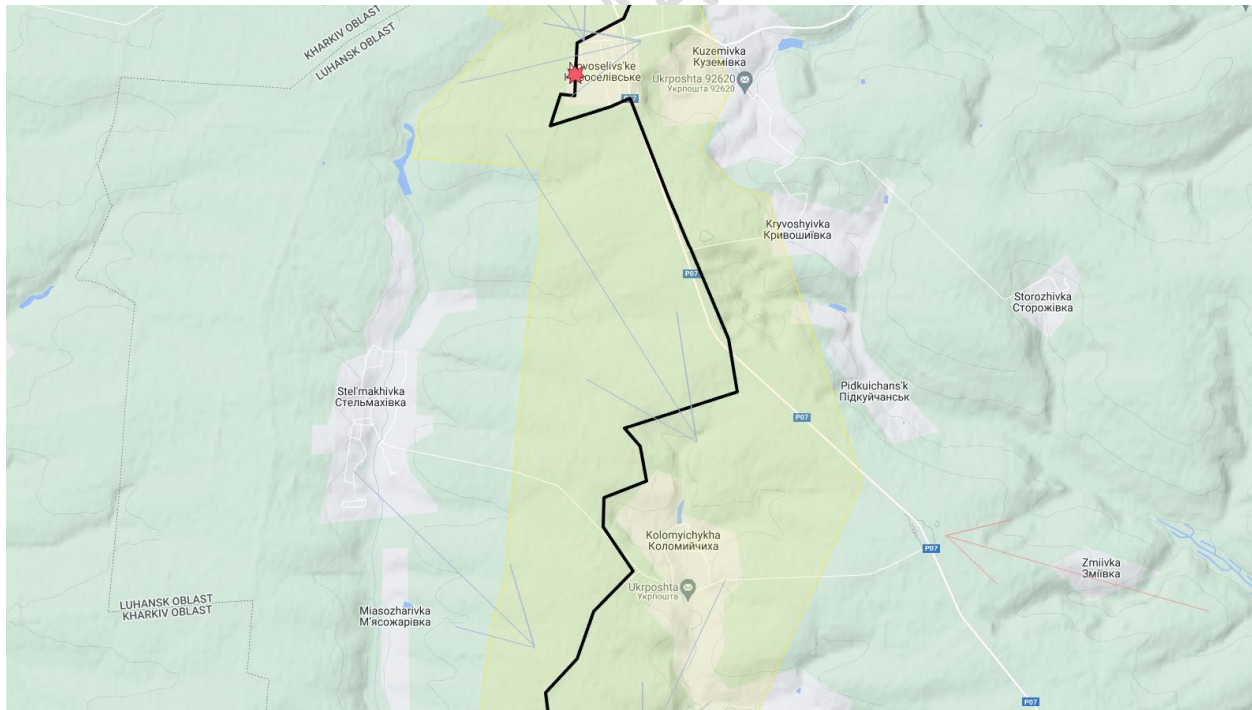
Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections

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

Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko assessed the situation in the Svatove and Kreminna areas of operation (AOs). "The group of troops of the [Russian Federation] in the Military District of the Luhansk region is indeed one of the best in terms of personnel, staffing of units with equipment and support. But only because all the other [troop groupings] in the [war] zone are worse than them. They are the best, not because they are the best overall, but because the rest are doing much worse. In general, the Luhansk branch of the [Russian Federation], before the start of the offensive, which I have been [expecting] from the end of June, had a defensive potential, but not an offensive one. That is, all this [troop grouping] would be good for was holding the defense for a long time but not attacking. In turn, they were thrown into the offensive. And now, a few conclusions that you must draw. First, what is the result of this offensive over the past month and a half? The second is when you throw troops that are more suitable for defense into an offensive that does not bring results, how will it end in the future for the ability of this group of troops to conduct defensive operations? Conclusions suggest themselves. The Russian command threw their lemmings into a meat grinder, which

can end very predictably, and not to anyone's *[Russia – Ed.]* benefit."⁹

OKE spokesperson Colonel Cherevaty supported the assessment in today's briefing, saying, "The occupiers have drawn up reserves in the Lyman and Kupyansk directions and are trying at any cost to fulfill the task set by the Russian military leadership. Our guys repulse these attacks, hold territories, and inflict significant damage on the enemy."¹⁰

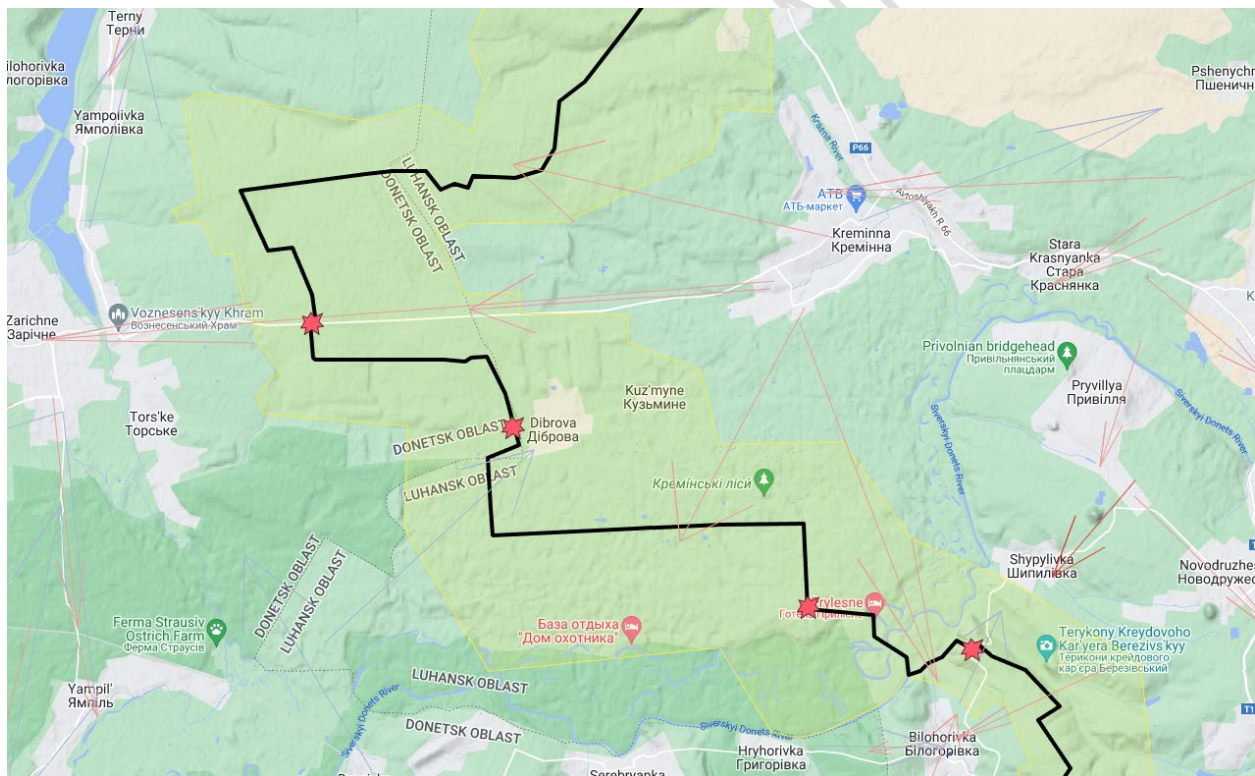


⁹ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19818>

¹⁰ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12754>

Svatove Operational Area

Mutual fighting was reported in the gray area of [Novoselivske](#).^{11 12} We adjusted the map, moving the line of conflict east toward [Kolomyichykha](#), as there is no evidence to support that Russian troops were able to hold the territory they advanced into two weeks ago.

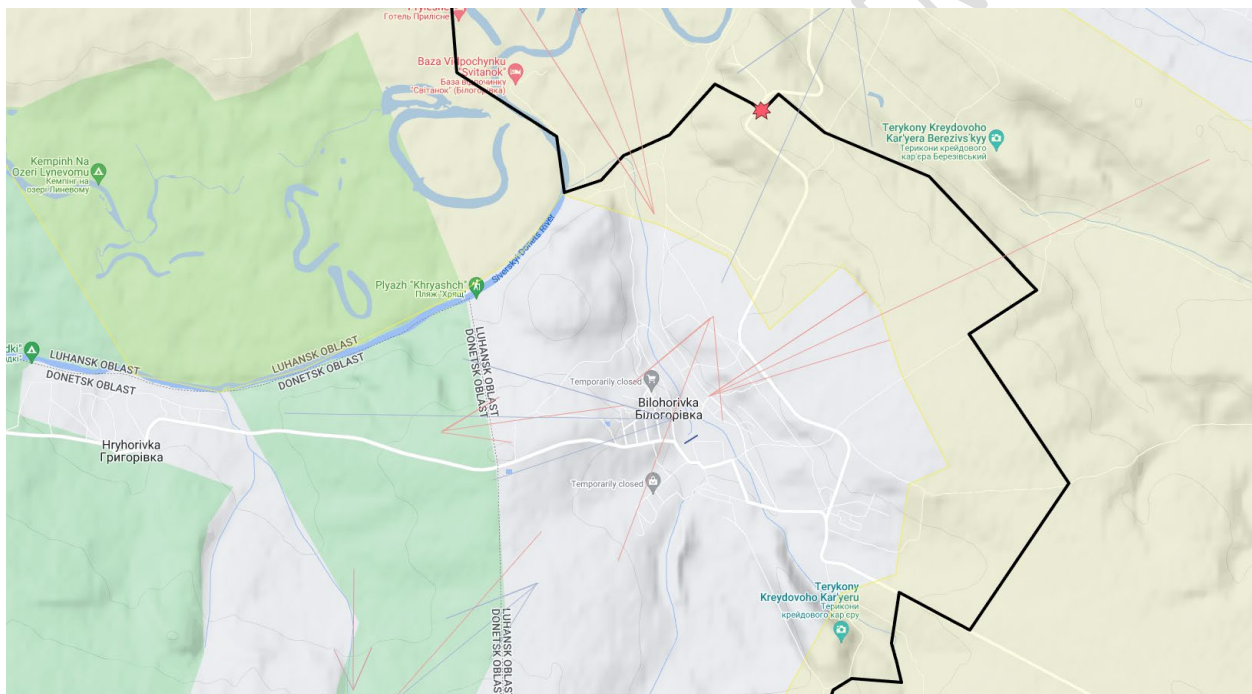


¹¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17345>

¹² https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Kreminna Operational Area

Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive near [Dibrova](#), and Ukrainian source DeepState reported continued mutual fighting in the [Serebryansky Woods](#).^{13 14} Positional fighting continues with no major changes to the line of conflict.



¹³ <https://t.me/rybar/50636>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17345>

Lysychansk Operational Area

Mutual fighting continued near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], with Colonel Cherevaty reporting that Russian forces launched intense attacks supported by the Russian air force and army aviation (VKS).^{15 16}

Occupied Luhansk

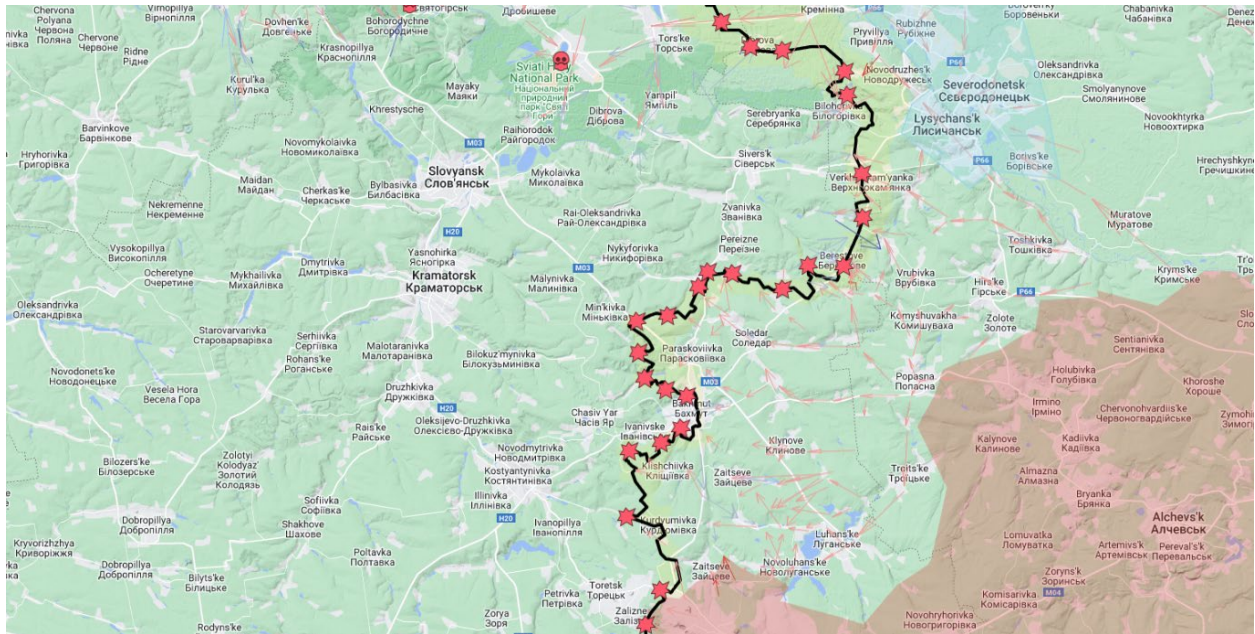
The illegitimate Ministry of Digital Development in occupied Luhansk ordered the Ministry of Internal Affairs and area administrators to immediately compile a list of all buildings where "illegal" satellite dishes are installed. Russian occupiers are ordered to look for equipment that doesn't have Russian providers' logos and for dishes pointing southwest toward European satellites.¹⁷

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁶ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12754>

¹⁷ <https://t.me/rusbrief/144706>

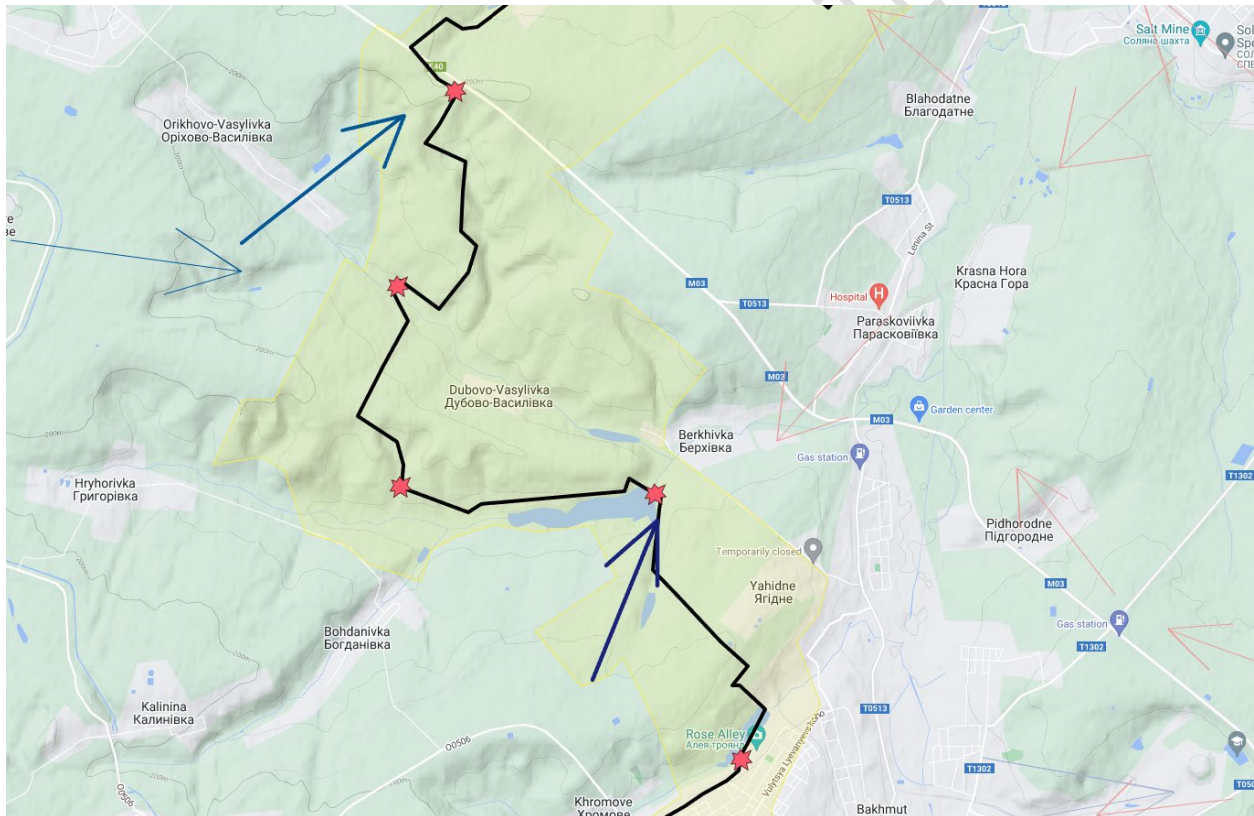
NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

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

The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) reported that Ukrainian forces launched an offensive in the area of Vesele but did not specify if it was the Vesele in the Soledar or Avdiivka AO. Russian propagandist, Semyon Pegov of WarGonzo, reported that Ukrainian positions in the Vesele northeast of Soledar were shelled but did not mention a Ukrainian offensive.^{18 19}

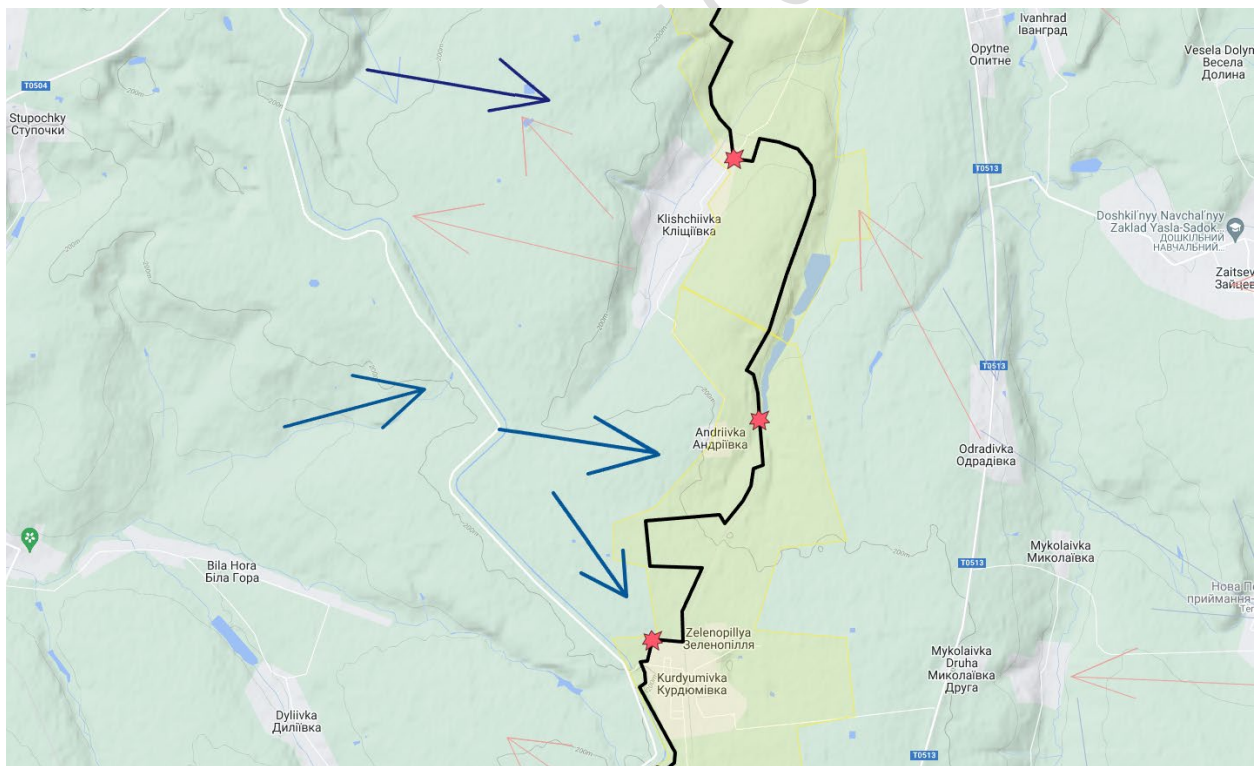


¹⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

Bakhmut Operational Area

RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces launched an offensive in the area of [Yahidne](#) and the Maloillinivka region of northern Bakhmut.²⁰ Maloillinivka is north of Rose Alley. Videos that we geolocated today showed no change in the line of conflict. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Russian troops tried to advance in the direction of [Bohdanivka](#) for the second day in a row and were unsuccessful.²¹



²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²¹ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>

Klishchiivka Operational Area

Russian counterattacks in [Klishchiivka](#) and the western edge of [Kurdyumivka](#) failed, while mutual fighting continued on the edge of [Andriivka](#).^{22 23 24} North of Klishchiivka, a Russian T-90M tank reversing from a firing position  [drove over a cliff and was later destroyed by Ukrainian forces](#).²⁵

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian forces have been unable to take full military control of these three settlements for three reasons. Russian and Ukrainian artillery duels have turned Klishchiivka and Andriivka into gray areas where it is extremely difficult to hold positions. Russian forces have been pushing reserve units up to the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT) to hold the line at the railroad tracks because further Ukrainian advances will bring the T-513 Highway ground line of communication (GLOC) under full Ukrainian fire control. And third, the Ukrainian 3rd Brigade, 2nd Battalion became combat destroyed just as the offensive bogged down. The Azov 3rd Brigade has run a masterful offensive, but some critical mistakes contributed to the ongoing stalemate.

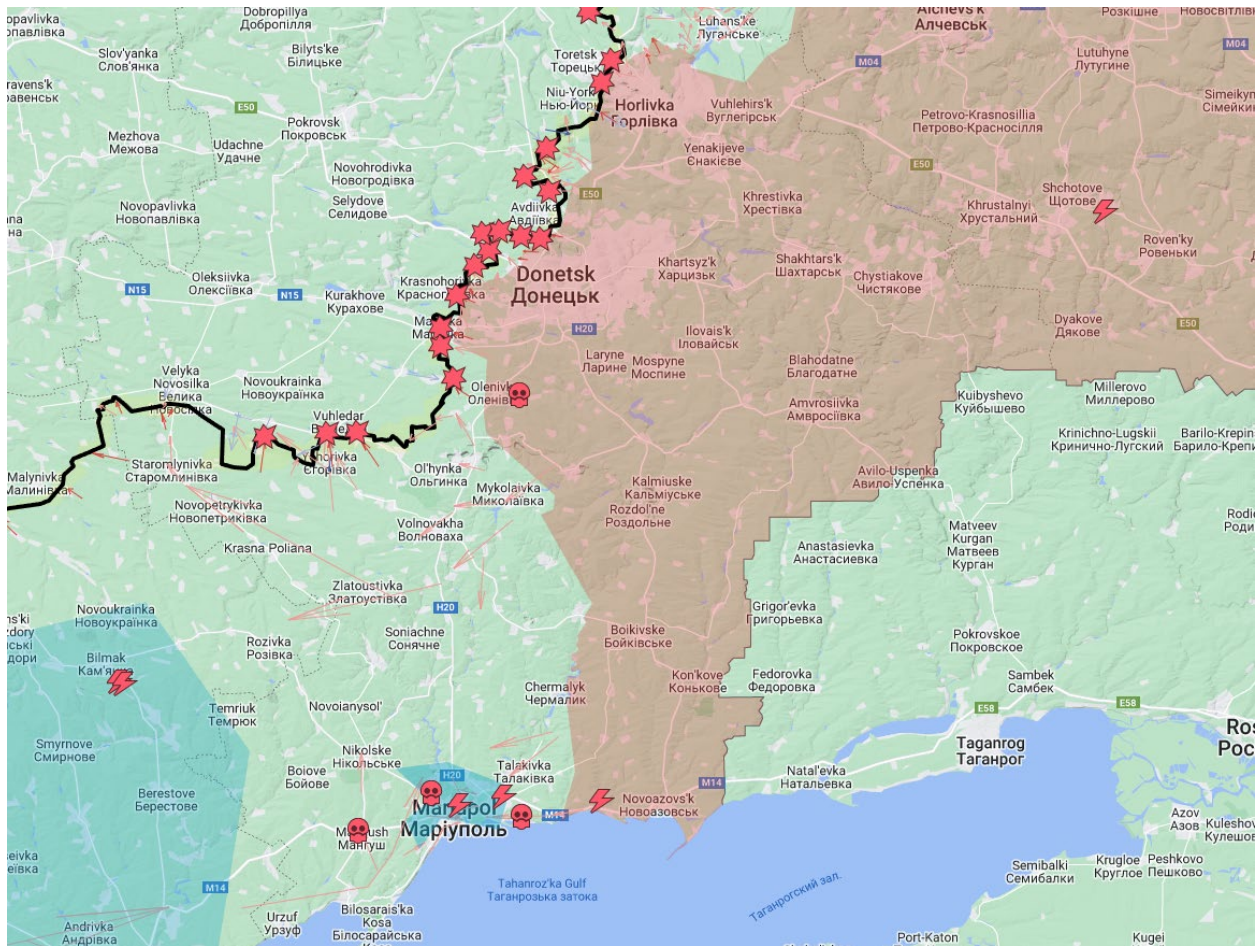
²² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

²⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17345>

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/TuiteroMartin/status/1689930969283727360>

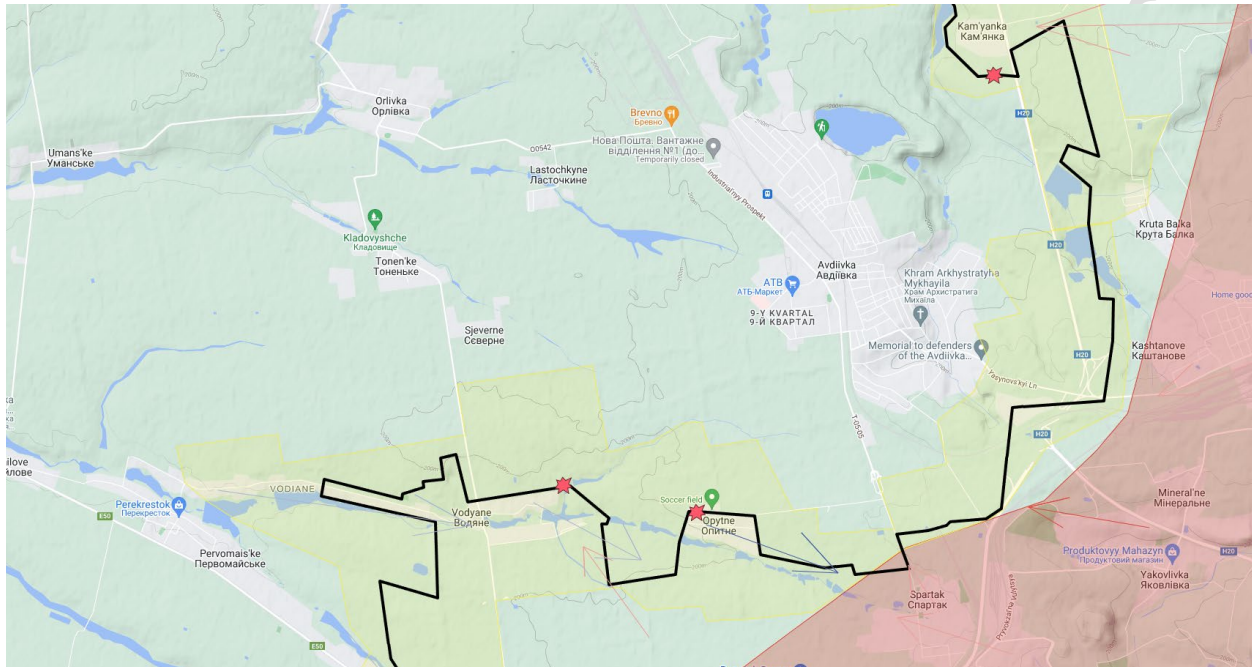
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

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


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

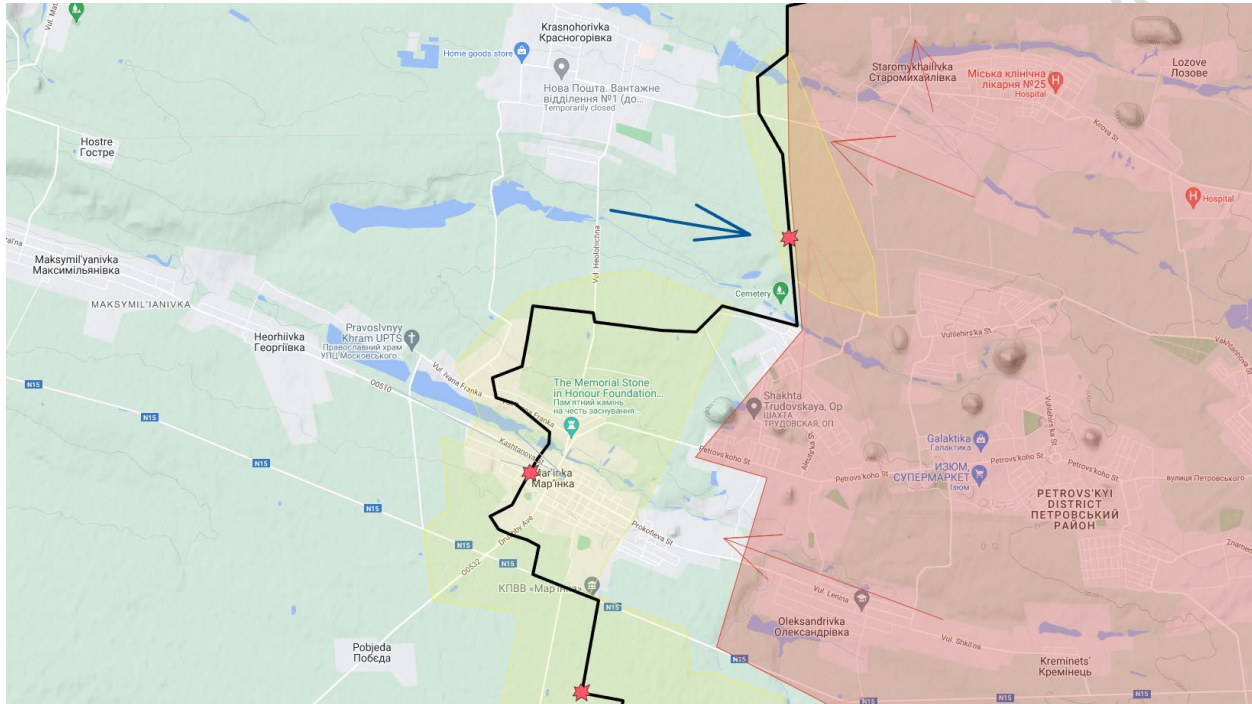


Avdiivka Operational Area

Severe thunderstorms with torrential rain and hail caused extensive urban, small street, and street flooding in occupied Donetsk and Makiivka. A weak Russian offensive supported by the VKS east of [Avdiivka](#) ended in failure.²⁶ North of Spartak, a Russian tank was recovering a damaged BMP-T Terminator when a Ukrainian drone spotted it. In a

²⁶ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>

case of life imitating art, it took six first-person view (FPV)  [kamikaze drones to terminate the Terminator.](#)²⁷

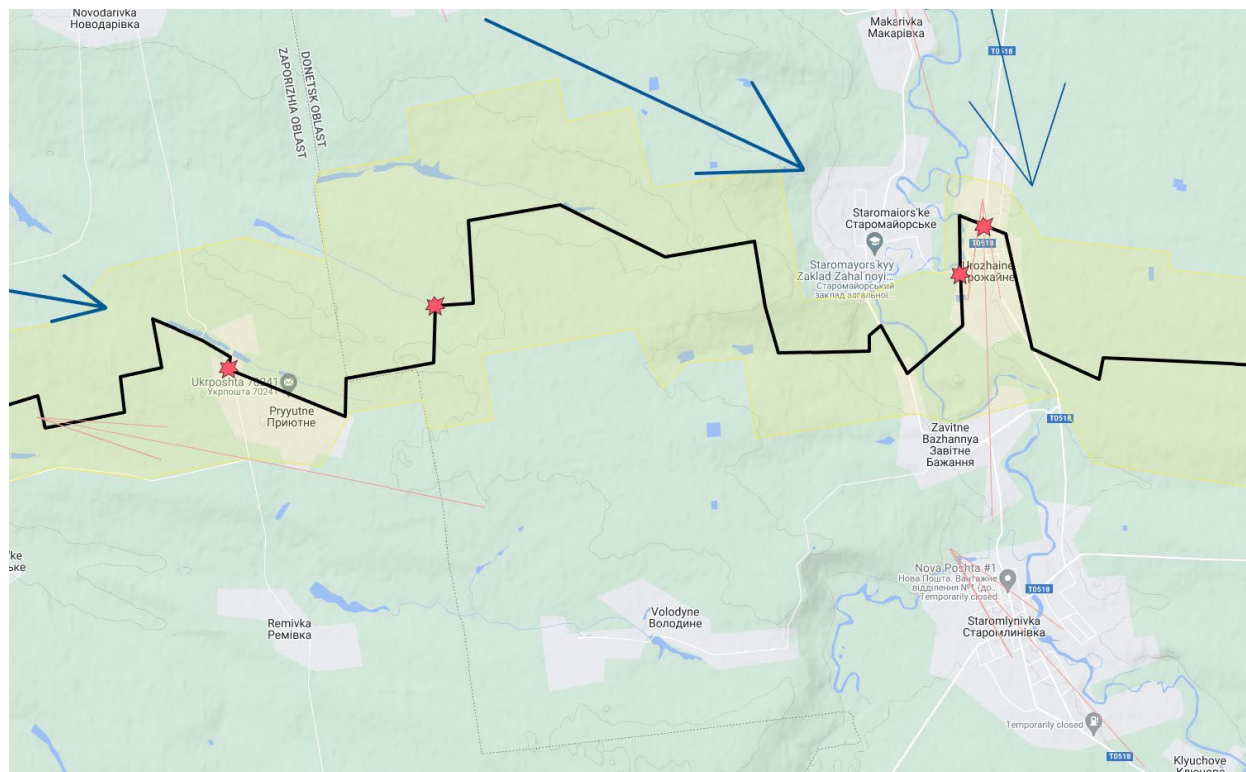


Marinka Operational Area



Positional fighting continued in [Marinka](#), with no change to the situation.²⁸

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1690276706618142720>

²⁸ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11006>



Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

Fighting continues in [Urozhaine](#) from the north and west, with Ukrainian forces advancing to the center of the village, supported by the Ukrainian air force, which   [hit Russian strong points with JDAM-ER glide bombs](#).²⁹

Russian troops remain in a technical encirclement.^{30 31 32 33}

RMOD reported Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the area of [Staromaiorske](#).³⁴

²⁹ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19062>

³⁰ <https://t.me/Landforcesofukraine/11006>


³¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17345>

³² <https://t.me/odshbr46/1268>

³³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

³⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/29151 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

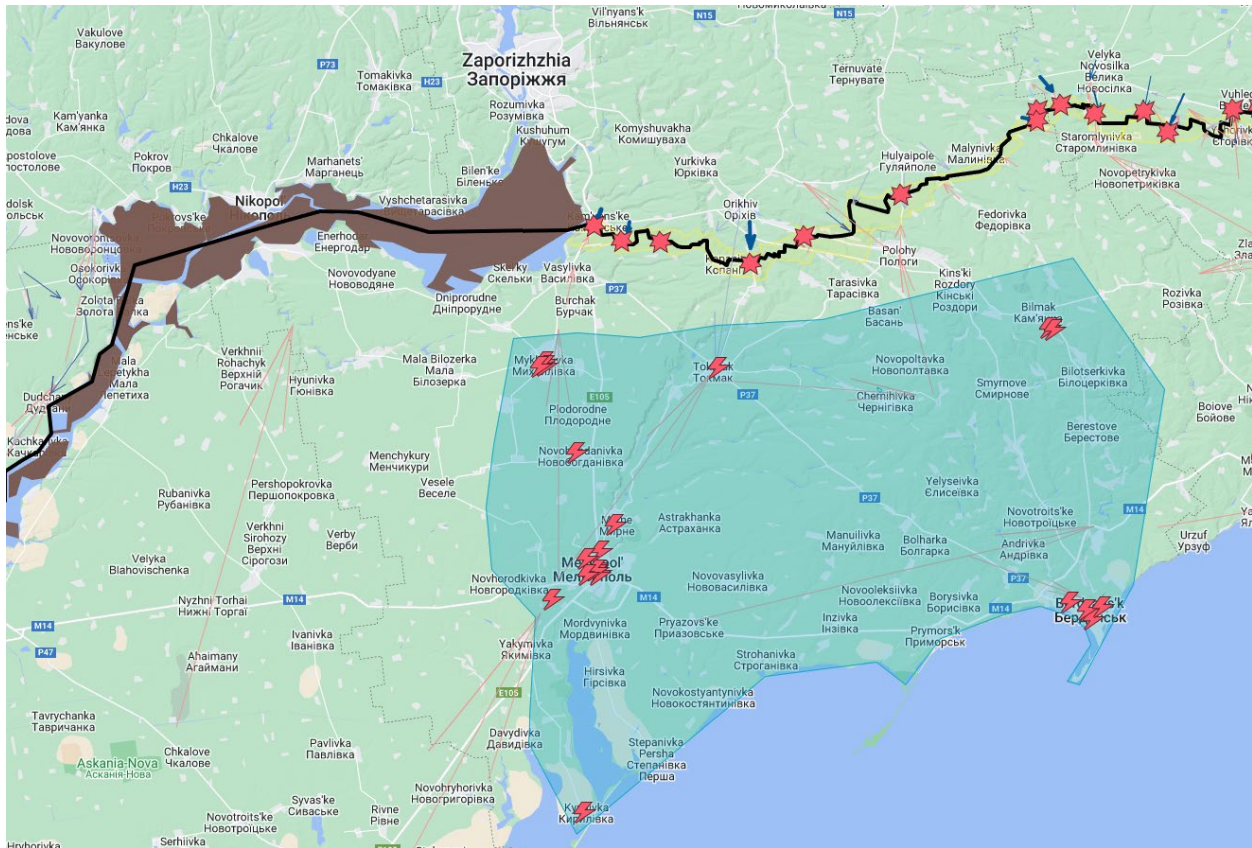
Occupied Donetsk

Russian propagandist Alexander Slakdov falsely claimed that Ukrainian forces bombarded large areas of occupied Donetsk with DPICM (cluster munitions). The  [video recorded in the Kirovskyi District](#) is best listened to through headphones to capture our analysis.

At the 00:01 second mark, you can hear the incoming round fired, coming from the right. We could not geolocate the video to determine a firing point. The shell passes over on a high ballistic trajectory at the 00:04 second mark and impacts to the left. At the 00:07 mark, the person recording is lucky to be alive, with a munition traveling at ballistic speed, passing terrifyingly close from left to right, impacting and exploding at the 00:08 mark. At the 00:11 second mark, a small ammunition cache catastrophically cooks off. Our artillery experts told us that 155 mm 864 DPICM rounds don't sound like this.

Editor's Note: This video illustrates why it is important to seek shelter immediately if you hear the distant thud of artillery firing and why you should not be filming artillery barrages for fame and Internet clout.

ZAPORIZHIA

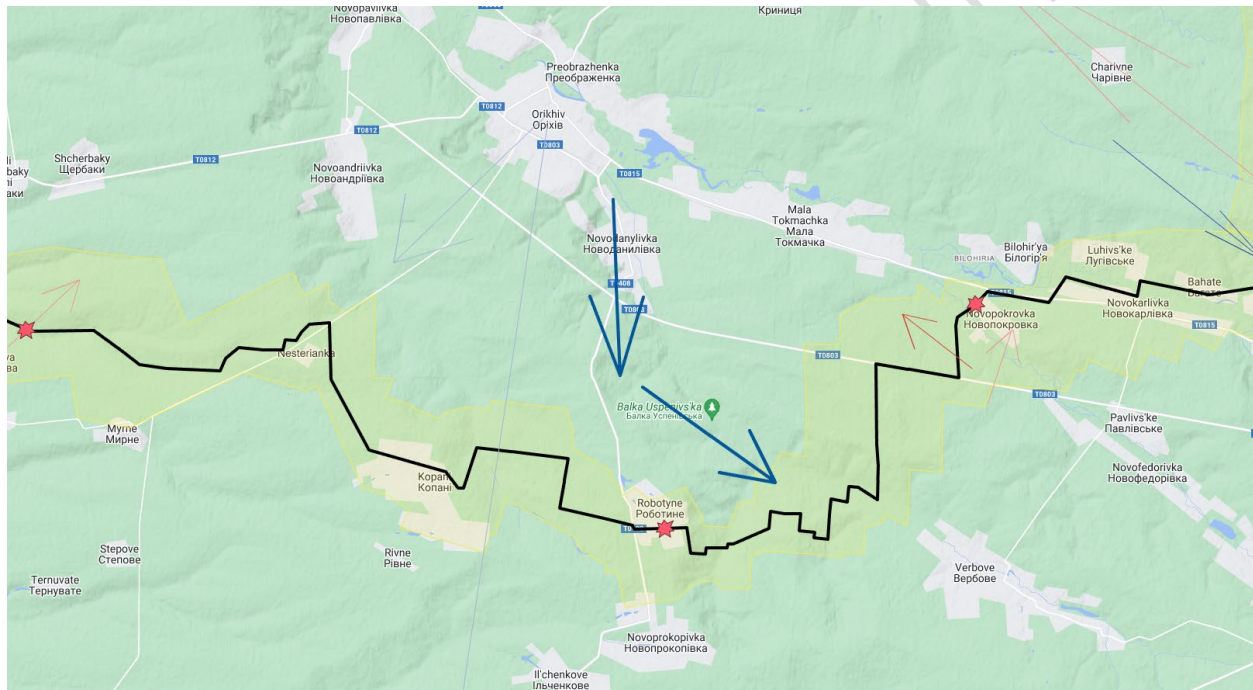


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

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

Free Zaporizhzhia

Brigadier General Alexander Tarnavskiy, Commander of the Tavriia Operational and Strategic Group of Forces, reported that Ukrainian forces carried out 1,464 fire missions in eastern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.



Orikhiv Operational Area

Ukrainian troops remained in the northern part of [Robotyne](#), and fighting continued between Robotyne and [Verbove](#).³⁵ ³⁶ Ukrainian forces have not breached the first

³⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17345>

³⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14310>

echelon of the Surovikin Line in two places over a 6-kilometer front.

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant



There was no update on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Operational Command South (OKS) reported that ten vessels of the Black Sea Fleet were on patrol with no missile carriers.³⁷

Occupied Crimea

According to Russian officials, the Russian airbase at Novoozerne was   [attacked by up to 20 Ukrainian drones](#). They claim 14 were shot down and six brought down by electronic warfare.³⁸

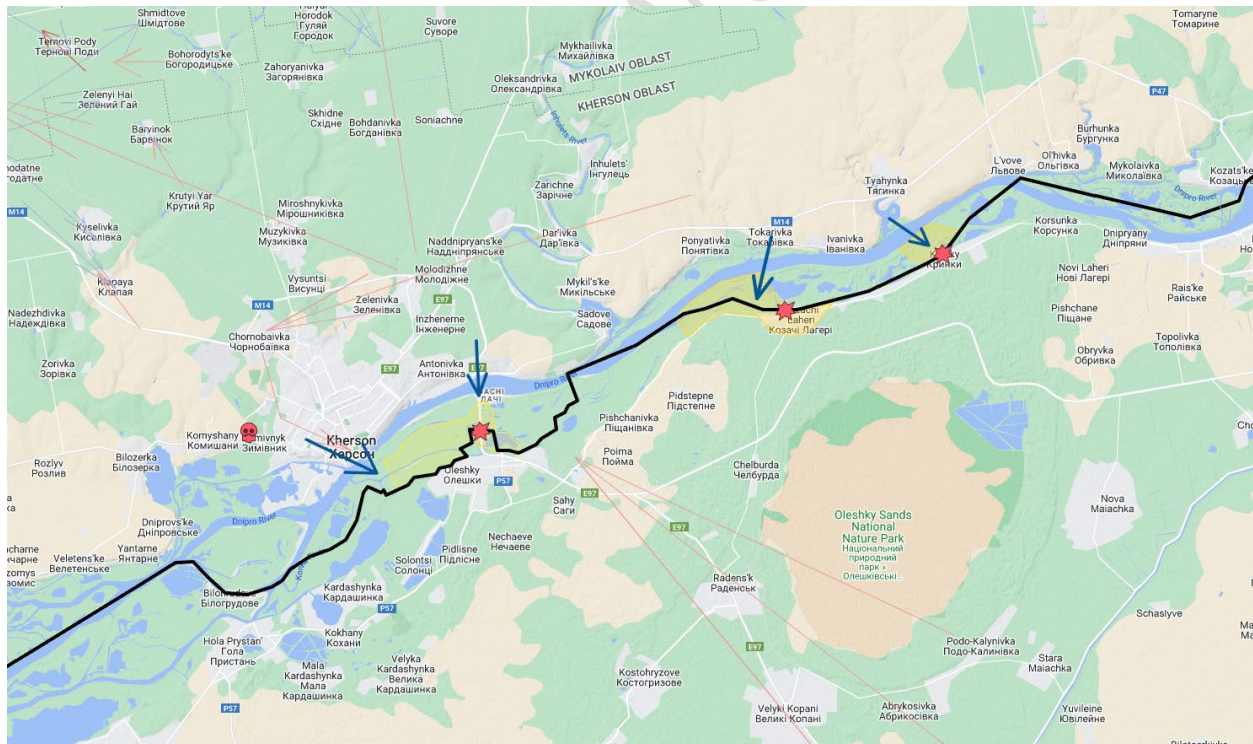
³⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/39262>


³⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/39303>

KHERSON


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

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



Kherson has become active enough that we have brought back its section. Russian propagandists continue to report that Ukrainian forces are expanding their bridgehead at [Kozachi Laheri](#) and have crossed the Konka River into the western part of the village. Russian sources released a video showing the  [eastern part of the settlement being heavily shelled](#).³⁹

Russian troops also claimed that Ukrainian special operation forces (SSO) attacked a Russian convoy on the T-14 Highway GLOC, 8 kilometers behind the line of conflict, destroying it.⁴⁰ Ukrainian military analyst Kovalenko dismissed the Russian claim, saying it was more likely a friendly fire or fratricide incident that Russian troops were covering up.⁴¹ No one is debating that a Russian military convoy was destroyed.

Russian troops with unit 1822, which included the lost platoon of Major Tomov, recorded a video appealing to be rotated from the front,  [claiming the battalion had suffered 40% losses](#) and there were only seven surviving members of their platoon.⁴²

³⁹ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/12511>

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109627>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19819>

⁴² <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1689912145251639297>

ASSESSMENT: We keep comparing the situation on the left (east) bank of the Dnipro River to Izyum in August 2022, with the biggest difference being crossing the Dnipro River will be much harder than crossing the Siverskyi Donets. While Russian units may be suffering major losses sitting in trenches under artillery barrages, the Russian soldiers report being engaged in combat on the east bank for two weeks. We can't determine if Ukrainian activity is meant to draw Russian troops away from Zaporizhzhia or if a larger plan exists. But the open source intelligence in the public sphere indicates there are more than two to three companies of Ukrainian troops spread out over a 42-kilometer front.

Russian forces also continued to shell Ukrainian troops at [Dachi](#), where mutual harassment attacks and touches continued.

Russian forces fired 159 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets, and drone-delivered IEDs on free Ukraine, striking the city of Kherson nine times.⁴³ A man died from his wounds after an artillery shell struck his apartment as he

⁴³ <https://t.me/genichua/13560>

slept.⁴⁴ Two more people were wounded in a separate strike, and in Beryslav, seven people in a queue for humanitarian aid were wounded.

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Ivano-Frankivsk

Ukrainian air force spokesperson Colonel Yuri Ignat reported that three Russian Kh-47 Kinzhal air-to-surface ballistic missiles targeted an airfield where Russian troops believed F-16 pilot trainees were stationed.⁴⁵ One missile struck a farm, destroying a warehouse building and a house, killing an eight-year-old child. There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights Section**.

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1114>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109629>

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

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

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

Kyiv

Ukrainian air defenses intercepted one Kh-47 cruise missile. Small debris landed near the Children's Hospital and on the roof of a home, causing minor damage.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border


Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective: Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

Moscow

Ukraine appears to be delivering on its promise that Moscow would be attacked daily. Russian officials reported three Mugan-5-style drones attacked the city, with two shot down, and a third disabled by electronic warfare, crashing in a Moscow park near the Karamyshevsky Hydroelectric Complex.⁴⁶

Editor's Note: Why does Russian "electronic warfare" steer Ukrainian drones into important places?

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/40735>

The drone impact was  [broadcasted live on Russian state media](#) during rowing and crew championships coverage.⁴⁷ During the drone attack, Moscow's Vnukovo Airport was closed, canceling flights and snarling Russian military air lines of communication (ALOC).⁴⁸ The airfields around Moscow are central hubs for Russian military airlift.

The military enlistment office in Zaraysk was firebombed, but the attacker reportedly didn't light the Molotov cocktail before they threw it.⁴⁹

Sergei Chankaev, the head of the Piro-Ross company, which Moscow blames for the August 8 explosion at the Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant in Serhiyiv Posad, was formally arrested and put into pre-trial detention for 60 days. Chankaev is charged with "violating industrial safety requirements for hazardous production facilities" and faces seven years in prison.⁵⁰ The company has been bankrupt since March 2023, and he insists he is no longer in charge.

⁴⁷ v

⁴⁸ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5849

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20357>

⁵⁰ https://t.me/shot_shot/55467

BELARUSIAN FRONT

The illegitimate self-declared president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, ordered the foreign ministry to contact Poland to ease tensions. "We need to talk to the Poles. I ordered the prime minister to contact them," Lukashenko said, according to state news agency Belta.⁵¹

Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski said that if the Belarusian leader "really wants to improve relations with Poland, he can do it very simply by stop attacking our border, free the more than one thousand political prisoners and (Belarusian-Polish journalist) Andrzej Poczobut, stop this hate campaign, this hybrid war against Poland. We have no hostile intentions towards Belarus and never have," he told Polsat television.


THEATERWIDE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a special meeting of the National Security Council, where reports from the Security Intelligence Service, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor

⁵¹ [Urdu Point](#)

General, and the National Security Agency, were held. Based on months of anti-corruption investigations, all military commissars were fired. Of the 112 criminal investigations open, 33 are not formally charged. "This system should be run by people who know exactly what war is and why cynicism and bribery during war is treason. Instead, soldiers who have passed the front or who cannot be in the trenches because they have lost their health, lost their limbs, but have preserved their dignity and do not have cynicism are the ones who can be entrusted with this equipment system."⁵²

This is the story we said we would report last Friday and held off after the pending arrests were announced on August 7. We have more information on the actions of the commissariats in Odesa and Lviv.

The United Kingdom Royal Marine Commandos have trained over 900 Ukrainian Naval Infantry members through a  [five-week program in coastal raids and amphibious operations](#).⁵³ This program is the first of its kind implemented by Great Britain. It supports Ukraine in developing its own naval forces, addressing earlier

⁵² <https://t.me/investigatorua/6652>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109638>

problems with NATO-centric training that was not aligned with the realities of the Ukrainian battlefield.

The Netherlands delivered six mobile hospitals to the border guard service of Ukraine. Each complex has an operating room, pre-operative room, intensive care ward, laboratory, and sterilization room.⁵⁴

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, "There is no news with regard to this issue," when asked about providing Ukraine with Taurus cruise missiles.⁵⁵

The table for equipment losses was **updated on August 6, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/DPSUkr/12844>

⁵⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/11/7415253/>

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to August 6, 2023. 11,570 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,100 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2059	256	8.04:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	144	346	0.42:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	939	305	3.08:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2622	682	3.84:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	341	316	1.08:1	—
MRAPs	46	134	0.34:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	199	348	0.57:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	246	16	15.38:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	329	74	4.45:1	↓
Towed Artillery	269	144	1.87:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	475	193	2.46:1	↓
MLRS	253	50	5.06:1	↑
SAMs	142	119	1.19:1	—
Mobile Radars	40	70	0.57:1	—
EW/ECW	49	4	12.25:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	85	69	1.23:1	—
Helicopters	107	32	3.34:1	↓
Naval Vessels	13	26	0.50:1	↑

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

A Russian Orthodox Church priest complained that the Russian Federation threw him to the frontline instead of having him serve as a church representative. In a video, the archpriest complained that the Russian military in occupied Luhansk put him in a trench with a machine gun in the Bilohorivka area. He stayed at the position for three days, became wounded, and was hospitalized. He claims that during a one-week period, he received no medical treatment and was then ordered to return to his position. The priest became a deserter, making his video while hiding and appealing for help.⁵⁶

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

No, it's not you. Russia dramatically increased the targeting of civilians and soft targets in August. The Military Media Center shared in today's briefing there has been a 300% increase in soft target attacks compared to the same period in July.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5839

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/militarymediacenter/2838>

In the village of Kolomyia, eight-year-old Volodya Balabanik, who had just finished second grade, was playing in the yard when a Russian cruise missile struck next to his house. Balabanik was mortally wounded by multiple shrapnel wounds and died in hospital one hour later.⁵⁸ "Doctors did everything possible, but, unfortunately, the child's life could not be saved," said Ivano-Frankivsk OVA Svitlana Onyshchuk.

The Russia collaborator mayor of the occupied village of Lazurne in Kherson said that residents without a Russian passport would not be given medicines and threatened to take children to the front lines. "An official document has already been issued [by the Russia-appointed administration] that medicines purchased from the Russian state budget will not be issued to foreign citizens, that is, citizens of Ukraine. First of all, it concerns people who require insulin and who have already experienced what it is like to feel like citizens of another country. The same applies to the issuance of humanitarian aid and other issues for those people who, at this time, have not been issued a passport of the Russian Federation. In his address, Dudka also showed a list of "children of the people-in-waiting" who "have never been to school," referring to Russian schools. He threatened parents with criminal

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109592>

prosecution, as well as putting children on buses, taking them to the front line, and sending them "to your Ukrainian schools," where they will study their "disdain of Russia."⁵⁹

Editor's Note: He looked into a camera and said all that out loud, waving official documents from Moscow. There were no statements from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, the United Nations...

GEOPOLITICS

There weren't any major developments.

ECONOMIC

Despite attempts to arrest the plunging exchange rate, the rouble declined to 100 for 1 US dollar, closing out its worst week since March 2022. The Russian budget deficit for 2023 is now projected to be 5 trillion roubles, with currency demand overheating due to unreasonable budget spending. This has caused an increased capital outflow and an

⁵⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/11/7415204/>

unjustifiably high demand for imports, which Russia can no longer afford with collapsed export earnings, driven partly by declining energy sales. Ironically the collapsing rouble and rising interest rates will increase internal government revenue, but there will be less buying power for transactions that require an exchange for another currency.

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Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


⚠️ **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


⚠️ **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.


⚠️ **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for **unique claims** about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War


Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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