



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



March 8, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.


Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, which is 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 Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for real-time 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 he was 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.



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SUMMARY – DAY 378

Due to the missile attack across Ukraine, today's report is combat only.

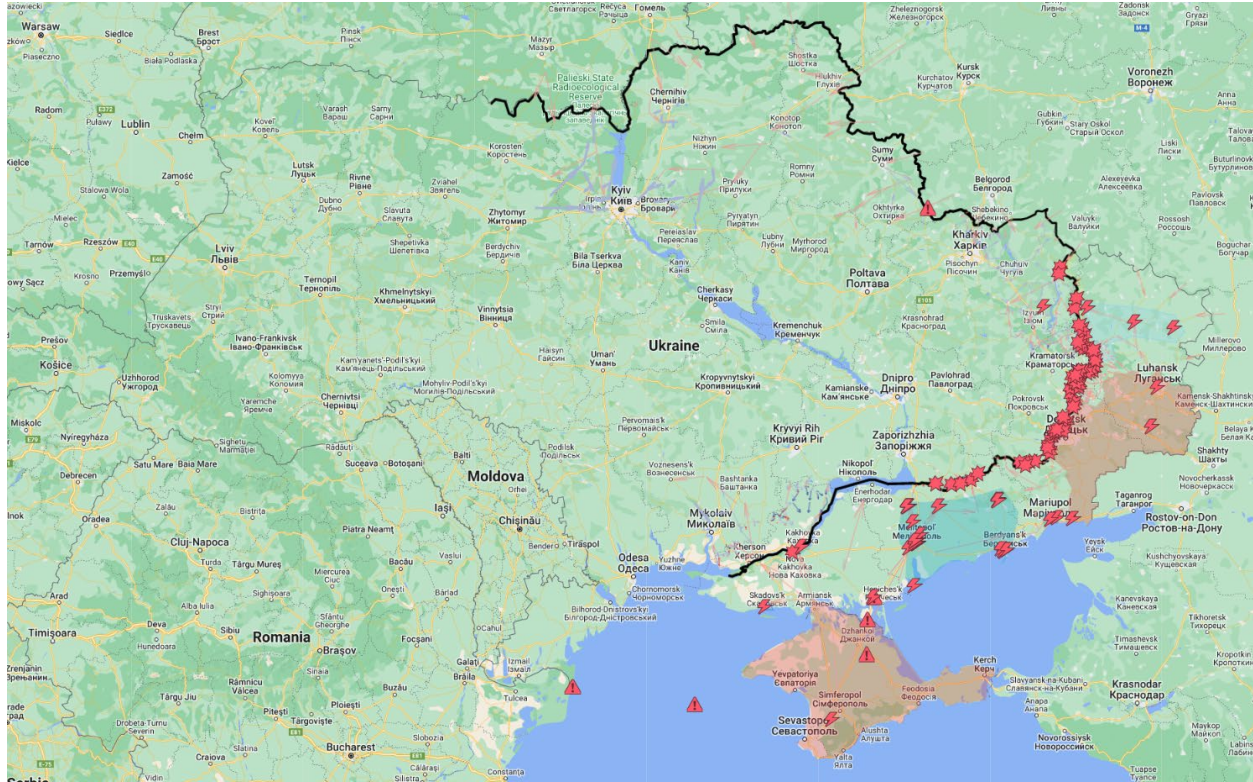
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our assessment that the Russian Ministry of Defense had abandoned its efforts to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure was premature, with the largest attack launched since December exclusively targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.
2. Regrettably, our assessment that Ukraine's nuclear power plants could be de-energized by future Russian missile attacks on energy infrastructure was accurate, with the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant de-energized due to nationwide missile strikes.
3. Our assessment that Russia can no longer tap its strategic reserve of Kalibr cruise missiles and can only launch its monthly production of 25 to 30 missiles was accurate, with 20 Kalibr missiles used in today's missile attack, the first in almost three weeks.

4. We maintain that the Russian Federation Armed Forces are combat ineffective and are only capable of effective attacks on a small area of the front, such as Bakhmut.
5. We maintain that Russia has committed almost all available ground forces to Ukraine and cannot maintain the current level of personnel and equipment losses.
6. We maintain the public in fighting between Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group's leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and the Russian Ministry of Defense is intensifying. There is a very small but notable chance that the ongoing provocations could spark Russian-on-Russian violence.
7. We maintain that the Russian Ministry of Defense is actively working to eliminate the influence of Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group and its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, on and off the battlefield.
8. We maintain the Kremlin is actively attempting to topple the legitimate government of Moldova.
9. We assess the Kremlin is actively interfering with the Georgian government's attempt to join the European Union.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

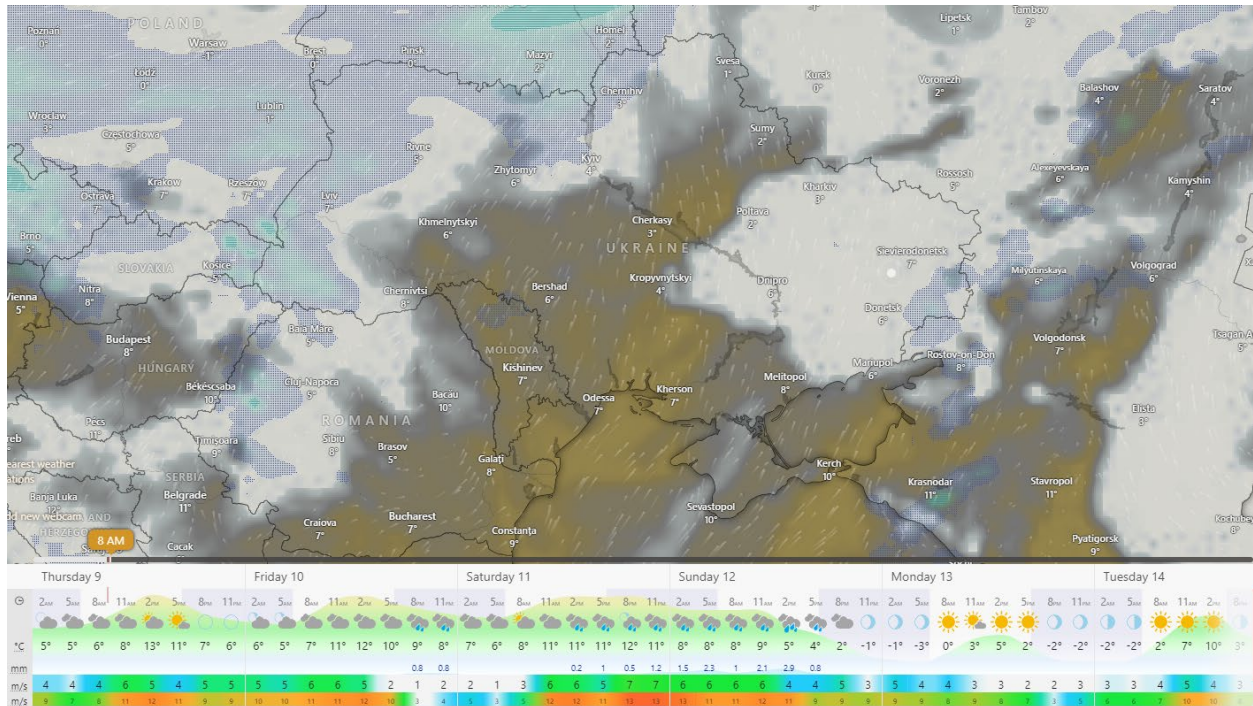


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

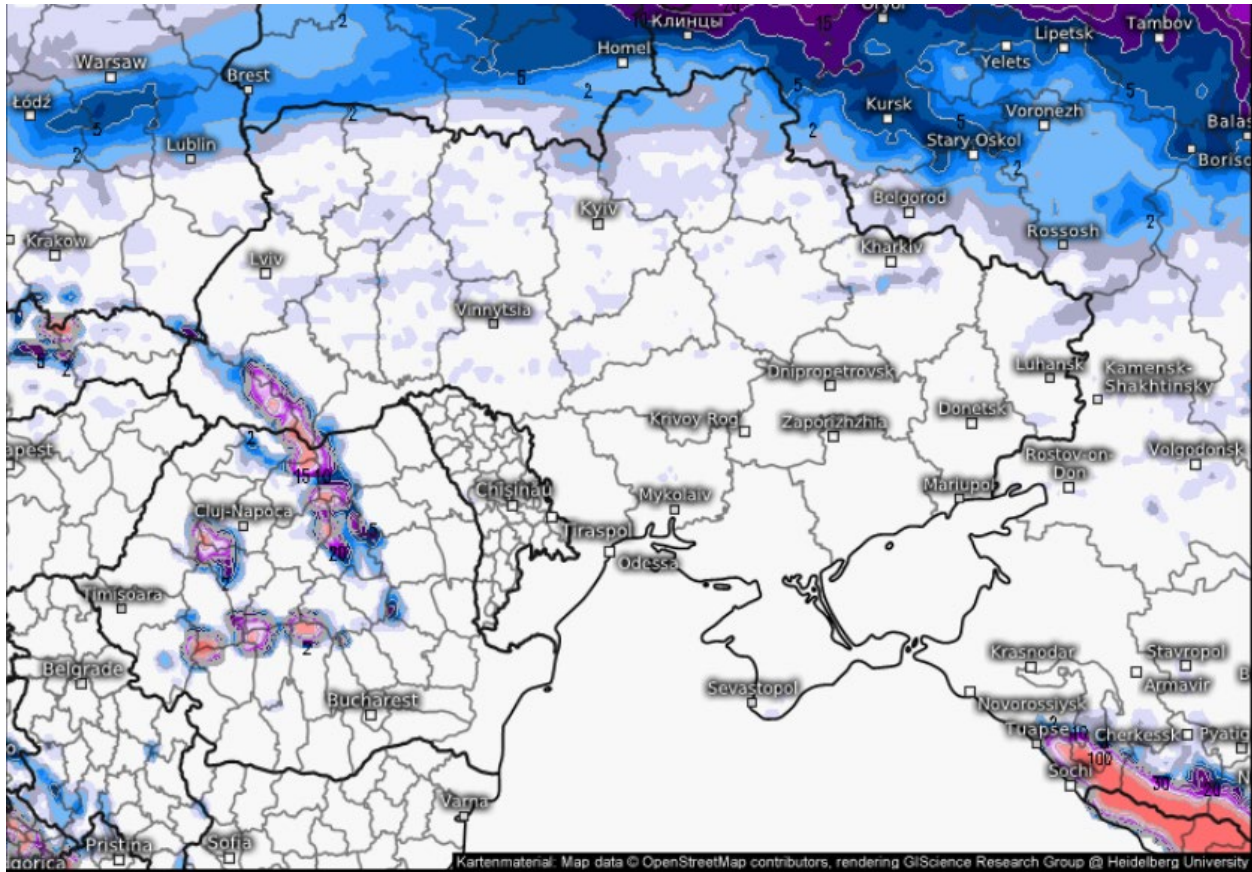
You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>



UKRAINE WEATHER

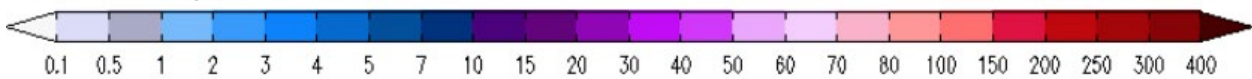


Cloudy, warmer, and very wet weather will move through the areas of conflict over the weekend. Eastern Ukraine is cloudy but will clear out tomorrow morning before clouds move back through Sunday night. High temperatures will range from 9° to 17° Celcius, and overnight lows will be between -2° to 8° Celcius. Heavy rain is forecasted throughout the day on Sunday, with winds up to 18 meters per second (40 mph/64 kph).



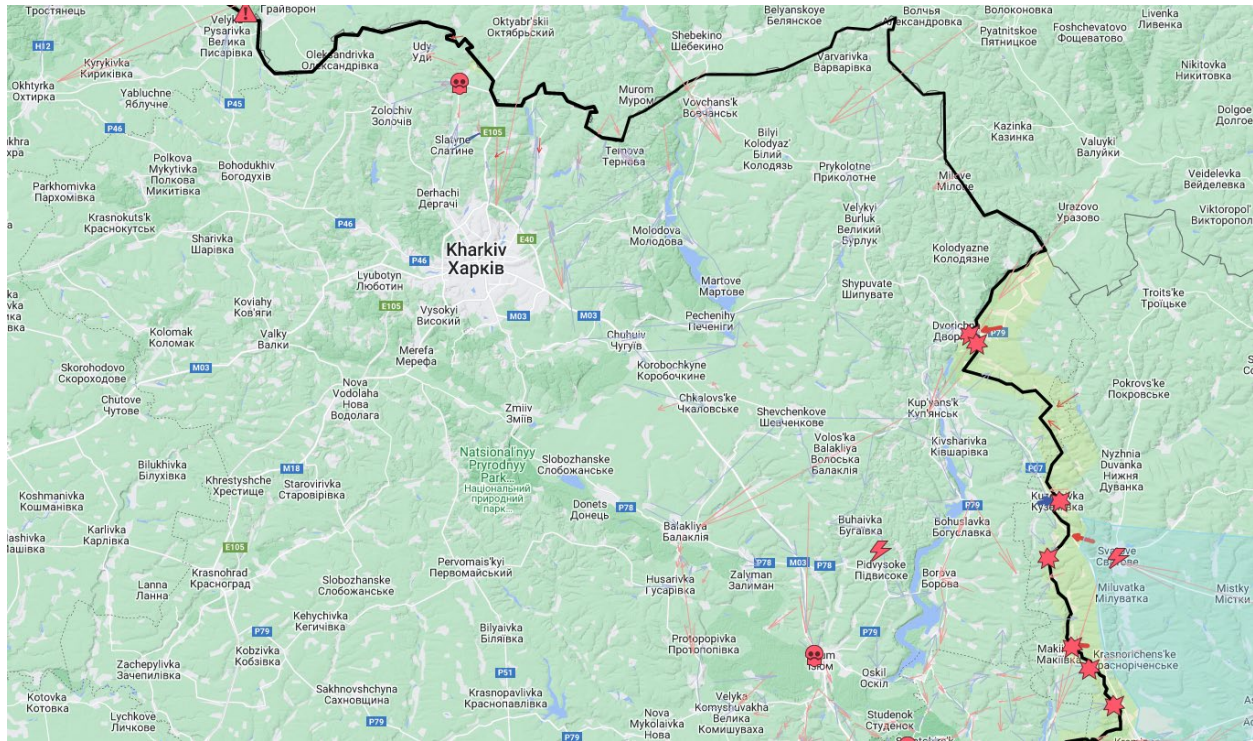
Snow depth (cm) ⓘ

Valid for Thu 03/09/2023, 01:00am CST



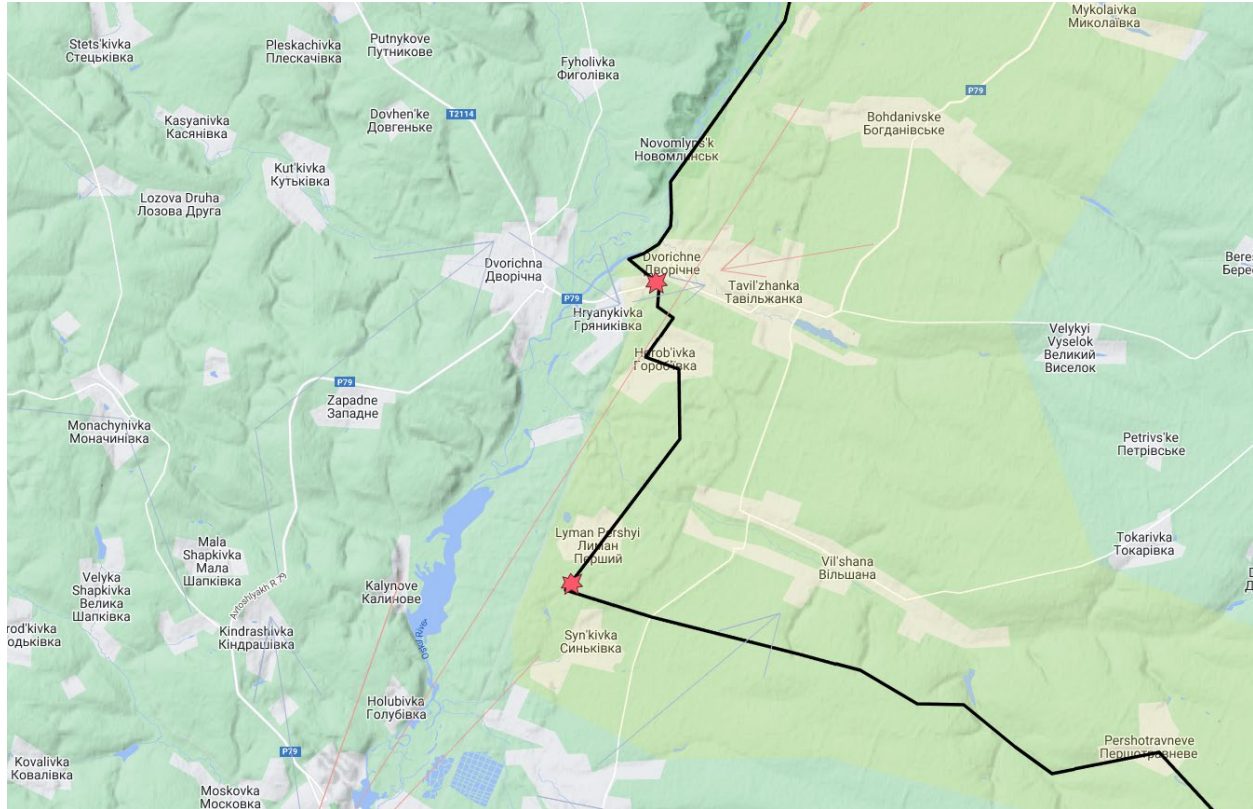
Notable snow cover is in the Carpathian Mountain Range and the Belarus-Chernihiv Oblast border. We will stop reporting snow depth on March 31, 2023.

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces west of the Oskil River and set conditions for a future larger attack

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



In the Dvorichna Operational Area, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that [Hryanykivka](#) was shelled, while the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMD) reported positional fighting among DRG units.^{1 2 3} GSAFU also reported that Vilshana was shelled, reinforcing that Ukrainian forces continue to make incremental gains around the Oskil River bridgehead at Dvorichna.⁴

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

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

³ https://t.me/mod_russia/24669 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

The Kharkiv region was hit with 13 Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground-to-ground attack, including 11 that struck the city of Kharkiv.⁵ Heat, hot water, and electricity were knocked out citywide just one day after Kharkiv turned street lights back on.⁶ In the village of PISOCHYN, an S-300 landed in the yard of a private home, injuring two pensioners with one hospitalized, while a second missile landed in an unpopulated swampy area. In SLOBOZHANSKE, a vegetable processing plant and commercial greenhouse were struck.⁷

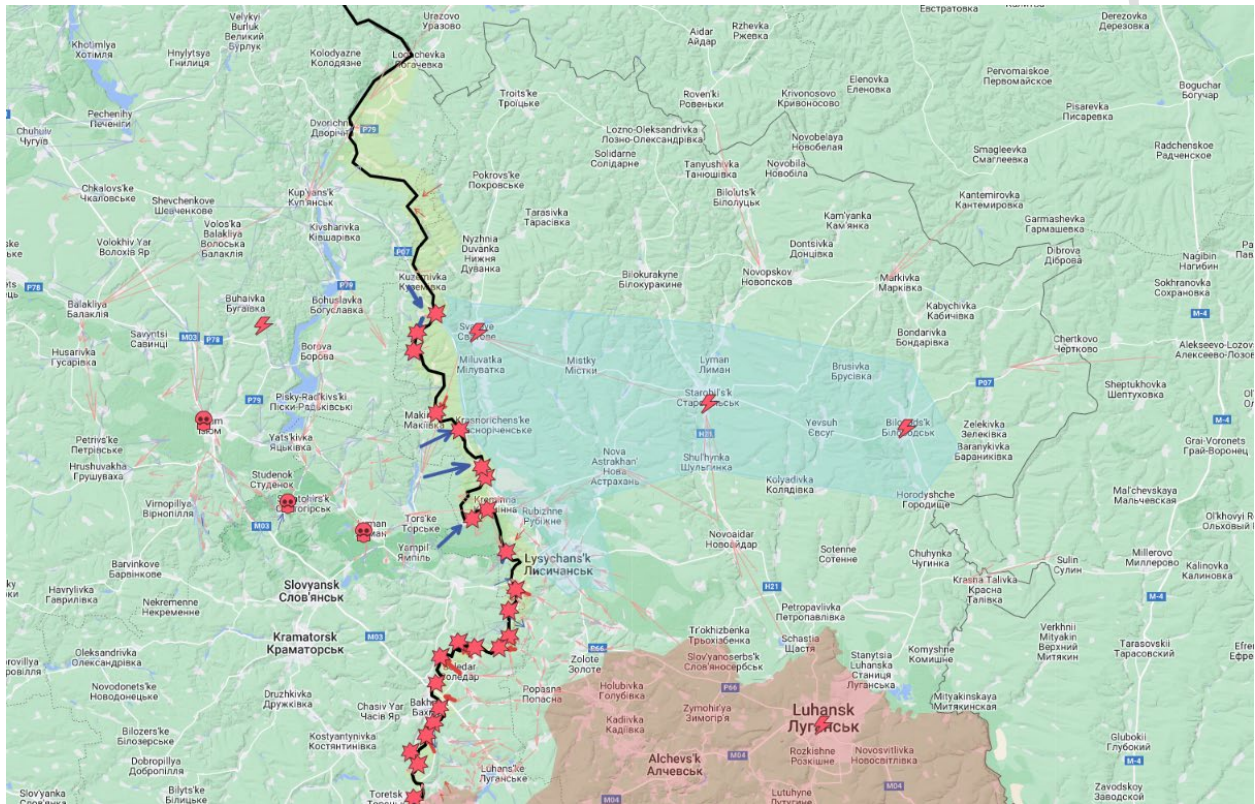
⁵ <https://t.me/syNEGUBOV/5673>

⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392638/>

⁷ <https://t.me/syNEGUBOV/5674>

DONBAS REGION

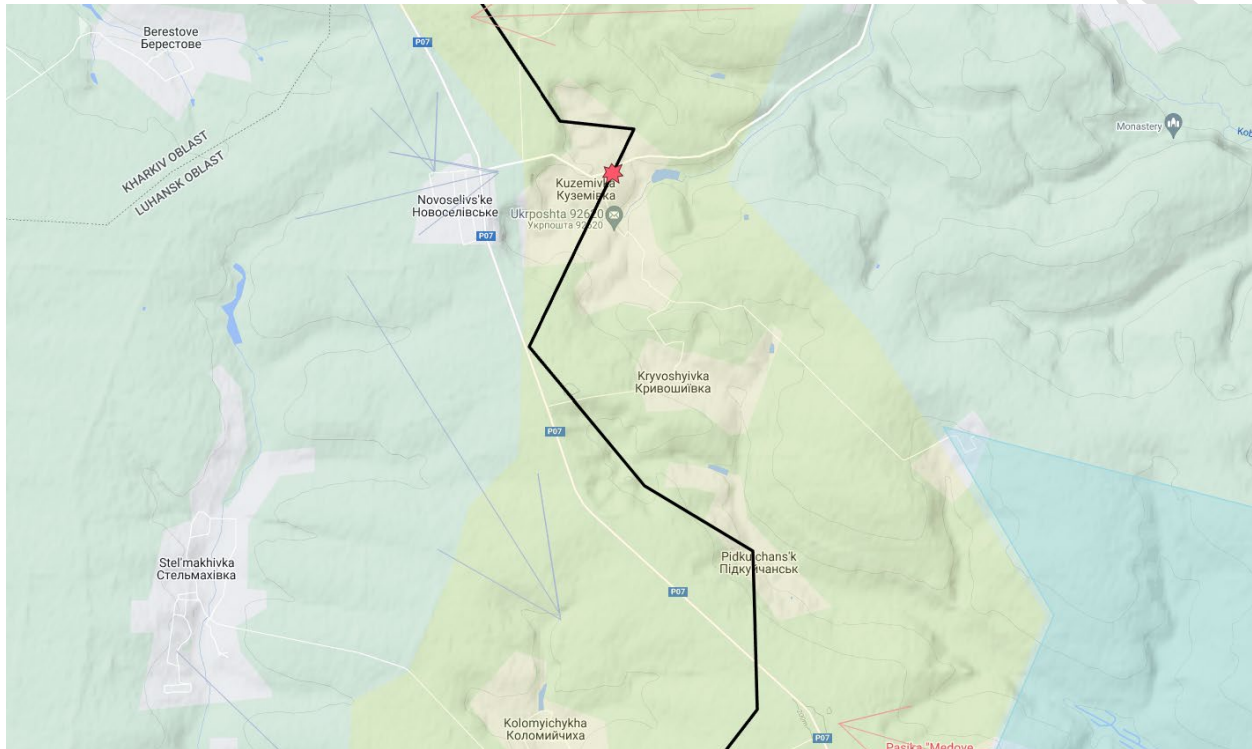
LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, recapture lost territory, and control insurgency

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

Fighting continues to be light and limited to positional battles.

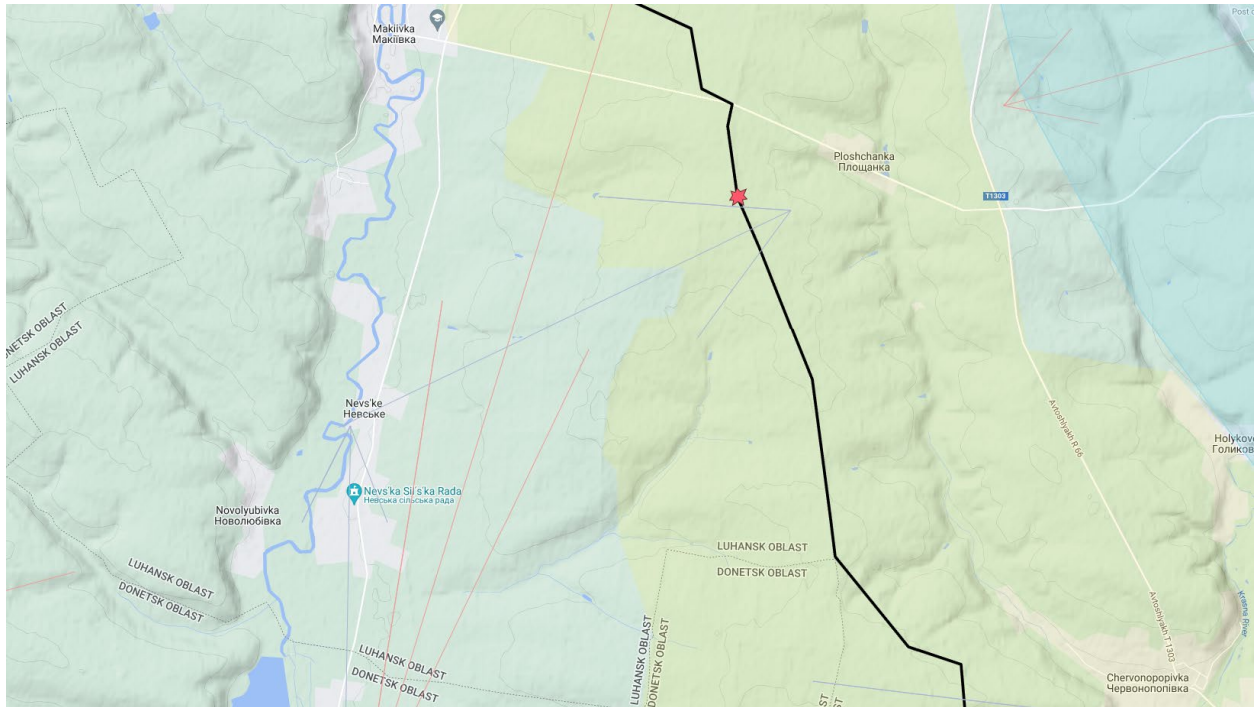


There continues to be very little activity in the Svatove Operational Area. GSAFU reported that Russian forces shelled [Novoselivka](#), while RMOD reported positional fighting among reconnaissance units.^{8 9} Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA), Serhei Haidai, reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on Stelmakhivka and were unsuccessful.¹⁰

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

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/24669 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁰ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/9131>



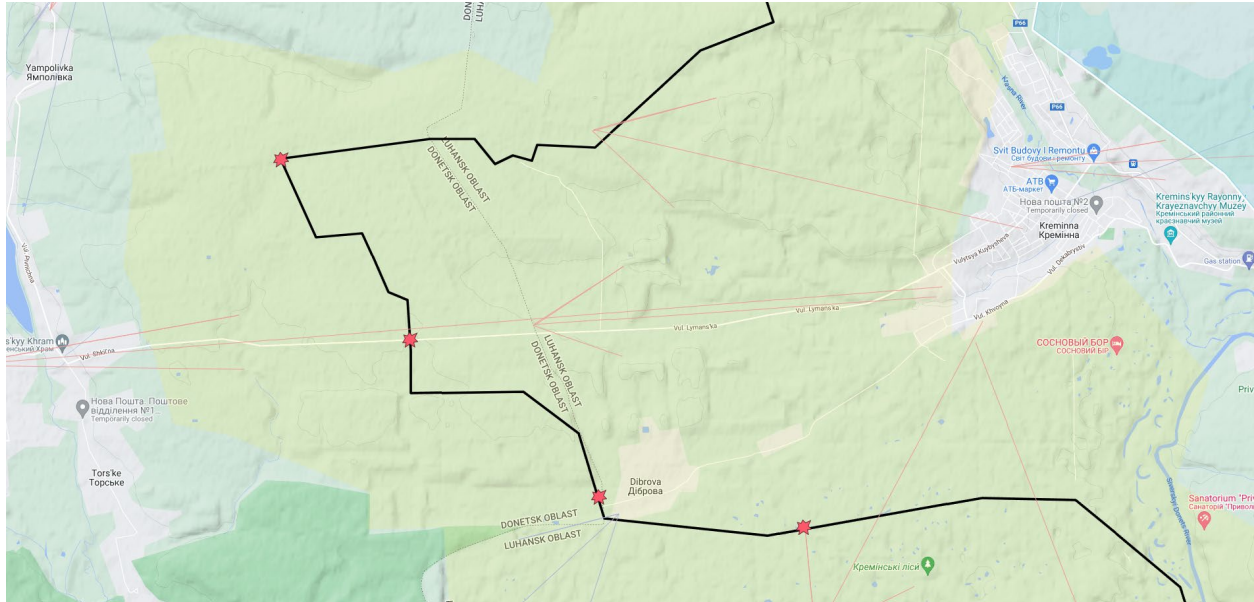
In the Kreminna Operational Area, positional fighting between squad and platoon sized units continued in the forests and tree lines near the settlements of [Ploshchanka](#), [Makiivka](#), and [Nevske](#).^{11 12 13} RMOD reported that Ukrainian positions in [Chervonpopivka](#) were shelled.¹⁴

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

¹² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15874>

¹³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

¹⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/24669 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

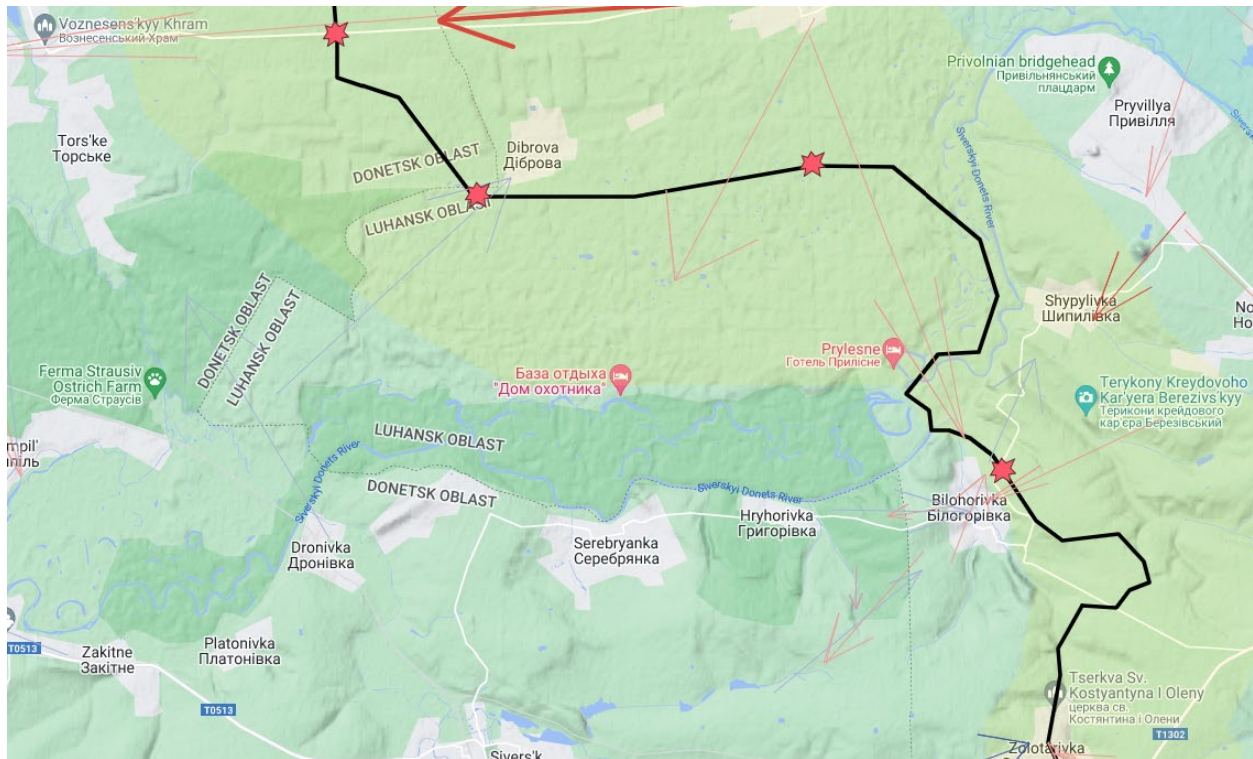


Positional fighting continued in the [forested areas](#) south and west of [Kremminna](#).¹⁵ There was conflicting information from Russian sources about [Dibrova](#), with RMOD reporting that Ukrainian forces in and near the village were shelled. In contrast, mercenary milblogger War Gonzo reported that Russian troops launched a successful offensive in the direction of Torske.^{16 17}

¹⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15874>

¹⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/24669 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>



It is the 305th day of fighting for control of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk], with Russian forces attacking throughout the day after pausing operations for part of the day on March 7.^{18 19 20} Someone with WarGonzo might be a podcast listener, declaring the Russian offensive was the "traditional attack."

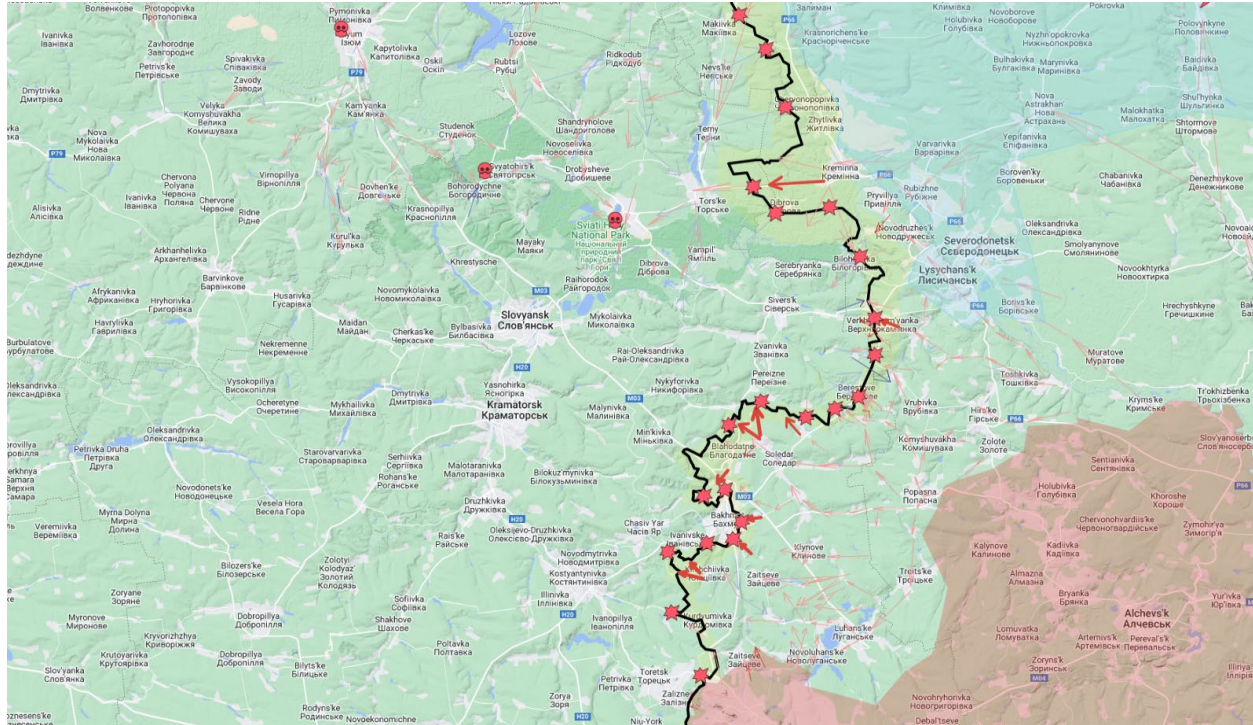
ASSESSMENT: Our assessment is unchanged from March 7, and we continue to observe the activity on this axis..

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

¹⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

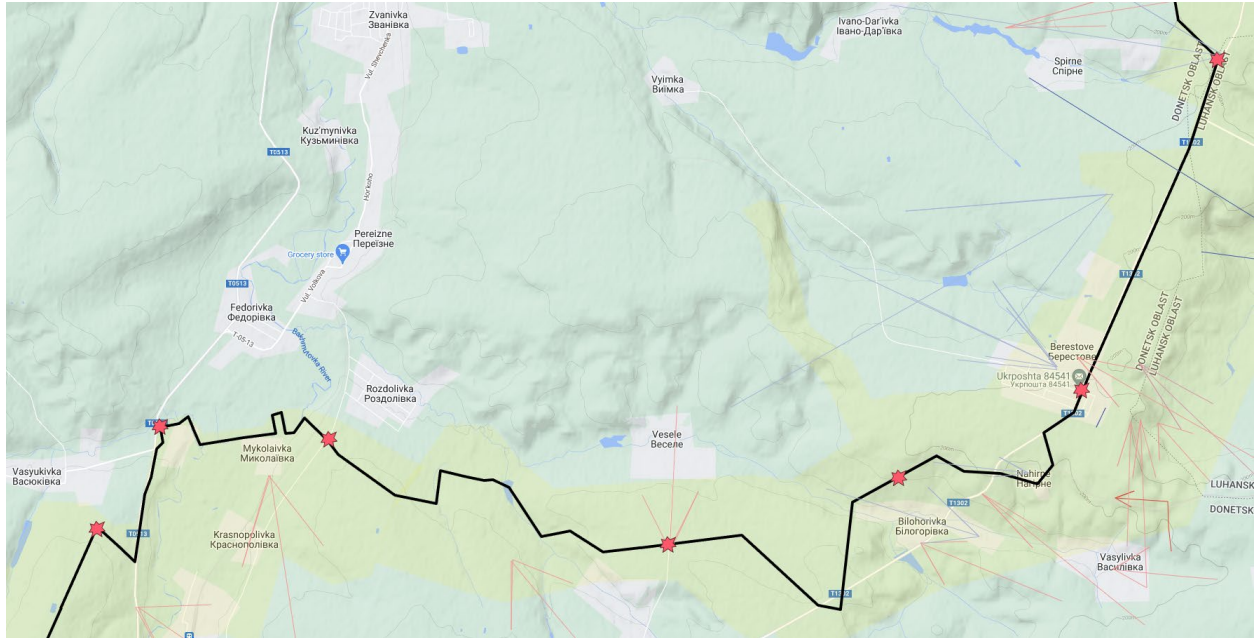
²⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

NORTHEAST DONETSK



Russian Objective: Capture the entire region and integrate the oblast into Russian Federation

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



In the Siversk Operational Area, elements of the 2nd Army Corps continued their attacks south and east of [Spirne](#) without success.^{21 22} On March 7, we reported we were unsure if Russian forces launched an attack from [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk].²³ It was likely an accurate report, with Russian troops once again attempting to advance along the railroad line toward [Vyimka](#) without success.²⁴ PMC Wagner also attempted to advance on [Vesele](#) from Yakovlivka, suffered losses, and returned to their defensive positions.²⁵ PMC Wagner also tried to advance on [Fedorivka](#) and was unsuccessful.²⁶

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

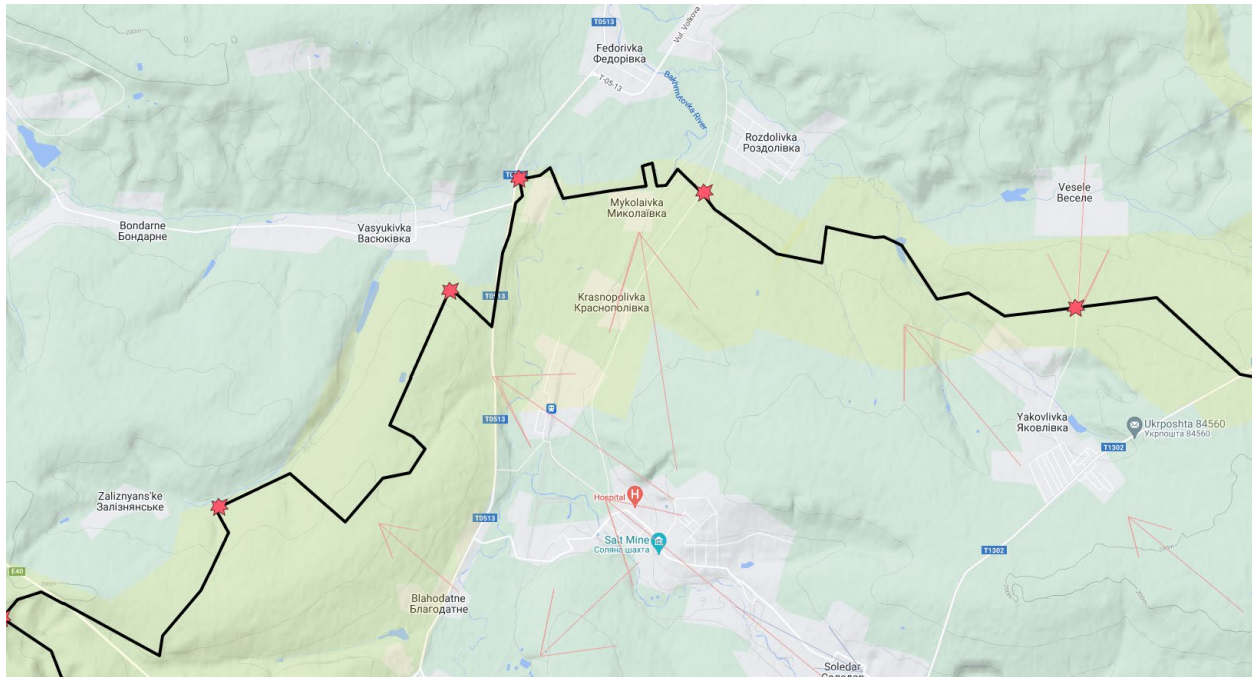
²² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

²³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report March 7, 2023 AM EEST](#)

²⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

²⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

²⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>



In the Soledar Operational Area, PMC Wagner continued its attacks on [Zaliznyanske](#), with fighting reportedly intense.²⁷
28

In the Bakhmut Operational Area, Ukrainian forces pushed Russian forces back to the north and southwest, while PMC Wagner made some gains to the city's northwest. Ukraine also stabilized the T-506 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC), reopening the critical and paved supply line.

²⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15874>

²⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

ASSESSMENT: The situation remains very fluid and could change quickly. Our team did not jump on the doom train last week, opting to objectively report that the situation was critical and list the three scenarios where the continued defense of Bakhmut would be untenable.

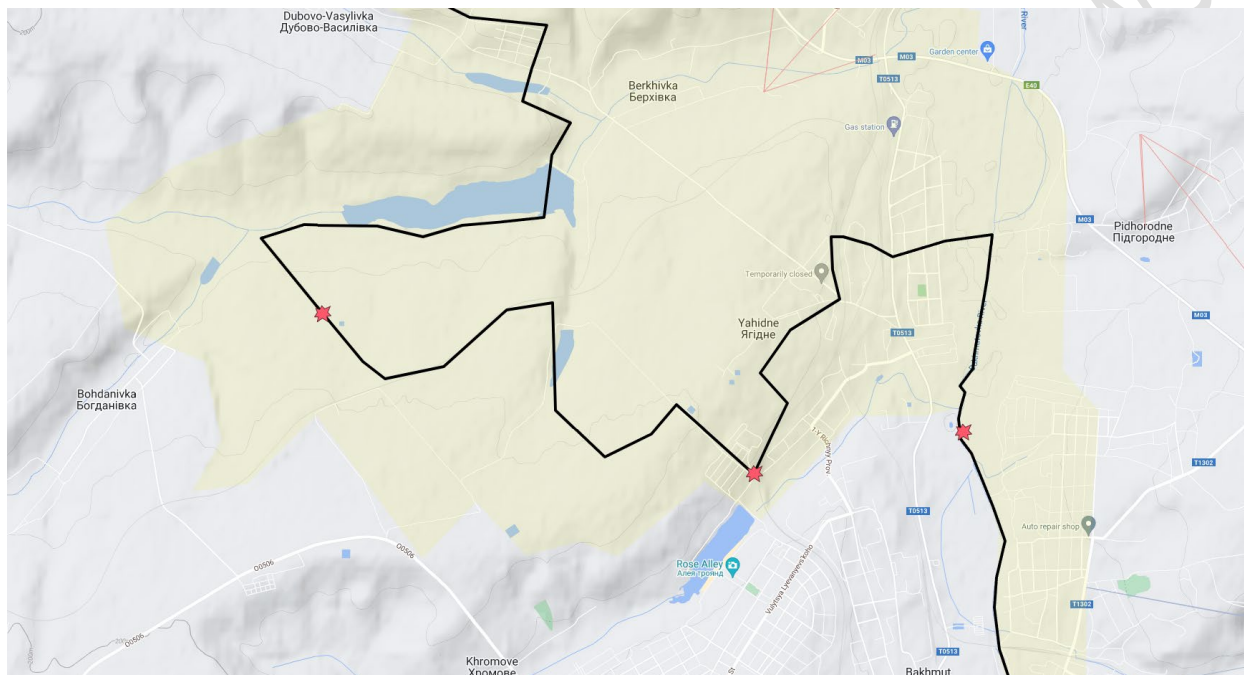


Northwest of the city, PMC Wagner continued attempts to advance on [Orikhovo-Vasylivka](#).^{29 30} Several Russian milbloggers claimed that Wagner mercenaries had reached the village, but at the time of publication, Yevgeny

²⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

³⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

Prigozhin had made no claims of operational success in this or any other direction.



PMC Wagner and Russian forces continued to launch repeated attacks on [Dubovo-Vasylivka](#), after being pushed back from [Bohdanivka](#).^{31 32 33 34} Mercenaries with Wagner had reached the western part of Dubovo-Vasylivka. Russian attempts to advance out of [Berkhivka](#), between the Berkhivske Reservoir and Yahidne, were repulsed.³⁵ On the T-506 Highway GLOC, Ukrainian combat engineers built a

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

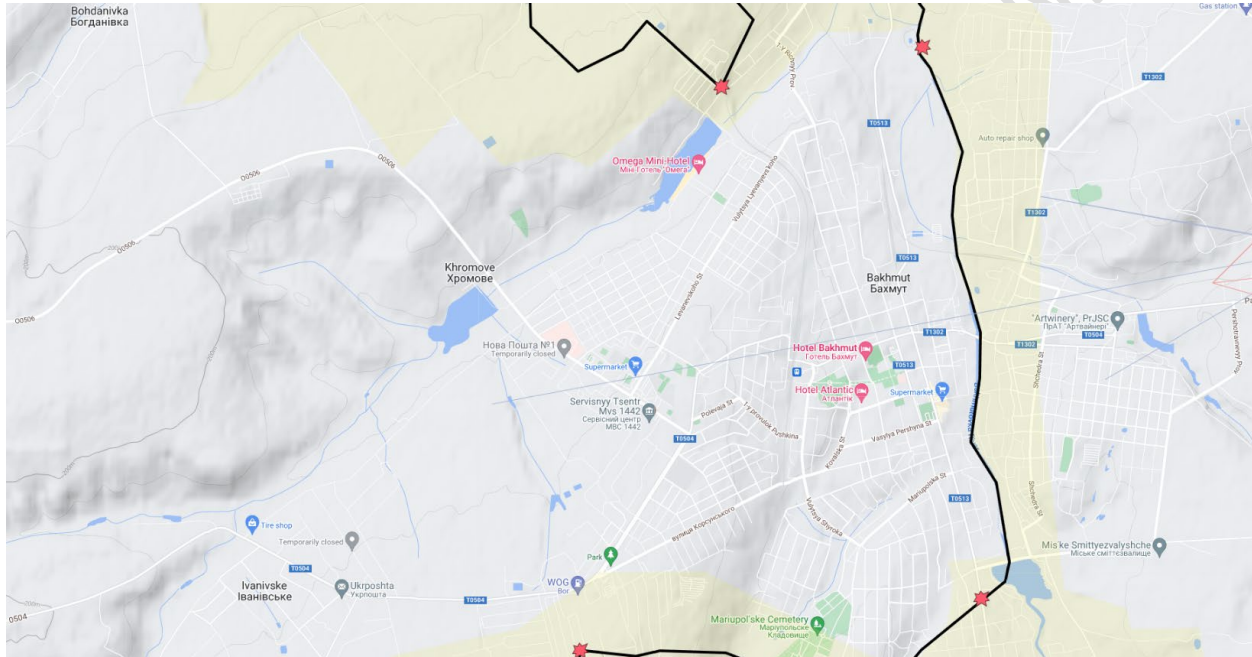
³² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

³³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/15874>

³⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

³⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

[temporary bridge in Khromove](#), replacing the one destroyed when Russian artillery set off placed charges over the weekend.³⁶ The bypass route to the west of the crossing is still intact.



Within [Bakhmut](#), fighting continued to the south, while the Bakhmutkova River separated the combatants in the east.³⁷

38 39

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1633548341547024384>

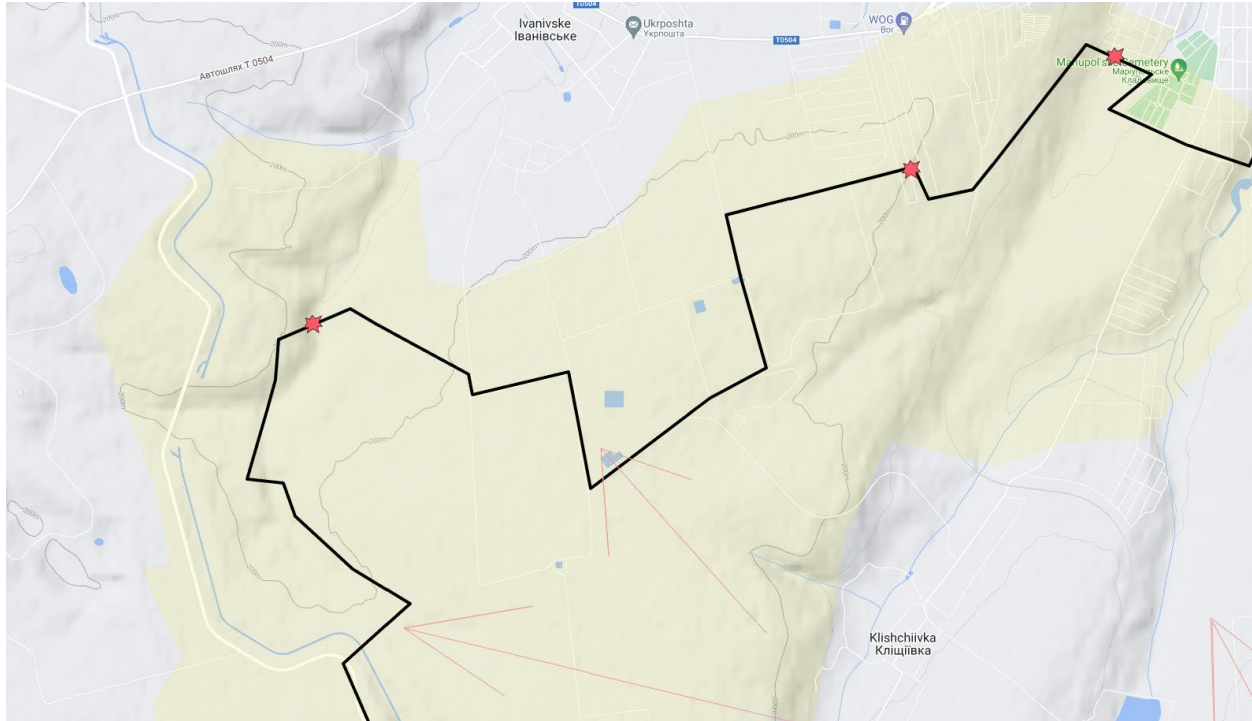
³⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

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

³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, and failed mobik Igor Strelkov Girkin wrote he believes that Russian forces will ultimately capture Bakhmut, but it won't matter, roasting Sergei Shoigu and Prigozhin. "Prigozhin and Shoigu happily inform the population of the Russian Federation that they managed to take half of Bakhmut. Without denying in the least the courage and heroism of the Wagner fighters and commanders (as well as the interacting units of the RF Armed Forces), I will...note that the results of more than two months of a brutal meat grinder, in the form of taking half of the small city testify to anything, but the military talents of both of these characters. Unfortunately, I express confidence that after the final capture of the city, the offensive will 'come to nothing' in front of the next fortified areas of the enemy [Ukraine], erected during the time Bakhmut and Soledar were storming."⁴⁰

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/strelkovii/4157>



Mercenary milblogger Rybar wrote quality fan fiction in their daily report. The former Kremlin public relations staffers claimed on March 7 that Ukraine could use the T-504 Highway GLOC again. Today they claimed that Ukrainian reinforcements were building in [Ivanivske](#) while simultaneously claiming active fighting was ongoing at the Mig-17 memorial and along Independence Avenue.⁴¹ The T-504 GLOC passes next to the Mig-17, making these three claims, when considered together, impossible.

⁴¹ <https://t.me/rybar/44402>

We reviewed intelligence that reinforced that Ukrainian forces have pushed Russian troops back from Ivanivske, the two kilometers claimed on March 7. We readjusted our map to reflect our higher confidence in those claims.^{42 43 44}

South of Bakhmut in the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, GSAFU again reported repelling a Russian attack from [Klischiiivka](#), further reinforcing the Ukrainian advance.⁴⁵

ASSESSMENT: While Ukrainian forces had a good day today and appear to have reestablished two of the three GLOCs that support defensive efforts, the situation remains fluid. Further, Ukraine has no firm grip on either highway, which could easily fall back under Russian fire control.

Editor's Note: *I am incredibly proud of our team. There was fierce debate on Thursday and Friday last week based on very reliable reports we received that Ukrainian forces were preparing to withdraw from Bakhmut. Based on prior analysis, team expertise, and the tactics of both combatants, we ultimately decided to ignore the*

⁴² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

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

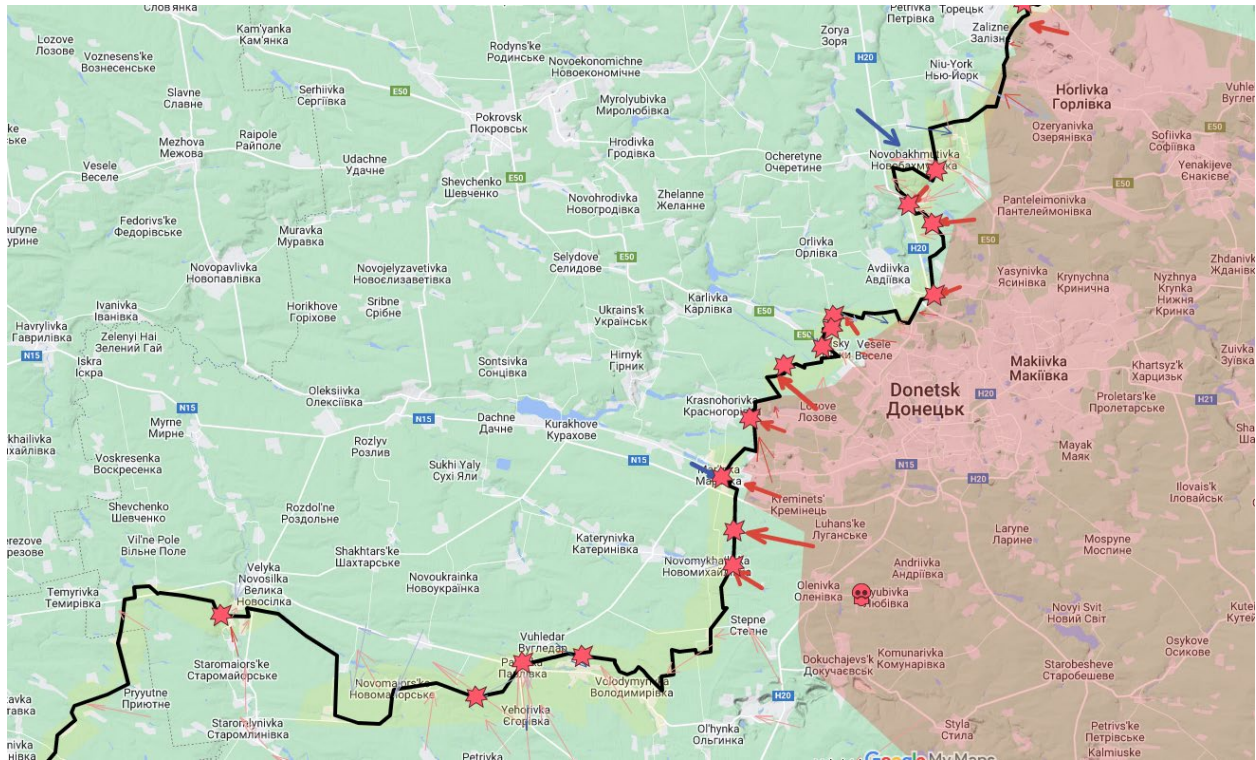
⁴⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

^{45 45}

intelligence and reported that Ukraine was preparing for a limited withdrawal to the west bank of the Bakhmutkova River but would maintain the city's defense. Admittedly, there is a degree of "I told you so," but our readers and listeners trust us for our informed, sober, and consistently accurate assessments. Collectively, we are surprised that Ukraine has been able to improve its situation as much as it has in the last 72 hours and its ability to resupply the garrison.

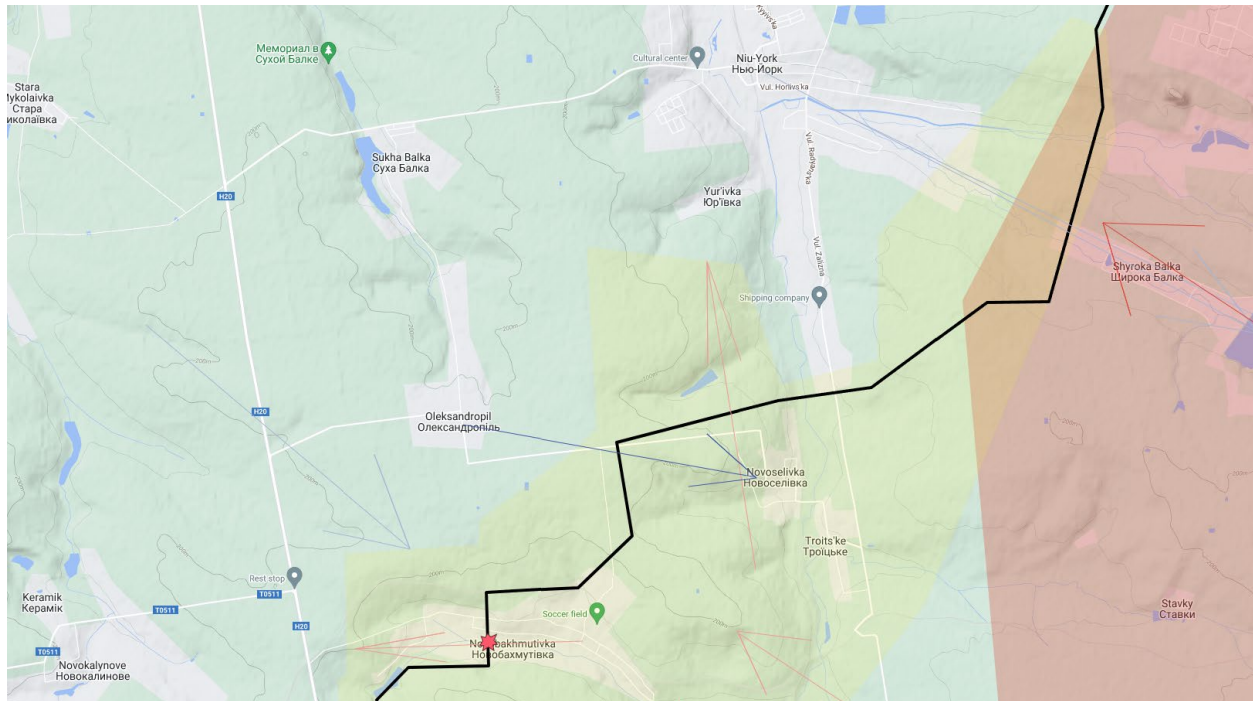
We maintain that Russian forces will continue to do everything short of using chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) weapons to capture Bakhmut.

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



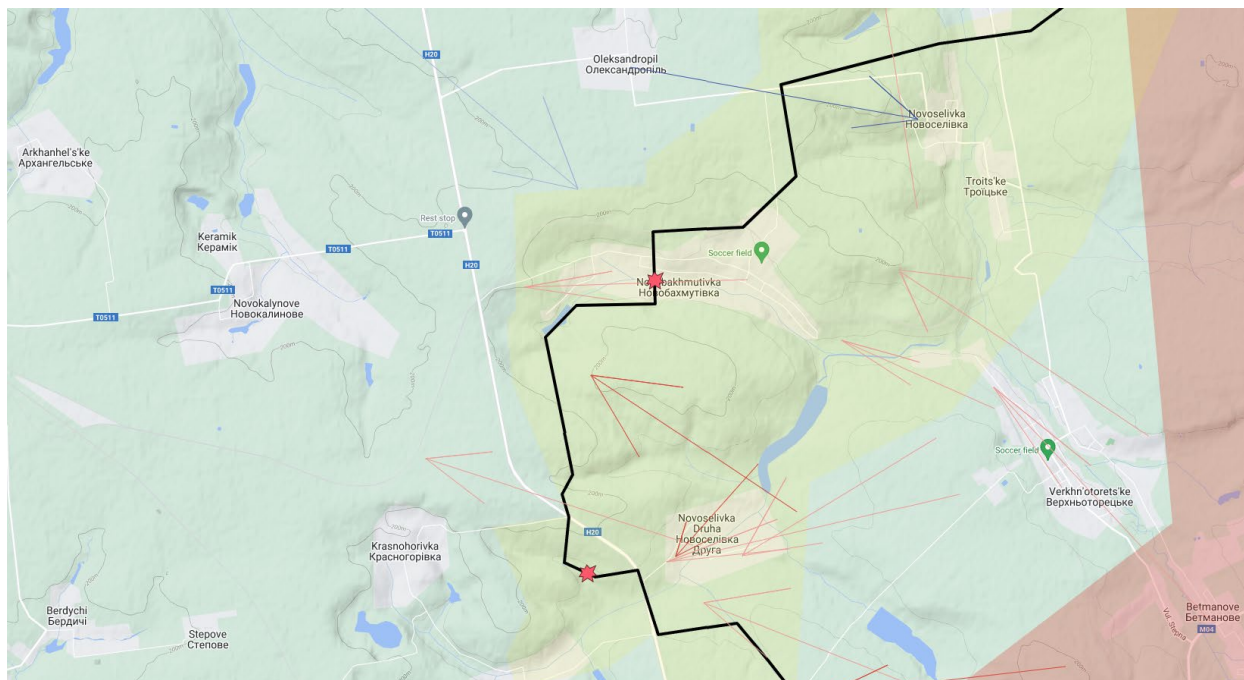
Russian Objective: Capture the entire region, integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

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



In the Toretz-Niu York Operational Area, the 1st Army Corps attempted to advance on [Oleksandropil](#) without success.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



Fighting with reduced intensity continued east of the [Krasnohorivka](#) plateau, including Russian attempts to advance from [Kamyanka](#).^{47 48 49 50} WarGonzo reported that Russian troops had not crossed the H-20 Highway, which calls into question if [Vesele](#) – the third Vesele in Donetsk north of Avdiivka – was captured on March 7. Russian troops may have created a small salient at the plateau base, and Rybar claimed that the settlement was under Russian control on March 8.⁵¹

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/44402>

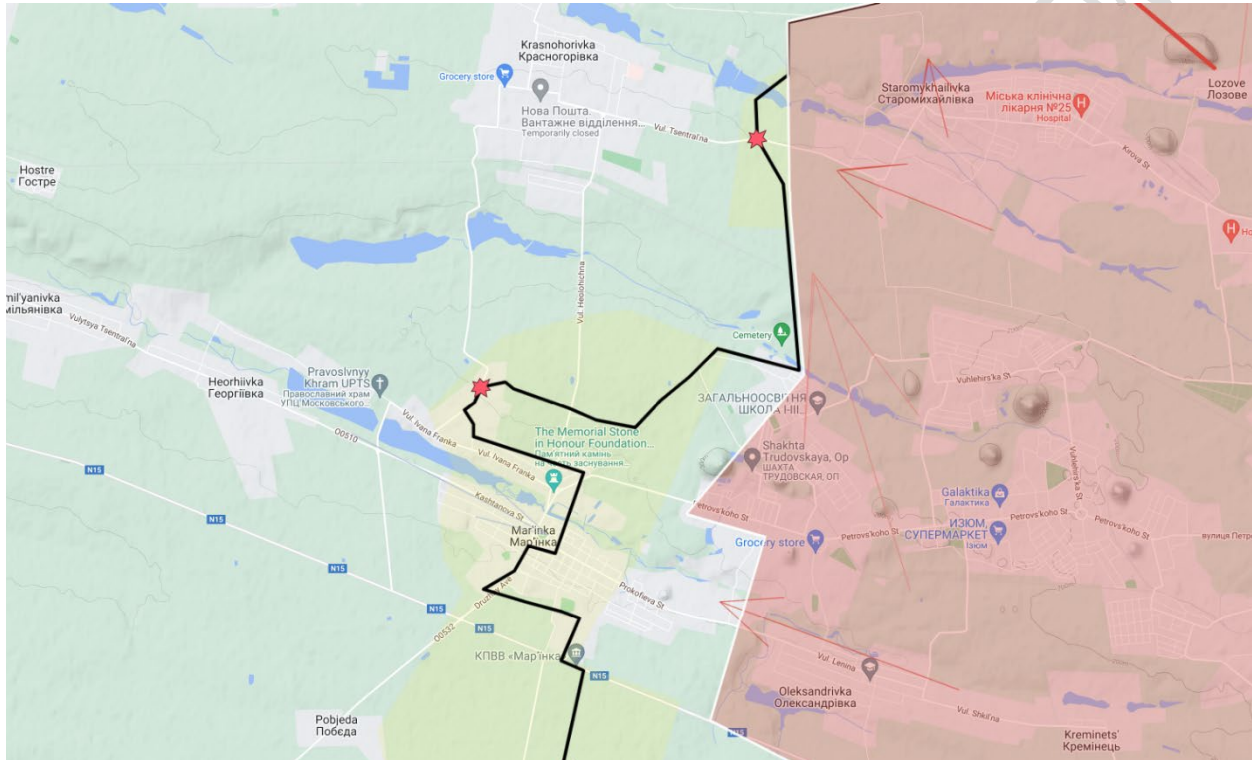
⁴⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁴⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/rybar/44402>

from Spartak with no success.⁵⁵ Russian forces continued to attack the Ukrainian firebase at [Nevelske](#) without changing the situation.⁵⁶

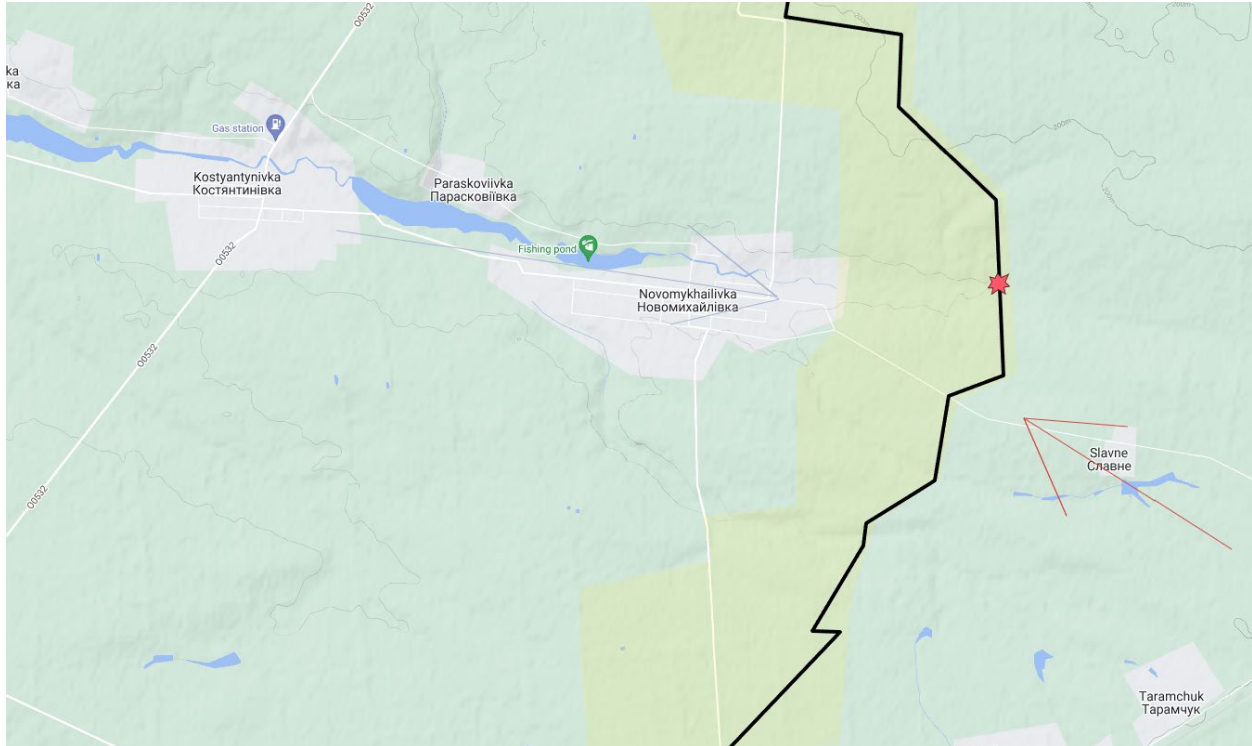


In the Marinka Operational Area, fighting in the center of the [Marinka](#) wasteland continued.⁵⁷


⁵⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/11280>

⁵⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁵⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)



In the Vuhledar Operational Area, after repeated and failed attempts to recapture the pig farm on the eastern edge of Pobjeda, the 1st Army Corps renewed attacks east of Novomykhailivka and maintained the over nine years of tradition of suffering losses and returning to their previous defensive positions.^{58 59}

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that the line to cross into Russia at the  [Novoazovsk border crossing extended for more than ten kilometers](#), with trucks full of stolen

⁵⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

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

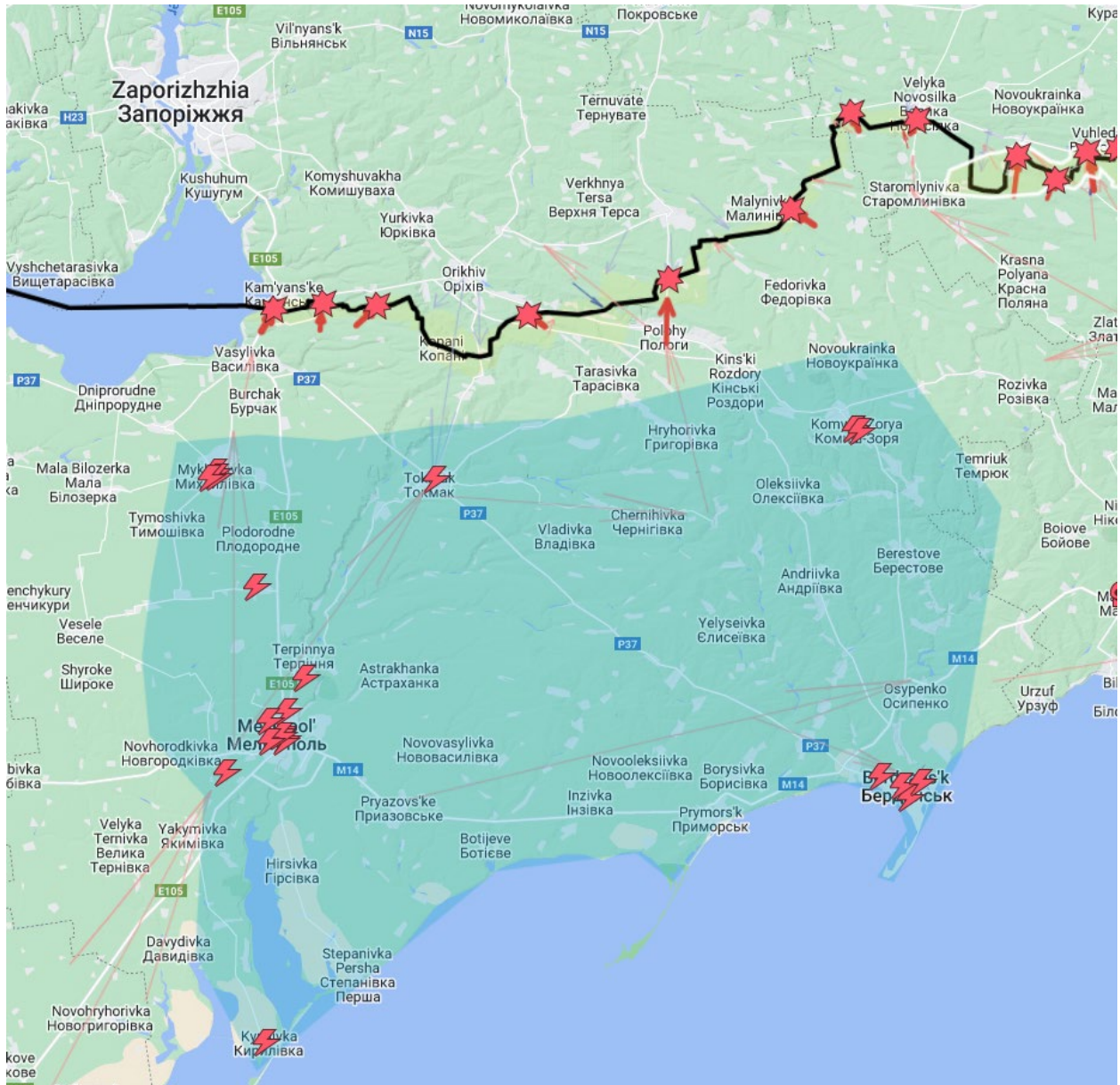


Ukrainian grain and commercial builders withdrawing from the Russian-occupied city.⁶⁰

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⁶⁰ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/7467>

ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prevent a Ukrainian offensive into Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, capture the remainder of the oblast

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

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was completely de-energized due to widespread Russian missile attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure.⁶¹ The 750 kilovolt (kV) line was disconnected in the early hours of March 9, local time. It is the first time the station has been completely de-energized since November 23, 2022.

Operators were bringing Reactors 5 and 6 to cold shutdown and switched to emergency power supported by eight diesel-fueled generators with enough reserves to support cooling and operational systems for 15 days. Radiation levels are normal.

International Atomic Energy Agency Secretary General Rafael Grossi reported that the 330 kV line that Russian forces damaged west of the Dnipro on Sunday was still de-energized at the of the missile strikes.⁶² Grossi, expressing frustration, told the IAEA Board of Governors, who are

⁶¹ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/12270

⁶² [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

currently meeting in Vienna, Austria, "Yet again, Zaporizhzhah Nuclear Power Plant is running on emergency diesel [generators], the last line of defense. This is the sixth time – let me say it again – the **sixth** time that ZNPP has lost all offsite power and has had to operate in this emergency mode. Let me remind you, this is the largest nuclear power station in Europe. What are we doing? How can we sit here in this room this morning and allow this to happen? This cannot go on. I am astonished by the complacency. What are we doing to prevent this [from] happening? We are the IAEA. We are meant to care about nuclear safety. Each time we are rolling a dice. And if we allow this to continue time after time, then one day, our luck will run out. I call on everyone in this room today and elsewhere – We must commit to protect the safety and security of the plant. And we need to commit **now**."

Editor's Note: Emphasis Grossi's

Just hours before the destabilizing missile strikes, Rosatom officials provided a press tour to Pro-Russian journalists and propagandists at ZNPP and did a ceremony changing the sign showing ownership from Energoatom to the Russian state-run enterprise.⁶³

⁶³ <https://t.me/znppatom/1527>

Editor's Note: We couldn't make this up in our wildest dreams. See how good we are at running nuclear power plants? Now, if you step over here, you can watch our military create a crisis.

A fire broke out along the riverbank of the Dnipro east of Eerhodar and expanded to four acres before being controlled. Russian occupiers blame the fire on Ukraine, saying they dropped incendiary bombs from a drone without evidence.⁶⁴

Four Russian cruise missiles hit critical infrastructure in Zaporizhzhia, causing extensive damage. There were no injuries.^{65 66 67}

In Russia-occupied Vasylivka, drone-directed artillery destroyed an electronic warfare, radar, and communications station.⁶⁸ This is the second attack on Russian electronic warfare capabilities in the area in less than 48 hours.

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/15475>

⁶⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392646/>

⁶⁶ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/17309

⁶⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/83328>

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Operational Command South (OCS) reported 9 Black Sea Fleet vessels on patrol, with no missile carriers after today's attack. Four vessels, two frigates, and two Kilo-class submarines launched 20 Kalibr cruise missiles at Ukraine.

Odesa was hit with two Russian cruise missiles, which damaged multiple powerlines and transmission towers.^{69 70}
⁷¹ Parts of the region were without power as Ukrainian energy company DTEK worked on making repairs.

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

⁶⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392630/>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/83349>

⁷¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

In Kherson, Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery strikes across the Dnipro River.⁷² ⁷³ Russian forces carried out 86 fire missions, firing 434 artillery shells, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, indirect tank fire, and drone-delivered IEDs.⁷⁴ The city of Kherson was shelled seven times, targeting the residential areas. One civilian was killed and three more wounded due to the attacks.

In breaking news, on the morning of March 9, a Russian artillery strike on a Kherson bus stop killed three and wounded two.⁷⁵ One of the deceased was in a nearby store and was shredded by flying shrapnel, killing them instantly.

Russian-occupied Hola Prystan was shelled, and DRG units increased fighting for control of Big Potemkin Island, south of Kherson.

⁷² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEST](#)

⁷³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEST](#)

⁷⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392651/>

Dnipropetrovsk Oblast OVA, Serhii Lysak, reported that Russian artillery strikes, Grad rocket attacks, cruise missile, and Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone strikes killed one person and wounded two.⁷⁶ Missiles struck Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, and Pavlohrad raions, damaging multiple energy infrastructure facilities and causing fires in industrial areas.

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast OVA, Svitlana Onyshchuk, reported that a Russian cruise missile hit an energy infrastructure facility but did not provide any other information to maintain operational security.⁷⁷

In the Kirovohrad Oblast, an Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone struck an infrastructure facility in the Kropyvnytskyi raion. At the time of publication, no additional information was available.⁷⁸


A cruise missile also hit civilian infrastructure in the Vinnytsia Oblast.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392614/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392648/>

⁷⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

In the Lviv Oblast, five people were killed in Velyka Vilshanytsia when debris from a  [Russian cruise missile struck a residential area](#) obliterating houses.^{80 81 82} The bodies of two men and three women have been recovered, and one person is reported as missing.

Critical energy infrastructure in the Zhytomyr Oblast was hit by a cruise missile, knocking out power to 150,000 people. At the time of publication, the facility was still on fire.⁸³

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

⁸⁰ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1633715697778925568>

⁸¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392612/>

⁸² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

⁸³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

According to Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko, three people were wounded by missile strikes in the Vydubychi, Holosiivskiyi, and Sviatoshynskiyi districts in Kyiv.⁸⁴ A thermal power plant was hit with up to six Kinzal hypersonic air-to-ground missiles, [causing a massive fire at the facility](#).⁸⁵

In the Sumy Oblast, Shostka was hit by three missiles destroying a business and damaging residential buildings. At the time of publication, no casualties were reported.⁸⁶

RUSSIAN FRONT

There weren't any significant events.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukrainian officials reported 81 missiles, including S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack, and eight Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were used in

⁸⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392603/>

⁸⁵ <https://twitter.com/OStepura/status/1633690887912824833>

⁸⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/9/7392650/>

today's attack, which appeared to have exclusively targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The General Staff reported that Russian forces used almost every available missile in its inventory, including

- 28 Kh-101/Kh-555 air-to-surface cruise missiles
- 20 Kalibr cruise missiles
- 6 Kh-22 air-to-surface antiship cruise missiles
- 6 Kh-47 Kinzal air-to-surface hypersonic cruise missiles
- 2 Kh-31P guided air-to-surface missiles
- 6 Kh-59 guided air-to-surface missiles
- 13 S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack (previously mentioned)

Ukrainian air defenses had 48 valid targets, shooting down 34. Additionally, eight guided cruise missiles were disabled using electronic warfare, and air defenses brought down four Shahed-136 drones. Ukrainian air defenses had a 72% success rate against viable targets, a subpar performance compared to previous attacks.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/83384>

There were social media reports that Russian cruise missiles violated Moldovan airspace, which the Moldovan government denied.⁸⁸

The IAEA reported that the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant lost connection to power lines but could maintain offsite power.⁸⁹ The Khmelnytsky and Rivne Nuclear Power Plants were not directly impacted but had to adjust their load to prevent overloading the power grid.

The self-declared security minister of the unrecognized republic of Transnistria claimed that an assassination attempt on Kremlin puppet Vadim Krasnoselski, and other so-called leaders of Transnistria, was foiled.⁹⁰ Local officials claim the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) was behind a plot to plant an 8-kilogram IED with nuts and bolts as shrapnel in a Land Rover SUV. It is alleged Veaceslav Kisnichan, a Transnistrian national, was behind the plot under the direction of the SBU.

⁸⁸ [Timpul](#)

⁸⁹ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

⁹⁰ [The National](#)