



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 179

It has been 3,097 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

In northeast Donetsk, Russian forces were attempting to advance on Vesele [Donetsk] from Spirne while Siversk and the surrounding settlements were shelled, as was Ivano-Daryivka.

An ammunition depot in Alchevsk was destroyed in a rocket attack launched by HIMARS.

Near Bakhmut, PMC Wagner Group and elements of the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) attempted to advance into Soledar and Bakhmutske without success.

Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, supported by the LNR separatists, remains on the outskirts of Bakhmut. The 58th Mechanized Brigade of Ukraine shot down a Russian Su-25 ground attack aircraft.

Russian forces continued their attacks on Zaitseve, 10 kilometers southeast of Bakhmut, striking from two directions.

In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces attacked Kodema from three directions but failed to dislodge Ukrainian defenders.

North of Donetsk, an attempt to advance on Niu York ended in failure. DNR separatists fought positional battles near Krasnohorivka but could not improve their tactical situation.

West of Donetsk, elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR attempted to advance on Optyne and Pisky using reconnaissance in force without success.

The village of Nevelske was attacked from two directions, but a lack of tanks made moving across the open fields near impossible for light infantry forces.

DNR separatists tried to improve their positions in eastern Marinka using reconnaissance in force. They also attempted to flank Markina from Luhanske [yes, there are two Luhansk in Donetsk] without success.

In Donetsk, rockets fired from HIMARS made a precision strike on a large ammunition depot in the eastern part of the city.

On the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces tried to advance on the Velyka Novosilka suburb of Neskuchne and were unsuccessful.

North of Izyum, Russian forces launched offensives on Dementivka and Pytomnyk.

South of Izyum, Russian forces maintained tradition with attempted advances on Dmytrivka and Bohorodychne using reconnaissance in force. They weren't successful. Russian units attacked Ukrainian positions in Dibrovne, Dolyna, and Karnaukhivka. They also tried to advance in the direction of Nova Dmytrivka from Brazhkivka. They were not able to gain new territory.

Russian airborne troops (VDV) continued their attempts to advance on Tavrijs'ke from Oleksandrivka. They could not improve their positions. Russian forces continued attempts to capture all of Blahodatne [Mykolaiv] and remained unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces launched offensives on Novohrednjeve and Sukhyi Stavok, intending to expand the Inhulets River bridgehead. Fighting was described as intense. However, Ukrainian troops did not capture either settlement.

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is unchanged. None of the parties involved in negotiations to allow inspectors into the power plant have set a date for when the International Atomic Energy Agency will arrive.

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Nikopol was hit by Grad rockets fired from the Zaporizhzhia NPP region.

North of Odesa, Russia fired five Kalibr cruise missiles into the Odesa Oblast. Two were shot down, with three landing in the area of Maiors'ke.

Russian air defenses fired at unidentified objects across the Crimea Peninsula, but there were no confirmed drone or missile strikes. Russian sources did not provide any resources to support claims of rockets, missiles, and drones shot down.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

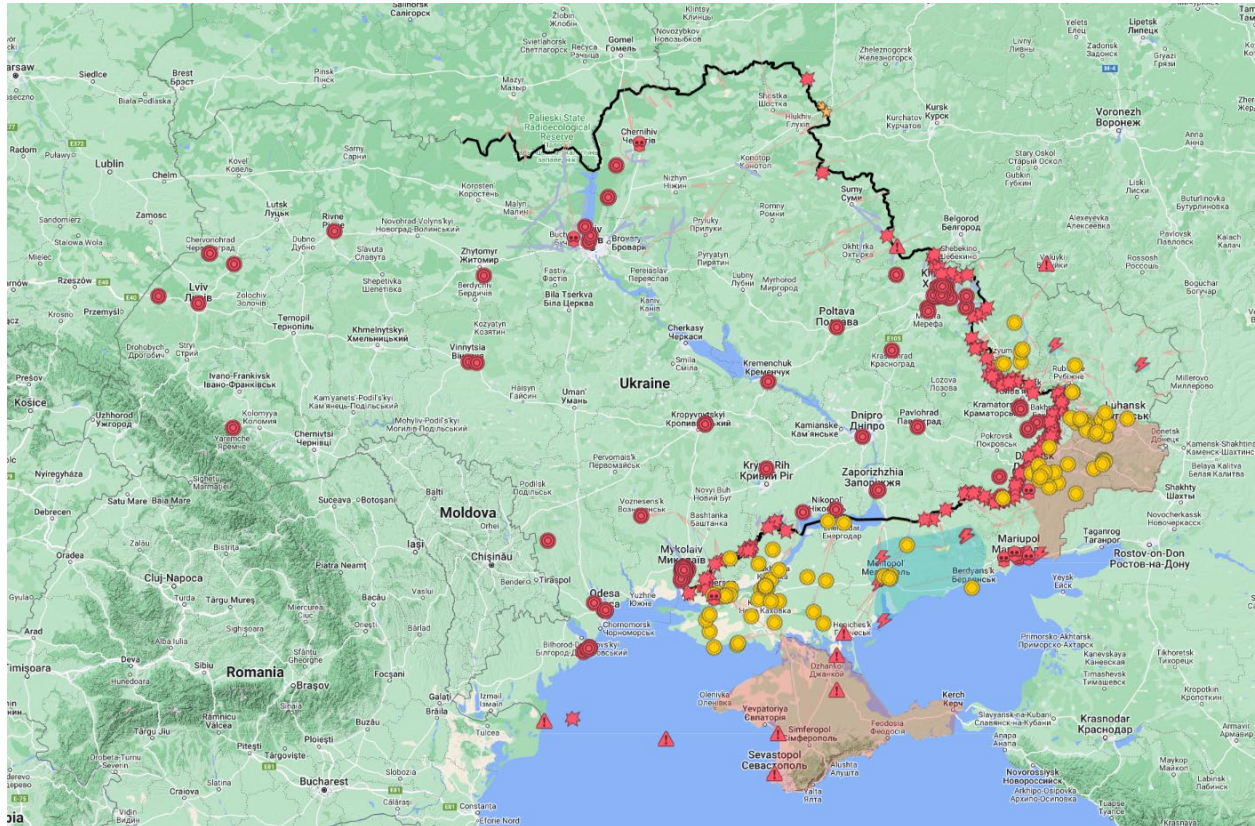
We assess the following:

1. The British Ministry of Intelligence and the ISW assessed that Russian forces had exhausted their combat strength, validating our conclusion from August 19.
2. Russian officials have likely kicked out Ukrainian employees of Energoatom from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to eliminate evidence of its use as a military base in preparation for the agreed-to International Atomic Energy Agency inspection.
3. There is a very high chance of multiple and significant punitive strikes against Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure the week of August 22 due to attacks on Belgorod, Russian-occupied Crimea, the assassination

of Darya Dugina, and Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations on August 24.

4. The Kremlin will likely be forced to push back the planned September 11 referendum due to the security situation in the occupied territories and a lack of progress on capturing new territory.
5. We maintain the battlefield is frozen across Ukraine, and time is running out for both belligerents to launch brigade or army-sized offensives.
6. The initiative will go to the first belligerent who can make brigade or larger-sized offensives on any front.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

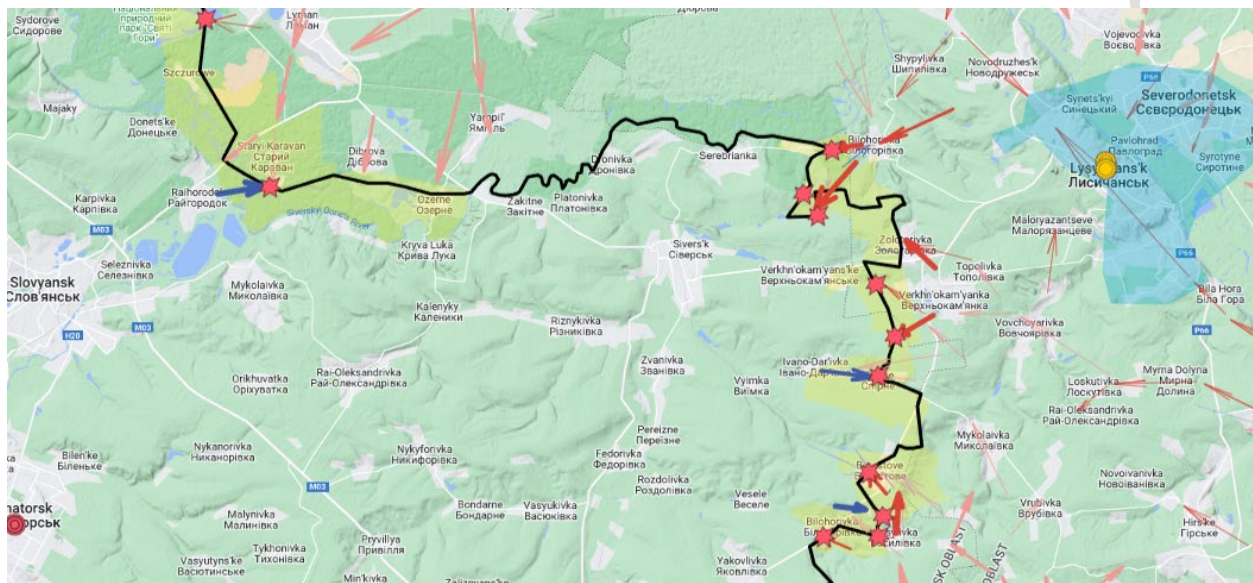


Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we have moved the "flags" into the category of "Archived Offensives." 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>

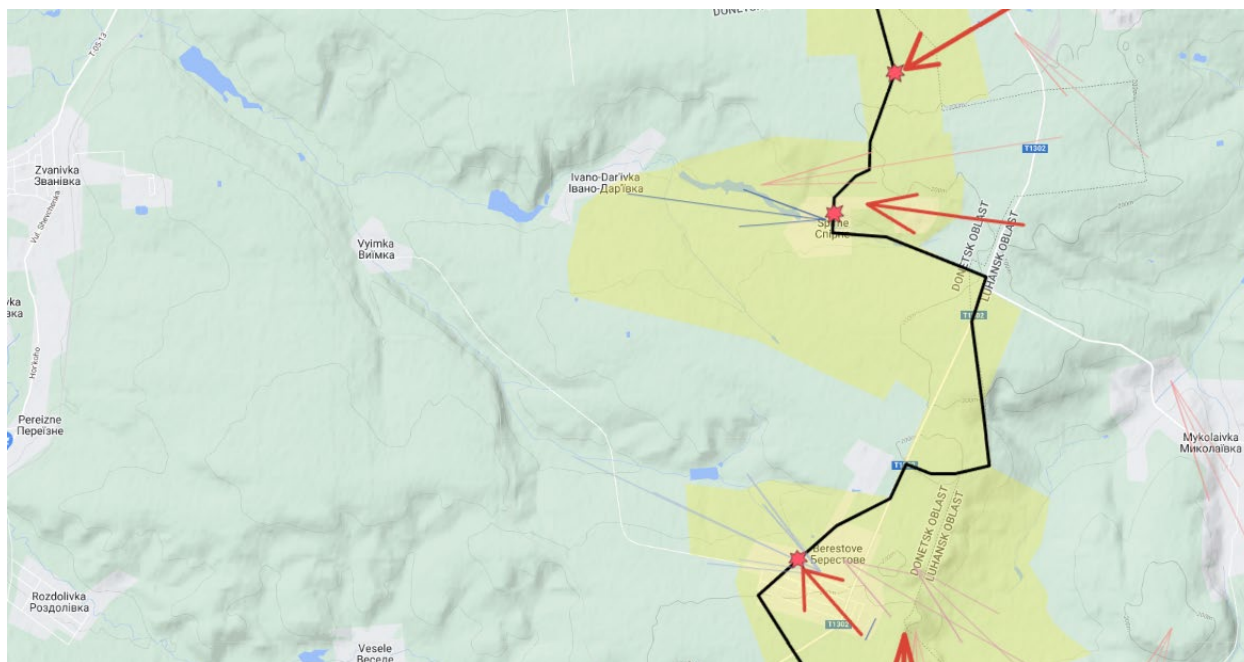
DONBAS REGION

SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



Russian Objective: Maintain territorial control and Ground Lines of Communication, control insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent advances on Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk, support insurgents, exploit weaknesses, interdict supplies



Along the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border, it was as calm as it could possibly be for a war zone. At the time of publication, Russian forces were attempting to advance on [Vesele](#) [Donetsk] from [Spirne](#).¹

Siversk and the surrounding settlements were shelled, as was Ivano-Daryivka.

An ammunition depot in Alchevsk was destroyed in a rocket attack launched by HIMARS.² Social media videos showed a large fire with multiple secondary explosions. One of the

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

² <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1561473111031259138>

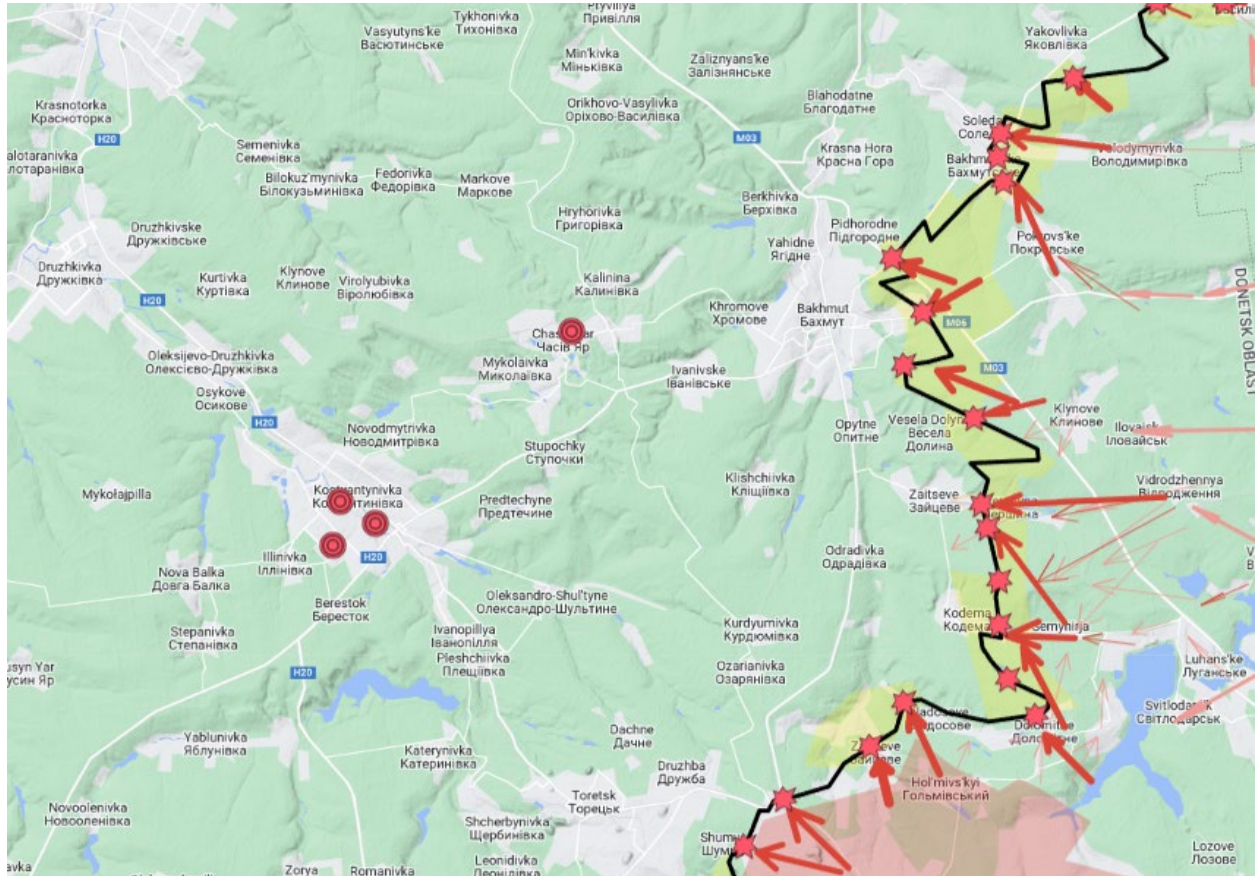
videos [featured a colorful editorial](#), from a man reporting on the scene. (NSFW, wear headphones if you're around people who speak Russian)

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 17

On August 13, we assessed there would be continued sporadic fighting in northeast Donetsk, but we did not anticipate renewed significant combat operations. That assessment was tested this week. The 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) is combat ineffective and incapable of carrying out offensive operations even with the support of Russian artillery.

The destruction of the command center for the 2nd Army Corps in Lysychansk and the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group headquarters in Popasna may have degraded decision-making capabilities. We maintain that any additional fighting in this region before mud season will be positional, spoiling attacks, and probes.

BAKHMUT

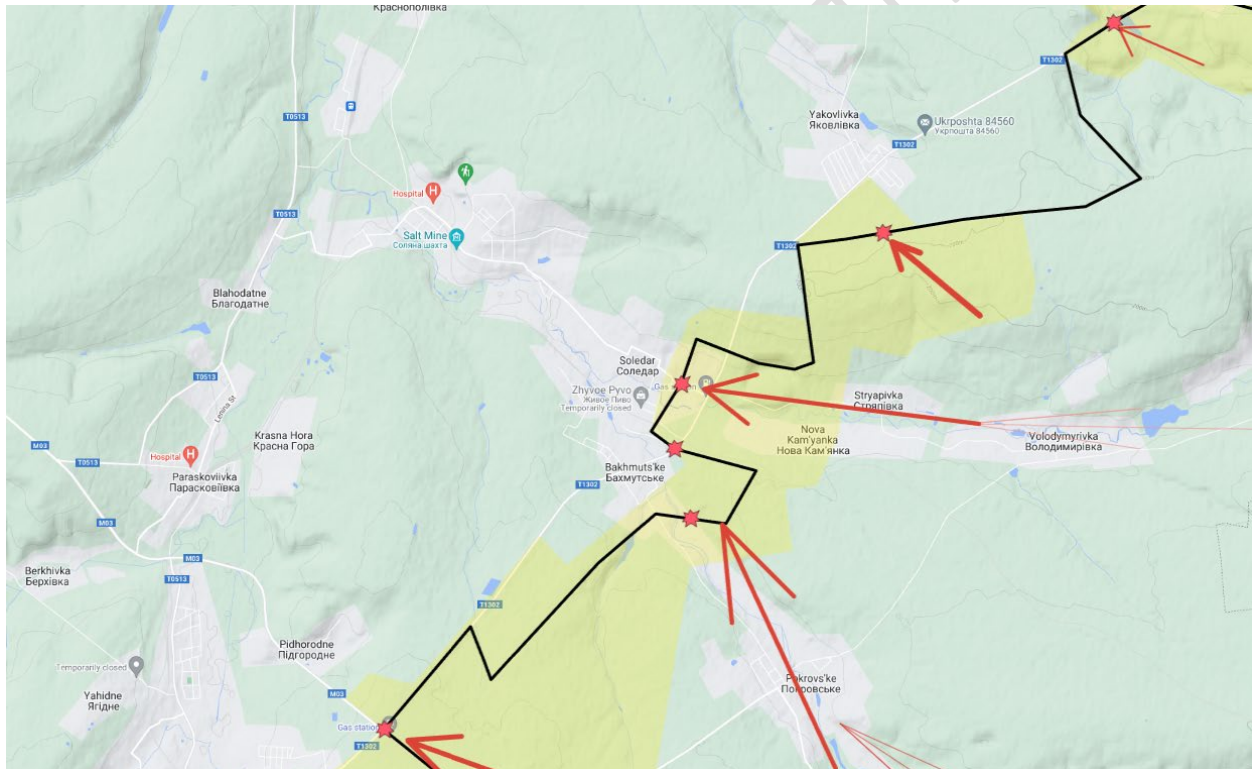


Russian Objective: Capture the Bakhmut-Soledar complex and collapse the Svitlodarsk salient before August 31, interdict the Bakhmut-Siversk T-5013 Highway GLOC

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

Russian forces have likely exhausted their combat power east of Bakhmut and in the Svitlodarsk bulge.

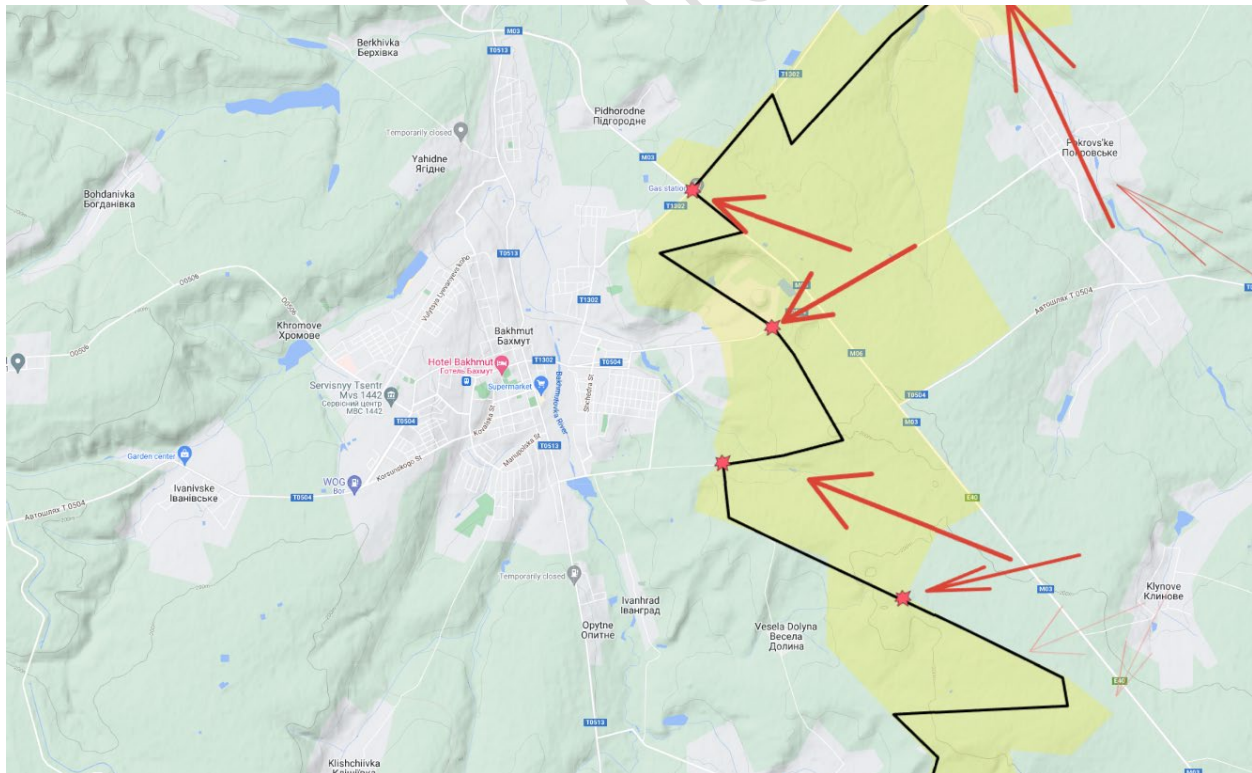
The settlements of Yakovlivka and Vesela Dolyna were shelled, but Russian forces didn't attempt to advance on either settlement.



PMC Wagner Group and elements of the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) attempted to advance beyond the KNAUF-GIPS sheetrock factory on the eastern outskirts of [Soledar](#). They also tried to advance into

[Bakhmutske](#) without success.^{3 4 5} Pro-Russian sources claim the 6th Cossack Tank Regiment is “deep in Bakhmutske” after claiming the same unit was “deep in Soledar” on August 20.

ASSESSMENT: Main battle tanks aren't effective in urban warfare without significant light infantry support. In our assessment, it is doubtful that armored vehicles are leading a successful advance into either settlement.

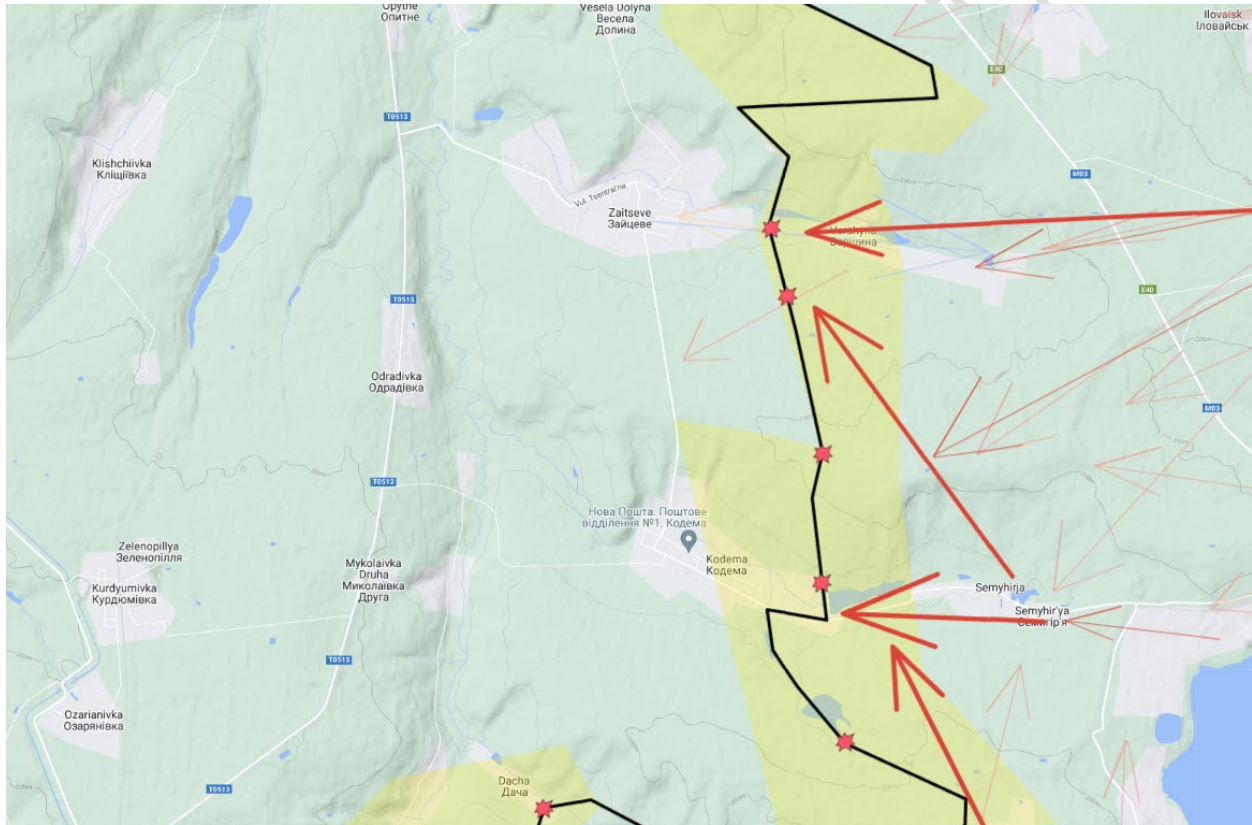


³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

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

⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/37535>

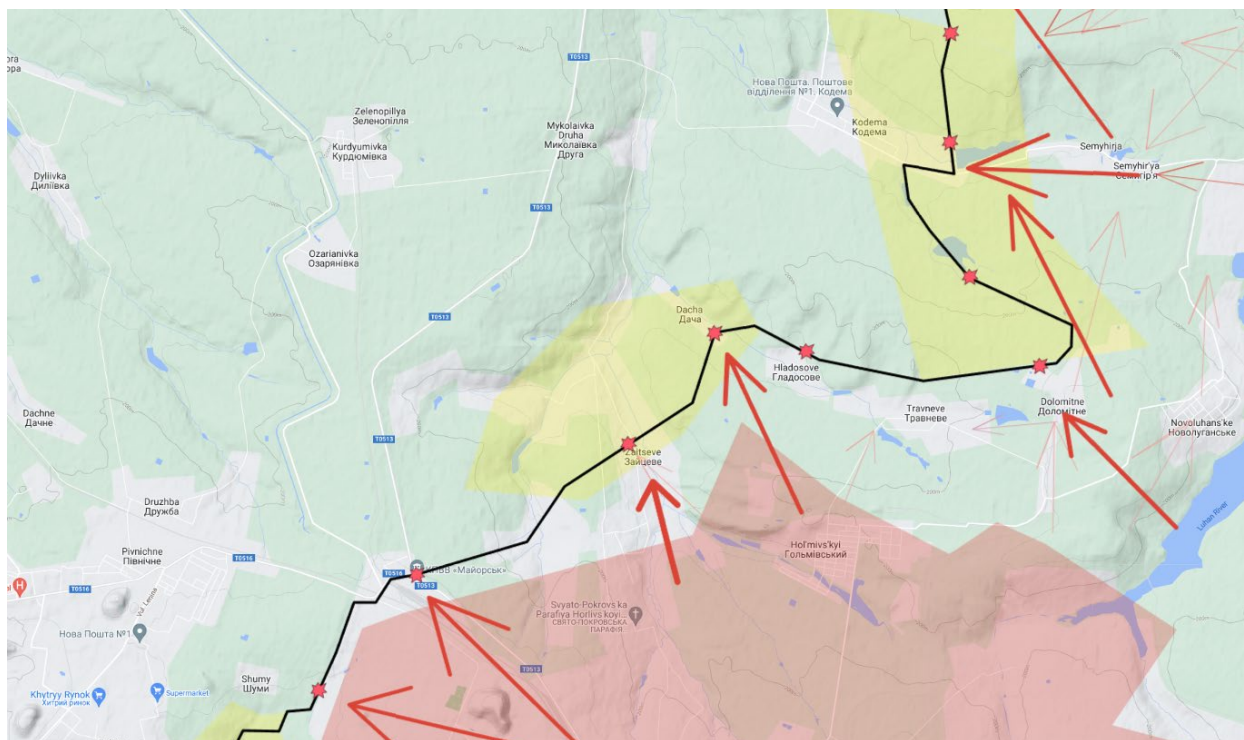
Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, supported by the LNR separatists, remains on the outskirts of [Bakhmut](#). The 58th Mechanized Brigade of Ukraine [shot down a Russian Su-25](#) ground attack aircraft.⁶



Russian forces continued their attacks on [Zaitseve](#), 10 kilometers southeast of Bakhmut, striking from two

⁶ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1561351160153444353>

directions. Ukrainian defensive positions withstood the assaults.



In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces attacked [Kodema](#) from three directions but failed to dislodge Ukrainian defenders. A new offensive was launched from Hladosove in the northwest direction, which was [unsuccessful](#).

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 8

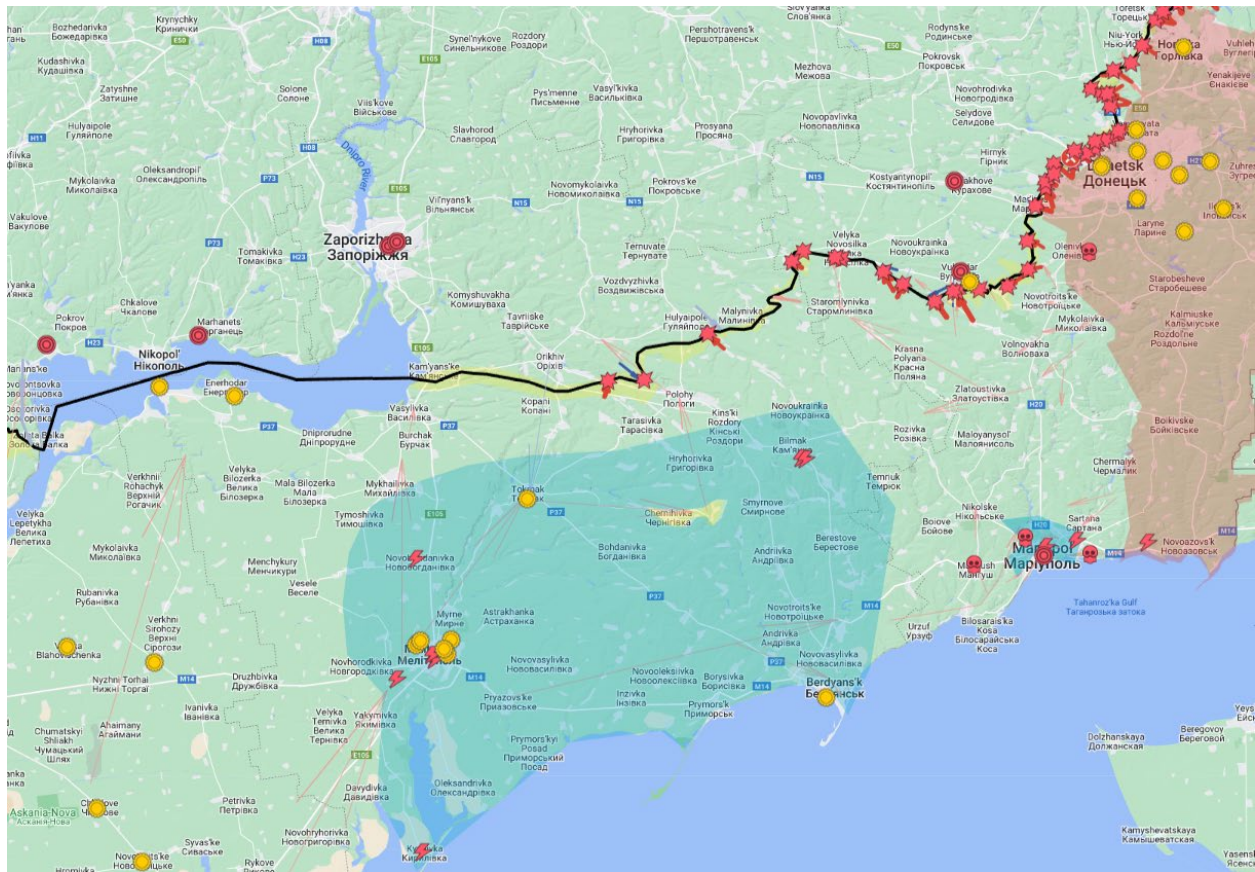
In simplest terms, grunts with guns take territory, and grunts with guns hold territory. The Russian military

doesn't have enough well-trained and well-equipped grunts with guns to support multiple offensive operations near Bakhmut and Donetsk while reinforcing defensive lines in Zaporizhia and Kherson.

The situation east of Soledar and Bakhmut has stabilized, but defending troops eventually must be rotated.

In attritional warfare, Ukraine can't compete. The question is, does Russia have enough troops left to throw at Soledar and Bakhmut and write off the casualties?

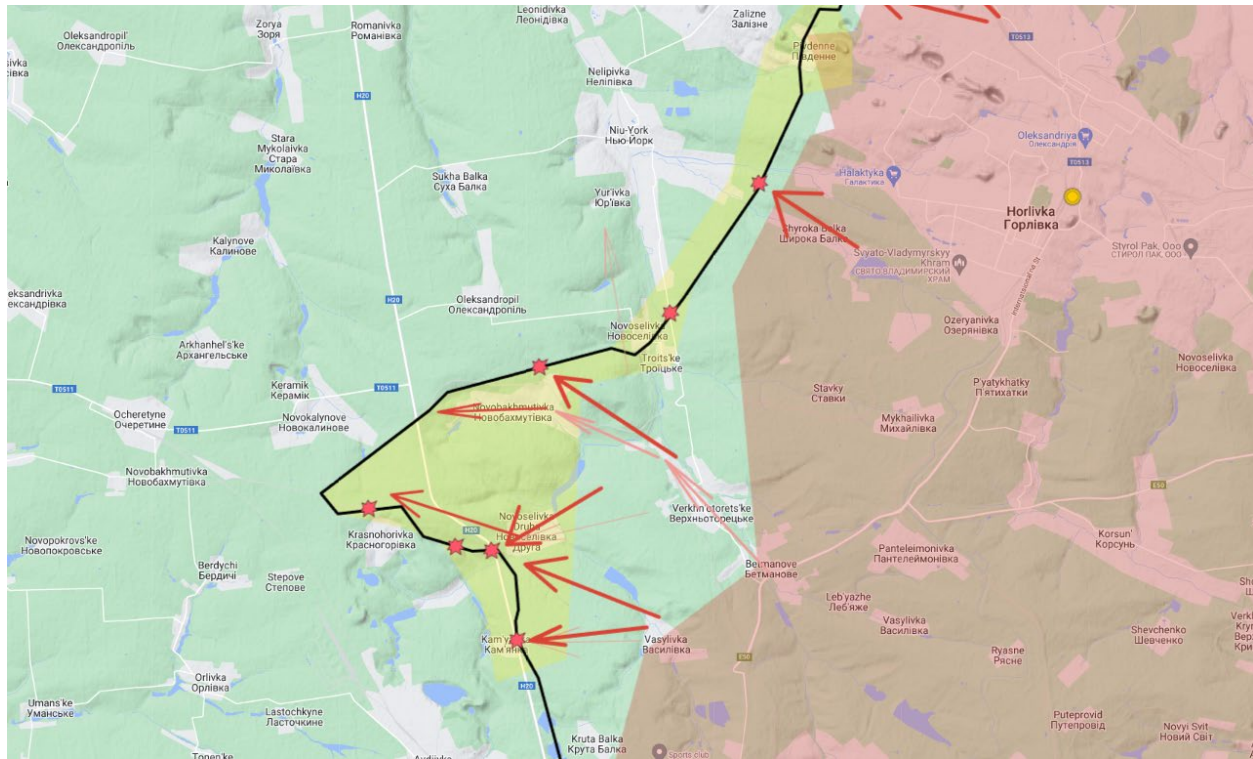
SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Capture the Donetsk oblast to its administrative borders before August 31, push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dnipro River

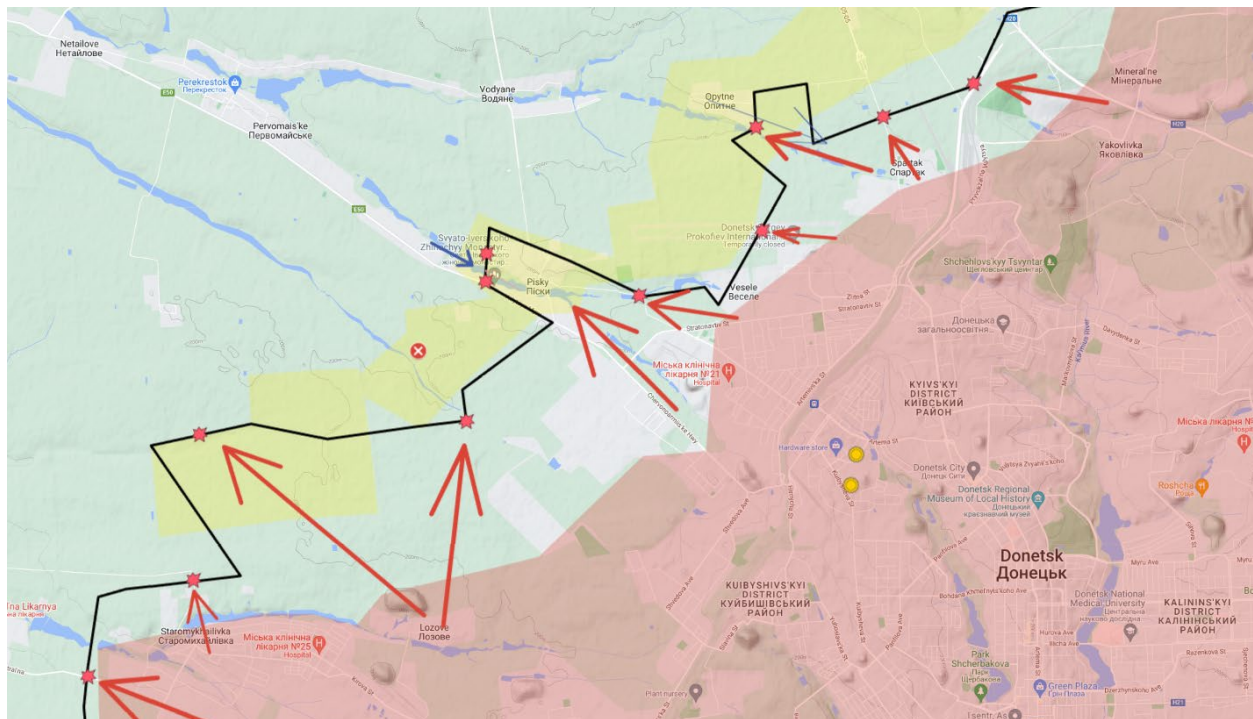
Ukrainian Objective: Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, and prepare for or convince

Russian forces they are preparing for a widescale counteroffensive



An attempted advance on [Niu York](#) by Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) separatists ended in failure.

North of Avdiivka DNR separatists fought positional battles near [Krasnohorivka](#) but could not improve their tactical situation.

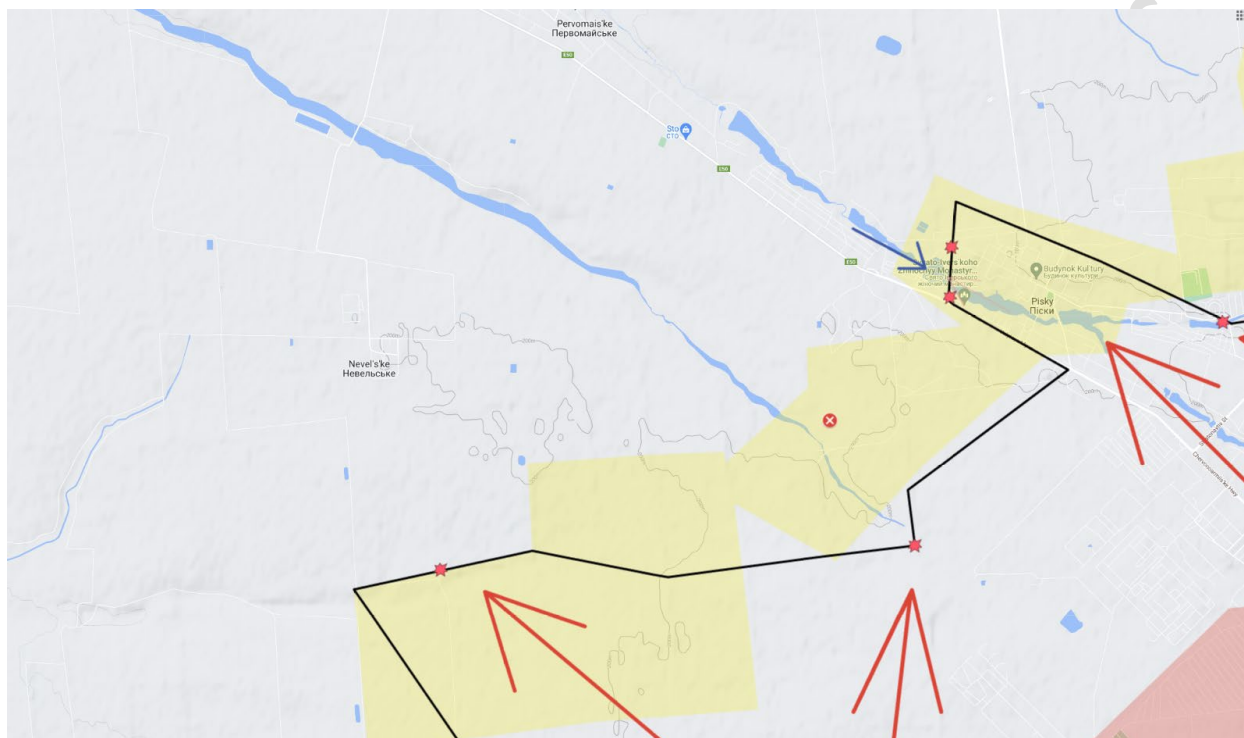


West of Donetsk, elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR attempted to advance on [Optyne](#) and [Pisky](#) using reconnaissance in force without success. Ramzan Kadyrov claimed that Pisky had been captured on August 21.⁷ This adds to a long list of claims from the Russian Ministry of Defense and DNR officials, which began on August 5. Despite the new claim, Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions in the northern part of Pisky on the same day.

ASSESSMENT: We maintain Pisky is a no man's land with Ukrainian forces still in the northern part, along the E-50

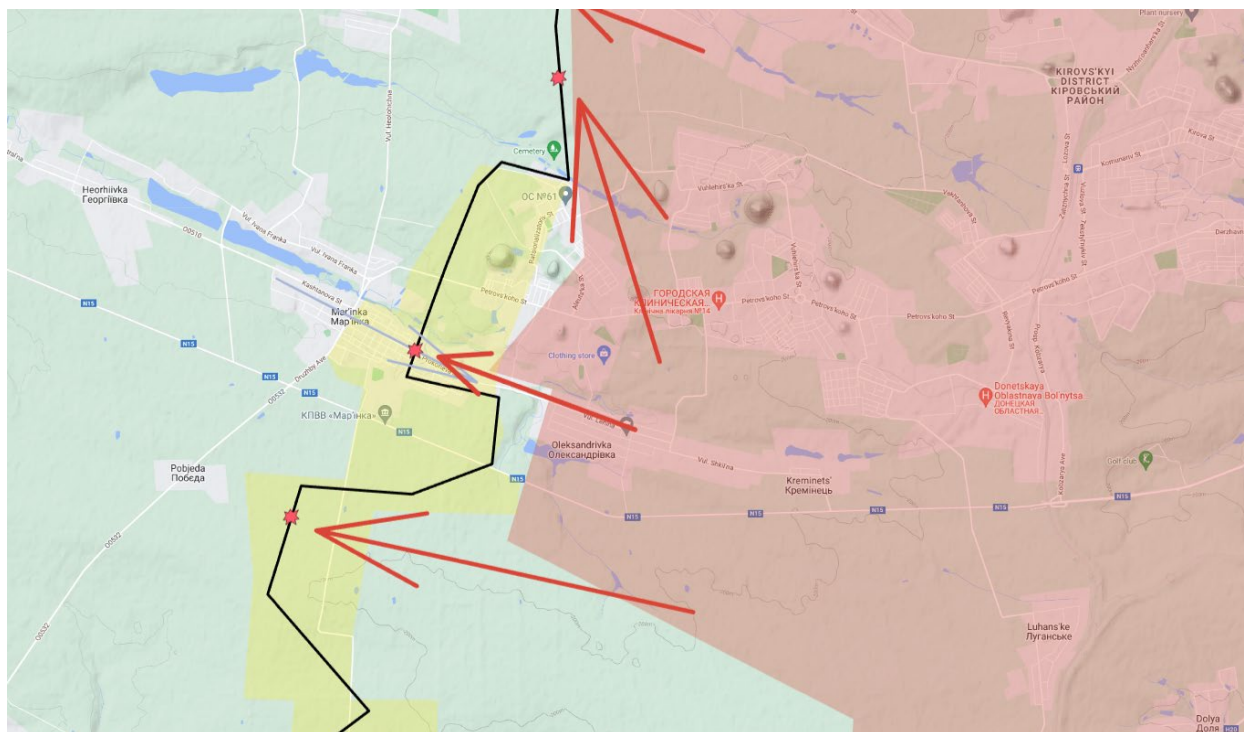
⁷ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3112>

Ring Road, and north toward Vesele. The first attack on Pisky was recorded on July 22.



Separatist troops made another attempt to advance on [Pervomaiske](#) across the open country to the south but lacked armor support. The village of [Nevel'ske](#) was attacked from two directions, but a lack of tanks made moving across the open fields near impossible for light infantry forces.⁸

⁸ <https://t.me/rybar/3753>



DNR separatists tried to improve their positions in eastern [Marinka](#) using reconnaissance in force. The understaffed unit was ineffective. The Russian air force conducted air strikes on Ukrainian positions.

1st Army Corps of the DNR tried to flank Marinka from the south, launching an offensive from Luhanske in the direction of [Pobieda](#). Consistent results were achieved, with the advance ending in failure.

In Donetsk, rockets fired from HIMARS made a precision strike on a large ammunition depot in the eastern part of

the city.^{9 10 11} Videos [recorded by residents](#) caught the [distinct sound](#) of a HIMAR strike.^{12 13} The ammunition depot was in a residential neighborhood adjacent to a hospital and an Auchan grocery store supercenter.¹⁴



Hours after the strike, ammunition was still cooking off at the burning complex. [An amazing drone video](#) was released showing explosions still happening in the morning.¹⁵

⁹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27126>

¹⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27125>

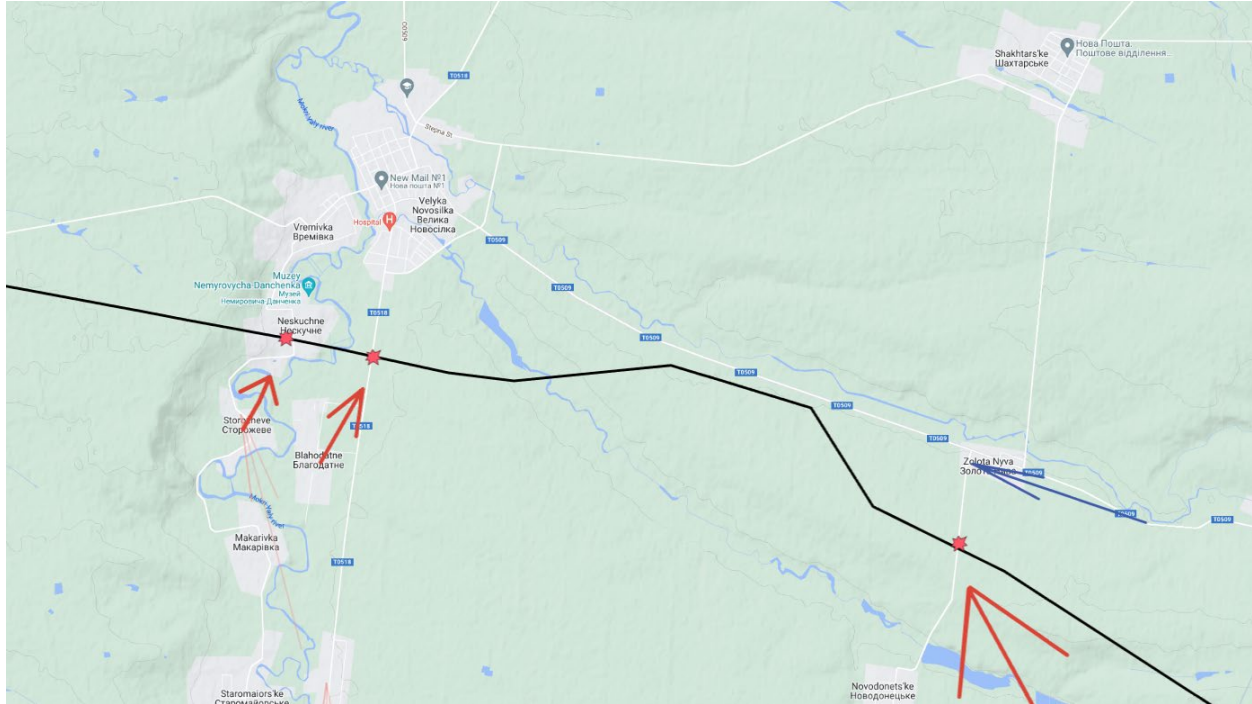
¹¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27131>

¹² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27121>

¹³ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27114>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27130>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1561633436934082560>



On the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces tried to advance on the Velyka Novosilka suburb of [Neskuchne](#) and were unsuccessful.

There continued to be reduced artillery fire west of [Velyka Novosilka](#).

Insurgents in Melitopol discovered a Russian soldier sexually assaulting an underage girl. The soldier was surrounded and attacked by a mob, who alleged slit his throat.

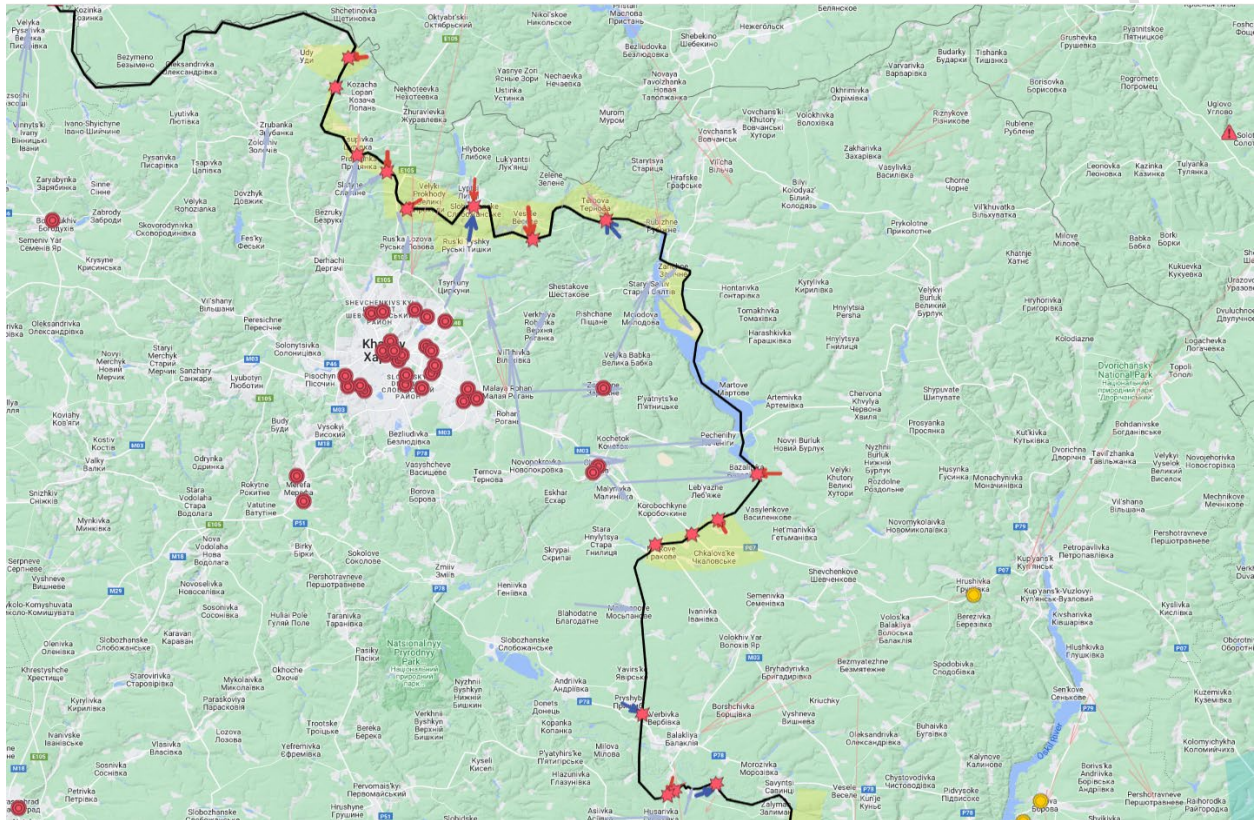
ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 16

We assess that Russian forces can't secure the remainder of the Donbas before August 31.

In southern Ukraine, Russian forces continue to press Ukrainian defensive lines due to the arrival of reinforcements and testing capabilities. It is also likely an attempt to spread out Ukrainian resources to delay or prevent the next phase of the ongoing counteroffensive.

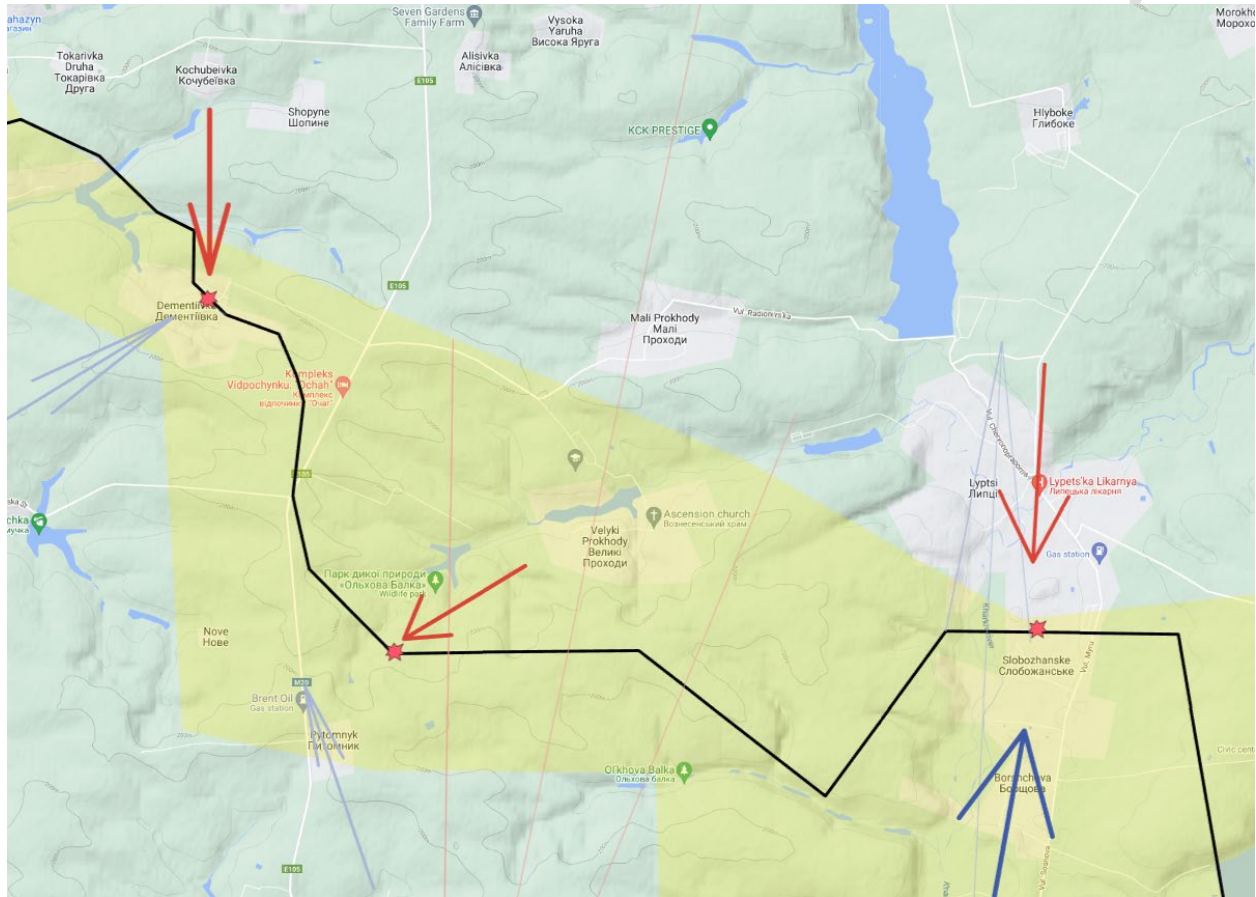
KHARKIV REGION

NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukraine from reaching the international border with Russia, protect the Belgorod-Kupyansk GLOC, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC



Local news organizations reported that Russian forces launched offensives on [Dementivka](#) and [Pytomnyk](#).

Russian forces launched S300 anti-aircraft missiles in a ground-to-ground capacity on Kharkiv, hitting the Kyiv

district.¹⁶ A two-story building was destroyed, but there wasn't any other information on damage or casualties.

ASSESSMENT: Russia is starting to use S-300 missiles as quasi-short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) almost theaterwide. After six months of the war, supplies of Iskander-M SRBMs have likely been exhausted beyond their strategic reserve for national defense. Some S-300 missiles were upgraded in 2016 with GPS to support ground-to-ground attacks versus ground-to-air. However, the fragmentation warhead on an anti-aircraft missile is ineffective against reinforced military targets, and despite the upgrade, the missiles have an accuracy of +/- 50 meters. Russia moved Tochka-U launchers into the Donbas in July, which is another sign that the supply of modern SRBMs is running out.

There was no other ground fighting northwest, north, northeast, or southeast of Kharkiv. Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery, rocket, and tank fire.

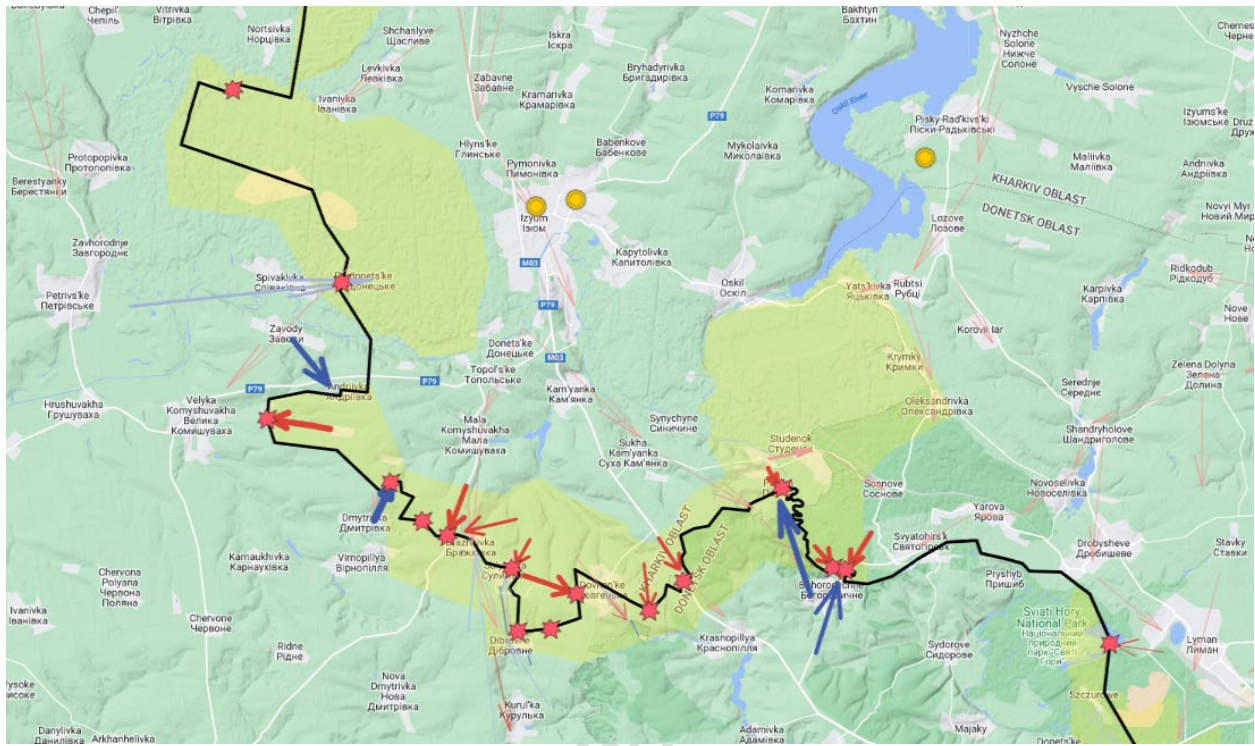
ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 11

¹⁶ <https://t.me/kharkivlife/47064>

Our assessment on August 10 that Russian forces were testing the capabilities of the Ukrainian territorial guard taking over the defense of Izyum was correct. Positional fighting, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses will continue to occur.

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IZYUM AXIS



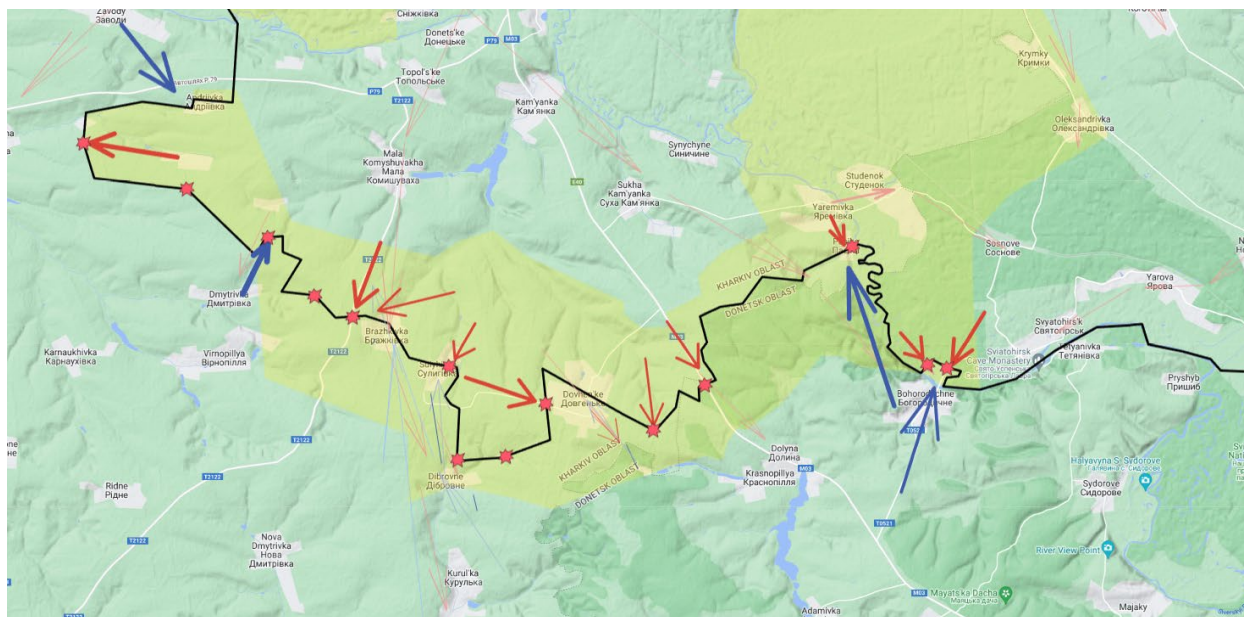
Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces back to end shelling on Izyum, protect Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) west and north of Izyum

Ukrainian Objective: Defend against advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict

Russian forces are attempting to push Ukrainian artillery positions further south to end the shelling of Izyum.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian troops are having supply issues on the Izyum axis. The amount of artillery fire was significantly reduced. Russian forces broke tradition and did not shell any settlements in the Chepil area, with the Russian air force launching an attack on Husarivka.

Russian ground forces attempted numerous advances southwest, south, and southeast of Izyum. They did not benefit from an artillery advantage, and the advances were made by understaffed and undertrained units and did not employ combined arms tactics. It is, for this reason, none of the advances were successful.



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Dmytrivka](#) and [Bohorodychne](#) using reconnaissance in force.

Russian units attacked Ukrainian positions in [Dibrovne](#), [Dolyna](#), and [Karnaukhivka](#). They also tried to advance in the direction of [Nova Dmytrivka](#) from Brazhkivka.

Ukrainian artillery continues to dominate the "Sherwood Forest" region west of Izyum, [shredding Russian forward operating bases](#), firebases, and armored vehicles trying to hide in the forests.¹⁷

¹⁷ https://twitter.com/Arslon_Xudosi/status/1560549878648172544

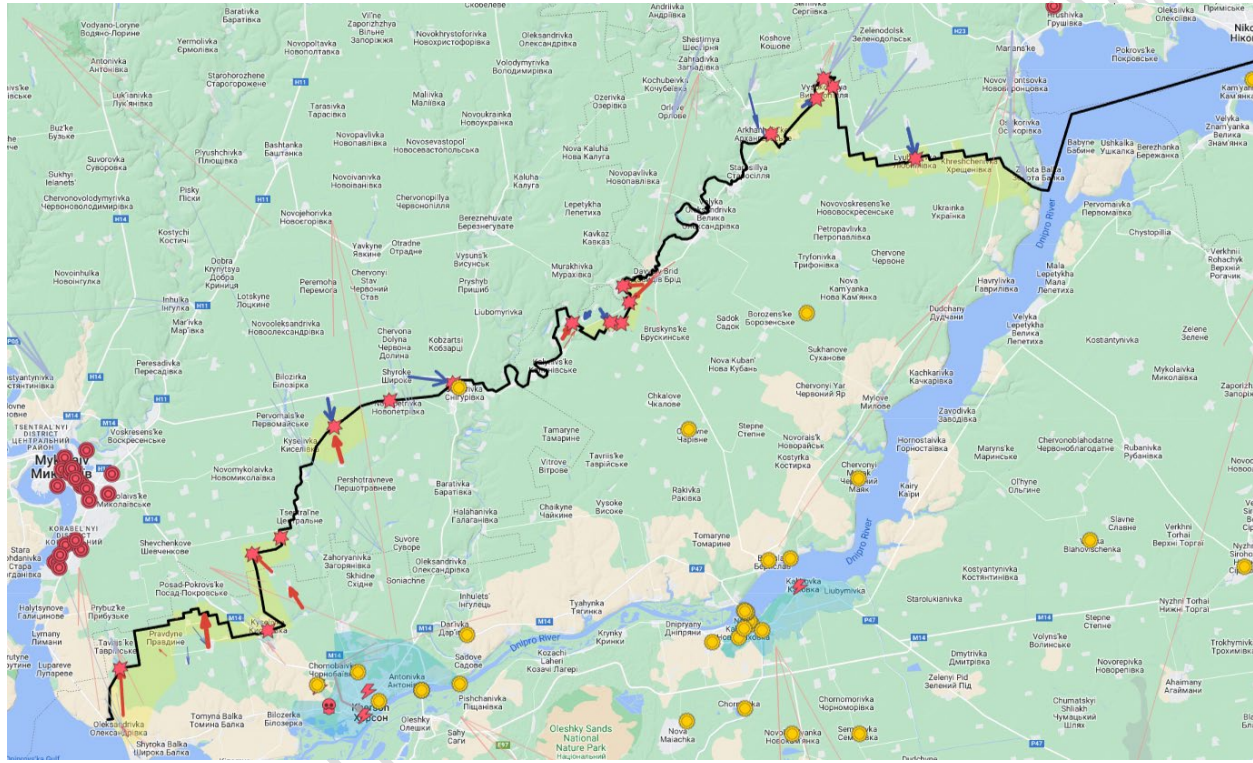
ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 7

We remain unwilling to call the ongoing action by Ukrainian forces a counteroffensive. We maintain that Russian forces between Avdriivka and Kopanky are now in a salient and at moderate risk of encirclement if Ukrainian forces were to make a breakthrough.

It is implausible that Russian forces can secure the Donetsk oblast by August 31 without securing Slovyansk as part of that self-declared deadline.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

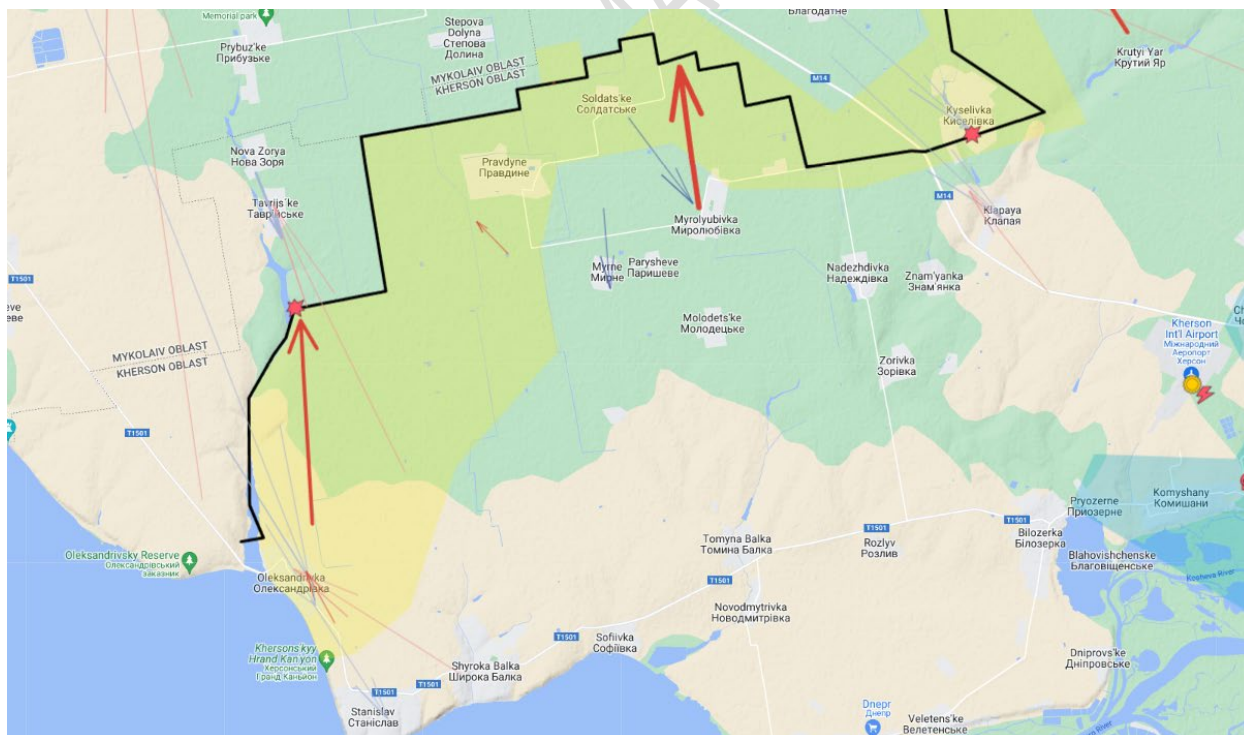
KHERSON



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces out of artillery range of Kherson and critical Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines), prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive by building defenses, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

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

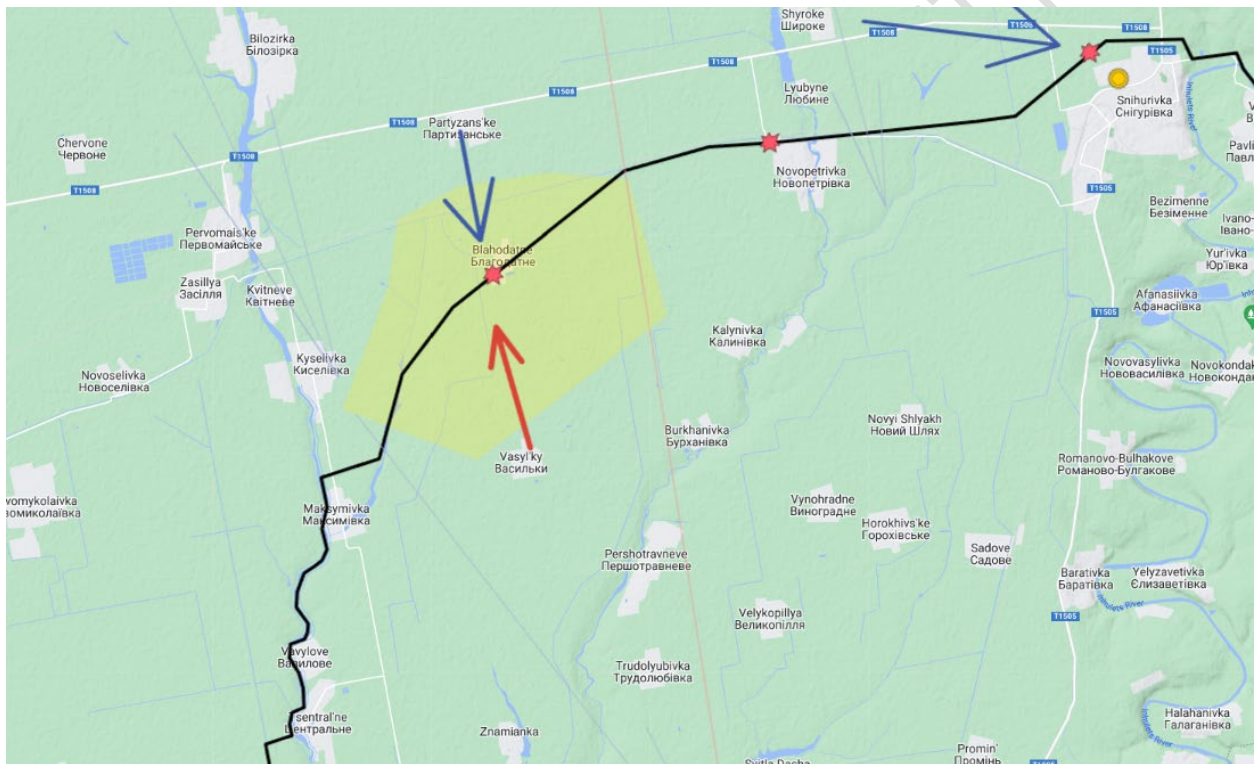
Twenty-four hours after Russian state media broke operational security (OPSEC) in Nova Kakhovka, showing that the bridge at Kakhovka dam was possibly still serviceable, [a video showed 12 rockets from HIMARS slamming into the bridge.](#)^{18 19}



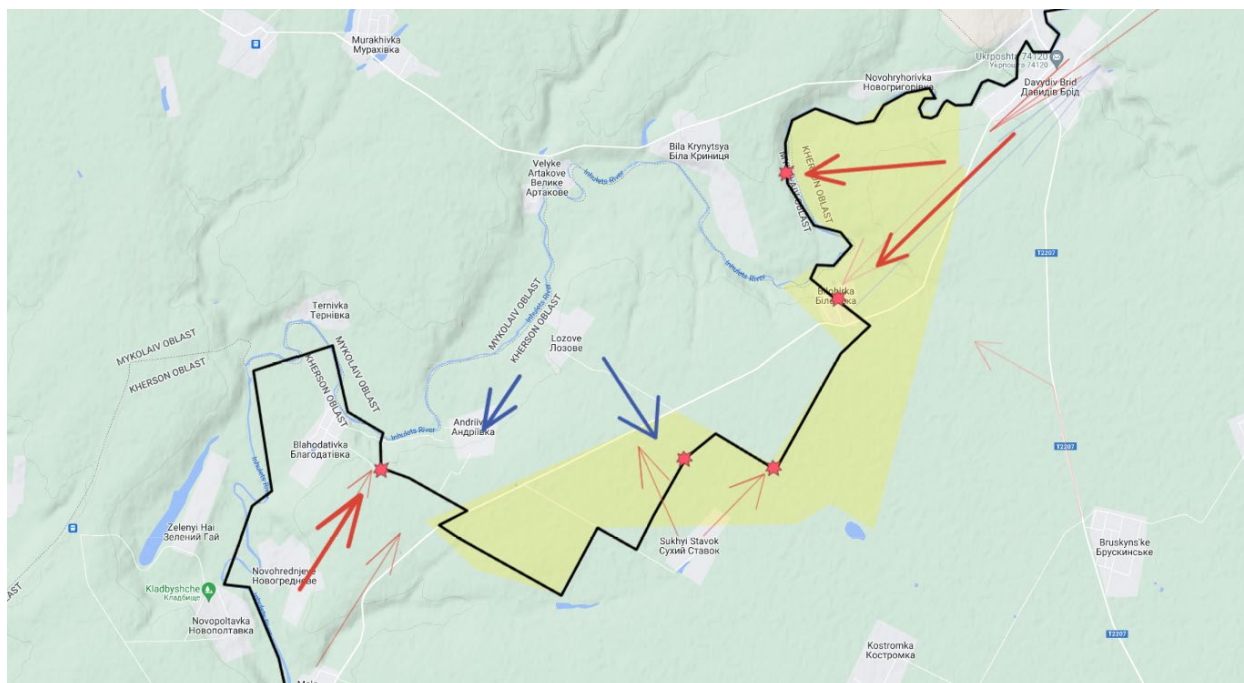
¹⁸ https://twitter.com/search?q=nova%20kakhovka&src=typeahead_click

¹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=319597116406531>

Russian airborne troops (VDV) continued their attempts to advance on [Tavrijs'ke](#) from Oleksandrivka, supported by the Russian air force and artillery. They could not improve their positions over the open terrain and were attacked by the Ukrainian air force.



Russian forces continued attempts to capture [Blahodatne](#) [Mykolaiv] and remained unsuccessful.



Ukrainian forces launched offensives on [Novohrednjeve](#) and [Sukhyi Stavok](#), intending to expand the Inhulets River bridgehead.²⁰ Fighting was described as intense. However, Ukrainian troops did not capture either settlement.^{21 22}

With all four GLOCs severed for Russian troops on the west bank of the Dniester River, resupply will have to be done by barge, ferry, and helicopter. Carrying fuel, replacement equipment, artillery shells, and rockets will be challenging to sustain and support 25,000 soldiers.

²⁰ <https://t.me/rybar/37525>

²¹ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1561585092702547973

²² <https://t.me/strelkovii/3108>

The Russian Ministry of Defense has continued to send reinforcements west of the Dnipro, with 3,000 elite VDV troops arriving in the last week, swelling the number of troops to 25,000.²³ That is almost 20% of the entire occupation force in Ukraine, including LNR, DNR, Chechen, terrorists with the Imperial Legion, and PMC Wagner. Ukraine has been targeting ammunition and supply depots, logistics centers, and GLOCs, although the amount of supplies available in Kherson is unclear.

The first indication of supply issues is already emerging, with complaints online about drinking water shortages in supply drops and only receiving "dry rations" for meals. Another sign that supply issues have already started is the S-300 missile attacks on Mykolaiv have ended. Suppress Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) missions by Ukraine have helped limit the attacks, but a lack of supply of the larger S300 anti-aircraft missiles is likely contributing to the issue.

Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) are designed to operate for three to five days independent of resupply. Signs that the supply situation is getting more severe won't appear for weeks but would include abandoned vehicles,

²³ [Stars & Stripes](#)

increasing complaints about a lack of resources on Telegram, VK, and Live Journal, looting for food and fuel, and a reduction in artillery fire among front line units.

With mud season 30 to 45 days away and the first snow in 60 to 75 days, complaints about a lack of cold weather gear, hypothermia, and low morale from living in the mud would be another indicator that the supply situation is worsening.

There remain significant questions on when and if there will be a counteroffensive, and Kyiv has become increasingly contradictory on what will be next. Some officials have told the press that the counteroffensive has already started, including President Zelenskyy earlier in the week. An anonymous source close to the Ukrainian government told the Washington Post there would be no counteroffensive because Ukraine doesn't have the resources.

"We have to be honest - for now, Ukraine doesn't have a sufficient number of weapons systems for a counteroffensive. It's still possible to get a result, but if so, it will be the result of smart Ukraine strategy more than of countering Russia with equal power."

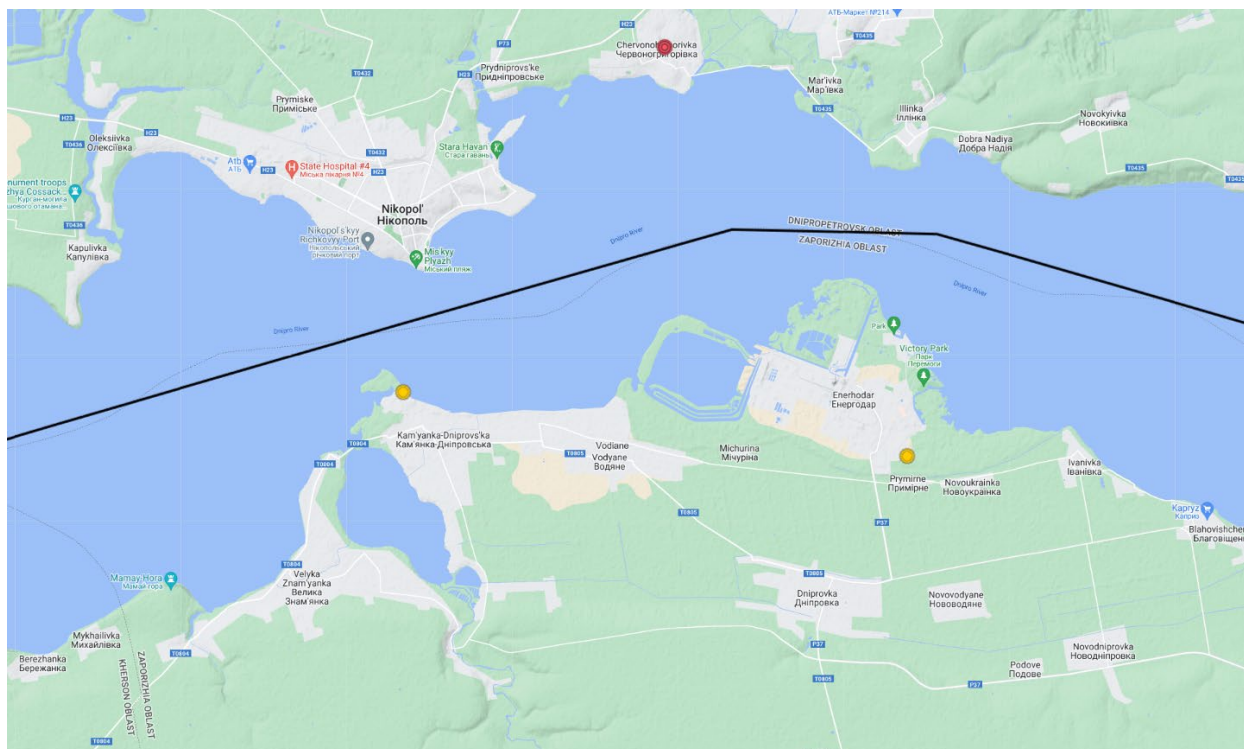
The appearance of Czech hedgehogs in Kherson, Russian forces fearful of moving on the streets due to partisan activity, Russian commanders leaving the region, and local government and junior military officers occupying Kherson hospitals and schools to avoid HIMARS attacks all point to the same fact.

Regardless of what we may assess or think or what the Ukrainian government is saying – the Kremlin believes a counteroffensive is coming, and it will fight to hold the western half of the Kherson oblast.

DNIPROPETROVSK AND ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prepare and stage for a counterattack, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict



The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is unchanged. None of the parties involved in negotiations to allow inspectors into the power plant have set a date for when the International Atomic Energy Agency will arrive.

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Nikopol was hit by Grad rockets fired from the Zaporizhzhia NPP region.²⁴ Over 40 rockets landed in the city, damaging

²⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/22/7364256/>

50 private homes, a kindergarten, the city court, stores, and a bus stop. There were no reported injuries.²⁵

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources in places, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain enough force strength on the border with Russia to prevent Russian troops from crossing

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that the settlements of Bilopillia, Khotin, and Velykopysarivska were shelled from across the international border with Russia. There were no injuries, and none of the strikes caused major damage.²⁶

In Chernihiv, the settlements of Muravyi and Zaliznyi Mist were shelled. There were no reports of damage or injuries.²⁷

²⁵ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1617>

²⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/22/7364247/>

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

KYIV REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

Russia fired five Kalibr cruise missiles into the Odesa Oblast. Two were shot down, with three landing in the area of Maiors'ke. Ukraine claims there was no damage, and three warehouses holding grain were damaged or destroyed. The Russian Ministry of Defense claims they destroyed an ammunition depot filled with M30/M31 HIMARS rockets. Neither belligerent provided evidence to support their claims, and we cannot validate the veracity of either report.

The Black Sea Fleet has positioned five ships capable of firing Kalibr cruise missiles within range of the Ukrainian coast. There are significant concerns that Russia will launch punitive attacks before, on, or after Ukrainian Independence Day, which is August 24.

Editor's Note: *There are so many reports of explosions in Russian-occupied Crimea that are unfounded or likely air defenses shooting at nothing that we have decided not to report on each incident. It overwhelmed the team, and the volume of fake reports and manipulated images are astonishing.*

Russian air defenses fired at unidentified objects across the Crimea Peninsula, but there were no confirmed drone or missile strikes. Russian sources did not provide any resources to support claims of rockets, missiles, and drones shot down.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Russia's National Republican Army claimed responsibility for the assassination of Daryna Dugina on August 21.²⁸ The

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/christogrozev/status/1561455965815324675>

group claims that they planted an improvised explosive device (IED) under the driver's seat of her father's SUV.

Ilya Ponomarev announced the Russian-based anti-Putin organization was behind the attack. Ponomarev was a member of the Russian State Duma and, in 2014, voted against the annexation of Crimea. In 2016 he fled Russia and reportedly lives in Odesa.²⁹

On August 21, shortly after the explosion that killed Dugina, the NRA (not to be confused with the United States National Rifle Association) released a statement calling for revolt in Russia.³⁰

Russian state media quickly blamed Ukraine for the attack, despite the NRA claiming responsibility and releasing a manifesto.³¹ Margarita Simonyan, the leading propagandist of the Russian Federation, declared, "Kyiv would quake" and called for the destruction of "decision-making centers," which the Kremlin has so far avoided.

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/officejsmart/status/1561441068196843522>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/officejsmart/status/1561457582098845697>

³¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/21/7364186/>

The Russian Ministry of Defense has partially closed the airspace in Lipetsk, Voronezh, and Belgorod oblasts from August 22 to August 25, raising fears of punitive missile strikes or other attacks coming in the week ahead.

ASSESSMENT: To the west, Russia has set up over a dozen anti-aircraft sites capable of firing ground-to-ground missiles in Belarus, putting Kyiv and Chernihiv in range. Between the destruction of the ammunition depot in Belgorod, attacks in Russian-occupied Crimea, Ukrainian Independence Day on August 24, and the assassination of Dugina, we believe that Russia will strike multiple civilian and civilian infrastructure targets across Ukraine in the coming week.

Alexander Nakonechny, the head of Ukraine's security service in the Kirovohrad oblast, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on August 21.³²

SIDEBAR: Suicide is a sensitive topic. If you are having suicidal thoughts or you're despondent, there is help available.

³² <https://euroweeklynews.com/2022/08/21/sbu-head-kirovohrad-alexander-nakonechny-dead/>

- United States: 988 or 800-273-8255 - you can text 741741 – veterans can text 838255
- Canada: 833-456-4566 or text 45645 (text from 4 PM to Midnight EDT)
- United Kingdom: 0800-689-5652 or 999
- Ireland: Freephone 116-123 (Ireland and Northern Ireland) or text 50808 (Ireland only)
- Australia: 13-11-14 or 000 or text 0477-13-11-14
- New Zealand: 0508-828-865 or 111

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian forces fired Smerch rockets armed with cluster munitions into civilian areas of Zelenodolsk in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. One woman was killed, and six people were injured, including a child. All six were hospitalized in serious or critical condition.³³ The use of cluster munitions is not considered a war crime. However, intentionally targeting civilians with cluster munitions is considered a war crime.

Residents in Russian-occupied territories are becoming increasingly frustrated with life under occupation. Pro-Russian accounts report that Lyman, Severodonetsk,

³³ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1622>

Lysychansk, Rubizhne, and other captured cities and towns still have no electricity, water, sewer, natural gas, internet, television service, or garbage collection.³⁴

Lyman, a resort town of 20,000 surrounded by national parks, was captured by Russia in May, and according to the residents under occupation, nothing has been done to improve living conditions. Local occupation forces require bribes, food costs have skyrocketed, and shipments are in short supply. Pensioners are not getting paid and have to disavow their Ukrainian citizenship before they are even considered for pension payments from the Russian Federation.

One person wrote, "In general, Lyman's problems are quite typical for the liberated cities. Sometime after the departure of the army, many residents are left alone with the devastation and lack of everything, as happens in Severodonetsk with Lysychansk."

"Once again, we repeat, "winter is coming." Without an operational and comprehensive approach to the restoration of [the] Donbas, the liberated territories can become a

³⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/37476>

depopulated region with many problems. And this is clearly not the future for which the fighters on the front line fought."

The Donetsk People's Republic plans to put on show trials in Mariupol on August 24 to try members of the Azov Battalion with terrorism and other charges despite a Red Cross-arranged surrender in May. Russia plans to hold its version of the "Nuremberg Trials" and is repairing and converting a concert hall for the spectacle. Allegedly, defendants will be held in metal cages on a stage. There are concerns that summary executions will be carried out immediately after the trial.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the coming trial and called it a red line. "No matter what the occupiers are thinking, no matter what they are planning, the reaction of our state will be absolutely clear. If this despicable show trial takes place, if our people are made to take part in this spectacle in violation of all agreements, all international rules, if there is abuse... This will be the line beyond which any negotiations are impossible. Russia will cut itself off from the negotiations. There will be no more conversations. Our state has said everything."

There are reports that Russia will delay the referendum planned for September 11 in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, and Kherson due to the security situation and lack of progress in securing new territory. The self-declared leader of the Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, said on August 15 that there wouldn't be a referendum until all of the areas of the Donbas had been captured.

GEOPOLITICAL

The Center for Political Innovation, a United States group aligned with the National Bolshevik Party created by Eduard Limonov and Alexander Dugin, announced it was dissolving on the same day Darya Dugina was assassinated.³⁵ A statement on its website gave no reason for the sudden closure.³⁶ The organization [held a conference](#) in Chicago on August 6, displaying the Chinese flag, the letter Z, and the flag of the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic.³⁷

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/EliotHiggins/status/1561487089761456137>

³⁶ <https://cpiusa.org/>

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82ze7VlwrEY>



Dugin split with the party in 1998 over disagreements with other leaders. His departure caused the group to lurch further left, and the organization now condemns Dugin as a fascist. The organization's crest and flag co-opted Nazi designs and imagery and were designed by Dugin. The defunct Center for Political Innovation's use of Russian icons, which some consider fascist, opposed their platform and alignment with Nazbol ideology.

ECONOMIC

It has been 20 days since the first ship loaded with grain left a Ukrainian port. Since the program started, 27 vessels

loaded with grain, meal, and sunflower oil have departed, and another 18 have arrived to be loaded.³⁸

Dairy farmers in occupied Luhansk are paid one-seventh of what they received from Ukraine for milk by occupation officials.³⁹ Farmers say they would dump the milk under better circumstances as the money doesn't cover operating expenses, care for dairy cows, or even basic survival. Forced with no other work options or potential forced conscription, they are selling their milk to the occupiers.

The rouble is set to open unchanged on Monday, with the exchange rate at 60 for one US dollar in early trading.

Oil is expected to decline when trading opens on Monday, with WTI crude opening between \$89 and \$90 a barrel and Brent crude around \$95. United states RBOB wholesale gasoline is expected to open lower, trading around \$2.95 a gallon.

Chicago SRW wheat futures will also open lower, between 74 and 75 cents a bushel for December 2022 delivery.

³⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/20/7364146/>

³⁹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/5163>