



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 128

It has been 3,046 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Russian forces continued to make gains in the Severodonetsk salient south and northwest of Lysychansk, but their progress has slowed considerably.

Russian and Chechen forces supported by Russia-backed separatists captured the settlement of Pryvillia northwest of Lysychansk after making and defending a wet crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River.

The line of conflict south and southwest of Lysychansk is little changed in the last 24 hours. Russian forces have not advanced further in the southeastern lowlands, held at the edge of Bila Hora. Ukrainian forces continue to defend the west bank of the Siveryski Donets River.

Fighting continues around the children's hospital and rubber factory. Russian forces claim to have advanced and recaptured the gelatin factory, but there was no supporting information to back up the claim.

Intense fighting continues for control of the Verkhokamyanka oil refinery with no change in territorial control. There is intense fighting in the Russian controlled part of the refinery. The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces claims that Russian forces have been pushed east of the Bakhmut-Lysychansk T-1302 Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – aka supply line), but no information supports the claim.

Russian forces captured the settlement of Toplivka, north of the oil refinery, adding pressure to the GLOCs that support Lysychansk. Russian forces also advanced from Vovchoyarivka and reached Maloyazantseve, about 5 kilometers south of the Lysychansk plateau.

East of Bakhmut, Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, supported by Russia-backed separatists, tried to improve their positions on the eastern edge of Klynove but were unsuccessful.

Fighting continued in the Svitlodarsk bulge in Dolomitne and Novoluhanske. Ukrainian forces continued to hold their positions at the Vuhledar Power Plant.

There were no other attempts by Russian forces to advance west and secure the T-1302 Highway GLOC from Mykolaivka south to Pokrovske. Russian ground forces continued to rely on artillery, Grad rockets, and thermobaric rockets fired from Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS). The artillery barrage around Lysychansk, including Pidlisne, Loskutivka, Vovchoyarivka, and Verkhokamyanka, was similar to the intensity when Russian forces collapsed the Zolote-Hirske salient.

Videos recorded before June 28 provided definitive evidence that the salient on the east bank of the Inhulets River between Davydiv Brid and Lozove collapsed in mid-June, and Ukrainian forces were pushed back across the river.

In the south Donbas, Russia-backed separatists from the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) performed tactical assaults on Avdiivka and Marinka but made no gains.

The Russian air force conducted two sorties to bomb Snake Island. This was likely to destroy the equipment they abandoned after their withdrawal on June 30. The Russian Ministry of Defense is now claiming that Snake Island is still under Russian control after intense backlash from

Kremlin supporters for leaving the island as a claimed gesture of “goodwill.”

Russian forces did not launch any other spoiling attacks, tactical or strategic offensives across the rest of Ukraine. Russian ground combat activity was limited to the Severodonetsk salient for two of the last three days.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Russia continues to focus on securing the Luhansk Oblast at all costs.
2. Outside the Luhansk oblast, the war has a frozen front.
3. The Ukrainian defense of Lysychansk has stiffened, likely frustrating the Kremlin’s plans for what was perceived would be a quick victory in the Luhansk oblast.
4. Pro-Russian social media accounts are already resetting expectations, claiming that 2,000 Ukrainian forces are trapped in Lysychansk, down from 10,000 will be surrounded claims last week.

5. Russian forces increasingly rely on artillery as a force multiplier but lack the troops to launch meaningful offensives outside of the Severodonetsk salient.

It has been five days since Igor Girkin declared that Ukrainian forces had already withdrawn from Lysychansk. Progress by Russian forces to encircle or push Ukrainian forces out of Lysychansk appears to be bogging down, but that could change considering there is significant evidence that it is becoming harder to move supplies into the city.

The lack of Russian combat operations outside of the Severodonetsk salient, including no significant combat along the T-1302 Highway GLOC and south to Bakhmut, is puzzling. Logic would dictate that Russia is using artillery to set conditions for a renewed offensive, but attacks away from Lysychansk have been ad hoc by small forces.

NASA FIRMS data strongly suggests that Russian forces are losing ground in Kherson and Zaporizhia oblasts. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is maintaining a tight lid on information to support Operational Security (OPSEC). The Russian Ministry of Defense overstates gains while never acknowledging territorial losses.

Despite continued claims from Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Ministry of Defense that everything continues to go as planned for the “special military operation,” the Russian Federation is taking increasingly stronger measures to do a stealth mobilization.¹

Legislation was introduced in the Duma that would not allow any business to reject orders and contracts from the Russian government. The measure is called “special measures in the economic sphere” to ensure the conduct of “counter-terrorism and other operations outside the Russian Federation.”

The sweeping legislation would require businesses to supply goods, perform work and provide services to conduct military operations outside Russia. The measure would allow the government to change contracts, terms, and conditions unilaterally without notice and enable Russian authorities to mandate overtime, shiftwork, and control wages. Employees in Russia’s “private enterprises” could be forced to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

¹ <https://t.me/bazabazon/12200>

The potential nationalization of Russian business is being done to repair weapons and military equipment and increase the production of critical hardware and munitions.

The request to pass these changes in Russian law indicates that the Kremlin is preparing to fight for years. Nationalizing businesses or entire sectors will take months to implement and carries the risk of eroding support for the war. Especially if forced work comes with no wage increase or worse, dictates the terms to businesses unilaterally, creating a situation of lower or delayed wages.

In Donetsk, mothers argued with military leaders of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) after the boys that graduated from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DNR" were immediately taken for conscript training to fight against Ukrainian forces.² This type of forced mobilization is hurting morale. Forced conscripted troops are poorly armed and trained and typically used by Russian VDV and Wagner Group to bear the brunt of offensive operations.

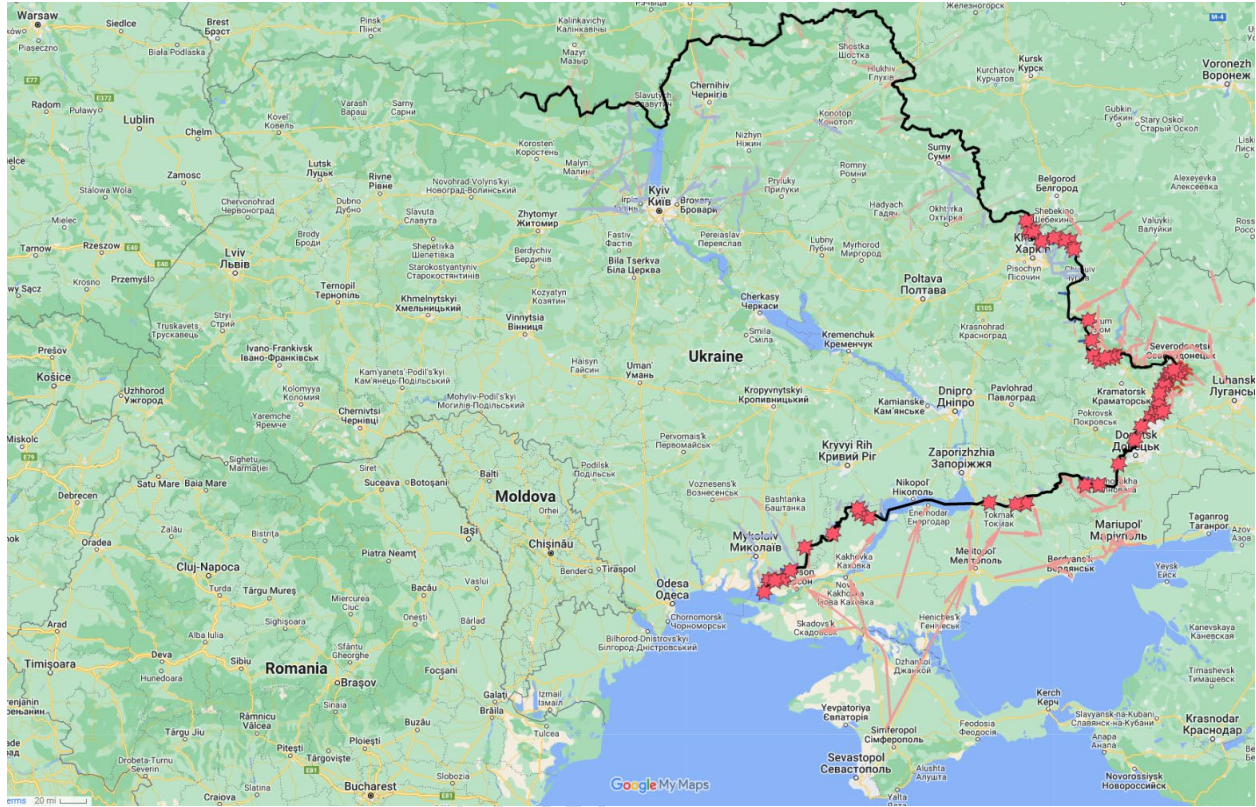
² <https://t.me/hueviykharkov/67348>

We continue to question Russia's offensive capabilities, as it appears they are struggling to launch offensive operations outside the Severodonetsk salient. Ukraine also lacks combat strength, leading to a frozen front across almost the entire line of conflict.

We feel more confident in Ukraine's ability to take the initiative in late July or August due to the announcement of a dramatic increase in heavy weapons support. Ukrainian forces are demonstrating they have adapted quickly to the use of NATO 155mm artillery systems and High Mobility Rocket Artillery Systems (HIMARS). Ukraine needs to hold Lysychansk for another 15 to 25 days. If Ukraine can hold in the Severodonetsk salient for another week, time will start to favor a late summer counterattack.

We remain concerned we are in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox, given Russia's unyielding view on Ukraine, its hypocritical stance on European Union sanctions, and its diminishing capabilities through conventional warfare. The decisions emanating from the Kremlin are not geopolitically or militarily sound. So far, Russia has demonstrated that it is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing when threatening nations not called Ukraine.

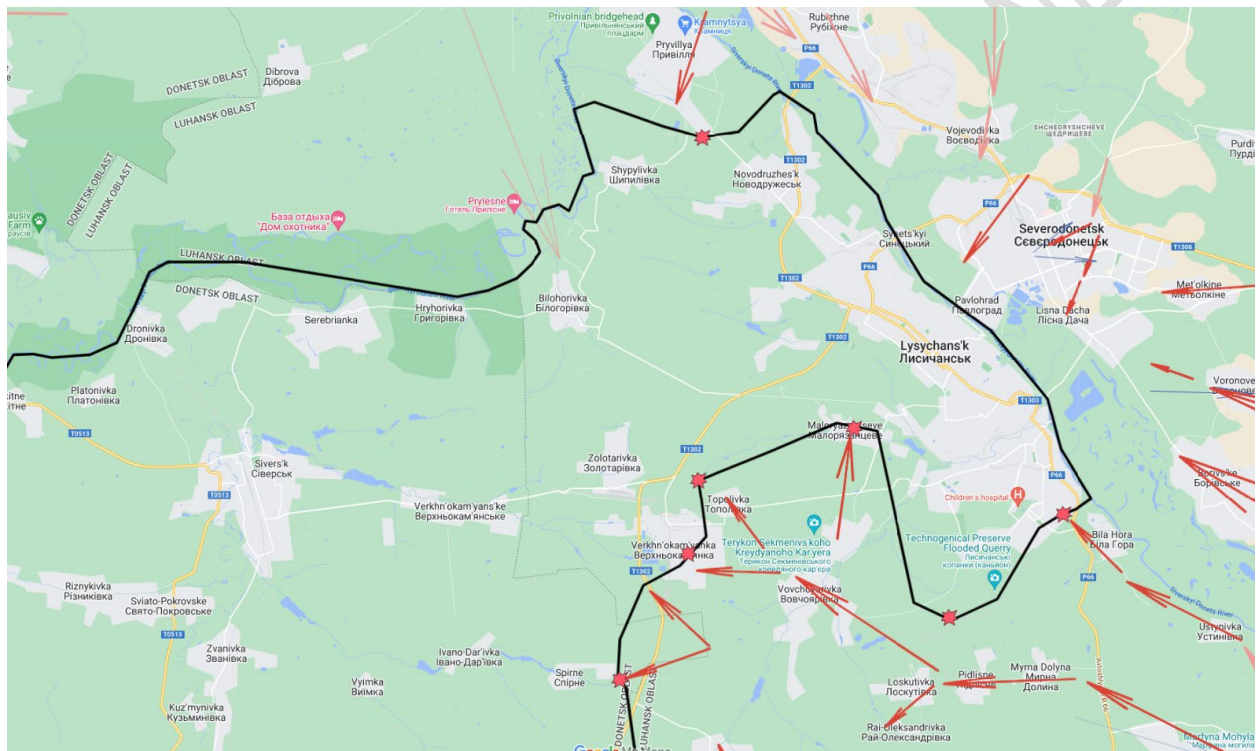
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

Severodonetsk Salient



Fighting for control of Lysychansk continues with Russian forces launching a massive artillery barrage to set conditions for an advance. Russian military doctrine in Luhansk has been to use artillery to destroy all available infrastructure in the area, leave nothing to defend, and then advance into the destroyed regions. In the

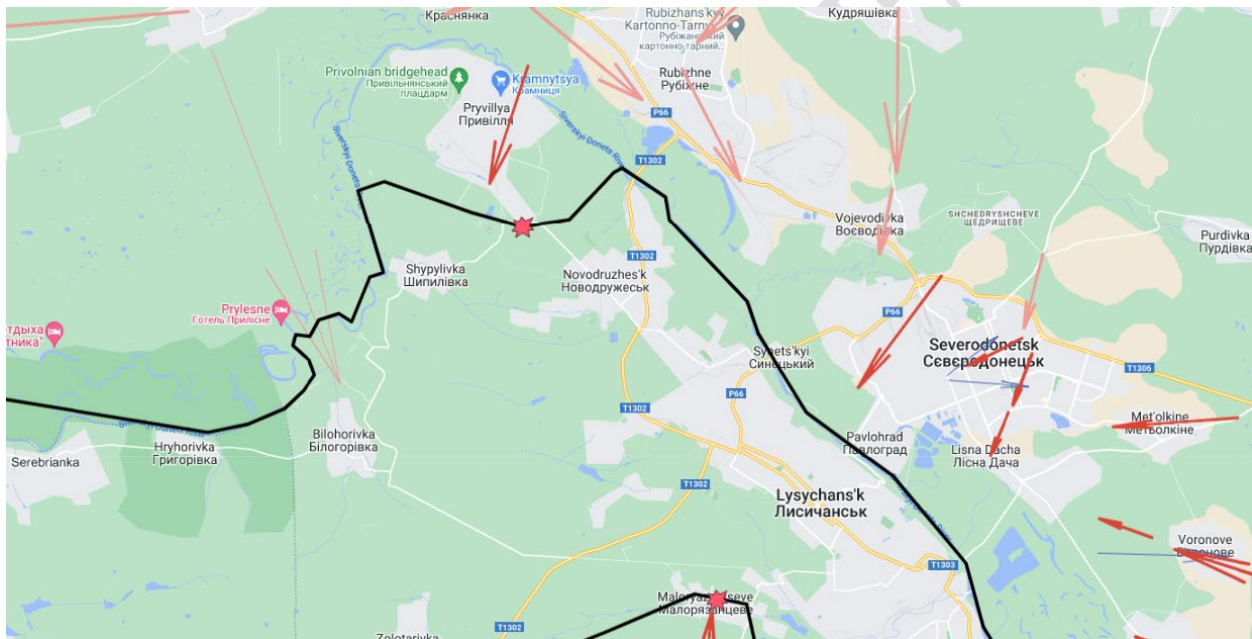
southeastern lowland neighborhoods of Lysychansk, Russian forces have been using TOS-1 flamethrower thermobaric rockets in civilian areas with schools, hospitals, and commerce.

These attacks are attempting to break the Ukrainian positions on the west bank of the Siverskyi Donets River and the northern border of Bila Hora to force a retreat.



Russian and Chechen forces supported by Russia-backed separatists captured the settlement of Pryvillia northwest of Lysychansk after making and defending a wet crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River. Confirmation of the complete control of the settlement is thin. A story in TASS states, "reported to a TASS correspondent by a source close

to the People's Militia of the [Luhansk People's Republic] LNR."³ A video from a Chechen claiming to have crossed the river provides no visual information that can be geolocated.⁴ A more convincing picture showed two members of Russia-backed separatists by the Pryvillia sign.⁵



ASSESSMENT: We are coding Pryvillia under Russian control, but none of these sources provide irrefutable proof that Russia controls the settlement.

³ [https://tass\[dot\]ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/15078765](https://tass[dot]ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/15078765) [Russian State Media Rating: Questionable]

⁴ <https://twitter.com/Chronology22/status/1542839692873420802> [Russia State Media Rating: Questionable]

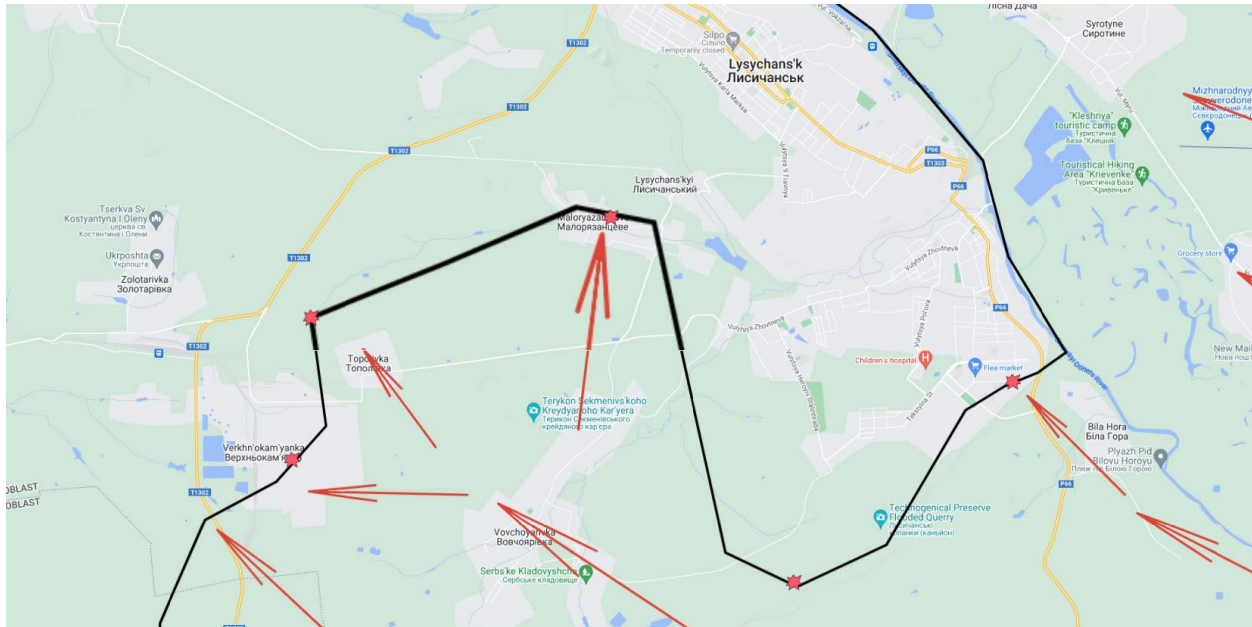
⁵ <https://twitter.com/worldnews24ru1/status/1542968326548328452/photo/1> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]

Russian forces [used TOS-1 flamethrower thermobaric weapons](#) on the gelatin factory after being pushed back to Pidlisne on Thursday.⁶ Looking at NASA FIRMS patterns, it is highly likely that TOS-1 systems were used north of the rubber factory and the border of Bila Hora in civilian areas on July 1.



Intense fighting continues for control of the Verkhokamyanka oil refinery. NASA FIRMS data showed significant fires in the Russian-control sector of the complex.

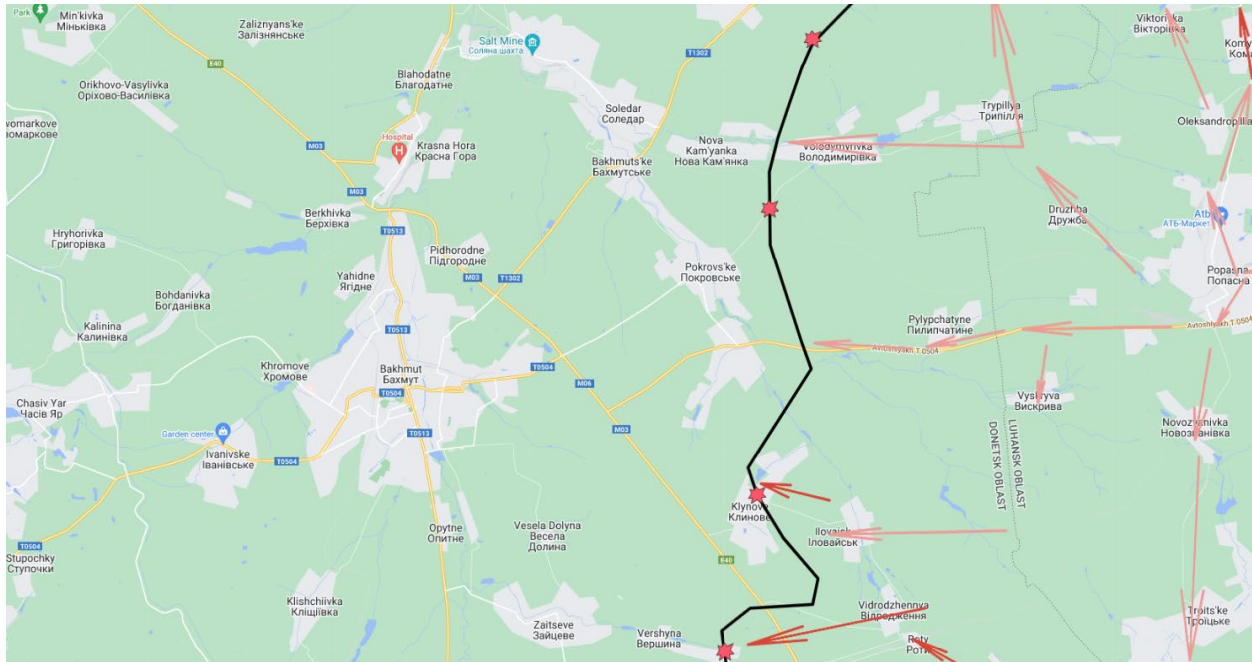
⁶ https://twitter.com/owarino_outsuke/status/1543083002133368832



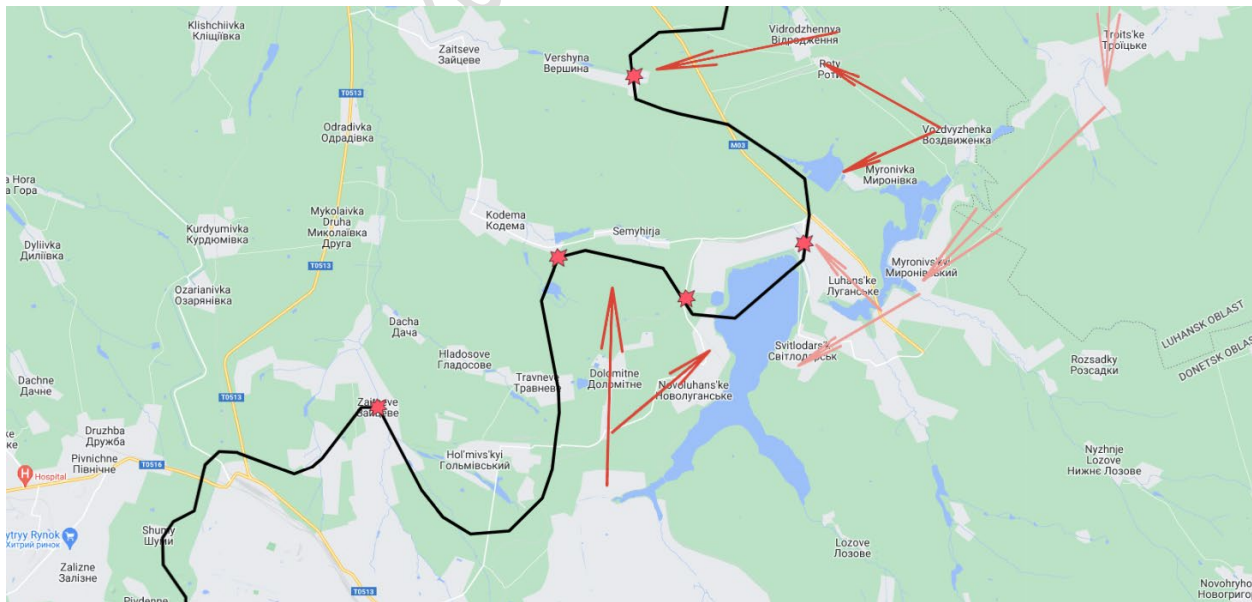
There were reports that Russian forces have pushed back over the T-1302 Highway GLOC at Spirne. Pro-Russian social media accounts claim continued fighting in Spirne and, alternatively, that Spirne has been captured. We cannot verify the claims from any of the belligerents.

East of Bakhmut, Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, supported by Russia-backed separatists, tried to improve their positions on the eastern edge of Klynove but were unsuccessful.⁷

⁷ <https://twitter.com/AndrewPerpetua/status/1543019857003806721>



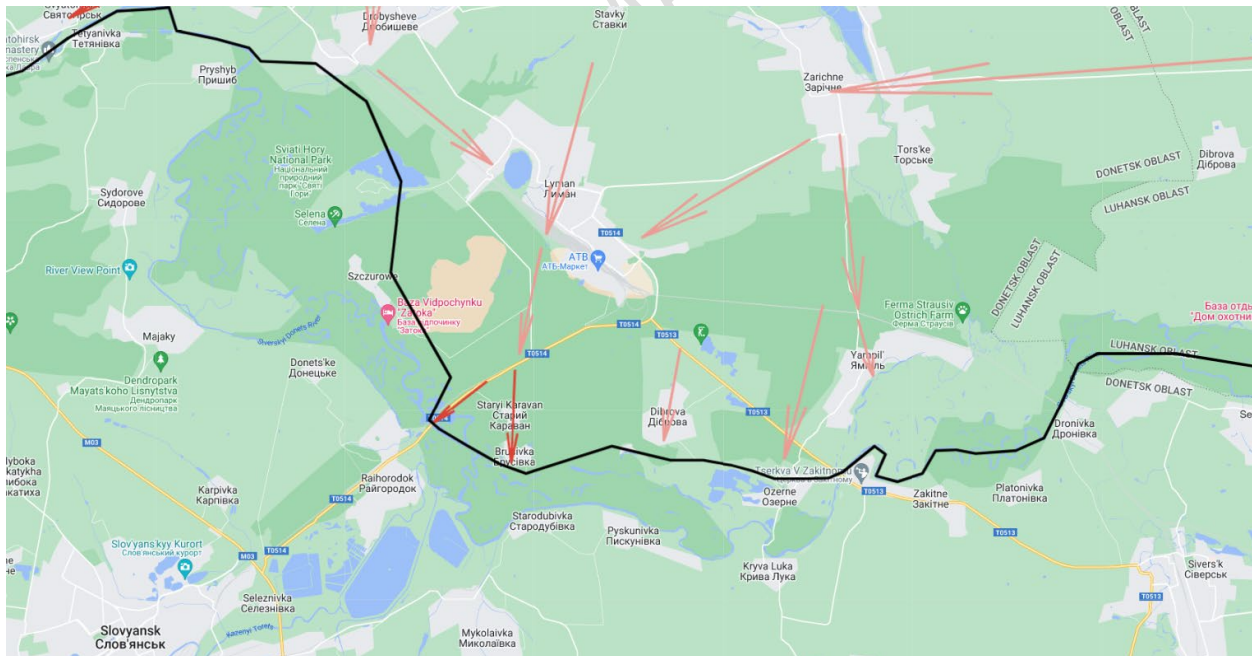
Fighting continued in the Svitlodarsk bulge in Novoluhanske, Dolomitne, and the power plant. There were no changes in territorial control.



Russian forces fired artillery and used MLRS on the settlements of Bakhmut, Klyнове, Kodema, Loskutivka, and Pokrovske.⁸

Lyman Axis

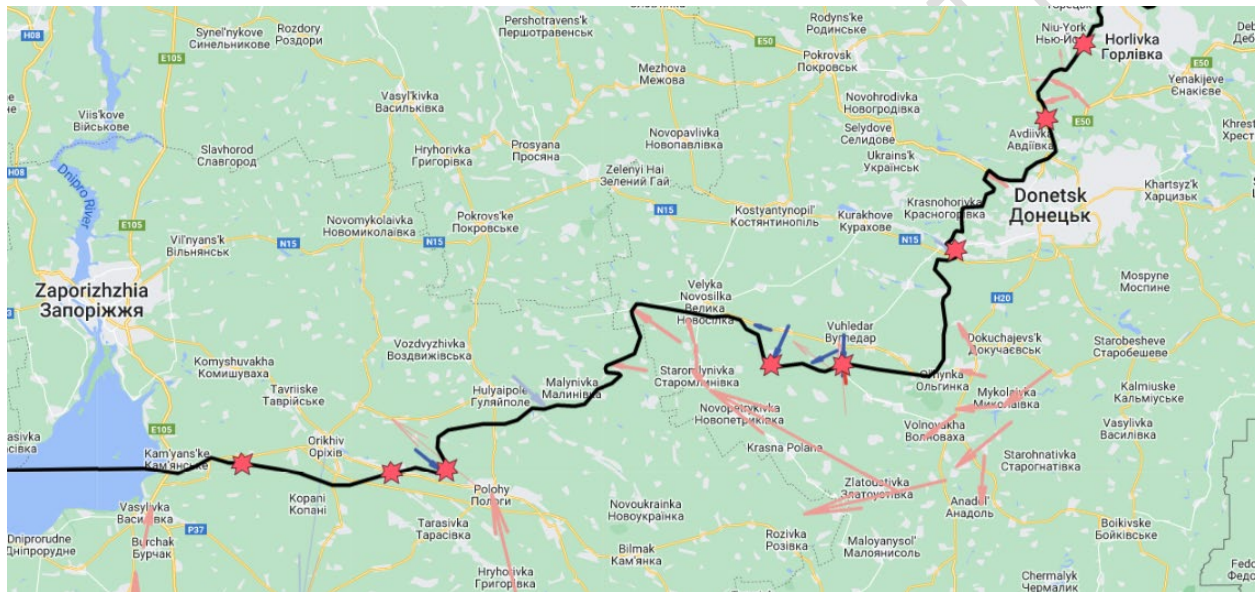
There weren't any major combat operations around Lyman on June 30. Russian forces shelled Siversk to interdict the Siversk-Lysychansk GLOC.



⁸ [General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces - Facebook](#)

SOUTH DONBAS AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

There were scattered artillery exchanges from Horlivka to Donetsk city to Velyka Novosilka in the Donetsk Oblast and Hulyaipole to Orikhiv in the Zaporizhia Oblast.



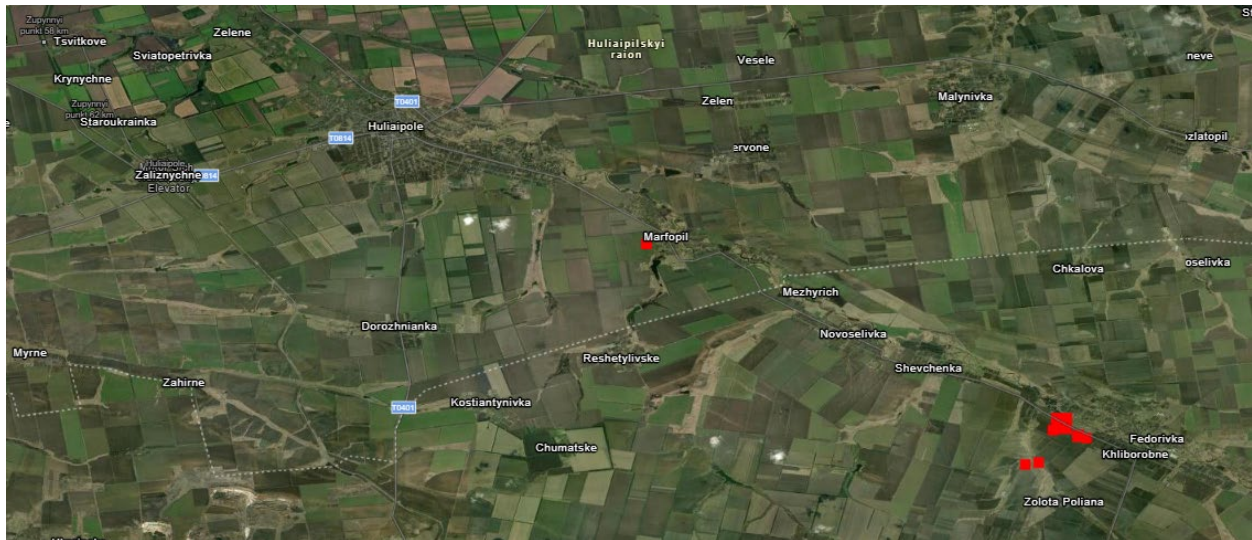
Ukrainian forces destroyed an ammunition depot and railroad infrastructure in Yasynuvata, north of Donetsk city.⁹ The depot was less than 20 kilometers west of Avdiivka and will likely have a short-term impact on artillery operations against Ukrainian forces to the west.

⁹ <https://twitter.com/sputnikatone/news/status/1542821014983397376>

NASA FIRMS data suggest there was fighting in Luhove, Pyatykaty, and Lobkove in Russian-controlled areas of Zaporizhia along the Dnipro River. The area north of Kamyanske is consistent with a firing point from MLRS or counterbattery from Russian forces. Neither belligerent reported fighting in this area.



On June 29, we assessed that the failed Russian offense on Hulyaipole would have come from the Marfopil direction because Russian forces had destroyed the road and built defenses at Dorozhnyanka. NASA FIRMS data provided additional evidence that supports our assessment.



A Ukrainian artillery strike destroyed a Russian Pantsir-1 anti-aircraft system in an unspecified location in the south Donbas.¹⁰ The anti-aircraft system was [destroyed using drone-directed artillery](#), scoring a direct hit on the moving target.

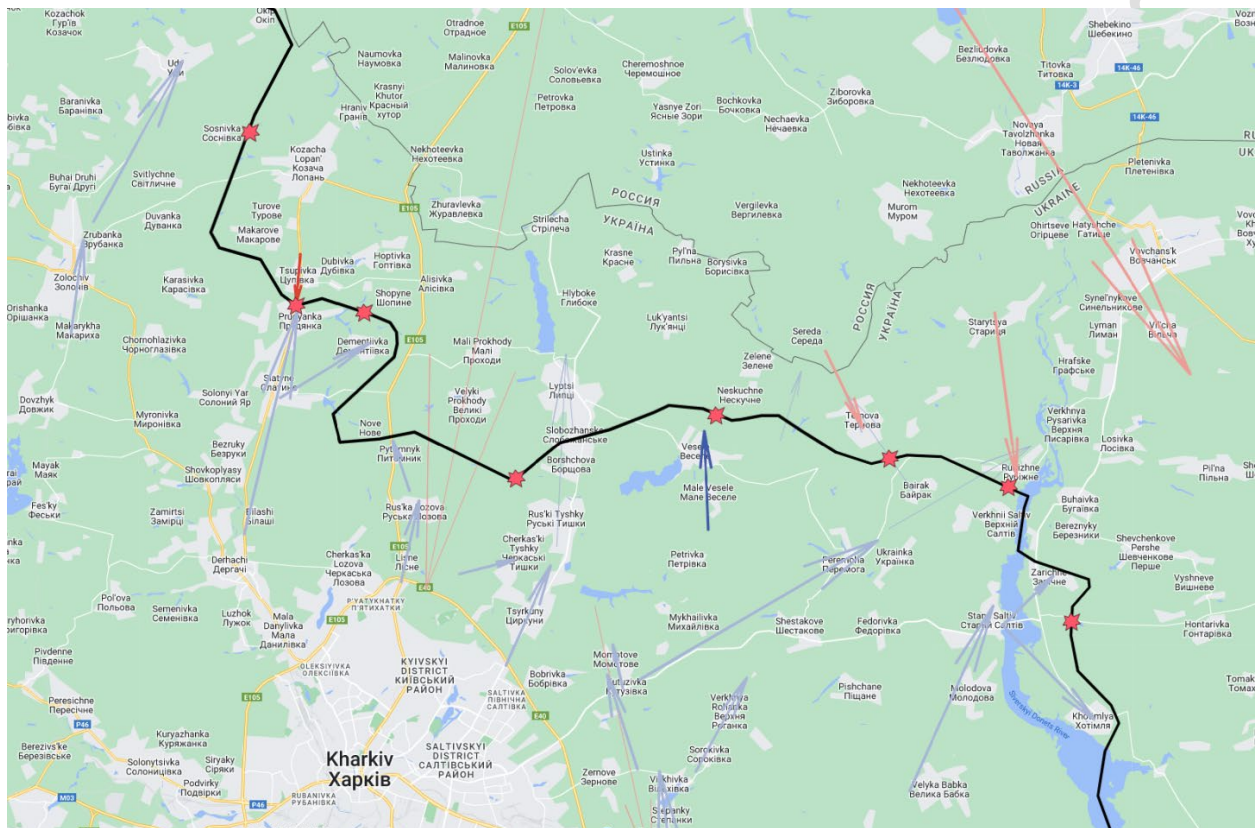
We consider Bilohirya, Luhivske, Novopokrovka, Bahate, and Ukraniske, Rivnopil, Pyatkhatky, and Stepove [Zaporizhia] as contested.

We do not consider Luhove, Pyatykaty, and Lobkove contested at this time.

¹⁰ https://t.me/ok_pivnich1/599

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHERN KHARKIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE

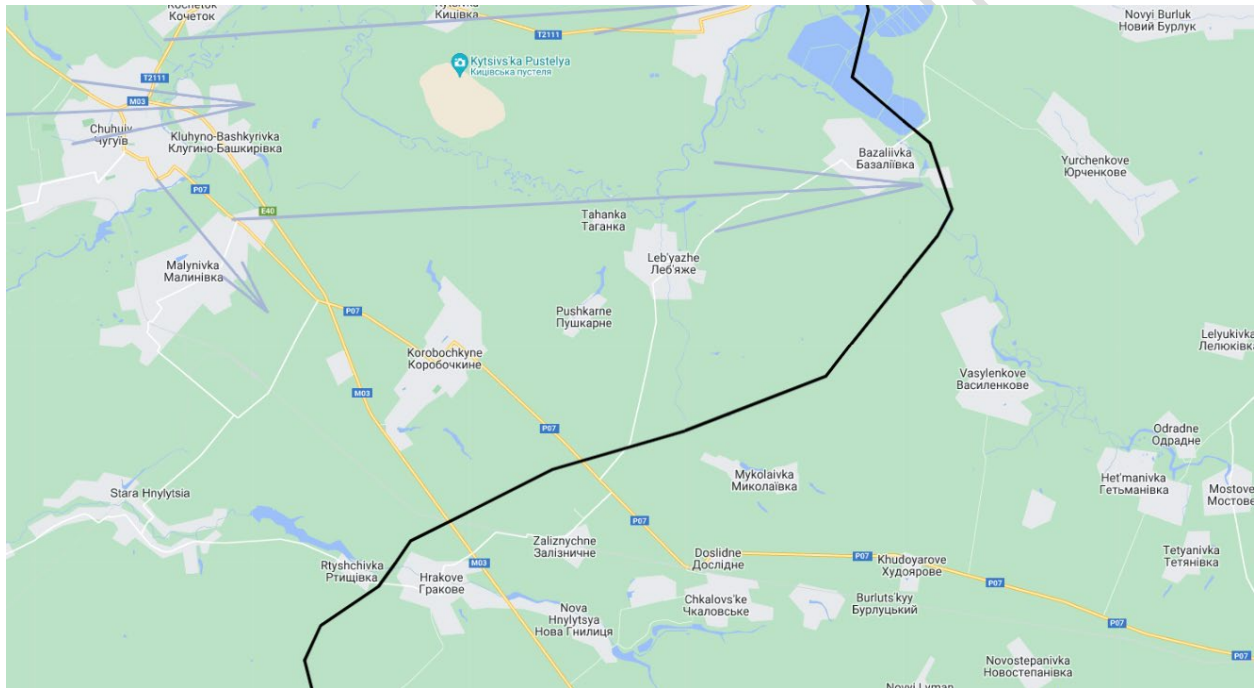


There were no offensive operations north and northeast of Kharkiv. Russian and Ukrainian forces only fired artillery and MLRS. Russian forces continue to target civilians and civilian infrastructure in Kharkiv.

ASSESSMENT: Both belligerents have likely exhausted their combat strength north and northeast of Kharkiv.

Since early June, fighting between Russia and Ukraine has been positional with little change in territorial control.

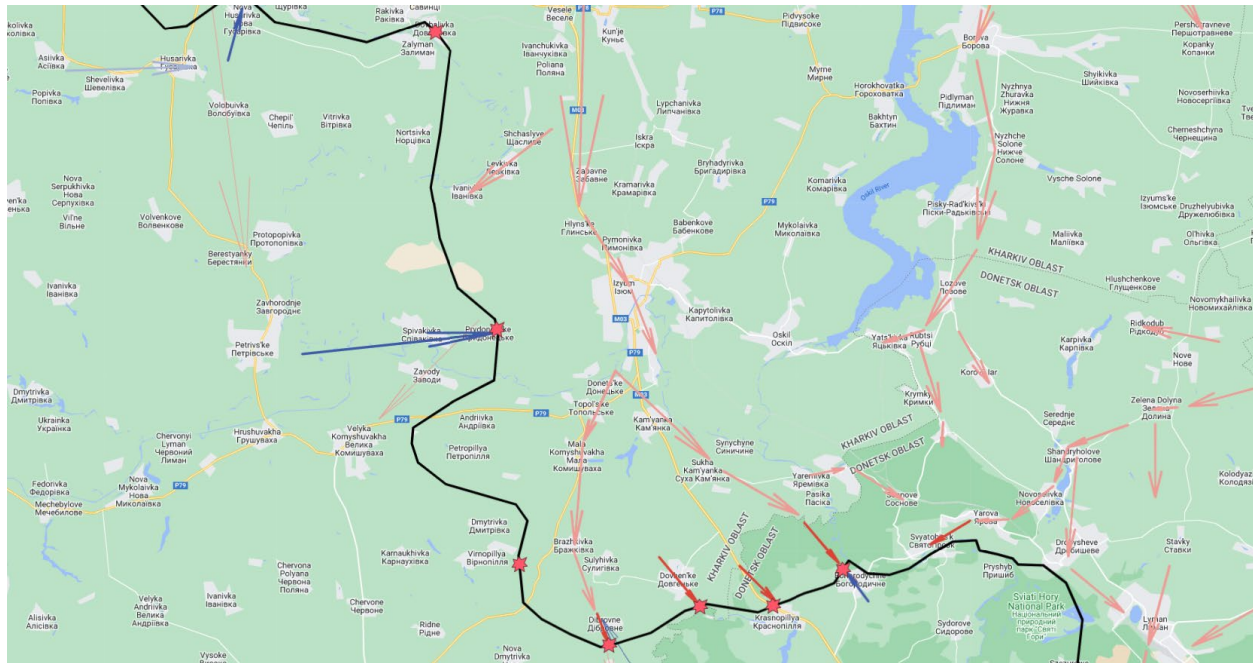
Ukrainian and Russian forces fought in Zaliznychne. [A video of a Russian T-72 tank](#) being destroyed was geolocated.¹¹



We consider the settlements of Hrakove, Nova Hnlytsya, Chkalovske, Doslidne, Rtyshchivka, and Zaliznychne contested.

¹¹ https://twitter.com/Blue_Sauron/status/1542850143111843840

IZYUM AXIS

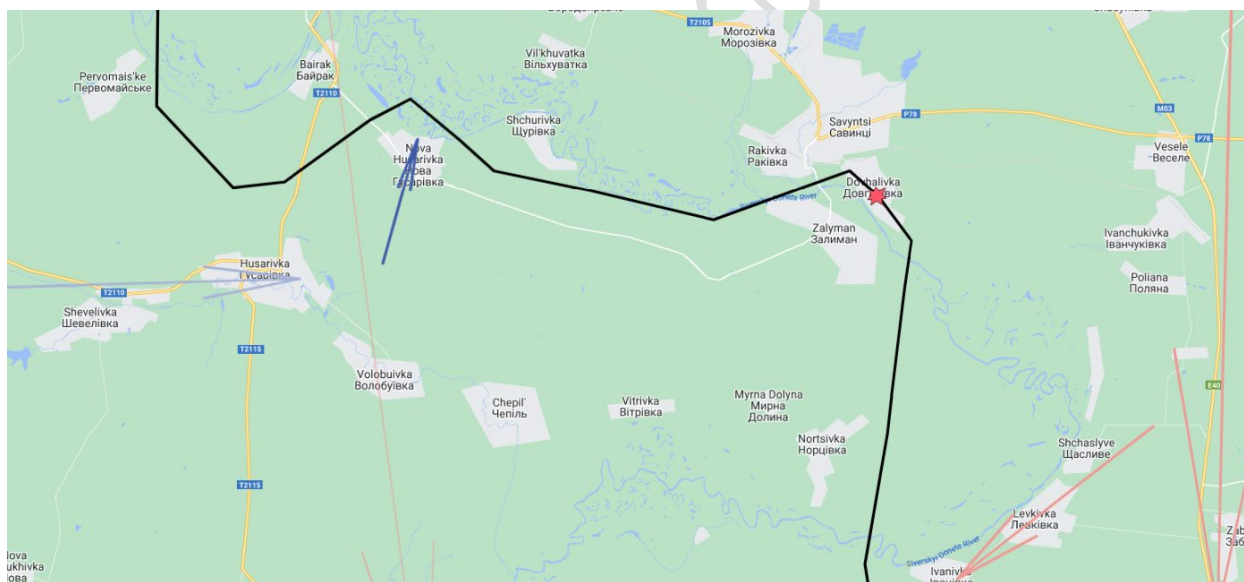


Russian forces did not launch any offensive operations across the entire Izyum axis. Artillery strikes were made on Dolyna, Manzanivka, Dibrivne, Hrushuvaha, Dovhenke, Krasnopillia, and Bohorodychne.¹²

A pair of Russian Ka-52 helicopters launched an airstrike on Mospanove.

¹² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

Very reliable sources reported that an entire unit from PMC Wagner Group was “wiped out” near Dolyna on June 30.¹³ The source also reported that a Russian VDV unit suffered significant losses in the Sherwood forest region south of Izyum. The reports did not include the size of the “unit,” but the language implies a platoon (30 to 50 personnel). It is unlikely the report of a squad would be significant enough to warrant a report, and a company or battalion would be specified.



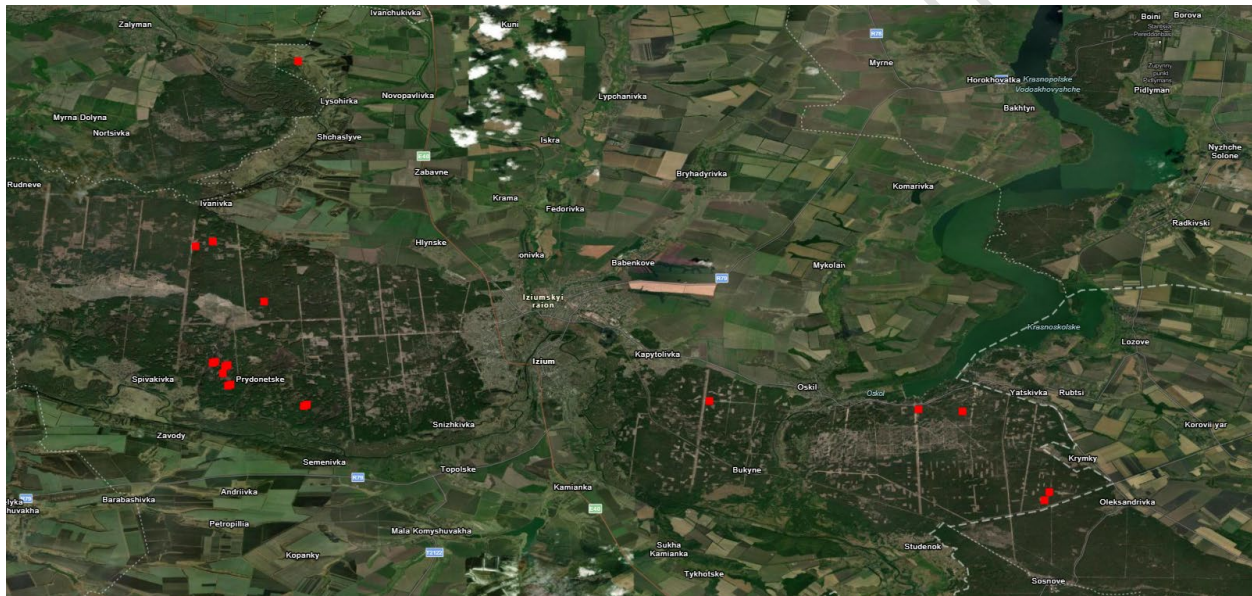
Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions in Nortsivka.¹⁴ Based on weather conditions, the video was taken before

¹³ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1543116076472365056

¹⁴ https://twitter.com/hizbie_/status/1543094981300129792 [Russian State Media Source: Valid]

June 30 – possibly on June 28 when Russian forces launched spoiling attacks on Zalyman and Dovhalivka.

NASA FIRMS data indicates Ukrainian forces continue to interdict supplies, troop concentrations, and convoys in the forests west and east of Izyum.



NASA FIRMS data suggest intense shelling occurred in the Russian-controlled forested areas west and southeast of Izyum.

The Russian Imperialist Movement, an ultranationalist pro-NAZI paramilitary organization, created by Stanislav Vorobyev, reported on June 30 that one of their

commanders was killed near Izyum.¹⁵ The Russian Imperialist Movement is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and Canada.¹⁶



ASSESSMENT: RIM on social media channels had boasted of a take no prisoners policy, torture, rape, and white supremacist and Nazi ideology. They are based in St. Petersburg, Russia, fighting as irregular troops under contract.

¹⁵ https://t.me/Rus_imperia/9549

¹⁶ [MEMRI](#)

Poor weather on June 30 created dense cloud cover over Chepil, preventing the ability to confirm if Russian forces successfully destroyed the Ukrainian wet crossing.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

Geolocated pictures from the Kherson Oblast showed an ammunition warehouse used by Russian forces on fire on the eastern edge of Kyselivka.¹⁷ The photos would have been taken before June 28 due to the clouds covering the region on June 28 – 30.

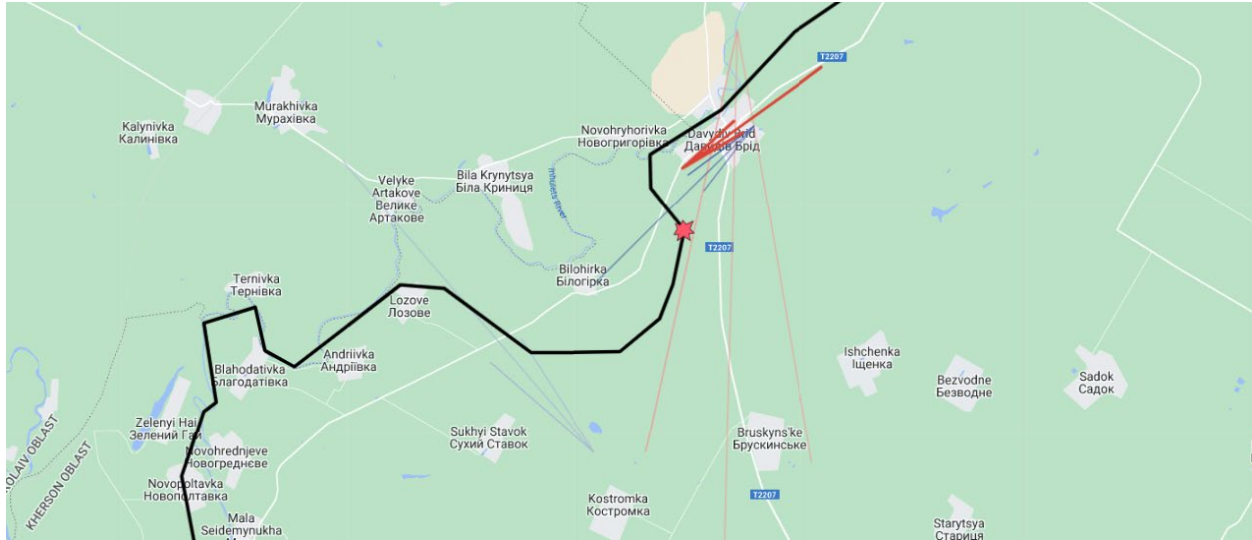
[A video showed Russian positions in Bilohorika](#), east of the Inhulets River, destroyed by Ukrainian forces before June 28.¹⁸ The video showed ten destroyed vehicles, including tanks, self-propelled artillery, and trucks. [A second video](#) shows a Russian soldier trying to go to the bathroom and being interrupted by the artillery strike that caused the damage to the settlement.¹⁹ The second video shows the

¹⁷ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1542827931403157505

¹⁸ https://twitter.com/Blue_Sauron/status/1542979080810815490

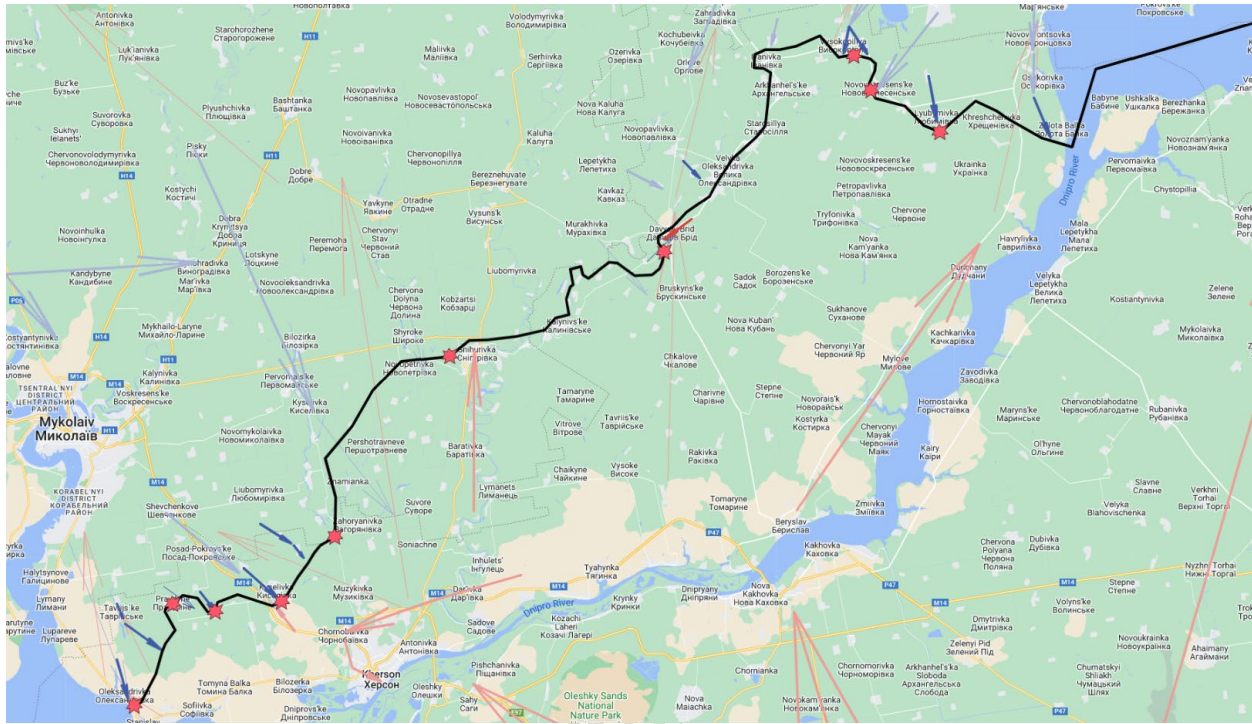
¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1543128247906574337>

settlement is mostly undamaged, and at 23 seconds, it shows a vehicle on fire.



ASSESSMENT: This video confirms that Ukrainian forces were pushed out of the East Inhulets salient in mid-June and no longer control any settlements east of the river between Davydiv Brid and Lozove. The drone video provides significant evidence that Russian forces have abandoned Bilohorika and the settlement is a no man's land. The video showed that ammunition and supplies were abandoned in the open, none of the defenses were occupied, and any military vehicles still operational had left the tank scrapes.

There are numerous reports that Ukrainian forces continue to progress in the northern region of the Kherson Oblast, but due to OPSEC, no additional details can be provided.



There were reports of explosions in Mykolaiv city, but no additional information was available.²⁰

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

The Sumy oblast was hit with more than 270 shells and mortar rounds, the heaviest bombardment since Russian forces retreated from the oblast on April 8.²¹

²⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/2/7355914/>

²¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/2/7355904/>

The bombardment hit the settlements of Bilopillia, Nova Sloboda, Shalyhyne, Esman, Velyka Pysarivka, Hlukhiv, and Krasnopillia. It was the broadest range of targets hit since April 8.

Only one person was wounded, suffering a minor shrapnel wound.



Ukrainian Command North reported that Russian forces shelled the settlements of Leonivka and Mykolaivka. There were no reports of fatalities or injuries.²²

ASSESSMENT: These do not represent an impending offensive operation by the Russian Federation. The purpose of these attacks and their increasing intensity is to lock Ukrainian forces in places and an attempt to have Ukraine divert additional military forces along the border.

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

Two Russian Su-30 aircraft bombed Snake Island to destroy military equipment Russian forces abandoned when the garrison evacuated on June 30.²³ A Bayraktar TB-2 drone [captured one of the air strikes on video](#). The Su-30 used

²² https://t.me/ok_pivnich1/598

²³ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1542942999188975616>

four non-precision bombs on the undefended island, with three harmlessly landing in the ocean.

Armed Forces of Ukraine Command South reported that air defenses intercepted a Russian Kh-31 air-to-sea/air-to-land cruise missile over Odesa.²⁴

WEST REGION

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

ASSESSMENT: We believe the chances that Belarus will launch a ground invasion of Ukraine remain extremely remote.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The United States Department of Defense announced an \$820 million military assistance package for Ukraine. Ukraine has received \$8.8 billion in military aid from the United States since January 21, 2021.

²⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/2/7355916/>

The latest package includes:

- Two National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS)
- Up to 150,000 rounds of 155mm artillery ammunition
- Four counter-artillery radars

This latest aid package is in addition to previously pledged ammunition and counterbattery radar.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Two more British nationals have been charged with being mercenaries by the self-proclaimed DNR government and will likely face the death penalty.²⁵ TASS is reporting that Britons Dylan Healy and Andrew Hill were captured.

Healy disappeared in April south of Zaporizhzhia with Briton Paul Urey.²⁶ The pair were working with the relief organization Presidium.

²⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62015954>

²⁶ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61268817>

Former prisoner of war Yulia Paievska described her experience at the penal colony in Olenivka [Donetsk].

"Recently I was kept in the Donetsk Pre-Trial Detention Centre. A lot of our prisoners remain there. They treat us terribly. They feed more or less. It will not be possible to die of hunger. But during the last week, they didn't even give us soap."

"There are 22 women in the cell; the cell is three by six meters, with ten beds. Other [prisoners] also did not have any information about [their] families and children. Their psychological state was simply terrible, but most of them held up very well."

"They were Ukrainian women from the ranks of the Armed Forces and the National Guard, there were girls from Azov, and there were also civilians. There is a 'filtering' system. That is, they take civil servants and check them for cooperation with the 'occupation forces.' [Ukrainian government]"

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant developments.

ECONOMIC

The rouble plunged on Friday, dropping the exchange rate to 57 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices rose but remained in the \$100 to \$120 a barrel trading range. WTI crude increased to \$108 a barrel, and Brent climbed to \$111. RBOB United States wholesale gasoline increased to \$3.67 a gallon. (98 cents a liter)

SRW Chicago wheat futures also dropped, closing at 84 cents a bushel for September 2022 delivery. Today's close is only a penny higher than the February 21 pre-war close.