



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

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SUMMARY – DAY 134

It has been 3,052 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

The operational pause for Russian forces continues while the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine maintains tight operational security.

On July 7, no territorial changes related to liberation or capture were reported, nor major combat operations by either belligerent theaterwide. Artillery, rocket, and air strikes continued, as well as skirmishes, reconnaissance in force, and positional battles.

In the Luhansk oblast, Ukrainian forces are contesting control of Bilohorivka to the north bank of the Siverskyi Donets River. Ukrainian forces destroyed the Russian wet crossing in Pryvillya between July 3 – 6.

Ukrainian officials and Pro-Russian social media accounts reported that Luhansk is not under complete Russian control. NASA Fire Information Resource Management

System (FIRMS) showed hot spots east of Topolivka and in the vicinity of the Verkhokamyanka oil refinery.

In Russian-occupied Severodonetsk, an insurgency has already formed. Threats against the Chechen occupying forces and “wanted posters” have started to appear in the city.¹

There were widespread artillery and MLRS barrages by Russian forces in northeast Donetsk, likely setting conditions for a future offensive.

Russian forces continued attempts to advance into Hryhovika and Verknokamyanske but were unsuccessful. Russian forces were held at the eastern edge of Spirne. Further south, Russian forces tried to capture the settlement of Berestove and were unsuccessful.

East of Bakhmut, Russian forces have started to advance on Vesela Dolyna.

¹ <https://sprotyv.mod.gov.ua/2022/07/06/v-syeverodoneczku-pochavsya-partyzanskyj-ruh/>

Fighting continued in the Svitlodarsk bulge, with Russian forces attempting to advance on Vershyna. There were unsuccessful. Ukraine maintained control of the Vuhledar Power Plant and pushed Russian forces back incrementally in Luhanske. Russian forces suffered significant losses.

Ukrainian artillery or rockets from Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) struck the Kirovs'kyi fuel depot causing a massive fire. An ammunition depot was also destroyed near the George Dimitrov Number 112 school in Donetsk.

NATO-provided High Mobility Rocket Artillery System (HIMARS) rockets destroyed an ammunition depot in Shakhtarsk, 60 kilometers east of Donetsk.

Near Russian-controlled Melitopol, insurgents destroyed a railroad bridge between Novobohdanivka and Troitske.

In Kherson, the sound of small arms fire could be heard within the city. The Russian base at Chornobaivka was attacked with artillery, and Ukrainian officials reported that up to 25 vehicles were destroyed.

Russian forces are trying to slow the Ukrainian advance west and northwest of Kherson, targeting Ukrainian-controlled areas with artillery and rockets fired from MLRS.

North of Kherson city, NASA FIRMS suggests there is fighting west of Ukrainian-controlled Lozove in Andriivka. Ukrainian attack helicopters fired on Russian positions in Davydiv Brid. Russian forces used artillery and MLRS to interdict the Ukrainian GLOC on the T-2207 highway from Osokorivka. Additionally, Russian forces did reconnaissance in force with understaffed platoons, launching two raids on Dobryanka and one on Myroliubivka. None of the attempts were successful.

Northwest of Kharkiv, Russian forces made another spoiling attack on Sosnivka and Dementiivka. Neither attack was unsuccessful. Otherwise, Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged artillery fire along the frozen front.

At least two Russian Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM) struck the Nemyshlianskyi District of Kharkiv city, killing three civilians.

There are reports that Ukrainian forces destroyed the recently repaired railroad bridge in Russian-controlled Kupyansk, north of Izyum. Southwest of Pisky-Radkivski, NATO-provided HIMARS systems were fired at a forward operating training base and staging area for Luhansk (LNR) and Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) conscripts, Russian Federation Armed Forces contract volunteers, and terrorists with the Imperial Legion reporting to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group.

Russian forces made another ad hoc advance into Bohorodychne, backed by intense artillery fire. They were unsuccessful and returned to previously held defensive lines on the edge of the settlement.

In the Sumy oblast, Russian forces fired small arms into the settlement of Shalyhyne.

On July 7 under cover of darkness, combat divers from Ukraine's 73rd Naval Special Purpose Center used underwater vehicles to reach Snake Island. Special forces cleared sea and land mines, performed reconnaissance, and raised several Ukrainian flags. The Russian Ministry of Defense and Serhii Bratchuk of the Odesa Military Administration reported that the Russian air force fired two

cruise missiles at Snake Island that struck the pier on the island's north side at dawn.

The Russian Air Force fired two Kh-31 air-to-sea cruise missiles at the disabled Moldovan flagged tanker Millennial Spirit. The vessel was abandoned at anchor off the coast of Odesa after it was attacked on February 25. It is reported the ship is on fire but still afloat. The smoke was visible from Odesa.

Two more Kh-31 air-to-sea cruise missiles hit grain warehouses near Odesa, holding 35 tons of cereals awaiting export.

Belarusian armed forces have extended ongoing military training exercises until July 16. In another provocation, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Belarus, Major General Ruslan Kosygin, said that in the event of "Western provocations," Belarusian forces will strike primarily on the infrastructure of Poland.

Editor's Note: Because many readers have asked, I was entertained seeing [the first confirmed Russian T-62 tank destroyed](#). The way it happened is even more interesting.²

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Although Russian ground forces are in an operational pause, artillery and MLRS are still being used along the line of conflict, and civilians and civilian infrastructure continue to be targeted.
2. Combat activity in the last 12 hours raises questions on whether the reports of an operational pause are authentic.
3. Russian President Vladimir Putin's statement that in Ukraine, "we haven't started anything yet in earnest," is saber-rattling from the Kremlin unless Putin intends to declare war formally and mobilize.
4. It appears that Ukraine will hold a defensive position in Siversk, given the resistance against Russian advances on the edges of the Luhansk oblast.
5. The Russian Ministry of Defense claims they destroyed four HIMARS units on July 6 were patently false, and

² <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1544796408322166784>

the NATO-provided HIMARS attacked critical military targets in Kharkiv and Donetsk oblasts.

6. Russian forces continue to lose ground in Kherson despite bringing in reserve troops and increasing artillery fire.

Despite the long summary, it was another relatively quiet day in Ukraine with no verifiable territorial changes.

It is unclear how long the current operational pause will last. Russian forces haven't fully secured the Luhansk Oblast, with pockets of fighting still happening south and southwest of Bilohorivka.

Russia is still struggling with staffing Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG), seeking volunteers to fill out the third reserve group with their brigades. They continue to create volunteer units with ever-growing bonuses and salaries.

In Nizhny Novgorod, recruiting posters offer a signing bonus of 250,000 roubles (\$3,850) and a salary of 200,000 roubles a month (\$3,025) with full veteran benefits for a six-month contract to join a volunteer tank brigade. The salary is equivalent to the base pay for an E-5 with four years in grade in the United States military.

A [peek at Russia's Facebook clone VK](#) shows a war of words has erupted over the failed river crossing at Bilohorivka on May 8. The most ardent supporters of the "special military operation" echo the same Kremlin talking points and cling to the belief that Russia's nuclear arsenal is unmatched and provides "total supremacy."³ A review of the broader comments shows growing disillusionment with the ongoing military action and growing questions about Russia's military capabilities.

Despite the disconnect on the home front, President Putin's statement today strongly implies the Kremlin is preparing to continue the "special military operation" for months, if not years.⁴

"Today, we hear that they want to defeat us on the battlefield... Well, what can you say? Let them try."

"We have already heard many times that the West wants to fight with us to the last Ukrainian. This is a tragedy for the Ukrainian people, but everything seems to be heading that

³ https://vk.com/milinfoLive?w=wall-210068228_76465

⁴ https://t.me/rian_ru/170247 [Russian State Media Source]

way. But everyone should know that by and large, we haven't started anything yet in earnest."

"At the same time, we do not reject peace talks either, but those who reject them should know that the further it goes, the harder it will be for them to negotiate with us."

That seems unlikely unless "starting...in earnest" implies a declaration of war and total mobilization. In Russia, companies that repair tanks and heavy equipment are refusing to do work for the Kremlin.⁵ The problem is threefold. First, many of the tanks returning to Russia on trains are too severely damaged to be repaired, with the Kremlin setting unrealistic expectations. Armored vehicles with light to moderate damage are repaired in the field. The second issue is a lack of parts to institute repairs due to corruption and sanctions. Finally, the companies that make the repairs haven't been paid in months and are struggling to pay their workers and cover their expenses.

The Kremlin's solution to this problem is legislation passed on June 30 requiring businesses to supply goods and services necessary for conducting the "special military

⁵ <https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2022/07/06/burnt-tanks-return-to-russia-repair-plants-refuse-repairs/>

operation" to the armed forces.⁶ The measure allows the Kremlin to nationalize businesses if necessary, regardless of who runs the enterprise.

A second bill mandates the government to require employees of certain enterprises producing goods and services needed by the Russian military to work overtime.

"The government may also oblige some employees to work at night, on weekends or holidays, in return for increased wages."

The claim of increased wages appears hollow, considering the Kremlin isn't currently paying its military contractors.

Russian state media Pravda released a story with a video showing the much-hyped BMPT Terminator urban-warfare designed anti-infantry vehicle in action.⁷ The Terminator wasn't fighting in an urban environment but hiding in tall grass, firing its 30mm autocannons at nothing. The AGS-17D/AGS-30 autocannons have an effective range of 1,700 meters (1.05 miles), and the video speaks for itself. (this

⁶ [Al Arabiya News – English Edition](#)

⁷ [https://english.pravda \[dot\] ru/news/hotspots/152852-russia_terminator_ukraine/](https://english.pravda.ru/news/hotspots/152852-russia_terminator_ukraine/) [Russian State Media Website – Use Caution]

link goes to the Russian-hosted website for Pravada, we recommend, at the minimum, using a VPN with high-security settings before [visiting the link](#)) If Terminators are in theater operating as a combination MBT/Light Tank, this points to some degree of desperation.

Ukraine also lacks parts to repair Main Battle Tanks (MBT) and Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) damaged in battle. According to the Oryx database, Ukraine has more MBTs than at the start of the war.⁸ However, disabled equipment awaiting repairs isn't counted for either belligerent.

Unlike Russia, Ukraine has had an influx of over 240 MBTs with spare parts from Poland, with a majority remaining in reserve. NATO nations and other Western allies have pledged an additional 600 MBTs to Ukraine after the Madrid NATO Summit. However, a timetable wasn't released.

Russian forces must consolidate their GLOCs, start administration of the Luhansk oblast, prevent an insurrection from forming, and reconstitute war-battered units. Governor Haidai reported that Russian forces are

⁸ <https://www.oryxspioenkop.com/2022/02/attack-on-europe-documenting-ukrainian.html>



already accusing civilians of espionage in the occupied cities of Kreminna and Severodonetsk and the Russian-controlled cities around Luhansk.⁹

In Severodonetsk, it is already too late to prevent an insurgency. Ukrainian-backed partisans are openly operating in the

recently Russian-occupied city.

We maintain that Belarusian President Alexandr Lukashenko is doing just enough to appease the Kremlin while avoiding mass civil unrest in his nation.¹⁰ Our sources had initially reported that military exercises were planned until July 8, which was accurate.¹¹ The extension to July 15-16 is an attempt to keep Ukrainian forces and resources locked in western Ukraine. Lukashenko has exhibited a pattern of political bluster and grandiose threats that have never materialized.

⁹ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/4111>

¹⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/7/7356869/>

¹¹ https://t.me/Hajun_BY/4971

The German Bundestag and Chancellor Olaf Scholz's ministers continue a pattern of appeasement of the Kremlin, putting the economy over national security. Economy Minister Robert Habeck appealed to Canada to release a turbine allegedly required to increase natural gas flow on the Nordstream 1 pipeline.¹² Ukraine strongly opposes the release of the sanctioned pipeline parts.¹³ Scholz has also called for a modification of current sanctions against Russia that would allow goods to move through Lithuania into the enclave of Kaliningrad.¹⁴

These moves have been made despite the Chechen government clearly stating its intention is to continue marching west, with Russia's support, to Berlin itself. Although this is highly unlikely, Putin and the Kremlin have stated for over a decade their intention of restoring the previous Soviet Union borders and returning the former Warsaw Pact countries to rump states – that includes 40% of Germany.

We are vehemently against the appeasement of Moscow, which has always viewed capitulation for political

¹² [Financial Post](#)

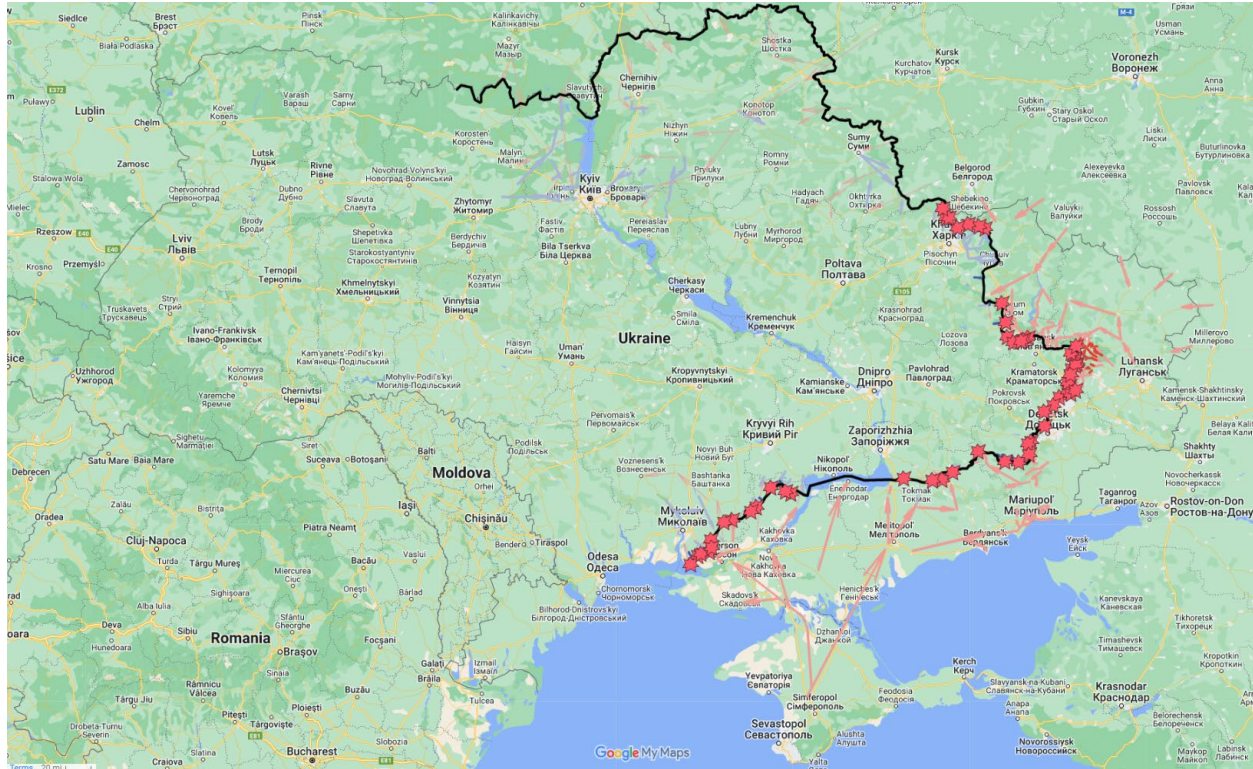
¹³ [Reuters](#)

¹⁴ <https://www.politico.eu/article/olaf-scholz-urges-free-transit-for-russian-goods-to-kaliningrad/>

expedient reasons as a show of weakness by the Kremlin. Case in point, after weeks of threats to Lithuania, the final act to resolve the Kalinigrad impasse was an ineffective cyberattack.

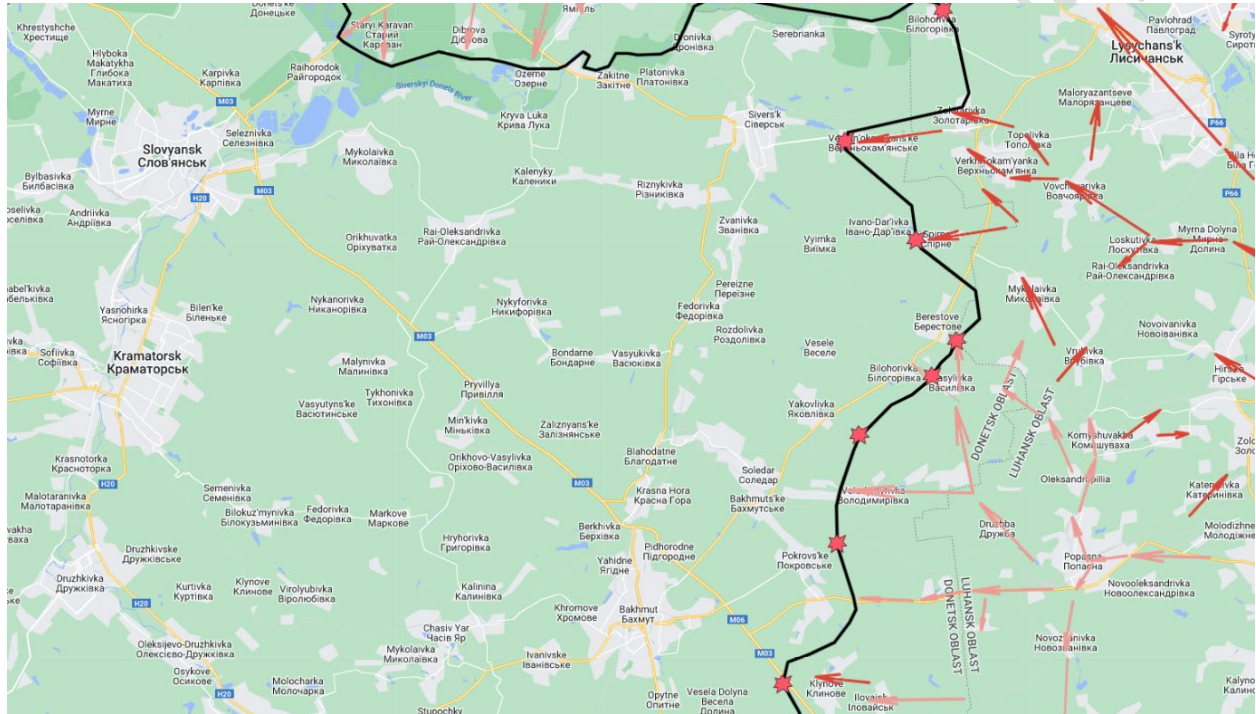
We remain concerned we are in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox, given Russia's unyielding view on Ukraine, its hypocritical stance on European Union sanctions, and its diminishing capabilities through conventional warfare. The decisions emanating from the Kremlin are not geopolitically or militarily sound. So far, all the threats have been just that – threats – and empty ones.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



DONBAS REGION

SIVERSK-SLOVYANSK-KRAMATORSK-BAKHMUT DEFENSIVE LINE



In the Luhansk oblast, Ukrainian forces continue to control Bilohorivka to the north bank of the Siverskyi Donets River. Russian forces raised the national flag in the southeast corner of the settlement.¹⁵

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1545066161888444416>

The wet crossing that Russian forces established in Pryvillya was destroyed between July 3 – 6 based on Sentinel-2 2LA imaging.



Ukrainian officials and Pro-Russian social media accounts reported that Luhansk is not under complete Russian control.^{16 17}

Luhansk Governor Haidai said, "Not all of Luhansk region is occupied: fighting is still going on near Verkhnyokamyanka."

NASA FIRMS data supported the statement, showing indications of continued fighting in Luhansk.

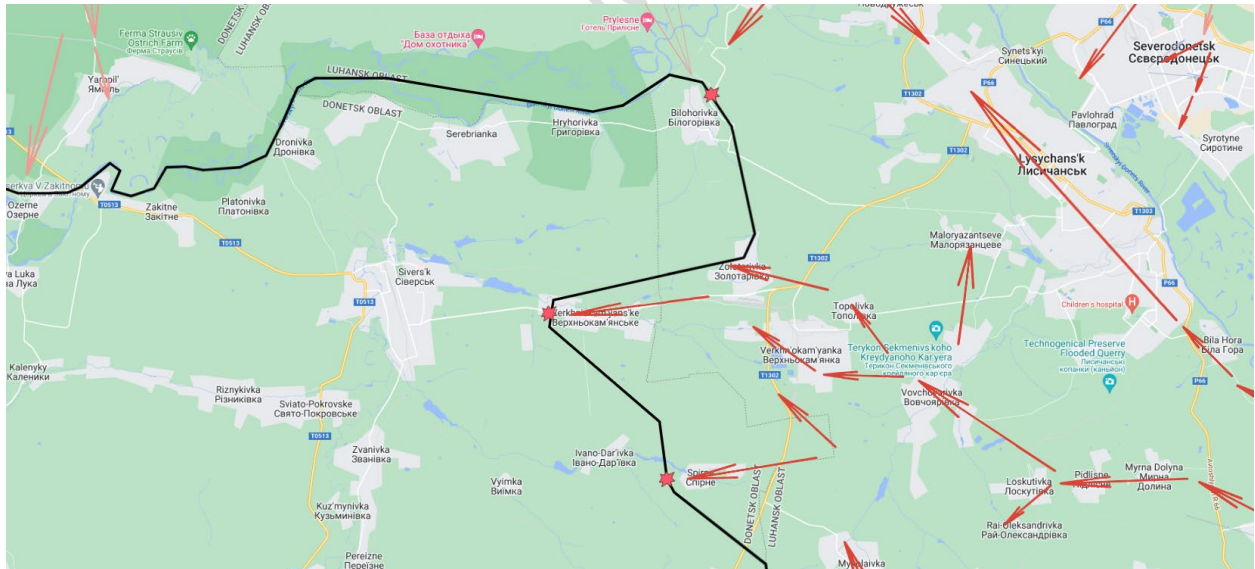
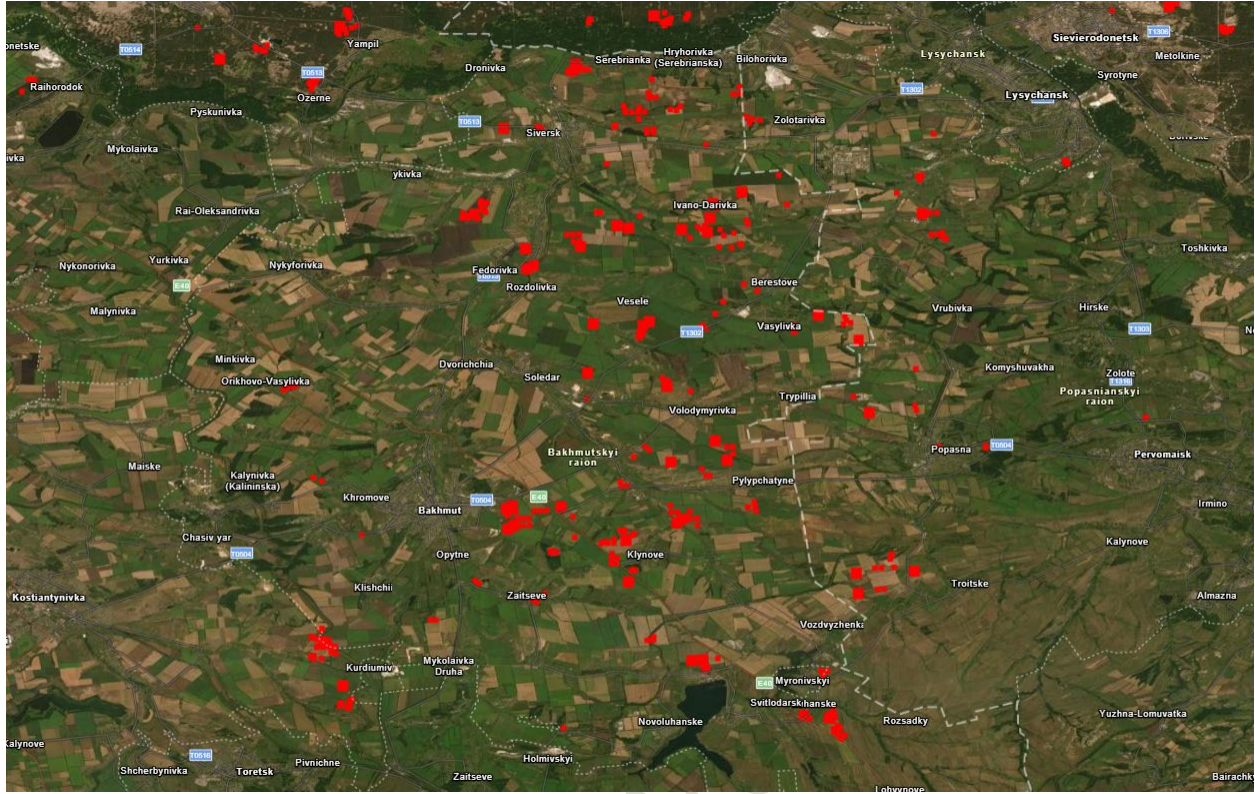
¹⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/35119> [Pro-Russian Account Rating: Some Information is Misinformation]

¹⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/4101>



There were widespread artillery and MLRS barrages by Russian forces in northeast Donetsk, likely setting conditions for a future offensive.¹⁸ Settlements shelled included Bilohorivka [Donetsk], Pokrovske, Kylnove, Soledar, Yakovlivka, Bakhmut, Siversk, Serebaryanka, Hryorivka, and Zolotarivka.

¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



Russian forces continued attempts to advance into Hryhovika and Verknokamyanske. They were unsuccessful

at Hryhovika but were able to advance into parts of Verknokamyanske.

Russia is accumulating materiel and personnel [about 8 kilometers from Siversk](#).¹⁹ The accumulation of military assets is likely in preparation for an advance on the fortified town and transit hub. The British Ministry of Defense shares this assessment.²⁰

To the west of the T-1302 Highway, Russian forces tried to capture the settlement of Berestove and were unsuccessful.²¹ Berestove and the area around it resemble a World War I battlefield. Further north, and likely in preparation for the offensive on Siversk, Russian forces continued to attempt to capture Spirne.²²

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1545128067609264133>

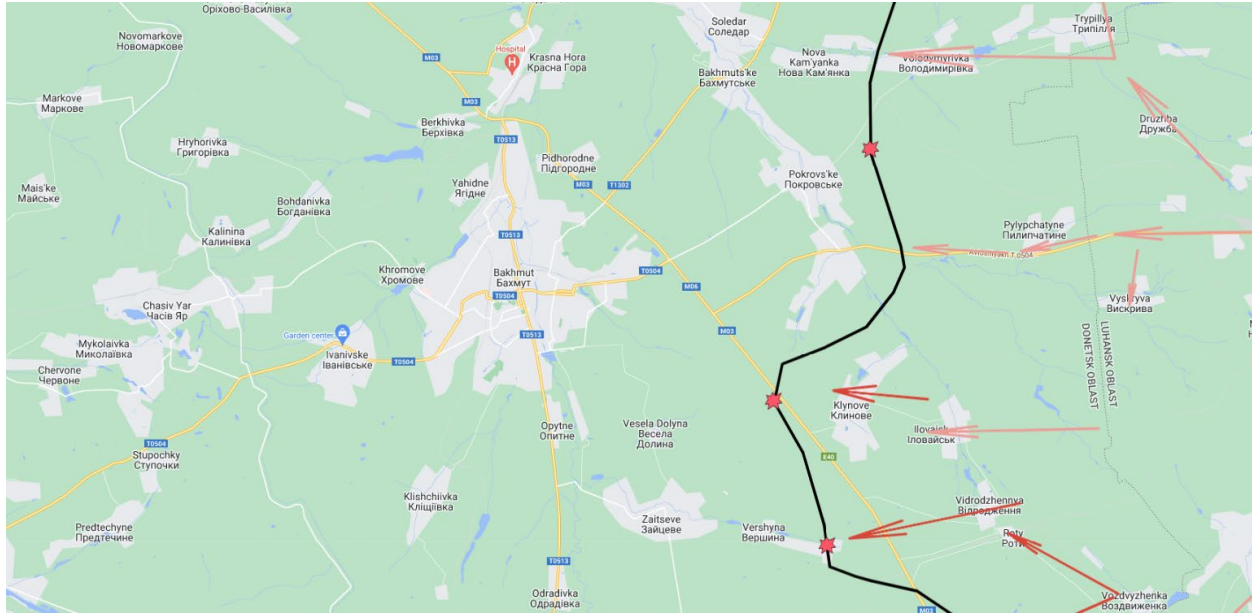
²⁰ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1545270350845546499/photo/1>

²¹ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1545085181979131905>

²² <https://twitter.com/mhmck/status/1545268206520221699>



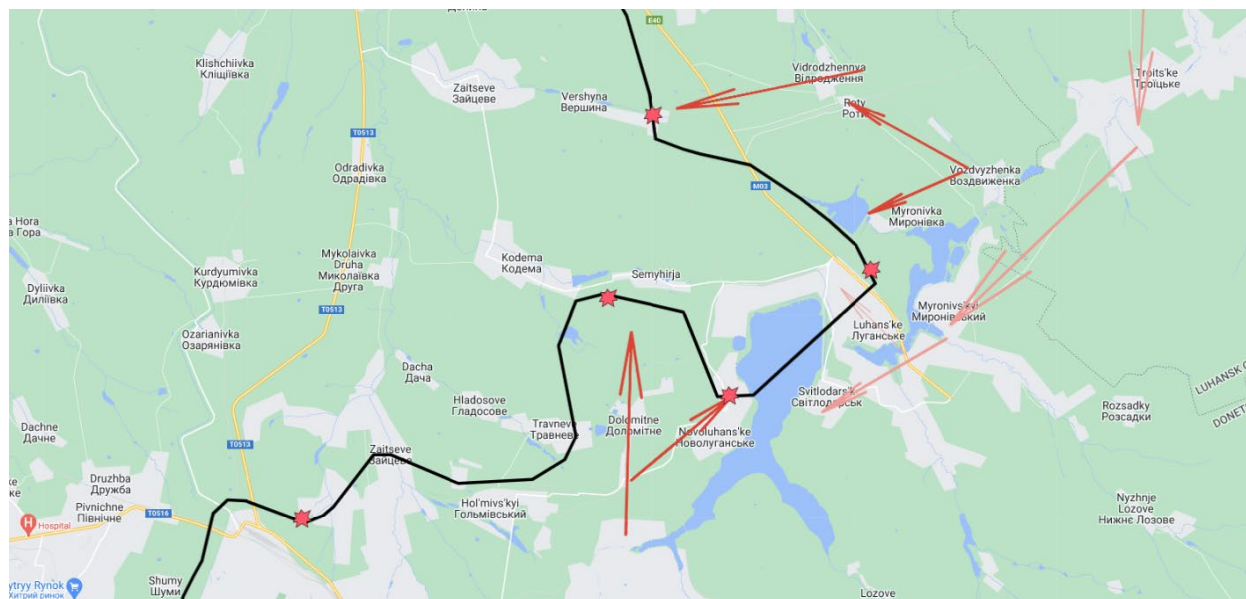
East of Bakhmut, Russian proxy forces supported by terrorists of the Imperial Legion working for PMC Wagner Group continue to advance from Kylove, moving west toward the settlement of Vesela Dolyna. They are supported by artillery fire from the Russian Federation Armed Forces.



Fighting continued in the Svitlodarsk bulge, with Russian proxy forces supported by terrorists of the Imperial Legion working for PMC Wagner Group attempting to advance on Vershyina.²³ Ukraine maintained control of the Vuhledar Power Plant and pushed Russian forces back incrementally in Luhanske.²⁴ Russian forces suffered significant losses.

²³ <https://twitter.com/WarMonitor3/status/1545005548202065921>

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/WarMonitor3/status/1545204461026549762>



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT: The Ukrainian-controlled settlement of Kodema was shelled. On July 6, the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed it destroyed two HIMARS in the Donetsk oblast.²⁵ The Russian MOD [released a video of the strike](#). The video shows no secondary explosions and a clear miss of four objects. The video was shot at high altitude, in black and white, and with poor resolution.

The airstrike was geolocated in Kodama, and the area hit was recently added oil storage tanks on the west side of an industrial area [48°28'19.3"N 38°04'25.7"E].²⁶ The Sentinel-2 2LA pass over the area on July 7 does not show damage or

²⁵ [https://english.pravda \[dot\] ru/news/hotspots/152794-russia_himars/](https://english.pravda.ru/news/hotspots/152794-russia_himars/) [Warning: Russia State Media Website]

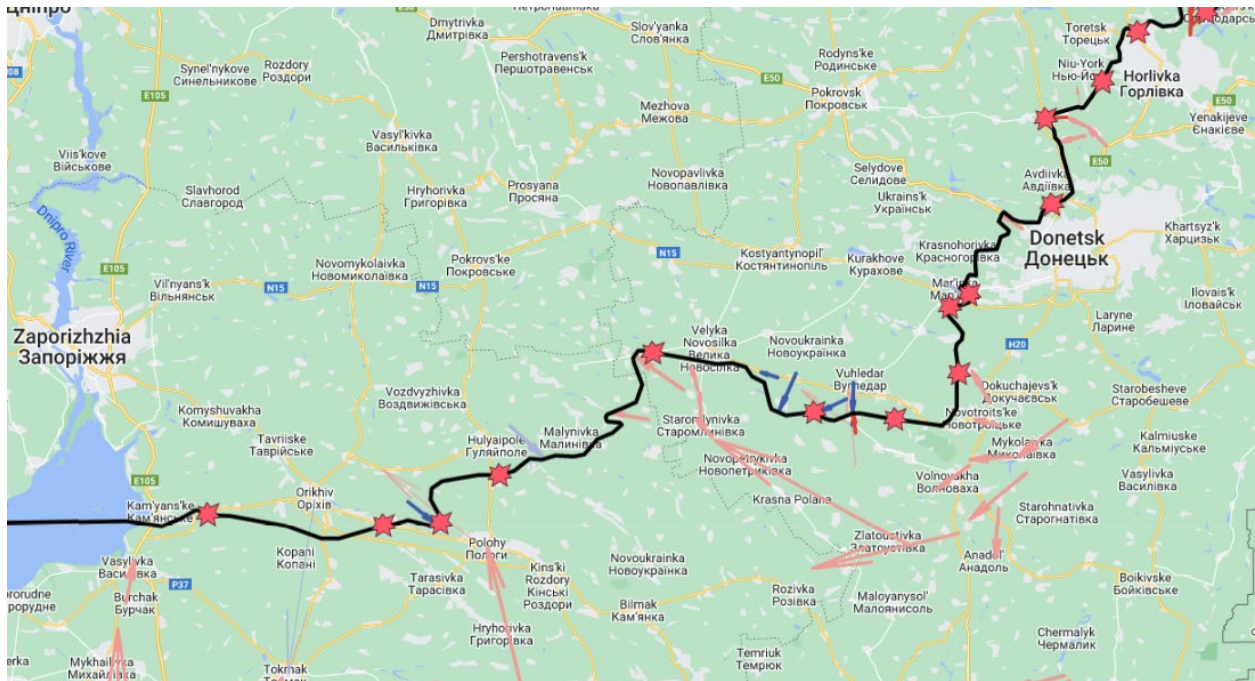
²⁶ <https://goo.gl/maps/KMtZUg29hPrwHXo56>

burn patterns consistent with striking a large ammunition depot holding multiple rockets with propellant and 200 kilogram high explosive warheads. The image indicates that one missile was wide to the west and the other to the east. Additionally, Pro-Russian accounts claim that terrorists of the Imperial Legion working for PMC Wagner Group captured Kodema on July 6.²⁷



²⁷ <https://twitter.com/Ukraine66251776/status/1544744816659120129> [Russian State Media Controlled Account Rating: Disinformation]

SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHZHIA



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

Ukrainian artillery or rockets from Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) struck the Kirovs'kyi fuel depot causing a massive fire.²⁸ NASA FIRMS data confirmed there was a large fire in the area.

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/markito0171/status/1545102588529545216>

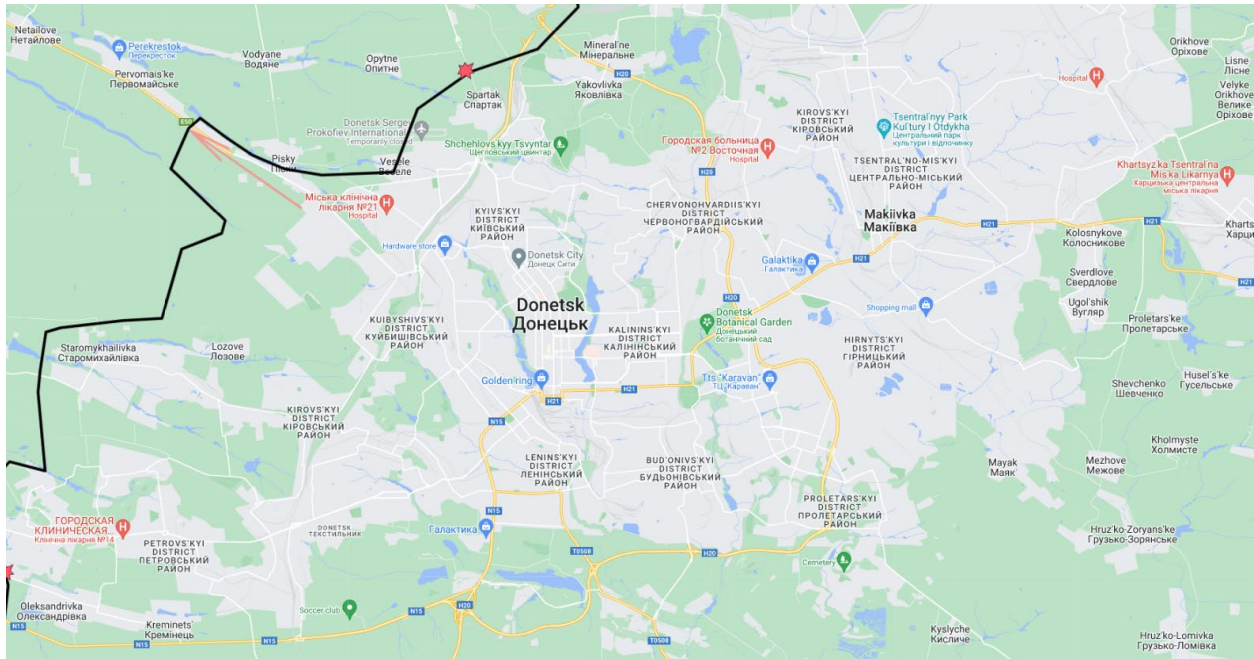


An ammunition depot was also destroyed near the George Dimitrov Number 112 school in Donetsk.²⁹ There are reports of secondary explosions.

Sentinel-2 L2A imagery showed the destruction of the ammunition depot, located in a civilian area in the Kamaz Service Center in Donetsk.³⁰

²⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/35126>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/bradyafr/status/1545071390675681281>



NATO-provided High Mobility Rocket Artillery System (HIMARS) rockets destroyed a large ammunition depot in Shakhtarsk, 60 kilometers east of Donetsk.^{31 32 33 34} Hours after the attack, ammunition was still cooking off.³⁵

In Berdyansk, a floating crane with the Black Sea fleet arrived at the port to assist with the removal of the Saratov.³⁶ Despite the continued risk of uncontrolled

³¹ https://t.me/Bratchuk_Sergey/15144

³² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/20800>

³³ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1545252701692481538>

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1545252701692481538>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1545246790861086721>

³⁶ https://t.me/info_zp/10948

explosions from unstable munitions, a cargo ship arrived in port to load Ukrainian grain.³⁷

Near Russian-controlled Melitopol, insurgents destroyed a railroad bridge between Novobohdanivka and Troitske.^{38 39} This is the fourth railroad bridge destroyed by Ukrainian insurgents in four days in an attempt to disrupt the supply and logistics of materiel, ammunition, and personnel.

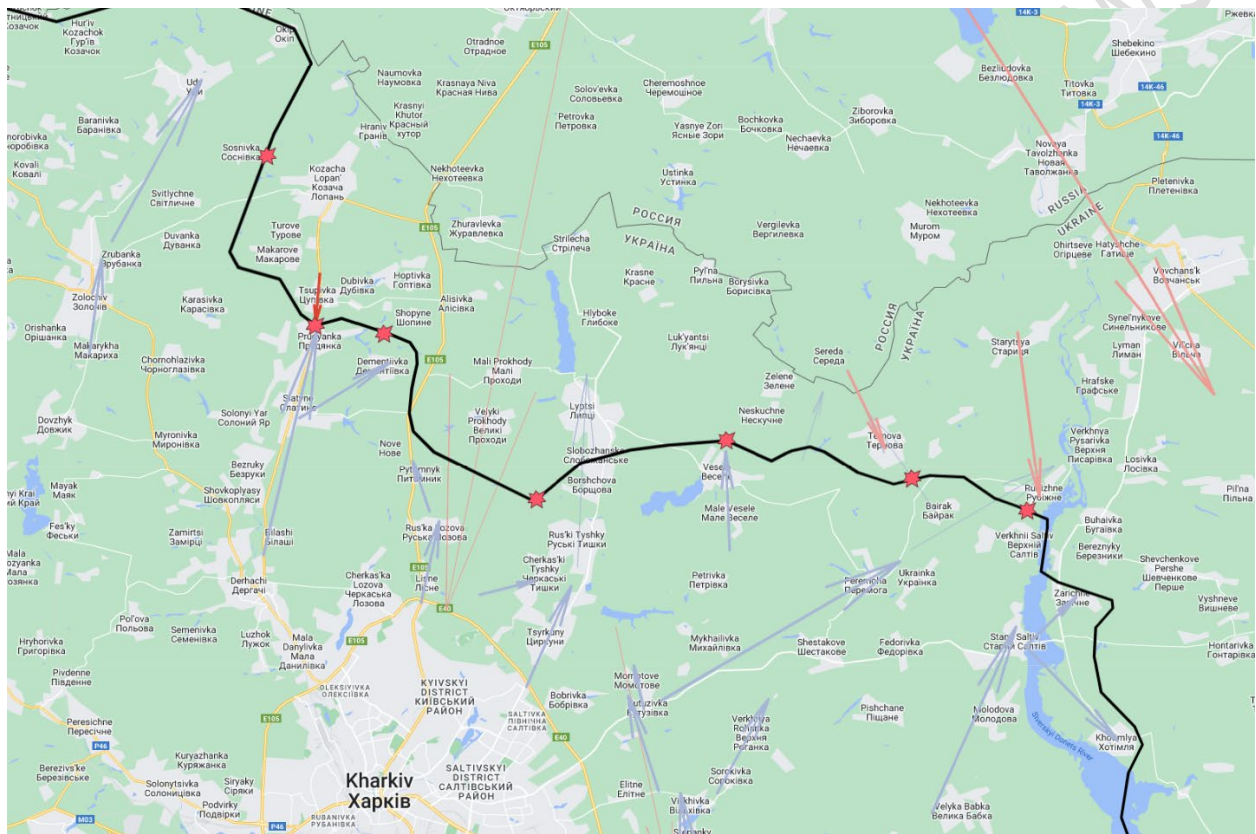
³⁷ https://t.me/info_zp/10987

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/legioner61/status/1544924676245291008>

³⁹ <https://sprotyv.mod.gov.ua/2022/07/07/v-okupovanij-zaporizkij-oblasti-pidirvaly-shhe-odyn-mist/>

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHERN KHARKIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE



Northwest of Kharkiv and 8 kilometers from the Russian border, Russian forces made another spoiling attack on Sossnivka and were unsuccessful.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/IBTimes/status/1545265914144346115>

Russian forces also tried to capture Dementiivka but were unsuccessful.⁴¹

At least two Russian Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM) struck the Nemyshlianskyi District of Kharkiv city.⁴² The missiles hit a nine-story apartment building and homes. There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

We consider the settlements of Hrakove, Nova Hnlytysa, Chkalovske, Doslidne, Rtyschchivka, and Zaliznychne contested.

IZYUM AXIS

North of Izyum, the critical Kupyansk railroad bridge was knocked out just a day after [Russian state media reported](#) the bridge had been repaired and showed a priest from the Russian Orthodox Church blessing the bridge.^{43 44}

⁴¹ <https://t.me/synegubov/3594>

⁴² <https://t.me/synegubov/3594>

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1544380844588122114>

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1545150511384608774>

ASSESSMENT: Russian Operational Security (OPSEC) continues to be mind-boggling bad.

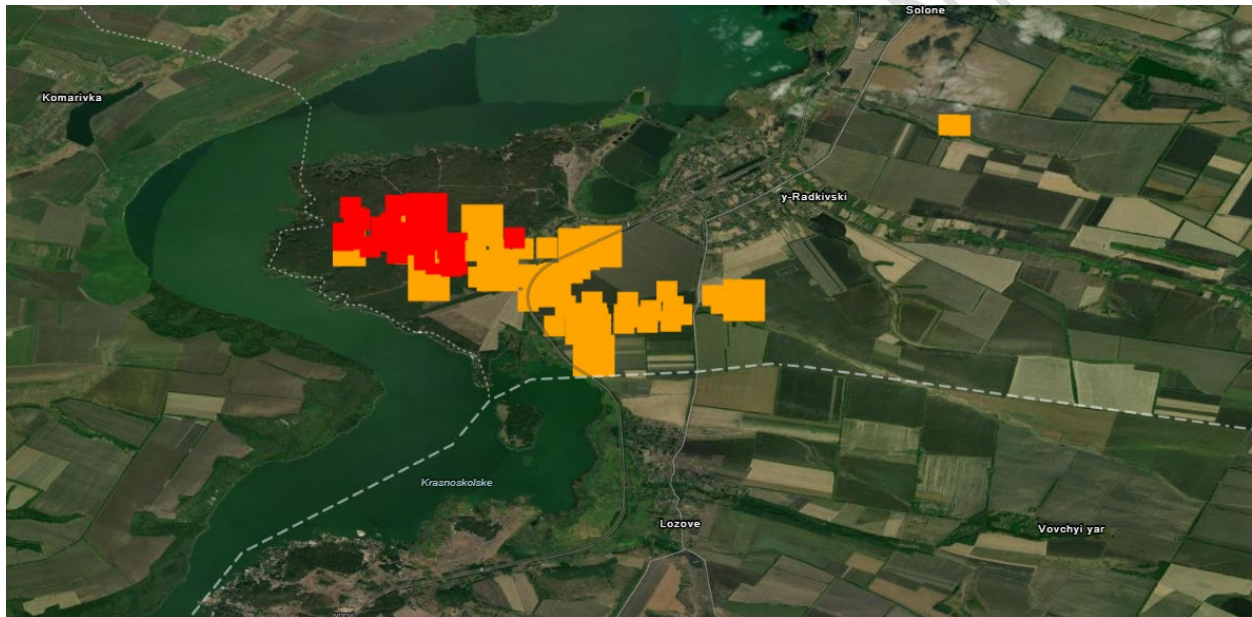
Sentinel-2 2LA false-color satellite imagery supports that the bridge was destroyed.⁴⁵

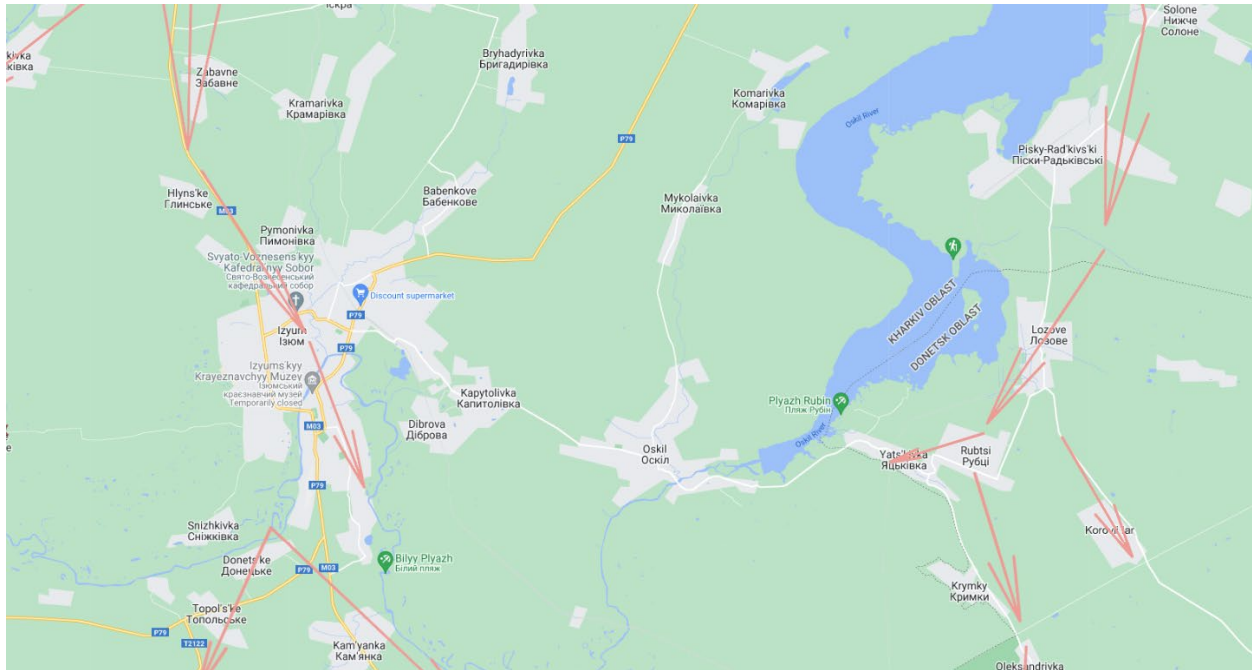


Southwest of Pisky-Radkivski, NATO-provided HIMARS systems were fired at a forward operating training base and staging area for Luhansk (LNR) and Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) conscripts, Russian Federation Armed

⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1545230566512943104>

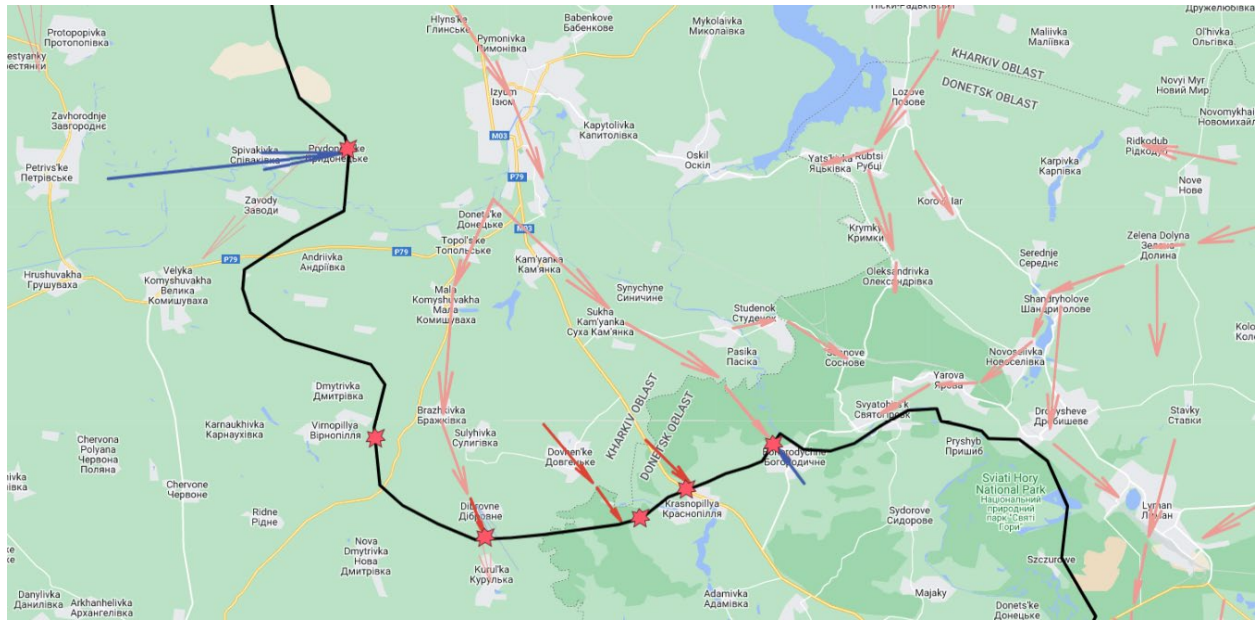
Forces contract volunteers, and terrorists with the Imperial Legion reporting to Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group. We had reported in a previous situation report about this training area, based on highly reliable reports from contacts that work with us. We will not share additional specifics to protect our contacts and their families.





Russian forces made another ad hoc advance into Bohorodychne, backed by intense artillery fire. They were unsuccessful and returned to previously held defensive lines on the edge of the settlement.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine](#)



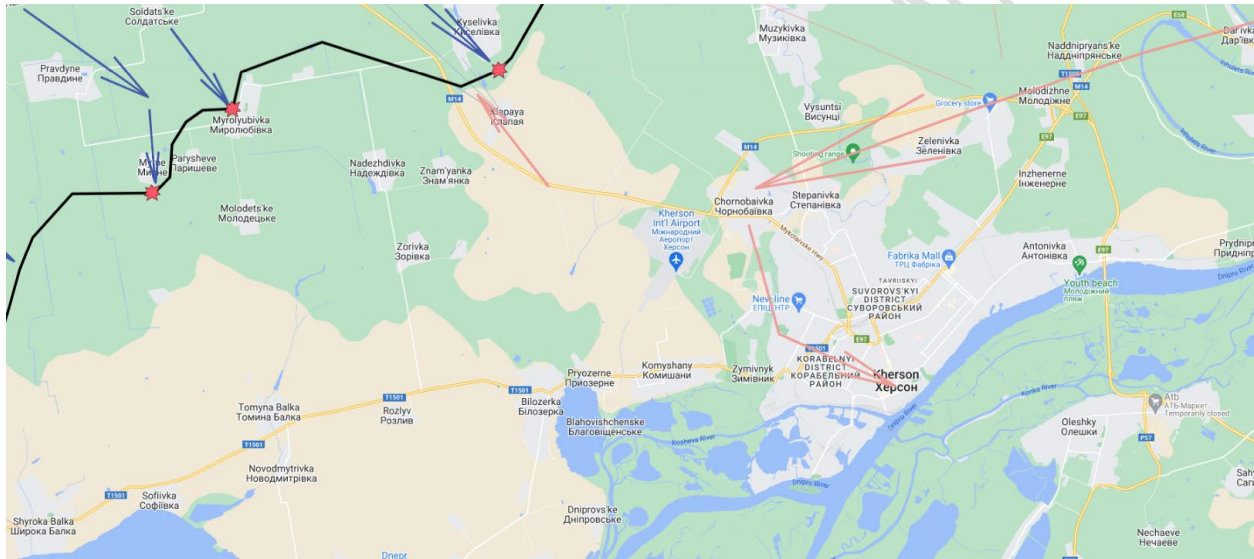
DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

The sound of small arms fire could be heard within Kherson city.⁴⁷

ASSESSMENT: The report's veracity cannot be verified, but it has significant weight. It would indicate that insurgents were engaged with occupation forces, or Ukrainian forces were fighting within very close proximity of the city. We do not believe this indicates an imminent attempt to liberate the city.

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/21641>

A large ammunition depot was destroyed on the outskirts of Kherson, potentially north of the water treatment plant within the city limits.⁴⁸ The site has been burning for hours with multiple secondary explosions.



A second ammunition depot was destroyed near Chornobaivka, with multiple secondary explosions.^{49 50} Operational Command South of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that the ongoing attacks at Chornobaivka destroyed 25 vehicles.⁵¹

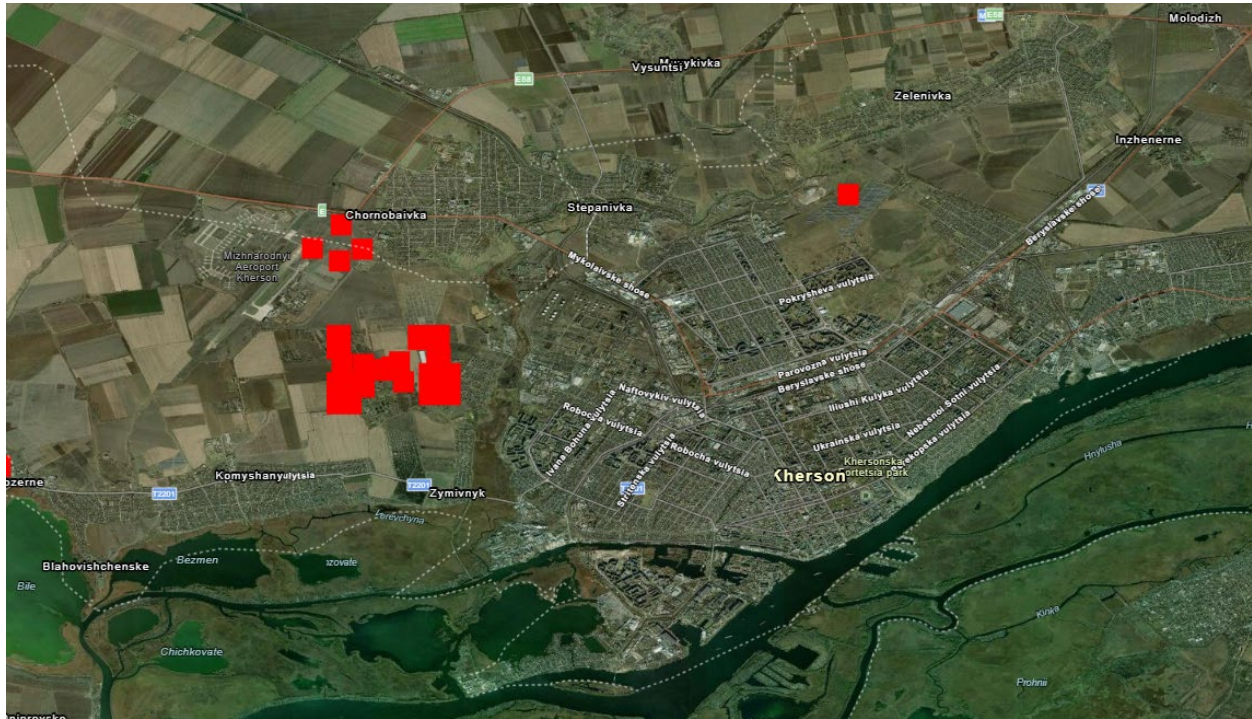
⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1545225476809101313>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/21641>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/21644>

⁵¹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=735326434258091>

NASA FIRMS data is supportive of all of these reports.



Editor's Note: The one indication of thermal activity northeast of Kherson is a false positive. There is a solar power array in that location, and the satellite detected the sun's reflection from space.

Residents of occupied Kherson reported that Russian forces fired multiple anti-aircraft missiles from Novoberislav.⁵² Reportedly, almost half of the missiles failed to explode and landed in Hornostaevka. Russian Ministry of

⁵² <https://t.me/hueviyherson/21652>

Emergency Situations was on the scene waiting for Explosive Ordnance Disposal to arrive.

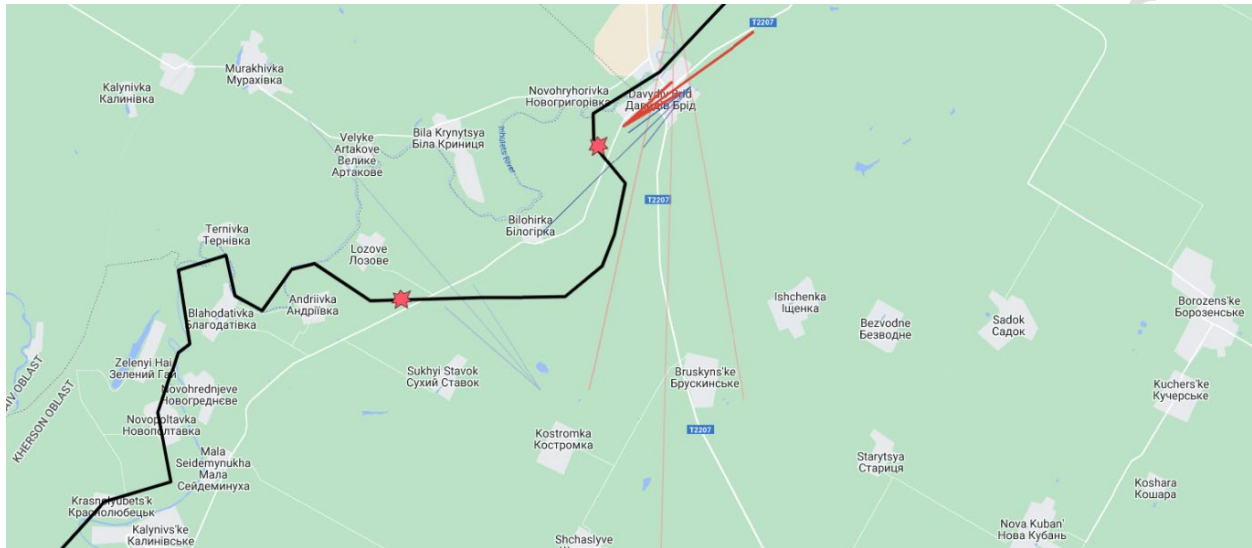
Russian forces are trying to slow the Ukrainian advance west and northwest of Kherson, targeting Lymany, Lupareve, Prybuzke, Ukrianka, Luch, and Myrne [Mykolaiv 46°48'49.0"N 32°18'51.8"E] with artillery and MLRS.



North of Kherson city, NASA FIRMS suggests there is fighting west of Ukrainian-controlled Lozove in Andriivka.

Operational Command South of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that fighting for control of Davydiv Brid continued, with Ukrainian helicopters attacking the

settlement east of the Inhulets River.⁵³ An ammunition depot was destroyed in the attack.



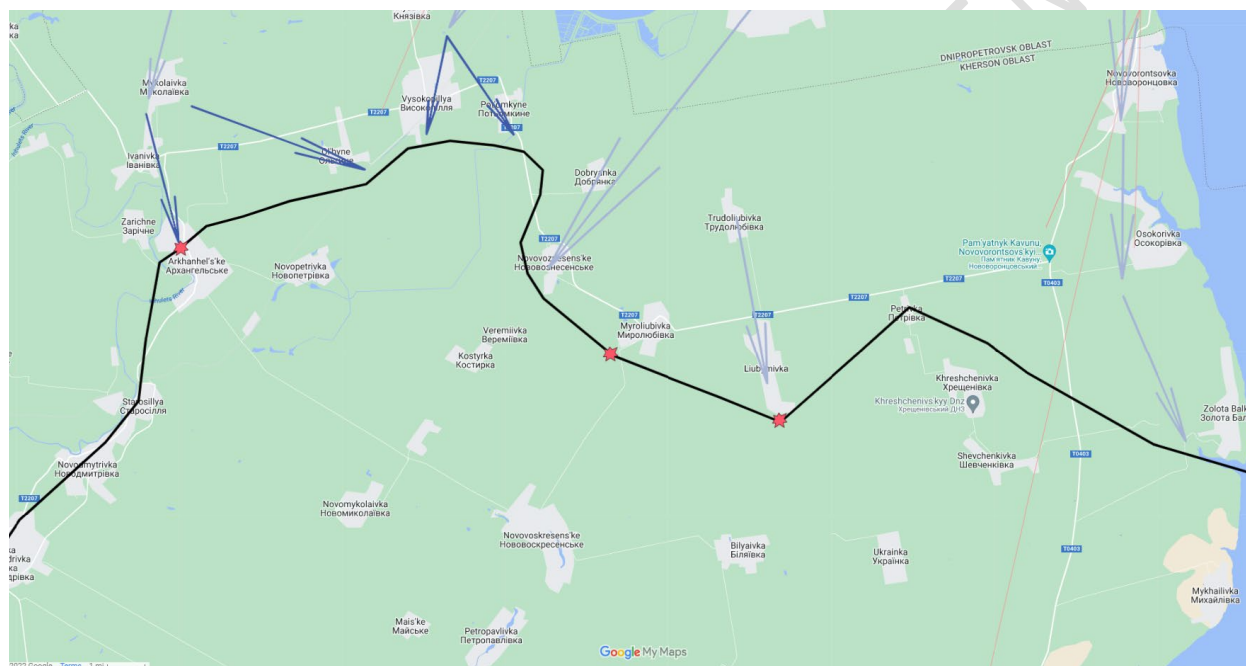
Editor's Note: This was likely a small cache of ammunition compared to the large explosions in Kherson and Donetsk.

Russian forces tried to move a reconnaissance force toward recently liberated Vysokopillia and were attacked by Ukrainian helicopters. A squad supported by a tank and one 152mm self-propelled howitzer was destroyed.

Russian forces used artillery and MLRS to interdict the Ukrainian GLOC on the T-2207 highway from Osokorivka.

⁵³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/8/7356945/>

The artillery barrage was followed by three reconnaissance in force advances with understaffed Russian platoons. Two raids were made on Dobryanka and one on Myroliubivka.⁵⁴ None of the attempts were successful. Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions in Novovorontsovka.



CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

In the Sumy oblast, Russian forces fired small arms into the settlement of Shalyhyne.

⁵⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=735326434258091>

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION



Combat divers from the 73rd Maritime Special Operations Center used darkness as cover and [landed on Snake Island](#) using underwater vehicles.⁵⁵ They evaluated the island's coastline for mines and established a corridor for RIBs to land on the island.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defense and Operational Command South of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the Russian air force fired two missiles at the pier at the north end of Snake Island at dawn. The Russian MOD claims Ukraine suffered casualties and evacuated the island. The numerous pictures [and videos](#) don't support Russia's version of events.^{56 57 58 59}

Combat engineers landed in the first wave to clear mines and check for traps before the survey team landed. Upon reaching the high plateau on the island, combat engineers surveyed the infrastructure condition and inventoried the abandoned equipment Russian forces left on the island.

⁵⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/7/7356899/>

⁵⁶ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1545107559073435650>

⁵⁷ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1545107564291039233>

⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/OSINT88/status/1544976875851857922>

⁵⁹ https://twitter.com/walter_report/status/1545073888471568384

Ukrainian forces planted several national flags, as well as the flag of the 73rd Maritime Special Operations Center and the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The Russian air force fired two Kh-32 air-to-sea missiles at the previously attacked and disabled tanker MV Millennial Spirit, setting it ablaze.^{60 61} The Moldovan-flagged vessel was hit by a Russian missile on February 25, critically injuring two crewmembers. Since the attack, the vessel has been abandoned and anchored off the coast of Odesa.

Two Kh-31 air-to-sea cruise missiles hit grain warehouses near Odesa, holding 35 tons of cereals awaiting export. The grains were destroyed, but there were no casualties.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

ASSESSMENT: We believe the chances Belarus will launch a ground attack against Ukraine is low.

⁶⁰ <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/ukraine-says-russian-missile-hit-abandon-moldovan-tanker-in-black-sea>

⁶¹ <https://twitter.com/CovertShores/status/1545285469809905664>

ASSESSMENT: The situation in Transnistria has stabilized.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

On July 7, Russian forces launched seven Iskander-M SRBMs toward Kharkiv, with at least one failing after launch and falling back into the city.⁶²

Belarusian armed forces have extended ongoing military training exercises until July 16.⁶³ Despite the increase in the duration of exercises at the training grounds, the Belarusian army is still not ready for offensive operations.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Belarus, Major General Ruslan Kosygin, said that in the event of "Western provocations," Belarusian forces will strike primarily on the infrastructure of Poland.⁶⁴

"The territory of Poland, as well as the Baltic States, is turning into a testing ground where the United States plans

⁶² https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1544943082633920513

⁶³ https://t.me/Hajun_BY/4971

⁶⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/7/7356869/>

to unleash another bloody conflict in Europe against the Russian Federation and its allies," Kosygin said.

He pointed to the holding of military exercises and "attempts by individual Polish politicians to initiate the return of the so-called native Polish lands, which mean the western regions of Ukraine and Belarus," repeating the Kremlin disinformation that Poland plans to invade Ukraine.

The deputy chief of the General Staff of the Belarusian armed forces called all this "preparation for conducting military operations eastwards."

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WNBA star Brittney Griner pleaded guilty Thursday to controversial drug charges in Russia after she was allegedly caught with cannabis oil in her luggage at a Moscow airport.

"I'd like to plead guilty, your honor. But there was no intent. I didn't want to break the law," Griner told the judge, according to Reuters.

Griner faces up to 10 years in a Russian prison. The White House vowed to negotiate for her release.

National Hockey League rookie player and two-time Olympic silver medalist Ivan Fedotov, who played for the Philadelphia Flyers, was detained in St. Petersburg by the police, accused of evading military service.⁶⁵ He had returned to Russia at the end of his NHL contract in May.

His lawyer, Alexei Ponomaryev, told state news agency RIA on Saturday that Fedotov was taken to an enlistment office on Friday and then a military hospital after falling ill.

"As I understand it, due to stress, he had gastritis," Ponomaryev said. "Ivan feels bad. He says that he is not being provided with full medical assistance."

SRBM missile strikes in Kharkiv killed three civilians and wounded five others. The intentionally targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure is a war crime.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ [NDTV](#)

⁶⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/8/7356974/>

GEOPOLITICAL

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson resigned after barely surviving a no-confidence vote last month. Johnson's time as prime minister was plagued by scandals and bogged down by Brexit and lackluster COVID response.

"It is clearly now the will of the parliamentary Conservative Party that there should be a new leader of that party and therefore a new prime minister."

"And I've agreed with Sir Graham Brady, the chairman of our backbench MPs, that the process of choosing that new leader should begin now and the timetable will be announced next week."

"And I've today appointed a Cabinet to serve, as I will, until a new leader is in place."

"So I want to say to the millions of people who voted for us in 2019, many of them voting Conservative for the first time, thank you for that incredible mandate, the biggest Conservative majority since 1987, the biggest share of the

vote since 1979," Johnson said during his resignation speech.

Multiple names have come up as a potential replacement, which the House of Commons will elect in September.⁶⁷

MP Tom Tugendhat, Attorney General Suella Braverman, and Brexiteer Steve Baker have announced their interest in being the next prime minister. Others considering a run include Sajid Javid, the former Health Secretary, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, former Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, and ex-Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

Shinzo Abe, Japan's former Prime Minister, was assassinated during a campaign speech in Nara, Japan. Abe resigned as Prime Minister due to health issues in 2021. He is credited with breaking the decades-long doldrums in which the Japanese economy was stuck. He also worried his neighbors in China and Korea with what they considered his nationalistic ideals.

⁶⁷ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62088847>

ECONOMIC

The Russian improved again, rising to an exchange rate of 61 for 1 US dollar.

Oil continues to trade between \$100 to \$120 a barrel after testing the limits of the \$100 basement. WTI dropped below \$100 but rose to \$102 a barrel. Brent climbed to \$105. RBOB wholesale gasoline in the United States increased ten cents to \$3.40 a gallon (90 cents a liter).

Chicago SRW wheat futures rose to 85 cents a bushel for September 2022 delivery.