



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR
SITUATION REPORT**



November 30, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 280.....	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT	4
TODAY’S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP.....	7
KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA.....	8
DONBAS REGION	16
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK.....	16
NORTHEAST DONETSK.....	24
LUHANSK	34
CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION.....	40
KYIV REGION.....	42
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION	43
WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE.....	45
RUSSIAN FRONT	46
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	47
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS.....	51
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....	60
GEOPOLITICAL.....	61
ECONOMIC.....	63

SUMMARY – DAY 280

It has been 40 weeks since Russia's widescale invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, and 3,185 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Russian propagandists and milbloggers have increased battlefield disinformation significantly, to a level we have not seen since late May during the siege of Severodonetsk. Russian forces continue to make incremental gains south of Bakhmut and along the E-40 Highway, retaking some lost positions, but the numerous claims of captured villages and towns are mostly inaccurate.

It appears the Russian VKS has stood down after posturing for a massive strike on Ukraine starting on November 28. There are several possibilities on why this has happened, and it does not mean that the risk of more terror attacks has subsided.

The Kremlin is in the middle of a massive public relations campaign called "Mariupol Comes to Life" with a popular social media icon who has been viewed as a voice of reason from Moscow, heavily involved in creating Russian propaganda.

Because the operational tempo has slowed in Kherson and Zaporizhia, we will be changing the order of axes we report on starting December 1, beginning with the Luhansk oblast and reporting in a clockwise direction across the fronts.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

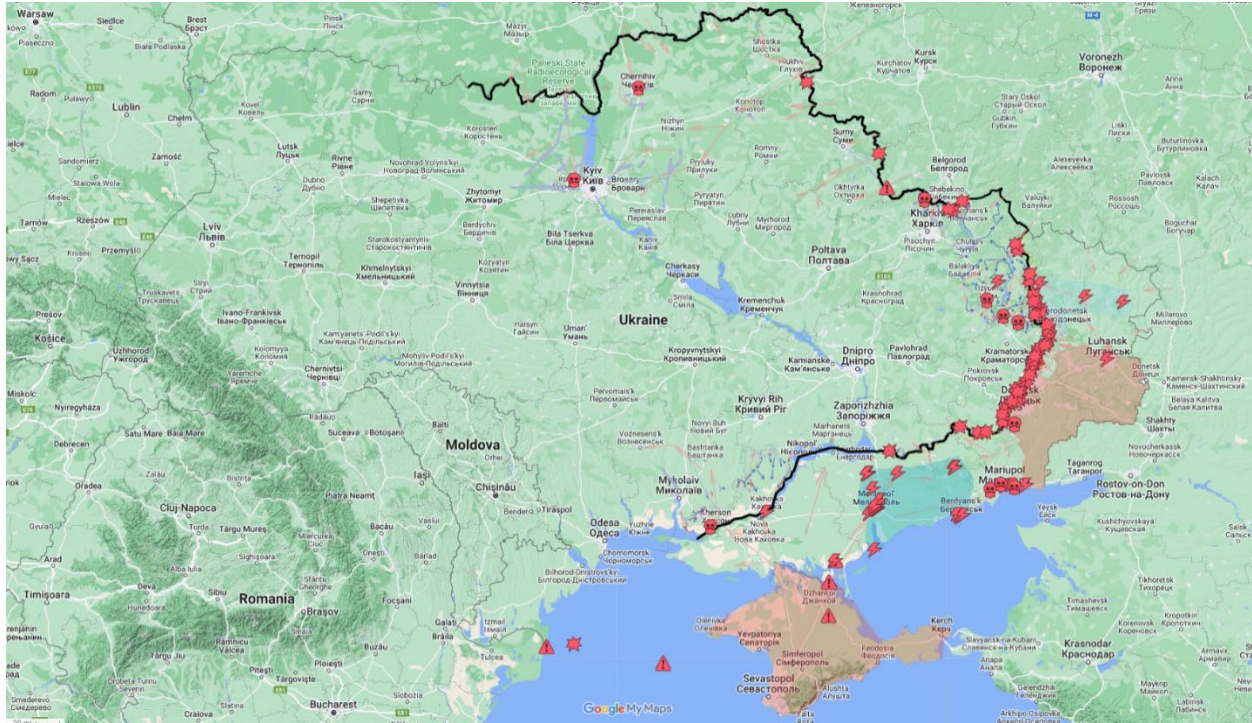
1. We assess that the Kremlin is trying to control the information space to assuage Russian war hawks who continue to express frustration and disappointment with the lack of progress in Ukraine.
2. We maintain that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing unrest inside and outside the Kremlin. If there continue to be military failures, there is a remote chance Russia could face a regime change.
3. We assess the risk of terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure as high, with another round of attacks likely this week.
4. We maintain Russia will not stop until the Ukrainian electrical grid and natural gas network are completely destroyed, or Russia's supply of missiles and drones is exhausted.

5. We maintain that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the deenergization of Ukrainian nuclear power plants caused by Russian electrical infrastructure destruction is possible.
6. We maintain that Russia is conducting stealth mobilization and may be preparing for the second wave of partial mobilization in January 2023.
7. We assess the slowdown in combat operations on multiple axes will end in the next 10 to 25 days, with winter weather conditions starting to sweep across Ukraine.
8. We maintain that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause.
9. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.
10. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount effective defensive operations.
11. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.
12. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.

13. We maintain that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine has diminished but remains a possibility in the next 40 to 70 days.

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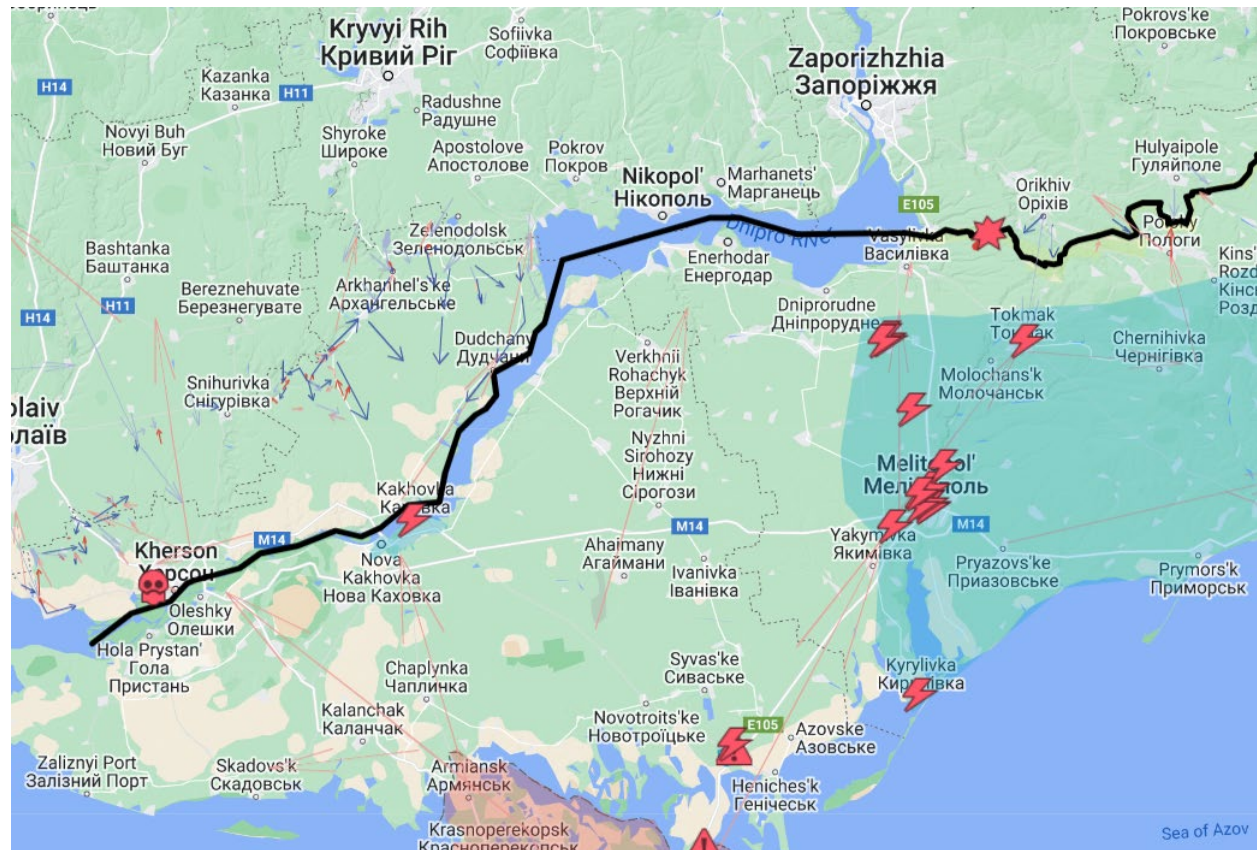
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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 changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." 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, 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>

KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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

There was mutual shelling by both belligerents across the Dnipro, with a continued reduction in activity.^{1 2}

Russian forces conducted 18 fire missions on the free Ukraine territories west of the Dnipro River targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure – a 15% reduction from yesterday.³ Four civilians were injured during the continued attacks.

A [strike in the evening hours](#) caused electricity and water service to fail in the parts of the city of Kherson where it had been restored.⁴ This is the second time in a week that Russian forces have targeted electrical infrastructure in Kherson.

The exiled mayor of Oleshky, Yevhen Ryschuk, reported that Russian forces committed an extrajudicial execution of a family, killing both parents and seriously wounding their adult son.⁵ The wounded person was taken away by Russian forces. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian troops are withdrawing from Oleshky

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

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

³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59639>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/TulioWars/status/1598197838131122176>

⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59653>

and Hola Prystan and moving to prepared defenses in the tree line along the P-57 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line).⁶ There have been reports of Russian troops abandoning both settlements that have not been accurate. Due to tighter Russian operational security, a lack of Russian state media coverage, and a lack of Chechen forces with cell phones, there isn't any supporting information. There is evidence that Russian troops have been pulling back from the east bank of the Dnipro to get out of range of Ukrainian tubed artillery, where the belligerents have near parity, and Ukraine has a range advantage.

In Nova Kakhovka, Russian troops have occupied the Kakhovka dam on the east bank and are using the location as a firing position across the Dnipro.⁷

⁶ <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1598203176825528320>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1598253589583265793>

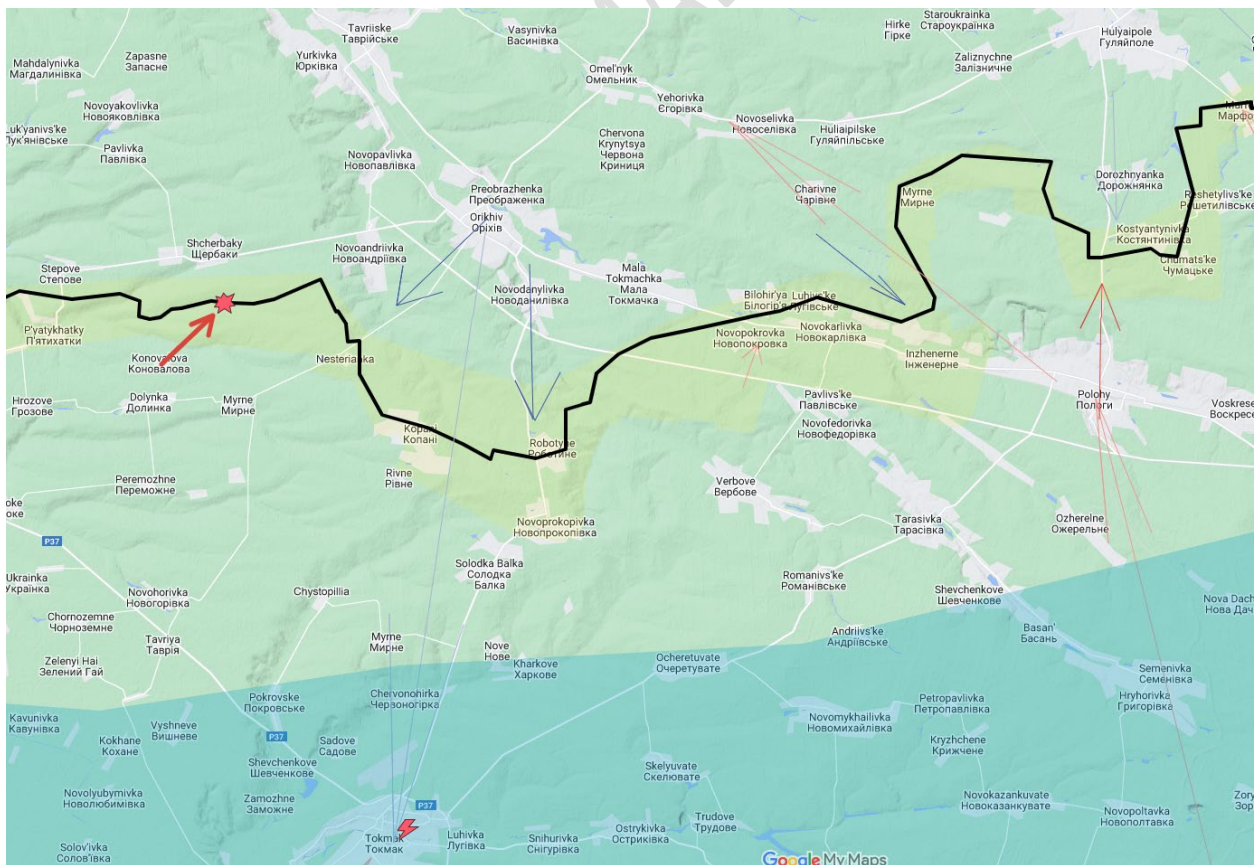


The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has somewhat destabilized, with Moscow exerting its will to take control of the facility. Rosatom announced that the new manager of the ZNPP is Yuriy Chernichuk, the chief engineer working for the Ukrainian state enterprise Energoatom before the start of the war.⁸ Renat Karchaa, the advisor to the Rosatom General Director, claims Chernichuk has been collaborating with Moscow for “several months” and that all of the leadership roles at the power plant are occupied by former Energoatom employees that signed Russian contracts. The International

⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378644/>

Atomic Energy Agency had not released a statement at the time of publication.

Rosatom claims that one of the top priorities is disconnecting ZNPP from the Ukrainian power grid and linking it to the Russian grid through Crimea. The Russian state-run company made a similar announcement in late July, which resulted in the destruction of high-voltage power lines that led to Crimea, stymying the plan. The company claims it has no plans to leave the facility or to ask the Kremlin to demilitarize the area.



Ukrainian forces continue to target Russian positions in Polohy and Tokmak, rekindling speculation that Ukraine is preparing to launch an offensive from either Orikhiv or Hulyaipole. Ukrainian forces started offensive operations from Hulyaipole and Orikhiv in late June, with Russian sources exposing advances of 8 to 10 kilometers south of each town. The front stabilized in August when Ukraine started its counteroffensives in Kherson and Kharkiv.

Strikes on Polohy and the surrounding communities have wounded up to 600 Russian soldiers this week, according to GSAFU. Another 100 Russian troops were reportedly killed or wounded in strikes on Inzhenerne, Polohy, and Tokmak, and five pieces of equipment were destroyed.^{9 10} Ukrainian forces conducted suppress and destroy enemy air defense (SEAD/DEAD) activity at an intense level from June to October, with the effort renewing. A Russian electronic warfare (EW) installation was destroyed in Polohy.¹¹

⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378693/>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/TWWTweeter/status/1598053182126669827>

¹¹ [RIA Melitopol](#)

Supporting the reports, Russian occupiers have moved the military hospital from Polohy to Melitopol – which is typically a defensive move.^{12 13}

Oleksii Koshel, a Russian collaborator and the chief of the department of Internal Affairs of Tokmak raion, was killed in an artillery strike.^{14 15}

ASSESSMENT: Russian defensive lines in eastern Kherson and occupied Zaporizhia are largely built on a north-south axis and don't appear to have been set up in anticipation of an attack from the north. We have maintained since the summer that if Ukraine were to advance into Zaporizhia, it would be an advance toward Melitopol, which would effectively isolate the Russian units in western Zaporizhia and east of the Dnipro. We are reluctant to declare that Ukraine is preparing major operations in this direction as the armed forces have been setting conditions since June. Over the summer, the SEAD/DEAD work was likely to provide an air dominance environment in western Kherson by eliminating threats east of the Dnipro. Ukrainian forces have avoided attacking the "obvious choice" throughout the war, instead electing to bypass strongholds. The terrain of

¹² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59651>

¹³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378613/>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/riamelitopol/76613>

¹⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378680/>

eastern Kherson and southern Zaporizhia favors Russia. If we consider the terrain, an advance down the Mokri Yaly River along the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border would appear to be a preferred Ukrainian route. The challenge with an assault in that direction is it does not provide a clear strategic goal – but it does bypass many strongholds after an initial punch through Russian lines near Velyka Novosilka. It would cut off Russian GLOCs across Zaporizhia from Donetsk.

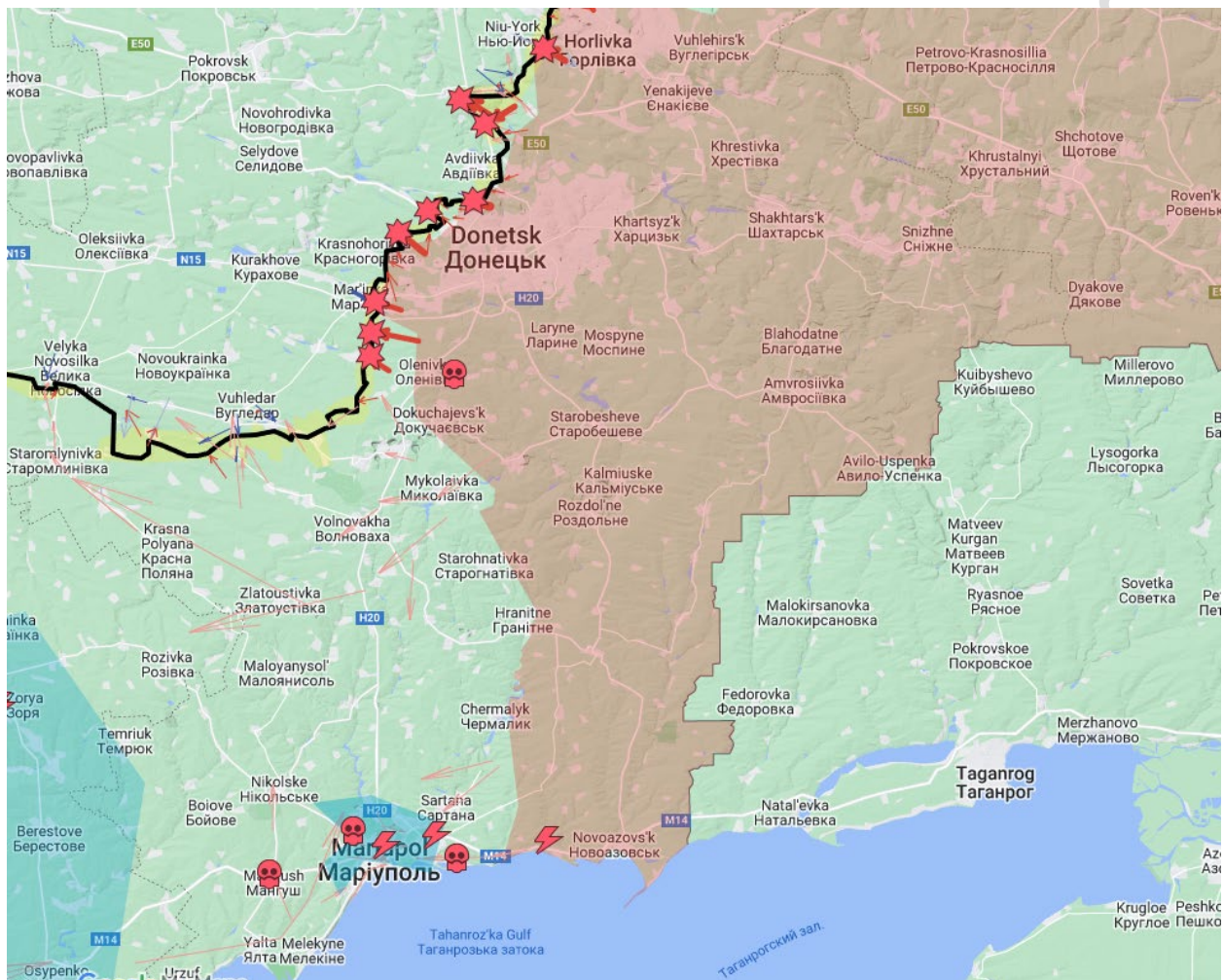
There was sporadic artillery and tank from the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Mali Shcherbaky.^{16 17}

¹⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

¹⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

DONBAS REGION

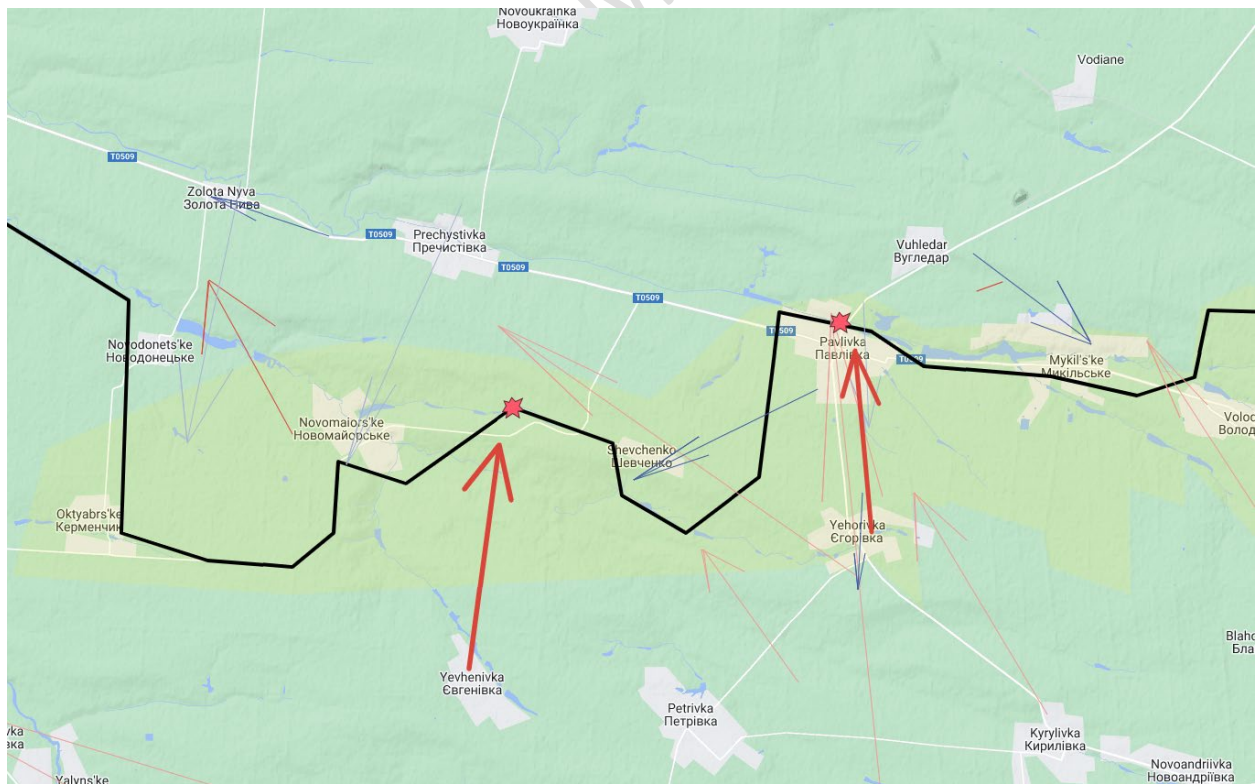
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

There was a sharp increase in fighting across the axis in southwest Donetsk, with Russian forces unable to make territorial gains. The front has largely become frozen, with several villages and towns becoming no man's land where the line of conflict moves 500 to 1,500 meters a day in either direction.

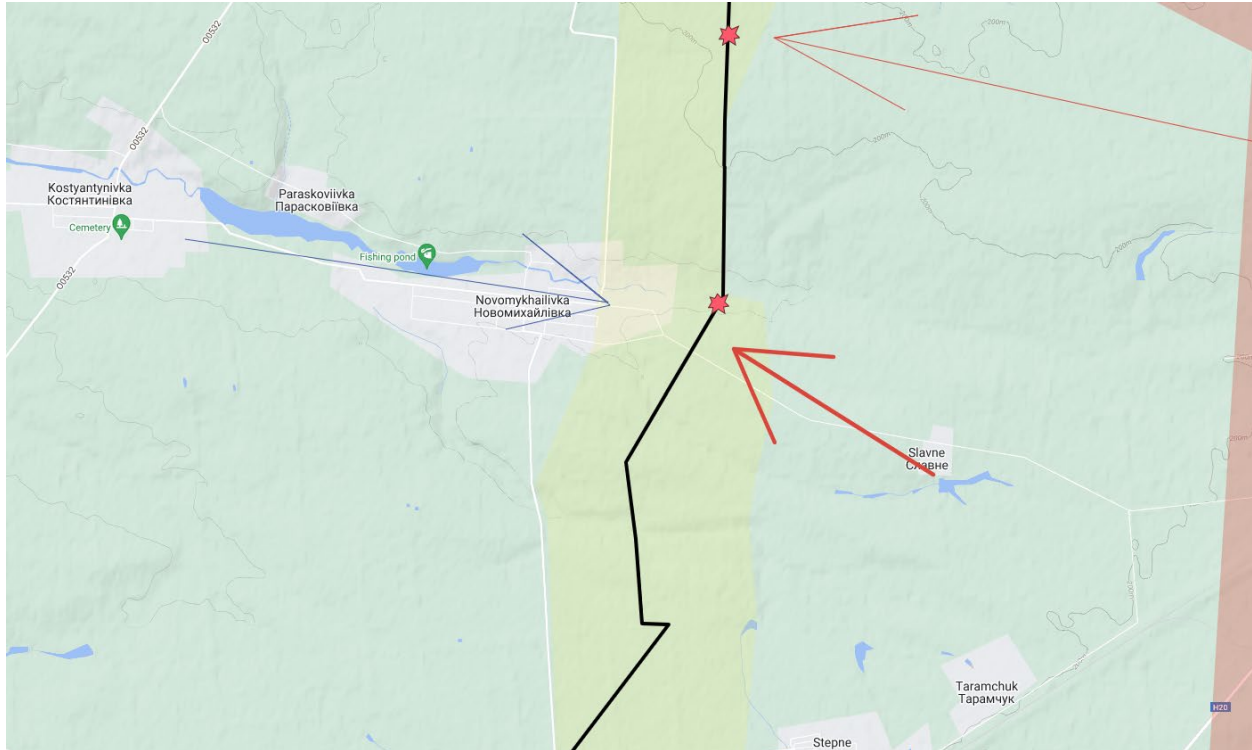


The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that Ukrainian forces attempted to advance on [Novodonetske](#) and were unsuccessful.¹⁸ ¹⁹ There are two Novodonetskes in the Donetsk oblast, and the one in the report is southeast of Velkya Novosilka. No other sources reported fighting in the area.

There are rumors that Russian forces are building strength and reserves south of Vuhledar, a supply and transit node the DNR has been trying to capture since 2014. We won't speculate on unconfirmed reports.

¹⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

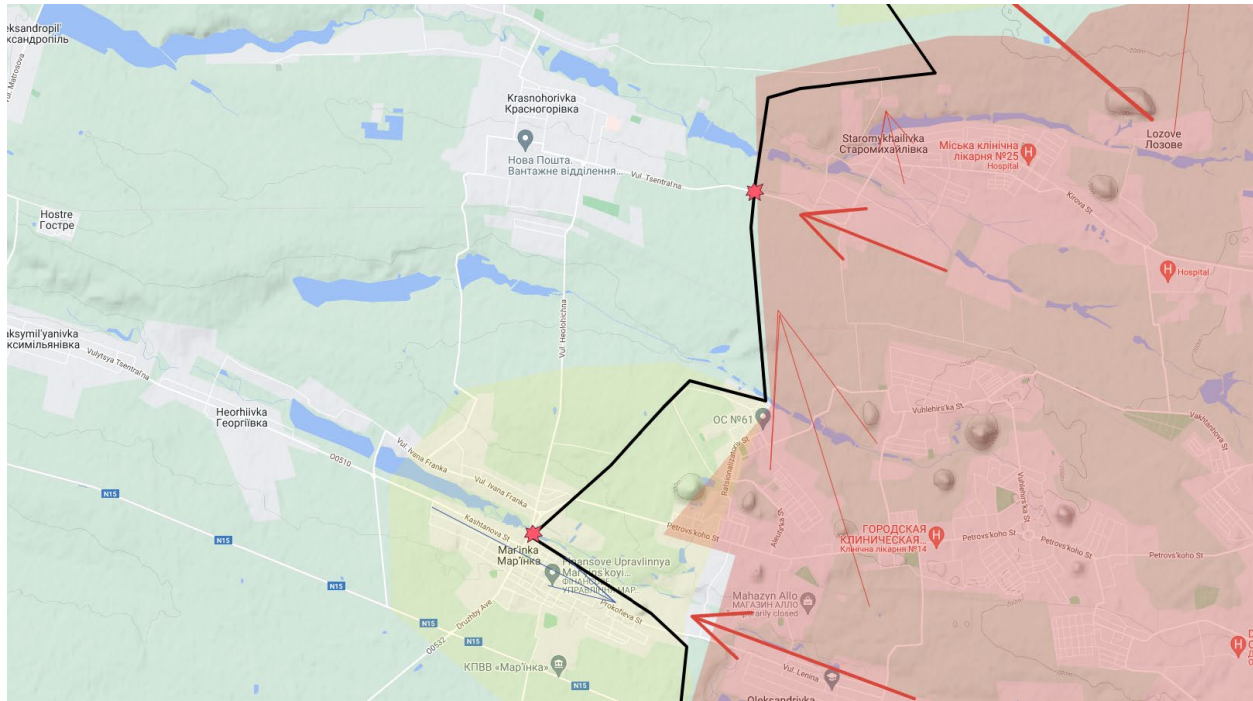
¹⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]



The Russian MOD also reported continued fighting east of [Novomykhailivka](#).^{20 21} No other source reported fighting in the area, but positional fighting is likely ongoing.

²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

²¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]



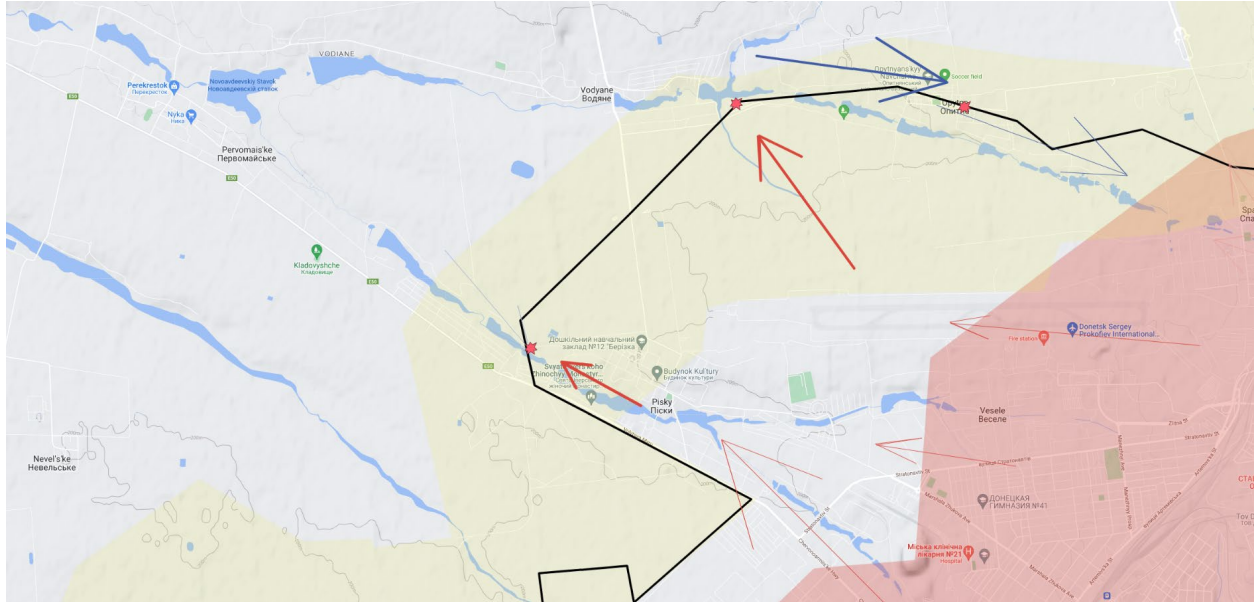
Every source we track reported continued fighting in [Marinka](#), with Russian sources claiming that the center of the city is being shelled and that no progress has been made by the 1st Army Corps and the Russian troops supporting them.^{22 23 24 25} Mercenaries with War Gonzo reported continued fighting east of [Krasnohorivka](#), which they described as “intense.”

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

²³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14804>

²⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/41602>

²⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>

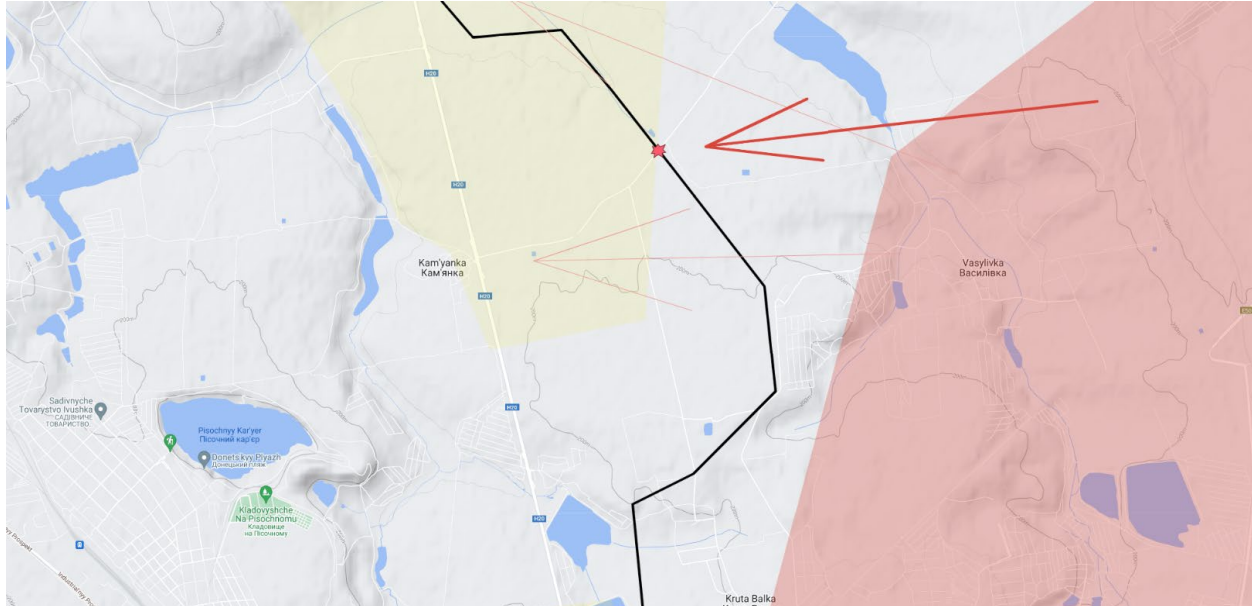


South of Avdiivka, fighting continued south and east of the Ukrainian firebase in [Nevel'ske](#), on the outskirts of [Pervomaiske](#) from the E-50 Ring Road on the Pisky border, and there was another failed attempt to advance into [Vodyane](#).^{26 27 28}

²⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

²⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14804>

²⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>



The 1st Army Corps of the DNR attempted to advance on Kamyanka, maintaining the tradition of previous assaults – falling back to their starting positions after suffering losses.²⁹

The occupied cities of Makiivka, Horlivka, and Donetsk continue to be shelled.^{30 31}

The People's Militia of the DNR released their not-so-five o'clock follies today, with some possibly realistic numbers. Officials claim that the 1st Army Corps destroyed two D-30 howitzers, two main battle tanks, and seven "pieces of

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

³⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/43077>

³¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/42920>

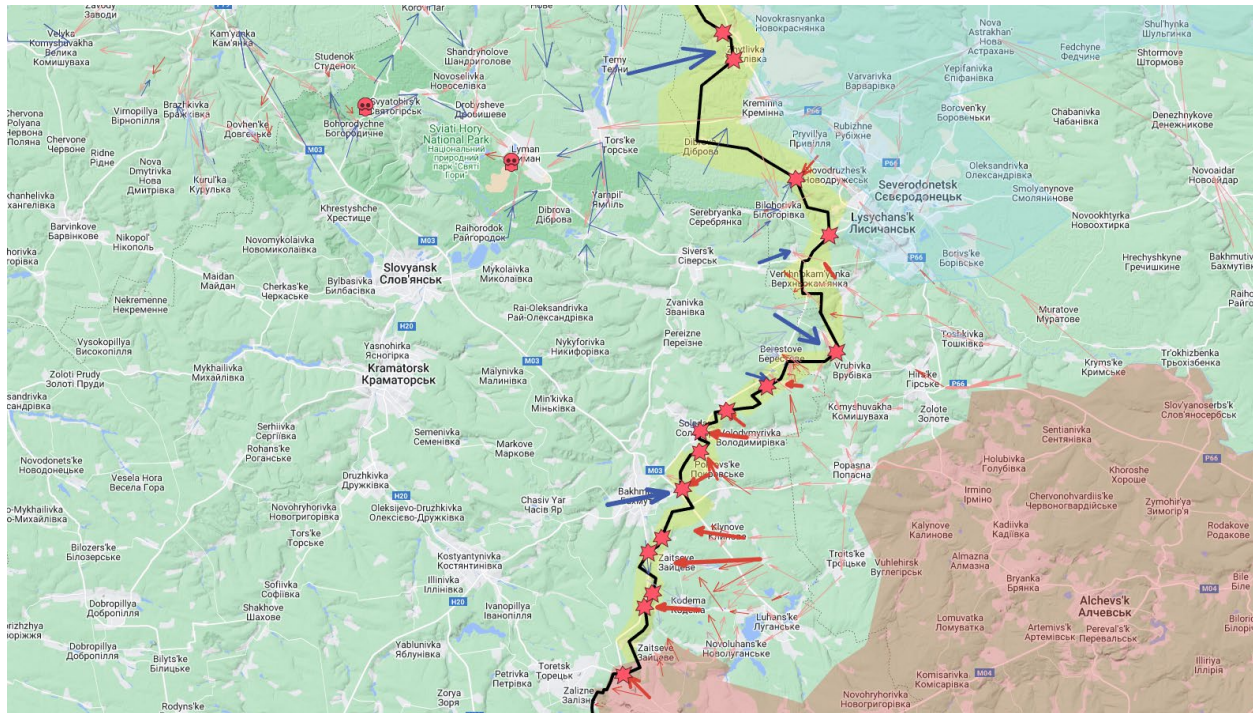
armored and automotive equipment." The Russian MOD did not report any artillery destroyed today, and only one tank in the areas where DNR troops are present.^{32 33} Ukrainian forces conducted 139 fire missions across the occupied territories.

ASSESSMENT: Earlier in the month, when the reports were clearly under Chechen leadership's influence, it appears that control has been returned to DNR officials.

³² https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

³³ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

NORTHEAST DONETSK

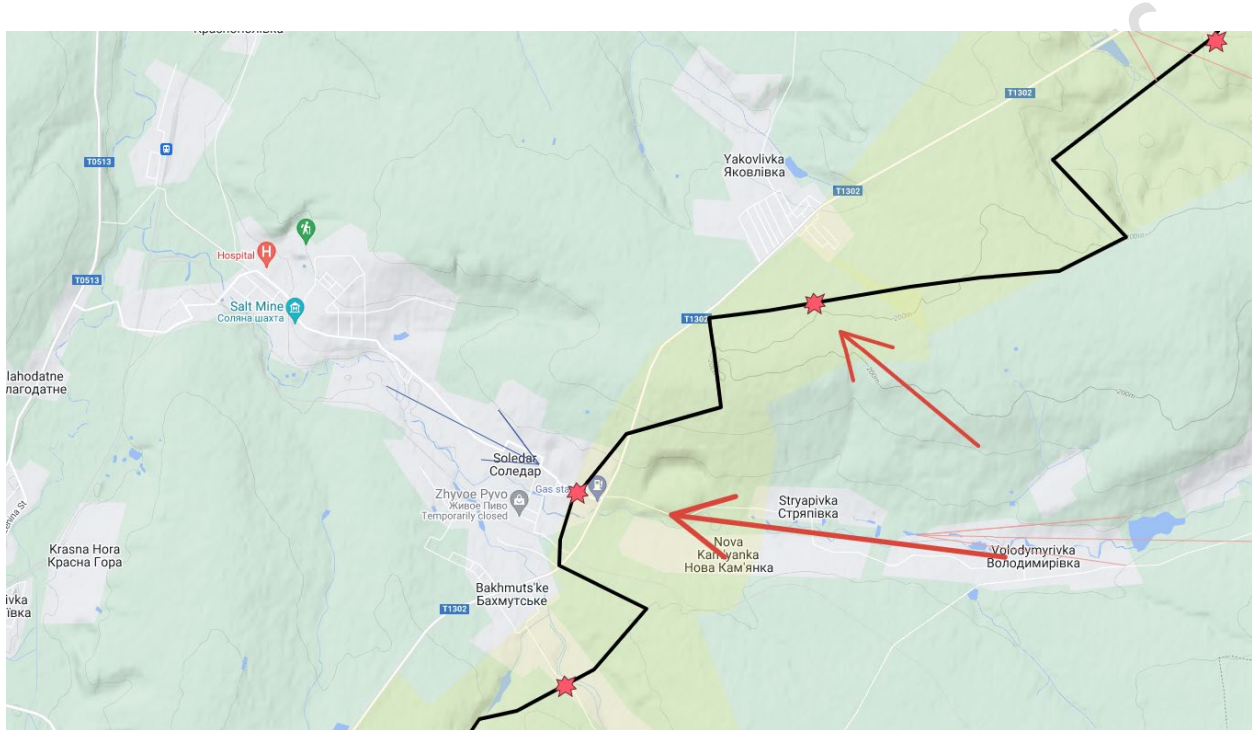


Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

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

Bakhmut and Soledar continue to see the most intense fighting in Ukraine, with a return to intense fighting across the entire line of conflict. We continue our best efforts to

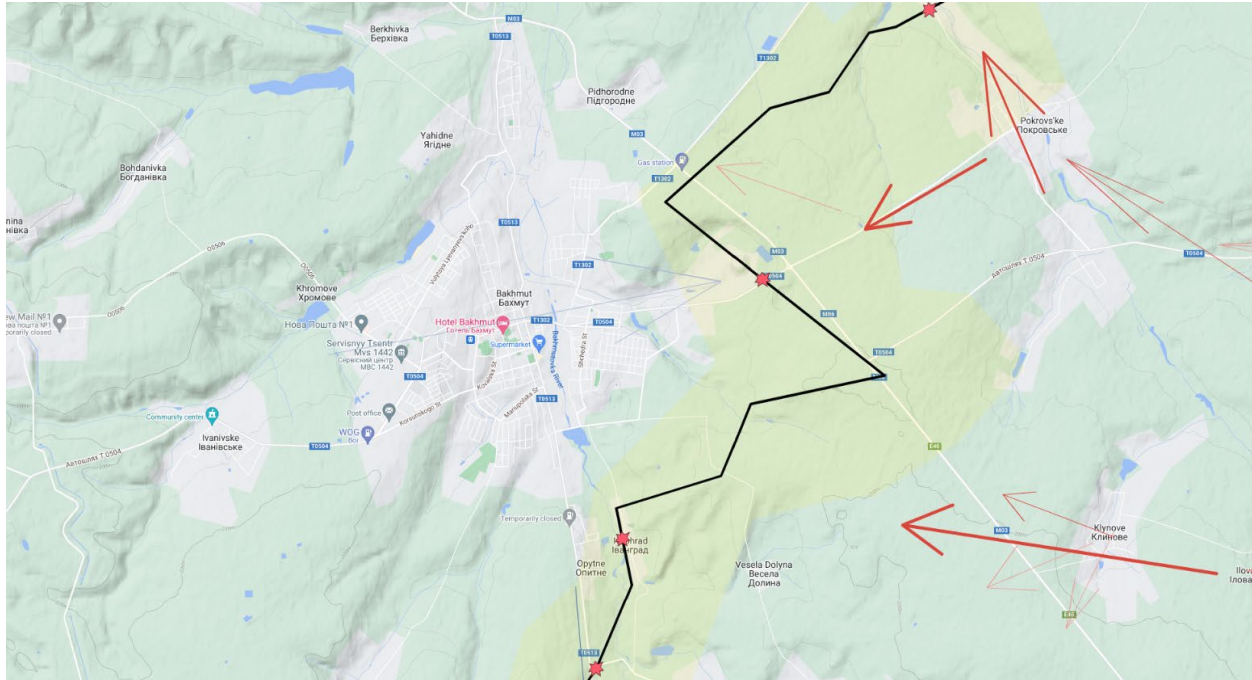
cut through the fog of war and a significant amount of disinformation about the ongoing situation.



GSAFU reported another attempt by the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group to advance on [Yakovlivka](#) without success, and Ukrainian sources reported fighting on the eastern edges of [Soledar](#) and in [Bakhmutske](#).^{34 35}

³⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

³⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14804>



GSAFU reported [Pidhorodne](#) was shelled.³⁶ We disagree with other analysts that this is a critical situation for Ukrainian forces, as Russian troops have launched periodic advances at the northeast suburb of Bakhmut since August 9.

Several videos indicate that PMC Wagner has retaken strongholds on the E-40 Highway east of [Bakhmut](#) and advanced 200 to 400 meters east.³⁷ Russian forces have taken positions in trenches northeast of Bakhmut along a ridge which are being [heavily shelled](#).³⁸ ³⁹ This doesn't

³⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

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

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1597944340969463809>

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1597710332566568960>

represent new territorial gains but a shift in momentum and the recapture of previously lost positions. Another video showed Russian positions on the east side of the E-40 Highway [hit by Ukrainian artillery](#).⁴⁰ Pavlo Kyrylenko, Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Bakhmut was subject to intense shelling, with more scattered artillery fire on Bakhmutskе and Yakolivka.

Construction of the Wagner Line, which includes half-height dragon teeth, trenches, and berms, continues from Hirske-Zolote and Popasna in Luhansk and has reached Volodymyrivka, about 10 kilometers east of Soledar.⁴¹ While offensive operations continue, building the defensive line so close to the existing front doesn't exude long-term confidence that if Soledar is captured, it can be held beyond the short term. Construction appears to be continuing uninterrupted by Ukrainian forces.

Intense fighting continued in [Optyne](#), the one 4 kilometers south of Bakhmut, with no change in the situation.^{42 43 44}

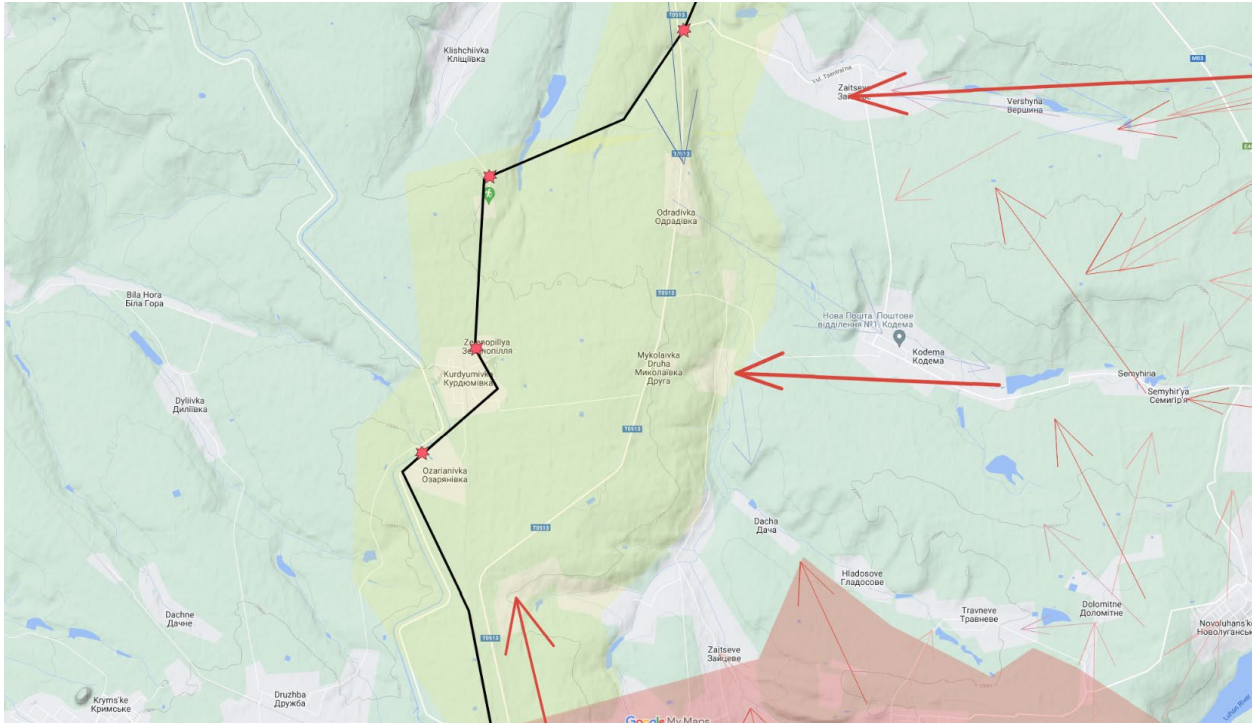
⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1597916222305075200>

⁴¹ [Donbass UA](#)

⁴² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14804>

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

⁴⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)



Here is our best attempt to cut through the fog of war on the situation south of Bakhmut along the T-513 Highway and parallel railroad line.

GSAFU reported that Ukrainian positions in [Klishchiivka](#) were shelled, and there were no further claims of the town being under Russian occupation. Based on all available information, we assess the settlement is under Ukrainian control.⁴⁵ ⁴⁶ Klishchiivka is protected by water obstacles and sits on a ridge, making its capture challenging.

⁴⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

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

The hamlet of [Andriivka](#), with a pre-war population of 74, is likely under the control of PMC Wagner, and we moved the line of conflict further west.

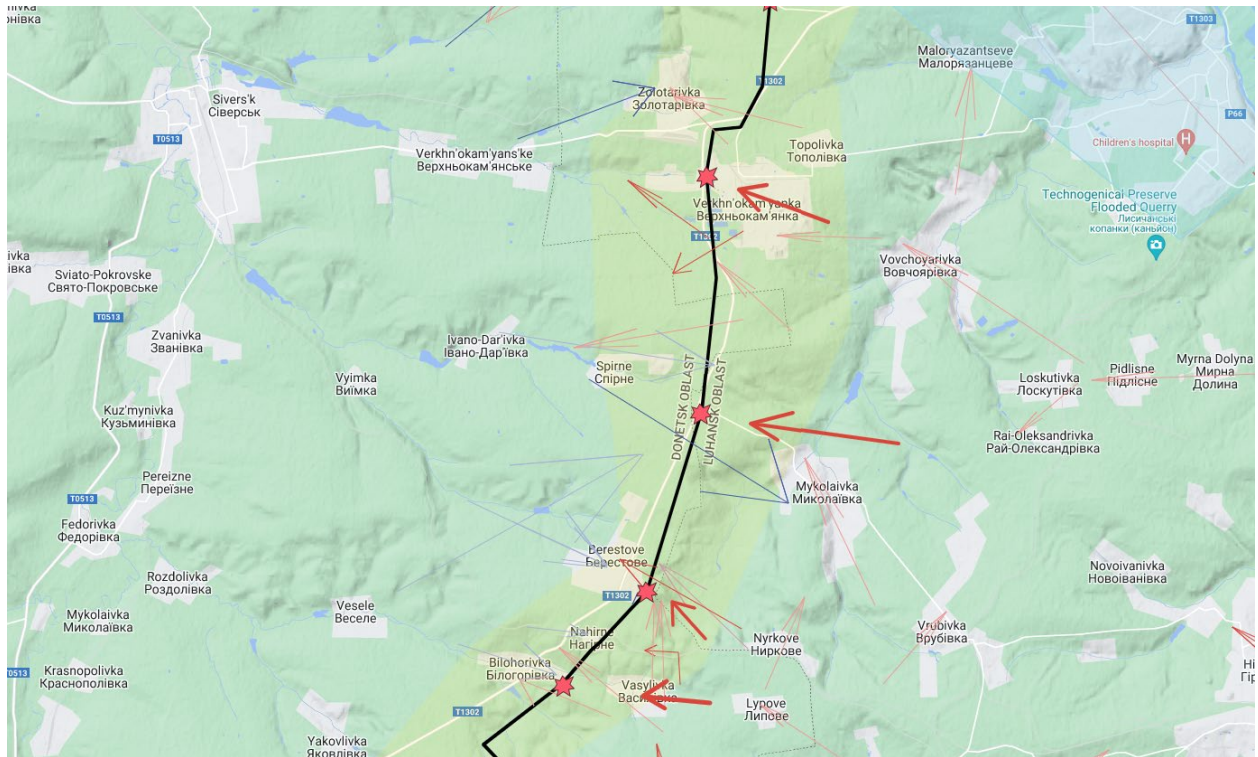
Ukrainian sources report [Zelenopillya](#) was captured by Russian forces, while [Kurdyumivka](#) remains contested.^{47 48} Mercenaries with Rybar claim that Kurdyumivka is under Russian control. Due to the conflicting reports, we maintain that the settlement is contested.⁴⁹

The lack of picture and video evidence and the use of fake videos by the Luhansk People's Republic, DNR, and PMC Wagner add to the confusion.

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14804>

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

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/41602>



The Russian MOD made another false claim that [Spirne](#) was recaptured, which was disputed by Russian mercenaries from Rybar and War Gonzo.^{50 51 52 53} The exact same thing can be said about [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk], with the Russian MOD claiming the ruins of the village were recaptured and their report disputed by GSAFU, War Gonzo, and Rybar.^{54 55}

⁵⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁵¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁵² <https://t.me/rybar/41602>

⁵³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>

⁵⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁵⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁵⁶ ⁵⁷ ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ Our team's trust issues will run deep when this war is finally over.

ASSESSMENT: The PMC Wagner-backed Telegram channel Gray Zone released a video of [a Ukrainian soldier expressing dissatisfaction](#) with leadership and the conditions east of Bakhmut.⁶⁰ Based on the conditions in the trench, the video was likely recorded weeks ago due to a lack of mud, water, snow, and green plants. Ukrainian is using a combination of territorial guards, which receive less training and less equipment, and elite units. Conditions are very difficult for both belligerents, and we see other analysts writing the obituary for the Ukrainian defense of Bakhmut. We have assessed since August that the continued attacks on the Bakhmut-Soledar axis were wasting Russian military resources and became pointless after Ukraine liberated Izyum and Lyman. If the Russian Ministry of Defense decides to concentrate its combat power on this axis, it is at high risk of making the same mistake that happened in July. It will waste its limited combat strength, capturing two bomb-blasted towns with little strategic value. We maintain that, like Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, it is unlikely Russia would be able to hold

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/41602>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>

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

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

⁶⁰ https://t.me/grey_zone/15993

Bakhmut and Soledar beyond the short term. The emergence of videos from Ukrainian troops complaining about conditions on the front indicates that morale is suffering due to the war of attrition.

The General Staff needs to apply the lessons it learned in Lysychansk and maintain frequent troop rotations on the front to prevent psychological and physical burnout. Providing troops with a warm meal, a hot shower, and a dry place to sleep in the second echelon without being subject to constant artillery and drone attacks extends the fighting capabilities of individual soldiers. Additionally, frequent rotation enables replacement troops to integrate into their new unit and get advice and additional training on fighting and surviving from senior leaders with more combat experience – something that is impossible when replacements are rotated directly to the front. The collapse of the defense of Lysychansk in early July was attributed to not actively rotating frontline troops enough, resulting in a collapse of morale.

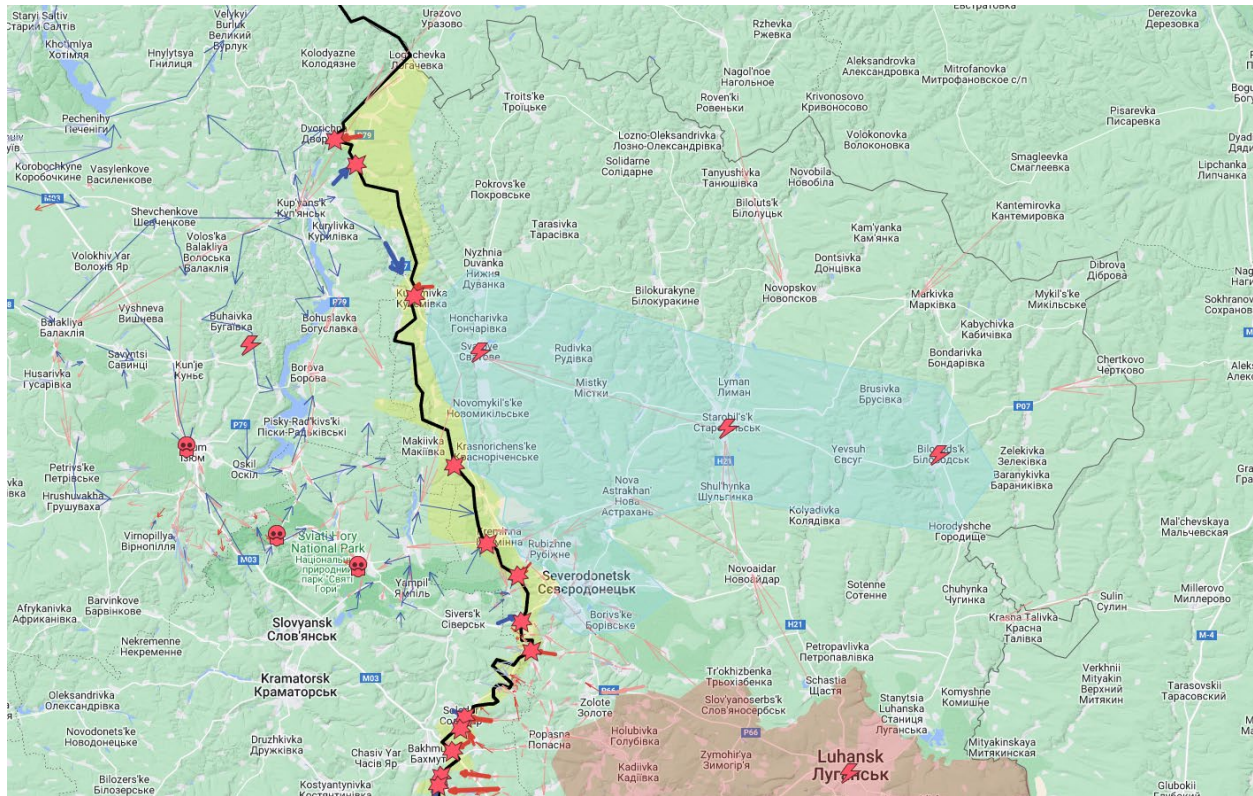
We also believe that holding Bakhmut and Soledar for the next 14 to 21 days is critical for Ukraine, with winter weather and subfreezing temperatures ready to sweep the nation next week. Russian forces and their proxies have less access to rear areas in a second echelon that can



provide critical infrastructure to maintain morale in cold weather. By the end of next week, winter weather will become a fifth column working against the Russian siege.

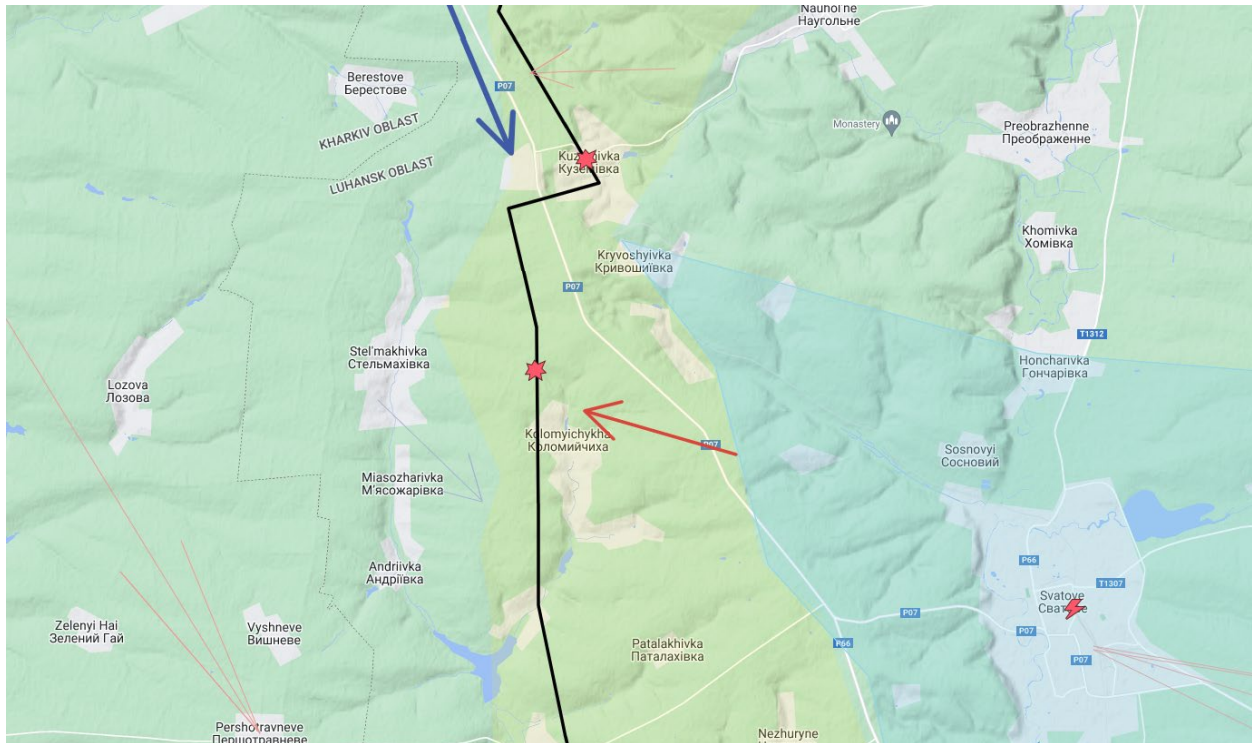
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LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

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



Along the Kharkiv-Luhansk administrative border, fighting continued in [Novoselivke](#) and [Kuzemovka](#).^{61 62 63 64}

Ukrainian troops remain unable to advance further on the P-07 Highway GLOC toward Svatove. Russian troops made another attempt to recapture [Stelmakhivka](#), which was unsuccessful.^{65 66 67}

⁶¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁶² https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

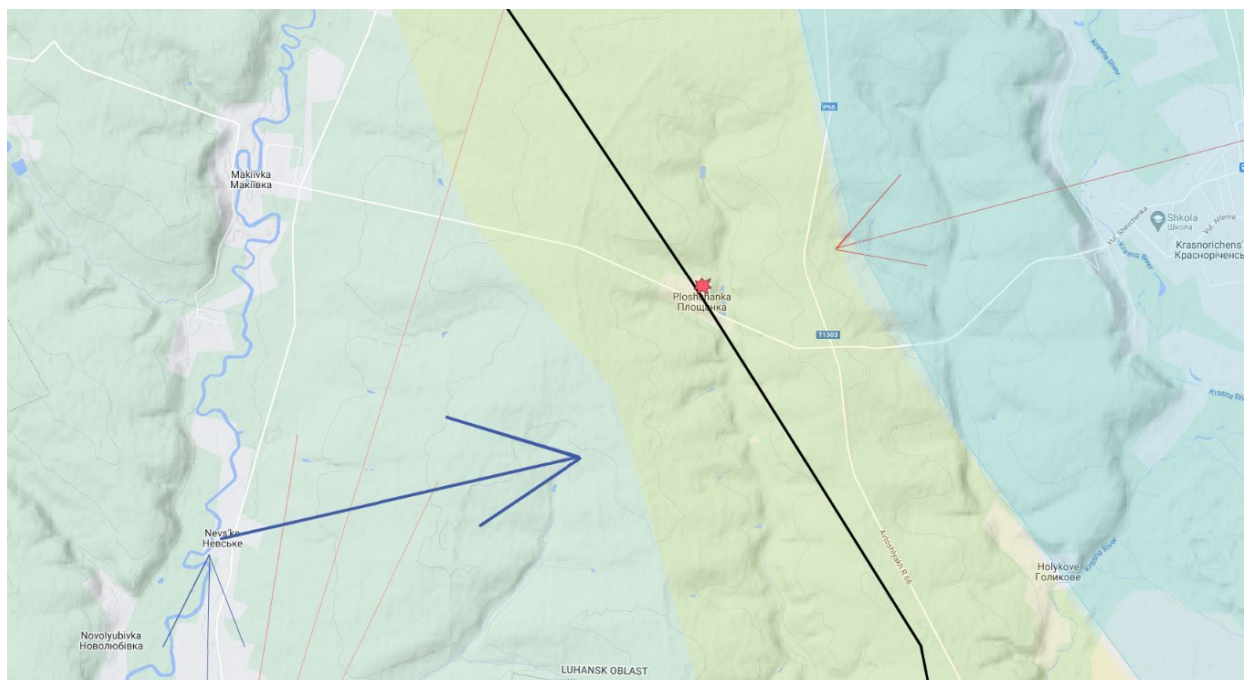
⁶³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/rybar/41602>

⁶⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>

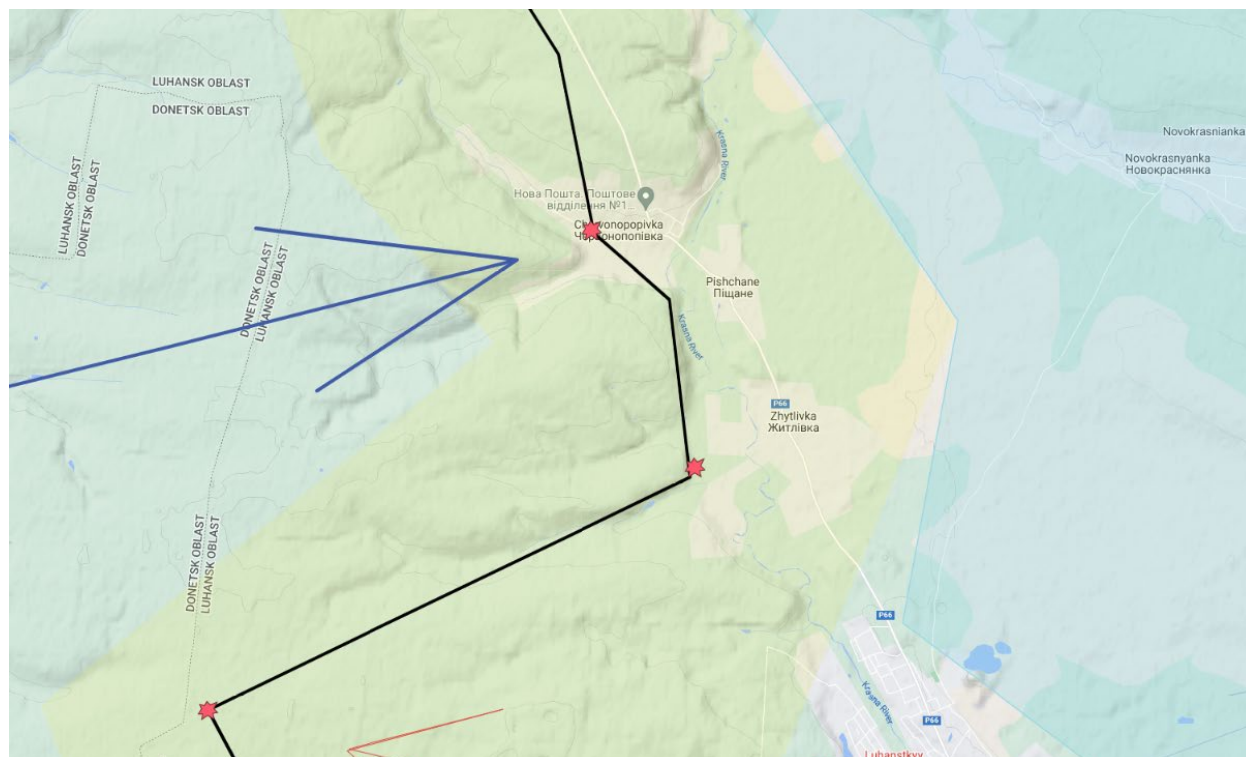
⁶⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)



The Russian MOD continues to report fighting in [Ploshchanka](#), and GSAFU reported Ukrainian positions were shelled in the town.^{68 69}

⁶⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁶⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]



Multiple Russian sources reported continued fighting southwest of [Chervonopopivka](#), and GSAFU reported that Ukrainian positions within the town were shelled. While War Gonzo did not expressly state that Ukrainian forces had entered the settlement, they described the situation as "tense" and did not claim that the Ukrainian attack was unsuccessful.^{70 71 72 73 74} The Russian MOD reported that Ukrainian forces attempted to advance on [Zhytlivka](#),

⁷⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

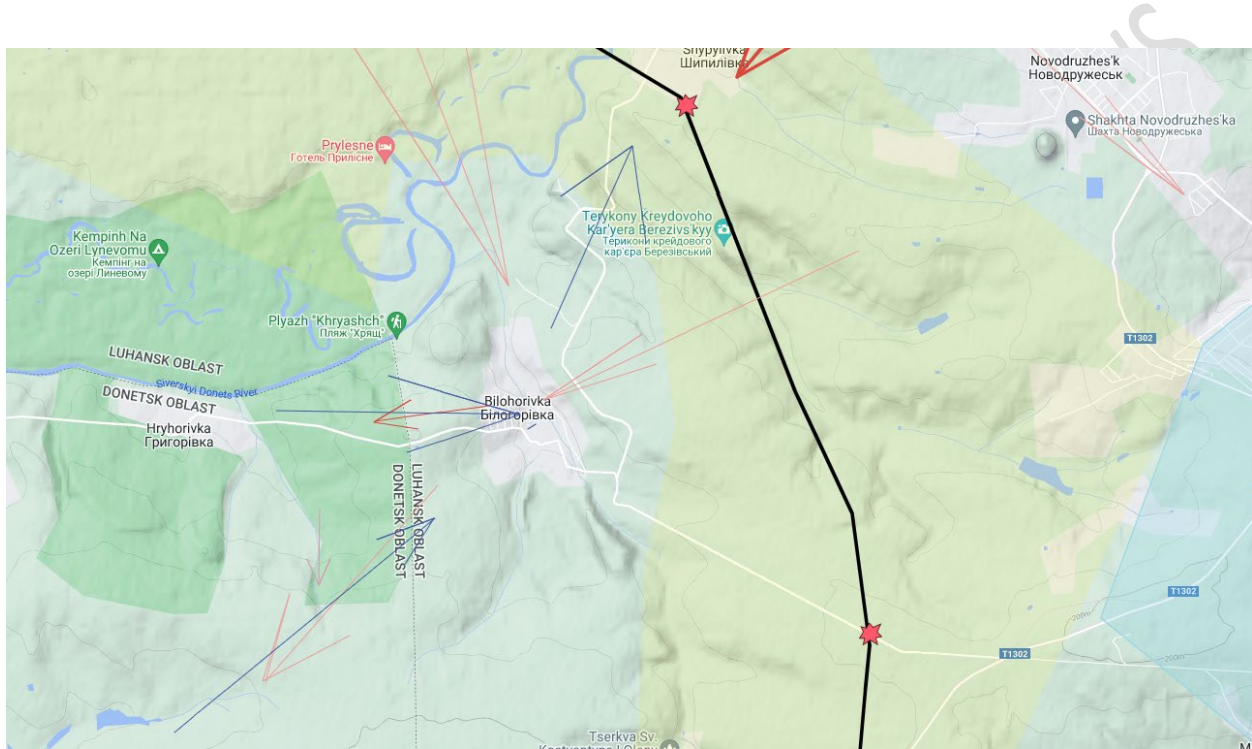
⁷¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁷² <https://t.me/rybar/41602>

⁷³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/9529>

⁷⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

southeast of Chervonopopivka and 3 kilometers northwest of Kreminna.^{75 76}



Positional fighting continued east of [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk] with no change in the situation.⁷⁷

Leonid Pasechick, the self-declared leader of the LNR, claimed that Popasna would be partially rebuilt because restoring the train station is critical for Russian GLOCs in

⁷⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/22225 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁷⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/22226 [Russian Federation Government Social Media Account]

⁷⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

the region.⁷⁸ Popasna was on the Minsk II border, suffered sporadic attacks since 2014, and was under siege from March 1 to May 12. In the process of capturing the town of 20,000, Colonel General Alexander Lapin employed a scorched earth policy, with Russian artillery units firing as many as 20,000 shells and rockets per day as they advanced on Severodonetsk and Hirske-Zolote. The siege left the town uninhabitable, with only 200 residents remaining when the Russian flag was hoisted over the administrative building. The vital railroad connections have been unusable since, and no effort has been made to restore the infrastructure.

Construction on the Wagner Line continues around Svatove unabated and without apparent interference from Ukrainian forces.

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/42957>

CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

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

Oleg Sinegubov, Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Kupyansk is under almost constant shelling and rocket attacks, with Russian forces targeting civilians, civilian infrastructure, and Ukrainian positions.⁷⁹

⁸⁰ A metro station was struck during the evening while it was unoccupied, resulting in no injuries.

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that the hromadas of Bilopillia, Seredyna-Buda, Krasnopillia, and Esman were attacked by

⁷⁹ <https://vecherniy.kharkov.ua/news/192641>

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/synegubov/4900>

Russian forces from across the international border.⁸¹ ⁸² In Bilopillia, a hospital was targeted, causing significant damage and killing a 15-year-old as he tried to run to a shelter. Four hospital departments were damaged or destroyed, and the roof of the building was compromised.



In Esman, Russian forces fired 20 120mm mortar rounds, striking nine homes and a kindergarten. There weren't any injuries.

⁸¹ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyi/6363>

⁸² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378619/>

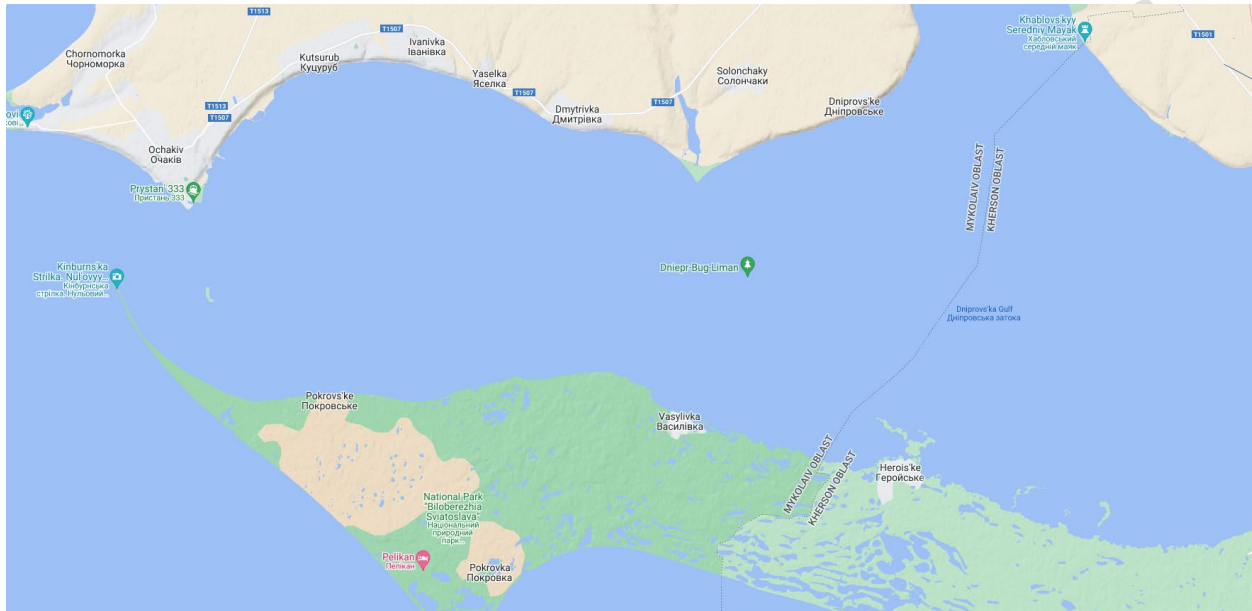
KYIV REGION

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant activity reported in this region.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION



Vitalii Kim, Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Ukraine military operations are continuing on the Kinburn Spit, saying the liberation is ongoing “in the mode of informational silence.”⁸³ He further reported that on November 28, 37 Ukrainian nationals were forcibly removed from the villages along the estuary.

⁸³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378625/>

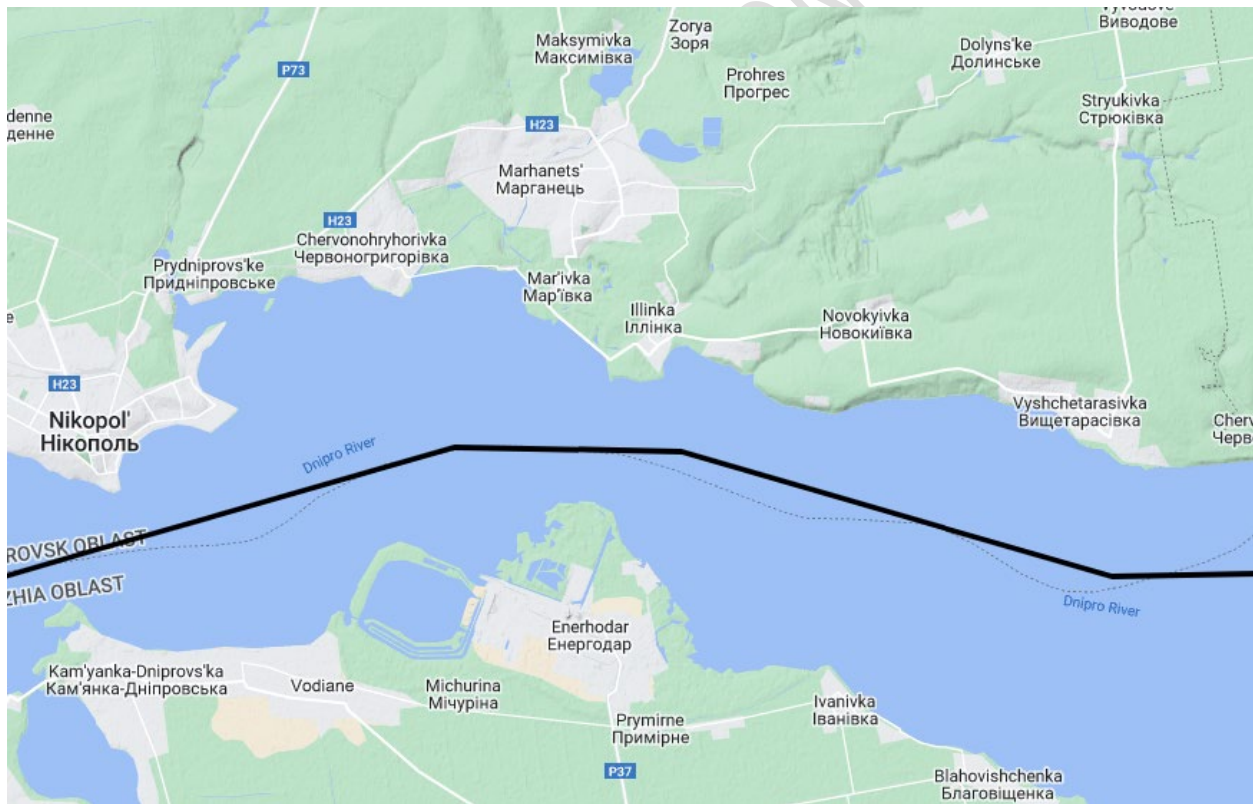
The Russian Black Sea Fleet maintains nine vessels on patrol, with one missile carrier capable of launching eight Kalibr cruise missiles.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ [Ukrinform](#) – Ukrainian State Media Website

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives



Russian forces attacked Marhanets with Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) and artillery. In

Chervonohryhorivka, several homes and gas and electrical lines were damaged.⁸⁵

RUSSIAN FRONT

Ukrainian forces fired counterbattery on Russian artillery positions in Tetkino in Kursk, where many attacks on the Sumy border originate.⁸⁶ At least one home was damaged in the counterstrike.

There was an explosion at a power plant in Perm, Russia, caused by an industrial accident. Closed circuit cameras within the plant [show a massive explosion](#) due to equipment failure that has likely disabled the plant for weeks.^{87 88}

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/2619>

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/42898>

⁸⁷ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1597872317564334080

⁸⁸ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1597883302517800962

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held another meeting of the Staff of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to discuss the creation of countermeasures “more powerful...than now” against Russian forces in the occupied territories.⁸⁹ To date, neither belligerent has deployed many troops freed up by the Russian retreat across the Dnipro River on November 10. It is somewhat unclear where Ukraine has moved its forces, while Russian military leaders have spread them out along the line of conflict from Vuhledar to Svatove.

While there is a lot of fighting along the line of conflict from Donetsk to the Kharkiv border, [rasputitsa continues to dominate the battlefield](#), impacting both belligerents.⁹⁰ Temperatures are expected to be below freezing across most of Ukraine next week. This will firm up the ground and support the increased use of armored vehicles to support light infantry.

The Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) reported that Russian activity at Engels

⁸⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378725/>

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59783>

airfield in Russia is not extraordinary and was part of normal operations.⁹¹ In a reversal from the widespread assessment from the GUR, the General Staff, and analysts, including our team, earlier in the week, Vadym Skititskyi said, "observe [information] hygiene [and] don't trust rumors." Ehem, you were the first to report the activity – never mind.

Skititskyi said the apparent "pause" was likely caused by Russian needing to maintain a strategic reserve of missiles in case a war breaks out on a second front, the high failure rate of Cold War-era Kh-22 missiles which are exploding in midflight, and the difficulties of building new Kh-102 and Kalibr cruise missiles due to sanctions.⁹² He did not feel that the threat of a widescale missile strike had gone away but believes it is taking Russia longer to prepare its next strike due to supply issues.

The GUR also reiterated that they are not observing the formation of a significant strike group in Belarus that would be capable of successfully advancing into Ukraine.⁹³ Skibitskyi said during the same briefing, "We expect [an] intensification of combat training in Belarus, as a new

⁹¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59684>

⁹² [TSN Ukraine](#)

⁹³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378648/>

academic year starts on 1 December in the Armed Forces of this country. The troops will exercise at the training grounds; will work out various issues of combat coordination and checks of branches and troops."

"Therefore, we expect active measures on the Belarusian territory," he continued. "However, I would like to note that today there are no signs of the deployment of a powerful strike group on the territory of Belarus."

The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) arrested a 51-year-old man who attempted to plant a bomb near the President's office in Kyiv.⁹⁴ The man told officials he was frustrated with the power outages and a search of his phone and apartment found Pro-Russian materials. We won't add the picture of his arrest to the Situation Report to save your eyes, but the person looks like they are straight out of the [United States reality TV series C.O.P.S.](#), filmed with the men and women of law enforcement. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

President Zelenskyy, during his national address, reported that six-million Ukrainians still remain without electrical

⁹⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59718>

power and that the distribution and repair work has not been equitable.⁹⁵ The city of Kyiv and the Vinnytsia, Lviv, Odesa, Khmelnytskyi, and Cherkasy oblasts are the hardest-hit areas.

“People see that in neighboring houses or on nearby streets, for some reason, the rules regarding light are different. And there should be justice and clarity,” Zelenskyy said.

The Turkish company Karpowership is discussing with Ukrainian leaders of state-run energy company Ukrenergo to place three powerplant “ships” in Odesa that can produce up to 300 megawatts (MW) – enough to power one million homes.⁹⁶ It is unclear what hurdles would have to be crossed to bring the ships into Odesa and if Russia would consider them military targets.

The United States Department of Defense signed a \$1.2 billion contract with Raytheon to produce NASAMS anti-aircraft systems for Ukraine.⁹⁷ The six air defense

⁹⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378726/>

⁹⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59705>

⁹⁷ [Urian Information Agency](#) – Ukrainian State Media Website

systems will be built in Massachusetts, with delivery completed by November 2025.

United States Secretary of States Antony Blinken said that NATO intends to help fund the production of Soviet-era weapons and munitions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Bulgaria to help Ukraine and further strengthen NATO's defensive position for countries that are still reliant on Cold War-era military hardware from the Soviet Union.⁹⁸

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS

In Moscow, authorities are stringing up loudspeakers across the city and building bomb shelters in basements and parking garages. The political theater is likely ongoing to prop up waning support for the "special military operation," which is inching closer to the one-year mark.⁹⁹ Kremlin disinformation directed at the Russian people claims that Russia is already at war with all of NATO. The Russian MOD frequently makes the false claim that NATO forces are engaged in direct or indirect combat operations, particularly when they lose. And we would have gotten

⁹⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59757>

⁹⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59692>

away with it if it wasn't for those damn meddling NATO troops!" Scoobiski-Scoobiski-Doo comrade!

Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, mobik, and a new title, tunnel rat, Igor Girkin" Strelkov, has reappeared on social media after his last post on November 9.¹⁰⁰



¹⁰⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59740>

No, that's not the Confederate battle flag of Virginia, despite the close resemblance. It is the flag of Novorossiya, or "New Russia," which was created in 2014 and represents the vision of a confederation between the self-declared DNR and LNR. By the condition of the bunker and the cleanliness of Strelkov, he appears to be, as we say, in the rear with the gear. Another term that comes to mind is REMF (rem-f) – you'll need to find a United States veteran to explain it; otherwise, we have to flag the podcast for containing explicit content.

Russian Colonel Denis Davydov, the Commander of a Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Protection Regiment, was reported killed in action in Ukraine on November 29.¹⁰¹ He is the 46 colonel to die in combat since February 24 and was a war veteran who fought in Syria.

The widow of Russian Colonel Vadym Boyka, who allegedly killed himself by firing five rounds into his chest using up to four side arms, wrote an open letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin.¹⁰² She claims that her husband, who was the deputy commander of the Pacific Higher Naval

¹⁰¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59497>

¹⁰² <https://t.me/informnapalm/14286>

School and was responsible for area mobilization, was set up to fail by his superiors, who continued to pile work on him without added support.¹⁰³ He missed what she says were impossible recruitment goals from Moscow and moved into an additional role resulting in him facing criminal charges and a fine of up to 100 million roubles. Sleepless and losing 15 kilograms, she claims that the pressure from leadership caused him to kill himself.

SIDEBAR: Suicide is a sensitive topic, and its discussion can trigger deep and disturbing feelings. If you are having suicidal thoughts or you're despondent, there is help available.

- 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

Self-declared and acting leader of the LNR Pasechnik, announced he was rescinding restrictions on the movement

¹⁰³ <https://t.me/informnapalm/14492?single>

of citizens of the LNR across the Russian border.¹⁰⁴ Despite his claims that mobilization is over, multiple reports state men are still being removed from the streets after ID checks, and there are continuing recruitment goals across occupied Luhansk.

Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi has declared “mission accomplished” for partial mobilization, declaring that 300,000 mobiks were trained in two months at 100 locations, and 8,000 crews for tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, artillery, air defense, and drone operations were created.¹⁰⁵

PMC Wagner channels have mocked the announcement and called out the Kremlin for inadequately equipping the mobilized while polishing Yevgeny Prigozhin’s rising star.¹⁰⁶ In a staged interview, Prigozhin was asked why his company Wagner Group hasn’t experienced the same equipment shortages the Russian MOD has suffered. “Thank you very much for your concern, but the Wagner Group today has everything you need. The Wagner Group software works flawlessly. As for quadrocopters, helmets, walkie-talkies, unloadings, other military ammunition, and

¹⁰⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/43036>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378615/>

¹⁰⁶ https://t.me/grey_zone/15986

technical bells and whistles, I will recommend you help the militias and volunteers or those units that need it."

While we have derisively assessed that Russian soldiers who end up in a Russian penal colony have an opportunity to receive better training, equipment, and pay with Wagner, although with a much shorter lifespan, it isn't completely accurate to state that PMC Wagner is meeting the needs of all its mercenaries. Channels such as ROTM and Gray Zone have made occasional crowdsourcing requests, but nothing to the level that Russian mobiks and volunteer units make. That wasn't the point of the staged question. It was another attempt to dig at the Kremlin and portray the PMC as the most competent force fighting in Ukraine.

The Kremlin also announced that weapon production would increase between 68% and 97% in 2023, a suggestion that PMC Wagner channels also publicly dismissed, going after Shougi.¹⁰⁷ In a long post on multiple Wagner social media channels, it was pointed out that most weapons fielded by Russian troops were developed during the Soviet era and that the Russian MOD ignored the development of effective drones. The social media blitz ends with, "As we can see, mainly Soviet equipment, good old Cold War veterans, and

¹⁰⁷ https://t.me/grey_zone/15992

their late Russian modifications participate in the 'special military operation.' What kind of 68% rearmament and increase in combat capabilities are we talking about? we absolutely do not understand."

While slapping Shougi and his announcements, Prigozhin is hoping that readers will ignore that PMC Wagner is using some of the most state-of-the-art equipment available from the Russian arsenal.

Yuriy Ignat, a spokesperson for the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, supported our assessment that Russia has likely used up its supply of Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones and is facing a delay in production.¹⁰⁸ We had assessed in October that Russia was using the Iranian drones at an unsustainable rate. After the first 7 to 10 days of attacks, Ukraine's air defenses had adapted, limiting their effectiveness.

The Russian State Duma passed a law that effectively bans protests in Russia. Protesters are barred from congregating near buildings of public authority, churches, railway stations, schools, airports, parking lots, universities,

¹⁰⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59768>

schools, hospitals, and vital facilities such as electricity, heating, water, and gas networks.¹⁰⁹ In the strictest interpretation, that would bar protests in an area near powerlines. The Duma also empowered Russia's 85 federal districts to create stricter laws against organized protests.

Russian cadets in academies will face early graduation in January as replacement junior officers in the field despite no combat experience.¹¹⁰ Russia has lost 1,064 junior officers since February 24, not including those wounded in action or who retired from the military after completing their initial contracts over the summer.¹¹¹ That number only includes open-source intelligence confirmation using obituaries and in memoriam posts on social media. Another round of partial mobilization is widely expected to start in January 2023 after the fall 2022 conscripts complete their training.

Russian soldiers on and off the battlefield are expressing frustration at stop loss action that is preventing planned retirements from the military.¹¹² Soldiers are being told that because Russian President Putin did not sign a decree ending mobilization, they can be held in service of the

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378626/>

¹¹⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378700/>

¹¹¹ <https://twitter.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1598271701309362176>

¹¹² <https://zona.media/article/2022/11/30/contract>

Russian Armed Forces indefinitely as a “volunteer,” despite not having a signed contract. Commanders under pressure to fulfill staffing levels are refusing to sign dismissal paperwork. For those on the frontline, “volunteers” are only treated at hospitals in the occupied territories and frequently have their disability and extended medical care claims ignored at best and rejected at worse. Many families report that they are not receiving payments, benefits, or death benefits for those who remain mobilized as volunteers.

There are scattered reports and pictures of Russian troops suffering cold weather injuries from hypothermia. Military experts and our analyst team believe this will be a bigger problem in the coming weeks. We had assessed in late May that if Russia didn't mobilize by June, it would be impossible to properly train a fighting force to be prepared for winter conditions. Partial mobilization started on September 21, and there is little evidence that mobilized received widescale training for winter survival skills.¹¹³

The Russian FSO completed a closed poll for the Kremlin on public sentiment about the ongoing “special military operation,” and the Russian people don't feel it is very

¹¹³ https://twitter.com/Jack_Watling/status/1596698941852033025

special anymore.¹¹⁴ According to the survey completed in October, before the Russian retreat from Kherson, 57% favored having peace talks, while 27% supported the ongoing – war – sorry, “special military operation.” Support for the ongoing effort to pacify all of Ukraine plunged by 28% since the previous survey in August.

Analysts believe the waning support is not because of losses on the battlefield but due to partial mobilization, a slowing economy, and the war becoming much more real for the average Russian.

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

There were no significant developments today. We will have a special report on an ongoing Russian disinformation campaign in Mariupol and the people behind it in tomorrow's report.

¹¹⁴ [Meduza](#)

GEOPOLITICAL

Errors and Omissions: Last week, a sharp-eared listener captured a geography fail on our part. We reported erroneously that the Baikonur Cosmodrome is in Kyrgyzstan, which is incorrect. It is located in Kazakhstan and leased to the Russian Federation. We thank you for your understanding and appreciate our listeners and readers enforcing our motto, "the truth matters."

In Madrid, Spain, a security official who works at the Ukrainian embassy was wounded when a package bomb exploded.¹¹⁵ Some Spanish officials call the incident a terrorist attack, with one person moderately injured. The package was addressed to the Ambassador of Ukraine in Spain, Serhii Pogoreltsev, and was considered suspicious by the staff when it arrived. The head of security for the embassy took the box outside, opened it, and heard a click causing the blast. Other Ukrainian embassies have been placed on high alert after the attack.¹¹⁶

The European Union is considering seizing 319 billion euros in frozen Russian assets to invest the money, giving all

¹¹⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/59767>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/30/7378707/>

profits to Ukraine for rebuilding the war-torn nation.¹¹⁷ Russia said any attempt to seize the assets would be “outright theft.” The scheme is only in discussion at the time, and there are numerous false reports that the EU intends the seize the funds to give to Ukraine.¹¹⁸ Let’s hope they don’t invest the money in Bitcoins.

Will that last sentence result in angry e-mails to our tips address? Definitely.

The EU recommended that 7.5 billion euros of funds allocated to Hungary remain frozen due to its failure to implement democratic reforms. The nation is considered a backsliding democracy effectively under autocratic rule by Prime Minister Viktor Orban.¹¹⁹ The EU member nations have until December 19 to decide on whether to freeze the funds.

President Zelenskyy requested Elon Musk to come to Ukraine to “see everything with your own eyes” the day after Starlink increased the cost of terminals and Internet access in Ukraine.¹²⁰ Speaking at the New York Times

¹¹⁷ [Market Insider via MSN](#)

¹¹⁸ <https://t.me/informnapalm/14505>

¹¹⁹ [Associate Press via MSN](#)

¹²⁰ [Unian](#) – Ukrainian State Media Website

DealBook Summit, Zelenskyy told the audience, "it seems to me that Elon began to change his point of view, and every day we heard one or another different calls. I think that either someone influences him, or he somehow does it on his own... I always say absolutely frankly: if you want to understand what Russia has done here, come here to Ukraine, and you will see it all with your own eyes, without just words. And then already, after that, you will say how this war should be ended, who started it, and when it can be ended."

ECONOMIC

The rouble was unchanged, holding an exchange rate of 61 for 1 US dollar.

Errors and Omissions: Yesterday, there was a typographical error in the Situation Report that WTI crude oil was trading at \$89 a barrel. That should have been \$80 a barrel, and we thank you for your understanding.

Solid economic news in the United States raised stock markets back to a bull rally, driving oil prices upward. WTI crude climbed to \$81 a barrel, and Brent rose to \$88. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market

was unchanged, trading at \$2.39 per gallon for December 2022 contracts. (63 cents a liter)

Dutch TTF Gas Futures skyrocketed, with January and February 2023 deliveries climbing to 152 euros per megawatt hour.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures remain stable, trading at \$7.89 a bushel for March 2023 contracts.