



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

September 8, 2023



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 561**

It has been 3,481 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 196 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. There were no changes to the line of conflict.

- Fighting continues east of Novojehorivka, and while intense, Russian and Ukrainian forces are trading the same defensive positions
- Ukrainian forces have almost completed clearing Klishchiivka as the Chechen Akhmat 54th Brigade is accused of abandoning their positions
- Russian forces are being pressed in three directions in the hamlet of Andriivka
- Ukrainian forces made additional marginal gains at Opytne near the Donetsk International Airport
- Videos confirm Ukrainian ground troops occupy the Russian defenses east of the dragon teeth on the western edge of Verbove
- Intense fighting continued west of Robotyne, where Ukrainian forces made gains and east of Novoprokopivka
- Ukrainian partisans targeted election offices in the occupied Zaporizhzhia and Kherson

- The International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Russia is still blocking access to key areas of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and complying with requests from site inspectors
- The British government confirmed that the Royal Air Force has started patrolling the Black Sea shipping corridors used by vessels departing and arriving in Ukraine to prevent further Russian aggression
- Romania is tightening border security along the Danube River and building bomb shelters in several communities
- The United States, Romania, and Ukraine will conduct joint naval exercises in the western Black Sea and the Danube River delta from September 11 – 15
- Russia bombed Zimiiny (Snake) Island off the coast of Odesa because their petty
- A Russian ballistic missile strike wounded 72 and killed 1 in Kryvyi Rih
- Two more drones struck the administration building of the Kremnii microelectronics factory in Bryansk, Russia
- Cuba arrested 17 people for human trafficking their citizens to fight in Ukraine
- Nine more Ukrainian children were repatriated from Russia and the occupied territories
- ATACMS? We don't report on rumors

## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. Our concern about Ukraine's ability to turn tactical gains into operational success and strategic victories has been tempered by expanding success in the Orikhiv area of operation (AO), the breaking of the stalemate in the Klishchiivka AO, and the declining quality of Russian troops.
2. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.
3. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government is in the largest purge of dissident voices and perceived internal enemies since the Soviet era, including the leaders, mercenaries, and employees of PMC Wagner, objective state media journalists and war bloggers, far-right nationalists who want the Kremlin to take more aggressive action in Ukraine, and human rights activists.
4. There remains a possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and

- Dmitry Utkin. President Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.
5. We maintain that the continued soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's international border further emboldens Moscow to take additionally calculated risks.
  6. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
  7. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.
  8. We maintain Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
  9. We maintain that the growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units has forced commanders to commit strategic reserves meant for a fall counteroffensive into defensive

operations. Additionally, due to declining combat potential, Russian commanders are activating the reserves from the second and third echelons of the Prigozhin and Surovikin Lines.

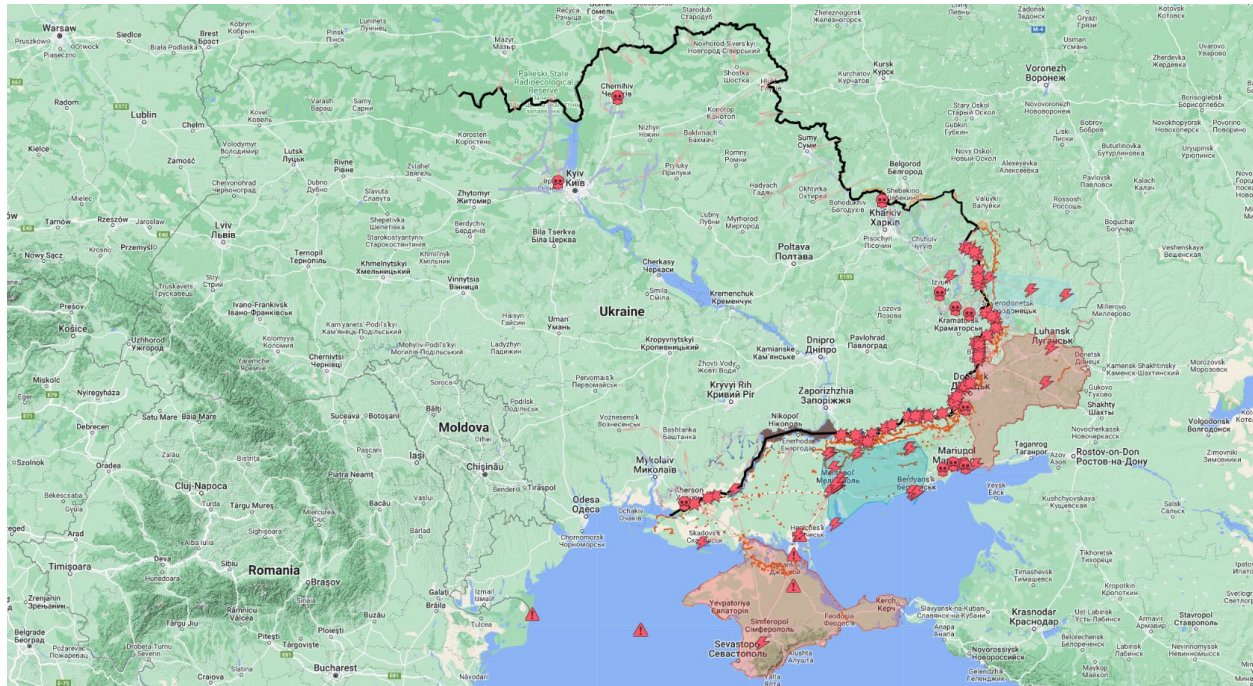
10. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine.
11. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)





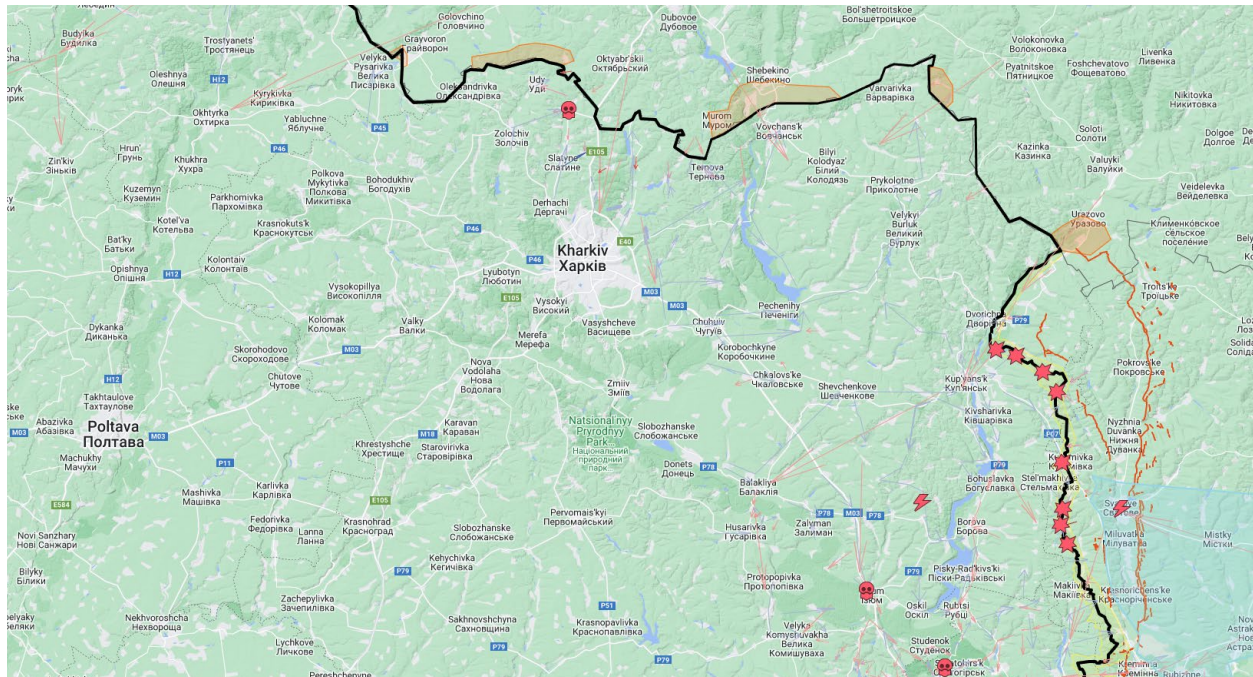
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

## [Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

# KHARKIV



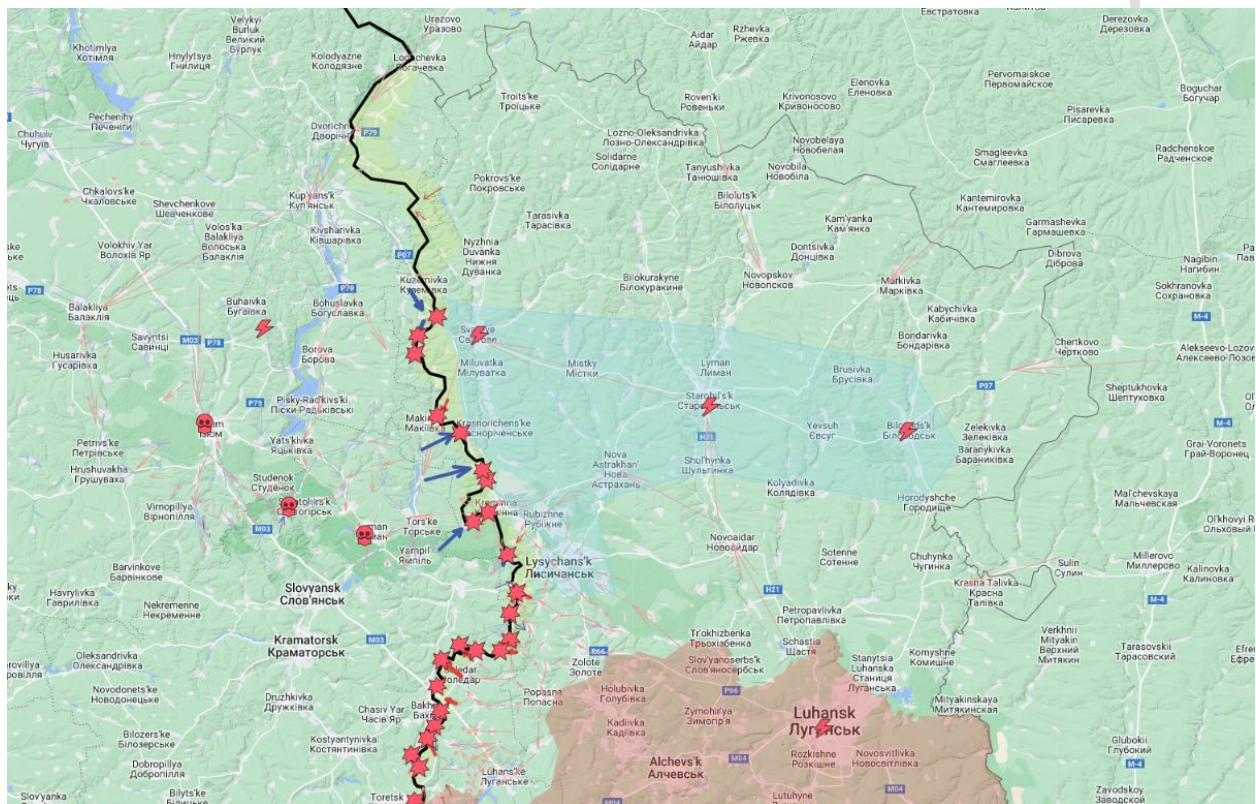
**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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

There wasn't any significant activity recorded.

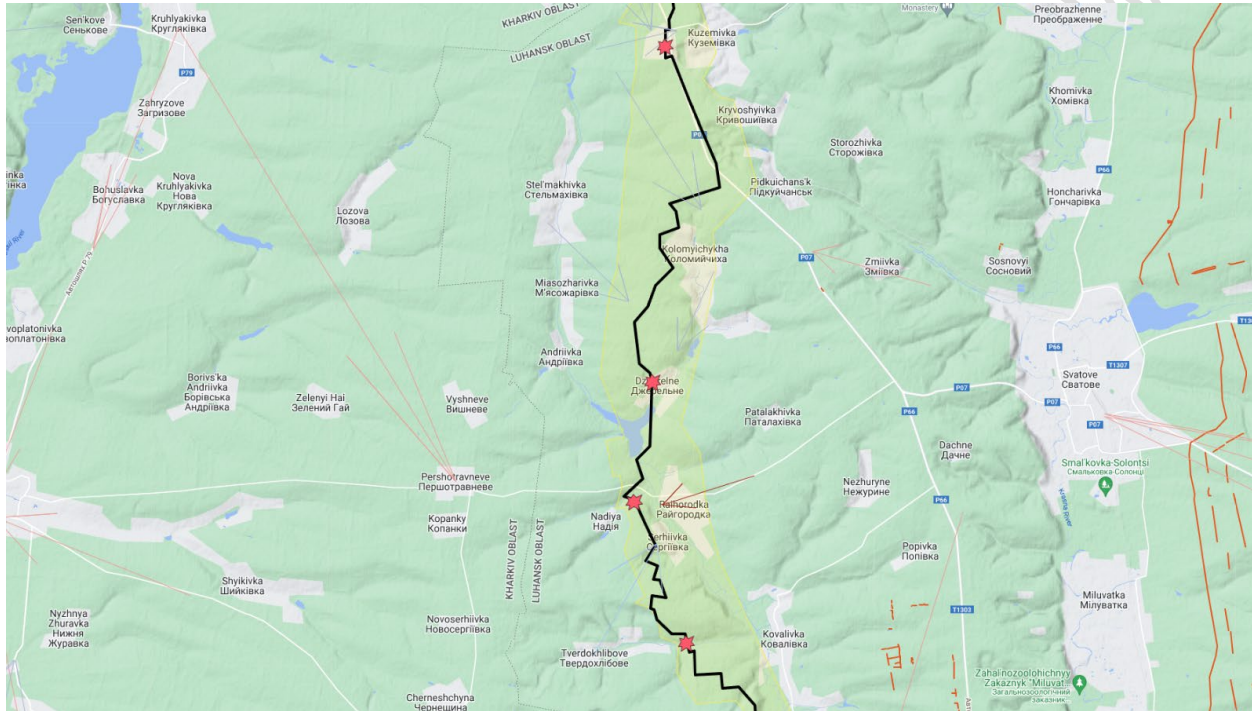
# DONBAS REGION

## LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support the September 2023 elections

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

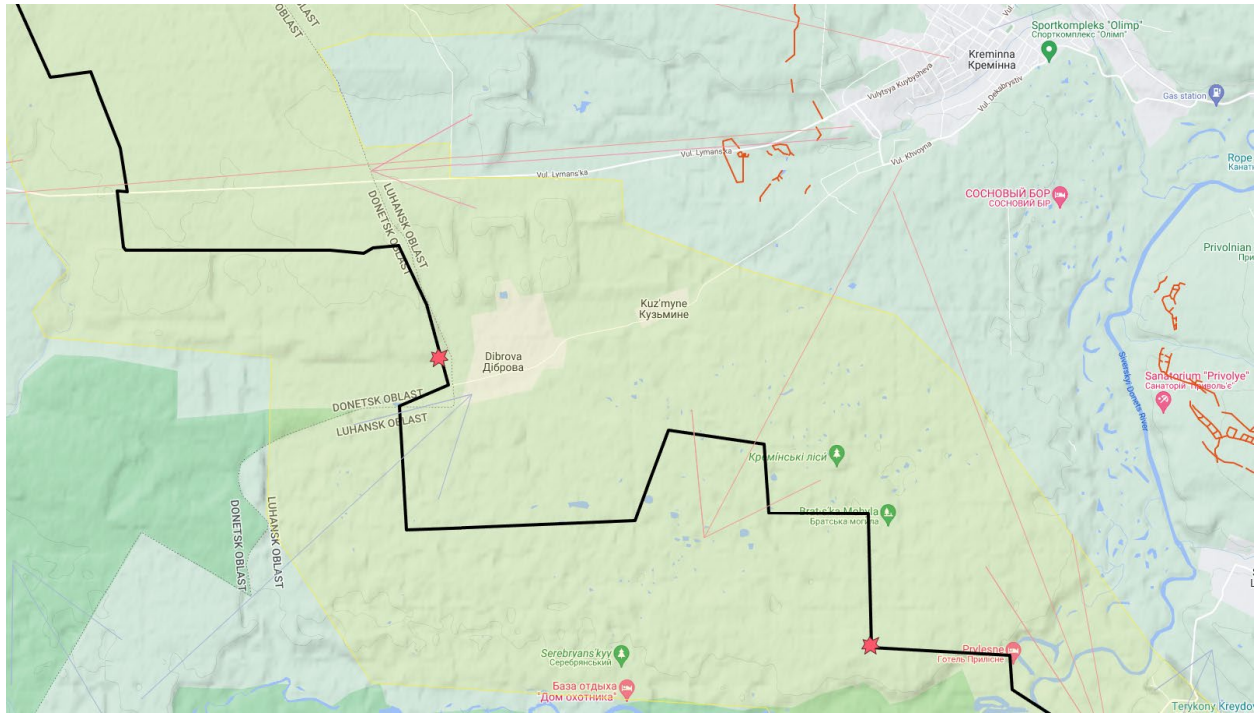


## Svatove Operational Area

Ukrainian sources reported fighting continued east of [Novojehorivka](#), with no change in the situation.<sup>1 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11802>

<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>



## Kreminna Operational Area

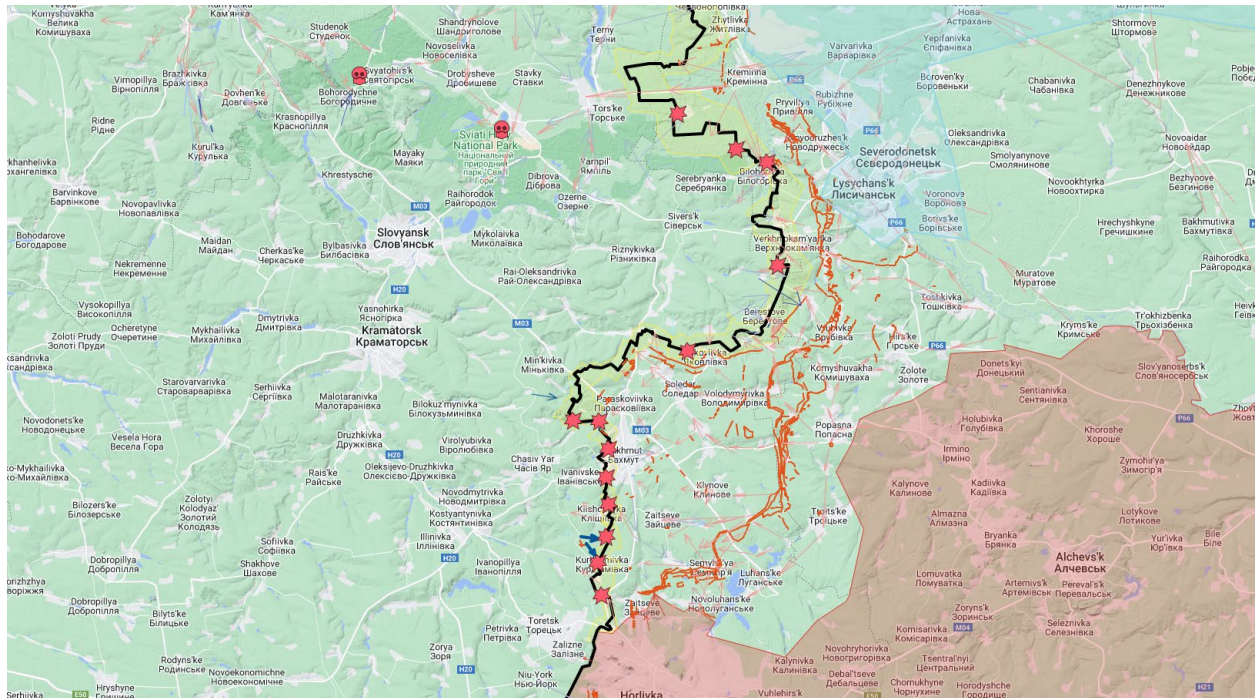
Artillery duels continued in the [Serebryansky Woods](#), with Russian and Ukrainian forces trading control of defensive positions in the Dibrova area.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30247](https://t.me/mod_russia/30247) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

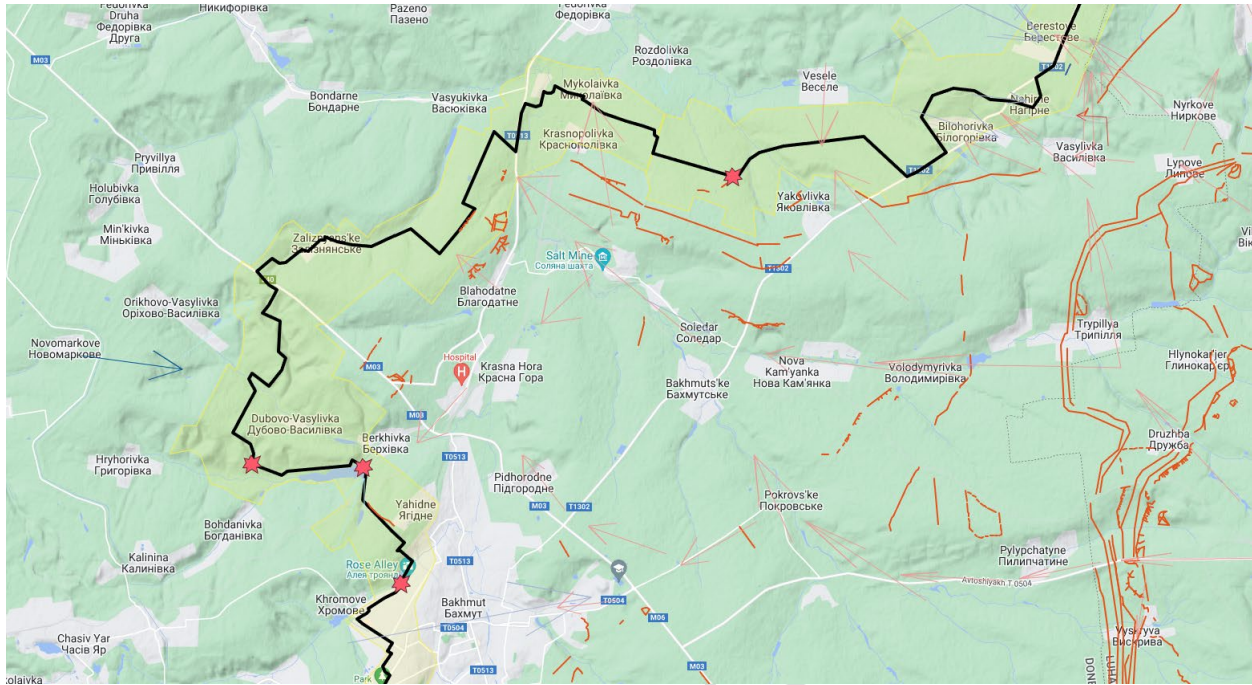


# NORTHEAST DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Complete the capture of Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region, set conditions for September 2023 elections

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, collapse the Russian flanks while maximizing casualties, draw Russian reserves into the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

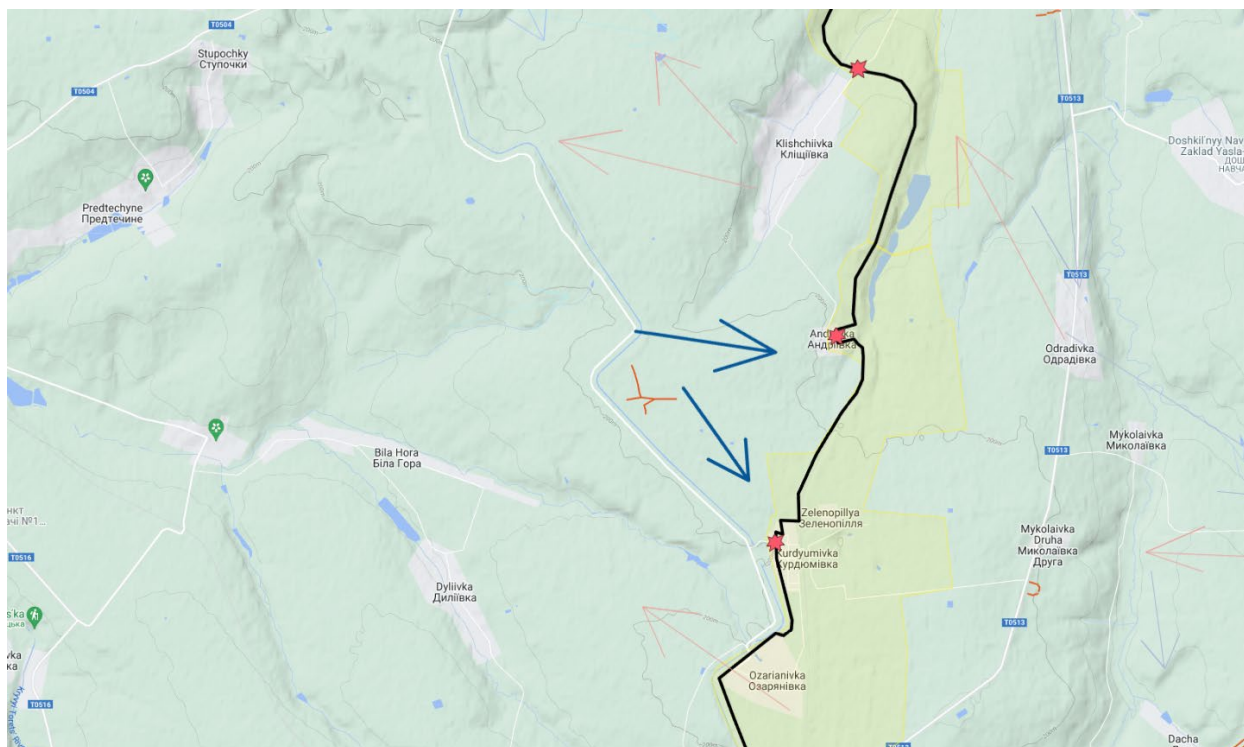


## Soledar and Bakhmut Operational Areas

Russian sources reported fighting continued in the area of [Orikhovo-Vasylivka](#) but did not make any claims about territorial control changes.<sup>4 5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14896>

<sup>5</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30247](https://t.me/mod_russia/30247) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



## Klishchiivka Operational Area

Based on available open-source intelligence, Ukrainian forces have almost gained military control of [Klishchiivka](#). Russian forces remain on a single street in a group of destroyed houses in the northeast corner.<sup>6 7</sup> Members of the Russian 83rd Airborne Assault Brigade (VDV) released a video complaining that the [Chechen Akhmat 54th Brigade abandoned their positions](#) in Klishchiivka, declaring, "Akhmat! Be men. Return to your positions."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14896>

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113667>



Ukrainian forces have expanded their control along the railroad grade out of [Andriivka](#) and are pushing southward from Klishchiivka.<sup>9 10 11</sup> Russian forces are clinging to a handful of private homes in the eastern part of the hamlet, being pushed out from three directions.

Fighting continues on the western edge and northwest corner of [Kurdyumivka](#).<sup>12</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Unless Russian forces pull up significant reinforcements or the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) carpet bomb the area with UMPK glide bombs, we expect Klishchiivka and Andriivka to be liberated in the coming days.

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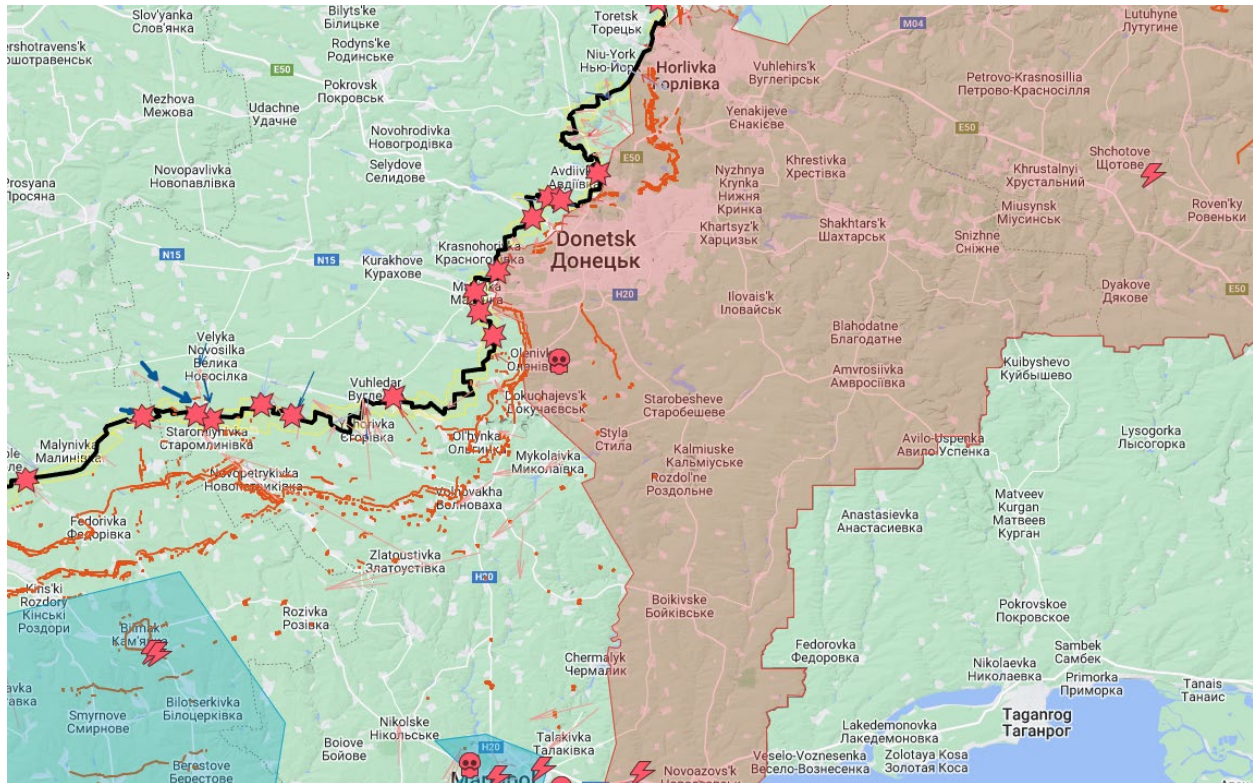
<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>10</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30247](https://t.me/mod_russia/30247) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14896>

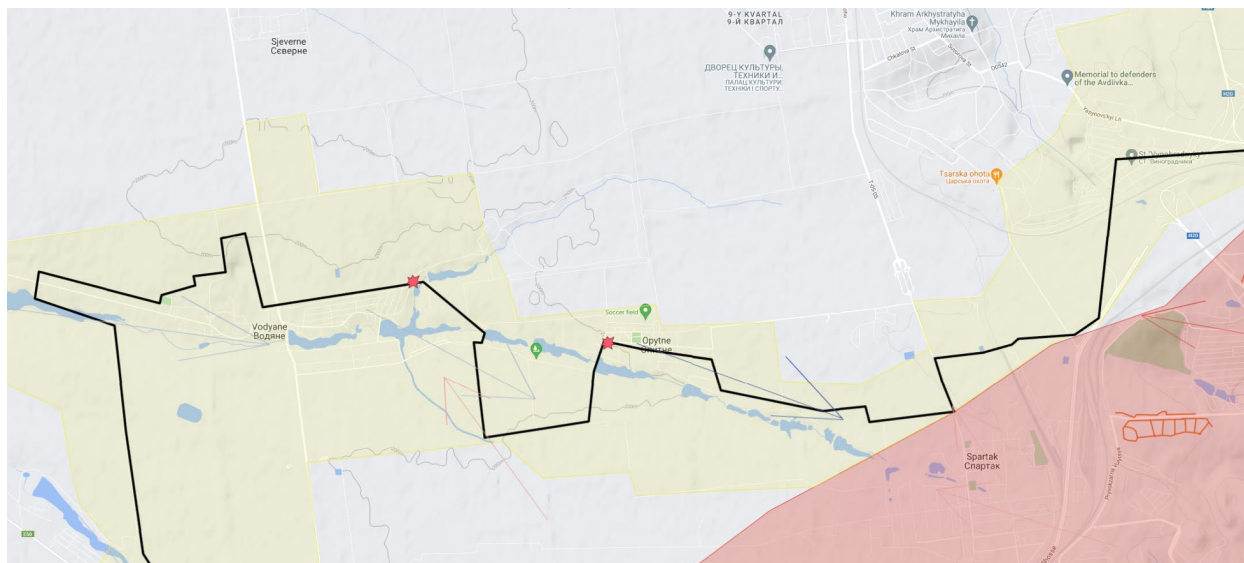
<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast

**Ukrainian Objective:** Set conditions for larger offensive operations, find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



## Avdiivka Operational Area

Ukrainian forces advanced further into [Opytne](#), north of the Donetsk International Airport, leaving the settlement a no man's land.<sup>13 14 15</sup> Reports of a Ukrainian advance to the airport at Vesele are untrue.

## Marinka, Vuhledar, and Staromlynivka Operational Areas

Positional fighting and harassment attacks continued in [Marinka](#) with no change in the situation.<sup>16 17</sup> Russian forces

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11802>

<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14896>

<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11802>

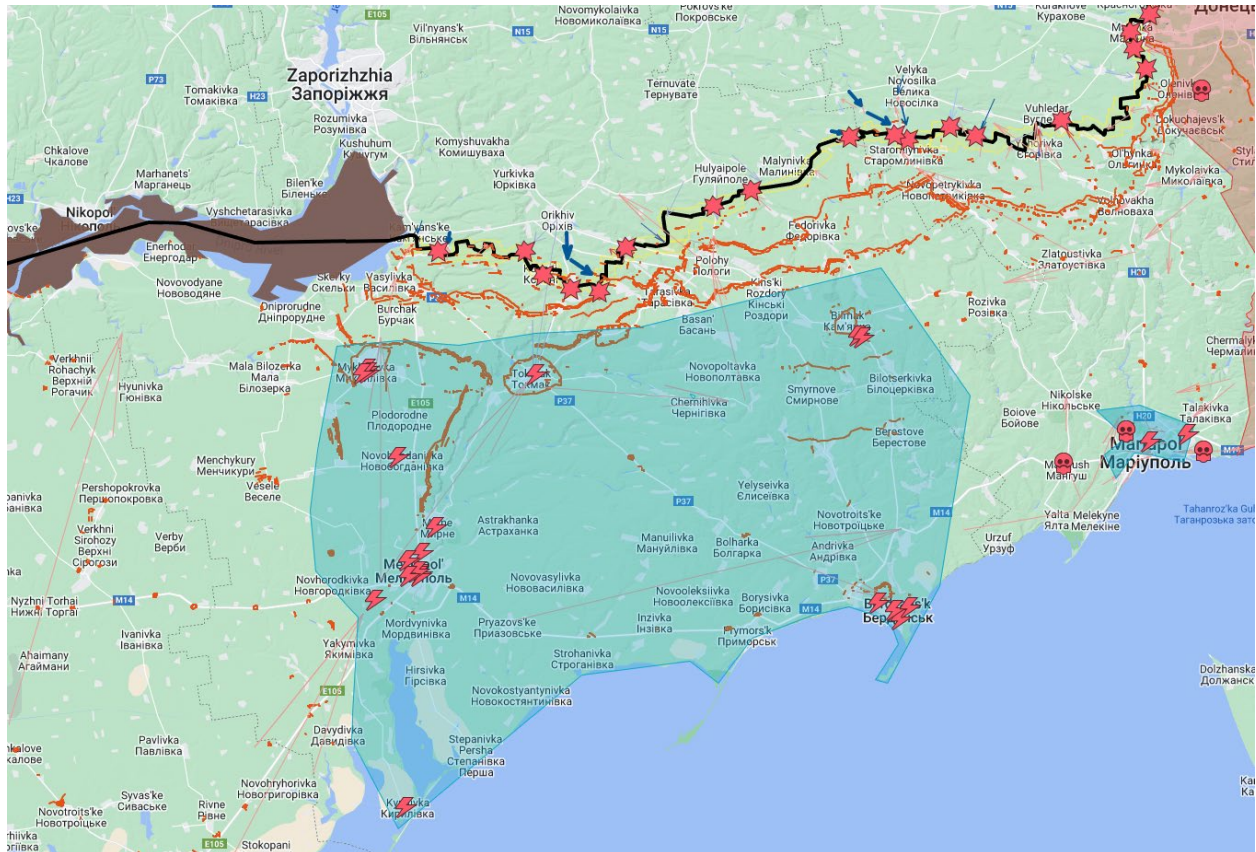
<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14896>

also attacked east of [Novomykhailivka](#), suffered losses, and returned to their previous defensive position.<sup>18</sup>

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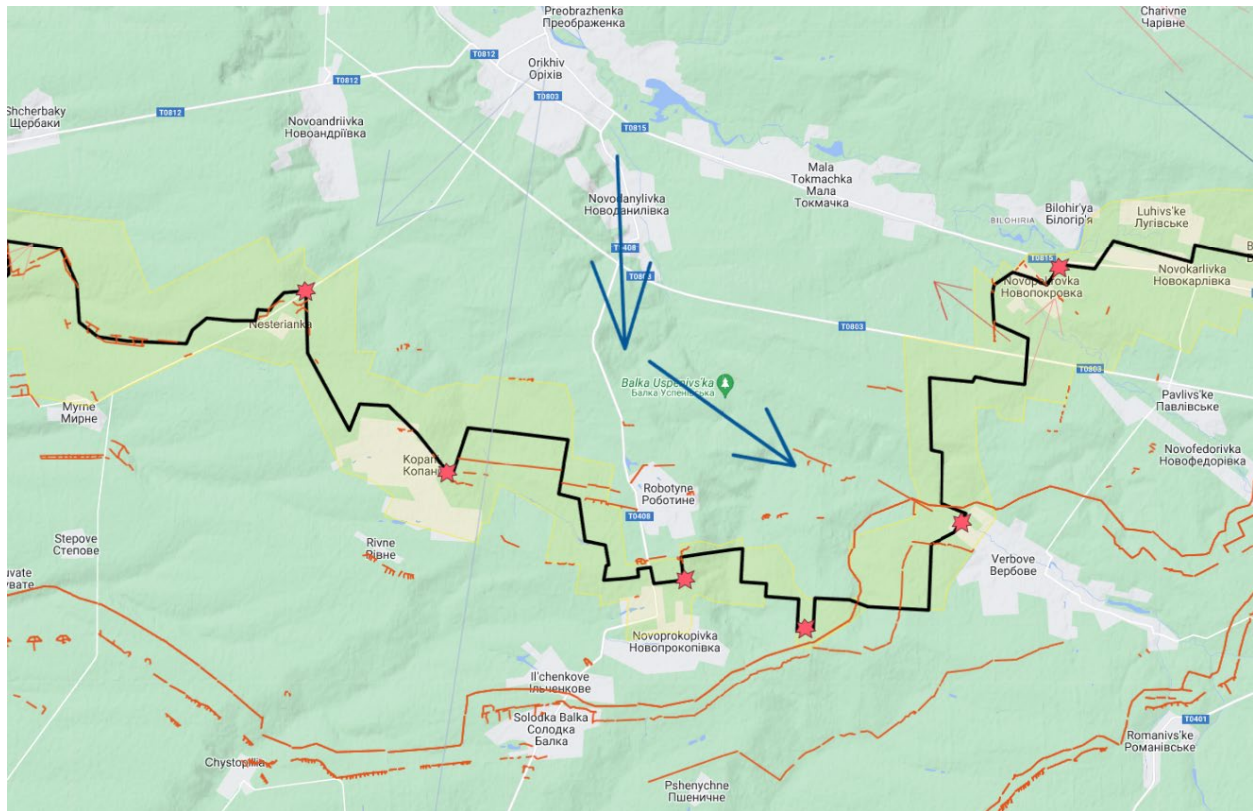
<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11802>

# ZAPORIZHIA




**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

**Ukrainian Objective:** Exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, break Russian defensive lines, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



## Orikhiv Operational Area

Intense fighting continued west of [Verbove](#).<sup>19</sup> Ukrainian forces occupy sections of the second echelon of the Surovikin Line and are  [visually confirmed to be past the dragon teeth](#).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1700122812785074499>

***Editor's Note:*** *We don't know who in Russia thought using War Pigs by Black Sabbath as background music, but they don't understand what that song is about – at all.*

West of [Robotyne](#), Ukrainian forces pushed Russian troops back, widening the gap and providing more protection to the flanks. The Russian defensive structures to the east of Kopani are in danger of being flanked.<sup>21</sup> Fighting continued east of [Novoprokopivka](#).<sup>22</sup>

## **Occupied Zaporizhzhia**

In Bryansk, insurgents blew up the Berdyansk Municipal Lyceum, which had been turned into a United Russia polling station for the ongoing sham elections. The blast occurred overnight, with a second explosion targeting the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.<sup>23 24</sup>

## **Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant**

The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) released an update about the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). Director General Rafael Grossi said that

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<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17558>

<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113655>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/investigatorkua/6964>

onsite inspectors reported hearing “numerous explosions” over the past week.<sup>25</sup> “Starting last Saturday, the IAEA team heard around two dozen explosions over three days, followed by several more in the last few days. There was no damage to the plant itself.”

Rosatom and Russian occupiers are still blocking access to the rooftops of Reactor Units 1, 2, 5, and 6. The IAEA team has also been requesting to inspect all six turbine halls, one after the other, to fully assess, at one time, whether any items may violate the five principles of nuclear safety. At present, this request has not been granted. In Turbine Hall 1, 15 Russian military vehicles were recorded.

On September 4, a water leak was detected in a recirculation valve on Reactor 5. One of the redundant safety systems that supports Reactors 5 and 6 had to be temporarily shut down to replace the failed component.

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<sup>25</sup> [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)



## **BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION**

### **Black Sea**

There was no report on the composition of the Black Sea Fleet. Partisans recorded a Russian warship leaving Sevastopol, but the type could not be identified.

According to the Telegraph, the British Royal Air Force is now patrolling the international shipping corridors out of Ukraine to protect merchant vessels carrying Ukrainian grain. Downing Street confirmed the report, releasing a statement that said in part, "We will use our intelligence to monitor Russian activity in the Black Sea... As part of these surveillance operations, RAF aircraft fly over the area to deter Russia from unlawfully targeting civilian grain shipping."<sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup>

### **Romania**

In Romania, government officials have decided to strengthen border security along the Danube River. Residents will now receive alerts in areas with a risk of

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<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/110769>

<sup>27</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/6274](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6274)

falling “elements belonging to means of warfare used in the conflict.” In addition, local authorities are preparing civil defense instructions on what to do during an air raid, and the Romanian government will build bomb shelters in Plauru, Çatalkioi, and other villages.<sup>28</sup>

The Press Service of the Navy of Romania announced that the United States and Ukraine will join Romanian forces for Sea Breeze 23.3 exercises in the western Black Sea and Danube River Delta from September 11 to 15.<sup>29</sup> Military personnel from Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, and Türkiye will also participate.

## Occupied Crimea

The Director of Communication for Operational Command South (OKS) of Ukraine, Nataliya Humenyuk, said that Russia had deployed another Shahed-136 launch point in Crimea to shorten the flight time in the hope of avoiding detection.<sup>30</sup> “They are looking for new tactics to bypass the air defense system of the Defense Forces of Ukraine. And, unfortunately, they do not draw conclusions from the fact that they once deployed similar bases on the Crimean

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<sup>28</sup> [https://t.me/our\\_odessa/53536](https://t.me/our_odessa/53536)

<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19666>

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113634>

peninsula, and they had a sad history, but it is normal for us."

## **Odesa**

A day after Ukrainian forces filmed themselves on Zmiiny (Snake) Island off the coast of Odesa, Russia bombed the rocky Ukrainian outpost.<sup>31</sup>

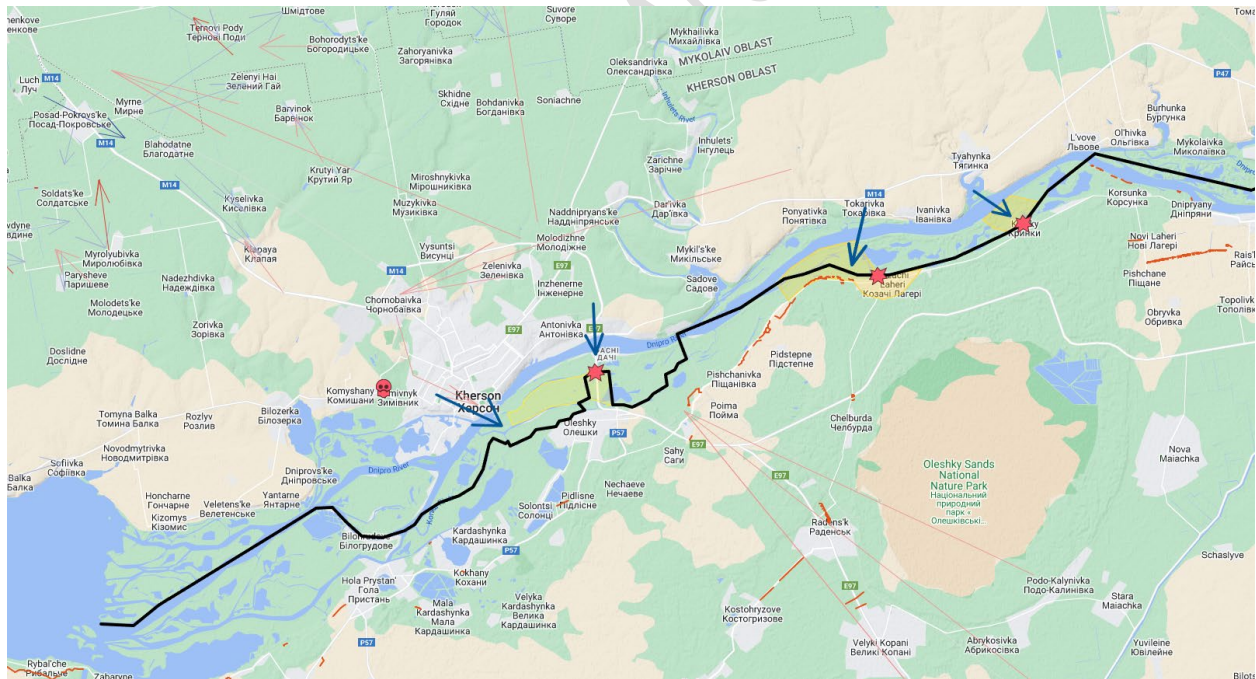
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<sup>31</sup> [https://t.me/our\\_odessa/53544](https://t.me/our_odessa/53544)

# KHERSON

**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, prepare the region for illegitimate elections in September 2023, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives



## Occupied Kherson




A Russian polling station for Russia's   [ongoing sham elections was firebombed](#) in Mykhailivka.<sup>32</sup>

## WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks and protect civilian lives

## Dnipropetrovsk

On September 7, we reported there was an explosion in Kryvyi Rih. A  [Russian ballistic missile struck a police station](#), destroying the building as officers started the work day.<sup>33</sup> Seventy-two people were wounded, including 35 hospitalized, two in critical condition.<sup>34</sup> Incredibly, only one person was killed   [despite the severe damage to the building](#).<sup>35</sup> The blast damaged 62 apartment buildings seven private residents, and area shops.

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<sup>32</sup> [https://t.me/kherson\\_non\\_fake/10143](https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/10143)

<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/110765>

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113650>

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113602>

## NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale

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

There wasn't any significant activity reported.

## RUSSIAN FRONT

**Russian Objective:** Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

**Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective:** Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

## Bryansk

If local officials are to be believed, Russian anti-drone electronic warfare systems have successfully used the main administration building of Kremniy El microelectronics plant in the city of Bryansk as a drone interception platform. Not 📷 [once, not twice](#), but 📺 [three times in the last 24 hours](#).<sup>36 37</sup>

**Editor's Note:** *I can't grasp how "We steered the drones into a strategic target" is a better answer than "We couldn't do anything, sorry."*

## BELARUSIAN FRONT

There were no significant developments from the potato kingdom.

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<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113646>

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41654>

## THEATERWIDE

The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, hinted that a significant military aid package is coming this month. "Today is a very active day. There is a lot of international communication – Ukraine must be heard in the world, must be understood. Shared emotions are always a great source for more support. Yalta European Strategy Summit – various meetings, interviews. Meeting with members of our sanctions group. A report on what has already been achieved in working with our partners for the sake of sanctions against Russia. Landmarks for the near future. Now, we see a too-long sanctions pause on the part of the partners. And too active attempts by Russia to circumvent sanctions. Today, I held an important preparatory meeting regarding the international event that we are planning for the near future – this September. Details – a little later."<sup>38</sup>

In an interview with United States news agency CNN, Zelenskyy dismissed the idea of negotiating with Russia. "When you want to compromise or have a dialogue with someone, you can't do it with a liar," Zelenskyy said about Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Have you seen any

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<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113657>



compromise from Putin on other issues? With Georgia?  
With Moldova?"<sup>39</sup>

The British defense company BAE Systems will start producing spare parts for its L119 towed 105 mm howitzers in Ukraine within the next few months. President Zelenskyy and BAE CEO Charles Woodburn had previously announced the development of an arms production facility in Ukraine.<sup>40</sup>

Denmark delivered the first batch of ten upgraded Leopard 1A5 main battle tanks to Ukraine out of a batch of 100 that Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands jointly financed.<sup>41</sup>

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 1, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/110770>

<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113680>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113642>

## RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

*Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to September 1, 2023.*

*11,936 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,326 Ukrainian*


Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	2132	271	7.87:1	—
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	147	360	0.41:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	958	317	3.02:1	↓
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	2715	728	3.73:1	↓
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	346	330	1.05:1	—
<b>MRAPs</b>	47	153	0.31:1	—
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	204	365	0.56:1	—
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	249	16	15.56:1	↑
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	340	79	4.30:1	↓
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	292	157	1.86:1	↓
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	509	212	2.40:1	↓
<b>MLRS</b>	257	50	5.14:1	↑
<b>SAMs</b>	165	129	1.28:1	—
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	45	75	0.60:1	—
<b>EW/ECW</b>	53	4	13.25:1	↑
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	89	71	1.25:1	—
<b>Helicopters</b>	111	34	3.26:1	↓
<b>Naval Vessels</b>	13	27	0.48:1	—


## RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR

The Cuban Interior Ministry announced the arrest of 17 people associated with a network that recruited citizens to fight for Russia in Ukraine. A network was identified that allegedly operates, including from Russia. There was no information on the nationality of those arrested.<sup>42</sup>

## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine released another update, clarifying that 15 people were killed and 36 wounded by a ballistic missile strike on the market area of Kostyantynivka.<sup>43</sup>

Russian airstrikes on Odradokamyanka in free Kherson, using FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bombs,  [killed three civilians and wounded seven](#).<sup>44</sup>

The Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights of Ukraine, Dmitry Lubinets, reported  [nine more children](#)

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<sup>42</sup> [https://t.me/grey\\_zone/20497](https://t.me/grey_zone/20497)

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/24044>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/113609>

were repatriated from Russia, including two from the occupied territories. In addition, a civilian prisoner wrongly accused of blowing up the Kerch (Crimean) Bridge was also returned.<sup>45</sup>

## **GEOPOLITICS**

Elon Musk released declassified electronic correspondence with Deputy Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science and Technology – Minister for Digital Transformation of Ukraine, Mykhailo Fedorov without permission from Kyiv. The documents were included in a biography about Musk written by Walter Isaacson's biography. A story in the U.S. news publication Washinton Post included texts between Musk and Fedorov, highlight when Fedorov asked Musk to restore Starlink satellite Internet connections for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. "It's not very pretty," Fedorov said. "I never showed or talked about our correspondence in public."<sup>46</sup>


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<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/110706>


<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/110771>


## Notes on Sourcing Information


**Malcontent News** uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


 **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


 **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying all Russian war crimes.


 **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for **unique claims** about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units have greater fidelity.

 **Andrei Morozov:** Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detained by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

 **Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

⚠ **Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia:** We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

⊖ **Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense:** We do not use combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

⊖ **Denis Pushilin:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

⚠ **Ramzan Kadyrov:** The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

✅ **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:** We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or

misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government official to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.