



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



April 24, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

4/24/22 22:45 PDT

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers located in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, donations, and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact social@malcontentnews.com. For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at tips@malcontentment.com.

[Patrons at the Bronze level or higher](#) get access to the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patrons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2022, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Jeff Davis, and Kseniia Panteleeva

Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 60	2
KEY EVENTS MAP.....	6
DONBAS REGION.....	7
LUHANSK	7
DONETSK.....	9
SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA	9
KHARKIV REGION.....	9
DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION	10
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION	13
KYIV REGION	14
BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION	14
WEST REGION.....	14
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	15
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS	18
GEOPOLITICAL	18
ECONOMIC	19
DISINFORMATION EVALUATION	20

SUMMARY – DAY 60

A widely anticipated Easter offensive did not happen, with Russian forces making limited gains around Severodonetsk.

Russian forces now occupy the settlement of Torske, and they have crossed the Zherbets River into Zarichne. North of Russia occupied Kreminna, the villages of Zhytivka and Pishchane were captured on April 23.

In Mariupol, Russian forces continued to attack Ukrainian troops concentrated around the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant. A planned green corridor for civilian evacuations was canceled due to the fighting.

Scattered fighting and artillery exchanges occurred along an axis from Hulyaipole to Horlivka. There was no change in territorial control.

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that civilians in Russian-occupied regions of the Kharkiv oblast are forming a resistance similar to the activity in Kherson and Melitopol.

Russian forces continued consolidating their positions in Izyum, with fighting, MLRS, and artillery exchanges along the line of conflict.

In Kherson, Ukrainian forces liberated the settlement of Kyselivka, the last outpost before Chornobaivka and 10 kilometers from the Russian base at Kherson International Airport.

Cruise missiles struck three industrial areas in Kamianske. There isn't information available on damage or casualties.

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the reopening of the US Embassy in Kyiv.¹

ASSESSMENT: Our assessment remains unchanged from three days ago. Russia lacks the manpower, equipment, and operational capability to create an encirclement from Hulyaipole to Izyum. If everything tipped in the Russian Ministry of Defense's favor, they still lack the resources to hold and pacify the Donbas while launching a second axis

¹ <https://twitter.com/johnismay/status/1518438659242004480>

offensive to take, control, and pacify Mykolaiv, Zaporizhia, and Kherson oblasts.

Sixty days after Russia invaded Ukraine on multiple axes, the MoD has little to show. Most territorial gains are open farmland with small villages. Kherson is the only population center captured relatively intact, and Russian occupying forces have been unsuccessful at stopping a growing insurgency. Russian occupied Melitopol is also facing an increasingly violent uprising.

Mariupol is still contested, and most Russian-occupied areas are destroyed. There is no power, water, natural gas, commerce, sanitation, or functional hospitals. Almost 75% of the population has fled, been deported to Russia against their will, or killed.

The ports in Berdyansk and Mariupol are unusable. The Russian navy has had to withdraw from the coastal waters of Ukraine, while the Russian Air Force has yet to establish air superiority.

The Russian military has lost an estimated 25% of the combat power deployed to Ukraine, 20% of the missile cruisers in the Russian navy, 15% of Ka-52 Alligator attack

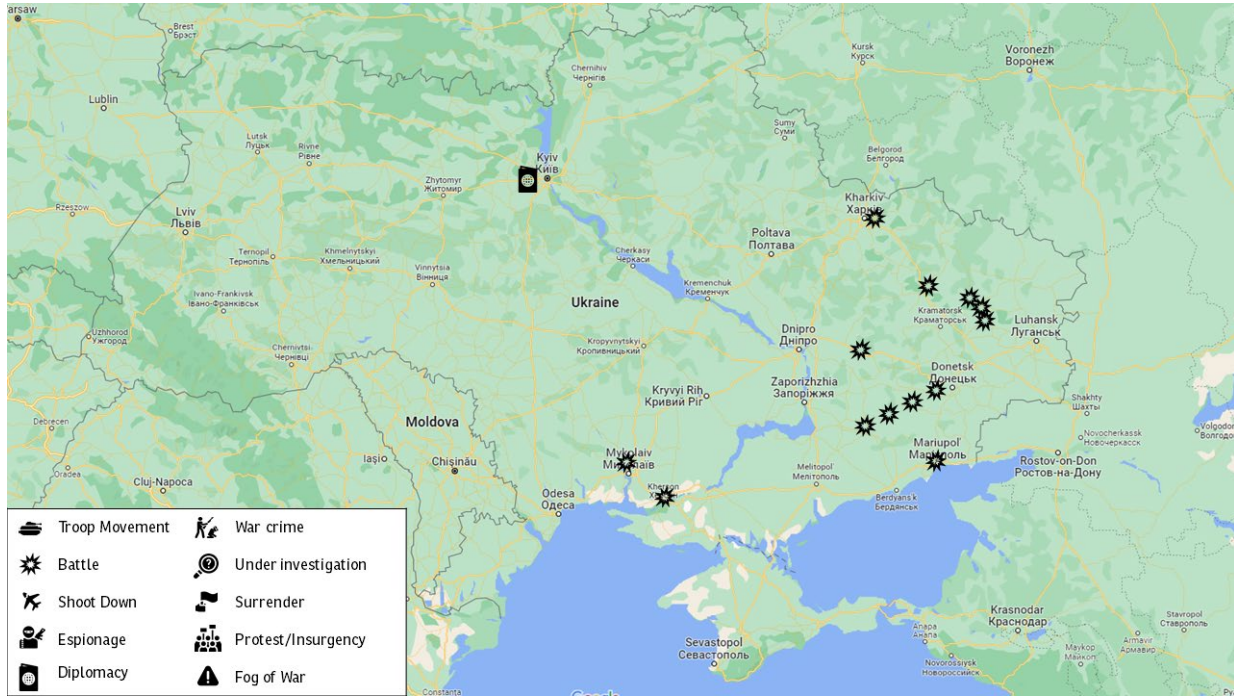
helicopters, 10% of Su-34 fighter aircraft, and 21% of the entire active fleet of main battle tanks.

Just 18 months ago, NATO was on the brink of fracturing into pieces, and now it appears it will add Sweden and Finland as members before the end of 2022.

Even Russia's psychological operations through social media and disinformation have been degraded in Western Europe and North America.

The war in Ukraine has been a disaster for Russians on all fronts. The only success is the tightening grip on the hearts and minds of its citizens and further isolating itself from the rest of the world.

KEY EVENTS MAP



DONBAS REGION

Russian forces secured the village of Torske and advanced into Zarichne. NASA FIRMS data suggests that Russian troops aided by Chechen, Wagner Group PMC, and separatist militias made small gains in Popasnya.

LUHANSK

Fighting continues in Rubizhne and Popasnya, with no reported change in territorial control. NASA FIRMS data indicated that artillery fire was striking three blocks north of where it was hit yesterday. This suggests Russian forces advanced deeper into the city, but there is no photographic, video, or independent report to confirm this.

Ukrainian forces destroyed a bridge crossing the Krasna River in Russian occupied Kreminna.² The bridge is geolocated in the river basin that cuts through the center of the settlement.³

² https://twitter.com/Vasilisa_2_0/status/1518283264221491200 [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]

³ <https://goo.gl/maps/JV3Ez4avCxUbrmpu8>

OPINION: We continue to thank Russian State Media for its inability to understand the importance of operational security.

Local separatist militias advanced to Pishchane, north of Russian occupied Kreminna. We consider Zhytlivka occupied and Pishchane disputed. Russian forces occupied Zhytlivka on April 1⁴ and were pushed out on April 7.⁵ Pishchane has been a flashpoint since 2015 and was occupied by LNR separatists on March 6.

Pro-Russian accounts are reporting the settlement of Novotoshkivske was captured on April 23. The village has been a flashpoint of fighting since the Russian invasion of the oblast in 2014, with significant static defensive positions just to the east of the settlement.⁶

Shelling and missile attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continue in Severodonetsk and Lysychansk.⁷

⁴ https://twitter.com/A7_Mirza/status/1509994219057950723

⁵ https://twitter.com/War_Mapper/status/1512220138203983875

⁶ <https://goo.gl/maps/h3YLhX52msXzAn4S9>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1518105395889332226>

DONETSK

There weren't any significant changes in territorial control in the oblast. There was scattered fighting along the entire line of conflict.

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

Russian forces continue to attack the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant today, with no change in the situation.

ASSESSMENT: The Easter offensive didn't come to be, with Russian forces and the units supporting them making small gains. The capture of Torske indicates that Russia can grind out a slow advance along the northern axis of the Severodonetsk salient.

KHARKIV REGION

Russian forces attempted advances on Dovhenke and Pashkove, south of Izyum, and were pushed back. Russian troops shelled the settlement of Dovhenke.⁸ Russia

⁸ <https://twitter.com/bradyafr/status/1518001777840320512>

continues to consolidate forces in Izyum in what should be a larger offensive.

Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv.⁹

Errors and Omissions: Yesterday, we reported that Lozova, about 120 kilometers south of Kharkiv, was captured. This was widely reported on social media and reinforced by reliable sources. The claim was reversed today and made in error. We apologize for this mistake and thank you for understanding as we try to untangle the fog of war.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

There are reports that Russia fired nine cruise missiles into the city of Kamianske in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.¹⁰ NASA FIRMS indicates there were three target areas. An industrial area along the Dnipro river where potential targets include a factory or power plant, possible coal storage yards, and a water treatment plant.

⁹ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1517989649486159872>

¹⁰ <https://t.me/truexanewsua/43444>

The second is a large industrial area with multiple facilities. The region includes a railyard and petrochemical storage. The third area is a refinery, but NASA FIRMS shows fires to the facility's west.



Valentin Reznichenko, the head of railways, reported that Russian missiles hit railroad infrastructure, and an industrial area was destroyed in Pavlograd, Dnipro oblast.¹¹

¹¹ [@Cyberspec1 Twitter](#)

The Russian Ministry of Defense said the missile strike destroyed an ammunition factory.¹²



The video from April 23 doesn't support an explosion at an ammunition production or storage area due to the lack of any secondary explosions or evidence of a pressure wave causing collateral damage. Pictures and video out of Pavlograd support that railroad and industrial infrastructure were attacked.

¹² <https://twitter.com/DarthApuReborn/status/1518389996167864325> [Russian State Media Status: Questionable]

ASSESSMENT: We don't think Ukraine or Russia is 100% forthcoming about areas attacked on April 23. We find this area north of Pavlograd, which looks like a military storage site, pretty interesting.¹³

There are multiple reports that Ukrainian forces captured the settlement of Kyselivka, 12 kilometers from the Russian base at Chornobaivka.¹⁴ Russia moved air assets into Kherson International Airport, and it is reported they were destroyed in an artillery attack.¹⁵

Russian forces continue to attack civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

¹³ <https://goo.gl/maps/Haz7DPhbP73MHcM36>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1518199170556911616>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1518387241264984064>

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

Errors and Omissions: Yesterday, we reported the cruise missile attack on Odesa was made by vessels of the Black Sea Fleet. Later reports indicated Tu-95 Bear strategic bombers fired Kh-101 cruise missiles. We apologize and thank you for your understanding as we sort through the fog of war.

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

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS



A Rosneft refined fuel storage area and an oil storage depot exploded in the Russian city of Bryansk late on April 24.

The two facilities are 1.5 kilometers apart, with the tank farm exploding after the refinery.¹⁶

The closest point to the Ukrainian border is 115 kilometers south, well out of the range of artillery and MLRS.



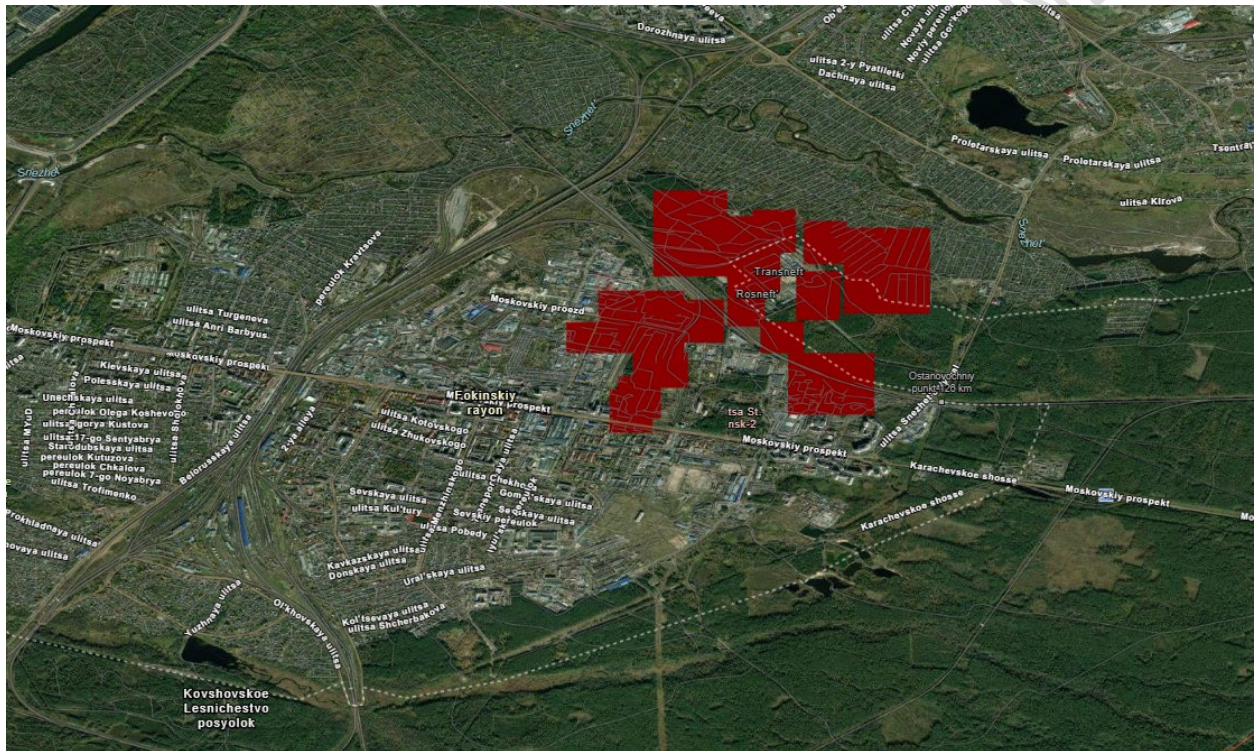
Bryansk is a highly strategic city with large railyards, multiple tank farms, and a large army base with hundreds of military vehicles held in outdoor storage.¹⁷ The base

¹⁶ <https://goo.gl/maps/jHP5ZwmYr1rBUViA8>

¹⁷ <https://goo.gl/maps/KrcfHpMM9JLrh2S86>

includes main battle tanks, APCs, transports, and towed artillery.

NASA FIRMS data confirms that the fuel storage and oil tank farm are on fire.



ASSESSMENT: Multiple videos from various angles do not indicate this was related to an attack. There is a distinct high-pitched sucking sound before the second explosion. It is likely the two locations were connected by a pipeline, with check valves failing as the fire moved through the line.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

There weren't any significant developments.

GEOPOLITICAL

French President Emmanuel Macron became the first leader in 20 years to be reelected, defeating Pro-Putin far-right populist Marine Le Pen. Macron had secured 58.2% of the vote.

In Slovenia, voters rejected right-wing populist Janez Jansa, electing Robert Golob of the left-leaning Freedom Movement Party.

Golob secured 33% of the vote, while Jansa secured 28%. The Social Democratic Party threw its support behind Golob, giving the new leader 40 seats in Parliament. Slovenia is considered a backsliding democracy.

Jansa was accused of writing the 2021 Balkan non-papers, which called for redrawing the borders in southeastern Europe and dissolving Bosnia and Herzegovina, and unifying Albania and Kosovo into one state. The ideas

presented were condemned by European and Russian leaders, drawing the ire of the European Council and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Jansa later denied he was the author.

In Kyiv, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy today.¹⁸ The details of the meeting were not made public. Secretary Blinken stated that United States diplomats would return to Kyiv this week.

Fifty-eight days ago, the United States offered to evacuate Zelenskyy from Kyiv, with him famously replying, "I don't need a ride; I need ammo."

ECONOMIC

There weren't any major economic developments today.

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1518440482971734017>



DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

No update

COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS