



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 184

It has been 3,102 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

It has been a week of very little combat activity across Ukraine. Because operational tempo has slowed theaterwide, we won't provide a general summary. We have been able to focus on refining our map and made numerous updates theaterwide. The result is no net gains or losses for either belligerent, with the updates balancing each other out.

We adjusted the line of conflict in northeast Donetsk and around Bakhmut, putting more territory under Ukrainian control. We made a slight adjustment west of Donetsk, pushing the line back from Optyne and closer to Spartak. In northern Kherson oblast, we ceded more territory to Russia based on reports from Ukraine and social intelligence analysis.

In an earlier situation report, we explained combat ineffective versus combat destroyed, and some are asking for a repeat.

Combat ineffective is when a military unit has lost 30% to 49% of its combat power. The number of soldiers doesn't just measure combat power. Trusted and experienced commanders, battle-hardened soldiers with high morale, superior training and weapons, armor, air superiority, and better communications, are called "force multipliers."

A combat ineffective unit or army is still capable of defending positions and carrying out limited combat operations if they concentrate its power. We witnessed Russia do this in Luhansk to capture Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, and Hirske-Zolote.

Combat destroyed is when a military unit has lost 50% or more of its combat power. A combat-destroyed force can still defend positions and, if pressed, make attacks. However, they will likely be unsuccessful, and further degrade their capabilities in the process.

Combat ineffective and combat destroyed units must be rotated to rest, reconstitute, and reequip. Russia doesn't have that luxury, and a culmination point has been reached. The Kremlin has no appetite for a general mobilization and has taken it off the table for the rest of 2022.

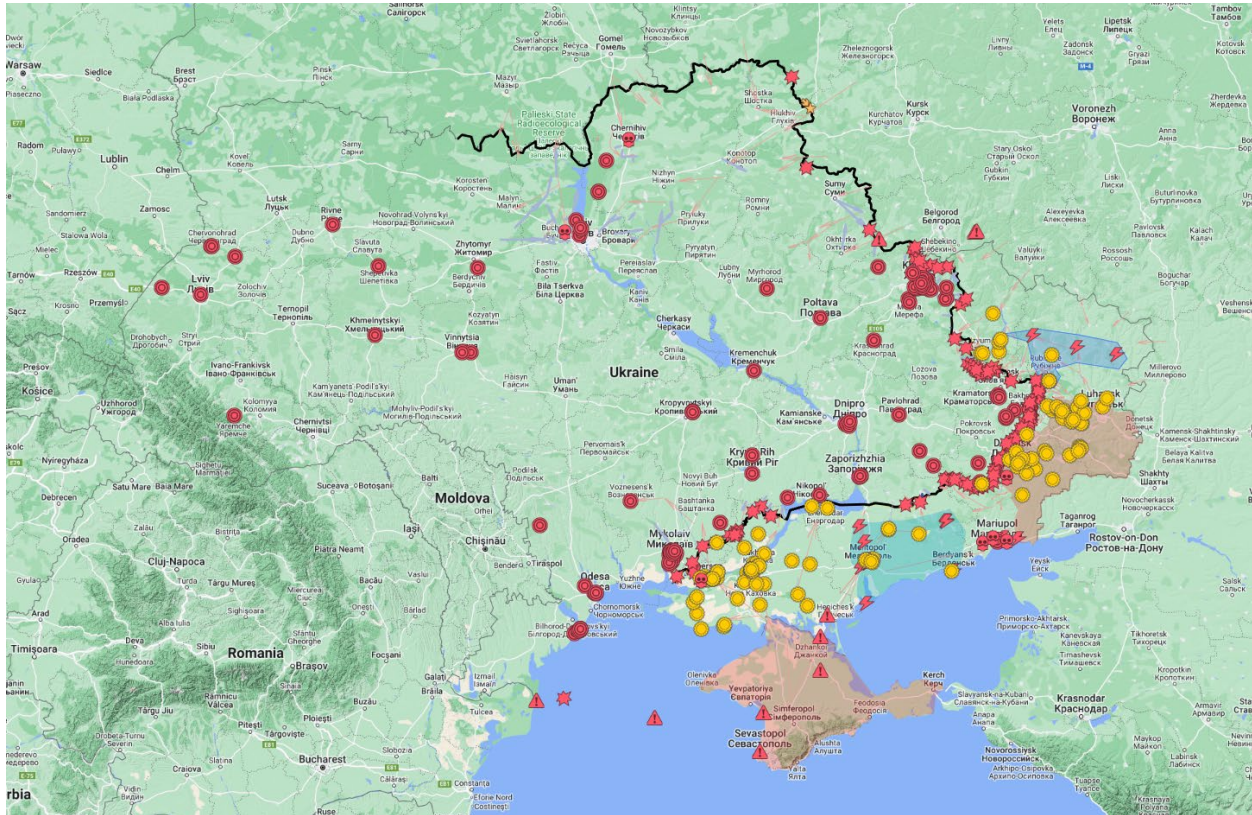
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our assessment in early July that Russia had an inadequate number of troops to provide security and administration in occupied Luhansk was accurate as an increasingly violent insurrection across a third of the oblast.
2. The mood of the Russian milblogger community has notably shifted to quiet resignation in the last 24 hours after a series of devastating HIMARS attacks this week and the realization that the Russian military has no solution for their "as advertised" performance.
3. We maintain that Russian forces within Ukraine are combat destroyed – two small attempted advances in Donetsk and Kharkiv ended in failure, and Russian positions were overrun when they retreated, resulting in a territorial loss.
4. Gains in Kherson by Ukrainian forces in June and July have mostly been eroded as Russian forces are coming up against the most robust defensive lines on the outskirts of the oblast.

5. As we had previously assessed, it appears Russia is giving up on the planned September 11 sham referendum due to a lack of territorial gains and the security situation in occupied territories.
6. We assess the risk remains very high through the weekend for more attacks on civilians, civilian infrastructure, and government decision-making centers.
7. Due to the Russian military reaching a culmination point and the Ukrainian military appearing to be unable to capitalize on the loss of Russian momentum, we believe the battlefield will remain frozen across Ukraine for the short term.
8. The initiative will go to the first belligerent who can make brigade or larger-sized combined arms offensives on any front.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

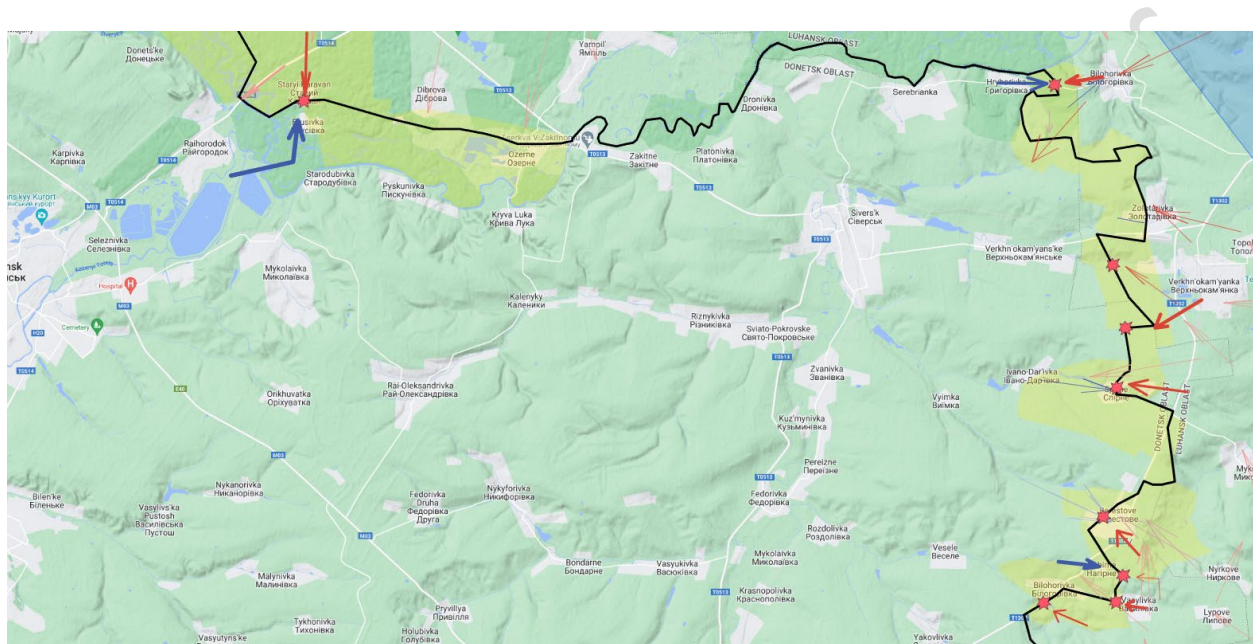


Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we have moved the “flags” into the category of “Archived Offensives.” 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 [Kherson](#), 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>

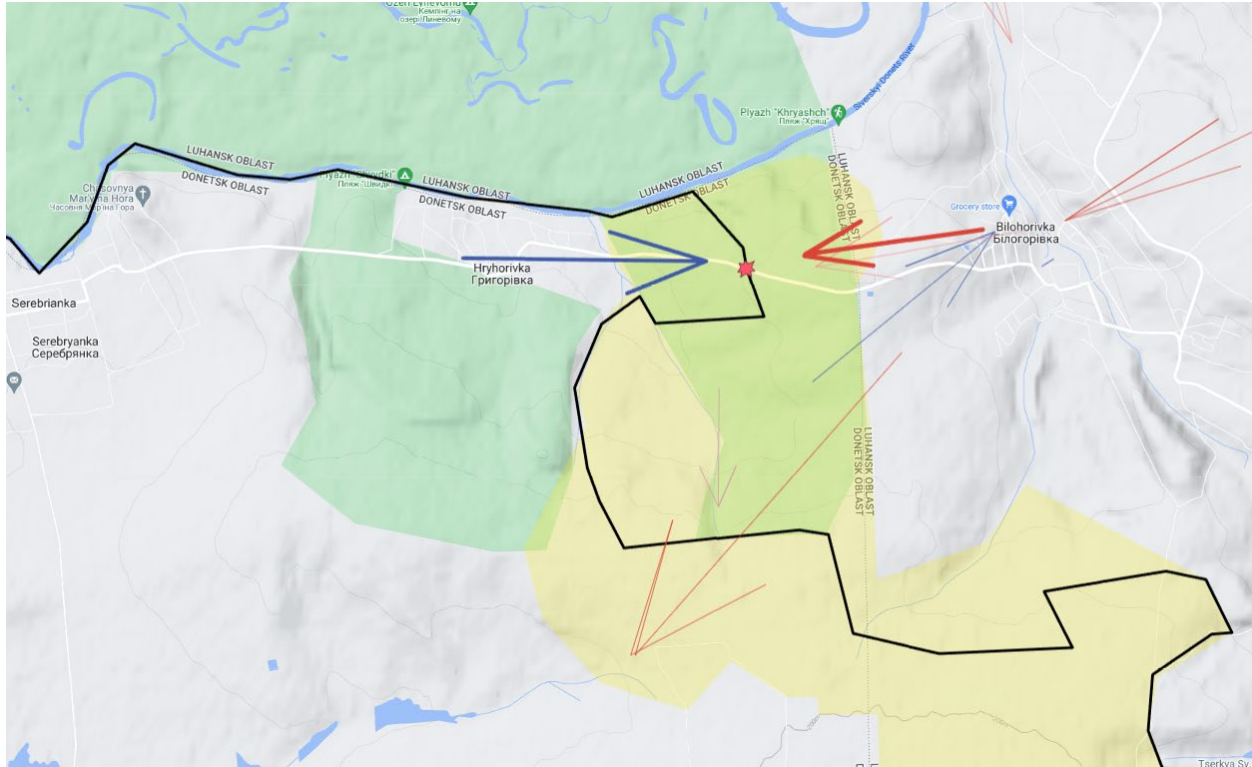
DONBAS REGION

SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



Russian Objective: Maintain territorial control and Ground Lines of Communication, control insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent advances on Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk, support insurgents, exploit weaknesses, interdict supplies



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Hryhorivka](#) from [Bilohorkivka](#).¹ They suffered heavy losses, and their defensive line was overrun as they retreated. Ukraine recaptured the forested ridges outside of [Bilohorkivka](#) due to the failed attack.²

Settlements around Siversk were shelled by artillery and rockets, with the Russian air force attacking Siversk and Spirne.

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

² <https://twitter.com/WarMonitor3/status/1563170992125399041>

The August 26 HIMARS strike on Kadiivka killed up to 200 Russian airborne (VDV) troops, according to Serhiy Haidai, exiled Luhansk People's Republic Administrative and Military Governor.³ The severity of the attack was confirmed by grim assessments made by the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group on their Telegram channel Grey Zone, and our favorite FSB Colonel, wanted war criminal, and Kremlin Pariah, Igor "Girkin" Strelkov.^{4 5}

Russian state media ANNA attempted to spin the attack, writing that the hotel was a field hospital for wounded Russian troops.⁶ The location was exposed as a barracks after a journalist visited the facility, contributing to the attack. Supposedly, the hotel has been used as a barracks since 2014.⁷ Strelkov lamented, "Ten HIMARS missiles. The hotel is trash. And along with it, a bunch of military men who are used to fighting with comfort, whiskey, and girls."

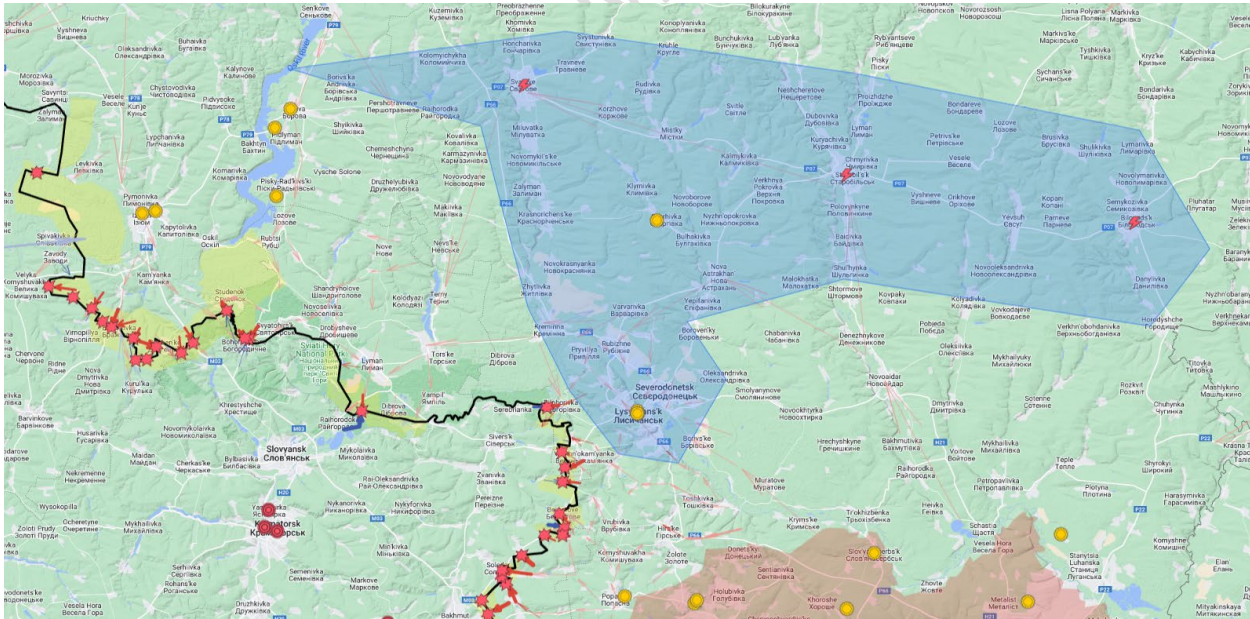
³ https://t.me/serhiy_hayday/7938

⁴ https://t.me/grey_zone/14786

⁵ <https://t.me/strelkovii/3132>

⁶ https://t.me/anna_news/38236 [Russian State Media]

⁷ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1563096858968621056>



In Staroblisk, Askyar Laishev, a Russian collaborator, was killed [when a bomb planted in his SUV exploded](#).⁸ At the beginning of July, we had assessed that there wasn't a large enough Russian occupation force in occupied Luhansk to provide administrative services and prevent an insurgency from developing. Based on a growing number of assassinations deep within Russian-controlled territory, we have expanded the region experiencing insurgency.

Thanks to bad operational security, pictures showed that the Luhansk airport had been converted into an airbase for Russian Mi-8 and Mi-52 Alligator attack helicopters.⁹ Based on the previous performance of the last six months, it is highly unlikely commanders of the forward operating base will make changes to thwart a potential attack.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 17

On August 13, we assessed there would be continued sporadic fighting in northeast Donetsk, but we did not anticipate renewed significant combat operations. That assessment was tested this week. The 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) is combat ineffective

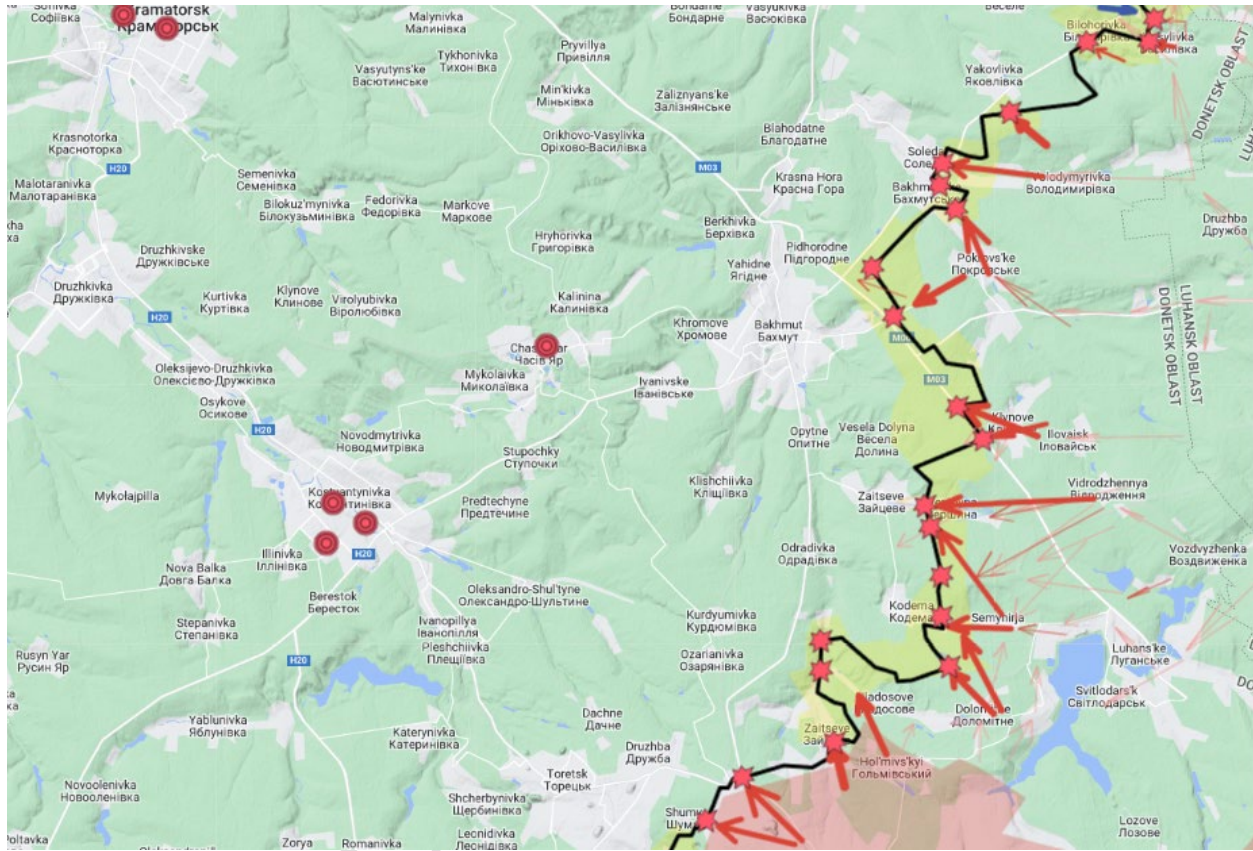
⁸ <https://t.me/informnapalm/11720>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1563136315331207169>

and incapable of carrying out offensive operations even with the support of Russian artillery.

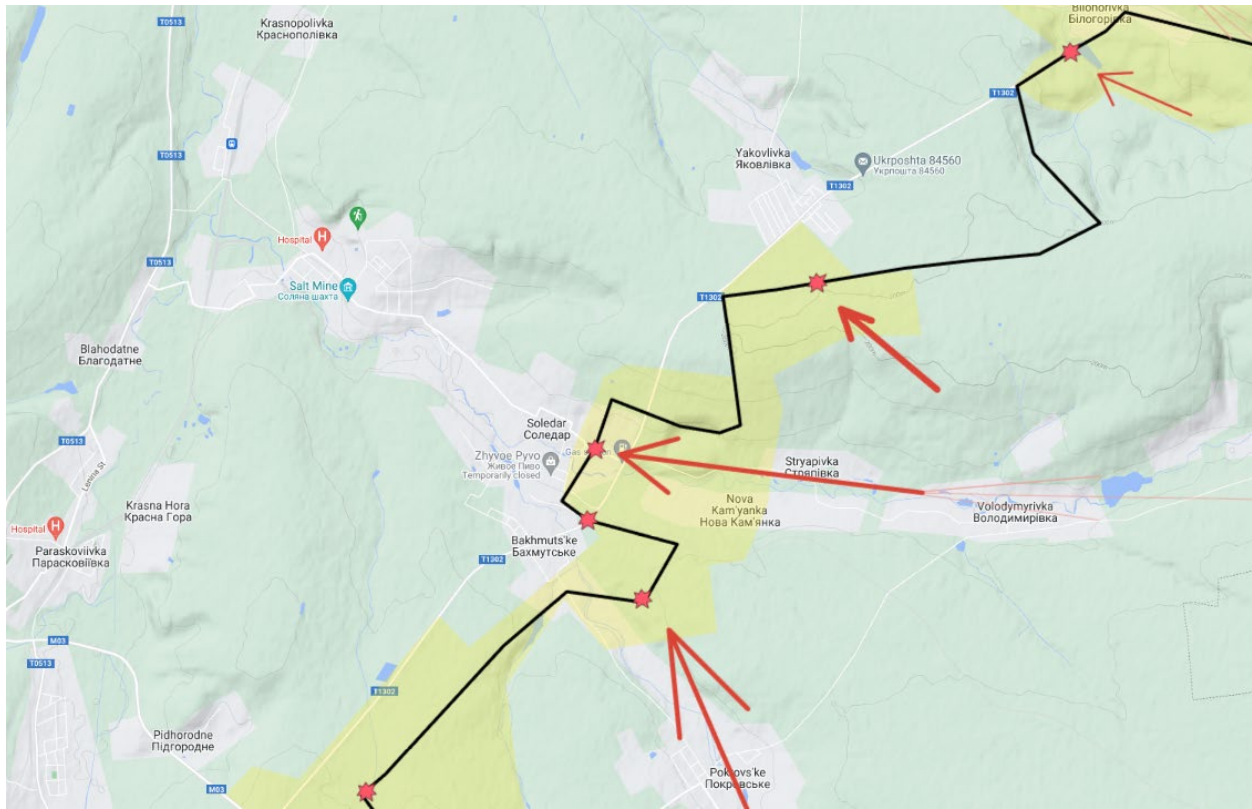
The destruction of the command center for the 2nd Army Corps in Lysychansk and the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group headquarters in Popasna may have degraded decision-making capabilities. We maintain that any additional fighting in this region before mud season will be positional, spoiling attacks, and probes.

BAKHMUT



Russian Objective: Maintain defensive lines, probe for weaknesses in Ukrainian defenses, and achieve a breakthrough before the start of mud season

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, and defend GLOCs

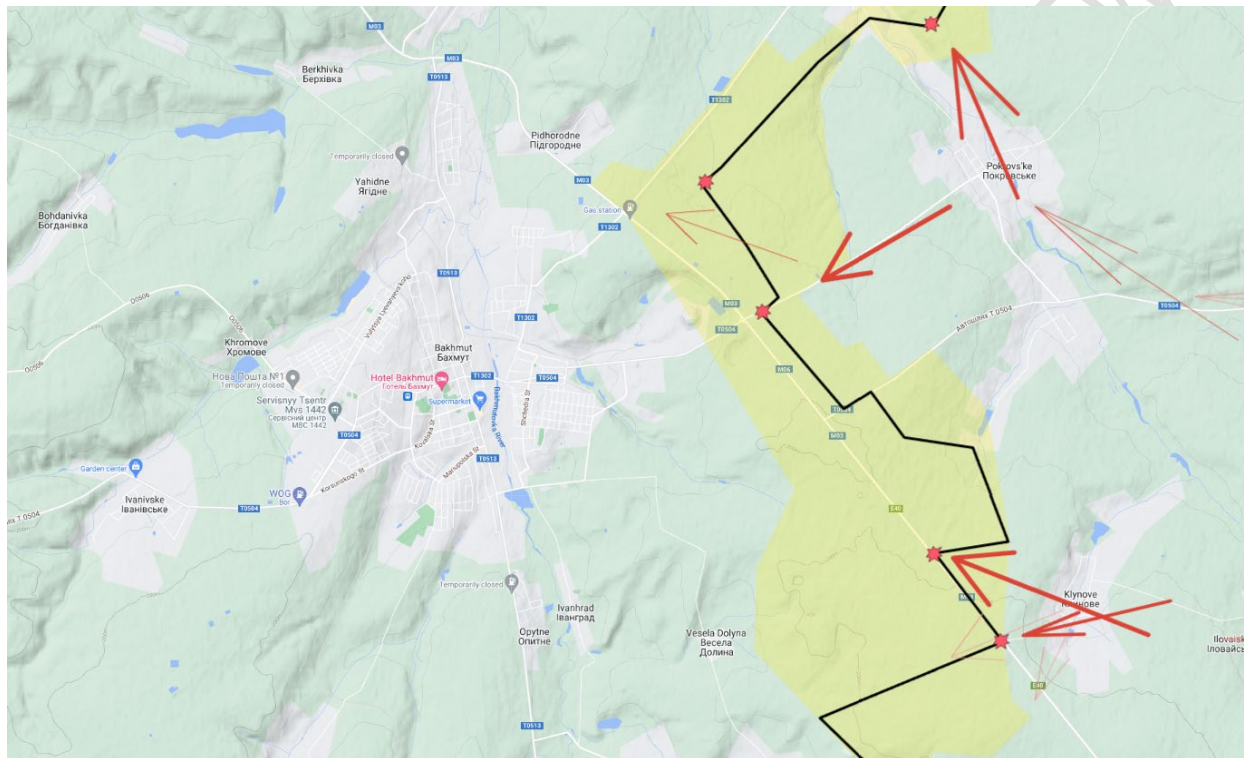


Chechen Kadyrovites reappeared, claiming to have an active role in the fighting for [Soledar](#). The video shared by Ramzan Kadyrov didn't show any fighting or any part of Soledar and didn't show many Chechens left in the unit.¹⁰

The Russian air force, PMC Wagner, the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR), with Kadyrovites taking the distant rear but claiming glory, launched a large

¹⁰ https://t.me/RKadyrov_95/2743 [Ramzan Kadyrov don official Telegram don dchannel don]

attack on Soledar and [Bakhmut](#).¹¹ Neither advance was successful, and it was reported that Russian troops suffered major losses.¹²



A significant attack was also launched on [Bakhmut](#) from the east. Ukrainian defensive positions along the highway east of the city are formidable and Russian forces have been unable to break through.¹³ It was reported that

¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

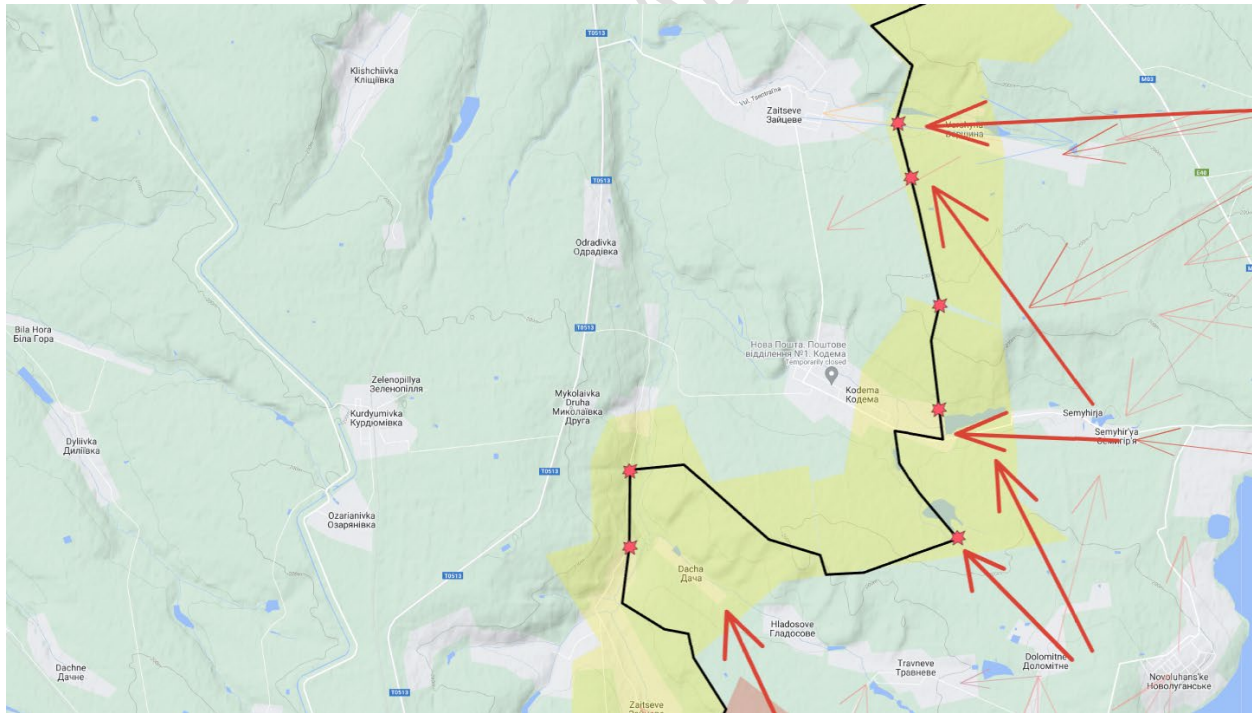
¹² https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563392940592209922

¹³ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563392944329326593

Russian proxy forces suffered severe losses and are likely under pressure from the Kremlin to get results.

The Russian Ministry of Defense, LNR officials, and Russian social media accounts exaggerated earlier gains around Bakhmut. We've adjusted the map based on this updated intelligence, but this does not represent new territorial gains.

The Russian air force also struck Yakovlivka.



In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces continued their attack on [Kodema](#), supported by artillery and the Russian air force.¹⁴ Ukrainian forces continue to hold well-established defenses.¹⁵ Russian troops also tried to advance on [Zaitseve](#) with air support but could not move the line of conflict. Fighting around the railroad yards continued in [Mayorsk](#).¹⁶

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 24

The advance toward Bakhmut has been the most successful offensive since the Russian Ministry of Defense ended the 11-day operational pause on July 16. Ukraine retreated from Svitlodarsk on May 24 and successfully defended the Vuhleriska Thermal Power Plant through July 26. Since capturing the plant, Russian proxy forces, mainly PMC Wagner Group supported by terrorist elements of the Imperial Legion and Kadyrovites of the 141st Special Motorized Regiment, have advanced 7 kilometers. It took Russian forces 90 days, accounting for terrain, to advance 12 kilometers from Svitlodarsk.

¹⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563392948234240002

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

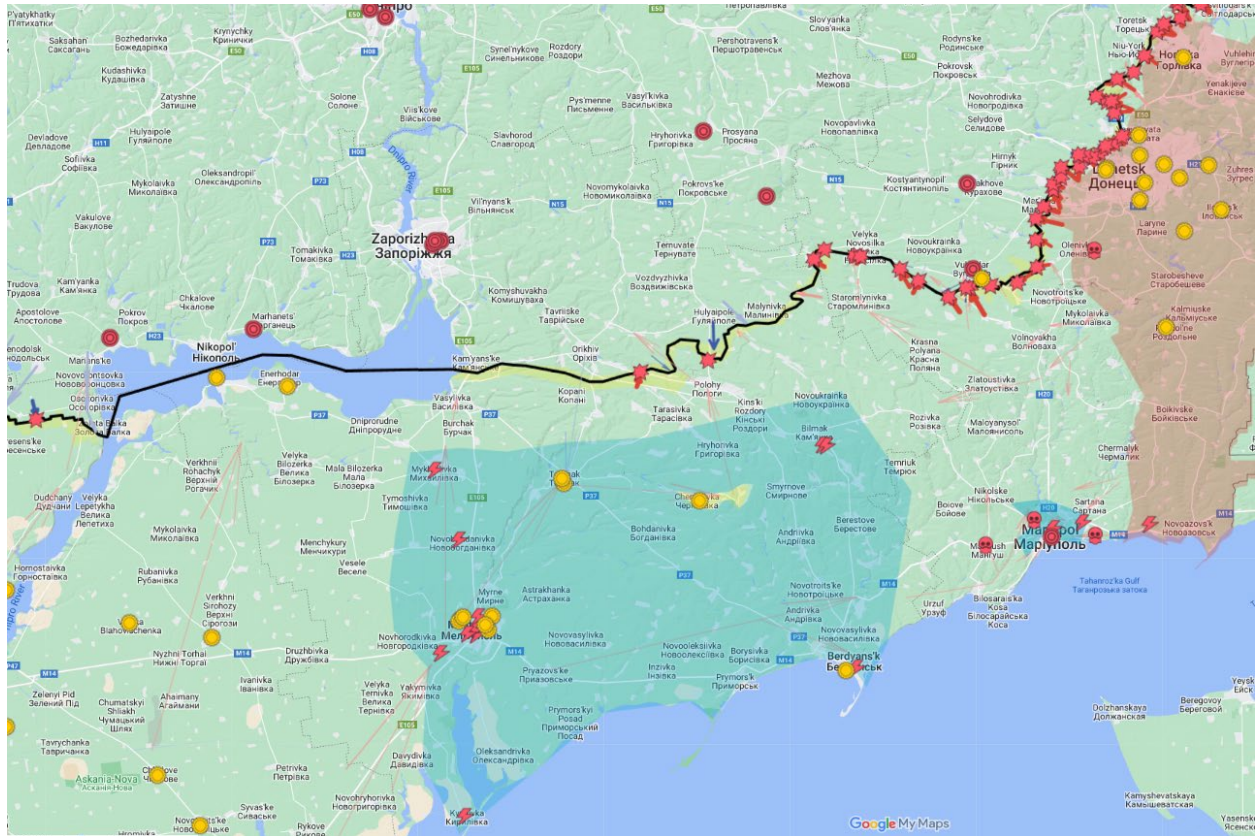
The advance to capture Bakhmut has likely reached its culmination point, with Russian combat power exhausted in this region. Before the arrival of HIMARS and improved GLOC interdiction, Russian military leaders would saturate the region with artillery and rocket fire and win an attritional battle. Due to excessive use and deferred maintenance, Russian artillery systems are wearing out. Ammunition supplies are becoming an issue theaterwide, although the issue is relative.

Even at 40% of the peak daily fire rate in late June, the quantity of artillery fired remains significant and greater than Ukraine's capabilities. A key difference from late June is that Russian artillery firepower is no longer concentrated on a single axis such as Luhansk. According to data analysis by Ragnar Gudmundsson, the number of settlements targeted by Russian artillery increased from 50 on June 26 to almost 100 on August 12.¹⁷ Fewer artillery pieces, fewer shells, spread over a larger area.

Russian forces could capture Bakhmut and Soledar before the arrival of Rasputitsa, also known as mud season, but it will require reallocating artillery pieces and military units from other axes.

¹⁷ [Ragnar Gudmundsson Russia-Ukraine War Data Analysis Tables](#)

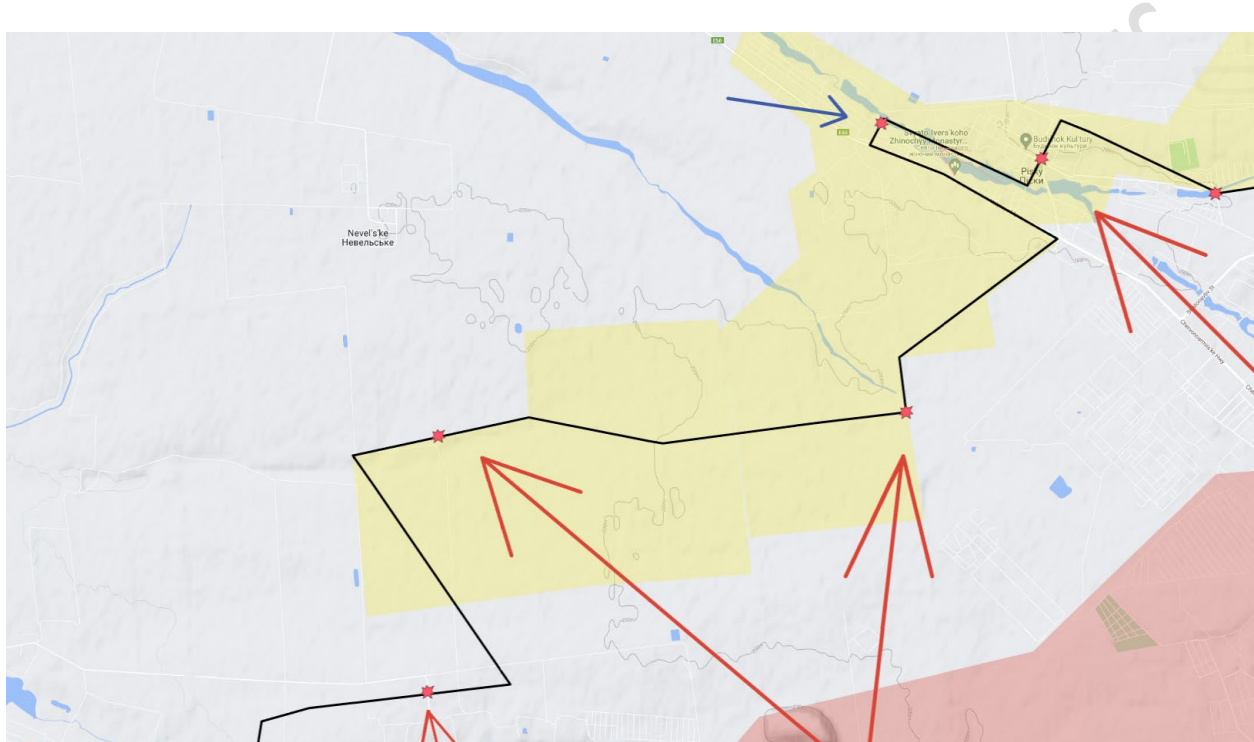
SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dnipro River, bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia under control

Ukrainian Objective: Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, and prepare for or convince

Russian forces Ukraine is preparing for a widescale counteroffensive



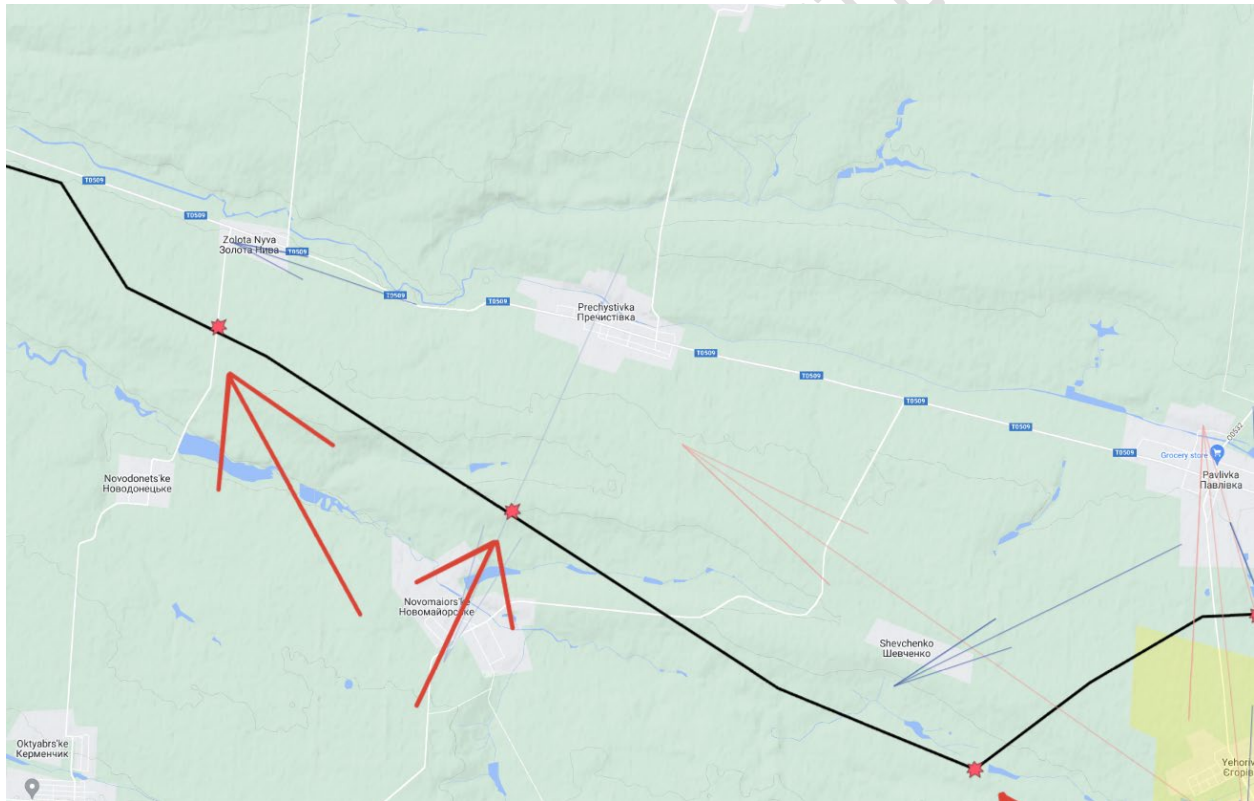
The Donetsk People's Republic 1st Army Corps only tried to advance on [Nevel'ske](#) today, making two attempts – positional fighting to improve their tactical positions and then an advance, which failed.^{18 19}

Marinka was shelled and repeatedly hit by air strikes.

¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

¹⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)

Pavlo Kyrylenko, Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Pisky was shelled. We maintain the settlement is contested, with Ukrainian forces still operating in the northern part of the village.²⁰ The British Ministry of Defense also reported, "Pro-Russian separatist militia have probably made some progress toward the center of the village of Pisky."²¹

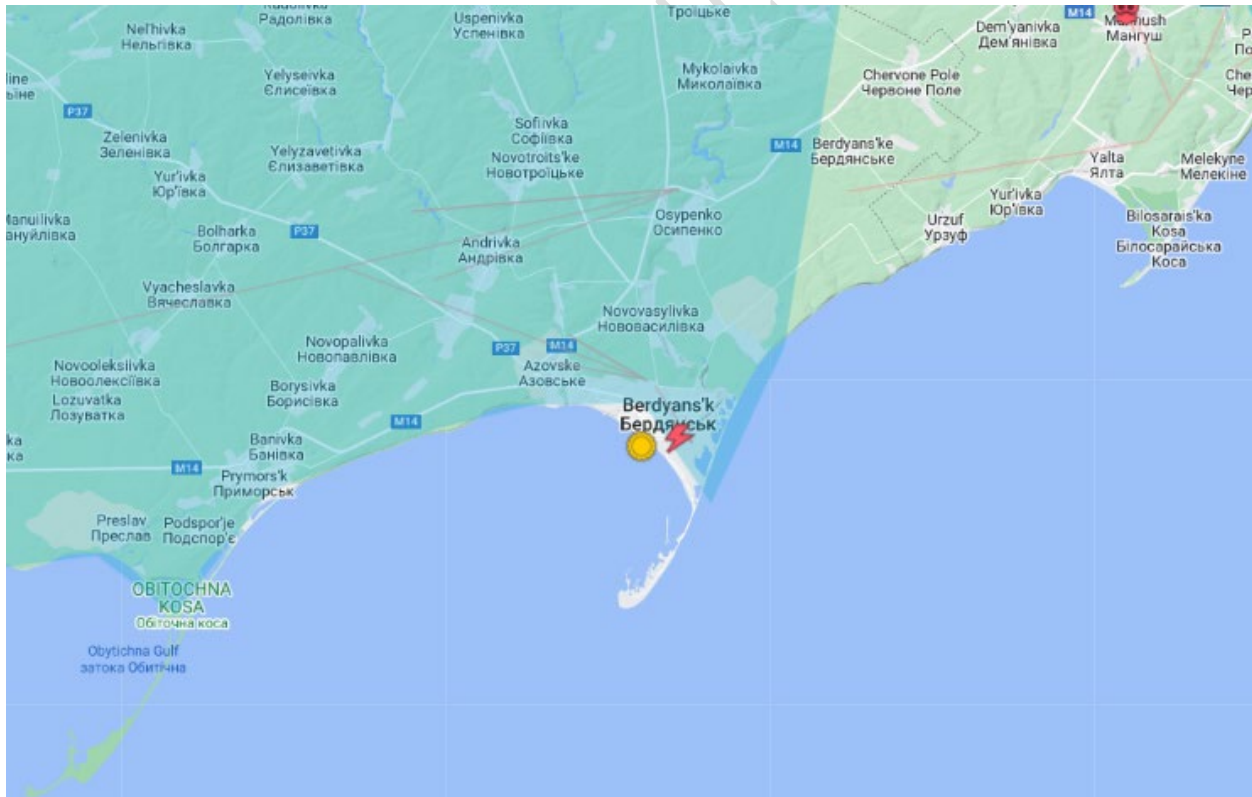


²⁰ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4640

²¹ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1563406537401389056>

Near the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces tried to advance on [Prechystivka](#) and were unsuccessful.²²

Ukrainian and Russian forces exchanged artillery, rockets fired from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), and indirect tank fire from Niu York to Donetsk to Velyka Novosilka in Donetsk and Hulyaipole to Orikhiv in Zaporizhia.



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

In Berdyansk, gauleiter Alexander Kolesnikov, the deputy police chief and head of traffic enforcement, was killed when a car bomb exploded in his vehicle.^{23 24}

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 16

We assess that Russian forces can't secure the remainder of the Donbas before August 31.

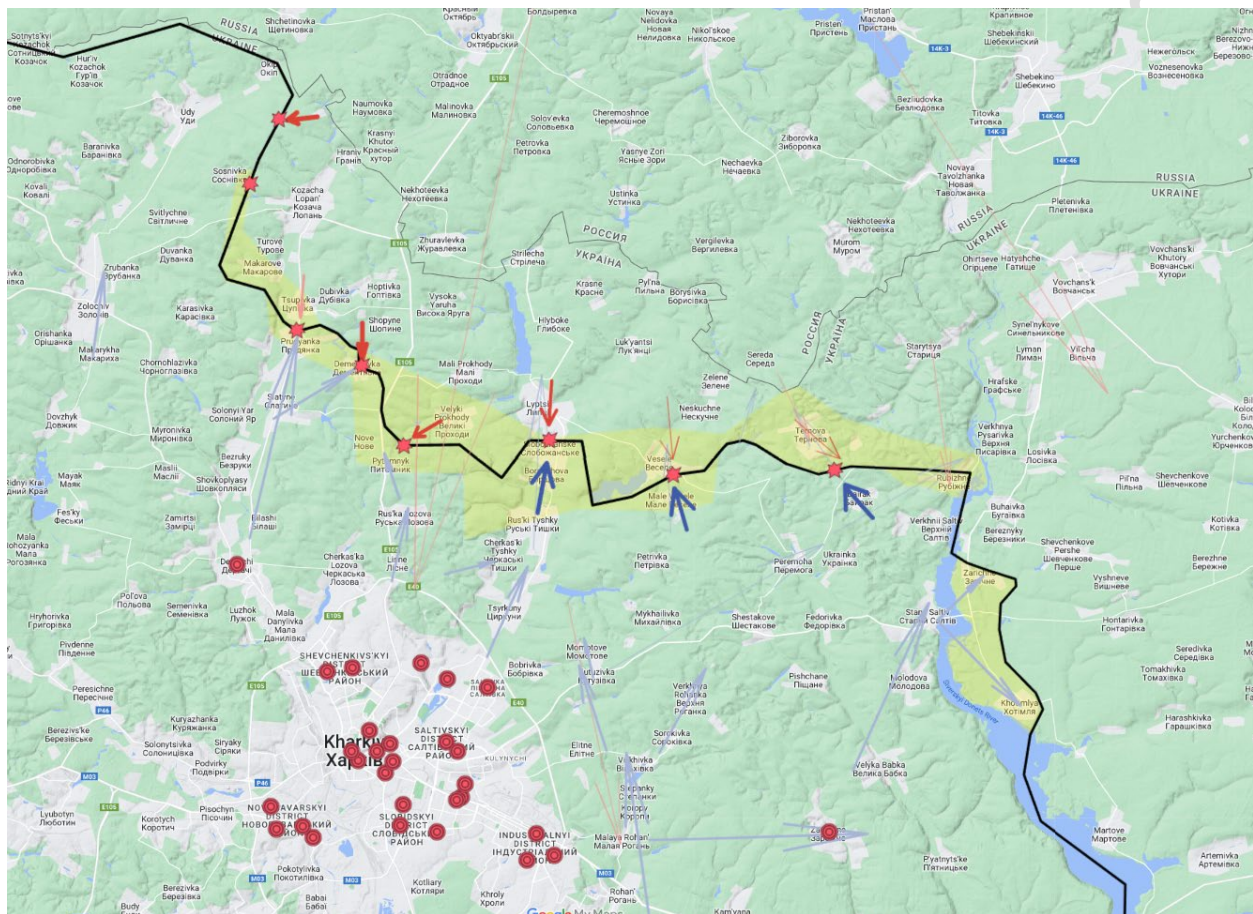
In southern Ukraine, Russian forces continue to press Ukrainian defensive lines due to the arrival of reinforcements and testing capabilities. It is also likely an attempt to spread out Ukrainian resources to delay or prevent the next phase of the ongoing counteroffensive.

²³ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1563151617628962818

²⁴ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1563182352867954688

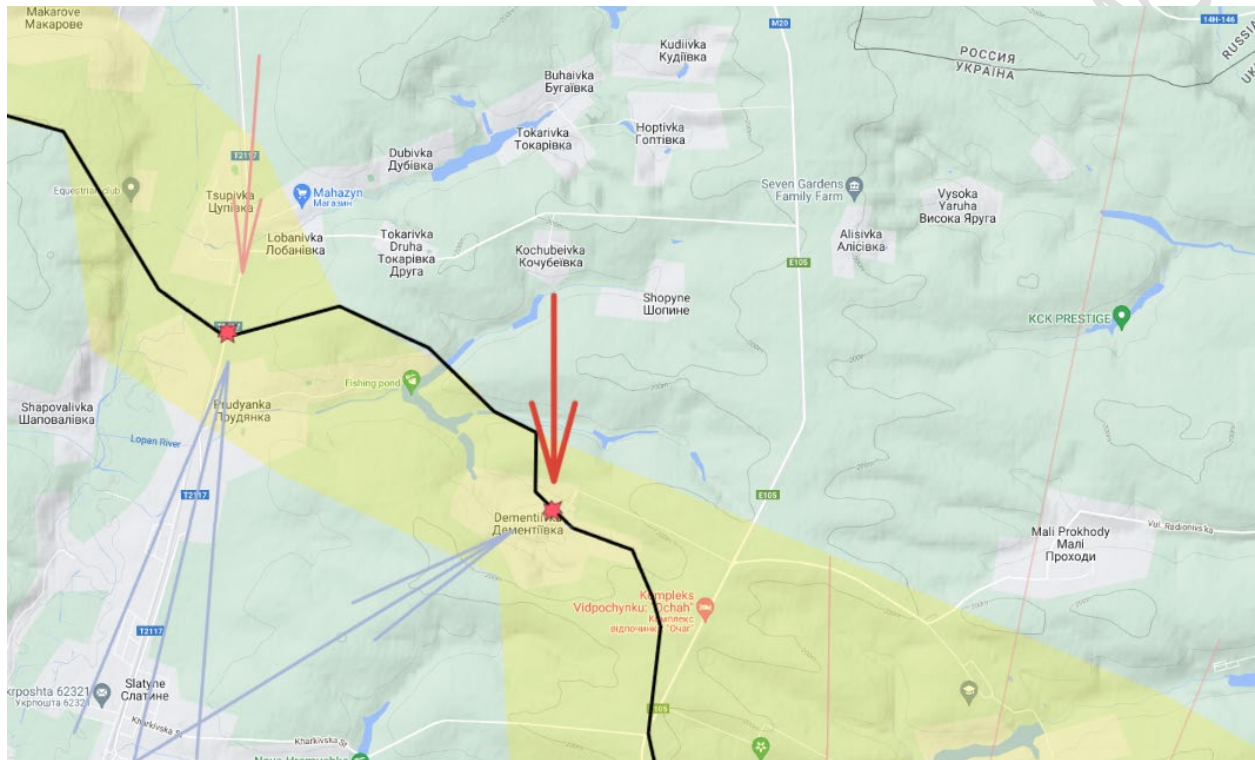
KHARKIV REGION

NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukraine from reaching the international border with Russia, protect the Belgorod-Kupyansk GLOC, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

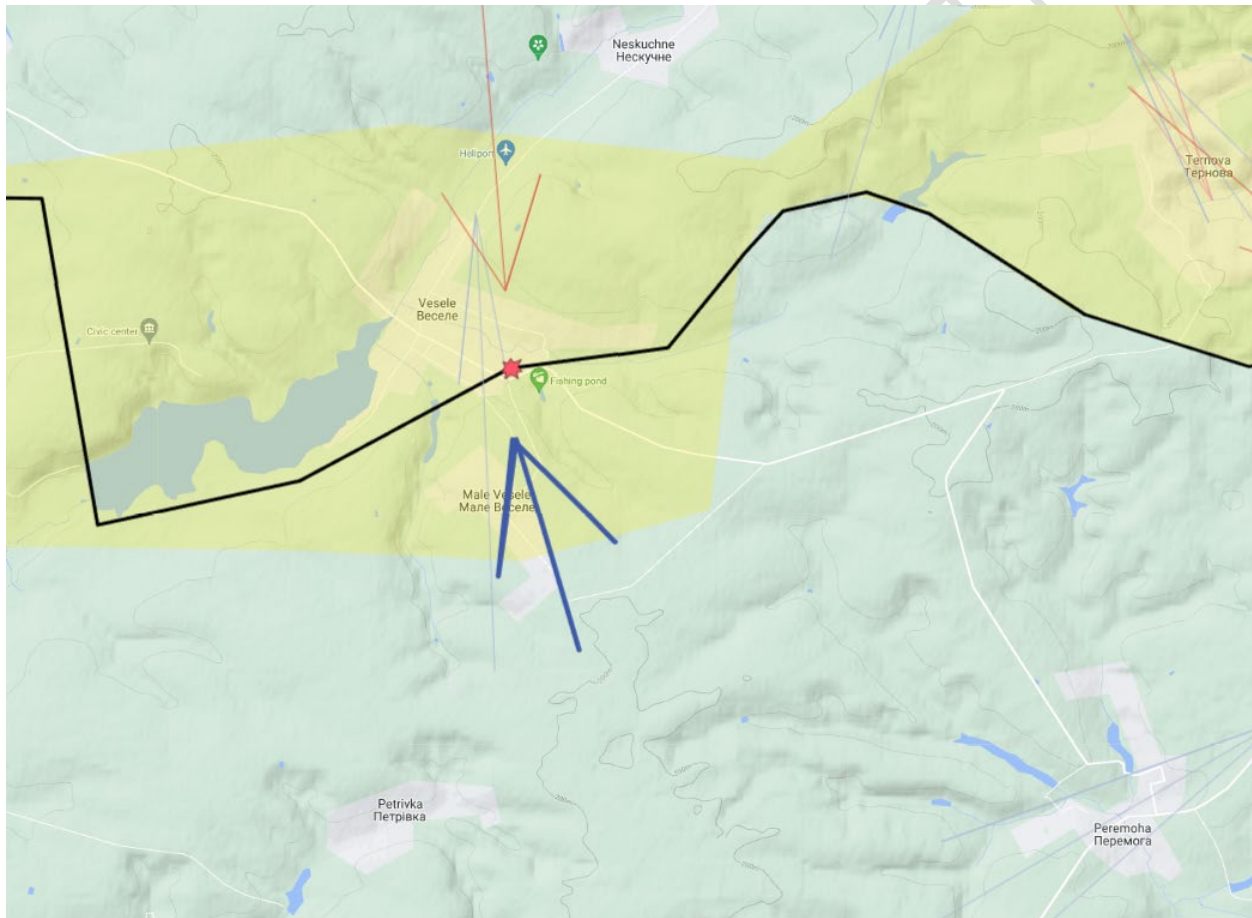
Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC



North of Kharkiv, Russian forces attempted to capture, Dementiivka again and ended with the same result as the previous four attempts in August. They retreated to their starting position.²⁵

²⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)

After reporting Udy was captured almost two weeks ago, the Pro-Russian social media account Rybar reported fighting west of [Udy](#).²⁶ There isn't much west of Udy beyond a few scattered homes and the Russian border. The General Staff reported that Russian forces shelled the village.



Rybar also reported that position battles were happening near [Vesele](#).²⁷ On August 25, the General Staff reported that

²⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/37770>

²⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/37770>

Russian forces tried to advance on [Petrivka](#) but were unsuccessful.²⁸ Based on available intelligence, we've moved the line of conflict north of [Male Vesele](#), concluding that the failed offensive on Thursday ended with Russian troops losing ground.

The Azov Battalion shelled Russian positions in Ternova, destroying an ammunition depot.²⁹

Russian missiles hit the central district of Kharkiv city and the suburb of [Derhachi](#).³⁰ There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 11

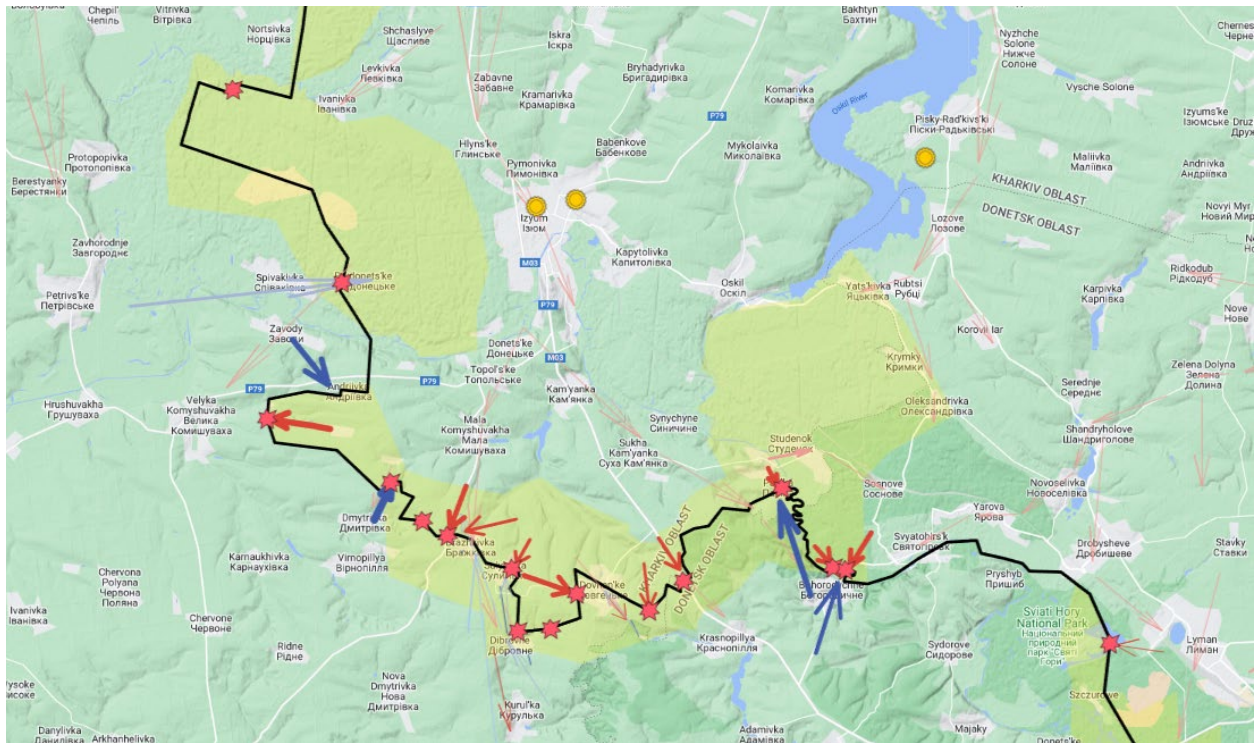
Our assessment on August 10 that Russian forces were testing the capabilities of the Ukrainian territorial guard taking over the defense of Izyum was correct. Positional fighting, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses will continue to occur.

²⁸ [Malcontent News Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report – August 25, 2022](#)

²⁹ https://t.me/UA_struggle/1940

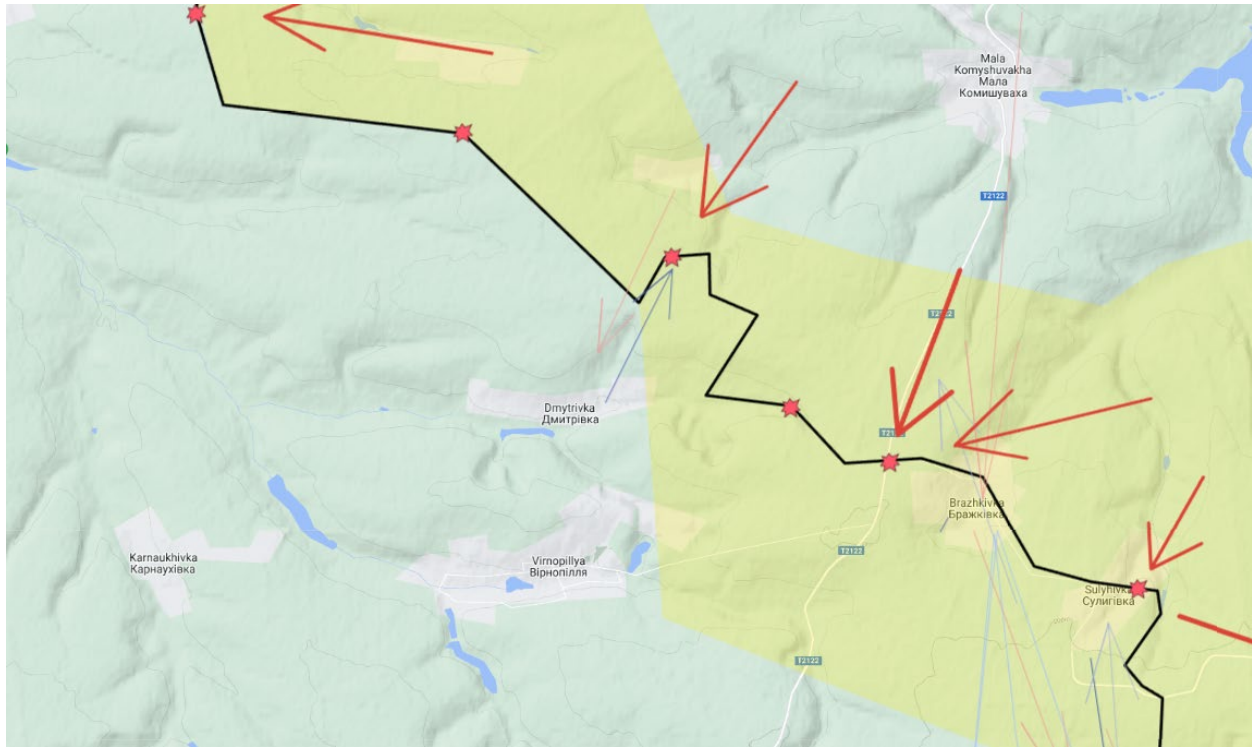
³⁰ https://t.me/ihor_terekhov/442

IZYUM AXIS



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces back to end shelling on Izyum, protect Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) west and north of Izyum

Ukrainian Objective: Defend against advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict



A small group of Russian infantry attempted to advance on Karnaukhivka, over 7 kilometers south of the established line of conflict.³¹ They were met with small arms fire and retreated.³²

Northwest of Izyum, the tradition was upheld with Russian forces shelling Mospanove, Husarivka, and Chepil and launching an airstrike on Zalyman.³³ ³⁴

³¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

³² https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563392951669379074

³³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

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

The General Staff reported that Russian forces had reestablished electronic warfare arrays near Izyum that disrupt GPS signals.

ASSESSMENT: Disrupting GPS signals may be an attempt to interfere with NATO weapons, such as Excalibur shells for 155mm artillery and M30/M31 rockets fired from HIMARS. According to Global Security, Ukraine's rockets for the M142 and M270 GMLRS use inertial guidance supported by GPS.³⁵ If it is meant to disrupt drones, the consumer drones Russia uses will be impacted regardless.

Russian forces fired artillery and rockets south of Izyum from Brazhkivka to Tetyanivka, while the Russian Ministry of Defense claims that Ukraine fired rockets from HIMARS into Izyum.³⁶

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 7

We remain unwilling to call the ongoing action by Ukrainian forces a counteroffensive. We maintain that Russian forces between Avdriivka and Kopanky are now in

³⁵ <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/munitions/mlrs-g.htm>

³⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/37756>

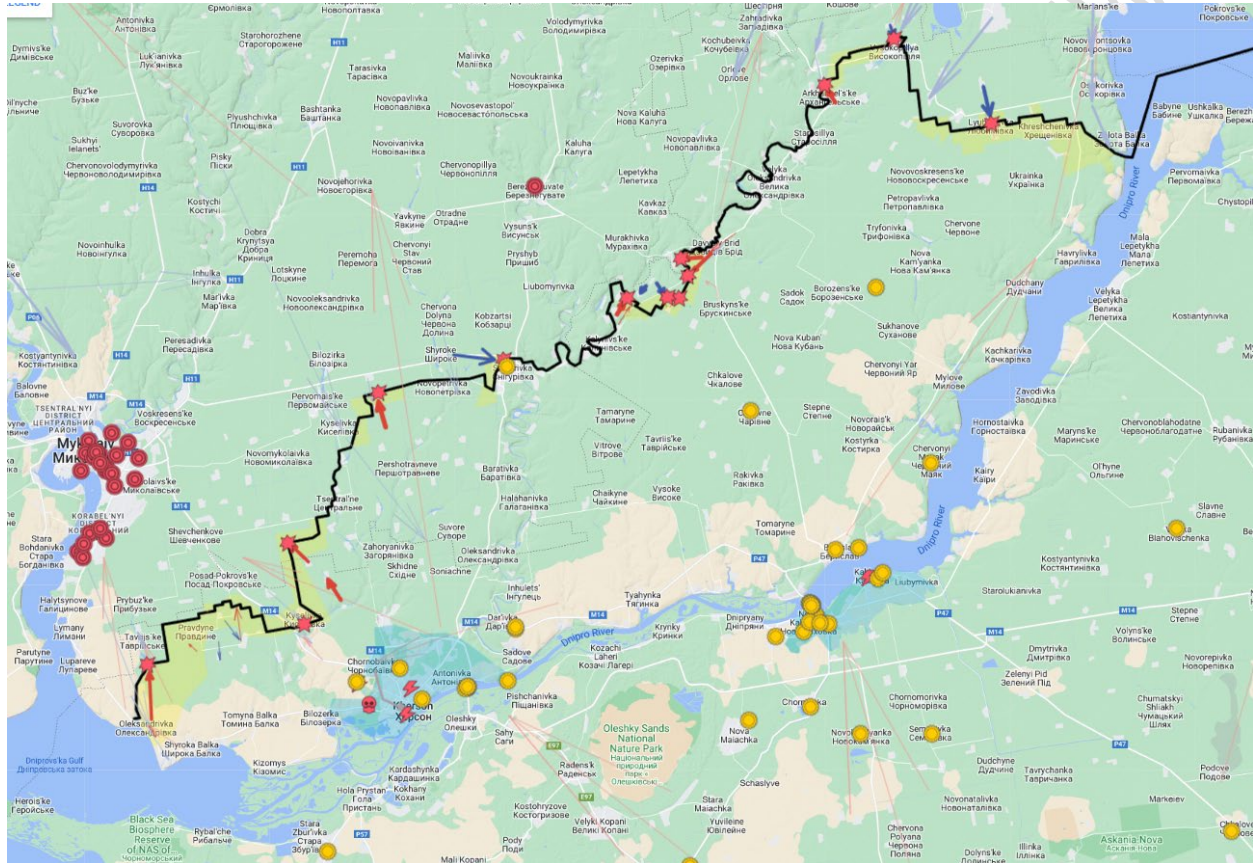
a salient and at moderate risk of encirclement if Ukrainian forces were to make a breakthrough.

It is implausible that Russian forces can secure the Donetsk oblast by August 31 without securing Slovyansk as part of that self-declared deadline.

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DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

KHERSON



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces out of artillery range of Kherson and critical Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines), prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive by building defenses, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

Ukraine struck the Kahkovka, Antonovsky, and Dariivsky bridges with rockets fired by HIMARS. The same section of the Antonovsky bridge has been repeatedly targeted by Ukraine, causing progressively worse damage.³⁷ The Dariivsky bridge appeared cratered in a low-resolution satellite image, and Russia reinstalled the pontoon bridge across the Inhulets River.³⁸

The Kahkovka Bridge, which was already badly damaged, was struck while a Russian military convoy was crossing the structure.³⁹ An extremely graphic video showed multiple body parts and torsos in Russian uniforms scattered across the bridge, with the smoking remains of military vehicles in the distance. The video is NSFW and not

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/ArtisanaLAPT/status/1563267758061948930>

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/ArtisanaLAPT/status/1563287472842620934>

³⁹ <https://t.me/zsuwar/20147>

for children; viewer discretion is strongly advised. If you want to view the content, you can [click here](#).^{40 41}

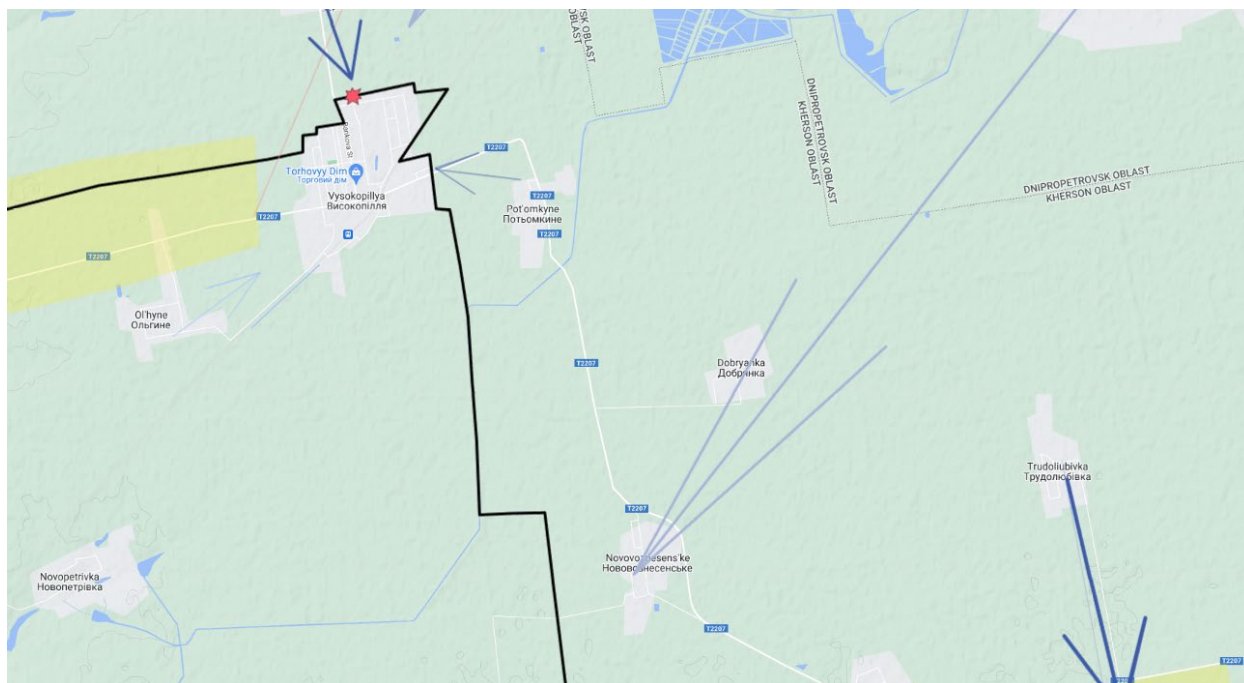
Occupation administrators have reduced the downstream flow from the Kakhovka Dam to lower the river level and reduce the current, including in the Kherson area.⁴²

ASSESSMENT: Russian combat engineers may have realized that the force of the river current on the barge bridge they are building will cause significant stress. The older Evergreen Floating Bridge in Seattle had to raise its draw bridge when winds reached 50 MPH to prevent the structure from tearing itself apart.

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/zsuwar/20147>

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1563180095157587968>

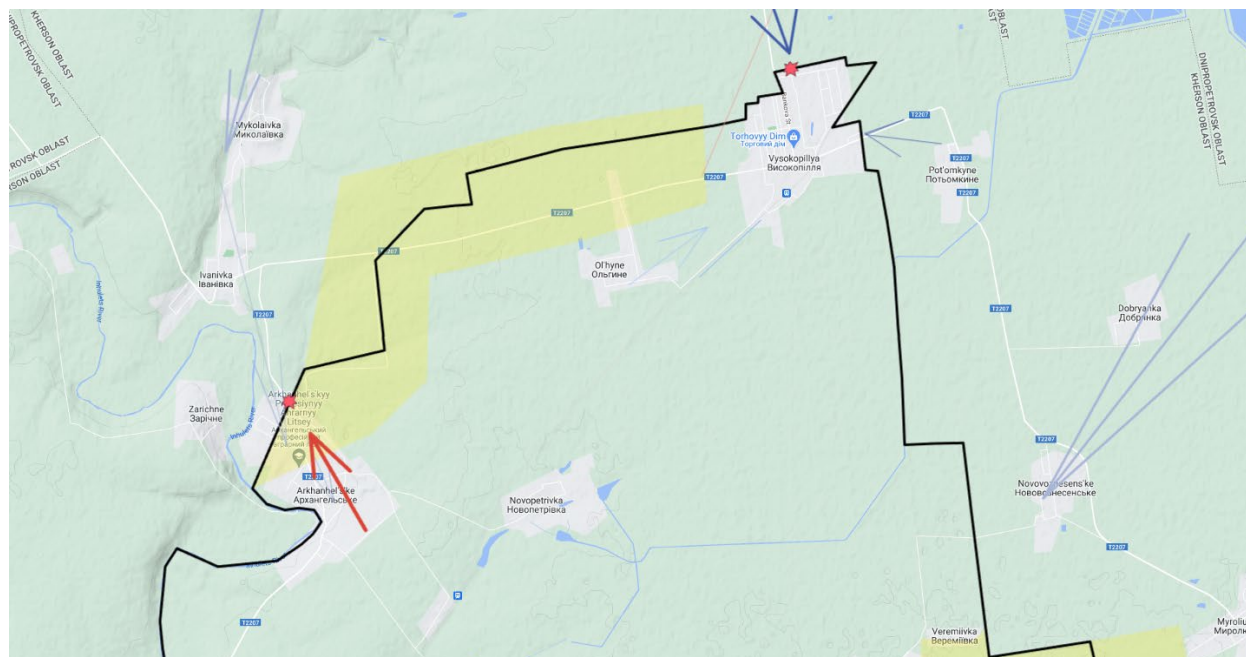
⁴² <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1563175138685661185>



Operational Command South reported a squad of Russian troops tried to do reconnaissance in force in the area of Dobryanka.⁴³ The General Staff later said that the entire squad received a code 200 discharge from the Russian Armed Forces. Pivden from Command South, a man of few words, simply said, “they left” in his report.

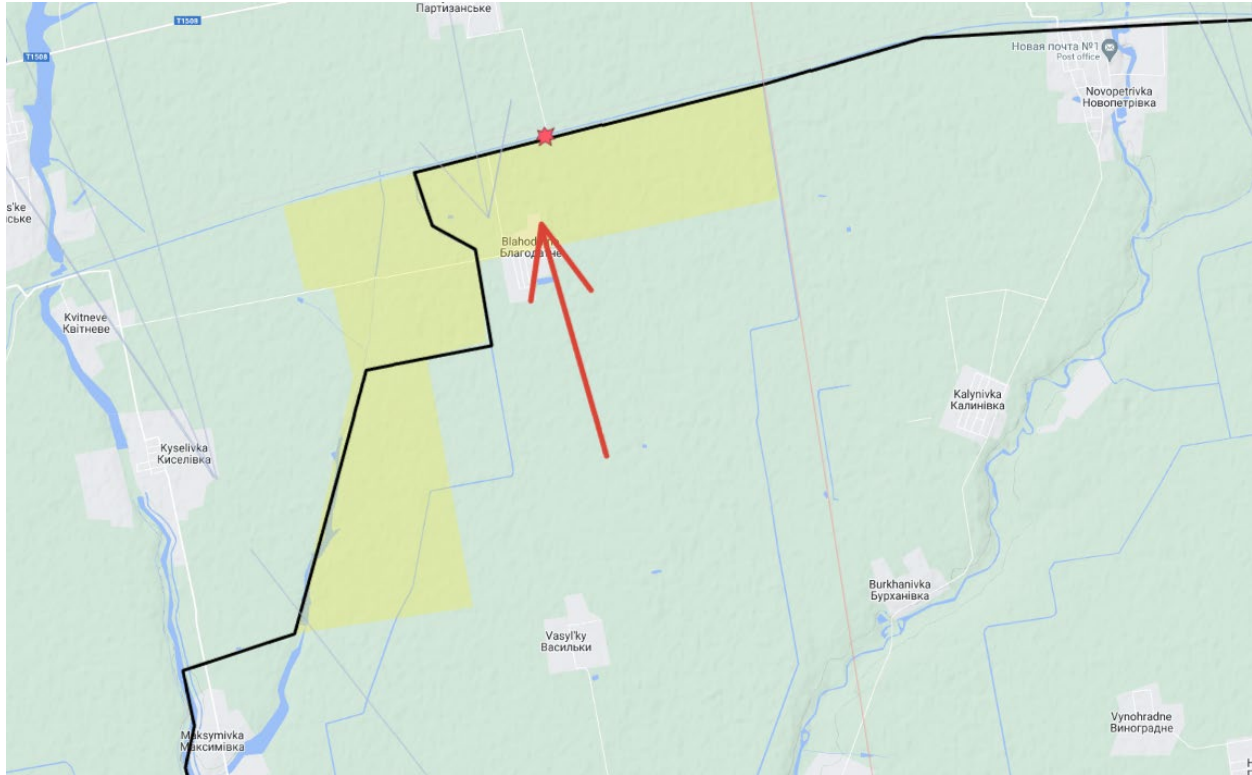
Editors’ Note: Code 200 is the terminology used by Russia and Ukraine for killed in action.

⁴³ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1250265595731186>



Command South also reported that the Ukrainian air force struck Russian positions in Optyne and Novopetrivka. We had previously assessed Optyne as under Ukrainian control and Novopetrivka as contested. Based on this new intelligence, we have updated the map. Russian forces may have reestablished the T-2207 Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) in northern Kherson oblast.⁴⁴ However, it would be contested in the areas where it travels close to the Inhulets River.

⁴⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1250265595731186>



Russian forces have dug in defensive positions in [Blahodatne](#) [Mykolaiv] and are heavily shelling Ukrainian positions north of the Inhuletskyi Channel.⁴⁵ [A video showing the capture of Blahodatne](#) was released by Russian state media.⁴⁶

ASSESSMENT: Russia's track record for contested wet crossings is abysmal. Beyond the May 8 disaster in Bilhorivka, Russian forces made repeated attempts to cross the Irpin River in March, which were equally catastrophic.

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/37768>

⁴⁶ https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1563440535712387072

Ukraine has been building defense lines north of the channel since March and has significant reinforcements in this area.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 13

With all four GLOCs severed for Russian troops on the west bank of the Dnipro River, resupply will have to be done by barge, ferry, and helicopter. Carrying fuel, replacement equipment, artillery shells, and rockets will be challenging to sustain and support 25,000 soldiers.

The Russian Ministry of Defense has continued to send reinforcements west of the Dnipro, with 3,000 elite VDV troops arriving in the last week, swelling the number of troops to 25,000.⁴⁷ That is almost 20% of the entire occupation force in Ukraine, including LNR, DNR, Chechen, terrorists with the Imperial Legion, and PMC Wagner. Ukraine has been targeting ammunition and supply depots, logistics centers, and GLOCs, although the amount of supplies available in Kherson is unclear.

⁴⁷ [Stars & Stripes](#)

The first indication of supply issues is already emerging, with complaints online about drinking water shortages in supply drops and only receiving "dry rations" for meals. Another sign that supply issues have already started is the S-300 missile attacks on Mykolaiv have ended. Suppress Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) missions by Ukraine have helped limit the attacks, but a lack of supply of the larger S300 antiaircraft missiles is likely contributing to the issue.

Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) are designed to operate for three to five days independent of resupply. Signs that the supply situation is getting more severe won't appear for weeks but would include abandoned vehicles, increasing complaints about a lack of resources on Telegram, VK, and Live Journal, looting for food and fuel, and a reduction in artillery fire among front line units.

With mud season 30 to 45 days away and the first snow in 60 to 75 days, complaints about a lack of cold weather gear, hypothermia, and low morale from living in the mud would be another indicator that the supply situation is worsening.

There remain significant questions on when and if there will be a counteroffensive, and Kyiv has become

increasingly contradictory on what will be next. Some officials have told the press that the counteroffensive has already started, including President Zelenskyy earlier in the week. An anonymous source close to the Ukrainian government told the Washington Post there would be no counteroffensive because Ukraine doesn't have the resources.

"We have to be honest - for now, Ukraine doesn't have a sufficient number of weapons systems for a counteroffensive. It's still possible to get a result, but if so, it will be the result of smart Ukraine strategy more than of countering Russia with equal power."

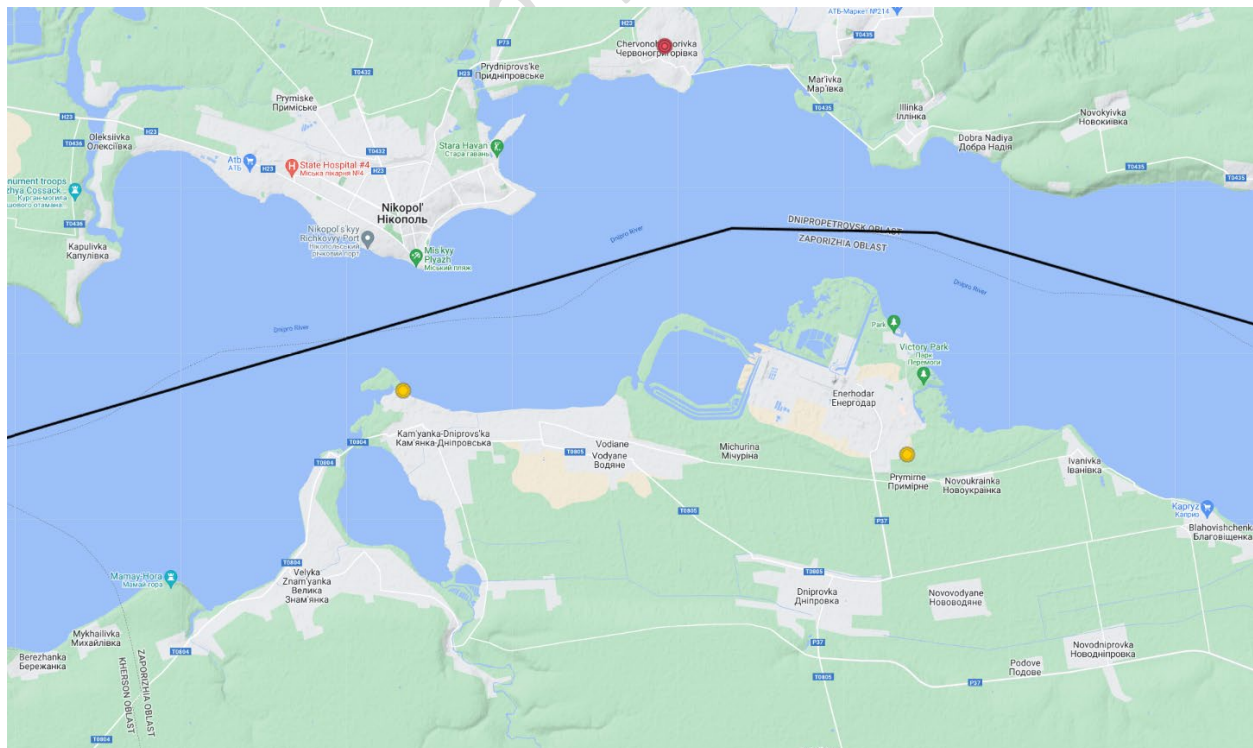
The appearance of Czech hedgehogs in Kherson, Russian forces fearful of moving on the streets due to partisan activity, Russian commanders leaving the region, and local government and junior military officers occupying Kherson hospitals and schools to avoid HIMARS attacks all point to the same fact.

Regardless of what we may assess or think or what the Ukrainian government is saying – the Kremlin believes a counteroffensive is coming, and it will fight to hold the western half of the Kherson oblast.

DNIPROPETROVSK AND ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prepare and stage for a counterattack, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict



The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that Ukraine shelled the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant twice but didn't provide evidence.⁴⁸

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Nikopol was hit with seven artillery shells knocking out power to 5,000 and damaging a school and several homes.⁴⁹ Marhanets was hit by 20 Grad rockets, and an area of dachas (second homes, typically a cottage) was badly damaged in Zelenodolsk.

Oleksandr Starukh, Zaporizhzhia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that the Shevchenkivskiyi district of Zaporizhzhia was struck by rockets. At the time of publication, there wasn't information on damage or casualties.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/rybar/37756>

⁴⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7364989/>

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources in places, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain enough force strength on the border with Russia to prevent Russian troops from crossing

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Russian forces shelled the settlements of Esman, Shalyhyne, Khotin, Myropillia, and Bilopillia.⁵⁰ ⁵¹ Four civilians were wounded in Bilopillia and required hospitalization.

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

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

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/26/7364976/>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyi/4220>

Editor's Note: *There are so many reports of explosions in Russian-occupied Crimea that are unfounded or likely air defenses shooting at nothing that we have decided not to report on each incident. We will only report on confirmed attacks.*

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ukraine's Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov strongly implied the war in Ukraine will continue in 2023 and possibly beyond.

"It is difficult for me to say. For years, for a year, for a month? Because these will still be only my assumptions. There are many factors that will lead us to victory. We will definitely come to it. The question is when and at what price."

"Today, we have a chance to win sooner and cheaper in terms of Ukrainian losses, thanks to the partnership alliance."

Reznikov went on to say that he had "certain positive hopes" that there would be good news by the end of the year.

A train hauling replacement equipment for Russian forces was spotted on the eastern side of the Kerch Bridge, likely bound for Crimea.⁵² All of the equipment is from the Cold War era. The train was hauling IMR-1 engineering vehicles built on the T-55 tank chassis and introduced in 1969, 2S1 Gvozdika 122mm self-propelled howitzers (SPG) introduced in 1972, and 2S19 Msta 152mm SPGs introduced in 1989. Additionally, T-72 and T-80 tanks were spotted.

A video from the Proletars'kyi district in Donetsk revealed a Russian artillery ammunition cache in the heart of the city.⁵³ The 122mm shells were scattered across the ground and laying in the mud. The Russian Ministry of Defense and the Donetsk People's Republic have insisted that Donetsk is

⁵² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7365003/>

⁵³ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1563219014150606848

not militarized and no artillery has been fired from civilian areas.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the United States Department of Defense would assign a general to oversee Ukraine's military assistance and training operation programs. The yet-to-be-named commander would oversee the almost \$3 billion in military aid announced yesterday.

Belarus announced that the updates required to make their fleet of Su-24 multirole fighter planes capable of delivering nuclear weapons have been completed.⁵⁴

Satellite intelligence shows Russia is removing S300 anti-aircraft systems stationed in Syria and transporting them to Crimea.⁵⁵

Haluk Bayraktar, the CEO of Turkey's Baykar, which makes the Bayraktar TB-2 drones used by Ukraine, was pressed by CNN on if the company would ever supply Russia with drones.⁵⁶ "We have not delivered or supplied them [Russia] with anything, [and] we will as well never do such a thing

⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1563100156937256960>

⁵⁵ <https://twitter.com/noamamir74/status/1563213405267566594>

⁵⁶ [Al Jazeera](#)

because we support Ukraine, support its sovereignty, its resistance for its independence."

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Donetsk People's Republic is running a summer camp for the children of Mariupol and released the curriculum and photos of recent graduates. The children wear uniform red shirts and red berets. They are taught to assemble, disassemble, load, and fire weapons, how to operate metal detectors, why Ukraine never existed, and the leaders and people that support the idea of Ukraine are evil.⁵⁷

⁵⁷ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1563196979928498176>



The students in what would be better described as a hate camp appeared to be pre-teens in the publicity photos. The exiled Mariupol City Council released a statement comparing the education to attending a Hitler Youth camp.

The Eastern Human Rights Group, operating without a charter, has accused FSB of enabling PMC Wagner Group to run a torture chamber at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Russian forces take people into custody and, after initial interrogation from the FSB, are handed over to

Wagner.⁵⁸ This matches similar reports from Kherson, where a torture chamber is also allegedly operated.

In the Ukrainian suburb of Derachi, a woman was killed when a Russian S300 anti-aircraft missile used as a ground-to-ground weapon landed near their home. The attack also destroyed a school.⁵⁹

Two civilians were killed in Bakhmut by Russian artillery fire.⁶⁰ Ukrainian officials issued a mandatory evacuation order at the end of July, but not everyone heeded the warning. Those who stayed behind had to sign a waiver declaring they were responsible for their own safety.

In Slovyansk, the Chemical and Mechanical Technical College campus was shelled, causing severe damage to multiple buildings.⁶¹ The intentional targeting of scientific and educational institutions is considered a war crime.

In Kharkiv, a missile attack damaged the historic House of the Merchant Adam Piotrovsky.⁶² Russia has destroyed

⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1563450534698180613>

⁵⁹ https://t.me/der_rada/2424

⁶⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7364991/>

⁶¹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4640

⁶² https://t.me/ihor_terekhov/443

over a dozen irreplaceable historic buildings across Ukraine that survived World War I, Russification under Stalin, World War II, more Russification under Stalin, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Most notable was Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's summer home, which was destroyed at the beginning of the war.

Iryna Vereshchuk, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, announced that Kyiv would expand evacuation orders beyond Donetsk.⁶³ In the coming days, civilians in parts of Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv oblasts will be told to leave. The areas impacted have experienced severe damage to infrastructure, which will prevent heat from being available when winter arrives. Ukraine's transition from fall to winter comes quickly and can begin as early as October.

GEOPOLITICAL

Vladimir Solovyov, on his self-titled talk show on Russia one, accused German Chancellor Olaf Scholz of imitating "his idol" Adolf Hitler. He called for the Russian Ministry of

⁶³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/26/7364914/>

Defense to attack Germany to train Ukrainian soldiers and provide weapons.⁶⁴

We have intentionally steered clear of former United States President Donald Trump's drama, but the release of the FBI's affidavit to justify the search of his Mar-a-Lago home can't be ignored.

Before the warrant was served, the National Archives had recovered 184 documents stored in 15 boxes in an unsecured area of the compound after requesting the return of all missing documents in the first half of 2021.⁶⁵ Mixed in with newspaper clippings, notes, and scraps of paper were 67 documents marked confidential, 92 marked secret, and 25 marked top secret. Included in the top secret documents were reports on military targets, dossiers on foreign leaders and military commanders, and, most damaging, "named field assets."

In October 2021, the United States Central Intelligence Agency sent a top-secret cable to all offices and agents that an unusual number of operatives and informants were

⁶⁴ https://twitter.com/francis_scarr/status/1563094037728337920

⁶⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2022/08/26/1119588357/trump-warrant-affidavit-mar-a-lago-search>

being killed, turned into double agents, or captured.⁶⁶ The report cited lax procedures, being too trusting, and hubris within the organization for the problems.

The discovery of the classified documents spurred the search of Mar-a-Lago as more materials remain missing from the National Archive. Legal experts explained that even if the documents were declassified correctly, which is highly unlikely, possessing the most sensitive material related to the Department of Defense is still a crime.

ECONOMIC

The rouble remains unchanged, with an exchange rate of 60 roubles for one US dollar.

Oil was unchanged, with WTI crude holding at \$93 a barrel and Brent at \$101. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline went up a penny to \$2.85 a gallon. (75 cents a liter)

Chicago SRW wheat futures climbed to 81 cents a bushel for December 2022 delivery.

⁶⁶ [Business Insider](#)