



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 122

It has been 3,040 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014, as the war in Ukraine enters its fifth month.

The Russian Federation has launched the largest wave of cruise and Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM), Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), and artillery attacks directed toward civilians since the start of the war. In the past 24 hours, over 105 cruise and SRBM missiles have attacked targets across Ukraine, including four striking the city of Kyiv.^{1 2} The Kremlin is carrying through with its threats to increase missile attacks across Ukraine if NATO-provided High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) were deployed.

Ukrainian officials reported that Ukrainian forces in Severodonsk have completed their withdrawal, and Russia has established full control of the city and the eastern suburbs of Syrotyne, Voronove, and Borivske.

¹ [Odesa Journal](#)

² <https://twitter.com/olgotokariuk/status/1540619669295566850>

The new line of conflict is starting to stabilize but remains fluid. Russian forces control most of Vovchoyarivka and Loskutivka, with the northern regions still under contested control. Fighting at the gelatin factory on the southern edge of Lysyschansk continued. Russian forces don't completely control Bila Hora, with fighting continuing in the northwestern part of the settlement.

Russian forces continue interdiction on the T-1302 Highway with artillery and airstrikes targeting Zolotarivka, Verkhokamyanka, Spirne, Berstove, Vyimka, and Mykolaivka.

East of Bakhmut, Russian forces shelled Pokrovske, Klynove, and Volodymyrivka. Additionally, Russian forces attempted to advance on Pokrovske but were unsuccessful.

Russian forces shelled Raihorodok and Majaky from the Lyman area.

Along the south bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, Russian forces shelled Pyskunivka and Siversk.

At Horlivka, Russian forces attempted to advance on Niu York and were unsuccessful.

At Donetsk city, Russian-backed forces attempted to advance on Marinka for the second day in a row. There was fighting in the eastern part of the settlement, with Russian troops forced to withdraw.

Ukrainian forces continued their offensive south of Pavilivka along a 25-kilometer front, liberating the settlement of Zolota Nyva. Russian helicopters attack newly occupied Ukrainian positions in Pavilivka.

Russian forces shelled Hulyaipole. NASA FIRMS data suggests another warehouse with Russian munitions or other assets was attacked in Polohy.

North of Kherson, Russian forces are fighting on the outskirts of Vysokopyllyya after retreating on June 24. NASA FIRMS data suggest heavy fighting to the east in Potomkyne, which has become a salient.

Russian forces attempted another offensive into Bohorodychne, which was unsuccessful. Video from Izyum

confirmed that NATO-provided HIMARS were used to attack the command post of the Russian 20th Combined Arms Army. The base was set up in a school in the center of a civilian area of Izyum and suffered significant damage. A distribution warehouse southeast of the command post was also heavily damaged.

The Russian Air Force and the Black Sea fleet fired more than 50 cruise missiles into Ukraine over five hours in the early morning of June 25. An additional wave of at least 30 missiles was fired less than 24 hours later. Six Tu-22M3 strategic bombers operating from Sahyko Air Base in Belarus fired 12 missiles as part of the attack. Russian forces used a combination of X-22, Iskander, Tochka-U, Kalibr, and Onyx missiles. In the June 24 Situation Report, we identified missile strikes at the military bases of Desna and Yavoriv. Ukrainian military leaders reported two cruise missiles targeting were shot down near Yavoriv. NASA FIRMS data supports that report, with two hot spots north of Yavoriv, 14 kilometers from the Polish border.

Tension between Russian, Belarus, and Lithuania continued to escalate. In a face-to-face meeting in Moscow, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko told Russian President Vladimir Putin that Lithuania's European Union sanction enforcement is "akin to a declaration of war."

President Putin announced that Moscow would provide Belarus with Iskander-M missiles capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons. Additionally, Putin said that Russia would modify the current fleet of Belarusian Su-25 aircraft to be nuclear-capable. Russia stated the SRBMs would be stationed near Minsk and Grodno. Faced with the growing threat, Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda defiantly stated, "Lithuania will not lift restrictions on transit to the Kaliningrad Oblast."

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We are increasingly concerned about the growing tension in the Baltics and the potential to advance the ongoing Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox.
2. We can not determine when Russian forces will take full administrative control of Lysychansk.
3. Ukrainian forces appear to have stabilized the line of conflict south and southeast of Lysychansk.

4. We maintain Russia's capability for offensive warfare in Ukraine has become deficient due to a lack of light infantry forces.
5. Outside the Luhansk Oblast, Russian forces have been put on a defensive posture and are having an increasingly difficult time maintaining the line of conflict.
6. Russia's actions regarding Kaliningrad are a significant escalation over the trade dispute that is entering its second week.
7. Russia does have the conventional warfare resources to open up a second front in the Baltics.

Russian forces are starting to struggle on every axis outside the Severodonetsk salient to gain or hold territory. Ukrainian forces are taking advantage of a lack of Russian reserve forces by striking along the Izyum, South Donbas, and Kherson axes. In Izyum, Ukrainian forces are interdicting supplies and resources. Ukrainian forces are advancing on well-established Russian positions in the South Donbas and Kherson.

In our assessment, Ukraine must hold Lysychansk as long as possible while managing troop and equipment losses. Russian forces cannot redeploy troops from the

Severodonetsk salient and will require a significant presence to prevent an insurgency from forming.

NATO leaders will be meeting in Madrid, Spain, from June 28 to June 30. The 2022 NATO Summit was previously scheduled before the start of the Russia-Ukraine War and is slated to discuss the strategic direction of the alliance for the next ten years. NATO must expand its support of Ukraine, including lifting unofficial restrictions on heavy weapons such as Main Battle Tanks (MBT) and medium-range missiles.

We maintain Russia does not have enough resources to control and hold territorial gains in the medium and long term without a significant pause in combat operations or a formal declaration of war against Ukraine, coupled with additional mobilization.

We continue to have concerns about Ukraine's ability to take the initiative in late July or August. Ukraine needs to hold Lysychansk for another 20 to 30 days while managing combat losses. Western allies need to accelerate arms shipments to make this possible.

We are increasingly concerned we are in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox, given Russia's unyielding view on Ukraine and its diminishing capabilities through conventional warfare. The amount of rhetoric directed at the Baltics, Poland, and Moldova has reached a level similar to mid-April. The use of Belarusian air force bases and the firing of land base missiles from Belarus is a significant escalation that impacts more than Ukraine.

Russia's response to a HIMARS strike on Izyum, and potentially Snake Island and Svatove in the Luhansk Oblast, is neither proportional nor contained to military targets. The use of Tochka-U missiles, after the Russian Federation denied the Short Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM) were still in inventory after the April 8 attack in Kramatorsk, is beyond hypocrisy.³

Comparing shipments of concrete, steel, building materials, and electronics to Kaliningrad to holding over 10% of the world's food supply hostage in Ukraine is meant to serve an internal Russian audience. The decisions emanating from the Kremlin are not geopolitically or militarily sound. Russia does not have adequate kinetic warfare resources to

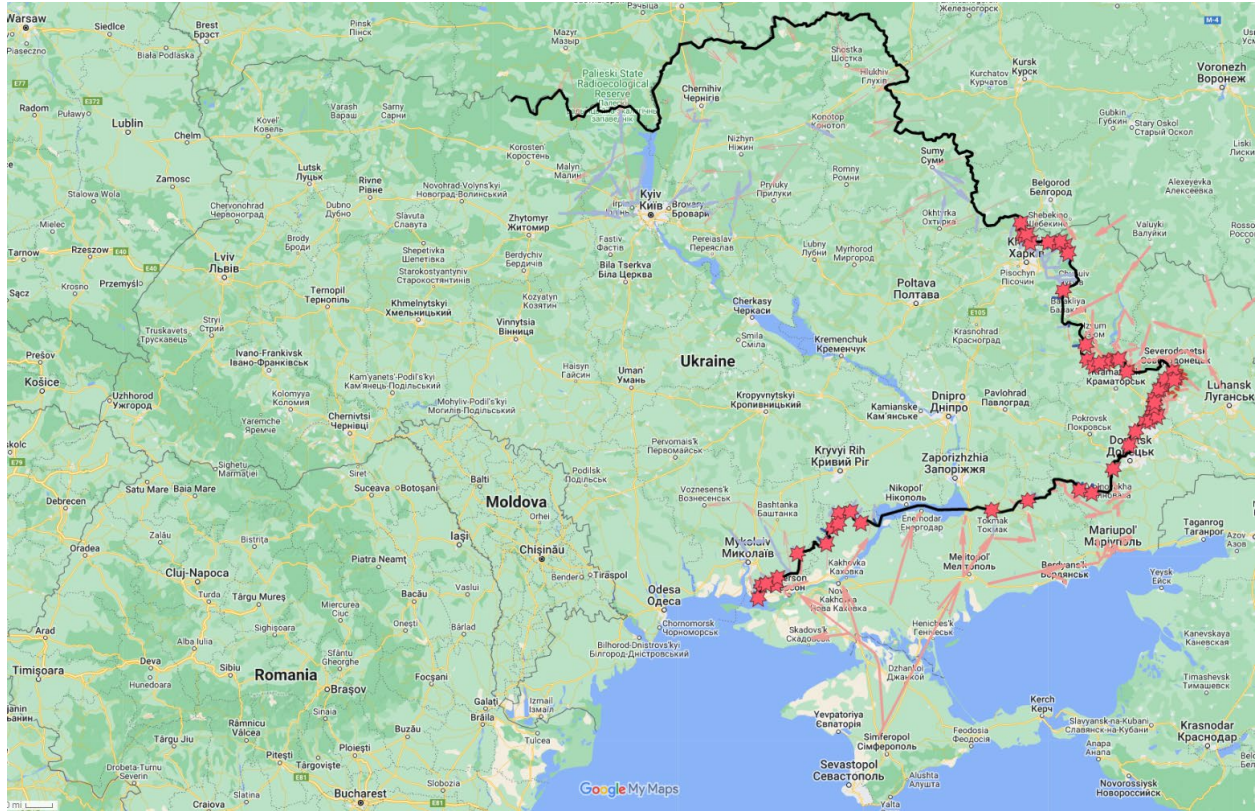
³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61036740>



open up a second front, but the Kremlin has made a series of irrational decisions through 2022.

We are against making trade concessions or exceptions for the Russian Federation. The Kremlin has consistently responded to perceived weakness of Western nations with further aggression. Ending enforcement of well-established and well-known sanctions will only encourage the regime in Moscow to take a more aggressive stance.

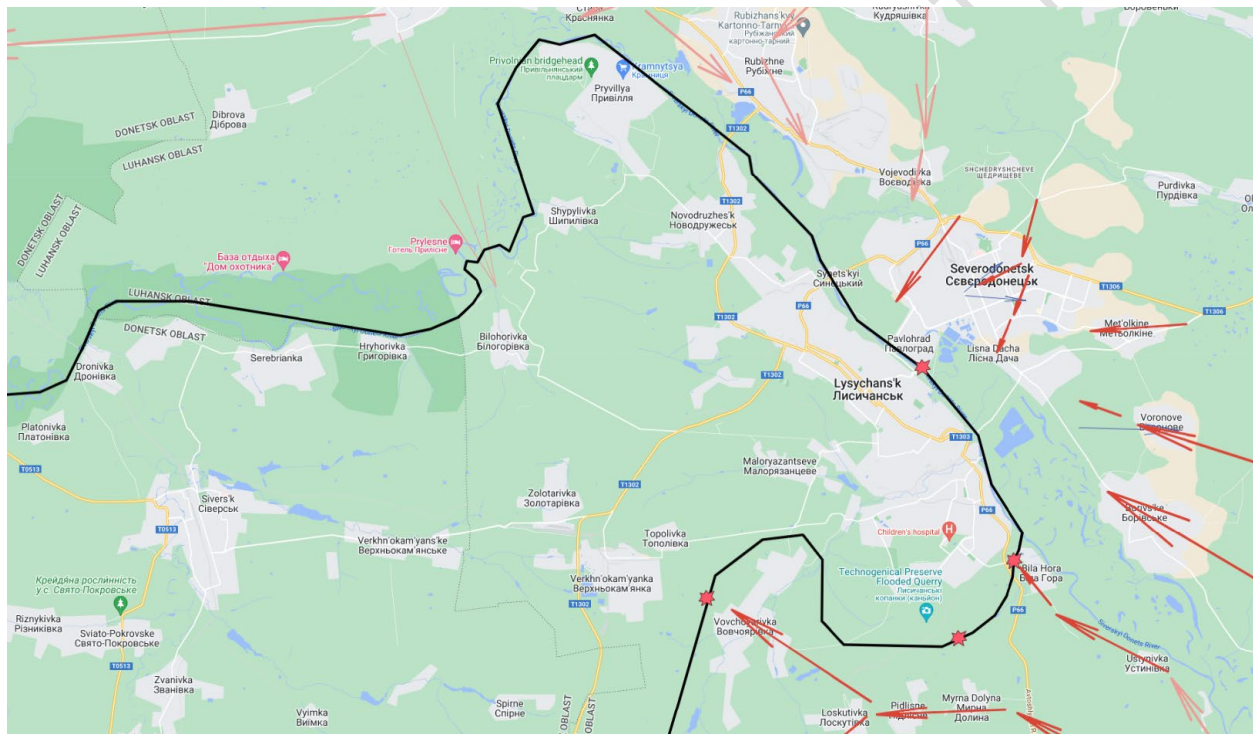
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

Severodonetsk Salient



The Ukrainian General Staff reported that the withdrawal from Severodonetsk was complete, and Russia now controls the city and the suburbs of Metolkiyne, Syrotyne, and Voronove.⁴

⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

The exiled mayor of Severodonetsk, Oleksandr Stryuk, reported, "The city is completely under Russian occupation. They are trying to restore order there. They have appointed a commandant who is collecting assets. The city is so destroyed that it will be difficult for people to cope with this situation."

Russian state media [released a video](#) reportedly from the bomb shelters in the Azot Chemical Plant complex.⁵

Journalist Bryce Wilson reported on Twitter that there was a "constant stream of vehicles carrying soldiers out towards Bakhmut and surrounds."⁶

"The Ukrainian military forces have obviously successfully withdrawn from the area. There are no 'mass surrenders' or massacres. It's chaotic because there are hundreds of vehicles moving back and forth."

⁵ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1540713647646941185> [Russian State Media Rating: Unconfirmed but Likely Valid]

⁶ <https://twitter.com/brycewilsonAU/status/1540331254679277568>

On Telegram, Major General Ramzan Kadyrov declared victory in Severodonetsk, 27 days after his first claim the city had been captured.⁷ Kadyrov made no mention of any captures or surrenders in Severodonetsk.

ASSESSMENT: Given the history of the Russian Ministry of Defense and its proxies, the lack of claims, videos, and photographs of large groups of prisoners indicates that the withdrawal from Severodonetsk was successful.

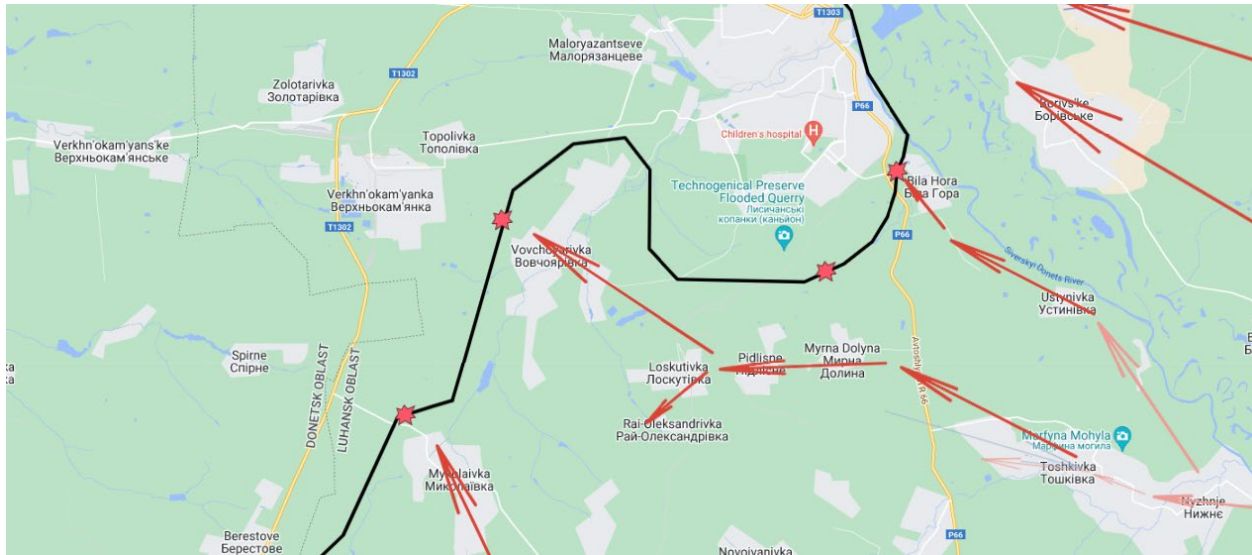
Luhansk Regional State Administration head Serhiy Haidai reported that Russian forces were still shelling Pavlohrad and Synetskyi, which are on the east bank of the Siverskyi Donets River.⁸ Both settlements are where destroyed bridges that extend into Lysychansk are located.

The new line of conflict is starting to stabilize but remains fluid. Russian forces control most of Vovchoyarivka, Haidai reporting shelling and airstrikes hitting the settlement.⁹ Haidai and the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces also reported that Loskutivka was shelled, implying the settlement remains contested.

⁷ https://t.me/RKadyrov_95/2418 [Russian State Media Rating: Partial Disinformation]

⁸ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/3769>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPR/status/1540581088309002241>



NASA FIRMS data suggests Russian and Ukrainian forces are fighting within Loskutivka and at the water treatment plant 2.5 kilometers east of the settlement. NASA FIRMS also indicated fighting in the southern part of Vovchoyarivka.



Deep red markers indicate detected fires within the last six hours, while yellow markers indicate fires in the last 24 hours.

ASSESSMENT: It appears that Ukrainian reports on the status of Loskutivka, Vovchoyarivka, and Bila Hora overstated the loss of control, and Haidai used the civilian definition. The line of conflict is likely 2 to 4 kilometers further south and east than currently mapped.

Ukrainian officials indicated they would vigorously defend Lysychansk and use the city's topography to their advantage. Haidai reported that the TV transmission tower in Lysychansk had been destroyed, and the city itself was "unrecognizable" due to the constant bombardment.¹⁰

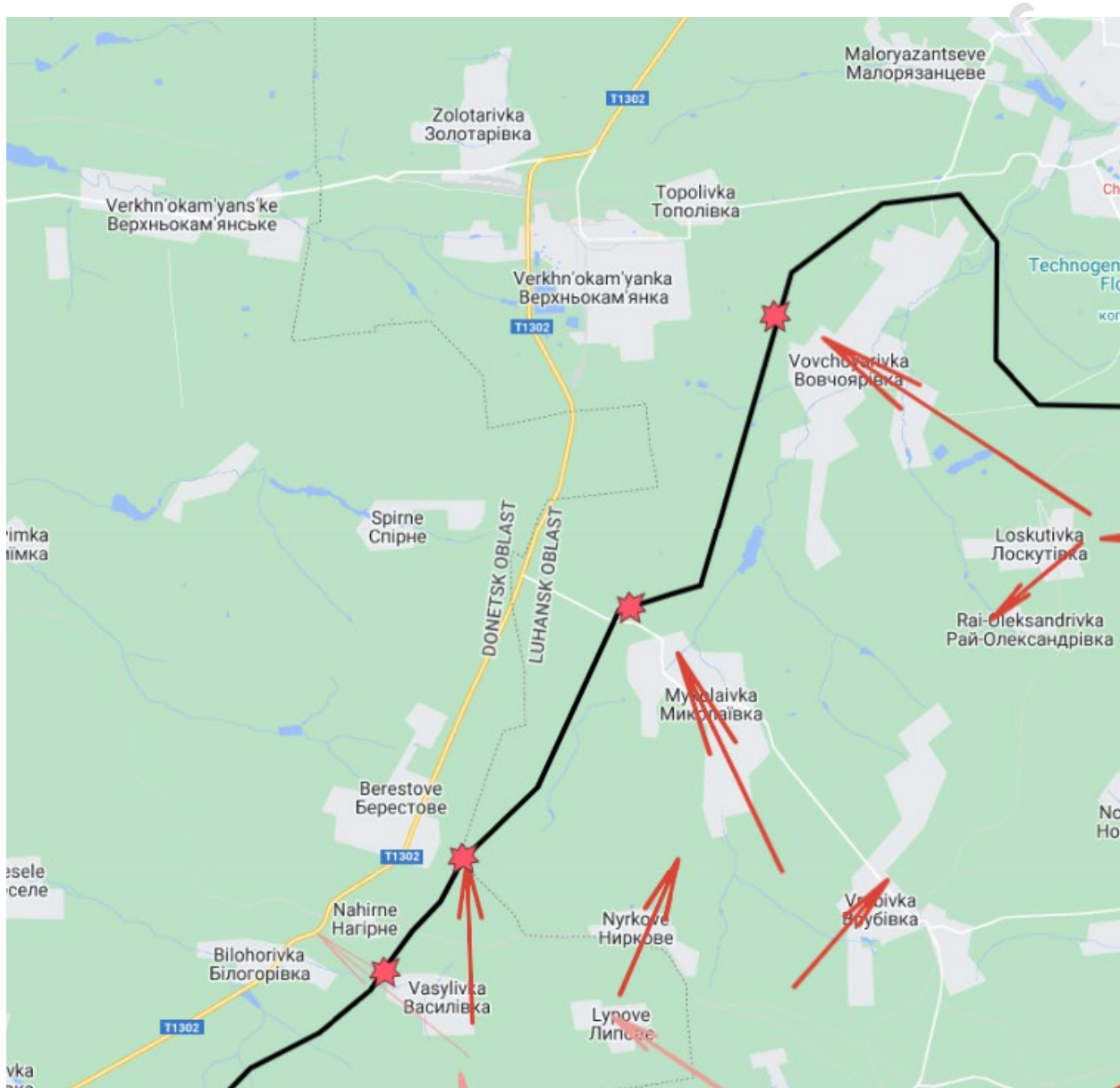
¹⁰ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/3769>



Despite claims of 800 to 2,000 Ukrainian troops surrounded in Zolote and Hirske, no videos or pictures have emerged from Russian state media, Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) militias, Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) militias, Chechen, or the Russian Ministry of Defense to back up these claims. NASA FIRMS data does not indicate ongoing fighting or artillery fire in the alleged cauldron.

ASSESSMENT: Most Ukrainian forces likely left the Zolote-Hirske salient between June 20 and June 22. Russian forces experienced no resistance upon entering the settlements, and RIA did not issue reports of any fighting. The Russian

Ministry of Defense report that “41 Ukrainians voluntarily laid down their arms” is likely an accurate assessment of the numbers of prisoners taken.



Russian forces continue interdiction on the T-1302 Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – aka supply line)

with artillery and airstrikes targeting Zolotarivka, Verkhokamyanka, Spirne, Berstove, and Mykolaivka.

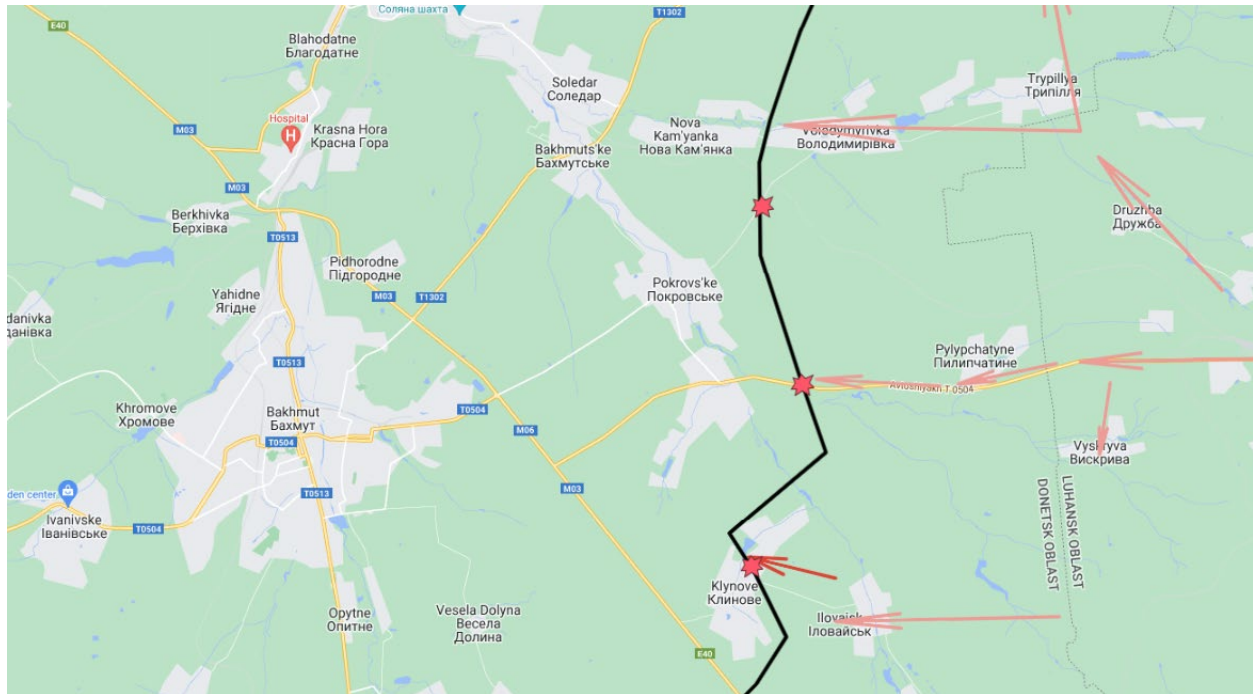
ASSESSMENT: With reports of artillery strikes on Mykoloaivka, Ukrainian forces likely contest the northwestern region of the settlement adjacent to the T-1302 Highway.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that Vyimka was also shelled.

ASSESSMENT: The hamlet of fewer than 20 homes is 12 kilometers west of the line of conflict and south of Siversk. It does not appear to hold any strategic or tactical value.

East of Bakhmut, Russian forces shelled Pokrovske, Klynove, and Volodymyrivka. Additionally, Russian forces attempted to advance on Pokrovske but were unsuccessful.¹¹ Russian forces are within 10 to 12 kilometers of the critical logistical hub for Ukrainian forces in the Donbas.

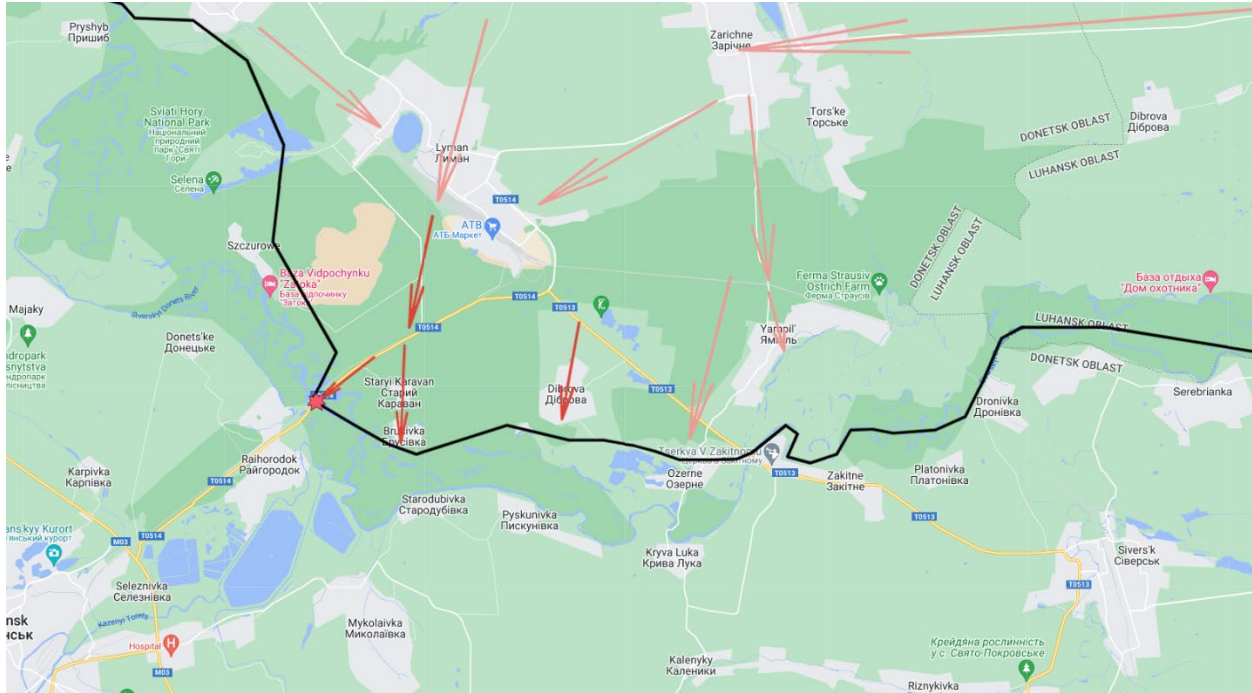
¹¹ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1540754580715311105>



Lyman Axis

There weren't any major combat operations around Lyman on June 25. Russian forces shelled Raihorodok and Majaky from the Lyman area.

ASSESSMENT: In our assessment, this is not a prelude to an advance on Raihorodok. Russian forces have started a more extensive artillery and missile campaign across Ukraine, targeting military, civilians, and civilian infrastructure.



Along the south bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, Russian forces shelled Pyskunivka. We had previously assessed this is likely a distraction as the north bank of the Siverskyi Donets River is marshy and surrounded by oxbow lakes, making it a poor region to attempt a wet crossing.

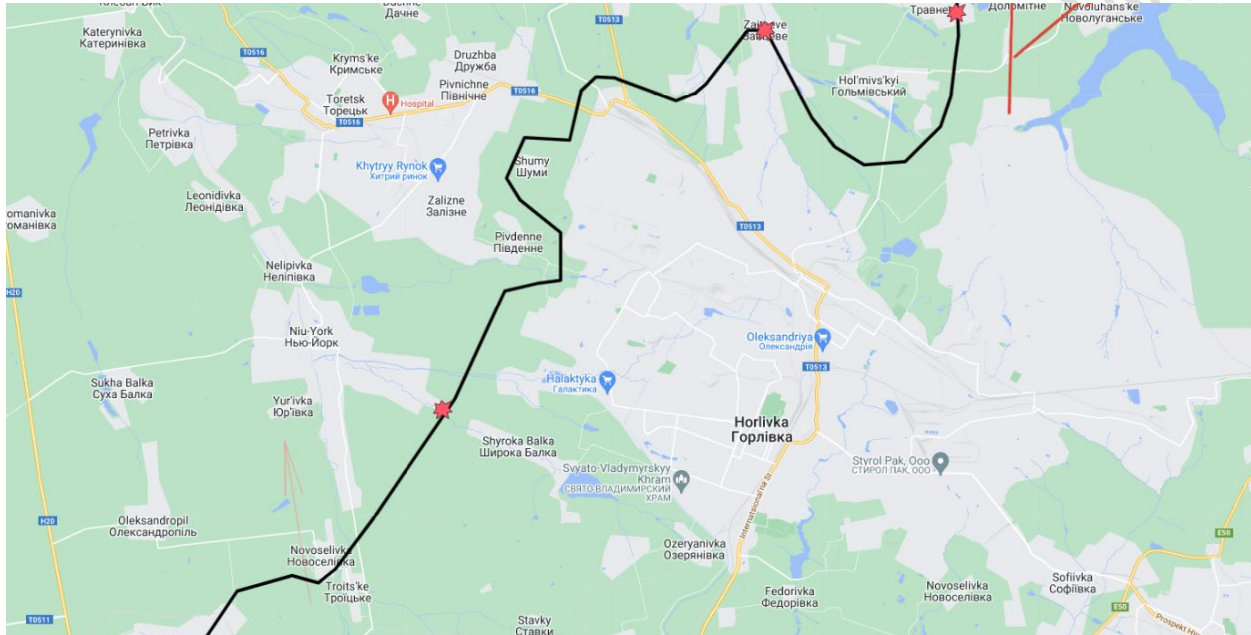


Russian forces continue to attempt to disrupt the Siversk-Lysychansk GLOC by shelling the logistics hub at Siversk.

SOUTH DONBAS AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

After an extended pause, Russian forces restarted ground operations at multiple points of the south Donbas axis.

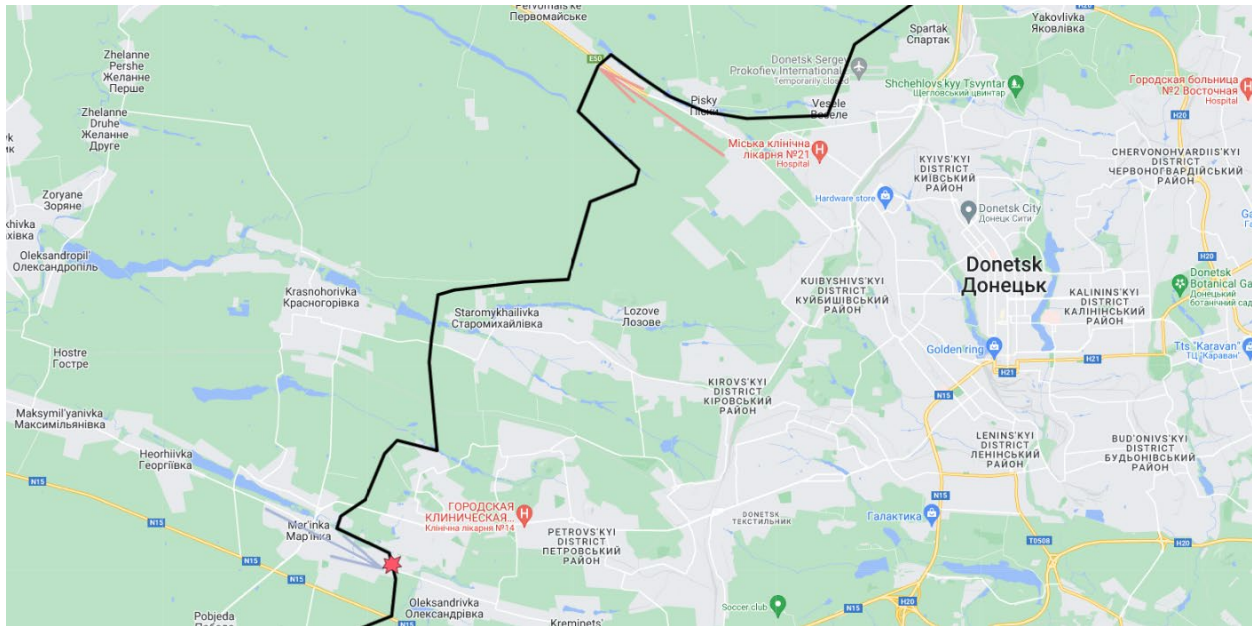
At Horlivka, Russian forces attempted to advance on Niu York and were unsuccessful. At least one civilian was killed during the attempted advance.¹²



At Donetsk city, Russian-backed forces attempted to advance on Marinka for the second day in a row. There was fighting in the eastern part of the settlement, with Russian troops forced to withdraw.¹³

¹² https://twitter.com/Now_in_Ukraine/status/1540784713840852993

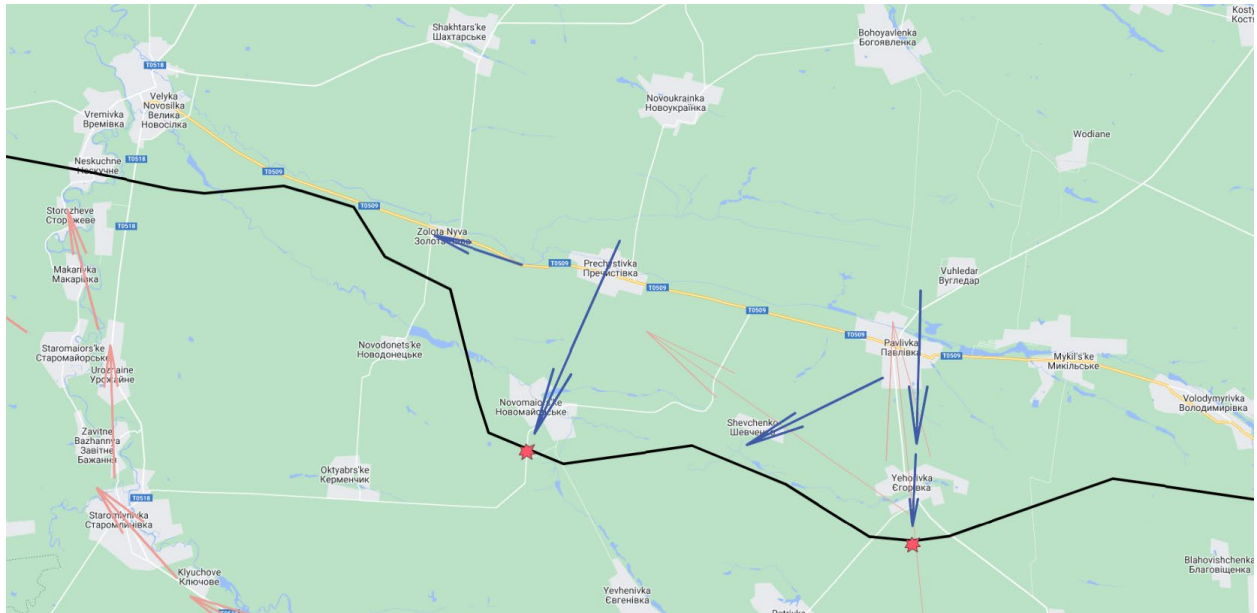
¹³ [Ukrinform](#)



Southwest of Pavlivka, Ukrainian forces liberated Zolota Nyva.¹⁴ The Ukrainian counteroffensive is advancing on a 25-kilometer-long front and has advanced 10 kilometers.

ASSESSMENT: There is debate in the analyst community if Ukraine or Russia had control of Zolota Nyva. ISW has coded the settlement as under Ukrainian control, while Deep State and our analyst coded the settlement previously under Russian control.

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1540608351234658305>



Pro-Russian accounts reported that Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions near Hulyaipole.¹⁵ To the south, NASA FIRMS data suggests another warehouse with Russian munitions or other assets was attacked in Polohy.

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/PelmeniPusha/status/1540440406692970496> [Pro-Russian Account]



Russian forces targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in Orikhiv. The city's electrical power and natural gas service were destroyed in the June 25 artillery strikes.

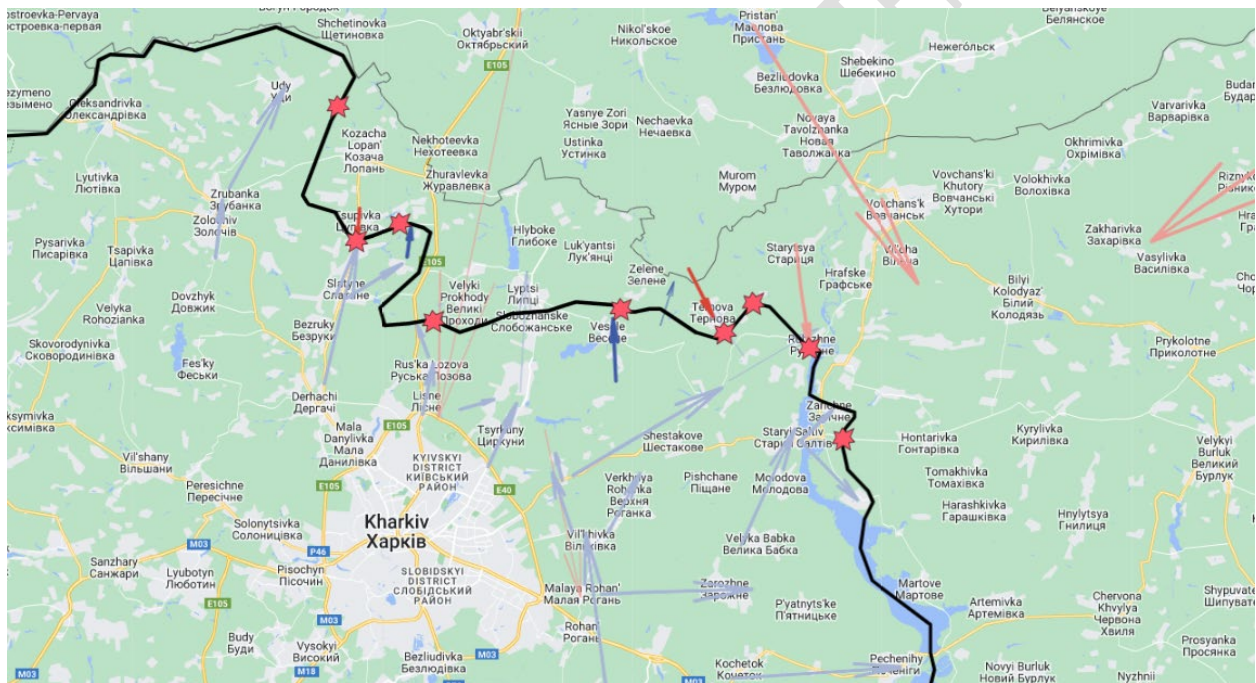


We continue to consider Rivnopil and Pyatkhatky as contested.

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHERN KHARKIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Russian forces attacked the settlement of Udy on June 25. The attack was not successful.¹⁶



Russian cruise missiles struck Kharkiv city early on June 26, landing in residential and industrial districts.¹⁷ The top floor of a nine-story apartment block was hit by one of the

¹⁶ https://t.me/der_rada/1697

¹⁷ [Egirt Italy](#)

missiles shearing off part of the top floor.¹⁸ There were two civilian injuries reported.

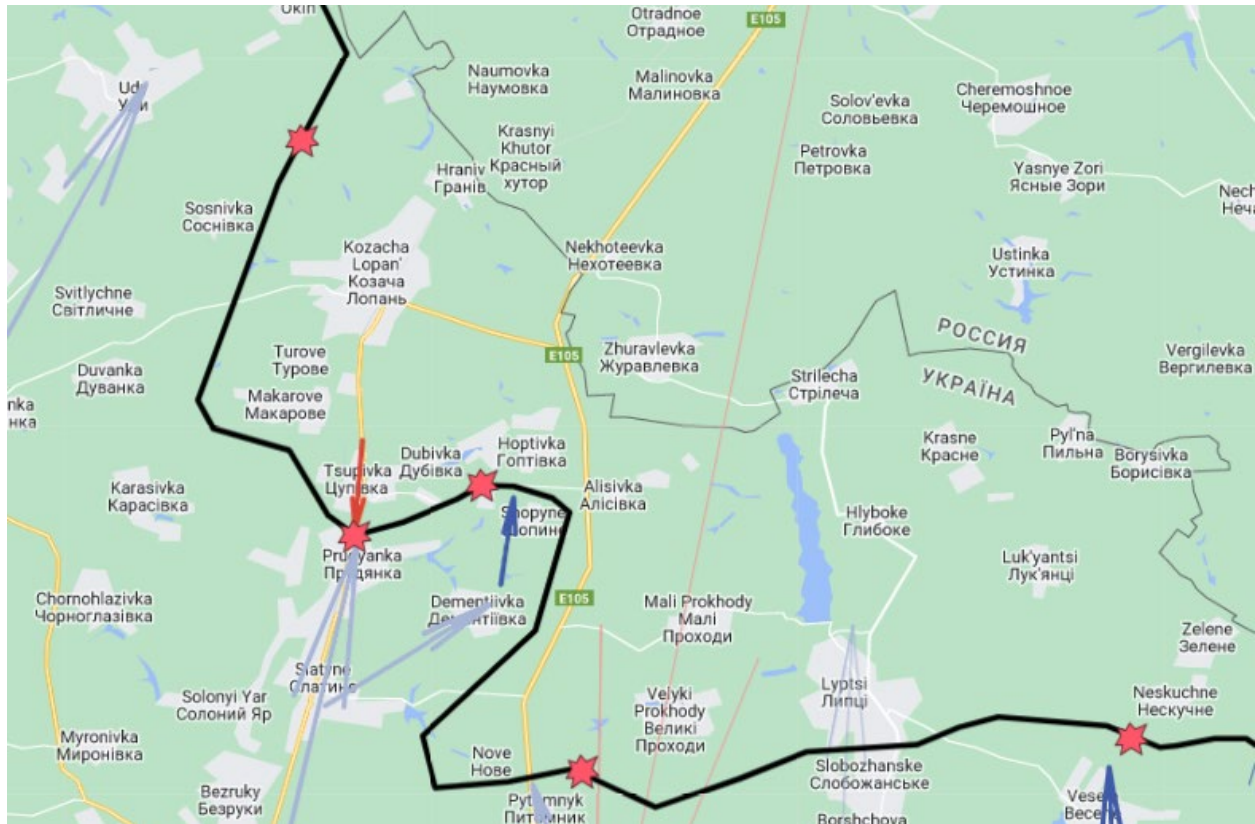


Russian attacks knocked out natural gas service to the Kharkiv suburb of Derhachi.¹⁹

¹⁸ https://twitter.com/daria_zadniprovs/status/1540935880722059264

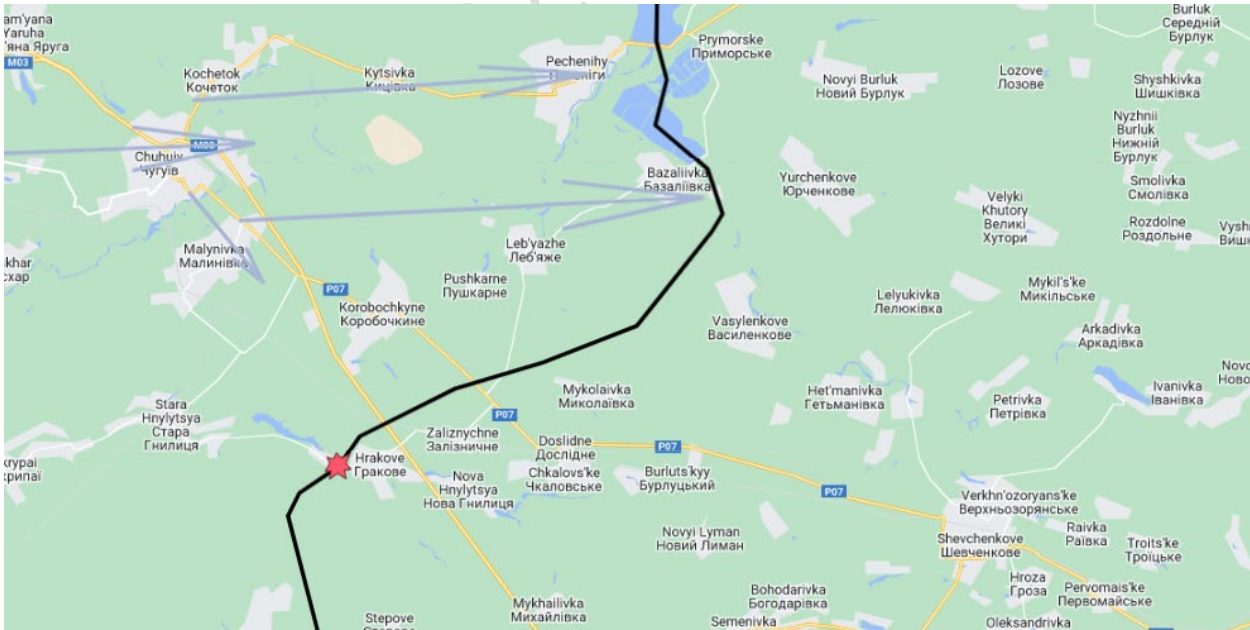
¹⁹ https://t.me/der_rada/1696

Fighting in Tsupvika and Veylki Prokhody continued.



The Mayor of Chuhuiv, Galina Minaeva, has called for a total civilian evacuation of the city.²⁰ "We have not had such shelling since the beginning of the war. The decision to evacuate today must be [done] by everyone. If someone has the opportunity to be in a quiet and safe place, especially with children - I would go [to] their place. To save lives and health."

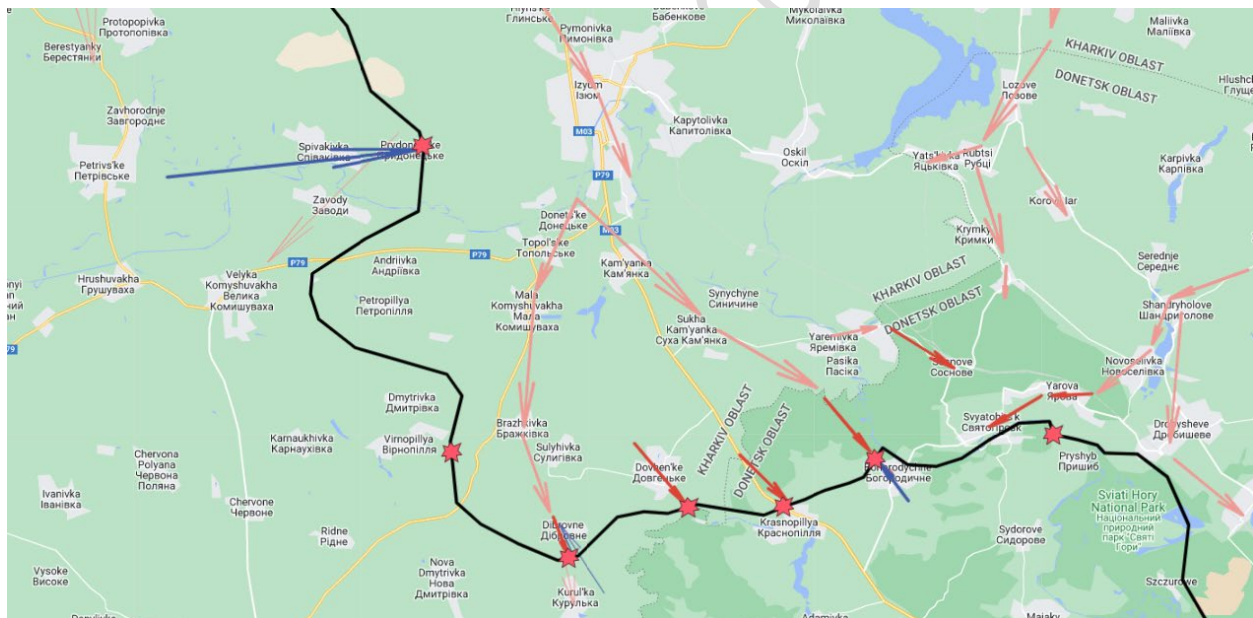
²⁰ [TCH](#)



Russian forces also shelled Ruski Tyshky, Stary Saltiv, Verkhniy Saltiv, Rubizhne, and Dementiyivka.²¹

IZYUM AXIS

Russian forces made another attempt to advance into the settlements of Kurulka and Bohorodychne and were unsuccessful.



[Video emerged showing the aftermath of the first HIMARS attack](#) by Ukrainian forces.²² The precision munitions struck the command post of the Russian 20th Combined

²¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

²² https://twitter.com/Blue_Sauron/status/1540796059672363008

Arms Army and a supply depot to the south. Russian forces had turned Public School Number 2, which had recently been renovated, into their command center, with military vehicles parked adjacent to the building. In addition to destroyed supply trucks, fuel trucks, and light infantry vehicles, at least two command and control Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) were heavily damaged. The video was geolocated, weather confirmed, and cross-verified with NASA FIRMS data.²³



²³ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1540870760947777536>

ASSESSMENT: The two command and control vehicles indicate a high probability that high-value military targets were in the building at the time of the attack. We cannot confirm the veracity of reports indicating up to 25 Russian officers were killed.

Pro-Russian accounts report that Russian forces made a successful wet crossing of the Siverskyi Donets. Conflicting reports indicate crossing south of Nortsivka and Russian forces occupying the settlement. Other reports indicate a wet crossing near Chepil, with Russian forces occupying that settlement.

Sentinel EO Browser showed no indications of a pontoon bridge or remnants of an attempted crossing near Nortsivka on June 25. Additionally, Nortsivka has been under Russian control for almost two months.

The wet crossing Ukrainian forces established south of Chepil around May 15 was still visible on June 25, and there were no indications of fighting, Russian troop movements, or recent vehicle movement in the adjacent fields.

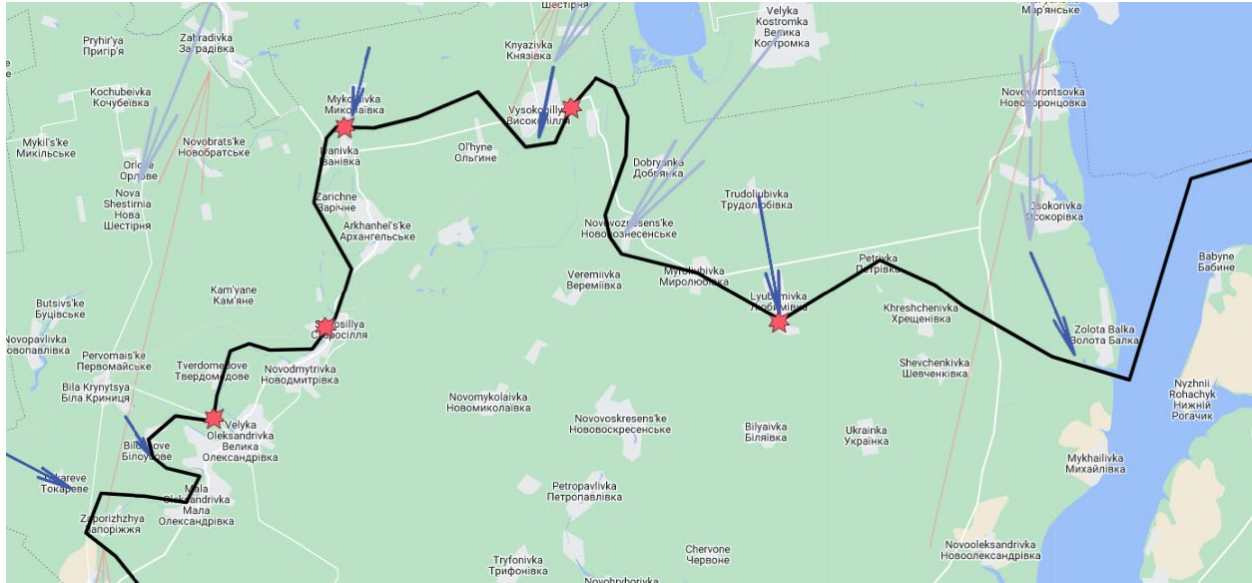
NASA FIRMS data has not shown indications of fighting around Chepil or Nortsivka. Additionally, Ukrainian forces

do not need to make wet crossings to access the region west or northwest of Izyum. When Ukraine liberated Zavody, the bridge that crossed the Siverskyi Donets was captured intact. Ukrainian forces have since advanced and taken control of Spivakivka and Prydonetske on the northern side of the Siverskyi Donets River.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

Ukrainian forces [released a video showing Vysokopillya and the surrounding area](#).²⁴ The video clips are from different periods of time, but based on weather and environment, the Vysokopillya clips are current.

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/MilitaryLandnet/status/1540793188746637313>



Ukrainian forces were attempting to liberate Potomkyne, where Russian forces are in a salient and at risk of being encircled.

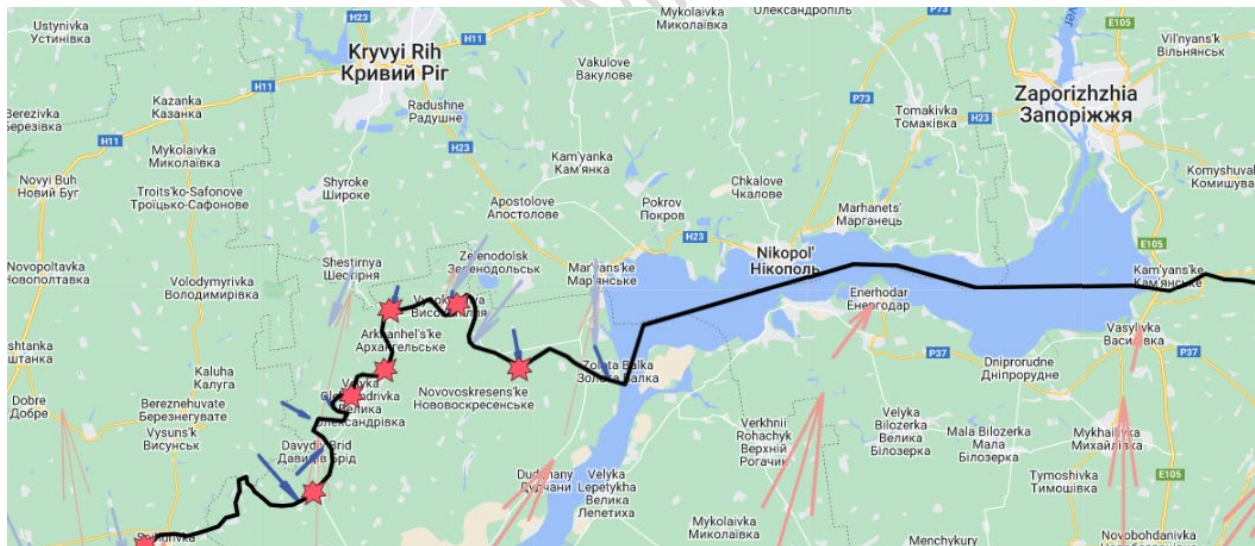
There were no other changes in territorial control in Kherson.

A Russian cruise missile flew over the Pivdennoukrainsk Nuclear Power Plant in Yuzhnoukrainsk, Mykolaiv.²⁵ Video showed the cruise missile flying over the station from south to north.

²⁵ [TCH](#)

Russian cruises missiles [hit the city of Mykolaiv](#), where the mayor appealed for residents to evacuate on June 24.²⁶ [A second video](#) showed another missile attack hitting civilians at a gas station.²⁷ A Russian cruise missile targeting the system attacked workers attempting to repair the city water supply.²⁸

Russian forces fired Grad rockets using MLRS into the southern districts of Kryvyi Rih. Homes were damaged, but there were no reports of casualties.²⁹



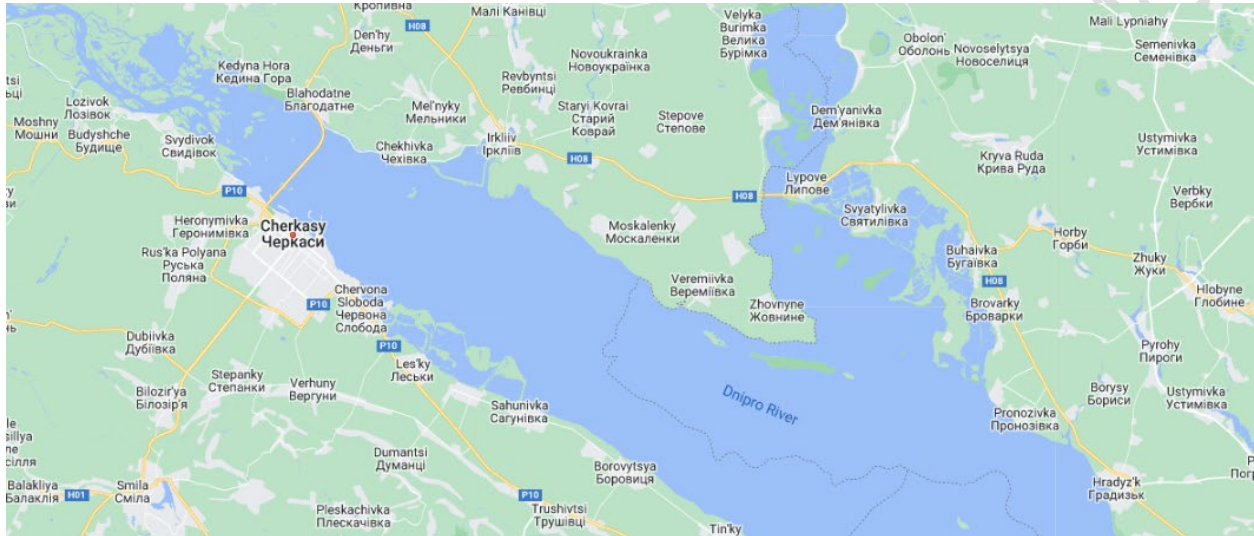
²⁶ <https://twitter.com/GvanKeulen/status/1540971120089874432>

²⁷ https://twitter.com/fabry_il_bomber/status/1540895363854393351

²⁸ https://twitter.com/UA_struggle/status/1540672153212727297

²⁹ <https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ato/3515237-invaders-shell-kryvyi-rih-using-mlrs.html>

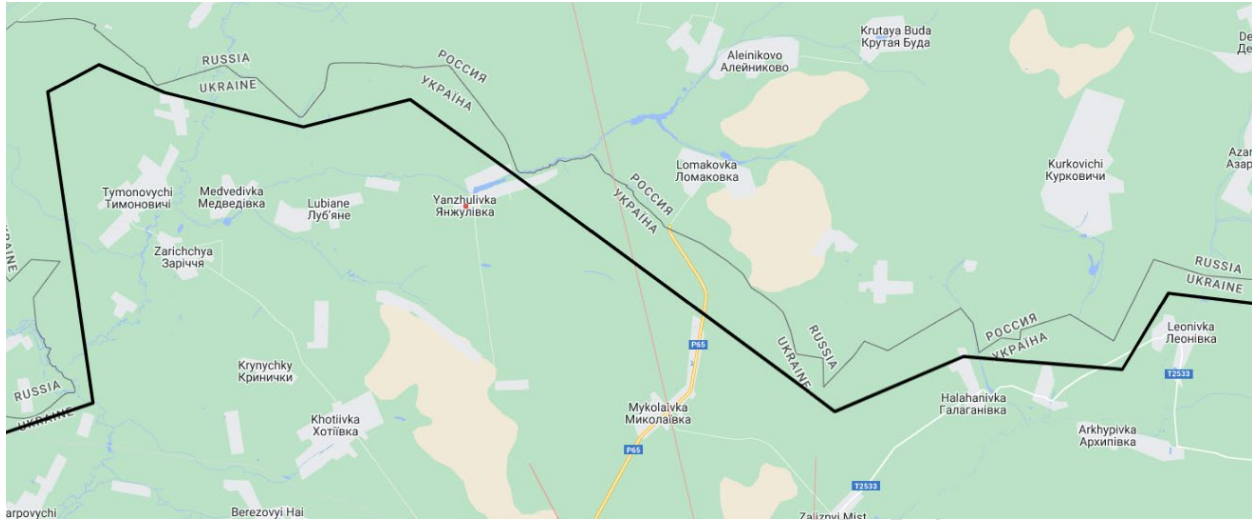
Russian cruise missiles struck Cherkasy. There wasn't any additional information provided due to Operational Security (OPSEC).³⁰



CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian troops shelled the settlements of Hrynivka and Yanzhulivka in the Chernihiv Oblast, firing across the international border. There wasn't any additional information provided.

³⁰ [TCH](#)



The settlement of Krasnopillia in the Sumy Oblast was attacked by two Russian helicopters. There were no casualties reported.³¹

Shalyhinsk and Yunakivsk in the Sumy Oblast were hit with 24 mortars early on June 26.³²

KYIV REGION

At least four cruise missiles hit the city of Kyiv, [causing major damage to an apartment tower](#).³³ One person is known dead, with his wife and daughter pulled from the

³¹ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1540674532981108738>

³² [TCH](#)

³³ https://twitter.com/UA_struggle/status/1540964581979443200

rubble. The wife is a Russian citizen.³⁴ The 7-year-old girl was shielded by her father as part of the building collapsed.³⁵ (viewer discretion advised) The girl begged rescuers to retrieve her mother as she was taken from the building.³⁶



³⁴ https://twitter.com/UA_struggle/status/1540967957408489472

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/sternenko/status/1540937581977899009>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/vorozhbyt/status/1540966089823223809>

Another cruise missile [landed in a playground](#), causing significant damage to a kindergarten.^{37 38}

The water supply to parts of Kyiv was temporarily disrupted.³⁹

At the time of publishing, there were reports of additional explosions.

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

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

WEST REGION

A Russian cruise missile [hit the settlement of Sarny in the Rivne Oblast](#).⁴⁰ The missiles landed in a shopping center and gas station, causing significant damage. The likely target was a military base approximately 3.5 kilometers away. Three civilians were killed in the attack.

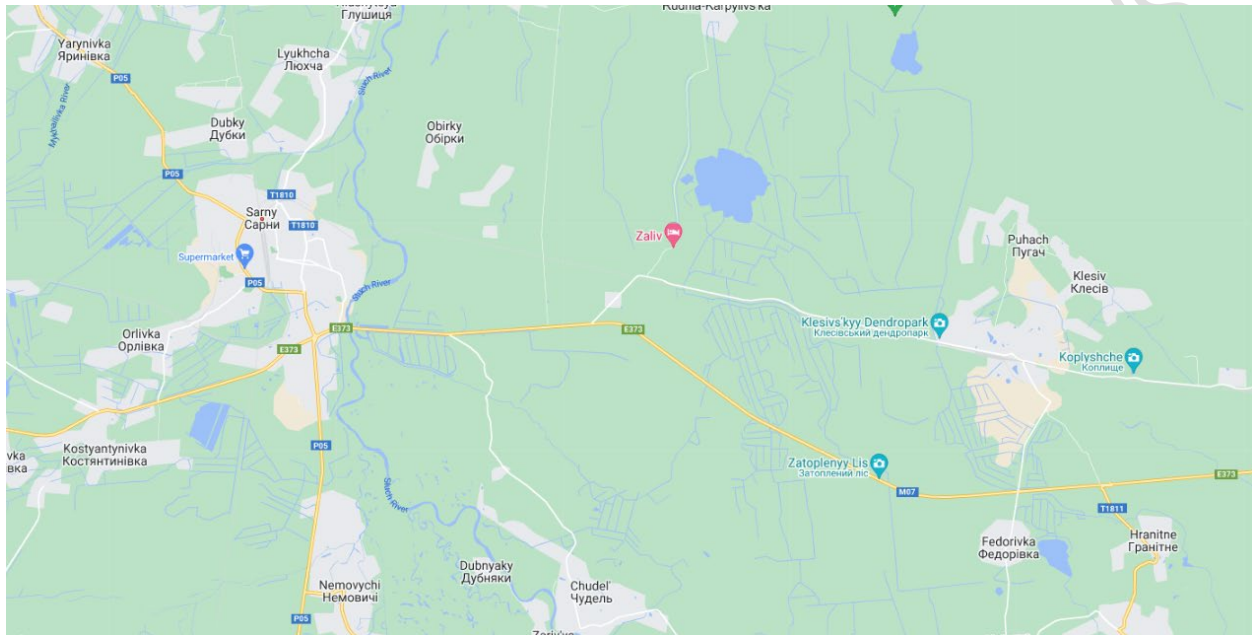
³⁷ <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1540974552464883712>

³⁸ https://twitter.com/ukrpravda_news/status/1540967244829806592

³⁹ <https://kyiv.tsn.ua/u-kiyevi-vidnovili-tisk-u-merezhi-vodopostachannya-2096335.html>

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1540795112812204037>

There were reports another missile struck a stadium southeast of the military base.



ASSESSMENT: We believe the chances that Belarus will launch a ground invasion of Ukraine remain extremely remote.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Russian Army General Sergei Shoigu, the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, visited an undisclosed

region in the Donbas to inspect Russian troops in an unannounced visit.⁴¹

Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, has stated that he will soon give Belarus Iskander M systems, which can carry ballistic and cruise missiles. Putin emphasized that these missiles could have nuclear warheads.⁴²

"Over the next few months, we will give Belarus Iskander M systems that can carry ballistic and cruise missiles, both conventional and nuclear."

Despite the growing threat of conflict, Lithuania struck a defiant tone. "Lithuania will not lift restrictions on transit to the Kaliningrad Oblast. We will retain control over goods transported via our territory. There can be no talk of any corridors, no talk of concessions in response to the Kremlin's threats," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda said.

Ukraine accused Russia of trying to drag Belarus into the war and potentially expand it to other nations.⁴³ "Today's

⁴¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/06/26/7354721/>

⁴² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/06/25/7354645/>

⁴³ [Fox News via Yahoo!News](#)

[missile strikes] is directly related to the efforts of the Kremlin authorities to drag Belarus into the war in Ukraine as a direct participant," the Ukrainian intelligence agency said in a Facebook post.

Ukraine has repeatedly asked Western nations to send more advanced warplanes to help it keep up with Russia's advanced aerial bombardments.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he would appeal to France and Germany to provide more military support and heavy weapons to Ukraine during the G7 Summit.

"My message to colleagues at the G7 and at NATO, in particular, is...now is not the time to settle and encourage the Ukrainians to settle for a bad peace, for a peace for which they are invited to give up chunks of their territory in return for a ceasefire."

The Summit is from June 26 to 28 in Germany.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ [Ukrinform](#)

United States President Joe Biden's pick for the new NATO Chief was confirmed by Congress.⁴⁵ Army General Christopher Cavoli was hand-picked to lead United States forces in Europe and as the NATO commander. General Cavoli is fluent in Russian and received a master's degree from Yale in Russian studies. He served as a Russia director on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and is an Afghanistan veteran.

The Polish prime minister said that Poland and the Baltic states want to see a stronger NATO defensive presence in the Suwalki Gap, the stretch of land that separates the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad from Belarus.⁴⁶

"We are going to seek the reinforcement of this corridor in our talks with our partners from NATO," Polish prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a news conference in Brussels.

Earlier in the week, Morawiecki assured reporters that the Suwalki Gap was adequately defended.

⁴⁵ <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/24/biden-nato-chief-confirmed-cavoli-00042208>

⁴⁶ <https://www.euronews.com/2022/06/25/uk-ukraine-crisis-poland-suwalki-gap>

"It's an important part of NATO plans and of our internal military plans - and so the presence of our troops is very strong there," he stated.

"Moreover, NATO forces are stationed nearby," Morawiecki added.

He stressed: "Our security arrangements are appropriate, they are adequate, and we are fully aware of the risks."

Since making those statements, Russian and Belarusian aggression toward Poland, Denmark, Lithuania, and Estonia have dramatically increased.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian authorities in occupied Mariupol raided the Church of Petro Mohyla and burned the books from the library in the courtyard.⁴⁷ The library contained unique Ukrainian books that were priceless and irreplaceable. Members of the Russian Orthodox Church oversaw the destruction.

⁴⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/06/26/7354689/>

A Russian cruise missile struck a hospital in Kharkiv in the Nemyshlianskyi District causing extensive damage.⁴⁸

GEOPOLITICAL

The G7 Summit will be held in Schloss Elmau, Germany.⁴⁹ President Biden arrived on June 25 for a three-day stay. He plans to meet privately with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Sunday.

ECONOMIC

The Russian Federation is hours away from defaulting on its sovereign debt, the first time the nation has missed a payment since 1918.⁵⁰ A 30-day grace period to make a \$100 million payment expires on June 26.⁵¹ There won't be an official declaration, and Russia is already disputing the designation, but if investors don't have their money by the

⁴⁸ [Urkinform](#)

⁴⁹ [NDTV](#)

⁵⁰ [Republic World](#)

⁵¹ <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/russia-hours-away-first-foreign-070000450.html>



deadline, there will be an “event of default” on Monday morning, according to the bond documents.

Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov has cited “force-majeure” as a justification for the currency switch, calling the situation a “farce.” The legal argument of force majeure hasn’t historically encompassed sanctions.

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