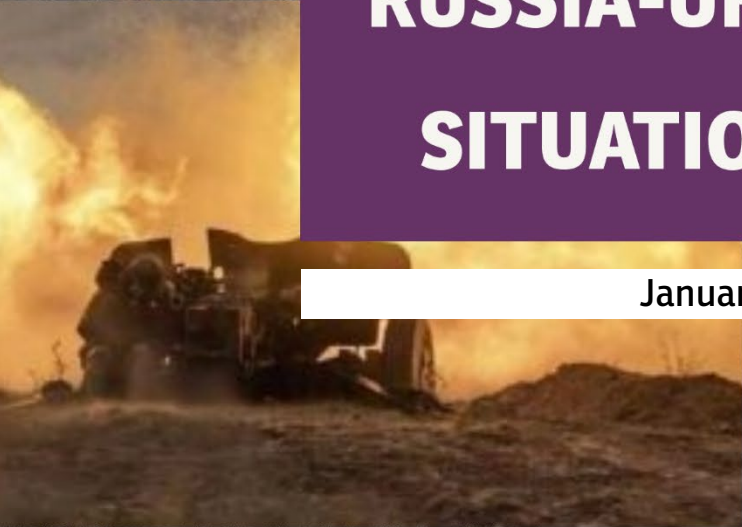
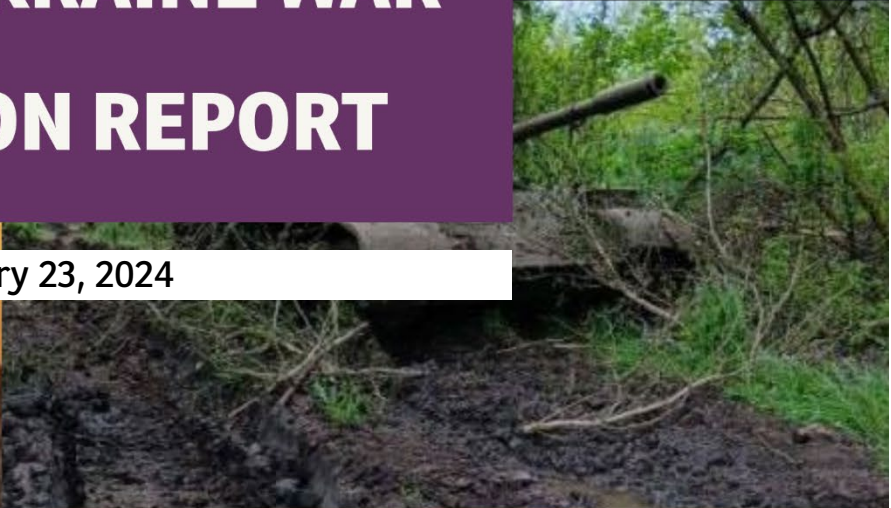


**WBHG NEWS 24**  
**RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**  
**SITUATION REPORT**



January 23, 2024





# WBHG News 24

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 01/23/24 23:59\* PST

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## SUMMARY – DAY 698

It has been 3,649 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 334 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

### Summary

- There are map updates
- There are assessment updates
- There are rumor updates
- Fighting continued in the Kupyansk AO
- Russian missiles struck the city of Kharkiv for the third time in 24 hours, wounding at least nine
- Russia used a Kh-22 supersonic cruise missile in its attacks on Kharkiv
- Fighting continued in the Savatove AO
- Fighting continued in the Kreminna AO
- Ukrainian forces advanced east of Terny and Yampolivka
- Fighting continued in the Lysychansk AO
- Russian forces appear to have entered an operational pause in the Soledar, Bakhmut, and Klischiivka AOs
- Fighting continued northwest and southwest of Bakhmut
- Fighting continued near Klishchiivka

- Fighting continued in the Avdiivka AO
- Ukrainian forces regained control of the Tsarska Okhota resort and southern Avdiivka
- Clear weather provided excellent satellite ISR
- Fighting continued in the Marinka AO
- Russian forces made marginal gains west of Marinka
- Fighting continued in the Vuhledar AO
- Fighting continued in the Hulyaipole AO, with satellite ISR confirming the existing line of conflict and previous reports of fighting
- Light fighting continued in the Orikhiv AO
- Ivan Fedorov has been named the new Zaporizhzhia Oblast OVA
- Fighting continued in the Kherson AO
- Russian artillery and airstrikes killed two civilians in free Kherson
- The Russian Black Sea Fleet has 12 vessels on patrol, including two missile carriers
- A Russian missile hit the Sumy Oblast city of Shostka, destroying "critical infrastructure"
- A Russian Il-76 heavy transport aircraft was shot down and crashed near Belgorod, killing 63
- Russia claims a Ukrainian drone struck the oil depot in Zheca, Bryansk, Russia
- Russia has started placing S-300 air defense systems around St. Petersburg

- In the Russian city of Vladivostok, two major electrical substations simultaneously exploded
- Russia only launched 42 ground attacks on January 23
- One of the Kh-101 cruise missiles shot down on January 23 was built in December 2023
- President Zelenskyy reported the Russian missile strikes killed 18 and wounded over 130
- The White House says that Russia is trying to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses, and ammunition is critically low
- Prime Minister Fico of Slovakia repeated Kremlin talking points about life being normal in Ukraine
- Ukrainian GUR Colonel Oleg Babii was killed in action on August 30 after leading a sabotage raid into Russia that destroyed a Tu-22M3 bomber and disabled two more
- The U.S. DOJ charged Russian-Israeli-U.S. citizen Ilya Kahn with a scheme that shipped sensitive semiconductors to Russia and is facing 20 years in prison
- The Turkish government approved Sweden's accession to the NATO Alliance
- Prime Minister of Hungary Orban, asked Sweden to negotiate for his approval to join NATO
- U.S. Secretary of Defense said there is no evidence Ukraine has misappropriated funds or weapons and repeated the U.S. has no more funds to support Kyiv

- Ukrainian Minister of Defense Umerov said that Russia has a 6:1 artillery advantage, and it is getting worse
- Canada and Germany announced new military aid packages
- NATO announced it had signed contracts to buy \$1.2 billion in 155 mm ammunition rounds for Ukraine
- Ukraine announced it would receive a new weapon system from an unknown ally that will be the first of its kind
- The U.K. provided the U.N. with evidence that North Korea is supplying Russia with arms
- Destroyed military aid meant for Russian troops was found in an occupied Donetsk landfill
- Russian Lieutenant Colonel Andrey Kharchenko, the deputy regimental commander for military and political work of the 1125th Motor Rifle Regiment, was killed in action
- Russian Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Manshin died of a heart attack during fighting
- Russian Lieutenant Colonel Evgeniy Dragunovsky, battalion commander of combat engineers, was killed in action
- Russian Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Samarin of the 24th Motor Rifle Regiment was killed in action
- Russian Lieutenant Colonel Igor Kompaneets of the 26th Motor Rifle Regiment was killed in action
- Russian Colonel Roman Torokhov was killed in action

- Major Viktor Klymov, test pilot and the deputy training commander of the 1338th Shchelkovo Test Center, Chkalovsky Military Airfield, Moscow, was killed in action
- Russia is mounting RBU-6000 antisubmarine missile launchers onto T-80 tank hulls
- Russian milblogger Murz reported that the Russian Combat Aura Dome 10 drone EW system is useless
- Mothers and wives in occupied Donetsk and Luhansk are demanding that troops be demobilized, with some fighting since February 19, 2022 (no, that date is not a typo; that's the date Russian state media used – take all the time you need)
- Russian propagandist Danil Bezsonov said the quiet part aloud when it comes to what would happen if Russia occupies all of Ukraine
- Russian State Duma Deputy Mikhail Matveev was forced to apologize to Colonel General Ramzan Kadyrov after making anti-Muslim statements
- The Russian State Duma is advancing legislation that would permit the state to confiscate the property from dissidents and their spouses and children
- Dozens have been arrested in Bashkortostan after last week's protests in support of activist Fail Alsynov
- Russia continues to maintain the Vulcan Protocol in Bashkortostan, restricting communications and Internet access



- A Russian is facing 5 to 7 years in prison for writing on VK, "Handsome guy who did this," in response to a post about a Ukrainian drone strike in Moscow
- The FSB arrested Russian anti-war blogger Sergei Veselov for "justification of terrorism"
- Russian security forces searched the home of Crimean Tatar leader Nazim Memetov, accusing him of weapons trafficking
- Officials in the Russian city of Novosibirsk refused to approve a protest over the crumbling heating system that injured more than a dozen, calling it a threat to state security
- The Anti-War Committee of Russia is an "undesirable" organization after a denunciation was written against Russian State Duma Deputy Andrey Lugovoi
- Metropolitan Leonid Gorbachev, a former close associate of dead PMC Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin, was stripped of his roles within the Russian Orthodox Church
- Russia shut down the Khakassia news agency for not following propaganda guidelines
- The novel Heritage, written by Vladimir Sorokin, has been removed from stores after a denunciation was filed against the author for spreading LGBT and pedophile propaganda
- Roskachestvo has set new guidelines for toys in Russia and has opened an investigation into Barbie

- The U.K. has softened travel restrictions to part of Ukraine
- Kyrgyzstan filed a complaint with the Russian government about the treatment of detained undocumented workers
- France warns that if Russia wins its war of aggression, it will control 30% of the global wheat market
- In December 2023, Exports of Ukrainian grain were up over 50% compared to December 2022
- Apple paid an antitrust fine to Russia of \$13.3 million and, in doing so, revealed the California company is still conducting business in Russia

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

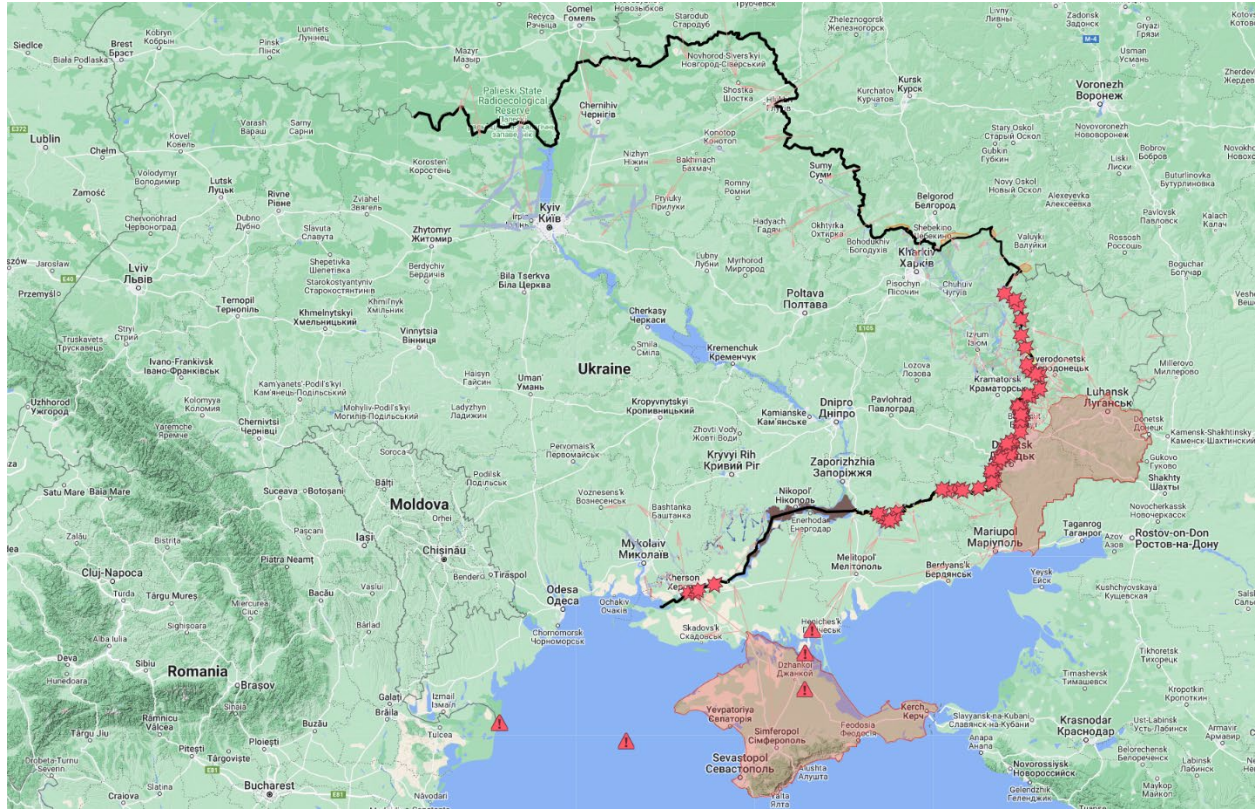
We assess the following:

- 1. We maintain it is unlikely that the United States will provide additional military or financial aid to Ukraine in 2024.**
- 2. The continued impasse in the United States Congress to provide additional military aid to Ukraine and the passive response to Russian kinetic and hybrid aggression is contributing to Russia's expanding axis with North Korea and Iran and global hybrid warfare.**
- 3. We maintain the Armed Forces of Ukraine are facing critical ammunition shortages, particularly air defense missiles and artillery shells, that are directly impacting the ability to maintain existing defensive lines.**
- 4. We maintain that Ukrainian forces no longer have the combat potential to engage in any offensive operations, and Russian troops are capable of additional tactical success and achieving limited operational goals.**
- 5. The reduction in Ukrainian combat potential is a direct result of blocked aid from the United States and the European Union.**

6. Russian forces have established an operational objective to capture Chasiv Yar, west of Bakhmut.
7. Russian commanders have put mission objectives over all other considerations and are committed to capturing the Avdiivka salient regardless of the cost.
8. We maintain that combat that closely resembles World War I trench warfare versus 21st-century combined arms maneuver warfare will continue through meteorological winter, which ends on February 29.
9. We assess that Russia's ongoing political purge is accelerating, and the Putin regime is accelerating its transition into a fascist state.
10. 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. We are very troubled by the latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the lack of international attention.



# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

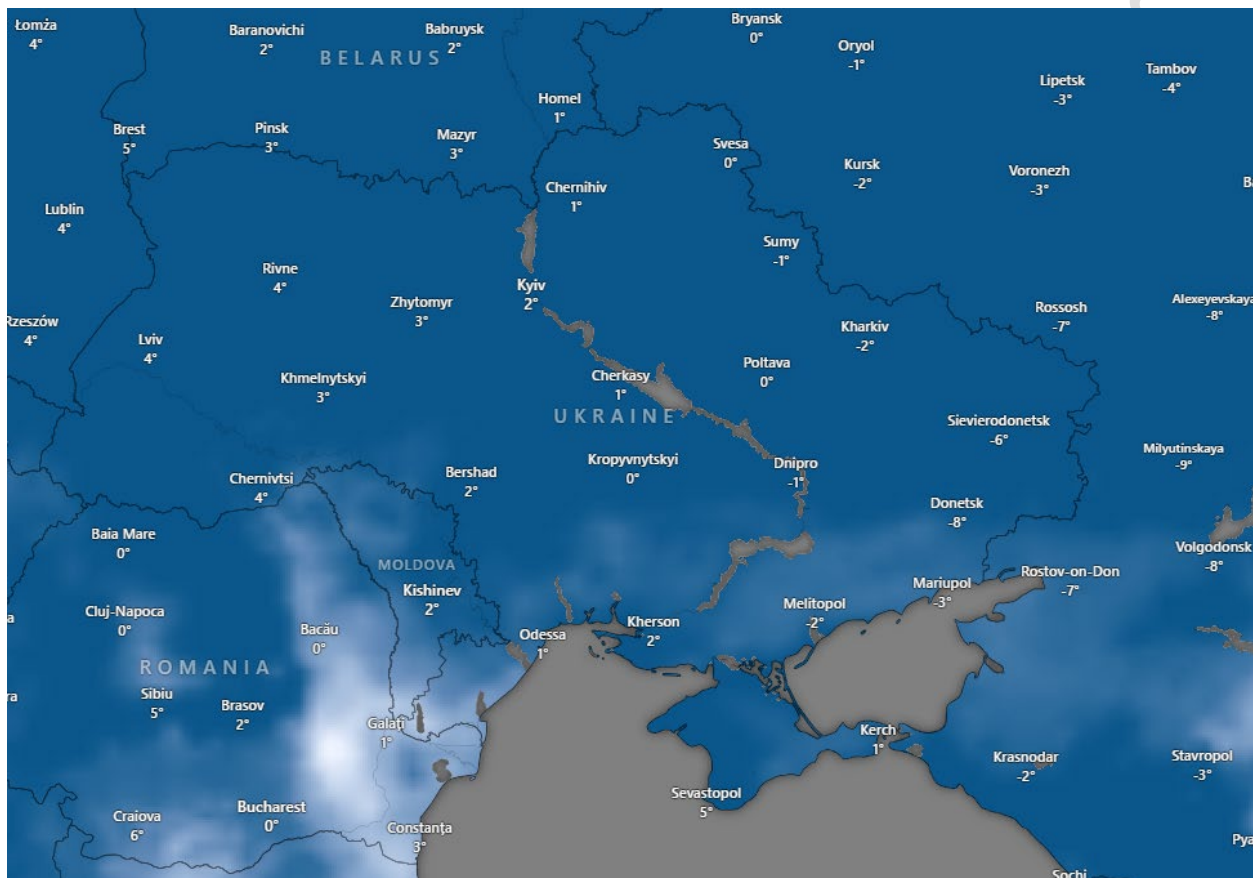


**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. Purple territory is Ukrainian advances into areas that were illegally occupied by Russian forces between 2014 and 2016. 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](#)

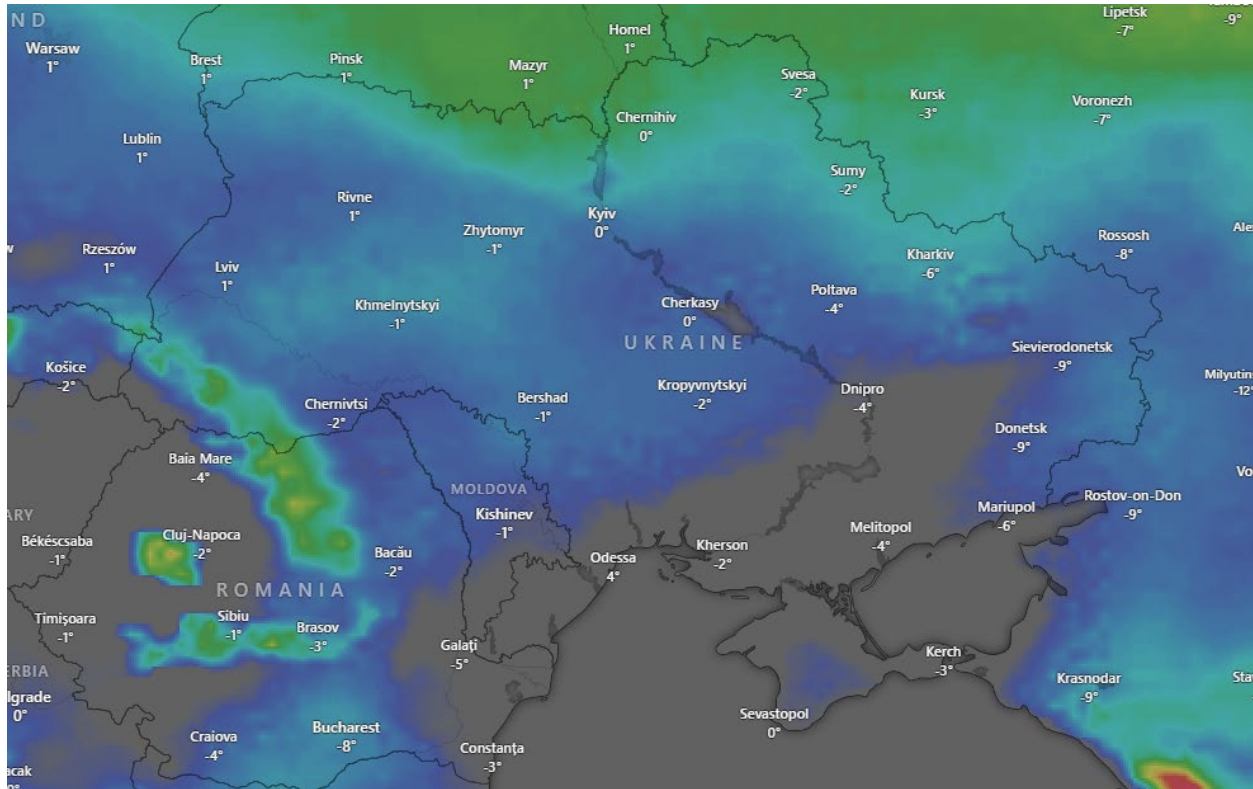
## WEATHER

### SOIL SATURATION AND TRACTABILITY



Soil saturation is 100% to 40 centimeters depth across almost all of Ukraine and east of the Dnipro River, at 85% to 100% to 100 centimeters. There will be negligible thawing through January 31 and little change to soil saturation. If there isn't a shift in the long-term weather patterns, the bezdorizhzhia period for spring 2024 will be particularly severe.

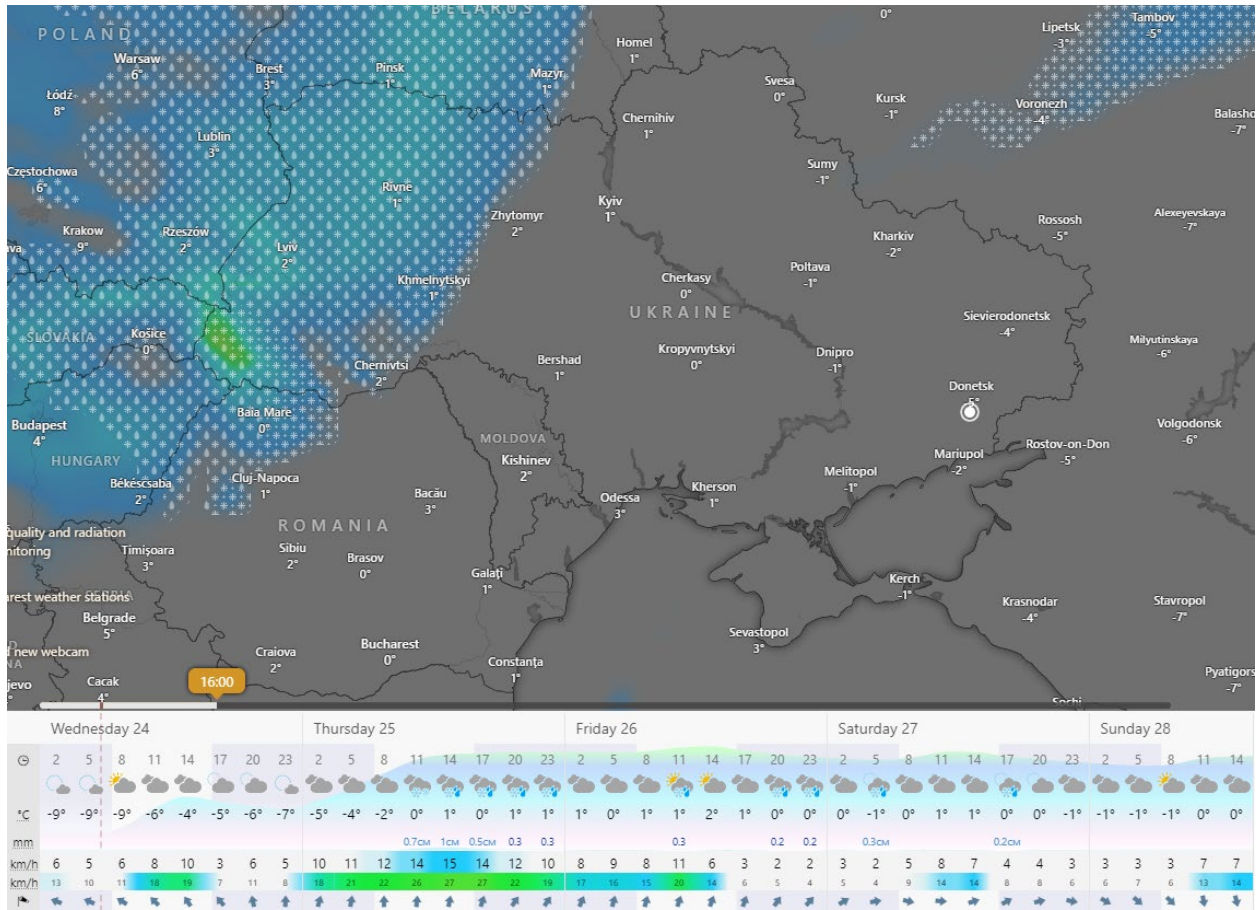
# SNOW DEPTH



There wasn't a significant change in snowpack over the last 24 hours. Forecast models continue to support measurable snow returning to southeastern Ukraine by January 26.



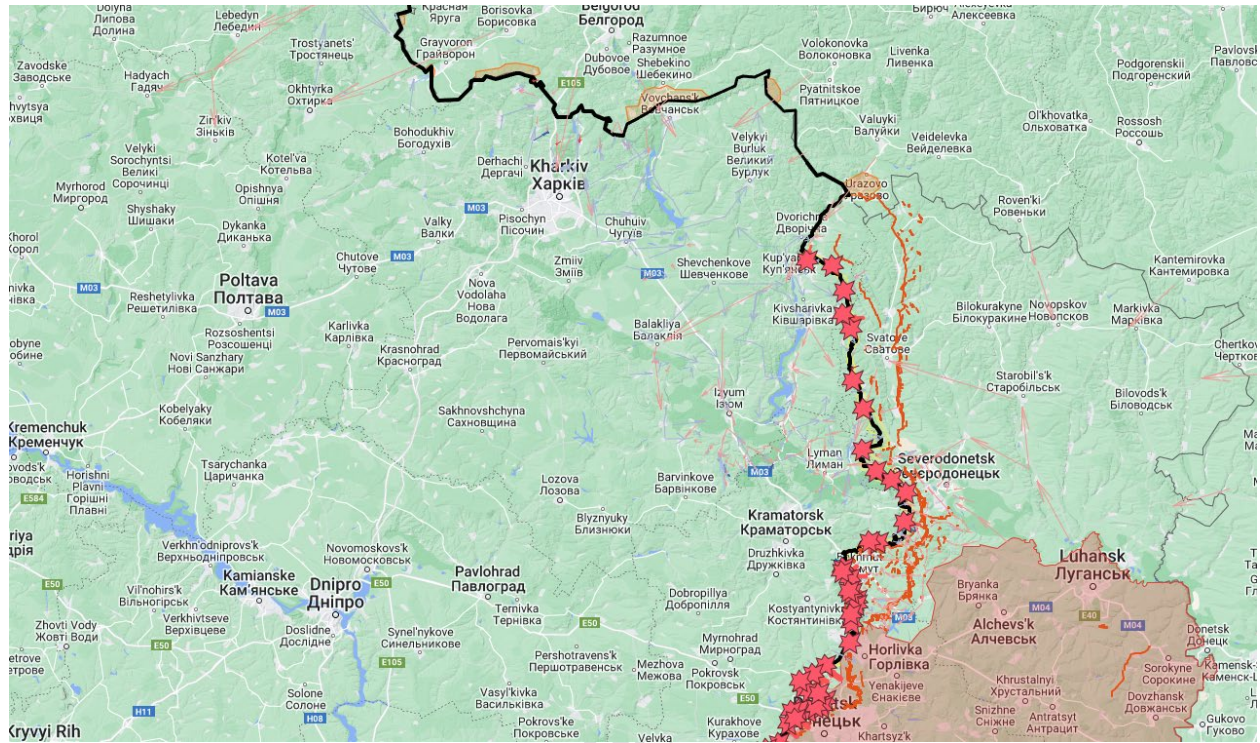
# WEATHER FORECAST



Current models are forecasting an unsettled weather pattern with near-seasonable temperatures through January 28. From the morning of January 25 until January 27, widespread rain and snow showers will move across all of Ukraine. High temperatures will moderate, ranging from -7° C. to 6° C. through the period, with the warmest weather in the south.

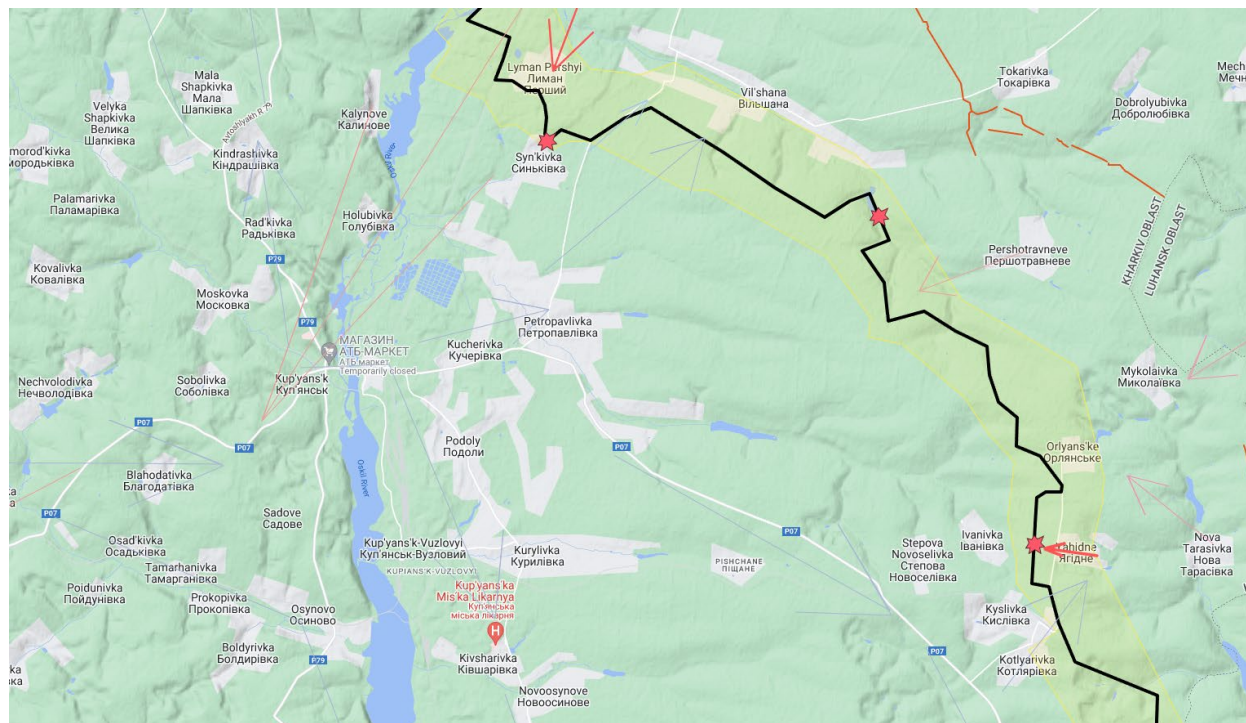


## KHARKIV AND LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** By March 13, 2024, recapture all territory from Kupyansk to Pisky Radkivski, push Ukrainian forces from the right bank of the Oskil River, recapture all of the Luhansk Oblast, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold and harden defensive lines in the Kupyansk, Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk Operational Areas and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



**In the Kupyansk Area of Operation (AO) in Kharkiv,** multiple sources reported that mutual fighting continued north and west of [Synkivka](#) with no change in the situation.<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMD) claimed Ukrainian forces were on the offensive northwest of [Krokhmal'ne](#).<sup>4</sup> Claims by sources in the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) that Russian forces occupied the hamlet of [Pletenivka](#) are false.

<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>


<sup>2</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]

<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>

<sup>4</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]

Kharkiv was attacked for a third time in less than 24 hours on January 23 with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack. The earlier attacks used tentatively identified North Korean-sourced Kn-23 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM), S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, and at least one Kh-22 anti-ship supersonic cruise missile killing 15 and wounding almost 70.<sup>5</sup>

The S-300s have too short of a flight time from their firing positions in Belgorod to reach a targeting solution, and the Kn-23 and Kh-22 can only be intercepted by the Patriot or SAMP/T air defense systems.

The third attack  [hit a school and civilian infrastructure](#), wounding at least nine, with three in hospital.<sup>6 7 8 9 10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/zloyodessit/20877>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/28449>

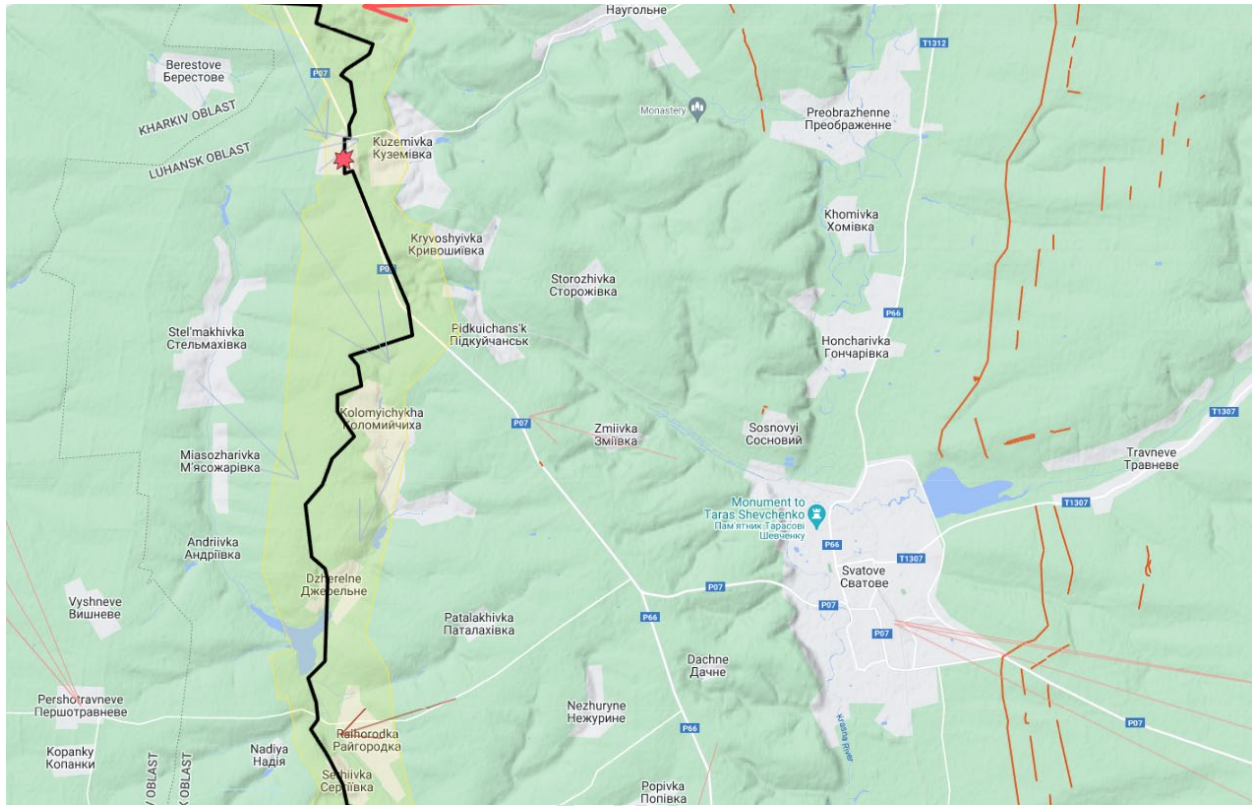
<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123733>

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133432>

<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133421>

<sup>10</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/55450](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/55450)

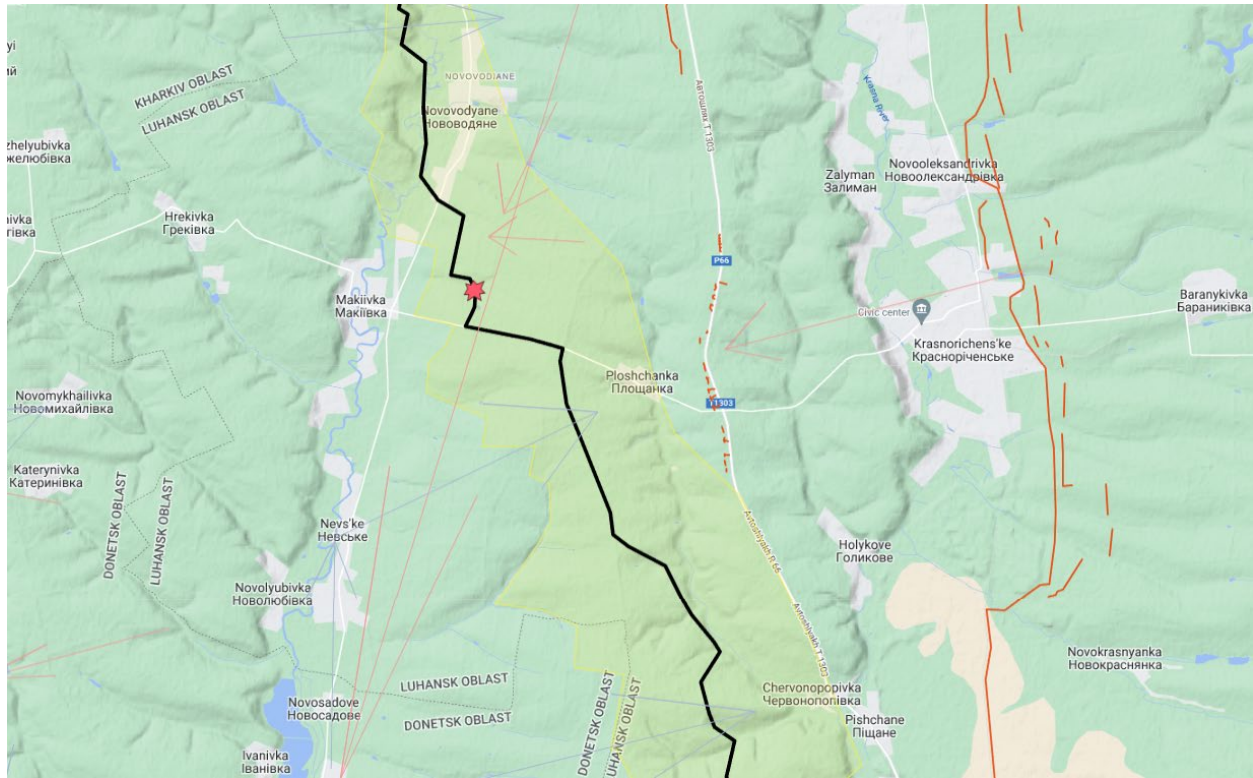




**In the Svatove AO in Kharkiv, Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported fighting in the area of Berestove with no change in the situation.<sup>11</sup>**

<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>

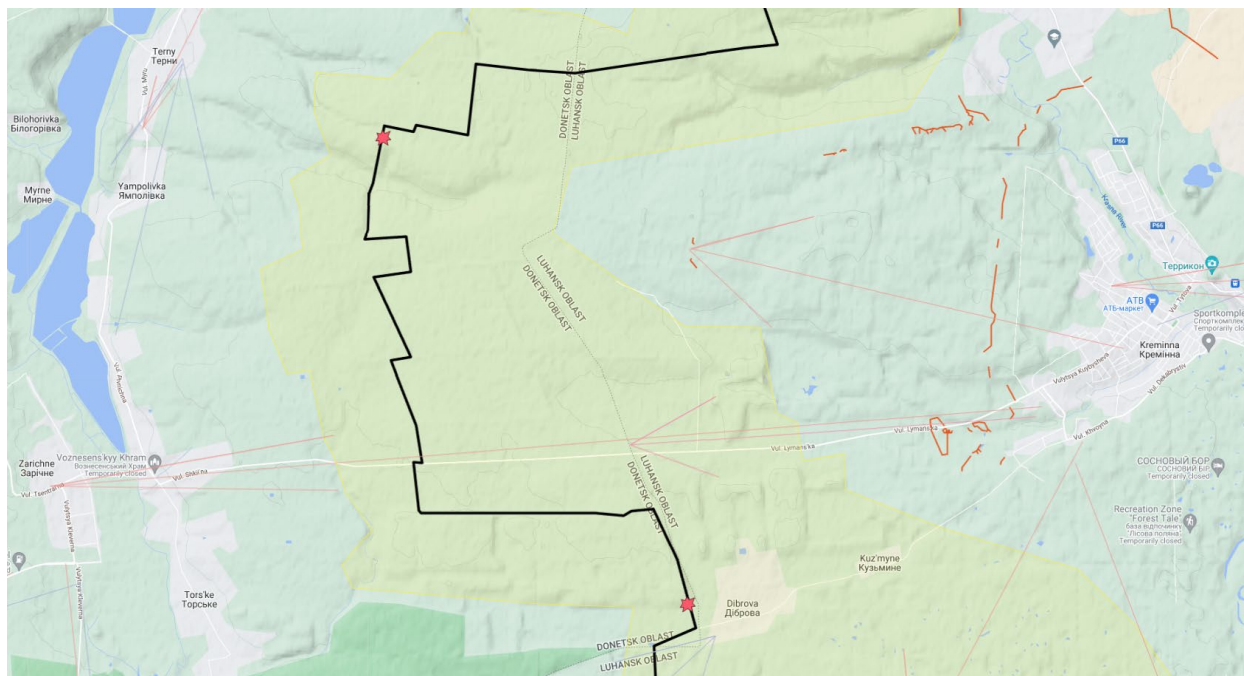





**Northwest of Kreminna in Luhansk, RMOD claimed Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the area of [Makiivka](#).**<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]



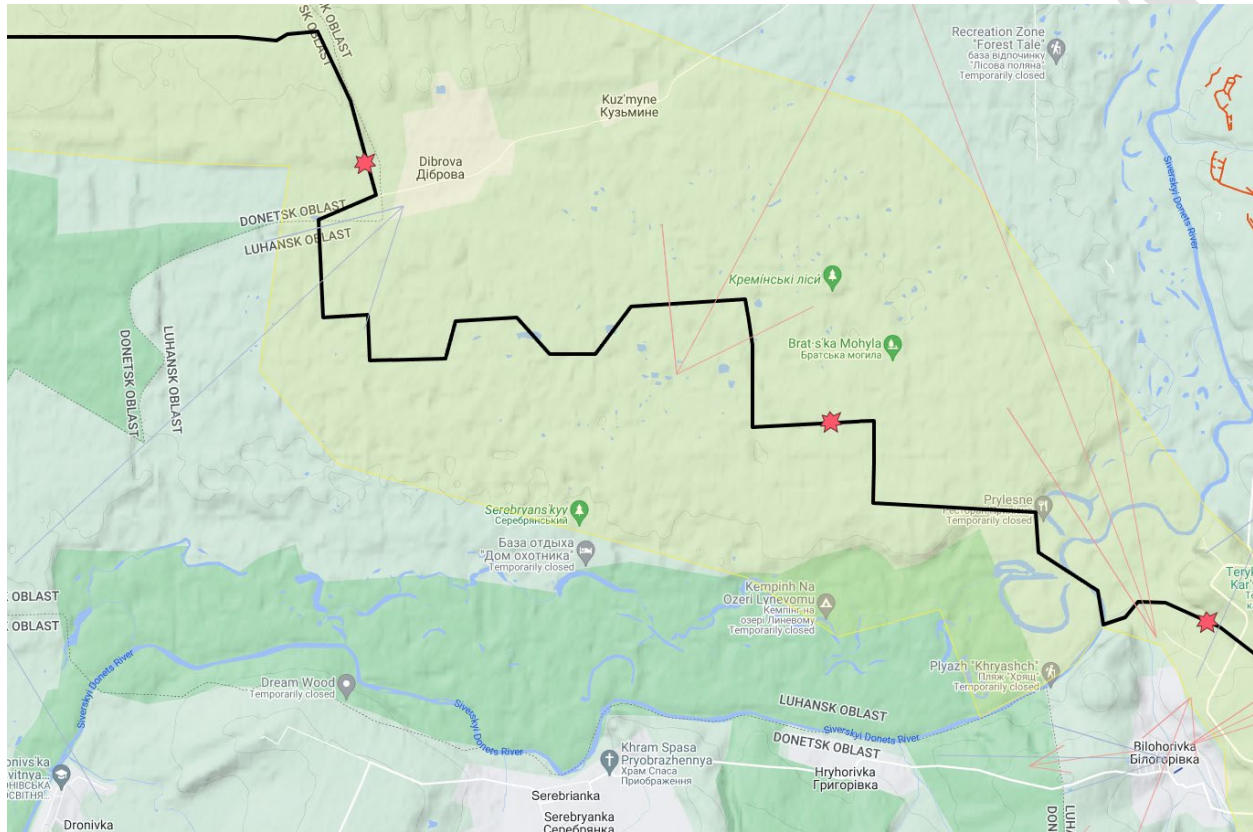
West of Kreminna, Russian light infantry attempted to reinforce their positions in the treelines east of [Terny](#) [Donetsk] and [Yampolivka](#) [Donetsk]. The Ukrainian 63rd Mechanized Brigade  [counterattacked with tanks](#), pushing Russian forces out of the treelines.<sup>13 14 15</sup> We adjusted the map based on the new video, terrain analysis, and Russia's inability to hold what we previously assessed as the line of conflict. We also made small adjustments to the gray area east of Yampolivka. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported an attempted

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/18654>

<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>15</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]

Russian advance in the district of [Torske](#) [Donetsk] was also unsuccessful.<sup>16</sup>



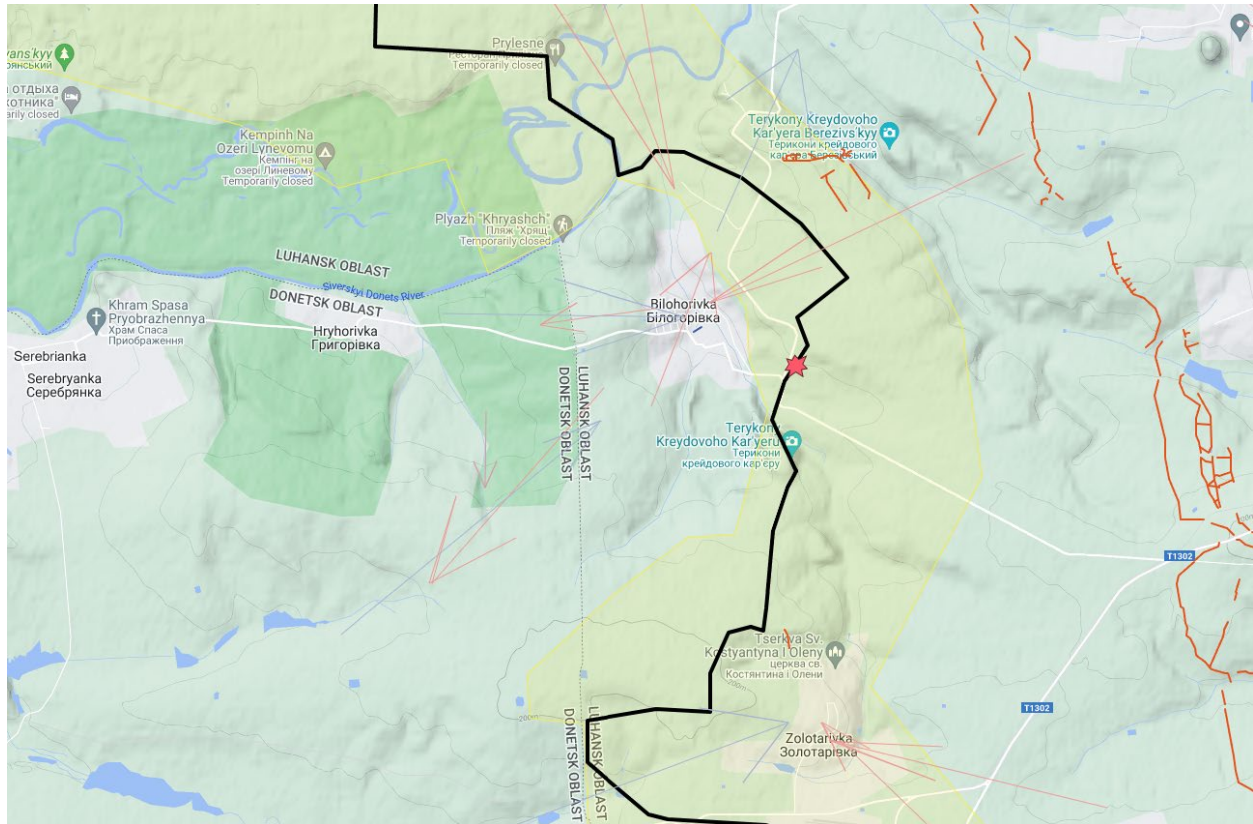
RMOD claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive south of [Dibrova](#), and GSAFU reported positional fighting in the [Serebriankiy Woods](#).<sup>17 18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>18</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]





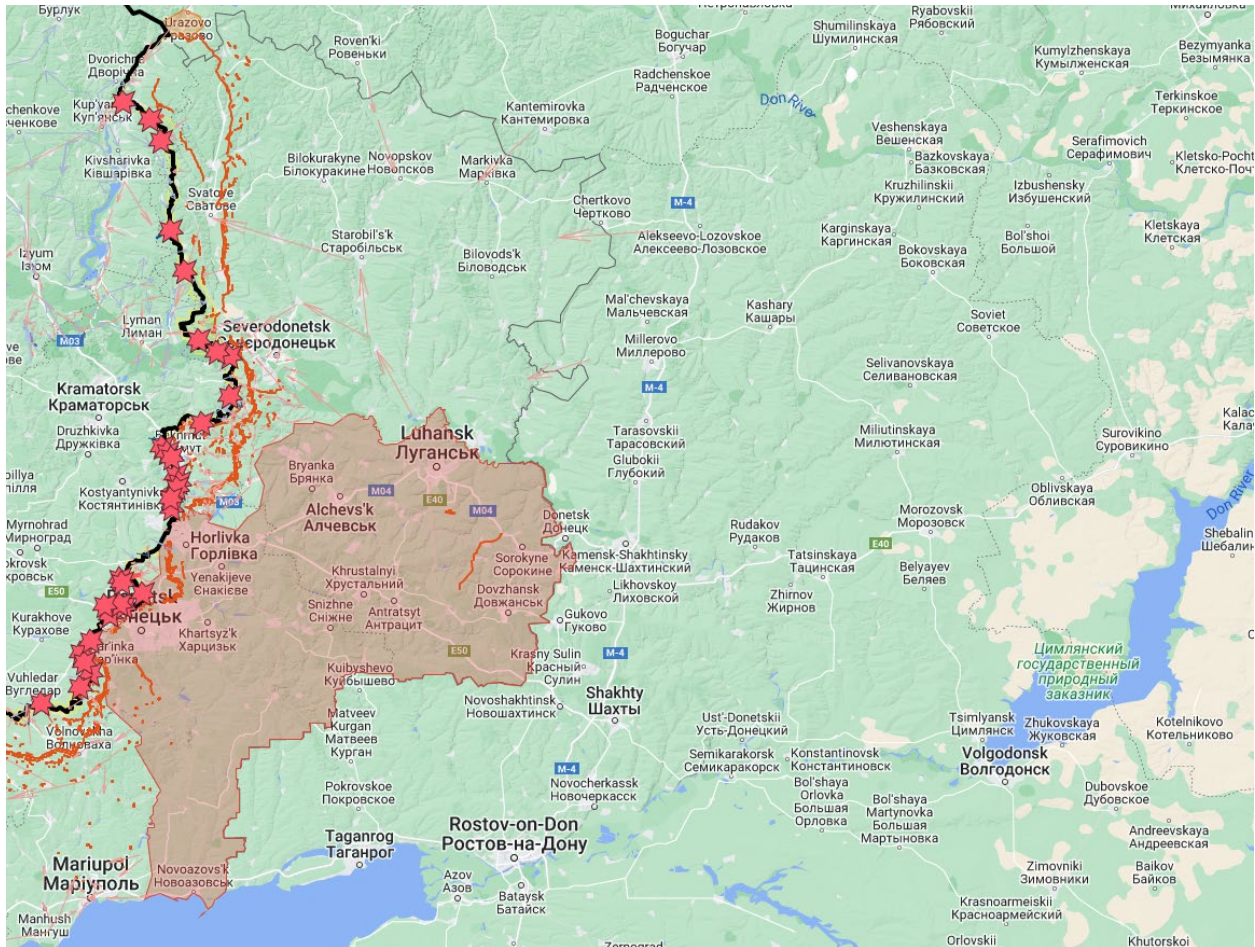
**In the Lysychansk AO, Russian troops, supported by the Aerospace Forces (VKS), made another significant attempt to advance on [Bilohorivka](#) from the north, suffered heavy casualties, and retreated in disarray to their previous defensive positions.<sup>19 20</sup>**

<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

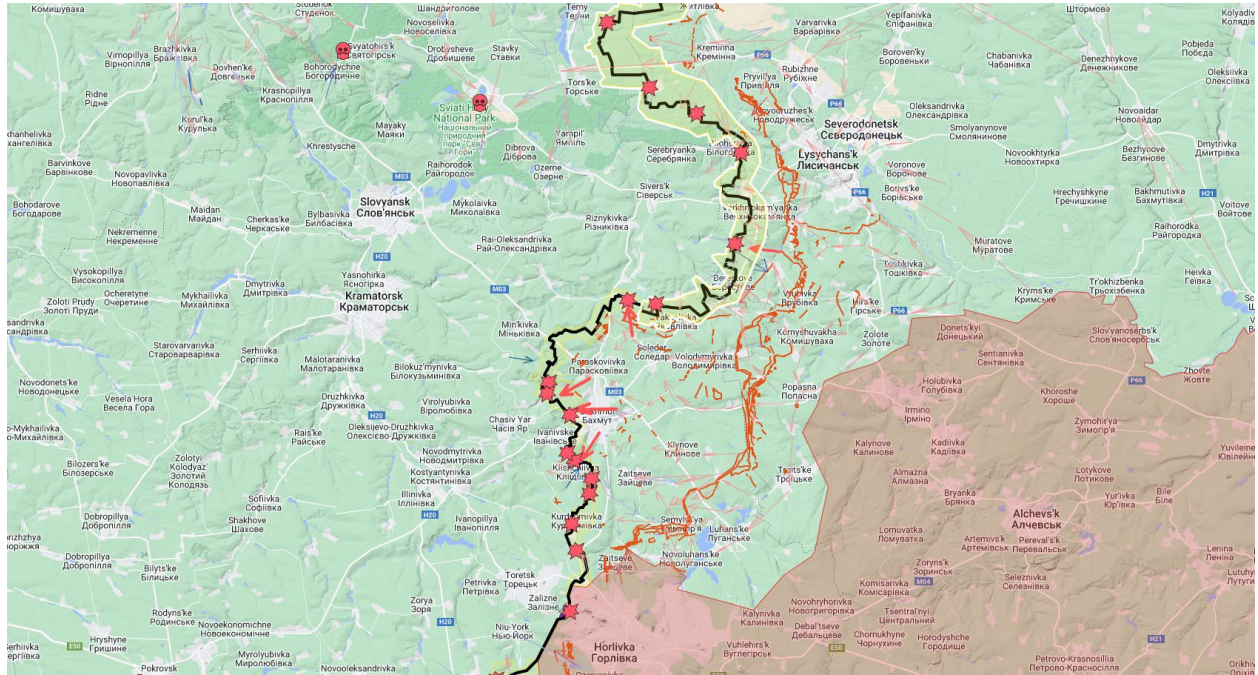
<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



# DONBAS REGION



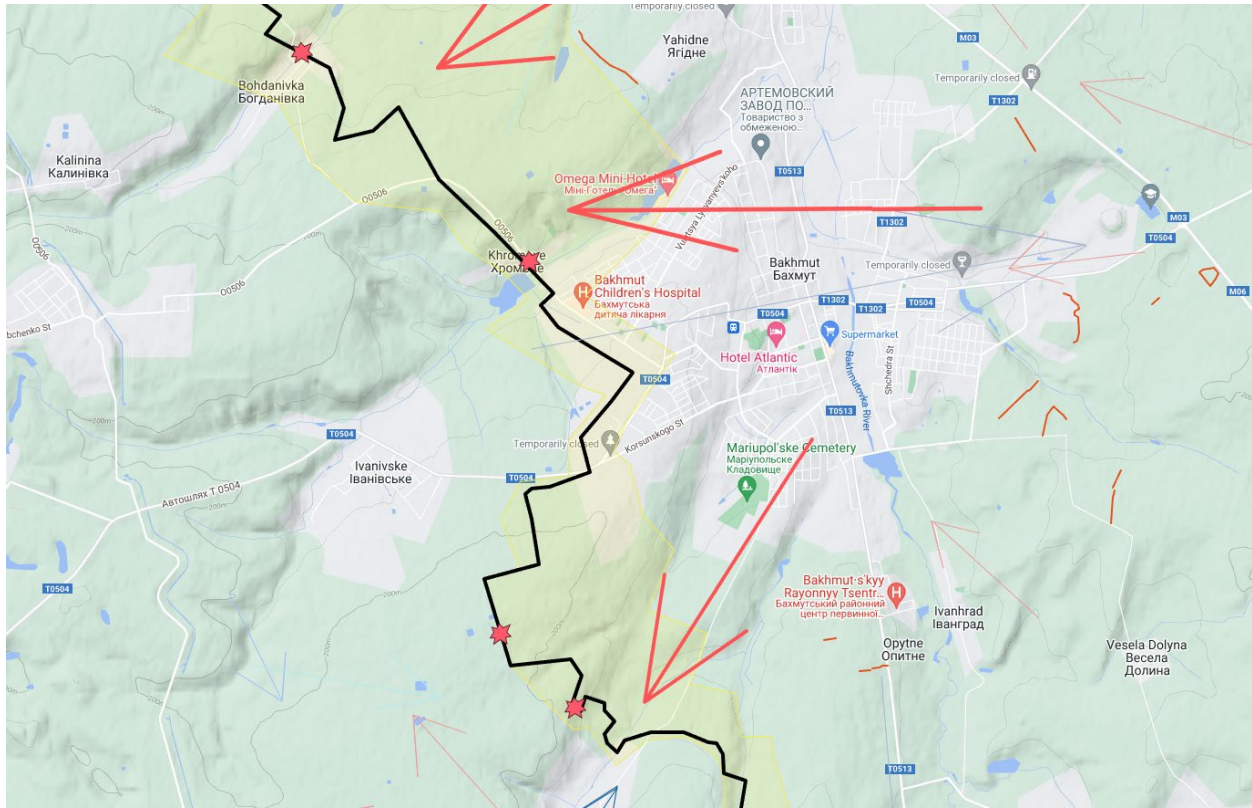
# NORTHEAST DONETSK



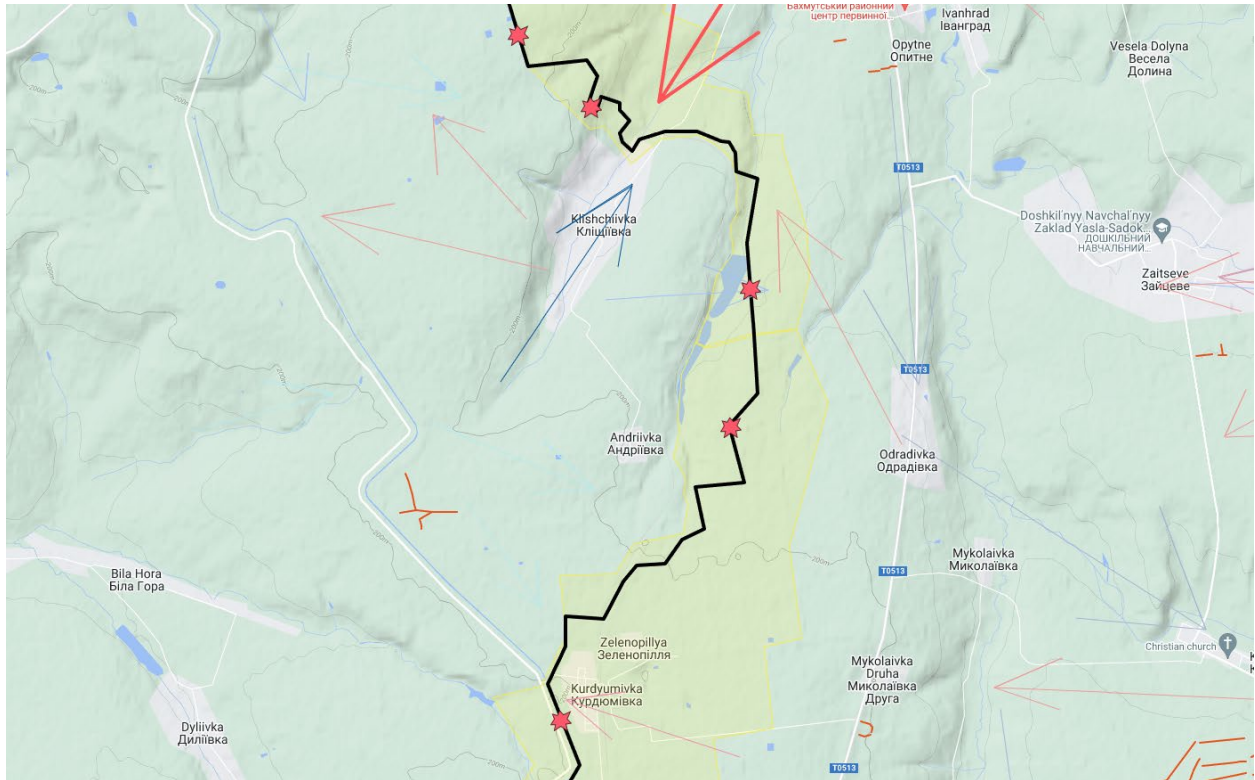
**Russian Objective:** Capture Chasiv Yar and Kostyantynivka by March 13, 2024, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk, Chasiv Yar, and Kostyantynivka, stabilize more advantageous defensive lines on the north flank of Bakhmut for winter, harden existing defensive lines, and minimize civilian casualties





In the **Bakhmut AO**, fighting continued on the northern edge of [Bohdanivka](#), near [Khromove](#), and east of [Ivanivske](#), with no change in the situation.

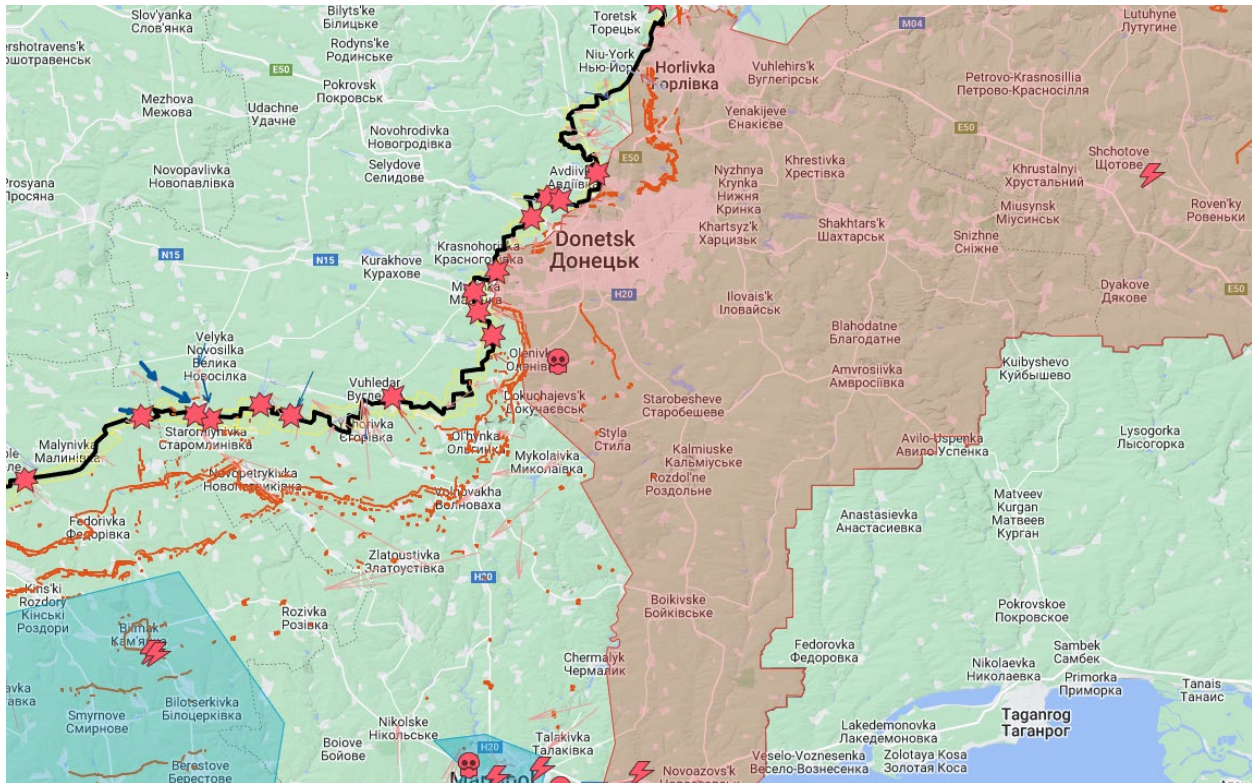


## In the Klishchiivka AO, positional fighting continued northwest and east of [Klishchiivka](#).<sup>21 22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>

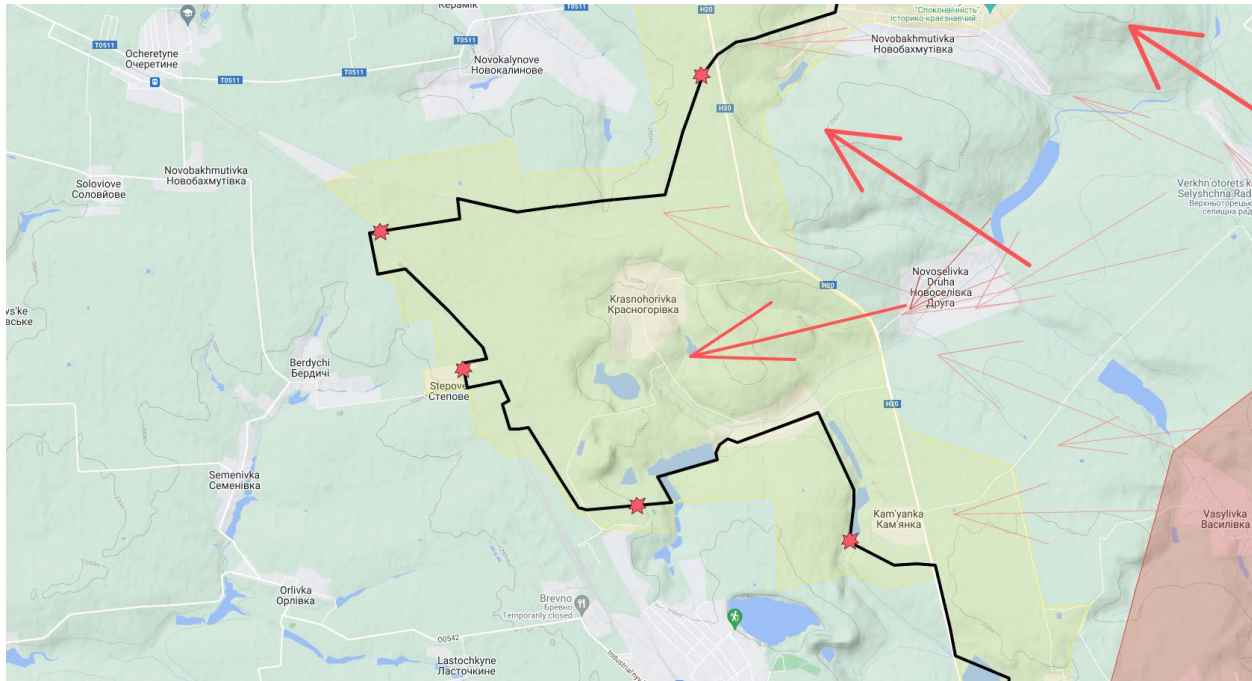
# SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Capture the Avdiivka AO by March 13, 2024, capture the remainder of the Donetsk Oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold and harden existing defensive lines, prevent the capture of Avdiivka, protect civilian lives



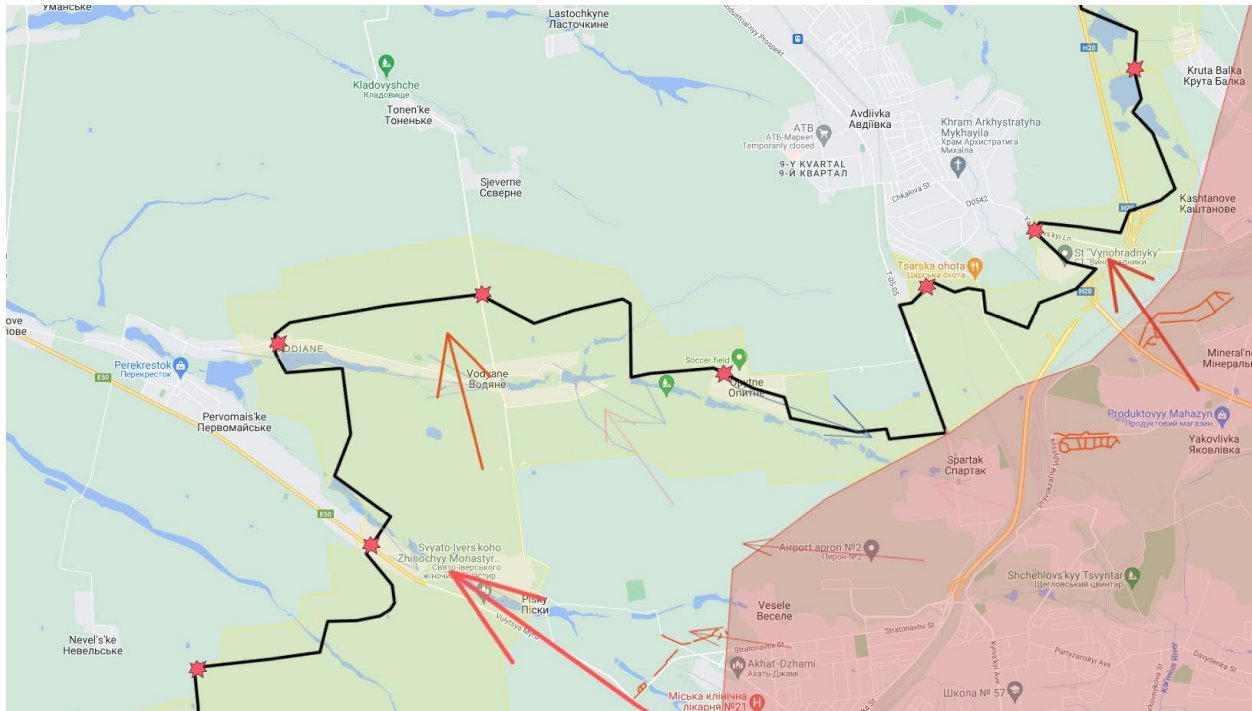


**The tactical gains made by Russian forces on the southern flank of the Avdiivka AO were overstated and Ukrainian forces have restabilized their defensive lines. The number of Russian attacks continues to decline, but the number of light infantry troops involved in each attack has increased.**

On the northern flank, Russian forces renewed attempts to advance along the railroad grade southeast of [Novobakhmutivka](#), east of [Stepove](#), and northeast of the [Avdiivka Coke Plant](#).<sup>23 24</sup>

<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



The Avdiivka City Military and Administrative Governor, Vitalii Barabash, said that Russia was now “just mounting assaults” on this front and had stopped using smaller squad-sized units. During an interview with Ukrainian Pravda Live, Barabash was asked directly about the status of the [Tsarska Ohota Resort](#) on Soborna Street, saying that Russian forces were pushed out and Ukrainian forces have reoccupied the area for the last “two to three days.”<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/01/23/7438541/>

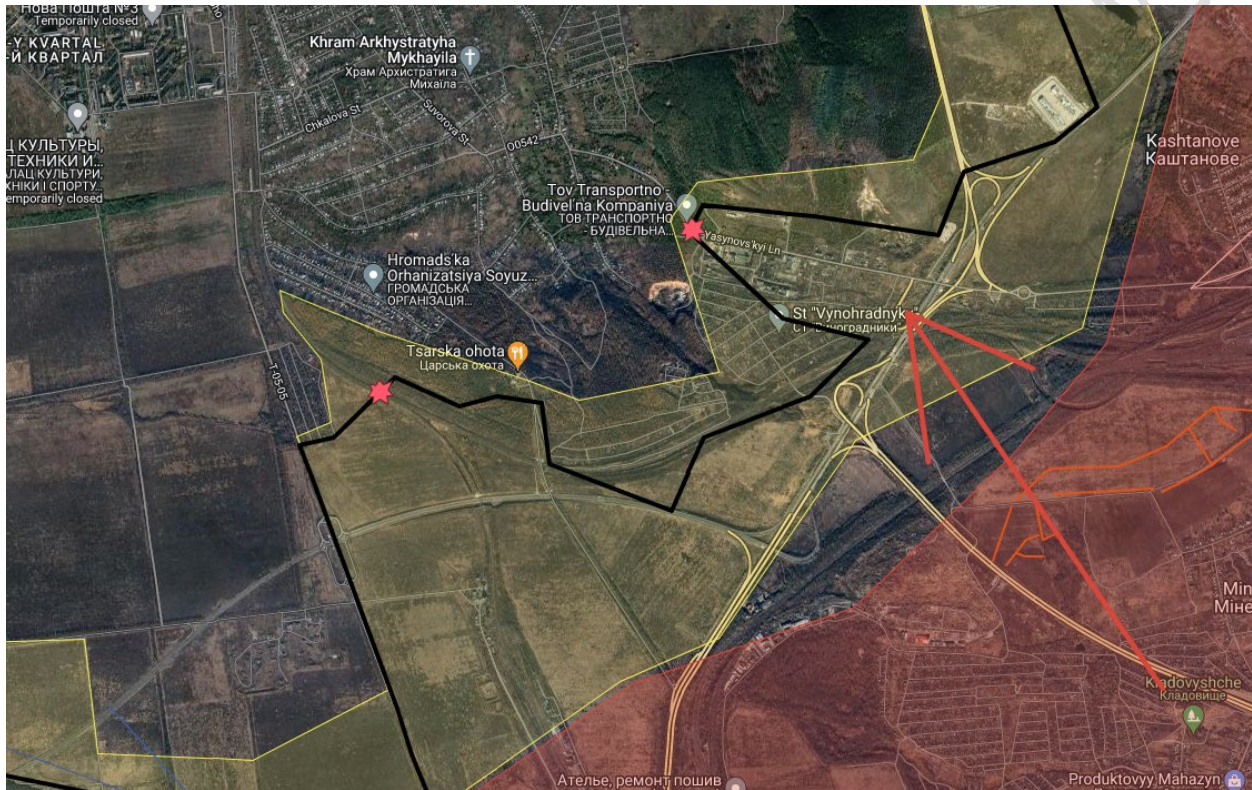


Sentinel Hub EO Browser Sentinel-2LA true color satellite images from January 23 show that everything south of Soborna Street has been destroyed by artillery and air strikes. The saturation of artillery strikes is indicative of Russian tactics. Imaging also showed the Russian T-505 Highway ground line of communication (GLOC – supply line) that leads into Avdiivka is under Ukrainian fire control.

Russian propagandist Seymon Pegov wrote that battles were ongoing “on the southeastern outskirts” of Avdiivka, further reinforcing that Russian troops did not consolidate



their gains after advancing into the southern part of the city. The saturation of artillery fire is indicative of Russian tactics.



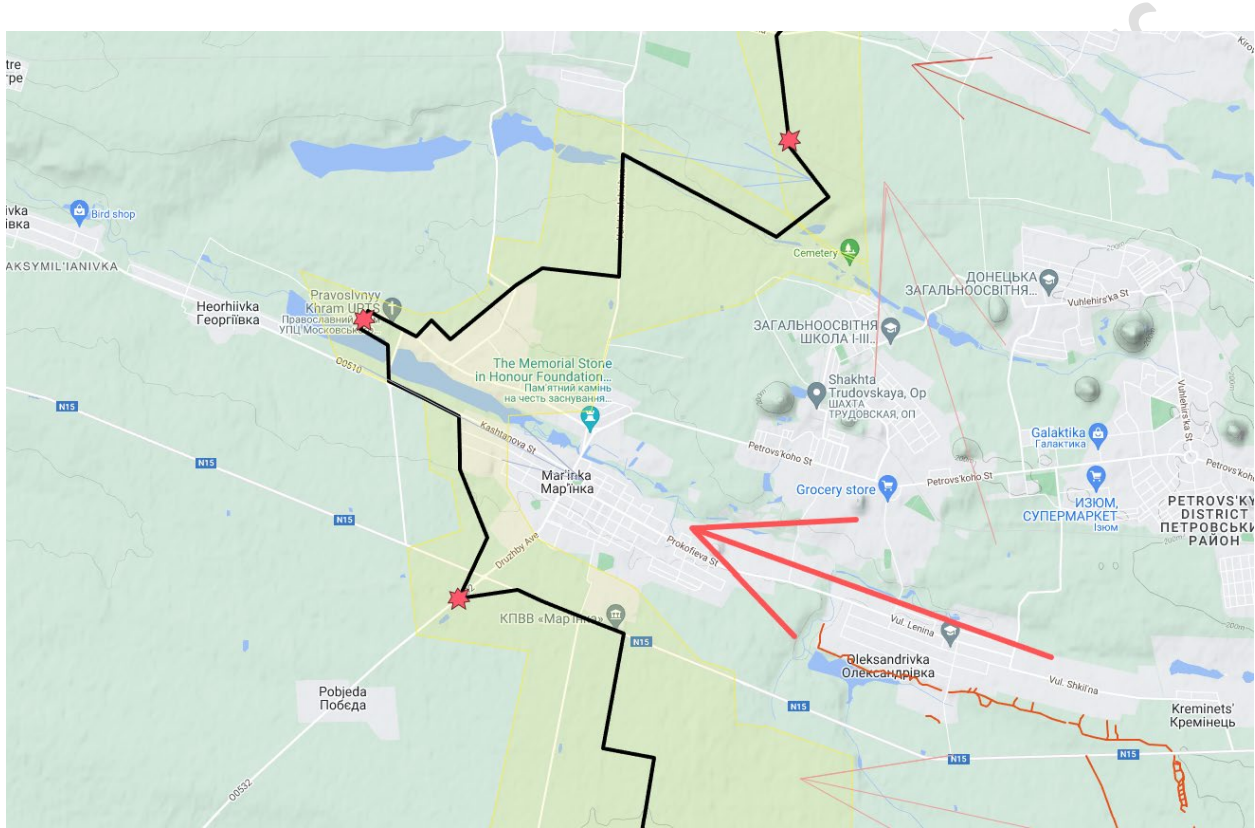
Based on all of the available information, we assess that Russian forces are not in the southern part of Avdiivka, and we adjusted the line of conflict and gray area.<sup>26</sup>

Further west on the southern flank of Avdiivka, Russian troops tried to advance through the no man's land between

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



## Vodyane and Sieverne and continued their attacks in the areas of Pervomaiske and Nevelske.<sup>27 28</sup>



<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15183>

<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



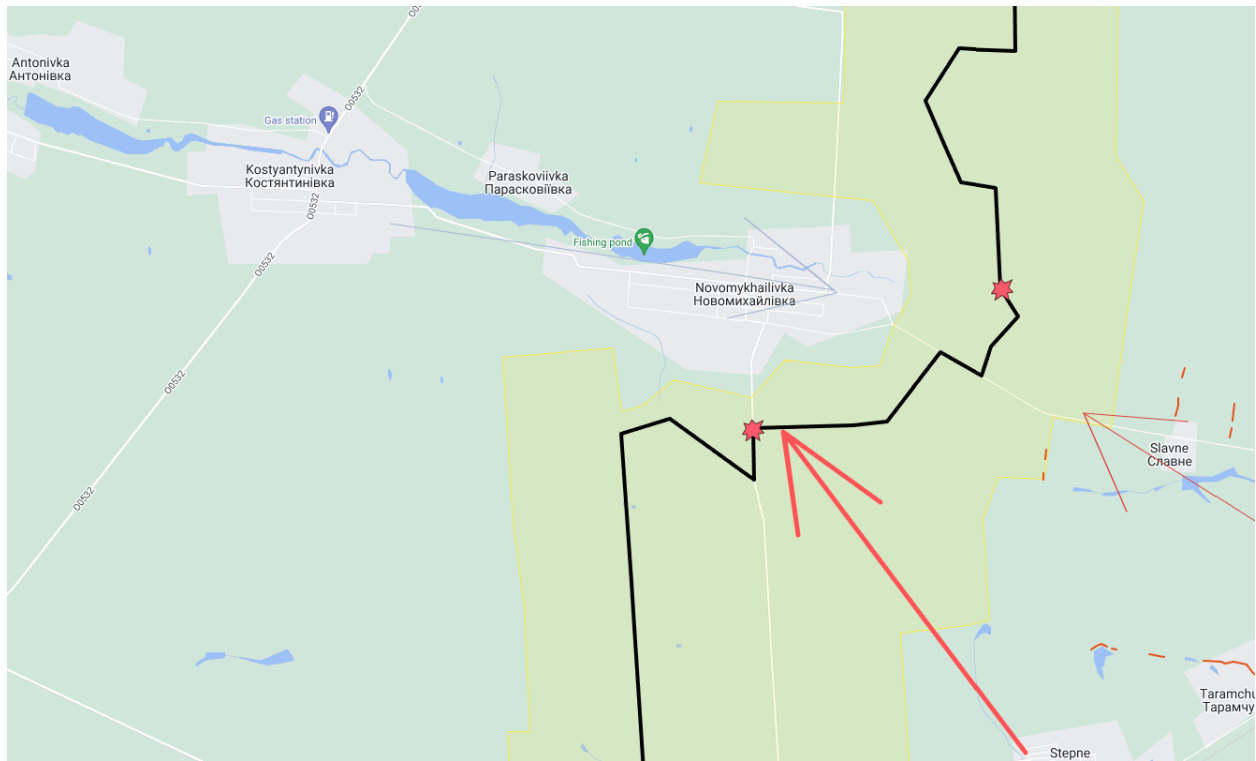
**In the Marinka AO, Sentinel-2LA true color satellite images indicated that Russian troops had made marginal gains east of [Heorhiivka](#) on the north bank of the fishing reservoir.<sup>29 30 31</sup> The new imaging also verified the line of conflict south of Marinka in the direction of [Pobieda](#). Based on the new information, the line of conflict was adjusted west of Marinka, and the gray area was expanded.**

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<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/odshbr46/1484>

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15184>

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



**In the Vuledar AO, Russian troops continued their attacks on the outskirts of [Novomykhailivka](#), with no change in the situation.<sup>32 33 34 35</sup> The gray area was adjusted based on satellite imaging and terrain analysis.**

<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/odshbr46/1484>

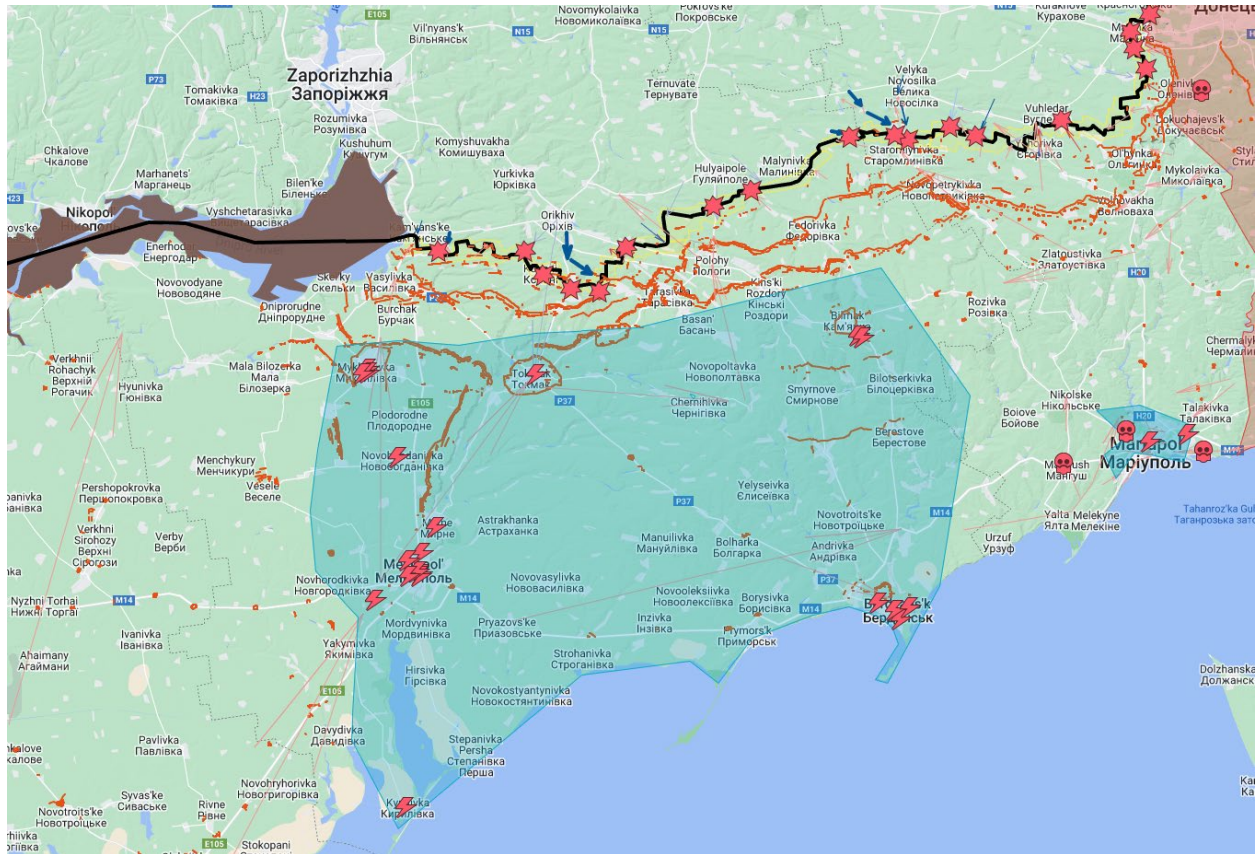
<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15184>

<sup>34</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>



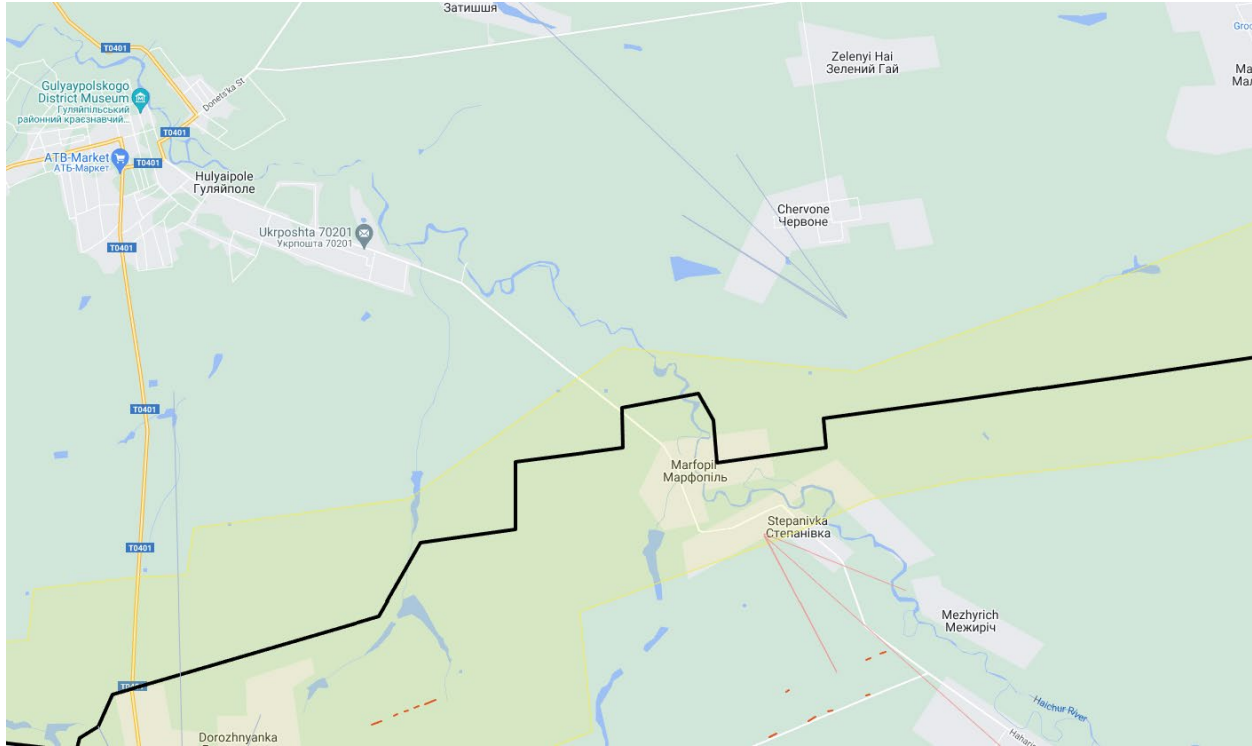
# ZAPORIZHZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Retake positions lost over the summer and terrorize Ukrainian civilians

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold existing defensive positions, build an echelon defense of static fortifications, minimize civilian casualties





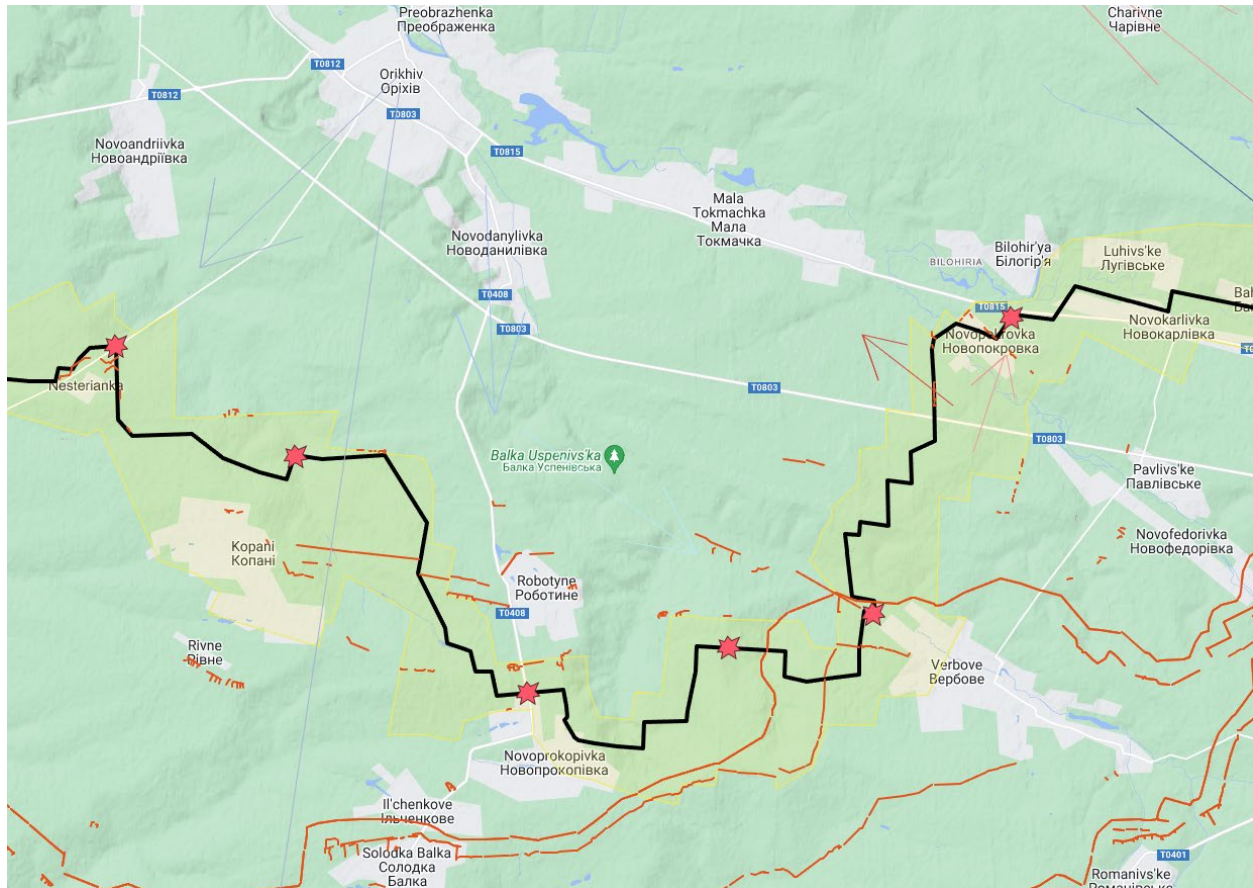
**In Zaporizhzhia, fighting was ongoing in the Hulyaipole AO. Sentinel-2LA imaging showed that Russian forces were attacking southeast of [Chervone](#), with GSAFU reporting that a Russian attack in the area was repulsed.<sup>36</sup>**

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<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15184>



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In Zaporizhzhia, there was only light fighting in the Orikhiv AO, west of [Verbove](#) and west and south of [Robotyne](#).<sup>37 38 39</sup>

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the appointment of Ivan Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol, as the new Military and Administrative Governor (OVA) for the Zaporizhzhia Oblast.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15184>

<sup>38</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/34938](https://t.me/mod_russia/34938) [Russian Government-controlled social media channel]

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>

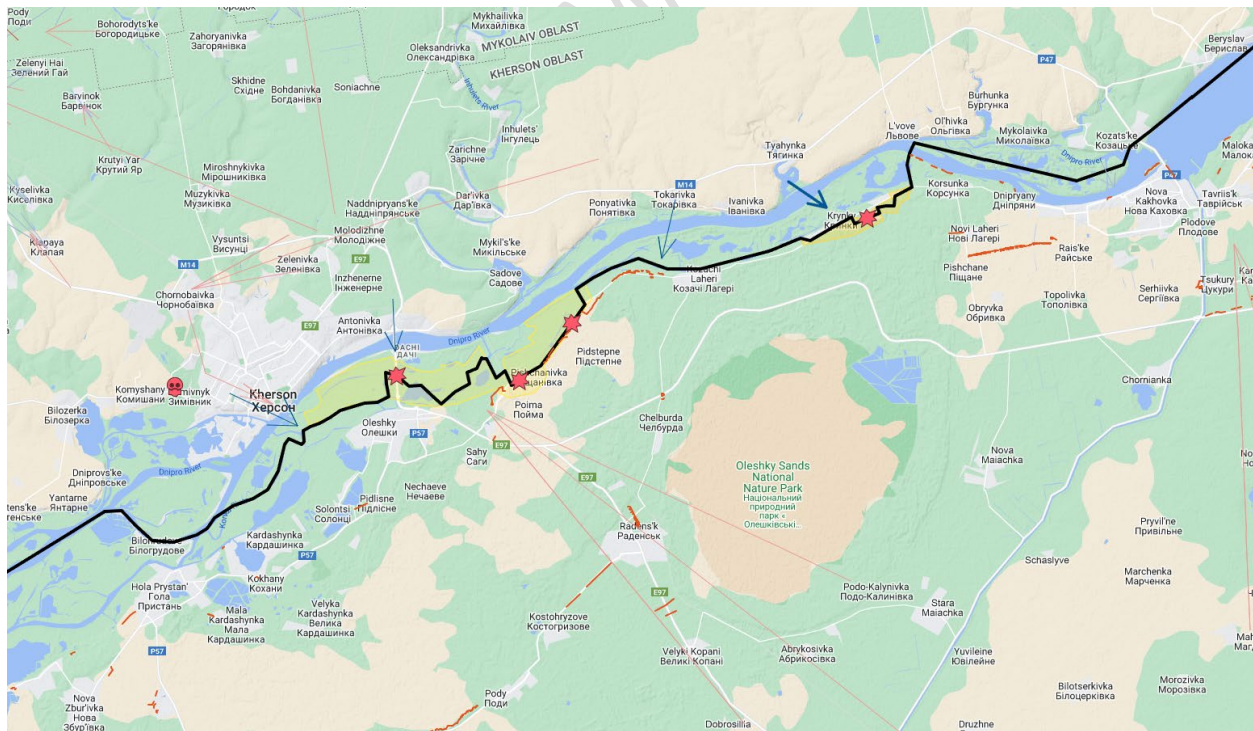
<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123699>



# KHERSON

**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukrainian forces from reaching the T-2206 Highway south of the Konka River, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

**Ukrainian Objective:** Maintain the existing bridgeheads on the left bank of the Dnipro and Konka Rivers, lock Russian troops and reserves in place, and minimize civilian casualties





**In the Kherson AO, fighting continued in [Krynky](#) and the forests to the south, with Ukrainian forces repelling seven attacks.**<sup>41 42</sup>

Free Kherson, including the city of Kherson and Beryslav, were relentlessly shelled and hit by multiple airstrikes.<sup>43</sup> A pensioner in Kherson and a woman in the village of Sablukivka, far north of the fighting along the Dnipro, were killed in separate attacks.<sup>44 45</sup>

Kherson Oblast OVA Alexander Prokudin said that Russian drone operators were now intentionally targeting individual civilians outside and their private residences.<sup>46</sup> The attacks have continued while Russian troops on the left bank of the Dnipro and Konka Rivers continue to complain about a lack of artillery support, superior Ukrainian drone operations, and a sharp reduction in close air support.

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<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/15184>

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/17743>

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/2610>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/2608>

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/2601>

<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/2598>

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

The Russian Black Sea Fleet has 12 ships on patrol, including a frigate and a Kilo-class submarine, capable of launching up to 12 Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>47</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

There wasn't any significant activity reported.

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<sup>47</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/55428](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/55428)

## 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:** Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

**In the Sumy oblast,** critical infrastructure in the city of Shostka was hit by a Russian missile.<sup>48</sup> Further details were not provided.

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/01/23/7438483/>



## RUSSIAN FRONT

**Russian Objective:** Tighten government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, 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

**In the Belgorod region,** during an air raid, a Russian Il-76 transport plane was recorded crashing  [with the entire front section already sheared off](#) and the plane breaking up.<sup>49 50</sup> Russian and Ukrainian sources claim Ukraine shot the plane down, and all 63 onboard were killed. However, the video linked in the SITREP clearly shows that Russian air defense was active at the time of the crash. Flight tracking shows the plane was departing Belgorod. We believe that claims the plane was carrying Ukrainian POWs are false, as Russia has a standing policy not to transfer prisoners by aircraft for security reasons. The airframe loss


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<sup>49</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1750081419555086832>

<sup>50</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1750097262829568288>

represents one percent of Russia's entire military heavy airlift capability.

**In the Bryansk region,** Russia claimed that a drone struck the oil terminal in Zheca but did not penetrate the fuel storage tank.

**In the Leningrad Region,** Russia has started deploying  [additional S-300 air defense batteries](#) in response to Ukrainian drone strikes. Almost 20 oil tankers are now staged outside of the Ust-Luga Oil Terminal, which remains closed.<sup>51</sup>

**In Vladivostok, Russia,** two large electrical substations in different parts of the city simultaneously exploded, knocking out power to over 100,000 residents.<sup>52</sup> Ukrainian officials made no claims of an attack, and Russian officials labeled the incident as an accident. In our assessment, the event was highly unusual, and it is unlikely that it was not caused by human intervention.

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<sup>51</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/8089](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/8089)

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123692>


## POLAND

During Russia's missile attack on Ukraine, Poland placed their defenses on high alert and scrambled F-16 fighters to protect its air space. An unnamed NATO allied nation also repositioned an aerial refueling tanker to eastern Poland to support the F-16s.

## THEATERWIDE

On January 23, there were only 42 combat clashes reported across Ukraine, down two-thirds from a week ago. Our analyst team is perplexed about why Russia launched a brief wave of attacks that did not produce significant results. In the Kupyansk, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Marinka AOs, where tactical gains were achieved, Russian troops appear to lack sufficient combat power to reach their larger operation goals. Russian commanders also appear to be struggling to find a way to shift the attritional warfare math to a ratio that is more favorable for their operations. The situation would be even more favorable for Ukraine if its forces were not on the brink of catastrophic ammunition shortages.



The spokesman for the Ukrainian Air Force, Colonel Yuri Ignat, said that some Russian missiles fired against Ukraine on January 23 did not reach their targets due to “obsolescence, malfunctions, and interference” from electronic warfare systems.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, pictures of missile debris showed that at least one of the Kh-101 cruise missiles used  [was produced in December 2023](#).<sup>54</sup>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that over 130 were wounded and another 18 killed during the overnight and morning attacks.<sup>55</sup> Fifteen were killed in Kharkiv, two in Kherson, and one in Dnipropetrovsk. One victim in Kyiv is brain-dead and currently counted as wounded.<sup>56</sup>

The Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council of the White House, John Kirby, told reporters that Moscow was saturating Ukrainian air defenses and air defense missiles were critically low. “That’s why the supply of military aid to Ukraine is critical. Right now, they [*Ukraine – Ed.*] have to make difficult

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<sup>53</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/8088](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/8088)

<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133349>

<sup>55</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133419>

<sup>56</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133420>

choices about which targets to shoot down and in which cases to save [resources]."<sup>57</sup>

Shortly after the Russian missile attack, Prime Minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, repeated Kremlin and conspiracy talking points, telling a reporter, "Do you seriously think that there is a war in Kyiv? You are joking, please. I hope you are not serious. Go there, and you will see that life is normal in the city, absolutely normal life."<sup>58</sup>

Ukraine confirmed that on August 30, 2023, Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GUR), Colonel Oleg Babii, was killed in action while crossing the Russia-Ukraine border. Colonel Babii led the operation that destroyed a Russian Tu-22M3 bomber and damaged two more on August 19 at the Soltsy-2 Military Airfield in the Novgorod region. The sabotage unit traveled over 600 kilometers into Russia to fly short-range one-way drones into the parked strategic bombers.<sup>59</sup> <sup>60</sup> Babii was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine and Order of the Golden Star.

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<sup>57</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/55438](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/55438)

<sup>58</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/55429](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/55429)

<sup>59</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133430>

<sup>60</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123731>

Last week, the United States Department of Justice announced the arrest of Russian, Israeli, and United States citizen Ilya Kahn for the illegal export of sensitive controlled technologies to Russia.<sup>61</sup> <sup>62</sup> Kahn is the owner of Senesys Incorporated and Sensor Design Association, which allegedly worked with a Taiwan forge to produce semiconductors that were shipped to the sanctioned Russian Company, Elvees Research and Design Center. In 2022, when the Taiwan chip producer refused to ship directly to Russia, Kahn purportedly had them shipped to the United States and then arranged transit to Elvees Research. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison.

The Turkish Parliament has approved Sweden's accession to the NATO Alliance, and it now awaits the signature of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of Türkiye.<sup>63</sup> The Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, invited his Swedish counterpart, Ulf Kristersson, to "negotiate" for NATO membership.<sup>64</sup> Previously, Orbán had said that he would ask the Hungarian Parliament to approve membership after the Turkish approval.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/01/20/7438174/>

<sup>62</sup> [United States Department of Justice](#) [United States Government Controlled Website]

<sup>63</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/8092](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/8092)

<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/12016>



During the 18th meeting of the Ramstein Working Group, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin reiterated, "The United States does not have any credible evidence of misuse or illegal transfer to third parties of American weapons provided to Ukraine" and added that the U.S. has no additional funds to support Ukraine.<sup>65</sup> During the confab, the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Rustem Umerov, said that Russian artillery had a six-to-one advantage, and the situation was deteriorating.<sup>66</sup>

Canada announced a new military aid package of ten Zodiac Hurricane patrol boats and training for Ukrainian forces in their operation.<sup>67</sup> Ottawa also committed to providing instructors to train Ukrainian pilots.

Germany announced it would deliver six Sikorsky Sea King S-61 helicopters to Ukraine, and train their fight and support crews.<sup>68</sup> The Sea King is a multirole naval focused helicopter with similar capabilities to the Russian Mi-14.

The Secretary-General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, announced that an agreement had been reached to buy

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<sup>65</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133393>

<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/UaNazhyvo/63413>

<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133426>

<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133423>

“hundreds of thousands of 155-millimeter shells” using \$1.2 billion in NATO funds.<sup>69</sup> With production remaining constrained and current orders backlogged to 2025, it was unclear what nation or nations were producing the shells or a timeline.

Ukraine reported that in 2024, the country would receive a new weapon that does not exist yet that will help strike Russian troops and their logistics hubs.<sup>70</sup>

United States Senator James Lankford (R-OK) announced that while progress had been made on reaching an agreement for an immigration reform package and military aid for Ukraine, there was still work to be done, and discussions had ended for the week.<sup>71</sup> Lankford remained optimistic that a vote would be brought to the Senate floor next week.

***Editor's Note: Must...not...write...rant...***

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<sup>69</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133336>

<sup>70</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133414>

<sup>71</sup> [Politco](#)



The table for equipment losses was **updated on January 15, 2024**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

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## RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to January 15, 2024. 13,851 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,978 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	2432	339	7.17:1	↓
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	180	393	0.46:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	1127	346	3.26:1	↑
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	3261	828	3.94:1	—
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	388*	388*	1.00:1	—
<b>MRAPs</b>	50*	196	0.26:1	—
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	235	401	0.59:1	—
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	266	18	14.77:1	↑
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	369*	102	3.62:1	—
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	336	181	1.86:1	↓
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	657	269	2.44:1	↑
<b>MLRS</b>	337	51*	6.61:1	—
<b>SAMs</b>	214	133	1.61:1	↑
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	57	87	0.66:1	↑
<b>EW/ECW</b>	68	5	13.60:1	↑
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	100	79	1.27:1	↓
<b>Helicopters</b>	141	36	3.91:1	—
<b>Naval Vessels and Submarines</b>	20	28	0.71:1	—

## RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR

The United Kingdom provided the United Nations with satellite images as evidence that North Korea is supplying Russia with ammunition, missiles, and military supplies. The Russian cargo ships Maya, Angara, and Maria were in the North Korean port of Najin, and all three are known weapons carriers.<sup>72</sup>

In the occupied settlement of Amvrosiivka, Donetsk, near the Russian border, a truck driver discovered that a landfill was  [full of military aid meant for Russian troops](#).<sup>73</sup> The equipment had been destroyed by heavy equipment and included stretchers, winter clothing, and medical supplies. Russian officials have opened an investigation. State Duma Deputy and member of the Committee on Labor, Social Policy and Veterans Affairs Ekaterina Stenyakina called the incident a criminal act of sabotage.

January has been a brutal month for senior field officers in the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

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<sup>72</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/55193](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/55193)

<sup>73</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46706>

On January 16, Lieutenant Colonel Andrey Kharchenko, the deputy regimental commander for military and political work of the 1125th Motor Rifle Regiment, was killed in action.<sup>74</sup> The 1125th is apparently a new Territorial Guard unit in the Russian Armed Forces. Military and political work includes blocking troops. When senior political officers are near the line of conflict, it indicates there is a major incident of insubordination or desertion. Additionally, personnel shortages can force political work troops to engage in combat instead of threatening to shoot their own retreating forces.

Earlier in the month, Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Manshin died of a heart attack during fighting. Manshin was a little green man in 2014, participating in the Russian invasion of the Donbas.<sup>75</sup>

On January 21, Lieutenant Colonel Evgeniy Dragunovsky, battalion commander of combat engineers, was killed in action.<sup>76</sup> Finally, two more Lieutenant Colonels, Nikolay Samarin of the 24th Motor Rifle Regiment and Igor

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<sup>74</sup> <https://x.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1749741022500807131>

<sup>75</sup> <https://x.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1749443545637818405>

<sup>76</sup> <https://x.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1749407151959716210>

Kompaneets of the 26th Motor Rifle Regiment were killed in action in the Orikhiv AO.<sup>77</sup>

Colonel Roman Torokhov was killed in action in late 2023. It was announced he had been awarded the title Hero of Russia on December 16, posthumously, after being killed in action in Ukraine.<sup>78</sup>

On January 15, Major Viktor Klymov, test pilot and the deputy training commander of the 1338th Shchelkovo Test Center, Chkalovsky Military Airfield, Moscow, was killed when an anti-aircraft missile hit the Il-22M command and control aircraft he was piloting.<sup>79</sup> The co-pilot was able to land the plane and is reportedly severely injured.

The Russian Officers Killed in Ukraine Project has documented 3,450 military officers killed since February 24, 2022. The number does not include Chechen officers prior to July 1, 2023, or officers who were within the ranks of the so-called Donetsk and People's Republics at the time of their death. The actual number of killed Russian officers is higher.


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<sup>77</sup> [https://twitter.com/666\\_mancer/status/1747614046478602521](https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1747614046478602521)

<sup>78</sup> <https://twitter.com/KilledInUkraine/status/1750099637724201392>

<sup>79</sup> [https://t.me/a\\_shtirlitz/28931](https://t.me/a_shtirlitz/28931)



A new Russian “Frankentank” was discovered, with pictures showing T-80 tank hulls with  [RBU-6000 212 mm naval antisubmarine rocket launchers](#) mounted to them.<sup>80</sup> Over the summer, pictures showed the RBU-6000 complex had been mounted to the MT-LB armored personnel carrier, and at least one of the “Franken-APCs” was destroyed. The rockets only have a range of 4,300 meters, and it is unclear if this modification was made due to shortages of T-80 tank turrets, shortages of BM-21 Grad rocket multiple launch rocket systems, or due to an excess of RBU-6000 launchers and ammunition.

***Editor's Note:*** *I can't imagine that these will hold up well to a first-person view (FPV) one-way drone attack.*

Russian soldier and milblogger Andrei Morozov, better known as Murz, disassembled and inspected the new Russian Combat Aura Dome 10 antidrone system, and shared his thoughts.<sup>81</sup> His conclusion was the system was a good way to “waste 50 watts” of electrical power, adding, “I sense that the battalion commander’s phrase ‘The Chinese failed’ will become a meme.”


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<sup>80</sup> <https://x.com/JanR210/status/1749551826494456222>

<sup>81</sup> <https://t.me/wehearfromyanina/3352>

In other news, Morozov claimed that China is providing Russia with antidrone electronic warfare technology. He doesn't think it will work, but it is an apparent escalation in the support China is providing Russia.

Frustration is growing among wives and mothers of mobiks who were conscripted from the occupied territories. In the DNR, a new movement called the Way Home is demanding the return of all mobilized men from the self-declared Republic.<sup>82</sup> In the LNR and DNR, mass mobilization was announced on February 19, 2022, and has continued unabated.

Russian propagandist Danil Bezsonov said that he would prefer if Ukrainian forces would stop fighting. In his view, the more Ukrainians that are preserved after a Russian victory, the  [more who can be mobilized in a future war against NATO](#).<sup>83</sup>

State Duma Deputy Mikhail Matveev was forced to publicly apologize to Chechen warlord and aspiring dentist Colonel

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<sup>82</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46574>

<sup>83</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123543>

General Ramzan Kadyrov after disparaging Muslim immigrants. Earlier in the day, a video leaked of Matveev saying that some migrants are "angry savages" who "aggressively impose their Sharia on the residents of Russia."<sup>84</sup> He accused Moscow of "bending to the Islamic factor" and condemned the use of public money to build mosques. After his statement, Kadyrov called for Matveev to be removed from the State Duma.

## PUTIN'S PURGE

A bill has been presented to the State Duma that will permit the confiscation of property and assets of a person convicted of violating the so-called "don't say war" laws, even if a spouse or child owns the property.<sup>85</sup> Speaker ~~Mike Johnson~~ Vyacheslav Volodin supports the bill, saying it "will allow the confiscation of money, valuables or other property used or intended to finance criminal activities against the security of the Russian Federation."

The state would be able to take all assets and property for spreading fakes about the military, public calls for extremist actions, discrediting the armed forces, calls for

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<sup>84</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46712>

<sup>85</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46592>

separatism or anti-state activity, calls to impose sanctions on Russian officials, assistance to foreign states, or the rehabilitation of Nazism. While this is an additional tool to suppress dissent, it has the added benefit of funding the Russian state budget.

In Bashkortostan, dozens have been arrested for protests that erupted last week in support of activist Fail Alsynov. The first raid was in the village of Temyasovo, where a bus and security vehicles with no license plates rounded up residents.<sup>86</sup> In Baymak, activist Dim Davletkildin was arrested and brought to pre-detention with 36 other people to the city of Ufa. Since Monday, 111 people have been convicted of disobedience to the police and are still being held as deeper investigations continue.<sup>87</sup> The Vulcan Protocol, which suppresses Internet access due to unrest, is still in place. People living outside of the region report that they have not been able to reach family members and friends on WhatsApp and Telegram.<sup>88</sup>

In Kostroma, a 30-year-old man has been arrested for calls for terrorism for a comment he left after a Russian drone attack on Moscow.<sup>89</sup> In response to a post on VK, Russia's

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<sup>86</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46564>

<sup>87</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46725>

<sup>88</sup> <https://t.me/bazabazon/24711>

<sup>89</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46626>



Facebook clone, that accused Moscow officials of covering up the damage from the August 2023 drone strike, the unnamed man wrote, "Handsome guy did this." He now faces five to seven years in prison.

In the Ivanovo region of Russia, the Federal Security Services (FSB) arrested anti-war blogger Sergei Veselov.<sup>90</sup> Veselov is charged with justification of terrorism due to an anti-war speech he made, and this represents the fourth criminal case opened up against him.

In occupied Crimea, the Russian Criminal Investigation Department searched the home of the deputy head of the Central Election Commission of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people, Nazim Memetov.<sup>91</sup> Memetov is accused of illegal arms trafficking but was not detained after the search. Security officials took computers and cell phones from the residence.

In Novosibirsk, city officials denied a permit to protest for a second time. The group wants to protest the ongoing heating and power outages with a rally called "Let's return energy to the people!"

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<sup>90</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46605>

<sup>91</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/52529>

City officials have denied permits, saying that the event could "create a threat to the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, legality, law and order and public safety, including the foundations of the constitutional system."

On January 17, a steam and hot water explosion burned 14 people in their homes, with additional incidents on the 18th and 19th in other parts of the city.

The Prosecutor General of Russia recognized the Anti-War Committee of Russia as an undesirable organization, responding to a denunciation filed against State Duma Deputy Andrey Lugovoi (also spelled Logovoy).<sup>92</sup> The group was formed in February 2022, and while the term undesirable organization may seem funny, it means any further association with the group would be a violation of the so-called "don't say war laws."

Metropolitan Leonid Gorbachev, the Patriarchal Exarch of Africa of the Russian Orthodox Church, was removed by the Supreme Church Court.<sup>93</sup> The Metropolitan was associated with the former Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner

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<sup>92</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46616>

<sup>93</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46623>

Group and an ally of its deceased leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin. He was told his dismissal was “for church offenses identified during the transfer of cases during the dismissal of the rector of the Church of All Saints in Kulishki.”

The Supreme Court of Russia shut down and liquidated the assets of the Khakassia news agency because the publication did not follow Kremlin propaganda guidelines.<sup>94</sup> One of the violations included omitting that the lead singer of the band The Leg Crashed is a recognized foreign agent in a story about Maxim Pokrovsky.

The novel Heritage, written by Vladimir Sorokin, has been removed from stores and online sales after blogger Olga Uskova wrote a denunciation against the author.<sup>95</sup> She complained that the book describes how “the monster leaders of Russia, China, and Belarus feed their countries with pieces of human bodies” and needs to be checked for LGBT and pedophilia propaganda.

Roskachestvo has defined new rules for toys that “can cause harm to the health and development of children.” It

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<sup>94</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46618>

<sup>95</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46703>

includes toys that can cause fear and horror, a desire to use drugs, incite antisocial acts, depict cruelty or sexual relations, and toys made by foreign agents. The Kremlin has already opened up an investigation into Barbie.<sup>96</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Yes, this is all since Friday. While some call the Russian plunge into a model of the worst fascism in modern history created by Mussolini, Stalin, Mao, and Hitler as shocking, we had assessed after the Prigozhin Insurrection in June 2023 that Russian President Vlad – the impaler – Putin, was starting the biggest political purge since the 1950s. Stalin's final purge was stopped only due to his death on March 5, 1953. The threat to world security is an entire generation of children who are consuming this propaganda in a rapidly closing society.

The German Gestapo operated from 1933 to 1945 and, at its peak in 1944, only had 32,000 employees across occupied Europe. The Nazis maintained their tight grip on power through denunciations provided by ordinary citizens that acted as the eyes and ears of the feared political police. Russia has adopted an identical system, and two years of intense propaganda is increasing its effectiveness.

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<sup>96</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/46617>



Ukraine's allies need to fully support Kyiv and commit to the full defeat of the Russian Federation Armed Forces in Ukraine. Otherwise, this metastasized cancer of fascism will eventually bring war to the rest of Europe.

## GEOPOLITICS

The U.K. has softened its travel guidelines to Ukraine, allowing absolutely necessary family and business travel to the Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, and Chernivtsi oblasts.<sup>97</sup> The new rules open the door for travel insurance underwriters. It also permits providing embassy services to citizens in distress as long as they do not travel out of the approved regions.<sup>98</sup>

Taking the place of a politically bruised Orban, Prime Minister Fico has taken to carrying water for the Kremlin, saying Ukraine is completely under the control of the United States and has been since 2014, in part because it wants to join NATO.<sup>99</sup> Fico apparently is ignoring his nation's membership in the NATO Alliance and how the


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<sup>97</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123559>

<sup>98</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123559>

<sup>99</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/123529>

United States severed all military aid on September 30, 2023.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan condemned a video of arrested undocumented workers being  [forced to goosebump walk](#) in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg.<sup>100</sup> Don't worry; we didn't know what goosebump walk was either until we saw the video.

## ECONOMICS

The Foreign Minister of France, Stephane Serjournay, warned that if Russia is able to take full control of Ukraine, it will hold 30% of the global wheat market, enabling Moscow to use food as a weapon.<sup>101</sup>

In December 2023, despite poor weather and Russian attacks, six million tons of grain and edible oils departed Ukrainian ports, more than 50% higher than during the Black Sea Grain Initiative.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/22566>

<sup>101</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/133042>

<sup>102</sup> <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/11995>

On January 19, United States-based Apple paid a \$13.3 million antitrust fine to the Kremlin. The fine was related to Apple's refusal to let developers inform customers of alternative in-app payment solutions other than Apple Pay. The investigation started in July 2022 after Russia expanded its war of aggression against Ukraine. While Apple withdrew from Russia in March 2022, payments from Russia for Apple services such as Apple Music are still accepted through Apple Pay. On January 16, the California-based company reported the App Store netted \$89.5 billion in net revenue in 2023 on over \$300 billion in consumer spending.

The fine has already been added to the state treasury and is enough money to buy 14,700 152 mm artillery rounds with powder charges.

## **RUMORS**

Many messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.

- Has Colonel General Valerii Zaluzhnyi been missing since January 4? No.
- Will Kyrylo Budanov replace Valerii Zaluzhny next week as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine? No idea.
- Did a Russian missile attack kill 60 French foreign legionnaire volunteers in Kharkiv? Really? Are we really asking this? No. Again. No.
- Is the Russian military preparing naval infantry or airborne assault troops for a landing somewhere in Ukraine to create a new front? We'd be utterly stunned.
- Is the Kremlin preparing to remove the Russian commander of the Dnipro Group of troops, Colonel General Mikhail Teplinsky? Doubtful.
- Have House and Senate leaders in the United States agreed to a 2024 budget? No.
- Does the budget agreement include military aid to Ukraine? No.
- Are multiple Russian milbloggers under investigation for scams related to cryptocurrency? Unlikely.
- Will Ukraine get Taurus cruise missiles from Germany? Maybe.
- Is it true that Russia is creating White Guard units made of poor quality and insubordinate military officers? Undetermined - there is an officer shortage already, but it would align with the ongoing purge of







perceived state enemies. Still haven't seen the white guard. Last day of entry.


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## 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. This is by no means a complete list of the sources we monitor.

 **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:** PMC Wagner has been dissolved, and most of their social media channels are now inactive.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** The organization has not posted any update since June 9, 2023, and we have ceased monitoring.

 **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate 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 illegitimate 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 officials 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.