



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 79

It has been 2,997 days since Russia began its occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

On May 3, we wrote that the Russian advances in eastern Ukraine had reached its apex and that the war was transitioning into a Phase 2A war of attrition. Ten days later, the Russian offensive in Ukraine appears desperate and untenable. Russian military leaders' waste of human capital and military resources is reaching a level of criminality.

An increasing number of public figures supporting or aligned with the Russian effort in Ukraine are becoming vocal about the situation. Igor Girkin and the Wagner Group's Reverse Side of the Medal accounts are now openly critical of Russia's strategy and military decision-making in Ukraine.

Russian forces abandoned their positions north and east of Kharkiv and are withdrawing in an organized manner across the Russian border. There continues to be resistance at Vesele [Kharkiv 50°10'22.6"N 36°32'23.3"E]. Russian troops likely intend to use the Siverskyi Donets River east

of Kharkiv as a natural defense to prevent further Ukrainian advances. Russian forces have retreated far enough north and east that Kharkiv city is out of range of tube artillery.

Russian border guards are not permitting Russia-backed militias of the DNR/LNR to retreat into Russia and demanding they protect their rear flank as part of the withdrawal.

There weren't any significant territorial changes around Severodonetsk. However, control of Rubizhne is contested again, according to both Russian and Ukrainian sources. The United States Department of Defense confirmed our assessment that artillery was directed at Russian and Russia-backed forces behind the line of conflict around Rubizhne. The amount of artillery fire from Russian forces has declined, while the volume of artillery fire from Ukrainian troops has increased over the past three to five days.

There are reports of street fighting in eastern Severodonetsk. Russian forces have made advances from Popasna (Popasnya) but did not make appreciable territorial gains.

Russian forces made another attempt to cross the Siverskyi Donets River at Bilohorivka on May 13. Russian armor tried to cross the river without a bridging effort and suffered additional losses of 13 vehicles, including 10 Main Battle Tanks (MBT) and two Infantry Fighting Vehicles (APC). A BREM-1 tank recovery vehicle was also lost. Estimated losses at Bilohorivka from May 8 to May 13 are between 82 to 120 military vehicles and 500 to 1,500 killed in action. The losses have significantly degraded the combat capabilities of Russian troops attempting to encircle Severodonetsk.

On the Severodonetsk westward offensive, Russian forces made two bridging attempts across the Siverskyi Donets River to advance south on Zaktne and an effort to capture Lyman. Both failed, and it is reported that Russian troops suffered significant losses east of Lyman.

Russian forces continued to shell Ukrainian-controlled areas from Horlivka to Velyka Novosilka and further west into the Zaporizhia Oblast to Hulyaipole and Orikhiv. Pro-Russian social media accounts have claimed to capture several settlements, including Novobakhmutivka [Donetsk] and Novoselivka [Donetsk]. This appears unlikely with the information currently available. The Ukrainian General

Staff reported that Russian troops have switched to a defensive posture in the Zaporizhia Oblast.

Fighting at and around the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant continued in Mariupol.

On the Izyum axis, Russian forces fired artillery and used MLRS to fire on Ukrainian positions at Oleksandrivka [Donetsk] and Novoselivka but did not attempt to gain additional territorial control. NASA FIRMS data shows significant artillery fire west and northwest of Izyum.

There were scattered artillery exchanges along the Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblast border.

There continue to be reports of fighting for control of Snake Island, with Russian forces reestablishing the garrison and anti-aircraft systems. Satellite imagery from May 12 suggests that another Russian warship has been damaged, but this has not been confirmed.

Captain 2nd Rank Alexander Bobrov, Commander of the 184th Novorossiysk Coastal Defense Brigade of the Black Sea Fleet, 170th Minesweeper Division, was killed in action

and buried on May 12. The D-144 and D-199 Serna-class landing ships were under his command. At least one of the vessels was sunk by a Bayraktar TB-2 drone on May 7.

Tensions remain high in Transnistria, with renewed claims of false flag attacks.

There were no new developments on the Belarusian border.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

Russian military leaders continue to set smaller goals and likely lack the resources to achieve them. The United States Department of Defense reported that Russia has 105 Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) in Ukraine, but the number is meaningless. Russian military units are short on staff, equipment, and supplies. Many of these units are degraded. Elements of the 35th Motorized Rifle Brigade were used in what must have been a strategic attack on Bilohorivka, despite being combat ineffective from losses in March. If the reports are accurate, the Russian army lost 2.0% to 2.5% of its **entire** combat power at Bilohorivka over five days.

The loss of the equivalent of a brigade (four BTG) in Bilohorivka cannot be underestimated. This has likely jeopardized the goal of securing the Luhansk Oblast. The 74th Motorized Rifle Brigade, Unit 21005, was an elite BTG that had recently been rearmed with the most advanced weapons and military vehicles. The entire staff had been retrained in the latest tactics, and the unit has fought in Ukraine since 2014.

Ukrainian forces are already using artillery to disrupt Russian Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – aka supply lines) around Severodonetsk and the western flank of the Izyum axis. From Kharkiv to Izyum along the west bank of Siverskyi Donets, Ukraine now holds the initiative.

Russian forces have switched to a defensive posture in eastern Kharkiv and southern Zaporizhia Oblasts. The moving to a defensive posture in Zaporizhia further indicates that the Russian military mission in Ukraine has been stretched to the breaking point.

According to the Oryx Database, Russia has lost 670 tanks in Ukraine since February 24.¹ That number only represents

¹ <https://www.oryxspioenkop.com/2022/02/attack-on-europe-documenting-equipment.html>

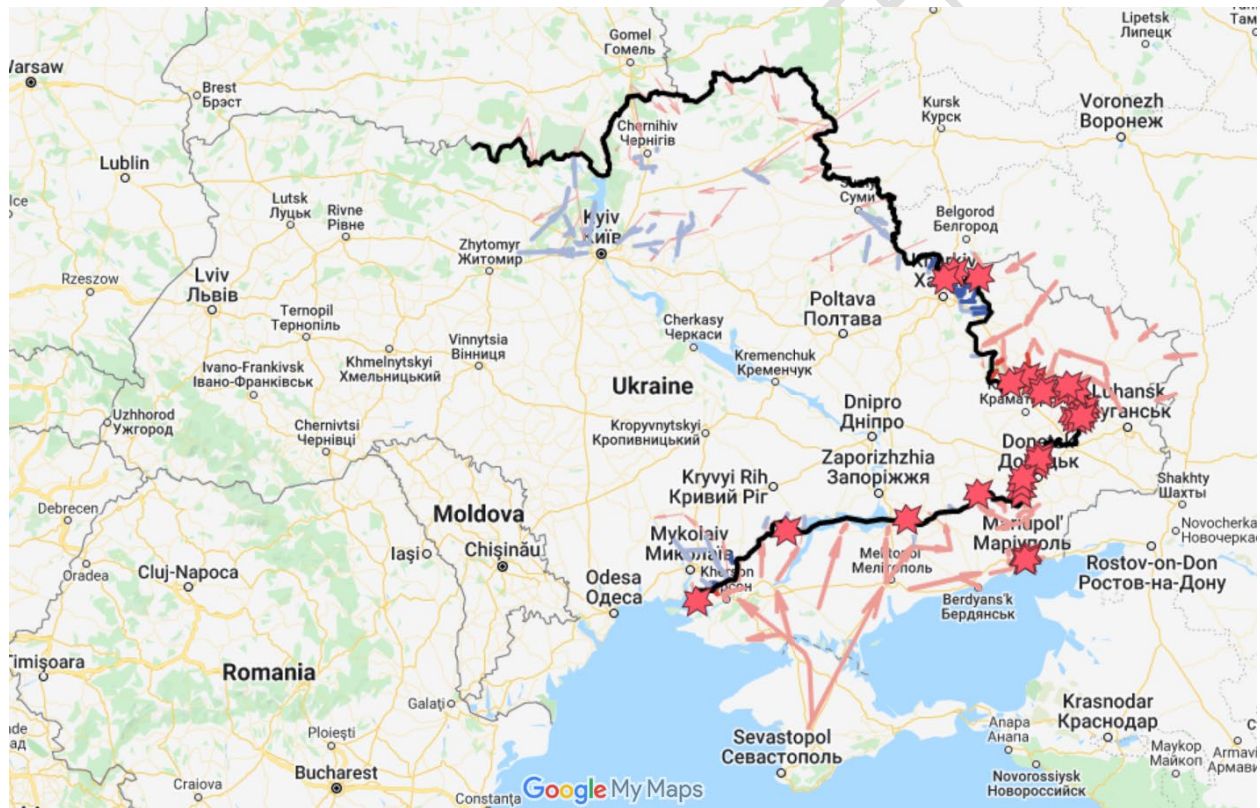
visually confirmed and geolocated losses and does not include the most recent losses in Bilohorivka and Kharkiv. At the start of the invasion, Russia dedicated 1,200 tanks to Ukraine – over 40% of its active tank fleet (not counting reserves). Russia has lost 56% of the tanks it allocated to pacify Ukraine. Resources have moved from “combat ineffective” theaterwide for main battle tanks to “destroyed.”

Russia has not achieved air superiority. In large regions of Ukraine, The Russian Air Force doesn't hold air parity. The Black Sea Fleet has lost its flagship, one Ropucha class landing ship, and potentially three Tapir class large landing ships - sunk (1) and damaged (2). One Serna class landing craft was lost, and a second was likely damaged on May 12. This is on top of five Raptor class patrol boats, including four sunk in a week near Snake Island. These losses were inflicted by a belligerent with no functioning navy.

Russian forces are still capable of making territorial gains. We maintain they have enough resources if used strategically to capture the Severodonetsk region. We do not believe that Russia has enough resources to control and hold that territory in the medium and long term.

The Kremlin issued threats against Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, and Poland today while flippantly talking about the potential for nuclear war. We remain concerned that we are stuck in the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



DONBAS REGION

Russian forces were unable to secure new territory control, and control of Rubizhne is once again contested. Heavy fighting continued for the control of Severodonetsk.

Russian forces attempted to cross the Siverskyi Donets River at Bilohorivka and Zakitne. Both efforts failed. Russian troops tried to advance on Lyman and also failed.

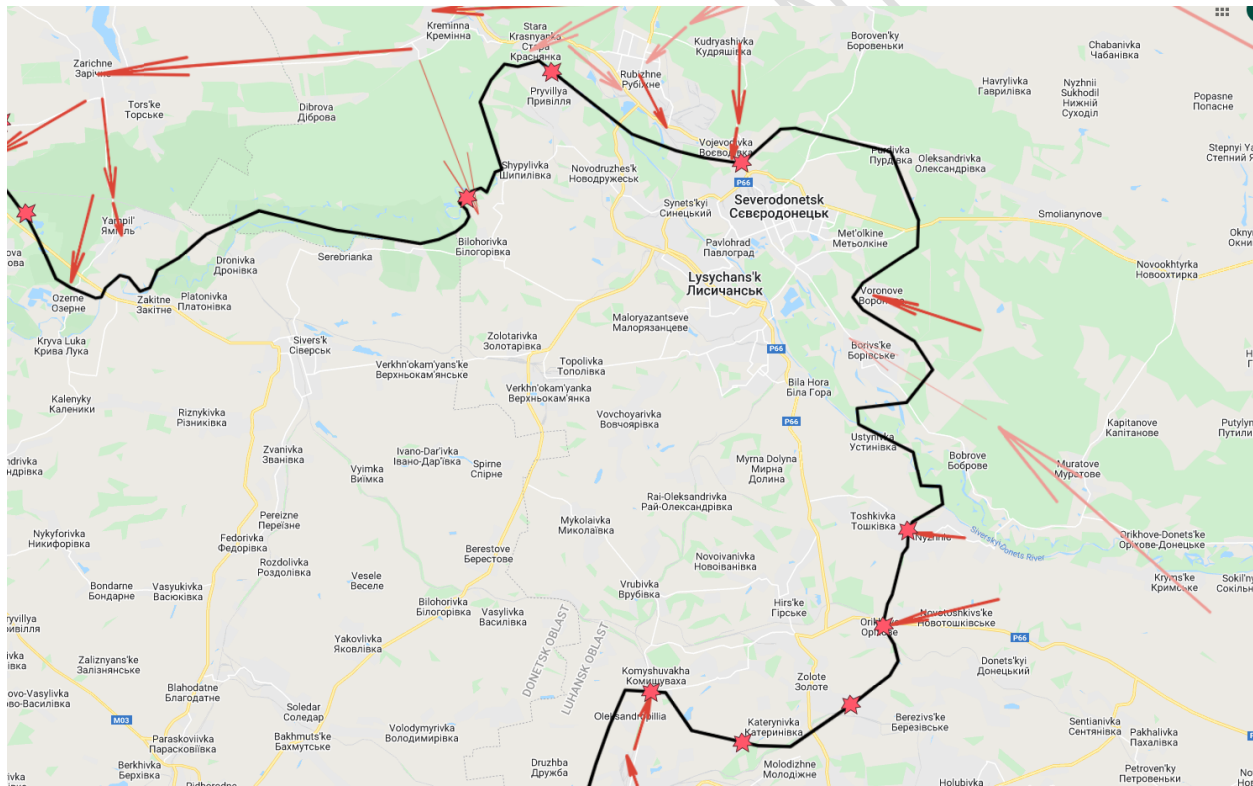
Ukrainian forces used artillery to strike Russian and Russian-backed troops behind the line of conflict, likely inflicting heavy casualties.

Fighting continued for control of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant.

LUHANSK

Severodonetsk Salient

A day after both Ukrainian and Russian forces reported that Russian troops captured Rubizhne, both belligerents are saying control is contested.^{2 3}



² <https://twitter.com/2Victorsan1974/status/1525305840818786304>

³ https://t.me/s/serhiy_hayday

Russian forces made a bridging attempt from Rubizhne to Pryvillya that failed.⁴ ⁵ The United States Department of Defense reported that Russian troops suffered heavy losses during the effort.

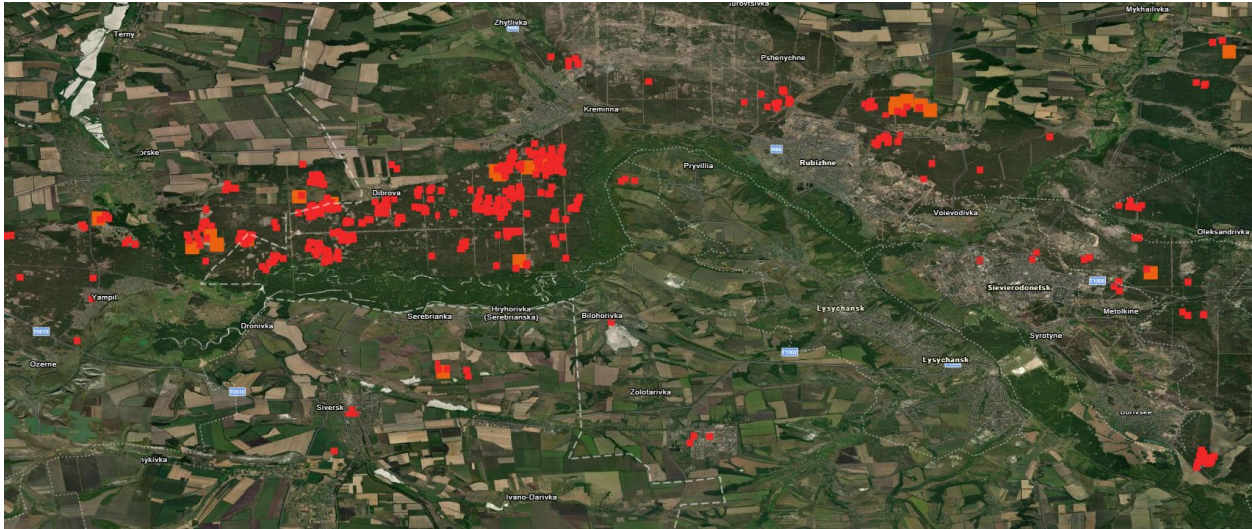
ASSESSMENT: This may be why the control of Rubizhne moved back to contested on May 13.

Governor of Luhansk, Serhiy Haidai, confirmed that Ukrainian forces retreated from Vojevodivka, but artillery fire prevented Russian troops from occupying the town.

There was intense fighting at Nyzhnie, but Russian forces could not advance.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/in20im/status/1525209091605340160>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/JackDetsch/status/1525152703877369857>



NASA FIRMS data from the last three days shows that almost all artillery strikes have been in Russian-controlled areas.

Russian forces attempted to cross the Siverskyi Donets River at Bilohorivka for the third time and suffered additional losses. Another 13 vehicles were lost, including 8 MBTs, 2 IFV, 2 unidentified vehicles, and a BREM-1 tank recovery vehicle.



Estimates for vehicle losses range from 82 to 124, and killed in action are estimated from 500 to 1,500. The 74th Motor Rifle Brigade sent 550 troops into the attack with 65 survivors, according to online reports.⁶ Igor Girkin reports that senior military leaders were killed in the assault, declaring, "Do I know anything additional to what was already provided by bloggers? Yes, I do, including information regarding irreversible losses (including senior commanding staff)."⁷

⁶ <https://t.me/informnapalm/8516>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/mdmitri91/status/1525104855861313539/photo/1>

ASSESSMENT: The loss of up to a brigade at Bilohorivka has put the Severodonetsk offensive at risk. The loss of combat engineers and bridging equipment needed to cross the Siverskyi Donets river was catastrophic for Russia's overall strategy. This may be why Russian armored forces attempted to ford the river without bridging equipment on May 13.

Editor's Note: *The waste of Russian soldiers at Bilohorivka was callous, unnecessary, and a dereliction of duty. It points to desperation to achieve a fast victory at all costs. The Russian military leaders that have ordered repeated failed attacks at the same bridging point should face military justice.*

Severodonetsk Westward Offensive

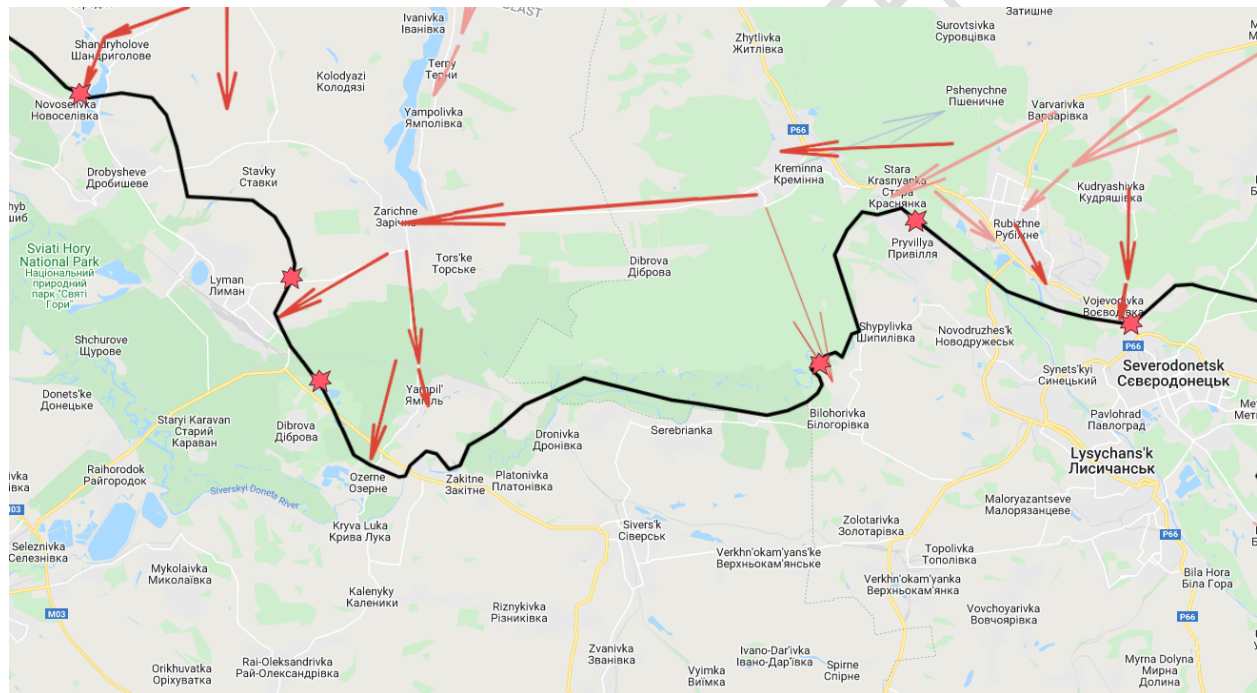
Russian forces made a bridging attempt across the Siverskyi Donets north of Zakitne.⁸ The effort was a failure with unknown losses.⁹ Russian troops attempted to advance on Lyman, which failed. There are reports of heavy

⁸ <https://twitter.com/Nrg8000/status/1525026671308734464>

⁹ <https://goo.gl/maps/KXTu37chCsbUGuFR7>

losses.¹⁰ Video from Lyman showed the destruction of civilian homes and infrastructure.¹¹

Russian forces remain frozen to the north of the Siverskyi Donets River in the forested areas east of Yampil and under heavy artillery fire.



¹⁰ [Yahoo!News](#)

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1525213230611718150>

DONETSK TO WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

Russian forces continued to shell Ukrainian-controlled areas from Horlivka to Velyka Novosilka and further west into the Zaporizhia Oblast to Hulyaipole and Orikhiv.

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian troops have switched to a defensive posture in Zaporizhia and digging in.¹²

ASSESSMENT: Russian military leaders have now switched to a defensive posture on three axes – the Northern Kharkiv Counteroffensive, Izyum Axis, and the South Donbas Axis through Zaporizhia. Russian military leaders appear to be going “all in” in the Donbas and hoping to hold current territorial gains.

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

In Mariupol, Russian and Ukrainian forces continued fighting for the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant control. The

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/316565217323230>

Russian Air Force bombed the plant again¹³ while ground forces fired artillery. There is no change in the situation.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian marines have held for 22 days since "victory" was declared in Mariupol and 73 days after encirclement. We can no longer assess when or if the defensive forces will collapse, be eradicated, or surrender.

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHERN KHARKIV COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Russian forces continue to withdraw from around Kharkiv and areas west of the Siverskyi Donets River. The retreat is being done in an organized manner.

Russia is not allowing members of the Russia-backed LNR militia supporting the attempted encirclement of Kharkiv to cross the border.¹⁴ The militia members abandoned their positions when the Russian forces left. They have been warned they will be executed if they attempt to cross the border back into Russia and ordered to return to their

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/316565217323230>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1525112212905394178>

duty.¹⁵ The LNR militia members are effectively surrounded by Ukrainian forces advancing from the south.

The settlement of Vesele remains under contested control.¹⁶

IZYUM AXIS

Russian forces did not make any significant offensive maneuvers on May 13, and there was no change in territorial control. Early on May 14 (local time), Russian forces started an effort to secure parts of the M03 highway south of Sukha Kamyanka. The attack was unsuccessful.

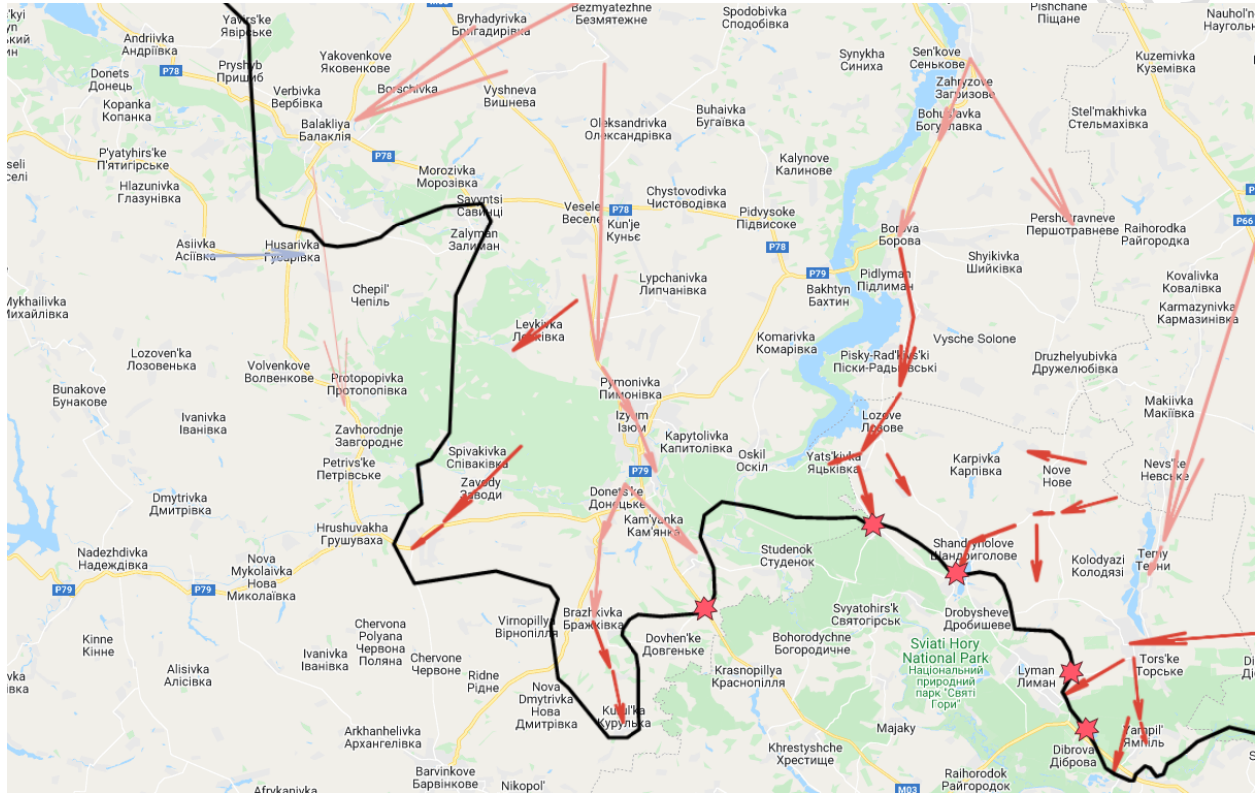
NASA FIRMS data continues to suggest there is artillery fire and possible SOF activity west and northwest of Izyum in Russian-controlled territory. We believe that Russia has less territorial control than the map indicates but have not been able to verify the situation.

ASSESSMENT: We believe that Russia has given up its effort to capture Slovyansk. Troops are moving to a defensive

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1525112297475162113>

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/mhmck/status/1524966783299493888>

posture, particularly on the western flank. Russia has had to divert artillery resources on the exposed axis. This is an additional data point that Ukrainian forces are operating further east than the current map suggests.



DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

Ukrainian forces destroyed a Russian command post in Vysokopillia, Kherson Oblast. The attack destroyed two

electronic warfare vehicles and damaged eight more.¹⁷ Russian troops positioned the installation in a civilian area surrounded by occupied homes.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

The Russian Air Force bombed civilians and civilian infrastructure in the settlement of Tovstodubove in the Sumy Oblast.¹⁸ There was no information on damage or casualties.

KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

Captain 2nd Rank Alexander Bobrov, Commander of the 184th Novorossiysk Coastal Defense Brigade of the Black Sea Fleet, 170th Minesweeper Division, was killed in action

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1524782915359494147>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/UkraineNow/11650>

and buried on May 12.¹⁹ The D-144 and D-199 Serna-class landing ships were under his command. At least one of the vessels was sunk by a Bayraktar TB-2 drone on May 7.

ASSESSMENT: We believe that Captain Bobrov was at the helm of the Serna-class amphibious landing ship destroyed on May 7.

There is significant evidence that a missile damaged a second Serna-class amphibious assault ship in the Black Sea fleet on May 12.²⁰ The vessel was in the vicinity of Snake Island.

New satellite images indicate Russia may have set up two new anti-aircraft positions on the island.²¹

There isn't official information on the Zatoka Bridge, but satellite images indicate the bridge does not have catastrophic damage.

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1525226083682881536/photo/1>

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/CovertShores/status/1525209829723328520>

²¹ <https://twitter.com/ArtisanalAPT/status/1525220038914895872>

ASSESSMENT: We believe a land invasion by Russian forces backed by Transnistrian militia remains possible but is remote.

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Transnistria officials reported that unknown individuals threw Molotov cocktails at a Russian military enlistment office and an oil depot in two separate incidents. No damage was reported.²² In a separate and unrelated statement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he didn't consider the breakaway republic a "serious threat" with only 3,000 of its 15,000 member military forces trained for combat.²³

The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense announced its intent to mobilize one-million people to resist the ongoing Russian

²² [Censor Net](#)

²³ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1525064921452511232>

invasion. At the start of the war, Ukraine has 200,000 active-duty troops. There were no details on the mass mobilization, where troops would be deployed, or how long training would take.²⁴

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's security council, threatened nuclear war shortly after Finland announced its intent to apply for NATO membership.

The endless talk of foreign analysts about NATO's war with Russia does not subside. Moreover, the cynicism of Western "talking heads" is becoming more and more frank. The agenda is struggling to introduce the thesis that Russia scares the world with a nuclear conflict. Even Trump got out with it recently. True, of course, just to spite Biden. And of course, Europeans are looking for their thin holosks.

In the conditions of the proxy war unleashed by Western countries with Russia, I want to articulate the things that are so obvious to all reasonable people.

1. Pumping Ukraine with weapons by NATO countries, preparing its troops for the use of Western equipment, sending mercenaries and conducting exercises of the Alliance countries near our borders increase the likelihood of a direct and open conflict between NATO and Russia instead of the ongoing "proxy war."
2. Such a conflict always has the risk of turning into a full-fledged nuclear war.
3. This will be a catastrophic scenario for everyone.

That's it. Therefore, there is no need to lie to yourself and others. On

The Russian State Duman proposed that after the end of the special military operation in Ukraine, Russia should invade and "denazify" Poland. The measure, which has

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/IntelArrow/status/1525180278435725313>

support from the Duma, was presented for a potential symbolic vote due to Poland's "clear support for Nazi elements" in Ukraine and worldwide.²⁵

United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Shoigu, talked for the first time in almost three months.²⁶

The call lasted for an hour and was described as "professional" and a "good sign that they were able to make this connection."

President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey said he would oppose Finland and Sweden from joining NATO and accused both countries of harboring terrorists.

"Scandinavian countries are guesthouses for terrorist organizations," Erdogan told reporters without providing supporting information.

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1525176043539144704>

²⁶ <https://www.ft.com/content/8e97a7ef-970b-4920-9f01-f9c89e321fab>

The European Union announced it would provide another 500 billion euros in military aid to Ukraine, including funding for heavy weapons.²⁷

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Today, Russian Army Sergeant Vadim Shyshimarin was put on trial in Kyiv, accused of committing war crimes in Ukraine.²⁸ Shyshimarin allegedly shot a civilian riding a bicycle during the war's opening days. He appeared in a packed courtroom for about 15 minutes, with his trial set to continue on May 18.

GEOPOLITICAL

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke with Russia's President Vladimir Putin, appealing for an immediate ceasefire.²⁹ The Chancellor wrote on Twitter the highlights of their conversation.

Three points from my long phone call with Putin today:

²⁷ [Reuters](#)

²⁸ <https://kvia.com/news/2022/05/13/ukraine-opens-first-war-crimes-trial-of-captured-russian/>

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/Bundeskanzler/status/1525079306514440194>

- There must be a ceasefire in Ukraine as quickly as possible.
- The claim that Nazis are in power there is false.
- And I also reminded him about Russia's responsibility for the global food situation.

French President Emmanuel Macron was criticized for his remarks calling for a compromise with the Kremlin that would allow President Putin to save face.³⁰

Earlier this week, the French leader said that Russia and Ukraine would have to come to a negotiated truce and that Russia's "humiliation would not serve peace efforts."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared Macron is trying "in vain" to have a constructive dialogue with Putin, and his mediation attempts aren't yielding results.

ECONOMIC

Russia announced it would halt electricity delivery to Finland due to nonpayment. Inter RAO, a Russian electrical

³⁰ <https://www.kyivpost.com/world/zelensky-says-macron-talking-to-putin-in-vain.html>

utility, reported that they had not received a payment since May 6.³¹

"This situation is exceptional and happened for the first time in over twenty years of our trading history," RAO Nordic, said in a statement.

Finland receives approximately 10% of its electricity from Russia. The nation has already made arrangements with Sweden to assist with any shortfall.

The rouble declined to 66 to 1 US dollar today.

Today, oil prices jumped due to supply fears, with WTI moving to \$111 a barrel and Brent crude to \$112. United States wholesale gasoline jumped to \$3.92 a gallon (\$1.04 a liter).

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

No update today

³¹ [Reuters](#)