



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 463

It has been 3,383 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 98 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. Today's report is combat only.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

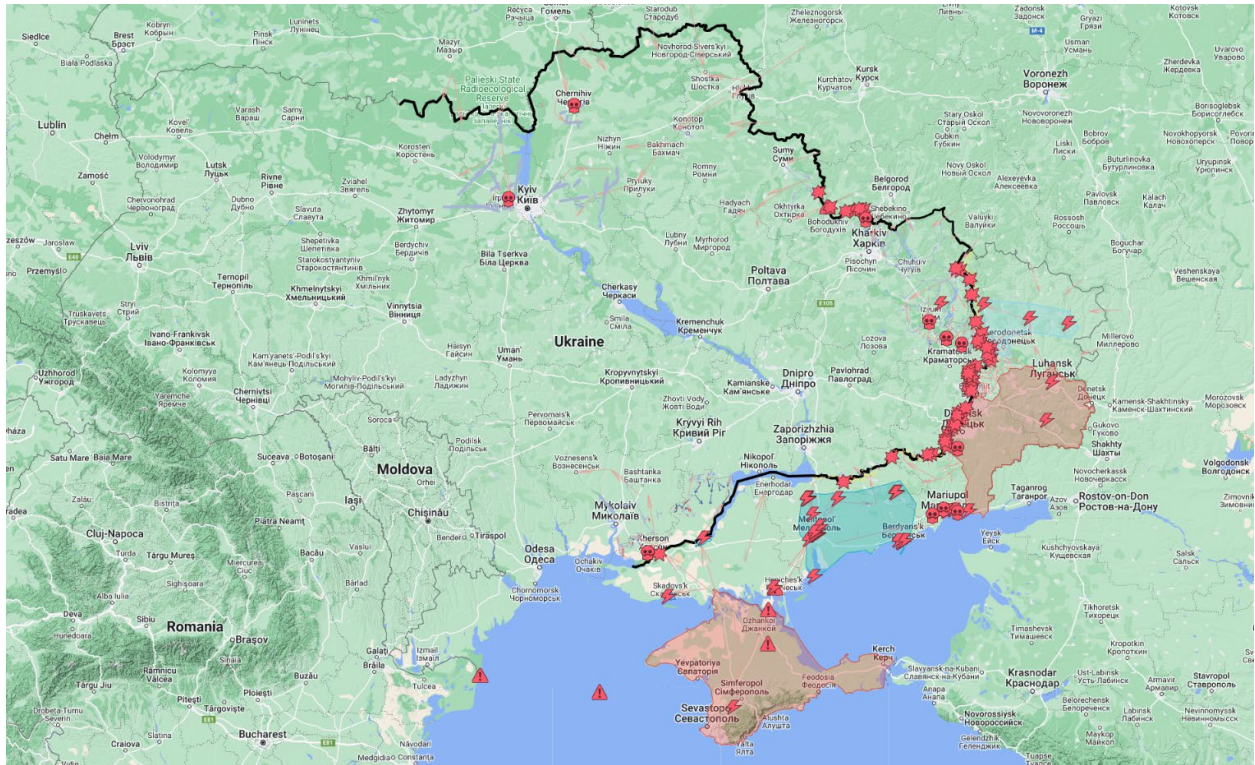
1. In preparation for larger offensive operations, Ukrainian forces continue shaping operations on multiple axes, creating panic and uncertainty among gauleiters, Russian administrators, and military leaders.
2. We maintain that the continued incursions into the Belgorod region along a 187-kilometer stretch of the Russia-Ukraine border are meant to force the Russian Ministry of Defense to move military assets out of Ukraine to secure the region.
3. Current weather models indicate soil conditions are improving faster than originally forecasted, and tractability will become favorable for large-scale military operations by June 4.

4. We have identified shaping activity by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in four locations that could indicate a larger attack is being prepared.
5. In our assessment, while point attacks continue in the Dvorichna and Marinka Operational Areas, Russian forces have lost the battlefield initiative and continue to move to a defense posture.
6. Anger and frustration among Russian state media, propagandists, milbloggers, and residents of the oblasts that border Ukraine continue to expand with open discussions on Russian state media and social media about replacing Russian President Vladimir Putin, questioning Russian nuclear doctrine and the repeated irresponsible threats, and widespread criticism of Moscow's inability to secure Russian borders and airspace.
7. Political infighting between the Russian Ministry of Defense, Chechen leaders, and Private Military Company Wagner Group continues to escalate, negatively impacting Russian combat operations throughout the theater of war.
8. The same public infighting confirmed our October 2022 assessment that Chechen Akhmat and Rosgvardiya are combat destroyed. Colonel General Ramzan Kadyrov claims there are 7,000 Chechens in Ukraine, less than 25% of their peak combat strength in May 2022.

9. We maintain that Russian Chief of Staff Gerasimov and Defense Minister Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
10. We maintain the less-than-acceptable performance of Russian air defenses in Moscow puts unpopular General of the Army Sergey Surovikin at risk of dismissal.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

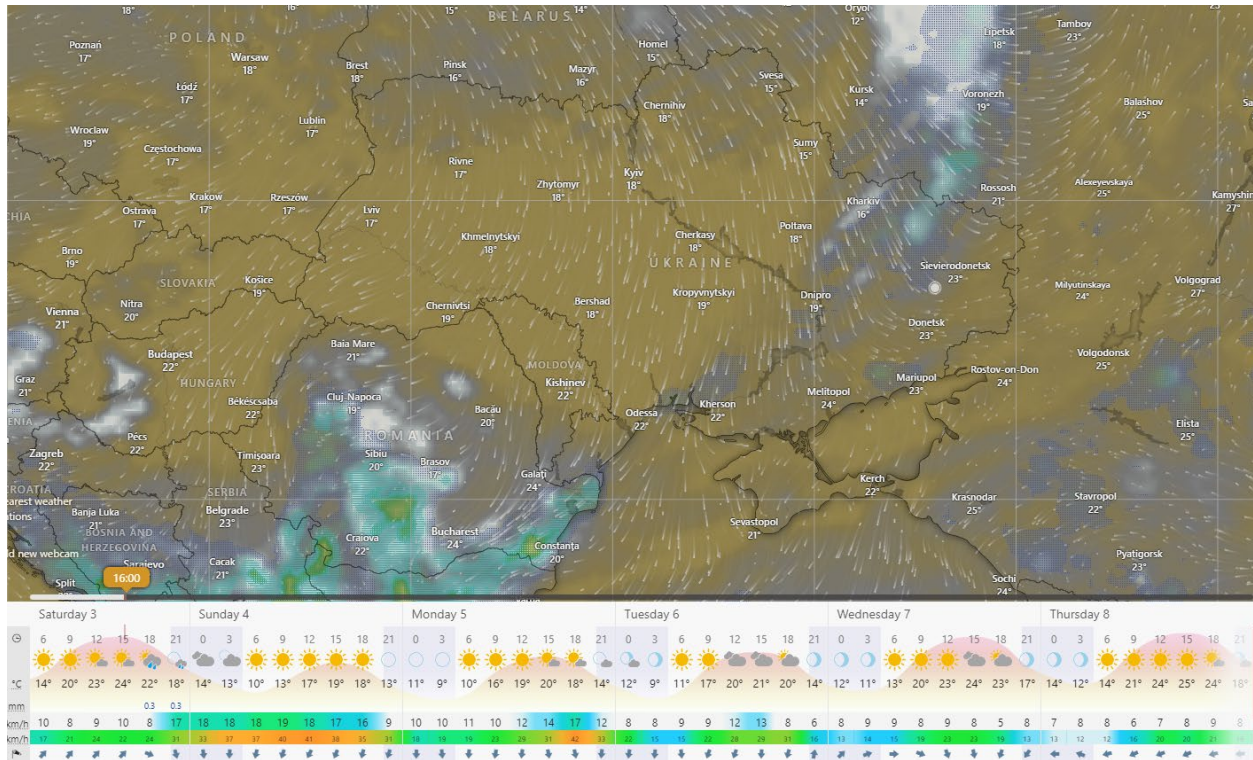


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

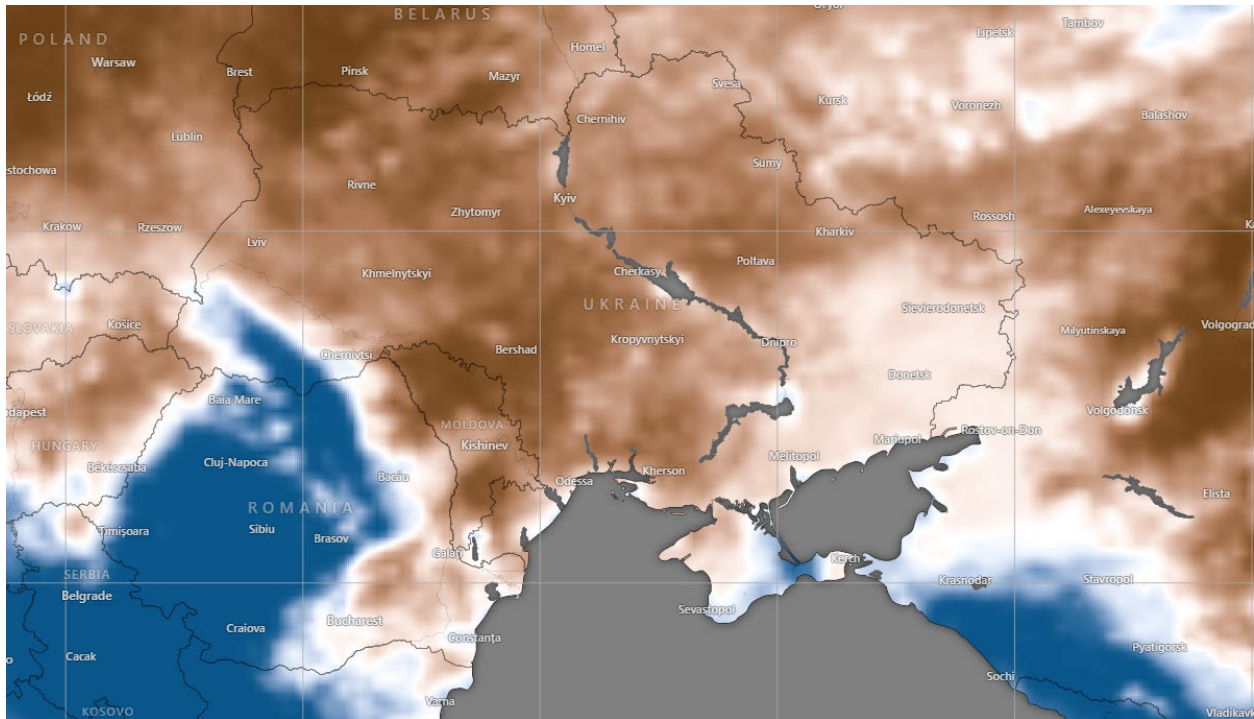


UKRAINE WEATHER



Dry weather will continue through June 8, according to the ECMWF Euro ensemble model, with only a slight chance of a stray shower or thunderstorm on June 3. Highs temperatures will be from 16° to 28° Celcius and lows from 6° to 15°. Winds up to 45 kph are expected on Sunday and Monday, which will accelerate soil drying. The full moon is on June 4, the new moon is on June 18, and the longest day of the year is June 21.

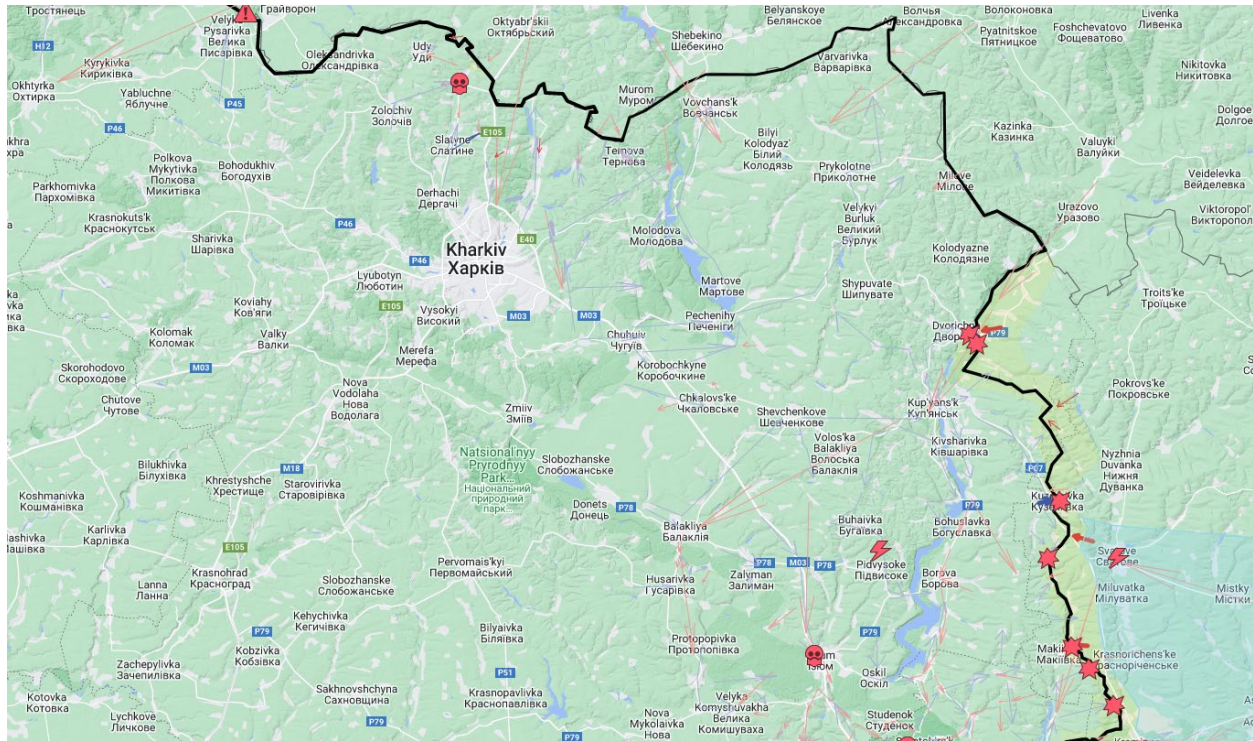
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



The June 10, 2023 GFS forecast indicates soil saturation to 40 centimeters deep will be 15% to 40% across most of Ukraine.

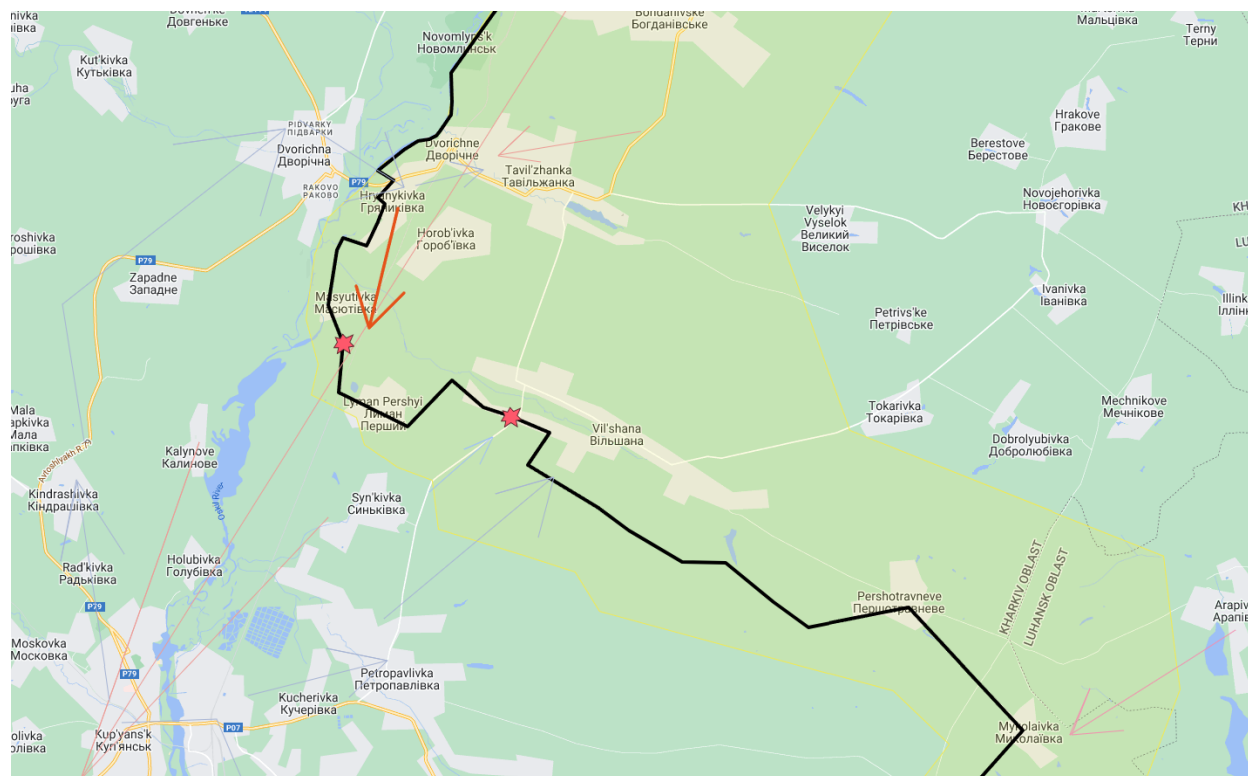
Soil saturation from Zaporizhia through the Donbas is 65% to 80%, with eastern Kherson dropping to 20% at the east bank of the Dniro. Conditions are improving faster than the model projected, with soil saturation able to support heavy equipment and armored vehicles theaterwide by June 4. There is no significant rain in the forecast through June 8.

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, hold current defensive lines, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorychne and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



Dvorichna Operational Area

Ukrainian sources and Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported continued fighting in the area of [Masyutivka](#), with no change in the situation.^{1 2 3}

Free Kharkiv

The Russian Airforce (VKS) dropped two FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bombs on Kivsharivka on the east bank of the Oskil

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

² <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16735>

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>



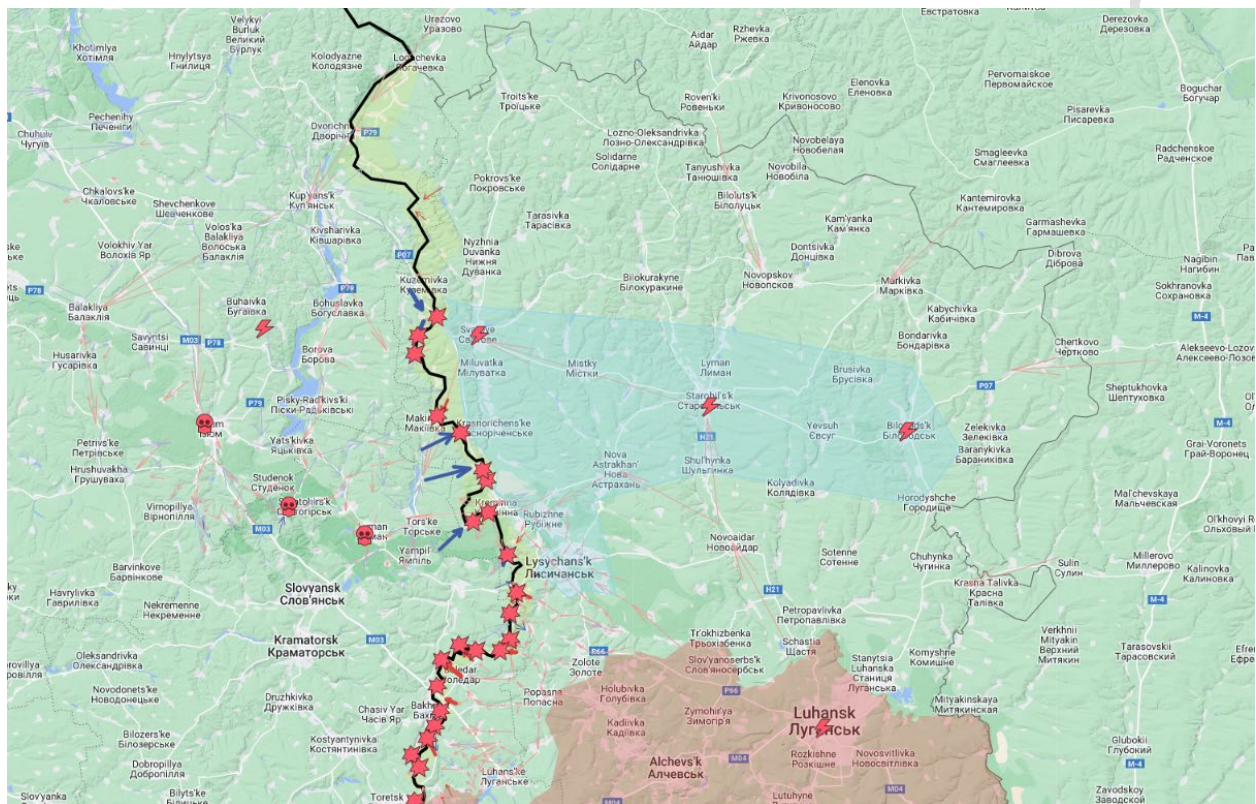
River near Kupyansk, killing two pensioners and wounding four others when civilian housing was struck.⁴

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⁴ <https://t.me/synegubov/6325>

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

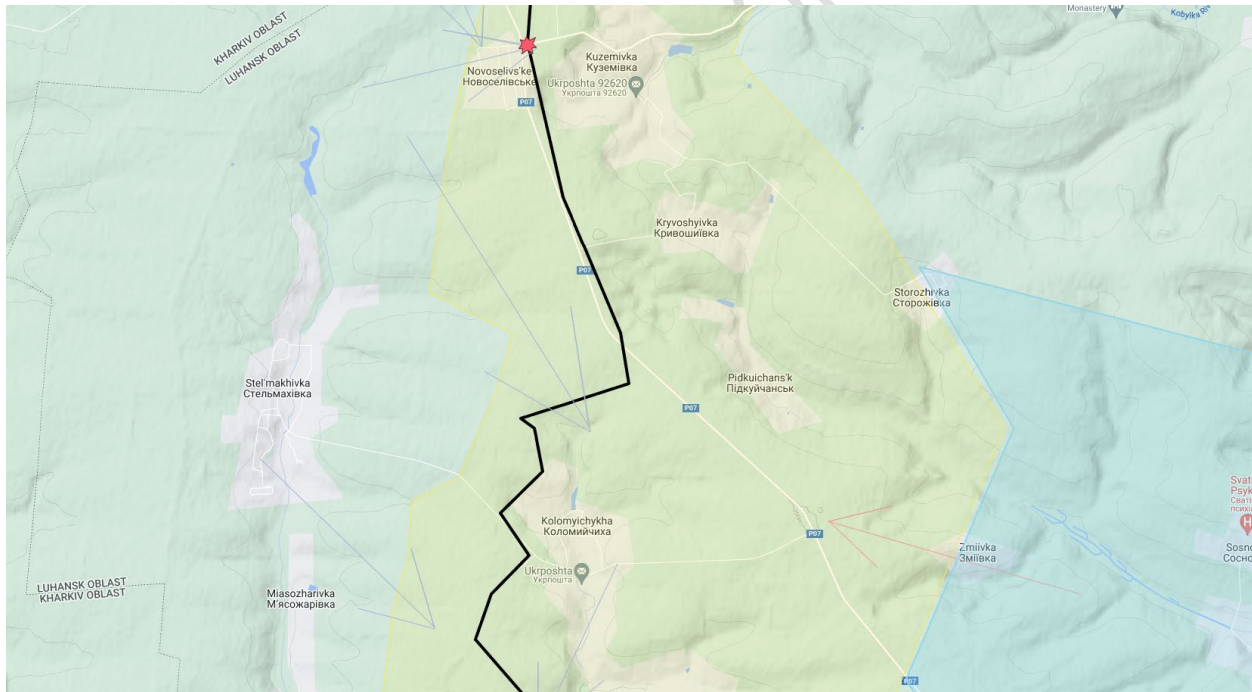


Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, prevent further Ukrainian advances, control insurgent activity

Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kremynna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents

Free Luhansk

Operational Command East (OKE) spokesperson Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty said that Russian forces fired 632 artillery rounds, mortars, rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, and Russian army aviation and Airforce (VKS) carried out one airstrike from Dvorichna to Bilohorivka [Luhansk].⁵



⁵ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/11002>

Svatove Operational Area

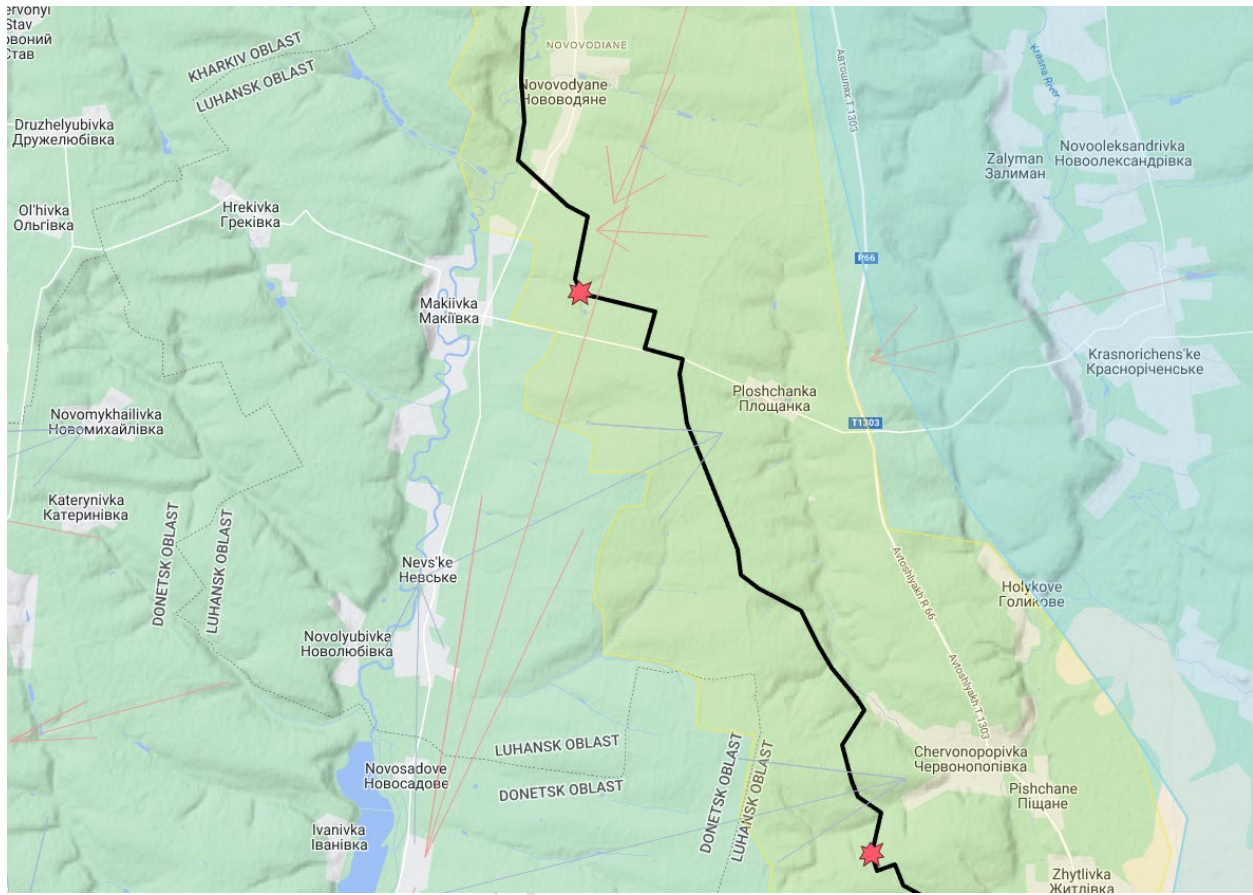
Ukrainian sources and WarGonzo reported that Russian forces, up to a company in size, tried to advance on [Novoselivske](#), suffered heavy losses, and returned to their defensive positions.^{6 7 8} The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported fighting in [Kuzemivka](#) and that Ukrainian forces were able to repel the Russian advance.⁹

⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16735>

⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>

⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)



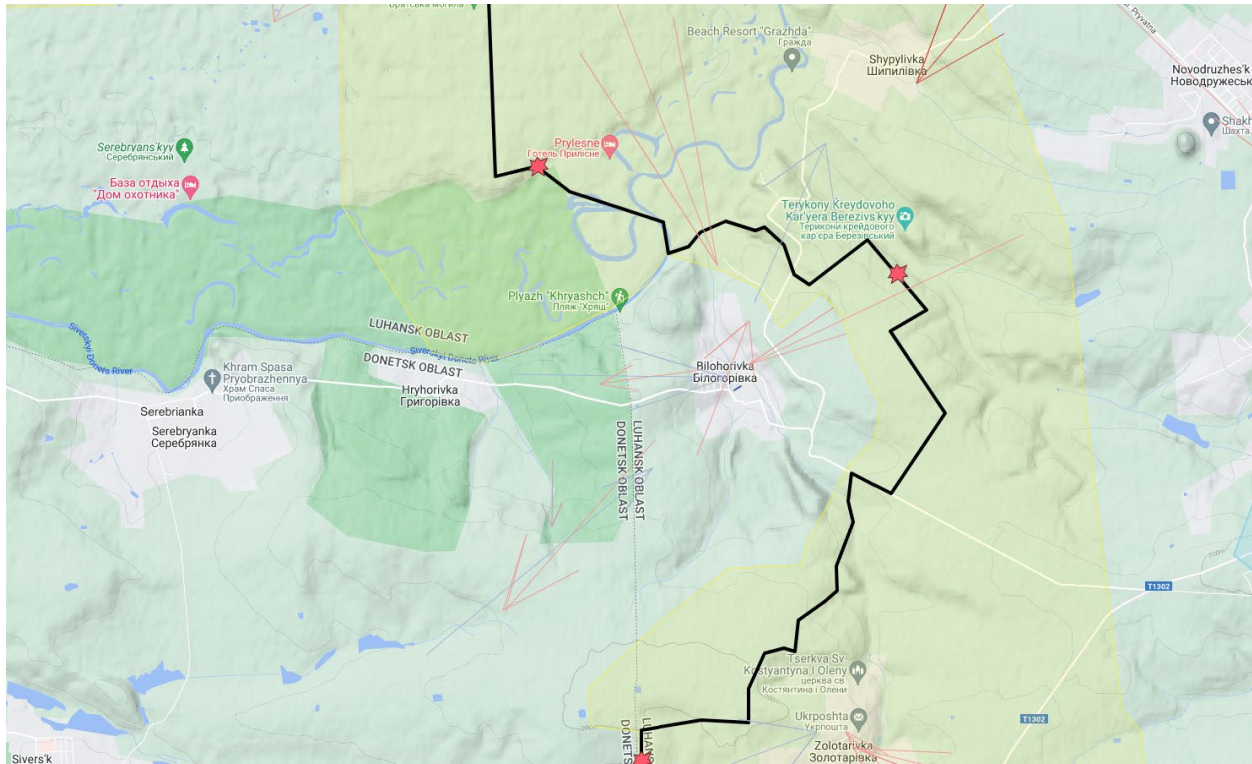
Kreminna Operational Area

GSAFU reported that a Russian advance in the direction of [Makiivka](#) was repulsed.¹⁰

¹⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)



NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems indicated thermal anomalies on the eastern edge of the settlement.



Lysychansk Operational Area

GSAFU reported that Russian forces continued their attacks on [Bilohorivka](#), supported by the VKS. GSAFU and WarGonzo reported that Russian forces failed to advance.¹¹

¹²

Occupied Luhansk

The former so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination announced that effective June 2, 2023, they would no longer report on

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

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>

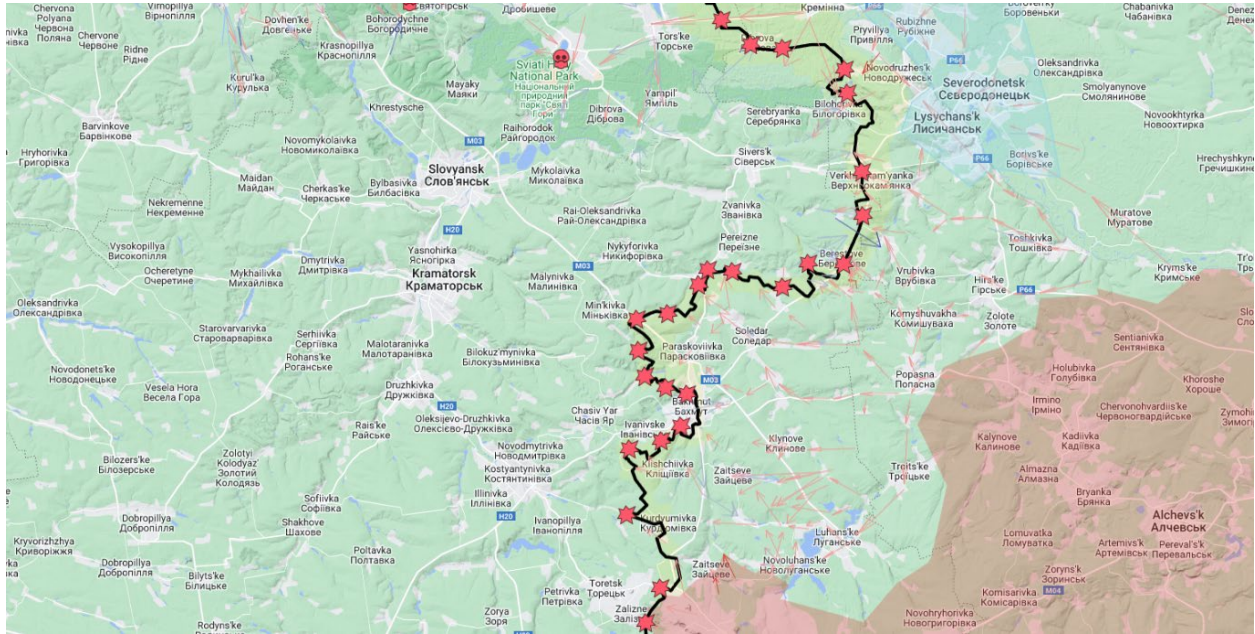
alleged “war crimes” within occupied Luhansk.¹³ The self-declared acting leader of the former LNR, Leonid Pasechnik, is leading the final steps of integrating occupied Luhansk into the Russian government structure.



Editor's Note: We'll miss you, grumpy-faced sign guy.

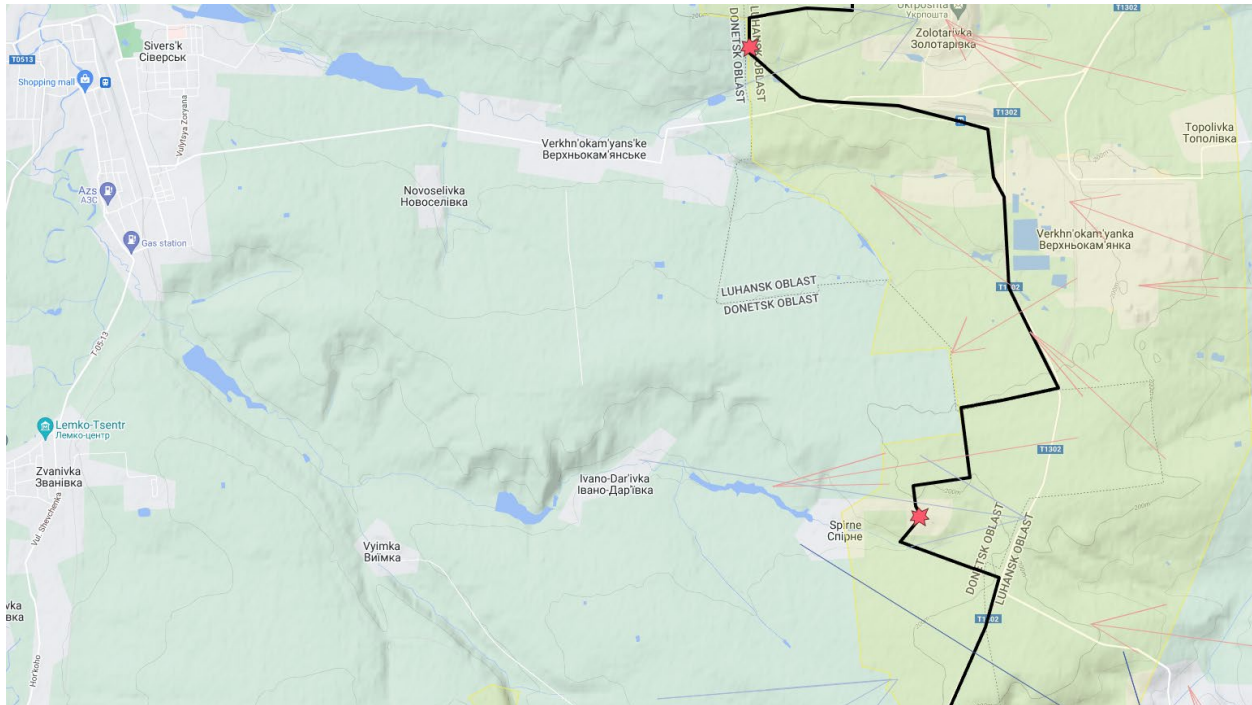
¹³ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8360

NORTHEAST DONETSK



Russian Objective: Capture Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



Siversk Operational Area

GSAFU reported that Russian forces made multiple attempts to advance further into [Spirne](#) supported by the VKS, suffered losses, and returned to their defensive positions.^{14 15}


Bakhmut Operational Area

Colonel Cherevaty of OKE reported that PMC Wagner troop rotations to regular Russian forces and territorial guard

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

¹⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

units of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) continued in Bakhmut, with artillery duels continuing.¹⁶

Chechen forces have arrived in the Bakhmut Operational Area, and the TikTok battalion is back in business and ignoring operational security (OPSEC). Chechen soldiers  [showed themselves driving a convoy into the entrance of a salt mine](#) and the route taken to a supply node in the mine.¹⁷

PMC Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said, "At the moment, on June 2, almost all 99% of the Wagner PMC units left Bakhmut. All positions have been handed over to the Ministry of Defense."

Prigozhin then accused the Russian Ministry of Defense of attempting to ambush withdrawing PMC Wagner mercenaries while clearly stating that Ukrainian forces didn't interfere with troop rotations. "There are no provocations against us from the side of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. However, it should be noted that surprises were waiting for us from the other side [*Russia – Ed.*]. Shortly before our departure, we detected suspicious activity along

¹⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3858

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/PaddyIrish14/status/1664721174704668682>

our route...We found about a dozen places where various explosive devices were placed, ranging from hundreds of antitank mines to tons of plastid [*plastic explosives similar to or possibly C4 – Ed.*]...Those who laid these charges were representatives of the Ministry of Defense. When asked why they did it, they pointed their fingers up [*A metaphor for we are following orders – Ed.*]...it can be assumed that they wanted to meet the advancing units of PMC Wagner with these charges."

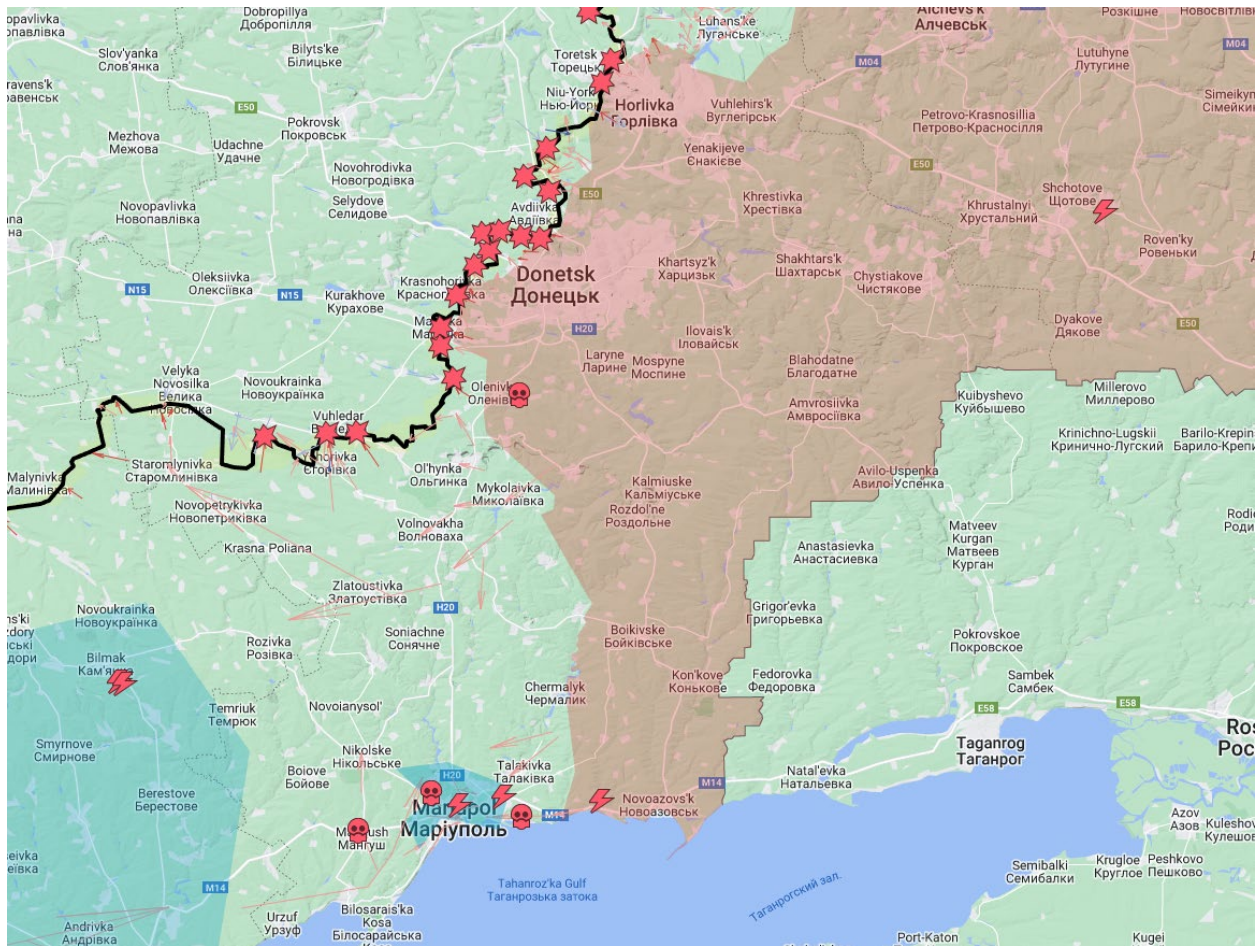
ASSESSMENT: Yevgeny Prigozhin continues to push the boundaries of his already broken relationship with the Russian Ministry of Defense, but silencing him will be highly problematic due to his rising political star. We have previously assessed that the surviving Wagnerites are loyal to Yevgeny Prigozhin and not the Russian Federation. This has been partly caused because Russian mercenaries and paid volunteers have not been given a clear justification for the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, military objectives, and what the exit looks like. Without these clear goals, while patriotism and nationalism can compel recruitment, mercenaries ultimately fight for money and are loyal to the organization paying them. The "stab in the back" message has been powerful historically, and Prigozhin is using the same propaganda tools he used in disinformation and misinformation campaigns in the United States to foment discontent with the Kremlin while



maintaining the appearance of the every man who respects Russian institutions as they stand today.

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SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, consolidate gains made during the winter offensive, and set conditions for September 2023 elections

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and

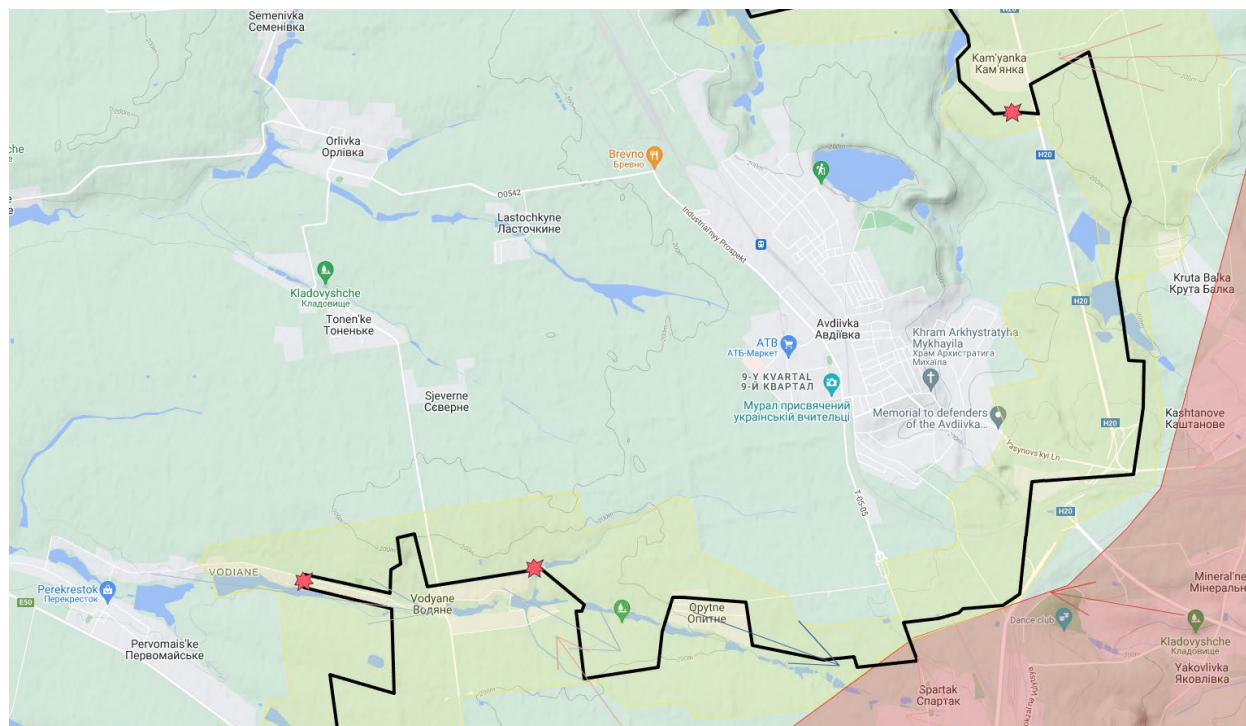
command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

Free Southwest Donesk – Tavria Front

General Alexander Tarnavskiy, Commander of the operational, strategic group of the Tavria front, reported that Ukrainian forces carried out 887 fire missions on the southwest Donetsk axis.¹⁸

ASSESSMENT: Yesterday, Ukrainian forces carried out over 950 fire missions. This sharp increase in fire missions is part of ongoing shaping operations for the looming offensive.

¹⁸ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3857

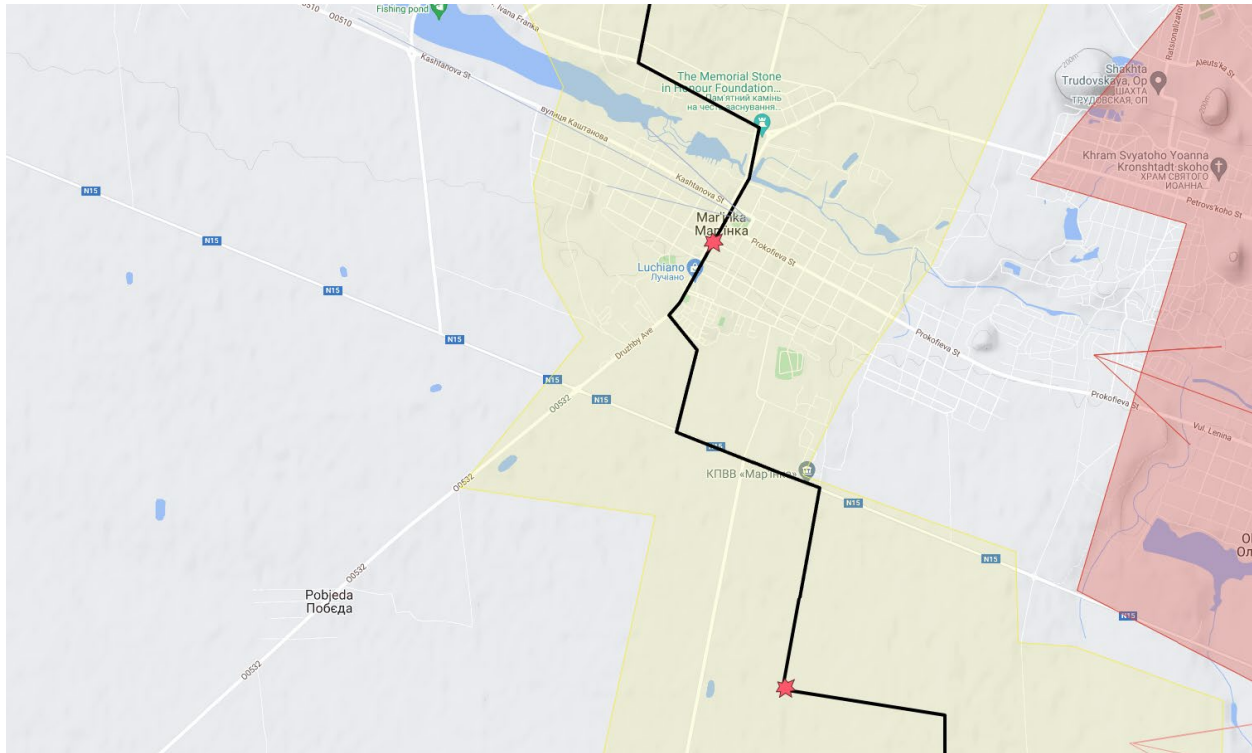


Avdiivka Operational Area

WarGonzo reported that Ukrainian and Russian forces engaged in harassment near [Opytne](#).¹⁹

Editor's Note: Harassment, also known as harassment fire, is when artillery and/or small arms fire is made on the enemy intending to disrupt their operations while not committing significant resources and with no other military objective.

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>



Marinka Operational Area

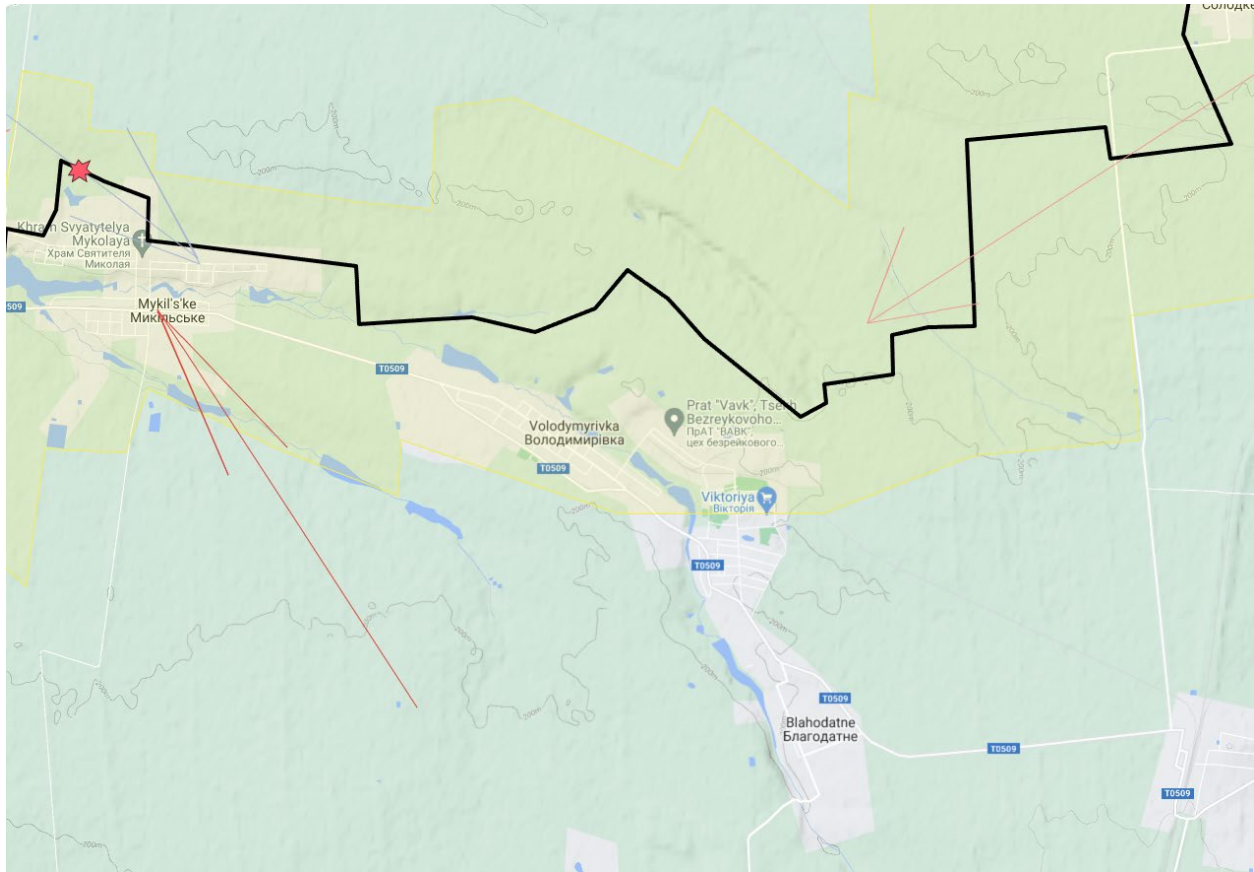
As we check the calendar to see if this is a day that ends in "y," Chechen forces of the Akhmat 54th Motor Rifle Brigade and the Russian 5th Motor Rifle Brigade of the 1st Army Corps, supported by the VKS continued their attacks on [Marinka](#) and were unsuccessful.^{20 21 22 23}

²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

²¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

²² https://t.me/mod_russia/27040 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>

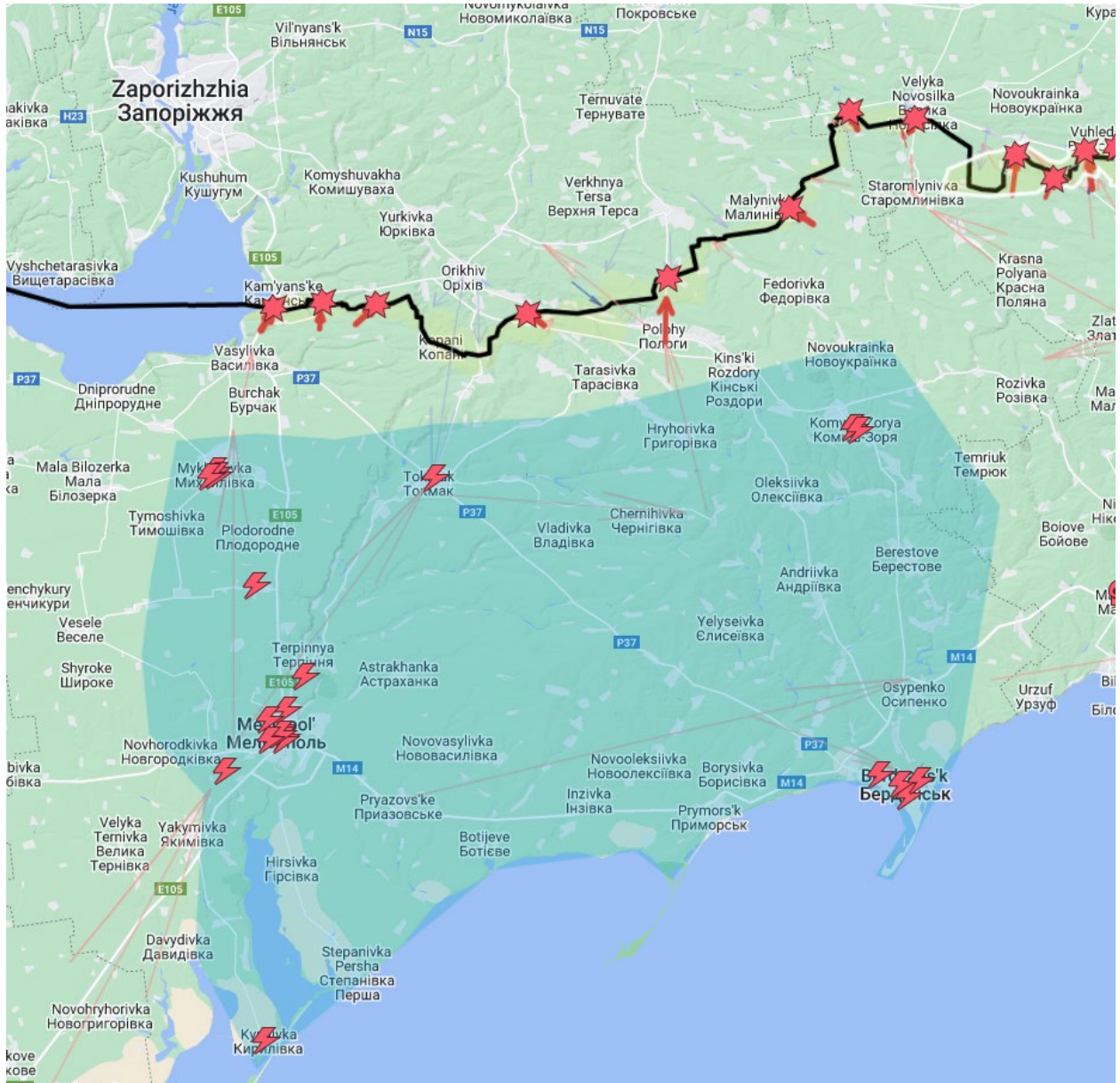


Vuhledar Operational Area

WarGonzo reported that Ukrainian forces made incremental gains northeast of [Volodymyrivka](#) near the quarry.²⁴ We did not adjust the line of conflict on the war map, but we did move the gray area further south based on terrain analysis.

²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>

ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian offensive, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

Free Zaporizhia

Russian forces conducted 106 fire missions, three drone attacks, and two airstrikes, targeting 24 settlements along the line of conflict, killing two civilians.²⁵

Despite the overwhelming evidence that Russian artillery units are active in Zaporizhia, Russian propagandist Alexander Sladkov wrote that Russian artillery units don't engage in counterbattery fire, likely due to continuing ammunition shortages. "Our positions are under heavy artillery fire. I know a lot of bad details, but I won't reveal them. The trend: they hit us – we don't respond...Hundreds of shells are flying at us, zero in response. What kind of war is this?"²⁶

²⁵ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/19168

²⁶ https://t.me/Sladkov_plus/7798

Occupied Zaporizhia

In occupied Mikhailovka, Russian collaborator, disinformation enthusiast, and occupied-Zaporizhia administrator Vladimir Rogov reported two Russian collaborators were wounded and collaborator Sergei Gidovodyu was killed.^{27 28} Ukrainian sources claim four people were in the car, and all the occupants were killed. At the time of publication, we can only verify Gidovodyu was killed in the blast.

Insurgents in Mariupol recorded civilian trucks  [full of half-height dragon teeth](#), reportedly bound for Polohy.²⁹

The Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) reported that up to 150,000 Russian troops, almost half of the entire deployment within Ukraine, are in occupied Zaporizhia.³⁰ The troops are scattered in over 100 locations, according to online investigators. Russian commanders have been convinced that Ukraine will make a push toward Melitopol to cut the Crimean landbridge between occupied Donetsk and the Crimean Peninsula.


²⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/47935>

²⁸ <https://t.me/vrogov/9983>

²⁹ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10380>

³⁰ <https://t.me/investigatoua/5750>

ASSESSMENT: Russian milbloggers have been convinced since October 2022 that Ukraine will launch a larger offensive operation from Hulyaipole in this direction, and over the summer of 2022, Ukrainian forces engaged in what appeared to be shaping operations to the northwest of the Russian-occupied city, which ended in July.

Twenty-four hours after insurgents posted a video and pictures of port operations in Berdyansk showing Russian air defense systems and military cargo being unloaded, three Storm Shadow cruise missiles  [struck the area, causing multiple explosions](#).³¹ It was the first time the port was used for delivering military cargo since the March 24, 2022, sinking of the Russian Large Landing Ship (LLS) Svatov by a Ukrainian Tochka-U short-range ballistic missile (SRBM). Other vessels in the port set to sea immediately after the strike. Russian collaborator Rogov reported nine were hospitalized and an unspecified number killed.³²

³¹ <https://t.me/vrogov/9972>

³² <https://t.me/vrogov/9961>

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Oleg Kulikov, the Head of the State Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority of Ukraine, said that Russian occupiers at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) continue to exert intense pressure on the remaining Ukrainian personnel. He claimed that Russian officials continue to use intimidation, warrantless searches of homes, and isolation. If the remaining employees try to leave for free Ukraine, they are not permitted to leave and face property seizure.³³

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released an update on the status of ZNPP and accused Russian occupation forces of not adhering to the previously agreed to five-point safety plan.³⁴

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said that the onsite inspectors were permitted to visit the 750 kilovolt (kV) switchyard, the only backup power source to the plant. The situation was worse than expected. Three of the power lines remained disconnected, and Rosatom claimed some parts for repairing the connections were being manufactured with no known delivery date.

³³ <https://t.me/znppatom/1700>

³⁴ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

IAEA inspectors have still not been permitted to inspect the adjacent Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant (ZTPP) 330 kV switchyard, which had previously provided backup power to ZNPP. The Russian Federation reported in March that Rosatom was working to remove damaged equipment and restore the three 330 kV lines to the Russian-controlled power grid. Russian officials have repeatedly promised since March that the IAEA monitors would be able to visit the site to see proof of ongoing progress and evaluate the situation.

"Our experts must access the ZTPP to see for themselves what the current situation is like and whether it might be possible to restore backup power there," Director General Grossi said.

IAEA inspectors also reported that two landmines exploded just outside the ZNPP site, violating the Agency's five principles established between Russian and Ukraine.

"As I told the United Nations Security Council just a few days ago, I respectfully and solemnly ask both sides to observe these five principles, which are essential to avoid the danger of a catastrophic incident. These principles are

to no one's detriment and everyone's benefit," Director General Grossi added.

Director General Grossi also expressed concern about the May 17 disconnection of the automatic data feeds from eight radiation monitoring stations located near ZNPP, which provided data to Ukrainian authorities. Grossi said the IAEA is addressing this issue with plant management and relevant officials.

"I hope that we can re-establish a reliable connection to continue to monitor radiation levels soon. It is vital for nuclear safety and security," Grossi said.

The IAEA also confirmed that the planned rotation of the current team of inspectors had been delayed, with Russian officials claiming the issue is due to local weather conditions.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Ukrainian Operational Command South (OKS) did not report the total number of vessels of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol but did report that three frigates capable of launching up to 24 Kalibr cruise missiles were at sea.³⁵



Odesa

³⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32155>

Russian Ministry of Defense claims that the Ukrainian Polnocny-Class Amphibious Landing Ship Yuri Olefirenko was sunk at its berth in Odesa on May 30 could be accurate. Copernicus Sentinel-2 L2A satellite images show the outline of what appears to be a vessel of the same size and shape as the Yuri Olefirenko rolled on its port side at its berth. The resolution of the image from the LS-2A is 10 meters per pixel, so it does not provide conclusive evidence. We will continue to monitor the situation.

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

Free Kherson

Russian forces conducted 65 fire missions firing 265 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, with the city of Kherson

targeted five times and hit by 29 munitions, wounding five.³⁶

Odradokamyanka was bombed by the VKS again, with a FAB-500S-E UPMK glide bomb damaging the post office, a club, a pharmacy, the city administration building, and a monument.³⁷

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: Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Sumy

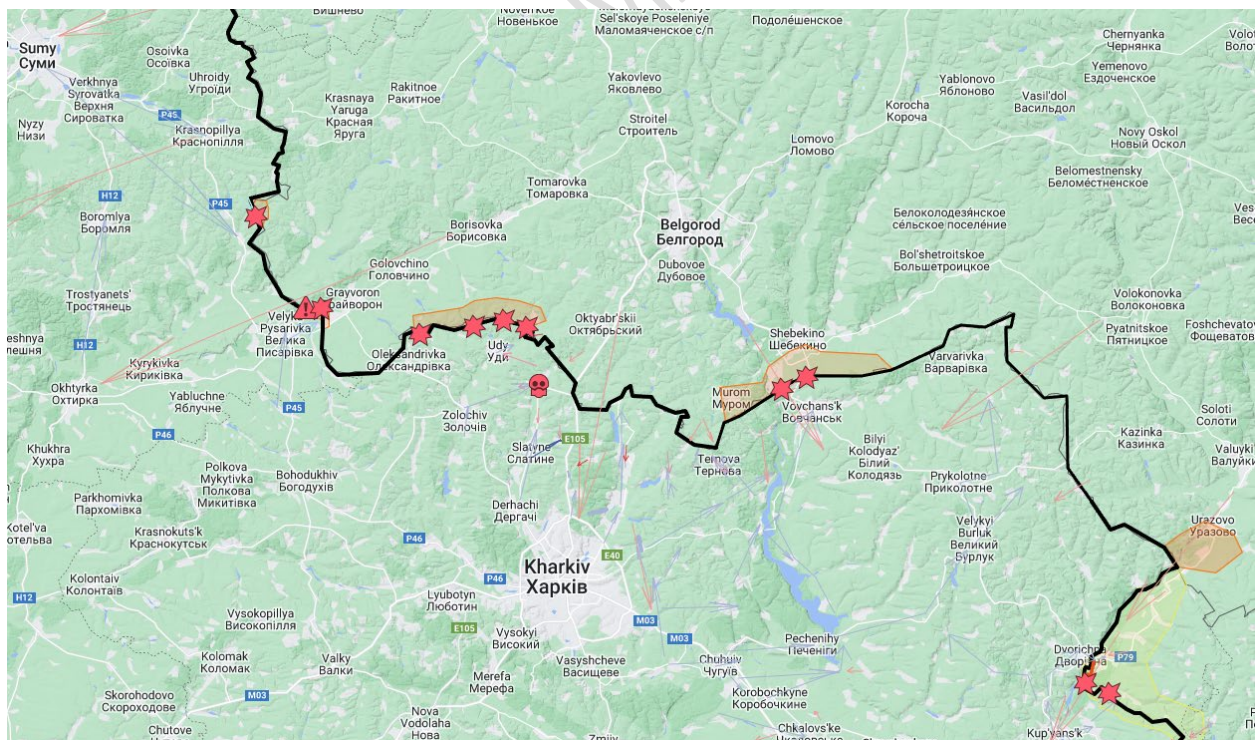
Russian forces conducted 30 fire missions firing over 180 artillery rounds, mortars, rockets fired by multiple launch

³⁶ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/583>

³⁷ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/6351>

rocket systems, and drone-delivered IEDs.³⁸ The Khotin hromada was hit by 12 mortars in two attacks, killing a civilian and damaging a home and powerlines. In the Velyka Pysarivka hromada, the region was hit by three mortars and 16 artillery shells, damaging civilian infrastructure, cars, a pharmacy, a city administration building, two homes, and a multi-story apartment building, injuring one person. A grain elevator in the Seredyna-Buda hromada was also damaged.

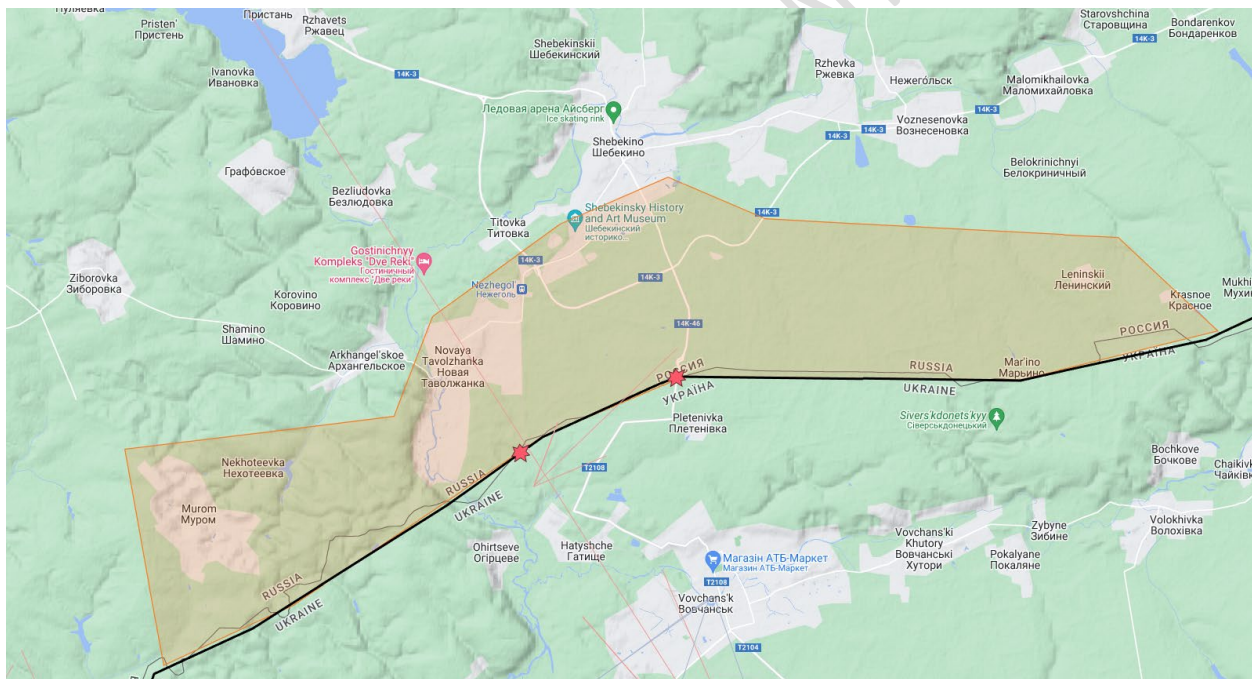
RUSSIAN FRONT



³⁸ https://t.me/Sumy_news_ODA/16663


Russian Objective: Repel Russian partisan attacks, stabilize the border, and maintain civil order



Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective: Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest



Belgorod Operational Direction

For the third day, the Free Russian Legion (FPL) and the Russian Volunteer Corps (PVK) continued fighting against Russian nationalists in [Novaya Tavolzhanka](#) and the outskirts of [Shebekino](#).³⁹

In Novaya Tavolzhanka,  [cars trying to evacuate the settlement were shelled](#), killing two and wounding two. Russian partisans and Russian nationalists traded accusations of targeting civilians.⁴⁰

In Shebekino, the Monocrystal Plant was shelled for the second day in a row,  [reigniting fires at the facility](#).⁴¹ Russian sources claimed that an FPL T-72 tank was abandoned and a second one destroyed, while PMC Wagner Telegram channel Gray Zone claimed that  [one of the tanks was destroyed two weeks ago](#).⁴²

Belgorod regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov reported over 690 artillery rounds, mortars, and Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) struck the



³⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/47939>


⁴⁰ https://t.me/shot_shot/52326

⁴¹ <https://t.me/rybar/47926>

⁴² https://t.me/grey_zone/18964

region.⁴³ All roads to Shebekino have been closed, and bus and train service is suspended through June 30.⁴⁴ Murmon, Novaya Tavolzhanka, Shebekino, and Lenenskii were shelled, with Shebekino hit by over 370 munitions. Gladkov also reported that Maslova Pristan, 18 kilometers from the Ukrainian border, was shelled.

Local residents reported that widescale looting was ongoing.⁴⁵ A person interviewed by Russian state media who said that looting was happening was called a "fool and provocateur" on air. Videos shared on social media showed that  [stores had been broken into](#) and  [homes ransacked](#) in areas where FPL and PVK partisans are not operating.^{46 47}

The FPL accused Russian Nationals of shelling civilians, declaring, "Putin's military continues its chaotic shelling of the Belgorod region. In an attempt to...hit our forces, the enemy [*Russian nationalists aligned with Putin – Ed.*] is flooding settlements with fire, disregarding civilian casualties." Russian partisans  [released a video of the impact of Russian nationalist attacks](#). We cannot verify

⁴³ <https://t.me/vvgladkov/2440>


⁴⁴ <https://t.me/belgorod01/37011>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32154>

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32135>

⁴⁷ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3870

their claims, but the indiscriminate use of artillery for suppression aligns with Russian Federation military doctrine.⁴⁸ A few hours later, the FPL claimed that Chechen forces were being deployed into the operational area, adding, "Given the threat to civilians, we have agreed with the Ukrainian command to open humanitarian corridors for Belgorod residents who suffer from shelling by the regime's army. Anyone who needs assistance for voluntary consent can be evacuated deep into Ukraine to receive shelter and all necessary basic needs."⁴⁹

During the evening of June 1 – 2, Russian nationalists claimed they shot down a drone near Razumnoe. Local residents  [shared pictures of S-300 anti-aircraft missile debris](#) that landed in the settlement, breaking windows and damaging cars and roofs.^{50 51}

Russian nationalist air defense  [was active over the city of Belgorod](#), with residents reporting a "loud" evening with no missile or drone strikes reported.⁵²

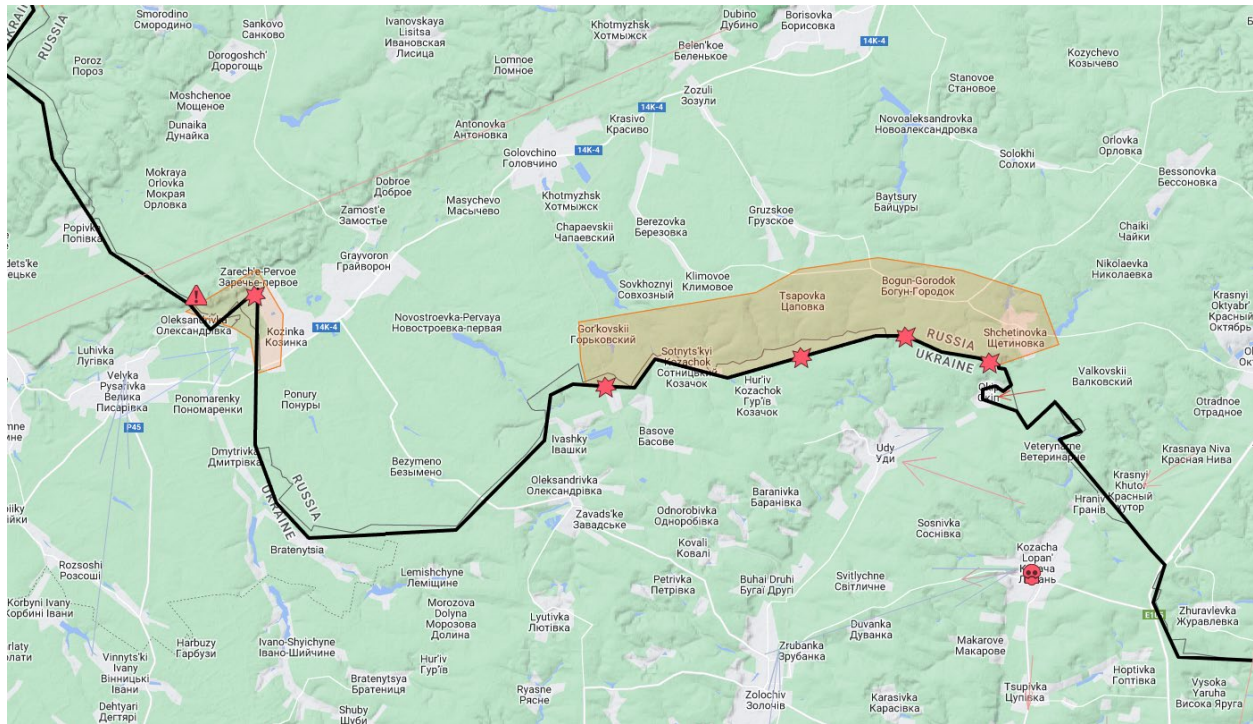
⁴⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/99279>

⁴⁹ https://twitter.com/legion_svboda/status/1664879374263373825

⁵⁰ https://t.me/belgorod_informant/4669

⁵¹ <https://t.me/rybar/47939>

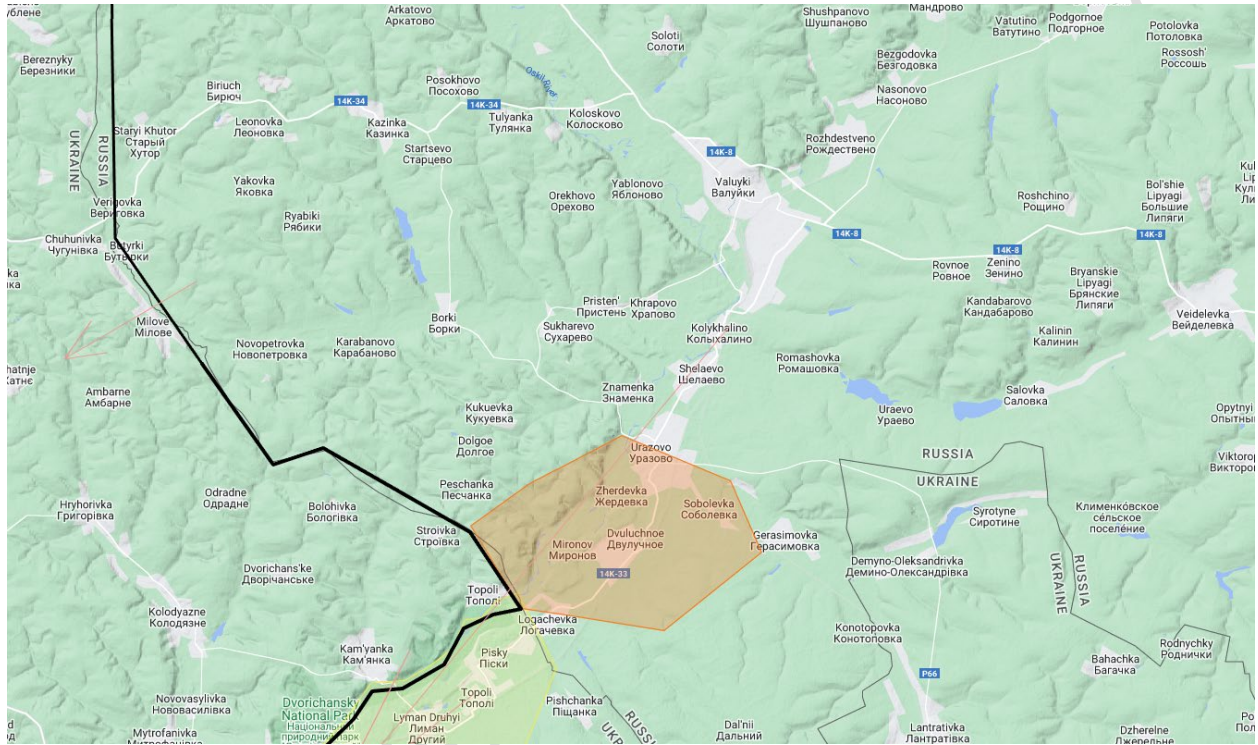
⁵² <https://t.me/rybar/47941>



Grayvoron Operational Direction

Russian state media reported that a carload of Russian conscripts guarding the Russia-Ukraine border was hit by an antitank guided missile (ATGM) near [Kazache-Rudchenskoe](#). Four were killed and six wounded, with the group reportedly heading to a bathhouse despite being stationed only 800 meters from the Russia-Ukraine border in an area that has experienced shelling and border skirmishes as recently as May 31. While conscripts are not supposed to be in Ukraine or engaged in direct combat, the Russian Ministry of Defense has been skirting its regulations by placing mobiks along border regions even though they are under fire. The dead and wounded are from

the 43rd separate railway brigade and the 228th Regiment.⁵³



Valuyki-Urazovo Operational Direction

WarGonzo claimed that Russian partisans crossed the border near Topoli on the north bank of the Oskil River and engaged in a raid in the [Urazovo](#) direction.⁵⁴ Governor Gladkov reported Sobolevka was hit by Grad rockets fired

⁵³ https://twitter.com/ChrisO_wiki/status/1664891945196351492

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12911>

by MLRS, killing three and wounding six.⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ WarGonzo reported that Urazovo was also hit by Grad rockets.⁵⁷

ASSESSMENTS: Russian partisans have conducted raids along a 275-kilometer front from Dronovka to Logachevka in the last 14 days, straining Russian logistics, military resources, and local government officials' ability to manage the situation. We maintain that these military actions aim to force Russia to redeploy military resources to defend its national borders. Over 90% of all Russian ground forces are deployed in or supporting the Russian Federation Armed Forces in Ukraine. With attacks continuing for the third day, the offer to provide safe harbor to Russian nationals in Ukraine, and the reported number of artillery strikes, the Kremlin will have an increasingly difficult time suppressing and managing the news cycle within the region. The very act of trying to suppress news on the situation indicates that the Kremlin lacks the resources to accomplish a proportional response, eliminate the partisans, and secure their borders. This sends a confusing, complicated message as the Kremlin and milbloggers originally identified the attacking forces as Russian partisans.

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/vvgladkov/2440>

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/47939>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12929>

We do not believe that Ukraine intends to open up a wider offensive in any of these operational directions, but we do believe that these actions are part of a broader strategy and are shaping attacks designed to control not just the theater of war but the information space.

KURSK

The reports that the Kursk Khalino Air Base was struck by drones damaging several Russian Su-34 multirole fighter jets were false  [based on satellite images](#) shared by MT Anderson.^{58 59} However, the images did show that all Russian aviation assets had been removed from the airfield. Anderson suggested that Russian air defenses intercepted drones and the base's aircraft were relocated after the failed attack.

THEATERWIDE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a Stavka with a public readout. "An obvious harsh reaction to the death of people in Kyiv due to a closed shelter. There is a

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/99244>

⁵⁹ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1664711103040073728

mandate to inspect protective structures in Kyiv and throughout the country. Ministers Kamyshin and [mayor] Klymenko are responsible. Unfortunately, even today, after everything, the people of Kyiv again and again publish information about the unavailability of shelters. Not just about closed shelters but about closed entrances to shelters [and] about the absence of shelters in some parts of the city. This level of negligence in the city cannot be covered with any excuses."⁶⁰

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko reported that since February 24, 2022, 1.2 billion hryvnias were allocated from the Kyiv budget to improve shelters in the capital and that "To date, the implementation and use of funds are extremely unsatisfactory." Klitschko has initiated the termination of Desnianskyi District RDA Dmytro Ratnikov due to the deaths of civilians locked out of a bomb shelter.⁶¹

Roman Tkachuk, Director of the Department of Municipal Security of the Kyiv City State Administration, said, "A decision was made to carry out enforcement measures to open all warehouses and dual-use facilities...in our city, there are 4,455 shelters, and dual-use facilities, of which almost 1,100 are privately owned shelters...[and]...there are

⁶⁰ https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/12234

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/99196>

state and communal. While we can influence the latter, the situation with private individuals is extremely difficult. According to the current legislation, apart from administrative influence, we cannot influence these balance holders in any way. To that end, we will forcefully open all the shelters on our list that are privately owned. We will forcibly 'help' the balance-keepers who do not carry out civil protection measures."


The fallout of three civilian deaths in Kyiv on June 1 has expanded across Ukraine, with President Zelenskyy mandating Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko check on the status of all bomb shelters across Ukraine within the next ten days.⁶²

The Special Operations Forces (SOF) of the Armed Forces of Ukraine requested permission for Kyiv City Council member Vladyslav Trubitsyn, now accused of corruption, to leave Ukraine. In January 2023, the SOF asked GUR leader Kyrylo Budanov to permit Trubitsyn and four other persons to go abroad as volunteers to source "specialist equipment" for the SOF. "Unfortunately, the nature of the task cannot be disclosed, as it contains data constituting an official secret," said Oleksandr Kindratenko, the spokesman of the SOF.

⁶² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/06/2/7404997/>

Budanov provided a letter enabling Trubitsyn to go to Poland in May, but he did not return to Kyiv for his court hearings and has broken off contact with Kyiv. Trubitsyn is accused of being involved in a 1.4 million hryvnia bribery scheme.^{63 64}

The Washington Post alleged that Ukrainian explosive ordnance disposal experts and combat engineers had been engaged in covert operations to demine approaches to Russian defenses as part of ongoing shaping operations. We cannot validate the claims of the newspaper.⁶⁵

During his trip to Finland, United States Secretary of State  [Antony Blinken mocked the Russian military](#) and Ministry of Defense while dismissing calls for a ceasefire and frozen conflict.⁶⁶ "The Kremlin often claimed that they had the second strongest army in the world. And many people believed it. Today, many consider the Russian army the second strongest in Ukraine. Their equipment, technology, leadership, troops, strategy, tactics, and morale spirit – examples of failure." Blinken dismissed calls for a frozen conflict by leaders such as Hungarian


⁶³ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/8783>

⁶⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/06/2/7405014/>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32148>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/99241>

President Viktor Orban, saying, "A ceasefire that simply freezes the current situation in place and allows Putin to consolidate control over the occupied territory, and then rearm and attack again – this is not a lasting peace, this is a Potemkin peace."^{67 68}

Video released by the Operation Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine showed a  [Su-25 fitted with NATO-provided LAU-10 four-charge rocket pods](#) armed with Zuni unguided rockets.⁶⁹

The U.S. has reportedly found a way to purchase trinitrotoluene from Japan without violating Japanese law prohibiting the supply of military products to third countries. The ban is not as strict for dual-use items, enabling Japan to transfer "industrial" TNT, which will be used as ammunition filler.⁷⁰

The Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Ihor Zhovkva, said that following President Zelenskyy's attendance of the European Summit in Moldova, the outlines of the fighter jet coalition have been determined

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32137>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/32145>

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/99283?single>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/78406>

and "real steps have been taken to accelerate the training of pilots and technicians for the fourth-generation fighter jets, "including, but not limited to, F-16s." The fighter coalition includes the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Portugal, and France.⁷¹

Editor's Note: A-10s go brrrrrttttt soon?

So close and yet so far. The Swiss parliament voted against the transfer of weapons to Ukraine. The National Council failed to pass a bill allowing third-party countries to transfer Swiss arms to Ukraine. Germany, Denmark, and Spain have already filed requests for the re-export of Swiss-made weapons and ammunition.⁷² Several proposals that could solve the impasse while enabling Switzerland to maintain a sense of neutrality are still under consideration. One proposal would enable the indirect supply of military materials to Ukraine. A country could transfer Swiss military hardware or munitions they had purchased five or more years ago, but only to Western countries and with Swiss approval. In addition, the target country must not be at war unless it is defending itself, like Ukraine.⁷³

⁷¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/06/2/7404952/>

⁷² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/78401>

⁷³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/06/2/7404940/>



The table for Russia versus Ukrainian equipment losses based on information from the Oryx Database has been updated for May 31, 2023.

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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 May 31, 2023. 10,468 Russian vs. 3,451 Ukrainian

| Equipment | Russian Losses | Ukrainian Losses | Ratio | Change |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| Main Battle Tanks | 1871 | 197 | 9.50:1 | ↑ |
| Medium Duty Tanks | 130 | 309 | 0.42:1 | — |
| Armored fighting Vehicles | 863 | 277 | 3.13:1 | ↓ |
| Infantry Fighting Vehicles | 2366 | 543 | 4.36:1 | — |
| Armored Personnel Carriers | 309 | 265 | 1.17:1 | — |
| MRAPs | 43 | 58 | 0.74:1 | — |
| Infantry Mobility Vehicles | 189 | 316 | 0.60:1 | ↓ |
| Command and Communications Vehicles | 243 | 13 | 18.69:1 | ↑ |
| Engineering Vehicles | 306 | 57 | 5.37:1 | — |
| Towed Artillery | 224 | 124 | 1.81:1 | ↑ |
| Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars | 405 | 161 | 2.51:1 | ↓ |
| MLRS | 202 | 45 | 4.48:1 | ↑ |
| SAMs | 114 | 114 | 1.00:1 | ↓ |
| Mobile Radars | 32 | 60 | 0.53:1 | — |
| EW/ECW | 37 | 2 | 18.50:1 | — |
| Winged Aircraft | 82 | 66 | 1.24:1 | — |
| Helicopters | 90 | 30 | 3.00:1 | — |
| Naval Vessels | 12 | 26 | 0.46:1 | — |

RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MIR, AND MOBILIZATION


Former best buddies Colonel General and aspiring dentist Ramzan don don Kadyrov and PMC Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin and their proxies engaged in a very public war of words, with the on again, off again, admiration of the two groups appearing to have completely fractured.

On May 31, Prigozhin said that while Akhmat may have tactical success in the Donbas as the apparent replacement of PMC Wagner after its withdrawal from the front lines, they are incapable of capturing the entire region. Prigozhin also called into question the overall combat capabilities of Chechen Akhmat forces.

ASSESSMENT: Kadyrov stated that Akhmat has about 7,000 troops in Ukraine, less than a third of their deployed peak in Spring 2022. A force of 7,000 is completely incapable of capturing all of the Donbas.

Adam Delimkhanov, a close ally of Kadyrov, State Duma Member, and commander of the Chechen Rosgvardia, confronted Prigozhin with an online video statement. "If you don't understand, you can contact us and tell us a time and place. We will explain to you what you don't understand. You have become a blogger who screams and shouts off to the whole world about all of our issues. Stop shouting, yelling, and screaming."⁷⁴



Dmitry Utkin, a deputy commander of PMC Wagner, blasted Delimkhanov on June 1, stating that while Wagner was fighting to capture towns such as Popasna, Chechen Akhmat was busy filming TikTok videos. He also pointed out that Prigozhin is trying to "achieve justice for their country and fighters," highlighting the issues within the Russian military in Ukraine and is not afraid to bring them up.⁷⁵

Editor's Note: *If you didn't know, Dmitry Utkin does have some rather  [inconvenient tattoos](#) when it comes to the Ukrainian Neo-Nazi narrative.*

⁷⁴ <https://www.newsweek.com/feud-putin-allies-prigozhin-wagner-group-kadyrov-chechen-ukraine-war-1804137>

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/dshrg2/944>

In a blow to Russia's self-sense of superiority, Anton Gorelkin, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Information Policy, Information Technologies and Communications, admitted that Russian YouTube knockoff "Rutube" is much like Facebook knockoff VK – not quite up to worldwide quality. Addressing calls to ban YouTube in Russia, he said, "YouTube is hostile, but there is no alternative yet, so it is impossible to block."⁷⁶

Russian propagandists have accused Ukraine of harboring a new evil – combat locusts. In a video shared on Russian state media, they claim that  [combat locusts developed in a Missouri bio lab by Washington University](#) were brought to Rubizhne in Luhansk because it was an ideal location to breed and release the trained insects. We are completely serious. You can find the translated video  [here](#).⁷⁷

Mobilized servicemen from the 1307th Regiment based in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Russia, made an appeal video because they were being treated like "cannon fodder" after a change of commander. They claim that their new

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/78433>

⁷⁷ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1664866326274342913>

commander had lost his entire regiment in Kreminna, and after four months in Ukraine, they were transferred out of the Russian Ministry of Defense. They have spent the last four months on the line of conflict without rotation, adequate rations, or potable water. Weapons meant for the unit were sold illegally by their commanding officer, and they had to build their own defense structures, despite billions of roubles spent on the Wagner Line in the fall while under intense Ukrainian artillery fire. Then they were abandoned after being notified they would be transferred again to Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu's PMC Storm-Z.⁷⁸ They concluded that they weren't trying to riot but wanted to be transferred back to the Russian Ministry of Defense under their original commander.

Residents of the so-called DNR are complaining en masse that they are not being compensated for deaths and injuries caused by the war. DNR authorities admit they owe more than 38 billion roubles, equal to US\$467 million, in compensation to families and soldiers of the 1st Army Corps. The Russian government has shown little concern for the welfare of DNR soldiers and their families, and the local government is incapable of raising funds to pay the owed compensation.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/albafella1/status/1664599202003910657>

⁷⁹ <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1664667032208408578.html>

All is going to plan.

GEOPOLITICS

Chinese government special envoy Li Hui said that the conflict in Ukraine had reached a dead end and the "parties will not be easy" to get together for productive talks. "China believes that if we really want to end the war, save lives and establish peace, it is important for us to stop sending weapons to the battlefield. Otherwise, tensions will only increase."⁸⁰

ECONOMIC

The United Nations reported Russia had suspended the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The Russian Federation notified the Joint Coordinating Center in Istanbul to restrict the passage of ships to the port of Yuzhny in Odesa until the export of ammonia through Ukraine begins.

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/78445>
<https://t.me/ShrikeNews/8786>

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 use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny 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.

 **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:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared 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 self-declared 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 official 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.