



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



October 20, 2022





# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 10/20/22 23:59\* PDT

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 239**

It has been 3,145 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Ukrainian state media reported that Russian forces have started to withdraw from Kherson. Otherwise, there was very little kinetic warfare across Ukraine.

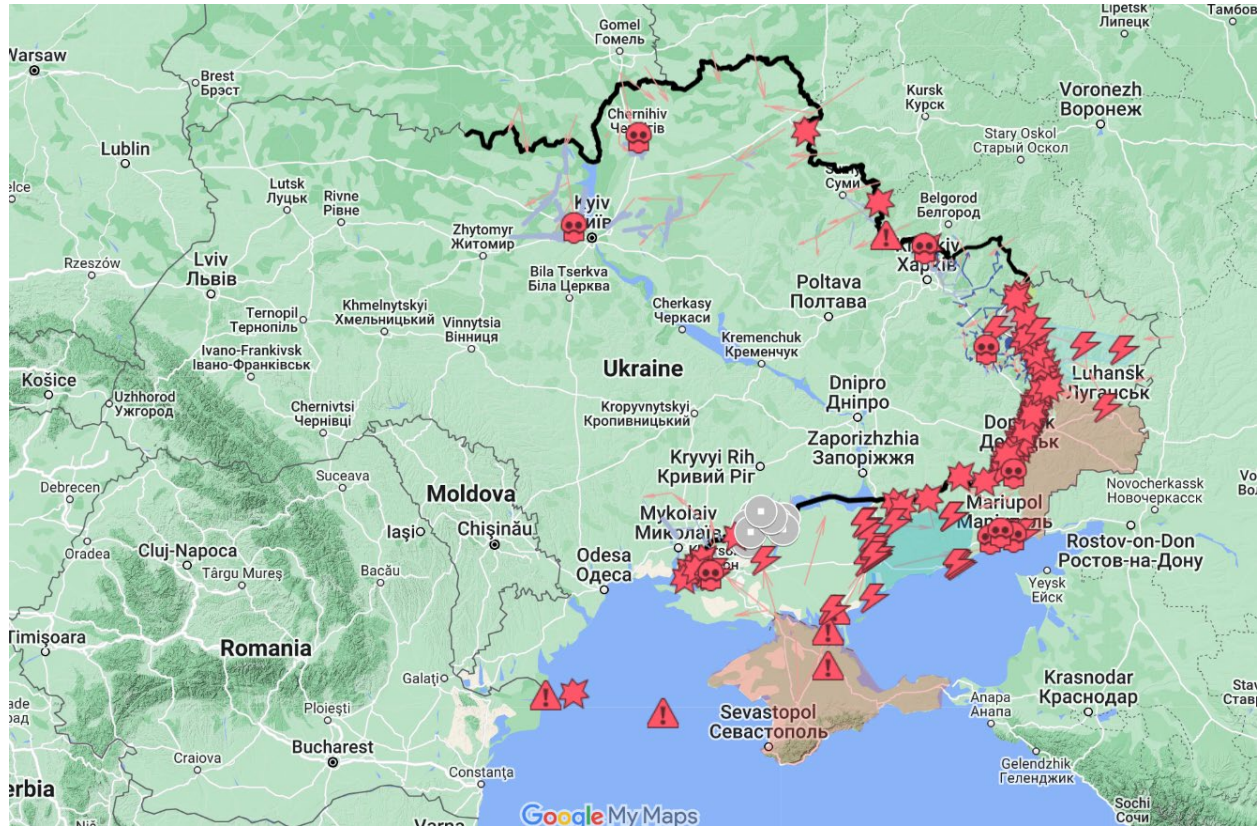
## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. We assess that the chances of Russian forces invading Ukraine from Belarus, with the support of Belarusian troops, continue to increase and have become a credible threat.
2. We acknowledge reports that Russian troops are starting to withdraw from Kherson, but significant questions remain on if this is the start of a partial or total withdrawal and if Russian forces will continue to fight for control of the west bank of the Dnipro.
3. We maintain that Russian terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure will continue throughout the week and likely beyond.

4. We maintain that the mobilization of up to 300,000 troops will have little impact on the battlefield due to poor morale, discipline, and a lack of equipment among mobiks.
5. We maintain that Ukraine still holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.
6. We maintain that using tactical nuclear weapons on the battlefield is highly unlikely, and the chances of the use of nuclear weapons are in decline.
7. Despite the improvement in the political situation, we maintain we are in the Mutually Assured Destruction Instability Paradox due to previous irresponsible language from the Kremlin.

## TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

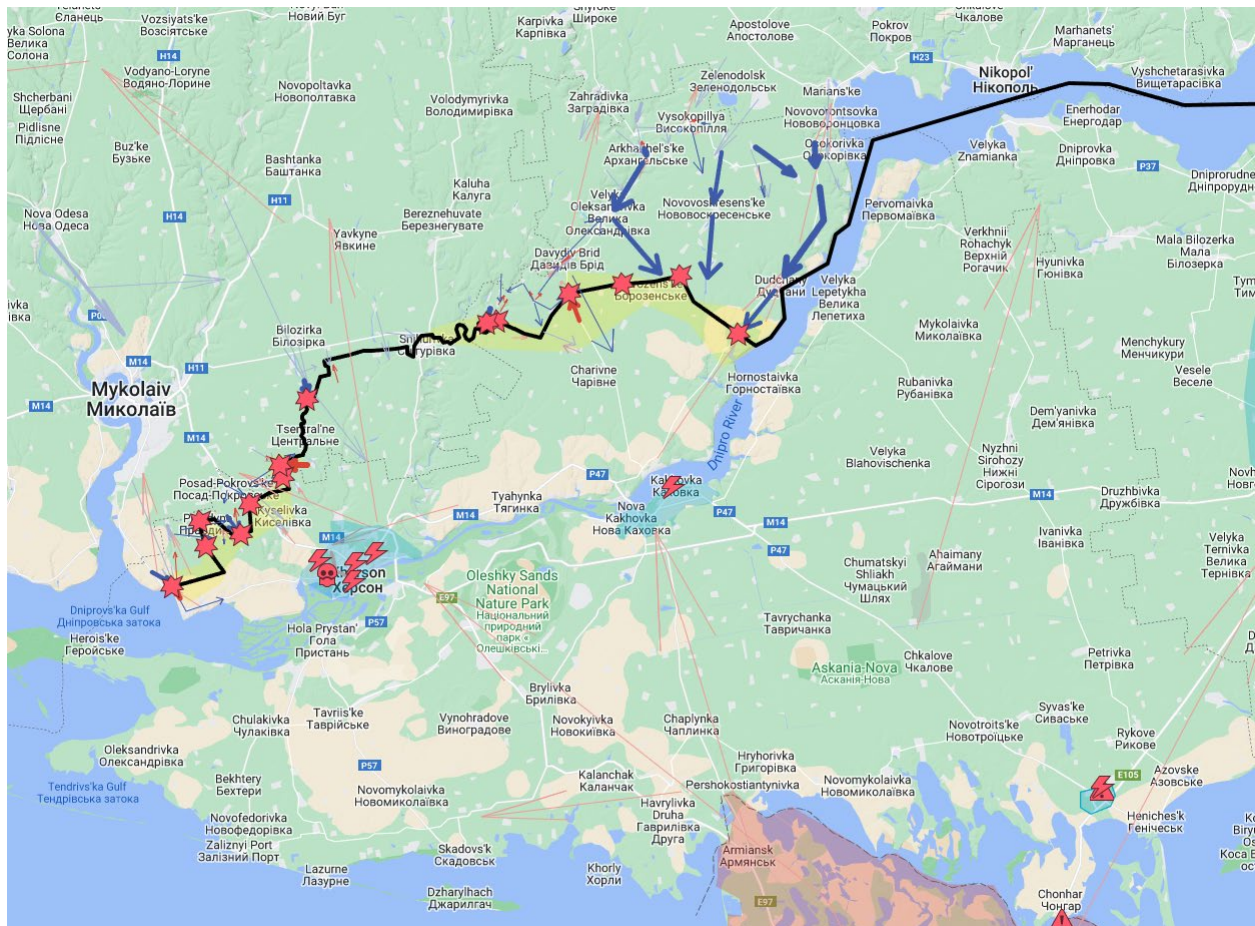


**Information about changes made to the map:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval Airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>



## KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold existing defensive lines, protect remaining Lines of Communication (LOC – supply lines), defend Kherson, prevent envelopment on the western side of the Dnipro River, restrict insurgent activity

**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to

## end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

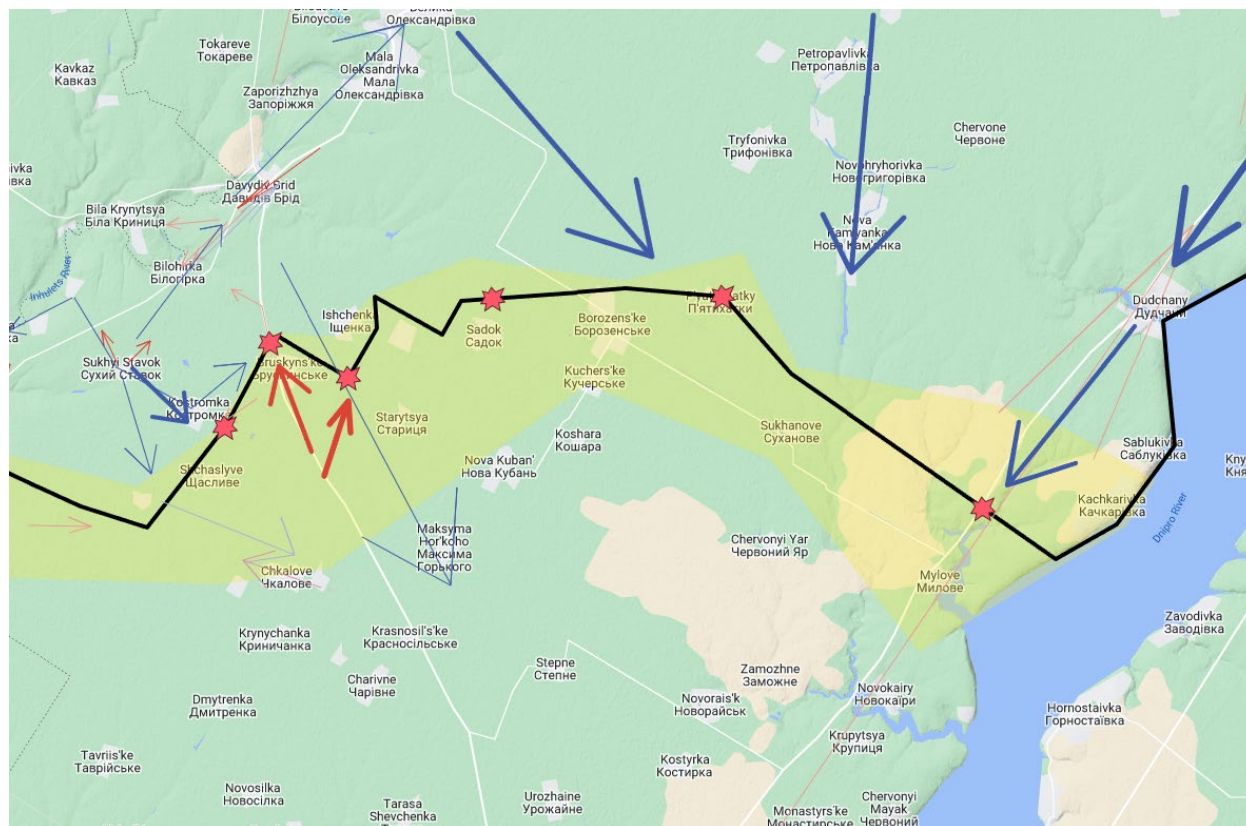
The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) continues its media blackout in the Kherson oblast, and we have not updated our war map for Kherson since October 16. Neither belligerent reported significant fighting.

The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that Ukrainian troops broke through Russian defenses yesterday until a miracle reserve of tanks appeared and pushed the advance back.<sup>1</sup> We're inclined to apply what we now call the Soledar Paradox to the report. Last week, the Russian MOD reported that Ukrainian forces attacked Russian troops east of Soledar in the direction of Stryapivka until a miracle happened and they destroyed the advancing Ukrainians. We learned yesterday the attack part was true, but the miracle destruction of advancing Ukrainians wasn't.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/21017](https://t.me/mod_russia/21017)





There is not enough information to confirm or deny Russian claims of fighting, but over the last 24 hours, NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed thermal anomalies in northern Kherson. Operational Command South (OCS) reported a Russian forward operating base (FOB) was destroyed in [Borozenske](https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372830/).<sup>2</sup>

We were preparing an assessment for today because we felt the situation had reached obvious clarity until it didn't

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372830/>

anymore. There continue to be significant rumors, speculation, and anecdotal reports without enough supporting evidence. Then, Ukrainska Pravda confirmed our observations.

Russian forces appear to be retreating from the western part of Kherson through ferries launching from Kozatske to Nova Kakhovka.<sup>3</sup> The retreat reportedly began after the first week of October, according to Skhemy, part of Radio Svoboda, which is a United States state media source. Satellite imagery confirms the apparent withdrawal. Ferries arrive in Kozatske empty and then carry trucks and people back to Nova Kakhovka. It appears the Ukrainian Armed Forces have not interrupted the ferry traffic at this crossing, and there have been no attempts to move offensive weapons such as heavy artillery, tanks, and infantry fighting vehicles.

Additional pictures have emerged of Russian forces moving trucks and civilian equipment across the Dnipro River from Kherson. This includes stealing fire trucks and emergency equipment.<sup>4</sup> There are unconfirmed reports of trucks full of

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372729/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1583046458474778626](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1583046458474778626)

looted consumer electronics and appliances also moving across the river on ferries.

Brigadier General Oleksii Hromov, Deputy Head of the Main Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, reported that Russia might withdraw experienced troops from the west bank of the Dnipro and leave mobiks to fight a rear guard action to protect a retreat.<sup>5</sup> Occupation leaders in Kherson are starting to evacuate Russian medical workers and teachers and stopped distributing humanitarian aid.<sup>6</sup> Working against the retreat narrative, GSAFU reported that 2,000 Russian mobiks had been moved into Kherson as reinforcements.<sup>7</sup>

Deportations continued in Kherson, with up to 15,000 residents already moved to the eastern part of Kherson to be sent to Russia. That is the pre-2014 border with Russia, not Zaporizhia we thought was annexed by Russia, Russia.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372763/>

<sup>6</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

<sup>7</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)



OCS reported seven air strikes by the Ukrainian air force, and ground forces carried out 110 fire missions.<sup>8</sup> It is one of the lowest reported numbers in months.

**ASSESSMENT:** A one-day sharp drop in artillery and multiple launch rocket (MLRS) strikes does not equal a trend.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the Russians had rigged the dam and units of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant with explosives and plan to destroy the structure and blame Ukraine.<sup>9</sup> "If Russian terrorists blow up this dam, more than 80 settlements, including Kherson, will be in the zone of rapid flooding. Hundreds of thousands of people could suffer," Zelenskyy said.

"It could destroy the water supply for a large part of Ukraine's south. This Russian terrorist attack could leave the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant without water for cooling; the ZNPP takes water from the Kakhovka reservoir. Even the functioning of the channel, constructed

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1056942875001030>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372801/>

to provide Crimea with water, which Moscow sometimes "expresses concern" about, will be completely destroyed."

Russian state media made the bizarre claim that Ukraine has its own nuclear weapons and has planted one in Mykolaiv to destroy the city and blame Russia for a false flag attack.<sup>10</sup>

Video shows that the pontoon bridge in Kherson was attacked, likely by rockets fired by HIMARS.<sup>11</sup> Ukrainian officials confirmed the attack and claimed they targeted Russian forces attempting to use the pontoon bridge to cross the Dnipro River.<sup>12</sup> Occupation authorities claim the attack purposely targeted civilians, while other sources pointed out that the attack occurred during the mandatory curfew hours that bar civilians from traveling.<sup>13</sup> Regardless of the back-and-forth claims, four to 12 people were apparently killed in the strike.

Vitalii Kim, Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that the city of Mykolaiv was struck by

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<sup>10</sup> [https://mobile.twitter.com/francis\\_scarr/status/1582840182960967680](https://mobile.twitter.com/francis_scarr/status/1582840182960967680)

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/archer83able/status/1583188819506962432>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372838/>

<sup>13</sup> [https://t.me/kherson\\_non\\_fake/3953](https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/3953)

S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for ground attack.<sup>14</sup> The missiles reportedly hit nothing, with Kim stating, "They just messed up the lawns."

Despite downing 12 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, four struck the city, and a fifth landed on private property. The four drones hit a college, causing two fires. Thankfully, no casualties were reported.

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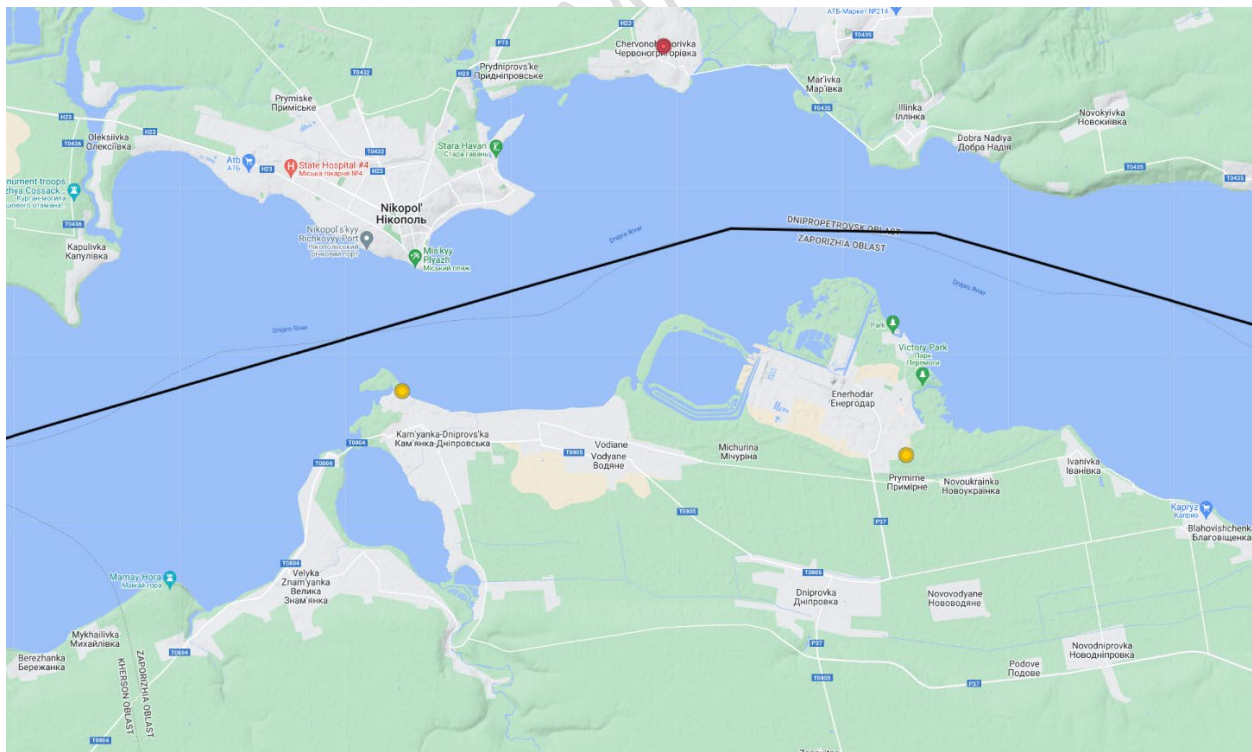
<sup>14</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372698/>



## DNIPROPETROVSK & NORTHERN ZAPORIZHIA

**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

**Ukrainian Objective:** Prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and prepare the area's civilian population for a nuclear accident



There was no change in the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and the International Atomic Energy Agency did not release a statement regarding the shelling of Enerhodar from two days ago. The lack of reporting from Energoatom and the IAEA implies that the 330 kilovolt (kV) power connection from the Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant remains intact. There was no update on the three kidnapped Energoatom employees.

At the time of publication, there were only unverified reports of shelling in the Nikopol area.

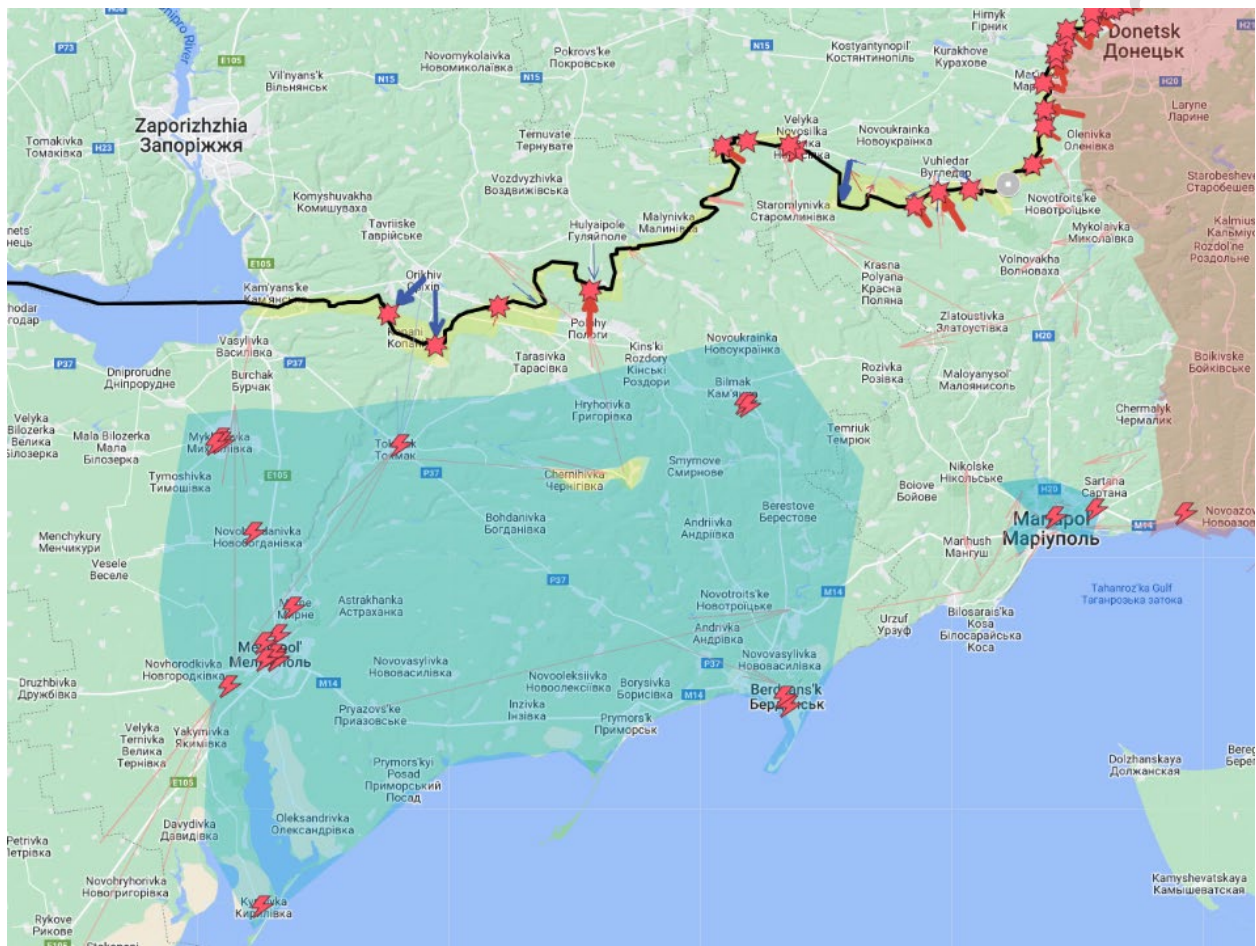
The city of Zaporizhzhia was attacked by S-300 anti-aircraft rockets used for a ground attack. The rockets struck residential housing and civilian infrastructure, and officials reported that one of the warheads didn't detonate. They appealed to residents not to touch, move close, or take pictures of the rocket debris and were waiting for explosive ordnance disposal experts to arrive.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372841/>

# DONBAS REGION

## SOUTHERN ZAPORIZHZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, defend the existing line of conflict, and end the insurrection that is throughout the Russian-controlled territory



**Ukrainian Objective:** Fix Russian assets in place to prevent redeployment, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, support and expand the insurrection in occupied territories

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.<sup>16</sup>

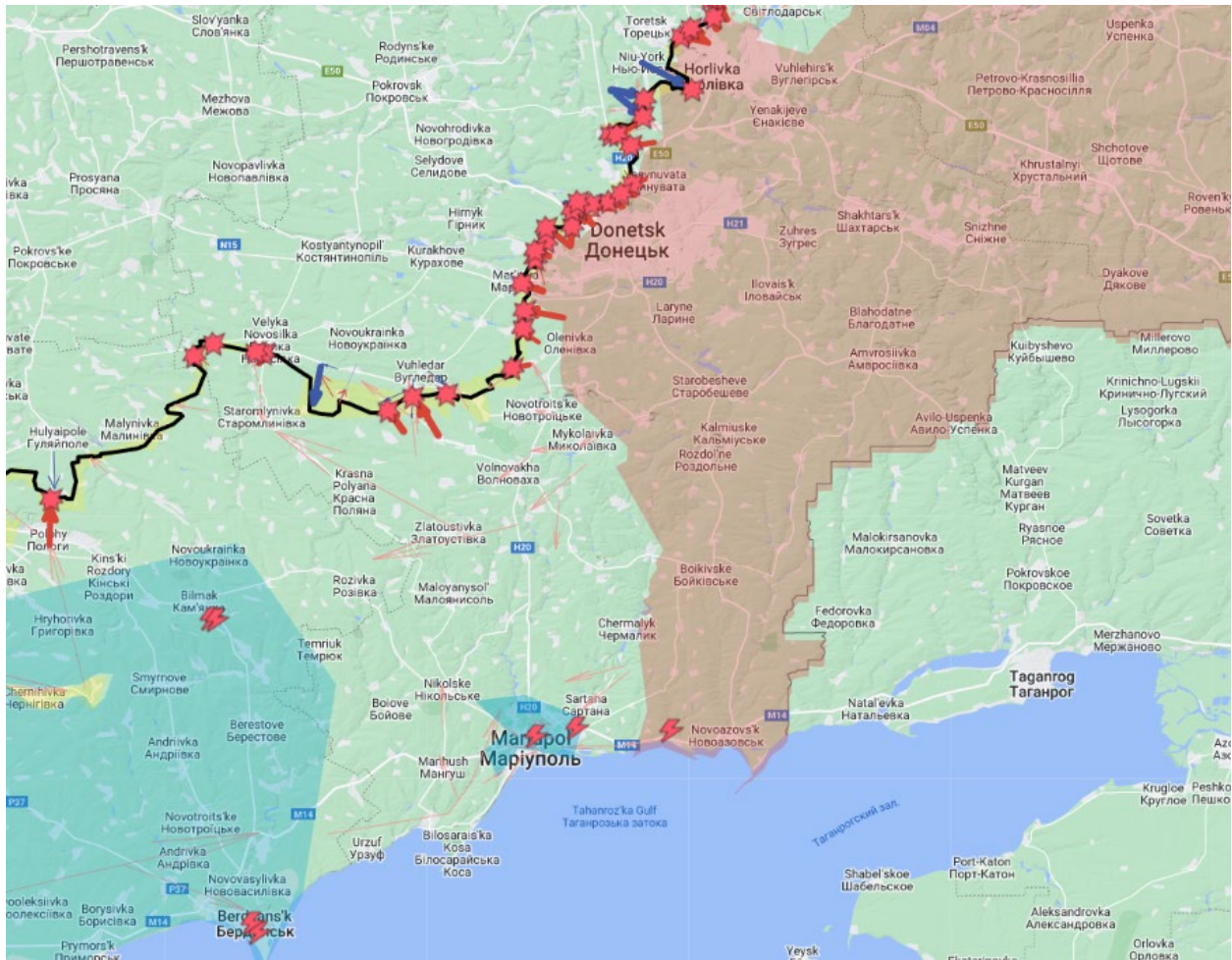
Russian milbloggers have renewed claims that Ukrainian troops are deploying north of Orikhiv and Hulyaipole for a future counteroffensive.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14455>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/40471>

# SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, maintain existing defensive lines, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

**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

The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) militia public relations channel released [a video of an artillery unit firing](#) and provided a textbook example of how not to operate artillery equipment.<sup>18</sup> The artillery piece was not properly braced and bucked wildly with every shot fired. When an artillery piece isn't braced, accuracy is significantly compromised. Just watch the video.

The DNR claimed their forces destroyed two tanks and two ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft guns without evidence.<sup>19</sup> The report of the ZU-23-2 guns being destroyed is unusual, as Ukraine has not fielded the weapon system for direct fire, while Russian forces have.

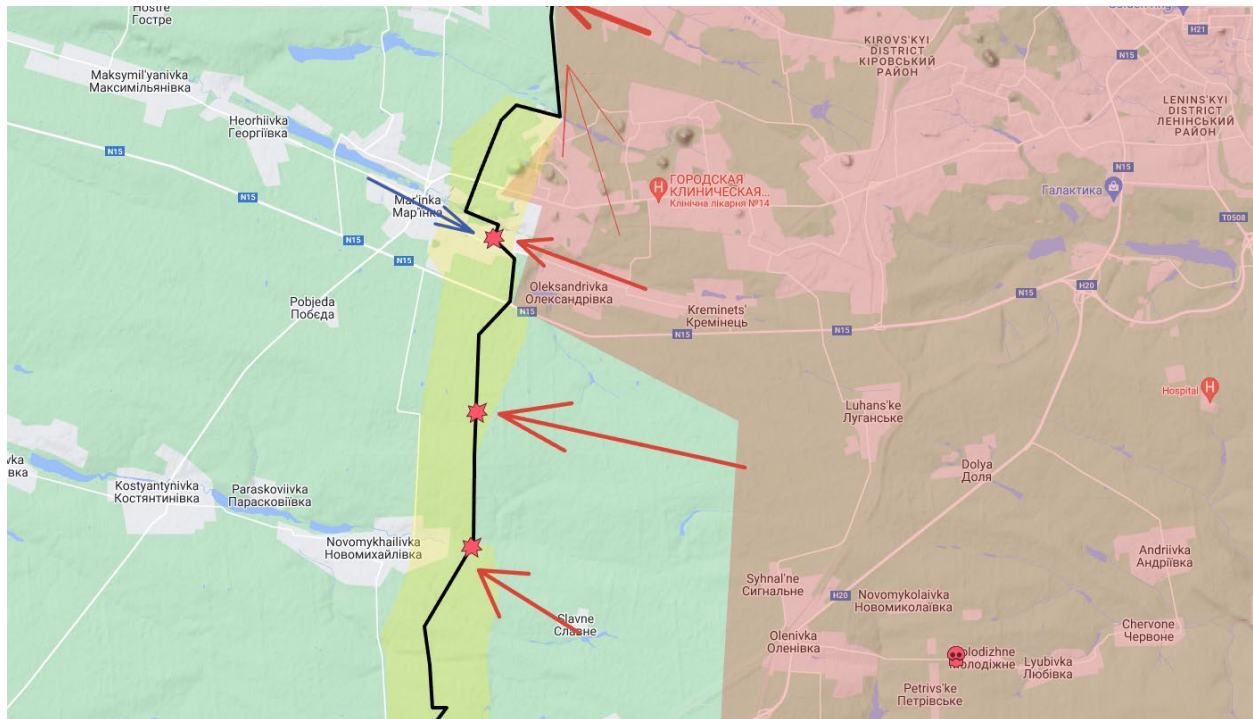
Ukrainian forces carried out 155 fire missions on the occupied territory. The Russian MOD nor Pro-Russian sources did not report any fighting on the axis.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1583325082310828033>

<sup>19</sup> [https://t.me/nm\\_dnr/9252](https://t.me/nm_dnr/9252)

<sup>20</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/21017](https://t.me/mod_russia/21017)



GSAFU reported positional fighting in [Marinka](#) and east of [Pobjeda](#).<sup>21</sup> There was no change to the line of conflict.

In Mariupol, traffic jams formed as residents [attempted to flee out of the city](#) toward Russia.<sup>22</sup>

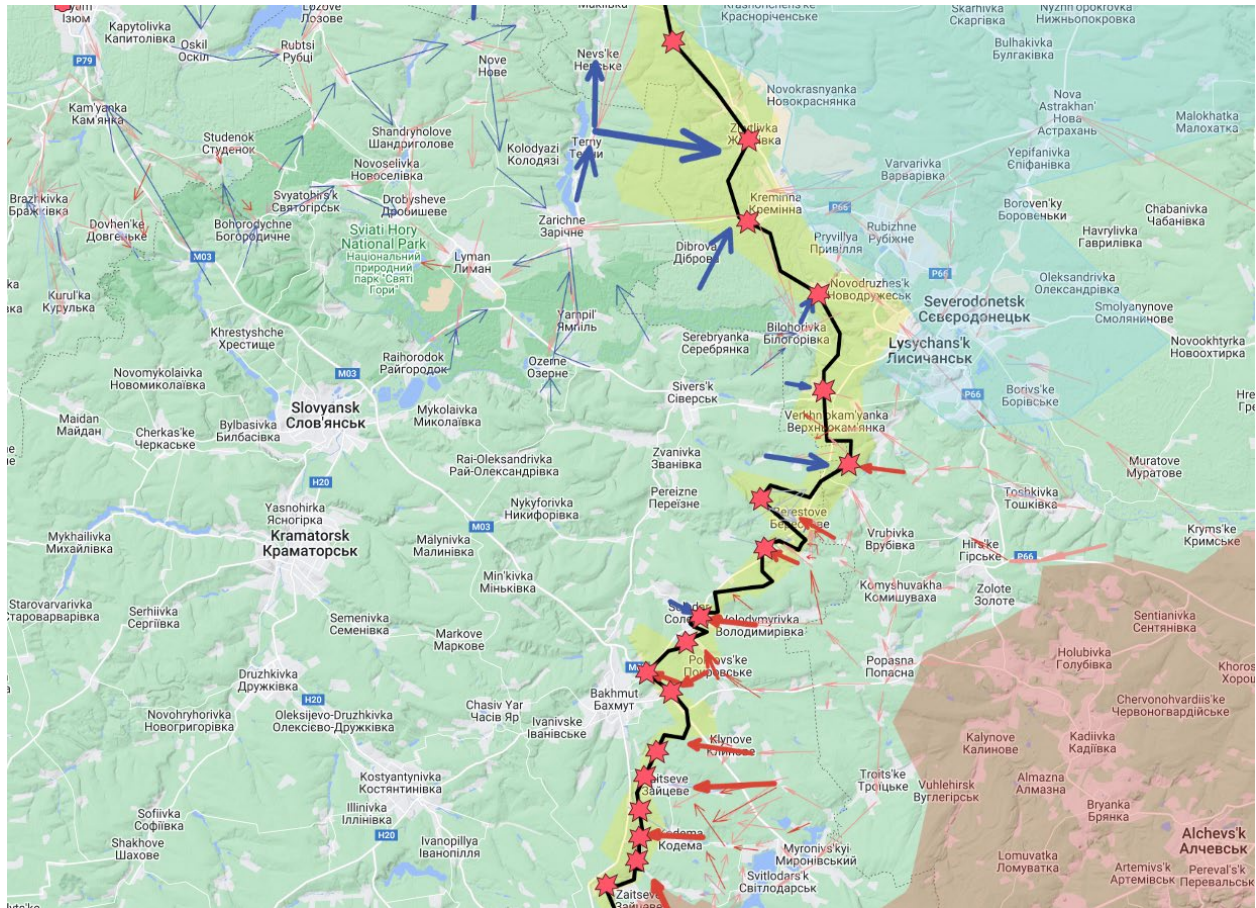
<sup>21</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1583184215515897857>



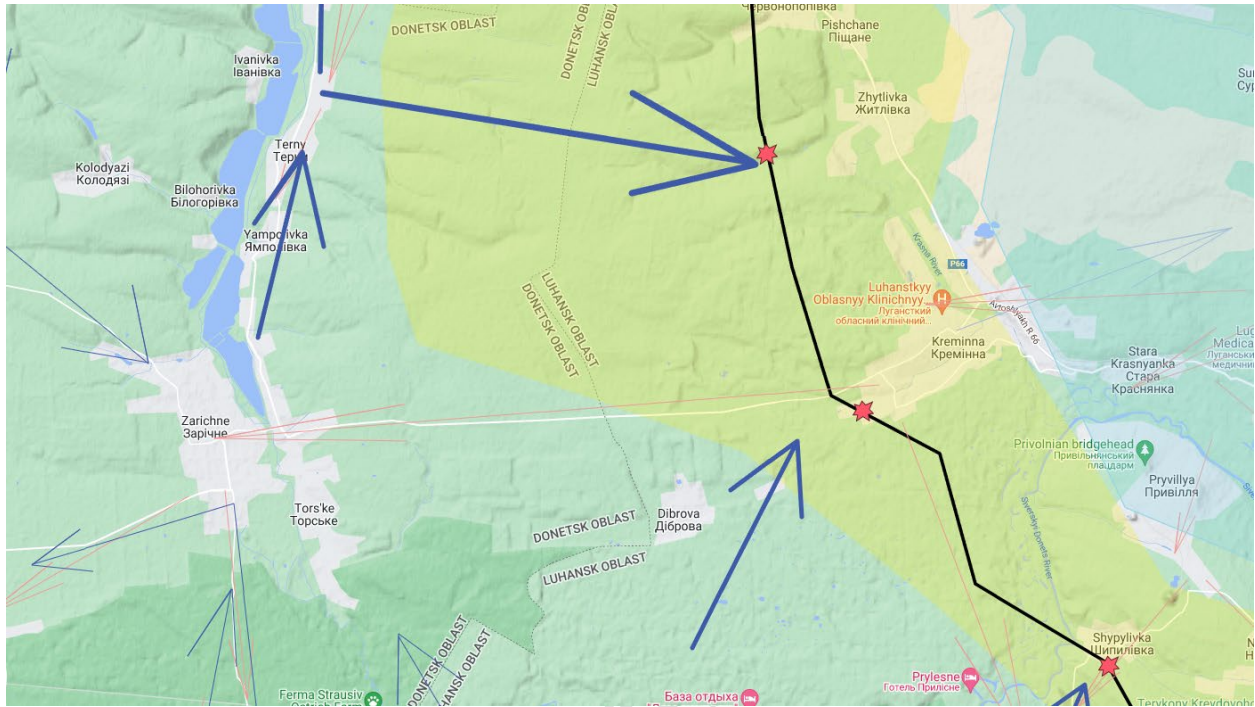


# NORTHEAST DONETSK



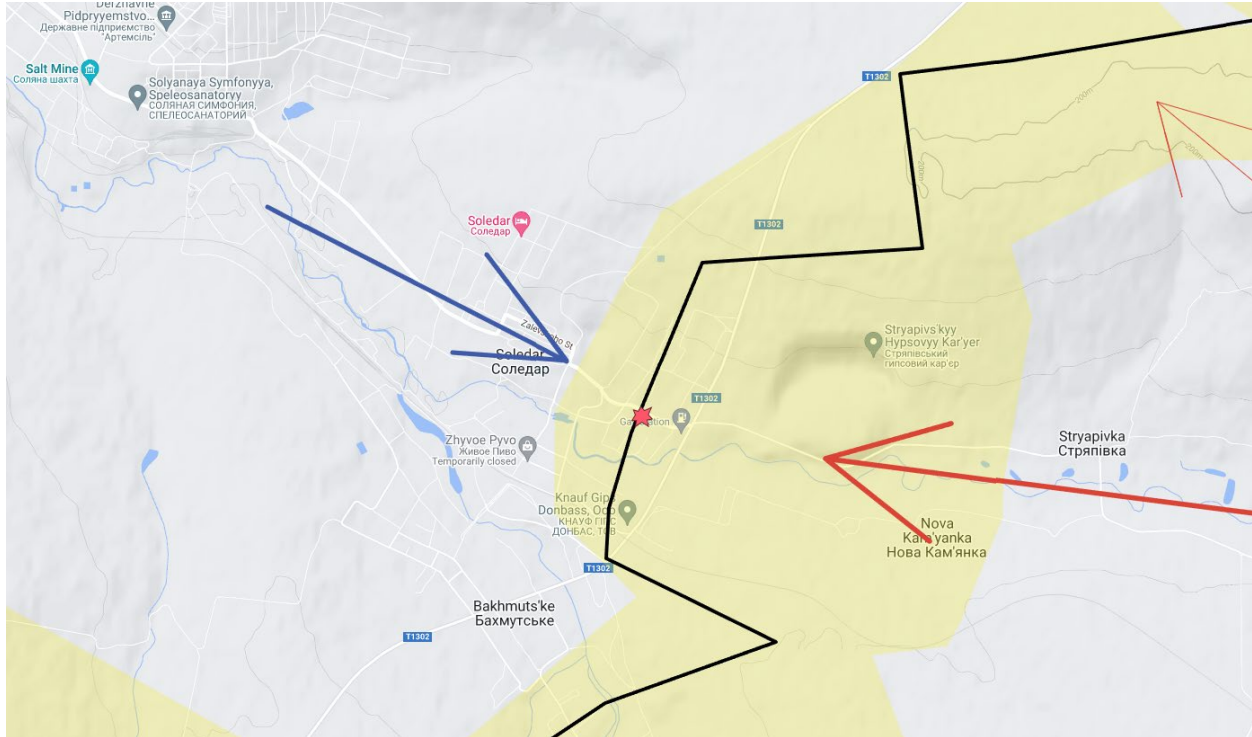
**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

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



Russian and Ukrainian sources reported continued fighting on the outskirts of [Terny](#) and [Tors'ke](#), but the intensity of Russian attacks is declining.<sup>23</sup>

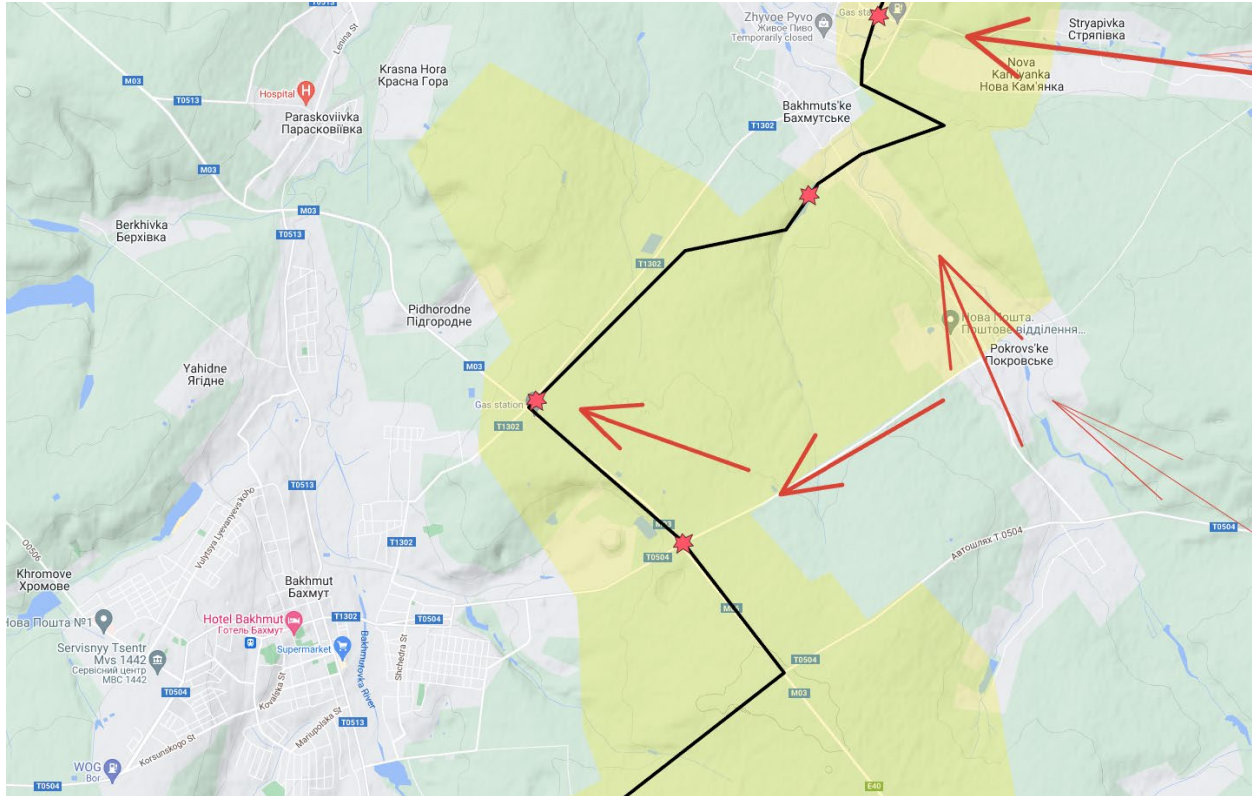
<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14455>



Pro-Russian account Rybar further confirmed that Russian forces lost ground east of [Soledar](#), reporting Ukrainian forces had recaptured the sparkling wine factory and were reinforcing their positions.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/40467>



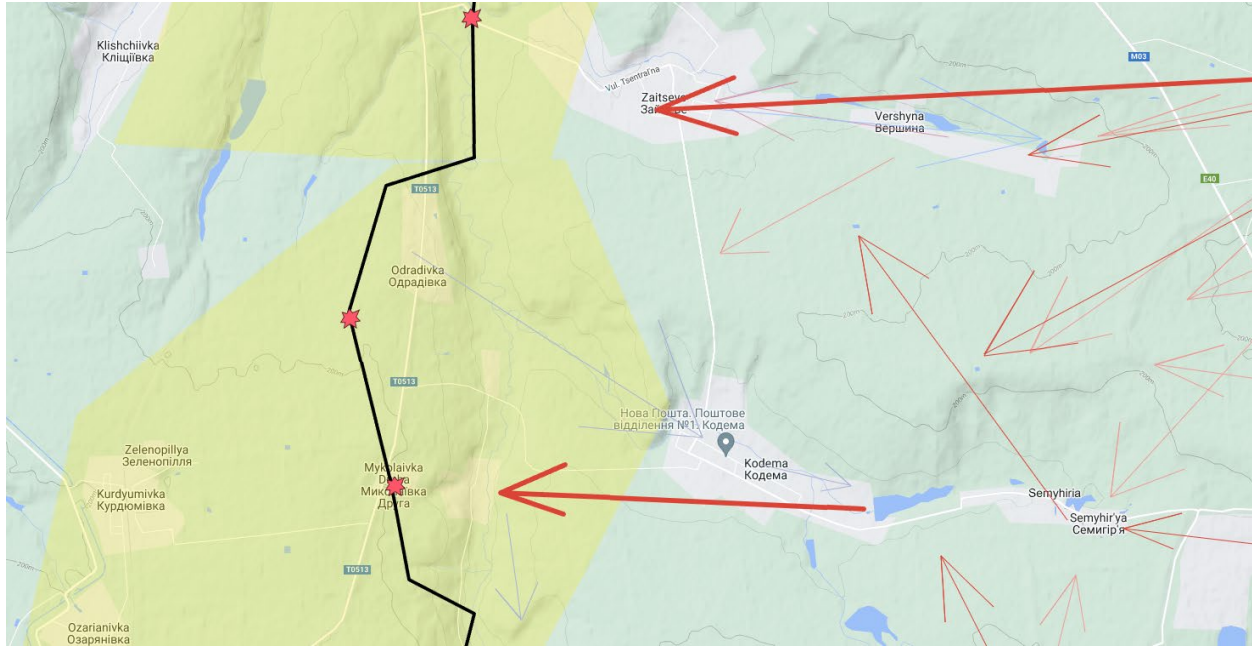


Fighting was reported east of [Bakhmut](#), with no changes.<sup>25</sup> However, Pro-Russian source Rybar also claimed that Ukrainian forces had recaptured the asphalt plant, indicating that the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group has been pushed back after recent advances.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/40467>

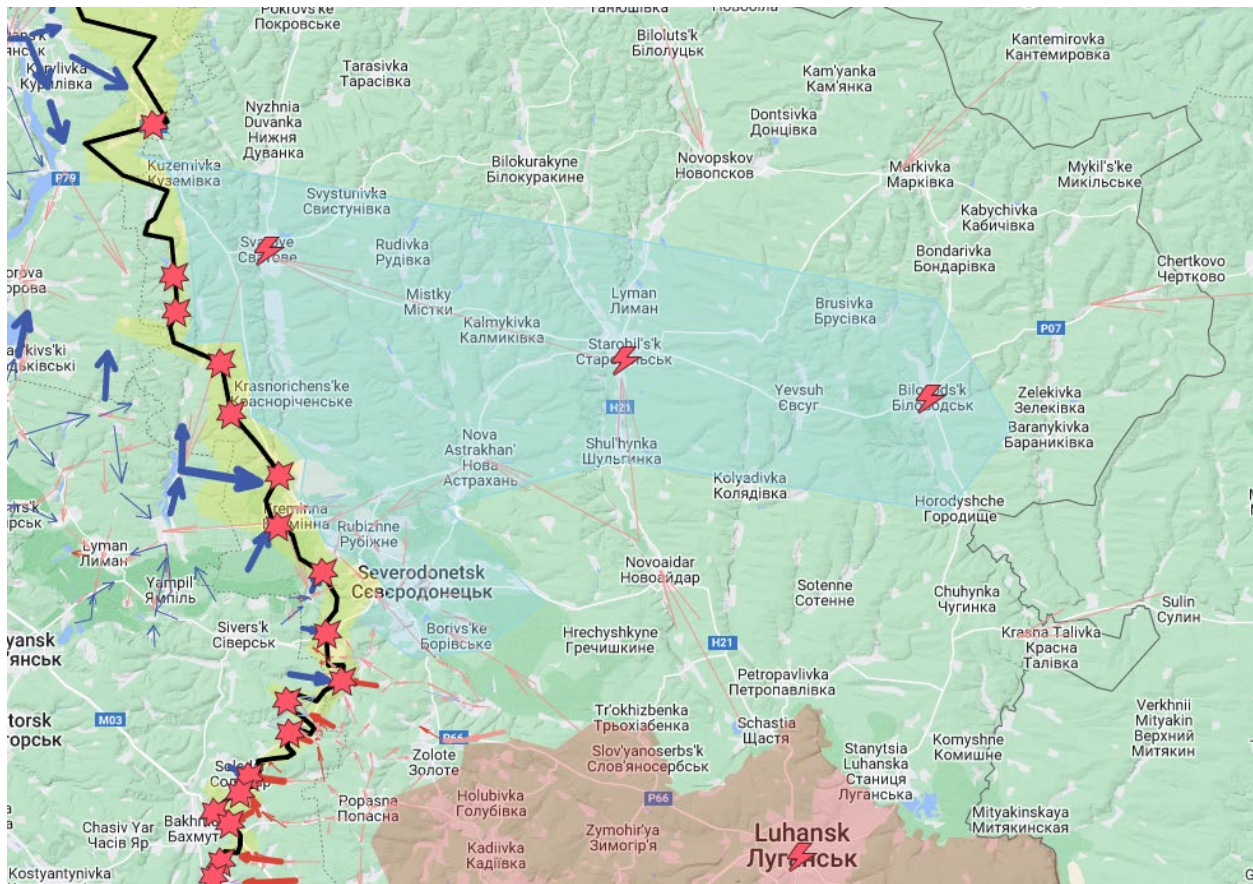




A reliable Ukrainian source reported that Russian forces had gained control of [Odradivka](#). Based on the report, we have adjusted the map and coded the town as captured.<sup>27</sup>

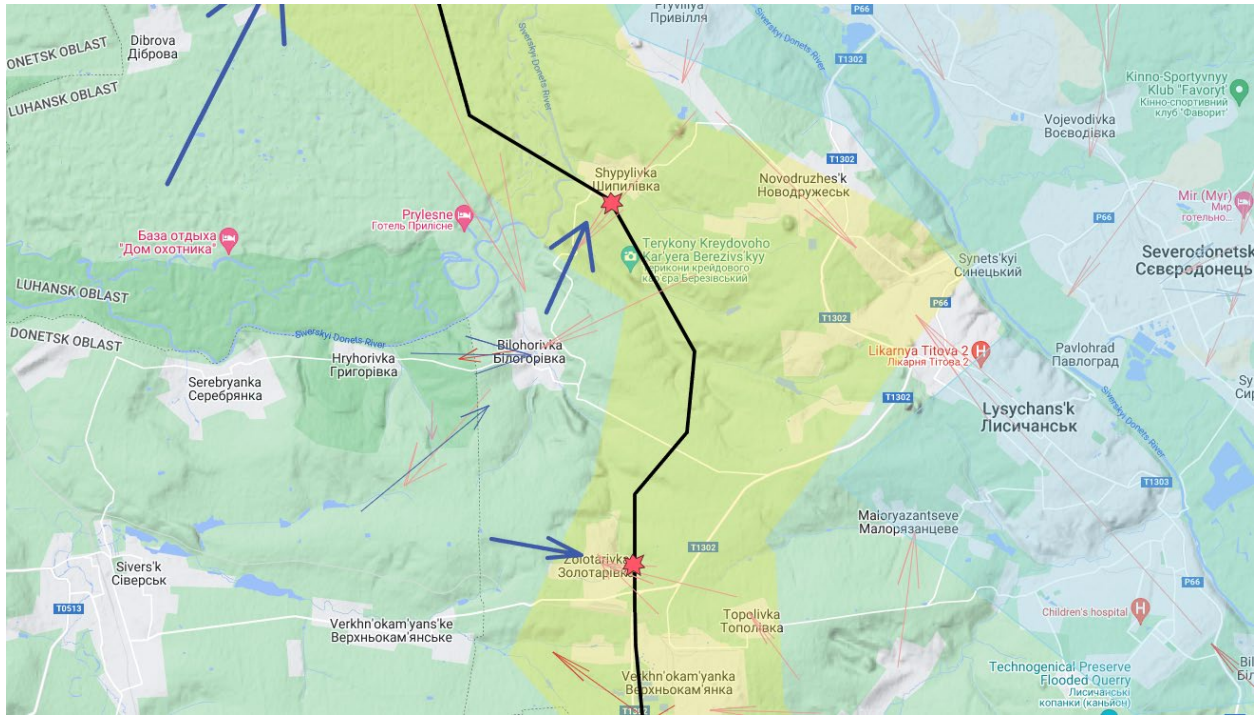
<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14455>

# LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

**Ukrainian Objective:** Break Russian defensive lines, make opportunistic territorial gains, and support insurgents

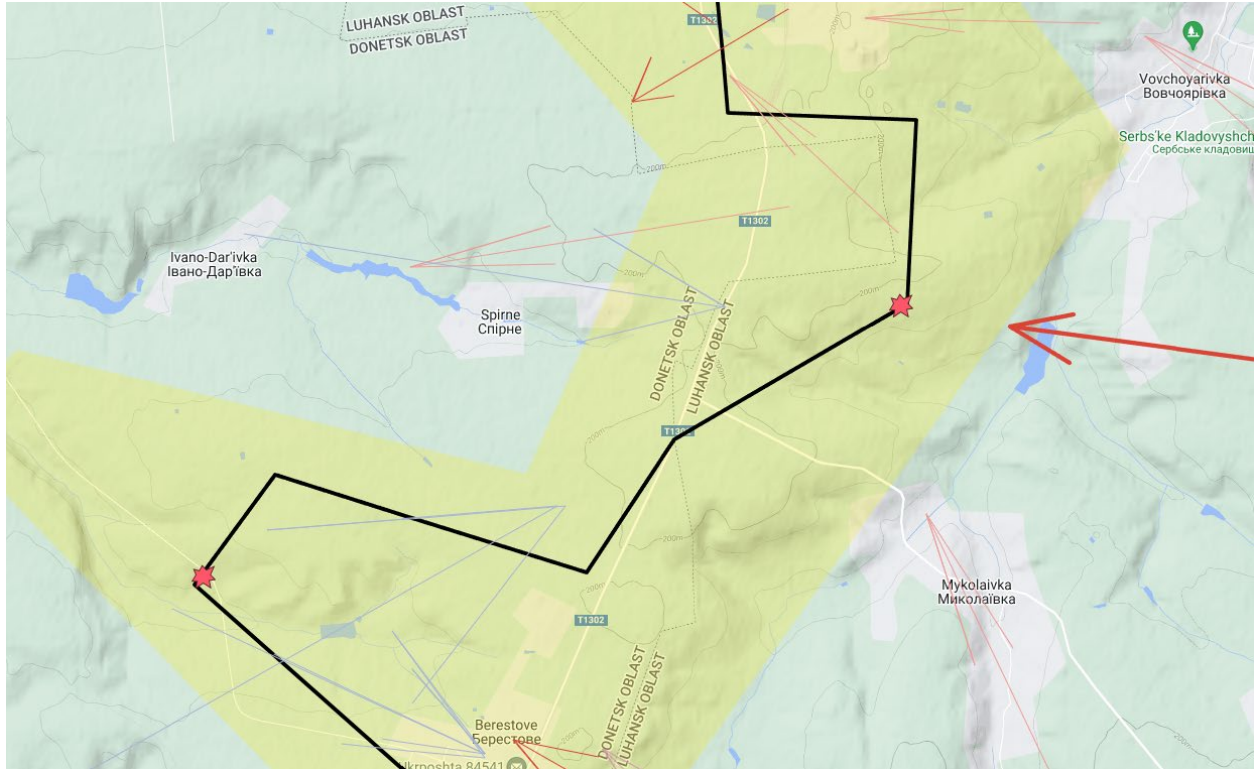


Russian forces attacked Ukrainian troops in [Bilohorivka](#) again but continued their military tradition of operation epic fail in a town that must feel cursed.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT](#)





A reliable Ukrainian source reported renewed fighting for control of [Spirne](#), with no change in the line of conflict.<sup>29</sup>

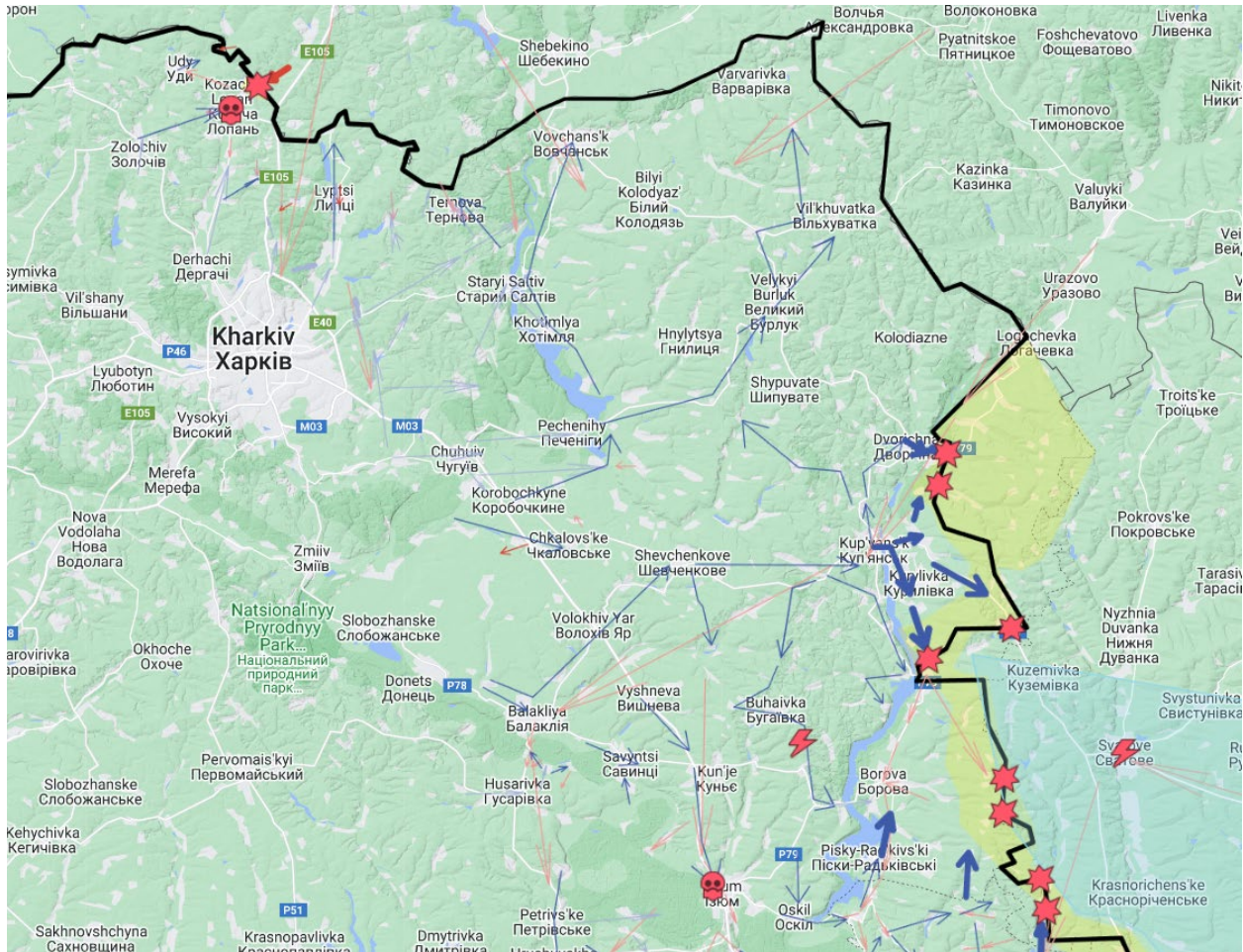
Russian sources did not report any activity in the Luhansk region.

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<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14455>



# KHARKIV



**Russian Objective:** Lock military resources in place, launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services, and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate all of Kharkiv oblast, sever GLOCs into Luhansk, protect civilian lives, and defend the Ukrainian border

An air raid on Kharkiv injured six people in the Kyiv District, with industrial infrastructure damaged in the attack.<sup>30</sup> There was no other information released at the time of publication.

Oleh Syniehubov, Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor confirmed our assessment that Russian forces now control less than 2% of Kharkiv oblast.<sup>31</sup> Since September 1, 544 villages, towns, and cities have been liberated, while 32 settlements remain under Russian control. The area still held by Russian forces is under Ukrainian fire control.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372835/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372728/>

## CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

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

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported a border skirmish in the Seredyna-Buda hromada with territorial guards and Russian forces using small arms and grenade launchers. There was no damage or injuries reported.<sup>32</sup>

## KYIV REGION

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/21/7372827/>

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

## **BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION**

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

## **WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE**

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.



## RUSSIAN FRONT

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Oleksii Hromov, Deputy Head of the Main Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine confirmed our assessment that Belarusian forces might be preparing to attack western Ukraine and advance on Lviv.<sup>33</sup>

"There is a growing threat of a renewed offensive by the Russian Armed Forces on the northern front," Hromov said. "The direction of the offensive could be different this time [in] the western part of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border in order to interrupt main weapons and equipment supply routes used to deliver aid from Ukraine's western partners."

Pictures from Belarus showed pontoons and bridging equipment [arriving on trains](#) carrying a flood of Russian

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<sup>33</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/10/20/7372750/>

military equipment.<sup>34</sup> In Minsk, Russian riot police vehicles and equipment were [moving through the streets](#), but no troops were deployed.<sup>35</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Bridging equipment was one of the last items to arrive in Belarus in January 2022, just three weeks before the widescale invasion began. The threat of an attack from Belarus is moving past a remote chance and approaching a real possibility.

British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace described a September 29 incident over the Black Sea as a "potentially dangerous engagement."<sup>36</sup> During daylight hours, a Royal Air Force RC-135 Rivet Joint surveillance aircraft flying with its transponder on and over international waters was confronted by two Russian Su-27 fighter planes. The incident wasn't unusual until one of the Su-27s fired a missile "in the vicinity of" the RAF Rivet Joint. The Su-27 was not in visual range of the aircraft, and British officials did not deem the incident a "deliberate escalation." The plane continued its surveillance mission and returned to its home airbase without further incident.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1583103350026838018>

<sup>35</sup> [https://twitter.com/MarQs\\_/status/1583124213610975233](https://twitter.com/MarQs_/status/1583124213610975233)

<sup>36</sup> [Sky News](#)

The Russian MOD claims that the Su-27 experienced a technical malfunction that caused the missile to fire accidentally. Wallace agreed with Russia's assessment.

United States Central Command made the unusual revelation that the Ohio Class nuclear ballistic missile submarine West Virginia was in the Arabian Sea.<sup>37</sup> U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, head of U.S. Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), joined Army General Michael Kurilla and members of his staff on their visit to USS West Virginia at an undisclosed location in the Arabian Sea, according to a Department of Defense press release.

It is highly unusual to reveal the location of a nuclear ballistic missile submarine on patrol, and the revelation was likely a message to Iran and Russia.

Three internet and communication cables, two undersea, were severed in the last week. Telecommunication cables to the Faroe Islands between Scotland and Iceland were broken, cutting off almost all Internet and communication

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<sup>37</sup> [The Drive](#)

access. The communication cable to the Shetland Islands off Scotland was severed today, eliminating all phone service. The Faroe Islands' communications will be inoperative even if the cable is repaired quickly as the connection passes through Shetland. Officials in the Faroe Islands believe the damage was caused by a fishing vessel but acknowledged that two failures so close together was highly unusual.

A third major fiber optic cable has been cut in southern France, impacting Internet service in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Repairs were delayed as French police completed their investigation and gathered evidence.<sup>38</sup> The three connections were repaired within 24 hours, but Internet traffic was still congested. Officials are reluctant to call the incident sabotage at this time.

The United States Senate is working on a bill or attaching an aid package to the omnibus spending bill that would provide \$50 billion in aid to Ukraine through 2023 before the new Congress is seated in January.<sup>39</sup> The measure has bipartisan support and is seen as a move to assure that a

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<sup>38</sup> [Bleeping Computer](#)

<sup>39</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1583170724344172546>



Republican-led House does not sever Ukrainian aid in the coming year.

Luke Skywalker used the Force, but the man who portrayed Luke in the Star Wars franchise, Mark Hamill, declared, "Use the drones!" Hamill told Bloomberg Radio's "Sound On" that he had sent over 500 drones to Ukraine through a fundraising program.<sup>40</sup> Hamill was named an ambassador for Ukraine's UNITED24 Army of Drones and said he was impressed that the organization provided frequent updates on how the drones were being used.

Bloomberg TV reported that the United States government officials were considering placing some of Elon Musk's business ventures under a national security review.<sup>41</sup> Possible targets include Musk's attempt to purchase Twitter, which is already under investigation, and the Starlink satellite network.<sup>42</sup> Musk created waves when we regurgitated Moscow talking points in a peace plan that he tweeted. He then stated SpaceX could no longer afford to pay for Starlink services he initially offered to Ukraine. There was a massive backlash as numerous NGOs, charities, and private citizens reported they were already

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<sup>40</sup> [The Hill](#)

<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/1583258922475204608>

<sup>42</sup> <https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/1583258922475204608>

paying for the service and that private individuals had acquired most Starlink terminals used by Ukraine. The Pentagon indicated they were negotiating with Musk when he abruptly reversed course and no longer sought additional payments for the service.

On Russian state media, a pundit on the program 433 didn't realize they were live, and his mic was hot when he revealed that Iran was supplying combat drones to Russia.<sup>43</sup> As he walked to his chair, [he told the host](#), "We won't rock the boat, so I beg you not to focus too much on Iran...because we all know they're Iranian, but the authorities haven't admitted it." He was quickly told they were live, and things got – awkward.<sup>44</sup>

## RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

In Stavropol federal district, mobiks revealed the [equipment they are receiving](#) for deployment. The second-best army in the world will be fighting with paintball protective masks, ankle shoes, combat boots that are already falling apart, and children's fake tactical gloves.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1583068873980809216>

<sup>44</sup> <https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1583068873980809216>

<sup>45</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1583224927507083264>

Russian journalist Olesya Gerasimenko reported that the life span of a new PMC Wagner recruit has dropped to nine days as casualties in eastern Ukraine, particularly around Bakhmut and Soledar, increase.<sup>46</sup>

All is going to plan.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

There weren't any significant developments.

## **GEOPOLITICAL**

President Zelenskyy dismissed the Ukrainian ambassador to Kazakhstan. Back in August, ambassador Petro Vrublevsky said in an interview that Ukrainians are "trying to kill as many Russians as possible" because the more they kill now, "the less our children will have to kill" in the future.

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<sup>46</sup> [https://twitter.com/ChrisO\\_wiki/status/1583163010306428928](https://twitter.com/ChrisO_wiki/status/1583163010306428928)

Yikes. Zelenskyy did not give an official reason for releasing Vrublevsky, but I'm sure you can take an inspired guess.

## **ECONOMIC**

In a sign of increasing fiscal woes from the expense of the ongoing "special military operation," the Russian government ordered one trillion roubles be redirected from the National Welfare Fund to cover the growing 2022 budget deficit.<sup>47</sup>

The rouble was flat, with an exchange rate of 61 for one US dollar.

Oil prices declined, with WTI crude falling to \$84 a barrel and Brent moving to \$92. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline on the spot market was steady at \$2.64 a gallon (70 cents a liter).

EU Dutch TTF Natural Gas futures were unchanged at 115 euros per megawatt-hour for November 2022 contracts.

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<sup>47</sup> [https://twitter.com/Flash\\_news\\_ua/status/1583062857218158593](https://twitter.com/Flash_news_ua/status/1583062857218158593)





Chicago SRW Wheat Futures was also unchanged, holding at \$8.45 per bushel for December 2022 delivery.

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