



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



August 27, 2022



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 185**

It has been 3,103 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Your editor is taking the night off, and there was very little combat activity in Ukraine for the sixth day in a row.

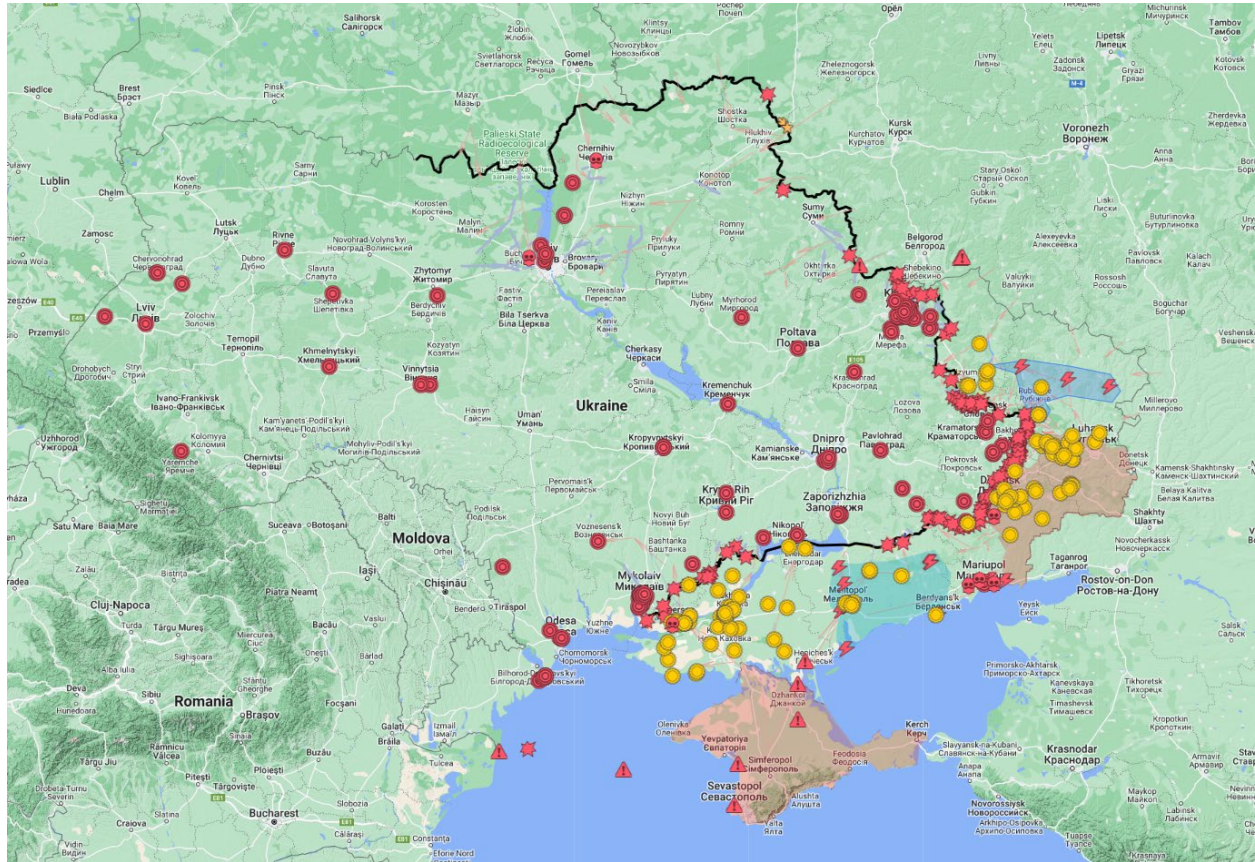
## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. We maintain that Russian forces within Ukraine are combat destroyed – an attempt to push Ukrainian forces further south from Izyum has failed, with Ukraine recapturing almost all the territory it lost at the beginning of the week.
2. Russian rate of artillery fire and the number of troop movements west of the Dnipro River continues to decline, and Ukraine may be stabilizing the line of conflict.
3. We assess the risk remains very high through the weekend for more attacks on civilians, civilian infrastructure, and government decision-making centers.

4. Due to the Russian military reaching a culmination point and the Ukrainian military appearing to be unable to capitalize on the loss of Russian momentum, we believe the battlefield will remain frozen across Ukraine for the short term.
5. The initiative will go to the first belligerent who can make brigade or larger-sized combined arms offensives on any front.
6. If Russia is trying to present itself as a nation fighting against global Nazism, it had a **really bad** public relations day today.

# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

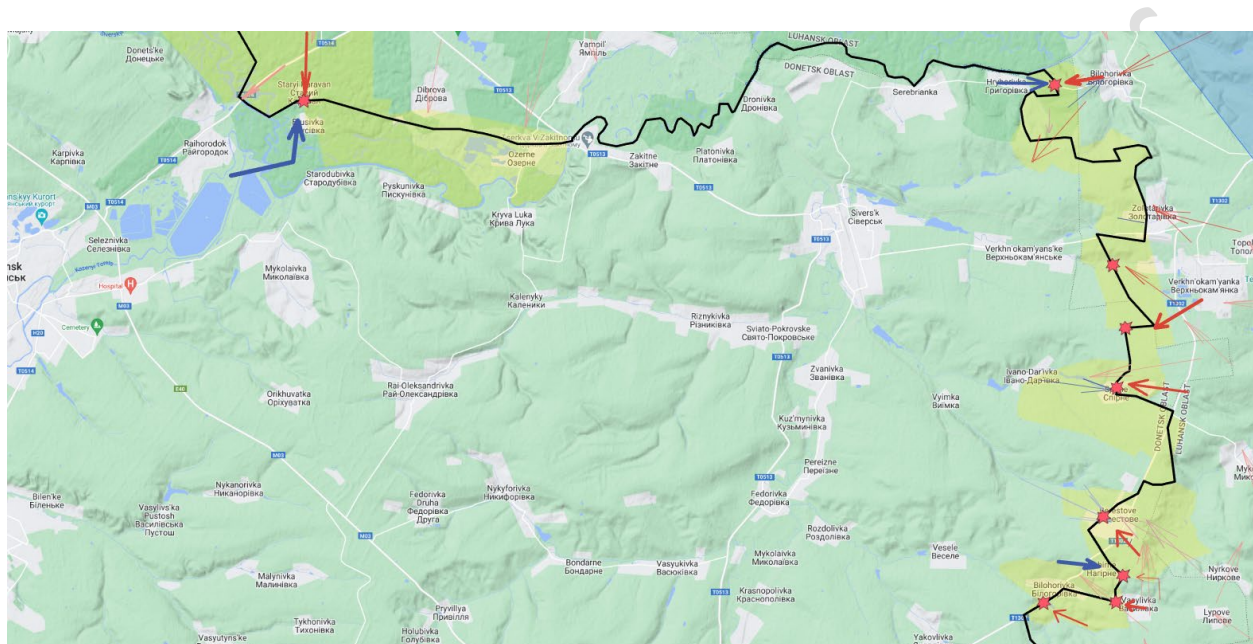


**Information about changes made to the map:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we have moved the "flags" into the category of "Archived Offensives." 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>

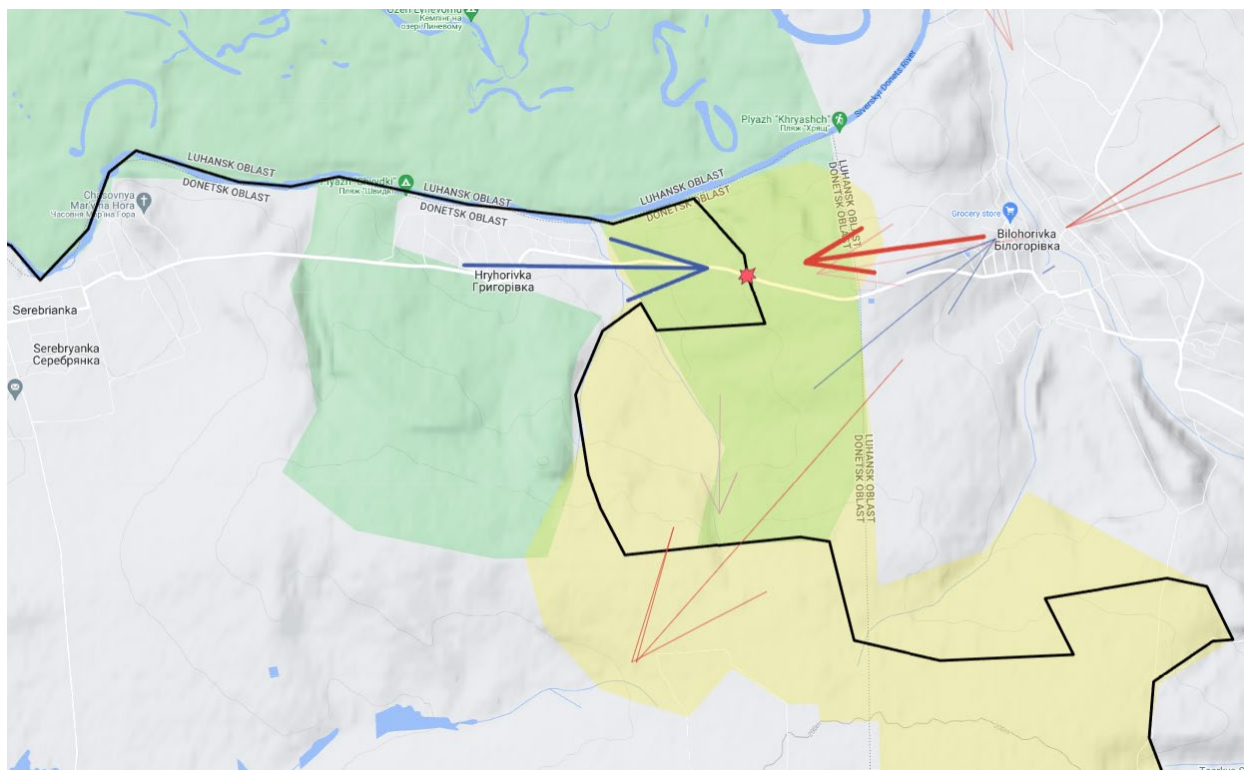
# DONBAS REGION

## SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



**Russian Objective:** Maintain territorial control and Ground Lines of Communication, control insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

**Ukrainian Objective:** Prevent advances on Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk, support insurgents, exploit weaknesses, interdict supplies



Russian forces attempted to retake the territory they lost on August 27, east of [Hryhorivka](#), but were unsuccessful.<sup>1</sup>

Settlements around Siversk were shelled by artillery, and Ivano-Daryivka was hit by an air strike.

The center of Slovyansk was hit by at least one Russian missile, causing significant damage to a block of apartments and severely damaging water and sewer

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



infrastructure.<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> Fortunately, over 90% of the population of Slovyansk was evacuated in April, preventing casualties.<sup>4</sup>

Pavlo Kyrylenko, Donetsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, wrote on Telegram, "The consequences of these attacks could have been much worse if the residents of the affected houses had not been evacuated in time. Evacuation saves lives!"

### **ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 17**

*On August 13, we assessed there would be continued sporadic fighting in northeast Donetsk, but we did not anticipate renewed significant combat operations. That assessment was tested this week. The 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) is combat ineffective and incapable of carrying out offensive operations even with the support of Russian artillery.*

*The destruction of the command center for the 2nd Army Corps in Lysychansk and the Private Military Company*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/revishvilig/status/1563762519646375936>

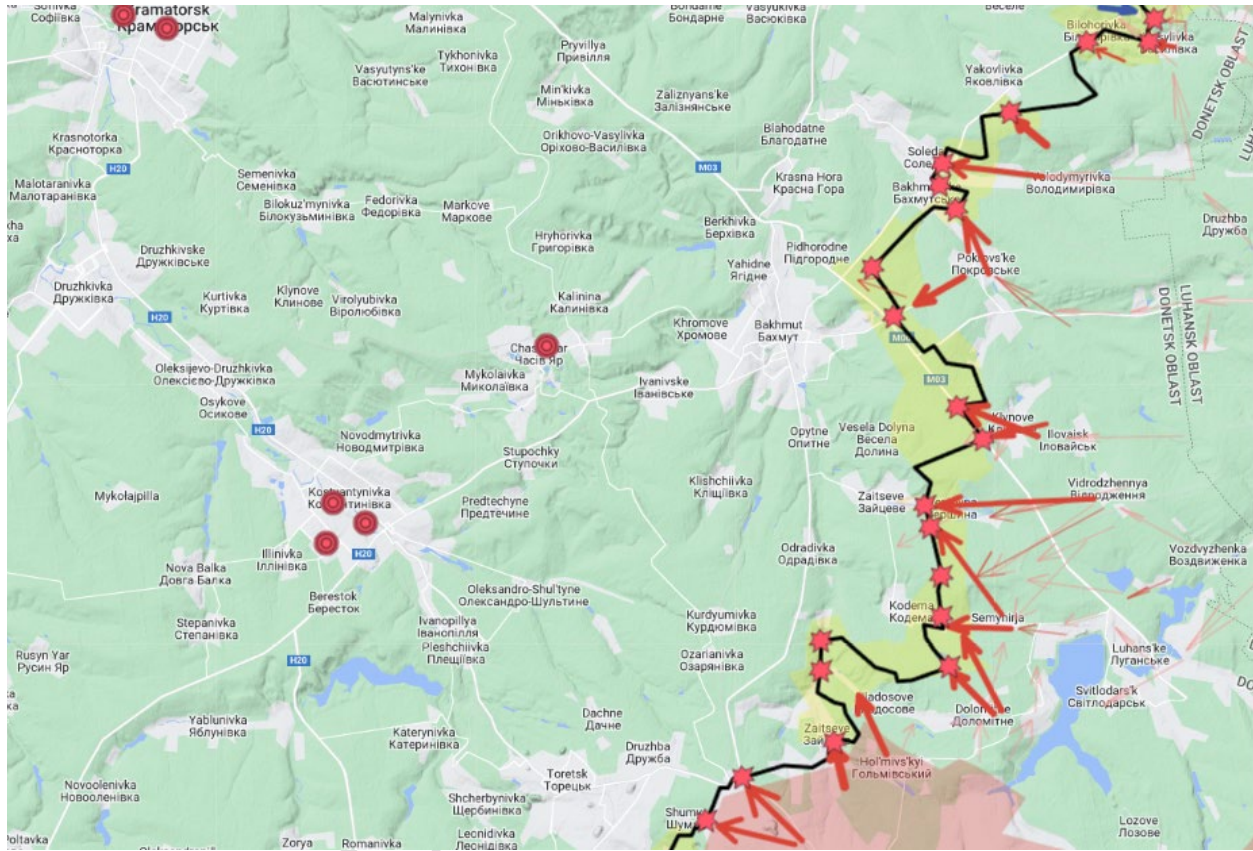
<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/poppopopkt/status/1563763268874813440>

<sup>4</sup> [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4652](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4652)

*(PMC) Wagner Group headquarters in Popasna may have degraded decision-making capabilities. We maintain that any additional fighting in this region before mud season will be positional, spoiling attacks, and probes.*

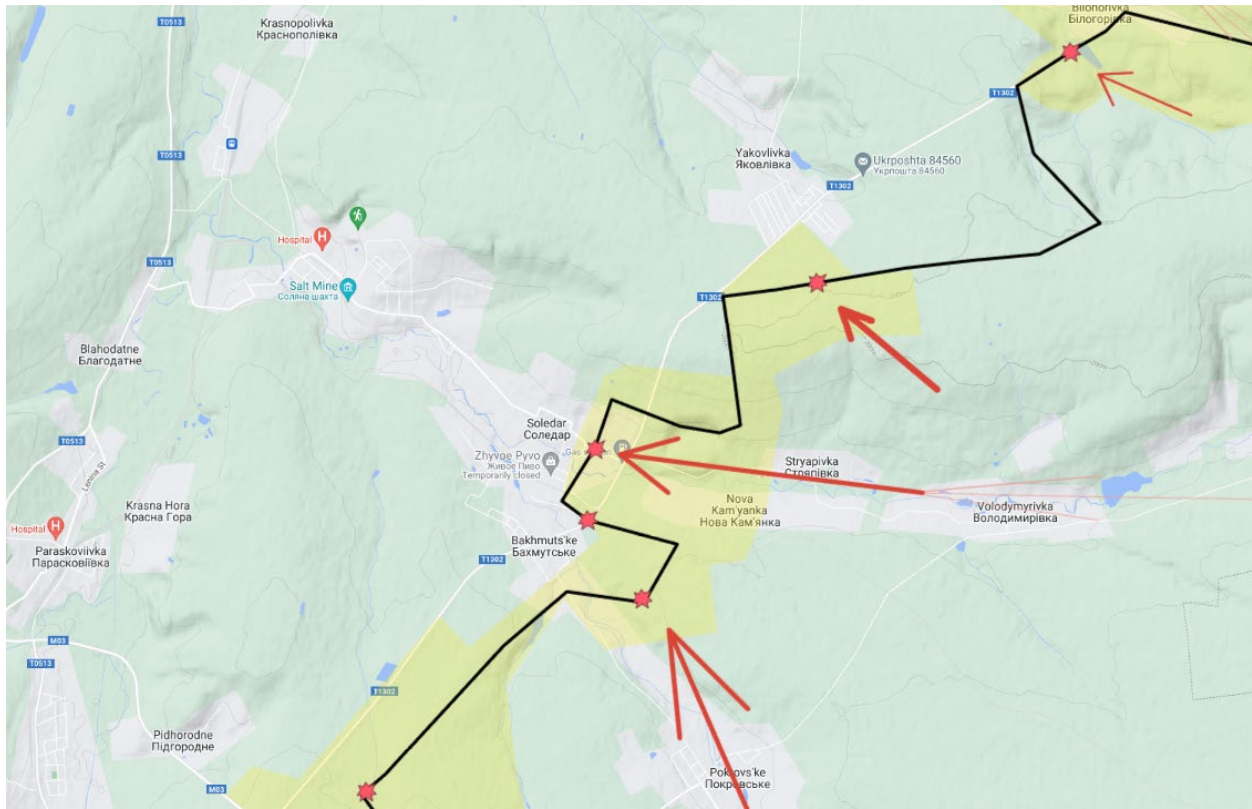
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# BAKHMUT

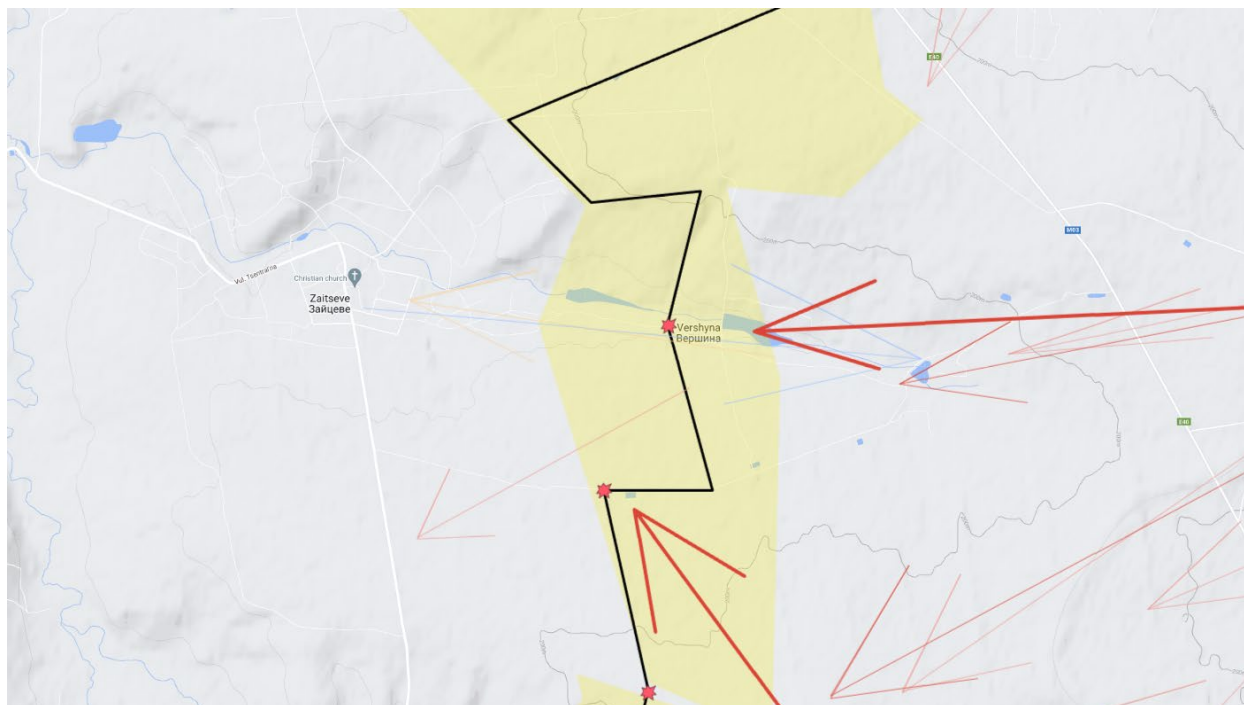


**Russian Objective:** Maintain defensive lines, probe for weaknesses in Ukrainian defenses, and achieve a breakthrough before the start of mud season

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



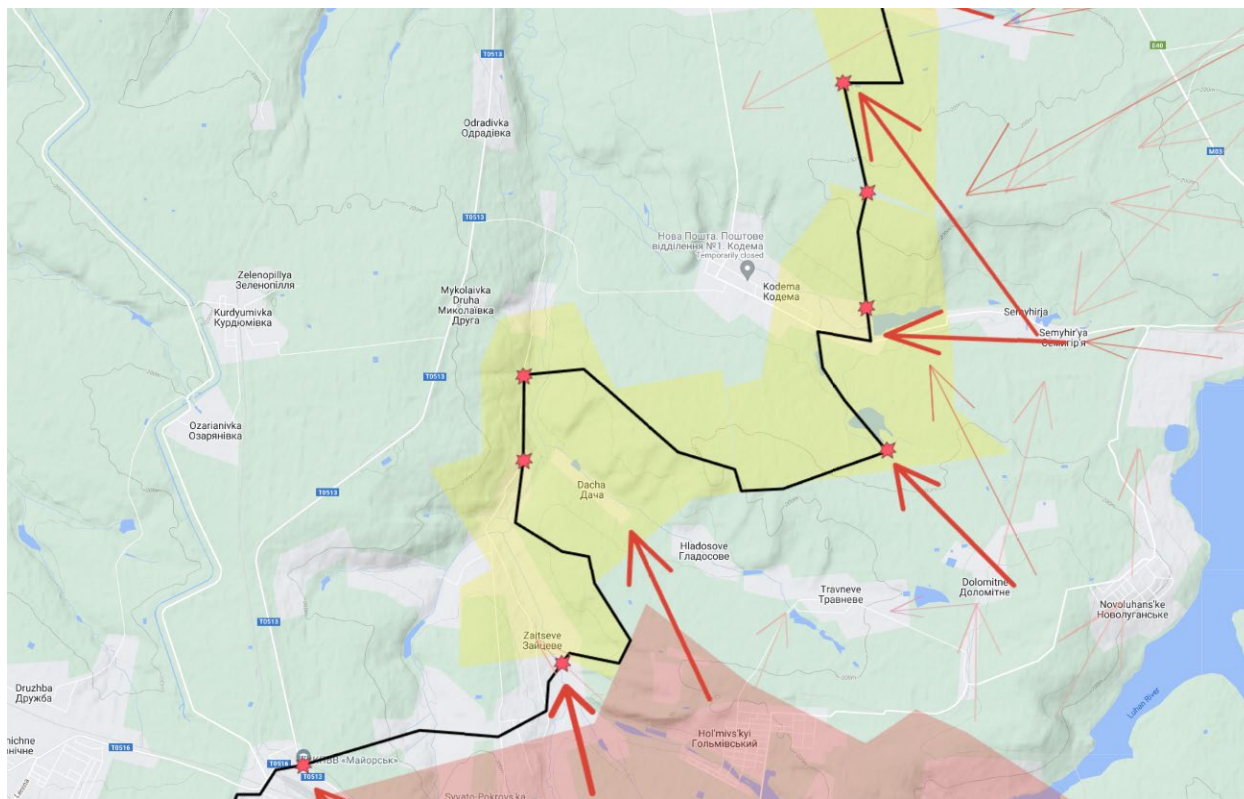
There was limited fighting east of [Soledar](#) with air strikes by the Russian air force. There were no changes on the front line.



South of Bakhmut, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Vershyna](#) and [Zaitseve](#), according to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> Based on the report, we moved the line of conflict about 500 meters further east for Zaitseve but left the contested area unchanged. Russian forces shelled the entire line of conflict east of Bakhmut from Yakovlivka to Vershyna.

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<sup>5</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)



In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces continued their attack on [Kodema](#), supported by artillery and the Russian air force.<sup>6</sup> Pro-Russian social media users were claiming Kodema was captured. The Russian Ministry of Defense, Luhansk People's Republic (LNR), PMC Wagner social media accounts, nor the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) had announced the capture of the settlement.

Russian troops also tried to advance on [Zaitseve](#) with air support but could not move the line of conflict. Mayorsk

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

and Shumy were shelled, but there were no ground attacks on Ukrainian positions.

## **ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 24**

*The advance toward Bakhmut has been the most successful offensive since the Russian Ministry of Defense ended the 11-day operational pause on July 16. Ukraine retreated from Svitlodarsk on May 24 and successfully defended the Vulheriska Thermal Power Plant through July 26. Since capturing the plant, Russian proxy forces, mainly PMC Wagner Group supported by terrorist elements of the Imperial Legion and Kadyrovites of the 141st Special Motorized Regiment, have advanced 7 kilometers. It took Russian forces 90 days, accounting for terrain, to advance 12 kilometers from Svitlodarsk.*

*The advance to capture Bakhmut has likely reached its culmination point, with Russian combat power exhausted in this region. Before the arrival of HIMARS and improved GLOC interdiction, Russian military leaders would saturate the region with artillery and rocket fire and win an attritional battle. Due to excessive use and deferred maintenance, Russian artillery systems are wearing out.*

*Ammunition supplies are becoming an issue theaterwide, although the issue is relative.*

*Even at 40% of the peak daily fire rate in late June, the quantity of artillery fired remains significant and greater than Ukraine's capabilities. A key difference from late June is that Russian artillery firepower is no longer concentrated on a single axis such as Luhansk. According to data analysis by Ragnar Gudmundsson, the number of settlements targeted by Russian artillery increased from 50 on June 26 to almost 100 on August 12.<sup>7</sup> Fewer artillery pieces, fewer shells, spread over a larger area.*

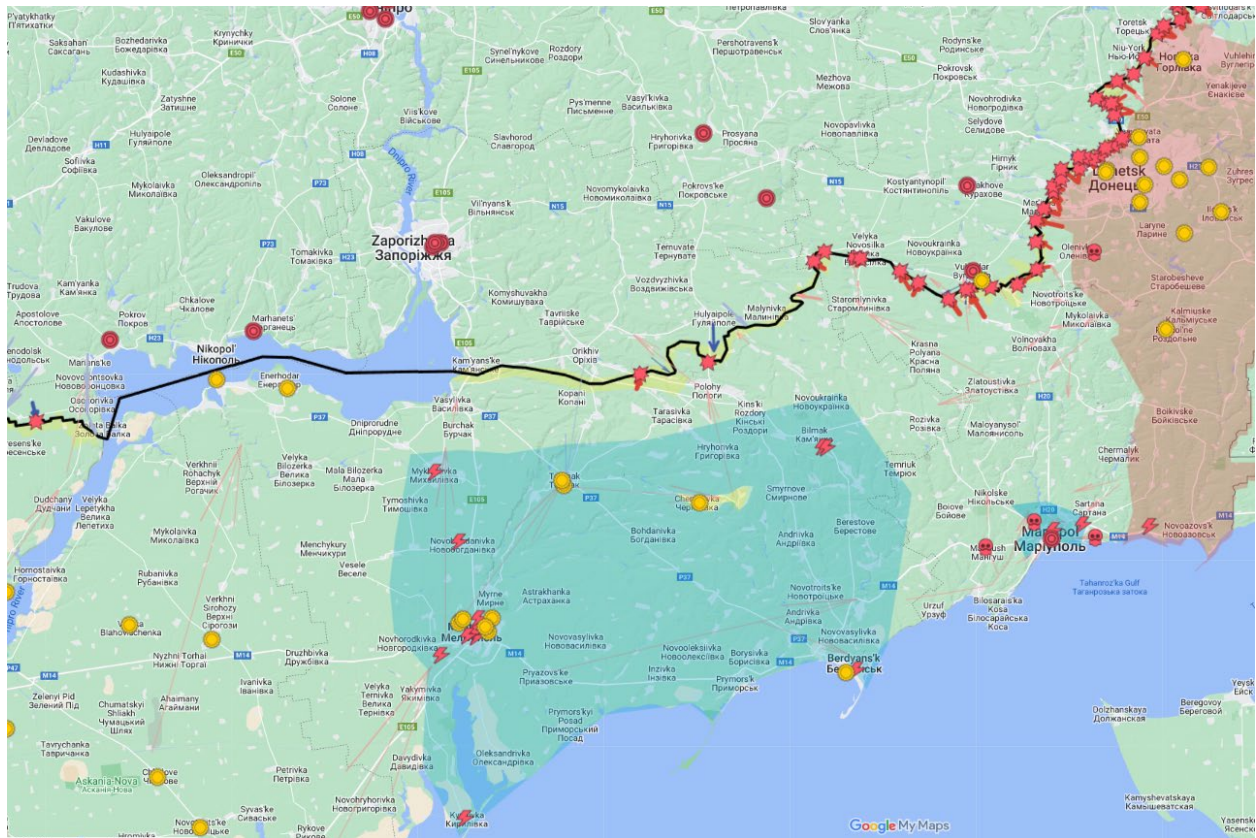
*Russian forces could capture Bakhmut and Soledar before the arrival of Rasputitsa, also known as mud season, but it will require reallocating artillery pieces and military units from other axes.*

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<sup>7</sup> [Ragnar Gudmundsson Russia-Ukraine War Data Analysis Tables](#)



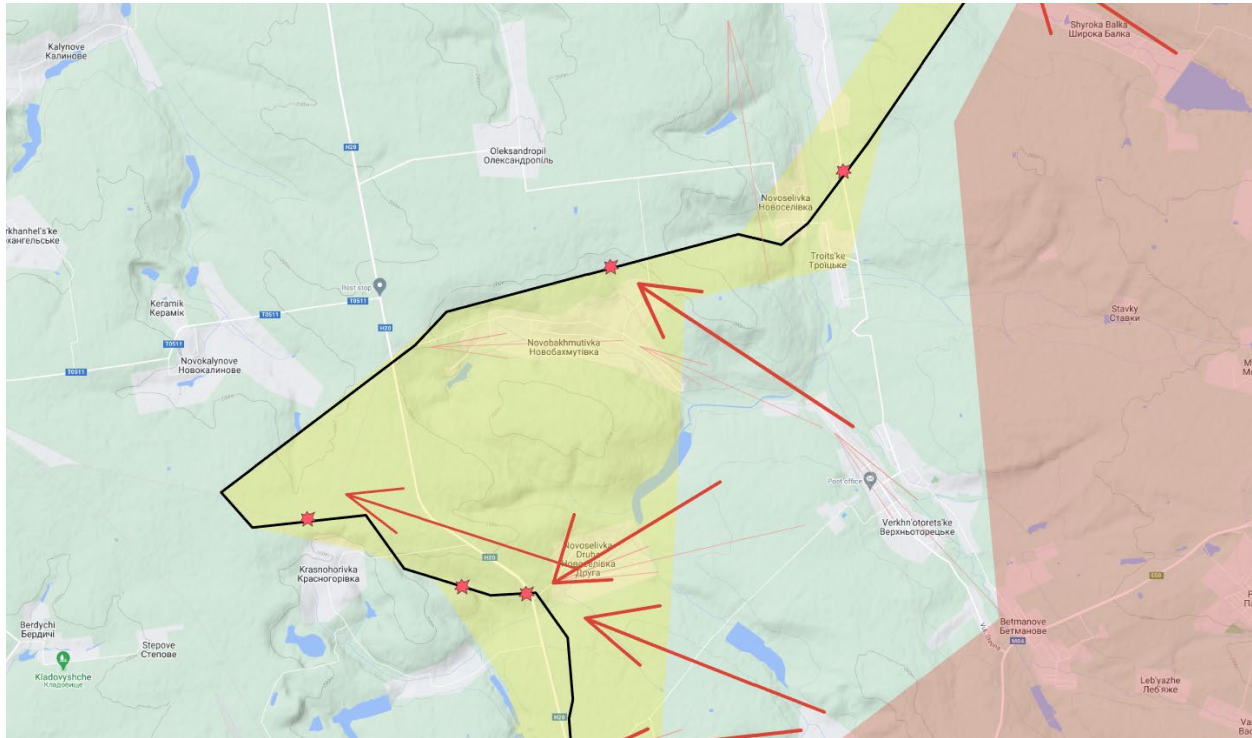
# SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



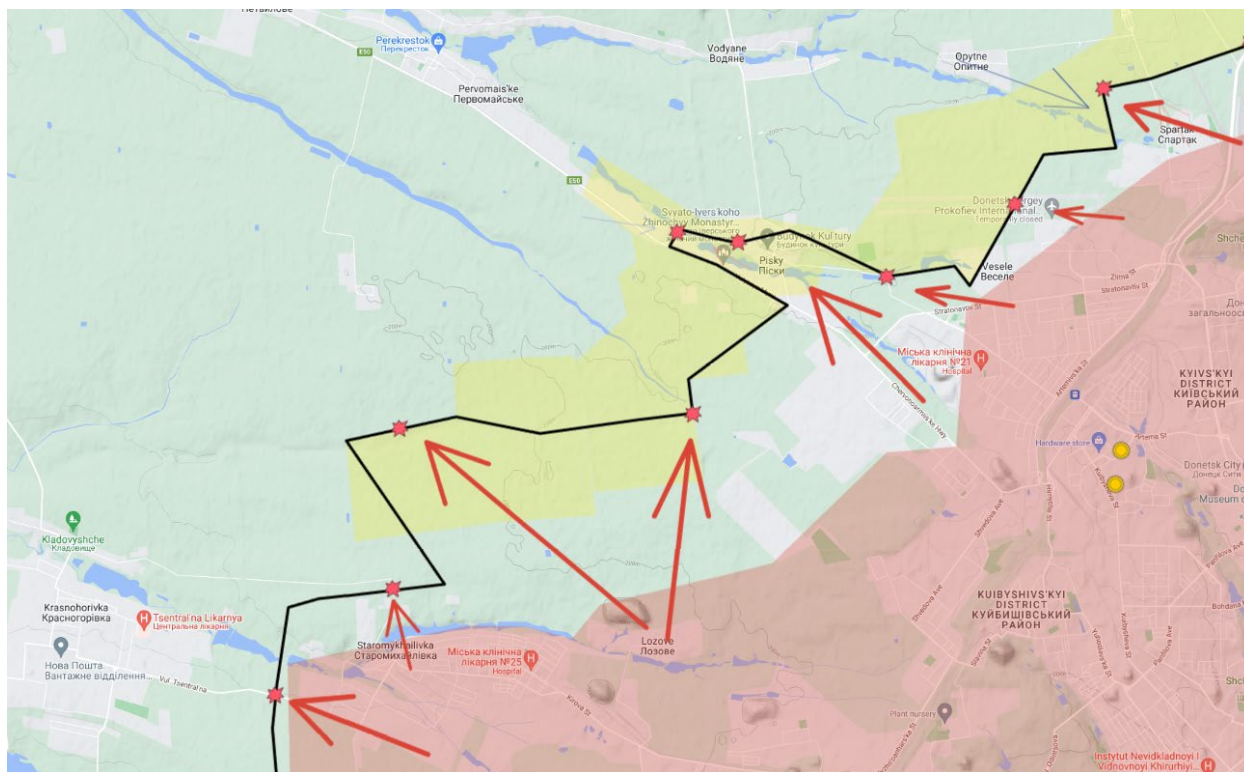
**Russian Objective:** Push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhia to the Dnipro River, bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk and Zaporizhia under control

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, and prepare for or convince

# Russian forces Ukraine is preparing for a widescale counteroffensive



North of Donetsk, the 1st Army Corps of the DNR attempted to advance on [Oleksandropil](#) for the first time since August 13. The attack was unsuccessful.



DNR separatists continue combat activity around Pisky. They attempted to advance on [Nevelske](#) and [Pervomaiske](#) from Lozove without success. The General Staff did not mention Pisky in the morning or evening report. We have reduced the area of control to a sliver on the north bank of the ponds. In our assessment, Pisky is under Russian control.

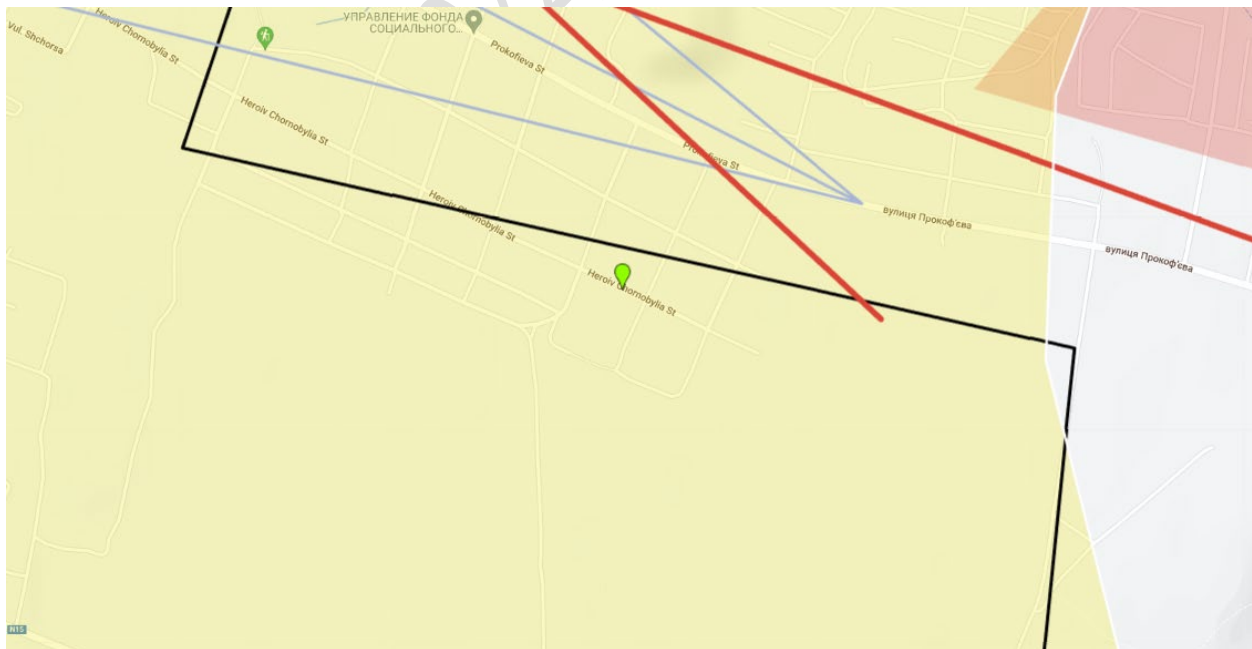
Video from unaffiliated Pro-Russian news agency WarGonzo showed Avdiivka being shelled from a hilltop within Donetsk.<sup>8</sup> The location was pocked with artillery,

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/8024>

and the crew appeared very nervous, implying that Russian forces have no presence in Avdiivka.

In Marinka, Alexandr Sladkov, with the Russian state media agency Rossiya 1, was operating in the southeastern part of the city and released several videos. The leader of the neo-Nazi terrorist organization Ruisch Unit, Aleksey Milchakov, was with Sladkov in the video.

**SIDEBAR:** We are not embellishing. Milchakov is a Nazi who used to fight with PMC Wagner Group before forming the Ruisch Unit, and [you can watch him explain his views](#).<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/13BulliTs/status/1563635913334349826>

In a graphic video that showed a dead Ukrainian soldier, Sladkov and his crew were geolocated within a few meters of our assessed line of conflict.<sup>10</sup> Later, close to the same location, a Russian soldier deploys a drone despite protestations of Sladkov.<sup>11</sup> Using electronic warfare, Ukraine took control of the drone during a live stream in a combat zone. Milchakov declares, "Gentlemen, I suggest we start getting out of here in the maximum speed mode." Seconds later, incoming artillery starts. The color literally drains from their faces when they hear an airplane. You can [watch the whole episode](#) in this video.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/zcjbrooker/status/1563612563774083073>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1563629619047239680>



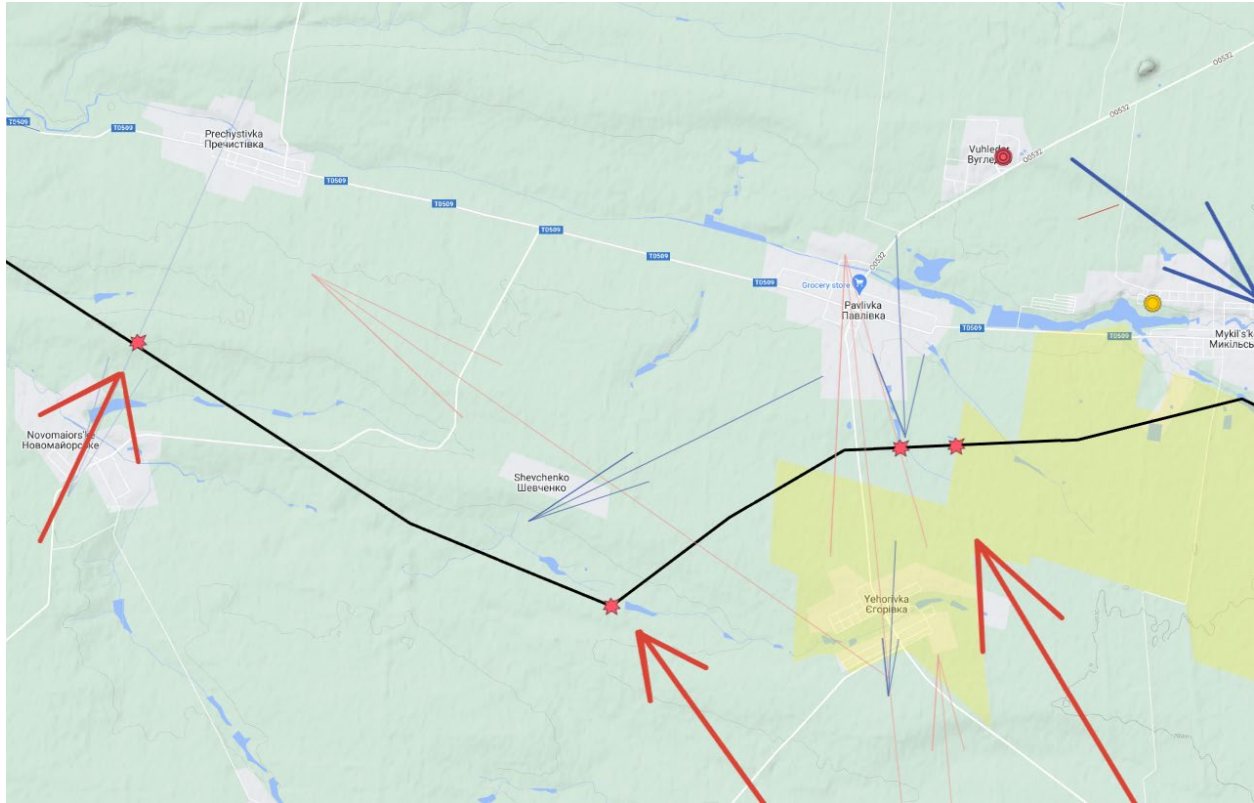
*It was at that moment he realized he had really screwed up.*

We can assess Russian forces are only operating in the southeastern part of Marinka, their operational security (OPSEC) remains non-existent, and this whole Charlie Fox-Trot was incredibly amusing to watch.<sup>12 13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1563727359760420864](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563727359760420864)

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/37806>



Near the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces tried to advance on [Pavlivka](#) and [Prechystivka](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>14</sup>

Ukrainian and Russian forces exchanged artillery, rockets fired from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), and indirect tank fire from Niu York to Donetsk to Velyka Novosilka in Donetsk and Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Stepove in Zaporizhia.

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<sup>14</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)

## **ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 16**

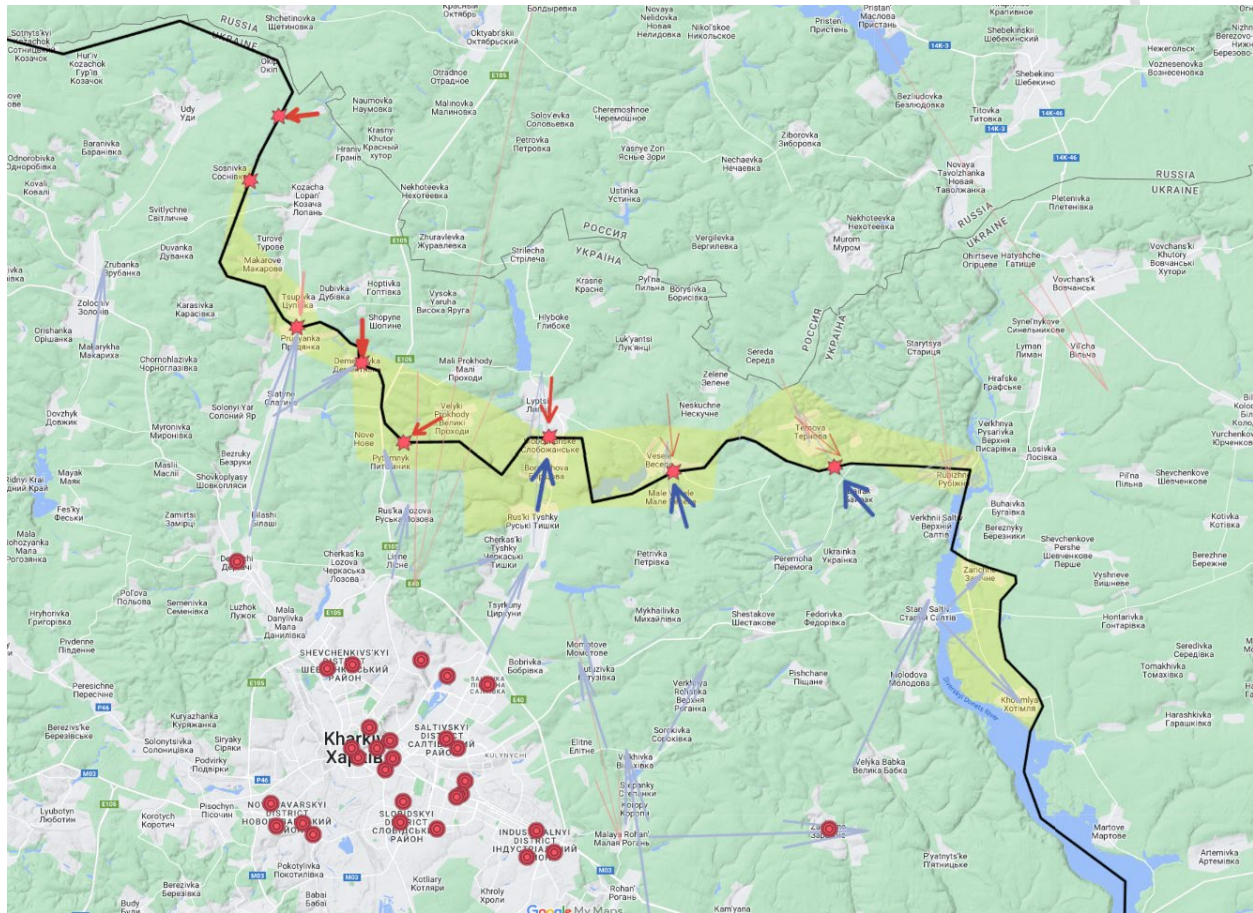
*We assess that Russian forces can't secure the remainder of the Donbas before August 31.*

*In southern Ukraine, Russian forces continue to press Ukrainian defensive lines due to the arrival of reinforcements and testing capabilities. It is also likely an attempt to spread out Ukrainian resources to delay or prevent the next phase of the ongoing counteroffensive.*



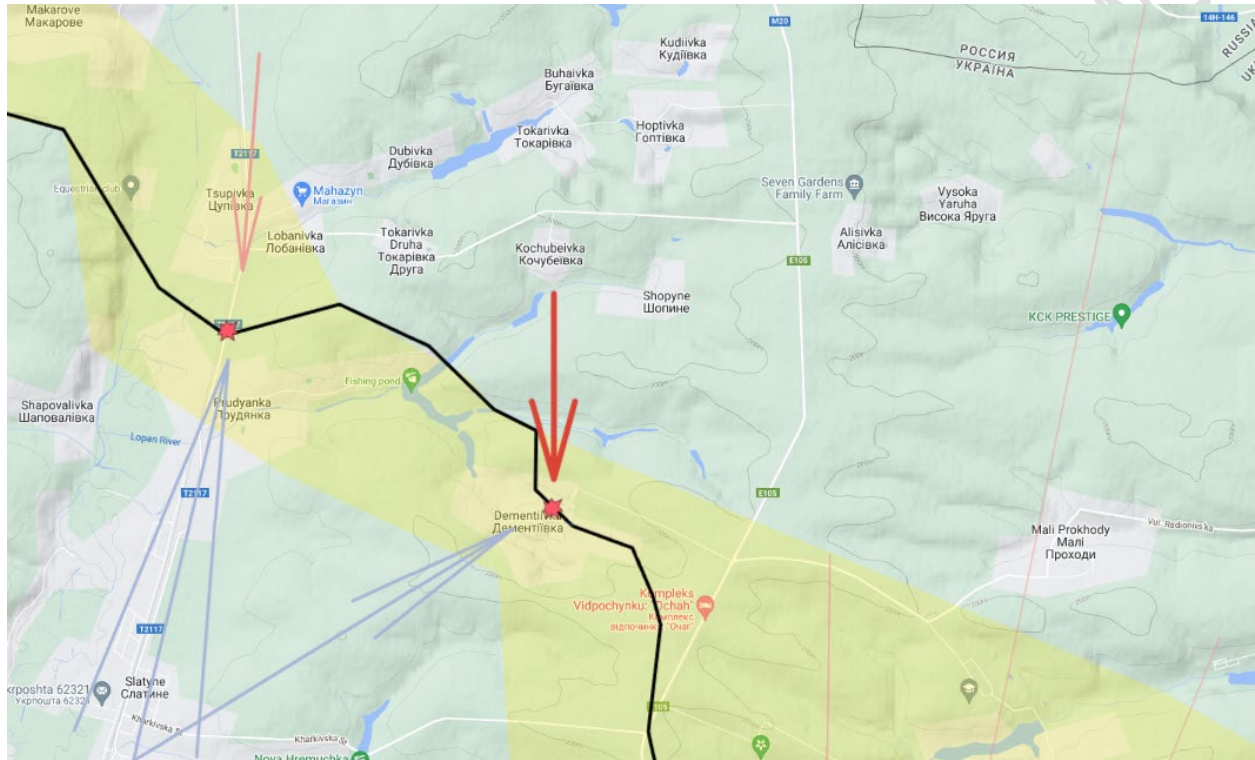
# KHARKIV REGION

## NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukraine from reaching the international border with Russia, protect the Belgorod-Kupyansk GLOC, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

## Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC



North of Kharkiv, Russian forces attempted to capture, [Dementiivka](#) again and ended with the same result as the previous five attempts in August. They retreated to their starting position.<sup>15</sup>

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

Russian positions in [Ternova were shelled again](#), with at least one self-propelled howitzer (SPG) destroyed.<sup>16</sup> The strike was geolocated [50°12'44.7"N 36°37'28.4"E] and was only 1-1/2 kilometers from the Russian border.

Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery, rockets fired from MLRS, and indirect fire from tanks northwest, north, northeast, and southeast of Kharkiv.

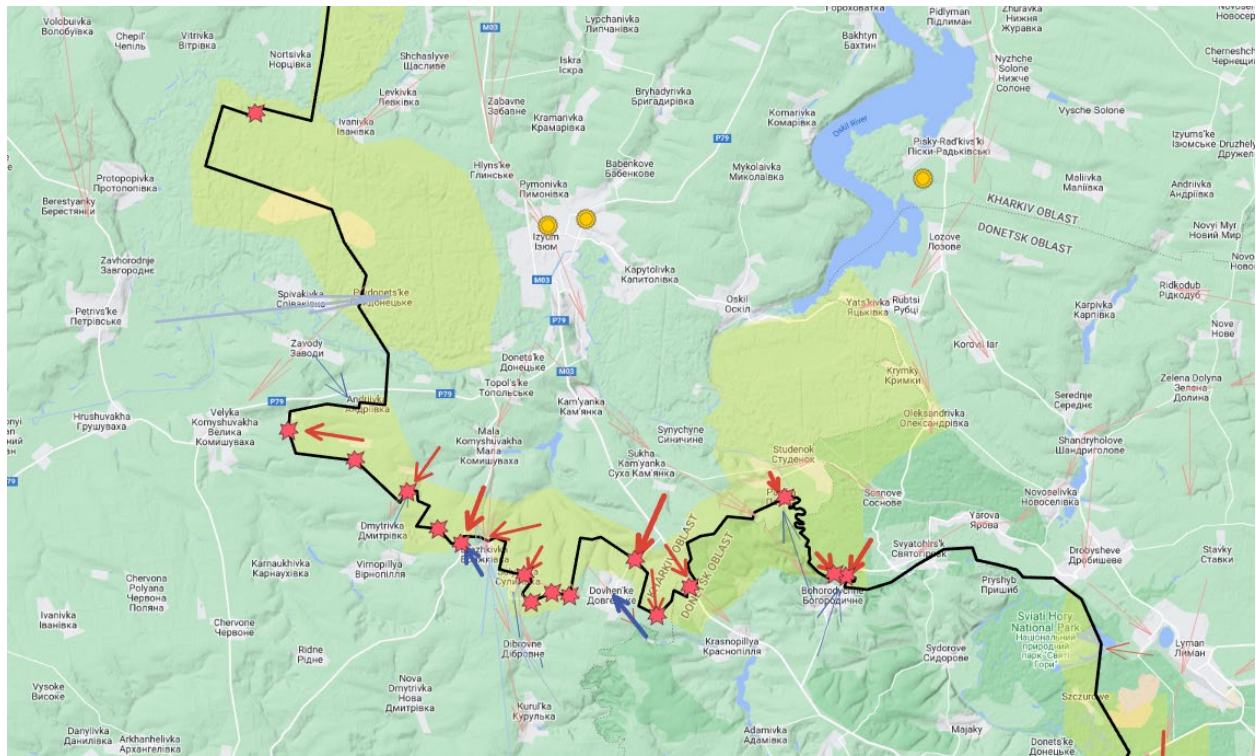
### **ASSESSMENT:** Unchanged from August 11

*Our assessment on August 10 that Russian forces were testing the capabilities of the Ukrainian territorial guard taking over the defense of Izyum was correct. Positional fighting, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses will continue to occur.*

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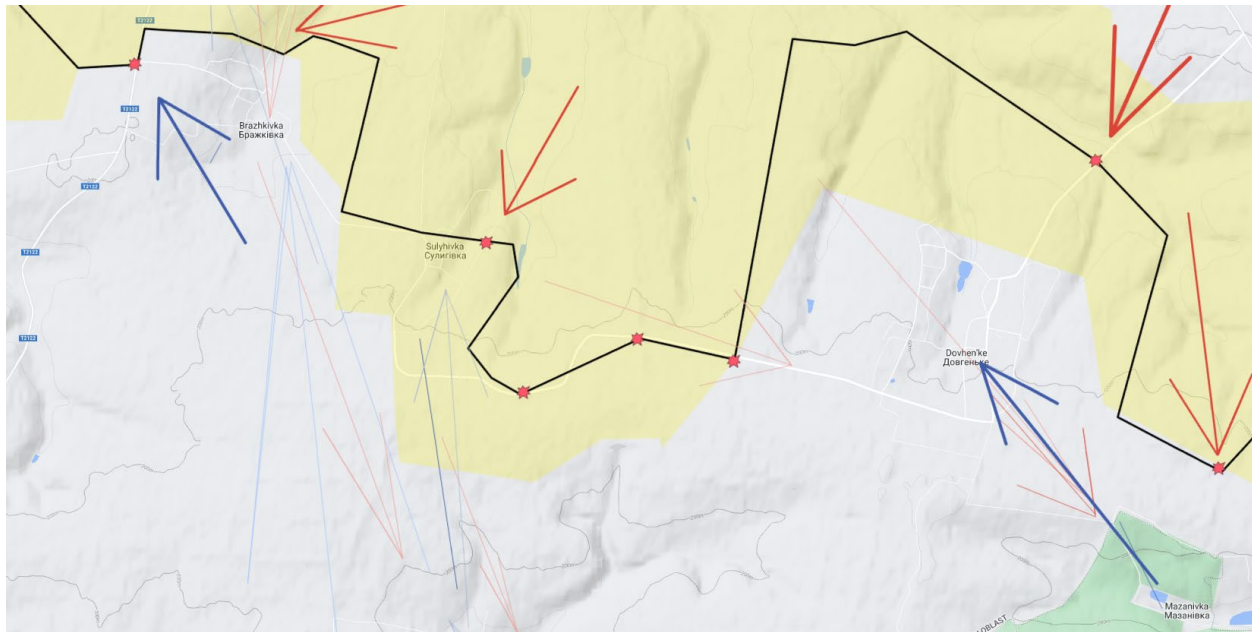
<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1563701403410997249>

# IZYUM AXIS



**Russian Objective:** Push Ukrainian forces back to end shelling on Izyum, protect Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) west and north of Izyum

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend against advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict



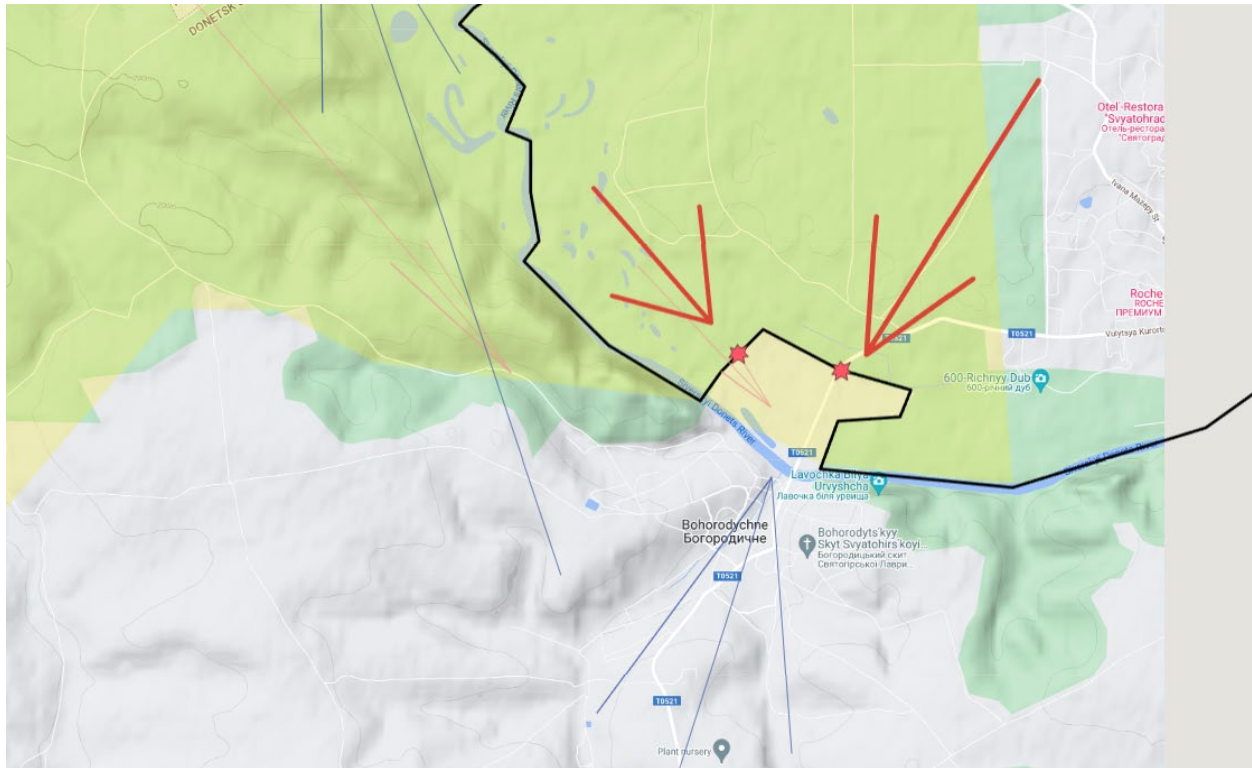
The Russian attempt to push Ukrainian forces out of artillery range of Izyum failed. Ukraine reestablished complete control of [Brazhkyvka](#) and [Dovhenke](#). Ukrainian forces were able to take back control of the forested area and ridges around Brazhkyvka.<sup>17</sup>

A small group of Russian troops was sent in an ad hoc attack on the new Ukrainian positions, suffered heavy losses, and retreated.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1563727370653433856](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563727370653433856)

<sup>18</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)



Russian forces also attempted to advance on Dovhenke and [Bohorodychne](#) without success.<sup>19 20</sup> Based on the new intelligence, we have adjusted the map.

**ASSESSMENT:** We do not believe that Russian forces will be capable of launching a renewed offensive push in the short term.

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<sup>19</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)

<sup>20</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1563727374381772800](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563727374381772800)

Russian forces fired sporadic artillery and rockets from MLRS from Dmytrivka to Tetyanivka. WarGonzo released a video showing that Russian forces can longer set up fire bases within Sherwood Forest, west of Izyum.<sup>21</sup> Instead, Russian troops are firing mortars from the back of canvas-covered transports. After firing several rounds from an unsecured mortar which rocks with each shot reducing accuracy, they drive off as quickly as possible.

**ASSESSMENT:** This video provides evidence to our assessment that Ukraine has established fire control west and south of Izyum and has the resources to perform counterbattery activity on this axis. Also of interest is the mortar crew operated without a spotting drone and did manual calculations using a compass. We cannot determine if this is due to electronic warfare or a lack of resources.

**ASSESSMENT:** Unchanged from August 7

*We remain unwilling to call the ongoing action by Ukrainian forces a counteroffensive. We maintain that Russian forces between Avdriivka and Kopanky are now in*

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<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/8008>

*a salient and at moderate risk of encirclement if Ukrainian forces were to make a breakthrough.*

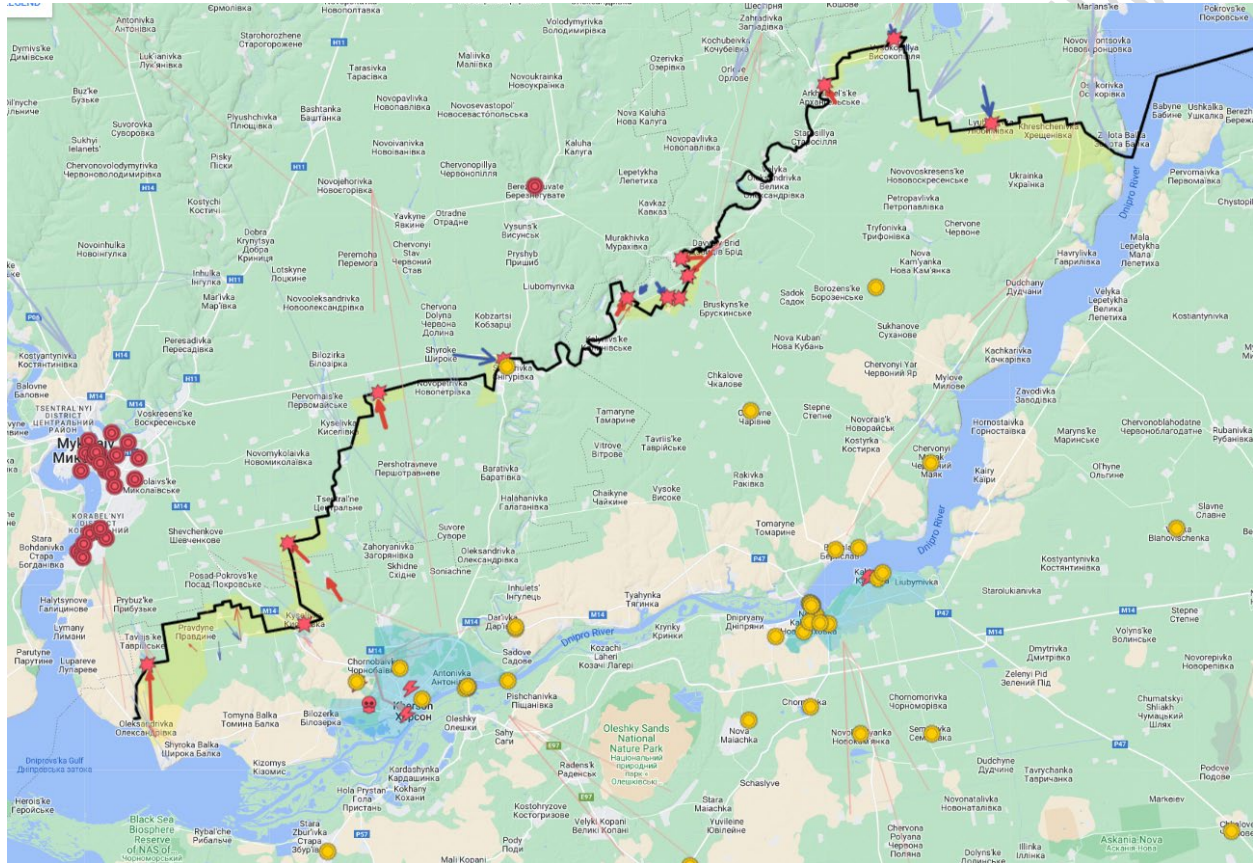
*It is implausible that Russian forces can secure the Donetsk oblast by August 31 without securing Slovyansk as part of that self-declared deadline.*

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# DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

## KHERSON



**Russian Objective:** Push Ukrainian forces out of artillery range of Kherซอน and critical Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines), prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive by building defenses, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

**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

There were no reports of ground combat in Kherson from the General Staff, Operational Command South of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, or the Russian Ministry of Defense.

Russian artillery fire became sporadic along the line of conflict, and there have been fewer troop movements.

Ukrainian forces have stabilized the situation around [Blahodatne](#). There were multiple reports the settlement is now under Ukrainian fire control, and Russian forces cannot maneuver.<sup>22 23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> [https://twitter.com/v\\_stus/status/1563627245905870848](https://twitter.com/v_stus/status/1563627245905870848)

<sup>23</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1563727385198878720](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1563727385198878720)



West of Avdiivka on the Inhulets River bridgehead, Ukrainian forces continue to attack Russian troops in [Blahodativka](#).<sup>24</sup> The attack happened within 350 meters of our mapped line of conflict.

A Russian military barracks and ammunition depot adjacent to Penal Colony Number 90 in Kherson was hit by rockets fired by HIMARS.<sup>25</sup> There were reports the force of the blast blew out windows in the prison and surrounding apartment buildings. There were unconfirmed reports of another HIMARS strike in Nova Kakhovka.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/neonhandrail/status/1563753394111905793>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7365061/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/24758>

## **ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 13**

*With all four GLOCs severed for Russian troops on the west bank of the Dnipro River, resupply will have to be done by barge, ferry, and helicopter. Carrying fuel, replacement equipment, artillery shells, and rockets will be challenging to sustain and support 25,000 soldiers.*

*The Russian Ministry of Defense has continued to send reinforcements west of the Dnipro, with 3,000 elite VDV troops arriving in the last week, swelling the number of troops to 25,000.<sup>27</sup> That is almost 20% of the entire occupation force in Ukraine, including LNR, DNR, Chechen, terrorists with the Imperial Legion, and PMC Wagner. Ukraine has been targeting ammunition and supply depots, logistics centers, and GLOCs, although the amount of supplies available in Kherson is unclear.*

*The first indication of supply issues is already emerging, with complaints online about drinking water shortages in supply drops and only receiving "dry rations" for meals. Another sign that supply issues have already started is the S-300 missile attacks on Mykolaiv have ended. Suppress*

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<sup>27</sup> [Stars & Stripes](#)

*Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) missions by Ukraine have helped limit the attacks, but a lack of supply of the larger S300 anti-aircraft missiles is likely contributing to the issue.*

*Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) are designed to operate for three to five days independent of resupply. Signs that the supply situation is getting more severe won't appear for weeks but would include abandoned vehicles, increasing complaints about a lack of resources on Telegram, VK, and Live Journal, looting for food and fuel, and a reduction in artillery fire among front line units.*

*With mud season 30 to 45 days away and the first snow in 60 to 75 days, complaints about a lack of cold weather gear, hypothermia, and low morale from living in the mud would be another indicator that the supply situation is worsening.*

*There remain significant questions on when and if there will be a counteroffensive, and Kyiv has become increasingly contradictory on what will be next. Some officials have told the press that the counteroffensive has already started, including President Zelenskyy earlier in the week. An anonymous source close to the Ukrainian government told the Washington Post there would be no*

*counteroffensive because Ukraine doesn't have the resources.*

*"We have to be honest - for now, Ukraine doesn't have a sufficient number of weapons systems for a counteroffensive. It's still possible to get a result, but if so, it will be the result of smart Ukraine strategy more than of countering Russia with equal power."*

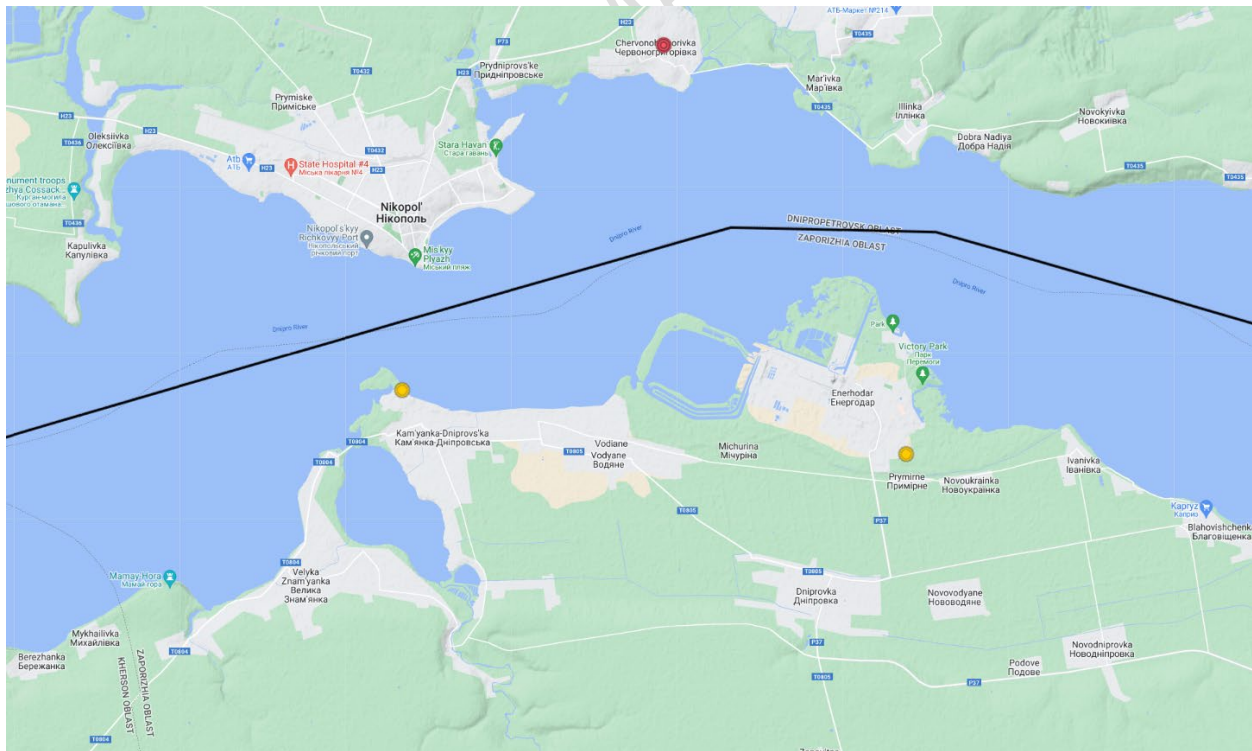
*The appearance of Czech hedgehogs in Kherson, Russian forces fearful of moving on the streets due to partisan activity, Russian commanders leaving the region, and local government and junior military officers occupying Kherson hospitals and schools to avoid HIMARS attacks all point to the same fact.*

*Regardless of what we may assess or think or what the Ukrainian government is saying – the Kremlin believes a counteroffensive is coming, and it will fight to hold the western half of the Kherson oblast.*

## DNIPROPETROVSK AND ZAPORIZHIA

**Russian Objective:** Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

**Ukrainian Objective:** Prepare and stage for a counterattack, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict



The Russian Ministry of Defense accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant three times, including targeting Special Building one, which they claim holds 168 assemblies of "American nuclear fuel" from Westinghouse. Once again, they provided no evidence to support the claim and reported that radiation levels were normal.<sup>28</sup> Westinghouse has extensive contracts with Energoatom and upgraded many of the plant's safety systems in 2017.<sup>29</sup>

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Nikopol was hit with three artillery shells knocking out power to 1,500.<sup>30</sup> The amount of shelling had dropped dramatically since August 19, when the Kremlin first signaled they were willing to let inspectors come to ZNPP.

Oleksandr Starukh, Zaporizhzhia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that a boarding school for 200 students was hit with five missiles, destroying the facility.<sup>31</sup> School had started, but students were not staying overnight at the campus due to the security situation. It is noteworthy that the Russian Ministry of Defense made no mention of a

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<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/37786>

<sup>29</sup> [Westinghouse corporate site](#)

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/28/7365075/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7365058/>



missile attack on any troop concentrations or military facilities in Zaporizhzhia. Officials shared pictures and videos of the school, including the interior in multiple locations, which showed no indications that it was used as a military base or contained military resources.<sup>32</sup>

## CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources in places, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

**Ukrainian Objective:** Maintain enough force strength on the border with Russia to prevent Russian troops from crossing

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Russian forces shelled the settlements of Khotin, Myropillia, Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Znob-Novhorodske, and Nova Sloboda.<sup>33</sup> Two civilians were injured in a town outside Bilopollia when Russia fired over 50 mortar shells from across the border, damaging "the entire infrastructure of the village."

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<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/riamelitopol/66578>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/28/7365065/>

Multiple fires broke out across the settlement, including a college, a kindergarten, and the post office.



## **KYIV REGION**

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

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

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

**Editor's Note:** *There are so many reports of explosions in Russian-occupied Crimea that are unfounded or likely air defenses shooting at nothing that we have decided not to report on each incident. We will only report on confirmed attacks.*

## WEST REGION

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

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The government of Kazakhstan announced the nation is halting all arms exports through 2023.<sup>34</sup> The nation was once part of the Soviet Union and has repeatedly refused to support Moscow and its invasion of Ukraine.<sup>35</sup>

The private car of Yevgeny Sekretarev, the deputy chief of the 8th Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, was destroyed by a woman who threw a

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/28/7365069/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/28/7365069/>

Molotov cocktail at it.<sup>36</sup> The woman was arrested shortly after the attack. Sekretarev is responsible for enforcing the “information policy” for the Russian Armed Forces to prevent “incorrect information” from being published.

***Editor's Note:*** *We could not determine if he was related to Winston Smith or Party Member O'Brien.*

Chechen forces have been hard to spot in Ukraine, and we have likely determined why. Ramzan Kadyrov released a new video showing members of the elite 141st Akhmat Division of Kadyrovites. The unit had reportedly suffered catastrophic casualties in the battle for Severodonetsk, including the loss of the infamous TikTok crew from Mariupol. Just [watch the video](#) – it speaks for itself.<sup>37</sup> If you can't or won't, Akhmat has been obliterated with the video showing “elite” troops of older men poorly equipped, entrenched on a windswept ridgetop.

Facing critical troop shortages and the attempt to recruit 34,000 new volunteers for the 3rd Army Corps of the Russian Federation, not achieving 50% of targets, the

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<sup>36</sup> [https://ya62 \[dot\]](https://ya62[dot])

[ru/news/incidents/v\\_moskve\\_podozhgli\\_avtomobil\\_zamnachalnika\\_upravleniya\\_genshtaba/](https://ya62[dot]ru/news/incidents/v_moskve_podozhgli_avtomobil_zamnachalnika_upravleniya_genshtaba/)

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1563685363960672256>

Kremlin has started actively recruiting in Moscow and St. Petersburg.<sup>38</sup> So far, the government has attempted to insulate western Russia's power and financial centers, relying on central and eastern Russia's poor and minority populations.

Men can sign voluntary contracts from three to twelve months. Salaries as high as 240,000 roubles a month are being promised when deployed – although the money is transferred to a special bank card, not a bank account. During training, they are paid 30,000 roubles; during “downtime,” monthly pay is 45,000 roubles. It is worth noting that is an inferior offer compared to some other districts in Russia offering pay as high as 300,000 roubles a month for shorter-term contracts.

Vadym Skibitskyi, the representative of the Chief Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, hinted that a counteroffensive might be coming, saying that “the fall” will be a pivotal point in the war. He also acknowledged the winter will be challenging and believes Russia will prepare for a spring offensive.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7365060/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/27/7365013/>

After months of speculation, the Slovak Air Force fleet of Mig-29s is one step closer to being repainted in Ukrainian livery.<sup>40</sup> As previously announced, the 12 airworthy fighter planes were officially retired today. Poland and the Czech Republic have agreed to protect Slovakia's air space while the nation awaits the F-16s they ordered from the United States.

Slovakia leaders have signaled a willingness to donate their squadron of Mig-29s to Ukraine and their spare parts and munitions. However, the deal has been on again, off again, for months.

**ASSESSMENT:** It is unlikely we'll learn about an official transfer until after it happens and observers realize a sudden increase in sorties flown by Mig-29s.

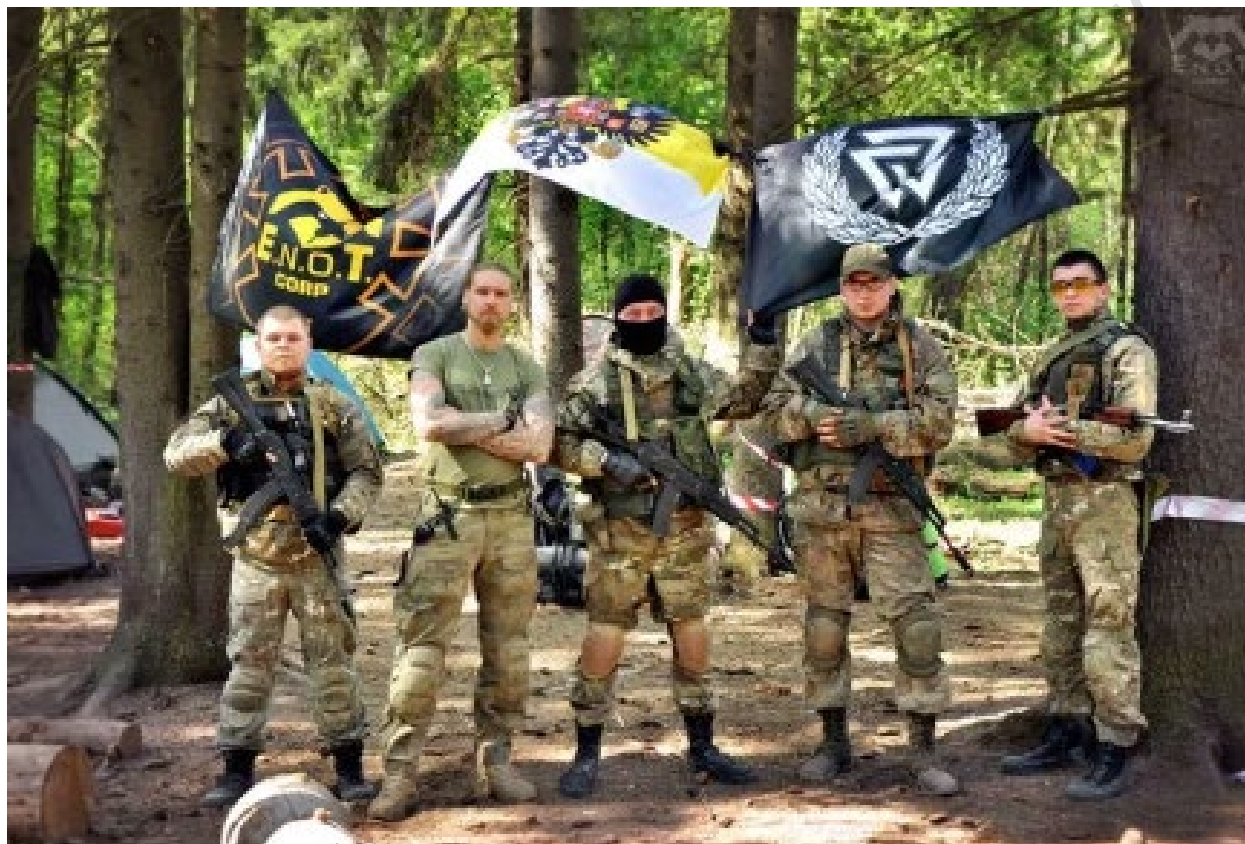
## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Oleg Nikoloenko reported that Russian occupiers are threatening to take custody of children in occupied Kherson

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/czech-republic-poland-slovakia-mig-29s-russia-ukraine/32007110.html>

and Zaporizhia if they are not registered to attend Russian-seized schools.<sup>41</sup>



Russian Neo-Nazi mercenary Igor Mangushev, who founded the private military company E.N.O.T. Corp, and at one time was so off the rails that the Russian Federal Security (FSB) arrested several leaders of the company in 2018, went on a bizarre monologue holding the skull of a Ukrainian soldier.<sup>42</sup> E.N.O.T. Corps iconography uses the yellow,

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/24730>

<sup>42</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1563775318208516096](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1563775318208516096)

white, and black colors of the Russian nationalist movement and Nazi iconography.



In his monologue, he said the quiet part out loud, stating that the war in Ukraine was not about liberation but the genocide of all Ukrainians for Russian living space and nationalism. Mangushev claims the skull came from a Ukrainian soldier he killed personally in Mariupol.

Like Wagner Group, E.N.O.T. operates in Syria and several African nations. Although not chartered with the Kremlin as a PMC, Moscow ultimately decided to let this issue slide after the 2018 investigation.



**ASSESSMENT:** Whether the skull is real or not is immaterial – he said the quiet part out loud to a willing audience of Russians who chuckled and asked questions.

## **GEOPOLITICAL**

There weren't any significant developments.

## **ECONOMIC**

We don't cover economics on the weekend.