



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

May 31, 2023 – A



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

5/31/23-A 23:59* PST

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, Israel, Georgia, and the United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, and donations and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact social@malcontentnews.com. For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at tips@malcontentment.com.

[Patreons at the Bronze level or higher](#) can access the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patreons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2023 by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Adam Irving, Jeff Davis, Katie Livingstone, Oskar Hallgrimsson, Ryan Evans, Michael Hering, and special thanks to David Batashvili of the [Rondeli Foundation](#), Ana Ras, Spanish Editor in Chief, Robert Gaudette, Editor in Chief, and Linnea Hubbard, the voice of the Russia-Ukraine War Update Podcast.

The reader accepts that the information contained in the Malcontent News Situation Report will not be used for travel, navigation, or personal security assessment. The reader agrees to get realtime information from official channels provided by national, oblast, raion, hromada, city, or local officials and follow their security recommendations.

The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation.


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.



SUMMARY – DAY 461 7

DAILY ASSESSMENT 7

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP 9

UKRAINE WEATHER 10

SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY..... 11

KHARKIV 12

DONBAS REGION 15

LUHANSK 15

NORTHEAST DONETSK 19

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK 23

ZAPORIZHIA..... 27

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION 28

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE..... 30

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE..... 31

RUSSIAN FRONT 35

THEATERWIDE 39

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES 45

RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR 46

WAR CRIMES 50

GEOPOLITICS 51

SUMMARY – DAY 461

This is the first update for May 31, 2023. It has been 3,381 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 96 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

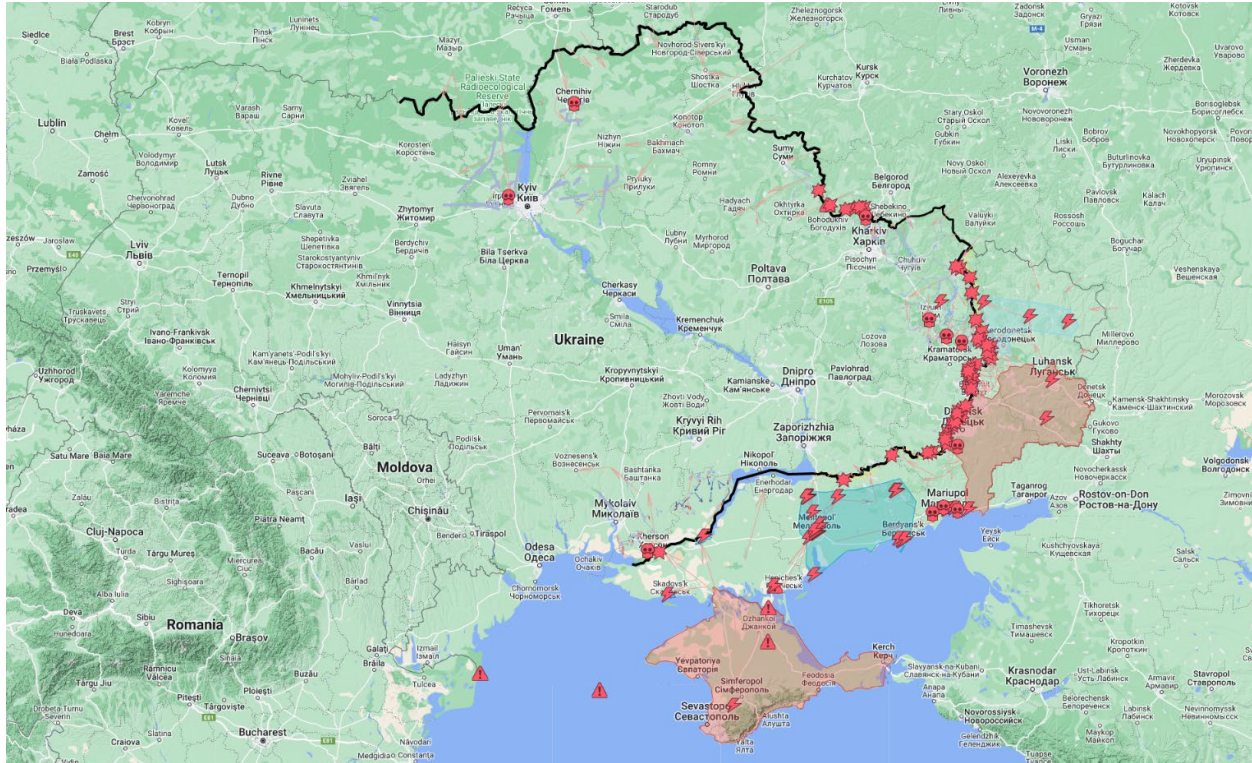
1. In preparation for larger offensive operations, Ukrainian forces continue shaping operations on multiple axes, creating panic and uncertainty among gauleiters, Russian administrators, and military leaders.
2. Current weather models indicate soil conditions will become favorable for large-scale military operations by June 5.
3. We have identified shaping activity by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in four locations that could indicate a larger attack is being prepared.
4. While Russian forces are continuing limited localized attacks in the Dvorichna and Marinka operational areas, the decreasing number of attacks and increased use of artillery indicates that Russian forces are in a

defensive posture and waiting for Ukraine to launch its offensive.

5. Anger and frustration among Russian state media, propagandists, milbloggers, and residents of the oblasts that border Ukraine expanded due to the Kremlin's weak response to a drone attack on Moscow and its continued inability to respond to border incursions in the Belgorod, Bryansk, and Kursk regions.
6. 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.
7. 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.](#)

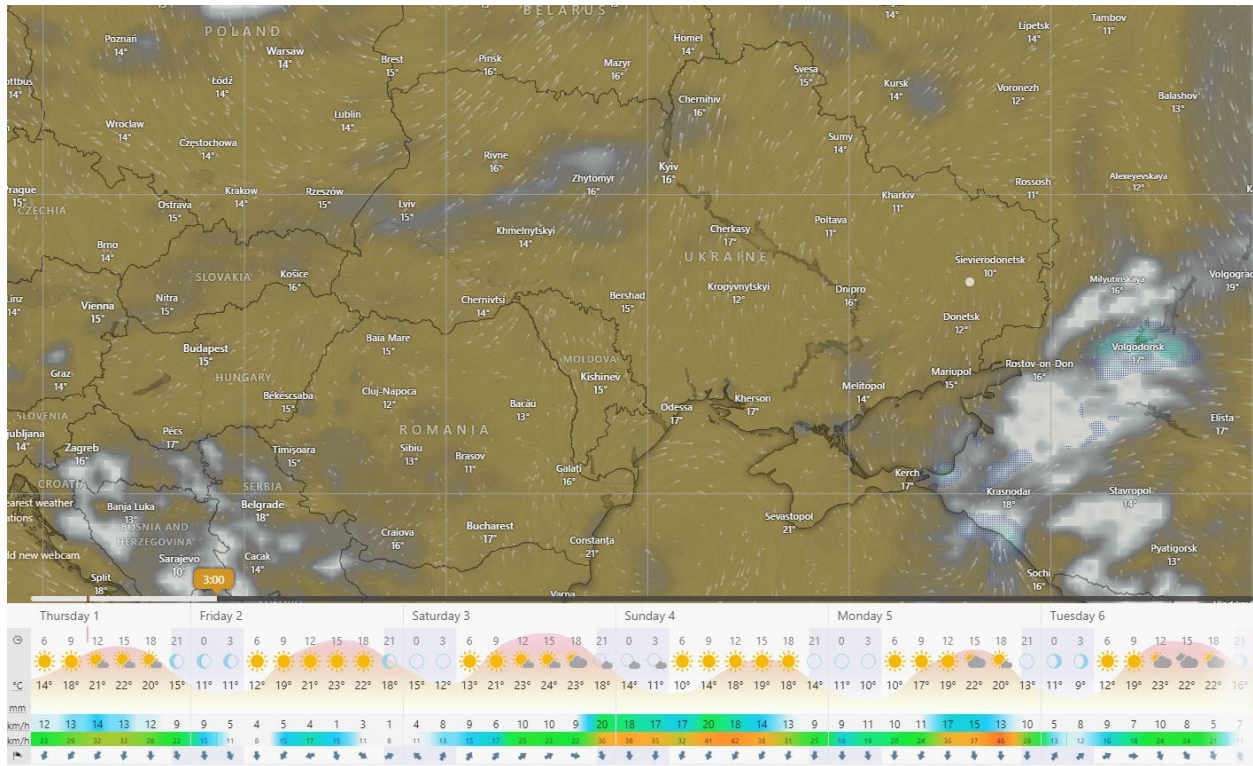
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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.

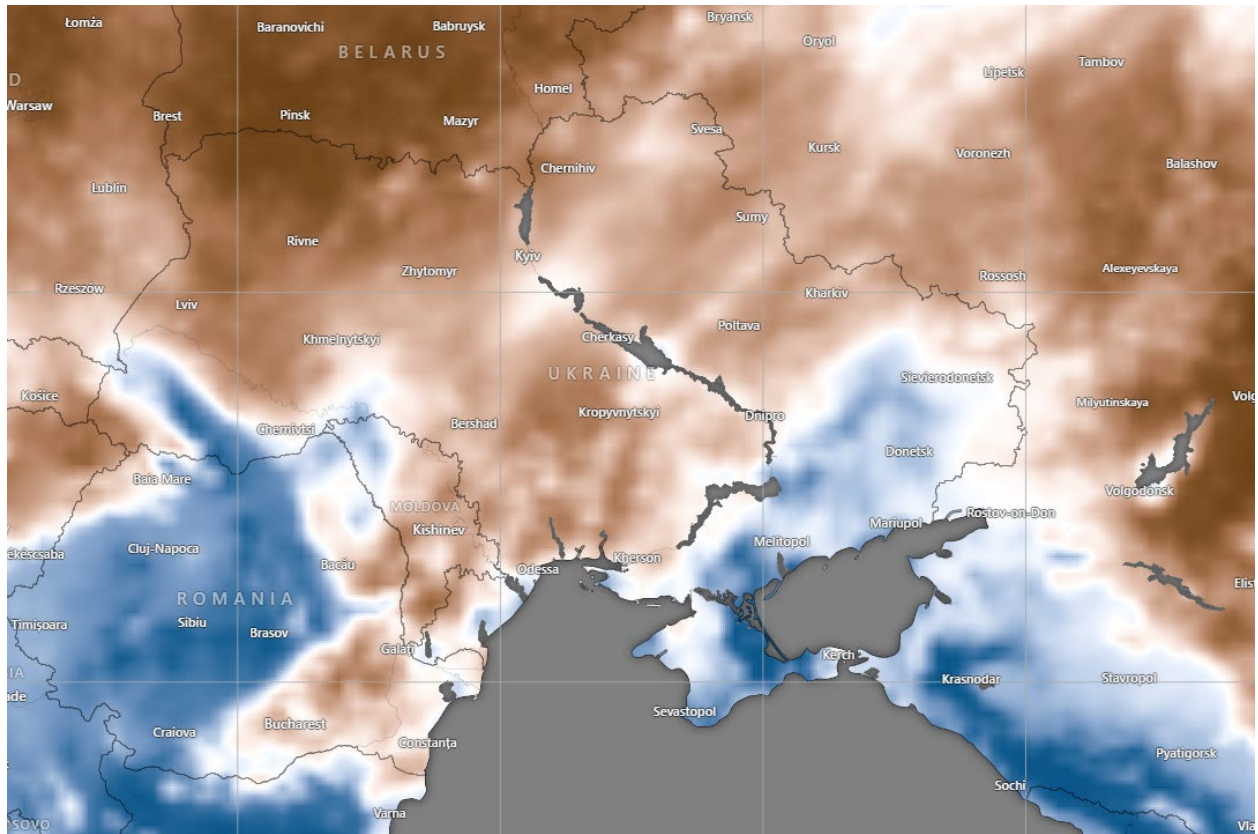
[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

UKRAINE WEATHER



Dry weather has returned to eastern Ukraine, with no rain forecasted in the ECMWF Euro ensemble model through June 6. Highs temperatures will be from 16° to 27° Celcius, and lows from 6° to 15°. The full moon is on June 4, the new moon is on June 18, and the longest day of the year is June 21.

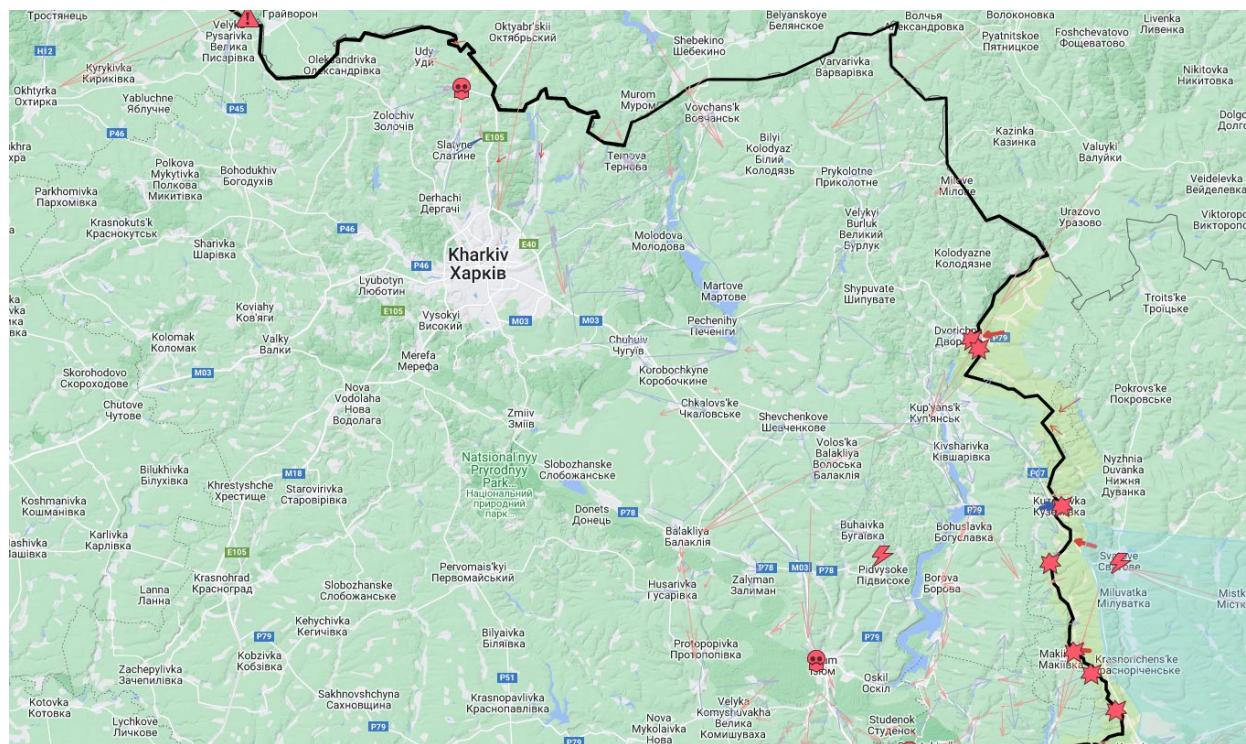
SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



The June 8, 2023 GFS forecast indicates soil saturation to 40 centimeters deep will be 25% in eastern Kherson, 50% to 65% in Zaporizhia, and up to 80% in localized areas of the Donbas.

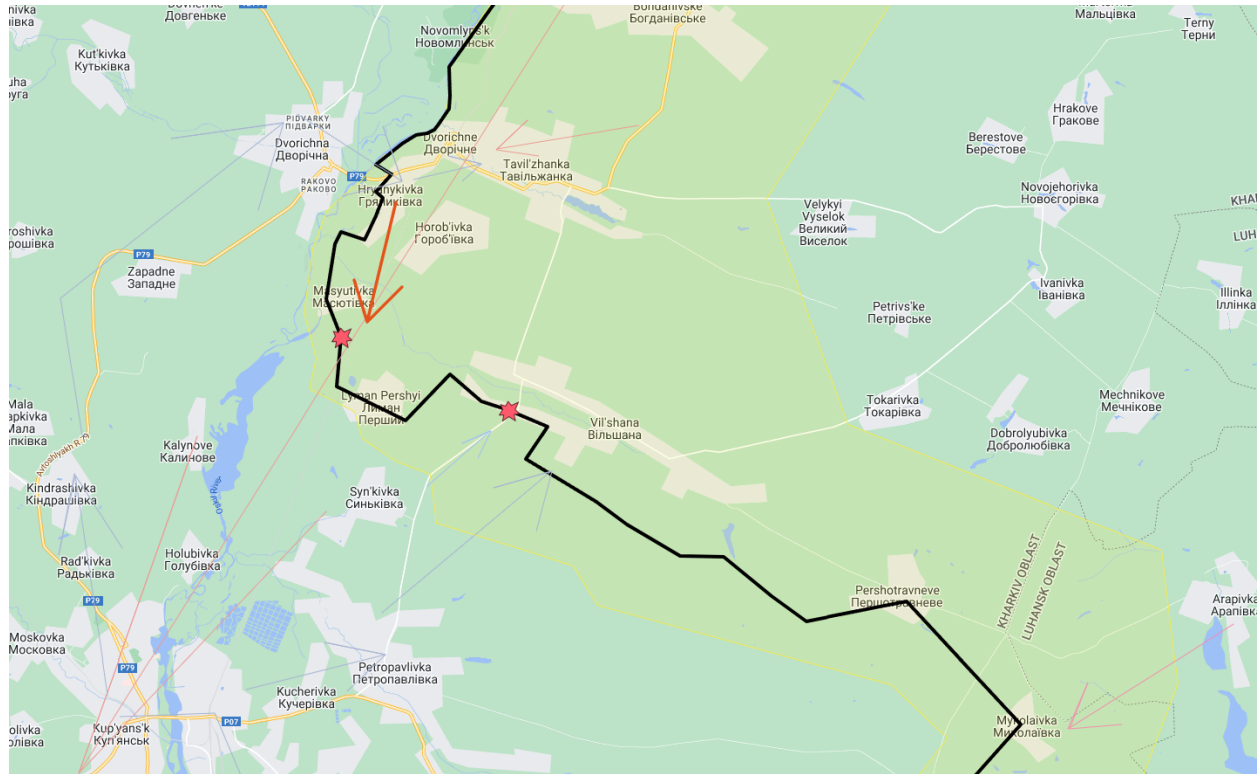
Soil saturation through most of the theater of war is at 80% to 100%, with the coastal areas impacted the most. Conditions have already started to improve, with soil saturation able to support heavy equipment and armored vehicles theaterwide by June 5. There is no significant rain in the forecast through June 6.

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 Dvorychna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure



Dvorichna Operational Area

Ukrainian and Russian sources reported that fighting shifted to the western edge of [Masyutivka](#), with Russian forces unable to advance in the direction of the Oskil River, confirming our assessment on May 30 that Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar's claim that Russian troops had established a bridgehead on the west bank of the Oskil River were inaccurate.^{1 2 3 4} RMOD alleged that Ukrainian

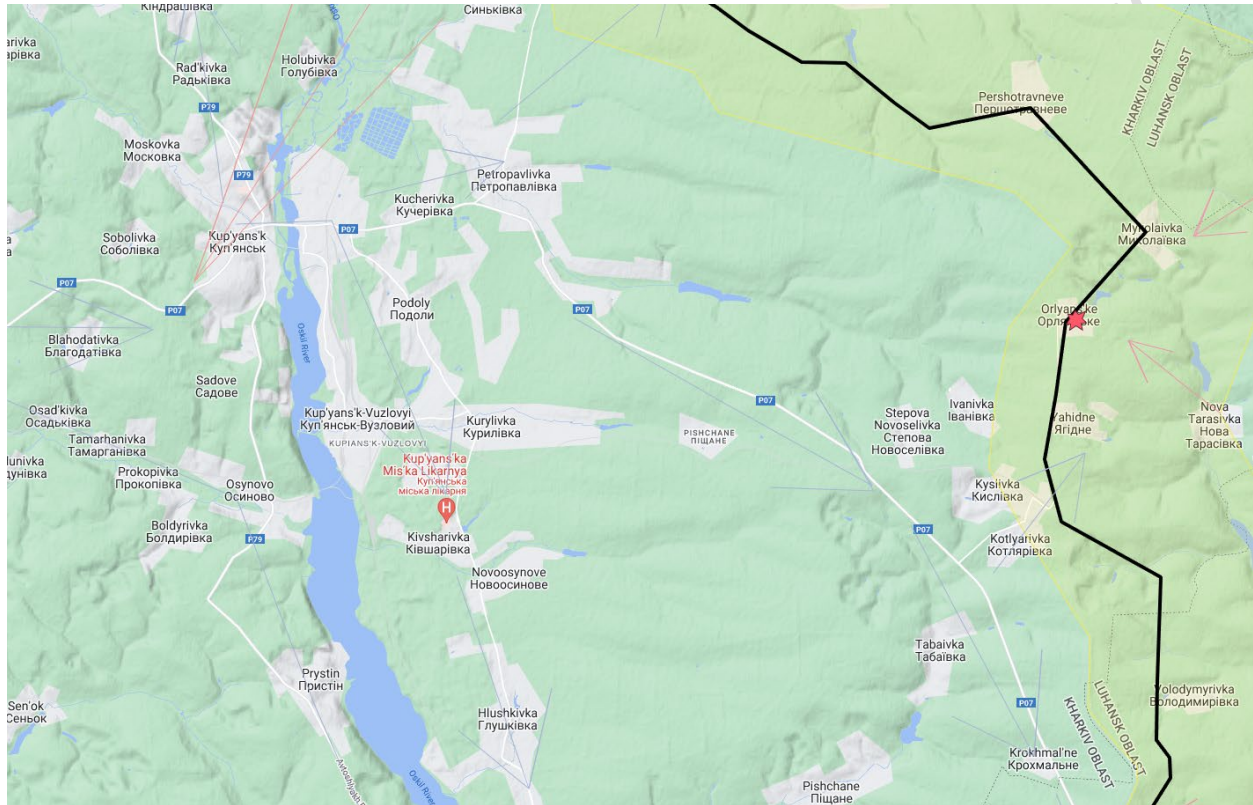
¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12869>

⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16713>

surveillance, reconnaissance, and sabotage (DRG) units were operating in the area of [Synkivka](#).⁵



Kupyansk Operational Area

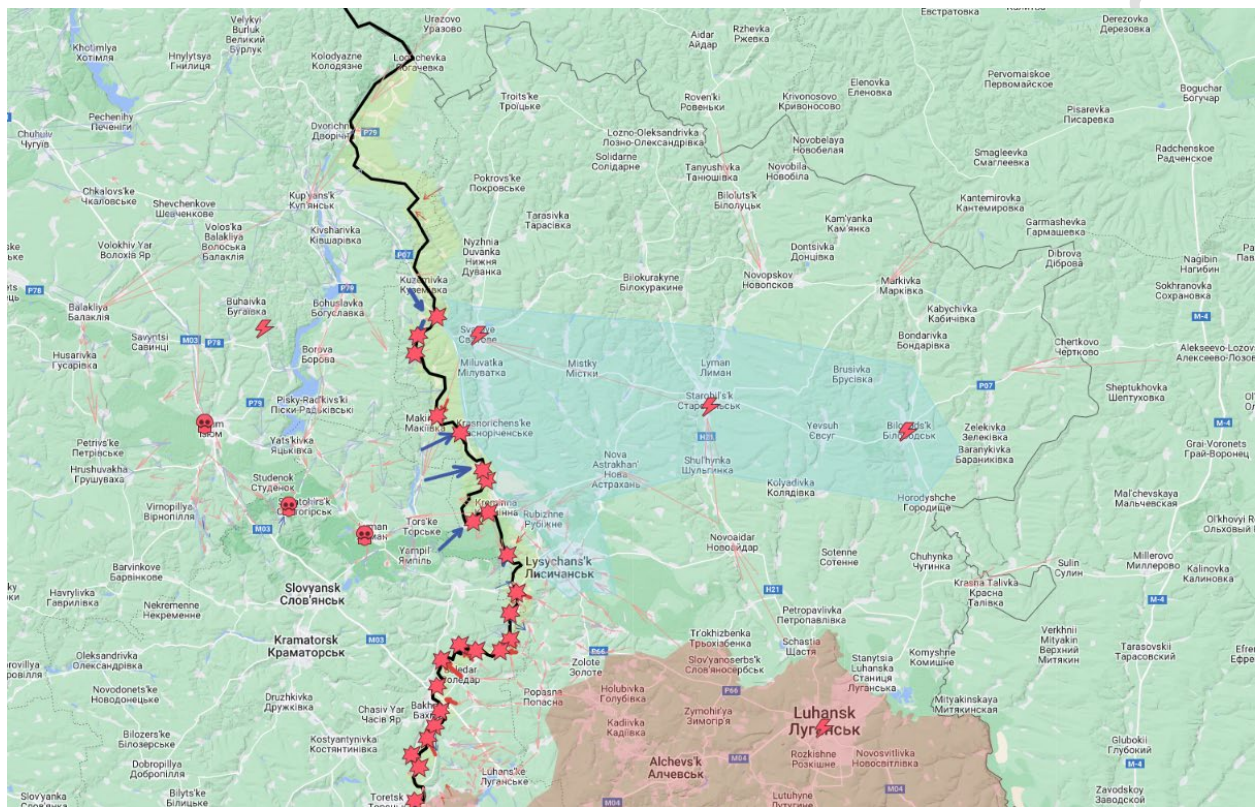
RMOD alleged Ukrainian DRG units were active in the areas of [Orlyanske](#) and [Kotlyarivka](#).⁶

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/26993 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/26993 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK

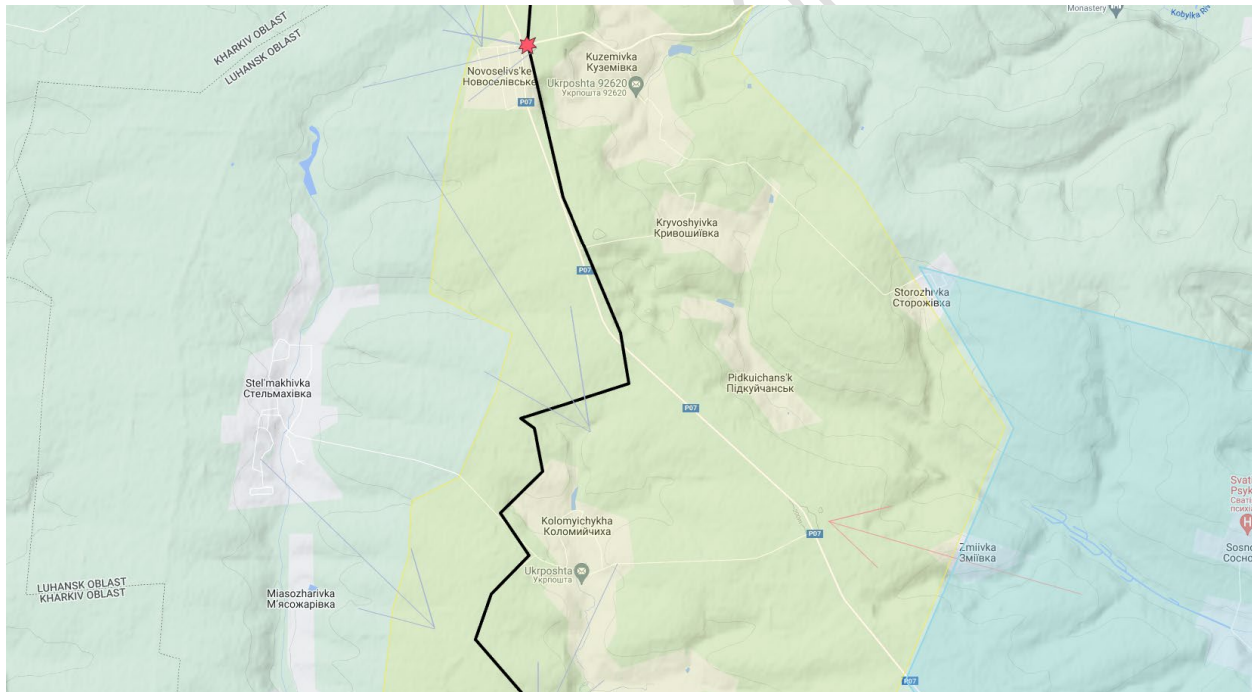


Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, prevent further Ukrainian advances, control insurgent activity

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

Free Luhansk

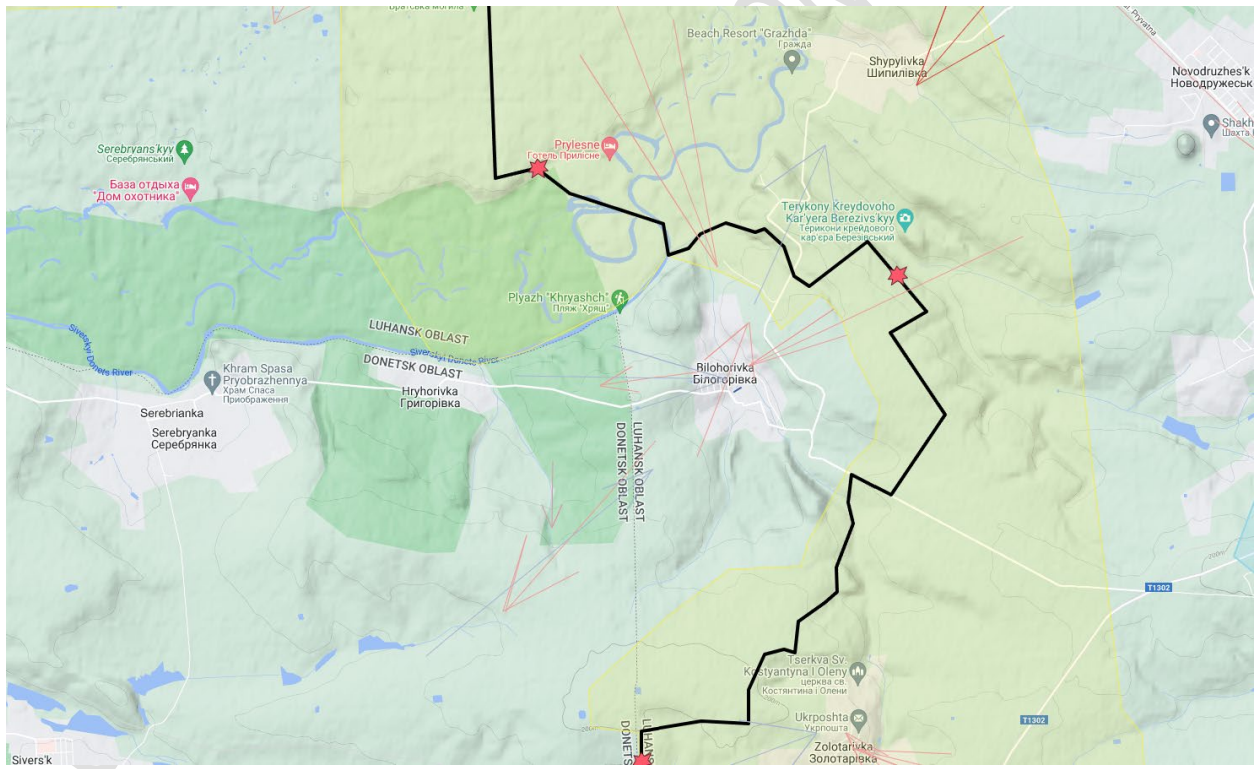
Operational Command spokesperson Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty said that Russian forces fired 557 artillery rounds, mortars, rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, and Russian army aviation and Airforce (VKS) carried out 12 airstrikes from Dvorichna to Bilohorivka [Luhansk].⁷



⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10930>

Svatove Operational Area

GSAFU and Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that Russian forces made multiple attacks on [Novoselivske](#) supported by the Russian VKS, which were unsuccessful.^{8 9 10} Both sources also reported that Russian forces attacked in the direction of [Stelmakhivka](#), suffered losses, and returned to their defensive positions.^{11 12}



⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

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

¹⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12869>


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

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/12869>

Lysychansk Operational Area

Russian and Ukrainian forces continue to trade defensive positions northeast of [Bilohorivka](#), with WarGonzo reporting that Ukrainian forces recaptured the heights northeast of the settlement.^{13 14}

Occupied Luhansk

Videos and pictures from the so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) confirmed that a "construction camp" and poultry farm in Karpaty was struck by rockets fired by HIMARS on May 30 but left out one critical detail. The camp was a site for  [heavy equipment and workers](#) building defensive bunkers, trenches, and antitank fortifications in the occupied territories.¹⁵

The LNR JCCC also reported that occupied-Mykhailivka was attacked by rockets fired by HIMARS, with no other information available at the time of publication.¹⁶

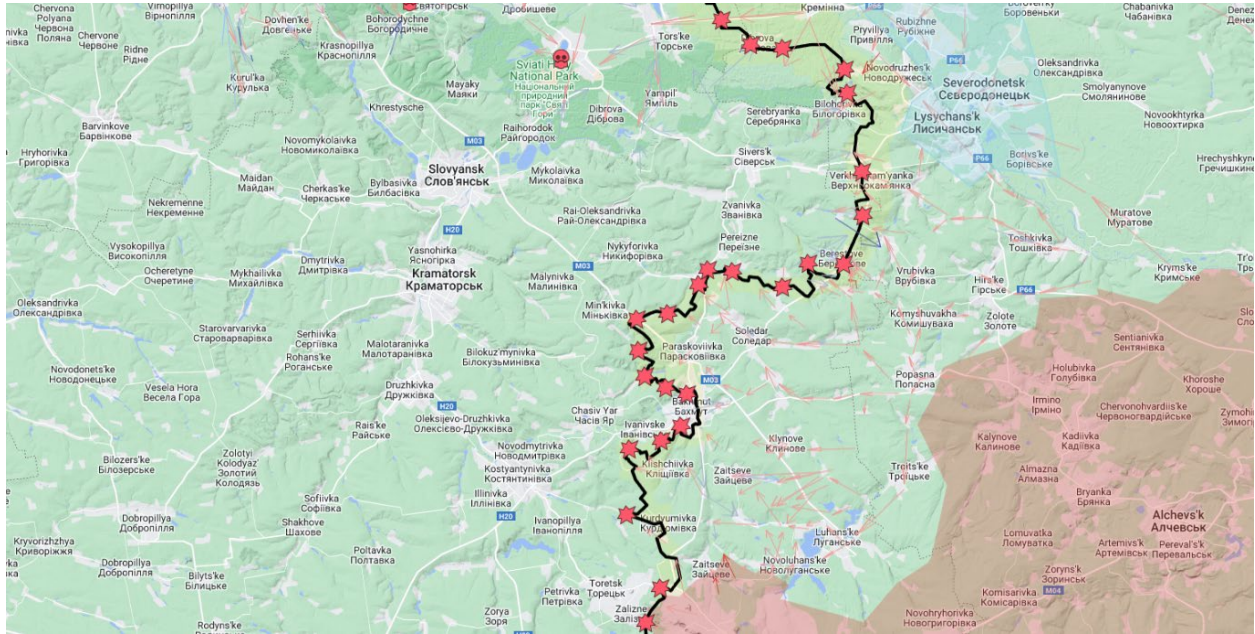
¹³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12869>

¹⁵ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8347

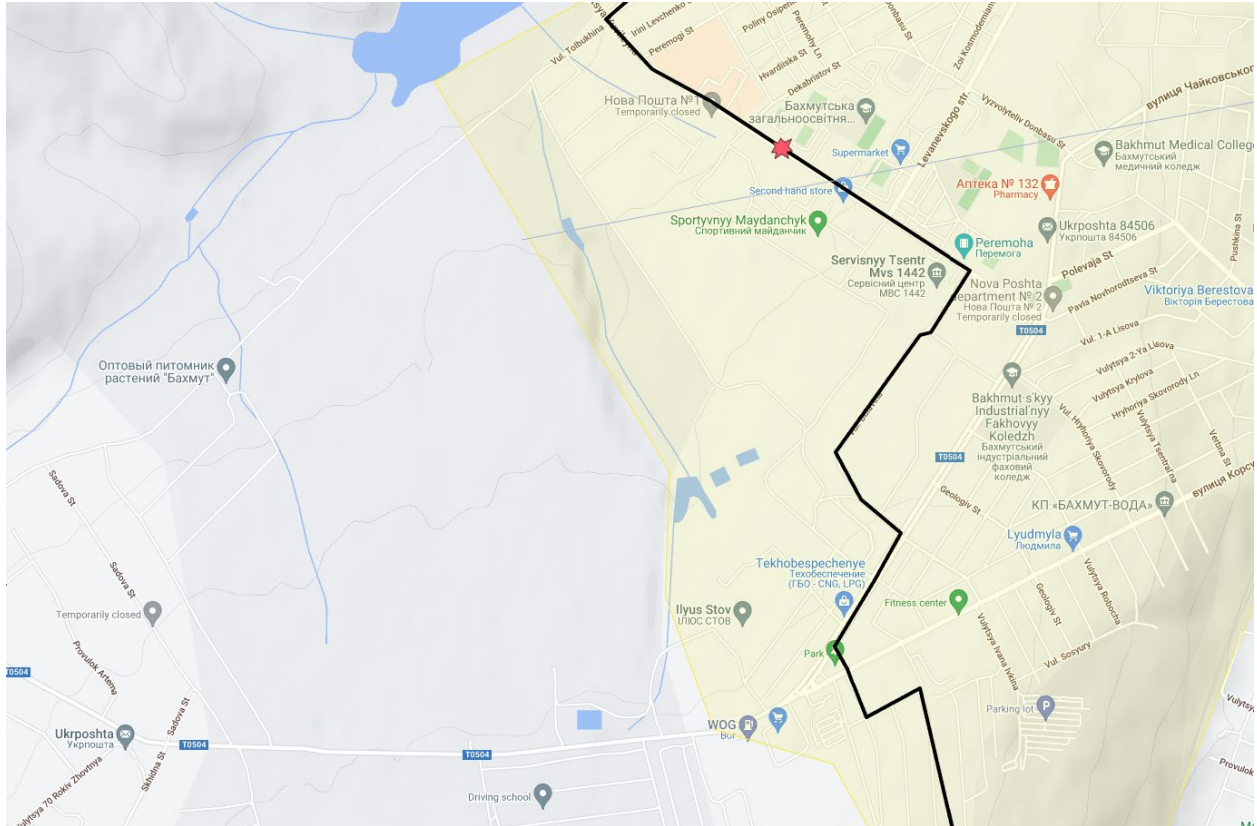
¹⁶ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8357

NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

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



Bakhmut

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar reported on the situation in Bakhmut. "The outskirts of the city of Bakhmut in the southwestern part remain under the control of the defense forces, and we control the entrance to the city itself. In fact, the offensive activity of the enemy in the Bakhmut direction has been stopped. So it seems, according to the news, that it is quiet there. But it cannot be called calm. The enemy has increased the amount of artillery fire and is changing [its] tools. The number of shelling today is commensurate with the times of the heaviest battles for Bakhmut. The Russians are now

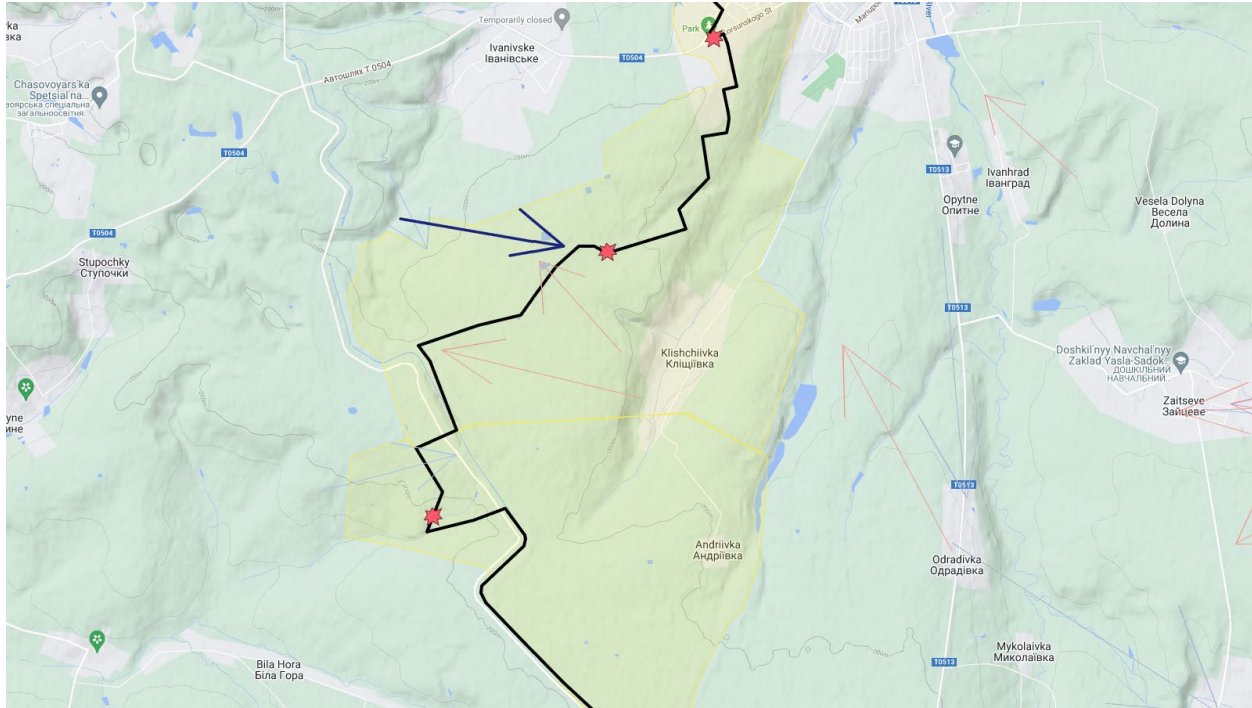
engaged in regrouping and replacing the "Wagnerians" with regular troops. However, the Ukrainian military prevents them from doing so in every possible way. The advance of our troops on the flanks was suspended a few days ago. But this does not mean they stand. They perform other military tasks that we cannot announce. These tasks are aimed at increasing the combat capability of our troops. Both sides are preparing and strengthening for further actions."¹⁷

Exiled Bakhmut mayor Oleksiy Reva claimed that of the 70,000 original residents of Bakhmut, only 500 remain in the city. Officially, 204 civilians were killed and 505 wounded during the almost ten-month siege, but the actual number is likely much higher.¹⁸

We maintain that Ukrainian forces hold approximately 1.50 square kilometers of Bakhmut (.58 square miles), or roughly 2.80% of the city.

¹⁷ <https://t.me/annamaliar/805>

¹⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98854>

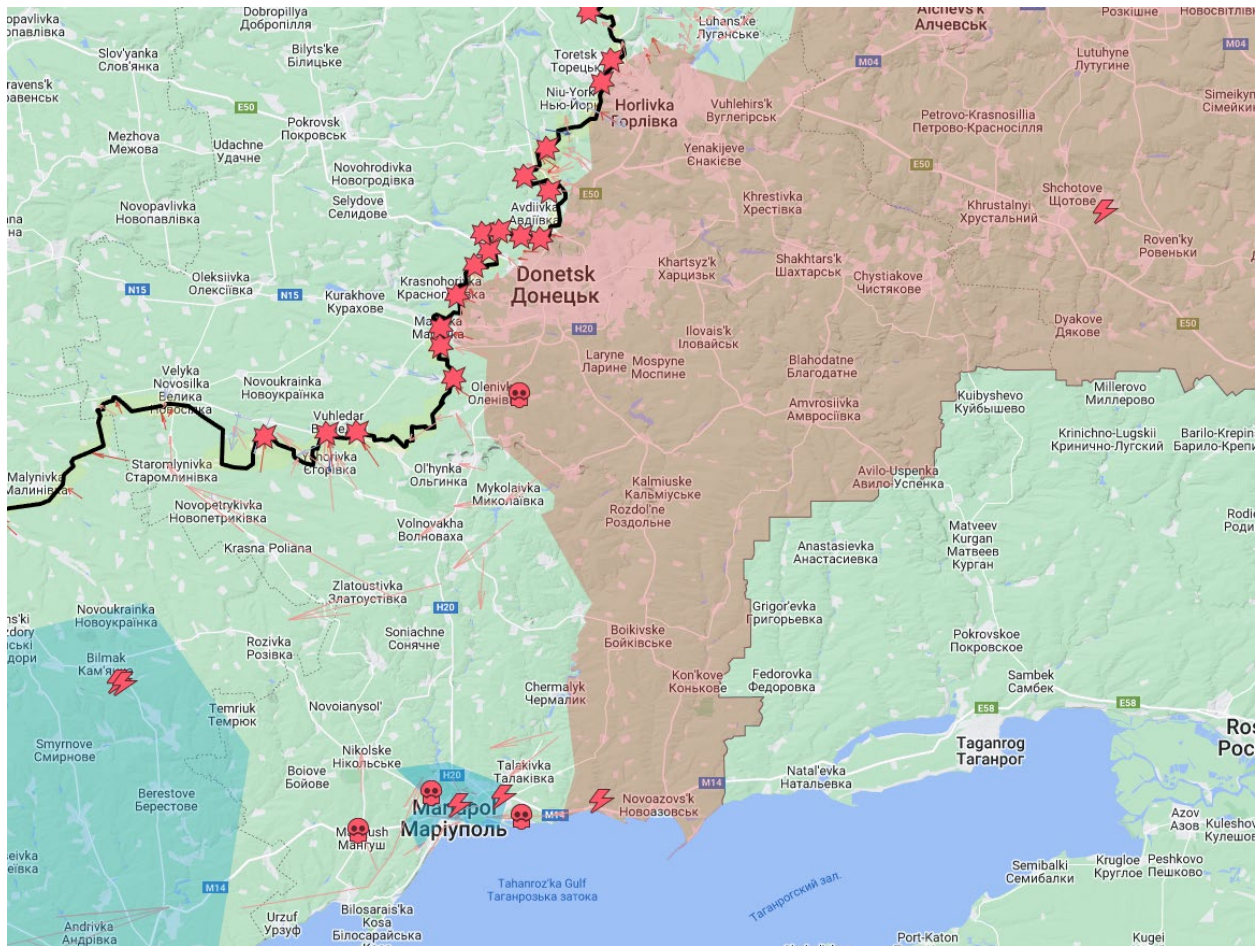


Klishchiivka Operational Area

Ukrainian source DeepState reported that Ukrainian forces continued offensive operations on the outskirts of [Klishchiivka](#) with no change in the situation.¹⁹

¹⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16713>

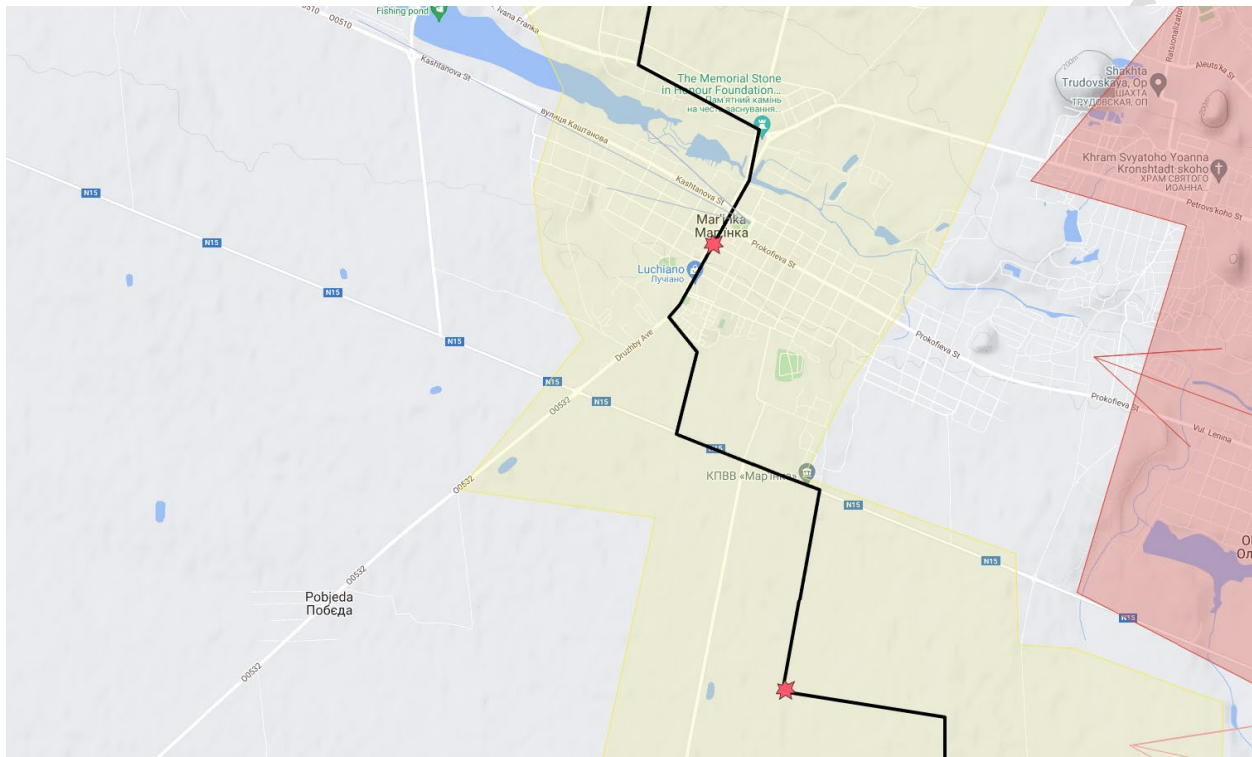
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



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

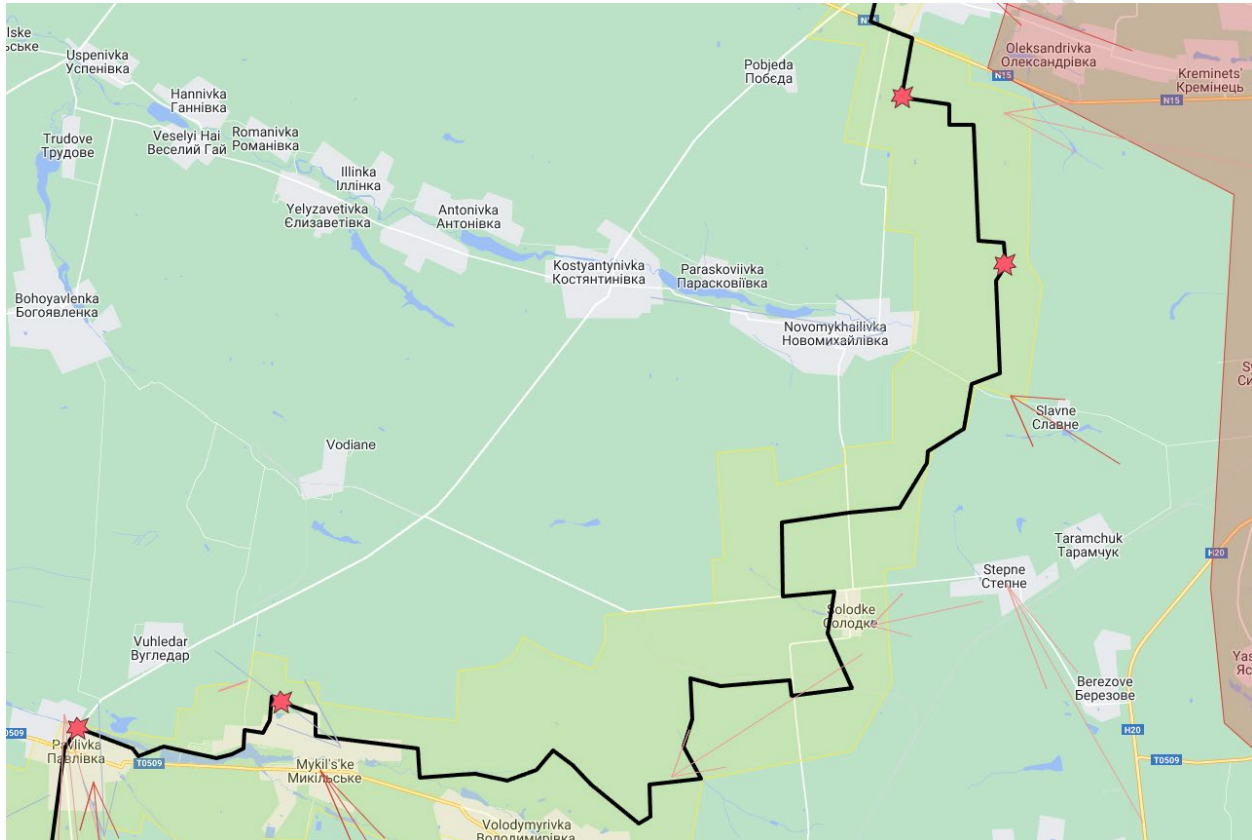


Marinka Operational Area

RMOD reported that the Chechen Akhmat 54th Motor Rifle Brigade had been deployed to [Marinka](#) and had taken over offensive operations.²⁰ GSAFU, WarGonzo, and Rybar reported that multiple offensives were launched, supported by airstrikes by the Russian VKS, with GSAFU and WarGonzo reporting the attacks failed and Rybar reporting fighting continued on the western edge of what was once

²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/26993 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Druzhby Avenue.^{21 22 23 24 25} GSAFU reported that Russian forces made another advance in the direction of [Pobjeda](#) without success.²⁶



Vuhledar Operational Area

Russian forces attacking from the northeast of [Novomykhailivka](#) were unable to hold their defensive

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

²² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

²³ <https://t.me/rybar/47855>


²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12869>

²⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16713>

²⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

positions after suffering heavy losses enabling Ukrainian forces to recapture positions held for years by the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) 1st Army Corps.^{27 28}

Occupied Donetsk

Long lines of people waited in Mariupol for humanitarian aid,  [with tempers flaring among residents](#). Basic necessities are hard to acquire due to price gouging, shortages, and a regional cash crunch.²⁹

The self-declared acting leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and former casino card dealer, Denis Pushilin, said that demining efforts at the 10 square kilometer site of the former Azovstal Metallurgical Plant will be completed by the summer of 2024.³⁰ Pushilin reiterated the site would be turned into a technology park within the next ten years.

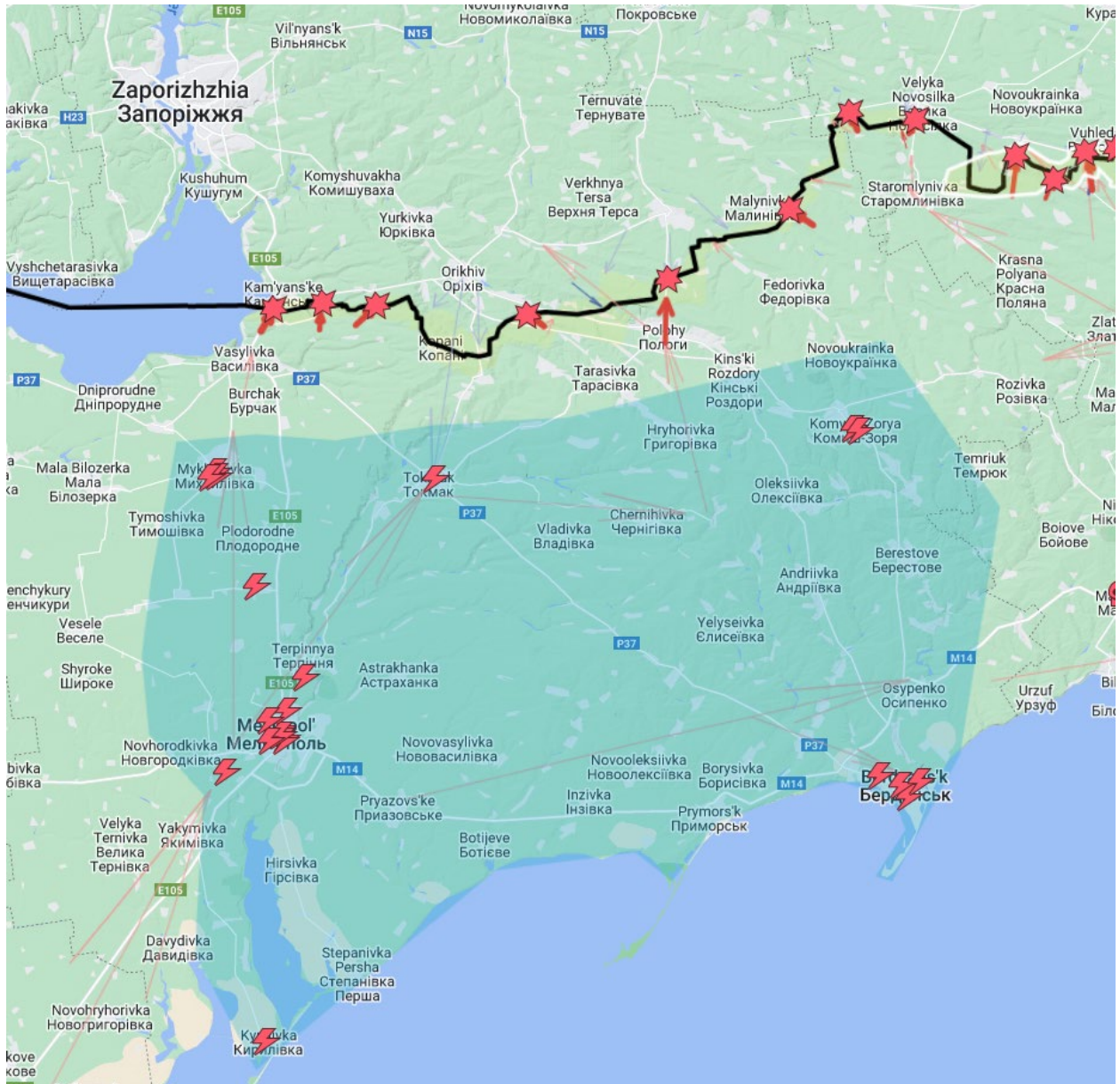
²⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

²⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16713>

²⁹ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10299>

³⁰ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77815>

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 76 fire missions, one drone attack, and one airstrike, targeting 20 settlements along the line of conflict.³¹

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

No update

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION


Black Sea

Ukrainian Operational Command South (OKS) reported that nine vessels of the Black Sea Fleet were on patrol, including one frigate and two Kilo-class submarines capable of launching up to 16 Kalibr cruise missiles.³²

³¹ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/19133?single

³² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31825>

Occupied Crimea

Adding to speculation that the Ivan Khurs suffered some damage from an uncrewed surface vessel (USV) attack, satellite images shared by M.T. Anderson  [show the spy ship has remained in port in Sevastopol](#) while a Vishnya class surveillance vessel has gone on patrol.³³ We maintain our assessment that the only evidence available is that the Project 18280 Ivan Khurs did not suffer moderate or severe damage in the strike. Still, its immediate return to port after the attack provides insight that there may be damage to sensitive electronic systems or non-penetrating damage below the waterline.³⁴

Unseasonably wet weather continues to hit Ukraine, with parts of Crimea receiving more than a month of rain in a single day.³⁵ Yalta received 46 millimeters of precipitation, and 70 millimeters fell on the Angarsk Pass. The thunderstorms, some severe, which have been moving through southern and eastern Ukraine, have been hit or miss, with some areas receiving normal or even below-average rainfall during May. The extreme weather has snarled logistics and operations for both combatants.

³³ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1663998326977761280

³⁴ https://twitter.com/MT_Anderson/status/1663998326977761280

³⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31816>

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 61 fire missions firing 309 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs, with the city of Kherson targeted 11 times and hit by 57 munitions.³⁶ Kherson Oblast Military and Administrative Governor (OVA) Alexander Prokudin reported one person was killed and five wounded, including a 5-year-old child.

Khmelnitsky

Photos circulating on Russian social media channels and Twitter alleged that satellite images showing  [destroyed Su-24 aircraft](#) were from the Russian missile strike on Starokostyantyniv Airbase on May 28.³⁷ The pictures were

³⁶ <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/561>

³⁷ https://twitter.com/ba_groslav/status/1663938985075376132


taken on February 24, 2022, during the first day of Russia's expansion of its war of aggression against Ukraine [at the airbase in Lutsk](#).

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

Kyiv

Russian launched three Iskander-K and seven Iskander-M short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) from the Bryansk region at Kyiv, giving residents and air defenses less than five minutes to respond. Ukrainian officials claim all missiles were intercepted, and in our preliminary assessment,  [that claim is somewhat suspect](#).³⁸ Three people were killed in the Desnyansky District, including two

³⁸ <https://t.me/brdnews/12768>

children. Nine were wounded, with seven requiring hospitalization. A multi-story apartment building was heavily damaged, with debris falling on a children's outpatient clinic. The strike was on June 1 at 02:45 hours local time, so the clinic was closed. Two schools were damaged, as well as a nearby police station. At the time of publication, it is unclear if the strike was caused by a missile reaching its target, an intercepted missile crashing into the area with an intact warhead, or an errant air defense missile. In the Dnipro District, three people were wounded, with two hospitalized. A residential building was damaged by falling debris and the shockwave from the low-altitude missile intercept. In the Darnytskyi District, a residential building was also damaged by falling debris and the shockwave created when the incoming missile was intercepted. At the time of publication, there were no reports of casualties in the district.³⁹


This is the 18th air raid on Ukraine's capital since May 1.

Russian state media is claiming that they successfully struck the Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) headquarters in Kyiv, with pictures of the building showing damage to the facade. A

³⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98923>

video circulating on the Internet shows a PAC-3 interceptor fired by a Patriot air defense system striking the Dnipro River next to the parking lot and exploding adjacent to a bridge that has been closed for three days. Head of the GUR, Kyrylo Budanov, is very much alive, and there is no indication that the functions of the GUR have been impacted.


The pictures only show damage to the facade of the building, with the roof intact. There are unconfirmed reports that a Russian missile struck near the building on May 29, which appears to be plausible based on the available information shared by Russian sources. It is worth noting that several Russian milbloggers outright dismissed claims by Russian President Vladimir Putin that the building was hit.

The missile in the video has been misidentified as a P-800 Oniks antiship missile and an Iskander-K. The missile in the video does not resemble either device, but does closely match, to the best of our ability given the resolution,  [the Patriot PAC-3 interceptor](#).⁴⁰ While this doesn't solve the mystery of whether the GUR headquarters was hit, it

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31897>

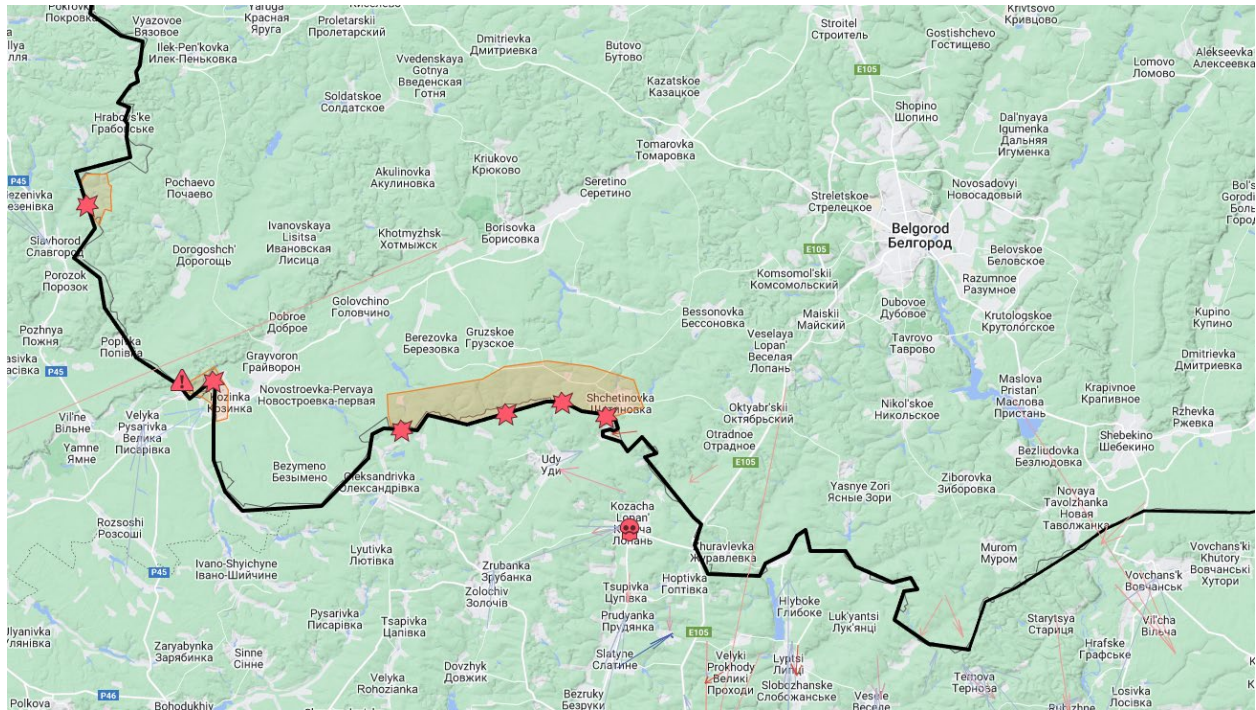
provides conclusive proof that Kyiv's Patriot Air Defense system remains operational.

Chernihiv

Russian forces  [destroyed the crossing at the Three Sisters Checkpoint](#) in the Chernihiv region, where Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus meet.⁴¹ Ukrainian military leaders claim the destruction was a Russian defensive decision to prevent a potential future Ukrainian attack toward Bryansk.

⁴¹ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/17282>


RUSSIAN FRONT





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

Yesterday, Russian partisans with the Free Russian Legion (FPL) claimed that on June 1, they would once again advance into the Belgorod region. Over the last 24 hours, Shebekino has been under near-constant shelling, with a significant increase during the evening of May 31 – June 1.⁴² Belgorod Region Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov reported that the settlement had been attacked by Grad rockets fired by multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), wounding eight people.⁴³ Claims by Russian propagandists of a police officer losing their arm appear untrue, with Gladkov saying a police officer suffered a compound fracture and that no one had died. Early morning artillery fire  [destroyed the Ministry of Internal Affairs building](#) [police station – Ed.] and several commercial buildings.⁴⁴

The FPL released a video  [announcing they were at the border of Belgorod](#), similar to the video made during May's border incursion.⁴⁵ The video showed an even larger force than May, with more military hardware. The Russian Volunteer Corps (PVK) released a video  [claiming they were across the Russian border](#). "The second phase promised by the PVK Commander has begun! Putin's army

⁴² https://t.me/romanov_92/38469


⁴³ <https://t.me/vvgladkov/2404>

⁴⁴ https://t.me/shot_shot/52273

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98945?single>

is hitting the square again, although this time, it's not peaceful Ukrainian cities but Russian cities and villages. Stay in your homes or take shelter! The PDK did not fight and is not fighting with the civilian population!"⁴⁶

In a video, Governor Gladkov said, "There was no enemy on the territory of the Belgorod region. The armed forces, border guards, the Federal Security Service, and the National Guard are on the spot."⁴⁷


He added that the Shebekino District was having a "bad morning" due to massive shelling along the Belgorod border. Despite his claim, the Neo-Nazi Russian volunteer group Veterans released a video claiming that TOS-1 MLRS launchers were being used  [to fire thermobaric weapons at the Russian partisans](#) and that fighting was ongoing across the Russian border.⁴⁸

Editor's Note: A lot of fog war, and we will release Flash Reports on our Patreon as we learn more.

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98948>



⁴⁷ <https://t.me/vvgladkov/2404>

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1664152483093004290>

Air defense was  [active in the city of Belgorod](#), although there is no information on whether any target was hit or anything was shot down.⁴⁹

BRYANSK

Rybar claimed that the Klimovsky District was heavily shelled on May 31.⁵⁰

The oil refinery in Afipsky was  [struck by a Ukrainian kamikaze drone](#), causing a fire at the plant which  [burned for 40 minutes](#) and was detected by NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS).⁵¹

52 53

Moscow

Russian officials are reportedly confident that the drones that attacked Moscow and several other regions were launched from within the Russian Federation. In tightening security, cars were being searched at checkpoints for drones. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is creating new

⁴⁹ https://t.me/belgorod_informant/4562

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/rybar/47855>

⁵¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/52226

⁵² https://t.me/shot_shot/52228

⁵³ https://t.me/shot_shot/52235

groups to set up checkpoints at key locations and intersections.⁵⁴

THEATERWIDE

From April 28 to May 31, Russian forces launched 208 missiles at Ukraine, with 187 shot down. Ukrainian air defenses achieved a 90% success rate, considered a top-tier performance. Air defenses shot down,

- 92% of Kh-101/Kh-105 cruise missiles
- 90% of Kalibr cruise missiles
- 93% of Iskander-M and Iskander-K SRBMs
- 100% of Kh-47 Kinzhal hypersonic missiles

Five missiles that were able to hit their targets could not be identified. Russia did not launch a single missile at Ukraine from March 10 to April 27, building inventory for two months. The volume averages out to 69 missiles per month, in alignment with Russian production capability.

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/vchkogpu/38822>

From May 3 to May 31, Russia launched 413 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, with 377 shot down – a 91% success rate.⁵⁵ It's estimated the May missile and drone strikes on Ukraine cost the Russian Federation US\$1.49 billion.


Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, believes that the European Union should support Ukraine until Russia withdraws troops from its territory and that Ukraine has a right to attack Russian territory.⁵⁶ "I believe that anybody making this argument is forgetting the fact that Russia invaded Ukraine...This is one country invading another and taking part of its territory. And until Russia leaves Ukraine, we are not going to stop supporting Ukraine," she said.

Steffen Heberstreit, the official representative of the German government, in a commentary for German media outlet DW, said that Ukraine could launch attacks on the territory of Russia, adding that Berlin does not want Ukraine to use German weapons for such attacks.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19288>

⁵⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404729/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404686/>

Ukrainian forces employed a new weapon to combat smaller kamikaze drones – shotguns. A video showed several Ukrainian soldiers  [targeting a Russian Lancet drone](#), with it successfully destroyed by small arms fire.⁵⁸ A shotgun works on the same principle as an air defense missile against an aircraft, creating a spray of shrapnel to pierce the drone's body, causing it to suffer an unrecoverable system failure.

Ukraine has started serial production of the Bohdana 2.0 155 mm self-propelled howitzer (SPG). When Russia expanded its war of aggression, Ukraine only had one prototype, which was almost intentionally destroyed to prevent the system from being captured. That original unit was later put into service and was used to attack Russian positions on Snake Island in June 2022. The Bohdana Mk.2 has been updated with a computerized fire control and automatic guidance system for target tracking. The chassis has been improved to make it capable of firing on different terrain surfaces.⁵⁹

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) charged four bloggers who shared the work and location of air defenses

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98884>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98846>

during a Russian attack on Kyiv on May 16. The four women face up to eight years in prison for violating operational security (OPSEC), with one sharing her video with a major Telegram account, which caused the video to spread across Pro-Russian sources.⁶⁰

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with wounded soldiers at a hospital in Odesa, and presented state awards to medics of the Ukrainian armed forces.⁶¹ While in Odesa, he held an offsite meeting of Stavka, and before our readers and listeners get excited – it was the full staff, and there was a public readout.

The United States Department of Defense announced another military aid package of \$300 million from the Biden Administration's Presidential drawdown authority from existing inventory.⁶² The latest package includes:

- Additional unspecified munitions for the Patriot air defense system
- AIM-7 missiles for air defense
- Avenger air defense systems
- Stinger anti-aircraft MANPAD systems

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98843>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/21282>

⁶² [United States Department of Defense](#) [Government Controlled Website]

- Additional unspecified munitions for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)
- Unspecified 155 mm and 105 mm artillery rounds
- 105 mm tank ammunition
- Unspecified "precision aerial munitions."
- Zuni air-to-surface unguided rockets
- Unspecified munitions for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAV)
- AT-4 antitank guide missiles (ATGM) systems
- Over 30 million rounds of small arms ammunition
- Mine clearing equipment and systems
- Demolition munitions for obstacle clearing
- Night vision devices
- Spare parts, generators, and other field equipment

Tyler Rogoway of The Drive reported that the United States and Ukraine reportedly had completed work integrating the AIM-7 Sparrow anti-aircraft missile to the Soviet-Era SA-11 Buk-M1 air defense system, solving the looming ammunition shortage for the legacy equipment.⁶³

The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine has ordered 300 additional medium-range reconnaissance Vector drones from Quantum-Systems GmbH in Germany. This is

⁶³ https://twitter.com/Aviation_Intel/status/1663998861785047041

Ukraine's third order for the reconnaissance drone, which has proven effective in the battlefield environment.⁶⁴

Germany is preparing another military aid package for Ukraine, including tracked vehicles in the Bv206 family and 66 unspecified armored personnel carriers.⁶⁵

Germany also announced 100 Leopard-1 tanks would be delivered to Ukraine ahead of schedule thanks to the efforts of German Rheinmetall to restore the Cold War era tanks for combat.⁶⁶

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

⁶⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404735/>

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98893>

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98840>

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, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR

Russia has announced an export ban on certain types of small arms ammunition, ranging from 5.45 x 39 mm to 12.7 x 108 mm, indicating a production crunch and overconsumption issue. The ban is through December 31, 2023, and is total, except for the Russian Ministry of Defense, internal needs, and "special use."⁶⁷

The Russian State Duma has renewed the effort that would enable the recruitment of individuals with criminal records into the Russian Armed Forces, where they currently are not allowed and can only serve in PMCs as mercenaries or on contract as volunteers. Former convicts and other convicted citizens will be exempted from punishment, or their criminal record could be expunged after completing their service. The draft law also proposes that citizens deemed partially eligible due to health conditions may be recruited to serve under a contract for the duration of mobilization or hostilities.⁶⁸

In May, a new politician appeared in Russia in a monthly survey of Russians asking which politician they trust the

⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/HelloMrBond/status/1663960823125901326>

⁶⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404745/>

most. Levada conducts a monthly survey where people name the person they trust the most instead of picking from a prepared list. The top four have consistently been President Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, and the Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu. A new name emerged for the first time in the top ten, rising to fifth place.⁶⁹


That's right, Yevgeny Prigozhin.

For a guy who claims he has no political ambitions, Prigozhin behaves like a man considering running for office. In two days at the end of May, Prigozhin gave three press conferences in Yekaterinburg, Vladivostok, and Novosibirsk, with a fourth scheduled in Nizhny Novgorod. According to exiled opposition publication Meduza, Prigozhin shares a consistent message at these meetings, closely resembling political town hall meetings in the United States. The war will be long, and Russia urgently needs to announce a general mobilization, bring back the death penalty, and introduce a managed economy. Despite the tour and what appears to be a platform, Prigozhin told Russian state media reporters, "You will not see the Wagner party in the State Duma or the presidential

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/8754>

candidate Prigozhin. In any case, today, all the tasks are completely different."⁷⁰

In Kursk and Rostov-on-Don, RMOD is constructing large-scale facilities for sorting, analyzing, and storing the corpses of personnel killed in action. Each facility is more than 4,000 square meters and includes forensics, refrigeration capacity for up to 1,000 bodies, warehouses with coffins and funeral supplies, and a mourning area.

Flightradar24 tracked an Iranian Il-76TD cargo plane, also called the C-5ski by United States Airforce pilots,  [landed at the Vnukovo airport in Moscow](#) from Tehran.⁷¹ This is the second flight since May 29. The aircraft is likely transporting military cargo.⁷²

In Berdyansk, insurgents claimed another 39 penal mercenaries deserted after killing their commanding officer. The group reportedly took their weapons, with

⁷⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404714/>
<https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31883>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31840>

⁷² <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/17285>
<https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31840> (picture)

officials claiming 11 have been arrested. We cannot independently confirm the claim.⁷³

In Belgorod, local residents reported that the military registration and enlistment office summoned all students who were graduating from primary school for medical examinations on May 31. Parents weren't upset with the idea that their new graduate could be mobilized into the Russian military, but the fact the physicals were scheduled while students were preparing for the Unified State Examination and that it was "another psychological burden and stress before the exam."

One parent quipped, "Is it really impossible to do [*the exams – Ed.*] without this category of students and give them the opportunity to pass the exam and the opportunity to enter a university? Or are our military commissariats just fulfilling their plans?"⁷⁴

Editor's Note: *You're so close to figuring it out. You are so close.*

⁷³ <https://t.me/brdsop/515>

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/belgorod01people/4743>

Why yes, everything is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES

Three bodies of three people who were reported missing after the Russian airstrikes on a hospital in the city of Dnipro on May 26 have been found, Serhii Lysak, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast OVA, said. "We have the results of the examination of body parts found at the scene of the tragedy. Overall, the attack claimed the lives of four people."

Lysak said that after examining the body fragments, the deceased was identified as a 56-year-old doctor, a 64-year-old employee of the hospital, and a 57-year-old employee at a veterinary clinic.⁷⁵

The World Health Organization reported that since February 24, 2023, Russia has attacked more than 1,000 healthcare care centers, killing 101 people and wounding "many more." The report added that the volume of attacks

⁷⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/28/7404209/>

on medical infrastructure has never been recorded in modern history.⁷⁶

In Kherson, war crimes investigators exhumed the body of a man killed during the Russian occupation. According to the investigation, in the spring of 2022, Russian troops illegally detained a local resident in the city of Kherson. The man was placed in the basement of a building used for detention and torture, where he was tortured to death over two weeks. During the investigation, law enforcement officers established where he was buried and exhumed his remains. There were signs of numerous injuries, including broken ribs.⁷⁷

GEOPOLITICS

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and Russian President Putin may visit Türkiye, according to the Turkish publication Hürriyet. The two leaders would not visit at the same time and would not directly meet. Talks would include the Black Sea Grain Initiative and exploring any possibility of reaching a peace plan.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31776>

⁷⁷ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/7715

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77857>

Despite repeated claims to the contrary, In Belarus, self-proclaimed president and dark potato prince Alexander Lukashenko is quite healthy and alive.⁷⁹

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has denied reports by the U.S. media that Chinese special representative Li Hui offered to call for an immediate cease-fire by way of recognizing the Russian occupation of Ukraine territory. "None of them confirm that there have been announcements or talks about recognizing the territories on which the Russian Federation is currently present in Ukraine as Russian. I urge you to keep a cool head and rationality and not to react emotionally to every publication."

Kuleba added that Ukraine would continue to conduct talks with China, but "it will be conducted in accordance with three basic principles," including the mutual respect for territorial integrity, no proposals that involve territorial concessions, [and] no frozen conflict.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/28/7404233/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/27/7404154/>

Russian President Putin said that he personally decided to resume flights with Georgia, but the reaction of the republic's authorities surprised him, saying, "Our business and citizens want to come, get in touch with nature, culture, Georgian cuisine, and so on. For me, the reaction that followed was a complete surprise."⁸¹

Editor's Note: Wait, you mean after invading their country, occupying 20% of Georgia divided by two unrecognized self-declared Republics, and 20 years of attempts to destabilize the Georgian government, you're shocked they don't want commercial flights from Russia?

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva responded to President Putin's invitation to visit Russia, and his reaction was, no, but thank you. He told the increasingly isolated Russian leader, "I could not go to Russia at the moment, but reiterated Brazil's willingness, along with India, Indonesia, and China, to negotiate with both sides of the conflict in search of peace."⁸²

⁸¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/51997 (video)

⁸² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/26/7404078/>

In South Africa, the nation's foreign mission reiterated that they would have to arrest President Putin if he were to attend the August BRICS Summit in person, saying that immunity from arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) cannot be offered.⁸³

Germany announced the closure of four more Russian consulates. Until the end of the year, Russia can continue the work of only the embassy in Berlin and one more of the five consulates located in Bonn, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Leipzig, or Munich. A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry said the closures were in response to a Russian decision to reduce the number of employees at German diplomatic missions and other organizations, such as the Goethe Institute. The Russian foreign ministry was notified on May 31 and will have to end operations by December 31.^{84 85}

Moldova closed its air space for civilian air traffic with the start of the 2023 European Summit being held in the capital

⁸³ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31733>

⁸⁴

<https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98857>

⁸⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/31/7404671/>

of Chisinau. The summit will include leaders of 47 nations from Iceland to Azerbaijan, including Ukraine. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy is attending the summit in person.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ https://t.me/our_odessa/47896