



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

May 30, 2023 – A



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 5/30/23-A 23:59\* PST

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## 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.



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## **SUMMARY – DAY 460**

This is the first update for May 30, 2023. It has been 3,380 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 95 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- The Daily Assessment will be updated with each report
- Weather and soil conditions will be in the last report of the day
- If an anticipated report is not created, weather and soil conditions will be released as a Flash Report
- Each report will contain unique information and continue in a condensed format

The map is back! [War Map](#)



## DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Russian launched another 31 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones on the night of May 29 – 30, after the largest missile attack since March 9, 2023, on May 28 - 29, with up to 40 Kh-101/Kh-555 cruise missiles and 11 Iskander-M and Iskander-M missiles, using over and used over 165 stand-off weapons in 48 hours – mostly targeting Kyiv. In our assessment, the Kremlin appears to believe the information in the leaked Pentagon documents that Ukraine would be critically low on air defense resources by June.
2. We assess that the intensity of these attacks is unsustainable, consuming over two months of Shahed-136 drone production and up three months of missile production during May.
3. These attacks continue to have little success due to the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, the poor intelligence-gathering abilities of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, and their inability to overwhelm ever-improving Ukrainian air defenses.
4. In preparation for larger offensive operations, Ukrainian forces continue shaping operations on multiple axes, creating panic and uncertainty among

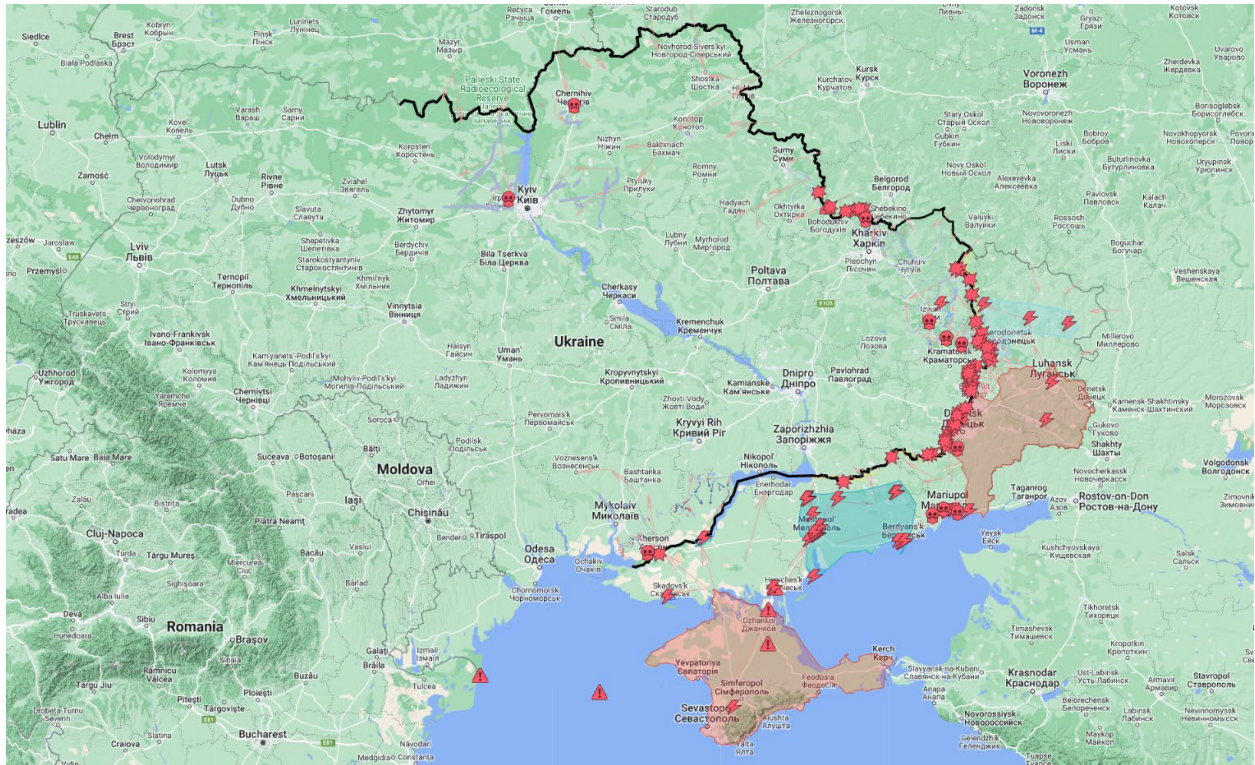
- gauleiters, Russian administrators, and military leaders.
5. Current weather models indicate soil conditions will become favorable for large-scale military operations by June 5.
  6. We have identified shaping activity by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in four locations that could indicate a larger attack is being prepared.
  7. 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.
  8. The British Ministry of Defense Defense Intelligence Directorate (BMDDID) agreed with our earlier assessment that the Russian Federation Armed Forces have “increasingly ceded” the battlefield initiative to Ukraine.<sup>1</sup>
  9. 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1663786012164734977>

- incursions in the Belgorod, Bryansk, and Kursk regions.
10. Despite being declared the commander of all Russian forces in Ukraine, Chief of Staff for the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, has been nearly invisible while outlasting all previous Russian generals given the responsibility of capturing the Donbas.
  11. Assigning a person deep within Putin's inner circle, such as Gerasimov, to oversee Russian military operations in Ukraine makes it near impossible for President Putin to dismiss him despite continued failures to achieve critical military objectives.
  12. We assess 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.
  13. We assess the less-than-acceptable performance of Russian air defenses in Moscow puts unpopular General of the Army Sergey Surovikin at risk of dismissal.

# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

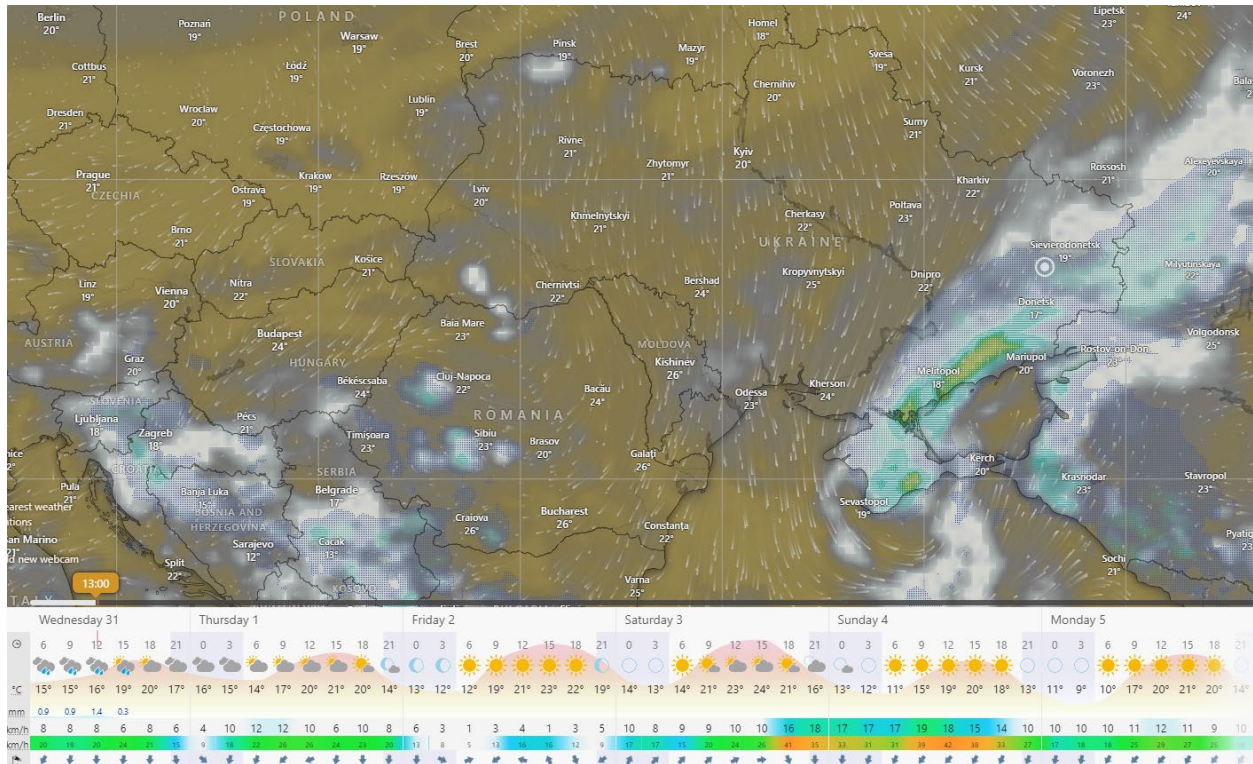


**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. 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](#)

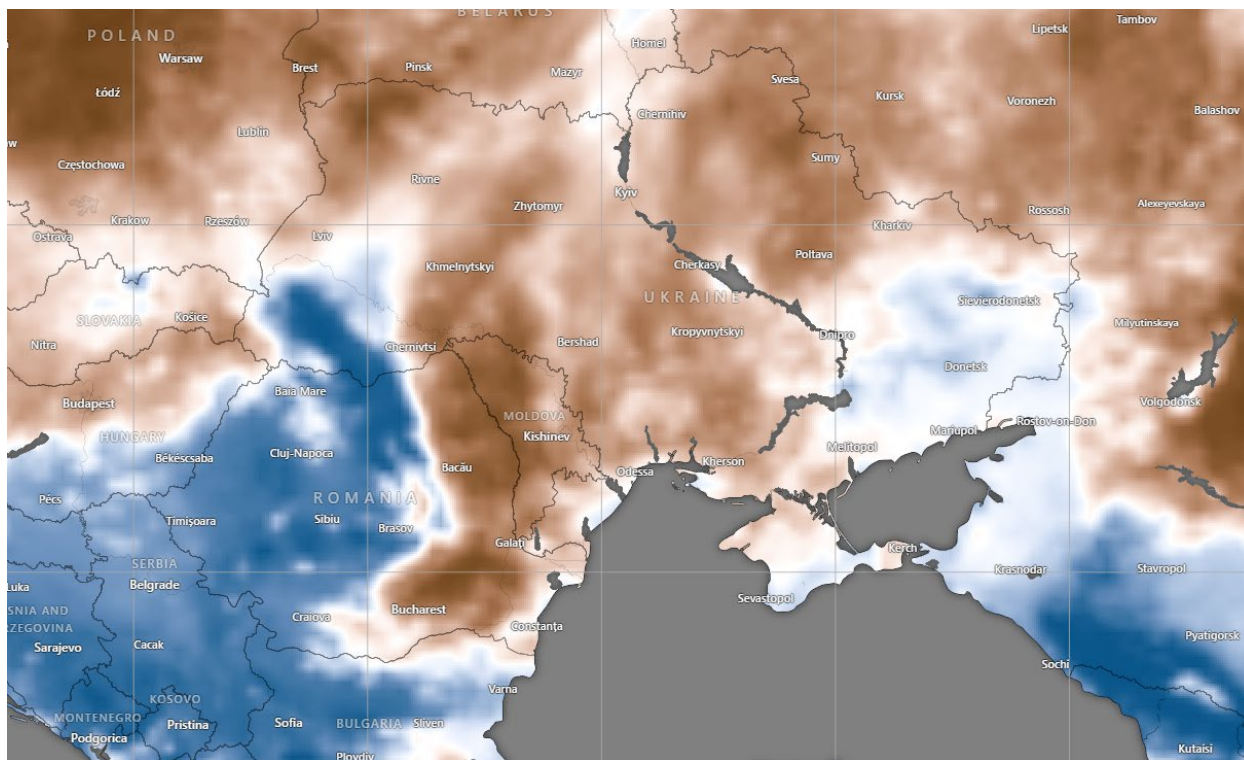


# UKRAINE WEATHER



The last line of thunderstorms is moving through Zaporizhia and eastern Ukraine, with cloudy conditions expected on June 1 before much drier weather returns. Temperatures will moderate during the week ahead, with highs from 17° to 27° Celcius and lows from 6° to 16° - with June 5 forecasted to be the coldest night. The full moon is on June 4, the new moon is on June 18, and the longest day of the year is June 21.

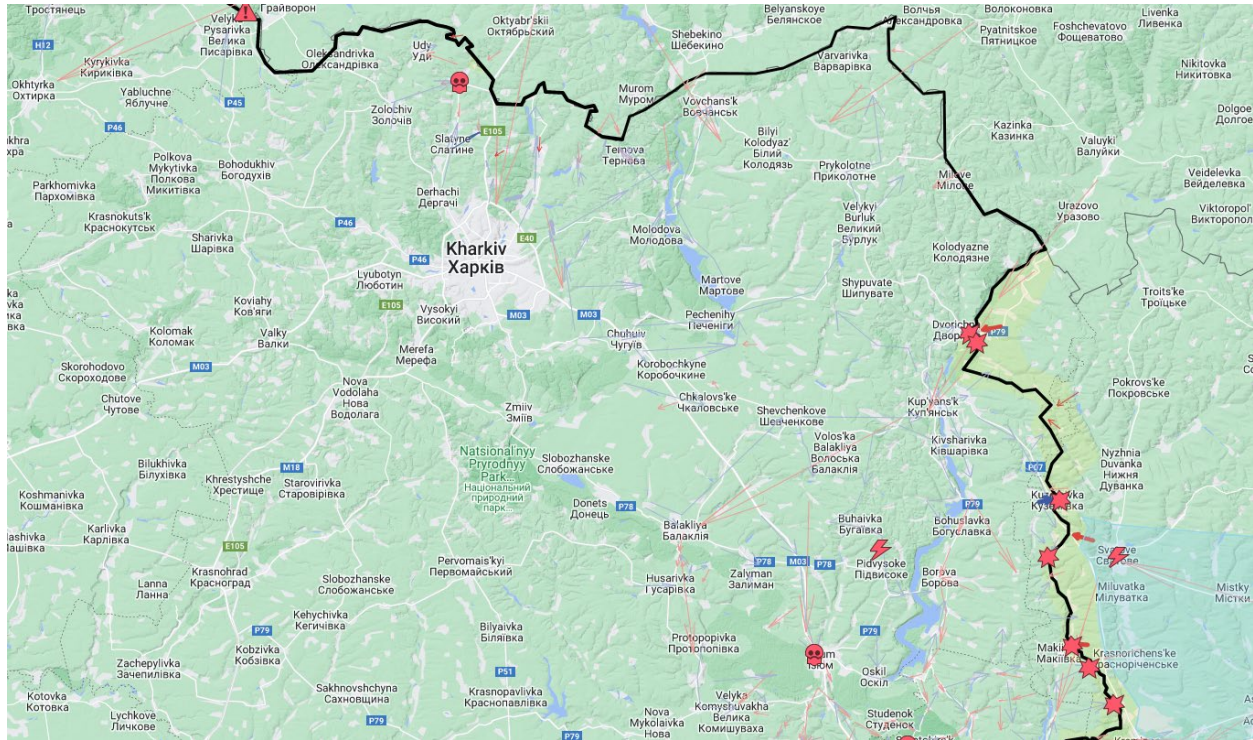
## SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY



*The June 7, 2023 GFS forecast indicates soil saturation to 40 centimeters deep will be between 15% in eastern Kherson, 50% to 65% in Zaporizhia, and up to 80% in localized areas of the Donbas.*

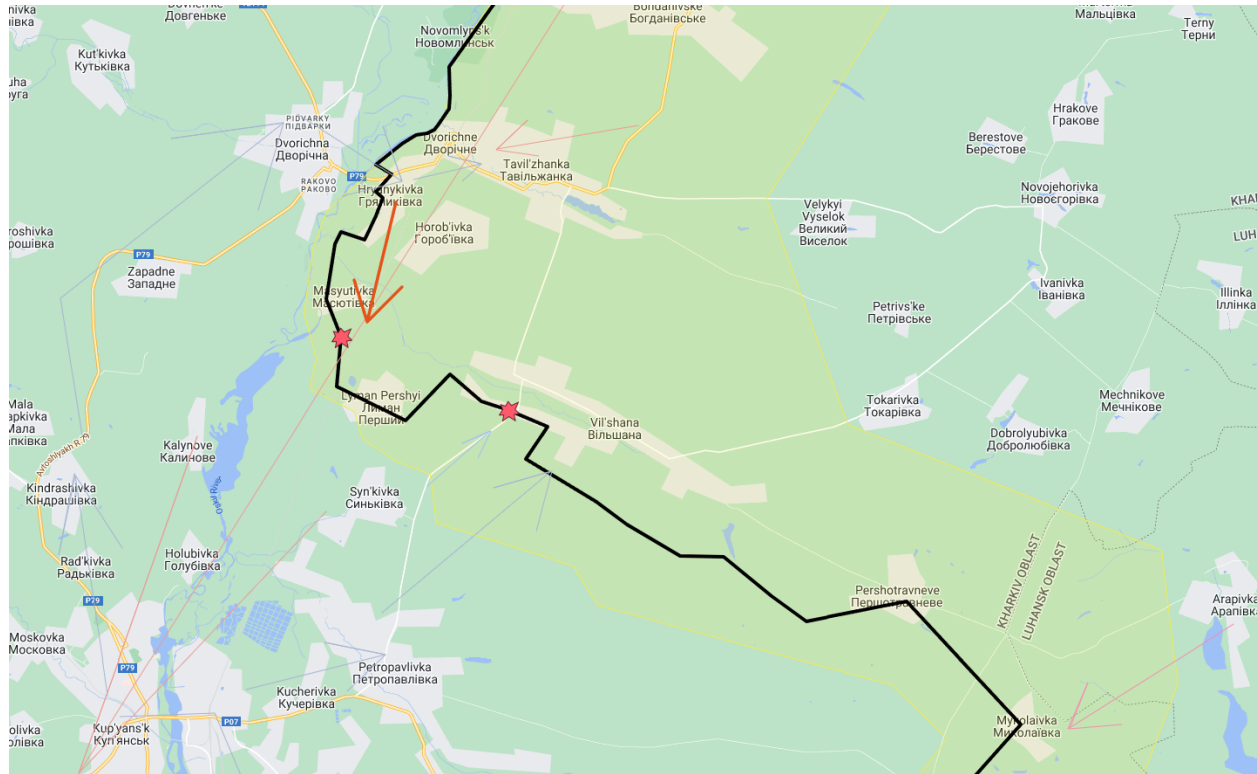
More thunderstorms moved through Ukraine on May 30, causing urban, street, and small river flooding in Zaporizhia, Donetsk, and Crimea. Soil saturation along the coast and most of the Donbas is near or at 100% through most of the theater of war. Conditions will start to improve, although rain showers and thunderstorms remain in the forecast. Soil saturation should be able to support heavy equipment and armored vehicles theaterwide by June 5.

# 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

Fighting continued on the southern edge of [Masyutivka](#), with multiple reports there was no change in the situation. Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar claimed that Russian forces had established a wet crossing and bridgehead on the west bank of the Oskil River, which was unsupported by any other sources, including the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) and propagandists with Readovka.<sup>2 3 4 5 6 7</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

<sup>3</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16704>

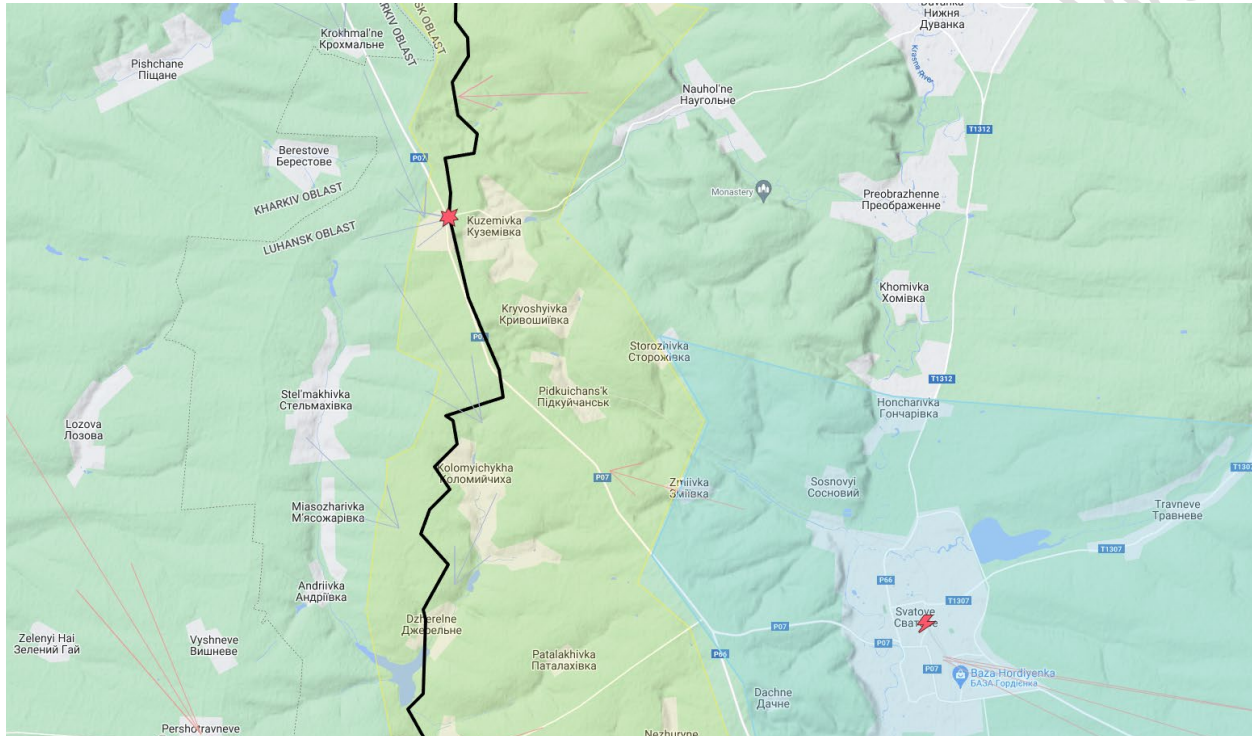
<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/47803>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/readovkanews/59857>



RMOD alleged that Ukrainian surveillance, reconnaissance, and sabotage (DRG) units were operating in the area of [Synkivka](#).<sup>8</sup>



## Svatove Operational Area

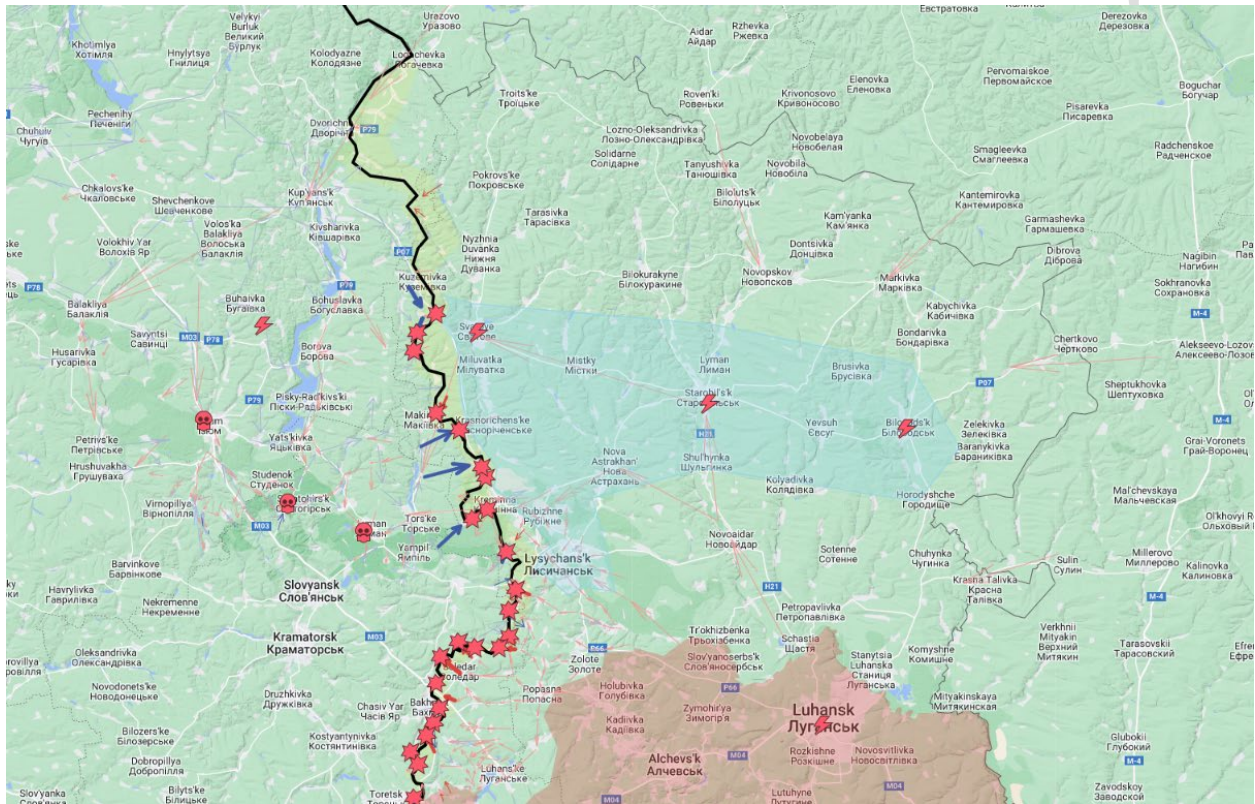
GSAFU reported that Russian forces attempted to advance in the direction of [Krokhmalne](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/26973](https://t.me/mod_russia/26973) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

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

# DONBAS REGION

## LUHANSK

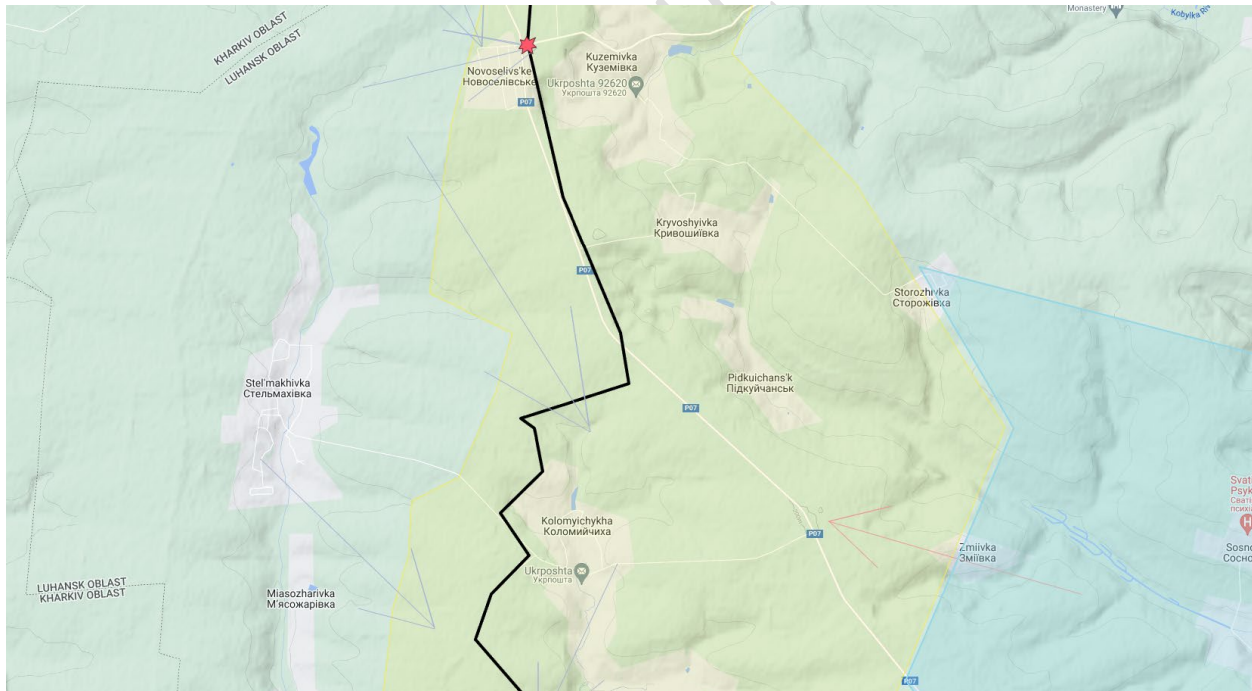


**Russian Objective:** Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, prevent further Ukrainian advances, control insurgent activity

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

## Free Luhansk

Ukrainian officials reported that Russian forces executed 111 fire missions from Dvorichna to Bilohorivka, firing over 400 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs. Six companies of Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu's Private Military Company (PMC) Storm-Z reportedly were moved to the forward line of friendly troops (FLOT).<sup>10</sup>

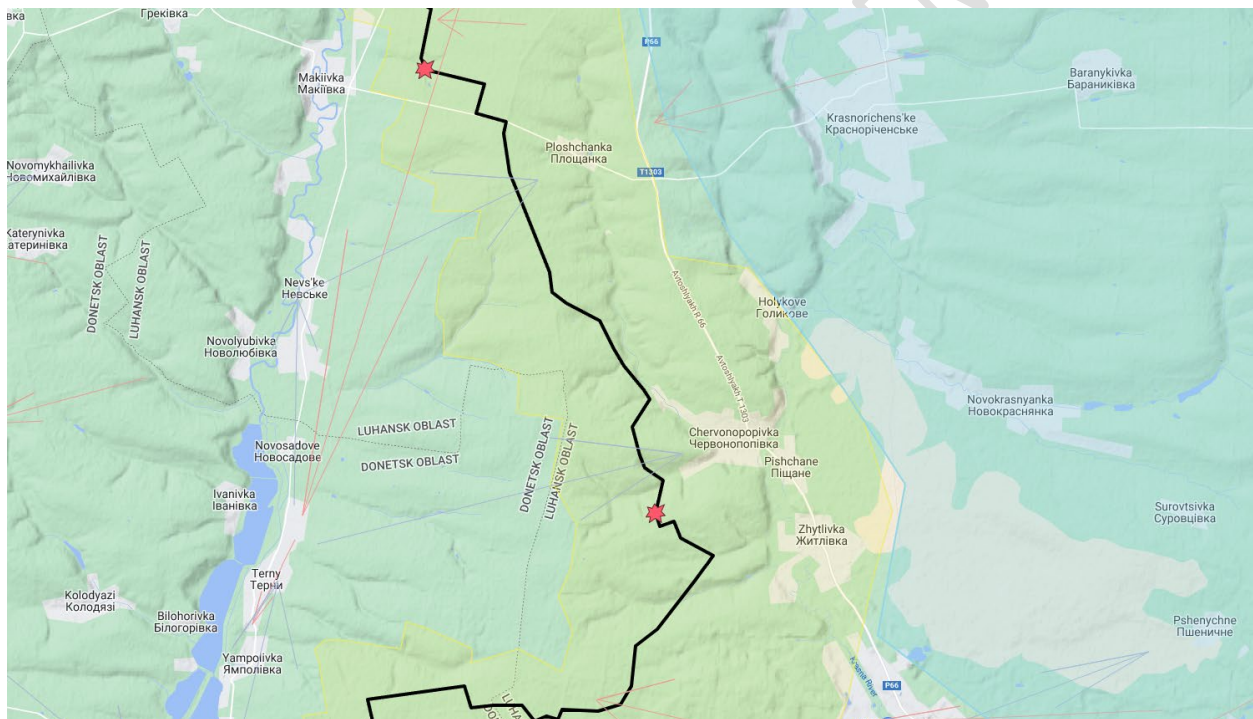


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<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10919>

## Svatove Operational Area

GSAFU reported that Russian forces made multiple attacks on [Novoselivske](#), which were unsuccessful, and tried to advance in the direction of [Stelmakhivka](#), supported by Russian army aviation and Airforce (VKS), but were repulsed.<sup>11 12</sup>

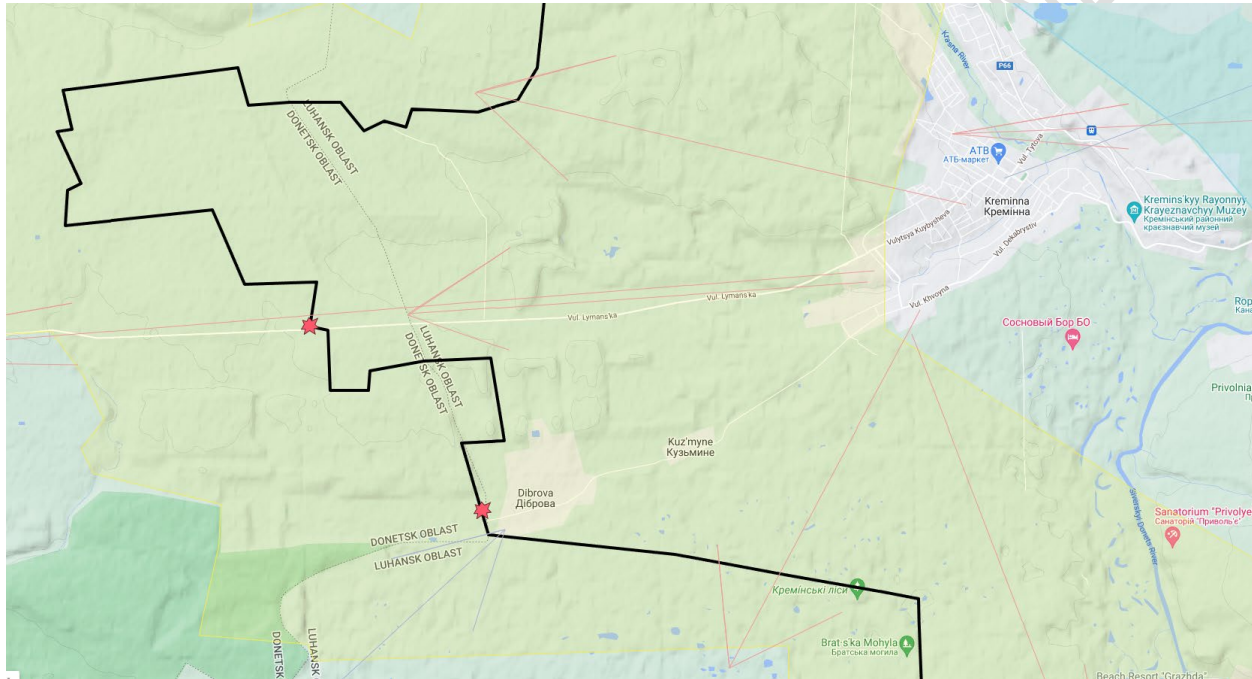


<sup>11</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

<sup>12</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

## Kreminna Operational Area

Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Artem Lysohor reported that Russian forces were attacking in the direction of [Nevske](#) but failed to advance.<sup>13</sup>



Governor Lysohor also reported that Russian forces attempted to advance out of [Kuzmyne](#) and were repulsed by Ukrainian forces.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10921>

<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10923>

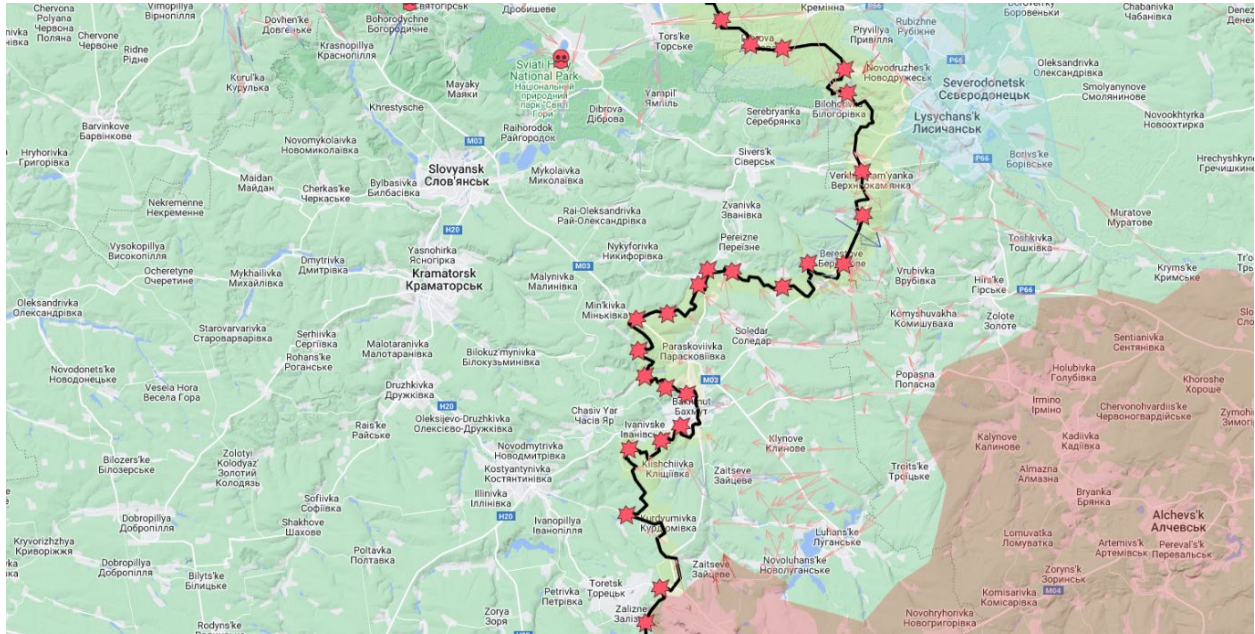
## Occupied Luhansk

The so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) claimed that a "construction camp" next to a poultry farm was hit by four rockets fired by HIMARS, killing five and wounding 19 in the settlement of Karpaty. We cannot independently verify the claim.<sup>15</sup>

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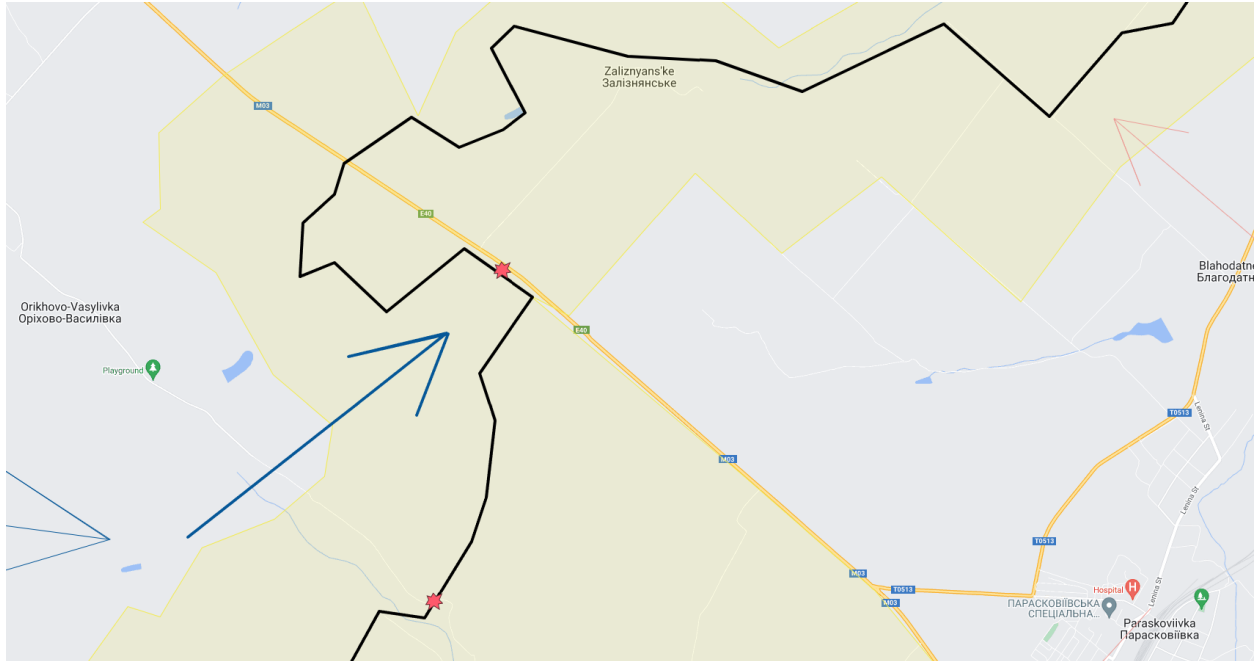
<sup>15</sup> [https://t.me/LPR\\_JCCC/8345](https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8345)

# 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



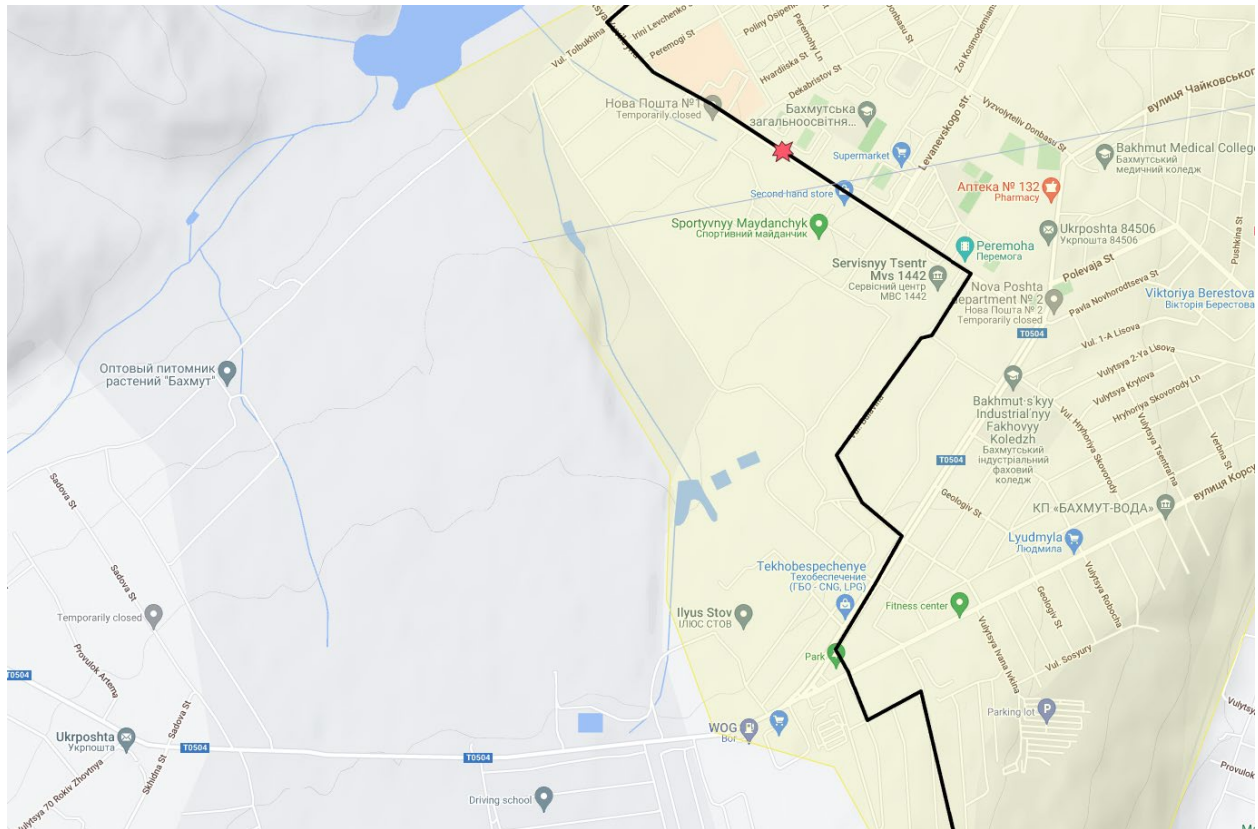
## Soledar Operational Area

Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that Russian forces attempted a counterattack north of [Orikhovo-Vasylivka](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

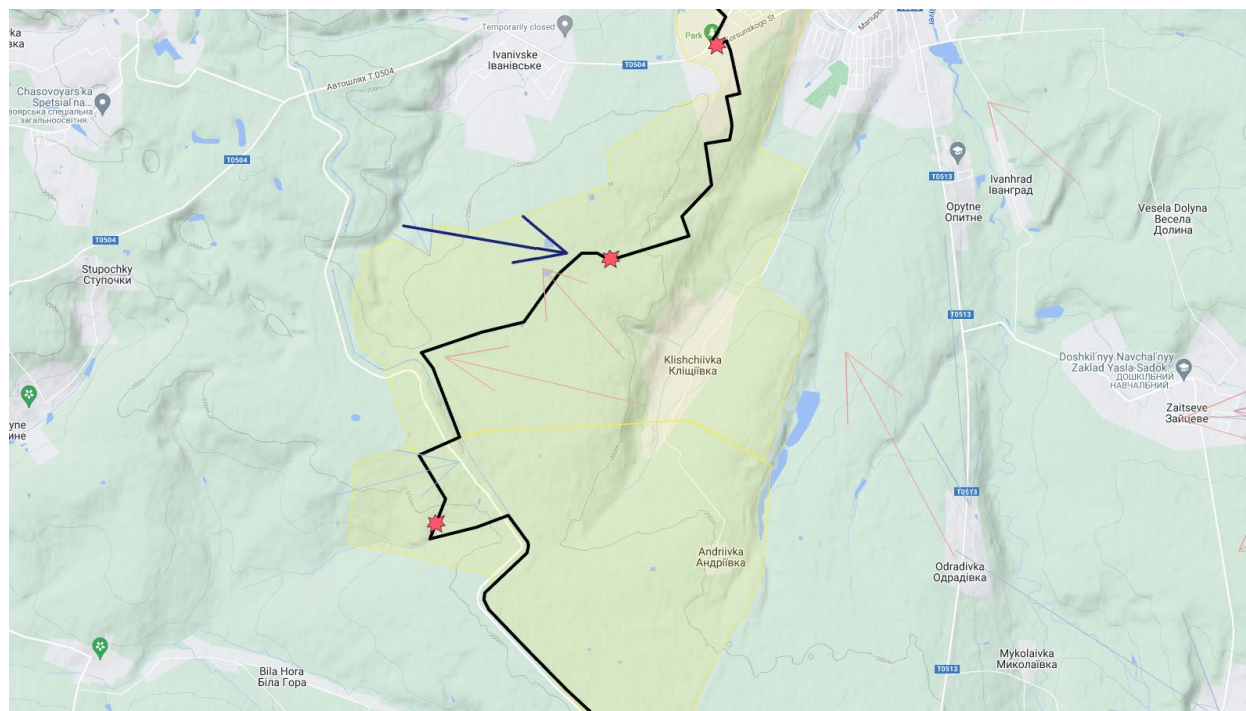




## Bakhmut

Both combatants reported there was no fighting in Bakhmut as PMC Wagner continued its withdrawal and Russian reserve units took over defensive positions.

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



## Klishchiivka Operational Area

WarGonzo reported that Russian forces attempted to retake lost positions south of [Ivanivske](#) and were repulsed.<sup>17</sup>

Ukrainian source DeepState reported continued fighting near [Klishchiivka](#) and along the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal.<sup>18</sup> WarGonzo claimed that Ukrainian forces were advancing toward [Andriivka](#), attempting to flank Russian troops in Klishchiivka from the south but did clarify if they were east of the canal.<sup>19</sup>

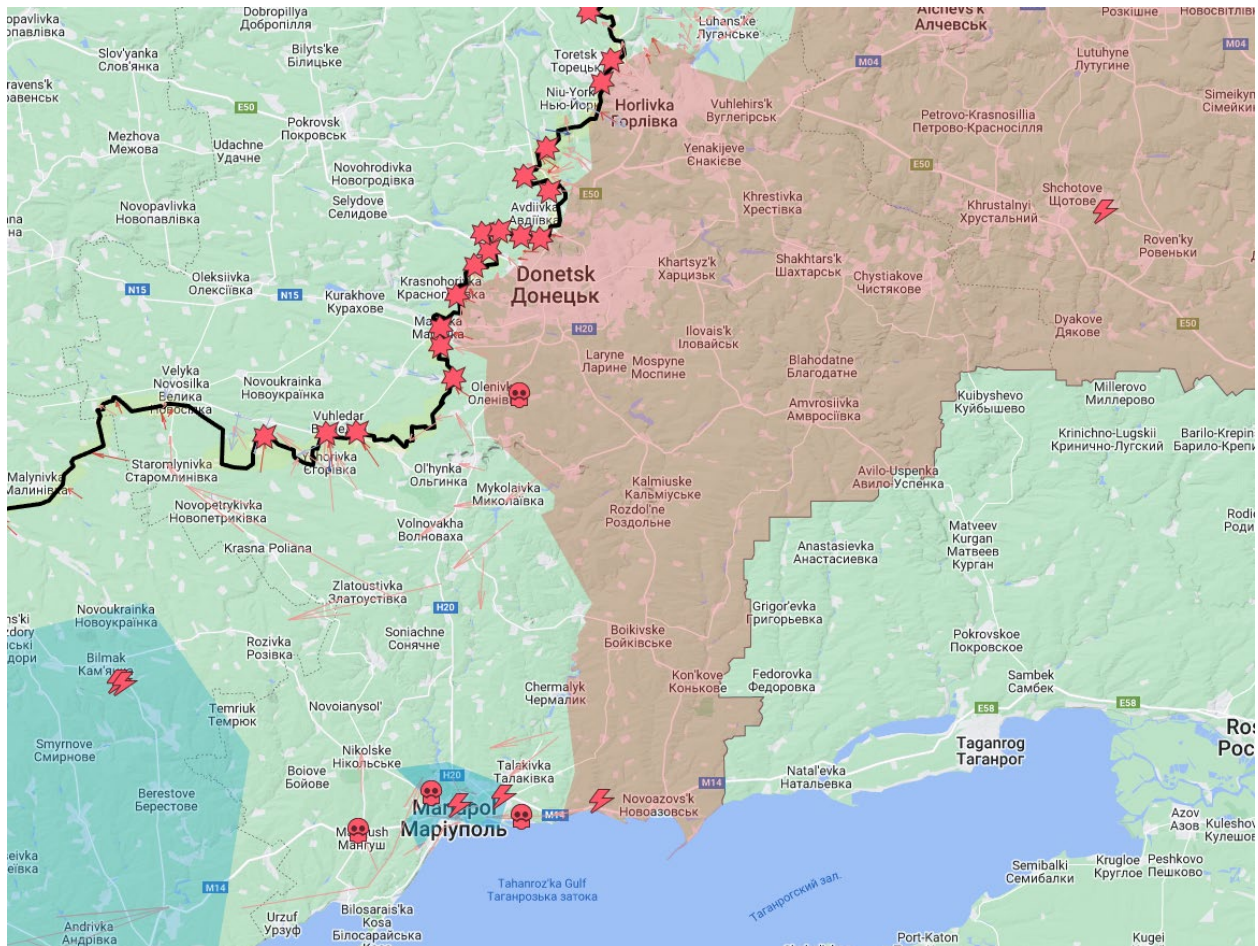
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<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16704>

<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>




# SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK

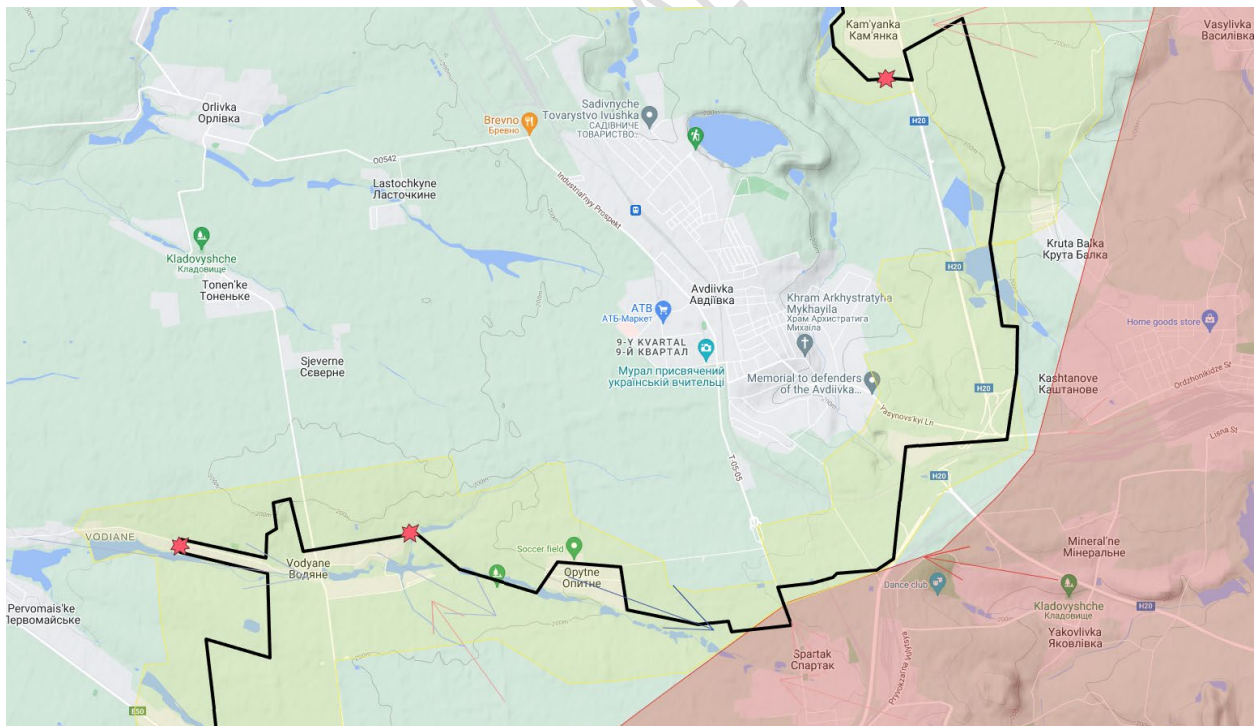


**Russian Objective:** Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, consolidate gains made during the winter offensive, and set conditions for September 2023 elections

**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

There was severe weather in the Donetsk region, including  [accumulating hail and torrential rain](#), which caused  [urban, street, and stream flooding](#), accidents  [due to hail-covered roadways](#), and knocked out power to thousands of homes.<sup>20 21 22</sup> The unfavorable weather and poor soil tractability likely reduced operational tempo.



<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77726>

<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77753>

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77747>

## Avdiivka Operational Area

Multiple sources reported that Russian forces made marginal gains south of [Kamyanka](#) in the direction of Avdiivka, but we already had assessed the region was under Russian control.<sup>23</sup> We made no changes to the war map.

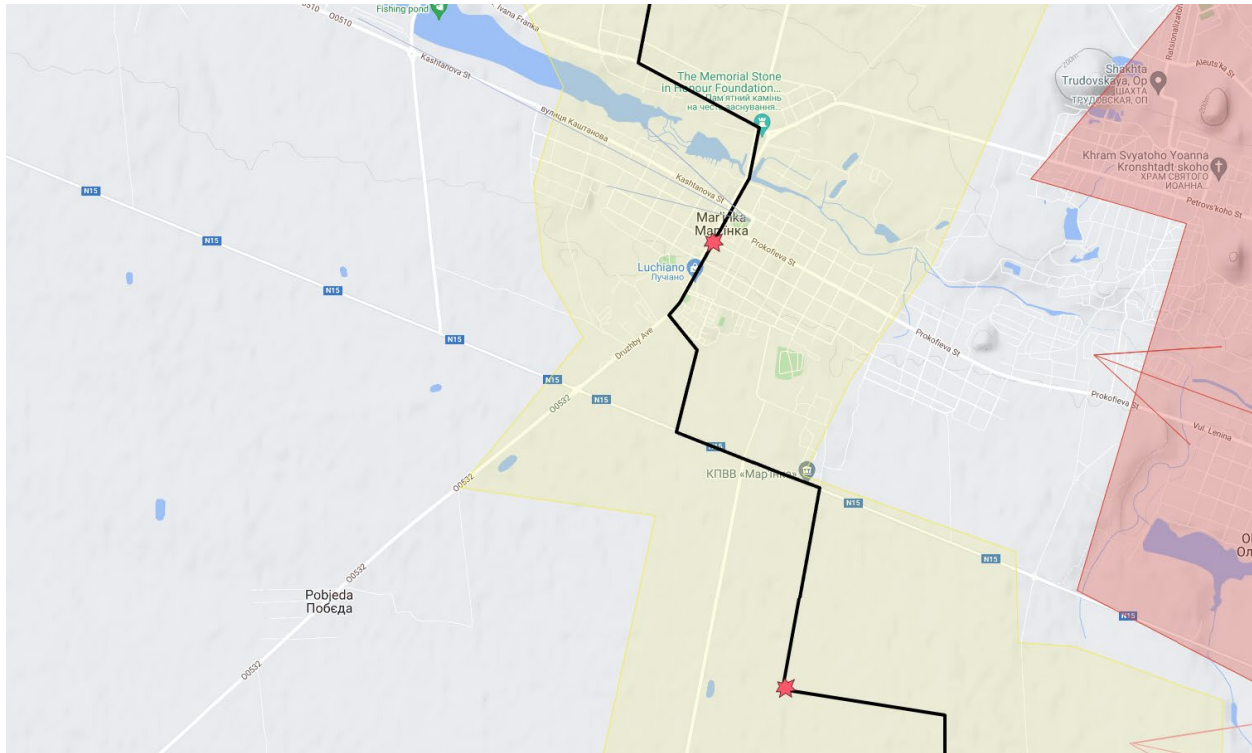
Russian forces continued attempts to advance through the no man's land between [Vodyane](#) and [Sjeverne](#), unable to advance or hold the treeline approximately 1 kilometer north of Vodyane.<sup>24 25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16704>

<sup>24</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16704>



## Marinka Operational Area

Checks the calendar and sees it is a day that ends in “Y.”  
Fighting for [Marinka](#) continued within the remains of the city and the area around it.<sup>26 27</sup>

GSAFU reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on [Pobjeda](#) without success.<sup>28</sup>

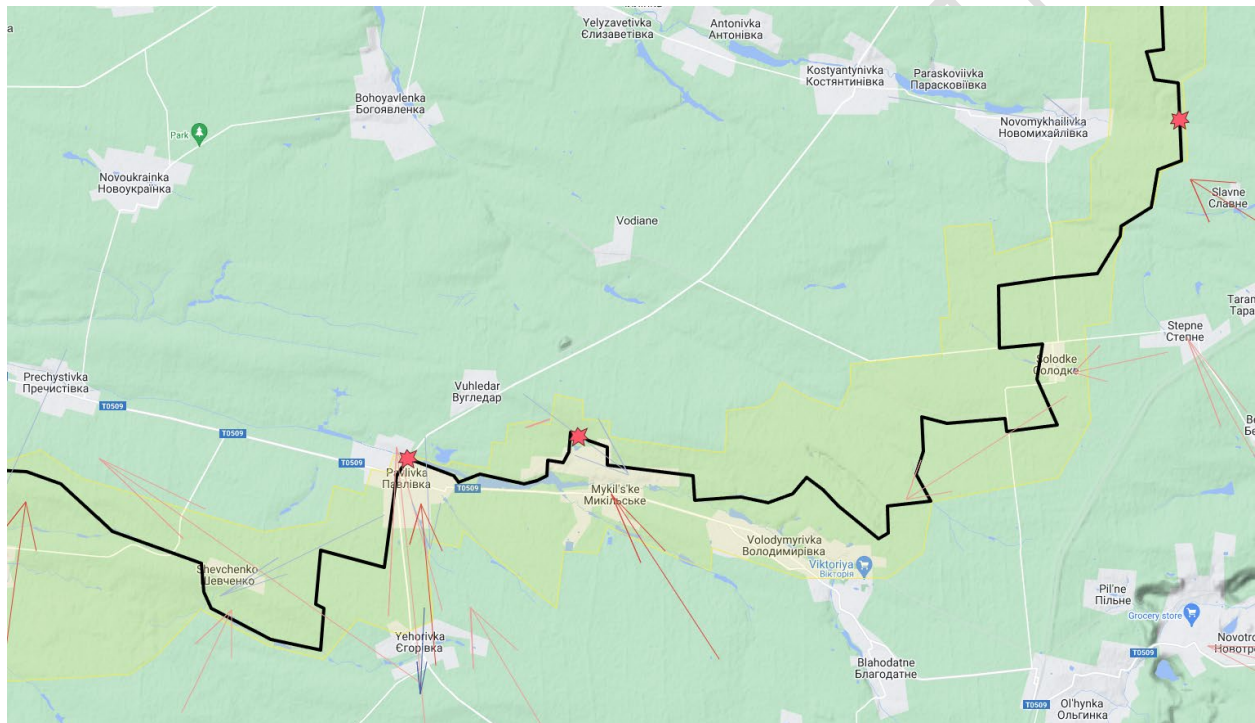
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<sup>26</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

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

Colonel General and aspiring dentist Ramzan don don Kadyrov claimed that Chechen units received a new order to redeploy forces into the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, including the Marinka Operation Area, and that he has been tasked to take "a number of settlements."<sup>29 30</sup>



## Vuhledar Operational Area

GSAFU reported that Russian forces attempted to advance toward [Novomykhailivka](#) and maintained their glorious

<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77766>

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/8747>

nine-year military tradition of suffering heavy losses and retreating to previously held defensive positions.<sup>31 32</sup>

RMOD alleged that Ukrainian DRG units were operating in the area of [Volodymyrivka](#).<sup>33</sup>

WarGonzo and Readovka claimed that Ukrainian forces went on the offensive south of Vuhledar and pushed Russian forces out of [Mykilske dachas](#) and to the south bank of the Klashlahach River.<sup>34 35</sup> In our assessment, Russian forces didn't have much presence in this area, and we could not find the original source of the claim. We believe the reports have weight because WarGonzo is semi-reliable on territorial control claims, and it is highly unusual for Readovka to deviate from Kremlin talking points. Additionally, Ukrainian forces have established fire control on the Russian Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line), approaching Mykilske from Kyrylivka. We did not update the map due to a lack of visual confirmation.

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<sup>31</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

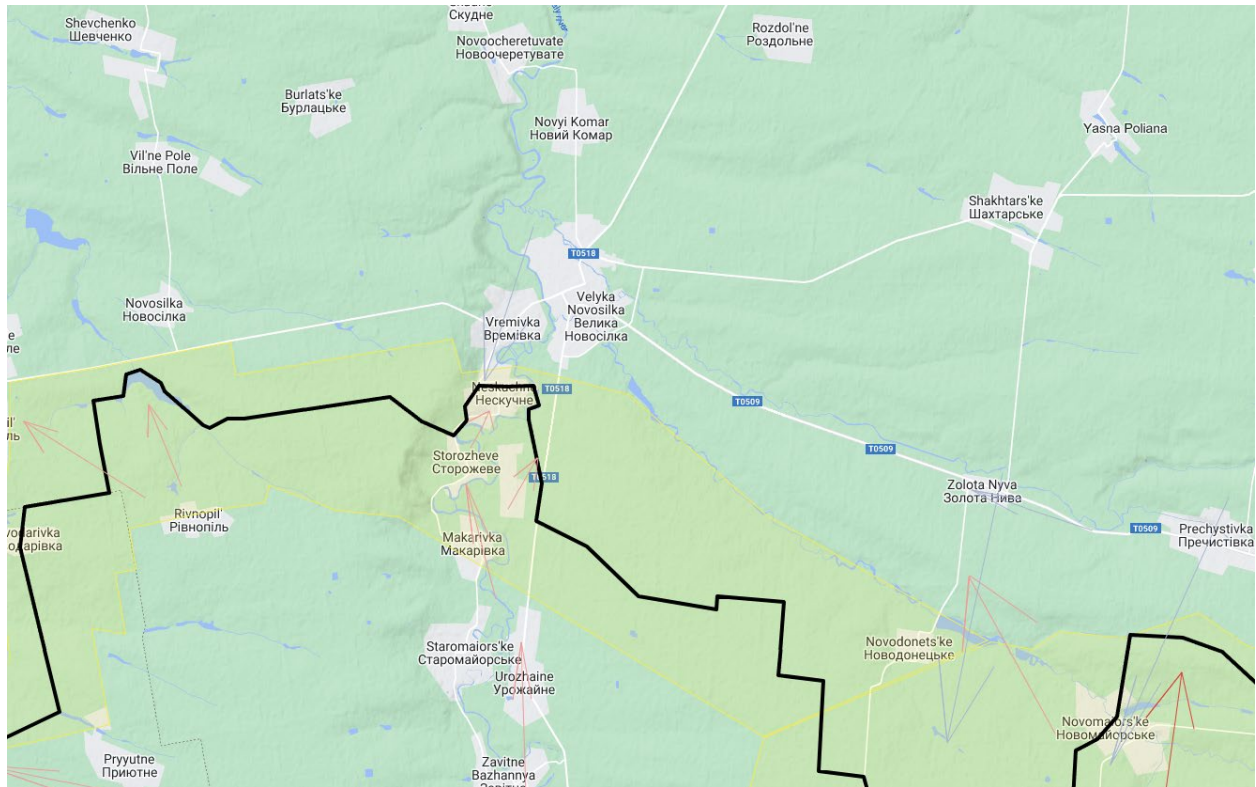
<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16704>

<sup>33</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/26973](https://t.me/mod_russia/26973) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/readovkanews/59857>







## Velyka Novosilka Operational Area


WarGonzo claimed that Russian forces had gone on the offensive south of [Velyka Novosilka](#) with no change to the situation.<sup>36</sup>

## Occupied Donetsk

Insurgents in Mariupol reported that Russian military equipment damaged by Storm Shadow missile strikes over the weekend was being moved from Berdyansk to Russian repair depots and replaced by  [reserve equipment, such](#)

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12840>

[as T-62 tanks](#).<sup>37</sup> They also recorded the  [movement of at least ten fuel tankers](#), possibly due to the destruction of fuel reserves.<sup>38</sup>

Insurgents also reported that the loading operation of grain ships at the main port in Mariupol ended, and the  [helicopter base in the same location was closed](#), with all military assets removed.<sup>39</sup>

***Errors and Omissions:*** In the May 28, 2023, SITREP, we reported that Storm Shadow cruise missiles attacked the settlement of Yurivka in Zaporizhia. [Yurivka](#) is on the Zaporizhia-Donetsk Administrative border, in Donetsk. We thank you for your understanding as we cut through the fog of war.

 [Satellite and terrestrial imagery](#) showed the damage to the resort used by Russian forces in Yurivka, indicating the Russian barracks suffered heavy damage.<sup>40</sup> Photos show that  [buildings were severely damaged](#) due to the May 28 cruise missile strikes. Ukrainian sources claim up to 100

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<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10288>

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10251>

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10282>

<sup>40</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1663651503804915714>



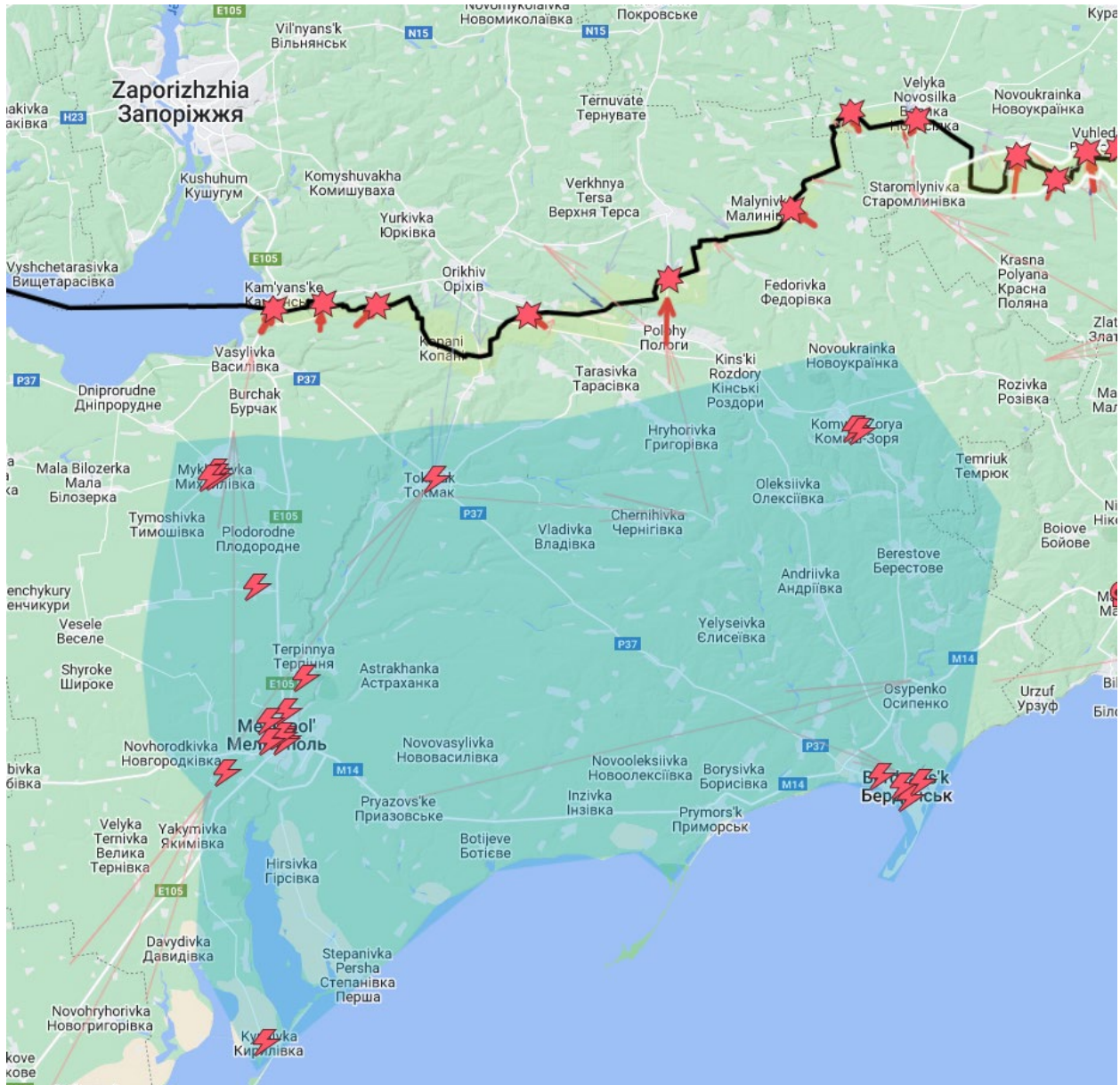
Russian soldiers were killed, which we cannot independently verify.

Mariupol residents reported a cash liquidity crisis, with occupation officials forced to ship additional humanitarian aid because insufficient money was circulating to support commerce.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/10271>

# 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 67 fire missions and two airstrikes on 17 settlements along the line of conflict, targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.<sup>42</sup>

Severe thunderstorms and torrential rain  [downed trees and power lines](#), and  [caused urban, street, and stream flooding](#).<sup>43 44</sup> Zaporizhzhia received two months of rain in May.

## Occupied Zaporizhia

Exiled Melitopol mayor Ivan Fedorov reported that the Avtocolorit Factory, used by Russian forces as a military base,  [experienced several large explosions](#). There was no other information at the time of publication.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> [https://t.me/zoda\\_gov\\_ua/19116](https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/19116)

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/zaborzp/45364>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/zaborzp/45387>

<sup>45</sup> [https://t.me/ivan\\_fedorov\\_melitopol/2122](https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/2122)

## Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi announced that after working intensively with the leadership of Ukraine and Russia, an agreement had been reached to improve safety at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP).<sup>46</sup>

Addressing the United Nations Security Council, Grossi said, "I have identified the following concrete principles to help ensure nuclear safety and security at ZNPP in order to prevent a nuclear accident and ensure the integrity of the plant. I see these commitments as essential to avoid the danger of a catastrophic incident:"

"There should be no attack of any kind from or against the plant, in particular targeting the reactors, spent fuel storage, other critical infrastructure, or personnel;"

"ZNPP should not be used as storage or a base for heavy weapons (i.e. multiple rocket launchers, artillery systems and munitions, and tanks) or military personnel that could be used for an attack from the plant;"

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<sup>46</sup> [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

**“Off-site power to the plant should not be put at risk. To that effect, all efforts should be made to ensure that off-site power remains available and secure at all times;”**

**“All structures, systems, and components essential to the safe and secure operation of ZNPP should be protected from attacks or acts of sabotage;”**

**“No action should be taken that undermines these principles.”**

Grossi added that the IAEA experts onsite, namely the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ), will report to him on the compliance of these principles and that we would publicly report any violations.

## **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.<sup>47</sup>

## **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 49 fire missions firing 219 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets, drone-

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<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98793>




delivered IEDs, and bombs, with the city of Kherson targeted twice and hit by five munitions.<sup>48</sup>

## 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

The metro Kyiv region experienced its third missile and drone attack in 24 hours and the 17th air raid since May 1. Russian launched 31 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones from the north and south, with 29 intercepted. In the Holosiivskyi district,  [debris fell on a high-rise building](#), causing a fire on the top two floors and killing a 33-year-old woman who went out on her balcony to watch Ukrainian air

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<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/6276>

defenses.<sup>49 50 51 52</sup> More than 20 people were evacuated from the building, and search and rescue operations were ongoing. Cars and homes were damaged in the Pechers, Darnytskyi, and Dnipropetrovsk Districts. Kyiv officials reported 17 homes were damaged and another 13 people injured. Ukrainian air defenses were 94% effective after resisting a barrage of over 150 missiles and drones aimed at Kyiv in the last five days.

Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) spokesperson Andriy Yusov said that  [the frequency of attacks on Kyiv would decrease](#), and the primary goal of the attacks was for propaganda purposes.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/30/7404447/>

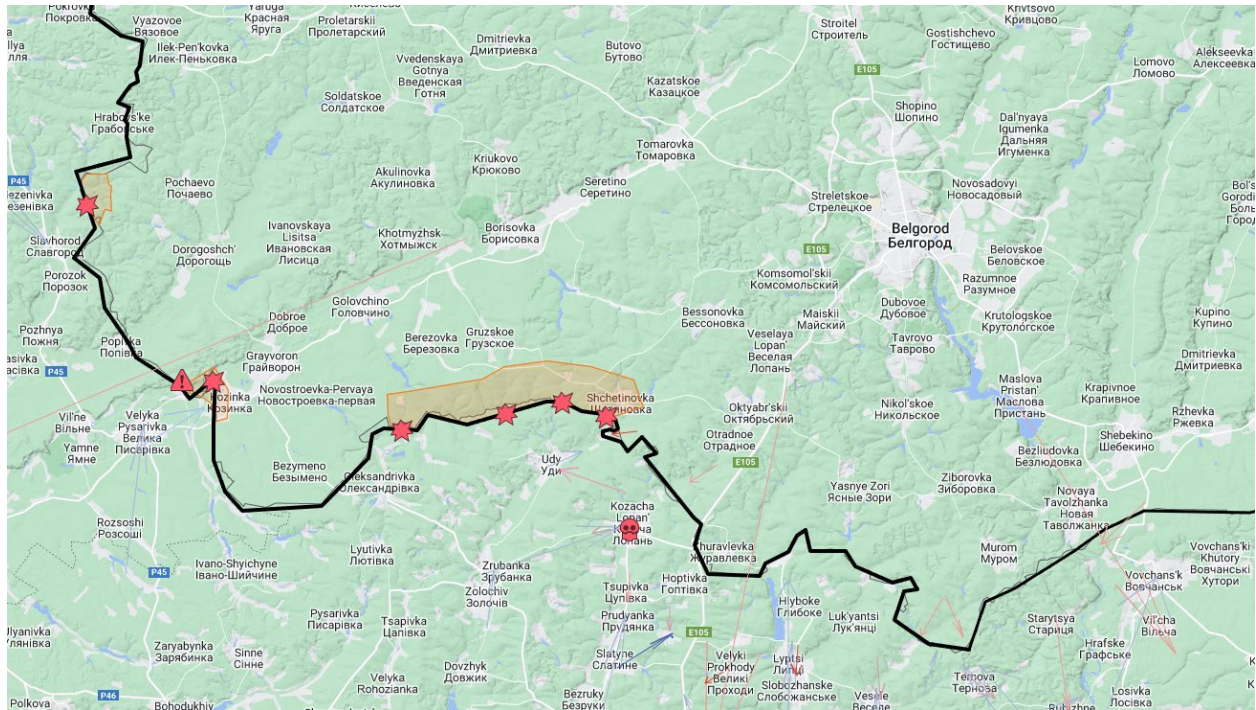
<sup>50</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/30/7404430/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/investigatorkua/5710>

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77602>

<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98784>


# 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

Russian officials reported Shebekino  [was heavily shelled](#), forcing evacuations and wounding four people.<sup>54 55</sup> Belgorod region governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said, "Grad [*rockets – Ed.*] smashed windows, cut facades and roofs in eight apartment buildings, four houses, as well as a school and two administrative buildings. One store burned down completely [and] Twelve cars have various damages, " adding that "Starting today, we are taking children out of the Shebekino and Grayvoron Districts."

## Krasnodar Krai

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).<sup>56</sup>  
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## Moscow

The southern districts of Moscow were  [attacked with 25 to 32 kamikaze drones](#), according to Russian state media

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<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/vvgladkov/2357>


<sup>55</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/12863>

<sup>56</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52226](https://t.me/shot_shot/52226)

<sup>57</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52228](https://t.me/shot_shot/52228)

<sup>58</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52235](https://t.me/shot_shot/52235)

source, RosZMI, with the Kremlin initially reporting 13 drones and the Russian Ministry of Defense reporting that eight drones were destroyed – five by air defense and three by electronic warfare.<sup>59 60 61</sup> RosZMI  [released an infographic documenting the 25 to 32 drones](#), including the three areas hit in the Rublyovka district. Russian state media agency Baza claimed there were 25 drones, with 13 shot down, three strikes, and the rest getting tangled in trees and powerlines due to their low flight path.<sup>62</sup> One of the drones shot down crashed in a field in the village of Ilyinskoye, three kilometers from Russian President Vladimir Putin's private residence in Novo-Ogaryovo.<sup>63</sup>

A video shared by Russian FSB-controlled state media agency Mash showed  [the moment a drone struck a high-rise building in Moscow and exploded](#), despite widespread denials by the Russian government.<sup>64</sup> Russian sources claim that the drones carried shaped charges produced in the Soviet Union 36 years ago. The KZ-6 charge has a mixture of TNT and RDX and was used to penetrate protective armor, but it lacks the amount of explosive force

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<sup>59</sup> <https://t.me/investigatorkua/5714>

<sup>60</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31726>

<sup>61</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31716>

<sup>62</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/3754](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/3754)

<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31725>

<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77748>

found in Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones Moscow uses.<sup>65</sup>

After the attack, GPS signals were blocked across wide areas of Moscow, crippling taxis, delivery services, car-sharing services, and rental scooters and bikes.<sup>66</sup> GPS jamming was also active along the borders of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia and wide swaths of western Russia.

"This is a terrorist act committed by the Kyiv regime," First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Defense Andriy Krasov commented on the morning attack by Ukrainian drones to Moscow. "Their task is to cause panic, fear, and sow division in our society. It is necessary to remain calm and provide assistance to the authorities and special services," adding that no one should panic.<sup>67</sup>


Russian President Putin made a statement in response to the drone attack against Moscow after deciding that border attacks in Belogord and Bryansk were not important enough for a statement or a meeting of the Russian Security Council. Putin claimed the Moscow air defense

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<sup>65</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52203](https://t.me/shot_shot/52203)

<sup>66</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52216](https://t.me/shot_shot/52216)

<sup>67</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/52181](https://t.me/shot_shot/52181)

system has successfully dealt with the UAV attack, although  ["there are aspects that need to be worked on."](#) He called the attack an attempt to "intimidate Russian citizens" and a terrorist attack and said that Ukraine is part of a hostile NATO structure, which operates "contrary to Russia's interests."<sup>68</sup>

He falsely claimed that a Russian missile struck the GUR headquarters in Kyiv in a recent missile attack and that the Russian Federation strikes on the territory of Ukraine only involve "high-precision weapons which are directed exclusively against military facilities."

Having seen his own shadow, he declared there would be six more weeks of special military operation and returned to his bunker.

Col. Gen. Kadyrov said Russia should respond to today's drone attack by imposing martial law. Also, repeated an empty promise, saying, "I'll get ahead of myself a little, but I won't reveal the details. Soon we'll show in the [special

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<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/MedvedevVesti/14308>

military operation] zone what revenge is in the full sense of the word."<sup>69</sup> <sup>70</sup>

***Editor's Note: Is it more fake combat videos for TikTok?  
Please tell us it is more fake combat videos for TikTok.***

PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin had a conniption, screaming into a microphone, "Stinking creatures, what are you doing? You are cattle! Get your s\*\*\*\* out of the offices in which you were put to defend this country. You are the Ministry of Defense. You have not done a damn thing to attack. What the f\*\*\*\* are you? Do you allow these drones to fly to Moscow? The fact that they fly to Rublyovka to your home. To Hell with it! Let your houses burn. And what do ordinary people do when drones with explosives crash into their windows? I am deeply indignant that these scum sit quietly and sit on their fat ass\*\*\*\*, smeared with expensive creams. Therefore I believe that the people have every right to ask them these questions, these bastards. I have already warned about this many times, but no one wants to listen. Because I'm angry and I upset the bureaucrats, who have a great life."<sup>71</sup>


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<sup>69</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77722>

<sup>70</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31781>

<sup>71</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/5148>



A somewhat calmer Prigozhin,  [ironically sitting on a blue mat placed on a yellow gym floor](#), called for general mobilization, saying, "If we continue to fight, it is necessary to announce a general mobilization and attract people, at least for training. So that when the thunder rolls, you can fight and not be baptized."<sup>72</sup>

Retired Russian Colonel Viktor Alksnis, turned milblogger, wrote, "And what about the attacks on the Belgorod region? According to Bryansk? By Kursk? What about the shelling of Donetsk and other settlements of Donbas? Why is the Supreme Commander silent on this matter? The air defense system of the Russian capital worked satisfactorily during the raid by Ukrainian drones, Russian President Vladimir Putin said. 'Moscow's air defense system worked normally, satisfactorily,' the head of state said, TASS reports. At the same time, the system still 'has something to work on,' he noted. It seems that the bravado reports from the Russian Ministry of Defense that all eight Ukrainian drones were shot down, which means that the air defense of the capital worked perfectly, do not correspond to reality."

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<sup>72</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/98793>

As the Russian citizenry expressed smug satisfaction that the residents of the oligarchs were damaged in the attack, Russian propagandist Vladimir Solovyov fumed, "Why are you so happy, oh, [it's] Rublyovka and it's not our compatriots living there? Or are we no longer a single country, not a single people? So, shake yourself off a bit and put away this 'so you need it!'. Put your ego in you're a\*\* and think about the country."<sup>73</sup>

You would be correct if you think Solovyov's "Think of the billionaires" morning commentary landed with a thud.

One person wrote, "Today, Solovyov's propaganda is outraged by the fact that the vast majority of Russians quite positively and joyfully received the drone raid on the elite district of Rublyovka, where well-to-do Muscovites live. For the Russians, the idea of punishing big cats turned out to be closer than the war with the mythical 'Nazis.'"<sup>74</sup>

Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, and failed mobik Igor Strelkov Girkin said, "Yes, those who do not live on Rublyovka really need to think about the country. Since those who live on Rublyovka have

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<sup>73</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/121653>


<sup>74</sup> <https://t.me/informnapalm/17418>

never thought about the country and never will. They have no time. They have to count money!"<sup>75</sup>

The response from Kyiv's allies was mixed, with British Foreign Minister James Cleverley saying Ukrainians have the legal right to "use force outside their borders to undermine Russia's ability to send forces into Ukraine itself."<sup>76</sup>

A White House spokesperson said as part of a statement to Reuters-Thompson, "We saw the news and are still gathering information about what happened. As a general matter, we do not support attacks inside of Russia."<sup>77</sup>

## THEATERWIDE

Somebody change the sign! It has been zero days since a Russian government official threatened nuclear war. A deputy of the State Duma, Nilov Evgenyevich,  [read off a list of nuclear threats against Ukraine](#), referring to the nation's leaders as the "Fuhrers of the Ukrereich."<sup>78</sup>


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<sup>75</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/5161>

<sup>76</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31772>

<sup>77</sup> [Reuters](#)

<sup>78</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1663489437249032194>

It took less than a month for the Kremlin to claim they have destroyed more Patriot air defense systems than Ukraine possesses, with  [Russian Minister of Defense Shoigu declaring](#) the third system was destroyed by a missile.<sup>79</sup> On Monday, the ghost Patriot system left the remains of spent PAC-3 interceptors across Kyiv, fighting from beyond the grave.

On the subject of beyond grave, as Russian propagandists continue to insist that he is dead, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia put the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valery Zaluzhny, on its wanted list.<sup>80</sup>

BMDDID assessed that since the start of May 2023, "Russia has increasingly ceded the initiative in the conflict and is reacting to Ukrainian action rather than actively progressing towards its own war aims. On the ground, it has redeployed security forces to react to partisan attacks inside Western Russia. Operationally, Russian commanders are likely attempting to generate reserve forces and position them where they believe a Ukrainian counterattack will occur. However, this has probably been undermined by

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<sup>79</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1663528013001007104>

<sup>80</sup> [https://ria \[dot\] ru/20230530/rozysk-1875114026.html](https://ria [dot] ru/20230530/rozysk-1875114026.html)

uncommitted forces instead of being sent to fill gaps in the front line around Bakhmut."<sup>81</sup>

On Monday, United States President Joe Biden told reporters that the issue of supplying Ukraine with long-range ATACMS missiles is "still in the game."<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1663786012164734977>

<sup>82</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31718>

## 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 27, 2023. 10,448 Russian vs. 3,374 Ukrainian*

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	1859	196	9.48:1	↓
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	131	309	0.42:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	862	275	3.13:1	↓
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	2365	541	4.37:1	↑
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	309	265	1.17:1	↑
<b>MRAPs</b>	43	58	0.74:1	↑
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	188	315	0.62:1	↓
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	242	13	18.61:1	↓
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	306	57	5.37:1	↑
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	220	123	1.79:1	↑
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	405	159	2.55:1	↓
<b>MLRS</b>	202	45	4.48:1	↑
<b>SAMs</b>	114	113	1.02:1	↑
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	32	60	0.53:1	—
<b>EW/ECW</b>	37	2	18.50:1	↑
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	82	66	1.24:1	—
<b>Helicopters</b>	90	30	3.00:1	—
<b>Naval Vessels</b>	12	26	0.46:1	—

## **RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR**

A letter is circulating in Russian state media claiming that the RIA has once again imposed a ban on mentioning PMC Wagner or Yevgeny Prigozhin in Russian State Media. While some Russian sources claim it is a fake, Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed in a video the memo is authentic. A review of the Russian version of TASS showed there was no mention of PMC Wagner since May 25, 2023.<sup>83</sup>

PMC Wagner!

PMC Wagner!

PMC Wagner!

The 24 penal mercenaries with PMC Storm-Z who deserted on May 25 are accused of killing a military officer from the LNR who tried to stop them, and officials in the Rostov region are searching for the deserters.<sup>84</sup>

In Lysychansk, GSAFU reported up to 80 additional personnel from PMC Storm-Z deserted their combat positions. It was also claimed that 30 penal Wagnerite

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<sup>83</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/31423>

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/27/7404175/>

mercenaries deserted with their weapons in the Bakhmut operational area. We cannot independently verify either claim.<sup>85</sup>

Major Alexander Prikazchikov, deputy commander of the Storm detachment (not to be confused with Storm-Z), claimed that his life, and that of other leaders of the unit, were in danger after they refused to follow illegal and immoral orders issued by their commander Roman Vinivitin.<sup>86</sup> According to Prikazchikov, he was tasked with "killing personnel, criminal work and giving criminal orders." For about 40 minutes, the soldiers of the Storm detachment claimed they were tasked to assault Ukrainian positions without artillery support and came under intense drone and mortar fire. Even after they located the position of Ukrainian drone operators and artillery batteries, their requests for counterbattery support went unanswered.<sup>87</sup> In the video, the unit claims they are in a "safe place" and will tell all the details to members of RMOD, which they believe will ensure their safety.

Russian state media agency TASS reported seven former convicts in a penal unit of the Russian military deserted

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<sup>85</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM – May 29, 2023](#)

<sup>86</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77133>

<sup>87</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/77133>



with their weapons near Soledar. Three were arrested in Brianka in the so-called LNR after being found drunk in a bar. Officials claim that the deserters killed one of their own when they decided they wanted to surrender and return to their unit.<sup>88</sup>

PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin reiterated that his forces are withdrawing from Ukraine. "As I already said, we are leaving Bakhmut, going to field camps, putting ourselves in order, improving, restaffing, and depending on the situation in Ukraine, depending on the situation in the world, we decide what to do next. As a matter of fact, today, of those people who, like in 2020 in the Central African Republic, when it was necessary to urgently save the country, there are about 15-20 thousand people, those who are ready in body armor, in unloading, with personal and collective weapons and ammunition for several days of battle to land anywhere in the world and directly from the wheels to join the battle. If we do not need to work in Ukraine, then we can liberate some territory in a couple of months, equivalent to about twenty percent of the territory of the African continent."<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> [https://t.me/romanov\\_92/38283](https://t.me/romanov_92/38283)

<sup>89</sup> [https://t.me/Prigozhin\\_hat/3480](https://t.me/Prigozhin_hat/3480)

## ***Editor's Note: Liberate? Liberate Africans from who? Africans?***

Less than 48 hours before the drone attack on Moscow, retired Russian Colonel Viktor Alksnis turned milblogger skewered the Kremlin for its claims that it would defend Transnistria while addressing the crossborder incursions in Belgorod, Bryansk, and Kursk by Russian partisans, writing there are "about 1,700 servicemen of the Operational Group of Russian Forces in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (OGRV PRRM), of which 450 people are part of the peacekeeping contingent. According to the signed international agreements, the number of peacekeepers in [Transnistria] can reach three thousand people. And [Transnistria] regularly appeals to Russia with a request to increase the number of peacekeepers to this number, but the Russian Federation, as a rule, keeps silent about this. Russian servicemen are armed mainly with small arms and therefore do not have much firepower. In the event of armed aggression from Moldova (Romania) or Ukraine, they will only be able to hold out for a few hours."<sup>90</sup> <sup>91</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> <https://t.me/blackcolonel2020/933>

<sup>91</sup> <https://t.me/blackcolonel2020/934>

Alksnis was responding to a statement made by Russian Foreign Ministry deputy Mikhail Galuzin. In trotting out the worn out claim that Ukraine is on bring of invading Transnistria, which comes up whenever things aren't going well for the Russian Federation on the battlefield, Galuzin said, "No one should have any doubts that the Russian Armed Forces will adequately respond to the provocation of the Kyiv regime, if any, and will ensure the protection of our compatriots, the Russian peacekeeping contingent, military personnel OGRF, and military warehouses in the village of Kolbasna in Transnistria. Any actions that pose a threat to their security will be considered, in accordance with international law, as an attack on the Russian Federation."

Alksnis asked the question, "And how, in the current situation, will the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation can adequately respond to the provocations of the Kyiv regime in the event of an attack on the Russian Federation in Transnistria? Why do they not adequately respond to an attack on the Russian Federation in the Crimea, Donbas, Bryansk, and Belgorod areas in other subjects of the Russian Federation? It seems that our Foreign Ministry lives by the principle, 'The main thing is to crow, but don't let the dawn come.'"

Russia milblogger Maxim Kalashnikov questioned PMC Wagner leader Prigozhin's claim that 20,000 Wagnerites were killed in the siege of Bakhmut and if that is something to be proud of. "Stupid meat grinders completely failed back in the First World War. The current seas of blood for our troops are the fruit of the refusal of our authorities from the long-established scheme of modern wars. When, first of all, the enemy's air defense and air force are suppressed, and when then air strikes destroy the enemy's leadership, its military and state apparatuses, refineries and fuel depots, transport infrastructure, etc. Ours, on the other hand, engaged in an 'unconventional war orientation.' which resulted in the grinding of their troops. Consider who has more thrashed? Well, according to this criterion, the Germans, it turns out, won the Patriotic War with us."<sup>92</sup>

Tara Reade, who in 2020 accused then Presidential candidate Joe Biden of sexual assault in 1993, appeared on Russian state media with convicted Russian spy Maria Butina, saying she is tired of "baseless accusations" of being a Russian agent, and then announced she had defected to the Russian Federation.

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<sup>92</sup> <https://t.me/strelkovii/5090>

"As I move forward, I hope to find safety here," said Reade. "I appreciate my friends in Moscow, Russia, that have opened their arms to me and given me that safety, including Maria Butina."

The former U.S. Senate staffer added she hopes to obtain Russian citizenship from Russian President Putin, and does not plan to renounce her U.S. citizenship.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> [Business Insider](#) – United States