



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

August 9, 2023





# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 8/09/23 23:59\* PST

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**SUMMARY – DAY 531 ..... 3**

**DAILY ASSESSMENT ..... 7**

**TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP ..... 10**

**UKRAINE WEATHER ..... 11**

**SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY..... 12**

**KHARKIV ..... 13**

**DONBAS REGION ..... 18**

**LUHANSK ..... 18**

**NORTHEAST DONETSK ..... 23**

**SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK ..... 28**

**ZAPORIZHIA..... 34**

**BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION .... 38**

**WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE..... 39**

**NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE..... 42**

**RUSSIAN FRONT ..... 43**

**BELARUSIAN FRONT ..... 46**

**THEATERWIDE ..... 47**

**RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES..... 51**

**RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR ..... 52**

**WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS..... 57**

**GEOPOLITICS ..... 58**

**ECONOMIC..... 61**

## SUMMARY – DAY 531

It has been 3,451 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 166 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- After months of disinformation and false claims, Russian and Ukrainian reports in the theater of war were tightly aligned
- The forecast for significant thunderstorm activity on August 11 has shifted to southeastern Ukraine
- Intense mutual fighting continues on a line from west of Lyman Pershi to Vilshana and near Ivanivka
- The Ukrainian military has brought reinforcements to stabilize the situation
- Kharkiv oblast officials are **considering** a mandatory evacuation of 53 settlements in the Kharkiv area, impacting 12,000 people due to increased artillery and airstrikes on the civilian population
- Russian sources claim that Ukrainian forces have restarted offensive operations near Berkhivka
- Fighting continues south of Bakhmut at Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Kurdyumivka
- Ukrainian sources report that Russian forces are trying to regain lost positions in “the Zaitseve area”

- Fighting at a reduced tempo continues east of Avdiivka, near Sjeverne/Vodyane, and in Marinka
- Ukrainian forces continue to push into Urozhaine with elements of the 11th Separate Motorized Rifle Regiment of the Russian 1st Army Corps (formerly Vostok Brigade) reporting they are surrounded
- Ukrainian forces made marginal gains near Pryyutne
- Russian and Ukrainian sources confirmed that Ukrainian troops advanced near Robotyne and Verbove
- NATO-provided DPICM (cluster munitions) is reshaping the battlefield in Ukraine's favor in Zaporizhzhia
- Russian missile strike on Zaporizhzhia destroyed the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, retail shops, and small businesses run by tradespeople, killing two and wounding seven
- The Russian Ministry of Defense claims that nine Ukrainian drones were shot down near Sevastopol is likely false
- A Ukrainian artillery strike destroyed a Russian command and control base in Nova Kakhovka
- Three Shahed-136 kamikaze drones struck an oil depot in the Rivne Oblast
- The Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant in Serhiyiv Posad, 70 kilometers from Moscow, was destroyed when the Piro-Ross warehouse and production facility for commercial-grade fireworks exploded

- An auto service center or dealership in the industrial area of Domodedovo, 55 kilometers from Moscow, exploded shortly after Russian air defenses were active
- A warehouse of Russian military equipment in Georgiyivsk, Russia, was destroyed due to a fire
- Poland has requested an additional 1,000 troops to the border of Belarus
- Seven Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down in the Kyiv region
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a reduced format Stavka to discuss several topics, including "planning of future steps"
- Germany announced additional military aid had been provided to Ukraine
- Swedish company Satcube is providing Ukraine with "hundreds" of satellite Internet terminals
- The Council of Commanders for Private Military Company Wagner Group appeared to confirm the VChK-OGPU report that their mercenary forces are on "vacation" after a dispute between Moscow and Minsk on how the organization will continue to be paid
- Russian contract soldiers from Orenburg threaten to riot because they have not been paid
- Russian soldiers from the Karachay-Cherkessia Republic threaten to riot because they have not been paid

- Russian state media agency Izvetsia is caught creating propaganda – again
- Russian State Duma Vice Speaker Vyacheslav Davankov introduced a bill that would set the statute of limitation for prosecuting someone under the so-called “don't say war” laws for opinions expressed on the Internet to 60 to 90 days
- Roskomnadzor has blocked at least ten Internet VPNs to control Russian citizen's access to information
- Forbes reported that Russia had created a knock-off version of the French Thales thermal imager
- Kherson region former policeman Serhii Golovanych was arrested for beating and torturing Ukrainians during the Russian occupation
- The European Commission is expected to recommend that Ukraine and Moldova start the EU accession process
- Mexican officials dismissed social media claims that the nation was going to request to join BRICS
- Poland and Lithuania are appealing to the EU to streamline administrative and border processes so Ukrainian grain can be shipped through Baltic Sea ports
- One of Russia's top economic professors declared that the rouble is in collapse

## DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We have significant concerns that Ukrainian forces are incapable of setting conditions for a breakthrough attack in 2023.
2. We assess that signals from Kyiv indicating the next phase of the summer offensive is being prepared, and we now believe there are **five** operational areas where the next phase could start.
3. In our assessment, the reduced format Stavka that included only military and security leadership indicates Ukraine is preparing significant activity in the next 48 to 72 hours.
4. We maintain that it is highly unlikely that Ukraine will execute a wet crossing of the Dnipro River with a battalion-sized or larger force. However, the ongoing media blackout, the declaration of the entire right bank from Beryslav to the mouth of the Dnipro as a combat area, and an expanding number of Ukrainian bridgeheads on the left bank could be setting conditions for a larger offensive operation.
5. We maintain the loss of the road bridges at Henichesk and Chongar, and the previous damage to the railroad bridge at Syvash, is degrading Russian logistics in eastern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

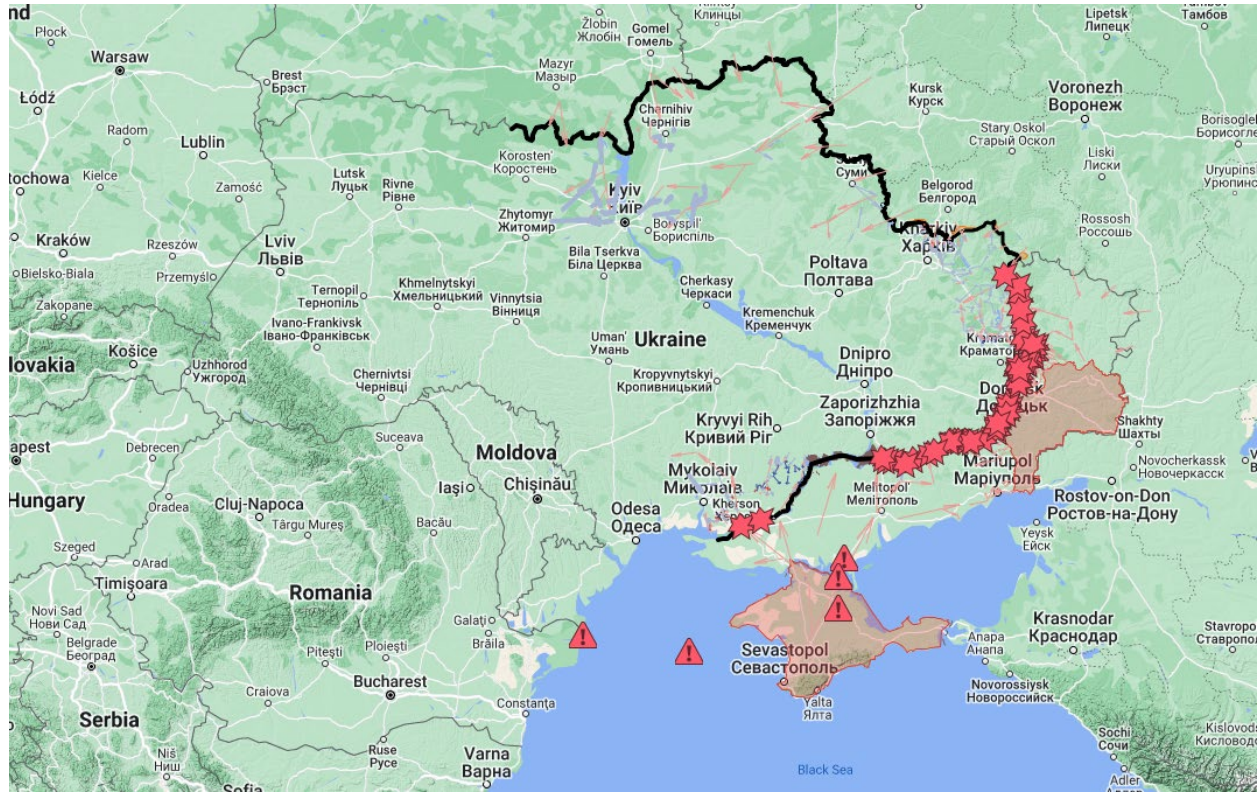


6. Due to a lack of troop rotation, growing ammunition shortages, and weak commanders, Russia is pushing combat ineffective and combat destroyed units to the forwardmost line of friendly troops (FLOT), engaging in attritional warfare against Ukrainian units.
7. The current Ukrainian military activity is subordinate offensives and shaping operations, and the main operation has not started.
8. Despite Ukraine's plans to move to the next phase, we maintain that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition dates, negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
9. We assess that Russian and Belarusian aggression and threats on the borders of Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Black Sea coast will continue to expand and lead to an international incident if Ukraine's allies do not take a stronger posture.
10. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains weakened after the failed Prigozhin Insurrection, and there continues to be a small but very real possibility of another insurrection or coup attempt.
11. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, PMCs, and proxy forces.

12. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine.
13. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei 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.
14. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

## TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

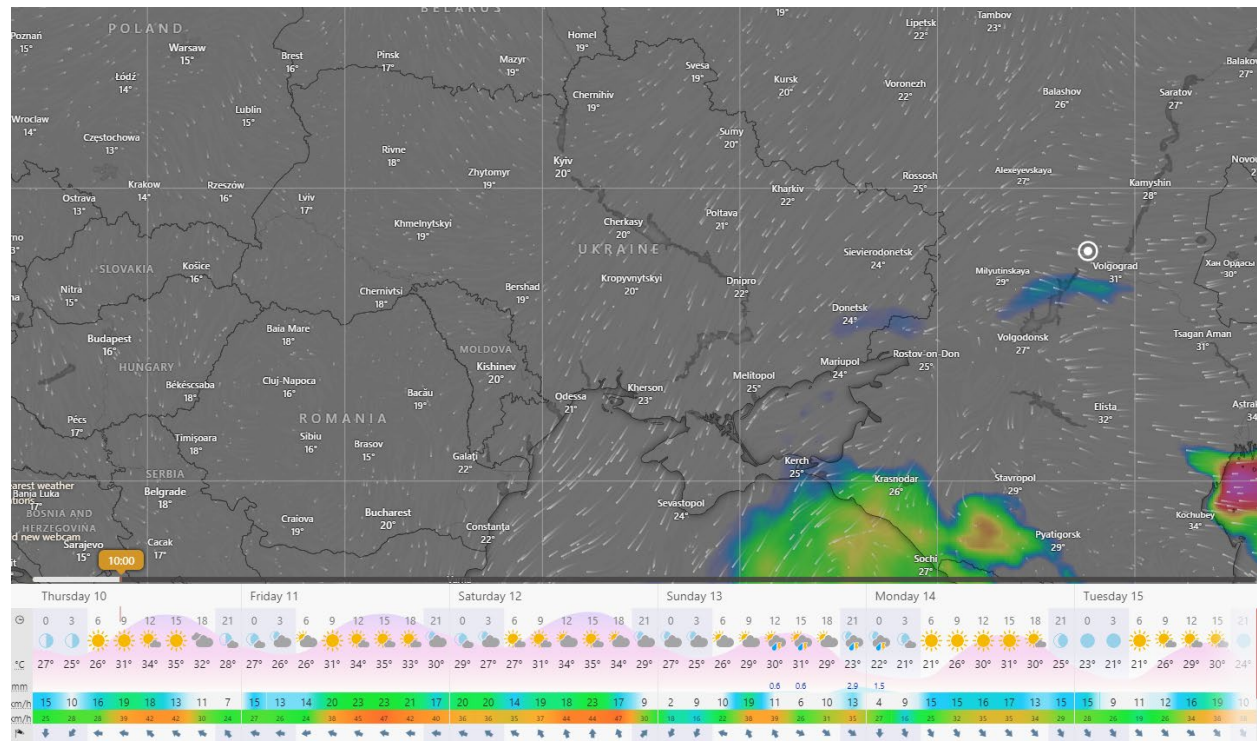


**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the *Moskva* and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict.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



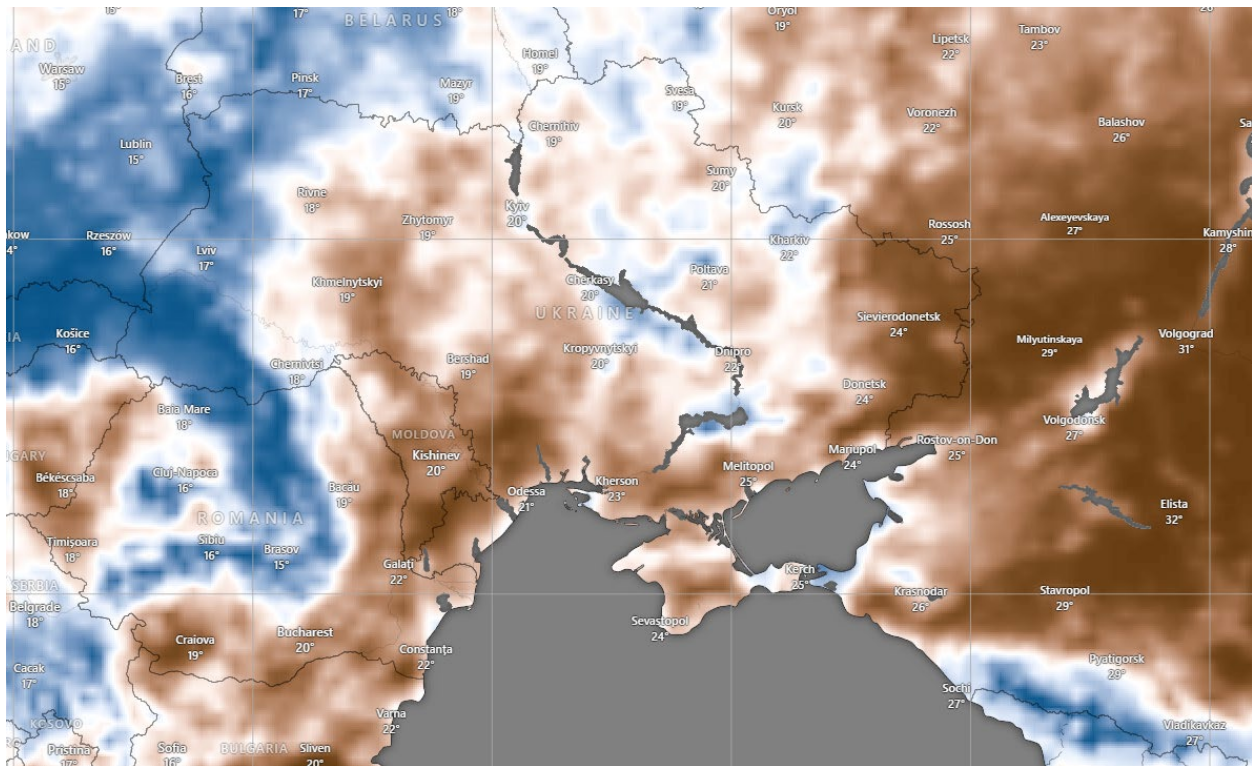
# UKRAINE WEATHER



The ECMWF ensemble forecast model has shifted, predicting that thunderstorms and showers will be widespread in the Sea of Azov and the southeastern Donbas region on August 11. Seasonal pop-up showers and thunderstorms remain possible across most of Ukraine through August 15. High temperatures will be between 23° and 34° Celsius, and lows of 12° to 23°. The weather models for the Black Sea coast of the Krasnodar Krai region of Russia continue to forecast the potential for heavy rain and severe thunderstorms from August 10 – 12.



## SOIL SATURATION AND HYDROLOGY

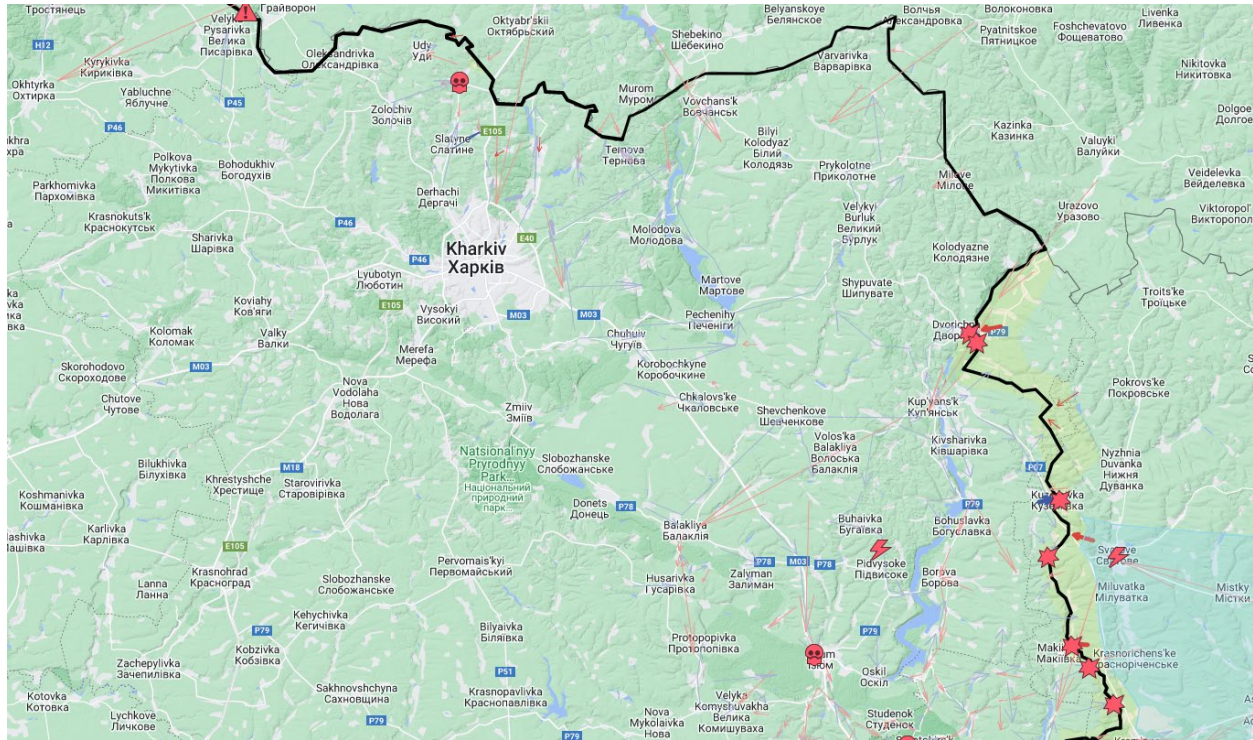


*The GFS model for August 17, 2023, predicts soil saturation will be between 15% and 40% across the theater of war. Tractability should not be impacted.*

***The soil saturation model does not consider the lakebed of the Kakhovka Reservoir.*** In the theater of war, soil saturation is between 15% to 40% in most areas. A pocket of up to 100% exists in the Siversk and Lysychansk areas of operation (AO) and 65% at Orikhiv and Huplyaipole. A drying trend is predicted through August 17.



# KHARKIV

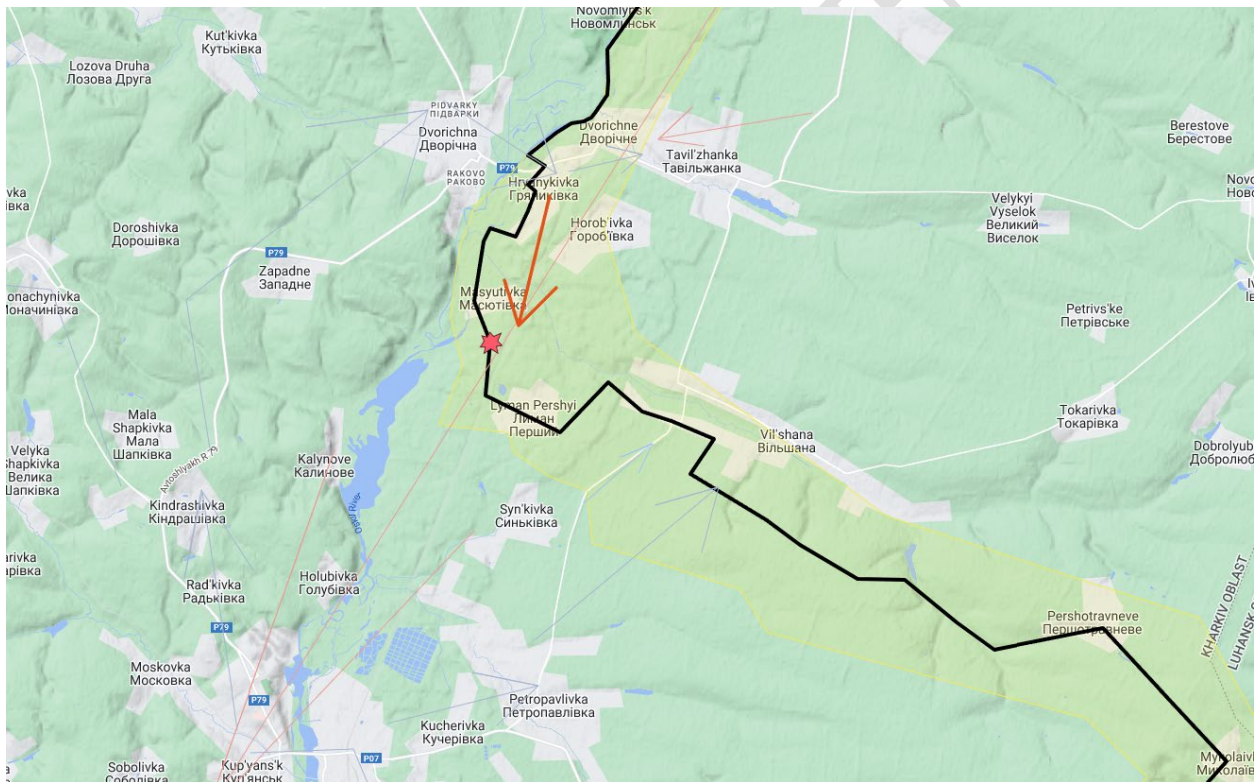


**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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



**Free Kharkiv/Luhansk:** Spokesperson for Operational Command East (OKE), Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty, reported Russian forces fired 522 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad and Smerch rockets from Dvorichna [Kharkiv] to Bilohorivka [Luhansk] and carried out 16 airstrikes. The operational tempo slowed, with only five combat clashes reported.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12676>

## Dvorichna Operational Area

Fighting remained intense in the Dvorichna AO. Deputy Minister of Defense for Ukraine, Hanna Maliar, said, "The operational situation is complex but controlled. The defense forces of Ukraine courageously hold back the enemy's offensive there. The enemy has been conducting unsuccessful offensives in the Sinkivka district of the Kharkiv region for several days. The intensity of hostilities and enemy shelling is high. For some positions, there are several position changes per day," but added that OKE had made decisions to "strengthen our stability" along the axis.<sup>2</sup>

A video released by Russian state media confirmed that Ukrainian troops remain entrenched west of [Lyman Pershi](#), in alignment with our existing map.<sup>3</sup> Fighting continued west of Lyman Pershi, north of [Synkivika](#), and south of [Vilshana](#).<sup>4 5 6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/annamaliar/994>

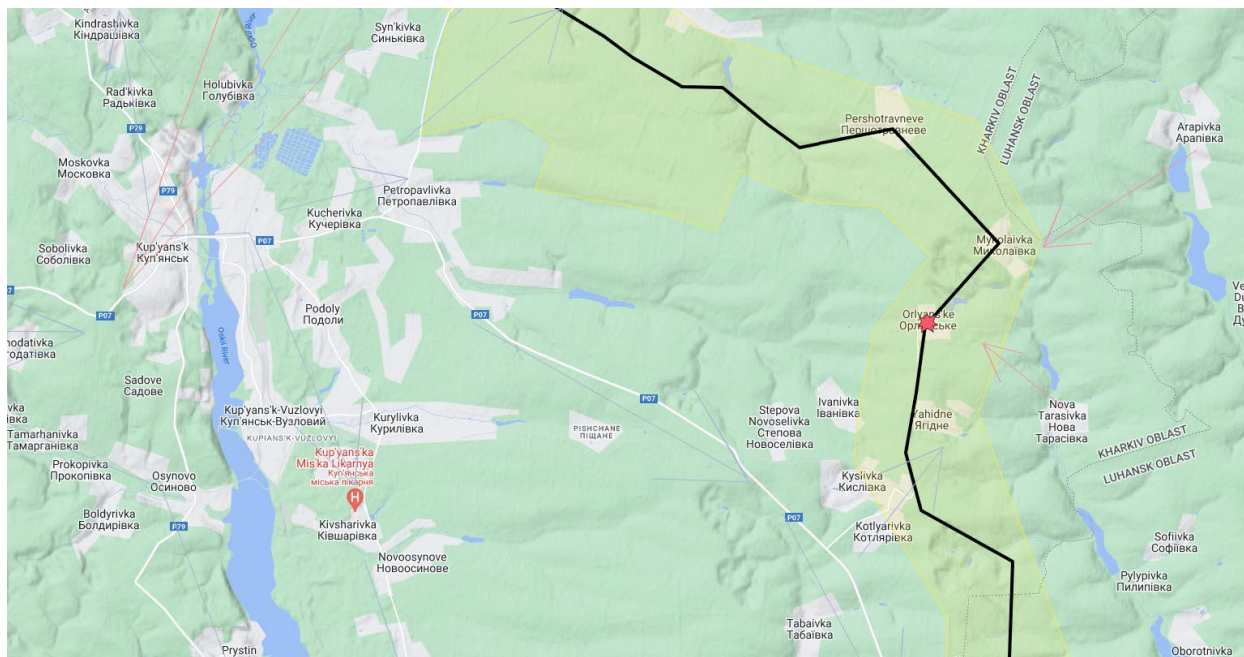
<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/region776/status/1689192683909341184>

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17330>

<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>6</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]





## Kupyansk Operational Area

Mutual fighting was reported by Ukrainian and Russian sources northeast of [Ivanivka](#) in the [Orlyanske](#) area.<sup>7 8 9</sup> Russian sources made no new claims of territorial gains.

Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleg Sinegubov released a statement saying, "Compulsory evacuation of civilians and forced evacuation of children may be carried out from 53 settlements [in the] Kupyansk district located close to the combat zone. This issue was discussed today at a staff meeting at the Kharkiv OVA in

<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>

connection with the escalation of the operational situation. The enemy has significantly intensified the shelling of settlements close to the front line and continues terrorizing the civilian population, including using air strikes. Under such conditions, the risks to the lives and health of civilians have increased significantly...More than 11,000 people, including 600 children, are expected to be evacuated. Everyone will be provided with the necessary assistance, and the evacuees will be provided temporary housing in safer areas."<sup>10</sup>

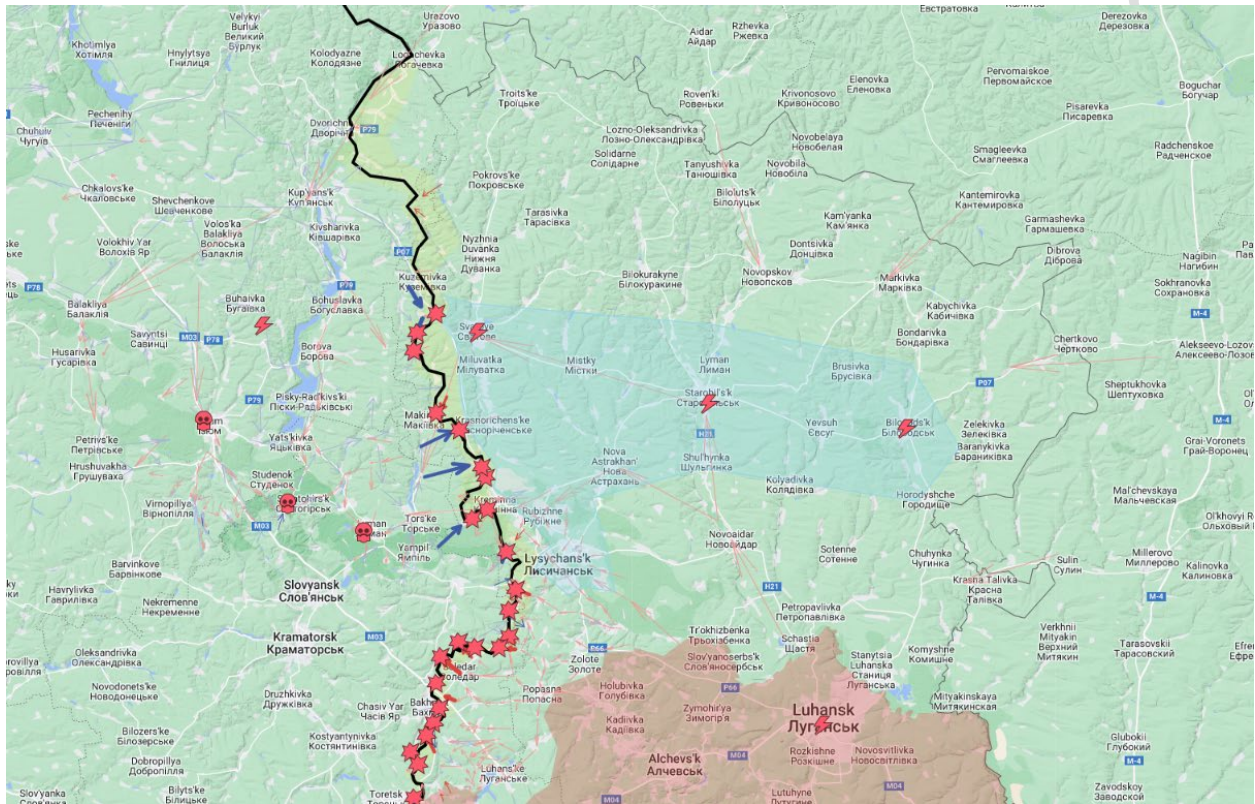
All the impacted settlements have been under a voluntary evacuation order since their liberation between September and November 2022. Social media claims that a mandatory evacuation order was issued are untrue. We maintain our assessment that all Ukrainian civilians living in any voluntary evacuation zone, especially parents and guardians of minor children, should evacuate to rear areas.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/6807>

# DONBAS REGION

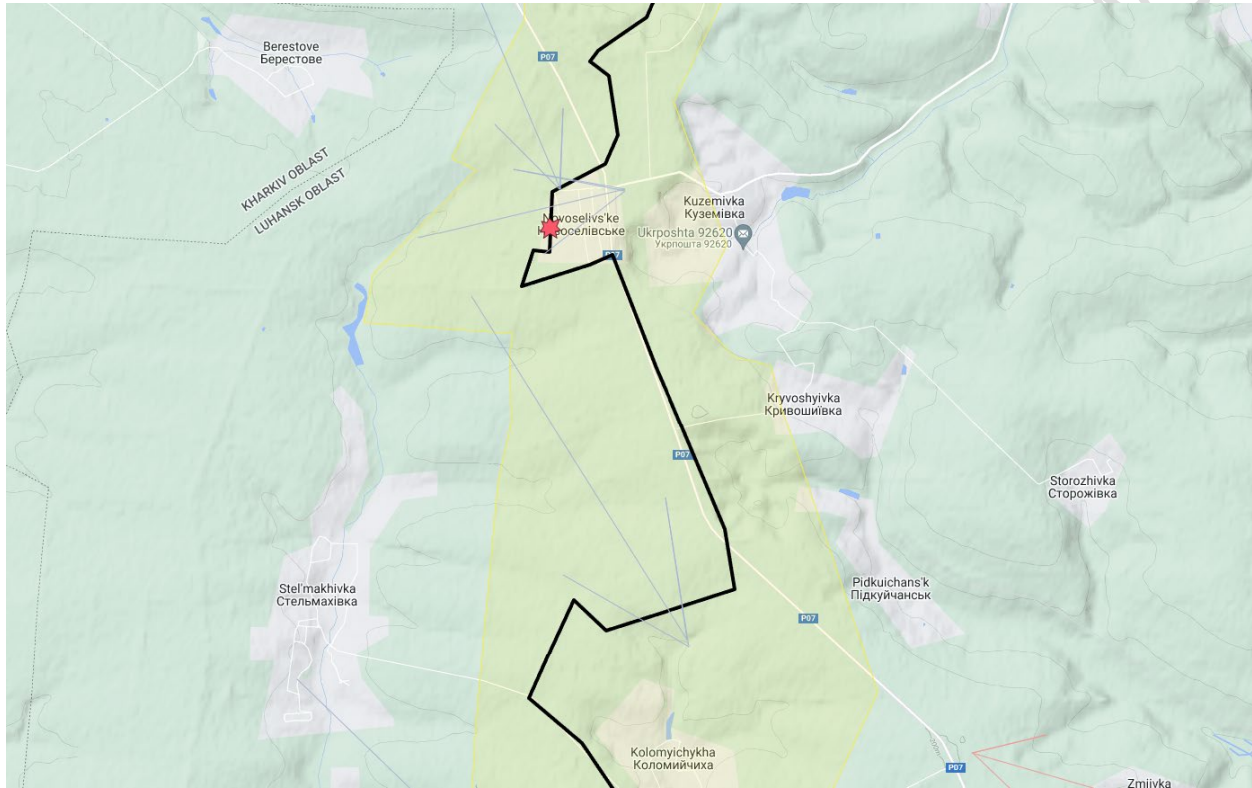
## LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, set conditions to capture the rest of the region, and support September 2023 elections



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



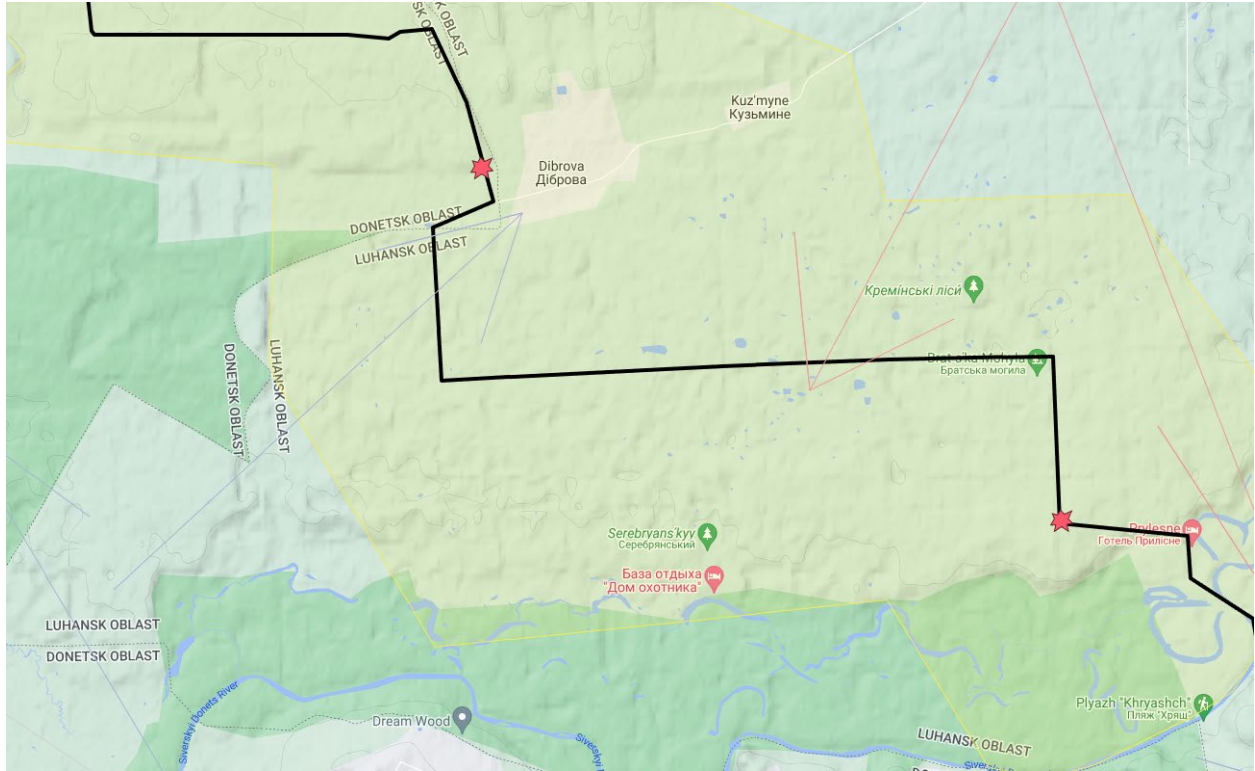
### Svatove Operational Area

The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive at [Novoselivske](#).<sup>11</sup>

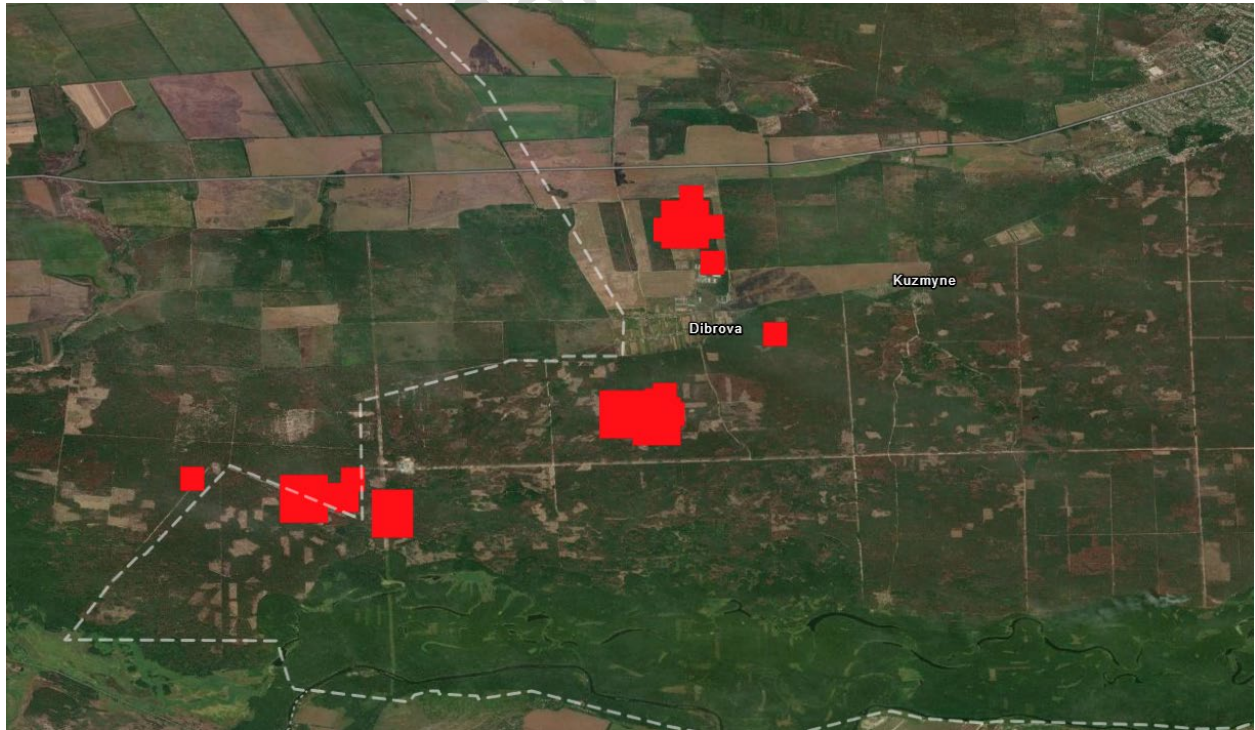
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<sup>11</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

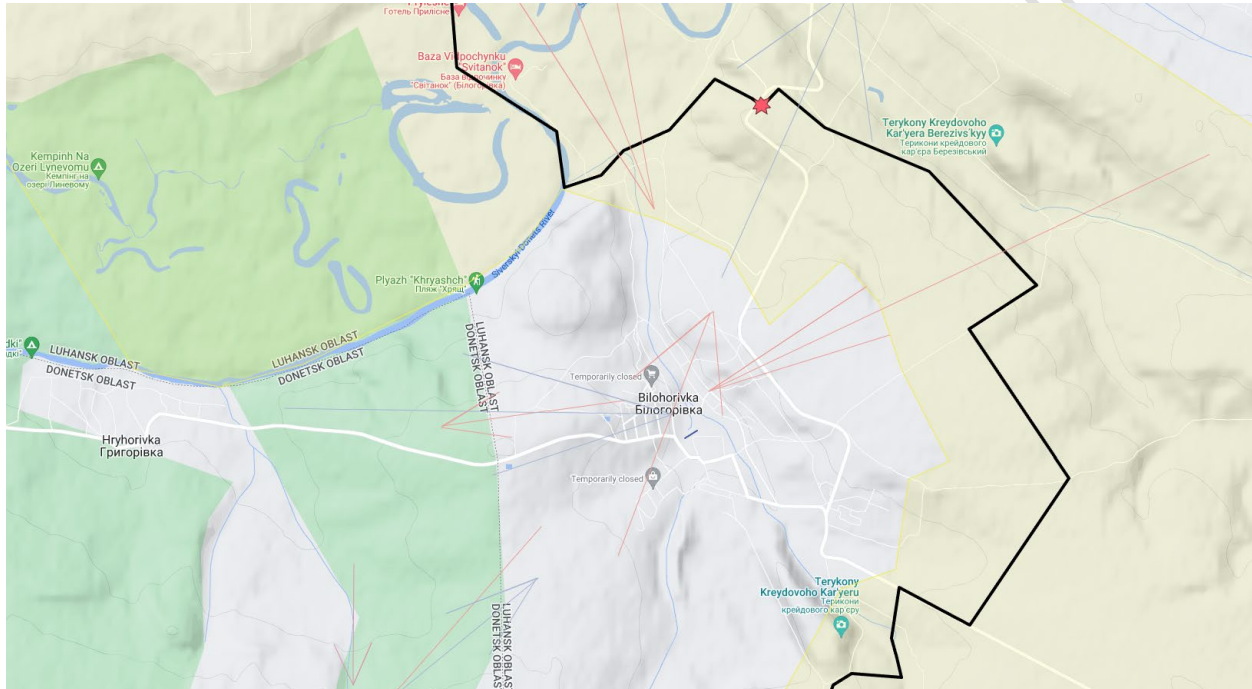




## Kreminna Operational Area



While there were no specific reports of fighting in the AO, NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems indicated significant artillery duels north, south and west of [Dibrova](#).



## Lysychansk Operational Area

Colonel Cherevaty of OKE and Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that Russian forces continued to attack the area near [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>

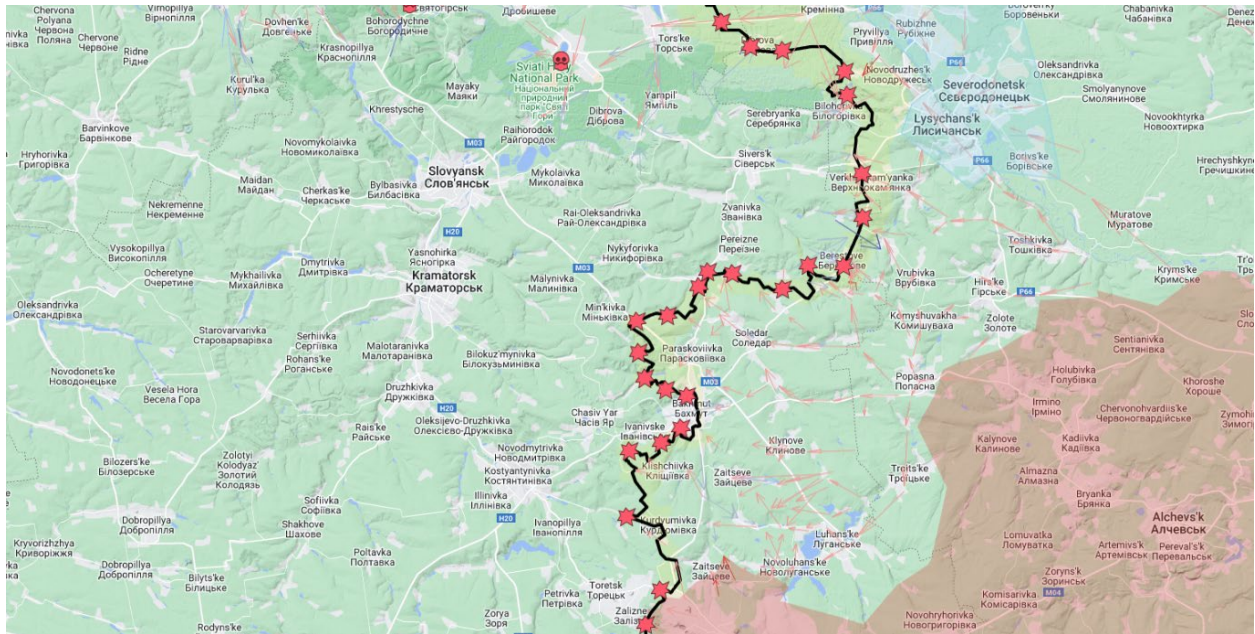
<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/12676>



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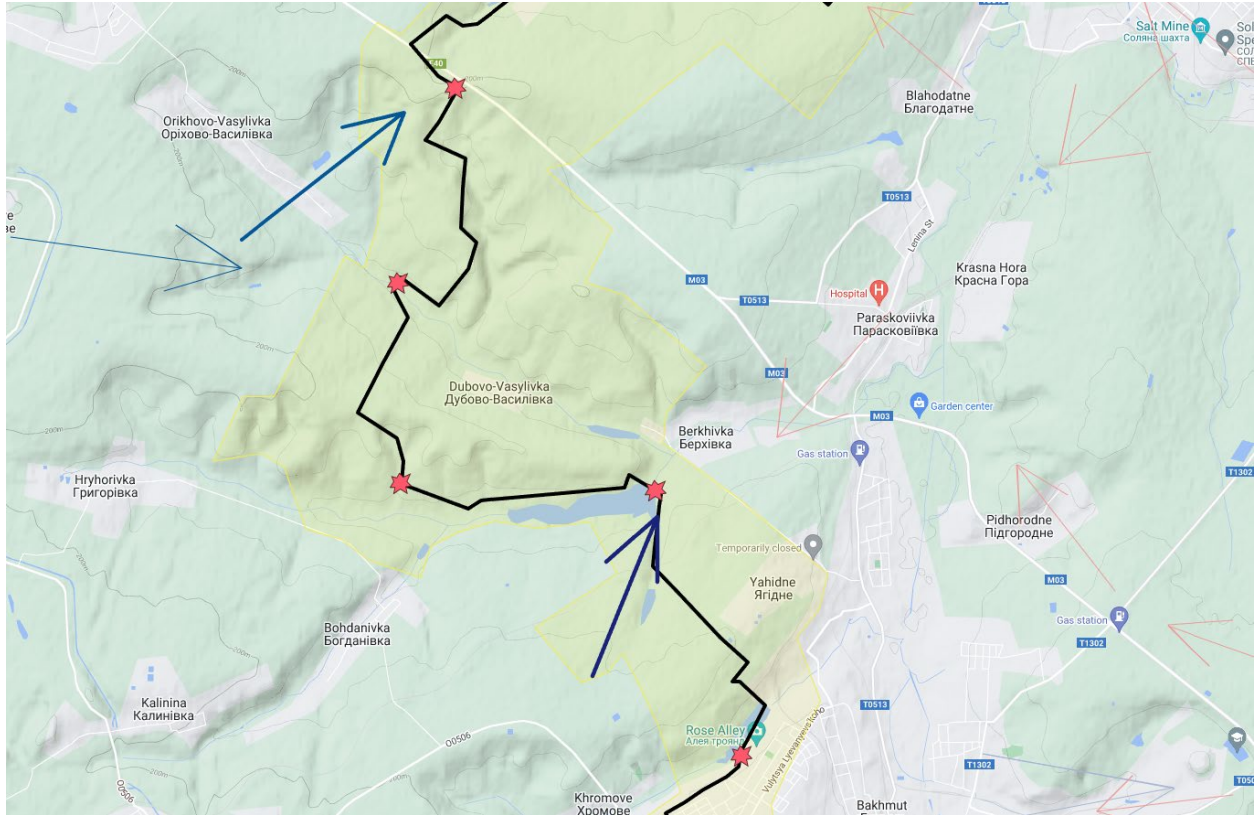
# NORTHEAST DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Complete the capture of Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region, set conditions for September 2023 elections

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, collapse the Russian flanks while maximizing casualties, draw Russian reserves into the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



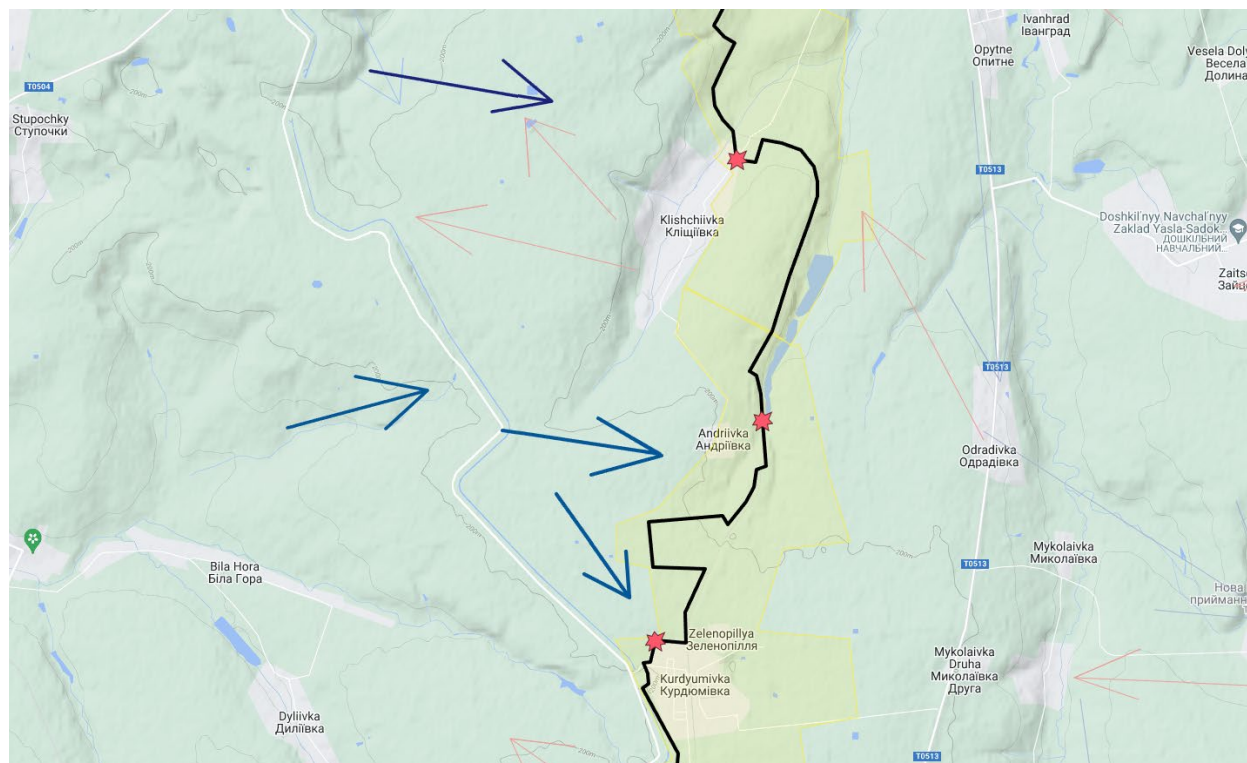


## Bakhmut Operational Area

WarGonzo also reported that Ukrainian forces restarted offensive operations near [Berkhivka](#), with Russian milblogger MultiMAX claiming that Ukraine has moved significant reinforcements into the area.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>



## Klishchiivka Operational Area

Intense mutual fighting continued in [Klishchiivka](#) and on the edges of [Andriivka](#) and [Kurdyumivka](#), with the Russian air force and army aviation (VKS) carrying out close air support (CAS) missions.<sup>15 16 17 18</sup> Russian milblogger MultiMAX reported that the constant movement of Russian reinforces has halted the Ukrainian advance but has not resulted in the recapture of lost positions.

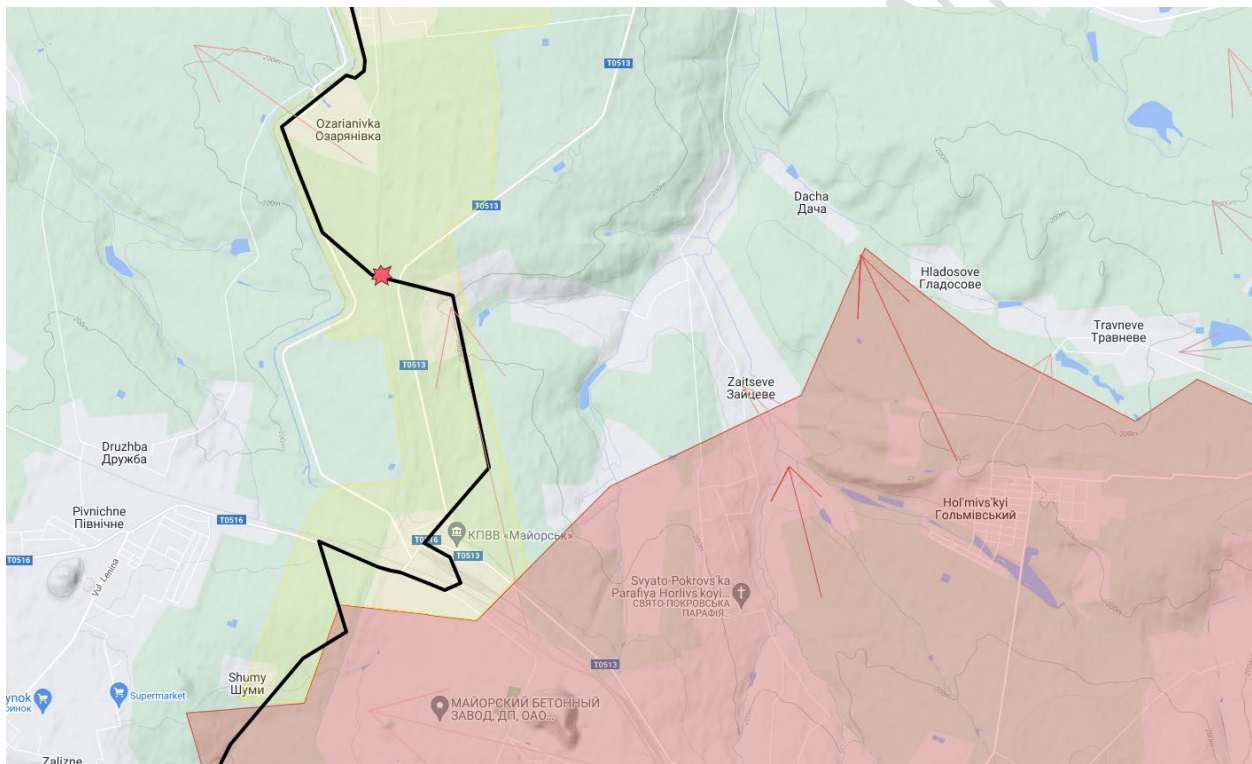
<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>16</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/50576>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>

***Errors and Omissions: On August 8, we reported RMOD claimed that fighting was occurring in “the area” of Zaitseve, identifying the location as east of Klishchiivka. The fighting is near another Zaitseve 10 kilometers away, southeast of Ozarianivka. We thank you for your understanding as we cut through the fog of war.***

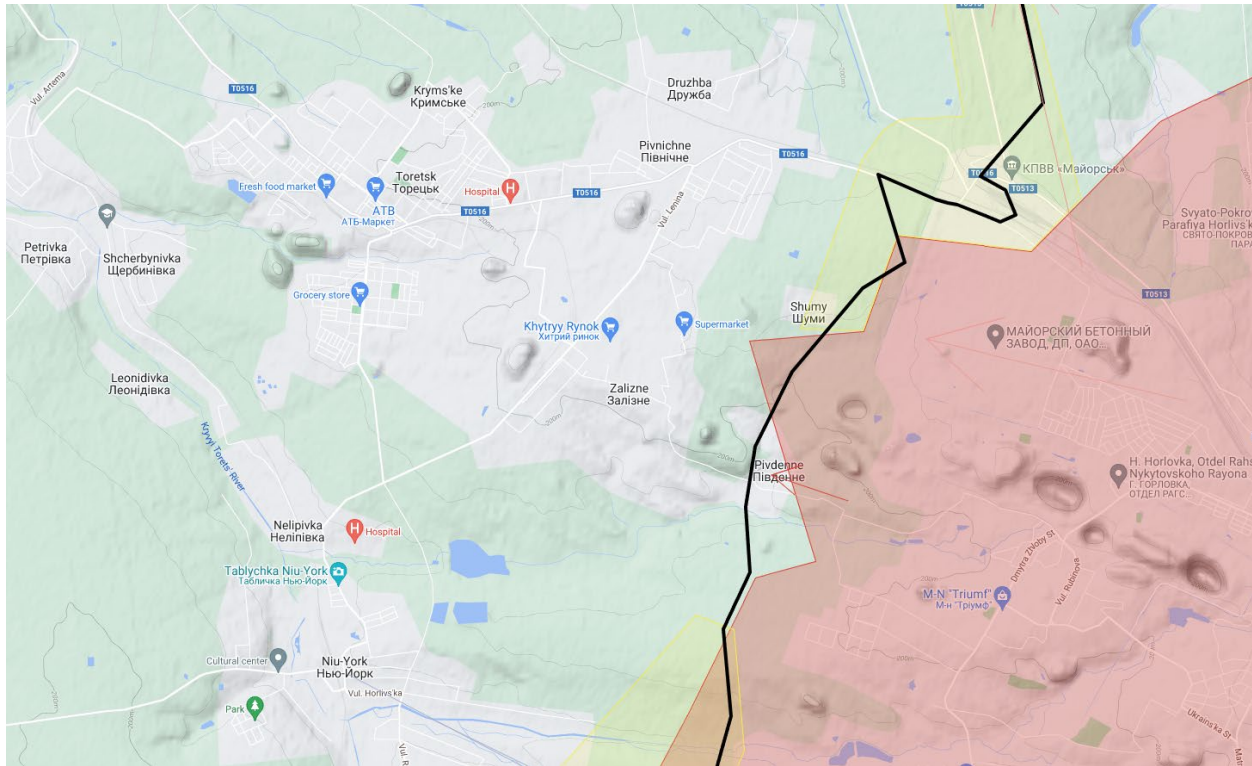


Deputy Minister of Defense Maliar confirmed that fighting is occurring in the area of [Zaitseve](#), with Russian forces conducting offensive operations.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/annamaliar/994>





## Toretzsk-Niu York Operational Area

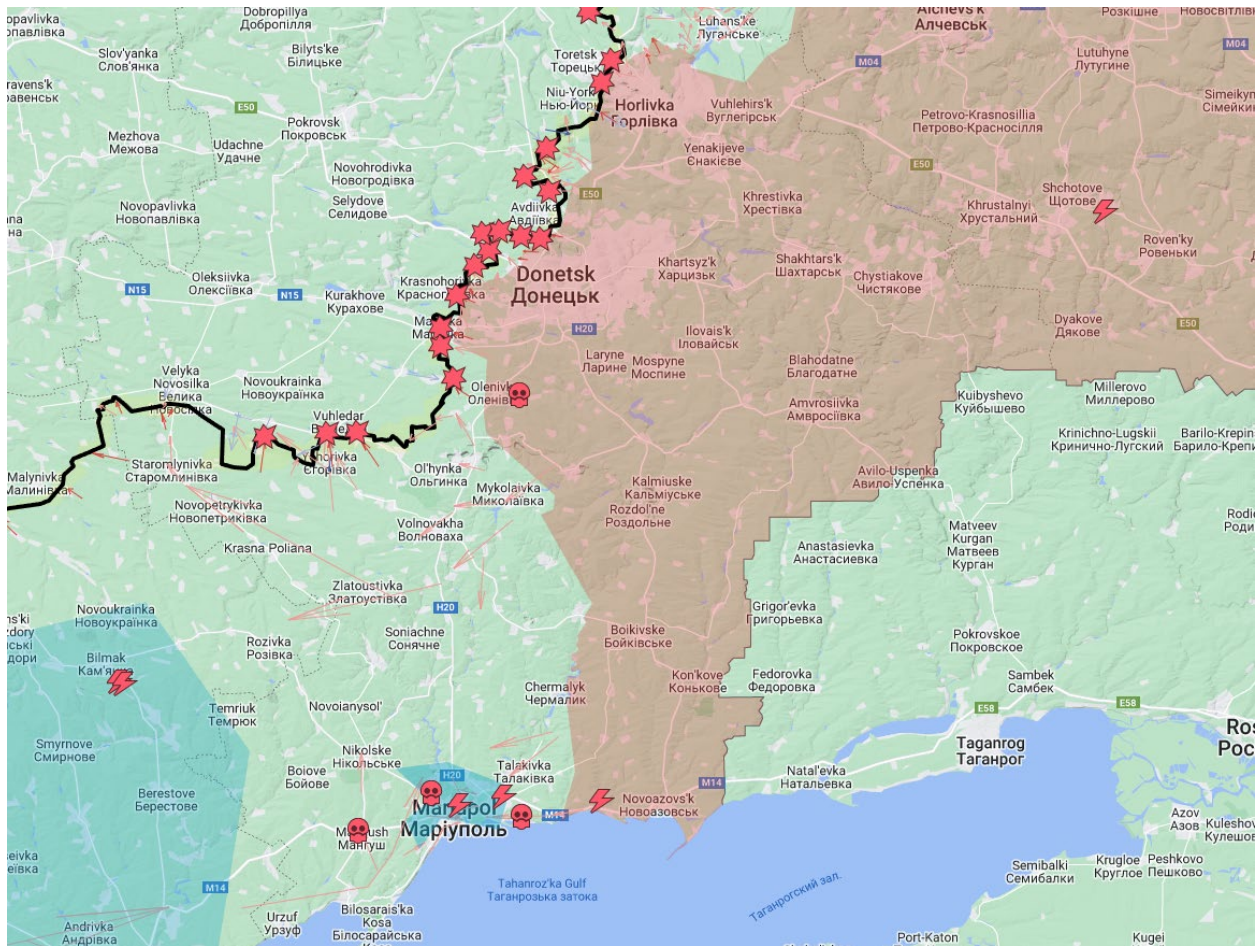
Russian forces tried to advance in the area of [Druzhba](#), suffered losses, and retreated to their defensive positions.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>



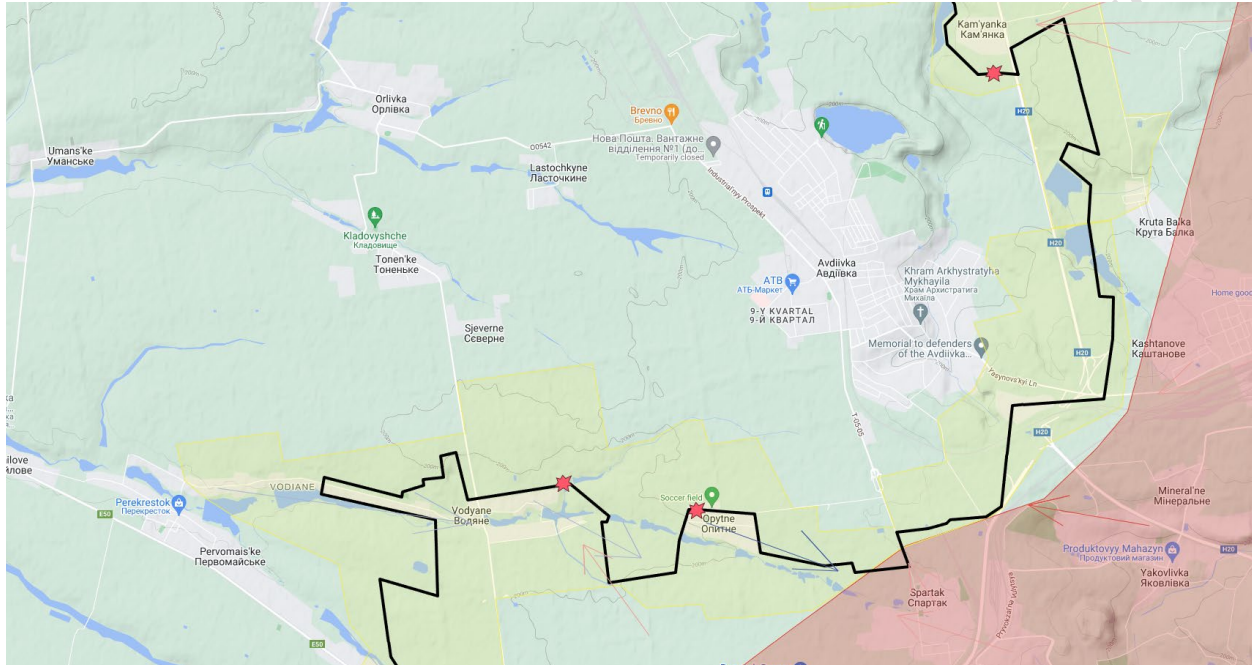
# SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast

**Ukrainian Objective:** Set conditions for larger offensive operations, find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses,

destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

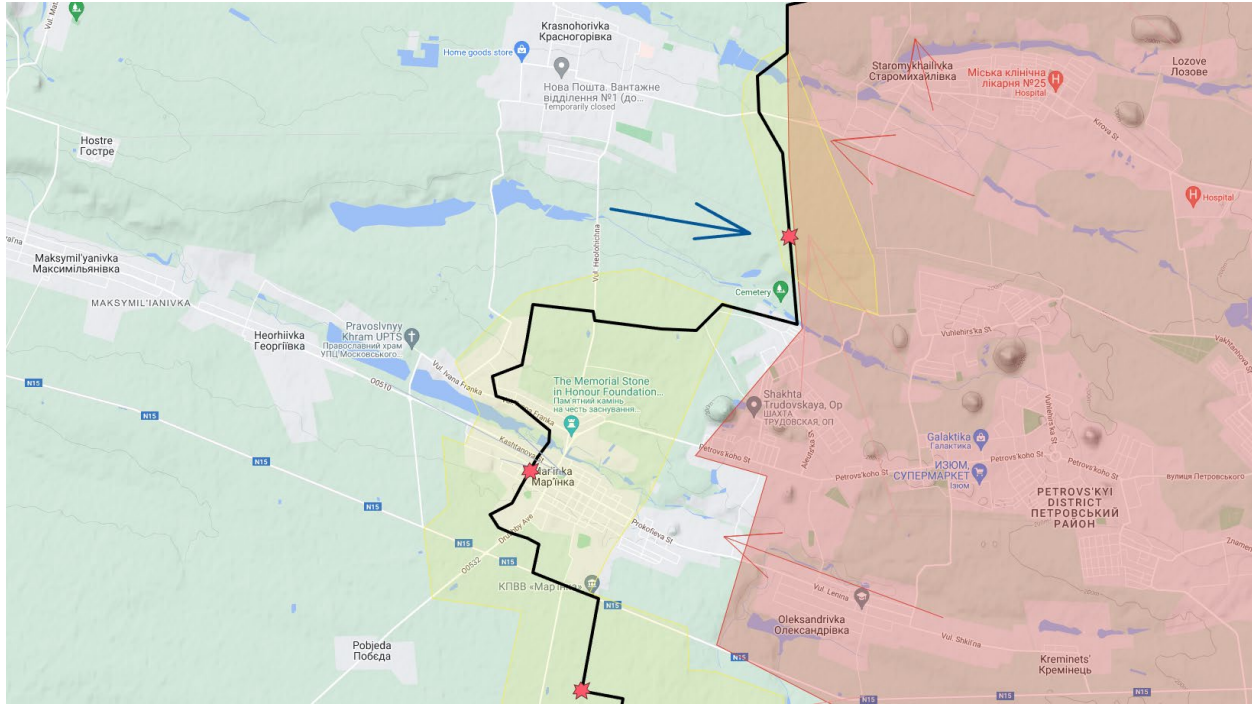


## Avdiivka Operational Area

The operational tempo remains low, with Russian military leaders trying to organize reserve forces to increase the intensity of ongoing attacks. Limited Russian offensive operations supported by the VKS failed east of [Avdiivka](#) and southeast of [Sjeverne](#).<sup>21 22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>22</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



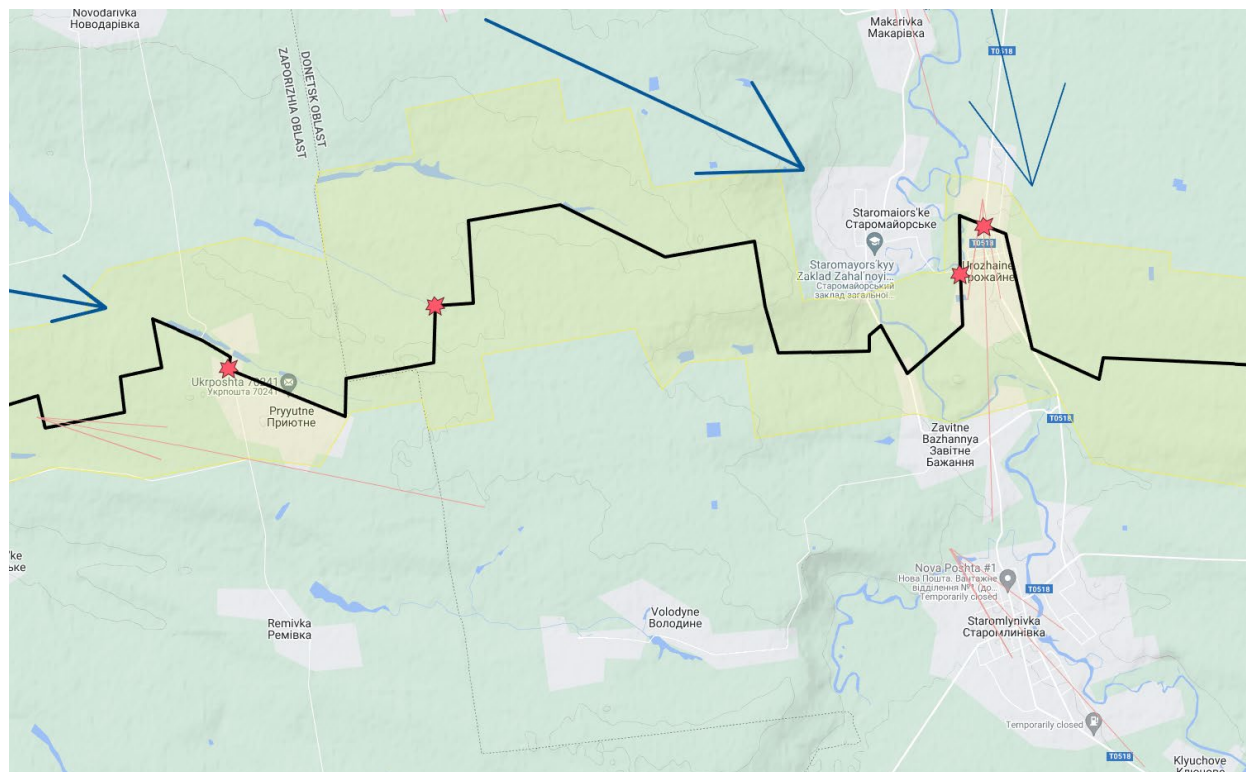
## Marinka Operational Area

It's a similar situation in [Marinka](#), where fighting has become positional, and there is no change in the situation.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>





## Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that Ukrainian troops continued their advance in [Urozhaine](#) from the north and west.<sup>24 25 26</sup> Representatives from the Russian 11th Separate Motorized Rifle Regiment, 1st Army Corps, formerly the Vostok Brigade, reported that Russian troops were encircled and communication had been lost.<sup>27</sup> "They are beating [*firing artillery – Ed.*] from all sides as if the outcome of the war depends on this unfortunate village. We

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/annamaliar/994>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/odshbr46/1261>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>

<sup>27</sup> [https://t.me/batalyon\\_vostok/113](https://t.me/batalyon_vostok/113)



are already tired of crawling along the bottom of the trenches today, but what about the guys in Urozhaine itself – it's hard even to imagine. There was information that the enemy managed to push us from some positions, and Urozhaine was covered [*surrounded – Ed.*]."

In the district of [Staromaiorske](#), a Russian counterattack with support from the VKS also failed.<sup>28</sup> Fighting continued near [Pryyutne](#), with Deputy Minister of Defense Maliar reporting that Ukrainian troops had "partial success."<sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive using reconnaissance in force.<sup>31</sup>

## Occupied Donetsk

We are tracking the numerous reports of shelling in the Kirovskiy and Petrovskiy Districts in the city of Donetsk, including reports of civilian casualties. We have repeatedly proven that the Russian military uses civilians as human shields in Donetsk, locating firebases and ammunition depots in civilian areas, including near transit centers, schools, and hospitals. The Kirovskiy and Petrovskiy Districts are adjacent to ongoing fighting in the Marinka

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<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>29</sup> <https://t.me/annamaliar/994>

<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17330>

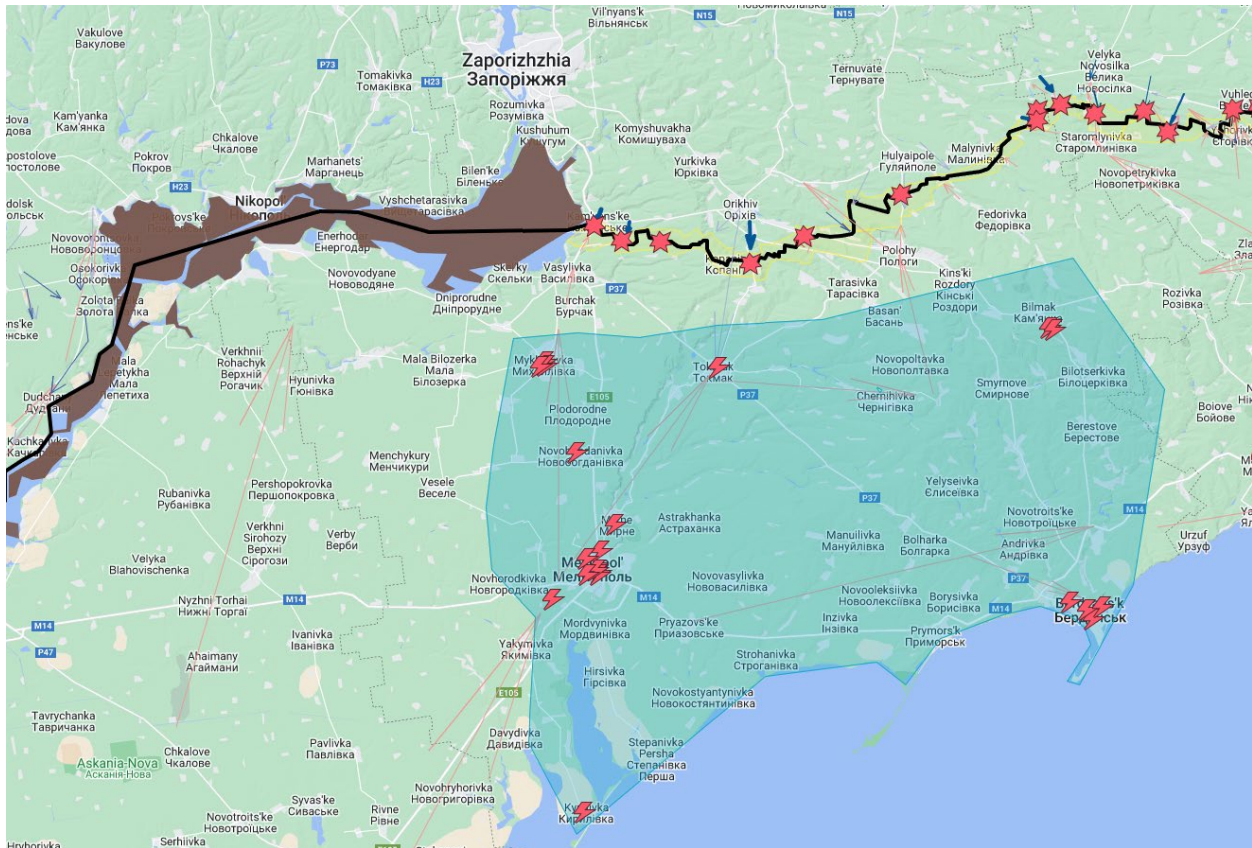
<sup>31</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29094](https://t.me/mod_russia/29094) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

AO. Because this area has numerous forward operating bases and Russian ground lines of communications (GLOCs), we are not reporting individual incidents. We have made this editorial decision because coverage of the incidents is a slippery slope to whataboutism, given the documented blatant disregard for civilians by the illegitimate so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR).

In August 2022, Amnesty International made it clear that combatants must warn civilians when military assets are being placed near where they work and live, and not doing so is a potential war crime. Applying this standard, the leaders of the DNR, who are engaged in offensive military operations, are responsible for multiple potential war crimes daily. Reporting individual incidents can create the perception that blame is being shifted to Ukrainian forces.

We will always maintain our editorial integrity and defend the truth – because the truth matters. We will always cover significant potential war crimes regardless of the combatant, including if we find evidence that an attack in these areas intentionally targeted civilians and not adjacent military assets or used weapons such as DPICM (cluster munitions) in a populated civilian area.

# ZAPORIZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

**Ukrainian Objective:** Exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, break Russian defensive lines, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians





## Orikhiv Operational Area

Ukrainian and Russian sources reported that Ukrainian troops made territorial gains near [Robotyne](#) and [Verbove](#), with significant progress near the latter.<sup>33 34 35 36 37 38</sup>

Ukrainian source DeepState said Ukrainian military leaders were cautiously managing infantry losses because a single strategic mistake could bring "disaster." The Wall Street Journal reported that Ukraine's use of DPICM munitions was reshaping the battlefield and renewing the slow-moving Ukrainian offensive.<sup>39</sup> We have additional intelligence on how far the advances are, but we have not updated the map to support Ukrainian operational security (OPSEC).

***Editor's Note:*** Dear editors at the Wall Street Journal, the picture you used for the article is a 220 mm Smerch rocket DPICM cassette used by Russian Forces and is not representative of the 155 mm 864 NATO-standard rounds used by Ukraine. If you are interested in hiring us for analytical services...

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<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17330>

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/annamaliar/994>

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/odshbr46/1261>



<sup>36</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/29093](https://t.me/mod_russia/29093) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/50576>

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/14263>

<sup>39</sup> [https://twitter.com/Ukraine\\_in\\_NATO/status/1689193290774552576](https://twitter.com/Ukraine_in_NATO/status/1689193290774552576)

A Russian offensive out of [Nesterianka](#) in the direction of Novoandriivka was unsuccessful.<sup>40 41</sup>

In a daytime attack, the city of Zaporizhzhia was struck by Russian rockets,  [destroying the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul](#), which is a war crime.<sup>42</sup> Adjacent  [retail stores and the offices and garages of tradespeople](#) were also destroyed.<sup>43 44 45</sup> Three people were initially reported killed and seven wounded. One of the deceased was resuscitated and remains in critical condition.

## Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There was no update on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/10963>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/odshbr46/1261>

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109302>

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109317>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/23231>

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109309>

## **BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION**

### **Black Sea**

There was no update by Operational Command South (OKS) on the composition of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol. In our assessment, the numbers were unchanged, with 11 vessels deployed, including a Kilo-class submarine capable of launching up to four Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>46</sup>

### **Occupied Crimea**

Russian sources claimed nine Ukrainian drones were shot down and disabled using electronic warfare near Sevastopol. There were no corresponding reports by residents or insurgents, and our in-house intelligence sources could find no evidence to support the claim.<sup>47</sup>

Reports of fires near Kerch were in a wooded area southwest of the port and likely unrelated to any military action. NASA FIRMS indicated extensive thermal anomalies at the archeology site of the ancient Greek city of Kitey, founded in the 5th century B.C., south of Kerch.

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<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38991>

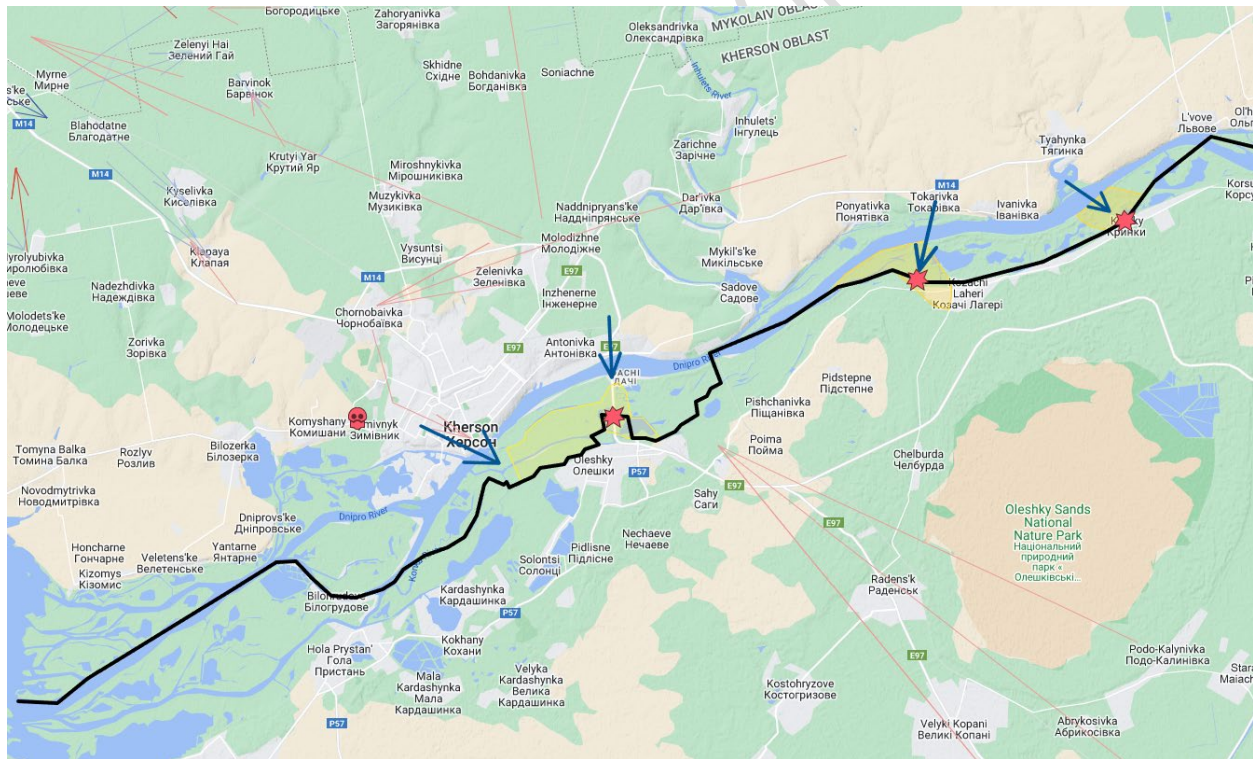
<sup>47</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/55384](https://t.me/shot_shot/55384)



## 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

Multiple Russian sources claimed that Ukrainian troops had established a forward operating base in the area of [Kozachi Laheri](#), while the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine would neither confirm nor deny activity on the left (east) bank of the Dnipro River. We maintain our assessment from August 8 that Ukrainian forces have positions across a 42-kilometer stretch of the Dnipro's left (east) bank, mostly north of the Konka River.

Russian sources maintain that a platoon of up to 25 troops, including three officers, was ambushed by Ukrainian forces on August 8, and the entire unit was killed or captured, including Russian Battalion commander Major Tomov.

Local sources reported that Russian artillery strikes on free Kherson focused more on military targets, although 16 munitions struck the city of Kherson, wounding two civilians.<sup>48 49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109370>

<sup>49</sup> [https://t.me/kherson\\_non\\_fake/9547](https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/9547)

## Occupied Kherson

Ukrainian artillery destroyed a Russian command and control base in Nova Kakhovka during a daytime strike.<sup>50</sup>

## Rivne

Three Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones struck a fuel depot in the Rivne region,  [destroying at least one storage tank](#), according to the Rivne Oblast OVA, Ihor Zinkevich.<sup>51 52</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/5815](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5815)

<sup>51</sup> [https://t.me/zinkevich\\_igor/7608](https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/7608)

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109382>



## 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

Ukrainian air defenses in the Kyiv region intercepted seven Shahed-136 UAVs. There were no reports of significant damage.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109382>

## RUSSIAN FRONT

**Russian Objective:** Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent further insurrection, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

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

### Moscow



In Serhiyiv Posad, 70 kilometers northeast of Moscow, a warehouse that likely stored and prepared commercial-grade fireworks in a leased warehouse on the Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant grounds  [exploded in what is reported to be an industrial accident](#).<sup>54</sup> <sup>55</sup> Area residents shared pictures of  [spent 122 mm artillery shells or 115 mm rounds for commercial-grade fireworks](#).<sup>56</sup> Shortly after the explosion, three separate videos recorded what was potentially the sound of a turbine-powered engine approaching the area right before the blast, which



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<sup>54</sup> <https://twitter.com/PStyle0ne1/status/1689184950916976640>

<sup>55</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1689205809538838530](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1689205809538838530)

<sup>56</sup> [https://twitter.com/Maks\\_NAFO\\_FELLA/status/1689203088224034816](https://twitter.com/Maks_NAFO_FELLA/status/1689203088224034816)

shattered windows up to 1,300 meters away. Videos released later showed there were two explosions. A  [small blast was followed by a major explosion](#) that sent a mushroom cloud into the sky, leaving a 5-meter-deep crater in the ground where the warehouse once was.<sup>57</sup> A second video that also caught both explosions from a better angle clearly  [showed multiple munitions launched into the air](#).<sup>58</sup> There was no evidence of secondary explosions after the main blast and no sounds of ammunition or fireworks cooking off in any of the videos we reviewed.

The Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant produced night sights and thermal imagers sights for tanks, sights for aircraft and self-guided missiles, laser detection systems used by Russian Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopters, and night vision goggles. There were also offices for research and development for Russian military programs. Every building in the complex has  [been obliterated](#) or  [severely damaged](#).<sup>59</sup>

Up to 60 people were wounded, with 30 hospitalized. Russian officials have only confirmed one fatality, a burn

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<sup>57</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1689328371627364352>

<sup>58</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/55345](https://t.me/shot_shot/55345)


<sup>59</sup> <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPR/status/1689235883407417344>



victim that died in hospital. Russian source Baza reported that the “body fragments” of ten people had been recovered during search and rescue operations. Eight people are officially recorded as missing.<sup>60</sup>

Over 35 apartment buildings received light to moderate damage, and the blast reportedly destroyed the boiler facility that supplies heat and hot water to Serhiyiv Posad.<sup>61</sup>

The CEO of Pyro-Ross, Sergei Chankaev, was taken into custody by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) after the blast.<sup>62</sup> The warehouse that exploded was leased to Pyro-Ross, and the company filed for bankruptcy on August 3.

In Domodedovo, 55 kilometers from Moscow, an auto service center or a dealership (it wasn't clear at the time of publication) exploded and was  [burning out of control](#) shortly after Russian air defenses were active in the area.<sup>63</sup> Local residents reported hearing two “claps” before the fire

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/9/7414932/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109249>

<sup>62</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/55352](https://t.me/shot_shot/55352)

<sup>63</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1689473229188960256>

erupted.<sup>64</sup> The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed it shot down a Ukrainian drone near Domodedovo on August 8.

## Stavropol

A warehouse at a Russian military base reportedly holding clothing and uniforms for Russian troops was destroyed by fire in Georgiyivsk.<sup>65</sup>

## Kaluga

Russian sources claim a Ukrainian UAV was shot down in the region. There was no other information at the time of publication.<sup>66</sup>

## BELARUSIAN FRONT

The Ministry of Defense of Poland has increased the number of military personnel sent to the border with Belarus, with the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Maciej Wonsik, saying that a new request for another 1,000 troops

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<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109348>

<sup>65</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109293>

<sup>66</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/55384](https://t.me/shot_shot/55384)

had been made. The additional 1,000 soldiers will be deployed over the next two weeks.<sup>67</sup>

## THEATERWIDE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a Stavka that only included Generals Zaluzhnyi, Syrskyi, and Taranavskyi and the head of the Defense Intelligence Directorate for the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR), Budanov.<sup>68</sup> During his evening address, Zelenskyy said, "The key thing today is a long and very detailed important meeting with our military...We analyzed the current situation at the front [and] the main directions of our offensive actions. What is going well? What needs to be reinforced? What we are planning for the near future...Separately, there was also a special communication between our commanders, the Head of the Office, international relations officials, and partners to provide our warriors with ammunition and equipment."<sup>69</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Reduced format Stavkas have consistently been followed by major activity within 48 to 96 hours. The

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<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109267>

<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109242>

<sup>69</sup> [https://t.me/V\\_Zelenskiy\\_official/7316](https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7316)



last Stavka held only with Budanov was followed by missile strikes on multiple Crimean bridges and the first confirmed use of Mk.5 uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) to strike two Russian vessels, followed by the August 6 announcement of sweeping anti-corruption arrests starting the week of August 7.

The spokesperson for the Ukrainian air force, Colonel Yuri Ignat, said the first group of pilots to be trained to fly the F-16 would have eight people in the class because Ukraine cannot spare the personnel for a larger group.<sup>70</sup>

Germany announced a new shipment of military aid to Ukraine, which included,<sup>71</sup>

- 28 tracked Bandvagn 206 multipurpose infantry mobility vehicles
- 2 PATRIOT missile launchers
- NATO standard 155 mm smoke rounds
- Explosive ordnance disposal materials
- 5 infantry mobility vehicles
- 4 VECTOR reconnaissance drones
- 100,000 shooting glasses, listed as two line items of 20,000 and 80,000 in the report

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<sup>70</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109295>

<sup>71</sup> [Bunderswehr](#) [Germany government website]

- 6 8X8 heavy-duty semi-trailers
- 5 semi-trailers
- 6 8X6 semi-trucks
- 100 MG5 machine guns
- 40,000 first aid kits

German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall confirmed they purchased 49 Leopard 1A5 main battle tanks (MBT) from Belgium for restoration and transfer to Ukraine.<sup>72</sup> The company estimated that 30 MBTs could be restored while the remaining 19 will be used as donor vehicles for parts. There was no timeline on when the tanks would be sent to Ukraine or if the restoration work would occur in Germany, Poland, or Ukraine.

The Swedish Company Satcube is providing Ukraine with hundreds of satellite internet terminals. The German government paid for the receivers. Satcube doesn't use the low earth orbit mesh network owned by SpaceX or its competitors. The Ku-band receivers connect to the Intelsat FlexMove network with up to 20 Mbps speeds.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109266>

<sup>73</sup> [https://twitter.com/Maks\\_NAFO\\_FELLA/status/1689219101023948800](https://twitter.com/Maks_NAFO_FELLA/status/1689219101023948800)



The table for equipment losses was **updated on August 6, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

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## RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to August 6, 2023. 11,570 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,100 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	2059	256	8.04:1	↓
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	144	346	0.42:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	939	305	3.08:1	—
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	2622	682	3.84:1	↓
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	341	316	1.08:1	—
<b>MRAPs</b>	46	134	0.34:1	—
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	199	348	0.57:1	—
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	246	16	15.38:1	↑
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	329	74	4.45:1	↓
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	269	144	1.87:1	—
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	475	193	2.46:1	↓
<b>MLRS</b>	253	50	5.06:1	↑
<b>SAMs</b>	142	119	1.19:1	—
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	40	70	0.57:1	—
<b>EW/ECW</b>	49	4	12.25:1	↑
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	85	69	1.23:1	—
<b>Helicopters</b>	107	32	3.34:1	↓
<b>Naval Vessels</b>	13	26	0.50:1	↑



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


The Russian opposition VChK-OGPU Telegram channel reported that PMC Wagner Group has been, for all intent and purposes, kicked out of Belarus due to payment and contract disputes. The mercenaries are being removed in groups of 500 to 600 and sent to Voronezh, Rostov, and Krasnodar Krai regions. The first group has already departed, and only a small contingent will stay on as military instructors. Self-declared and illegitimate leader of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, reportedly refused to finance Wagner Group and believed Moscow would cover the cost.

In late July, a battalion of up to 500 Wagnerites had signed new contracts and were deployed to Lybia. The rest of the mercenaries are reportedly now on unpaid "vacation."

VChK-OGPU reported this on August 7, but we chose not to include this information in the Situation Report because the group is not on our green list for single-source information after several earlier claims were unsubstantiated. On August 9, the Wagner Group's Council of Commanders released a statement confirming that most of their remaining mercenaries have been placed on unpaid "vacation," with the wording indicating that the mercenary

group's command and control structure is on the brink of collapse.


"Many Wagnerites, our comrades-in-arms, report they are receiving calls from various second-rate [PMCs] with an offer to work in Africa. Everyone makes his own choice: to follow it or not. Every day our guys leave on business trips to distant destinations. Wherever we have worked, we continue and will continue to work. Prepare your passports and get ready for new business trips. It is impossible to destroy the unity of the greatest army and the most effective army in history called PMC Wagner. [We will] rebuild it under a new roof. Don't wait on it. Call your commanders."<sup>74</sup>

Middle-aged Russian contract soldiers from Orenberg threaten to riot because they have not been paid.<sup>75</sup> In a video,  [a spokesperson for the group said](#), "We all have families, children, grandchildren, we all have houses left, we cannot pay for a communal apartment, for light, for gas, because our governor believes that he needs the money, and not us and our families."

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<sup>74</sup> <https://t.me/rsotmdivision/9896>

<sup>75</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1689376085375361024>

In a separate video, Russian soldiers from the Karachay-Cherkessia Republic  [also threatened to riot](#) because they had not been paid their contracted salaries.<sup>76</sup> They promised they would return to the main square in Karachay-Cherkessia on August 11 to talk directly to the regional governor about the issue if it remains unaddressed.

State Duma Vice Speaker Vyacheslav Davankov (New People Party) submitted a draft bill that proposes not to hold citizens administratively liable for disseminating information on the Internet if the statute of limitations for the article has expired.<sup>77</sup> Currently, there is no established statute of limitation. "Internet activity has long been a tool for pressure and settling personal scores. Even now, a comment from two years ago can be considered a 'continuing violation,' although a person has long forgotten about [the comment] and could well [have] changed their position on the matter. Our bill will protect people from liability for old posts on social networks. The statute of limitations for administrative articles should be the same as offline: two to three months," Davankov said. If this law existed three months ago, Igor Strelkov Girkin wouldn't be sitting in prison right now, as his "extremism" charge came

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<sup>76</sup> <https://twitter.com/PStyle0ne1/status/1688896208964554752>

<sup>77</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143791>


from a Telegram post he made in May 2022 about unpaid Russian troops.

We present to you a Russian tale in three acts.


### *Act I*

A   [house in the Russian-occupied city of Nova Kakhova caught fire](#), and the fire service was called.<sup>78</sup>

### *Act II*

Russian state media agency Izvetsia arrives with the fire brigade and reports on how the terrible Ukrainians are targeting civilian housing, and the  [firefighters work despite the personal risk](#).<sup>79</sup>

### *Act III*

When the cameras stopped rolling, Izvetsia and the fire brigade left. The  [house burns down anyway](#).<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>78</sup> <https://t.me/gistapapapa/75469>

<sup>79</sup> <https://t.me/gistapapapa/75469>

<sup>80</sup> <https://t.me/gistapapapa/75471?single>



Roskomnadzor is cracking down on VPN access in the Russian Federation, falsely claiming they are protecting the Russian people from the United States government who use the data on the networks to “pursue their own goals.”<sup>81</sup> IT watchers in Russia reported the following VPN networks were no longer working for most individual users,

- Paid VPN Proton
- VPN from Novaya Gazeta Europe
- Free Super VPN
- Psiphon, free version
- Independently configured VPN for Germany and Sweden using the ikev2 protocol
- Free Planet VPN
- Free Vpnify
- Free Turbo VPN
- Free NOT VPN
- OpenVPN, while it continues to work the performance is severely degraded

**ASSESSMENT:** Despite the impossibility of fully controlling the information space with a Stalin-grade firewall, the Kremlin has set a goal to do just that. The increased work to block VPN access and extremist platforms such as

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<sup>81</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/38980>

Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, are meant to control the data and information that Russian society consumes.

Forbes reported that Russia had successfully reverse-engineered French-made Catherine-FC Thales thermal imagers used by the Sosna-U gunner's site for Russian T-72B3, T-80BVM, and T-90M main battle tanks.<sup>82</sup> The sites were purchased legally until 2014, when European Union sanctions were put into place due to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Crimea. The new Russian PMM-T site was reportedly ready for serial production. It is unclear if any parts were manufactured or if assembly would be done at the now-destroyed Zagorsk Optical and Mechanical Plant.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Peter Stano, European Commission spokesman, condemned the Russian missile attack on Pokrovsk. Using the 21st Century diplomatic weapon of choice, Twitter (X), Stano tweeted, "Attacks in Pokrovsk show again how Russia targets residential buildings, even stepping up the heinous nature of Putin's war w/repeated attack when rescuers arrived to the site. This cynical pattern underscores the

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<sup>82</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143757>

criminal nature of Russian aggression. There will be no impunity."

With Twitter (X) banned in Russia, officials and residents will need access to a VPN to ready this diplomatic bombshell.

Before Russia expanded its war of aggression against Ukraine in 2022, Serhii Golovanych was a Kherson police officer fired for alcoholism.<sup>83</sup> When Russian occupiers arrived in Kherson on March 2, 2022, Golovanych signed an "oath of citizenship to the Russian Federation." He was given a role in the Russian equivalent of the Schutzmannschaft, where he tortured Ukrainian civilians and looted personal belongings for personal enrichment. Called a "sadist traitor" by prosecutors, Golovanych was arrested and faces up to 15 years in prison.

## **GEOPOLITICS**

Russian President Vladimir Putin is amending the laws on martial law and the state of emergency in Russia. The Russian dictator wants to amend Article 22 of the Law on

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<sup>83</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/109118>

**Martial Law and Article 37 of the Law on the State of Emergency due to the Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Council of Europe in 2022. Currently, Russian law requires that in the event of a state of martial law or a state of emergency being introduced in Russia or any of its regions, the President must notify the United Nations Secretary-General and the Council of Europe.<sup>84</sup>**

**Several Russian and Ukrainian sources have interpreted this action as a prelude to national martial law and full mobilization in the fall. That's not how the language of the proposed change is listed, and the September 21, 2022, partial mobilization decree was never rescinded. The Kremlin does need to make any legal changes to do another round of mobilization.**

**The European Commission has initiated the preparation of an enlargement report and is expected to recommend the start of negotiations on the accession of Ukraine and Moldova to the European Union and for Georgia to receive "Candidate Status." United States state media agency Radio Free Europe reported the European Commission's report on enlargement would be issued in the second half of October,**

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<sup>84</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143664>



and a final decision by E.U. leaders could come as soon as the end of 2023.<sup>85</sup>

The President of Hungary, Katalin Novak, approved the appointment of Sandor Fedyir as the new ambassador of Ukraine.<sup>86</sup> Fedyir is currently a deputy of the Transcarpathian Regional Council, a majority Hungarian ethnic enclave in Ukraine. He is also a professor at the Uzhgorod National University and currently a leader of the Carpathian Dragoons, a unit of the Ukrainian army made up of volunteers of partly Hungarian origin. Fedyir received Internet notoriety when pictures and videos emerged of him still teaching his college courses from the trenches on the front lines.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico dispelled Internet rumors and Russian disinformation this his country would request to join BRICS.<sup>87</sup> Obrador added that he welcomes the participation of other nations if they so choose.

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<sup>85</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/8/7414738/>

<sup>86</sup> <https://hungarytoday.hu/new-ukrainian-ambassador-with-hungarian-roots-appointed/>

<sup>87</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143772>

## ECONOMIC

Poland is appealing to the EU to help the nation increase port capacity to allow larger Ukrainian grain shipments from Baltic Sea ports. Robert Telus, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for Poland, said that his country would maintain the ban on selling Ukrainian grain crops. "We have to help Ukraine, and we understand that. We are thinking about building ports...dedicated exclusively to grain transportation." Poland has started negotiations with Lithuania to transfer sanitary controls and inspection from its border to Lithuanian ports, which would speed up exports.<sup>88</sup>

Russia, which insists that inflation is under control, is poised to raise interest rates again. The Bank of Russia is preparing to raise the key lending rate at the next meeting of the board of directors, deputy chairman of regulations Alexei Zabolotnikov said during an interview with Izvestia.<sup>89</sup>

Pavel Ryabov, a doctor of physics and mathematics and a college professor at the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation in Moscow, declared,

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<sup>88</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17324>

<sup>89</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143783>

**“What is happening with the rouble is clearly classified as a collapse. Firstly, this is the worst performance in 2023 compared to the currencies of the countries of the first and second tiers, not counting the Turkish lira. Secondly, the rapid devaluation momentum is taking place in the context of a recovery in commodity prices and...the strongest rise in oil prices over the past 1.5 years. There are two main ways to save the rouble in the short term: introduce currency controls at various levels (the list of instruments and directions is quite wide) or sharply increase the rate at the cost of economic growth.”<sup>90</sup>**

**Bloomberg is reporting that the Bank of Russia is taking Ryabov’s advice and will announce on August 10 a halt on purchasing all foreign currency on the domestic market for the rest of 2023. By artificially creating demand for the rouble internally, officials hope to arrest the declining value of the rouble.**

**At the time of publication, the exchange rate was 98 roubles to 1 US dollar, a decline of 58.5% from a year ago and the worst exchange rate since March 25, 2022.**

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<sup>90</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/143715>

## 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.