



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

August 27, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

8/27/23 23:59* PST

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

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

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

This update is copyright © 2023 by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. No parts of the original content can be reused without express written permission. Authors and Analysts: David H. Obelcz, Adam Irving, Jeff Davis, Katie Livingstone, Oskar Hallgrímsson, Ryan Evans, Michael Hering, and Ana Ras, Spanish Editor in Chief

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



SUMMARY – DAY 549.....3

DAILY ASSESSMENT7

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

KHARKIV11

DONBAS REGION 16

LUHANSK 16

NORTHEAST DONETSK..... 19

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK..... 21

ZAPORIZHIA.....24

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION30

KHERSON 31

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE.....35

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE.....36

RUSSIAN FRONT36

BELARUSIAN FRONT39

THEATERWIDE39

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES.....45

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR46

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS.....52

ECONOMIC..... 53

SUMMARY – DAY 549

It has been 3,469 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 184 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

We are happy to announce that the **Russia-Ukraine War Report Update** podcast will restart on September 6, 2023. Author, journalist, activist, and subject matter expert in Russian propaganda techniques, Zarina Zabrisky, will be your new host. Zabrisky has been in Odesa since Russia expanded its war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, is a credentialed journalist, and has reported for numerous organizations from the frontlines. You may know her work as the author of the daily war summary published by Euromaidan Press.

Zabrisky will be a contract employee of WBHG News. Additionally, there will be a second presenter, but we aren't ready to announce who that is yet. We are excited to have Zabrisky join our news family.

- We have added Russia's prebuilt defensive lines to the [war map](#)
- Russian troop concentrations in occupied Kharkiv and Luhansk are large but configured for defensive operations
- Skirmishes continued northeast of Kupyansk with no evidence of Russian advances
- Russian forces attempted to advance on Novojehorivka
- Heavy fighting continued in Klishchiivka, Andriivka, and Kurdyumivka
- Ukrainian forces heavily shelled Russian positions in and around the Donetsk International Airport region for hours
- Skirmishes and positional fighting continued in the Avdiivka and Marinka areas of operation (AO)
- Ukrainian forces made tactically significant gains near Novoprokopivka
- Mutual fighting was ongoing near Kopani as Russian forces attempted to push the Ukrainian flanks at Orikhiv
- A large fire erupted at the Dormash Plant in Berdyansk, which Russian forces use to store equipment
- A large Russian ammunition depot was reportedly destroyed in Tokmak
- British intelligence believes that Russian and Ukraine are fighting for control of the Boika Towers

- The bulk carrier Primus left Odesa for the second time and is en route to Bulgaria
- Reports of chaos among the members and commanders of the Russian 205th Battalion in the Nova Kakhovka area are true
- Russian troops, a mortar position, and military war correspondents were attacked in Oleshky in separate incidents
- Russian claims two Ukrainian Beaver kamikaze drones were shot down near Brysansk
- Ukraine attacked the Kursk Airfield with 16 cardboard kamikaze drones, but the reported results are questionable
- Russian propagandist Margarita Simoyan complained that a second Ukrainian drone was shot down near her house
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave a long interview about the status of the war and Ukraine's future
- The Investigative Service of the Russian Federation announced that DNA testing confirmed Yevgeny Prigozhin died in a plane crash, along with the other nine people listed on the passenger and crew manifest
- The Kremlin reportedly told Syrian officials that PMC Wagner will end operations in the Middle East by October 1

- The first 1,000 122 mm artillery shells from a joint Ukrainian-NATO nation factory were distributed in Ukraine
- Finland is providing its 18th military aid package to Ukraine valued at 94 million euros
- Latvia is providing Ukraine with a Mi-17 helicopter
- Greece terminated its maintenance contracts with Russia and is decommissioning its Tor-M1 and Osa-AKM air defense systems
- One of the Russian senior military leaders of explosive ordnance disposal engineers was murdered in Starobelsk
- Russian sources claim Ukraine will mobilize 200,000 troops in the fall, while Ukrainian sources claim Russia plans to mobilize 450,000
- Co-founder of the militant Neo-Nazi Ruisch Group, Yan Petrovsky, was arrested by Finnish officials when he tried to cross the border under an assumed name
- Former FSB colonel and convicted war criminal Igor Streklov Girkin was seen by a doctor and is reported to be in better health
- Ukraine repatriated 11 more children from Russia
- Crimean Tatar Rinat Ablynakimov was taken by Russian troops from his home in Shchaslytsive and was executed

- Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the State Duman to investigate the benefits of loosening child labor laws
- In the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, the Director General of Makeevugol said there is a "catastrophic" labor shortage
- Russia has suspended its Rural Mortgage Program due to the prime lending rate reaching 12%
- The Russian rouble started the new week where it ended last week, continuing its decline against the dollar

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Ukraine has started its main offensive in the Orikhiv AO, and in our assessment, the final strategic objective is Berdyansk.
2. While acknowledging the main offensive has started, we remain concerned about Ukraine's capacity to turn tactical gains in other AOs into operational success and strategic victories.
3. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between

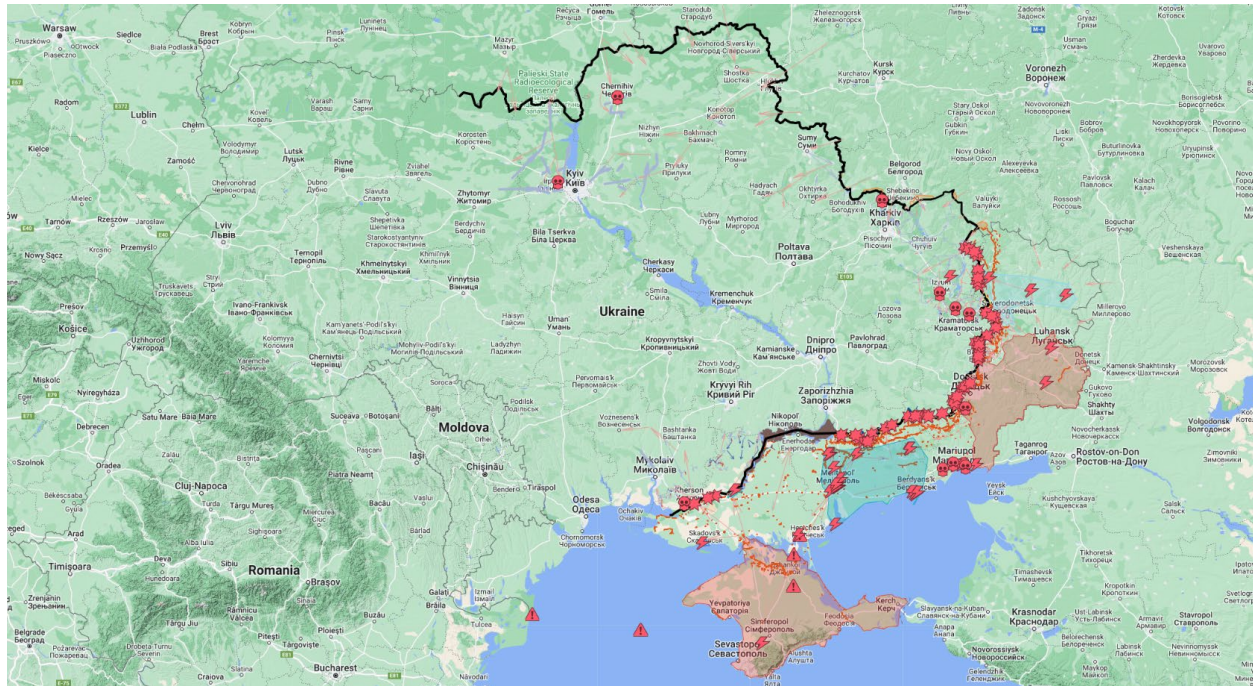
- penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, PMCs, and proxy forces.
4. We maintain there is a significant possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin, and Russian President Vladimir Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.
 5. The threat of aggression from Belarus is diminished after Prigozhin and Utkin's death. Still, we believe that aggressive posturing directed at Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, and Russia's threats to blockade the Baltic and Black Seas, risk causing an international incident. The continued soft response by Ukraine's allies has only encouraged Minsk and Moscow to take further risks.
 6. 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.
 7. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.

8. We maintain that Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and it is negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
9. It is unlikely that Ukraine will execute a wet crossing of the Dnipro River with a battalion-sized or larger force.
10. The growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units is forcing Russian commanders to rotate remaining reserves to hotspots in regions outside their assigned AO.
11. 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.
12. 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.](#)



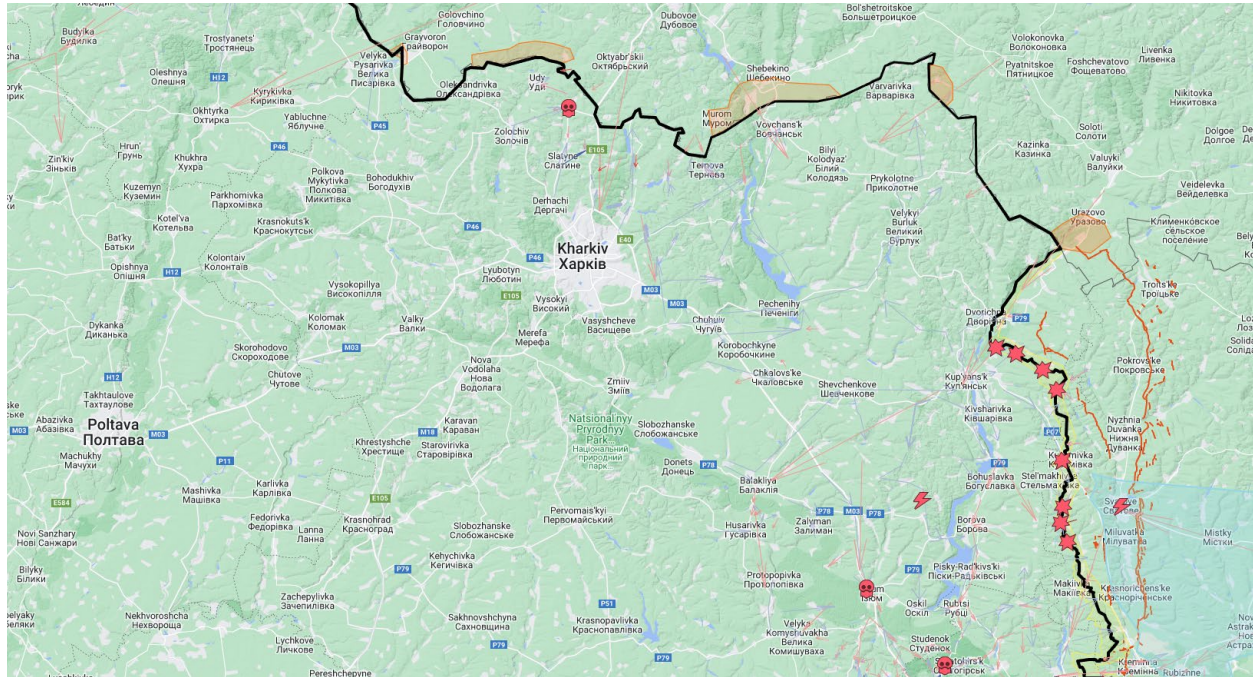
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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](#)

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 Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure

Free Kharkiv and Luhansk

The head of communications for Operational Command East (OKE), Ilya Yevlash, reported that Russia has approximately 110,000 troops stationed in the Kharkiv and Luhansk regions.¹ Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko believes that while this is the second-largest Russian troop group in Ukraine, the most effective units were wasted on the failed offensives near Dvorichna and Svatove. The remaining Russian forces are configured for defensive operations.²

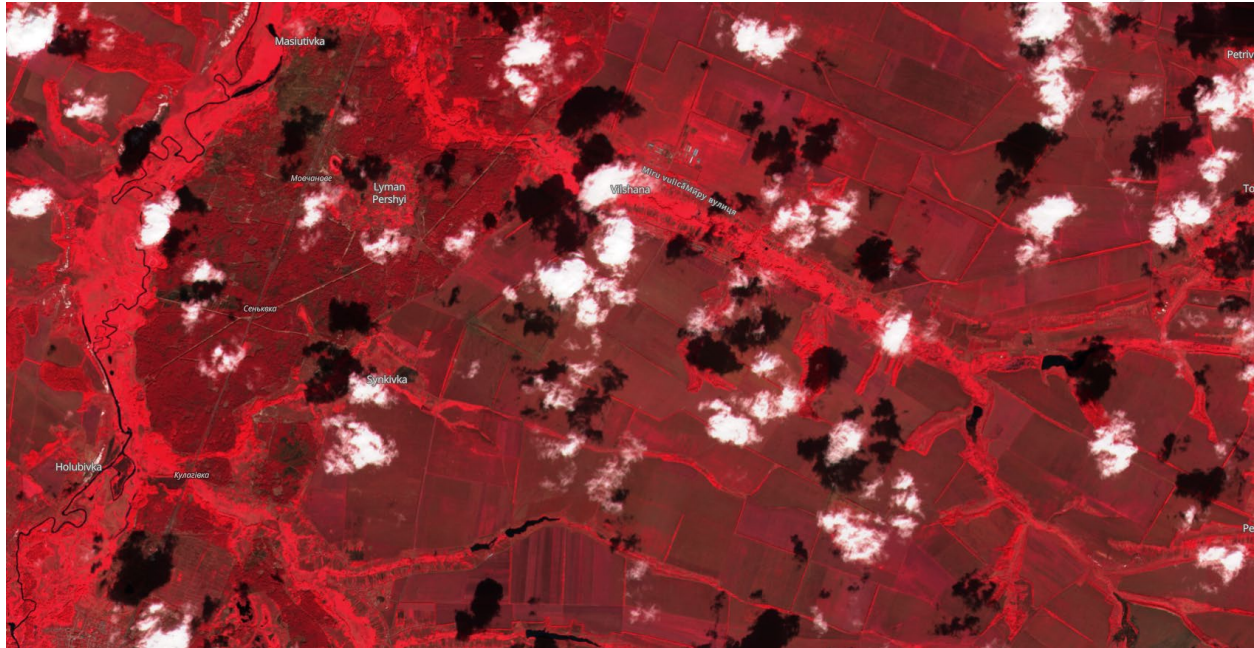
Koavalenko points out that if the intelligence is accurate, the Russian troops lack armor and artillery support. The Russian reserves are mostly light infantry, with 70% of the tanks, 20% of the infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) and armored personnel carriers (APCs), 55% of the barrel artillery, and 20% of the tubed artillery (MLRS) a force of this size should have.



Yevlash reported that Russian forces fired 620 artillery rounds, mortars, and Grad rockets from Dvorichna

¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111891>



² <https://t.me/zloyodessit/19967>

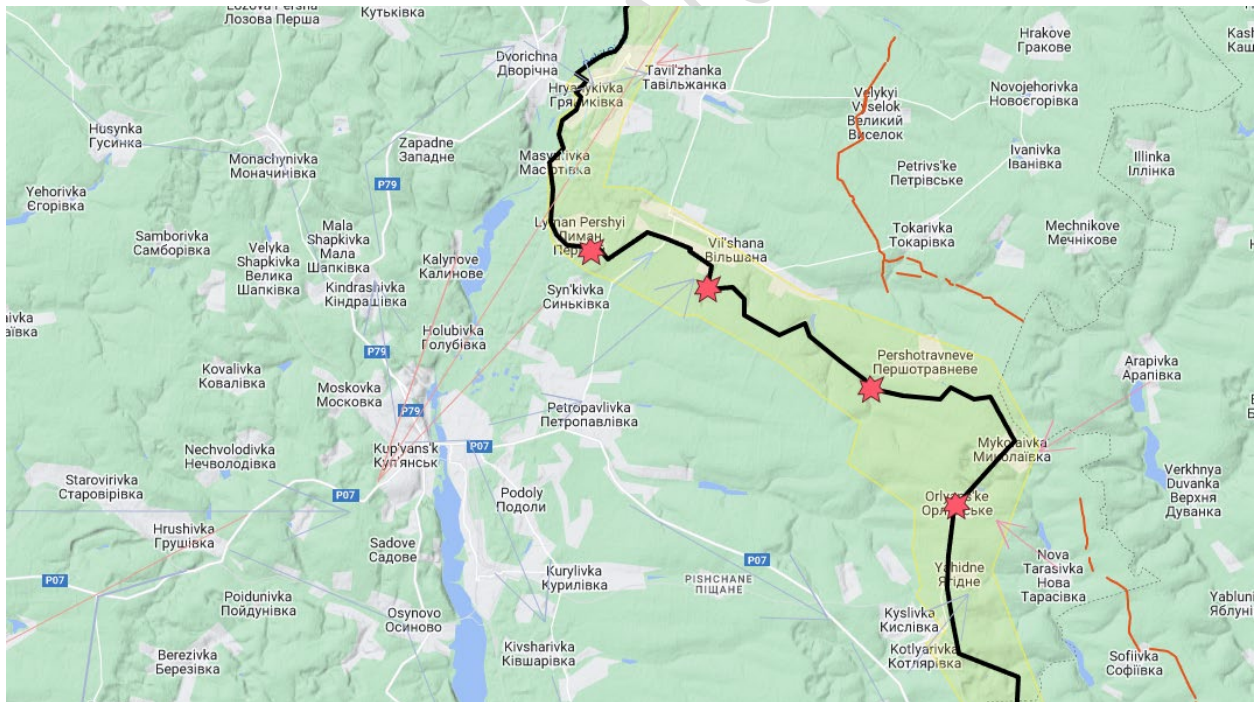
[Kharkiv] to Bilohorivka [Luhansk], and the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) carried out 15 airstrikes.³



SPECIAL ASSESSMENT: We analyzed the EO Browser Sentinel-2 L2A false-color composite image for August 26, 2023, showing Masiutvka, Lyman Pershyi, Synkivka, Vilshana, and Pershotravene to ascertain if Russian forces have made any advances since July 1. The false-color composite is more useful than true color to find ongoing and previous areas of heavy, as the regions show up as gray patches. The only area where significant fighting occurred in the last three weeks is   [northeast of Synkivka](#). If

³ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/13185>

you click the link to get a closer view, you can see a gray patch where trees planted as windbreaks converge. This represents the furthest point of the Russian advance towards Synkivka and highlights the accuracy of Ukrainian artillery. In contrast, south of Pershotravneve, you can see a more   [chaotic gray pattern](#), indicative of Russian artillery striking Ukrainian positions. The lack of accuracy by Russian forces enables Ukraine to achieve parity with an artillery piece ratio of 1:3 to 1:4. Based on the map assessment, Russian forces have not made any significant gains near Kupyansk.



Dvorichna & Kupyansk Operational Areas

Positional fighting continued near [Synkivka](#) with no change to the situation.^{4 5 6} Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported there wasn't significant fighting at Synkivka, with activity limited to artillery duels.

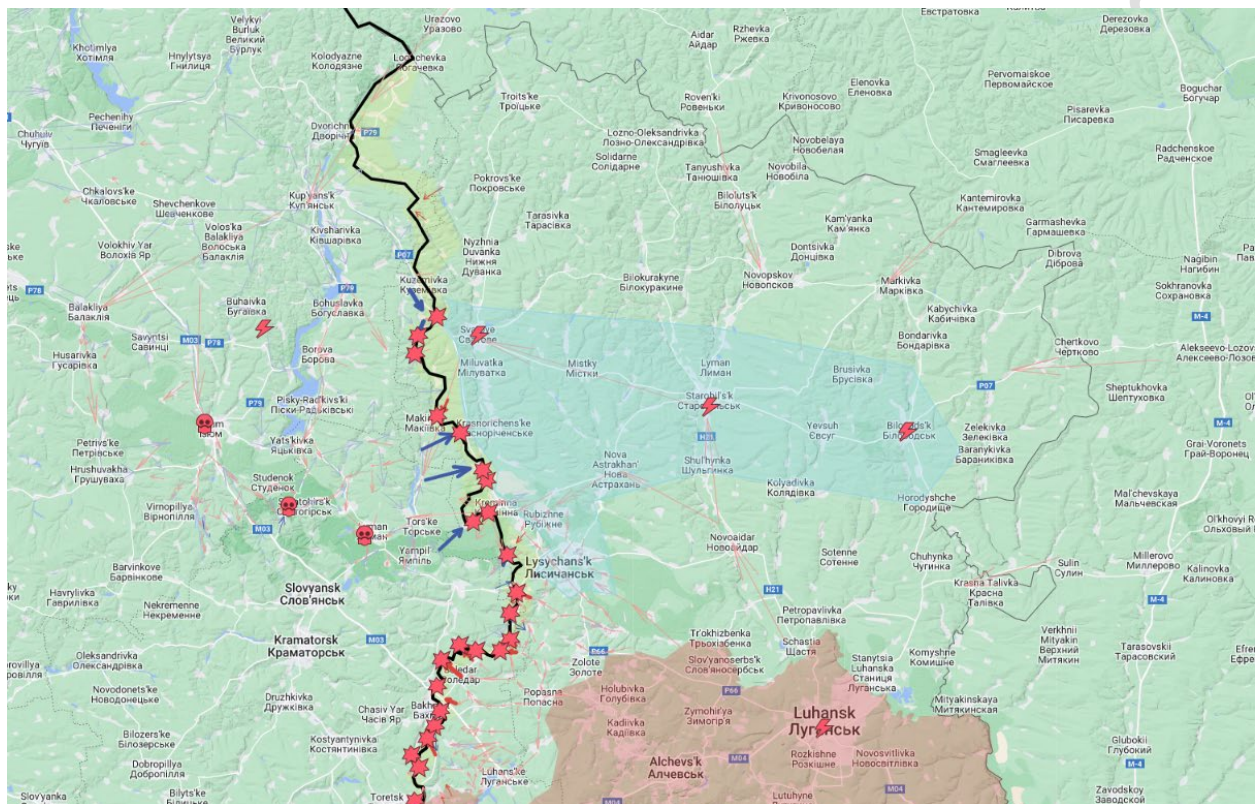
⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17458>

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/29853 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14624>

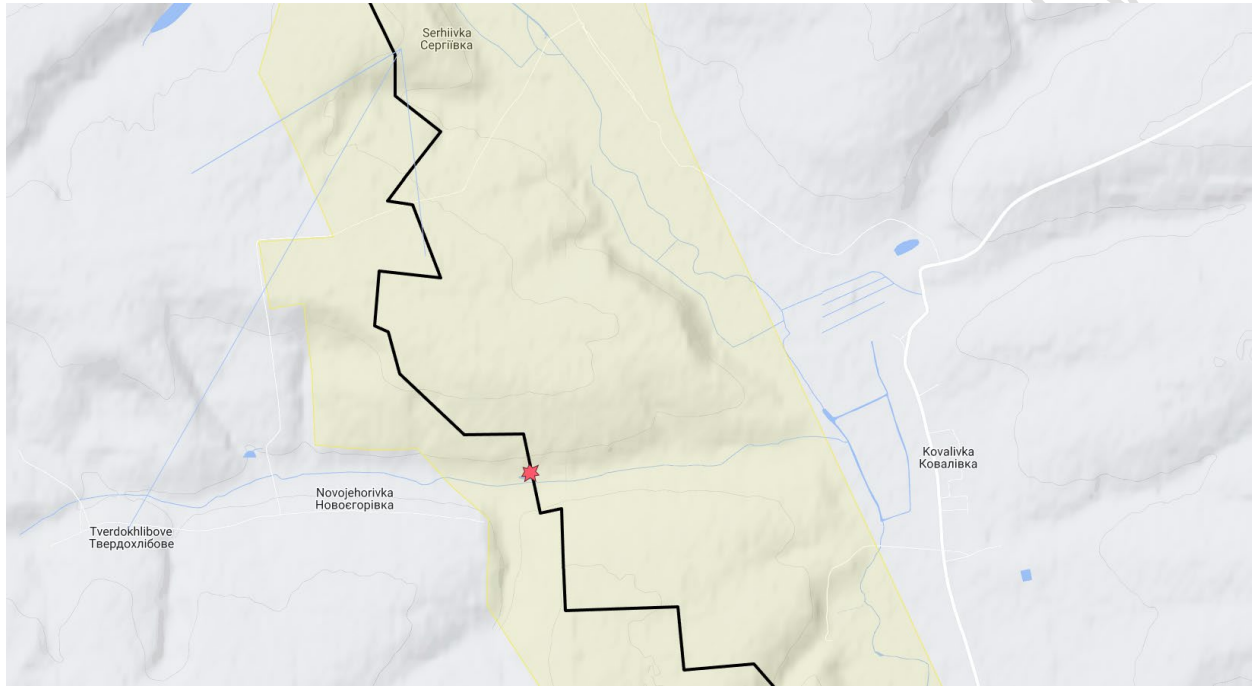
DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



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

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



Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk Operational Areas

Ukrainian and Russian sources reported that Russian troops launched a series of attacks with up to a company of light infantry in the direction of [Novojehorivka](#), trying to recapture lost positions in the direction of Borova.^{7 8 9 10}

None of the attacks were successful, and Russian forces are


⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11438>

⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17458>

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/29853 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14624>

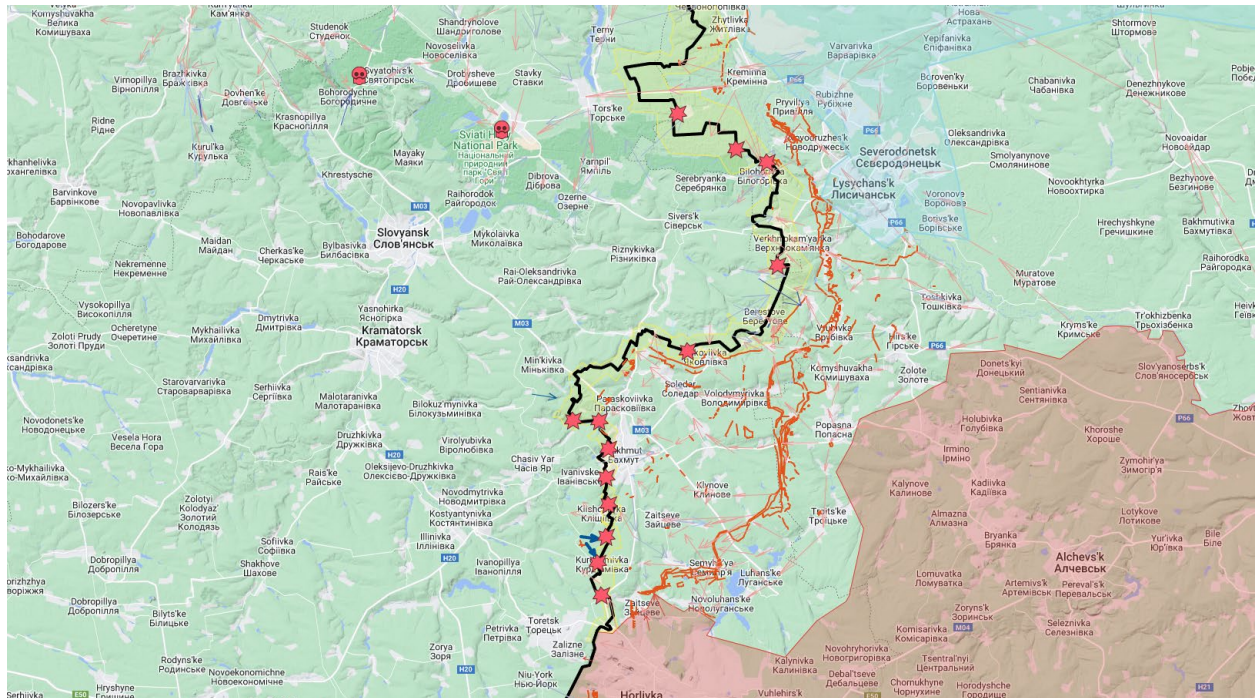
attempting to attack uphill from a narrow bridgehead west of the Zherebets River.

Positional fighting and skirmishes continued in [Novoselivkse](#), near [Dibrova](#), and south of [Kyzmyne](#) in the Serebryansky Woods. On the outskirts of Kyzmyne,  [Russian troops came under mortar fire](#), and a kamikaze drone destroyed a tank.¹¹ Ukrainian source DeepState reported that Russian troops were withdrawing from the wooded areas west of Kreminna, which aligns with our intelligence. In our assessment, this is part of a troop rotation, but the replacement force will likely be smaller.

¹¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17454>

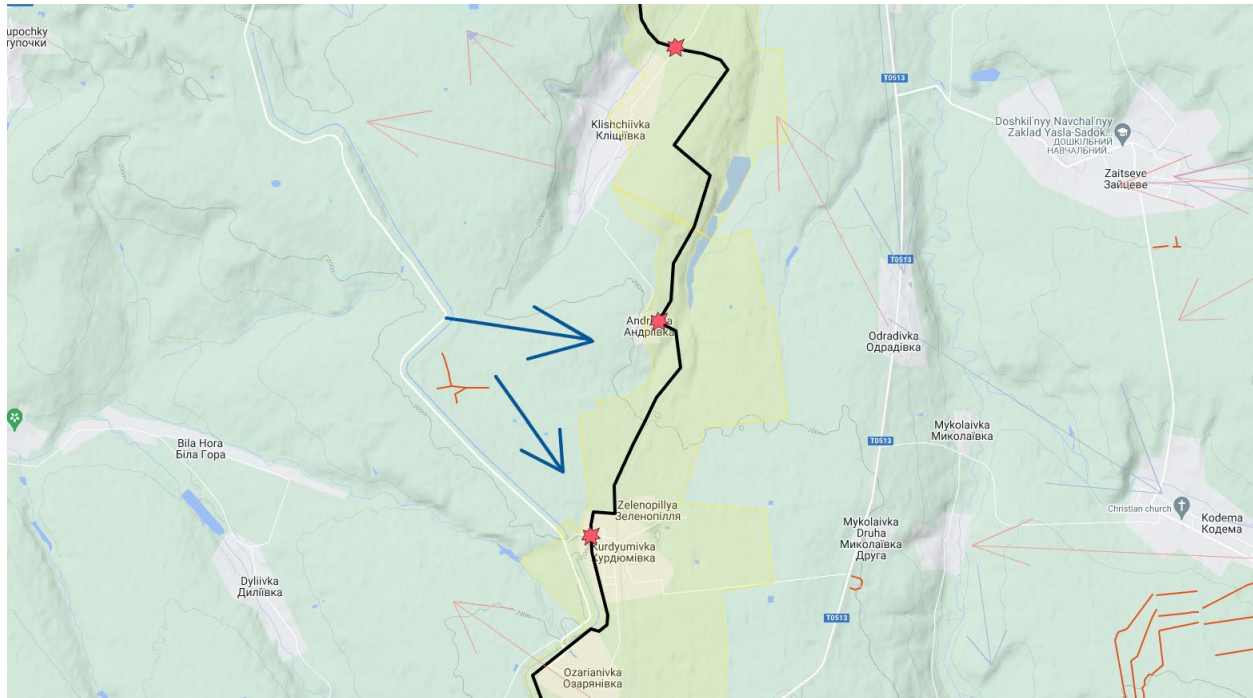


NORTHEAST DONETSK




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



Klishchiivka Operational Area

Heavy fighting is  [ongoing in the center](#) of [Klishchiivka](#), the western edge of [Andriivka](#), and the northwestern part of [Kurdyumivka](#).^{12 13 14 15} Satellite imagery showed that almost nothing is left standing in the northeastern part of Klishchiivka. In Andriivka, the remnants of the Chechen Akhmat 54th Brigade have reportedly “mined everything,” making the advance through the hamlet to the railroad grade extremely difficult.¹⁶

¹² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11438>

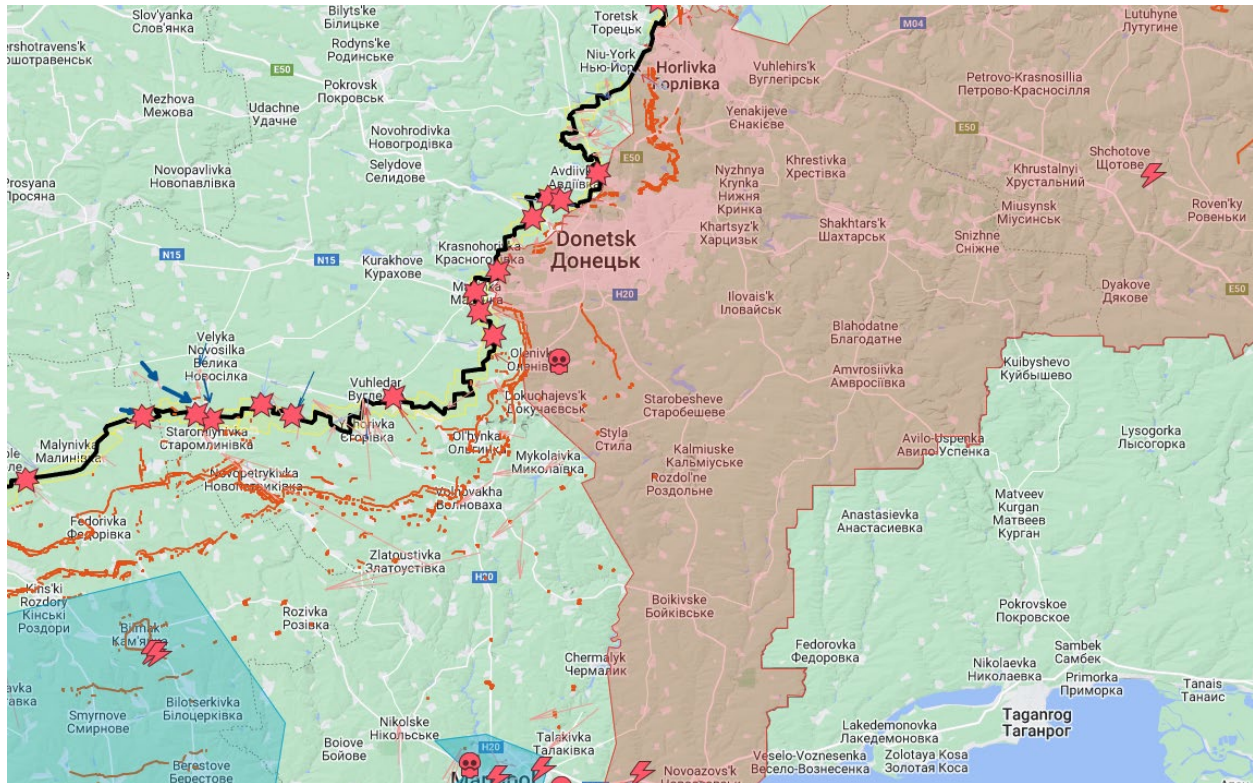
¹³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17458>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14624>

¹⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17455>

¹⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17458>

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

Toretsk-Niu York, Avdiivka, Marinka, Vuhledar, and Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Areas

Overnight, Ukrainian artillery  [pounded the Donetsk International Airport](#) and  [surrounding Russian positions](#) for hours.¹⁷ ¹⁸ Residents in the Kyiv'ski District of occupied Donetsk were told to go to shelters.¹⁹ As the morning of August 28 arrived in Ukraine, there were no reports of artillery strikes in civilian areas of the Kyiv'ski District.

ASSESSMENT: The ferocity of the artillery strikes was indicative of setting conditions for a Ukrainian attack. However, at the time of publication, there were no signs of troop movements by either combatant. We're unsure what caused a Ukrainian  "[temper, temper](#)" incident, but a lot of rockets and artillery rounds were dropped on Russian positions.

Southwest of Avdiivka, there was positional fighting near the Ukrainian firebase at [Nevelske](#), and Russian forces continued harassment, artillery strikes, and positional

¹⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/97208>

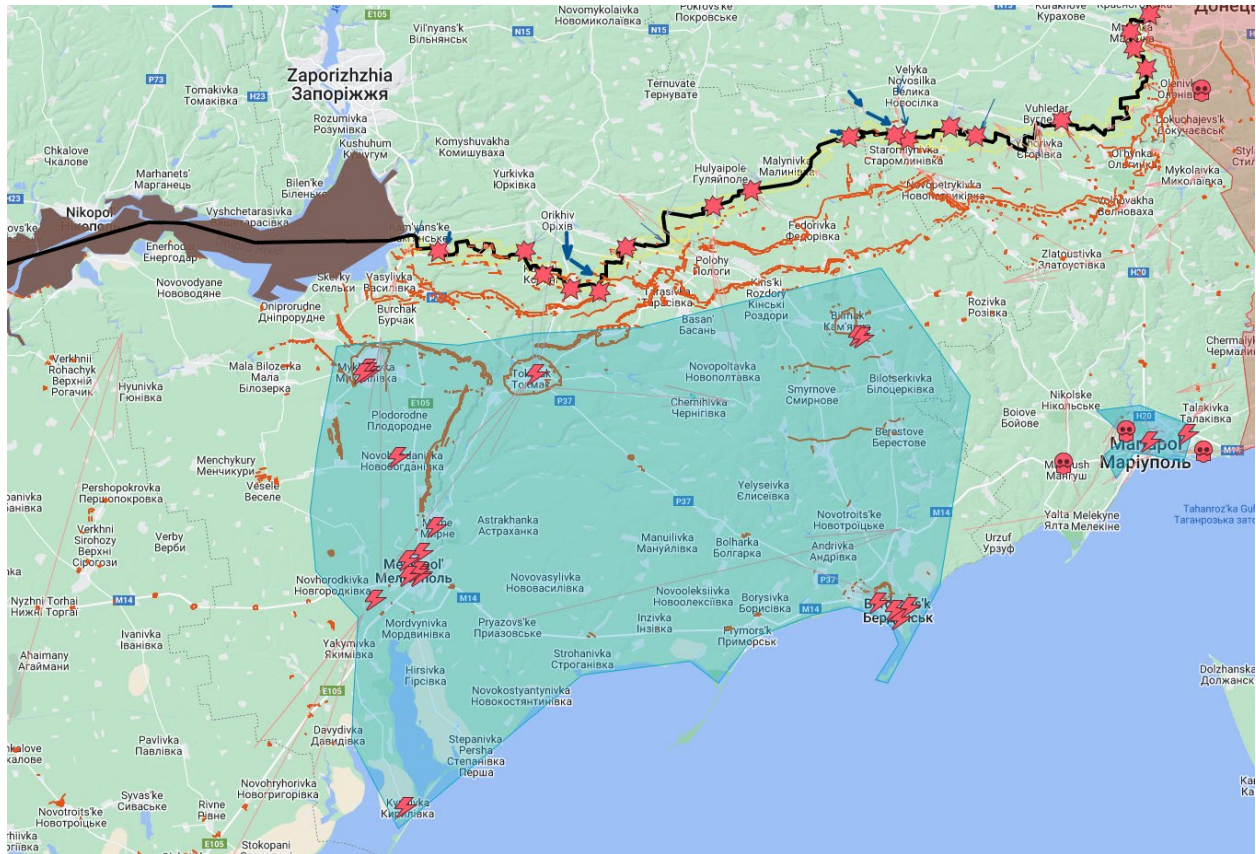
¹⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/97206>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/rusbrief/149437>

fighting in the ruins of [Marinka](#). The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) claimed there was fighting at [Novodonetske](#) and [Pryyutne](#) in the Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka AO. No other source reported activity in the area.

COPYRIGHT 2023, MALCONTENT NEWS

ZAPORIZHIA

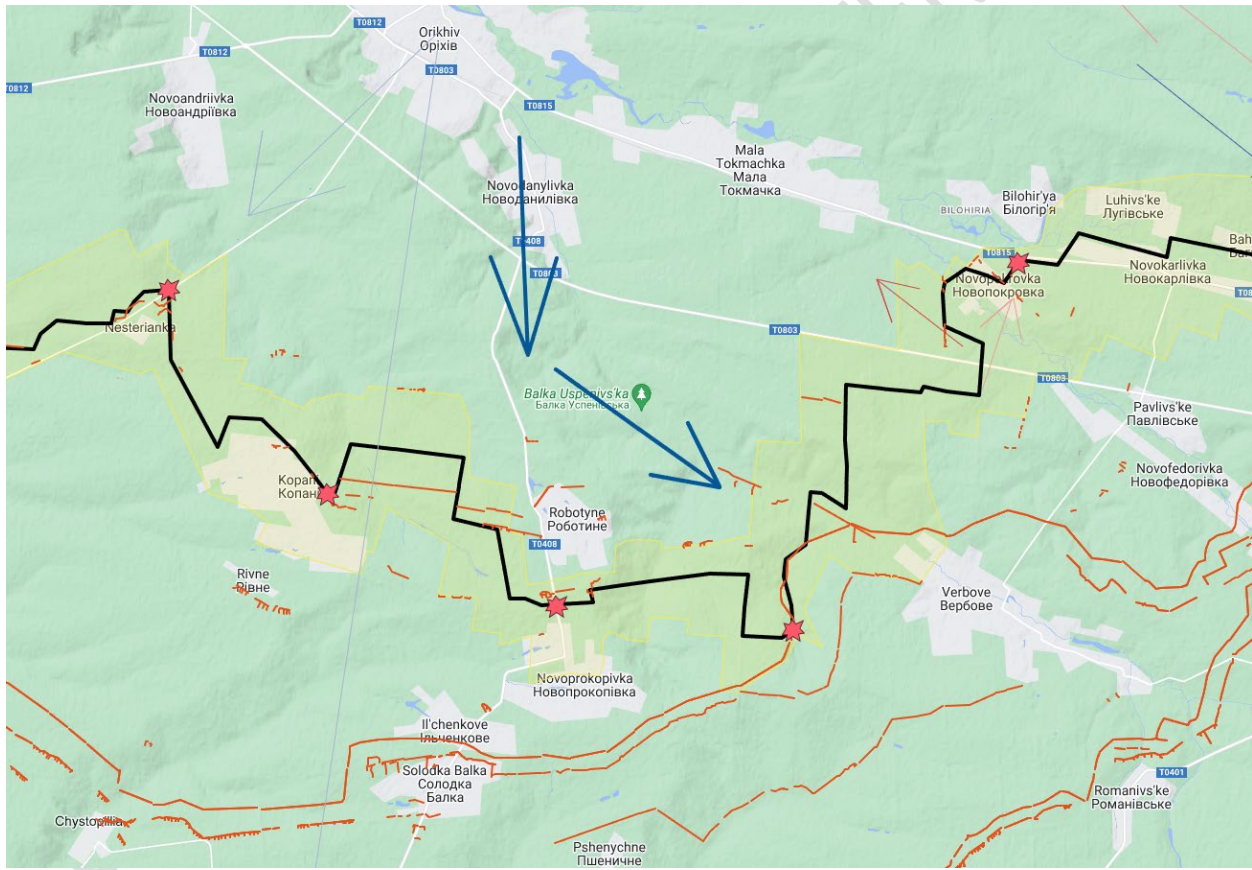


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, set conditions for September 2023 elections, capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

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

Free Zaporizhzhia

Brigadier General Alexander Tarnavskiy reported that Ukrainian forces executed 1,268 fire missions in Zaporizhzhia and eastern Kherson, and Ukrainian forces captured 17 Russian soldiers.²⁰



²⁰ <https://t.me/otarnavskiy/217>

Orikhiv Operational Area

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar reported that [Robotyne](#) has been “released,” and Ukrainian forces continued to advance southeast of the settlement.²¹ While the liberation of Robotyne was previously announced, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine created a stricter definition last year. A frontline settlement is not declared liberated until it is no longer under significant artillery and mortar fire. That doesn’t mean that artillery strikes have ended and that the area is safe for civilians, but it does mean that troops and humanitarian aid providers can reasonably operate there. The announcement is significant because it indicates that Ukrainian forces have advanced past the Robotyne, and our current map may be conservative.²²

General Tarnavskiy and members of the Ukrainian 46th Brigade reported that Ukrainian forces were advancing on [Novopropivka](#), describing fighting as intense.²³ Defending Russian forces are starting to get squeezed between the Ukrainian advance and the second echelon of the Surovikin Line. If the approaches to the dragon teeth and tank traps


²¹ <https://t.me/militarymediacenter/2973>

²² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111930>

²³ <https://t.me/odshbr46/1301>

are heavily mined, Russian forces will only have narrow, preprepared routes of retreat.

ASSESSMENT: If Russian forces have prepared defenses four kilometers to the south, why not fall back? In medieval warfare, troops retreated behind the castle walls as a last resort. Russian commanders are seeking to maximize casualties before giving up Novopropkivka. The strategy is not without risk. Videos show that the Prigozhin line west of Verbove is already being hit by drones, artillery, and DPICM (cluster munitions). If Ukrainian forces were to breach the trench and bunker network further east, Russian troops would be on the wrong side of their own defenses.

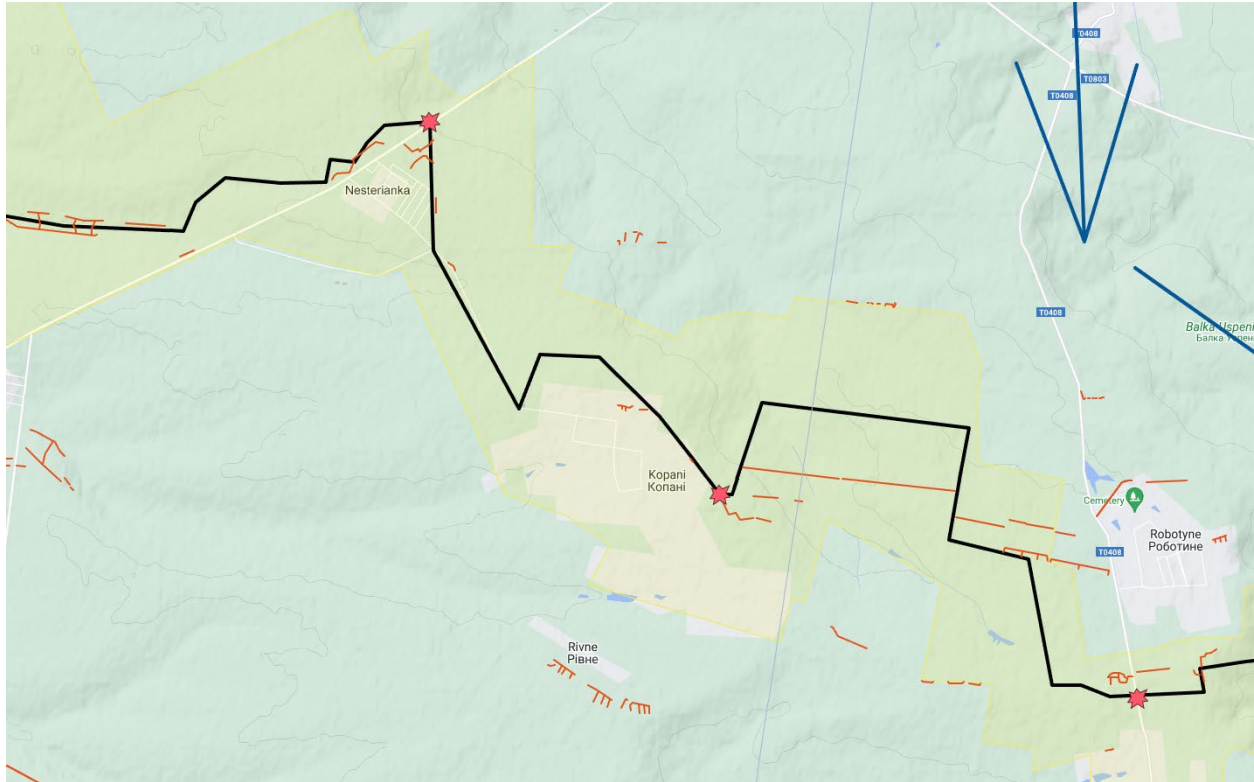
In northwestern [Verbove](#), Russian troops  [were shelled with DPICM](#) as Ukrainian troops continued to advance.^{24 25}
^{26 27} Fighting is very intense, but as in Novopropkivka, the ability of Russian troops to maneuver is being squeezed between the Ukrainian advance and their own defensive line.

²⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17457>

²⁵ <https://t.me/odshbr46/1301>

²⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17458>

²⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14624>



Further west, Russian troops were trying to flank the Ukrainian advance from [Kopani](#).²⁸ ²⁹ Mutual fighting continued. Russian forces were also attacking out of [Neterianka](#) while coming under heavy Ukrainian artillery fire.³⁰

On August 27, two Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down over Zaporizhzhia without incident.³¹


²⁸ <https://t.me/odshbr46/1301>


²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/14624>

³⁰ <https://t.me/odshbr46/1301>

³¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111881>

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

In occupied Berdyansk, a large  [fire erupted at the Dormash Plant](#), which Russian forces use to store military equipment.³² The fire is believed to be accidental, as there were no reports of explosions and no secondary explosions as the fire expanded.

In Tokmak, Russian positions were hit by rockets fired by HIMARS, or possibly artillery,  [creating a large fire](#).³³

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There was no update on the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

³² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111909>

³³ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/4911

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

Operational Command South (OKS) reported there are eight vessels of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol.³⁴ Insurgents reported that a Buyan-class corvette, capable of launching up to eight Kalibr cruise missiles or eight P-800 Onik ballistic antiship missiles, departed Sevastopol.³⁵ There is one vessel on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

The Liberian-flagged and Greek-owned 19,900-ton bulk carrier Primus departed Odesa for a second time and, at publication, had transited from international waters to the territorial waters of Romania.³⁶

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom believes there is an ongoing fight for control of the Bokia Towers off the coast of Crimea. Control of the gas platforms is being traded between Russian and Ukrainian navy and naval infantry

³⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111888>

³⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40760>

³⁶ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10173>

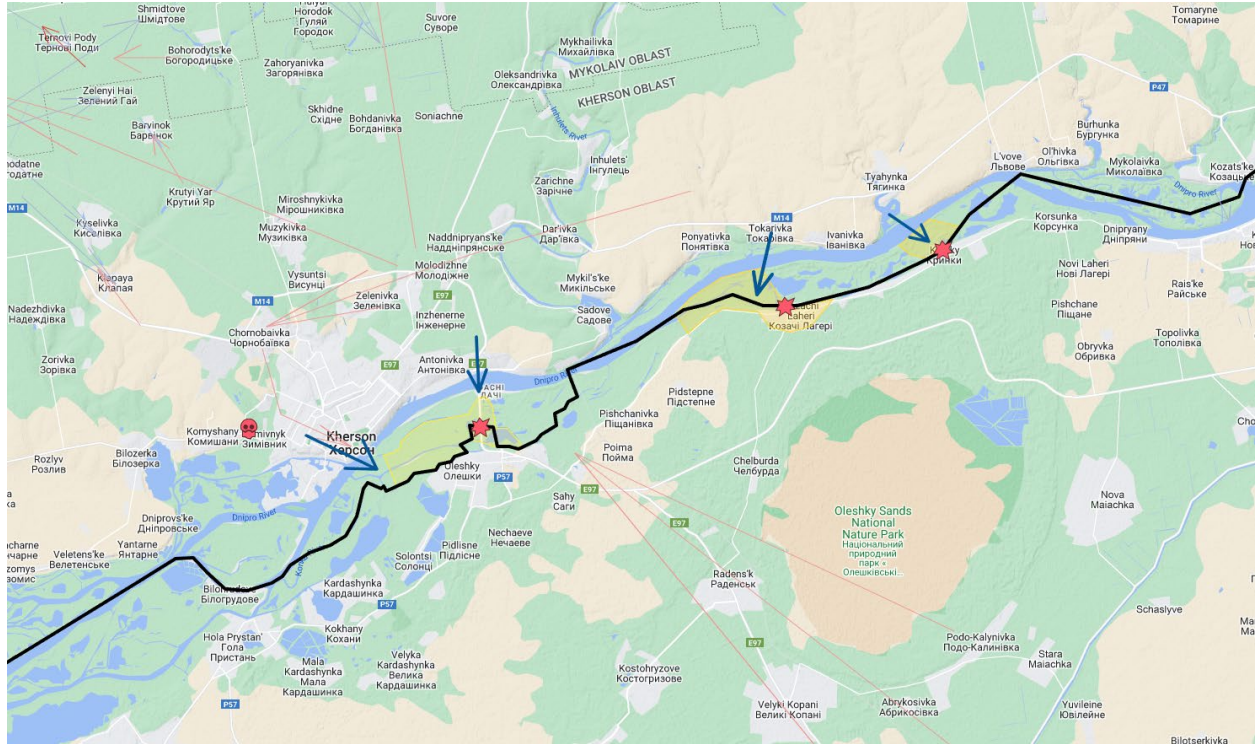
units to be used as a forward deployment base, intelligence gathering, and for launching attacks.³⁷

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, prepare the region for illegitimate elections in September 2023, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia


Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks on Ukrainian civilians, lock Russian troops and military assets in place, and protect civilian lives

³⁷ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/19423>





Ukrainian forces maintain their forward operating bases along a 42-kilometer stretch between the Dnipro and Konka Rivers.

Occupied Kherson

Reports of heavy losses among the Russian 205th Brigade are accurate, and the situation has gone from bad to worse. In Kakhovka, a convoy traveling too close together in an open area during daylight hours paused and immediately came under artillery fire. At  [least three trucks were destroyed](#).³⁸ The Russian mercenary milblogger Romanov

³⁸ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6101

Light is low value, but in our analysis, they have been providing accurate information on the situation with the 205th. The milblogger reported that one of the company commanders was removed and taken to a hospital where they are trying to get a diagnosis that he is mentally ill or had a breakdown in the field.³⁹ Senior military leaders from the Kremlin are putting extreme pressure on the rioters and their commanders to discredit the reports of heavy losses and no artillery support.

In occupied Oleshky, a  [Russian mortar position was destroyed](#) in a drone strike.⁴⁰ A Russian military reporter with News Front was driving on Oleshky in an unmarked vehicle when it was hit by a drone-delivered IED, causing significant damage. The military  [reporter was injured by flying glass](#), saying to his camera operator, "Let's leave. The shelling continues. Somewhere nearby, they're trying to finish off my car. We need to leave here urgently."⁴¹

While some Russian propagandists called the strike a war crime, Russian milblogger German Kulikovsky, known as Older than Edda, criticized "Kizlyar."

³⁹ https://t.me/romanov_92/41542

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111956>

⁴¹ https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1695836684225593553

"I want to inform you that in Oleshky, drones of the Armed Forces of Ukraine attack cars every day, and if you also film standing up, the risk of being attacked grows by an order of magnitude. You have to think with your head when you are in close proximity to the line of contact and not chase the bold shot."⁴²

Editor's Note: WBHG News condemns all attacks on conflict journalists regardless of affiliation or nation. We have repeatedly stated that combatants have an obligation to protect and respect the rights of a free press. However, as a conflict reporter, it is incumbent on the journalist to adhere to all journalist standards in conflict zones, including situational awareness and not taking unnecessary risks. The settlements on the left (east) bank of the Dnipro and Konka Rivers are red zones. Driving without an escort in an unmarked vehicle while wearing military-style clothing within 2,000 meters of the line of conflict is not adhering to journalistic norms. The incident further highlights the problems with area commanders, who should not allow unescorted journalists in Oleshky. As journalists, we are glad that Kizlyar and his camera

⁴² <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/12624>


operator were not seriously injured, and we hope that they take Kulikovsky's advice.

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

Poltava

Russian missiles  [struck a grain mill that produces edible oils](#) in Hoholeve, 65 kilometers northwest of Poltava.⁴³ The plant operates 24 hours a day, so the facility was staffed during the attack. At least two people were killed and five wounded. The intentional destruction of food processing facilities is considered a war crime under the Geneva Convention.

⁴³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111983>

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

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

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

Bryansk

Russian state media claims two Ukrainian Beaver kamikaze drones were shotdown without incident.⁴⁴

Kursk

Ukraine is claiming that 16 Australian-designed SYPAQ kamikaze drones made of cardboard targeted the Kursk Military Airfield.⁴⁵ Thirteen reportedly reached the base, and three were shot down. Ukrainian sources claim that four Su-30s and one Mig-29 fighter plane, an S-300 missile radar complex, and two Pantsir air defense systems were destroyed.⁴⁶

Satellite images from Planet Labs shared by The Drive  [do not show any signs of destroyed aircraft](#) but lack the resolution to show if any aircraft were damaged.⁴⁷ EO Sentinel 2 2LA highlighted optimized natural color images from   [August 19](#) and   [August 27](#) do not show any changes or signs of fires.



⁴⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111960>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/40761>

⁴⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6099

⁴⁷ <https://twitter.com/clashreport/status/1696085351184380359>

Moscow

An exhausted-looking Margarita Simoyan, propagandist and editor-in-chief of the Rossiya Segodnya media group and the RT (Russia Today) TV channel, said that for the second time in a week,  [a drone was shot down near her villa in Moscow](#). "It falls loudly, I want to tell you. At half past three, you wake up, having no time to fall back asleep."⁴⁸ ⁴⁹ There was no sleep for Simoyan during the night of August 27 – 28, with a Ukrainian Beaver kamikaze drone  [shot down over the Lyubertsy District of Moscow](#).⁵⁰ Air defense rockets and drone debris caused light damage to homes, buildings, and cars.

Novosibirsk

In the city of Novosibirsk, partisans destroyed a railroad relay cabinet that controls signal lights, delaying passenger train traffic.⁵¹

⁴⁸ https://twitter.com/Lyla_lilas/status/1696018299811664106

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/rusbrief/149395>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111967>

⁵¹ https://t.me/shot_shot/56184

BELARUSIAN FRONT

The Border Service of Poland reported that over the weekend, more than 140 people tried to cross the border from Belarus, including citizens from the Congo and Iran.⁵² At the border crossing near Dubychy Tserkovny, Polish border guards were attacked by rock-throwing migrants who tried to pass the border fence.

In Latvia, Ukrainian refugees are warned that Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) infiltrators are pretending to be border guards. The Russian agents conduct lengthy interviews, asking about information in the war zone, troop deployments, and the location of Western equipment. In a few cases, they have attempted to recruit Ukrainians to work for the FSB as spies.⁵³

THEATERWIDE

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy gave a long interview about a range of topics and the future of Ukraine.⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ He equated

⁵² <https://t.me/DPSUkr/13114>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111929>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111938>

⁵⁵ <https://t.me/uniannet/109463>

corruption during martial law with treason and will propose a draft law this week that would charge those who commit corrupt acts above \$650,000 with the state crime of treason.⁵⁶ He believes that for military technology, Ukraine will become the leader of the European continent. He pointed out that Ukraine is now building NATO standard weapons and its own missiles and that war production was increasing. The national debt for Ukraine has ballooned to more than 100% of annual GDP, and while he believes that the debt will be restructured, "there will be no gifts."

In response to United States Senator Lindsey Graham's (R-SC) request for Ukraine to hold elections in 2024, Zelenskyy pointed out that national elections cost over \$135 million during peace times. The Ukrainian leader said he would like to hold elections in March 2024, but it would require changing the constitution and providing a mechanism for refugees and frontline soldiers to vote with observers. Zelenskyy is willing to discuss the option if other nations are willing to support the additional costs while ensuring free and fair elections on the battlefield and among the refugee population.

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10174>

Showing concern that the coalition supporting Ukraine could crack, Zelenskyy said, "We need, Ukraine needs to grow up and know that at one point or another Ukraine can be alone. One of the partners may break away at one point or another." He added that Ukraine could defend itself "for a long time" if casualties are managed and reiterated that taking the ground war to Russia would be wrong and could end international support.

Ukraine identified the three pilots who died in the training accident in Zytomyr when two Aero L-39 Albatros training aircraft collided. Andrey "Juice" Pilshchikov was previously identified and had flown over 500 hours of combat missions since February 24, 2022.⁵⁷ Vyacheslav Minka was a flight instructor, and Sergei Prokazin lived had 24 years of experience, rising through the ranks from pilot to deputy brigade commander. He had flown over 100 hours of combat missions since 2022.

Secretary of the National Security Council (NSDC) of Ukraine Oleksii Danilov said additional mobilization could happen. "Yes, the military is appealing, and there will most likely be an additional call, but this does not mean that it

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/uniannet/109433>

will go beyond the limits that we approved on February 24 last year," and advised citizens not to "make a fuss."^{58 59}

Roman Semenukha, Kharkiv Oblast Military and Administrative (OVA) Deputy Governor, said measures were being taken to prepare for additional mobilization. "The Kharkiv Oblast Military Administration is strengthening its cooperation with the regional recruitment and social support center to carry out the mobilization measures. We also continue to help our defenders in every way possible."⁶⁰

After completing an audit of Ukraine's bomb shelters, Serhii Kruk, the head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, was abruptly dismissed.⁶¹ Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko said additional personnel decisions are being made.

Ukraine received the first 1,000 122 mm artillery shells produced in partnership with an unnamed Eastern European NATO nation.⁶²

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111722>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/rusbrief/149079>

⁶⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/25/7417092/>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111598>

⁶² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111668>

The President of Finland, Sauli Niinisto, announced that his nation would provide Ukraine with its 18th military aid package, valued at 94 million euros. Finland does not provide details on its military support to Ukraine.

Latvia announced it would provide Ukraine with a Mi-17 helicopter.⁶³

Greece reportedly terminated its maintenance contract with Russia for its 21 Tor-M1 and 38 Osa-AKM air defense systems.⁶⁴ The secret document, which Pronews Greek claims was accidentally leaked, indicated that the systems would be decommissioned.

Metinvest started serial production of hyperrealistic towed artillery pieces, air defense systems, and radar stations as military decoys.⁶⁵ Over 250 fake pieces have been made and distributed on the front with excellent results. Metinvest examined the systems to produce scale and visually accurate fakes made from metal.

⁶³ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/25/7168218/>

⁶⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6076

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/uniannet/109270>



The table for equipment losses was **updated on August 21, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

COPYRIGHT 2023, MALCONTENT NEWS

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 21, 2023. 11,791 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,206 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2108	268	7.87:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	145	351	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	949	308	3.08:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2680	698	3.84:1	—
Armored Personnel Carriers	343	325	1.06:1	—
MRAPs	46	142	0.32:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	202	359	0.56:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	247	16	15.43:1	↑
Engineering Vehicles	335	74	4.52:1	↑
Towed Artillery	283	148	1.91:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	499	206	2.42:1	↓
MLRS	256	50	5.12:1	↑
SAMs	162	127	1.28:1	↑
Mobile Radars	43	73	0.59:1	↑
EW/ECW	50	4	12.50:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	86	69	1.25:1	↑
Helicopters	109	32	3.41:1	↑
Naval Vessels	13	27	0.48:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

The Yevgeny Prigozhin show may never end. Russian officials announced on Sunday that DNA tests confirmed the identities of the passenger and crew of the Legacy 600 private jet that crashed over Tver and the deceased match the flight manifest. Prigozhin and Denis Utkin are dead.⁶⁶

During July, as PMC Wagner's finances crumbled and the Kremlin aggressively worked to strangle the mercenary organization's operations, Prigozhin flew from country to country, trying to find new revenue sources. Egypt-based Russian expert and former journalist Ruslan Suleymanov believes that Wagner is in an economic crisis and will be forced to "reduce the number of mercenaries in African countries and Syria."⁶⁷

On Friday, Dmitry Peskov countered claims made by President Putin in early July that the Kremlin had financed Wagner with a billion dollars in 2023.⁶⁸ "Let's not forget that there is no such structure; the PMC Wagner de jure does not exist. The Wagner Group does indeed exist. The president has repeatedly stated that this group made a

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111906>

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/rusbrief/149315>

⁶⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/08/25/7417072/>

significant contribution...concerning the future, I cannot say anything at the moment."

Reports from Russia claim that Deputy Defense Minister Yunus-Bek Yevkurov has been put in charge of liquidating the remains of Wagner Group. The remaining Wagnerites with open contracts have been offered to join a new volunteer corps of the Russian Federation Armed Forces or the Ministry-controlled PMC Redut. Yevkurov traveled to Damascus, Syria, and met with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas, reportedly telling Abbas that the Wagnerites would be transferred to the Russian Ministry of Defense by October 1. Those who refuse will be told to leave the wartorn nation.⁶⁹

ASSESSMENT: Wagner fighters that go the new "volunteer corps" or Redut will be distributed across multiple units, used for the most dangerous assignments, and eliminated. After 18 months of watching the Kremlin, there is every reason to believe this is what Moscow is planning. President Putin is carrying out a Stalin-style purge but will use Ukrainian combat soldiers as executioners. Putin can't risk imprisoning the remaining Wagnerites as thousands came from Russian penal colonies. Reincarcerating them

⁶⁹ <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4511646-russian-official-calls-damascus-expel-wagner-fighters>

presents an even bigger risk. In our assessment, one of the largest purges of perceived political enemies of the Kremlin since 1946 has started.

One of the senior commanders of Russian explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) engineers was murdered in Starobelsk.^{70 71} The officer's name has been released, but three Russian soldiers are accused of the killing. The trio was assigned to an artillery unit, and their contracts with the Russian Ministry of Defense expired in April, but they were stop-lossed. Officials don't know if the accused murderers remain in occupied Luhansk or fled to Russia.

The head of the Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR), Kyrylo Budanov, claimed that the Kremlin is planning to mobilize another 450,000 troops beyond the 20,000 they are currently mobilizing a month and beyond the normal fall conscription.⁷² "Now they are considering the option. This is not yet resolved to the end of the issue regarding the draft of an additional 450,000. The corresponding intention of terrorist Russia indicates the real scale of losses among personnel in the war against Ukraine, which the aggressor

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20752>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/bazabazon/20856>

⁷² https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6074

state is trying to hide. This leads to the following question: Why such a number? If the losses, as they say, are negligible?"

In July, Finnish officials arrested the co-founder of the Neo-Nazi militant group Rusich, once part of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.⁷³ Jan Petrovskyi, under European Union and U.S. sanctions and known by his callsign Slavyan, was arrested when he attempted to enter Finland under an assumed name and was detained under the charge of "violation of the migration legislation" of the Schengen Zone."⁷⁴

Petrovskyi was expecting to pay a fine and be deported but instead was transferred to a prison where he believes he is facing extradition to Ukraine. On September 5, 2014, Petrovskyi documented his participation in the torture and murder of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, including cutting off people's ears. After the massacre, the so-called Luhansk People's Republic labeled his unit sadists and murderers. Petrovskyi appealed to the Russian Foreign Ministry to facilitate his release, but Moscow has refused to

⁷³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111601>

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/uniannet/109288>

contact him. Apparently, the white nationalist is concerned he won't get a fair trial in Ukraine.⁷⁵

PMC Wagner Telegram channel Gray Zone accused Finnish officials of handing Petrovskyi over to the Federal Security Service (SBU) of Ukraine, who broke his nose and bit off his ear.

Editor's Note: Why is there so much projection by the Russian people? Petrovskyi literally took pictures of himself with the ears he cut off of people. If you're going to tell a blatant lie, at least make it remotely plausible and declare he cut off his ear with a knife.



But wait, there's more. They end their post with this gem. "It remains incomprehensible (actually understandable) why our diplomatic wing in Finland is engaged in sabotage, turning a blind eye to the detention and interrogation of citizens by intelligence officers of the country with which there is actually a war going."

⁷⁵ https://t.me/grey_zone/20249


Editor's Note: We thought Russians were calling this a 'special military operation' and you could go to prison for calling it a "war."

On Saturday, Rusich wrote they were suspending all military operations in Ukraine, denazifying themselves. "In the meantime, the situation with Slavyan is not resolved in the direction we need (extradition of the Russian Federation). Rusich stops performing any combat missions. There will be time to relax and solve the accumulated cases. If a country cannot protect its citizens, then why should citizens protect the country?"⁷⁶

But wait, there's more.

On July 4, 2022, we published an investigative report about   [Neo-Nazi organizations in Russia](#) and their connections to the white nationalist movement in the United States. During our research, we found evidence that Neo-Nazi mercenaries were fighting for Russian and operating in occupied Izyum.

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/dshrg2/1207>

Learning of the arrest and detention of Petrovskiy, Russian State Duma Deputy Aleksey Zhuravlev said that he was in Izyum with Petrovskiy and  [published photos of the pair](#) during the Russian occupation.⁷⁷

We want to thank Zhuravlev for verifying our report because – the truth matters.

Igor Strelkov Girkin's lawyer reported that the former FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, and failed mobster is in better health after a doctor was allowed to examine him and he was put back on his medications.⁷⁸

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Save Ukraine organization facilitated the return of 11 more Ukrainian children from Russia. Founder of the organization, Mykola Kuleba, said the organization has facilitated the return of 161 children.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/uniannet/109354>

⁷⁸ https://t.me/i_strelkov_2023/113

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/uniannet/109330>

On August 13, in the occupied village of Shchaslyvtse, five masked Russian soldiers removed Crimean Tartar Rinat Ablyakimov from his home at gunpoint and took him to Henichesk. His body was found on August 27 wrapped in plastic.⁸⁰

ECONOMIC

Beer manufacturer Heineken withdrew from the Russian market, selling their assets to the Russian Arnest Group for one euro. Heineken had been operating seven breweries in Russia and employed 1,800 people.⁸¹

Due to the Central Bank of Russia raising the prime lending rate to 12%, banks in Russia are no longer authorized to provide loans under the Rural Mortgage program led by Russia's Ministry of Agriculture.⁸² The rouble continued its slide, dropping to an exchange rate of 96 for one dollar. The emergency interest rate increase hasn't curbed spending, and inflation continues to rise.


⁸⁰ <https://t.me/investigatorua/6840>


⁸¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/111596>


⁸² <https://t.me/rusbrief/149018>


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 only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying 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.