

**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

April 30, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

4/30/23 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.

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

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

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

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


Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


⚠️ **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


⚠️ **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.


⚠️ **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for *unique claims* about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units have greater fidelity.

 **Andrei Morozov:** Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detained by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

 **Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

⚠ **Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia:** We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

⊖ **Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense:** We do not use combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

⊖ **Denis Pushilin:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

⚠ **Ramzan Kadyrov:** The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

✅ **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:** We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or

misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitiopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government official to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.



SUMMARY – DAY 430 7

DAILY ASSESSMENT 8

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP 9

UKRAINE WEATHER 10

SOIL SATURATION 11

THIS DAY IN HISTORY 12

KHARKIV 13

DONBAS REGION 17

LUHANSK 17

NORTHEAST DONETSK 22

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK 30

ZAPORIZHIA 39

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION 41

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE 42

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE 46

RUSSIAN FRONT 46

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS 47

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES 52

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MILITARY, AND MIR 53

SUMMARY – DAY 430

It has been 3,349 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 66 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

We deeply appreciate our subscribers understanding that our chief content officer's wife had a medical emergency on Saturday night, and the report could not be completed. Today's report is for April 29 and 30.

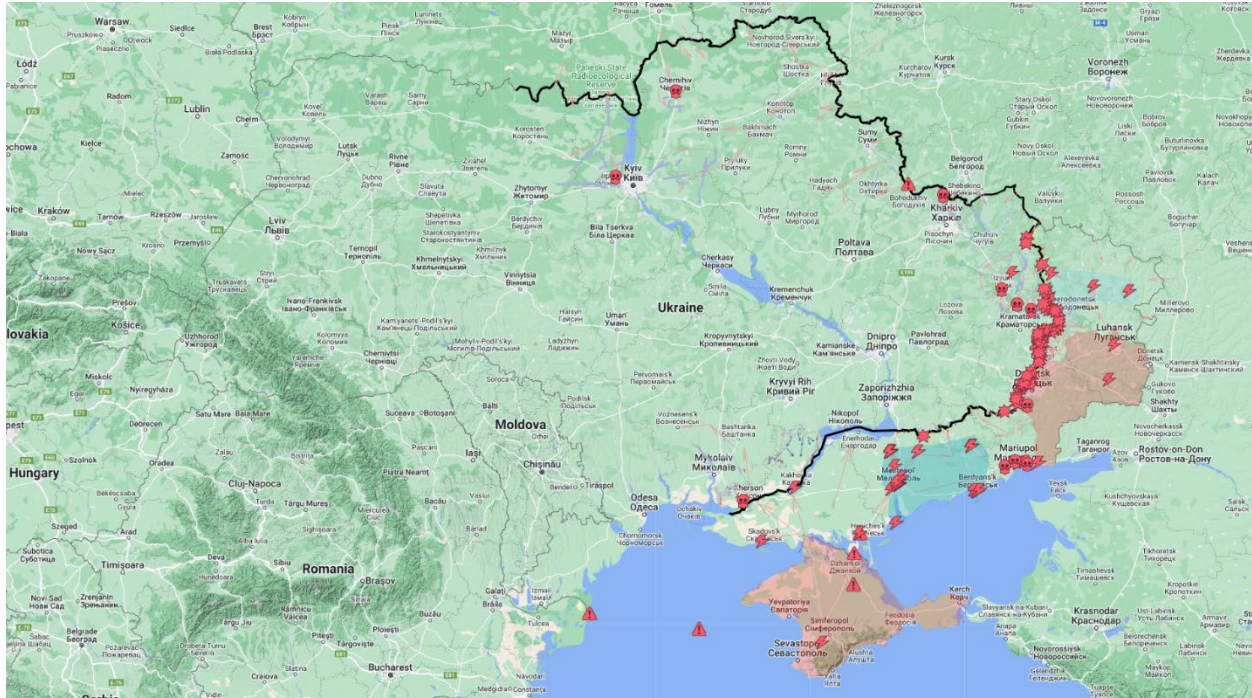
Maybe Google will look at our map situation tomorrow? A chief content officer can dream.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

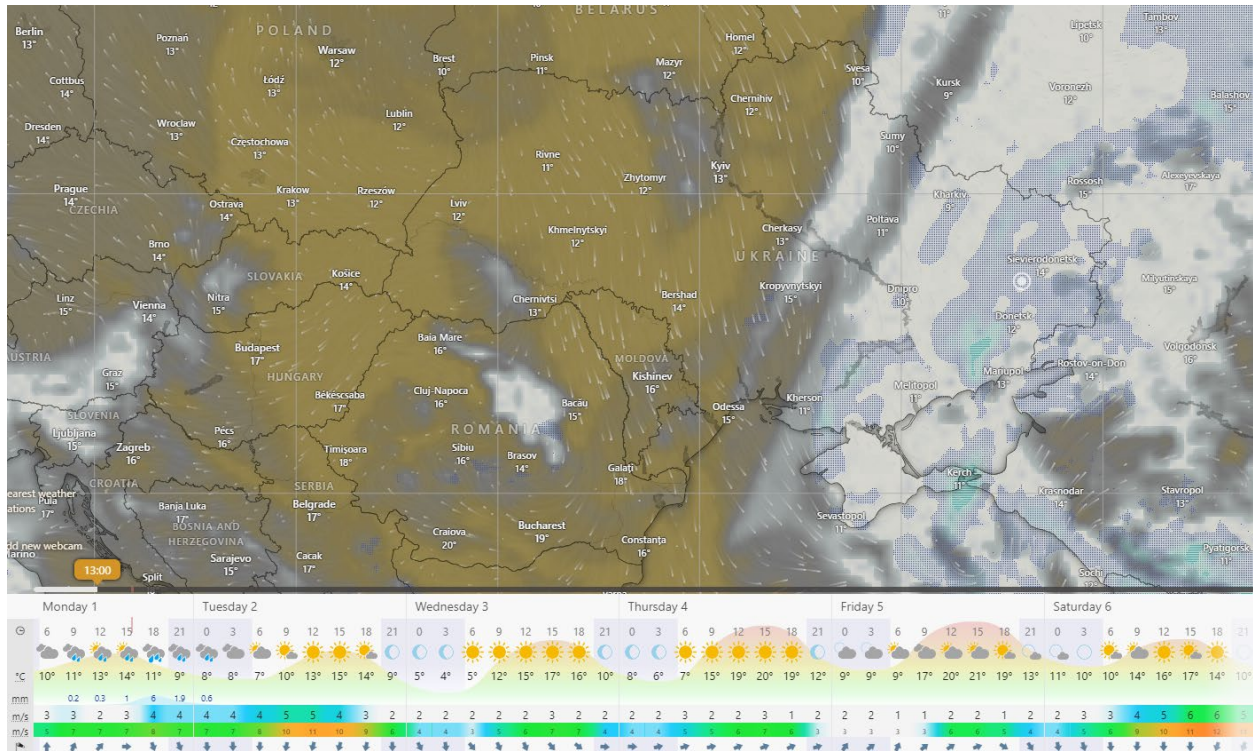
1. Ukrainian forces continue to set conditions to complete its retrograde operation in Bakhmut and end its defense of the city.
2. The heaviest fighting continues to be limited to the Bakhmut and Marinka Operational Areas.
3. Due to continued poor weather, flooding, and saturated soil, we find it unlikely that Ukrainian offensive operations can start before mid-May.
4. We maintain that Russian offensive operations in the Svatove and Kreminna Operational Areas have culminated.
5. The Russian Federation Armed Forces are combat ineffective and have exhausted their combat potential except in the Bakhmut Operational Area.
6. The use of alternative private military companies and the lack of support by Russian airborne (VDV) forces caused PMC Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin to lash out at the Kremlin, and Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Reports is no longer mentioning the PMC, indicating that the rift has reopened.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



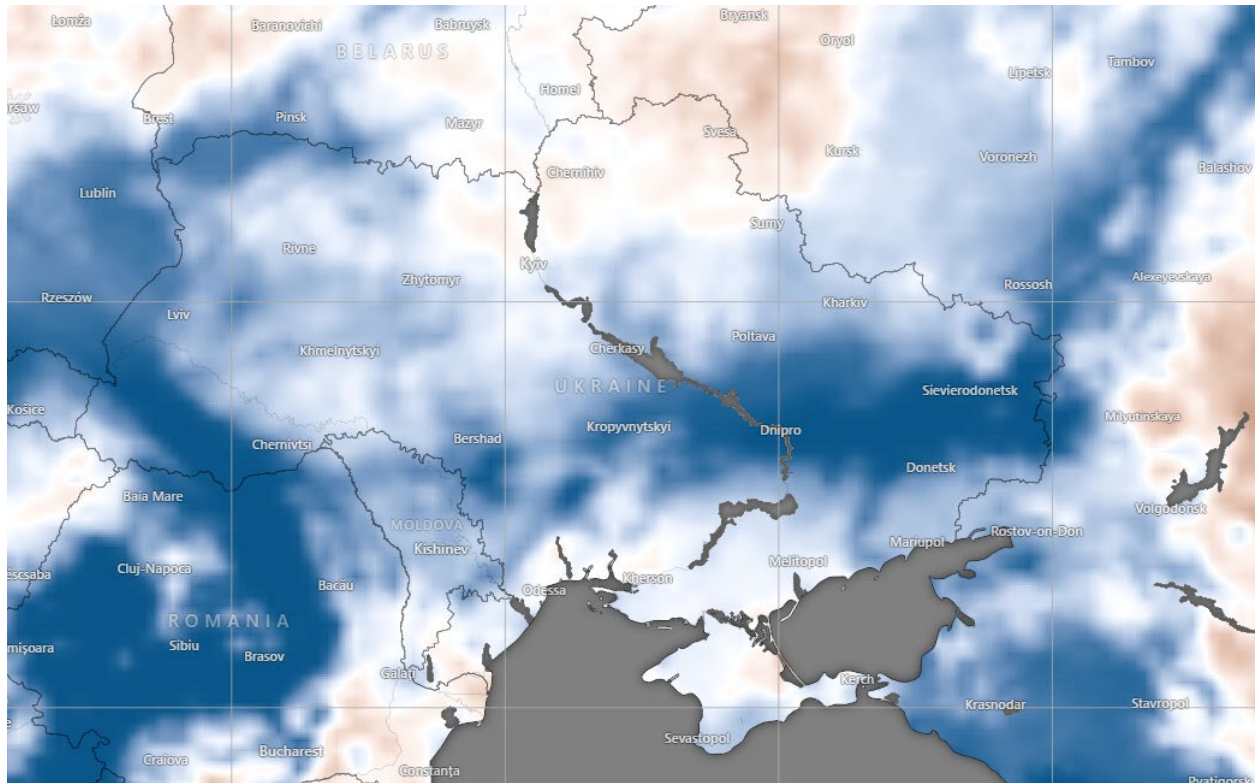
About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The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

UKRAINE WEATHER



In eastern Ukraine, rain showers will end on Monday evening, with a dry forecast through May 6. High temperatures will be from 11° to 24° Celcius, and evening lows will be from 1° to 13°. Monday is the coldest day, and Wednesday morning will have the coldest overnight low. The forecast is very similar in Zaporizhia.

SOIL SATURATION



May 8, 2023, GFS forecast showing a complex picture with 50% to 100% soil saturation to 40 centimeters depth in Zaporizhia and the Donbas.

Soil saturation along the line of conflict is at 95% to 100%, with flooding reported in Crimea and the Donbas. The models degraded slightly over the last 24 hours, but the long-term trend is encouraging. We maintain that soil conditions in the Donbas and Zaporizhia won't be favorable for large-scale military operations before May 15.

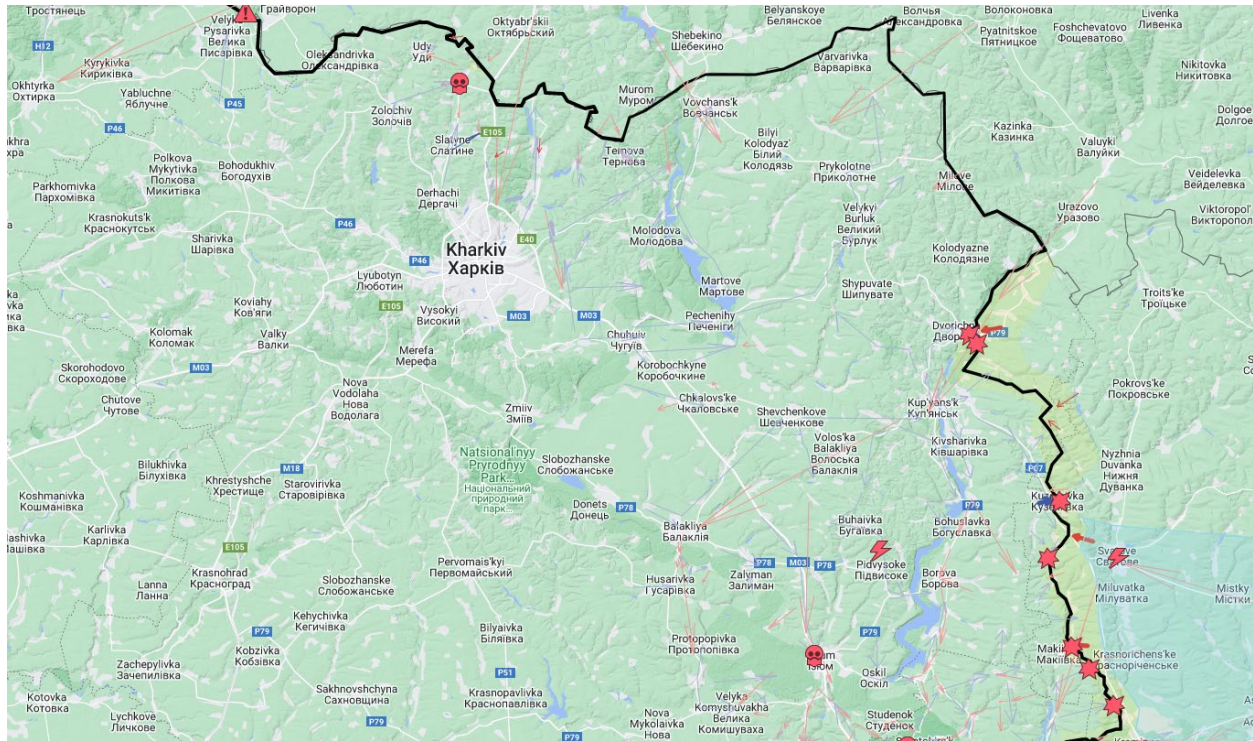


THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Paused

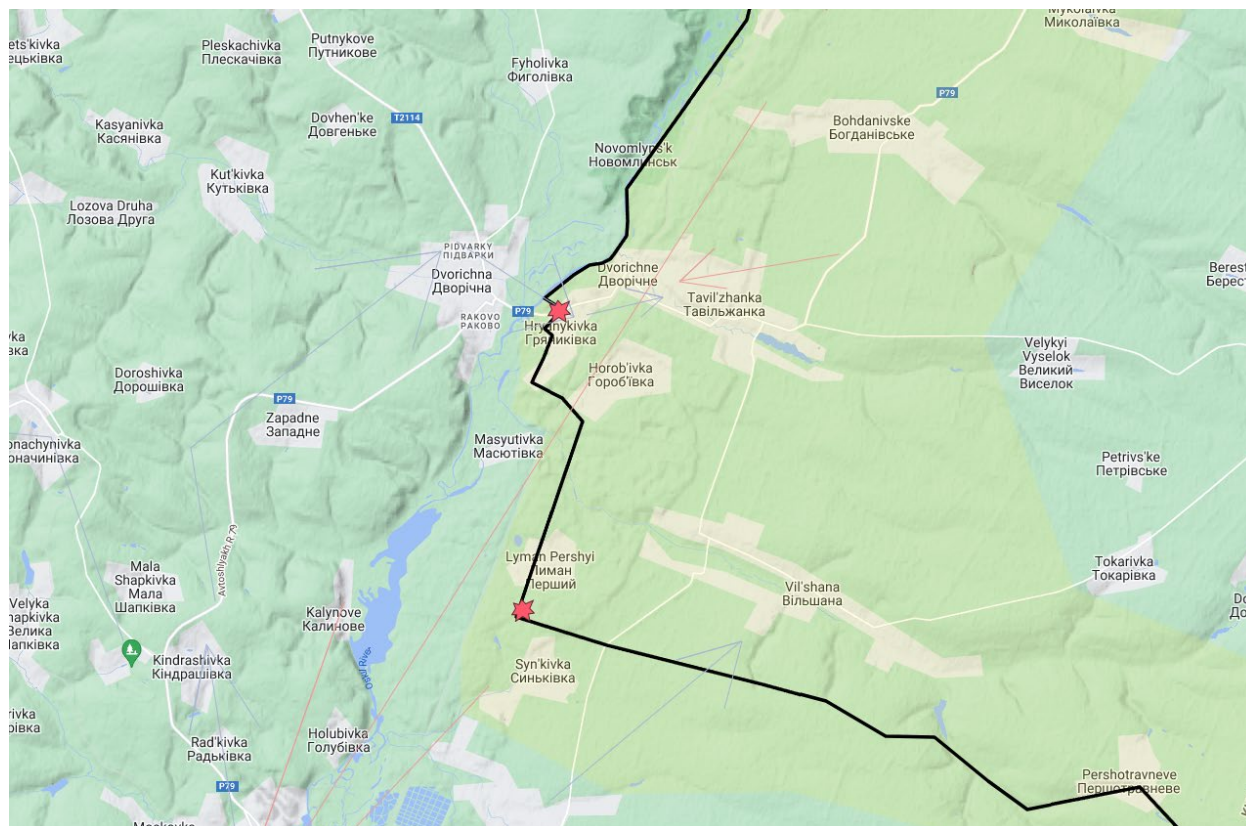
COPYRIGHT 2023, MALCONTENT NEWS

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, hold current defensive lines, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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



In the Dvorichna Operational Area, the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Ukrainian positions in Lyman Pershyi have been shelled for the fourth day in a row.^{1 2 3 4 5 6 7} RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces continued probing attacks using reconnaissance and

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

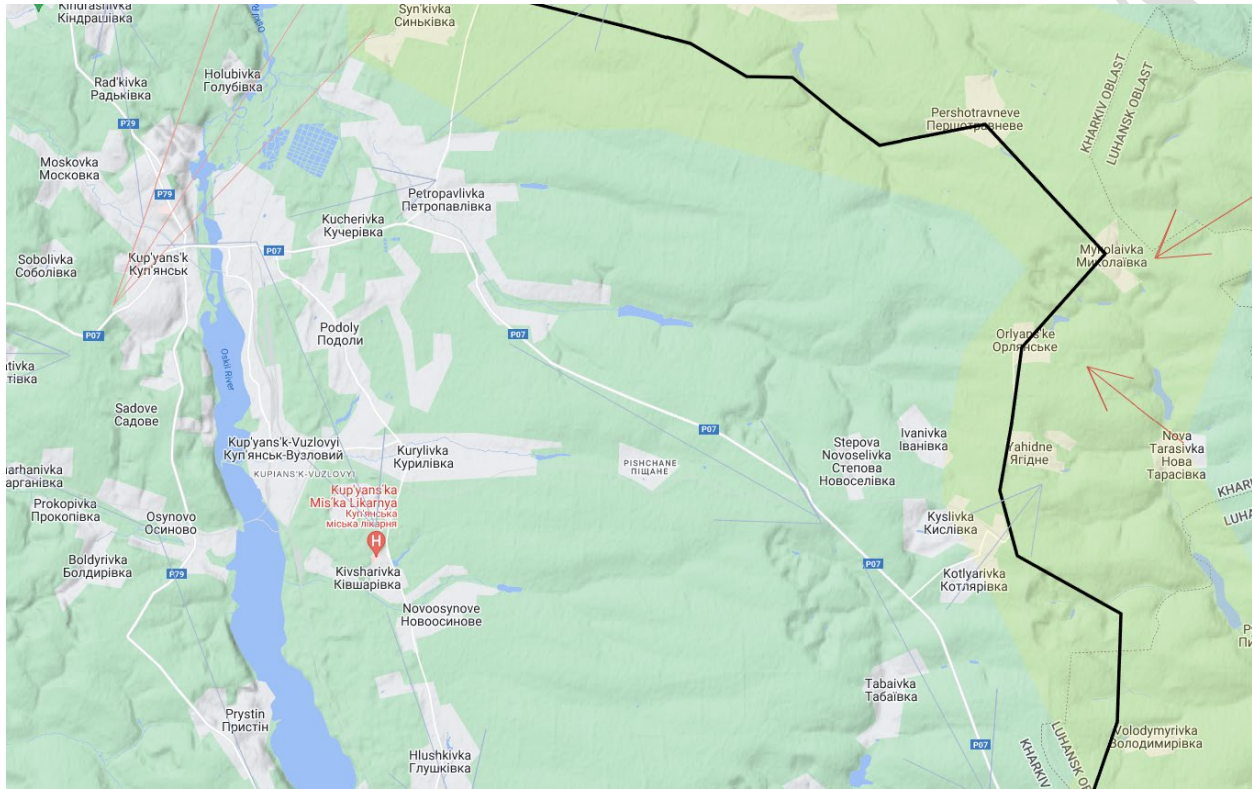
⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

reconnaissance in force near Synivka on April 29 and Vilshana on April 30.^{8 9}

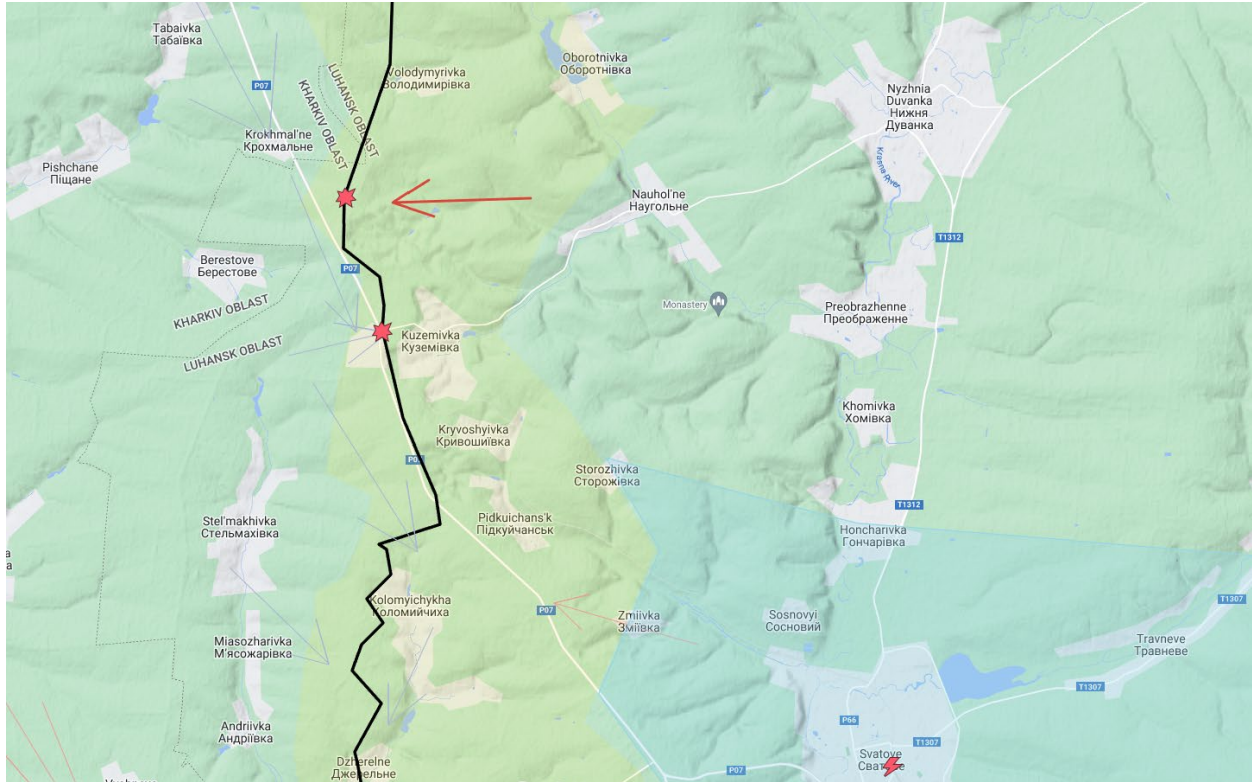


On April 30, in the Kupyansk Operational Area, RMOD reported fighting between squad or platoon sized units near Orlyanske.¹⁰

⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



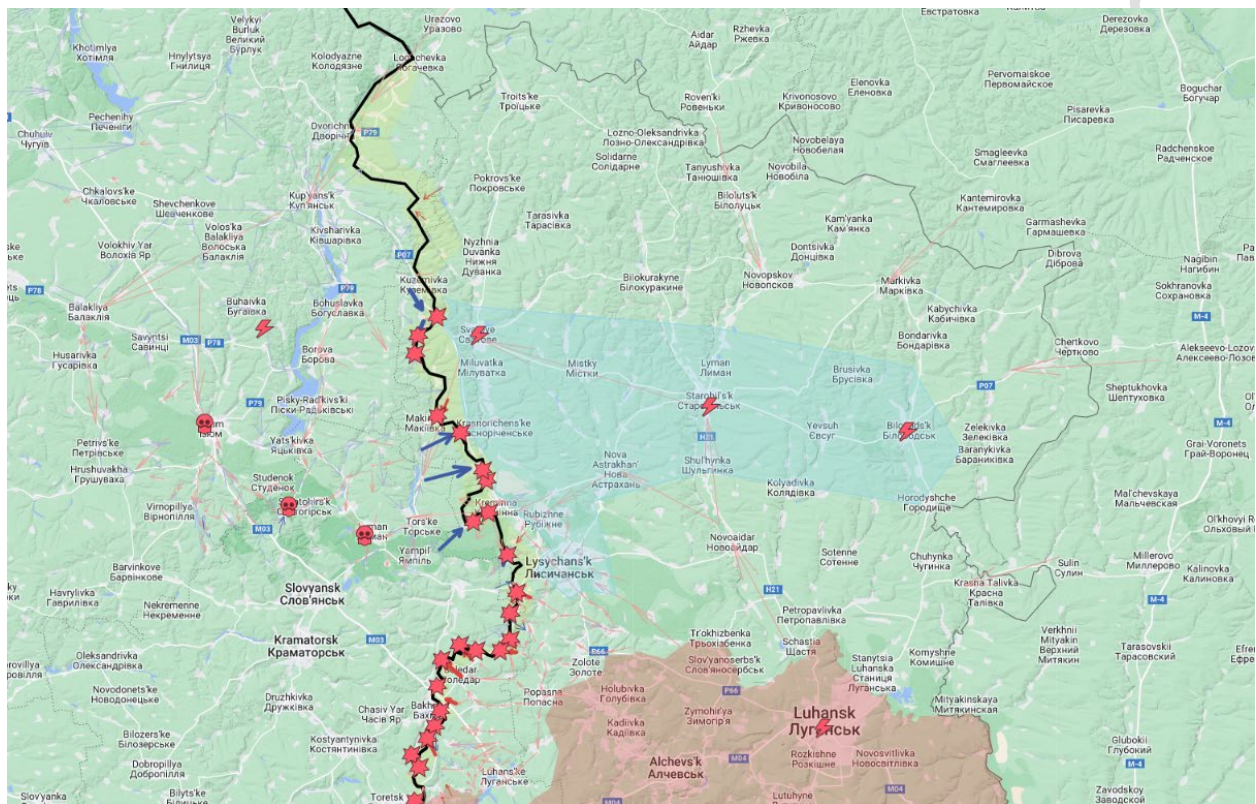
On April 29, in the Svatove Operational Area of Kharkiv, RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces made probing attacks near Krokhmaľne.¹¹

RMOD also reported a Ukrainian attack in the area of Artemivka. This is either an early Soviet or pre-Soviet name for a village on the line of conflict or the report is in error. Artemivka is south of the city of Kharkiv, near Merefa, 105 kilometers from the line of conflict.

¹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

DONBAS REGION

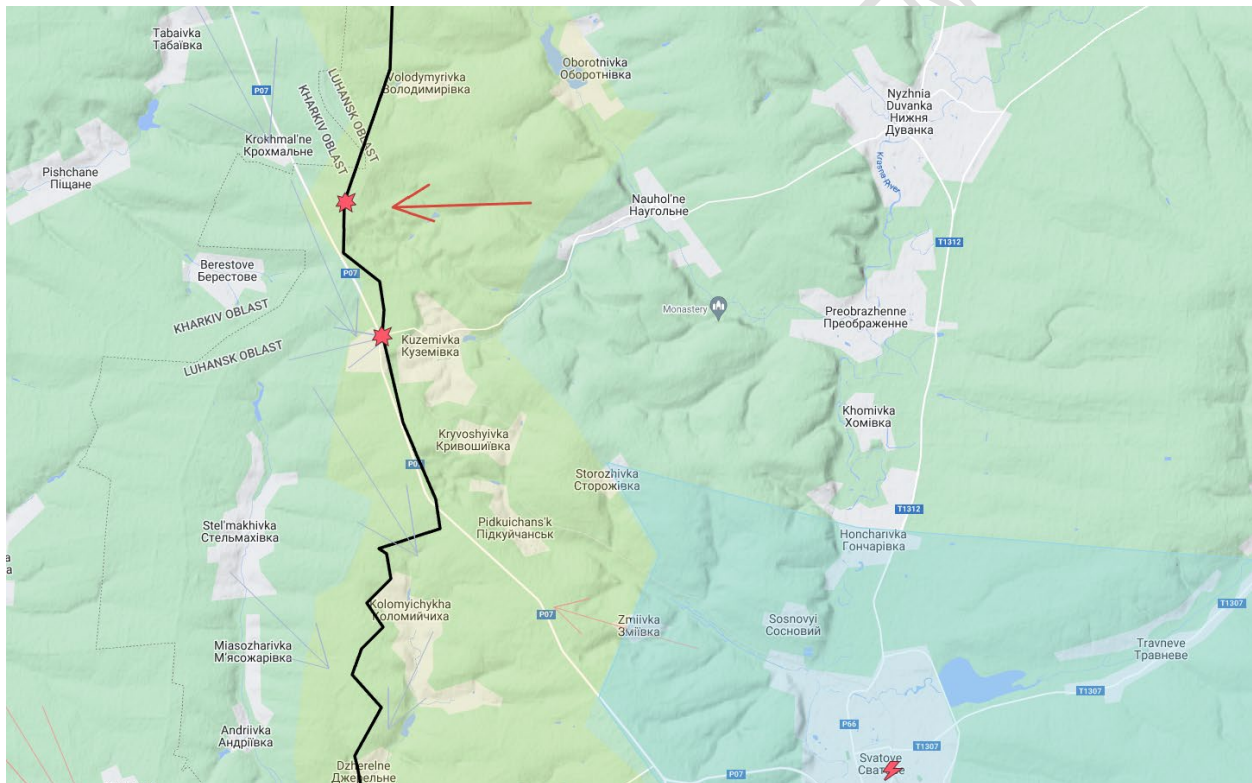
LUHANSK



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

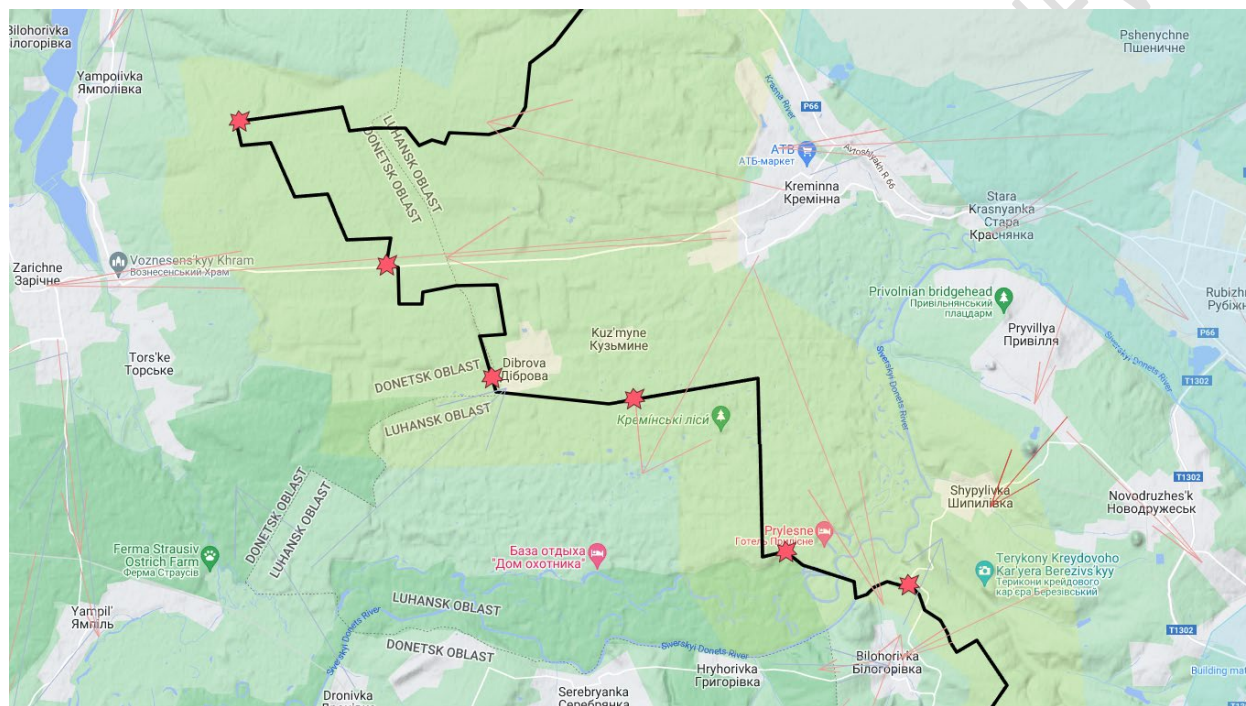
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents

The operational tempo remains low, with the spokesperson for Operational Command East (OKE), Colonel Serhiy Cherevaty, reporting only seven clashes in Luhansk over the last 24 hours and a slight reduction in Russian artillery strikes.¹²



¹² <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10163>

On April 30, in the Svatove Operational Area of Luhansk, RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces probed Russian defenses near Berestove.¹³



In the Kreminna Operational Area, Russian forces continued attempts to advance from the western edge of the forests toward Torske, Yampolivka, and Terny without success.¹⁴ ¹⁵ According to Russian sources, Ukrainian troops were able to push back on the small Russian advance made northwest of Dibrova.¹⁶ ¹⁷ Mercenary milblogger WarGonzo

¹³ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

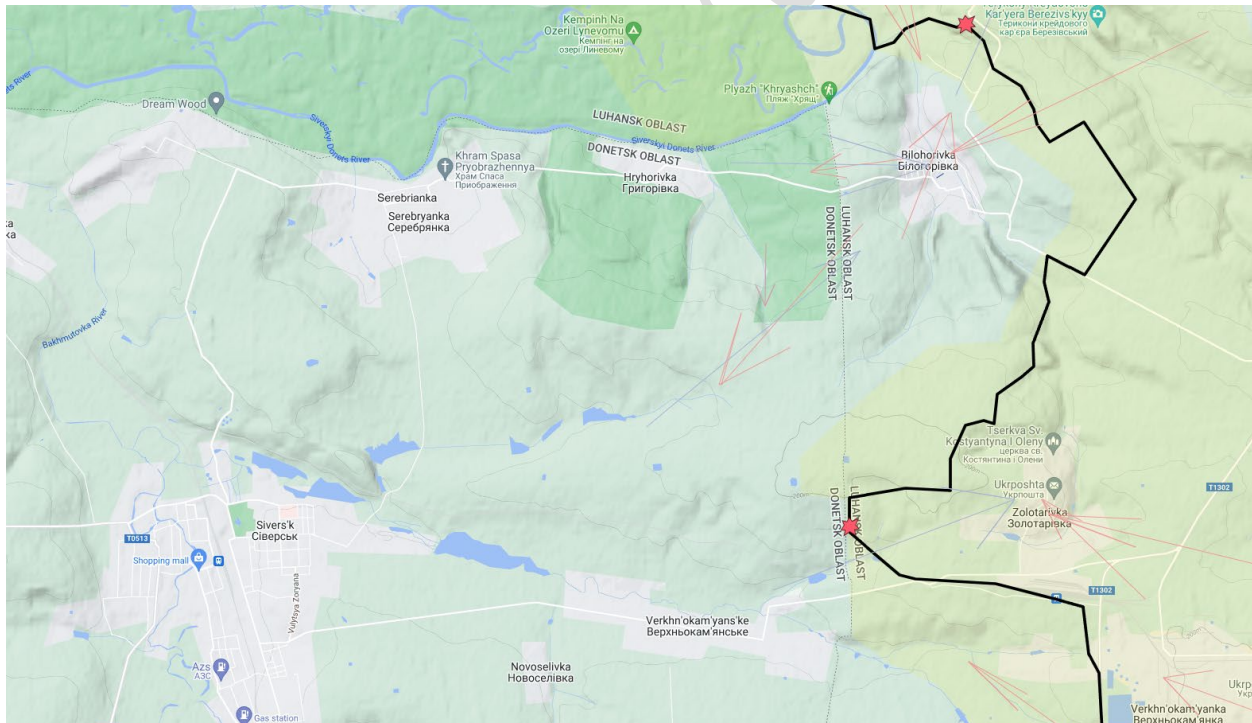
¹⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

¹⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

reported that Russian forces were pushed back in the Serebryansky Woods to the Siverskyi Donets floodplain, west of Shpylivka.¹⁸

Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that Russian forces attempted to advance from the forested areas west of Kreminna without success.¹⁹ Positional fighting continued in the Serebryansky Woods.^{20 21}




¹⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12194>

²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

²¹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16433>

In the Lysychansk Operational Area, Bilohorivka has become the most active area in Luhansk, with Russian forces making repeated attacks on the settlement, without success.^{22 23 24 25 26 27}

The so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) shared pictures from the April 28 HIMARS on occupied Bryansk. The pictures do not indicate a HIMARS strike, and  [are more consistent with a mortar attack](#).²⁸

²² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

²³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

²⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

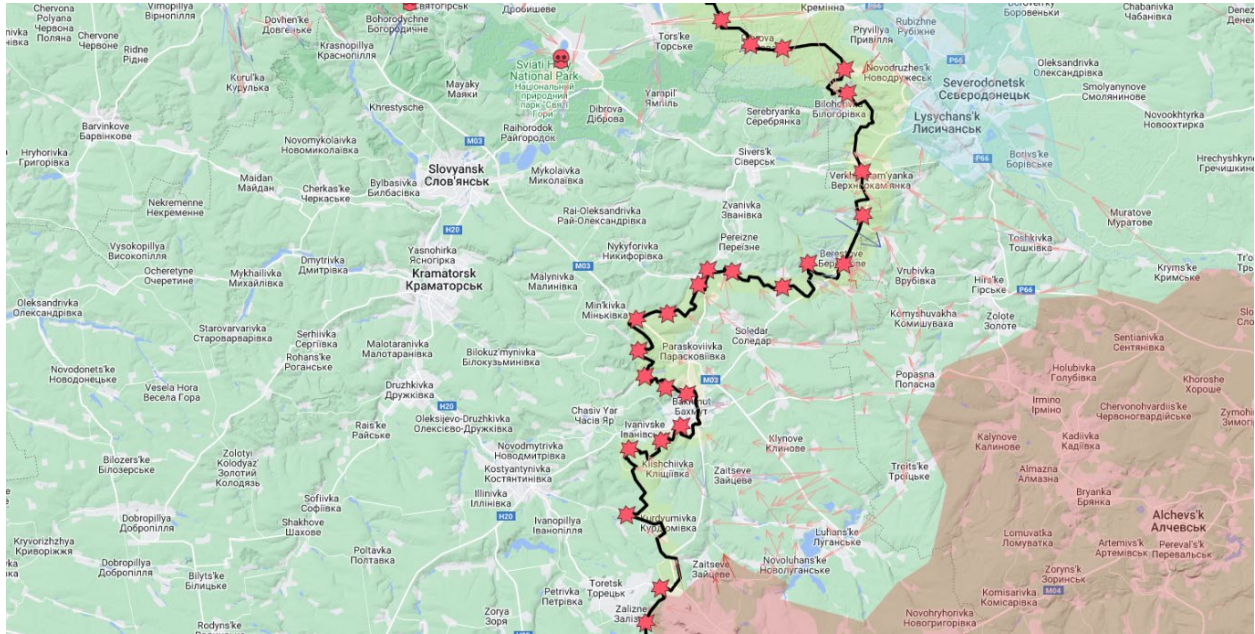
²⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

²⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

²⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

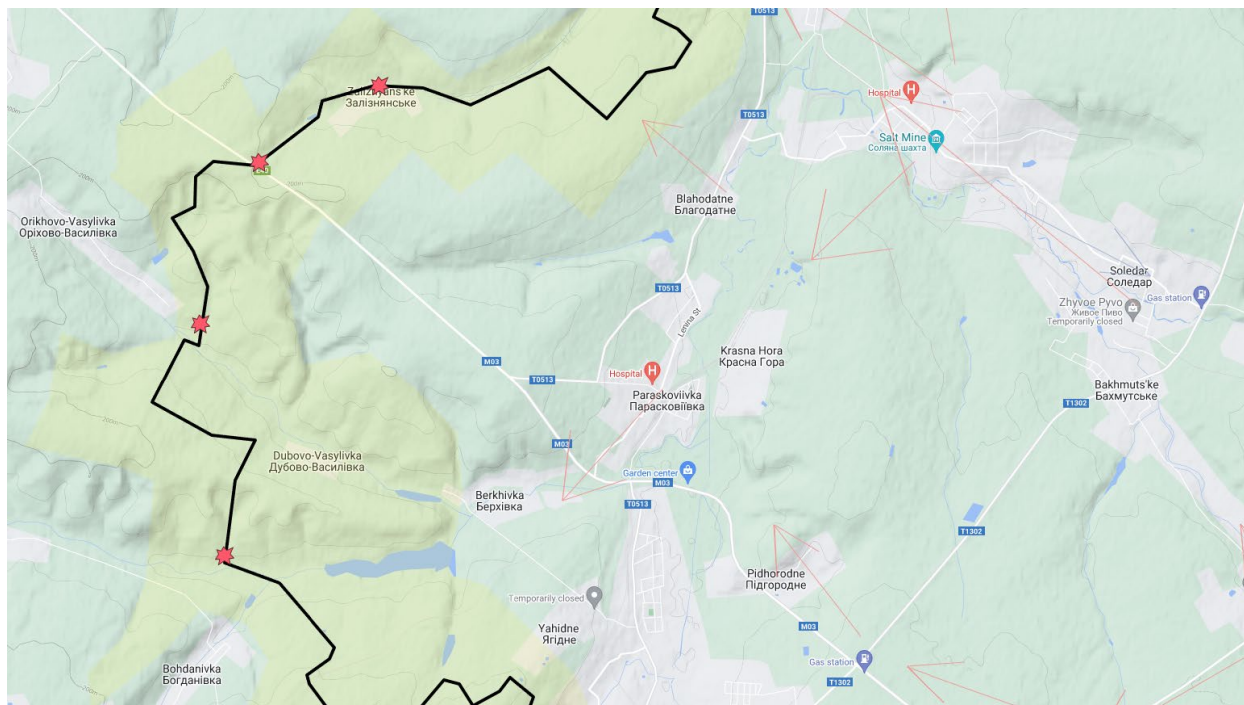
²⁸ https://t.me/LPR_JCCC/8222

NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

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



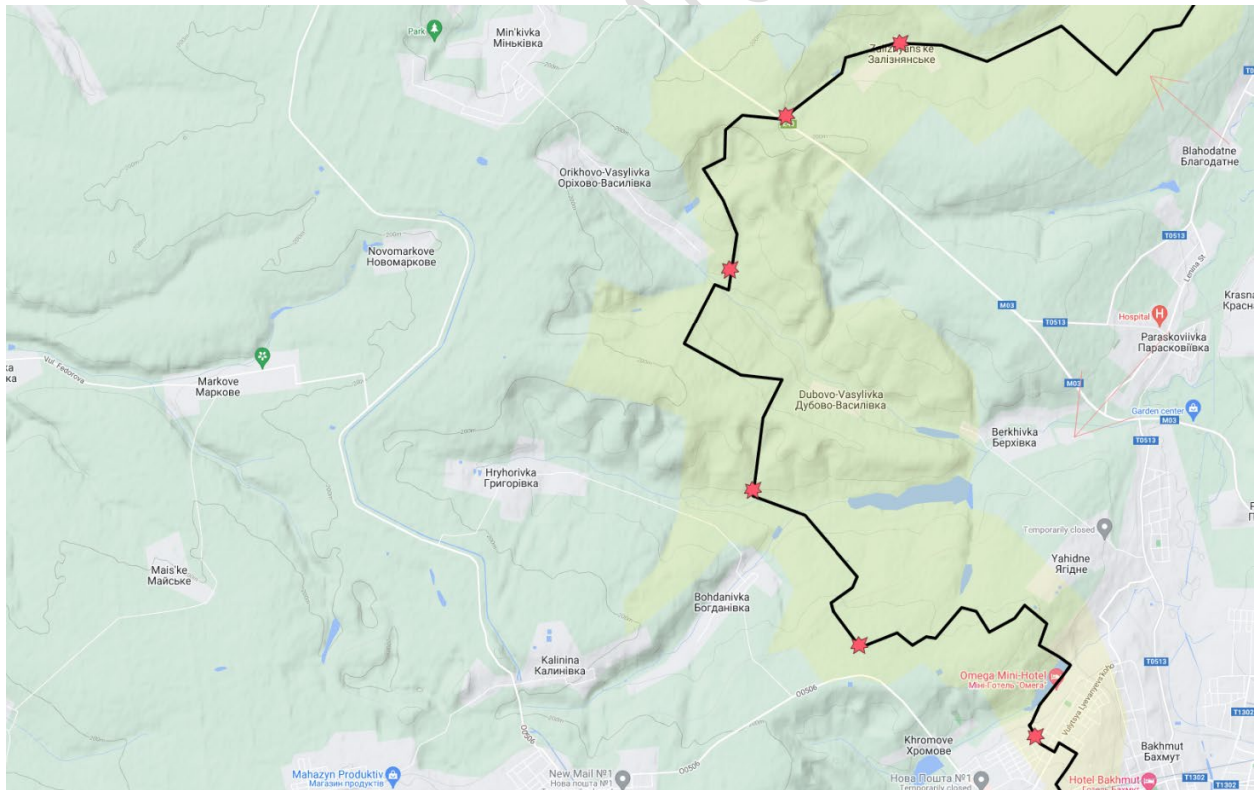
In the Soledar Operational Area, PMC Wagner-aligned Russian combat journalist Alexander Simonov reported that Ukrainian forces are making the situation “very tense” in Paraskoviivka due to active counterbattery fire, drone operations, and occasional targeting of Russian Ground Line of Communications (GLOC – supply lines).²⁹

In Bakhmut, Ukraine’s retrograde operation continues, with PMC Wagner being held along new defensive lines over the last 48 hours. There is no reason to believe that Wagner Group has culminated after a consistent pattern of making territorial gains followed by a 48 to 96-hour pause. RMOD

²⁹ <https://t.me/brussinf/5915>

reported 58 fire missions with seven close air support sorties by Russian army aviation and Airforce (VKS) on April 29 and 61 fire missions with no airstrikes on April 30.^{30 31}

In breaking news, General Oleksandr Syrskyi, Commander of OKE, claimed that Ukrainian forces launched a limited counteroffensive within Bakhmut, forcing PMC Wagner to retreat from several positions.³²

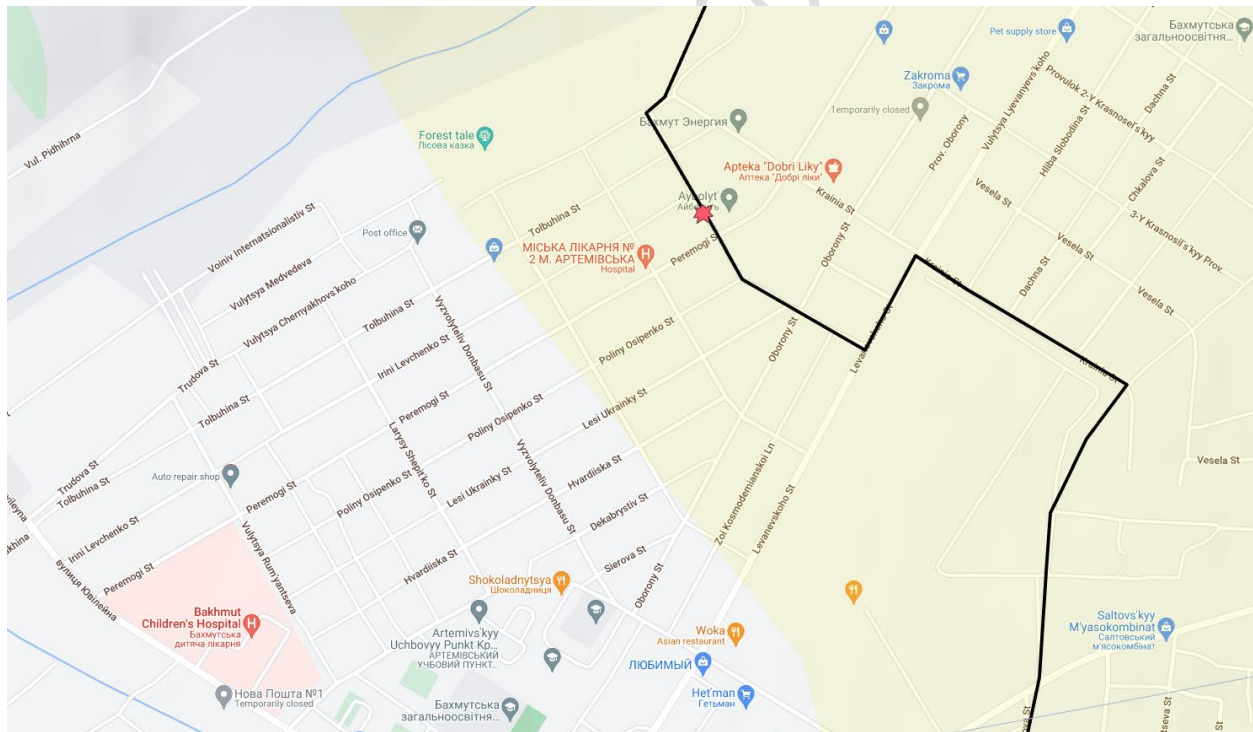


³⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

³² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/1/7400118/>

Northwest of Bakhmut, PMC Wagner led attacks in the directions of Minkivka and Bohdanivka without success.^{33 34}
^{35 36} Intense fighting continues near Khromove, with Russian proxy forces and Ukrainian troops trading defensive positions near the T-506 Highway GLOC, sometimes more than once a day.^{37 38 39 40}



³³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

³⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

³⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

³⁶ https://t.me/bakhmut_life/25491

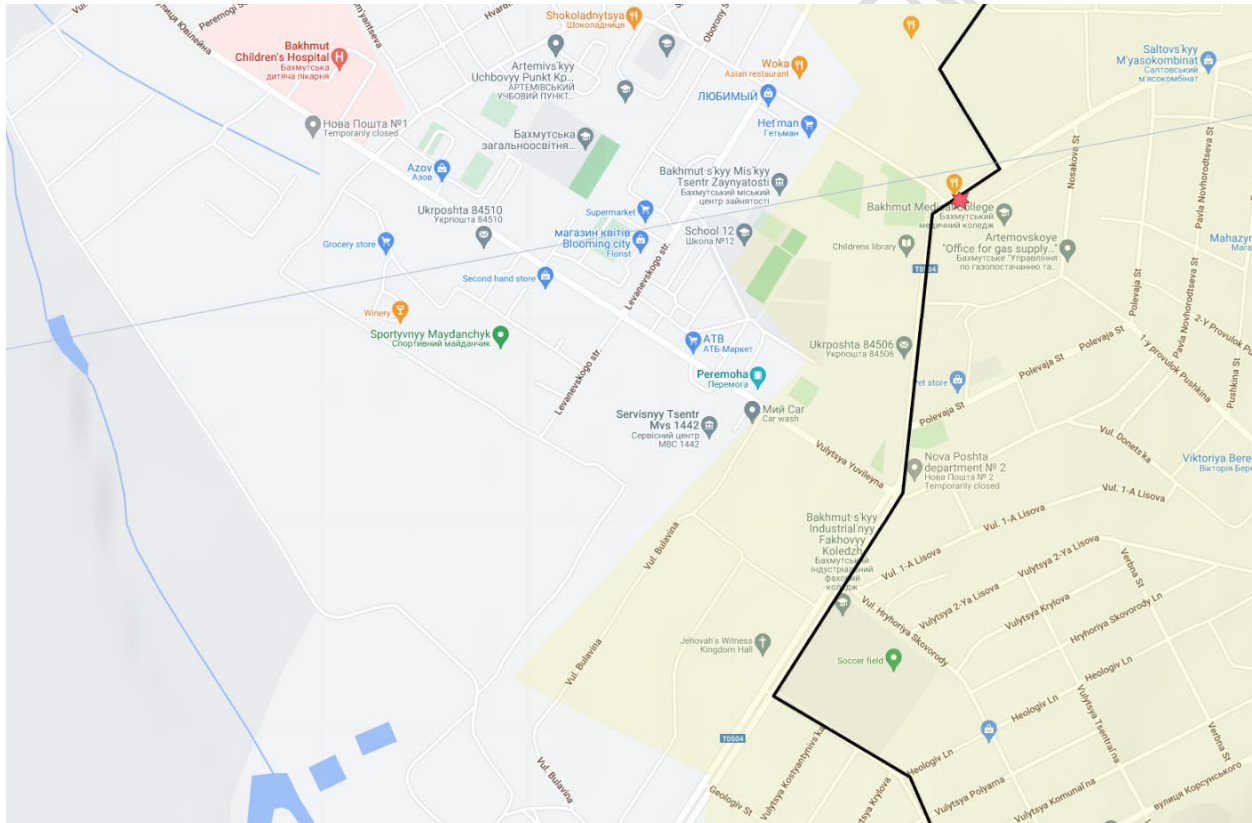
³⁷ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16433>

³⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16443>

³⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

⁴⁰ https://t.me/bakhmut_life/25491

In the northern part of Bakhmut, there was no change, with continued fighting in the area of Hospital Number 2 and PMC Wagner occupying a handful of homes past the line of conflict.^{41 42 43 44 45}



⁴¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁴² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

⁴³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁴⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

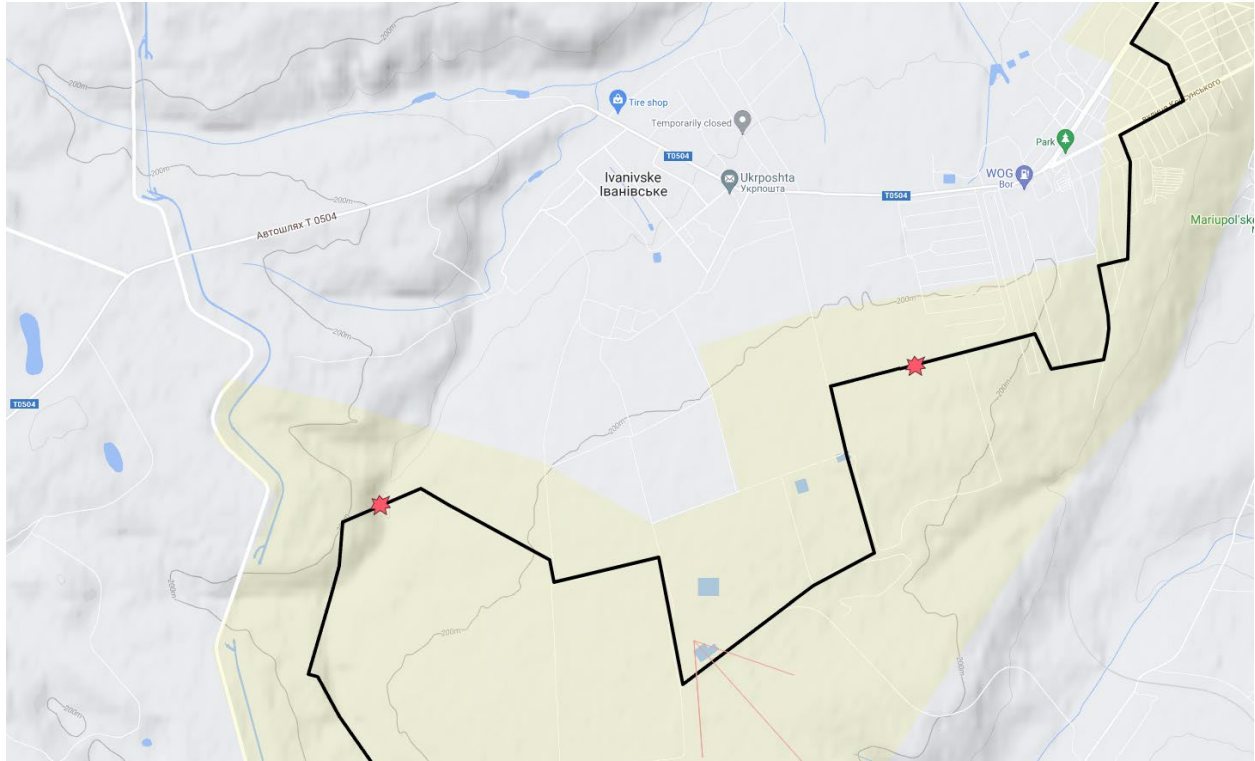
In west-central Bakhmut, Ukrainian and Russian sources claim PMC Wagner occupied the medical college, with Ukrainian forces falling back to the highrises west of Tchaikovsky Street.^{46 47}



The situation is unchanged in the southern part of Bakhmut, with Ukrainian forces under heavy pressure along Korsunskogo Street and Robocha Avenue.

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16433>

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>



South of Ivanske, RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces launched a counterattack on April 29, while GSAFU reported that Russian attacks on April 30 failed.^{48 49 50} On April 29, in the direction of Chasiv Yar, RMOD also reported that Ukrainian forces went on the offensive, while GSAFU reported a failed Russian attack.^{51 52} There were no new claims that the T-504 Highway GLOC was severed, with repeated claims of Ukrainian troop rotations, including from RMOD.⁵³

⁴⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

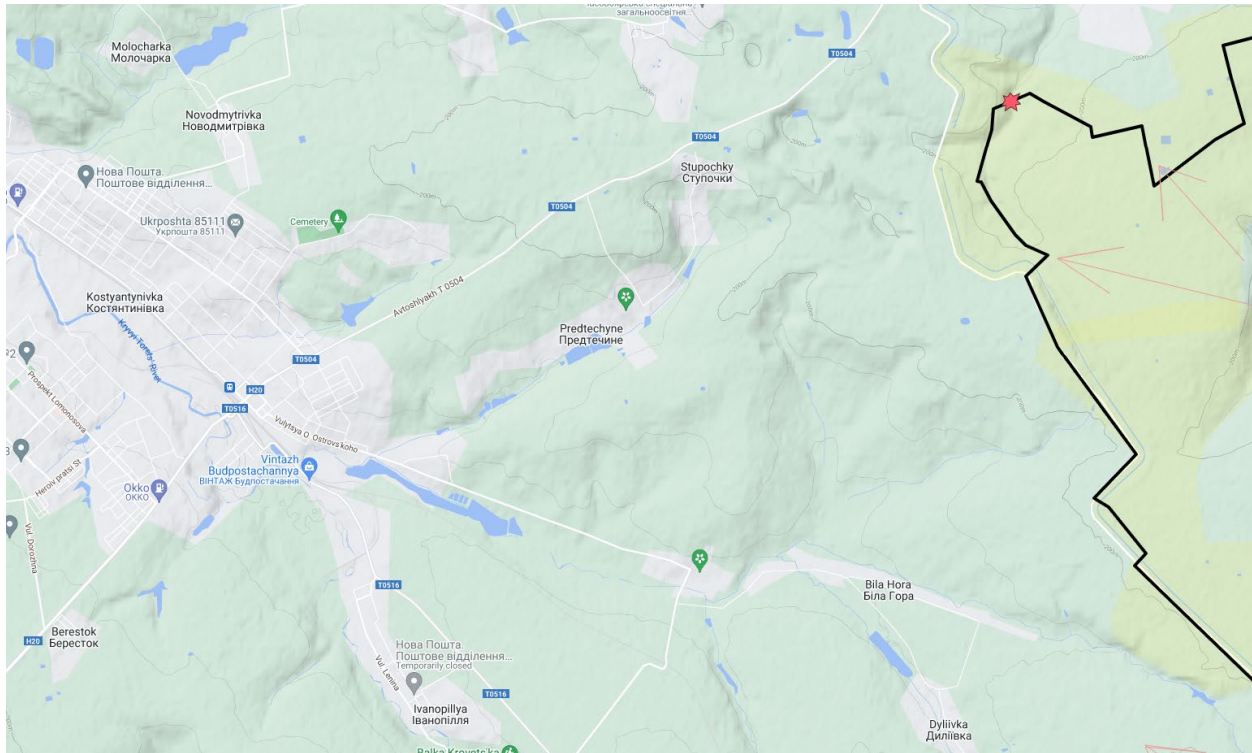
⁴⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁵⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁵¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁵² https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

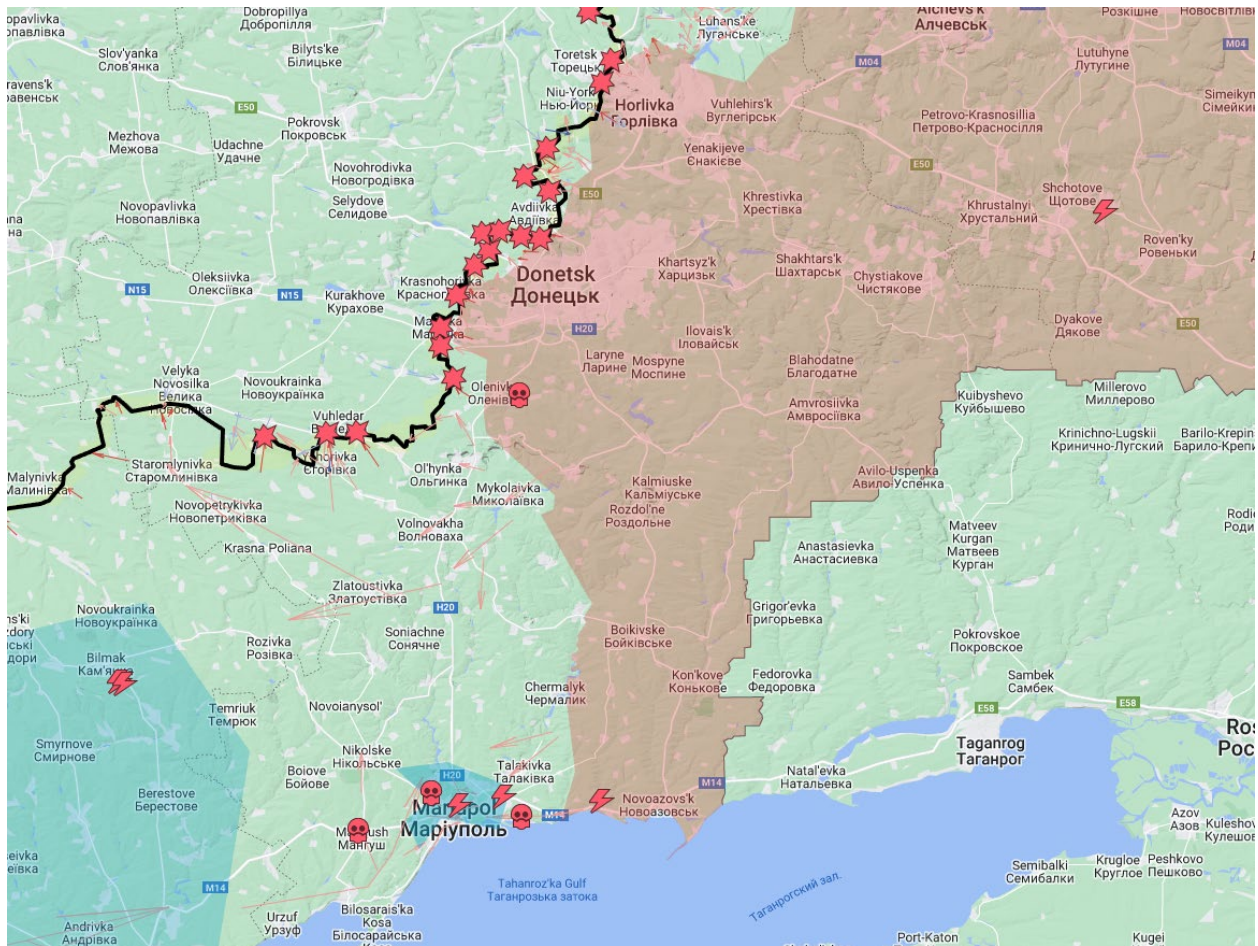
⁵³ https://t.me/mod_russia/26068 [4/30 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



In the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, a Russian attack in the direction of Predtechyne was repulsed.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK

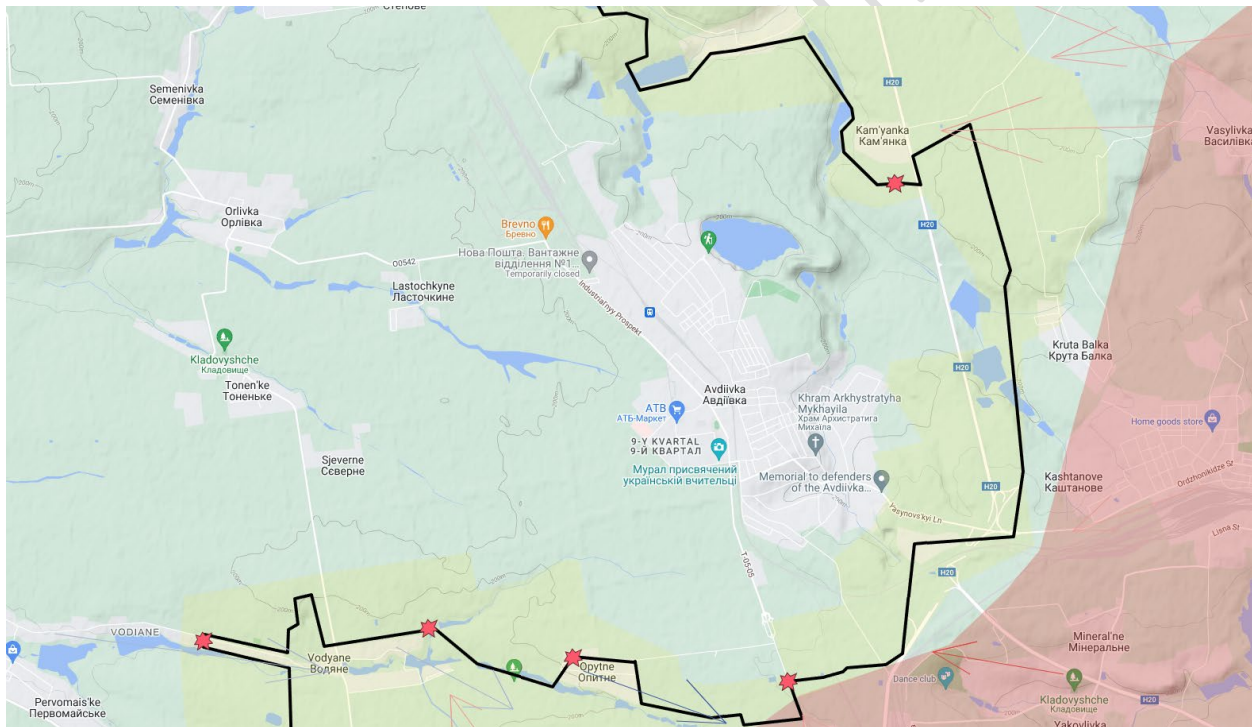


Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, consolidate gains made during the winter offensive, and set conditions for September 2023 elections

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and



command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

Russian milblogger Vladimir Grubnik reported that Donetsk (city) was flooded and "there is terrible mud."⁵⁵ The poor conditions have not deterred Russian offensive operations.



In the Avdiivka Operational Area, the 1st Army Corps continued direct attacks on Ukrainian defensive positions in Avdiivka from Kruta Balka, Kamyanka, and Vessele, without

⁵⁵ https://t.me/ghost_of_novorossia/11688

success.^{56 57 58 59 60} Russian casualties are reportedly significant due to insufficient artillery and armored vehicle support. On April 29, Russian forces  [heavily shelled the city](#), and on April 30, the Russian VKS bombed an apartment building, trapping one woman in the rubble.⁶¹ Overnight on April 30, Avdiivka was  [shelled with thermite](#) despite the known presence of civilians.⁶²

Ukrainian source DeepState reported that Russian forces suffered heavy losses north of Opytne and Vodyane and were forced to retreat.⁶³ On April 30, our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, and failed mobik, Igor Strelkov Girkin, confirmed the Ukrainian report, saying, "Near Avdiivka, our troops failed and now – due to heavy losses – they are forced to retreat again, leaving part of their previously occupied positions."⁶⁴ There was not enough information to change the map, and we have consistently assessed areas where Russian troops have a tenuous hold as no man's land. Multiple Ukrainian sources reported a Russian attack in the no man's land

⁵⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁵⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

⁵⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/46426>

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

⁶¹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/7738

⁶² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71593>

⁶³ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16433>

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/strelkovii/4713>



between Vodyane and Sjevrne failed, as did WarGonzo.^{65 66}
67 68

Russian attacks on Pervomaiske also failed, with the 1st
Army Corps attempting to advance from Pisky on April 29
and then from the south on April 30.^{69 70 71 72 73 74 75}

⁶⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁶⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

⁶⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16433>

⁶⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁷⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

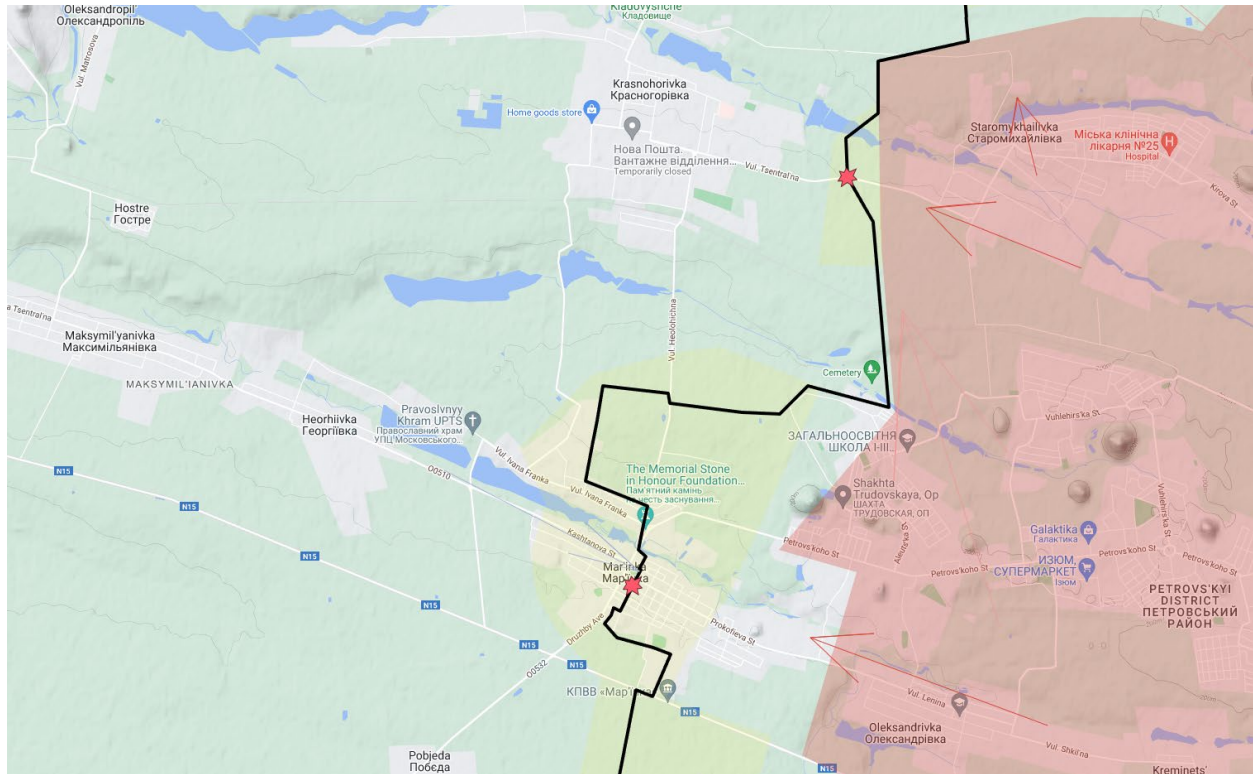
⁷¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁷² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁷³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16443>



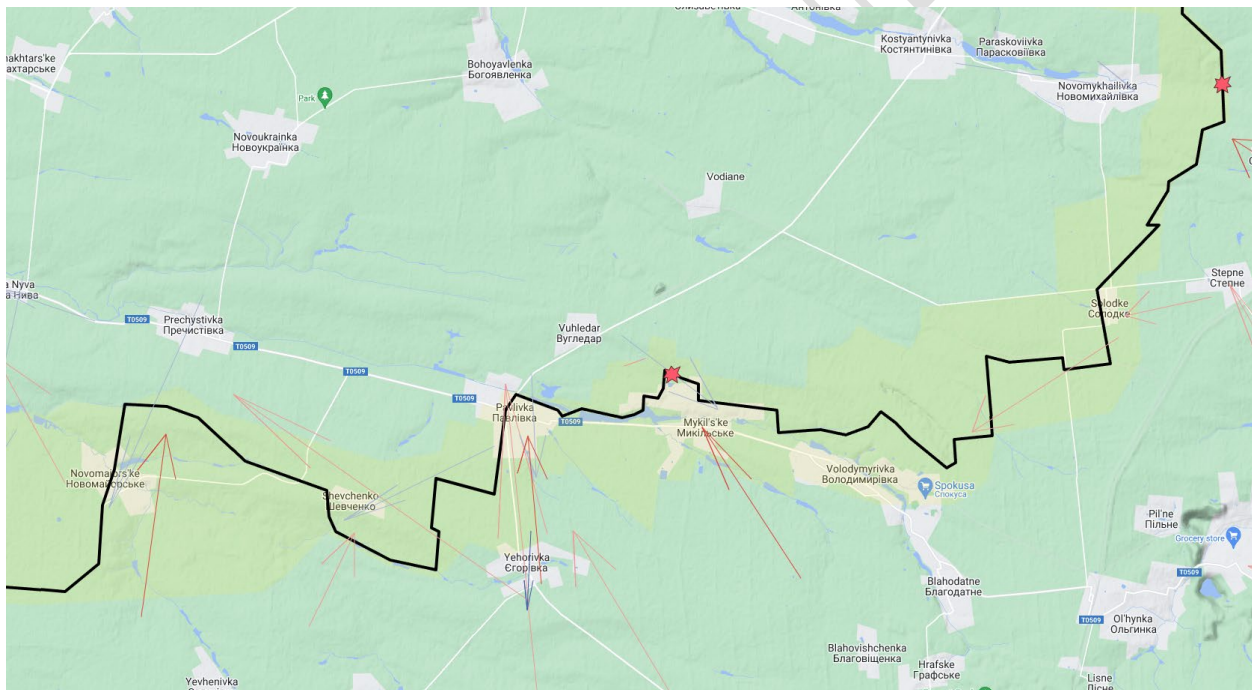
In the Marinka Operational Area, there is conflicting information. Russian sources, including Girkin, reported that Russian offensive operations failed on April 29 and 30.^{76 77 78} Our favorite FSB Colonel said, “In Marinka, on the whole, without changes, the bloody street “push-pull” continued throughout April with varying success.” Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar claimed Russian troops had marginal success on April 29, while GSAFU reported all

⁷⁶ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12215>

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12234>

⁷⁸ <https://t.me/strelkovii/4713>

attacks failed.^{79 80 81 82 83} One Ukrainian source reported that Russian troops had occupied the area west of Druzhby Avenue, which DeepState repeated.^{84 85} We didn't change the map due to the conflicting information. Geolocation has become extremely challenging in Marinka due to the destruction of the city.



In the Vuhledar Operational Area, the 1st Army Corps has restarted the tradition of repeatedly attacking

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/46426>

⁸⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

⁸¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

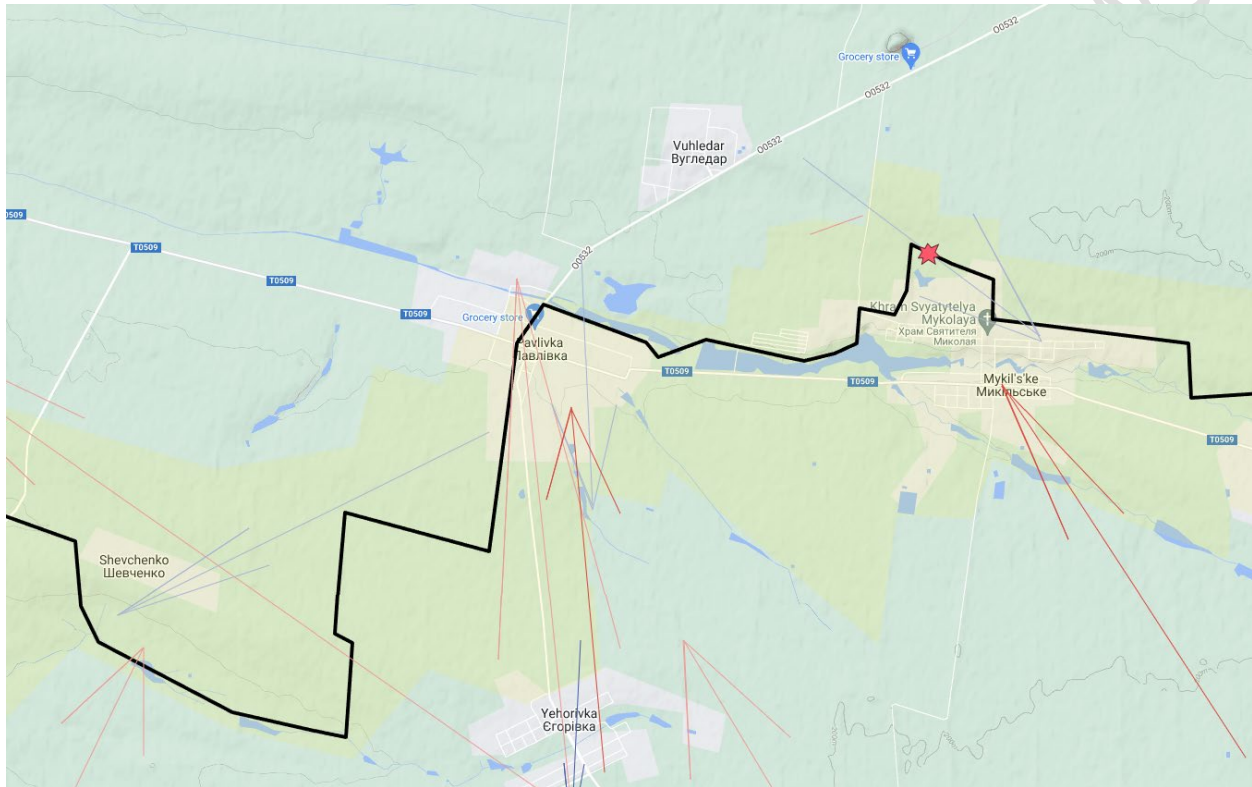
⁸² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁸³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁸⁴ https://t.me/bakhmut_life/25491

⁸⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16443>

Novomykhailivka, suffering losses and retreating to their original defensive positions.^{86 87 88 89}



In Pavlivka, geolocated videos show that Ukrainian forces have had success advancing from the west, pushing on the Russian flanks.⁹⁰ We adjusted the map based on the new intelligence and expanded the no man's land north of Mykilske in the direction of the coal mine complex east of

⁸⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 AM EEDT](#)

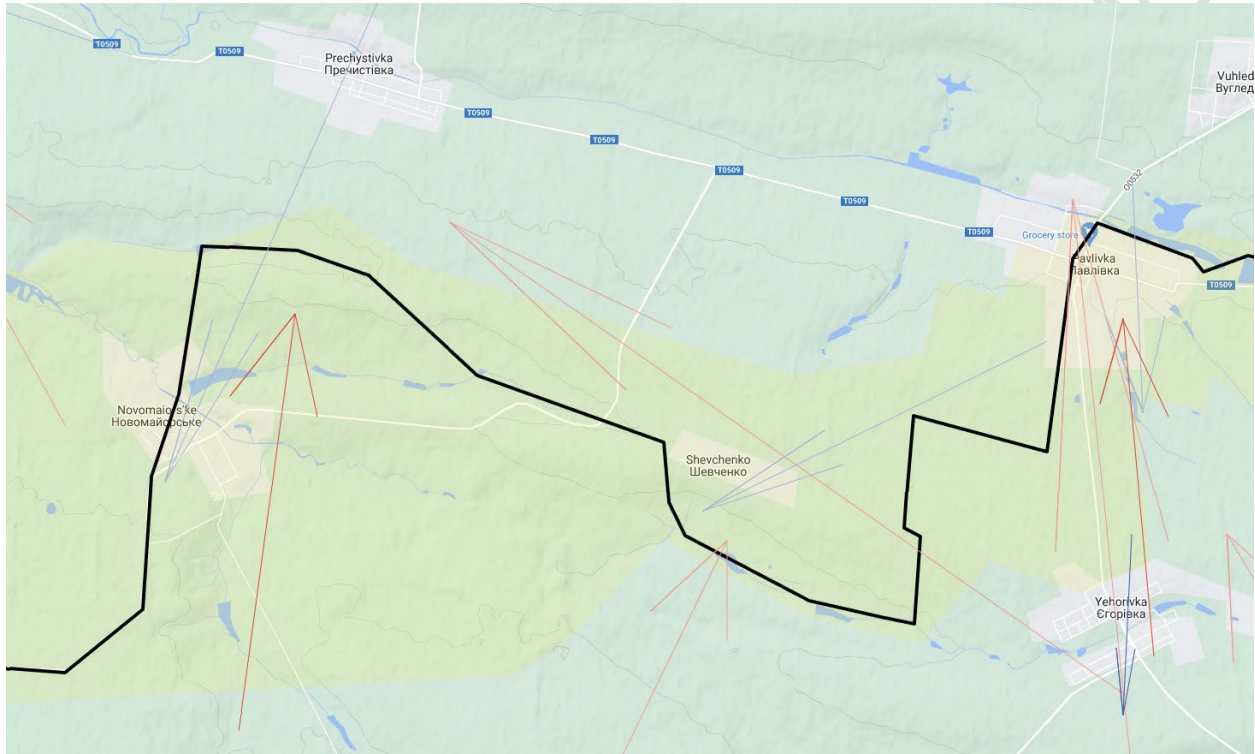
⁸⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/29 PM EEDT](#)

⁸⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 AM EEDT](#)

⁸⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report 4/30 PM EEDT](#)

⁹⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16442>


Vuhledar. Alexander Khodakovsky lamented the loss of territorial control, writing what took months to secure was lost in 12 hours.



On April 29, RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces probed Russian defense near Novomaiorske.⁹¹

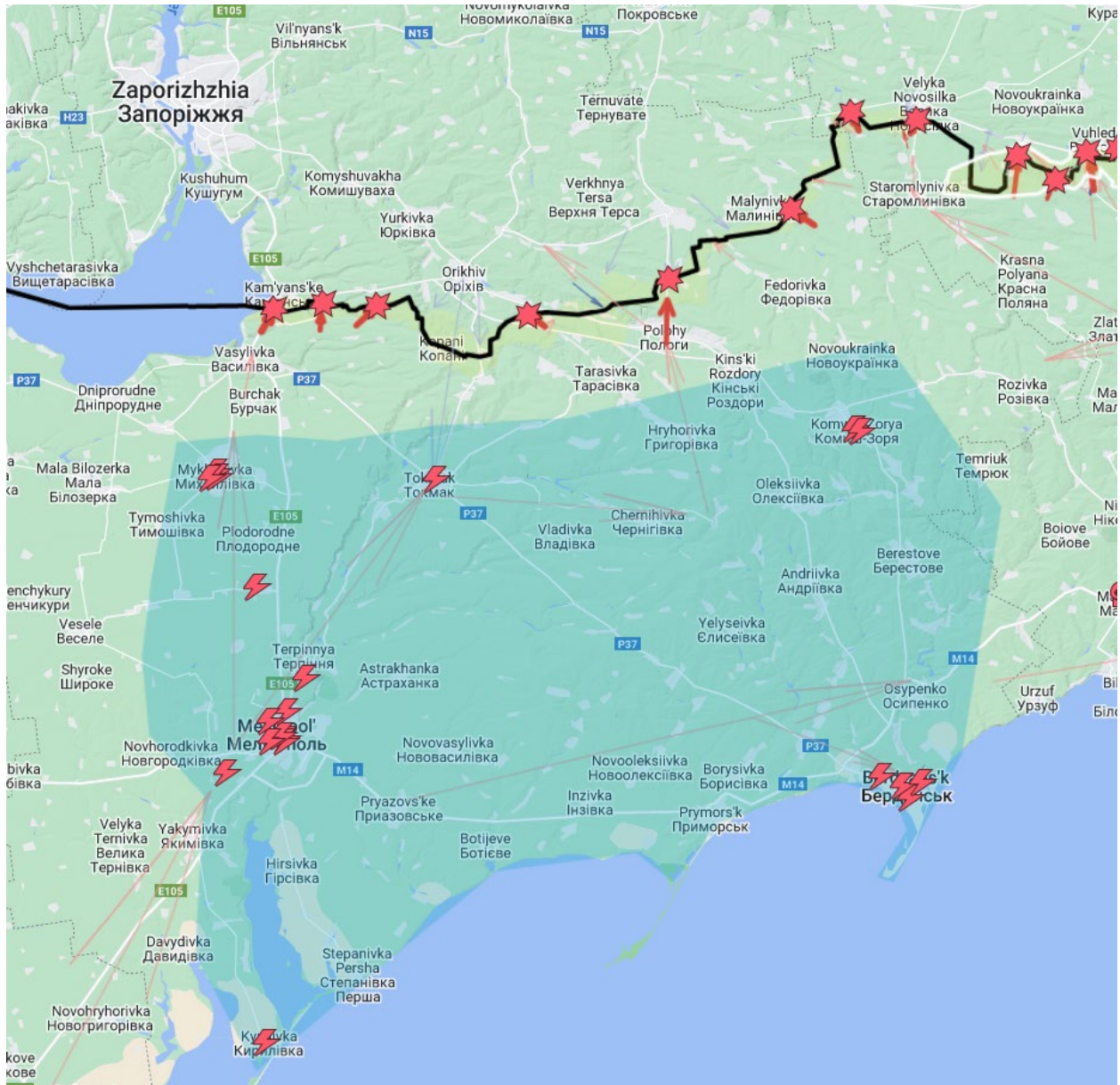
⁹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26041 [4/29 Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]



Insurgents in Mariupol documented the movement of  [three Russian T-90 tanks](#) but did not indicate in what direction they were traveling.⁹²

⁹² <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9233>


ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian offensive, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

Rybar confirmed local resident reports that rockets fired by HIMARS hit the railroad depot in occupied Tokmak.^{93 94}

In occupied Melitopol, a hotel used as a barracks by Russian troops was also hit by HIMARS,  [according to videos](#) and confirmed by Russian sources.^{95 96}

The exiled mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, wrote a message of hope and indirect thanks worth sharing. "Despite fear and terror, the people of Melitopol under occupation inform, wait, and act. You are our resistance and support. Thanks to you, we are in control of the situation. We are communicating it to the general public, and we are able to help free our people. Despite the enemy's efforts to drive residents into an information vacuum, journalists and bloggers hold this front. Despite the threats, the "visits" of the occupiers, and the abduction of loved ones, the only local site continues to work. We

⁹³ <https://t.me/rybar/46467>

⁹⁴ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/3055

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9228>

⁹⁶ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9227>

thank all the local, national, and international mass media, which deliver the truth every day – Melitopol is and will be Ukrainian."⁹⁷

To our listeners in occupied Zaporizhia, we see you are listening through the tracking data. The truth matters, and we will continue sharing the truth with you.


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

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Operational Command South (OKS) reported 7 Black Sea Fleet vessels on patrol with no missile carriers. Earlier in the day, there were 15 ships, including four missile carriers capable of launching up to 24 Kalibr cruise missiles.

The fuel terminal at Cossack Bay burned itself out, with ten storage tanks destroyed or heavily damaged. An estimated 40,000 tons of fuel were destroyed.

⁹⁷ https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/1822

With black smoke hanging in the sky, and minefields, bunkers, trenches, barbed wire, and dragon teeth on Crimea beaches, the Gauleiter Vadim Volchenko, the Minister of Resorts and Tourism for occupied Crimea, said with a straight face, "Crimea is preparing for the beginning of the May holidays and the holiday season  [in an absolutely regular mode.](#)"⁹⁸

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

There was a significant reduction in shelling of free Ukraine, with the director of communications for Operational Command South (OKS) Nataliya Humenyuk claiming that poor weather combined with Ukrainian counterbattery fire has helped calm the situation on the

⁹⁸ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29408?single>

west bank of the Dnipro. Despite Russian artillery strikes down 50% to 70%, two civilians were killed and four wounded between April 29 and 30.^{99 100 101 102} A Russian cruise missile targeted critical electrical infrastructure in free Kherson, knocking out powers to thousands that will take days to repair.¹⁰³

Russian-occupied  [Oleshky was heavily shelled](#), along with Kakhovka and Hola Prystan.¹⁰⁴

In Dnipropetrovsk, Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack struck near a chemical plant in Pavlohrad,  [setting off a massive explosion](#).¹⁰⁵ There are numerous claims of massive secondary explosions, but the longest video distributed on the Internet is muted, and all other videos only record a single, massive blast. A short video records the sounds of several  [additional smaller explosions immediately after the initial blast](#), followed by silence.¹⁰⁶ The shockwave   [blew windows and doors out](#) up to 5 kilometers away.¹⁰⁷ Thirty-four area residents

⁹⁹ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/5465>

¹⁰⁰ <https://t.me/khersonskaODA/5494>

¹⁰¹ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/6923

¹⁰² <https://t.me/hueviyherson/38658>

¹⁰³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/1/7400143/>

¹⁰⁴ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/6955

¹⁰⁵ <https://twitter.com/LvivJournal/status/1652775946229882880>

¹⁰⁶ <https://twitter.com/EvgeniyDnepr390/status/1652982250835771400/video/1>

¹⁰⁷ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1652769472640434178>

were injured by flying debris and the concussive force, including five children. Two people were in critical condition.¹⁰⁸

ASSESSMENT: We cannot conclusively determine what exploded, but the initial blast, the lack of audio evidence, and how quickly the fire burned out, with little damage from secondary explosions through the city, do not point to an ammunition depot being destroyed. Air defense missiles, as Russian sources claim were destroyed, explode airborne and resemble fireworks when they cook-off. They don't fly off in a consistent pattern. Additionally, the leaked Pentagon documents stressed Ukraine was critically low on air defense missiles, and Ukrainian forces haven't stockpiled ammunition in large caches since February 2022. Ukrainian sources claim that the explosion was caused by 1,800 tons of solid rocket fuel from 38 SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missile engines and lower-stage assemblies stored in Pavlograd since the Cold War.¹⁰⁹ Geolocation confirms that the area of the blast is where the rocket fuel and SS-24 ICBM stages were stored. Russian claims that the railroad station was targeted appear false.

¹⁰⁸ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9229>

¹⁰⁹ <https://twitter.com/oalexanderdk/status/1653008025123209219>

A November 22, 2019, story in Ukrinform documented the disposal work, stating that rocket fuel disposal had stopped due to a lack of funding.¹¹⁰ Even in 2019, residents were concerned about the hazard caused by the stored fuel, which was 20 years expired. However, just as we cannot confirm that an ammunition depot was hit, we cannot confirm 38 Soviet-era rocket booster assemblies exploded and flew in various directions. We are committed to being right over first.

Additionally, 18 cruise missiles were launched at Ukraine today by the Russian VKS. There are reports of power outages in Dnipro due to damage to electrical infrastructure from a Russian missile attack.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ [Ukrinform](#) [Ukrainian State Media]

¹¹¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/1/7400143/>


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 is more information in the **Theaterwide** section.

RUSSIAN FRONT


Ukraine forces reportedly  [fired on the village of Suzemka](#) in the Bryansk region, allegedly killing four. A home was destroyed, and two more were damaged.¹¹²

In the Sverdlovsk region, saboteurs destroyed a relay and battery cabinet near the Nizhny Tagil Station, destroying railroad safety controls near Yekaterinburg.¹¹³ Russian

¹¹² https://t.me/shot_shot/50734


¹¹³ https://t.me/shot_shot/50763

investigators report finding a bottle with fuel by the damaged cabinet.

In Bryansk near Unechsky, saboteurs set off an explosive charge on railroad tracks while a fuel train passed,  [derailing at least seven fuel tankers and igniting a fire](#).^{114 115}

A bomb threat was called into the Pulkovo Airport in St. Petersburg, forcing its closure for an hour. The unknown person introduced himself as Grigory Leps from Ufa and promised to arrange "the worst day in St. Petersburg."¹¹⁶ The airport was closed for about an hour while officials did a security sweep. No explosive device was located.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

After wild claims of dozens of Russian bombers in the air and up to 200 cruise missiles ready for an attack,  [nine Tu-95 strategic bombers from Murmansk](#) and two Tu-160 bombers over the Caspian Sea launched 18 Kh-101/555 cruise missiles.¹¹⁷ Fifteen were intercepted, mostly around

¹¹⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/1/7400145/>

¹¹⁵ https://twitter.com/ukrpravda_news/status/1652962233607921666

¹¹⁶ https://t.me/shot_shot/50758

¹¹⁷ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/3058

Kyiv, with the Patriot missile system reportedly involved in providing air defense for the first time.¹¹⁸ In the previous 72 hours, Russia was able to cobble together 23 cruise missiles and four Iskander-M short-range ballistic missiles. Ukrainian air defenses intercepted 83% of viable targets on April 30 and 89% over the last three days – including four Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones.

Today's limited attack was likely in retaliation for the drone strike on Sevastopol, based on previous actions by the Kremlin.

On Telegram, Live Journal, and VK, Russians expressed frustration about how ineffective the day's attacks were and how Ukraine's energy infrastructure is no longer being targeted.¹¹⁹

When Russian collaborator and occupied Zaporizhia administrator, Vladimir Rogov, says stop spreading fake propaganda, you know it's over the top.¹²⁰ According to Rogov, Russian social media accounts are circulating a story that Ukrainian Major General Vladimir Oleinik, who

¹¹⁸ https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/11182

¹¹⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29448>

¹²⁰ <https://t.me/vrogov/9042>

allegedly commands the territorial defense units, was assassinated outside his house. Rogov points out that the commander of Ukraine's territorial defense units is Major General Igor Tantsyura, there is no such person as Vladimir Olenik, and Tantsyura is quite alive and healthy. He then admonished people for sharing the propaganda and demanded that readers practice information hygiene.


Editor's Note: We suggest you stop following Rogov if you want to practice effective information hygiene.


Ukrainian Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada, Dmytro Lubinets, advised people in the occupied territories to accept Russian passportization. "Take a Russian passport...make the decision to survive for yourself. This is the most important thing. We understand that this happens under pressure, physical pressure. Therefore, take a passport, survive, and wait until we liberate this territory."

Ukrainian forces shot down a Supercam S350 reconnaissance drone developed by Supercam based in Izhevsk, Russia.¹²¹ The drone has a flight time of 4.5 hours

¹²¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/93654>

and can send realtime surveillance data up to 100 kilometers away.

In Bellevue, Ohio, United States, surprisingly convincing  [mockups of Russian S-300 and Tor-M1 anti-aircraft systems](#) were photographed moving by rail. The S-300 launchers are enough to fool a drone at altitude, while the mock Tor-M1 is impressively done. What they are doing in Ohio is a mystery, and it is unknown if these are destined for Ukraine, spy satellite image calibration and testing, or autonomous weapons calibration.¹²²

When the United States announced a \$2.85 billion support package for Ukraine in January, one of the munitions provided was 4,000 Zuni air-to-ground missiles. This caused speculation on what platform would deliver them and if this was a prelude to the appearance of NATO warplanes in the Ukrainian Airforce. Ukrainian Commander of the Airforce, General Mykola Oleschuk,  [shared a picture](#) and confirmed the missiles had been adapted to launch from Su-25 ground attack aircraft.¹²³ The Zuni has over triple the range of the Soviet-era S-8, enabling

¹²² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/93592>

¹²³ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5749



Ukrainian pilots to stand off further from Russian air defenses while providing close air support.

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 April 24, 2023. 10,110 Russian vs. 3,204 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	1784	190	9.39:1	↓
Medium Duty Tanks	123	300	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	838	264	3.17:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2319	523	4.43:1	↑
Armored Personnel Carriers	306	247	1.24:1	—
MRAPs	44	52	0.85:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	193	284	0.68:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	241	12	20.08:1	↓
Engineering Vehicles	299	50	5.98:1	↓
Towed Artillery	201	122	1.65:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	386	139	2.78:1	—
MLRS	191	44	4.34:1	↓
SAMs	106	91	1.16:1	—
Mobile Radars	31	54	0.57:1	↓
EW/ECW	35	1	35.00:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	80	66	1.21:1	↓
Helicopters	83	29	2.86:1	↑
Naval Vessels	12	26	0.46:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MILITARY, AND MIR

Olga Romanova, the head of the Russia Sedentary Foundation, said RMOD had recruited almost 10,000 prisoners in April to penal units and various private military companies, including 400 that went to Wagner.¹²⁴ While RMOD has blocked Wagner from further recruitment in Russian penal colonies, there was a “surplus” in April, according to Romanova, that went to Yevgeny Prigozhin’s mercenary organization because there weren’t enough commanders in the newly minted competing PMCs.

Romanova reported that Prigozhin had recruited 49,000 penal soldiers since June 2022. Over 37,700 were killed, wounded, missing in action, or deserted. Another 5,000 have completed their six-month contracts and returned to Russia. Less than 2,500 penal soldiers remain, with many reaching the end of their contract in May. She estimated that 10,000 Wagnerites remain in Ukraine. Prigozhin claimed in an interview with Semyon Pegov on April 28 that 6,000 Wagnerites were fighting for control of Bakhmut.

In the same interview with Pegov,  [Prigozhin claimed that the Wagnerites are running out](#) of personnel, and the

¹²⁴ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29411>

company may soon cease to exist.¹²⁵ This would seem to validate the data provided by Romanova. "As of today, we are approaching the point where the Wagner private military company is ending. And in a short time, Wagner will cease to exist, Prigozhin told Pegov. He cited looming personnel shortages in May, a critical shortage of ammunition, and intentional sabotage by people in the Kremlin.¹²⁶ The Wagner leader described the situation as a "betrayal of Russia's interests by a group of top officials."¹²⁷

During the same interview, he claimed he had established an alliance with Colonel General and aspiring dentist Ramzan don don Kadyrov and General of the Army Sergei Surovikin, who was demoted on January 2023.¹²⁸ He also mocked retired FSB Colonel Girkin, calling his "Angry Patriots Club" the "Naughty Dwarf's Club."

Regarding ammunition, Prigozhin claimed that PMC Wagner was completely cut off from ammunition by RMOD for the second time in two months, with the typically pro-Kremlin Pegov calling it "scandalous."¹²⁹

¹²⁵ https://twitter.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1652036580482097167

¹²⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/04/28/7399938/>

¹²⁷ https://t.me/concordgroup_official/863

¹²⁸ <https://t.me/strelkovii/4665>

¹²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12247>

"Yes, during the interview, many harsh words were said to please our enemies," Pegov said. "Yes, such issues should be resolved behind the scenes and not displayed in the public field. But let's set aside emotions and calmly sort out the problem voiced yesterday. Prigozhin's claims are quite obvious. While colossal ammunition reserves accumulate far from the front, assault units are sitting on starvation rations. By the way, this is not only about PMCs – in other areas where active hostilities are taking place, they also experience a shortage of shells."

ASSESSMENT: We had previously assessed that the problem wasn't a shortage of ammunition, except antitank weapons, but the reality of firing 40,000 to 60,000 shells a day was unsustainable. Even at 20,000 to 25,000 shells daily, Russia uses 300 to 400% more ammunition theaterwide. We find the message in the public sphere that "collateral ammunition reserves accumulate," in our assessment, this is likely untrue. In February 2023, multiple Russian officials claimed that cruise missile production could meet demand, and almost three months later, this was untrue. Just as Ukraine's Western allies are scouring the world for NATO and Soviet-era ammunition, so is the Russian Federation. Soviet ammunition, especially 122 mm, 125 mm, and 122 mm Grad rockets are in short

supply globally. While Russia has found aid from North Korea and Iran, and Ukraine has found aid from former Warsaw Pact nations Egypt and through third-party sellers, no one can match the consumption rate. Russia will not be able to fire 60,000 shells a day again at a sustained rate, and there is no logical reason to hold back “collateral” ammunition supplies given the numerous Ukrainian probing attacks we’ve documented for weeks. In our final assessment, we find it unlikely that Wagner has been cut off from all ammunition, and we had previously assessed that the April 27 firing of Prigozhin-ally Deputy Minister of Defense Colonel General Mikhail Mizintsev would throw Russian logistics into chaos. During his interview with Pegov, he criticized Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu for dismissing the Deputy Minister.

On Russian Telegram, a letter allegedly from RMOD claims a significant amount of artillery ammunition was released to PMC Wagner on April 15.¹³⁰ The list includes,

- 10,000 120 mm mortars
- 4,000 152 mm artillery rounds
- 9,000 122 mm artillery rounds
- 3,800 125 mm tank rounds

¹³⁰ https://t.me/regnum_na/37660

- 1,723 100 mm smooth bore antitank rounds for M-12 towed antitank guns
- 120 240 mm mortar rounds
- 50 Kornet antitank rockets

Prigozhin questioned the veracity of the letter, adding that even if it is a truthful document, the quantities don't meet the needs of his forces to assure combat success.¹³¹

ASSESSMENT: The truth matters, and in our assessment, Prigozhin is accurate in both conclusions. The letters shared on Telegram don't have RMOD letterhead and don't match Kremlin requisition forms and logistics paperwork. Additionally, 122 mm howitzer ammunition has not been produced in Russia since 2018 and is in tight supply. We find it unlikely that more 122 mm ammunition would be provided over 152 mm. If accurate, the introduction of the 100 mm ammunition for the M-12 antitank gun and the low number of Kornet ATGM missiles is another data point that supports our assessment that Russian forces are facing a critical shortage of antitank weapons. The quantities listed in the documents would last for two to three days and are inadequate based on the tasks Wagner has been assigned

¹³¹ https://t.me/concordgroup_official/868

and knowing how Russian forces conduct offensive operations.

Prigozhin also made what appears to have been an empty threat to Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu, claiming he wrote a letter stating PMC Wagner would abandon their positions in Bakhmut if his mercenaries didn't get more ammunition by April 28.¹³²

The head of the Defense Committee of the State Duma, Andrei Kartoplov, believes that the local population can be involved in protecting the Russian borders because the Russian military lacks the resources to do it unlike in the time of the U.S.S.R. "It is important to make a decision in principle: yes or no. That is, we trust our people in terms of responsibility for the security of our border areas. If we trust, then we trust. And then the technology is already taking shape: what units, how many there will be, what kind of organization they will be," Kartoplov said.¹³³

All is going to plan.

¹³² <https://t.me/strelkovii/4688>

¹³³ <https://kommersant-ru.turbopages.org/kommersant.ru/s/doc/5953942>