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RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

September 30, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 583

It has been 3,504 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 219 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. Due to our EIC's family emergency, there may be no SITREP or bullet reports on Monday and Tuesday.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

- The table of Russian versus Ukrainian heavy military equipment losses, using information from the Oryx Database, has been updated through **September 30, 2023**
- Russian attack knocked out power to 28,000 homes in Kharkiv
- Russian counterattacks at Klishchiivka continue to fail
- Kramatorsk was attacked by missiles, striking a dormitory
- Kostyantynivka was bombed by the Russian VKS, damaging buildings and wounding two
- Russian forces launched attacks from the Krasnohorivka plateau, north of Avdiivka

- The Russian VKS destroyed a critical bridge in Velyka Novosilka
- There was a massive explosion in Russian-occupied Volnovakha
- Ukrainian artillery strikes increased significantly in Zaporizhzhia
- In the Hulyaipole area of operation (AO), Russian forces have been conducting offensive operations near Krasnoselivka
- Heavy fighting continued south of Orikhiv and near Kopani and Nesteriyanka
- The eastern edge of the city of Zaporizhzhia was hit by two missiles that struck "critical infrastructure"
- The International Atomic Energy Agency released an update on the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant
- President Zelenskyy said Ukraine is the first nation in the world to create a fleet of naval drones
- The mayor of the Romanian city of Galati complained about air raid alerts
- Operational Command South of Ukraine stated it would be policy not to intercept drones or missiles that enter other country's airspace
- The prime minister of Romania said that drone debris from Saturday's border incursion has not been found
- Fighting continues on the left bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson

- Russia continues to target civilians and civilian infrastructure in free Kherson, dropping 166 bombs in the last week
- An oil pipeline in the Ivano-Frankivsk region exploded, wounding nine, five critically
- A Russian radar station was destroyed in Kursk, Russia
- Ukrainian drones struck the city of Sochi, Russia
- Ukrainian drones struck the city of Smolensk, Russia
- Someone gave a microphone to the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, and it was what you expected
- The navy and GUR rescued two Ukrainian soldiers who had been behind enemy lines for 18 months
- Russia has damaged or destroyed 37 Ukrainian weapons factories since February 24, 2022
- The United States government passed a 48-day temporary spending bill that ends Lend-Lease and does not provide additional funding for military or humanitarian aid for Ukraine
- The Minister of Defense of France announced a new military aid package for Ukraine
- The Minister of Defense for the U.K. said London is considering moving British troops to Ukraine to provide military training
- The Czech Republic granted a license to Ukraine for the production of CZ BREN-2 assault rifles and supporting ammunition

- Baykar reported it was investing \$100 million in Ukraine, and the planned drone factory will open within 18 months
- 119 Cuban nationals are in occupied Ukraine, receiving military training
- The GUR completed Operation Barinya, which facilitated the defection of a Russian military officer
- A Chechen soldier released a graphic video showing his maggot-infested wounds
- A squad of Russian soldiers made a video on September 19 stating if the video is released, "things went wrong"
- Russia is painting decoy Tu-95 bombers on the tarmac at Engels-2
- A monument to Yevgeny Prigozhin appeared in Tver at the plane crash site
- Russia is actively erasing its 1939 to 1941 World War II history
- Ukrainian war photographer Volodymyr Myronyuk was killed near Klishchiivka
- Belarus is holding meetings with foreign diplomats on the issue of deported Ukrainian children
- The United Nations will provide \$123 million in humanitarian assistance
- Russia is wondering why it hasn't received an invite to the November APEC summit in San Francisco

- Pro-Russian former Slovakia Robert Fico won reelection and has already established a coalition
- Finland has been quietly building defenses on its border with Russia
- Hungary said that Ukraine's offer to suspend OTP Bank from the list of Russian war sponsors doesn't go far enough and will not support any further EU military or humanitarian aid

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

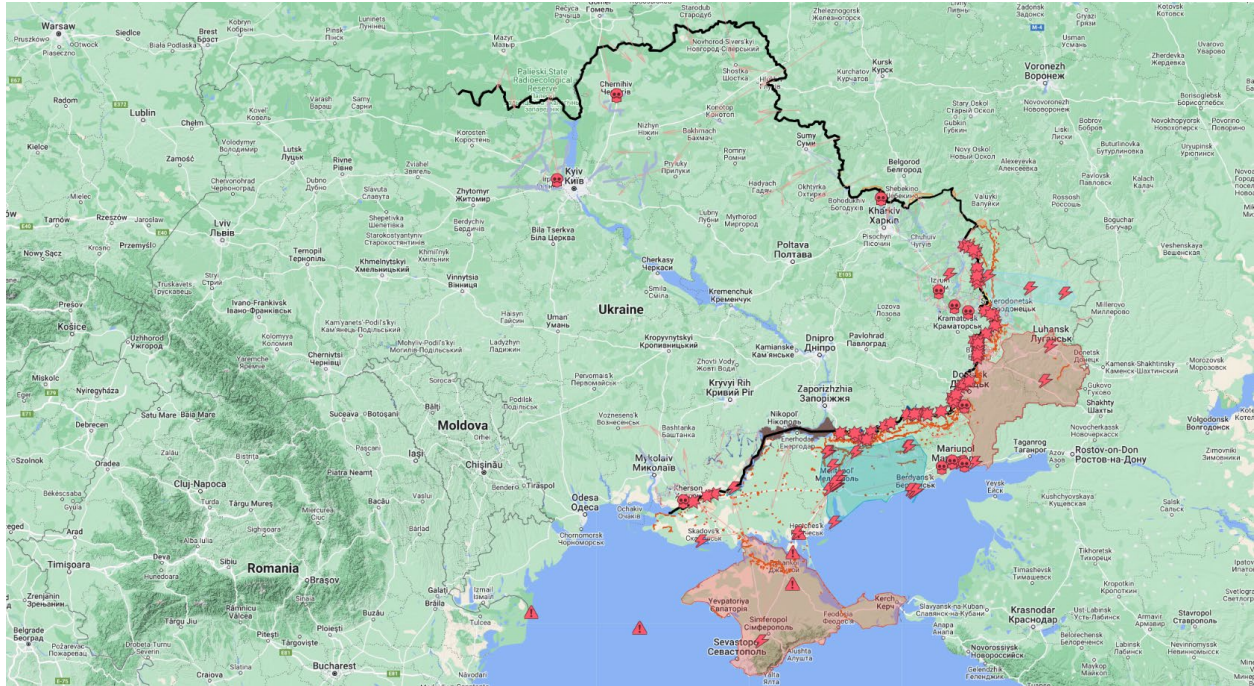
1. We maintain that the repeated soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border will continue to encourage Moscow to take additional risks, and the probability of a serious border incident is increasing.
2. In our assessment, the dismissal of General of the Army Serhey Surovikin as the commander of Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) has resulted in a shift in Russian tactics, with a sharp and notable increase in strikes on military targets.
3. In our assessment, the United States is at risk of contributing to the end of the ongoing Ukrainian offensive and risks encouraging China to take future

- military action against Taiwan due to wavering support from Washington.
4. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, and there continues to be a lack of mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.
 5. The inability of Russian military leaders to stop the ongoing Ukrainian offensive and retake the battlefield initiative has put significant pressure on Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov, who has been in charge of all Russian forces in Ukraine since January 2023.
 6. In our assessment, Russian forces have no plans to withdraw from Tokmak to conserve available combat potential for future offensives or the defense of rear areas of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.
 7. Ukraine continues to hold the initiative theaterwide, and the number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units is growing, eroding Russian combat potential in numerous areas of operation.
 8. Russian Chief of Staff Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu remain some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, and waste of military resources, but the Kremlin is showing an increased capacity to adapt on the battlefield.

9. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer-fall 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 at risk of fragmenting Western support.
10. Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
11. We maintain that Russia will attempt to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure over the fall and winter and suspect that special operations are targeting Ukrainian pipeline infrastructure.
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.



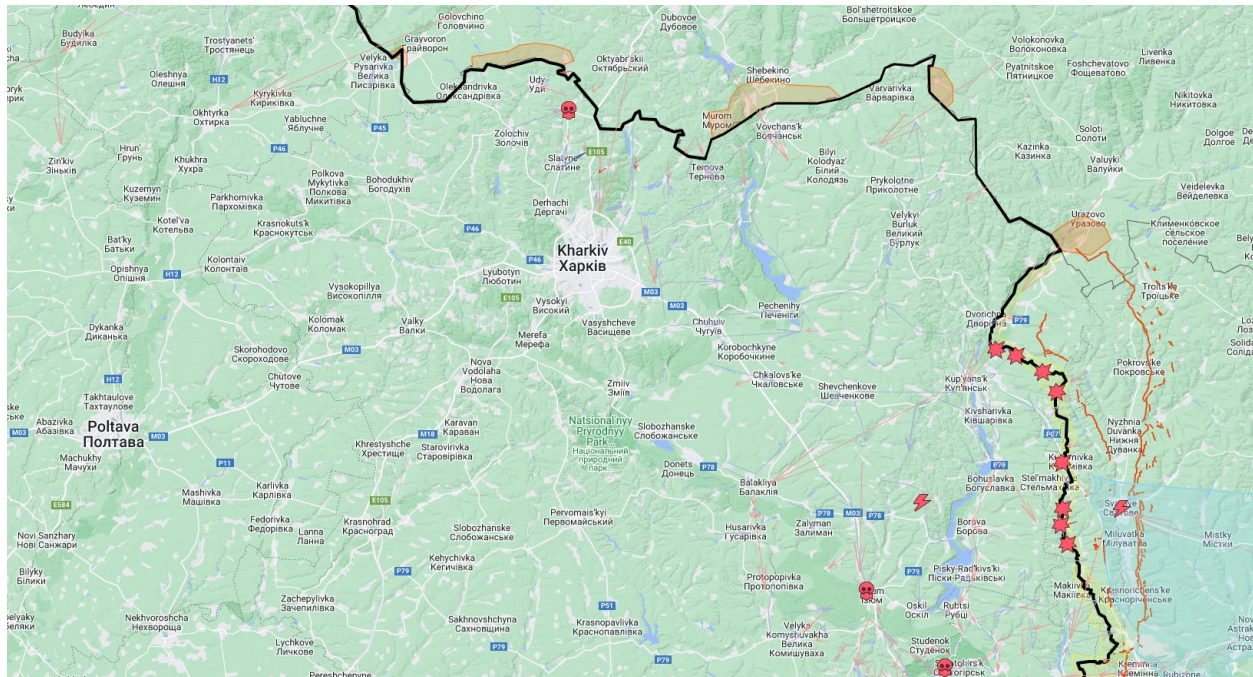
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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

The Ministry of Energy of Ukraine reported that 28,000 households in the Kharkiv oblast were without power after

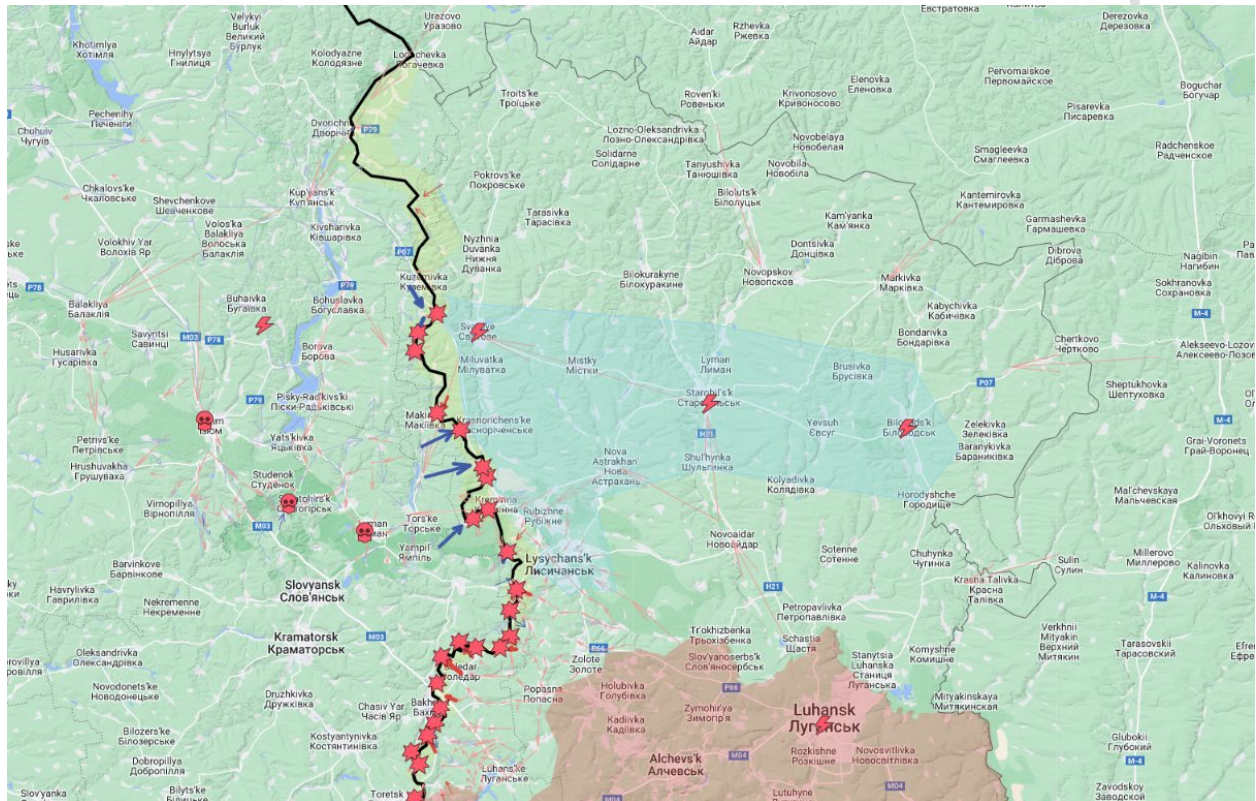
Russia targeted 110 kilovolt (KV) powerlines. The ministry reported that repair work could not start without “the permission of the military.”¹

While there are no specific reports of significant fighting in the Kupyansk area of operation (AO), our intelligence team has noted increased Russian activity in the region.

¹ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/43628

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, and capture the rest of the oblast

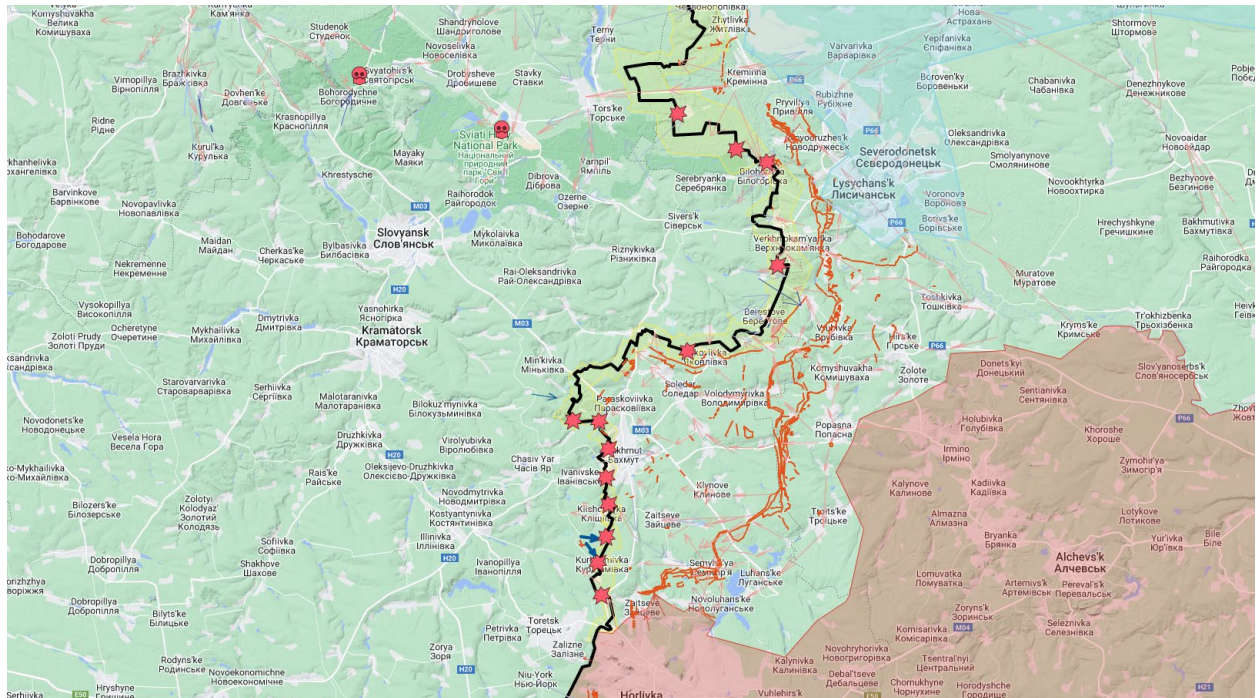
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

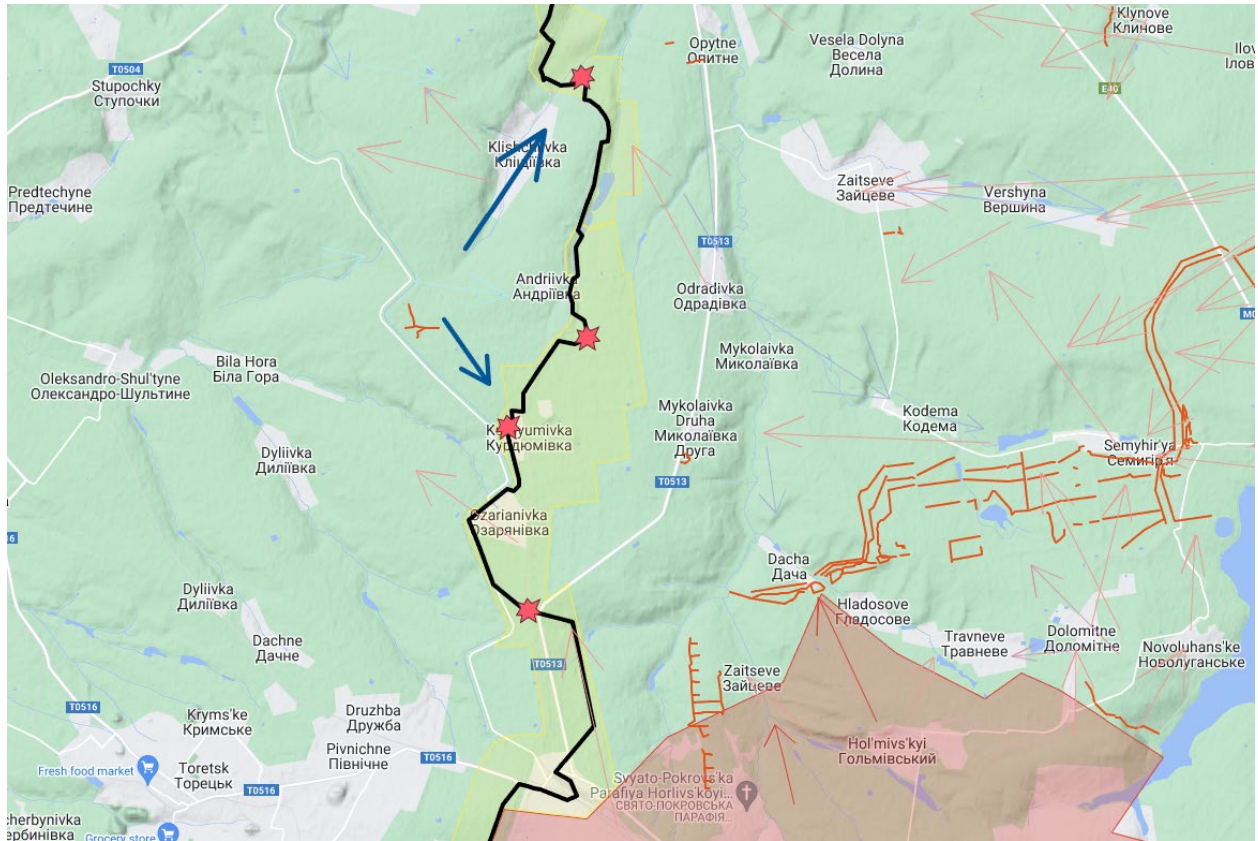
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NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north of Bakhmut, capture the T-513 Highway south of Bakhmut, liberate the Bakhmut and Soledar operational areas, advance to the administrative border of Luhansk, and minimize civilian casualties



Klishchiivka Operational Area


Russian forces, supported by the VKS, continued counterattacks at [Klishchiivka](#) with no success. Fighting continued east of the railroad grade southeast of [Andriivka](#), with Ukrainian forces continuing to hold their recently established position but with no new advances.^{2 3}

² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>

³ https://t.me/mod_russia/30988 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Free Donetsk (northeast)

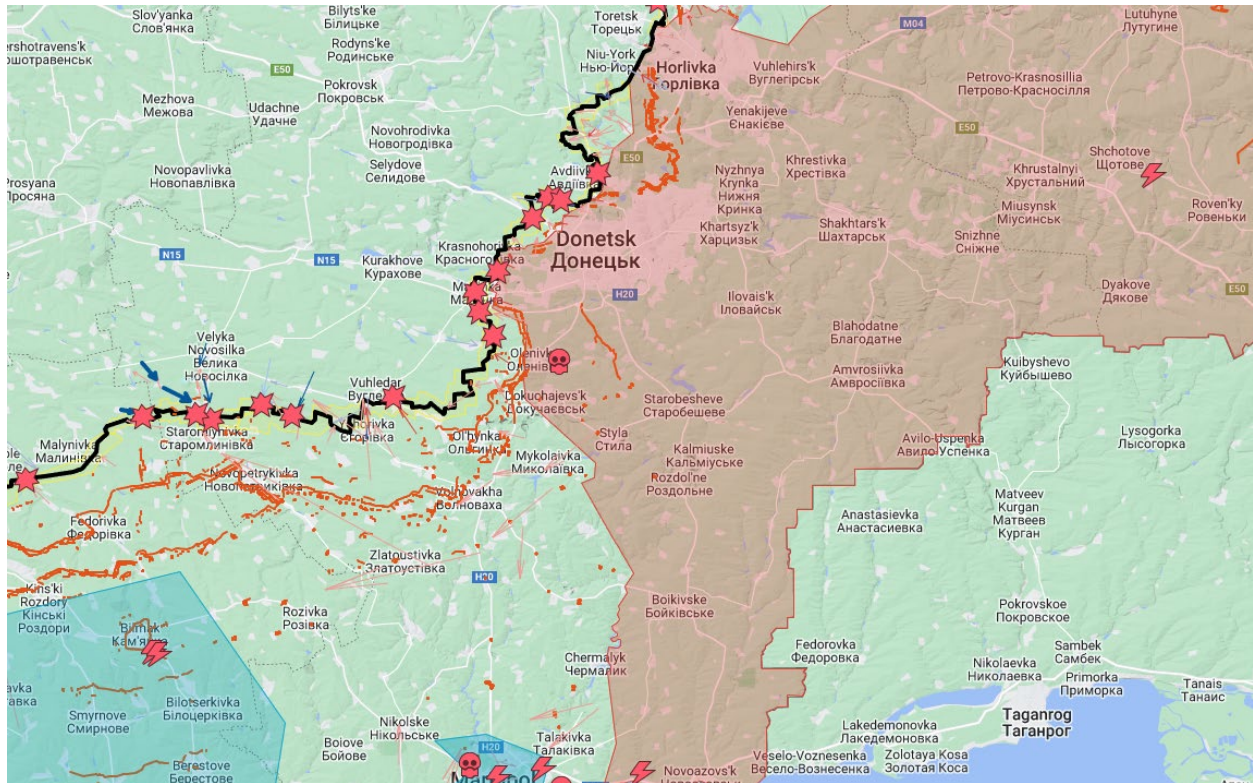
Kramatorsk was  [hit by two rockets or missiles overnight](#), damaging a dormitory and dozens of cars.⁴

Kostyantynivka was hit by two FAB-500S-E UMPK glide bombs,  [striking a bus station and residential areas](#). Two children were wounded in the attack.⁵

⁴ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/43618

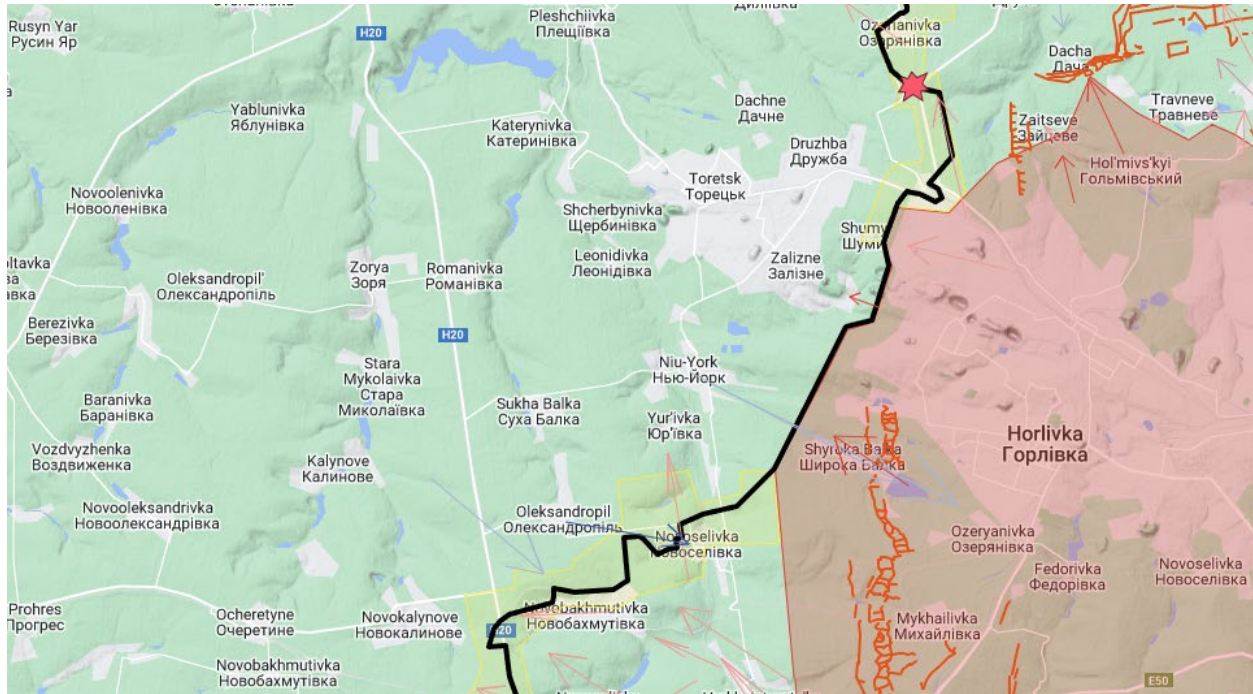
⁵ <https://t.me/astrapress/39099>

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive until the winter and maximize casualties

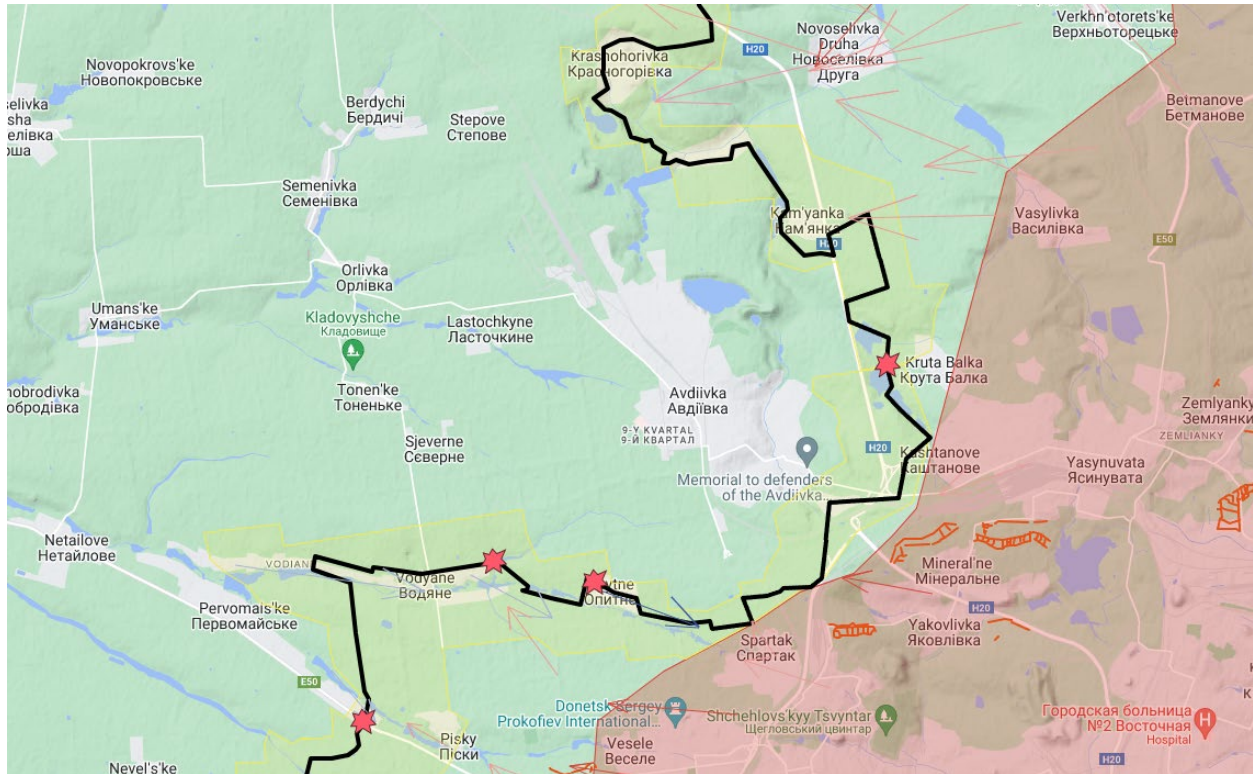
Ukrainian Objective: Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, lock Russian troops in place, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



Toretzsk – Niu-York Operational Area

Russian forces attempted to advance from [Novoselivka](#) without success.⁶

⁶ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>



Avdiivka Operational Area

Russian forces attempted to advance from the landing of the Krasnohorivka plateau in the direction of [Stepove](#) without success.⁷ There was also an attempt to advance on [Avdiivka](#).⁸ The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMD) reported that Ukrainian forces were on the offensive in the [Vodyane](#) area.⁹

⁷ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>


⁸ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>

⁹ https://t.me/mod_russia/30988 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

Marinka, Vuhledar, and Staromlynivka Areas of Operation

Russia did Russian things in [Marinka](#), where fighting continued.^{10 11 12}

In the Vuhledar area of operation (AO), Russia maintained tradition east of [Novomykhailivka](#), attacking, suffering losses, and retreating to previous positions.^{13 14}

The T-518 Highway bridge over the Shaitanka River in Velyka Novosilka, a vital Ukrainian ground line of communication (GLOC – supply line),  [was hit by a Russian Kh-38 missile](#), causing heavy damage.¹⁵

ASSESSMENT: Russian forces have started a campaign targeting bridges near the frontline areas of Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Donetsk. This is a significant shift in strategy. Previously, bridges were destroyed to cover Russian retreats or within 10 kilometers of significant fighting. The Kh-38 air-to-surface missile, which has a range of up to 40 kilometers, can only be delivered by more modern Russian

¹⁰ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>

¹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/30988 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹² <https://t.me/wargonzo/15365>


¹³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12450>

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/15365>

¹⁵ https://t.me/grey_zone/20837

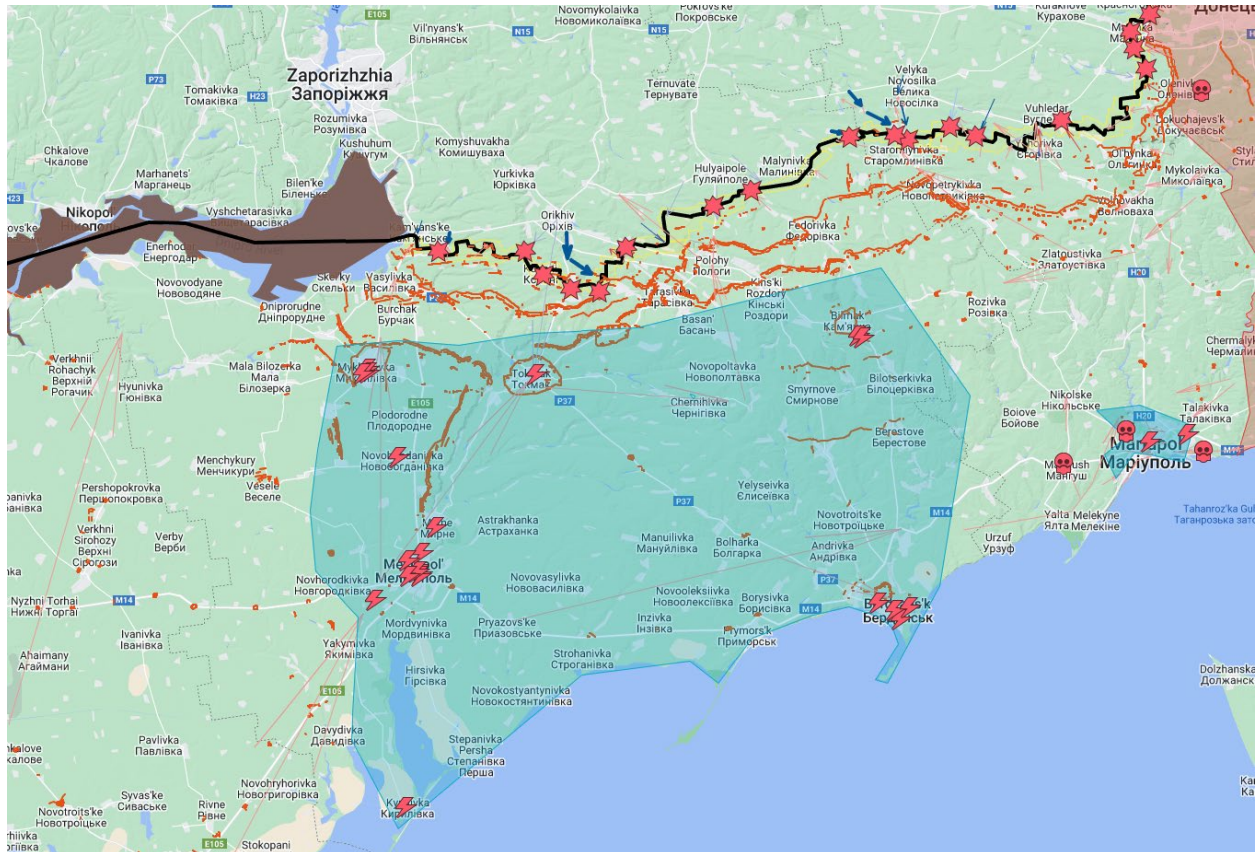
aircraft, such as the Su-34. The missile has been used in a series of strikes on GLOCs and Ukrainian positions during the last 30 days. Ukraine's inability to fly combat air patrols to reestablish at least air parity has become a significant problem.

Occupied Donetsk (southwest)

There was  [a large explosion near Volnovakha](#).¹⁶ At the time of publication, there was no other information available.

¹⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/104795>

ZAPORIZHIA

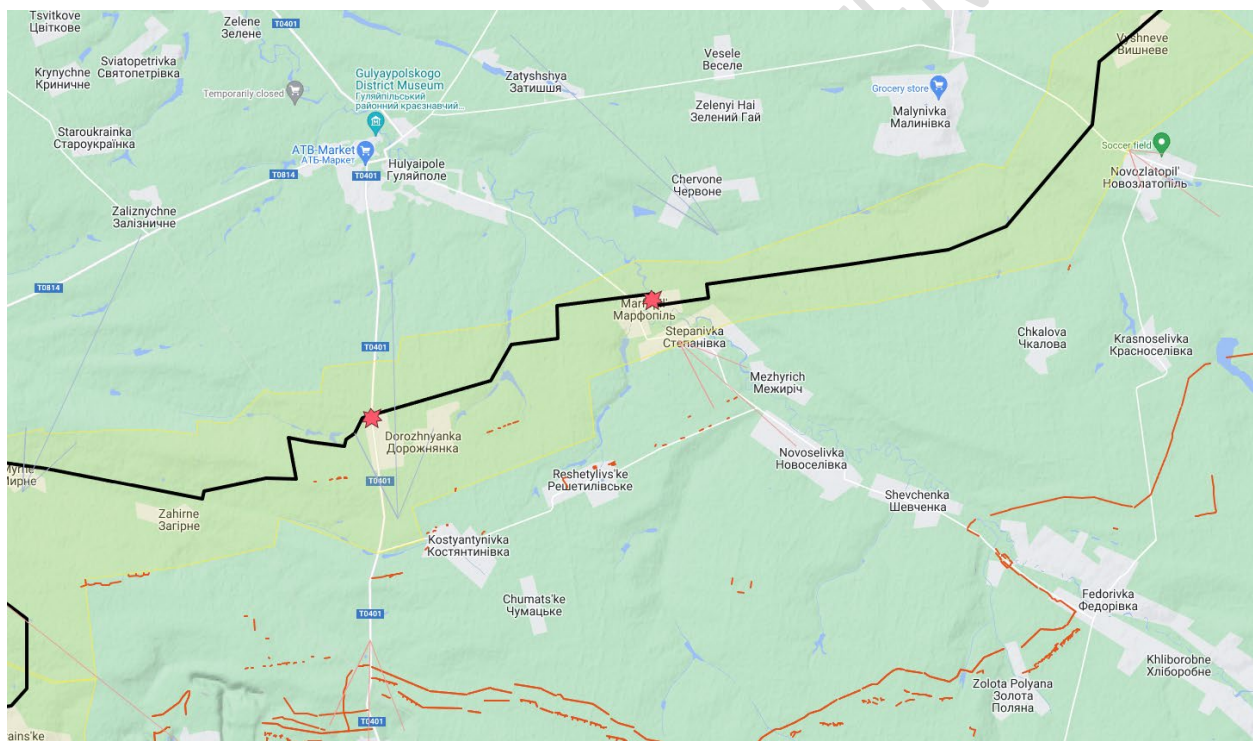


Russian Objective: Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, prepare to launch a fall-winter offensive to capture the remainder of the oblast, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Expand the breakthrough at the second echelon of the Surovikin Line, sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians

Free Zaporizhzia

Brigadier General Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, commander of the operational and strategic group of troops Tavria, reported another sharp increase in Ukrainian fire missions, to 1,236 in the last 24 hours.¹⁷

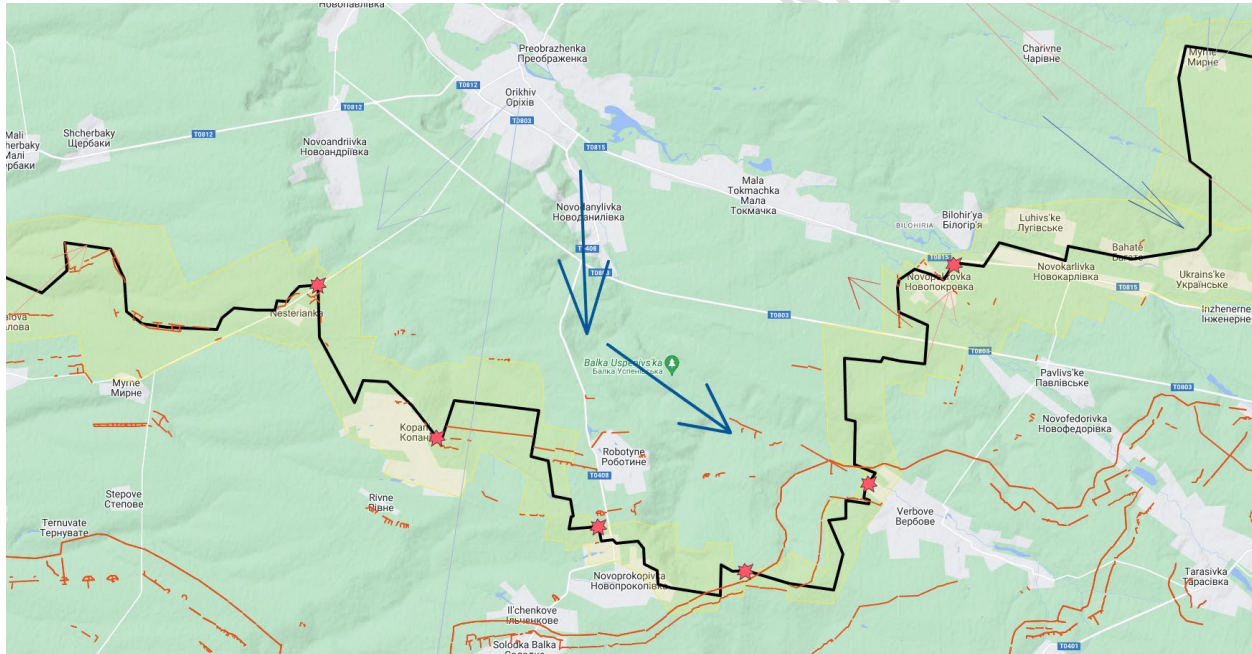


Hulyaipole Area of Operation

There have been reports from Russian and Ukrainian sources of Russian offensive operations in the area of

¹⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116988>

[Krasnoselivka](#). We did report on this earlier because the settlement is firmly under Russian control and over 5 kilometers south of the known line of conflict.¹⁸ There haven't been pictures or videos from this area in months, and the line of conflict may have moved. The Sentinel EO Browser Sentinel-2 L2A false-color satellite image from September 30 showed no signs of significant fighting in the region.



¹⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/15365>

Orikhiv Operational Area

Not much has changed from [Verbove](#) to [Novoprokopivka](#), where fighting continues at a reduced tempo.^{19 20 21} Russian sources report they are under “massive artillery” fire. The Russian VKS attacked Ukrainian positions in [Robotyne](#).²²

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported fighting in the [Novoandriivka](#) area, while other Ukrainian sources reported fighting was near [Kopani and Nesterianka](#), stating that Ukrainian troops had made marginal gains.^{23 24}

The Matviivka hromada was hit by two Russian missiles, which wounded five and caused damage to five buildings and “critical infrastructure.”²⁵ There was no other information.

¹⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17714>

²⁰ https://t.me/mod_russia/30988 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

²¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/15365>




²² <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12451>

²³ <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12451>

²⁴ https://t.me/couch_IU/43832

²⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116903>

Occupied Zaporizhzhia

Drone images confirm that a Russian Su-35   [was shot down](#) near Tokmak, with Russian sources  [reporting the aircrew was killed](#).²⁶

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released an update about the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi reported that Rosatom was preparing to bring Reactor 4 to hot shutdown for steam generation after recently completing repairs and maintenance.²⁷ Unit 6 will be brought back to cold shutdown.

Russian occupiers said that equipment had been ordered for offsite steam generation and the installation would begin in 2024.

The inspection team reports they hear explosions "almost every day" and have heard machine gun fire.

²⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6482

²⁷ [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

An inspection of Turbine Hall 6 was completed, and it was noted that some mines were removed as repairs were made to interior fences. Russian occupiers continue to ignore requests to do a walk-through of all six turbine halls and maintenance areas one after another and are still blocking access to the rooftops of Reactors 1, 2, 5, and 6.

Director General Grossi said, "As I have said repeatedly in recent months, we will continue requesting the access we need to implement our important mission, including for monitoring compliance with the five concrete protection principles designed to prevent a nuclear accident at the site."

Staffing levels remain critically low, and the IAEA is compiling a report. Radiation monitors remain disconnected from the Internet.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Black Sea

OCS reported four Russian Black Sea Fleet vessels were on patrol with no missile carriers.²⁸

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, speaking at the International Forum of Defense Industries in Kyiv, declared that his nation was creating the world's first fleet of naval drones. We had previously assessed that Ukraine has established naval parity in the Black Sea through asymmetrical warfare.

Romania

The Mayor of Galati, Ionut Pucheanu, complained that the air raid alerts city residents are getting are excessive and make people feel as if "war came to the country."²⁹

"With all due respect to the army, I think we need to de-escalate the show we're currently witnessing for the sake of the residents' mental health, particularly in this area. If

²⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117014>


²⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/09/30/7422088/>

something more serious transpires, they should tell us to prepare," Pucleanu said. He added that the army should take responsibility and action if missiles or drones violated Romanian air space.

Operational Command South (OCS) of Ukraine said that air defenses would not shoot down drones over the territory of other countries.³⁰ "If we are talking about the south of the Odesa region, this is the trend...The enemy launches Shaheds so that they are in the immediate vicinity or even go...along the red line near the border. In the Odesa region, this is the border with Moldova and Romania. After all, if a Shahed flies into the territory of another sovereign state, the Ukrainian military will not shoot it down."



Prime Minister of Romania, Marcel Ciolacu, told Romanian news source Digi24 that debris from a Russian drone had not been located, but searches continued.³¹


Occupied Crimea

The Crimean Tartar insurgent organization ATESH documented Russia  [moving an Osa air defense system](#)

³⁰ https://t.me/our_odessa/54734

³¹ [Digi24 HD](#)

with ammunition and personnel to Simferopol.³² They also shared   [pictures and videos of Russia moving Raptor class patrol boats](#) overland near Sevastopol.³³

Multiple Russian channels mocked  [a picture of defensive installations](#) on the beach near Yevpatoriya.³⁴ The sandbags are just above the surf line in the landing zone. If there were an amphibious assault, artillery wouldn't be able to fire at the beach because Russian troops would occupy it.

³² https://t.me/atesh_ua/2029

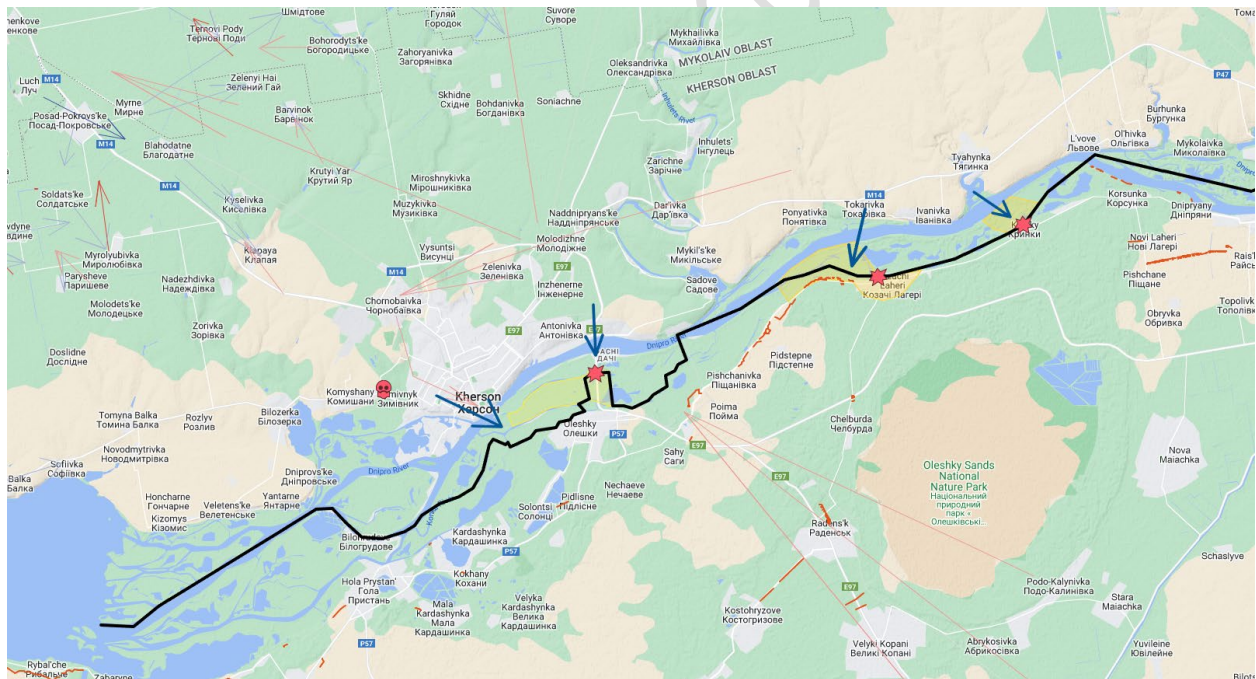
³³ https://t.me/atesh_ua/2024

³⁴ <https://t.me/rsotmdivision/10897>

KHERSON

Russian Objective: Prevent Ukrainian advances into eastern Kherson, terrorize the civilian population in free Kherson, and maintain GLOCs to Zaporizhzhia

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



Fighting continues on the left (east) bank of the Dnipro River, with Ukrainian forces occupying several positions on

the islands north of the Konka River.³⁵ Fighting between squad and platoon size units has continued.

Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Alexander Prokudin said Russia carried out 102 fire missions on free Kherson, firing 560 munitions, rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and bombs. Oleksandr Tolokonnikov, spokesperson for the Kherson Oblast O V A, said that in the last week, Russia has dropped 166 bombs of various types and sizes on free Kherson.³⁶

A school in the city of Kherson was hit by artillery fire, causing significant damage to classrooms and the gymnasium.³⁷ The Russian VKS appears to be systematically destroying Beryslav with daily strikes using UMPK glide bombs.³⁸

³⁵ https://t.me/couch_IU/43832

³⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/10/1/7422131/>

³⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116878>

³⁸ <https://t.me/suspilnenews/24690>

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

Dnipropetrovsk

Kryvyi Rih was attacked by Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, with civilian infrastructure hit during the attack. There was no other information at the time of publication.³⁹

Ivano-Frankivsk

In Prykarpattia,  [an oil pipeline exploded](#), wounding nine people in nearby homes.⁴⁰ Five of the injured are in critical condition with severe burns over more than 70% of their bodies.⁴¹ ⁴² This is the second pipeline explosion in the last three days to hit Ukrainian gas and oil infrastructure.


³⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117019>

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116936>

⁴¹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116962>

⁴² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116973>

Cherkasy

Russian Shahed-136 kamikaze drones struck the Uman Gas Company and adjacent grain warehouses in Uman,  [sparking massive fires](#).⁴³

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: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.


⁴³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117016>

RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian Objective: Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, 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

Krasnodar Krai

Ukrainian drones attacked Sochi, with multiple videos showing UAVs flying over the city and  [at least one hit with a significant explosion](#).⁴⁴

Kursk



The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) destroyed a Russian Nebo-M radar installation near Dmitriyev.⁴⁵ This is the second major attack on a radar installation in Kursk within the last week. In our assessment, Ukrainian forces are setting conditions for future drone attacks. The Nebo-M

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1708366413071532315>

⁴⁵ https://t.me/military_u_geo/362

provides low and high band tracking for early warning and targeting information and has a range of up to 3,800 kilometers for early warning.

Smolensk

Ukrainian drones  [attacked the city of Smolensk](#), with reports of at least one drone striking  [the area near an aviation plant](#).^{46 47}

BELARUSIAN FRONT

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

THEATERWIDE

Russia launched 30 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones that flew complex paths through central and western Ukraine. The air force intercepted 16 drones, and the navy intercepted one.^{48 49} Russian drone and missile strikes have started to focus less on striking civilians and dedicated civilian

⁴⁶ https://twitter.com/Maks_NAFO_FELLA/status/1708363842680426616

⁴⁷ https://twitter.com/Maks_NAFO_FELLA/status/1708368590615822709

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117029>

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117015>

infrastructure and have been hitting more economic and military targets. This is a significant change in Russia's target selection after the dismissal of General of the Army Sergey Surovikin, who advocated targeting civilians and destroying civilian infrastructure in Syria, which led to the destruction of Aleppo.


GSAFU reported Russia launched a total of 40 drones in the last 24 hours and completed 99 airstrikes. In our assessment, Ukrainian air defenses are becoming overwhelmed. The inability to fly combat air patrols and target Russian multirole fighter aircraft, and the number and growing complexity of drone and missile strikes, is causing an increase in the number of successful attacks. Ukraine needs more air defense systems, better radar integration, more ammunition, and the expedited deployment of F-16s.⁵⁰

Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev, said the so-called "special military operation will continue until the Nazi Kyiv regime is completely destroyed, and there will be more new regions within Russia" on the Kremlin declared reunification day.⁵¹ Despite the Kremlin's declaration for nationwide celebrations, over

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/10/1/7422134/>

⁵¹ https://t.me/couch_IU/43794

two dozen federal districts, most east of the Urals, did not acknowledge the illegal annexation of four Ukrainian oblasts.

The Navy of Ukraine and the Main Intelligence Defense Directive of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR)  [repatriated two Ukrainian paratroopers trapped behind enemy lines](#) for 18 months.⁵² The pair were seriously wounded during the open weeks of Russia's expanded war of aggression. Local residents cared for and hid them until a rescue operation could be done.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal admitted that since February 24, 2022, 37 Ukrainian arms industry factories have been attacked by Russia.⁵³ "We understand that our defense industry remains one of the main targets for Russian missile strikes," said Shmyhal, adding that Ukraine was working on proposals for recovery.

During today's International Forum of Defense Industries, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kubela said, "Africa was one of the largest markets for the sale of Ukrainian military products before the start of a full-scale war.

⁵² <https://t.me/uniannet/112864>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116948>

Today," and that the continent was waiting for Ukraine to return to the arms market.

The United States averted a government shutdown with only hours to spare, with lawmakers in the House and Senate reaching a compromise budget. The measure, which passed the House 335-91 and the Senate 88-9, did not include financial aid for Ukraine and permitted Lend Lease authority to expire.⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), held up the vote in the Senate due to a lack of financial aid to Ukraine. Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) reportedly made a significant effort to bridge the divide between Republicans and Democrats and the House and Senate.⁵⁶ Congress has 48 days to iron out a 2024 budget, or there will be another showdown. The bill holds spending at its current levels and did not include cuts and increases that lawmakers sought.

Due to the agreement, F-16 pilot training in Texas will continue uninterrupted, as will existing support and logistics for already authorized military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. A pool of over \$5 billion in Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) from the 2023 budget rolls

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10659>

⁵⁵ [USA Today](#)

⁵⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/government-shutdown-deadline-09-30-23/index.html>

over. However, the temporary budget did not provide additional funds to replace any munitions or equipment transferred, leaving most of the unspent funds frozen.

The Minister of Defense of France announced a new military aid package to Ukraine, which includes six Caesar 155-mm self-propelled howitzers, eight SDZ demining robots, and eight EFA amphibious mobile bridges.⁵⁷ Unlike a bridge layer, the EFA can establish a 100-meter pontoon bridge in ten minutes, supporting up to 200 vehicles per hour.

British Minister of Defense Grant Shapps told The Telegraph that he intends to move British military training of Ukrainian troops to Ukraine.^{58 59} "I was talking today about eventually getting the training brought closer and actually into Ukraine as well...Particularly in the west of the country."

The British government would be taking a calculated risk, with any training camp considered a valid military target. Up to four military installations in the U.K. currently

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116939>

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116999>

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/mortisaeterna/5315>

support the training of Ukrainian troops, and moving to Ukraine would free up some of those facilities.

The Czech Republic has agreed to license the production of the BREN-2 assault rifle and assist in creating a production line for ammunition.^{60 61} The assault rifle's barrel can be swapped between a 28 or 35.5 cm long option while supporting 5.56, 7.62, or 6.8 mm caliber ammunition.

Baykar announced it would invest \$100 million in three projects in Ukraine, including completing a drone factory within the next 18 months.⁶²

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 30, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116952>

⁶¹ https://t.me/couch_IU/43816

⁶² https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6474

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES


Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

12,319 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,510 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	2179*	292	7.55:1	—
Medium Duty Tanks	150	364*	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	985	327	3.00:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2817	765	3.68:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	354	347	1.02:1	↓
MRAPs	48	164	0.29:1	—
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	212	375	0.57:1	—
Command and Communications Vehicles	251	17	14.76:1	—
Engineering Vehicles	345	84	4.11:1	↑
Towed Artillery	310	160	1.94:1	—
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	538	222	2.42:1	↓
MLRS	278	50	5.57:1	↑
SAMs	182	129	1.41:1	—
Mobile Radars	45	79	0.57:1	—
EW/ECW	54	4	13.50:1	—
Winged Aircraft	93	73	1.27:1	—
Helicopters	113	37	3.05:1	↓
Naval Vessels and Submarines	17	27	0.63:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBIKS, MOBILIZATION, AND MIR

Reuters reported that 119 Cubans were in occupied Ukraine and are currently being trained.⁶³ The soldiers were lured by the offer of a \$2,040 signing bonus, 100 times more than the average Cuban salary.

The GUR enabled  [Russian Lieutenant Daniil Alfyorov's defection to Ukraine](#) as part of Special Operation Barinya. "Since June 2023, he actively cooperated with the Security and Defense Forces of Ukraine and the Main Intelligence Directorate. Alfyorov convinced and voluntarily transferred 11 Russian servicemen into captivity in several batches," said Andriy Yusov, spokesperson for the GUR. Alfyorov was a platoon commander in the Kherson region and went through all the necessary steps to surrender to Ukraine.⁶⁴



⁶⁵


In an extremely graphic video, a Kadyrovite published a video of maggot-filled wounds to his hand and legs due to a lack of medical care and unsanitary conditions. One wound was deeply infected with red areas radiating from the


⁶³ <https://t.me/rusbrief/159945>

⁶⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6477

⁶⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116907>

region, indicating the sepsis was starting. The video is NSFW, unsuitable for children, and many will find it disturbing. Viewer discretion is strongly advised. You can watch the video by   [clicking here](#).⁶⁶


On September 19, 15 Russian soldiers, comprised of Kadyrovite and Spetznaz, recorded a video  [to be published in the event](#) "things go wrong."⁶⁷ In the video, they claim they have been ordered to attack Ukrainian positions in Klishchiivka with a 10:1 disadvantage and no armor support. They claimed that 1,000 to 1,200 Russian soldiers had already been killed to make "positive reports on the news about Russian counterattacks." They added, "If you're watching this video, we are no longer here."


At the Engels-2 Military Airfield in Saratov, Russia has painted the silhouettes of Tu-95 strategic bombers on the tarmac in an apparent effort to fool satellite intelligence and drones. The work is  [clearly visible in medium-resolution satellite images](#) that are commercially available.⁶⁸


⁶⁶ <https://t.me/The3rdForceUA/20127>


⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1708070951714197664>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/117001>

In the Tver region, a  [monument appeared](#) where Yevgeny Prigozhin's plane crashed. It is unclear who put the memorial there, which is built into a large rock.⁶⁹

In Tambov, residents complained about a sign on a butcher shop recruiting for the Russian army. The mural depicted a  [Russian soldier with the Z icon, encouraging enlistment](#), while the words "Real meat products" appeared over it.⁷⁰

Russia appears to be actively erasing all traces of its alliance with Nazi Germany from August 23, 1939 to June 21, 1941. In Vorkuta in the Komi Republic,  [vandals destroyed a memorial to gulag prisoners](#), including Polish nationals forcibly deported after Russia invaded its neighbor in alliance with Germany on September 17, 1939.⁷¹ Local police refused to open a case, claiming the weather destroyed the monument.

In the Tver region, a bust of Josef Stalin was installed next to a memorial for  [Polish prisoners of war and their burial site](#).⁷² The Polish Institute of National Remembrance

⁶⁹ <https://t.me/astrapress/39077>

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/astrapress/39117>

⁷¹ <https://t.me/astrapress/39117>

⁷² <https://t.me/astrapress/39114>

estimates that 150,000 deported Poles were killed due to Soviet repression. An additional 22,000 to 25,000 military officers were killed during the 1940 Katyn Massacre, and 40,000 to 50,000 Polish soldiers and officers were killed during the Warsaw uprising in August 1944. During the uprising, the Polish underground was advised to start the fight for the city with promised armor and air support. However, Stalin directly ordered the Russian army to stand down and severed their fuel shipments despite being within sight of Warsaw.

Moscow officials banned a planned rally on the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Political Repression due to "COVID restrictions." The ban, issued when the memorial was supposed to start, was not enforced at a nearby Reunification Day celebration.⁷³

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ukrainian combat photographer Volodymyr Myronyuk, 59, was killed near Klishchiivka while embedded with Ukrainian troops.⁷⁴ It was reported he died with his camera

⁷³ <https://t.me/astrapress/39105>

⁷⁴ <https://twitter.com/GloOouD/status/1708120334061187295>

in hand, and it took three days to recover his body due to constant Russian artillery fire.

On October 4, Belarus will hold a meeting with foreign diplomats to address the issue of Ukrainian children who were illegally withdrawn.^{75 76} "The purpose of this measure is to legalize the illegal transfer of Ukrainian children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. In accordance with the norms of international law, the forced deportation of children can be qualified as a war crime," a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine said.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will provide \$123 million in aid to cover the cost of electricity bills and provide housing from October to February 2024.⁷⁷ Most assistance will be in cash, but heaters and non-food items will be distributed in areas where that is impossible. The program will support up to 450,000 people.

⁷⁵ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116987>

⁷⁶ https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/43629

⁷⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116970>

GEOPOLITICS

Russian ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, said that his nation has yet to receive an official invitation to the November APEC Summit in San Francisco and demanded equal access to the meeting.⁷⁸

The former prime minister of Slovakia, Robert Fico, won national elections and has already created a majority coalition government with two other parties. Fico is aligned with Moscow and has vowed to end all aid to Ukraine if elected.

The Defense Forces of Finland have reached agreements with private property owners on the border of Russia to build defensive fortifications on their property.⁷⁹ The program started in secret 18 months ago.

Hungary rejected Ukraine's offer to suspend OTP Bank from the sponsors of Russia's war of aggression list. "As long as OTP Bank is not removed from the list, Hungary

⁷⁸ https://t.me/couch_IU/43782

⁷⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/116925>

will not participate in further EU funding for arms supplies to Ukraine."⁸⁰

RUMORS

Many messages and e-mails we receive ask why we didn't cover a certain story or whether we are aware of a report and what we think. The rumor section is a list of claims or stories we are aware of but not reporting on because there isn't enough information to support or discover the truth.

- Did Russia destroy two Mig-29s and three Su-25s at Kryvyi Rih with new long-range Lancet kamikaze drones?
- Have more than 260,000 Russian soldiers died in Ukraine since February 24, 2022?
- North Korean ammunition is coming to Russia?
- Will Ukraine get Taurus cruise missiles?
- Were two Russian generals seriously wounded and one admiral killed in Sevastopol?

⁸⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/09/30/7422107/>


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. This is by no means a complete list of the sources we monitor.

 **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:** The organization has not posted any update since June 9, 2023, and we have ceased monitoring.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the illegitimate 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 illegitimate 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 officials 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.