



**MALCONTENT NEWS  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR  
SITUATION REPORT**



August 10, 2022



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 168**

It has been 24 weeks since the start of the Russia-Ukraine War and 3,084 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Russian forces made their first attempt to advance on Siversk since July 26. Light infantry attempted to advance on Hryhorivka, and tanks attempted to move toward Verkhokamyanske from the oil refinery. Neither advance was successful.

Russian forces attempted to advance through Spirne, aided by the Russian air force, and were able to break through to Ivano-Daryivka.

Proxy forces supported by the Russian air force made incremental gains in Soledar, moving 200 to 300 meters west toward the gypsum mine.

PMC Wagner continued attempts to advance on Yakovlivka, Bakhmutske, and Bakhmut and tried to capture the western half of Vershyna but was unsuccessful.

In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces launched an offensive on Dacha. Russian proxy forces and Ukrainian troops continued fighting in Kodema and for control of Zaitseve.

The 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) continued offensives on Avdiivka and Pisky, relying more on artillery and fighting positional battles.

DNR separatists tried to advance on Krasnohorivka and were unsuccessful.

DNR forces also attempted direct assaults on Avdiivka from Mineralne and Spartak and were unsuccessful. They also attempted to advance deeper into Pisky in a direct assault from Donetsk, Lozove, and the Butivka Mine ventilation shaft compound but did not make any gains.

Elements of the 1st Army Corps also attempted to advance on Marinka and were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces shelled the Donetsk Brewery in the Kalinivskyi District, causing a large fire. The fire and explosion caused an ammonia leak. City officials ordered

residents to evacuate within a 2-kilometer radius of the plant.

South of Donetsk, Russian forces attempted to advance on Pavlivka and were unsuccessful.

Insurgents launched three attacks in Melitopol, striking Russian political offices and the police station.

There were reports of two explosions where Russian forces had set up an encampment outside of Chonhar, the first checkpoint into southern Ukraine from the Crimea Peninsula.

Russian forces launched the largest group of positional battles northwest and north of Kharkiv in over a month.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Udy, Prudyanka, Dementiivka, and Petrivka. None of the advances were successful and Russian forces suffered heavy losses near Petrivka.

Kharkiv city has hit by four missiles at 4:28 A.M. local time on August 11. There wasn't information on damage or casualties at the time of publication.

Northwest of Izyum, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on Husarivka, supported by the Russian air force. They were unsuccessful and retreated north to Bairak.

Russian forces in the Petropillya salient southwest of Izyum attempted to break through Ukrainian defensive lines in Velyka Komyshevka and were unsuccessful.

Near Kherson, Ukrainian forces used precision munitions to strike the Kakhovsky Bridge in Nova Kakhovka, reducing the bridge to a single lane and only capable of supporting light vehicles. Satellite images showed that the Darivka bridge has been reopened to all traffic but reduced to a single lane.

Ukrainian forces reported three Russian command posts were destroyed: the command post for the Russian 49th Combined Arms Army (CAA) in Chervonyi Mayak, the 126th Separate Coastal Defense Brigade of the Russian Navy in

## Novokamianka, and the 76th Airborne Assault Division in Ishchenka.

The settlement of Barvinok, northwest of Kherson city, was recaptured by Russian forces.

Dmytro Zhivvytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor reported Radkivka, Krasnopillya, Bilopillia, Khotin, Slavhorod, and Nova Sloboda were shelled and hit by mortars. The shelling knocked out natural gas service in Sumy, Krasnopillya, and Khotin.

In Chernihiv, the settlements of Lohy and Senkivka was shelled by Russian forces over the international border. There wasn't additional information on damage or casualties.

### **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

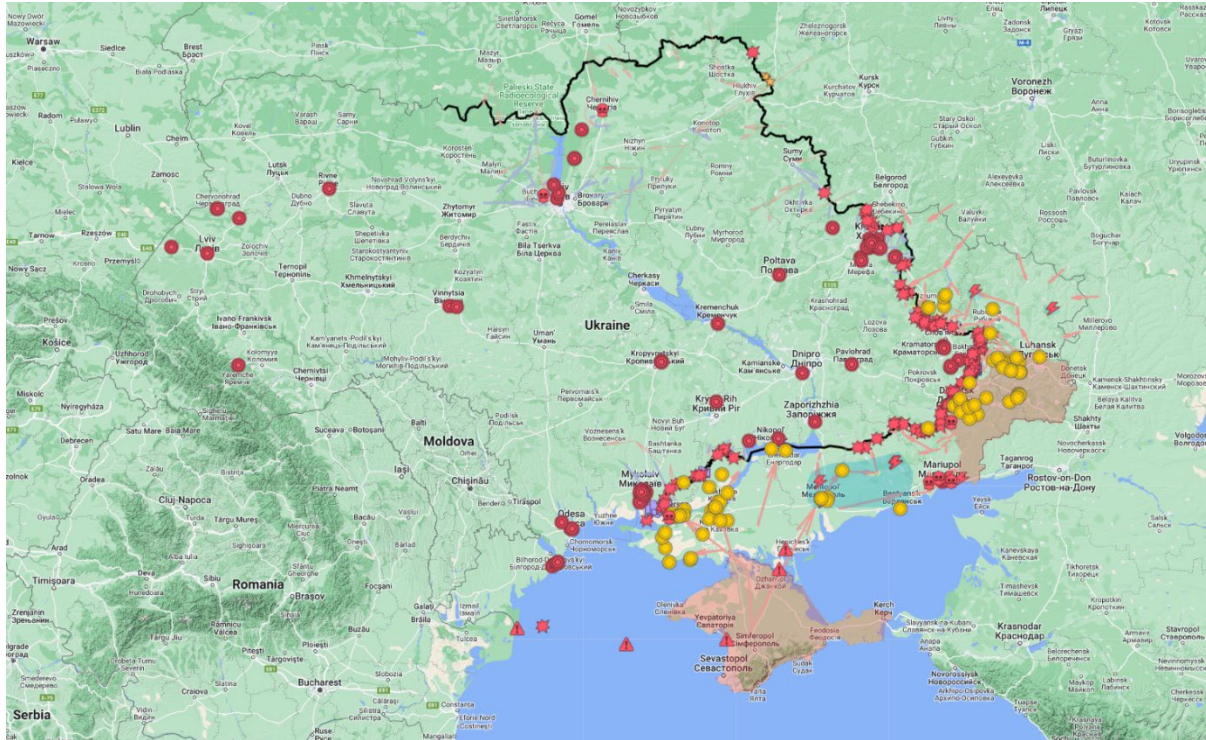
We assess the following:

1. The day after explosions tore through the Saky Naval airbase in Russia-controlled Crimea, Russian forces killed dozens of civilians in attacks across Ukraine.



2. The rate of Russian artillery fire continues to slow, with Donetsk, Bakhmut, and north of Kherson seeing the most activity.
3. The Russian air force flew fewer sorties today over Ukraine, but it is yet to be seen if this is because of the loss of ammunition in Crimea.
4. Russian force made their first gains in almost two weeks – but both were inconsequential to small villages already shattered by war.

# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

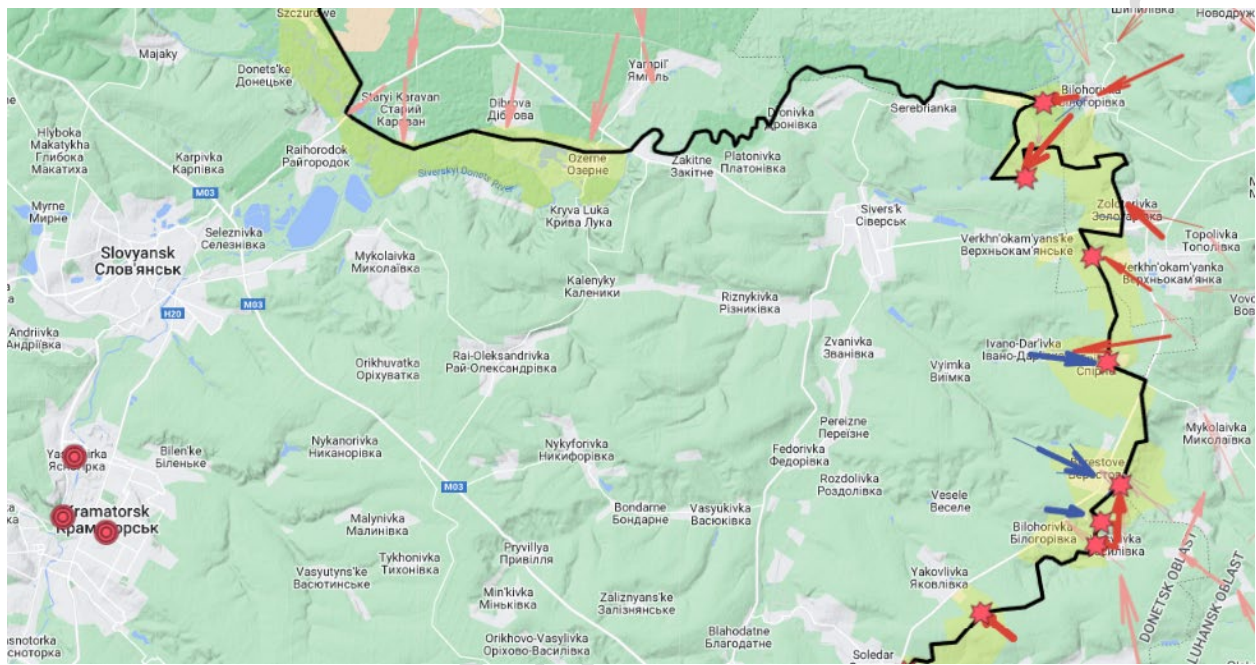


We have made significant improvements to our map solution. The updated map now shows contested areas and missile strikes by both belligerents. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report. We have also added areas where there are active insurgencies (blue) and the regions that were under Russian control on February 1, 2022 (red).

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>

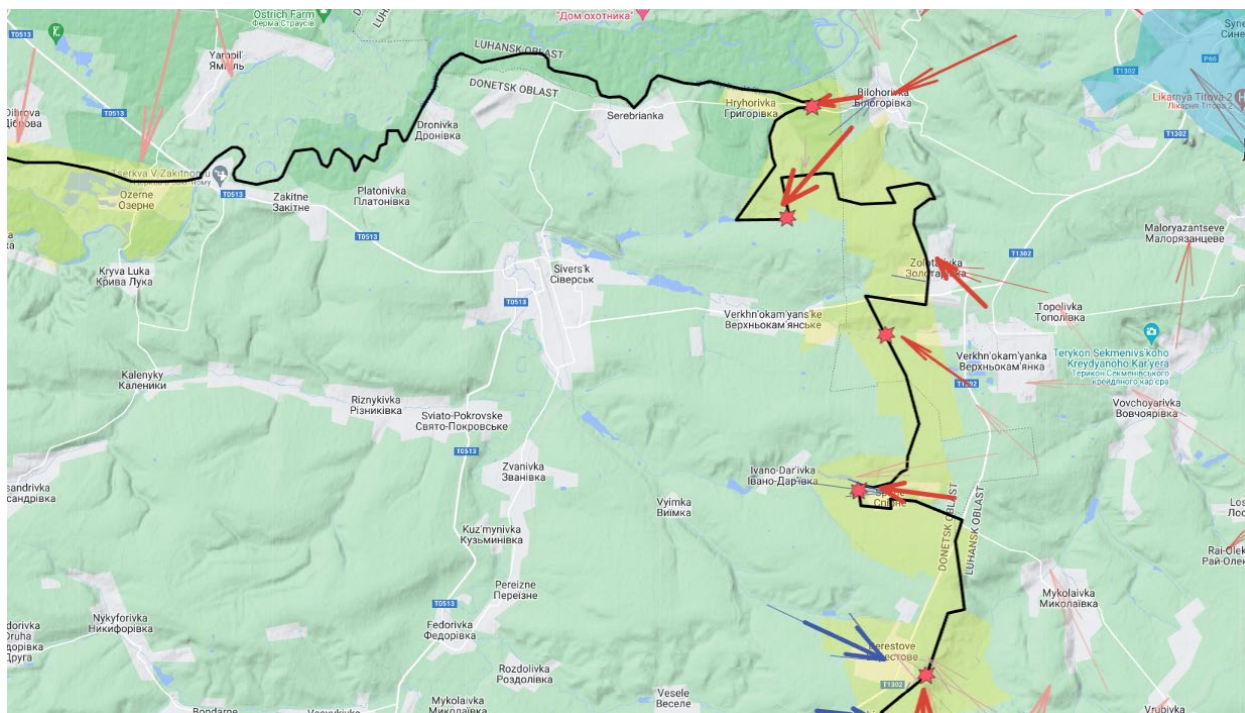
## DONBAS REGION

### SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



**Russian Objective:** Maintain territorial control and Ground Lines of Communication, control insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

**Ukrainian Objective:** Prevent advances on Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk, support insurgents, exploit weaknesses, interdict supplies



Russian forces made their first attempt to advance on Siversk since July 26. Light infantry attempted to advance on Hryhorivka, and tanks attempted to move toward Verkhokamyanske from the oil refinery. Neither advance was successful.

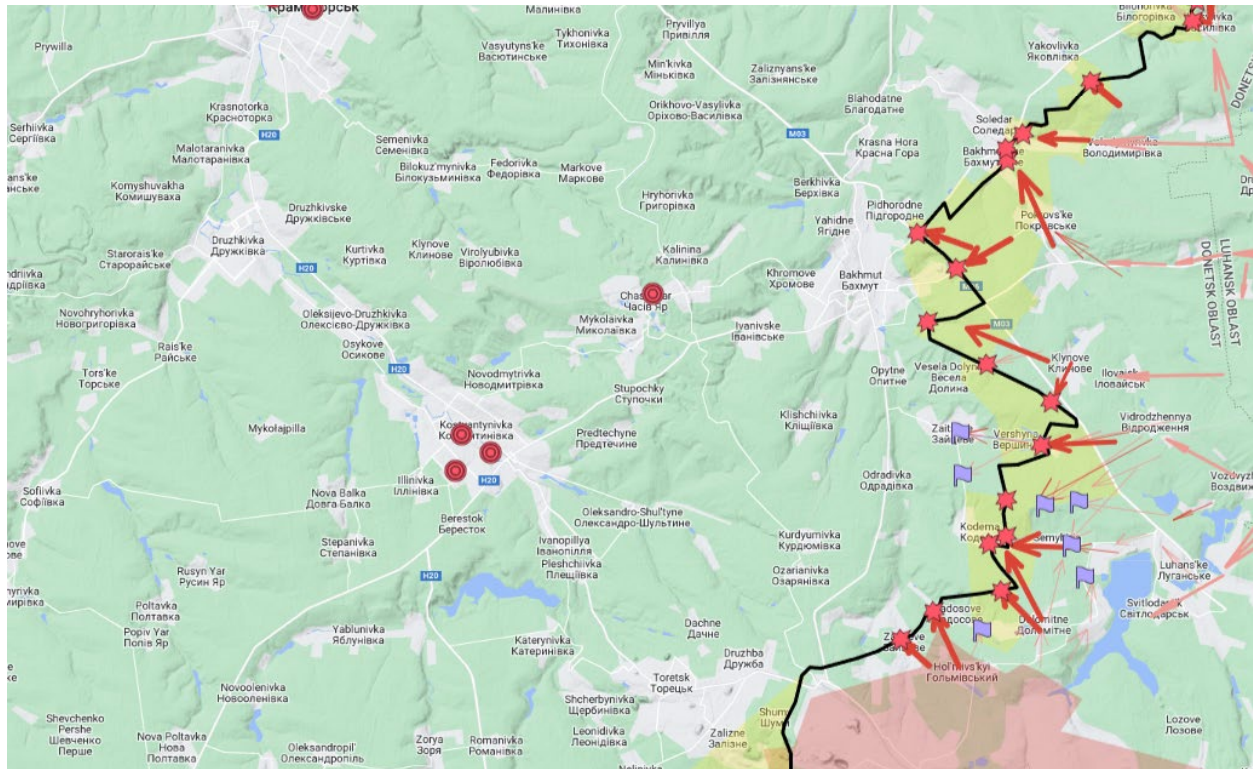
Russian forces attempted to advance through [Spirne](#), aided by the Russian air force, and were able to break through to [Ivano-Daryivka](#). There was also an airstrike on Vesele. The settlements east and south of Siversk experienced sporadic shelling.

**ASSESSMENT:** There was a significant increase in fighting on the administrative border of Luhansk and north of Kharkiv. Russian forces don't have adequate troop strength on these axes for a broader offensive.

In our assessment, one of the motivators for the increased attacks is the Ramstein Working Group is holding its fifth meeting on Thursday. The United States hosts the group with more than 50 nations coordinating military, financial, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Historically, Russia has increased attacks and committed some of its worst atrocities against civilians on the days before, during, or after the meeting.

Additionally, Russian commanders are likely probing for weaknesses in Ukrainian defenses and launching spoiling attacks in the hope they can divert Ukrainian troops from the defense of Bakhmut and Donetsk.

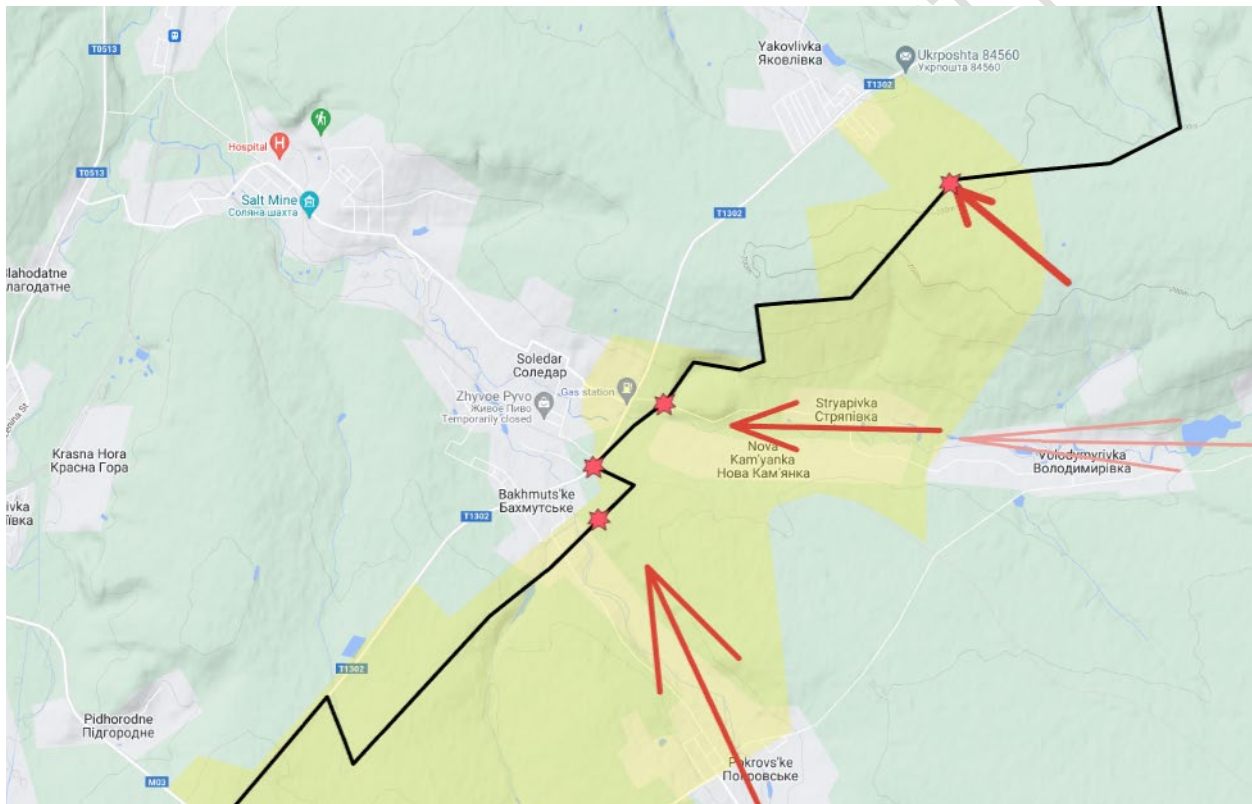
# BAKHMUT



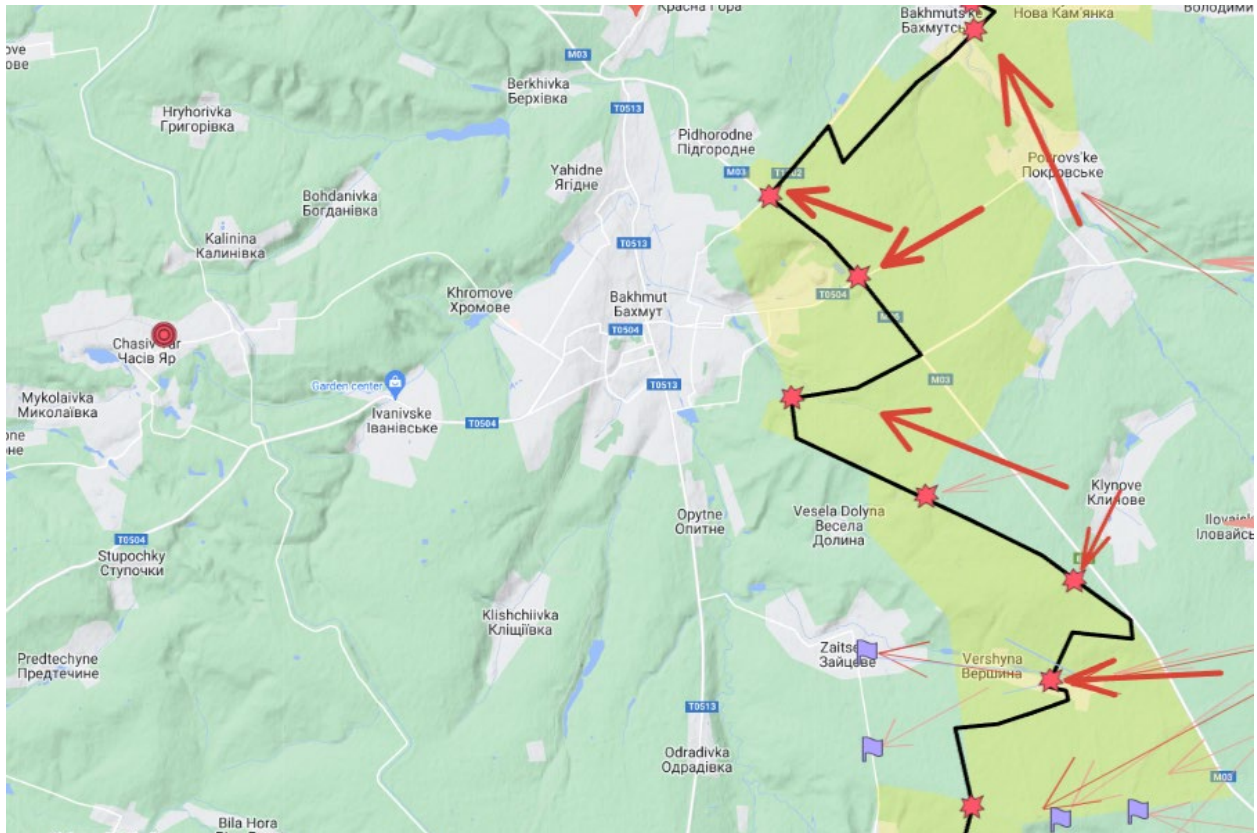
**Russian Objective:** Capture the Bakhmut-Soledar complex and collapse the Svitlodarsk salient before August 31, interdict the Bakhmut-Siviersk T-5013 Highway GLOC

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, and defend GLOCs

Russian proxy forces, led by Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group and supported by terrorist elements of the Imperial Legion of Russia and Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) separatists, continued fighting north, east, and south of Bakhmut.

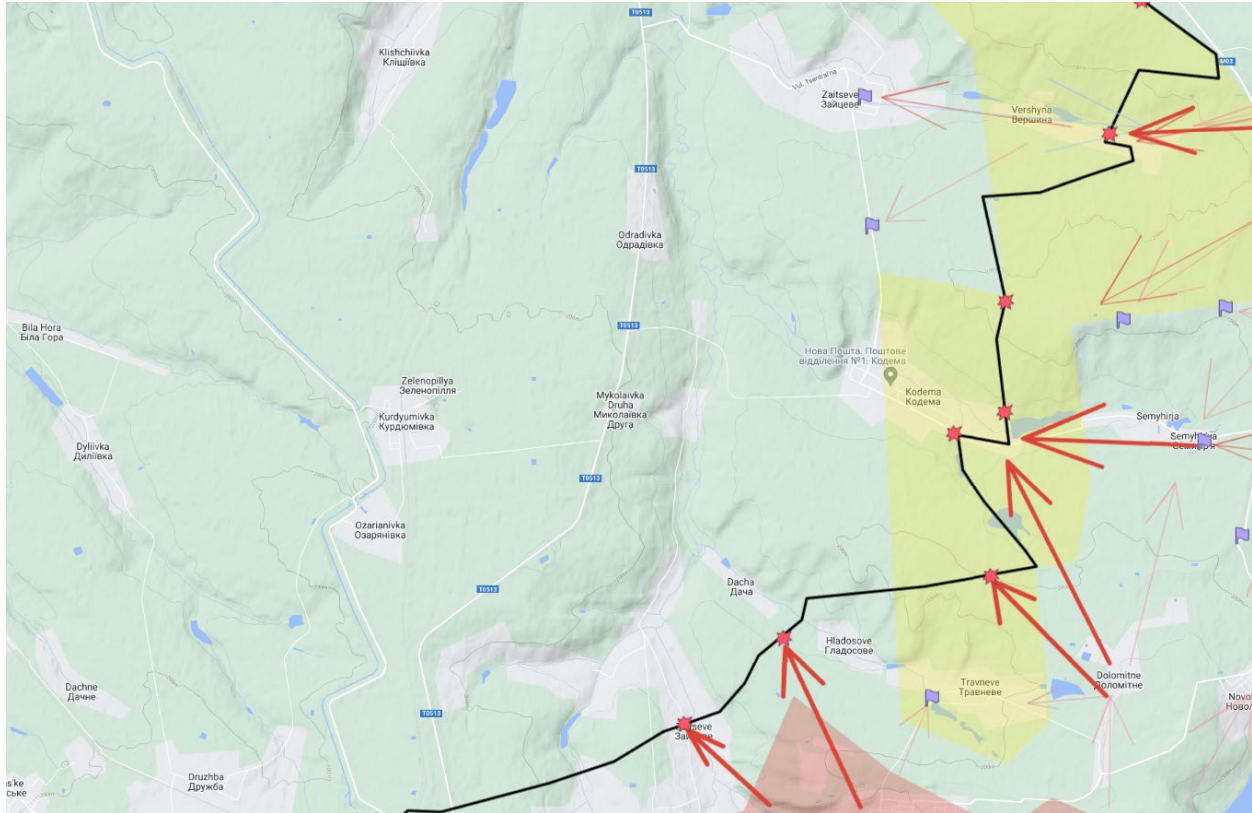


Proxy forces supported by the Russian air force made incremental gains in [Soledar](#), moving 200 to 300 meters west toward the gypsum mine.



PMC Wagner continued attempts to advance on [Yakovlivka](#), [Bakhmut'ske](#), and [Bakhmut](#) and tried to capture the western half of [Vershyna](#) but was unsuccessful. The Russian air force supported the attacks on all three settlements.





In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces launched an offensive on [Dacha](#). Russian proxy forces and Ukrainian troops continued fighting in [Kodema](#) and for control of [Zaitseve](#) – Zaitseve was hit by an airstrike.

**ASSESSMENT:** Unchanged from August 8

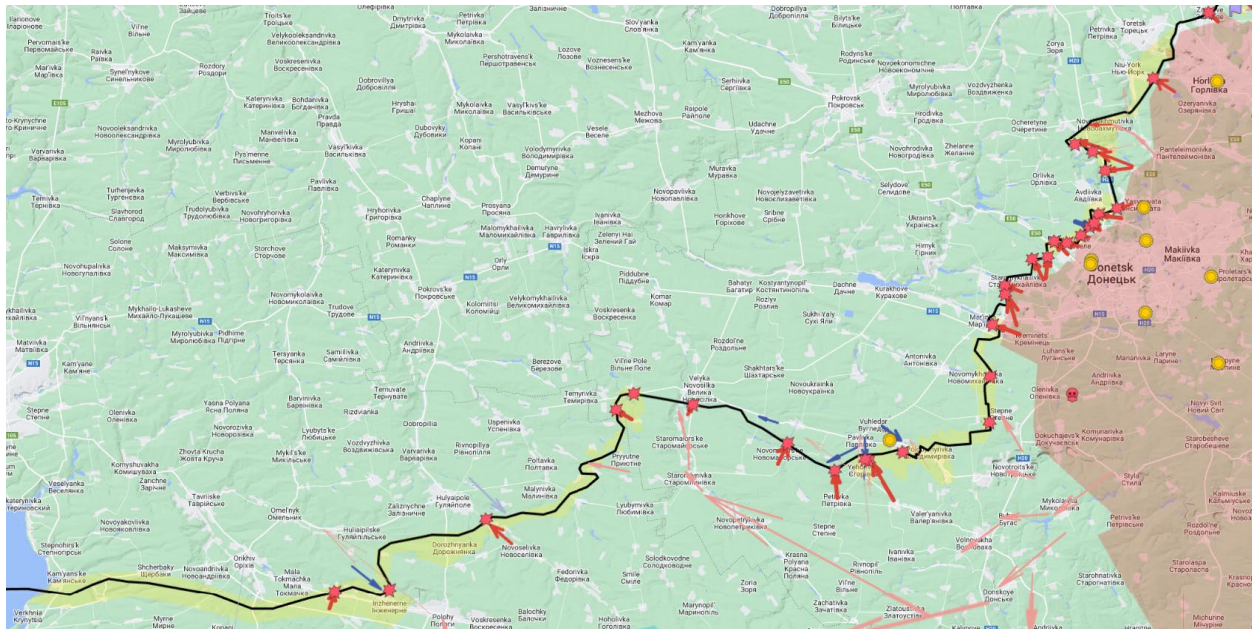
*In simplest terms, grunts with guns take territory, and grunts with guns hold territory. The Russian military doesn't have enough well-trained and well-equipped grunts with guns to support multiple offensive operations*

*near Bakhmut and Donetsk while reinforcing defensive lines in Zaporizhia and Kherson.*

*The situation east of Soledar and Bakhmut has stabilized, but defending troops eventually must be rotated.*

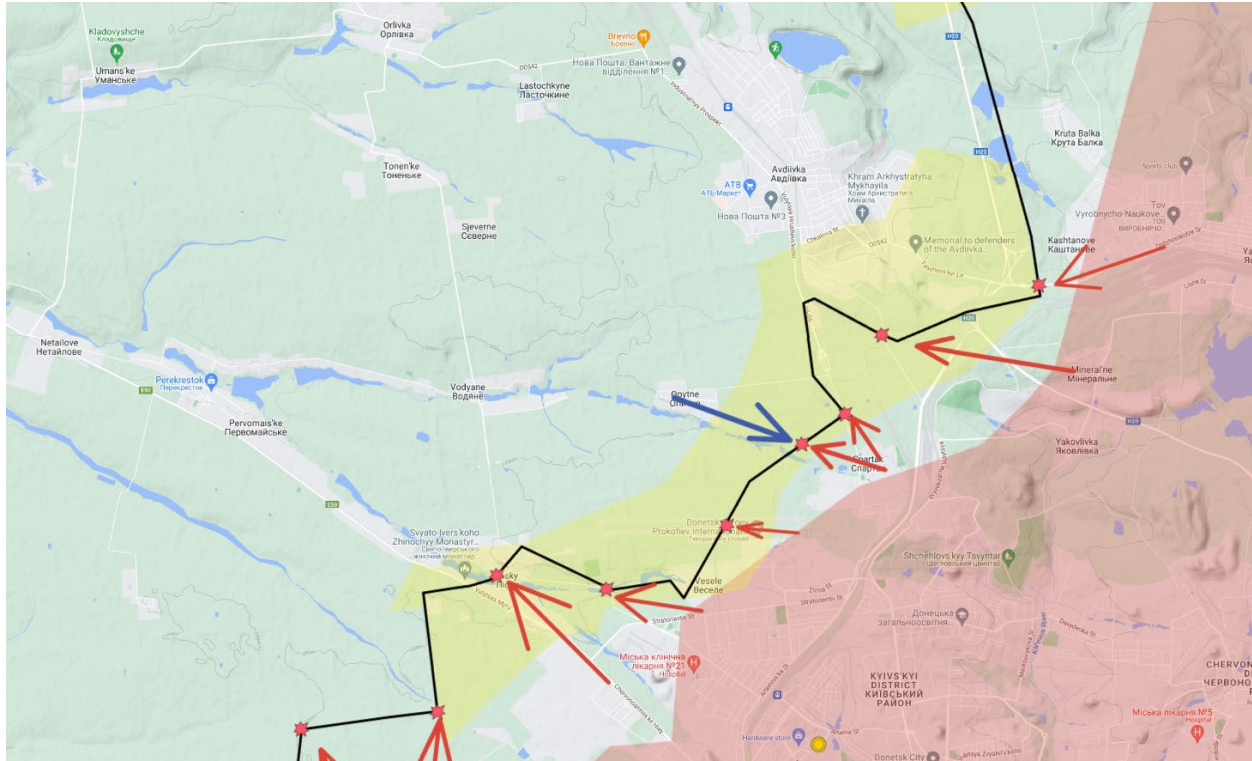
*In attritional warfare, Ukraine can't compete. The question is, does Russia have enough troops left to throw at Soledar and Bakhmut and write off the casualties?*

# SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

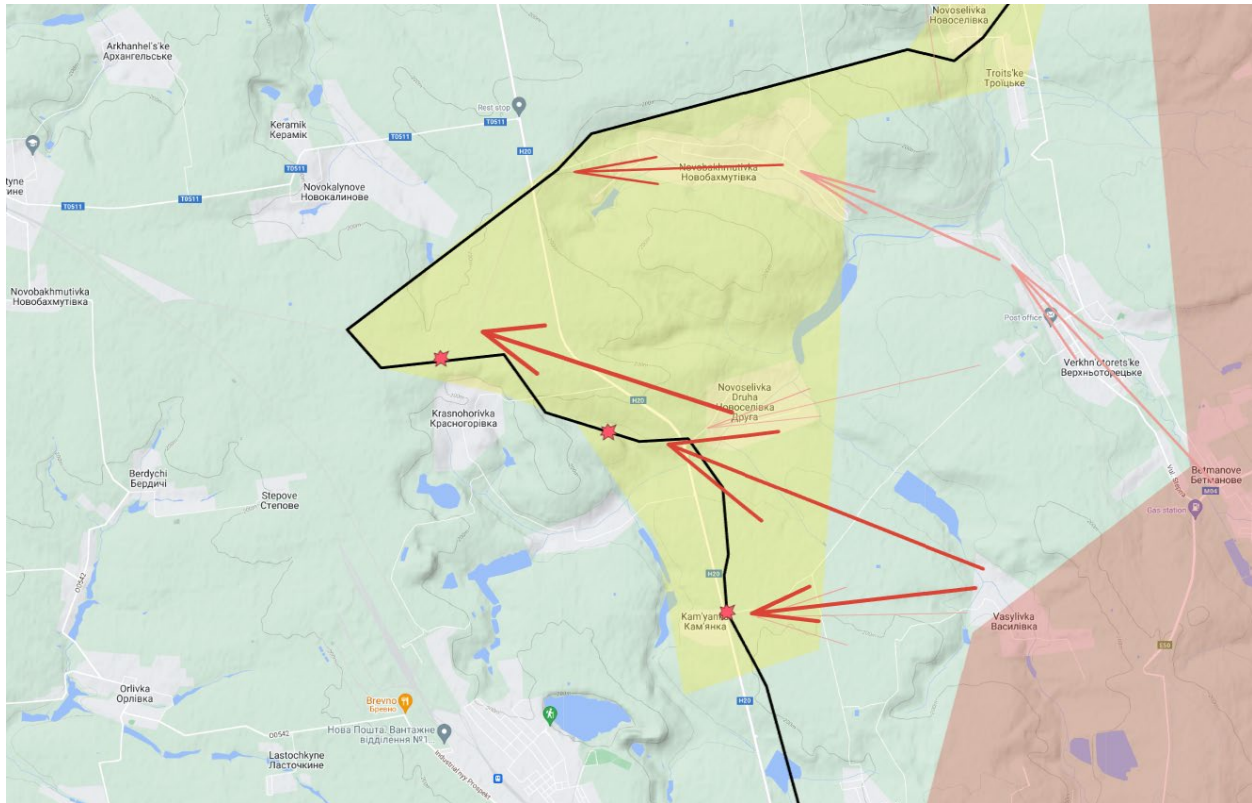


**Russian Objective:** Capture the Donetsk oblast to its administrative borders before August 31, push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dnipro River

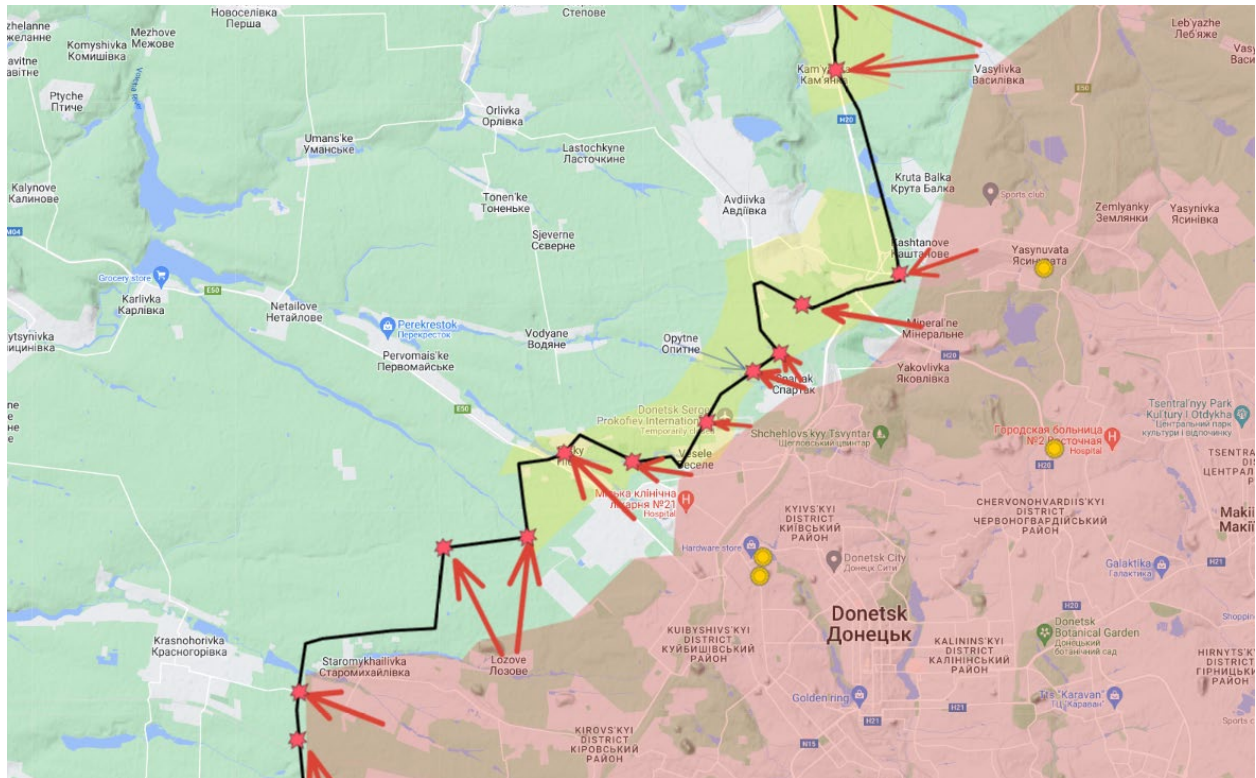
**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, and prepare for or convince Russian forces they are preparing for a widescale counteroffensive



The 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) continued offensives on [Avdiivka](#) and [Pisky](#), relying more on artillery and fighting positional battles.



DNR separatists tried to advance on [Krasnohorivka](#) and were unsuccessful. DNR military leaders claimed they had entered the settlement and there was street fighting but didn't provide supporting information, videos, or pictures. NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) did not show any thermal anomalies in the settlement or the surrounding areas.



DNR forces also attempted direct assaults on Avdiivka from Mineralne and Spartak and were unsuccessful. They also attempted to advance deeper into Pisky in a direct assault from Donetsk, [Lozove](#), and the [Butivka Mine](#) ventilation shaft compound. DNR leaders repeated that fighting was contained to the northwest part of Pisky and was in a mopping-up operation.<sup>1</sup> Geolocated Videos released by Russian state media provided a very different assessment.

<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/36995>

One video showed Ukrainian positions [being shelled north of the ponds](#) that divide Pisky in the town center.<sup>2</sup>

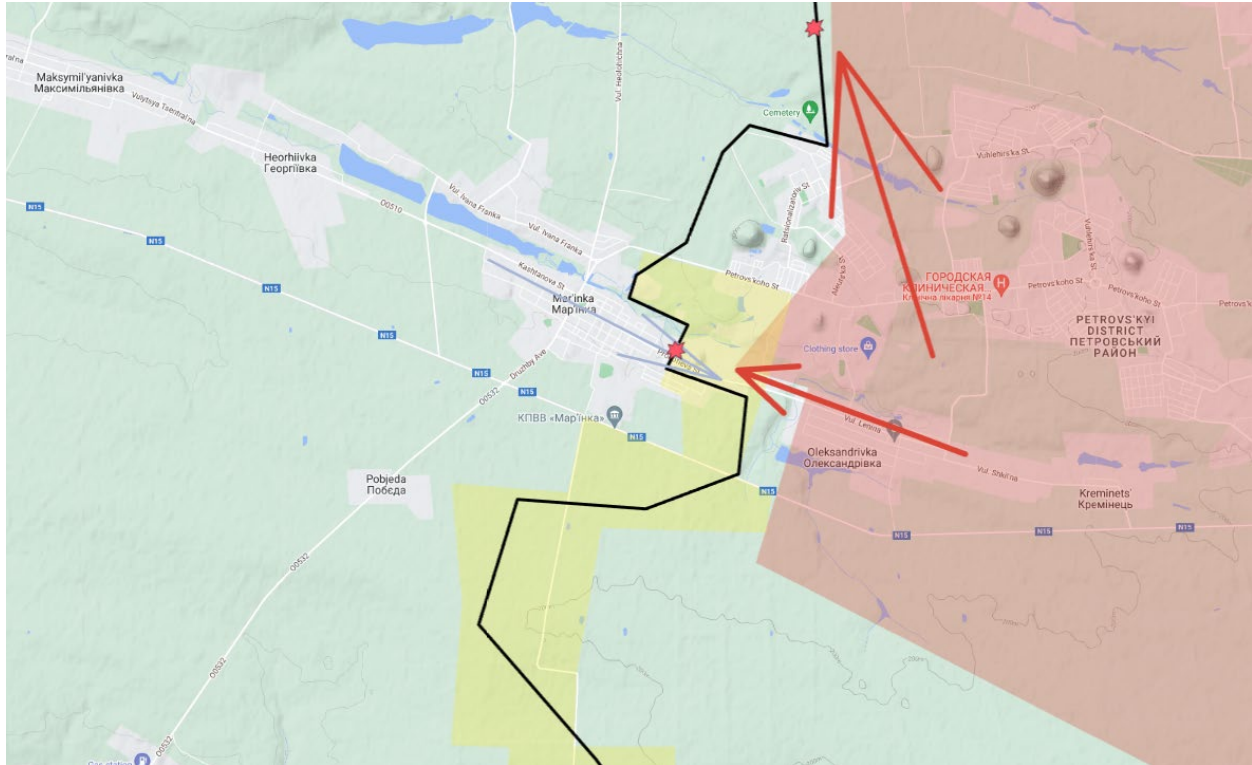
[48°03'57.3"N 37°40'15.9"E] Russian state media agency Russia Today [released a video](#) showing drone-directed artillery firing on Ukrainian positions on the E-50 ring road, where Ukrainian defenders have held for a week.<sup>3</sup> At the 28-second mark on the video, Russian artillery was interdicting the Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – aka supply line) between Pisky and [Nevelske](#). Our team geolocated a passenger van hit by artillery [48°03'33.3"N 37°38'19.4"E] 800 meters southwest of the E-50 Ring Road bridge.

**ASSESSMENT:** Based on the open source information from Russian sources, we find that Russian forces have not advanced from positions established on August 5.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1557267936754147329>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1557470246793281536>



Elements of the 1st Army Corps also attempted to advance on [Marinka](#) and were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces shelled the [Donetsk Brewery](#) in the Kalinivskyi District, [causing a large fire](#).<sup>4</sup> The fire and explosion caused an ammonia leak.<sup>5</sup> City officials ordered residents to evacuate within a 2-kilometer radius of the plant.<sup>6</sup> There is more information in the **War Crimes and Human Rights Section**.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/25737>

<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/25742>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/25748>

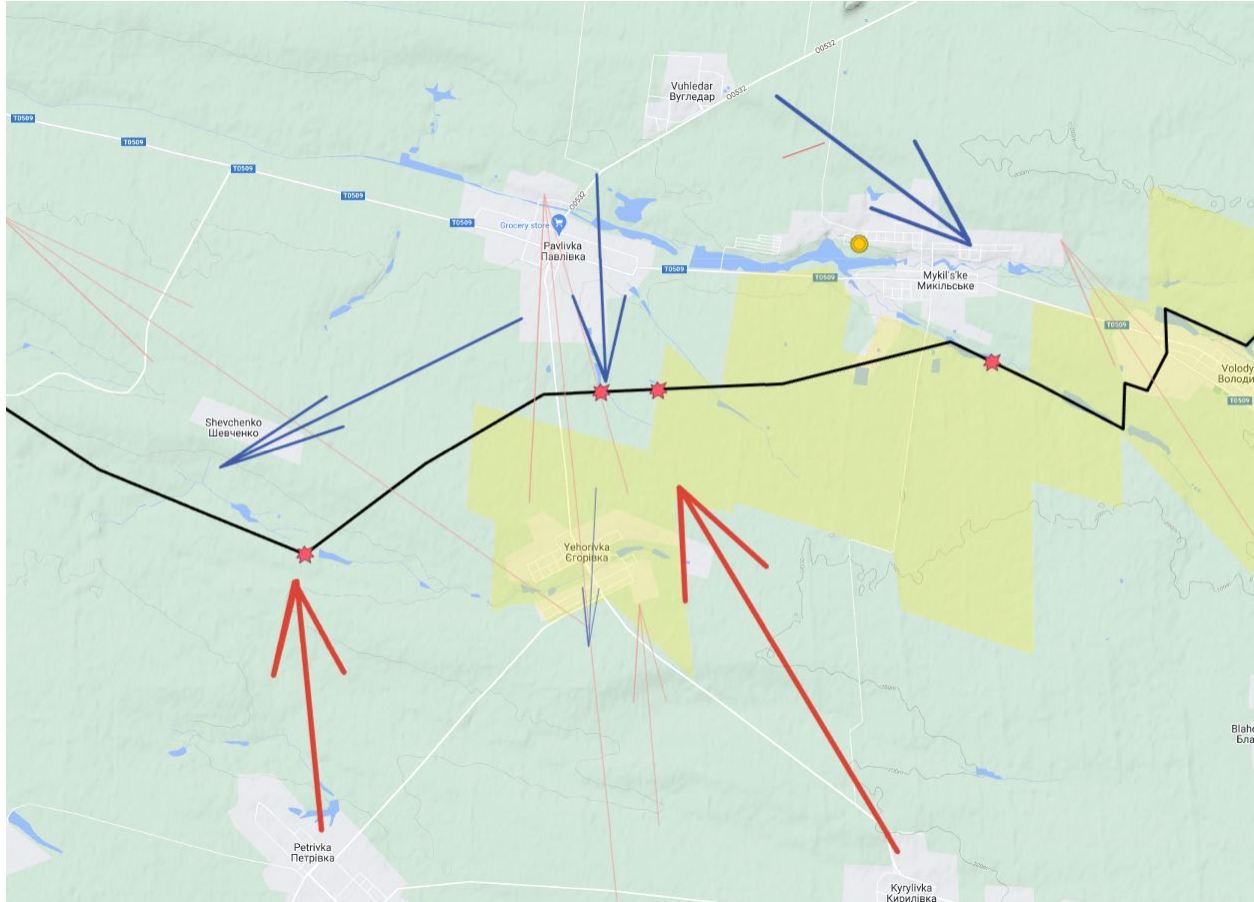


Social media videos showed a fire in Khartsyzk, east of Makiivka.<sup>7</sup> The fire was in a forested area well behind the current line of conflict. We could not verify this was a rocket strike by HIMARS at the time of publication.

Russian and Ukrainian forces fired artillery, mortars, and rockets from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) from [Horlivka](#) to [Donetsk](#) city to [Velyka Novosilka](#) in the Donetsk oblast and [Hulyaipole](#) to [Orikhiv](#) to [Kamyanske](#) in Zaporizhia.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557628711607816194>



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Pavlivka](#) and were unsuccessful.

Insurgents in [Melitopol](#) launched three attacks in the last 24 hours. On August 9, the “Russian United Russia Party” headquarters was damaged in an attack. Delegates met later on the same day to discuss the pending sham referendum to become part of the Russian Federation.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://twitter.com/MarkRid89403375/status/1557365415579455491>

On August 10, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was set on fire, and two hours later, the central police station was bombed.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> Officials closed area streets and were searching for partisans. Russian state media claims the blasts were unrelated to partisan activity and were air defenses shooting down Ukrainian missiles.<sup>11</sup>

There were reports of two explosions where [Russian forces had set up an encampment](#) outside of [Chonhar](#), the first checkpoint into southern Ukraine from the Crimea Peninsula.<sup>12</sup> Social media pictures showed a large column of smoke rising from the same area as the seaside Russian supply depot.<sup>13</sup> We cannot confirm the veracity of these reports at this time, but considering the other air or missile strikes in the same region over the last 48 hours, we believe these reports have significant weight.

**ASSESSMENT:** We maintain that DNR forces can capture Pisky in the short term but will be unable to capitalize on the tactical gain, and the goal of securing the entirety of

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<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1557463780778545153>

<sup>10</sup> [https://twitter.com/natale\\_gino/status/1557528161855844352](https://twitter.com/natale_gino/status/1557528161855844352)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362743/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/sgorlovki/status/1557371615792488451>

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23789>

the Donetsk oblast by August 31 to support the planned September 11 Russian referendum is unrealistic.

Chonhar is 160 kilometers inside Russian-occupied territory and one of only two road access points into the Crimea Peninsula. The Russian Ministry of Defense should consider this a vital link to Crimea and maintaining the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In the last seven to ten days, Partisan activity has increased dramatically in Melitopol, while Ukrainian air and missile strikes have occurred in the same region, degrading Russian supply lines, air defenses, and command and control. Ukraine has been transparent about launching its late summer counteroffensive in Kherson.

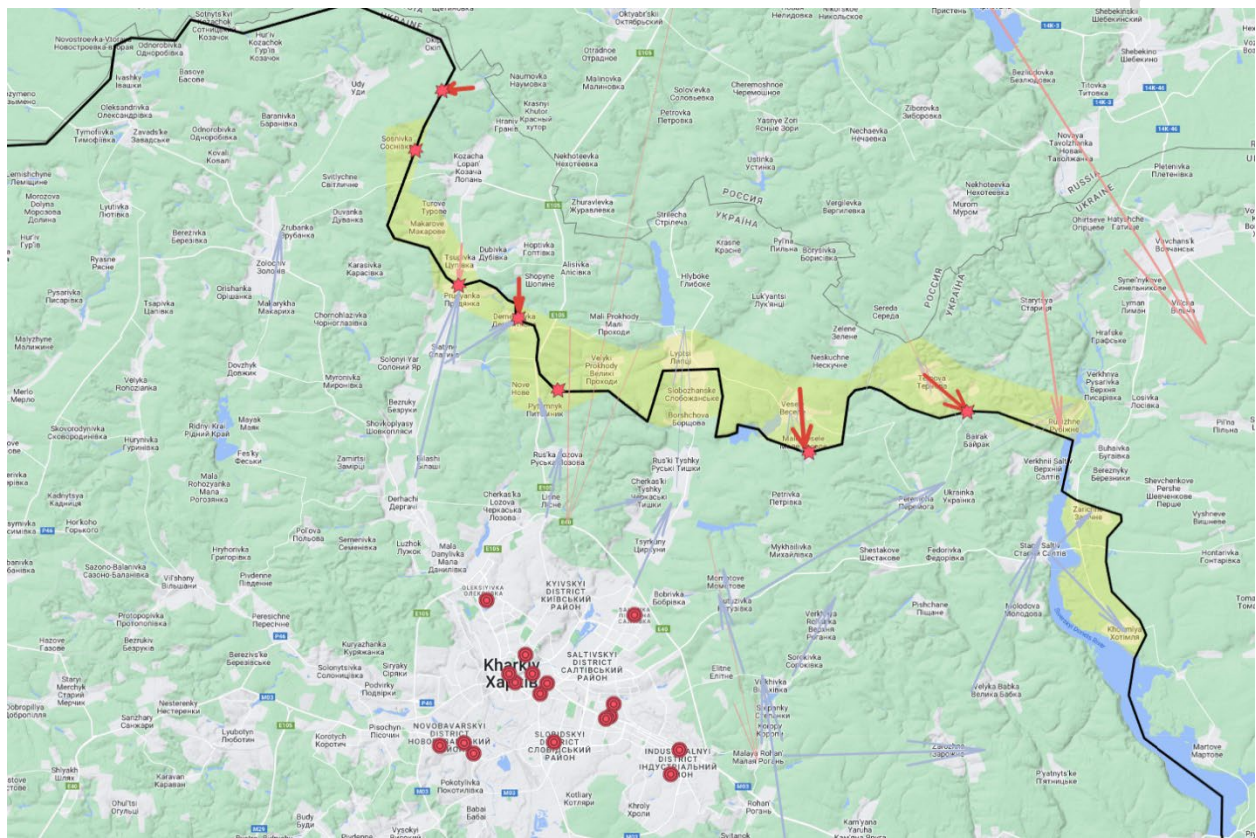
If we look at possible counteroffensive strategies, destroying the enemy's air defenses, command and control, and crippling supply lines is the first step of a larger campaign. While these activities are happening in the Kherson oblast, and Russian air defenses have been severely degraded west of the Dnipro, the actions in play suggest the counteroffensive will be in Zaporizhia. The goal of a counteroffensive east of the Dnipro would be to cut off Russian troops west of the Dnipro River, sever the Crimea

landbridge to the Donbas at Melitopol, and isolate the 25,000 plus Russian forces in Kherson.

***Editor's Note: This is only our assessment, and we do not have classified or intimate knowledge of strategic plans in Ukraine. We respect operational security and would not share any sensitive information or use that information to make an informed public opinion.***

# KHARKIV REGION

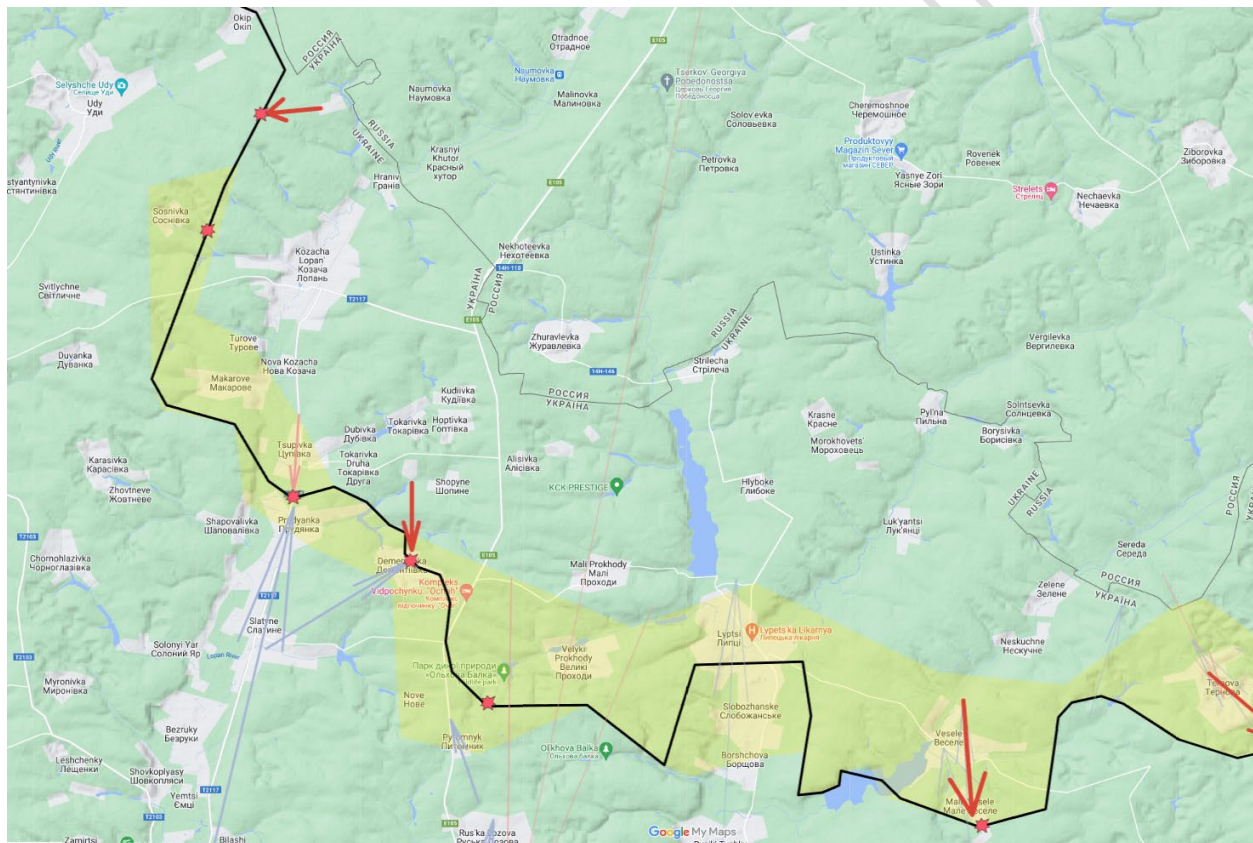
## NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



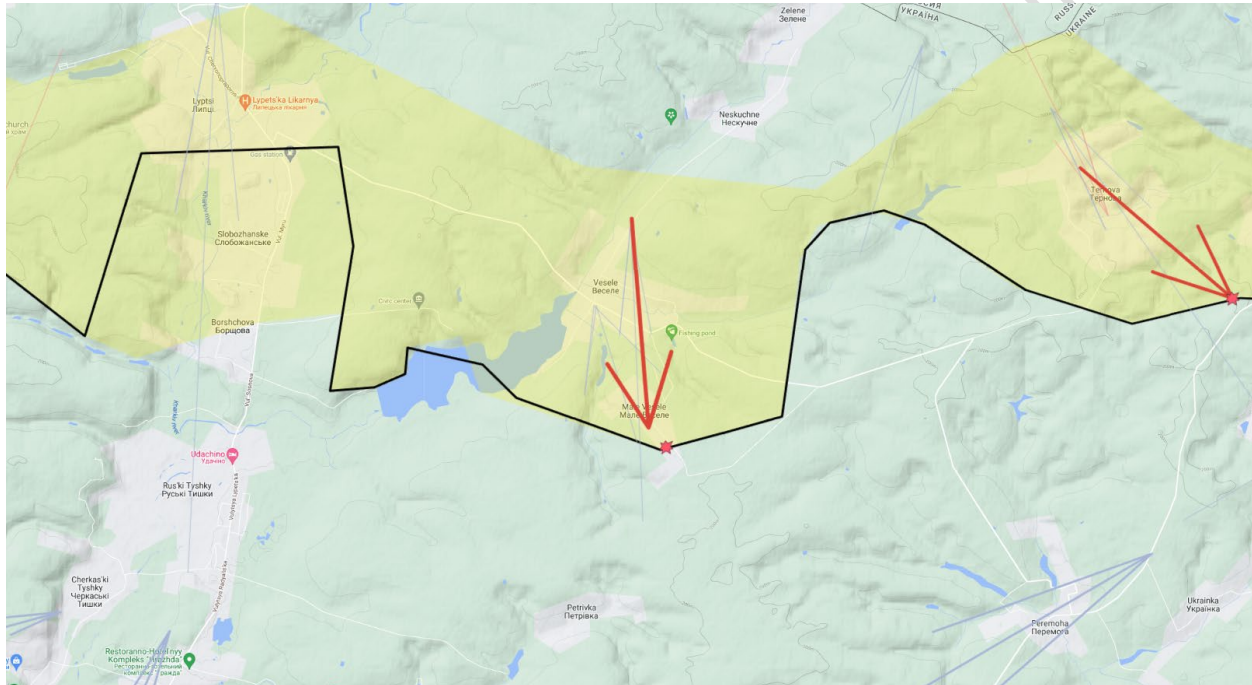
**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukraine from reaching the international border with Russia, protect the Belgorod-Kupyansk GLOC, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

# Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC

Russian forces launched the largest group of positional battles northwest and north of Kharkiv in over a month.



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Udy](#), [Prudyanka](#), [Dementiivka](#), and [Petrivka](#).<sup>14 15</sup> None of the advances were successful and Russian forces suffered heavy losses near Petrivka.



We updated the map to move the line of conflict to the south of [Male Vesele](#) based on the attack toward Petrivka. We still consider Male Vesele contested but leaning toward Russian control. We also moved the line of conflict south of [Rubizhne](#) [Kharkiv] because the General Staff has not mentioned the settlement in its reports for a week. Russian

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/myro\\_shnykov/1219](https://t.me/myro_shnykov/1219)

<sup>15</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



and Ukrainian sources have also reported that Verkhni Staliv has been shelled and hit with airstrikes over the last week. We maintain that Rubizhne is a no man's land.

Kharkiv city has hit by four missiles at 4:28 A.M. local time on August 11. There wasn't information on damage or casualties at the time of publication.<sup>16</sup>

Across the rest of the front, Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery and MLRS strikes sporadically across the rest of the line of conflict.

Southeast of Kharkiv, an apartment building in [Chuhuiv](#) suffered heavy damage from a rocket attack. There were no reports of casualties.<sup>17</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** We don't believe that attacks by Russian forces from Udy to Petrivka indicate a broader offensive is starting. Ukraine has been transferring the defense north of Kharkiv to territorial guard units. In our assessment, Russian forces tested defensive capabilities and tried to create confusion during the troop rotation. We had

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/11/7362757/>

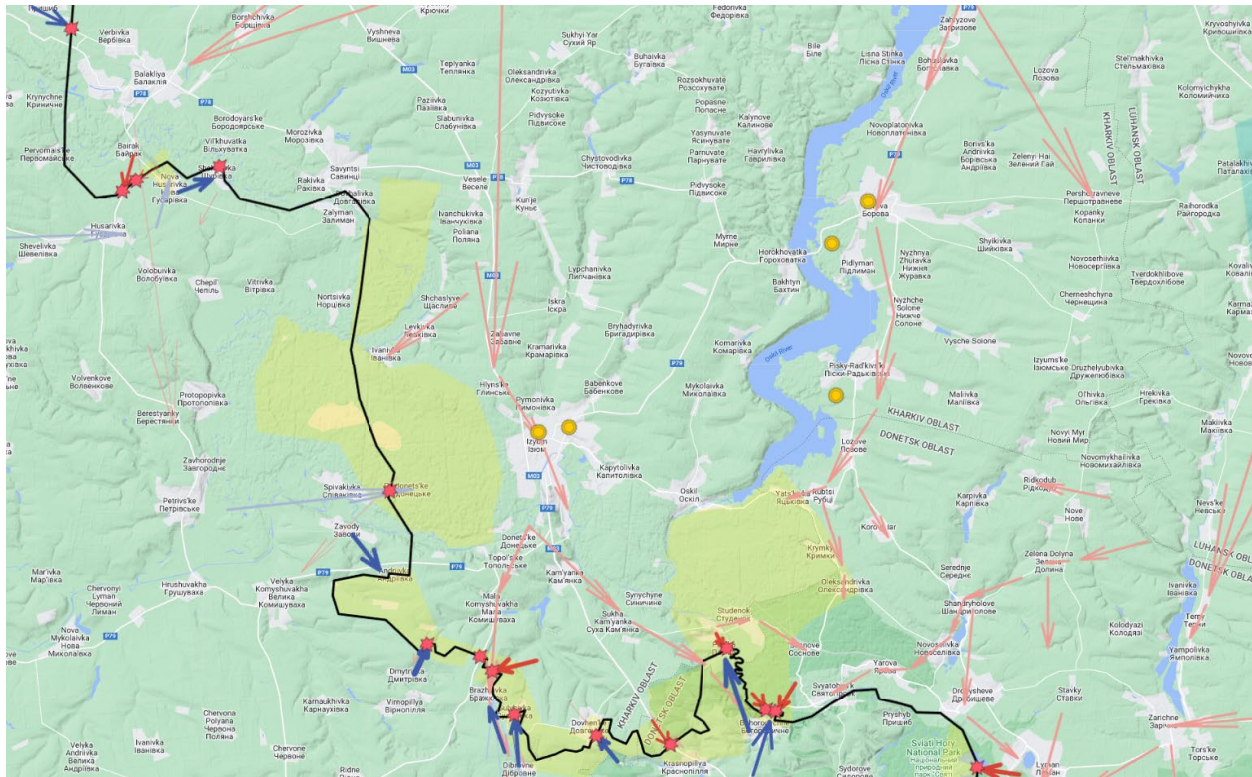
<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/chuguiv/3094>



assessed on August 7 that positional battles, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses would continue even though the front is frozen in this region.

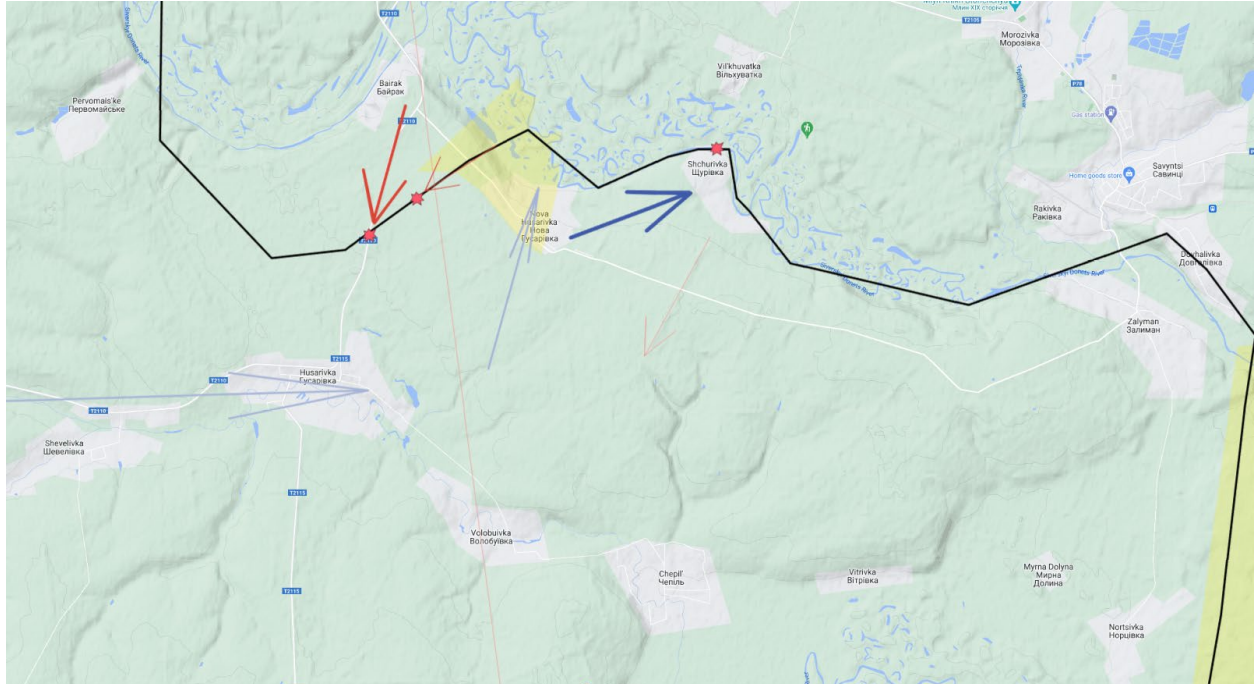
COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS

# IZYUM AXIS

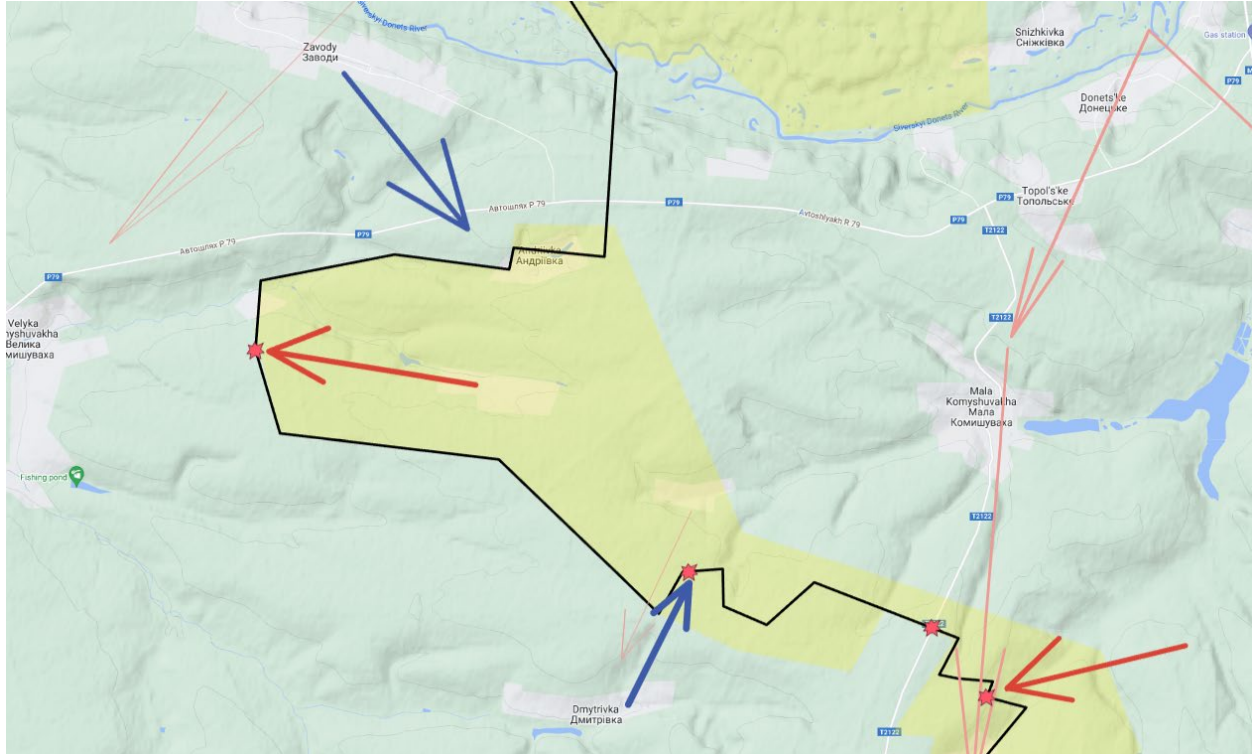


**Russian Objective:** Hold the current line of conflict and prevent further advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict

**Ukrainian Objective:** Hold the current line of conflict and prevent further advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict

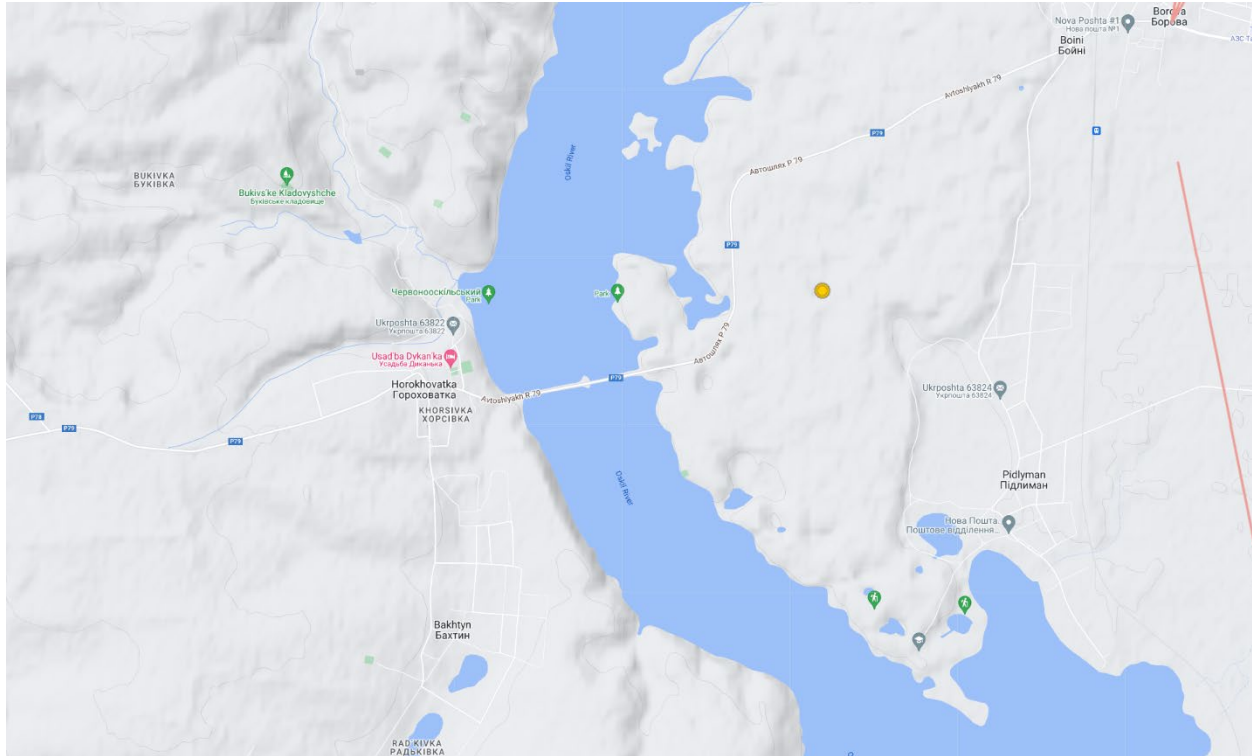


Northwest of Izyum, Russian forces continued their attempts to advance on [Husarivka](#), supported by the Russian air force. They were unsuccessful and retreated north to Bairak.



Russian forces in the Petropillya salient southwest of Izyum attempted to break through Ukrainian defensive lines in [Velyka Komyshuvakha](#) and were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian positions south of Izyum experienced sporadic artillery shelling.



Russian forces attempted a wet crossing by driving through the Oskil River at [Horokhovatka and Borova](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>18</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces severed Internet and cellular access north of Izyum in May, so very little social intelligence has come out of the Borova region. Our analysts geolocated the picture [49°20'35.4"N 37°32'49.8"E], which shows the bridge had been destroyed at the abutments on the west and east side.

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<sup>18</sup> [https://t.me/borova\\_gromada/1132](https://t.me/borova_gromada/1132)



Russian military vehicles should have a viable route through Izyum, east through Oskil, and north to Borova. We won't speculate on the motivation of the military vehicles to attempt a wet crossing by driving through the river. The most likely reasons are the route south of Izyum is too dangerous, superior officers gave a direct order, or the drivers were overconfident. The failed crossing indicates increasing stress on Russian GLOCs in the Izyum area.

No other attempts were made to advance southwest, south, or southeast of Izyum. However, artillery and rockets from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) were fired at Ukrainian positions along the southern axis.

**ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 7**

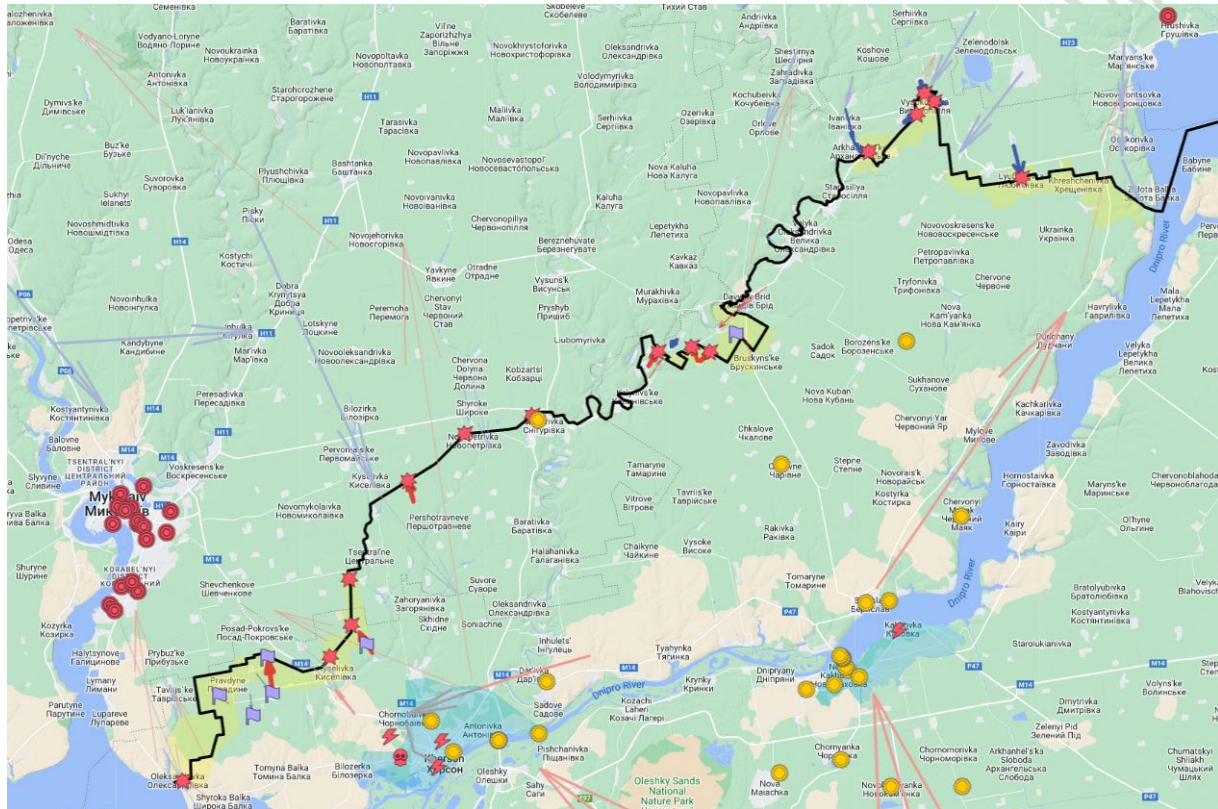
*We remain unwilling to call the ongoing action by Ukrainian forces a counteroffensive. We maintain that Russian forces between Avdriivka and Kopanky are now in a salient and at moderate risk of encirclement if Ukrainian forces were to make a breakthrough.*

*It is implausible that Russian forces can secure the Donetsk oblast by August 31 without securing Slovyansk as part of that self-declared deadline.*



# DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

## KHERSON



**Russian Objective:** Prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive by building defenses, prevent further advances by Ukrainian troops toward KherSON, repair destroyed GLOCs over the Dnipro River, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih

Ukrainian forces used precision munitions to strike the [Kakhovsky Bridge](#) in Nova Kakhovka.<sup>19</sup> The section of the bridge targeted is a curved roadway that extends west of the hydroelectric powerplant and dam.



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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.yahoo.com/news/video-showing-ukrainian-forces-shelling-160845364.html>

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian state media's lack of operational security continues to stun our team. The minute ad 30-second video provided a full battle damage assessment of the bridge, showing five hits across the bridge while completely missing the dam and other infrastructure. The video showed light vehicles continuing to use the bridge, which has been reduced to a single lane.

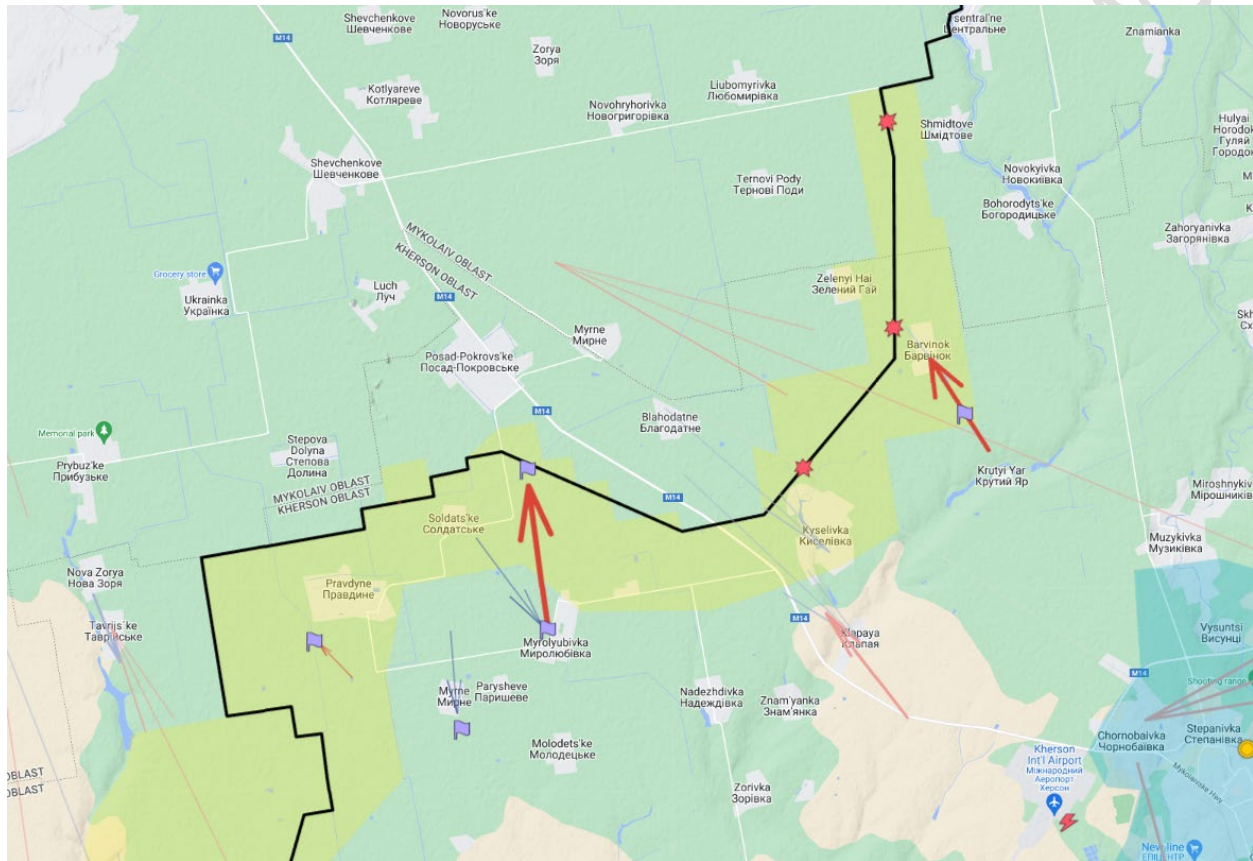
Satellite images showed that the Darivka bridge has been reopened to all traffic but reduced to a single lane. Russian engineers installed radar reflectors around the bridge to thwart Ukrainian attacks. However, Excalibur shells fired from M777 155mm artillery pieces and self-propelled howitzers and M30/M31 rockets fired by High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) use GPS for targeting.

Vladimir Saldo, the Russian-appointed mayor of Kherson, fell into a coma on August 3. He has since been transferred to a Moscow hospital, where he is being treated for poisoning. His maid and cook have been accused of attempting to assassinate the mayor for being a collaborator.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> <https://au.sports.yahoo.com/ukraine-mayor-russian-occupied-kherson-071958408.html>

Insurgents rigged a Kamaz supply truck to explode at the Russian base at [Chornobaivka](#). The blast killed one Russian soldier and wounded two.<sup>21</sup>



Operational Command South of the Armed Forces of Ukrainian forces reported three Russian command posts were destroyed. The command post for the Russian 49th Combined Arms Army (CAA) in [Chervonyi Mayak](#), the 126th Separate Coastal Defense Brigade of the Russian Navy in

<sup>21</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1557479980912754689](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1557479980912754689)

[Novokamianka](#), and the 76th Airborne Assault Division in [Ishchenka](#). Operational Command South also reported that a Russian ammo depot in [Barvinok](#) [Kherson] was destroyed.<sup>22</sup>

Russian and Ukrainian forces continue to exchange artillery and rockets fired from MLRS along the rest of the line of conflict.

**ASSESSMENT:** Ukraine liberated Barvinok on June 26. The report of a Russian ammunition depot in the settlement indicates that Russian forces recaptured the village in July or early August. We have updated the map and have moved Zelenyi Hai to contested status. We also moved the line of conflict further north near Kyselivka, which we still considered contested.

Since the last week of July, our research shows that Russian forces have recaptured five settlements northwest of Kherson city. Our analyst team has growing questions about the looming Kherson counteroffensive. Russian forces have recaptured most of the territory northwest of Kherson city that Ukraine liberated in late June and early

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/11/7362752/>

July. The region recaptured is sparsely populated steppe covered in wheat fields, making it very difficult to defend.

The attacks on command posts are highly disruptive for the Russian military, which operates under the doctrine of centralized command. Russia doesn't have a non-commissioned officer corps enabled to overcome, adapt, and improvise if the tactical situation changes. This top-down approach leaves Russian military units more vulnerable to decapitation attacks.

## CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources in places, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

**Ukrainian Objective:** Maintain enough force strength on the border with Russia to prevent Russian troops from crossing

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor reported [Radkivka](#), [Krasnopillya](#), [Bilopillia](#), [Khotin](#), [Slavhorod](#), and [Nova Sloboda](#) were

shelled and hit by mortars.<sup>23</sup> The shelling knocked out natural gas service in Sumy, Krasnopillya, and Khotin.



Territorial guards exchanged small arms fire along the Ukrainian-Russian border in Slavhorod.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/11/7362748/>

In Chernihiv, the settlements of [Lohy](#) and [Senkivka](#) was shelled by Russian forces over the international border. There wasn't additional information on damage or casualties.<sup>24</sup>

## **KYIV REGION**

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

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



## BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION



Satellite images showed that the Saky naval airbase in Russia-controlled Novofedorivka, Crimea, was severely damaged by the "accident" at the base.<sup>25</sup> Our survey counted 14 aircraft destroyed or with apparent damage. Pro-Russian sources reported that the only four Su-30SM2 fighters in the Russian Navy, which were delivered in 2021, were destroyed.<sup>26</sup> The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported nine aircraft were destroyed before the

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<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/OSINTua/status/1557440576806608897>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/36996?single>

satellite images were available, and the Oryx database logged ten planes destroyed.

A color-enhanced satellite photo showed that fires burned to the beaches of the Black Sea east of the base and reached two more ammunition bunkers surrounded by civilian houses and beach resorts.<sup>27</sup>

Publicly, the Russian Ministry of Defense is communicating confusion over the incident while maintaining the narrative that the explosions were an accident, no one was killed, and no aircraft were lost. Depending on the source, Russian propaganda sources claim the satellite images are Photoshop fakes. More reasonable Pro-Russian social media account Rybar claimed only seven aircraft were damaged or destroyed, and the Su-24s were already in poor condition and scheduled to be scrapped.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/wammezz/status/1557489318108733440>



The Ukrainian government is taking advantage of the public confusion to its advantage, with different messages coming from Kyiv. Some officials continue to claim that the incident was caused by accident. Others hinted that new medium-range ballistic missiles hit the base, while others claim the attack was an act of sabotage by Special Operation Forces (SOF) or insurgents.

Ukrainian advisor to the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Anton Gerashchenko, reported up to 60 military personnel and civilians, including pilots, were killed and up

to 100 wounded.<sup>28</sup> We cannot verify the veracity of the report. Based on available open source intelligence, it is implausible no personnel were killed.

**ASSESSMENT:** This is one of the top three military losses and embarrassments for the Russian Federation since the war started on February 24. In our view, this incident falls in third place behind the failed river crossing at Bilohorivka in Luhansk on May 8 and the sinking of the Black Sea Fleet flagship Moskva on April 14.

Russian officials have likely reached a preliminary determination on what caused the explosion by this point. We maintain that the official position that this was an accident will remain unchanged unless the Kremlin believes there is political gain in sharing their findings – assuming the explosion was not an accident.

Additionally, we assess that every surviving aircraft on the base should be given a thorough safety and systems inspection before returning to combat. With 14 airframes damaged or destroyed up to 1250 meters from the ammunition bunker, other aircraft likely have shrapnel

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<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557366545550016513>

damage, deformities to their skin, and damaged flight surfaces.

## WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Germany delivered four more Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns. The Gepard is built on the Leopard tank chassis and designed to track and shoot down aircraft flying at low altitudes. The twin 35mm cannons can also be used for direct fire against ground targets.<sup>29</sup>

The United Kingdom announced they are sending Ukraine three additional M270 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS).<sup>30</sup> The United States-built M270 GMLRS is the big brother of the M142 HIMARS launcher, which can fire 12 rockets instead of six. Ben Wallace, the British Defense Minister, also reported that a "significant" amount of ammunition would be provided. The transfer is part of a

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<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557345544292503553>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362746/>

three-nation trade. Norway has pledged to transfer three M270 launchers to the UK as replacements.

Wallace stated that Ukraine was learning to adapt to NATO strategy and tactics quickly and has become more selective on what targets to attack with the M142 and M270 launchers. NATO leaders were concerned about how many M30/M31 rockets Ukraine used. The United States has 40,000 rockets in its stockpile and a peacetime capacity to build 9,000 yearly. At the beginning of July, Ukraine was firing as many as 100 rockets daily – an unsustainable rate.

The United States will host Ramstein V on August 11, with more than 50 nations attending the monthly working group. Ahead of the meeting of the defense ministers of Ukraine's partner states in Copenhagen, Denmark, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for further weapons and funds to support Ukraine to end the war faster.

"The more weapons, the more military and financial support Ukraine receives, the sooner our people and all Europeans will be able to experience peace and stability in life again."

Social media was flooded with reports that up to eight explosions rocked the region near Zyabrovka airfield in Belarus, occupied by the Russian military.<sup>31</sup> The Ministry of Defense of Belarus claims there was an accident at the airbase. At 23:00 local time, an aircraft with a recently replaced engine was being tested when the engine caught fire. The fire spread, causing a series of explosions. The fire was extinguished with the loss of only one aircraft and no casualties.

***Editor's Note:*** *There have been a lot of accidents involving Russian aircraft in the last 36 hours.*

On Wednesday evening, a wooden barracks in Dolgoprudny, Russia, holding conscripts with the 4th Antiaircraft Defense Brigade, erupted in flames.<sup>32</sup> The building was a total loss, and the source was likely an accident. There were no casualties reported.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/11/7362754/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557597732382146560>



Ukrainian Su-24 jets have started flight operations again after being mostly absent from the skies for most of the war.<sup>33</sup> The airplanes have been photographed armed with Kh-25MP air-to-ground guided missiles designed to target radar stations. The missiles are outdated but still effective against Russian systems designed during the same period.

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<sup>33</sup> [The Drive](#)



In response to the "accident" at Saky Naval airbase, Deputy of the Russian Duma Leonid Slutsky declared, "The special military operation will continue. The point of no return has been passed."<sup>34</sup> The Kremlin has previously declared three red lines: attacks on Crimea, attacks on Russia, and direct involvement by NATO or other Western allies.

Kremlin insiders told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin would reject any offer from North Korea to send foreign military volunteers from North Korea to Ukraine. Putin's closest advisors are reportedly against the idea calling it a "logistical nightmare."

## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

***Today's update includes graphic information on war crimes, atrocities, and human rights abuses. Discretion is advised.***

Another video showing the torture and murder of a Ukrainian POW has emerged on Pro-Russian channels.<sup>35</sup> The video shows the severed head of a Ukrainian soldier

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<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557417114750881796>

<sup>35</sup> [The Guardian](#)

impaled on a pole outside 21 Nahirna Street in Russian-occupied Popasna. The video was geolocated.

The video recorded in late July shows a human torso with legs in a Ukrainian uniform lying on the ground. The camera pans up, showing the head and both hands impaled. Popasna was captured and occupied by PMC Wagner Group and Chechen Kadyrovites.

The self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic, Leonid Pasechik, announced that Popsana would likely be abandoned because the city, once home to 20,000 people, had been wiped from the map.<sup>36</sup> In July, it was reported only 200 residents remained, with 96% of the buildings damaged or destroyed.

In Bakhmut, Russian forces killed six civilians and three wounded in a rocket attack.<sup>37</sup> Ukrainian leaders had ordered all civilians to evacuate from the Donetsk oblast last month. However, some people are too sick or poor to evacuate. Others operate critical services such as fire and utilities. Pavlo Kyrylenko, Head of the Donetsk Oblast Military Administration, once again appealed for all

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<sup>36</sup> <https://meduza.io/en/news/2022/08/09/occupation-authorities-likely-won-t-rebuild-popasna>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362730/>

civilians to leave. The Ukrainian government has been assisting people in evacuating. Residents who refuse to leave sign waivers declaring they understand they take full responsibility for their personal safety.

In Staryi Saltiv near Kharkiv, two civilians were killed by a Russian mortar shell.<sup>38</sup> The two were outside when the round landed on their patio, killing the couple instantly.

Co-founder of the Swedish Division of Amnesty International Per Wästberg has announced that he is leaving his post because of the organization's August 4 report on the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In resigning, Wästberg said, "I have been a member for almost sixty years. With a heavy heart, I am ending my long and fruitful cooperation because of Amnesty's statements about the war in Ukraine."

Just days after the Amnesty International report that implied the Ukrainian armed forces were using civilians as human shields, [a video from Russian-occupied Nova Kakhovka](#) showed a battery of Russian MLRS launchers

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362729/>

firing dozens of Grad rockets while hiding within a civilian neighborhood.<sup>39</sup>

Russian forces [recorded the intentional targeting](#) and destruction of the water tower in the village of Lyubyne in Mykolaiv oblast.<sup>40</sup> Russian troops used an antitank weapon to destroy the tower.

A Ukrainian artillery strike on the Donetsk Brewery in Donetsk city caused ammonia to be released into the city. We are very sensitive to the issue of false moral equivalency. The war crimes and international law violations committed by Russia just in today's report are reprehensible. However, belligerents are obliged to take reasonable measures to protect civilians, even when attacking military targets placed in civilian areas. Ammonia is commonly used as a cleaning agent in food production and is heavier than air.

Our commitment is always to the truth. The truth is if there are civilian casualties directly caused by the artillery strike that all possible precautions to minimize risk weren't taken, and if there weren't any legitimate military targets

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<sup>39</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1557622609843556353](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1557622609843556353)

<sup>40</sup> [https://twitter.com/666\\_mancer/status/1557281727130771456](https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1557281727130771456)

at the brewery or in the area, this incident should be investigated as a potential war crime.

Ukraine accused Russia of using the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to launch the deadly attack on the village of Marivka, which killed 13 and left 11 wounded, seven critically.<sup>41</sup>



The region got no relief, with another 120 Grad rockets fired from MLRS stationed at the plant slamming into Nikopol. The nighttime attack targeted civilian homes as

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<sup>41</sup> [Reuters](#)

they were sleeping, killing three and wounding nine.<sup>42</sup> The attack destroyed three schools, with the first day of classes 20 days away. Rescue workers were still searching for victims at the time of publication.

Russia requested a United Nations Security Council meeting as it accuses Ukraine of attacking the Zaporizhzhia NPP.<sup>43</sup> The foreign ministers of the G7 nations called on the Kremlin to return the plant to Ukrainian control to prevent a nuclear disaster.<sup>44</sup> A statement released by the ministers said, "Ukrainian personnel responsible for the operation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant must be able to carry out their duties without threats or pressure. It is Russia's continued domination of the nuclear power plant that endangers the region."

The European Union released a statement on the matter, condemning Russia's occupation of the plant and using it as a military base. "The EU condemns Russia's military activities around Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is the largest in Europe. This is a serious and irresponsible breach of nuclear safety rules and another example of Russia's disregard for international norms. We demand

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/11/7362763/>

<sup>43</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1557244100109373441](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1557244100109373441)

<sup>44</sup> [Al Jazeera](#)

that Russia immediately cede control over the Zaporizhzhia power plant to Ukraine and refrain from any action endangering its safety and security."

In the occupied Ukrainian territories, Russian propaganda is telling residents that Ukraine no longer exists and that Poland invaded the western part of the country with the support of Belarus and Russia.<sup>45</sup> The fake news stories are designed to cast doubt as the occupation moves into its sixth month. In the occupied regions, mass media, cellular, and Internet information is tightly controlled and restricted, making it challenging to learn about the war.

Russian TV journalist Marina Ovsyannikova, who became internationally famous for her on-air antiwar protest in March, has been arrested and is facing 15 years in prison. She is accused of being a journalist who made critical statements about the Russian military and the special military operation, which was criminalized at the start of the invasion.

When she made her on-air protest in March, she was fined 30,000 roubles (about \$270) and quit her job. In July, she

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<sup>45</sup> [The Daily Beast](#)

staged a protest holding a banner that said, "Putin is a killer; his soldiers are fascists." This is the fourth time Ovsyannikova has run afoul of the so-called "don't say war" law. In the three previous cases, she was fined.

In Russian-occupied Mariupol, the water utility workers went on strike because they had not been paid since Russia took control on April 21.<sup>46</sup> The workers claim that Kostiantyn Ivashchenko, the Russian declared mayor of Mariupol, is keeping the money meant to pay public service workers for himself.

In Moscow, Aleksandr Timofeev, a minister of the self-declared People's Republic of Donetsk, was sentenced to 3-1/2 years in a penal colony after being convicted of "attempted large-scale fraud."<sup>47</sup> Timofeev is the former Minister of Taxes and Fees of the Donetsk People's Republic before his arrest.

In the United Kingdom, 25% of homes sponsoring Ukrainian refugees want to end their participation once their six-month obligation has ended.<sup>48</sup> Eighty percent of sponsor

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<sup>46</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362722/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/10/7362658/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62493852>



families surveyed reported they had to provide aid and support beyond the official arrangement with the British government. Almost half of all sponsors had to provide financial support while inflation rocked the nation.

## GEOPOLITICAL

In an interview with the Russian state news agency TASS, China's ambassador to Moscow, Zhang Hanhui, accused Washington of backing Russia into a corner by expanding NATO and seeking military support for Ukraine.<sup>49</sup>

"As the initiator and main instigator of the Ukrainian crisis, Washington, while imposing unprecedented comprehensive sanctions on Russia, continues to supply arms and military equipment to Ukraine," Zhang was quoted as saying.

"Their ultimate goal is to exhaust and crush Russia with a protracted war and the cudgel of sanctions."

United States actor Steven Segal has a new job as a special representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the

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<sup>49</sup> [Reuters](#)

Russian Federation for humanitarian relations between Russia and the United States.<sup>50</sup> The 70-year-old Segal made a propaganda video from within the Olenivka Penal Colony, accusing Ukraine of destroying the converted warehouse where 53 Ukrainian POWs were killed using rockets fired from HIMARS.

Segal repeated Russian disinformation that Nazis run Ukraine, and President Zelenskyy, who is Jewish, is also a Nazi. In the propaganda video, he says, "The interesting thing is that one of the killed Nazis is a Nazi who just started talking a lot about Zelenskyy. Zelenskyy is responsible for the orders about torture and other atrocities that violate not only the Geneva War Convention but are also crimes against humanity."

***Editor's Note:*** Please forgive me for this brief indiscretion. Steven, you should have never quit your day job.

## ECONOMIC

Ukraine's foreign creditors agreed to suspend foreign debt payments for two years, providing relief on \$6 billion in

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<sup>50</sup> <https://globalnews.ca/news/9051412/steven-seagal-video-ukraine-prison-propaganda/>

international bond payments due in the next 24 months.<sup>51</sup> Ukraine's economy is expected to contract 45% in 2022 due to the Russian invasion.

A payment dispute that shuttered the Druzhba pipeline last week has been resolved.<sup>52</sup> The pipeline supplies Russian crude oil to Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, and due to a "technicality," it was turned off after payments for the oil were rejected. Slovakia confirmed that oil was flowing to its Slovnaft refinery, while Hungary and the Czech Republic have yet to reestablish service.

The European Union and the United Kingdom have stopped buying Russian coal ahead of schedule. The EU and the United Kingdom accounted for 25% of all Russian coal exports before the start of the war.<sup>53</sup>

The Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni has found a buyer for its cargo of Ukrainian corn. The Razoni was the first ship to sail from Ukraine with export cargo since February 23. A

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<sup>51</sup> [Reuters](#)

<sup>52</sup> [EuroNews](#)

<sup>53</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1557262849453473794](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1557262849453473794)

buyer in Turkey has agreed to accept the cargo of dent corn.<sup>54</sup>

Shoppers in Russia lined up outside the western clothing brand H&M and flooded the Russian IKEA website as both retailers have almost completed liquidating their inventory.<sup>55</sup> Both companies suspended operations in Russia at the start of the Ukrainian invasion but are winding down operations with no end to the war in sight. The closures will put 21,000 Russians out of work.

Despite international sanctions, Hungarian-based Wizz Air announced it was restarting flights to Russia.<sup>56</sup> Tickets for the first flight from Abu Dhabi to Moscow are already on sale. Flight service is scheduled to restart on October 3.

The rouble declined slightly, with the “official” exchange rate moving to 61 roubles for one US dollar.

Oil prices increased, with WTI crude closing at \$91 a barrel and Brent at \$97. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline

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<sup>54</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/ukraine-first-shipment-carrying-grain-buyer-found>

<sup>55</sup> [Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1557649270014152704>

for spot market delivery rose to \$3.05 a gallon (81 cents a gallon).

Chicago SRW wheat futures for December 2022 delivery closed at 80 cents a bushel.

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