



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 61

Russian forces continue to struggle to make significant gains and expand the Izyum salient while being unable to collapse the Ukrainian Severodonetsk salient.

Fighting continued in Rubizhne and Popasnya with no change in territorial control. In Popasnya, Russian, Chechen, Wagner PMC, and DNR/LNR militias are attempting to hold their gains and reconsolidate after heavy losses in the last 24 hours.

There are multiple reports that Russian forces have secured the settlement of Dibrovne, 20 kilometers south of Izyum and 30 kilometers from Slovyansk. Twenty kilometers to the north-northeast, Ukrainian forces liberated the village of Zavody. The Ukrainian Air Force shot down a Russian Su-34 in air-to-air combat near Izyum.

Fighting continued in Mariupol, concentrated around the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant. There was renewed fighting in the main port area. Russian State Media released a video

showing attacks on civilian areas in regions allegedly under Russian control.

There was artillery and MLRS fire along the axis from Horlivka to Hulyaipole with no change in territorial control.

Russia hit multiple targets with cruise missiles in Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Rivne, Vinnytsia, and Zhytomyr oblasts. Targets included railroad and transit infrastructure and an oil refinery.

Attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv.

Ukrainian forces did not take control of Kyselivka yesterday, but the village 10 kilometers from the Russian base at Kherson International Airport is disputed.

Local officials expressed concern that Russian forces were preparing for a major offensive to advance on Kryvyi Rih. It seems more likely the troops will move south in an attempt to reclaim territory in the northern Kherson oblast.

Russian special forces or FSB likely launched a false flag campaign in Transnistria to support the narrative that Russian peoples in Moldova and the breakaway republic are victimized. Rocket-propelled grenades hit the State Security Ministry offices while the offices were closed for Orthodox Easter. No one was injured in the attack, and neither Moldova nor Transnistrian officials have made an official statement.

ASSESSMENT: Our assessment remains unchanged from four days ago. Russia lacks the manpower, equipment, and operational capability to create an encirclement from Hulyaipole to Izyum. It is doubtful that Russian forces will even be able to connect at Slovyansk and hold the containment.

We have assessed the western flank of the Izyum salient is exposed, and Ukrainian forces are taking advantage of this at three points.

In an interview with Ukraine 24, Christo Grozev of Bellingcat said Russia has used up to 70% of its entire inventory of precision munitions.

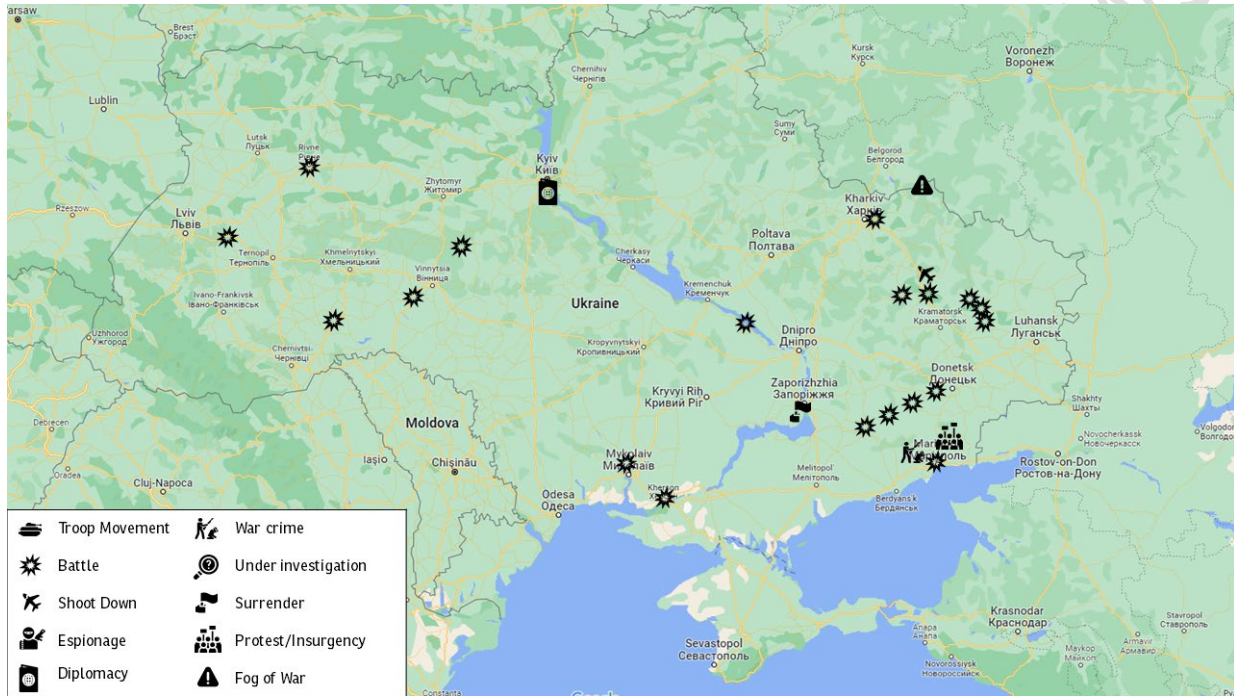
The British Ministry of Defense estimates that 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in action. Last week it was reported that another 7,500 are in missing in action. In our assessment, wounded in action is 37,500.

The UK MoD estimate aligns with the leaked number from the Russian Ministry of Defense on April 22. At 60,000 KIA, WIA, and MIA, Russia has suffered 31% casualties of their deployed forces in Ukraine. On March 26, we estimated losses of 19.6%, providing an additional data point that supports the current estimate. Combat power for the combined Russian forces in Ukraine is likely at or just below 70%, rendering the Russian military assembled in Ukraine combat ineffective.

This reality is reflected by an overall lack of progress seven days into Phase 2 of the war, using UR-77 mine-clearing equipment for offensive operations in Rubizhne and Mariupol, and using Tu-95 strategic bombers launching Kh-101/102 cruise missiles. Russian artillery patterns in the Izyum salient and the Donbas indicate poor discipline and a lack of proximity fuses. The Russian Air Force is flying ground attack missions with Su-25, Su-27, Su-30, and Su-34 aircraft using non-precision bombs.

Russia maintains the initiative but time is not on its side.

KEY EVENTS MAP



DONBAS REGION

There weren't any territorial changes in the Donbas, and Russian forces suffered heavy losses in Popasnya.

LUHANSK

Fighting continues in Rubizhne and Popasnya, with no reported change in territorial control. NASA FIRMS data showed fighting continued in Rubizhne but was less intense in Popasnya.

Wagner PMC mercenaries suffered heavy losses, with dozens of fighters killed in an artillery strike.¹ (NSFW, viewer discretion advised) There are additional reports of heavy armor vehicle and troop losses, but we could not independently confirm with photographic or video evidence.

There are reports that Russian forces have built a pontoon bridge over the Krasna River in Russian occupied Kreminna to replace the one destroyed on April 24.

¹ <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1518640737512001541>

The Ukrainian General Staff confirmed that Russian forces captured the settlement of Novotoshkovske after seven years of attacks. The village was obliterated during the siege.²

Shelling, airstrikes, and missile attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Severodonetsk and Lysychansk.³

DONETSK

There weren't any significant changes in territorial control in the oblast. There was scattered fighting along the entire line of conflict from Horlivka to Huhayiv.

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

Russian forces continue to attack the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant today and civilian areas to the east of the compound. Russian State Media agency Russia Today released a video showing a UR-77 demining vehicle used in

² <https://twitter.com/HromadskeUA/status/1518764784832978944>

³ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1518105395889332226>

an offensive capacity.⁴ The video showed an attack on a civilian area about 1 kilometer east of the Azovstal factory, allegedly in an area under Russian control.⁵

Russian state media agent Maria Dubovikova provided evidence that Ukrainian defenders were being resupplied well into March. A photo showed an alleged crate of mortars packed in Italy on March 11, 2022, for shipment to Poland, with the first leg by sea.⁶ If the picture is authentic, the sea to land route to Rzeszow, Poland, would have taken some time and then required land transport to Ukraine and finally smuggled into Mariupol.

OPINION: Thank you once again for the terrible OPSEC.

ASSESSMENT: Russian forces appear incapable of forging a coordinated multiple axes offensive. There has been no change in strategy since the opening days of the war. The transition to a unified command structure appears to have had no impact.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1518558032334045185>

⁵ <https://goo.gl/maps/VM7EdiAqCSofA8tN6>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/politblogme/status/1518694588143312901> [Russian State Media Rating: Questionable]

KHARKIV REGION

Russian forces secured the settlement of Dovhenke but were pushed back from Pashkove, south of Izyum.

A Russian Su-34 was shot down in air-to-air combat near Izyum.⁷ The flight crew was able to eject, and there was a video of a search and rescue operation near the crash site.⁸ A video was shared by the Ukrainian General Staff showing a single Skif antitank guided missile system destroying four Russian tanks and a BMP-80/82 traveling in a convoy.^{9 10}

Ukrainian forces launched a counter-offensive west of Izyum, liberating the village of Zavody.¹¹ Ukrainian forces are applying pressure on the western flank of the advance toward Izyum at three points – Zavody, Husarivka, and Bazaliivka. The containment is forcing Russian troops to travel through more heavily defended corridors.

⁷ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1518608716072898562>

⁸ https://twitter.com/200_zoka/status/1518632626034253824

⁹ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1518654601611956229>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/mdmitri91/status/1518662345706332160>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/JoaJuan2/status/1518625870830841860>

There are reports that Ukrainian forces have consolidated their positions at Bazaliivka and have liberated most of Pechenihiy to the west side of the T2111 bridge.

ASSESSMENT: The Russian Ministry of Defense appears to be feeling this pressure and may perceive Velykyi Burluk as threatened. There are fewer troop movements from Belgorod into Ukraine with increased troop movements from Volokonovka and Valuyki to the east.

Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv.^{12 13}

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

Cruise missiles hit an oil refinery in Kremenchuk on Monday in the Poltava Oblast.¹⁴ NASA FIRMS data did not indicate there was severe damage. One person died, and seven were injured in the missile strike.

¹² <https://twitter.com/WARUKRAINE2022/status/1518613093764538370>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1518578024450600961>

¹⁴ <https://goo.gl/maps/CBEJLn timerZud2V4SE7>

Russian forces attacked civilians and civilian infrastructure with MLRS in Mykolaiv.

There are reports that the settlements of Pravdyne, Zelenyi Hai, and Barvinok, northwest of Kherson, were liberated on April 24. Kyselivka, Klapaya, and Stanislav are moved from Russian-controlled to contested.¹⁵

There is a reliable but unconfirmed report of 60 Russian soldiers surrendering near Zaporizhia.¹⁶

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

KYIV REGION

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

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/ukraine_map/status/1518069859682295808/photo/1

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/IgorKossov/status/1518622142224609282>

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

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

WEST REGION

Russian forces damaged a railroad facility in Krasne, Lviv Oblast, striking the facility with a cruise missile.

In the Vinnytsia Oblast, two train stations were hit by Russian missiles, killing five and wounding 18 in Zhmerynka and Kozyatyn.¹⁷

Two Russian missiles reportedly hit Rivne, also damaging railroad infrastructure.¹⁸

At least one missile landed outside Dunaivtsi in a field, causing no damage.¹⁹

¹⁷ [Reuters](#)

¹⁸ <https://www.geopolitical.report/strikes-hit-rivne/>

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1518618012978487297>

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Multiple reports indicate that Sweden and Finland will formally apply for NATO membership within two to three weeks.²⁰ It was also reported that the United States and the United Kingdom assured the Nordic nations they would provide security guarantees during the application and integration process.²¹

Italy announced it was sending lethal weapons to Ukraine, including Panzerhaubitze 2000 155mm self-propelled Howitzers, M109 155mm self-propelled Howitzers, Centauro wheeled tank-destroyers, and Iveco Light Multirole Vehicles (LMV).²²

Sweden also committed to sending several 155mm FH77 self-propelled artillery units. The FH77 can move to a location, acquire a target and fire within 23 seconds, and then move to a new location.²³ Additionally, it can fire three rounds in an 18-second burst, similar to the CEASAR French system. In burst mode, it can complete the cycle in little more than a minute and move to a new location.

²⁰ [Reuters](#)

²¹ <https://twitter.com/SamRamani2/status/1518677525681033224>

²² <https://twitter.com/worldonalert/status/1518581767963357184>

²³ <https://twitter.com/AndyHal15523851/status/1518659271998808069>

After visiting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced a ninth aid package worth \$713 million.²⁴

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin told reporters that the United States wants "to see Russia weakened" militarily so it can't invade democratic neighbors in the future.

In a wide-ranging interview later on the same day, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused NATO of already being at war with Russia.

"NATO, in essence, is engaged in a war with Russia through a proxy and is arming that proxy. War means war."²⁵

Lavrov warned that the risk of starting World War III "is serious" and blamed President Zelenskyy for being insincere in peace negotiations.

²⁴ [NBC News](#)

²⁵ [Reuters](#)

"It is real, you can't underestimate it," Lavrov said.²⁶

Russian Ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, sent a diplomatic note demanding the country stop sending military aid to Ukraine.²⁷

"What the Americans are doing is pouring oil on the flames," Antonov told the Rossiya 24 TV channel. "I see only an attempt to raise the stakes, to aggravate the situation, to see more losses."²⁸

Police in Transnistria reported that the Ministry of State Security building in Tiraspol was hit by several rocket-propelled grenades on Monday.²⁹ The building was closed as part of Orthodox Easter celebrations. No injuries were reported, and damage was light, mostly contained to broken windows. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, with neither Transnistrian nor Moldovan officials expressing ire at the incident. The Moldova Office for Reintegration Policy stated they were "concerned" after the attack.

²⁶ [South China Morning Post \(via Associated Press\)](#)

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/BBCWillVernon/status/1518477889880170498>

²⁸ [Reuters](#)

²⁹ <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/blasts-hit-ministry-transnistria-ukraine-84298161>

Three days ago, Lieutenant General Rustam Minnekayev stated that Russian forces aim to take complete control of southern Ukraine and could open a land corridor to Transnistria when successful.

Russia has a garrison of 1,500 peacekeepers in the breakaway republic of Moldova. The force was initially 2,600 strong but has been slowly drawn down since 1995. Geopolitical and economic hostility between Transnistrians and Moldovians has cooled since 2011. Transnistria leadership continues to express the desire to be part of the Russian Federation.

There is significant concern that there will be more attacks in an attempt to create a false-flag incident. Minnekayev claimed that Russian speakers were repressed and facing violence from Moldovians in his speech last week.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A third mass grave was located by satellite south of Staryi Krym, only 7 kilometers from the city center of Mariupol.³⁰ The gravesites started to appear on March 24 and a month later have grown to 8,230 square meters (89,000 square feet). This is equal to 1.5 American football fields, including the end zones, and could conceal up to 9,000 bodies.

Oleh Syniehubov, Head of Kharkiv Regional Military Administration, is accusing Russia of setting up a concentration camp in Vovchansk and torturing Ukrainian nationals.³¹ The accusation is men are being coerced to join Russian military units as conscripts. There are similar accusations in Luhansk, Donetsk, Melitopol, Kherson, and Izyum.

GEOPOLITICAL

The United States announced it would reopen the embassy in Kyiv, and named Bridget Brink the new ambassador.³²

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1518759163307851777>

³¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/04/25/7341857/>

³² [Reuters](#)



Brink is currently the United States ambassador to Slovakia and has 25 years of experience in the diplomatic corps.

The post has been vacant since former United States President Donald Trump recalled ambassador Marie Yovanovitch in 2019 and left the position empty. Blink will need to be confirmed by Congress. Democratic and Republican leadership expressed there would be no barriers to approving Blink for the post.

ECONOMIC

The rouble rebounded to prewar levels trading at 75 to 1 dollar.

Oil and gasoline were unchanged, with WTI at \$102 a barrel, Brent crude at \$107, and United States gasoline futures at \$3.30 a gallon.

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

No update