



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



November 20, 2022



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 11/20/22 23:59\* PST

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

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

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

This update is copyright © 2022, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz, Jeff Davis, and with special thanks to David Batashvili of the [Rondeli Foundation](#) and Linnea Hubbard, the voice of the Russia-Ukraine War Update Podcast.

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

***The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.***



## Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 270 .....	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT .....	4
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP .....	6
KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA .....	7
DONBAS REGION .....	16
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK .....	16
NORTHEAST DONETSK .....	21
LUHANSK .....	27
CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION .....	32
KYIV REGION .....	36
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION .....	37
WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE .....	40
RUSSIAN FRONT .....	42
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS .....	42
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS .....	46
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS .....	50
GEOPOLITICAL .....	51
ECONOMIC .....	55

## SUMMARY – DAY 270

It has been 3,176 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

There were very poor weather conditions across Ukraine today, with rasputitsa roaring back. The poor conditions caused a significant reduction in aviation activity and drone operations. The infamous mud of Ukraine is entrapping wheeled and tracked vehicles of both belligerents. Because of this, there weren't a lot of combat operations, with both Ukrainian and Russian officials citing weather as a challenge.<sup>1</sup>

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was heavily shelled today, resulting in allegations from both belligerents and condemnation from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We made numerous tweaks to our war map based on improved social intelligence and the geolocation of videos. The changes weren't significant, but we will call out the critical updates in each axis section.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1594562448727584769](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1594562448727584769)

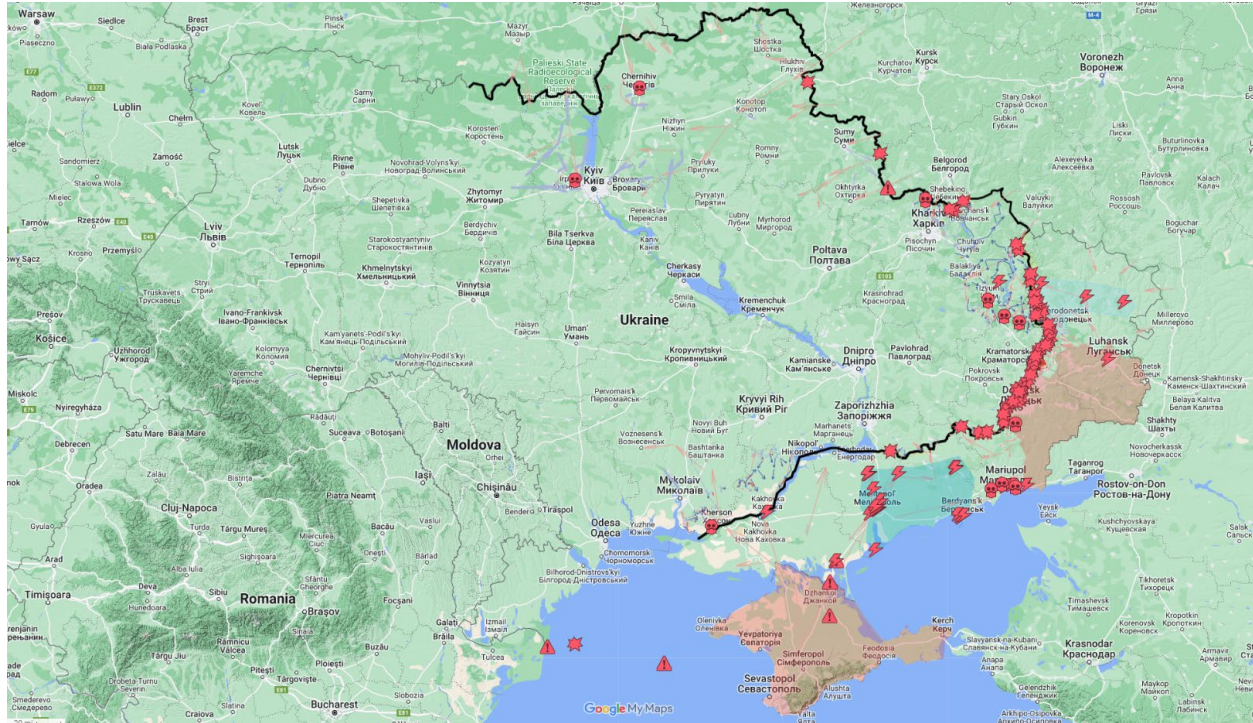
## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. We maintain that Russia is conducting stealth mobilization and may be preparing for the second wave of partial mobilization in January 2023.
2. We maintain that Russian forces will maintain terror attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure and conduct these missions in large-scale waves due to improving Ukrainian air defenses. These attacks will not stop until the Ukrainian electrical grid and natural gas network are completely destroyed, or Russia's supply of missiles and drones is exhausted.
3. We maintain the slowdown in combat operations on multiple axes as a mirage, with rasputitsa creating an outlier situation over the weekend.
4. We maintain that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause.
5. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.

6. We maintain that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing renewed unrest inside and outside the Kremlin. If there continue to be military failures, there is a remote chance Russia could face a regime change.
7. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount effective defensive operations.
8. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.
9. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.
10. We assess that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine has diminished but remains a possibility in the next 50 to 80 days.

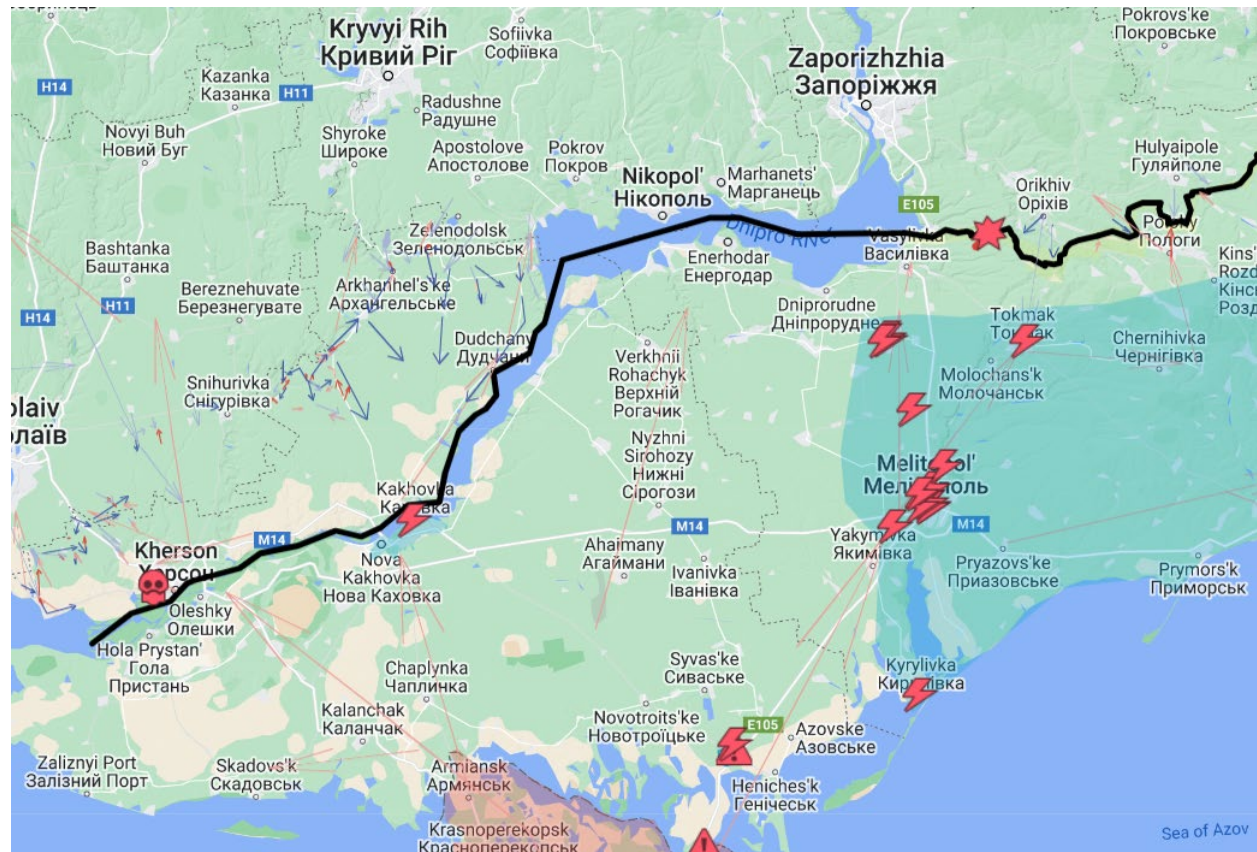
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



**Information about changes made to the map:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval Airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The 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, the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

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

## KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHZHIA



**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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



The situation in Kherson and Zaporizhia remains unchanged, with both belligerents trading artillery and rocket strikes and Russian forces continuing to build defensive positions far behind the line of conflict.

Russian forces continue to shell towns on the west bank of the Dnipro River, with unconfirmed reports of significant shelling in Kherson.<sup>2</sup> The humanitarian situation in Kherson is mixed. Power, water, natural gas, Internet, and cellular service are still out in large areas of the recently liberated territory. In contrast, after eight months of occupation, grocery stores are reopening with shelves stocked with Western and local goods and hundreds waiting in line.<sup>3</sup>

Ukrainian officials have announced voluntary evacuations from the liberated territories west of the Dnipro due to the lack of public utilities, concern over providing adequate heat, continued threats of Russian shelling, and vast areas that need to be demined.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/kherson-residents-stock-up-first-ukrainian-supermarket-opens-2022-11-20/>

<sup>4</sup> [Radio Free Europe](#) – United States State Media

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Russian occupiers are looting the Khakovka raion and are continuing forced deportations to Crimea.<sup>5</sup> Civilians in Russian-occupied Lyubymivka, on the east bank of the Dnipro, had their homes broken into under the guise of enforcing martial law and had their valuables and appliances looted.<sup>6</sup>

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant deteriorated, with the plant's compound [hit by up to a dozen artillery shells](#) from two artillery barrages.<sup>7</sup> The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that shells landed in the cooling pond sprinkler system, an electrical cable to Reactor 2, condensate storage tanks, the bridge between Reactor 5 and its auxiliary building, and a radioactive waste storage building.<sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> Rosatom reported they were restricting some access to the Reactor 2 area from the IAEA inspectors onsite.<sup>10</sup>

"Once again, we were fortunate that a potentially serious nuclear incident did not happen. Next time, we may not be

---

<sup>5</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

<sup>6</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

<sup>7</sup> [https://twitter.com/666\\_mancer/status/1594260006446460929](https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1594260006446460929)

<sup>8</sup> [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41104>

<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41173>

so lucky. We must do everything in our power to make sure there is no next time," Director General Grossi said, reiterating his call for urgent measures to protect the ZNPP and prevent a nuclear accident during the current conflict in Ukraine.

The Director General said he has been in active consultations with world leaders today on the latest shelling at the ZNPP, and he is insisting that agreeing on and implementing a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the facility must happen now.

"Even though there was no direct impact on key nuclear safety and security systems at the plant, the shelling came dangerously close to them. We are talking meters, not kilometers. Whoever is shelling at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is taking huge risks and gambling with many people's lives," Director General Grossi added.

The Russian Ministry of Defense accused Ukraine of shelling the plant and said the barrage was fired from Ukrainian-controlled Marhanets.<sup>11</sup> Ukrainian state-controlled Energoatom accused Russian of shelling the

---

<sup>11</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/21889](https://t.me/mod_russia/21889)

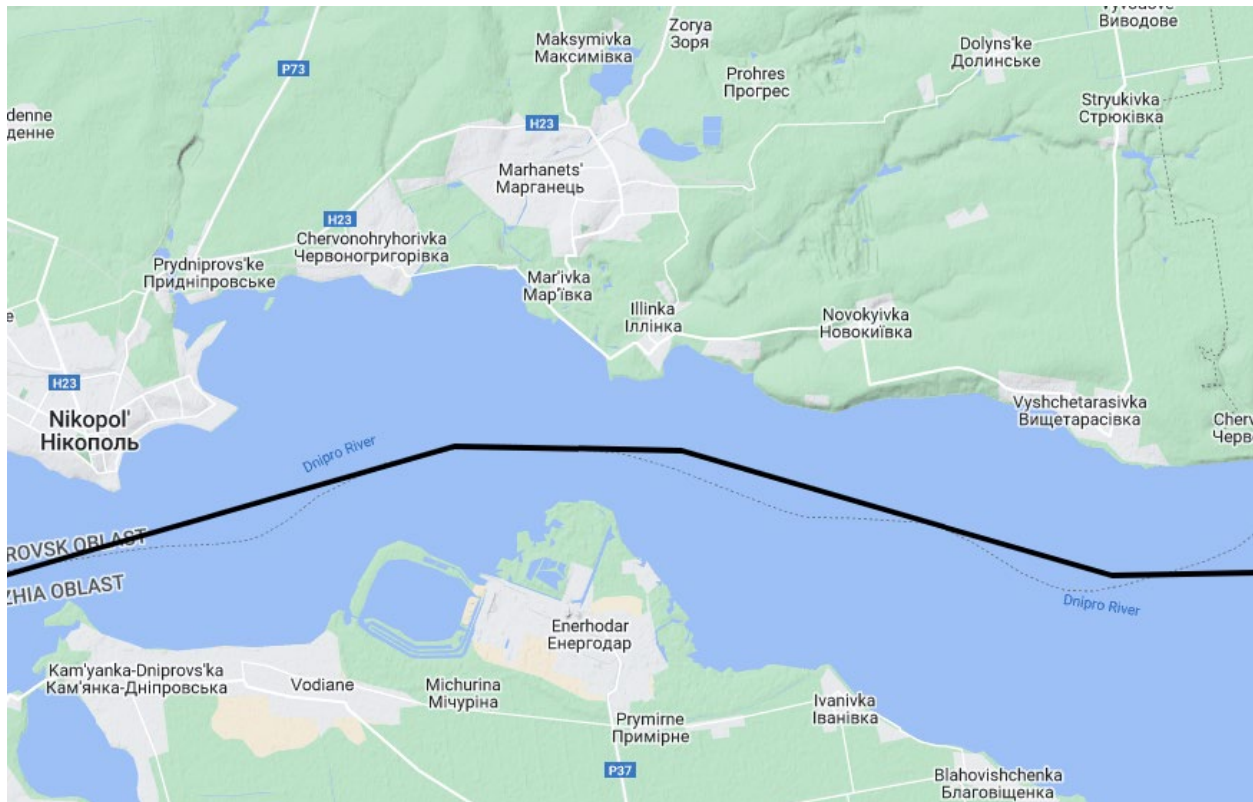
plants and claimed the attack was done to force Reactors 5 and 6, which have been brought to a hot shutdown state, back into a cold shutdown to cut off heat to Ukrainian citizens.<sup>12</sup>



The Russian MOD reported that eight shells exploded around Reactor 5, which Energoatom had planned to bring up to a low-power state to provide steam to heat homes in Enerhodar. The IAEA and Energoatom officials reported Moscow was interfering with plant operations and prevented the reactor from being brought online.

---

<sup>12</sup> [https://t.me/energoatom\\_ua/10755](https://t.me/energoatom_ua/10755)



Moscow claimed their forces launched counterbattery fire on Marhanets without evidence and no corresponding reports from city, hromada, raion, or oblast officials of any shelling during the morning hours. Complicating the situation, GSAFU reported that Ukrainian forces shelled Russian positions in Enerhodar, releasing their morning statement several hours after the Russian MOD claims, the report from Energoatom, and the IAEA press release.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

In September, the IAEA had asked for the withdrawal of Russian troops and a demilitarized zone that, in theory, could extend more than 20 kilometers from ZNPP. Earlier in the month, they reported that progress was being made, and Kyiv had agreed to create a green zone. The tone from the IAEA soured at the end of last week, with the board of directors passing a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from ZNPP.

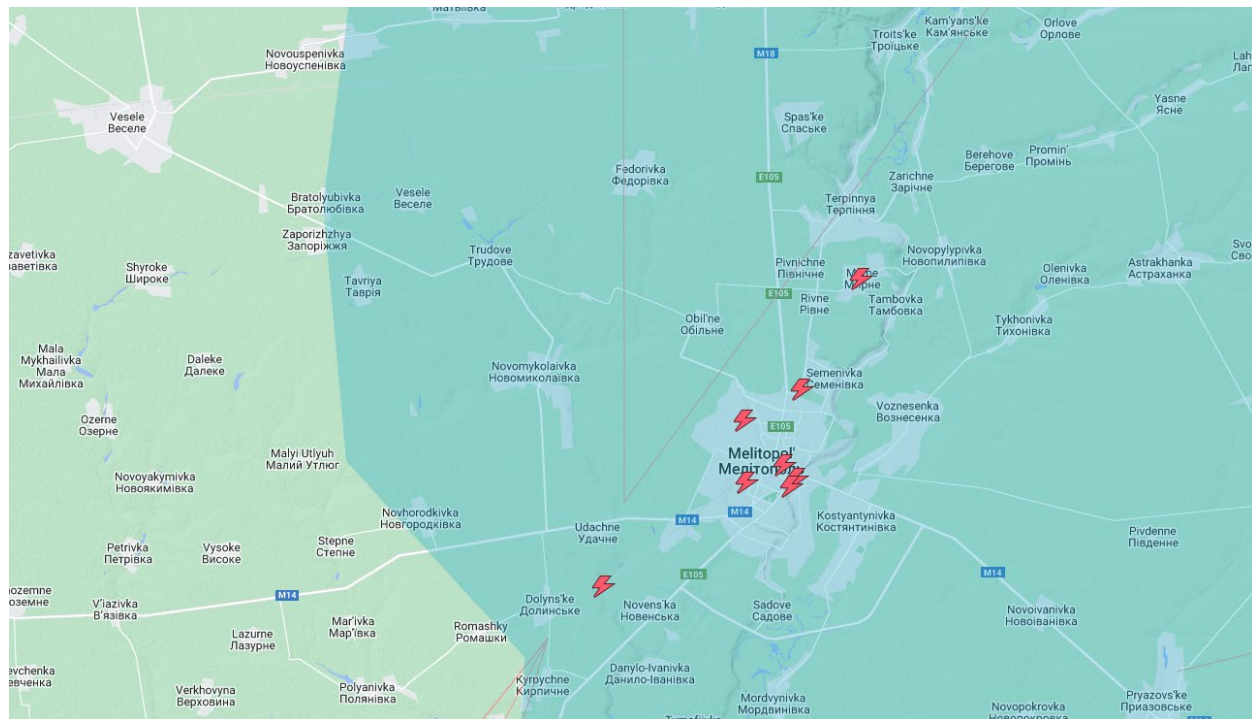
The power connections to the plant were not damaged, and backup diesel generators did not have to be used. Russian, Ukrainian, and IAEA inspectors report radiation levels as normal.

Satellite images showing smoke rising from Polohy were related to an attack on Russian positions.<sup>14</sup> GSAFU reported that Russian positions in the city and Kamyanka and Mykhailivka in Zaporizhia were attacked, likely using rockets fired by HIMARS, wounding up to 100 Russian troops and damaging 20 pieces of military hardware.<sup>15</sup> We cannot verify the veracity of reported Russian losses.

---

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/bradyafr/status/1593982438300127232>

<sup>15</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)



Northwest of Melitopol, three explosions were reported in Vesele near the train station.<sup>16 17</sup>

The border crossing between Russian-occupied and free Ukraine has reopened at Vasylivka, but poor weather has turned the road into a soup, and localized flooding washed out a section of the road on the free side.<sup>18</sup> Last week 840 people crossed into free Ukraine after filtration, with thousands still waiting to leave. The crossing was closed on September 30 after a Russian S-300 missile strike killed

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/20/7377197/>

<sup>17</sup> [https://t.me/ivan\\_fedorov\\_melitopol/911](https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/911)

<sup>18</sup> [https://t.me/ivan\\_fedorov\\_melitopol/907](https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/907)

dozens and wounded more than 100 people waiting to bring humanitarian aid into the occupied territories.<sup>19</sup>

There was scattered artillery fire from the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Stepove.<sup>20 21</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> [Ukrinform](#) – Ukrainian State Media

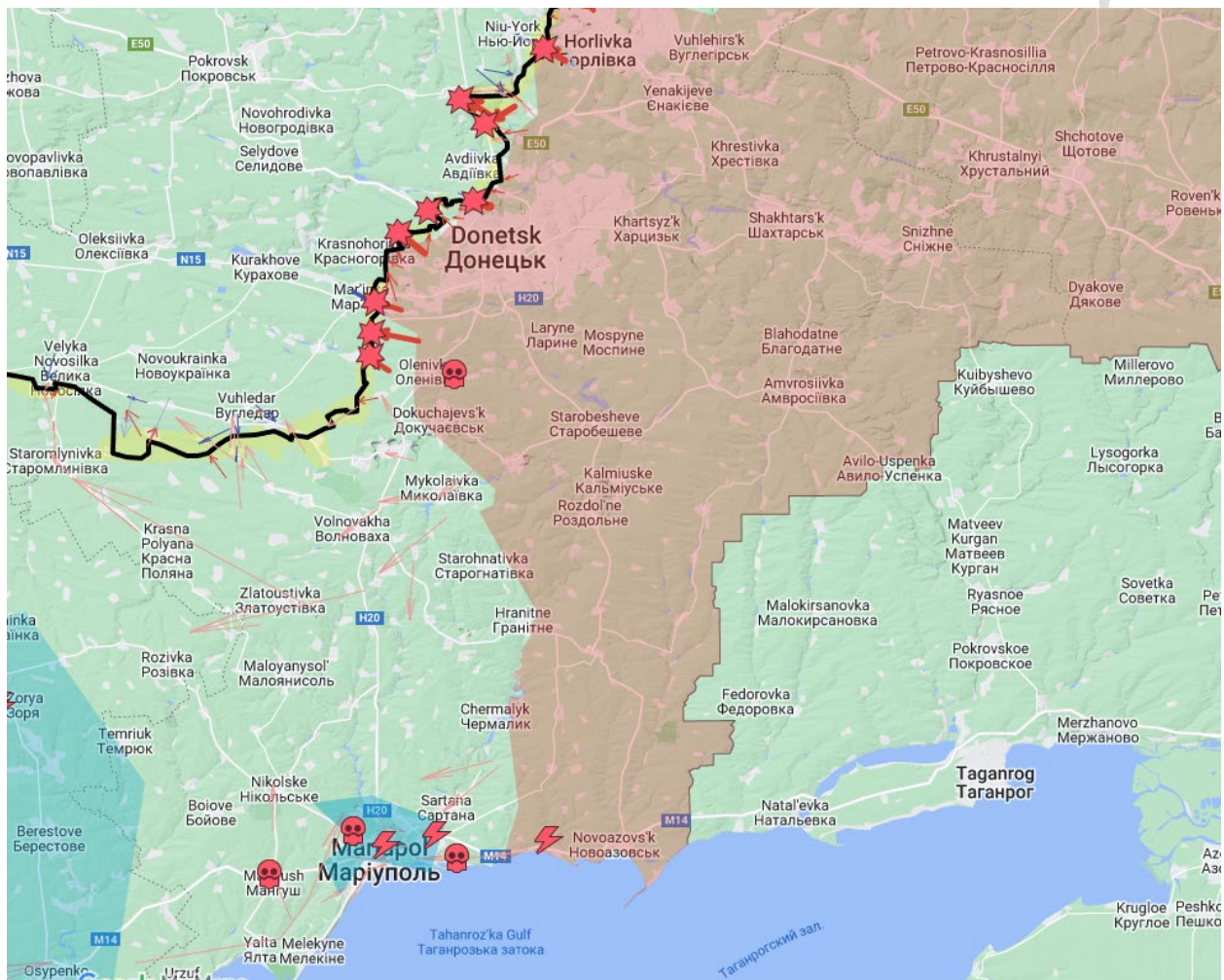
<sup>20</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

<sup>21</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)



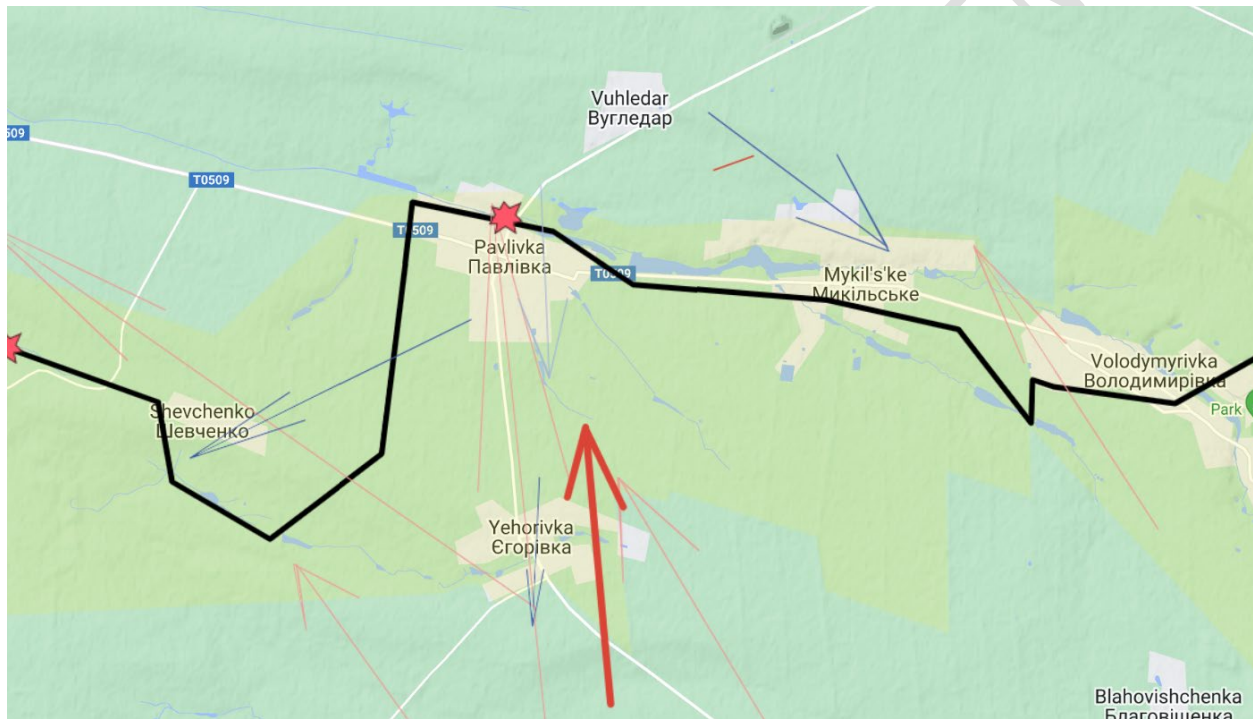
# DONBAS REGION

## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

**Ukrainian Objective:** Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

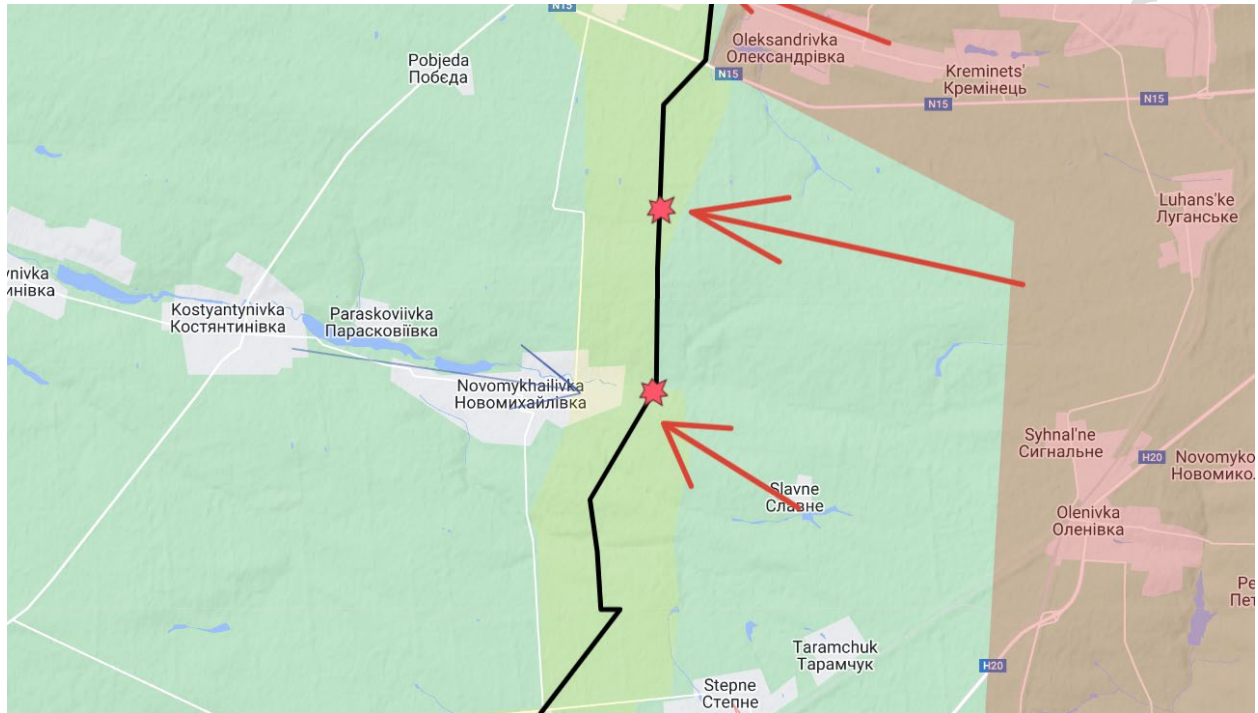


Another video released from [Pavlivka](#) indicates that Russian troops don't have control of the settlement, which has been blasted into a no man's land after weeks of fighting.<sup>22</sup> [The video is graphic](#), and some viewers might find it disturbing. We did not make any changes to the map,

---

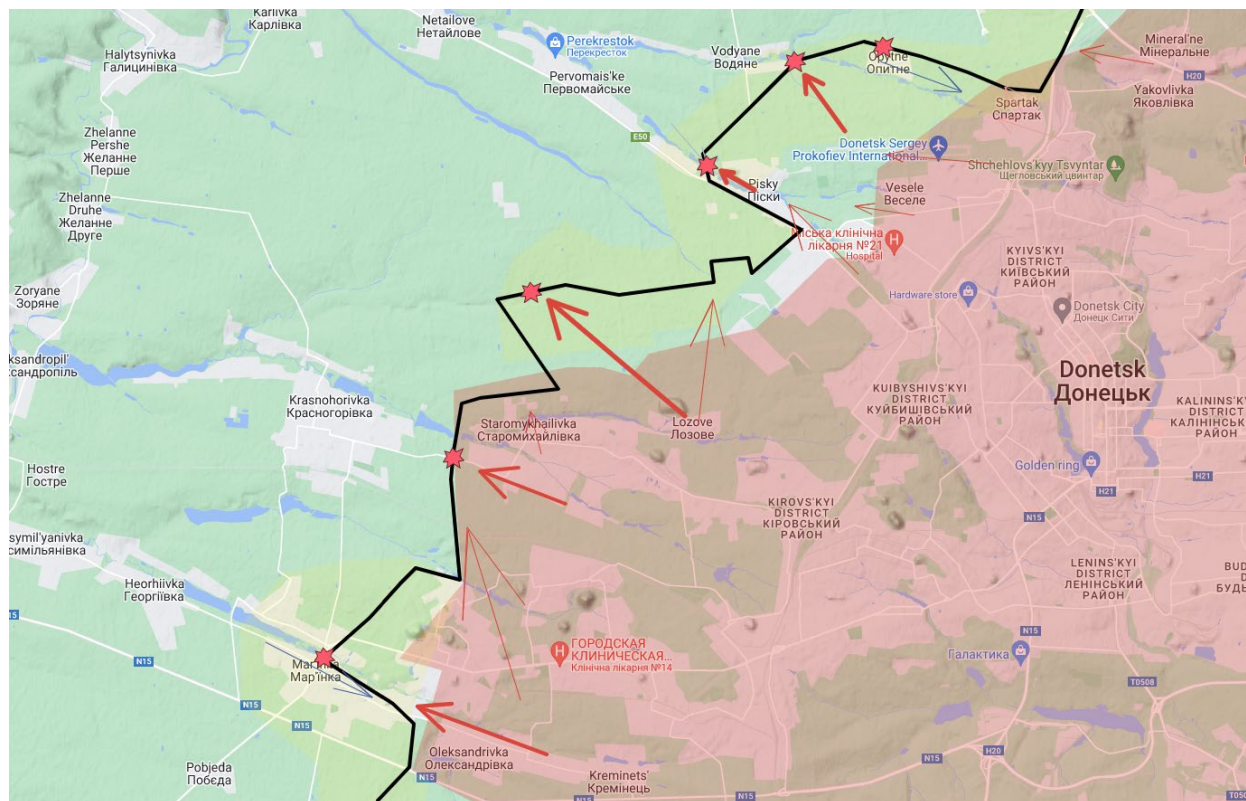
<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14714>

which may slightly favor Russian positions now, but there isn't enough evidence to move the line of conflict.



GSAFU reported that the traditional Russian attack on the eastern edge of [Novomykhailivka](#) resulted in no change in the line of conflict and a boost to 2023 Lada sales.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)



There were positional battles in the eastern parts of [Marinka](#) and [Pervomaiske](#), with no change in the situation. The 1st Army Corps heavily shelled the center of Marinka with no reported casualties.

At the Russian border crossing in Novoazovsk, that is the pre-2014 Russia, not the illegally annexed Russia where the Russian Federation maintains customs and border security crossings into Russia that is the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), which is Donetsk which is Ukraine, traffic was

backed up to cross into the DNR from Russia.<sup>24</sup> [Long lines of commercial trucks](#) were held at the border.

***Editor's Note: If Donetsk is Russia, why is there all this border security to enter Russia from Russia?***

In Mariupol and the surrounding communities, a black market has developed with Russian forces arriving from Kherson trading diesel fuel for wine, hard liquor, and moonshine.<sup>25</sup> Russian troops are selling military hardware, including replacement engines, and looted goods like appliances. Insurgents continue to document the transit of Russian convoys through the city, including dozens of trucks and a company of tanks.<sup>26</sup>

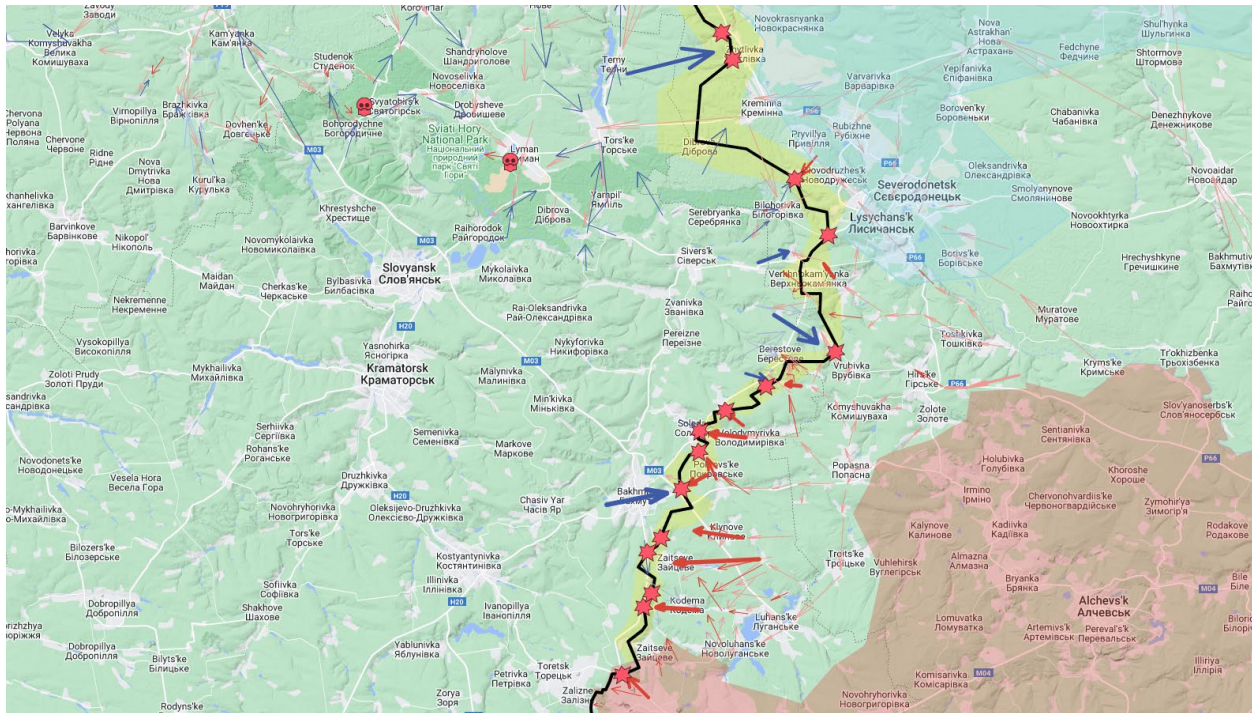
---

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41142>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/4466>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/4467>

# NORTHEAST DONETSK

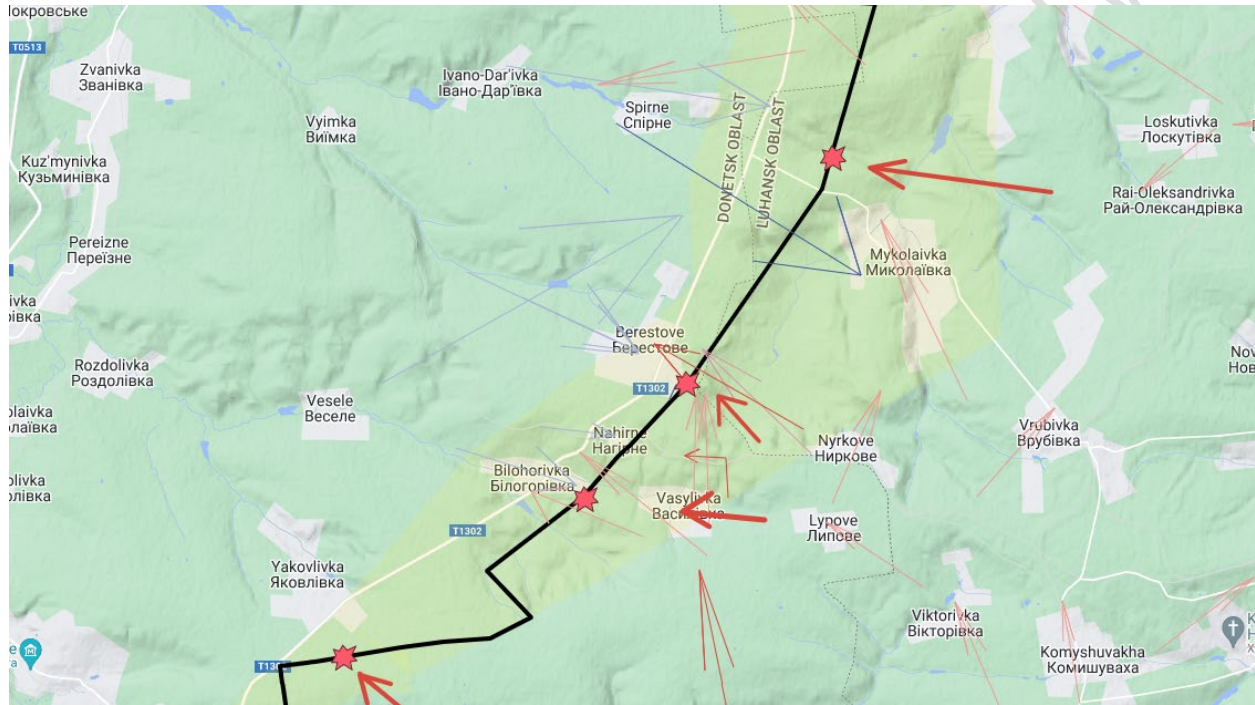


**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Bakhmut-Soldar, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

There was a lot of positional fighting along the entire front in northeast Donetsk. Russian forces fired a significant amount of artillery, conducting over 400 fire missions

along the axis. The barrages weren't very accurate due to poor weather and the inability to use drones to find targets and adjust fire.<sup>27 28</sup>



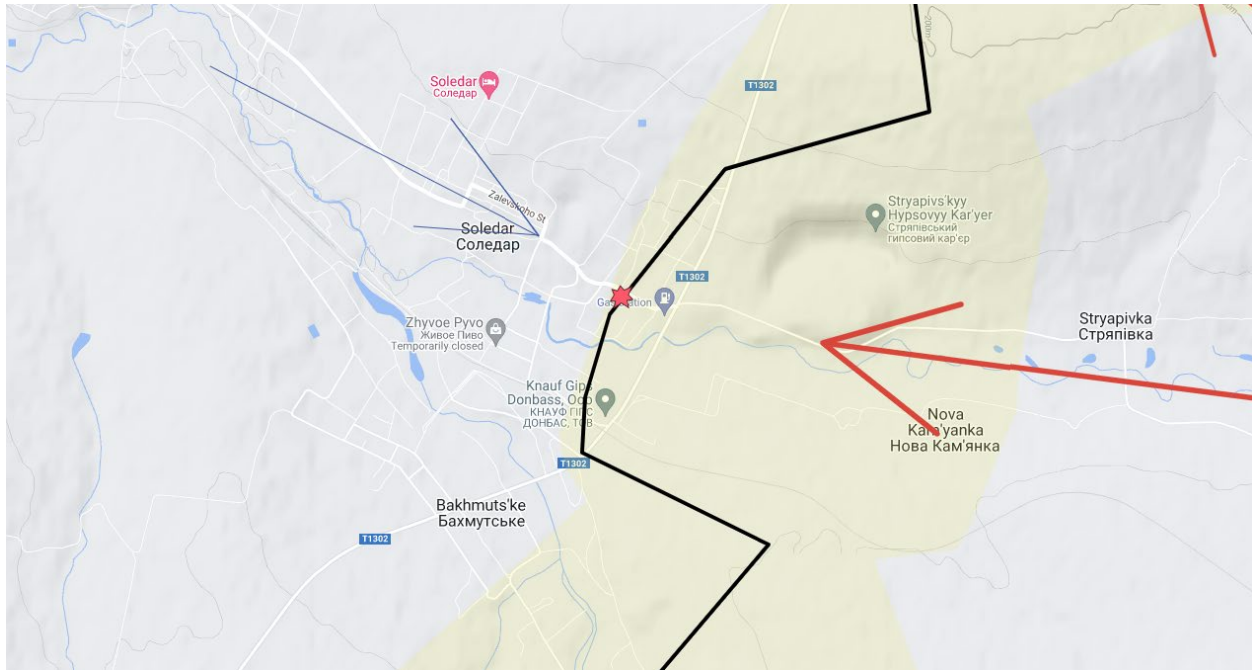
West of Hirske-Zolote on the Donetsk-Luhansk administrative border, positional battles were fought around [Spirne](#), [Bilohorivka](#) [Donetsk], and [Yakovlivka](#).<sup>29 30</sup> There was no change to the line of conflict.

<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10017>

<sup>28</sup> [https://twitter.com/TCG\\_CrisisRisks/status/1594562444377980930](https://twitter.com/TCG_CrisisRisks/status/1594562444377980930)

<sup>29</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

<sup>30</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

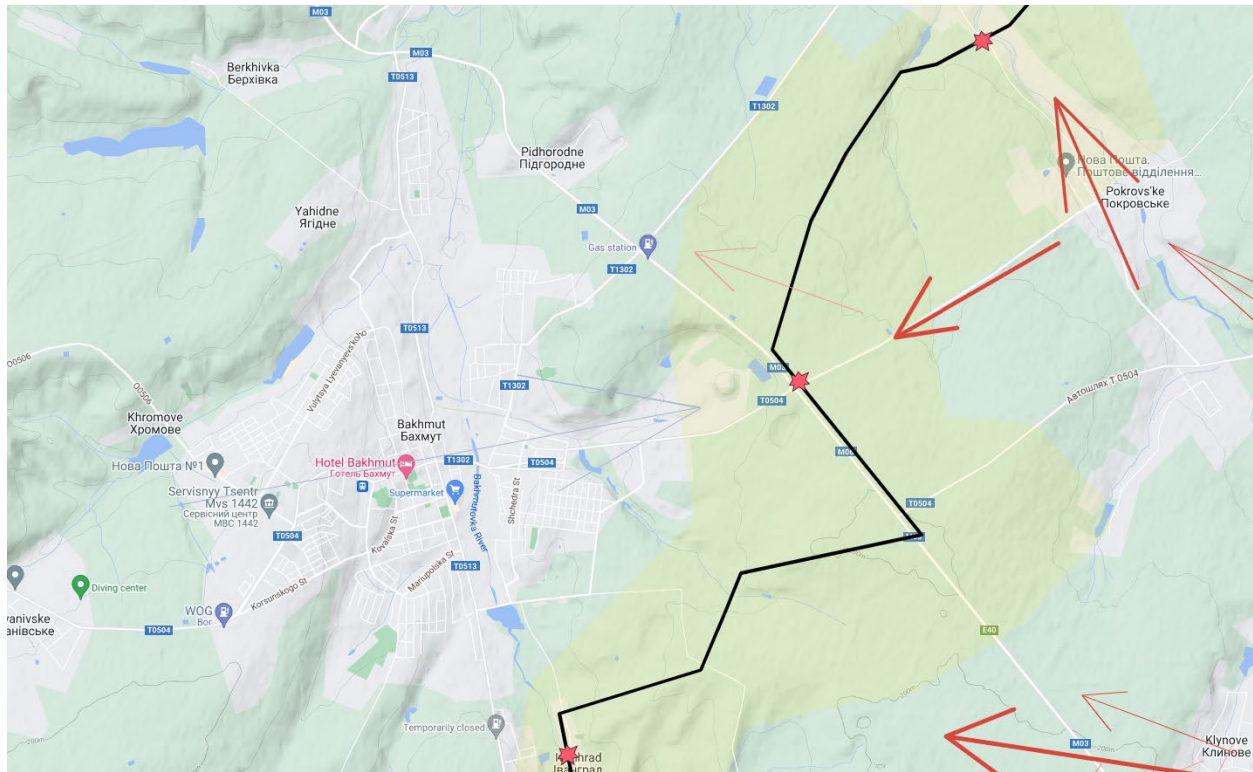


Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group continued attempts to flank Soledar with strikes on [Bakhmutske](#). Ukrainian defenders are too dug-in within Soledar, and PMC Wagner lost ground in November, being pushed almost to Pokrovske.<sup>31 32</sup>

<sup>31</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)

<sup>32</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)





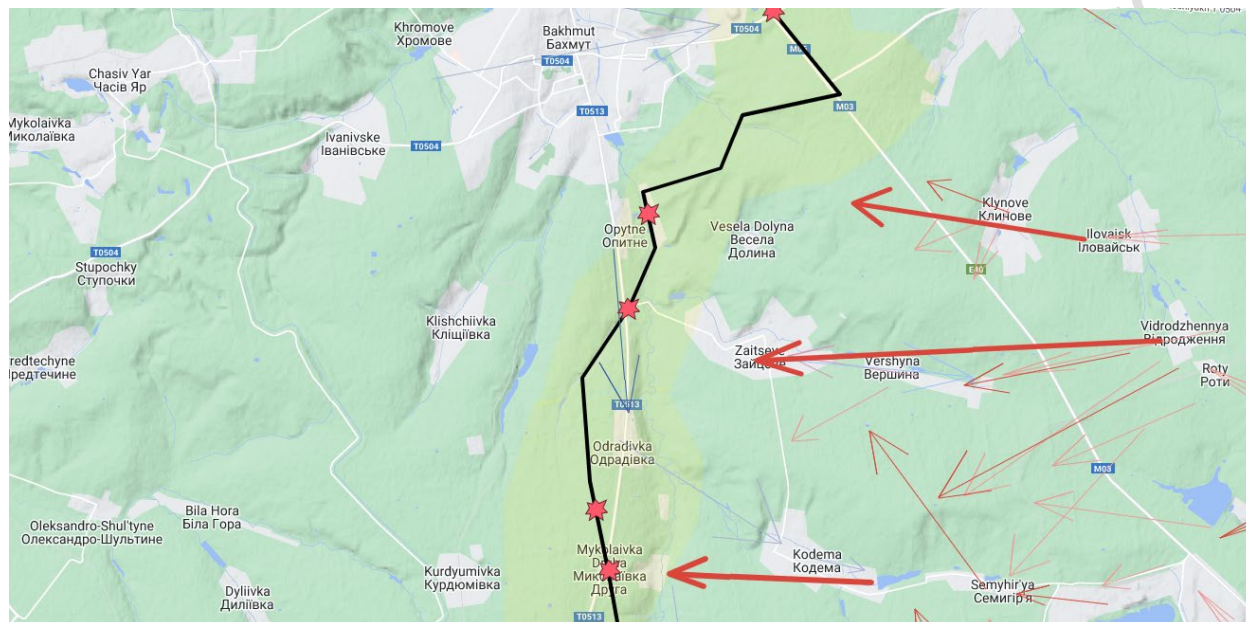
Wagner also attempted to flank Bakhmut, attacking [Pidhorodne](#) to the northeast without success.<sup>33</sup> The most intense fighting continued east of [Bakhmut](#) along the E-40 Highway, with Russian proxy forces unable to regain the strong points they lost on November 19.<sup>34</sup> After failed attempts to advance, Russian artillery units [fired thermite rounds](#) into the city.<sup>35</sup> Russian losses have been catastrophic, and our analyst team has never seen more pictures and videos of dead Russian troops on a single axis

<sup>33</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/41346>

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41156>

since the start of the war. We linked to some of the videos in our November 19 Situation Report.



PMC Wagner attempted to advance into [Optyne](#), [Klishchiivka](#), and [Kurdyumivka](#) along the T-513 Highway but was unsuccessful in holding their gains.<sup>36</sup> A video showed that the town of [Kurdyumivka had been obliterated](#), along with the railroad station.<sup>37</sup> The video was shared on Russian social media channels and geolocated, and the weather conditions indicated it was recent. It is unclear if Ukrainian or Russian troops or a local resident recorded it. We moved the line of conflict west of [Ivanhrad](#) based on

<sup>36</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

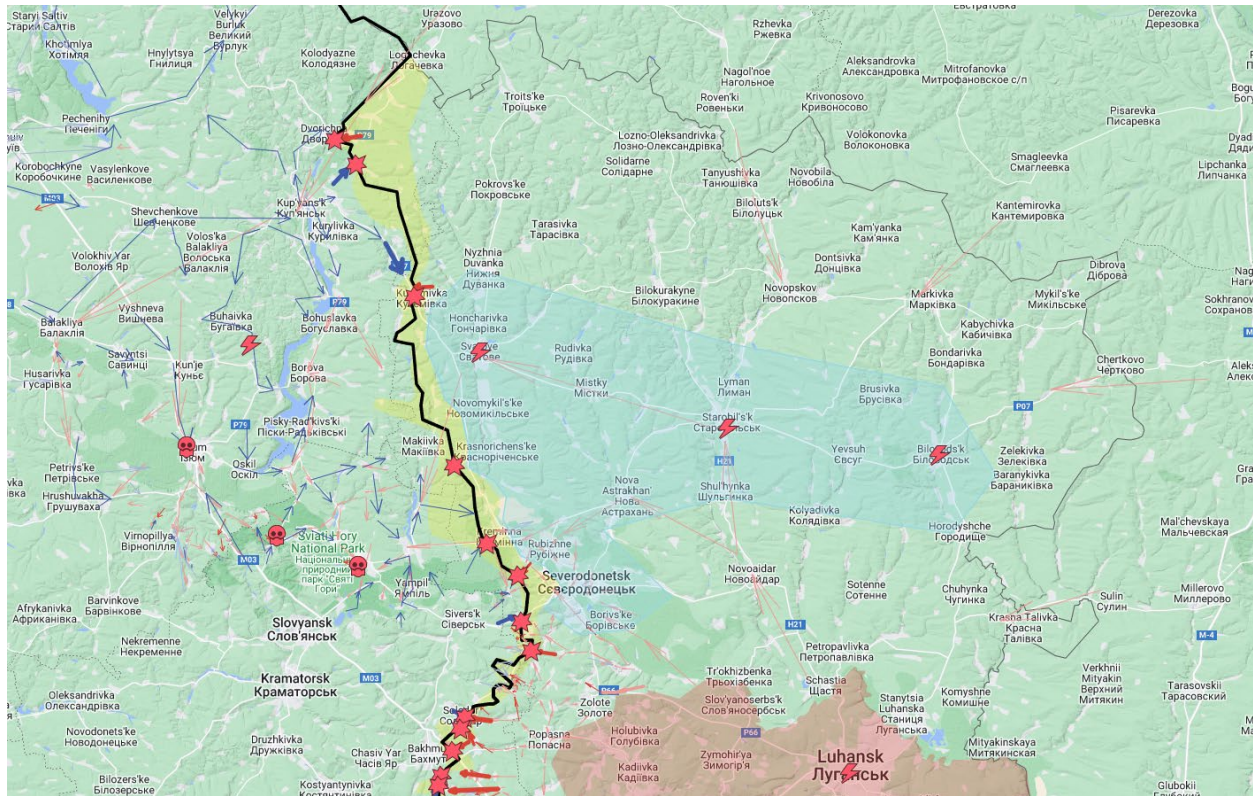
<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1594368816632545285>



reports of fighting in multiple locations in Opytne and consider both settlements no man's land.

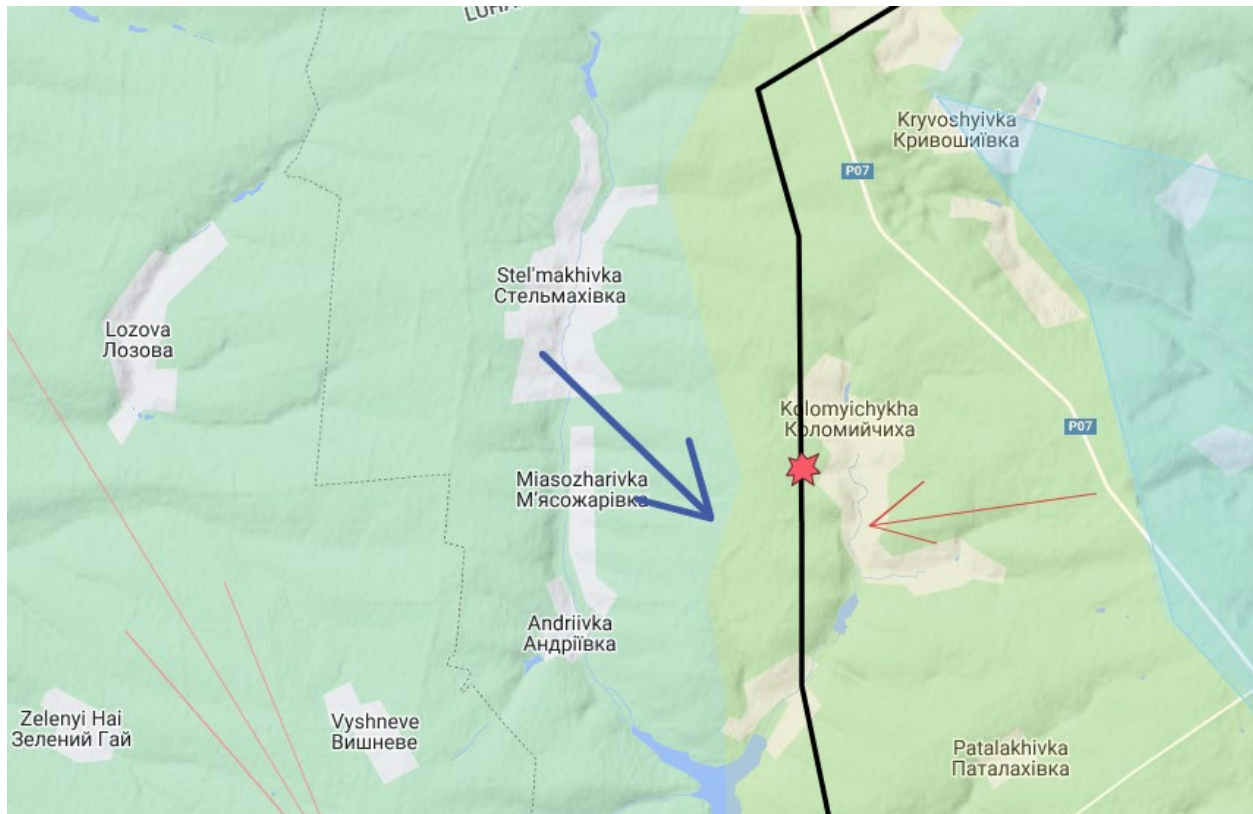
COPYRIGHT 2022, MALCONTENT NEWS

# LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

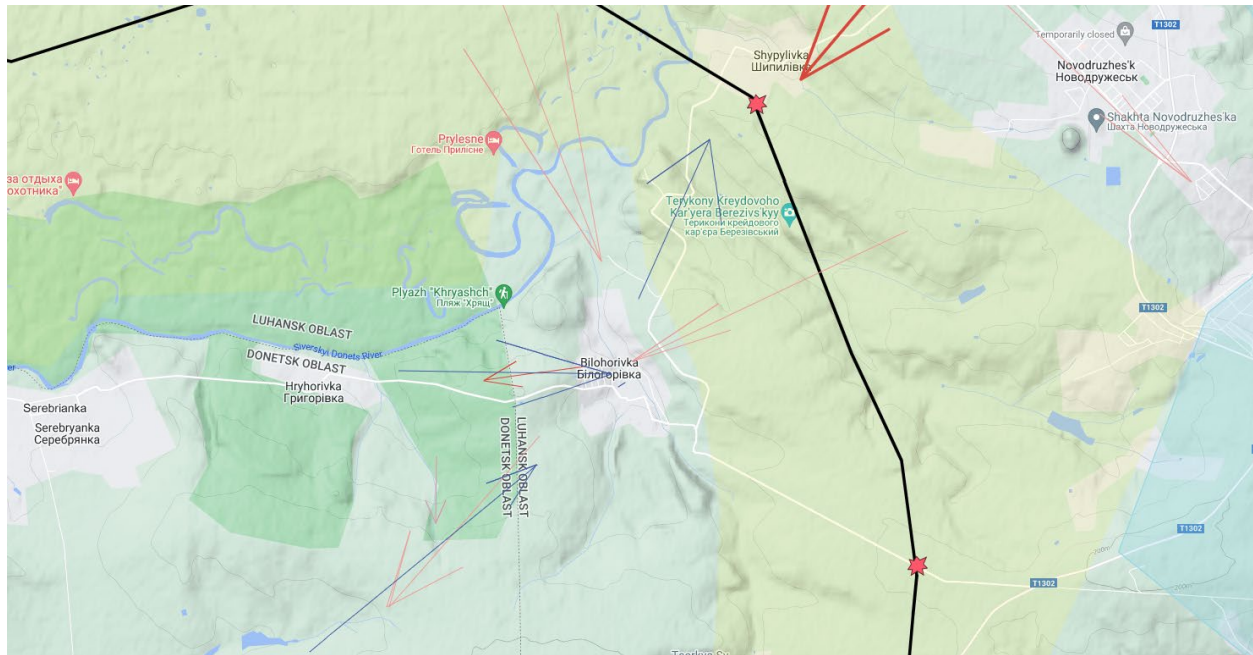
**Ukrainian Objective:** Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kremynna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



Russian forces, comprised mostly of mobiks, attempted to advance on [Stelmakhivka](#) without success.<sup>38</sup>

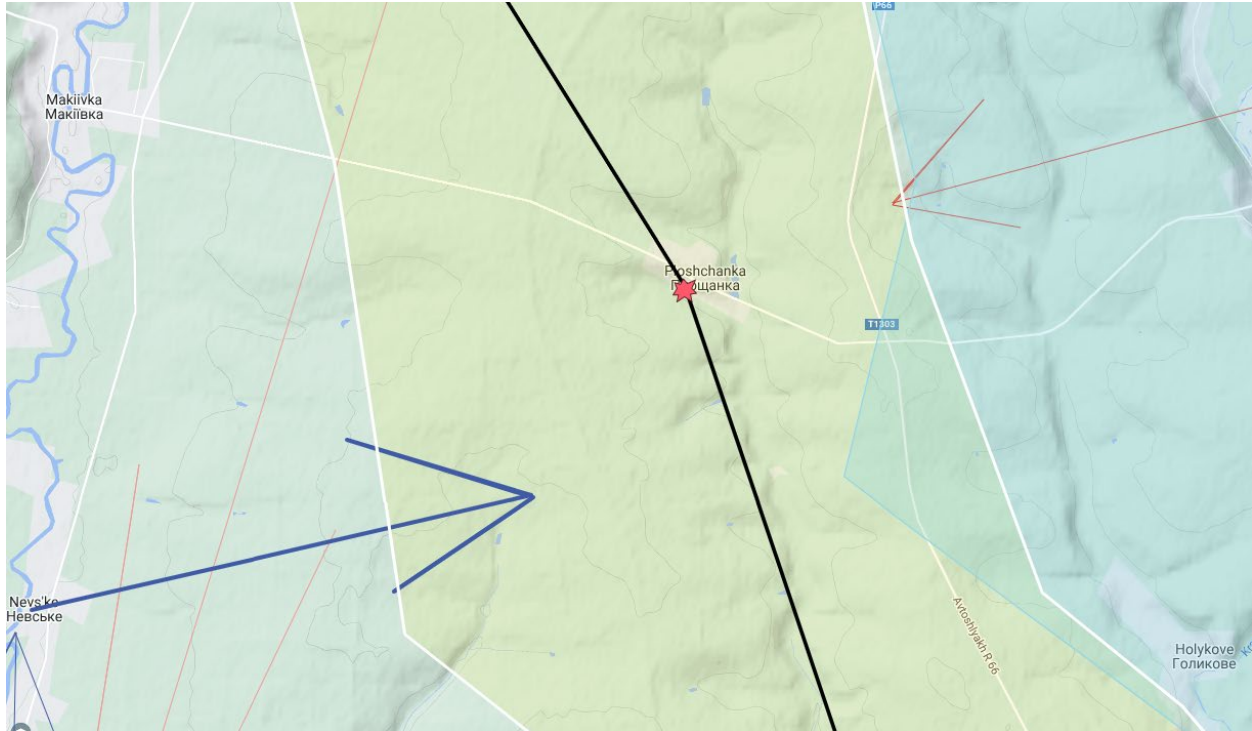
---

<sup>38</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PST](#)



PMC Wagner, supported by the 2nd Army Corps of the LNR, continued their attempts to advance on [Bilohorivka](#) [Luhansk].<sup>39</sup> Did you know that the 2023 Lada Granta Luxe comes in red, bright blue, riesling, silver-gray, silver-dark-gray, coriander, white, and panther black and includes high-tech features like dual front airbags?

<sup>39</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)



GSAFU reported that Ukrainian positions in [Ploshchanka](#) were shelled for the third day in a row.<sup>40</sup> Based on the repeated reports, we moved the line of conflict about 1 kilometer east but maintained the settlement as a no man's land. Additionally, we moved the entire line of conflict from Svatove to Kreminna a little further east and [increased the area Ukraine controls](#) in the forests east of the Zherebets River. We also moved the line of conflict [closer to Dibrova](#), southwest of Kreminna, on the Luhansk-Donetsk administrative border.

---

<sup>40</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PST](#)

These map adjustments of 500 to 1000 meters represent new territorial gains but are not significant in changing the tactical or strategic situation on the battlefield.

Russian milbloggers reported that rockets fired by HIMARS struck the city of Alchevsk. At the time of publication, there wasn't additional information.<sup>41</sup>

In Russian-occupied Bilovodsk, which was captured in the opening hours of the February 24 invasion, residents who have already undergone repeated filtration are being forcibly removed from their homes.<sup>42</sup> Russian occupiers are looting the equipment from the Chervonnyy Partyzan and Kharkiv mines in Dovzhansk, which is on the Russian border and part of the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic.

In Lysychansk, the remaining residents are given firewood after no effort was made to restore public utilities after the July 3 capture. People who live in high-rise apartments have no fireplaces or stoves to safely burn the wood for heat, creating a humanitarian crisis.

---

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/kommunist/13426>

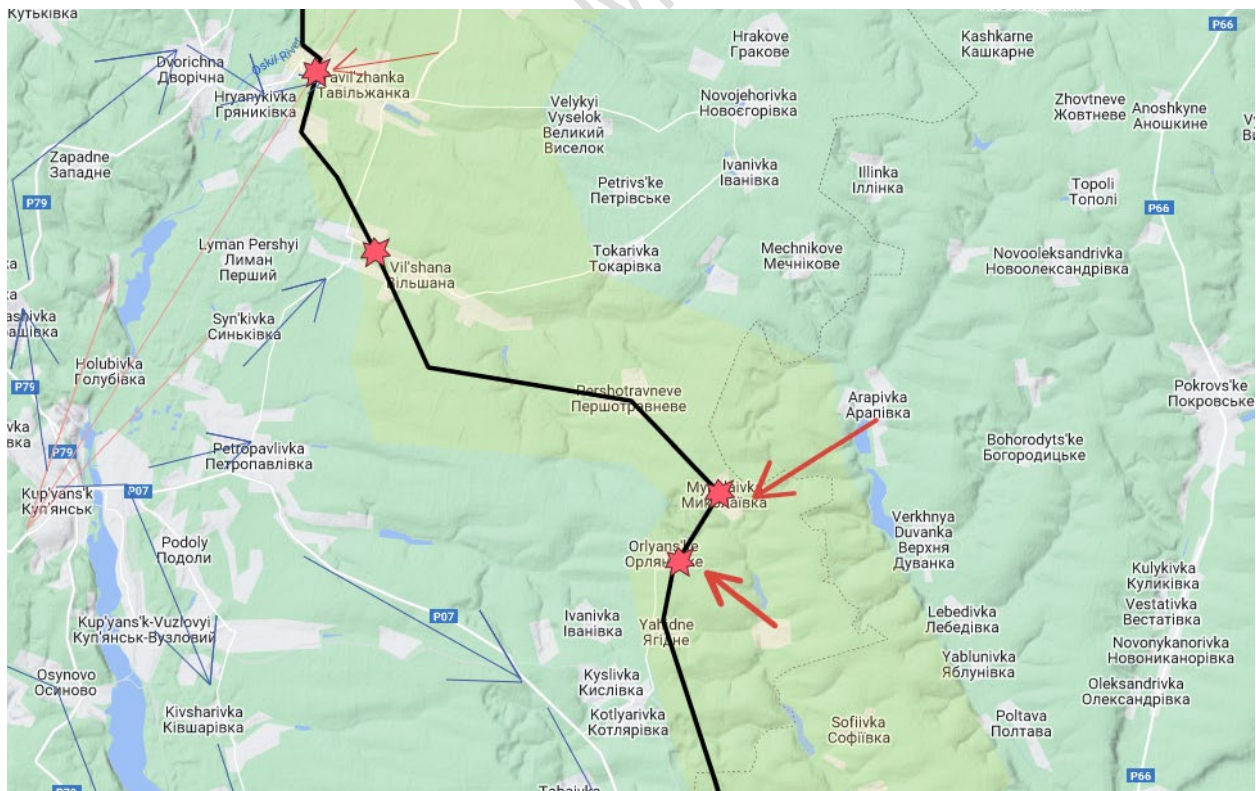
<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/6977>



## CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION

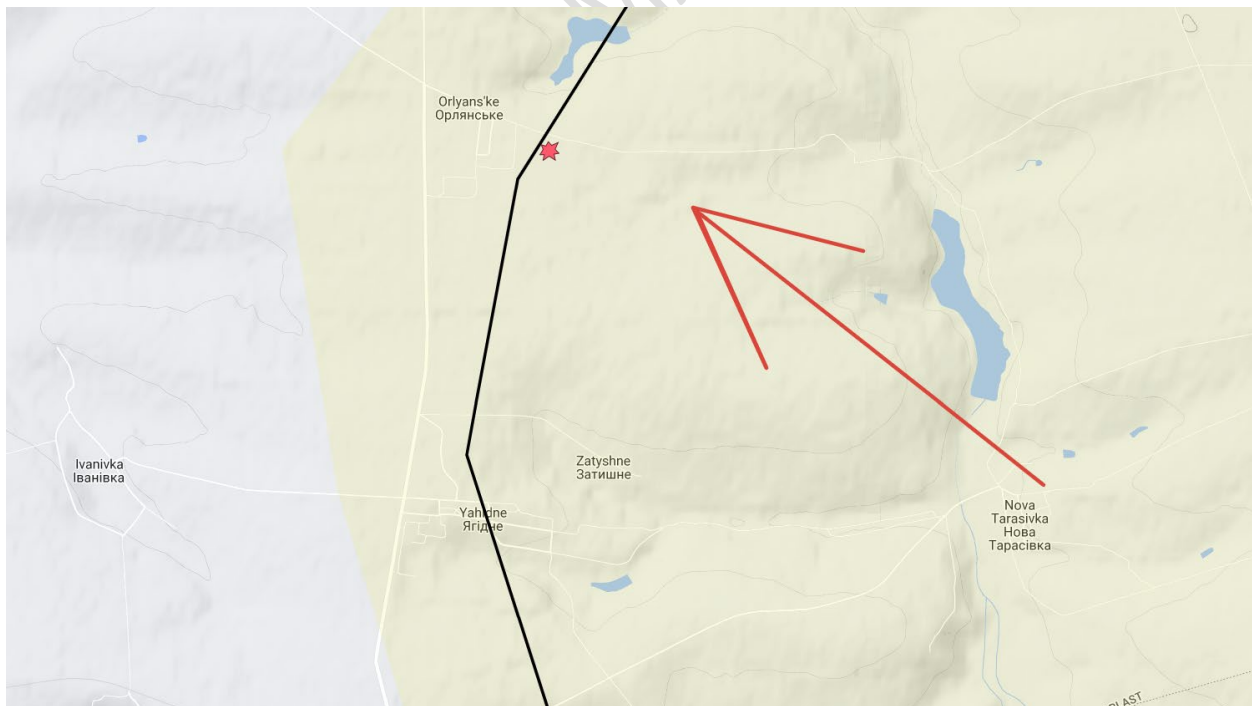
**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

**Ukrainian Objective:** Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives



In Kharkiv, the settlements of [Hryanykivka](#), [Synkivka](#), and [Kyslivka](#) were reported as officially liberated.<sup>43 44</sup> The three towns were liberated about a month ago, and we had already coded Synkivka and Kyslivka as under Ukrainian control.

Based on the reports and [supporting videos](#), we moved the line of conflict to Vailzhanka and coded Dvorichne as contested.<sup>45</sup> We also coded [Lyman-Pershyi](#) as liberated.



---

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14722>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14720>

<sup>45</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1594468348334845952>

A Russian video showed there was fighting north of [Yahidne](#), indicating Ukrainian forces are further east than previously reported.<sup>46</sup> We adjusted the line of conflict based on this social intelligence, and we consider the town contested.

Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack hit a two-story apartment building in Shevchenkove.<sup>47</sup> One person was killed, and two were injured. At the time of publication, rescuers were still searching the rubble.

---

<sup>46</sup> <https://twitter.com/blinzka/status/1594366008030011397>

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/4796>



Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported the hromadas of Esman, Bilopillya, and Shalyhyne were shelled by Russian artillery fired from across the international border. More than 50 shells were fired, with the cultural center, a bakery, and power and gas lines damaged in the Bilopillya hromada. The shelling did not cause any injuries.<sup>48</sup>

---

<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/6067>

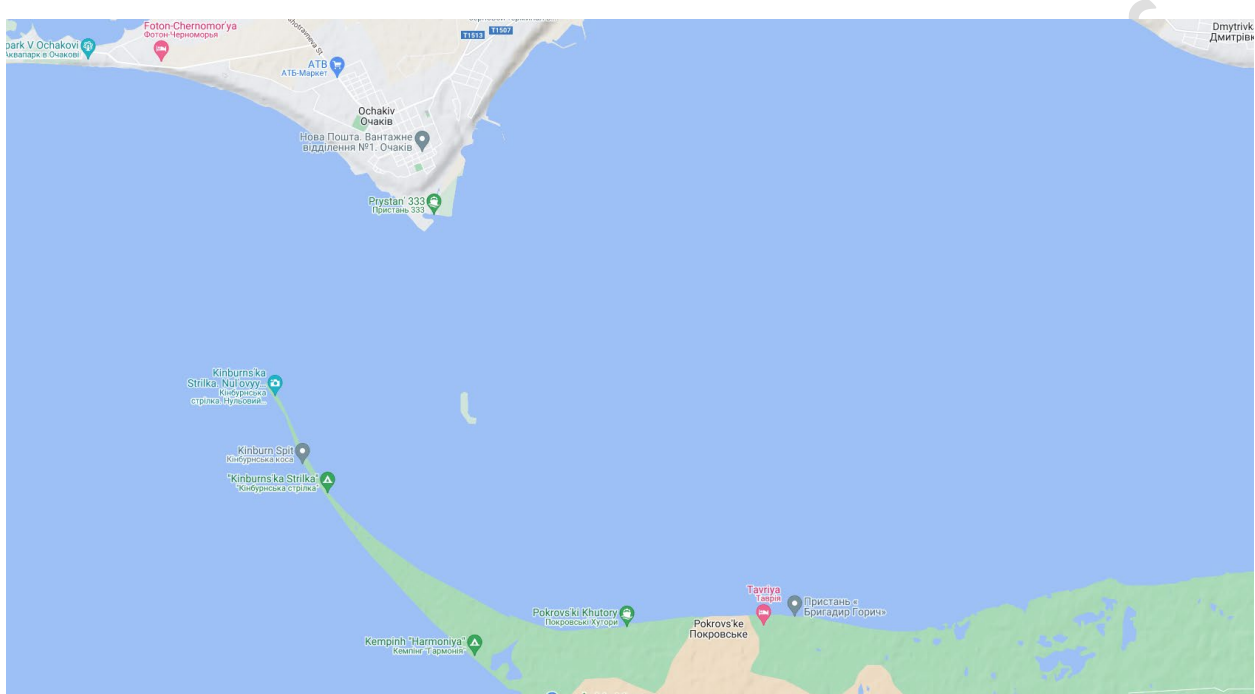
## KYIV REGION

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant activity reported.

## BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION



Russian forces shelled Ochakiv, with the rounds falling into the Dniprovskia Gulf without causing damage or casualties.<sup>49</sup>

Alexsandr Sienkovych, Mayor of Mykolaiv, reported that the last two water mains in the city would be repaired on Sunday, enabling officials to reestablish water and sewer service.<sup>50</sup>

---

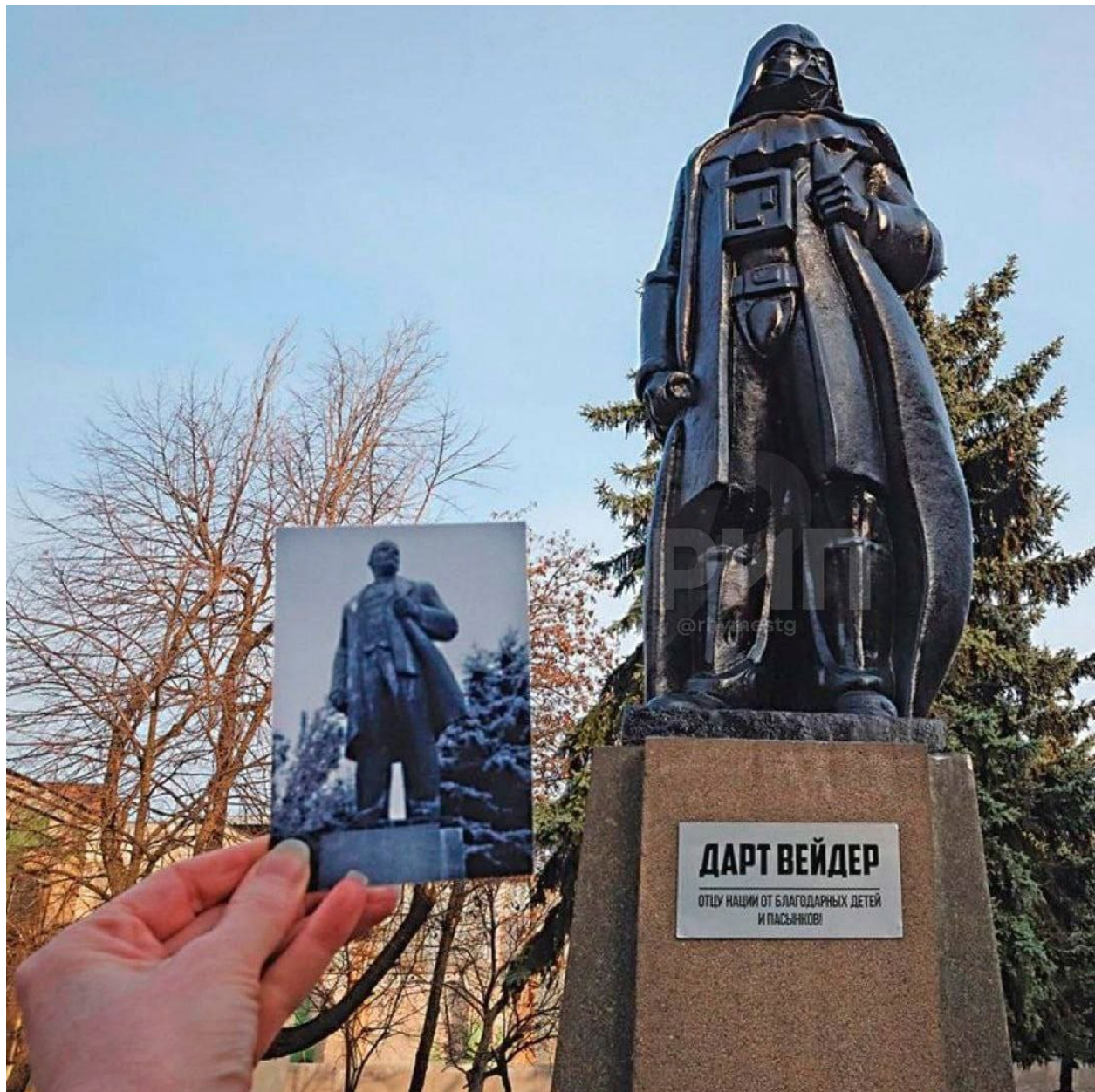
<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/3520>

<sup>50</sup> <https://t.me/senkevichonline/3289>

A Russian disinformation campaign created concern in Odesa that water would be shut off in the city.<sup>51</sup> Officials pleaded for people to be rational and dismissed the claims as disinformation. Also, in Odesa, a statue of Lenin that had been removed earlier was replaced with a statue of – Darth Vader. The clever artist recreated the Lenin statue with the Sith Lord in an identical pose.

---

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/odesacityofficial/12691>



**Editor's Note:** *In an ironic twist, Seattle, Washington, home of the Science Fiction Museum, does not have a statue of Darth Vader but has a statue of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.*



There was no information on if the Black Sea Fleet had deployed vessels capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles. The Russian navy has experienced a harsh allergic reaction when exposed to Neptune missiles, Bayraktar TB-2 drones, and unmanned surface vessels, so the poor weather conditions likely served as a convenient excuse to stay in port.

## WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

The shelling of Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast continued, with up to 60 Grad rockets fired by MLRS, striking the city as well as Myrivksa and Marhanets in an overnight attack.<sup>52</sup> The strikes targeted apartment buildings, private homes, and farm buildings. A vocational school was also struck in the overnight attacks, which

---

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/2509>

injured one person. Russian forces targeted housing and the river port, destroying boats and parked cars. A 78-year-old man was lightly injured in the attack.



## RUSSIAN FRONT

Russian milbloggers reported that Ukraine shelled the towns of Shebekino, Karabanovo, Razumnoye, and Nizhny Olshanets in the Belgorod federal district.<sup>53 54</sup>

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The national power company Ukrenergo reported that there weren't any emergency blackouts over the weekend, and at this time, unplanned outages will not be needed on Monday.<sup>55</sup> Moderating temperatures and lower electrical consumption over the weekend helped significantly, and areas requiring rolling blackouts were only conducted once or twice over a 24-hour period instead of the publicized four times. Rolling blackouts will continue on Monday, with officials cautioning that additional attacks on energy infrastructure could force the return of emergency blackouts.

---

<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/41347>

<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/belgorod01/27966>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/20/7377187/>

An armed Ukrainian soldier tempted fate and crossed a couple of meters across the border into Belarus at a closed rail crossing. The entire incident was [caught on camera](#).<sup>56</sup>

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance needs to reinvigorate its military production capacity and prepare to support Ukraine for "the long haul."<sup>57</sup>

Stoltenberg warned that many NATO nations have consumed their ammunition and weapons reserves and need to ramp up production for the alliance's security.

"We have to remember that the price we pay is measured in money, and the price Ukraine is paying is measured in lives, in blood, every day, and it's our obligation to support them," he said.

The data collected during the investigation into the explosion of a rocket in the Polish village of Przewodow has not yet made it possible to establish exactly where it was fired from, said Polish prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki during a visit to Helsinki, Finland.<sup>58</sup> Morawiecki appealed for patience and to "let specialists and

---

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1594295127291592704>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nato-long-haul-ukraine-1.6658147>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.yahoo.com/now/poland-does-not-yet-know-170531533.html>

investigators work on it." Polish officials considered the November 16 missile strike an accident, regardless of which belligerent fired the missile, and ultimately blamed the Russian Federation due to their ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

Germany offered to provide Poland with the United States-designed Patriot Missile system.<sup>59</sup> In addition, Germany offered to enhance combat air patrols over Poland using Eurofighters. The Patriot missile system would be capable of downing various missiles, including short-range ballistic missiles, while fighter aircraft could track and destroy cruise missiles. Germany once had 36 Patriot Missile Systems, but after German integration and the eastward expansion of NATO, the nation didn't find itself on the potential frontline of a post-Soviet invasion. Currently, Germany has 12 systems, with two deployed in Slovakia.

Belarus is reportedly negotiating to license munition production for 122-mm and 152-mm artillery shells and 300-mm Smerch rockets with Iran.<sup>60</sup> A delegation from Belarus is visiting Tehran, amid widespread civil unrest, to

---

<sup>59</sup> [Reuters](#)

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/17/7376819/>

work out the details on how to create joint weapons production in the landlocked Baltic nation.

Russian milbloggers and social media channels were abuzz with the arrival of retired United States Marine Corps Colonel Andrew Milburn, who formed his own Private Military Company called Mozart and deployed in Bakhmut.<sup>61</sup> Strangely, after four months of continuous defeat around Bakhmut and Soledar, Russian milbloggers universally mocked the arrival of the new PMC.

The Turan Battalion, comprised of Azerbaijan, Turkish, and Kyrgyzstan volunteers supporting the Ukrainian military, has been integrated into the Ukrainian Army.<sup>62</sup> Battalion Commander Almaz Kudabek called Colonel General and aspiring dentist don don Ramzan Kadyrov a devil for declaring Jihad on Ukraine and vowed to destroy their forces.

Ukraine received two Crotale anti-aircraft systems from France.<sup>63</sup> The missiles are fired from a mobile launcher, have a range of 11 to 16 kilometers, and can travel up to

---

<sup>61</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1594302624483926016>

<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/clashreport/status/1594369790340399105>

<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41120>

Mach 3.6. The system was originally developed for South Africa by the Thales Group and Samsung and has been deployed by 11 nations. Iran copied the system by copying a Chinese version of the Crotale, which is itself a copy.

## **RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS**

In Belgorod, two Russian mobiks who refused to deploy to Ukraine were called forward from their formation.<sup>64</sup> They both [declined to deploy verbally and then in writing](#). After handing over their papers to their commander, there were immediately arrested, cuffed, and placed into a van. The pair is facing two to three years in prison for insubordination. It is a fascinating video showing the arresting soldiers were vastly better equipped and in better shape than the mobiks in formation.

Protests continued in Russia, with family members concerned about the treatment of their husbands, fathers, and sons deployed to Ukraine.<sup>65</sup> Family members report that mobiks are being sent to the front with no orders, no officers on the front lines, and poor equipment.

---

<sup>64</sup> <https://twitter.com/igorsushko/status/1594385277513965568>

<sup>65</sup> [Washington Post via MSN](#)

"Of course, he had no idea how terrible it would be there," Sokolova told The Washington Post. "We watch our federal TV channels, and they say that everything is perfect," the 37-year-old said. Sokolova reported her husband was conscripted on September 22 and was in Ukraine with the 252nd Motor Rifle Regiment on September 26. The 252nd has been on the tip of the spear since its formation and was deployed to some of the hottest areas in Kherson.

Despite the abuses and being used as cannon fodder, family members don't blame Russian President Vladimir Putin and say that the failures stem from lower-ranking officials in the military who are corrupt.

The videos and protests will likely end, with the Russian State Duma moving to criminalize any videos or reports of problems with Russian mobilization, the psychological state of Russian soldiers, or complaints about their equipment effective December 1.

On Russian State Media, accused war criminal Zakhar Prilepin told propagandist Olga Skabeeva that Russia has [no interest in honest negotiations](#) and only wants a pause in the ongoing war to stabilize the situation and finish



destroying Ukraine later when the military has been rebuilt.<sup>66</sup> Preilepin, who fought in Ukraine and bragged about committing war crimes, said that Moscow is not ready for renewed offensives even with mobilization and was ill-prepared when it started its "special military operation." That's called saying the quiet part out loud, and it is unclear if the Kremlin-aligned faux critics used to create the illusion of a dissenting viewpoint will run afoul of the new law after November 30.

***Editor's Note: Probably not, as they serve a valuable purpose, and Stalin would be proud.***

The Moscow Times reported that Vladimir Putin had pulled the plug on the State Armaments Program, which started a decade ago. The plan was meant to modernize the Russian military by 2020 with 2500 Armata T-14 tanks, a new white sheet-designed strategic bomber to replace the turboprop Tu-95, which can trace its roots back to the American World War II B-29, 600 aircraft including the Su-57, thousands of helicopters, and naval modernization.<sup>67</sup>

---

<sup>66</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1594408064337301504>

<sup>67</sup> [Moscow Times](#)

Twenty-two trillion roubles later, Moscow has less than 25 T-14 tanks, which have problems with gun stabilization and have repeatedly broken down at state events like the Victory Day parade in Moscow. The Su-57 has become outdated and has inferior stealth qualities to its Chinese and American counterparts, and only four production models exist. The other 12 hand-built prototypes are reported to be of very low quality. The Su-57 has been used to fire standoff weapons in Syria and Ukraine but has not engaged in any combat sorties where it could face anti-aircraft systems or other fighter aircraft. A replacement for the Tu-95 fleet never reached the prototype stage, and Russia entered its "special military operation" with 132 Ka-52 Alligator attack helicopters, which have not performed well.

President Putin instructed to rewrite the supply standards for the army and bring them "in line with the real needs" of the armed forces.

Human Rights activist Vladimir Osechkin claimed that the Russian Ministry of Defense had started extrajudicial executions of military commanders who are losing control of mobs or supporting those who refuse to fight.<sup>68</sup>

---

<sup>68</sup> [https://t.me/Pravda\\_Gerashchenko/52281](https://t.me/Pravda_Gerashchenko/52281)

Osechkin claims that the commander of the 7th motorized rifle company of military unit 08807 was removed from the hospital to be executed for “losing control of the unit entrusted to him.”

All is going to plan.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Ukraine's deputy prime minister Olha Stefanishyna said that authorities would investigate a video that potentially shows Ukrainian soldiers executing Russian prisoners of war as they surrender.<sup>69</sup> We provided our analysis of the video on November 19 and concluded that it was highly likely by the available evidence that Russian troops engaged in perfidy. Perfidy is when a belligerent uses deceit, such as wearing the uniforms of their enemy or pretending to surrender, to attack their enemy. The video clearly showed a gunman emerging from the building and firing at Ukrainian troops in the direction of the person recording the video. The camera falls to the ground pointing to the sky and then cuts to the aftermath. Russia

---

<sup>69</sup> [The Hill](#)

has accused Ukraine of committing an atrocity and executing the Russian troops after they surrendered.

Ukrainian hospitals were told they needed to be prepared for unannounced and total blackouts. Ukrainian officials reported that all operating hospitals now have backup generators, but the rollover could sometimes take "several seconds."<sup>70</sup>

Berlin has vowed to accept more Ukrainian refugees and is preparing to add 10,000 more beds as the nation reaches capacity.<sup>71</sup> Refugees are being kept at Tegel airport, which closed two years ago. Some people are housed in large tents that hold 400 people and sleep on bunk beds. Berlin is currently home to 85,000 Ukrainian refugees, with a majority in their own housing or placed with families.

## GEOPOLITICAL

Investigators have concluded their study in Przewodów, Poland while investigating the missile strike that killed two continues. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told

---

<sup>70</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41154>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-create-10000-more-beds-for-ukrainian-refugees/a-63811862>

reporters in Helsinki, Finland, that "the data collected by the investigation into the explosion of a rocket in the Polish village of Przewodów do not yet allow to establish with certainty where it was fired from."<sup>72</sup>

He said the investigation has "evidence from the cameras of the border guards, but they do not show with 100% certainty where the rocket was fired from. We need to continue collecting evidence [and] the investigation will take some time."

Morawiecki assured that Poland wants to maintain full transparency in the investigation. "We especially want our Ukrainian friends and partners to be sure that the result of the investigation will be proven. That's why we invited them to investigate," he said.

Olha Stefanishyna, Ukraine's deputy prime minister of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, told reporters at the Halifax International Security Forum that Ukraine has started procuring Starlink alternatives.<sup>73</sup> She said Kyiv was worried about Musk's takeover of Twitter and how the

---

<sup>72</sup> [Polskie Radio](#)

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/11/ukraine-getting-nervous-about-elon-musk/379980/>

platform had become a major source of media manipulation.

Additionally, Ukraine has been in two spats with Starlink and Musk, where terminals were turned off for non-payment. After the billionaire claimed that he could no longer afford to cover the cost of Starlink terminals, multiple NGOs, government officials, and individuals reported they had purchased most of the Starlink terminals and were paying for the service themselves. Musk capitulated after the Pentagon announced it was willing to negotiate with him.

European Parliament is planning to request Elon Musk to testify, expressing concern about his plans for the platform and to make sure he understands European technology and privacy laws.<sup>74</sup> The Digital Services Act will go into effect in Europe in the summer of 2023 and cracks down on platforms that are party to the spread of disinformation. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola does not have the power to compel Musk to testify.

---

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-parliament-set-to-invite-elon-musk/>

There are reports that Twitter may lose its European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) one-stop-shop privileges because it no longer meets GDPR requirements.<sup>75</sup>

New Zealand's Defense Minister Peeni Henare traveled to Kyiv and visited the Wall of Remembrance. Henare was the first minister from the southern hemisphere island nation to travel to Ukraine and said the visit sent a "strong message that New Zealand stands with the people of Ukraine and that our support for the Ukrainian defensive effort against Russia's illegal invasion is unwavering."<sup>76</sup> New Zealand has pledged continued support and promised to help with rebuilding.

Russian social media influencer Yulia Prokhorova made herself famous for creating videos harassing and mocking Ukrainian refugees in Germany and dancing and celebrating to videos showing Ukrainian soldiers and civilians being killed. German officials had been trying to deport the woman since April 2021, but under German law, Prokhorova, a Russian Federation national, couldn't be deported just for making hateful videos.

---

<sup>75</sup> [Tech Crunch](#)

<sup>76</sup> [New Zealand Herald](#)

Investigative reporters discovered that Prokhorova was a sex worker and exposed (bad word choice) her third line of work. Sex work is legal in Germany, with regulations managed locally, and the industry is highly regulated. That's where Prokhorova ran afoul of the law.

German police raided her apartment in Landshut on November 14, seizing three smartphones and a laptop. The investigation found that Prokhorova had not paid her income taxes for her third job, but more critically, revealed she was in Germany illegally.<sup>77</sup> She was working as a cashier at a store, along with her social media presence. After enjoying the freedoms of Germany, [Prokhorova set off the enjoy Russian Mir](#) and was video recorded being deported on November 20.<sup>78</sup>

## ECONOMIC

The first warning light that Russia has entered a recession turned red on the economic dashboard, and it is a surprising metric. According to Check Index, the average bill in restaurants and bars in the Russian Federation dropped 26% compared to a year ago, despite an inflation

---

<sup>77</sup> [Open - Germany](#)

<sup>78</sup> <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1594458684268191745>



rate of 21%.<sup>79</sup> One of the first areas that people of all classes cut back during the start of a recession is hospitality spending.

The amount of money leaving Russia has also reached a record high, despite Moscow's attempts to stem the flow. From January to September, a record \$63.1 billion has been deposited in banks outside of Russia, more than double the same period last year.<sup>80</sup> The movement of assets increased in June, after the Russian government lifted some restrictions, and has increased each month since, reaching \$6.7 billion in September, when partial mobilization was announced.

The rouble is trading down on Monday, with an exchange rate of 61 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices will open lower, with all signs pointing to increased economic pressure on the Russian Federation. WTI crude is expected to start trading at \$80 a barrel, down 10% from a week ago, and Brent at \$87. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market is also down,

---

<sup>79</sup> [https://t.me/pb\\_032/12914](https://t.me/pb_032/12914)

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/11/17/russias-2022-cash-outflow-hits-all-time-high-a79402>

trading at \$2.40 per gallon for November contracts. (63 cents a liter)

Dutch TTF Gas Futures for December 2022 were up about 1.5%, trading at 117 euros per megawatt hour. January 2023 contracts were flat at 124 euros.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures are in the red and were expected to open around \$8.21 a bushel for March 2022 contracts.