



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

September 20, 2023



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 9/20/23 23:59\* PST

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## SUMMARY – DAY 573

It has been 3,494 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 209 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

The War Report podcast is back today.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)

- The table of Russian versus Ukrainian losses using information from the [Oryx Database](#) was updated on **September 20, 2023**
- There were minor adjustments to the war map

## DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. The Russian Ministry of Defense remains in a chaotic state, incapable of creating mission cohesion between penal units, mobiks, conscripts, elite forces, and proxy forces.

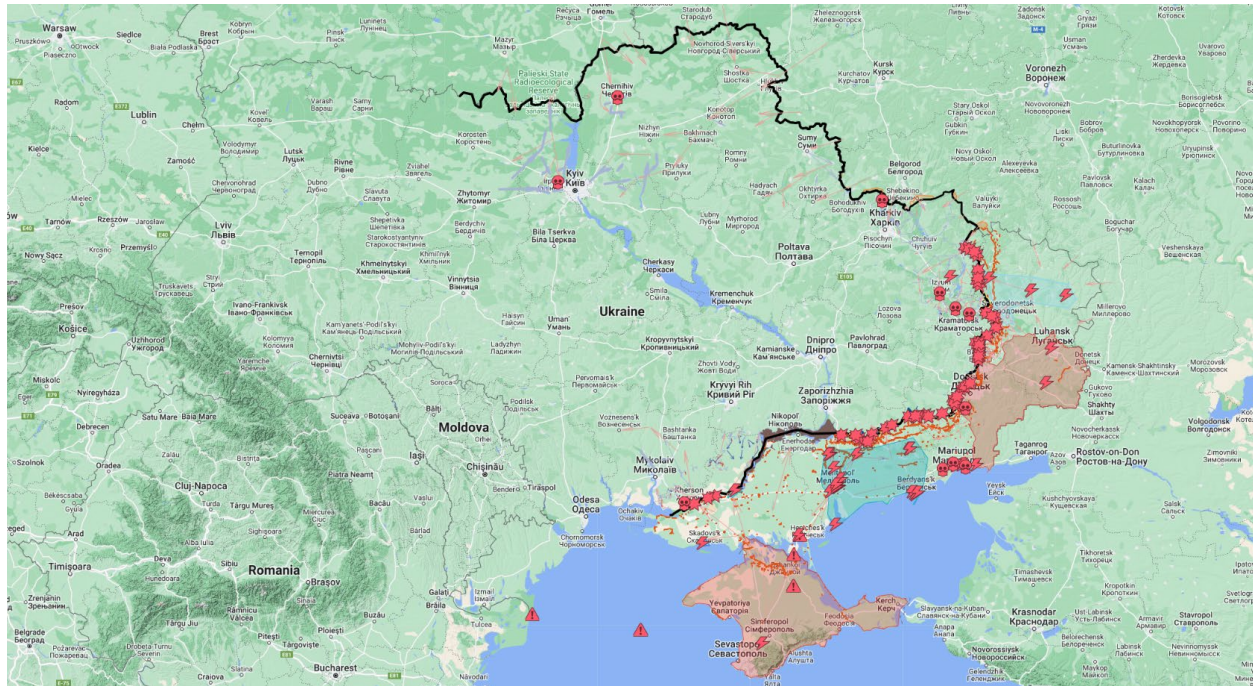
2. At the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian government is in the largest purge of dissident voices and perceived internal enemies since the Soviet era, including the leaders, mercenaries, and employees of PMC Wagner, objective state media journalists and war bloggers, far-right nationalists who want the Kremlin to take more aggressive action in Ukraine, and human rights activists.
3. There remains a possibility of partisan violence within Russia after the killings of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin. President Putin's stature, both inside and outside of Russia, remains in a weakened state.
4. Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are some of the best allies available for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense due to their acceptance of systemic corruption, political infighting, waste of military resources, and refusal to adapt to the realities within the theater of war.
5. The soft response by Ukraine's allies after Russian aggression on Ukraine's border has further emboldened Moscow to take increasing risks, which could cause a significant international incident.
6. The perceived slow progress of the Ukrainian summer-fall offensive, questions about the capabilities of Ukrainian military commanders at the battalion and brigade level, and ongoing anticorruption measures highlighting the problems

within the Ukrainian government are unfairly straining Western support.

7. Western partners are not meeting their promised military training, heavy equipment, and ammunition delivery dates, and these continued delays are negatively impacting Ukraine's military capabilities.
8. The growing number of combat ineffective and combat destroyed Russian units has forced commanders to commit strategic reserves meant for a fall-winter counteroffensive into defensive operations. Additionally, due to declining combat potential, Russian commanders are activating the reserves from the second and third echelons of the Prigozhin and Surovikin Lines.
9. In our assessment, Russia will attempt to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure over the fall and winter.
10. While the possibility of an intentional nuclear accident caused by Russian occupiers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains low, the threat should be taken seriously.



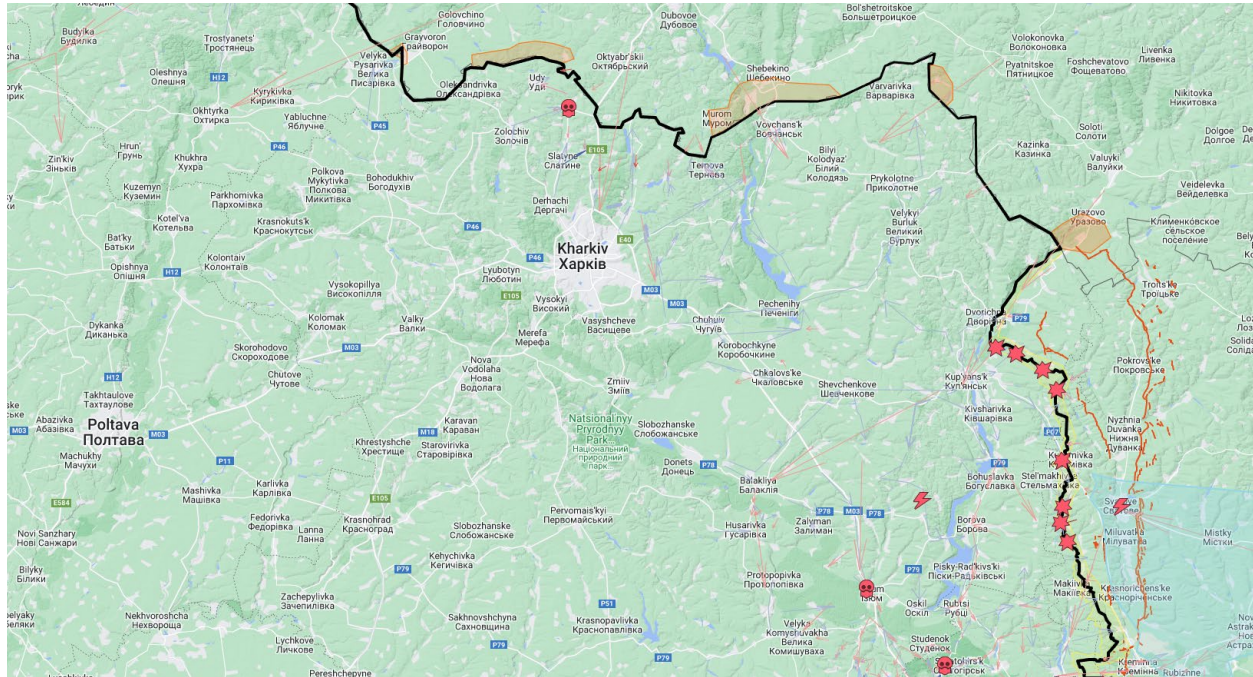
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

## [Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

# KHARKIV





**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

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

Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleg Sinegubov reported that on the night of September 20



– 21, the city of Kharkiv was hit by six Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used for a ground attack.<sup>1</sup> In the Slobidskyi district, a  [factory and an adjacent warehouse](#) were damaged.<sup>2 3</sup> Ihor Terekhov, the mayor of Kharkiv, reported three civilians, including a pensioner, were wounded in the overnight attack.

The number of people killed due to the September 19 Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS)  [bombing of the frontline city of Kupyansk](#) jumped to eight, with rescuers finding two more bodies in the rubble.<sup>4</sup> The deceased were volunteers at an assembly area for residents who had requested evacuation due to the continuous Russian attacks.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/7092>

<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115519>

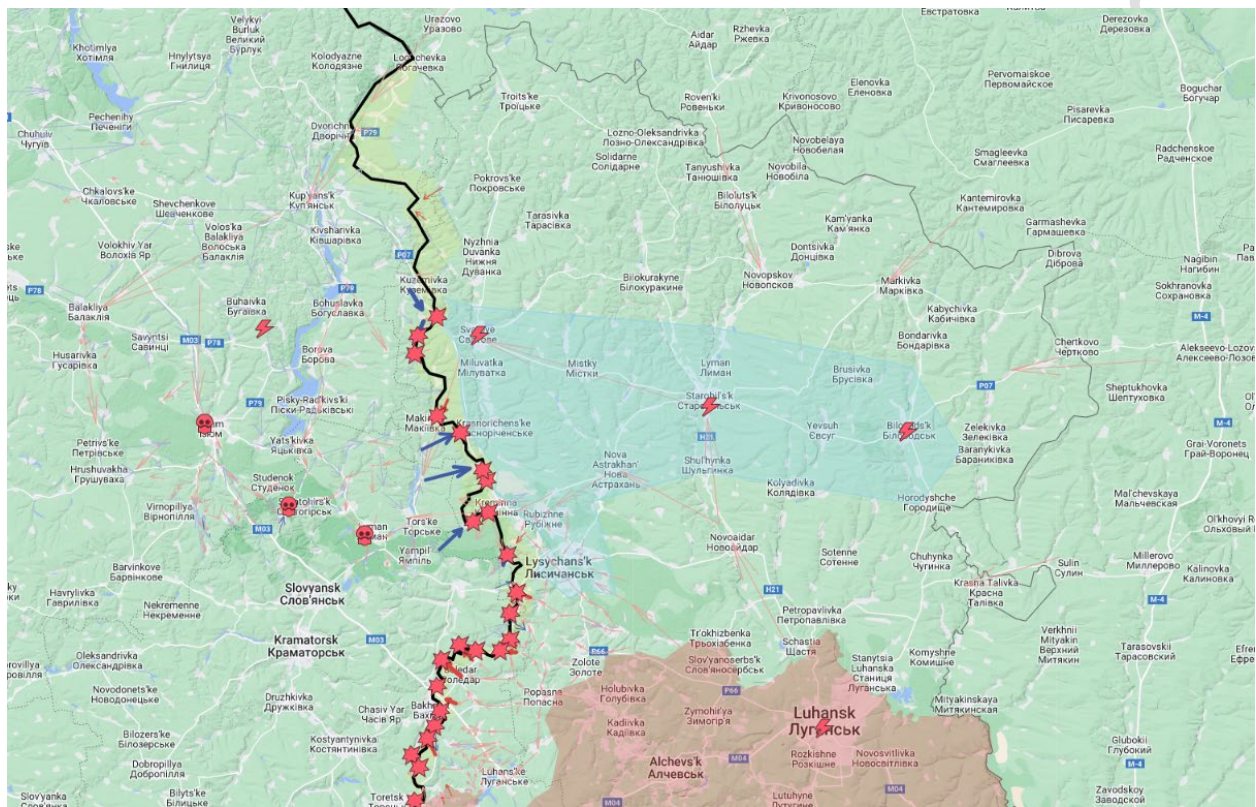
<sup>3</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/42789](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/42789)

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111958>

<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115325>

# DONBAS REGION

## LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, control insurgent activity, and set conditions to capture the rest of the region

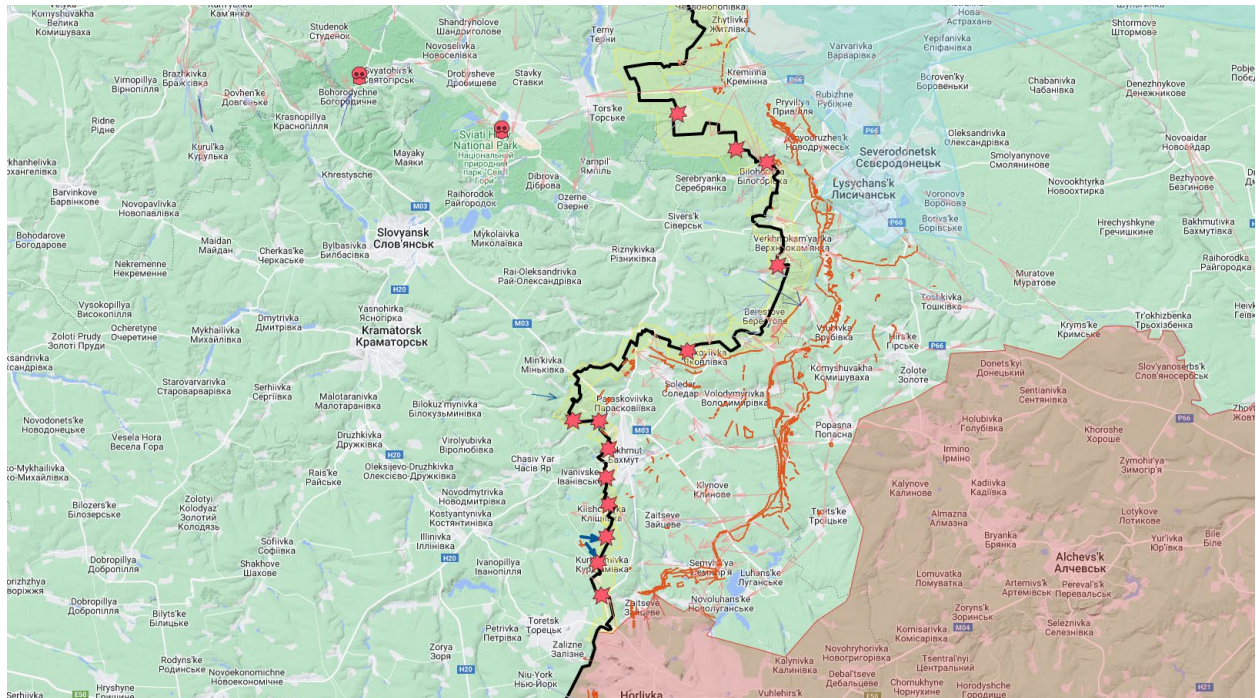
**Ukrainian Objective:** Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



There wasn't any significant activity in this region.

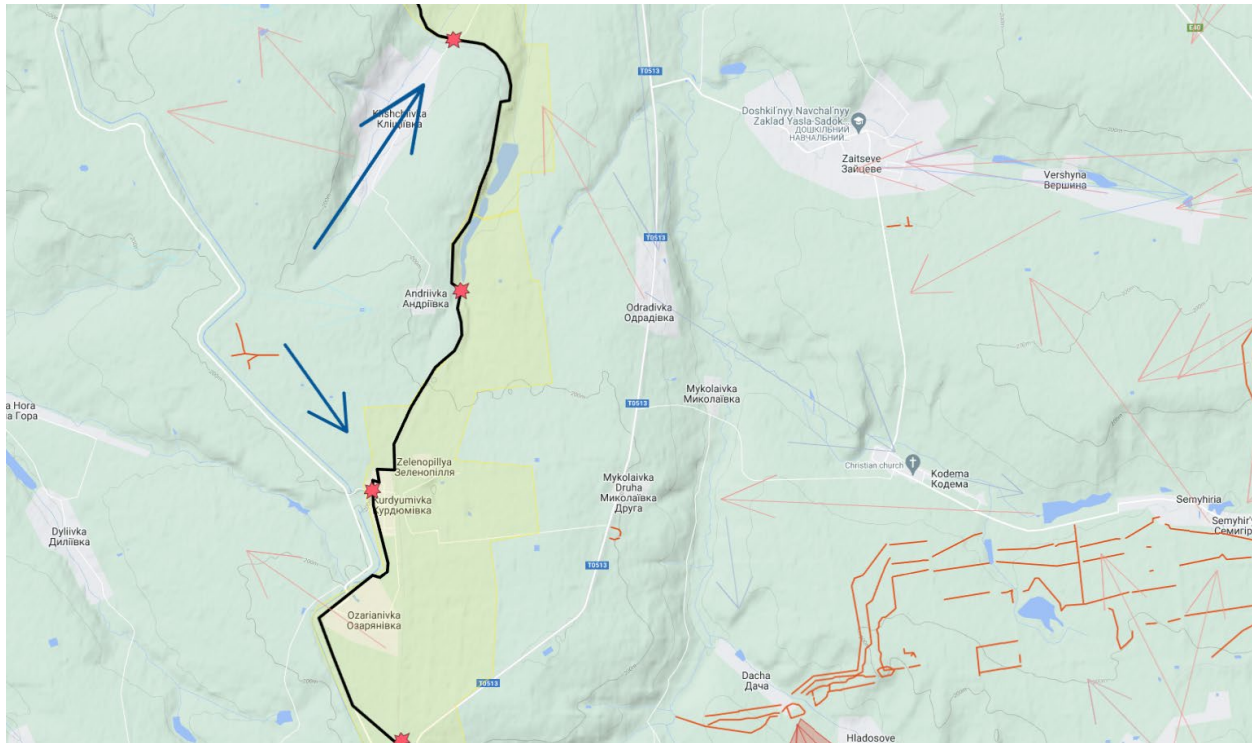
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# NORTHEAST DONETSK



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

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Siversk, collapse the Russian flanks north and south of Bakhmut, cut off the ground lines of communication into Bakhmut and Soledar and liberate both operational areas, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



## Svitlodarsk Operational Direction



Due to new gains by Ukrainian forces, we have renamed the Klishchiivka Operational Area to the Svitlodark Operational Direction.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Russian attacks west of [Zaitseve](#) and northeast of [Andriivka](#) were repulsed.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12164>

**ASSESSMENT:** With Andriivka located on the railroad grade, GSAFU reporting an attack northeast of the destroyed hamlet indicates that Ukrainian forces have advanced past the railroad tracks.

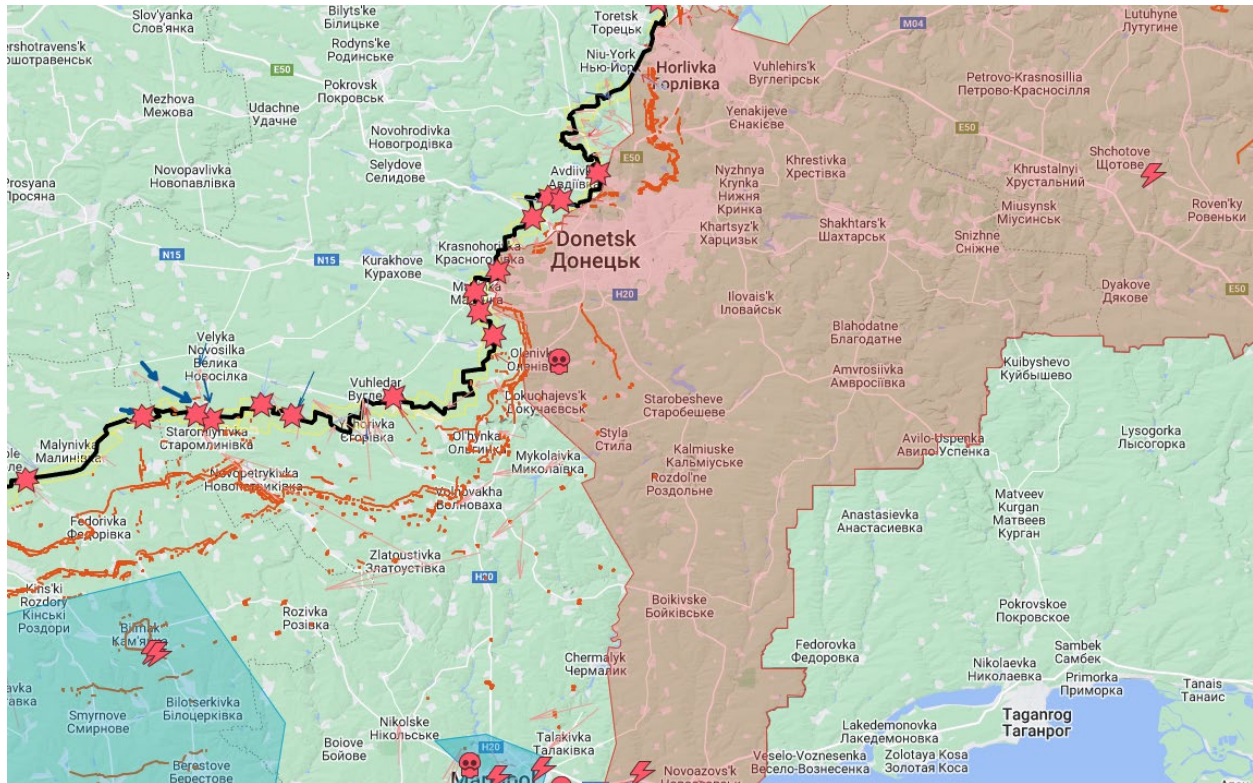
## Occupied Donetsk

In Svitlodarsk, members of the Espanola Battalion, a volunteer unit given special military status by the Russian Ministry of Defense, broke operational security (OPSEC). A series of   [videos they posted](#) provided additional battle damage assessment from the Ukrainian Air Force bombing of their headquarters on September 16.<sup>7</sup> Russian propagandists had claimed the bombing killed seven civilians. The videos showed the targeted building had camouflage netting, and weapons were half buried in the rubble. An adjacent room looked like an operations center with long tables, chairs, and remnants of paper records. A third, more graphic video showed three wounded battalion members being evacuated.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115325>


## SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



**Russian Objective:** Defend against the Ukrainian offensive, maximize casualties, and capture the remainder of the oblast

**Ukrainian Objective:** Find and exploit Russian defensive weaknesses, set conditions for an offensive in the Volnovakha and Mariupol directions, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics

## **Avdiivka, Marinka, Vuhledar, and Staromlynivka Operational Areas**

Russian combat potential in the Avdiivka, Marinka, and Vuhledar areas of operation (AO) remains depleted. Russian sources reported Ukrainian offensive operations at Vesele on the landing of the Krasnohorivka plateau and near [Pryyutne](#), on the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border.<sup>8</sup> Russian and Ukrainian sources reported that positional fighting continued in Marinka with no change to the situation.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> For our returning podcast listeners, a geolocated video showed a Ukrainian first-person view (FPV) kamikaze drone  [destroying a Russian tank](#) on – you guessed it – Druzby Avenue.<sup>11</sup>

## **Occupied Donetsk**

The 1st Army Corps Sparta Battalion Commander, Artyom Zhoga, was named the illegitimate chairman of the so-called People's Council of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30658](https://t.me/mod_russia/30658) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12164>

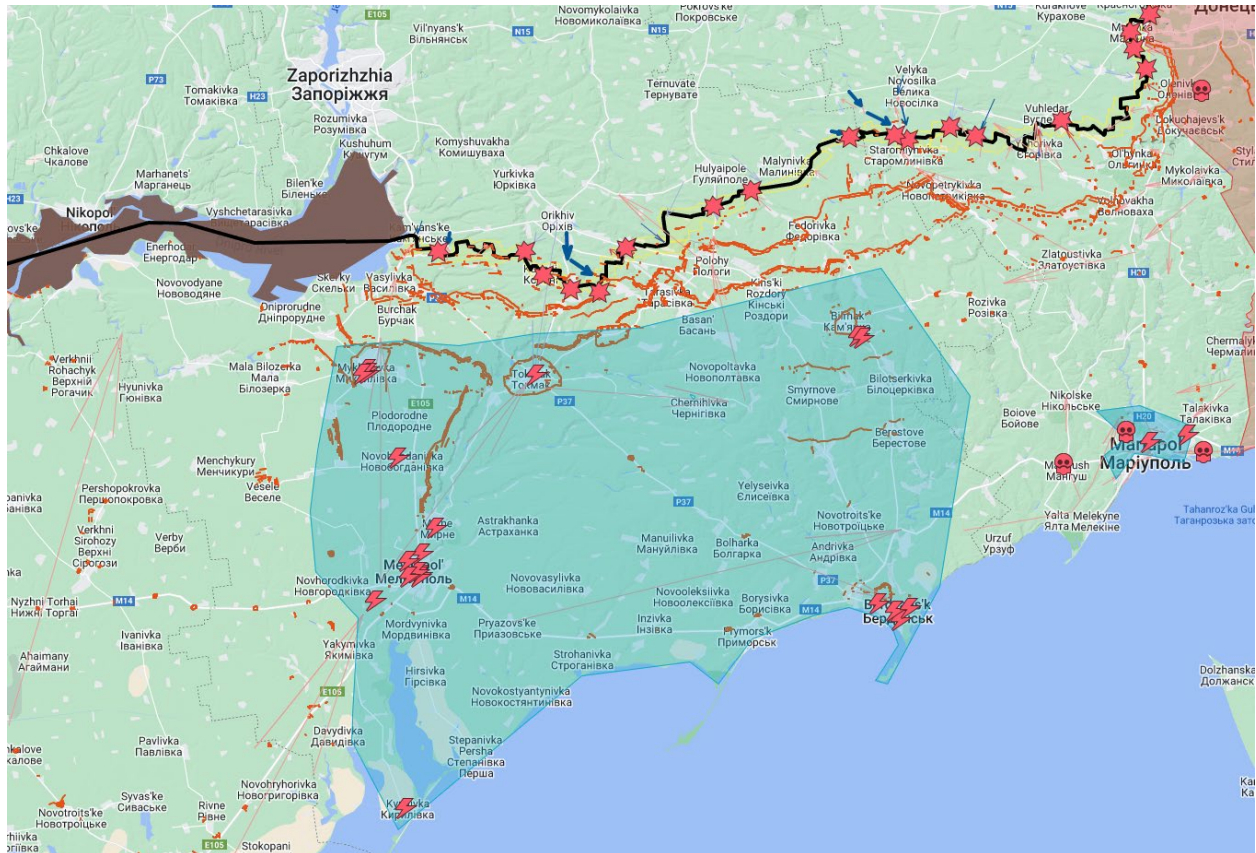
<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15157>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAControlMap/status/1704606532761956672>

<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/102631>

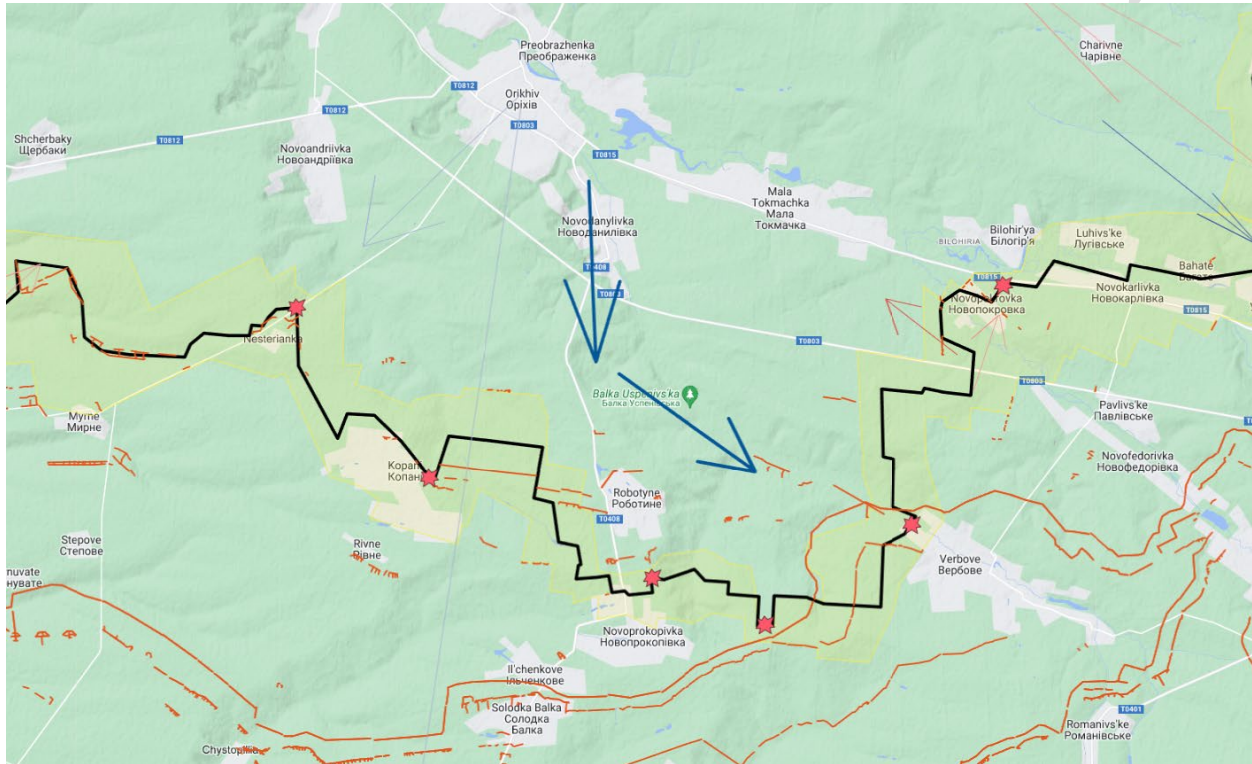


# ZAPORIZHIA



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

**Ukrainian Objective:** Break through the Surovikin Line and sever the Russian landbridge from Crimea to Donetsk, liberate Russian-occupied areas, and protect civilians



## Orikhiv Operational Area

Supported by armor, Ukrainian forces breached the second echelon of the Surovikin Line west of [Verbove](#). A heavily edited Russian video showed Marder infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) and Stryker armored personnel carriers (APC) supported by light infantry [past the static](#)

[defensives](#) and advancing under heavy fire.<sup>13</sup> Ukrainian forces rapidly turned the breach into a gap, taking control of 3,700 meters of the trench, tunnel, and bunker network at the 160-meter heights west and southwest of Verbove.

**ASSESSMENT:** We maintain that Ukrainian forces intend to advance through Verbove as it is the shortest distance to the third echelon of the Russian static defenses at Romanivske.

The Russian VKS launched airstrikes on Ukrainian positions in [Robotyne](#) while intense fighting continued north and east of [Novoprokopivka](#).<sup>14 15</sup>

## Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There was no change in the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/moklasen/status/1704620018569531469>

<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/12164>

<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15157>

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

### Black Sea

Insurgents in Sevastopol  [documented the Russian corvette Cyclone](#) leaving port to go on patrol. The vessel is capable of launching eight Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>16</sup>

The Project 1239 corvette hovercraft Samum, which we previously assessed had been damaged by an Mk.5 SeaBaby uncrewed surface vessel on September 14, has been moved to the 13th ship repair plant in Sevastopol. The Samum won't be seaworthy until January 2024.<sup>17</sup>

### Romania

The Turkish-owned Togolese-flagged bulk cargo ship Seama, heavily damaged by a suspect sea mine, had to be towed to Musura Bay in Romania and beached to prevent the vessel from sinking.<sup>18</sup> Pictures showed the 2,350-ton vessel down at the stern. The engine room explosion, which ruptured the hull, wounded one crewmember. Romanian officials have neither confirmed nor denied the vessel

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<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42909>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/43006>

<sup>18</sup> [Digi24 HD - Romania](#)

struck a sea mine. A criminal investigation has been opened for the "destruction or damage of a ship or its cargo, and the placement on a ship of a device, object or substance capable of destroying the ship."

## Occupied Crimea

In a joint special operation of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the Air Force, and the Navy of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the Black Sea Fleet alternate command, control, and communication (C3) headquarters at Verkhnosadove was  [hit by multiple Stormshadow cruise missiles](#).<sup>19</sup> The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GUR) spokesperson, Andriy Yusov, said that the intelligence service confirmed that the Black Sea Fleet command officers were at the base.<sup>20</sup>

The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that Ukrainian drones attacked Yevpatoria, Simferopol, Sevastopol, Dzhankoyi, Saki, and Novofedorivka.<sup>21</sup> A prominent Russian milblogger called it the largest drone attack on occupied Crimea ever. Illegitimate occupation officials claim that 19

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<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115420>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115359>

<sup>21</sup> [https://t.me/couch\\_IU/42993](https://t.me/couch_IU/42993)

drones were shot down without incident. These are the same officials who insisted the Samum was undamaged, the Rostov-on-Don was repairable, and today's strike at Verkhnosadove was a grassfire.

At the time of publication, the SBU reported that 12 drones had targeted the Saki Military Airfield. We have not completed our battle damage assessment.

The Crimean Tartar insurgent group ATESH shared photos that confirm the  [submarines of the Black Sea Fleet have left Sevastopol](#).<sup>22</sup>

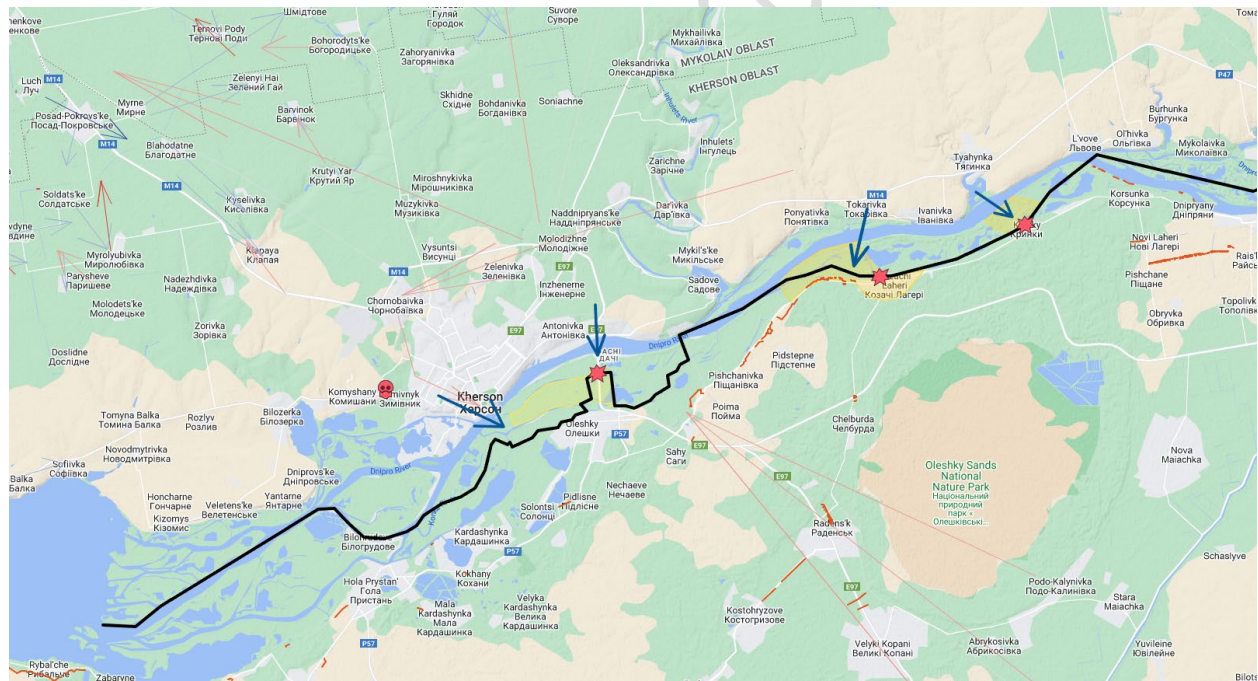
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<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42935>

# KHERSON


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

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



The heaviest artillery barrages on free Kherson since its liberation in November 2022 continued, with Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA)

Alexander Prokudin calling it "a terrible night." Russian forces conducted 126 fire missions, firing 604 artillery rounds, incendiary munitions, mortars, Grad rockets from multiple launch rocket systems, indirect fire from tanks, drone-delivered IEDs, and UPMK glide bombs. Zarina Zabrisky, currently on assignment in Kherson, said, "Last night was very loud with close to 80 strikes." Anton Kirichenko of Ukraine Animal Rescue called the artillery barrage "relentless."

Two civilians were killed, and four were sent to hospital due to Russian artillery intentionally targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.<sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> West of Kherson at the mouth of the Dnipro River, Kizomys was shelled with thermite,  [sparking fires that destroyed multiple businesses and three homes](#).<sup>25</sup> The Russian VKS dropped nine UPMK glide bombs on Mykolaivka, Tiahynka, and Odradokamyanka.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1356>

<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1357>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/olexandrprokudin/1359>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/46006>





## WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE


**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

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

### Cherkasy

Debris from an intercepted Russian cruise missile  [struck a hotel in Cherkasy](#).<sup>27</sup> The Cherkasy Oblast OVA Ihor Zinkevich said 23 people  [were trapped in the rubble](#), with ten injured, one critically.<sup>28</sup> At the time of publication, search and rescue operations were ongoing.<sup>29 30 31</sup>

### Rivne

A Russian cruise missile struck  [critical infrastructure and a gas station](#) in Rivne, knocking out electricity and water.<sup>32 33</sup> Rivne Oblast OVA Vitaly Koval said that

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<sup>27</sup> [https://t.me/zinkevich\\_igor/8493](https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/8493)

<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115511>

<sup>29</sup> [https://t.me/zinkevich\\_igor/8503](https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/8503)

<sup>30</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/42782](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/42782)

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115523>

<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115495>

<sup>33</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/42783](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/42783)

engineers were evaluating the damage and working to restore power.<sup>34</sup>

## Lviv

Lviv City Council member Ihor Zinkevich reported that three cruise missiles hit the Drohbych region. Two struck an industrial facility, and the third hit a warehouse, causing a fire.

## NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale


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

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<sup>34</sup> [https://t.me/zinkevich\\_igor/8507](https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/8507)

## Kyiv

Up to twenty cruise missiles targeted the Kyiv region with debris causing damage and injuries in the Darnytskyi, Svyatoshyn, Shevchenkivskyi, and Holosiivsky districts.

Kyiv mayor Vitaliy Klitschko said that In Darnytskyi, seven people were wounded, with three hospitalized, including a nine-year-old girl. A  [vocational school was hit](#), with the students taking shelter before the attack.<sup>35 36</sup>

In the Svyatoshyn district, power was knocked out, and a gas pipeline was ruptured in Shevchenkivskyi, with check valves preventing a fire.<sup>37</sup> In the Holosiivsky district, windows were blown out of a five-story building.

A Pepsi bottling plant and distribution center  [was heavily damaged](#) in the Kyiv suburb of Vyshneve.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115467>

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/102667>

<sup>37</sup> [https://t.me/VA\\_Kyiv/3044](https://t.me/VA_Kyiv/3044)


<sup>38</sup> Vyshneve - Pepsi bottling plant heavily damaged by Russian missile strike  
[https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/42781](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/42781)

## RUSSIAN FRONT

**Russian Objective:** Stabilize government control and civil order, prevent renewed insurrections, repel Russian partisan attacks, secure the state border

**Ukrainian-Backed Russian Partisan Objective:** Motivate other Russians to fight against the Putin regime, accelerate the downfall of the Russian government, foment civil unrest

### Voronezh

Russia lost another Su-34 multirole fighter plane, which crashed due to a mechanical issue near Kashira. The crew was able to eject, but  [the airframe was a total loss](#).<sup>39</sup>

### Irkutsk

The dispute over the Dulisma Oil Field has turned into a standoff.<sup>40</sup> The armed men who took over the facility have dug trenches across the only road, preventing the Ministry of Internal Affairs from reaching the compound. Russian state media reported a battalion of 400 armed fighters had

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<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115334>

<sup>40</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/57206](https://t.me/shot_shot/57206)

assembled nearby and were prepared to storm Dulisma. The Ministry of Internal Affairs cut power and water to the facility, and the oil field has been offline since the armed takeover last week. The standoff was caused by an ownership dispute, with the previous owner sending a mercenary unit of more than two dozen armed men who roped in from helicopters to take control.

Russian mir!

## **BELARUSIAN FRONT**

There weren't any significant developments in this region.

## **THEATERWIDE**

Russia launched 43 Kh-101/Kh-555/Kh-55 cruise missiles from 10 Tu-95MS strategic bombers west of Engels Military Airfield, with 36 intercepted by Ukrainian air defenses. Colonel Yuri Ignat, spokesperson for the Ukrainian Air Force, said the attack came in multiple waves and from multiple directions.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> [https://t.me/smolii\\_ukraine/42799](https://t.me/smolii_ukraine/42799)

Ukrenergo reported that energy infrastructure was targeted across Ukraine, with power knocked out to 398 settlements in Rivne, Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, and Zhytomyr oblasts.<sup>42 43</sup>

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the United Nations General Assembly, warning that a continued soft response to Russian aggression has global implications. "While Russia is pushing the world to the last war, Ukraine is doing everything so that after the Russian aggression no one in the world dares to attack any country. War crimes must be punished. Deported people must return home. And the occupier must return to his land. We must unite to achieve this."<sup>44</sup>

The permanent U.N. representative of the Russian Federation, Vasily Nebenzya, interrupted the chairman of the UN Security Council four times, trying to disrupt Zelenskyy's speech. Nebenzya complained that Zelenskyy shouldn't be the first speaker of the day. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, who chaired the meeting, told the Russian representative, "There is such a solution if you

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<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/43007>

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115532>

<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/AFUStratCom/20101>

agree: you stop the war, and President Zelenskyy will not have to speak at all."<sup>45</sup>

During his speech, Zelenskyy criticized the U.N. response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. "Russia has killed at least tens of thousands of our people and made millions of refugees by destroying their homes. The majority of the world recognizes the truth about this war. This is a criminal and unprovoked aggression of Russia against our nation, which aims to seize the territory and resources of Ukraine. We have to admit: the UN is at a dead end regarding aggression. Humanity no longer relies on the UN when it comes to protecting the sovereign borders of nations."<sup>46</sup>

Later in the day, Hell briefly froze over, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov telling reporters that U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres was "ineffective."<sup>47</sup>

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the General Assembly, "Putin is betting that if he continues to increase the level of violence, if he wants to cause enough

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<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111992>

<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115402>

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/156967>

suffering to enough people, the world will surrender its principles, and Ukraine will stop defending itself. But the Ukrainians do not give up. The United States, together with its allies and partners, will not stand aside from aggression, but will oppose it, as well as all attempts to undermine the order based on peaceful rules."<sup>48</sup>

The command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine suspended the speaker of the Territorial Defense Forces, United States citizen Junior Sergeant Sarah Ashton-Cirillo, for unapproved statements. In a press release, the Defense Forces said, "The statements of Sergeant Ashton-Cirillo in recent days were not approved by the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. When conducting military operations against the aggressor, the Ukrainian Defense Forces strictly observe the norms of international humanitarian law."

Ashton-Cirillo made a controversial video claiming that threatened Russian propagandists. Russian state media has been obsessed with the spokesperson since she arrived in Ukraine, and there was a \$50,000 bounty on her head when she was deployed in the Kharkiv region. The video caught

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<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115427>



the attention of a pro-Russian U.S. lawmaker, with Ashton-Cirillo suspended two days later.<sup>49</sup>

Spain announced a new military aid package for Ukraine that includes armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft systems with munitions, military trucks, ambulances, and inflatable boats.<sup>50</sup> Specific details were not provided.

The Pentagon's chief procurement officer, Bill LaPlante, confirmed our earlier report that the United States will increase 155 mm ammunition production faster than expected. By 2025, annual production will reach 100,000 per month. Currently, two factories are producing 28,000 shells a month, and by spring 2024, the number is expected to climb to 57,000.<sup>51</sup>

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine is negotiating with DOK-ING and Way Industries to license the production of demining equipment. Colonel Oleh Shuvarskyi, deputy head of the Main Department of Mine Action, Civil Defense and Environmental Security of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, said during a press briefing that Ukraine wants to

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<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/112016>

<sup>50</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/115382>

<sup>51</sup> <https://t.me/vysokygovorit/12860>

start production of the MV-10, Bozena-4 and Bozena-5 systems. Shuvarskyi said that Ukrainian engineers were creating additional solutions, calling the effort “a work in progress.”

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 20, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

## RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to September 13, 2023.

12,221 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,456 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	2179	286	7.62:1	↓
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	150	366	0.41:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	978	327	2.99:1	↓
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	2797	750	3.73:1	—
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	351	344	1.02:1	↓
<b>MRAPs</b>	47	158	0.30:1	—
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	208	371	0.56:1	—
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	251	17	14.76:1	—
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	343	82	4.18:1	↓
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	300	159	1.89:1	—
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	530	216	2.45:1	↑
<b>MLRS</b>	271	50	5.42:1	↑
<b>SAMs</b>	180	129	1.40:1	↑
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	45	78	0.58:1	—
<b>EW/ECW</b>	54	4	13.50:1	—
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	92	72	1.28:1	—
<b>Helicopters</b>	112	35	3.20:1	—
<b>Naval Vessels and Submarines</b>	17	27	0.63:1	—


## RUMORS


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


- Did Russia destroy two Mig-29s and three Su-25s at Kryvyi Rih with new long-range Lancet kamikaze drones?
- Have more than 260,000 Russian soldiers died in Ukraine since February 24, 2022?
- North Korean ammunition is coming to Russia?
- You say it's the last day, and then it isn't – will Ukraine get ATACMS?


## Notes on Sourcing Information


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


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


 **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We only use their reports to identify combat locations. We no longer consider their territorial control changes due to a three-month pattern from June to August 2023 of repeated publication of blatant disinformation and a years-long pattern of denying all Russian war crimes.


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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