



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



July 27, 2022



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

### 7/27/22 23:00 PDT

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## **SUMMARY – DAY 154**

It has been five months since the Russia-Ukraine War started and 3,071 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Fighting continued along the administrative border of the Luhansk. Russian forces attempted to advance on Verkhokamyanske from Bilohorivka [Luhansk] and were unsuccessful. Russian forces remained stuck at the Verkhokamyanka oil refinery and did not attempt any advances.

Russian and Ukrainian forces fought only skirmishes in Spirne and Ivano-Darivka with no change in territorial control. Ukrainian forces maintained control of Berestove.

East of Soledar, fighting to control Stryapivka continued and was limited to small arms fire without armor support. Fighting within Pokrovske continued.

The fiercest fighting continues to be west of the Svitlodarsk bulge. Terrorists with the Imperial Legion fighting with the

Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group attempted to advance on Kodema and Semyhrija but were unsuccessful.

Russian troops and the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) separatist militia heavily shelled Avdiivka, Pisky, and Marinka. Avdiivka was continuously shelled for five hours. Self-declared Luhansk People's Republic Interior Minister Vitaly Kiselev claimed in Telegram that this was part of a larger offensive and a direct assault on Avdiivka. He labeled the activity as "preparation work" but was non-specific on the target of a ground offensive.

It was reported that Russian forces attacked in the direction of Hulyaipole, but the origination point was unspecified. The attempted advance was unsuccessful.

North of Kharkiv, neither belligerent launched any ground offensives. There were positional battles and reconnaissance in force near Sonivka-Kozacha Lopan, Dementiivka, and Tsupivka. The line of conflict remains frozen with Russian artillery, rockets from MLRS, cruise missiles, and SRBMs prioritizing civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Two S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used in a ground-to-ground role struck the center of Kharkiv. There wasn't any significant damage or casualties from the strike.

The city of Chuhuiv, 65 kilometers southeast of Kharkiv, was shelled, with Russian forces targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

South of Izyum, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, reported that Ukrainian troops had advanced to Pasika and attacked a Russian reconnaissance unit in the area. The settlement is 6 kilometers north of the previously known line of conflict. The General Staff also reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on Bohorodychne, were unsuccessful, and retreated.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine also reported that the settlement of Brazhivka had been shelled. The exiled City Council of Borova reported that almost all Russian troops had left the settlement, with only a small security force remaining. The council claims that Borova came under artillery fire from the south, suggesting it came from Pidlyman, which we believe is still under Russian control. One civilian was killed.

Russian barracks in Chornyanka were struck in a rocket attack fired by HIMARS. Russian forces staying at the football stadium (soccer for Americans) and the buildings across the street practiced inadequate Operational Security (OPSEC) in mid-July, sharing pictures of the base.

In Kherson, Ukrainian forces disabled the Antonovskiyy bridge, Antonivskyy Zaliznychnyy Mist Railroad bridge, and the Nova Kakhovka bridge that goes over the Kakhovka Hydro Electric Dam. The Antonovskiyy and Antonivskyy Zaliznychnyy Mist Railroad bridges are irreparable until after the war.

Additionally, Russian forces built a pontoon bridge over the Inhulets River at Darivka and have attempted to camouflage it with foliage. To bypass the Antonovskiyy Bridge, A ferry was established using a bridging tug to tow four pontoon bridge sections. The "ferry" is hugging the damaged bridge as a shield and combines civilian and military traffic.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Andriivka [Kherson] from Novohrednjeve and were unsuccessful.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Bilohirka from Bruskynske and were also unsuccessful.

S-300 anti-aircraft missiles hit the city of Mykolaiv in a ground-to-ground capacity. A school was virtually destroyed, and the ship-building university was damaged. A security guard was injured in the attack.

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Head of the Sumy Oblast Military Administration, reported mortars and artillery struck the settlements of Esman and Seredyna-Buda. There was no damage and no casualties.

Operational Command North reported that up to 20 Iskander-M missiles were fired from Belarus into Ukraine, with nine landing near Honcharivs'ke in the Chernihiv Oblast. The missiles landed in the forest west of the settlement.

At least three Iskander-M missiles fired from Belarus struck an industrial facility in Vyshorod, northwest of Kyiv. Two large plumes of smoke were visible over the settlement. The missiles were fired from the Gomel area of Belarus. There were no casualties reported.

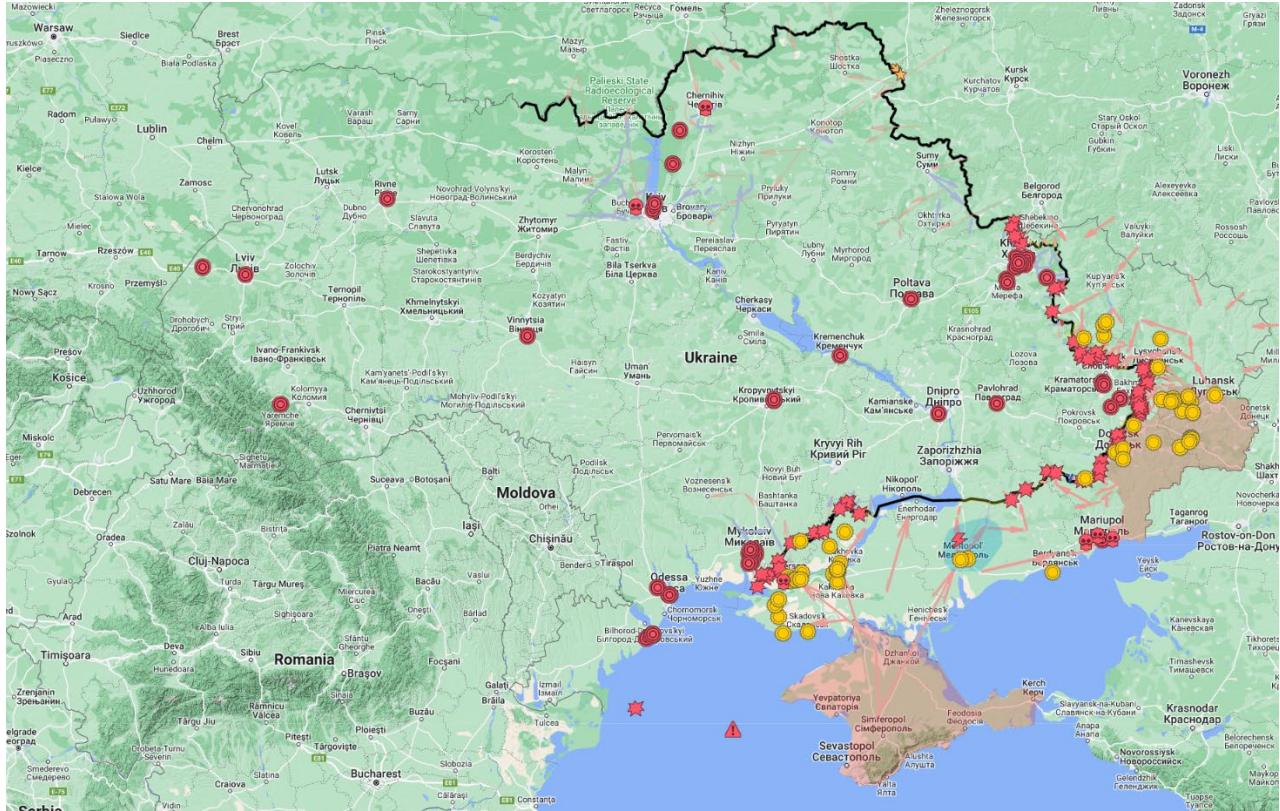


## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

We assess the following:

1. Ukraine has effectively severed all the Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) into Kherson city isolation up to 15,000 Russian troops.
2. Russian forces appear to have reached a culmination point on the Izyum axis and are struggling to maintain the current line of defense.
3. We maintain that Russian forces cannot assemble adequate combat strength to launch significant offensive operations in Ukraine.
4. It is unlikely that Russian forces will be capable of taking the initiative in the next three to six weeks anywhere in Ukraine.

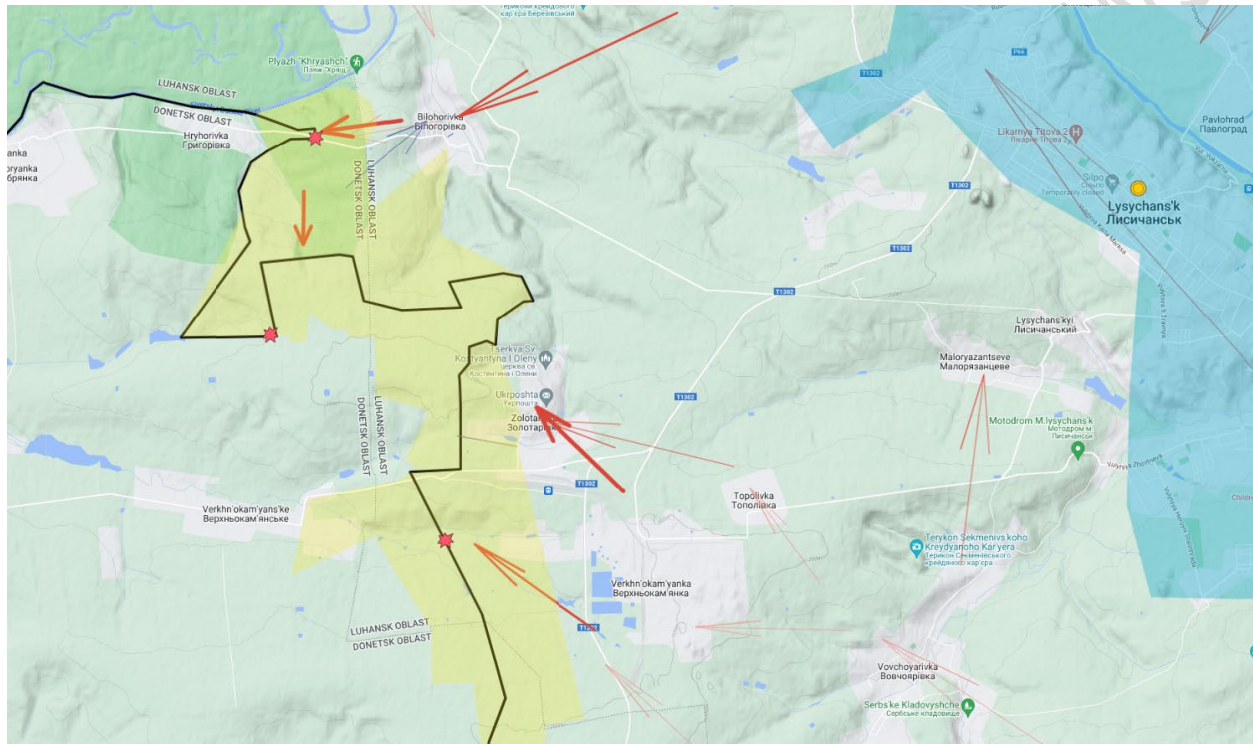
# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



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

# DONBAS REGION

## LUHANSK



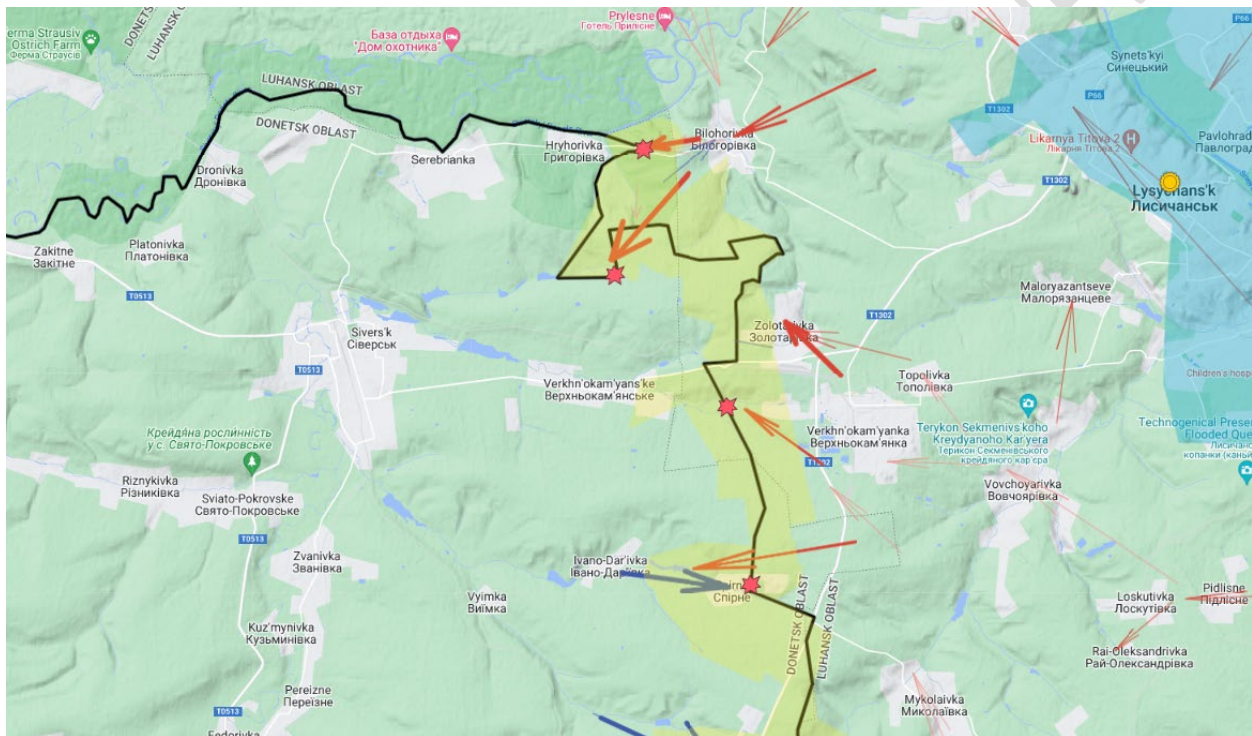
The line of conflict remains unchanged in Luhansk, with Russian forces contained along the administrative borders.

Russian forces attempted to advance on [Verkhnyokamyanske](#) from [Bilohorivka \[Luhansk\]](#) and were unsuccessful.<sup>1</sup> Russian forces remained stuck at the

<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/4604>

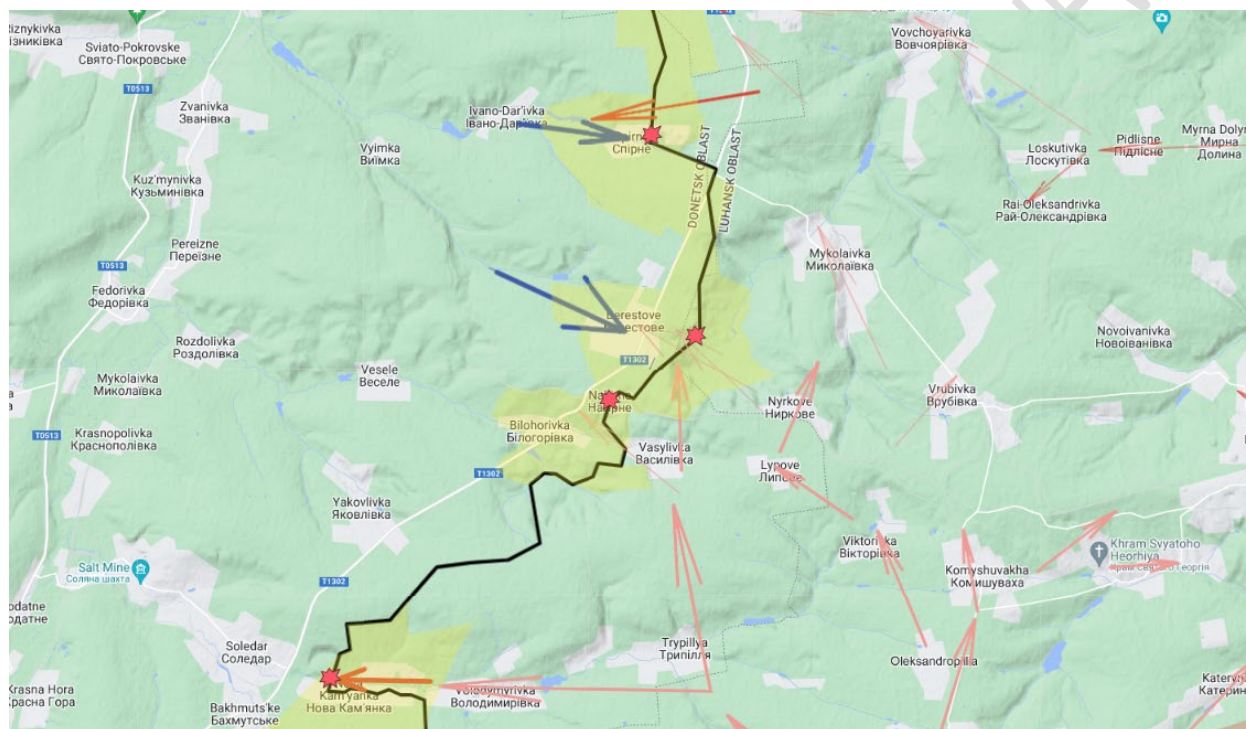
[Verkhnokamyanka oil refinery](#) and did not attempt any advances.

## SIVERSK-SLOVYANSK-KRAMATORSK-BAKHMUT DEFENSIVE LINE

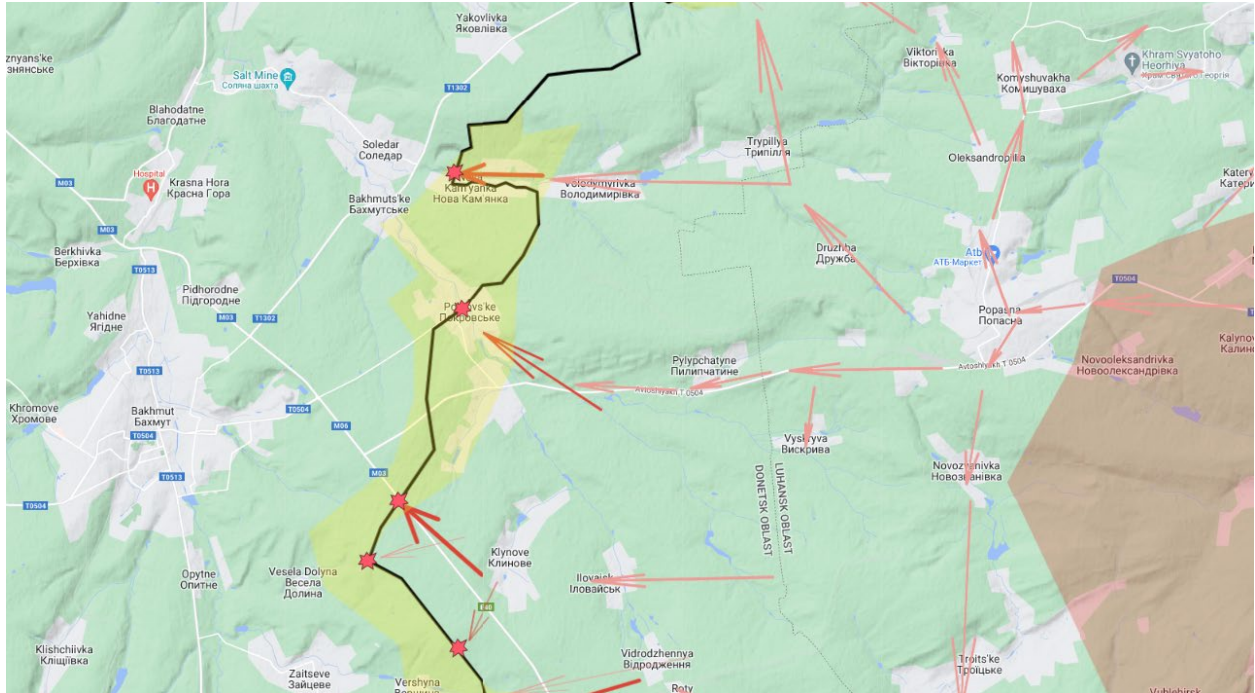


Russian forces did not attempt to advance on [Hryhorivka](#) or toward Siversk from any other settlement. They opted to fire artillery at the settlement, and the Russian air force attacked Ukrainian positions in [Serebrianka](#).

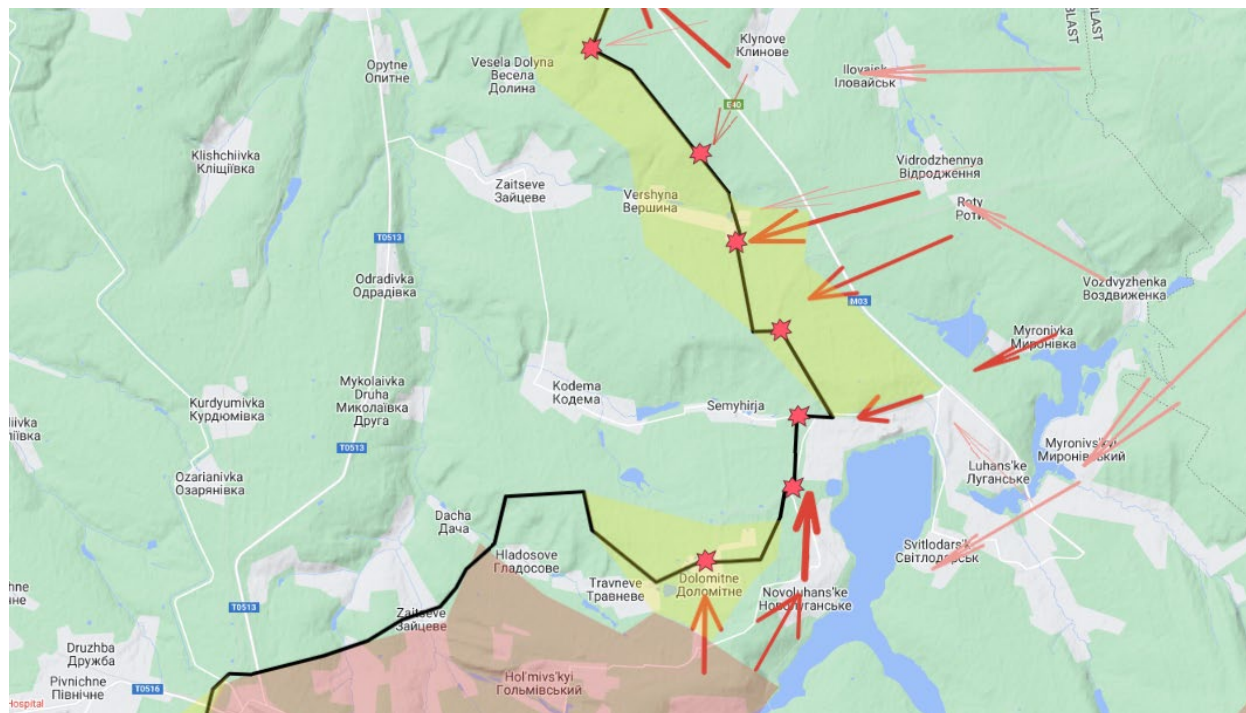
Russian and Ukrainian forces fought only skirmishes in [Spirne](#) and [Ivano-Darivka](#) with no change in territorial control. Ukrainian forces maintained control of [Berestove](#), but we have kept the settlement, and the region around it coded as contested.



East of [Soledar](#), fighting to control [Stryapivka](#) continued and was limited to small arms fire without armor support. Pro-Russian accounts claim they have taken complete control of [Pokrovske](#), while the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports that the settlement was hit by artillery fire and airstrikes.



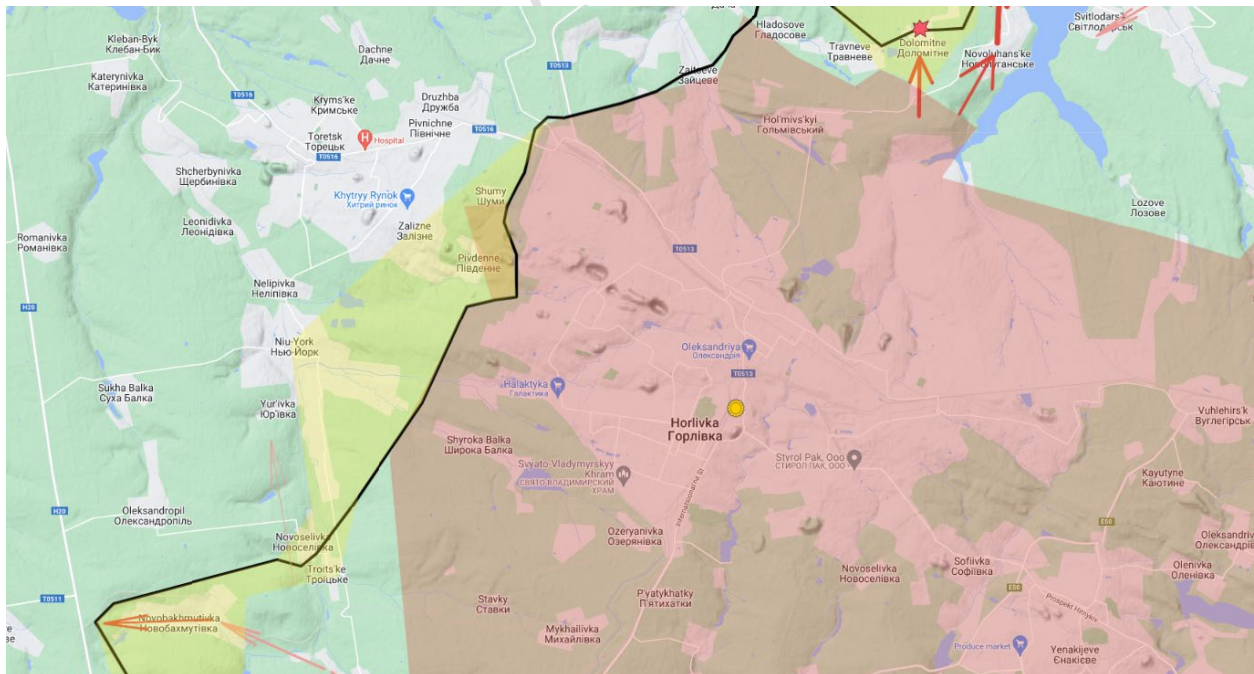
The fiercest fighting continues to be west of the Svitlodarsk bulge. Terrorists with the Imperial Legion fighting with the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group attempted to advance on Kodema and Semyhrija but were unsuccessful.



**ASSESSMENT:** Combat strength for Russian forces are at or near a culmination point. The inability to advance into Verkhokamyanske or Hryhorivka, coupled with the inability to hold Spirne or Berestove, indicates how weakened Russian forces are. We realize some will argue that Ukraine must be weak also only to have the ability to hold a frozen line of conflict. The Russian military is the second largest in the world, and the Ukrainian military was the 22nd at the start of the war. Holding Russian forces to a crawl while inflicting unsustainable casualties is far exceeding what most analysts expected at this stage of the war. It is worth repeating that you can't hold territory without experienced, well-trained, and motivated light infantry.

## SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA

There were reports that a factory in [Horlivka](#) was shelled or hit by rockets fired by HIMARS.<sup>2</sup> Numerous social media users claimed it was an ammunition depot that was hit, but there were no secondary explosions. A video at the scene of the fire implied the source was a natural gas line or other flammable gas due to the sound and nature of the fire. There aren't any videos showing an artillery barrage in the area, and the building did not show the type of damage that would support a rocket attack.



<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/23448>



**ASSESSMENT:** We cannot rule out an artillery strike, but this could be an ordinary industrial accident.

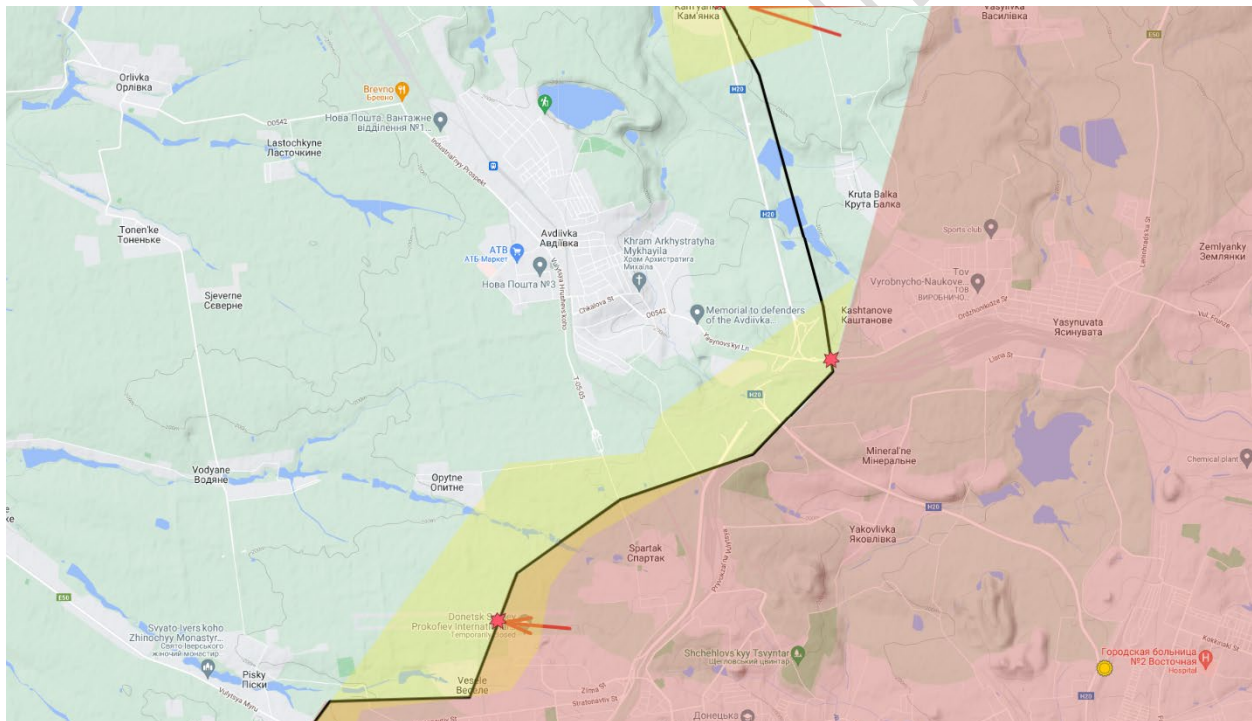
Russian troops and the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) separatist militia heavily shelled [Avdiivka](#), [Pisky](#), and [Marinka](#). Pictures from Donetsk showed Avdiivka was under a massive artillery barrage that reportedly lasted four to five hours.<sup>3</sup>



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<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/23376>

Pro-Russian sources claim that a Ukrainian ammunition depot in Avdiivka was destroyed.<sup>4</sup> [A video shows](#) a large explosion in the direction of the settlement but without secondary explosions or a large fire. The explosion is more consistent with a large Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) or cruise missile with a larger warhead.



Self-declared Luhansk People's Republic Interior Minister Vitaly Kiselev claimed in Telegram that this was part of a larger offensive and a direct assault on Avdiivka.<sup>5</sup> He

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/23360>

<sup>5</sup> [https://t.me/denazi\\_UA/16441](https://t.me/denazi_UA/16441)

labeled the activity as “preparation work” but was non-specific on the target of a ground offensive. FSB Colonel and wanted war criminal Igor Girkin also indicated that the operational pause was truly over, and the artillery bombardment represented a larger offensive.<sup>6</sup>

“Today, after several hours of artillery preparation, the remnants of the DPR infantry attacked it [Avdiivka] and the surrounding “bastions.”

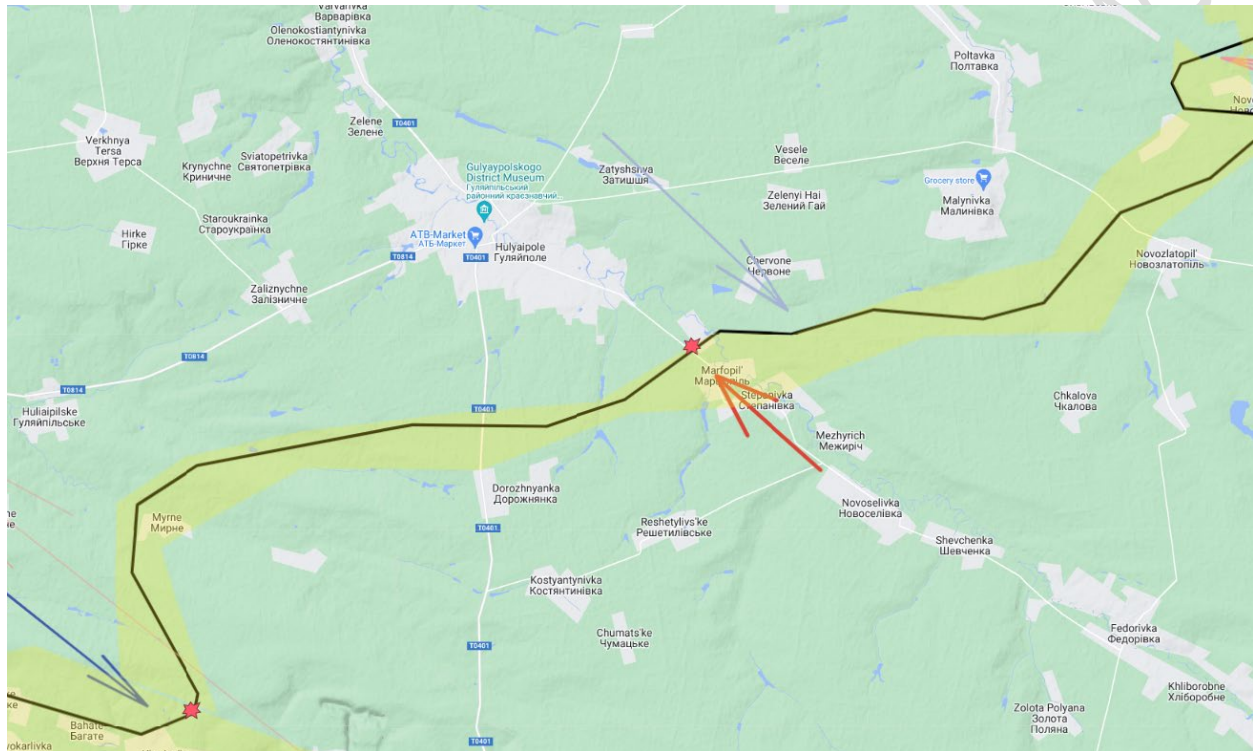
“Naturally, I wish our fighters maximum success. But even in the most favorable case, the frontline will only be moved to the next defensive line of the enemy. This is the same [for] Sloviansk – Kramatorsk – Druzhovka – Konstantinovka – Kurakhovo line. Hardly any deeper. Although for me personally, such success does not seem to be guaranteed at all.”

**ASSESSMENT:** This evening, social media reports from Donetsk and the surrounding area did not indicate ground fighting in the region. We coded parts of Avdiivka and Pisky as contested, but this represents uncertainty due to the fog of war versus a vote of confidence that an offensive has

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<sup>6</sup> <https://wartranslated.com/igor-girkin-the-battle-for-the-initiative-has-begun/>

begun. The late report from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that there weren't any ground assaults toward Avdiivka.<sup>7</sup>



It was reported that Russian forces attacked in the direction of [Hulyaipole](#), but the origination point was unspecified. Russian forces destroyed the road north of [Dorozhnyanka](#) in June and built a defensive line, so in our assessment, the spoiling attack likely came from the [Novoselivka](#).

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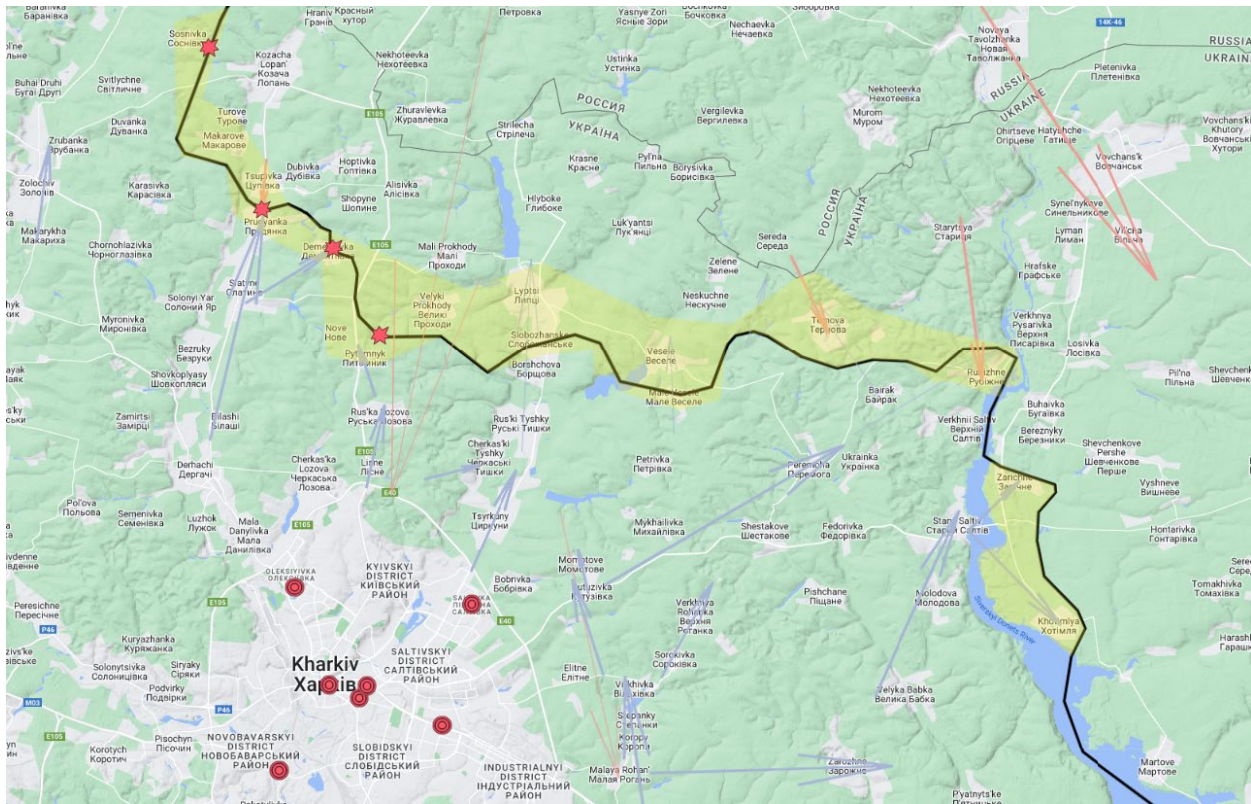
<sup>7</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine](#)

**ASSESSMENT:** The Russian Ministry of Defense ruled out a direct assault on Avdiivka in May due to the superior defensive positions provided by the massive coke factory in the western part of the city. The strategy was to encircle Ukrainian forces in the region and force a surrender or destroy the force in place. The troops attempting to achieve this encirclement were repositioned to the Severodonetsk salient in June, where they suffered extremely heavy losses. Additionally, incremental gains in Pisky to the south and Novokalynove and Kamyanka to the north were lost over the last 45 days. It is unlikely a direct assault on Avdiivka will be successful. The settlement has been fortified for eight years and is supported by artillery with excellent fire control.

## **KHARKIV REGION**

### **NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV**

Neither belligerent launched any ground offensives north of Kharkiv. There were positional battles and reconnaissance in force near [Sonivka-Kozacha Lopan](#), [Dementiivka](#), and [Tsupivka](#). The line of conflict remains frozen with Russian artillery, rockets from MLRS, cruise missiles, and SRBMs prioritizing civilians and civilian infrastructure.

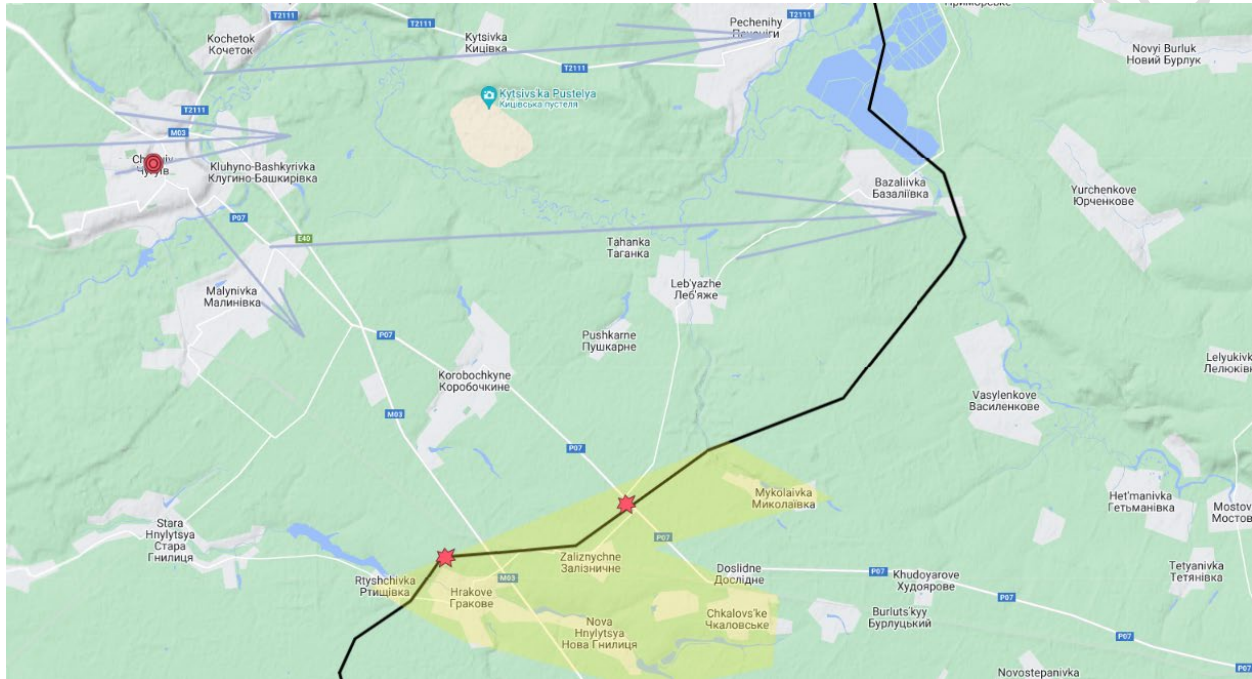


Two S-300 anti-aircraft missiles used in a ground-to-ground role struck the center of Kharkiv. There wasn't any significant damage or casualties from the strike.<sup>8</sup>

Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged artillery and rocket fire from MLRS along the entire line of contact northwest, north, and northeast of Kharkiv.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/28/7360565/>

The city of [Chuhuiv](#), 65 kilometers southeast of Kharkiv, was shelled, with Russian forces targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.<sup>9</sup>



**ASSESSMENT:** Both belligerents seem willing to accept the current line of conflict. If Ukrainian forces could advance another five kilometers in a line roughly from [Makarove](#) to [Vesele](#) [Kharkiv 50°10'22.7"N 36°32'00.2"E], it would provide significant relief for civilians in Kharkiv city. This line is roughly the northernmost extent of the Ukrainian counteroffensive northwest and north of Kharkiv.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/28/7360581/>

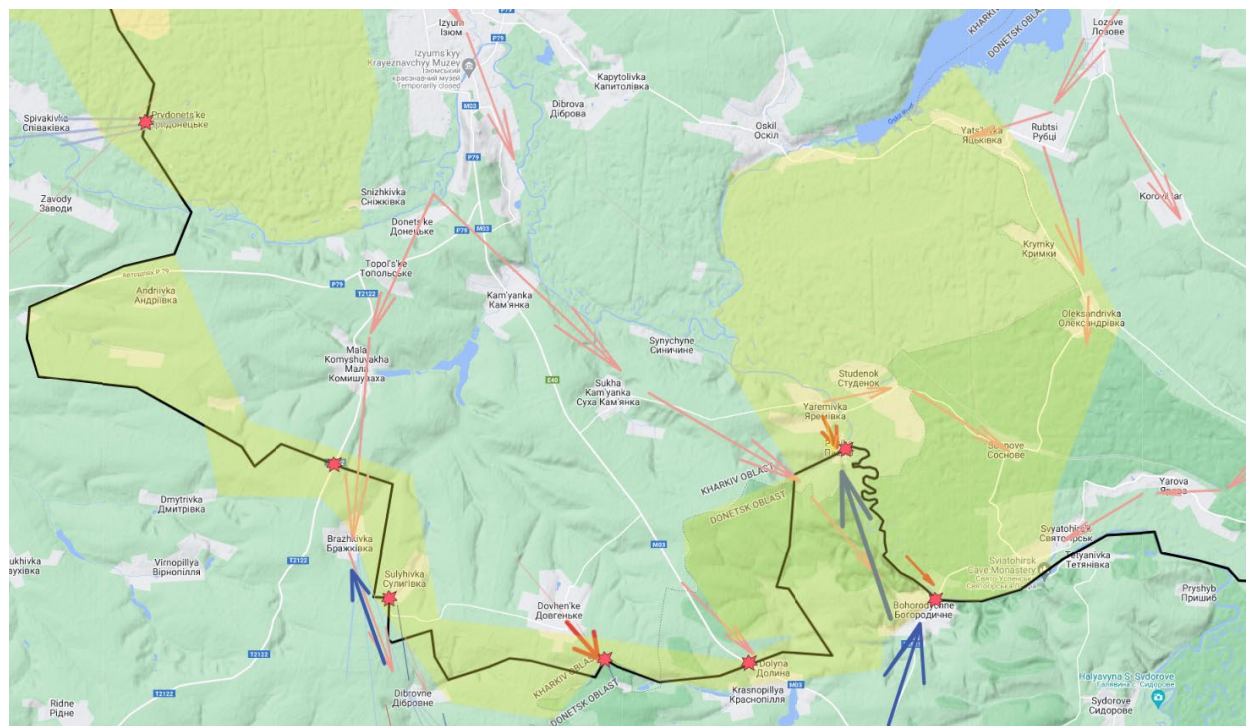
## IZYUM AXIS

Russian forces, which beyond artillery, have taken up defensive positions south of Izyum, may have reached a point of functionally destroyed.

On July 26, we reported unconfirmed reports that Russian forces withdrew from [Yatskivka](#) and [Studenok](#). The information came from the exiled Borova City Council, a highly accurate source of information. We additionally reported, with satellite imagery, that the bridge between [Yarmivka](#) and [Studenok](#) had been destroyed between July 21 and July 25.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Ukrainian troops had advanced to [Pasika](#) and attacked a Russian reconnaissance unit in the area. The settlement is 6 kilometers north of the previously known line of conflict. The General Staff also reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on [Bohorodychne](#), were unsuccessful, and retreated.





**ASSESSMENT:** Based on reports by Rybar and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, we had previously assessed that Russian troops had been pushed to the north bank of the Siverskyi Donets and did not occupy Bohorodychne. Ukrainian troops could advance on Pasilka taking forest roads west of Bohorodychne, with the Siverskyi Donets River a natural barrier on their eastern flank. The July 25 report that Russian forces had retreated from Studenok, and visual evidence that the bridge to Studenok was destroyed, would have weakened Russian positions, the ability to gain additional ground support, and have more than one GLOC.

We have coded the entire area as contested but moved the line of conflict to Pasilka based on the reports from July 25 – 27.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine also reported that the settlement of Brazhivka had been shelled. The settlement has been mentioned in reports with increasing frequency, and based on the available information, we moved the line of conflict north and coded the settlement contested.

There are unconfirmed reports that Russian forces have been pushed out of [Svyatohirsk](#) and [Yarova](#), but there isn't any additional information to support the claims. We have kept the region Russian controlled. We had previously moved the region of uncertainty/contested to just west of Svyatohirsk.

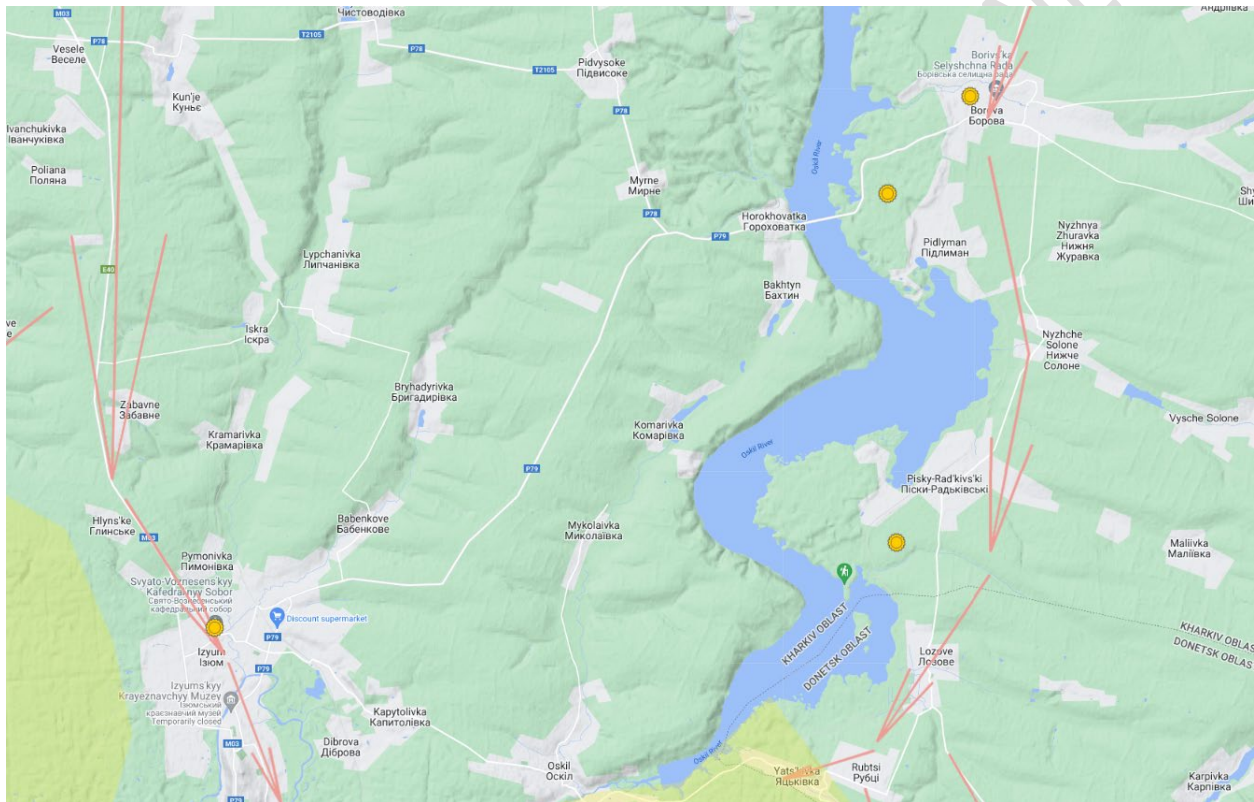


The exiled City Council of [Borova](#) reported that almost all Russian troops had left the settlement, with only a small security force remaining.<sup>10</sup> Area residents have inspected the former barracks of the retreating Russian forces and found them filled with appliances and other household goods stolen from homes within the area. A picture showed the center of the town was empty. Only a Russian flag showed any indication of occupation.

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<sup>10</sup> [https://t.me/borova\\_gromada/1117](https://t.me/borova_gromada/1117)

The council claims that Borova came under artillery fire from the south, suggesting it came from Pidlyman, which we believe is still under Russian control. One civilian was killed.



**ASSESSMENT:** We are uncertain what this indicates. It would be unusual for Russian forces to shell Borova if they continued to control the settlement. The nearest suggested Ukrainian position is 37 kilometers away, out of the range of all but Excalibur shells fired from NATO provided 155mm artillery. It would require moving equipment to the

ragged edge of the line of conflict and high risk of the materiel and ammunition being destroyed by counterbattery for a low-value target.

We find it very unlikely that Russian troops are completely withdrawing from Izyum, and even more unlikely, they are abandoning the GLOC on the east bank of the Oskil River. If Russian forces are withdrawing from Borova, this also raises questions on the status of the Russian stronghold in [Horokhovatka](#) on the west bank of the Oskil River. If Russian forces withdrew from [Yatskivka](#), the GLOC from Oskil to Bohorodychne might have been abandoned. That still doesn't answer the most critical question – why?

It is our assessment that this is less of a counteroffensive and more of a target of opportunity due to the southern front of the Izyum axis starting to collapse. We had assessed for weeks that if any axis reached a point where combat force strength was destroyed, a collapse would come quickly on that axis. Russian forces fought to capture Izyum since the war started, losing hundreds of military vehicles and thousands of lives, and committed numerous atrocities while setting conditions for an advance on Slovyansk. A withdrawal or even a partial collapse of the Izyum axis will put Slovyansk and Kramatorsk out of reach.

At the moment, there isn't enough intelligence to explain why things are happening and the reasons behind the changes along the axis.

Russian forces shelled Chepil and Husarivka.

## **DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION**

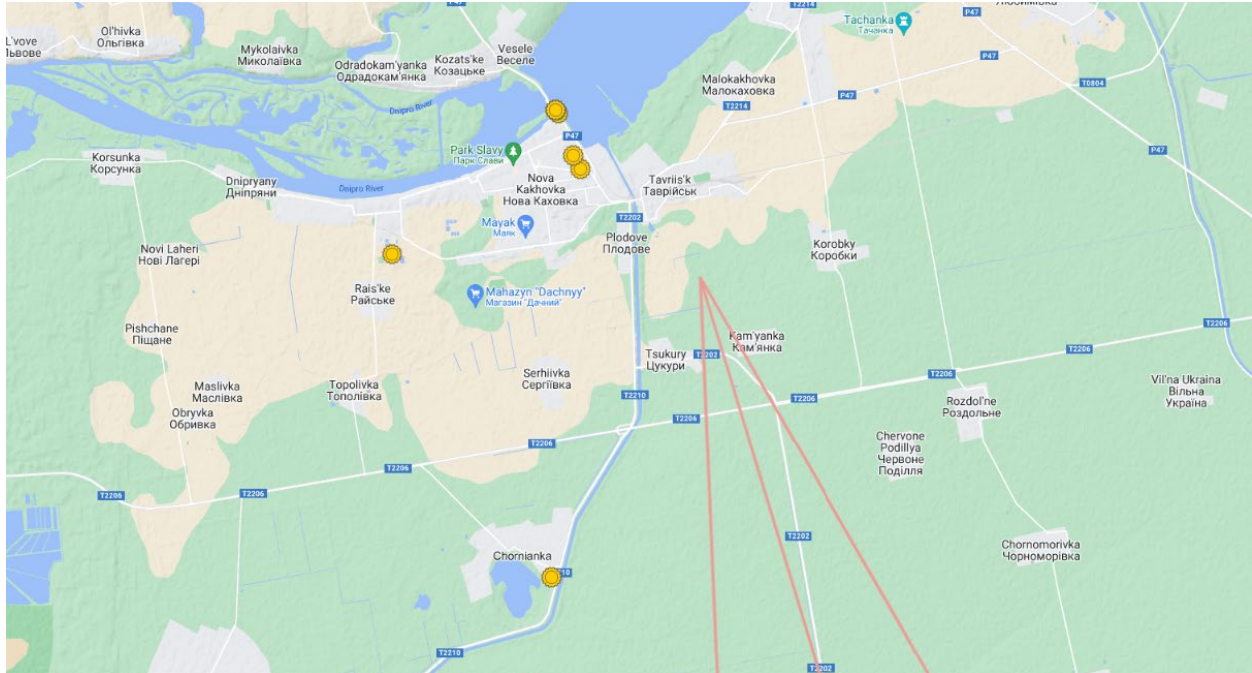
### **KHERSON**

Russian barracks in [Chornyanka](#) were struck in a rocket attack fired by HIMARS.<sup>11</sup> Russian forces staying at the football stadium (soccer for Americans) and the buildings across the street practiced inadequate Operational Security (OPSEC) in mid-July, sharing pictures of the base.<sup>12</sup> We cannot provide a damage assessment.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1552337036878675968](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1552337036878675968)

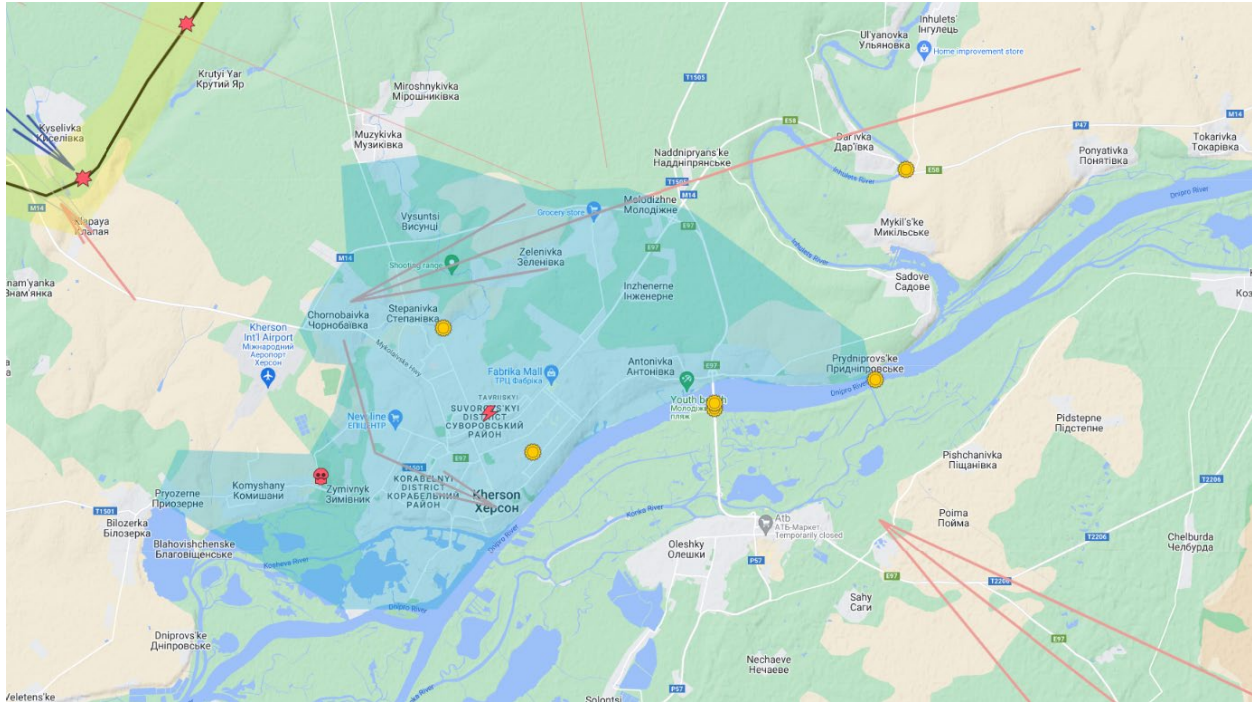
<sup>12</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1552338497507393538](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1552338497507393538)



Ukrainian forces disabled the [Antonovskiy bridge](#), [Antonivskyy Zaliznychnyy Mist Railroad bridge](#), and the [Nova Kakhovka bridge](#) that goes over the Kahovka Hydro Electric Dam. The Antonovskiy and Antonivskyy Zaliznychnyy Mist Railroad bridges are irreparable until after the war.<sup>13</sup>

Additionally, Russian forces built a pontoon bridge over the Inhulets River at [Darivka](#) and have attempted to camouflage it with foliage.

<sup>13</sup> [https://twitter.com/bayraktar\\_1love/status/1552228012384460800](https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1552228012384460800)



To bypass the Antonovskiy Bridge, A ferry was established using a bridging tug to tow four pontoon bridge sections. The "ferry" is hugging the damaged bridge as a shield and combines civilian and military traffic.

**ASSESSMENT:** In our direct assessment, this is using civilians as human shields to prevent attacks on the makeshift ferry.

Russian combat engineers continue to state they intend to build an 800-meter-long pontoon bridge across the Dnipro in a region where Ukraine holds fire control. Work to establish a temporary railroad bridge has also started.



**ASSESSMENT:** These efforts are unlikely to be successful beyond the short term and have a high probability of meeting a catastrophic end. The camouflage on the Darivka bridge is unlikely to fool anyone, and rockets from HIMARS and Excalibur shells don't require visual guidance to strike a target.

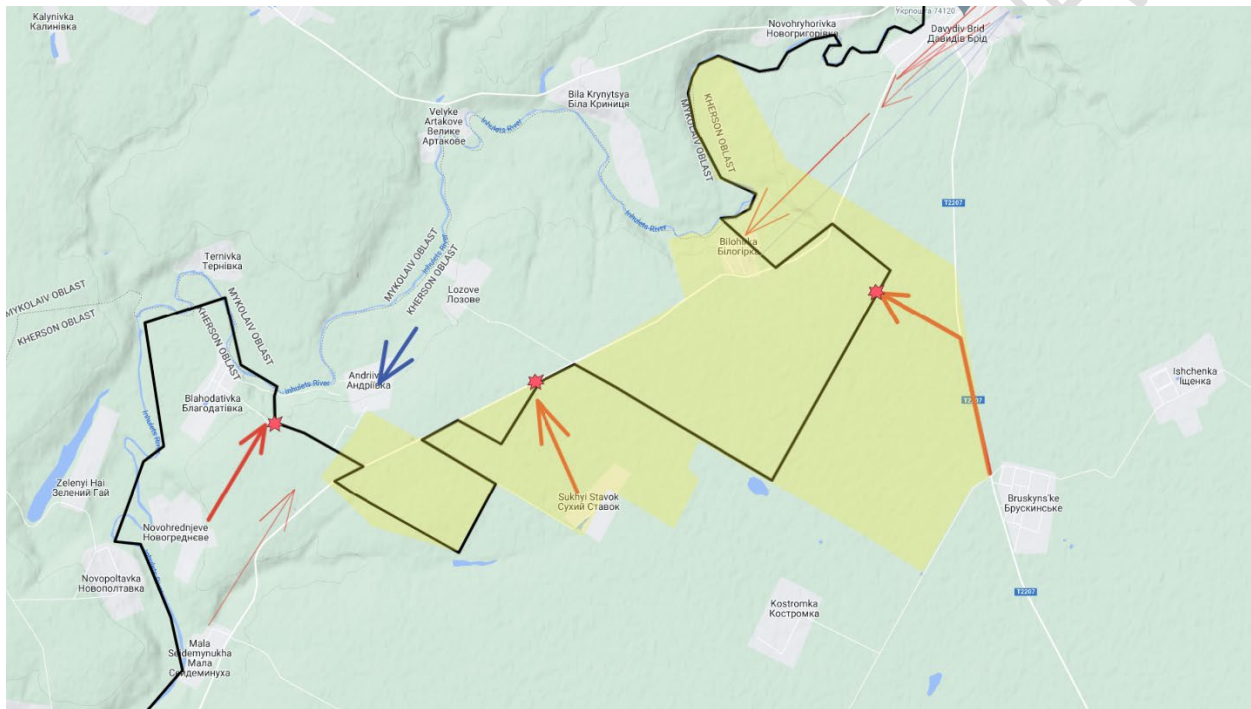
Russian forces west of the Dnipro are fundamentally cut off from every critical GLOC to maintain fuel, food, medicine, troop movements, replacement equipment, and ammunition supply levels. There are no easy fixes or resolutions to this situation. Helicopter transports won't be able to haul diesel fuel, antiaircraft rockets for Buk, S-300, and S-400 systems, Grad, or Smerch rockets. Certainly not in a meaningful quantity to support Russian forces now trapped on the river's wrong side.

The UK Ministry of Defense said the Ukrainian counteroffensive was "gathering momentum" and acknowledging the bridgehead on the east bank of the Inhulets River.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62328682>

The only other reports of combat in Kherson are on the Inhulets River bridgehead. Russian forces attempted to advance on [Andriivka](#) [Kherson] from Novohrednjjeve and were unsuccessful. Russian forces attempted to advance on [Bilohirka](#) from Bruskinske and were also unsuccessful.



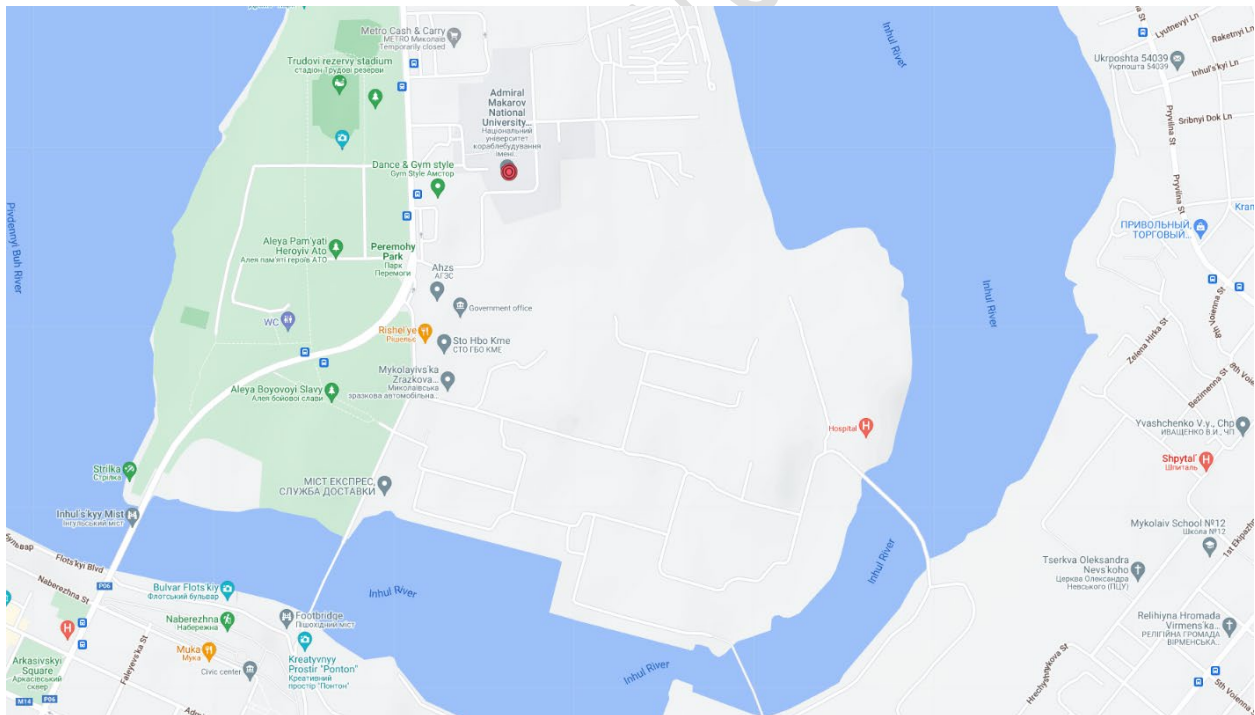
**ASSESSMENT:** We have moved the line of conflict further east in Bilohirka but still consider the settlement contested.

Ukrainian leadership is maintaining tight OPSEC in Kherson, and the Russian Ministry of Defense historically

has not discussed territorial losses beyond framing defeats as a “gesture of goodwill.”

## MYKOLAIV

S-300 anti-aircraft missiles hit the city of Mykolaiv in a ground-to-ground capacity. A school was virtually destroyed, and the ship-building university was damaged. A security guard was injured in the attack.<sup>15</sup>



<sup>15</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/28/7360577/>

## CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

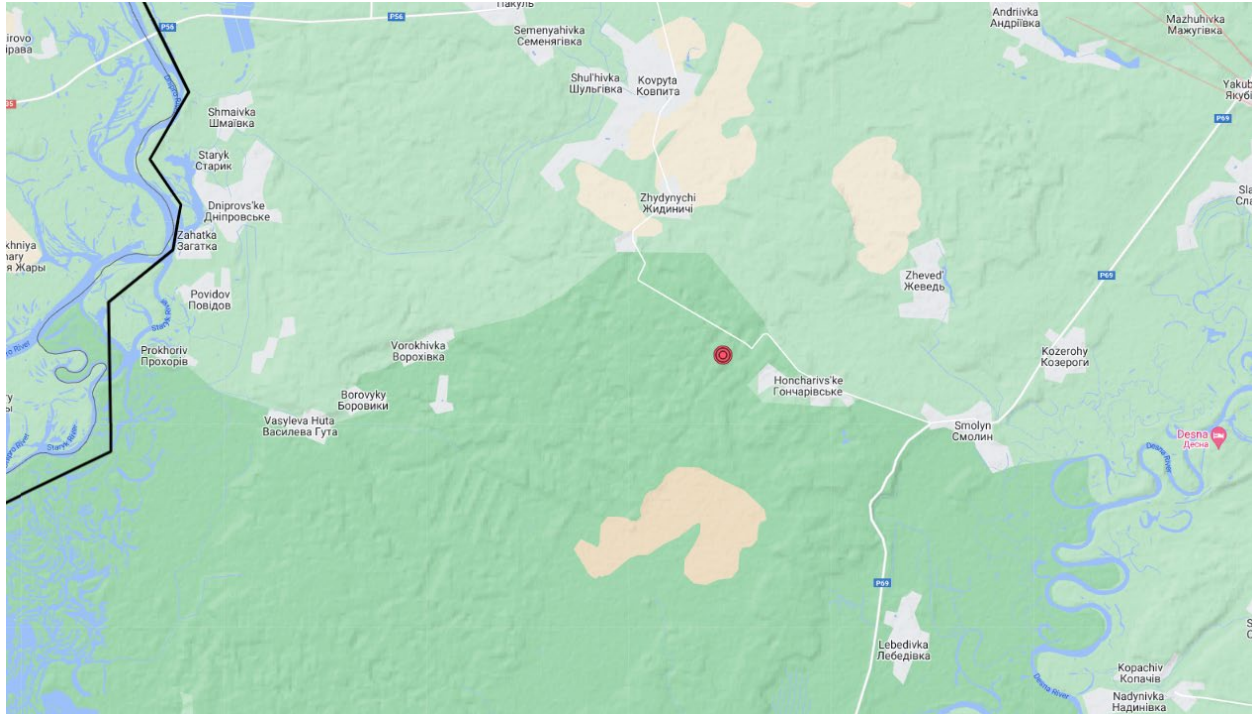
On July 27, Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Head of the Sumy Oblast Military Administration, reported mortars and artillery struck the settlements of [Esman](#) and [Seredyna-Buda](#). There was no damage and no casualties.

Operational Command North reported that up to 20 Iskander-M missiles were fired from Belarus into Ukraine, with nine landing near [Honcharivs'ke](#) in the Chernihiv Oblast.<sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> The missiles landed in the forest west of the settlement. There were no reports of injuries or significant damage.

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<sup>16</sup> [Operational Command North of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/07/28/7360606/>

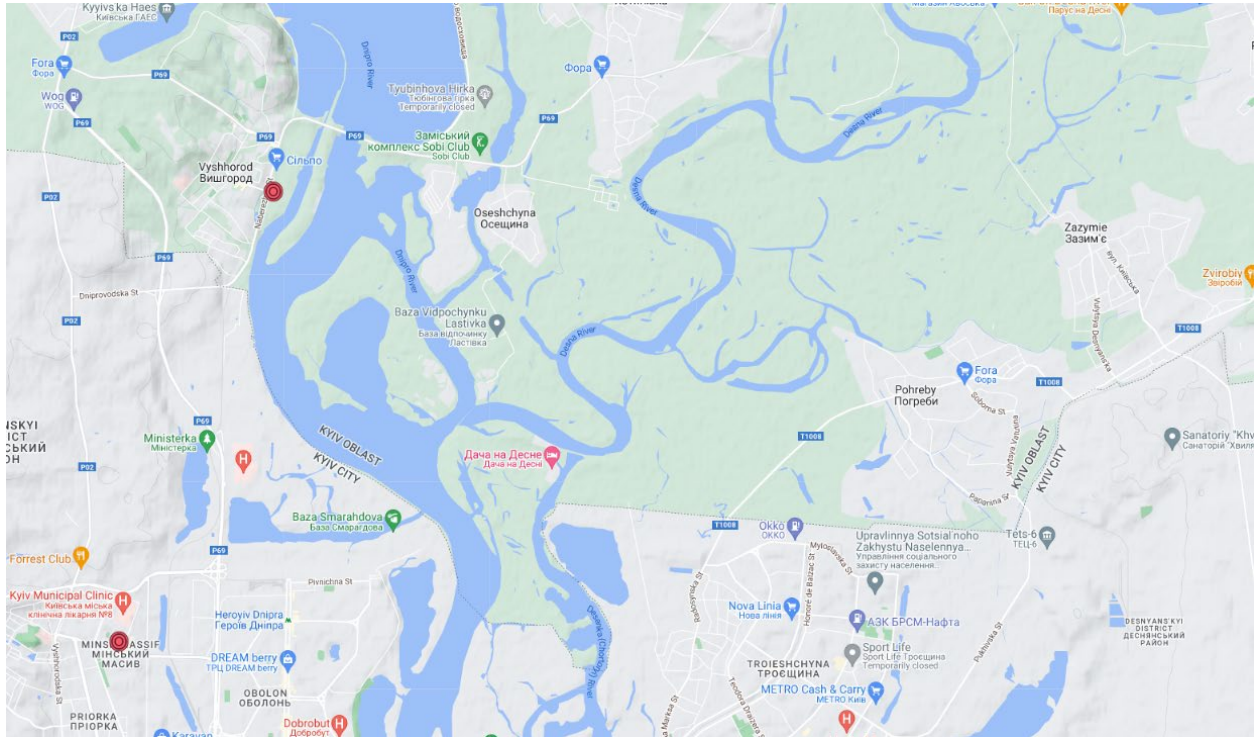


Additionally, the settlement of Mykolaivka [Chernihiv] was shelled by Russian forces firing from across the international border.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

## KYIV REGION



At least three Iskander-M missiles fired from Belarus struck an industrial facility in [Vyshhorod](#), northwest of Kyiv. Two large plumes of smoke were visible over the settlement. The missiles were fired from the Gomel area of Belarus. There were no casualties reported.



## **BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION**

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

## **WEST REGION**

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

## **THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht announced that Germany had approved the sale of 100 PzH 2000 self-propelled 155mm howitzers (SPG) with software modifications to Ukraine. The SPGs will be manufactured and not pulled from existing assets. Assembly has already started.

North Macedonia ratified Sweden and Finland's membership in NATO. Each member nation must approve membership, with Turkey representing a possible stumbling block.

The Philippines government scrapped a deal to buy 16 Mi-17 helicopters from Russia.<sup>19</sup> The \$227 million purchase was canceled due to concerns of running afoul of global sanctions.

United States Congressional Representative Elissa Slotkin reported that 75,000 Russian soldiers had been killed or wounded in battle in Ukraine since February 24.<sup>20</sup> If the

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<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1552447231860838402>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/russian-casualties-ukraine-surpass-75000-us-intelligence-1728598>



figure is accurate, 39% of the original force committed to Ukraine has become a casualty of war. Even more alarming, the active duty core of the Russian military is 350,000 soldiers – over 20% have been killed or wounded in combat. Congressperson Slotkin did not indicate if this was regular military only or included PMCs, contract volunteers, and separatists with the Luhansk (LNR) and Donetsk (DNR) People's Republic.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken was preparing to discuss a U.S. proposal to release WNBA player Brittney Griner and former Marine Paul Whelan in exchange for a convicted Russian arms dealer.<sup>21</sup>

The United Kingdom has sanctioned self-styled journalist Graham Phillips, describing his work as "media content that supports and promotes actions and policies which destabilize Ukraine and undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty, or independence of Ukraine."<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/27/russia-ukraine-live-updates.html>

<sup>22</sup> [CNN](#)

Phillips had interviewed Ukrainian soldier Aiden Aslin on April 19, where Aslin appeared to be under duress and showed signs of being tortured. The video, which received millions of views, was removed from YouTube. Aslin is a sworn member of the Ukrainian armed forces since 2018 and is considered a prisoner of war under the Geneva Convention.

"Treating any prisoner of war in this manner is illegal, and the interviewer Graham Phillips is in danger of prosecution for war crimes," said British MP Robert Jenrick on April 20.

## **GEOPOLITICAL**

Turkish Minister of Defense, Hulusi Akar, announced Tuesday that a joint coordination center for Ukrainian grain exports under a United Nations-brokered deal would open in Istanbul on July 27.<sup>23</sup> No other details were given by the Kremlin or the State Department, citing confidentiality in the negotiations.

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/26/7143894/>

## **ECONOMIC**

The rouble was unchanged at an “official” exchange rate of 60 for \$1.

Oil prices continue to trade between \$95 to \$110 a barrel. WTI rose to \$99 a barrel, and Brent crude jumped to \$108. RBOB United States wholesale gasoline traded at \$3.44 a gallon (91 cents a liter).

Chicago SRW wheat futures were steady at 80 cents a bushel for September 2022 delivery.