



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



August 22, 2022



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 180

It has been 3,098 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

Near Bakhmut, fighting continues on the outskirts of Soledar. Russian forces have been unable to advance past the KNAUF-GIPS sheetrock plant.

Russian forces continued their attacks on Zaitseve, 10 kilometers southeast of Bakhmut. Two advances were attempted, a storming action and a reconnaissance in force assault; neither was unsuccessful.

In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces only attempted an advance on Kodema but failed to dislodge Ukrainian defenders.

North of Avdiivka, DNR separatists attempted to advance on Krasnohorivka but did not gain any new territory.

Separatist troops made another attempt to advance on Pervomaiske but failed to improve their tactical positions.

The village of Nevelske came under attack by DNR separatists, who could not find a way to move through the exposed, artillery-blasted fields. Skirmishes in the area of Pisky continued.

An ammunition depot in Rozdolne was hit by rockets fired from HIMARS.

South of Donetsk, Russian forces continue to advance further into Novomykhailivka without success.

On the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces attempted to advance on Zolota Nyva again but did not move the line of conflict.

There are reports from reliable sources that Ukrainian forces have launched an offensive in the area of Polohy.

There is growing evidence that Russian forces in Izyum are experiencing shortages of artillery munitions, having to use antiaircraft guns for direct fire.

Rockets fired by HIMARS hit the Antonovsky Bridge in Kherson. There are unconfirmed reports that the strike occurred as a Russian column of supply trucks carrying ammunition was on the bridge.

An S-300 anti-aircraft missile fired by Russian forces to attack Mykolaiv failed after launch and crashed in Russian-controlled Zelenivka, near Kherson.

Ukrainian forces accused Russian troops of shelling the thermal plant in Enerhodar. A video showed the water feed lines damaged, and a man slumped over in the driver seat of a taxi with shrapnel damage.

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Marhanets was hit by artillery fire wounding two people. Nikopol was not attacked with Grad rockets for the first time in more than six weeks.

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported a border skirmish involving light arms fire at an unspecified border village in the Shostka district.

Two cruise missiles were fired at the previously disabled Zatoka Bridge southwest of Odesa.

The United States Department of State has urged all Americans to evacuate Ukraine due to specific intelligence of Russian plans to launch widescale attacks on civilians and government centers through the upcoming week.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

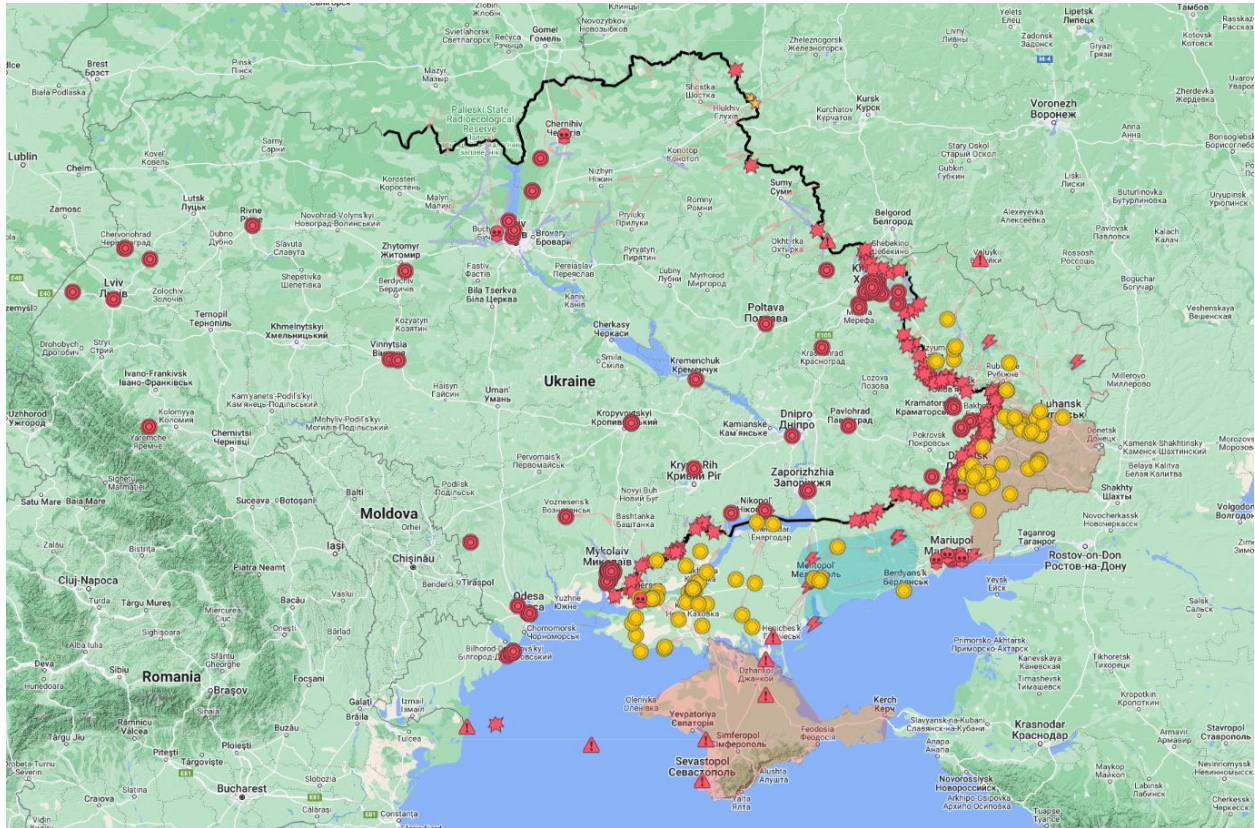
We assess the following:

1. There wasn't any reported ground combat in northeast Donetsk, Kharkiv, Izyum, or Kherson, which may be due to Russian staffing and supply challenges or a standdown order due to looming more significant attacks.
2. The United States Department of State warning from the embassy in Kyiv validates our assessment that there is a very high chance of multiple and significant punitive strikes against Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure planned for the week of August 22.
3. There is growing evidence that Russian forces on the Izyum axis are suffering from ammunition shortages,

hampering their ability to hold the current lines of defense.

4. We maintain the battlefield is frozen across Ukraine, and time is running out for both belligerents to launch brigade or army-sized offensives.
5. The initiative will go to the first belligerent who can make brigade or larger-sized offensives on any front.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

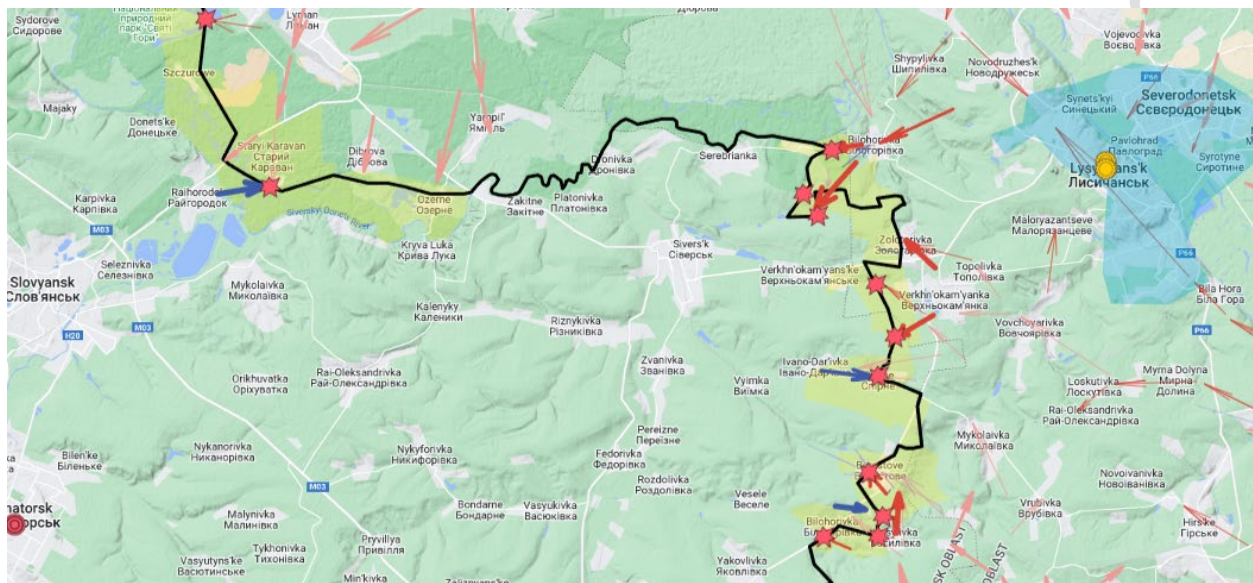


Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we have moved the "flags" into the category of "Archived Offensives." 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 [Kherson](#), 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>

DONBAS REGION

SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



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

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

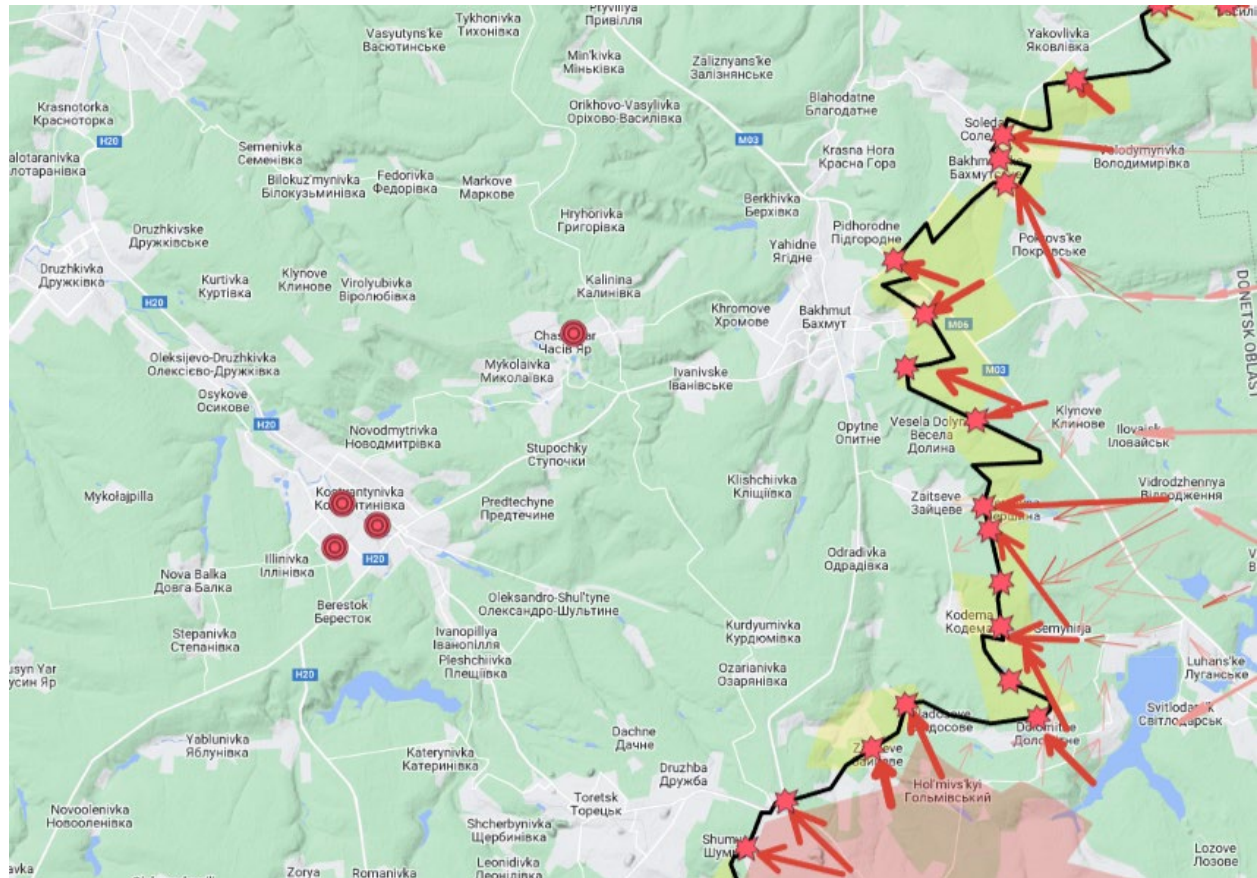
There wasn't any significant combat activity in this region. Siversk and the surrounding settlements and Bilohorivka [Donetsk] were shelled.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 17

On August 13, we assessed there would be continued sporadic fighting in northeast Donetsk, but we did not anticipate renewed significant combat operations. That assessment was tested this week. The 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) is combat ineffective and incapable of carrying out offensive operations even with the support of Russian artillery.

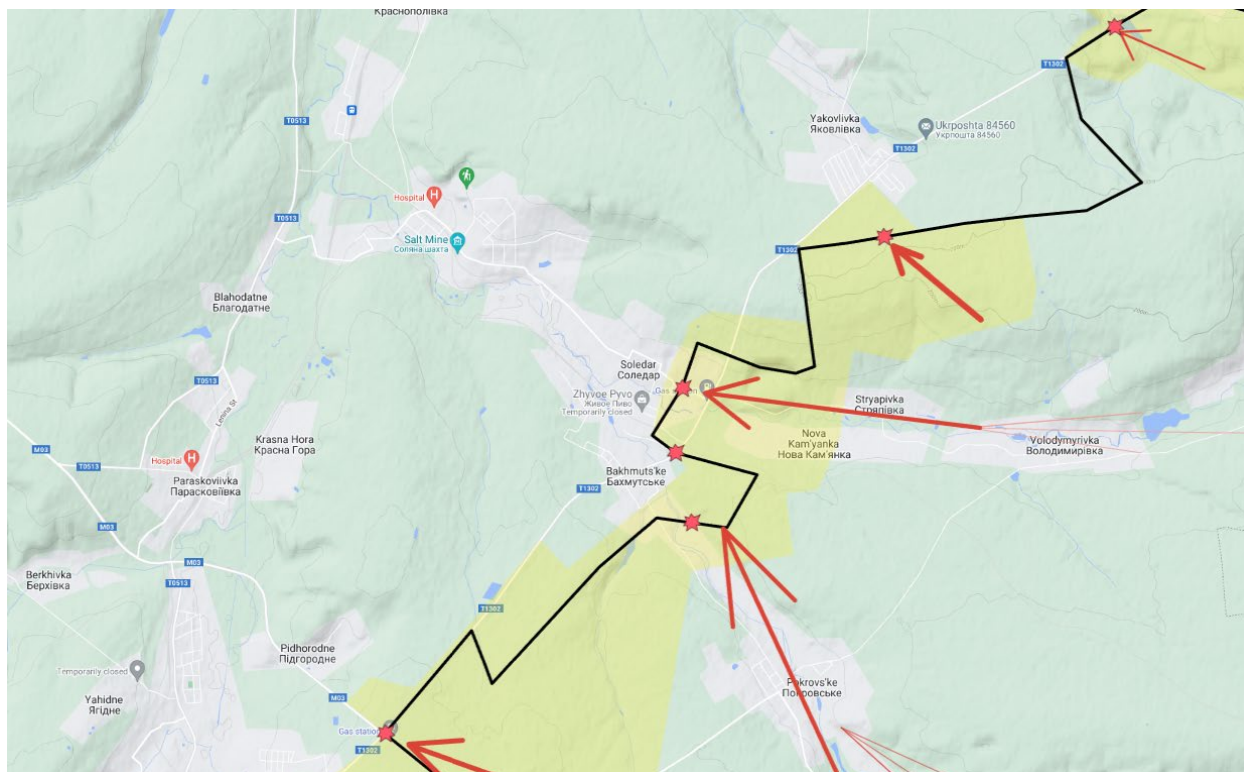
The destruction of the command center for the 2nd Army Corps in Lysychansk and the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group headquarters in Popasna may have degraded decision-making capabilities. We maintain that any additional fighting in this region before mud season will be positional, spoiling attacks, and probes.

BAKHMUT



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

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



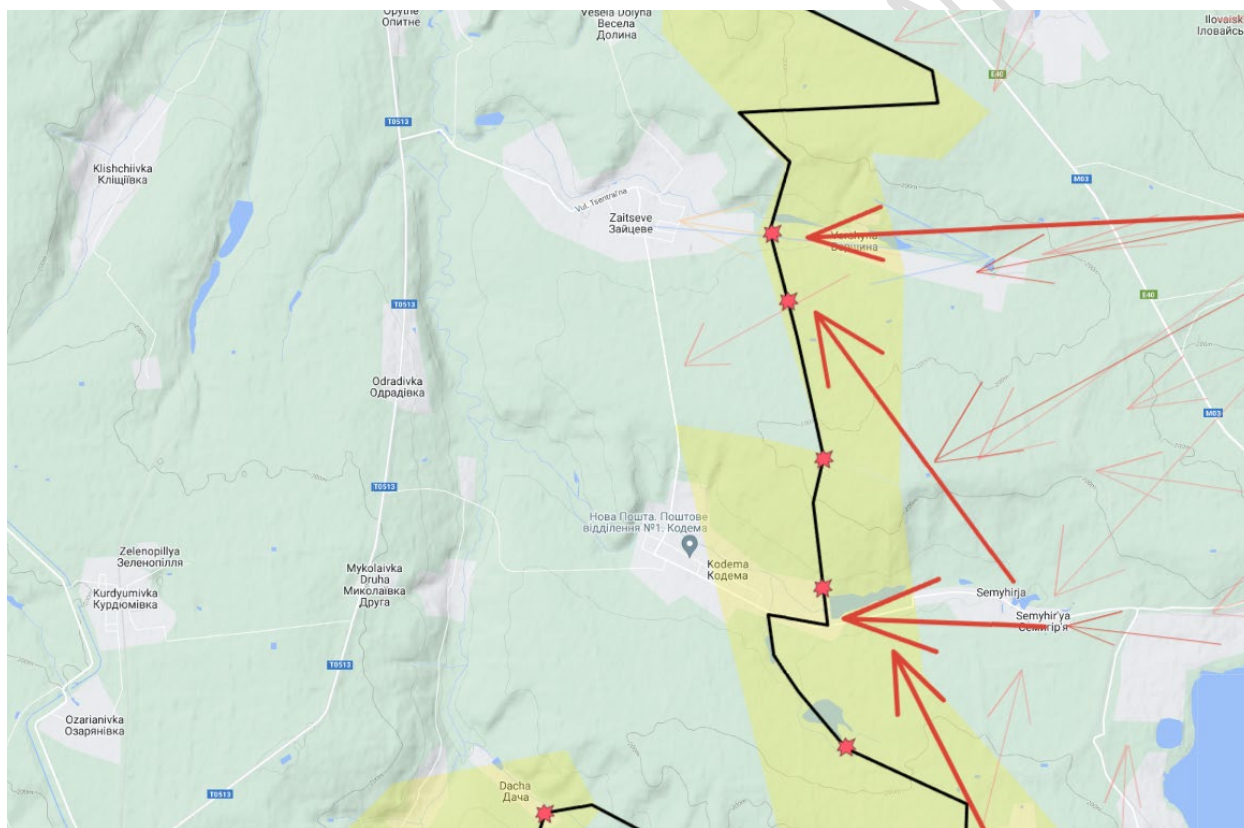
PMC Wagner Group and elements of the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) attempted to advance beyond the KNAUF-GIPS sheetrock factory on the eastern outskirts of [Soledar](#).^{1 2} Russian state media agency Zveda [released a video](#) claiming that Russian forces were storming Soledar.³ We analyzed and geolocated the content of the video. The video was shot over multiple days based on weather conditions. A Russian tank advancing from the north toward the gypsum mine is destroyed in the early

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

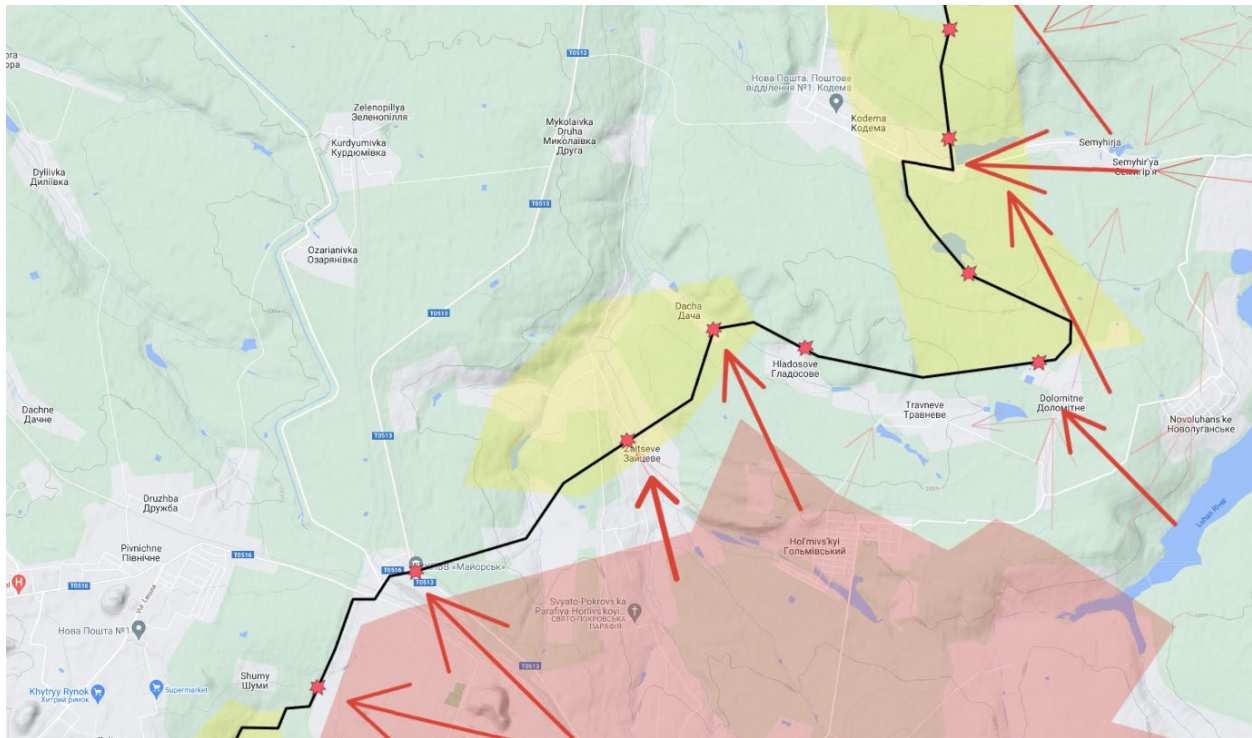
² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM](#)

³ <https://twitter.com/Nikolai11449196/status/1561739467555315712>

part of the video. The video shows a squad of indistinguishable soldiers walking through a street. Another clip showed a Ukrainian defensive position being shelled at the gypsum mine. Pro-Russian social media accounts claimed this content was proof of Russian troops within Soledar, despite the reporters and the supporting military units filming in the exact location from last week.



Russian forces continued their attacks on [Zaitseve](#), 10 kilometers southeast of Bakhmut. Two advances were attempted, a storming action and a reconnaissance in force assault; neither was unsuccessful.



In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces only attempted an advance on [Kodema](#) but failed to dislodge Ukrainian defenders. The settlements of Mayorsk and Shumy were shelled.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 8

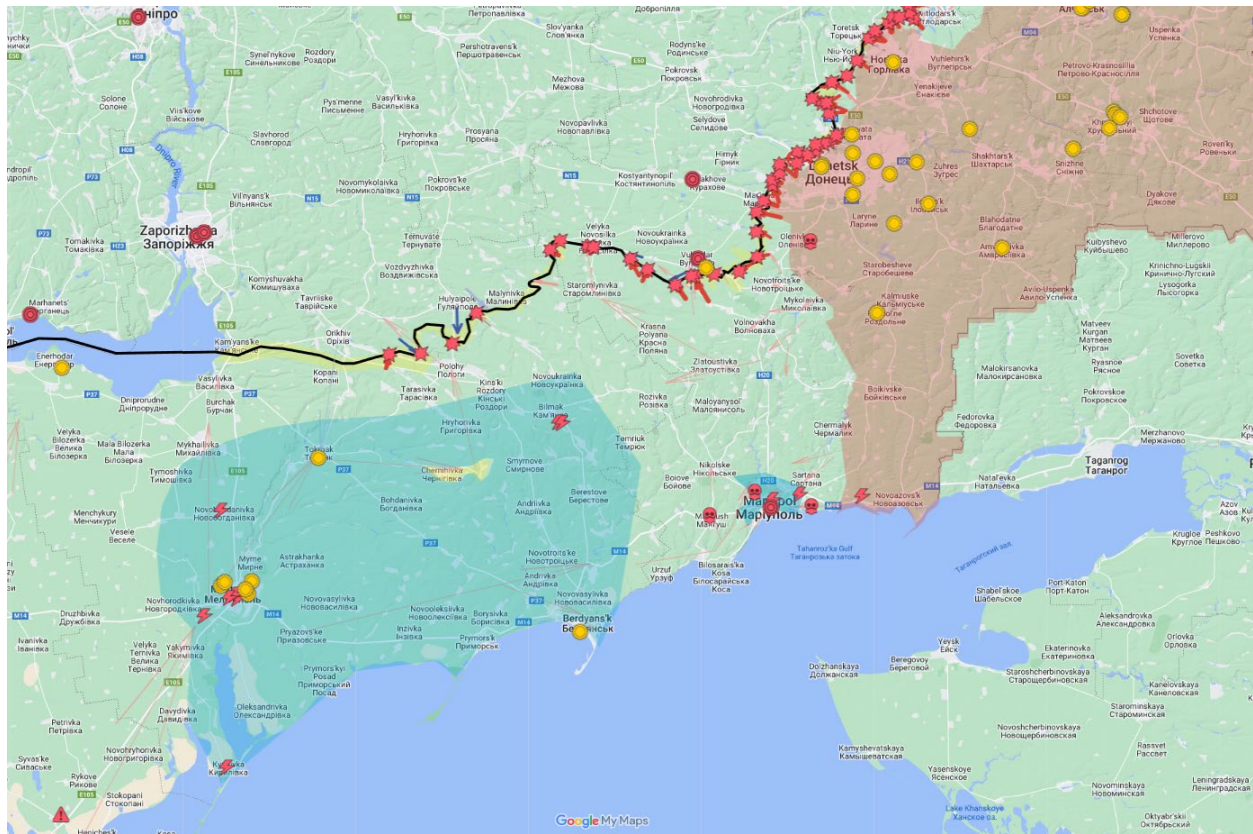
In simplest terms, grunts with guns take territory, and grunts with guns hold territory. The Russian military doesn't have enough well-trained and well-equipped grunts with guns to support multiple offensive operations

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

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

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

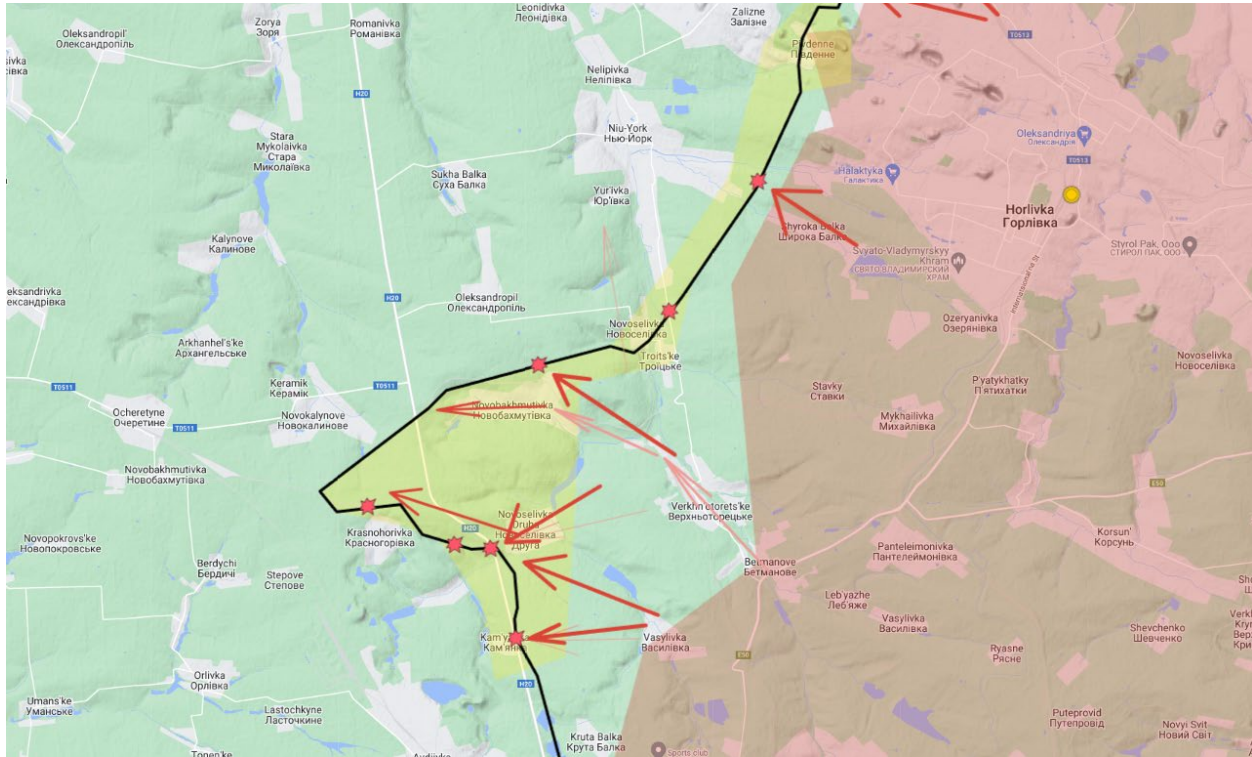
SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



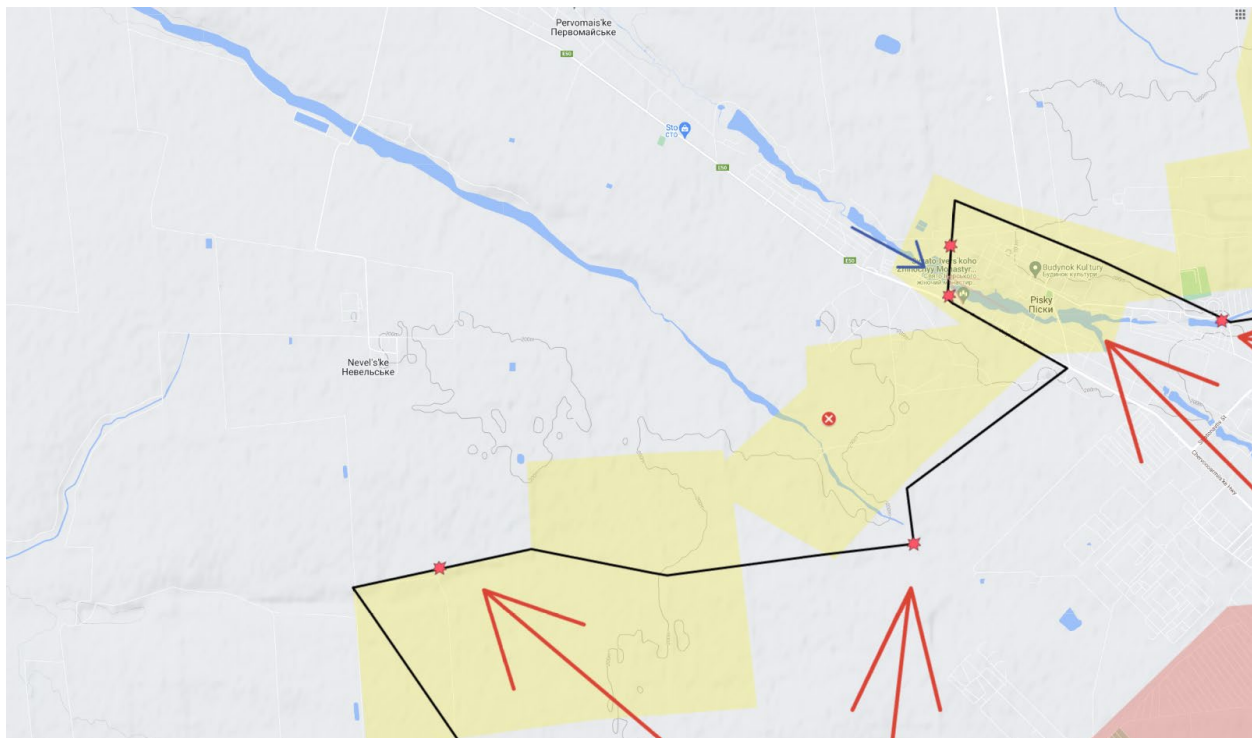
Russian Objective: Capture the Donetsk oblast to its administrative borders before August 31, push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dniester River

Ukrainian Objective: Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics, and prepare for or convince

Russian forces Ukraine is preparing for a widescale counteroffensive



North of Avdiivka, DNR separatists attempted to advance on [Krasnohorivka](#) but did not gain any new territory.



Separatist troops made another attempt to advance on [Pervomaiske](#) but failed to improve their tactical positions. The village of [Nevel'ske](#) came under attack by DNR separatists, who could not find a way to move through the exposed, artillery-blasted fields.

Avdiivka and Optyne were shelled, but no attempts to advance into the settlements were made. Skirmishes in the area of [Pisky](#) continued, with Russian state media [releasing](#)

[a video](#) on August 22 showing continued fighting on the E-50 Ring Road.^{4 5}

ASSESSMENT: The 1st Army Corps made their first advance on Pisky on July 22. Despite multiple claims by the Russian Ministry of Defense, DNR military leaders, and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov that Pisky had been captured, Russian forces are still fighting for control.

[Marinka](#) was also shelled and hit by airstrikes, but there were only skirmishes within the southern part of the city.

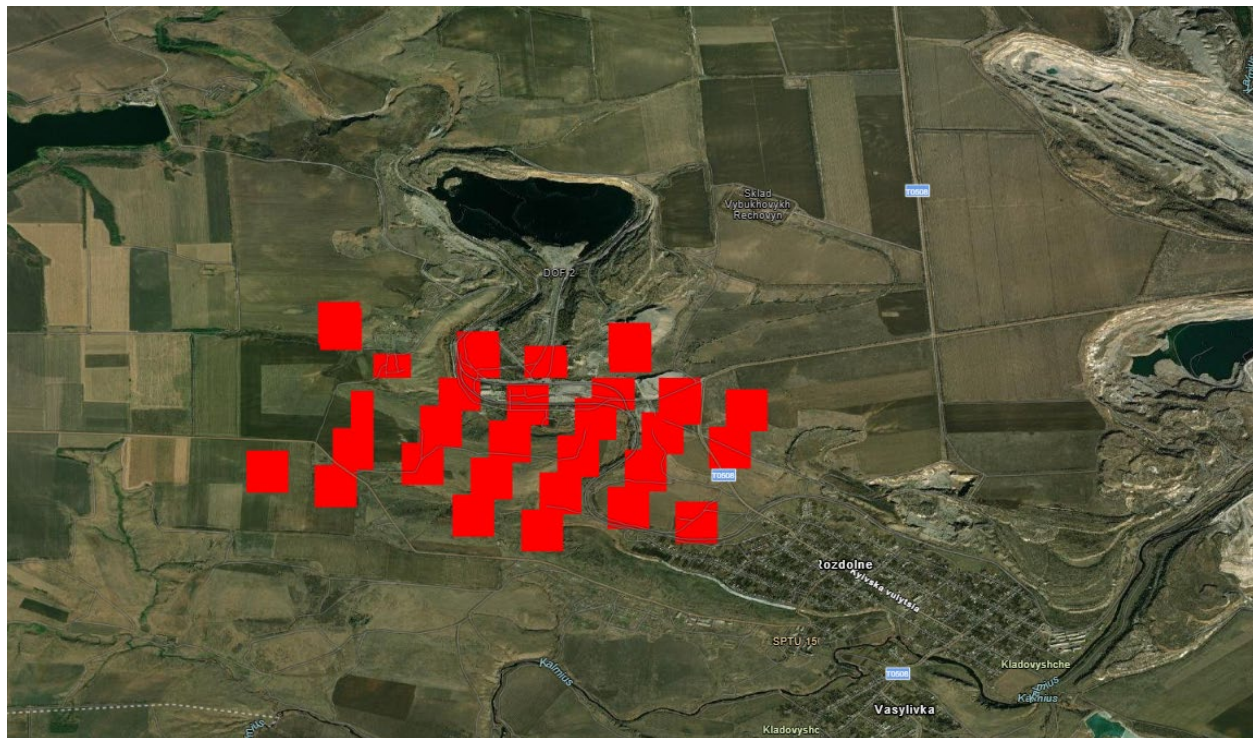
An ammunition depot in Rozdolne was hit by rockets fired from HIMARS.^{6 7} The fire and secondary explosions created the largest NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) heat anomaly signature we have documented since the first HIMARS strike on June 25.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1561774650971111425>

⁵ <https://t.me/rybar/37581>

⁶ https://twitter.com/auto_glam/status/1561866495856181248

⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/27308>



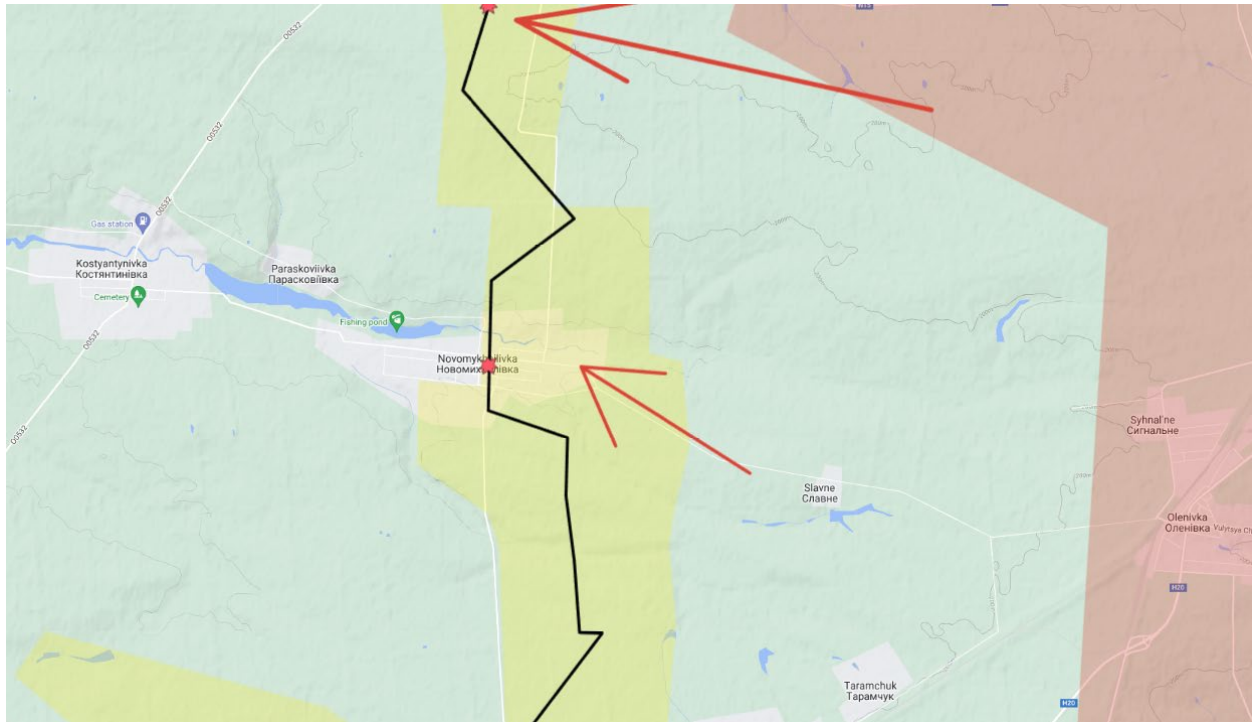
The Donetsk ammunition depot, destroyed in a HIMARS attack on August 21, was also a barracks and transit hub. In an operational security failure, the base and its assets were featured [in a video shared on social media](#) on August 8.⁸ The video revealed the location was the headquarters for the Pyatnashka battalion formed in 2014.⁹ There are unconfirmed reports of a significant number of casualties.

10

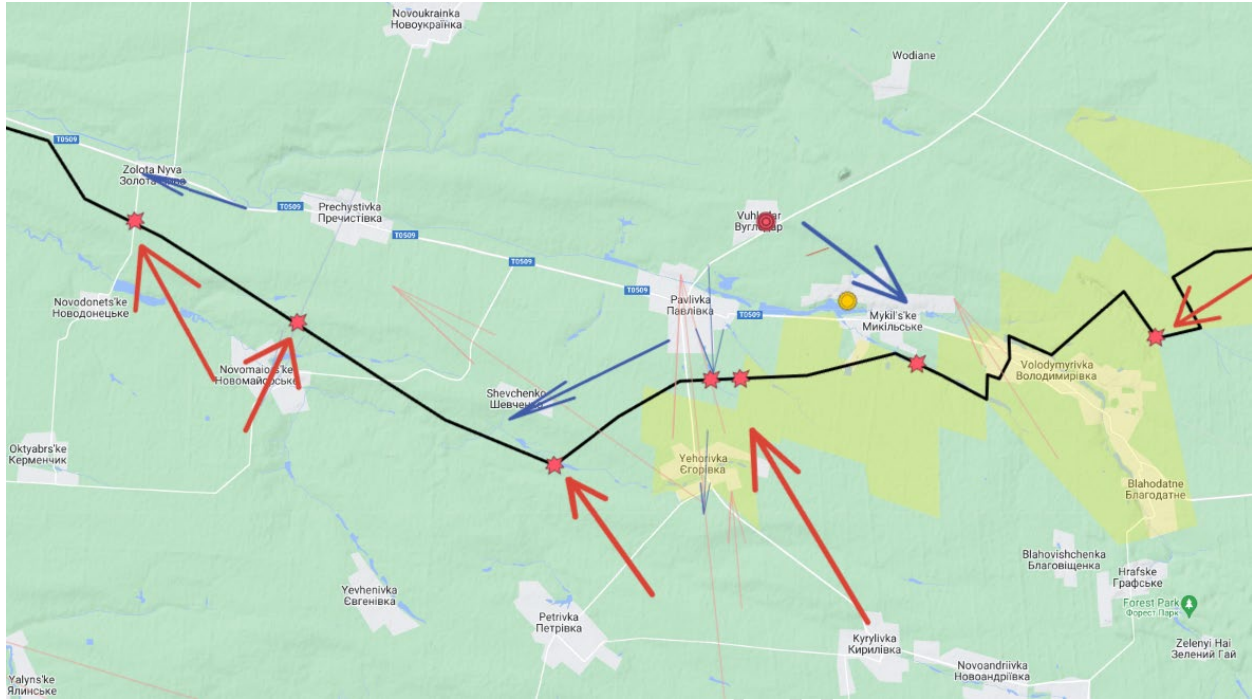
⁸ <https://twitter.com/herooftheday10/status/1556307778616102915>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/herooftheday10/status/1556307778616102915>

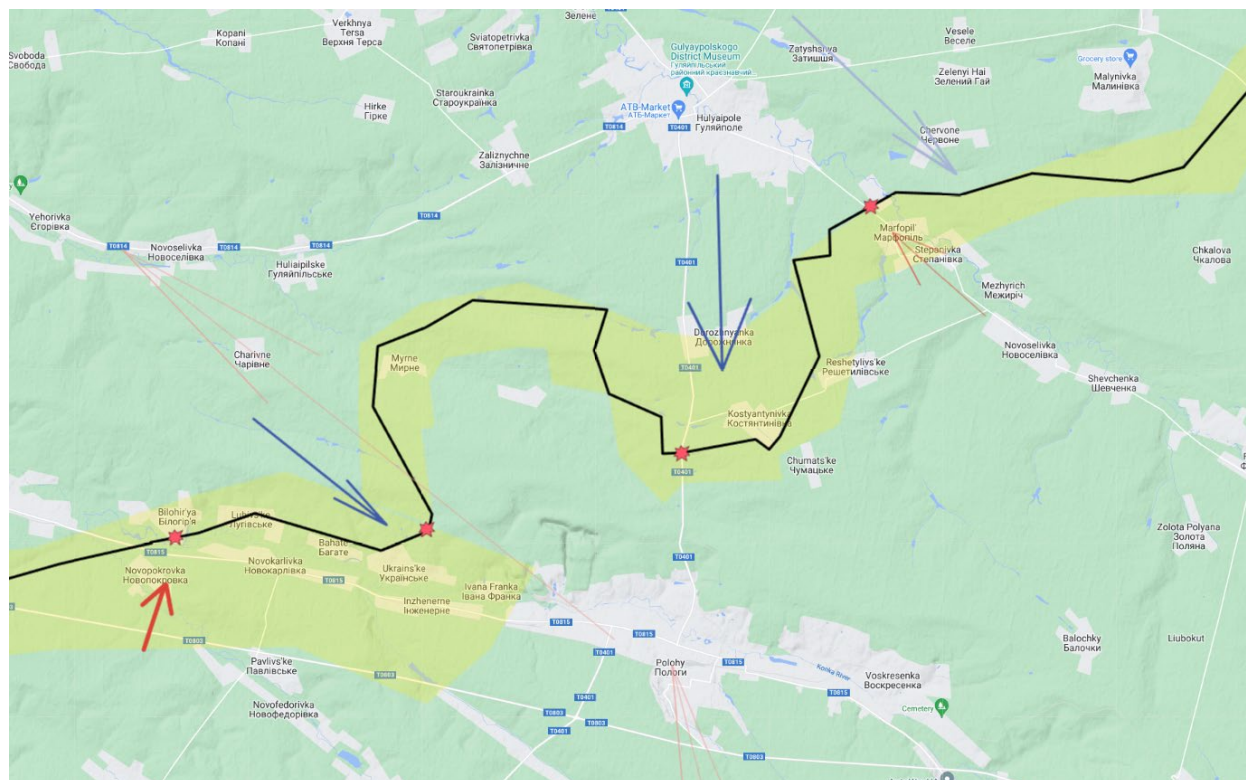
¹⁰ <https://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-himars-pyatnashka-donetsk-russia-1735551>



South of Donetsk, Russian forces continue to advance further into [Novomykhailivka](#) without success.



On the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Zolota Nyva](#) again but did not move the line of conflict.



There are reports from reliable sources that Ukrainian forces have launched an offensive in the area of [Polohy](#).

ASSESSMENT: The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has reported Kostyantynivka [Zaporizhzhia] has been subject to artillery and airstrikes since July 27. We're one of the last analyst organizations to map the settlement as under Ukrainian control. We've moved the line of conflict south but consider the settlement contested.

Ukrainian and Russian forces exchange artillery, rockets fired from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), and indirect tank fire west of [Velyka Novosilka](#).

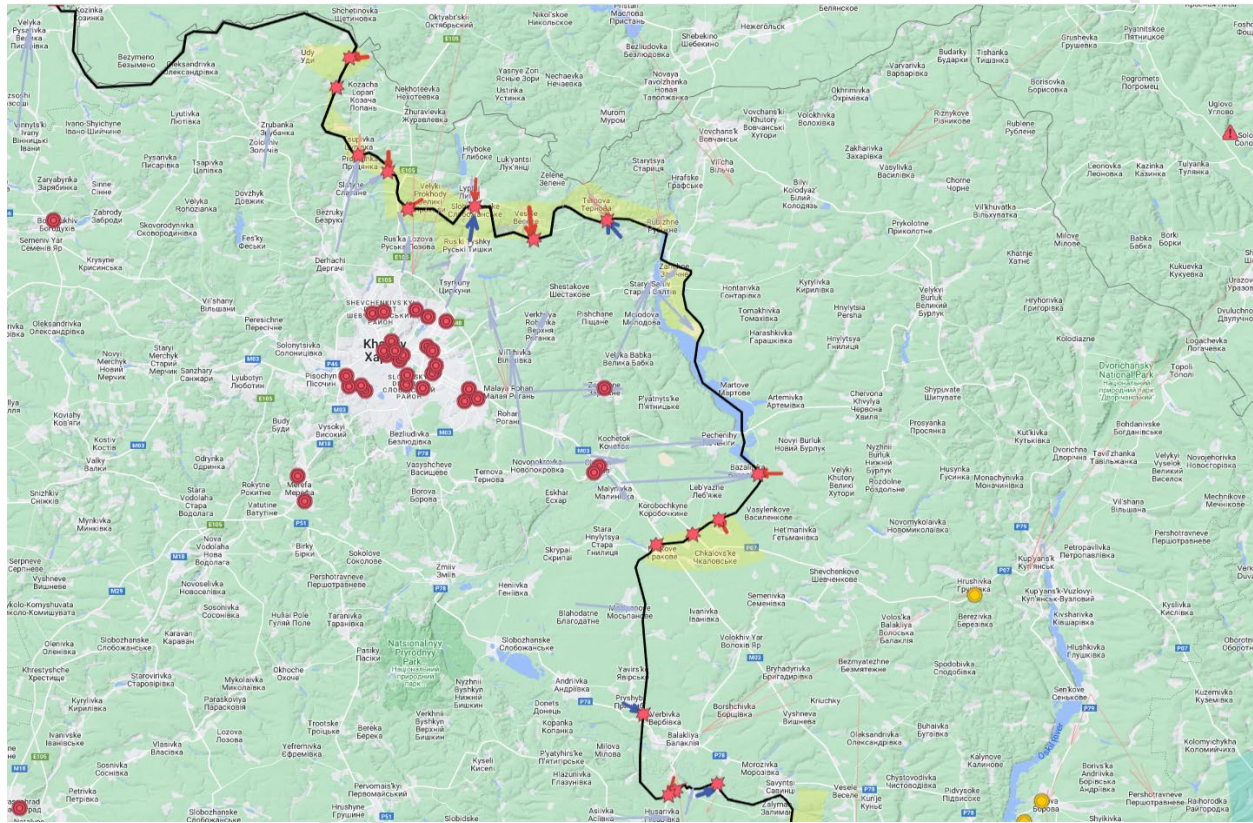
ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 16

We assess that Russian forces can't secure the remainder of the Donbas before August 31.

In southern Ukraine, Russian forces continue to press Ukrainian defensive lines due to the arrival of reinforcements and testing capabilities. It is also likely an attempt to spread out Ukrainian resources to delay or prevent the next phase of the ongoing counteroffensive.

KHARKIV REGION

NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



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

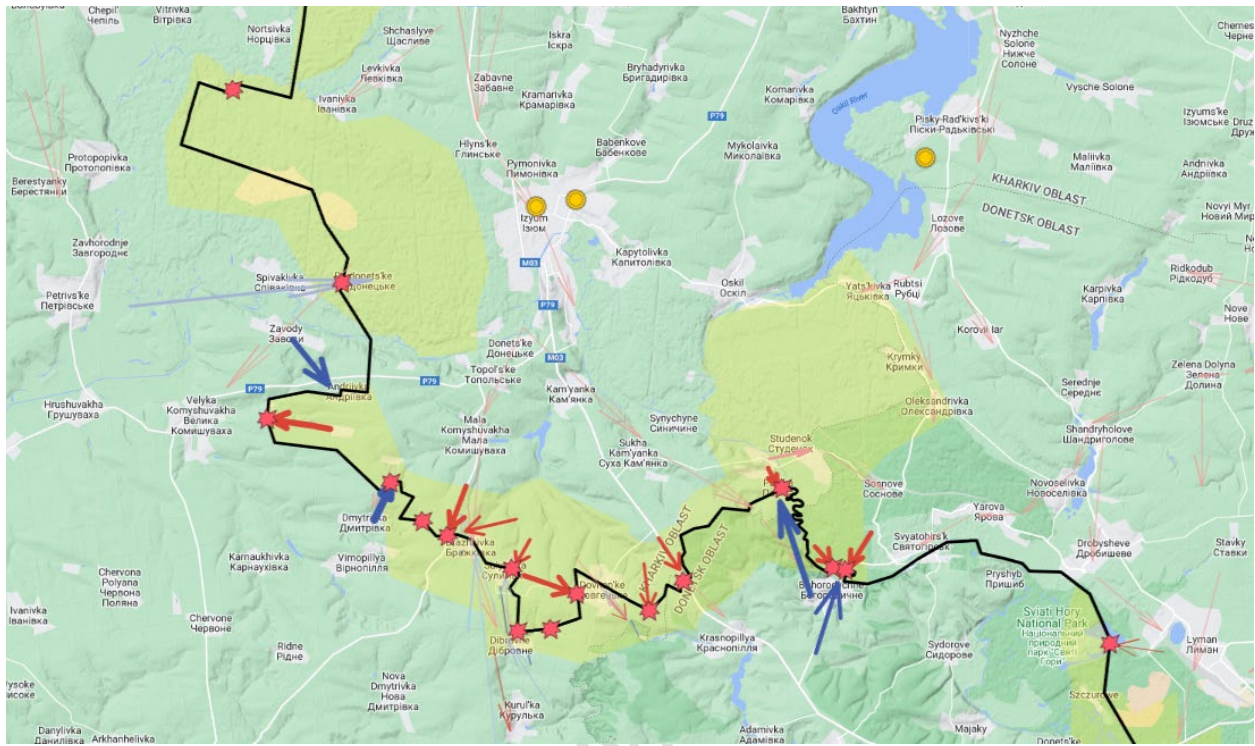
Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC

There wasn't significant ground fighting northwest, north, northeast, or southeast of Kharkiv. Russian and Ukrainian forces traded artillery, rocket, and tank fire.

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 11

Our assessment on August 10 that Russian forces were testing the capabilities of the Ukrainian territorial guard taking over the defense of Izyum was correct. Positional fighting, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses will continue to occur.

IZYUM AXIS



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces back to end shelling on Izyum, protect Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) west and north of Izyum

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

Russian forces did not attempt to advance in any direction from Izyum.

Tradition returned northwest of Izyum with Husarivka, Chepil, and Nortsivka shelled.

South of Izyum, Krasnopillya, Dolyna, Mazanivka, Nova Dmytrivka, Bohorodychne, and Kurukla was hit by artillery, rockets from MLRS, indirect tank fire, and direct fire from anti-aircraft guns.

ASSESSMENT: We have previously assessed that Russian Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines) were strained north and west of Izyum and were under Ukrainian fire control south of the city. There were reports last week that the supply of ammunition was becoming limited on the axis. Anti-aircraft guns can be used as direct fire weapons on ground targets with devastating effects. However, the fielding of anti-aircraft guns in this capacity south of Izyum indicates that Russian forces are experiencing ammunition or equipment shortages.

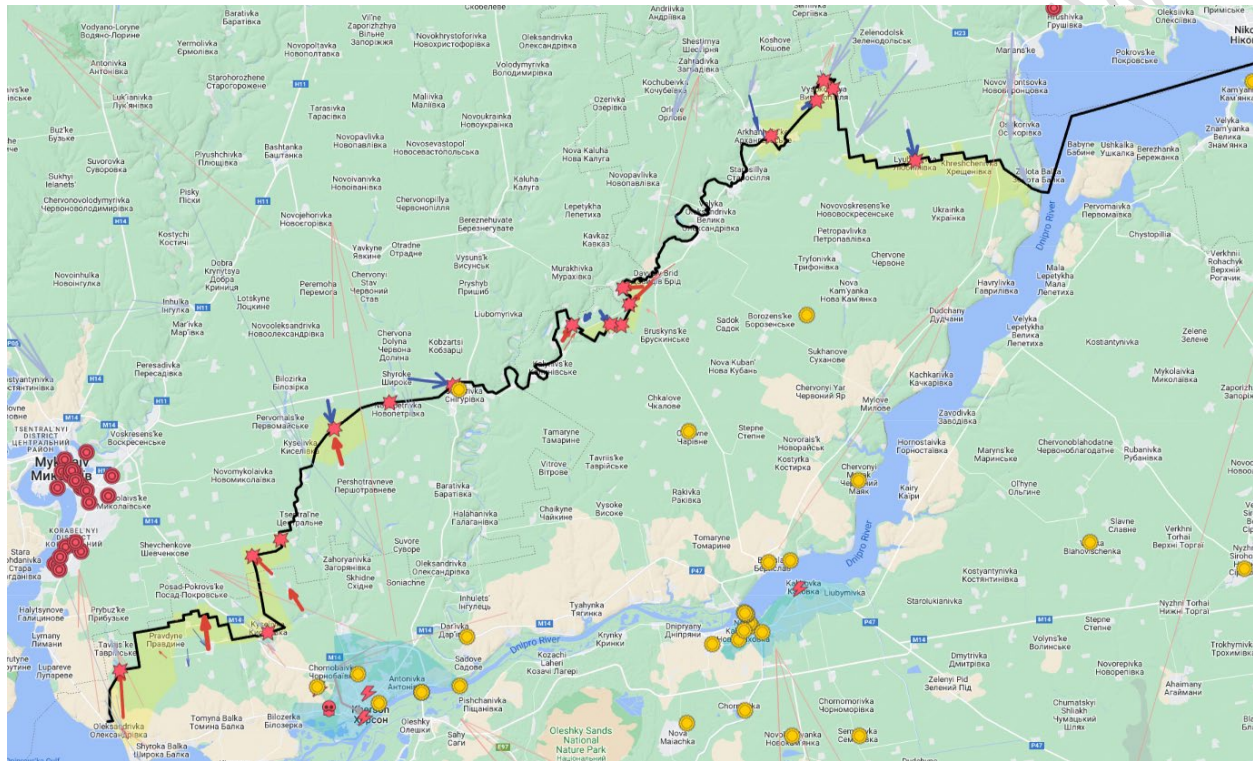
ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 7

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

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

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

KHERSON



Russian Objective: Push Ukrainian forces out of artillery range of Kherson and critical Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply lines), prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive by building defenses, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

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

Rockets fired by HIMARS hit the Antonovsky Bridge in Kherson.¹¹ There are unconfirmed reports that the strike occurred as a Russian column of supply trucks carrying ammunition was on the bridge. We cannot confirm the claim's veracity, but pictures showed a large fire burning hours after the rocket attack. There were unconfirmed reports that a section of the bridge collapsed, while Russian sources claim that 15 construction workers were injured. They also claimed a ferry carrying civilians was traveling at the time of the strike, and two civilians were killed.

In earlier Situation Reports, we analyzed videos and pictures from Russian state media showing civilians mixed with military vehicles on the makeshift ferries.

Pro-Russian social media accounts claimed that [Blahodatne](#) [Mykolaiv] was captured. The Russian Ministry of Defense did not report any territorial gain in Ukraine

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1561679383034830849>

today.¹² It is noteworthy that the General Staff also did not mention Blahodatne in its reports today. We maintain the settlement is contested without further clarification from a reliable source.

Neither belligerent reported fighting along the Kherson axis. A video showed Ukrainian ground forces destroying a Russian armored personnel carrier and infantry mobility vehicle on the outskirts of [Blahodativka](#).¹³ We geolocated the attack at the southeastern corner of the village. We did not move the line of conflict, but we coded Blahodativka as contested.

An S-300 anti-aircraft missile fired by Russian forces to attack Mykolaiv failed after launch and crashed in Russian-controlled Zelenivka.¹⁴

ASSESSMENT: Unchanged from August 13

With all four GLOCs severed for Russian troops on the west bank of the Dnipro River, resupply will have to be done by barge, ferry, and helicopter. Carrying fuel, replacement

¹² <https://t.me/rybar/37548>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1561765335904260098>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1561792835241889792>

equipment, artillery shells, and rockets will be challenging to sustain and support 25,000 soldiers.

The Russian Ministry of Defense has continued to send reinforcements west of the Dnipro, with 3,000 elite VDV troops arriving in the last week, swelling the number of troops to 25,000.¹⁵ That is almost 20% of the entire occupation force in Ukraine, including LNR, DNR, Chechen, terrorists with the Imperial Legion, and PMC Wagner. Ukraine has been targeting ammunition and supply depots, logistics centers, and GLOCs, although the amount of supplies available in Kherson is unclear.

The first indication of supply issues is already emerging, with complaints online about drinking water shortages in supply drops and only receiving “dry rations” for meals. Another sign that supply issues have already started is the S-300 missile attacks on Mykolaiv have ended. Suppress Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) missions by Ukraine have helped limit the attacks, but a lack of supply of the larger S300 anti-aircraft missiles is likely contributing to the issue.

¹⁵ [Stars & Stripes](#)

Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) are designed to operate for three to five days independent of resupply. Signs that the supply situation is getting more severe won't appear for weeks but would include abandoned vehicles, increasing complaints about a lack of resources on Telegram, VK, and Live Journal, looting for food and fuel, and a reduction in artillery fire among front line units.

With mud season 30 to 45 days away and the first snow in 60 to 75 days, complaints about a lack of cold weather gear, hypothermia, and low morale from living in the mud would be another indicator that the supply situation is worsening.

There remain significant questions on when and if there will be a counteroffensive, and Kyiv has become increasingly contradictory on what will be next. Some officials have told the press that the counteroffensive has already started, including President Zelenskyy earlier in the week. An anonymous source close to the Ukrainian government told the Washington Post there would be no counteroffensive because Ukraine doesn't have the resources.

"We have to be honest - for now, Ukraine doesn't have a sufficient number of weapons systems for a counteroffensive. It's still possible to get a result, but if so, it will be the result of smart Ukraine strategy more than of countering Russia with equal power."

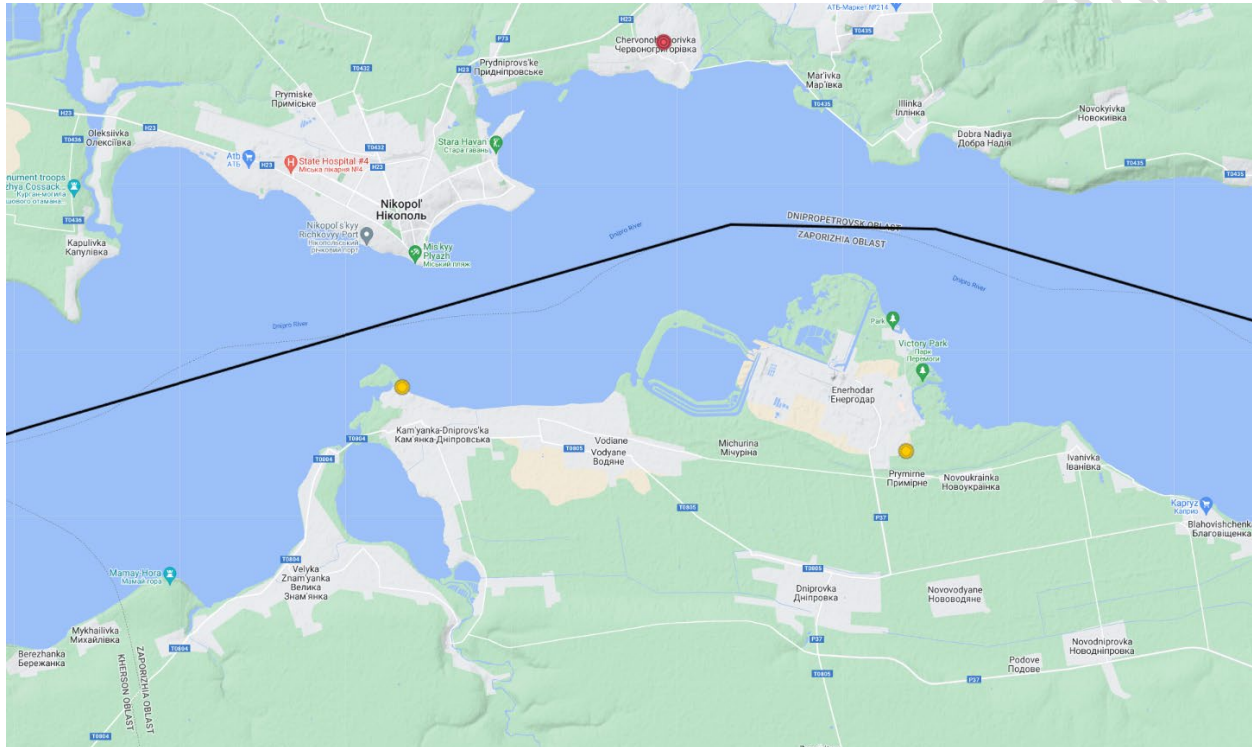
The appearance of Czech hedgehogs in Kherson, Russian forces fearful of moving on the streets due to partisan activity, Russian commanders leaving the region, and local government and junior military officers occupying Kherson hospitals and schools to avoid HIMARS attacks all point to the same fact.

Regardless of what we may assess or think or what the Ukrainian government is saying – the Kremlin believes a counteroffensive is coming, and it will fight to hold the western half of the Kherson oblast.

DNIPROPETROVSK AND ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prepare and stage for a counterattack, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict



The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is unchanged. None of the parties involved in negotiations to allow inspectors into the power plant have set a date for when the International Atomic Energy Agency will arrive. There is a United Nations hearing planned for August 24. to review what was discussed in Lviv last week. On August 18, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to discuss demilitarizing the power plant and allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect the plant. On August 19, the Kremlin reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to permit inspectors into Zaporizhzhia and for them to travel from Kyiv.

Energoatom accused Russia of reinforcing its military presence at the power plant.¹⁶ "The Russians are gathering equipment on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia NPP and have increased the presence of their troops at the plant. On 22 August, two additional armored vehicles and six special trucks were deployed at the plant's repairs area."

Energoatom claims that 40 pieces of military hardware are now within the plant's boundaries. We cannot validate the veracity of the claim. Our analysts have counted 13 distinct military vehicles in different locations at the plant, reviewing videos, drone videos, and pictures.

Ukrainian forces accused Russian troops of shelling the thermal plant in Enerhodar.¹⁷ A video showed the water feed lines damaged, and a man slumped over in the driver

¹⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/23/7364411/>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1561696282640523265>

seat of a taxi with shrapnel damage. Some people may find this video disturbing. It is NSFW, and viewer discretion is advised. You can view it by [clicking here](#). Russia denied involvement in the attack.

SIDEBAR: In cities and larger towns in Russia and former Soviet territories, a centralized thermal plant commonly provides heat and hot water in cities. Sometimes the plants also generate electricity but can be dedicated to providing steam and hot water. The system is not unique to Europe and Asia. Consolidated Edison in New York City operates the largest commercial steam system in the world, serving more than 1,700 businesses and residential properties.

Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Marhanets was hit by artillery fire wounding two people. Nikopol was not attacked with Grad rockets for the first time in more than six weeks.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

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

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, reported a border skirmish involving light arms fire at an unspecified border village in the Shostka district. There were no casualties reported. The settlement of Seredyna-Buda was hit by mortars fired from across the international border and illumination flares. A fire was started near the sewage treatment plant but didn't cause significant damage.¹⁸

In Chernihiv, the settlements of Senkivka and Mykolaivka were shelled. There were no reports of damage or injuries.¹⁹

KYIV REGION

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

¹⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/23/7364384/>

¹⁹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

Two cruise missiles were fired at the previously disabled Zatoka Bridge southwest of Odesa.²⁰ This is the sixth attack on the structure since March 14 and the twelfth attack on the seaside resort town of Zatoka.

The Black Sea Fleet has positioned three ships and one submarine capable of firing Kalibr cruise missiles within range of the Ukrainian coast. There remains significant concern that Russia will launch punitive attacks before, on, or after Ukrainian Independence Day, which is August 24.²¹

Editor's Note: *There are so many reports of explosions in Russian-occupied Crimea that are unfounded or likely air defenses shooting at nothing that we have decided not to report on each incident. We will only report on confirmed attacks.*

²⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM](#)

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2899630830342583>

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

The United State Embassy in Kyiv has urged American citizens to leave Ukraine if they can.

"The Department of State has information that Russia is stepping up efforts to launch strikes against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days," according to the embassy's website.

"The U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to depart Ukraine now using privately available ground transportation options if it is safe to do so."

The Kremlin is blaming Ukraine for the assassination of Darya Dugina despite Ukraine's denials and the Russia-based anti-Putin National Republican Army claiming responsibility.²² FSB released alleged documents, pictures,

²² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62634359>

and videos claiming that a Ukrainian woman traveling with her child and cat rented a flat in the same dwelling where Dugina lived. She stayed for a month and then left Russia through Estonia in a different vehicle than she arrived.

The passport photos they released, claiming the woman is a colonel in the Azov Battalion, were deemed fakes by forensic analysts who found editing artifacts and clear evidence of manipulation in photo editing software.

ASSESSMENT: Admittedly, this straddles opinion. To believe the FSB story, you have to accept the following. Russia allowed a Ukrainian Azov Battalion colonel, who showed her ID to cross the border without issue for a one-month vacation. Despite tailing her every moment she was in Moscow and photographed and video recording her every move, she could still enter the festival hosted by Alexander Dugin without a pass and install a bomb in his SUV undetected. Then the FSB allowed her to detonate the bomb remotely and still didn't take her into custody – despite knowing the entire plan. She then exited Russia, driving a different car than she arrived in, which isn't permitted, into Estonia mere hours after the bombing. This story was confirmed, open and shut case, less than 36 hours after the bombing, including pictures and videos. Another problem, there are no women in the combat arm of

the Azov Battalion, and there aren't any, nor have there been any women colonels attached to the Azov Battalion or the 3507th support unit.

Polish President Andrzej Duda is in Kyiv to meet with President Zelenskyy to discuss further support for Ukraine, including additional military aid.²³ This is the fifth trip to Kyiv for Duda since Russia's large-scale invasion.

The Bayraktar TB-2 combat drone Lithuanians crowd-sourced to purchase for Ukraine was used in combat for the first time.²⁴ The drone attacked a Russian firebase at night where two D-30 122mm artillery pieces were located with support trucks. The drone directly hit one of the D-30 artillery pieces, wounding at least two Russian soldiers. You can watch the video by [clicking here](#). Some viewers may find the content disturbing.

Turkey reported they sent 50 Kirpi Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protection (MRAP) vehicles to Ukraine, and more are on the way.²⁵ The vehicles are designed to protect the occupants from antitank landmines and large improvised explosive

²³ [Reuters](#)

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1561689103300759554>

²⁵ [Defense News](#)

devices. A government official said the MRAPs were “used,” implying these are Kirpi 1 models, designed in 2008 and built between 2009 and 2018.

Moldova and Ukraine worked collaboratively to reopen the Berezyne-Basarabeasca rail connection.²⁶ The completed upgrades have restored rail connections from the rest of Europe, bypassing the damaged Zatoka Bridge over the Dniester estuary.

Ukrainian security service claims they captured two spies in the Donetsk oblast who were sharing the location of HIMARS launchers and other intelligence with the Russian Ministry of Defense.²⁷ The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) reported that the information gathered caused an attack on Selidove.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian forces fired Smerch rockets armed with cluster munitions into civilian areas of Zelenodolsk in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast for the second day in a row.²⁸ A

²⁶ [Ukrinform](#)

²⁷ [Newsweek](#)

²⁸ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/23/7364398/>

woman was killed, and her husband was seriously injured in the attack when cluster bombs hit their home. The use of cluster munitions is not considered a war crime. However, intentionally targeting civilians with cluster munitions is considered a war crime.

A Russian missile struck school number 17 in Kostyantynivka, Donetsk. The city has been subject to frequent missile attacks since the offensive to capture Avdiivka started.²⁹ Part of the school was severely damaged. The school was empty, and area residents reported there wasn't a military presence. The intentional targeting of educational institutions is considered a war crime. Russia has used the August 4 Amnesty International Report to justify attacking civilian targets and the continued occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

GEOPOLITICAL

There weren't any significant geopolitical developments.

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/NatalieSmal/status/1561633415379689472>

ECONOMIC

As of Monday, 33 cargo ships have left Ukrainian ports carrying grain, meal, and sunflower oil. A total of 721,000 tonnes of cargo has been shipped since Russia and Ukraine agreed to unblock Black Sea ports.

The rouble was flat, with an exchange rate of 60 roubles for one US dollar.

Oil climbed on news that the United States Strategic Oil Reserve had dropped to a 35-year low. WTI crude jumped to \$92 a barrel, while Brent rose to \$98. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline dropped to \$2.92 a gallon. (77 cents a liter)

Chicago SRW wheat futures climbed to 79 cents a bushel for December 2022 delivery, continuing to trade at prewar levels.