



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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SUMMARY – DAY 55

Russian forces maintained increased operational tempo in Luhansk, Donetsk, and the Mykolaiv Oblasts.

South of Izyum, Russian troops made smaller reconnaissance in force expeditions that were repelled. Ukrainian forces are suffering increasing losses of armored vehicles along the Izyum axis. Intense fighting for control of Lozove along the eastern shore of the Oskil River continued.

The Ukrainian General Staff acknowledge fighting in Torske, west of Severodonetsk. Russian forces were pushed out of Rubizhne and suffered armor losses in fighting for control of Popasna. There are credible reports that PMC mercenaries with the Wagner Group were killed in the fighting. There haven't been any videos from Chechen forces in eastern Popasna for three days, indicating they have likely been pushed back from the train station.

Fighting for control of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant continued in Mariupol, with the factory turned fortress bombarded by air, MLRS, and artillery. There was concrete

evidence that the Ukrainian marines have been getting resupplied at least into early April. Russian forces appear to have gained control of the main port. We maintain that the Ukrainian defensive forces will collapse within the next seven days.

In Kharkiv, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continued. East of the city, Ukrainian forces worked to consolidate their gains from the April 16 to April 19 offensive.

Russian forces continue to attack civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv.

In Kherson, Russian forces heavily mined the road from Naddnipyrianske in the Kherson Oblast to Oleksandrivka in the Mykolaiv Oblast. Russian forces also tried to capture Oleksandrivka in the Kherson Oblast (we provided a map).

The United States announced that Ukraine had received a shipment of fighter airplanes and spare parts from unidentified nations. Also announced, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Finland will be providing more military aid to Ukraine. The UK and Canada announced they would be giving artillery but were not specific on what equipment or

how much. Finland also announced they would be providing military equipment but was non-specific. The United States is expected to announce another aid package worth \$800 million on Wednesday.

Russian Captain of the third rank Alexander Chirva, commander of the Large Landing Ship Kunikov, died from the injuries he sustained in an SRBM attack in Berdyansk.

ASSESSMENT: Although Ukraine and Russia have announced the war has moved into a second phase, Russian, Chechen, Russian-backed militias, and PMC continue an ad hoc approach to their offensive. Forces and fire appear to be contained to the same axes and lines of conflict.

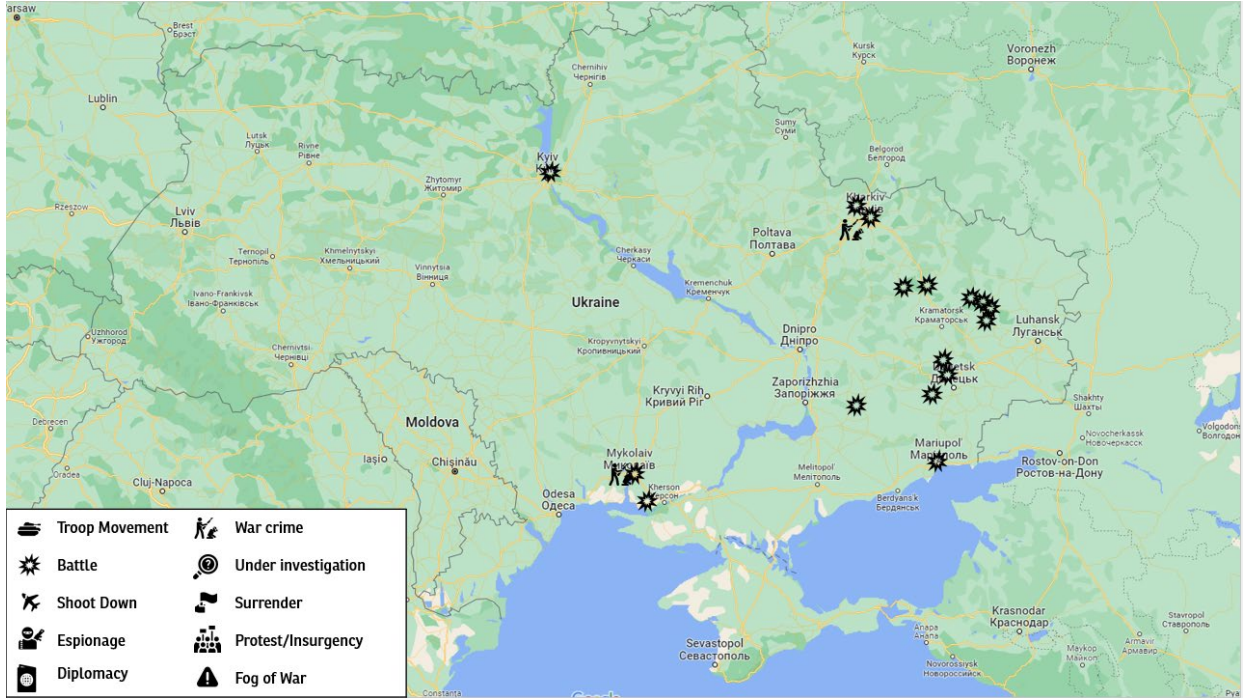
Many headlines were written announcing Russian forces capturing Kremmina. Ukrainian forces repelled all other attacks and liberated settlements in Luhansk and Kharkiv.

We maintain that Russia can overwhelm Ukrainian forces in the short term but lack the personnel or resource to hold territorial gains.

If President Vladimir Putin is pressuring Russian military leaders to complete their goals by May 9, it could be ruinous for the Russian army. The United States Department of Defense assessed that Russian forces in Ukraine had lost 25% of their combat power since February 24, and the main offensive in Eastern Ukraine hasn't started.

Finally, Chechen forces have been caught committing what may be the most bizarre war crime since the war began.

KEY EVENTS MAP



DONBAS REGION

Fighting continued around Sevrodonetsk, Donetsk, and Mariupol with no significant territorial changes.

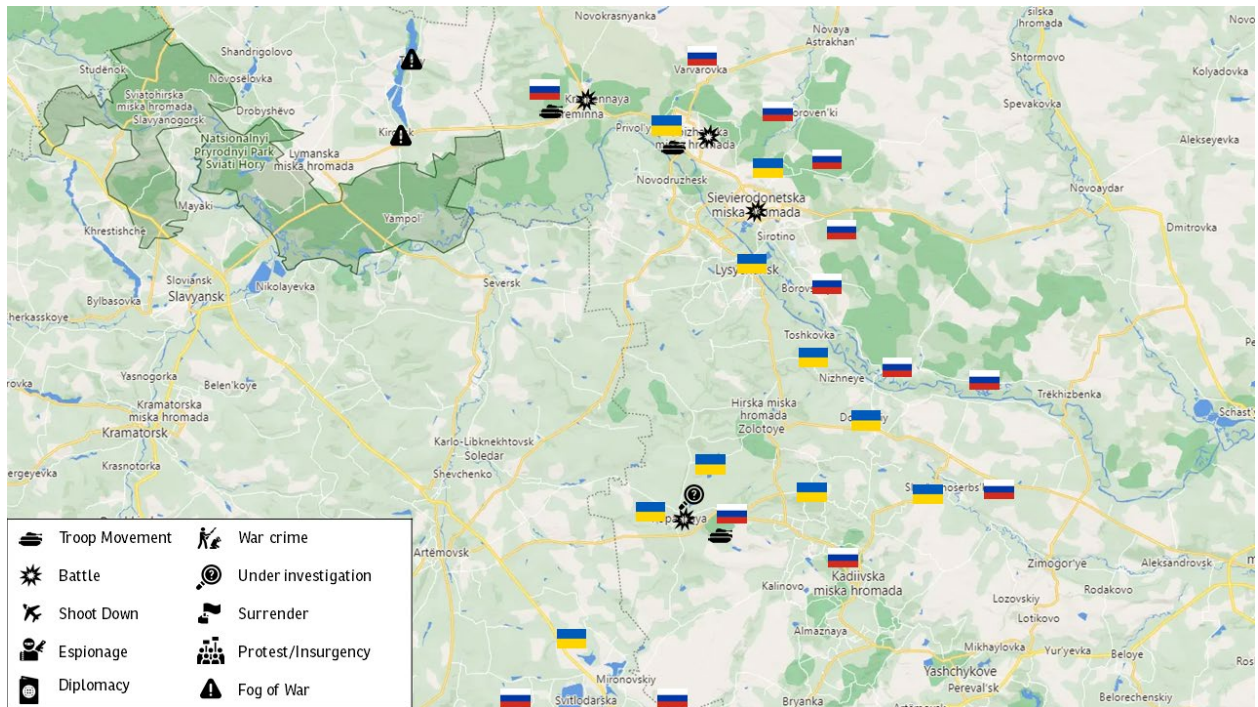
LUHANSK

Russian state media reported from Kreminna, confirming reports that Ukrainian forces withdrew from the town.¹ Historically, the spokesperson in the video has significantly overstated achievements, and there wasn't any provided video of captured Ukrainian equipment.

Pro-Russian social media accounts reported that the settlements of Torske and Zarichne were captured. The Ukrainian General Staff said there was fighting around Torske late on April 19.²

¹ <https://twitter.com/AggregateOsint/status/1516547543521533954> [Russian State Media Rating: Misinformation]

² <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/298791202433965>



Intense fighting was reported in Rubizhne and Popasnya.³ Satellite imagery from Rubizhne indicates that the operational tempo in the Severodonetsk suburb is overstated.⁴

There are reports that Private Military Company (PMC) mercenaries with the Wagner Group were killed in Popasnya. Several contract soldiers held Lybian, Central Africa Republic, and United States currency.⁵ (viewer discretion is advised) Additionally, a list of phone numbers found included one with a country code of 223, which is for

³ [Ukriniform](#)

⁴ https://twitter.com/FIRIS_FireAlert/status/1516256398493220866

⁵ https://twitter.com/maria_avdv/status/1516443017791610880

Mali. The Wagner Group entered Mali in 2021 after France withdrew its forces from the Sahel.⁶

ASSESSMENTS: We believe these reports have weight given the significant evidence provided.

DONETSK

Ukrainian forces have regained full control of Marinka, pushing Russian troops east.⁷ The video was geoconfirmed.⁸

Russian forces shelled civilians and civilian infrastructure in Krasnohorivka.^{9 10}

There were multiple reports that Russian-backed militias attempted an offensive in Avdiivka, but it appears this is overstated. Russian-backed militias shelled and used MLRS against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the

⁶ <https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/03/the-wagner-groups-playbook-in-africa-mali/>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/factsdocs/status/1516494824274333708>

⁸ <https://twitter.com/seginusnews2015/status/1516514173651505155>

⁹ https://twitter.com/Now_in_Ukraine/status/1516033699405606913

¹⁰ https://t.me/mvs_ukraine/11602

settlement.¹¹ Local officials reported one civilian was killed.¹²

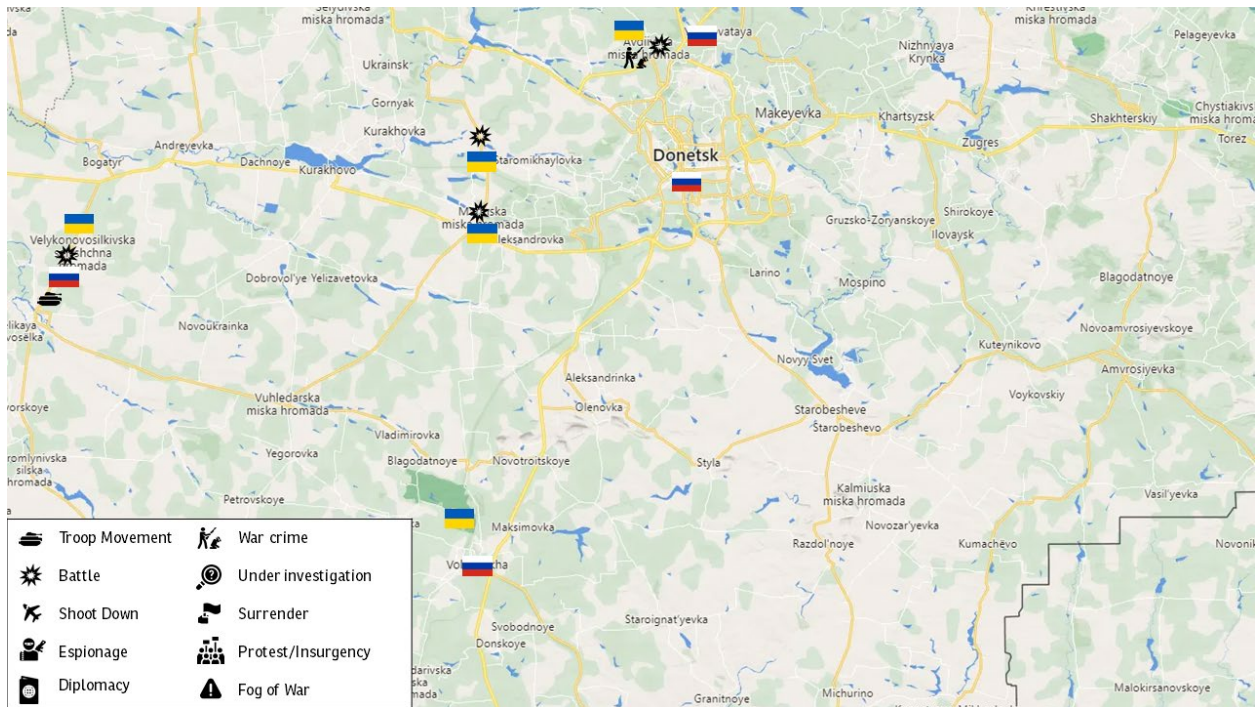


The Ukrainian General Staff reported fighting around Velika Novosilka, indicating that Russian forces are trying to push north well behind Ukrainian lines.¹³

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/UaCaretaker/status/1516339467476520961>

¹² <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1516332110801514496>

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/298791202433965>



ASSESSMENT: We have stated in multiple previous evaluations that Russian forces were not prepared to launch a multi-axes offensive. Ukrainian forces willfully withdrew from Kreminka to fully secure Rubhizne. West of Donetsk, a salient is starting to form with the liberation of Marinka and holding Avdiivka.

SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA

The Russian Ministry of Defense issued another unconditional surrender ultimatum on April 19 to the Ukrainian forces in the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant that was ignored.

The Russian Ministry of Defense issued another unconditional surrender demand for April 20 by 14:00 Moscow time.¹⁴ Major Serhiy Volyna stated forces would never surrender, citing the massacres in Bucha. "No one believes the Russians."¹⁵

He stated the situation was critical, with 500 wounded and 1,000 civilians among the people hiding in bunkers under the steel factory.

"I have a statement to the world. It may be my last statement because we have only a few days, or even hours, left."

Ukrainian marines showed a more jovial situation, despite bloody noses in a video shot on the edge of the factory steel plant compound.¹⁶ (mild blood, some may find disturbing)

¹⁴ [Reuters](#)

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/PaulaChertok/status/1516560535046672385>

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/walterlekh/status/1516488398180995072>



A video released today showed an Azov Battalion member firing on a Russian BTR-82A APC with a German Matador RGW-90.¹⁷ The Matador RGW-90 didn't arrive in Ukraine until late March, indicating that Ukrainian forces were being resupplied into early April.

Russian-backed militias and Chechen forces swept the Illyich Steel Plant north of Azovstal, capturing two Ukrainian 2S1 122mm self-propelled Howitzers.¹⁸

Reports of Russian Tu-95 Bear strategic bombers striking the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant are accurate, but "reports"

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1516395004935213061>

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1516471674333499399>

of explosions heard 60 miles away and the use of the “Father of All Bombs” (FOAB) is untrue.

Video from the north end of the main port showed the BG-32 Donbass coast guard patrol boat sunk at its berth and the Pytor Galaktionov tug boat drifting adjacent to it.¹⁹

ASSESSMENT: Russia is trying to avoid a lengthy and costly assault on the Azvostal Metallurgical Plant, where Ukrainian forces have a significant defensive advantage as long as they have ammunition, food, and water.

We could not verify a Tu-95 Bear bomber dropped a FOAB bunker buster bomb, and based on video evidence we believe it is unlikely. Russia released a demonstration video in 2007 that implied a Tu-95 was used in the test, but the video did not show the bomb dropping from the aircraft. It was widely reported the bomb was dropped from the back of a cargo plane, like in the movie *Outbreak*.²⁰

We continue to believe that most fighting will end within the next seven days. Russian occupying forces are likely to

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1516527201746886661>

²⁰ <https://youtu.be/CRjB5lmoHXk?t=80>

face an aggressive and violent insurgency to hold a city with almost no viable infrastructure remaining.

KHARKIV REGION

Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv.^{21 22} To the east and northwest of the city, Russian and Ukrainian forces continued to fight using artillery, tanks, and small arms.^{23 24}

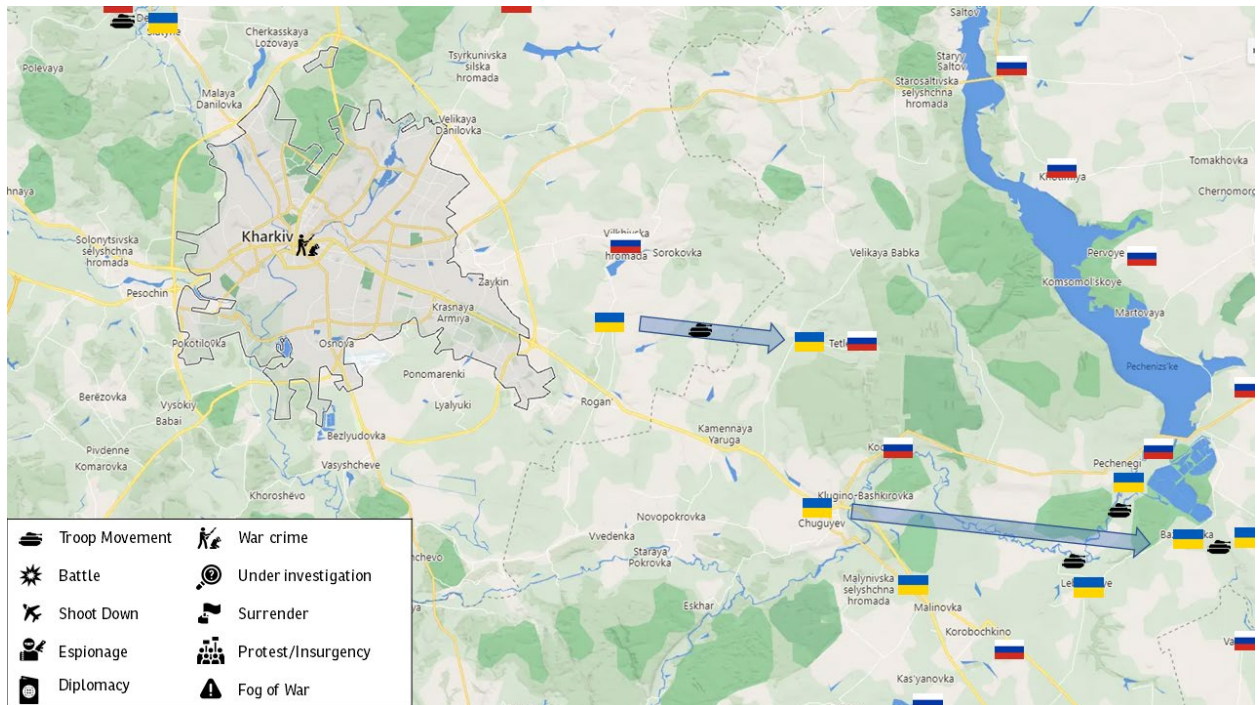
Ukrainian forces consolidated their gains east of Kharkiv. The settlements of Kutuzivka, Zarozhne, Lebyazhe, and Bazliivka were liberated between April 16 and April 19. The village of Pechenihiy is contested. Satellite data indicated artillery fire was being exchanged in Yurchenkove.

²¹ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1516549934824235014>

²² <https://twitter.com/LewkHughes/status/1516569267159937034>

²³ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1516548155734638594>

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1516589658255532032>

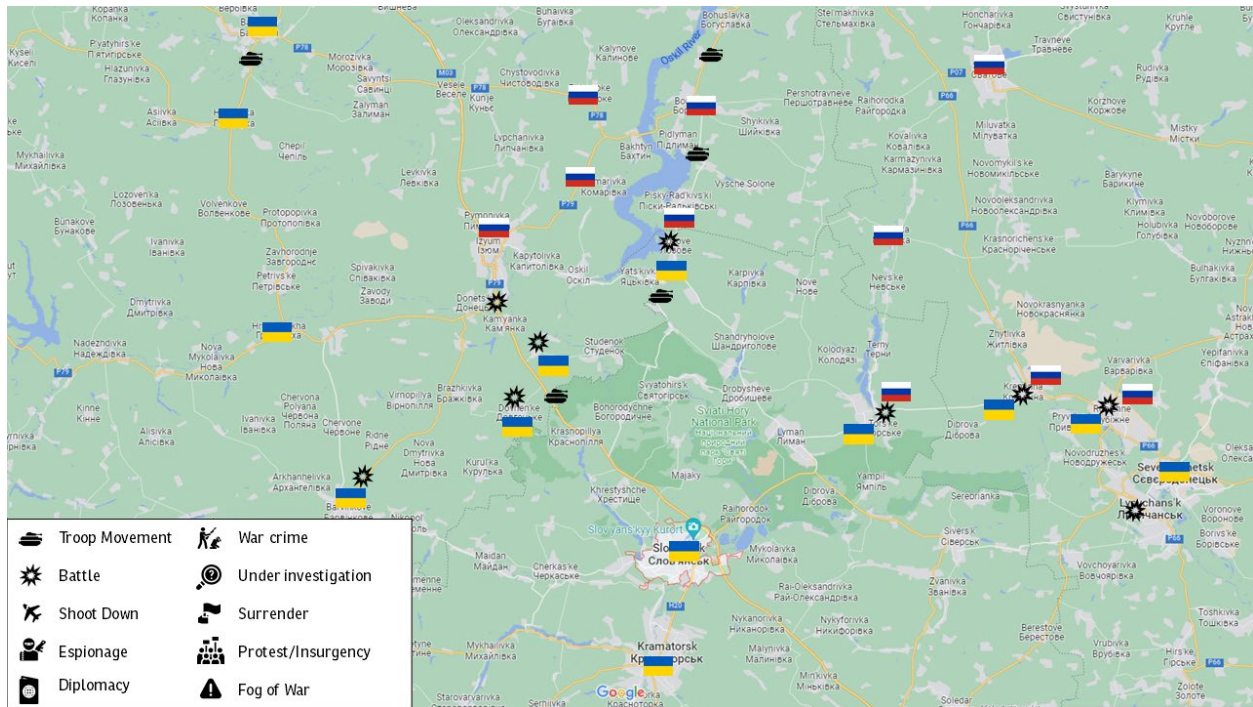


There are reports of fighting north of Derhachi, about 16 kilometers northwest of Kharkiv, but Ukrainian officials did not share details on the situation.

Russian forces made a reconnaissance in force advance from Izyum toward the settlements Sukhaya and Dibrivne. They were unsuccessful at holding the positions.²⁵

Fighting has continued along the eastern side of the Oskil River, with Ukrainian forces holding the Russian advance at Lozove.

²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/298791202433965>



There are accusations that Russian forces used chemical weapons in Izyum.²⁶ The report indicates only 12 were impacted, and symptoms were troubled breathing and eye irritation. Tear gas, flares, and smoke grenades could cause these symptoms.

ASSESSMENT: Russia continues to try and create a second line of communication and supply along the eastern shore of the Oskil River.

Limited action from Izyum and reconnaissance in force probes staying closer to the primary line of conflict

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/OlgaNYC1211/status/1516284800432234498>

indicates that Russian forces need more time to consolidate.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION

Russian forces fired MLRS at the town of Orikhiv, striking an apartment building and wounding one child.²⁷ Civilians and civilian infrastructure has been attacked for days.²⁸



²⁷ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516564578662072324>

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/IndiaToday/status/1515896802473836546>

Russian forces continue to target civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv.^{29 30}

In the Mykolaiv Oblast, a Russian Mi-24 helicopter crew member released a cockpit video flying west of Kozyrka.³¹ The footage revealed the location by showing the display of the consumer-grade Garmin 696/796 GPS used for navigation.

OPINION: Russian forces' lack of understanding of operational security never ceases to amaze us.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry Intelligence division reported that Russian forces heavily mined the road from Snihurivka to Kherson.³² Another report stated a smaller area, from Naddnipryanske in the Kherson Oblast to Oleksandrivka in the Mykolaiv Oblast.³³

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/tvtoront/status/1516336137970884609>

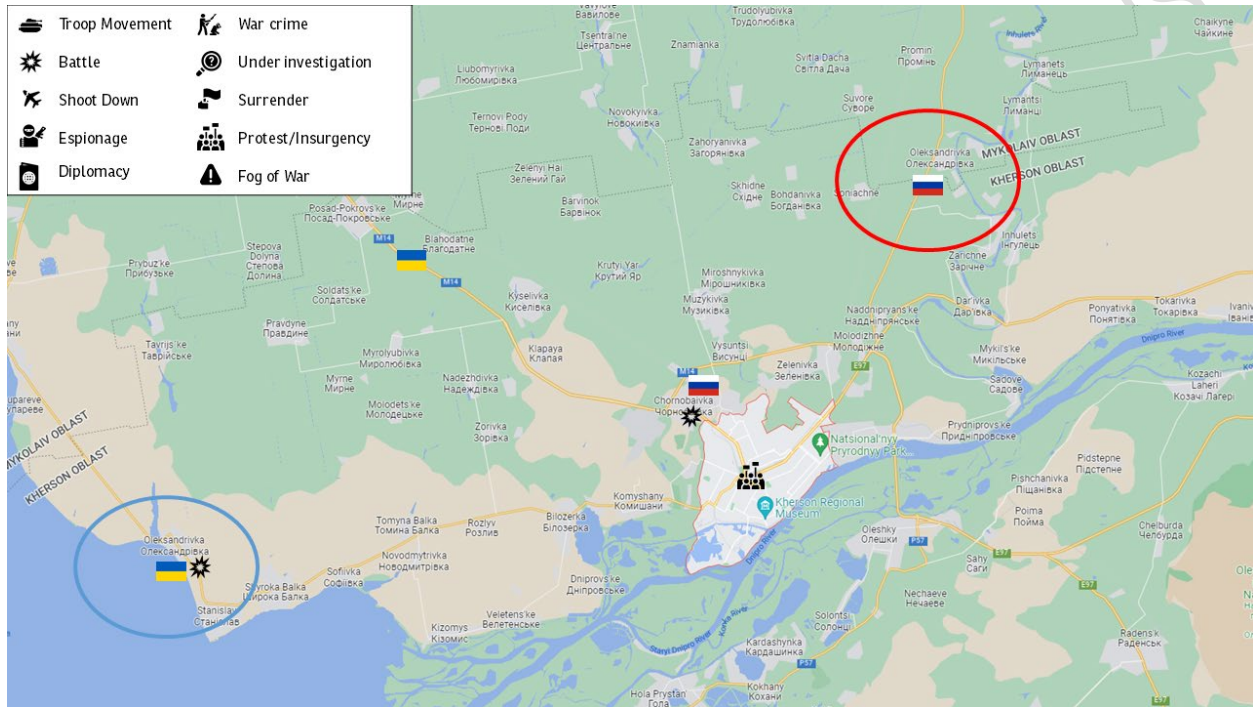
³⁰ <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1516463464893534209>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516629111145381889>

³² <https://twitter.com/IFENewsAgency/status/1516480209394212869>

³³ <https://liveuamap.com/en/2022/19-april-russian-troops-planted-a-lot-of-landmines-at-highway>

Russian forces attacked the town in Oleksandrivka, located on the Dniproska Gulf 30 kilometers west of Kherson, but were unsuccessful.³⁴



CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

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

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1516313983673851904>

KYIV REGION

A Kalibr cruise missile struck a tank and armored vehicle repair facility near Kyiv, causing moderate damage.³⁵

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

The captain of the Large Landing Ship (LLS), Ceasar Kunikov, died from his injuries when the ship was damaged in an SRBM attack on the port of Berdyansk.³⁶ Captain of the third rank Alexander Chirva was wounded on March 24. The attack sunk the LLS Saratov at the dock and destroyed fuel and ammunition stores. Since the attack, the port hasn't been used, with the burnt shell of the Saratov and a badly damaged civilian cargo ship still at their berths.

ASSESSMENT: We believe the threat of an amphibious assault on Odesa is negligible.

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516476101056413701>

³⁶ https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1516061939167858696

WEST REGION

Lviv was hit by up to five Russian Kalibr cruise missiles, causing seven deaths.³⁷ These were the first civilian casualties in the western city near the Polish border since the start of the war.³⁸

At least one cruise missile hit an automobile repair center.³⁹

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

United States Department of Defense Press Secretary John Kirby reported that Russia had lost 25% of its combat power assigned to Ukraine since the invasion started on February 24.⁴⁰

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1516082251041230850>

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516154763733258249>

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516208037178056706>

⁴⁰ [United States Department of Defense Transcript for April 19, 2022 Press Briefing](#)

ASSESSMENT: Combat power is not measured simply by counting soldiers, tanks, artillery pieces, and other equipment. When the Pentagon says Russia has lost 25% of its combat power, it is purposely vague and nuanced.

Military units are considered combat-ineffective when they have lost 30% to 49% of their combat power. A unit that has lost more than 50% of its power is considered functionally destroyed.

A combat-ineffective unit can't effectively participate in or launch offensive operations. The keyword is "effectively." They can be pushed into offensive operations but will have too many gaps in personnel and equipment to perform competently. Combat-ineffective units can hold defensive lines, occupy territory already controlled, or help protect supply lines as they move from the line of contact to reconstitute and resupply.

If an army loses 30% of its combat power, the entire force becomes combat ineffective. It has too many gaps to achieve strategic goals for offensive operations. An army with more than 50% losses is functionally destroyed.

We estimated Russia had lost up to 25% of its entire active main battle tank force in our April 5 Situation Report. Those losses aren't limited to Ukraine - the whole Russian military. Armor is just one component of combat power. In certain situations in Ukraine, tanks have not been a force multiplier. In urban settings without ground infantry support, they're a liability.

We have maintained since April 5 that Russia lacks the resources to take and maintain control of the Donbas and the Crimea landbridge. They can overrun Ukrainian forces, they could potentially encircle the salient southeast of Izyum, but they are incapable of holding the territorial gains.

If the Russian military in Ukraine has lost 25% of its combat power and Pentagon assessments have consistently been optimistic, there is no margin for error in the upcoming offensive push.

Secretary Kirby also reported that Ukraine had received fight airplanes and spare parts.⁴¹ The official did not say which country or countries provided the aircraft and components but stated they were not coming from the

⁴¹ [United States Department of Defense Transcript for April 19, 2022 Press Briefing](#)

United States. According to the official, the United States was involved with transporting parts, but not "whole aircraft."

ASSESSMENT: There are unconfirmed reports the aircraft and parts came from Poland and Slovakia. No information has been provided on what aircraft were transferred to the Ukrainian Air Force, but they are likely Mig-29, Su-25, or Su-24 aircraft.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed to send heavy artillery to Ukraine in a speech at the House of Commons.

"This will become an artillery conflict; they need support with more artillery, that is what we will be giving them... in addition to many other forms of support," Johnson told lawmakers.⁴²

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada would also send heavy artillery to Ukraine.⁴³ He did not specify what would be included in the aid package.

⁴² [Reuters](#)

⁴³ [The Globe and Mail](#)

Trudeau said, "Ukrainians have fought like heroes over the past number of months, and they're not just fighting for Ukraine, they are fighting for the values that underpin so many of our free and democratic societies."

United States President Joe Biden is expected to announce another \$800 million in weapons to Ukraine on Wednesday.⁴⁴ The United States has already sent or committed to seven aid packages totaling over \$2.4 billion.

Finland's President Sauli Niinisto announced the nation would also be sending a military aid package to Ukraine.⁴⁵

Niinisto said, "More detailed information on the content, manner of delivery or schedule of the assistance will not be provided to ensure that the assistance reaches its destination."

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Two employees of the Feldman Ecopark in Kharkiv missing since March 7 were found on April 19. The two stayed behind to care for the animals during the height of the

⁴⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-allies-hold-video-call-ukraine-2022-04-19/>

⁴⁵ [Finland Ministry of Defense](#)

Russian advance on the city, where the contact line was 300 meters from where they were located. They were found in a locked storeroom where they had likely been executed.⁴⁶ Targeting cultural and educational centers and the intentional killing of civilians is a war crime.

Shelling and missile strikes in Kharkiv killed three on April 18 and four on April 19.^{47 48 49 50} (NSFW, viewer discretion advised)

Ukrainian officials accused Russia of attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure in Orikhiv using cluster munitions.⁵¹ Cluster bombs are not banned, but the intentional targeting of civilians is a war crime.

Russian MLRS struck the zoom in Mykolaiv. There were no reports of injuries, but the intentional targeting of cultural and educational sites is a war crime.⁵²

⁴⁶ https://twitter.com/O_Ostapchuk/status/1516569635281326091

⁴⁷ <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1516476713173405704>

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/lesiavasylenko/status/1516428840347787270>

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/ZarinaZabrisky/status/1516163181848182802>

⁵⁰ https://twitter.com/Lyla_lilas/status/1516521650493263877

⁵¹ https://twitter.com/u24_news/status/1516345363279532032

⁵² <https://twitter.com/AsaadHannaa/status/1516451148974243848>

A dump truck driver was killed in Irpin when his vehicle struck a landmine.⁵³ Neither Ukraine nor Russia signed the landmine treaty, but international law requires forces to map landmine locations so they can be removed after fighting has ended.

United States farmers loathe John Deere tractors' Internet connectivity and the blocking of "right to repair," but the connected farm equipment has revealed an unusual war crime.⁵⁴

Russian forces stole three new combines, a tractor, and three seeders from the Melitopol in the Zaporizhzhya Oblast. The equipment, worth more than 1.5 million euros connected to the Internet in the village of Zakan-Yurt in Chechnya, home of Chechen Prime Minister Muslim Khuchiyev. Looting is considered a war crime.

GEOPOLITICAL

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for a four-day ceasefire to allow civilian evacuations in war

⁵³ <https://t.me/markushyn/2256>

⁵⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/04/19/7340733/>

zones, create designated safe corridors, and bring in food and medicine.

In a meeting at the Security Council, Dmitry Polyanskiy, Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyanskiy told the council the request was insincere and would only provide "[Kyiv] nationalist breathing room to regroup and receive more drones, anti-tank missiles, and more [man portable air defense systems]." ⁵⁵

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov told India Today that Russia would only use "conventional weapons" in the Ukraine war. ⁵⁶

Canada announced it was adding 14 more Russians with sanctions for their close ties with President Vladimir Putin, including his two adult daughters. ⁵⁷ Maria Vorontsova, 36, and her 35-year-old sister Katerina Tikhonova were named on the list released today.

⁵⁵ [Times of India](#)

⁵⁶ <https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-nuclear-weapons-sergei-lavrov-1698909>

⁵⁷ <https://calgarysun.com/news/national/canada-sanctions-putins-daughters-among-14-russians>

ECONOMIC

In a blow to Russia's most affluent business people, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on April 16 that requires Russian companies to remove their listings from overseas stock exchanges.⁵⁸

Russian billionaires who own the companies listed abroad won't be able to collect foreign-currency dividends from the depository receipts.

Trading of depository receipts on foreign exchanges must cease within days. However, the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq, London Stock Exchange, and other top international bourses had already frozen Russian stocks after Putin launched his war on Ukraine.

In addition, the decree that Putin signed means foreign holders of the canceled receipts must receive ordinary shares placed in non-resident accounts in Russia.

British Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Lucy Frazer, announced that the UK would revoke the Moscow Stock

⁵⁸ <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/putin-signs-decree-remove-russian-135326392.html>

Exchange (MOEX) status as a recognized exchange.⁵⁹ The move would end tax breaks for new investors.

Automaker Stellantis announced that it was halting all production at its Russian Kaluga factory "given the rapid daily increase in cross sanctions and logistical difficulties." The factory was building Chrysler-branded vans.⁶⁰

German consumer packaged good maker Henkel, a maker of home cleaning and chemical products under familiar brand names such as Purex, Soft Scrub, Bref, and Loctite, suspended operations in Russia. The company will continue to pay Russia-based employees.⁶¹

The rouble held steady today at 81 for one US dollar.

Oil prices were steady, with WTI settling at \$107 a barrel and Brent crude dropping to \$111. Gasoline was unchanged at \$3.38 a gallon.

⁵⁹ [Reuters](#)

⁶⁰ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1516399040556109828>

⁶¹ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1516386382515777538>



DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

Transparency - we ran out of time.

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