



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT

September 14, 2023





# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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**SUMMARY – DAY 567 ..... 3**

**DAILY ASSESSMENT ..... 7**

**TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP ..... 10**

**KHARKIV ..... 11**

**DONBAS REGION ..... 12**

**LUHANSK ..... 12**

**NORTHEAST DONETSK..... 14**

**SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK..... 19**

**ZAPORIZHIA..... 22**

**BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION ....24**

**KHERSON ..... 30**

**WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE..... 31**

**NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE..... 31**

**RUSSIAN FRONT ..... 32**

**BELARUSIAN FRONT ..... 32**

**THEATERWIDE ..... 33**

**RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES.....36**

**RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR ..... 37**

**WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS..... 40**

**GEOPOLITICS ..... 40**

**ECONOMIC..... 42**

## **SUMMARY – DAY 567**

It has been 3,487 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 202 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

- In the Klishchiivka area of operation (AO), Andriivka is Ukraine
- Positional fighting continued in the Luhansk region
- Russian troops in Soledar are under constant drone and artillery attacks
- The clearing of Klishchiivka continues
- Multiple Russian units are complaining about ammunition shortages and the withdrawal of Chechen troops in the Bakhmut AO
- Positional fighting continued in the Avdiivka and Marinka AOs
- Operational security remains tight in the Orikhiv AO, where Russian reinforcements have likely slowed Ukrainian advances
- Ukraine claims it damaged two Russian Project 22160 large patrol ships using uncrewed surface vessels
- Analyst H.I. Sutton reported that Ukraine attempted to target the Russian tanker Yaz and the gunrunner Ursa Major during the attack

- Former British Defense Minister Ben Wallace reported that a September 22, 2022, incident between a KC-135 Rivet Joint surveillance aircraft and two Russian Su-27 fighter planes was more serious than initially reported
- Romania has expanded its no-fly zone on the Ukrainian border in response to Russian drone incursions
- One part of the damaged Kerch (Crimea) Bridge has been reopened
- Satellite images confirm that Ukraine destroyed at least one S-400 anti-aircraft missile launcher
- High-resolution satellite images and an on-site video confirmed the large landing ship Minsk was destroyed and the submarine Rostov-on-Don suffered "catastrophic damage"
- Analysts believe that the Oleksandrivskyi graving dry dock at Sevmorzavod in Sevastopol won't be restored
- The PMC Wagner Group camp at Tsel, Belarus, continues to be dismantled
- Russia's Shahed-136 kamikaze drone attacks are on the same pace as May 2023
- The Office of the President of South Korea claimed that North Korea has been providing munitions to Russia for "a long time"
- Bundeswehr Major General Christian Freuding said that Berlin is prepared to support Ukraine's military efforts through 2032

- The United Kingdom transferred Mallory heavy lift drones to Ukraine
- Ukrainian pilots and ground crews completed familiarization training on the Saab JAS 39 Gripen fighter plane
- The Pentagon has sent a team of monitors to Kyiv
- The Russian 8th Motor Rifle Regiment complained about massive losses and a lack of ammunition
- Former PMC Wagner mercenaries are reporting they can't find jobs, and their pardon papers are worthless
- Newly minted civilian Serhei Surovikin was spotted in Algeria
- The Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, Yuri Shvytkin, said that Russia does not have to do another round of mobilization this fall – just like he claimed in September 2022
- The Defense Council of Kherson has called for the mandatory evacuation of families with children in 30 settlements
- NATO Deputy Secretary-General Mircea Joane was in Moldova, meeting with government and military leaders
- Brazil is considering withdrawing from the Rome Statute
- The Russian Foreign Ministry declared two U.S. embassy employees persona non grata

- Slovakia expelled a Russian embassy employee, with Moscow promising retaliation
- The joint project between Russia and Türkiye to build a natural gas shipping hub is dead
- British American Tobacco is divesting its business in Russia and Belarus
- Russia will reach a final ending of World War II with Japan if Tokyo drops all sanctions first

## DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Our concern about Ukraine's ability to turn tactical gains into operational success and strategic victories has been tempered by expanding success in the Orikhiv area of operation (AO), the breaking of the stalemate in the Klishchiivka AO, and the declining quality of Russian troops. This is the last day of this entry.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.



5. We maintain that 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. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

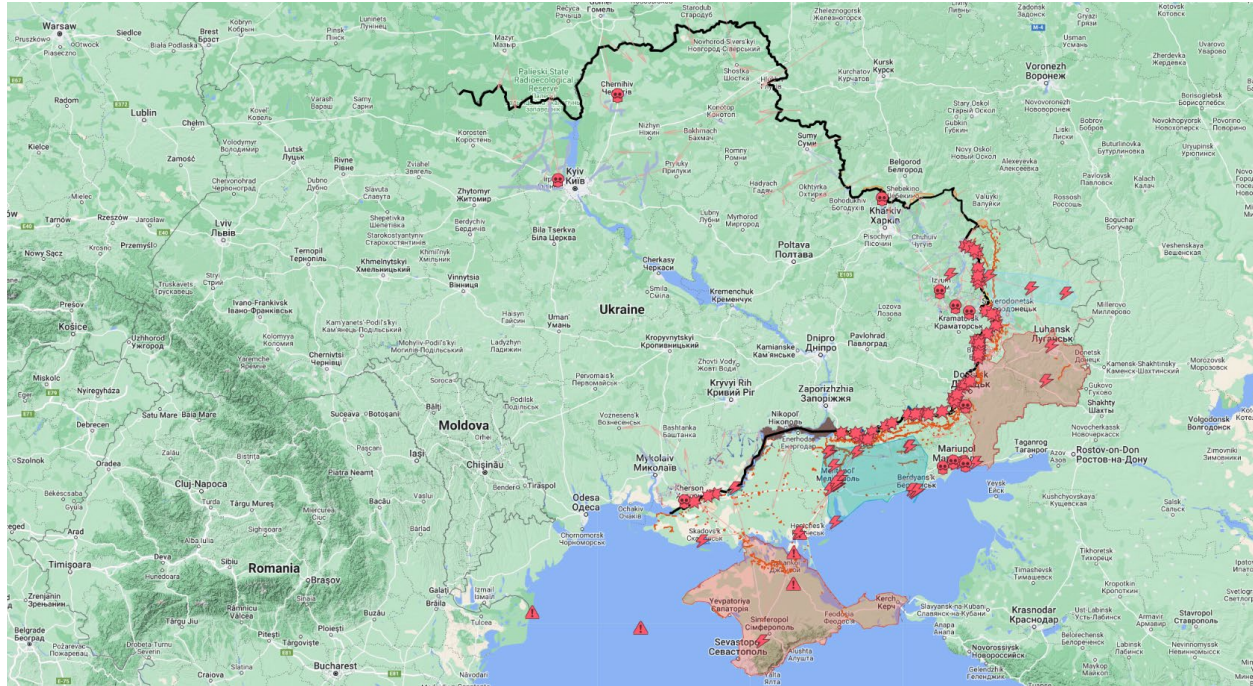
the second and third echelons of the Prigozhin and Surovikin Lines.

10. Mistrust among the command structures of the Russian Ministry of Defense, intelligence, and security community is negatively impacting Russia's ability to wage war within Ukraine. This is the last day of this entry.
11. 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.

[Jump to the Action Report.](#)



# TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

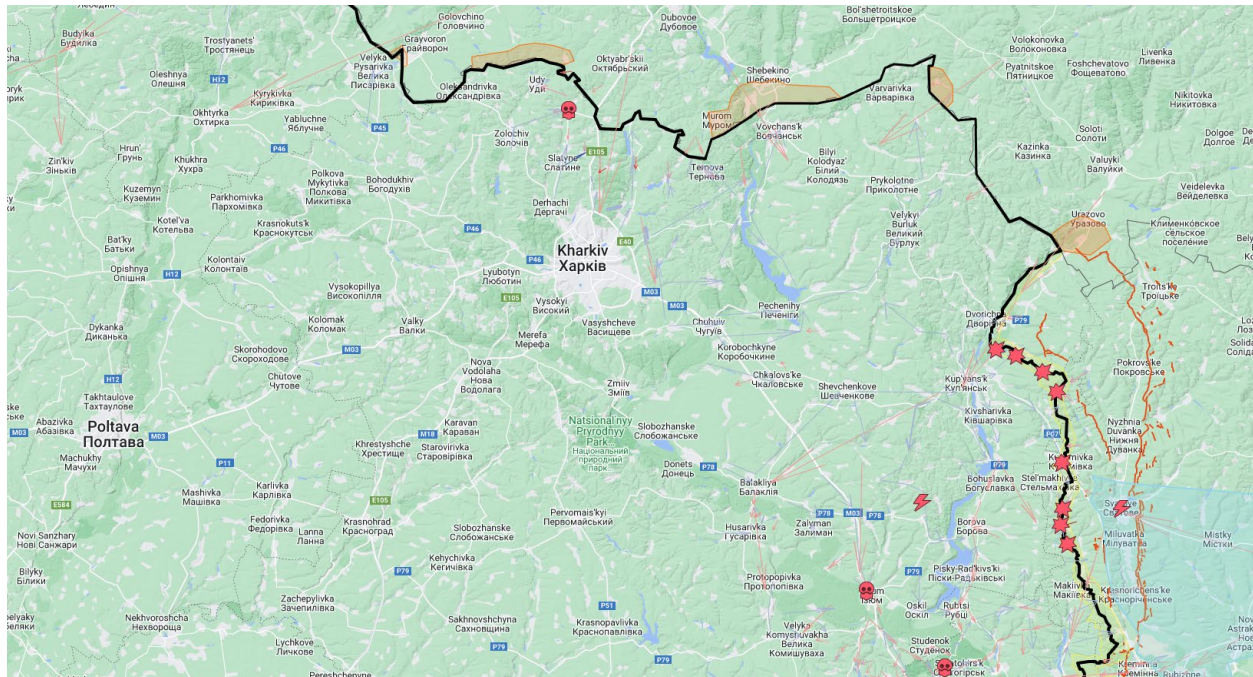


**About the maps:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. 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

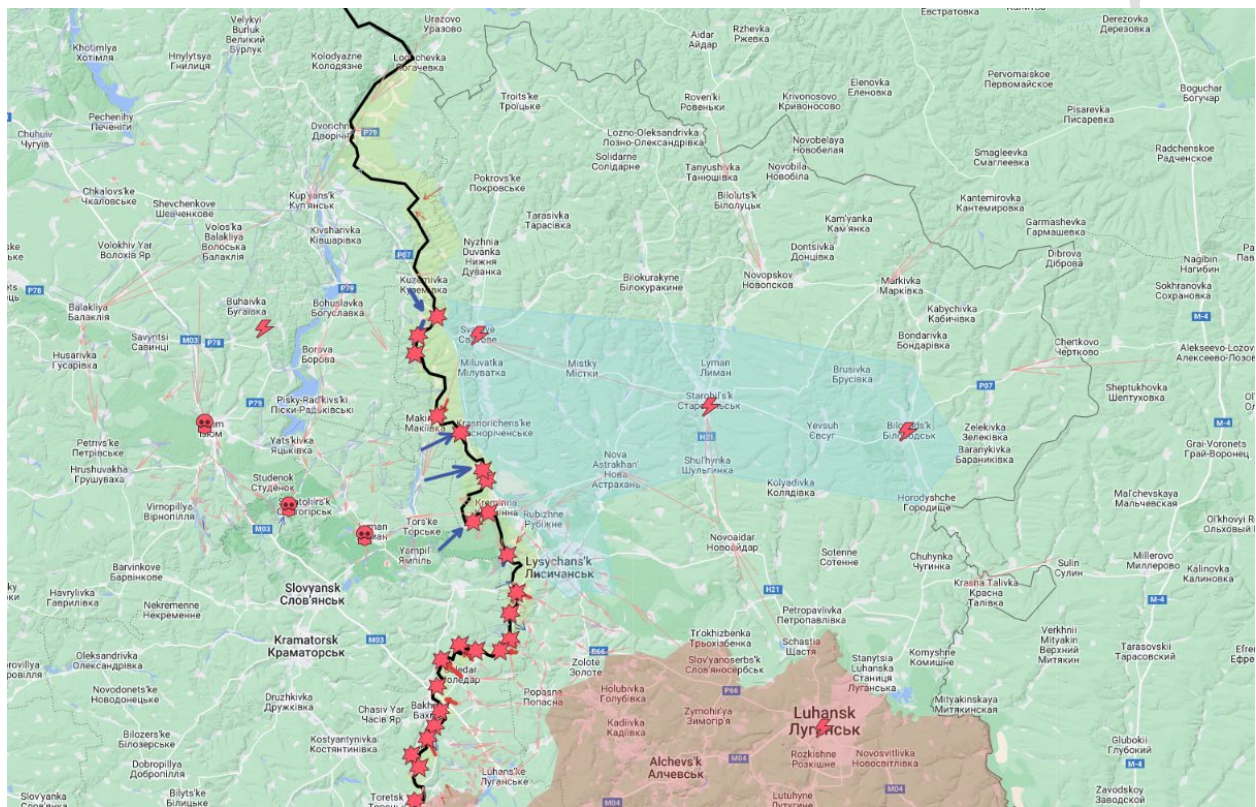
**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure

There wasn't any significant activity in this region.



# 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, Kremynna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents

## Svatove and Kreminna Operational Areas

Russian forces attempted to attack Ukrainian positions east of [Novojehorivka](#), suffered heavy losses, and retreated to their established defenses.<sup>1</sup> Russian sources claim they attempted an offensive from [Dibrova](#), which was unsuccessful.<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> Artillery duels continued in the Serebryansky Woods.

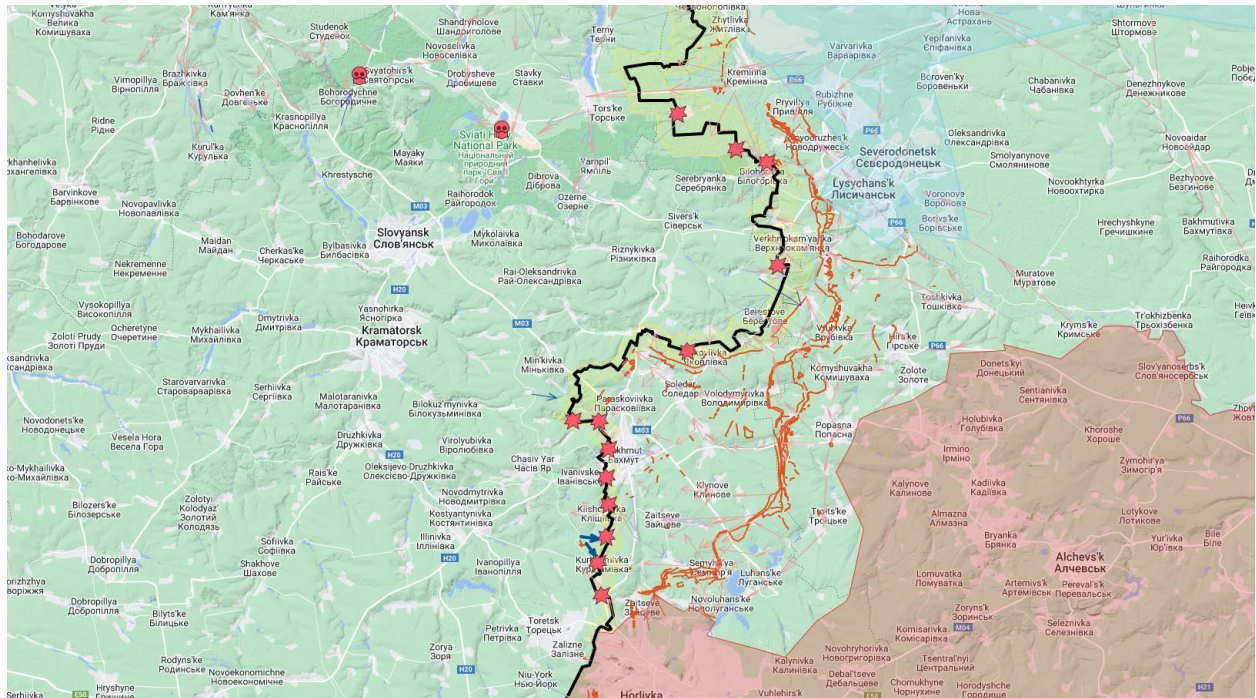
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<sup>1</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17604>

<sup>2</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30461](https://t.me/mod_russia/30461) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15031>

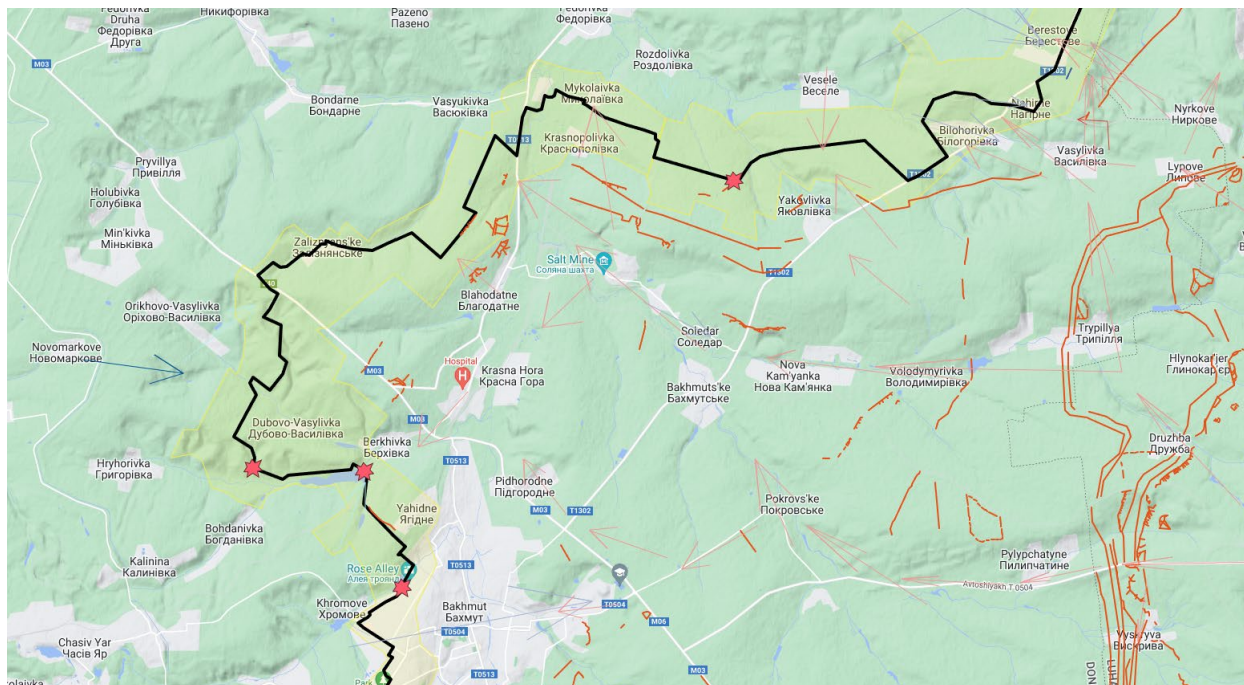
# NORTHEAST DONETSK



**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





## Soledar and Bakhmut Operational Areas

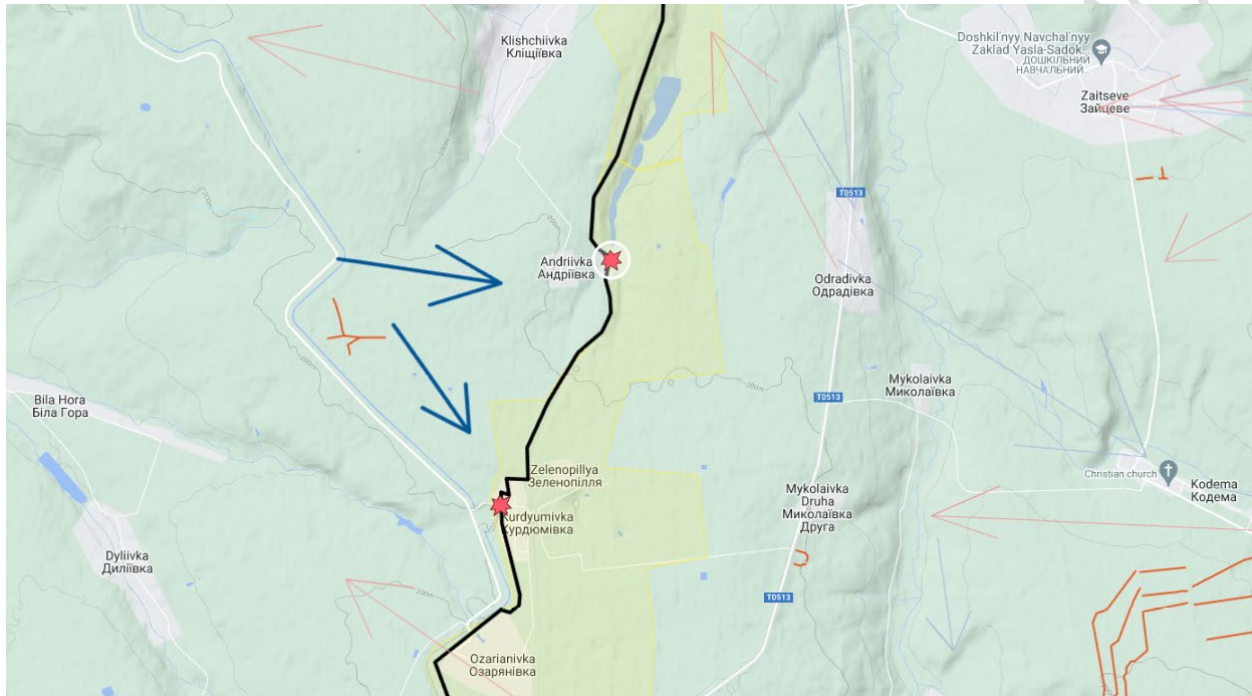
A Serbian propagandist and war photographer reported that Russian troops in Soledar are under an "unprecedented" number of drone and artillery strikes. "Now, about 20 of them flew in a line. They're hitting the city. Some kind of terrible drone invasion."<sup>4</sup>

Multiple Russian milbloggers are concerned that Ukrainian forces will attack Russian positions north of Bakhmut. Ukrainian sources report that Russian troops still hold

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/yaremshooter/2272>



ideal defensive positions and have parity of force in the area of operation (AO).



## Klishchiivka Operational Area

The clearing of [Klishchiivka](#) continued, with Russian forces clinging to the northern edges of the settlement and parts of the railroad grade.<sup>5 6 7 8</sup> The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and a major Russian milblogger reported that Ukrainian troops had “partial success,” indicating that progress is continuing. There have been multiple

<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11993>

<sup>6</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17604>

<sup>7</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30462](https://t.me/mod_russia/30462) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15031>

complaints from elements of the Russian 72nd Motor Rifle Brigade and the Special Army Combat Reserve (BARS) 13th about ammunition shortages and a lack of counterbattery fire.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> A second Russian unit reported that the Chechen Akhmat 54th Brigade withdrew on September 11, which aligns with a complaint video made by the 83rd Airborne Assault (VDV) Brigade.<sup>11</sup>

Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar claimed that Ukrainian troops had liberated [Andriivka](#), which was met with a strong denial by the 3rd Special Assault Brigade. "The statement about the capture of Andriivka is false and premature. Currently, serious and heavy fighting continues in the districts of Klishchiivka and Andriivka. Such statements are harmful, pose a threat to the lives of personnel, and harm the performance of combat missions."<sup>12</sup>

Deputy Minister Maliar posted an update, stating, "I am clarifying the information about Andriivka's dismissal. I do not release such information without coordination and agreement with the military. There is currently a communication breakdown between several sources of

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<sup>9</sup> [https://t.me/Separ13\\_13/19122](https://t.me/Separ13_13/19122)

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/PStyleOne1/status/1702225191026221421>

<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/10430>

<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17601>

information reporting directly from the scene. There is some success in Andriivka, and heavy fighting is currently underway."<sup>13</sup>

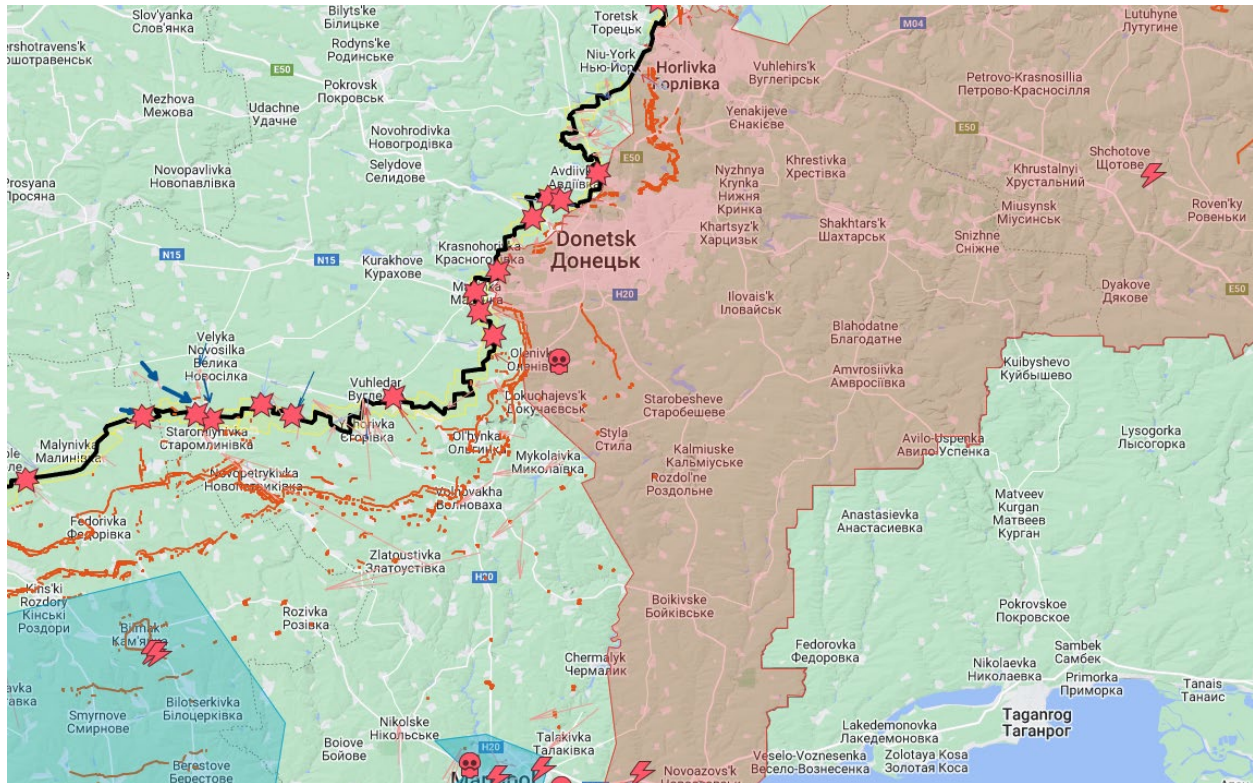
**Breaking News:** While completing the Situation Report for September 14, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine announced that Andriivka has been liberated, which means the railroad grade has also been cleared. In our assessment, Klishchiivka will follow shortly, and then Kurdyumivka.<sup>14</sup> The loss of the defensive lines on the railroad grade has made the continued Russian defense untenable.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11993>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/09/15/7419887/>

## 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**

There were no changes to the line of conflict. Russian forces attempted a more organized attack in the direction of [Avdiivka](#) and [Lastochkyne](#) from the Krasnohorika plateau without success.<sup>15</sup> Positional fighting continued near [Pervomaiske](#) and in [Marinka](#).<sup>16 17 18</sup>

A Russian video showed that fighting is ongoing within Novomaiorske, mostly artillery duels. There  [may be house-to-house fighting in the northern part of the settlement](#), but it is unclear if Russian troops were firing at anything.<sup>19</sup> The video does support reports by the Deputy Head of Rosgvardia for the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), Alexander Khodakovsky, that the constant artillery strikes are taking a psychological toll on Russian troops.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11992>

<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/landforcesofukraine/11992>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17604>

<sup>18</sup> [https://t.me/mod\\_russia/30461](https://t.me/mod_russia/30461) [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/i/status/1702227935531294865>

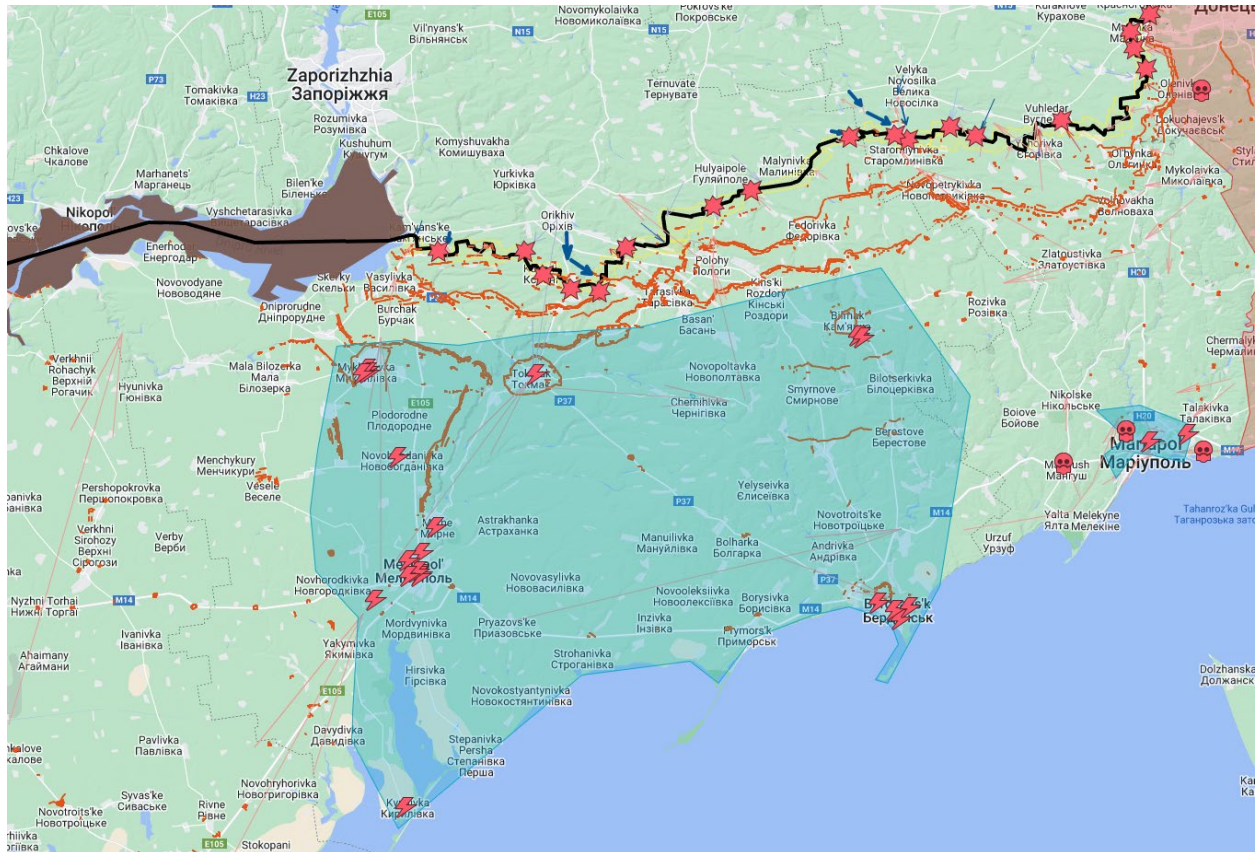
<sup>20</sup> [https://t.me/aleksandr\\_skif/2871](https://t.me/aleksandr_skif/2871)

There were reports of fighting northeast of [Pryyutne](#) on the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border.<sup>21</sup>

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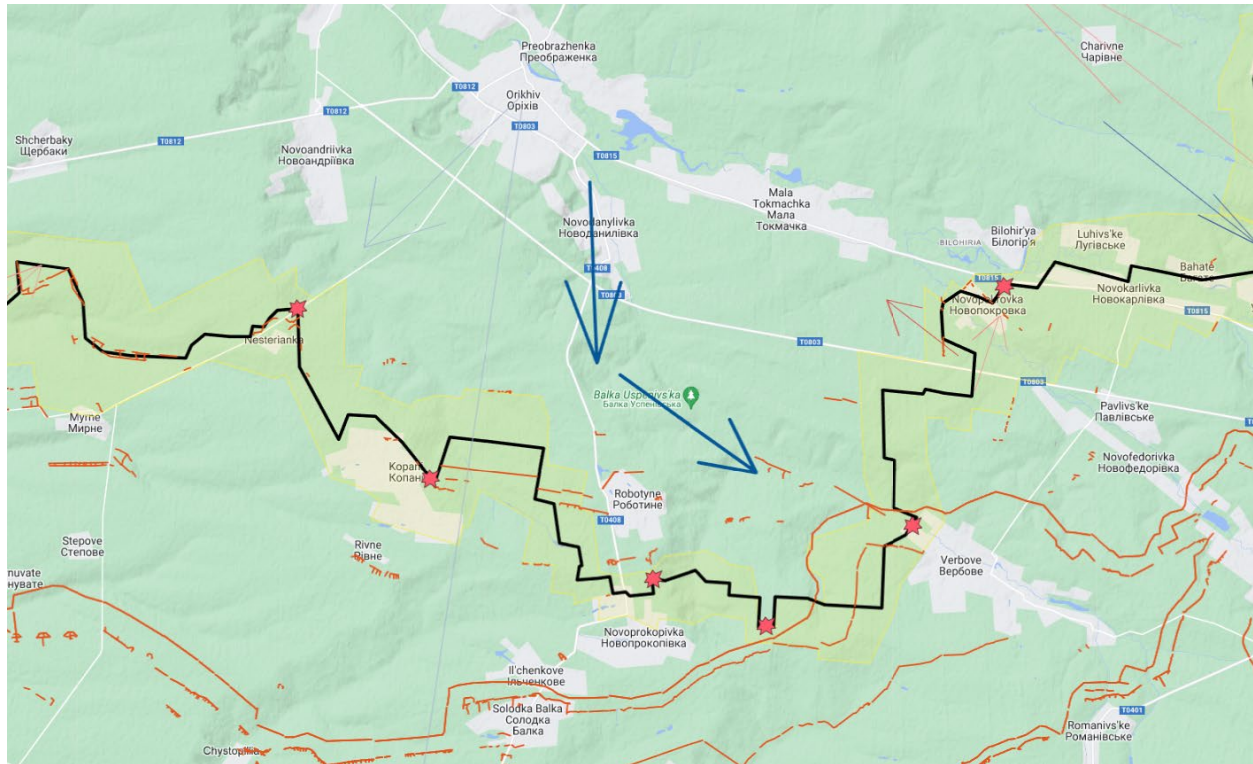
<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15031>

# 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

Operational security remained tight, with very little information shared by Ukrainian and Russian sources. Fighting continued from [Verbove](#) to [Novoprokopivka](#) and south of [Novopokrovka along the T-803 Highway](#).<sup>22 23</sup> The Russian deployment of the 76th VDV and reserve units from the Kreminna AO has helped stabilize the Russian defensive lines.

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17604>

<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/wargonzo/15031>




## Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

There were no updates on the situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

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

### Black Sea

There were no reports on the number and type of vessels from the Black Sea Fleet on patrol.


The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) reported that uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) attacked two Russian Project 22160 large patrol boats,  [including the Sergey Kotov](#).<sup>24</sup> The Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD) also reported that five USVs attacked two Russian patrol boats.<sup>25</sup> The GUR and the Department of Strategic Communications of the Apparatus of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine claimed that both ships were damaged in the attacks.<sup>26</sup> RMOD claimed a USV also attacked the Project 1239 Sivuch

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<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/GloOouD/status/1702373703051337887>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114504>

<sup>26</sup> [https://t.me/Nazars\\_look/17223](https://t.me/Nazars_look/17223)

hovercraft Samum, which was able to destroy the drone.<sup>27</sup> Several hours before RMOD claimed the Samum was attacked,  [insurgents documented the vessel leaving Sevastopol](#) to go on patrol.<sup>28</sup>

Analyst H.I. Sutton reported that the Ukrainian Navy targeted more than two Project 22160 patrol boats and attempted to strike the Russian tanker Yaz and the gunrunner Ursa Major.<sup>29</sup> The Yaz illegally ships fuel to Syria, and the Ursa Major transports weapons violating the Montreux convention.

The British newspaper The Times reported that an incident on September 29, 2022, involving a pair of Russian Su-27s and a Royal Air Force R-135 Rivet Joint surveillance aircraft, was more serious than reported. The Russian pilots spoke with ground controllers, asking if they had permission to shoot down the unarmed NATO airplane. Controllers said, "You have the target," which one pilot interpreted as clearance to engage but was an order to follow the aircraft. They fired a missile at the RC-135, based on the Boeing 707 passenger airliner, and missed. An argument started between the pilot and co-pilot, and a

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<sup>27</sup> [https://t.me/dva\\_majors/25519](https://t.me/dva_majors/25519)

<sup>28</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42328>

<sup>29</sup> [Naval News](#)

second missile was fired, which fell into the Black Sea. It is unclear if the missile was disabled after launch or malfunctioned.<sup>30 31 32</sup> The whole situation lasted about 90 minutes. Former British Defense Minister Ben Wallace confirmed the incident.

## Romania

In response to Russian kamikaze drones repeatedly violating their airspace, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of National Defense of Romania issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) expanding an existing no-fly zone on its border with Ukraine. The airspace bordering Ukraine in the northern area of Dobrogea and between Sulina and Galați is restricted from 20 to 30 kilometers from the international border to an altitude of 4,000 meters.<sup>33</sup> Romanian officials declared that if the airspace is violated, "we will apply the procedures that are in place."

***Editor's Note: Which so far has been – nothing.***

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<sup>30</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111362>

<sup>31</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/37774>


<sup>32</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/37774>


<sup>33</sup> [Digti24 HD - Romania](#)

The Deputy Secretary-General of NATO, Mircea Joane, reiterated the incursions into Romania are not a “deliberate threat.”<sup>34</sup> “NATO does not see threats of military attacks from Russia and considers the fall of drone fragments on the territory of Romania to be random incidents.”

***Editor's Note: Drone fragments didn't fly 15 to 17 kilometers into Romania; an intact Shahed-136 kamikaze drone did.***

## Occupied Crimea

The eastbound lanes of the Kerch (Crimea) Bridge have been  [repaired and reopened to traffic](#).<sup>35</sup> The work was completed as planned by September 15, with car and empty truck traffic restricted to one lane in both directions. Work on the westbound span is expected to continue through October.

Satellite images from Planet Labs confirmed that a Ukrainian missile strike on September 13  [destroyed at least one Tel for the S-400 air defense system](#).<sup>36</sup> Radio Liberty, a United States government-controlled news and


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<sup>34</sup> [https://t.me/couch\\_IU/42463](https://t.me/couch_IU/42463)

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114497>

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/42325>



media agency,  [showed a before and after video](#), adding additional confirmation.<sup>37</sup>

In a violation of operational security (OPSEC), someone shared  [a battle damage assessment of the Ropucha-class](#) large landing ship Minsk at the Sevmorzavod Ship Yards in Sevastopol, which was hit by a cruise missile on September 12.<sup>38</sup> The Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom  [shared a high-resolution image of the dry dock in Sevastopol](#), concluding the Minsk is “functionally destroyed” and the Kilo-class submarine Rostov-on-Don “suffered catastrophic damage.”

The head of security programs of the Center for Global Studies of Strategy XXI, Pavlo Lakiychuk, believes the Oleksandrivsky graving dry dock has been rendered unusable.<sup>39</sup> “There will be no Alexander Dock. There will be only a dry dock on the North side [and] two more floating docks of the 13th plant. The less repair capabilities the enemy has, the harder it will be for him to fight.”

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<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111349>

<sup>38</sup> [https://t.me/ukrarmed\\_forces/6345](https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/6345)

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/investigatoua/7032>

He also noted that Russia's ability to launch Kalibr cruise missiles from submarines, which are harder to detect, has been permanently reduced by 25%.<sup>40</sup>

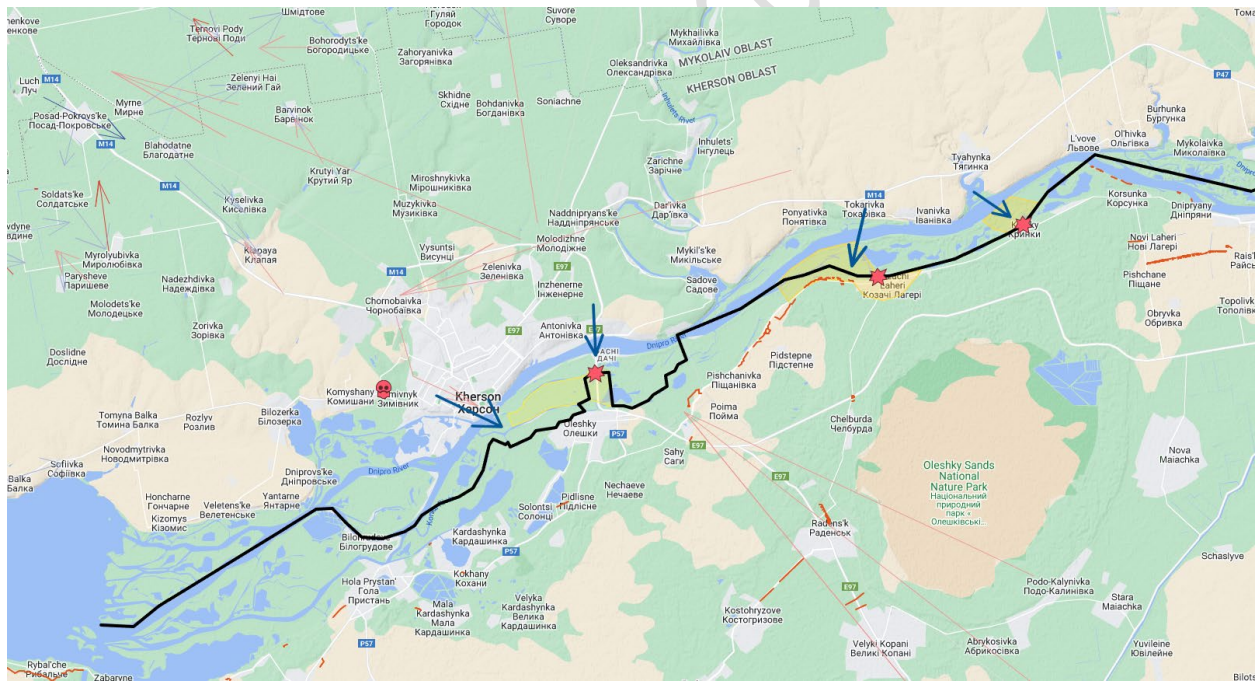
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<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/investigatorua/7032>

# 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



There weren't any significant updates in this region.

## 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

There weren't any significant updates in this region.

## 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

There weren't any significant updates in this region.




## 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

There weren't any significant updates in this region.

## BELARUSIAN FRONT

Satellite images showed that the Private Military Company Wagner Group at Tsel, Belarus, continues to be disassembled. Between August 23 and September 9, another  [60 large military tents have been removed](#).<sup>41 42</sup>

The image from September 9 showed dozens of buses parked where tents were once located.

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<sup>41</sup> [Radio Liberty](#) [United States government-controlled news agency]

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/informnapalm/18840>

The dark potato prince and illegitimate president of Belarus, Alexander “uncool Lando Calrissian” Lukashenko, flew to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin.

## THEATERWIDE

Ukrainian military analyst Alexander Kovalenko analyzed Russia’s Shahed-136 drone attacks for the first two weeks of September.<sup>43</sup> So far, 234 drones have been launched at Ukraine, which would be a similar pace to May 2023. He also pointed out that only 167 drones attacked Ukraine in August, indicating Russia may have stockpiled their supply.

***Editor’s Note:*** Zarina Zabrisky is negotiating with Kovalenko to appear on the podcast once a week.

In an interview with Ukrinform, a Ukrainian government-controlled news agency, a representative of the Office of the President of South Korea said North Korea is already providing munitions to Russia.<sup>44</sup> “It’s difficult to talk about this because it’s an intelligence issue, but we have

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<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/zloyodessit/20087>

<sup>44</sup> [Ukrinform](#) [Ukrainian government-controlled news agency]

confirmed for a long time that the weapons provided by North Korea are being used by Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine." Alarmed by Kim Jong Un's extended visit to Russia, the representative added, "We are closely monitoring all developments and outcomes and are discussing multilateral countermeasures we can take together with the United States, Japan, and other allies, as well as individual measures we can take on our own."

Bundeswehr Major General Christian Freuding, who heads the situation center "Ukraine," said Germany is assuming the Russian war of aggression could stretch to 2032, and the military support plans for Ukraine are designed to continue support.<sup>45</sup> General Freuding added that the only acceptable victory for Ukraine would be restoring the 1991 borders. Without that, a lasting peace won't be assured.

The United Kingdom transferred Malloy drones to Ukraine. The drones can carry a payload of up to 180 kilograms with a range of 70 kilometers.<sup>46</sup>

According to Sveriges Radio in Sweden, Ukrainian pilots have completed familiarization training of the Saab JAS 39

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<sup>45</sup> [https://t.me/couch\\_IU/42492](https://t.me/couch_IU/42492)

<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111356>

Gripen multirole fighter plane. The Minister of Defense of Sweden, Pal Jonson, said that ground staff and pilots were briefed and trained, after which they were allowed to take part in simulations and test flights.<sup>47 48</sup>

The United States created a new team in Ukraine to monitor American security assistance. A U.S. representative has already started work, and additional personnel will arrive by the end of September.<sup>49</sup>

The table for equipment losses was **updated on September 13, 2023**, and includes the losses suffered during the Prigozhin Insurrection of June 23 – 24.

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<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114487>

<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111345>

<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnenews/24176>





## 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.

12,153 Russian (including [Chef's Rebellion](#)) vs. 4,433 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
<b>Main Battle Tanks</b>	2165	283	7.65:1	↓
<b>Medium Duty Tanks</b>	148	366	0.40:1	—
<b>Armored fighting Vehicles</b>	977	325	3.01:1	—
<b>Infantry Fighting Vehicles</b>	2781	746	3.73:1	—
<b>Armored Personnel Carriers</b>	351	345	1.02:1	↓
<b>MRAPs</b>	47	157	0.30:1	—
<b>Infantry Mobility Vehicles</b>	207	370	0.56:1	—
<b>Command and Communications Vehicles</b>	251	17	14.76:1	↓
<b>Engineering Vehicles</b>	342	81	4.22:1	↓
<b>Towed Artillery</b>	299	159	1.88:1	↑
<b>Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars</b>	521	215	2.42:1	↑
<b>MLRS</b>	269	50	5.38:1	↑
<b>SAMs</b>	169	129	1.31:1	↑
<b>Mobile Radars</b>	45	77	0.58:1	↓
<b>EW/ECW</b>	54	4	13.50:1	↑
<b>Winged Aircraft</b>	91	71	1.28:1	↑
<b>Helicopters</b>	112	35	3.20:1	↓
<b>Naval Vessels and Submarines</b>	17	27	0.63:1	↑

## RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Members of the Russian 8th Motor Infantry Regiment from Tver released a video  [complaining about catastrophic combat losses](#), a lack of ammunition, and receiving no pay for three months.<sup>50</sup> In the video, a small group of  [poorly equipped Russian soldiers](#) reported that 70% to 75% of the Regiment had been killed or wounded in fighting near Kilshchiivka.<sup>51</sup> The unit was assigned to the so-called Donetsk People's Republic 1st Army Corps on August 25. They added that the unit is combat destroyed and incapable of carrying out missions.

Russia continues to destroy the former mercenaries of PMC Wagner Group slowly.<sup>52</sup> According to the "We Can Explain" project, messages began circulating in the chats of former mercenaries that they had to change their careers and have been forced to accept menial jobs – if they could find work at all. The former Wagnerites are denied employment in Russian law enforcement agencies and defense enterprises, forcing them to take jobs in construction, delivery, operating taxis, or manufacturing. When applying for a job, the pardon documents are ignored with job applications

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<sup>50</sup> <https://twitter.com/PStyle0ne1/status/1702225191026221421>

<sup>51</sup> <https://twitter.com/secretsqrl123/status/1702271180416159949>

<sup>52</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111346>

rejected. Mercenaries and family members feel lied to because they didn't receive the promised clean slate.

A picture emerged of Sergey Surovikin in Algeria, meeting with the nation's military leadership in a civilian capacity.<sup>53</sup>

The Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, Yuri Shvytkin, said there would be no need for another round of mobilization in Russia this fall. "There will be no mobilization. As of today, mobilization is not expected - neither the second nor the third stage nor general. All these orders that are supposedly issued are fake."<sup>54</sup>

Shvytkin made the same claim in September 2022, days before Russia mobilized almost 300,000 men into the armed forces.

Ex-deputy head of Rosprirodnadzor, Oleg Mitvol, was found guilty of theft during the construction of the Krasnoyarsk Metro and was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison.<sup>55</sup> Mitvol has embezzled over 900 million roubles and made a deal to

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<sup>53</sup> <https://t.me/vchkogpu/41788>

<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/154968>

<sup>55</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/56898](https://t.me/shot_shot/56898)

admit guilt in exchange for a lighter sentence.<sup>56</sup> He is also required to pay back 771 million roubles.

The head of the Federal Aviation Transport Agency, Alexander Neradko, will be dismissed, possibly as early as September 15. Two sources at Russian airlines told Russian state media, "There were many complaints against Neradko, both regarding the work of the service and corruption. The head of the agency was a witness in a number of criminal cases."<sup>57 58</sup>

In St. Petersburg, a Neo-Nazi gang attacked and kidnapped an unidentified person, beat them, and extorted 700,000 roubles. The seven men, aged 21 to 29, had a gun and clothing and tattoos with Nazi symbols. Two are being held in custody, while five more are under investigation for kidnapping.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/37744>

<sup>57</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/155028>

<sup>58</sup> <https://t.me/izvestia/142723>

<sup>59</sup> [https://t.me/shot\\_shot/56878](https://t.me/shot_shot/56878)



## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Defense Council of the Kherson oblast announced mandatory evacuations of families with children from 30 settlements along the Dnipro River which have been under constant shelling and bombing by Russian forces. Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA) Oleksandr Prokudin also updated the nightly curfew to 20:00 hours to 06:00 hours. The decision comes the day after a six-year-old was killed, and their 13-year-old brother has been left fighting for their life due to a Russian bombing.<sup>60</sup>

A field office of the International Criminal Court has been opened in Kyiv and is the largest office for the ICC outside of The Hague.<sup>61</sup>

## GEOPOLITICS

NATO Deputy-Secretary Joane was in Moldova for meetings with the military and political leadership of the country.

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<sup>60</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114517>

<sup>61</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111360>

During a press conference, he said that Chisinau is a target of hybrid war on the part of the Russian Federation.<sup>62</sup>

Brazil may withdraw from the Rome Statute due to the arrest warrant for Russian President Putin issued by the International Criminal Court.<sup>63</sup> Brazilian Justice and Public Security Minister Flavio Dino said there was “an imbalance in which some countries respect the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and others do not.” Brazil will host the G20 Summit in 2024.

The Russian Foreign Ministry declared two US Embassy employees persona non grata, accusing them of spying. The Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB) claimed the First Secretary of the American Embassy, Jeffrey Sillin, and the Second Secretary, David Bernstein, were collecting information “about the Northern Military District.”<sup>64</sup> <sup>65</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> [https://t.me/our\\_odessa/53803](https://t.me/our_odessa/53803)

<sup>63</sup> <https://t.me/uniannet/111330>

<sup>64</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/154899>

<sup>65</sup> <https://t.me/astrapress/37763>

Slovakia expelled an employee of the Russian embassy, accusing them of espionage. The Foreign Ministry of Russia promised there would be a response.<sup>66 67</sup>

## ECONOMIC

The joint project between Russia and Türkiye to build a natural gas hub is dead, according to a report by Reuters-Thompson. The deal fell apart over disagreements on who would run the terminal.<sup>68</sup>

The Bulgarian Parliament supports lifting the ban on the import of Ukrainian grain. The European Union ban on four types of agricultural products from Ukraine was ratified on May 2 by Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The embargo is set to expire on September 15.<sup>69</sup>

Russian state media reported that Moscow is ready to negotiate with Tokyo on reaching a final peace deal for World War II and consider the issue of the Kuril Islands –

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<sup>66</sup> <https://t.me/izvestia/142689>

<sup>67</sup> <https://t.me/izvestia/142692>

<sup>68</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114510>

<sup>69</sup> <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/114468>

but there is a condition. Japan will need to drop all sanctions against Russia to start a dialog.<sup>70</sup>

British American Tobacco is leaving Russia and Belarus. "The transaction was carried out in compliance with national and international legislation and after obtaining all necessary permits," a company statement said. On September 7, the press service of the company's Russian office reported that British American Tobacco had entered into a deal to sell its business in the Russian Federation and Belarus, but the trademarks used would remain the property of the Russian buyer.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> <https://t.me/izvestia/142688>

<sup>71</sup> <https://t.me/rusbrief/154955>

## 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.