



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 163

In the Bakhmut area, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group attempted to advance on Bakhmut and were unsuccessful. Russian forces made a renewed attempt to advance on Vershyna from Roty and were unsuccessful.

In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces released a video showing themselves in Travneve. Ukrainian forces in the settlement were at risk of encirclement and likely withdrew under cover of darkness to Kodema.

Russian forces continue to focus their resources and the largest attacks in Ukraine on Avdiivka and Pisky. Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR and the 2nd Army Corps of the LNR attempted to advance into both settlements with no success.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Marinka and were also unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces destroyed a large Russian ammunition depot in Maklivka.

North of Kharkiv, Pro-Russian social media account Rybar reported that positional battles continued in Vesele, Borshchova, and Pytomnsk.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine hit an ammunition depot in Tokmak, causing a large fire with secondary explosions. Operational Command South reported that ammunition depots in Berislav and Kherson were destroyed.

Ukraine also targeted the command posts of the 76th Airborne Assault Division and 49th Combined Arms Army.

Russian VDV forces supported by tanks attacked Ukrainian positions on the Inhulets River bridgehead at Lozove from Sukhyi Stavok but were unsuccessful.

Energoatom claims that Russian forces launched a false flag attack on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, firing rockets from MLRS that landed near one of the reactor houses. It was reported that a nitrogen-oxygen station and the combined auxiliary building were badly damaged, but there were no casualties or release of radiation. Before the

shelling, Russian Rosatom representatives hurriedly left the station.

Dmytro Zhiviytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor reported that Seredyna-Buda, Esman, and Hlukhiv were shelled. There was one casualty.

In Chernihiv, the settlements of Zaliznyi Mist and Hremyach were shelled by Russian forces over the international border. There wasn't additional information on damage or casualties.

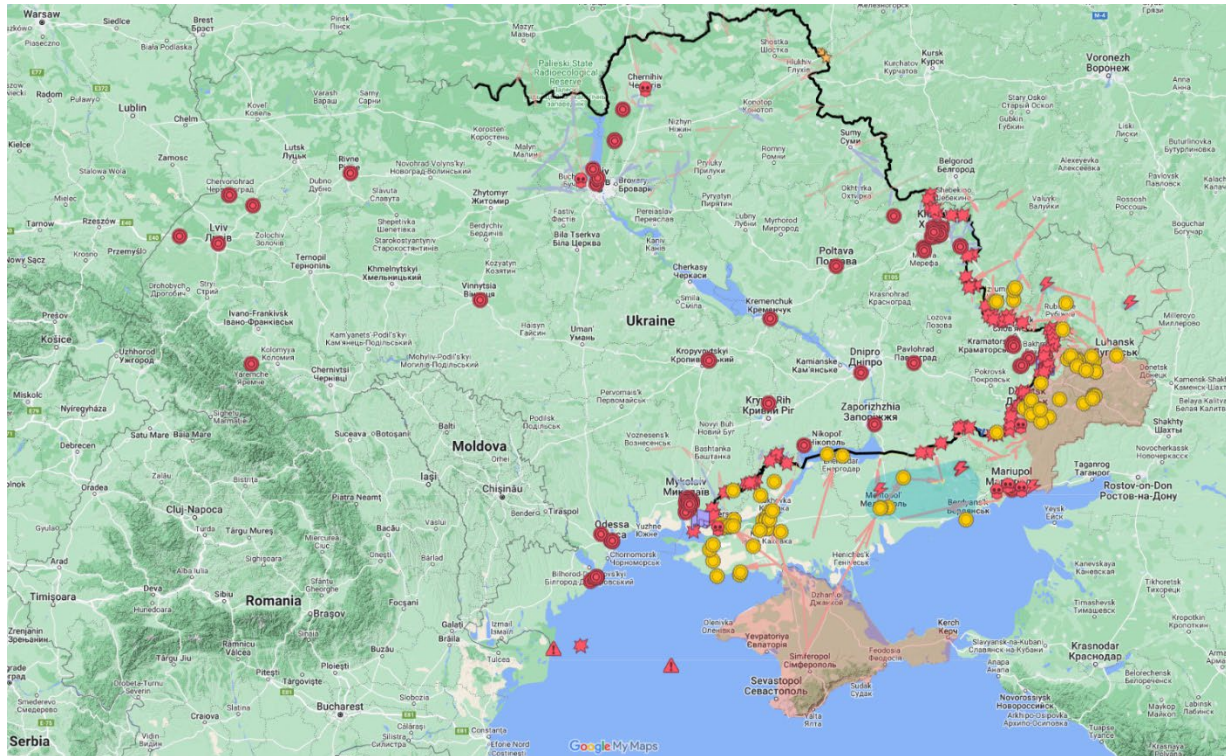
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Russian forces continue to focus military resources to grind Ukrainian defenses west of Donetsk down using a scorched earth policy.
2. The reduction in operational tempo is not an indication that Russian forces have exhausted their resources and is likely a 36 to 72-hour pause to reconstitute before increasing attacks west of Donetsk and near Bakhmut.

3. The activation of the newly created 17th Tank Brigade by Ukraine is an indicator that offensive operations in Kherson will increase in the near future.
4. Russia has significantly increased misinformation and disinformation campaigns in an attempt to erode western aid to Ukraine.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

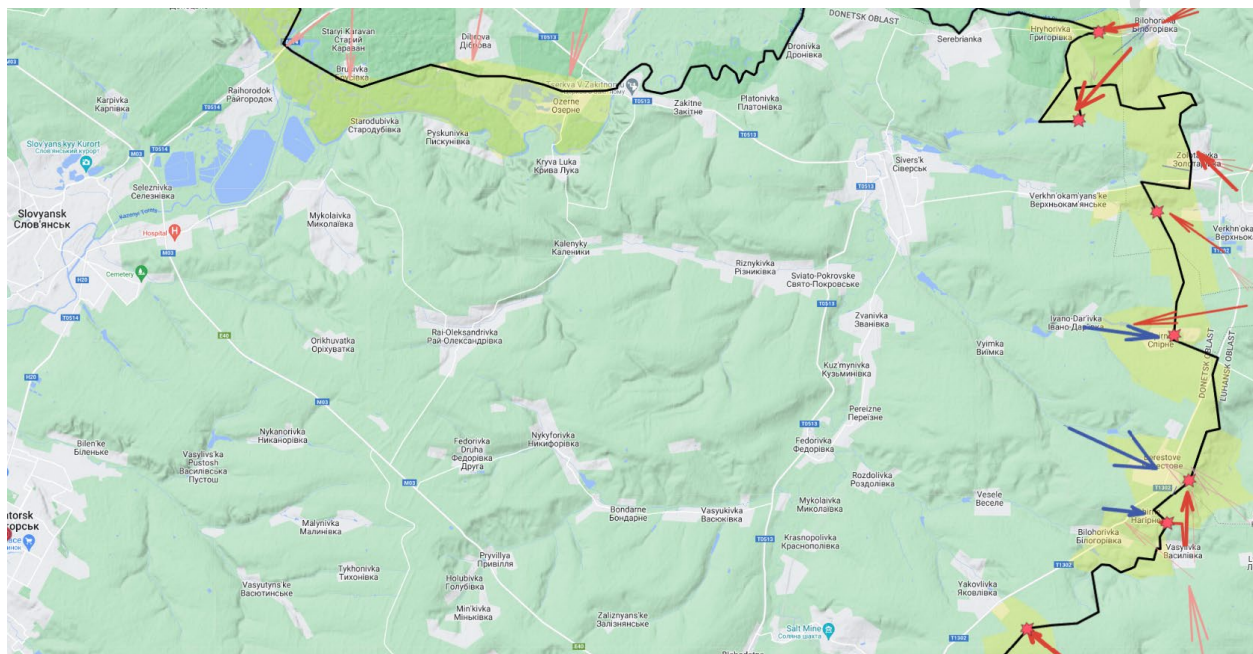


We have made significant improvements to our map solution. The updated map now shows contested areas and missile strikes by both belligerents. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report. We have also added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

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 budding insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

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

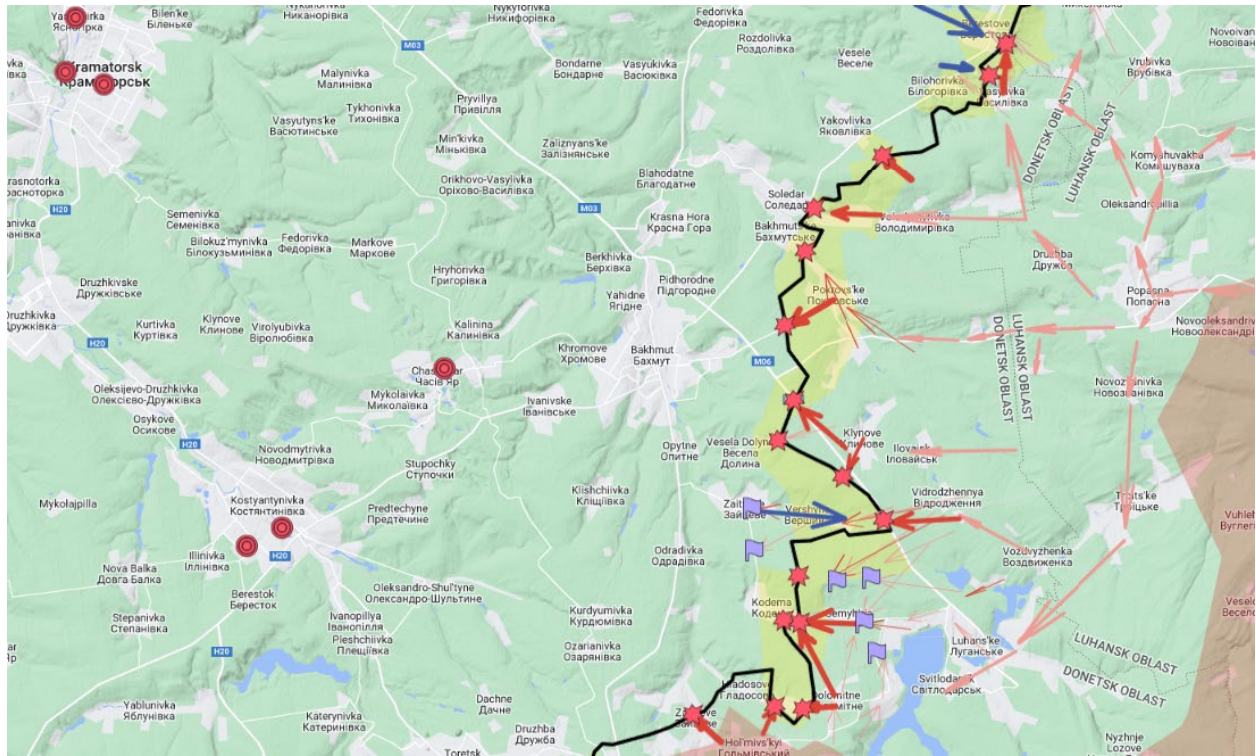
This region had no activity beyond limited small arms fire, and artillery.

Russian forces shelled [Siversk](#), [Verkhnokamyanske](#), and [Hryhorivka](#).¹

ASSESSMENT: There will be periods of low activity followed by a day or two of small offensive actions by both belligerents.

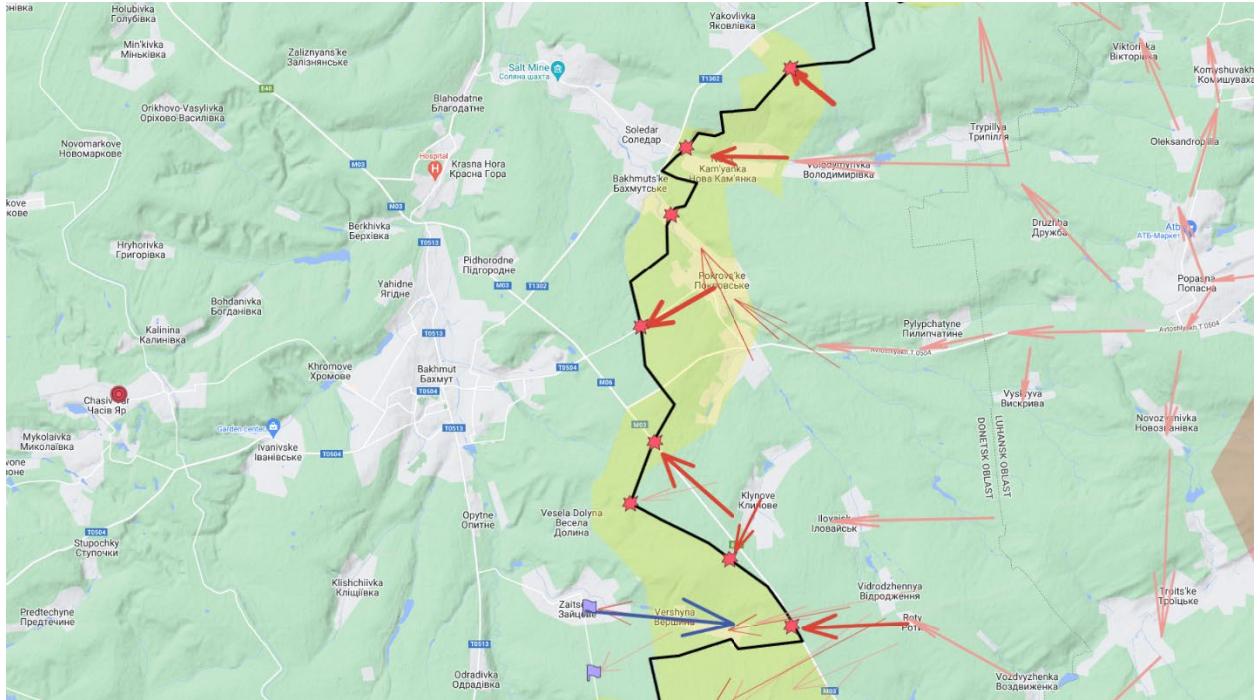
¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

BAKHMUT

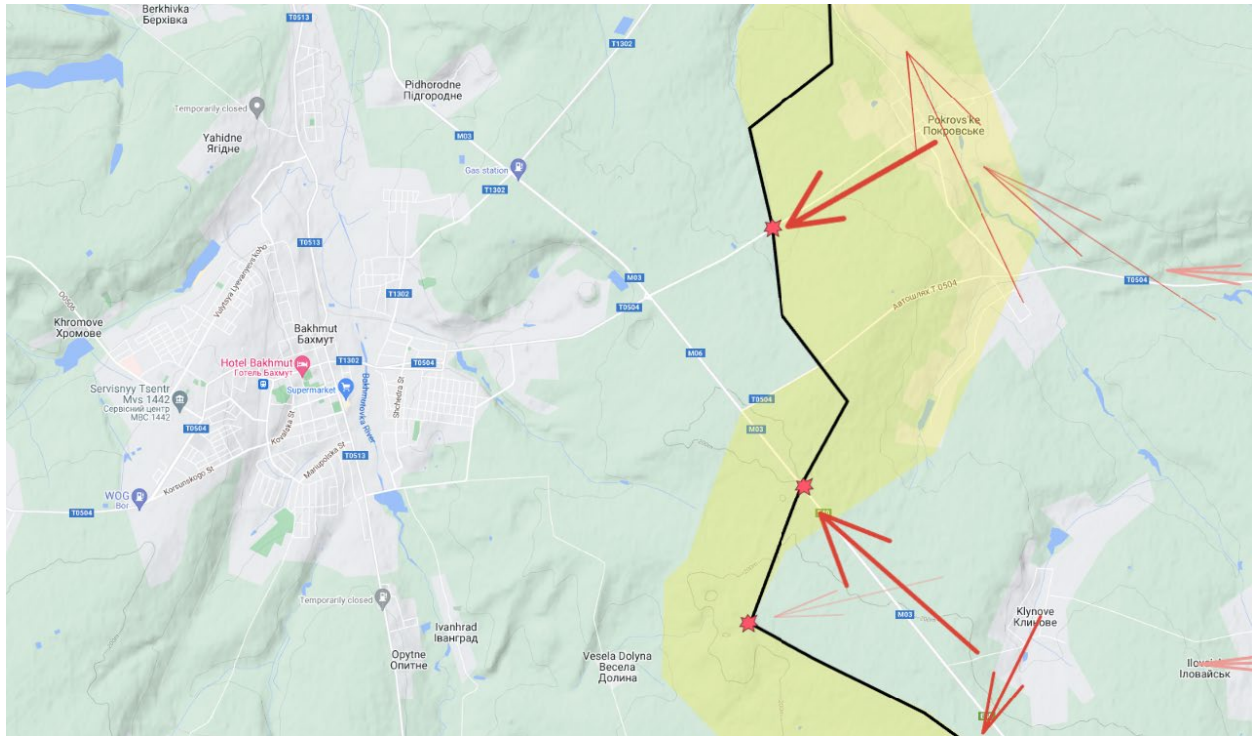


Russian Objective: Capture the Bakhmut-Soledar complex and collapse the Svitlodarsk salient before August 31, interdict the Bakhmut-Siversk T-5013 Highway GLOC

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

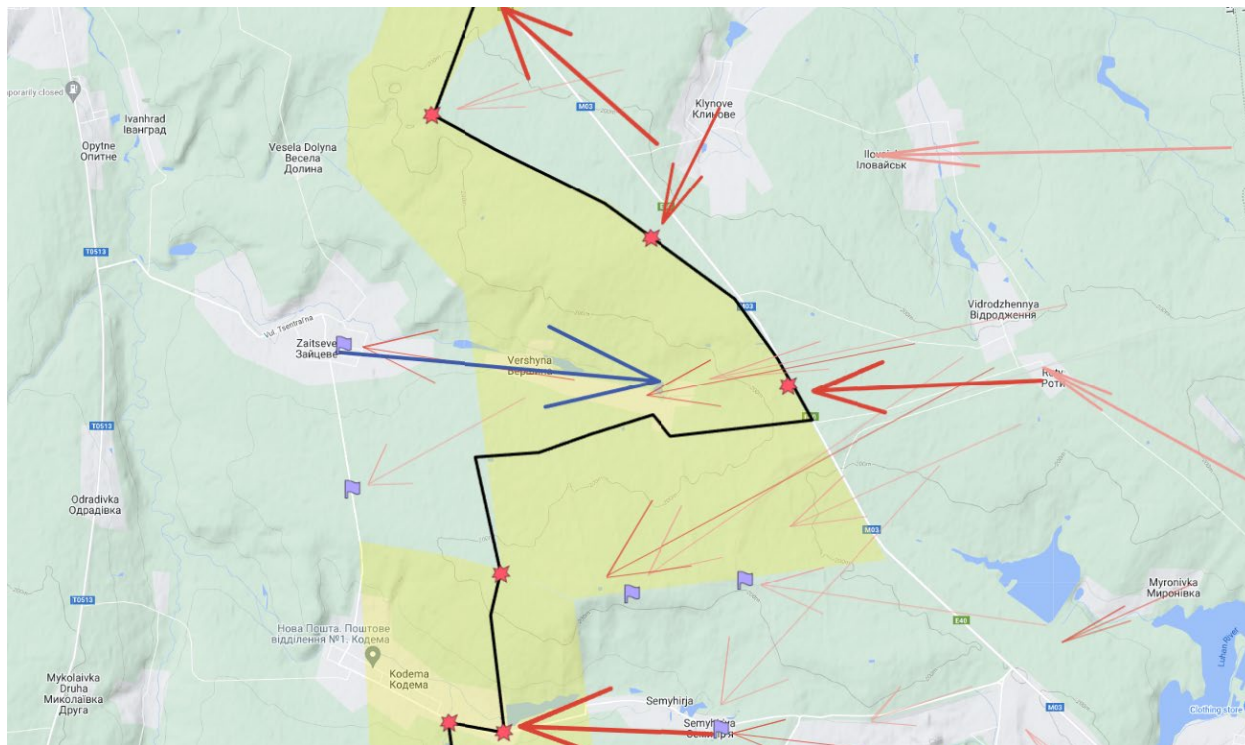


Russian forces continue attempts to capture Soledar and Bakhmut but are running into stiff Ukrainian opposition.

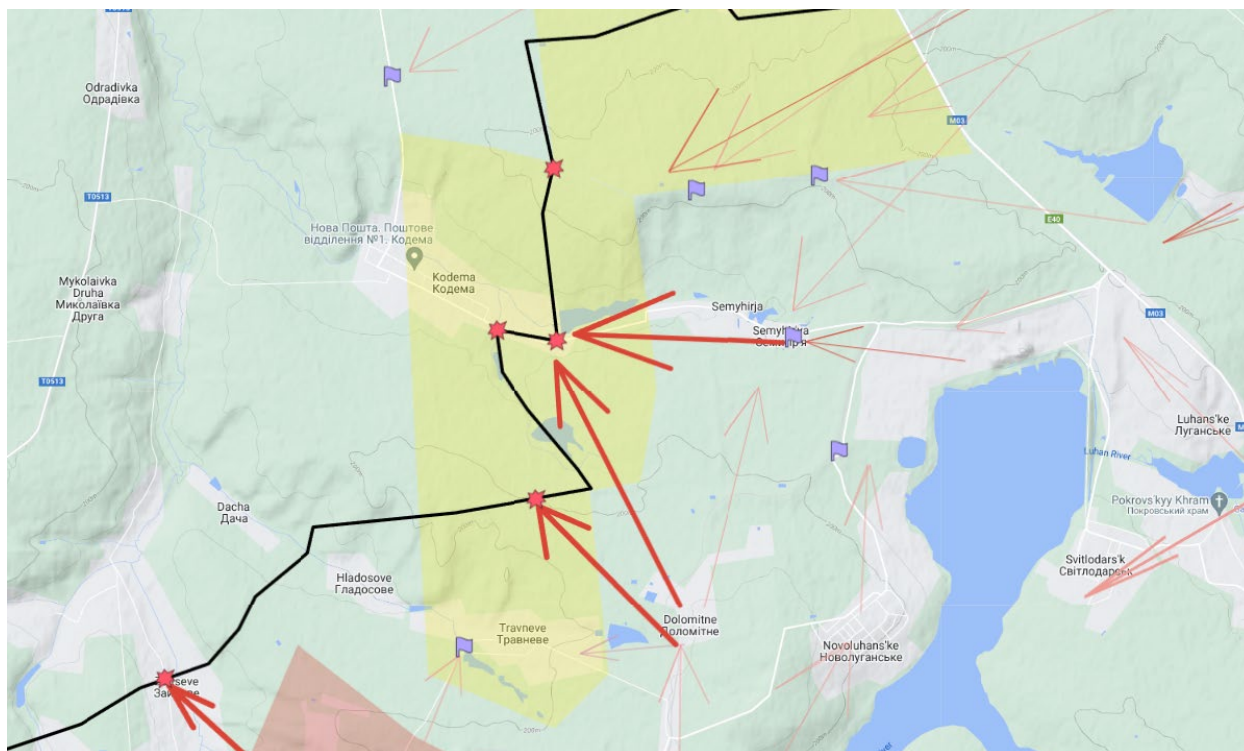


East of Bakhmut, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group attempted to advance on [Bakhmut](#) and were unsuccessful.²

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



Russian forces made a renewed attempt to advance on [Vershyzna](#) from [Roty](#) and were unsuccessful.



In the Svitlodarsk bulge, Russian forces [released a video](#) showing themselves in [Travneve](#).³ Ukrainian forces in the settlement were at risk of encirclement and likely withdrew under cover of darkness to [Kodema](#).

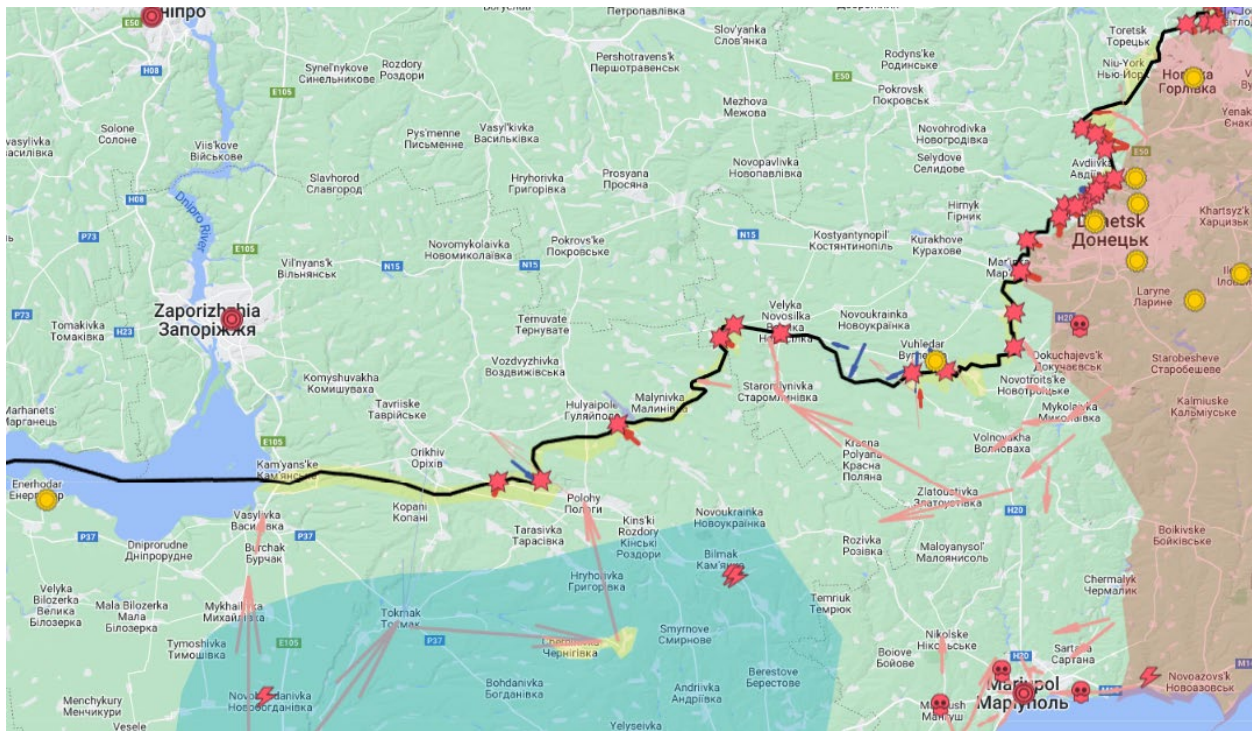
Editor's Note: Typically, we do not accept this type of confirmation at face value. The August 4 Situation Report showed Ukrainian forces were encircled in Travneve, and we questioned during the intelligence review if forces remained. We assess the claim as authentic based on the additional, admittedly circumstantial evidence.

³ <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1555667240166498307>

Russian forces shelled [Yakovlivka](#), [Rozdolivka](#), [Soledar](#), [Zaitseve](#), Bakhmut, and Kodema. The Russian air force attacked Vershyna.

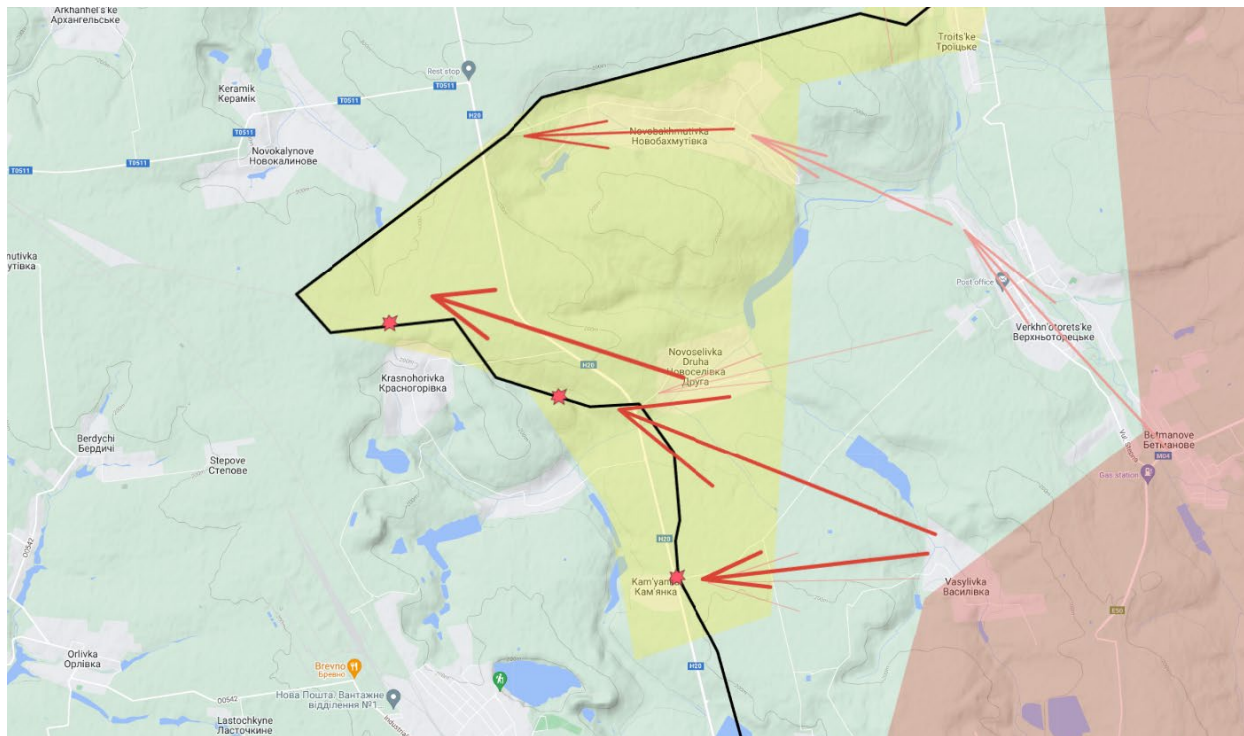
ASSESSMENT: The reduction in operational tempo is likely to reconstitute forces for a more intense offensive operation in the next 36 to 72 hours. This pattern was established during the attack on Popasna and the westward advance to the T-1302 Highway from mid-May to the end of June in Luhansk.

SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



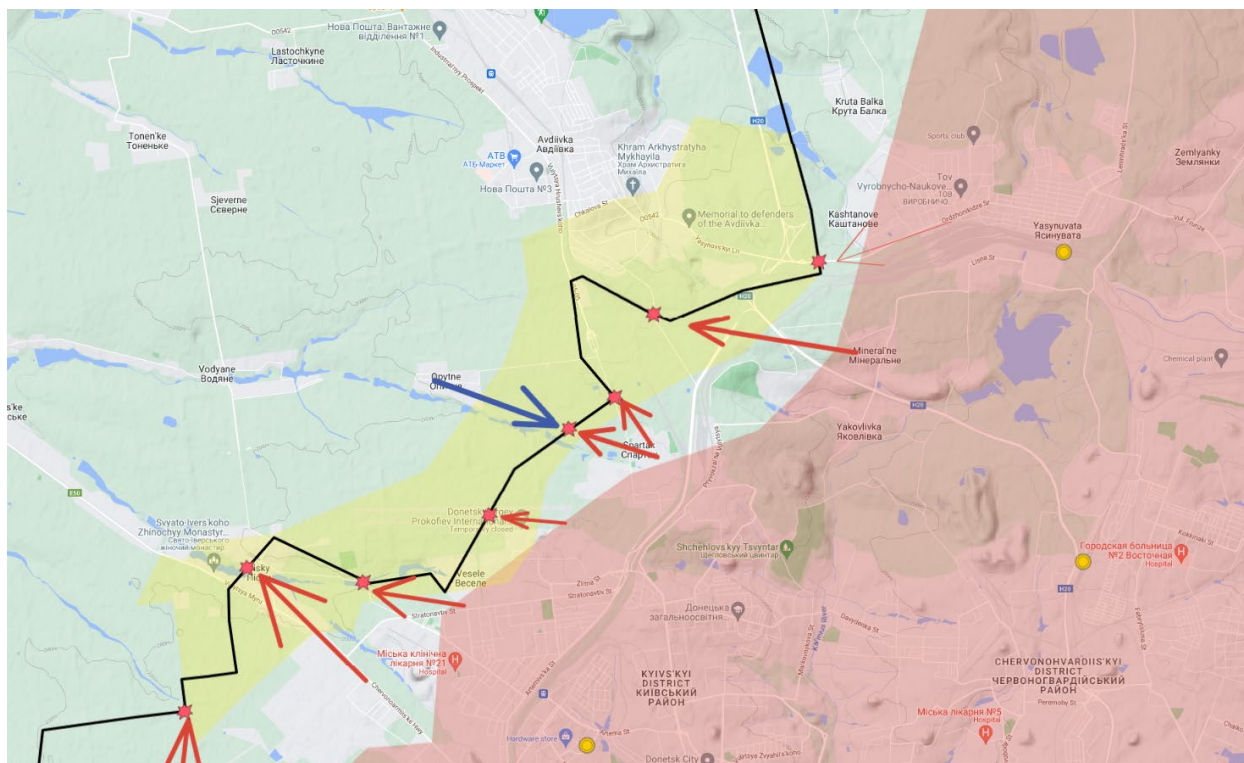
Russian Objective: Capture the Donetsk oblast to its administrative borders before August 31, push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dnipro River

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



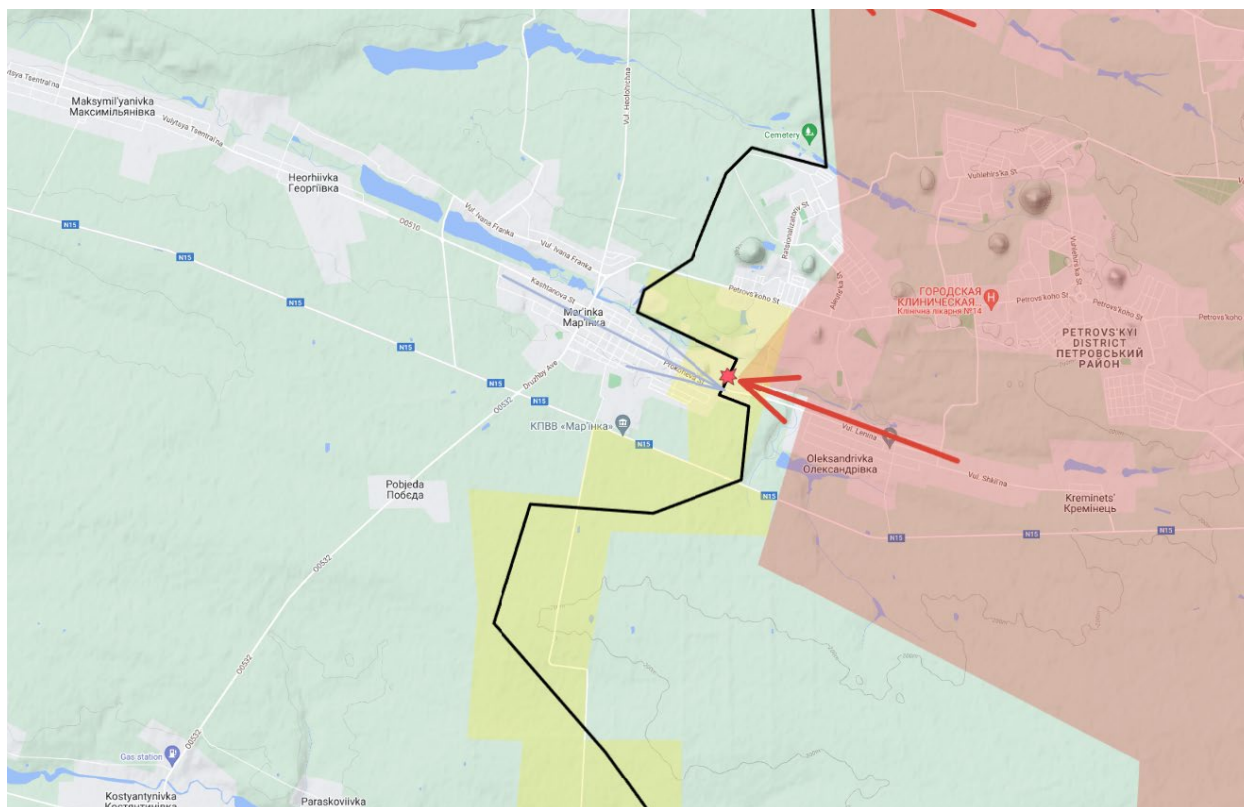
Russian forces attempted to improve their positions east of [Krasnohorivka](#) but were unsuccessful.⁴

⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



Russian forces continue to focus their resources and the largest attacks in Ukraine on [Avdiivka](#) and [Pisky](#). Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR and the 2nd Army Corps of the LNR attempted to advance into both settlements with no success.

ASSESSMENT: Pro-Russian social media accounts continue to declare both settlements nearly captured. Videos from Russian state media do not support these claims.



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Marinka](#) and were also unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces destroyed a large Russian ammunition depot in [Maklivka](#).⁵ Ammunition was still cooking off hours after the strike, and the depot was located within 500 meters of civilian homes based on videos shared on social media.

⁵ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/25015?single>

Russian forces shelled [Novobakhmutivka](#), [Nevelske](#), [Netailove](#), and [Novomykhailivka](#). The first three settlements are on GLOCs that would support Ukrainian defenses and could serve as a location for artillery for indirect fire or counterbattery. Novomykhailivka could provide indirect fire or counterbattery against the Russian advance on Marinka.

There was widespread shelling west of Novomykhailivka to [Velkya Novosilka](#) in Donetsk. Russian forces targeted [Volodymyrivka](#), Velyka Novosilka, [Neskuchne](#), [Novosilka](#), and [Novopil](#).

Artillery fire in Zaporizhia was from [Hulyaipole](#) to [Orikhiv](#) to [Kamyanske](#) on the Dnipro River. East of Orkhiv, Russian forces heavily shelled [Charivne](#) and [Novoandriivka](#).

ASSESSMENT: The destruction of the Russian ammunition depot may have a short-term impact on offensive operations in Marinka, Pesky, and Avdiivka. Russian logistics will have to fill the metaphorical and literal hole created and spread available resources to maintain the current level of fire. Russian forces can likely adjust quickly, but we assess there will be a **reduction** in combat operations for the next 24 to 48 hours. Given the location of

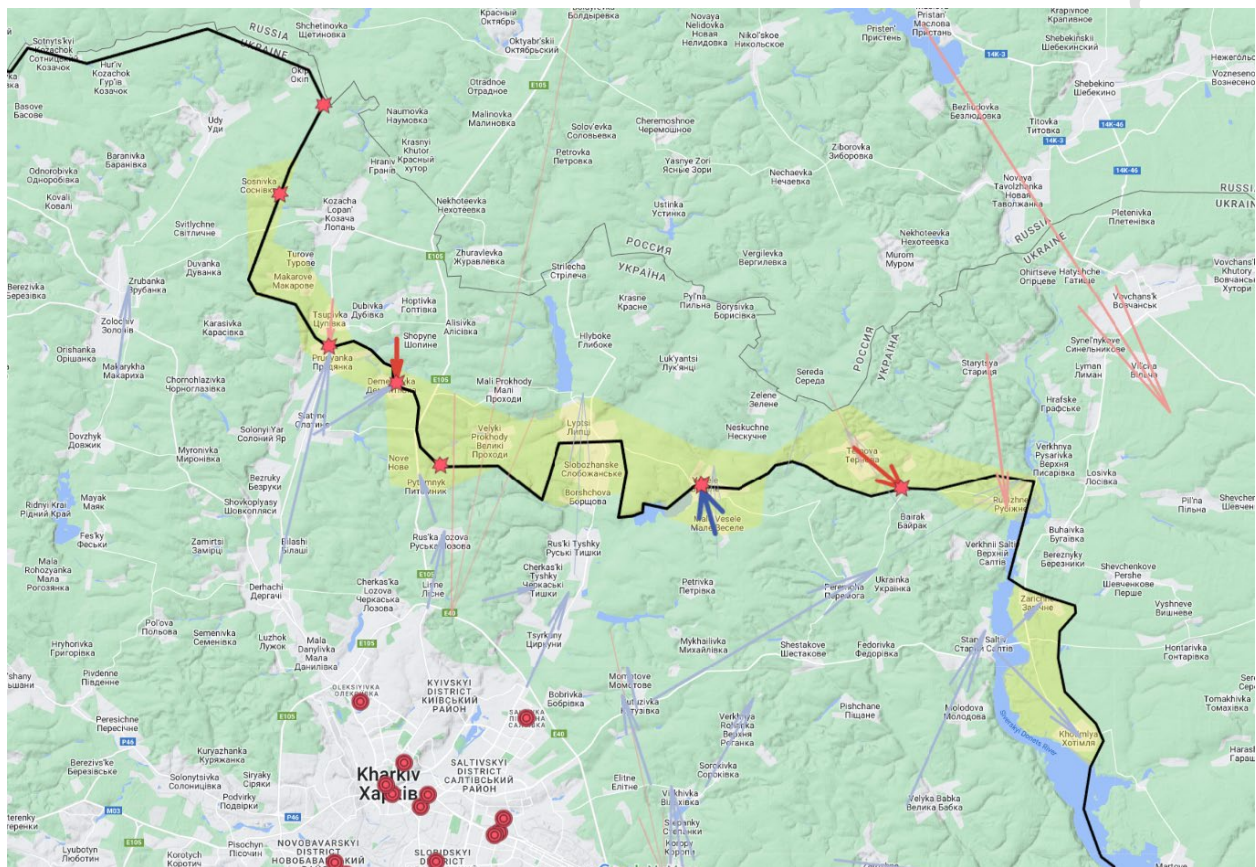
the depot, what is unclear is the potential impact on military equipment, trucks, and personnel. If the ammunition depot included a command post, the impact on the ongoing offensive could be more significant.

In our assessment, Russian forces will focus on interdiction over the next 24 to 48 hours to prevent additional Ukrainian reinforces from moving into the area as they reset logistics.

We maintain that the goal of securing the entirety of the Donetsk oblast by August 31 is unrealistic.

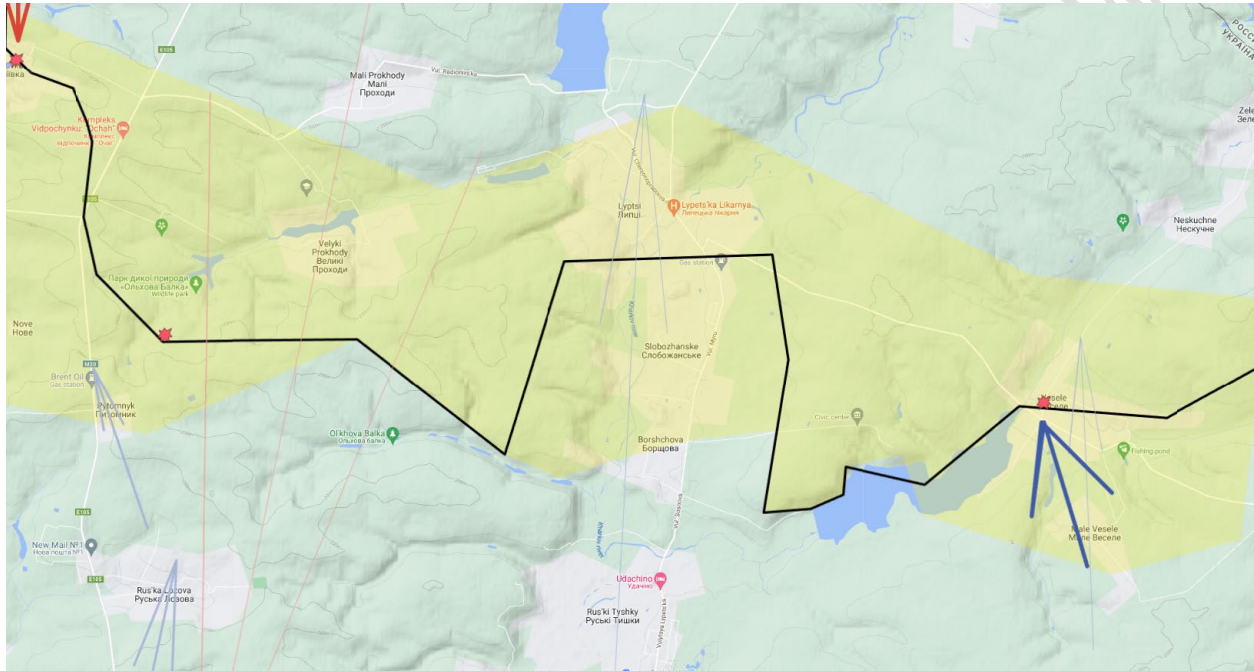
KHARKIV REGION

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



Pro-Russian social media account Rybar reported that positional battles continued in [Vesele](#), [Borshchova](#), and [Pytomnsk](#).⁶

Russian forces shelled the settlements of [Ruska Lozova](#), [Cherkaski Tyshky](#), [Staryi Saltiv](#), and [Verkhni Saltiv](#). Missiles hit the Slobid District of Kharkiv.⁷

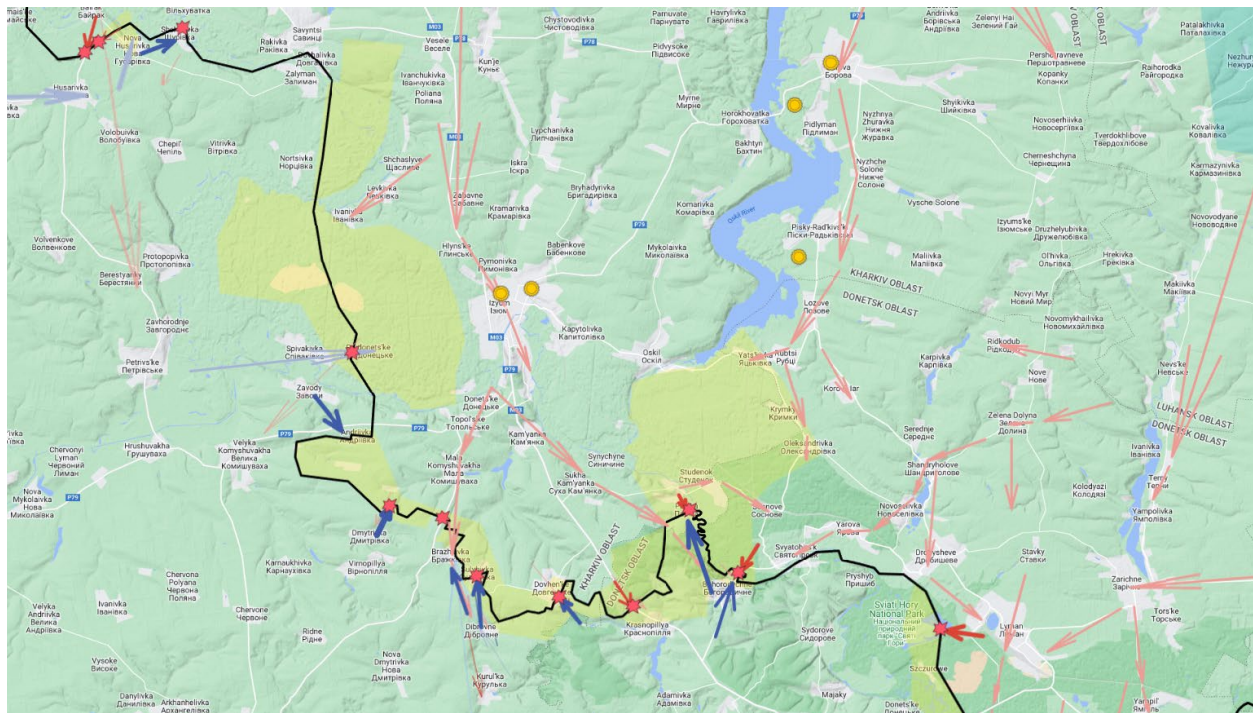
⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/36689>

⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/6/7362109/>

Near Chuhiv, the settlement of [Korobochkyne](#) was shelled.

ASSESSMENT: Ukrainian and Russian forces are establishing defensive lines where Russian forces will maintain a line 20 to 30 kilometers northwest, north, and northeast of Kharkiv to prevent Ukrainian forces from reaching the Russian border. There will be positional battles, reconnaissance, and probing for weaknesses, but we do not expect major combat operations along this axis for the rest of the summer.

IZYUM AXIS



Russian Objective: Hold the current line of conflict and prevent further advances by Ukrainian troops toward 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

There wasn't any significant fighting along the Izyum axis.

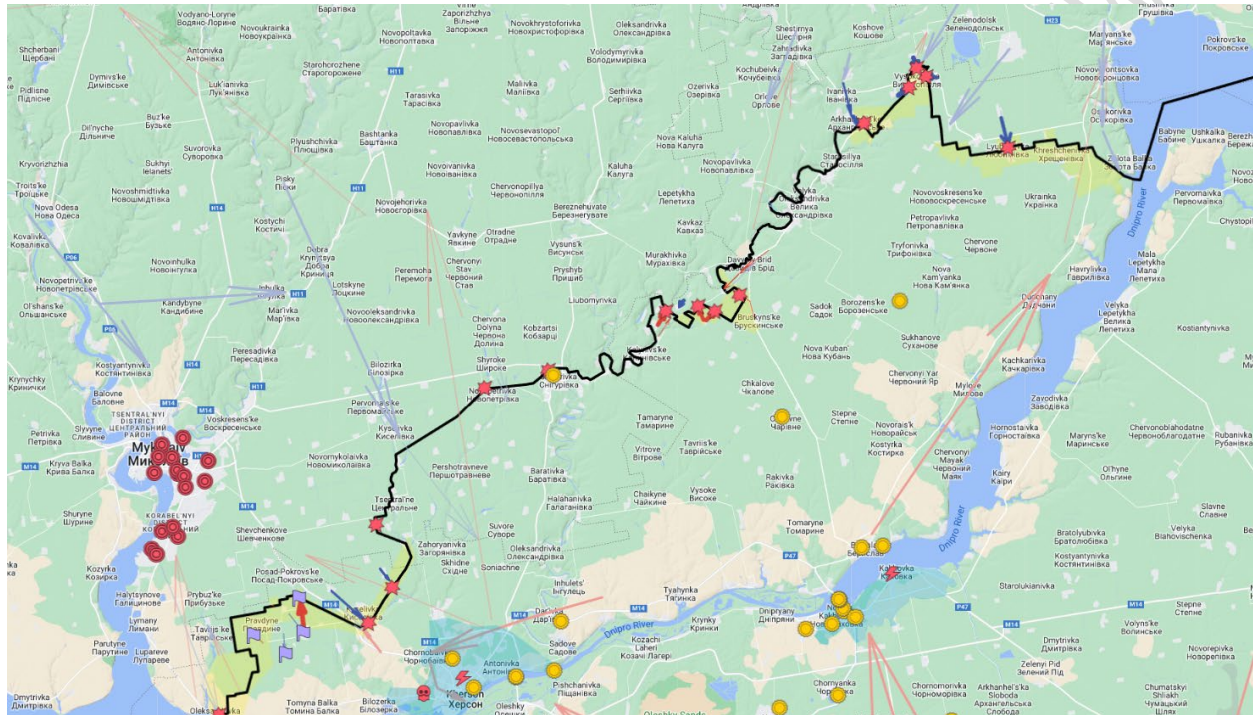
Russian forces shelled [Dibrovne](#), [Velika Komyshevakha](#), and [Ridne](#), [Dolyna](#), and [Bohorodychne](#).

ASSESSMENT: The lack of further Ukrainian offensive operations is likely due to consolidating recent gains, establishing secure GLOCs, and evaluating weaknesses in Russian defenses for future advances.

Russian forces have switched to a defensive posture south of Izyum. We had assessed that Russian offensives around Chepil were spoiling attacks and attempting to spread Ukrainian forces along the axis. Russian troop strength on the Izyum axis is inadequate to initiate a significant offensive near Chepil and simultaneously defend positions south of Izyum. 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 risk encirclement.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

KHERSON



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive but building defenses, prevent further advances by Ukrainian troops toward Kherson, repair destroyed GLOCs over the Dnipro River, 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

Ukraine hit an ammunition depot in [Tokmak](#), [causing a large fire](#) with secondary explosions.⁸ Operational Command South reported that ammunition depots in Berislav and Kherson were destroyed.⁹

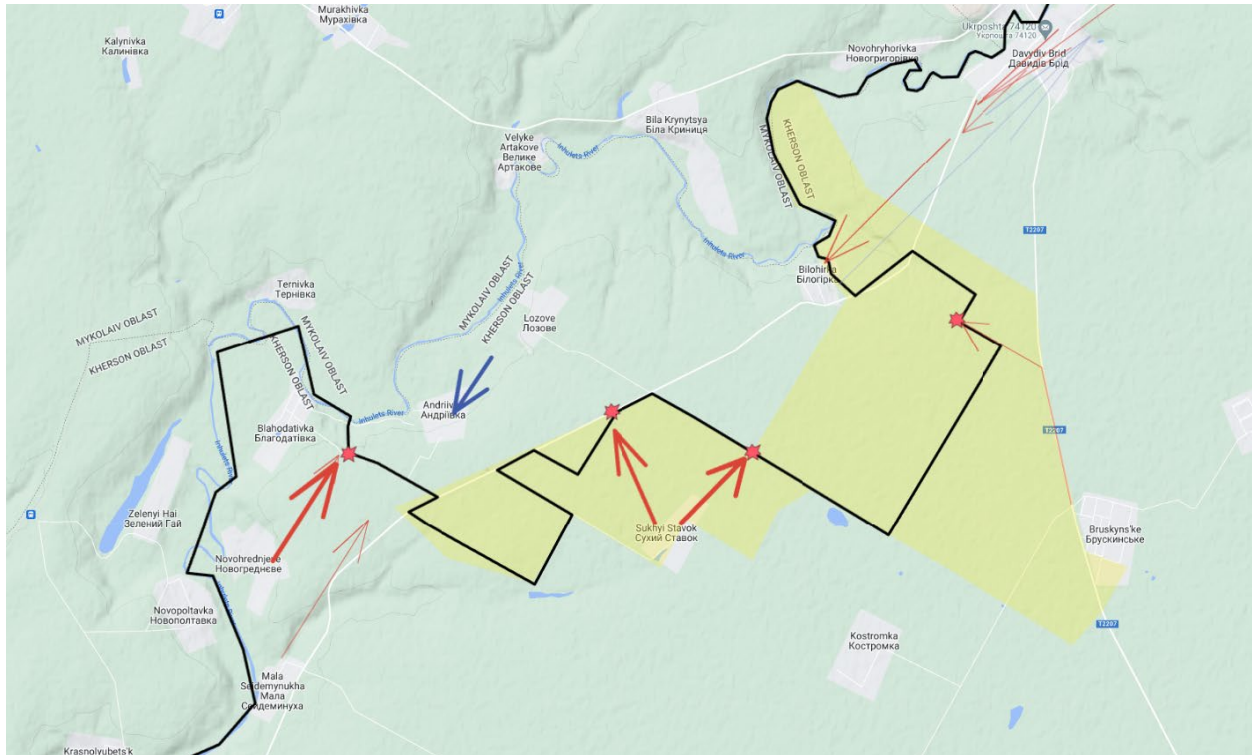
Ukraine also targeted the command posts of the 76th Airborne Assault Division and 49th Combined Arms Army.

Multiple social media reports reported that the recently repaired bridge in Russian-controlled [Darivka](#) was targeted. The explosion was so large that magnetic anomaly detectors in Lviv and Bucharest, Romania, registered the detonation.¹⁰ We cannot verify the exact location of the strike or if the attack impacted the GLOC.

⁸ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1555683627719163904>

⁹ [Ukriform](#)

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/rriichcord/status/1555766148066689025>



Russian VDV forces supported by tanks attacked Ukrainian positions on the Inhulets River bridgehead at [Lozove](#) from [Sukhyi Stavok](#) but were unsuccessful.¹¹

Forbes ran an ill-timed news article claiming that the Ukrainian 17th Tank Brigade doesn't exist, likely due to a lack of skilled tank crews.¹² The day before the story was released, elements of the 17th Tank Brigade [released a video](#) of a Battalion Tactical Group (BTG) size complement of T-72 tanks north of Kherson.¹³

¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

¹² [Forbes](#)

¹³ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1555592417146851329>



ASSESSMENT: Both belligerents are maintaining tight operational security in Kherson (in the case of Russian forces, tight for Russian forces). At the minimum, Ukraine set conditions that forced Russia to respond to the threat of a large-scale counteroffensive and moved troops out of the Donbas and Izyum.

MYKOLAIV

Russian Objective: Capture oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advance into the oblast, intercept missile attacks, minimize civilian casualties

Vitalii Kim, head of the Mykolaiv Oblast Military Administration, signed an order introducing a curfew in Mykolaiv city from 23:00 local time August 5 to 5:00 local time August 8.¹⁴

"I ask everyone to be sympathetic, plan the weekend and make purchases for these two days," Kim said as part of the announcement.

Kim clarified that very short trips near a person's home, such as dog walking, are still acceptable. Residents will need to carry their documents.

¹⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/5/7361990/>

It was additionally clarified that the curfew was not made due to intelligence about impending attacks but is being done to identify and sweep for Russian collaborators in the city. The day after Operational Command South reported that Ukrainian forces had destroyed four S-300 anti-aircraft missile launchers, Mykolaiv experienced a quieter night.

ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

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

Energoatom claims that Russian forces launched a false flag attack on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, firing rockets from MLRS that landed near one of the reactor houses.¹⁵

¹⁵ https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8675

It was reported that a nitrogen-oxygen station and the combined auxiliary building were badly damaged, but there were no casualties or release of radiation. Before the shelling, Russian Rosatom representatives hurriedly left the station.

On August 4, the Russian military damaged high-voltage power transmission lines connected to the plant. That attack triggered an automated emergency response on one of the reactors, and diesel backup generators switched on. This impacted reactor is currently unloaded and disconnected from the power grid.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, "Russia must bear responsibility for the very fact of creating a threat to the nuclear power plant. And this is not just another argument in favor of recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism."

"This is an argument in favor of applying tough sanctions against the entire Russian nuclear industry – from Rosatom to all related companies and individuals. This is purely a matter of safety."

"A country which creates nuclear threats to other nations is definitely not capable of using nuclear technologies safely."

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 Zhivytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor reported that [Seredyna-Buda](#), [Esman](#), and [Hlukhiv](#) were shelled.¹⁶ There was one casualty.

In Chernihiv, the settlements of [Zaliznyi Mist](#) and [Hremyach](#) were shelled by Russian forces over the international border. There wasn't additional information on damage or casualties.¹⁷

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1555680454128422912>

¹⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



KYIV REGION

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

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

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

WEST REGION

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

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Reuters reports that the United States will announce another \$1 billion in military aid to Ukraine on Monday.¹⁸ The new package is on President Joe Biden's desk awaiting his signature. Sources within the Department of Defense report that Ukraine will receive more HIMARS ammunition, NASAMS surface-to-air missile system ammunition, and 50 M113 armored medical transports.

Additionally, the United States has agreed to accept wounded Ukrainian soldiers at the military hospital at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany.

Ukraine denies any knowledge of Su-25 aircraft being donated by North Macedonia.¹⁹ "We currently do not have any confirmation from official sources of either North Macedonia or the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine concerning the donation of these aircraft."

"We saw it only in the media. And our reliable people tend to get ahead of themselves here. They always want to be

¹⁸ [Reuters](#)

¹⁹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/5/7144511/>

the first to cover the events. We have not published such information so far. We do not have it," Yuriy Ignat, spokesman for the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, said at a briefing.

"There are reports that 100,000 North Korean volunteers are prepared to come and take part in the conflict," talk show host Igor Korotchenko said on Russian Channel One.²⁰ It is also reported that North Korea is offering engineers to help "rebuild" the Donbas.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The fallout from the controversial Amnesty International Report is accelerating. The head of Amnesty International's Ukrainian office, Oksana Pokalchuk, resigned in protest.²¹

"For the past few days, my colleagues and I have been actively conducting explanatory work within the organization," Pokalchuk said.

²⁰ <https://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-offers-russia-100-202056174.html>

²¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/5/7362103/>

"I spoke with Amnesty representatives from dozens of countries around the world so that the position of Ukraine and Ukrainians would be heard."

"Also, I have repeatedly spoken with the top management, which, unfortunately, in this situation, did not take appropriate steps to protect the interests of the people for whose benefit the organization and the entire human rights movement works."

"It pains me to admit this, but the leadership of Amnesty International and I had a...parting of ways, so I made the decision to leave the organization."

The Polish representative of the international human rights organization Amnesty International published a statement condemning the crimes of the Russian army in Ukraine.²²

"Since the first days of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Russian troops have been carrying out inhumane attacks

²² <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/news/2022/08/5/7144547/>

not only on individual civilian objects but also on multi-million cities, small towns, and villages, often populated only by civilians. The Armed Forces, with the support of democratic countries around the world, including Poland, are defending themselves from a cruel and unjust attack, fighting in unequal conditions imposed by the aggressor."

The British ambassador to Ukraine, Melinda Simmons, tweeted, "The only thing that threatens Ukrainian civilians is Russian rockets, weapons, and looting by Russian troops. If Russia stopped invading Ukraine, there would be no danger."²³

GEOPOLITICAL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan met for talks in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.²⁴

Meantime, Moscow said it was ready to begin talks with the U.S. about a prisoner swap following the sentencing of

²³ <https://twitter.com/MelSimmonsFCDO/status/1555457036674031616>

²⁴ <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/05/russia-ukraine-live-updates.html>

basketball star Brittney Griner to nine years in jail on drugs charges.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Putin and his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden had previously agreed on a diplomatic channel for discussions.

ECONOMIC

The rouble declined slightly on Friday. The “official” exchange rate is 61 for 1 US dollar. The “iPhone exchange rate” has the actual rate at 109 roubles for 1 US dollar. An Apple iPhone 13 Pro with 512GB refurbished costs 98,075 roubles versus \$889.

Oil prices were almost unchanged. WTI crude closed at \$89 a barrel while Brent was steady at \$94. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline ticked upward to \$2.85 (75 cents a liter).

SRW Chicago wheat futures increased to 80 cents a bushel for December 2022 delivery.