

Humanitarian aspect:

Around 4 am, the Russian forces struck **Kharkiv** twice. One rocket hit the ground in the Kholodnohirsky district. In Novobavarsky district, the territory of a civilian industrial facility was struck, and the building was damaged. Preliminary - there are no victims. In Chuhuyiv (Kharkiv Oblast) the storage facility of an educational institution was damaged.

Around 5 am, powerful explosions caused by the enemy shellings were recorded in **Mykolaiv**. A fire broke out in one of the city's districts, a supermarket was destroyed, and high-rise buildings, a pharmacy, and shops were damaged in another Mykolayiv district. In addition, there was a strike on the territory of the equestrian sports school. Shelling continues in the Mykolaiv and Bashtanka districts of the oblast.

At night, the Russians shelled Apostolivska and Zelenodolska territorial *hromadas* in the **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**. In the village of Velyka Kostromka, a kindergarten and a church were damaged.

At half past eight in the morning, the enemy shelled the Krasnopil community in the **Sumy Oblast** with ten shells from self-propelled guns. Preliminary, there were no casualties.

During the five months of the war, more than 830 health care facilities were damaged or destroyed. The Russian army destroyed or damaged more than 500 pharmacies and 200 ambulances; 18 doctors were killed, and 43 were wounded, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine reported.

Occupied territories:

In the **Kherson Oblast**, the Russian invaders stole a famous barge, which transported watermelons to Kyiv. It was one of the unofficial symbols of the Kherson. Every year since 2017, famous Kherson watermelons have been transported to Kyiv by the Dnipro river on the barge much awaited by Kyiv residents. The local Kherson publications report that the barge is allegedly being diverted to the Antonivsky Bridge area.

The barge belongs to the Nibulon company. The company joined the pilot project of the USAID "Creation of an effective logistics supply chain for fruit and vegetable products". As reported earlier, Oleksiy Vadaturskyi, the head of the agricultural holding Nibulon, and his wife were killed in Mykolaiv as a result of enemy shelling on the night of July 31.

Kherson's social media channels report the abduction of the head of one of the territorial *hromadas* (agglomeration of the villages) by the occupiers. This morning, the Russian military broke into the house of Serhii Liakhna, the head of the Gornostaev *hromada*. According to

witnesses, the man was knocked to the ground, beaten, and kidnapped. The day before, Lyakhno allegedly refused to cooperate with Russian occupants.

The occupiers destroyed a memorial to fallen Ukrainian servicemen in **Mariupol**.

Operational Situation

The 161st day of the strategic air-ground offensive operation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces against Ukraine continues ('Donbas Defense Operation' in the official Russian terminology). The enemy is trying to establish full control over the territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and maintain the land corridor with temporarily occupied Crimea.

The enemy shelled the positions of the Ukrainian troops with artillery, conducted aerial reconnaissance in the border areas of Chernihiv and Sumy regions, and continued to deploy electronic warfare.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus conducted the communications training. The Russian military continues to use the territory of the Republic of Belarus to transfer sabotage/reconnaissance groups to the territory of Ukraine. According to the available information, the Republic of Belarus continues to supply certain types of ammunition for the needs of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The threat of missile strikes from the territory of the Republic of Belarus remains.

The Russian aviation grouping conducts systematic combat operations to support the enemy ground groupings, focusing its efforts on hitting military facilities in the Donetsk direction. However, due to bad weather conditions, the frequency of aviation flights is reduced.

Around 5:00 p.m. on August 2, the Russian forces launched a missile attack from the border over the Caspian Sea, for which Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers were used. Eight cruise missiles of the Kh-101 type were fired over the territory of Ukraine in the direction of the central, southern, and western regions. Seven of the eight missiles were shot down by the air defense of the Air Force of Ukraine: six missiles were shot down by the anti-aircraft missile forces and one by an Air Force fighter jet.

Up to eighteen enemy BTGs are in the process of restoring combat capability (after the loss of more than 60% of their personnel). Another forty-three have been withdrawn to reserves due to partial loss of combat capability. From those, about ten BTGs are completing the restoration process. Considering the enemy has about 116-120 BTGs for waging war in Ukraine, about half of them are in relatively combat-ready condition.

The equipment of the enemy tank reserve regiment was moved to the Zaporizhzhya direction at the end of May (due to the insufficient manning of the tank reserve unit). Recently the equipment

was handed over to the tank battalions that are part of the military units of the 58th combined arms army of the Southern Military District.

To counteract Ukrainian reconnaissance equipment, the enemy deploys electronic warfare means.

The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low.

Kharkiv direction

Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 177 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10, an average width of combat area of one BTG - 17.7 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *north of Kharkiv - 7 BTGs from 1st and 6th armies, 11th Army Corps, and 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR,*
- *in the area of Malynivka - 3 BTGs from 29th and 36th armies,*
- *operational reserve of the grouping in the area of Olkhovatka, Russia: 9 BTGs from 1st and 20th armies and Airborne troops.*

The enemy shelled the areas of Kharkiv, Prudyanka, Pytomnyk, Rusky Tyshky, Nova Mykolaivka, Rubizhne, Pischane, Borshchova, Zamulivka, Lebyazhe, Korobochkyne, Bazaliivka, Chuhuiiv, Dementiivka, Protopopivka, Husarivka, Cherkasski Tyshky, Petrivka, Rtyshivka, Staryi Saltiv, Skrypali, Sosnivka, Tsirkuny, Svitlychne, and Basove. The enemy also carried out an airstrike near Verkhniy Saltiv. The Russian troops attacked from Kochubeivka to Dementiivka and from Ternova to Bayrak, but were repulsed and retreated.

In the Izyum direction, enemy shelling from artillery was recorded near Nova Dmitrivka, Bohorodychne, Chepil, Karnaukhivka, Dovhenke, Barvinkove, Shnurkivka, Husarivka, Kurulka, Hrushuvakhya, Dibrivne, Adamivka, Dolyna, Krasnopillya, Mazanivka, Velyka Komyshevakhya, Vasylivka Persha, Khrestyshche, and Dmytrivka. The enemy launched an airstrike near Dibrivne. The enemy tried to conduct reconnaissance south of Mazanivka, but Ukrainian troops detected and neutralized the reconnaissance group. The enemy reconnaissance groups were also recorded near Dovhenke and Dolyna; the groups were discovered and forced to retreat.

Kramatorsk direction

Balakleya - Kostiantynivka section: approximate length of the combat line - 300 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 54, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 5.6 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *in the area of Izyum - 20 BTGs from 1st, 20th, 35th, and 36th armies, 11th Army Corps, 106th airborne division,*
- *in the area of Lysychansk - 7 BTGs from 5th, 8th, and 41st armies, 2nd, and 7th brigades of Rosguard; 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR;*
- *in the area of Popasna - 17 BTGs from 1st, 5th, 8th, 41st, and 58th armies, 68th Army Corps, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR; reserve (in Starobilsk district) - 2nd, 41st armies, and 201st military base.*

In the **Siversk** direction, the enemy shelled the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces near Siversk, Serebryanka, Hryhorivka, Verkhnyokamyanske, Zvanivka, and Donetske with artillery and tanks. The enemy carried out an airstrike near Serebrianka, and conducted aerial reconnaissance using UAVs near Kryva Luka, Nikiforivka, and Tetyanivka. The enemy tried to advance from Novoluhanske to Ivano-Daryivka, but was decisively repulsed.

In the **Bakhmut** direction, the enemy fired at Ukrainian positions in Kodema, Semihirya, Travneve, Vyimka, Berestove, Opytne, Yakovlivka, Soledar, Bakhmut, Zaitseve, Pokrovske, Vesele, Kurdyumivka, and Zalizne with the aim pushing Ukrainian units from the occupied frontiers. The enemy carried out airstrikes in the vicinity of Semihirya, Bilohorivka, Yakovlivka, Pokrovske, Soledar, Bakhmut, and Kodema.

The enemy attempted an offensive in the area of the western outskirts of Berestove, but did not achieve success and retreated. Ukrainian defenders inflicted heavy damage and forced the Russian troops to withdraw in Vidrodzhennya-Kodema, Dolomytne-Semihirya, Roty -Vershyna, Volodymyrivka-Yakovlivka, Klynove-Zaytseve, and Pokrovsk-Bakhmut directions.

Fighting continues in the Volodymyrivka-Soledar and Pokrovske-Bakhmut directions.

Zaporizhzhya direction

Konstantynivka - Nikopol section: approximate length of the line of combat - 310 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 14 km;

Deployed BTGs:

- *from 8th, 58th armies, Airborne troops, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR*

The enemy shelled the areas of Avdiivka, Netaylove, New York, Novomykhailivka, Pavlivka, Zaliznychne, Kamianske, Poltavka, Chervone, Novoandriivka, Maryinka, Kostyantynivka, Novosilka, Velyka Novosilka, Charivne, Mala Tokmachka, Novopillya, Yurkivka, and Huliaipole. The enemy carried out airstrikes near Avdiyivka, Novobakhmutivka, and Maryinka, and conducted aerial reconnaissance in the area of Olhivske. The Russian troops carried out an assault from Mineralne to Avdiyivka, but did not succeed and retreated. The enemy had partial success in their advance from Donetsk to Pisky.

Units of the 58th Combined Arms Army (19th and 42nd motorized rifle divisions, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade and 100th missile brigade) operate in this direction.

The basis of the new operational grouping of the enemy's troops, which is being deployed in the South of Ukraine, are the troops of the Russian Eastern Military District: the 5th, 29th, 35th, and 36th combined arms armies and the 68th army corps. The most potent troops in this enemy grouping, the 5th and 35th armies, are already deployed in the operational zone, and the rest are completing redeployment. Two BTGs of the 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Army arrived in Zaporizhzhya recently.

The enemy 35th Combined Arms Army is concentrated in the Velyka Lepetykha - Demydivka - Novodniprovska - Enerhodar area. On August 1, the 165th artillery brigade units arrived in the district.

The enemy 5th Combined Arms Army is concentrated in the area of Nova Mayachka – Abrikosivka – Stara Mayachka – Chornyanka. Two BTGs of the 60th separate motorized rifle brigade and four BTGs of the 127th motorized rifle division arrived in the area. Previously, up to nine BTGs and from the 64th and 38th separate motorized rifle brigade, 69th separate cover brigade, 165th artillery brigade, and 107th missile brigade were concentrated here.

The 358th separate operational battalion (permanent deployment base - Chervlena village, Chechnya) is heading to the Vasylivka region to reinforce the 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division.

In the Nesteryanka - Novopokrivka - Robotyne area, units of the 96th operational regiment of the Russian National Guard (permanent deployment base - Gudermes, Chechnya) are concentrated, which is supposed to reinforce the 503rd motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, which suffered significant losses in previous battles.

The Russian command transferred up to three combined tactical groups of the Russian Guard of the "battalion-company" level from the territory of Chechnya to the Zaporizhzhia direction. The C2 of this grouping are moving in this direction along with the line units of the "Rosgvardia" [Russian Guard] from Chechnya.

The C2 is carried out by the command post of the 58th Combined Arms Army of the Southern Military District. The grouping includes up to fifteen BTGs, including a BTGs of the 83rd separate airborne assault brigade, the 22nd separate SOF brigade and two BTGs of the "Wagner" PMC.

This enemy grouping is conducting a defensive operation intending to stop the advance of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the area of Polohy, in the area of Mali Shcherbaki - Nesteryanka, and south of Vuhledar.

At the same time, an offensive enemy grouping is deployed to conduct an offensive operation in its rear in the area of Tokmak - Melitopol - Novoaleksiivka: up to three new BTGs were recorded in the area south of Yevhenivka. One BTG, consisted of the 31st separate airborne assault brigade and two more of the 37th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th combined arms army. In addition, two BTGs from the 810th separate marine brigade arrived in the Melitopol region, and five BTGs from the 5th separate tank brigade and the 37th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army of the Eastern Military District arrived in the Novoaleksiivka and Radivonivka regions.

Kherson direction

Nikopol - Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 19 km;

Deployed BTGs:

● *from 8th and 59th armies, 7th Air assault division, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of so-called LPR*

The enemy is concentrating its efforts on holding the occupied frontiers, preventing the advance of the Ukrainian Defense Forces, and trying to recover lost positions. They shelled the areas of Mykolaiv, Trudolyubivka, Osokorivka, Ivanivka, Olenivka, Zorya, Blahodatne, Pryshyb, Tokareve, Novovorontsovka, Bila Krynytsia, Andriivka, Veselyi Kut, Yavkine, Potiomkine, Topolyne, Knyazka, Velyka Kostromka, Apostolove, Stepova Dolyna, Posad Pokrovske, Novohryhorivka, Lupareve, Lymany, Kobzartsi, Shyroke, Kvitneve, and Bilohirka with tanks and artillery, and carried out airstrikes near Zoria and in the area of Plotnytske. They conducted aerial reconnaissance to clarify the results of their strikes' damages, to control their units' disguise, and to detect the position of Ukrainian troops. The enemy continues to protect their bridge crossings across the Dnipro River.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area: The Russian BSF continue the force projection on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine (threatening missile strikes and possible amphibious assaults) and control of the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the sea and connect unrecognized Transnistria with the Russian Federation through the coast of the Black and Azov seas.

About 9 warships are in the open sea. Among them is the frigate "Admiral Essen" and a small missile ship (Buyan-M type), which have a total of 16 Kalibr missiles on board, ready for use [on the territory of Ukraine].

Four large amphibious ships are maneuvering along the Crimean peninsula. One missile boat (with 4 Mosquito missiles) is in a firing position on the west coast of the peninsula.

4 Russian ships are on combat duty in the Sea of Azov.

The enemy can attack the territory of the Odesa oblast from the air, from the temporarily occupied Crimea, and the sea. In the Black Sea, there is also a danger of mine detachment and drift due to storms.

On August 2, a floating crane was blown up in the Odesa region. It was supposed to lift the pilot boat "Orlyk" in the Danube Delta, which was blown up on a mine the day before. Currently, there is no information about the damage to the floating crane and the victims. Since the opening of the Bystre Canal, a barge with a tug and two boats have been damaged. Currently, the navigable channel is open again for the passage of ships.

The first ship with Ukrainian corn that left the port of Odesa was successfully inspected by a Joint Coordination Center special delegation near Istanbul, Turkey. The ship is ready to continue its journey to the port of Tripoli in Lebanon.

The total combat losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 03.08 approximately amounted to

Personnel - almost 41,350 people (+180);

Tanks - 1,774 (+6);

Armored combat vehicles - 4,022 (+8);

Operational tactical missile systems - 4 (0);

Artillery systems - 939 (+3);

Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 259 (0);

Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 118 (+1);

Vehicles and fuel tanks - 2,922 (+18);

Aircraft - 223 (0);

Helicopters - 191 (0);

UAV operational and tactical level - 740 (+1);

Intercepted cruise missiles - 180 (+6);

Boats / ships - 15 (0).

Ukraine, general news:

Ukraine's State Migration Service and the European Commission signed a cooperation agreement. Also, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Denys Monastyrskyi, discussed the control of firearms, border security, and migration issues with the European Commissioner for Internal Affairs, Ilva Johansson.

Since the start of the all-out Russian war on Ukraine, the level of crime in Ukraine has decreased considerably. In the first six months, the overall crime rate decreased by 25% compared to the same period in 2021.

The OSCE would continue its work in Ukraine without the consent of Russia. "We have to change the legal and financial mechanisms for carrying out our activities, which means that we have created and ensured our presence in Ukraine. In this regard, a decision has already been made per certain resolutions from the current chairman and other members," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs Poland, the current chairman of the OSCE, Zbigniew Rau.

Ukraine will receive \$40 million in "grain" aid from Canada. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy website, these funds will be directed to solving the problem of the shortage of grain storage capacity in Ukraine. The initiative will allow for the storage of an additional 2.4 million tons of grain in 2022-2023, along with the appropriate technical support and equipment.

The Ukrainian Government announced the launch of a subsidized mortgage at 3% per annum from October 1. Four categories of Ukrainians will be able to use the "Affordable Mortgage" program in the first stage [of the Program]. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced this during the government meeting.

International diplomatic aspect:

The US introduced a new wave of sanctions that includes visa restrictions on 893 Russian officials and 31 foreign government officials who have acted to support Russia's purported annexation of Crimea. After some hesitation, the White House went personal, sanctioning Alina Kabaeva, an alleged Putin's partner. But the most painful sanctions are related to several science and technology institutions, including the famous Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and the Skolkovo Foundation, a Russian failed copycat of the Silicon Valley. Export control measures, a Coordination Committee alike, are the most efficient way to degrade the Kremlin's ability to wage wars and expand its influence.

Last week, Putin signed a new Maritime Doctrine that framed Moscow's ambitions in the Arctic region, the nearby seas (the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea), and the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans. For all those ambitions, Russia lacks the technology and other resources. It will need to turn to China for technology and weapons, and there's no guarantee that Beijing would satisfy Moscow's its "wish list" because of fear of sanctions or lack of specific technologies.

Russia tried its best to sound as assertive as Beijing, reacting to Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. "We view her visit as a clear provocation in the spirit of the US aggressive line of comprehensive containment of the PRC... We believe that relations between the sides of the Taiwan Strait are a purely internal affair of China... We call on Washington DC to refrain from actions that undermine regional stability and international security and recognize the new geopolitical reality, in which there is no longer room for American hegemony," stated the Russian MFA's spokesperson. Besides Taiwan-related aspects, Moscow demonstrates its hypocrisy rhetorics at its worst. While the US Speaker of Parliament was visiting the other democratic country, Russia's foreign minister visited a military junta in Myanmar with the aim, among other things, to sell weapons.

While Moscow blames the US for "threatening regional stability and international security," Russia is committing war crimes daily in Ukraine. And it daily undermines the very pillars of European security architecture.

Russia's foreign ministry's spokesperson threatened to strip diplomatic relations if the US designated Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. "I hope that the "flying" speaker will someday return to the base and, perhaps, consult with those people who, at least on a residual basis, are interested in diplomacy as a profession. Let's believe that in the Biden Administration, for all its oddities, they are aware of this," "diplomatically", pointed out Masha Zakharova.

"I saw it with my own eyes at Siemens: the serviced turbine is there and ready for operation at any time. It just has to be requested by Russia. There are no technical reasons for reducing gas supplies," twitted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. After the Kremlin's blackmail, Germany pushed Canada to circumvent sanctions and return a Siemens turbine to Germany. Yet, ignoring the contracts, as they usually do, Russia reduced gas supply further and demanded to service one more turbine. Having received neither assurances nor additional gas, Germany is turned out.

In the coming weeks, we may see more and more friends of Putin talking about diplomatic talks with him before winter has come. Gerhard Schröder, a former German Chancellor, said that his friend Vladimir Putin is ready for diplomacy with Ukraine. Gerhard Schröder believes that the grain deal negotiated between Ukraine and Russia by the mediation of Turkey and the UN is a step in the right direction, so there's a possibility of a truce. However, a truce would mostly serve Putin's interest. First of all, contrary to brave assurances that the Russian economy is strong, the Russian economy suffers the most. Secondly, UAF successfully hit Russia's command and control centres, logistical nodes, infrastructure and ammunition depots with long-range means (howitzers and HIMARS/MLRS). Lastly, UAF have pushed the Russian invading forces slowly but steadily southwards. So, Russian forces need an operational pause to regroup, a luxury that would be a great mistake to provide them with.

Russia, relevant news:

Switzerland has joined the EU's 7th package of anti-Russian sanctions, including the gold embargo. The country's leadership also decided to freeze the assets of Sberbank.

Huawei has closed its Russian online store Vmall.

A large Russian online store warehouse, OZON, is on fire in the Moscow region. The burning area is already 25 thousand square meters, and part of the roof has collapsed. A thousand people left the burning premises, Russian media reports. The governor of the Moscow region declared that the OZON warehouse could no longer be saved. During the fire, 13 workers were injured, and one person died. The suspected cause of the warehouse fire is arson.

The father of Russian conscript Yehor Shkrebets, who died on the cruiser "Moskva", received a death certificate 110 days after his son's death. A copy of the document he posted on social media states that Yehor Shkrebets died on April 13. After the cruiser "Moskva" sank in mid-April, the Russian Ministry of Defense stated that the crew had been completely evacuated. However, the families of sailors, mainly conscripts, began to write on social networks about the disappearance or death of relatives who served on the ship. Dmytro Shkrebets was one of the first.

***Centre for Defence Strategies (CDS)** is a Ukrainian security think tank. We operate since 2020 and are involved in security studies, defence policy research and advocacy. Currently all our activity is focused on stopping the ongoing war.*

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