

Humanitarian aspect:

Ukraine returned the bodies of 19 fallen Ukrainian defenders in exchange framework, reported the Ministry for the Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories.

At night Russian forces inflicted another massive shelling of **Kharkiv**. The enemy shelled the city's Shevchenkivskiy, Kyivskiy, Saltivskiy, Industrialnyi and Kholodnohirskiy districts. They damaged houses and partially destroyed road surfaces. Preliminary, no casualties were reported. During the past day, the enemy shelled civilian objects in the Kharkiv, Bogodukhiv, Chuguyiv and Izyum districts of the oblast. Private residential buildings and commercial buildings were damaged.

In the **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**, Russian military shelled Maryanske and Velyka Kostromka of Kryvorizka District at night. Two people were injured. Several private houses and a gas pipeline were damaged. The Russian forces shelled the Nikopol district twice during the night. Nine private houses, garages, and cars were damaged. The shelling hit two warehouses with grain and machinery of a local agricultural enterprise. During the day of August 16, the head of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Military Administration reported that Russians launched 20 "Grad" rockets and 10 from cannon artillery at Nikopol again. 4 people were injured. One of them has been hospitalized.

In **Mykolaiv Oblast**, Bashtan and Mykolaiv districts were hit during the night. Residential buildings, an educational institution and a hospital were damaged and destroyed. One person died, and one was injured.

Yesterday, Russian forces shelled the civilian infrastructure in Orihiv and Hulyaipole of the **Zaporizhzhya Oblast**. On August 16, the Russians shelled the town of Orihiv again. The enemy fired from missile systems for several hours, reports Zaporizhzhya Oblast Military Administration. One local resident died. Six people were injured. Dozens of private houses and objects of civil infrastructure were damaged.

As fierce fighting in the Donbas continues, **Bakmut, Donetsk Oblast**, is under constant shelling from Russian occupiers. Last night alone, 20 houses were destroyed. Local authorities urge citizens to evacuate. Timely evacuation will save the lives of civilians.

During the day, two explosions resulting from a Russian rocket attack [preliminary launched from the territory of Belarus] were confirmed in **Zhytomyr Oblast** - the head of the Zhytomyr Oblast Military Administration, Vitaly Bunechko, reported.

8 more Russian army marauders were identified and accused of looting in **Bucha, Kyiv Oblast**, Ukrainian Special Service (SBU) reported. Charges for violating the laws and customs of war were brought against the occupiers from Military Unit #6720 of the National Guard of the Russian

Federation. From February 24 to March 31, these servicemen were engaged in looting and robbery in the territory of the temporarily occupied Bucha. They took everything of any value, including computers and household appliances, jewelry, gadgets, clothes, and food, and [after withdrawal] sent the "trophies" to their relatives by mail from the Belarusian city of Mozyr.

Occupied territories

In **Mariupol**, the Russian occupiers send out text messages allegedly offering jobs to the local residents. However, according to the [Ukrainian-elected] city council of Mariupol, these messages conceal attempts of covert mobilization into the [Russian] army.

In occupied **Melitopol**, two explosions occurred and stopped the Russian television on-air, which was broadcasting from a Ukrainian substation seized by the Russians, [legally elected Ukrainian] Mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedoriv reported.

Detonation at the ammunition depot in **Dzhankoy, Russian-occupied Crimea**, occurred on the morning of August 16. According to local emergency services, two emergency situations occurred at once: a fire at a transformer substation and a detonation at an ammunition depot. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation called the situation a diversion. Crimean [unrecognized] authorities introduced a regional state of emergency and evacuated more than 3,000 people from the settlements of Azovske and Mayske.

The ammunition explosion also damaged the railway near Dzhankoy. As a result, the movement of trains is stopped.

According to preliminary data, 8 S-400 air defense systems, 3 S-300 air defense systems, 5 Pantsir-S1 air defense missile systems, and 440 TPKs (transport and launch containers) were stored in the area of the Dzhankoy airfield, reports the StratCom of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In the Azovskaya railway station area, the Russians unloaded 17 armored combat vehicles, 10 Gvozdika self-propelled guns, 7 Msta-S self-propelled guns, 2 Pion self-propelled guns, 3 BM-21 Grad MLRS and ammunition.

In addition, there were several explosions at the military air base in the town of Gvardiyske, near Simferopol, in occupied Crimea.

Operational situation:

The 174th day of the strategic air-ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbas"). The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts, maintaining the temporarily captured areas of the Kherson Oblast and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv Oblasts, creating favorable conditions

for resuming the offensive in certain directions, and blocking Ukraine's maritime communications in the Black Sea.

The enemy continues to carry out air and missile strikes on military and civilian objects on the territory of Ukraine.

The enemy continues to deploy units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the border areas of the Bryansk and Kursk regions in order to constrain the Ukrainian Defense Forces units' actions. The Russian forces shelled Kamyanska Sloboda in Chernihiv oblast and Basivka, Mogrytsia, Golyshyvske, Budky, and Hodyne in the Sumy oblast.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus proceeds with the communication training. The threat of enemy missile and air strikes from the territory of Belarus remains. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus units deployed to strengthen the section of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border in the Brest and Gomel regions. The combat readiness check of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus is ongoing; the estimated completion date is August 20.

Fighter aircraft of the Air Forces of Ukraine patrol the airspace, and strike aircraft provide fire support to Ukrainian troops in designated operational areas. Ukrainian missile and artillery units continue to systematically destroy the concentration of enemy manpower and ammunition depots.

In the Belgorod region, the enemy command deployed a network of field points to restore combat capability and form reserve units. They are base camps with a capacity to simultaneously hold up to three battalions for recovery or formation. In particular, during mid-July-August, in only one of such points (Urazove village), the enemy formed and restored the combat capability of at least two tank and five motorized rifle battalions of three artillery divisions.

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

Kharkiv direction

- *Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 147 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10-12, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 13.3 km;*
- *Deployed enemy BTGs: 26th, 153rd and 197th tank regiments, 245th motorized rifle regiment of the 47th tank division, 6th and 239th tank regiments, 228th motorized rifle regiment of the 90th tank division, 1st motorized rifle regiment, 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 25th and 138th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army, 27th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Tank Army, 275th and 280th motorized rifle regiments, 11th tank regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division of the 11 Army Corps, 7th motorized rifle regiment of the 11th Army Corps, 80th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 14th Army Corps, 2nd and 45th separate SOF brigades of the Airborne Forces, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, PMCs*

The enemy shelled Dementiivka, Korobochkyne, Kostyantynivka, Nove, Odnorobivka, Pytomnyk, Protopopivka, Pyatikhatky, Rtyshchivka, Ruska Lozova, Ruski Tyshki, Svitlychne, Slatyne, Slobozhanske, Sosnivka, Shevelivka. The Russian forces used aviation for strikes near Verkhniy Saltiv, Sosnivka, and Rtyshchivka.

The enemy continues to destroy military and civilian objects using all available means of fire damage to prevent the Ukrainian Defense Forces of favorable conditions for an offensive.

The enemy tried to break through the defense of the Ukrainian troops in the direction of Kozacha Lopan - Udy. Ukrainian defenders fiercely pushed them back.

Kramatorsk direction

- *Balakleya - Siversk section: approximate length of the combat line - 184 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17-20, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.6 km;*
- *252nd and 752nd motorized rifle regiments of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 1st, 13th and 12th tank regiments, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 201st military base, 15th, 21st, 30th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Combined Arms Army, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 3rd and 14th separate SOF brigades, 2nd and 4th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Army Corps, 7th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps, PMC*

the enemy fired at Hrushuvaha, Virnopillia, Krasnopillia, Asiivka, Mazanivka, Spirne, Ivano-Daryivka, Raihorodok and Kramatorsk. Enemy aircraft operated near Spirne and Pryshyb.

The enemy tried to advance in the directions of Ivano-Daryivka, Vyimka, and Vesele and improve their tactical position in the Dovgenke-Mazanivka direction, but they failed completely and chaotically retreated to their previously occupied positions. The enemy is attacking in the direction of the Lysychansk Oil Refinery - Ivano-Daryivka; hostilities continue.

Enemy units continue attempts to improve logistical support in the indicated direction.

After restoration, the enemy BTG from the 74th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 41st Combined Arms Army of the Central Military District deployed to the Mykolaivka district. Another relatively combat-capable BTG of the 201st military base transferred from the Zaporizhzhya direction to the Lysychansk region. The total reinforcement of enemy troops in the Siversk region is about 950-1000 servicemen.

Donetsk direction

- *Siversk - Maryinka section: approximate length of the combat line - 235 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13-15, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 17 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 68th and 163rd tank regiments, 102nd and 103rd motorized rifle regiments of the 150 motorized rifle division, 80th tank regiment of the 90th tank division, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 31st separate airborne*

assault brigade, 61st separate marines brigade of the Joint Strategic Command "Northern Fleet", 336th separate marines brigade, 24th separate SOF brigade, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 15th, and 100th separate motorized rifle brigades, 9th and 11th separate motorized rifle regiment of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called DNR, 6th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LNR, PMCs

The enemy shelled Bakhmut, Bakhmutske, Bilohorivka, Vasyukivka, Vershyna, Vesela Dolyna, Vodyane, Zaytseve, Kostyantynivka, Krasnohorivka, Maryinka, Nevelske, Opytne, Pivnichne, Pisky, Soledar, Spartak, Fedorivka, Shumy, and Ykovlivka with tanks, barrel and rocket artillery. The Russian troops tried to create favorable conditions for further offensive. The enemy carried out airstrikes near Soledar, Yakovlivka, New York, Vodyane and Novobakhmutivka.

Enemy units attacked in the directions of Volodymyrivka - Bakhmutske, Striapivka - Soledar, and Vuhlehirsk TPP - Vershyna, but Ukrainian defenders pushed them back. Fighting continues in the directions of Pokrovske – Bakhmutske, Horlivka – Zalizne, Staromykhailivka – Nevelske.

Zaporizhzhya direction

- *Maryinka – Vasylivka section: approximate length of the line of combat - 200 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 11.7 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Combined Arms Army, 38th and 64th separate motorized rifle brigades, 69th separate cover brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, 5th separate tank brigade, 37 separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 429th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58 Combined Arms Army, 46th and 49th machine gun artillery regiments of the 18th machine gun artillery division of the 68th Army Corps, 39th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 68th Army Corps, 83th separate airborne assault brigade, 40th and 155th separate marines brigades, 22nd separate SOF brigade, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

Enemy shelling from tanks, barrel and jet artillery was recorded in the areas of Novosilka, Vuhledar, Velyka Novosilka, Novomykhailivka, Novopil, Pavlivka, Novoandriivka, Pryvilne and Vremivka. The enemy aviation launched strikes near Novomykhailivka, Elizavetivka, Shcherbakivka and Charivny.

The Russian troops attacked in the direction of Solodke - Novomykhailivka; in some areas, they pushed back Ukrainian Defence Forces' units from their positions; hostilities continue. Enemy attacks in the directions of Slavne – Novomykhailivka, Solodke – Vodyane, Solodke – Volodymyrivka, Yehorivka – Pavlivka were repulsed by Ukrainian defenders; the enemy suffered losses and withdrew.

The enemy is preparing for an intensive counter-battery battle. Therefore, southeast of Polohy, it deployed up to a battery of 203-mm self-propelled guns 2s7 "Pion" to combat the long-range

artillery of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and to defeat the most important targets in the operational depth of the Ukrainian troops' defense. The enemy actively uses "Orlan-10" type UAVs to detect the locations and possible advance routes of Ukrainian forces. During the past day, the enemy carried out repeated launches and overflights of these UAVs in the operational rear of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the direction of Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk oblast) and Pokrovsk (Donetsk oblast).

Kherson direction

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zboryivka and Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 27, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.3 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 114th, 143rd and 394th motorized rifle regiments, 218th tank regiment of the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 57th and 60th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division, 51st and 137th parachute airborne regiments of the 106th parachute airborne division, 7th military base of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 16th and 346th separate SOF brigades*

The enemy improves its air defense system. In the area of Dzhankoy airfield [before 16.08 explosions], the S-400 anti-aircraft missile battalion (8 air defense systems with control, reconnaissance and guidance), the S-300 anti-aircraft missile battery (4 C2 posts), the Pantsir-S1 anti-aircraft missile battery (5 anti-aircraft missiles), and other means of air defense automation and targeting have been additionally deployed. According to all indications, the enemy's command is conducting the same measures at other facilities located in the temporarily occupied territory of the Republic of Crimea - at air bases, locations of deployment of military units, fuel, ammunition and military equipment storage locations, deployment bases of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

Kherson-Berislav bridgehead

- *Velyka Lepetikha – Oleksandrivka section: approximate length of the battle line – 250 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces – 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG – 11.8 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 108th Air assault regiment, 171st separate airborne assault brigade of the 7th Air assault division, 4th military base of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, 33rd and 255th motorized rifle regiments of the 20th motorized rifle division, 34th and 205th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 224th, 237th and 239th Air assault regiments of the 76th Air assault division, 217th and 331 Air assault regiments of the 98th Air assault division, 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th separate ranger brigade, 11th separate airborne assault brigade, 10th separate SOF brigade, PMC*

The enemy used army and assault aircraft near Bila Krynytsia, Andriyivka, Mirny, Blahodatne and Lozove, and shelling from tanks and artillery along the battle line to prevent the regrouping of Ukrainian units and create favorable conditions for a counteroffensive.

The Russian troops' attempt to improve the tactical position by assault actions in the direction of Zeleny Hai - Novogrigorivka ended with significant losses and withdrawal.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area:

The forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet continue to project force on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine (through missile strikes and possible amphibious assaults) and control 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 by land.

There are currently 10 Russian warships and boats in the Black Sea. The grouping is led by "Admiral Makarov" frigate. 2 ships (a frigate and a Buyan-M type corvette) carry up to 16 Kalibr missiles ready to launch. Tu-22M3 strategic bombers with Kh-22 missiles (from the territory of the Russian Federation) are also in readiness for a missile attack.

All large amphibious ships are in the ports of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol for replenishment and planned repairs.

2 Russian ships are on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

All four submarines of project 636.3 are at the base points (Sevastopol and Novorossiysk).

Russian aviation continues to fly from Crimea over the northwestern part of the Black Sea, 7 aircraft from the Crimean Air Grouping of the Russian Federation were involved in the past day.

On the morning of August 16, a significant explosion was recorded in Azovske village (AR Crimea), near Dzhankoy. It is known that a significant amount of weapons and military equipment of the Russian occupiers was concentrated at the Azovske railway station, in particular, self-propelled guns "Pion", "Msta", "Akatsiya", anti-aircraft guns "Grad", ammunition and fuel tanks, which were moved from the city of Kerch. The Russian Federation reacted with a statement of alleged "sabotage". The Armed Forces of Ukraine does not comment.

In Sevastopol, the increased "yellow" level of terrorist threat has been extended until August 29 (effective from July 31, 2022).

The mass media also reported on August 16 explosions at the Gvardiyske airfield near the city of Simferopol, at the base of the Russian bomber aircraft. There were 12 Su-24M aircraft and another 12 Su-25SM aircraft at the airfield. The consequences of the explosions are unknown. Russian Federation reported the possibility of sabotage using a drone.

Operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 16.08

Personnel - almost 43,900 people (+150);

Tanks - 1,880 (+4);

Armored combat vehicles - 4,152 (+11);
Artillery systems - 989 (+4);
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 263 (+2);
Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 136 (0);
Vehicles and fuel tanks - 3,049 (+5);
Aircraft - 232 (0);
Helicopters - 196 (+1);
UAV operational and tactical level - 790 (+3);
Intercepted cruise missiles - 190 (+3);
Boats / ships - 15 (0).

Ukraine, general news

The Ukrainian Parliament supported the bill to change the preventive measure procedure for fire adjusters who helped the Russian army [to adjust the coordinates for targets in the territory of Ukraine]. According to the new amendments, they will not be able to go on bail. They face up to 15 years or life imprisonment with confiscation of property.

In half a year, Ukrainian exports of goods fell by 24%. For the first half of 2022, the export of goods from Ukraine amounted to 22.7 billion dollars, or 76% of last year's figure. This is stated in the data of Ukraine's State Statistics Service. At the same time, imports decreased by 19.1% to 25.2 billion dollars in annual terms. The negative trade balance amounted to 2.5 billion dollars against 1.2 billion dollars in the first half of 2021.

International diplomatic aspect

Turkey is set to buy a regiment of Russian S-400 air defence missile system, TASS reports. Such a decision might complicate relations with the US again. As a part of the agreement, Turkey promised to ratify Finland and Sweden's NATO accession protocols while they promised to deal with the Kurdish issue and lift the arms embargo imposed on Turkey.

The Biden Administration voiced its readiness to proceed with F-16 modernization and new jets delivery projects. However, Congress had blocked those procurements as well as that of the F-35 after Ankara acquired the first S-400 system in 2017. This tension between the NATO members is not in the interest of the Alliance and Ukraine as its partner. Strained relations between the US and Turkey mean more leaning of the latter on Russia. However, it's unclear whether Moscow is capable of delivering any promises about its weapons. The Western sanctions and export control measures curtailed Russia's ability to produce weapons systems even of its own design.

Estonia started removing Soviet monuments. A T-34 tank [monument] from the outskirts of Narva, a Russian-speaking region, has been unmounted and transferred to the Estonian War Museum in Viimsi, north of the capital. Those monuments were symbols of Moscow's dominance during the Cold War and justification reasons for the Russian Federation's interference in the domestic affairs of independent states. The process of intensive decommunization in Ukraine

began in 2015, and in 2022 it was extended to Russia-related toponyms and monuments. Russia-related names of the streets are perceived as symbols of the Russian occupation and colonial rule, as well as the imposition of ideological names and symbols that had no connection to Ukraine.

Russia, relevant news

Finland will reduce the issuance of tourist visas to Russians. Priority in obtaining Finnish visas will be given to Russian citizens wishing to visit Finland for study and work, as well as for family reasons, said Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto. The Finnish authorities agreed to reduce the number of tourist visas issued to Russians by 10 times from September 1.

Estonia has closed the border with Russia at the Narva-Ivangorod checkpoint, RIA Novosti reports.

Canada has frozen Russian assets worth more than 413 million Canadian dollars (about \$320 million) as part of economic sanctions against Russia for violating Ukraine's sovereignty. This is reported by "Ukrinform" with reference to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which monitors compliance with sanctions.

In Russia, the court fined Telegram 4 million rubles for refusing to delete the personal data of the [Russian] occupiers who are now [fighting] in Ukraine. In addition, the Russian court fined Telegram another 7 million rubles fine for refusing to remove instructions for sabotage on the railway [posted] on one of the channels.

The Swiss chocolate manufacturer Lindt has decided to leave the Russian market completely.

Russia's minister of defense, Shoigu, has clarified the list of countries Russia considers "friendly". It includes Burundi, the Republic of Guinea, Cameroon, Mali, Sudan, Uganda, Chad, Ethiopia, and the Republic of South Africa.

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