

# Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment

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July 14, 8:00 pm ET

Click [here](#) to see ISW's interactive map of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This map is updated daily alongside the static maps present in this report.

**Russia's operational pause largely continued, with limited Russian ground assaults along the Slovyansk-Siversk-Bakhmut salient.** Russian forces continued heavy shelling, missile attacks, and airstrikes all along the front line. The Russians will likely launch a larger-scale and more determined offensive along the Slovyansk-Siversk-Bakhmut line soon, but there are no indications yet of how soon that attack will begin or exactly where it will focus.

**The Russian missile strike on Vinnytsia on July 14 was part of a systematic Russian campaign of attacks on residential areas of cities in Ukraine.**<sup>1</sup> Ukrainian President's Office Deputy Head Kyrylo Tymoshenko reported that Russian forces launched Kalibr missiles from a submarine at the Vinnytsia city center.<sup>2</sup> The Ukrainian General Staff stated that the strike resulted in at least 22 civilian deaths, about 100 injured, and 39 missing people.<sup>3</sup> Russian forces also launched missiles at a hotel, educational facilities, a shopping center, and transport infrastructure in Mykolaiv city.<sup>4</sup>

## Key Takeaways

- **Russia continued its campaign of systematic attacks on residential areas in Ukrainian cities with strikes on Vinnytsia, Kharkiv City, and Mykolaiv City.**
- **Russian forces continued efforts to advance on Siversk but their progress is unclear.**
- **Russian troops conducted limited ground assaults around Bakhmut and Slovyansk but made no gains.**
- **Chechen Leader Ramazan Kadyrov claimed that one of the four new battalions he has been forming deployed to Ukraine.**

# Assessed Control of Terrain in Ukraine and Main Russian Maneuver Axes as of July 14, 2022, 3:00 PM ET



Map by George Barros, Kateryna Stepanenko, Noel Mikkelsen, and Daniel Mealie  
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\* Assessed Russian advances are areas where ISW assesses Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks against but do not control.

***We do not report in detail on Russian war crimes because those activities are well-covered in Western media and do not directly affect the military operations we are assessing and forecasting. We will continue to evaluate and report on the effects of these criminal activities on the Ukrainian military and population and specifically on combat in Ukrainian urban areas. We utterly condemn these Russian violations of the laws of armed conflict, Geneva Conventions, and humanity even though we do not describe them in these reports.***

- Main Effort—Eastern Ukraine (comprised of one subordinate and three supporting efforts)
- Subordinate Main Effort—Encirclement of Ukrainian Troops in the Cauldron between Izyum and Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts
- Supporting Effort 1—Kharkiv City
- Supporting Effort 2—Southern Axis
- Mobilization and Force Generation Efforts
- Activities in Russian-occupied Areas

### **Main Effort—Eastern Ukraine**

**Subordinate Main Effort—Southern Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk Oblasts (Russian objective: Encircle Ukrainian forces in Eastern Ukraine and capture the entirety of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the claimed territory of Russia’s proxies in Donbas)**

Russian forces unsuccessfully attempted to improve tactical positions northwest of Slovyansk on July 14. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian forces launched an unsuccessful assault on Kurulka (approximately 27 km northwest of Slovyansk).<sup>5</sup> Russian forces continued to shell settlements southwest and southeast of Izyum and launched an airstrike on Mayaky, approximately 10 km northeast of Slovyansk.<sup>6</sup>

Russian forces continued offensive operations west of the Lysychansk area in an effort to advance to Siversk. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian forces launched an attack on Verkhokamyanske (approximately 8 km east of Siversk), but Ukrainian forces repelled Russian assaults in the area.<sup>7</sup> Luhansk People’s Republic (LNR) Assistant to the Interior Minister Vitaly Kiselyov amplified Russian war correspondents’ claims that Russian forces established operational control of Siversk on July 14 after seizing Verkhokamyanske on July 13.<sup>8</sup> Pro-Russian Telegram channel Rybar claimed that Russian forces are still fighting on the outskirts of Verkhokamyanske.<sup>9</sup> ISW cannot independently verify Kiselyov or Rybar’s claims. The Ukrainian General Staff also reported that Russian forces continued to shell Siversk, Kramatorsk, and settlements in their vicinity throughout July 14.<sup>10</sup>

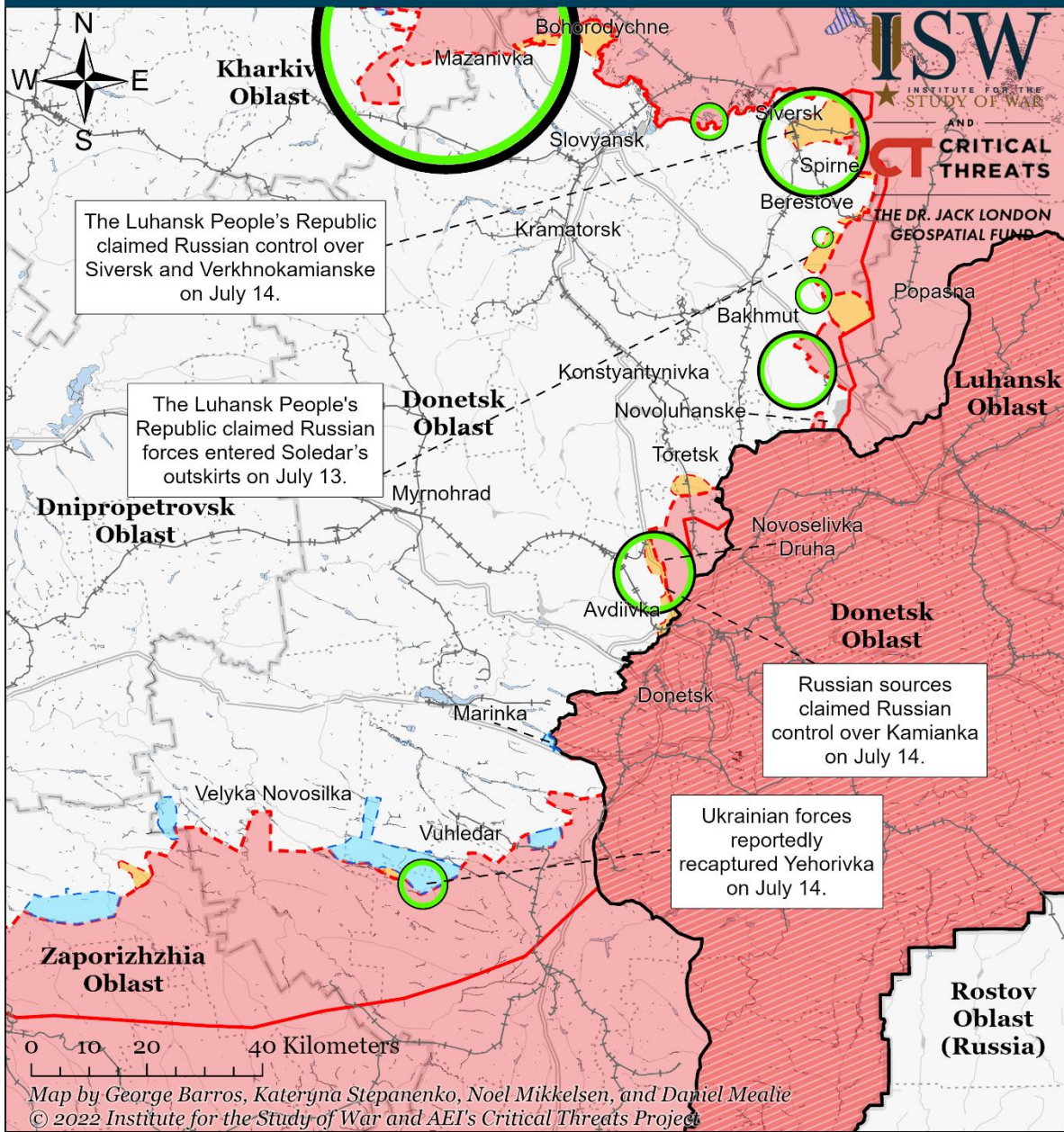
Russian forces continued to attack settlements southeast of Bakhmut on July 14. The Ukrainian General Staff noted that Ukrainian forces repelled a Russian assault on the Vuhlehirska Thermal Power Plant, Kodema, and Vershyna within a 20 km distance southeast of Bakhmut.<sup>11</sup> Donetsk Oblast Administration Head Pavlo Kyrylenko reported that Russian forces fired at Bakhmut with multiple-launch-rocket systems (MLRS) and shelled Chasiv Yar (west of Bakhmut), likely in an effort to disrupt Ukrainian logistics along the Bakhmut-Kramatorsk-Slovyansk line.<sup>12</sup>

Russian forces resumed offensive operations northeast of Avdiivka, likely in an effort to bypass Ukrainian fortifications in the area. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Ukrainian forces stopped

Russian advances in Kamianka, approximately 6 km northeast of Avdiivka, after Russian forces had been partially successful in the area earlier in the day.<sup>13</sup> The Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) Territorial Defense claimed that Russian forces captured Kamianka on July 14 but did not provide any evidence confirming the claim.<sup>14</sup> Social media users claimed that Ukrainian forces regained control over Yehorivka, east of the Donetsk-Zaporizhia Oblast administrative border.<sup>15</sup>



# Assessed Control of Terrain Around Donetsk as of July 14, 2022, 3:00 PM ET



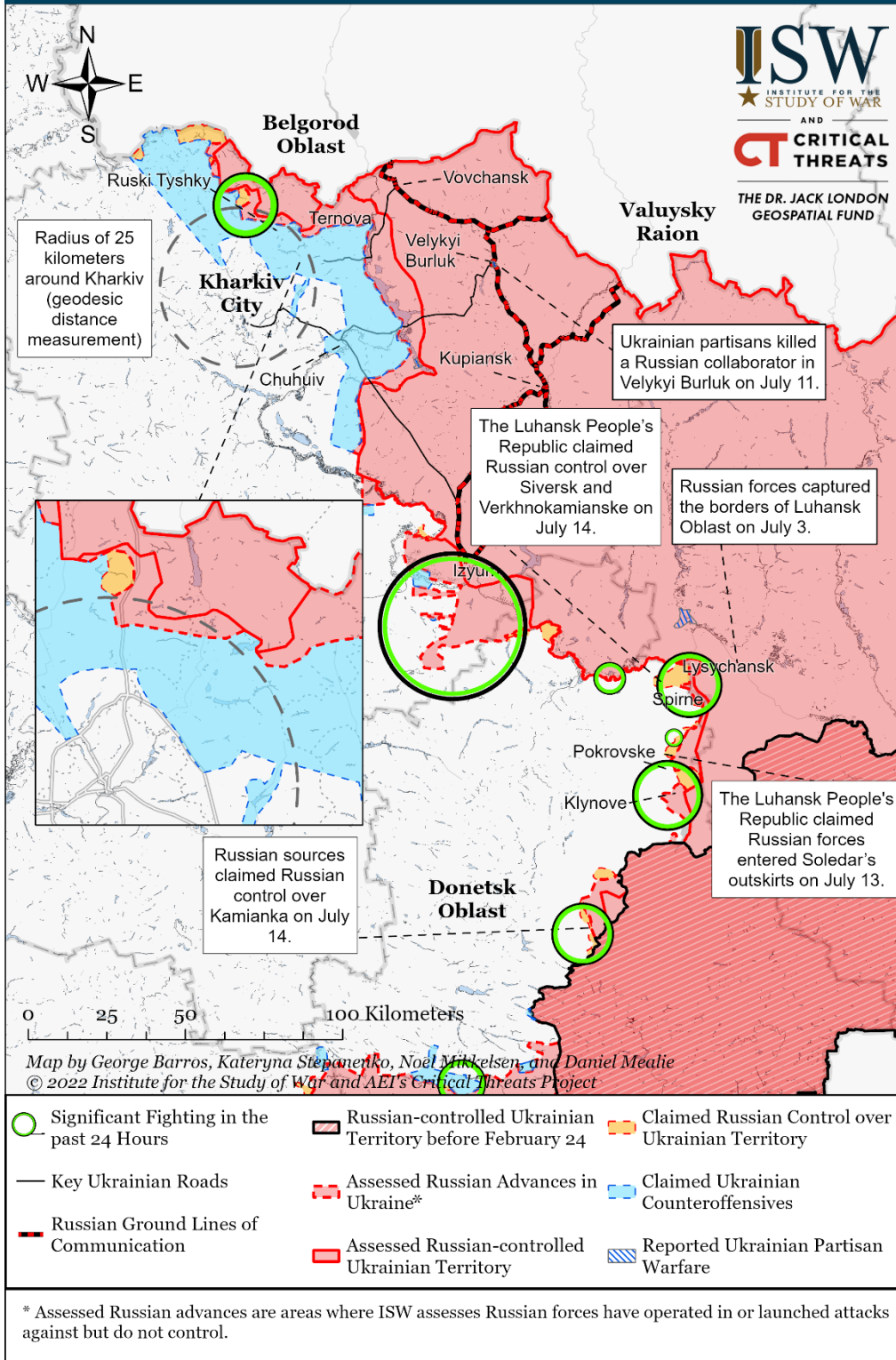
- Significant Fighting in the past 24 Hours
- Assessed Russian-controlled Ukrainian Territory
- Assessed Russian Advances in Ukraine\*
- Claimed Russian Control over Ukrainian Territory
- Claimed Ukrainian Counteroffensives
- Reported Ukrainian Partisan Warfare
- Major Railroads

\* Assessed Russian advances are areas where ISW assesses Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks against but do not control.

**Supporting Effort #1—Kharkiv City (Russian objective: Defend ground lines of communication (GLOCs) to Izyum and prevent Ukrainian forces from reaching the Russian border)**

Russian forces focused on maintaining previously occupied lines and positions in the Kharkiv City direction.<sup>16</sup> Russian forces continued to carry out air, artillery, and missile strikes on Kharkiv City and surrounding settlements.<sup>17</sup> Pro-Russian Telegram channel Rybar claimed that Ukrainian forces launched unsuccessful offensives to reclaim Dementiivka, but other Russian war correspondents claimed that the settlement is still contested.<sup>18</sup> The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian forces conducted aerial reconnaissance in Vasylenkove and Shevchenko, which may indicate that Russian forces have not retained control over some areas on the eastern side of the Pechenihy Reservoir, but Ukrainian forces have not liberated those settlements either.<sup>19</sup>

# Assessed Control of Terrain Around Kharkiv as of July 14, 2022, 3:00 PM ET



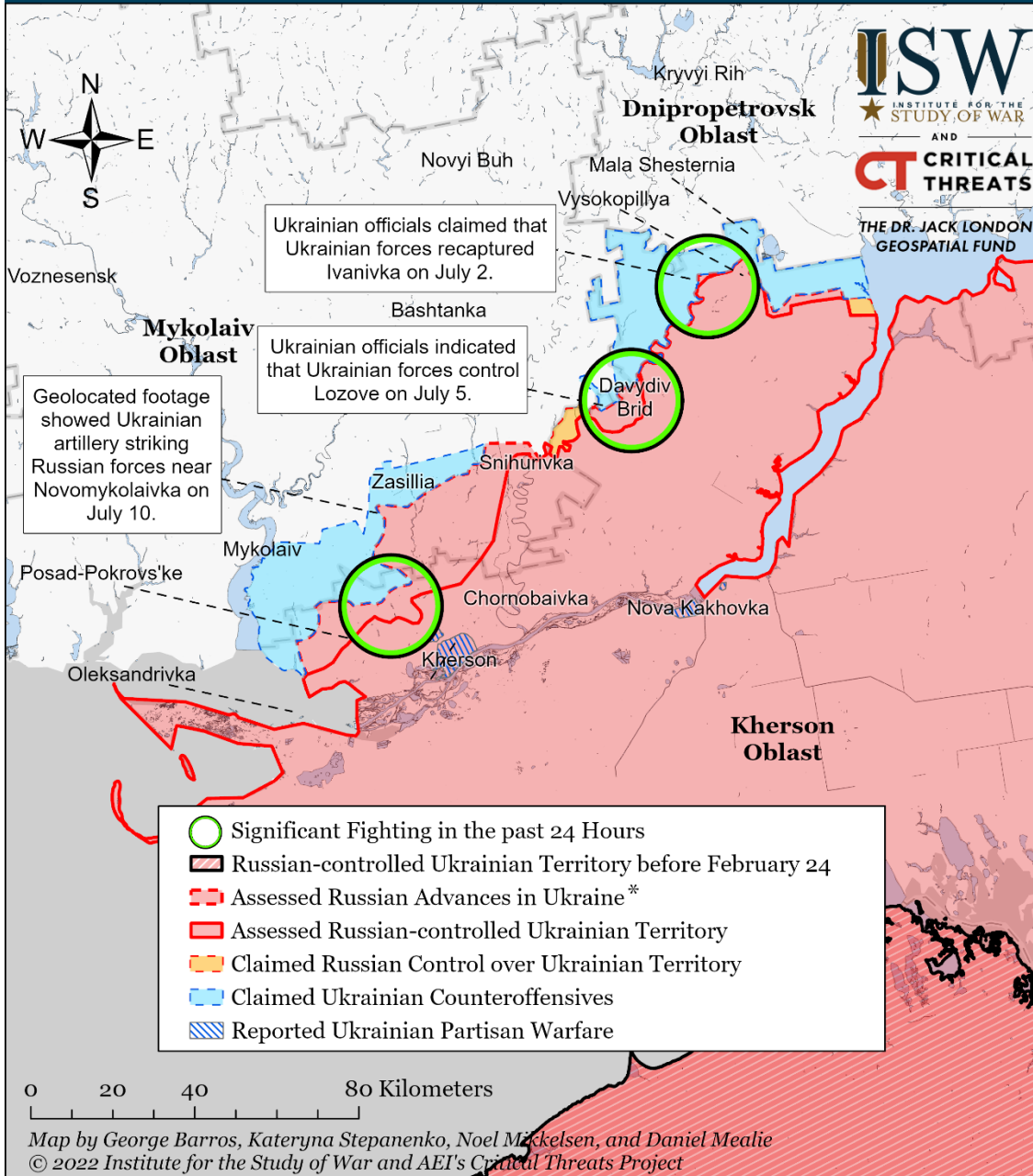
## Supporting Effort #2—Southern Axis (Russian objective: Defend Kherson and Zaporizhia Oblasts against Ukrainian counterattacks)

Russian forces continued to undertake defensive measures to prevent Ukrainian counteroffensives along the Southern Axis.<sup>20</sup> The Ukrainian Main Military Directorate (GUR) reported that Russian forces established an ammunition depot at the Kherson City Drama Theater between July 11 and July 12.<sup>21</sup> Russian forces are likely continuing to move ammunition depots to historic landmarks in an attempt to defend equipment and manpower from Ukrainian strikes. Satellite imagery also showed that Russian forces deployed at least six Su-25 aircraft to the Dzankoi air base in northern Crimea as of July 11, also possibly in preparation for launching airstrikes at Ukrainian units.<sup>22</sup> Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov also reported that Russian forces began hiding military equipment in residential buildings and confirmed that Ukrainian forces destroyed two ammunition depots in Melitopol in two weeks.<sup>23</sup> The Kherson Oblast Administration confirmed that Ukrainian forces struck two Russian command posts and one helipad in Nova Kakhovka on July 13, and social media footage showed massive explosions in the area.<sup>24</sup> The GUR said it observed Russian forces transporting approximately 40 wounded servicemen to Kherson City mobile hospital but did not specify if the servicemen were wounded during Ukrainian strikes on Russian ammunition depots in the city.<sup>25</sup>

Russian forces continued to shell Ukrainian positions along the Kherson-Mykolaiv and Kherson-Dnipropetrovsk Oblast borders and settlements on the Zaporizhia Oblast frontline.<sup>26</sup> Russian forces also continued to launch missiles at Mykolaiv City, reportedly with S-300 air-defense systems.<sup>27</sup>



# Assessed Control of Terrain Around Kherson and Mykolaiv as of July 14, 2022, 3:00 PM ET



\* Assessed Russian advances are areas where ISW assesses Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks against but do not control.

Note: ISW expanded Ukrainian counteroffensives to Lozove on the left bank of the Inhulets River on July 5. The Ukrainian General Staff reported on July 6 that Ukrainian forces repelled a Russian offensive in the direction of Lozove in Kherson Oblast, indicating that Ukrainian forces still maintain a position there. Russian Telegram Channel Rybar claimed that Ukrainian forces launched unsuccessful attacks on the Snihurivka-Lozove-Bila Krynytsya line on July 4. Ukraine's Southern Operational Command stated on July 5 that Ukrainian forces repelled a Russian platoon counterattack in the Lozove area, indicating that Ukrainian forces are in Lozove. Ukrainian combat footage posted in mid-June showed Ukrainian forces shelling Russian positions near Lozove. NASA FIRMS data for July 5 shows heat anomaly concentrations south of Lozove consistent with the Ukraine's Southern Operational Command report. We will update our maps as we collect and confirm more information.

## **Mobilization and Force Generation Efforts (Russian objective: Expand combat power without conducting general mobilization)**

Russian regional authorities continued to form and deploy new volunteer battalions to participate in the Russian war in Ukraine on July 14. Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov claimed that another unspecified volunteer group deployed to Ukraine.<sup>28</sup> The volunteer group is likely part of one of the four Akhmat volunteer battalions that Kadyrov announced on June 26.<sup>29</sup>

## **Activity in Russian-occupied Areas (Russian objective: consolidate administrative control of occupied areas; set conditions for potential annexation into the Russian Federation or some other future political arrangement of Moscow's choosing)**

Russian occupation authorities continue to face personnel and workforce shortages in occupied Ukrainian territories. The Ukrainian Resistance Center reported that Russian occupation officials brought electricians from Crimea and Russia to Mariupol to restore electricity, likely due to a lack of skilled personnel in the city.<sup>30</sup> The Ukrainian Resistance Center also found that Russian forces posted a job listing for the position of Melitopol's Information Security Department Head.<sup>31</sup> The GUR reported that Russian occupation authorities are expecting the arrival of political personnel to organize referendum proceedings in Kherson City.<sup>32</sup> Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar stated that Russian officials began replacing collaborators within occupation administrative structures in Kherson City.<sup>33</sup>

Russian occupation officials continued "passportization" efforts in occupied settlements of southern Ukraine. Russian occupation authorities also opened a pension fund in Melitopol, likely to financially incentivize more pensioners in occupied Zaporizhia Oblast settlements to accept Russian citizenships and use rubles.<sup>34</sup>

DNR Head Denis Pushilin announced that the DNR will use Mariupol's port to export coal, metal, and grain as well as import Russian construction materials and products.<sup>35</sup> Russian occupation forces will likely continue to use the Mariupol port to transport stolen Ukrainian grain and materials to Russia.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>

<sup>2</sup> <https://t.me/kt20220224/1255> <https://t.me/kt20220224/1255>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>

<sup>4</sup> [https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1547480032196677632?s=20&t=nlWiG8w1rFE6d2EfUh1\\_8Q;](https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1547480032196677632?s=20&t=nlWiG8w1rFE6d2EfUh1_8Q;)  
<https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/1769;> <https://t.me/rybar/35493;> <https://t.me/rybar/35537>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/3652>; <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>;  
<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>; <https://t.me/synegubov/3652>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>;

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>; <https://t.me/rybar/35525>

<sup>8</sup> <https://t.me/kommunist/7303>; <https://t.me/kommunist/7301>; <https://t.me/voenkorkotenok/38363>;  
<https://t.me/voenkorkotenok/38361>; <https://t.me/epoddubny/11538>

<sup>9</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/35525>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>;

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>; [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4082](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4082)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>;

<sup>12</sup> <https://youtu.be/ndhLeUKK1ps>; [https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko\\_donoda/4082](https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4082)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>;

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/TRO\\_DPR/4698](https://t.me/TRO_DPR/4698); [https://t.me/TRO\\_DPR/4696](https://t.me/TRO_DPR/4696)

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1547509949852520449>

<sup>16</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/pfbid02UeHviVBBdXnXQzwGBoHkZ7eSRyfmE8eBwoHVh6k7Cqudys7ir1CGTNTekUEqoyFrl>

<sup>17</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/pfbid02UeHviVBBdXnXQzwGBoHkZ7eSRyfmE8eBwoHVh6k7Cqudys7ir1CGTNTekUEqoyFrl>;

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/pfbid02UeHviVBBdXnXQzwGBoHkZ7eSRyfmE8eBwoHVh6k7Cqudys7ir1CGTNTekUEqoyFrl>; <https://t.me/synegubov/3652>; <https://t.me/synegubov/3654>; <https://t.me/spravdi/13184>;

<https://t.me/rybar/35485>; <https://t.me/rybar/35486>; <https://t.me/rybar/35514?single>; [https://t.me/der\\_rada/1952](https://t.me/der_rada/1952);

<https://t.me/rybar/35479>; <https://t.me/rybar/35503>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/35479>; <https://t.me/rybar/35503>; <https://t.me/voenkorkotenok/38361>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>

<sup>21</sup> <https://gur.dot.gov.ua/content/v-dramteatri-okupovanoho-khersonu-oblashtuvaly-sklad-boyeprypasiv-i-chekayut-narosiyskykh-polittekhnolohiv.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/COUPSURE/status/1547204128677527555?s=20&t=ieHCLmXGI0UOPyW6RFLPbQ>

<sup>23</sup> [https://t.me/ivan\\_fedorov\\_melitopol/271](https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/271)

<sup>24</sup>

<https://www.facebook.com/100064555155257/posts/pfbid0HPDXaX7ya7en4k9pd46qLnnclJLbnNUptdaCbyxY5w9ktqjGsOwKdgyHXb72uUjD2l/?d=n> <https://www.facebook.com/okPivden/videos/1028975081098948/>;

<https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1547307073209245701>;

<sup>25</sup> <https://gur.dot.gov.ua/content/v-dramteatri-okupovanoho-khersonu-oblashtuvaly-sklad-boyeprypasiv-i-chekayut-narosiyskykh-polittekhnolohiv.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362792292700522>;

<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/362390646074020>; [https://t.me/zoda\\_gov\\_ua/10389](https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/10389);

[https://t.me/zoda\\_gov\\_ua/10389](https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/10389); [https://t.me/zoda\\_gov\\_ua/10389](https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/10389)

<sup>27</sup> [https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1547480032196677632?s=20&t=n1WiG8w1rFE6d2EfUh1\\_8Q](https://twitter.com/sarahrainsford/status/1547480032196677632?s=20&t=n1WiG8w1rFE6d2EfUh1_8Q);

<https://t.me/rybar/35493>; <https://t.me/rybar/35537>; <https://t.me/mykolaiivskaODA/1769>

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<sup>28</sup> [https://t.me/RKadyrov\\_95/2548](https://t.me/RKadyrov_95/2548)

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-june-30>

<sup>30</sup> <https://sprotyv.mod.gov.ua/2022/07/14/okupanty-ne-mozhut-znajty-zradnykiv-v-melitopoli/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://sprotyv.mod.gov.ua/2022/07/14/okupanty-ne-mozhut-znajty-zradnykiv-v-melitopoli/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://gur.gov.ua/content/v-dramteatri-okupovanoho-khersonu-oblashtuvaly-sklad-boyeprypasiv-i-chekayut-na-rosiyskykh-polittekhnolohiv.html>

<sup>33</sup> <https://armyinform.com.ua/2022/07/14/rosiyany-pochaly-pozbavlyatysya-zradnykiv-na-okupovanyh-terytoriyah-minoborony/>

<sup>34</sup> [https://t.e/nm\\_dnr/8481](https://t.e/nm_dnr/8481)

<sup>35</sup> <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/15212679>