

# Ukraine Crisis Update: March 5, 2015

**1** February 28-March 4: Separatist militants launched indirect fire strikes on Ukrainian Anti-Terror Operation (ATO) forces near the contested village of Shyrokyne. Ukrainian forces repelled an attempt to storm their positions on March 4.

**2** March 1-2: Separatist forces launched indirect fire strikes on the Ukrainian frontline villages of Mironivskiy and Troitske and attempted to storm Ukrainian positions near the village of Luhanske, northwest of Debaltseve. The ATO named Luhanske as a major flashpoint on March 5.

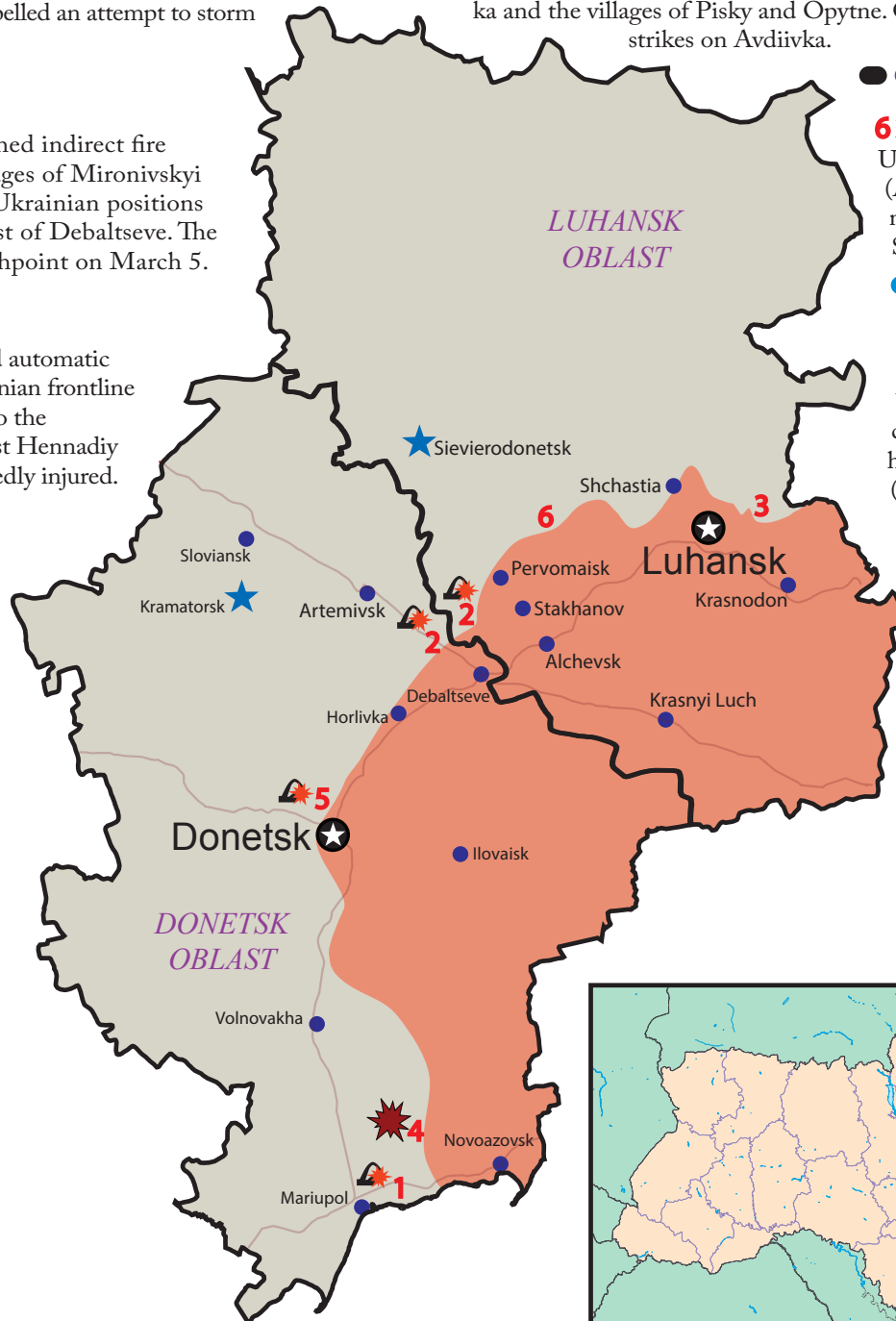
**3** March 2: Pro-Russian separatists fired automatic weapons on a police vehicle in the Ukrainian frontline town of Stanytsia Luhanska, according to the Kyiv-backed governor of Luhansk Oblast Hennadiy Moskal. Two police officers were reportedly injured.

**4** March 2: A pro-Russian sabotage and intelligence group clashed with Ukrainian forces around the village of Pyshecheyk. Two Ukrainian marines were reportedly killed.

**5** March 2-4: Separatists, likely affiliated with the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), launched indirect fire strikes on Ukrainian positions near the city of Avdiivka and the villages of Pisky and Opytne. One civilian was killed in mortar strikes on Avdiivka.

**6** March 3: Rebel forces fired on Ukrainian Anti-Terror Operation (ATO) positions with small arms near the villages of Krymske and Sokilnyky.

**7** March 5: An IED detonated around midnight in Ukraine's third biggest city of Odesa, inflicting no casualties but damaging a building housing an office of Right Sector (Pravy Sektor), a Ukrainian far-right political and paramilitary organization. The neighboring building was targeted in a similar attack on February 10.



★ Acting Regional Admin Center

★ Regional Admin Center

■ Separatist Held Territory

★ Major Clash

★ Indirect Fire

● Donetsk People's Republic (DNR)

● Luhansk People's Republic (LNR)

● Combined Separatist

● Ukrainian Anti-Terror Operation (ATO)

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Indirect fire exchanges have persisted across the front line as reports show Ukraine continuing to withdraw heavy weapons and unverified separatist claims assert their own complete withdrawal. While continued separatist shelling may represent an attempt to soften Ukrainian forces, reports of unsuccessful attacks near the frontline villages of Shyrokyne and Luhanske suggest that the pro-Russian militants have not fully suspended the active maneuver phase in the wake of their victory at Debaltseve on February 18. Both villages serve as strategic midway points on highways between key Ukrainian and separatist-held urban centers, Mariupol and Novoazovsk in the south, and Artemivsk and Debaltseve in the east. Skirmishes around these villages will likely continue over the next week and may progress toward Mariupol and Artemivsk over the next month. Reports of two separate Russian assistance convoys over the past week and repairs to the Debaltseve rail junction between Donetsk and Luhansk suggest that Russia is taking advantage of the Ukrainian artillery withdrawal to resupply separatist positions on the front line possibly in preparation for a subsequent phase of fighting.