

Update on the war in Ukraine



British Defence Intelligence update on the battlefield situation in Ukraine as of today.

As today's British Defence Intelligence map on the battlefield situation in eastern Ukraine, above, indicates, the war in eastern Ukraine continued this week, as it has in recent weeks, with the Russian forces continuing to attack in the area just over the border north of Kharkiv, westward toward the city of Kupiansk in the eastern portion of Kharkiv region, in the area west of the destroyed city of Bakhmut, in the area to the west and northwest of Avdiivka, a small city north of Donetsk from which the Ukrainian forces withdrew in February, and toward the area south of Orikhiv in Zaporizhzhia region taken by Ukrainian forces last year. However, the Ukrainian General Staff also reported in its daily updates, available at Ukrinform and Ukrainska Pravda, that the Russian forces attacked as well at a number of other points along the contact line between the forces in addition to those indicated on the map – toward Lyman in northern Donetsk region which, if taken, would provide a pathway southward toward the large cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk; toward the area to the west and southwest of Donetsk city; and toward the area in Kherson region in southern Ukraine where the Ukrainian forces tenuously hold a beachhead on the east bank of the Dnipro River.

Judging from the number of Russian attacks this week and in recent weeks, the highest priority for the Russian forces has been to advance toward Pokrovsk, Toretsk, Lyman and Kurakhove, and to take the major cities – most notably Sloviansk and Kramatorsk – in Donetsk region they don't already hold. President Putin has never said under what circumstances Russia might contemplate a ceasefire and the start of talks that might, if successful, produce a peace treaty. But knowing as he does that Ukraine will never

relinquish the regions – Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, along with Crimea in 2014 – that Russia unilaterally annexed, there's no reason to believe that Russia would in fact contemplate a ceasefire unless Ukraine first requests one itself. And there's no reason to believe that will happen anytime soon, if ever. And so the war continues.

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