



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

September 21 – 27

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International situation & Military Support	2
Situation at the Front	4
This week shelling and strikes	6
Humanitarian situation	9

Negotiations between the United States, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation

- **Trump radically changed his position on Ukraine after meeting with Zelenskyi at the UN General Assembly.** US President Donald Trump held talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyi on September 23 during the UN General Assembly, after which he sharply changed his rhetoric on the Ukrainian-Russian war. The American leader said that Ukraine is capable of regaining all of its territory in its original form or even advancing further with the support of Europe and NATO. Trump also threatened Russia with “huge tariffs” if it does not agree to peace talks and called on all countries to join in economic pressure.
- According to Zelenskyi, the meeting was “very good and constructive,” and Trump now knows more details about the situation on the battlefield. The Ukrainian president noted that the American leader had previously trusted Putin's words, but now realized that the Russian dictator had been sharing false information. Trump expressed his willingness to provide Ukraine with security guarantees after the end of the war, including air defense systems and other weapons.
- **Zelenskyi asks for Tomahawk long-range missiles to change the balance of power.** During the closed part of the negotiations with Trump, the Ukrainian president asked for Ukraine to be provided with long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles. Zelenskyi said he asked the American leader for a new weapons system that would force Putin to the negotiating table, to which Trump responded that he was willing to “work on it.” The Trump administration is considering providing Ukraine with both Tomahawk and other long-range weapons, although previously these were the only weapons that the US refused to sell to NATO for Ukraine's needs.
- According to Zelenskyi in an interview with Axios, Trump supports Ukrainian attacks on Russian energy infrastructure and weapons factories in response to Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities.
- **The US is pressuring its allies to stop purchasing Russian energy.** Trump has sharply criticized NATO countries and other states for continuing to purchase Russian energy during the war against Ukraine. The US president called this “shameful” and singled out India and China as “major sponsors” of Russian aggression. At a meeting with Turkish leader Erdogan, Trump called for an end to purchases of Russian oil, which accounts for 57% of Turkish imports.
- Hungary categorically refused to stop buying Russian oil, even at Trump's request. Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó justified this by citing the country's lack of access to the sea and the need for energy supplies.
- **The number of countries willing to organize negotiations between Ukraine and Russia is growing.** South Africa has joined the countries willing to host a possible meeting between Zelenskyi and Putin, as announced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. In total, at least eight countries have expressed their willingness to organize talks between the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, including Austria, the Vatican, Switzerland, Turkey, and three Persian Gulf states.

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, during which he reiterated his call to end the war in Ukraine and stressed the need for Moscow to take meaningful steps to resolve the conflict. The Russian side speaks of “resetting the clock” on restoring contacts between the countries.

International Support

- **The European Union is stepping up financial support and sanctions pressure.** The European Commission has sent EU member states a proposal to grant Ukraine a “reparation loan” of €140 billion from frozen Russian assets. The mechanism provides that de facto Russian funds will be transferred to Ukraine, but de jure the right of claim will remain with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. Ukraine will be obliged to repay the loan only if Russia pays reparations for the damage caused. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz publicly supported this initiative, unlike his predecessor Olaf Scholz.
- At the same time, the EU approved changes to the Ukraine Facility reform plan, which will allow Ukraine to receive aid more effectively. Sweden became the first country to allocate additional direct budget support through this mechanism in the amount of about UAH 3 billion. The European Commission is also considering options for restricting Russian oil imports via the Druzhba pipeline, which will primarily affect supplies to Hungary and Slovakia.
- **British-Canadian initiatives on frozen assets and cybersecurity.** The UK has proposed using £25 billion in Russian assets frozen in the country to provide loans to Ukraine. Finance Minister Rachel Reeves presented the “reparation loans” initiative, which will work in tandem with the EU program. Canada, in turn, has allocated UAH 92 million to strengthen Ukraine's cyber resilience within the Tallinn Mechanism, in particular to protect critical infrastructure and create systems to counter cyberattacks.
- **New diplomatic ties and international support.** Ukraine has established diplomatic relations with Syria and Papua New Guinea. The meeting between the presidents of Ukraine and Syria took place against the backdrop of discussions on promising areas of cooperation, particularly agriculture. It is noteworthy that the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, Justin Tkachenko, is the son of Ukrainian immigrants to Australia.
- Panama canceled the registration of more than 200 tankers belonging to Russia's shadow fleet after negotiations with Volodymyr Zelenskyi.
- Bulgaria announced the termination of the Russian gas transit agreement in 2026 and its complete exclusion from the national energy market by 2028.



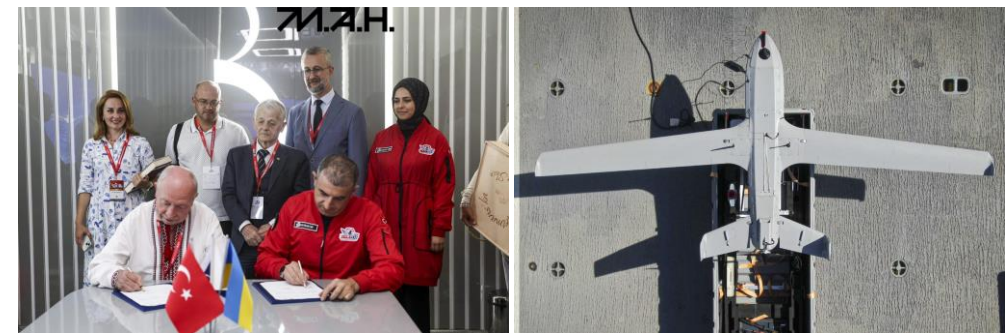
- **Security challenges and military cooperation.** At a press conference, Zelenskyi stated that Ukraine has been using the Patriot system provided by Israel for a month and expects to receive two additional systems in the fall. He also announced negotiations with the US on two agreements: the Mega Deal (purchase of weapons) and the Drone Deal (sale of Ukrainian drones). The parties have moved on to technical negotiations on the export of drones. He also spoke about his willingness to share experience in shooting down drones and to send advisory groups to several countries.
- He also revealed new challenges in the field of air security. On the night of September 10, 92 Russian drones were flying towards Poland, which Ukrainian forces shot down over their own territory. At the same time, a Hungarian reconnaissance drone was recorded violating Ukraine's airspace at the border, which was likely conducting reconnaissance of the industrial potential of the border areas.
- Poland is preparing a draft law on amnesty for citizens who joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as under current legislation, service in the army of another state without the permission of the Polish authorities is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years. At the same time, the country's president signed a law extending aid to Ukrainian refugees until March 2026, with stricter requirements for receiving financial support.
- **Zelenskyi's speech at the UN and humanitarian diplomacy.** At the UN General Assembly, the Ukrainian president formulated a new security philosophy, stating that "the only guarantee of security is friends and weapons." Zelenskyi criticized the weakness of international institutions and called for new rules on the use of kamikaze drones and artificial intelligence in weapons. The president also announced Ukraine's plans to export weapons, noting that the country has "weapons tested in real war."
- A meeting between the first ladies of Ukraine and the United States also took place. Olena Zelenska met with Melania Trump to discuss the protection of children. Zelenska thanked her American counterpart for her letter to Putin calling for peace for children.

Other

- Chinese companies continue to provide technical assistance to the Russian military-industrial complex. According to Reuters, Chinese engineers have repeatedly visited the sanctioned Kupol plant in Izhevsk, participated in tests of strike drones, and trained Russian personnel in their use. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued recommendations to companies to avoid contact with the occupied territories, but promises to consider each case individually remain declarative.
- North Korea has transferred weapons and military personnel worth about \$10 billion to Russia as part of agreements to support the invasion of Ukraine. Russian troops have already used North Korean cluster munitions during the shelling of Kherson.
- Russia has sent two trains carrying 1,300 tons of explosive cargo to Belarus. A Russian Oreshnik medium-range ballistic missile system has also been deployed on Belarusian territory.
- Russia is actively using international organizations to legitimize its actions regarding Ukrainian nuclear facilities. According to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Moscow is trying to enlist the support of the IAEA in its attempt to take over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant by laying 200 kilometers of power lines on the left bank of the Dnipro River. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Moscow for a forum marking the 80th anniversary of the Russian nuclear industry took place against the backdrop of the second day of blackouts at the ZNPP.
- The International Paralympic Committee has fully reinstated the status of the Russian and Belarusian committees, allowing Russian athletes to compete under the Russian flag again. Most delegates voted against the complete suspension of the Russian committee and against the continuation of partial restrictions.
- The President of Ukraine signed three new packages of sanctions against Russia, affecting propagandists, businessmen in the occupied territories, and individuals who destabilize Moldova in the interests of Moscow.

Military Support

- **International military-technical cooperation is gaining momentum.** The Ukrainian defense industry is actively attracting foreign partners and investments. NORDA Dynamics, a company that develops drone control systems, received \$1 million from Sweden's Varangians, founded this year. At the same time, European leader in unmanned systems TEKEVER opened a representative office in Ukraine under the leadership of Kateryna Bezsudna, which indicates growing interest in the Ukrainian defense technology market.
- A significant step was the signing of a memorandum between the Small Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Turkey's Baykar on the creation of an Aviation and Space Technology Center for Youth. This partnership can provide long-term training in critical areas.
- **The Netherlands and the US are deepening their R&D cooperation.** The Ukrainian cluster Brave1 has entered into its first international research partnership with the Dutch organization TNO, opening up opportunities for joint development of defense technologies. Ukrainian-American MITS Capital has also announced the creation of MITS Industries, which will bring together several leading Ukrainian defense technology manufacturers.
- Denmark increases financial support for the defense industry. Denmark has allocated a \$400 million aid package to Ukraine, of which 1.6 billion kroner is earmarked to support orders for the Ukrainian defense industry within the "Danish model."
- **The US is stepping up its supply of weapons and equipment.** The US Army has ordered M110 sniper rifles for Ukraine from Knight's Armament Company. The US Department of War has also signed a \$15 million contract with Sierra Nevada for technical support for the Ukrainian Navy's anti-drone systems as part of the USAI program. Separately, Textron Systems has been awarded a contract to supply a new batch of MSFV armored vehicles along with spare parts and equipment.
- **The Czech defense industry is showing record performance.** Exports of military goods from the Czech Republic could reach a record 100 billion Czech korunas this year, with more than 70% of Czech-made artillery shells being exported to Ukraine. This confirms the Czech Republic's role as one of the key suppliers of ammunition to the Ukrainian armed forces.



Key Events of the Week:

- Ukrainian forces continue to actively strike Russian rear infrastructure, hitting air bases, oil refineries, power stations, and military facilities.
- The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine destroyed several aircraft and helicopters in Crimea, while Special Operations Forces struck an S-400 air defense system in the Kaluga oblast.
- Ukrainian partisans carried out sabotage operations on Russian railways, complicating the logistics of the Russian defense industry.
- A series of drone strikes on Russian petrochemical and energy facilities caused fires and disruptions in the operation of enterprises.
- Fierce fighting continues on the front lines, especially in the Pokrovsk, Dobropillia, Lyman, and Kupiansk directions.
- Russia has intensified assaults by small groups and is actively using FPV drones, especially in the Pokrovsk direction.
- The Russian forces launched a combined missile strike on a training unit of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, resulting in casualties among Ukrainian military personnel.
- Unusual activity by Russian ships and drones has been recorded in the Baltic region, causing concern in Denmark and Sweden.
- A Reuters investigation has confirmed the involvement of Chinese engineers in the improvement of Russian military drones.

21.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine destroyed three Mi-8 helicopters in the temporarily occupied Crimea. The “Prymara” Special Forces unit also struck the “Nebo-U” radar station. ➤ According to Russian sources, 15,077 mobilized Russians have been killed on the front lines since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This was reported by the Russian “Mediazona” and the BBC. More than 40% of Russians who received draft notices for “partial mobilization” were killed in their first year on the front lines. The greatest losses among mobilized Russians were suffered during the occupiers' offensive in the Vuhledar area (Donetsk oblast) in 2023, as well as during the battles for Avdiivka from October to December of the same year. ➤ Partisans of the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar military movement blew up the railway tracks leading to the aircraft factory. As a result of the sabotage, the logistics of the enterprise producing X-59 missiles were disrupted.
22.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For the first time in history, DIU fighters hit two Russian Be-12 amphibious aircraft. Be-12 Chaika amphibious aircraft are equipped with expensive equipment for detecting and combating submarines. Along with two enemy Be-12 aircraft, a Russian Mi-8 helicopter was hit during a raid on Crimea. ➤ According to the General Staff, the Ukrainian Defense Forces attacked important targets of the occupiers in the Luhansk oblast. Soldiers from the Dnipro operational-strategic group struck a logistics distribution point for drones. As a result, huge stocks of Russian attack UAVs were destroyed. A regimental warehouse of Russian occupation forces in Luhansk oblast was also destroyed. In addition to ammunition, enemy vehicles were burned. ➤ According to Mayor Sergei Sobyenin, Moscow and the surrounding oblast were attacked by drones. A total of seven drones were shot down over the city, he added later. Explosions were also heard over towns near Moscow, with local channels reporting drone attacks. The Ukrainian side did not comment on the shelling. ➤ Russian troops have intensified their assault on the Pokrovsk direction. This was reported by the military of the 7th Rapid Response Corps of the Airborne Forces. “The enemy's dominant tactic is infiltration - attempts to penetrate in small groups, bypassing the forward positions of our military,” the corps said in a statement. The command specified that a group of occupiers had recently managed to infiltrate one of the settlements in the Pokrovsk agglomeration. As a result of the measures taken, Ukrainian soldiers destroyed the invaders, and there is no threat of enemy forces accumulating there. It is also reported that the enemy is conducting round-the-clock reconnaissance and actively using drones. “Every day, up to 600 enemy FPV and strike UAVs are recorded,” the corps said.
23.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of September 23, the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck the 8-N linear production dispatch station (LPDS) in the Naitopovichy area of the Bryansk oblast. A hit on the pumping and compressor station was confirmed, followed by a fire in the area of the facility. Also, a second strike on the Samara linear production dispatch station was recorded in the Samara oblast of the Russian Federation. In addition, strikes on two aircraft at the Kacha military airfield in occupied Crimea were confirmed.
24.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Salavat, a UAV attack caused a fire at the plant, one of Russia's key oil refining, chemical, and fertilizer production centers. The petrochemical giant Gazprom Neftkhim Salavat in the Republic of Bashkortostan was recently attacked. Also, at night, drones destroyed a power substation in Kursk. In the Belgorod oblast, a strike was recorded on a Russian base and an industrial enterprise. The Russian Ministry of Defense reported the alleged downing of 70 UAVs over the territories of the Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov, and Volgograd oblast, the annexed Crimea, and the Black Sea. ➤ The Russians continue to attack the Ukrainian railway, reportedly acting systematically, knocking out one substation after another or key railway junctions. According to Oleksandr Pertsovskiy, six key railway junctions have been shelled since the summer. At the same time, it is noted that the occupiers did not pay particular attention to strikes on military cargo. ➤ The Russian port of Tuapse was attacked by naval drones. Online sources claim that the drone struck the pier where fuel oil, vacuum gas oil, and diesel are loaded. Its main importers are Turkey, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Losses of the Russian army from 21.09.2025 to 27.09.2025	
Liquidated personnel	5 940
Tanks	17
IFVs	8
Artillery systems / MLRS	232/10
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	5
Aircraft / helicopters	5/1
UAVs	2 384
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	677
Special equipment	8

Situation at the Front

24.09

- The Russians launched a combined strike on the territory of one of the training units of the Ukrainian Ground Forces. Among the weapons used were two Iskander ballistic missiles. Despite the security measures taken, the precise strike on the shelter meant that it was not possible to completely avoid casualties among the personnel, the Army commented.
- Russia reported an attack by UAVs and marine drones on Novorossiysk, where Russian ships were relocated after strikes on Crimea. According to the governor of the Krasnodar Territory, the city center's area near the "Novorossiysk" hotel was hit. Preliminary reports indicate two fatalities and three injuries.
- "I don't know what the price of such actions was, but it was too high" – Zaluzhnyi about the Kursk operation. "Of course, such actions can be carried out if they are primarily justified by human losses and have limited objectives/. However, practice has shown that, in the end, an isolated tactical breakthrough on a narrow section of the front does not bring the necessary success to the attacking side," Zaluzhnyi noted. He added that Russian troops were later able to take advantage of tactical and technological advantages, preventing the Ukrainians' tactical breakthrough from turning into operational success, and later carried out a tactical advance themselves — also without operational success.

25.09

- At night, the Unmanned Systems Forces struck three gas distribution stations in the occupied territory of Luhansk oblast, according to the commander of the USF "Madiar." These were the gas distribution stations "Shchastia," "Sievierodonetsk," and "Novopskov."
- At around 4:00 a.m. on September 25, 2025, a Russian Su-34 aircraft was shot down in the Zaporizhzhia direction while carrying out terrorist attacks on the city of Zaporizhzhia using guided aerial bombs.
- Chinese engineers participated in drone tests at Russian military training grounds – Reuters. Chinese experts repeatedly visited the Russian defense plant "Kupo"1 to work on military drones. This was reported by two European security sources and confirmed by documents obtained by Reuters. Since last year, Chinese representatives have visited the plant more than half a dozen times. During this period, the plant received shipments of Chinese strike and reconnaissance drones through a Russian intermediary.
- The Kupiansk Military Administration reported on the crucial situation in the city. The Russian troops are shelling Kupiansk with all available weapons. "In addition to SRGs that have infiltrated or are infiltrating the city, the enemy is carrying out massive shelling directly on Kupiansk and the community's territory. FPV drones on fiber optics, which are not subject to electronic warfare, are effectively stalking ordinary people and cars. On the approaches to the city and within the city, all logistics routes are controlled, unfortunately, by enemy drones," Andrii Besedin, head of the Kupiansk Military Administration, stated.

26.09

- Drones attacked the Afipsky oil refinery in the Krasnodar Territory of Russia again. According to the region's operational headquarters, a fire broke out at the refinery due to falling UAV debris. This is not the first time the Afipsky refinery has been attacked by drones — it was already hit by UAVs on August 7 and 28. The annual oil processing capacity of this plant is 6.25 million tons per year.
- Following successful actions by the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Dobropillia direction, Russian troops have abandoned their offensive in the Novopavlivka direction – Oleksandr Syrskyi. The Commander-in-Chief made this statement during a meeting with media representatives. Key points include:
- The situation on the front line is complicated. Active combat operations continue in the Pokrovsk, Dobropillia, Lyman, and Novopavlivka directions. The Russians have transferred marines to the Dobropillia direction.
- The territory that has been liberated currently covers 168 square kilometers, and 182 square kilometers have been cleared of sabotage groups. Approximately 360 square kilometers have been liberated and cleared of the enemy, and this process continues.
- Every day, the Defense Forces of Ukraine in the Dobropillia direction liquidate 200 or more occupiers. They managed to surround Russians in this direction in a kind of "bag."
- In less than two months, 85 important targets on enemy territory have been hit, including 33 military targets(bases, warehouses, arsenals, airfields, and aircraft on the ground) and 52 military-industrial complex facilities.
- A new branch of the Air Force is being created – one for unmanned air defense systems.

Losses of the Russian army from 21.09.2025 to 27.09.2025

Liquidated personnel	5 940
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This week shelling and strikes

Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of September 21:** Air defense neutralized 33 out of 54 drones. Another 21 strike UAVs hit 8 locations.
- **Attack on the night of September 22:** Air defense neutralized 132 enemy drones out of 141. Another 9 strike UAVs hit 7 locations, while debris fell in 8 more.
- **Attack on the night of September 23:** Russia attacked Ukraine with three Iskander-M/KN-23 ballistic missiles and 115 drones. Air defense neutralized 103 enemy Shahed, Geran, and other types of UAVs in the north, south, and east of the country. Missiles and another 12 drones hit 6 locations, while debris fell in 8 more.
- **Attack on the night of September 24:** Air defense neutralized 126 out of 152 drones. Another 26 strike UAVs hit 7 locations, and debris was recorded in 2 more.
- **Attack on the night of September 25:** Air defense neutralized 150 out of 176 drones. The remaining 13 strike UAVs hit 8 locations, while debris fell in 1 more.
- **Attack on the night of September 26:** Air defense neutralized 128 out of 154 enemy drones overnight. Another 26 strike UAVs hit 9 locations, while debris fell in 1 more.
- **Attack on the night of September 27:** Air defense neutralized 97 out of 115 drones. There were 17 strike UAV hits in 6 locations, as well as debris falling in 2 more.

Donetsk oblast

- During the week, the Donetsk oblast suffered from attacks by UAVs, KABs, and FAB-250 bombs.
- On September 24, Russians dropped three aerial bombs on the city of Kostiantynivka. As a result of the attack, two people were killed and eight more were injured. In addition, 16 private houses, 3 apartment buildings, and a car were damaged.
- Other settlements also suffered from attacks:
 - Pokrovsk district: Pokrovsk, Dobropillia, Bilozerke, Rodynske.
 - Kramatorsk district: Sofiivka, Druzhkivka, Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka, Lyman, Rubtsi, Yampil, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Levadne, Raiske, Raihorodok, Spaske-Mykhailivka, Andriivka, Orikhuvatka, Rai-Oleksandrivka, Illinivka, Serhiivka, Shchurove, Mykolaivka, Iverske, Hromova Balka.
 - Bakhmut district: Siversk.

Odesa oblast

- During the week, Odesa oblast came under a series of massive Russian attacks involving strike and reconnaissance UAVs (Shahed, Geran, and others), as well as Iskander-M ballistic missiles launched from the territory of temporarily occupied Crimea.
- The most powerful strike targeted the city of Tatarbunary, where shelling caused large-scale fires and destruction of civilian infrastructure buildings. Damaged facilities included a hotel, Ukrposhta, Ukrtelecom, the House of Culture, the Administrative Services Center (CNAP), and railway infrastructure. One person was killed and two more were injured.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- During the week, Zaporizhzhia oblast suffered from UAV attacks and shelling with MLRS.
- On September 22, Russians dropped at least five aerial bombs on the city of Zaporizhzhia. As a result of the attack, two people were killed and two more were injured. On September 24, Russians attacked Vasylivka district with FPV drones. One person was killed in the attack.
- Throughout the week, the following settlements also suffered from attacks: Novodanylivka, Novoandriivka, Olhivske, Kushuhum, Osetrivka, Yurkivka, Plavni, Huliaipole, Orikhiv, Shcherbaky, Mala Tokmachka, Charivne, Bilohiria, Preobrazhenka, Zaliznychne, Komyshuvakha, Malokaterynivka, Veselianka, Stepnohirske, Kamianske, Lukianivske, Uspenivka, Dolynka, Poltavka, Chervonodniprovsk, Chervona Krynytsia, Bilenke, Prymorske, Verbove, Rivnopillia.

Kharkiv oblast

- During the week, the Kharkiv oblast suffered from attacks with guided aerial bombs (KABs) and UAVs.
- On September 23, Russians struck the city of Kharkiv using UAVs. As a result of the attack, one person was injured. On September 26, Russians carried out a strike with a guided aerial bomb on the settlement of Bilyi Kolodiaz. As a result of the attack, three people were injured, and a private house was damaged.
- Other settlements also suffered from attacks: Tymofiivka, Velykyi Burluk, Chuhiiv, Borova, Kupiansk-Vuzlovyyi, Novomykolaivka, Kupiansk, Hlushkivka, Pylna, Prudanka, Perovske, Ivashky, Ruska Lozova, Starovirivka, Yakovenkove, Buhayivka, Prykolotne, Shypuvate, Podoly, Saryi Saltiv, Yurchenkove, Novoosynove, Buhai Druhi, Slatyne, Malyi Burluk, Merefa, Osynove, Kamianka, Shebelinka, Pechenihy.

Sumy oblast

- During the week, the Sumy oblast suffered from attacks involving guided aerial bombs (KABs) and UAVs. There were also MLRS shelling and VOG grenades dropped from drones.
- On September 21, Russians attacked a civilian car with a drone in a village of the Shalyhyne community. As a result of the attack, one person was injured.
- Throughout the week, the following communities also suffered from attacks: Sumy, Khotin, Yunakivka, Mykolaivka (rural), Krasnopillia, Bilopillia, Vorozhba, Richky, Myropillia, Lebedyn, Seredyna-Buda, Esman, Hlukhiv, Putyvl, Velyka Pysarivka, Znob-Novhorodske, Novoslobidske, Druzhba, Svessa, and Stepanyvka.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

- Throughout the week, Dnipropetrovsk oblast was subjected to massive Russian shelling involving artillery, Grad MLRS, FPV drones, strike and reconnaissance UAVs, as well as missiles (Iskander, guided aerial bombs (KABs), and other types). The large-scale attacks caused fires and destruction: dozens of private houses and apartment buildings, farm structures, a kindergarten, enterprises, and other facilities were destroyed or damaged. Two people were killed and 28 injured.
- In particular: On September 23, Russians attacked Nikopol. A 70-year-old woman was killed by an FPV drone strike, and three more local residents were injured. The shelling caused fires and damaged about ten private houses, an apartment building, and vehicles. On September 24, the enemy launched combined strikes on the region using missiles, artillery, and drones. As a result, one person was killed and ten more injured.
- During the week, the following districts were affected: Nikopol, Synelnykove, Pavlohrad, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, and Kamianske, including the cities of Nikopol, Kryvyi Rih, and Dnipro, as well as numerous communities – Marhanets, Pokrov, Chervonohryhorivka, Myrivka, Malomykhailivka, Slovianske, Brahynivka, Zelenodolsk, Mezhyvka, and Mykolaivka.

Mykolaiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Mykolaiv oblast has suffered systematic attacks by Russian forces using FPV drones, Shahed UAVs, and artillery. These strikes caused damage to private houses, summer cottages, cars, power lines, and infrastructure facilities, as well as several fires. One person was killed and two others were injured. Areas under fire included the Mykolaiv district, the Kutsurub, Ochakiv, and Halytsyniv communities, as well as individual settlements such as Dmytrivka, Lupareve, Solonchaky, Lymany, and Dniprovske.

Poltava oblast

- During the week, Russian forces attacked the Poltava oblast, specifically the Poltava and Myrhorod districts. The primary type of weapon used was UAVs. As a result of the strikes, an enterprise in the Poltava district was damaged, causing a fire that was extinguished by emergency responders. In the Myrhorod district, drones were recorded falling in open areas. No casualties or injuries were reported during this period.

Kherson oblast

- Throughout the week, the Kherson oblast was under heavy Russian shelling involving drones, airstrikes, and artillery. Thirteen apartment buildings and more than 150 private houses were damaged, while farm buildings, shops, private garages, cars, buses, and cell towers were destroyed. In total, 4 people were killed and 50 more were injured during this period.
- In particular, on September 26, Russians launched an attack on the oblast – more than 30 settlements came under fire, including Kherson, Beryslav, and Novoraisk. Seven apartment buildings and 94 private houses were damaged, along with shops, cars, and farm buildings. One person was killed and 12 more were injured.
- Settlements under fire included: Kherson, Beryslav, Nova Kakhovka, Kakhovka, Antonivka, Dariivka, Sadove, Komyshany, Zelenivka, Molodizhne, Stepanivka, Naddniprianske, Tokarivka, Kindiyka, Zymivnyk, Bilozerka, Stanislav, Novoberyslav, Tomaryne, Tyahynka, Lvove, Kozatske, Vesele, Mykilske, Kizomys, Shyroka Balka, Ivanivka, Olhivka, Novotyahynka, Novovorontsovska, Mykhailivka, Osokorivka, Novooleksandrivka, Novovoskresenske, Novopetrivka, Tokarivske, Dudchany, Mylove.

Chernihiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Chernihiv oblast suffered systematic attacks by Russian forces using FPV drones, mortars (82–120 mm), tube artillery, explosive devices dropped from UAVs, MLRS, AGS, and UAVs such as Shahed, Geran, and Lancet. Numerous destructions were recorded: residential and non-residential buildings, farm structures, houses of culture, shops, and transport and energy infrastructure facilities were damaged. A cell tower in the Nizhyn community was damaged, leaving over 30,000 subscribers without electricity. One person was injured, and no fatalities were reported.
- Areas under fire included:
 - Novhorod-Siversk community: Krasnyi Khutir, Kamianska Sloboda, Buchky, Andriivka
 - Semenivka community: Karpovychi, Bleshnia, Kostobobriv, Yanzhulivka, Mykolaivka, Uhly, Zarichchia, Semenivka, Arkhipivka, Prohres, Tymonovychi, Lubiane, Baranivka, Zoria, Leonivka, Liskivshchyna, Serhiivske
 - Snovsk community: Huta-Studenetska, Snovsk
 - Horodnia community: Senkivka, Khorobychi, Berylivka
 - Koriukivka community: Shyshkivka



The week of shelling

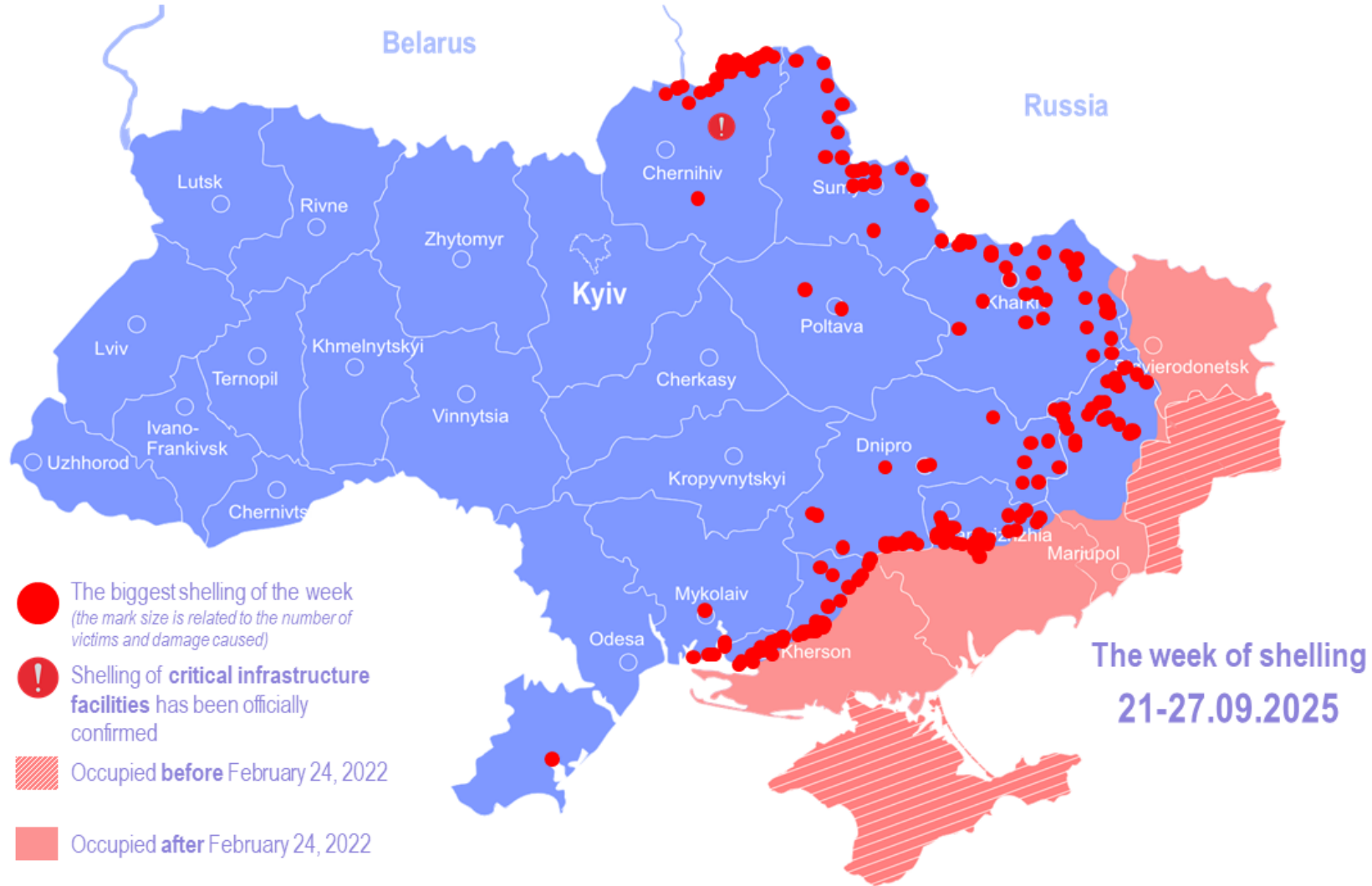
Odesa oblast



Donetsk oblast



Chernihiv oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Kherson oblast



Temporarily occupied territories (TOT) and evacuation

- In the temporarily occupied territories, Russia has launched a propaganda program for schoolchildren called “Young Info-Fighter Camp”. Under the guise of journalism, high school students will be taught to spread Russian propaganda, and the “most successful” will be recruited to work with professional propagandists. The Center for National Resistance emphasizes that this is how the occupiers seek to create a new generation of tools for information warfare.
- As part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative, two more 18-year-old teenagers were brought back from the temporarily occupied territories. The Russians tried to forcibly conscript the boys into the army, but they managed to reach Ukrainian-controlled territory, where they are receiving the necessary assistance and support. In total, Ukraine brought back 19 children and teenagers from occupation this week. Through the Bring Kids Back UA initiative, Ukraine has so far returned home 1,625 children abducted by Russia.

Infrastructure and Energy

- Russia has intensified its attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Overnight on September 25, 18 drones struck an energy facility in Kharkiv, causing power outages, water supply disruptions, and interruptions to tram and trolleybus services. In the Chernihiv Oblast, Russian strikes left residents of Chernihiv and the surrounding area without electricity and water – all Chernihivvodokanal (Chernihiv Water Utility) facilities were cut off from power, and a strike on a critical infrastructure facility was recorded in the Nizhyn community.
- Russia is systematically attacking Ukraine’s railway infrastructure, launching 6–7 Shahed drones each night to target locomotives and electrical substations. According to the head of Ukrzaliznytsia, Oleksandr Pertsovskiy, the goal of the strikes is to sow panic among passengers and damage the economy. According to World Bank estimates, about 30% of the infrastructure is in a state of ongoing damage and repair.
- The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains in blackout – the plant is operating on emergency diesel generators due to its disconnection from the Ukrainian power grid. Energoatom reports that the power line in the territory controlled by Ukraine is operational, but the occupiers are deliberately not reconnecting it, using the situation for a disinformation campaign. Running on diesel generators is not sustainable long-term and creates critical risks for nuclear safety, threatening not only Ukraine but also all of Europe.

International support

- Canada is allocating UAH 92 million to strengthen Ukraine’s cyber resilience within the framework of the Tallinn Mechanism. The funds will be used to protect critical infrastructure, develop systems for detecting and responding to cyberattacks, and purchase equipment for securing digital processes.
- Canada is developing artificial intelligence systems to search for and identify Ukrainian children illegally deported by Russia. Prime Minister Mark Carney stated that the country is investing millions in this initiative and strengthening cooperation with Ukraine, the US, and European partners to ensure the immediate return of children. He recalled that Russia must return at least 339 children from the International Coalition’s list, but in reality, thousands have been abducted.



War crimes and violations of international humanitarian law

- Since the beginning of the occupation, Russian troops have illegally detained at least 226 civilians in Energodar, including Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant employees, members of the resistance, and local residents. Human rights defenders have documented at least seven detention sites where detainees were tortured with beatings, electric shocks, sexual violence, mock executions, and deprivation of food, water, and medical care. During interrogations, they were forced to provide information about resistance activities and connections with the Ukrainian military. Some were compelled to sign cooperation agreements with Rosatom, and many were forced to record propaganda videos praising Russian forces or discrediting Ukraine. These actions are part of a systematic practice of repression against the civilian population in the occupied territories.
- An international investigation under the auspices of the OSCE has documented Russia’s systematic war crimes against civilians and prisoners of war in Ukraine. The report records cases of torture, rape, forced deportations, and mobilization in the Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT), as well as the existence of “filtration camps” where people disappear without a trace. The US estimates that between 900,000 and 1.6 million Ukrainians, including children separated from their parents, have been deported to Russia. OSCE observers have also confirmed numerous executions and torture of prisoners, which are systematic and effectively regulated and sanctioned by the central authorities of the Russian Federation. Public statements by Russian officials about a “no pardon” policy encourage these crimes and create an atmosphere of impunity. Such actions are classified as gross violations of the Geneva Conventions and war crimes.
- The UN has documented the systematic torture of Ukrainian civilians in more than 100 detention centers in the occupied territories and in Russia. The report describes cases of simulated executions, the use of electric shocks, detention in stressful positions, and denial of medical care – at least 36 people have died.
- In Donetsk Oblast, Russian troops executed a civilian family in the village of Shandryholovo and used a child as a human shield during the assault. Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets appealed to the UN and the Red Cross, stressing that the killing of civilians and the use of children as cover constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity.
- A Russian court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced 31-year-old Azov prisoner of war Roman Ataman to 20 years in a high-security prison. He was accused of “participating in a terrorist community” and “training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities.” Human rights activists emphasize that such trials violate the Geneva Conventions, as prisoners of war cannot be tried for participating in hostilities.

Humanitarian crisis

- Russia is deliberately attacking evacuation and rescue services. In the Kupiansk area, a police unit came under fire during the evacuation of civilians, and four law enforcement officers sustained injuries. In the Nizhyn district of Chernihiv Oblast, the Russian army struck rescuers who were extinguishing a fire after a drone attack – two firefighters were wounded and hospitalized.
- The situation in Kupiansk remains critical. The city has no electricity, water, or gas supply, and no mobile communication. Humanitarian aid cannot be delivered. Despite this, about 680 people remain on the right bank of Kupiansk and another 1,660 in the surrounding community who refuse evacuation. The presence of civilians complicates the work of the Defense Forces.
- The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has recognized Russian drone strikes on frontline cities as crimes against humanity. Documented attacks on civilians, ambulances, and rescue services have made it impossible to provide assistance to the wounded. It has been established that strikes in the Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, and Mykolaiv Oblasts have caused mass forced displacement of the population and effectively rendered entire settlements uninhabitable.

Information security

- Over two days in Kyiv, the police checked more than a thousand reports of bomb threats at hospitals, schools, shopping centers, and administrative buildings – all of which proved to be false. The National Police stated that such reports are part of Russia’s information warfare, intended to destabilize and create fear among the population.