

Daily Report 298/2019

17 December 2019¹

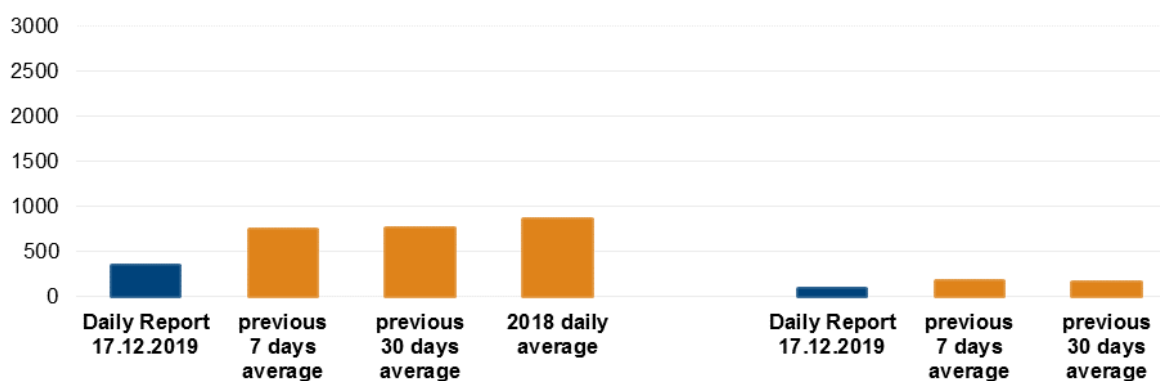
Summary

- Compared with the previous 24 hours, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and more in Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in government-controlled Raihorodka, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued to monitor the situation at the Petrivske, Zolote and Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement areas.
- The SMM saw two weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.
- The Mission monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to facilitate the drilling of water wells near Pankivka and demining activities in Stanytsia Luhanska.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Zaichenko and Verkhnoшыrokivske in non-government-controlled areas of southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 December 2019. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera 1km south-west of Shyrokyne was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

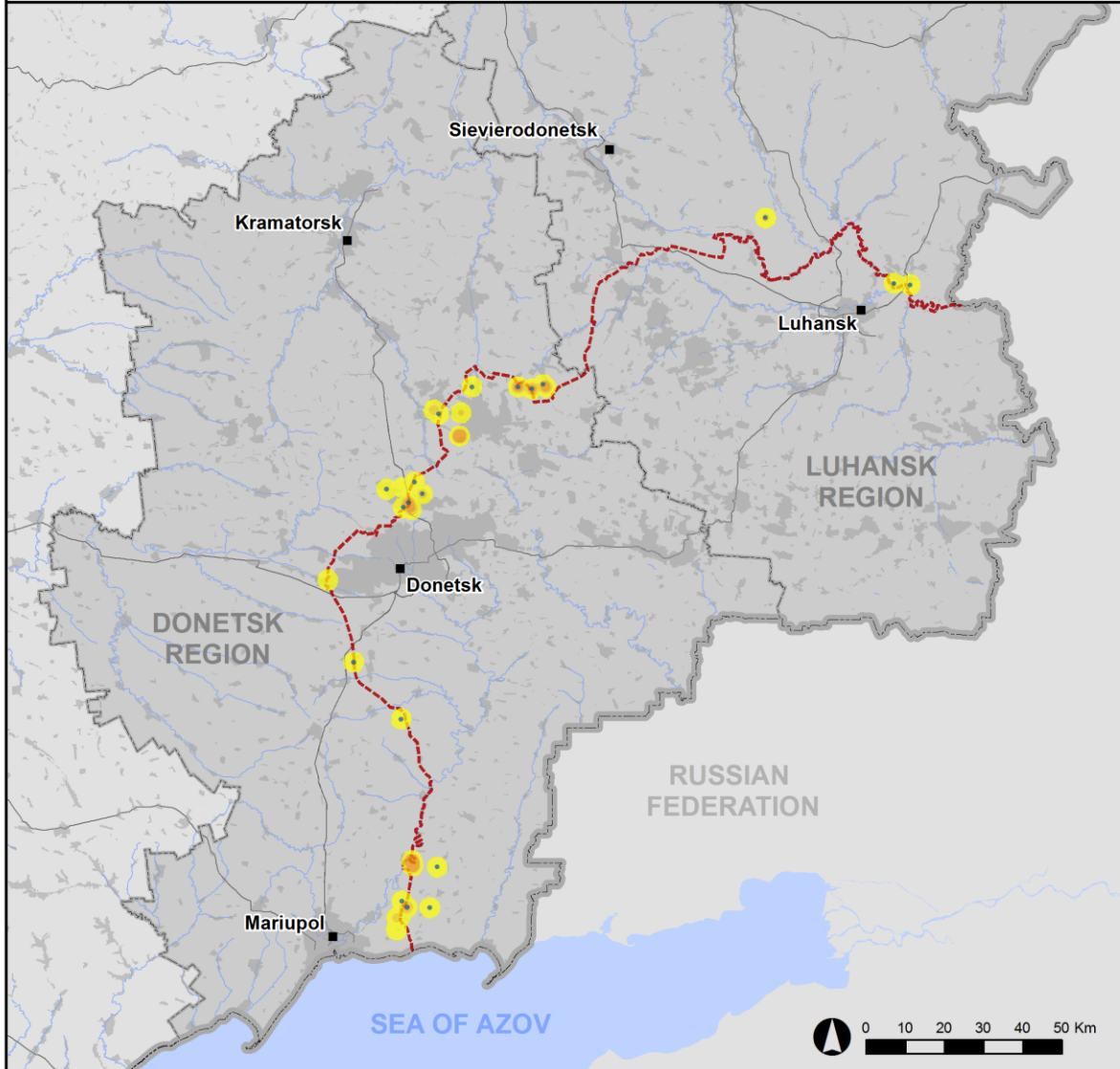
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

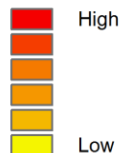


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 December 2019



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 17/12/2019

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (about 75), compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (190 explosions). The majority of the ceasefire violations were recorded at southerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk), in areas east-south-east and south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) and at westerly directions of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (11), compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (no explosions). The majority of the ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded in areas west of Raihorodka (government-controlled, 34km north-west of Luhansk).

Small-arms fire directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in Raihorodka

On 16 December, positioned on the south-eastern outskirts of Raihorodka, while conducting a mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 20 shots of small-arms fire about 50-70m south of its location, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying over areas about 450m south of its position. The SMM left the area and safely landed the UAV.*

Disengagement areas near Petrivske, Zolote and Stanytsia Luhanska⁵

On 16 December, positioned about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 3-5km west-south-west, assessed as outside **the disengagement area near Petrivske** but within its 5km periphery.

On the same day, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) on the southern edge of **the disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

On 15 December, an SMM mini-UAV spotted two men in camouflage clothing, one armed and assessed as Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel walking on a dirt road and the other inside a position, both at the northern edge of **the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 16 December 2019](#)). The UAV also spotted an armoured personnel carrier (APC) (probable BTR-3) about 50m north of the disengagement area.

On 16 December, the SMM saw seven metal poles placed in holes on the western side of the road and 12 holes drilled on the eastern side of the road around 200m south of the metal span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

Throughout the day, the SMM saw at least five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new section of the bridge and the checkpoint of the armed formations south of it.

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

The Mission observed two weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. It also observed an anti-tank guided missile system beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further details, see the table below).

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At two heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region
16 December

The SMM noted that:

- three self-propelled howitzers (2S3 *Akatsiya*, 152mm) and a surface-to-air missile system (9K35 *Strela-10*) were present; and that
- seven tanks (T-80) continued to be missing.

Weapons permanent storage sites

At a permanent storage site in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region
16 December

The SMM noted that:

- three mortars (2B11 *Sani*, 120mm) continued to be missing and that one mortar (2B11) was missing for the first time.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

The SMM observed military and military-type presence inside the security zone on both sides of the contact line, including APCs, infantry fighting vehicles, and armoured recovery vehicles (for further details, see the table below).

The SMM also saw a black mini-UAV (quadcopter) flying near Petrovskiyi (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk).

Demining markers near government-controlled Semyhiria

The Mission saw for the first time demining markers (sticks with red and white tape streamers and bricks painted white) on each side of an at least 300m-long span of a paved road south-east of Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 19 November 2019](#)).

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

SMM facilitation of maintenance to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure and demining activities

The SMM monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to facilitate the drilling of water wells near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk). The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitor the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The Mission also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to facilitate demining activities of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine on the southern outskirts of Stanytsia Luhanska.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

*Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate

The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Package of Measures have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the Government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 December 2019](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denial of access:

- At a checkpoint north of Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) and Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint west of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed only after 17 minutes of waiting.

Other impediments:

- While conducting a mini-UAV flight on the south-eastern outskirts of Raihorodka, the SMM heard 20 shots of small-arms fire about 50-70m south of its location, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The SMM left the area and safely landed the UAV (see above).

Table of weapons
Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/12/2019	2	Probable tank (possible T-64)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/12/2019	1	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P149 <i>Shturm-S</i> , 130mm)	On the north-eastern outskirts of Sievierodonetsk (74km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

Table of indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/12/2019	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	On the eastern outskirts of Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	In Oleksandropillia (71km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-2)		
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-3)	In Kodema (57km north-east of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personal carrier	In Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/12/2019	5	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle		

⁸The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 December 2019⁹

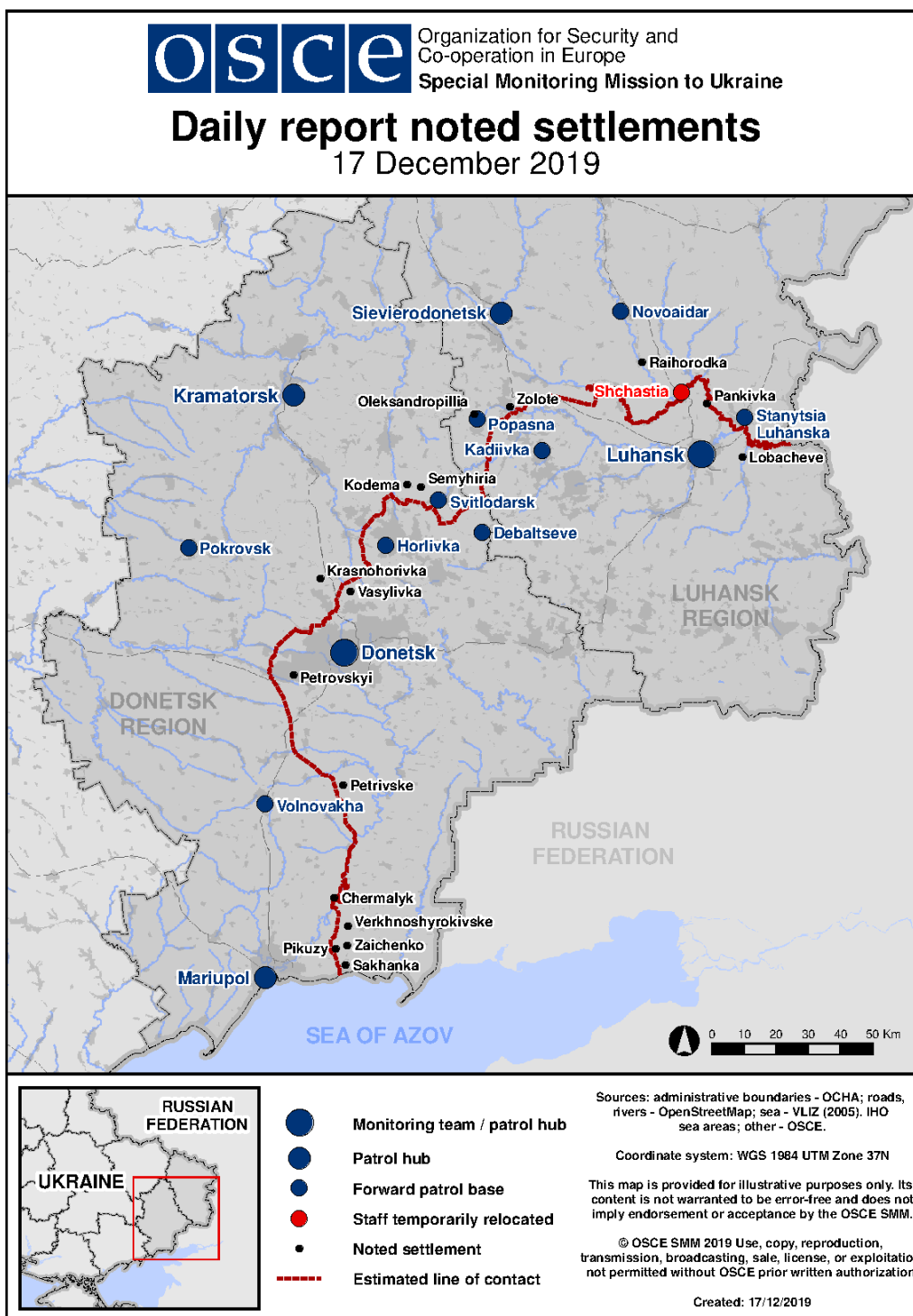
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 20:24
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	15-Dec, 20:24
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Dec, 20:27
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Dec, 20:33
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N	N/K	15-Dec, 20:34
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	15-Dec, 20:35
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 20:35
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	26	Projectile	NE to SW	N/K	15-Dec, 18:45
	2-4km SE	Recorded	6	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	15-Dec, 19:00
	1.5-2.5km ESE	Recorded	6	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Dec, 03:45
	1.5-2.5km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Dec, 03:46
	1.5-2.5km ESE	Recorded	25	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Dec, 03:51
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 16:58
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 17:01
SMM camera E of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	4-6km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	16-Dec, 02:30
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	16-Dec, 04:16
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	6	Projectile	S to N	N/K	16-Dec, 04:42
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	4	Projectile	N to S	N/K	16-Dec, 05:31
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Dec, 19:18
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Dec, 19:18
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Dec, 19:18
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Dec, 19:18
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	6	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	15-Dec, 23:10
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NNE	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:08-09:20
	2-3km W	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 13:14-13:29
	2-3km SW	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 13:33-13:42
	2-3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:43
	2-3km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 13:45
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 10:21
	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	Mortar (type N/K)	16-Dec, 11:39

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Dec, 13:40
	3-5km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Dec, 13:42
About 2km SW of Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:34-09:36
	4-6km SE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:37-09:40
	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 10:12
About 1km SSW part of Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 12:16
About 3km NE of Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	N/K SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 12:45
	N/K NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:10
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 18:31
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 18:34
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 18:34
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 18:37
	4-6km SW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 18:41
	4-6km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 18:41
	4-6km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 18:50
	4-6km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 18:58
	4-6km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:10
	4-6km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:16
	4-6km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:19
	4-6km SE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:21
	4-6km SE	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:23
	4-6km SE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:36
	4-6km SW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:39
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:45
	4-6km SW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 19:51
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:51
	4-6km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	15-Dec, 20:01
	3-5km S	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 15:34-15:46
3-5km S	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 15:34-15:46	
3-5km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 15:34-15:46	
3-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 15:34-15:46	
NW edge of Horlivka (non-government controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 10:31
	1-2km SSW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 10:31-10:37
	4-6km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:39
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km SW	Heard	30	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 14:12-14:20
	2-4km SW	Heard	14	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 14:22-14:28
	5km WSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 11:03

About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 11:06
	2-3km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:38
	1-2km SSW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 13:44
	2-3km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:46
W edge of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	12	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 11:31-11:34
SE edge of Raihorodka (government-controlled, 34km NW of Luhansk)	7-8km W	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 11:47-11:53
	50-70m S	Heard	20	Shot	Assessed as aimed at SMM mini-UAV	Small arms	16-Dec, 12:04
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Dec, 16:43-16:51
	3-4km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Dec, 16:43-16:51
	3-4km SSE	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	16-Dec, 16:43-16:51

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰



¹⁰ The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs, and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff has temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).