

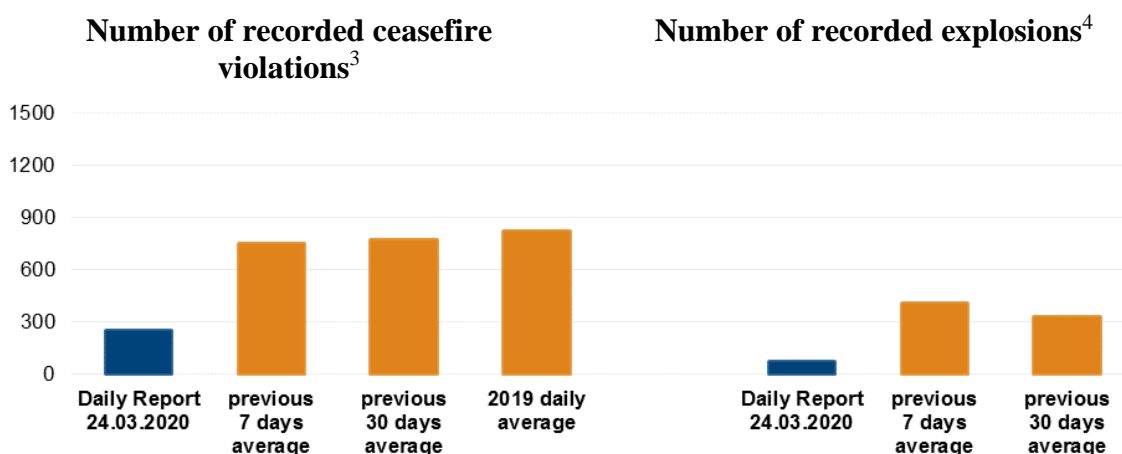
Daily Report 70/2020

24 March 2020¹

Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and more in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- It saw five weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM saw anti-tank mines in government- and non-government-controlled areas.
- The Mission continued to observe measures related to the COVID-19 outbreak at checkpoints in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions and noted no civilian traffic at entry-and-exit checkpoints and their corresponding checkpoints.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable demining activities near Krasnyi Yar, as well as repairs to critical civilian infrastructure near Olenivka and Maiorsk.
- Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement continued, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Stanytsia Luhanska, Olenivka and Kremynets, where members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage into non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk region, as well as close to a border crossing point in non-government-controlled Voznesenivka.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 23 March 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras at the Oktiabr mine were not operational.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

³ Including explosions.

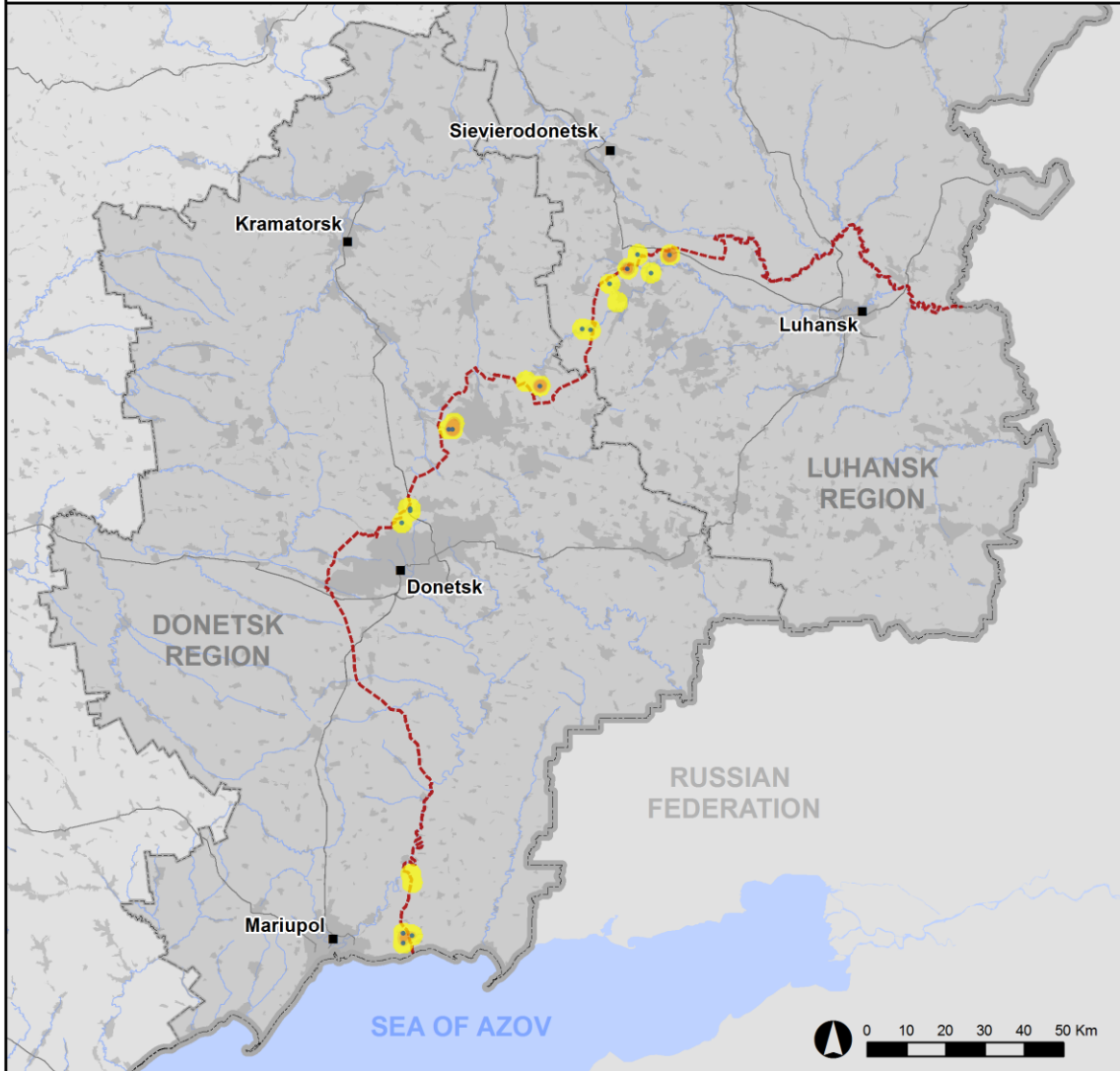
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

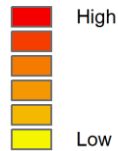


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 March 2020



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: 24/03/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (17), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 90 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded at westerly directions of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), in areas south-east of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk), and at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (about 60), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (15 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded in areas north-east of Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 23 March, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and their checkpoint south of it.

On the morning of 23 March, positioned at two locations, the SMM heard six undetermined explosions and 20 shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery. Throughout the day, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) on the southern edge of the disengagement area.

On 22 March, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), about 200m from its south-eastern corner, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted [again](#) at least 80 anti-tank mines (TM-62), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted [again](#) an anti-tank mine about 55m east of the area’s eastern edge and, about 1.5m north, marks in the ground indicating probable demining activities. In a field about 100m north of the northern edge of the disengagement area, the UAV also [again](#) spotted 16 anti-tank mines, which had been placed in a cluster after demining activities. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 23 March, positioned at two locations near the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

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 saw five weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line (for further details, see the table below).

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

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line, including some in residential areas (for further details, see the table below).

On 20 March, about 2km east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted about 15 craters (not seen in imagery from 3 November 2019), assessed as impacts of probable artillery rounds, in a field between the forwards positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and those of the armed formations.

On 21 March, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted at least ten fresh craters in a field about 3km south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk). The Mission was unable to assess the calibre and direction of fire.

Presence of anti-tanks mines and unexploded ordnance

On 20 March, an SMM mid-range UAV [again](#) spotted about 50 anti-tank mines in a field south-east of Vodiane, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The same UAV [again](#) spotted about 30 anti-tank mines (part of a larger minefield) in a field about 2.5km south of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 20 March, an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted unexploded ordnance (UXO), assessed as five launcher tubes from anti-tank guided missile systems (9K113 *Konkurs*, 135mm) in a trench near Prince Ihor Monument, about 1km south-east of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On 22 March, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted about 45 anti-tank mines in a field about 1.5km south of Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations, see [SMM Daily Report of 23 March 2020](#)).

On the same day, in fields about 2km north-west of Polove (non-government-controlled, 66km west of Luhansk), the same UAV [again](#) spotted at least 240 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. Immediately south of these mines, the UAV again spotted a similar number of evenly-spaced holes, assessed as indications of previous demining activities.

Preventive measures against COVID-19 outbreak

At the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM saw no civilian traffic passing through. (See [SMM Daily Report of 23 March 2020](#) for more information on the closure of EECPs due to COVID-19.)

At a checkpoint east of Kreminets, the SMM saw that seven civilian vehicles and one pedestrian (a woman, in her fifties), attempting to travel towards government-controlled areas, were denied passage.

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

At the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska, a member of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine told the SMM that since the morning of 22 March, the EECP had been closed to civilian traffic in both directions.

At a checkpoint of the armed formations 200m south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, the Mission saw an announcement stating that, as of 23 March, the checkpoint was closed due to “quarantine measures” (see below). A member of the armed formations told the SMM that the checkpoint was closed to all traffic in both directions according to COVID-19 preventive measures and denied the Mission passage towards non-government-controlled areas, citing “need of permission from senior members of the armed formations”.*

In Donetsk region, the SMM also followed up on the case of a family transporting the body of a deceased relative from government- to non-government-controlled areas for burial. A woman told the SMM by phone that she, along with her family, had passed through the EECP near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk). She added that at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), they had handed over the body to relatives from non-government-controlled areas who had been waiting for them there. She and her family from government-controlled areas were not permitted to enter non-government-controlled areas, and returned through the EECP near Marinka.

The SMM spoke over the phone to a woman who told that, on 23 March, representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine denied her to cross the checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) to get to her hometown in non-government-controlled areas.

SMM facilitation of repairs to critical civilian infrastructure and demining activities

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to power lines near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), as well as demining activities near Krasnyi Yar (non-government-controlled, 12km north-east of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS (15km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 45 minutes, the SMM saw two cars with Russian Federation licence plates and two pedestrians (women in their forties and fifties) entering Ukraine. The Mission also saw a covered cargo truck with Ukrainian licence plates and 12 pedestrians (mixed ages and genders) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about seven minutes, the SMM saw a bus with “LPR” plates entering Ukraine.*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka for about ten minutes, the SMM saw a stationary cargo train car. The Mission was unable to determine if the car was loaded or empty.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and 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, 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 Co-ordination (JCCC) 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 below). 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 the checkpoint 200m south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, citing “need of permission from senior members of the armed formations”.
- At a checkpoint in Olenivka (non-government controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations (one of them armed) [again](#) denied the SMM passage to non-government-controlled areas, citing “a decision made on 21 March”. (See also [OSCE SMM Spot Report 3/2020](#).)
- At a checkpoint east of Kreminets (non-government controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (one of them armed) denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, citing “the closure of the checkpoint”. (See also [OSCE SMM Spot Report 3/2020](#).)
- At a border crossing point in Voznesenivka, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave 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 east of Kreminets (non-government controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed only after about three hours and 30 minutes of waiting. (See also [OSCE SMM Spot Report 3/2020](#).)

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/03/2020	1	Probable mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	Near Novohnativka (40km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
21/03/2020	4	Tank (T-64)	Near Novoselivka (16km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/03/2020	4	Tank (T-64)	At the railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/03/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novohnativka (40km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
23/03/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-3 variant)	In a residential area of Kodema (57km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area of Trokhizbenka (33km north-west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/03/2020	1	Recoilless gun (SPG-9 <i>Kopye</i> , 73mm)	Near Prince Ihor Monument, about 1km SE of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) (previously observed)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
21/03/2020	10	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) (five probable)	Near Zhovte (17km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Trench digger (TMK-2)	Near Sukhodil (21km west of Luhansk)	
22/03/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Nyzhnie Lozove (59km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Novokyivka (25km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (two MT-LB and one BTR variant)		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (a BMP-2 and one BMP variant)		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle		

⁷ The 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 23 March 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	22-Mar, 20:56
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-3km S	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 19:11
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Mar, 19:16
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Mar, 19:16
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 19:17
	4-7km SSW	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 23:53
	4-7km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 00:42
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	5	Projectile	N to S	N/K	22-Mar, 19:14
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Mar, 19:00
	2-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Mar, 19:03
	2-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Mar, 19:03
	2-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event	N/K	22-Mar, 19:03
	2-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Mar, 19:36
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	22-Mar, 21:59
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Mar, 22:01
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event	N/K	22-Mar, 22:01
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 22:18
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 22:19
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N	N/K	22-Mar, 22:54
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	22-Mar, 22:54
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 00:44
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	23-Mar, 00:48
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 00:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	23-Mar, 00:54
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 00:59
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 01:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 01:23
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 03:26	
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Mar, 04:05	
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-	2-3km SW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	23-Mar, 18:55

⁸ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras 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 technical monitoring officers, 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 technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)							
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SSE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 18:58
	3-5km SSE	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:35
	3-5km SSE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	22-Mar, 20:12
	3-5km SSE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 20:15
	3-5km SSE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 20:43
	3-5km SSE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 20:53
	3-5km SSE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 21:07
	3-5km SSE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 21:15
	3-5km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 21:17
	3-5km SSE	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 21:21-21:27
	3-5km SSE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 21:49-21:59
	3-5km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 22:37
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 18:37
	3-5km W	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 18:43
	3-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 18:46
	3-5km WNW	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 18:47
	3-5km W	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:09
	3-5km WNW	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:09-19:11
	3-5km W	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:13
	3-5km W	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:16
	3-5km W	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:19
	3-5km WNW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:27
	3-5km W	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:44
	3-5km W	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 19:47
	4-6km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Mar, 20:13
	3-5km WNW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 20:25
	3-5km W	Heard	11	Burst		HMG	22-Mar, 23:50
3.5km NE of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	8-10km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 09:50-10:05
	3-5km NNW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	23-Mar, 09:50-10:05
	8-10km NNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Mar, 09:50-10:05
3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-3km E	Heard	15	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	Small arms	23-Mar, 11:45-11:55
	2-3km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Mar, 12:02-12:06
	2-3km E	Heard	5	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	Small arms	23-Mar, 12:02-12:06
NE edge of Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	5-8km NNE	Heard	38	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 12:00-12:12
	5-8km NNE	Heard	19	Burst		HMG	23-Mar, 12:00-12:12
S edge of Popasna (government-	8-10km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 13:45

controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)							
W edge of Berezhivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	4-6km NNW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (believed co-related with outgoing explosions heard E)	N/K	23-Mar, 13:47-13:59
	1-2km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (believed co-related with subsequent heard explosions NNW)	N/K	23-Mar, 13:47-13:59

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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).