

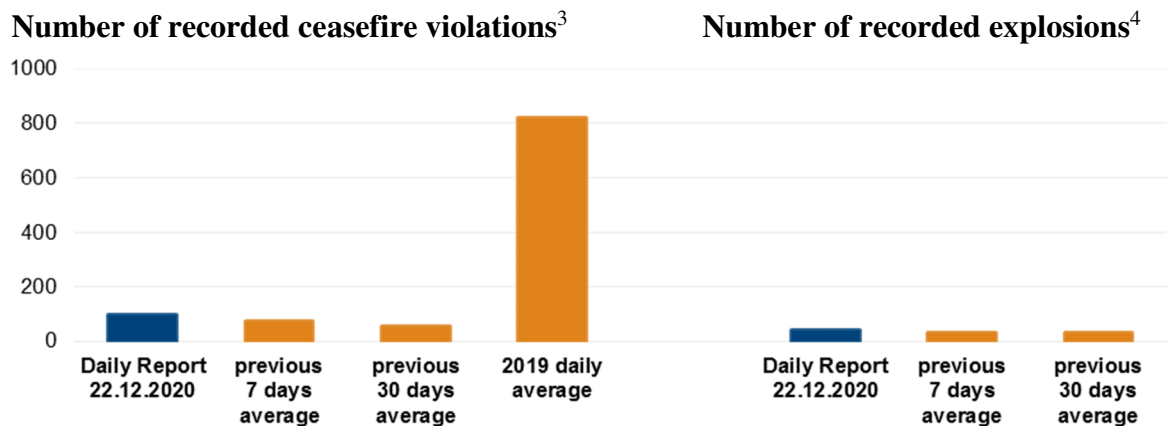
Daily Report 304/2020

22 December 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 97 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded at least 91 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near non-government-controlled Bezimenne, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



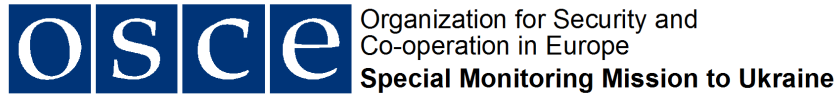
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

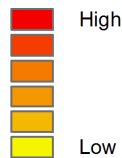
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 21 December 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: 22/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 97 ceasefire violations, including 41 explosions (of which seven were impacts of undetermined weapons, three were airbursts and two were outgoing), most of which were recorded at an assessed range of 2-5km north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded at least 91 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 4,282 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,947 explosions, 296 projectiles in flight, 55 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and at least 1,943 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

The SMM observed two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations, three of whom (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. Near the same checkpoint, on the eastern edge of road T-1316, the SMM saw for the first time eight electrical poles running for about 150-200m south, and seven workers installing other electrical poles nearby.

While positioned about 400m west-north-west of the north-western corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw two utility trucks driving eastwards through fields north of road C-050563.

Withdrawal of weapons

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

The SMM saw a probable mortar in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (see the table below).

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At a heavy weapon holding area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region
21 December

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

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.

The SMM noted that 28 tanks (T-64) were present, and that 14 self-propelled howitzers (six 2S1 *Gvozдика*, 122mm and eight 2S3 *Akatsiya*, 152mm) and 93 tanks (T-64) were again missing.

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

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

Presence of anti-tank mines near Spartak and of a mine hazard sign in Vasylivka, Donetsk region

On 20 December, about 1.5km north-east of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted 43 anti-tank mines (probable TM-62) across a road leading to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 8 July 2020](#)).

On 21 December, in the yard of a residential house in Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission observed for the first time a red mine hazard sign with a skull and crossbones and, “Stop, Mines” written on it in Russian.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), repairs to a water conduit between government-controlled Raihorodka (34km north-west of Luhansk) and Lopaskyne, and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

In an area adjacent to the EECP near Novotroitske, the SMM observed that a centre for administrative services was operational.

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were

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

operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. The Mission also saw two golf carts operating between the EECP and the repaired section of the bridge.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and near Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational, but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia remained closed.

At the latter checkpoint of the armed formations, the SMM observed four workers installing a metal fence about 20m east of the checkpoint.

The SMM 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 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 [SMM Daily Report 15 December 2020](#)). 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:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations, one of whom was visibly armed, denied the SMM passage towards Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), citing “the safety of the SMM”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

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.

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				
19/12/2020	1	Probable mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)	Near Yasne (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
19/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/12/2020	1	Trench digger (TMK-2)	Near Lozove (13km west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Khriashchivka (22km east of Luhansk)	

⁸ 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 21 December 2020⁹

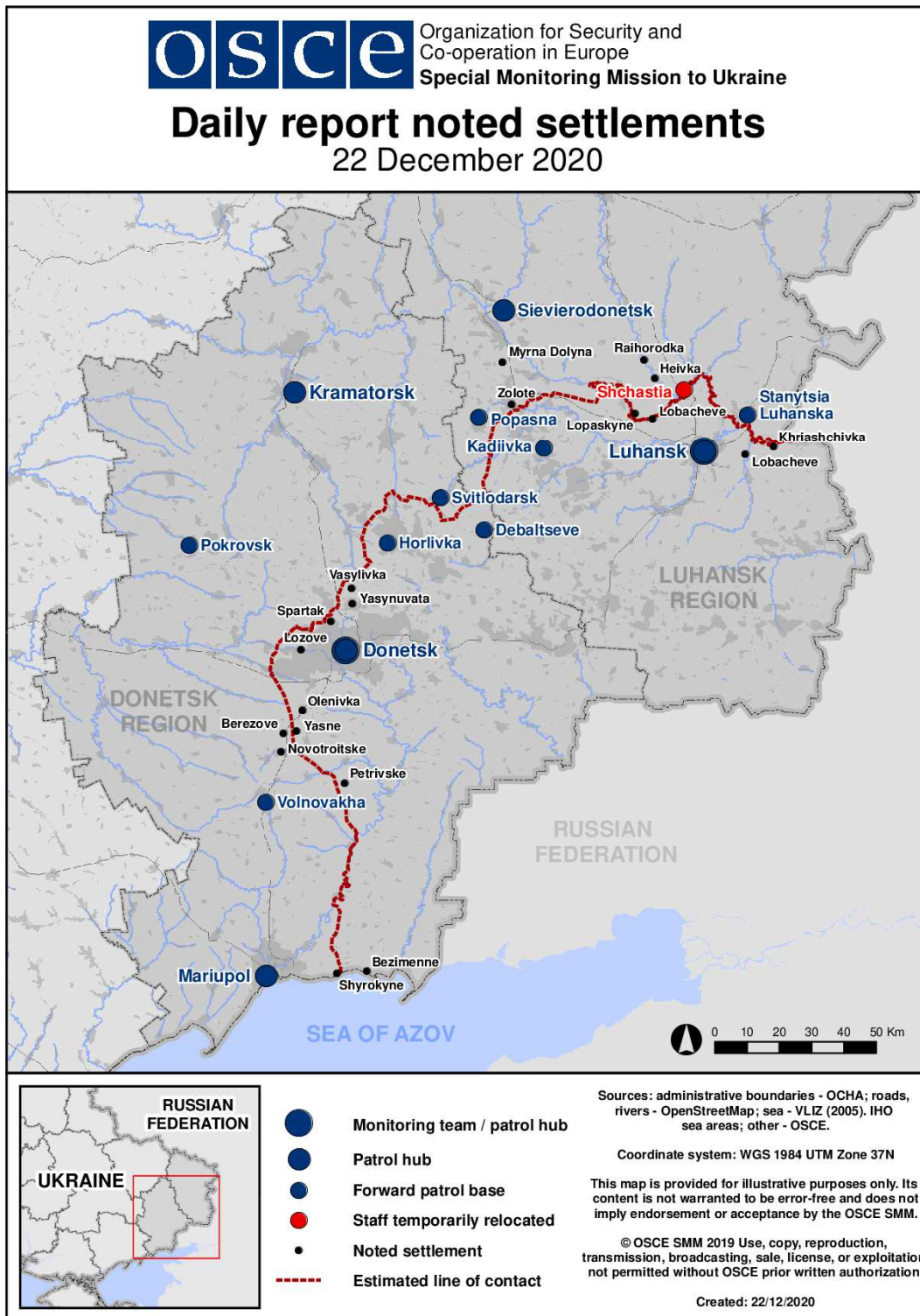
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 19:56
	4-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	20-Dec, 20:21
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	20-Dec, 20:52
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 21:27
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:19
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	20-Dec, 22:39
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	20-Dec, 22:40
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	20-Dec, 20:16
	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	20-Dec, 20:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	20-Dec, 20:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	20-Dec, 20:26
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:30
	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	20-Dec, 20:31
	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Burst	W to E,	N/K	20-Dec, 20:38
	3-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 20:38
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:38
	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Burst	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 20:39
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:39
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:40	
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:41	

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by 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.

2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:43
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:43
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:43
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 20:44
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:45
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SE to NW, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:45
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Burst	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 20:46
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 20:48
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:48
3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:50
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:52
3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 20:55
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 20:56
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:56
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 20:56
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 21:08
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:08
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:08
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 21:09
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:09
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:09
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	20-Dec, 21:10
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:10
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event	N/K	20-Dec, 21:10
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 21:10
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 21:18
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 21:20
3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 21:45
2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:33
2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:41
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	21-Dec, 00:44
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	21-Dec, 00:46
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:46
2-4km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:47
2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:48
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:53
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:54
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:55

	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 00:57
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	21-Dec, 00:58
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 01:04
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	21-Dec, 10:27
	2-3km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	21-Dec, 10:27
Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:22
	3-4km NE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:41-12:46
	2-3km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	21-Dec, 12:46
	4-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	21-Dec, 12:46

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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).