

# Daily Report 3/2021

6 January 2021<sup>1</sup>

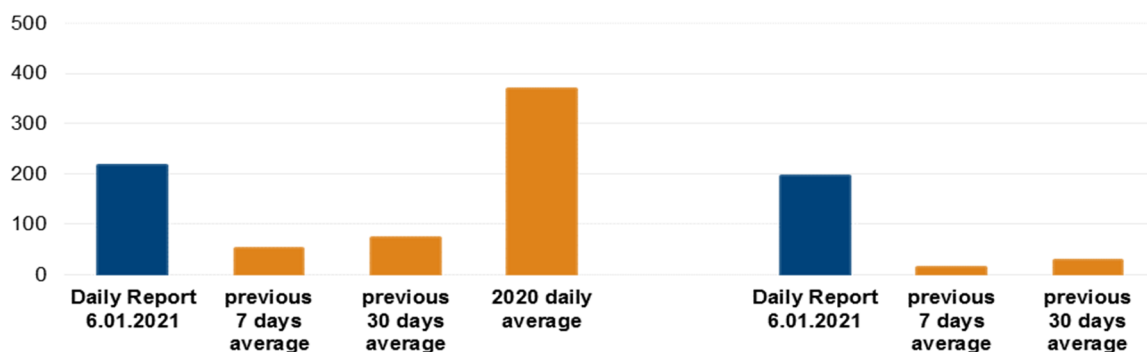
## Summary

- The SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 208 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region, the majority of them assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone in a government-controlled area. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure and demining activities.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission observed a calm situation in southern Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

### Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

### Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 5 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

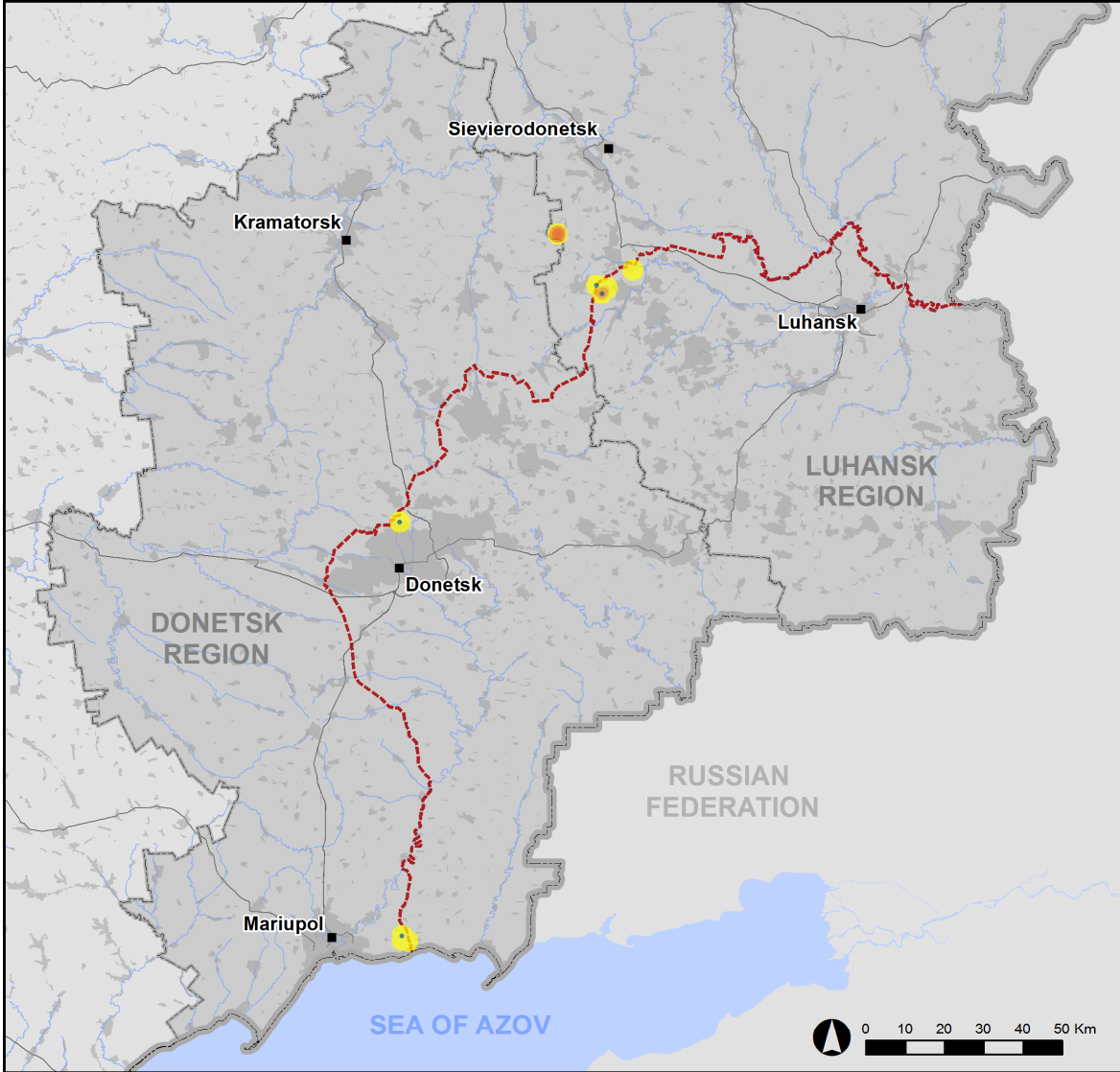
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

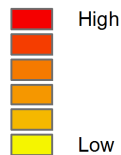


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 5 January 2021



#### 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 06/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded ten ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, six of which occurred in an area south-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) on the evening of 5 January. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region, of which five were undetermined explosions near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 208 ceasefire violations, including 188 undetermined explosions and 11 bursts and shots of cannon (73mm) fire. One hundred forty of these undetermined explosions occurred in an area south-west of Syrotyne (government-controlled, 71km north-west of Luhansk) and were assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone in a training area near Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 77km west of Luhansk). The Mission also recorded 35 ceasefire violations, including 15 undetermined explosions, close to the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one undetermined explosion near the disengagement area near Zolote.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 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 5,540 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,379 explosions, 666 projectiles in flight, 62 muzzle flashes, 51 illumination flares and at least 2,382 bursts and shots).

#### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

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), south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 4 January, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted at least 45 anti-tank mines (TM-62) in a field east of road T-1316, about 500m north of the area’s southern edge, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 6 November 2020](#)).

On 5 January, while positioned on the southern edge of the area, the Mission recorded 15 undetermined explosions and 20 shots and bursts of cannon (73mm) and small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM heard three explosions at an assessed range of 4-6km south-west, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Also on the same day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), of whom three on one occasion (accompanied by two people in medical protective

---

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

gear), and two on another, walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the same day, while positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### **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.

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

### **SMM facilitation of construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk) and Popasna (69km west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS and monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians passing through in both directions.

The Mission noted that the EECPs near Zolote and 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.

### **Security situation in southern Kherson region**

---

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

On 4 January, the SMM observed a calm situation in areas near Skadovsk (62km south-east of Kherson), Lazurne (62km south of Kherson) and Zaliznyi Port (62km south-west of Kherson), along the Black Sea coast.

The SMM continued monitoring in 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, 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 Minsk agreements 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 29 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.*

*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.

Other impediments:

- An SMM mini-UAV twice experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).<sup>7</sup>
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the southern edge of the Budonnivskyi district of Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 8km south-east of the city centre).
- An SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Sukha Balka (36km north of Donetsk) and Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Novoekonomichna (51km north-west of Donetsk) and Novoolenivka (48km north-west of Donetsk).

---

<sup>7</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

**Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

<b>Date</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Source of observation</b>
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
4/1/2021	2	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near residential areas of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-variant)	Near Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk)	
5/1/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4)	In Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

---

<sup>8</sup> 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 5 January 2021<sup>9</sup>**

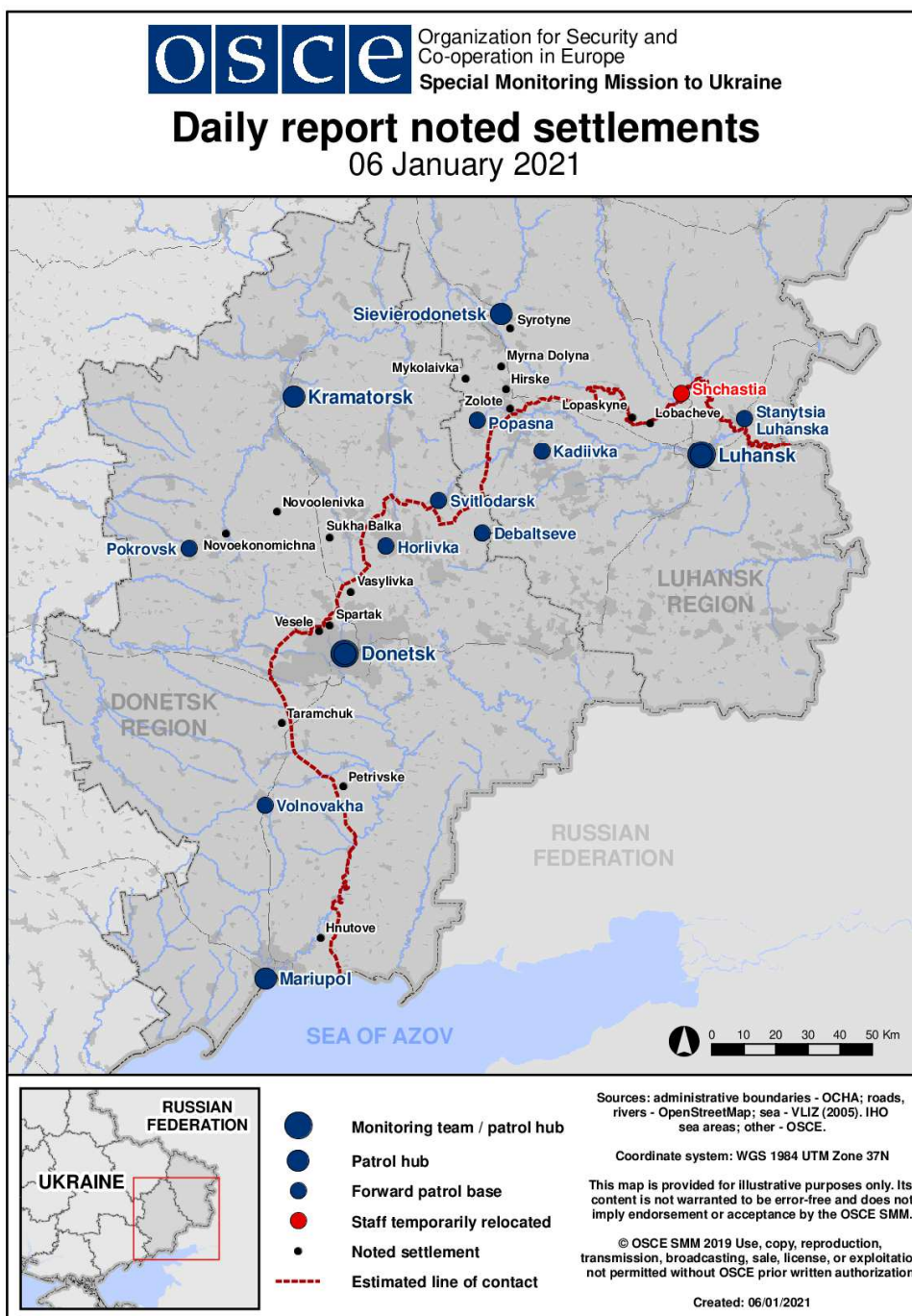
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Jan, 21:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Jan, 00:52
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Jan, 02:05
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 18:25
	3-5km SSW	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 18:51
	3-5km SSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	5-Jan, 18:53
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-4km ENE	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	5-Jan, 10:47
	3-4km ENE	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	5-Jan, 10:47
	6-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	5-Jan, 11:17
	6-7km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	5-Jan, 11:29-11:40
	6-7km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	5-Jan, 11:29-11:40
	6-7km SW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	5-Jan, 12:23-12:34
	6-7km SW	Heard	5	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Cannon (73mm)	5-Jan, 12:23-12:34
	6-7km SW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	5-Jan, 12:23-12:34
	6-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 12:38-

<sup>9</sup> 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.

					(assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)		12:47
	6-7km SW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Cannon (73mm)	5-Jan, 12:38-12:47
	6-7km SW	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	5-Jan, 12:38-12:47
	6-7km SW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	5-Jan, 12:38-12:47
	6-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Jan, 13:00
	4-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Jan, 13:36
	4-5km SW	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Cannon (73mm)	5-Jan, 13:36
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 12:45
	5-8km NW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 12:45-12:52
	8-12km NW	Heard	25	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 14:00-14:25
About 2.5km S of Syrotyne (government-controlled, 71km NW of Luhansk)	20-25km SW	Heard	140	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as live-fire exercise)	N/K	5-Jan, 14:49-14:57



### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).