

Daily Report 7/2021

12 January 2021¹

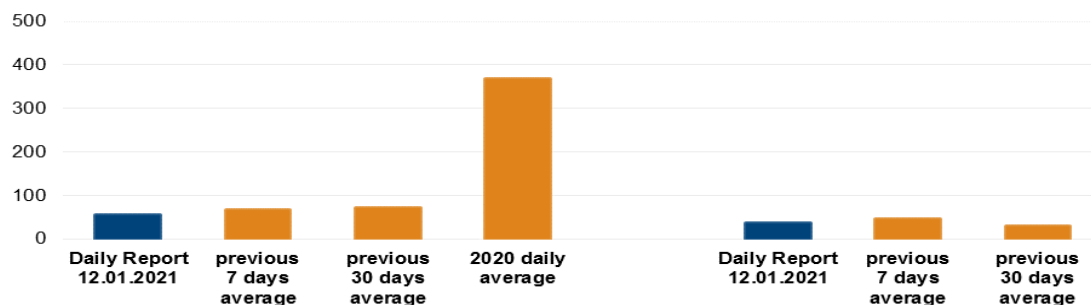
Summary

- The SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region, including 36 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 33 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded six ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 16 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near Molodizhne.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside the area near Zolote during daytime.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the repairs, construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at five checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region and in border areas outside government control in and near Voznesenivka, Luhansk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 11 January 2021. 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.

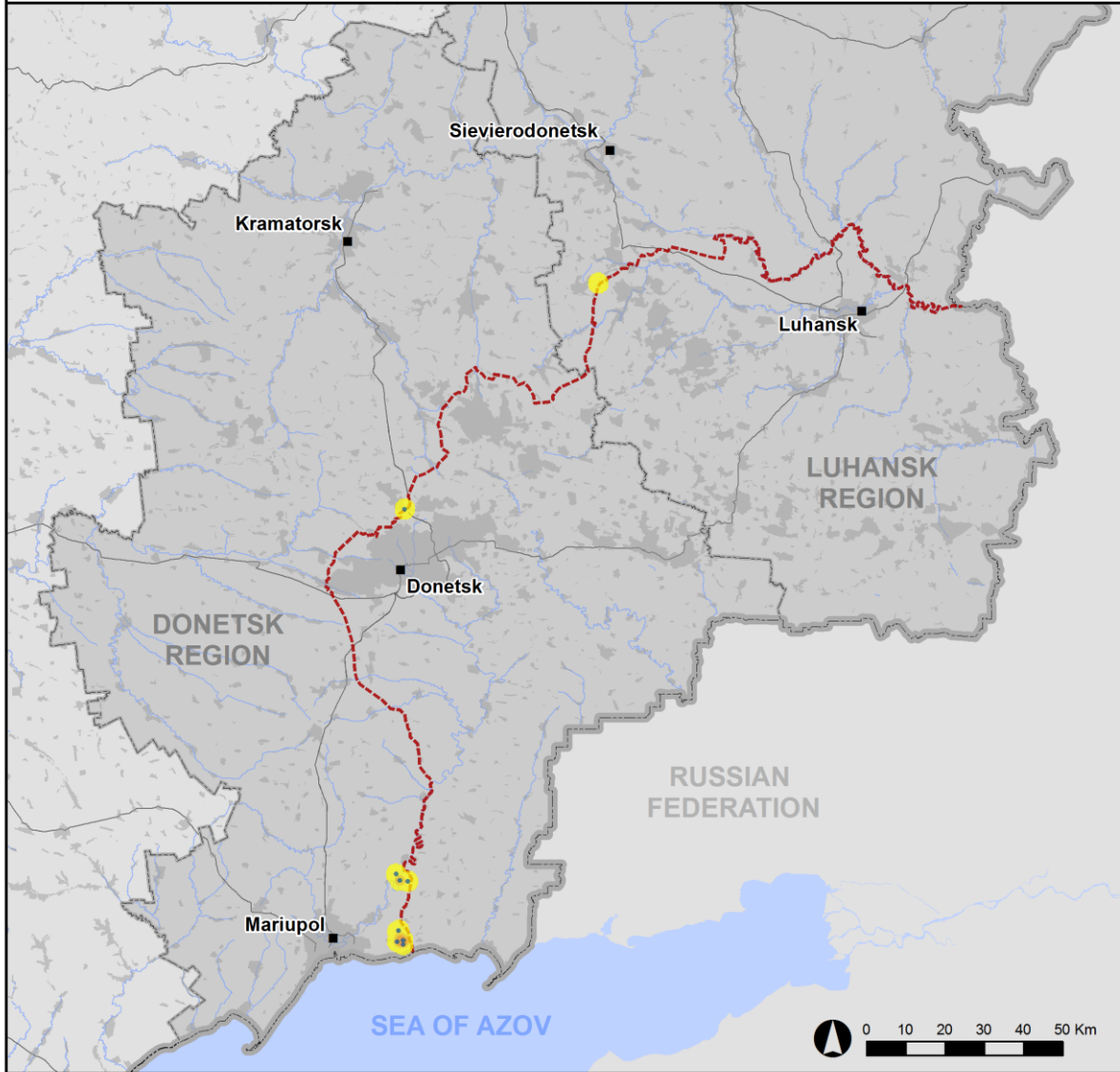
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 11 January 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low
- 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: 12/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 50 ceasefire violations, including 36 explosions (of which 34 were undetermined and two were impacts of undetermined weapons), most of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and north-east of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 33 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded six ceasefire violations – all shots of small-arms fire in an area south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 16 ceasefire violations in the region.

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 5,836 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,539 explosions, 686 projectiles in flight, 79 muzzle flashes, 54 illumination flares and at least 2,478 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Molodizhne, Luhansk region

While positioned near a checkpoint of the armed formations about 2km south-west of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-1.5km north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.4km north-west of its position (see below). The SMM safely landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

The SMM saw 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).

During the day on 10 January, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner.

On the morning of 11 January, while positioned about 2km south-west of Molodizhne, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-1.5km north-west (assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-UAV, see above), assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), one of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

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

While positioned about 300m west of the north-western corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw two civilian vehicles, with four members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in each, driving east on road C-050563. The SMM then saw one of the vehicles stopping about 500m west of the area's north-western corner and all four members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces exiting it, with two walking into a field in a north-easterly direction and the other two eastwards on road C-050563, while the second vehicle continued on the same road, north of the area's northern edge.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw three multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region and an anti-tank gun and five self-propelled howitzers in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw nine howitzers and 14 tanks in two training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including in a residential area, and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of mines near Molodizhne and Popasna, Luhansk region, and mine hazard signs in Kashtanove, Donetsk region

On 8 January, on the eastern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 120 anti-tank mines on the southern edge of road T-0504, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in this area, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 December 2020](#)).

About 2km south-west of Molodizhne, near a checkpoint of the armed formations, the same UAV again spotted about 100 anti-tank mines laid in fields north and south of road T-0504, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in this area, see SMM Daily Reports of [12](#) and [30 March 2020](#)).

On 11 January, on the eastern edge of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk), the Mission saw for the first time a mine hazard sign (red rectangle with skull and crossbones and "Stop Mines" written on it in Cyrillic) attached to the concrete wall of a compound.

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

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

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction of power lines between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk); and demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted 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 traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational, with pedestrians travelling in both directions at the checkpoint of the armed formations. The SMM also observed a golf cart operating on the road between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission also 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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission did not observe any cars or pedestrians entering or exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, the SMM did not observe any trains. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

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 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 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, 92km south of Donetsk) and Sakhanka (97km south of Donetsk), referring to orders from superiors related to “ongoing work” in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian cars passing through in both directions.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), referring to orders from superiors and “engineering and demining activities” in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed a civilian car passing through in the opposite direction.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Lukove (non-government-controlled, 72km south of Donetsk), referring to orders from superiors and “engineering and demining activities” in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian cars passing through in both directions.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Hryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 68km south of Donetsk), referring to orders from superiors and the SMM's safety. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian cars passing through in both directions.
- Later on the same day, at another checkpoint of the armed formations in Nova Marivka, an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the eastern edge of the settlement, referring to ongoing demining activities. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed a civilian (man, in his fifties) crossing the checkpoint on foot in the opposite direction.
- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.
- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, a member of the armed formations told the Mission 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.

Other impediments:

- While following up on reports of damage to a school building in Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the principal and their secretary, as well as a senior member of the armed formations in Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), denied the SMM access to the premises to confirm the damage, all of them referring to a decision of those in control.
- On 10 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) and Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near non-government-controlled Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk) and Khomutove (87km south of Donetsk).⁷
- On 11 January, while conducting a mini-UAV flight near Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk), the Mission heard six shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above).
- On 11 January, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk).
- On 11 January, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk).

⁷ 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 weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
6/1/2021	3	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
8/1/2021	1	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (27km south-west of Luhansk)	
	5	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
6/1/2021	6	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	3	Tank (T-64B)		
8/1/2021	11	Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (27km south-west of Luhansk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Bohdanivka (41 km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area near Bila Hora (54km north of Donetsk)	
11/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41 km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
10/1/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (one BTR variant and one BMP variant)	Near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Stare (formerly Chervonyi Prapor, 58km west 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 11 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 10:12
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	10-Jan, 19:22
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	10-Jan, 19:22
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	10-Jan, 19:22
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:45
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:47
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:48
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:49
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	10-Jan, 19:50
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:51
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:52
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	10-Jan, 19:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:53
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	10-Jan, 19:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:54
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:56
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	10-Jan, 19:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Jan, 19:57
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	11-Jan, 17:46
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	11-Jan, 17:46
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	11-Jan, 17:46
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	11-Jan, 18:15	
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 09:26
	3-5km NNE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 09:31-09:39
	3-5km NNE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 09:47-09:49
Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 10:39
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-	2-3km NE	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	11-Jan, 11:46-11:48
	2-4km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 11:46-11:48

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.

controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)							
About 2km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	1-1.5km NW	Heard	6	Shot		Small arms	11-Jan, 10:40

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).