



Daily Report 172/2021

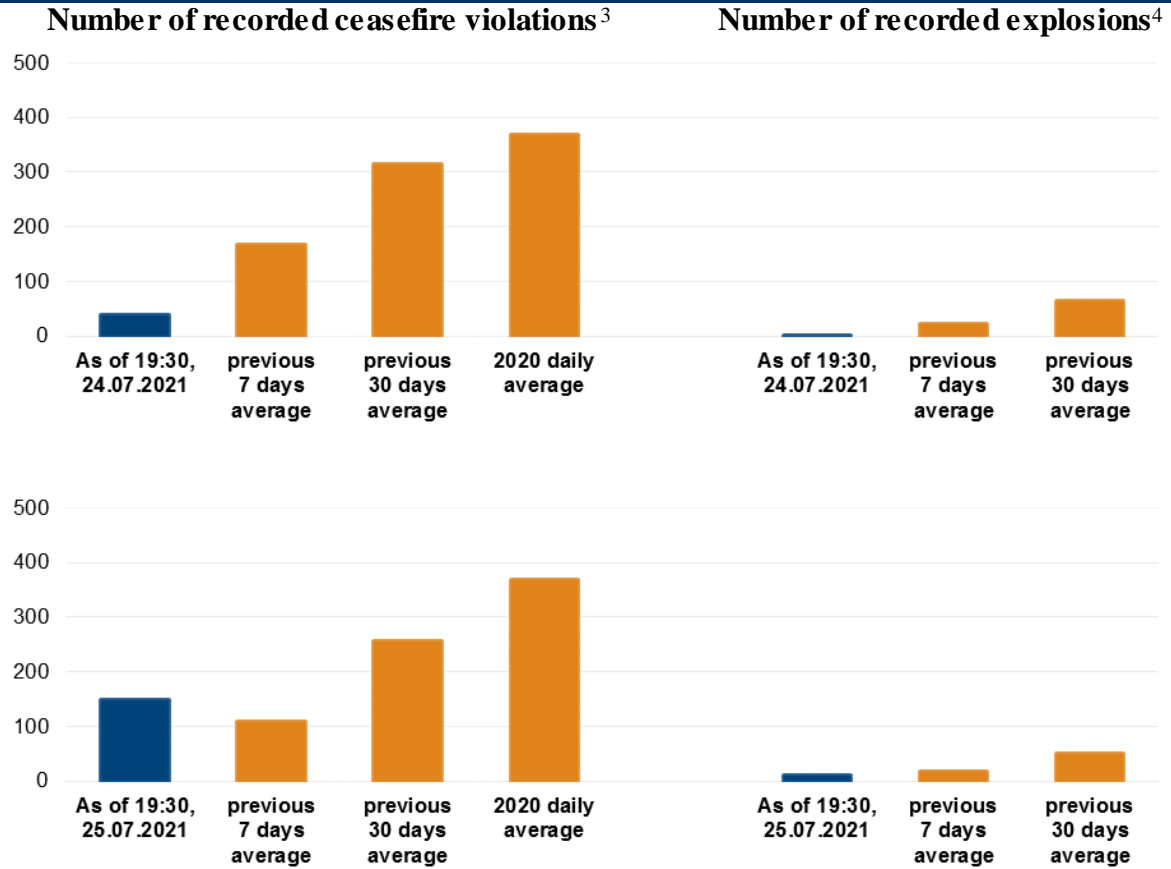
26 July 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 23 and 25 July, the SMM recorded 48 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 26 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 23 and 25 July, the Mission recorded 140 ceasefire violations, including 14 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 58 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of a man who sustained injuries due to shrapnel in Marinka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission observed damage to a civilian property in Opytne, Donetsk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Manuilivka, Donetsk region and the SMM lost spatial control of two mini-UAVs in Luhansk region, after they experienced signal interference, assessed as probable jamming.
- The Mission 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 three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation in Donetsk region.
- The Mission observed no change in the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at six checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region and a border crossing point outside government control in Luhansk region. An SMM camera experienced visual interference, assessed as caused by beams of laser light. Its UAVs again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 July 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²



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

³ Including explosions.

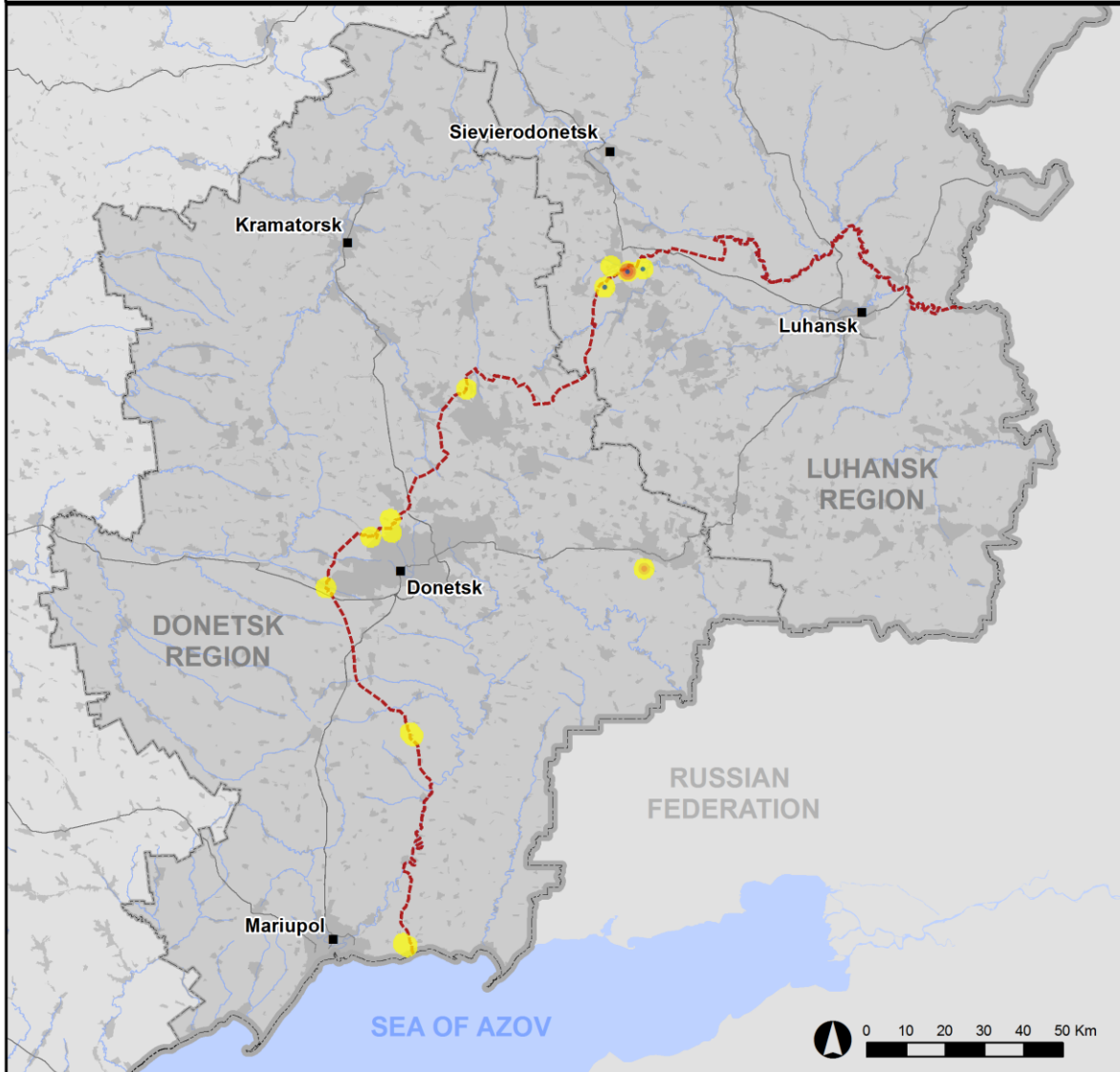
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

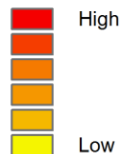


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24-25 July 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.

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Created: 26/07/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 23 and 25 July, the SMM recorded 48 ceasefire violations. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area north-west of Manuilivka (non-government-controlled, 65km east of Donetsk), in an area east of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and in an area north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 23 and 25 July, the SMM recorded 140 ceasefire violations, including 14 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-east and east-north-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) during the morning of 25 July (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 58 ceasefire violations, the majority of which also occurred in areas near the aforementioned disengagement area.

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 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 46,407 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,508 explosions, 8,763 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 169 illumination flares and at least 23,705 bursts and shots).

A man sustained shrapnel injuries in Marinka, Donetsk region

The Mission followed up on reports of a man (in his fifties) injured on 23 July in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).

On 24 July, a man (in his fifties) told the SMM over the phone that in the morning of 23 July, he had been in his garden in the eastern part of Marinka, when he had heard an explosion and started running to his house to take cover. He said he felt that he had sustained several injuries and had called an ambulance, which took him to a hospital in Kurakhove (government-controlled, 40km west of Donetsk).

On the same day, medical staff (male, age unknown) at the hospital in Kurakhove told the SMM over the phone that on 23 July he had treated a man (in his fifties) from Marinka, by removing shrapnel fragments from several wounds.

Also on the same day, a representative (male, in his forties) of the Pokrovsk district police in Kurakhove, told the SMM over the phone that in the morning of 23 July, a nurse of the Marinka ambulance service had informed his police station that on the same day, a man had sustained shrapnel injuries in Marinka.

Damage to a civilian property in Opytne, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to a civilian property in the centre of Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk).

On 25 July, at 12 Peremohy Street, the Mission saw the remains of a small brick outbuilding, which it assessed as uninhabited, about 20m south of an uninhabited residential house, with bricks and wood scattered around the remaining walls of the outbuilding. The SMM also saw that a brick fence located about directly west of the building had been severely damaged, with bricks lying on the ground. The Mission assessed the damage as recent and caused by a single

explosion, but was not able to determine the type of weapon used nor determine the direction of fire.

Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in Donetsk region; the SMM lost spatial control of two mini-UAVs in Luhansk region

On 24 July, while positioned about 4km west-north-west of Manuilivka to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard 16 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1km north-north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying over areas near a known training area of the armed formations near Ternove (non-government-controlled, 57km east of Donetsk), about 1km north-north-west of the SMM's position.*

On 25 July, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over of the disengagement area near Zolote, resulting in loss of spatial control of the UAV.*

On the same day, another SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying about 2.5km north-east of Bolotene (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), resulting in loss of spatial control of the UAV.*

The SMM has not yet been able to locate and retrieve the UAVs.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 24 and 25 July, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 24 and 25 July, while positioned on three locations near the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission heard 14 undetermined explosions, 38 bursts and 88 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as outside of the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 24 July and 25 July, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). On both days, the Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area. On 24 July, the SMM saw one member of the armed formations painting a concrete wall surrounding five of the aforementioned containers on the south-east corner of the intersection of road T1316 and the road leading east to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

During the night of 23-24 July, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded seven projectiles, at an assessed range of 3-6km south-east, assessed as outside of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) but within 5km of its periphery.

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

On 24 July, while positioned at four locations near the area, as well as at three locations on 25 July, the Mission 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.

Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone

The SMM saw five armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in and near residential areas, as well as one armoured combat vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Sakhanka, Donetsk region

On 23 July, about 2km south-south-west of the southern edge of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted a total of 15 anti-tank mines laid across road M-14, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 30 April 2021](#).)

On 24 July, about 3km north-north-west of Zolote, the SMM observed nine members of an international de-mining organization installing about 30 white and red metal poles along the south side of road T-1316.

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

On 24 and 25 July, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). On 24 July, it also monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 24 July, in Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. On 24 July, the SMM also again observed the two containers placed between the exit and entry booths of the EECP, about 170m north of the northern edge of the disengagement area, reportedly to manage queues. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 July 2021](#)).

On 24 and 25 July, the SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, 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 were closed.

Border areas outside government control

On 24 July, while at a border crossing point⁶ near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about half an hour, the Mission observed seven cars (including five with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), four mini buses (with “DPR” plates, three with eight passengers each and one with about 15 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and eight people (one woman and five men, mixed ages, and two children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed ten cars (including five with “DPR” plates), five covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates) and seven people (one woman, five men, mixed ages, and one child) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Snizhne (72km east of Donetsk), Zalisne (75km east of Donetsk), Rozsypne (80km east of Donetsk), Dmytrivka (85km east of Donetsk), Stepanivka (76km east of Donetsk), Petrivske (65km east of Donetsk) and Ternove and observed no change in the security situation.

Also on the same day, while at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed two women (mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission saw three cars, three covered cargo trucks (with “LPR” plates) and three men (in their twenties) exiting Ukraine. After about one minute, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing “orders from superiors”.*

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

Between 23 and 25 July, the SMM monitored areas of east and south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplyнка (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), as well as areas along the coast of the Azov Sea near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson) and Henicheska Hirka (181km east of Kherson) and areas along the coast of the Black Sea near Skadovsk (62km south-east of Kherson). On 24 July, the Mission monitored areas along the North Crimean canal. While monitoring these areas, the Mission observed no change in the security situation.

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, 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 Coordination (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](#)

⁶ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

Pryshyb; these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denials:

- On 24 July, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westwards, citing "demining activities in the area". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed a civilian vehicle passing through.
- On the same day, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south into the settlement, citing "ongoing training activities". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- Also on the same day, at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing "orders from superiors". (See above.)
- On 25 July, at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations, one visibly armed, denied the Mission passage west towards Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), citing "the SMM's safety".
- On the same day, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage north towards Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), citing "the SMM's safety".
- Also on the same day, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the settlement, citing "ongoing engineering works". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

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:

- On 25 July, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed east towards non-government controlled areas only after about 75 minutes of waiting during which SMM cars were sprayed with disinfectant according to local anti-COVID regulations.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 24 July, while positioned near Manuilivka (non-government-controlled, 65km east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 16 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. (See above.)

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

- On 25 July, SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight each over areas near non-government-controlled Vasylivka (20km north of Donetsk), Yasynuvata (16km north-east of Donetsk), Mineralne (10km north-east of Donetsk), Lohvynove (59km north-east of Donetsk), Debaltseve (58km north-east of Donetsk), Lozove (52km north-east of Donetsk) and government-controlled Urzuf (132km south-west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, the SMM was unable to launch an SMM mini-UAV due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, on four separate occasions while on the eastern edge of non-government-controlled Luhansk city.
- Also on the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area near Zolote, resulting in loss of spatial control of the UAV. The SMM was not able to locate and retrieve the UAV. (See above.)
- Also on the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying about 2.5km north-east of Bolotene (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), resulting in loss of spatial control of the UAV. The SMM was not able to locate and retrieve the UAV. (See above.)
- During the evening of 25 July, visual interference, assessed as caused by beams of laser light, limited the observational capabilities of the SMM camera in Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) for about one minute.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/7/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	In a residential area of Kodema (57km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
24/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
25/7/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-3)	Near a residential area of Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
24/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Khriashchuvate (10km south-east of Luhansk)	Patrol

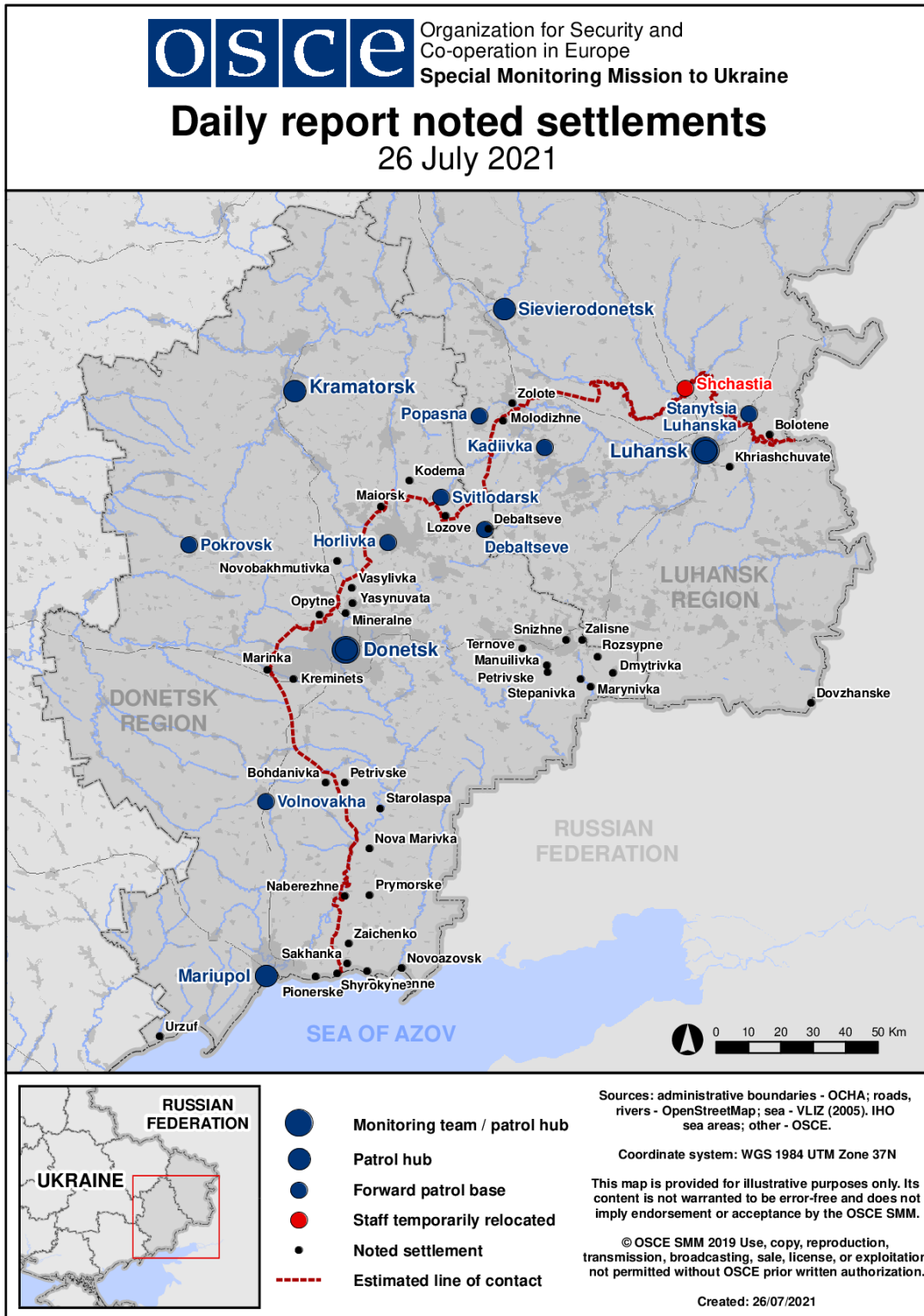
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 July 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	6	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	23-Jul, 22:06
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Jul, 02:22
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km E	Recorded	7	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	23-Jul, 22:38
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Jul, 22:09
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	23-Jul, 22:09
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	2-4km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	24-Jul, 00:35
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Jul, 23:36
About 4km WNW of Manuilivka (non-government-controlled, 65km E of Donetsk)	1.2km NNW	Heard	16	Burst		Small arms	24-Jul, 14:24
About 1.5km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	5-7km NNE	Heard	2	Explosions	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	24-Jul, 13:43-13:51
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	24-Jul, 21:50
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	24-Jul, 21:52
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	25-Jul, 02:54
About 1km N of railway station in Donetsk city (6km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-1.5km NNW	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	25-Jul, 10:21
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km ESE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	25-Jul, 06:35-06:38
S edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	1.5-3km NE	Heard	88	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-Jul, 08:10-08:43
	1.5-3km NE	Heard	38	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-Jul, 08:21-08:43
	1.5-3km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jul, 08:37-08:43
	5-7km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jul, 08:45

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.

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).