

Daily Report 217/2021

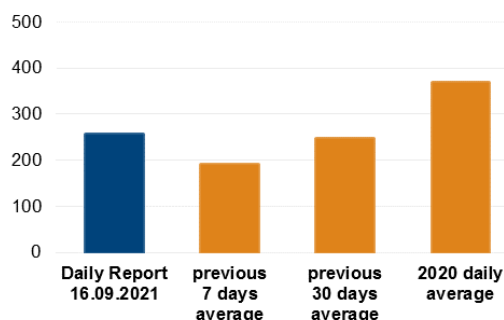
16 September 2021¹

Summary

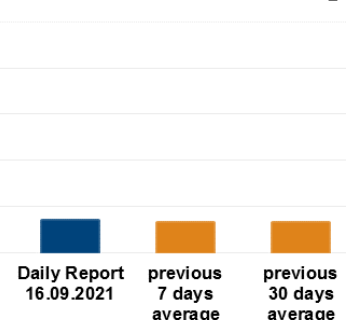
- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 100 ceasefire violations, including one explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 90 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 157 ceasefire violations, including 69 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded five ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of two civilians injured due to shelling in non-government-controlled Donetsk city.
- The Mission followed up on reports of damage to two civilian properties in government-controlled Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire on three occasions during two flights over and near the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission lost spatial control of its mini-UAV near government-controlled Kodema, Donetsk region, after which the UAV landed in a manoeuvre not initiated by the SMM.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including a 90-minute delay at the checkpoint of the armed formations south the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, 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, 15 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

³ Including explosions.

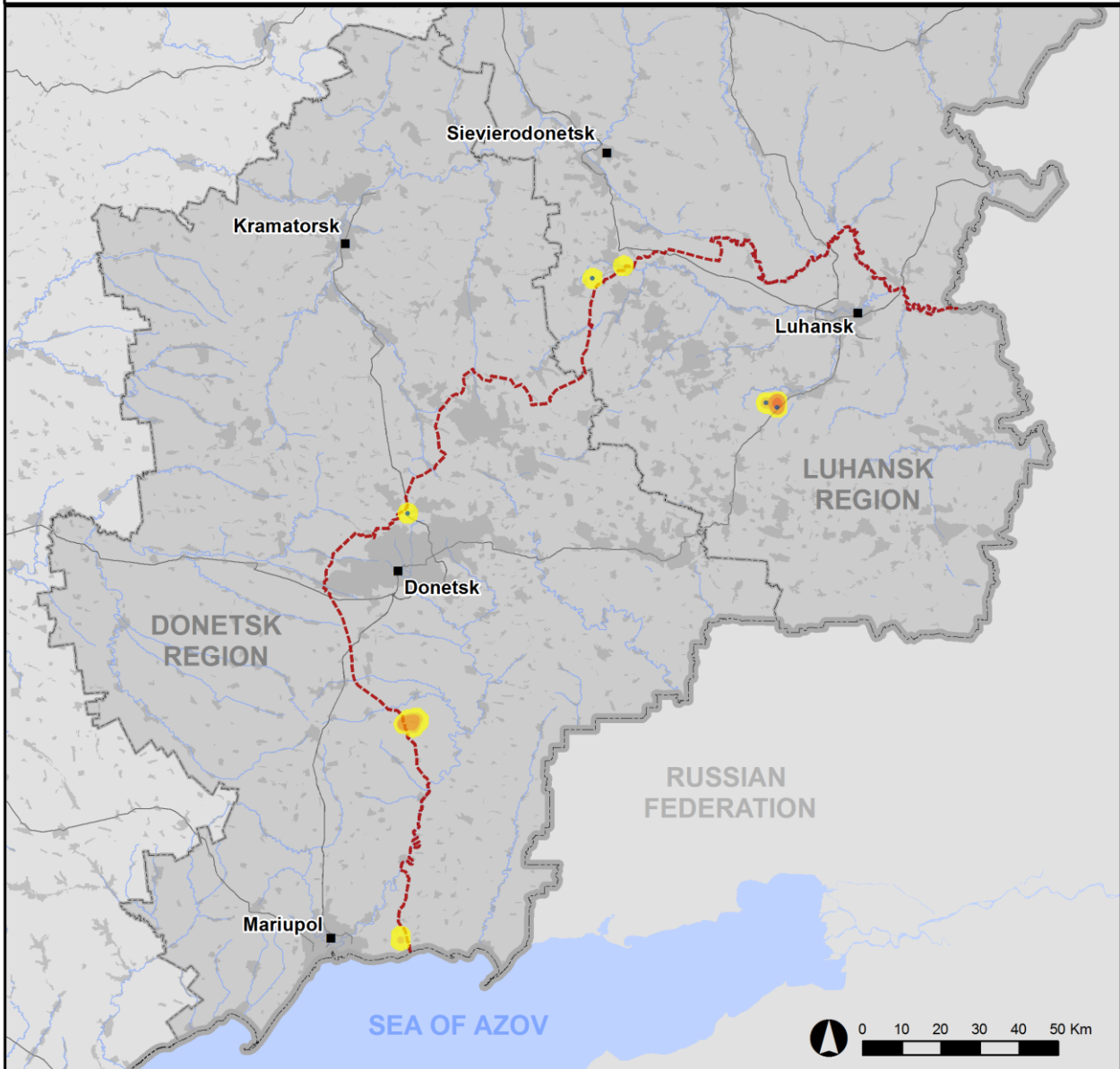
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

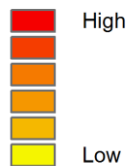


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 15 September 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: 16/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 100 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred inside and at northerly and easterly directions of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 90 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred inside and near the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 157 ceasefire violations, including 69 explosions (62 outgoing and seven undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-west and west of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 25km south-west of Luhansk) and were assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded five ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the Mission has recorded at least 57,565 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,172 explosions, 11,074 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 230 illumination flares and at least 29,819 bursts and shots).

Two civilians injured due to shelling in non-government-controlled Donetsk city

The Mission followed up on reports of a woman and a man injured in the north-eastern part of Donetsk city's Kyivskiy district (non-government-controlled, 5km north of Donetsk city centre) on 8 September.

On 14 September, a woman (in her fifties) told the SMM over the phone that she lived on Stratonativ Street in Donetsk city's Kyivskiy district and that when she had been outside her house on the evening of 8 September she had heard a whistling sound followed by an explosion, and had then fallen to the ground and lost consciousness. She added that when she had regained consciousness, she had seen that a man (in his forties), who had been repairing a fence outside her house, had been injured too. Subsequently, an ambulance had taken them to a hospital in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled).

On the same day, a man (in his forties) told the Mission over the phone that on 8 September, he had been repairing a fence at the house of the aforementioned woman (in her fifties) on Stratonativ Street and that in the afternoon he had repeatedly heard the sound of distant shelling. He said that in the evening he had heard an explosion nearby and then realised that he had been injured.

On 9 September, medical staff at a hospital in Donetsk city told the Mission over the phone that a woman (in her fifties) and a man (in his forties) had been admitted to the hospital on 8 September with injuries consistent with those caused by shelling.

(For information on the damage to the house on Stratonativ Street, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 September 2021](#).)

Damage to civilian properties in government-controlled Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to two civilian properties on the north-eastern edge of Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk).

On 12 September, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted 15 craters near an uninhabited single-storey house: 12 in a field about 100m north of it, two about 30m west-north-west and north-west, respectively, and one about 3m north.

The UAV also spotted damage to: the south-facing lower part of the asbestos roof tiles, the north-facing side of the asbestos roof of a shed attached to the house, and an adjacent wooden fence. About 70m north-north-west of the house, the UAV spotted damage to the east-facing brick wall of another uninhabited single-storey house and three shattered east-facing windows.

The Mission assessed the craters and damage to the two civilian properties as recent and caused by probable 120mm mortar rounds.

On the same day, three women (in their fifties and sixties) told the Mission that on the morning of 9 September they had heard shelling nearby.

Three instances of small-arms fire, assessed as directed at an SMM mini-UAV, over and near the disengagement area near non-government-controlled Petrivske, Donetsk region

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 17 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 3km south, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over the disengagement area's south-eastern corner, about 3.2km south of the SMM's position. Shortly afterwards, while retrieving the UAV, the Mission heard seven shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1.5km south-west, assessed as targeting the UAV. While conducting another announced mini-UAV flight from the same position, the Mission heard eight shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1.5km south-west, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying outside the disengagement area, about 1.2km south-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Loss of spatial control of an SMM mini-UAV near government-controlled Kodema, Donetsk region

While conducting a mini-UAV flight near the southern-eastern edge of Kodema (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM lost spatial control of the aircraft. The mini-UAV hovered approximately 250m west from the launching site and then flew east against the wind, after which it descended and landed in a field. Both manoeuvres were not initiated by the SMM. The Mission was unable to locate the UAV during two subsequent flights over the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned **inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard

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

seven undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 5-8km west and three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire an assessed range of 3-4km north-north-east, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the Mission saw seven members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

The Mission experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two mini-UAV flights over the disengagement area.*

On the night of 14-15 September, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 36 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 1-3km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**.

During the day on 15 September, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard seven shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south-west, assessed inside the disengagement area. The SMM also heard 49 shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 1-3km south-east, south and south-west (of which 32 were assessed as targeting an SMM mini-UAV, see above), all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw two mortars in a residential area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as seven howitzers and three multiple launch rocket systems in two training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw 53 tanks, 29 howitzers/mortars, three surface-to-air missile systems and two anti-tank guns in three 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 zone

The Mission saw an infantry fighting vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to roofs of buildings at the DFS.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any civilian traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission 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.

SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv

In front of the Kyiv City Council at 36 Khreshchatyk Street, the SMM observed about 70 people (men, mixed ages) carrying Ukrainian and black-and-red flags, demanding the dismissal of some city council members and expressing messages critical of members of parliament of an opposition party, and of the government of the Russian Federation. The Mission observed about 30 members of the National Guard nearby and a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Chernivtsi.

***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 [SMM Daily Report of 15 September 2021](#)). 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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), members of the armed formations allowed the Mission to proceed towards non-government-controlled areas only after about 90 minutes of waiting, referring to lack of prior information about the SMM crossing, and demanding the patrol members to allow the inspection of their passports and luggage, as well as a body temperature check, all of which the Mission refused.

Other impediments:⁶

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire on three occasions during two flights over and near the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see above).
- The Mission lost spatial control of a mini-UAV during a flight over areas near Kodema (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) and was not able to retrieve it. (See above.)
- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk).
- An SMM mid-range UAV flight was cancelled due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, near Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four flights: twice over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk); and once over areas near Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk) and Luhanske, respectively.

⁶ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/9/2021	2	Towed mortar (type undetermined)	In a residential area of Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
14/9/2021	7	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 44 armoured combat vehicles. ⁷	Mini-UAV
	3	Multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 13 armoured combat vehicles.	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/9/2021	13	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 49 armoured combat vehicles ⁸	Aerial imagery
	11	Towed howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		
	8	Self-propelled howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (type undetermined)		
14/9/2021	9	Tank (two T-72 and seven probable T-72)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	
	31	Tank (T-72)		
	7	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	2	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	3	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		

Other weapons⁹

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/9/2021	6	Multiple launch rocket system (type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
14/9/2021	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

⁷ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this table are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned here are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁹ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

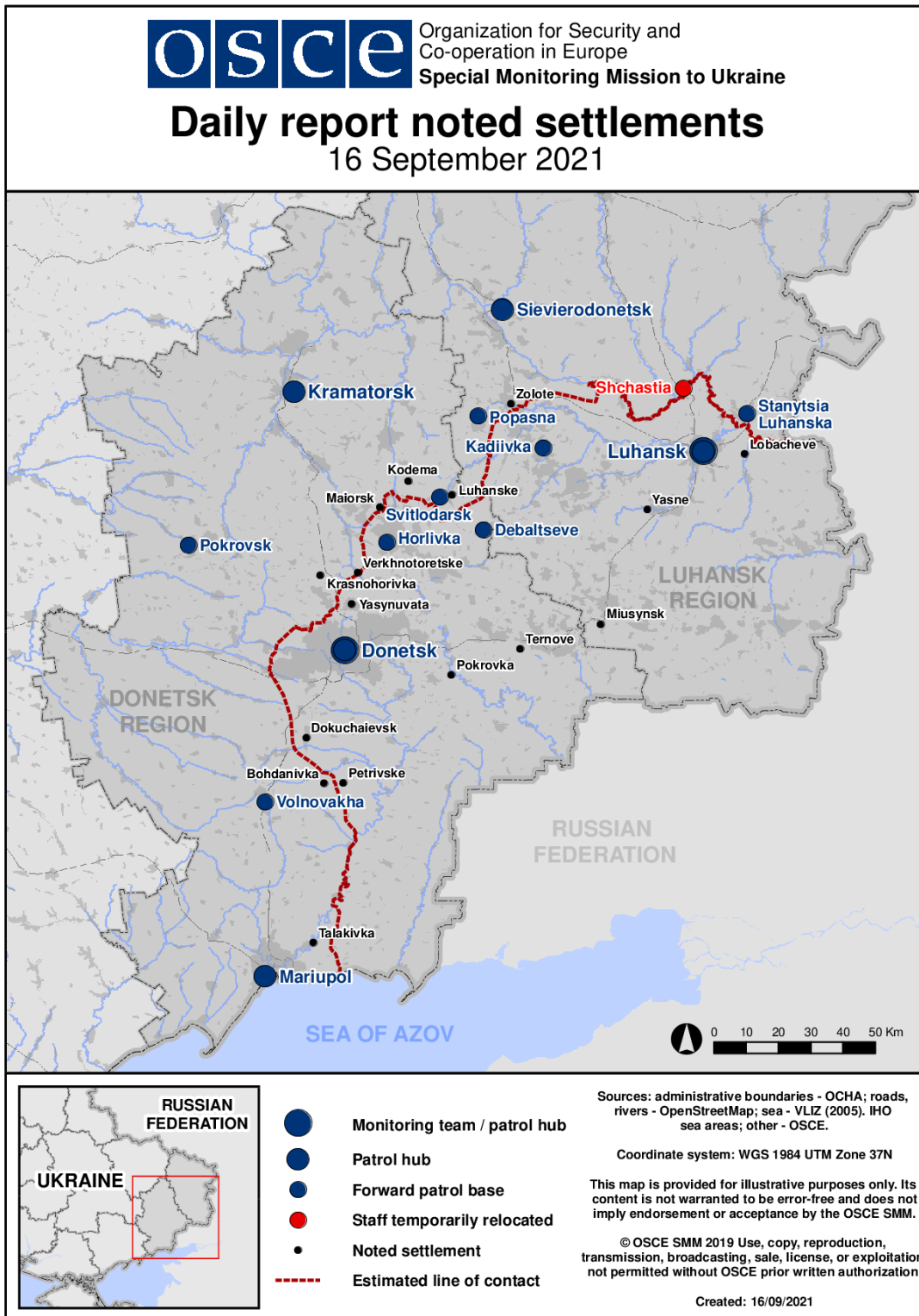
¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 15 September 2021¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	14-Sep, 23:58
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	15	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	15-Sep, 00:07
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	15-Sep, 00:08
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	15	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	15-Sep, 04:16
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Sep, 20:32
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Sep, 21:05
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Sep, 21:34
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	14-Sep, 21:34
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Sep, 21:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	14-Sep, 21:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Sep, 22:02
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Sep, 22:03
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Sep, 00:54	
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Sep, 11:32
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	3km S	Heard	17	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	15-Sep, 09:52
	1-3km SE	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	15-Sep, 09:53
	1.5km SW	Heard	7	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	15-Sep, 09:55
	1km SE	Heard	12	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	15-Sep, 09:57
	2km SE	Heard	1	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	15-Sep, 10:34
	2-3km SW	Heard	7	Shot	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	Small arms	15-Sep, 11:52
	1.5km SW	Heard	8	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	15-Sep, 11:52
About 1km SW of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 25km SW of Luhansk)	3-5km SW	Heard	15	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Sep, 10:54-11:05
	2-3km S	Heard	30	Burst		HMG	15-Sep, 11:00-11:06
	3-5km S	Heard	25	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Sep, 11:11-11:16
	3-5km S	Heard	4	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Sep, 11:21
	2-3km S	Heard	30	Burst		HMG	15-Sep, 11:21-11:24
	3-5km S	Heard	18	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Sep, 11:26-11:31
	2-3km S	Heard	25	Shot		HMG	15-Sep, 11:27-11:30
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	5-8km W	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Sep, 11:20-11:27
	3-4km NNE	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	15-Sep, 11:59-12:00

¹¹ 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 regions¹²



¹² 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).