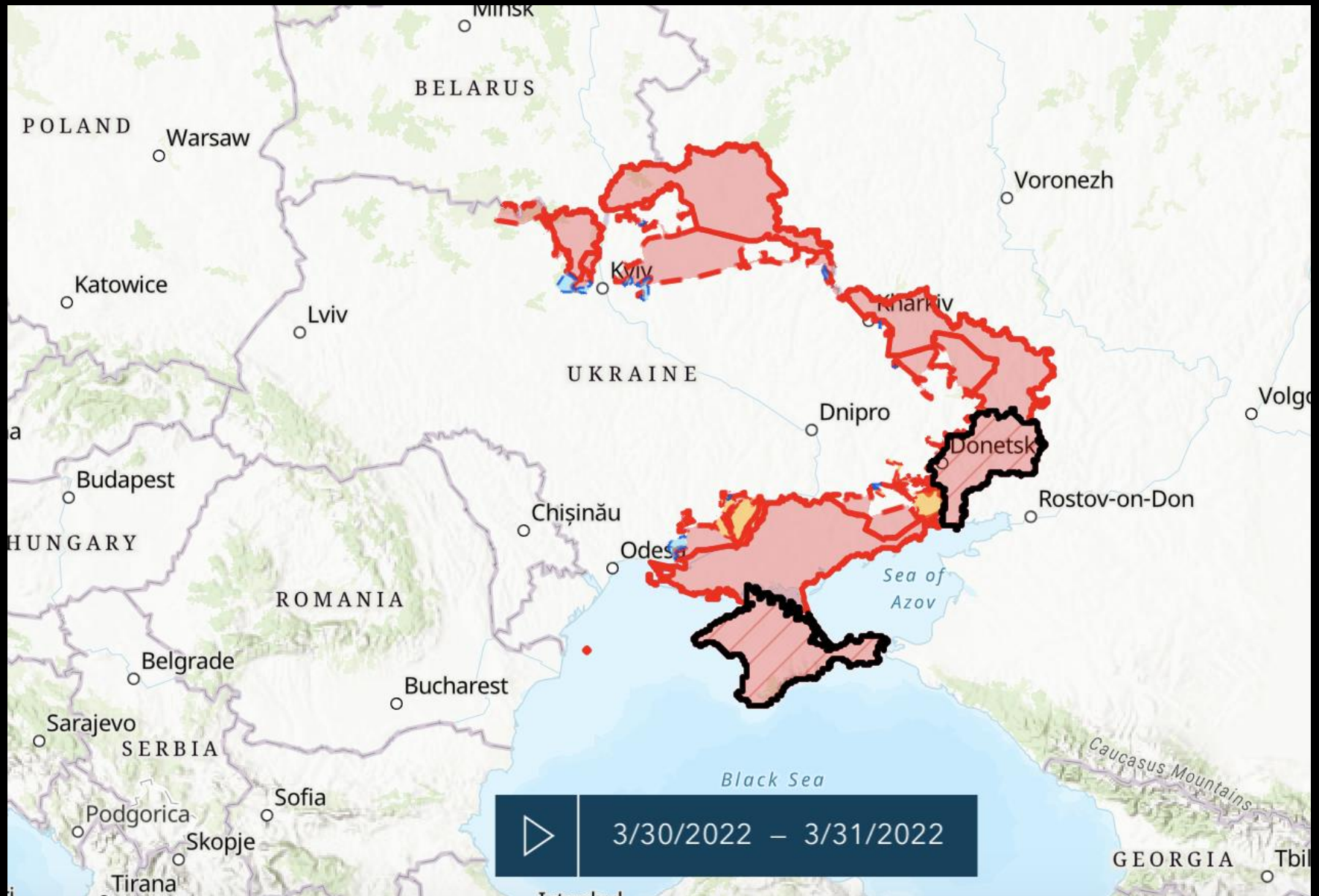


# *Ukrainian Counter-offensive (4 June 2023?) – present*

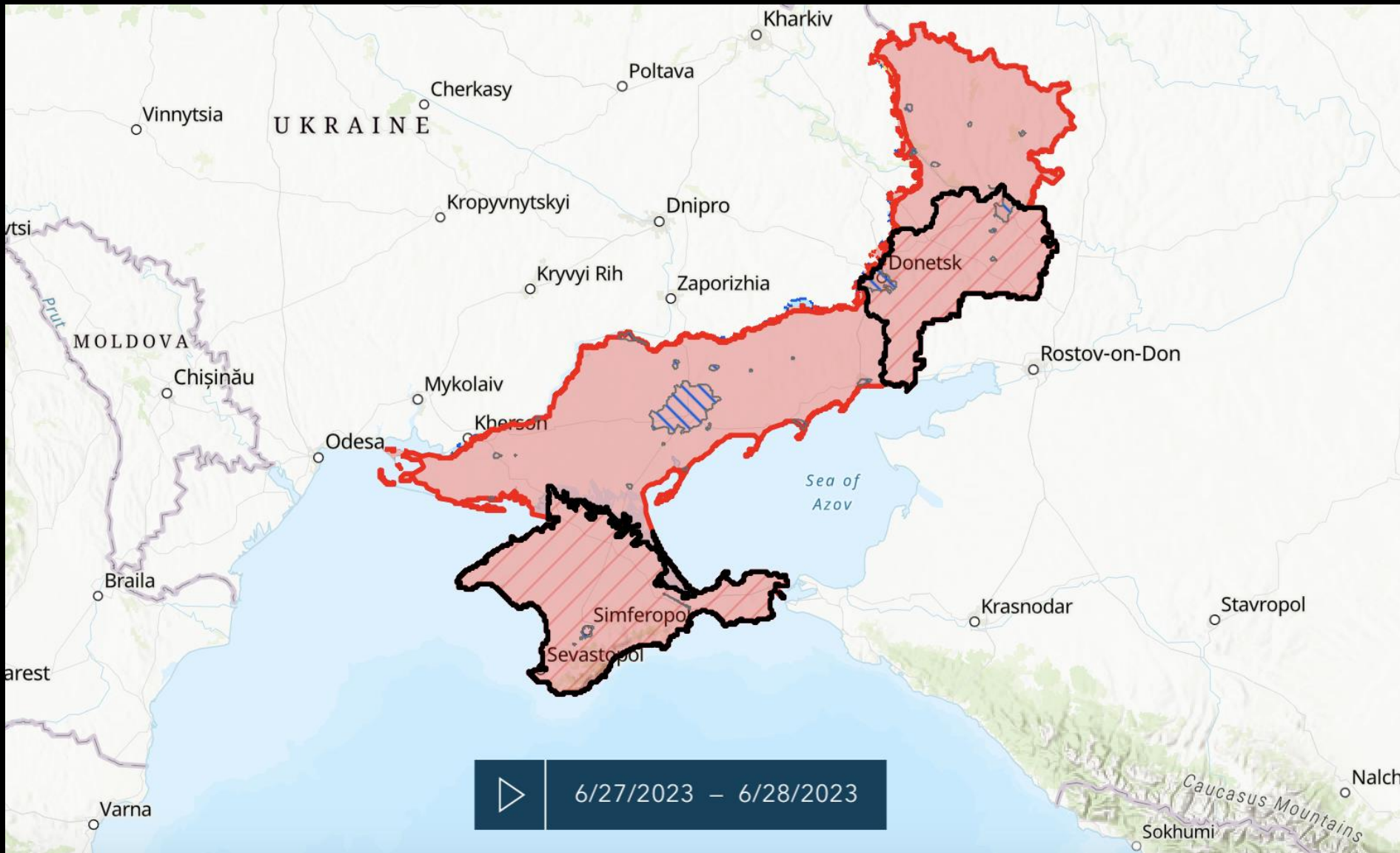
Understanding the War in Ukraine

Session #5

# Initial Russian Advance



# *Russian-Controlled Area (June 2023)*





# Russian Fortifications in Ukraine

as of: 8 May 2023



- Russian military control
- ▨ Limited Russian military control
- Russian fortifications
- Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

- 1 Crimea's west coast
- 2 Tokmak
- 3 E105 highway
- 4 Rivnopil

Source: Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 8 May), Brady Africk

BBC



# *What are these fortifications?*



# Multi-layered Russian Defenses

**MYKHAILIVKA, UKRAINE**

May 2, 2023

Preexisting gun/mortar emplacements

Zigzag trench system under construction

Dragon teeth barrier (three rows)

Dragon teeth barrier (three rows)

Anti-tank barrier

Anticipated direction of Ukrainian attack

Trench system under construction

Fighting position with vehicle emplacements

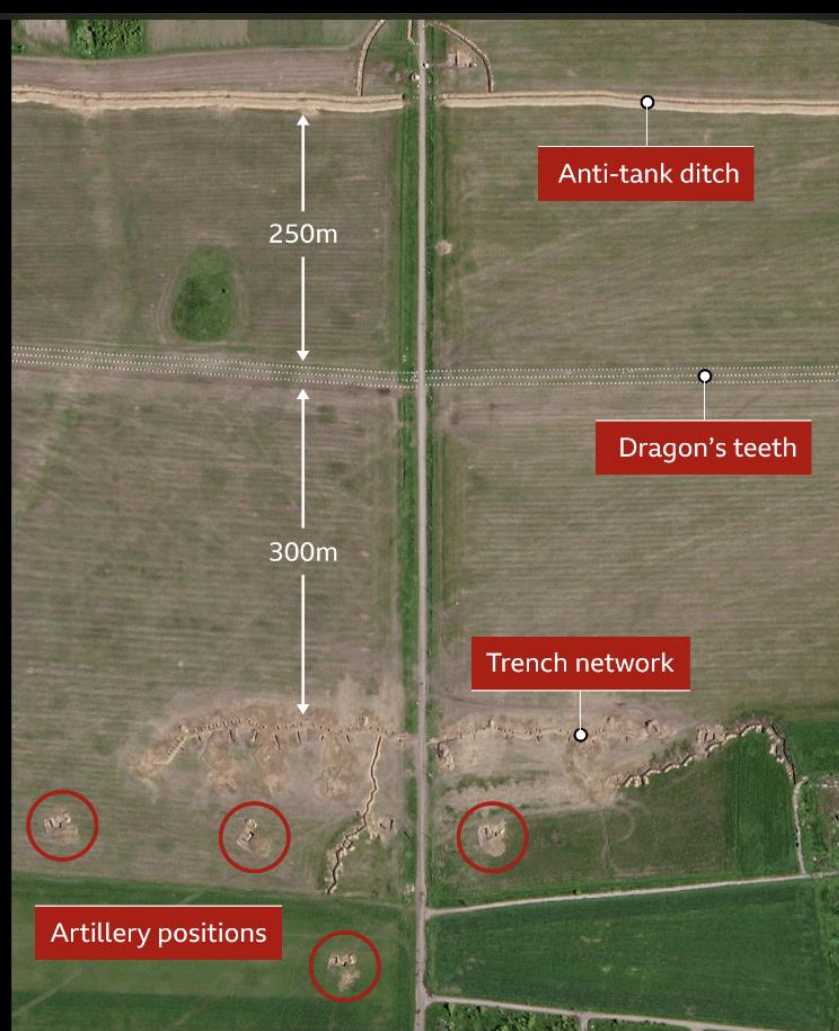
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# Russian Fortifications Near Tokmak



Source: Planet Labs PBC, 3 May 2023

B B C



Source: Planet Labs PBC, 3 May 2023

B B C



# *When did it start?*

**Why Ukraine wants silence around their counteroffensive plans**

Ukrainian Defense Ministry

Source: CNN



PUTIN'S WAR

THE LEAD

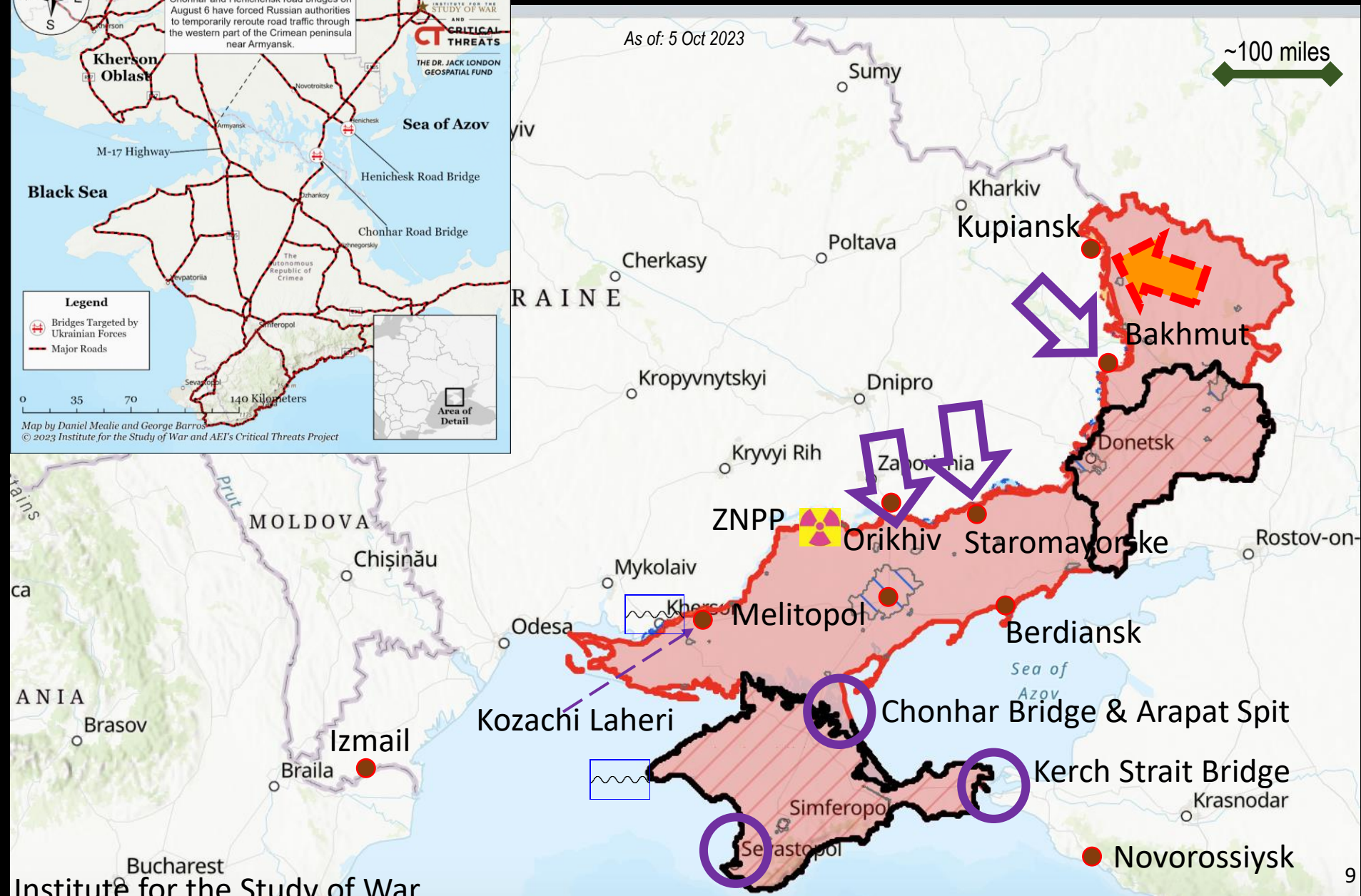
UKRAINE URGES SILENCE ABOUT COUNTEROFFENSIVE



00:39 / 02:43

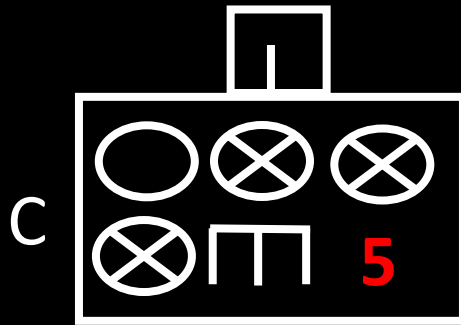


# Where are Ground Military Operations Taking Place?



# Notional Conduct of a Breach

M1 Armor Battalion Team



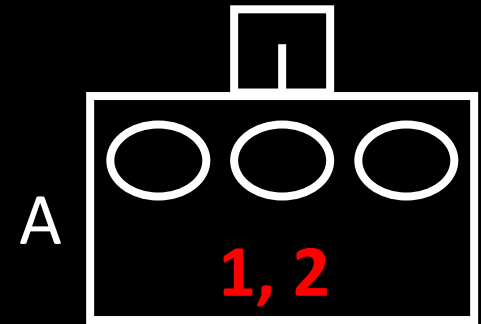
Assault

## Tasks:

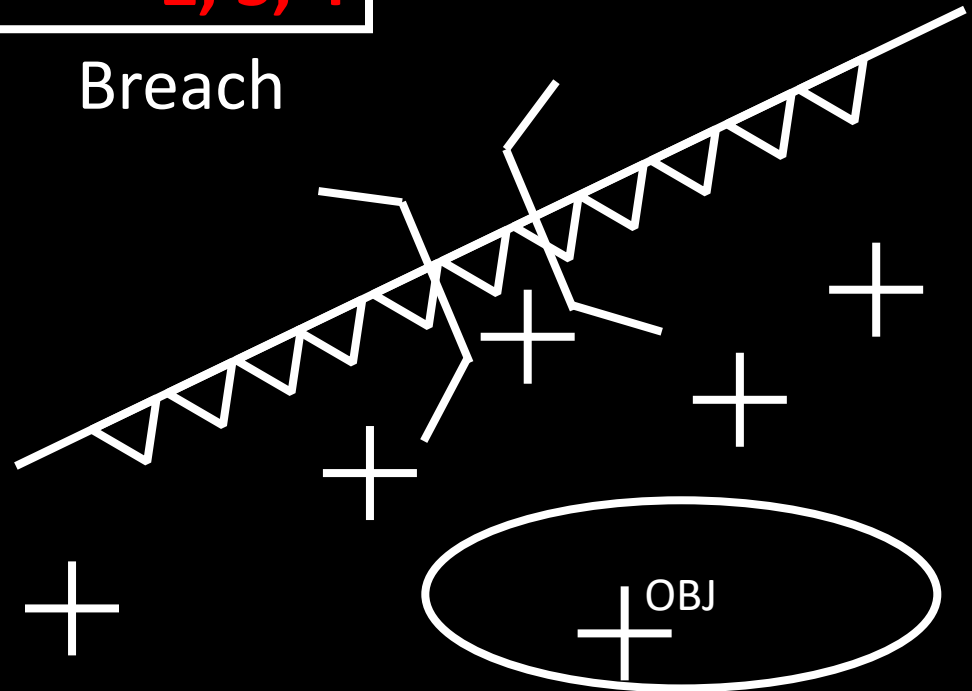
1. Suppress
2. Obscure
3. Secure
4. Reduce
5. Assault



Breach



Support





# Mine Clearing / Combined Arms Operations

U.S. Army Reserve Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood



# *Ukraine's Obstacle-breaching Vehicles*

US M60-based  
Armored Vehicle Launched  
Bridge (AVLB)



German Leopard 1-based  
Pionierpanzer 2A1 Dachs  
armored engineer support vehicle



German Wisent-1  
Mine Clearing  
Tank

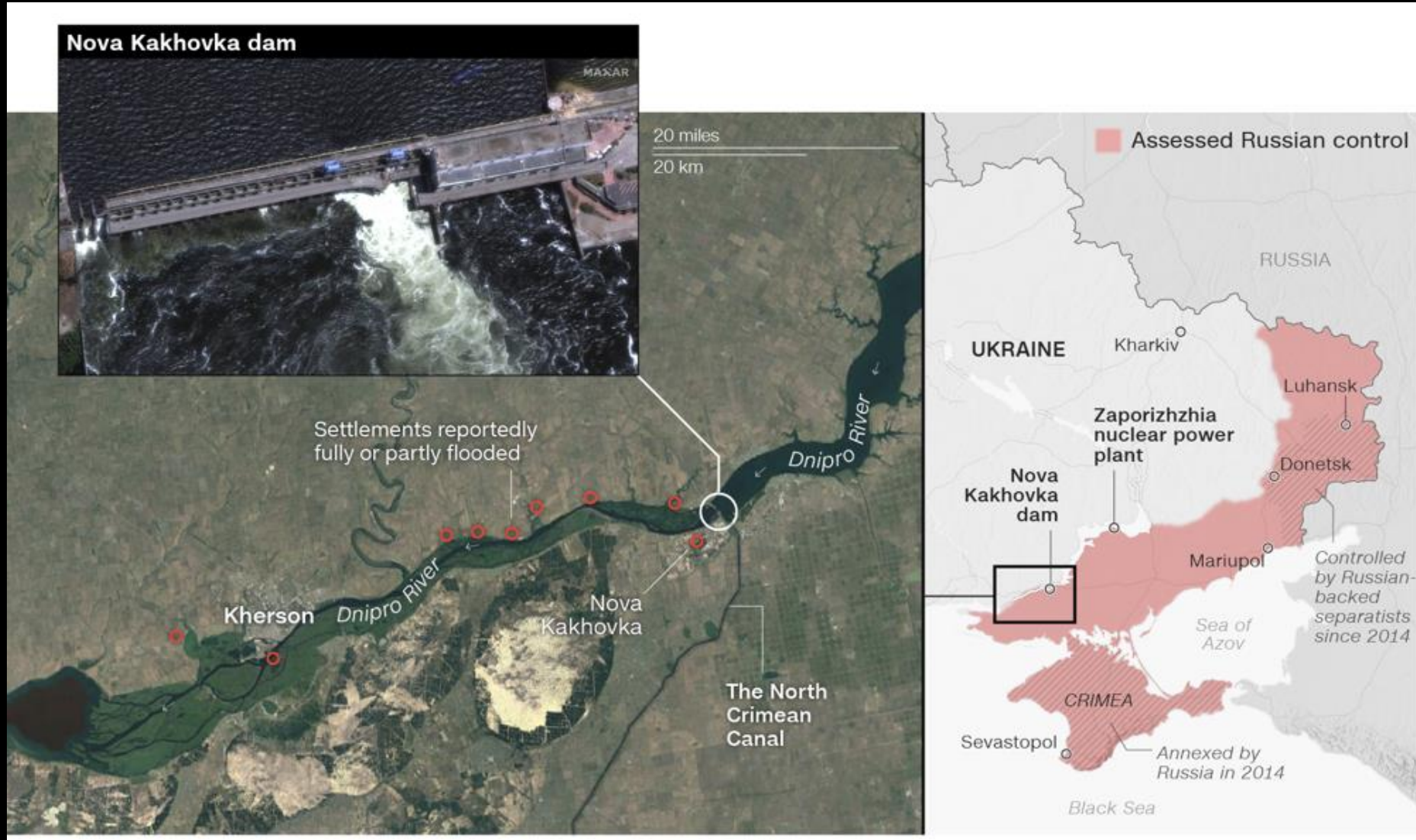


# Ukrainian Losses (early June 2023)





# Nova Kakhovka Dam Breach 6 June 2023



# *Kakhovka Dam Flooding*





# Kakhovka Reservoir almost completely dry

5 June



Nikopol

20 June



20km

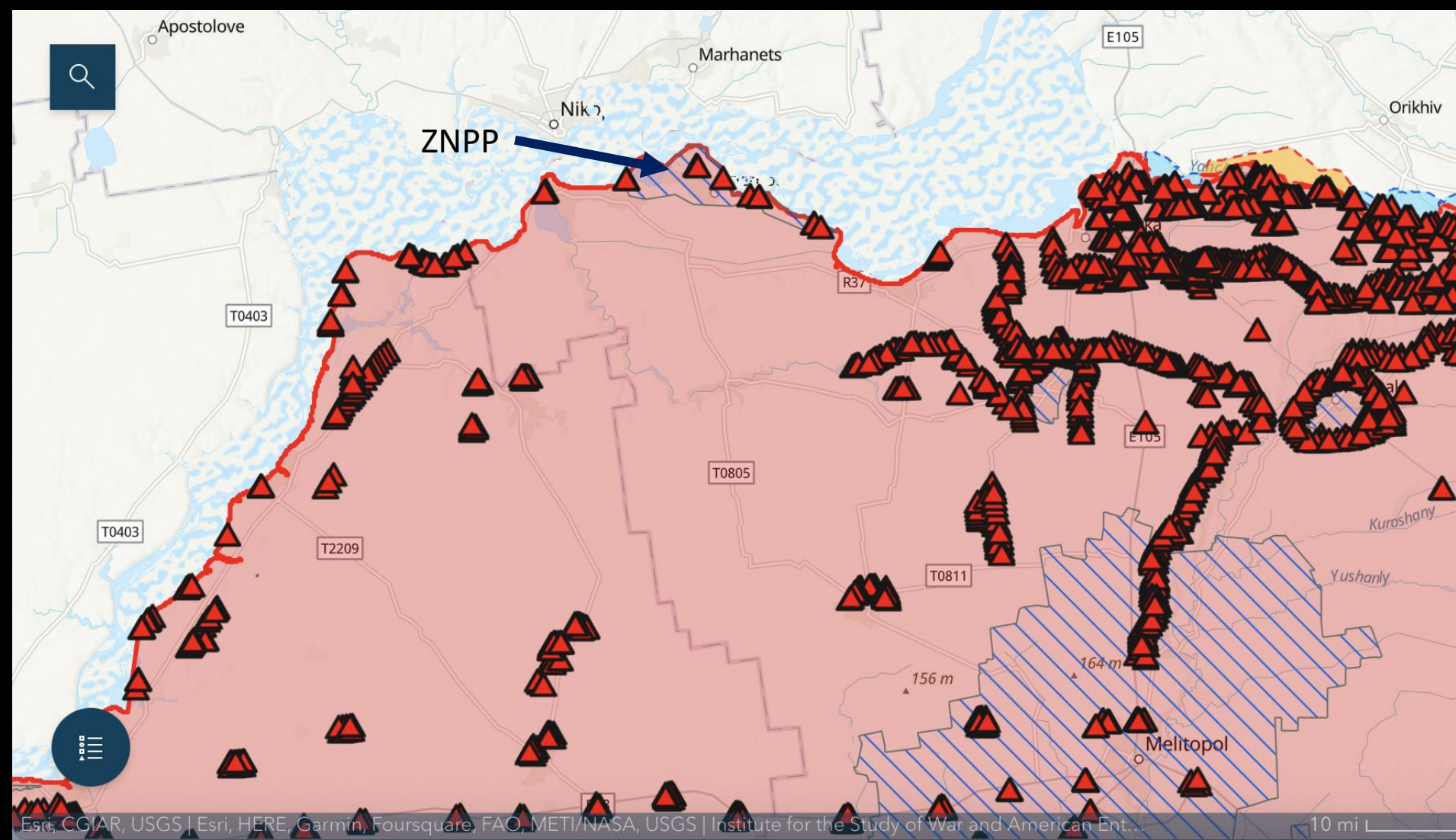
10 miles



# *Both an Obstacle and an Environmental Disaster*



# *Russian Fortifications on the Kachovka Reservoir*





# Staromaiorske



# *T-54/55 Tank—VBIED*



21 June 2023



# *Robotyne*



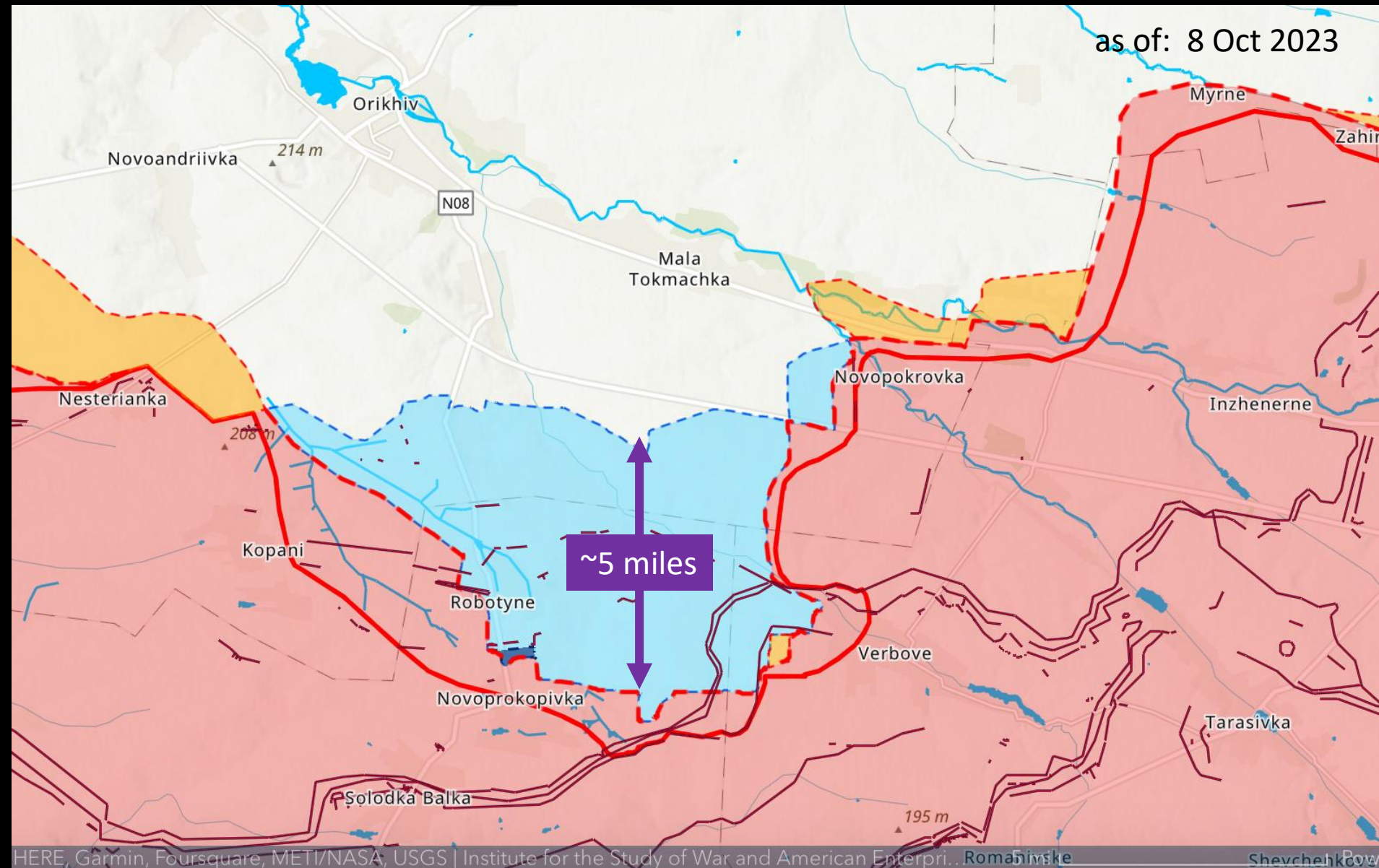
Telegram Valerii Zaluzhnyi/via REUTERS



Separate Assault Battalion 'Skala' of the Ukrainian Armed Forces/via REUTERS



# *Ukrainian Advance at Robotyne*





# *Ukrainian Partisan Activity*



Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS | Institute for the Study of War and American Enterprise Institute's Critical T...



# Wagner Group Rebellion





# Resolving the Rebellion





# *Wagner Camp in Belarus*

planet.

30 June 2023



# Poland: 'Wagner mercenaries may try to cross from Belarus'

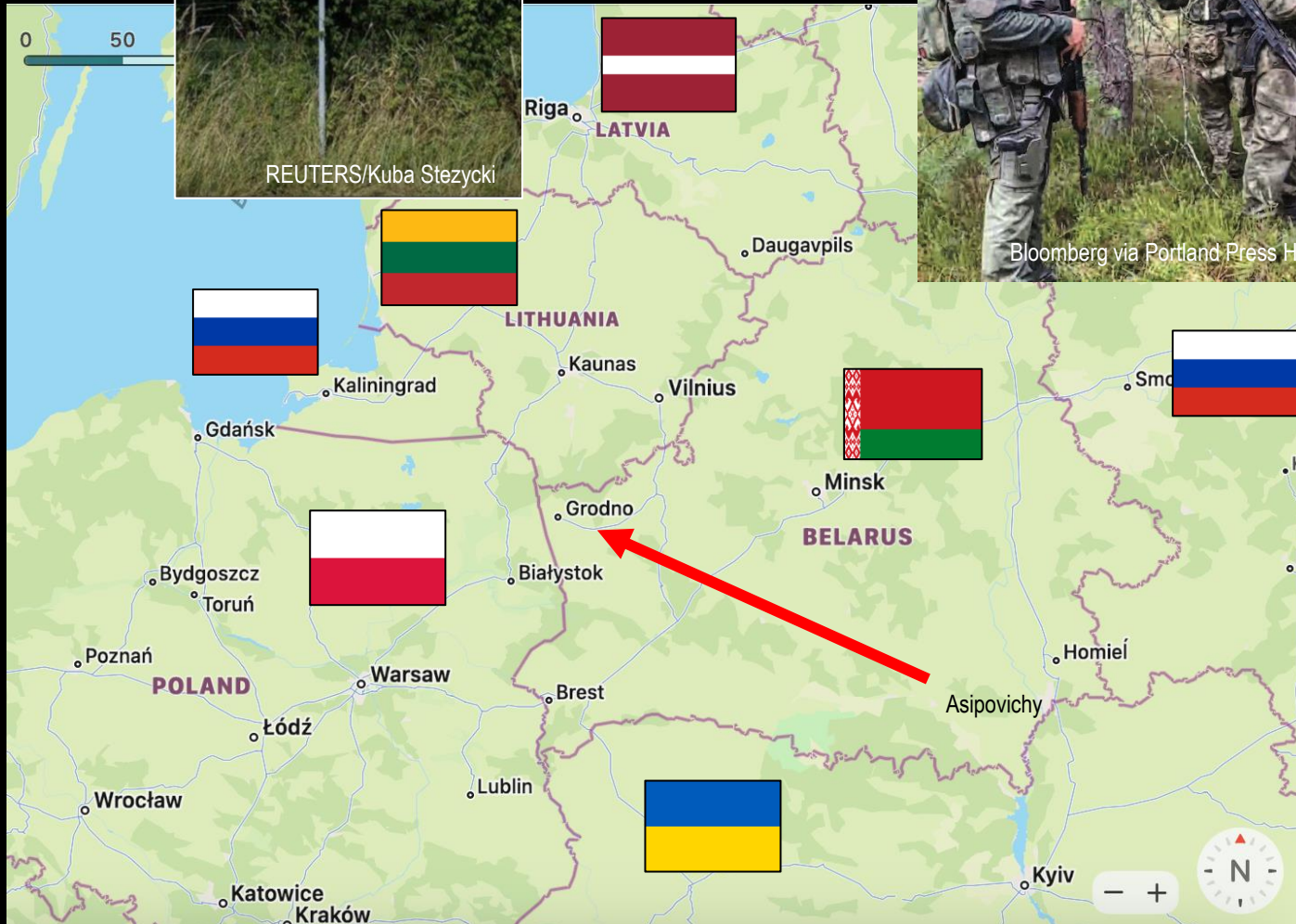
30 July 2023



REUTERS/Kuba Stezycki



Bloomberg via Portland Press Herald



Insignia is Belarus Ministry of Defense

# *Prigozhin's Plane*

23 Aug 2023





# *Storm-Z squad fighters*



# *Definitions*

- **Attrition warfare** is a military strategy consisting of belligerent attempts to win a war by wearing down the enemy to the point of collapse through continuous losses in personnel, material, and morale. (Wikipedia)
- **Stalemate** describes a condition in war in which neither side can change the front lines dramatically no matter how hard it tries. WWII never reached stalemate in Europe. The opponents alternated offensive and defensive campaigns but were almost always moving. World War I epitomized stalemate. (Frederick W. Kagan, WHAT STALEMATE MEANS IN UKRAINE AND WHY IT MATTERS, ISW Press, Mar 22, 2022)




# *Russian Ground Lines of Communication*

- Cannon artillery = 24 to 32 semi-trailer loads per day
- Food
  - US MRE (18-26 oz) = 16 to 23 semi-trailer loads per day
  - US MCI (Vietnam—early 1980s) = 37 semis per day
- Other:
  - Fuel
  - Small arms ammunition
  - Radio batteries
  - Repair parts
  - Medical supplies
  - Potable water
- Back-haul
  - Medical evacuation
  - Maintenance evacuation



Supply  
dumps?



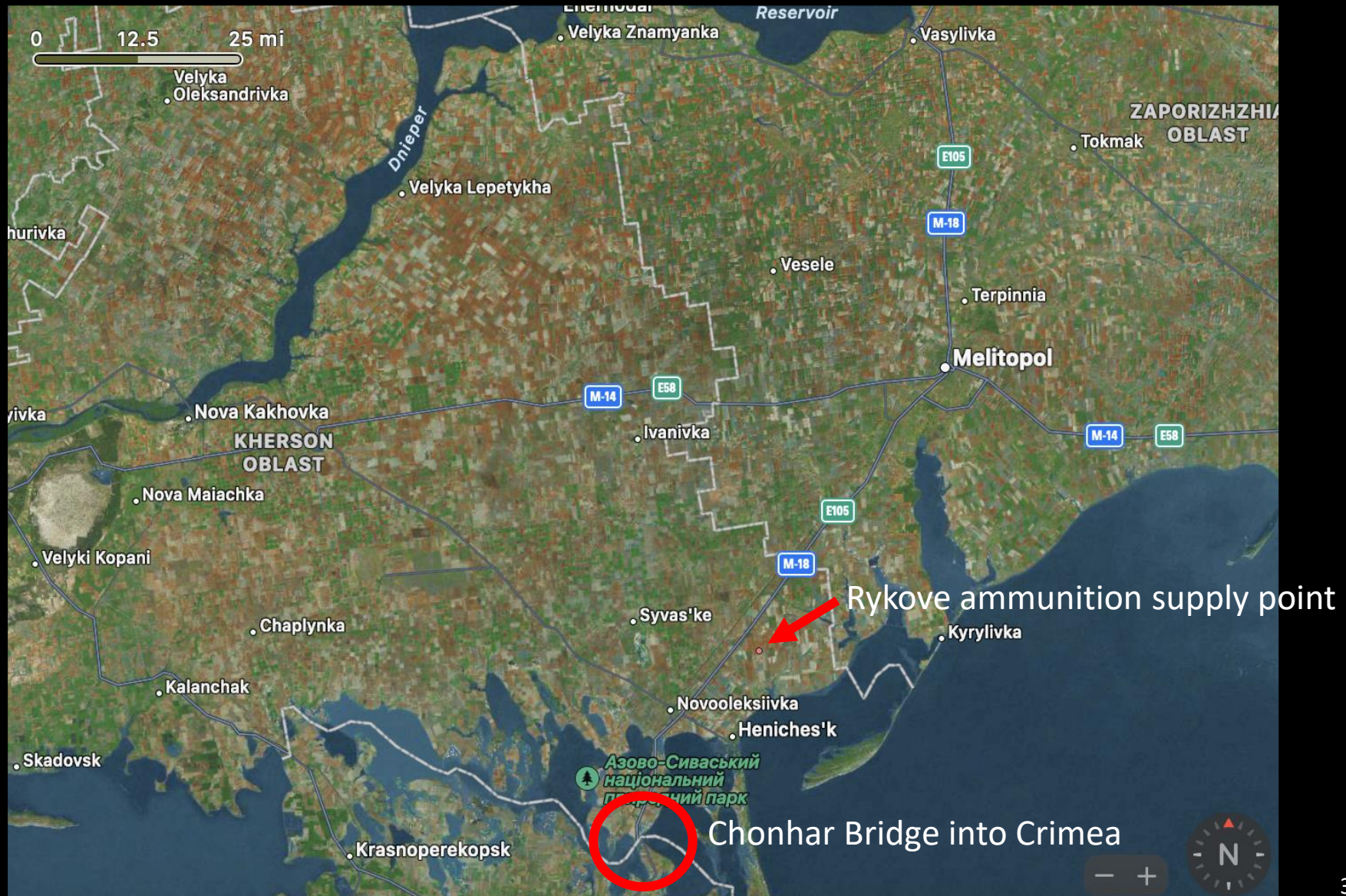
Obstacles &  
land mines?



Drones?

# Chonhar and Rykove

*Storm Shadow missile attacks, June 2023*





# *Rykove Ammunition Supply Point*





# *Chonhar Road Bridge*





# Kerch Bridge

17 July 2023

First video of damage to Crimean Bridge surfaces after reported strike

Source: CNN

@grey\_zone/Earlier

Kerch Bridge, Crimea



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

NEWSROOM

## FIRST VIDEO OF APPARENT DAMAGE TO CRIMEA BRIDGE

Unverified reports: Two blasts hit Kerch Bridge just after 3 a.m. local time



# *Drone Attack, July 4, 2023*





# *Bomb Shelters in Kyiv*





# *Russian Missile Attacks on Odesa*

17—26 July 2023

AP Photo/Libkos, File



AP Photo/Libkos



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong



# *Drone Attack on Moscow 23 July*



# *Russian Missile Attack on Kryvyih Rih*

31 July 2023



Associated Press



State Emergency Service Of Ukraine/Reuters



# Drone Attacks on Izmail

Night of 1—2 August 2023



Ukraine Prosecutor

Black  
Sea

10km  
5 miles

B B C



# *Deal with Croatia to ship grain*





# *Ukraine-developed long-range weapon*

31 Aug 2023 – drone strikes in 6 Russian Oblasts





# *Ukrainian Sea-drones*

Sevastopol harbor, October 2022  
Kerch Strait Bridge, 17 July 2023



*Sig, 5 Aug 2023*

*Olenegorsky Gornyak, 4 Aug 2023*



Ukrainian MOD via Reuters



# *Russian Black Sea Naval HQs*





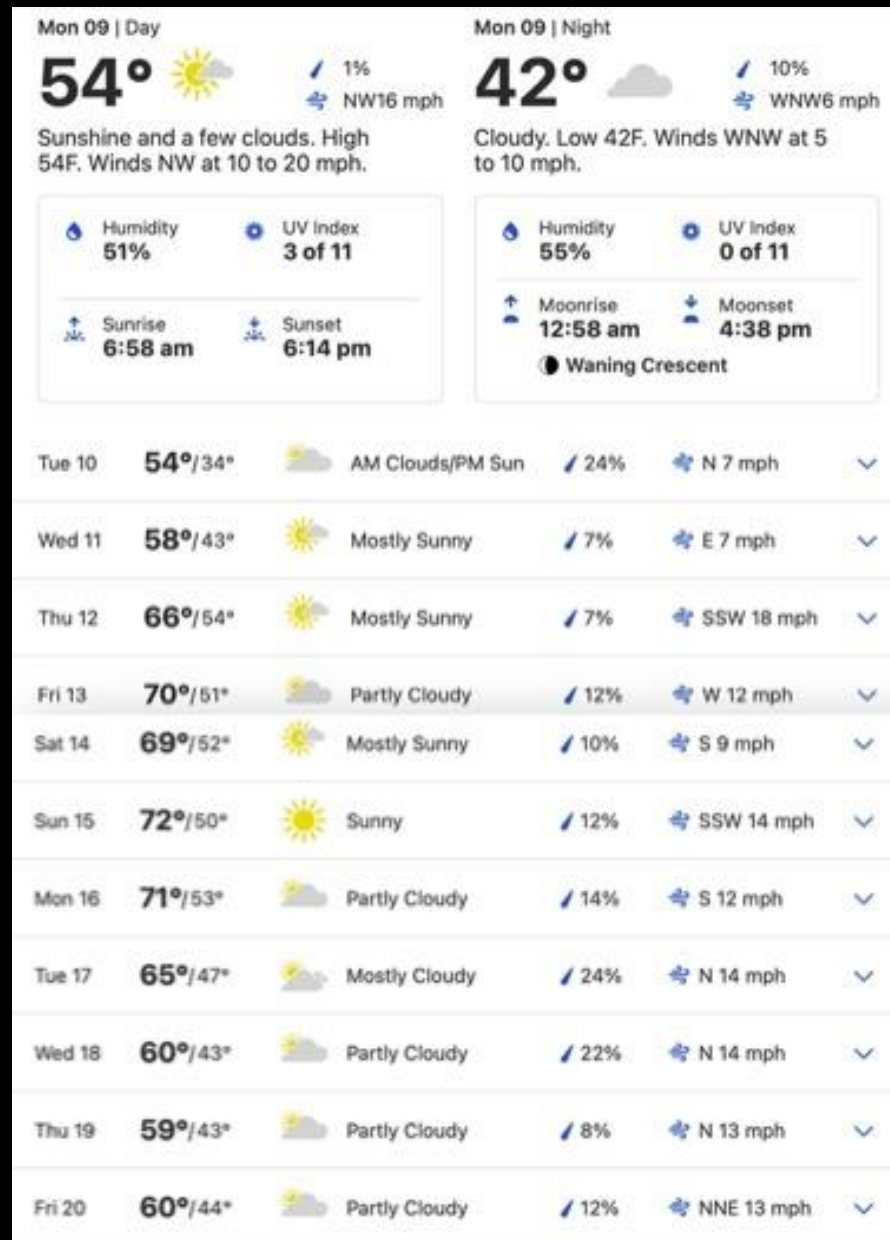
# Ukrainian Military Objectives?



Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS | Institute for the Study of War and American Enterprise Institute's Critical T...



# Weather Forecast for Southern Ukraine



# *Fall Rasputitsa & Winter Warfare*



Temperatures in Kherson October--March

