

Daily Report 308/2020

29 December 2020¹

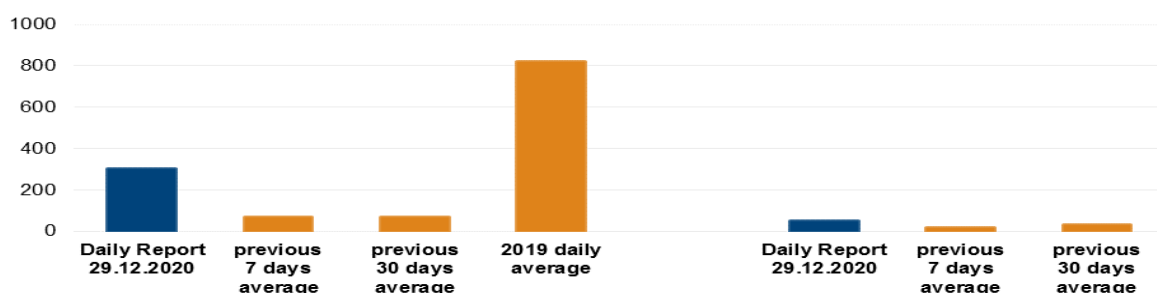
Summary

- The SMM recorded 299 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded two ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the latter two areas, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people during daytime hours.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at one entry-exit checkpoint and two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point outside government control near Dovzhanske, 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, 28 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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

³ Including explosions.

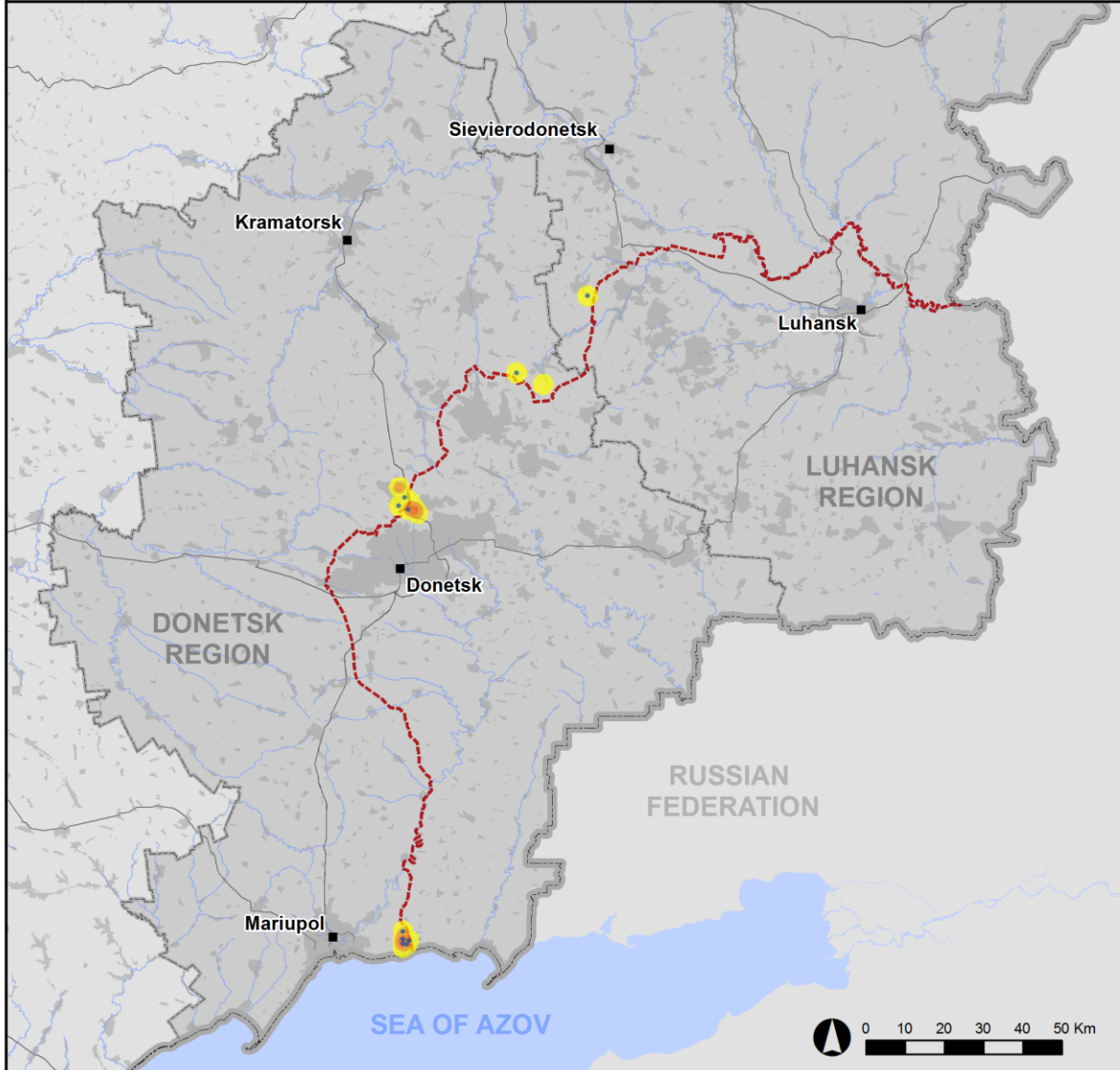
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

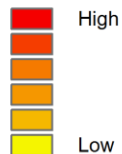


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 28 December 2020



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: 29/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 299 ceasefire violations, including 46 explosions (of which 44 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 near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region, including four undetermined explosions, some of which occurred near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations, both undetermined explosions in an area south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded no 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 4,960 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,080 explosions, 589 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 43 illumination flares and at least 2,187 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 28 December, 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).

During the day on 27 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 28 December, on the southern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM saw two pieces of heavy equipment and three workers laying tar on the southern edge of the road leading to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).

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) walk inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

During the day on 27 December, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside former positions of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 28 December, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission observed a vehicle traveling from Petrivske towards positions of the armed formations about 200m north-west of the disengagement area’s north-eastern corner and then return.

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.

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

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

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

SMM facilitation of construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the repair and operation of critical civilian infrastructure, including the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, as well as demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the station, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion and 136 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. About 95 of these ceasefire violations occurred during and near times that convoys with DFS workers were driving towards the DFS and back to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) on road M-04.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw 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 pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

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 queuing to travel in both directions at the EECP. The SMM observed a snowplough clearing the road between the repaired section of the bridge and the EECP.

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.

On the south-eastern edge of the latter checkpoint, the SMM saw ten workers installing fences.

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

Border areas outside government control

During the day on 27 December, about 2km east-south-east of Mykhailivka (74km south-east of Donetsk) and about 2.5km north-west of the border with the Russian Federation, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a probable electronic warfare system (R-330Zh *Zhitel*).

On 28 December, while at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission observed four cars with “LPR” plates entering Ukraine and ten cars (including five with “LPR” plates) and four pedestrians (three men in their twenties and forties and one woman in her forties) queuing to exit Ukraine. 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 Package of Measures 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.

Denial:

- At a border crossing point in Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations asked 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:

- On 27 December, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk) and the destroyed Donetsk international airport.⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV’s position.

Table of military presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/12/2020	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
28/12/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area in Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
27/12/2020	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area in Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, 51km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
28/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound near Smile (31km north-west 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 28 December 2020⁹

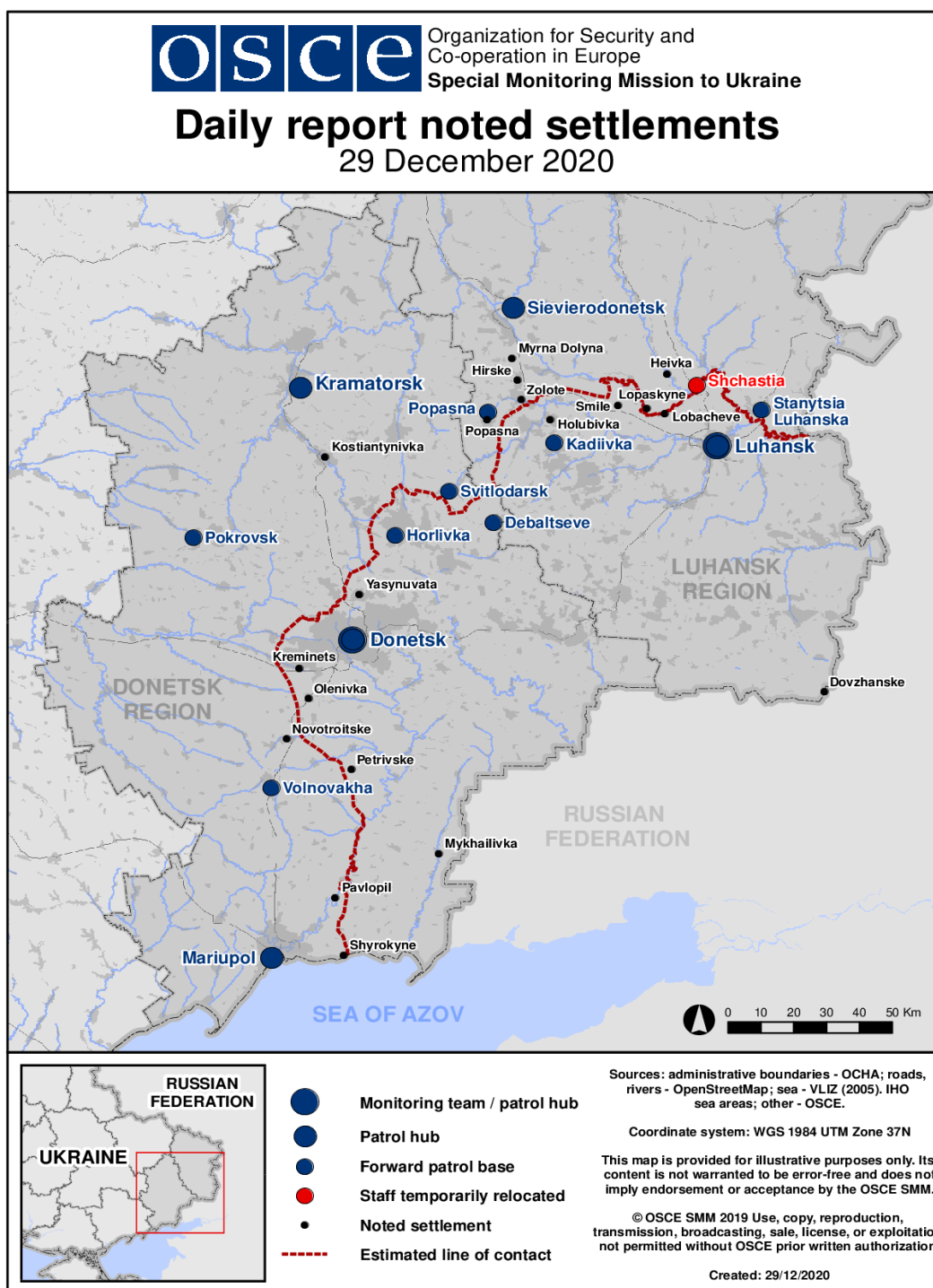
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:25
	1-2km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the other SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	28-Dec, 18:11
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	200-400m S	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	27-Dec, 22:32
	200-400m S	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N	N/K	27-Dec, 22:32
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Dec, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:04
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:05
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Dec, 22:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 22:06
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:09
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:09
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:10
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:11
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:13
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:13
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:16
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	27-Dec, 22:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:17
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:18
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:18
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:18
	2-4km N	Recorded	9	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:19
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:20
	2-4km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:20
2-4km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:21	
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:21	

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.

	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:21
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Dec, 22:22
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 22:22
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:22
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:23
	2-4km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:23
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:23
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:24
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:25
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:26
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:27
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:27
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:29
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:31
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:31
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:33
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:36
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:37
	5-7km N	Recorded	10	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:38
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:44
	3-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:49
	3-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:50
	3-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 22:54
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 22:59
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	27-Dec, 23:02
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:05
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:07
	1-3km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	27-Dec, 23:08
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:08
	2-4km N	Recorded	18	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	27-Dec, 23:11
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:15
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:16
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:16
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:18
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:19
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:20
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Dec, 23:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 23:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Dec, 23:49
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Dec, 17:28
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 23:34
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	27-Dec, 21:46
About 1km NW of the railway station in	2-3km SW	Heard	30	Burst		HMG	28-Dec, 09:10-09:20

Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	28-Dec, 09:10-09:20
	1-3km SSW	Heard	45	Shot		Small arms	28-Dec, 09:33-09:50
About 600m ESE of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	16	Shot		Small arms	28-Dec, 10:33-10:50
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2km SW	Heard	25	Burst		HMG	28-Dec, 12:17
	4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Dec, 12:23
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Dec, 16:29

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).