

OSCCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Daily Report 42/2021

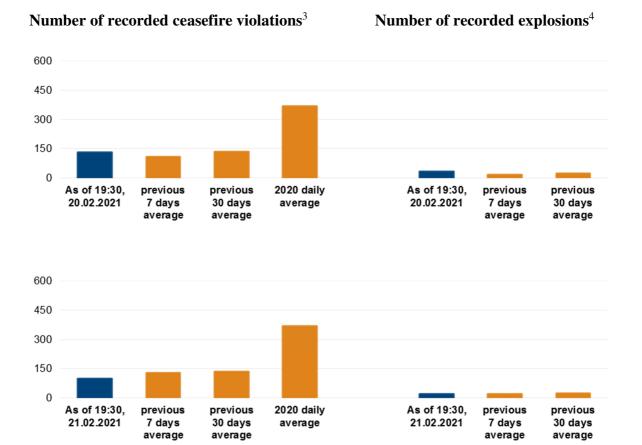
22 February 2021¹

Summary

- Between the evenings of 19 and 21 February, the SMM recorded 25 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 594 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 19 and 21 February, the Mission recorded 204 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded eight ceasefire violations in the region.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle was damaged by small-arms fire near • Dachne, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and again saw containers inside and near the southern edge of the area near Zolote and people inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four • entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored gatherings in Kyiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Odessa.
- The Mission monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region. •
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted*.

Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

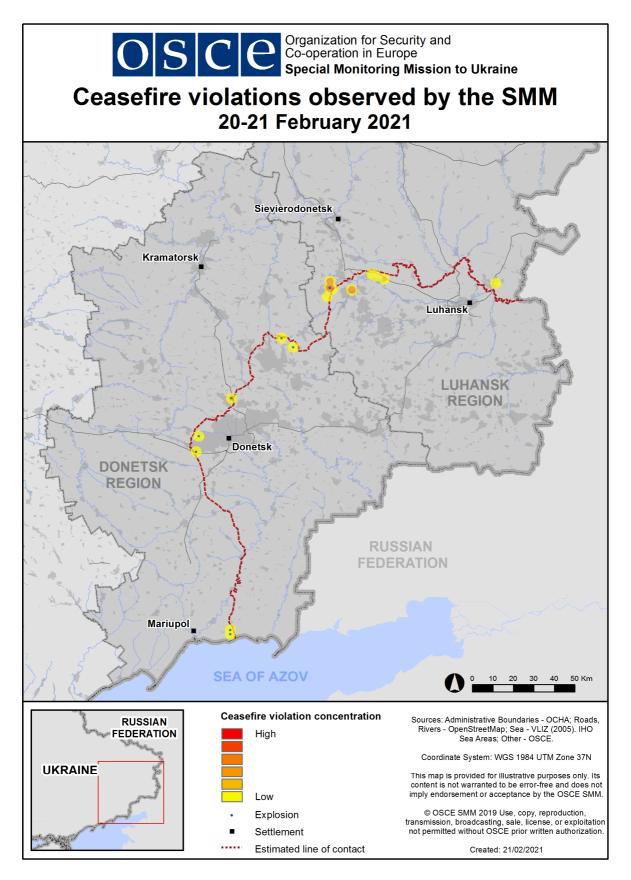


² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



- 3 -

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 February, the SMM recorded 25 ceasefire violations, including 19 explosions (all undetermined), the majority of which occurred in areas north-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) during the night between 19 and 20 February, as well as in areas south-west of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) during the day on 21 February. In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded 594 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 19 and 21 February, the Mission recorded 204 ceasefire violations, including 31 explosions (30 undetermined and one impact of an undetermined weapon), the majority of which occurred at south-easterly, south-westerly and westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) on 20 February. In the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded eight ceasefire violations in the region.

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 so far recorded at least 10,515 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,406 explosions, 1,180 projectiles in flight, 101 muzzle flashes, 61 illumination flares and at least 5,767 bursts and shots).

SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle damaged by small-arms fire near Dachne, Luhansk region

On 21 February, while positioned in Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2–2.5km north-north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 2km north-north-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and saw damage to one of its landing legs, assessed as caused by small-arms fire. The SMM left the area*.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

During the night between 20 and 21 February, while in Stanytsia Luhanska (governmentcontrolled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1–2km east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 20 and 21 February, inside the area, the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 19 February, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: two on the northern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, about 550m west of its north-eastern corner, and one inside the area, about 3km west-south-west of its north-eastern corner. Also inside the area, the same UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

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 the evening of 19 February, the SMM camera in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3–5km east-south-east. On the evening of 20 February, the same camera recorded 14 explosions (13 undetermined and an impact of an undetermined weapon) and 54 projectiles in flight, all at an assessed range of 3–5km east-south-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 20 February, while positioned at four locations close to the area, the SMM heard 108 ceasefire violations (16 undetermined explosions, 89 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine gun fire, as well as three shots of undetermined weapons), all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 20 and 21 February, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of the area's southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). On both days, the Mission saw about 17 workers laying concrete tiles within the fenced perimeter and installing aluminium panels around it. The Mission again saw concrete blocks placed along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter.

On both days, it again saw a container, which was previously located about 30m north of the area's southern edge, on the area's southern edge.

On both days, inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five containers and another one about 350m north of the area's southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. About 10-30m north of the former container, the Mission again saw six concrete blocks placed in three rows across both lanes of the same road. On both days, the Mission saw workers digging in the ground and connecting underground electricity cables from the former container to the latter container. On 20 February, it saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) holding prodding instruments near the two containers. On 21 February, it saw workers connecting an underground telephone cable from the former container to the latter container.

On 21 February, 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 19 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (nongovernment-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 530m east-north-east of the area's south-western corner.

Also inside the area, the same UAV spotted two people inside former positions of the armed formations, one near the area's eastern edge, about 370m north of its south-eastern corner, and one near the area's southern edge, about 180m west-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On 20 and 21 February, while positioned at several locations close to the area, the Mission observed a calm situation.⁶

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, it observed a self-propelled howitzer in a governmentcontrolled area of Donetsk region and 21 multiple launch rocket systems in a non-governmentcontrolled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Heavy weapons permanent storage sites

At a heavy weapons permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region

20 February The SMM saw that one multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) was missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential area (for further information, see the table below).

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

On 20 and 21 February, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

On 20 February and 21 February, it facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and repairs of sewage infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53m north-east of Donetsk). On 21 February, while positioned at a location near the settlement, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2–3km north-east of its position.

On 20 February, the Mission monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to a power line near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 20 February, in Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any people passing through, and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed

⁶ Page four of the SMM Daily Report of 17 February 2021 should have read "Subsequently, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw the same car, which was about 200m west-north-west of its position, on the northern edge of the aforementioned road, and the three men load wood onto the trailer, drive towards the former location on the southern edge of the road and unload the wood. From there, the Mission saw two of the men drive away in the car south-eastwards towards Petrivske".

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

On 20 February, in Luhansk region, at 09:10 a.m. at the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission saw 20 people (12 women and eight men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and no people queuing in the opposite direction. On 21 February, at 09:10 a.m., it saw 200 people (120 women and 80 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and none queuing in the opposite direction. On both days, the SMM observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and the EECP.

On 21 February, at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., the Mission saw about 200 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 100 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On both days, the SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (governmentcontrolled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but did not observe any people passing through, and 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 gatherings in Kyiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Odessa

On 20 and 21 February, the SMM monitored gatherings to commemorate 2014 Maidan events: two with 200 and 150 people in Kyiv, two with 400 and 100 people in Lviv, one with 220 people in Chernivtsi and one with 100 people in Odessa. At each gathering, the SMM observed people of mixed genders and ages and law enforcement officers standing nearby, and a calm situation throughout.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 19 and 20 February, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson); at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson); and in and near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson).

The Mission continued monitoring in Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv and Dnipro.

*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 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 <u>SMM Daily Report of 19 February 2021</u>). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following <u>the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near</u> <u>Pryshyb</u>; 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.

Other impediments:8

- On 19 February, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), and GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) and near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).
- On 21 February, while positioned in Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The SMM landed the UAV and saw damage to one of its legs, assessed as caused by small-arms fire. The Mission left the area (see above).
- On 21 February, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk).

⁸ 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' position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation						
		Government-cont	rolled areas							
19/2/2021	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 Akatsiya, 152mm)	Near Yakovlivka (83km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV						
	Non-government-controlled areas									
20/2/2021	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 Grad, 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol						

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation						
Government-controlled areas										
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined	Near Katerynivka (64km west of Luhansk)							
19/2/2021	1 Probable infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined)		Near Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	Long-range						
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP	Near Myronivskyi (62km north-east of Donetsk)	UAV						
	4	variant)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)							
20/2/2021	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle		rmoured reconnaissance vehicle Near Heorhiievka (27km south-west of Donetsk)							
	2	(BRDM-2)	In a residential area in Halytsynivka (29km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol						

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 04:02
	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 04:03
	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 04:08
	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 04:20
	3-5km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 04:22
	3-5km NE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 05:02
	3-5km NE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 05:09
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 01:41
(government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 03:19
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Feb, 22:59
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government- controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	1-2km E	Heard	5	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	20-Feb, 00:36-00:38
NW edge of Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-	2-3km WSW	Heard	48	Shot	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	Small arms	20-Feb, 09:12-09:20
controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	2-3km WSW	Heard	7	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	Small arms	20-Feb, 09:12-09:20
About 1.5km SW of Molodizhne (non- government- controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km NW	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	20-Feb, 13:30-13:35
	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 13:30-13:35
	0.8-1km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 13:30-13:35

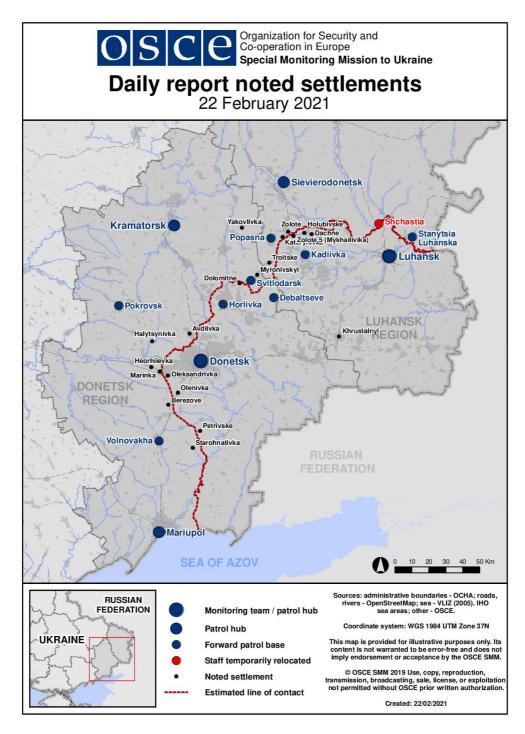
Table of ceasefire violations as of 21 February 2021¹⁰

¹⁰ 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.

	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Feb, 13:30-13:35
	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Shot		N/K	20-Feb, 13:30-13:35
E edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-3km NE	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	20-Feb, 13:35-13:40
	2-3km NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 13:35-13:40
W edge of Kalynove Borshchuvate (non- government- controlled, 61km W	6-8km NW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 13:45-14:05
of Luhansk)	6-8km NW	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	N/K	20-Feb, 13:45-14:05
	6-8km NW	Heard	27	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	20-Feb, 13:45-14:05
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government- controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Feb, 00:00
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 18:54
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 18:57
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:03
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:03
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:05
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:23
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote	N/K	20-Feb, 19:23

					disengagement area)		
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:24
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:25
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:27
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	5	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:27
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	(assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:34
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:34
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	22	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:37
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	20-Feb, 19:38

Staromykhailivka (non-government- controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Feb, 13:46
Oleksandrivka (non- government-	1km SW	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	21-Feb, 14:37
controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1km SW	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	21-Feb, 14:41
	5km N/K	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Feb, 14:48
About 1km E of Holmivskyi (non- government- controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Feb, 14:05
Sentianivka (formerly Frunze,	1.8-2.5km ENE	Heard	13	Shot		Small arms	21-Feb, 11:29-11:32
non-government- controlled, 44km W of Luhansk)	3-4km NW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	21-Feb, 10:45
Dachne (non- government- controlled, 47km W of Luhansk)	2-2.5km NNW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	21-Feb, 10:49-10:50



Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹

¹¹ 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).