

Daily Report 207/2021

4 September 2021¹

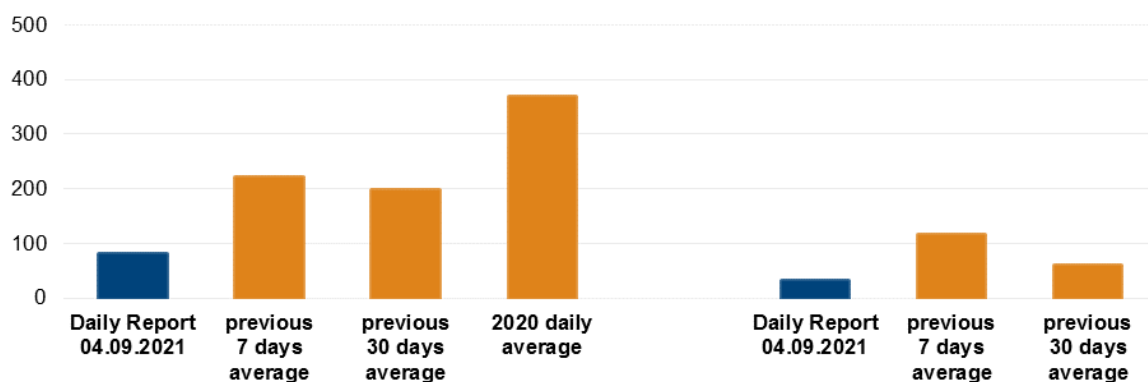
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 48 ceasefire violations, including 12 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 66 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 34 ceasefire violations, including 19 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on damage to a civilian property in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske and close to the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission 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's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference. *

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 3 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.

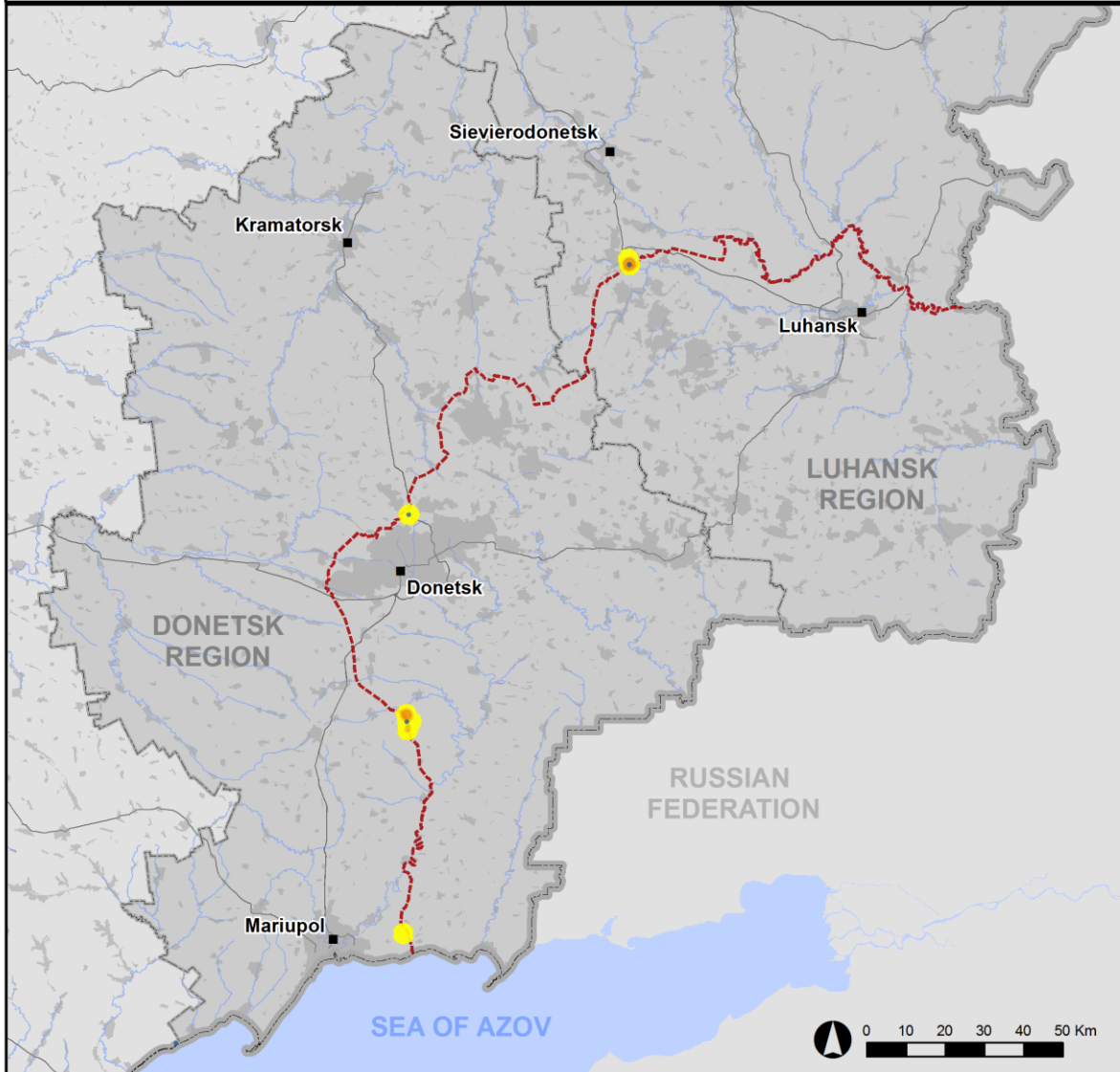
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

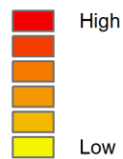


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 3 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 04/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 48 ceasefire violations, including 12 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas close to the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below) and in an area west-south-west of Babakh-Tarama (government-controlled, 134km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 66 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred in areas close to the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 34 ceasefire violations, including 19 explosions (one airburst and 18 undetermined). All ceasefire violations occurred in an easterly and northerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations, all of which also occurred near the same disengagement area.

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 SMM has recorded at least 53,944 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 15,584 explosions, 10,532 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 219 illumination flares and at least 27,339 bursts and shots).

Damage to a civilian property in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to a house in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) on 31 August 2021.

On 2 September, at 297 Shevchenka Street in the south-eastern part of Oleksandrivka, at an inhabited single-storey house, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a dent in the upper part of the entrance door, as well as a shattered window on the right side of the door, both facing west-north-west. The Mission assessed the damage as recent but was unable to assess the weapon used or the direction of fire.

A woman (in her sixties), who introduced herself as the house's owner, told the Mission that in the morning of 31 August, she had been at a local shop when she had heard shelling and, upon returning to her house, she heard a loud explosion and the sound of shattering glass, before taking a shelter in the basement.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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

On the evening and night of 2-3 September, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one explosion (an airburst), and three projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 3-5km east and east-north-east. During the day on 3 September, while positioned on the south-western edge of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard 18 undetermined explosions and 12 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, at an assessed range of

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

2-3km north. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 3 September, the SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area. Inside the disengagement area, about 350m north of its southern edge, the SMM saw again a previously reported underground structure covered by a green camouflaged net. On the same day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them).

On 2 September, outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, about 200m west of the area's north-eastern corner, in a field between road C-051532 and the area's northern edge, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a crater (not previously reported and not visible in imagery from 25 May 2021).

On the night of 2-3 September, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded one undetermined explosion and eight projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 1-4km east and south-east, unable to be assessed as inside or outside the disengagement area. During the day on 3 September, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka, the SMM heard three bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 3km east, assessed as inside the disengagement area, and 24 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, at an assessed range of 2-3km north-east, 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 one surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, in a residential area.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites, the SMM observed four anti-tank guns and one surface-to-air missile system in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in a residential area. (For further information, see the tables below.)

Weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn⁶

At a heavy weapons holding area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region

3 September 2021

The SMM noted that 13 towed howitzers (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were present, and that ten towed howitzers (D-20, 152mm) were missing, compared to the previous visit on 17 February 2020.

At a heavy weapons holding area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region

3 September 2021

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

The SMM noted that 12 self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) were present compared to the previous visit on 10 February 2020, when the Mission saw nine of the same self-propelled howitzers.

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

The SMM saw one anti-aircraft gun and four armoured combat vehicles in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, including in a residential area. It also saw five armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of the operation of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasinuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-4km south-west, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to the roof of a sewage treatment plant near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk), assessment and maintenance works at a phenol sludge reservoir near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk) and repair works to power lines in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed 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 open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

At the EECP, the Mission observed the ongoing fence replacement works: five workers (men, in their twenties to forties) continued to install a 3m-high wire fence. Also at the EECP, the SMM again observed ten workers (men, in their twenties to fifties) using a crane to assemble structures, assessed as shelters for the border guards. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 3 September 2021](#).)

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.

The Mission 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 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 [SMM Daily Report of 1 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”.
- At a checkpoint near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south-west towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”. 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.

Other impediments:⁷

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during 12 flights: three times over areas near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk); twice over areas near Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), non-government-controlled Novoselivka (16km west of Luhansk), and Krasnyi Lyman (30km north-west of Luhansk); and once over areas near non-government-controlled Spartak (9km north of Donetsk), Yasynuvata (16km north-east of Donetsk), and Zhovte (17km north-west of Luhansk).
- The Mission cancelled one mid-range UAV flight due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, near Luhanske.

⁷ 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.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
30/8/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In a residential area of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
30/8/2021	4	Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	Near Novoolenivka (48km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
1/9/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a residential area of Berdychi (24km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
30/8/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
3/9/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (one BMP-1 and two BMP-2)	Near Nelipivka (40km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
2/9/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP variant)	Near Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novokyivka (25km east of Luhansk)	
	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		

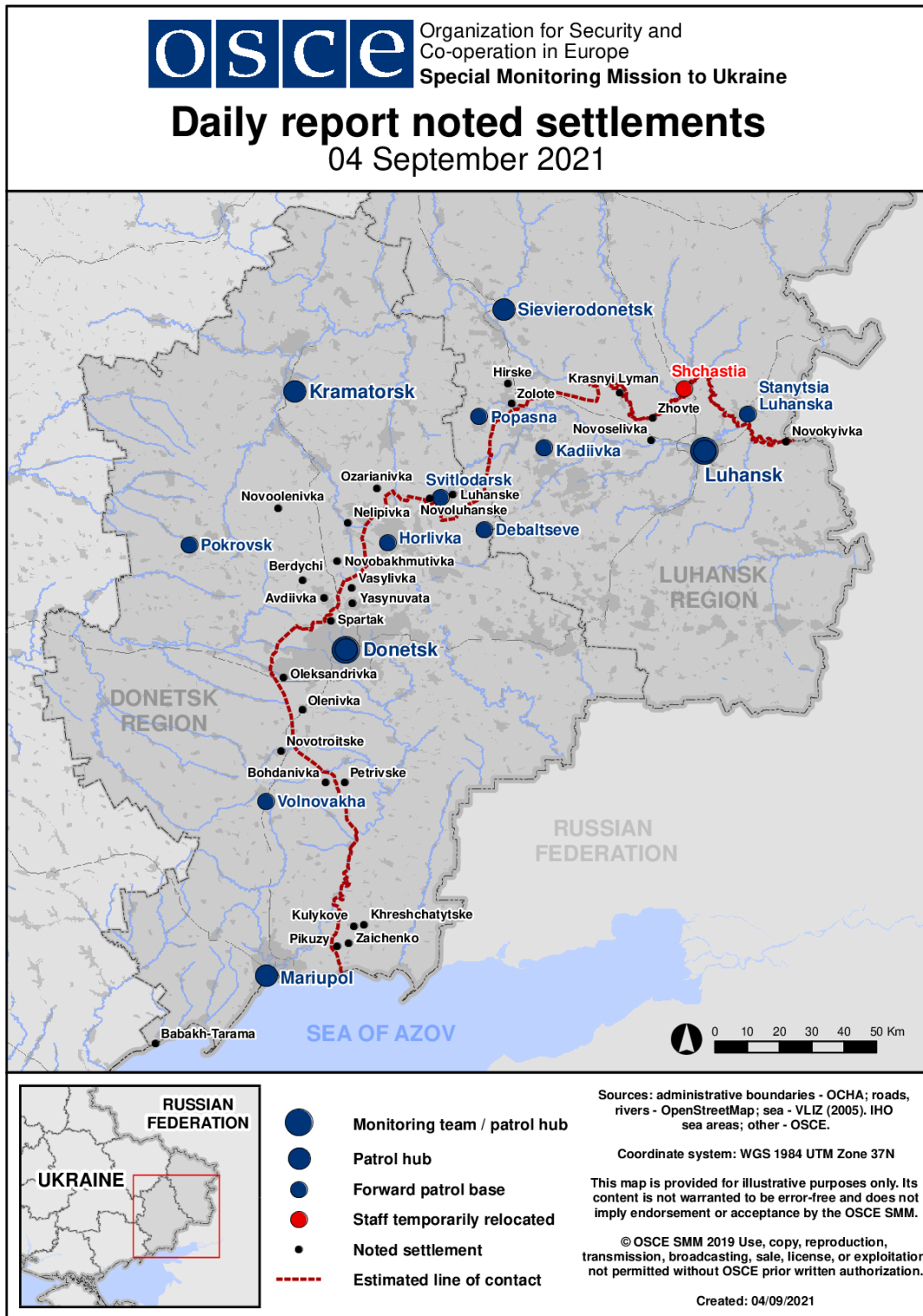
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 3 September 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	3-Sep, 00:02
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	3-Sep, 00:36
	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	3-Sep, 00:37
	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	3-Sep, 01:26
	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (unable to be assessed if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	3-Sep, 05:03
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	3-Sep, 00:05
Babakh-Tarama (government-controlled, 134km south-west of Donetsk)	2-4km WSW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Sep, 11:42-12:03
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	19	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	3-Sep, 12:47-13:00
	2-3km NE	Heard	5	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	3-Sep, 12:47-13:00
	3km E	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	3-Sep, 12:47-13:00
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Sep, 12:57
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	2-Sep, 21:21
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	2-Sep, 21:56
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	3-Sep, 01:57
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	3-Sep, 03:15
	3-5km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	3-Sep, 03:15
SW edge of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-3km N	Heard	18	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	3-Sep, 12:23-12:29
	2-3km N	Heard	12	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	3-Sep, 12:23-12:29

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).