

Ukraine Crisis Update: May 14, 2015

1 May 9-14: The Donetsk People's Republic held a Victory Day parade in the city of Donetsk on May 9, displaying an estimated 30 heavy weapons and units of armor in violation of the Minsk II ceasefire agreement. Ukrainian military analyst Dmytro Tymchuk reported on May 12 that the weapons and armor displayed in the parade had not been withdrawn from the city. Separatist forces continued to launch indirect fire strikes on Ukrainian positions north of Donetsk including in the village of Pisky and the city of Avdiivka. One civilian was killed in shelling on May 10 in the village of Vasylivka, and one wounded in Avdiivka on May 14.



2 May 9-14: Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces continued to exchange indirect fire near the contested village of Shyrokyne. Ukrainian forces reported coming under fire from separatist heavy artillery and mortars. The Ukrainian-held village of Chernalyk, north of Shyrokyne, also came under fire.



3 May 9: The Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) held a Victory Day parade in the city of Luhansk. Tanks and heavy weapons were displayed along with a reported 800 fighters.



4 May 10-11, 13: Russian-backed separatists shelled Ukrainian positions along the T1303 "Bakhmutka" highway. The OSCE international monitoring team reported coming under Ukrainian machine gun fire near the village of Krymske on May 10. On May 13 Ukrainian forces engaged a separatist reconnaissance unit near the village of Novotoshkivske.



5 May 10-14: Russian-backed separatists attacked Ukrainian positions near the town of Stanytsia Luhanska (east) and the city of Shchastia (west). Heavy weapons, including mortars and anti-aircraft weapons were used in the attacks.

● Donetsk People's Republic (DNR)

● Luhansk People's Republic (LNR)

● Cossack

● Combined Separatist

● Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO)

★ Acting Regional Admin Center

★ Regional Admin Center

■ Separatist Held Territory

★ Major Clash

★ Indirect Fire



6 May 11-13: According to the Kyiv-backed governor of Luhansk Oblast, Russian-backed separatists fired mortars around the Ukrainian-held city of Popasna near the villages of Troitske and Katerynivka.



7 May 12-14: Ukrainian police disarmed an improvised explosive device (IED) on a gas line in the city of Odesa on May 12. An IED detonated on May 13 on a railway bridge, damaging the track. On May 14, an IED detonated in a manhole across from a railway transport technical school.

8 May 12: Ukrainian military analyst Dmytro Tymchuk reported that 10 "Grad" multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) had been moved to the DNR-held cities of Ilovaisk and Torez. Tymchuk also said that a shipment of 100 tank engines from Russia arrived in Ilovaisk.



9 May 12: Russian-backed separatists shelled Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation positions north of the Donetsk People's Republic-held city of Horlivka. Heavy artillery and mortars were reportedly used in the attacks.



Hugo Spaulding and Joseph Dvorak

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Russian-backed separatists continue to posture for a surprise offensive. The separatists held Victory Day military parades in Donetsk and Luhansk on May 9 marking the 70th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. Both parades included heavy weapons, which the February 12 ceasefire agreement required both Ukrainian and separatist forces to withdraw. Reports suggest that the weapons and armor deployed near the front line for Victory Day have not been withdrawn in accordance with the ceasefire agreement. On May 12 and 13, the unrecognized separatist Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DNR and LNR) issued their proposals for local elections and regional autonomy to the trilateral Ukraine-Russia-OSCE ceasefire working group. The separatists may launch an offensive to force Ukraine to concede to these terms, which would ban pro-Ukrainian parties from the elections and would give the separatists the right to form locally commanded militias.