

Daily Report 14/2020

18 January 2020¹

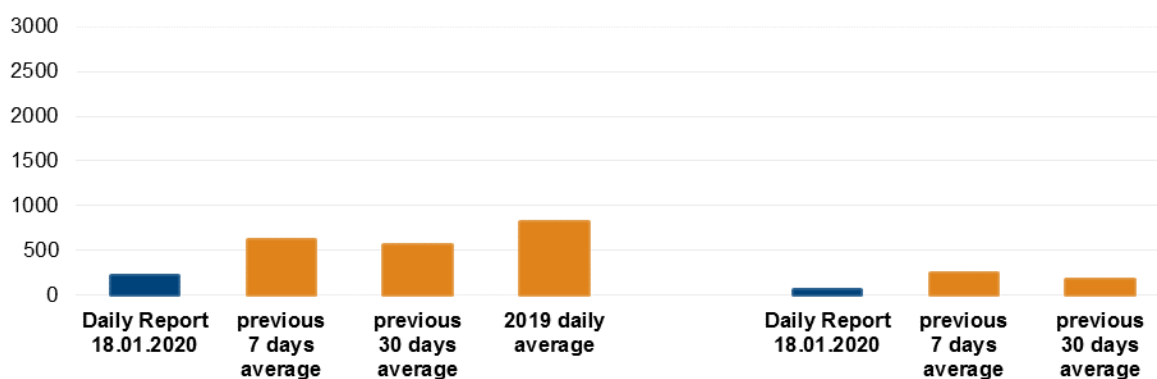
Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle flying over areas on the north-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city.
- The SMM saw weapons in violation of withdrawal lines, mostly in non-government-controlled areas in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the security situation at the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- It saw for the first time anti-tank mines near government-controlled Zolote-4/Rodina.
- The SMM monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 January 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

³ Including explosions.

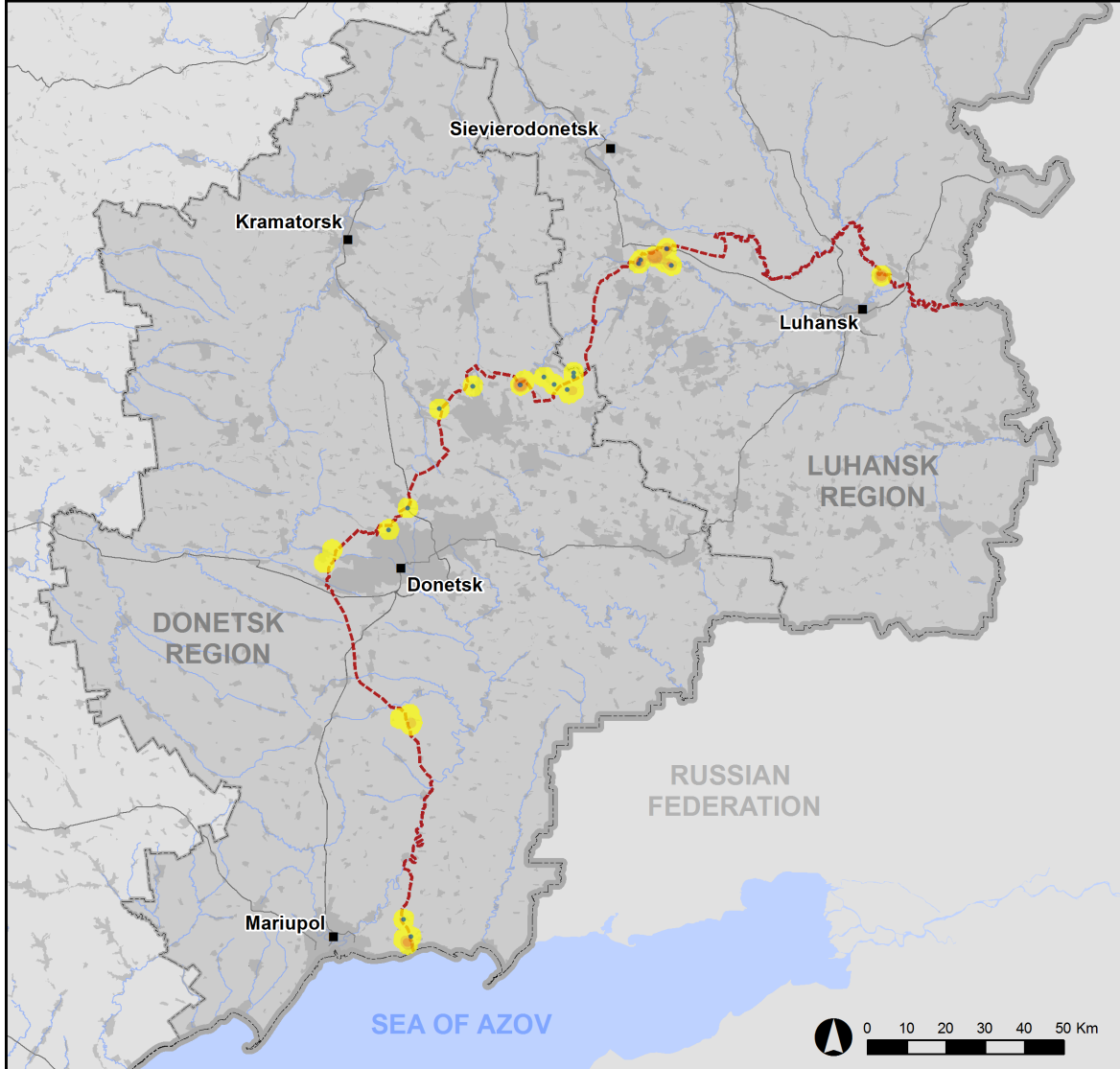
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

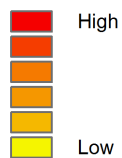


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 January 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: 18/01/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (40), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 260 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded in areas south-west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) and in areas north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (about 30), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 430 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded at northerly directions of Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle on the north-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city

On 17 January, while conducting an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight over areas on the north-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city (non-government-controlled), the SMM heard 25 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 0.8-1.5km north, assessed as directed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.2km north of its position. The SMM landed its UAV safely and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 17 January, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and their checkpoint south of it.

On 16 January, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted at least 650 anti-tank mines in fields south of the railway line and east and west of road T-1316 inside **the disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. The same day, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) (BMP variants) about 100m east of the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces 300m north of the disengagement area.

On 17 January, positioned at two locations near the Zolote disengagement area, the SMM heard ten undetermined explosions and 11 shots and bursts of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 16 January, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two probable armoured personnel carriers (BTR variants) and two IFVs (BMP variants) at two locations about 450m north-west and about 700m south-west outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

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.

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

The SMM saw weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines, mostly in non-government-controlled areas in Luhansk region and weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in non-government-controlled areas in Luhansk region (for further details, see the table below).

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

The SMM observed military and military-type presence on both sides of the contact line, including armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns (for further details, see the table below).

On 15 January, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a new position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces north of a local road east of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) (not seen in imagery from 21 November 2019) about 500m west of previously observed positions. About 600m further east of the abovementioned new position, and about 1.7km north-east of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the UAV spotted two trenches (respectively 20m and 30m-long) on both sides of the same local road, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not seen in imagery from October 2019). The same UAV also spotted about 30 craters in the same area (not visible in imagery from 12 November 2019).

Presence of anti-tank mines near Zolote-4/Rodina and mine hazard sign between Raivka and Kruta Hora

On 15 January, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time seven anti-tank mines laid in a single row across a local road about 1.7km east-north-east of Zolote-4/Rodina, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for more observations in the same area, see *Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone* above).

On 17 January, the SMM saw for the first time a mine hazard sign on wooden stakes reading “Stop, Mines” in Russian and an improvised roadblock made of branches across the road between Raivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north-west of Luhansk) and Kruta Hora (non-government-controlled, 17km north of Luhansk).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance works at the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk), repair works to power lines in Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk) and an assessment and repairs of a water distribution conduit between Nyzhnie (government-controlled, 56km north-west of Luhansk) and Novotoshkivske (government-controlled, 53km west of Luhansk), and in Novotoshkivske. The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

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

***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 [SMM Daily Report 15 January 2020](#)). 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 of access:

- At a checkpoint near Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”.
- At a checkpoint north of Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk) and Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining activities”. While positioned at the checkpoint, the SMM saw two civilian cars passing through the checkpoint.
- At a checkpoint north of Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards Novoazovsk citing “ongoing anti-terrorist operations in the area”.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint west of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage after about 30 minutes of waiting.

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:

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have occurred within a radius of several kilometres from the UAV's position.

- On the north-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city (non-government-controlled), the SMM heard 25 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as directed at its UAV (see above).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/01/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In Vidrozhennia (66km north-east of Donetsk), near residential houses	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/01/2020	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini UAV
	6	Towed howitzer (D-30, <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	6	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	5	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (27km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini UAV
	1	Anti-tank gun (MT-12)		
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	Near Dokuchaievsk (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1)	In a training area near Ternove (15km south-east of Luhansk)	
	4	Tank (type undetermined)	Near Novoselivka (16km west of Luhansk)	

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/01/2020	4	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (see above)	Mini UAV
	18	Tank (eight T-64 and ten T-72)		
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35)		
	1	Self-propelled mortar (2S9 <i>Nona-S</i> , 120mm)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (see above)	
	11	Tank (T-72)		
	20	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Ternove (see above)	Long-range UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/01/2020	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Zolote-4/Rodina (59km west of Luhansk)	Mini UAV
	6	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	
16/01/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (one probable, BTR-variant)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)		
	2	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Zolote-4/Rodina	
	6	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	

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

17/01/2020	1	Armoured personal carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM variant)	Near Sukha Balka (36km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	2	Anti-aircraft gun	In Kriakivka (38km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personal carrier (BTR-80)		Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/01/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, 44km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	1	New trench, 30m long		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novohryhorivka (33km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Kalynove (60km west of Luhansk)	

Table of ceasefire violations as of 17 January 2020⁹

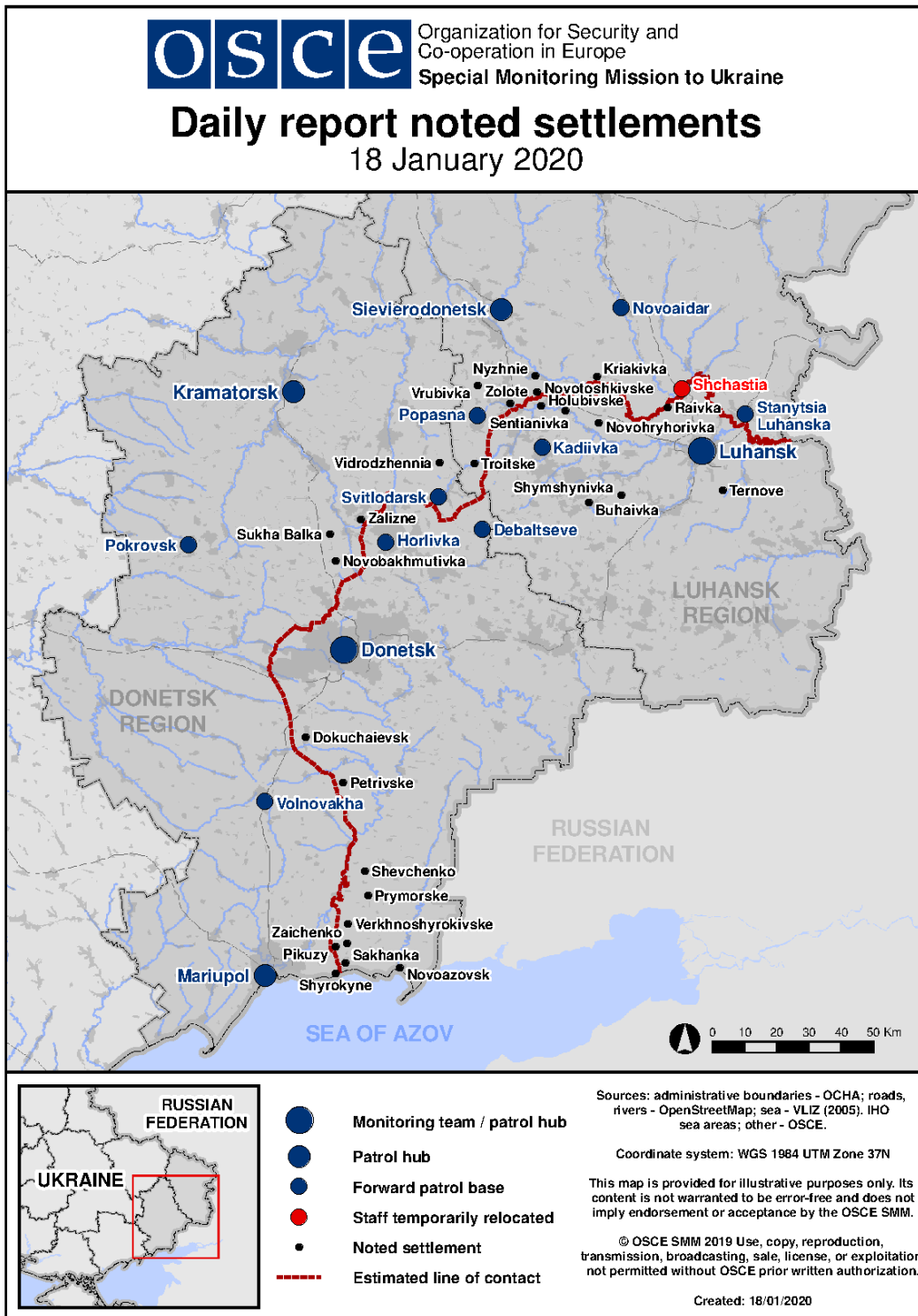
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1.5-2.5km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 23:58
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:22
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	16-Jan, 19:37
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:37
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	16-Jan, 19:40
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to the previous event	N/K	16-Jan, 19:40
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	6-8km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	17-Jan, 18:06
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2.5km SSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	11-Jan, 16:50
	1-2.5km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	11-Jan, 20:03
	1-2.5km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	11-Jan, 21:28
	1-2.5km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	11-Jan, 22:28
	0.5-1.5km SSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	12-Jan, 04:01
	0.5-1.5km SSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	12-Jan, 05:27
	0.5-1.5km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	12-Jan, 05:59
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	6	Projectile		N/K	16-Jan, 19:48
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	7	Projectile		N/K	16-Jan, 23:54
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	17-Jan, 00:04
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	17-Jan, 00:06
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	17-Jan, 03:49

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM 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 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 and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to the previous event	N/K	17-Jan, 03:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	17-Jan, 17:43
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile		N/K	17-Jan, 17:45
	8-10km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Chermalyk	N/K	17-Jan, 17:45
Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km NW	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	17-Jan, 10:14
Donetsk central railway station (non-government-controlled, 6km NNW of Donetsk city centre)	2-3km NNW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 09:15
About 4km NW of Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km NE of Donetsk)	3km NNW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	17-Jan, 08:17
	6-8km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 08:28
	3-5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 08:39
	3-4km N	Heard	9	Burst		HMG	17-Jan, 11:17
	7-9km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 11:20
	6-8km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 13:43
Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	1-2km NE	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	17-Jan, 11:52
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	N/K N	Heard	5	Shot	Assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area	Small arms	17-Jan, 10:13
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 18:34
	3-6km SW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:24-19:25
	3-6km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	16-Jan, 19:27
	3-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:29
	3-6km SW	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:30-19:33
	3-6km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:38
	3-6km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:49-19:51
	3-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Jan, 19:52
	3-6km SW	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	16-Jan, 20:26
	3-6km SW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	16-Jan, 20:47
	2-4km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 09:59
	2-4km SW	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	17-Jan, 11:03
	W edge of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K

controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)							
NE outskirts of Luhansk city (non-government-controlled)	0.8-1.5km N	Heard	25	Shot	Assessed as aimed at SMM mini-UAV	Small arms	17-Jan, 09:54
S edge of Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	2-3km NNE	Heard	7	Burst		AGL	17-Jan, 10:17-10:20
Holubivske (non-government controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	0.8-1km NNW	Heard	45	Burst		Small arms	17-Jan, 10:45-10:50
	3-5km NE	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 11:10-11:30
	3-5km NE	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	17-Jan, 11:10-11:30
Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km W of Luhansk)	2-5km E	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	17-Jan, 11:22-11:27
	2-5km E	Heard	7	Shot and burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	17-Jan, 11:22-11:35
NE edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	17-Jan, 11:22-11:28
	3-5km NE	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	17-Jan, 11:22-11:28
W edge Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	4-6km NE	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	17-Jan, 11:53
N edge of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 12:30-12:45
	3-5km NW	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	17-Jan, 12:30-12:45
N edge of Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Jan, 13:45-13:55
	3-5km NE	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	17-Jan, 13:45-13:55

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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).