

Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Latest Developments

(August 18, 2024)

Military Operations

Ukrainian Advances in Kursk Region:

Ukraine's offensive in Russia's Kursk region continues. Ukrainian forces claim to have seized more than 80 settlements over 1,150 square kilometres (444 square miles) since the operation began on August 6 [1].



Russian Response:

Russia reports repelling Ukrainian forces near three settlements in the Kursk region and searching for "mobile enemy groups" attempting to advance deeper into the country [2]. The Russian military has begun digging trenches near the Lgov-Sudzha highway in the Kursk region [3].

Combat Engagements:

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported 132 combat engagements on the front lines in the past day, with the enemy most active in the Pokrovsk sector, where 51 attacks were recorded [4].

Donetsk Situation:

Russian forces continue to make gains in Ukraine's east, claiming a string of villages in recent weeks. President Zelensky reported "dozens of Russian assaults" on Ukrainian positions near Toretsk and Pokrovsk [2].

Cyber Operations

DDoS Attack on Monobank: Monobank, a Ukrainian financial institution, has been the target of a sustained Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack for the second consecutive day. Oleh Horokhovskiy, co-founder of Monobank, reported that the attack has been nearly non-stop, with a brief cessation at 22:30 on the first day before resuming at 03:15 the following day. The scale of the attack is significant, with the number of service requests approaching 3 billion over two days. This incident follows previous major DDoS attacks on the bank in December 2023 and January 2024, indicating a pattern of cyber aggression against Ukrainian financial infrastructure [5].

Conclusion

As the conflict enters its 907th day, Ukraine's incursion into Russian territory continues to reshape the dynamics of the war. While Ukraine claims significant territorial gains and strategic victories in Kursk, Russia is responding by reinforcing its defences and conducting counter-offensives in other areas, particularly in eastern Ukraine. The destruction of the Seym river bridge represents a significant tactical development, potentially disrupting Russian supply lines. However, the long-term implications and sustainability of this operation remain uncertain, especially considering the ongoing Russian advances in the Donetsk region.

References:

- [1] The Guardian. (2024, August 18). Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskiy says forces are 'strengthening' positions in Kursk.
- [2] BBC. (2024, August 18). Ukraine strengthening positions in captured Russian territory - Zelensky.
- [3] Ukrinform. (2024, August 18). Russia deploying additional forces to Kursk region – UK intelligence.
- [4] Ukrinform. (2024, August 18). General Staff: 132 combat engagements, 51 enemy attacks repelled in past day.
- [5] Ukrinform. (2024, August 18). Monobank under DDoS attack for second day.