
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Military developments in the Russo-Ukrainian War

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Kherson is a strategic target for Russia's southern offensive

The southern Ukrainian city of Kherson has been a center of conflict in the Russo-Ukrainian War. The Russian Air Force began launching cruise and ballistic missiles at targets in the Kherson region on 24 FEB, effectively destroying military targets throughout the region. Following the missile strikes, the Russian Ground Forces began their assault on Kherson by attempting to cross the Dnieper River via the Antonovskiy Bridge. This attempt failed, as Ukrainian forces were able to push the Russians back to their previous position south of Kherson on occupied Ukrainian territory. A Ukrainian battalion was also deployed in the Kherson region to destroy the Henichesk Bridge, in order to slow Russian advances. That mission was successful. As of 02 MAR, conflicting reports have been released as to whether Kherson is contested or under Russian control. Video footage from 01 MAR appears to show Russian infantry occupying Kherson. END

CMCD Note

Despite conflicting reports, we assess with moderate confidence that Kherson will be under Russian control within the next 48 hours, if it is not already. We base our assessment on the considerable numerical advantage in forces and support assets available to the Russians in Kherson, such as artillery and rocket systems. Kherson is a strategic target for Russia's southern offensive, because it will allow for a steady flow of logistical support from Crimea. Occupying Kherson would allow Russian forces to resupply and advance to their next objectives. We can estimate with low to moderate confidence Russian forces will push to Odessa and Kiev from Kherson in order to deny Ukraine access to the Black Sea and to divide control between the east and west of Ukraine.

Sources

CNN, Battle rages for strategic bridge in Southern Ukraine after days of fighting

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/26/europe/ukraine-kherson-bridge-battle-saturday-intl/index.html>

Western Mass News, Ukrainians push back Russians on bridge to Kherson

https://www.westernmassnews.com/ukrainians-push-back-russians-on-bridge-to-kherson/video_d540a1a2-ff23-5e09-a522-05c7ec8ab124.html

Sky News, Ukraine: Footage shows troops and military vehicles in Kherson as fighting continues between Russian and Ukrainian forces

<https://news.sky.com/video/ukraine-footage-shows-troops-and-military-vehicles-in-kherson-as-fighting-continues-between-russian-and-ukrainian-forces-12554902>