
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Military Advancements in the Russo-Ukrainian War

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Ukrainian counteroffensive in the strategic port city of Kherson

The southern Ukrainian city of Kherson has been a key objective in the Russo-Ukrainian War for both Ukrainian and Russian forces. On 03 MAR Ukrainian government officials stated that Russian forces had completely taken over the strategic port city of Kherson. Beginning on 25 MAR, Ukrainian forces have launched counteroffensive in hopes of retaking the city, which is seen as strategic due to its location at the mouth of the Dnieper River. According to US defense officials, Kherson is now considered “contested territory”, following Ukrainian counteroffensive advancements. We base this on reports of heavy resistance by Ukrainian forces. END

CMCD Note

Ukrainian forces have likely attacked Kherson because it is the closest strategic city to the bulk of the Ukrainian forces, and likely the closest resupply point and command center for Russian forces tasked with advancing west. This counteroffensive comes following a series of counteroffensives conducted northwest of Kyiv; we can estimate with high confidence that the casualty tolls and failure of phase one of the invasion has inhibited Russian forces from continuing with the same operations tempo and success they had in the first week of the war. At this time, we can only estimate with low to moderate confidence that Ukrainian forces will succeed in recapturing Kherson, but it is highly likely that the counteroffensive will disrupt Russian offensive operations in southwest Ukraine.

Sources

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