
Current Intelligence Report Circular

CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Report Topic: Possibility of a Ukrainian Offensive in Kherson

Production Date: 10 November 2022

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Russian forces announce withdrawal from Kherson

Russia's defense minister Sergei Shoigu announced on 09 NOV that he was ordering the retreat of Moscow's forces from Kherson. This is the only Ukrainian regional capital that Moscow had seized since the initial invasion in FEB 2022. Russian commander General Sergei Surovikin said the decision to withdraw was "difficult" but would preserve the lives and combat readiness of forces. END

CMCD Note

We assess with high confidence that the abandonment of Kherson is almost certainly a major blow to Russia's campaign in southeastern Ukraine. However, it is likely that Ukrainian forces will continue their slow advance into Kherson due to fears of the withdrawal being a trap meant to lure Ukrainian forces in and destroy them. Even if the Ukrainian forces reach the west bank of the Dnieper unmolested, it is highly unlikely they will attempt to cross the river immediately.

Sources

BBC, Kherson: Russia to withdraw troops from key Ukrainian city

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63573387>

The New York Times, Russia Orders Withdrawal From Kherson City, in Potential Blow to War Effort

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/11/09/world/ukraine-war-news-russia-updates#russia-kherson-ukraine-war>

The Wall Street Journal, Russia Orders Withdrawal From Kherson, Only Regional Ukrainian Capital It Held

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukrainian-forces-move-into-key-town-north-of-kherson-11667991035>