

Daily Report 256/2020

27 October 2020¹

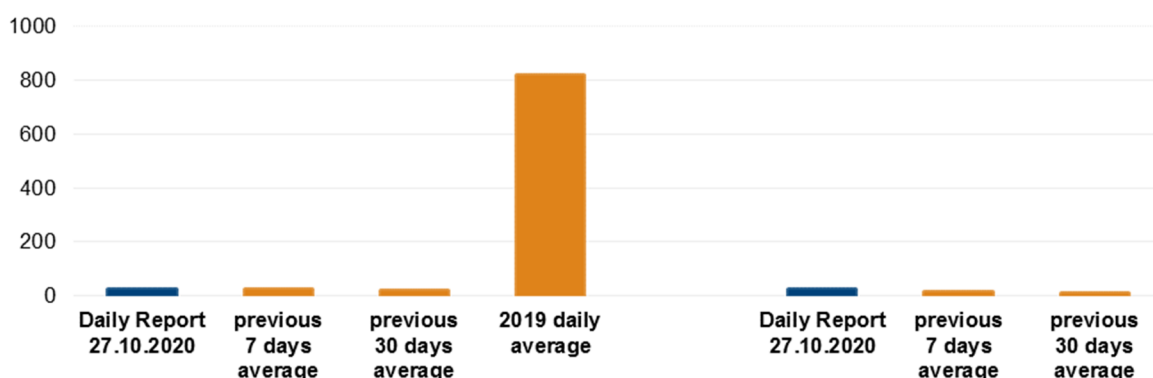
Summary

- The SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded seven ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and ten in Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The Mission saw 69 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region, as well as at an entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 26 October 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and Berezove were not operational.

³ Including explosions

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

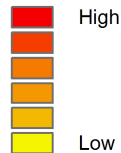


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 26 October 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: 27/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations (all undetermined explosions), the majority of which in areas north of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded seven ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded ten ceasefire violations, all shots of small-arms fire.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 1,903 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 573 explosions, 30 projectiles in flight, 16 muzzle flashes, 23 illumination flares and 1,261 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned in government-controlled areas of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On the evening of 25 October, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 26 October, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) entering the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returning. Inside the disengagement area, near its southern edge, on road T-1316, the Mission saw three workers near a tractor. South of the checkpoint of the armed formations, the SMM saw ten workers with heavy machinery and a crane moving containers.

On the night of 24-25 October, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area's southern edge, about 500m east of its south-western corner.

On 26 October, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

The SMM observed 69 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines: three in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and 66 in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including in four training areas.

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 Mission also observed 193 weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, all in training areas (for more information, see tables below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in residential areas (for further information, see the table below).

Mines observed in Zaitseve, Donetsk region

On 23 October, in five locations in fields and across Manuilskoho Street, near residential houses, in government-controlled areas of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 265 anti-tank mines (some of which assessed as TM-62 and part of larger minefields), all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [24 October 2019](#) and [17 June 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above), north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance of and repairs to power lines near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote – north and south of the disengagement area – and of road H-21 south of Shchastia; and demining activities south of Shchastia.

On the morning of 26 October, a Ukrainian Armed Forces representative of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) informed the SMM that de-miners would be conducting controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO), including mines and a hand grenade in the area. Subsequently, the SMM heard four explosions near the bridge in Shchastia.

North of the bridge, about 150m south-east of the junction of roads H-21 and T-1309 and about 50m north-west of the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the Mission saw four workers standing near a front loader.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations about 2.5km east of Vesela Hora and about 3km south-east of the bridge, the Mission saw three workers from non-government-controlled areas working with heavy equipment and two workers assembling furniture and placing it inside containers, assessed as for administrative use.

In the southern outskirts of Metalist (non-government-controlled, 7km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM saw seven workers with heavy equipment carrying out repairs to road H-21.

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

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), it heard an undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the station.

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter the COVID-19 pandemic

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational.

While at the EECP near Novotroitske from 08:55-10:00 and 13:47-14:45, the Mission saw four buses, ten vehicles and 31 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel to government-controlled areas, and two buses, five vehicles and 17 people (mixed genders and ages) traveling in the opposite direction.

At the EECP, the SMM saw two patients (women, in their eighties) being transferred from a local ambulance to one from another region. Later on the same day, a representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) (man in his thirties) told the SMM that the two patients had been transported from non-government-controlled areas to government-controlled areas. At the EECP, two women (in their thirties and fifties) and a man (in his thirties) told the Mission about a lack of sanitary facilities, with only one remaining in the area outside of the EECP.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations from 08:45-10:00 and from 13:40-14:45, the Mission saw a vehicle and eight people (six women and two men, mixed ages) traveling towards government-controlled areas, and two vehicles and six people (one woman in her thirties, four men in their fifties and one child about four years old) traveling in the opposite direction.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska remained non-operational.⁷

Inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska, the SMM camera north of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge recorded an ambulance arriving from the direction of Stanytsia Luhanska and stopping near the new span of the bridge. It also recorded two people (men, mixed ages), assessed as paramedics, carrying a man (age unknown) on a stretcher out of the vehicle and transferring him into a wheelchair. Subsequently, the SMM saw a woman (age unknown), who had arrived across the bridge from non-government-controlled areas, pushing the wheelchair with the man back across the bridge.

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

⁷ Notice about the EECP's temporary closure from 15 October to 31 October 2020 was published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 13 October. A representative of the SBGS reconfirmed to the SMM on 23 October that the EECP would remain closed until 31 October because of COVID-19 mitigation measures, with special exceptions.

***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, 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 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 12 October 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:

- At a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas, citing a lack of permission from his superiors.

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 impediment:

- On 25 October, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over government-controlled areas between Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Oleksandro-Shulytne (54km north of Donetsk), and between Semyhiria (58km north-east of Donetsk) and Roty (66km north-east of Donetsk).⁸
- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pervomaiske (government-controlled, 17km north-west of Donetsk).

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
24/10/2020	3	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, 67km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
25/10/2020	14	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)	
	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalniyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (27km south-west of Luhansk)	
20/10/2020	17	Self-propelled howitzer (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 66 armoured combat vehicles ⁹	Aerial imagery

Other weapons

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/10/2020	10	Towed howitzer (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/10/2020	22	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery
	18	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 72 armoured personnel carriers	
	8	Self-propelled artillery (type undetermined)		
	19	Towed artillery (type undetermined)		
25/10/2020	19	Tank (probable T-64)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	
	16	Tank (probable T-72)		

⁹ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

	6	Towed howitzer (2A18M, D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)			
	6	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)			
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)			
	6	Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)			
	21	Tank (15 probable T-64 and six T-72)			In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)			In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)			
	2	Tank (probable T-64)			
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)			In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)
	5	Tank (one T-64 and four type undetermined)			
26/10/2020	10	Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/10/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	In a residential area in a government-controlled part of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
24/10/2020	4	Armoured combat vehicles (two of which probable BMP variant)	In a compound in Trudivske (47km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
26/10/2020	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	In a residential area of Vodiane (15km north-west of Donetsk)	

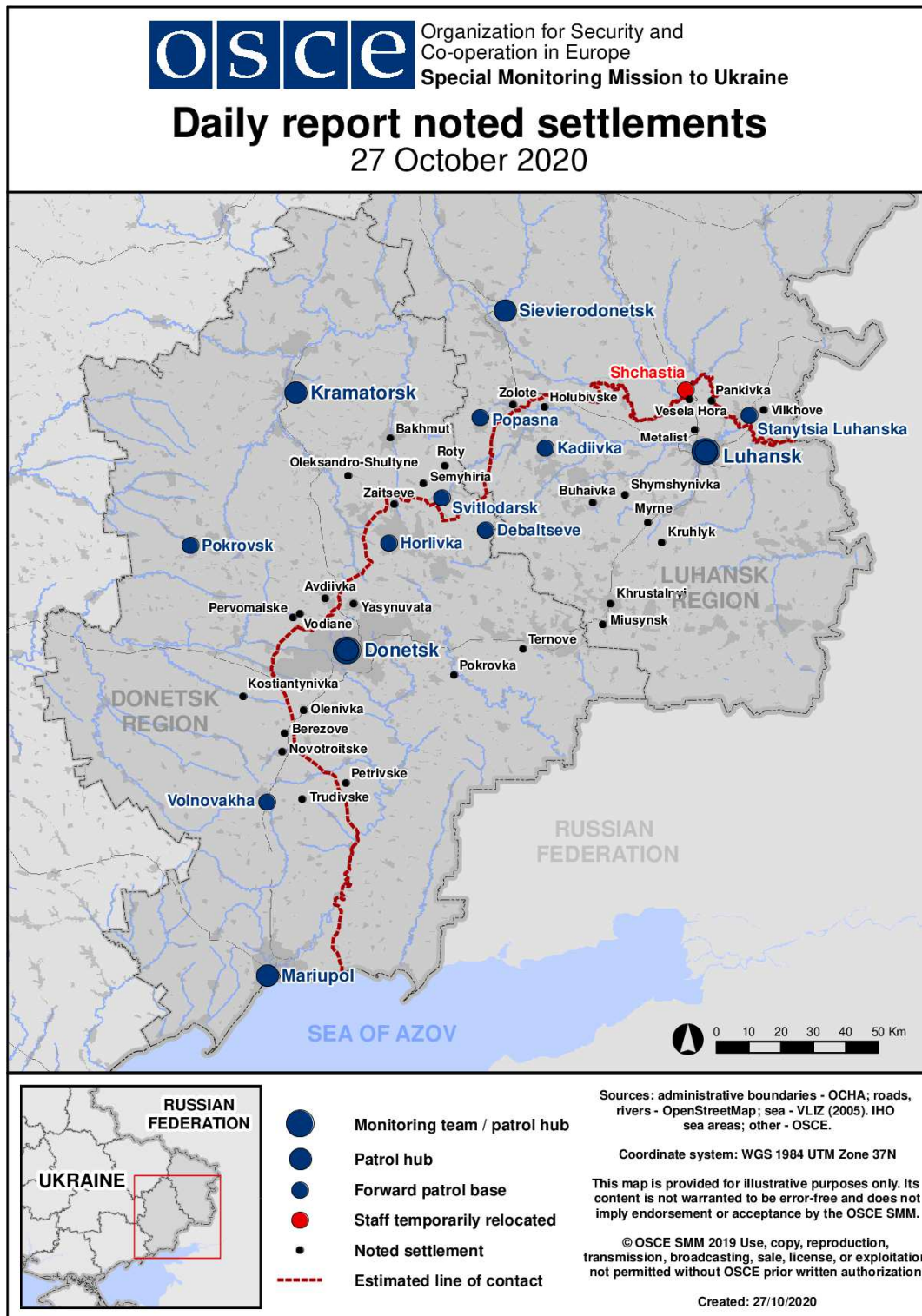
¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 26 October 2020¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Oct, 20:19
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	6-8km N	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Oct, 09:04-09:33
Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Oct, 13:05

¹¹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, 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 technical monitoring officers, 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 technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹²



¹² 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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours.)