

312,554 ceasefire violations

including **8,470** explosions attributable to fire from MLRS, artillery, mortars and tanks

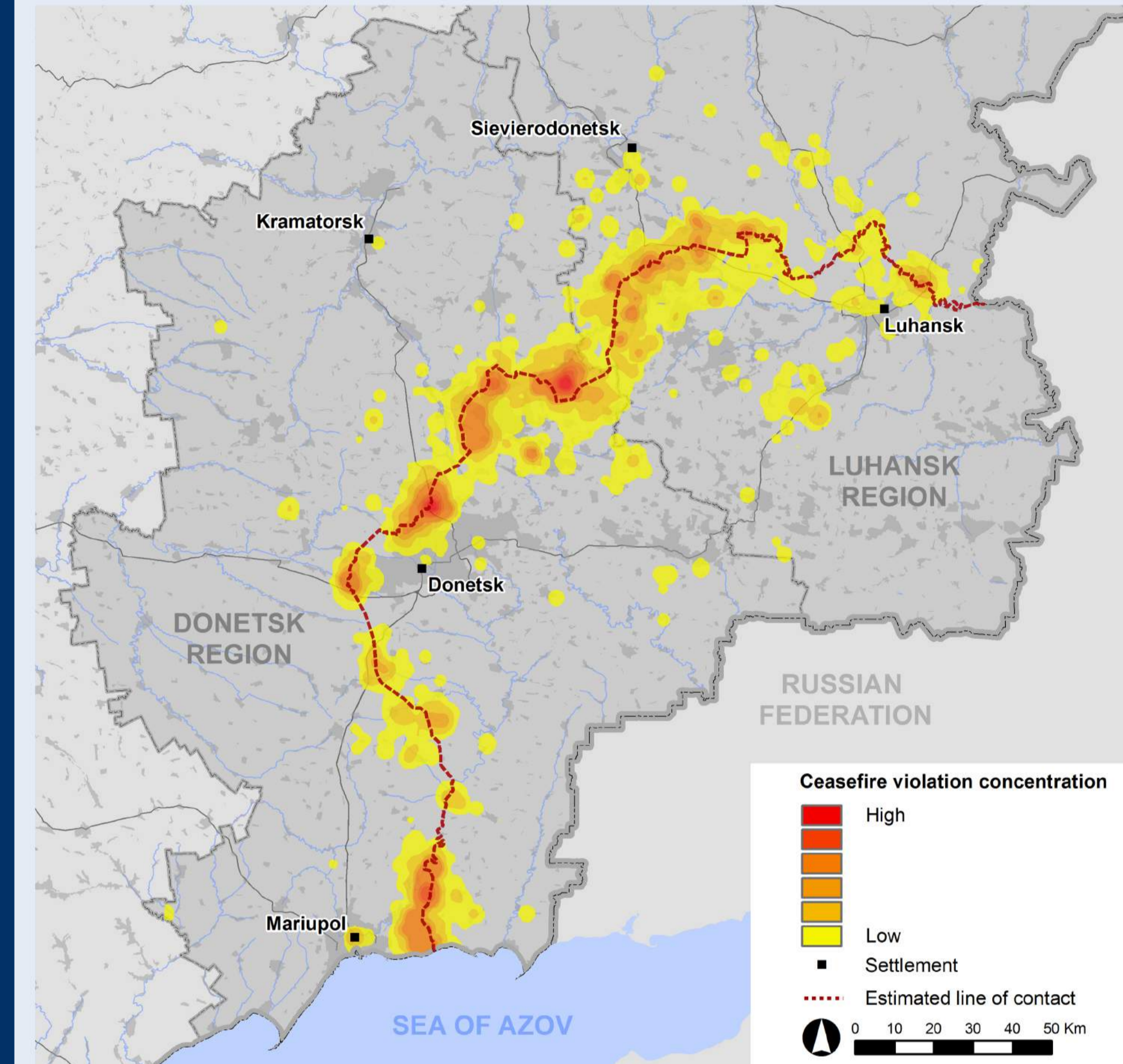
3,818 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

2018 Trends and observations

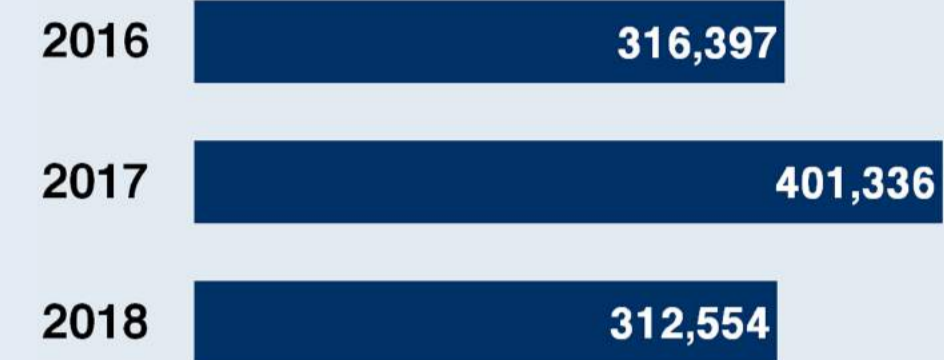
1,176 active freedom of movement restrictions

5 commitments to ceasefire

Ceasefire violations (CFVs)



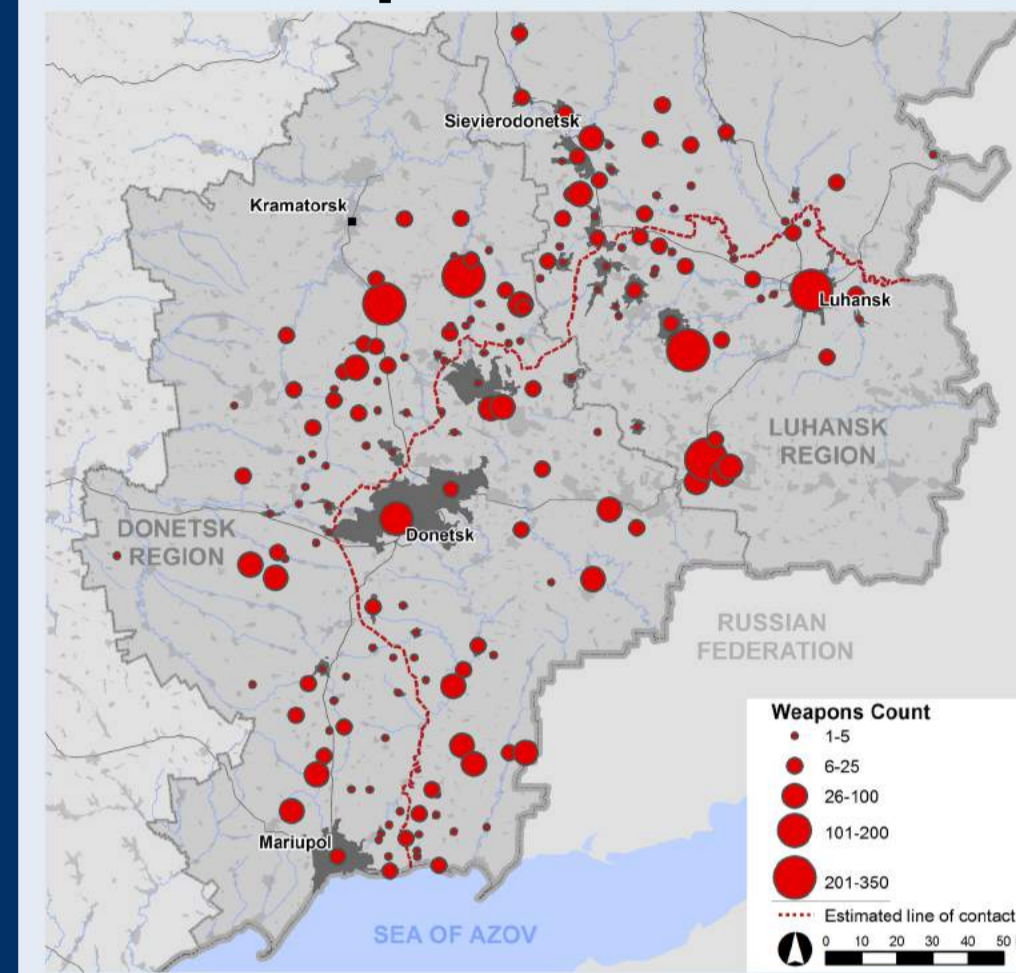
Comparison by years



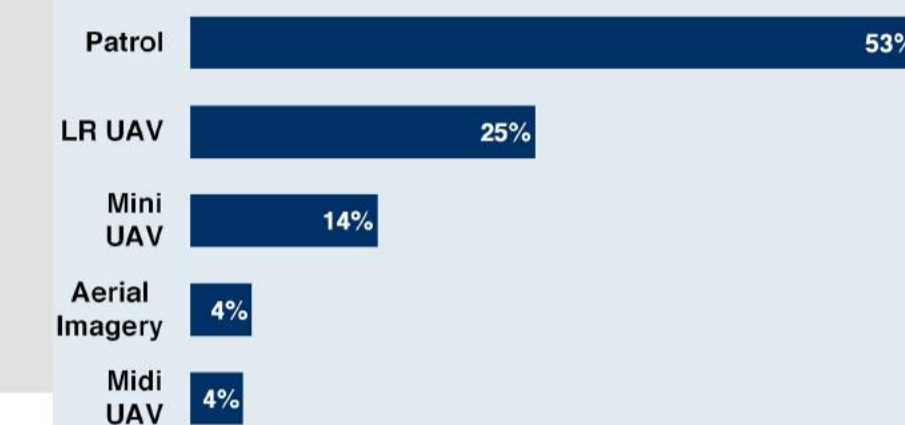
Recommitments to ceasefire

Date of recommitment	Decrease of CFVs observed (%)	Days before number of CFVs reaches half of that prior to recommitment	Days before number of CFVs exceeds that prior to recommitment
05-Mar	92%	8	15
30-Mar	90%	4	5
01-Jul	65%	9	30
29-Aug	60%	7	9
29-Dec	78%	5	16

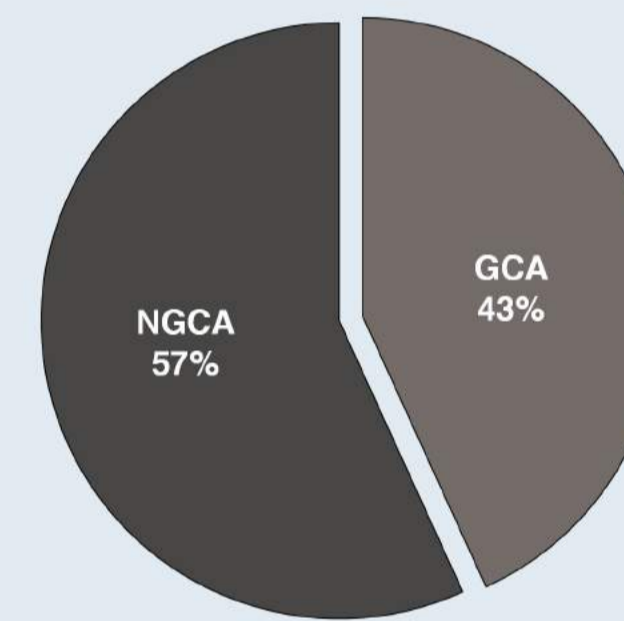
Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines



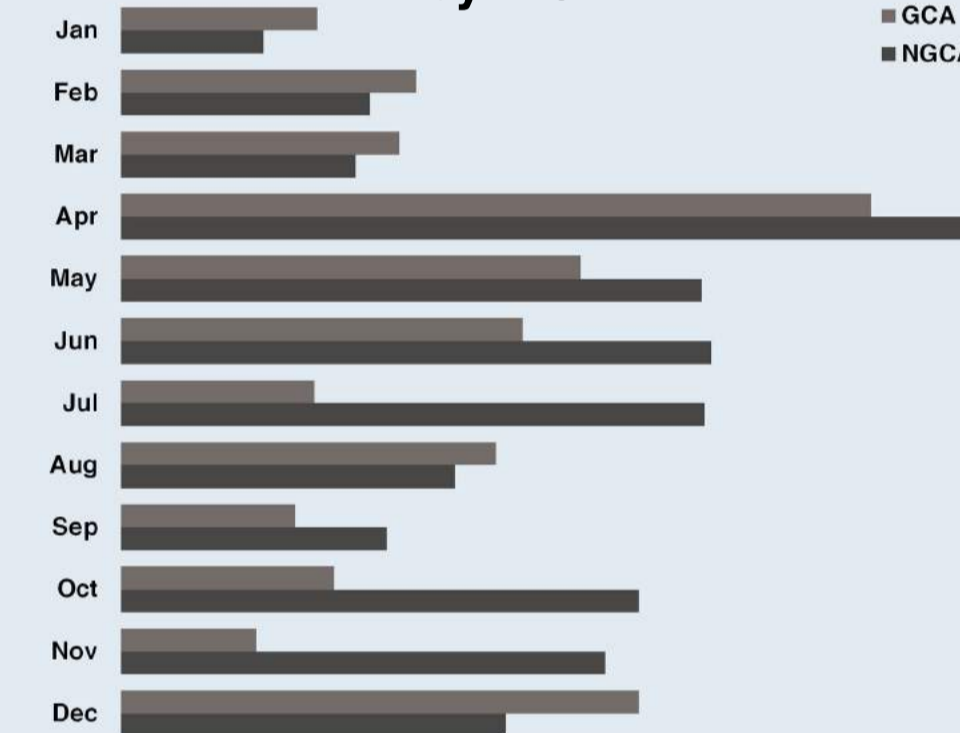
by source of observation



by control



by month



Main trends:

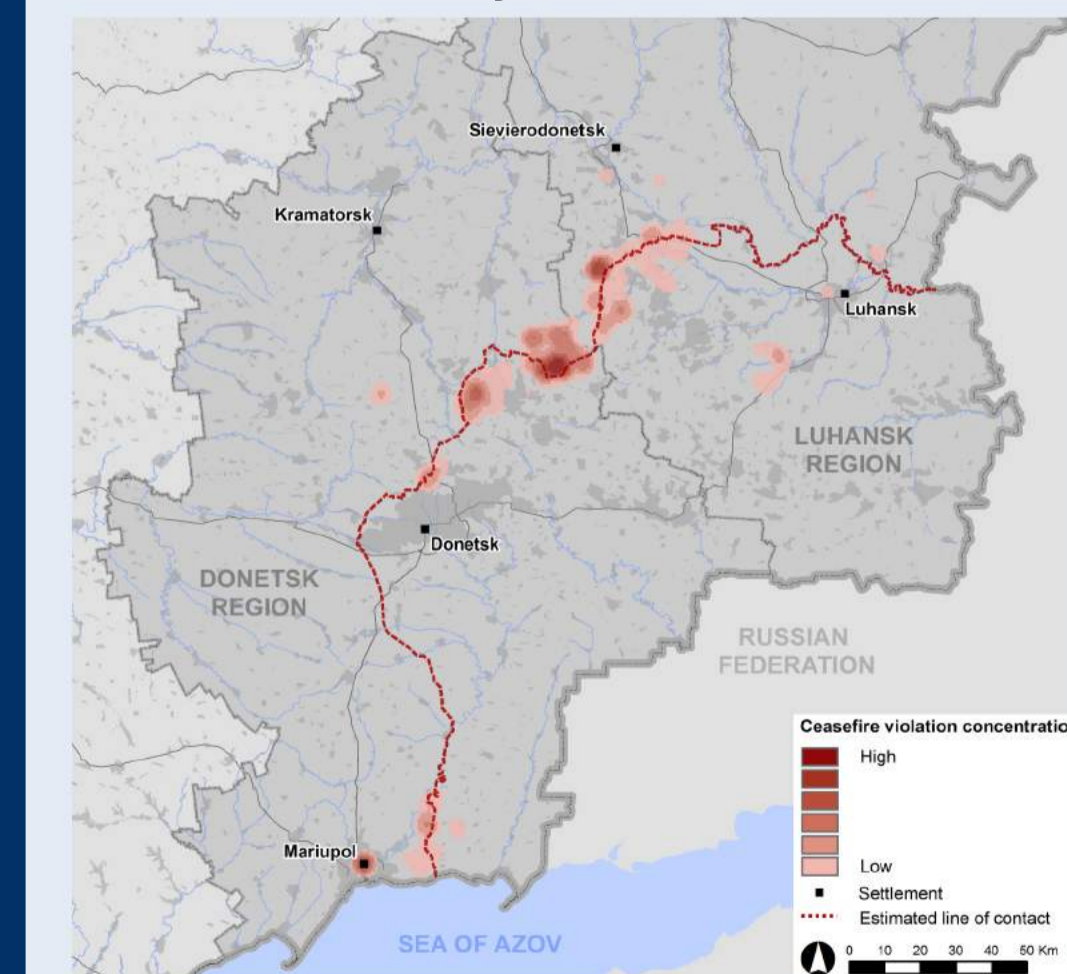
In 2018, armed violence recorded along the contact line decreased as compared with 2017. The SMM registered about 22 per cent fewer ceasefire violations in 2018 than in 2017. The number of explosions attributed to weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements decreased by 75 per cent in 2018 compared with 2017.

Most of the armed violence recorded in 2018 was concentrated in five hotspots along the contact line which accounted for about 90 per cent of all recorded ceasefire violations: 1) areas southwest, south and southeast of Svitlodarsk, 2) the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area, 3) areas east and northeast of Mariupol, 4) northern and western outskirts of Horlivka and 5) Popasna-Kalynove-Pervomaisk-Zolote area.

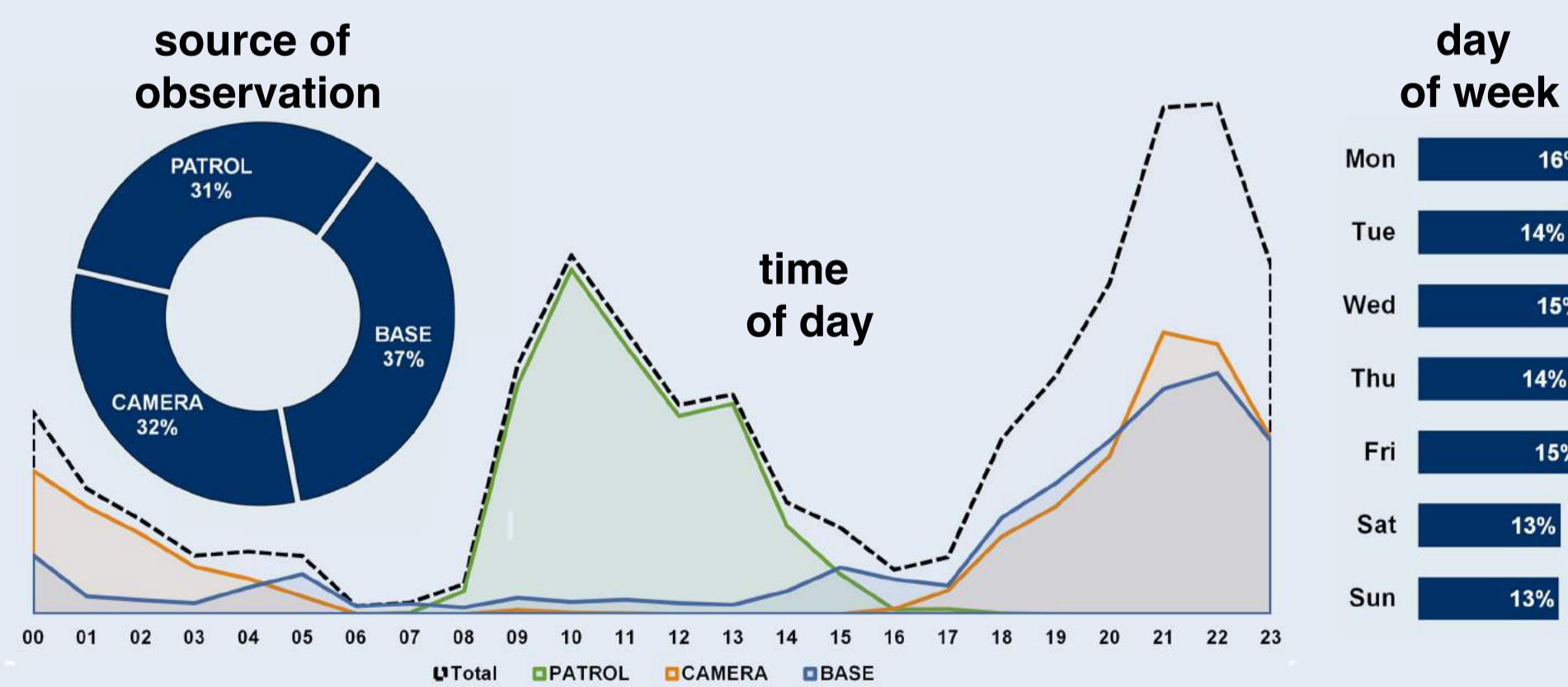
Ceasefire violations recorded outside the security zone were largely assessed as related to live-fire exercises. In 2018, the SMM recorded about 5,000 such ceasefire violations, about 67 per cent of which were recorded in non-government-controlled areas.

In 2018, the sides agreed on five recommitments to the ceasefire. On average each recommitment to the ceasefire led to a decrease in the number of recorded ceasefire violations by 77 per cent. However, the effects of the recommitments have not been long-lasting – on average after seven days the number of ceasefire violations reached half of that prior to the recommitment and after 15 days, the number of recorded ceasefire violations exceeded pre-recommitment levels.

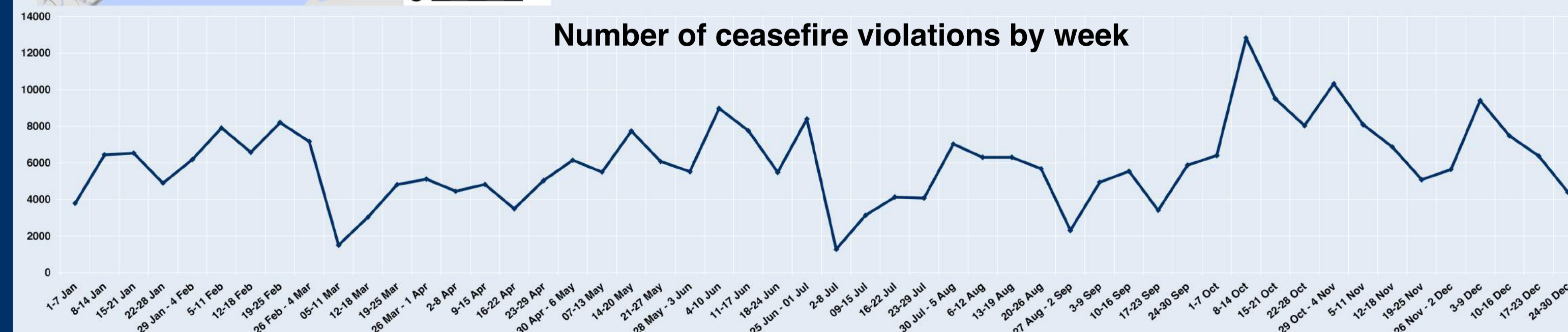
Explosions attributable to fire from MLRS, artillery, mortars and tanks



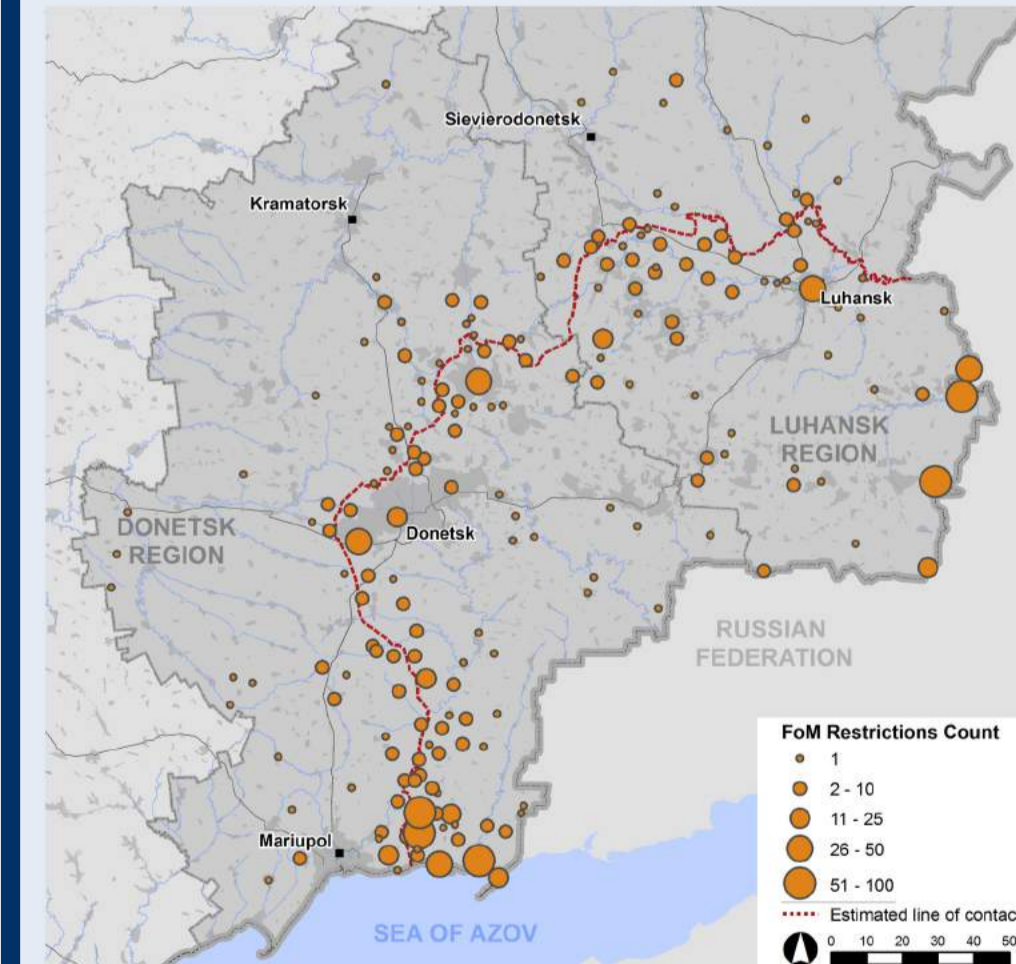
Ceasefire violations distributed by:



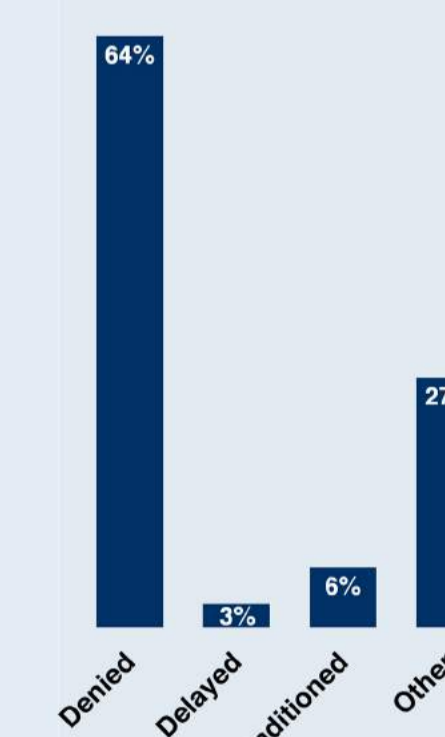
Number of ceasefire violations by week



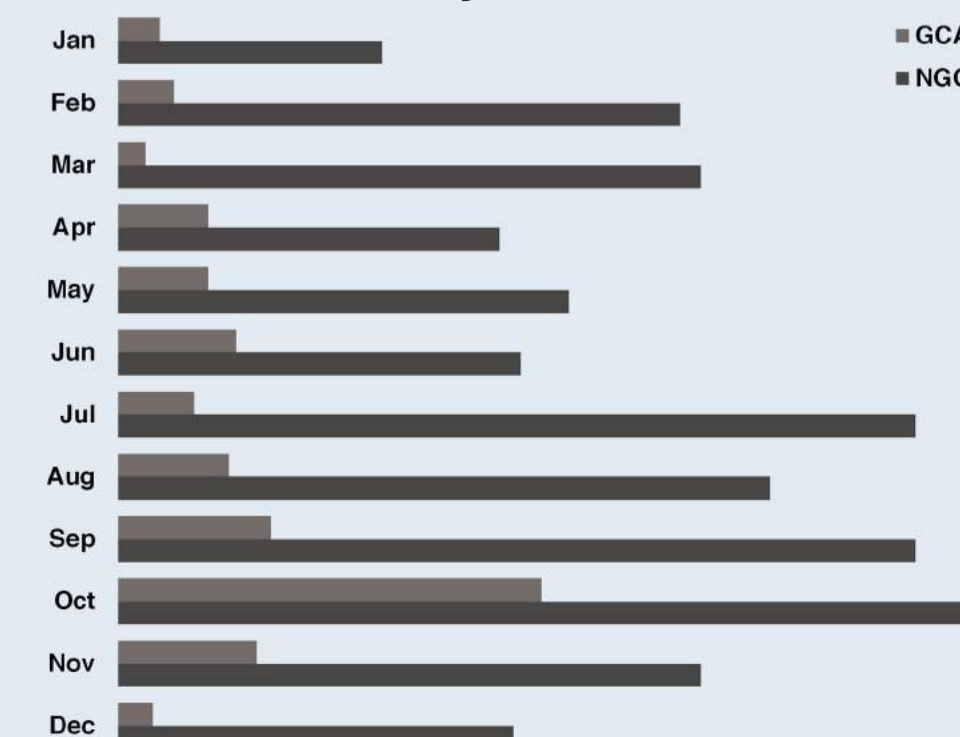
Active freedom of movement (FoM) restrictions



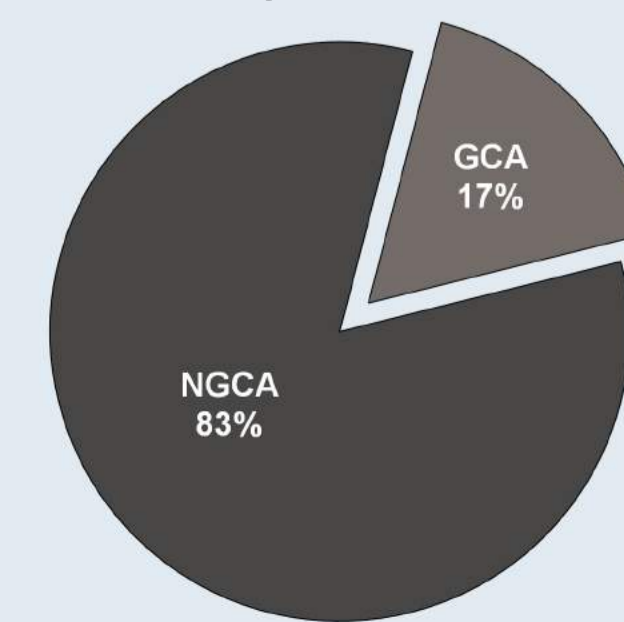
by type



by month



by control



About 63 per cent of all the ceasefire violations have been recorded during nighttime. The primary sources of these observations were SMM cameras and monitors at forward patrol bases. During daytime most observations were made by patrols in the field.

In 2018, the SMM observed about 3,823 weapons in violation of agreed withdrawal lines - about six per cent less than in 2017. About 60 per cent of such weapons in violation were in non-government-controlled areas and about 40 per cent were observed in government-controlled areas. About 53 per cent of these observations were made by patrols, while 43 per cent were made by unmanned aerial vehicles.

Over the course of 2018, SMM monitors faced 1,178 freedom of movement restrictions not related to mines or unexploded ordnances, which is about a 34 per cent increase in the number of restrictions compared with 2017. The vast majority of such restrictions took place in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (83 per cent of the total). Geographically such incidents were concentrated near the border with the Russian Federation not under government control as well as in areas north of non-government-controlled Novoazovsk.

Sources for maps: Administrative boundaries – OCHA; Roads, Rivers – OpenStreetMap; Sea – VLIZ (2005), IHO Sea Areas; Other – OSCE. Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N. These maps are provided for illustrative purposes only. Their content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM. © OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.