

Russia Says Surveillance System Helping to Find Draft Dodgers

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Moscow Military Commissar Colonel Maxim Loktev. **Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency**

The Russian military has begun using Moscow's vast video surveillance system to find conscripts who evade compulsory service, Moscow's chief draft officer Maxim Loktev [told](#) state-run news agency TASS on Tuesday.

"Moscow's video surveillance systems are being used to determine a conscript's residence," said Loktev.

He added that workplaces and educational establishments will also provide information on those required to perform military service.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last week signed a controversial [law](#) that seeks to tighten Russia's military call-up system, replacing paper summons with electronic summons, creating a new digital database of those eligible for military service and blocking those sought for call-up from traveling abroad.

Russia's spring military service call-up, which is expected to see the [enlistment of 147,000 men](#), is currently underway.

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Loktev told TASS that one of the main problems for military enlistment officers was that they did not have up-to-date information for the addresses of men eligible for military service.

With the help of Moscow's CCTV camera and face-recognition technology, he said, more accurate information on addresses could be collected.

Under Russia's the new law, which was [passed and signed at breakneck speed last week](#), the Russian authorities can now issue call-up papers online instead of being required to deliver them in person.

A digital database of all Russians eligible for military service is expected to launch this fall. However, Loktev said Monday that the online call-up papers will be "tested" during the ongoing spring draft.

Russian officials have previously said men conscripted for Russia's mandatory year-long military service will not be sent to the front.

But experts warn that the bloody failure of a Russian spring offensive to achieve significant territorial gains and Kyiv's imminent counter-offensive could mean the Kremlin is soon facing a manpower shortage in Ukraine.

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