

Putin Appoints Former Separatist Commander to Security Council

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Artyom Zhoga. kremlin.ru

President Vladimir Putin on Friday [appointed](#) Lieutenant Colonel Artyom Zhoga, currently the Kremlin's envoy to the Urals Federal District, to Russia's National Security Council.

Zhoga, a former military officer from the Russian-occupied Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine, gained prominence last year after publicly urging Putin to seek re-election in the 2025 presidential race.

Earlier this month, Putin [tapped](#) Zhoga, a Ukraine war veteran, as his envoy to the Urals Federal District, a region critical to Russia's vast military-industrial sector.

Zhoga's appointment makes him one of 21 non-permanent members of Russia's Security Council, a key executive body overseeing national security and strategic policy. The council consists of 13 permanent members, including leaders of major security agencies and high-ranking legislative and executive officials.

Putin chairs the Security Council, with former Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu as secretary and former President Dmitry Medvedev serving as deputy secretary. Experts [describe](#) the Security Council as an influential body that both signals major policy shifts and mediates inter-agency disputes.

Zhoga is the highest-profile Kremlin appointee to emerge from the “Time of Heroes” professional training program, launched following Putin’s pledge to elevate Ukraine war veterans as Russia’s “new elite.”

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