Deputy Governor of Russia's Primorye Region Killed in Kursk

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Sergei Yefremov. **Government of the Primorsky Krai**

The deputy governor of Far East Russia's Primorye region was [killed](#) in the southwestern Kursk region, where Ukrainian and Russian forces have clashed since Kyiv launched a surprise border incursion in August.

Primorye region Governor Oleg Kozhemyako announced Sunday that Deputy Governor Sergei Yefremov, 51, was killed "while returning from a combat mission."

Yefremov's vehicle struck a mine in the Kursk region, according to the Kommersant business daily, which [cited](#) unnamed sources.

Kozhemyako [appointed](#) Yefremov as deputy governor in February 2023. However, Yefremov had been leading the Tigr battalion — a regional volunteer unit attached to Russia's elite [155th Guards Naval Infantry Brigade](#) — since July 2022, months after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

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The 155th Brigade has been [accused](#) of committing war crimes in Ukraine.

Yefremov [deployed](#) with the Tigr battalion to Kursk shortly after Ukraine launched its cross-border offensive. Kozhemyako [praised](#) Yefremov and the battalion for "protecting civilians" and "evacuating wounded marines."

Yefremov is the highest-ranking Russian regional official [known](#) to have been killed in the war against Ukraine, though municipal and regional politicians have previously died in combat, according to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Russian service.

The state-run RIA Novosti news agency [said](#) it interviewed Yefremov "a few days" before his death, during which he expressed hope of returning home "soon."