

Russian General Sentenced to 8.5 Years in Bribery Case

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Denis Putilov. **Social media**

A Russian military court has [sentenced](#) Maj. Gen. Denis Putilov, the former head of the Central Military District's armored vehicle service, to 8.5 years in a maximum-security penal colony after finding him guilty of accepting a large bribe linked to a state defense contract.

The 46-year-old officer was also stripped of his rank and barred from holding senior government positions for six years after his release, the Investigative Committee said in a statement.

Prosecutors said that between 2023 and 2024, the Defense Ministry signed contracts worth more than 140 million rubles (\$1.76 million) with a private contractor, identified as an entrepreneur named Chudinov, to repair and service military vehicles.

As the official overseeing the contracts, General Putilov allegedly [accepted](#) a 10-million-ruble (\$126,000) bribe from Chudinov in exchange for "general patronage."

Investigators said the contracts were never fulfilled, causing significant losses to the state.

Putilov's defense has [said](#) it will appeal the verdict to the First Western District Military Court.

His arrest in September 2024 [came](#) just four months after President Vladimir Putin promoted him to major general.

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Putilov is at least the eighth high-ranking officer to be targeted in a sweeping anti-corruption campaign that has reshaped Russia's military leadership since the ouster of longtime Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu last year.

The campaign has ensnared several prominent generals, including [Dmitry Bulgakov](#), a former deputy defense minister accused of causing 1.3 billion rubles (\$16.38 million) in damages; [Pavel Popov](#), another former deputy accused of embezzlement tied to construction at the Patriot park; and [Yury Kuznetsov](#), the Defense Ministry's former head of personnel, charged with taking an 80-million-ruble (\$1.01 million) bribe.

Others arrested include Maj. Gen. [Valery Mumindzhanov](#), deputy commander of the Leningrad Military District for logistics, and Lt. Gen. [Vadim Shamarin](#), deputy chief of the General Staff, who was sentenced to seven years in prison in April 2025.

In a related case, [Vladimir Shesterov](#), a former deputy head of the ministry's innovation development directorate and an associate of Popov, was sentenced to six years.

And Maj. Gen. [Ivan Popov](#), former commander of the 58th Combined Arms Army, received a five-year sentence for allegedly stealing metal intended for fortifications in the frontline Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine.

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