

Putin Announces Reshuffling of Top Military Leadership

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Putin meets with top Defense Ministry officials at the Kremlin. kremlin.ru

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday [announced](#) a major reshuffle across the top ranks of Russia's military, appointing new operational commanders in Ukraine, a unified logistics chief and a head for the newly established drone warfare branch.

"We're continuing to refine the Defense Ministry's organizational structure to keep pace with the needs and lessons learned from the special military operation," Putin said in a televised Kremlin meeting, using the official term for Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

As part of the reshuffle, the president appointed Colonel General Denis Lyamin to head Russia's [newly established](#) Unmanned Systems Forces.

Putin also reorganized frontline leadership in eastern and southern Ukraine, naming Colonel General Andrei Ivanayev commander of the "Center" group of forces and Lieutenant General Pyotr Bolgarev commander of the "East" group.

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He described the "Center" grouping's objective to capture the entire eastern Donetsk region as "critical and high-stakes," while praising the "East" grouping for its "dynamic and aggressive" advance across southern Donetsk and partially occupied Zaporizhzhia.

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Meanwhile, former "Center" commander Colonel General Valery Solodchuk was appointed Deputy Defense Minister, overseeing rear support and logistical services and unifying supply and transportation operations under his command.

"No one understands what our troops, soldiers, and commanders need on the ground today better than frontline district and task force commanders like you," Putin told Solodchuk.

Solodchuk is [listed](#) as a wanted war criminal by Ukraine's HUR military intelligence agency, which accuses his forces of committing war crimes during the early 2022 attack on Kyiv.

The reshuffle follows Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov's launch of the military's largest administrative [reform](#) in more than a decade.

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