

Russian General Who Oversaw Capture of Ukraine's Kostiantynivka Dies

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Major General Anton Grunis. **Russian Defense Ministry**

A military commander who President Vladimir Putin recently awarded Russia's highest state honor for the capture of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostiantynivka has died, a senior Defense Ministry official [said](#) Wednesday.

Major General Apti Alaudinov, who serves as deputy chief of the Defense Ministry's ideological arm and commander of the Akhmat special forces, said Major General Anton Grunis "passed on to another world."

"He left us as a hero who carried out his sacred duty," Alaudinov said without specifying when Grunis died or the circumstances.

Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces commander, Robert "Madyar" Brovdi, later [claimed](#) that Grunis was killed in a nighttime raid in the eastern Donetsk region on Sept. 12.

The Moscow Times could not independently verify the claim.

Grunis commanded the Russian Armed Forces' 4th Separate Guards Motor Rifle Brigade, which has played a key role in Russia's offensive in the Donetsk region.

In July, Grunis personally [briefed](#) Putin on the capture of Kostiantynivka, one of four heavily fortified cities that make up Ukraine's so-called "fortress belt" in Donetsk. Earlier, Grunis [boasted](#) that his troops had "sliced up the city like a pie" by outflanking Ukrainian defense lines along local reservoirs.

Putin [awarded](#) Grunis the Hero of Russia medal in August.

In 2023, the Russian president had [praised](#) him as a commander "with a Lithuanian last name, born in Kazan, who fights brilliantly."

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