

Russian Military Court Orders Senior Training Official Held in Custody

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Major General Sergei Nikitushkin. **Russian Defense Ministry**

A Moscow military court has ordered a senior Russian general responsible for military training facilities and equipment held in pre-trial detention in a criminal case whose details have not been disclosed, the Kommersant newspaper [reported](#).

The 235th Garrison Military Court issued the ruling against Major General Sergei Nikitushkin on Wednesday evening, the newspaper said. The charges against him were not immediately known.

Nikitushkin heads the department responsible for training facilities and equipment within the Russian Armed Forces' Main Directorate of Combat Training.

The directorate oversees troop training, develops training infrastructure and supplies equipment used to prepare soldiers for combat.

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Nikitushkin, 51, served in Russia's war on Ukraine and was [promoted](#) to major general by President Vladimir Putin in December 2024. The Baza Telegram channel [reported](#) that he had worked on modernizing tank training grounds in Russia.

He previously [complained](#) of insufficient funding to buy simulators for training troops to operate armored vehicles, communications equipment, drones and night-vision devices. He said the war in Ukraine had demonstrated the importance of such equipment in preparing soldiers for future combat.

The directorate also oversees Patriot Park, a military exhibition complex near Moscow that has been implicated in embezzlement [cases](#) involving several senior officers.

Those convicted include former Deputy Defense Minister Pavel Popov, whose prison sentence was reduced to 10 years, and Major General Vladimir Shesternov, a former deputy head of the Defense Ministry's innovation development directorate, who [received](#) six years.

Putin [appointed](#) Colonel General [Rustam Muradov](#) to lead the Main Directorate of Combat Training in June.

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