

Head of Russian Military's Patriot Park Arrested in Bribery Probe

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The Main Temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the Patriot Central Park. **Sergei Vedyashkin / Moskva News Agency**

Law enforcement authorities have detained the head of Russia's military theme park, Patriot Park, on bribery charges, media outlets [reported](#) and the Defense Ministry confirmed on Monday evening.

Investigators have accused Patriot Park general director Igor Vasilyev of accepting 80 million rubles (\$931,000) in bribes, according to the Fontanka news website.

A Moscow court is expected to rule to place Vasilyev in pre-trial detention later on Tuesday.

Russia's Defense Ministry [told](#) state media it was fully assisting military investigators.

Vasilyev, who served as governor of the Kirov region from 2016 to 2022, was appointed as general director of Patriot Park in March this year.

His arrest follows a recent series of detentions targeting executives and military supervisors

connected to Patriot Park.

Two of Vasilyev's deputies were arrested last Friday on an alleged fake contract scheme totaling 100 million rubles (\$1.1 million).

Related article: [Patriot Park Deputy Director Arrested for Allegedly Accepting Bribe](#)

On Wednesday, a military court [reportedly](#) accused Major General Sergei Nikitushkin, who heads a Defense Ministry department that oversees Patriot Park, of accepting bribes.

Vasilyev's predecessor, Vyacheslav Akhmedov, was [sentenced](#) to five years in prison last year for fraud related to construction at the theme park.

Akhmedov's and Vasilyev's deputy, Vitaly Melimuk, was [arrested](#) for allegedly accepting a bribe from a private contractor earlier in April.

The broader purge began in April 2024 with the high-profile arrest of Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov. Since then, investigators have targeted several deputy ministers and multiple generals on charges of bribery, embezzlement and forming criminal organizations.

Vasilyev is [identified](#) as at least the 12th defendant in cases surrounding Patriot Park, a pet project of the country's military establishment designed to showcase Russian hardware and boost national pride.

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