

M-0650

# KITAEV, VLADIMIR MIKHAILOVICH

STATUS

ALIVE  DEAD  UNKNOWN

LAST UPDATED  
SEPTEMBER 2024



[Image source](#)

## KNOWN IDENTIFIERS

### FULL NAME

Vladimir Mikhailovich Kitaev EN

Владимир Михайлович Китаев RU

### ALTERNATIVE NAMES / ALIASES

David Ruslanovich Romanov

### CALL SIGN

Kitaev, Iceman, Stalin EN

Китаец,<sup>1</sup> Айсман, Сталин<sup>2</sup> RU

DOB	M	D	Y	TAX ID NUMBER
	07	01	1984	500114046242 <sup>3</sup> or 423500611688 <sup>4</sup>

### M-NUMBER

M-0650

### B-NUMBER

B-90650

## COUNTRIES OF INTEREST

Syria, Libya, Central African Republic, Ukraine

## ASSOCIATED EMAIL(S)

None found

## ASSOCIATED TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

None found

## SOCIAL NETWORK PROFILES



None found



None found

OTHER

[archive.ph/VQ2yV](https://archive.ph/VQ2yV)

Vladimir Kitaev (call sign “Kitaec”) commanded the Wagner Group’s Fifth Assault Detachment, consisting of 800 ex-convicts pardoned by Russian President Vladimir Putin for joining the war in Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> Prior to that, Kitaev was deployed in the Central African Republic (CAR), Libya, and Syria. During his career with the Wagner Group, Kitaev worked his way up through several junior positions across multiple assault detachments before becoming an assault detachment commander.

Kitaev was born on July 1, 1984, in Nakhodka, a port city in Primorsky Krai.<sup>6</sup> Trained as a ship electrician, he served in the 14th Special Purpose Brigade of Russia’s military intelligence agency (GRU), military unit 74854, located in Ussuriysk, Primorsky Krai.<sup>7</sup> In August 2005, he was deployed in Russian military operations in the North Caucasus.<sup>8</sup> Kitaev received a one-year suspended sentence for a stabbing in 2010 and later worked for Sberbank.

Kitaev joined the Wagner Group in September 2015.<sup>9</sup> He received the Order of Courage for operations in Syria’s Aqayrbat and Deir ez-Zor regions.<sup>10</sup> Kitaev used the call signs Kitaec and Iceman at different points in his Wagner career, apparently alternating between them. He served in the Fifth Assault Detachment in Libya,<sup>11</sup> where he took part in the failed siege of Tripoli. Internal documents place him in Tarhunah alongside Wagner field commander Anton Yelizarov (call sign “Lotus”).<sup>12</sup> During this time, he may have led the “Chinese” group. After Libya, he relocated to the CAR and served as an interim commander of the Third Assault Detachment<sup>13</sup> and was involved in training CAR military forces (the Forces Armées Centrafricaines or FACA) unit in the Berengo base.<sup>14</sup> In 2023, Kitaev received the title “Hero of Russia,” which was not publicized by the Kremlin.<sup>15</sup>

Kitaev gained notoriety for allegedly directing the killing of civilians and children in Bakhmut and Soledar.<sup>16</sup> According to a Ukrainian source, he might have been nominated for the Order of St. George (First Degree) for his role in capturing the city of Bakhmut between February 2022 and May 2023.<sup>17</sup> A former Wagner employee testified that Kitaev issued orders for the killing of Russian deserters and unarmed Ukrainians and that these orders were carried out.<sup>18</sup> Internal Wagner Group memos and statements named Kitaev as participating in the 2017 killing of Hamdi Bouta in Syria. In 2021, Kitaev was sanctioned by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.<sup>19</sup>

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS**


<b>SEX</b> Male	<b>TAX ID NUMBER</b> 500114046242 <sup>22</sup> or 423500611688 <sup>23</sup>			<b>NATIONALITY</b> Russian	<b>CITIZENSHIP(S)</b> Russia
<b>DOB</b>	<b>M</b> 07	<b>D</b> 01	<b>Y</b> 1984 <sup>24</sup>	<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b> Nakhodka, Primorsky Krai <sup>21</sup>	
<b>EDUCATION</b> Trade school #34 (ship electrician, August 30, 2003) <sup>20</sup>					

**MILITARY SERVICE**

**RANKS ACHIEVED & ASSOCIATED DATES OF PROMOTION**

Sergeant<sup>31</sup>

**UNITS SERVED IN**

14th Special Purpose Brigade of the GRU General Staff of the Russian Federation, military unit 74854, Ussuriysk, 2003–2005<sup>29</sup>

**MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS**

Military operations in the North Caucasus, February 8–August 8, 2005<sup>30</sup>

**AWARDS**

Order of Courage<sup>25</sup>

Medal of Honor<sup>26</sup>

Hero of Russia<sup>27</sup>

Order of St. George, first degree<sup>28</sup>



DATE OF JOINING WAGNER	M	D	Y	NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS
	09	12	2015 <sup>44</sup>	Capture of Bakhmut
	09	02	2015 <sup>45</sup>	Capture of Soleda <sup>32</sup>
	09	04	2015 <sup>46</sup>	
<b>DATE &amp; LOCATION OF DEPLOYMENTS</b>				
2015-2017	Syria <sup>40</sup>			
2019-2020	CAR <sup>41</sup>			
2020-2021	Libya <sup>42</sup>			
2022-2023	Ukraine <sup>43</sup>			
<b>INJURIES</b>				Unknown
<b>RANK</b>				Scout medical instructor <sup>33</sup>
				Part of First Reconnaissance and Assault Company <sup>34</sup>
				Part of Third Assault Detachment in CAR under “Zombie” <sup>35</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of a group that trained military personnel of the FACA unit, as well as other law enforcement agencies of the Central African Republic<sup>36</sup></li> </ul>
				Deputy platoon commander, Fifth Assault Detachment <sup>37</sup>
				Interim commander of the Third Assault Detachment, 2020 <sup>38</sup>
				Commander, Fifth Assault Detachment <sup>39</sup>

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS****NON-WAGNER EMPLOYERS**Sberbank (collector)<sup>47</sup>**TIES TO OTHER PRIGOZHIN-LINKED ENTITIES**

None found

**TIES TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES**

None found

**BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS, INCLUDING LLCs**

None found

**POLITICAL & CIVIC SOCIETY ASSOCIATIONS****POLITICAL PARTIES**Communist Party of the Russian Federation<sup>48</sup>**VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS**

None found

**ACTIVIST GROUPS**

None found

**OTHER**

None found



## NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL

“Iceman-Kitaev widely used cruel methods, torture, reprisals against prisoners and unarmed people, and also made decisions and killed himself, and also ordered his subordinates to kill those Russians who refused to fight against Ukraine.”<sup>49</sup>

“



**UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**EUROPEAN  
UNION**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**CANADA**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**SWITZERLAND**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

---



**AUSTRALIA**      Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**NEW ZEALAND**      Not Applicable as of November 2023

---

**UKRAINE**      Sanctioned by the National Security and Defense Council under decree 266/2021 on June 18, 2021, as well as by the National Agency on Corruption Prevention on June 24, 2021.<sup>50</sup>

---

**JAPAN**      Not Applicable as of November 2023



**ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>NATURE OF ASSOCIATION</b>
Boris Nizhevenok	Commander of the Third Assault Detachment of Wagner, engaged in the training of FACA unit in CAR
Anton Yelizarov	Commander of the Seventh Assault Detachment of Wagner, engaged in the training of FACA unit in CAR
Azamat Uldarov	Ex-prisoner and ex-mercenary of the Fifth Assault Detachment of Wagner, testified that Kitaev gave orders to kill unarmed Ukrainian soldiers and Russian deserters <sup>51</sup>
Vladislav Panchuk	Wagner employee involved in the killing of Hamdi Bouta, call sign Roger <sup>52</sup>
Andrey Bakunovich	Wagner employee involved in the killing of Hamdi Bouta, call sign Stropa <sup>53</sup>
Stanislav Dychko	Wagner employee involved in the killing of Hamdi Bouta, call sign Skorobe <sup>54</sup>
Jahongir Mirazorov	Wagner employee involved in the killing of Hamdi Bouta, call sign Pamir <sup>55</sup>

**OTHER ASSOCIATED ENTITIES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>NATURE OF ASSOCIATION</b>
None found	N/A

KNOWN LOCATIONS



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
June 30, 2017	Syria	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>56</sup>	One of several varying reports on Kitaev's involvement in the death of Hamdi Bouta near al-Shaer.
July 2019	Libya	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>57</sup>	Mentions Kitaev in a list of employees deployed in Libya.
November 18, 2019	Libya	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>58</sup>	Kitaev was interrogated about the death of Hamdi Bouta, where he admitted his involvement.
January 7, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>59</sup>	Employee of the "Chinese" group fired for leaving the temporary deployment point "Bokassa" and purchasing a cell phone.
February 2020	Libya	Tarhuna	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>60</sup>	Kitaev's group is part of Lotus's group and is referred to as "Lotus-Z." Includes 84 people, most of them based in the Tarhuna region.
June 5, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>61</sup>	Long written report covers the distribution of people in the "Chinese" group, including several distributed bases.
September 22, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>62</sup>	Intriguing mention of currency exchange practices. Mentioned inspection of Berengo Base, senior person at the base is the commander of "Chinese" group, presumably Kitaev. Deputy commander of the "Chinese: group is identified as "Bear." Unclear who that is since many people use that call sign.
October 5, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>63</sup>	Employee of "Chinese" group is reprimanded for purchasing a cell phone.
October 22, 2020	CAR	Berengo base	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>64</sup>	"From September 21, 2020, at the Mausoleum Training Center of the Berengo Base, employees of the "Chinese" group continued training a combined unit of 47 people. (FACA military personnel, police, and gendarmerie officers) according to the training program.)" Another monthly report. This was written by "Kirovets," who is probably Ilya Nikolaevich Menshenin.



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
November 22, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>65</sup>	Another monthly report from CAR by Kirovets.
December 18, 2020	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>66</sup>	“Kitaev is the senior person at Base Bangi (Klen).” The situation is stable, tasks are carried out on a ‘daily basis.’” Several other heads of bases are mentioned.
August 2021	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>67</sup>	A long list of bases in CAR and exactly who from each unit is stationed at each. Kitaev’s group is 4, all of them at OG “TSARITSYNO.” Also equipment and ammunition.
September 3, 2021	CAR	N/A	<a href="#">C4ADS</a> <sup>68</sup>	Kitaev’s men are listed at based OG “TSARITSYNO.” There are coordinates, but they do not appear to be geocoordinates.



Kitaev with his family

[Source](#)



[Source](#)



[Source](#)



Kitaev with his wife and friends

[Source](#)



[Source](#)



Facebook post interface showing a profile picture, name, and some text in Russian.

[Source](#)



Facebook post interface showing a profile picture, name, and several comments in Russian.

[Source](#)

## ENDNOTES

- 1 C4ADS Document 101
- 2 <https://archive.is/EJA3H>; [https://archive.org/details/20240729\\_20240729\\_1444](https://archive.org/details/20240729_20240729_1444)
- 3 <https://archive.is/lmeIv>; the listed companies are located in Moscow, which raises some doubt that the TIN might belong to another person
- 4 <https://archive.is/pwSLh>; <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>
- 5 <https://archive.ph/xYTbm>
- 6 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 7 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>
- 8 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 9 C4ADS Document 102; C4ADS Document 177
- 10 C4ADS Document 179
- 11 C4ADS Document 177
- 12 C4ADS Document 106
- 13 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>; C4ADS Document 178
- 14 C4ADS Document 105
- 15 <https://web.archive.org/web/20230613202100/https://www.unian.net/russianworld/putin-prisvoil-zvanie-geroy-rossii-boeviku-kitaevu-prichastnomu-k-obezglavlivaniyu-voina-vsu-12290475.html>
- 16 <https://archive.ph/k6xVz>
- 17 <https://archive.is/flBee>
- 18 <https://web.archive.org/web/20230612131518/https://www.unian.net/war/shturmovikami-vagnera-rukovodit-sadist-kotoryy-obezglavil-i-raschlenil-siriycy-eks-naemnik-12231027.html>; <https://archive.ph/moozi>
- 19 <https://archive.is/tLn7A>; <https://archive.ph/kYdeR>
- 20 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>; <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 21 C4ADS Document 102
- 22 <https://archive.is/lmeIv>
- 23 <https://archive.is/pwSLh>
- 24 C4ADS Document 102
- 25 C4ADS Document 179
- 26 C4ADS Document 180
- 27 <https://web.archive.org/web/20230613202100/https://www.unian.net/russianworld/putin-prisvoil-zvanie-geroy-rossii-boeviku-kitaevu-prichastnomu-k-obezglavlivaniyu-voina-vsu-12290475.html>; <https://archive.ph/1AQTE>; <https://archive.ph/HaPxM>
- 28 <https://archive.is/flBee>
- 29 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>; <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 30 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>; <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 31 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 32 <https://archive.ph/moozi>
- 33 C4ADS Document 116
- 34 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 35 C4ADS Document 112
- 36 C4ADS Document 105
- 37 C4ADS Document 180
- 38 C4ADS Document 178
- 39 <https://archive.ph/moozi>
- 40 <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 41 C4ADS Document 112
- 42 C4ADS Document 180
- 43 <https://archive.ph/INbd5>
- 44 C4ADS Document 102
- 45 C4ADS Document 180
- 46 (First Reconnaissance Assault Company) <https://archive.ph/NkpOe>
- 47 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>
- 48 <https://archive.is/FtwZ2>
- 49 <https://archive.ph/ppOST>
- 50 <https://archive.is/tLn7A>; <https://archive.ph/gLNIZ>
- 51 <https://web.archive.org/web/20230613202100/https://www.unian.net/russianworld/putin-prisvoil-zvanie-geroy-rossii-boeviku-kitaevu-prichastnomu-k-obezglavlivaniyu-voina-vsu-12290475.html>
- 52 C4ADS Document 181; C4ADS Document 101
- 53 C4ADS Document 181; C4ADS Document 101
- 54 C4ADS Document 181; C4ADS Document 101
- 55 C4ADS Document 181; C4ADS Document 101
- 56 C4ADS Document 181
- 57 C4ADS Document 180
- 58 C4ADS Document 181
- 59 C4ADS Document 178
- 60 C4ADS Document 106
- 61 C4ADS Document 183
- 62 C4ADS Document 189
- 63 C4ADS Document 182
- 64 C4ADS Document 187
- 65 C4ADS Document 186
- 66 C4ADS Document 188
- 67 C4ADS Document 185
- 68 C4ADS Document 184

