

M-0271

KUZNETSOV, ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH

STATUS

 ALIVE
 DEAD
 UNKNOWN

 LAST UPDATED
SEPTEMBER 2024

[Image source](#)

KNOWN IDENTIFIERS

FULL NAME

Alexander Sergeevich Kuznetsov EN

Александр Сергеевич Кузнецов RU

ALTERNATIVE NAMES / ALIASES

Varlaam Makarovich Martynov¹

CALL SIGN

Ratibor² EN

Ратибор RU

DOB	M	D	Y	TAX ID NUMBER
	08	10	1977	262407088278 ⁷

M-NUMBER

M-0271

B-NUMBER

B-90271³

COUNTRIES OF INTEREST

Syria, Libya, Sudan, Ukraine, Central African Republic

ASSOCIATED EMAIL(S)

None found

ASSOCIATED TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

+249-99-575-9634 (Sudan)⁸ +7-918-239-22-05⁹

SOCIAL NETWORK PROFILES



None found


vk.com/id722026054⁴
vk.com/id389464796⁵

OTHER

ok.ru/profile/552694694515⁶

Alexander Kuznetsov (call sign “Ratibor”) was the longtime commander of the Wagner Group’s First Assault Detachment and one of the longest-serving and most respected commanders within the organization. An experienced special forces operator, he was instrumental in combat and training operations in Syria, Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Libya, and Ukraine, where he co-led the successful capture of Bakhmut in 2022–2023.

Kuznetsov was born on August 10, 1977,¹⁰ in the town of Gatchina,¹¹ close to modern-day St. Petersburg. He graduated from the St. Petersburg Higher Combined Arms Command School¹² and embarked on a career in the armed services, deploying to Chechnya during the Second Chechen War.¹³ By 2008, he had been promoted to major and served as a commander at the Russian military intelligence agency (GRU) special forces training unit “Senezh” in Moscow, which eventually became the basis for the formation of Russia’s Special Operations Forces. Kuznetsov served three years in prison for kidnapping and robbing a man, emerging free in April 2013.¹⁴ Upon release, he traveled to Syria to work for the Moran Security Group and the spinoff Slavonic Corps.¹⁵

Kuznetsov is one of the earliest Wagner Group commanders, joining the group no later than summer 2014.¹⁶ He participated in the Wagner Group’s earliest engagements, including the Battle of Debaltseve¹⁷ and subsequent deployment to Syria, likely as early as mid-2015.¹⁸ In 2017, he led hybrid units consisting of Russian and Syrian forces to capture Syria’s Palmyra and Deir ez-Zor regions.¹⁹ From July 2018²⁰ through at least September 2021,²¹ Kuznetsov was based in Sudan, where he oversaw the Wagner Group’s gold mining interests and training operations.²² During this period, he also appeared in the CAR²³ and Libya,²⁴ where he sustained one of several major injuries over the course of his career. By no later than February 2023,²⁵ and likely from the fall of 2022, Kuznetsov was a central commander in the Wagner Group’s effort to capture the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, which was accomplished on May 20, 2023.²⁶ In June, he participated in Prigozhin’s short-lived mutiny, reportedly leading the operation to capture strategic buildings in the city of Rostov-on-Don.²⁷

Since then, Kuznetsov helped form units within Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov’s “Akhmat” paramilitary forces, which are officially part of Russia’s National Guard. These units partially consist of former Wagner Group members. For his service to the Russian state, Kuznetsov has been recognized as a Hero of Russia and awarded four Orders of Courage.²⁸

Kuznetsov is the subject of sanctions imposed by the European Union, Switzerland, and Ukraine.²⁹

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS


SEX Male	TAX ID NUMBER 262407088278 ³²			NATIONALITY Russian	CITIZENSHIP(S) Russia
DOB	M 08	D 10	Y 1977 ³³	PLACE OF BIRTH Nikolskoye, Gatchina district, Leningrad region, Russia ³¹	
EDUCATION St. Petersburg Higher Combined Arms Command School named after S. M. Kirov ³⁰					

MILITARY SERVICE

RANKS ACHIEVED & ASSOCIATED DATES OF PROMOTION

Major

- Discharged to the reserve after he was found guilty of kidnapping and robbing a man in 2010. Released on parole in April 2013.³⁹

UNITS SERVED IN

Special operations units, GRU (military unit 92154, Solnechnogorsk-2, Moscow region)³⁶

Alexander Bednov's Batman Battalion of Rusich³⁷

MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

Chechnya³⁸

AWARDS

Hero of Russia

4 Orders of Courage

Medal of Honor³⁴

Hero of "DNR" and "LNR"³⁵

DATE OF JOINING WAGNER	M	D	Y 2014 ⁵⁰	NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS Battle of Debaltseve ⁴⁰ Capture of Bakhmut ⁴¹ Prigozhin's mutiny and capture of Rostov ⁴²
DATE & LOCATION OF DEPLOYMENTS				INJURIES
2013		Syria ⁴⁹		A fragmentation wound of the middle third of the left forearm, with damage to the extensor of the fourth and fifth fingers, and a multi-fragmented fracture of the ulna at the level of the middle third (2017) ⁴³
Aug. 2018		Syria, training local forces ⁵¹		Seriously wounded in the storming of Tripoli, Libya (2019) ⁴⁴
June 2018		Sudan ⁵²		Wounded in Soledar, Ukraine (2023) ⁴⁵
Feb. 2019		Sudan ⁵³		RANK Commander, First Assault Detachment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2017⁴⁶ • August 2018⁴⁷ • August 2020⁴⁸
Feb. 2020		Libya ⁵⁴		
Aug. 2020		Syria ⁵⁵		
Nov. 2020		Syria ⁵⁶		
2022-2023		Ukraine ⁵⁷		
June 2023		Rostov ⁵⁸		

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS**NON-WAGNER EMPLOYERS**

None found

TIES TO OTHER PRIGOZHIN-LINKED ENTITIESMoran Security Group⁵⁹Meroe Gold⁶⁰Slavonic Corps Limited⁶¹**TIES TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES**

None found

BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS, INCLUDING LLCs

None found

POLITICAL & CIVIC SOCIETY ASSOCIATIONS**POLITICAL PARTIES**

None found

VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS

None found

ACTIVIST GROUPS

None found

OTHER

None found



NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL

“Ratibor joined the work on the fronts of the special operation from Africa - his detachment arrived from Libya. The commander is already a legend of the company because he joined it at the very beginning and took part in iconic battles in Syria.”⁶²



“According to veterans, Ratibor is one of the most competent and respected commanders of the group.”⁶³



“F**k, Radimir is scary. I almost s**t my pants.”⁶⁷



NOTABLE QUOTES BY INDIVIDUAL

“Recently, a trend has been noticed that they have many units that do not interact with each other, and it turns out that they do not know the situation and do not know our positions. Apparently agony. They are driven in packs and sometimes there are cases when we are already standing in a semicircle in some area and trying to slam this small local bag, we knock out the enemy, 20 minutes don’t pass, they send another 20 people there. And they follow each other at full height, entering there without seeing us, without understanding what is happening. They try to set up some kind of battle formation and, naturally, die.”⁶⁴



“We don’t do everything in a cookie-cutter way, we don’t do everything the same way like with other divisions. Let’s say some detachment chose this method for themselves, and I chose another one for myself. Therefore, the enemy is a little confused in our tactics. There are no templates. Our task is global processing, data collection is underway, analysis of the enemy, our capabilities, how our unit is ready, which unit to send. You know every commander, every fighter, who is capable of what. Some have balls of iron, and some are better at support. You know everyone, so every element and operation is processed. It would be better if it takes a day to process, but you will complete it with minimal losses.”⁶⁶



“This is what makes our organization unique, that we do not adhere to the structure that exists in the Armed Forces. Of course, in the army everything is square, but in our country every employee can easily work as a narrowly targeted ATGM operator, and work as a driver-mechanic on an infantry fighting vehicle, and be a UAV sniper. But in the Armed Forces everything is narrow.”⁶⁵



“I can say with complete confidence that we have minimal losses. Every fighter we have is worth his weight in gold. We take care of everyone. It doesn’t matter whether the person (prisoners) came from Project K or from others. We have great respect for these guys; many performed heroic deeds before our eyes.”⁶⁸



**UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

Not Applicable as of November 2023

**EUROPEAN
UNION**

Sanctioned under Regulation (EU) 2016/44 on December 13, 2021.

Reason statement: “Aleksandr Sergeevich Kuznetsov belongs to the command structure of the Wagner Group, a Russia-based unincorporated private military entity. He took command of the 1st Attack and Reconnaissance Company of the Wagner Group in 2014. He was injured in September 2019 in Libya while fighting alongside the Libyan National Liberation Army (NLA) as commander of the Wagner Group’s military operatives. Through his position and actions, Kuznetsov is responsible for the Wagner Group’s activities that threaten the peace, stability and security of Libya.”⁶⁹

UNITED KINGDOM

Not Applicable as of November 2023

CANADA

Not Applicable as of November 2023

SWITZERLAND

Sanctioned under Embargo Act (EmbA) Measures against Libya on January 14, 2023.

Reason statement: “Aleksandr Sergeevich Kuznetsov belongs to the command structure of the Wagner Group, a Russia-based unincorporated private military entity. He took command of the 1st Attack and Reconnaissance Company of the Wagner Group in 2014. He was injured in Sep 2019 in Libya while fighting alongside the Libyan National Liberation Army (NLA) as commander of the Wagner Group’s military operatives. Through his position and actions, Kuznetsov is responsible for the Wagner Group’s activities that threaten the peace, stability and security of Libya.”⁷⁰



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 116/2023 on February 26, 2023, as well as by the National Agency on Corruption Prevention on February 26, 2023.⁷¹

JAPAN Not Applicable as of November 2023

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS

NAME	NATURE OF ASSOCIATION
Andrei Troshev	Founding member, Director of Wagner
Andrei Bogatov	Commander of the Fourth Assault Detachment of Wagner
Dmitry Utkin	Founding member of Wagner
Anton Yelizarov	Commander of the Seventh Assault Detachment of Wagner

OTHER ASSOCIATED ENTITIES

NAME	NATURE OF ASSOCIATION
Hezbollah	Kuznetsov allegedly recruited Hezbollah fighters for Ukraine. ⁷²

KNOWN LOCATIONS



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
2013	Syria	N/A	X	Moran Security Group and Slavonic Corps citing evidence of interview with Marat Gabidullin, September 5, 2023.
2014	Ukraine	N/A	C4ADS⁷³	Kuznetsov states he has been with the company since 2014.
June–August 2014	Ukraine	N/A	C4ADS⁷⁴	Kuznetsov attests that two employees have been with Wagner since the summer of 2014 in Ukraine.
2016	Russia	Moscow	Link	Photo with Putin.
February 27, 2017–March 3, 2017	Syria	Palmyra	C4ADS⁷⁵	Participated in the “liberation of the mountains of Palmyra” as detachment commander. The document contains details about the operation.
September 7, 2017–September 12, 2017	Syria	Southwestern outskirts of Deir ez-Zor and the Tayim oil field, south of Deir ez-Zo	C4ADS⁷⁶	“He commanded an assault detachment to reach the southwestern outskirts of Deir ez-Zor and the Tayim oil field, south of Deir ez-Zor. Skillful actions of Kuznetsov A.S. allowed us to reach the specified line in the shortest possible time and with minimal losses and complete the blockade of the city from the South. During the battle, he received a shrapnel wound, but did not leave the battlefield, continuing to manage the unit, showing personal courage and valor.”
June 1, 2018	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS⁷⁷	VPN, SIM list that includes Kuznetsov in Sudan (along with Troshev and Maslov).
July 10, 2018	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS⁷⁸	An undated document states that Kuznetsov has been based in Sudan since July 10, 2018.
August 27, 2018	Syria (possibly Sudan)	N/A	C4ADS⁷⁹	Training report from Kuznetsov. Mentions Col Saleh, i.e., Salivanov, which means this is likely Syria. There may be two different bases named “Spetsnaz,” one in Sudan and one in Syria, but only the one in Sudan is referred to as “OG Ratibor.”



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
2019	Libya	N/A	Link	“With his squad passes through the fighting of the South-East of Ukraine, Syria and Libya.” “Injured in September 2019 in Libya while fighting alongside the Libyan National Liberation Army (NLA) as commander of the Wagner Group’s military operatives.”
February 16, 2020	Libya	N/A	C4ADS ⁸⁰	Ratibor group is listed as part of the administration in Libya. More (undated) evidence that Kuznetsov was injured in Libya is here . Even more evidence for Libya is here .
June 20, 2020	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS ⁸¹	Kuznetsov-signed request for salaries at Base “Spetsnaz,” OG “Ratibor.”
July 19, 2020	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS ⁸²	Kuznetsov-signed request for payment on his headquarter office in Sudan.
September 2020	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS ⁸³	Kuznetsov-signed request for stationary at Base “Spetsnaz,” OG “Ratibor.”
February 1, 2021	CAR	N/A	C4ADS ⁸⁴	List of employees, including Kuznetsov, eligible for a travel stipend for CAR.
September 2021	Sudan	N/A	C4ADS ⁸⁵	Kuznetsov is identified as the detachment commander in Sudan.
2022-2023	Ukraine	Bakhmut	Link	“One video showed Alexander Ratibor Kuznetsov, a commander, raising the Russian and Wagner flags while directing ethnic slurs at Ukrainians.
March–April 2022	Ukraine	Popasnaya	Link	“Deputy commander of the Kamchatka marines with Ratibor, April 2022, Popasnaya.” “During the capture of Popasnaya, the 40th Marine Brigade of the Pacific Fleet worked with us; they are really awesome guys; they worked with us and stormed Popasna.”—Yevgeny Prigozhin “In March 2022, the commander of the 1st assault detachment of the Wagner PMC, Ratibor, entered his first battle as part of a special operation southeast of Popasnaya in the village of Novoaleksandrovka.”
Unknown	Russia	Solnechnogorsk, Moscow Oblast	Link	Headed the Special Forces unit stationed there.



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
Unknown	Sudan	Al-Ibaidiya & Khartoum	C4ADS ⁸⁶	June 2018, located in Sudan according to internal documents. “Played a key role in Wagner’s gold smuggling operations out of Sudan including mining, processing, and transit sites.” “CNN published an investigation back in July last year in which it claims that the Wagnerites in Sudan were allegedly led by Alexander Sergeevich Kuznetsov.”
Unknown	Syria	N/A	Link	“With his squad passes through the fighting of the southeast of Ukraine, Syria, and Libya.”



Alexander Kuznetsov (second from right) with Andrey Bogatov, Andrei Troshev, Vladimir Putin, and Dmitry Utkin
[Source](#)



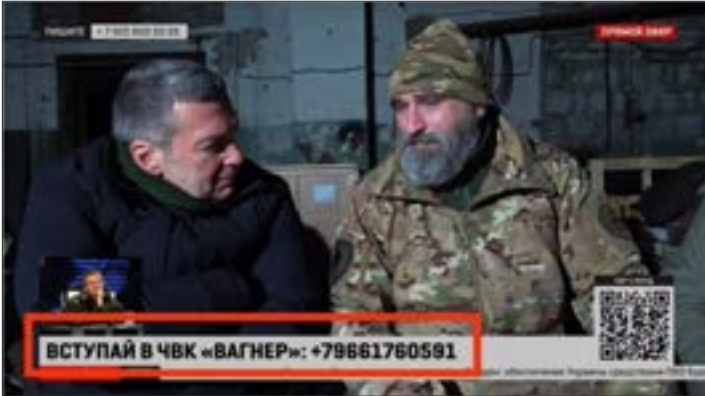
Alexander Kuznetsov wearing his medals: The Hero of Russia star and four Orders of Courage
[Source](#)



Photo of Kuznetsov's passport spread on the Internet
[Source](#)



[Source](#)



Alexander Kuznetsov during the interview with Russian tv-presenter Vladimir Solovyov⁸⁷

[Source](#)



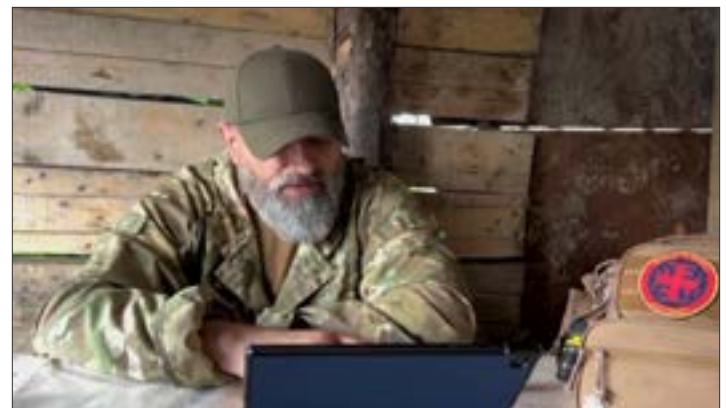
Alexander Kuznetsov hoists Russian flag in Bakhmut

[Source](#)



Alexander Kuznetsov, with Andrey Troshev, Andrey Bogatov, and Dmitry Utkin

[Source](#)



[Source](#)



[Source](#)



Alexander Kuznetsov during the interview in Bakhmut

[Source](#)



Kuznetsov presented a gold coin from the Wagner PMC to the soldiers who distinguished themselves during the attack of Bakhmut

[Source](#)



[Source](#)

ENDNOTES

- 1 C4ADS Document 101
- 2 Some mention “Radimir” as one of the callsigns of Kuznetsov <https://archive.ph/9S5Rc>
- 3 C4ADS Document 101
- 4 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf>
- 5 C4ADS Document 152
- 6 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf>
- 7 <https://archive.ph/JAiyL>
- 8 C4ADS Document 119
- 9 C4ADS Document 152
- 10 C4ADS Document 102
- 11 C4ADS Document 102
- 12 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf>
- 13 <https://archive.ph/1CgOU>
- 14 <https://archive.ph/D4gqW>
- 15 Interview with Marat Gabidullin, September 5, 2023
- 16 C4ADS Document 167; C4ADS Document 168
- 17 <https://archive.ph/Hcfs1>
- 18 <https://archive.ph/jpnuG>; <https://archive.ph/DGdXe>
- 19 C4ADS Document 169
- 20 C4ADS Document 152
- 21 C4ADS Document 164
- 22 <https://archive.ph/9S5Rc>
- 23 C4ADS Document 121
- 24 C4ADS Document 106
- 25 <https://archive.ph/6NOph>
- 26 <https://archive.ph/y8FID>
- 27 <https://archive.ph/Lk72H>
- 28 <https://archive.ph/ABMR>
- 29 <https://archive.ph/JAiyL>; <https://archive.ph/1hMhs>
- 30 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf>
- 31 C4ADS Document 102
- 32 <https://archive.ph/JAiyL>
- 33 C4ADS Document 102
- 34 C4ADS Document 104; <https://archive.ph/H7QBk>
- 35 <https://archive.ph/H7QBk>
- 36 C4ADS Document 104; C4ADS Document 102
- 37 <https://archive.ph/YGFUX/>
- 38 <https://archive.ph/1CgOU>
- 39 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf>
- 40 <https://archive.ph/Hcfs1>
- 41 <https://archive.ph/y8FID>
- 42 <https://archive.ph/Lk72H>
- 43 C4ADS Document 104
- 44 <https://archive.ph/GtJrV>; <https://archive.ph/Pgugg>
- 45 <https://archive.ph/YpoZf#>; <https://web.archive.org/web/20240116174007/>
https://t.me/max_shugaley/578
- 46 C4ADS Document 173
- 47 C4ADS Document 170
- 48 C4ADS Document 106
- 49 As part of the Slavonic Corps, interview with Marat Gabidullin, September 5, 2023
- 50 <https://archive.ph/GtJrV>; <https://archive.ph/Hx9VI>
- 51 As part of the Slavonic Corps, interview with Marat Gabidullin, September 5, 2023
- 52 C4ADS Document 119
- 53 C4ADS Document 171
- 54 C4ADS Document 106
- 55 C4ADS Document 172
- 56 C4ADS Document 104
- 57 <https://archive.ph/cm1Vr>
- 58 <https://web.archive.org/web/20240224062441/>; <https://web.archive.org/web/20240725204735/> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/06/24/7408331>
- 59 <https://archive.ph/xr7Wx>
- 60 <https://archive.ph/9S5Rc>
- 61 <https://archive.is/2M35n>
- 62 <https://archive.is/HknIN>
- 63 <https://archive.ph/D4gqW>
- 64 <https://archive.is/wA2xv>
- 65 <https://archive.is/wA2xv>
- 66 <https://archive.is/wA2xv>
- 67 <https://archive.ph/9S5Rc>
- 68 <https://archive.is/wA2xv>
- 69 <https://archive.ph/1hMhs>
- 70 <https://archive.is/NoJsn>
- 71 <https://archive.ph/JAiyL>

ENDNOTES

- 72 <https://archive.is/1stJr>
- 73 C4ADS Document 167
- 74 C4ADS Document 168
- 75 C4ADS Document 169
- 76 C4ADS Document 169
- 77 C4ADS Document 119
- 78 C4ADS Document 152
- 79 C4ADS Document 170
- 80 C4ADS Document 106
- 81 C4ADS Document 176
- 82 C4ADS Document 174
- 83 C4ADS Document 175
- 84 C4ADS Document 121
- 85 C4ADS Document 164
- 86 C4ADS Document 119 <https://archive.is/rOWl1> <https://web.archive.org/web/20231020103933/https://novayagazeta.ru/articles/2023/07/10/partiia-zolota-prigozhina>
- 87 <https://archive.is/3lelG>