

Igor Kirillov (general)

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Biography [\[edit \]](#)

Kirillov was born on 13 July 1970, in the city of [Kostroma](#), [RSFSR](#).^[3]

He was in the Armed Forces of the USSR from 1987. In 1991, he graduated with honours from the Kostroma Higher Military Command School of Chemical Defense.^{[[citation needed](#)]} From 1991 to 1994, he served as a [platoon commander](#) in the [Western Group of Forces](#). After the latter left Germany, he served in the [Moscow Military District](#). From 1995, he held positions successively from [company commander](#) to [brigade commander](#) of a separate radiation, chemical and biological protection brigade.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

From 2005 to 2007, he studied at the NBC Protection Military Academy.^[4]

From 2009, he served in various positions in the Office of the Chief of the Russian NBC Protection Troops of the Russian Armed Forces.^[5]

In September 2014, Kirillov was appointed head of the [Timoshenko NBC Protection Military Academy](#).^[6]

In April 2017, Kirillov became the head of the [NBC Protection Troops](#) of the [Armed Forces of the Russian Federation](#).^{[7][8][9][10]} He took part in the creation and adoption of the new heavy flamethrower system [TOS-2 "Tosochka"](#).^[11]

Russian invasion of Ukraine [[edit](#)]

Following the [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), for direct participation in military actions against a sovereign state, Kirillov was added to the international sanctions list.^[12] On 23 February 2022, he was added to Canada's sanctions list.^[12] On 19 October 2022, he was added to the sanctions list of Ukraine.^[13] He was also sanctioned by the United Kingdom on 8 October 2024.^[14]

According to the [Security Service of Ukraine](#), since February 2022 there have been 4,800 cases of deployment of chemical weapons by Russia in the [invasion of Ukraine](#).^[15] Kirillov appeared regularly on Russian television during the war, where he accused the US of helping Ukraine build secret laboratories for [biological weapons](#) and claimed Ukraine was developing a [dirty bomb](#). There is no evidence for any of these claims.^{[15][16][17]}

According to the [U.S. Department of State](#), Russia used [chloropicrin](#) under Kirillov's auspices, a choking agent widely used in World War I, as well as tear gas on the battlefield. The chemical weapons deployed included combat grenades equipped with the irritant chemical agents CS and CN, which are banned in warfare under the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#).^[1]

On 16 December 2024, Ukraine charged Kirillov in absentia for using banned chemical weapons during the Russo-Ukrainian war.^[18]

Assassination [[edit](#)]

Kirillov was killed in an explosion in [Moscow](#) on 17 December 2024 at approximately 6:12 AM. He died along with an assistant as they were leaving a residential complex along the [Ryazansky Prospekt](#) area. The blast was caused by detonation of an explosive device planted on an electric scooter, which was powerful enough to shatter windows in a building across the street.^{[19][120]} According to Russian state media, the explosive device contained approximately the same amount of explosives as those used in the [2010 Moscow Metro bombings](#) that killed 40 people and injured 80.^[2] Authorities blamed his death on the detonation of an explosive device concealed in an [e-scooter](#).^{[21][22][23]} The [Security Service of Ukraine](#) claimed responsibility for the assassination.^[24]



According to Ukrainian officials, over 2,000 troops were hospitalized and three died as a result of chemical weapons attacks under Kirillov's command.^[17] The explosive device contained approximately 300g of TNT equivalent. A source in the [Security Service of Ukraine](#) stated that Kirillov "was a war criminal and a perfectly legitimate target" and warned that "such a disgraceful end awaits all those who kill Ukrainians."^[17]

Following the assassination, former president [Dmitry Medvedev](#), who serves as deputy chairman of the [Russian Security Council](#), pledged "inevitable retaliation" against Ukraine's military and political leadership.^[1] Other Russian officials paid tribute to Kirillov following his death. [Maria Zakharova](#), spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said Kirillov "worked fearlessly" and "did not hide behind backs." [Andrey Kartapolov](#), chairman of the Defense Committee of the [State Duma](#), called him a "dignified Russian general" and "leader of his organization who was looked up to."^[2]

See also [\[edit \]](#)

- [List of Russian generals killed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

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