

M-3744

SUROVIKIN, SERGEI

STATUS

ALIVE DEAD UNKNOWN

LAST UPDATED
SEPTEMBER 2024



[Image source](#)

KNOWN IDENTIFIERS

FULL NAME

Sergei Vladimirovich Surovikin EN

Сергей Владимирович Суrowикин RU

ALTERNATIVE NAMES / ALIASES

N/A

POSITION & MILITARY RANK

Former Commander-In-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces;
Army General

DOB	M	D	Y	TAX ID NUMBER
	10	11	1966 ³	360306966285 ²

HONORARY "VIP" WAGNER EMPLOYEE M-NUMBER

M-3744¹

COUNTRIES OF INTEREST

Chechnya, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine

ASSOCIATED EMAIL(S)

None found

ASSOCIATED TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

None found

Sergei Vladimirovich Surovikin is a Russian army general and the former commander-in-chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces.⁴ With more than 30 years of military experience, General Surovikin is an accomplished commander who has served in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Chechnya, the North Caucasus, Syria, and Ukraine.⁵ After the Wagner Group rebellion in June 2023, General Surovikin, who had ties to Wagner, disappeared from public view. He was dismissed as head of the Russian Aerospace Forces in August 2023.⁶ Since September 2023, he served as head of the Coordinating Committee for Air Defense under the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Surovikin was born on October 11, 1966, in Novosibirsk, Russia, in what was then the Soviet Union.⁷ In 1987, Surovikin graduated from Omsk Higher Command Military School. He later completed his education at the Frunze Military Academy in 1995 and the General Staff Academy in 2002.⁸ In 2010, he received a law degree from the Military Institute of the Moscow Region.⁹ Surovikin began his military career as a platoon commander and quickly rose through the ranks.¹⁰ He was deployed to Afghanistan to serve in Soviet special forces, likely in 1988.¹¹ By 1989, he was serving in the Second Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division, becoming its commander by August 1991.¹² Surovikin was imprisoned for six months in Matrosskaya Tishina prison after commanding a unit that killed three anti-coup protesters during the 1991 Soviet coup attempt. He was released without a conviction after the fall of the Soviet Union.¹³ In 1995, he deployed to Tajikistan with the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, where he quickly rose to chief of staff.¹⁴ Early in the first decade of the 2000s, Surovikin was stationed in the North Caucasus, working under Valery Gerasimov.¹⁵ From 2004 to 2005, he commanded the 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division in Chechnya.¹⁶ Later in 2005, Surovikin was appointed commander of the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army of the Moscow Military District.¹⁷

Between 2005 and 2008, he commanded the 34th Motorized Rifle Division.¹⁸ In late 2008, Surovikin was appointed head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff.¹⁹ By January 2010, he had become chief of staff of the Volga-Ural Military District and was listed as a major general.²⁰ In December 2010, he was chief of staff of the Central Military District in Ekaterinburg.²¹ By April 2012, he was serving in the central apparatus of the Russian Ministry of Defense.²² In October 2012, Surovikin was appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Eastern Military District.²³ From 2016 to 2017, Surovikin commanded Russian troops in Palmyra, Syria, and the Russian Aerospace Forces, becoming the first combined arms general to lead this type of troop despite having no aviation experience.²⁴ On November 22, 2017, Surovikin was appointed commander-in-chief of the Aerospace Forces, a position he held until August 22, 2023. In 2019, Surovikin was promoted to colonel general.²⁵ Two years later, in August 2021, he was promoted to army general.²⁶ From 2022 to 2023, General Surovikin commanded troops in the Donbas region of Ukraine.²⁷ He was removed from his position on August 18, 2023, following the Wagner rebellion.²⁸

General Surovikin's ties to Wagner may have officially begun in 2018 when he was assigned a personal Wagner registration number.²⁹ While there is no evidence that he was on Wagner's payroll, internal documents reveal the word "VIP" written next to Surovikin's number, along with the numbers of at least 42 other senior Russian military and intelligence officials.³⁰ In 2017–2018, Yevgeny Prigozhin and Surovikin became acquainted while in Syria, where Surovikin was the top commander. For his time in Syria, where he earned the nickname "General Armageddon" for his brutal tactics,³¹ Surovikin received the "Hero of Russia" title along with the "Gold Star" medal.³² Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Prigozhin lobbied for Surovikin to be appointed as chief military officer for the war.³³ Surovikin reportedly acted as a liaison between the Ministry of Defense and the Wagner Group.³⁴ Surovikin vanished from public view after the Wagner uprising in June 2023, and in August 2023, Vladimir Putin removed him from his position as head of the Russian Aerospace Forces.³⁵ The Kremlin suspected him of having known about the rebellion beforehand.³⁶ Surovikin's first public appearance after the rebellion was in September 2023 in Algeria.³⁷

Controversial tactics and alleged atrocities have marked Surovikin's military career, including his direction of missile strikes on Ukrainian cities, oversight of brutal bombing campaigns in Syria, and alleged human rights violations by his subordinates in Chechnya. As of November 2023, the European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Ukraine, and Japan have sanctioned Surovikin for his role in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, imposing measures such as asset freezes and travel bans.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS



SEX Male	TAX ID NUMBER 360306966285 ⁴⁴			NATIONALITY Russian	CITIZENSHIP(S) Russia
DOB	M 10	D 11	Y 1966	PLACE OF BIRTH Novosibirsk, Russia ⁴³	
EDUCATION					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1989 (23 years old), graduated from Omsk Higher Command Military School “with a gold medal”³⁸ - Listed as 1987 (21 years of age) elsewhere³⁹ • 1995 (29 years old), graduated from Frunze Military Academy⁴⁰ • 2002, graduated from the General Staff Academy⁴¹ • ~2010, law degree from the Military Institute of the Moscow Region⁴² 					

MILITARY SERVICE



RANKS ACHIEVED & ASSOCIATED DATES

Began service as a platoon commander; then took over a company, then a battalion, then a regiment⁴⁵

1991, commander of battalion of 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division to “establish constitutional order in Moscow”⁴⁶

June 2004: appointed commander of 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division in Chechnya⁴⁷

- February 2005: listed as commander of the 42nd division of the Ministry of Defense stationed in Chechnya (near Grozny rural district)⁴⁸

2005, deputy commander and then commander of the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army of the Moscow Military District⁴⁹

October/November 2008, appointed head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff⁵⁰

January 2010, chief of staff of the Volga-Ural Military District⁵¹

In 2010, listed as Major General⁵²

December 2010, Chief of Staff of the Central Military District (Ekaterinburg)⁵³

2011: Deputy Commander of Central Military District troops⁵⁴

April 2012: served in central apparatus of the Russian Ministry of Defense⁵⁵

October 2012: appointed chief of staff and first deputy commander of the Eastern Military District⁵⁶

Since 2013, has been commander of the Eastern Military District and then “of the Russian group in Syria”⁵⁷

In 2013, listed as Lieutenant General⁵⁸

2016 Commander of Russian group of troops in Syria⁵⁹

- March 2017, commanded Russian Aerospace Forces group in Syria⁶⁰

2017, commander-in-chief of Aerospace Forces (VKS)⁶¹

- Became known by September 21, 2017⁶²
- “Became the first combined arms general to lead this type of troop”⁶³
- Remained in Syria until successor situation was established, likely remained until November 1, 2017⁶⁴

2019, commander of Russian troops in Syria⁶⁵



RANKS ACHIEVED & ASSOCIATED DATES, CONTINUED

In 2019, listed as Colonel General⁸¹

August 2021: Army General⁸²

- Had already been heading the aerospace forces for 3.5 years; first general with no aviation experience to hold the position⁸³

August 18, 2023: removed from his post after the failed Wagner rebellion⁸⁴

“Unconfirmed reports this month said Surovikin had been appointed head of the air defence committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which groups Russia and eight other former Soviet states. Analysts at the Institute for the Study of War said this would be ‘consistent with previous patterns of the Russian military leadership shifting disgraced and ineffective commanders to peripheral positions far removed from Ukraine without discharging them from the Russian military entirely.’”⁸⁵

UNITS SERVED IN

1991, commander of battalion of 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division to “establish constitutional order in Moscow”⁸⁶

1980s: Served in Soviet special forces in Afghanistan⁸⁷

June 2004–2005: appointed commander of the 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Chechnya⁸⁸

- Took over after General Makarevich left to study at General Staff Academy⁸⁹
- Before this, he commanded the 34th division of the Ural-Volga Military District⁹⁰

Prior to 2008: Headed the headquarters in 3 military districts⁹¹

- Ural-Volga, Central and Eastern⁹²

2005, deputy commander and then commander of the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army of the Moscow Military District⁹³

2008: Appointed to chief/head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (Chief of Staff); based in Moscow⁹⁴

2011: Deputy Commander of Central Military District troops⁹⁵

January 2018: Appointed Chief of First – First Deputy Commander of the Volga-Ural Military District⁹⁶

Commander of the 34th motorized rifle division⁹⁷

- When Misharin was head of the Sverdlovsk Railways⁹⁸

MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

Special forces in Afghanistan⁶⁶

Tajikistan⁶⁷

- 1995, 201st Motorized Rifle Division (Tajikistan)⁶⁸
- Rose to chief of staff⁶⁹
- “the largest Russian unit in all of ex-Soviet Central Asia”⁷⁰

Chechnya⁷¹

- June 2004; appointed commander of the 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Chechnya⁷²
- Still there in February 2005 as commander of the 42nd division; located near Grozny rural district⁷³

North Caucasus in 2000s, worked under Valery Gerasimov⁷⁴

1991 (25 years old): became Head of the Battalion of Taman Division (decision by the State Emergency Committee); entered then-Soviet Moscow to restore order⁷⁵

- In “August 1991, Captain Surovikin commanded a battalion of the 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division, which participated in ‘establishing constitutional order in Moscow’ by order of the State Emergency Committee”⁷⁶
- August 21, 1991, led a detachment of infantry fighting vehicles at intersection of Garden Ring and New Arbat⁷⁷
- Infantry fighting vehicles crushed three people⁷⁸
- State Emergency Committee fell; Surovikin was put in Matrosskaya Tishina prison for 6 months⁷⁹
- Found not guilty during investigation; was following orders⁸⁰



MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS, CONTINUED

2002, commanded 34th Motorized Rifle Division (Ekaterinburg)⁹⁹

December 2013, went to Eastern Military District¹⁰⁰

September 2017 (Syria), led the group that helped release a 29-member Russian military police platoon surrounded by terrorists¹⁰¹

- “All of them were taken out of the encirclement without losses, and the terrorists suffered heavy losses.”¹⁰²

2016/2017: Palmyra, Syria¹⁰³

- Commanded troops that liberated phosphate mines near Palmyra, Syria¹⁰⁴ - Gennady Timchenko’s company then received an exclusive contract for the extraction and export of Syrian phosphates from the liberated mines¹⁰⁵
- Spent more than a year in total as commander of a group of troops in Syria. ”This is longer than any of the senior officers who held this post”¹⁰⁶
- During the campaign, was transferred from post of Commander of the Eastern Military District to Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Forces¹⁰⁷
- Commanded aviation, armed formations, and special forces operations¹⁰⁸

Syria: commander of Russian forces in Syria at least from March 2019 to April 10, 2019¹⁰⁹

After Syria, appointed commander-in-chief of the Aerospace Forces of Russia¹¹⁰

- CNN reported that he was Commander-in-Chief of Aerospace Forces while he was in Syria, not after¹¹¹

~2022, Donbas, Ukraine:¹¹²

- Commanded group of troops “South” for the “liberation of Donbas”¹¹³

2022: Ukraine:¹¹⁴

- “After Ukraine recently recaptured more territory than Russia’s army took in the last six months, Russia’s Ministry of Defense last Saturday named Sergey Surovikin as its new overall commander for operations in the war”¹¹⁵

MILITARY EDUCATION

1989 (23 years old), graduated from Omsk Higher Command Military School “with a gold medal”¹²⁴ - Listed as 1987 (21 years of age) elsewhere¹²⁵

1995 (29 years old), graduated from Military Academy named after Frunze¹²⁶

2002, graduated from the General Staff Academy¹²⁷

AWARDS

3 Orders of Courage¹¹⁶

Order of the Red Star and “For Military Merit”¹¹⁷

Medals of the Order “For Merit to the Fatherland” I and II degrees¹¹⁸

Medals “For Courage” and “For Military Merit”¹¹⁹

December 2017: Hero of Russia¹²⁰ / “Gold Star of a Hero”¹²¹

- For time in Syria¹²²

Order of St. George, IV degree¹²³



<p>DATE OF JOINING WAGNER 2018*</p>	<p>DEPLOYMENTS, NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS & RANK N/A</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL DETAILS</p> <p>* Was assigned a personal VIP Wagner registration number¹²⁹</p> <p>“No evidence that Surovikin was on Wagner’s payroll”¹³⁰</p> <p>“It is unclear what Wagner’s VIP membership entails, including whether there is a financial benefit.”¹³¹</p> <p>“In the documents, ‘VIP’ is written next to Surovikin’s number, and analysts at the Dossier Center say there are at least 30 other senior Russian military and intelligence officials also listed as VIP.”¹³²</p>	<p>INJURIES</p> <p>Had three wounds and one concussion¹²⁸</p> <hr/> <p>PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS</p> <p>“After the Syrian campaign Russian propaganda referred to him as General Armageddon for ‘his ability to act unconventionally and ruthlessly.’”¹³⁸</p> <p>“During the time when he was the main commander in Syria, the Russian Army ‘showed callous disregard for the lives of the roughly 3 million civilians in the area,’ noted Human Rights Watch.”¹³⁹</p>



NON-WAGNER EMPLOYERS

Underwent a criminal investigation for arms trafficking and illegal weapons sales while enrolled in Frunze Military Academy¹³³

- “Surovikin ended up being convicted on three charges by a Moscow military court, but he was sentenced only to one year’s probation”¹³⁴
- 2012: “Surovikin said the case had been closed in 1995, claiming that he had been cleared and received an apology.”¹³⁵
- “The Military Court of the Moscow Garrison found him guilty under three articles of the then-current Criminal Code of the RSFSR: Part 1 of Article 17 (“Committing a crime by a group of persons by prior conspiracy or by an organized group”), Article 218 (“Illegal carrying, storage, acquisition, manufacture or sale of weapons, ammunition or explosives”) and part 1 of Article 218 (“Theft of firearms, ammunition or explosives”). The future general was accused of complicity in the acquisition and sale, as well as carrying firearms and ammunition without the appropriate permit.”¹³⁶

“During his time as a commander of the Eastern military district, he had close relationships with the Governor of Ekaterinburg at the time Aleksandr Misharin. Surovikin’s wife had joint business with Misharin’s family, when serving in Moscow he spent time in luxurious restaurants with the Russian elite, including Putin’s spokesperson Dmitry Peskov Moscow’s famous socialite.”¹³⁷



TIES TO OTHER PRIGOZHIN-LINKED ENTITIES

None found

TIES TO STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

Sroytransgaz

- Surovikin’s troops liberated phosphate mines in Palmyra, Syria; Timchenko’s company received exclusive contract for extraction and export of Syrian phosphates¹⁴⁶ - Assad ratified the agreement in spring 2017¹⁴⁷
- Phosphates transported from Palmyra by truck/train to Homs (Timchenko’s fertilizer plant) or Tartus (Russian military base, operated by Timchenko’s Sroytransgaz)¹⁴⁸
- Supposedly guarded by Wagner PMCs and other armed guards / escorts in Syria¹⁴⁹
- “As Anti-corruption Foundation reported, in 2022-2021 a company affiliated with Surovikin got payments from Gennady Timchenko’s Sroytransgaz. The only apparent connection between Surovikin and Timchenko and the possible reason for these payments — is their interests in Syria. Timchenko’s business there needs protection, something that the Army General might provide.”¹⁵⁰

BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS, INCLUDING LLCs

2011, owned a sawmill with his wife¹⁴⁰

- Sawmill received state support; subsidies, discounts, benefits¹⁴¹
- Deputy from Yekaterinburg who investigated the sawmill: Leonid Volkov¹⁴²
- Surikin’s sawmill was issued loans by Gennady Timchenko (oligarch and close friend of Putin)¹⁴³ - Given 100 million rubles in loans¹⁴⁴

POLITICAL & CIVIC SOCIETY ASSOCIATIONS



POLITICAL PARTIES

None found

VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS

None found

ACTIVIST GROUPS

None found

OTHER

Liaison between Ministry of Defense and Wagner PMC¹⁴⁵



NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL

“The official biography of Sergei Surovikin is interesting because it contains too many gaps and mysteries. For example, it says that in 1987 he graduated from the Omsk Higher Combined Arms Command School with a gold medal, but there is not a word about where he served until 1991. Other sources report that Surovikin fought in Afghanistan, but when and in what part is unknown. In 1989, he was already serving in the Moscow region, in the “court” 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division, so if he was in Afghanistan, it was no more than a year. During this time he received the Order of the Red Star and the medal ‘For Courage’: quite a lot for a freshly promoted platoon lieutenant.”¹⁵²

““

“But during his two tours there, Surovikin gained a reputation for merciless tactics, including oversight of the bombardments of Ghouta and Aleppo, both of which were largely controlled by rebels at the time. His command also coincided with repeated use of chemical weapons, such as chlorine bombs, by Syrian forces against civilian targets.”¹⁵¹

““

“‘Surovikin’s time in command of Russia’s campaign in Syria was a pivotally important one, during which Russia was finally able to determinedly shift the course of the conflict in Assad’s favor,’ Lister told RFE/RL. ‘Surovikin’s command was clinical, brutal, and most of all, ferociously calculated.’”¹⁵⁵

““

“Mr. Prigozhin knew General Surovikin because Wagner fighters had served in Syria with Russian forces while he was the top commander there. The mercenary leader praised the general’s appointment last year, calling him a legendary figure and the most capable commander in the Russian military.”¹⁵³

““

“Documents shared exclusively with CNN suggest that a top Russian military commander, Gen. Sergey Surovikin, was a secret VIP member of Wagner, the private military company that staged a brief rebellion exposing disunity among senior Russian military officials. The documents, obtained by the Russian investigative Dossier Center, showed that Surovikin had been assigned a personal VIP Wagner registration number in 2018.”¹⁵⁴

““

“In a 2020 report, Human Rights Watch named him as ‘someone who may bear command responsibility’ for the dozens of air and ground attacks on civilian objects and infrastructure in violation of the laws of war’ during the 2019-2020 Idlib offensive in Syria. The attacks killed at least 1,600 civilians and forced the displacement of an estimated 1.4 million people, according to HRW, which cites UN figures.”¹⁵⁶

““

“CNN spoke to a former Russian air force lieutenant, Gleb Irisov, who served under him in Syria. He said Surovikin was ‘very close to Putin’s regime’ and ‘never had any political ambitions, so always executed a plan exactly as the government wanted.’”¹⁵⁸

““

“In 2004, according to Russian media accounts and at least two think tanks, he berated a subordinate so severely that the subordinate took his own life.”¹⁵⁷

““



NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL, CONTINUED

“He made a lot of people very angry – they hated him,’ Irisov said, describing how the “direct” and ‘straight’ general was disliked at headquarters because of the way he tried to implement his infantry experience into the air force. Irisov says he understands Surovikin had strong connections with Kremlin-approved private military company the Wagner group, which has operated in Syria.”¹⁶⁰



“Since Syria, his colleagues have called him ‘General Armageddon.’ He received this unofficial nickname among his colleagues for his ability to act unconventionally and toughly.”¹⁵⁹



“I personally have known Sergei very well for almost 15 years. I can definitely say he is a real general and warrior, experienced, headstrong and foresighted commander who always takes patriotism, honor and respect above all,’ Kadyrov posted on social media, following news of Surovikin’s appointment last Saturday. ‘The united army group is now in safe hands,’ he added.”¹⁶¹



“As detailed in the report, the Syrian and Russian civilian and military commanders who may bear command responsibility for violations during the 2019-2020 Idlib offensive include ... commander of Russian forces in Syria from at least some time in March 2019 until April 10, 2019, Col.-Gen. Sergei Vladimirovich Surovikin.”¹⁶³



Was accused of beating Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Tsbizov for voting “for the wrong candidate” in by-elections to the State Duma on 3/14/2023 (he did not vote for/support Timofeev, who promised to protect military interests).¹⁶⁴



“Colonel Vladimir Slepak wrote the song ‘Divisional Commander’ about that time, dedicated to Surovikin. ... ‘Seryoga Surovikin, division commander forty-second, / In Chechnya, and not in Barvikha, he is going into mortal combat. / Not too many and not too few wounds and decorations, / General’s shoulder straps instead of thieves’ ranks.”¹⁶²



“In June 2004, he was appointed commander of the 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division, stationed in Chechnya. Several times he had to make excuses for the violations of his subordinates. The most famous case was the cleansing of the village of Borozdinovskaya, carried out by soldiers of the Vostok battalion.”¹⁶⁷



“February 2011, Yekaterinburg City Duma deputy Leonid Volkov accused the general’s wife’s company of illegally receiving benefits, but his statements were refuted in court.”¹⁶⁵



“Everyone who has encountered the new chief of staff of the Purvo Military District describes him as a responsible, conscientious person, a ‘real officer.’”¹⁶⁸



“Informed persons at the district headquarters speak of 36-year-old General Surovikin as a serious, purposeful officer. In a short period of time, he brought his motorized rifle division from lagging behind to the category of a state of constant combat readiness. But, as his colleagues claim, he imposed order with an ‘iron hand’ - since ‘it’s impossible to do otherwise in the army.’”¹⁶⁶





NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL, CONTINUED

Given the nicknames: “General Armageddon”¹⁷⁰ and “Syrian butcher.”¹⁷¹



“According to the military, it was under General Surovikin that a significant turning point in the fight against radical Islamists was achieved: ‘At the moment, over 95% of the territory of the republic, which was previously controlled by militants of various groups, has been liberated.’”¹⁶⁹



“In March 2004, one of the officers complained to the prosecutor’s office that the division commander beat him for “wrong” voting in the by-elections to the State Duma. A month later, after public criticism from Mr. Surovikin, his deputy in charge of armaments shot himself. In both cases, no evidence of the division commander’s guilt was found.”¹⁷⁵



NOTABLE QUOTES BY INDIVIDUAL

On Chechnya: “Kill three militants for every soldier killed.”¹⁷²



“I wish for one thing: that Ukraine becomes an independent state friendly to Russia and free from Western and NATO influence. Our adversary is a criminal regime that pushes Ukrainian citizens toward their demise.”¹⁷⁴



“We have a different strategy. The Supreme Commander-in-Chief has already spoken about this. We do not strive for high rates of advancement, we take care of every soldier and methodically ‘grind’ the advancing enemy.”¹⁷³



UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Not applicable as of November 2023

EUROPEAN
UNION

Sanctioned under EU regulation 2023/1765 on February 23, 2022.

Reason statement: “Army General Sergei Surovikin is the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces since 31 October 2017. As such, he is responsible for air operations in or to Ukraine. He was the commander of all Russian forces in the Russian invasion against Ukraine from October 2022 to January 2023. During that period, Russian forces launched heavy attacks against civilian targets, including Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Currently, he serves as deputy commander of all Russian forces in the Russian invasion against Ukraine. He is therefore responsible for actively supporting and implementing actions and policies that undermine and threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, as well as stability and security in Ukraine.”¹⁷⁶

UNITED KINGDOM

Asset freeze, Travel Ban, and Trust Services Sanctions imposed on March 25, 2022.

Reason statement: “General of the Army Sergey Vladimirovich SUROVIKIN is a member of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, he currently holds the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Forces. He is considered to have been in direct command of or otherwise involved in the deployment of Russian forces involved in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There are therefore reasonable grounds to suspect that he is a person who is responsible for, engages in, provides support for, or promotes any policy or action which destabilises Ukraine or undermines or threatens the territorial integrity, sovereignty or independence of Ukraine. The trust services sanctions were imposed on 21/03/2023.”¹⁷⁷

CANADA

Sanctioned under the Special Economic Measures Act (SEMA) on March 14, 2022.

Reason statement: “The following individuals are Russian senior officials who were sanctioned for enabling and supporting President Putin’s choice to invade a peaceful and sovereign country.”¹⁷⁸



SWITZERLAND	Sanctioned under the Embargo Act (EmbA), measures related to the situation in Ukraine, on February 25, 2022. Reason statement: “a) Army General Sergei Surovikin is the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces since 31 October 2017. As such, he is responsible for air operations in or to Ukraine. He was the commander of all Russian forces in the Russian invasion against Ukraine from Oct 2022 to Jan 2023. During that period, Russian forces launched heavy attacks against civilian targets, including Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Currently, he serves as deputy commander of all Russian forces in the Russian invasion against Ukraine. b) He is therefore responsible for actively supporting and implementing actions and policies that undermine and threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, as well as stability and security in Ukraine.” ¹⁷⁹
AUSTRALIA	Sanctioned under the Autonomous Act, measures related to Russia and Ukraine on March, 8, 2022. Reason statement: “Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces.” ¹⁸⁰
NEW ZEALAND	Sanctioned under the Russia Sanctions Act on March 18, 2022 and May 3, 2022. Reason statement: “Linked to Russian leadership, governance, or military bodies responsible for the undermining of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.” ¹⁸¹
UKRAINE	Sanctioned by the National Security and Defense Council under decree 726/2022 on October 19, 2022, as well as the National Agency on Corruption Prevention on October 19, 2023. ¹⁸²
JAPAN	Sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance on April 12, 2022. ¹⁸³

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS



NAME	NATURE OF ASSOCIATION
Valery Gerasimov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked under Gerasimov in North Caucasus in 2000s¹⁸⁴ Maintains direct contact with Gerasimov¹⁸⁵
Admiral Konstantin Sidenko	Surovikin was to replace Sidenko ¹⁸⁶
Alexander Misharin (governor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surovikin appeared among the advisers “whose opinion is important to the governor”¹⁸⁷ Supposedly knew Surovikin for many years; called “brother” by Surovikin¹⁸⁸ “Close friends”¹⁸⁹ Surovikin moved from Yekaterinburg to Moscow around when Misharin received the invitation to work at the Ministry of Transport¹⁹⁰
Leonid Volkov	Deputy in Yekaterinburg City Duma who investigated the sawmill that Surovikin and wife owned ¹⁹¹
Gennady Timchenko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surikino sawmill was in the pay of oligarch (and Putin’s closest friend), Timchenko¹⁹² Timchenko’s company issued over 100 million rubles in loans to the sawmill¹⁹³ Connected by Syria: Surovikin’s troops liberated phosphate mines near Palmyra, which Timchenko’s company took advantage of¹⁹⁴
Yevgeny Prigozhin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prigozhin lobbied for the appointment of Surovikin to the position of chief military officer in the war against Ukraine¹⁹⁵ In 2017-2018 during the fighting in Syria against ISIS, was in the same location as Surovikin¹⁹⁶ “Mr. Prigozhin knew General Surovikin because Wagner fighters had served in Syria with Russian forces while he was the top commander there. The mercenary leader praised the general’s appointment last year, calling him a legendary figure and the most capable commander in the Russian military”¹⁹⁷
Sergei Fedorovich Rudskoy	Ministry of Defense ¹⁹⁸

OTHER ASSOCIATED ENTITIES



NAME	NATURE OF ASSOCIATION
None found	

KNOWN LOCATIONS



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
1980s ¹⁹⁹	Afghanistan	Unknown	Link	“He served in special forces units, including in Afghanistan.” “Other sources report that Surovikin fought in Afghanistan, but when and in what part is unknown. In 1989, he was already serving in the Moscow region, in the “court” 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division, so if he was in Afghanistan, it was no more than a year” [if he graduated in 1987 from Omsk].
1991	Russia	Moscow	Link	“In August 1991, Captain Surovikin commanded a battalion of the 2nd Guards Taman Motorized Rifle Division, which participated in “establishing constitutional order in Moscow” by order of the State Emergency Committee.”
1995	Tajikistan	Unknown	Link	“Since 1995, in the 201st division (Tajikistan), he rose to the rank of chief of staff.” “At 32 years old, he is already a colonel and a division chief of staff. Tajikistan was then also considered a “hot spot,” but by that time it was formal, since the 201st Division actually no longer conducted combat operations there: they ended in the summer of 1993.” ²⁰⁰
2002 & 2010	Russia	Ekaterinburg	Link	Since 2002, commanded the 34th Motorized Rifle Division in Ekaterinburg. “Since December 2010 - Chief of Staff of the Central Military District (Ekaterinburg). In February 2011, Yekaterinburg City Duma deputy Leonid Volkov accused the general’s wife’s company of illegally receiving benefits, but his statements were refuted in court.”
2004-2005	Chechnya		Link	“In June 2004, he was appointed commander of the 42nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division, stationed in Chechnya. Several times he had to make excuses for the violations of his subordinates. The most famous case was the cleansing of the village of Borozdinovskaya, carried out by soldiers of the Vostok battalion.” Listed as commander of the 42nd division still in Feb. 2005 in the Grozny rural district.
2005	Russia	Moscow	Link	“In 2005, he became deputy commander and then commander of the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army of the Moscow Military District.”



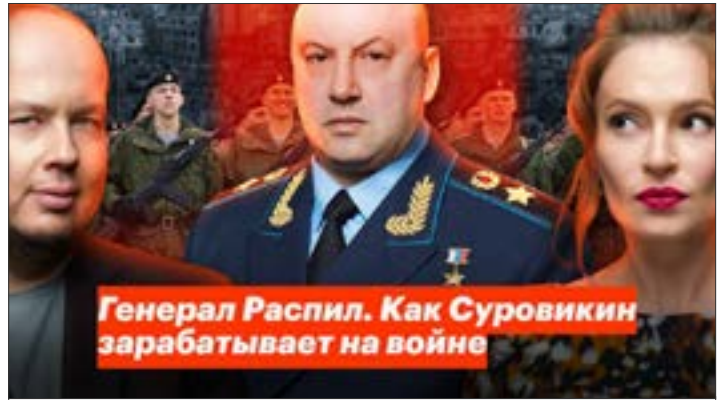
DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
2008	Russia	Moscow and Voronezh	Link	Appointed to chief/head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (Chief of Staff); based in Moscow. “In the aftermath of the August 2008 war in which Russia invaded Georgia.” ²⁰¹ “General Surovikin was transferred from Chechnya to Voronezh, to be promoted to chief of staff - first deputy of the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army: he was less than 39 years old.” ²⁰²
2010	Russia	Volga-Ural Military District	Link	Jan. 2010 became chief of staff of Volga-Ural Military District.
~2016/2017	Syria	Palmyra	Link	Commanded troops in Syria; Liberated phosphate mines near Palmyra. March 2017 commanded Russian Aerospace Forces group in Syria. “But during his two tours there, Surovikin gained a reputation for merciless tactics, including oversight of the bombardments of Ghouta and Aleppo, both of which were largely controlled by rebels at the time. His command also coincided with repeated use of chemical weapons, such as chlorine bombs, by Syrian forces against civilian targets.” ²⁰³ “Surovikin’s time in command of Russia’s campaign in Syria was a pivotally important one, during which Russia was finally able to determinedly shift the course of the conflict in Assad’s favor,’ Lister told RFE/RL. ‘Surovikin’s command was clinical, brutal, and most of all, ferociously calculated.’”
2022	Ukraine	Donbas; Gorskoye and Zolotoye settlements; Lisichansk city	Link	Commanded the group of troops “South” for the “liberation of Donbas.” “Surovikin’s group also operated successfully: in stubborn battles, it occupied the settlements of Gorskoye and Zolotoye, and then began to encircle the enemy in the city of Lisichansk.” “Under the leadership of Surovikin, the Ukrainian group in the “Mountain Cauldron” (the settlements of Gorskoe and Zolotoye) was surrounded and defeated.”



DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVIDENCE	ACTIVITIES
2022?	Ukraine	Severodonetsk	Link	<p>“Units of the LPR People’s Militia, with the support of Russian troops under the command of Army General Sergei Surovikin, completely liberated Severodonetsk.” “According to some reports, another of Surovikin’s main achievements in ‘Operation Z’ is uninterrupted logistics, thanks to which the military at the front edge always has shells and ammunition.” “Four months after the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Surovikin commanded the southern group of Russian forces that was later responsible for, among other things, a grinding assault on the Luhansk region city of Syeverodonetsk, which fell to Russian forces on June 25. ... Surovikin was also still formally in charge of the southern group in Ukraine in September when Ukrainian forces staged a stunning counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region, pushing Russians troops out of the region and later taking control of the key Donetsk region rail hub of Lyman -- considered a major defeat for Russian troops.”²⁰⁴</p>
October 2022 & January 2023	Ukraine	Multiple cities	Link	<p>Commander of Russian troops in Ukraine. “Surovikin was dubbed “General Armageddon” for his brutal military campaign in Syria and led Russia’s operations in Ukraine between October 2022 and January 2023. Under his command, Russian forces unleashed regular missile barrages on Ukrainian cities, significantly damaging civilian infrastructure and disrupting heating, electricity and water supplies.”</p>
September 2023	Algeria		Link	<p>“Russian general Sergei Surovikin is in Algeria as part of a Defense Ministry delegation, in an apparent return to official duties after coming under suspicion in connection with a June mutiny by the Wagner mercenary force, Kommersant newspaper reported on Friday, citing a source close to the general.”</p>



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