

Senior Russian Defense Ministry Official Arrested for 'Abuse of Power'

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Arthur Novosiltsev / Moskva News Agency

A senior procurement officer in Russia's Defense Ministry has been charged with abuse of power, Russian law enforcement authorities [announced](#) late Thursday.

Investigators accuse Vladimir Verteletsky of taking a bribe in relation to "work that was not carried out" under a government contract in 2022, according to Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes.

The law enforcement body said the sign-off had cost the state "over 70 million rubles" (\$773,500) and added that Verteletsky was placed in pre-trial detention.

The senior procurement official's arrest comes just hours after Russian investigators [announced](#) the detention of Lieutenant-General Vadim Shamarin on bribery charges as part of an apparent purge within the Russian military.

Verteletsky is the fourth senior-ranking military officer to have been arrested since the

detention of ex-Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov on April 23.

The Kremlin on Thursday denied that it had launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign against military officials.

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