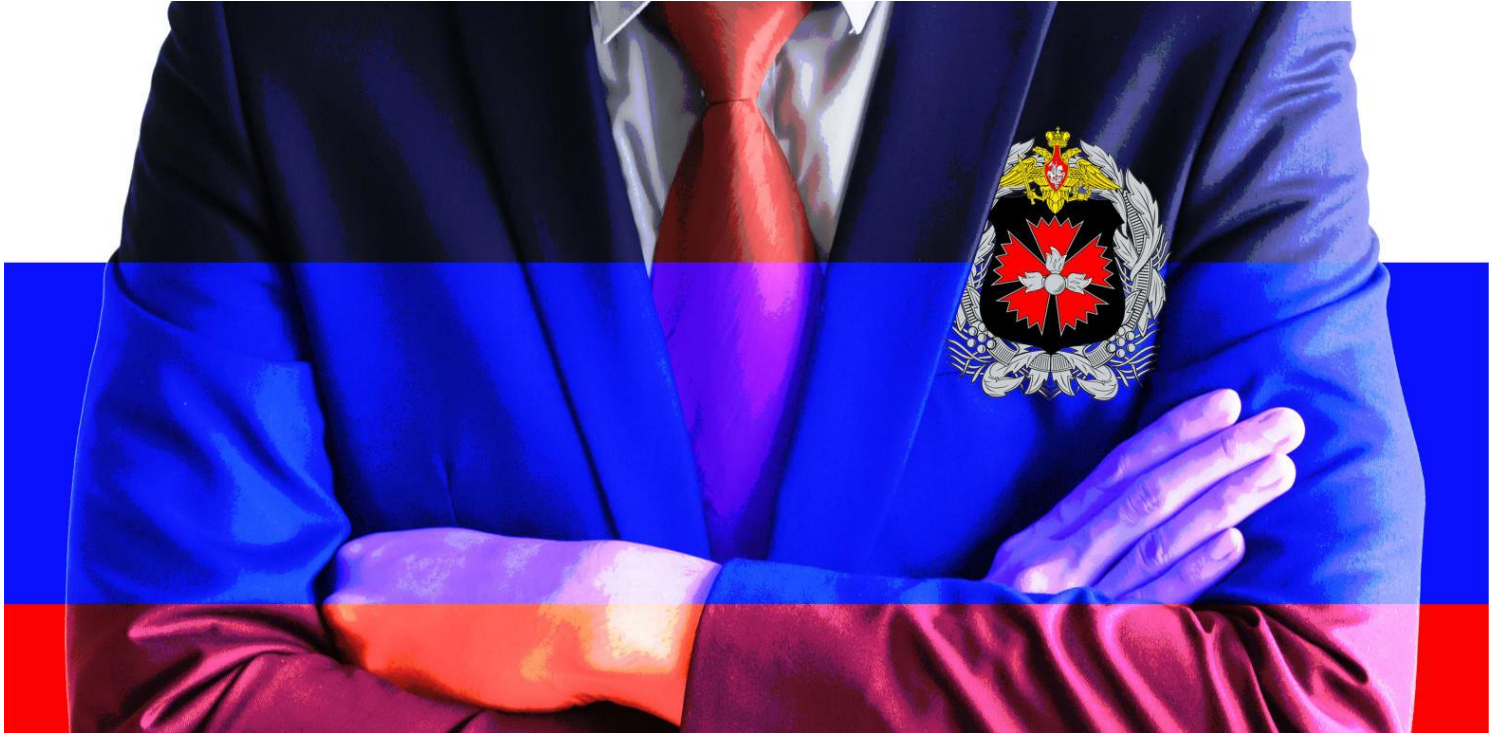


Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



Russian Sabotage Unit Targeting Europe

Tessa Bentley
Executive Director

On 29 SEPT, the State Bureau of Investigation (DBR) in Ukraine announced that the explosions at weapons depots in Svatove, Ukraine, and Vrbetice, Czech Republic, were conducted by Russian special forces. On the same day, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) revealed that an undercover agent infiltrated Russia's Spetsnaz. Artem Dekhtiarenko, spokesman for the SBU, said that the agent provided critical intelligence and helped document many crimes of Russian special forces.

In October 2015, there was an explosion at a weapons depot in Svatove, destroying 76 units of military equipment and over 3,000 tons of missiles and ammunition. According to the Ukrainian investigation, the blasts were triggered remotely by an elite team of Russian military intelligence (GRU) officers. Additionally, in October 2014, there was an explosion of an ammunition depot in Vrbetice, which was storing weapons destined for Ukraine. The DBR has named 50 Russian operatives in connection with these two explosions, including Aleksandr Mishkin and Anatoliy Chepiga, who are wanted in Britain for the poisoning of Russian former intelligence officer Sergei Skripal in 2018.

Dekhtiarenko claims that a Russian militant, who was captured in the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic, revealed that Russian special forces were behind the explosion in Svatove. Following this revelation, the SBU sent out an undercover agent to infiltrate the Russian Spetsnaz and gather evidence for the DBR and SBU. The agent also exposed a thwarted plot to detonate explosives at a Kyiv metro station in 2014 and tied the Spetsnaz to the so-called "honey pot" bombing in 2015.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely that more investigations will reveal Russian sabotage in operations across Europe.

Devastation and Corruption Surrounding the Recent Floods in Libya

Aubrey Belanger

Senior Analyst
Africa Desk

As of 25 SEPT, more than 11,000 Libyan civilians have died and over 9,000 are still missing after Storm Daniel broke two dams in Derna, Libya, on 10 SEPT. There is an ongoing debate over what made these dams break and who is responsible. The internationally recognized Government of National Unity (GNU), run by Interim Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, had no immediate reaction to the floods. It was not until recent days that Dbeibeh sought out emergency funds for Derna and relief support from various countries. The rivaling leader from the Libyan National Army (LNA), Khalifa Haftar has recently faced questions

over his authority in Tobruk, which is in proximity to Derna.

There are multiple alleged reasons as to why these dams broke and the lack of reactivity and response. Libya's meteorological warning system lacks funding, which delayed the issuing of alerts for civilians. There has also been no recent construction on the dams after a Turkish Company, Arsel Construction, left after the 2011 revolution against Libya's then-ruler Muammar Gaddafi. Haftar is in control of Derna, which leaves the responsibilities to him. An investigation into the flooding is underway. This has led to the Derna mayor, Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi, who has connections to Haftar, being arrested. There are now allegations from various

authorities regarding the neglect and mismanagement of Libya's infrastructure.

Based on the chaotic response from both rival governments, we estimate with moderate confidence that it is likely that Dbeibeh and Haftar will continue to act in their own interests to further their political agenda.



PKK targeted after suicide bombing in Türkiye

Sierra Mason

Head of Europe Desk

On 01 OCT, Türkiye carried out a series of air strikes on suspected Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. A statement by the Turkish interior ministry stated that approximately 20 targets of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) group were killed in the operation, which targeted PKK bases in Gara, Harkurk, Metina, and Qandil.

The aerial operation comes hours after a suicide attack outside of Türkiye's interior ministry in Türkiye's capital, Ankara. According to Anadolu Agency, the two attackers stole a vehicle 161 miles southeast of Ankara. Then, they traveled to the interior ministry's main gate where the bomb exploded. Two police officers were injured, and a second assailant was killed by the police. A group linked to the PKK claimed responsibility for the attack,

which was the first in Ankara since 2016. The attack happened hours before the parliament planned to return after a three-month break. In his speech opening parliament, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stated that "those who threaten the peace and security of citizens have not achieved their goals and never will."

It can be stated with high confidence that Türkiye will continue to crack down on terrorist attacks.

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