Russia: The Death of Mikhail Gudkov, A Devastating Blow for the Kremlin

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The death of the **deputy commander of the Russian Navy, Mikhail Gudkov**, represents a heavy defeat for the Kremlin. Killed on July 2, 2025, in the Kursk region, Gudkov was a prominent figure in the Russian armed forces. His death, which occurred during **a Ukrainian missile attack on a Russian headquarters**, not only marks the loss of a high-ranking officer but also highlights the serious difficulties the Russian army is facing due to losses among its military leadership.

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The Death of Mikhail Gudkov

The news of Mikhail Gudkov's death was confirmed by the governor of the Primorsky Krai region, Oleg Kozhemyako, who knew him personally. In a message on Telegram, Kozhemyako stated: "He died while performing his duty as an officer alongside his comrades." This represents a significant loss for the Russian Navy, as Gudkov was a respected leader and a reference figure for his men. He was indeed the commander of the formidable 155th Marine Infantry Brigade, an elite unit that had recently repelled Ukrainian forces on the Kursk front.

According to Russian military sources, the bombing directly hit the site where the officer was located, causing his death and that of other unit members. Among the victims was also Nariman Shikhaliyev, another high-ranking officer and loyal companion of Gudkov.

Mikhail Gudkov had recently been promoted by Vladimir Putin to deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, a position of great responsibility that had given him a central role in managing Russian naval and coastal operations.

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The Circumstances of Gudkov's Death

According to some Russian military Telegram channels, Gudkov's headquarters location may have been discovered thanks to Ukrainian intelligence, which allegedly received **information from internal sources or through interceptions** of communications between Russian marines. This suggested the possibility that an infiltrator or a "mole" within the Russian armed forces contributed to the site's location.

It is estimated that at least four missiles hit the headquarters in Korenevo, in the Kursk region, about 30 km from the front. This attack caused the death of Gudkov and other high-ranking Russian officers. His death is part of a series of Ukrainian attacks aimed at decimating the Russian military leadership, a sign that Ukrainian intelligence is playing an increasingly decisive role in the conflict.

The Implications for the Russian Army

The death of Mikhail Gudkov is a severe blow to the morale of the Russian armed forces. The loss of such an important leader, who led one of the most feared units of the Russian Navy, highlights the **difficulties Moscow is facing in maintaining a stable and cohesive leadership among its armed forces**. Losses among high-ranking officers are weakening command and control capabilities, compromising military operations on the ground.

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Moreover, the death of Gudkov and other high-level officers also highlights the vulnerabilities of the Russian armed forces, which seem to be increasingly exposed to targeted attacks by Ukrainian forces. **The constant loss of leadership figures could have a significant impact on Russia's ability** to respond effectively to developments on the battlefield.

With the continued weakening of its armed forces, Russia may find itself facing increasing challenges in trying to achieve its strategic objectives in Ukraine. The intensification of targeted attacks and losses among high-ranking officers suggests that the war could enter a new phase, characterized by greater exploitation of Russian weaknesses.

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