

## Private Military Companies

Mercenaries from several Russian "private military companies" joined the war in Ukraine. In particular, the InformNapalm resource provides the below list of Russian PMCs<sup>71</sup> that participated in the war in Eastern Ukraine: RSB-Group, MAR, ATK-GROUP, Slavonic Corps Limited, Wagner Group, E.N.O.T. Corp, Cossacks.

	RSB-Group	ANTITERROR	MAP	MSGROUP	CENTRE R	ATHGROUP	SLAVCORPS	PMC WAGNER	E.N.O.T.	COSSACKS
<b>PARTICIPATING IN WARS</b>										
<b>UKRAINE ('DPR', 'LPR')</b>	✓	?	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>SYRIA</b>	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>OTHER CONFLICTS</b>	?	✓ IRAQ	?	✓ PROTECTION OF SEA AND GROUND TRANSPORTS	✓ IRAQ YUGOSLAVIA KOSOVO AFGHANISTAN	?	?	✓	✓ TADJIKISTAN NAGORNO KARABAKH	✓ IRAQ YUGOSLAVIA KOSOVO AFGHANISTAN LIBYEA CHECHNYA

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Some of these armed groups are officially registered and have legal addresses, websites where they describe their activities and the services they provide. In an interview with Russia Today<sup>72</sup>, RSB-Group founder Oleh Krynitsyn refers to it as a "private military consulting company" and claims that such companies are neither allowed nor banned in Russia, they are in a gray legal vacuum. However, in fact their activities are covered by the articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: Art. 359 – Mercenarism<sup>73</sup>; Art. 208 – Establishing Illegal Armed Forces<sup>74</sup>.

Another interesting point is that this structure positions itself as a service provider for the UN and UNICEF, as reported by the company on its official website<sup>75</sup>. This is rather strange given that even in the country of origin the company is not legal.

PMC MAR (ChVK MAR) is registered at: Russian Federation, 196105, St. Petersburg, 46, Kuznetsovskaya St., bldg. A, office 7-N and is called PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANY MAR Limited Liability Company. The company website<sup>76</sup> clearly states that the scope of the company's activities is: "private military activity" and the goal of the company is: "to gain profit from private military services".

<sup>71</sup> Private military companies of Russia: following the Kremlin's illegal orders // InformNapalm [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://informnapalm.rocks/chastnye-voennye-kompanii-rossii-vypolnjaja-prestupnye-prikazy-kremlja>

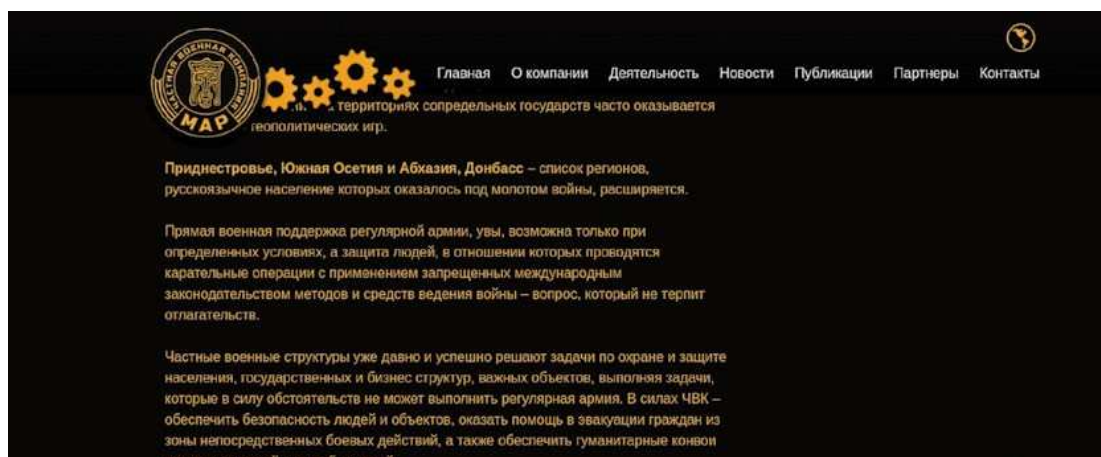
<sup>72</sup> We will improve the image of the country: founder of the first Russian private military company gave an interview to RT [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://russian.rt.com/russia/article/473941-chvk-rossya-zakon>

<sup>73</sup> Article 359 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation "Mercenarism" // Criminal Code of the Russian Federation of June 13, 1996N 63-FZ [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://www.zakonrf.info/uk/359/>

<sup>74</sup> Article 208 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation "Creation of illegal armed formation" // Criminal Code of the Russian Federation dated June 13, 1996N 63-FZ [Electronic resource] - Access mode <https://www.zakonrf.info/uk/208/>

<sup>75</sup> RBG-Group – Service Provider for UN and UNICEF [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://rsb-group.ru/about/services>

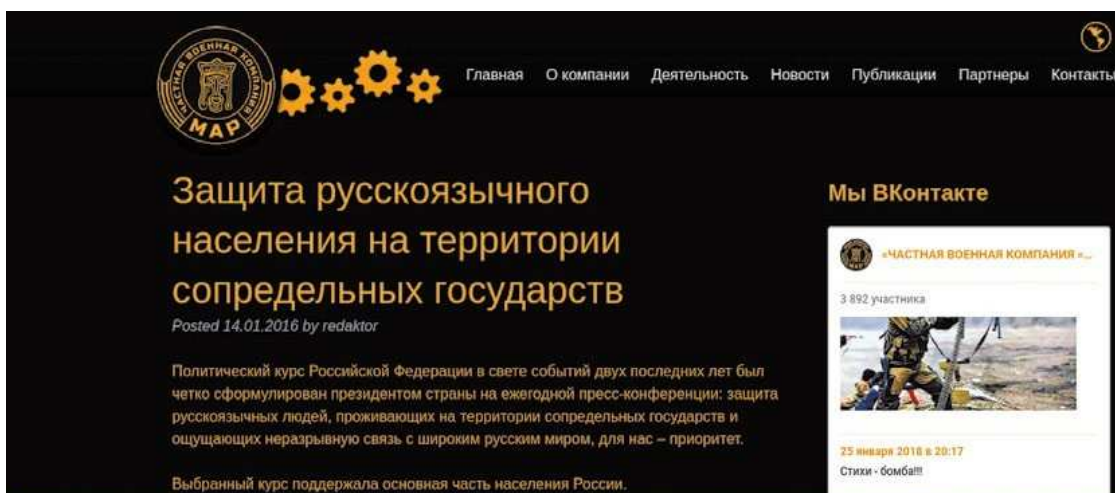
<sup>76</sup> Activities // ChVK MAR [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://chvk-mar.ru/deyatelnost>



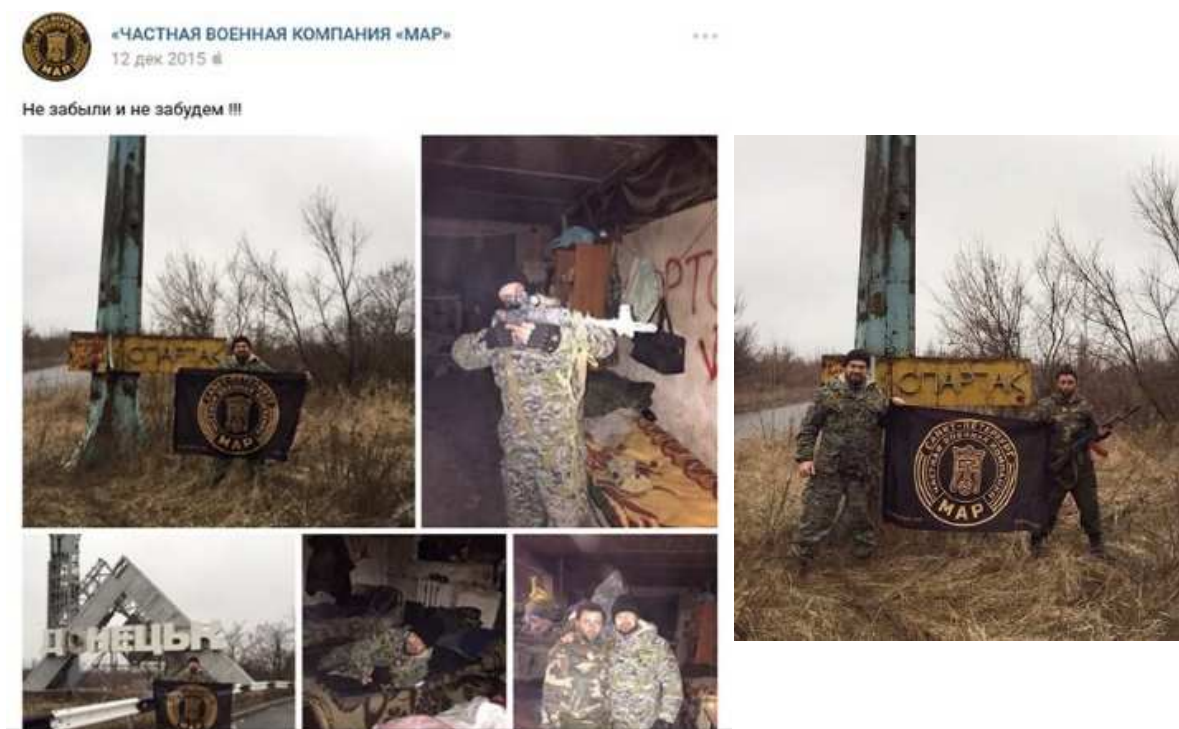
Another element of the company's activity is the "protection of the Russian-speaking population in the territory of neighboring states", which, given the information on the website, is carried out within the support of the course of activities of the President of the Russian Federation. That is, PMC MAR openly declares that it violates all possible international and national laws.

In addition, the website of PMC MAR states that the company is engaged in the delivery of humanitarian goods, but the same website has photos of the organization's militants on the front<sup>77</sup>.

<sup>77</sup> ChVK MAR on the front // ChVK MAR [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://chvk-mar.ru/novosti/chvk-mar-na-peredovoj>



Also the company posted a photo with the weapons and the flag of the PMC at the entrance to Donetsk and Spartak on its page in social media VKontakte<sup>78</sup>.



In one of his interviews, company founder Oleksii Marushchenko claims that the group members participated in “Crimean events” (annexation of Crimea) and subsequently registered their own PMC, which became possible after the President of the Russian Federation<sup>79</sup> gave attention to the problem.

<sup>78</sup> VK page [MAR PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANY](https://vk.com/wall-77621601_1441) [Electronic resource] – Access mode: [https://vk.com/wall-77621601\\_1441](https://vk.com/wall-77621601_1441)

<sup>79</sup> Russian Private Military Company MAR: from Ukraine to Syria RusNext Russian Spring [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://rusnext.ru/news/1442693169>

### E.N.O.T. Corp

Another Russian PMC - E.N.O.T. Corp - openly publishes information about its involvement in the Donbas war online: the organization has its own website<sup>80</sup> where it covers its activities.

In one of the interviews<sup>81</sup> Roman Telenkevych, the head of the organization, said that for the first time the members of E.N.O.T. Corp. arrived in Luhansk on the second day after the alleged hit by Ukrainian aviation, namely June 3, 2014. According to him, they delivered humanitarian aid. In the same video, Telenkevich points out that the members of the organization visited Stanytsia Luhanska, which has been liberated by Ukrainian troops. On video, the head of E.N.O.T. Corp. claims that part of the group participated in hostilities in the territory of Ukraine on the outskirts of Luhansk, Luhansk Airport, Chornukhyne, during the Battle of Debaltseve, from June 2014 to the winter of 2015.

Given the number of videos on the organization's YouTube channel, members of E.N.O.T. Corp have repeatedly crossed the administrative border of Ukraine with the so-called humanitarian missions: they posted videos of at least 14 Donbas "missions".

As part of the so-called 13th mission, they report their participation in the cleanup of "illegal armed forces" in the territory of the city of Antratsyt.

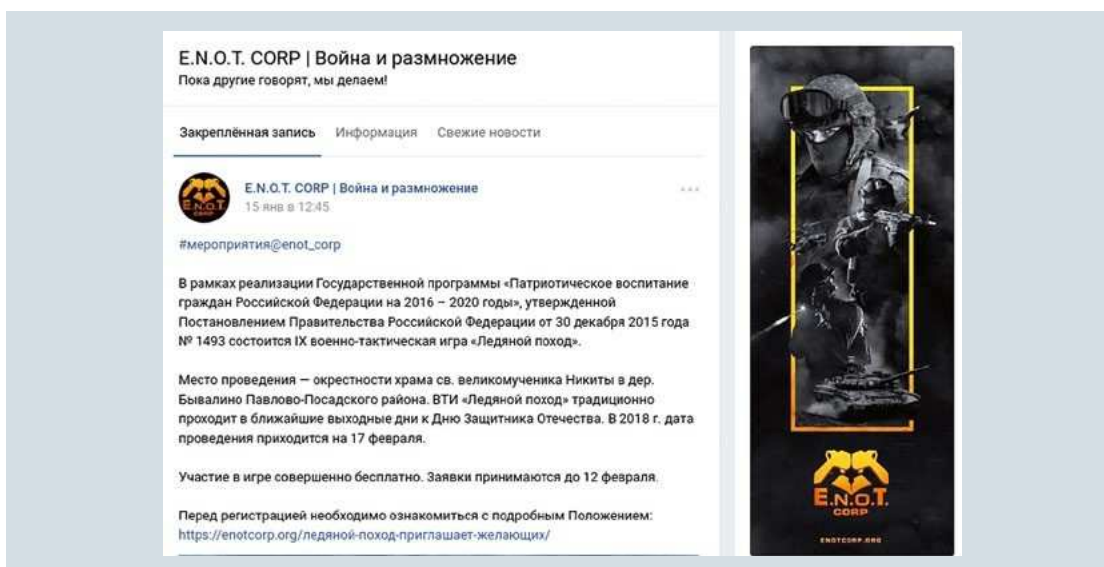


Based on the content of the YouTube channel and VK page of E.N.O.T. Corp, it is obvious that they are actively cooperating with the authorities and military and security services of the Russian Federation: in the video dated February 3, 2016,<sup>82</sup> entitled "The Truth about E.N.O.T." members of the organization say that since its establishment they have been cooperating with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation and other law enforcement agencies. And on their page in VKontakte, they talk about participation in the implementation of the state program "Patriotic Education of Citizens of the Russian Federation for 2016-2020", which was approved by the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 30, 2015 No. 1493.

<sup>80</sup> E.N.O.T. Corp [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://enotcorp.org/>

<sup>81</sup> Commander of E.N.O.T. CORP Roman Telenkevich on the first days of the war in Donbas // YouTube channel E.N.O.T. Corp [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://youtu.be/vUEDOvALh8g>

<sup>82</sup> The Truth about E.N.O.T. // YouTube channel E.N.O.T. Corp [Electronic resource] - Access mode: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9H\\_TnEH23SI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9H_TnEH23SI)



## Wagner Group

The most famous "private military company" that has joined the war in Ukraine is the so-called Wagner Private Military Company or the Wagner Group. It does not have a legal address, its own website, or any other source of public company information. This group, as well as other Russian PMCs, is closely cooperating with the Russian security forces, which in fact established it for specific tasks that Russian security personnel could not be involved in.

The location of the Wagner Group suggests involvement of Russian security forces in its creation and operation. The Group is located at the *military base 51532 of the 10th Separate Special Purpose Brigade of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation at: Russia, Krasnodar Krai, Goryachy Klyuch, Molkino. According to the RBC<sup>83</sup>, the camp was launched in mid-2015. The previous location of the group<sup>84</sup> is Russia, Rostov Region, Veselyi hamlet. The location is quite natural, as the group participated in the war against Ukraine, beginning with the annexation of the Crimea, and then the Wagner Group joined the hostilities in the East of Ukraine, in particular in the territory of Luhansk Region.*

Head of the company is Dmytro Utkin, better known by the nickname "Wagner", the military badge number M-0209<sup>85</sup>. Until 2013, Commander of the 700th detachment of the special operations forces of the 2nd Separate Special Purpose Brigade of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation<sup>86</sup>. An interesting event in Utkin's biography is his participation in the failed operation of Slavonic Corps Limited PMC in Syria, which is registered in Hong Kong. Then the organizers of the unsuccessful voyage of Russian mercenaries in Syria were sentenced to 3 years in prison under Art. 359 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation<sup>87</sup>. In this operation, Utkin, according to the Russian press, participated as a private<sup>88</sup>.

Subsequently, the policy of the Russian military and political leadership changed and Utkin formed a group of mercenaries operating in Ukraine and later in Syria. In Ukraine, Wagner Group members were directly involved in the hostilities and clean-up operations against uncontrolled militant units from June 2014

<sup>83</sup> Ghosts of War: how the Russian private army came to Syria // RBC [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://www.rbc.ru/magazine/2016/09/57bac4309a79476d978e850d>

<sup>84</sup> They were fighting for Palmyra // fontanka.ru [Electronic resource] - Access mode <http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/03/28/171/>

<sup>85</sup> SSU investigators charged Dmytro Utkin, the head of Russian PMC Wagner Group (video) // Official Website of the Security Service of Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/3989#.IYVD5Thq.dpbs>

<sup>86</sup> They were fighting for Palmyra // fontanka.ru [Electronic resource] - Access mode <http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/03/28/171/>

<sup>87</sup> Slavonic Corps commanders in Syria convicted of mercenarism // fontanka.ru [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://www.fontanka.ru/2014/10/28/129/>

<sup>88</sup> Slavonic Corps returns to Syria // fontanka.ru [Electronic resource] - Access mode <http://www.fontanka.ru/2015/10/16/118/>

to August 2015. According to the SSU, the loss of the Wagner Group in one day - 01/28/15 was 14 people<sup>89</sup>. The SSU has the names of other killed Wagner Group members<sup>90</sup>. In total, Ukrainian intelligence services have identified more than 2,000 Wagner Group members<sup>91</sup>.

In addition to the hostilities, the mercenaries also dealt with the elimination of the uncontrolled detachments of the separatists and their leaders. For example, according to the SSU, the Wagner Group members killed<sup>92</sup> Rapid Deployment Force commander Oleksandr Biednov aka Batman, who refused to submit to the leadership of the so-called LPR. Biednov was ambushed by unidentified persons on January 1, 2015 in the settlement of Heorhiivka of Luhansk Region<sup>93</sup>: in video, militants who referred to themselves Biednov's guards claim that it was a clean-up due to an argument with one of the leaders of the so-called LPR. This theory is confirmed by the intercepted conversations between LPR officials and the person in charge of disarmament of the Rapid Deployment Force Batman<sup>94</sup>.

Also, Wagner Group members disarmed the so-called Independent Special Designation Brigade Odesa in Krasnodon on January 10, 2015: the video<sup>95</sup> clearly states that the brigade base was surrounded by PMC fighters. Subsequently, the brigade surrendered heavy weapons and joined the security structures of the LPR.

Judging from the photos available online, Utkin is directly linked to the top military-political leadership of the Russian Federation<sup>96</sup>

<sup>89</sup> Security Service of Ukraine continues to disclose information on crimes committed by the militants of Wagner Private Military Company // Official Website of the Security Service of Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access Mode: <https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/4088#.15phlhHm.dpbs>

<sup>90</sup> SSU investigators charged Dmytro Utkin, the head of Russian PMC Wagner Group (video) // Official Website of the Security Service of Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/3989#.c8OGBQDq.dpbs>

<sup>91</sup> Head of the SSU: The paratrooper killed in the downed IL-76 and a member of the Wagner PMC are close relatives // Interfax-Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <http://interfax.com.ua/news/general/473709.html>

<sup>92</sup> SSU investigators charged Dmytro Utkin, the head of Russian PMC Wagner Group (video) // Official Website of the Security Service of Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/3989#.c8OGBQDq.dpbs>

<sup>93</sup> <https://youtu.be/KhohBmLvSNE>

<sup>94</sup> Militants of Wagner Private Military Company arrived in the so-called LNR - SSU YouTube-channel of the Security Services of Ukraine [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://youtu.be/YwSE4480RAI>

<sup>95</sup> Seizure of the base of Independent Special Designation Brigade Odesa in Krasnodon, LPR.. Two versions! 10.01.15 // YouTube [Electronic resource] - Access mode: [https://youtu.be/\\_77nEcFyxas](https://youtu.be/_77nEcFyxas)

<sup>96</sup> Dmitry Peskov commented on Putin's photo with the Wagner PMC militants // soldat.pro [Electronic resource] - Access mode: <https://soldat.pro/2017/01/17/dmitrij-peskov-prokommentiroval-snimok-putina-s-bojcamy-chvk-vagnera/>