



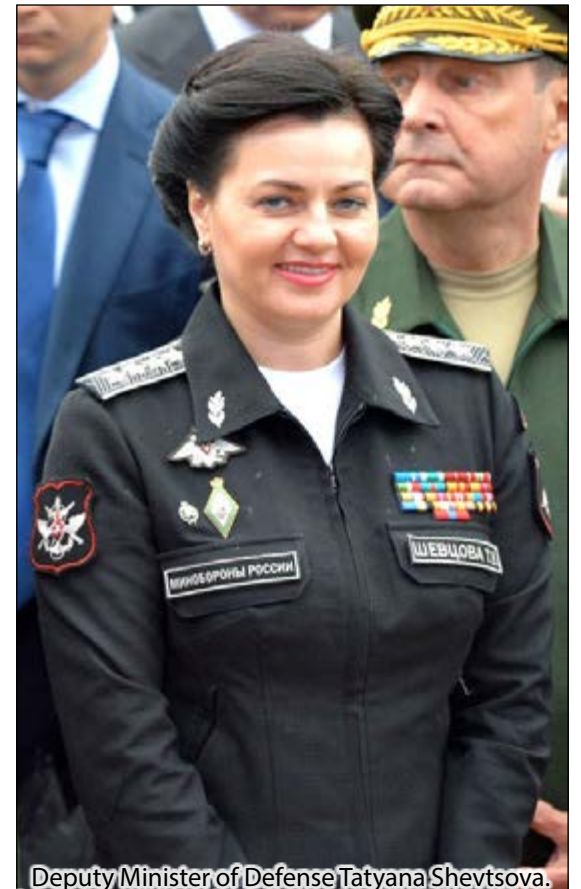
## Promised Pay Raise for Military

**OE Watch Commentary:** Over the past decade, the Kremlin leadership has invested heavily in restoring both the combat power and prestige of military service. While not lavish, today's military salaries are competitive with other government workers and some civilian careers. The accompanying excerpt from the official government newspaper, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, describes the details of the recently promised (January 2018) military pay raise.

The article asserts that pay raises have been budgeted for the next three years, first reminding readers that the military has not seen a pay increase since 2012 (an increase undertaken during the last presidential election). The excerpt provides an example of the “monthly pay of a battalion commander in the rank of lieutenant colonel” who in January 2018 receives R88,759 (approx. \$1,560). This constitutes the officer's base pay and does not include additional payments for “proficiency rating, for special conditions of service, for work with classified information, and so on,” which can amount to “up to half of the soldier's cumulative pay.”

The article cites Deputy Defense Minister Tatyana Shevtsova, who states that the four percent annual increases are budgeted through until 2020, which includes pay hikes for both contract soldiers and officers. This pay increase will also affect retired military, and the excerpt provides pay data for “a former battalion commander who retired in the rank of lieutenant colonel.” As of January 2018, this retiree will receive R24,610 per month (\$432) which is planned to increase to \$467 by 2020. The article concludes with a comparison between what a new Russian officer receives today compared to those who served in the tsarist army before the 1917 revolution, suggesting that today's officer enjoys greater purchasing power.

If all goes according to plan, Vladimir Putin will be re-elected as Russian president on 18 March (which happens to coincide with the anniversary of his most notable achievement during his latest term of office: the annexation of Crimea). Besides reminding the electorate of his many achievements, President Putin has also made generous campaign promises to win over the loyalty of those wearing the Russian military uniform. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**



Deputy Minister of Defense Tatyana Shevtsova.  
Source: www.kremlin.ru, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tatiana\_Shevtsova.jpg, CC BY-SA 4.0.

*“In contrast to soldiers, the wallets of military retirees grew heavier back at the end of December, when the January pension that had already been increased accrued for former officers and warrant officers.”*

**Source:** Yuriy Gavrillov, “Про довольствие: Жалование военнослужащих и выплаты отставникам выросли с января,” [About Allowances: Servicemen's Pay and Retiree Payments Increased Since January] *Rossiyskaya Gazeta Online*, 17 January 2018. <https://www.rg.ru/2018/01/17/denezhnoe-dovolstvie-voennosluzhashchih-i-vyplaty-otstavnikom-vyrosli.html>

*Regular military personnel will receive increased pay beginning in January, and their pay and allowances will continue to grow for the next two years....*

*...Army pay has not increased for the last five years. On the other hand, it now will grow annually right up to 2021. According to Deputy Defense Minister Tatyana Shevtsova, indexation will be four percent per year. They put R18 billion in this year's defense budget for these purposes and the raise itself will take place from January....*

*...Shevtsova explained how all this will look in practice in the example of monthly pay of a battalion commander in the rank of lieutenant colonel. Together with various additional payments, he now will receive R85,345 per month. Counting the January raise, his pay and allowances will increase to R88,759. Thus, the increment will be R3,414. After another year it will increase almost to 7,000, and in 2020 it will be R95,239....*

*...It is known that in addition to money for military rank and position, regular military personnel also receive various payments and increments comprising up to half of the soldier's cumulative pay. Money is added for a proficiency rating, for special conditions of service, for work with classified information, and so on. Certain amounts accrue monthly and others once a year or from time to time. There is a total of up to 15 additional payments of all kinds in the Army....*

*...In contrast to soldiers, the wallets of military retirees grew heavier back at the end of December, when the January pension that had already been increased accrued for former officers and warrant officers.... For this the amount of the previous pension must be multiplied by 4 percent. That was the figure named by Deputy Defense Minister Tatyana Shevtsova, and this same figure also is in plans for revising retired payments not only for 2018, but also for the subsequent two years.... For example, a former battalion commander who retired in the rank of lieutenant colonel receives R24,610 per month from January instead of the previous “averaged” R23,633. Counting other raises, R25,595 already will begin to accrue for this retiree from October 2019, and 26,619 a year later....*

*...Before the Revolution the pay of a podporuchik (lieutenant) together with “additional” money was around R80. Today's lieutenant receives R66,000 per month. With this money a lieutenant could buy 170 kg of meat; 230 kg of sugar; 66 kg of butter; 100 kg of Tula honey cakes; 115 kg of “Rossiyskiy” cheese; and 200 bottles (0.6l L) of government-issue vodka.*

*Today's lieutenant: 260 kg of meat; 1,600 kg of sugar; 110 kg of butter; 120 kg of Tula honey cakes; 130 kg of “Rossiyskiy” cheese; and 260 (0.5 L) of consumer-grade vodka.*