

# Skipral suspect named as Russian officer

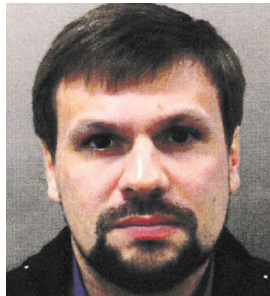
One of the two suspects in the Salisbury poisoning of Sergei Skipral has been identified as a decorated colonel in Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, according to a Britain-based investigative group



▲ 2003 passport photo of man identified as Anatoliy Chepiga



▲ 2009 passport photo believed to be of "Ruslan Boshirov"



▲ Undated photo of Boshirov issued by UK's Metropolitan Police

■ **1979:** **Anatoliy Chepiga** born in village of Nikolaevka in Russia's far-eastern Amur region

■ **2001:** Graduates with honours from elite military academy in Blagoveshchensk. Assigned to serve in GRU-run Spetsnaz brigade in Khabarovsk – unit plays key role in second Chechen war

■ **2009:** Reportedly transfers to Moscow. Begins working undercover, using alias **Ruslan Boshirov**

■ **2014:** Receives Russia's highest state honour – **Hero of the Russian Federation** – possibly for his service in Crimea or eastern Ukraine. Medal, awarded in secret ceremony, typically handed out by Russian president



■ **March 2-4, 2018:** Visits UK, along with second Russian who uses name of **Alexander Petrov**. CCTV images show pair in Salisbury before alleged poisoning of former Russian spy **Sergei Skipral** and his daughter **Yulia** with Novichok nerve agent

■ **July:** Police link Salisbury attack to Novichok contamination in nearby Amesbury that kills British woman **Dawn Sturgess** and seriously injures her partner, **Charlie Rowley**

■ **September 13**  
After UK police name Boshirov and Petrov as suspects, pair appear on Russian TV claiming they were visiting Salisbury as tourists and denying any role in poisoning

◀ **Chepiga / Boshirov on RT channel**