

— BOILERPLATE FOR REPORTERS · CURRENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 (DAY 1,213)

Free Travis Leake: boilerplate

Copy either paragraph as written. Both are accurate as of the date above; the day count changes daily, counted from June 6, 2023, the day of his detention. Current versions, with the live count, are at freetravisleake.com/press/.

SHORT

Michael “Travis” Leake, an American citizen and U.S. Air Force veteran from Bakersfield, California, has been held in Russia since June 6, 2023. He is serving 13 years at IK-6, a penal colony in Vladimir Oblast. His advocates have asked the State Department to designate him **wrongfully detained**. It has not. He was never a paratrooper.

LONG

Michael “Travis” Leake, an American citizen and U.S. Air Force veteran, has been held in Russia since June 6, 2023. Today is Day 1,213. Moscow’s Khamovnichesky District Court sentenced him to 13 years on July 18, 2024. He is held at IK-6, a penal colony in Melekhovo, Vladimir Oblast. His advocates have asked the State Department to designate him **wrongfully detained**. It has not. A black iPhone seized in the search of his apartment appears in no later evidence record in the 690-page court file, and no fingerprint or DNA test of anything seized appears in it either. He served in the Air Force in 1989-90 as a heating-and-air-conditioning mechanic in Arizona, never in combat, and never as a paratrooper.

How to describe him

American citizen; U.S. Air Force veteran; musician and English teacher; held at IK-6, Melekhovo; sentenced to 13 years by Moscow’s Khamovnichesky District Court on July 18, 2024.

DO NOT USE

paratrooper · combat or Iraq veteran · proven drug dealer
· officially designated

Service record

U.S. Air Force, 1989-90, 832d Civil Engineering Squadron, Arizona, heating-and-air-conditioning mechanic. Never a paratrooper. Never in combat.

Name

Michael “Travis” Leake. He goes by Travis. On second reference: Leake, or Travis in feature copy. His mother is Glenda Garcia of Bakersfield, California.

Photo credit

Courtesy of the Leake family / Free Travis Leake campaign. Free to use with credit. Two photographs are in the press kit: Travis with his mother, Glenda, in Air Force uniform in 1989, and a portrait from the same period.

Video

Recorded over the summer of 2026 at IK-6. Running time 3:18. Free to air with credit: Free Travis Leake campaign. Four aspect ratios (16:9, 1:1, 4:5, 9:16) and a transcript of selected excerpts are in the press kit.

“What I am not is a drug dealer, and there is no reason for me to be here.”

TRAVIS LEAKE, RECORDED APPEAL TO PRESIDENT TRUMP, SUMMER 2026

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