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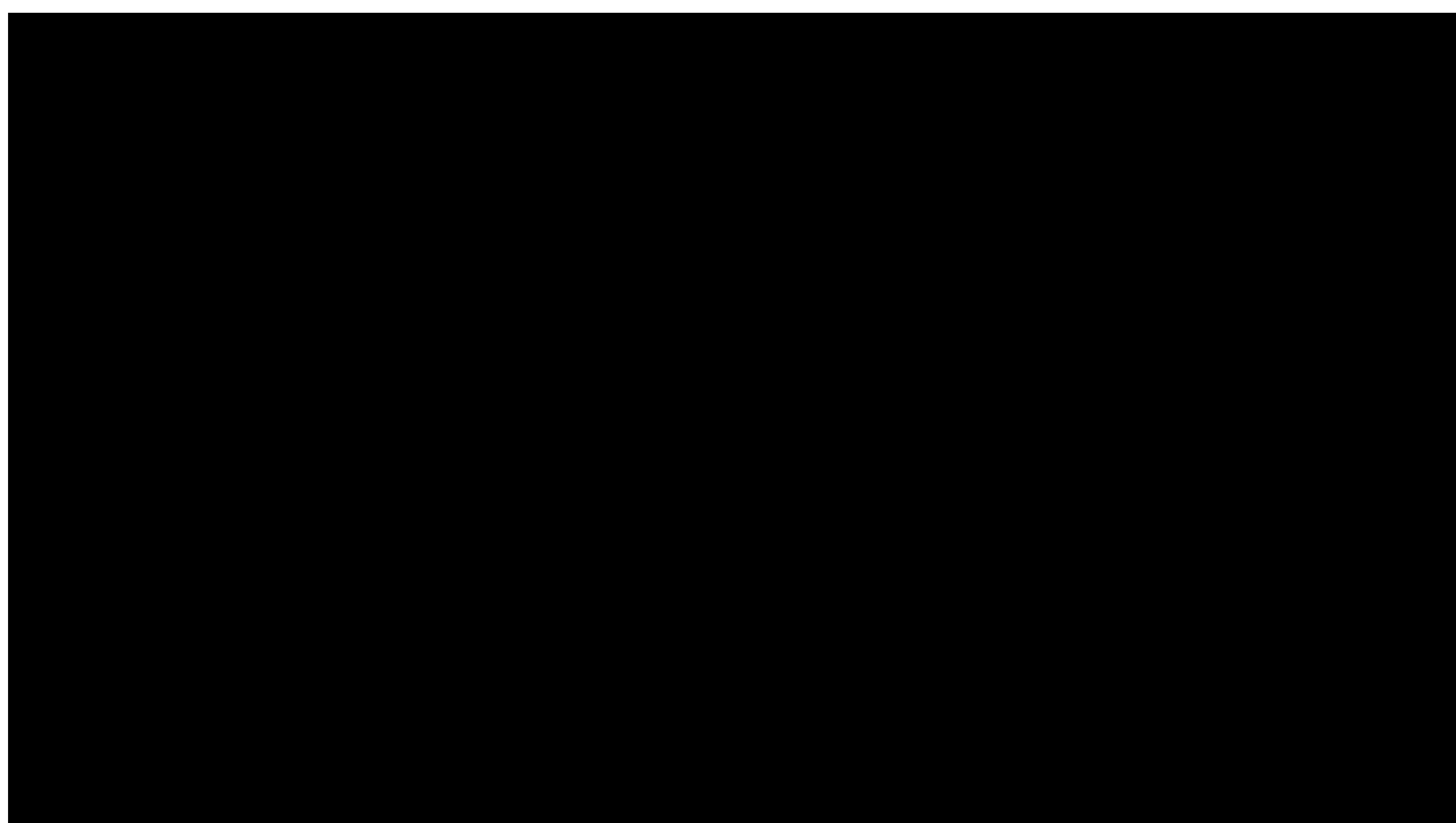
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WORLD

'How to Break Arm' Becomes Top Google Trend as Russians Face Conscription

BY JAMES BICKERTON ON 9/21/22 AT 5:44 AM EDT



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Google searches for "how to break an arm at home" surged in Russia after President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilization of the population to fight in Ukraine.

The Russian president said conscription would only be applied to reservists, with the decree taking effect on Wednesday.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who spoke after Putin's address to the nation, said 300,000 men with "previous military experience" would now be called up.

Shortly after Google searches for "как сломать руку в домашних условиях," or "how to break an arm at home," exploded across Russia, sparking speculation some Russians could take extreme measures to avoid fighting in Ukraine.



Ukrainian soldiers sit on infantry fighting vehicles as they drive near Izyum, eastern Ukraine on September 16, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Putin has ordered a partial Russian mobilization following a successful Ukrainian counter-attack.

JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTY

Google Trends ranks search terms from zero to 100 over a period of time, with zero representing the point of least interest and 100 the most.

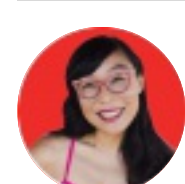
According to Trends data for the past seven days there were zero recorded searches for "how to break an arm at home" at 2 a.m. ET, when Putin's began his address. This doesn't literally mean there were no searches for the words, just that the amount was so low the data couldn't be quantified.

However, by 4 a.m. ET this had surged to 38 out of a possible 100, showing a dramatic increase in searches for the phrase.

This is a breaking story and will be updated.

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