

Defector

In a war, a **defector** is a person who **abandons the side, military, government, or organization they were previously loyal to and joins or assists the opposing side.**

For example:

- A soldier leaves their country's military and joins the enemy.
- An intelligence officer secretly leaves their government and provides information to another country.
- A member of an organization abandons that organization and cooperates with its opponent.

Related terms

- **Deserter:** A military member who leaves their unit or service without authorization. A deserter isn't necessarily helping the enemy.
- **Defector:** Specifically **changes** allegiance or sides.
- **Dissident:** Opposes or publicly disagrees with their government or organization, but doesn't necessarily leave or join an opposing side.
- **Turncoat:** Informal/negative term for someone who switches sides.

A defector can be particularly significant during **information or intelligence warfare** because they may possess knowledge about the former side's personnel, plans, operations, or capabilities.



“Defectorous” “Defectorosaurus”