

Russian Military Almanac

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Organization of the Russian Armed Forces

RUSSIA's armed forces underwent more organizational changes during the past year. A new plan assigned the military districts a new status. There are now six operational strategic commands related to the military districts:

- Southwestern Operational Strategic Command (related to the North Caucasus Military District)
- Western OSC (Moscow Military District)
- Northwestern OSC (Leningrad Military District)
- Central Asian OSC (Volga-Ural Military District)
- Siberian OSC (Siberian Military District)
- Far Eastern OSC (Far Eastern Military District)

In the event of hostilities, the military district commander in each district would have operational control of all military personnel in each command, including those of the Border Troops and other "power" ministries, aside from forces directly subordinate to the President: the Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Armies (strategic and transport), and Airborne Troops.

The General Staff would exercise overall coordination and direction. This new operational responsibility is in addition to the military district commander's coordinating administrative and logistical responsibilities for all forces. The new plan would give him operational control of forces during peacetime exercises and training, as well.

In June 1999, after the end of NATO air operations in Kosovo, Russian forces conducted a strategic command and staff exercise, West-99, on a scale not seen since 1985. Command structures of five of Rus-

sia's military districts and three of the four fleets participated, as well as the Strategic Rocket Forces. Belarus defense forces also took part. Defense Minister Marshal Igor D. Sergeev stated that Russian military doctrine would change as a result of NATO's military operation in Yugoslavia.

Russia's President retained control over the power ministries (which have their own military troops) and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. Overall direction of Russia's military forces was provided by the Security Council, a body chaired by the President. There were five permanent council members: the President, Prime Minister, Secretary of the Security Council (who was also the director of the Federal Security Service), and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense. Other members included the Directors of the Federal Security Service, Foreign Intelligence Service, Federal Border Guard Service, and the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Civil Defense and Emergency Situations.

Armed forces under the Ministry of Defense consisted of four military services: Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Forces, Navy, and Ground Forces. Their authorized personnel strength totaled 1,200,000. A general officer in the General Staff complained that while the Ministry of Defense forces were being reduced, military units of other power structures increased, and their cumulative strength totaled 3,500,000. The situation throughout the armed forces remained grim. "Untouchable reserves" of supplies, meaning those for wartime use only, were used to help meet current needs. Only one-third of the weapons in the armed forces were considered modern. The Russian military-industrial complex continued to develop state-of-the-art precision weapons but only in the experimental design and testing stage, not production. Aleksey Arbatov, a Duma member, said the state "is almost completely oriented toward strategic nuclear forces for maintaining the nuclear shield. There are no funds left for anything else."

Strategic Rocket Forces (RVSN), had 10 of the new SS-27 Topol-M missiles operationally deployed in 1998, up from two deployed at the end of 1997. In 1998, the Strategic Rocket Forces acquired strategic anti-ballistic missile launchers from the transfer of Air Defense Forces assets into the Strategic Rocket Forces and Air Forces. At the same time, military space forces and missile space defense forces, including satellites for communications, navigation, and intelligence, and systems for obtaining and processing information, became less effective due to lack of funding.

Air Forces (VVS) acquired airborne early warning and control aircraft and SA-5, SA-10, and SA-12 Surface-to-Air Missile launchers from the consolidation of Air Defense Forces into Air Forces and Strategic Rocket Forces, a process that was completed in late December 1998. Throughout the year, more than 30 air regiments were disbanded, resulting in the elimination or movement to reserve status of more than 600 aircraft. The MiG-23 fighter inventory was removed from operational service, and the inventories of MiG-29 and Su-27 fighters were reduced. As a result of the reduction in aircraft units, the newly merged Russian Air Forces was able to distribute spares and place additional aircraft into operational units. This improved the dismal operational service rates from lows of 30 to 40 percent to more than 80 percent for tactical aviation, 70 percent in strategic aviation, and approximately 50 percent for transport aircraft. Reductions in the SAM inventories made the SA-5 and the SA-10 the backbone of the Russian Air Forces' SAMs and eliminated the older SA-2s and SA-3s from operational service. Work continued on the creation of a coordinated air defense system. **Airborne forces**, reserve forces directly subordinate to the Supreme High Command, were to

be increased from to 32,000 to 37,600. As Russia's only mobile forces, they served as peacekeepers in a number of hot spots on the Russian rim, such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and with the United Nations. In June 1999, an advance party of 200 Russian airborne troops made an unexpected push into Pristina airport in Kosovo to serve as peacekeepers.

Navy (VMF). Currently in production are two new-generation nuclear-powered submarines: the *Severodvinsk*, the first of the new-generation attack submarines, and *Yuriy Dolgorukiy*, the first of the Borey (*Arctic Wind*)—class fleet ballistic missile submarines. In 1998, joint conventional forces were formed in Kaliningrad and the northeast (Kamchatka) and were subordinated to Baltic or Pacific Fleet commanders, respectively. This was done in order to provide greater protection to these two geographically isolated areas.

Ground Forces (SV) Main Directorate was subordinated to the General Staff when its head became a deputy chief of the General Staff in December 1998. The Main Directorate for Combat Training of the Armed Forces remained subordinated to a deputy minister of defense. Four motorized rifle divisions and three separate motorized rifle brigades of the Ground Forces were considered combat ready. Twenty divisions and 10 brigades were manned at from 10 to 50 percent of wartime strength. Personnel strength of the Ground Forces consisted of approximately 360,000 troops, including forces deployed for peacekeeping duties outside Russia. Conscript training was minimal.



Photo by Paul Kennedy

Structure of the Russian Armed Forces

As of July 27, 1999

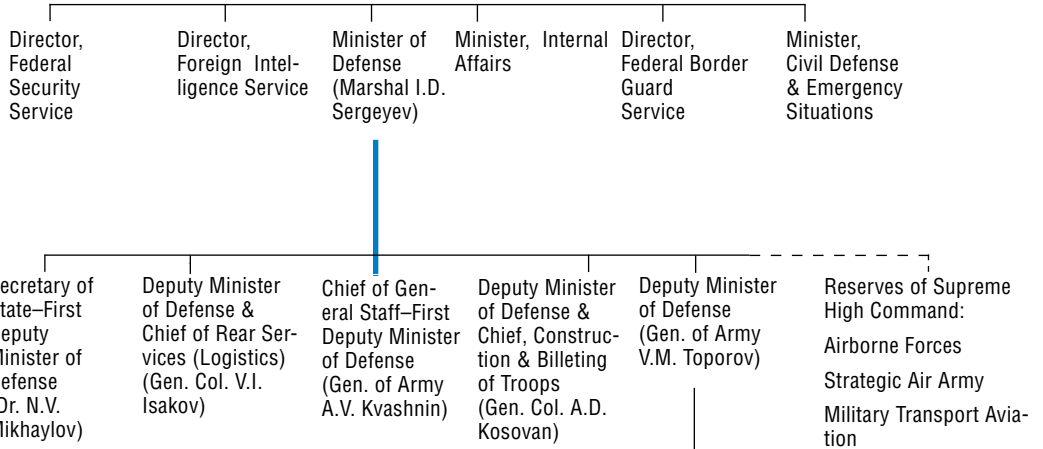
President of the Russian Federation—Supreme Commander in Chief

Security Council

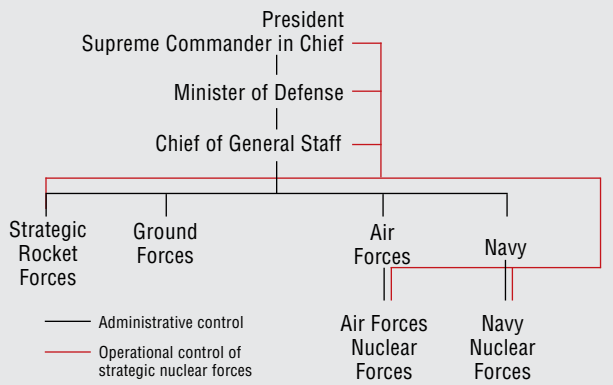
Federal Protection Service

Commonwealth of Independent States

- Heads of State Council
- Defense Ministers Council
- Border Guard Commanders Council
- Chief of Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation
- Chiefs of Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping Forces
- Air Defense Coordinating Committee



Supreme High Command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation



Main Directorates:

- Operations
- Organization & Mobilization
- Military Intelligence
- Intl. Military Cooperation
- Nuclear Weapons
- Ground Forces

Main Directorate for Combat Training of the Armed Forces

- CINC, Strategic Rocket Forces (Gen. Col. V.N. Yakovlev)
- Military Space Forces & Air Defense
- Space Missile Defense Forces
- CINC, Air Forces (Gen. Col. A.M. Kornukov)
- Military Air Force & Air Defense District (Moscow)
- CINC, Navy (Adm. V.I. Kuroyedov)
- Naval Infantry
- Coast Artillery
- Fleets:
Baltic Sea (Kaliningrad Special Region)
Black Sea
Northern Pacific (Joint Command of Russian Northeast)
- Flotilla: Caspian

Military Districts:
Far Eastern
Leningrad
Moscow
North Caucasus
Siberian
Volga-Ural

Operational Strategic Commands:
Far Eastern
Northwestern
Western
Southwestern
Siberian
Central Asian

Air Forces and Air Defense Armies

Army Aviation

Air Defense of Ground Troops

Rocket Troops & Artillery

Ground Forces units

KEY

- Organization
- Operational command
- Forces of Supreme High Command

Strategic Forces

Includes deployable Russian and deactivated Ukrainian strategic forces.

800-Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

SS-18 (RS-20): 180. SS-19 (RS-18): 160. SS-24 (Silo) (RS-22): 54. SS-24 (Rail) (RS-22): 36. SS-25 (RS-12M): 360. SS-27 (RS-12M2): 10.

113-Long-Range Bombers

Tu-95 (MS6) Bear-H6: 33. Tu-95 (MS16) Bear-H: 56. Tu-160 Blackjack: 24.

90-Medium Range Bombers

Tu-22M Backfire: 90.

20-Tanker Aircraft

Il-78 Midas: 20.

368-Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

SS-N-18 (RSM-50): 176. SS-N-20 (RSM-52): 80. SS-N-23 (RSM-54): 112.

22-Strategic Ballistic Missile Submarines

Delta-III (Kalmar): 11. Delta-IV (Delfin): 7. Typhoon (Akula): 4.

100-Strategic Anti-Ballistic Missile Launchers

ABM-3 (SH-11) Gorgon: 36. AMB-3 (SH-08) Gazelle: 64.

Air Forces

910-Fighter-Interceptors

MiG-25 Foxbat: 10. MiG-29 Fulcrum: 200. MiG-31 Foxhound: 320. Su-27 Flanker: 380.

550-Ground-Attack Aircraft

MiG-27 Flogger: 60. Su-24 Fencer: 295. Su-25 Frogfoot: 195.

200-Reconnaissance/Electronic Countermeasures Aircraft

MiG-25 Foxbat: 40. Su-24 Fencer: 150. Tu-22MR Backfire: 10.

20-Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft

A-50 Mainstay: 20.

425-Aircraft of Military Transport Aviation

An-12 Cub: 45. An-22 Cock: 25. An-24 Coke: 25. An-32 Cline: 50. An-72/74/ 79: 20. An-124 Condor: 24. An-225 Cossack: 1. Il-76 Candid: 220. Tu-134/154 Careless: 15.

2,400-Strategic Surface-to-Air Missile Launchers

SA-5 (S-200): 200. SA-10 (S-300P): 2,100. SA-12 (S-300V): 100.

Navy

1-Aircraft Carrier

Kuznetsov-class CTOL ship: 1.

60-Bombers and Strike Aircraft

Tu-22M Backfire: 60.

55-Fighter-Interceptors

Su-27 Flanker: 30. Su-33 Flanker: 25.

35-Fighter-Attack Aircraft

Su-24 Fencer: 35.

42-Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Aircraft

An-12 Cub: 5. Il-20 Coot: 8. Su-24 Fencer: 12. Tu-22MR Backfire: 5. Tu-95 Bear: 12.

270-Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft

Be-12 Mail: 25. Ka-25 Hormone-A: 50. Ka-27 Helix-A: 85. Il-38 May: 35. Mi-14 Haze-A: 20. Tu-142 Bear-F: 55.

135-Helicopters

Ka-25 Hormone: 15. Ka-29 Helix: 30. Ka-31 Helix: 5. Mi-6 Hook: 10. Mi-8 Hip: 35. Mi-14 Haze: 40.

Russian aviation was restructured in 1998. Three commands—the Strategic Forces, Air Forces, and Air Defense Forces—were merged into two. The Strategic Forces and Air Forces survived, but the Air Defense Forces disappeared. Our table reflects the changes.

The Strategic Forces absorbed all medium-range theater bombers and aerial tankers (formerly part of the Air Forces) and the 100-launcher Moscow ABM system (formerly part of Air Defense Forces). The Air Forces picked up all strategic SAMs, interceptors, and airborne early warning aircraft (formerly part of Air Defense Forces).

The merger eliminated more than 30 air regiments and 30 SAM regiments. More than 600 fighter-attack and interceptor aircraft were scrapped, used for parts, placed in reserve, or otherwise taken out of active service. The aviation structure of the Navy was unchanged.

Russian Military Emblems

These are emblems of the Russian armed forces approved in December 1995. They depict the services, plus service branches and rear services. The Air Defense Troops were amalgamated with the Air Forces and Strategic Rocket Forces. The Navy emblem has been added.





A US soldier (left) converses with a Russian counterpart at a Russian checkpoint in Sapna, Bosnia, in the long-running Bosnian peacekeeping mission. Every NATO nation has been taking part in the mission, as well as 20 non-NATO countries. Russian soldiers have been part of the NATO-led operation since January 1996.

Russian and US Grades

Naval grades in italics

Five Stars

Marshal of Russian Federation General of the Army
 General of the Air Force
Fleet Admiral

Four Stars

General of the Army General (USA)
 General of the Air Force General (USAF)
Admiral of the Fleet *Admiral (USN)*

Three Stars

General Colonel Lieutenant General
Admiral *Vice Admiral*

Two Stars

General Lieutenant Major General
Vice Admiral *Rear Admiral (Upper Half)*

One Star

General Major Brigadier General
Rear Admiral *Rear Admiral (Lower Half)*

O-6

Colonel Colonel
Captain (1st Class) *Captain*

O-5

Lieutenant Colonel Lieutenant Colonel
Captain (2nd Class) *Commander*

O-4

Major Major
Captain (3rd Class) *Lieutenant Commander*

O-3

Captain Captain
Captain Lieutenant *Lieutenant*

O-2

Senior Lieutenant First Lieutenant
Senior Lieutenant *Lieutenant Jr. Grade*

O-1

Lieutenant Second Lieutenant
Lieutenant *Ensign*

Minister of Defense Sergeev currently holds the rank of Marshal of Russian Federation. Four Marshals of Soviet Union are alive today: S.L. Sokolov, V.G. Kulikov, V.I. Petrov, and D.T. Yazov. All four are officially listed as advisors to the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense.

Active Duty Military Population, 1998

As of Dec. 31, 1998

Force element	Authorized	Actual
Ground forces	440,000	360,000
Air forces	210,000	185,000
Naval forces	200,000	180,000
Strategic offensive/defensive forces	150,000	149,000
Command and rear services	200,000	200,000
Total	1,200,000	1,074,000

External Deployments and Peacekeeping Forces

As of Dec. 31, 1998

Angola (peacekeeping)	135
Armenia (group of forces)	4,000
Bosnia (peacekeeping)	1,300
Croatia (peacekeeping)	30
Cuba	800
Georgia/Abkhazia (peacekeeping)	1,500
Georgia/South Ossetia (peacekeeping)	500
Georgia (group of forces)	9,000
Iraq/Kuwait (peacekeeping)	10
Moldova/Trans-Dniestria (peacekeeping)	2,500
Syria	50
Tajikistan (peacekeeping)	8,000
Vietnam	700
Western Sahara (peacekeeping)	25
Total	28,550

Russian Defense Ministry

As of July 1, 1999

Marshal of Russian Federation Igor Dmitriyevich Sergeev

Born 1938 in Ukraine. Russian. Russian Federation Minister of Defense since May 1997. Member of the Security Council. **Service:** Transferred from coastal artillery to Strategic Rocket

Troops in 1960. Chief of Staff, then Division Commander (1975). Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander, Rocket Army (1980–83). Deputy Chief of Main Staff of Strategic Rocket Forces (1983), then First Deputy (1985). Deputy CINC, Rocket Troops, USSR, for Combat Training (1989–December 1991). Deputy Commander, Strategic Forces, Joint Armed Forces, CIS (April 1992), and Deputy Commander, Strategic Rocket Forces for Combat Training (January–August 1992). Commander in Chief, Strategic Rocket Forces, Russian Federation (August 1992). Promoted November 1997. **Training:** Black Sea Higher Naval School (1960). Dzerzhinskiy Military Engineering Academy (with distinction, 1973). Military Academy of the General Staff (1980).

Gen. of the Army Anatoliy Vasilyevich Kvashnin

Born 1946. Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister of Defense since June 19, 1997. **Service:** Served in command posts in Czechoslovakia,

Central Asia, and Belarus. Commander of a tank division (1978). First Deputy Commander, then Commander of an army (1989). Deputy Chief, then First Deputy Chief of the Main Directorate of Operations of the General Staff (1992–95). Commander of Military Operations in Chechnya (December 1994–February 1995). Commander of the Troops of the North Caucasus Military District (February 1995), in charge of Russian armed forces in the Chechen conflict. Acting Chief of the General Staff (May 23, 1997). Promoted November 1997. **Training:** Kurgan Engineering Institute (1969). Malinovskiy Military Academy of Armored Forces (1976). Military Academy of the General Staff (1989).

Gen. Col. Aleksandr Davydovich Kosovan

Born 1941. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops since April 1997. **Service:** Worked in Special Construction until 1984. Assigned to the Volga Military District, then again

to the Main Directorate of Special Construction. Deputy Commander for Construction and Billeting Troops of the Transcaucasus Military District (1988). First Deputy Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops (1992). Promoted 1996. Honorary Builder of Russia. **Training:** Novosibirsk Construction Engineering School (1996).

Dr. Nikolay Vasilyevich Mikhaylov

Born 1937. Secretary of State—First Deputy Minister of Defense (since September 1997). The only civilian in the top echelons of the Ministry of Defense. Responsible for the reform of defense industry and

science. **Service:** Until 1986, in defense industry as director of a leading scientific research institute working on anti-missile defense. Headed the Vympel Central Research & Production Association, after 1991, the Vympel Interstate joint stock corporation. Became a Deputy Secretary of the Security Council in July 1996, responsible for the military–industrial complex, assuring technological independence, and ecological safety. **Training:** Graduated from Moscow Bauman Institute of Technology (1961). Doctor of Sciences (Economics) and Grand Doctor of Philosophy. Professor. Full member of a number of national and international academies. Government prize winner (1984, 1997) for creating an early warning system, a space control system, and a system of anti-missile defense.

Gen. Col. Vladimir Il'ich Isakov

Born 1950. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Rear Services (Logistics) since June 30, 1997. **Service:** Deputy Commander of an army for Rear Services. Served in Afghanistan (1984–86).

Chief of Staff of Rear Services, Western Group of Forces (Germany, 1991). Deputy CINC—Chief of Rear Services, Western Group of Forces (Germany, 1992). Instructor at Academy of the General Staff (1994). Chief of Staff of Rear Services (1996). Promoted 1997. **Training:** Moscow Military School of Civil Defense, Military Academy of Rear Services and Transport, Military Academy of the General Staff.

Gen. of the Army Vladimir Mikhaylovich Toporov

Born 1946. Russian. Deputy Minister of Defense, Russian Federation, since June 1992. Plans and organizes Ground Forces combat training (December 1998). Member of Commission on the Social Affairs of

Servicemen and Others Discharged from Military Service and Their Families (December 1996). **Service:** Twenty years in Airborne Troops. Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander, Far Eastern Military District (1989–91). Commander of Moscow Military District (September 1991). Coordinator for sales of military equipment through *Voen-tekh* (1992–95). Under the military reform, main directorates replacing the Ground Forces were subordinated to Toporov (January 1998). Promoted 1996. **Training:** Odessa Artillery School (1968). Frunze Military Academy (1975). Military Academy of the General Staff (1984).

Uniformed Chiefs of the Military

Commanders in chief are listed in the same order of service precedence as applied in the days of the Soviet Ministry of Defense. However, these commanders are no longer deputy ministers of defense.

Gen. Col. Vladimir Nikolayevich Yakovlev

Born 1954. Commander in Chief, Strategic Rocket Forces, since June 30, 1997. **Service:** Commander of a missile regiment (1985). Deputy Commander (1989), Commander of a missile

division (1991). Chief of Staff—First Deputy Commander of a missile army (1993). Commander of a missile army (1994). Chief of the Main Staff—First Deputy CINC of the Strategic Rocket Forces (December 1996). Promoted 1997. **Training:** Kharkov Higher Military Command Engineering School (1976). Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy (command faculty) (with gold medal, 1985). Military Academy of the General Staff (1999). Candidate of sciences (military).

Gen. Col. Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Kornukov

Born 1942. CINC of the Air Forces since January 1998. **Service:** Commander of Air Forces fighter division (1980–85) and an Air Forces fighter corps (1985–87). First Deputy Commander of Air Defense Aviation (1988).

First Deputy Commander of a detached Air Defense Army (1989), later Commander. Commander of the Moscow Air Defense District (September 1991). Promoted 1991. **Training:** Chernigov Higher Aviation School for Pilots (1964). Military Command Academy of Air Defense (1980). Military Academy of the General Staff (1988).

Adm. Vladimir Ivanovich Kuroyedov

Born 1944. CINC of the Navy since November 1997. **Service:** Pacific Fleet (1967–76). Flotilla Commander in the Pacific Fleet (1989). Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander of the Baltic Fleet

(1993). Commander of the Pacific Fleet (February 1996). Chief of the Main Naval Staff and First Deputy CINC of the Navy (July 1997). Promoted 1996. **Training:** Pacific Ocean Higher Naval School (1967). Naval Academy (1978). Military Academy of the General Staff (with gold medal, 1989).

Strategic Nuclear Weapons of Russia and the Other Nuclear-Armed Former Soviet Republics, 1998

	Russia	Ukraine	Kazakhstan	Belarus	Total
ICBMs	756	44	0	0	800
Warheads	3,590	0	0	0	3,590
Bombers	70	43	0	0	113
Warheads	560	0	0	0	560
SSBNs	22	—	—	—	22
SLBMs	368	—	—	—	368
Warheads	1,176	—	—	—	1,176
Total vehicles	1,194	87	0	0	1,281
Total warheads	5,326	0	0	0	5,326

All data are current as of Dec. 31, 1998. Adjustments in Russian strategic forces reflect START deployable delivery systems as noted in the Jan. 1, 1999, MOU on Data Notification. All Delta Is and Delta IIs, as well as three Delta IIIs and three Typhoons, have been withdrawn from active deployments and are not counted as operational strategic forces.

Zero indicates that that particular nuclear weapon type was deployed in that country at one time but is not deployed there now; a dash indicates that a weapon was never deployed in that country.

Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1991-98

Nation	USSR							
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Russia		7,644	6,766	6,902	5,961	6,410	6,414	5,326
Ukraine		1,408	1,264	1,594	1,056	0	0	0
Kazakhstan		1,360	1,260	1,040	0	0	0	0
Belarus		54	54	36	18	0	0	0
Total	11,159	10,466	9,344	9,572	7,035	6,410	6,414	5,326

Moscow's Active Duty Military Forces, 1989-98: USSR and Russian Federation

Year	Strategic forces—offensive/defensive			Total forces	Strategic Nuclear Forces, 1989-98: USSR and Russian Federation		
	Command and rear services	Theater forces—ground, air, naval	Ballistic missile submarines				
1989	2,690,000	890,000	1,450,000	5,030,000	1,378	150	954
1990	2,187,000	876,000	925,000	3,988,000	1,373	155	924
1991	2,150,000	755,000	650,000	3,555,000	1,393	141	912
1992	1,205,000	366,000	180,000	1,751,000	1,031	135	864
1993	1,082,000	230,000	100,000	1,412,000	884	74	788
1994	1,045,000	245,000	105,000	1,395,000	773	95	732
1995	923,500	279,200	176,000	1,378,700	671	69	524
1996	985,000	274,000	175,000	1,434,000	747	69	440
1997	776,000	260,000	164,000	1,200,000	756	70	424
1998	725,000	149,000	200,000	1,074,000	756	70	368

The active military population of the Soviet Union peaked in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell and the Warsaw Pact collapsed. Moscow initiated major force reductions, which have continued throughout the 1990s. In late 1991, the USSR itself collapsed, leaving Russia with a portion of Soviet forces while large numbers of troops stayed in newly independent nations. After 1991, none of the forces of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus (or any other former Soviet republic) are counted in this table.

Russian aviation was restructured in 1998. Many of the troops of the Air Defense Forces (formerly counted in the second column, "Strategic forces—offensive/defensive") went to the theater forces or command and rear services or left the military altogether. This accounts in part for the large one-year 1997-98 changes in strength in this table.

Russia retained all of the sea-based strategic weapons. Russia also retained most of the ICBM and bomber forces, though a significant number of these weapons came under control of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. None of the forces of these nations are counted in this table after 1991.