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 Russia’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. Sergeyev 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.
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
- Chiefs of Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation
- Chiefs of Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping Forces
- Air Defense Coordinating Committee

Secretary of State—First Deputy Minister of Defense (Dr. N.V. Mikhaylov)
Deputy Minister of Defense & Chief of Rear Services (Logistics) (Gen. Col. V.I. Isakov)
Chief of General Staff—First Deputy Minister of Defense (Gen. of Army A.V. Kvashnin)
Deputy Minister of Defense & Chief, Construction & Billeting of Troops (Gen. Col. A.D. Kosovan)
Deputy Minister of Defense (Gen. of Army V.M. Toporov)

Secretary of State—First Deputy Minister of Defense (Dr. N.V. Mikhaylov)
Deputy Minister of Defense & Chief of Rear Services (Logistics) (Gen. Col. V.I. Isakov)
Chief of General Staff—First Deputy Minister of Defense (Gen. of Army A.V. Kvashnin)
Deputy Minister of Defense & Chief, Construction & Billeting of Troops (Gen. Col. A.D. Kosovan)
Deputy Minister of Defense (Gen. of Army V.M. Toporov)

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

Main Directorate for Combat Training of the Armed Forces

Operational Strategic Commands:
- Far Eastern
- Leningrad
- Moscow
- North Caucasus
- Siberian
- Volga-Ural

Military Districts:
- Far Eastern
- Northwestern
- Western
- Southwestern
- Siberian
- Central Asian

CINC, Strategic Rocket Forces (Gen. Col. V.N. Yakovlev)
Military Space Forces
Space Missile Defense Forces

CINC, Air Forces (Gen. Col. A.M. Kornukov)
Military Air Forces
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

Reserves of Supreme High Command:
- Airborne Forces
- Strategic Air Army
- Military Transport Aviation

Forces of Supreme High Command

KEY
- Organization
- Operational command
Lineup of Russian Aerospace Power, 1998

**Strategic Forces**

Includes deployable Russian and deactivated Ukrainian strategic forces.

**800–Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles**


**113–Long-Range Bombers**


**90–Medium Range Bombers**

Tu-22M Backfire: 90.

**20–Tanker Aircraft**

Tu-95K Veliky: 20.

**368–Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles**


**22–Strategic Ballistic Missile Submarines**


**100–Strategic Anti-Ballistic Missile Launchers**

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

**Air Forces**

**910–Fighter–Interceptors**


**550–Ground-Attack Aircraft**


**200–Reconnaissance/Electronic Countermeasures Aircraft**


**20–Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft**


**425–Aircraft of Military Transport Aviation**


**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**


**35–Fighter–Attack Aircraft**

Su-24 Fencer: 35.

**42–Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Aircraft**


**270–Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft**


**135–Helicopters**


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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.

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**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.
Russian and US Grades

Naval grades in italics

**Five Stars**
- Marshal of Russian Federation
- General of the Army
- Fleet Admiral

**Four Stars**
- General of the Army
- General (USAF)
- Admiral of the Fleet

**Three Stars**
- General Colonel
- Lieutenant General
- Vice Admiral

**Two Stars**
- General Lieutenant
- Major General
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half)

**One Star**
- General Major
- Brigadier General
- Rear Admiral (Lower Half)

### Active Duty Military Population, 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force element</th>
<th>Authorized</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground forces</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air forces</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>185,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval forces</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic offensive/defensive forces</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>149,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command and rear services</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,200,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,074,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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** |
As of July 1, 1999

Gen. Col. Vladimir Kuroyedov

Gen. Col. Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Kornukov

Gen. Col. Vladimir Il’ich Isakov

Gen. of the Army Anatoliy Vasilyevich Vashkhin

Gen. Col. Aleksandr Davydovich Kosovan

Dr. Nikolay Vasilyevich Mikhaylov

Gen. Col. Vladimir Nikolayevich Yakovlev

Gen. of the Army Vladimir Mikhaylovich Toporov

Adm. Vladimir Ivanovich Kuroyedov
Strategic Nuclear Weapons of Russia and the Other Nuclear-Armed Former Soviet Republics, 1998

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 IIs and three Typhoons, have been withdrawn from active deployments and are not counted as operational strategic forces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICBMs</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warheads</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombers</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warheads</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSBNs</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLBMs</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warheads</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total vehicles</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total warheads</td>
<td>5,326</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,326</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1991–98

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7,644</td>
<td>6,766</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>5,961</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td>5,326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>1,594</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11,159</td>
<td>10,466</td>
<td>9,344</td>
<td>7,035</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td>5,326</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moscow’s Active Duty Military Forces, 1989–98: USSR and Russian Federation

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total forces</th>
<th>Command and rear services</th>
<th>Theater forces—ground, air, naval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2,690,000</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2,187,000</td>
<td>876,000</td>
<td>925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2,150,000</td>
<td>755,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,205,000</td>
<td>366,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>1,082,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1,045,000</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>923,500</td>
<td>279,200</td>
<td>176,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>985,000</td>
<td>274,000</td>
<td>175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>776,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>164,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>725,000</td>
<td>149,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Nuclear Forces, 1989–98: USSR and Russian Federation

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ICBMs</th>
<th>Submarine-launched ballistic missiles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1,373</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ballistic missile submarines

Long-range bombers

ICBMs