| Date of activity Description of activity | Type of activity | Location of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|------|------|--|
| 2/1/14 The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation (and termination of joint exercises, Russia's withdrawal from ASFR, Arctic Security Forces Roundtable) timeline of events not in Ar | Arctic Annexation | Crimea/ Ukraine | Russian troops | Putin said "to ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to be able to freely express their will." | A violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, annexation of territory | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-timeline/timeline-political-crisis-in-ukraine-and-russias-occupation-of-crimea-idUSBREA270PO20140308 | | | | |
| March 17th, 2014 Russia drops 350 paratroopers over the New Siberian Islands (one of the biggest airdrop operations in the Arctic) | Exercise | Far northern New Siberian Islands, Island of Kotelny (used airfield Tiksi as base before operat | | Test capability, test new 7-layer military gear designed for Arctic survival | Show of strength under difficult Arctic weather conditions | https://barentsobserver.com/en/security/2014/03/arctic-here-we-come-17-03 | | | | |
| 3/26/14 Russian fighter jets near the Finnish border cause alarm in Finland (Troops and fighter jets from all 4 military districts deployed 150 miles from Finnish border) NOR AD F. 22 fighters intercent and identify 2 Russian Tu 95 Rear long, range hombers flying in aircrace west of Alaskan coast. | Flight/interception | 150 miles east of the Finnish border | Russian troops and fighter jets from all four military districts (Russia says only 50 fighter pilots took part) NORAD E 22 fighters intercepting 2 Russian Tu 95 hear long range hombers | Russia says exercises were pre- planned, they are preparing an operation Regular exercise/patrol | Show of force, "flexing muscles" | https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ukraine-crisis/finland-frets-russia-launches-military-drills-its-doorstep-n67866 https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 | | | | |
| 4/2/14 NORAD F-22 fighters intercept and identify 2 Russian Tu-95 Bear long- range bombers flying in airspace west of Alaskan coast 4/3/14 Putin and Russian Security Council meet and decide to strengthen infrastructure and military presence in Arctic | Flight/interception Decision | Airspace west of Alaskan coast Moscow | NORAD F-22 fighters intercepting 2 Russian Tu-95 bear long-range bombers Putin, Russian Security Council | Regular exercise/patrol Putin says the region is of special interest, military, political, economic, technological, environmental importance | Enhancing Arctic presence, protecting exisiting Arctic investme | | | | | |
| April Putin announces plans for 10 search and rescue stations to be built along Arctic coast (16 naval ports already exist there) | | Along Russia's 22,000km Arctic coast (exact placement unknown) | Ten search and rescue stations to be constructed (16 naval ports already exist along the coast) | Need more safety measures if there will be commercialization of Northern Sea Route | N/A | https://www.defensenews.com/home/2015/03/11/russia-s-polar-pivot/ | | | | |
| April Construction of border patrol ships is underway and Putin announces plans to replace old icebreakers (most will be out of commission in 2020s) April Putin announces plans for 2 new special Arctic Motor Rifle Brigaes and new all- terrain armoured vehicles. | | | Three new nuclear icebreakers and four diesel- powered ice breakers to be built to replace older Soviet icebreakers To meet requirements of Northern Command, 200th Independent Motor Rifle Brigade in Murmansk is absorbed and new special Arctic Motor Rifle Brigades will be established | To replace and modernize old icebreakers To meet the requirements of the new Northern Command's ground forces | More comprehensive and modern defence across the Arctic | | | | | |
| April Putin announces plans for 2 new special Arctic Motor Rifle Brigaes and new all-terrain armoured vehicles. April Putin announces three new military bases will be created at Wrangel Island, the New Siberian Islands (largest base is called Northern Clover) and Franz Josef Archipelago | Decision/ new equipment/ upgrade Decision/ new equipment/ upgrade | | Each base will house up to 5000 troops | Housing for new troops, spread out further into more northern regions | N/A | https://www.defensenews.com/home/2015/03/11/russia-s-polar-pivot/ https://www.defensenews.com/home/2015/03/11/russia-s-polar-pivot/ | | | | |
| 4/9/14 Russian airborne unit (90 paratroopers from 98th Airborne division) lands at the North Pole (Camp Barneo set up for military use, no longer just research) | Exercise | North Pole (from Ivanovo-based 98th airborne Division jumped to research station Barneo) | 90 paratroopers from the Ivanovo- based 98th Airborne Division jumped from an Ilyushin IL-76 to the research station Barneo | Set up camps in case of emergency situations with vessels on the Northern Sea Route (emergency supplies dropped down as w | Experimenting with working in extreme cold weather condition | https://barentsobserver.com/en/security/2014/04/russian-paratroopers-conquer-north-pole-10-04 | | | | |
| 6/9/14 NORAD F-22 fighters intercept 4 Russian long-range bombers and one refuelling tanker near Alaska. 2 were later seen near northern California coast 6/17/14 Russian Security Service agents conduct major joint exercise at main Arctic oil installations with 500 participants | Flight/interception Joint exercise | Near Alaska (airspace) and again near northern California coast Main Arctic oil installations | Four Russian long- range bombers and one refuelling tanker 500 participants from the Security Services Agency from Murmansk, Akhangelsk and Nenets | regular exercise/patrol Training scenario was about the elimination of terrorists who had taken hostages | N/A Comes as Greenneace activists fight against oil drilling in the sa | https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 area https://barentsobserver.com/en/security/2014/06/fsb-trains-counter-terrorism-arctic-oil-installation-17-06 | | | | |
| July 18th, 2014 Russian fighters chase American surveillance plane conducting operations near Kaliningrad into Swedish airspace (Sweden did not grant permission for US to enter their airspace) | Airspace violation | Barents Sea | US RC-135 Rivet Joint chased into Swedish airspace by Russian fighter jets | Russia attempts to intercept US aircraft is not unusual, but the US decision to cross into Swedish airspace was a first-time deci | | https://theaviationist.com/2014/08/01/rc_135_violated_swedish_airspace/ | | | | |
| August 23- 29 Russian Antonov AN-72 transport crossed into Finnish airspace (suspected of 2 other violations of Finnish airspace between August 23-29) | Airspace violation | Finnish border near Porvoo on the Gulf of Finland | Russian Antonov AN 72 transport plane (met by Finland's F/A-18 Hornet jet) | Unknown, potentially provocation | N/A | https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-08-28/finland-puts-fighter-planes-on-alert-as-russia-violates-airspace | | | | |
| Early August No specific numbers/dates provided by NORAD, but a spike in Russian aircraft around the US occurs in early August 8/7/14 Russia's northern fleet detects foreign submarine (thought to be US) in Barents Sea and force it out of Russian waters (US denies that this occurred) | Observation | N/A Rarents see | N/A Russia reports that US Navy submarine was chased away by anti-submarine warfare aircraft | N/A Apparently, according to EUCOM, this report is false: "there was no US submarine in the area" Why would Russia say this? | N/A Parhans it was not a US submarine? Unknown reasoning | https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 https://news.usni.org/2014/08/11/u-s-denies-attack-submarine-expelled-barents-sea | | | | |
| September Russian strategic bombers in the Labrador Sea practiced cruise missile strikes on the US during NATO summit | Exercise | Labrador Sea near Canada (Ottawa, New York, Washington, Chicago, and Norfolk Naval Base | e in range Russian strategic bombers (Tu-95 Bear bombers) | Conducting practice cruise missile attacks on the US during a training mission | Timing lined up with NATO summit Wales (sending a message) | | | | | |
| September Eastern & central military districts: snap inspection of combat readiness of troops (long range and military transport aviation commands) | Prep | Eastern & central military district | Airborne forces, long range and military transport aviation commands | Test readiness for upcoming VOSTOK exercises | N/A | http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/46663 | | | | |
| September 19- 26 VOSTOK military exercise (also takes place 2010 and 2018) in Eastern Military District 9/17/14 Two Alaska-based F-22 fighters intercept 2 Russian IL-78 refuelling tankers, 2 Russian MiG-31 fighter jets and 2 Russian bear long- range bombers west of Alaska | Exercise/ Joint exercise Elight/intercention | 14 testing ranges in Sakhalin, Kamchatka and Chukotka and south of Primorye West of Alaska (girspage), the group of gigraft did a loop south and returned westward to Pussi | 155,000 servicemen, 8000 units equipment, 600 aircraft, 80 combat and support vessels sia 2 IL-78 refuelling tankers, 2 MiG-31 fighter jets and 2 Russian bear long- range bombers | Annual exercises/ tested missile systems, anti-ship cruise missiles, shore defence, take-off/landing of aircraft regular exercise/patrol | N/A | http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/46663 https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 | | | | |
| 9/17/14 Two Alaska-based F-22 fighters intercept 2 Russian IL-78 refuelling tankers, 2 Russian MiG-31 fighter jets and 2 Russian bear long- range bombers west of Alaska 9/17/20 Two Russian military aircraft crossed into Swedish airspace south of the Island of Oland (to test air defence system capabilities) Described as a serious incursion by Swedish Foreign Min | Flight/interception finister Airspace violation | West of Alaska (airspace), the group of airraft did a loop south and returned westward to Russi Swedish airspace south of the island of Oland | Two Russian military aircraft (Su-24 bombers) | intentionally violated Swedish airspace possibly to test capabilities of improved air defence system | Serious incursion (potentially since Sweden is not part of NATO | | | | | |
| 9/18/14 Two Russian bear long- range bombers intercepted by 2 Canadian CF-19 fighters in thw western area of Canadian zone in Beaufort Sea | Flight/interception | Western area of the Canadian zone in the Beaufort Sea | 2 Russian bear long range bombers | regular exercise/patrol | N/A | https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 | | | | |
| 9/19/20 Russian officers detained a Lithuanian shipping vessels in international waters in the Barents Sea and towed it to Murmansk. October 29: 20 Russian officers detained a Lithuanian shipping vessels in international waters in the Barents Sea and towed it to Murmansk. | Dispute | International waters near Russia in Barents Sea, towed to Murmansk | Russian officers aboard Russian border patrol ship, fishing vessel "Juros Vilkas" Language hambers in Politic and tracked by NATO | Russia says it is in accordance with its own international obligations (part of routine patrols of the area) | Unknown | https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/lithuania-in-diplomatic-row-over-russia-ship-seizure/118263 https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/full-list-of-incidents-involving-russian-military-and-nato-since-march-2014-9851309.html | | | | |
| October 28-30Russia conducts major air exercise in the North Sea, Atlantic, Black Sea, and Baltic Sea12/1/14The Northern Fleet Strategic Command created as Russia's 5th military district (part of new command structure uniting all Arctic units) went live on December 1 | Statement/new equipment/upgrade | North Sea, Atlantic, Black Sea, and Baltic Sea Murmansk- based | Long- range bombers in Baltic sea tracked by NATO Combined- forces command (to coordinate military units in the Arctic) | Exercise, show of force To unite in command all of the military units in the Arctic | Create comprehensive defence of Russian Arctic | https://icds.ee/russias-military-capabilities-in-the-arctic/ | | | | |
| 12/8/14 Canadian CF-18 fighters intercept 2 Russian Tu-95 bear long- range bombers northwest of Anchorage and into Beaufort Sea | Flight/interception | International airspace northwest of Anchorage and in the Beaufort Sea off of Canadian coast | Two Russian Tu-95 bear long- range bombers | regular exercise/patrol | N/A | https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/intercepts-norad-made-of-russian-planes-in-2014-1.3091965 | | | | |
| December Finnish Air Force have intercepted and observed a variety of Russian aircraft (increased activity around December 6th) "more active than they have been in decades" (Veer-long) In 2014 Norway intercepted 74 Russian warplanes off its coast 27% more than in 2013 | Observation (Plant / Plant / P | Finland, Baltic Sea, flights over the Baltic Sea to Russia's Kaliningrad | Russian aircraft including Tupolev TU-95 Bear and Tupolev TU-22M backfire bombers and sukhoi Su-27 Flanker and Mikoyan MiG-31 Foxhound fighters Norway/ Russia (74 Russian warnlanes, Norway/s E-16 fighters to track and monitor) | Stepping up of air policing in general Have not violated Norway's aircrace, but are showing force, acting provocatively? | Show of force Russia has greated uncertainty in Natural 1 | https://news.usni.org/2014/12/10/finland-unusually-intense-russian-air-activity-baltic https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/world/europe/a-newly-assertive-russia-jolts-norways-air-defenses-into-action.html | | | | |
| (Year-long) In 2014, Norway intercepted 74 Russian warplanes off its coast, 27% more than in 2013 (Year-long) According to NATO, along the borders of NATO states, Russian activity has increased 50% since beginning of 2014 | Observation/year-long/Flight/interce | Along NATO borders in Europe | Norway/ Russia (74 Russian warplanes, Norway's F-16 fighters to track and monitor) Northern borders patrolled by fighters based in Bodo (NATO, Russia) | Have not violated Norway's airspace, but are showing force, acting provocatively? Russia is practicing, training, patrolling | Russia has created uncertainty in Norway about its intentions Showing strength, acting provocatively | https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/world/europe/a-newly-assertive-russia-jolts-norways-air-defenses-into-action.html https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/world/europe/a-newly-assertive-russia-jolts-norways-air-defenses-into-action.html | | | | |
| (Year-long) In total in 2014, Russia conducts 5 deployments in the Arctic | Year-long | Russian Arctic | Flagships the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier, Pyotr Veliky battle cruiser, 2 Udaloy-class destroyers, 5 corvettes of the Grisha and Nanuchka class, 2 ropucha-class landing ships and 5 sn | | | https://www.defensenews.com/home/2015/03/11/russia-s-polar-pivot/ | | | | |
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| Date of activity | Description of activity | Type of activity | Location of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | 1 |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Russian Strategic bombers make more than 50 flights over world ocean, fighter jets made longest possible flights Arctic troops arrive as Russia masses together united northern command (Building of new bases continues) | Year-long/ observation Statement/ new equipment/upgrade | Far north regions/Arctic/World oceans | | Practicing long- range aviation, sustainability in coldest regions Amassing presence in far north regions, part of uniting Northern Command | Show of strength and ability | https://tass.com/russia/770212 https://tass.com/russia/770942 | | |
| January | 800 Russian troops stationed near Finnish border (14 airfields to be built here and made into a new base) | Statement/ new equipment/upgrade | Russian town of Alakurtti, Murmansk region (50km from Finnish border) | 800 servicemen from Russia's Northern Fleet stationed here, combat training will begin once 3rd barrack ready | The base will be a key stronghold, improve territorial claims over areas in the Arctic | N/A | https://www.newsweek.com/3000-russian-troops-stationed-near-finish-border-putin-makes-moves-arctic-299129 | | |
| | Russia's Arctic force starts using special low- temp fuel Russian Northern Fleet's antisubmarine aviation conducts drills in Arctic | New equipment/upgrade Exercise | Across Russia's Arctic White and Barents Seas | New fuel that can be used at temperatures as low as -65 degrees celcius 800 servicement, Ka-27 helicopter crews, crews of Ilyushin IL-38 warplanes used bombs, torpedos, and mines. 12 crews of antisub aircraft involved | To use for various types of engines in ultra-low temps (Arctic sustainability) Training submarine surveillance skills | N/A N/A | https://tass.com/russia/778052 https://tass.com/russia/779722 | | |
| 3/1/15 3/16/15 | Russia withdraws from the Joint Consultative Group on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Northern Fleet goes on combat alert amid snap check prior to military exercise | Decision Prep | N/A Western Military District, Northern Fleet | | A further "pullback" from the treaty, which was already Russia's intention since 2007 Testing combat alert/snap check. Inspecting newly formed strategic division in Arctic | Russia did not let anyone discuss substantive issues in this forum, existing tensions over west's sanctions N/A (test readiness) | https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/russian-military , https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2015-04/news-briefs/russia-completes-cfe-treaty-suspension https://tass.com/russia/782905 , https://tass.com/russia/783001 | | 1 |
| March 16-21, 2015 | Russia conducts 5-day military exercise: 80,000 troops, 220 aircraft, 41 ships, 15 submarines | | Novaya Zemlya and Franz Josef Land Archipelago | 80,000 troops, 220 aircraft, 41 ships, and 15 submarines | Drills to check readiness of Northern Fleet and their ability to deply forces from central Russia | While it is denied that these exercises are connected to recent EU sanctions, it may be a show of strength Barneo has been used for military purposes since 2014 | https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2015/03/16/russia-launches-massive-arctic-military-drills/, https://tass.com/world/783308 | | |
| 3/17/15 | 100 paratroopers from Ivanovo and Pskov divisions, soldiers from Belarus and Tajikistan landed there. Conducted dril Russian Air Force crews start re-deployment to Arctic areas | | 89 degrees North, Camp Barneo Western Military District, redeployed from Smolensk and Leningrad regions | Crews of Mi-24 and Mi-8 helicopters | Conducted drills and set up camps in case of emergencies To redeploy and practice distances of 1500km, piloting techniques, then landing operations, air cover of ground units, and practice strikes on ground targets, SAR operation | s Show of strength and ability | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2016/03/ice-camp-barneo-2016-pipeline https://tass.com/russia/783311 | | |
| 3/31/15 4/1/15 | Russian Navy to develop Arctic Rescue Robots Russian airborne troops to practice survival near North Pole | Statement/ new equipment/upgrade Exercise | Russian Arctic Specific location not mentioned (far north) Airborne divisions stationed near Pskov and Ivanovo | Russia's head naval commander, underwater search and rescue robots Two Russian airborne divisions, equipped with special low-temp gear | To provide search and rescue support without subjecting troops to harsh weather conditions To practice survival/safety/low temp operation sustainability | Comes as Russian Navy is tasked with prioritizing strengthening control/patrols in Arctic N/A (combat readiness, potential show of ability/strength) | https://www.newsweek.com/russian-navy-develop-arctic-rescue-robots-318264 https://tass.com/russia/786688 | | 4 |
| | Russian Army will get new radioelectronic warfare systems for use in Arctic areas Security bloc paratroopers march to North Pole for rescue drill operation | Statement/ new equipment/upgrade Exercise | N/A Russia's Arctic in general Near North Pole | | Suppress onboard radars of frontline and sea-based aviation (radioelectronic jamming) says it can be used to combat foreign military buildup along Russian border Training humanitarian SAR, gone on foot, ski, snowshoes, dogsled, in various weather conditions | Can/will be used during NATO war games Testing capability in adverse weather conditions | https://tass.com/russia/786982 https://tass.com/russia/788069 and https://tass.com/russia/788680 | | 1 |
| 4/15/15 | Two ships deliver 10,000 tons of cargo to Arctic as part of infrastructure development operations | New equipment/upgrade | Russian Arctic zone Cape Schmidt and Wrangel Island | two ships Abakan and Igor Ilyinsky, deliver 10,000 tons of building material, fuel, food, equipment | As part of the second phase of infrastructure development on these islands. Ensure support for military servicemen | N/A | https://tass.com/russia/789409 | | |
| 5/1/15 | Military drones Orlan-10 to start monitoring in the Arctic beginning May 1, 2015 Russian IL-76 airlifter makes its first Arctic landing on snow- covered airfield | | Deployed in the Chukchi Peninsula Franz Josef Land Archipelago | IL-76 airlifter brought 80 people and 3 tons of various cargoes for infrastructure/development on the archipelago | Flight tested adverse weather conditions and brough servicemen and cargo | Military surveillance purposes N/A | https://tass.com/russia/791213 https://tass.com/russia/792738 | | |
| 5/12/15 6/1/15 | Putin identifies the pace of Armed Forces modernization as a top priority MiG-31 fighters will get new navigation system for the Arctic | Statement/ new equipment/upgrade Statement/ new equipment/upgrade | | | Putin wants to keep the pace of modernization for 'cost- cutting reasons' (modernized equipment means less equipment and lower maintenance costs in future) Can operate at low temps, absense of satellite signals and communication with ground-based services (ensure full autonomy) | N/A (Unknown what other reasons the speed of modernization might be about) N/A | https://tass.com/russia/794225 https://tass.com/russia/803283 | | 1 |
| 8/1/15 August 23-28, 2015 | According to Russian defence minister, Russian army had 3 snap combat readiness checks in July Joint exercise of the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force (Interaction 2015) | | Western, Eastern, and Arctic regions Held at the range of Strugi Krasniye and the Kresty Airfield in the Pskov region | Northern Fleet command structures and forces | check the Northern Fleet's command structures, forces' readness to respond to crises at military facilities, technological/epidemiological disasters, and terrorism Practiced issues of preparation and performance of joint operations | N/A Apparently also defending the 'constitutional order' and recovery of territorial integrity of an imaginary state | https://tass.com/russia/812296 http://eng.mil.ru/en/mission/practice/more.htm?id=12054126@egNews | | |
| | Russian military group in the Arctic will be reinforced by two regiments | Statement/ new equipment/upgrade | N/A | Naval air fighter and air defence missile regiments will reinforce the Russian military group in the Arctic | Reinforce the existing Russian military group | N/A | https://tass.com/russia/817493 | | |
| 9/1/15 September 10-16, 2015 | Russian helicopters deliver air strikes in Arctic drills Russian- Belarusian operational exercise Union Shield 2015 | Joint exercise | Taimyr Peninsula in Russia's Arctic Pskov and Leningrad regions | Troops from western military district and Belarus, 8000 servicemen, 400 pieces of armament, 80 aircraft | Exercise to practice patrolling in transport helicopters (detecting a 'sabotage' group in off- road vehicles and launched aircraft rockets to hit these targets) Practiced maneuvering defence activities using army, fighter, attacker and bomber aviation | N/A Show of force/strength, improve interoperability | https://tass.com/russia/817862 http://eng.mil.ru/en/mission/practice/more.htm?id=12054684@egNews | | |
| 9/30/15 September 14-20, 2015 | Russia intensifies construction speed of military facilities in the Arctic TSENTR (annual strategic exercise) | | | | To speed up construction (working non- stop) Annual exercises, this time focussed on eliminating large terrorist group using air assault forces | Unknown why it has to be sped up, why the timing is necessary Used rockets and artillery and robotic forces (what does this mean?) | https://tass.com/defense/824619 http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/50329 | | 1 |
| 9/1/15 | Russia's KA-52 Alligator helicopters hit 30 targets in Far East drills Russia adds the "Yantar" to its Northern Fleet. It collected data for intelligence operation | Exercise/ test | Eastern Military District, near Khabarovsk Travelled to East Coast of US, home port will be Severomorsk on Kola Peninsula | Kamov KA-52 Alligator conduct first live fire exercise | Testing new equipment, hit 30 targets Research vessel to collect data on ocean environment | Demonstrates expansion of military, capability Collected data on US deep sea communication for Russian intelligence operation | https://tass.com/defense/820211 https://theharentsehserver.com/cn/2015/10/northern_fleet_gets_unique_vessel | | |
| 10/19/15 | Russia's northernmost air defence base becomes fully combat- ready | New equipment/upgrade | Alexander Island on Franz Josef Archipelago | Modern hi-tech military compound, air defence units (unknown number of servicemen) | The servicemen are now combat- ready, part of larger plan for unification and modernization | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/829880 | | |
| 11/23/15 | Russian aircraft carrier conducts live firing drills in the Barents Sea Russia deploys squadron of drones to Arctic region | New equipment/upgrade | Barents Sea Based near Chukotka | Squadron of the Orlan-10 and Forpost unmanned aerial vehicles | Combat readiness test, practice drills, hit sea target during the drills Will perform the tasks of monitoring combat readiness of the units in the Arctic zone, the conditon of military facilities, and will survey terrain, and patrol the air | N/A (combat readiness, potential show of ability/strength) N/A | https://tass.com/defense/831760 https://tass.com/defense/838402 | | |
| | | Statement/new equipment/upgrade | | Budget/money re-distrbuted to build geo-politically important military facilities in the Arctic, new airportmodernize artillery divisions Completes equipping of military bases with infrastructure facilities (admin and housing complex, military towns, aerodomes, combat positons, etc) | Attributes this decision to 'the current geopolitical and economic situation' although specifics are not provided | Part of modernization project already underway, perhaps more severe as Syrian conflict intensifies, show of strength N/A | https://tass.com/defense/839327 https://tass.com/defense/841935 | | |
| 12/7/15 | Russian deputy Prime Minister announces that restoring military infrastructure in the Arctic is not aimed at militarizat | tion Statement/new equipment/upgrade | N/A | Russian Deputy PM Dmitry Rogozin statement | | Statement made to address western accusations of militarization in the Arctic. Part of modernization project already underway/unification_increasing Arctic presence | https://tass.com/defense/841945 https://tass.com/defense/824472 | | |
| | Russian troops conduct almost 2,000 tactical drills in 2015 in 9 months (15% intensification of training activity) Russia deployed two S-400 air defence missile regiments in the Arctic in 2015 | | Throughout the Arctic Novaya Zemlya and Tiksi in Yakutia | | Upgrades to existing S-300 systems (part of modernization project) | Part of modernization project already underway/ unification, increasing Arctic presence N/A | https://tass.com/defense/842201 | | |
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| Date of activity | Description of activity | Type of activity | Location of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| January 21st, 2016 | Russia plans new airborne drills on the North Pole | Statement/exercise | North Pole | Airborne Troops, Russian Geographic Society's Expedition Center and the Military Transport Aviation, potentially Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia | Exercises in cold weather conditions, massive aidrop of troops and cargo planned | Show of force | tps://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2016/01/russia-plans-new-airborne-drills-north-pole | | |
| 1/29/16 R | Russia reinforcing the permanent group deployed in the Arctic (Building up permanent troops throughout the Arctic) | Statement/new equipment/upgrade | e Across Russia's Arctic (Novaya Zemlya, Severnaya Zemlya, New Siberian Islan | ands) 45th Air Force and Air Defence Army of the Northern Fleet | Soldiers are to be put on combat duty, and to enhance control over the Arctic airspace through patrols | Increase Arctic presence, part of the unifying/modernizing project | tps://tass.com/defense/853149 | | |
| | Arctic soldiers in motorized rifle brigade of the Northern Fleet take part in drills with reindeer and dog sleds Russian government official formally presents claim to Arctic Ocean seabed to UN | Exercise Statement | Deer farm near the village of Lovozero (164km from Murmansk) N/A | Soldiers of the Arctic motorized rifle brigade of Russia's Northern Fleet United Nations, Russia | | Show of strength and ability to operate in Cold temperatures by unusual/alternative means (Only a true Arctic power can do this, etc) Lomes after Russia's original claim was rejected over technical issues | tps://tass.com/defense/853696 tps://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/10/world/europe/russia-to-present-revised-claim-of-arctic-territory-to-the-united-nations.html | | |
| | Russia's new National Guard will take on homeland security, fight terrorism, and engage in peacekeeping operations abroad | Statement Decision | N/A | | | The ability to 'kill abroad' but also police and conduct homeland security (flexibility) | tps://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2016/04/license-kill-abroad-national-guard | | |
| 5/26/16 R | Russian defence ministry will receive 5 combat helicopters for Arctic operation between 2016-2017 | | e One based in Tiksi aerodome, others unknown | There will be five Mi-8AMTSh helicopters (adapted for use in very low temps, when there is low visibility, etc) | For use in low temperatures, low visibility. Can be used in the Arctic for military and civilian purposes | | tps://tass.com/defense/878025 | | |
| | Russia unveils new navy icebreaker Ilya Muromets (first of a series of new icebreakers) to join Northern Fleet in 2017 Russia launches the world's biggest and most powerful icebreaker, the Arktika | New equipment/upgrade New equipment/upgrade | St. Petersburg (Admiralty Shipyards) St. Petersburg (Admiralty Shipyards) | Ilya Muromets 85-meter diesel-powered icebreaker Arktika (568 ft long) powered by 2 nuclear reactors (was supposed to come out in 2017, was early), can break 13ft deep ice | Designed to help the deployment of the navy, part of larger modernization project One of many new icebreakers planned, part od modernization project | N/A This is also a serious indication of Russia's intentions to be a great power state | tps://www.defensenews.com/naval/2016/06/11/russia-unveils-new-navy-icebreaker-in-arctic-military-focus/ tps://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/06/16/482288188/russia-launches-worlds-biggest-most-powerful-icebreaker | | |
| | Russian defence ministry says they will build/reconstruct 10 Arctic airfields | | | Alktika (508 it folig) powered by 2 fluctear feactors (was supposed to come out in 2017, was earry), can break 15ft deep fee sland Military infrastructure for 6 islands(100 tons of material resources for 150 facilities, aerodome plates, pipes, fittings, etc) Facilities hold 20,000 servicemen | | | tps://tass.com/defense/887419 | | |
| 7/15/16 R | Russian aircraft manufacturer will deliver 3 'Terminator' choppers for Arctic operation | Statement/new equipment/upgrade | | Six Mil-Mi-8AMTSh choppers, three Mi-8AMTSh-VA 'Terminator' military/transport helicopters | To be used for military and transport purposes in cold temps | N/A part of larger modernization/unification plans | tps://tass.com/defense/888481 | | |
| | Russia successfully tests its first atmospheric satellite (stayed in the air without landing for 50 hours, 9000 m altitude) | Test | N/A All military districts ayount Eastern | Atmospheric satellite, conducted by Foundation for Advanced Research Projects Forces of Southern, Western Control military districts, the Agreement force and Airhorne troops | Function is to receive and transmit radio/video signals otherwise unreachable | Surveillance Went to answer proposed for when there is more attention by NATO and modic | ttps://tass.com/science/891962 | | |
| | Preparations for KAVKAZ 2016 involve special logistics drills, combat readiness span checks in all districts except for eastern Putin announces that the Arctic must stay 'free from geopolitical gambling' | Statement | All military districts except Eastern N/A (in reference to the Arctic as a region in general) | Forces of Southern, Western, Central military districts, the Aerospace force and Airborne troops Putin (statement read by Russian Security Council Secretary) | | Want to ensure prepped for when there is more attention by NATO and media It is clear, based on Russia's actions otherwise, that it hopes to maintain a position as an Arctic leader/power/etc. This contradicts the statemen | tps://tass.com/defense/897869 ttps://tass.com/politics/896672 | | |
| | | Exercise/ Joint exercise | Southern military district | | | Test advances in network-centric military capabilities (test joint command and control system) | tps://icds.ee/moscow-tests-network-centric-military-capability-in-kavkaz-2016/ | | |
| | Russia asks to launch talks aimed at making a final decision about ownership of 'contested' Arctic territory with Denmark. Denmark denies | | North Pole, large other areas of the Arctic which are contested | Denmark and Russia | | Denmark says no, thinking it has a stronger claim to the area than Russia | tps://www.ft.com/content/d1810bd4-77e5-11e6-97ae-647294649b28 | | |
| | Russia test fires 3 ballistic missiles launched from submarines in the Barents and Okhotsk Seas Russian forces assume combat duty in all Arctic areas (over 5000 troops take part in Arctic drills) | | Barents Sea and Okhotsk Sea (Barents Sea hit target on Kura test range) Arctic islands (Aerodomes Tiksi, Anadyr, Vorkuta, Temp on Kotelny Island) | | Test readiness of submarine forces, confirms effectiveness of command and control system of navy Bringing troops to combat readiness, and advancing from permanent bases. Practice air defence, chasing enemy | Show of force and readiness N/A | tps://www.maritime-executive.com/article/russia-tests-ballistic-missiles-in-the-arctic tps://tass.com/defense/907127 https://tass.com/defense/908561 https://tass.com/defense/908561 | | |
| | Russia tests 'doomsday' weapon on Nov 27. Some dispute over whether or not this occurred | TD 4/ 1: | Barents Sea | Status-6 torpedo- like vehicle that could be as long as 80ft, powered by nuclear reactor, can range 10,000km. Warhead could be giant thermonuclear weapon | | Believed to be to overcome US ABM defence system with nukes | tps://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2016/12/did-russia-test-doomsday-weapon-arctic-waters | | |
| December 15th, 2016 | New Arctic Military base is ready for operation (Northern Fleet northernmost base, Severny Klever) | New equipment/upgrade | Northernmost base, 75th parallel | New upgrades allow for 250 people to live | Part of modernization/unification plan, creation of 3 new high north bases | N/A <u>1</u> | tps://www.arctictoday.com/new-arctic-military-base-is-declared-ready-for-operation/ | | |
| (Year-long) P | Putin says (in 2017) that the 2016 state defence orders were 97% fulfilled | Year-long | N/A | 5,600 weapon systems, 3000 military hardware upgraded during the year, according to Putin | Putin says Russia's operation in Syria meant changes for Arctic development spending | Putin says combat training in Syria is still useful for Arctic (all training is training) | ttps://tass.com/defense/946096 | | |
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| N | Note: There is very little media/news coverage on Arctic/Russia/Military in 2016, potentially due to developments in Syrian conflic | lict | | | | | | | |
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| Date of activity 3/24/17 | Pussia, coming from Kola Peninsula, does mock attack on Vardo, Norway where radar station is located | Type of activity Exercise | Location of activity Vardo, Norway radar station | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved Nine Russian aircrafts, bombers from airbases on Kola Peninsula | Russia's stated purpose Just an exercise/patrol | Did not violate the border, but was provocative and a show of strength | Source(s) found at: https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2018/03/oslo-such-behavior-does-not-promote-good-neighborly-relations | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|------------|------|--|
| 3/27/17 | Russia to develop Tor air defense missile system Arctic version | Statement/new equipment/upgrad | | Tor-M2DT short range anti-aircraft missile system for Arctic application | Designed to protect land troops from anti-radiation and cruise missiles, drones, glide bombs, aircraft/helicopters. Modernized | | https://tass.com/defense/937134 | | | |
| | Putin and Prime Minister Medvedev visited Franz Josef Land together and reiterate the need to further develop and protect Arctic | | Franz Josef Land (new base area) | Putin and Medvedev | To reiterate the importance of the Arctic, to check on development projects in the area | After protests against Medvedev, this is an act of solidarity between the two, using the Arctic development discussion to detract from the contract of the con | om th https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-putin-medvedev-arctic-archipelago/28398618.html | | | |
| | Putin stresses that Russia's military activities in the Arctic region are not meant to threaten anyone Russia's new Arctic 'Trefoil' military base unveiled with a virtual tour | Statement New equipment/upgrade | N/A Virtual/ Franz Josef Land (new base on Alexandra land) | Putin vs. US and other NATO actors accusing Russia of aggressiveness in the Arctic | Putin says that these accusations are used for domestic political purposes in the US. NATO activity is also very high in the regi This was much more open (to media attention) than Russia has sometimes been with military 'secrets.' Showing off the base? | | https://tass.com/politics/938499. and https://tass.com/politics/938487 https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39629819 | | | |
| 4/19/17 | US intercepts 2 Russian Tu-95 bear bombers in international airspace | Flight/interception | International airspace off of Alaskan coast | Two TU-95 Bear bombers intercepted by 2 F-22 Raptors | Exercise/patrol | Relations between Russia and US at a low point (US cruise-missile against Syria) | https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-intercepts-russian-bombers-alaska-1.4075998 | | | |
| 4/21/17 | | | Approaching Alaskan and Canadian airspace | Two TU-95 Bear bombers (2 CF-18s scrambled) | Exercise/patrol | Relations between Russia and US at a low point (US cruise-missile against Syria) | https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/russia-jets-intercepted-canada-north-coast-1.4081048 | | | |
| 4/21/17 | Russia will re-establish military aerodrome network in the Arctic Russian submariners work on under- ice navigation skills in the Arctic | | de Franz Josef Land and Novosibirsk Island Arctic Island Archipelagos | New military compound network Strategic missile sub crews are working on under-ice sailing. Servicemen of the Arctic motor rifle brigation | Create a network, contribute to development of transport and tourist infrastructure Learn how to operate new types of military hardware made for cold temperatures | Part of broader plans for comprehensive Arctic defence N/A | https://tass.com/economy/942523 https://tass.com/defense/942557 | | | |
| | At the Alakurtti Base in Russia, soldiers in Russia's 80th Motor Rifle Arctic Brigade engage in training exercises | Exercise | Alakurtti Base (established 2 years ago) | Soldiers (number unknown), using skis | Training to operate in cold Arctic weather conditions | N/A | https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russia-s-military-buildup-arctic-has-u-s-watching-closely-n753041 | | | |
| 5/5/17 | Russian fighter jets practice advanced maneuvers in the Arctic | Exercise | Khabarovsk territory flew to extreme North | SU-35S fighter jets from Eastern Military District Ton M and Pontain SA aim defence systems (with Meldoven President in attendance) | Practicing tactical flight assignments (flying at very low and very high altitudes) | Show of strength | https://tass.com/defense/944757 | | | |
| 5/11/17 | Russia showcases air defence systems during military parade in Moscow for the first time Russia insists that the Arctic is to remain a peaceful region, there is no potential for conflict to occur there | New equipment/upgrade Statement | N/A | Tor-M and Pantsir SA air defence systems (with Moldovan President in attendance) Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov | Parade was to commemorate Soviet victory over Nazi Germany, essentially a symbolic way to showcase strength/power Refers to international law as keeping the Arctic conflict- free. Mentions 'regional immunity' to global challenges | Is this disingenuous? | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-wwii-anniversary-russia-parade-idUSKBN1850XO https://tass.com/politics/945543 | | | |
| | Russia's ground forces will be fully rearmed with Iskander-M ballistic missiles by the end of 2020 | Statement/new equipment/upgrad | de Russia in general (including Arctic) | Russian ground forces will be equipped with modern Iskander-M tactical ballistic missiles | Can deliver high- accuracy missile strikes in any conditions (implemented for defence/deterrence purposes) | Could be implemented for offensive purposes | https://tass.com/defense/947360 | | | |
| 6/9/17 | | New equipment/upgrade | | Russian Helicopters Group, the Mil Mi-8AMTSh Arctic helicopter | Demonstrate its ability to operate in low temps/Arctic environment | The helicopters are already in use, so this is a show of strength, revealing of new equipment | https://tass.com/defense/950082 and https://tass.com/defense/956609 | | | |
| 7/18/17 | Russia fires ballistic missile in Arctic military tests in Barents Sea Two of the world's largest nuclear-powered Navy vessels left Severomorsk to St. Petersburg | Test/new equipment/upgrade | | Nuclear- powered Yuri Dolgoruky submarine test-launched ICBM Bulava missile Kirov-class battle cruiser Pyotr Veliky (flagship) and typhoon-class sub Dmitry Donskoy | Test the weapons system which has had some trouble in its progress Training to sail through narrow straits, and to safely travel the North Sea, Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, and Baltic Sea | Demonstrate further progress Takes place outside the Norwegian coast (show of strength?) | https://www.newsweek.com/russias-nuclear-submarine-tests-ballistic-missile-fire-arctic-sea-629187 https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2017/07/now-we-set-course-baltic-sea-says-northern-fleet | | | |
| 8/1/17 | Russian tanker completes Arctic passgae without the aid of icebreakers, carrying liquified natural gas | Test/new equipment/upgrade | Northern Sea Route | Russian tanker "Christophe de Margerie" | Test and also demonstrate ability of tanker to proceed without icebreakers | Shows how the Northern Sea Route can be further commercialized | https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/aug/24/russian-tanker-sails-arctic-without-icebreaker-first-time | | | |
| | | New equipment/upgrade | N/A | | Looking for more sustainable equipment in the Arctic, creating an observation network (military surveillance) | N/A | https://tass.com/economy/961822 | | | |
| 9/1/17 | Engineers in St. Petersburg design a nuclear sub for Arctic projects US fighter jets escort Russian bombers over the Baltic and Norwegian Seas | New equipment/upgrade Flight/interception | Baltic and Norwegian Seas | Catamaran-type nuclear submarine Russia's TU-22M3 long-range bombers escorted by US, Belgian, Finnish, and Swedish jets in stages | Necessary to 'develop the Arctic' Used for deliveries and installations of a wide range of equipment Routine patrol flights | N/A N/A (part of broader pattern of provocation?) | https://tass.com/economy/965746 https://tass.com/defense/966765 | | | |
| September 14th-20, 2020 | ZAPAD 2017 conducted on NATO's eastern borders in Russia's western military district and in Belarus | Exercise/ joint exercise | Western Military District and Belarus | Troops from Russia and Belarus (48,000 troops likely involved. Some challenges with estimates | Strengthening command and control, integrating forces, practiced asymmetric and conventional warfare, rehearsed scenarios | | https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/five-things-know-about-zapad-2017-military-exercise | | | |
| N/A | Russia will reportedly spend \$46 billion on defence spending in 2018, spent \$66.3 billion in 2017 | Year-long | N/A | N/A Description: 11/4 married and 11/4 | N/A | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/982575 | 2014124110 | | |
| (Year-long) | Russian military spending fell significantly in 2017 due to further western sanctions and economic downturn Russia's Northern Fleet conducted 213 missile firing drills and 4,700 combat training events in 2017 (Up 1/3 from 2016) | Observation/year-long Observation/year-long | Russia's Arctic | Russia's military spending fell 20% to \$66.3 billion (first fall since 1998) Russian Navy's Northern Fleet. Yury Dolgoruky and Bryansk nuclear-powered sub cruisers involved | The reason has likely been western sanctions affecting Russian economy and drop in oil prices worldwide Practice and test drills/exercises (routine) | N/A N/A | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-military-spending/russian-military-spending-falls-could-affect-operations-think-tank-idUSKB https://tass.com/defense/983989 | <u> </u> | | |
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| Date of activity Description of activity | Type of activity Location of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | |
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| 1/2/18Russian Navy announces a significant expansion of Arctic air patrolsJanuary 8th, 2018A regional government in Russia's North is interested in specially designed Arctic aircraft | Decision/new equipment/upgrade Air patrols will increase over all Arctic waters, expand to cover polar airfield of Temp in the New Siberian Islands Statement/new equipment/upgrade Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian region located along the coast of the Kara Sea | New airbases will be equipped with a fleet of either MiG-31 or Su-34 The L-172 amphibious aircraft made for the Arctic specifically | To expand protection of Russia's arctic airspace, to practice navigating in difficult Arctic weather Its dual use is helpful for many things including ambulance flights, passenger flights, etc. | N/A Shows capability, can be used for military purposes as well and along NSR | https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-navy-announces-it-will-significantly-expand-arctic-air-patrols/ https://www.arctictoday.com/a-regional-government-in-russias-north-eyes-a-fleet-of-specially-designed-arctic-aircraft/ | | |
| 2/1/18 The Russian Geographical society and the Northern Fleet prepare for landmark Arctic expedition | Expedition Novaya Zemlya archipelago | Russia's Northern Fleet, and The Russian Geographical Society | Conduct scientific studies, map out locations of historic military installations, and explore potential areas for airfield locations and deployment sites | Multi-purpose trip, assist with plans for even further military expansion in Arctic | | | |
| 4/18/18 Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker set to make 5 North Pole voyages over the summer | Test/new equipment/upgrade Starting in Murmansk, going to North Pole | Will act as a cruise ship for 5 voyages, 120 passengers from June-August | Icebreaker as a cruise ship (for high paying travellers) | Show of force? Ability, demonstration | https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-nuclear-powered-icebreaker-will-make-5-north-pole-voyages-summer/ | | |
| 4/24/18 Russia makes plans for trans- Arctic fiber cable linking multiple military installations | Decision/new equipment/upgrade Link Russia's coast from Severomorsk to Vladivostok (along seabed floor) | 12,700km fiber cable linking all military bases/installations | Provide linkages in the form of tele and data communication between all Arctic military bases/installations | This is about comprehensive, unified defence and security | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-plans-lay-trans-arctic-fiber-cable-linking-military-installations/ | | |
| 5/14/18 US fighter jets intercept Russian bombers in international airspace near Alaska 5/21/18 Russia's first sea- borne nuclear power plant arrives in Arctic | Flight/interception Edge of US airspace off of the coast of Alaska New equipment/upgrade Murmansk, then used in Far Eastern region of Chukotka | Two Russian TU-95 bombers escorted by US F-22 fighter jets State company Akademik Lomonosov, state nuclear company Rosatom | Exercise, patrol Testing a better way of providing electricity to remote Arctic communities (replacing old nuclear power plant) | Show of force, testing limits | https://www.arctictoday.com/u-s-fighter-jets-intercept-russian-bombers-international-airspace-off-alaska/ https://www.arctictoday.com/russias-first-sea-borne-nuclear-power-plant-arrives-arctic/ | | |
| 5/25/18 Norway is concerned with intensified Russian naval activity on Norwegian Arctic border | New equipment/upgrade Murmansk, then used in Far Eastern region of Chukotka Concern Norwegian/Russian Arctic border | N.A | Russian naval activity exceeds that of the Cold War, although the size of seaborne forces is smaller now | Russia is adhering to international laws, but is still acting provocatively | https://www.arctictoday.com/norway-worried-intensified-russian-naval-activity-arctic-border/ | | |
| May 24 2018 Russian Helicopters- creating an Mi-38 helicopter version for the Arctic | New equipment/upgrade N/A | Russian Helicopters Holding Company, Arctic version of the Mil Mi-38 | | Can also be used for flights over water, but mainly to solve transport of cargo issues | | | |
| 6/14/18 Russia announces that Norway will see consequences for inviting more US marines to the area | Statement/dispute/concern In reference to Norway | Norway asked the US to send 700 Marines to train in Norway from 2019 (with troops based on Norway's Arctic near Russian border) | Russia says this makes Norway less predictable and this could trigger an arms race and destabilization | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-vows-consequences-norway-invites-u-s-marines/ | | |
| July- SeptemberRunning from early July- September 17, VOSTOK also takes place 2010, 20147/24/18Russia threatens response if Sweden or Finland drawn into NATO plans | | 300,000 troops (1k fixed-wing aricraft and helicopters, 80 ships, 36,000 tanks & other vehicles (China, Mongolia involved) | 5 live-fire exercises, logistics exercises for moving troops, snap exercises, mobilization of reserve forces Pussia warries that Finland and Swaden will be drawn into NATO (says this undermines global security) | Ultimately, September 13 was about media attention and show of force | https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2018/12/20/vostok-2018-ten-years-of-russian-strategic-exercises-and-warfare-preparation/index.html | | |
| 7/24/18 Arctic development leads to plans for upgrading Northern Sea Route ports | New equipment/upgrade All Arctic sea ports, except for those in the Dudinka and Krasnoyarsk regions require upgrades | Sweden, Finland, Russia Regional ministries of transport | Russia worries that Finland and Sweden will be drawn into NATO (says this undermines global security) Improve cargo shipment between regions, improve infrastructure in northern communities. Build connection between ports for clear economic reasons. | Unsure of what this means. A threat? What kind of response? The goal is to first improve existing ports, then build new ones. | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-says-respond-sweden-finland-drawn-nato-ifax/ https://tass.com/economy/1014529 | | |
| 8/1/18 Russia publically considers reviving Cold War era ground-effect vehicles for Arctic patrol | Decision/new equipment/upgrade In reference to Northern Sea Route | Considering bringing back: Lun- class ekranoplan (wing in ground effect vehicle), a missile carrying half-boat, half-plane with 38 metre wings | | Could also serve as patrol, transportation vehicle, or for search and rescue | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-eyes-reviving-cold-war-era-ground-effect-vehicles-patrol-arctic/ | | |
| 8/31/18 Russia's Northern Fleet tests new military equipment in the Arctic | Test/new equipment/upgrade Novaya Zemlya archipelago | Northern Fleet's Arctic brigade | Testing new military equipment (unknown, specifics not mentioned), in 'rigorous' Arctic conditions | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1019398 | | |
| 8/31/18 Russian chief of defence changes tone, says clashing national interests in the Arctic could lead to conflict there | Statement N/A Joint exercise Baltic Sea | Russian Chief of Defence (references the existence of icebreakers from many states in the region at once) | Specifically notes that in order to respond to this threat now posed, Russia MUST continue with its comprehensive military upgrades across its Arctic | Essentially provides its own justification for continuing with upgrades in the regi | | | |
| September 1-8Operation Ocean Shield 20189/13/18Russian warships hold drills in Bering Sea, large military exercise | Exercise Baltic Sea Bering Sea off of Russia's eastern coast (separates Russia from Alaska) | 70 warships and support vessels, 58 aircraft of the Russian Navy and the Aerospace Force and 10,634 personnel of RAF 300, 000 troops and over 1000 military aircraft and two naval fleets | Train engaging inter-flet focr and practice commanding the fleet's forces, check Navy's readiness to defend 'national interests' Mock rescue operation. Paratroopers practicing leaping from plane and descending from helicopters with ropes. | Practiced live- fire from warships, helicopters and aircraft (media attention, huge show of force as previously mentioned) | https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/news/defence-news/2019/august/7344-70-russian-warships-participate-in-ocean-shield-2019-exercise.html https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-warships-hold-drills-bering-sea-huge-military-exercise/ | | |
| 9/21/18 Russia's Northern Fleet practices hunting enemy submarines in the Bering Strait | Exercise Near US waters off of Alaska (Bering Strait) | 8 ships from Russia's Northern Fleet | | Also used drones during to gather intelligence data. Show of force? | https://www.arctictoday.com/russias-northern-fleet-practiced-hunting-enemy-submarines-bering-strait/ | | |
| | Test/new equipment/upgrade Kotelny Island in the Laptev Sea in the Arctic Ocean | Russian Navy's Northern Fleet, Supersonic anti-ship oniks missiles | Testing Bastion coastal defence systems, multiple launches of supersonic anti- ship Oniks missiles. Part of tactical drills | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-military-tests-newly-deployed-coastal-defense-system-arctic/ | | |
| 10/2/18 Russian buildup near Norway worries all before big NATO military exercise in the region | Concern Svalbard | Norway and Russia | Norway is going to have operation Trident Juncture, concerned about tension spilling into the Arctic. Russian presence prevents freedom of navigation | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-buildup-worries-norway-big-nato-military-exercise/ | | |
| 10/31/18 Russian strategic bombers participate in missions over the Barents and Norwegian Seas 10/31/19 Russian strategic bombers participate in missions over the Barents and Norwegian Seas | Exercise Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea Flight/intercention Typh can fighters from the Legislamouth air bags in Sectland come to maniter 2 Byggian hambers (montioned above) | Two strategic bombers Tupolev-160 (last 10 hours) These are supersonic strategic missile-carrying bombers | Referred to as a routine mission over international waters Position mission | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1028693 | | |
| 10/31/18 RAF Typhoon fighter jets were scrambled to escort Russian bombers 11/1/18 Finland PM (to be followed by Norway) suggests Russia jammed GPS signals during NATO war games | Flight/interception Typhoon fighters from the Lossiemouth air base in Scotland came to monitor 2 Russian bombers (mentioned above) Dispute NATO War games in Nordic countries | Finland, Norway, NATO allies and Russia | Routine mission Russia is accused of jamming signals during NATO war games, Russia asks for evidence/proof | N/A N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1028783 https://www.arctictoday.com/finlands-pm-suggests-russia-responsible-gps-jamming-nato-war-games/ | | |
| 11/13/18 The Arctic now has self- sufficient military units in the Arctic according to Russian Defense Ministry | Statement/new equipment/upgrade Franz Josef Land, New Siberian Islands, Cape Schmidt, Kotelny Island | N/A | Part of larger re-building and modernizing plans | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1029344 | | |
| 11/22/18 Northern Fleet gets first Arctic air defense systems TOR | Statement/new equipment/upgrade Yeisk, Krasnodar Region | First battalion of Arctic air defence systems TOR-M2DT | The new system can navigate ditches and water obstacles, can stay operational at air temps as low as -50 degrees celsius. | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1031056 and https://tass.com/defense/1032153 | | |
| Russia and US engage in dispute over 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, alleging that new missile violates it | Dispute Russia and US | The Novator 9M729 (new Russian missile) which according to US violates the IRNFT treaty | Russia denies that its weapon violates the treaty, says the US is inventing a false pretext to exist the treaty in order to develop its own new missiles | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-updates-missile-defenses-including-arctic/ | | |
| 5-Dec-18 Russia will boost the potential of its nuclear forces due to US missile shield (being rearmed with Yars missile systems) 6-Dec-18 Russian gunmaker Kalashnikov unveils new ZALA drone for Arctic operations | Statement/new equipment/upgrade N/A New equipment/upgrade N/A | Russia's strategic missile force (rearmed with Yars missile systems and the Avangard missile complex). Building Sarmat ICBM to replace Voye | | N/A Surveillance operations | https://tass.com/defense/1034414 | | |
| 6-Dec-18 Russian gunmaker Kalashnikov unveils new ZALA drone for Arctic operations 18-Dec-18 Russia announces plans to set up air defense infrastructure in the Arctic Ocean in 2019 | New equipment/upgrade N/A Statement/new equipment/upgrade Arctic Ocean (Wrangel Island & Cape Schmidt in Chukchi Sea, Sredniy Island of the Severnaya Zemlya archipelag | ZALA Arctic drone unmanned aerial vehicle adapted for Arctic use The infrastructure will be finished, allowing for air defense radar units and air control centers at these locations | Used for civilian and military tasks, research, safety, tracking Arctic coast and Arctic waters, ice Upgrading/fixing infrastructure as part of larger program of modernization | Surveillance operations N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1034756 https://tass.com/defense/1036648 | | |
| 27-Dec-18 Russian plant develops stealth cruise missile target simulator | New equipment/upgrade Electrical mechnical plant Kupol in Izhevsk | Missile target simulating stealth cruise missiles | Allows training for all air defence systems of Russia's ground forces | N/A | https://tass.com/defense/1038131 | | |
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| Date of activity Description of activity | Type of activity Location (| of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | |
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| 1/30/19 A new Russian Arctic naval base in the Sakha Republic is almost finished (part of a grand plan for the region) Ongoing Norway and Finland raise issue of Arctic GPS jamming with Russia (occurred during NATO exercises) | New equipment/upgrade Sakha Republic (Town of Tiksi) on the coast Dispute N/A | | ssia of intentionally jamming signals, affecting Arctic air traffic | Part of a grand project for the region, fully covering the Arctic air space. Similar bases already exist in Franz Josef Land and New Siberian Islands Russia asked for proof of these accusations, it has been provided and Russia has said it will have experts review the data | N/A Russia potentially practicing jamming signals/ testing this capability | https://www.arctictoday.com/a-new-russian-arctic-naval-base-in-the-sakha-republic-is-almost-finished/ https://www.arctictoday.com/norway-raises-issue-of-arctic-gps-jamming-with-russia/ and https://www.arctictoday.com/norway-says-it-proved-russian-gps-interference-during-nato-exercises/ | | |
| 2/4/19 Russia resumes North Pole patrols with fighter jets (first time regular patrols made by combat-ready plans since end of the Cold War | Exercise/ flight Circumnavigating the aispace around the No | | will be in charge), patrols carried out by 98th Guards Reconnaissance Aviaiton Regiment on the Kola Peninsula | Controlling the entire Arctic air space north of mainland Siberia to beyond the North Pole | Power projection | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-resumes-north-pole-patrols-with-fighter-jets/ | | |
| 2/7/19 Russia pledges response to Norwegian military activities | Statement Norway | Russia accuses Norway of helping NATO build its military prese | sence in the Arctic region, which it says warrants a Russian response. | Russia appears to be calling out Norway for assisting NATO allies in the Arctic | Unknown | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-pledges-response-to-norwegian-military-activity/ | | |
| 2/14/19 Eleven Russian fighter jets launched a mock attack on Norwegian Arctic radar installation 3/8/19 Russia sets out stringent new rules for foreign ships on Northern Sea Route (foreign states must provide info 45 days ahead of voyage) | Exercise Just outside of Norwegian airspace Decision In reference to Northern Sea Route | a group of Russian Sukhoi-24 attack aircraft Russian government | | Unknown The regulations are supposed to keep control over local environmental protection and commercial shipping | Russia conveying displeasure with military/political developments in Norway, trying to intimidate These changes are made following increased activity in the region by other states. | https://www.arctictoday.com/eleven-russian-fighter-jets-made-a-mock-attack-on-a-norwegian-arctic-radar-installation/ https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-sets-out-stringent-new-rules-for-foreign-ships-on-the-northern-sea-route/ | | |
| 4/1/19 Severny Klever (Northern Clover) base is 're- vamped' | Statement/new equipment/upgrade located on Kotelny Island between Laptev S | <u> </u> | anti-ship missile defence) | Make it autonomous for a full year, monitor airspace and Northern Sea Route | N/A | https://www.chc.ca/news/canada/north/russia-arctic-military-tool-1 5085101, and https://apnews.com/44c182c68f85475bb828942b53042b19 | | |
| 4/12/19 Russia claims to have demonstrated complex exercise outside Norway (was announced up front with warnings) | Exercise Norwegian Sea (first part apparently conduc | | elicopters and fighter jets. Anti-sub Tu-142 planes, Tu-22M supersonic bombers, escorted by MiG-31BM fighters | Training exercise hunting for subs, organized air defence for the warships, and made search and rescue support. War game (fought air attack) | Huge show of power, could be to signal to NATO that Russia is capable of expanding its bastion defence beyodn Barents Sea, conducting sea denial of | | | |
| 5/10/19 New satellite images show the speed and extent of Russia's Arctic development 5/20/10 Demography to good fighten jets to Crossland | Observation Russia's Arctic (generally speaking) Northern Coast of Dominaria | N/A Dominants/Creamland and Dussia | | It appears that the refurbishing of old Cold War era bases, modernizing of equipment is to protect Russia's investment in the Northern Fleet | To protect economic interests, to act as a deterrent, and to create comprehensive Arctic defence and security. Note: Since 2012. Denich Sighter icts have turned healt 194 Pagaign shellenges to its air groups in the Politic and North sees. | https://www.arctictoday.com/new-satellite-images-show-the-speed-and-extent-of-russias-arctic-development/ | | |
| 5/20/19 Danes ready to send fighter jets to Greenland 5/1/19 Russia's radio-electronic shield now covers the Arctic, can radio jam and jam GPS signals in Arctic | N/A Northern Coast of Denmark Observation Severomorsk, Kola Peninsula, and in Kamch | Denmark/Greenland and Russia Chatka (where it has been deployed) Murmansk-BN system, Krasukha and Divnomorye systems (testi | sting occurred in the East in April 2019 with 1000 servicemen and 100 units of equipment involved) | reportedly the systems are able to jam satellite communications, GPS signals and drone communication. The enemy is then blind and cannot communicate. | Note: Since 2013, Danish fighter jets have turned back 184 Russian challenges to its air space in the Baltic and North seas. N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/keeping-eye-on-russian-build-up-danes-ready-to-send-fighter-jets-to-greenland/ https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/arctic-security/2019/05/russia-says-its-radio-electronic-shield-now-covers-arctic | | |
| 5/1/19 Russia launches newest nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Ural' | New equipment/upgrade St. Petersburg | Part of the series of 3 icebreakers (Arktika, Sibir, and now Ural) | | Putin says stepping up construction of icebreakers is going to boost freight traffic along its Arctic coast | Vying for dominance with Canada, the US, and Norway, as well as China | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-launches-the-first-ship-in-its-powerful-new-series-of-nuclear-icebreakers/ | | |
| 7/19/19 Russia establishes a new Arctic air squadron to protect the Northern Sea Route | New equipment/upgrade Might be based on the Kola Peninsula near F | | autonomously and equipped with Kh-35U a turbojet supersonic cruise missile (can eliminate major ships) | Russia saus the Northern Sea Route needs better protection, part of a larger modernizing and unifying project | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-establishes-a-new-arctic-air-squadron-to-protect-the-northern-sea-route/ | | |
| 7/31/19 The first division of a new Russian missile system is now operational in the Arctic August 1-9 70 Russian warships in Baltic Sea. | New equipment/upgrade Severomorsk, Kola Peninsula Exercise Baltic Sea | medium- range surface-to-air missile (Pantsir-S) is deployed to p 49 warships and combat boats, 20 support vessels, 58 aircraft of I | protect the air space over the Arctic home base of Russia's Northern Fleet. f Navy & Aerospace Forces, 10,634 personnel of RAF | To protect the Northern Fleet. (Air defence of military objects, guaranteed destruction of air targets) Train inter-fleet force, check Navy's readiness to protect Russia's national interests | N/A N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/the-first-division-of-a-new-russian-missile-system-is-now-operational-in-the-arctic/ https://www.navyrecognition.com/index.php/news/defence-news/2019/august/7344-70-russian-warships-participate-in-ocean-shield-2019-exercise.html | | |
| 8/6/20 Russian navy announces comprehensive naval exercises off Northern Norway | Exercise Off of Northern Norway (Norwegian Sea ne | | ps. 1st: Missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov, Severomorsk, and rescue tug boat SB-406. 2md: logistical support vessel, rescue tug boat, and frig | | N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-navy-announces-comprehensive-naval-exercises-off-northern-norway/ | | |
| 8/21/20 Russia deployed two nuclear- capable bombers within 20 minutes of Alaska | Flight/interception Anadyr in Chukotka, opposite Alaska | Two nuclear- capable Russian Tu-160 bombers | | Part of a tactical exercise designed to practice the air force's ability to rebase to operational airfields and practice air-to-air refueling. | Apparently showing that Moscow can deploy nuclear arms into the US (Alaska) from this point | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-deployed-two-nuclear-capable-bombers-within-20-minutes-of-alaska/ | | |
| N/A Russia fatal rocket testing accident had explosions (Norway said 2, then said only 1) Radioactive iodine found new Norwegian border | Dispute/test Military facility in the White Sea (almost all | | shansaine and Warry Dalasamslay sykmanina) | N/A Post of combat training | N/A | https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49301438, and https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/news/world/russia-rocket-accident-likely-had-two-explosions-norway-monitor-says-344418/ | | |
| 8/26/20 Russia test fires missiles from submarines in the Arctic Ocean 9/11/20 Russian military plants a flag on the nation's northernmost point | Test Barents Sea and polar region of the Arctic O Exercise Northernmost point of Franz Josef Land arcl | | | Part of combat training Mark the 145 year anniversary since the island's discovery. Symbolizes Russia's aspiratio towards peaceful exploration and development of the Arctic | N/A Symbolic of Russia as an Arctic power (Northernmost point being significant) | https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/08/24/russia-test-fires-missiles-from-submarines-in-the-barents-sea-a67009 https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-military-plants-a-flag-on-the-nations-northernmost-point/ | | |
| 9/13/20 Russian navy commandos boarded a cargo vessel on Northern Sea Route | Exercise Solnechaya Bay on northernmost tip of great | at peninsula Taymyr It was marines from the anti- submarine vessel "Vice-Admiral Ku | Kulakov" that boarded the commerical vessel and conducted the raid | Later identified a series of violations (despite the fact that the ship has permission to sail in the area) First interaction with Coast Guard in action against a s | | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2019/09/navy-commandos-board-cargo-vessel-northern-sea-route | | |
| September 16-21 TSENTR 2019 Strategic- level military exercise (previous 2011 and 2015) China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan | Joint Exercise Bolshevik Island, Uyedineniya Island in the | | zakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan | Annual strategic training/exercise | N/A | https://icds.ee/what-did-russias-strategic-military-exercise-tsentr-2019-reveal/ | | |
| 9/19/20 Northern Fleet puts S-400 air defence system on combat duty at Novaya Zemlya (replaces S-300) 10/24/20 Three major Russian payal vessels conducted large shooting evercise in the waters south of Franz Josef Land | Test/ new equipment/upgrade Rogachovo Air base (Novaya Zemlya) Evercise Waters south of Franz Josef Land | N/A Anti-submarine vessel Vice-Admiral Kulakov and big landing sh | hins Kandanaga and Alaksandr Otrakovsky | Better protect Arctic airspace (range of up to 380-400km), can track stealth targets such as incoming missiles To train air defense combat using several kinds of weaponry; nuclear capable air-launched ballistic missile Kinzbal | Modernizing in general, hopes of replacing older systems across air bases in the Arctic | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2019/09/northern-fleet-puts-s-400-air-defence-system-combat-duty-novaya-zemlya | | |
| 9/24/20Three major Russian naval vessels conducted large shooting exercise in the waters south of Franz Josef LandOctoberRussia's strategic nuclear forces engage In Grom-19 exercise | Exercise Waters south of Franz Josef Land Exercise Barents Sea | Anti-submarine vessel Vice-Admiral Kulakov and big landing sh 10 subs (8 nuclear powered), all 4 naval fleets, 12,000 troops, lau | | To train air defense combat using several kinds of weaponry: nuclear capable air- launched ballistic missile Kinzhal Exercise | Trained radio- electronic warfare N/A | https://www.arctictoday.com/as-an-international-expedition-enters-russian-arctic-waters-military-activity-in-the-area-is-high/ https://www.csis.org/features/ice-curtain-russias-arctic-military-presence | | |
| November Russian nuclear subs stage an Arctic 'duel' during tactical drills in the Arctic | Exercise Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea | Two Northern Fleet Sierra- class submarines, the titanium-hulled | | Practiced pursuit and evasion techniques. Fired torpedos at an underwater target. | Note: first maneuvers of this kind to be practiced since the end of the Cold War | https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/11/07/russian-nuclear-subs-stage-arctic-duel-a68087 | | |
| November Russia stages major submarine exercise in the North Atlantic (30 naval vessels involved) | Exercise Near coast of Norway, Norwegian Sea. | 30 Russian naval vessels including surface ships, submarines and | nd supply ships (forces from Northern, Baltic, and Black Sea Fleets) anti- submarine and strategic aircraft were also involved | Objective of the exercise according to NATO is to block NATO's access to the Baltic Sea, North Sea, and Norwegian Sea | Seen as highly complex by outsiders, used as a show of strength to Norway and NATO as a whole | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2019/08/30-russian-naval-vessels-stage-show-force-coast-norway | | |
| November Russia greenlights a new port for Novaya Zemlya December Russia has tested a hypersonic missile in the Arctic | Decision Novaya Zemlya Test/ new equipment/upgrade Base: in Murmansk region. Target: in Komi | N/A Republic Hypersonic missile fired from a MiG-31K interceptor jet. Called | d the Kinzhal (Dagger) hypersonic missile | Russian seaport needed to serv the Pavlovskoye zinc and lead mine. Test of the Kinzhal system | Note: Novaya Zemlya is a closed military area strictly controlled by Russian Armed Forces (was once used for nuclear tests) The Kinzhal can hit targets up to 2000km away with nuclear or conventional warheads. Besides being a huge show of force/power, there is also threat | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-greenlights-a-new-port-for-novaya-zemlya/ https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-has-tested-a-hypersonic-missile-in-the-arctic-tass-reports/ | | |
| DecemberRussia has tested a hypersonic missile in the ArcticDecemberRussia plans to set up an Arctic air defense 'dome' with S-400 missiles | Statement/new equipment/upgrade Plans to arm all of the Northern Fleet's Arcti | | a die Erikhai (Dasser) hypersonie illissue | To essentially create a dome of protection over Russia's Arctic | The Minzhai can nit targets up to 2000km away with nuclear or conventional warneads. Besides being a nuge show of force/power, there is also threat. The move to have these at all Arctic divisions is a part of larger modernizing and unifying plan across Russia's Arctic | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-arctic/russia-plans-to-set-un-arctic-air-defense-dome-with-s-400-missiles-idUSKBN1VD1GH | | |
| | | | | | | nttps://www.retters.com/article/us/tassia bians to set up arette an defense dome with 5 400 missiles idostability. | | |
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| Date of activity Description of activity | Type of activity | Location of activity | Forces/ weapons/ actors involved | Russia's stated purpose | Possible other purposes | Source(s) found at: | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|--------------|--|--|--|
| 1/15/20 Russia's PM Medvedev secured funding for the first lider-class icebreaker (127 billion rubles) Planned for 3 lider-class icebreakers delivered between 2027- 2035 | Decision/new equipment/upgrade | le N/A | N/A | To sail year- round in all ice conditions along Northern Sea Route, escort commerical ships | Note: this is the world's biggest and most powerful icebreaker. Projecting power? | https://tass.com/defense/1170503 | | | | |
| 2/5/20 Russia complains of Norwegian restrictions on its activites on Svalbard (Norway has sovereignty, Russia has commercial rights) | Dispute | | | Russia is pushing the limits of an existing treaty with Norway, wants more rights and control over economic activity | Norway's concerns: all activity on Svalbard must adhere to Norwegian laws, Russia has built up military presence surrounding this area | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-complains-of-norwegian-restrictions-on-its-activities-on-svalbard/ | | | | |
| 2/6/20 Ships Kondopoga and Vice-Admiral Kulakov engaged in training, firing heavy artillery and cruise missile system Kinzhal | Exercise/test | Southern Norwegian Sea | Unknown (2 vessels involved) | Practice repulsive measures against an attack by enemy aircraft/ practice bastion defence | Show dissatisfaction with NATO's Cold Response winter exercise/ bastion defence | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/02/russian-vessels-shot-cruise-missiles-norwegian-sea | | | | |
| 2/13/20 Russia is 'alarmed' by a US Air Force visit to Norway's Jan Mayen 2/14/20 Norwegian Intelligence says Russia trying to fuel conflict between North and South of Norway. Russian embassy denies accusations of influence operations in Norw | way Statement | N/A (Norwegian Arctic) (in reference to US and Norway) | US air force unit in Norway Russia and Norway | Russia frames this activity by the US as "de- stabilizing" and views Norway's military spending increase as threatening Russia strongly denies the use of influence operations, says it is firmly committed to predictability and peace in North | Russia frames occasional presence of US in the region as a serious threat. Might this be a way of justifying its own actions? N/A | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-norway-usa/russia-alarmed-by-u-s-air-force-visit-to-norwegian-island-idUSKBN20721H https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/02/russian-embassy-denies-accusations-influence-operations-norway | | | | |
| 2/17/20 Russia's new icebreaker Arktika has trouble during sea trials, it is the 1st of 5 nuclear icebreakers to be built (had difficulties with the nuclear reactors). | Test | N/A | N/A | N/A | Note: There is some implication that its construction and testing has been rushed. Speaks to the rapid rate at which Russia is working in the Arctic | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/2020/02/troubles-worlds-most-powerful-icebreaker-arktika-could-face-more-delays | | | | |
| 2/19/20 Russia's new constitution: looking for direct federal control in Arctic regions (says the regions not capable of managing strategically important areas) | Decision | N/A | Federation Council Constitutional Committee | Working group established Jan. 15 after Putin's speech. Federal control over strategically important area, hydrocarbon area | "Strategically important area" can be interpreted in many different ways. Part of a larger military expansion plan? | https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/02/20/russian-lawmakers-propose-special-governing-status-for-arctic-a69375 | | | | |
| 3/5/20 Putin signs new Arctic plan covering 2020- 2035 (mostly focussed on major new oil projects, emphasizes peace in the region) Feb 26-27, March 7 Norway's new F-35 scrambled to meet Russian anti- sub aicraft for first time | Interception/flight | N/A Norwegian and North Sea | Ministry of the Far East and Arctic (authors) Two Tu-142s and one MiG-31 | Priorities: sovereignty, territorial integrity, peace, stabilibility and mutually beneficial partnerships, high life standards Normal for them to fly Barents Sea, but went way further south over Norwegian Sea (just outside Norwegian airspace) | Discusses large natural resource exploitation in the Arctic and developments for Northern Sea Route. Peace/stability: do actions confirm this? Thought to potentially be monitoring Norwegian navy vessels bringing in supplies for NATO's Cold Response exercise | https://www.arctictoday.com/putin-signs-russias-new-arctic-master-plan/ https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/03/norways-new-f-35-scrambled-first-time-meet-russian-anti-sub-aircraft | | | | |
| 3/11/20 US, Canadian fighters intercept Russian planes near Alaska | Interception/flight | Off of Alaskan coast | 2 Russian reconnaissance aicraft, Tu-142 | Flew for about 4 hours in international airspace. Part of training efforts | NORAD identifies this as part of Russia's training efforts. | https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/10/politics/us-canada-jets-intercept-russia-alaska/index.html | | | | |
| 3/17/20 Russian National Guard takes over Arctic seaport security for 9 seaports (directly under Putin's control) | Decision | Northern seaports | the federal body has 160,000 troops to guard these areas | Applying mobile protection systems for the remote northern ports | Protection from what/who, exactly? (Unknown) | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/03/national-guard-takes-over-protection-arctic-seaports | | | | |
| 3/18/20Russia tests air defence system (S-400) in Novaya ZemlyaMarchRussia's annual North Pole ice camp is cancelled | Test Decision | Novaya Zemlya N/A | fighter jets Mig-31BM and Su-24 and air defence radio- technical units N/A | protection of the air space over the Northern Sea Route against enemy intruders (conducted regularly) COVID-19 | Conducted during what is supposed to be NATO Cold Response exercise N/A | https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/03/air-defense-system-s-400-tests-preparedness-novaya-zemlya https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-annual-north-pole-ice-camp-is-cancelled/ | | | | |
| 4/9/20 Russia activates a new S-300 air defense unit in the Arctic | New equipment/upgrade | Tiksi airbase | Anti- aircraft system, S-300 surface to air missiles | This system has been replaced by S-400 elsewhere (to protect from air attack by enemy aviation, cruise or ballistic missiles) | 1 month prior, CSIS reported that Russia's plans to develop and re-vamp the base were only aspirational. Then Russia released photos of S-300 launchers | https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/russia-activates-newest-s-300-air-defense-unit-arctic | | | | |
| 4/19/20 Russia protests after Norway detains trawler near Svalbard (ongoing disputes over Svalbard) | Dispute | Svalbard | Oslo and Moscow | Russian fishing vessel detained, Russia considers Norwegian fishery protection zone illegal. | Russian statement: Norway has a policy of illegally expanding its rights in the Svalbard region. Part of an ongoing dispute | https://www.arctictoday.com/russia-protests-after-norway-detains-trawler-near-svalbard/ | | | | |
| 4/24/20 Russian firms announce building of world's most powerful nuclear icebreaker 4/27/20 Russian envoy to Denmark says that the US undermines Arctic peace after US announces \$12.1 million in economic aid to Greenland | Decision/new equipment/upgrade Statement | (in reference to US and Denmark) | Two Russian companies, Atomflot and Zvezda will work together on it US involvement with Denmark, Moscow | Russia wants 5 of these icebreakers built to use Northern Sea Route as a short-cut trade route between Europe and Asia Russia accuses US of provoking confrontation in the Arctic to achieve dominance in an area they have heavily invested in | Helps to strengthen relationship with China in many ways Perhaps just accusing the US of the same things the US accuses Russia of? There is an ongoing back and forth, pointing of fingers | https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-icebreaker/russian-firms-to-build-worlds-most-powerful-nuclear-icebreaker-idUSKCN22527Q https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-envoy-to-denmark-says-us-undermines-arctic-peace/ | | | | |
| 4/1/17 Anti- aircraft missile battalion from the Northern Fleet's motor rifle brigade repel 'rehearsed' enemy air attack during drills at the Pechenga firing range in Murmans | sk Exercise | | | Used Strela-10 surface to air missile systems and Tunguska anti-aircraft missile/gun launchers, practiced fire against air targets using portable air defence missile systems | | https://tass.com/defense/1146195 | | | | |
| 4/25/20 Russian paratroopers perform 1st high altitude Arctic jump. Then conduct 3-day mock battle on Franz Josef Land | Exercise | Franz Josef Land (Russian high Arctic) | | Testing new equipment for extreme cold weather operations, Russia's commemoration of 75th anniversary of WW2 | Message to NATO (very serious about wanting to be a strong military power in the Arctic, can seize an Arctic island in all weather conditions) | https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/russian-arctic-training-1.5563691 | | | | |
| 5/14/20 Covid- 19 cancels joint Russian- Norwegian cross- border rescue exercise (Exercise Barents) 5/27/20 Russia's 'doomsday drone' Poseidon prepares for testing to take place Fall 2020 (plan to deploy 16 posideon drones on combat duty with the Northern Fleet) | Decision Test/new equipment/upgrade | Barents Sea Barents Sea | Would have been NATO personnel and Russia's Northern Fleet Poseidon test-launched from the Belgorod submarine and the Khabarovsk | COVID-19 (joint, mutual decision) Built to carry several megatons nuclear warhead, range of 10,000km across oceans (North Atlantic) | N/A Can counter US missile defence systems and ensure deterrence (second strike capability) | https://www.arctictoday.com/covid-19-cancels-joint-russian-norwegian-cross-border-rescue-exercise/ https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/05/russia-prepares-testing-doomsday-drone | | | | |
| 6/24/20 Three types of Pantsyr air defence systems paraded in Moscow (including the Pantsyr-Sm, the standard Pantsyr, and the 'Arctic version' | N ' ' ' | | | The military parade is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany, to show the strength Russia still has | Show of strength | https://tass.com/defense/1170503 | | | | |
| 6/10/20 US jets intercept Russian bombers off Alaska (twice) came within 37 km of Alaskan coast | Interception/flight | 37 km of Alaskan coast | 2 SU-35 fighter jets and A-50 early warning aircraft, then 2 TU- 95 bombers and an A-50 | Did not enter US airspace. This comes after two US B-1B bombers were intercepted by Russian warplanes on May 29 | Likely a response to US bombers over the black sea | https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/u-s-jets-intercept-russian-bombers-off-alaska-norad-1.4978400 | | | | |
| 6/1/20 Russia says it will be scaling down military drills near NATO borders for remainder of 2020 due to Covid-19 and to de-escalate July Anti- Norwegian news and statement coverage by Russia continues over Svalbard dispute | Statement/ decision Dispute | NATO borders with Russia Syalbard | N/A | Russia says amidst Covid-19 and with existing tensions over exercises on the border, it will move KAVKAZ and other exercises deeper within its borders Russia believes Norway is relying on environmental arguments about fishing/oil and gas to prevent Russian activities and control on Syalbard in general | Russia has also accused European and NATO states of continuing with exercises near Russian borders (citing NATO drills in Barents Sea) Note: as the dispute continues, some have highlighted the strategic significance of Svalbard. If Russia had military bases there, it would be in a very strong point. | https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/06/02/russia-scales-down-military-drills-near-nato-borders-in-2020-official-a7044 | 4 | | | |
| 7/10/20 The Northern Fleet all- arms strike force completed drills for repelling an enemy's air attacks in the Barents Sea | Exercise | Barents Sea | Missile cruisers Pyotr Veliky and Marshal Ustinov, 4 saman target missiles fired by missile ship Rassvet, eliminated by combat teams of AK-130 and AK-630 artillery guns of the cruisers | Russia believes Norway is relying on environmental arguments about fishing/oil and gas to prevent Russian activities and control on Svalbard in general Northern Fleet naval exercise in Barents Sea to practice missions (providing air defense for a grouping of surface ships, detecting and eliminating targets | Practicing sustainability of seaborne strategic nuclear forces. | https://tass.com/defense/1177159 | | | | |
| August 2-3 week Military expedition is planned for August in Novaya Zemlya | Expedition | Novaya Zemlya | The Northern Fleet, scientific experts, specialists of the Defense Ministry's 12th Chief Department | The military component is largely unknown, some scientific research undertaken (monitoring and repelling polar bears and studying migration routes), monitoring raditation | | https://tass.com/defense/1167863 | | | | |
| September KAVKAZ 2020, Note: might be cancelled/postponed. Is set to take place in September as it does annually in rotating districts | Exercise/ joint exercise | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2020/04/23/the_impact_of_covid-19_on_the_russian_armed_forces_115223.html | | | | |
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| List of activity types | Meaning of activity type | | |
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| Exercise | A military exercise, drill, or other practice | | |
| Joint Exercise | A military exercise that Russia takes part in along with other states | | |
| Prep | Any activity pertaining to preparations for an exercise/event. (EX: Snap readiness check prior to ZAPAD, VOSTOK, etc) | | |
| New equipment/upgrade | The introduction of a new piece of equipment/weapons system/upgrades to a military facility, etc. Part of modernization plan | | |
| Statement | Relevant statement made by Putin or another Russian official pertaining to the Arctic/military/NATO relations, etc. | | |
| Dispute | Mostly refers to any ongoing dispute between two states (EX: Norway and Russia over GPS jamming) | | |
| Concern | When either Russia or another state raises a concern about a particular activity/action/statement | | |
| Test | Testing out new military equipment, including weapons testing | | |
| Expedition | An expedition of the Northern Fleet, usually to investigate or patrol new areas/ test out icebreakers, other new vehicles, etc. | | |
| Interception/flight | Routine or non- routine flights of Russian fighters or bombers in international airspace. Sometimes flights intercepted, and aircraft is escorted home | | |
| Year-long | Refers to any summarized information about the year as a whole. (EX: defence- spending budget for all of 2016) | | |
| Observation | Articles which discuss observations about Russia's activities. (EX: Norway has seen an increase in Russia's military activity near its border since 2014) | | |
| Airspace violation | Any flight of Russian aircraft which involves an actual airspace violation (not just intercepted and escorted) | | |
| Decision | A decision about Arctic/military/defence strategy made by Putin | | |
| *Annexation | Referring to the annexation of Crimea | | |
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