

Russian Naval/Marine Activities Leading up to Zapad 2017

Notable Movements/Reporting Prior to July 5

June 2, 2017- Russian MoD: photos released of an excursion to Gogland, [Accessible](#).

June 5, 2017 – TASS: Large amphibious ship "Ivan Gren" resumed factory tests in the Baltic Sea. [Accessible](#).

June 26, 2017 – Russia possibly moves its Zubr class hovercrafts from Kaliningrad to St. Petersburg. Source: [Twitter](#) (TASS also suggests that a Zubr hovercraft was present at IMDS2017) – [Accessible](#), Twitter video allegedly showing the arrival of the Zubr June 27, 2017, [Accessible](#)

Related: The Zubr was on display at IMDS2017 placing it in St. Petersburg until at least July 2, 2017 – [Accessible](#).

July 1, 2017 – RIA: Volunteer Excursion on Gogland improves UNESCO monument. [Accessible](#):

A: July 5-6 Kaliningrad Region – North and Baltic Seas

Summary: Beginning on July 3rd, the Baltic Sea fleet begins exercises in Kaliningrad focused on countering saboteurs on the land. On July 5th, the Baltic Sea Fleet began maritime exercises on their way to St. Petersburg/Kronstadt for the 2017 Naval Parade. While Russian VDV conducted a major training exercise in the Pskov region, adjacent to Latvia and Estonia.

July 3, 2017 – TASS: Over 3,000 Baltic Fleet Servicemen involved in military drills in Russia's West. [Accessible](#).

July 5, 2017 – TASS: Russian nuclear sub test-launches cruise missile in Barents Sea. [Accessible](#).

July 5, 2017 – TASS: Around 20 ships begin military exercise in the Baltic.

Translation: "Official representative of the fleet Roman Martov. Stated that naval exercises, which will be held in the training grounds of the fleet in the Baltic Sea will include about 20 surface ships, and support vessels, it is planned to work out the actions of the grouping of the diverse forces of the Baltic Fleet in accordance with the combat mission. During the maneuvers, a set of training and combat tasks will be performed, and the readiness of the forces to conduct anti-submarine warfare and air defense will be tested. The minesweepers and small anti-submarine ships will fulfill the tasks of protecting and defending the water area. In the exercises, the antisubmarine aviation of the fleet will be intensively used. The next stage of combat training will be the landing of a sea assault on the unequipped coast to the territory of the Khmelevka fleet, the Marine Corps units of the coastal fleet with the fire support of the ship strike group and the

assault and fighter aviation of the fleet will land from the sea to the unequipped coast with the aim of seizing the bridgehead for development offensive. [Accessible](#).

July 5, 2017- Russian MoD: Training exercises of Iskander-M and Tochka-U in Western Military District.

Translation: “Training exercises for the management of missile strikes were conducted in the Ivanovo, Leningrad, Kursk regions in the command and staff exercises of aviation and air defense troops of the Western Military District with calculations of the operational-tactical and tactical missile systems Iskander-M and Tochka-U. The rocketers made secret deployment to designated positional areas, deployed launchers and transport-loading machines, prepared data for striking and performed electronic missile launches on important targets of the conventional enemy at various ranges. More than 500 servicemen were involved in the training, over 200 weapons and special equipment were involved.” [Accessible](#).

July 5, 2017 – TASS: In Pskov Region, a large VDV Airborne exercise has begun.

Translation: “A total of 2,500 people are involved in the exercise and 500 units of equipment,” the general added, noting that these maneuvers were the second in scope after the March in the Opuk in the Crimea, where more than 2,500 people were involved. a man, 600 armored and automobile equipment, a large landing ship "Caesar Kunikov", more than 45 aircraft and helicopters.... In exercises conducted in accordance with the plan for combat training of the Airborne Forces, more than 40 aircraft and helicopters of the Russian and Russian Air Force and Air Defense and Air Defense Forces of the Western Military District are involved. During the exercises, the paratroopers flew to the places of the combat mission, flew airborne personnel and equipment from the aircrafts in various ways, seized the airfields and facilities of the conventional enemy. The landing was made simultaneously on the landing site of the 76th Division and in the vicinity of the military airfield near the island of the Pskov Region.” [Accessible](#).

- According to the Russian MoD, the exercises also included the first use of the P-230T control vehicle – [Accessible](#).

July 5, 2017- Russian MoD: 18 ships of the Baltic Fleet arrived in St. Petersburg for participation in the Main Naval Parade.

Translation: “18 vessels from the Baltic Fleet arrived in the Kronstadt to participate in the Main Naval Parade in honor of the Day of the Russian Navy in St. Petersburg, which will be held on July 30 in the cities of St. Petersburg and Kronstadt. The fleet represented by corvettes "Stoic" and "Sobystvitelny", small missile ships "Serpukhov" and "Geyser", sea trawler "Alexander Obukhov", basic minesweeper "BT-115", frigate "Admiral Makarov", and a number of other ships, boats and supply vessels.” [Accessible](#).

July 7, 2017 – RU MoD: Gogland Annual Expedition Ended on the Islands of the Gulf of Finland – [Accessible](#).

Arrival in the Danish Straits of the Dmitry Donskoi (submarine TK-208) and Pyotr Veliky – July 21th

Arrival in the Gulf of Finland by the Dmitry Donskoi (submarine TK-208) and Pyotr Veliky – July 25th

Dmitry Donskoi arrives in Severodvinsk on September 4. [Accessible](#).

Dmitry Donskoi rejoins the Northern Fleet September 16 after being in the White Sea.

Russian Naval Parade July 30, 2017

According to TASS, around 5,000 sailors will participate in the event globally while 40 warships and submarines will participate in the main location, St. Petersburg/Kronstadt. – [The Telegraph](#)

Positive ship ID's – Traced through publicly available videos on YouTube and Russian Media outlets

Admiral Makarov (799) *Admiral Grigorovich*-class frigate– Undergoing sea trials until parade, will based in Sevastopol later this year.

Soobrazitelnyy (531) *Steregushchiy*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Fleet

Aleksandr (110) *Ropucha*-class landing ship– Part of the Baltic Fleet

Ivan Gren (135) *Ivan Gren*-class landing ship– (check on this Baltic or Black)

Stoykiy (545) *Steregushchiy*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Fleet

Marshal Ustinov (055) *Slava*-class cruiser – Part of the Northern Fleet

Pyotr Velikiy (099) *Kirov*-class battlecruiser – Part of the Northern Fleet

Urengoy (304) *Parchim*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Fleet

Minsk (127) *Ropucha*-class landing ship – Part of the Baltic Sea Fleet

Dimitrovgrad (825) *Tarantul*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Sea Fleet

Stoykiy (545) *Steregushchiy*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Sea Fleet

Chuvashia (820) *Tarantul*-class corvette – Part of the Baltic Sea Fleet

Yunarmeyets Zapolyarya (?) – unknown

Unknown (348) – No discernable flag

Unknown (600) – Russian flagged

Suvorov (841) *Grachonok*-class anti-saboteur ship – Home port unclear.

Dmitry Donskoi (TK-208) Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine – Part of the North Sea Fleet

Vice Admiral Kulakov (626) *Udaloy*-class destroyer – Part of the Northern Fleet

Kulakov departs to participate in anti-piracy in the Gulf of Aden. September 8th, 2017. [Accessible](#).

Russian MoD: The Vice Admiral Kulakov ensures the safety of an Indian tanker through the Gulf of Aden – September 23rd, 2017. [Accessible](#).

Other sources: Atlantic Council’s digital forensics lab has done some work on identifying ships [Accessible](#).

B: August 1-2 Naval Exercises in the Baltic Sea

Summary: Following the conclusion of the main component of 2017 Naval Parade Day in St. Petersburg, Russian vessels belonging to both the Baltic Sea and Northern Fleets conducted exercises in the Baltic Sea. On August 2nd, Naval and Marine forces conducted amphibious exercises on Russian islands in the Gulf of Finland (Bolshoi Tyuters, Gogland, and Moshchny)

August 1, 2017 – Chinese fleet arrives in Helsinki for goodwill visit lasting three days – [Accessible](#).

August 1, 2017 – Russian MoD: The ships of the Baltic Fleet, which took part in the Main Naval Parade in St. Petersburg and Kronstadt, are headed for Baltiysk. Notable: the statement includes information suggesting that the ships on their return will conduct drills on their return in conjunction with ships from the North Sea Fleet.

Translation: “During the inter-base transfer, the crews of the ships have to work out maneuverable elements-the passage of narrowness in the ship, conduct exercises to combat the survivability of ships on the move, training in communications and radio-electronic interference, as well as anti-aircraft and anti-submarine defense organizations. In addition, during the transition, the ships of the Baltic Fleet will carry out a number of joint tasks with the ships of the Northern Fleet, among them - the heavy nuclear-powered cruiser Peter the Great, the nuclear submarine strategic missile cruiser Dmitry Donskoy and other ships.” [Accessible](#).

August 2, 2017- Russian MoD: Anti-submarine ships of the Baltic Fleet conducted an exercise to search for and destroy the submarine of the conventional enemy.

Translation: “The shipborne antisubmarine strike group of the Baltic Fleet (BF) conducted a planned exercise in the training grounds in the Baltic Sea. Crews of the anti-submarine ships (MPK) "Aleksin" and "Kabardino-Balkaria" of the combination of ships guarding the water area of the Baltic naval base worked out a set of tasks for the main purpose - searching for a submarine of a conventional enemy and destroying it using antisubmarine weapons.”

August 2, 2017 – TASS: Fighter aviation squadron of the western military district, stationed in Karelia, was raised on alarm during flight and tactical exercises. [Accessible](#).

August 2, 2017 – Russian MoD: Troops of the Western military district take part in a large-scale exercise with naval forces in the Baltic.

Translation: “During one of the stages of the exercise of the motorized infantry of the district unit stationed in the Leningrad Region, they will land an assault on the coast of the islands of Bolshoi Tyuters, Gogland, and Moshchny. To carry out combat training tasks, landing boats and anti-saboteurs of the Raptor type will be used. In addition, the pilots and crews of operational-tactical and army aviation will perform tasks to cover the actions of the landing party and conduct air combat over the water surface. The air defense subdivisions will cover the naval groups operating in the Baltic Sea area from the air enemy strikes. From the units and military units of the Western Military District, up to one thousand personnel participate in the training and employ more than 150 military and special equipment, including ships and boats of the Leningrad Naval Base, aircraft and helicopters of the Air Force and Air Defense District.” [Accessible](#).

C: August 28-on Everything regarding Zapad – Baltic Sea Fleet Activities, Northern Fleet, Black Sea Fleet

Summary: There was significant Russian naval activity leading up to, and after Zapad 2017. The Baltic Sea and Northern fleets underwent a number of training exercises highlighting surface warfare and amphibious capabilities. Other noteworthy activities include several anti-terrorist (anti-special forces) exercises that took place both on land within the Kaliningrad region and at sea.

August 28, 2017 – TASS: Russia’s Northern Fleet has received a new Grachonok-Class counter sabotage boat. [Accessible](#):

August 29, 2017-Russian MoD: Northern Fleet ships are out to sea as part of a routine inspection of combat readiness. [Accessible](#).

August 31, 2017- Russian MoD: Ships of the Baltic Fleet conduct anti-torpedo maneuver exercises. [Accessible](#).

September 1, 2017- TASS: Submarines Kolpino and Novgorod conduct exercises with Navy ships in the Mediterranean Sea. [Accessible](#).

September 4, 2017- Russian MoD: Russia’s newest frigate, the Admiral Makarov, conducts missile testing in the Baltic Sea. [Accessible](#).

September 4, 2017-RIA: New patrol craft ‘Raptor’ is launched in St. Petersburg. [Accessible](#).

September 5, 2017 – Russian MoD: Baltic Fleet successfully conducts anti-submarine exercise. [Accessible](#).

September 5, 2017- TASS: Baltic Sea Fleet motorized infantry conduct anti-terror drill in Kaliningrad. [Accessible.](#)

September 6, 2017-Russian MoD: Ships of the Baltic Sea Fleet conduct rocket artillery firings. [Accessible.](#)

September 6, 2017- Russian MoD: Subversive units of the Baltic Fleet conduct mine-laying exercise in Kaliningrad river area. [Accessible.](#)

September 7, 2017- Russian MoD: Baltic Fleet conducts S-300 live fire. [Accessible.](#)

September 9, 2017-Russian MoD: The Baltic Fleet conducts -Air-Sea exercises in the Kaliningrad Region.

Translation: “More than 20 crews of Su-27, Su-24, Su-30SM, strike and military transport helicopters Mi-24 and Mi-8, as well as naval helicopters Ka-27 and military transport aircraft An-26 took part in the planned exercise. naval aviation of the Baltic Fleet. During the flight-tactical exercise, about 20 tactical episodes were played for working out tasks for the purpose - fire support for land units, destruction of command posts, armored vehicles and manpower of the conventional enemy, air reconnaissance and destruction of air targets, search and destruction of the submarines of the conventional enemy. In addition, the pilots conducted a landing of tactical airborne troops to the rear of the conventional enemy, carried out the tasks of forcing the conventional intruder aircraft to land, fired at ground targets, and carried out launches of guided and unguided rockets and bombing.” [Accessible.](#)

September 9, 2017- TASS: Black Sea Fleet conducts cruise missile launch. [Accessible.](#)

September 9, 2017 – Russian MoD: Baltic Sea Fleet conducts antiterrorism exercises on armament and military equipment bases in Kaliningrad. [Accessible.](#)

September 12, 2017 – TASS: Frigate Admiral Makarov hits cruise missile simulators in Baltic Sea. [Accessible.](#)

September 12, 2017- Russian MoD: The ships of the Baltic Fleet conducted a sea-based missile fight during an exercise. [Accessible.](#)

Zapad 2017 (September 14-September 20)

September 14, 2017-TASS: Exercise involving 10 diesel and nuclear submarines begins in the Northern Fleet. [Accessible.](#)

September 14, 2017-Russian MoD: Ships of the Black Sea Fleet carry out rocket and artillery fire exercises. [Accessible.](#)

September 14, 2017 –Russian MoD: The Northern Fleet began training with heterogeneous forces in the Barents Sea. [Accessible.](#)

September 14, 2017- TASS: Russian Submarines Novgorod and Kolpino launch Kalibr cruise missiles at ISIS targets in Syria. [Accessible.](#)

September 15, 2017- TVZvezda: Baltic Fleet air defenses successfully repulse attack in exercises using S-300 and S-400 systems. [Accessible](#).

September 15, 2017- TASS: Ships Pyotr Velikiy and Admiral Ushakov intercepted enemy cruise missiles in Northern Fleet exercise. [Accessible](#).

September 15, 2017- Russian MoD: Ship Strike group and fighter aircraft repel air attacks in Barents Sea exercise. [Accessible](#).

September 16, 2017- Russian MoD: Baltic Fleet conducts mine hunting exercise. [Accessible](#).

September 17, 2017 – Russian MoD: Ships of the Baltic Fleet conduct artillery fire exercises.

Translation: “During the voyage to the sea, crews of Corvette Corvette, Boykin, Stoiky and Steregushchy carried out a set of artillery fire at air targets simulating the means of air attack of a conventional enemy. Several groups of aerial targets were escorted by the ship's radar detection means. Su-24 front-line bombers and anti-submarine Ka-27 helicopters of naval aviation of the fleet simulating high-speed and low-flying air targets acted as a conditional enemy. On the ships, the means of electronic warfare were activated and active and passive interference was activated. When the targets were approaching the line of fire, the crews of the ships simultaneously carried out practical firing from 100 mm and 30 mm artillery complexes.” [Accessible](#).

September 18, 2017- TVZvezda: Russia conducts Iskander Launch in the Astrakhan region. [Accessible](#).

September 18, 2017- TASS: Russian marines conduct landing exercise on the Kola Peninsula. [Accessible](#).

September 18, 2017- TVZvezda: Possible launch of Iskander-M missile. [Accessible](#)

September 18 2017-Russian MoD: Northern Sea Fleet conducts marine landings in the Barents Sea. [Accessible](#).

September 18, 2017 – Russian MoD: Northern Fleet supported marine exercise with anti-coastal fire. [Accessible](#).

September 19, 2017 – TVZvezda: Crews of ships in the Black Sea successfully conduct submarine anti-saboteur exercises. [Accessible](#).

September 19, 2017 – TASS: Northern Fleet conducts an arctic missile launch. [Accessible](#).

September 19, 2017- Russian MoD: Motorized Infantry of the Baltic Fleet and VDV forces complete training operation to liquidate an enemy position in Kaliningrad. [Accessible](#).

September 19, 2017- Russian MoD: Baltic Sea fleet corvette ‘destroys’ enemy surface combatant and exercises. [Accessible](#)

Zapad Officially Ends

September 21, 2017 - Russian MoD: Northern Fleet conducts cruise missile interceptions. [Accessible.](#)

September 21, 2017- TVZvezda: Northern Sea Fleet conducts anti-surface warfare exercise involving Bastion, Pantsir complexes. [Accessible.](#)

September 22, 2017-Russian MoD: Northern Fleet completes a series of exercises in the Arctic. [Accessible.](#)

September 22, 2017-TASS: Russia conducts Submarine Kalibr cruise missile strikes into Syria. [Accessible.](#)

September 22, 2017-Russian MoD: Baltic Fleet forces successfully repel ‘terrorist’ incursion in the Kaliningrad region in exercise. [Accessible.](#)

September 22, 2017- TASS: Baltic Fleet’s Special Forces conducts an exercise on liberating civilian ship from terrorists. [Accessible.](#)

September 23, 2017- Russian MoD: Baltic Fleet completes artillery and missile troop exercise. [Accessible.](#)

September 24, 2017- TASS: Russian Northern Fleet returns to port after exercises from September 14th – 21st.

Translation: “The exercises combined live shooting in the waters of the Barents Sea, the White Sea and the Laptev Sea, 13 sea and land-based cruise missiles were launched, including from underwater from two nuclear submarine missile cruisers. Problems were successfully worked out for the defeat of cruise missiles-targets simulating the means of air attack of a conventional enemy. TARKR *Peter the Great* and the destroyer *Admiral Ushakov* carried out anti-aircraft missile firing by the air defense complexes Fort-M and Hurricane. More than 20 vessels were involved.” [Accessible.](#)

September 24, 2017- Russian MoD: Marines of the Baltic Fleet conducted a small-scale training exercise involving 100 personnel and armored personnel carriers. [Accessible.](#)

September 25, 2017- TVZvezda: Forces of the Northern Fleet with rocket fire completed large-scale exercises in the Arctic.

Translation: “Large-scale exercises of the Northern Fleet of the Russian Federation were completed in the Barents Sea with rocket and artillery firings. The maneuvers involved more than twenty warships, including the heavy nuclear-powered cruiser Peter the Great and the destroyer Admiral Ushakov, 10 nuclear submarines among which the nuclear missile carriers Dmitry Donskoi and Orel, as well as about thirty aircraft and helicopters. Crews of ships destroyed surface and air targets. During the exercises in the Arctic region, 13 launches of cruise missiles were made, including from underwater position. The forces of the Northern Fleet successfully returned to the places of permanent deployment.” [Accessible.](#)

September 25, 2017 – TASS: "Onega" and "Naryan-Mar" defeated the air attack of a conventional enemy aircraft in exercises in the White Sea. [Accessible](#).

September 26, 2017 – TASS: A detachment of Northern Fleet warships will proceed through the Laptev Sea following the nuclear-powered icebreaker Vaigach westward. [Accessible](#).

September 28, 2017 – Russian MoD: Arctic motorized infantry of the Northern Fleet landed on the island of island of Golomyanny (Severnaya Zemlya archipelago) [Accessible](#).

Russian Reactions to Aurora

September 22, 2017-TASS: Russian Ministry of Defense supports the proposal of the Swedish Armed Forces to establish a direct phone line to prevent incidents during Zapad and Aurora military exercises. [Accessible](#).