



Organization of the Russian Armed Forces

In January 1997, President Boris Yeltsin signed an order making official a new heraldic emblem for the armed forces. The double-headed eagle has wings spread to indicate readiness to take flight, attack, and defend. At the heart of the emblem lay a shield depicting St. George and the Dragon, the symbol of the city of Moscow.

Several military structures, each subordinate to Russia's President, composed the nation's armed forces in 1996 and through the first half of 1997.

At the top level, direction was provided by two organizations, each chaired by the President and directed by politically powerful civilian secretaries. The first was the Security Council, responsible for formulating the National Security Concept. This document defines Russia's priority national interests and reportedly was completed in May 1997 but not published. Second was the Defense Council, created in July 1996 and charged with producing a new military doctrine and guiding military reform. This was scheduled to have been ready in June 1997 but was delayed indefinitely. Threats to Russia's security, as well as the role, structure, and composition of its armed forces, are to be determined by the provisions of these two documents.

Heads of the five most influential Russian uniformed organizations sat on both the Security and Defense councils. These were the Minister of Defense, the Director of the Federal Security Service, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, and the Director of the Federal Border Guards. The Minister for Civil Defense and Emergency Situations, the Head of the Federal Security Guard Service, and the Minister for Nuclear Energy (who heads troops) were members of only the Security Council.

Less prominent power centers, commanded by generals and filled with troops, also reported to the President. These included the Presidential Security Service,

the Federal Communications Agency, the Federal Railroad Troops Service, the Construction Troops, and the Federal Special Construction Directorate. Neither the Russian Minister of Defense nor the Chief of the General Staff had any control over these other power structures, whose numbers were estimated to be between 800,000 and two million. All of these troops, however, were subject to the Military Regulations of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) administered eight regular military districts inside Russia. In addition, there were seven districts of Internal Troops, six districts of Border Guards, and seven regional centers of Civil Defense Troops. Each agency supported large local staffs with general officers in abundance. There was much overlapping and duplication in their work but little coordination.

Non-MoD organizations, in particular Border Guards and Internal Troops, were not paramilitary forces in any sense. With the treaty-driven downsizing of MoD troops in the early 1990s, many units were simply transferred to one of the other "power ministries." As the fighting in Chechnya showed, non-MoD troops often were better armed and trained than MoD forces.

Russia's conventional military capability continued to decline. Troop training was at a minimum. "Untouchable" reserves of both food and equipment, intended for wartime emergency, were utilized. Soldiers often were undernourished; medical support was primitive. There was a serious shortage of

junior officers. Women helped compensate for the shortage of qualified male conscripts.

President Boris Yeltsin and other political leaders emphasized the importance of Russia's nuclear forces. Deputy Security Council Secretary Boris Berezovskiy asserted that Russia's new National Security Concept provided for first use of such weapons in a crisis. Priority was given to maintaining these weapons and to R&D for future weapons systems, with emphasis on space. Work appeared to continue on a massive, deep underground battle station in the Ural Mountains.

Armed Forces under the Defense Ministry. These forces had the primary responsibility for defending Russia against external threats. They are divided into five services, as in Soviet days. Moreover, there were two smaller forces: Military Space Forces and Airborne Forces, referred to as "reserves of the Supreme Command."

Leading political and military leaders emphasized that MoD forces will be reorganized. Newly appointed Minister of Defense, Gen. of the Army Igor D. Sergeev, declared that Russia would establish four rapid-response mobile forces, each with its own air and naval support, if needed. They would be located in the Far East, North Caucasus area, and Moscow Military District (with two). The size of these planned forces, which were primarily intended to deal with regional conflicts, was not given.

Defense Ministry. This once highly professional body became politicized and rife with

MILITARY ALMANAC

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor, with Harriet Fast Scott, William F. Scott, and David Markov

dissent and corruption. Minister of Defense Gen. of the Army Pavel Grachev, who came to President Yeltsin's aid in the coup attempts of 1991 and 1993, was dismissed in June 1996. His successor, Gen. of the Army Igor Rodionov, on reaching compulsory retirement age of 60 the following December, retired and became Russia's first civilian Defense Minister. However, Rodionov was never accepted in the President's inner circle and disagreed with the reform policies of Yuriy Baturin, Defense Council Secretary. In May 1997, during a televised meeting of the Defense Council, both Minister of Defense Rodionov and the Chief of the General Staff, Gen. of the Army Viktor Samsonov, were dismissed. Gen. of the Army Igor Sergeyev, CINC of the Strategic Rocket Forces, was designated the new Defense Minister. Gen. Col. Anatoliy Kvashnin, initial Commander of the Joint Group of Federal Troops fighting in Chechnya, moved from Commander of the North Caucasus Military District to Chief of the General Staff. Dr. Andrey A. Kokoshin retained his position as First Deputy Minister of Defense guiding military-technical and economic policy.

Strategic Rocket Forces (RVSN) continued to have first priority in personnel and equipment. This service consisted of four missile armies, which contained 19 divisions. The Topol-M missile, an advanced version of the silo-based and mobile Topol ICBM, was introduced into service. RVSN conducted five practice missile launches in 1996. The last was a RS-22 rocket launch from a combat railway car launching pad. The primary central command point of RVSN was located underground next to the headquarters building in Vlasikha near Moscow. The RVSN also had several other reserve command points in various regions of the nation, situated at depths of several hundred meters in cliff and mountain shafts. These were designed to ensure the functioning of the nation's combat control system for over a six-month period in conditions of total nuclear war. Sergeyev asserted that missiles could be launched when under attack "in a few tens of seconds." Sergeyev recommended that Russia's Military Space Forces be combined with the Strategic Nuclear Forces, a move which he claimed would increase "deterrence efficiency" by 10–15 percent.

Troops of Air Defense (VPVO) remained divided into four operational commands:

missile-space defense troops, surface-to-air missile troops, air defense aviation troops, and radiotechnical (radar) troops. President Yeltsin continued to press for a "Unified Air Defense System" for the commonwealth and directed the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs to develop and implement it. The "Agreement on the Creation of a CIS Unified Air Defense System," signed in 1995, had not been implemented. Only air defense troops of Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus performed alert duty. Azerbaijan had not subscribed to the Agreement; Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine cooperated with Russia only on a bilateral basis. Moscow's ABM system, intended "to combat unauthorized, provocative, or terrorist strikes by various categories of combat missiles," continued to receive attention.

Air Forces (VVS) remained divided into long-range (strategic), frontal (tactical), and transport aviation. Gen. Col. Peter S. Deynekin, CINC Air Forces, admitted that, of the Air Forces' tactical aircraft—interceptors, ground attack, and medium-range theater bomber types—only 30 percent consisted of fourth generation MiG-29s and Su-27s. He said that the Air Forces "did not purchase a single new military aircraft in 1996." Deynekin described the shortage of parts, engines, accumulators, and rubber as disastrous and said that only some 50 percent of the airplanes were operational. Lack of flying time for pilots remained a major problem. Military air transport pilots were able to maintain a level of proficiency by flying paid air cargoes and by supporting Russian peacekeeping operations. In tactical units fuel shortages limited pilots to 30–50 hours a year of flight time, compared to 180–240 hours during the Soviet era. At the same time Russia's aircraft industry was kept alive by sales to foreign nations, which accounted for approximately one-half of the nation's arms production of more than \$3 billion. Customers included India, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and China.

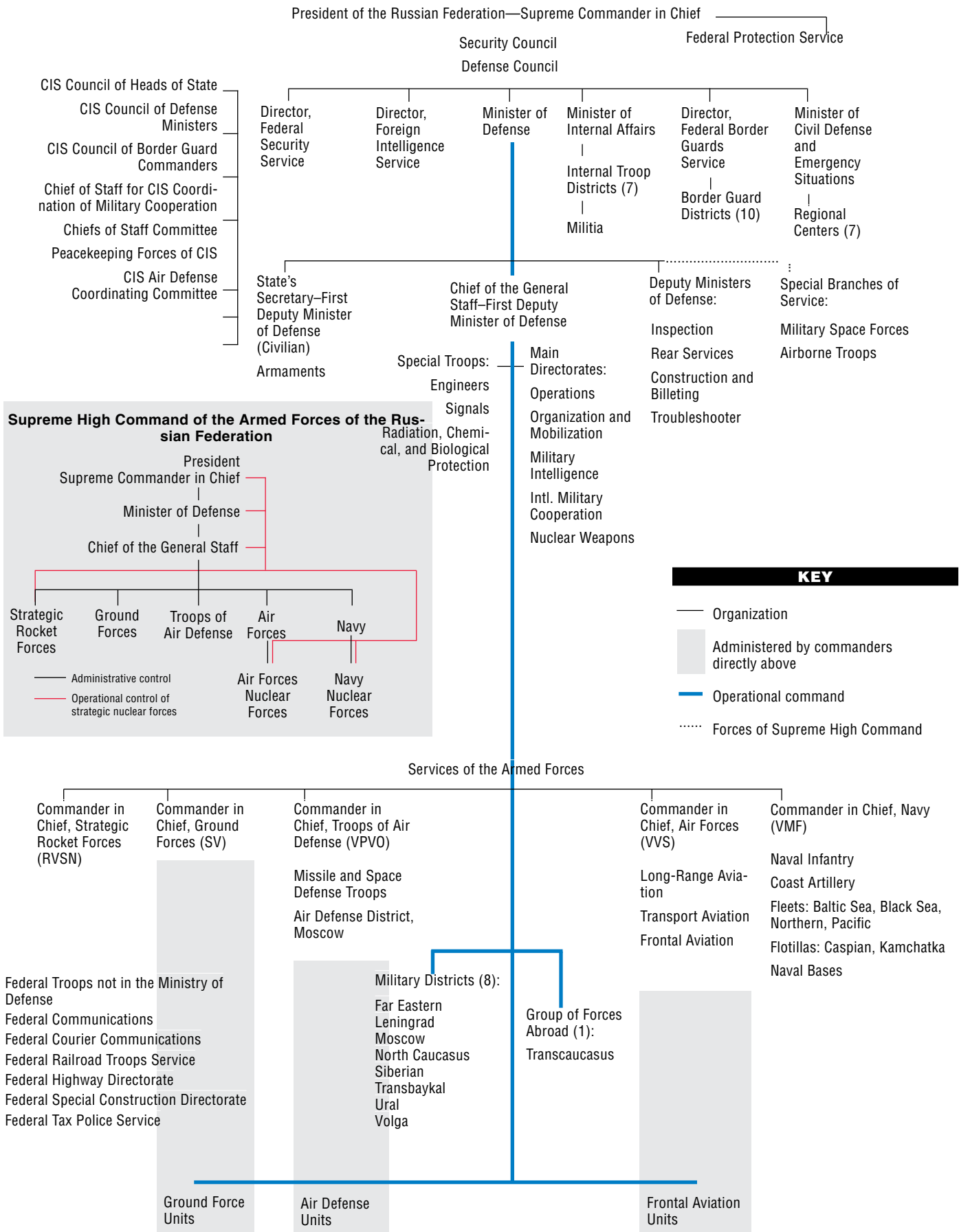
Navy (VMF) still maintained its four fleets: Black Sea, Baltic, Northern, and Pacific. An agreement was reached with Ukraine for the continued use of Sevastopol in Crimea. However, with the exception of a few ships, in particular one remaining aircraft carrier, the *Kuznetsov*, and the *Peter the Great* nuclear-powered missile cruiser, Russia's surface fleet has been sold off, scrapped, or abandoned. Many of the Navy's older

submarines have met the same fate. Russia's newer submarines were a different story. A new fourth-generation ballistic missile submarine, referred to as the *Borey* project, has been approved by presidential decree and work started on the lead unit in November 1996. The first *Borey* is scheduled to be launched in 2002, with an additional unit each year thereafter. The *Borey* is expected to carry 12 new ballistic missiles. If the START II agreement is ratified, 55 percent of Russia's remaining nuclear warheads would be based on SSBNs by 2003.

Ground Forces (SV) appeared as the most neglected of the five Ministry of Defense services. Approximately 90,000 of the Ground Forces' personnel were contract volunteers. These troops, as well as the regular conscripts, were of poor quality with little education. Training was minimal. Within the republics of the former Soviet Union, the Transcaucasus Group of Forces had troops deployed in both Georgia and Armenia. In May 1996, a special military contingent was formed to direct and support the 17 motorized and four airborne battalions involved in peacekeeping. A motorized rifle peacekeeping division was in Moldova and another similar division in Tajikistan. A military unit remains in Southern Ossetia (Georgia). Some units were part of CIS Col-lective Peacemaking Forces based in Abkhazia and Tajikistan. Russian units also serve as part of UN peacekeeping operations. A special branch of service, the **Airborne Forces**, were under the direct control of the President but administered by the Ground Forces. There was much confusion about their subordination and size. In September 1996 the MoD ruled that they would be reduced from 64,000 service-men to 48,500. It was later reported that the strength would be reduced to 34,000, and President Yeltsin had decreed that the air-borne troops would no longer be a "means of the High Command." Three Airborne divisions were to be relegated to military district commanders. On May 20, 1997, two days before Minister of Defense Rodionov and Chief of the General Staff Samsonov were dismissed, President Yeltsin rescinded his earlier directive. He specified there would be no reduction in the Airborne strength and that he regards these forces "as a reserve of the Supreme Commander in Chief in peaceful times, the basis for peacekeeping operations." Units of Russian Airborne Forces were deployed outside of Russia proper such as the Russian peacekeeping brigade in Bosnia.

Structure of the Russian Armed Forces

As of July 1, 1997



RUSSIAN MILITARY EMBLEMS

In December 1995, Krasnaya Zvezda published the 21 new emblems of the Russian Armed Forces. They depict four of the five services: Strategic Rocket Forces, Ground Forces, Troops of Air Defense, and Air Forces, plus service branches and rear services.

Strategic Rocket Forces	Ground Forces	Troops of Air Defense	Air Forces	Airborne Troops	Military-Space Forces	Motorized Rifle Troops
Tank Troops	Rocket Troops & Artillery	Engineer Troops	Troops of Radiation, Chemical, & Biological Protection	Signal Troops	Automotive Troops	Highway Troops
Service of Fuel & Lubricants	Military Transportation Service-VOSO	Topographical Service	Medical Service	Veterinary-Sanitary Service	Military Orchestra Service	Military Court & Legal Organs

Lineup of Russian Aerospace Power, 1996

Strategic Forces

Includes Deployable Russian and Deactivated Ukraine Strategic Forces

838-Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

SS-18 (RS-20): 180. SS-19 (RS-18): 206. SS-24 (Silo) (RS-22): 56. SS-24 (Rail) (RS-22): 36. SS-25 (RS-12M): 360.

113-Long-Range Bombers

Tu-95(MS6) Bear-H6: 32. Tu-95(MS16) Bear-H: 56. Tu-160 Blackjack: 25.

440-Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

SS-N-18 (RSM-50): 208. SS-N-20 (RSM-52): 120. SS-N-23 (RSM-54): 112.

26-Strategic Ballistic Missile Submarines

Delta-III (Kalmar): 13. Delta-IV (Delfin): 7. Typhoon (Akula): 6.

Air Defense Forces

945-Interceptors

MiG-23 Flogger: 240. MiG-25 Foxbat: 60. Su-27 Flanker: 325. MiG-31 Foxhound: 320.

25-Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft

A-50 Mainstay: 25.

100-Strategic Antibalistic Missile Launchers

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

2,700-Strategic Surface-to-Air Missile Launchers

SA-2 (S-75): 100. SA-3 (S-125): 25. SA-5 (S-200): 400. SA-10 (S-300P): 2,075. SA-12 (S-300V): 100.

Air Forces

130-Medium-Range Theater Bombers

Tu-22M Backfire: 130.

780-Tactical Counterair Interceptors

MiG-23 Flogger: 200. MiG-25 Foxbat: 21. MiG-29 Fulcrum: 461. Su-27 Flanker: 98.

722-Ground-Attack Aircraft

MiG-27 Flogger: 120. Su-24 Fencer: 347. Su-25 Frogfoot: 255.

371-Reconnaissance/ECM Aircraft

Tu-22MR Backfire: 20. MiG-25 Foxbat: 50. Su-24 Fencer: 80. Su-17 Fitter: 50. Il-22 Coot: 20. An-12 Cub: 125. An-26 Curl: 20. Tu-134 Crusty: 6.

50-Tanker Aircraft

Tu-16 Badger: 20. Il-78 Midas: 30.

976-Aircraft of Military Transport Aviation

An-2 Colt: 135. An-12 Cub: 200. An-22 Cuckoo: 25. An-24 Coke: 25. An-32 Cline: 50. An-72/74/ 79: 25. An-124 Condor: 25. An-225 Cossack: 1. Il-76 Candid: 300. Tu-134/154 Careless: 15. YaK-40 Codling: 25. L-410UVP Turbolet: 150.

Naval Aviation

1-Aircraft Carriers

Kuznetsov-class CTOL ship: 1.

105-Bombers and Strike Aircraft

Tu-22M Backfire: 105.

50-Fighter/Interceptors

Su-27 Flanker: 30. Su-33 Flanker: 20.

140-Fighter/Attack Aircraft

Su-24 Fencer: 70. Su-25 Frogfoot: 40. MiG-27 Flogger: 30.

79-Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Aircraft

Tu-95 Bear: 24. Tu-22MR Backfire: 20. Su-24 Fencer: 25. Il-20 Coot: 3. An-12 Cub: 7.

311-Antisubmarine Warfare Aircraft

Tu-142 Bear-F: 55. Il-38 May: 36. Be-12 Mail: 50. Ka-25 Hormone-A: 75. Ka-27 Helix-A: 85. Mi-14 Haze-A: 10.

190-Helicopters

Ka-25 Hormone: 25. Ka-29 Helix: 25. Ka-31 Helix: 5. Mi-6 Hook: 10. Mi-8 Hip: 70. Mi-14 Haze: 55.

Note: Increases in some categories from 1995's military aircraft lineup reflect equipment changes to maintain minimal readiness and force levels. In addition, new information on aircraft inventory types is also reflected in changes to individual aircraft numbers.

RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY

As of July 1, 1997

Gen. of the Army Igor Dmitriyevich Sergeyev

Born 1938 in Ukraine. Russian. Russian Federation Minister of Defense since May 1997. Member of both the Security Council and the Defense Council. Black Sea Higher Naval School (1960). Dzerzhinskiy Military Engineering Academy (with distinction, 1973).

Military Academy of the General Staff (1980). Sergeyev transferred from coastal artillery to Strategic Rocket Troops in 1960. Chief of Staff then Division Commander (1975). Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander Rocket Army (1980–83). Deputy Chief of Main Staff of Strategic Rocket Troops (1983) then First Deputy (1985). Deputy CINC, Rocket Troops, USSR, for Combat Training (1989–December 1991). Deputy Commander, Strategic Forces, Joint Armed Forces, CIS (ID in April 1992), and Deputy Commander, Strategic Rocket Troops for Combat Training (January–August 1992). Commander in Chief, Strategic Rocket Troops, Russian Federation (August 1992). Promoted June 1996. Married, one son.

Gen. of the Army Vladimir Mikhaylovich Toporov

Born 1946. Russian. Deputy Minister of Defense, Russian Federation, since June 1992. Troubleshooter. Member of Commission on the Social Affairs of Servicemen and Others Discharged from Military

Service and Their Families (December 1996). Odessa Artillery School (1968). Frunze Military Academy (1975). Military Academy of the General Staff (1984). Twenty years in Airborne Troops. Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander, Far Eastern Military District (1989–91). Commander of Moscow Military District (September 1991). Coordinator for sales of military equipment through *Voentekh* (1992–95). Worked on Yeltsin's election campaign (1996). Promoted 1996. Married, two sons.

Gen. Col. Anatoliy Vasilyevich Kvashnin

Born 1946. Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister of Defense since June 19, 1997. Probable Member of the Defense Council. Kurgan Engineer-

ing Institute (1969). Malinovskiy Military Academy of Armored Forces (1976). Military Academy of the General Staff (1989). Served in command posts in Czechoslovakia, Central Asia, and Belarus. Commander of a tank division (1978). First Deputy Commander, then Commander of an army (1989). Deputy Chief, then First Deputy Chief of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff (1992–95). Commander of Military Operations in Chechnya (December 1994–February 1995). Commander of the Troops of the North Caucasus Military District (February 1995), in charge of Russian Armed Forces in the Chechen conflict. Acting Chief of the General Staff from May 23. Promoted February 1995. Married with two sons.

Gen. Lt. Vladimir Il'ich Isakov

Born 1950. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Rear Services (Logistics) of the Armed Forces since June 30, 1997. Moscow Military School of Civil Defense, Military Academy of Rear Services and

Transport, Military Academy of the General Staff. Deputy Commander of an army for Rear Services. Served in Afghanistan (1984–86). Chief of Staff of Rear Services, Western Group of Forces (Germany, 1991). Deputy CINC–Chief of the Rear, Western Group of Forces (Germany, 1992). Chief of Staff of the Rear of the Armed Forces (1997).

Dr. Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin

Born 1945. Russian. State's Secretary (1996) and First Deputy Minister of Defense (since April 3, 1992). Member of the Defense Council. The only civilian in the top echelons of the Ministry of Defense. Deals with the State Duma

and Federation Council, the military-industrial complex, and promotes arms sales abroad. Graduated from the Moscow Bauman Institute of Technology (1969). Was Deputy Director of the Institute of the United States and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist for military-political questions and national security. First Deputy Minister of Defense since April 1992. Doctor of sciences (history, 1982). Professor. Corresponding member, Russian Academy of Sciences. Author of many articles and books on disarmament, conversion, and military policy (*Army and Politics*, 1995). Reserve officer. Married, two children.

Gen. Col. Aleksandr Davydovich Kosovan

Born 1946. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops since April 1997. Novosibirsk Construction Engineering School. Deputy Commander of Troops of the Transcaucasus Military District for Construction

and Billeting Troops (1988). First Deputy Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops (1992).

A Year of Upheaval

Even by post-Soviet standards, 1997 has been chaotic for Russia's high command. The 1996 "Russian Military Almanac" listed seven top Ministry of Defense officials. One—Andrei Kokoshin—remains. The other six have either been sacked or arrested or have retired.

In addition, two of their replacements came and went so rapidly that they never made it into a single Russian Almanac. We present them here for the record.

Finally, Gen. of the Army V.M. Semenov, the Commander in Chief of Ground Forces, was relieved of command in April 1997. In July President Yeltsin issued a decree calling for abolition of the position. Semenov's replacement serves in an acting capacity.

Gen. of the Army, retired, Igor Nikolayevich Rodionov

Born 1936. Minister of Defense from July 1996–May 1997. Retired in December 1996, remaining Defense Minister as civilian. Member of the Security and Defense Councils. Orel Armored School (1957). Malinovskiy Military Academy of Armored Forces (1970). Military Academy of the General Staff (1980). Commander of Limited Contingent of Russian Forces in Afghanistan (1985). First Deputy Commander of Moscow Military District (1986). Advisor in Syria. Commander of the Transcaucasus Military District (1988). Commandant of the Academy of the General Staff (August 1989). Promoted October 1996. Married, one son.

Gen. of the Army Viktor Nikolayevich Samsonov

Born 1941. Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister of Defense (October 1996–May 1997). Was Member of the Defense Council. Far Eastern Combined Arms Command School (1964). Frunze Military Academy (1972). Military Academy of the General Staff (1981). Commander of an army, Chief of Staff of the Transcaucasus Military District. Commander of Leningrad Military District (1990). Chief of the General Staff of Armed Forces, USSR—First Deputy Minister of Defense (December 1991). Chief of Staff—First Deputy CINC, Joint Armed Forces, CIS (1992). Chief of Staff for Coordination of Military Cooperation of Participating CIS States (1993). Promoted January 1996. Married, two children.

UNIFORMED CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY

Gen. Col. Vladimir Nikolayevich Yakovlev

Born 1954. Commander in Chief, Strategic Rocket Forces, since June 30, 1997. Kharkov Higher Military Command Engineering School (1976). Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy (command

faculty) (with gold medal, 1985). Candidate of sciences (military). Commander of a missile regiment (1985). Deputy Commander (1989), Commander of a missile division (1991). Chief of Staff—First Deputy Commander of a missile army (1993). Commander of a missile army (1994). Chief of the Main Staff—First Deputy CINC of the Strategic Rocket Forces (December 1996). Married, two daughters.

Gen. of the Army Viktor Alekseevich Prudnikov

Born 1939. Russian. CINC of the Russian Air Defense Troops (since August 1992) and CINC of the Commonwealth Joint Air Defense Force since February 1995. Armavir School for Pilots

(1959). Gagarin Military Air Academy (1967). Military Academy of the General Staff (1981). Over two years as fighter aviation regiment Commander (1971). Deputy Air Defense Division Commander (1973), Commander (1975), First Deputy Detached Air Defense Army Commander (1978–79 and 1981), then Commander (1983). Deputy Commander of a district for Troops of Air Defense. Commander of the Moscow Air Defense District (1989–91). CINC of the Troops of Air Defense and Deputy Minister of Defense, USSR (Aug. 25–Dec. 31, 1991). Commander, Troops of Air Defense (January 1992). Military Pilot First Class. Promoted in 1996. Married, two sons. (Lost younger son in 1991.)

Adm. Felix Nikolayevich Gromov

Born 1937. Russian. CINC of the Navy since August 1992. Pacific Ocean Higher Naval School (1959). Naval Academy (1983, by correspondence). Military Academy of the General Staff (1991, by examina-

tion). Pacific Fleet (1967–76). Chief of Staff of a training division, Leningrad Naval Base (1977–81). Chief of Staff, later Commander of an operational squadron (1981–84). First Deputy (1984–88), then Commander of the Northern Fleet (1988–92). First Deputy Commander of the Navy, CIS (March 1992). Promoted in 1996. Married, daughter and son.

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

Gen. of the Army Peter Stepanovich Deynek

Born 1937. Russian. CINC of the Air Forces since October 1992. Balashov Military Aviation School for Pilots (1957). Gagarin Military Air Academy (1969). Military Academy of the General Staff (with

gold medal, 1982). Bomber pilot. Deputy Air Army Commander (1982), then Commander (1985). Long Range Aviation Commander (1988). First Deputy CINC Air Forces (1990–91). CINC of the Air Forces and Deputy Minister of Defense, USSR (Aug. 31–Dec. 31, 1991). Commander, Air Forces of Joint Armed Forces, CIS (January–July 1992). Distinguished Military Pilot (1984). Promoted 1996. He is a doctor of sciences (military) and a professor. He has more than 5,000 hours' flying time. Married, three children.

Gen. Col. Anatoliy Andreyevich Golovnev

Born 1942. Acting CINC of the Ground Forces since November 1996. Moscow Higher Com-bined Arms Command School (1963). Frunze Military Academy (1973, gold medal). Military

Academy of the General Staff (1980). Deputy Commander, Commander of a motorized rifle regiment, Chief of Staff—Deputy Commander of a motorized rifle division in the Far Eastern Military District (1973–78). Commander of a guards motorized rifle division, First Deputy Commander of a Guards Tank Army, Soviet Forces, Germany (1980). Commander of a tank army, Transcarpathian Military District. First Deputy Commander of the Moscow Military District (1988). Deputy CINC of the Ground Forces for Combat Training (1992). First Deputy CINC of the Ground Forces (1995). Promoted 1993.

Russian and US Grades

Naval grades in italics

Five Stars

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

Four Stars

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

Three Stars

General Colonel Lieutenant General
Admiral *Vice Admiral*

Two Stars

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

One Star

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

O-6

Colonel Colonel
Captain (1st Class) *Captain*

O-5

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

O-4

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

O-3

Captain Captain
Captain Lieutenant *Lieutenant*

O-2

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

O-1

Lieutenant Second Lieutenant
Lieutenant *Ensign*

No Russian officer currently holds the rank of "Marshal of the Russian Federation." Four "Marshals of the Soviet Union" are alive today: S.L. Sokolov, V.G. Kulikov, V.I. Petrov, and D.T. Yazov. The first three are officially listed as "advisers to the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation." Marshal Yazov was imprisoned for his role in the August 1991 coup attempt in Moscow but was released under the parliamentary amnesty granted in February 1994 to numerous political plotters.

External Deployments and Peacekeeping Forces

As of July 1, 1997

Angola (peacekeeping)	192
Armenia (group of forces)	4,500
Bosnia (peacekeeping)	2,600
Chechnya (occupation force)	41,000
Croatia (peacekeeping)	800
Cuba	800
Georgia/South Ossetia (peacekeeping)	3,000
Georgia (group of forces)	13,150
Iraq/Kuwait (peacekeeping)	15
Moldova/Dniester (peacekeeping)	4,900
Mongolia	500
Syria	50
Tajikistan (peacekeeping)	12,000
Vietnam	700
Western Sahara (peacekeeping)	27
Total	84,234

Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1991–96

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

Moscow's Active-Duty Military Forces, 1989–96: USSR and Russian Federation

	Theater forces—ground, air, naval	Strategic forces—offensive/defensive	Command and rear services	Total forces
1989	2,690,000	890,000	1,450,000	5,030,000
1990	2,187,000	876,000	925,000	3,988,000
1991	2,150,000	755,000	650,000	3,555,000
1992	1,205,000	366,000	180,000	1,751,000
1993	1,082,000	230,000	100,000	1,412,000
1994	1,045,000	245,000	105,000	1,395,000
1995	923,500	279,200	176,000	1,378,700
1996	985,000	274,000	175,000	1,434,000

Strategic Nuclear Weapons of Russia and the Other Nuclear-Armed Former Soviet Republics, 1996

	Russia	Ukraine	Kazakhstan	Belarus	Total
ICBMs	747	91	0	0	838
Warheads	3,586	0	0	0	3,586
Bombers	69	44	0	0	113
Warheads	552	0	0	0	552
SSBNs	26	—	—	—	26
SLBMs	440	—	—	—	440
Warheads	2,272	—	—	—	2,272
Total vehicles	1,256	135	0	0	1,391
Total warheads	6,410	0	0	0	6,410

All data are current as of Dec. 31, 1996. On June 1, 1996, Ukraine returned all nuclear warheads to Russia. Adjustments in Russian strategic forces reflect START deployable delivery systems as noted in the January 1997 MOU on Data Notification.

It is thought by many analysts that all Delta I and Delta II SSBNs with their SS-N-8 SLBMs have been withdrawn from active deployments and are not counted as operational forces.

Zero indicates that that particular nuclear weapon type was deployed in that country at one time but is not deployed there now; a dash indicates that a weapon was never deployed in that country. All nuclear warheads have been returned from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

The active military population of the Soviet Union peaked in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell and the Warsaw Pact collapsed. Moscow initiated major force reductions. In late 1991, the USSR itself collapsed, leaving Russia with a portion of Soviet forces while large numbers of troops stayed in newly independent nations. Moscow's active-duty forces continued to decline during the first four years of the Russian Federation.

In this table, and in the table below, "strategic offensive forces" includes Strategic Rocket Forces and strategic nuclear elements of the Air Force and Navy. These tables do not include Border Guards and other nontraditional uniformed services.

According to MoD, Russia's armed services were staffed at 85 percent of authorized levels in 1996—a vast improvement over 1995's average manning level of 78 percent.

Strategic Nuclear Forces, 1989–96: USSR and Russian Federation

	ICBMs	Long-range bombers	Submarine-launched ballistic missiles	Ballistic missile submarines
1989	1,378	150	954	70
1990	1,373	155	924	61
1991	1,393	141	912	59
1992	1,031	135	864	57
1993	884	74	788	52
1994	773	95	732	47
1995	671	69	524	33
1996	747	69	440	26

Active-Duty Military Population, 1996

As of Dec. 31, 1996

Force element	Authorized	Actual
Ground forces	800,000	670,000
Air forces	170,000	145,000
Naval forces	200,000	170,000
Strategic defensive forces	175,000	149,000
Strategic offensive forces	149,000	125,000
Command and rear services.....	206,000	175,000
Total	1,700,000	1,434,000

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