As an attempt at military reform began, Russia’s armed forces, from July 1997 onwards, underwent major organizational changes. The Defense Council was abolished, Troops of Air Defense were absorbed by the Strategic Rocket Forces and Air Forces, and the Ground Forces High Command was eliminated.

The President retains control over “power” ministries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the top level, overall guidance of Russian uniformed forces was provided by the Security Council, chaired by the President. It has six permanent members: the President, Prime Minister, Secretary of the Security Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, and Director of Federal Security Service. Among other members were other power ministries, the head of the Federal Protection Service, the Director of the Federal Border Guard Service, Minister of Internal Affairs, Director of Foreign Intelligence Service, and Minister of Civil Defense and Emergency Situations.

In March 1998, when the Defense Council was abolished, the Security Council was combined with the State Military Inspectorate to form a new Security Council. It became the only body between the President and the Russian power ministries. The Secretary of the Security Council and head of the State Military Inspectorate had responsibilities for all of the power ministries that had armed troops. The Security Council’s National Security Concept, which focused on Russia’s internal threats and the nation’s dependence on nuclear weapons for providing security against external foes, was approved.

Armed forces under the Defense Ministry consisted of four military services: Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Forces, Navy, and Ground Forces. With the exception of certain units of the Strategic Rocket Forces and Airborne Troops, these services were described by the State Duma’s Deputy Defense Committee Chairman, Aleksey Arbatov, as being “hungry, without clothing or housing, with shattered morale, and with increasingly obsolescent systems, although with nuclear weapons in service.” The monthly initial pay of a military draftee was slightly more than three dollars; the highest monthly pay for noncommissioned officers and petty officers was less than seven dollars.

Strategic Rocket Forces (RVSN), “Russia’s shield,” increased in size and importance. This service, given priority in funding, got both the Military Space Forces and the Space Missile Defense Forces, which previously were part of the Troops of Air Defense. The Topol-M missile was considered the RVSN’s general purpose ICBM. In early December 1997, Minister of Defense Igor Sergeyev announced that two new SS-27 Topol-M launch silos and a launch control center would be operational.

Air Forces (VVS) acquired interceptor aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, and radio–technical troops as they merged with the air defense troops. This integration was under way, but the final organizational structure had not been determined. Long-range aviation and military transport aviation commands were reorganized as air armies of the Supreme High Command: Strategic Air Army and Military Transport Aviation. Frontal aviation air armies were scheduled to be replaced by air force and air defense armies, operationally subordinate to commanders of military districts. (The restructured Air Forces were tasked “with conducting military operations in aerospace, which includes the entire space extending above the earth’s surface; its boundary goes to infinity.”)
Navy (VMF) maintained four fleets: Black Sea, Baltic, Northern, and Pacific, although its size declined from 308 to 112 ships. Baltic and Pacific fleets are experimenting with new joint structures. Testing of the heavy rocket cruiser Peter the Great was completed. Work continued on the Borey, Russia's new fourth-generation submarine. President Boris Yeltsin re-emphasized that half of the nation's strategic nuclear forces would be aboard vessels of this type.

Ground Forces (SV) continued to be downsized and neglected. The High Command and the Main Staff of the Ground Forces ceased to exist at the end of 1997. Their place has been taken by the Main Directorate of the Ground Forces and the Main Directorate of Combat Training of the Armed Forces. These structures were subordinated to a Deputy Minister of Defense. Training of conscripts was minimal. Airborne Troops were re-emphasized as a special reserve force answerable directly to the President and the Defense Minister. They remained Russia's only mobile forces.
**Structure of the Russian Armed Forces**  
*As of July 27, 1998*

**President of the Russian Federation—Supreme Commander in Chief**

- Security Council
- Federal Protection Service

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

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

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

**Supreme High Command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation**

- President
  - Supreme Commander in Chief
  - Minister of Defense
    - Chief of General Staff

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

### Air Forces
- CINC, Air Forces
  - Gen. Col. A.M. Kornukov
  - Naval Infantry
  - Coast Artillery
  - Fleets:
    - Baltic Sea
    - Black Sea
    - Northern
    - Pacific (Joint Command of Russian Northeast)
  - Flotilla: Caspian

### Ground Forces
- Military Districts:
  - Far Eastern
  - Leningrad
  - Moscow
  - North Caucasus
  - Siberian
  - Volga–Ural

### Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus

### Main Directorate of Ground Forces

- Air Force Armies (under military district commanders)
  - Military Air Force & Air Defense Corps
  - Military Air Force & Air Defense District (Moscow)

### Key
- Organization
- Administered by commanders directly above
- Operational command
- Forces of Supreme High Command
### Strategic Forces

Includes deployable Russian and deactivated Ukrainian strategic forces.

#### Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

- SS-19 (RS-18): 188.
- SS-27 (RS-12M2): 2*.

*Two units placed into service in December 1997.

#### Long-Range Bombers

- Tu-95(MS6) Bear-H6: 33.
- Tu-95(MS16) Bear-H: 56.
- Tu-160 Blackjack: 25.

#### Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

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

#### Strategic Ballistic Missile Submarines

- Delta-III (Kalmar): 12.
- Delta-IV (Delfin): 7.
- Typhoon (Akula): 6*.

*Two Typhoons are not in operational service.

### Air Defense Forces

#### Interceptors

- MiG-23 Flogger: 100.
- MiG-25 Foxbat: 60.
- MiG-31 Foxhound: 320.

#### Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft


#### Anti-ballistic Missile Launchers*

- ABM-3 (SH-11) Gorgon: 32.
- ABM-3 (SH-08) Gazelle: 68.

*System taken off-line in December 1997; future is uncertain.

### Air Forces

#### Medium-Range Theater Bombers

- Tu-22M Backfire: 58.

#### Tactical Counterair Interceptors

- MiG-23 Flogger: 170.
- MiG-29 Fulcrum: 460.

### Navy

#### Aircraft Carrier

- Kuznetsov-class CTOL ship: 1.

#### Bombers and Strike Aircraft

- Tu-22M Backfire: 74.

#### Fighter/Interceptors

- Su-33 Flanker: 20.

#### Fighter/Attack Aircraft

- Su-24 Fencer: 60.
- Su-25 Frogfoot: 40.
- MiG-27 Flogger: 30.

#### Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Aircraft

- Tu-95 Bear: 24.
- Tu-22MR Backfire: 8.
- An-12 Cub: 2.

#### Anti-submarine Warfare Aircraft

- Tu-142 Bear-F: 55.
- Il-38 May: 36.
- Ka-29 Helix-A: 10.

#### Helicopters

- Ka-29 Helix: 25.
- Ka-31 Helix: 5.

### Russian Military Emblems

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

Naval grades in italics

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

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

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

**Two Stars**
- General Lieutenant
- Major General
- Vice Admiral

**One Star**
- General
- Brigadier General
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half)

**0-6**
- Colonel
- Captain (1st Class)

**0-5**
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Captain (2d Class)

**0-4**
- Major
- Captain (3d Class)

**0-3**
- Captain
- Captain (1st Class)

**0-2**
- Senior Lieutenant
- First Lieutenant

**0-1**
- Lieutenant
- Second Lieutenant

**Rear Admiral**
- Rear Admiral (Lower Half)

**Captain Lieutenant**
- Lieutenant

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

**Captain (2d Class)**
- Commander

Russian and US Grades

**External Deployments and Peacekeeping Forces**

**Active Duty Military Population, 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force element</th>
<th>Authorized</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground forces</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air forces</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval forces</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic defensive forces</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic offensive forces</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command and rear services</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>164,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to Russian MoD spokesmen, Russia’s armed services were staffed at 80 percent of their authorized levels. Several Russian MoD spokesmen claimed authorized strength numbers which varied from 1.7 million to 1.5 million men. Since it was announced in 1996 that the authorized strength would drop to 1.5 million, it was selected as the authorized strength for 1997.

*Strategic offensive forces include Strategic Rocket Forces and strategic nuclear elements of the Air Forces and Navy.

**Active Duty Military Population, 1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Force element</th>
<th>Authorized</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground forces</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air forces</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>136,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval forces</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic defensive forces</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic offensive forces</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command and rear services</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>164,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External Deployments and Peacekeeping Forces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Forces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia (group of forces)</td>
<td>4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia/South Ossetia (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia (group of forces)</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq/Kuwait (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova/Trans–Dniestria (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Sahara (peacekeeping)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,635</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Air Force Magazine / October 1998

The Su-27 is Russia’s principal air superiority fighter and also performs as escort for attack aircraft on deep penetration missions. Here, a single-seat Su-27P Flanker-B (foreground) and a two-seat Su-27UB Flanker-C (middle) share the tarmac with a Su-24 Fencer. The Fencer serves as the major element of the Russian theater strike/attack forces. Both aircraft can be found in the Air Forces and Navy inventories.
As of July 1, 1998

Russian Defense Ministry

Marshall of Russian Federation Igor Dmitrievich Sergeyev


Gen. of the Army Anatoliy Vasilyevich Kvashnin


Gen. Col. Aleksandr Davydovich Kosovan


Dr. Nikolay Vasilyevich Mikhailylov


Gen. Col. Vladimir Il'ich Isakov


Gen. of the Army Vladimir Mikhaylovich Toporov


Gen. Col. Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Kornukov


Adm. Vladimir Ivanovich Kuroyedov

## Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1991–97

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7,644</td>
<td>6,766</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>5,961</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>1,594</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11,159</td>
<td>10,466</td>
<td>9,572</td>
<td>7,035</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Strategic Nuclear Weapons of Russia and the Other Nuclear-Armed Former Soviet Republics, 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
<th><strong>Total</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ICBMs</strong></td>
<td>756</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warheads</strong></td>
<td>3,630</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bombers</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warheads</strong></td>
<td>560</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SSBNs</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SLBMs</strong></td>
<td>424</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warheads</strong></td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total vehicles</strong></td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total warheads</strong></td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All data are current as of Dec. 31, 1997. 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 1998 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.

## Moscow’s Active Duty Military Forces, 1989–97: USSR and Russian Federation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Theater forces—ground, air, naval</th>
<th>Strategic forces—offensive/defensive</th>
<th>Command and rear services</th>
<th><strong>Total forces</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1989</strong></td>
<td>2,690,000</td>
<td>890,000</td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
<td>5,030,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1990</strong></td>
<td>2,187,000</td>
<td>876,000</td>
<td>925,000</td>
<td>3,988,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1991</strong></td>
<td>2,150,000</td>
<td>755,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>3,555,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1992</strong></td>
<td>1,205,000</td>
<td>366,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>1,751,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1993</strong></td>
<td>1,082,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>1,412,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1994</strong></td>
<td>1,045,000</td>
<td>245,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>1,395,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1995</strong></td>
<td>923,500</td>
<td>279,200</td>
<td>176,000</td>
<td>1,378,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1996</strong></td>
<td>985,000</td>
<td>274,000</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>1,434,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1997</strong></td>
<td>776,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>164,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

## Strategic Nuclear Forces, 1989–97: USSR and Russian Federation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ICBMs</th>
<th>Long-range bombers</th>
<th>Submarine-launched ballistic missiles</th>
<th>Ballistic missile submarines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>1,373</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Strategic offensive forces include Strategic Rocket Forces and strategic nuclear elements of the Air Forces and Navy. This table does not include Border Guards and other nontraditional uniformed services.

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 the table at left after 1991.