

Russian Military Almanac

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Organization of the Russian Armed Forces

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 Sergeev 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.

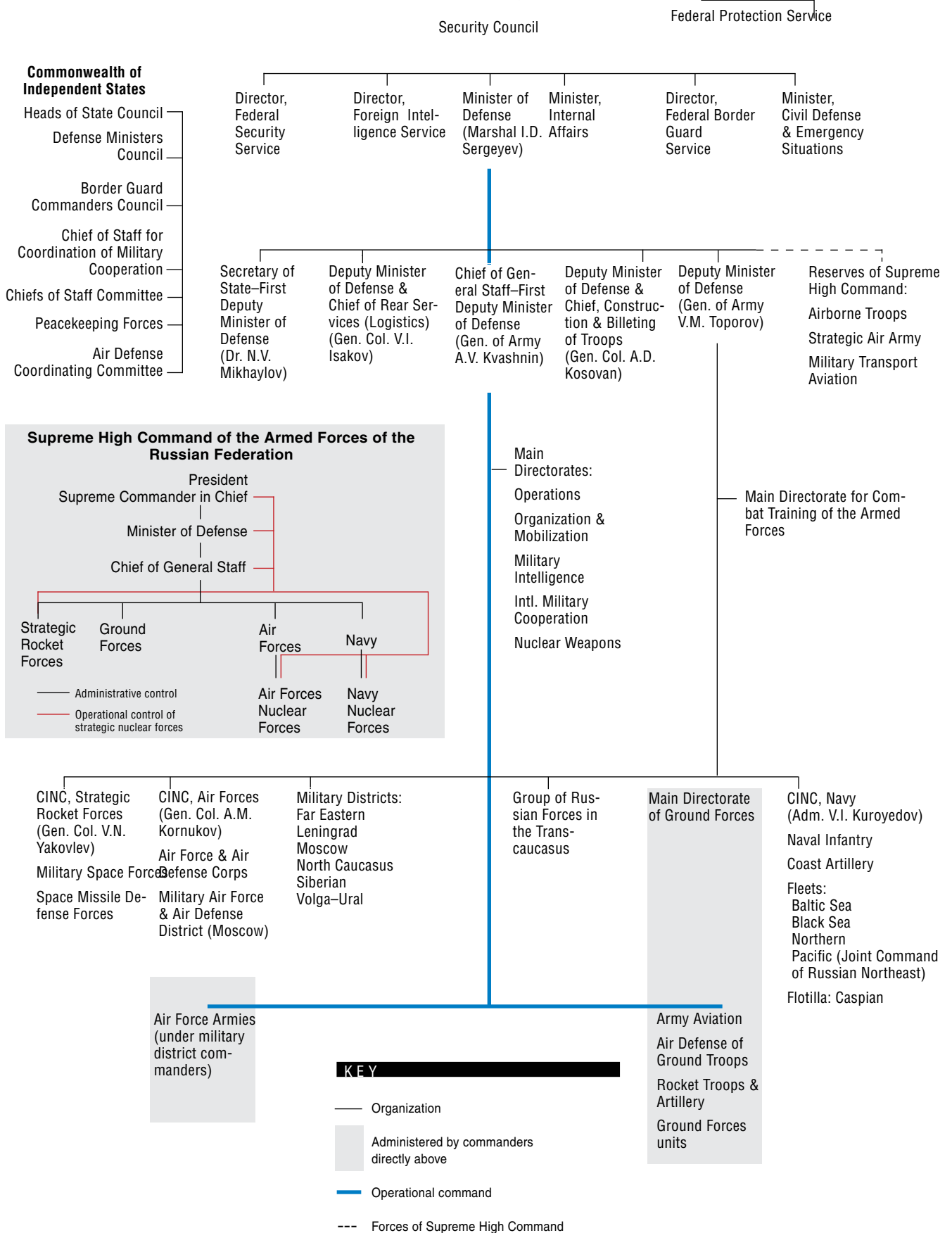


Photo by Paul Kennedy

Structure of the Russian Armed Forces

As of July 27, 1998

President of the Russian Federation—Supreme Commander in Chief



Strategic Forces

Includes deployable Russian and deactivated Ukrainian strategic forces.

822-Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

SS-18 (RS-20): 180. SS-19 (RS-18): 188. SS-24 (Silo) (RS-22): 56. SS-24 (Rail) (RS-22): 36. SS-25 (RS-12M): 360. SS-27 (RS-12M2): 2*.

*Two units placed into service in December 1997.

114-Long-Range Bombers

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

424-Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

SS-N-18 (RSM-50): 192. SS-N-20 (RSM-52): 120. SS-N-23 (RSM-54): 112.

25-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

780-Interceptors

MiG-23 Flogger: 100. MiG-25 Foxbat: 60. Su-27 Flanker: 300. MiG-31 Foxhound: 320.

25-Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft

A-50 Mainstay: 25.

100-Strategic 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.

2,450-Strategic Surface-to-Air Missile Launchers

SA-2 (S-75): 50. SA-5 (S-200): 200. SA-10 (S-300P): 2,100. SA-12 (S-300V): 100.

Air Forces

58-Medium-Range Theater Bombers

Tu-22M Backfire: 58.

755-Tactical Counterair Interceptors

MiG-23 Flogger: 170. MiG-25 Foxbat: 30. MiG-29 Fulcrum: 460. Su-27 Flanker: 95.

560-Ground-Attack Aircraft

MiG-27 Flogger: 100. Su-24 Fencer: 265. Su-25 Frogfoot: 195.

206-Reconnaissance/ECM Aircraft

Tu-22MR Backfire: 10. MiG-25 Foxbat: 50. Su-24 Fencer: 80. Il-22 Coot: 20. An-12 Cub: 20. An-26 Curl: 20. Tu-134 Crusty: 6.

30-Tanker Aircraft

Il-78 Midas: 30.

940-Aircraft of Military Transport Aviation

An-2 Colt: 135. An-12 Cub: 170. An-22 Cokc: 25. An-24 Coke: 25. An-32 Cline: 50. An-72/74/ 79: 20. An-124 Condor: 24. An-225 Cossack: 1. Il-76 Candid: 300. Tu-134/154 Careless: 15. YaK-40 Codling: 25. L-410UVP Turbolet: 150.

Navy

1-Aircraft Carrier

Kuznetsov-class CTOL ship: 1.

74-Bombers and Strike Aircraft

Tu-22M Backfire: 74.

50-Fighter/Interceptors

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

130-Fighter/Attack Aircraft

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

59-Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare Aircraft

Tu-95 Bear: 24. Tu-22MR Backfire: 8. Su-24 Fencer: 20. Il-20 Coot: 2. An-12 Cub: 5.

286-Anti-submarine Warfare Aircraft

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

185-Helicopters

Ka-25 Hormone: 20. Ka-29 Helix: 25. Ka-31 Helix: 5. Mi-6 Hook: 10. Mi-8 Hip: 70. Mi-14 Haze: 55.

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.



Strategic Rocket Forces



Ground Forces



Air Forces



Navy



Airborne Troops



Military Space Forces



Motorized Rifle Troops



Tank Troops



Rocket Troops & Artillery



Engineer Troops



Troops of Radiation, Chemical, & Biological Protection



Signals Troops



Automotive Troops



Highway Troops



Service of Fuel & Lubricants



Military Transportation Service



Topographical Service



Medical Service



Veterinary-Sanitary Service



Military Orchestra Service



Military Court & Legal Organs



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.

Russian and US Grades

Naval grades in italics

Five Stars	
Marshal of Russian Federation	General of the Army General of the Air Force <i>Admiral of the Fleet</i>
Four Stars	
General of the Army	General (USA)
General of the Army	General (USAF)
<i>Admiral of the Fleet</i>	<i>Admiral (USN)</i>
Three Stars	
General Colonel	Lieutenant General
<i>Admiral</i>	<i>Vice Admiral</i>
Two Stars	
General Lieutenant	Major General
<i>Vice Admiral</i>	<i>Rear Admiral (Upper Half)</i>
One Star	
General Major	Brigadier General
<i>Rear Admiral</i>	<i>Rear Admiral (Lower Half)</i>
O-6	
Colonel	Colonel
<i>Captain (1st Class)</i>	<i>Captain</i>
O-5	
Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
<i>Captain (2d Class)</i>	<i>Commander</i>
O-4	
Major	Major
<i>Captain (3d Class)</i>	<i>Lieutenant Commander</i>
O-3	
Captain	Captain
<i>Captain Lieutenant</i>	<i>Lieutenant</i>
O-2	
Senior Lieutenant	First Lieutenant
<i>Senior Lieutenant</i>	<i>Lieutenant Jr. Grade</i>
O-1	
Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant
<i>Lieutenant</i>	<i>Ensign</i>

Minister of Defense Sergeyev currently holds the rank of Marshal of Russian Federation. Four Marshals of Soviet Union are alive today: S.L. Sokolov, V.G. Kulikov, V.I. Petrov, and D.T. Yazov. All four are officially listed as advisors to the Russian Federation Minister of Defense.

Active Duty Military Population, 1997

As of Dec. 31, 1997

Force element	Authorized	Actual
Ground forces	600,000	480,000
Air forces	170,000	136,000
Naval forces	200,000	160,000
Strategic defensive forces	175,000	140,000
Strategic offensive forces*	150,000	120,000
Command and rear services	205,000	164,000
Total	1,500,000	1,200,000

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.

External Deployments and Peacekeeping Forces

As of Dec. 31, 1997

Armenia (group of forces)	4,300
Bosnia (peacekeeping)	1,400
Croatia (peacekeeping)	850
Cuba	800
Georgia/South Ossetia (peacekeeping)	500
Georgia (group of forces)	8,500
Iraq/Kuwait (peacekeeping)	10
Moldova/Trans-Dniestria (peacekeeping)	500
Syria	50
Tajikistan (peacekeeping)	6,000
Vietnam	700
Western Sahara (peacekeeping)	25
Total	23,635

Russian Defense Ministry

As of July 1, 1998

Marshal of Russian Federation Igor Dmitriyevich Sergeyev

Born 1938 in Ukraine. Russian. Russian Federation Minister of Defense since May 1997. Member of the Security 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 Forces (1983), then First Deputy (1985). Deputy CINC, Rocket Troops, USSR, for Combat Training (1989–December 1991). Deputy Commander, Strategic Forces, Joint Armed Forces, CIS (April 1992), and Deputy Commander, Strategic Rocket Forces for Combat Training (January–August 1992). Commander in Chief, Strategic Rocket Forces, Russian Federation (August 1992). Promoted November 1997. Married, one son.

Gen. of the Army 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. Kurgan Engineering 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 Directorate of Operations 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 November 1997. Married with two sons.

Gen. Col. Aleksandr Davydovich Kosovan

Born 1941. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops since April 1997. Novosibirsk Construction Engineering School. Worked in Special Construction until 1984.

Assigned to the Volga Military District, then again to the Main Directorate of Special Construction. Deputy Commander for Construction and Billeting Troops of the Transcaucasus Military District (1988). First Deputy Chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops (1992). Honorary Builder of Russia. Promoted 1996.

Dr. Nikolay Vasilyevich Mikhaylov

Born 1937. Secretary of State—First Deputy Minister of Defense (since September 1997). The only civilian in the top echelons of the Ministry of Defense. Responsible for the reform of defense industry and

science. Graduated from Moscow Bauman Institute of Technology (1961). Until 1986, in defense industry as director of a leading scientific research institute working on anti-missile defense. Headed the Vympel Central Research & Production Association, after 1991, the Vympel Interstate joint stock corporation. Became a Deputy Secretary of the Security Council in July 1996, responsible for the military industrial complex, assuring technological independence, and ecological safety. Doctor of Sciences (Economics) and Grand Doctor of Philosophy. Professor. Full member of a number of national and international academies. Government prize winner (1984, 1997) for creating an early warning system, a space control system, and a system of anti-missile defense.

Gen. Col. Vladimir Il'ich Isakov

Born 1950. Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of Rear Services (Logistics) 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 Rear Services, Western Group of Forces (Germany, 1992). Promoted 1997.

Gen. of the Army Vladimir Mikhaylovich Toporov

Born 1946. Russian. Deputy Minister of Defense, Russian Federation, since June 1992. Under the military reform, main directorates replacing the Ground Forces were subordinated to Toporov in January 1998.

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). Promoted 1996. Married, two sons.

Uniformed Chiefs of the Military

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. 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. Col. Anatoliy Mikhaylovich Kornukov

Born 1942. CINC of the Air Forces since January 1998. Chernigov Higher Aviation School for Pilots (1964). Military Command Academy of Air Defense (1980). Military Academy of the General Staff (1988). Commander of Air Forces fighter division (1980–85)

and an Air Forces fighter corps (1985–87). First Deputy Commander of Air Defense Aviation (1988). First Deputy Commander of a detached Air Defense Army (1989), later Commander. Commander of the Moscow Air Defense District (September 1991).

Adm. Vladimir Ivanovich Kuroyedov

Born 1944. CINC of the Navy since November 1997. Pacific Ocean Higher Naval School (1967). Naval Academy (1978). Military Academy of the General Staff (with gold medal, 1989). Pacific Fleet

(1967–76). Flotilla Commander in the Pacific Fleet (1989). Chief of Staff and First Deputy Commander of the Baltic Fleet (1993). Commander of the Pacific Fleet (February 1996). Chief of the Main Naval Staff and First Deputy CINC of the Navy (July 1997). Promoted in 1996. Married, one son.

Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1991–97

Nation	USSR	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	1991						
Russia		7,644	6,766	6,902	5,961	6,410	6,414
Ukraine		1,408	1,264	1,594	1,056	0	0
Kazakhstan		1,360	1,260	1,040	0	0	0
Belarus		54	54	36	18	0	0
Total	11,159	10,466	9,344	9,572	7,035	6,410	6,414

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

	Russia	Ukraine	Kazakhstan	Belarus	Total
ICBMs	756	66	0	0	822
Warheads	3,630	0	0	0	3,630
Bombers	70	44	0	0	114
Warheads	560	0	0	0	560
SSBNs	25	—	—	—	25
SLBMs	424	—	—	—	424
Warheads	2,224	—	—	—	2,224
Total vehicles	1,250	110	0	0	1,360
Total warheads	6,414	0	0	0	6,414

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

	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
1997	776,000	260,000	164,000	1,200,000

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.

Strategic Nuclear Forces, 1989–97: 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
1997	756	70	424	25

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.