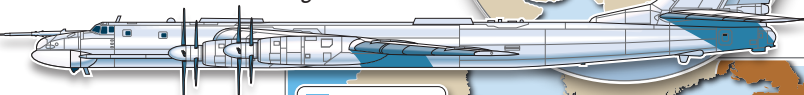


Report says Russia-West military encounters rising

A London-based think tank says Russian forces have been involved in dozens of close encounters with Western militaries since Moscow annexed Crimea – and that both sides risk losing control over events

Tu-95 “Bear”: Russian strategic bomber



HIGH RISK INCIDENTS

1 Mar 3: Near-collision between SAS airliner and Russian spyplane

2 Sep 5: Estonian intelligence officer seized by Russian agents

3 Oct 17-27: Major hunt by Sweden for suspected Russian submarine

SERIOUS INCIDENTS

4 Apr 12: Unarmed Russian fighter makes 12 passes over U.S. warship

5 Apr 23: Russian fighter makes threatening manoeuvres close to U.S. reconnaissance plane

6 June: Russian aircraft makes apparent simulated attack on Danish island of Bornholm

7 Jul 16: Russian aircraft intercepts Swedish surveillance plane in international airspace

8 Jul 18: U.S. surveillance plane chased into Swedish airspace after being approached by Russian fighters

9 Early Sep: Russian strategic bombers practice cruise missile strikes on U.S.



10 Sep 7: Canadian frigate locks radar on unarmed Russian plane after it comes within 300m of warship

11 Sep 17: Two Russian bombers intentionally violate Swedish airspace

12 Sep 19: Russian officers detain Lithuanian ship in international waters and tow it to Murmansk

13 Oct 3: Russian fighter flies “within metres” of Swedish surveillance plane

14 Oct 28-30: Russia conducts major air exercise in North Sea, Atlantic, Black Sea and Baltic Sea

NEAR-ROUTINE INCIDENTS

Not likely to lead to escalation, but increased number of such incidents add to atmosphere of tension