

Big surge in NATO and Russian war games

The border between Russia and eastern Europe has seen a surge in NATO and Russian military drills following the annexation of Crimea in March 2014 and the subsequent conflict in the east of Ukraine



NATO EXERCISES

1 Mar 2015: U.S., Canadian and German ships conduct war games in Black Sea with Bulgarian, Romanian and Turkish navies

2 Apr: *Exercise Noble Jump* simulates deployment of over 1,500 troops from 11 countries in eastern Europe

3 May: 100 aircraft and 4,000 soldiers conduct trials in *Exercise Arctic Challenge*

4 Jun 1-19: 7,000 troops conduct drills in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in *Exercise Sabre Strike*

5 Jun 5-12: *BALTOPS* exercise with 5,600 troops, 49 warships, 61 aircraft and landing craft in Baltic Sea



RUSSIAN EXERCISES

6 Feb 2015: 2,000 Russian paratroops conduct drills in Pskov region bordering Estonia and Latvia

7 Mar: 80,000 troops and 220 aircraft mobilised in Arctic region war games

8 May: Snap drill of 250 aircraft and 12,000 service personnel in Urals and western Siberia

MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY ON RUSSIA-NATO BORDER IN 2015



Development of *Spearhead Force* of 5,000 troops able to deploy within 48 hours



Agreement to double *NATO Response Force* to around 30,000 troops



Poland buying U.S. *Patriot* anti-ballistic missile system



Deployment of nuclear-capable *Iskander* ballistic missiles to Kaliningrad enclave



Ten-year upgrade plan to boost defence capabilities in Crimea, Kaliningrad and Arctic region



Deployment of long-range *Tu-22* bombers to Crimea