

U.S. bombers deployed to Norway

The U.S. has deployed long range bombers to Norway for the first time, increasing ties with Nordic states in response to expanding Russian military and economic activities in the Arctic

Four B-1B Lancer bombers conducting "tactical integration" with Norwegian F-35A and naval assets over Norwegian Sea



RECENT MOVES

1 Mar 2020: Russia approves new 15-year Arctic strategy, paving way for further industrialization of region

2 Oct: Norway reopens Cold War-era **Olavsværn** base, near Tromsø, to facilitate access to U.S., UK and French nuclear submarines

3 Nov: U.S. and Swedish forces conduct large exercises to prepare for hypothetical enemy attack in Baltic Sea region

Russian Arctic bases

⊕ Airfield ⊙ Naval ⊙ Radar

4 Jan 1, 2021: President **Vladimir Putin** officially upgrades Northern Fleet to status of military district

5 Feb 9-10: U.S. and Finnish air forces train on mid-air refuelling

6 Feb 17: U.S. agrees with Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to continue participation in biennial **Arctic Challenge Exercise** – one of Europe's largest tactical air exercises – scheduled for June

7 Feb 22: U.S. B-1 bombers deployed to Norway

8 Mar: U.S. Army set to publish new Arctic strategy, with plans for creating new Arctic brigade and transforming Alaska command into operational headquarters