

A photograph of Russian military band members in ceremonial uniforms, featuring white hats with gold bands and black jackets with gold epaulettes. They are holding rifles with bayonets attached. The image is used as a background for the report cover.

Understanding the Russian Military Today

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

CSIS

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

RUSSIA AND
EURASIA PROGRAM

EUROPE
PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY PROGRAM

Agenda

TIME	MON. JULY 20	TUE. JULY 21	WED. JULY 22	THU. JULY 23	FRI. JULY 24
8:30 AM	Welcome and Course Introduction	The Structure of Military Forces	Russian Paramilitary and Internal Security Forces	Russian Intervention in Syria	Russian Military Exercises and Partner Militaries
9 AM					
10 AM	The Foundations of Russian Power	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
		The Russian Army	Wagner Group and Armed Contractors	Russian Intervention in Ukraine	The Russian Military Budget: How Much Do They Spend and Where Does It Go?
	BREAK				
11 AM	Russian Military Strategy in the 21st Century	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12 PM	LUNCH	The Russian Navy	Russian Disinformation Campaigns and Cyber Attacks	Russian Military on the World Stage	The Russian Defense Industry
1 PM	The Russian Military Since 1917				
2 PM	BREAK	The Russian Air Force	Individual Research Projects	Exercise Emerging Competition in the Artic and Arctic Crisis	Exercise Building a Russian Military
3 PM			BREAK		
	4 PM	Russian Nuclear Forces and Arms Control			
5 PM		Reception	Individual Research Projects		

FOCUS AREA	Russian Society, Strategy, and History
	Elements of Russian Military Power
	Recent Uses of Russian Military Power
	Resources Behind Russian Military Power

Course Overview

Russia is back. Moscow's military intervention in Georgia in 2008, annexation of Crimea and intervention in Eastern Ukraine, intervention in Syria, deployment of military contractors and advisors in Venezuela, Africa, and elsewhere, as well as newly developed hypersonic weapons and growing military cooperation with China have all led Western analysts to pay urgent and renewed attention to the modernization of the Russian armed forces.

Understanding the Russian Military Today is a five-day, professional development program that explores the elements of Russian military power, including their composition and future prospects, social and historical foundations, doctrine, and current operations. Participants will build on classroom knowledge with hands-on analytical training and exercises. Offered by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., the course is led by defense and security experts from CSIS, other think tanks, and the academic community. All course information will be presented in an educational, bipartisan, and analytic manner, consistent with CSIS's mission.

Course Details

DATES: July 20-24, 2020

LOCATION: Online in 2020

COST: Free to successful applicants

WEBSITE: <https://www.csis.org/programs/executive-education/current-programs/understanding-russian-military-today>

QUESTIONS: Contact Roksana Gabidullina at rgabidullina@csis.org or 202-775-3162

Curriculum

Participants will engage in a series of seminars, site visits, and interactive exercises throughout the course of this program. To complete the course, each participant will also be required to write a short independent research paper on a topic of their choosing. The curriculum will cover four major themes:

1. Russian society, strategy, and history
2. Elements of Russian military power
3. Recent uses of Russian military power
4. Resources behind Russian military power: budgets and industry

SEMINARS

The Foundations of Russian Power

A foundational overview of the current status of and issues related to Russian economics, demographics, and politics.

Russian Military Strategy in the 21st Century

An examination of Russia's threat perception and the role of deterrence; restoring great power status; Russia's approach to the post-Soviet strategic environment; defense of the homeland; and their regional and global ambitions.

The Russian Military Since 1917

The creation of the Red Army; the trauma and triumph in The Great Patriotic War; their experience as a superpower; collapse in the 1990s; and revival in the 2000s-2010s.

U.S. and NATO Responses to Russia

U.S./NATO posture pre- and post-Crimea; U.S./NATO view of the Russian military challenge; U.S./NATO actions and Russian reactions.

The Structure of Military Forces

Macro decisions in building a military structure. Examining tradeoffs between ground/air/maritime/homeland; tradeoffs between readiness/force structure/modernization; and tradeoffs between active/reserve, conscript/volunteer; as well as global versus regional capabilities.

The Russian Army

Size and current structure; recent changes; doctrinal foundations; and prospects for the future.

The Russian Navy

Size and current structure; recent changes; doctrinal foundations; and prospects for the future.

The Russian Air Force

Size and current structure; recent changes; doctrinal foundations; and prospects for the future.

Russian Nuclear Forces and Arms Control

Size and current structure; recent changes; modernization plans; doctrinal foundations; bilateral and multilateral negotiation processes; impact of arms control and prospects for future agreement.

Russian Paramilitary and Internal Security Forces

Size and current structure; new organizations and recent changes; purpose and doctrinal foundations; and prospects for the future.

Wagner Group and other Private Military Contractors

Creation of a new industry, who and why; size and current structure; current operations; linkage to global industry; and prospects for future use – is this a permanent element of Russian force structure?

Russian Disinformation Campaigns and Cyber Attacks

Purpose, goals, and links to military operations; level of sophistication; target audiences; organizations involved; and future prospects.

Russian Intervention in Syria

Purpose and goals; forces involved; tactics and operations; and level of success.

Russian Intervention in Ukraine

Purpose and goals; forces involved; tactics and operations; fusion of regular and irregular operations; and measuring level of success.

Russian Military on the World Stage

Purpose and goals; countries involved; type and level of involvement; cooperation and coordination with China; and future prospects.

Russian Military Exercises and Partner Militaries

Type, purpose, and scale of military exercises; training cycles; trends over time; motivation of partner militaries to participate.

The Russian Military Budget

How much do they spend and where does it go? Market exchange rates v. purchasing power parity; drivers of the military budget; recent budget trends.

The Russian Defense Industry

Restructuring after the Cold War; export markets and arms sales as a tool of Russian influence; current capabilities and challenges.

EXERCISES

The first exercise will examine the future of air and maritime dynamics in the Arctic and consider implications for U.S. national security.

A capstone exercise at the end of the course will allow teams of participants to use their own expertise and the knowledge gained in the program to build their own version of the Russian military. Each team will develop a Russian military strategy and then, using a CSIS-developed budget tool, specify inputs consistent with that strategy to calculate a budget and personnel requirements.

In addition to the exercises, the program will include a session with congressional staff members to receive their perspective on Russian military actions and the U.S. response.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

After completing the week-long curriculum, participants will be required to write a short paper (5-7 pages) on a topic of their choosing. CSIS experts will lay out parameters and help participants refine their topics during the program. A selection of these papers will then be published in a volume on the CSIS website and will contribute to on-going discussions about the Russian military.

Eligibility

Twenty to twenty-four participants will be selected to join this course. Applicants must:

1. Be a current employee of the U.S. Department of Defense, or currently affiliated with an academic institution or think tank.
2. Have demonstrated familiarity researching or working on Russia-related issues, but do not need to be Russian military experts or have Russian language skills.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit a resume or CV (Curriculum Vitae) and a brief statement of interest (one page or less) to Roksana Gabidullina, coordinator for the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program, at rgabidullina@csis.org. The statement of interest should include a short description (one paragraph) of the proposed research topic on the Russian military that the participant intends to write about as part of this program. Applications due no later than June 1.



About CSIS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges. Ranked the number one think tank in the United States by the University of Pennsylvania's annual think tank report, CSIS is one of the preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration.

Understanding the Russian Military Today is a joint effort by three CSIS programs: the Russia and Eurasia Program, the Europe Program, and the International Security Program. Further information on these programs is available at the following links:

<https://www.csis.org/programs/russia-and-eurasia-program>

<https://www.csis.org/programs/europe-program>

<https://www.csis.org/programs/international-security-program>



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<https://community.apan.org/wg/rsi/>




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