Understanding the Russian Military Today

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

CSIS CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

RUSSIA AND EURASIA PROGRAM  EUROPE PROGRAM  INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM
## 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


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

## Agenda

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>MON. JULY 20</th>
<th>TUE. JULY 21</th>
<th>WED. JULY 22</th>
<th>THU. JULY 23</th>
<th>FRI. JULY 24</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and Course Introduction</td>
<td>The Structure of Military Forces</td>
<td>Russian Paramilitary and Internal Security Forces</td>
<td>Russian Military Exercises and Partner Militaries</td>
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<td>9 AM</td>
<td>The Foundations of Russian Power</td>
<td>The Russian Army</td>
<td>Wagner Group and Armed Contractors</td>
<td>Russian Intervention in Egypt</td>
<td>The Russian Military Budget: How Much Do They Spend and Where Does It Go?</td>
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<td>Russian Military Strategy in the 21st Century</td>
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<td>12 PM</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>The Russian Navy</td>
<td>Russian Disinformation Campaigns and Cyber Attacks</td>
<td>Russian Military on the World Stage</td>
<td>The Russian Defense Industry</td>
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<td>The Russian Military Since 1917</td>
<td>Individual Research Projects</td>
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<td>3 PM</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td>The Russian Air Force</td>
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<td>4 PM</td>
<td>U.S. and NATO Responses to Russia</td>
<td>Jeffrey Kupferschmid</td>
<td>Leadership Engagement</td>
<td>Exercise Emerging Competition in the Artic and Arctic Crisis</td>
<td>Exercise Building a Russian Military</td>
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<td>5 PM</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>Individual Research Projects</td>
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<td>Debrief and Evaluations</td>
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<th>FOCUS AREA</th>
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<td>Russian Society, Strategy, and History</td>
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<td>Elements of Russian Military Power</td>
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<td>Recent Uses of Russian Military Power</td>
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<td>Resources Behind Russian Military Power</td>
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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.

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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Stuttgart, Germany
https://community.apan.org/wg/rsi/

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