

A line of Russian military officers in ceremonial uniforms, standing in profile and holding rifles with bayonets. The officers are wearing dark uniforms with gold accents and white caps. The background is dark and out of focus.

Understanding the Russian Military Today

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

CSIS

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

EUROPE, RUSSIA, AND
EURASIA PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY PROGRAM

Course Overview

Russia's revitalization and modernization of its military capabilities, coupled with the Kremlin's increased willingness to deploy these capabilities to achieve its political aims, have restored Russia as a strategic competitor to the United States and its allies. To meet this challenge will require a full-picture understanding of new dynamics and trends in the Russian military: its growing geographical reach, including military interventions in Eastern Ukraine and Syria, deployment of military contractors in Libya, Venezuela, and Central Africa, and military revitalization of the Arctic region; its changing composition, including a modernized nuclear arsenal, development of hypersonic weapons and anti-satellite weapons, and formation of new military brigades; and its evolving methods, including a greater reliance on cyber, disinformation, and hybrid tactics and Russia's enhanced security cooperation with China.

Understanding the Russian Military Today is a five-day professional development program that explores four major themes: Russian society, strategy, and history, elements of Russian military power, recent uses of Russian military power, and the budgetary and industrial resources behind Russian military power. The program will build on classroom knowledge with hands-on analytical training and exercises. The course is led by defense and security experts from CSIS, other think tanks, and the academic community. All course information will be presented virtually in an educational, bipartisan, and analytic manner, consistent with CSIS's mission.

Apply Online

TUITION: Free to successful applicants

LOCATION: Virtual

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For more information on upcoming course dates and to complete your application, visit www.csis.org/russianmilitary.

Agenda

TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
8:30 AM	Welcome Session	The Structure of Russian Military Forces	Russian Paramilitary and Internal Security Forces	Russian Military Exercises and Partner Militaries	Russian Intervention in the Middle East and North Africa
9 AM					
10 AM	The Foundations of Russian Power	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
		The Russian Army	Wagner Group and Armed Contractors	Russian Intervention in Other Post-Soviet States	The Russian Military Budget: How Much do they Spend and Where Does it Go?
11 AM	BREAK				
	The Russian Military since 1917	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12 PM		Working Group	Working Group	Working Group	Working Group
	LUNCH	The Russian Navy	Russian Disinformation Campaigns and Cyber Attacks	Sino-Russian Military Cooperation	The Russian Defense Industry and the Military Industrial Complex
1 PM					
	Russian Military Strategy in the 21st Century	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
2 PM		The Russian Aerospace Forces	Russian Internal Political and Security	EXERCISE Emerging Competition in the Arctic and Arctic Crisis	EXERCISE Building a Russian Military
	BREAK				
3 PM	U.S. and NATO Responses to Russia	BREAK	BREAK		
		Russian Nuclear Forces and Arms Control	EXERCISE Russian Gray Zone Activities		
4 PM	Networking Session				
5 PM		Individual Research Projects			Closing Discussion

**All times indicated are Eastern Time. Final schedule may be subject to change.*

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

Seminars

THE FOUNDATIONS OF RUSSIAN POWER

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

THE RUSSIAN MILITARY SINCE 1917

Surveys different eras of the Russian military: the creation of the Red Army, the trauma and triumph in The Great Patriotic War, experience at the height of the Cold War, the military's collapse in the 1990s, and its revival in the 2000s-2010s.

RUSSIAN MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Examines Russia's threat perception and Russia's approach to the post-Soviet strategic environment, including the role of deterrence in Russian strategy and defense of the homeland. Explores Moscow's focus on restoring great power status and its regional and global ambitions.

U.S. AND NATO RESPONSES TO RUSSIA

Outlines U.S./NATO posture pre- and post-Crimea as well as U.S./NATO's view of the Russian military challenge. Explores U.S./NATO current and possible future actions and accompanying Russian reactions.

THE STRUCTURE OF MILITARY FORCES

Overview of the macro decisions in building the Russian military, including its size, organizational structure, personnel composition, active/reserve mix, and global reach. Compares the tradeoffs made in designing the structure with the armed forces of the United States and Soviet Union.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY

Overview of the army's size and current structure, recent changes and modernization efforts, doctrinal foundations, and prospects for the future.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY

Overview of the navy's size and current structure, recent changes and modernization efforts, doctrinal foundations, and prospects for the future.

THE RUSSIAN AEROSPACE FORCES

Overview of aerospace force's size and current structure, recent changes and modernization efforts, doctrinal foundations, and prospects for the future.

RUSSIAN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES AND ARMS CONTROL

Overview of the size and current structure, recent changes and modernization plans, and doctrinal foundations. Bilateral and multilateral negotiation processes, the impact of arms control, and prospects for future agreement are also examined.

RUSSIAN PARAMILITARY AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES

Overview of the size and current structure, new organizations and recent changes, purpose and doctrinal foundations, and current roles and prospects for the future.

WAGNER GROUP AND OTHER PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTORS

Examines the creation of a new industry, sizes and structures of groups, and current operations. Following questions are also explored: What linkages exist to global industry? What are the prospects for future use? Are military contractors a permanent element of Russian force structure?

RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS AND CYBER ATTACKS

Examines the purpose, goals, and links to military operations, levels of sophistication, organizations involved, target audiences, and future prospects.

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Explores the purpose and goals in the region and which forces are involved and what their tactics and operations are. What was the impact of the fusion of regular and irregular operations? Did Russia achieve its military and foreign policy goals?

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN OTHER POST-SOVIET STATES

Explores the purpose and goals in the region, which forces are involved, and what their tactics and operations are. What was the impact of the fusion of regular and irregular operations? Did Russia achieve its military and foreign policy goals?

SINO-RUSSIAN MILITARY COOPERATION

Examines the purpose and goals of the cooperation and what the type and levels of involvement are. Discusses the prospects and limits of Sino-Russian cooperation as well as the future prospects for a military alliance.

RUSSIAN MILITARY EXERCISES AND PARTNER MILITARIES

Overview of the type, purpose, and scale of military exercises and their training cycles. Addresses the trends over time and the motivation behind partner militaries' participation in these exercises.

THE RUSSIAN MILITARY BUDGET

Examines the budget of the Russian military and how it is spent and where the investments are made. Discusses the impact of market exchange rates vs. purchasing power parity in analyzing the military budget as well as the recent budget trends.

THE RUSSIAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY

Explores the restructuring undertaken after the Cold War, export markets and arms sales as a tool of Russian influence, and current capabilities and challenges.

Interactive Exercises

RUSSIAN GRAY ZONE ACTIVITIES

In this exercise, participants will explore the Russian Gray Zone toolkit and the logic behind the utilization of specific tools and their trade-offs within a provided scenario.

EMERGING COMPETITION IN THE ARCTIC AND ARCTIC CRISIS

This exercise will examine the future of air and maritime dynamics in the Arctic and consider implications for U.S. national security. To better understand the Arctic's role in the geopolitical space, participants will engage with each other in small groups to handle a geopolitical crisis.

BUILDING A RUSSIAN MILITARY

The capstone exercise will allow teams of participants to use their expertise and the knowledge gained in the program to build their own version of the Russian military. In the debrief, experts will provide participants with feedback addressing the trade-offs of the strategies they pursued and the potential implications for each team's military.

RUSSIAN INTERNAL POLITICS AND SECURITY

Examines linkages between Russia's internal political dynamics and its security policy. Was Russia's invasion of Ukraine an attempt to reify political legitimacy at home? How does political instability in Russia change the Kremlin's threat perception?

Independent Study

Participants will be offered the opportunity to write a short paper (2-5 pages) on a topic of their choosing to be published on the CSIS website. CSIS experts will work with these participants to refine their topics during the program. Papers will have an associated short video and authors will participate in a podcast. All these products will contribute to ongoing discussions about the Russian military.



Eligibility

CSIS is seeking a professionally diverse cohort of doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, junior faculty, and practitioners with an interest in Russian security issues. The selection committee will consider candidates' professional background and writing skills, as well as demonstrated interest in the fields of political science, international affairs, defense, or related issues. Specific expertise in Russian studies and Russian language skills are helpful but not required.

How to Apply

The online application includes a short form, statement of interest, brief bio, and attachment of a resume/CV. Applications are due by Monday, May 3, 2021, by 11:59 PM EST. They will be reviewed on a rolling basis with final decisions sent to applicants no later than Monday, May 14, 2021, by 11:59PM EST.



This training program was funded by the Russia Strategic Initiative
U.S. European Command, Stuttgart Germany

Opinions, arguments, viewpoints, and conclusions expressed in this work do not represent those of RSI,
U.S. EUCOM, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

This publication is cleared for public release.

About the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program

The Europe, Russia, and Eurasia program produces forward-looking analyses on transatlantic relations and political developments across Europe, Eurasia, and Turkey. The Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program's work seeks to develop a deeper understanding of Europe's political, security, and economic evolution and its future role in the world; geopolitical developments in the circumpolar Arctic; the implications of Russia's foreign and defense policies for transatlantic security; and political and economic developments in Russia and Eurasia. The program's work in recent years has focused heavily on Russian and Chinese influence across Europe, developments in the Western Balkans region, NATO's forward-looking agenda with a focus on Northern Europe, Russia's military and political evolution amid serious environmental changes, the transatlantic digital agenda, and post-Brexit dynamics in Europe and for the U.S.-UK defense relationship.

About the International Security Program

The International Security Program (ISP) tackles one of the most robust and ambitious research agendas in the defense and national security field. It covers conventional political-military issues, including defense strategy and policy, acquisition and industry, counterterrorism and homeland security, U.S. nuclear policy, WMD proliferation, defense budget analysis, missile defense, strategic futures, and security cooperation. ISP is also committed to addressing a growing range of nonmilitary issues defining U.S. foreign and security policy. Nonpartisan/bipartisan analysis of the ongoing defense and security challenges facing the nation provides Congress, the Executive branch, and industry the information needed to make tough decisions. ISP assembles top-level leaders and provides the platform for them to define critical issues and explain the impact nationally and globally.

About CSIS Executive Education

The CSIS Executive Education Program convenes professionals from diverse backgrounds at Washington, D.C.'s premier bipartisan think tank for transformative programming in leadership, communication, and global issues. For over 60 years, CSIS has brought independent research, innovative ideas, and practical policy solutions to some of the greatest security, regional, and transnational challenges facing policymakers and international thought leaders. Named the "Defense and National Security Center of Excellence for 2016–2020" by the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tank Index, CSIS is led by Chairman Tom Pritzker and President and CEO John J. Hamre.




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