

# **Managed Instability: The NATO-Russia Strategic Relationship**

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# Reassessment of the Relationship

- Fundamental differences in interpretation of international law and norms
- Nuclear weapons have played large implicit and explicit roles throughout the Ukraine crisis



# The Good News

- **New START**
  - On track to meet 2018 numbers of deployed warheads and delivery systems (but Russian numbers worrying)
  - Verification mechanisms remain fully functional and fully utilised
- **INF (for now: non-compliance charges)**
- **Treaty on Open Skies**
  - Surveillance flights still taking place – crucial confidence building measure
  - Turkey-Russia rift threatens this process

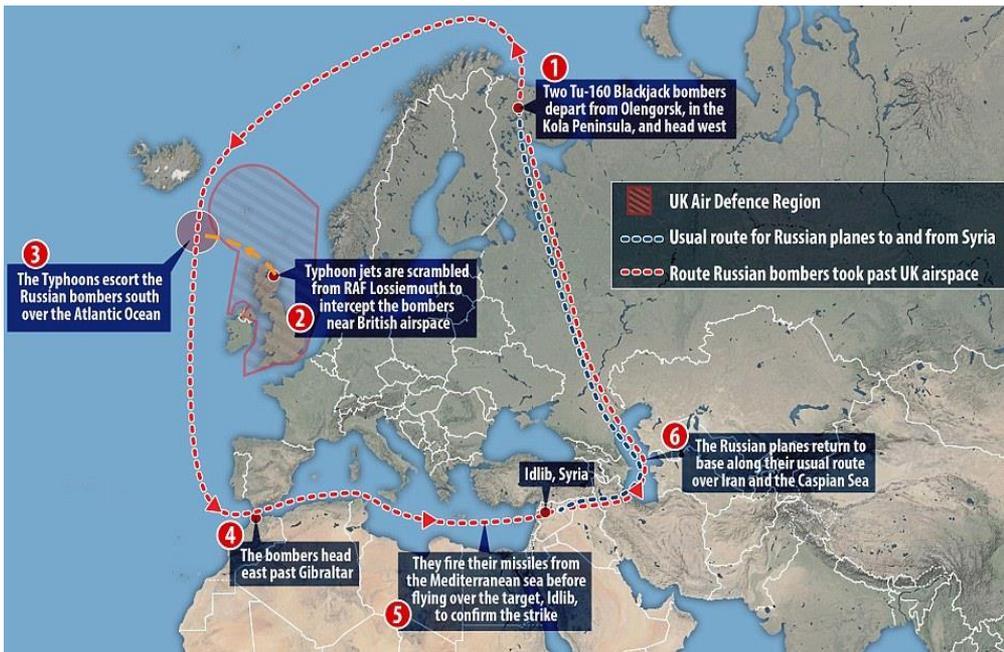
# The Bad News

- Russian rejection of New START expansion
- INF challenges
- Russian withdrawal from Nuclear Security Summit process
- Shuttering of NATO-Russia Council

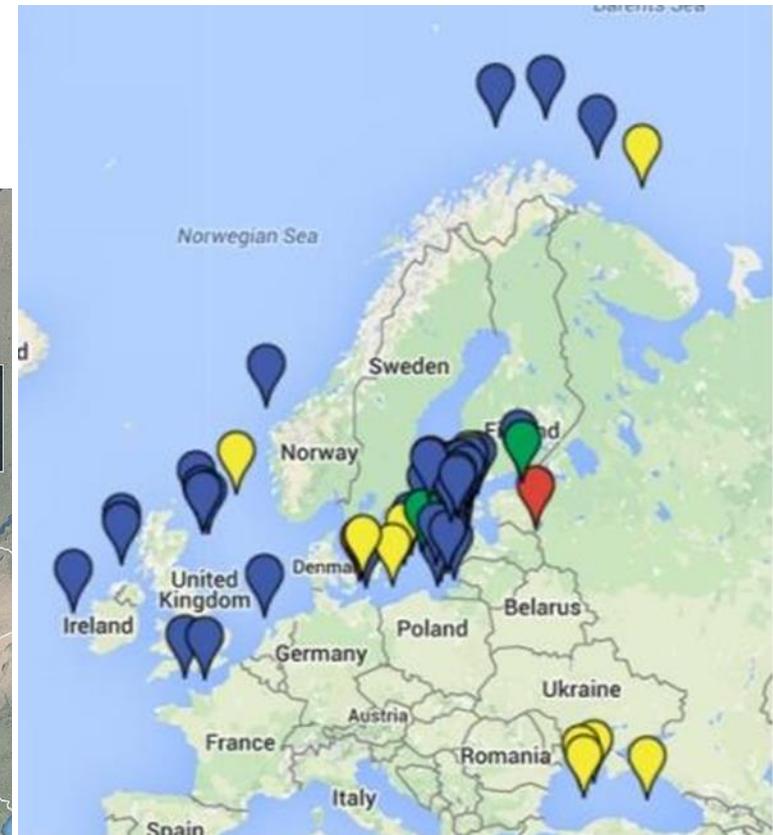
# Bad News Continued

- NSNW and dual use systems**

Russian air-launched cruise missile demonstration, 18/11/15



Military encounters, large portion involve strategic aviation



# Prospects for the Future

- Strategic relationship cannot be viewed in isolation – Action must be incremental
- New START
  - Dual-capable systems must be addressed more thoroughly
- Playbook of Euro-Atlantic not well enough developed – risk of unintended escalation
  - Memorandum of Understanding would reduce risk:  
Better environment for strategic talks
- NSNW issue must continue to be raised