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THE RUSSIAN ARMY AND THE BORDER GUARD SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE IN THE ARCTIC: COUNTERING TERRORISM

Abstract. *The article assesses the military-political and terrorist situation in the Arctic. It is noted that in the Arctic region Russia will have to deal not only with individual countries (US, Canada, Norway and Denmark), but also with a united front of NATO states, as well as with modern challenges and security threats (illegal migration, piracy, drug trafficking, terrorism, etc.). The author analyses the activities undertaken in the Arctic by the Ministry of defence of the Russian Federation and the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation to strengthen the country's defensive capabilities, to protect the borders and to counter terrorism. In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation from 26 of December 2015, No. 664 "On Measures for Improving Government Management in the Sphere of Counteracting Terrorism", a number of operational headquarters have been set up in the country, including in Murmansk. In May 2015, at a meeting of the Federal Operational Headquarters of the National Anti-terrorism Committee, decisions were taken, aimed at developing additional measures to ensure security and protection from terrorism of facilities engaged in economic activity in the maritime space of the Russian Federation, including the Arctic.*

Keywords: *the Arctic, Russia, NATO, the Ministry of Defence of Russia, the FSB of Russia, terrorism.*

Military threats to the Russian Federation in the Arctic arise from the deterioration of the international situation, the emergence of attributes of a new Cold War (with the election of Donald Trump in the United States and the increasing aggressiveness of NATO), unresolved problems in the delimitation of borders, and the growing interest of a significant number of states around the world in Arctic resources. NATO considers Russia as a potential enemy in the Arctic. All of this, in the aggregate, contradicts the aim to preserve the Arctic as a zone of peace, cooperation and constructive interaction. Obviously, in the Arctic Russia will have to deal not only with individual states (US, Canada, Norway and Denmark), but also with a united front of NATO countries [1, p. 20]. In addition, at the moment the Norwegian leadership seeks to change the status of the Spitsbergen archipelago as a demilitarized zone, in order to reduce the role and in the long term completely displace the Russian Federation from the archipelago [2].

It would be unwise to underestimate the possibility of sabotage in the Russian Arctic facilities (primarily for oil and gas extraction) executed by terrorist organizations or competing countries, which could use the consequences of the attacks as an excuse to violate Russia's sovereignty [3]. A well-known incident of incursion into the Prirazlomnaya platform by the Greenpeace activists demonstrated how relevant the measures for sabotage and terrorist attack prevention are in the Arctic. It is impossible to be completely sure that other interested parties, for example members of terrorist organizations, will not try to penetrate the platform in order to commit sabotage under the guise of activism. As a result, the scale of the following disaster could have devastating consequences for the environment, which will be irreparable for many years.

At the beginning of 2018 no clear signs of a significant change in the policy and strategy of NATO can be observed. Russia is seen as the main threat for NATO member states in the Arctic, and the leaders of the alliance call for negotiations with Russia from the position of strength. The deployment of new NATO forces continues and provocative military activities of the alliance near the Russian border are constantly noted.

Under these conditions, Russia's efforts to strengthen national security in the Arctic are understandable. In the past 3–4 years Russia has stepped up its presence in the Arctic in different directions. The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation have increased their presence in the Arctic. The new military-law-enforcement structure of Russia – National Guard of the Russian Federation seem to be destined to participate in the solution of Arctic issues. It should be noted that the military infrastructure of the Russian Arctic is being created and strengthened by the restoration of a number of polar airfields and military bases, which are planned to be used as dual-purpose facilities. On 22 of October 2015 the Russian Minister of Defence S. K. Shoigu stated that the creation of an Arctic grouping of Russian troops will be completed by 2018 [4]. During the "parliamentary hour" in the State Duma on February 22, 2017, S. K. Shoigu elaborated on the complexity of development of the military structures in the Arctic territories [5].

At the moment in the Arctic the arming of troops with the most modern weaponry is being undertaken. The rocket and artillery units of the Northern Fleet have begun to rearm themselves with the new coastal missile systems "Bastion" and "Bal" to protect the Arctic coast. In order to ensure efficient anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence in the Arctic region and under the conditions of the Far North, a fully autonomous short-range anti-aircraft missile system Tor-M2DT [6] is also being developed.

On the website of the Russian Ministry of Defence it is reported that "in the Arctic, on the islands of Kotelný, Alexandra Land, Wrangel and

Cape Schmidt in five years 425 objects with a total area of more than 700000 sq. meters have been built. They host more than one thousand troops, as well as special weapons and equipment. During their construction innovative and energy-efficient technologies were used. Moreover, in the Arctic, three unique complex military facilities "Arctic Trefoil" were built. The construction of a full-fledged airfield on the Franz Josef Land archipelago, which will be capable of taking aircraft all year round, is continuing. No other country in the world has implemented such large-scale projects in the Far North. On the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago, Alykel airfield, Kotelny Island and Wrangel Island, 100740 sq. km of territory has been cleaned. A total of 16000 tons of scrap metal was collected and 10000 tons were transported. In total, 432 buildings that were subject to demolition were demolished. 13155 square kilometres of the Arctic still remain to be cleaned. The Armed Forces are completing the clean up of environmental damage to the Arctic [7].

"Arctic Trefoil" [8], built for servicemen on the island of Alexandra of the Franz Josef Land archipelago is the only object in the world of capital construction erected on the 80th degree of the northern latitude. The base consists of numerous special purpose buildings, as well as control posts, garages, warehouses and an autonomous power unit. It is completely autonomous and can provide comfortable accommodation for up to 150 servicemen for one and a half years. It should be noted that during its construction, the experience gained in 2006 from creating a new complex of border blocks "Nagurskoe" was widely used. At that time a unique operation, unlike anything else in the world, was carried out, when 200 tons of building materials and 24 units of different equipment were delivered and uploaded on ice in Alexandra Land. In 2012, foreign visitors visited it for the first time [9].

In total, 13 airfields, one ground-based aviation test site, as well as 10 radar stations and points of aviation guidance will be built in the Arctic. The establishment of an Arctic grouping of Russian troops will be completed by 2018 [10]. Furthermore, the construction of infrastructure for military units and garrisons in the regions of the Far North, Siberia and the Far East will continue up to 2020 and provide more than 20,000 servicemen, their families and civilians working at the Ministry of Defence with housing, places of service and work [11].

The Russian army is the main deterrent for the aspirations of the NATO countries in the Arctic.

Protection of the state border of the Russian Federation in the Arctic is carried out by the Border Service of the FSB, through seven border agencies established on an administrative-territorial basis. A total of 20 checkpoints across the Russian border have been established in the Russian Arctic. Of these, 3 are roadblocks (1 on the border with Norway, 2 on the border with Finland), 12 are maritime and 5 are air checkpoints. According

to open sources, the majority of the checkpoints, 12 are situated in the North-West Federal District, in the Far Eastern Federal District there are 6 (all in the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug) and one is located in the Urals and Siberian Federal Districts each [12]. In addition, a naval unit of the Border Service of the FSB has also been formed. As of the end of 2016, it consisted of 34 ships including: 10 border patrol ships, 14 border patrol motor boats, 1 border support ship, 1 border patrol ship, 2 border patrol vessels and 6 border support motor boats [13]. In January 2017, the Border Service of the FSB received a rank 1, Project 22100, border security patrol ship – "Polar Star" [14].

The tasks of the marine units in the Arctic region are: protection of the state border of the Russian Federation; protection of its economic interests; monitoring of the above-water situation in the Arctic waters. In areas with industrial activity, radar and radio technical observation is carried out. Patrolling of the Arctic seas and the fishing zone of the Spitsbergen archipelago is also carried out by the border patrol vessels and the aviation of the FSB [15, p. 434-440]. Border troops project sovereignty and a Russian presence in the most remote territories of the Arctic (in the islands of the archipelagos of Franz Josef Land and the Severnaya Zemlya) [16, p. 93]. From October 17 to October 21, 2016, a delegation of the Russian Federal Security Service took part in the 17th North Pacific Coast Guard Agencies Forum, held in Victoria, Canada, under the chairmanship of the Canadian Coast Guard [17]. The Border Service of the FSB of the Russian Federation has a positive experience of working with colleagues from the Arctic states [18, p. 102-105], especially with units from the Norwegian Coast Guard, as well as with the 17th district of the US Coast Guard.

Different projects are carried out with the Norwegian coastal guards in a number of fields: in the field of protection of marine biological resources in the Barents Sea, including the prevention of poaching; on improving the cooperation in the search and rescue operations in the Barents Sea; in information exchange during the control of the above-water situation in the adjacent areas of control; on the exchange of experience in the protection of maritime boundaries, in training of ship crews.

In recent years, modern challenges and security threats have begun to appear in the Arctic region, notably terrorism [19, 20].

The Russian Federation is actively studying and taking measures in case of exacerbation of new threats in marine waters. When considering the infrastructure of the Arctic, several vulnerable points can be pointed out: bridges, tunnels, pipelines, cargo terminals, platforms, LNG terminals, military industrial facilities, energy infrastructure facilities. Nuclear power plants, nuclear-powered icebreakers and navy vessels, chemically dangerous and explosive-fire hazardous facilities, important elements of

communications that can become targets of terrorists and their accomplices are also located in the region.

In regard to this, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation from the 26 of December 2015, No. 664 "On Measures for Improving Government Management in the Sphere of Counteracting Terrorism", operational headquarters have been set up in the cities of Kaspiysk, Murmansk, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Simferopol and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. They were established in order to plan how the forces and facilities of federal executive bodies and their territorial bodies would be used for combating terrorism, for managing counterterrorist operations in the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation and in other maritime areas within which the Russian Federation exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, as well as on ships flying the state flag of the Russian Federation.

For the implementation of the decree on the 12 of May 2015, a meeting of the Federal Operational Headquarters of the National Anti-terrorism Committee was held. During this meeting decisions were taken, aimed at developing additional measures to ensure the security and anti-terrorist protection of facilities taking part in economic activity in the maritime space of the Russian Federation, including the Arctic. It was also decided to improve the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation and prompt response to threats of a terrorist nature in relation to these facilities [21].

Improving the system of prevention and counteraction of unlawful acts seems quite sensible. It is important to determine the stability and security of the facilities. It is necessary to introduce more up to date computer technologies to control and protect information about such objects and their functioning. It is necessary to establish the legality of the mandatory monitoring of these facilities by the state. The implementation of these proposals will significantly reduce the danger of sabotage and terrorist attacks.

The Arctic is a region in which all aspects of security are intertwined. All the problems that arise here can and should be solved on the basis of cooperation, and the region itself can and should develop as a space for cooperation and security.

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