

RUSSIAN ORDER OF BATTLE AND REGIONAL ASSETS FOR A POSSIBLE UKRAINE OFFENSIVE

Ukraine remains in the crosshairs of Russian military planning as 2019 begins to unfold. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin continues to cast a covetous eye on this strategic former Soviet republic. Since Russia's invasion and incorporation of Crimea in 2014 and subsequent military incursions in eastern Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defense has undoubtedly devised an operations plan to eventually launch a blitzkrieg offensive for returning Ukraine to the Russian fold.

In the 2016/2017 time frame the Russian General Staff finalized and implemented a plan to reform the 20th Guards Combined Arms Army (20th CAA) with headquarters in Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast in the Western Military District and the 8th Guards Combined Arms Army (8th CCA) headquartered in Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast in the Southern Military District. Both armies are commanded by a general-major.

The 20th CAA is comprised of the 144th Guards Motorized Rifle Division based at Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast and the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division based at Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast. The 20th CAA is commanded by a general-major. Assets include the 250th Separate ELINT/SIGINT Special Forces (SPETSNAZ) Regiment at Ostrogozhsk, Voronezh Oblast; four motorized rifle brigades; two tank brigades; a C³ command and control brigade; an artillery brigade and a self-propelled artillery brigade; a HQ brigade; a surface-to-air (SAM) air defense brigade whose inventory includes BUK-M1/M3 land-mobile, medium range SAM missiles; and a missile brigade with Iskander-M road-mobile, IRBMs. [See Table 1. 20th CAA]

Table 1. 20th Guards Combined Arms Army

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast	Russian Ground Forces, HQ Moscow	Western MD	Reformed in?
144 th Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Reformed in 2016
3 rd Motorized Rifle Division	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Reformed in 2016
250 th Separate ELINT/SIGINT Special Forces (SPETSNAZ) Regiment	Ostrogozhsk, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
4 th Separate Guards Tank Brigade	Naro-Fominsk, Moscow Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
5 th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade	Kalininets, Moscow Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
9 th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
9 th Guards Command and	Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast/Mulino,	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	

Control (C ³) Brigade	Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast			
9 th Guards Headquarters (HQ) Brigade	Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
49 th Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) Air Defense Brigade	Krasnyy Bor, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Inventory includes BUK-M1/M3 land- mobile medium range SAM missiles
99 th Guards Self- Propelled Artillery Brigade	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
236 th Artillery Brigade	Kolomna, Moscow Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
237 th Guards Tank Brigade	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
252 nd Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	
448 th Missile Brigade	Durnevo, Moscow Oblast/Kursk, Kursk Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Inventory includes Iskander-M road- mobile, intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBM)
752 nd Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	

Additional operational assets available to the 20th CAA commander are located in the regional Bryansk, Smolensk and Voronezh Oblasts. The Bryansk and Smolensk Oblasts provide a range of transport and assault air assets at the 566th Military Transport Aviation (VTA) Regiment; the 7000th Guards Air Base with an inventory which includes Su-24, Su-25, Su-27, Su-32FN, Su-34, An-30 and An-32 aircraft; the 378th Army Aviation Air Base with Mi-8MT, Mi-8SMV-PG, Mi-8PP, Mi-24, Mi-24P, Mi-24V, Mi-28N and Mi-35 rotary wing aircraft. These air elements are supplemented with a special operations (SPETSNAZ) regiment, brigade, battalion and detachment, along with a railway pontoon-bridging battalion. [See Tables 2 & 3 and Map 1].

Table 2. Additional Regional Assets in Bryansk and Smolensk Oblasts

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
566 th Military Transport Aviation (VTA) Regiment	Bryansk/Seshcha, Bryansk Oblast	12 th VTA Division	Western	
84 th Separate Airfield Engineer Battalion	Bryansk, Bryansk Oblast			
7000 th Guards Air Base (1 st Class)	Shatalovo, Smolensk Oblast	1 st Air Force and Air Defense Command	Western	Inventory includes Su-24, Su-25, Su- 27, Su-32FN, Su- 34, An-30 and An- 32 aircraft
378 th Army Aviation Air Base	Vyazma/Dvoyevka, Smolensk Oblast	1 st Air Force and Air Defense Command	Western	Inventory includes Mi-8MT, Mi-8SMV- PG, Mi-8PP, Mi- 24, Mi-24P, Mi-

				24V, Mi-28N, and Mi-35 aircraft
312 th Separate Special Operations (SPETSNAZ) ELINT/SIGINT Regiment	Smolensk, Smolensk Oblast		Western	
82 nd Separate Special Operations (SPETSNAZ) ELINT/SIGINT Brigade	Vyazma/Smolensk, Smolensk Oblast	1 st Guards Tank Army	Western	Inventory includes "Sintez" ELINT/SIGINT intelligence collection system
231 st Separate ELINT/SIGINT Special Forces (SPETSNAZ) Battalion	Smolensk, Smolensk Oblast		Western	
25 th "Merkuriy" Special Operations (SPETSNAZ) Detachment	Smolensk, Smolensk Oblast		Western	
684 th Separate Railway Pontoon-Bridging Battalion	Krasnyy Bor, Smolensk Oblast		Western	

Table 3. Additional Regional Assets in Voronezh Oblast

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
47 th Separate Composite Aviation Regiment	Voronezh/Baltimor, Voronezh Oblast	105 th Guards Composite Aviation Division	Western	Inventory includes Su-24MR, Su-34, Il-20M, An-26 and An-30 aircraft
899 th Ground Attack Aviation Regiment	Buturlinovka, Voronezh Oblast	105 th Guards Composite Aviation Division	Western	Inventory includes Su-25 aircraft
345 th Separate Guards Airborne Assault Brigade	Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast			
533 rd Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) Command Intelligence Center	Voronezh, Voronezh Oblast			

MAP 1. KEY ASSET INSTALLATIONS OF 20th COMBINED ARMS ARMY (Idealized)



The 144th Motorized Rifle Division was reformed in 2016 with headquarters at Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast in the Western MD. The division is commanded by a general-major and it includes three motorized rifle regiments, a tank regiment, a self-propelled artillery regiment, an antitank battalion, a separate combat engineer/sapper battalion, a separate reconnaissance battalion, a separate communications battalion, a separate logistical support battalion and a separate medical battalion [See Table 4]. The division commander has additional assets available in the Bryansk and Smolensk Oblasts enumerated in the preceding Table 2.

Table 4. 144th Motorized Rifle Division

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
144 th Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	20th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Reformed in 2016
182 nd Motorized Rifle Regiment	Klintsy/Zaymishchye, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
254 th Motorized Rifle Regiment	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
488 th Motorized Rifle Regiment	Klintsy, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
228 th Tank Regiment	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
856 th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment	Pochep/Pochep-2, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
1281 st Separate Antitank Battalion	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
295 th Separate Combat Engineer/Sapper Battalion	Yelnya, Smolensk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
148 th Separate Reconnaissance Battalion	Pochep, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
686 th Separate Communications Battalion	Smolensk, Smolensk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
1032 nd Separate Logistical Support Battalion	Pochep, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	
150 th Separate Medical Battalion	Pochep, Bryansk Oblast	144 th MRD	Western MD	

The 3rd Motorized Rifle Division, which is commanded by a general-major, was also reformed in 2016 with headquarters at Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast. This division includes three motorized rifle regiments, a tank regiment, a self-propelled artillery regiment, a surface-to-air (SAM) air defense regiment, a separate tank brigade, a separate antitank battalion, a separate combat engineer/sapper battalion, a reconnaissance battalion, a separate communications battalion, a separate logistical support battalion, and a medical battalion [See Table 5].

Table 5. 3rd Motorized Rifle Division

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
3 rd Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	20 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Western MD	Reformed in 2016
245 th Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment		3 rd MRD	Western MD	
252 nd Guards Motorized Rifle Regiment	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
752 nd Motorized Rifle Regiment	Valuyki/Soloti, Belgorod Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
237 th Guards Tank Regiment	Valuyki/Soloti, Belgorod Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
99 th Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
1143 rd Surface-to-Air (SAM) Air Defense Regiment	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
1 st Guards Separate Tank Brigade	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
159 th Separate Antitank Battalion	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
337 th Separate Combat Engineer/Sapper Battalion	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
84 th Separate Reconnaissance Battalion	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
692 nd Separate Communications Battalion	Valuyki, Belgorod Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
911 th Separate Logistical Support Battalion	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	
231 st Separate Medical Battalion	Boguchar, Voronezh Oblast	3 rd MRD	Western MD	

The 8th Guards Combined Arms Army (8th CAA) with headquarters at Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast in the Southern Military District is comprised of the 150th Guards Motorized Rifle Division (150th GMRD) collocated at Novocherkassk and the 20th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade based at Volgograd, Volgograd Oblast. The 8th CAA is commanded by a general-major who has at his disposal the formidable assets of the 150th GMRD, which include two motorized rifle regiments, two tank regiments, a self-propelled artillery regiment, a surface-to-air

(SAM) air defense regiment, an ELINT/SIGINT regiment, a separate motorized rifle (mountain) brigade, a separate communications brigade, a separate combat engineer/sapper battalion, a separate reconnaissance battalion, a separate communications battalion, a separate logistical support battalion, and a separate motor vehicle battalion [See Tables 6 & 7 and Map 2].

Table 6. 8th Guards Combined Arms Army

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
8 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast	Russian Ground Forces, HQ Moscow	Southern MD	Reformed in 2017
150 th Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast	8 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Southern MD	Activated in 2016
20 th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade	Volgograd, Volgograd Oblast	8 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Southern MD	Formed in 2017; inventory includes T-90 MBT, anti-tank and SAM missiles

Table 7. 150th Guards Motorized Rifle Division

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
150 th Guards Motorized Rifle Division	Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast	8 th Guards Combined Arms Army	Southern MD	Activated in 2016
102 nd Motorized Rifle Regiment	Persyanovka, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
103 rd Motorized Rifle Regiment	Kadamovskiy, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
68 th Guards Tank Regiment	Persyanovka, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
163 rd Tank Regiment	Persyanovka/Kuzminskiy Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
381 st Guards Self-Propelled Artillery Regiment	Rostov-na-Donu, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
933 rd Surface-to-Air (SAM) Air Defense Regiment	Millerovo, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	Inventory includes TOR-M2 short-range, land-mobile SAM missiles
338 th ELINT/SIGINT Regiment	Novocherkassk, Rostov Oblast	51 st Air Defense (PVO) Division	Southern MD	
33 rd Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade (Mountain)	Maykop, Republic of Adygea	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
176 th Separate Communications Brigade (Territorial)	Rassvet, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
539 th Separate Combat-Engineer/Sapper Battalion		150 th MRD	Southern MD	
174 th Separate Reconnaissance Battalion	Kadamovskiy, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	

258 th Separate Communications Battalion	Kadamovskiy, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
152 nd Separate Logistical Support Battalion	Kadamovskiy, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	
293 rd Separate Motor Vehicle Battalion	Novocherkass, Rostov Oblast	150 th MRD	Southern MD	

MAP 2. KEY ASSET INSTALLATIONS OF 8TH COMBINED ARMS ARMY (Idealized)



Before the Russian invasion of sovereign Ukraine in 2014 and subsequent annexation of Crimea (Republic of Crimea), substantial military assets of the Black Sea Fleet headquartered in Sevastopol were already in place in accordance with a long-term lease agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The follow-on supplementary TO&E of military equipment and personnel and the proximity of these operational forces provide a wide variety of options to planners for any further military operations in the region [See Table 8 and Map 3].

Table 8. Russian Military Assets in Republic of Crimea

Unit	Home Location	Subordination	Military District	Notes
27 th Composite Aviation Division	Belbek	4 th Air and Air Defense Army [4 th Aerospace Army]	Southern	
38 th Fighter Aviation Regiment	Belbek/Sevastopol	27 th Composite Aviation Division	Southern	Su-27, Su-27P, Su-27SM, Su-30M2, Su-30SM2
8 th Separate Artillery Regiment	Sevastopol/Perevalnoye	22 nd Army Corps	Southern	Includes Smerch land-mobile MLRS; Msta-S 155mm self-propelled howitzers; Khrizantema-S self-propelled ATGMs
854 th Separate Artillery Regiment	Sevastopol	22 nd Army Corps	Southern	Rubezh surface-to-surface coastal defense missiles
1096 th Separate SAM Air Defense Regiment	Sevastopol	22 nd Army Corps	Southern	BUK-M1/3 land-mobile, medium-range SAM missiles
810 th Separate Naval Infantry Brigade	Bukhta Kazachya (Sevastopol)	Black Sea Fleet	Southern	Gvozdika 122mm self-propelled howitzer, Akatsiya 155mm self-propelled howitzer, Nona 122mm self-propelled artillery, Grad 122mm MLRS
127 th Separate Reconnaissance Brigade	Sevastopol	22 nd Army Corps	Southern	
133 rd Logistical Support Brigade	Bakchisaray	22 nd Army Corps	Southern	
542 nd Separate Airborne Assault Battalion	Sevastopol/Simferopol-32	810 th Separate Naval Infantry Brigade Black Sea Fleet	Southern	
197 th Amphibious Assault Ship Brigade	Sevastopol	Black Sea Fleet	Southern	Includes the following vessels: <i>Novocherkassk</i> , <i>Azov</i> , <i>Yamal</i> , <i>Tsezar Kunikov</i> , <i>Orsk</i> , <i>Saratov</i> , <i>Nikolay Filchenkov</i>
<i>Admiral Makarov</i>	Sevastopol	30 th Surface Ship Division, Black Sea Fleet	Southern	Grigorovich-class guided missile frigate (FFG) [hull number 799]

MAP 3. RUSSIAN MILITARY ASSETS IN REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA (Idealized)



The formidable array of air power, sea power, air defense, and ground forces in the Republic of Crimea alone could provide the vanguard for a robust southern thrust against Ukraine targeting the capital at Kyiv, thus severing the country into western Ukraine and eastern Ukraine along the Dnipro River. For example, Su-27/30 aircraft are readily available to establish air superiority and several brigades stand ready to provide airborne and amphibious assault operations along with artillery support. The Black Sea Fleet guided missile frigate Admiral Makarov based at Sevastopol is equipped with Yakhont and Medvedka ASW missile systems, Kalibr-NK cruise missiles, Shtil-1 and Palash AA missile/gunnery systems, and a complement of Ka-27 and Ka-31 shipborne helicopters. The fleet could be used to lay and secure blockades extending from Odessa across the Kirkinik Bay in the west and at the newly completed roadway/railway across the Strait of Kerch in the east, thereby denying access and isolating key Ukrainian ports along the Sea of Azov in the east.

In the event of an all-out Russian offensive against Ukraine, i.e. one which likely would be launched from an exercise posture or snap exercise in one of the contiguous armies, the primary Ukrainian military targets would most assuredly include the following at the outset: *Ground Forces Command* in Kyiv and *Air Force Command* in Vinnytsya, *Operational Command North* in Chernihiv and *Air Command Center* in Vasylkiv, *Operational Command South* and *Air Command South* in Odessa, *Operational Command West* in Rivne and *Air Command West* in Lviv, and *Operational Command East* and *Air Command East* in Dnipro [See Map 3].