



Pacific Fleet to Conduct Arctic Amphibious Assault Exercise

OE Watch Commentary: The Pacific Fleet has a lot of Russian coast to protect, including Russia's Northeast Arctic coast. Although the Northern Fleet has control of most of the Northern Sea Route, the Pacific Fleet has responsibility for that portion flanking the Kamchatka Peninsula. The Pacific Fleet's Naval Infantry has not spent much time there. During the major 2018 Strategic Exercise "Vostok," which was held in the Eastern Military District, there were naval infantry amphibious landings on Russia's Northeast Arctic coast, but they were from the Northern Fleet (see "Vostok 2018 in the Arctic," *OE Watch*, October 2018). As the accompanying passage from *Izvestia* discusses, now the Naval Infantry of the Pacific Fleet gets to do an Arctic amphibious landing and coastal defense exercise as part of a larger Pacific Fleet exercise. This exercise will differ from the 2018 exercise in that it will be a force-on-force exercise. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

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Source: Roman Kretsul, Anton Lavrov, and Aleksey Ramm, “Naval Infantry will participate in Exercise above the Arctic Circle,” *Izvestia*, 22 June 2020. <https://iz.ru/1026389/roman-kretcul-anton-lavrov-aleksei-ramm/brigadnyi-riad-morpekhi-primut-uchastie-v-ucheniakh-na-poliarnym-krugom>

Naval Infantry will participate in Exercise above the Arctic Circle

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*The 155th Naval Infantry Brigade from Vladivostok and the 40th from Kamchatka will participate in the exercise. They will maneuver against each other in force-on-force training.... As *Izvestia* reported earlier, the military began deploying mobile detachments in the Arctic last year. These included Bastion coastal missile complexes and naval infantry subunits. In the upcoming large-scale exercise, the brigades’ maneuvers will be supported by Bastion and other artillery as well as combat ships and naval aviation.*

*The precise place and time of the exercise has not yet been determined. *Izvestiya* sources clarified that the Chukotka Peninsula is one option. In May, Pacific Fleet servicemen already rehearsed a landing on the peninsula’s austere coast. The large landing ships (BPKs) *Nikolay Vilkov*, *Oslyabya*, *Admiral Nevelskoy*, and *Peresvet* transited from Vladivostok to *Bukhta Provideniya*. They carried some 200 naval infantrymen and 80 units of engineer and special equipment. The landing was made directly onshore using the ramp. After disembarking, the “Black Berets” set up a field camp and reconnoitered the terrain.*

*In the upcoming exercise, the naval infantrymen will practice landing on the Arctic coast, as well as conducting an anti-landing defense. Military historian *Dmitriy Boltenkov* told *Izvestia*, “Most likely the ‘Primor’ye’ 155th Brigade will conduct the landing and the ‘Kamchatka’ 40th will oppose the landing. The attacking naval infantrymen will be supported by ship fire, and the defenders by the Bastion Coastal Missile Defense System that will fire against naval targets.” Pacific Fleet forces will have to operate under difficult hydrometeorologic conditions on unfamiliar terrain. *Boltenkov* stated that “The naval infantrymen know the Primor’ye region and Sakhalin Island well; they constantly rehearse their landings there. The mission here will be enormously more difficult. If ... Chukotka becomes the site of the maneuvers, then it will be necessary to measure depths, conduct terrain reconnaissance, and organize support for the units. A combat ship detachment will form for the landing. Corvettes and Bastion missiles will certainly be part of it. I am sure that the command ship *Marshal Krylov* and hospital and rescue vessels will be involved. ...*