



Russia Continues to Upgrade its Northern Fleet

OE Watch Commentary: As the accompanying passage discusses, Russia recently demonstrated its two newest ships conducting joint logistics training in rough-seas, during a Beaufort Force 7 moderate gale in Arctic waters. The purpose-built Russian oil tanker “Akademik Pashin” is an ice-class vessel designed for these conditions. Still, transferring fuel and cargo in rough seas while moving at just under 14 miles-per-hour seems a bit of a challenge. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The Russian Navy’s two newest ships ...showed off their capabilities in the Barents Sea. Oil tanker “Akademik Pashin” and “Admiral Kasatonov” set out from the Kola Peninsula for joint training in harsh weather. In high waves and winds up to 15 meters-per-second, several tons of liquid and solid materials were transferred from the tanker to the frigate.”

Source: Atle Staalesen, “Two brand new naval vessels training in Arctic waters,” *The Barents Sea Independent Observer*, 10 March 2020.
<https://thebarentsobserver.com/en/security/2020/03/two-brand-new-naval-vessels-training-arctic-waters>

Two brand new naval vessels training in Arctic waters

The Russian Navy’s two newest ships ...showed off their capabilities in the Barents Sea. Oil tanker “Akademik Pashin” and “Admiral Kasatonov” set out from the Kola Peninsula for joint training in harsh weather. In high waves and winds up to 15 meters-per-second, several tons of liquid and solid materials were transferred from the tanker to the frigate. The two vessels maintained a speed of 12 knots during the operation and the materials were transferred by beam line, according to news agency Sudostroenie .

On 25 December, the Nevsky Naval Yard transferred the 130-meter-long tanker to the Northern Fleet. The «Akademik Pashin» is the first tanker in several decades built exclusively for the Russian Navy. It has a deadweight of 9,000 tons and is ice class Arc4, which enables it to operate in the icy waters of the north. The ship can simultaneously provide three vessels with fuel and other material while underway in an open sea.

The “Admiral Kasatonov” was built at the Severnaya Yard in St. Petersburg. It is the second ship of new Russian frigate class Project 22350, a multipurpose fighter ship that is capable of combating enemy underwater and surface ships, aviation, as well as coastal targets at distances of more than 1.5 kilometers. The ship is currently undergoing testing in the Barents Sea. In late February, sister ship “Admiral Gorshkov” conducted the first ship-launched firing of the new hypersonic missile Tsirkon. Several more missile tests will reportedly be conducted from the frigate during 2020.

Fangs of the Lone Wolf

**Chechen Tactics in the Russian-Chechen Wars
1994-2009**

Dodge Billingsley
with Lester Grau

Fangs of the Lone Wolf is about combat experience in urban, mountain and fairly open terrain. It is not a comprehensive history of conflict. This book is a series of snapshots — of vignettes — describing the difficulty, the hardship, the victories and the defeats of the participants. It is an examination of the raw data of combat in a foreign land, and is aimed to advance the professional military study of conflict.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/195587/download>