

Russian Military Publication Argues NATO No Longer a Threat



Motorized riflemen and tankers of the Baltic Fleet were tested for stress resistance, July 2021.

Source: https://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12371560@egNews Attribution: CCA 4.0 Intl

By Ray Finch
OE Watch Commentary

A key Kremlin platform over the past decade has revolved around the assertion that the NATO alliance presents a grave and present danger to Russian security. According to the Kremlin narrative, the West remains intent upon using its robust military strength to prevent Russia from defending its legitimate interests. However, the accompanying excerpt from the popular military weekly *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer* refutes the notion of a NATO threat, arguing instead that the alliance has “lost the ability to fight with an enemy of equal strength.”

The author begins by claiming that NATO’s weakness stems from “the fact that hedonism, pacifism, postmodernism, tolerance and political correctness increasingly dominate in the West.” He goes on to assert that “almost all European NATO members are losing the ability to fight,” and that “absolutely necessary things in battle such as heroism and readiness for self-sacrifice are now almost excluded.” Efforts to reinvigorate the alliance, for instance, via the “so-called 30-30-30-30 (or 4-30) initiative... are completely insufficient for a serious war.”

The author concludes on a bellicose note, stating that “today in Europe the RF [Russian Federation] Armed Forces in all components (except, perhaps, the Navy, which is not very important for a war on the continent) is stronger than the NATO Armed Forces.” Opposed to those NATO “countries with a high standard of living and a hedonistic and pacifist mentality... the servicemen of the RF Armed Forces are psychologically and in terms of combat training ready for any war, including a classic one with an equal enemy, which implies high losses.” Such a view among the Russian security establishment might encourage a more aggressive Russian foreign policy if it were to become widely held.

“...the servicemen of the RF Armed Forces are psychologically and in terms of combat training ready for any war, including a classic one with an equal enemy...”

Source: Alexander Khranchikhin, “Инвалиды пятой статьи: НАТО не сможет воевать с равным противником в силу коллективной безответственности (Disabled Article 5: NATO will not be able to fight an equal adversary due to collective irresponsibility),” *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer* (popular Russian military weekly), 22 June 2021. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/62618>

NATO is going through a very serious crisis that affects all spheres of its activity - military, political, ideological. This process is a natural consequence of the fact that hedonism, pacifism, postmodernism, tolerance and political correctness increasingly dominate in the West....

...Combined with a significant decline in the birth rate, this makes it almost impossible to wage a war that implies any serious loss of life. Also, on the part of the military personnel of the armed forces of the NATO countries, manifestations of such absolutely necessary things in battle as heroism and readiness for self-sacrifice are now almost excluded. The transition of almost all NATO countries to the hired principle of manning the army further reduced the motivation of personnel - now people serve for money, and not defend their homeland, and led to a significant increase in the cost of maintaining it....

...Due to these circumstances, almost all European NATO members are losing the ability to fight, although their military spending is still very high....

...In general, after the end of the Cold War, NATO lost the ability to fight with an equal in strength of the enemy, this affected troops and command structures both in psychological and military aspects. Russia’s actions in Crimea and Ukraine in 2014 caused a tremendous shock in the bloc (especially in the Baltic countries and Poland) and an understanding that the alliance was not ready for a military confrontation....

The so-called 30-30-30-30 (or 4-30) initiative implied that NATO by 2020 should have 30 ground battalions (ranging from 600 to a thousand troops each), 30 squadrons of fighters and 30 warships ready for deployment within 30 days from the moment the command is sent. At the moment, it is at least not obvious that it has been implemented in practice, while such forces, as well as the speed of their deployment, are completely insufficient for a serious war....

...In fact, today in Europe the RF Armed Forces in all components (except, perhaps, the Navy, which is not very important for a war on the continent) is stronger than the NATO Armed Forces. This also applies to deployed equipment (the Russian one is at least as good as, while purely physically newer, especially ground-based), and to those in warehouses (the Russian one, again, is no worse, with more of it). In addition, which is fundamentally important, the servicemen of the RF Armed Forces are psychologically and in terms of combat training ready for any war, including a classic one with an equal enemy, which implies high losses. The servicemen of the NATO Armed Forces, both from a psychological point of view and from the point of view of combat training, are only ready for a ‘war-beating,’ when the enemy is many times weaker in quantity and quality, in fact is unable to respond. The possibility of waging war with an equal adversary has not been considered there for a long time. And no teachings can change this situation.

...In countries with a high standard of living and a hedonistic and pacifist mentality, it is possible to attract people to the army even in peacetime only with very high monetary allowances and significant social benefits.