



## Anchors Away in the Arctic

**OE Watch Commentary:** The Northern Sea Fleet's 13-25 June exercise was Russia's largest naval maneuver in a decade. It tested the fleet's capabilities and readiness in anti-submarine warfare, on-board live-fire missile and antiaircraft firing, amphibious landing, submarine convoy attack, coastal defense artillery and missile firing, fleet tactics, minesweeping, under-way repairs and logistics, live-fire torpedo and cruise missile firings and at-sea UAV reconnaissance flights. There was extensive coverage of the event as the two accompanying excerpted articles demonstrate. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

*“Missions to destroy the notional adversary's amphibious assault detachment and fleet were conducted; massive enemy air strikes were repulsed. The submarines deployed to designated areas to counter both an underwater and a surface adversary.”*

**Source:** Olesya Frantsiskevich: “To Defend the Arctic,” *Na Strazhe Zapolyarya* (On Guard in the Polar Region, a weekly newspaper of the Northern Fleet), 29 June 2018.

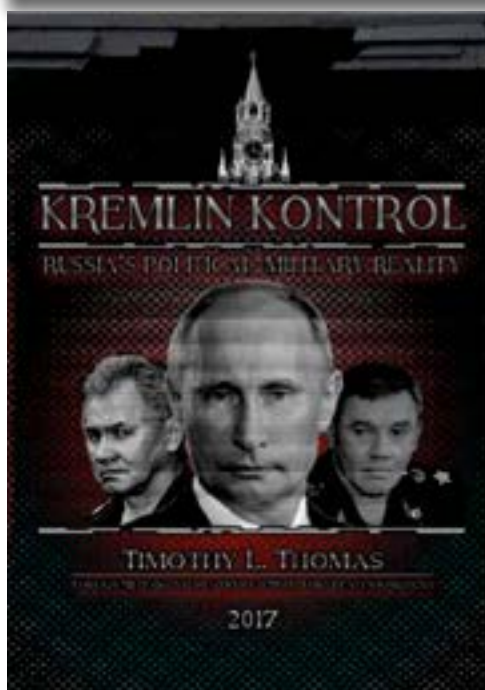
*The Northern Fleet rendezvous-and-cruise that took place in the Barents Sea in June was the most extensive in the last 10 years. Thirty-six combatant ships were assigned to it, including the guided missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov, the large antisubmarine warfare [ASW] ship Severomorsk, the destroyer Admiral Ushakov, nuclear and diesel-electric submarines, the large amphibious warfare ships Kondopoga, Georgiy Pobedonosets, and Aleksandr Strakovskiy, support craft, around 20 aircraft, and more than 150 pieces of military and specialized equipment belonging to coastal defense missile and artillery troops and ground troops, naval infantry, and air defense troops...*

*On the 10th day of the rendezvous and cruise, Northern Fleet Commander Admiral Nikolay Yevmenov arrived aboard the guided missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov in the Barents Sea area where the fleet's strike force grouping was exercising. The ship was taking part in an exercise for the first time following a refit. To cite the words of Captain 2nd Rank Vladimir Kuzmin, the missile cruiser's commander, following its modernization the ship has shown itself to be in very good shape. Factoring in the modernized digital technologies based on electronic equipment, the weaponry that has been tried-and-tested over a number of years is performing all the tasks. There are no issues with the equipment. A field staff was deployed aboard the cruiser Marshal Ustinov whose work -- along with the organization of command and control of the forces at sea -- was inspected personally by Northern Fleet Commander Adm. Nikolay Yevmenov. He evaluated the professionalism of the crews during their performance of the concluding combat drills staged by the Northern Fleet ships' rendezvous-and-cruise -- a naval artillery battle and neutralization of a notional adversary's fortified onshore positions.*

*Once the bulk of the planned combat drills had been completed, artillery and missile fire was delivered against air, water-surface, and coastal targets in the Barents Sea. The combat drills designated “artillery action against a notional adversary's surface ships and the engagement of fortified onshore objectives” were performed by the crews of the Admiral Ushakov and Marshal Ustinov using universal-caliber artillery -- AK-130 coaxial artillery mounts. Aboard the destroyer Admiral Ushakov, which wields the greatest artillery firepower of the existing ships, fire was delivered against the targets by both batteries -- bow and stern.*

*The engagement of a naval target involved firing at a naval panel target towed behind an auxiliary fleet tug. The onshore targets were set up on a firing range located on Poluostrov Rybachiy. Both ships conducted the artillery exercises successfully by hitting the naval and onshore targets with the specified accuracy.*

*All the planned firing and other combat drills have been completed successfully. The weaponry, equipment, and facilities of the combatant ships, support craft, aircraft, and air defense and the armaments and equipment of the naval infantry and the ground and coastal defense troops have reliably withstood the tests posed by the combat exercises. Ammunition consumption has not exceeded the planned norms.*



## KREMLIN KONTROL by TIMOTHY L. THOMAS

In 2016 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov instituted sweeping changes that have reorganized the country's security forces and reestablished the nation's military prowess. This study, *Kremlin Kontrol*, aims to describe how control over the security services and the military have hastened those changes.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/197266/download>

(continued)



## Continued: Anchors Away in the Arctic

**Source:** Olga Vorobyova, “A Large-Scale Test by Sea” – Interview with Admiral Nikolay Anatolyevich Yevmenov, the Northern Fleet commander,” *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 9 July 2018. [www.redstar.ru/masshtabnaya-proverka-morem/](http://www.redstar.ru/masshtabnaya-proverka-morem/)

*[OV] Why was it necessary to stage such a large-scale event?*

*[NY] The Northern Fleet is a combined strategic formation which protects Russia's national interests in the Arctic. Guaranteeing the security of the state's maritime policy implementation and of its normal economic activity in the Arctic regions and in areas of the Northern Sea Route zone is our service's priority mission. The voyage's main objective was to test the actual readiness of ships' crews, coastal troop subunits, and aviation for executing the tasks assigned to them. The large-scale maneuvers were of an exclusively defensive nature....*

*[OV] What safety measures were taken for the period of the exercise in the Barents Sea?*

*[NY] For safety purposes, all the combat-exercise performance areas were closed to civilian shipping and to aircraft flights for the duration. Navigators had been forewarned of this. The free passage of ships, including foreign ones, was permitted daily from 23:00 to 08:00 hours, when suspension of firing was guaranteed.*

*[OV] How long did the exercise last? What exercises did the Northern Fleet sailors perform over that period?*

*[NY] The large-scale maneuvers took place in the Barents Sea from 13 through 25 June. Over that period, the ships and auxiliary vessels covered more than 10,000 nautical miles [18,520 kilometers]. During the tactical missions, the crews of the ships, submarines, planes, and helicopters performed more than 70 combat exercises. Of these, 19 included live fire on marine, aerial, and coastal targets....*

*[OV] Were any new types of naval weapons being tested on this occasion?*

*[NY] Yes, tests were conducted, with good results. All the planned firing and other combat exercises were executed successfully. The combatant ships', auxiliary ships', aviation, and air defense weapons and technical equipment, and the naval infantry's and ground and coastal troops' arms and equipment were creditably tested by the combat exercise, and the expenditure of ammunition did not exceed the planned norms.*

*[OV] What tasks were successfully accomplished in the exercise's various stages?*

*[NY] During the exercise, operations for seeking and neutralizing a notional adversary's submarines were conducted successfully, as were mine-detection and minelaying missions and redeploying troops by to take control of operationally important defense areas. Missions to destroy the notional adversary's amphibious assault detachment and fleet were conducted; massive enemy air strikes were repulsed. The submarines deployed to designated areas to counter both an underwater and a surface adversary.*

*[OV] Which of the exercise's episodes have been judged as the most important?*

*[NY] The training voyage consisted of various scenarios, each of which is important as a test of the Northern Fleet sailors' skill and professionalism. It is important that our fighting men successfully rehearsed the full range of the forces' ... defensive operations within the Northern Fleet's zone of responsibility....*

*The missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov and the destroyer Admiral Ushakov effectively destroyed aerial targets with surface-to-air missiles.... All the missile targets that were launched by the small missile ships Rassvet and Aysberg were destroyed. The Admiral Ushakov also “destroyed” the notional adversary's ship by launching a Moskit [“mosquito” SS-N-22 supersonic ramjet] anti-ship cruise missile against the target at its maximum range.*

*[OV] Were there any ... circumstances that made you change the course of the exercise?*

*[NY] Fortunately, it all worked out without that. But unforeseen events did occur. Right at the ... concluding stage, the crew of the inshore minesweeper Yelnya rescued a person in the Barents Sea. This occurred as the minesweeper was ... closing off the area where the fleet's strike-ship grouping was to conduct combat exercises. Two miles to the north of Cape Teriberskiy, the Yelnya's crew discovered a kayaker who was being carried out to sea. The sailors lifted the debilitated rower aboard and administered first aid, fed him, and warmed him up. Once the tasks at sea had been completed, the minesweeper Yelnya returned to its home base ... Polyarnyy. There the rescued kayaker went ashore. The extreme-sports enthusiast had come to Murmansk Oblast from Moscow to paddle on the Voronya River, which flows into the Barents Sea. Thanks to our ships' presence there, a tragedy was averted.*

*[OV] Comrade Commander, what conclusions have been made from the exercise results?*

*[NY] The Northern Fleet ships' training voyage has shown a high standard of interaction among the fleet forces on the open-sea. The crews' nautical skills improved and the smoothness of their teamwork and coordination in performing missions increased. All the scheduled training was accomplished successfully and the exercise's objectives were achieved...*