



Russian Operational Reserve Will Enhance Active Component Readiness

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying article from *Izvestiya* discusses the Russian Ministry of Defense's latest attempt to implement an operational reserve system. This iteration of the reserve system is notable for several reasons. The first is that there is no mention of "territorial defense units," a concept where reservists man units that provide rear area security throughout the strategic depth. Although not mentioned, it is likely that Russia's newly formed National Guard, Rosgvardiya, will assume these units, as it is primarily concerned with internal defense. Perhaps of most interest is the description of how Russian reservists will complement the active force. In the Russian personnel system, positions that are vacant are termed "current under manning" (TNK, from the Russian текущий некомплект, "THK"), while positions that are filled with personnel that are not available (due to medical issues, leave, in training, etc.) are termed "temporary under manning" (VNK, from the Russian временный некомплект, "BHK"). The Russian Ministry of Defense will not only use reservists to staff designated reserve units (similar to the US System), but reservists will also fill TNK and VNK shortages in active duty units (something that is not done in the US system) to boost active duty readiness. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

“There are those concepts – current under manning (TNK) [текущий некомплект (THK)] and temporary under manning (VNK) [временный некомплект (BHK)].”

- Military Expert Vladislav Shurygin

Source: Bogdan Stepovoy, Aleksey Ramm, and Yevgeniy Andreyev, “В резерв по контракту (In the Reserve, on Contract),” *Izvestiya*, 13 February 2018. <https://iz.ru/706732/bogdan-stepovoi-aleksei-ramm-evgenii-andreev/v-rezerv-po-kontraktu>

The Russian Army has begun the full-scale formation of a mobilization reserve. Reserve soldiers and officers, who have concluded a contract with the Ministry of Defense, must attend special classes every month and undergo military training annually. In exchange, the state guarantees them monthly payments and a series of compensations. In the event of the declaration of a call to service, reservists will bring existing units up to strength, and they will also be used to form new units. Military experts think that the reform will strengthen the country's defense capability...

*The military commissariats are responsible for the formation of the reserve. Not all of them have yet begun the corresponding work. However, by way of illustration, the recruitment of volunteers is already occurring in Rostov Oblast – a reserve servicemen can conclude a contract for service in the reserve at the Novoshakhtinsk City Military Commissariat... “To do this, you need to appear at the military commissariat, while having your passport and military identification card on your person,” a Novoshakhtinsk Military Commissariat spokesman told *Izvestiya*. “A reserve serviceman must train for 2-3 days per month and undergo annual training with a duration of from 20-30 days”... They can call up that man for service at any moment: during the declaration of a special or threatening period, in the event of major exercises, emergency situations, or simply a critical shortage of military specialists in the units.*

*“The issue on the creation of an organizational mobilization reserve was raised a long time ago,” Military Expert Viktor Murakhovskiy told *Izvestiya*. “The new system will permit the training and maintenance of highly-skilled cadres at combat readiness and guarantee the rapid deployment of personnel to the theaters of military operations, where new formations need to be deployed, but the local mobilization reserve is inadequate”... In particular, in his words, the new cadre recruitment system will increase the combat capability of the Far East. There is equipment in the units of this region but a cadre shortage exists.*

Salary and Money for Billeting

The reserve soldiers and officers who are arriving in the reserve sign a contract for three, five, or more years. During the conclusion of a new agreement, a Russian receives a lump sum payment: for a three-year period – in the amount of the salary, and for five or more years – one and a half times more.

A reservist's pay will be composed of the position salary, the pay for rank, and the regional coefficient. For example, a platoon leader in the rank of a senior lieutenant in central Russia totals R27,500 [≈\$481 based upon March 2018 exchange rate]. A squad leader in the rank of a sergeant in Kemerovo Oblast (regional premium – 30 percent) – R25,300 [≈\$443 based upon March 2018 exchange rate]. Indeed, this money is paid in the full amount only during training. The reservists will be paid 12 percent of the pay in the remaining period, 11 months per year. A senior lieutenant from central Russia will receive R3,300 [≈\$58 based upon March 2018 exchange rate] per month and a sergeant from Kemerovo Oblast – R3,036 [≈\$53 based upon March 2018 exchange rate] ...

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Continued: Russian Operational Reserve Will Enhance Active Component Readiness

How This Works

They will attach the reservist to a specific military unit or to a Mobilization Deployment Support Center (TsOMP) [Центр Обеспечения Мобилизационного Развертывания (ЦОМР)], where he will undergo training...

“There are those concepts – current under manning (TNK) [текущий некомплект (ТНК)] and temporary under manning (VNK) [временный некомплект (ВНК)],” Military Expert Vladislav Shurygin told Izvestiya. “For instance, a serviceman has transferred to a different duty location, and his vacant position has not yet been filled, this is temporary under manning. If a man has become ill and already will be unable to accomplish his duties – this is current under manning. TNK and VNK seriously impact a military unit’s combat capability. By way of illustration, there can be a shortage of one company commander and several riflemen-machine-gunners and driver-mechanics. Their absence has a serious impact on the battalion’s capability to accomplish the combat mission. There are also positions, which are introduced only in the event of war. For example, assistant machine-gunner or mortar loader. They are not needed in peacetime but they become critically important in an engagement”...

The mobilization reservists, who have concluded a contract with a military unit, will fill TNK and VNK positions. The replenishment of losses in wartime will become their other mission.

New Centers for Reservists

They will both store equipment and train reservists at the Mobilization Deployment Support Centers (TsOMPs)...If necessary, they will transform the centers into “full-fledged” military units and formations. They will build a new state-of-the-art infrastructure for the Mobilization Deployment Support Centers. In 2016, the Ministry of Defense concluded a contract for the design of the new Military Equipment Storage and Repair Base on Sakhalin. The design illustrates what the Mobilization Deployment Support Center could look like.

They plan to build a military garrison in the Village of Dachnoye. A parking lot with an area of 700,000 square meters and a barracks for the accommodation of 521 soldiers and sergeants, headquarters and training buildings, depots for equipment and missile-artillery weapons, and a heated storage facility for 1,200 vehicle parking spaces will appear there. They will equip the equipment storage and repair areas. That infrastructure will permit the accommodation of a battalion of reservists at the base in the event of training assemblies and to conduct exercises and routine maintenance of the equipment using their own manpower...



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