



Preparation for the 2019 Army International Games

OE Watch Commentary: While the major events will not take place until August 2019, Russian defense officials have already started the planning and preparation for one event, the actual competition for the annual Army International Games. As the accompanying excerpt from the military news source *Krasnaya Zvezda* points out, one new event this year, the “Sayansk March [which] involves competitions of mountain subunits under winter conditions...will be held at a different time – from 18-21 February 2019.” This will be the fifth iteration of these international military games, and as the Russian military official quoted in the article acclaims, “thirty-two different competitions in 10 states are planned in 2019,” to include using training ranges for the first time in “India, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia.”



Logo for the Army International Games.
Source: Russian Defense Ministry, http://mil.ru/et/news/more.htm?id=12159407@egNews&_print=true, CC 4.0.

Besides the Sayansk March race, new competitions in 2019 will include the Cavalry Marathon, Hazard Area, and Pole Star events. The article points out that the Cavalry Marathon will include “mounted elements,” the Hazard Area- “a contest for the best emergency-rescue unit,”

and the Pole Star, which “will be held in Belarus” will be designed around competition performing “missions...after dark.” Another change for 2019 games includes an expanded number of events for women, including “the Tank Biathlon, True Friend, and Military-Medical Relay competitions.” The article points out that women will “compete not with the men, naturally, but among themselves in a separate category.” The Russian Ministry of Defense has “invited 85 countries to take part in the 2019 games,” though a final headcount is not yet available (in 2018, military representatives from 32 countries participated). **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

“Lieutenant-General Ivan Buvaltsev announced that the Russian Defense Ministry had invited 85 countries to take part in the 2019 games.”

Source: Marina Shcherbakova, “АрМИ-2019: подготовка уже началась (ArMI-2019: Preparations Have Already Begun),” *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 21 December 2018. <http://redstar.ru/armi-2019-podgotovka-uzhe-nachalas/?attempt=1>

The Army International Games 2019 1st International Planning Conference has been held in the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center.... The locations, times, and particular features of the competitions and also the requirements of the arms, military and special equipment, and missiles and munitions employed at the games were conveyed to the participants.

Opening the conference, Lieutenant-General Ivan Buvaltsev noted first of all the growing popularity of the Army International Games, to which the expansion of their geography, specifically, testifies. “Thirty-two competitions in 10 states are planned in 2019,” he announced, pointing out for comparison that 28 competitions in seven states were held in 2018.

Increasingly new countries are expressing a wish and readiness to hold this competition or the other on their territory. The organizers of the games are meeting them half-way, and competitions will in the future be held for the first time in India, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia....

The Cavalry Marathon is a new competition...There will be four new competitions in 2019 altogether. Aside from the Cavalry Marathon, these are Hazard Area, Sayansk March, and Pole Star.

The name Cavalry Marathon speaks for itself – mounted elements will be taking part. Hazard Area is a contest for the best emergency-rescue unit... Sayansk March involves competitions of mountain subunits under winter conditions. They will be held in Krasnoyarskiy Kray at the range facility of the Yergaki Mounting-Training Center. August on the territory of Russia is not suitable for winter conditions, naturally, Sayansk March is the sole international competition which will be held at a different time – from 18-21 February 2019.

The timeframe of all the other competitions remains unchanged – from 3-19 August. The competition of Pole Star special units will be held in Belarus. There’s nothing surprising in the name, which was proposed by the organizers: for special forces on missions frequently after dark it is this celestial luminary in the northern hemisphere which helps get one’s bearings....

Lieutenant-General Ivan Buvaltsev announced that the Russian Defense Ministry had invited 85 countries to take part in the 2019 games.... In addition, the chief of the RF Armed Forces Main Combat-Training Directorate, announced some distinguishing features of ArMI-2019. One such is that contests of women’s teams also are planned in the Tank Biathlon, True Friend, and Military-Medical Relay competitions. They are to compete not with the men, naturally, but among themselves in a separate category....