

## **Key points of report of the Russian Defence Minister at extended session of the Russian Defence Ministry Board**

The tendency of aggravation of the military and political international situation is being continued especially in Europe, Central Asia and Middle East.

Gradual expansion of the NATO is being observed. In the course of the comparatively short period of time, it has extended by two times, 12 new members have joined the Alliance.

Today, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine are preparing for joining the NATO.

Finland, Sweden, Serbia and Moldavia are being involved in the NATO's field of interests.

This year, number of the NATO's aircraft has been increased by eight times, and number of servicemen has been increased by 13 times on the territories of the Baltic states, Poland and Romania.

Up to 300 tanks and infantry fighting vehicles have been projected to these countries.

Aegis Ashore missile defence systems are being deployed in Romania and Poland.

There are approximately 200 American nuclear air bombs in Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Turkey. The bombs are considered to be renovated. 310 delivery aircraft have been put in different readiness conditions.

Cybersecurity center has been deployed in Tallinn and the Strategic propaganda center in Riga for reaching the informational superiority over Russia by the NATO member-states.

The "Islamic State" is extending its influence zones. The militants have captured about 70% of the Syrian territories and most regions of Iraq. There are more than 60 thousand terrorists.

There is a threat of projecting their actions to the Central Asia and Caucasus.

This spring, the Parliament of Japan changed the status of the Self-Defense Forces and granted the right to perform actions out of the state borders.

The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation must have necessary potential in order to defend sovereignty of the country.

In order to perform the assigned task, the Russian Defence Ministry in cooperation with federal executive authorities has developed the Defence Plan 2016-2020. It was approved by the President of the Russian Federation this November.

The Plan takes into account all military threats and challenges and provides protection of the country according to all variants of military conflict outbreak with participation of the Russian Federation.

Quality condition of the Russian Armed Forces has been improved.

The staffing level has reached 92%, the number of contract servicemen has been increased by 10% this year and reached 352 thousand people.

This is the first time when the number of contract servicemen has exceeded the number of conscripts.

The number of contract servicemen is to reach 384 thousand servicemen next year.

Strategic Nuclear Forces have been kept in readiness for guaranteed performance of tasks of nuclear deterrence.

More than 95% of the Strategic Missile Forces' launching systems are in constant combat readiness.

Six missile regiments equipped with Yars stationary and mobile missile systems, have been put on combat duty.

The Ground Strategic Nuclear Forces have been equipped with modern armament samples by 51%.

This year, the Strategic Nuclear Air Force has been equipped with 10 modernized aircraft, including 2 Tu-160, 3 Tu-95MS, and 5 Tu-22M3.

Combat capabilities of the naval strategic nuclear forces have been raised.

Two strategic missile submarine Alexander Nevsky and Vladimir Monomakh has formed part of the forces of constant combat readiness.

The naval strategic nuclear forces have been reequipped with modern armament samples by 56%.

In total, the Russian Armed Forces have been fitted with 35 new ballistic missiles, that allowed to equip the nuclear triad with modern armament by 55%.

General purpose forces have reached the higher level of quality.

Eight different brigades have been formed in the Land Forces.

This year, the Land Forces have received 2 brigade missile complexes Iskander-M, 1172 tanks and other armored vehicles, 148 missile and artillery systems, 2292 vehicles of different purpose.

The Russian Land Forces have been rearmed with modern armament by 35%.

On August 1, 2015, the Aerospace Forces were established on the basis of the Air Force and the Aerospace Defence Forces.

Necessary structure changings have already been conducted.

All the forces and means of this branch of the Russian Armed Forces have been concentrated in the unified control system for task performance in the aerospace field.

According to the State Defence Order 2015, the Aerospace Forces have been equipped with 243 modern aircraft, 90 air defence missile systems and complexes, 208 radar stations.

In total, the Aerospace Forces have been fitted with modern armament by 52%.

The first stage of creating the Joint Space System has been finished.

Its Western modernized command center has been put into service. Ground facilities of the Plesetsk Cosmodrome have been prepared for operation.

This November, the first spacecraft of the Joint Space System has been launched.

A quantum leap has been made in development of the unmanned aviation.

Experience gained during task performance in Syria, has shown the irreparableness of UAV's in the course of warfare.

In 2011, there were only 180 UAV complexes in the Russian Armed Forces, there are 1720 modern ones now.

Receiving of 2 multirole submarines and 8 surface warships allowed maintaining the rate of the Navy combat capacity building and raising the ratio of modern ships to 39%.

Landing capabilities of the Airborne Troops have been increased by receiving of 4,000 new parachute systems.

The ratio of modern samples in the Airborne Troops has reached 41%.

At the same time, the Russian Armed Forces have not received 57 pieces of new weapons and hardware, including 2 aircraft, 3 spacecraft and 2 surface ships, due to different reasons.

199 pieces of military hardware have not been repaired and 679 items have not been provided with maintenance.

Decisions, which had been made during the Sochi sessions under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, allowed to achieve the assigned results of the State Defence Order 2015.

As a result, the Armed Forces have been fitted with modern armament and hardware by 47%, and their integrity reached 89%.

Therefore, the task assigned by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief concerning reaching 30% of equipping the Armed Forces with modern samples by 2015 has been accomplished.

The capabilities of the National Centre for State Defence Control have been significantly increased.

Total computation capacity of its supercomputer exceeds analogue devices of the Armed Forces of foreign countries by many times. Secured video communications net has been deployed.

Introduction of hardware and software systems in the regional and national centres is being continued.

The taken measures allowed raising quality and control stability. They also provided an opportunity to respond more rapidly to changings in the international military and political situation.

The technical basis of the control system of the Russian Armed Forces has acquired a new dimension.

Just in 2015, the Military Districts have received about 18,000 pieces of modern communication equipment that is 7% more than in 2014.

That has allowed the level equipment of the Russian Armed Forces with these communication means to reach 43%

Since September 30, special operation has been conducted in Syria.

Long-range, operational, tactic and army aviation, ships and submarines of several fleets participated in this operation.

For the first time, massive strikes have been performed with air- and sea-based high-accuracy cruise missiles at the distances of up to 1,500 km.

Having performed about 4,000 combat sorties the aircraft have destroyed more than 8,000 objects of terrorist military infrastructure.

As a result, the ISIS illegal armed groups have suffered significant losses.

The Armed Forces have performed massive and intensive cargo transportations. In the course of 2 months, military transport aviation and naval transport have projected 214 thousand tons of different cargos.

Recovered tank maintenance plant in Homs is working at full capacity.

The results of the operation in Syria will be summed up at the session under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief with participation of representatives of industry.

The successful actions were preceded by tough combat training.

Unannounced combat readiness inspections, which had been held since 2013, have made a substantive contribution to the personnel training and readiness for combat actions.

Annually, there are 5 such inspections in average. They involve the whole Armed Forces.

As a result, commanders and staffs of any military district and branch of service are able to regroup at long distances and ready to perform tasks in unfamiliar terrain.

During the “Center-2015” drill, which took place from August 18 to September 20, all the issues of preparation and conduct of combat at the Central Asian strategic direction were fully practiced.

For the first time in 25 years history, the issues of creation and employment of a massive air attack grouping have been practically settled.

At least 150 airplanes participated in the massive air strike.

An 800 men-strong air assault was conducted.

During the drill, force groupings have reaffirmed their readiness and preparedness to guarantee the Russian military security in the region of Central Asia.

Armed Forces control training was conducted in November under the command of the Russian President.

All the issues of complex usage of strategic deterrence forces were practiced during that training.

The following indicators have increased in comparison with the results of 2014:

The in-flight time of air crews has increased by 10%; the time spent by surface ships and submarines at sea by 7%; the number of kilometers driven by military drivers by 22%.

The amount of parachute jumps in the Airborne Forces has increased by a thousand.

More than 50% of those jumps were conducted in rough conditions.

Despite an increase in the rates of combat training, the Russian Defence Ministry has not exceeded the limits of the dedicated ammunition, supplies and fuel.

This accomplishment was made possible due to the arming of military equipment with the latest targeting systems, exploitation of UAV's, as well as the increase of number of modern training systems with the subsequent surge in their exploitation.

The increase in the number of munitions for combat training by 5 times has played its role.

Today the ranges of the Military Districts are used all year round.

This year 10 full lifecycle field camps have been delivered to the MD's ranges.

The deliveries of such camps will be continued in 2016.

The International Army Games, which were held for the first time, also contributed to the quality improvement of servicemen's individual training.

For example, all the pilots involved in the Syrian operation took part in the "Aviadarts" at different stages.

The effectiveness of their work may be assessed by the real change of situation in Syria.

The military education system is undergoing upgrades in light of the extent and the rate of the Army's re-equipment process.

The layout of the Defence Ministry's network of military educational institutions has been completed.

This network is comprised of 26 institutions and 8 branches.

Starting from this year the Russian Defence Ministry has concentrated on the creation of so-called electronic university. For that purpose, unified electronic environment among the military educational institutions is being created.

The pilot project of the electronic library has been brought to life and a unitary standard of an electronic manual has been certified. These manuals will be used starting from September 1, 2016.

The work on enhancement of image of military service and patriotism has significantly increased the number of those who want to become military professionals. The competition in the higher educational institutions of the Russian Ministry of Defence including the Command Academies has reached nearly 9 applicants per place.

These measures will allow to eliminate the lack of specialists by 2017.

For the most talented conscripts the Russian Defence Ministry has created conditions, which enhance their potential. 12 scientific companies were formed for graduates of 42 universities.

According to the order of the President of the Russian Federation, the Russian Defence Ministry has started creation of scientific-production companies.

Development of pre-university schools is continued. The Perm Suvorov Military School has been opened.

The all-season sports and recreation camp has started its work at the Sevastopol Presidential Cadet School.

It will help to better health of 850 pupils from other pre-university institutions.

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This year, solution of problems concerning the social protection of servicemen has become one of the priorities.

For the first time, the Russian Defence Ministry has achieved systematical and scheduled provision of servicemen with permanent housing.

That has been achieved by passing to the housing allowance given to servicemen for buying and building of housing.

The problem of provision of service housing is practically resolved.

27 thousand people have received service housing.

The increase of renting allowance has become an effective measure that allowed to reduce the amount of those who are in need of service housing by 7 times.

Development of the savings and mortgage system is continued.

In the last four years, the number of its participants has increased by more than 55% and constitutes about 156 thousand servicemen, 50 thousand of them have already bought apartments.

Creation of a the final structure of the medical system throughout all the hierarchy of medical institutions has been completed.

Military hospitals have received over 2 thousand pieces of medical equipment that has increased the complicated medical assistance by up to 30%.

Over 13 thousand people have received medical treatment this year.

The high level has been reached in disease prevention. As a result, the number of servicemen who have got sick has reduced by 27% in comparison with the precious year.

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The acceleration of the rate of construction works on erection of special facilities, housing and infrastructure has become the main result of development of the military construction complex.

The introduction of standards and typical projects has allowed to reduce the expenses for a square metre by 5,000 rubles and achieve the price of 32,000 rubles. The total economy has constituted over 5 billion rubles.

Over 600 general infrastructural facilities with the total area of 2,5million square metres have been constructed this year.

Modern technologies reduced by 2 times the time necessary for building of shelters for hardware as well as housing and barracks.

Maintenance costs have been reduced by 30%.

No one missile complex received by the Armed Forces has remained under open sky. New infrastructural basing facilities for submarines have been built for the Russian Navy in Gadzhiyevo and Novorossiysk.

All the works on construction of start positions for the missile complex Angara have been accomplished at the 1st State Testing Cosmodrome.

The building of 22 filling stations is underway. 8 of them are ready, another 3 will become operational in 2016. Oil companies have invested about 12 billions rubles in building and reconstruction of fuel facilities.

The storage conditions of modern missiles and ammunition received under the State Defence Order have been radically changed.

390 storage families have been built in 2014-2015.

In 2016, the construction of another 190 will be finished.

To replace over 300 old bases and depots, the first of 24 modern industrial and logistic complexes is being built in Naro-Fominsk.

After the object is finished the next year, 31 facilities in Moscow and in the Moscow Region will be released.

Replacement of the old bases and depots will allow to release over 50 thousand members of maintenance personnel and reduce the annual expenses for maintenance practically by 2 times.

The annual economy will constitute about 15 billion rubles.

All the means from this optimization will be used to support the current expenses.

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The programme “Effective Army” has proved its value.

The cost advantage from transition of 410 boiler stations to gas equipment will constitute nearly 4 billion rubles annually.

This work will have been done by the year 2020.

Starting from the next year, ammunition containers made of composite materials will be delivered to the troops. Their service life will constitute 50 years. The usage of such containers will reduce costs by a billion rubles annually.

Introduction of automated registration of material resources using modern technologies has been started.

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### **International activity**

The military cooperation has been maintained with over 80 countries.

Development of cooperation within the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the CSTO, SCO and CIS – has become the priority.

Operation of the Russian military bases and objects in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Tajikistan as well as Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Syria is maintained.

In April, the Moscow Conference on International Security was held. Its participants discussed the topical issues of global and regional security.

Over 30 international exercise of different level have been held this year. The most important of them were the “Combat commonwealth”, “Naval interaction”, “Selenga”, and “Indra”.

In the course of the year, all the international obligations in the field of control over the armaments have been fulfilled.

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Russian Defence Ministry is actively implementing the orders of the Russian President.

One of them is implementation of a programme of complex development of the Arctic territories from the Arkhangelsk Region to the Far East, as well as the islands of the North Ocean.

Four military bases have been built on the islands. Construction of an airfield and a military town has started on the Alexandra Land.

Military facilities are being erected on the Islands Kotelny, Wrangel, Sredniy, Novaya Zemlya, the Cape Schmidt, and Alakurtti settlement.

Measures for ecological purification of the Arctic have been taken. There remain 65 thousand tons of scrap metal.

Within the fulfillment of another order, the new system of financial control over the budgetary expenses on the State Defence Order has been developed.

The system allows to assess and minimize the risks of failures to fulfill a contract.

According to another order of the President of the Russian Federation, the Russian Defence Ministry has accomplished the work on reduction of the number of forward-looking samples of armament and military equipment, which have similar features and specifications.

That has increased the quality of maintenance and repairing, the training of the military personnel has become simpler, life cycle of armament has been increased.

Upon the order concerning uninterrupted supply of the population of the Republic of Crimea with water, 48 field pipelines with total length of 410 km have been equipped. They delivered about 6 million cubic metres of water.

Tasks on construction of railway in the area of Zhuravlevka – Millerovo and reconstruction of the railway in the Republic of Abkhazia are being fulfilled.

The scale and the rate of works carried out by the Railway Troops are the largest ones for the last 25 years.

The volume of the completed work has constituted 4 million cubic metres. In Abkhazia about 30 km of ground area and 24 constructions have been cleared.

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In total, in 2015 the Russian Armed Forces have been maintaining the assigned level of defence capability of the country.

The growth of the main quality and quantity indices is registered in comparison with the year 2014.

The number of military hardware received under the State Defence Order has increased by 7%.

The equipment of the Russian Armed Forces with modern samples of military hardware has reached 47%.

The integrity of the military equipment has grown by 4%.

There has been created a new high-technology branch in the Russian Armed Forces – the Aerospace Forces, which has ensured the accomplishment of all the defence objectives in the air and in space.

For the first time, the number of contract servicemen (privates and sergeants) has exceeded the number of conscript servicemen.

The amount of cargo transportation in favour of the Russian Armed Forces has grown by 6 times.

After the scheduled provision of servicemen with permanent accommodation, the problem keeping officers at disposal for a long time has been resolved.

Their number has been reduced by 8 times, from 40,000 in 2013 to 5 thousand in 2015. That saved about 33 billion rubles.

The number of servicemen provided with service housing has grown by 23%.

The volume of construction and capital repair have risen by 9%.

The old problem concerning the transition of released military towns has been resolved.

In total, regional and municipal authorities have received 1396 military towns with 56 thousand real estate objects including 525 boiler stations, 40 schools, 439 nursery schools and 244 medical institutions.

About 40,000 members of civil personnel of the Russian Defence Ministry were released, the 2 billion rubles used for maintenance of the military towns were saved.

These measures allowed to bring over 7,500 servicemen involved in ensuring of their security them back to scheduled military training.

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In 2016, the Russian Defence Ministry will deal with a number of priorities defined by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

First of all, the operational strength of the Russian Armed Forces must be increased. Groupings of troops at the Western, South-Western and Arctic strategic directions must be reinforced.

The State Defence Orders of the year 2016 must be placed timely and fulfilled rigorously.

### **Concerning the Strategic Nuclear Forces**

Five missile regiments equipped with modern missile complexes must be put on combat duty in the Strategic Missiles Forces.

2 Tu-160 and 7 Tu-95MS modernized aircraft must form part of the Strategic Nuclear Air Force.

### **Concerning the forces of general purpose**

Two brigade complexes of Iskander-M missile complexes, two brigade complexes of MLRS Tornado-S, as well as one brigade complex of AA systems Buk-M3 must be delivered to the Land Forces.

Six battalions must be re-equipped with new tanks and infantry fighting vehicles.

Over 200 new and modernized aircraft must be delivered to the Aerospace Forces. Five AA missile regiments must be re-equipped with AA missiles systems S-400.

The buildup of the Unified Space System grouping must be continued. Another spacecraft of the system must be launched.

Three prefabricated radar stations Voronezh-DM in Yeniseysk and Barnaul as well as Voronezh-M in Orsk must be put on combat duty.

Two multirole submarines and 7 surface warships must be delivered to the Russian Navy.

94 enterprises of the former JSC "Oboronservis" must be taken over by the integrated structures of the Defence and Industrial Complex.

600 general objects of military infrastructure must be built, 142 military towns must be arranged. Equipment of airfields with modern shelter facilities for the aircraft received under the State armament programme must be started.

Implementation of the pilot projects ensuring functioning of the system of military hardware life cycle management must be finished. The scheduled conclusion of life cycle contracts must be started.

In 2016, the combat strength of the Russian Armed Forces must be increased. The staffing level must be at the level of 93%. The number of contract servicemen must be 384,000 people.

The number of modern samples of military equipment must reach 51%, the integrity of military hardware – 92%.

The material resources must be kept on the normal level.

190 must become operational, that will finish the creation of the system of storage of missiles and ammunition received under the State armament programme.

The practice of complex unannounced combat readiness inspection of formations and military units must be continued and must involve all the Military Districts and military services of the Russian Armed Forces.

Strategic command-and-staff exercise Caucasus-2016 must be prepared and conducted.

The optimal level of morale in the Russian Armed Forces necessary for performance of assigned tasks must be maintained.

Thus, the created conditions will allow the Russian Armed Forces on the strength of the peacetime to ensure the protection of the sovereignty of Russia taking into account the modern challenges and threats.

The problem issues will be taken into account in the Activities plans of the Russian Defence Ministry for 2016.

It will be discussed in detail during the closed-door part of the Board Session.