



**Rob Lee** @RALee85 Wed Feb 09 21:15:45 +0000 2022

Thread on the timing of a possible Russian military escalation in Ukraine. The main phase of the exercise in Belarus begins tomorrow and runs until February 20, the same day the Olympics end. It appears we'll see a large naval exercise in the Black Sea until the 19th as well. <https://t.co/SxZdEChI29>

All of the equipment and troops were supposed to arrive in Belarus by today for the exercise (mostly from the VDV or Eastern Military District), though clearly there are still plenty of Russian units moving towards Ukraine that will likely be temporarily based in Russia. 2/

Russia currently has ~90 or more BTGs near Ukraine with more on the way. It appears they are deploying troops to man equipment prepositioned near the border, and they are moving equipment from the big assembly areas (e.g. Yelnya) to staging points closer to the border. 3/ <https://t.co/vGdgv70xlc>

 **Konrad Muzyka - Rochan Consulting**  
@konrad\_muzyka

I can confirm elements of the 2nd CAA were being loaded up for movement in late January.

 **Michael Kofman** @KofmanMichael · Feb 7  
Looks like 2nd army is starting to arrive from Central MD.  
[tiktok.com/@artyomgorokho...](https://www.tiktok.com/@artyomgorokho...)  
[Show this thread](#)

6:04 AM · Feb 8, 2022 · Twitter Web App

 **Konrad Muzyka - Rochan Consulting**  
@konrad\_muzyka

This is incredibly important. We are probably seeing Yelnya being emptied. It will likely link up with elements of the 90th TD near Klinty.

 **Dan** @Danspiun · Feb 5  
242. Believed to be parts of 74th Motor Rifle Bde's move from Yelnya to Novozybkov (35km to 🇺🇦). Same train as twt 239 - camo checked.  
Total of both films:  
46x BMP-2  
2x BMP-1KSh  
BREM-2 + Ch  
7x MT-LB  
3x 9K35 Strela-10  
Shilka  
PU-12  
2x PTS-2  
2x GMZ-3  
2x PRP-4  
[twitter.com/MarQs\\_/status...](https://twitter.com/MarQs_/status...)  
[Show this thread](#)

12:16 PM · Feb 5, 2022 · Twitter Web App



**Michael Kofman**  
@KofmanMichael

Yes, seeing movement to border. 41st coming down from Yelnya.

**Konrad Muzyka - Rochan Consulting** @konrad\_muzyka · Feb 5

Not de-escalation but movement to staging areas.  
[twitter.com/Nabuchodonozoo...](https://twitter.com/Nabuchodonozoo...)

12:51 PM · Feb 5, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

75 Retweets 8 Quote Tweets 224 Likes

Most other important systems we would expect to be deployed before an escalation have also arrived near Ukraine, including S-300V, Buk-M2/3, and Tor-M2 air defense; Krasukha-4 EW systems; 2S7M Malka, TOS-1A, and Smerch MLRS; Redut-2US; and other army and district-level assets. 4/ <https://t.co/EpN9bKdGD3>

← Thread



**Michael Sheldon**  
@Michael1Sheldon

Krasukha-4 in Belarus.

[Translate Tweet](#)



12:25 AM · Feb 2, 2022 · Twitter Web App

82 Retweets 31 Quote Tweets 240 Likes

← Thread



Rob Lee  
@RALee85

A potentially pretty significant development. These are S-300V-series air defense/ballistic missile defense systems reportedly in Bryansk near the border with Ukraine. These would be used to defend against Ukrainian Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles.

[t.me/milinfofive/75...](https://t.me/milinfofive/75...)



7:52 PM · Jan 25, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



Rob Lee  
@RALee85

Better video of the two 2S7M Malka 203mm heavy artillery batteries (8 artillery pieces) in Belgorod with PRP-4, 1V13, and 1V14 vehicles.



4emberlen @4emberlen · 5h

Весела Лопань 07.02.2022

[Show this thread](#)





Rob Lee  
@RALee85

P-260T Redut-2US communications system reportedly in Klinty. 804/



IgorGirkin @GirkinGirkin · Jan 25  
Клинтцы, Беларусь

Будет ли война ???...

Russia has also deployed a large number of Rosgvardia troops recently near the border, allegedly as part of the Zaslou 2022 exercise. Russia might deploy Rosgvardia troops to enforce greater OPSEC near the border before the final preparations or defend against sabotage. 5/ <https://t.co/RCuAsvTmIP>



CIT (en)  
@CITeam\_en

In a worrying development, we and other researchers have observed vehicles characteristic of Russia's National Guard Troops and possibly riot police (both part of the same umbrella organization "Rosgvardia") moving on roads and trains across European Russia.



4:12 AM · Feb 2, 2022 · TweetDeck



Rob Lee  
@RALee85

Another Rosgvardia column in Belgorod with Ural-VV MRAPs, Tigrs, UAZ Patriot, and buses. 999/

IgorGirkin @GirkinGirkin · Feb 3  
Белгородская обл



Rob Lee  
@RALee85

Rosgvardia column reportedly in Gubkin, Belgorod oblast. Patrol MRAPs, Avtozaks, and trucks. 1065/  
[t.me/WarLife/5567](https://t.me/WarLife/5567)

Translate Tweet

8.9K views 0:05 / 1:24

8:19 PM · Feb 6, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

With the 6 Baltic and Northern Fleets ships, Russia has 13 large landing ships in the Black Sea with dozens of landing craft and fast-attack boats. Russia has the capability to conduct a brigade (+) amphibious landing (though 2 reinforced BTGs is more likely). 6/ <https://t.co/pnXxzj357C>

**H I Sutton** @CovertShores · 4h

NEW. #Russian Navy anti-ship platforms currently in Mediterranean and Black Sea > [hisutton.com/Russia-Med-BS-...](https://hisutton.com/Russia-Med-BS-...)

Together with @detresfa\_ I thought it would be generally useful to map this. Will update frequently as situation develops.

#OSINT #Ukraine

See important clarifications

[Show this thread](#)



**Rob Lee** @RALee85 · 22h

When the other three large landing ships transit tomorrow, Russia will have the greatest naval amphibious capability in the Black Sea it has had since the early 1990s.

**Yörük Işık** @YorukIsik · 22h

#Ukraine Crisis - Reinforcements are now in the BlackSea  
21:00UTC: #БМФ Project 775 Ropucha class LSTMs (tank carrying),  
#БФ Baltic Fleet's 71st Landing Ship Brigade's Kaliningrad 102, Minsk 127 & Korolev 130 transited Bosphorus and entered the BlackSea. My pix via @reuterspictures



33 332 568

Yörük Işık  
@YorukIsik

#Ukraine Crisis: #Cφ Northern Fleet's Kola based 121st Landing Ship Brigade vessels #BMφ Project775 Ropucha class Georgy Pobedonosets 016 & Olenegorsky Gornyak 012 and Project 11711 Ivan Gren class Pyotr Morgunov 117 transited Dardanelles towards Marmara en route to the BlackSea.



Levent Cetin

Rob Lee  
@RALee85

Looks like four of the Baltic Fleet's Project 03160 Raptor fast attack landing craft are being moved. 903/

IgorGirkin @GirkinGirkin · Jan 30  
M4



165.7K views

0:08 / 0:14

3:43 PM · Jan 30, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Russia is also taking steps to deter NATO involvement, including naval exercises in the Mediterranean and with the Pacific Fleet; possibly deploying MiG-31K with Kinzhal to Kaliningrad; Tu-22M3 over Belarus; and Su-35S squadron, 2 S-400 battalions, and Krasukha-4 to Belarus. 7/ <https://t.co/6VzGczfqpH>



Status-6

@Archer83Able

A Russian MiG-31K carrying a Kinzhal ballistic missile was spotted landing at the Kaliningrad Chkalovsk airbase on February 7.

This a very unusual developoment. MiG-31s are not based there, furthermore this is a Kinzhal missile carrier.

[t.me/Radioskaner/25...](https://t.me/Radioskaner/25...)



← Thread



Rob Lee

@RALee85

Video of one of the two S-400 battalions from the 1529th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment in Belarus. Two Pantsir-S combat vehicles, 4 5P85SM2-01 TEL, and a 96L6 radar on top of a 40V6M mast. 1117/  
[youtube.com/watch?v=2ViOdl...](https://youtube.com/watch?v=2ViOdl...)



10:17 AM · Feb 9, 2022 · Twitter Web App



This suggests that Russia has just about all of the necessary pieces in place if it wants to conduct a large-scale military escalation in Ukraine, including deterring NATO involvement, but assumes that Russia is deploying its troops to man prepositioned equipment near Ukraine. 8/

If Russia was planning on a military escalation in Ukraine, the next 2-3 weeks make the most sense. The capabilities are there, the ground in N/NE Ukraine is in better condition, and the Eastern Military District troops will be more proficient after the exercise in Belarus. 9/

Some of the best Russian foreign policy and defense analysts don't believe an escalation is imminent, but instead that it will happen later. Some believe Russia will keep tensions high for the foreseeable future, which Putin mentioned in November. 10/

<https://t.co/vSZJnbIL4N> <https://t.co/gdJ409WdwV>

Ruslan Pukhov, a Russian military analyst, said that even if the West and Ukraine were to make sufficient concessions in the coming weeks to avert an armed conflict, they would be unlikely to satisfy Russia in the longer term, adding that a renewed threat of war could come next year.

“The West just doesn’t understand how much this is a question of life or death for us,” said Mr. Pukhov, who runs the Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, a privately owned think tank in Moscow. “Ukraine in NATO, from my point of view or Russia’s, would be the equivalent of nuclear war.”

"I expect we'll have this crisis with us, in various forms, for all of 2022, at least," said Andrei Sushentsov, dean of the school of international relations at MGIMO, the elite Moscow university run by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He described the current standoff as only the first step in a drawn-out Russian effort to force the West to agree to a new security architecture for Eastern Europe. It was a characterization of the start of a more high-stakes phase in Russia's yearslong conflict with the West that is gaining currency in Moscow's foreign-policy circles.

Russia's aim, according to Mr. Sushentsov: keep the threat of war ever-present, and thus compel negotiations that Western officials have avoided until now.

[Белоруссия и ее отношения с Россией](#)  
09.02.2022, 01:23

## Союзная отрешимость

Начинающиеся на границе с Украиной российско-белорусские учения пугают Запад, но не так страшны

В четверг, 10 февраля, в Белоруссии, вблизи границы с Украиной стартуют российско-белорусские учения «Союзная решимость-2022». В районе их проведения сконцентрированы войска, артиллерия, авиация и комплексы ПВО. Значительная часть сил была переброшена из Восточного военного округа РФ. На фоне кризиса вокруг Украины США и их союзники рассматривают предстоящие учения как демонстрацию агрессивных намерений России и прямую угрозу вторжения на Украину с севера. Эксперты, однако, с этим не согласны: ни на белорусском участке границы с Украиной, ни на ее российском участке РФ не располагает группировками, которые по численности и составу могут стать силами вторжения.

**МОСКВА, 18 ноя — РИА Новости.** Президент России [Владимир Путин](#) заявил, что последние предупреждения [России](#) в адрес западных стран имеют эффект и у партнеров возникло "известное напряжение", а чтобы им не пришлось в голову устраивать России ненужный конфликт, нужно, чтобы это состояние у них сохранялось, как можно дольше.

"Наши предупреждения последнего времени все-таки дают о себе знать и производят определенный эффект. Известное напряжение там все-таки возникло. И в этой связи два момента здесь вижу: во-первых, нужно, чтобы это состояние у них сохранялось как можно дольше, чтобы им в голову не пришлось устраивать нам на западных рубежах какой-нибудь ненужный нам конфликт. А нам конфликты не нужны", — сказал Путин, выступая на коллегии МИД России.

The question is what Russia will do with the forces it has assembled near Ukraine? It can keep the amphibians in the Black Sea for awhile, but other ships will have to return. Russia has >50% its BTGs currently near Ukraine and will possibly reach 60-65% soon. 11/

That likely can't be sustained for months, and the ground will be in a worse condition in March and April. So that likely means an escalation in February-early March, or waiting until the late spring or later. Where will the Eastern Military District units in Belarus go? 12/

Russian officials have said they'll leave Belarus after Feb 20 (I think the S-400 battalions and Su-35S fighters might remain). They could be deployed in Russia near the border, which could possibly include sending the troops home and leaving the equipment behind. 13/

As long as that equipment is near Ukraine, the risk of an escalation will remain high, but if that equipment is sent back to the Far East, the threat will be reduced since it would take several weeks to move it back in the future. The troops can be returned much faster though 14/

If Russia does not escalate over the next month, many NATO countries will assume this was a bluff and will likely increase defense coop with Kyiv. If Russia keeps its greater mil posture in Europe, NATO will likely decide to increase its posture over the mid-term as well. 15/

I'm not sure Russia can keep tensions high for most of 2022 and extract strategic benefits from it. Threats from Russian officials haven't compelled NATO members to make serious concessions yet and Ukrainians are going about their lives

as if nothing is happening. 16/

I know people are sick of hearing about an "imminent" Russian invasion for months now, but the Russian military, as of this week/weekend, has the military capabilities to actually conduct a large-scale invasion. So an invasion could occur on days or hours notice. 17/

We shouldn't use "can't" when talking about Russian military options. Mud, weather, Omicron, the Olympics, etc. are all factors but none is determinative of when/how/what the Russian military will do. And achieving surprise may mean acting when the conditions aren't ideal. 18/

Russia hasn't achieved any key strategic goals yet, NATO and Kyiv haven't changed their behavior that frustrated Moscow, and there is little reason to think keeping up tensions will achieve concessions. I think the buildup would be a considered a blunder if Russia backs down. 19/

If Russia does escalate, it would deviate from its pattern from previous uses of force as it would lack the same time-sensitive external catalyst. But much of Russia's current behavior and the buildup have been unprecedented, so Russia's next steps may also be unprecedented. 20/

If true, February 15 is another potentially relevant date. It looks as though Russia will have the strongest naval grouping in the Black Sea since the early 1990s. 21/

**<https://t.co/3iqA6HQcgE>**

22/

**<https://t.co/lZe9B2myp6>**