



Counterterrorism in the Russian Arctic

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NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES (IFS)

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- Observations from:
Counterterrorism in the
Russian Arctic - Legal
Framework and Central
Actors
- Research agenda:
Arctic Counterterrorism -
Between Separation and
Integration



Why Arctic counterterrorism?

- The Arctic is considered a peaceful region (a zone of peace).
- Although the threat of international terrorism is expanding, it is still far from the Arctic.
- And yet,
 - Countering terrorism in the Arctic has become a recurring topic and is duly mentioned in important official documents as well as in national and international mass media.
 - Emergency preparedness exercises in the Arctic include regular counterterrorist exercises.
- Mid- and long term perspective.
- The nature of terrorism demands pre-emptive action.



International Terrorism

- International terror organisations are expanding their geographical reach.
- Deaths by terrorism have increased dramatically. (9-fold increase 2000-2014. Global terrorism Index, 2015.)
- Russia:
 - Weapons supplied to Syria's Bashar al-Assad
 - 1,700 Russians fighting for ISIS in Iraq (A. Bortnikov, 2015)
 - Joint 'cause' with terrorist groups in Russia

Domestic Russian Terrorism

- Russia alone accounted for 4% of all terrorist incidents recorded between 2002 and 2011. The Beslan school siege is ranked as the 3rd worst terrorist attack of the period.
- Russia has 2104 entries in the Global Terrorism Database (START) for the period 1992-2015.
- Russia has regularly figured among the top 10 countries affected by terrorism.

The Russian Arctic

- 'The [Arctic] region has been and remains within our sphere of special interests. Practically all aspects of national security are concentrated here: military-political, economic, technological, ecological and resource [security].' (Vladimir Putin, 2014)
- Arctic Policy (2008) and Arctic Strategy (2013):
The Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation - Russia's main base for strategic resources by 2020
Utilising the Northern Sea Route as a unitary national transport line

Terrorism and the Arctic

- 'Finally, the sixth main area is ensuring comprehensive safety-security in the Russian Arctic zone. [...] Oil and gas facilities, loading terminals and pipelines must be adequately protected from terrorists and other potential threats.' (Vladimir Putin, 2014)
- 'The current work of anti-terrorist agencies in the [Arctic] region has some faults, especially in ensuring the security of the Northern Sea Route and maritime-based economic enterprises' (Aleksandr Bortnikov, 2015)

Counterterrorism in the Russian Federation: Legal Framework



- The Criminal Code

Any action that: evokes fear in the population and creates danger for loss of life, causes substantial material damage or other severe consequences with the aim to destabilise activities of state bodies or international organisations or to influence their decisions; and also the threat to undertake such actions with such aims. (Article 205, section 1).

- The federal law On combating terrorism (No. 35, 2006)

Suppressing terrorist acts in the air, suppressing terrorist acts at sea, and using the Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

- The Concept of Counterterrorism (2009)

Basic principles. Contemporary trends. A national system for counterterrorism.

- The 'Yarovaya-law' (No. 374 and No. 375, 2016)

Counterterrorism in the Russian Federation: Central Actors

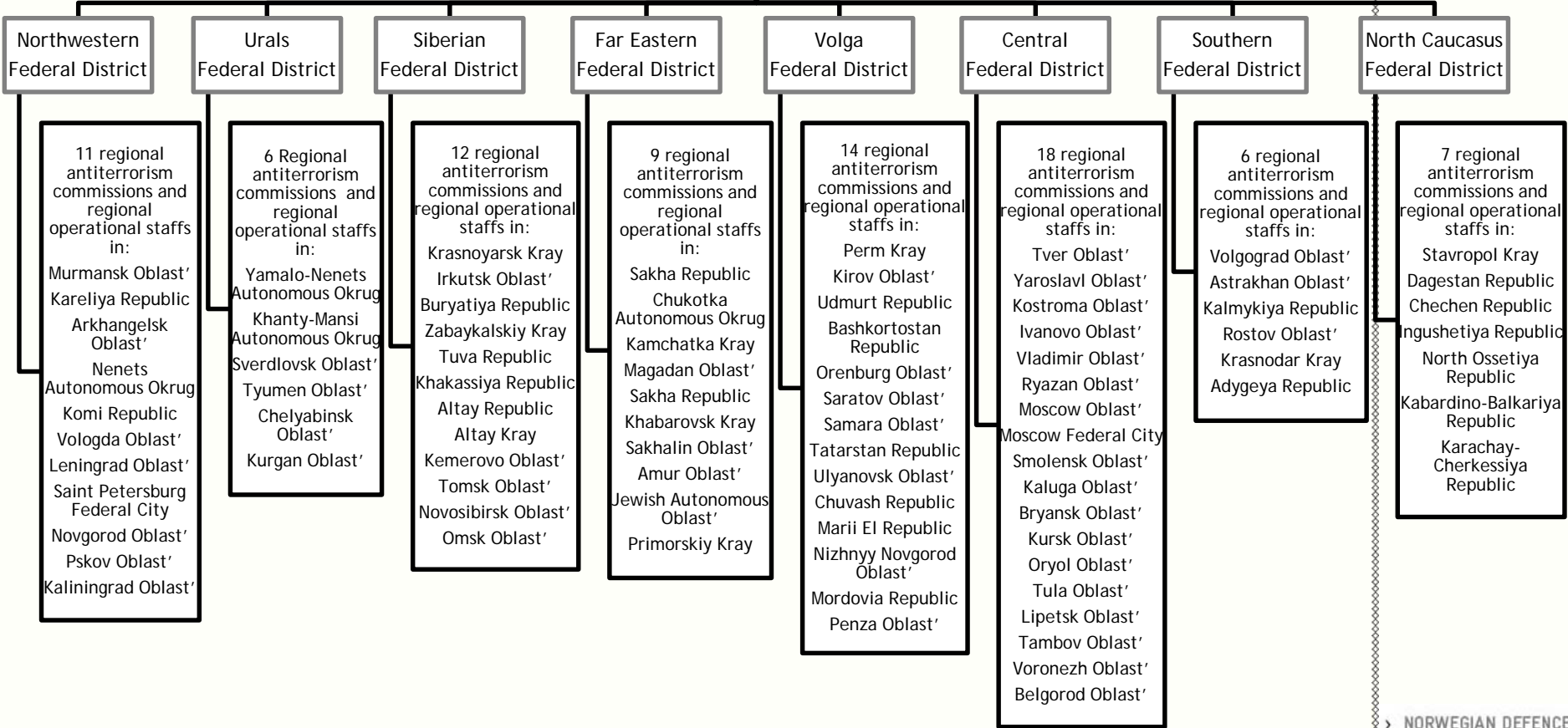


- The President of the RF
 - Basic direction; Use of force outside Russian territory
- The federal government
 - Implementation and cooperation - federal, regional and local bodies; Categorising objects in need of protection
- Regional authorities
 - Organisation of measures with representation from federal, regional and local bodies
- Local authorities
- Non-governmental organisations and associations and also individuals

Coordinating bodies in the national system for counterterrorism:

- National Antiterror Committee
 - Chaired by the director of the Federal Security Service (FSB)
- Federal Operational Staff
 - Leader is appointed by the FSB director
- Regional antiterror commissions
 - Chaired by the governor
 - The head of the regional FSB division is deputy chairman
- Regional operational staffs
 - Chaired by the head of the regional FSB division

National Antiterrorism Committee and
Federal Operational Staff



Counterterrorism in the Russian Federation: The Russian Arctic

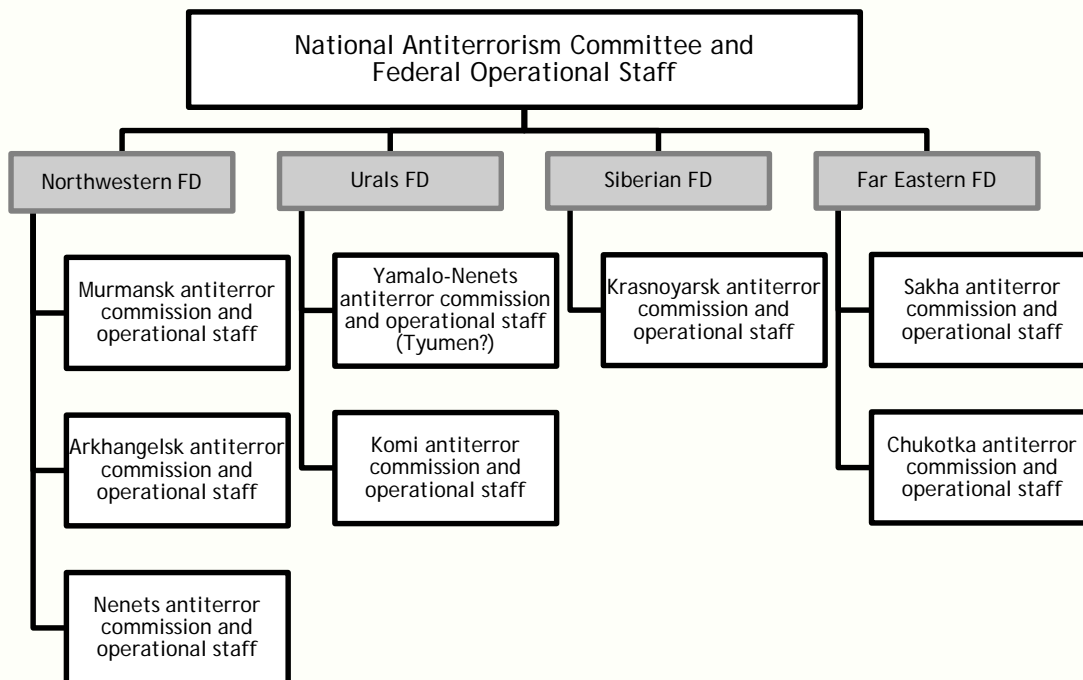


Exercises

- Murmansk Seaport, June 2011. 'Ship as weapon'.
- Vitino Port, August 2013. Explosives around an oil deposit.
 - <http://www.tv21.ru/news/2013/08/27/v-morskom-portu-vitino-proshil-ucheniya-antiterror-2013>
- Kola Bay, July 2013. Explosives on ship (OSR).
 - <http://www.tv21.ru/news/2013/07/25/antiterroristicheskie-ucheniya-proshli-na-beregu-kolskogo-zaliva>
- Lyostari (Pechenga), March 2013. Large scale.
 - <http://www.tv21.ru/news/2013/03/18/na-borbu-s-terrorizmom>
- Murmashi Airport, March 2015. 'Plane as weapon'.
 - <http://www.tv21.ru/news/2015/03/26/bolshie-ucheniya>
- Metel', August 2016. School.
 - <http://www.tv21.ru/news/2016/08/17/vse-na-borbu-s-terroristicheskoy-ugrozoy-operaciyu-metel-proveli-v-murmanske>

Cooperation and coherence

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Arctic Counterterrorism: Between Separation and Integration

For discussion:



Separation

The Russian Arctic is a special case with its own state policy and strategy (and soon also a federal law).

Integration

Counterterrorism (CT) is a necessary component in a comprehensive safety-security regime in the Russian Arctic - alongside Arctic search and rescue (SAR) and Arctic oil spill response(OSR).

The Russian Arctic is indivisible from the rest of the circumpolar Arctic - a zone of peace and cooperation, including preparedness cooperation.

'Result'

Arctic preparedness is an integrated whole that consists of:

Russian Arctic SAR, OSR and CT; Norwegian Arctic SAR, OSR and CT; Icelandic SAR, OSR and CT; Greenlandic SAR, OSR and CT; American Arctic SAR, OSR and CT; Canadian Arctic SAR, OSR and CT.

For discussion:



Integration

Counterterrorism is a unitary field with a single streamlined organisation across the Russian Federation.

Russia welcomes cooperation in international counterterrorism.

Separation

Russia takes issue with what is perceived as double standards in “Western” counterterrorism (including that of other Arctic states).

The “West” (including Arctic states) takes issue with what is perceived as overreaching counterterrorist measures in Russia.

‘Result’

Arctic preparedness is a fragmented field with no counterterrorism cooperation.

Arctic Preparedness



Search and rescue

Status:

Developed and developing

Trends:

Integrated into Arctic cooperative framework

Closely linked to OSR

Oil spill response

Status:

Developed and developing

Trends:

Integrated into Arctic cooperative framework

Closely linked to SAR

Counterterrorism

Status:

Underdeveloped

Trends:

Integrated into national CT framework.

Separated from the well-established fields in Arctic preparedness (SAR and OSR)