



"Russia needs a modern army capable of mounting an adequate response to any challenges and threats, especially external ones."

Gen Nikolay Makarov, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces

Reform of the Russian Armed Forces

On October 14, 2008, speaking at the meeting of the Defense Ministry board, Minister **Anatoly Serdukov** announced the beginning of a new stage of military reform. The reform affects all the key areas: increasing number of militaries, the central command structures, the organizational and staff structure, and the officer training system. It also includes a phased rearmament program to equip the Russian Armed Forces with the latest weaponry and military hardware.

PIR Center Project

PIR Center has been keeping a close eye on the reform's progress, devoting many pages of coverage to the issue in Russian edition of the *Security Index* journal and its International edition.

As part of the project, in early 2011 PIR Center published a special issue of the *Security Index* journal entitled "Military Reform: New Image of the Russian Armed Forces".

- What are the main aims and objectives of the reform?
- How realistic is the achievement of the new image of the Russian Armed Forces?
- What is the role of education in the reform of the Russian Armed Forces?
- How international experience is being used in developing of Russian military capability?

The aspects of the Military reform covered by the project are as follows:

- Relevance of international experience to the development of the Russian Armed Forces
- Development of the Russian army's missile and space capability
- The future of Russia-NATO relations
- The role of peacekeepers in conflict settlement
- Reduction of conventional forces in Europe

Foreign experts' views of the Russian military reform

PIR Center has conducted several round tables, seminars and media briefings on the subject. Some of them involved key MoD officials, including Gen. **Nikolay Makarov**, the Chief of the Russian General Staff, and Deputy Minister of Defense **Anatoly Antonov**. A working group on the reform of the Russian Armed Forces has been set up under the PIR Center Advisory Board. One of the project's priorities is drawing up projections of how the reform's progress will affect the future of the Russian Armed Forces, especially their nuclear-missile component.

You can follow the discussions about the ongoing military reform through PIR Center's Blog:
<http://pircenter.livejournal.com>

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