

Arctic Made Priority for Russian Navy in 2014

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Russian naval forces are set to make the Arctic a priority region, boosting combat training and scouting lesser-known areas of the icy territory in 2014, a navy spokesman said Monday.

The Northern Fleet will conduct sailing and diving expeditions in the Arctic and develop a series of ice-class patrol ships to protect the country's interests in the region, said Vadim Serga, captain first-class and spokesman for the fleet's Western Military District.

Russia has already begun deploying aerospace defense units and constructing an early missile warning radar system near the far northern town of Vorkuta.

International competition for influence in the Arctic has stepped up considerably in recent years, with countries like Canada, Denmark, the U.S., and Norway all increasing their military presence in the resource-rich region.

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