The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Planning Large-Scale Military Drills in 2015

December 01, 2014



Russian marines take part in a military parade during celebrations marking the forces' annual holiday in the Crimean port of Sevastopol on Nov. 29, 2014.

Russia said Monday that it would carry out more than 4,000 military drills next year, with the largest involving "tens of thousands" of servicemen next summer.

Russia has increased the number of military drills to test and improve its military capabilities as ties with the West deteriorated over the crisis in Ukraine.

"The exercises will take place in the summer period simultaneously on several training grounds within Russia and abroad," Yaroslav Roshupkin, a spokesman for Russia's Central Military District, said of the planned "Center 2015" drills.

"They will be extended in time and bring together under unified command tens of thousands of servicemen of the Central Military District, branches and types of the Armed Forces, as well as other security ministries and agencies."

He said new weapons would also be tested during the exercises.

The Defense Ministry said next year's plans mark an increase from more than 3,000 drills carried out this year.

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