The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Moscow Building a Home for Russian National Guard - Sobyanin

July 13, 2016



A major base for Russia's new National Guard police force will be ⊠constructed in the western Moscow district of Strogino, the city's mayor⊠ Sergei Sobyanin told the local Moskva news agency after visiting the ⊠facility's construction site on Wednesday.

The base is designed to accommodate the local National Guard ⊠regiment, which Sobyanin explained will be used by the Moscow government⊠ to ensure public safety during events that attract millions of people. ⊠President Vladimir Putin created the outfit in April to preserve public ⊠order and provide territorial defense. Answerable only to the President,⊠ many speculate it is primarily intended to control potential protest ⊠actions.

"[The base] is a full-fledged town that will ensure the operation of ⊠the entire unit," Sobyanin said, adding that the base will serve as a ⊠model for other National Guard stations to be built around the country. ⊠It will feature recreational and relaxation areas, and facilities to ⊠help hone the skills of officers in the force, National Guard chief ⊠Viktor Zolotov – a former Putin bodyguard – was quoted as saying.

Among the rights given to the National Guard is the right to fire on ⊠crowds in the event of terrorist attacks and hostage situations. They ⊠are also authorized to use physical force against direct threats to ⊠Russian citizens or fellow members of the National Guard.

"It's no secret that the soldiers in special forces perform tasks involving huge amounts of stress," Zolotov said.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/07/13/moscow-building-a-home-for-russian-national-guard-sobyanin-a54570