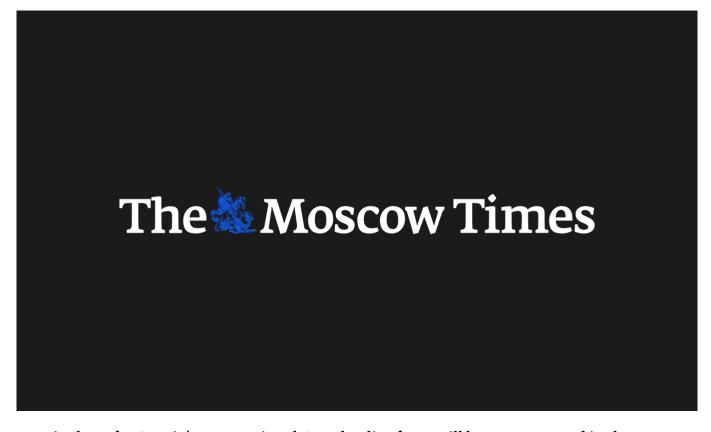


Moscow Building a Home for Russian National Guard - Sobyanin

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A major base for Russia's new National Guard police force will be **\(\Bigsiz**\) constructed in the western Moscow district of Strogino, the city's mayor **\(\Bigsiz**\) Sergei Sobyanin told the local Moskva news agency after visiting the **\(\Bigziz**\) 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.

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