The Moscow Times
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4 Dead as Russian Helicopter Crashes at Airport

By AFP

May 26, 2020



The Mi-8 helicopter was reportedly doing a test flight after undergoing technical maintenance. **Donat Sorokin / TASS**

A military helicopter crashed Tuesday at an airport in Russia's remote eastern Chukotka region, killing all four people on board, the governor said.

The helicopter of the Russian Defense Ministry went down in the main airport in Chukotka near Anadyr, which has mixed military and civilian use.

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"There were three crew members and one technician on board. All four died," governor Roman Kopin wrote on his Instagram account.

Russian agencies reported that it was an Mi-8 helicopter which was doing a test flight after

undergoing technical maintenance.

"The reason for the accident could be a technical fault with the helicopter," TASS news agency quoted a defence ministry statement as saying.

Military investigators were dispatched to the crash site, it said.

Last Tuesday, another Mi-8 without ammunition crashed during training exercises outside Moscow, killing its three crew members.

Russia grounded all Mi-8 flights after the second incident involving the military helicopter, an unnamed aviation industry source told the state-run TASS news agency Tuesday.

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