



# Debunking Russia's Myth of NATO Military Expansion



Location of NATO forces in new members and Russian forces in neighboring states prior to the crisis in Crimea

## NATO

200 troops+aircraft

## RUSSIA<sup>1</sup>

33,200 troops+aircraft

### Lithuania

NATO Baltic Air Policing (BAP)



4 NATO jets rotated every 4 months<sup>2</sup>



BAP jet

### HUNGARY

NATO Strategic Airlift Capability



Jointly owned transport aircraft<sup>3</sup>



C-17 aircraft

### Poland

NATO Multinational Corps Northeast



200 NATO headquarter staff<sup>4</sup>



100 military personnel

### Ukraine (Crimea)

16,000 Russian troops<sup>5</sup>



100 troops

### Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia)

7,000 Russian troops<sup>6</sup>



100 troops

### Tajikistan

5,000 Russian troops<sup>7</sup>



100 troops

### Armenia

3,200 Russian troops<sup>8</sup>



100 troops

1,500 Russian troops<sup>9</sup>

### Moldova (Transnistria)



100 troops

### Kyrgyzstan

500 Russian troops<sup>10</sup>



100 troops

### Belarus



Russian radar station<sup>7</sup>



Russian Su-27SM3 jet<sup>8</sup>

1. Not all Russian bases are included in these maps.

2. NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission began in 2004. Until Russia initiated the Crimea crisis, 4 jets from a NATO ally rotated every 4 months to perform this mission. After the Crimea crisis, this number was increased and currently consists of 16 jets on 6 month rotations. NATO has announced that before the end of 2015, this number will be reduced to 8 fighter planes. [www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\_106114.htm?selectedLocale=en]. [www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\_109354.htm?selectedLocale=en]. [www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/europe/2015/08/04/nato-halves-baltic-air-policing-mission/31139949/]

3. The headquarters of NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast. It numbered 200 staff personnel before the Crimea crisis. It is "NATO's only headquarters behind the former Iron Curtain." [www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/12/us-ukraine-crisis-nato-outpost-idUSKBN0H711W20140912]

4. NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) consists of three C-17 aircraft based in Pápa, Hungary. [usnato.tumblr.com/post/94627469165/mission-possible-heavy-lift-air-wing-demonstrates]

5. Estimated number of Russian troops in Crimea prior to the crisis. [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26415508]

6. Russian troop levels in neighboring states according to IISS 2014 Military Balance. [www.newsweek.com/how-strong-russian-military-291366]

7. Belarus hosts a Russian early warning radar station and a communication center.

8. Belarus also hosts four Russian Su-27SM3 fighter jets. [tass.ru/en/russia/723892]