

Vostok 2018



Russia's largest military exercise

To counter what it called the “aggressive and unfriendly” attitude towards it, Russia has carried out the biggest war games during peace time in its history, involving 300,000 troops who were joined by 3500 Chinese and some Mongolian troops. Known as *Vostok 2018*, the drills were predictably criticised by NATO which organisation termed this as “rehearsal for large-scale conflict”. The Russian ministry of defence said that almost a third of its active military personnel took part in the week-long exercises in Siberia and the Russian Far East.

The week long exercise, held from 11 to 15 September 2018 was spread across five army training grounds, four airbases and three seas: the Sea of Japan, the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. Up to 80

naval vessels took part, from two Russian fleets. However, drills were not held near the disputed Kuril islands north of Japan.

During the event, Russian army showcased its latest and lethal arsenal right from *Iskander* missiles that can carry nuclear



Sukhoi Su-35s and Su-34s took part in the exercises