

Black Sea Security: main threats

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A Map of the Black Sea Region (BSR)





***BSR's
major players***

- Russia
- NATO/EU and its Members
- CPR
- ‘Grey zone’ countries



**Russian BSR
Policy:
Perception**

- Russia considers the BSR as a core region for its great power policy:
 - Treats from a 'Hostile Navy'
 - A 'bridgehead' for force projection to the MENA and Balkans
 - Sea trade and exporting energy resources (*Russian BSR ports make 30,7 % of general cargo turnover*)
 - Exploiting resources of the BSR
- Russia can protect its interests only by domination in the BSR



Russian Means

- **Military:** Strike Capabilities, A2/AD Zone, Navy
- **Political:**
 - Shape a 'Zone of the Privilege Interest' or at least a 'Grey Zone' (to keep NATO forces out);
 - Frozen conflicts
 - Games with NATO members
- **Informational:**
 - Propaganda
 - Cyber activities
- **Economy:**
 - Energy (Streams)
 - Trade

Energy map of the BSR





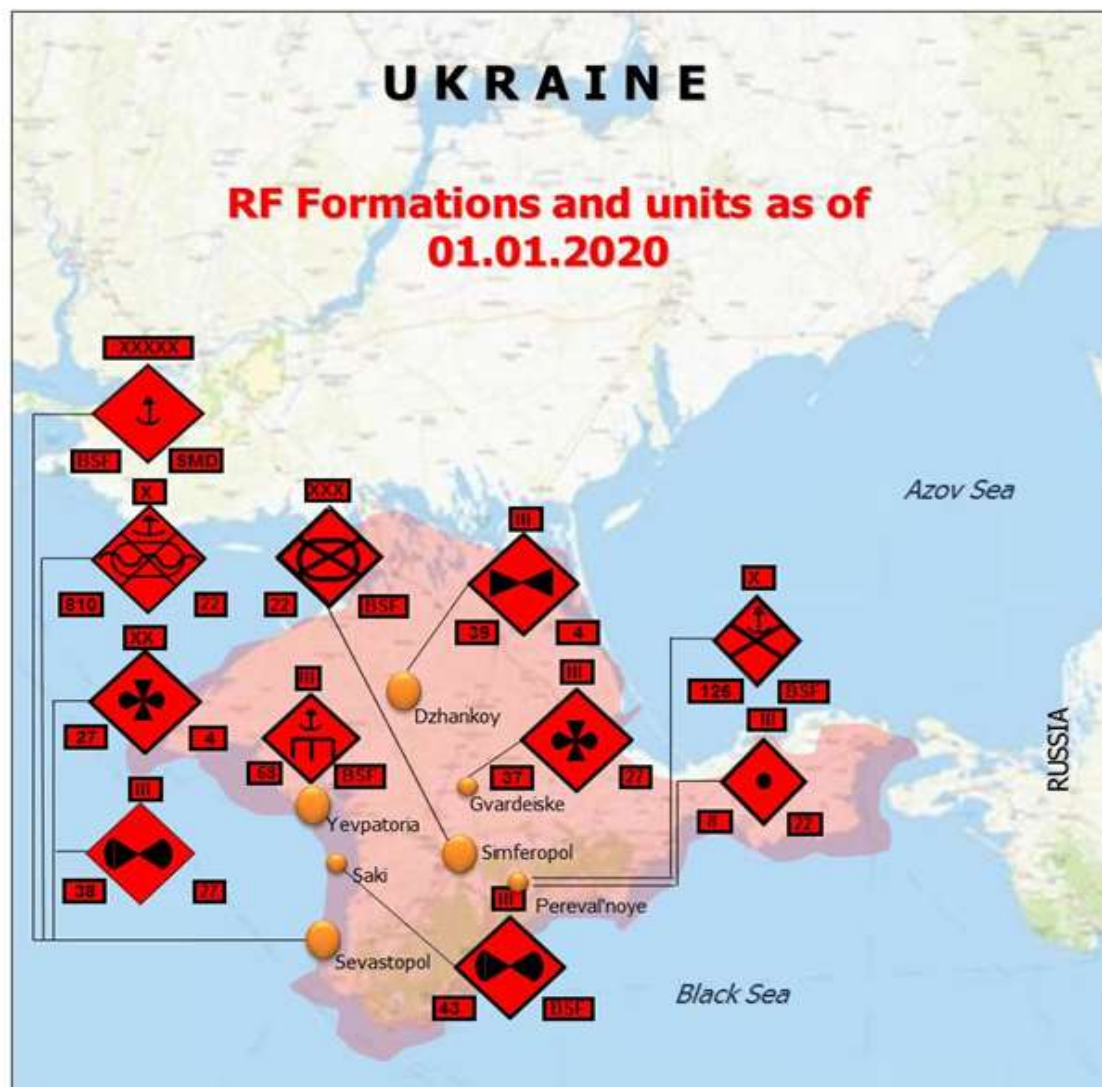
- Crimea is a key point for Russian domination in the BSR
- Perceived threats to core Russian interests were the key factor of Russian decision to challenge rule-based world order by illegal occupation of Crimea
- Russia is securing its military presence in Crimea by all means and will pay a price

The Stronghold 'Crimea'



Deployment of the Russian forces in Crimea

OSCE



Combat units as of 01 Jan 2014

810th Separate Naval Infantry Brigade

7058th Aviation base

Combat units as of 01 Jan 2020

22nd Army Corps

810th Separate Naval Infantry Brigade

126th Separate Coastal Defense Brigade

8th Artillery Regiment

68th Separate Naval Engineering Regiment

27th Composite Aviation Division

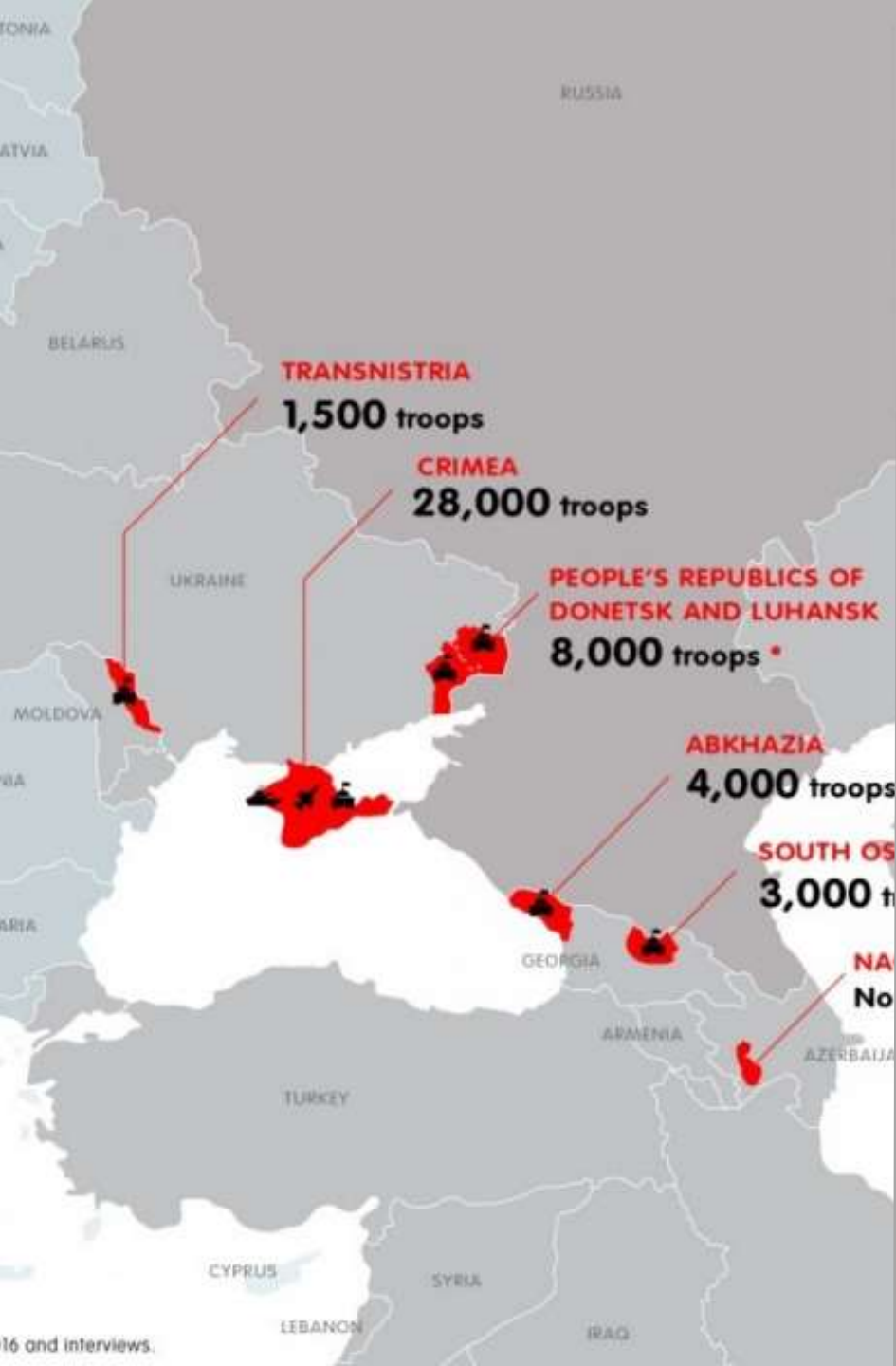
37th Composite Aviation Regiment

38th Fighter Aviation Regiment

39th Helicopter Regiment

43rd Separate Naval Assault Aviation Regiment

Frozen and Protracted Conflicts



- Means of Russian security policy as buffer zones and tools on:
 - Georgia: South Ossetia, Abkhazia
 - Ukraine: temporary occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions
 - Moldova: Transnistria
- Russia would prefer at least to maintain status-quo in zones of conflicts

NATO Measures to Deter Russia in the BSR: Only a Limited Success

- Strengthening the South-Eastern flank of NATO has been decreasing a probability of Russian provocations against NATO members in the BSR
- Russia has shaped a «grey security zone» with blurred rules and constant risks of escalation which could affect NATO states



**The CPR in the
BSR**

- Main corridor of 'One Belt, One Road' comes through the territory of Turkey.
- The interest of the NATO and CPR is preventing major escalation in the BSR



An Insecure and Unstable Future

- `Stable instability` in the BSR could be protracted
- Vicious Circle: Insecurity-Underdevelopment - Insecurity
- Risks of unintentional escalation



**NATO in the
BSR – 2030: to
Integrate a
«Grey Zone» or
Make It Less
«Grey»**

- The best scenario – Ukraine and Georgia become NATO members after complex reforms in the frame of a Membership Action Plan implementation. *This process could trigger Russian overreaction.*
- To shape NATO Enhanced Opportunity Partnership with Ukraine and Georgia as useful tool for stabilizing the BSR
- Security cooperation
- Constant NATO air and naval presence
- ‘Measures of trust’ with Russia