

Comparison of the Russian Military Doctrine 1993, 2000, 2010 and 2014

	MD 1993	MD 2000	MD 2010	MD 2014	Remarks
Basic principles	Russia regards no state as its enemy. MD 1993 is a rough concept for the Russian forces, which have been constituted on May 1992.	[No longer included!] Based on MD 1993.	Based on MD 2000.	Based on MD 2010. Most of the changes are editorial. The most significant ones emphasize the immediacy of the threat posed by the West. ("New version of the military doctrine". Russian strategic nuclear forces, 26.12.2014. http://goo.gl/wlurJp ; Olga Oliker, "Russia's New Military Doctrine: Same as the Old Doctrine, Mostly", The Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, 15.01.2015. https://goo.gl/7lKt8V).	
	MD 1993 is based on political, military, military technological and economical foundation.	MD 2000 defines the military-political, military-strategical and military-economical base.	MD 2010 reflects Russian's adherence to the utilization of political, diplomatic, legal, economic, environmental, informational, military and other instruments for the protection of national interests.	MD 2014 reflects Russia's commitment to protect national interests and the interests of its allies after the exhaustion of political, diplomatic, legal, economic and other measures of non-violent nature.	
	Russia's vitally important interests in no way impinge upon the security of other states.	[No longer included!] Safeguarding Russia's military security is the most important area of the state's activity.	[No longer included!]		
Aims	Prevent wars and armed conflicts.	Prevent, localize, and neutralize military threats.	Preventing Arms race, deterring and preventing military conflicts, defending and safeguarding the security of Russia.	[No longer included!]	
	Ensure the defence readiness, the countermeasures to threats, the defence of vitally important interests and the military organizational development.	Ensure the military organizational development for the guaranteed protection of Russia's national interests and military security and its allies.	[No longer included!]		
Domestic situation	Transitional period: establishing Russian statehood and implementing of democratic reforms.	Transitional period: establishing Russian statehood, implementing of democratic reforms and a mixed economy.	Stable internal situation, semi-democratic system with centralized power.	Stable internal situation, semi-democratic system with centralized power.	
International Relations	Generally, an optimistic view on International Relations and the international system (influenced by Liberalism).	Not entirely negative, but a critical view on International Relations and on a destabilising international system.	Pessimistic view on International Relations.	Pessimistic view on International Relations.	
		Multipolar power distribution in the international system.	International politics is characterised by an ambition for all-embracing domination, multipolarity, and globalisation.	[No longer included!]	
			The existing international security architecture does not ensure equal security for all states.	The existing international security architecture does not ensure equal security for all states.	
			Many regional conflicts remain unresolved. There is a continuing tendency towards a strong-arm resolution of these conflicts, including in regions bordering Russia.	Many regional conflicts remain unresolved. There is a tendency to force their resolution, including in the regions bordering on Russia.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted
	Start of a new international system as a consequence of the end of the Cold War (the term "multipolar" is not used in the document).	Attempts to weaken (ignore) the existing mechanism for safeguarding international security → the utilization of military-force actions as a means of "humanitarian intervention" without the sanction of the UN Security Council.	[No longer included, but similarly mentioned under "main external dangers or threats".]		1993 → 2000: Impact of the unauthorised bombing of Serbia by NATO forces. Source of a critical view on RZP interventions in general, which later intensified by the Libyan intervention 2011.
		Certain states violate international treaties and agreements in the sphere of arms limitation and disarmament.	[No longer included!]		
	The threat of a world war (nuclear and conventional) is considerable reduced, but not entirely eliminated.	The threat of a large-scale war (nuclear and conventional) has declined.	Even the threat of a large-scale war (nuclear and conventional) has declined, in a number of areas military dangers to Russia are intensifying.	Even the threat of a large-scale war (nuclear and conventional) has declined, in a number of areas military dangers to Russia are intensifying.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted
	Partnership and all-around cooperation are expanding.	Russia views as partners all states whose policies do not damage its national interests and security and do not contravene the UN Charter.	[No longer included!]		
Non-military approach and collective actions by the world community can contain threats on the international level → peaceful settlement of international disputes.	Gives preference to political, diplomatic, and other nonmilitary means of preventing, localizing, and neutralizing military threats at regional and global levels.	Political, diplomatic, and other nonmilitary means are possibilities to neutralize military dangers and military threats.	[No longer included!]	2000 → 2010: No prioritization of nonmilitary means.	
Russia is committed to the principles of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, noninterference in their internal affairs, inviolability of state borders and other universally recognized principles of international law.	Russia proceeds on the basis of the abiding importance of the fundamental principles and norms of international law.	The legal basis of the MD consists of the Russian constitution, the federal laws, the legal acts of the president and the international law.	The legal basis of the MD consists of the Constitution of Russia, generally recognized principles and international law and international treaties Russia in the field of defence, control arms and disarmament, the Federal Constitutional laws, federal laws and legal acts of the President of Russia and the Government of Russia.		
Will not employ its Armed Forces or other troops against any state other than for individual or collective self-defence, safeguarding its citizens, its territory, the Armed Forces, other troops, or its allies.	Russia maintains a readiness to wage war and take part in armed conflicts exclusively with a view to preventing and repulsing aggression, protecting the integrity and inviolability of its territory, and safeguarding its military security as well as that of its allies in accordance with international treaties.	Russia considers it legitimate to utilize the Armed Forces to repulse an aggression against it and/or its allies, to maintain/restore peace in accordance with a decision of the UN Security Council or other collective security structures, and also to ensure the protection of Russian citizens outside Russian borders.	Russia considers it legitimate to utilize the Armed Forces to repulse an aggression against it and/or its allies, to maintain/restore peace in accordance with a decision of the UN Security Council or other collective security structures, and also to ensure the protection of Russian citizens outside Russian borders.	MD 2014: Not explicitly written in the MD, but the MD is written in this sense.	
Nuclear weapons	Elimination of the danger of nuclear war by deterring the launching of aggression against Russia and its allies.	Nuclear weapons are a factor in deterring aggression, safeguarding the Russia's military security and its allies, and maintaining international stability and peace.	Nuclear weapons will remain an important factor for preventing the outbreak of nuclear military conflicts and military conflicts involving the use of conventional means of attack.	Nuclear weapons will remain an important factor for preventing the outbreak of nuclear military conflicts and military conflicts involving the use of conventional means of attack.	
	Russia seeks the reduction of nuclear forces to a minimal level which would guarantee the prevention of large-scale war and the maintenance of strategic stability and → in the future → the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.	Russia is ready for further reductions in its nuclear weapons, on a bilateral basis with the United States as well as on a multilateral basis with other nuclear states, to minimal levels meeting the requirements of strategic stability.	[No longer included!]	Compliance with international treaties of Russia for the reduction and limitation of nuclear weapons.	2000 → 2010: The further reduction of nuclear weapons beyond 2010 is unlikely.
		Russia reserves the right to utilize nuclear weapons in response to the utilize of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, as well as in response to large-scale aggression utilizing conventional weapons in situations critical to Russians national security.	Russia reserves the right to utilize nuclear weapons in response to the utilization of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, and also in the event of aggression against Russia involving the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is under threat.	Russia reserves the right to utilize nuclear weapons in response to the utilization of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, and also in the event of aggression against Russia involving the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is under threat.	1993 → 2000: Use of nuclear weapons in response to conventional weapons. This is a compensation of the limited conventional capabilities of the Russian Armed Forces.
	Generally, Russia will not employ nuclear weapons against NPT-states without nuclear weapons if they don't act jointly or are in an alliance with another state with nuclear weapons.	Generally, Russia will not employ nuclear weapons against NPT-states without nuclear weapons.	[No longer included!]		2000 → 2010: Russia doesn't differentiate anymore. In 2007, Putin suggested that Moscow would target its nuclear missile on Europe, should the US deploy their missile defence system in Poland and Czech Republic.
	Any use of nuclear weapons in a war by even one side may provoke the massive use of nuclear weapons and have catastrophic consequences.	A large-scale war utilizing only conventional weapons will be characterized by a high likelihood of escalating into a nuclear war with catastrophic consequences for civilization and the foundations of human life and existence.	A conventional large-scale war or a conventional regional war imperilling the very existence of the state could develop into a nuclear military conflict.	A conventional large-scale war or a conventional regional war imperilling the very existence of the state could develop into a nuclear military conflict.	1993 → 2000: conventional → nuclear
				The conclusion and implementation of agreements in the field of conventional arms control, as well as measures to strengthen mutual trust.	MD 2014: Even it is a positive formulation, the realisation is very unlikely.

Main internal threats or dangers	Attempts to violently overthrow the constitutional system or to disrupt the functioning of organs of state power and administration.	Attempts to violently overthrow the constitutional system. Operation aimed at disrupting the functioning of federal organs, attacking state, economic, or military facilities, or facilities related to vital services or the information infrastructure.	Attempts to violently overthrow the constitutional system.	Activities aimed to violently overthrow the constitutional system of Russia and destabilize the political and social situation of the country. Operation aimed at disrupting the functioning of federal organs, attacking state, economic, or military facilities, or facilities related to vital services or the information infrastructure.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted
	Destabilisation through nationalists, separatists and Organized Crime.	Extremism (national, ethnic, religious), separatism, terrorism and Organized Crime.	[No longer included!]	Provoking ethnic and social tension, extremism, kindling ethnic and religious hatred or enmity.	1993 → 2000: "Terrorism" because of the Second Chechen War (cf.: Marcel H. Van Herpen, Putin's Wars: The Rise of Russia's New Imperialism (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014)). 2000 → 2010: The Second Chechen War end in April 2009.
	The creation of illegal armed formations.	The creation, equipping, training and functioning of illegal armed formations.	The creation, equipping, training and functioning of illegal armed formations.	The creation, equipping, training and functioning of illegal armed formations.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted
	The illegal distribution of weapons, ammunition, explosives, or other means for carrying out sabotage or terrorist acts, and also the unlawful circulation of narcotics.	The illegal dissemination of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and other means which could be used to carry out sabotage, acts of terrorism, or other illegal operations.	[No longer included!]		
	Attacks on potentially dangerous facilities (NBC).	[New an external threat!]			
	Internal armed conflicts, which threaten Russian's vitally important interests and may be used as an excuse for other states' intervention in its internal affairs.	[No longer included!]			
				Activities of terrorist organizations and individuals aimed at undermining the sovereignty, the unity and the territorial integrity of Russia. Activities of information influence on population, especially young citizens, which has to undermine the historical, spiritual and patriotic traditions in defense of the Fatherland.	MD 2014: Terrorism is not only an external, but also an external threat.
Main external dangers or threats	Local wars → threat is in some regions growing. Wider conflicts, especially along the Russian border.	Local wars and increased regional arms race. Wider conflicts, especially along the Russian border.	Attempts to destabilize the situation in individual states and regions.	Attempts to destabilize the situation in individual states and regions.	
	Introduction of foreign troops in the territory of neighbouring states of Russia.	Introduction of foreign troops on the territory of friendly states adjoining Russia.	Deployment of foreign troops on the territory of friendly states adjoining Russia.	Deployment (build-up) of military contingents foreign states (groups of states) in the states bordering Russia and its allies, as well as in adjacent waters, including political and military pressure on Russia.	
	The expansion of military blocs and alliances to the detriment of the interests of Russia's military security	The expansion of military blocs and alliances to the detriment of Russia's military security.	NATO's aspire to a global function in violation of international law and the move of military infrastructure to the Russian borders.	NATO's power potential and giving its global functions carried out in violation of international law. The approach of military infrastructure of NATO member states to the borders of Russia, including through further expansion of the block.	MD 1993/2000: Directed to a possible further NATO expansion. MD 2014: NATO is defines as a main external military danger. Reaction of the 2014 NATO Wales summit and its final declaration which condemns Russia for the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.
	Territorial claims and interference in internal affairs.	Territorial claims and interference in internal affairs.	Territorial claims and interference in internal affairs.	Territorial claims to Russia and its allies and interference in their internal affairs.	
	Use and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.	Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.	Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.	Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and missile technology.	
	Suppression of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of Russian citizens in foreign states.	Suppression of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of Russian citizens in foreign states.	[No longer included! Nevertheless, the protection of Russian citizens outside Russia is still a mission of the armed forces.]	[No longer included! Nevertheless, the protection of Russian citizens outside Russia is still a mission of the armed forces.]	
	Disrupting the operation of the strategic nuclear forces, the early-warning system, nuclear power and atomic and chemical industry installations.	Disrupting the functioning of strategic nuclear forces, missile-attack early warning, antimissile defence, space monitoring systems, nuclear munition storage facilities, nuclear power generation, the nuclear and chemical industries, and other potentially dangerous installations.	Disrupting the functioning of strategic nuclear forces, missile-attack early warning, antimissile defence, space monitoring systems, nuclear munition storage facilities, nuclear power generation, the nuclear and chemical industries, and other potentially dangerous installations.	Disrupting the functioning of strategic nuclear forces, missile-attack early warning, antimissile defense, space monitoring systems, nuclear munition storage facilities, nuclear power generation, the nuclear and chemical industries, and other potentially dangerous installations.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted
	Attacks on military installations of the Russian Armed Forces located on the territory of foreign states.	Attacks on Russian military installations located on the territory of foreign states, as well as on installations and facilities on Russia's state border, the borders of its allies, or the high seas.	[No longer included!]		
		Ignore or infringe Russia interests in resolving international security problems and oppose its strengthening as one influential centre in a multipolar world.	[No longer included!]		
			Creation and deployment of strategic missile defence systems, militarization of outer space and deployment of strategic non-nuclear precision weapon systems.	Creation and deployment of strategic systems missile defense, undermining global stability and violate the balance of forces in nuclear-missile sphere, implementation of the concept of "global strike", the intention to place weapons in space, as well as deployment of strategic non-nuclear precision weapons systems.	
	International Terrorism.	International Terrorism.	International Terrorism.	Growing threat of global extremism (terrorism) and its new manifestations in a lack of effective international cooperation against terrorism. Attacks using radioactive and toxic chemical substances.	
	Hostile information operations that damage Russia's military security and its allies.	[No longer included!]	There is a tendency of displacement and military threats in the information space.	MD 2010: This is not longer called a threat, but a characteristic features of contemporary military conflicts.	
			The presence (occurrence) of ethnic and religious tension.	MD 2014: new an external threat.	
			The scale of transnational organized crime, especially illicit trafficking in arms and drugs.		

Consequence					
Reduction of naval forces, nuclear and conventional armament.	Reduction of nuclear armament.	Maintain strategic stability and the nuclear deterrence potential at an adequate level.	Maintain strategic stability and the nuclear deterrence potential at an adequate level.	1993 → 2000: End of the Post Cold War consolidation phase.	
Ensure the qualitative state of the Armed Forces and other troops and their combat readiness and combat capability at a level guaranteeing the reliable protection of Russia's vitally important interests.	Ensure the readiness, training, and provision of the state's military organization to the requirements of military security.	Ensures the permanent readiness of the Armed Forces to deter and prevent military conflicts and provide armed protection of Russia and its allies.	Ensures the permanent readiness of the Armed Forces to deter and prevent military conflicts and provide armed protection of Russia and its allies.		
Russia's inclusion in collective security structures.	Strengthening the collective security system within the CIS framework.	Strengthening the collective security system within the CSTO framework.	Strengthening the collective security system within the CSTO framework.		
		Intensify cooperation in the field of international security within the framework of CIS, OSCE, SCO and to develop relations in this sphere with the EU and NATO.	Intensify cooperation in the field of international security within the framework of CIS, OSCE, SCO, the interaction with the Republic of Abkhazia and the Republic of South Ossetia in order to ensure joint defence and security, maintaining equal dialogue in European security with the EU and NATO, helping build the Asia-Pacific region new security model based on collective non-aligned basis.		
The development of mutually advantageous cooperation with foreign states in the military field, first and foremost with the states belonging to the CIS and the states of Central and East Europe.	Implementation of a joint defence policy together with the Republic of Belarus, coordinates with it activities in the sphere of military organizational development, the development of the armed forces of the Union State's member states, and the utilization of military infrastructure, and takes other measures to maintain the Union State's defence capability.	Formulate and agree measures to maintain the defence capability of the Union State (Russia and Belarus), to consolidate efforts and create collective forces in the interests of ensuring collective security and joint defence with the CSTO member states, ensure regional and international security and carry out peacekeeping activities with the CIS member states and coordinate efforts in the interests of countering new military dangers and military threats in the joint space, and also create the necessary legal and regulatory base with the SCO states.	Formulate and agree measures to maintain the defence capability of the Union State (Russia and Belarus), to consolidate efforts and create collective forces in the interests of ensuring collective security and joint defence with the CSTO member states, ensure regional and international security and carry out peacekeeping activities with the CIS member states and coordinate efforts in the interests of countering new military dangers and military threats in the joint space, and also create the necessary legal and regulatory base with the SCO states.	MD 2014: Formulation adjusted	
Improvement of existing international mechanisms for monitoring the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.	Improvement of existing international mechanisms for monitoring the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.	Maintain equal relations with interested states and international organizations to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery.	Maintain equal relations with interested states and international organizations to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery.		
The broadening of confidence-building measures in the military sphere, including the exchange of information of a military nature on a mutual basis and the coordination of military doctrines and military organizational development plans with allies and partners.	The broadening of confidence-building measures in the military sphere, including the exchange of information of a military nature on a mutual basis and the coordination of military doctrines and military organizational development plans with allies and partners.	[No longer included!]			
Reform of the Russian Forces until 2000.	Continuous reform of the Armed Forces. Qualitative improvement, maintenance of troop's readiness for coordinated actions to avert, localize and neutralize external and internal threats.	[No longer included!]			
			Evaluation and prediction of the military-political situation on the global and regional level, as well as the state of bilateral relations in the military-political sphere with the use of modern technical means and information technology.		
			Expanding the range of partners and development cooperation with them on the basis of common interests in the field of strengthening international security in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, the generally recognized principles and international law and international treaties Russian Federation expansion interaction with BRICS states.	MD 2014: Upgrading of the cooperation with BRICS states.	
			Forming a mechanisms mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral collaboration in Countering likely missile threats, including at the need for the establishment of joint missile defense with equal participation of Russia.	MD 2014: Even it is a positive formulation, the realisation is very unlikely.	
			Combining the efforts of the state, the society and individuals to protect Russia. Developing and implementing measures directed to increase efficiency military patriotic education of citizens of Russia and training for military service.		
			Countering attempts by individual states or groups of states to achieve military superiority by deploying strategic missile defense systems, strategic conventional precision weapon systems or by placing arms in space.		
Mission of the Armed Forces	The prompt identification of an impending armed attack or a threatening development in the situation and the warning of the state's supreme leadership thereof.	The timely disclosure of a threatening development in the military-political situation or of preparations for an armed attack against Russia and/or its allies.	Timely warning of an air or space attack and notification about military dangers and threats.	Timely warning of an air or space attack and notification about military dangers and threats.	
			Strategic deterrence.	Maintaining global and regional stability and nuclear deterrence potential at an adequate level.	
	The maintenance of the composition and status of the strategic nuclear forces at a level ensuring guaranteed intended damage to the aggressor in any conditions of the situation.	The maintenance of the composition, condition, combat and mobilization readiness, and training of the strategic nuclear forces, and of the forces and assets ensuring their functioning and utilization, as well as of command and control systems, at a level guaranteeing a set level of damage for an aggressor under any circumstances.	The maintenance of the composition, condition, combat and mobilization readiness, and training of the strategic nuclear forces, and of the forces and assets ensuring their functioning and utilization, as well as of command and control systems, at a level guaranteeing a set level of damage for an aggressor under any circumstances.	Constant readiness of the Armed Forces, other forces and agencies to deterrence and prevention of military conflicts. Armed protection of Russia and its allies in the accordance with international law and international treaties of Russia.	
	The maintenance of the combat potential of peacetime general-purpose groupings of forces at a level ensuring that aggression on a local (regional) scale is repulsed.	The maintenance of combat potential combat and mobilization readiness, and preparation of peacetime general-purpose groups of forces at a level ensuring the repulsing of aggression on a local scale.	The maintenance of the capability for the timely deployment of forces in potentially dangerous strategic salients, and also to maintain their readiness for combat use.	The maintenance of the capability for the timely deployment of forces in potentially dangerous strategic salients, and also to maintain their readiness for combat use.	
	Ensure the strategic development to switch from a peacetime to a wartime footing.	Ensure the strategic development to switch from a peacetime to a wartime footing.			
	The protection of the state border in the air and underwater.	The protection and defence of the state border within the limits of border territory, airspace, the underwater environment, the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf and their natural resources.	To prepare for carrying out territorial defence and civil defence measures.	The protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia, also by deploying forces outside Russia in accordance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties of Russia and federal legislation.	
	Repulsing a enemy's attack from air, land or sea.	Repulsing a enemy's attack from air, land or sea.	Defend Russian's sovereignty and the integrity and inviolability of its territory.		
	Prevent and suppress internal conflicts, which threaten Russia's territorial integrity.	Prevention and termination of acts of sabotage and terrorism.	Combat terrorism and participate in the protection of public order and the safeguarding of public security.	Combat terrorism and participate in the protection of public order and the safeguarding of public security. Suppression of international terrorism outside Russians territory.	
	Help the population to eliminate the consequences of accidents, catastrophes, and natural disasters.	Prevention of ecological and other emergencies and elimination of their consequences.	[No longer included!]		
		The creation of the conditions for the security of economic activity and protection of Russia's national interests in the territorial seas, on the continental shelf, and in the exclusive economic zone as well as on the high seas.	Ensure the security of the economic activities of Russia on the high seas.	Fight piracy. Ensure the security of the economic activities of Russia on the high seas.	
		Protection of important state facilities.	Protection of important state facilities.	Providing aerospace defense for critical objects and the readiness to repel attacks air and space attack.	
		Safeguarding of information security.	[No longer included!]		MD 2010: Information operations not longer called a threat, but a characteristic features of contemporary military conflicts.
		Deploy and maintain, in the strategic space zone, orbital groupings of space devices supporting the activities of Russia Armed Forces.	Deploy and maintain, in the strategic space zone, orbital groupings of space devices supporting the activities of Russia Armed Forces.	Deploy and maintain, in the strategic space zone, orbital groupings of space devices supporting the activities of Russia Armed Forces.	
		Protection of Russian citizens living outside Russia from armed attack.	Protection of Russian citizens living outside Russia from armed attack.	Carry out peacekeeping operations under a UN or CIS mandate.	
Sources	"The Basic Provisions of the Military Doctrine of Russia", November 1993, accessed January 13, 2014, http://goo.gl/3A2EPH .	"Russia's Military Doctrine", April 21, 2000, accessed January 13, 2014, http://goo.gl/gEAZHQ .	"The Military Doctrine of Russia", May 2, 2010, accessed January 13, 2014, http://goo.gl/qyMN9B .	"Military Doctrine of Russia", December 26, 2014, accessed August 20, 2014, https://goo.gl/YgnBK9 (poor translation – some formulations in the table are adjusted).	

= Intensification
 = Easing