

Russian Air Force

Russian Air Force Structure

Russia, and the Soviet Union before it, split its vast territory into Military Districts which oversaw the operations of all military forces assigned to that district, air, land and naval. That concept continues today, albeit with the number of Military Districts now reduced to four – Western, Southern, Central and Eastern.

It is the role of the Russian Air Force higher command to train and equip the Air Force units assigned to each of the Military Districts. The Air Force has some units which report directly to it, such as the strategic bomber, transportation and training units. Those units assigned to the Military Districts (MD) come under an Air Force Command, 1st Command for Western MD; 2nd Command for Central MD; 3rd Command for Central MD and 4th Command for Southern MD.

For most of its existence, including the Soviet era, Air Force units were organized along the lines of Regiments consisting of a number of aircraft squadrons. In 2009, however, this structure was changed and numbered 'Air Bases' were established consisting not only of the flying squadrons but also all of the base support elements – all under one Air Base command. The idea behind this structure is to bring all the elements necessary to support flying squadrons under one command in order to make it more efficient. This new structure was implemented through 2009 and 2010. However, it has recently been reported in an article AirForces Monthly [1] that the process was being reversed and the previous numbered regimental system was being restored, to help maintain unit moral and identity. It is quite possible that the Russian Air Force has devised a hybrid of the two systems, calling the units regiments but still assigning all the support elements to them. It may be some time before a clear picture emerges.

The table below reflects the numbered Air Bases but also, where known, shows the new, or revived, Regimental name and number. In many respects, it is only the names and numbers which may have changed, the units themselves have not been physically redeployed through this process, so aircraft and squadrons have for the most part stayed where they were.

Russian Air Force Main Command

Direct Reporting Units

- 4th Combat and Conversion Training Centre – Lipetsk^[2]**
- 344th Centre for Combat Training and Flight Personnel Training – Torzhok^[9]**
- 929th State Flight Test Centre – Akhtubinsk^[9]**
- 185th Centre for Combat Training and Flight Personnel Training – Astrakhan^[9]**

Long Range Aviation

(Aviation Base structure is likely to have now changed, however the location and equipment types remain consistent)

43rd Combat and Conversion Training Centre – Ryazan (Dyagilevo) Air Base

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Squadron | Il-78 | Conversion Training | Ryazan (Dyagilevo) Air Base |
| Squadron | Tu-22 | Conversion Training | Ryazan (Dyagilevo) Air Base |
| Squadron | Tu-95 | Conversion Training | Ryazan (Dyagilevo) Air Base |

6950 Aviation Base – Engels Air Base^[9] (Wikipedia shows Tu-22M3 also based at Engels, however there is no other evidence this is the case)

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Tu-95MS | Strategic Bomber | Engels Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Tu-160 | Strategic Bomber | Engels Air Base | |

6952 Aviation Base – Ukrainka Air Base^[9]

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Tu-95MS | Strategic Bomber | Ukrainka Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Tu-95MS | Strategic Bomber | Ukrainka Air Base | |

6953 Aviation Base – Belaya Air Base^[9]

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Tu-22M3 | Strategic Bomber | Belaya Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Tu-22M3 | Strategic Bomber | Belaya Air Base | |

Military Transport Aviation

(Aviation Base structure is likely to have now changed, however the location and equipment types remain consistent)

224 Flight Unit – Chkalovsky Air Base/Migalovo Air Base (Although military assets, 224 FU also operates as a civilian contractor to other nations)^[8]

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Squadron | An-124/Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Chkalovsky Air Base/Migalovo Air Base |
|----------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|

2457th Aviation Base – Ivanovo Severny Air Base

| | | | |
|----------|------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Squadron | A-50 | Airborne Early Warning | Ivanovo Severny Air Base |
|----------|------|------------------------|--------------------------|

6955th Aviation Base – Migalovo Air Base

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Migalovo Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Migalovo Air Base | |

6956th Aviation Base – Orenburg Air Base

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Orenburg Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Orenburg Air Base | |

6958th Aviation Base – Taganrog Air Base

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Taganrog Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Taganrog Air Base | |

6985th Aviation Base – Pskov Air Base

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Pskov Air Base | Total number of squadrons unknown |
| Squadron | Il-76 | Strategic Transport | Pskov Air Base | |

Western Military District – Joint Strategic Command

Headquarters 1st Command – Voronezh

Direct Reporting Units

15 Army Aviation Brigade^{[3][4]} - Ostrov Air Base

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| ? Squadron | Ka-52 | Attack | Ostrov Air Base |
| ? Squadron | Mi-28N | Attack | Ostrov Air Base |
| ? Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5; Mi-26T | Transport | Ostrov Air Base |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | Ostrov Air Base |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | Ostrov Air Base |

Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 6th Army ground units)

Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 20th Army ground units)

378th Army Aviation Air Base – Vyazma (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

549th Army Aviation Air Base – Levashovo (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

922nd Army Aviation Air Base – Pushkin (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

800th Air Base (Possibly now a Fighter Aviation Regiment) – Chkalovsk Air Base, Kaliningrad^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-27 | Fighter/Ground Attack | Chkalovsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Chernyakhovsk Air Base Part of 800 th AB ? |

105th Guards Composite Aviation Division (Formerly 7000th Air Base)

14th Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment – Kursk-Khalino Air Base^[1]

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-29SMT / MiG-29UBT | Fighter/Ground Attack | Kursk-Khalino Air Base |
| Squadron | MiG-29SMT / MiG-29UBT | Fighter/Ground Attack | Kursk-Khalino Air Base |

98th Combined Aviation Regiment – Monchegorsk Air Base^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Monchegorsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Monchegorsk Air Base |

159th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Besovets Petrozavodsk Air Base^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-27 | Fighter/Ground Attack | Besovets Petrozavodsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-27 | Fighter/Ground Attack | Besovets Petrozavodsk Air Base |

455th Combined Aviation Regiment – Voronezh-Baltimor Air Base^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Voronezh-Baltimor Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-34 | Tactical Bomber | Voronezh-Baltimor Air Base |

790th Aviation Regiment – Khotilovo Air Base^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Khotilovo Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-27 | Fighter/Ground Attack | Khotilovo Air Base |

Central Military District – Joint Strategic Command

Headquarters 2nd Command – Yekaterinburg

Direct Reporting Units

? Army Aviation Brigade^[3] - ? Air Base

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| ? Squadron | Ka-52 | Attack | ? Air Base |
| ? Squadron | Mi-28N | Attack | ? Air Base |
| ? Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5; Mi-26T | Transport | ? Air Base |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base |

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 2th Army ground units)

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 41th Army ground units – Novosibirsk area)

48th Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Yekaterinburg/Cheliabinsk area (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

562nd Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Novosibirsk area (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

999th Air Base – Kant Air Base, Kyrgyzstan^[7]

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|---------------|
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Kant Air Base |
|----------|-------|---------------|---------------|

6976th Air Base – Gissar Air Base, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Squadron | Helicopters? | | Gissar Air Base |
|----------|--------------|--|-----------------|

? Composite Aviation Division

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Perm Air Base (Bolshoe Savino) (formerly 2nd Air Group of 6980 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Perm Air Base |
|----------|--------|-------------|---------------|

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – ? Air Base (formerly 3rd Air Group of 6980 Air Base)^[7]

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Squadron | ? | ? | ? |
|----------|---|---|---|

? Composite? Aviation Regiment – Cheliabinsk Air Base (formerly 4th Air Group of 6980 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Cheliabinsk Air Base |
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Cheliabinsk Air Base |

Eastern Military District – Joint Strategic Command

Headquarters 3rd Command – Khabarovsk

Direct Reporting Units

? Army Aviation Brigade^[3] - ? Air Base

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ? Squadron | Ka-52 | Attack | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | Mi-28N | Attack | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5; Mi-26T | Transport | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 5th Army ground units – Vladivostok/Ussurilisk area)

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 29th Army ground units – Chita area)

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 35th Army ground units – Belogorsk area)

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 36th Army ground units – Ulan Ude area)

412th Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Chita Northwest (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Squadron | Mi-35? | Attack | Chita Northwest Air Base |
| Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5 | Transport | Chita Northwest Air Base |

573rd Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Khabarovsk area (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

575th Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Chernigovka Air Base (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Squadron | Ka-52 | Attack | Chernigovka Air Base |
| Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5 | Transport | Chernigovka Air Base |

? Composite Aviation Division

22nd (Combined ?) Aviation Regiment^[5] – Centralnaya Uglovaya Air Base (formerly 4th Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-30M2 | Multi-role fighter | Centralnaya Uglovaya Air Base |
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Centralnaya Uglovaya Air Base |

120th Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment – Domna Air Base (formerly 320th Air Base?)

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Squadron | Su-30SM | Multi-role fighter | Domna Air Base |
| Squadron ? | Su-30SM ? | Multi-role fighter | Domna Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Domna Air Base |

Unknown if second squadron exists

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Varfolomeevka Air Base (formerly 3rd Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Varfolomeevka Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Varfolomeevka Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Chernigovka Air Base (formerly 7th Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Chernigovka Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Chernigovka Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Dzemgi Air Base (formerly 5th Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Squadron | Su-27SM | Multi-role fighter | Dzemgi Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-35 | Multi-role fighter | Dzemgi Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Khurba Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Khurba Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Khurba Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Ellezovo Air Base (formerly 8th Air Group of 6983 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-31 | Interceptor | Ellezovo Air Base |
|----------|--------|-------------|-------------------|

? Aviation Regiment – Khabarovsk area (formerly 6th Air Group of 6983 Air Base)^[4]

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----------------|
| Squadron | ? | ? | Khabarovsk area |
|----------|---|---|-----------------|

Southern Military District – Joint Strategic Command

Headquarters 4th Command – Rostov-on-Don

Direct Reporting Units

? Army Aviation Brigade^[3] - ? Air Base

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ? Squadron | Ka-52 | Attack | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | Mi-28N | Attack | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | Mi-8MTV-5; Mi-26T | Transport | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |
| ? Squadron | ? | ? | ? Air Base | ? Squadron |

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 49th Army ground units – Stavropol area)

? Army Aviation Regiment^[3] - ? Air Base (Supports 58th Army ground units – Vladikavkaz area)

387th Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Budennovsk Air Base (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

393rd Army Aviation Air Base^[7] – Khabarovsk area (possibly now converted into a Army Aviation Regiment?)

3624 Air Base – Erebuni Air Base, Yerevan, Armenia

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-29S/UB | Fighter/Ground Attack | Erebuni Air Base |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|

? Composite Aviation Division

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Budennovsk Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|---------------------|
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Budennovsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Budennovsk Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Krymsk Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Squadron | Su-27SM | Multi-role Fighter | Krymsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-30M2 | Multi-role Fighter | Krymsk Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Primorsko-Akhtarsk Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Primorsko-Akhtarsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-25 | Ground Attack | Primorsko-Akhtarsk Air Base |

31 Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment^[1] – Millerovo Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Squadron | MiG-29A/UB | Fighter/Ground Attack | Millerovo Air Base |
| Squadron | MiG-29A/UB | Fighter/Ground Attack | Millerovo Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Morozovsk Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Morozovsk Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Morozovsk Air Base |

? Fighter Aviation Regiment – Marinovka Air Base (formerly ? Air Group of 6972 Air Base)

| | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Marinovka Air Base |
| Squadron | Su-24 | Tactical Bomber | Marinovka Air Base |

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