



Putin Orders Snap Drills In Russia's Eastern Military District

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Russian forces of the Eastern Military District began snap drills on July 12. According to Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, initially 81,000 (already very large) troops were involved in the exercise but by this morning, that number had nearly doubled to 160,000 , with 1,000 tanks and armored vehicles, 130 aircraft and 70 warships from the Pacific Fleet.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the snap drill on Friday evening and, according to RIA Novosti, it is the third such surprise combat readiness check since January, although by EIR's count, it seems to actually be the fourth, with drills have been conducted by the Black Sea Fleet, the Central Military District and the air borne troops. There were also two air defense drills in May and June.

Putin issued the order from Prokhorovka, where he was visiting on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Prokhorovka (July 13-17, 1943, main engagement July 12) - one of the biggest tank battles of all time (1000 tanks, with the famous T-34 starring), and a crucial event in the Soviet counteroffensive to the German Operation Citadel against the Kursk Salient, known overall as the Battle of Kursk. Russian TV showed military archeologists walking through the woods with metal detectors, showing how the Earth literally groans from the amount of metal still under the surface, from this battle.

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