

# Russian Aerospace Defence Forces' deployments near Ukraine

*19 February 2022*

Konrad Muzyka  
Rochan Consulting  
[Office@rochan-consulting.com](mailto:Office@rochan-consulting.com)

- The Russian ground forces' presence near Ukraine is accompanied by an increase in Russian Aerospace Defence Forces (VKS) activity;
- The VKS is prepositioning its assets across the entire theatre, from Northern Belarus to Crimea;
- The deployment includes almost all combat and logistics platforms available within the VKS: new fixed-wing airframes include Su-24s, Su-25s, Su-30SMs, Su-34s, or MiG-31s. Rotary-wing assets include Mi-8s/Mi-17s, Mi-26s for the provision of logistics and mobility capabilities. Combat airframes include Mi-24s, Mi-28Ns, and Ka-52s;
- The VKS is reshuffling its assets in Western and Southern Military Districts so it is unclear how many aircraft were redeployed from within these districts and how many came from other parts of Russia;
- Yet, the SMD alone fields some 250 fixed-wing aircraft (includes units in Crimea). The WMD can generate an additional 150 airframes (excluding Kaliningrad) for a total of 400 combat aircraft. Assuming 70% of the fleet is available, this gives some 280 aircraft ready to take part in combat operations.
- The next slide presents some of the new deployments near Ukraine. Airframes in red indicate a new presence. The text in white shows airframes that are stationed permanently at a base.



