

Rochan Consulting

Kaliningrad Military Digest



Image 1. Vishnya-class (Project 864) medium intelligence ship Vasiliy Tatishchev passing under the Storebaelt Bridge (Denmark) on 16AUG (Source: twitter.com)

Issue 2

14 August – 20 August 2023

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Key takeaways from last week's developments

- Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercise began on **02AUG**, which saw the deployment of two naval task groups to the Kattegat;
- Russians also practised electronic (simulated) Kalibr (**13AUG**) and Uran (**16AUG**) missile launches extremely close to Danish and Swedish territorial waters;
- Simultaneously to the ongoing Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercise, Russians decided to increase their presence in the Mediterranean Sea by the deployment of the recently commissioned Steregushchiy-class corvette*;
- NATO aircraft intercepted 4 Russian aircraft;
- Ground activities included combined arms live firing exercises and Iskander-M electronic missile launches;

Executive summary

Last week, developments related to the Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercise continued. The task force based on the Stergushchiy-class corvette continued its operations in the Kattegat, where on Wednesday (16AUG), another electronic (simulated) launch of missiles took place. In addition, a task group based on the Parchim-class anti-submarine corvettes cooperating with the Ka-27PL anti-submarine helicopters of the Baltic Fleet naval aviation operated in the southern Baltic Sea. This shows the Russian emphasis on maintaining these capabilities, especially in the context of Sweden and its submarines potentially joining the NATO alliance.

Simultaneously to the ongoing Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercise, Russians are likely to increase their presence in the Mediterranean Sea by deploying the recently commissioned Steregushchiy-class corvette and possibly a Vishnya-class intelligence ship that recently crossed the Great Belt and headed towards the North Sea and then to the Mediterranean Sea.

Last week, we also observed a high training tempo of the ground component of the Baltic Fleet, which confirms their involvement in the Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercise. This applies particularly to units directly subordinate to the Baltic Fleet Command, carrying out activities in the electromagnetic field (such as ensuring communication at the fleet level and conducting electronic warfare).

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Ground domain activities

The Press Service of Western Military District informed about several exercises Baltic Fleet's ground component carried out last week, including units subordinate to the 11th Army Corps (11th AC) and directly to the Baltic Fleet Command. These exercises included:

Date	Unit	Activities	Forces involved
14AUG	Sub-units from the 742 nd Communication Center (directly subordinate to Baltic Fleet Command)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment to combat positions • Establishing field communication nodes and mobile command posts 	Unspecified number of equipment and military personnel
14AUG	11 th AC and 336 th Naval Infantry Brigade sub-units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined arms combat training • Live firing (small arms and vehicles) 	More than 1,000 military personnel, unspecified number of equipment
15AUG	11 th AC motorised rifle sub-units (presumably 18 th Motorised Rifle Division and 7 th Motorised Rifle Regiment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live firing (including small arms and grenade launchers), drills held during the day and at night with NVGs 	More than 1,000 military personnel
15AUG	841 st Electronic Warfare Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting radio reconnaissance and jamming 	More than 100 military personnel and ten special military equipment (including R-330Zh Zhitel and RB-341V Leer-3)
17AUG	336 th Naval Infantry Brigade sub-units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPG-7 and AGS-17 grenade launchers live firing 	About 100 military personnel
17AUG	One missile battalion operating 9K270 Iskander-M ballistic missile system from the 152 nd Missile Brigade (subordinate to 11 th AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment to combat positions • Carrying out electronic (simulated) launches of missiles 	About 100 military personnel and ten pieces of special military equipment

Table 1. Exercises conducted by Baltic Fleet's ground component between 14AUG-20AUG

Air domain activities

The Western Military District Press Service informed about several exercises the Baltic Fleet's air component conducted last week. These activities were carried out in cooperation with the Baltic Fleet's naval forces and are described in the naval component section.

The Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence [reported](#) that four Russian aircraft were intercepted by NATO aircraft assigned to the NATO Air Policing Mission in the Baltic States between 14AUG-20AUG. The table below lists the interception details.

Date	Aircraft intercepted	Combined
14AUG	2 Tu-22	2
17AUG	1 Il-76, 1 Il-20	2

Table 2. Russian aircraft intercepted near the Baltic States borders between 14AUG-20AUG (Source: Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)



Map 1. NATO Air Policing deployment since 03AUG23

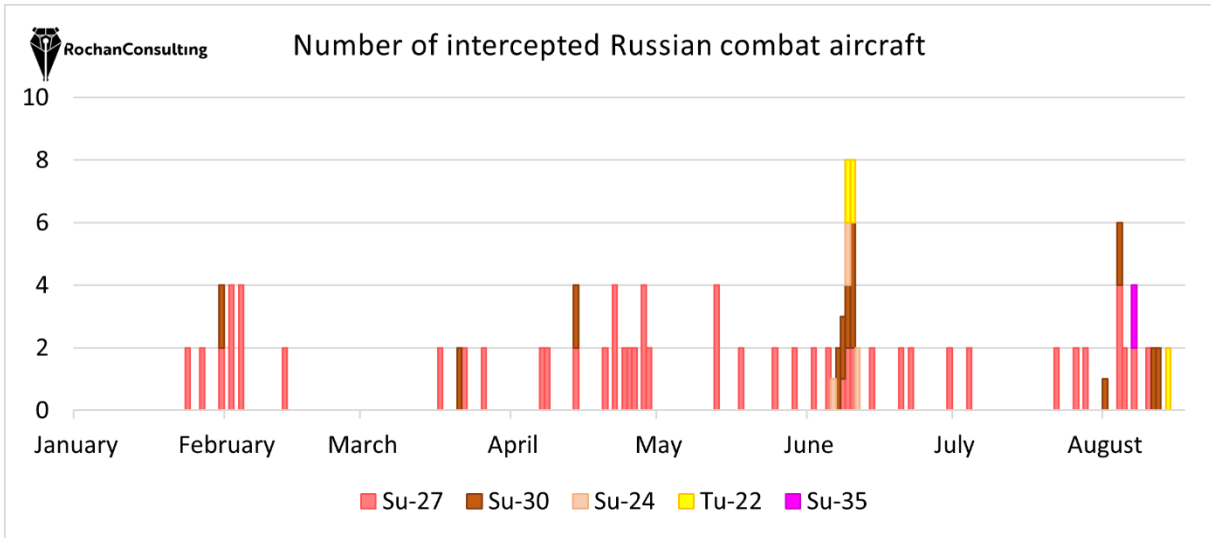


Chart 1. Number of intercepted Russian combat aircraft near the Baltic States borders in 2023 (NATO Air Policing Mission) (Source: Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)

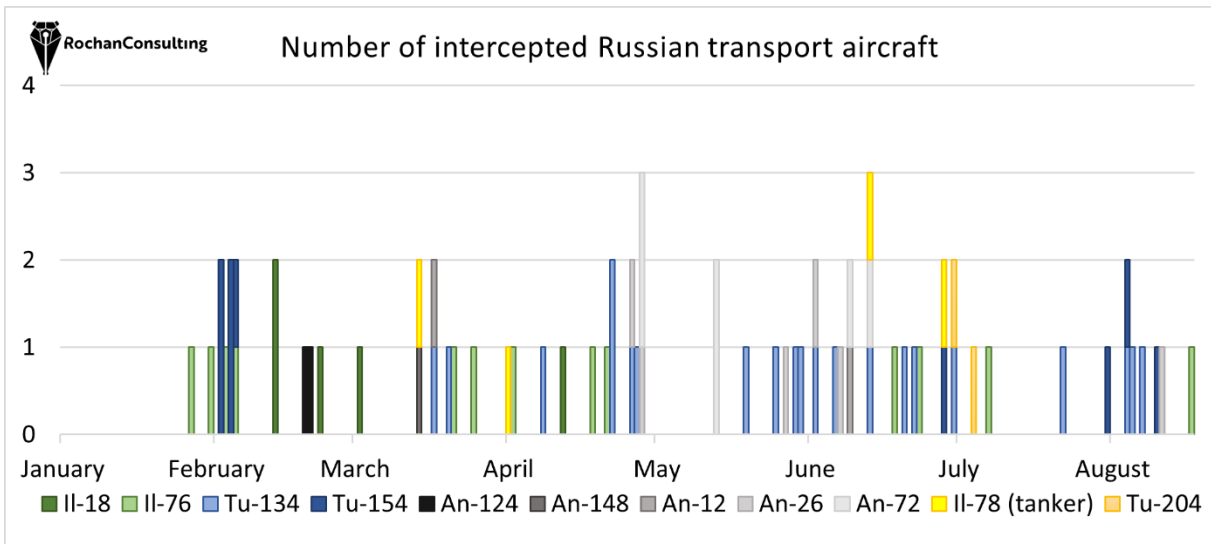


Chart 2. Number of intercepted Russian transport aircraft near the Baltic States borders in 2023 (NATO Air Policing Mission) (Source: Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)

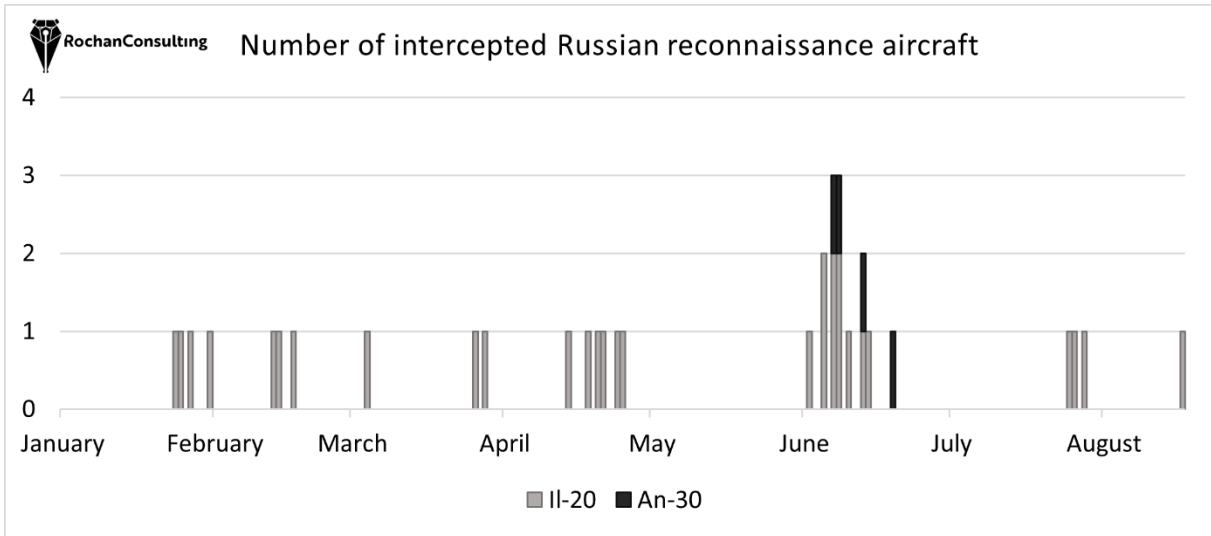


Chart 3. Number of intercepted Russian reconnaissance aircraft near the Baltic States borders in 2023 (NATO Air Policing Mission) (Source: Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)

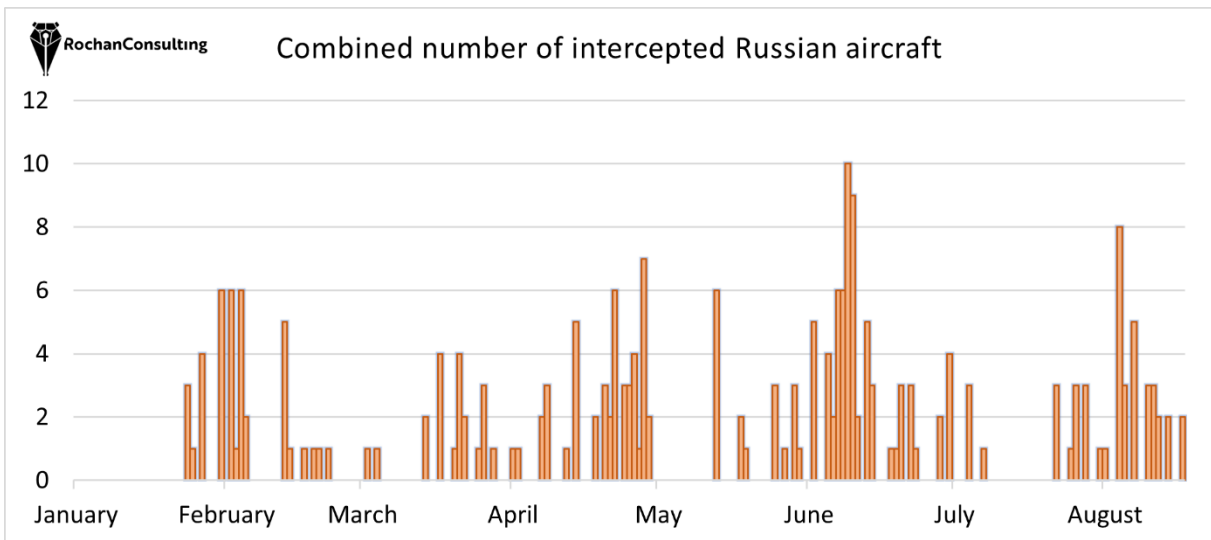


Chart 4. A combined number of intercepted Russian aircraft near the Baltic States borders in 2023 (NATO Air Policing Mission) (Source: Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence)

From the beginning of 2023, forces conducting a NATO Air Policing Mission in the Baltic States intercepted 233 Russian aircraft.

Naval domain activities

The Press Service of Western Military District informed about several exercises Baltic Fleet's naval component carried out last week, including units subordinate to Baltiysk Naval Base (BNB) and Leningrad Naval Base (LNB). These exercises included:

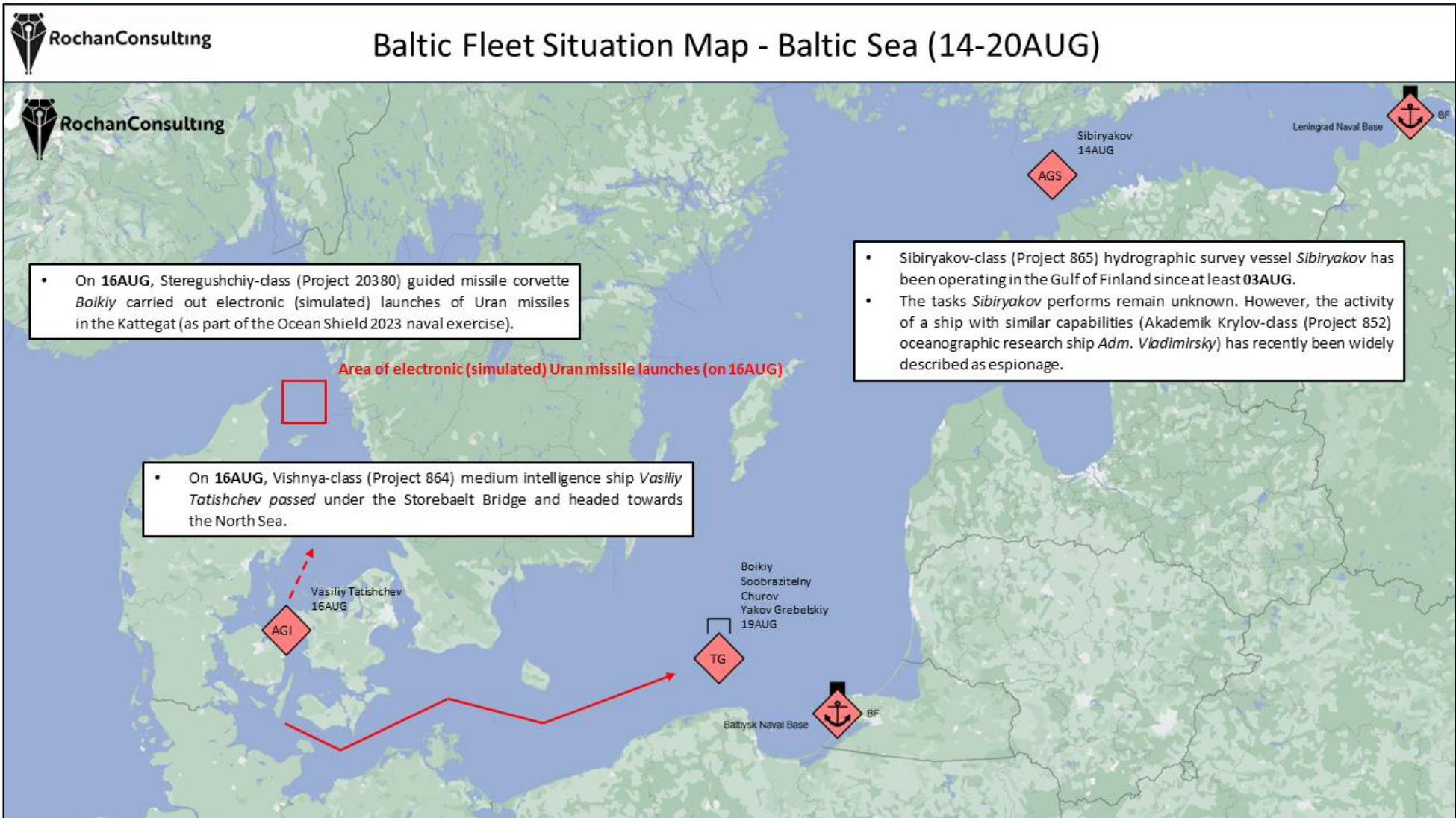
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Date	Unit	Activities
15AUG-17AUG	Parchim-class (Project 1331M) anti-submarine corvettes <i>Urengoy</i> , <i>Zelenodolsk</i> , <i>Kazanets</i> (LNB), <i>Kabardino-Balkariia</i> and <i>Aleksin</i> (BNB), Alexandrit-class (Project 507) minesweeper <i>Aleksandr Obukhov</i> from 323 rd Minesweeper Division subordinate to 64 th Sea Protection Ship Brigade (BNB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection, tracking and destruction of enemy submarines (simulated) • Laying of training mines • Anti-aircraft drills (live firing) • Carrying out combat trawling (neutralising training mines)
16AUG	Stereughshchiy-class (Project 20380) guided missile corvette <i>Boikiy</i> (including Ka-27 helicopter) from 128 th Surface Ship Brigade (BNB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection, tracking and destroying enemy submarines (simulated) • Electronic (simulated) launches of Uran missiles
18AUG	Stereughshchiy-class (Project 20380) guided missile corvettes <i>Boikiy</i> and <i>Soobrazitelny</i> from 128 th Surface Ship Brigade (BNB), More than <u>ten</u> Ka-27 helicopters (396 th Mixed Helicopter Regiment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection, tracking and destroying enemy submarines (simulated)

Table 3. Exercises conducted by Baltic Fleet's naval component between 14AUG-20AUG

Last week, we covered the deployment of two Russian task groups to the Kattegat. One of the task groups consisting of Buyan-M-class (Project 21631) guided-missile corvette *Grad* and Karakurt-class (Project 22800) guided-missile corvettes *Sovetsk* and *Odintsovo* returned to the Baltiysk Naval Base. Other developments are described on the maps below.

**Stereughshchiy-class (Project 20380) guided-missile corvette Merkury is not officially assigned to the Baltic Fleet. The corvette was to become part of the Black Sea Fleet. However, Merkury temporarily operates as part of the Baltic Fleet due to the Ukraine Conflict, the closure of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, and the inability to join its target unit.*



Map 2. Baltic Fleet Situation Map - Baltic Sea

Baltic Fleet Situation Map - Mediterranean/Black Sea (14-20AUG)



Map 3. Baltic Fleet Situation Map - Mediterranean/Black Sea

Contact us:

Office@rochan-consulting.com

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