

Gog Makes His Second Chess Move!

Part 1

Gog's second chess move in relatively quick succession is a major move in the Middle East Theater of operations. The headline read: **Russia's Navy Establishes Permanent Presence in Mediterranean Sea.** Russian President Vladimir Putin said a naval standing force, including warships with Kalibr long-range land attack cruise missiles, will be permanently deployed in the Mediterranean Sea. The statement was made at a meeting with top military officials and defense industry leaders that took place in Sochi on May 16. One of the missions is delivering strikes against terrorist targets in Syria. 102 expeditions of ships and submarines are planned in 2018. The force will go through intensive training.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet has become a much different force in comparison to what it was just three years ago. Since 2015, the year the operation in Syria was launched it has received 15 new ships, including two frigates and six conventional submarines armed with Kalibr cruise missiles. With S-400 and S-300V4 air defense systems, Krasukha-4 electronic warfare systems and shore-based anti-ship Bastion batteries deployed on the Syrian coast, the ships in Eastern Mediterranean operate in a relatively safe environment. Kalibr missiles have already been fired from frigates and submarines at terrorist targets in Syria.

Last July, a 15-strong Mediterranean Task Force was established to be based out of Tartarus, Syria's leased naval facility. The ships provide a buffer on the southern flank of NATO. Russia needs to counter aggressive activities of the bloc in the region, including the Black Sea. Maintaining robust presence in the Mediterranean is the best way to defend Russia's Black Sea borders.

All southern Europe, including such NATO military assets as Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, Combined Air Operations Centers in Larissa, Greece, and in Poggio Renatico, Italy, Headquarters Allied Land Command and Air Power Command in Izmir, Turkey, NATO Incirlik air base in Turkey, Graf Ignatievo and Bezmer air bases in Bulgaria used by US Air Force as well as a lot of other key NATO defense infrastructure sites happen to be within the range of Kalibr missiles installed on the platforms patrolling the Mediterranean Sea. They'll all be knocked out with first salvos in case a Russia-NATO war starts.

The Fleet's operations are not limited to the Black Sea basin and the Mediterranean. It is on the way of transition from a green-water naval formation to a blue water force, demonstrating the Russian flag as the ships move beyond the Strait of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal on the way to the World Ocean. This is a most important move by Russia, something that has never existed in Russian history. In over two hundred years Russia lacked a year-round warm-water port to project its power.

The establishment of permanent naval presence in the region can be explained by a number of rational calculations. The Mediterranean Sea is Russia's only exit to the open ocean

for the Black Sea Fleet. The permanent presence is a logical step in view of Russia's growing political influence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Foreign Ministries are not the only ones to shape external policy. Any port call is a diplomat mission, providing an opportunity for official meetings and public diplomacy, with the events covered by media. Take the famous German Kiel Week or Kieler Woche in German, the biggest annual maritime festival and international forum visited by about three million people coming from all over the world. Warships from many countries are an important element of the event. Ships also take part in the Irish maritime festival at Drogheda Port. Russian frigate The Shtandart, a replica of the man-of-war built by Peter the Great in 1703, will visit Drogheda on June 10-11 this year.

The naval visits reflect foreign policy trends. In 2017, Russian ships made 46 port calls to drop anchor at 28 ports of 27 countries worldwide. The list includes five Western or West-friendly states: Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Japan and South Korea, which account for 19% of the countries visited by Russian ships. Nine (33%) of the states on the list belong to the Asia-Pacific region, with other 13 (48%) situated in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. The 81% vs.19% ratio illustrates Russia's rebalancing from the "collective" West toward other countries and power poles. The Russian Navy also conducted six international exercises, demonstrating its global presence and power projection capability.

The growing trade brings to the fore the task of sea lanes' protection. Russia has longstanding economic ties with many Mediterranean states, including Greece, Libya, Cyprus, and Algeria. The relations include defense cooperation.

US Navy deployments in support of ballistic missile defense are viewed as provocative moves to downgrade Russia's strategic nuclear capability. With Russia's continuous presence in the region, Aegis-equipped ships as well as aircraft carriers become sitting ducks for state-of-the-art anti-ship missiles.

This headline: **Russia's Navy Establishes Permanent Presence in Mediterranean Sea** is a major move by all geo-politics guidelines. First, it breaks free from the existing U.S. encirclement of Russian military and geo-political targets. Second, it solidifies the relationship with Turkey and the use of the Bosphorus Straits exiting the Black Sea and entering the Mediterranean Sea. Third, it becomes the dominant player in the Mediterranean Sea area, as no bordering nation is capable of challenging the Russian Bear's growing military. Fourth, it challenges Israel's only formidable ally, the U.S. 6th Fleet, with its 17 ships deployed in the region. Fifth, and perhaps the most important, it will have a year-round warm-water port to project its global power. Sixth, Russian President Putin has made it crystal clear that it will defend its contractual agreements and relationship with Syria and Iran. I suspect that we could add a couple additional reasons as well, but you can see by my list, Gog's second chess move is not to be a minor one.



The Sovershenny corvette heading to the main base of the Russian Pacific Fleet, in the Zolotoy Rog [Golden Horn] Bay. Image: Yuri Smityuk/TASS

Russian naval vessels armed with Kalibr cruise missiles will patrol off the coast of Syria, where Moscow is supporting President Bashar al-Assad's regime, in order to ward off terrorist threats, President Vladimir Putin said.

"This year ... due to the continuing terrorist threat in Syria, our ships equipped with cruise missiles will patrol the Mediterranean on a continuous basis," Putin said during a meeting with military leaders in the southern Russian city of Sochi on Wednesday, May 16. Putin added that 102 surface ship and submarine voyages are scheduled for the year, Tass reported.

"As the risk of attacks by international terrorists in Syria remains our ships armed with cruise missiles will be permanently on duty in the Mediterranean," he said. Russia has been involved in Syria's civil war since September 2015. Its military support of the regime changed the course of the war, allowing government troops to retake more than half the country from rebels and Islamic State.

Putin praised the *"precise and well-coordinated actions of Russian ships and submarines during the Syria operation and the cruise missile strikes ... which inflicted considerable losses on the terrorists"* operating in Syria. He urged special attention to coordinated operations by the Aerospace Force and other units of the Armed Forces, Tass said.

In Syria, Russia has a naval base located in Tartarus and an air base at Hmeimim. In December, the upper house of the Russian parliament voted to extend the Tartarus lease by 49 years, after which Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said the facility will be expanded to accommodate 11 warships, including nuclear vessels.

Russia's Latest Buyan-M Corvette Reinforces Russian Mediterranean Group. The latest guided missile corvette Vyshny Volochek (Buyan-M) is sailing to the Mediterranean Sea to join the Russian naval force at the Syrian coast, the Black Sea fleet said.



The Vyshny Volochek joined the Black Sea fleet on June 1st, 2018.

"The latest small missile ship of the Black Sea fleet, the Vyshny Volochek is making a scheduled voyage from Sevastopol to the Mediterranean Sea. At present it is sailing through Bosphorus and Dardanelles," it said the warship is to join the Russian naval force for assigned missions. The Vyshny Volochek joined the Black Sea fleet on June 1st, 2018. The crew carried out a series of artillery fire missions at sea, coastal and air targets.

Project 21631 corvettes are armed with Kalibr missiles (SS-N-27 Sizzler by NATO classification). They are fired by an eight-cell vertical 3S-14 launcher. Kalibr strikes with cruise missiles at sea (3M-54 missiles) and ground (3M-14 targets). The corvettes are also armed with 100mm artillery gun A-190 and small-calibre anti-aircraft artillery gun Duet AK-630-2. They also carry Gibka 3M-47 launchers. The ship is 75 meters long, the displacement is 949 tons and the speed is 23 knots. Cruising capacity is ten days and the navigation range is 2.5 thousand miles. The crew comprises 52 men.

Russian warships enter the Mediterranean Sea

Sunday, August 12, 2018 12:00:42 PM



Two Northern Fleet ships, the large anti-submarine ship Severomorsk and missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov entered the waters of the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic after undergoing repairs, Interfax reports citing the press-service of the Northern Fleet.

The crew of the Marshal Ustinov performed air defense drills and checked the readiness of its weapons and technical systems. The Severomorsk crew practiced fighting surface vessels. The press service noted that the ships crossed the Strait of Gibraltar at night “in conditions of dense ship traffic.”

The last time the Russian missile cruiser was in the Mediterranean Sea was February 2017. It was the heavy nuclear-powered battle cruiser Pyotr Velikiy that accompanied the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov during a military operation in Syria.

The Marshal Ustinov underwent repairs from 2011 to 2016. It returned to service in 2017 after factory tests. It then took part in the Navy parade in Kronstadt in 2018 and was also in the Northern Fleet for a week in June to carry out shooting exercises and to test new weapons. The Russian Ministry of Defense called it “the largest cruise of the decade”.

On August 7, 2018, it was reported that the Marshal Ustinov and the Severomorsk entered the English Channel through the Mediterranean Sea and headed for the Atlantic Ocean. They traveled over four thousand nautical miles after the beginning of maneuvers.

The Marshal Ustinov is the second ship to be built as part of Project 1164 Atlant and became operational in 1986. It is equipped with sixteen Vulcan anti-ship missiles, S-300F Fort anti-aircraft missile systems and other weapons.

Russian warships heading to Syria in response to US threats were observed passing through the Bosphorus Straits. Hal Turner, a New York radio host posted the photos below.



Russian warships have sailed through the Bosphorus into the Mediterranean in response to US President Trump's threats to strike Syria. Russia's response sent a message to President Trump, and not one Trump would greet with pleasure!

Four Russian navy ships, including Project 266M Natya 1 class minesweeper, Valentin Pikul 770, BMФ Project 22870 ЧФ BSF and rescue tug Prof Nikolay Muru, were spotted heading to the Russian navy base in Syria's Tartus port.

Up to 17 Russian warships have crossed the Bosphorus into Syria so far this week.

They include 6 frigates with at least three that are armed with Kalibr cruise missiles (Admiral Grigorovich Admiral Essen), anti-submarine destroyer Severomorsk, cruiser Marshal Ustinov, frigate Yaroslav Mudri, frigate Pitliv, rocket launcher ship Visni Volocek, Buyan class corvette Veliki Ustiug armed with Kalibr missile cruise, Buyan-M class corvette Grad Sviyazhsk, and at least 3-4 submarines.

More importantly, the following Russian warships are already in the Mediterranean Sea:

- CG Marshal Ustinov
- DDG Severomorsk
- DDG Yaroslav Mudryy
- FFG Admiral Grigorovich
- FFG Admiral Essen
- FFL Pytlivyy
- FSG Vyshniy Volocek
- FSG Grad Sviyazhsk
- FSG Velikiy Ustyug
- LST Orsk
- LST Nikolay Fil'chenkov
- MS Turbinist
- MS Valentin Pikul
- SS Kolpino
- SS Velikiy Novgorod

The deployment of the Russian fleet comes as the US President Donald Trump threatened to strike the Syrian Army ahead of the long-awaited battle of Idlib, where the Syrian government is expected to wipe out the FINAL enclave of "rebels" that almost took over the country. The remnants at Idlib are surrounded and await the Syrian Army to eliminate ISIS/Al Quaida presence in Syria.

Hal Turner said, *"We are heading into something different this time with the Syrians and Russians off the coast of Syria. I do not have a good feeling about this striking against Assad now. Russian Marines and special operations troops are POURING into Syria and more equipment is on the way. We may be seeing the beginning of the real war between the US and Russia in northeastern Syria in the Province of Idlib, Syria. Russia has so far sent 17 warships and more are on the way. Other reports are saying Russian TU-22M3 bombers are being sent to Iran for Anti-ship operations in the Med."*

This report by Hal Turner was posted late Monday, August 27, 2018. On Tuesday, it was reported that the USS Truman (CVN-75) had departed Norfolk, VA, on Tuesday, August 28, 2018

after being only home for 38 days, after a recent deployment to the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.



Harry S. Truman Strike Group back underway after more than a month in port. August 28, 2018
3:06 PM

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is back underway in the Atlantic after more than a month in port, the Navy announced on Tuesday. The Carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) departed Tuesday after what the Navy described as a 38-day “working port visit” at its homeport at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. The ship initially departed in April and returned in July after operating in the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic.

“Since April when we began our deployment, our strike group has demonstrated our inherent maneuverability and flexibility as we took part in maritime security operations and evolutions with several key allies and partners,” strike group commander Rear Adm. Gene Black said in a statement. *“Now, as we continue our deployment, we remain 100-percent mission-capable and ready to accomplish whatever mission we are assigned, at anytime, anywhere.”*

The USS Truman was set to take on nine squadrons from Carrier Air Wing 1 and deploy with guided-missile destroyers USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) and USS *Forrest Sherman* (DDG-98) and guided-missile cruiser USS *Normandy* (CG-60).

Other destroyers *Truman* deployed with in April — USS *Farragut* (DDG-99) and USS *The Sullivans* (DDG-68) from Naval Mayport, Fla.,. And Norfolk-based USS *Bulkeley* (DDG-84) and USS *Jason Dunham* (DDG-109) — have been operating independently in locations stretching from off the coast of northern Norway to the Persian Gulf.

A U.S. Fleet Forces Command spokesperson told USNI News on Tuesday the ships are still considered part of the strike group but are steaming on their own for the moment.

Early in the underway, *Truman* will sail with USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72) for dual-carrier operations in the Atlantic. *Lincoln* is currently conducting tests with six F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters along with aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 7. The service did not elaborate on additional plans for the strike group.

While on the first underway period of the deployment from April to July, *Truman* did not operate in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. has not had carrier operating in the region since USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) left in late March. A carrier in the Persian Gulf has been a staple of U.S. Navy operations since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, providing air support for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and, since 2015, attacking the Islamic State in Syria.

The change in the traditional deployment is the Navy's reflection of the National Defense Strategy the Pentagon rolled out in January. The Navy's new dynamic force employment model that is "strategically predictable, but operationally unpredictable."

The *Truman's* departure comes days after the formal stand-up of the new U.S. 2nd Fleet in Norfolk as the Russians submarine operations increase. This took place on August 24th.

"A new 2nd Fleet increases our strategic flexibility to respond — from the Eastern Seaboard to the Barents Sea," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said. *"Second Fleet will approach the North Atlantic as one continuous operational space, and conduct expeditionary fleet operations where and when needed."*

The following is the complete Aug. 28, 2018 statement from U.S. Fleet Forces.

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Nearly 6,500 Sailors of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (HSTCSG) departed today from Naval Station (NS) Norfolk, Virginia.

HSTCSG deployed April 11, 2018, and returned to NS Norfolk July 21, 2018, for an extended port visit. During this working port visit, USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and strike group assets conducted routine maintenance on ships, aircraft and equipment; conducted advanced training; and maintained warfighting certifications.

HSTCSG will continue its deployment by conducting sustainment operations and carrier qualifications in the Atlantic and participating in dual-carrier operations with the USS *Abraham Lincoln*(CVN-72).

“Since April when we began our deployment, our strike group has demonstrated our inherent maneuverability and flexibility as we took part in maritime security operations and evolutions with several key allies and partners,” said HSTCSG Commander, Rear Adm. Gene Black. *“Now, as we continue our deployment, we remain 100% mission-capable and ready to accomplish whatever mission we are assigned, at anytime, anywhere. This exemplifies the Navy’s Dynamic Force Employment concept: we remain flexible and ready on short notice to deploy whenever and wherever the nation needs, ready to fight.”* Ships and aircraft of the strike group departing Norfolk include flagship Harry S. Truman, commanded by Capt. Nick Dienna; the nine squadrons of Carrier Air Wing One (CVW-1); guided-missile cruises USS Normandy (CG 60); and guided-missile destroyers of Destroyer Squadron Two Eight (DESRON 28), including USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) and USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98). Embarked squadrons of CVW-1, commanded by Capt. John Perrone, include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 11 “Red Rippers”; VFA-211 “Checkmates”; VFA-81 “Sunliners”; VFA-136 “Knighthawks”; Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 137 “Rooks”; Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 126 “Seahawks”; Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 72 “Proud Warriors”; Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 11 “Dragon Slayers”; and a detachment from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 Rawhides.”

The Navy press release information serves to mask the real reason for the USS Truman’s quick deployment is really revealed in the departure of the USS Truman within hours of the Russian deployment of up to 17 additional ships to the port of Tartarus, Syria, which the Russians leased from the Syrian government a few years ago. That quick response departure came right about the time Russian President Putin announced the largest ever military training exercise being held jointly with China beginning September 11th, 2018.

Russia is mobilizing for its biggest military exercise since the height of the Cold War, the Kremlin says, citing a tense international climate that is *“frequently aggressive and unfriendly toward us.”*

The exercises, which are set to involve nearly 300,000 Russian troops, 1,000 aircraft and 900 tanks, will include units from China for the first time. They will start on Sept. 11. But while Russia is talking about its "war games" in the east, they are moving thousands of Reserve Troops and tanks to their western and southern military districts which border EUROPE! Of great concern to NATO is the ongoing issue with the Ukraine. The U.S. recently upped the stakes by equipping the Ukraine military forces with the highly accurate TOW Javelin anti-tank weapons.

The Trump administration approved a plan to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine, a long-awaited move that deepens America's involvement in the military conflict and may further strain relations with Russia. Moscow responded angrily on Saturday.

The new arms include American-made Javelin anti-tank missiles, U.S. officials said late Friday. Ukraine has long sought to boost its defenses against Russian-backed separatists armed with tanks that have rolled through eastern Ukraine during violence that has killed more than

10,000 since 2014. Previously, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with support equipment and training, and has let private companies sell some small arms like rifles.

The officials describing the plan weren't authorized to discuss it publicly and demanded anonymity. The move is likely to become another sore point between Washington and Moscow, as President Donald Trump contends with ongoing questions about whether he's too hesitant to confront the Kremlin. Ukraine accuses Russia of sending the tanks, and the U.S. says Moscow is arming, training and fighting alongside the separatists.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the U.S. decision will only make the conflict more deadly and suggested that Russia could be forced to respond. He also said the U.S. can no longer cast itself as a mediator. *"It's not a mediator. It's an accomplice in fuelling the war,"* Ryabkov said in a statement.

The intensified support for Ukraine's military also comes amid early discussions about sending U.N. peacekeepers to eastern Ukraine, to improve security conditions not only for Ukrainians but for monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe who are on the ground.

The U.S. and other nations were cautiously optimistic when Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed to send in peacekeepers. But there are major disagreements about how and where the peacekeepers would operate, especially about whether they'd be deployed only on the "line of conflict" between separatists and the government. The U.S. and Ukraine want peacekeepers deployed throughout the separatist-controlled regions stretching to the Ukraine-Russia border.

By approving a plan to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine, the Trump administration could see it as providing leverage in these negotiations. While some are sceptical about Putin's proposal, others suggest he may be looking for a way out of the conflict. Alexander Vershbow, former deputy secretary general of NATO and a former ambassador to Moscow, said a U.N. peacekeeping mission could serve as cover for Russia to withdraw its forces and weapons from eastern Ukraine.

Trump had been considering the plan for some time after the State Department and the Pentagon signed off earlier this year. President Barack Obama also considered sending lethal weapons to Ukraine, but left office without doing so.

The State Department, responsible for overseeing foreign military sales, would not confirm that anti-tank missiles or other lethal weapons would be sent. But in a statement late Friday, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. had decided to provide "enhanced defensive capabilities" to help Ukraine build its military long-term, defend its sovereignty and "deter further aggression."

"U.S. assistance is entirely defensive in nature, and as we have always said, Ukraine is a sovereign country and has a right to defend itself," Nauert said. The White House's National Security Council declined to comment.

Although the portable Javelin anti-tank missiles can kill, proponents for granting them to Ukraine have long argued they are considered "defensive" because the Ukrainians would use them to defend their territory and deter the Russians, not to attack a foreign country or seize new territory.

In thanking the U.S. for its support, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko addressed the concerns over how the weapons would be used.

"American weapons in the hands of Ukrainian soldiers are not for an offensive, but for a decisive rebuff of the aggressor, the protection of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, as well as for effective self-defence," he wrote on Facebook. *"It is also a trans-Atlantic vaccination against the Russian virus of aggression."*

Under law, the State Department must tell Congress of planned foreign military sales, triggering a review period in which lawmakers can act to stop the sale. It was unclear whether the administration had formally notified Congress, but lawmakers are unlikely to try to block it given that Democrats and Republicans alike have long called on the government to take the step.

The move comes as the United States and European nations struggle to break a long logjam in the Ukraine-Russia conflict that erupted three years ago when fighting broke out between Russian-backed separatists and government troops in the east. France, Russia and Germany brokered a peace arrangement in 2015 that has lowered violence but not stopped it, and a political settlement outlined in the deal hadn't been fully implemented.

Both the Obama administration and the Trump administration had expressed concerns in the past that injecting more weapons into the conflict was unlikely to resolve it, especially considering that Russia is well-equipped to respond to any Ukrainian escalation with an even stronger escalation of its own. Sending lethal weapons to Ukraine also creates the troubling possibility that American arms could kill Russian soldiers, a situation that could thrust the two nuclear-armed nations closer to direct confrontation.

The United States, under Obama, also imposed sanctions on Russia for its invasion and annexation of Crimea. The Trump administration has insisted those sanctions will stay in place until Moscow gives up the Crimean Peninsula.

The strategy of what Russia is doing in their coming "war games" here can be viewed from different perspectives, as such may or may not portend of more ominous possibilities as some are inferring. That said, what this report states is both concerning and problematic.

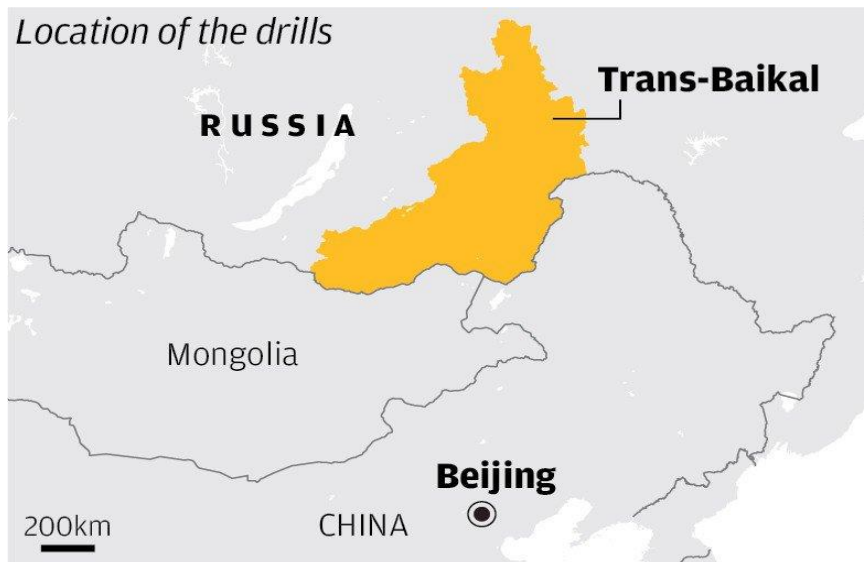
First as a frame of reference, here is a map showing the location of Russia's "Military Districts:"

RUSSIA'S MILITARY DISTRICTS



Beginning September 11 and continuing through September 15 Russia will undertake the largest war games drill since 1981, named Vostok2018. Some 300,000 Russian troops, 1,000 aircraft, and over 900 Main Battle Tanks (MBT) are taking part.

The war games are scheduled to take place in eastern Russia, at a training ground located in the Trans-Baikal Region shown on the map below:



SCMP

For the first time in history, Russia has invited China to participate, and China has now sent trainloads of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Tanks across the border into Russia. The photo below shows one trainload of PLA tanks crossing into Russia via Mongolia:



This additional photo shows those tanks having arrived in Russia:

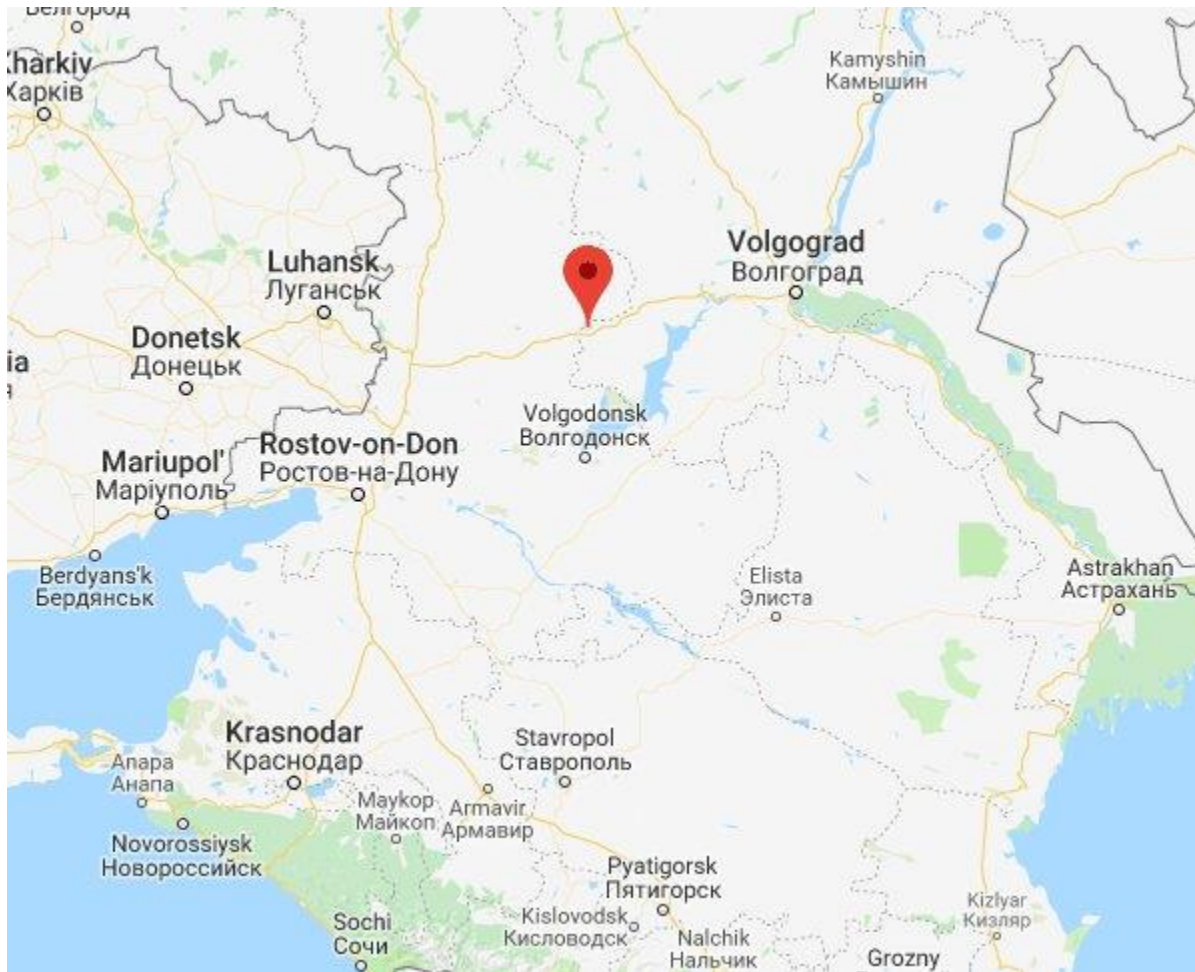


Here's the problem . . . While this "war game" is supposed to take place in the Eastern Russia Military District. RESERVES and TANKS from that same Eastern district are being quietly moved to the WESTERN AND SOUTHERN Military Districts!

The photos below shows older model Russian T-62 MBT on a train in the eastern District:



But instead of being moved to the "war game" location, they have been moved to the SOUTHERN Military District to a rail head in Volgograd!



Even more ominous is the fact that under the cover of "Vostok2018" War Games, Russian strategic reserves are being moved to the west. This puts things in perspective when you understand that Volgograd faces directly east of the Ukraine. In the map above you can see the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, where hostilities have existed since the Ukraine broke away from Russian influence. Donetsk is only 379 miles from Volgograd, Luhansk is even closer to Volgograd at 283 miles.

With the Trump administration authorizing "defensive" weapons in the form of the TOW Javelin anti-tank missiles, the Ukraine now has an "equalizer" weapon on the battle field of tank warfare. Russian President Vladimir Putin has seen this as a threat to his tank regiments east of the Ukraine.

RUSSIA'S MILITARY DISTRICTS



Russia CAN, HAS, and DOES use major military exercises like this to mask significant military movements to theatres who really need them. Examples? See Georgia 2008 and Ukraine 2014.

Two issues - Syria, and movement of tanks and troops toward Russia's border with Europe - appear to be linked. Syria and Russia will begin the final battle to end the Syrian war situation within 24 hours. That major battle will take place in a province called Idlib.

Russia has said elements from western governments have already brought 8 tankers of Chlorine gas into the Idlib area to perpetrate a FALSE FLAG chemical weapons attack so as to justify the west attacking Syria once again. An attack by the west now would do severe harm to ending the Syria war situation.

Is Russia warning the west that further interference with them in Syria will result in an attack against Europe? Possibly a full invasion of Ukraine?

Is China warning the west that they now stand with Russia and a "Battle Royale" is in the making? We are just days away from the answer to many, many questions. And the answer to most of them is very bad for all of us. Russia moving troops to the west is obviously for some purpose other than the Vostok2018 Drill; a purpose potentially far more serious.

Former Presidential Candidate Chuck Baldwin issued a statement on August 30th, 2018, stating: *"More False Flag Attacks Are Coming In Prelude To War With Syria And Iran ."*

While Democrats and Republicans are acting out their ongoing left-right charade for the distraction of the American people, the real agenda of the game-makers in charge of both parties in Washington, D.C., progresses without notice. That agenda, of course, is WAR.

Perpetual war is what drives both America's economic and political interests. And Donald Trump has already proven himself to be a fully controlled toady of the military-industrial complex by carrying out two military attacks on Syria (not to mention ongoing missile attacks, drone attacks, bombings, etc., all over the Middle East), both of which were clearly predicated on phony false flag chemical attacks blamed on the Syrian government but were actually launched by U.S./Israel/Saudi Arabia/Great Britain-backed terrorists, such as ISIS, al-Nusra, White Helmets, etc. Well, the signs are ubiquitous that more false flag chemical attacks are on the way.

Many foreign news sources have investigated and reported on the phony evidence justifying America's constant use of military force, but the American people are never told any of this by our own national media, as it is nothing more than a propagandist mouthpiece for the Washington War Machine. Right now, the foreign media is abuzz with the signs of another false flag chemical attack on the horizon, giving Donald Trump the "justification" in launching new attacks against Syria.

For example, according to this recent report:

In a move that was entirely predictable, the US administration is once again threatening to bomb Syria if there is a "chemical weapons attack."

This was entirely predictable because that chemical attack script has been read out, with salty crocodile tears, fake concern, and mocked indignation by US talking heads over the years - since 2012, in fact, when former US President Obama himself drew his red line on Syria.

The latest script-reader to toe the chemical hoax line is President Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, who on August 22, stated: *"...if the Syrian regime uses chemical weapons we will respond very strongly and they really ought to think about this a long time."*

Beyond the tattered veil of moral superiority that is US war propaganda, Bolton's words were clearly a very public command to Al-Qaeda and co-extremists to stage yet another fake chemical attack.

Bolton's statement was preceded by an August 21 France-UK-US (FUKUS) joint statement, likewise threatening further illegal bombing of Syria if a chemical attack in Syria occurred (based on evidence the US never has nor needs to reveal).

Recall that the last time they acted on such a threat, in April 2018, the US and its interventionist allies didn't even wait for the Douma lie to be exposed, let alone for any mythical evidence to materialize, before they illegally bombed Syria with 103 missiles. The bombings occurred before

the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had a chance to visit the Douma sites in question.

It seems that FUKUS' appetite for destroying Syria wasn't satiated in April 2018, nor in the April 2017 bombings of Syria following unsubstantiated allegations around Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib.

Bolton's assertions are backed by the usual suspects of the corporate media, fake human rights groups, "media activists", and individuals linked to NATO's Atlantic Council war propaganda think tank.

Chemical weapons accusations are among the most overused war propaganda tactics during the war on Syria. From late 2012 to April 2018, NATO's mouthpieces have screamed bloody chlorine or sarin. But time and again, they've been revealed as intellectually-challenged, supremely-unoriginal liars, to put it politely. Less shrill voices have pointed out the many occasions where so-called "rebels" had access to sarin, control over a chlorine factory, and motives for an attack to occur, among other prudent points.

Some of the more loudly blasted claims were: March 2013, in Khan al-Assal, Aleppo; August 2013, in eastern Ghouta areas; April 2017, in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib; and April 2018, in Douma, eastern Ghouta.

Additionally, Brandon Turbeville reports:

In other words, Bolton just encouraged al-Qaeda terrorists to stage a chemical attack so that, once again, Trump will be "forced" to react militarily to please leftists and neo-cons despite the fact that cognizant Americans would prefer to stay out of the whole affair. If that statement isn't a statement of pretext, an incentivization to stage a chemical weapons attack and blame in [sic] on the government of Syria, I don't know what is.

The build-up to yet more strike against the legitimate and secular government of Bashar al-Assad aside, however, US support for terrorists in Syria and ISIS specifically has been well-documented.

Call them modern-day pirates, privateers, proxies, or anything else, they are undoubtedly working for and with Western countries to achieve the dismantling and destruction of states standing in opposition to the Western financier system.

Case in point, the surprise ISIS attacks in Suweida which saw over 140 people killed, 170 injured and dozens of women and children kidnapped.

One need only to look at the map created by Terrametrics in order to see that the United States territory in Eastern Syria is a safe haven for ISIS. Looking at the map, the orange area is the area that was attacked by ISIS and the red is territory held by the Syrian government. The blue area,

however, is that held by the United States/"rebels." It is under official protection of the US military and a US military base is stationed there.

In other words, ISIS is not only allowed to exist but it is able to launch vile attacks on civilians in areas directly adjacent to those under protection of the United States. Indeed, terrorists stationed in the American occupied territory move in and out at will. This fact has led many to question whether or not the terrorists are using the American area as a forward operating base or at least a haven they can retreat to after committing their attacks.

"There is indisputable evidence that the United States pretends it is waging irreconcilable struggle against international terrorism in front of the international community, while in reality it provides cover for the combat-ready Islamic State groups to let them regain strength, regroup themselves and advance US interests in the Middle East."

Washington directly aids ISIS and other terrorist fighters, deploying them where Pentagon commanders want them used, relocating them to new conflict zones in Syria and other countries.

And anyone who thinks that President Donald Trump is ignorant of all of this duplicity and inhumanity or is some kind of Lone Ranger trying to fight against all of this duplicity and inhumanity has either completely lost their faculties or has been totally Manchurianized by the Trump propagandist organizations QAnon and FOX News. Donald Trump is just as controlled by the Deep State as were Bush and Obama. Wake up, people!

Trump has had almost two years to draw down America's phony "War on Terror." Instead, he has expanded it. He has had almost two years to extract our troops from Afghanistan and Syria. Instead, he has multiplied the numbers of U.S. troops in both countries. He has had almost two years to stop sending billions of dollars' worth of military aid to the terrorist states of Saudi Arabia and Israel. Instead, he has sent record-level amounts of taxpayer dollars in military assistance to the terrorist states of Saudi Arabia and Israel. He has had almost two years to expose the military-industrial complex. Instead, he has enriched, entrenched and enabled the military-industrial complex beyond any President before him. Don't tell me that Donald Trump is fighting the Deep State. NONSENSE!

In addition, many sources, including Blackstone Intelligence, are reporting that right now both the U.S. and Russian navies are massing in great strength in the Mediterranean Sea in advance of what most everyone believes will be another false flag attack by U.S.-backed terrorists in Syria, followed by a massive U.S. air assault against Assad's government. And it looks like Russia has decided it will not sit idly by and let the warmongers in Washington, D.C., London, Tel Aviv and Riyadh do to Bashar al-Assad what they did to Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.

It does appear that until America begins to get a taste of its own medicine and the horrors of war are experienced in our own homeland (which will happen at some point: nations reap what they sow just like individuals), the American people will continue to dissociate themselves from

the death and destruction their government is inflicting around the globe and will continue to disavow any responsibility for the sorrow and suffering their apathy and callousness produce in countries all over the world.

If somehow evangelical pastors could ever snap out of their blind intoxication with the Zionist State of Israel and start thundering forth the truth of this devilish antichrist movement that has held America hostage for 70 years, we might begin to deliver our country from its drunken war stupor and start rebuilding the principles of constitutionalism and liberty upon which America was founded. The vast majority of America's wars (including the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Lebanon, Somalia, Syria and Iran) are at the behest of the Zionist State of Israel and the globalist neocons who are in bed with the Zionist State of Israel.

Obviously, that's not going to happen any time soon, is it?

Some 100 evangelical pastors had a private meeting with President Trump this past Monday, and now they are more energized than ever to support Trump's war agenda. You watch: When Trump attacks Syria (and maybe Iran), these same evangelical preachers will be beating the war drums louder than ever. No amount of uncovered criminality or immorality committed by Donald Trump will dissuade evangelicals from their rabid, robotic support for his Zionist war agenda.

As I have said repeatedly: There are not two parties in Washington, D.C. There is only one party: The War Party. Republican or Democrat, Barack Obama or Donald Trump: It doesn't matter. Perpetual war for the bankers, war merchants and State of Israel marches on.

I am convinced that the Israel deception is at the root of America's rapid descent into moral, cultural and political upheaval. The Israel deception has blinded the vast majority of evangelical pastors and churches and during the past 70 years has brought our country to the brink of ruination. I am further convinced that if our pastors and churches could be delivered from the Israel deception, it could bring a great national healing to our country."



The BGM-71 TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) is a heavy anti-tank missile. It was developed by Hughes Aircraft Company during the mid and late 1960s. It was designed both for ground and heliborne applications. Production contract was awarded in 1968. First fielded in the 1970, the TOW is one of the most widely used anti-tank guided missiles in the world. Over 650 000 of these missiles have been made. It is still going strong after nearly forty-five years of service. Currently the TOW anti-tank missile and its variants are used by more than 45 countries around the world.

In 1997 the Hughes Aircraft Company was taken over by Raytheon. So development and production of this anti-tank missile now comes under Raytheon brand.

The TOW has destroyed tanks, mostly Russian, during the war in Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli Wars, the Iran-Iraq War, Gulf War, and now Syria. It proved itself as a very effective weapon.

In the basic infantry form the TOW launcher is mounted on a portable tripod. The missile is carried in a sealed container. It is clipped to the launcher before the launch. This weapon is serviced by a crew of three soldiers, including commander, gunner and assistance gunner. The launcher can be disassembled and transported by the crew. The TOW launchers are typically used by separate anti-tank companies for heavy anti-armor work.

The original missiles are wire-guided. First production missiles had a maximum range of 3,000 meters. Although it was estimated, that the basic TOW missile could penetrate 500-600 mm or Rolled Homogenous Armor (RHA), according to now unclassified study it penetrates only 430 mm.

The TOW missile has semi-automatic guidance. It is not a fire-and-forget type weapon. It requires the shooter to keep the target in the line of sight until the missile impacts. Once the missile is launched the optical sensor on the sight continuously monitors the position of missile in relation to the target. The sensor corrects the trajectory of the missile by sending electrical signals that are passed on by two wires. The communication by wires with the missile cannot be jammed by the enemy. The latest missiles of the TOW are produced both with wire- and wireless guidance. These newer wireless missiles require no special alterations to the launcher.

The TOW launcher is widely carried on various vehicles, and even helicopters. The launcher can be mounted on HMMWVs. It is employed as the main anti-tank weapon by M2 infantry fighting vehicle and M3 Bradley cavalry fighting vehicle. Also there are dedicated anti-tank missile carriers, based on the Stryker (M1134) and LAV-25 (LAV-AT). The M1134 is used by the US Army, while the LAV-AT is used by the US Marine Corps. Also there is an obsolete M901 anti-tank missile carrier, based on the M113 armored personnel carrier chassis that is still in used by some countries.



The US Navy Destroyer USS Ross has arrived on-station in the eastern Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Syria.

Speculation that the US/UK and France are building forces in preparation to attack Syria is rampant, but several new twists to this story have taken place. Hal Turner posted the following remarks Friday morning, August 31, 2018.

For instance, today, Turkish troops and heavy armor began entering Idlib Province, Syria. This is the first time the Turkish Army has entered that area and their decision to do so is raising all sorts of questions.

Another troubling twist is that the USS Ross seems to be . . . **alone**. Facing-off against 17+ Russian fleet vessels also in the Mediterranean off the coast of Syria. **Speculation is now saying the USS Ross may have been sent to be intentionally "sacrificed" to the Russian fleet as a pretext to go to war!**

We begin from three days ago: Russia says that its diplomats in Washington formally reached out to US officials and have briefed them on an impending plan by al-Qaeda insurgents in Idlib **to stage a false flag chemical attack** in order to provoke a Western military attack on Damascus.

This week Moscow has claimed to be in possession of firm intelligence that it says shows armed groups in Idlib are transporting chemicals to area sites, in preparation for the coming major Syrian Army and Russian offensive on the contested province in northwest Syria.

According to RT News, it appears that the State Department confirmed that the rare meeting did take place:

*"Anatoly Antonov, the Russian ambassador in Washington, confirmed to the media on Wednesday that **he had met with the US special representative to Syria, James Jeffrey, and David M. Satterfield, acting assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs.** The attendees of the rare meeting and the fact that it had taken place earlier this week **was revealed by US State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert during a daily briefing.** The meeting was reportedly held this past Monday, according to Russian Ambassador Antonov, who told RT it was "constructive and professional".*

Pentagon and US officials have continued pushing the gambit on Syria, with multiple statements last week and this week which appear to be setting the stage to play the **"Assad is gassing his own people"** card should so much as an inkling of an allegation emerge.

With the dominant al-Qaeda group in control of Idlib, *Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham* (HTS), (Formerly al-Nusra Front) facing imminent defeat in what is likely to be a lengthy, grinding final showdown, they have every incentive to claim Syrian government forces are using sarin or another internationally banned substance.

RT News continues:

At the meeting, Russia officially conveyed its concerns over reports that Washington together with France and the UK is gearing up for another set of airstrikes in Syria under the pretext of a chemical attack that would immediately be blamed on the Syrian government. Moscow has asked Washington to "provide the facts without delay" to substantiate the new allegations that Damascus uses chemical weapons against its own people.

Russia's ambassador to the US also reportedly identified the White Helmets as among the actors on the ground assisting in organizing such a potential provocation.

Concerning the specifics of what was shared with the State Department officials at the meeting, RT reports:

*Intelligence that Russia has gathered has been shared with the US, and the **diplomats were told "in detail" about the provocation against civilians being prepared by Al-Nusra Front (now known as Tahrir al-Sham)** in the northwestern province of Idlib.*

*The Russian Defence Ministry reported earlier that Tahrir al-Sham was plotting a chemical attack that would then be misrepresented as another "atrocity" by the "Syrian regime." **Eight canisters of chlorine have been delivered to a village near Jisr al-Shughur city, and a specially trained group of militants, prepped by the British security company Olive, also arrived in the area to imitate a rescue operation to save the civilian "victims." Militants plan to use child hostages in the staged incident,** according to Antonov.*

Such a scenario sounds similar to what Russia alleges happened in April 2017 in Idlib, where there was never so much as an on-the-ground investigation to collect evidence to back the Khan Sheikoun claimed "sarin attack" incident, which resulted in the Trump White House bombing Syria on mere "rebel" claims and YouTube videos, before waiting for any confirmed scientific proof to back the claims.

To this day the international chemical investigative body and watchdog, the OPCW, has yet to visit the site **due to its being controlled by al-Qaeda forces.**

Meanwhile, a former Pentagon official, Michael Maloof, told RT that if a major publicized chemical attack claim is made and is quickly echoed in the media, the "burden of proof" won't matter as Washington and its allies will use it as leverage anyway.

"If history is any precedent, they won't bother. They did not investigate the last episode before they launched a missile attack into Syria and there's no reason to suspect that they will this time either," Maloof said.

*"**The whole idea is to embarrass Moscow and to intimidate Damascus,**" he said. It appears that Russia is exhausting every diplomatic channel to prevent such a scenario from unfolding; however, mainstream US pundits are already accusing Russia of paving the way for a Syrian regime chemical attack via preliminary propaganda.*

However, it's difficult to understand what Moscow and Damascus would stand to gain from doing the one thing that ensures greater Western military intervention at the very moment Assad stands with the clear momentum of victory on this side.

Considering allegations have been hurled at Assad and the Syrian Army *before the Idlib assault has even begun*, the past week's war of words signals **an unprecedented level of telegraphing intentions for leverage on the battlefield.**

Starting last week with John Bolton's promise that the US *"will respond very strongly,"* American officials' threats have gotten progressively more specific, with the State Department spokesperson this week saying *"we will respond to any verified chemical weapons use in Idlib or elsewhere in Syria ... in a swift and appropriate manner"* while also **vowing to "hold Assad responsible"**.

But it appears Monday's meeting constitutes a **back-channel attempt to calm the fast intensifying situation.**

TURKISH TROOPS/TANKS ON THE MOVE

Today, Thursday August 30, troops and tanks from the Turkish Army began entering Idlib. This is unprecedented and unexplained.

The photos below show the convoys entering Idlib:





In past years, Turkey has SUPPORTED the terrorist groups in Syria, namely ISIS and al-Qaida. So why are they now moving heavy armor and troops into the final area controlled by terrorists in Syria, on the eve of a major Syrian Army offensive to clean-out those terrorists? Whose side are they on?

(HT Remark: This has betrayal written all over it.)

US Builds-up for Missile Attack

The US is increasing the number of cruise missile carriers in the Middle East to attack Syrian government forces, to be activated after the planned staging (hoaxing or false-flagging) of alleged chemical weapons in jihadist-held Idlib province, the official representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Monday, Russian Ministry of Defense, Major General Igor Konashenkov.

“The United States continues to increase the number of cruise missile carriers in the Middle East in connection to the preparations in Idlib province for yet another provocation with the alleged ‘use of chemical weapons,’” said the representative of the Russian entity.

According to the Major General, the American destroyer equipped with 28 Tomahawk missiles that recently entered the waters of the Mediterranean Sea could attack any part of Syria.

“On Aug. 25, the US Navy’s Ross destroyer, armed with 28 Tomahawk missiles, entered the Mediterranean Sea. Its range of action allows for attacks on the entire territory of Syria,” he said.

In addition, formerly another US destroyer, the 56-unit USS The Sullivan’s arrived in the Persian Gulf, while a B-1B bomber with 24 cruise missiles was moved to the US military base in Qatar.

Konashenkov detailed that the “preparations are a further confirmation of US intentions to take advantage of the staging organized by combatants of the [Al-Qaeda affiliated] Tahrir al-Sham [formerly the Al-Nusra Front], with the active involvement of the British secret services in Idlib province, with alleged ‘use of chemical weapons’ by Syrian forces.” Here he refers chiefly to the British MI6.

Yesterday, Igor Konashenkov reported that the Russian Centre for Reconciliation in Syria has information according to which foreign experts would have arrived at the de-escalation zone at Idlib to stage a “chemical attack”.

This comes as the Syrian Army, spearheaded by their 4th Mechanized Units, Tiger Forces and Republican Guards, make final preparations to liberate the jihadist-held province. The operation against Idlib is expected to begin imminently.

Observers point out that the USS Ross seems to be the only US Navy Destroyer in the Med off the Syria coast. If that vessel launches missiles against Syria, it could conceivably come under attack from Russian naval forces which vastly outnumber and outgun the Destroyer. The ship would likely be sunk.

Is that what the US is hoping for? How would the US public react to the sinking of a US Navy Destroyer by the Russian fleet? War.

The bottom line here is that Gog’s second chess move in this match portends another step in the Ezekiel 38/39 scenario. It comes at a time approaching the Jewish Feast of Trumpet, on September 10/11th.

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