

# OPERATION ALEPPO

**Russia's War in Syria**

**The Inside Story of  
Putin's Military  
Intervention in the  
Syrian War**

**TIM RIPLEY**

OPERATION ALEPPO:

RUSSIA'S WAR IN SYRIA

TIM RIPLEY



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# *Russian Naval* deployment in Mediterranean Sea 24 Nov 2016 compiled by Tim Ripley

As at 24 Nov 2016 ships deployed  
to Syrian theatre include:

- 1 x Aircraft Carrier and air group
- 6 x major surface warships
- 1 x minor warships
- 5 x supply and support ships
- 2 x intelligence gathering vessels
- Submarines (not yet seen and confirmed)
- 2 x Akula nuclear attack subs
- 1 x Kilo conventional sub



## Russian Northern Fleet Task Group, November 2016

- *Admiral Kuznetsov* (#063) (Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier)
- *Pyotr Velikiy* (#099) (Kirov class nuclear powered battlecruiser)
- *Severomorsk* (#619)(Udaloy-I class destroyer)
- *Vice-Admiral Kulakov* (#626) (Udaloy-I class destroyer)
- Yug class Oceanographic research ship, name ??
- Ocean Going Tug *Nikolay Chikar*
- 2 x *Boris Chilikin* class fleet replenishment oilers, *Sergey Osipov* and *Dubna*
- 2 x Akula class nuclear powered attack submarine?
- 1 x Kilo conventionally powered attack submarine?

## Russian Black Sea ships assigned to task group in Mediterranean, November 2016

- Kashin class guided Missile destroyer, *Smetlivyy*
- Kalibr cruise missile armed frigate, *Admiral Grigorovich*
- Krivak Class Frigate, *Pytlivyy*
- Nanuchka-III Guided Missile Corvette, *Mirazh*
- mine counter measures vessel, *Ivan Golubets*
- Boris Chilkin class replenishment ship, *Ivan Bubnov*
- Kashtan Class Large Buoy Tender KIL158
- Yug class Oceanographic research ship *Donuzlav*

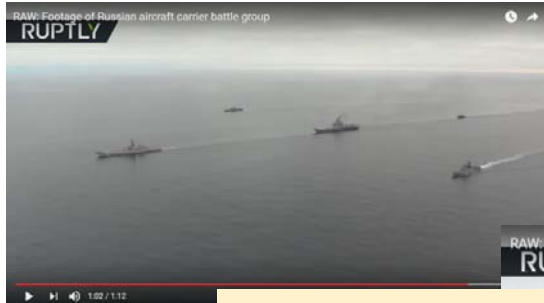
Main picture, Admiral Kuznetsov, prior to her sailing from her base at  
Severomorsk on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Source: <https://vk.com/milinfoive>

# Admiral Kuznetsov Battlegroup Approaches Syria



Admiral Kuznetsov takes on fuel from tanker Sergey Osipov, which loaded with fuel in Algeria on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 16



Kuznetsov Battlegroup, 1 Nov 16  
Source: RT/RUPTY news agency, via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQmKH2rne6I>



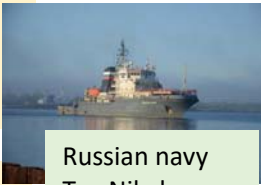
Yug class Oceanographic research ship



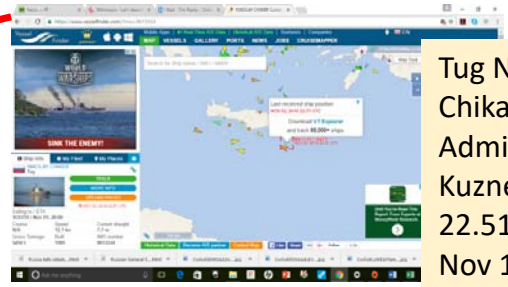
Tug Nikolay Chikar and Admiral Kuznetsov, 31 Oct 16



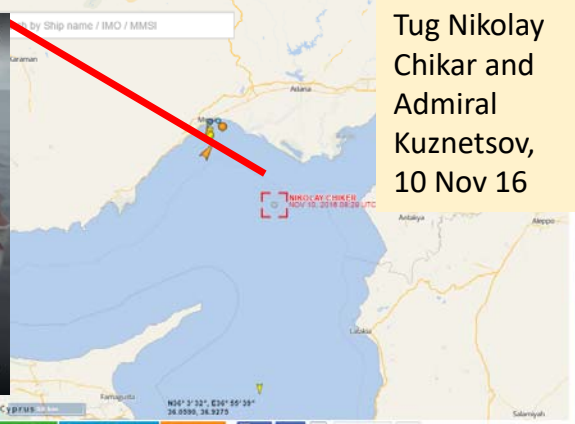
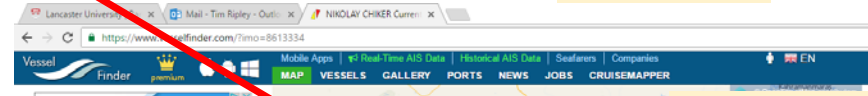
Tug Nikolay Chikar and Admiral Kuznetsov, AM 2 Nov 16



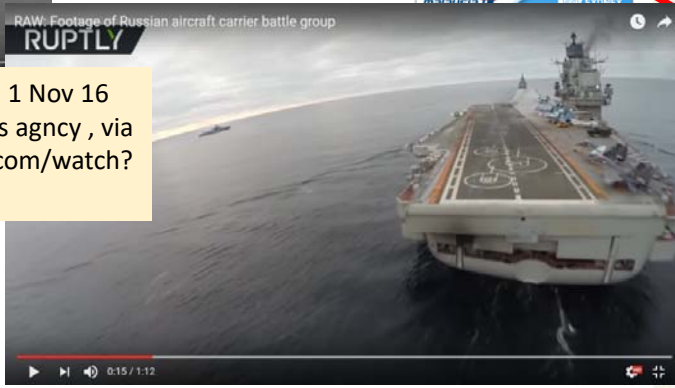
Russian navy Tug Nikolay Chikar which is shadowing the Kuznetsiv has been tracked on open source AIS websites



Tug Nikolay Chikar and Admiral Kuznetsov, 22.51hrs 2 Nov 16



Tug Nikolay Chikar and Admiral Kuznetsov, 10 Nov 16



# Kuznetsov Air Group, 1<sup>st</sup> November

Source: RT/RUPTY news agency , via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0Ytm4R0jrl>

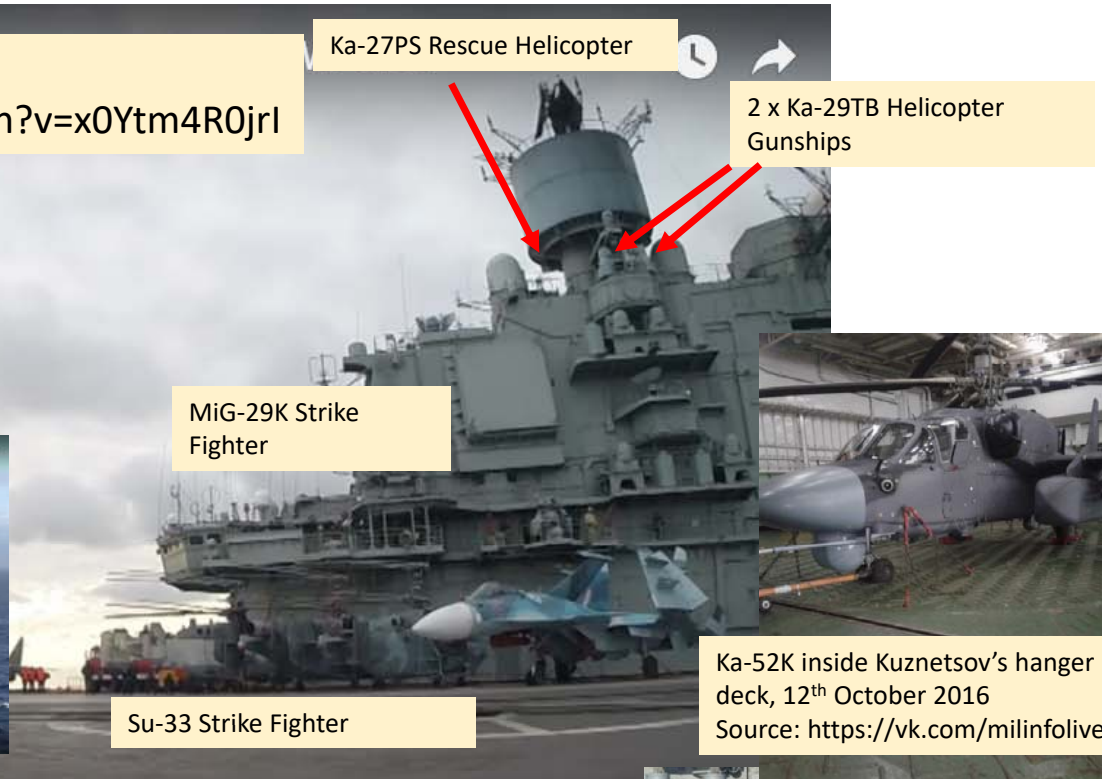


Ka-27PS and Su-33

Su-33 Strike Fighter

MiG-29K Strike Fighter

Ka-27PS Rescue Helicopter



Ka-27PS Rescue Helicopter

2 x Ka-29TB Helicopter Gunships

MiG-29K Strike Fighter

Ka-52K inside Kuznetsov's hanger deck, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Source: <https://vk.com/milinfove>

Su-33 Strike Fighter

## Take Aways:

- The Kuznetsov's air group arrival off Syria will boost the number of Russian strike in theatre by 12 jets or 1/3
- It will also boost the number of armed helicopters by 8 or 1/3

## Admiral Kuznetsov Air Group in Mediterranean Sea, 18 Nov 2016

Aircraft Type	Role	Usual Complement	Confirmed by Pix	Serial	Unit
MiG-29KUBR	Strike		4	4 38, 47, 49, 52 62, 66, 67, 71, 76, 78, 84, 8 85? 88	100th Shipborne Fighter Aviation Regiment
Su-33	Fighter/Strike		10		279th Shipborne Fighter Aviation Regiment
Ka-29	Helicopter Gunship		4	2 75 90, 232 seen in Syria Oct 16	
Ka-31	Airborne Early Warning Helicopter		2 1		
Ka-52K	Attack Helicopter		4 1 or 2		
Ka-27PL	Anti-Submarine Helicopter		4 Nil		830th Independent Shipborne Anti-Submarine Helicopter Regiment
Ka-27PS	Search and Rescue Helicopter		4	2 55, 57	830th Independent Shipborne Anti-Submarine Helicopter Regiment



Ka-31 on Kuznetsov as she transits the English Channel, 21 Oct 16  
Source Dover Marine

© timripley@hotmail.com

# Russian Black Sea Fleet Naval Forces in Eastern Mediterranean, November 2016

Source: Info and imagery, [Bosphorus Naval News @Saturn5](#) which is a volunteer group that monitors naval movements through the Bosphorus near Istanbul



Survey Ship Yantar, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean, 3 Oct 16



Krivak Class Frigate, Pytlivyy, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean, 6 Aug 16



Yug class Oceanographic research ship "DONUZLAV" southbound on Istanbul Strait en route to med, 28 Oct 16



mine counter measures vessel, Ivan Golubets, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean 26 Sept 16



Kashtan Class Large Buoy Tender KIL158 southbound on the Bosphorus with small boat cargo under the tarp 3 Nov 16



Kashin class guided Missile destroyer, Smetlivyy, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean to Join the Kuznetsov, 29 oct 16

Boris Chilkin class replenishment ship Ivan Bubnov transits foggy Bosphorus en route to East Med to join Kuznetsov battlegroup, 5 nov 16



Kalibr cruise missile armed frigate Admiral Grigorovich passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean to Join the Kuznetsov, 4 Nov 16

Operation Damascus  
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian naval forces to exercise off Syria, 10 Nov 16

Notice to airmen (NOTAM), posted with Cypriot aviation authorities

see: <http://notaminfo.com/cyprusmap>, click on red areas marked "W" and "A"

from Glenn - timripley08 x www.janes.com x Wikimapia - Let's describ... x Flight Planning Map - Cy x

notaminfo.com/cyprusmap

Flight Planning map - Cyprus

Map Satellite

A1323/16: Exercises will take place  
 Q) [LCCC/QWELW/IV/BO/W/000/300/3507N03501E045RU](http://LCCC/QWELW/IV/BO/W/000/300/3507N03501E045RU)  
 SSIAN NAVY EXERCISE (TRAINING FLIGHTS  
 ROCKET TEST FIRINGS) WILL TAKE PLACE IN AREA :  
 342940N0343345E  
 343000N0350700E  
 343327N0351850E  
 343345N0353548E  
 354500N0352540E  
 354500N0345600E  
 350540N0344715E  
 LOWER: Surface, UPPER: FL300  
 FROM: 10 Nov 2016 05:00 GMT (07:00 EET) TO: 22 Nov  
 2016 21:00 GMT (23:00 EET)  
 SCHEDULE: 10-15 17-22 0500-2100

Windows taskbar: Ask me anything, 15:47, 04/11/2016

# Russian Naval deployment in Mediterranean Sea, 9 Jan 2017

As at 24 Nov 2016 ships deployed to Syrian theatre at peak of mission include:

- 1 x Aircraft Carrier and air group
- 6 x major surface warships
- 1 x minor warships
- 5 x supply and support ships
- 2 x intelligence gathering vessels
- Submarines (not yet seen and confirmed)
- 2 x Akula nuclear attack subs
- 1 x Kilo conventional sub



## Russian Northern Fleet Task Group, 6 Jan 2017 (when began cruise home)

- *Admiral Kuznetsov* (#063) (Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier)
- *Pyotr Velikiy* (#099) (Kirov class nuclear powered battlecruiser)
- *Severomorsk* (#619)(Udaloy-I class destroyer)
- *Vice-Admiral Kulakov* (#626) (Udaloy-I class destroyer)
- Yug class Oceanographic research ship, name ??
- Ocean Going Tug *Nikolay Chikar*
- 2 x *Boris Chilikin* class fleet replenishment oilers, *Sergey Osipov* and *Dubna*
- 2 x Akula class nuclear powered attack submarine?
- 1 x Kilo conventionally powered attack submarine?

## Russian Black Sea ships assigned to task group in Mediterranean, 9 January 2017

- Kashin class guided Missile destroyer, *Smetlivyy*
- mine counter measures vessel, *Ivan Golubets*
- mine counter measures vessel, *Kovrovets 913*
- Boris Chilkin class replenishment ship, *Ivan Bubnov*
- Kashtan Class Large Buoy Tender KIL158
- Yug class Oceanographic research ship *Donuzlav*

Main picture, Admiral Kuznetsov, prior to her sailing from her base at Severomorsk on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Source: <https://vk.com/milinfoive>

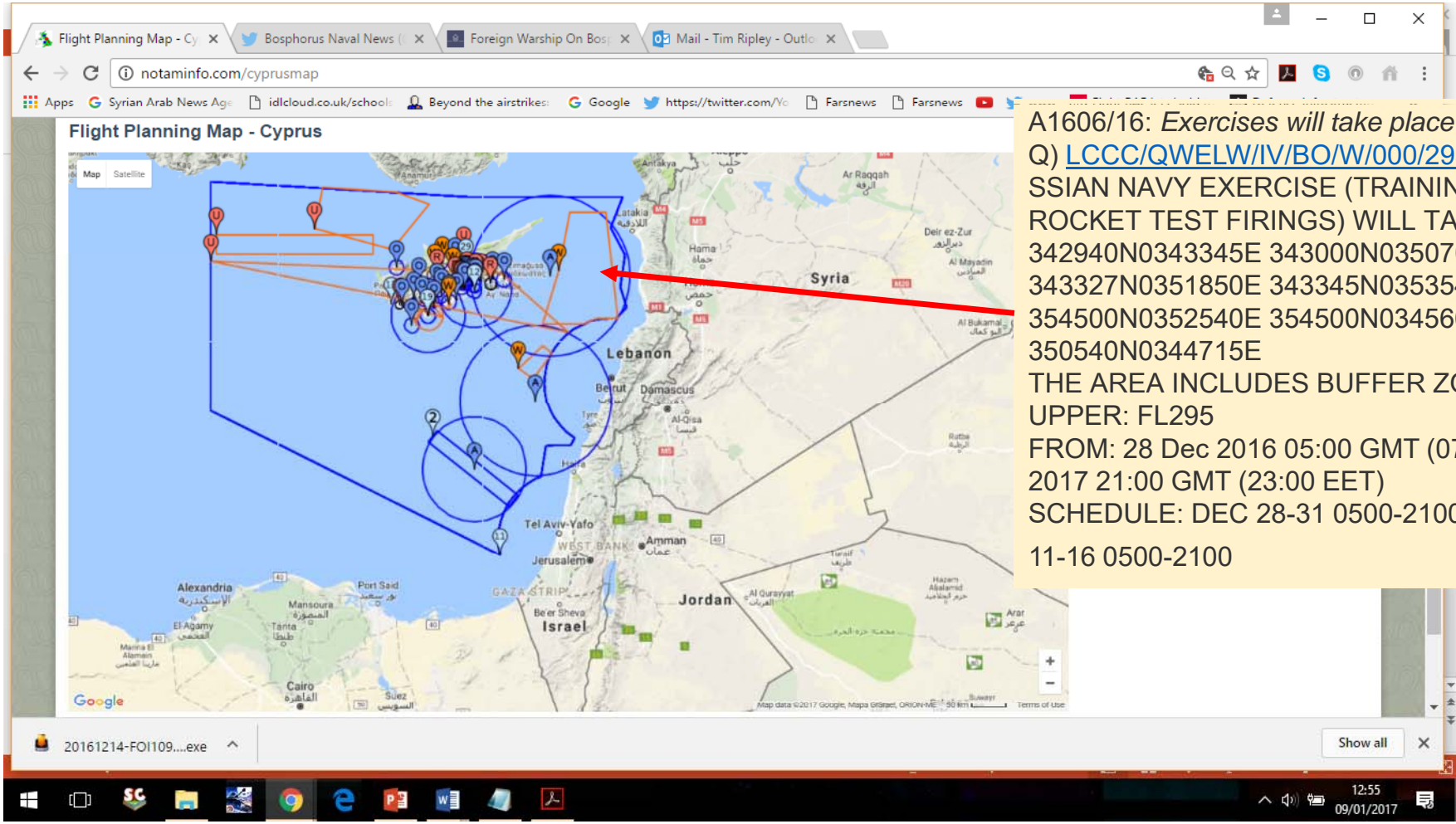
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5 St Andrews Close, Lancaster, LA1 3RL, Tel 01524, 383252, Mob 07711 806905

Russian naval forces to exercise off Syria, 9 Jan 17

Notice to airmen (NOTAM), posted with Cypriot aviation authorities

see: <http://notaminfo.com/cyprusmap>, click on red areas marked “W” and “A”



A1606/16: Exercises will take place  
Q) [LCCC/QWELW/IV/BO/W/000/295/3507N03501E045RU](http://notaminfo.com/cyprusmap)  
SSIAN NAVY EXERCISE (TRAINING FLIGHTS AND  
ROCKET TEST FIRINGS) WILL TAKE PLACE IN AREA :  
342940N0343345E 343000N0350700E  
343327N0351850E 343345N0353548E  
354500N0352540E 354500N0345600E  
350540N0344715E  
THE AREA INCLUDES BUFFER ZONE LOWER: Surface,  
UPPER: FL295  
FROM: 28 Dec 2016 05:00 GMT (07:00 EET) TO: 16 Jan  
2017 21:00 GMT (23:00 EET)  
SCHEDULE: DEC 28-31 0500-2100 , JAN 01-02 04-09  
11-16 0500-2100



# Kuznetsov Air Group,

Source: RT/RUPTY news agency , via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0Ytm4R0jrl>



Ka-27PS and Su-33



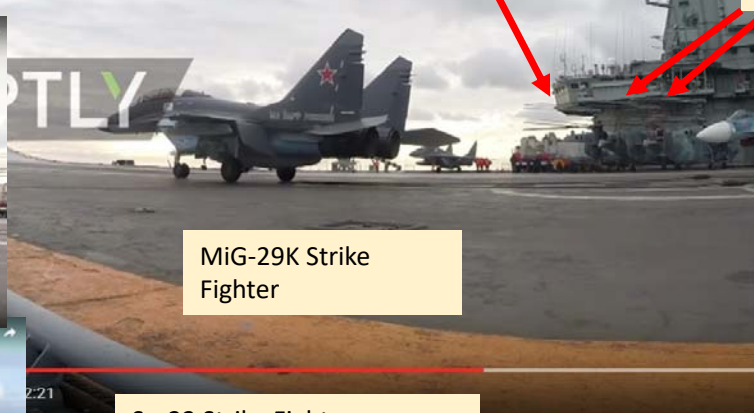
Su-33 Strike Fighter



MiG-29K Strike Fighter



Ka-27PS Rescue Helicopter



MiG-29K Strike Fighter



Su-33 Strike Fighter

Ka-27PS Rescue Helicopter

2 x Ka-29TB Helicopter Gunships



Ka-52K inside Kuznetsov's hanger deck, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Source: <https://vk.com/milinfove>

## Take Aways:

- The Kuznetsov's air group arrival off Syria boosted the number of Russian strike in theatre by 13 jets or 1/3
- It will also boost the number of armed helicopters by 8 or 1/3

## Admiral Kuznetsov Air Group in Mediterranean Sea, 8 Nov 2016-6 Jan 2017

Aircraft Type	Role	Usual Complement	Confirmed by Pix	Serial	Unit
MiG-29KUBR	Strike	4		38, 47, 49 (lost 13/11/16), 4 52	100th Shipborne Fighter Aviation Regiment
Su-33	Fighter/Strike	10		62, 66, 67, 71, 76, 78, 84, 9 85, 88 (1 x lost 3/12/16)	279th Shipborne Fighter Aviation Regiment
Ka-29	Helicopter Gunship	4		2 75	
Ka-31	Airborne Early Warning Helicopter	2	1	90, 232 seen in Syria Oct 16	
Ka-52K	Attack Helicopter	4	1 or 2		
Ka-27PL	Anti-Submarine Helicopter	4	Nil		830th Independent Shipborne Anti-Submarine Helicopter Regiment
Ka-27PS	Search and Rescue Helicopter	4		2 55, 57	830th Independent Shipborne Anti-Submarine Helicopter Regiment



Ka-31 on Kuznetsov as she transits the English Channel, 21 Oct 16  
Source Dover Marine

# Russian Black Sea Fleet Naval Forces in Eastern Mediterranean, 9 January 2017

Source: Info and imagery, [Bosphorus Naval News @Saturn5](#) which is a volunteer group that monitors naval movements through the Bosphorus near Istanbul



mine counter measures vessel, Ivan Golubets, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean 26 Sept 16



mine counter measures vessel, Kovrovets 913, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean 27 Dec 16



Kashin class guided Missile destroyer, Smetlivy, passing through Istanbul Strait into the Mediterranean to join the Kuznetsov, 29 Oct 16



Yug class Oceanographic research ship "DONUZLAV" southbound on Istanbul Strait en route to med, 28 Oct 16



Kashtan Class Large Buoy Tender KIL158 southbound on the Bosphorus with small boat cargo under the tarp 3 Nov 16

Boris Chilkin class replenishment ship Ivan Bubnov transits foggy Bosphorus en route to East Med to join Kuznetsov battlegroup, 5 Nov 16



Operation Damascus  
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16

