

# US' Naval Strategy in The Black Sea, East Asia, Japan and the Pacific. Russia's Response: Putin's Aide Nikolay Patrushev

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Global Research, August 07, 2024

Region: [Asia](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)  
Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Military](#), [WMD](#)

*Russia's response to these newfound threats will likely take the form of more joint and coordinated actions with China.*

Former Secretary of the Security Council and incumbent Presidential Aide Nikolay Patrushev shared some updates about the US' naval strategy in his interview for [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#) last week. He said that it's called "Sea Superiority", which is self-explanatory, but he added that it also implies integrating the US Navy with its regional satellites' in order to contain the Russian and Chinese Navies. This strategy accordingly focuses on the Black Sea and Asia-Pacific regions.

Beginning with the first, the US is trying to pressure Turkiye into loosening its enforcement of the Montreux Convention so as to allow more extra-regional NATO naval assets into the Black Sea. In parallel with this, the US is building new logistics centers in Bulgaria and Romania as well as planning to deploy long-range weapons there too. There's also some superficial talk from [Ukraine](#) and its partners about ensuring "freedom of navigation" in the Azov Sea, Patrushev said, but that's unrealistic of course.

As for the second region, [Japan](#) is designated as the center of NATO's attention, and it's already carried out a whopping 30x more drills with the bloc and other US military allies this year compared to the last one. Apart from that island nation, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea - all of four of which are collectively called the "Indo-Pacific Four" (IP4) by NATO - round out the rest of its partners. Altogether, they're having a very destabilizing effect on the Asia-Pacific, but the US lies that they're stabilizing it.

In response to these threats, Patrushev said that Russia is comprehensively modernizing its fleet and building many new high-tech vessels. He also mentioned that President Putin decreed that industry employees across the board from production workers to engineers receive higher wages. He was mum about other details though but that makes sense for national security reasons. The impression is that the Kremlin is well aware of the US' newfound naval threats and preparing to properly handle them.

Reflecting on the insight that this top official just shared, it's clear that Russia does indeed consider itself and China to be the targets of what Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier described as the US' "[dual containment](#)" strategy, with the innuendo being that more joint responses can be expected. This can take the form of more naval and air drills as well as coordinated action like their nuclear-capable bombers [both approaching Alaska](#) at the same

time last week.

Nevertheless, no matter how convincing the optics may appear, Russia and China will not enter into a mutual defense alliance since neither wants to sacrifice their troops' lives for the others' halfway across the world in their respective regions. These pieces [here](#) and [here](#) from 2023 clarify that while Russian-Chinese ties can be classified as an Entente, these are real limits to their "no-limits" cooperation, such as regarding [India](#) and [Vietnam](#) as explained in the two preceding hyperlinked analyses.

Any military alliance with China would instantly destroy the Asian balancing act that Russia has worked so hard to perfect over the past decade, and which it [recently recalibrated earlier in the summer](#), so nobody should expect it to inflict such damage to its grand strategy. That said, it'll likely work a lot closer with China in the air and naval domains in the coming future through joint and coordinated actions, though it remains to be seen whether this will deter the US and its satellites from crossing their red lines.

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*This article was originally published on the author's Substack, [Andrew Korybko's Newsletter](#).*

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