

US Preparing for "Hybrid War" with Russia? Positioning US-NATO Forces on Russia's Doorstep

By Stephen Lendman

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America is a warrior state, waging direct and/or proxy wars at home and abroad throughout its entire history – today on a global scale, with an arsenal of weapons of unimaginable destructive power able to end life on earth, and lunatics in charge perhaps planning to use them.

In September 2010, <u>Stop NATO editor Rick Rozoff</u> said the **Pentagon is using the Baltic states as "training grounds for Afghan and future wars."**

After NATO expanded from 16 – 28 members from 1999 – 2009 by adding all former Warsaw Pact countries, including former Soviet republics Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Washington used their territory for military bases, troop and weapons deployments, regional "air patrols and the initial stages of a continent-wide anti-ballistic missile system beyond" NATO plans for an Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence Programme.

Positioning US and other NATO forces near Russia's border violated the 1991 (ratified) Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), limiting "several categories of conventional military equipment in Europe," Rozoff explained.

New NATO members Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland were "transformed into training grounds for the Pentagon's and NATO's wars abroad" – including potential confrontation with Russia, regular large-scale military exercises conducted for this purpose, literally readying for possible WW III.

Large numbers of US-led NATO troop deployments and provocative military exercises close to Russia's borders should scare everyone. Last spring, US-installed NATO Secretary-General Jens Stolenberg said dealing with Russia requires "a strong collective alliance" – code language for preparing for military confrontation?

He, US officials and other Western ones consistently lie about nonexistent "Russian aggression" in Ukraine, as well as deploying troops and warplanes in Syria.

Moscow threatens no one. It's the continent's leading peacemaker. Washington threatens world peace, security and stability. Its permanent war agenda risks the unthinkable – possible nuclear armageddon.

On September 25, <u>Sputnik News</u> and <u>RT International</u> both discussed German newspaper Deutsche Wirtschafts Nachrichten's (DWN) report about Washington preparing for possible hybrid war with Russia in the Baltics region – focusing on irregular troop deployments, destabilization, provocative rallies and cyber attacks.

Former US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy was quoted, saying "Russia's (nonexistent) invasion of Eastern Ukraine urged the US to dust off its emergency plans. They were pretty outdated."

Washington's coup followed by orchestrated Kiev aggression on Donbass is used as a pretext to blame Moscow for their crimes – the Big Lie repeated ad nauseam by Western officials and media scoundrels, knowingly and willfully turning truth on its head as part of a longstanding plan to marginalize, weaken, contain, isolate, destabilize and weaken Russia, America's key rival along with China.

DWN said hyping a "Russian threat" is used to justify deploying large numbers of heavily armed US troops in Eastern Europe, hold large-scale provocative war games near its borders and get NATO nations to increase military spending.

German ZDF television reported US plans to position powerful B61 thermonuclear bombs at the Luftwaffe's Buchel Air Base. It's Germany's only military base with US nuclear weapons already – 20 since 2007.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded, calling Washington's intention a "violation of the strategic balance in Europe...And without a doubt, it would demand that Russia take necessary countermeasures to restore the strategic balance and parity."

An unnamed Russian "military-diplomatic" source said Moscow may respond by deploying Iskander-M tactical missiles in Kaliningrad, its Eastern European enclave bordering Lithuania and Poland.

"The issue is being studied," the source said. "A final decision will be made after a detailed analysis of the potential threats."

In 2010, Bundestag opposition members called for removing US nuclear weapons from German territory entirely. At the time, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said "(t)he time is right for a new beginning on nuclear disarmament." Polls show strong anti-nuclear public sentiment.

Former German Defense Ministry Parliamentary State Secretary Willy Wimmer told ZDF television Washington's plan to deploy B61s to Buchel gives it "new attack options against Russia." It's "a conscious (anti-Russian) provocation..."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told ZDF "(t)he comprehensive analysis of the situation points to the threat posed by the increasing military capability of NATO and its endowment with global functions, which it performs in violation of the international law, as well as the encroachment of the military infrastructure of NATO members on the borders of the Russian Federation."

America positioning nuclear weapons on European territory breaches NPT's letter and spirit – prohibiting the transfer of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear states.

Washington's claim about them being under US control doesn't wash. Most important is their potential use, the risk of nuclear war, the top priority for world leaders to avoid at all costs.

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