

# *Russia Holds Nationwide Military Exercises*

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MOSCOW, March 17 (Xinhua) -- Russian Armed Forces have been put on high alert in its western and southern military districts, as well as in the western sector of Arctic, Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

According to the ministry's press service, the landing troops of the Northern Fleet in the Barents Sea, which involve large landing ship Kondopoga, have been alerted at a short notice and left their base in Kola Bay.

Five other ships of the Northern Fleet and aviation groups have joined the drills, searching imaginary enemy's submarines and simulating air defense combat in the Barents Sea.

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