

List of Close Military Encounters Between Russia and the West, March 2014 – March 2015

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New incidents following the publication of ELN report *Dangerous Brinkmanship*, November 2014 to 12 March 2015:

Serious Incidents with Escalation Risk

Serious incidents go beyond the previously established pattern of interaction and involve close encounters of a more aggressive and unusually provocative nature.

1. Near Collision between Russian military jet and Commercial Airliner

Date: 12/12/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: A Russian military aircraft, flying without using its transponders, flies within close proximity of a commercial carrier south of Malmö. Russia has denied that the incident was a danger.

Category: Serious. Such incidents represent a credible threat to life; Swedish Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist said "This is serious. This is inappropriate. This is outright dangerous when you turn off the transponder."¹

2. Air/Naval Incident

Date: Early March 2015

States Involved: Russia; US; Turkey

Geographical Region: Black Sea

Incident Details: Russian fighter-bombers are using NATO warships in the Black Sea to practice attack scenarios.²

Category: Serious. Such actions risk provoking a more proactive defensive response from the captains of these ships should they feel endangered.

¹ Russian military jet nearly collides with passenger plane – again. *Deutsche Welle* <http://www.dw.de/russian-military-jet-nearly-collides-with-passenger-plane-again/a-18127570> Accessed 15 December 2014

² Russian Jets Penetrate NATO Ships' Air Defenses in Black Sea *Sputnik* <http://sputniknews.com/russia/20150304/1019036875.html> Accessed 04 March 2015

Near-Routine incidents

Near Routine incidents are those that generally fit into the previously established pattern of interactions between Russian and Western militaries.

1. Air Incident

Date: 02/10/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Swedish recon aircraft intercepted by Russian fighters in international airspace off Kaliningrad. Incident is described as dangerous.³

Category: Near-Routine

2. Air Incident

Date: 29/10/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Norwegian Air Force fighters intercept Russian aircraft off Finmark.⁴

Category: Near-Routine

3. Naval Incident

Date: 31/10/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Possible sighting of a Russian submarine on the outskirts of Stockholm.⁵ Reliant on one witness

Category: Near-Routine

4. Air Incident

Date: 06/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Unknown NATO

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO fighters intercept Russian recon plane in international airspace near Latvia.⁶

Category: Near Routine

³ Russian SU-27 Flanker performs dangerous intercept putting itself within 10 meters of Swedish ELINT plane *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/10/02/su-27-intercept-swedish-elint-plane/> Accessed 25 November 2014

⁴ Norwegian F-16s took some stunning pictures of Russian Su-34 fighter bombers flying off Norway *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/11/11/su-34-rnoaf-f-16s-photo/> Accessed 12 November 2014

⁵ The Curious case of the second submarine spotted in Stockholm's archipelago *Foreign Policy* https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/01/15/the-curious-case-of-the-second-submarine-spotted-in-stockholms-archipelago/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2ASituation%20Report&utm_campaign=Sit%20Rep%20January%2016%202015 Accessed 16 January 2015

⁶ Nato F-16s scrambled over Baltic after Russian military spy plane spotted *International Business Times* <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nato-f-16s-scrambled-over-baltic-after-russian-military-spy-plane-spotted-1473549> Accessed 07 November 2014

5. Air Incident

Date: 08/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Canada

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: RCAF fighters intercept Russian aircraft in/near Lithuanian airspace.⁷

Category: Near-Routine

6: Air Incident

Date: 12/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Netherlands; Estonia; Lithuania

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Dutch fighters intercept a Russian transport aircraft after it intruded into Estonian and later Lithuanian airspace.⁸

Category: Near-Routine

7. Air Incident

Date: 14/11/14

States Involved: Russia; US

Geographical Region: Pacific

Incident Details: Russian bombers circle Guam.

Category: Near-Routine

8. Air Incident

Date: 15/11/14

States Involved: France; Sweden

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: French plane intercepted “several kilometres” inside Swedish airspace. The Swedes scrambled expecting to intercept a Russian aircraft.⁹

Category: Near-Routine

9. Air Incident

Date: 30/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: Aggressive manoeuvring by Russian jet near Norwegian fighter. Article includes footage.¹⁰

Category: Near Routine

⁷ Canadian CF-18s intercept Russian jet over Lithuania *Toronto Sun*

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/11/08/canadian-cf-18s-intercept-russian-jet-over-lithuania> Accessed 12 November 2014

⁸ Dutch fighters intercept Russian plane over Baltic states *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/13/us-nato-baltic-idUSKCN0IX1Y520141113> Accessed 13 November 2014

⁹ Swedish media mistook French warplane that violated Sweden's airspace for Russian *Tass* <http://en.itar-tass.com/world/760141> Accessed 17 November 2014

¹⁰ Too close for comfort: Norwegian fighter jet captures the hair-raising moment he nearly collided mid-air with a Russian MiG *Mail Online* <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2857602/Too-close-comfort-Norwegian-fighter-jet-captures-hair-raising-moment-nearly-collided-mid-air-Russian-MiG.html> Accessed 04 December 2014

10. Naval Incident

Date: Late November 2014

States Involved: Russia; UK; US; France; Canada

Geographical Region: Eastern Atlantic

Incident Details: Suspected hunt for Russian submarine off the west coast of Scotland, large number of NATO members involved is indicative of UK's lack of maritime patrol aircraft¹¹

Category: Near-Routine

11. Air Incident

Date: 06-07/12/14

States Involved: Russia; Multiple NATO; Sweden; Finland

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Large ("about a dozen") Russian formation flew out of Kaliningrad around the Baltic, only once entering an ADIZ. What is unusual is that this activity took place on both the Saturday and the Sunday.¹²

Category: Near Routine

12. Air Incident

Date: 07/12/14

States Involved: Portugal; Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Multiple interceptions of Russian bombers and transport aircraft in neutral airspace over the Baltic.¹³

Category: Near Routine

13. Air Incident

Date: 08/12/14

States Involved: Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Beaufort Sea

Incident Details: Russian bombers intercepted approaching or inside Canadian IDIZ.¹⁴

Category: Near-Routine

14. Air Incident

Date: 08/12/14

States Involved: Netherlands; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Dutch fighters intercept Russian bombers in international airspace near Kaliningrad, video footage of the incident is available.¹⁵

¹¹ UK called on Nato help in sub search *BBC* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-30398114> Accessed 20 February 2015

¹² Russian military ramps up flights near western airspace *CNN* <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/12/08/politics/russian-flights-near-nato/> Accessed 09 December 2014

¹³ NATO Jets Sent to Intercept Russian Aircraft Over Baltic: Latvia *Bloomberg* <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-07/nato-jets-sent-to-intercept-russian-aircraft-over-baltic-latvia.html> Accessed 08 December 2014 ; Dutch Air Force releases Baltic Intercept Footage *LSM.LV* <http://www.lsm.lv/en/article/societ/society/nato-releases-baltic-intercept-footage.a109709/> Accessed 15 December 2014

¹⁴ Russian Bomber Planes Buzz Canada Coastline, Intercepted By Canadian F-18 Fighters *Inquisitr* <http://www.inquisitr.com/1669710/russian-bomber-planes-canada/> Accessed 15 December 2014

¹⁵ F-16's onderscheppen bewapende Russen (video) *Dutch Ministry of Defence* <http://www.defensie.nl/actueel/nieuws/2014/12/09/f-16%E2%80%99s-onderscheppen-bewapende-russen> Accessed 15 December 2014

Category: Near-Routine

15. Air Incident

Date: 18/12/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Russian recon aircraft intercepted near Finmark¹⁶

Category: Near-Routine

16. Naval Incident

Date: Early January 2015

States Involved: Russia; UK; US

Geographical Region: Eastern Atlantic

Incident Details: US surveillance aircraft cooperate with British frigate to track suspected Russian submarine activity around the western Scottish coast, this was linked with the departure of a Vanguard-class sub from Faslane¹⁷

Category: Near-Routine

17. Air Incident

Date: 19/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Spain

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Interception of unidentified Russian aircraft in international airspace¹⁸

Category: Near-Routine

18. Air Incident

Date: 23/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Spain

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO interception of Russian recon aircraft¹⁹

Category: Near-Routine

19. Air Incident

Date: 28/01/15

States Involved: UK; Russia

Geographical Region: English Channel

Incident Details: RAF fighters intercept Russian bombers; at no point did they enter UK airspace²⁰

Conflicting reports as to whether the bombers were nuclear armed

Category: Near-Routine

¹⁶ Se Forsvarets egne bilder fra møtene med russerne *Nordland* <http://www.nrk.no/nordland/se-forsvarets-egne-bilder-fra-motene-med-russerne-1.12109711> Accessed 20 February 2015

¹⁷ MoD asks for American help in searching for Russian submarine near Scotland *The Independent* <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mod-asks-for-american-help-in-searching-for-russian-submarine-near-scotland-9966080.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

¹⁸ Dos Eurofighter españoles interceptan un avión ruso amenazante en el Báltico ABC <http://www.abc.es/espana/20150121/abci-eurofighter-ejercito-espanol-interceptan-201501202124.html> Accessed 11 March 2015

¹⁹ NATO Scrambles Fighters After Russian Il-20 Spotted Over Baltic Sea *Sputnik* <http://sputniknews.com/military/20150123/1017279433.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

²⁰ Britain says fighter jets scrambled to intercept Russian bombers *Reuters* <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/01/29/uk-britain-defence-russia-idUKKBN0L20VL20150129> Accessed 29 January 2015

20. Air Incident

Date: 29-30/01/15

States Involved: Russia; UK

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: RAF intercept Russian bombers in international airspace²¹

Category: Near-Routine

21. Air Incident

Date: 30/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Italy

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Russian refuelling aircraft intercepted in international airspace²²

Category: Near-Routine

22. Air Incident

Date: 03/02/15

States Involved: Russia; Italy

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO interception of Russian aircraft in international airspace²³

Category: Near-Routine

23. Naval Incident

Date: 17/02/15

States Involved: Russia; UK; France

Geographical Region: English Channel

Incident Details: Russian frigate shadowed by Royal Navy warship and French surveillance assets²⁴

Category: Near-Routine

24. Air Incident

Date: 18/02/15

States Involved: Russia; Norway; UK; France; Ireland

Geographical Region: Norwegian Sea; Eastern Atlantic; English Channel

Incident Details: Russian bombers shadowed down Norwegian coast and across northern, western and southern British Isles, before being picked up by French air force at the Eastern end of the English Channel.²⁵ This flightpath also caused disruption of Irish civil aviation.²⁶

Category: Near-Routine

²¹ 'Only Russia' dangerously probes British airspace, says source *Euronews*

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/01/30/only-russia-dangerously-probes-british-airspace-says-source/>

Accessed 20 February 2015

²² NATO Scrambles Jets After Russian Refueling Aircraft Flies Over Baltic Sea *Sputnik*

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150130/1017555513.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

²³ Italian jets stop Russian warplane over Baltic *The Local* <http://www.thelocal.it/20150203/italian-jets-intercept-russian-warplane-over-baltic> Accessed 20 February 2015

²⁴ British warship monitors Russian naval vessel through Channel *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/17/britain-defence-russia-idUSL5NOVR2S320150217> Accessed 20 February 2015

²⁵ RAF jets scrambled after Russian bombers seen off Cornwall *BBC News* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31530840> Accessed 11 March 2015

²⁶ Russian Bombers Fly Near Ireland *RFE/RL* <http://www.rferl.org/content/russian-bombers-ireland-26880967.html> Accessed 04 March 2015

Full List of all 66 Incidents Logged by the ELN between March 2014 and 12 March 2015

High Risk Incidents

High Risk incidents are defined as those with a high probability of causing casualties or a direct military confrontation between Russia and Western states.

1. Nearly-avoided collision between an airliner and Russian reconnaissance aircraft

Date: 03/03/14

States involved: Denmark; Russia

Geographical Region: International airspace over the Baltic Sea, 50 miles south of Malmo

Incident details: An SAS 737 plane with 132 passengers taking off from Copenhagen airport and heading towards Rome narrowly avoids collision with a Russian reconnaissance aircraft due to the latter's not broadcasting its position.²⁷

Category: High Risk. Had a collision occurred, this would have caused a major diplomatic response, condemnation and further isolation of Russia. It would have almost certainly resulted in a much heavier NATO air presence in the Baltic, thus increasing the opportunity for further escalatory measures.

2. Abduction of an Estonian security service operative

Date: 05/09/14

States Involved: Estonia; Russia

Geographical Region: Estonian-Russian Border

Incident Details: Estonian security service operative captured by Russian agents on Estonian territory, the raid involved communications jamming and smoke grenades. This incident took place immediately after President Obama's visit to the region and his repetition of security assurances to the Baltic States.²⁸

Category: High Risk. Incursion into NATO member state's territory. Possibility of using similar tactics to test the resolve on the Alliance with limited operations beyond the threshold of an armed aggression. Had the Estonian official or his colleagues resisted, fatalities on either side would have been a catalyst for further escalation.

3. Swedish "underwater activity" hunt

Date: 17-27/10/ 14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia (?)

Geographical Region: Stockholm archipelago, Swedish territorial waters

²⁷ SAS flight in Russian spy plane near miss *The Local* <http://www.thelocal.se/20140508/sas-plane-in-russian-spy-plane-near-miss> Accessed 29 October 2014; Airliner and Russian spyplane nearly collide off Sweden *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/05/09/il-20-near-collides-with-sas-flight/> Accessed 29 October 2014

²⁸ Russians open new front after Estonian official is captured in 'cross-border raid' *The Guardian* <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/07/russia-parades-detained-estonian-police-officer> Accessed 29 October 2014; Estonia arrests former KGB officers *The Guardian* <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/03/estonia-kgb-officers-arrest> Accessed 29 October 2014

Incident Details: Major submarine hunt for prompted by reports of “underwater activity” in Swedish territorial waters. Supreme Commander General Sverker Göranson underlined that Sweden was ready to use “armed force” to bring the vessel to the surface if necessary. Russia issued denials and attempted to ridicule Swedish concerns. Major search operation stopped on Oct. 24, Swedish military stated that “foreign underwater activity” probably has taken place, with at least one unidentified vessel involved.²⁹

Category: High Risk. Biggest anti-submarine operation in Sweden since the Cold War. May have confirmed beyond doubt more aggressive Russian surveillance / probing operations against Sweden in breach of international law. Use of force by Sweden may have resulted in casualties and cause international humiliation for Russia, if found responsible for violation.

²⁹ What lies beneath *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/blogs/charlemagne/2014/10/swedish-submarine-hunt> Accessed 29 October 2014; Sweden bathes in echoes of cold war drama as submarine hunt continues *The Guardian* <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/21/sweden-cold-war-submarine-hunt-russia-vessel-military> Accessed 29 October 2014; Sweden submarine search called off *BBC* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-29752368> Accessed 29 October 2014

Serious Incidents with Escalation Risk

Serious incidents go beyond the previously established pattern of interaction and involve close encounters of a more aggressive and unusually provocative nature.

1. US warship harassed by Russian aircraft in the Black Sea

Date: 12/04/14

States involved: United States; Russia

Geographical Region: Black Sea

Incident Details: An unarmed Russian fighter aircraft made 12 passes of the American warship the USS Cook.³⁰

Category: Serious. Such aggressive behaviour, if repeated by an armed aircraft, could have resulted in the ship commander targeting the aircraft in an act of self-defence.

2. Russian fighter threatens US aircraft

Date: 23/04/14

States Involved: United States; Russia

Geographical Region: Sea of Okhotsk

Incident Details: Armed Russian fighter undertakes very threatening manoeuvres in the vicinity of an American recon aircraft. These involve demonstrating that the fighter is armed.³¹

Category: Serious. Such behaviour is far removed from what would be expected in a relatively routine encounter.

3. Simulated attack by Russia aircraft on Denmark

Date: June 2014

States Involved: Russia; simulating attack on Denmark

Geographical Region: Baltic Sea

Incident Details: armed Russian aircraft approached the heavily populated Danish island of Bornholm before breaking off in what appears to have been a simulated attack.

Category: Serious. The Danish intelligence service described the incident as “of a more offensive character than observed in recent years.” At the time of the simulation, the island in question was hosting a major meeting of Danish politicians and journalists.³²

4. Provocative Russian action aimed at Swedish aircraft

Date: 16/07/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

³⁰ Russian aircraft flies near US Navy ship in Black Sea *US Department of Defense* <http://www.defense.gov/news/newarticle.aspx?id=122052> Accessed 29 October 2014

³¹ US official: ‘Dangerous’ Russian jet fly-by was ‘straight out of a movie’ *CNN* <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/03/world/russia-us-jet-fly-by/index.html?iref=allsearch> Accessed 29 October 2014

³² Russia simulated an attack on Denmark *The Local* <http://www.thelocal.dk/20141031/russia-simulated-a-military-attack-on-denmark> Accessed 04 November 2014

Incident Details: Armed Russian aircraft intercepts Swedish surveillance plane conducting operations between Gotland and Latvia in international airspace, flies 10 m from the plane.³³

Category: Serious. Indicated more aggressive approach by intercepting aircraft than in previous encounters

5. US aircraft violates Swedish airspace in an effort to avoid Russian interceptor

Date: 18/07/14

States Involved: United States; Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: An American surveillance plane conducting operations near Kaliningrad took refuge in Swedish air-space after being approached by Russian fighters. This evasive action took place without prior Swedish approval.³⁴

Category: Serious. Indicated more aggressive approach by intercepting aircraft than in previous encounters and forced the U.S. aircraft to violate Swedish airspace

6. Multiple breaches of Finnish air-space by Russian state aircraft

Date: Late August

States Involved: Finland; Russia

Geographical Region: Finland/ Gulf of Finland

Incident Details: Multiple breaches of Finnish air-space by Russian state aircraft.³⁵

Category: Serious. Finland has already articulated that it will respond more firmly to future violations, this is already an escalation.

7. Canadian warship harassed by Russian aircraft in the Black Sea

Date: 07/09/14

States Involved: Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Black Sea

Incident Details: HMCS Toronto (frigate) was buzzed by a Russian aircraft, with the jet coming within 300 metres of the warship. HMCS Toronto locked its radar on Russian planes but took no further

³³ Russian SU-27 Flanker performs dangerous intercept putting itself within 10 meters of Swedish plane *Free Republic* <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/3210582/posts> Accessed 29 October 2014

³⁴ To evade Russians, plane crossed into Sweden *International New York Times* http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/04/world/europe/to-evade-russians-american-reconnaissance-plane-crossed-into-swedish-air.html?_r=0 Accessed 29 October 2014; US spyplane violated Swedish airspace to escape interception by Russian jets *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/08/01/rc-135-violated-swedish-airspace/> Accessed 29 October 2014

³⁵ NATO 2014 Summit: Finland 'ready to intercept' Russian planes after third airspace violation in a week *International Business Times* <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nato-2014-summit-finland-ready-intercept-russian-planes-after-third-airspace-violation-week-1463186> Accessed 29 October 2014; Finland steps up air defense following airspace incursions by Russian planes *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/09/01/finland-steps-up-air-defense-following-airspace-incursions-by-russian-planes/> Accessed 29 October 2014; Finland's fighter jets on alert as Russia violates airspace *Bloomberg* <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-28/finland-puts-fighter-planes-on-alert-as-russia-violates-airspace.html> Accessed 29 October 2014

action as the aircraft were not armed. This coincided with Russian naval combat training near Sevastopol.³⁶

Category: Serious. Such aggressive behaviour, if repeated by an armed aircraft, could have resulted in the ship commander targeting the aircraft in an act of self-defence.

8. Violation of Swedish airspace

Date: 17/09/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Two Russian military aircraft crossed into Swedish air-space south of the island of Oland.³⁷

Category: Serious. Su-24 bombers intentionally violated Swedish airspace possibly to test capabilities of air defence system strengthened after previous incidents. Swedish Foreign Minister described it as 'most serious aerial incursion' in years.

9. Lithuanian vessel detained in international waters

Date: 19/09/14

States Involved: Lithuania; Russia

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Russian officers detained a Lithuanian shipping vessel in international waters in the Barents Sea, subsequently towing it to Murmansk.³⁸

Category: Serious. This is a clear escalation in terms of Russian provocations toward the Baltic States.

10. Russian fighter flies "within metres" of Swedish surveillance aircraft

Date: 03/10/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Russian fighter flies "within metres" of Swedish surveillance aircraft, the incident is deemed "unusually provocative".³⁹

³⁶ Aboard HMCS Toronto for 'Operation Reassurance' on the Black Sea *CTV News* <http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/aboard-hmcs-toronto-for-operation-reassurance-on-the-black-sea-1.2017821#ixzz3E2YOdNIQ> Accessed 29 October 2014; Russia denies military planes approached Canadian warship *Reuters* <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/09/uk-ukraine-crisis-russia-canada-warship-idUKKBN0H40CQ20140909> Accessed 29 October 2014; Russians shadow American warship after Canadian frigate 'buzzed' *CTV News*

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/russians-shadow-american-warship-after-canadian-frigate-buzzed-1.1998265> Accessed 29 October 2014; Black Sea fleet missile units destroy training target near Sevastopol *Tass* <http://en.itar-tass.com/russia/748793> Accessed 29 October 2014

³⁷ <http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/18833/a/246743>

³⁸ Lithuania and Russia exchange diplomatic notes over detained fishing vessel *The Lithuania Tribune* <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/foreign-affairs/lithuania-and-russia-exchange-diplomatic-notes-over-detained-fishing-vessel.d?id=65920560#ixzz3EJpBt0sS> Accessed 29 October 2014; EU protests Russia's 'forced' capture of Lithuanian fishing boat in Barents Sea *The Moscow Times* http://www.themoscowtimes.com/top_stories/article/newsletter/508152.html? Accessed 29 October 2014

³⁹ Russian jet flew 'metres' from Swedish plane *The Local* <http://www.thelocal.se/20141003/russian-jet-soars-metres-from-swedish-plane> Accessed 29 October 2014

Category: Serious. Collision between the aircraft would have serious repercussions for bilateral relations and increased military tensions in the Baltic area

11. Massive surge of activity of Russian aviation along NATO borders

Date: 28-30/10/14

States Involved: Russia; several NATO states involved in tracking and intercepting Russian aircraft (incl. Norway, UK, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey), Finland, Sweden

Geographical Region: North Sea, Atlantic, Baltic, Black Sea

Incident Details: In a series of developments, aircraft from NATO states and partners tracked Russian long-range bombers conducting missions over the North Sea, Atlantic and the Black Sea, as well as big formation of Russian fighter and bombers conducting missions over the Baltic Sea; all missions conducted in international airspace⁴⁰

Category: Serious. Large-scale Russian air operation involving different kind of aircraft and different zones of operation, most likely conducted both to test the preparedness of NATO and partners' defence systems against multiple threats and to signal Russia's readiness and capabilities to confront NATO, if necessary. While no incursion into any national airspace was reported, the operation added to increased tensions along the NATO-Russia borders

12. Near Collision between Russian military jet and Commercial Airliner

Date: 12/12/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: A Russian military aircraft, flying without using its transponders, flies within close proximity of a commercial carrier south of Malmo. Russia has denied that the incident was a danger.

Category: Serious. Such incidents represent a credible threat to life; Swedish Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist said "This is serious. This is inappropriate. This is outright dangerous when you turn off the transponder."⁴¹

13. Air/Naval Incident

Date: Early March 2015

States Involved: Russia; US; Turkey

Geographical Region: Black Sea

Incident Details: Russian fighter-bombers are using NATO warships in the Black Sea to practice attack scenarios.⁴²

Category: Serious. Such actions risk provoking a more proactive defensive response from the captains of these ships should they feel endangered.

⁴⁰ NATO Tracks Large-Scale Russian Air Activity in Europe; Allied Command Operations release, 29th October 2014; <http://www.aco.nato.int/nato-tracks-largescale-russian-air-activity-in-europe.aspx>; NATO Jets intercept Russian Warplanes, *The Guardian*; <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/30/nato-jets-intercept-russian-warplanes>; German Typhoons have intercepted 7 Russian air force combat planes over the Baltic Sea today <http://theaviationist.com/2014/10/28/german-typhoons-intercept-7-ruaf-planes/> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴¹ Russian military jet nearly collides with passenger plane – again. *Deutsche Welle* <http://www.dw.de/russian-military-jet-nearly-collides-with-passenger-plane-again/a-18127570> Accessed 15 December 2014

⁴² Russian Jets Penetrate NATO Ships' Air Defenses in Black Sea *Sputnik* <http://sputniknews.com/russia/20150304/1019036875.html> Accessed 04 March 2015

Near-Routine incidents

Near Routine incidents are those that generally fit into the previously established pattern of interactions between Russian and Western militaries.

1. Maritime incident

Date: 10/04/14

States Involved: Lithuania; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Two Russian Navy vessels involved in live missile firing exercises entered Lithuania's Baltic maritime economic zone, disrupting shipping.⁴³

Category: Near-Routine

2. Air Incident

Date: 20/04/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Russian recon aircraft observes Swedish military installations. Unclear if there was a Swedish response.⁴⁴

Category: Near-Routine.

3. Air Incident

Date: 23/04/14

States Involved: Netherlands; Russia

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: Russian aircraft entered Dutch airspace before being intercepted by Dutch fighter aircraft.⁴⁵

Category: Near-Routine

4. Air Incident

Date: 24/04/14

States Involved: United Kingdom; Russia

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: RAF fighters intercept and shadow Russian aircraft in international airspace.⁴⁶

⁴³ Russian warships in Baltic incident with Lithuania *HIS Jane's 360* <http://www.janes.com/article/36715/russian-warships-in-baltic-incident-with-lithuania> Accessed 29 October; Lithuania dispatches warship after claiming Russian disturbance *Bloomberg* <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-11/lithuania-dispatches-warship-after-claiming-russian-disturbance.html> Accessed 29 October 2014; Lithuania accuses Russia of harassing ships in Baltic Sea *Reuters* <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/30/us-lithuania-idUSKBN0EA27U20140530> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴⁴ Spionplan nära svensk övning *SvD Nyheter* http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/spionplan-nara-svensk-ovning_8119816.svd Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴⁵⁴⁵ Dutch fighter jets intercept 2 Russian bombers in their airspace *CNN* <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/04/23/world/europe/russian-bombers-intercepted/> Accessed 29 October 2014

Category: Near-Routine

5. Air Incident

Date: 28/04/14

States Involved: United States; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO Baltic Air Policing force scrambled to intercept Russian aircraft in international airspace.⁴⁷

Category: Near-Routine

6. Maritime/Air Incident

Date: 18/05/14

States Involved: United Kingdom; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: RAF fighters intercept a Russian helicopter and shadow it back to its parent corvette; the fighters perform several passes of the warship.⁴⁸

Category: Near-Routine

7. Air Incident

Date: 09/05/14

States Involved: United States; Russia

Geographical Region: Eastern Pacific

Incident Details: Russian aircraft approach to within 50 miles of the Californian coast, the closest such flight since the Cold War.⁴⁹

Category: Near-Routine

8. Air Incident

Date: Late May, Early June

States Involved: United States; Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Arctic

Incident Details: Incursions by Russian aircraft into US and Canadian ADIZs in the Arctic.⁵⁰

Category: Near-Routine

⁴⁶ RAF fighter jets scrambled to investigate Russian planes *BBC* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-27130125> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴⁷ Latvian Army *Twitter* https://twitter.com/Latvijas_armija/status/460860368622198784 Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴⁸ RAF Typhoons sent to intercept Russian helicopter over Baltic *The Telegraph* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/10839095/RAF-Typhoons-sent-to-intercept-Russian-helicopter-over-Baltic.html> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁴⁹ Russian strategic bombers near Canada practice cruise missile strikes on US *The Washington Free Beacon* <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/russian-strategic-bombers-near-canada-practice-cruise-missile-strikes-on-us/> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁰ *Ibid* <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/russian-strategic-bombers-near-canada-practice-cruise-missile-strikes-on-us/>

9. Air Incident

Date: 17/06/14

States Involved: United Kingdom; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: RAF fighters intercept a Russian air formation in international airspace.⁵¹

Category: Near-Routine

10. Air Incident

Date: 12/06/14

States Involved: Multiple NATO; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO fighters intercept Russian aircraft in international airspace near Latvia.⁵²

Category: Near-Routine

11. Maritime Incident

Date: 19/06/14

States Involved: United Kingdom; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: HMS Montrose (frigate) sent to investigate Russian corvette in international waters near Denmark's Baltic coast, HMS Montrose subsequently circled by Russian maritime patrol aircraft.⁵³

Category: Near-Routine

12. Air Incident

Date: 21/05/14-13/08/14

States Involved: Russia; Estonia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: A series of short airspace violations by Russian aircraft over the Estonian island of Vaindloo.⁵⁴

Category: Near-Routine⁵⁵

⁵¹ Royal Air Force Typhoons intercept Russian aircraft *Royal Air Force*

<http://www.raf.mod.uk/news/archive/baltic-air-policing-18062014> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵² UK says jets were scrambled to see off Russian planes near Baltics *Reuters*

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/18/uk-britain-nato-baltic-idUKKBN0ET1X520140618> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵³ Royal Navy investigates mystery Russian warship in Baltic *The Telegraph*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/10922700/Royal-Navy-investigates-mystery-Russian-warship-in-Baltic.html> Accessed 29 October 2014; 15 Russian military aircraft are spotted near Latvia's border

Baltic News Network <http://bnn-news.com/15-russian-military-aircraft-spotted-latvias-border-115087>

Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁴ Russian planes straying into foreign airspace *Postimes* <http://news.postimees.ee/2930271/russian-planes-straying-into-foreign-airspace> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁵ Vaindloo Island is situated in the Gulf of Finland and falls under the air traffic control system of St Petersburg rather than Tallinn. This, combined with an increase in air traffic due to military exercises in Kaliningrad (most of the violations are by transport aircraft), may explain the violations.

13. Air Incident

Date: 01/08/14

States Involved: Poland; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Polish fighters of the NATO Baltic air-policing mission intercepted Russian aircraft flying near Estonia air-space.⁵⁶

Category: Near-Routine

14. Air Incident

Date: Early August

States Involved: United States; Russia

Geographical Region: Arctic

Incident Details: Several Russian incursions into the Alaskan ADIZ.⁵⁷

Category: Near-Routine

15. Maritime Incident

Date: 07/08/14

States Involved: United States (?); Russia

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Anti-submarine forces of Russia's Northern Fleet expel and American submarine from the Barents Sea. The US denies its submarines were operating in the area.⁵⁸

Category: Near-Routine

16. Air Incident

Date: 28/08/14

States Involved: Unknown NATO; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: No details beyond aircraft type except that incident took place over the Baltic.⁵⁹

Category: Near-Routine

17. Maritime/Air Incident

Date: August/September

States Involved: Russia; Finland

Geographical Region: Baltic

⁵⁶ NATO fighter jets escort Russian aircraft from Lithuania *The Lithuania Tribune* <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/defence/nato-fighter-jets-escort-russian-aircraft-from-lithuania.d?id=65454778#ixzz3E3WJztwZ> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁷ Russian strategic bombers conduct more than 16 incursions of US Air Defense Zones *The Washington Free Beacon* <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/russian-strategic-bombers-conduct-more-than-16-incursions-of-u-s-air-defense-zones/> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁸ Russia detects, 'expels' presumed US submarine – Russian news agencies *Reuters* <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/09/ukraine-crisis-russia-submarine-idINL6N0QF0J420140809> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁵⁹ NATO air patrol intercepts more Russian planes *LSM.lv* <http://www.lsm.lv/en/article/politics/bap-intercepts-russias-military-aircraft-over-baltic-skies.a96219/> Accessed 29 October 2014

Incident Details: Russian naval and air units interfered with the course of a Finnish research vessel on two occasions.⁶⁰

Category: Near-Routine

18. Air Incident

Date: Early September

States Involved: Russia; Canada; US

Geographical Region: Northern Atlantic

Incident Details: Russian strategic bombers near Canada practice cruise missile strikes on US. The Russian aircraft stayed outside of Canada's ADIZ but this is still a provocative move in light of the NATO summit. Cruise missiles launched from the Labrador Sea would have in range Ottawa, New York, Washington, Chicago, and the Norfolk Naval Base.⁶¹

Category: Near-Routine

19. Air Incident

Date: 11/09/14

States Involved: Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Canadian interception of Russian aircraft in international airspace.⁶²

Category: Near-Routine

20. Air Incident

Date: 17-18/09/14

States Involved: United States; Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Arctic

Incident Details: Russian jets entered the ADIZ off the coast of Alaska (officials say such incidents happen around 10 times a year) on two separate occasions, once on the evening of Wednesday 17th Sep (USA ADIZ) and once on the morning of Thursday 18th Sep (Canadian ADIZ, Beaufort Sea). The Russian planes were intercepted by American and Canadian fighters. These incidents coincide with Ukrainian President' Petro Poroshenko visit to Ottawa and Washington.⁶³

Category: Near-Routine

⁶⁰ Finland says Russian navy interfered with Baltic Sea research vessel *Reuters* <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/10/11/uk-finland-vessel-russia-idUKKCN0100KH20141011> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶¹ Russian strategic bombers near Canada practice cruise missile strikes on US *The Washington Free Beacon* <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/russian-strategic-bombers-near-canada-practice-cruise-missile-strikes-on-us/> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶² Canadian fighter jets intercept Russian military aircraft in Baltics *National Post* <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2014/09/29/matthew-fisher-canadian-fighter-jets-intercept-russian-military-aircraft-in-baltics/> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶³ Six Russian fighter jets intercepted off Alaska *BBC* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-29288277> Accessed 29 October 2014; Russian nuclear bombers buzz Alaska, N. Europe *The Washington Free Beacon* <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/russian-nuclear-bombers-buzz-northern-europe/> Accessed 29 October 2014

21. Air Incident

Date: 19/09/14

States Involved: United Kingdom; Russia

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: RAF shadow Russian aircraft in international airspace.⁶⁴

Category: Near-Routine

22. Maritime Incident

Date: 29/09/14

States Involved: Latvia; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Latvian forces observe Russian warship operating 14 miles from Latvian territorial waters; article observes that Russian jets and warships have been detected 173 times near Latvia's borders as of September 1.⁶⁵

Category: Near-Routine

23. Air Incident

Date: 02/10/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Swedish recon aircraft intercepted by Russian fighters in international airspace off Kaliningrad. Incident is described as dangerous.⁶⁶

Category: Near-Routine

24. Air Incident

Date: 20/10/14

States Involved: Lithuania (Canadian CF-18); Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Baltic Air Policing interception of Russian surveillance Il-20 aircraft in international airspace.⁶⁷

Category: Near-Routine

25. Air Incident

Date: 21/10/14

States Involved: Estonia (Portugal); Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

⁶⁴ RAF Typhoons scramble to long-range Russian bombers *The Telegraph* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/11108857/RAF-Typhoons-scramble-to-long-range-Russian-bombers.html> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶⁵ Russian navy ship spotted near Latvian waters *The Baltic Times* <http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/35597/#.VDUXx2ddWlw> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶⁶ Russian SU-27 Flanker performs dangerous intercept putting itself within 10 meters of Swedish ELINT plane *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/10/02/su-27-intercept-swedish-elint-plane/> Accessed 25 November 2014

⁶⁷ NATO intercepts Russian jets over Baltic Sea *Mail Online* <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2801825/NATO-intercepts-Russian-jets-Baltic-Sea.html> Accessed 29 October 2014

Incident Details: Baltic Air Policing (Portuguese F-16) intercepts Russian Il-20 surveillance aircraft which entered Estonian airspace next to the island of Saaremaa for about a minute.⁶⁸

Category: Near-Routine

26. Air Incident

Date: 29/10/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Norwegian Air Force fighters intercept Russian aircraft off Finmark.⁶⁹

Category: Near-Routine

27. Air Incident

Date: 31/10/14

States Involved: Russia; UK

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: RAF intercepts Russian aircraft approaching UK airspace.⁷⁰

Category: Near Routine

28. Naval Incident

Date: 31/10/14

States Involved: Sweden; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Possible sighting of a Russian submarine on the outskirts of Stockholm.⁷¹ Reliant on one witness

Category: Near-Routine

29. Air Incident

Date: 06/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Unknown NATO

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO fighters intercept Russian recon plane in international airspace near Latvia.⁷²

Category: Near Routine

⁶⁸ Fighters scrambled as Russian spyplane violates Estonian airspace *Financial Times* <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8e28123e-5a09-11e4-8771-00144feab7de.html#axzz3GxGUdJsJ> Accessed 29 October 2014

⁶⁹ Norwegian F-16s took some stunning pictures of Russian Su-34 fighter bombers flying off Norway *The Aviationist* <http://theaviationist.com/2014/11/11/su-34-rnoaf-f-16s-photo/> Accessed 12 November 2014

⁷⁰ RAF intercepts Russian bomber approaching UK airspace *The Guardian* <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/01/raf-russian-bomber-uk-airspace> Accessed 03 November 2014

⁷¹ The Curious case of the second submarine spotted in Stockholm's archipelago *Foreign Policy* https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/01/15/the-curious-case-of-the-second-submarine-spotted-in-stockholms-archipelago/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=%2ASituation%20Report&utm_campaign=Sit%20Rep%20January%2016%202015 Accessed 16 January 2015

⁷² Nato F-16s scrambled over Baltic after Russian military spy plane spotted *International Business Times* <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/nato-f-16s-scrambled-over-baltic-after-russian-military-spy-plane-spotted-1473549> Accessed 07 November 2014

30. Air Incident

Date: 08/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Canada

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: RCAF fighters intercept Russian aircraft in/near Lithuanian airspace.⁷³

Category: Near-Routine

31: Air Incident

Date: 12/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Netherlands; Estonia; Lithuania

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Dutch fighters intercept a Russian transport aircraft after it intruded into Estonian and later Lithuanian airspace.⁷⁴

Category: Near-Routine

32. Air Incident

Date: 14/11/14

States Involved: Russia; US

Geographical Region: Pacific

Incident Details: Russian bombers circle Guam.

Category: Near-Routine

33. Air Incident

Date: 15/11/14

States Involved: France; Sweden

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: French plane intercepted "several kilometres" inside Swedish airspace. The Swedes scrambled expecting to intercept a Russian aircraft.⁷⁵

Category: Near-Routine

34. Air Incident

Date: 30/11/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: Aggressive manoeuvring by Russian jet near Norwegian fighter. Article includes footage.⁷⁶

Category: Near Routine

⁷³ Canadian CF-18s intercept Russian jet over Lithuania *Toronto Sun*

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/11/08/canadian-cf-18s-intercept-russian-jet-over-lithuania> Accessed 12 November 2014

⁷⁴ Dutch fighters intercept Russian plane over Baltic states *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/13/us-nato-baltic-idUSKCN0IX1Y520141113> Accessed 13 November 2014

⁷⁵ Swedish media mistook French warplane that violated Sweden's airspace for Russian *Tass* <http://en.itar-tass.com/world/760141> Accessed 17 November 2014

⁷⁶ Too close for comfort: Norwegian fighter jet captures the hair-raising moment he nearly collided mid-air with a Russian MiG *Mail Online* <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2857602/Too-close-comfort-Norwegian-fighter-jet-captures-hair-raising-moment-nearly-collided-mid-air-Russian-MiG.html> Accessed 04 December 2014

35. Naval Incident

Date: Late November 2014

States Involved: Russia; UK; US; France; Canada

Geographical Region: Eastern Atlantic

Incident Details: Suspected hunt for Russian submarine off the west coast of Scotland, large number of NATO members involved is indicative of UK's lack of maritime patrol aircraft⁷⁷

Category: Near-Routine

36. Air Incident

Date: 06-07/12/14

States Involved: Russia; Multiple NATO; Sweden; Finland

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Large ("about a dozen") Russian formation flew out of Kaliningrad around the Baltic, only once entering an ADIZ. What is unusual is that this activity took place on both the Saturday and the Sunday.⁷⁸

Category: Near Routine

37. Air Incident

Date: 07/12/14

States Involved: Portugal; Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Multiple interceptions of Russian bombers and transport aircraft in neutral airspace over the Baltic.⁷⁹

Category: Near Routine

38. Air Incident

Date: 08/12/14

States Involved: Canada; Russia

Geographical Region: Beaufort Sea

Incident Details: Russian bombers intercepted approaching or inside Canadian IDIZ.⁸⁰

Category: Near-Routine

39. Air Incident

Date: 08/12/14

States Involved: Netherlands; Russia

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Dutch fighters intercept Russian bombers in international airspace near Kaliningrad, video footage of the incident is available.⁸¹

⁷⁷ UK called on Nato help in sub search *BBC* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-30398114> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁷⁸ Russian military ramps up flights near western airspace *CNN* <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/12/08/politics/russian-flights-near-nato/> Accessed 09 December 2014

⁷⁹ NATO Jets Sent to Intercept Russian Aircraft Over Baltic: Latvia *Bloomberg* <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-07/nato-jets-sent-to-intercept-russian-aircraft-over-baltic-latvia.html> Accessed 08 December 2014 ; Dutch Air Force releases Baltic Intercept Footage *LSM.LV* <http://www.lsm.lv/en/article/societ/society/nato-releases-baltic-intercept-footage.a109709/> Accessed 15 December 2014

⁸⁰ Russian Bomber Planes Buzz Canada Coastline, Intercepted By Canadian F-18 Fighters *Inquisitr* <http://www.inquisitr.com/1669710/russian-bomber-planes-canada/> Accessed 15 December 2014

⁸¹ F-16's onderscheppen bewapende Russen (video) *Dutch Ministry of Defence* <http://www.defensie.nl/actueel/nieuws/2014/12/09/f-16%E2%80%99s-onderscheppen-bewapende-russen> Accessed 15 December 2014

Category: Near-Routine

40. Air Incident

Date: 18/12/14

States Involved: Russia; Norway

Geographical Region: Barents Sea

Incident Details: Russian recon aircraft intercepted near Finmark⁸²

Category: Near-Routine

41. Naval Incident

Date: Early January 2015

States Involved: Russia; UK; US

Geographical Region: Eastern Atlantic

Incident Details: US surveillance aircraft cooperate with British frigate to track suspected Russian submarine activity around the western Scottish coast, this was linked with the departure of a Vanguard-class sub from Faslane⁸³

Category: Near-Routine

42. Air Incident

Date: 19/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Spain

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Interception of unidentified Russian aircraft in international airspace⁸⁴

Category: Near-Routine

43. Air Incident

Date: 23/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Spain

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO interception of Russian recon aircraft⁸⁵

Category: Near-Routine

44. Air Incident

Date: 28/01/15

States Involved: UK; Russia

Geographical Region: English Channel

Incident Details: RAF fighters intercept Russian bombers; at no point did they enter UK airspace⁸⁶
Conflicting reports as to whether the bombers were nuclear armed

Category: Near-Routine

⁸² Se Forsvarets egne bilder fra møtene med russerne *Nordland* <http://www.nrk.no/nordland/se-forsvarets-egne-bilder-fra-motene-med-russerne-1.12109711> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁸³ MoD asks for American help in searching for Russian submarine near Scotland *The Independent* <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mod-asks-for-american-help-in-searching-for-russian-submarine-near-scotland-9966080.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁸⁴ Dos Eurofighter españoles interceptan un avión ruso amenazante en el Báltico ABC <http://www.abc.es/espana/20150121/abci-eurofighter-ejercito-espanol-interceptan-201501202124.html> Accessed 11 March 2015

⁸⁵ NATO Scrambles Fighters After Russian Il-20 Spotted Over Baltic Sea *Sputnik* <http://sputniknews.com/military/20150123/1017279433.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁸⁶ Britain says fighter jets scrambled to intercept Russian bombers *Reuters* <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/01/29/uk-britain-defence-russia-idUKKBN0L20VL20150129> Accessed 29 January 2015

45. Air Incident

Date: 29-30/01/15

States Involved: Russia; UK

Geographical Region: North Sea

Incident Details: RAF intercept Russian bombers in international airspace⁸⁷

Category: Near-Routine

46. Air Incident

Date: 30/01/15

States Involved: Russia; Italy

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: Russian refuelling aircraft intercepted in international airspace⁸⁸

Category: Near-Routine

47. Air Incident

Date: 03/02/15

States Involved: Russia; Italy

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO interception of Russian aircraft in international airspace⁸⁹

Category: Near-Routine

48. Naval Incident

Date: 17/02/15

States Involved: Russia; UK; France

Geographical Region: English Channel

Incident Details: Russian frigate shadowed by Royal Navy warship and French surveillance assets⁹⁰

Category: Near-Routine

49. Air Incident

Date: 18/02/15

States Involved: Russia; Norway; UK; France; Ireland

Geographical Region: Norwegian Sea; Eastern Atlantic; English Channel

Incident Details: Russian bombers shadowed down Norwegian coast and across northern, western and southern British Isles, before being picked up by French air force at the Eastern end of the English Channel.⁹¹ This flightpath also caused disruption of Irish civil aviation.⁹²

Category: Near-Routine

⁸⁷ 'Only Russia' dangerously probes British airspace, says source *Euronews*

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/01/30/only-russia-dangerously-probes-british-airspace-says-source/>

Accessed 20 February 2015

⁸⁸ NATO Scrambles Jets After Russian Refueling Aircraft Flies Over Baltic Sea *Sputnik*

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150130/1017555513.html> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁸⁹ Italian jets stop Russian warplane over Baltic *The Local* <http://www.thelocal.it/20150203/italian-jets-intercept-russian-warplane-over-baltic> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁹⁰ British warship monitors Russian naval vessel through Channel *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/17/britain-defence-russia-idUSL5NOVR2S320150217> Accessed 20 February 2015

⁹¹ RAF jets scrambled after Russian bombers seen off Cornwall *BBC News* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31530840> Accessed 11 March 2015

⁹² Russian Bombers Fly Near Ireland *RFE/RL* <http://www.rferl.org/content/russian-bombers-ireland-26880967.html> Accessed 04 March 2015

50. Air Incident

Date: 10/03/15

States Involved: Russia; Italy

Geographical Region: Baltic

Incident Details: NATO fighters intercept Russian fuel tanker⁹³

Category: Near-Routine

⁹³ NATO Fighter Jets Scramble to Intercept Russian Fuel Tanker Over Baltic Sea *Sputnik*
<http://sputniknews.com/military/20150311/1019326485.html> Accessed 12 March 2015