

I enjoyed yesterday's class and hope you did too. A special thanks to Gloria Loew and Helen Anderson for their reports.

Our final session next week will be devoted to Russian defense doctrine and the ongoing attempts at military reform. The Soviet Army and its successor have been based on the principle of mass mobilization of reservists who had been conscripted to serve two years on active duty, then released. Peacetime units were heavy on officers, light on troops. Since the dissolution of the USSR, conscript service has been reduced to one year, significantly limiting technical training of specialists and leading to proposals to establish a modern all-volunteer military.

The two Strategic Studies Institute documents are quite lengthy, but a read of the summaries will give you an appreciation for the problems facing the Russian military. In case you have trouble opening or reading the attached PDF documents, they will be posted soon on DocStore.

Readings:

CIA World Factbook, click on Military [<http://tinyurl.com/3anysy>]
Georgia War (Strategic Studies Institute) [<http://tinyurl.com/43zngpo>]
Ground Force Modernization (Strategic Studies Institute) [<http://tinyurl.com/3g5nbsr>]
Beware of Arms Treaties (Heritage Foundation) [pdf]
West to have 80,000 cruise missiles by 2020 (RIA Novosti) [pdf]
Corruption in the Military (Jamestown Foundation) [pdf]
Red Army Gets Robbed (Strategy Page) [pdf]
Generals Sacked (RIA Novosti) [pdf]

Discussion topics:

See you Thursday,
Gordon