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INTELLIGENCE



Eagle Assault 2024

Joint Military Exercises Between
China and Belarus

Basic Details

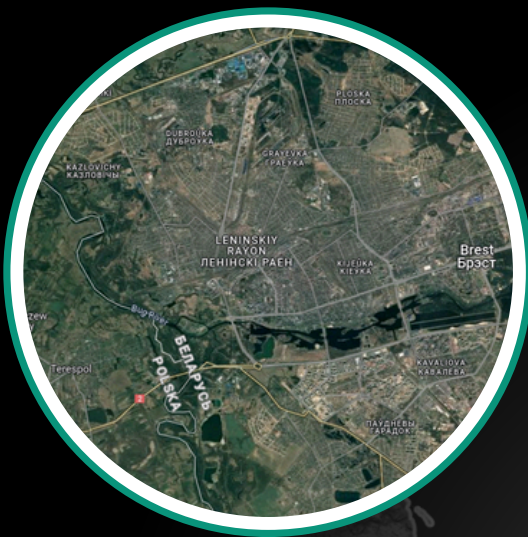
Date

July 8-19, 2024

Location

Brest region of Belarus, near Polish Border

52.0976° N, 23.6877° E



*Military Exercise took place
approx 5 kms from the
Poland (NATO) Border.
Brest*

*Military Exercise took place
approx 70 kms from the
Ukraine Border.*



Executive Summary

The Eagle Assault 2024 joint military exercises, held from July 8 to 19, 2024, in Brest, Belarus, mark a significant step in the deepening military cooperation between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China and the Belarusian Armed Forces. These exercises focused on enhancing counterterrorism capabilities, tactical interoperability, and overall military readiness. The drills involved a series of complex maneuvers, reflecting the strategic alignment of both nations against regional and global security challenges.

While the two countries have participated previously under multilateral military exercises regimes, this is the first time that Chinese troops have conducted military exercises approximately five kilometers away from the Belarusian border with Poland, NATO's easternmost flank. This is important because China has, on several occasions, voiced its concerns over military exercises conducted by America and its allies in the Chinese backyard. The repeated mention of China and its foreign policy in NATO joint statements is also looked at by Beijing from a suspicious view as more and more NATO allies are announcing their Indo-Pacific strategies to contain China.

Key Observations

1. Participants and Forces Involved:

- **China:**
 - People's Liberation Army Ground Force (PLAGF)
 - People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF)
- **Belarus:**
 - Belarusian Ground Forces
 - Belarusian Air Force

2. Objectives:

- Strengthen bilateral military cooperation and enhance operational interoperability.
- Improve joint counterterrorism tactics and rescue operations.
- Demonstrate the strategic partnership and military readiness of both nations in the face of external threats.

3. Training and Drills:

- **Airborne Assaults:** Exercises involving night landings and airborne maneuvers to simulate rapid deployment scenarios.
- **River Crossings:** Drills to practice overcoming water obstacles, enhancing mobility and coordination in amphibious operations.
- **Urban Combat:** Operations conducted in residential areas to simulate counterterrorism missions and hostage rescue situations.

4. Key Activities:

- Hostage rescue operations involving coordination between special forces of both nations.
- Counterterrorism missions designed to neutralize simulated threats and secure critical infrastructure.
- Night operations and live-fire exercises to enhance combat readiness under realistic conditions.

Previous Military Exercises

1. 2011-2018 Anti-Terrorism Exercises:

- **Period:** Conducted between 2011 and 2018.
- **Focus:** These exercises were focused on counterterrorism operations, aimed at improving joint response capabilities against terrorist threats.
- **Frequency:** A total of four exercises were conducted during this period.

2. 2015 Polonez Rocket System Development:

- **Activity:** While not a traditional military drill, the development of the Polonez multiple-rocket launcher system in 2015 was a significant military collaboration. The system incorporates modified Chinese designs, indicating deep military technology cooperation.
- **Significance:** This collaboration marked a significant transfer of military technology and expertise from China to Belarus.



3. Eagle Assault 2024:

- **Period:** Held from July 8 to 19, 2024.
- **Location:** Brest, Belarus.
- **Focus:** Included airborne assaults, river crossings, and residential-area combat to enhance cooperation in counterterrorism and hostage-rescue operations.
- **Significance:** The exercises took place against the backdrop of Belarus's recent entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), highlighting increasing Chinese-Belarusian military ties.





Strategic Implications

1. Regional Security Dynamics:

- The joint exercises near NATO's eastern borders signify a strategic posturing by China and Belarus, potentially heightening tensions with NATO member states.
- The presence of Chinese troops in Belarus indicates Beijing's support for Minsk, reinforcing Belarus's position as a strategic ally of China and Russia.

2. Geopolitical Significance:

- The exercises highlight China's expanding influence in Eastern Europe and its commitment to supporting allied nations.
- Belarus benefits from enhanced military capabilities and support, strengthening its defense posture amidst regional security challenges.

3. Future Projections:

- Continued military cooperation between China and Belarus can be expected, with potential for more frequent and extensive joint exercises.
- This partnership may lead to further technological and intelligence sharing, enhancing the overall military effectiveness of both nations.

Conclusion

The Eagle Assault 2024 exercises between China and Belarus represent a significant demonstration of their growing military cooperation and strategic partnership. The drills conducted during these exercises reflect a comprehensive approach to improving joint operational capabilities and readiness. The implications of this cooperation are far-reaching, influencing regional security dynamics and geopolitical relations.





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