



## Belarus Warning Update: Russia Likely Began Preparing Logistics Supply Lines to Belarus

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By George Barros

**Russia's Western Military District (WMD) is intensifying efforts likely intended to establish the logistical infrastructure necessary to sustain a near-continuous Russian conventional military presence in Belarus.** ISW assesses recent WMD exercises are preparations for the upcoming Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Unbreakable Brotherhood command-staff exercises planned for October 12-16 at the Losvido training ground in Vitebsk, Belarus.<sup>1</sup>

**WMD logistics units are conducting exercises to transport ammunition and fuel closer to Belarus—activities which would be necessary to support a lasting deployment.** The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) stated on October 4 that regiment-sized elements (1,000 personnel)—including unspecified motorized rifle, tank, reconnaissance, engineering, artillery, and logistics and signals units—of Russia's Voronezh-based 20<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Army (CAA) will conduct exercises in Voronezh, Belgorod, Kursk, Bryansk, and Smolensk at an unspecified time in the future.<sup>2</sup> The MoD emphasized that logistics and engineering support units worked out transporting ammunition and fuel over “several kilometers” to combat units for these exercises.<sup>3</sup> Russia's Smolensk and Bryansk regions border eastern Belarus and would host supply lines to Belarus in the event of a sustained Russian military presence there.<sup>4</sup>

**WMD units continue emphasizing command and control activities consistent with establishing supply lines to Belarus.** The MoD stated on October 4 that a company-sized (100 personnel) signals element of the 95<sup>th</sup> Command Brigade of the Leningrad-based 6<sup>th</sup> CAA will conduct exercises using multi-purpose mobile communications systems to practice deploying and concealing integrated field command and control network nodes at an unspecified time in the future.<sup>5</sup>

ISW will continue monitoring the situation and providing updates.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iswresearch.org/2020/09/belarus-warning-update-kremlin-is.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://function.mil\(.ru\)/news\\_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews](https://function.mil(.ru)/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews)

<sup>3</sup> [https://function.mil\(.ru\)/news\\_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews](https://function.mil(.ru)/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews)

<sup>4</sup> [https://function.mil\(.ru\)/news\\_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews](https://function.mil(.ru)/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12317582@egNews)

<sup>5</sup> [https://function.mil\(.ru\)/news\\_page/country/more.htm?id=12317604@egNews](https://function.mil(.ru)/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12317604@egNews)