

## Arctic Deployment 2025

**Location:** Kola Peninsula

**Date:** August 2025

**Classification:** JTF-323 SECRET – Eyes Only



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### 1. Situation

Escalating tensions between NATO and the Russian Federation in the Kola Peninsula have compelled NATO leadership to initiate an immediate forward deployment of air, land, and maritime forces to the region. Joint Task Force 323 (JTF-323) has been mobilized, integrating the **95th Fighter Squadron “Boneheads”**, **195th Fighter Squadron “Warhawks”**, **VFA-102 “Diamondbacks”**, and the **16th Combat Aviation Brigade**. Ground operations will be spearheaded by **Artemis Group**, a NATO-aligned private military contractor specializing in covert and high-value target operations.

The situation remains volatile. Intelligence assessments indicate a heightened risk of open conflict within weeks. NATO’s primary objective is to **reinforce and uphold the Finland–Russia border**, maintaining its integrity at all costs. Artemis Group will conduct black operations targeting Russian ammunition and drone depots, and execute capture or elimination of senior leadership to degrade enemy command-and-control capability.

The **Finnish Defence Forces (FDF)** are actively engaged in defensive operations while facilitating civilian evacuation from high-risk zones and securing critical infrastructure. JTF-323 will remain deployed in-theater for the remainder of 2025 to provide sustained air and ground support to FDF and Artemis Group operations.

Carrier Strike Group 5, led by the **USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75)**, has redeployed from the Mediterranean to the Norwegian Sea, positioned to deliver persistent naval aviation support, long-range strike capabilities, and logistical resupply to Arctic operations.

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### 2. Mission

JTF-323 will deploy air and ground forces to support NATO operations in the Kola Peninsula. Objectives include:

- Maintain full control of Finnish and Norwegian airspace adjacent to the Russian border.
  - Intercept and neutralize Russian reconnaissance or strike aircraft approaching NATO airspace.
  - Conduct deep-strike missions on identified military infrastructure to disrupt enemy operations.
  - Support Artemis Group in clandestine missions to seize or destroy enemy matériel and eliminate high-value leadership.
  - Provide close air support (CAS) for Finnish Defence Forces engaged in defensive operations.
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### 3. Execution

#### Commander's Intent:

Deny Russian forces the ability to achieve air superiority or logistical momentum in the Arctic theatre. Maintain NATO control of critical air corridors and coastal approaches.

#### Base Assignments:

- **Bardufoss AB (Norway):** Primary training hub for all airframes. All pre-deployment and continuation training flights to originate here.
  - **Ivalo AB (Finland) & Banak AB (Norway):** Primary combat sortie launch points for strike, CAP, and CAS missions.
  - **Mid-Week Operations:** All squadrons to conduct ferry flights between operational bases and execute aerial resupply missions to forward operating areas and naval units.
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### Orders to All Units:

1. **Air Superiority:** Establish and maintain combat air patrols (CAP) over key sectors along the Finland–Russia border.
  2. **Strike Operations:** Priority targets are Russian airbases, radar installations, ammunition depots, and drone manufacturing facilities in the Kola region.
  3. **Support Operations:** Provide rapid response CAS for Finnish and Artemis ground units under engagement.
  4. **Logistics Flights:** Conduct scheduled ferry and resupply flights mid-week to maintain operational tempo and forward logistics capacity.
  5. **ISR:** Maintain continuous aerial reconnaissance to detect troop movements, SAM site activations, and maritime patrol patterns.
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## 4. Rules of Engagement (ROE)

- **Weapons Tight:** Fire only upon confirmed hostile identification or if fired upon.
  - **No engagement** of civilian aircraft, vessels, or infrastructure.
  - Cross-border engagement into Russian territory is authorized **only** with Command approval or in self-defense.
  - Electronic warfare (jamming) is authorized on active hostile emitters threatening NATO forces.
  - All captured enemy combatants to be transferred to Finnish Defence Forces custody.
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## 5. Weather & Environmental Considerations

- **Season:** Late Arctic summer — extended daylight hours, limited night operations (~4 hrs).
  - **Average Temperatures:** 5°C to 12°C; fog and sea spray common in coastal areas.
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- **Visibility:** Frequent low clouds and fog banks; sudden drops to <2 km possible.
  - **EW Threat:** Russian forces operating advanced radar arrays and GPS-denial systems in the Murmansk region. Anti-radiation missile threats likely.
  - **Sea State:** Norwegian and Barents Seas experiencing moderate swells; CVN ops unaffected, rotary-wing ops may require caution.
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### 6. Logistics

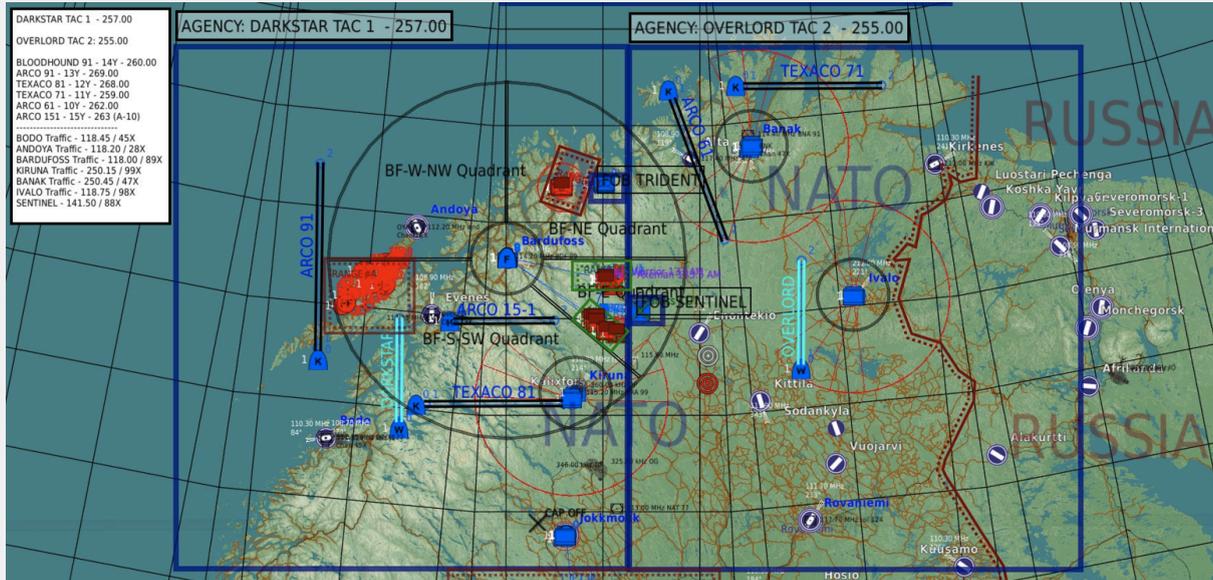
- **Training Hub:** Bardufoss AB – all aircrew training operations centralized here.
  - **Combat Sorties:** Launched from Ivalo AB and Banak AB for faster access to AO.
  - **FARP Locations:** Established in northern Lapland for rotary and STOL assets.
  - **Naval Support:** USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75) with full strike wing and logistics capacity.
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### 7. Command & Signal

- **JTF-323 HQ:** Bardufoss AB (peacetime/training phase) → Forward HQ at Ivalo AB (combat operations).
  - **Primary Comms:** NATO secure HF/VHF frequencies.
  - **Secondary Comms:** SATCOM secure net, encrypted datalink channels.
  - **Callsigns:** Assigned per sortie briefing.
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# JTF-323 Arctic Deployment 2025

## MAP Overview



*Acel*

**Acel**  
JTF-323 Group Commander  
Chief of Air operations and Planning

