

Russian-China Army Drills to 'Promote Peace,' Says Minister

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Joint military drills between Russia and China are designed to promote peace rather than threaten other countries, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu announced Wednesday.

Speaking at a meeting with Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan, Shoigu maintained that the drills were an important show of unity against “global political instability,” the RIA news agency [reported](#).

“It is important that Russia and China show their readiness to defend peace and strengthen international security,” Shoigu said. “This bilateral military cooperation is focused on countering modern threats and challenges – first and foremost, international terrorism.”

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Expanding military ties with China was “an absolute priority,” Shoigu said. “Russian-Chinese relations are at an unprecedented high and are continuing to grow steadily.”

While Russia and China have not entered into a formal military alliance, the two countries agreed to increase bilateral military cooperation earlier this year. A number of joint-exercises have been planned, while the two countries also held exercises using computer-guided missiles in May.

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