

# The Russian Pacific Fleet 2023-2030

## Implications for Australia's National Security and Defence

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Monday 4 December: 5.30pm for 6-7pm AEDT - Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

On 21 May 2023, the Red Banner Russian Pacific Fleet (RUSPAC) marked its 292nd anniversary. Russia's naval presence in the Pacific maritime theatre dates to 1731, when the country formally established its first naval footprint on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

RUSPAC remains the least analysed and assessed Russian naval fleet. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a continuous decline of interest in developments in the Russian navy, and many observers concluded that Russia had lost its power projection capability in the Indo-Pacific.



Over the past two decades however, there has been a gradual reanimation of Russian naval power in the Pacific. This development has occurred alongside intensifying RUSPAC operational activity, including out-of-area deployments. Russian naval force modernisation has happened against the backdrop of an escalating strategic rivalry between Russia, China, and the United States, which increasingly involves Washington's European and Indo-Pacific allies, including Australia.

In a major new [research paper](#) Dr Alexey Muraviev critically reviews major trends in RUSPAC force modernisation, its qualitative transformation, operational activities and engagement with foreign navies, with a particular focus on China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

What are the potential implications for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and allied navies in the Indo-Pacific?



**Dr Alexey D. Muraviev** is Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. He is the founder and Director of the Strategic Flashlight forum on national security and strategy at Curtin. He was also a non-residential fellow at Sea Power Centre Australia, the Royal Australian Navy; inaugural scholar-in residence at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute; and national judge, Department of Defence Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia (2019 to 2021). Alexey has published widely in the field of national security, strategic and defence studies. His research interests include problems of modern maritime power; contemporary defence and strategic policy; Russia as a Pacific power; Russia's strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific; and Australian national security and defence. He is a member of the International Editorial and Advisory Board, The Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies, Australian Department of Defence; member of the Australian Member Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region (AU-CSCAP); member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London; member of the Advisory Board, Australia Public Network, and other organisations and think tanks.

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