

# (U) RUSSIAN DENIAL AND DECEPTION

U.S. ARMY

**(U) This infographic provides information on Russian Denial and Deception.** The Russian military relies on extensive use of denial and deception (maskirovka) to obscure intentions and conceal military movement. The family of capabilities that composed traditional maskirovka includes camouflage, deception, denial, subversion, sabotage, espionage, propaganda, and psychological operations.



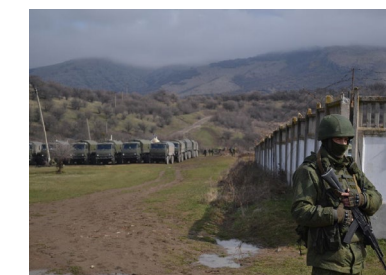
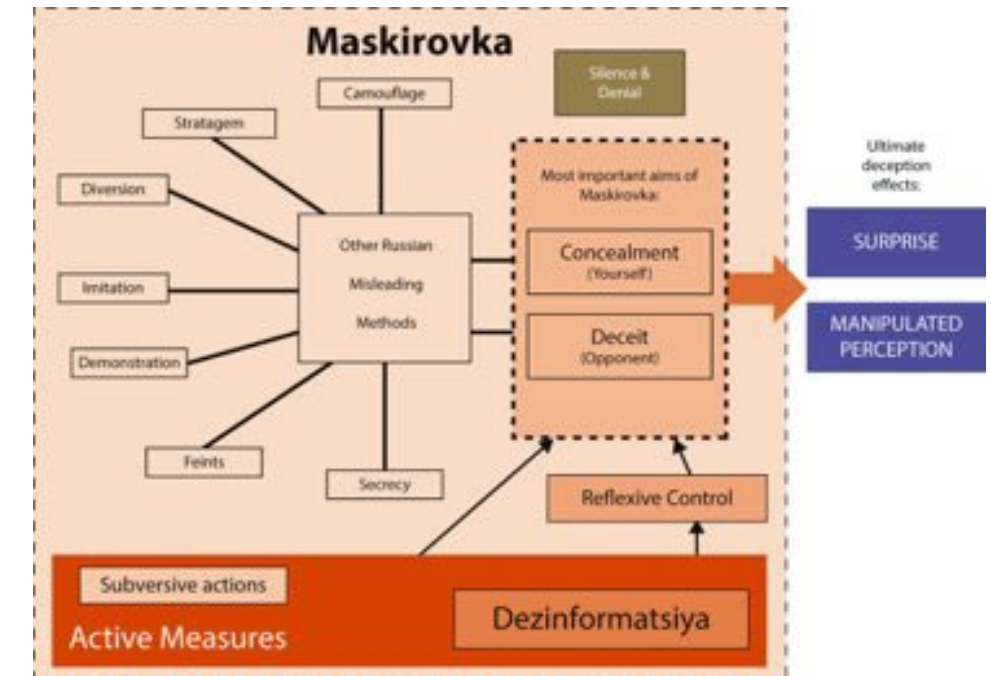
Russian operational and tactical maskirovka is a form of operational combat support. It encompasses a set of interrelated organizational and technical measures and practical actions of staffs, troops, and facilities intended to deceive foreign intelligence. Maskirovka promotes surprise, maintenance of combat capability, and survivability.

For example, maskirovka in rocket units and subunits is organized and carried out for the purpose of ensuring that the enemy experiences maximum difficulty in collecting intelligence data to reduce the effectiveness of strikes but is also carried out to create the false appearance of a combined unit in support of deception at the operational level of war.

A large part of maskirovka consists of active measures, which was a Soviet term for active intelligence operations with the purpose to influence humans or world events in order to reach one's own geopolitical aim. It includes propaganda, subversive actions, counterfeiting official documents, the deployment of agents of influence and exerting different forms of religious suppression. One of the mechanisms used for active measures is reflexive control, particularly used in the information environment to control the decision-making process of an opponent. Reflexive control contains four main elements:

- (1) putting on power pressure,
- (2) Dezinformatsiya (the spread of false or misleading information with the intent to deceive or manipulate),
- (3) affecting an opponent's decision-making algorithm
- (4) creating time pressure.

Reflexive control is not a stand-alone mechanism; the Russian Federation will always harmonize its use with other governmental influence activities. It constantly uses reflexive control, and it does not stop applying reflexive control when operations are over.



A military base at Perevalne during the 2014 Crimean crisis.



Russian Special Forces without identification markings in Crimea 2014. Picture by SERGEY PONOMAREV via NYT

Source:  
<https://militairespectator.nl/artikelen/art-deception-revisited-part-2-unexpected-annexation-crimea-2014>  
[https://www.dia.mil/Portals/110/Images/News/Military\\_Powers\\_Publications/Russia\\_Military\\_Power\\_Report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.dia.mil/Portals/110/Images/News/Military_Powers_Publications/Russia_Military_Power_Report_2017.pdf)