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The Russian Federation - President and His Role in the Management of National Security System

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is discussion on the President of the Russian Federation and his role in the management of national security system. Third Vladimir Putin's presidency continued the assumptions that constituted in the years 2000-2008. Its common characteristic is strong foreign and home policy according to the pattern of authoritarian type of autocracy. It is associated with close bounds with the elements of force in the sector of national security and defence (special forces, army). Execution of decisions coming from central department of presidential orders requires the efficient management of national security system. For such purpose, author points out the presidential powers related with such issues. Thereafter, the accompanying apparatus, institutional and organizational structure of administration involved in statutory tasks in terms of national security and defence will be presented.

Keywords: President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, national security system, safety, Constitution, Supreme Commander-in-Chief

1. INTRODUCTION

Security system serves for the provision of safety defined in Russian documents as the security level for vital laws, freedoms, and interests of unit, society and nation, against home and foreign threats for national integrity, the prevention and advancing the threats. General security system tasks are as follows:

- forming and maintaining the readiness of forces and resources guaranteeing the security,
- managing the forces and resources to guarantee the security,
- bringing back standard functioning in the safety objects in the regions damaged by the cases of the states of emergency,
- participation in actions guaranteeing the safety outside national borders (Robert Craig Nation, 24-26).

2. THE INSTITUTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN TERMS OF RESEARCH

President and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation are legislative bodies. According to the Constitution enacted on 12 December, 1993, the President is elected for the head of state in general, direct, equal and secret elections for term of four years. In 2008 year the constitution was amended, and on such grounds the presidential term was extended to six years (art. 81 of Constitution). President has broad powers in the extent of legislature and executive power (Eric Shiraev, 91).

President, being the head of state, represents the Russian Federation outside. He guarantees civil rights and freedoms, performs the functions of guarantor for constitutional order, as well as he is the arbitrator. The presidential powers are i.e.: appointing to the positions of state, conferring citizenship, applying the law of grace, as well as granting awards and honorary titles (Eric Shiraev, 94). Table 1 presents the positions to which president appoints.

Table 1. Position appointed by the president

PRESIDENTIAL POWERS	POSITION
He appoints with consent of Duma	Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation
Independently appoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vice-ministers and ministers, - Federal judges, - Presidential representatives in the Russian Federation organs, - Members of the Security Council, - The Supreme United Command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, - Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of the Russian Federation.

Submits the following nominates to the office to Duma for acceptance	– Chairman of the Central Bank,
Submits to the Federal Council the following nominates to the office for acceptance	– Prosecutor General, – Judges of Federal Supreme Courts

Source: Own study on the basis of: Eric Shiraev, *Russian Government and Politics (Comparative Government and Politics)*, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire 2013.

Moreover, president of the state, according to own competences, issues decrees, participates in the government meetings and brings interpellations to the agenda. The following competences should be also regarded as crucial:

- a) providing directions for home and foreign policy of the state,
- b) formulating military doctrine for the state,
- c) presidency in the Safety Council,
- d) negotiating and signing treaties,
- e) undersigning and announcing federal law:
 - has suspensory right of veto¹,
 - has the right of legislative initiative,
- f) announces the election to State Duma, as well as referendum,
- g) can dissolve State Duma (Thomas F. Remington, 87-88).

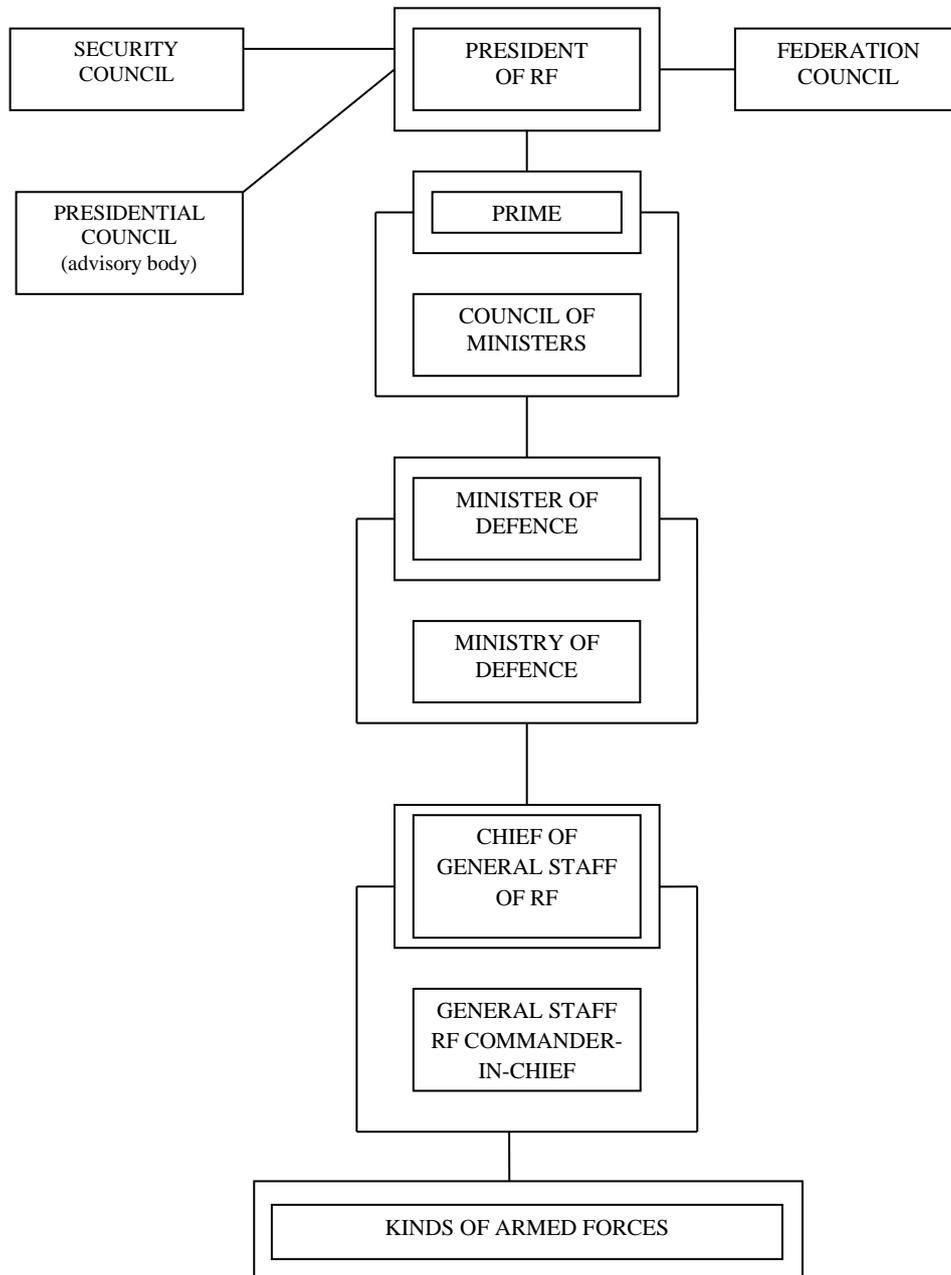
3. THE NATIONAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

National Security Management System (Pic. 1) is composed of many elements. The most important one is the President of the Russian Federation. According to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, president is the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. Being the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President can directly and independently command the army at wartime, or in case of aggression or direct threat of aggression. In case of aggression against Russia or direct security threat, president introduces martial law at territory of the Russian Federation or in its particular parts. Whereas president must notify about such fact the Federation Council and State Duma. In the case of aggression or direct threat of aggression, president can also order the general or partial mobilization (Donald R. Kelley, 233-235).

President, who is Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, appoints and dismisses Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. In accordance with the provisions of Defence Act on 31 May, 1996, president appoints and dismisses: the Minister of Defence and Deputy-Ministers, Commanders of the Armed Forces, Heads of Ministry of Defence Directorates and of General Staff, commanders of operational troops and tactical troops (Eric

¹ Suspensory veto is a type of veto, in which lacking presidential signature stops the enforcement of act, whereas such veto can be rejected by qualified majority votes in both chambers of parliament, as well as by establishing the commission on the removal of points of issues.

Shirayev, 95). President gives general directions for military policy and approves the military doctrine of the Russian Federation. President, following own competences, approves also the concepts and plans for the construction and development of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, other troops, military formations and bodies. President approves the mobilization plan for the Armed Forces, as well as plan for the transfer of work of public authorities of the Russian Federation, bodies of state power, local self-government and state economy during the wartime. President also approves the armament development programs and military technology in the scope of allocated resources (Thomas F. Remington, 219).



Pic. 1. National Security Management System of the Russian Federation
Source: Own study on the basis of: Donald R. Kelley, *Russian Politics and Presidential Power: Transformational Leadership from Gorbachev to Putin*, Sage Publications, London 2016

In the scope of own rights, president approves test with nuclear weapon and other special researches, according to program approved by Federal Council. President also gives permission for the use of nuclear weapon and for any other weapon of mass destruction. Moreover, according to presidential competences, President approves the Ministry of Defence and General Staff regulations and approves civil defence plans and Territorial Defence regulations (Richard Sakwa, 105).

Table 2. Federal executive authorities of departments of force and civil department fall directly under the president of the Russian Federation.

Department of Force	Civil Department
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, 2. Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (MOI FR), 3. Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, 4. Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB FR), 5. Federal Protective Service of the Russian Federation (FSO FR), 6. Federal Boarder Service of the Russian Federation (FSG FR), 7. Federal Rail Transport Agency of the Russian Federation (Roszheldor), 8. Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information (FAGCI) 9. Committee on the Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons under the President of the Russian Federation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (MID FR), 2. Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, 3. Chief Directorate for Special Programs of the President of the Russian Federation, 4. State Technical Commission of the President of the Russian Federation.

Source: Own study on the basis of: Eric Shiraev, *Russian Government and Politics (Comparative Government and Politics)*, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire 2013.

At the discretion of the head of state is conducting negotiations and signing the treaties of the Russian Federation in the field of defence, collective security, the reduction and limitation of armed forces and armaments, participation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in peacekeeping and international security. At the discretion of president is also conferring general's ranks, issuing the decree on conscription of Russian Federation citizens

to military service, military training and dismissal from military service (Olga Oliker *et al.*, 143-144). In the scope of own rights the head of state approves, after submitting the plan to the Minister of Defence: deployment of troops, deployment of military facilities, facilities for the elimination of mass destruction weapons and nuclear wastes at territory of country (Eric Shiraev, 282-283). Federal executive authorities of departments of force and civil department fall directly under the president of the Russian Federation, what is presented in Table 2.

Presidential administration supports the president in the performance of rights stipulated above. Current legal basis for the operation of presidential administration is Decree on *the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation* and *Terms of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation*. It's general tasks are as follows: securing the performance of powers by President, who is the head of state, and controlling the execution of presidential decisions. The Administration proposes the resources and methods for the provision of safety, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also participates in the elaboration of guidelines for internal affairs and foreign policy of the state. Pursuant to Presidential Decree, 1996, the Head of Administration obtained the influence on personnel policy. Such Decree also reorganized the structure of administration (Richard Sakwa, 96-98).

The structure of administration is comprised of nine chief directorates, wherein the following ones handle with safety:

- Chief Directorate for Internal and Foreign Policy, stipulating general directions for internal and foreign policy, as well as providing cooperation with other governmental authorities.
- Chief Directorate for Special Programs of the President of the Russian Federation provides the terms of operation for federal authorities in the states of emergency, also runs the construction of special purpose facilities and special communications network, as well as provides supervision for it (Catherine Danks, 124).

Besides the Head of Administration and presidential offices, the Administration also comprises the following units:

1. Security Council of the Russian Federation, that is the constitutional body, draws up presidential decisions for the protection of crucial interests of the state against home and foreign threats.
2. State Military Inspection works on the improvements in the performance of Commander-in-Chief for the Armed Forces duties, who is also the President. The Inspection performs also supervisory activities for Army, Fleet, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Security Service, Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, Federal Boarder Service and all structures, in which military men are located. It is subordinated to the Defence Council.
3. Defence Council is a body that prepares: conclusions for presidential decisions in terms of Armed Forces; more important decisions on national safety and defence policy. The competences of Council cover the matters related with legal aspects of Armed Forces operation, the strength and organization of army. Council's obligation is also predicting threats and planning deployment of army according to its purpose. Moreover, Council supervises financial matters, as well as is responsible for control on assets assigned from budget to defence. It is also responsible for planning the activities of federal authority and local authorities and prepares such entities for the

cases of danger and war. Moreover, its mobilization activities are also important. Council draws up directives for president (Eric Shiraev, 279-283). Council is comprised of: Head of Presidential Administration, Secretary of Security Council, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of Federal Security Service, Minister of Defence, First Deputy Minister of Defence, Chief of the General Staff, First Deputy Minister of Finances, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Russia's Commission on Chechen, Director of Foreign Intelligence Service, Minister of Economy. Council is governed by chairman in the person of President, and President's deputy is Prime Minister (Richard Sakwa, 125). Chancellery of Defence Council, being the entity incorporated for full time to the Presidential Administration Office, was appointed for the execution of Defence Council tasks. The Chancellery's tasks are securing the activity of Defence Council related with performance of powers, in military terms, and with the most important decisions of Defence Council on strategic issues of defence policy, as well as delivering information and analyses to Defence Council on current military and security issues (Catherine Danks, 127).

4. Commissions jointly focus the representatives of central administration and people developing political positions in various fields of national security. There are eight commissions in total. Defence Committee was established for national security. Committee's duty is delivering materials to President and Security Council that are required for drawing up decisions on important matters of the state. Committee on the Higher Positions of Military is also of important influence on the national security.
5. Presidential Council is comprised of 26 representatives of Russian political and scientific elite. It is a consulting body expressing own opinions on the most important national affairs, including those pertaining to security.
6. It is assumed, that in the administrative structures are ten Presidential Counsels from various fields of public life, including the fields of security and defence.
7. The Representatives and Plenipotentiaries of presidential office operate outside and represent the President before various institutions. Currently, there are eight such plenipotentiaries, i.e. for security (Eugene Huskey, 63).

4. CONCLUSIONS

The basic normative act stipulating the competences of Russian state authority organs in terms of national security is the Constitution of the Russian Federation on 12 December, 1993. The Constitution gives powers in terms of national security and defence to President. He is the Chief of Armed Forces, and his exclusive prerogative is nominating and dismissing the higher command of the army and approving military doctrine. President issues decrees on martial law and state of emergency. Administration and Security Council are presidential bodies, with means of which he initiates own activity in internal and foreign policy and controls the activity of Duma and government.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation was amended in 2008 year and signed by president, Dmitry Medvedev. Following the adopted amendments, the term of presidency was extended to six years from four. The adopted extension has strengthened the presidential institution in political system, what produced stable continuation of strategic solutions in the field of foreign policy, state security and defence (Dmitri Trenin, 100).

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