

Russia's Military Threat to NATO's Eastern Flank

while there's a strong consensus among intelligence agencies and military leaders from the Baltic, Nordic, and German states that Russia poses a serious and growing military threat to NATO's Eastern Flank, with potential for conflict readiness by 2026-2030, opinions on the exact timing and probability of an overt attack vary. Many analysts point to Russia's military reconstitution and strategic ambitions, while acknowledging the severe strain the Ukraine war has put on its forces. The likelihood is often viewed as conditional on factors like the outcome of the Ukraine war and the strength of NATO cohesion, particularly U.S. commitment. Areas like the Suwalki Gap and Moldova are identified as key vulnerabilities.