

# Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	iii
<i>List of abbreviations and acronyms</i>	iv
The ongoing transformation of Russia's airborne forces	1
Beginnings and the Great Patriotic War	1
Post-war and Cold War eras	2
Current airborne transformation	5
Future outlook	10
Conclusion	15
Strategic order of battle: Russian airborne forces	17
VDV organisational diagram	18
Headquarters units and independent air assault brigades	21
7th Guards Air Assault Division	31
76th Guards Air Assault Division	37
98th Guards Airborne Division	43
106th Guards Airborne Division	49
Biography of Colonel-General Vladimir Shamanov	55
About Open Briefing	56
<i>List of illustrations</i>	
Soviet paratroopers deploy from a Tupolev TB-3 in 1930 (public domain)	1
Soviet-era guards badge from 1941 (public domain)	2
Soviet-era VDV flag (public domain)	3
Soviet paratroopers loading an Ilyushin Il-76 Candid in 1984 (public domain)	3
RPG-27 disposable rocket launcher (© Redcommrade/Wikimedia Commons)	6
2S25-Sprut-SD at the 2008 Moscow Victory Day parade (© Vitaly V. Kuzmin)	10
Pantsir-S1 mounted on a tracked GM-352 chassis (© Vitaly V. Kuzmin)	11
GAZ-2975 Tiger at a rehearsal of the Moscow Victory Day parade	12
Kamaz Typhoon MRAP vehicle (© Vitaly V. Kuzmin)	12
Mi-28N Night Hunter (© Vitaly V. Kuzmin)	14
VDV emblem	17
VDV organisational diagram	18
VDV coat of arms	21
7th Guards Air Assault Division emblem	31
76th Guards Air Assault Division emblem	37
98th Guards Airborne Division emblem	43
106th Guards Airborne Division emblem	49
Colonel-General Vladimir Shamanov (© Russian Airborne Troops Press Service)	55