NEWSLETTER

Special story | AN-74 concept as a military and logistics aircraft based in the Arctic | Perspectives and opportunities

A combat snowmobile

In 2013, Canadian companies have started the development of the "Loki" military snowmobile (named after the Scandinavian god of deception). Its key advantage was low noise levels. The designers use a hybrid propulsion system, which also considerably increases the snowmobiles fuel efficiency.

The cold response

In 7-21 March, the "Cold Response 2014" military games have been organised in Norway in which 16,000 of troops from sixteen NATO member-states. The games were hosted to test the military training in the Arctic weather conditions. A number of official sources reported that Sweden's military leadership took command of the international brigade.

Polar S.W.A.T.

Hardly anyone could imagine that the Arctic will become one of the focal points of international tensions back on 26 June 1986 when the prototype of AN-74 polar plane has taken off. The current confrontation stems from geopolitical ambitions of several countries in the region. Despite the fact that Ukraine remains the only country that serially produces AN-74, Russia owns the largest fleet made up from these aircraft, even though this fleet is outdated. In October 2013, Russia restored its "Temp" military base (Kotelny Island, Novosibirsk Isles), which has transformed into a strategic point of the Russian presence in the Arctic. AN-72 and AN-74 are the only logistic airplanes that could be used on this base. The time has come to investigate new opportunities that AN-74 provides, particularly its updated version AN-74T-200A. It is possible to produce an entire collection of required modifications of the airplane quickly, using simple techniques and at minimal level of engineering costs. The AN-74 "Iceland gull" concept for S.W.A.T. troops enables to transport military or police personnel and several vehicles produced by the EU and the U.S. enterprises as part of the special task force.