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Russia, Egypt to Hold Joint Naval Drills in the Mediterranean in 2015

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Russia and Egypt agreed on Tuesday to conduct joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean Sea and anti-terrorism drills in 2015, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Egyptian counterpart Sedki Sobhi in Moscow.

"The sides agreed... to hold naval exercises in the Mediterranean and an anti-terrorism exercises involving rapid-response forces," a defense ministry spokesman told RIA Novosti.

Russia's and Egypt's defense ministers also agreed to continue the practice of inviting Egyptian troops as observers to Russian military exercises.

In addition, Shoigu called on his Egyptian colleague to send the Egyptian military to take part in the international Army 2015 military-technical forum in Russia.

Sobhi arrived on an official visit to Russia on February 28, and is set to hold a second meeting with his Russian counterpart on March 4.

According to Russia's Federal Service of Military-Technical Cooperation, Russia and Egypt initialed \$3.5 billion worth of arms contracts as of September last year, including on the supply

of small arms, artillery and air defense systems.