

World War 3: 'NEW ERA' of Russian aggression says ex-general, after warplanes intercepted

RUSSIAN attempts to intimidate America and its allies have become a routine feature of international politics, a former general has claimed, after Russian bombers flying close to the Alaskan coast sparked World War 3 fears.

The world has entered a new era of superpower confrontation between the USA, Russia and China, analyst Jack Keane claimed, although he played down concerns that Russia's latest display of aggression could spark World War 3.

The former four-star general made his comments the day after a pair of Russian Tu-95 bombers were intercepted off the coast of Alaska by the US Air Force, almost exactly a year after a similar incident on May 3, 2017.

Fox News reported that the aircraft, which are capable of carrying nuclear payloads, flew as close as 55 miles off Alaska's west coast.

Mr Keane, who is currently the chairman of the Institute for the Study of War, told Fox News: "We've returned to an era of big power competition once again.



Fox News

Former general Jack Keane warned that Russia was attempting to 'intimidate' America's allies

"This is between the United States and Russia, the United States and China.

"Fundamentally, as we've learned from the Cold War, these kinds of big power competition are tests of will.

"Here, what the Russians are actually doing is penetrating our air interdiction zone and testing our responses."

The former Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army added: "They harass our ships, they harass our airplanes - usually when they're forward deployed, mainly to intimidate our allies.

"But this is going to be a thing that is going to be routine."

"We're just going to react normally to it, and try to keep the lid on it."

The North American Aerospace Defence Command said of the event: "At approximately 10 am ET, two Alaskan-based NORAD F-22 fighters intercepted and visually identified two Russian TU-95 'Bear' long-range bomber aircraft flying in the Air Defense Identification Zone around the western coast of Alaska, north of the Aleutian Islands."

The statement said the Russian jets were “intercepted and monitored” but never entered US airspace.

Last month NATO jets were scrambled jets on four separate occasions when Russian jets flew through international airspace over the Baltic Sea to the enclave of Kaliningrad

In November last year the Russian destroyer destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov raised tensions when it passed through the Channel without permission.

And in August NATO jets were scrambled to intercept Russian jets flying over Europe, buzzing Estonian territory.

US President Donald Trump, who reportedly invited Russian leader Vladimir Putin to the White House in April, has not commented on the incident.

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