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Russia Deploys Strategic Nuclear Missiles

« on: December 22, 2003, 12:28:49 PM »

Russia Deploys Strategic Nuclear Missiles

Mon Dec 22, 4:33 AM ET

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW - Russia has deployed another batch of state-of-the-art intercontinental nuclear missiles after a two-year break in the program caused by a funding shortage.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov inaugurated the new set of Topol-M missiles at the Tatishchevo missile base in the central Saratov region Sunday, describing them as a "21st-Century weapon" unrivaled in the world.

"This is the most advanced state-of-the-art missile in the world," Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said in remarks broadcast by Russian television stations Monday. **"Only such weapons can ensure and guarantee our sovereignty and security and make any attempts to put military pressure on Russia absolutely senseless."**

The Interfax-Military News Agency said six Topol-Ms were deployed Sunday.

The first 10 such missiles entered duty in December 1998 and two more sets followed in the next two years. The military had planned to continue the deployment in regular installments in the next two years, but only got the fourth batch of Topol-Ms out on Sunday.

The Topol-M missiles, capable of hitting targets more than more than 6,000 miles away, so far have been deployed in silos. Its mobile version, mounted on a heavy off-road vehicle, is set to become operational next year, the Strategic Missile Forces chief, Col.-Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, said in televised remarks.

The daily Izvestia said that the Topol-M lifts off faster than its predecessors and maneuvers in a way that makes it more difficult to spot and intercept. **It is also capable of blasting off even after a nuclear explosion close to its silo, the newspaper reported.**

The Topol-Ms deployed so far have had single nuclear warheads, but it's planned to equip each missile with three individually targeted warheads, Izvestia said.

However, the Topol-M's chief designer, Yuri Solomonov, told Izvestia that a severe money crunch had put the program in jeopardy.

Budget allocations for making Topol-Ms next year were halved without consulting its makers, he said. If the government doesn't revise its course, "the year 2004, or the year 2005 at the latest, will be the last year when we will be able to carry out serial production of high-tech products for the military," Solomonov added.

A subcontractor producing artificial fibers for the missile suspended production last year for several months because of a money shortage, and when it resumed work, its products were substandard for two months, Solomonov was quoted as saying.

Such problems will persist and be exacerbated as 80 percent of equipment at Russian defense plants has served for more than 30 years, he added.



"We are getting crumbs from the budget, which makes it impossible to modernize our production facilities," Solomonov said.

As the Topol-M program faced difficulties, the military has sought to maintain nuclear parity with the United States by extending the lifetime of its Soviet-era missiles

I wonder who they meant when they said ""Only such weapons can ensure and guarantee our sovereignty and security and make any attempts to put military pressure on Russia absolutely senseless."" 🤔 😞

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"... the majority of governments supported by the United States in the Middle East and Central Asia are even less democratic than Iran."

 quote  reply

Archangel
Founder Member



Re:Russia Deploys Strategic Nuclear Missiles

« Reply #1 on: December 22, 2003, 02:12:35 PM »

VP


It makes sense that after the swift take-over of Iraq... many countries will want to ensure that this does not happen to theirs.

Every action produces a reaction.

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SPIRITUAL REALITY OF "TURTLE ISLAND"

"They have a love for possessions which is like a sickness." - Sitting Bull

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