

First S-400 missile regiment to go on combat duty in Russia

27/02/2007 12:51 MOSCOW, February 27 (RIA Novosti) - The first air defense regiment equipped with new S-400 Triumph ground-to-air missile systems will be put on combat duty in the Moscow Region in the middle of 2007, a manufacturer said Tuesday.

The Military-Industrial Commission, which answers directly to the Russian president, meets Tuesday to consider prospects for a fifth-generation air-defense system and building aerospace defenses in the country.

"The [new] regiment will have more [missile] batteries than regiments currently equipped with S-300 air defense systems," said Alexander Lemansky, chief designer at the Almaz Science and Production Association.

Lemansky said new S-400 systems considerably differ from S-300 systems by their effective firing range, firing capacity and other parameters.

S-300 (SA-10 Grumble) anti-aircraft missile system was designed to protect military and industrial facilities from mass air strikes. A missile launched from the system can travel at a speed of 2,000 meters per second and is capable of hitting a target at a distance of 150 km (93 miles) flying at a height of up to 30 km (19 miles) and at a speed of up to 10,000 km/h (6,215 mph).

"The effective firing range of the new [S-400] system is twice that of the previous S-300 [system] and its firing capacity is more than double," Lemansky said.

First Deputy Prime Minister and former defense minister Sergei Ivanov, who oversees defense-related sectors and chairs today's meeting of the commission, earlier said new S-400 Triumph ground-to-air missile systems were adopted for service in late 2006 and will be placed on alert duty later this year.

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