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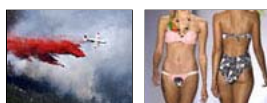
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Article

Russia's New S-500 Systems To Destroy Ballistic and Supersonic Targets

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14.08.2009 **Source:** Pravda.Ru



Russia creates a new system of space defense on the base of the nation's Air Force. The system is said to be ready by 2020, the Commander of the Russian Air Force, Colonel-General Alexander Zelin said. The renewed Air Force will guarantee the deterrence of potential aggressors and repel attacks with the use of all kinds of arms, including nuclear, under military conditions.

The development of air and space offensive arms in foreign countries shows that mankind will experience significant changes in the field of space exploration, the official said. The United States and a number of other countries will be able to attack the entire territory of Russia from space by that time.

The modernization of Russia's Air Force will begin in the nearest future. Russia has been working on its fifth-generation aircraft since the 1990s and plans to conduct its tests in November-December of this year.

Russia has already established a new type of Air Force brigades which will be armed with S-400 and S-500 missile complexes. S-500 systems, based on S-400, will be able to destroy supersonic and ballistic targets.

The S-400's NATO reporting name is SA-21 Growler, and the system was previously known as S-300PMU-3. It overshadows the capabilities of the other systems from the S-300 series, and its range is claimed to be at least two times greater than that of the MIM-104 Patriot system.

According to Russian sources, the S-400 is capable of detecting and engaging targets out to a range of 400 km (250 miles), including aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles, including those with a range of 3,500 km and a speed of 4.5 km/s. It has also been claimed that the S-400 is capable of detecting and engaging stealth aircraft.

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