



Russian Artillery Chief Describes the Reconnaissance-Fire System

OE Watch Commentary: The Reconnaissance-Fire System (ROS) [разведывательная-огневая система (РОС)] is a concept that Russia is pursuing to fuse intelligence to weapons systems in order to quickly and accurately deliver ground, air, and sea fires for tactical systems (tube and missile artillery) and operational systems (short-range ballistic missiles and ground-launched ballistic missiles). This centralized system permits tasking fires at all levels of combat, from front line artillery to deep strike aviation, through rear area missile strikes, at both the tactical and operational depths. The accompanying excerpted interview with Lieutenant General Mikhail Matveyevskiy, chief of Russia's Artillery Troops, in *Krasnaya Zvezda* describes the implementation of the Reconnaissance-Fire System, aspects of artillery reconnaissance, and the role of precision-guided munitions in the Russian Armed Forces. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

“With respect to mortar subunits, they are the foundation of motorized rifle battalion firepower.”

Source: Viktor Khudoleyev, “Огонь и молнии бога войны 19 ноября – День ракетных войск и артиллерии (19 November Is Missile Troops and Artillery Day),” *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 19 November 2018. <http://redstar.ru/ogon-i-molnii-boga-voyny>

Lieutenant General Mikhail Matveyevskiy, chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces Missile Troops and Artillery, answers Krasnaya Zvezda's questions...

Mikhail Mikhailovich, you have said more than once that the ultimate objective of RF Armed Forces Missile Troops and Artillery organizational development is their transition to a qualitatively new status -- a reconnaissance-fire system united by a single automated command and control system. Please tell us in greater detail what it is supposed to represent, particularly about roles set aside for reconnaissance-fire complexes. What already has been done in the Missile Troops and Artillery within the scope of creating?

Yes, indeed, work continues on the Missile Troops and Artillery transition to a qualitatively new status -- a reconnaissance-fire system that represents an organizationally, technically, informationally, and functionally integrated aggregate of fire delivery forces and assets and of operational, tactical, and technical support united by common automated command and control and providing for the discovery and engagement of enemy groupings and facilities.

Already today the Missile Troops and Artillery have the basic characteristics of a reconnaissance-fire system. Missile, rocket, and artillery subunits are employed in the form of reconnaissance-strike (-fire) complexes providing for real-time engagement of enemy targets.

The “reconnaissance-engagement” cycle is minimized here, which permits a several fold time reduction from the moment targets are detected to their destruction. We are not standing still and are continuing work in this direction by creating new advanced high-tech means of fire engagement, reconnaissance, and command and control.

How effective are state-of-the-art artillery reconnaissance assets? What are the prospects for their development, including with respect to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles [UAVs]? Has the problem been remedied of insufficient operating range of Missile Troops and Artillery reconnaissance assets in the presence of a substantial range capability of weapons?

The experience of local wars and armed conflicts of recent years has shown that combat operations are impossible without the effective use of artillery reconnaissance assets as well as UAVs. The Zoopark-IM and Aistenok artillery reconnaissance assets that have come into the Missile Troops and Artillery inventory have given a positive account of themselves in practical testing.

UAVs are used actively in creating reconnaissance-strike complexes. They provide reconnaissance and real-time monitoring of fire engagement at considerable distances, which substantially increases the capabilities of fire engagement of the enemy. And existing artillery reconnaissance assets and UAVs permit fire engagement of the enemy by reconnaissance-strike complexes at maximum ranges of fire.

Mikhail Mikhailovich, what is your opinion considering the development of precision-guided munitions? Doesn't the employment of tube artillery, including mortar subunits, lose pertinence in the future?

Domestic and foreign experience of armed confrontation clearly demonstrated the need to revise the essence and content of the very term “precision-guided munitions.” Thus, it is not quite accurate to look at it exclusively from the standpoint of guided weapons, since high accuracy also can be achieved using conventional munitions.

Serving as a perfect example of this is the experience of mission performance by our air grouping in the Syrian Arab Republic, when there was a clear demonstration of achievements of the Russian Federation defense-industrial complex that permitted unguided aerial bombs to engage targets with an accuracy comparable with precision-guided munitions. Necessary and sufficient conditions currently have been created for seeking foremost and advanced technical and technological solutions for subsequent introduction to the production of arms and military equipment.

With respect to mortar subunits, they are the foundation of motorized rifle battalion firepower. Unique battalion-echelon artillery pieces were presented at the Army-2018 forum. These were the Nona-SVK and Khosta 120-mm self-propelled artillery guns. These guns combine in themselves the qualities of mortar and howitzer. Such a combination permits firing both fragmentation-high explosive projectiles as well as all types of domestic and foreign 120-mm mortar rounds. Thus their use will not lose pertinence in the near future...