



Bastion Coastal Missile Defense of Northern Sea Route

OE Watch Commentary: As the accompanying passage from *Rossiskaya Gazetta* discusses, the Bastion coastal missile systems are among the systems that will ensure the safety of navigation on the Northern Sea Route. The system can operate from fixed sites or as a mobile unit and are effective under harsh climate conditions. To date, they have been deployed to cover maritime choke points along the Northern Sea Route. They are usually protected by an air defense bubble.

As the passage notes, the system takes only five minutes to set up. In addition, “its missile flies up to 500 kilometers and exceeds a speed of 751 meters a second. The interval between missile launches is a total of 2.5 seconds.” To protect the northern seas, the mobile version of the system is used. Apparently, due to its mobility, a single Bastion is able to defend 600 kilometers of coastline against an enemy landing. Furthermore, “the software in its guidance system enables each missile to operate strictly against its own target.” **End OE Watch Commentary (Graud)**

“Several years ago, when the United States destroyer “Donald Cook” approached Crimea, it was the Bastion that brought the Americans “to their senses.” The moment a system with its two supersonic Oniks missiles was set up on shore and its Monolit-B radar reconnaissance station turned on, the destroyer’s on-board equipment warned that the ship was located within a Russian missile strike zone. The crew was not ready to further tempt fate, and the ship retreated.”

Source: “Protecting the Arctic: Powerful Missile Systems are Defending the Northern Sea Route,” *Rossiskaya Gazetta*, 19 November 2019. <https://rg.ru/>

Protecting the Arctic: Powerful Missile Systems are Defending the Northern Sea Route

Among the systems that will ensure the safety of navigation on the Northern Sea Route are the Bastion coastal missile systems. They have already been provided not only to tactical groups on the mainland portion of the Russian Polar Regions, but also to subunits situated on the archipelagos of the New Siberian and Franz Josef Land, according to Vice-Admiral Aleksandr Moiseyev, Commander of the Northern Fleet.

... The high effectiveness of the Bastions under harsh climatic conditions was confirmed during high-latitude exercises. This, evidently, refers to the large-scale maneuvers in the polar regions during the fall of last year. At that time our military personnel fired coastal missile systems in the Arctic for the first time. A launch of the supersonic Oniks antiship cruise missile system from Kotel’nyy Island against a naval target site located at a distance of more than 60 kilometers was successful.

Striking surface ships of various classes and types within landing formations, convoys, and ship and aircraft carrier groups was precisely what this coastal missile complex was designed for. The Bastion has an excellent ability to cope with individual enemy ships, and when necessary it can destroy their land-based sites. And it will do this even under conditions of intense fire and electronic warfare countermeasures.

Heightened interest is now being shown in the Arctic ... and the Northern Sea Route ..., not only by the states adjacent to the polar region, but also by countries that do not have direct access to the northern seas. Enormous hydrocarbon reserves are concentrated here, as are other natural and biological resources. Russia possesses large territories in the Arctic zone, and all of these riches must not only be exploited, but protected. Therefore, the latest weaponry and equipment are being deployed to the north including the Bastion missile system....

Only five minutes are needed to set up the coastal system. Its missile flies up to 500 kilometers and exceeds a speed of 751 meters a second. The interval between missile launches is a total of 2.5 seconds. In order to protect our northern seas, it was not necessary to deploy Bastions along the entire Arctic coastline. At certain places fixed sites are equipped for them. But for the most part the mobile version of this complex is used. Due to its mobility a single Bastion is able to defend 600 kilometers of coastline against an enemy landing. In addition, software in its guidance system enables each missile to operate strictly against its own target.

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