



No Hunter at the Victory Day Parade

OE Watch Commentary: Due to coronavirus concerns, Russia's main Victory Day parade was comprised mostly of aircraft which, as the first excerpt points out, "flew over Moscow's Red Square to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's Victory over Nazi Germany." There had been earlier speculation that the aerial parade would include both the Su-57 multirole fighter jet and Russia's new S-70 heavy attack UAV "Hunter." However, as the TASS excerpt indicates, while "a wing of four fifth-generation Su-57 multirole fighter jets" was included in the parade, there was no sign of the S-70 UAV. The duo had made their debut back in September 2019, when, as the second excerpt recalls, "a flight was performed in automated mode: the interaction between Okhotnik [Hunter UAV] and the Su-57 was successfully worked out." This excerpt, from the pro-Kremlin site, *Polit-Rossiya*, quotes military commentator Viktor Baranets, who asserts that in the future, the Hunter UAV will be equipped with "dagger hypersonic missiles." To date, however, the Russian military has yet to field any attack UAV.



S-70 Okhotnik.

Source: TerHussein via Wikimedia, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=81104025>, CC BY-SA 4.0

The third excerpt from the military weekly, *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*, provides additional background on what might be delaying the fielding of this heavy UAV. It reminds readers that "the plans of the military department to field an attack UAV of this class were announced at the MAKS air show in August 2009." This excerpt suggests that because of the UAV's heavy weight (approximately 20 tons), combined with its design ("tailless flying-wing aircraft") the delays behind fielding may be caused by "aerodynamic instability." The author concludes on a pessimistic note, bemoaning the fact that Russia has yet to field an attack UAV, which he claims could be the result of "military-political miscalculations, lack of scientific forecasting or elementary corruption." **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

"In the future we should also expect to equip unmanned aerial vehicles with hypersonic weapons..."

Source: "Russia holds air parade over Moscow's Red Square on Victory Day," TASS, 9 May 2020. <https://tass.com/defense/1154697>

A parade formation of 75 helicopters and aircraft flew over Moscow's Red Square to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's Victory over Nazi Germany in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War, TASS reported from the scene.... After that, four MiG-31K interceptor-fighters carrying Kinzhal air-launched hypersonic missiles appeared in the skies over Moscow together with a wing of 4 fifth-generation Su-57 multirole fighter jets.

Source: Victor Butkevich "Полковник Баранец рассказал об оснащении С-70 'Охотник' гиперзвуковым 'Кинжалом' (Colonel Baranets spoke about equipping the S-70 Hunter with a hypersonic Dagger)," *Polit-Rossiya*, 11 May 2020. <https://politros.com/165952-polkovnik-baranec-rasskazal-ob-osnashenii-s-70-okhotnik-giperzvukovym-kinzhalom>

Test launches of dagger hypersonic missiles from the T-22M3 took place in Russia. However, the Russian military will not stop there and in the future, the latest weapons can be installed on the S-70 Okhotnik heavy attack unmanned bomber. This opinion was expressed in a conversation with PolitRussia by retired colonel Viktor Baranets, a military observer for Komsomolskaya Pravda.... Baranets noted, in the future we should also expect to equip unmanned aerial vehicles with hypersonic weapons. "I believe this will be done when we launch our heavy drone "Hunter," which is now in the testing phase.... The S-70 Hunter is a Russian heavy strike UAV, which is being developed by the Sukhoi Company. The unmanned bomber, made according to the "flying wing" design, made its first flight in August 2019. Later, a flight was performed in an automated mode: the interaction between Hunter and an S-57 was successfully worked out...

Source: Oleg Falichev, "Сможет ли охотиться 'Охотник'? (Will the Hunter be able to hunt?)," *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer* (VPK), 13 April 2020. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/56451>

The latest attack UAV could become a suitcase without a handle for the Russian army.

For the first time, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation published on the network a video of the first flight of the prototype of the latest UAV "Hunter" on August 7, 2019. A heavy attack drone of the "flying wing" type then flew over the Chkalov State Flight Test Center in Astrakhan and landed at the airport. After that, information about it in the media practically disappeared. Two conclusions can be drawn. The UAV is classified and do not want to "expose" ahead of time. Or, it revealed significant shortcomings that must be eliminated.... In any case, both versions only fuel interest in this mysterious novelty of Russian military-technical equipment.

S-70 Hunter is a Russian Sukhoi heavy unmanned bomber. The plans of the military department to get in service with an attack UAV of this class were announced at the MAKS air show in August 2009....

...On August 3, 2019, Hunter made its first flight, which lasted more than 20 minutes. Under the control of the operator, he flew over the airfield at an altitude of about 600 meters and made a successful landing. On September 27, 2019, the Russian Ministry of Defense reported to the media about the first joint flight of the Hunter and the Su-57 fighter, which lasted more than 30 minutes. An unmanned aircraft flew in an automated mode. Then, in the sky between the UAV and the leader aircraft, interaction was worked out to expand the fighter's radar field and target designation for the use of long-range aviation weapons without the Su-57 entering the conditional anti-aircraft defense zone....

There are still no open accurate data on this subject. The project is classified. And yet, something became known. Presumably, the "Hunter" has a mass of about 20 tons.

...The fact is that tailless flying-wing aircraft are often characterized by aerodynamic instability...

It's hard to say when the Hunter UAV will go hunting.... Why are there still no small and medium shock drones in the Russian Federation...What is the reason: in military-political miscalculations, lack of scientific forecasting or elementary corruption?