



Russia Fields First S-300V4 Brigade in the Far East to Deter US

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying excerpted article from *Izvestiya* discusses Russian plans to deploy S-300V4 brigade in the Russian Far East. According to *Izvestiya*, this system is intended to deter US aviation from flying in the vicinity of the Sea of Okhotsk. Although the S-300V4 is certainly capable of engaging aircraft, the system is generally envisaged to protect formations by destroying cruise and ballistic missiles. If the true intent was to deter US aircraft, perhaps an S-400 deployment might have been a better choice for this purpose. The accompanying excerpted article from *Krasnaya Zvezda* describes more of a ‘traditional’ employment of the S-300V4 in the Southern Military District during the Kavkaz-2020 Strategic Command Staff Exercises. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

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9A83M TELAR of S-300V4 system.

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin, <https://photos.smugmug.com/Military/Dress-rehearsal-of-2020-Moscow-Victory-Day-Parade/i-QV3XwRC/0/ed130c49/X2/DressRehearsal-20062020-074-X2.jpg> Attribution: CC BY 4.0



Continued: Russia Fields First S-300V4 Brigade in the Far East to Deter US

Source: “Восточная усиленная: в РФ сформирована новая мобильная зенитная бригада (Eastern Beefed Up: New Mobile Air Defense Brigade Formed in Russian Federation),” *Izvestiya Online*, 21 September 2020. <https://iz.ru/1063083/anton-lavrov-roman-kretcul/vostochnaia-usilennaia-v-rf-sformirovana-novaia-mobilnaia-zenitnaia-brigada>

The Ministry of Defense has completed the formation of the first mobile air defense missile brigade in the Far East. In the immediate future, it will begin in full strength experimental alert duty and then alert duty, sources in the military department told Izvestiya.

The Eastern Military District formation stationed in the Yevreyskaya Autonomous Oblast is armed with the S-300V4 ultra-long-range SAM systems, which will provide anti-aircraft and anti-missile defense. Their unique maneuverability allows quick redeployment of the brigade to any place in the Far East and Siberia. Experts believe that the strengthening of air defense was a response to the growing US activity in the Asia-Pacific region.

To neutralize the emerging threats in the Eastern Military District, the Ministry of Defense is also carrying out rearmament of the air defense troops. In addition to creating a new brigade, it plans to equip two regiments with the S-400 systems by the end of the year, as well as to switch two anti-aircraft missile battalions to the Buk-M1-2 systems. Izvestiya reported earlier that it is planned to include batteries of the Pantsir-SM-SV anti-aircraft missile and artillery systems in the air defense units of the ground forces equipped with the S-300V4 systems. It has not yet been announced whether the new brigade will receive them.

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According to reports by the Russian military, American strategic bombers’ flights in the airspace over the Sea of Okhotsk have also become more frequent. For this purpose they use a narrow corridor of neutral international space between the Kuril Islands. US strategic aviation flights along Kamchatka and the country’s eastern coast in the Bering Sea have also become regular.

Source: “Наше небо мы никому не отдадим (We Will Yield Our Sky to No One),” *Krasnaya Zvezda Online*, 23 September 2020. <http://redstar.ru/nashe-nebo-my-nikomu-ne-otdadim/>

...The preparatory measures preceding a strategic command staff exercise included the operations of all troop air defense units and formations, without exception, of the Southern Military District. Air defense subunits carried out live firing from “Pantsir-S” air defense missile and cannon complexes and “Tunguska” air defense cannon and missile complexes; “Shilka” self-propelled air defense mounts; and “Strela-10,” “Tor,” “Buk-M3” and “Osa” air defense missile systems. Southern Military District subunits of an air defense missile formation armed with the unique S-300V4 air defense missile system also successfully executed their assigned tasks. Lieutenant-Colonel Nikolay Mayorkin’s battalion repelled a notional enemy’s massive strike, thereby ensuring the security of an army staff command post.

Compared to its “colleagues” the S-300V4 excels, not only in firing range and target strike altitude, but also in its ease of exploitation. To execute the mission of protecting troop groupings it is necessary for the air defense troops to always be near the “defended object,” i.e., one’s own troops. And this means having maximum mobility. And all of the subunit equipment of the air defense missile brigade, from the command post, the radar station and the multichannel missile guidance stations, to the launchers and the launch and loading mounts are built on tracked platforms. In summer, winter, and in between, in the heat or the cold or slush, this equipment has no fear of off-road operations...

To support live firings the specialists of the training range service have prepared more than 70 target systems for use, including “Kaban,” “Pishchal,” “Strizh-1,” “Saman,” and “Pensne” models for air defense missile troops. Some of these simulate cruise missiles, which must be detected and destroyed in a timely manner. Excellent work was done by the personnel of Major Dmitriy Ryzhikov’s battery. The crew of the multichannel missile guidance station detected and identified its targets in a timely manner, and after the targets were classified, locked on for tracking, and tracked, it issued the command for their destruction. That work was concluded by the launcher personnel. All of the cruise missiles (namely those simulated by the target systems) were destroyed. The complex situation, including the radio electronic environment (the enemy used not only tactical cunning, but various electronic warfare means as well), did not hinder this task.