



Tactical Air Defense Readiness in Russian Far East

OE Watch Commentary: The Russian Pantsir S1 (Панцирь С1, NATO designation is the SA-22 Greyhound) is a relatively new system in Russia's Far East. The missile system is a truck or track mounted, medium-range surface-to-air missile launcher and dual 30mm autocannon using phase array acquisition and tracking radar. It is designed to provide point air defense of important installations against aircraft, helicopters, precision munitions, cruise missiles and UAVs and as well as additional protection for air defense units from close range enemy air attacks. One of its main missions in the Eastern Military District is the protection of the S-400 (NATO designation SA-21 Growler) long range air defense missile sites. Also interesting is how they adapt to the unique terrain of the Kamchatka Peninsula to predict enemy air avenues of approach. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

Source: "Pantsir Air Defense Missile and Gun System Crews begin Alert Duty in Kamchatka," *Eastern Military District Press Service*, 18 May 2018. eng.mil.ru/en/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12175976@egnews

Combat crews of the Pantsir antiaircraft missile and gun systems stationed on the Kamchatka Peninsula have completed the preparation of hardware and entered upon air defense alert duty in accordance with the air defense rotation plan. In preparation, the crews passed theoretical and practical training; the technical servicing of air defense vehicles was conducted; the readiness and functioning of the assemblies, units, and combat modules of the hardware were checked; and missiles and gun ammunition was uploaded. Training included a road march from garrison to alert positions...

...Pantsir air defense missile and gun systems protect the facilities of troops and forces in Northeastern Russia and the positions of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems. Last year the Pantsir antiaircraft missile and gun system crews achieved an "excellent" rating in combat training firing on the Ashuluk state range and participated in various exercises and training drills for their proper purpose.

Source: Yuriy Rossolov, "Под прикрытием «Панциря» всегда спокойно (It Is Always Calm under the Cover of a Pantsir)," *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 30 May 2018. <http://redstar.ru/pod-prikrytiem-pantsirya-vsegda-spokojno/>

A year has passed since several subunits of Pantsir-S air defense missile-gun systems went on combat alert to defend Kamchatka's air borders. During this time, the scouts of the skies have become quite proficient. Some successes and missions still need some more work.

Bright multicolored balloons in the sky mean that someone has a joyful event: a wedding, the birth of a child, or another occasion...They can end up in the field of view of the air defense forces...."That is highly likely," according to the Northeast Kamchatka Air Defense Missile Regiment Pantsir-S1 Battalion Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Oleg Afanasenko. "We recently had such an incident. One of the crews that had gone on alert duty detected an air balloon and tracked it using all systems over the course of several dozen kilometers". This small "UAV" was most likely covered with foil, which reflected the signal....

...The latest air defense missile-gun complex is equipped with several detection and guidance systems, which can back up each other. Therefore, the enemy doesn't have a chance of surreptitiously approaching the vehicle.

The picture is somewhat different in Kamchatka. The volcanic terrain relief complicates the mission of the air defender. But, in Lieutenant Colonel Oleg Afanasenko's words, "this makes service more interesting. With a skilled approach, one can transform terrain features into advantages. "Let's assume that the enemy possesses intelligence data of the Pantsir-S1's deployment location. From which side will he attack – from the one from which everything is oriented toward, or from that side, where he will be able to approach the positions as closely as possible, while remaining unnoticed by our radar or other detection systems?... And in the event that an adversary is at an altitude that is beyond the reach of our weapon, we have a 'big brother' – the S-400 air defense missile system. In short, by any measure, punishment will be inevitable for penetrating into our air defense missile regiment's area of responsibility"...

...We are totally integrated into the country's PVO [air defense] System" – Lieutenant Colonel Oleg Afanasenko stresses. "We are working based upon an integrated concept and integrated command and control..."



A Russian Pantsir-S1 combined short to medium range surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery weapon system.

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