

Arctic S-400 reaches operational status

OE Watch Commentary: The S-400 air defense system has apparently achieved operational status according to the accompanying article from *The Independent Barents Observer*. It is worth noting that Severodvinsk is located on the White Sea next to Archangel and as the article notes, Northern Fleet chemical defense units were also involved in masking the city by laying particulate smoke screens. Lastly, Su-24 close air support aircraft, apparently from Severomorsk-3 airbase, provided the “attacking enemy” for the exercise. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“No real missile launch was conducted. But electronic launching was carried out and all enemy aircraft were successfully eliminated, according to a Northern Fleet press release. The Northern Fleet’s Belomorskaya base is located in Severodvinsk and played a key role in the drills.”

Source: “Northern fleet trains shooting with missile complex S-400 over Severodvinsk”, *The Independent Barents Observer*, 9 February 2018. <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en>

Locals in Severodvinsk were told not to worry as the exercise unfolded on 8 February. The training could include release of artificial smoke in the city center, according to the local newspaper Severnaya Nedelya. But there was more than smoke in the air.

As part of the training, Su-24 jet fighters were airborne and played a role as enemy aircraft. On the ground, units of the Northern Fleet’s missile forces were told to defend the strategically important city. The city of Severodvinsk hosts two of Russia’s leading military shipyards. All new nuclear-powered submarines are built at Sevmash, while a lion’s share of upgrades and service is conducted at the neighboring Zvezdochka.

According to the Northern Fleet, its air defense units in 2017 conducted a total of 20 missile launches. They all successfully hit their targets in the Ashuluk shooting range in south Russia.

The S-400 is Russia’s new mobile surface-to-air missile complex. It has been in service for the Russian Armed Forces since 2007 and been deployed in the Northern Fleet presumably since 2015. In the 9th May parade in Murmansk, 2015, the missiles were on display in the Russian north for the first time.

With the new system, the missile forces of the region add range and powers to its already well-equipped weapon arsenal. The S-400 can simultaneously hit up to 36 targets with a total of 72 missiles. It can neutralize enemy aircrafts at up to 240 kilometers distance and enemy missiles at 60 kilometers distance.

The S-400, an upgrade of the S-300 family, is the new generation Russian anti-aircraft weapon system developed by the Almaz Central Design Bureau. Russia currently has a total of 16 battalions with S-400 systems, based in six different regions. Each of the battalions have eight S-400 systems....



С-400 «Триумф» (S-400 “Triumph”).

Source: Cokонpыc, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3A%D0%A1-400_%C2%AB%D0%A2%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%83%D0%BC%D1%84%C2%BB.JPG, CC BY-SA 4.0.