



Importance of Space-Based Intelligence, Reconnaissance, and Surveillance

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying excerpted article from the Russian Ministry of Defense states Russian Defense Minister, General Sergey Shoygu's comments about the growing importance of space-based Intelligence, Reconnaissance, and Surveillance (ISR) for Russian military operations. This same theme is also encountered in the accompanying excerpted article from *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, which discusses how the new State Eye satellite that was put into orbit in December is capable of not only monitoring ground targets, but also objects (satellites) in space, and it can be used to support the targeting of these objects. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

“The Syrian experience shows that for the effective employment of precision weapons detailed reconnaissance and cartographic information is essential. Such data may be obtained only with modern satellites capable of the high-resolution filming of the Earth’s surface.”

Source: “Министр обороны провел селекторное совещание с руководством Вооруженных Сил, (Russian Defense Minister Holds Conference Call with Ranking Personnel of Armed Forces),” *Russian Ministry of Defense*, 5 February 2019. https://function.mil.ru/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12209596@egNews

A conference call with ranking personnel of the Armed Forces was held today in the Russian Federation National Defense Management Center under the direction of General of the Army Sergey Shoygu, head of the defense department...

The listed part of the call began with a discussion of the building of spacecraft.

The defense minister said that satellite reconnaissance and navigation systems have been performing an ever bigger role in the field of the country's military security as of late.

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The Defense Ministry is vigorously pursuing the technological re-equipment of the orbital fleet of military spacecraft, therefore...

Source: Andrey Riskin, ““Государево око” для ракеты Нудоль (The “State Eye” For Nudol Missiles),” *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, 19 January 2019. http://www.ng.ru/armies/2019-01-19/100_190119nudol.html

As reported by RIA Novosti...is affirming that on 23 December 2018 Russia successfully tested a new anti-satellite system. The report concerns the PL-19 Nudol system. This was the seventh test of the anti-satellite system...Interestingly, yesterday Dmitriy Rogozin, head of Roskosmos, introduced a new project, the State Eye. “After a successful launch from the Vostochnyy Space Center in December we have strengthened the group of Earth remote sensing satellites,” Rogozin noted. “We are introducing a project which is called ‘State Eye’. We will be able to observe the dynamics of change of any of the processes on Earth.” It is affirmed this system can be used by employees of the Emergency Services Ministry (MChS), agricultural workers, petroleum and gas company employees, and others. And, of course, if it is taken into account that all space developments can have a dual (that is, not only a civilian) use, this would include military uses as well. It cannot be excluded that ‘State Eye’ will be used to not only monitor military facilities of the United States and other NATO countries, but to track space satellites of a probable adversary as well...

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