



Military-Industrial Journalistic Countermeasures

OE Watch Commentary: In November 2018, the liberal Russian daily, *Novaya Gazeta* published an investigation regarding fraud within one of Russia's most important weapons manufacturers, Корпорации Тактическое Ракетное Вооружение (KTRV, or Tactical Missile Weaponry Corporation). The article described how state defense expenditure funds were siphoned off via various schemes to enrich family members of the corporation's director. The article went on to receive much wider publicity when opposition and anti-corruption activist, Alexei Navalny produced a video which highlighted the findings in the article. (see: "Russian Defense Industry-Improved Financial Accountability?," *OE Watch*, January 2019).

One might have presumed that following this article there would have been organizational changes at KTRV. Instead, two months later, as if the *Novaya Gazeta* article and subsequent video had never been produced, the pro-Kremlin, military weekly, *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer-VPK* (*Military-Industrial Courier*) published a long, detailed interview with the KTRV director, where he claims to "calculate the Corporation's economic status as sound and sufficiently stable." While the director does admit

that "there are problem issues in the Corporation," he's confident that "all of them, in our view, are being resolved." The *VPK* article goes on to thoroughly describe all of the many contributions which the KTRV corporation is making to the Russian defense sector (e.g. hypersonic and cruise missiles, torpedoes, counter-torpedo protection, anti-ship missiles, mines, etc.). While the director also talks about developments in the realm of "information countermeasures," he makes no mention of the earlier investigation and allegations of financial malfeasance. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

"As a whole, we calculate the Corporation's economic status as sound and sufficiently stable."



Hypersonic Avangard Rocket produced by KTRV.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hypersonic_rocket_complex_Avangard.jpg, CC 4.0.

Source: Oleg Falichev, "От дозвука до гиперзвука," [From Subsonic to Hypersonic], *Voyenno-Promyshlennyy Kuryer*, 29 January 2019. <https://vpk-news.ru/articles/47947>

The domestic OPK [defense-industrial complex] is continuing to summarize the results for 2018. General Director Boris Obnosov talked to "Voyennoye-promyshlennyy Kuryer" about what they were, and the tasks for 2019 on the eve of the 17th anniversary of the Korporatsii "Takticheskoye raketnoye vooruzheniye" (KTRV) [Tactical Missile Weaponry Corporation].

[Falichev] – Boris Viktorovich, how was 2018 for the Corporation?

[Obnosov] – The final results of our work this year will be set out later, closer to March. That includes at the level of the Defense Ministry and the government.... In the annual rating of the world's largest arms producers, the KTRV rose by 12 places.

As a whole, we calculate the Corporation's economic status as sound and sufficiently stable. There are problem issues in the Corporation, as with any living organism, but all of them, in our view, are being resolved....

...We succeeded either in completing our signature programs, or confirming those characteristics of the VVT [arms and military equipment] products, which are included in them.

There were successful launches of the Kh-101 cruise missile and the "Avangard" hypersonic glide vehicle, about which assuredly even the deaf heard of the launches in the Far East...

[Falichev] – KTRV includes sufficiently independent enterprises and associations with powerful background, producing a wide catalog of products – from torpedoes to supersonic missiles.

[Obnosov] – We have several OKR [experimental-design projects] on aviation and naval weaponry. These are various designation products: "air-to-air," "air-to-surface," and "air-to-ship." Roughly a third of them are connected with coastal systems and underwater naval weaponry.

...In 2019, we must complete more than 10 OKR, among which, as I already said, have both aviation and naval components. In this connection we have become, generally speaking, omnivores....

...In the field of naval weaponry, nearly all classes of underwater equipment, including anti-submarine torpedoes and missiles, mine, and mine countermeasures systems, information countermeasures systems, and counter-torpedo protection, as well as sea- and coastal-based anti-ship missile systems are being developed....