



# Northern and Eastern Military Districts Get S-300V4 Air Defense Systems

**OE Watch Commentary:** The accompanying excerpted article from *Izvestia* discusses Russian plans to field a new air defense brigade equipped with S-300V4s in the Eastern Military District and a unit S-300V4 unit division in the Northern Fleet (Military District). Although the size and command relationship of the new unit in the Northern Fleet is not mentioned, it may be an Aerospace Forces' battalion or regiment.

The term 'S-300' can refer to a wide variety of surface-to-air missile systems in three distinct families. The S-300P (C-300II) family refers to the strategic air defense systems that are typically found in the Aerospace Forces. The S-300 is a long-range surface-to-air missile system, and can engage aircraft, cruise missiles and theater ballistic missiles. A typical S-300PM2 battalion has a command post, radar, and up to six batteries. The batteries usually consist of an engagement radar, an acquisition radar, and up to eight transporter erector launchers (TEL) with four launch tubes, with all vehicles on wheeled chassis.



S-300V 9S32 engagement radar.  
Source: <https://www.vitalykuzmin.net>, CC BY 4.0

The S-400 and S-500 can be considered members of the S-300 family, and will replace older systems. The S-300F (C-300Φ) is the naval variant of the S-300 family that has been installed on the Kara, Slava, and Kirov class battlecruisers. The S-300V (C-300B) is the Ground Forces variant that was designed specifically for theater-level missile defense to defend command posts and other vital assets from medium range ballistic missiles. Due to differing requirements, the system is on a tracked chassis, and each TEL is equipped with a narrow-band radar to facilitate targeting.

The first S-300V model was accepted into the Soviet Army inventory in 1988, with one of its primary missions being to defend against American Pershing ballistic missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles. Since the system is intended to defend against ballistic missiles as well as aircraft, it is equipped with two different launchers. The 9A83M2 launcher can fire four 9M83M missiles and has a range of around 150km. The S-300V4 is the newest iteration of the S-300V system, that was first fielded in 2014. The 9A84-2 launcher can fire two "heavy" 9M82M missiles with a 400km range. Although the TELs are equipped with radars, there are other supporting radars that are typically in the S-300V4 battalions, these radars can include the 9S15M2 all-round surveillance radar, 9S19M2 sector-surveillance radar, and the 9S32M multi-channel missile guidance radar. In addition the S-300V4 can be integrated into existing air defense networks, and other air defense systems can be integrated into the S-300V4 battalion to include the short-range Tor-M2 and the Pantsir-SM close-range air defense systems.

Although the S-300V was designed for use in the Ground Forces, some systems are found in the regiments of the Russian Aerospace Forces. S-300V4s in the Ground Forces are located in one of three air defense brigades: The 202nd Air Defense Brigade (В/ч 43034) in the Western Military District (2 battalions, with 36 S-300V4 launchers); the 77th Air Defense Brigade (В/ч 33742) in the Southern Military District (2 battalions, with 36 S-300V4 launchers); and the 28th Air Defense Brigade (В/ч 71316) in the Central Military District (2 battalions, with 36 S-300V4 launchers). **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

*“The S-300V4 is regarded as a cutting-edge system of defense against any type of air attack. Its capabilities enable it to provide cover against airstrikes over an area two-to-three times greater than that covered by the classic S-300.”*

*-Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Gorkov, former Commander of Surface-to-Air Missile Troops*



## Continued: Northern and Eastern Military Districts Get S-300V4 Air Defense Systems

**Source:** Alexey Kozachenko and Alexey Ramm, “Северное влияние: в Арктике развернут сверхдальнобойные С-300В4 (Northern Influence: Ultra-Long-Range S-300V4 Being Deployed in Arctic),” *Izvestia Online*, 21 August 2019, <https://iz.ru/904692/aleksei-kozachenko-aleksei-ramm/severnoe-vliianie-v-arktike-razvernuto-sverkhdalnoboinye-s-300v4>

### **Northern Influence: Ultra-Long-Range S-300V4 Being Deployed in Arctic**

*The Defense Ministry has taken the decision in principle to deploy new air defense units and formations to provide cover for the Arctic and Far Eastern Strategic Sectors, Izvestiya has learned from sources at the military department. A SAM brigade armed with the S-400V4 system will be activated before the end of the year and will be placed at the disposal of the Eastern Military District Command. In addition, a new military unit is to be deployed within the structure of the Northern Fleet Operational-Strategic Command. The deployment locations of the formations are not yet known...*

*“Units and formations armed with the S-300V4 are already deployed in a number of regions. The first brigade made its appearance in Krasnodarskiy Kray in 2014. Similar formations have been activated in the Central Military District -- outside Samara and in the Moscow region. A SAM system has been deployed in the Kaliningrad Special Region. It is planned to rearm several other brigades with the S-300V4 in the near future.”...*

*“An air defense brigade represents a so-called frontline complement,” Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Gorkov, former Commander of Surface-to-Air Missile Troops, explained to Izvestiya. “A formation such as this is directly subordinate to a joint-strategic command [military district] or the commander of a front and is intended to provide cover for the main troop groupings.*

*“The S-300V4 is regarded as a cutting-edge system of defense against any type of air attack. Its capabilities enable it to provide cover against airstrikes over an area two-to-three times greater than that covered by the classic S-300. This significantly pushes back the SAM envelope for airborne targets. The new systems facilitate the guaranteed interception of the warhead sections of intermediate-range missiles. The SAM system incorporates special narrow-beam radars and launchers with the capability to hit ballistic missiles.”...*

*The Ground Force air defense troops acquired the S-300V4 modification in 2014. The upgraded version is fully digitalized. It is capable of the simultaneous engagement and guaranteed destruction of 24 aerodynamic targets, including small objects such as stealth aircraft, or 16 ballistic missiles traveling at up to 4,500 meters per second. It has an engagement range of 400 kilometers. Today this is the longest-range system in its class. It has great modernization potential built in. In the longer term new capabilities will enable it to engage hypersonic air vehicles also. The S-300V4 is currently undergoing testing in a combat environment...*



© Vitaly V. Kuzmin

S-300V 9A82 TEL.

Source: <https://www.vitalykuzmin.net>, CC BY 4.0