

Russian Air Force Receives 5 New Fighter Jets Amid Major Military Upgrades

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A Russian Sukhoi SU-27 jet approaches the Kubinka Air Base in Syria, **AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin**

The Russian Air Force is set to receive five new fighter jets in 2017 as part of [plans](#) to modernize Russia's military forces.

Five Sukhoi T-50 jets will join Russia's fleet, alongside more than 20 Su-30SM fighter jets, upgraded Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic missile carriers, Mi-28 and Ka-52 attack helicopters, [according](#) to Commander Col. Gen. Viktor Bondarev.

The initial five jets will be tested by the state before the planes are serially produced. The fifth-generation multipurpose fighter features supersonic flight without afterburner, and low radar, optical, and acoustic visibility. It can also carry out short takeoffs and landings.

Russian aviation units will receive more than 900 new planes and helicopters by 2020, with another 900 set to be repaired, said Lt. Gen. Pavel Kurachenko, deputy commander of Russia's

Aerospace Forces.

The plans are part of a wider modernization drive which will see Russia double the strength of their artillery corps by 2021, Lt. Gen. Mikhail Matveev [told](#) journalists Friday.

The Russian army announced the launch a new generation of Tornado-S multiple rocket launcher systems last year, boasting increased distance, precision, and strength capabilities. Ground forces also continue to receive Tornado-G rocket launchers, as well as new Khrizantema-S armor-piercing rocket launchers.

Earlier this week, the Russian Navy [announced](#) that it would add around 100 new airborne vehicles by 2020, including Udav-M and Zapad multiple rockets launchers produced by the SPLAV arms firm. The two rocket models have been out of production for 20 years.

Related article: [All The Russian Navy Wanted for Christmas Was a Set of Multiple Rocket Launchers](#)

Russia has budgeted 20 trillion rubles (\$335.7 billion) for military modernization between 2011 and 2020, but Western-imposed sanctions and a tanking economy have repeatedly challenged upgrade efforts.

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