

Report: World Cup City Renovates Nuclear Weapons Bunker

June 18, 2018



Kremlin.ru

Satellite images show Russia is renovating a nuclear weapons storage bunker in Kaliningrad in what appears to be its most dramatic overhaul of the site so far.

Kaliningrad is one of Russia's most [militarized](#) regions, home to short-range missiles deployed in response to a U.S. missile-defense system in Europe that the Kremlin says threatens its security. One of 11 Russian cities to host the ongoing football World Cup, Kaliningrad's position between NATO members Poland and Lithuania makes it a potential flashpoint in any geopolitical conflict.

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New satellite imagery appears to [show](#) nuclear weapons storage sites in Kaliningrad with a new concrete roof and multilayered fencing, The Guardian newspaper reported, citing a new

Federation of American Scientists (FAS) report Monday.

“It's a site we have been monitoring for quite some time and there have been some upgrades in the past but nothing as dramatic as this one,” FAS nuclear information project director Hans Kristensen told The Guardian. “This is the first time we’ve seen one of the nuclear bunkers being excavated and apparently renovated.”

Work on the FAS-monitored bunker on the Baltic Sea began in 2016, but Kristensen said it was unclear from the satellite images if the site already houses nuclear warheads or if the Russian military plans to move them at short notice.

Russia [deployed](#) nuclear-capable Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad at the start of 2018. Moscow said [previous](#) deployments of the mobile ballistic missile system were a temporary response to the United States building up its forces in the Baltic region. Washington, meanwhile, called the deployments destabilizing.

The FAS is expected to publish the satellite images purporting to show the storage facility later on Monday.

“These pictures don’t prove that there are nuclear weapons in Kaliningrad now, but they do show it is an active site,” Kristensen said in The Guardian.

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