

Russian Military Tests Putin's 'Invincible' Hypersonic Missiles

July 19, 2018



MiG-31K with hypersonic missile "Kinzhal" / Kremlin.ru

Russia's Defense Ministry has tested hypersonic missiles touted by President Vladimir Putin as invincible amid fears of an arms race with the West.

Putin announced the development of a new series of missiles ahead of his re-election in March that would reportedly be capable of circumventing U.S. missile defenses. Of those missiles, Russia has since [deployed](#) the Persever laser weapon, is close to [completing](#) tests of its underwater Poseidon nuclear-powered drone and [is](#) continuing development of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile.

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The hypersonic Kinzhal missile tests, carried out with the new Tu-22M3 strategic bomber

plane, push the range of the weapon to over 3,000 kilometers, up from 2,000, defense industry sources [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency on Wednesday.

“This drill worked out the planning, preparation and joint use of Kinzhal air-launched missile systems with the Tu-22M3 missile-carrying bombers,” the Defense Ministry [said](#) in an online statement Thursday.

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The missile has been tested at least three times, most recently in July, the CNBC business channel [reported](#) last week, and travels at 10 times the speed of sound.

A Kinzhal-armed air squadron assumed combat duty in southern Russia in December and began patrolling the Caspian Sea in April, the Russian military has said.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defense Ministry [posted](#) the first known video of a launch of the newly developed hypersonic Avangard missile on Thursday. The missile has now entered serial production, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency [cited](#) the Defense Ministry as saying.

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