The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Criticizes U.S. General Over Plan to Destroy Kaliningrad Air Defenses

By Reuters

September 20, 2019



Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova **mid.ru**

Russia on Friday accused the United States of brazenly threatening it after a senior U.S. general said Washington had drawn up a plan in case it needed to destroy air defenses in Russia's Kaliningrad exclave in Europe.

U.S. General Jeffrey Harrigian said on Tuesday that "If we have to go in there to take down, for instance, the Kaliningrad IADS (Integrated Air Defense System), let there be no doubt we have a plan to go after that," the Breaking Defense magazine reported.

Kaliningrad is a Russian region that lies on the Baltic Sea between EU members Lithuania and Poland. Moscow captured the region from Germany towards the end of World War Two.

Related article: U.S. Says It Has Plans to 'Take Down' Western Russian Region's Air Defenses

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova criticized the comments by Harrigian, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, at her weekly briefing in Moscow.

"Firstly we consider this a threat. Secondly, we consider such statements to be absolutely irresponsible," she said.

Russia's Ministry of Defense rejected Harrigian's assertion and said the region was well defended.

"The region of Kaliningrad is reliably protected from any aggressive 'plans' developed in Europe by U.S. generals passing through," it said in a statement.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/20/russia-criticizes-us-general-over-plan-to-destroy-kaliningrad-air-defenses-a67378