The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Deploys Hypersonic Missiles to Kaliningrad

By AFP

August 18, 2022



Russian Defense Ministry

Russia on Thursday relocated three warplanes equipped with hypersonic missiles to its exclave of Kaliningrad on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

Wedged between EU and NATO members Lithuania and Poland that have firmly backed Ukraine in the conflict with Moscow, the heavily militarized region of Kaliningrad does not share a land border with Russia.

On Thursday, "three Mig-31i aircraft with Kinzhal hypersonic missiles were relocated to the Chkalovsk airfield in the Kaliningrad region," Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

It said that they will be on "round-the-clock combat duty."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who unveiled the Kinzhal missile in 2018, has termed it "an ideal weapon" that flies at 10 times the speed of sound, making it extremely difficult for

missile defenses to intercept.

Russia in June clashed with Lithuania after Vilnius banned the rail transit of sanctioned goods from mainland Russia to Kaliningrad.

The EU, however, said Lithuanian must allow Russian goods to transit with the exception of weapons.

Seized by the Red Army from Germany in the closing stages of World War II, Kaliningrad was separated from the Russian mainland following the break-up of the Soviet Union when Lithuania became an independent state.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/18/russia-deploys-hypersonic-missiles-to-kaliningrad-a78605