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Russia Firing Newly Made Missiles in Ukraine Despite Sanctions – Research

December 06, 2022



The aftermath of Russian shelling in Kyiv, Nov. 23. **State Emergency Service of Ukraine**

Russia has pounded Ukraine with newly made cruise missiles in recent weeks, British weapons researchers said Monday, suggesting that production has continued months after Western governments imposed unprecedented sanctions on Moscow.

The Conflict Armament Research (CAR) said its experts were in Kyiv on Nov. 23 when Russia fired around 70 cruise missiles.

Analysis of two of the missiles' remnants showed them to be Kh-101 air-to-surface guided weapons with marks indicating they were produced between July-September and October-November 2022, CAR said. Two other Kh-101 remnants that struck Kyiv in June and October had been produced in 2018 and 2019, according to the investigative team.

The short turnaround simultaneously demonstrates Russia's ability to produce guided weapons despite sanctions on its tech sector as well as its stockpile challenges, the researchers said.

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> CAR's field investigators were present in Kyiv during the recent missile attack on 23 November. Documenting two of the missiles used shows that they were manufactured – at most – two months prior to their use. https://t.co/rBRX67u4eI #Ukraine pic.twitter.com/BsmGv205kF
>
> — CAR (@conflictarm) December 5, 2022

Previous CAR analysis had shown Kh-101 cruise missiles to be heavily reliant on U.S. and Europe-based components and technologies.

Russia has fired thousands of long-range cruise missiles as well as short- and medium-range ballistic missiles since invading Ukraine in February.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin claimed on Nov. 23 that trade restrictions would slow down Russia's ability to produce precision-guided weapons.

"Those claims have been made since April, so we're just pointing to the fact that these cruise missiles being made so recently may be a symptom of that, but it's not a certainty," Damien Spleeters, who led CAR's investigation, told The New York Times.

Russia may be using newer munitions alongside older ones amid problems with stockpiles, an unnamed U.S. defense intelligence analyst was cited as saying.

Militaries often use older munitions before deploying newer ordnances because they make up most of their stockpile, according to NYT.

Russian media has reported that munition plant workers have been ordered to work overtime to produce more ordnance.

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