

MiG-31 tests anti-satellite missile



ShipSash

VOZDUSHNO-KOSMICHESKIYE Sily Rossiyskoy Federatsii (VKS, Russian Aerospace Forces) MiG-31BM '81 Blue' carries a mock-up of a new anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon during a sortie from Zhukovskiy, outside Moscow, on September 14. The aircraft is understood to have been developed

under the Mikoyan OKB's izdeliye (article) 06 programme, calling for an anti-satellite weapon or space launch system. This apparently revisits the 30P6 Kontakt system, under which the MiG-31D (izdeliye 07) was produced as a launch platform for the 79M6 ASAT missile developed by Vypel. The aircraft was

first flown in January 1987 but after two MiG-31D prototypes and the improved 95M6 missile, the project was suspended in 1991.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, MiG also worked on a MiG-31S satellite-launch version of the Foxhound, designed to carry an RN-S rocket to deliver a small payload into space.

The new missile has folding rear fins and is probably a two-stage system with a powered kill vehicle for anti-satellite missions. Currently, three aircraft are known to have undergone the same modifications as '81 Blue' – the others are '06 Red' and '94 Red', both also at Zhukovskiy.

Ka-27M trials with Baltic Fleet

THE RUSSIAN defence ministry has completed initial tests of the upgraded Ka-27M maritime helicopter at the Baltic Fleet's Chernyakhovsk airfield in Kaliningrad Oblast. According to an October 18 statement, the *Helix* is one of five modernised examples delivered the previous week to Donskoye airfield, Kaliningrad, where they will be permanently stationed. The next stage in acceptance will involve combat training tasks on the Baltic Sea's training ranges.

The Ka-27M mid-life upgrade features the RKTS (Radiolokatsionnaya Komandno-Takticheskaya Sistema, radar command-tactical system) Bumerang suite that includes a Kopyo-A radar with active phased antenna array, Kema radio sonobuoy system, Ros'-VM dipping sonar, fixed magnetic anomaly detector, electronic support measures (ESM) suite and navigator's tactical display.

Another upgraded An-124 delivered



Above: The newly modernised An-124-100 departs Ulyanovsk on delivery back to its home base. UAC

AVIASTAR-SP JSC has completed the upgrade of an additional An-124-100 for the VKS. United Aircraft Corporation announced re-delivery of the aircraft on October 12, when it departed from Ulyanovsk-Vostochny for its home base.

The aircraft was originally manufactured at Aviastar in February 1991, and since then it has amassed 3,164 flight hours and completed 1,414 take-offs and landings. As part of its restoration to airworthiness, Aviastar

assessed its technical condition, making repairs as necessary, replacing worn-out equipment and carrying out various upgrades. The aircraft's service life has now been extended for another 30 years of operation. **Dave Allport**

MiG-31K for 712th GvIAP at Kansk



A MiG-31K carries a Kh-47M2 Kinzhal missile during a test flight from Kubinka. Fred Peursem

ACCORDING TO an announcement by the Russian Ministry of Defence, the 712th Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment (GvIAP) at Kansk is to receive the MiG-31K. The unit is part of the Central Military

District. The parent 21st Mixed Aviation Division will comprise two regiments of MiG-31s and one of Su-34s. The MiG-31 regiments are based at Kansk and Perm, while the Su-34 regiment is at Shagol. The

MiG-31Ks will be armed with the new Kh-47M2 Kinzhal (dagger) hypersonic missile. The aircraft will be primarily tasked with covering the airspace of southern and southeast Russia. **Dave Allport**

Three more Su-35S for Western Military District

A FURTHER three Su-35S fighters have been delivered to Besovets-Petrozavodsk air base in the Western Military District. Their entry into service with the 159th Fighter Aviation Regiment (159th IAP) at the base was announced on October 23 by the head of the district press service, Colonel Igor Muginov.

The aircraft were delivered from the factory as part of the state defence order for the current year. Muginov said that with their arrival, the unit's re-equipment is now 70% complete. **Dave Allport**

Two more Su-34s delivered

A FURTHER two Su-34s have been handed over to the VKS's Central Military District. Their delivery at the Novosibirsk Aviation Plant was announced by United Aircraft Corporation on October 19.

The *Fullbacks* were initially flown out to Lipetsk, where they will temporarily join the 4th Centre for Combat Application and Crew Training (4th GTsPAP i VI). They will be used to convert pilots onto the Su-34. After this training is complete, both aircraft will transfer to their permanent unit, the 2nd Guards Bomber Aviation Regiment (2nd GvBAP), at Chelyabinsk-Shagol air base.

Ten Su-34s have been handed over to the Chelyabinsk unit this year, where the type is replacing the Su-24. However, so far only three aircraft have actually been delivered to Shagol, arriving on September 8 (see *Additional Su-34s delivered to Shagol*, November, p20). The remainder also initially went to Lipetsk for pilot training but are expected to join the others at Shagol by the end of the year. **Dave Allport**