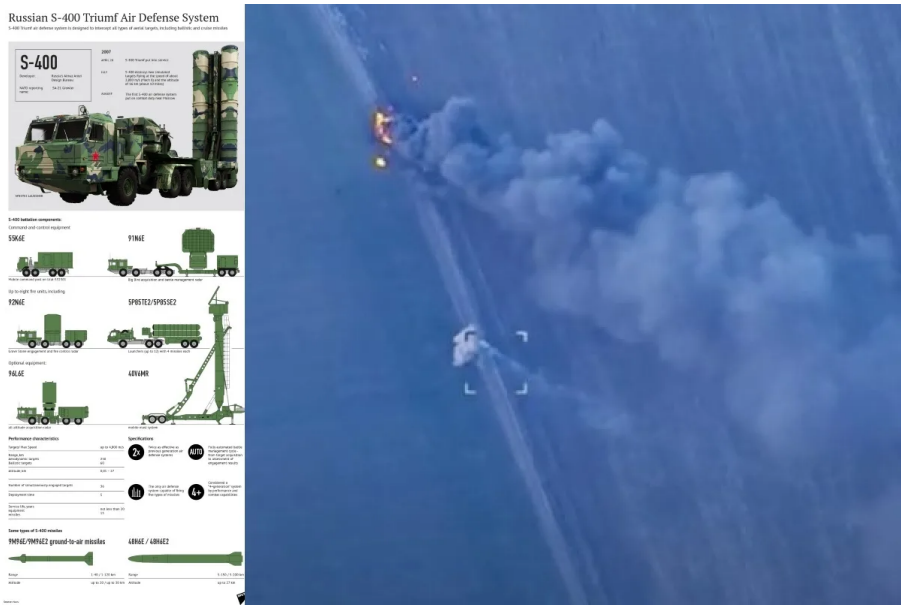


Belgorod: Ukrainian Drones Neutralize S-400

Published on 18/12/2025

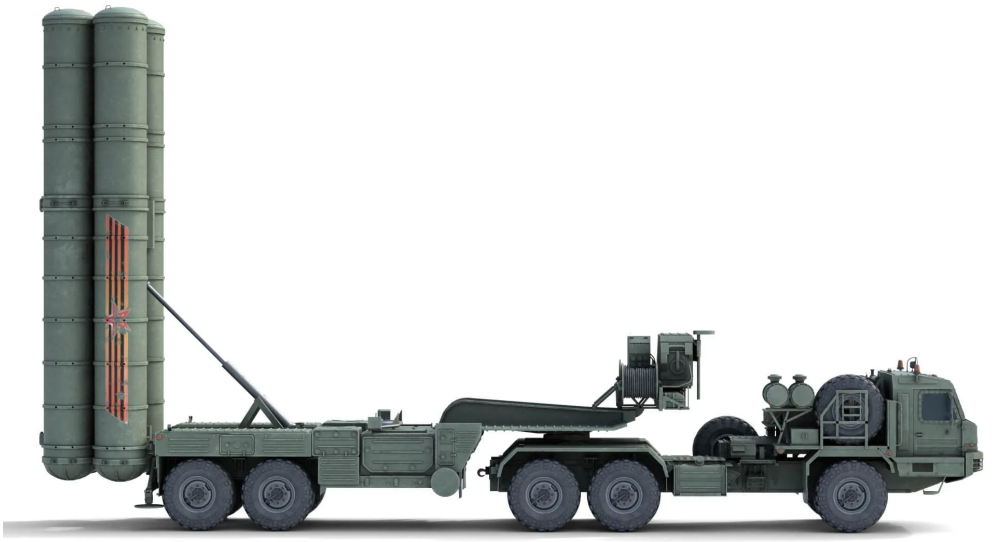
The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine announced that on December 14, 2025, Ukrainian units conducted a **drone attack against a Russian S-400 "Triumf" air defense system in the Belgorod region**, achieving the confirmed destruction of two self-propelled launchers.

The target consisted of mobile elements of the S-400 system belonging to the **568th Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation**. The complex was making a tactical move along a country road near the settlement of Verkhniy Olshanets, about 50 km from the Ukrainian border.

According to **information released by *Militarnyi***, citing official Ukrainian sources, the action was supported by preliminary reconnaissance and coordinated through ISR assets. The General Staff published footage showing Russian personnel in motion and subsequently engaging the target.

The impact of the drones caused high-intensity detonations, compatible with the presence of surface-to-air missiles already installed in the launch containers. This indicates that the hit launchers were in operational configuration and not in simple logistical transfer.

The operation was attributed to the **15th Separate Artillery Reconnaissance Brigade** of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, known as "**Black Forest**", **a unit specialized in the use of reconnaissance and attack drones against high-value targets**.



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Damage Assessment (BDA) and Operational Implications

Open-source intelligence analysts conducted an independent assessment of the released footage. In particular, OSINT analyst @moklasen geolocated the event in the area of **Verkhniy Olshanets**, confirming that the target was deep within the Belgorod region territory.

According to the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) published by the Ukrainian General Staff, the attack led to the **complete destruction of two S-400 system launchers**, with the total loss of the onboard munitions. *Militarnyi* specified that the hit vehicles were carrying missiles ready for use.

Previous sources, including the **Telegram channel "Dossier of a Spy"**, reported an attack around 4:30 PM local time against a column of moving S-400 systems, indicating **the destruction of a 5P85SM2-01 launcher and the damage to a second vehicle of the same type.**

The subsequent official Ukrainian statement clarified that the drone impact triggered a secondary detonation, destroying **four 48N6DM surface-to-air missiles** within their respective transport and launch containers. **The 48N6DM represents one of the main interceptors of the S-400 system, with engagement capabilities against aircraft, cruise missiles, and, to a limited extent, long-range ballistic targets.**

The S-400 “Triumf” system constitutes the backbone of Russian strategic air defense, used for the protection of critical infrastructure, military installations, and sensitive areas. Each standard launcher is equipped with four missiles; the loss of two units in operational configuration thus results in an immediate reduction in fire density and air defense coverage in the affected region, as well as significant economic and logistical damage.

https://youtu.be/W-6e4b9LQqQ

News link: https://defence-blog.com/ukrainian-drones-destroy-russian-s-400-launchers/