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Russian Pilots Have More To Fear As Ukraine's Gepard Anti-Aircraft Tanks Arrive

David Axe, Forbes Staff - Yesterday 8:00 a.m.



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A Gepard. KMW photo

In 1973, the West German army had a problem. Forty-nine years later, the Ukrainian army had the *same* problem.

The German and Ukrainian armies also shared a solution to this problem, in the form of a tracked armored vehicle packing a radar and a pair of 35-millimeter guns with fuzed ammunition that explodes in mid-air.

The Gepard. Germany pledged to Ukraine 30 of these self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, or SPAAGs. The first copies began arriving this week. “Our capabilities to protect our sky will be strengthened,” Ukrainian defense minister Oleksii Reznikov [tweeted](#).

The Germans, along with the Belgians and Dutch, once deployed hundreds of Gepards. The plan, in wartime, was for the SPAAGs to accompany tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, protecting them from Russian gunship helicopters and Su-25 attack jets flying underneath the radar horizon of longer-range surface-to-air missile batteries.

Related video: WAR IN UKRAINE: Russia Claims Images Show Attack Helicopters Carrying Out Combat Missions In Ukraine

Most NATO countries disposed of their Gepards and other SPAAGs as the Russian threat seemed to subside in the early 2000s. [One exception is Romania](#), whose 40 ex-German Gepards now comprise a greater part of NATO’s mobile, short-range air-defenses.



The Russian threat to Ukraine never really



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Germany delivers multiple rocket launcher systems and self-propelled howitzers to Ukraine

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German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht confirmed Tuesday that Berlin has reinforced its supply of heavy weaponry to Ukraine with the shipment of multiple rocket launcher systems and self-propelled howitzers.



Thus, the Defense Minister stressed that Germany "keeps its word", while, from Kiev, the head of the Presidential Cabinet, Andrei Yermak, confirmed the receipt of the weapons.

"The MLRS MARS II rocket launchers have already been transferred to Ukraine by our German allies. The Russians will have fire," Yermak assured, Ukrainian media reported.

As a complement to these weapon systems, the German arms industry will also deliver before the end of September an artillery tracking radar model 'Cobra', Lambrecht explained, reports DPA.

"The contract has already been signed, now the training of Ukrainian soldiers in this complex system will begin," said the German minister, who said that training in the IRIS-T SLM air defense missile system will also begin in the next few days.

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The Gepard is an Su-25-killer.

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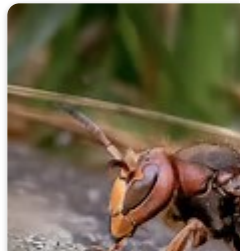
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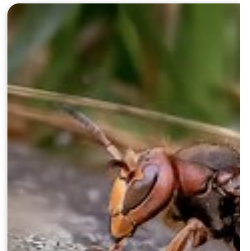
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