

# ROUGH RIDER RECON

91ST MISSILE WING INTELLIGENCE (91 MW/IN)

DSN: 453-6170 / COMM: 701-723-6170 FOR / COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT: 91loss.in.intel@us.af.mil

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's developments highlight increasing global tensions and strategic shifts affecting the 91 MW's mission. Key events include Russia's successful test of the Burevestnik nuclear cruise missile which has raised concerns about U.S. missile defense capabilities, and potential nuclear build-ups. Additionally, the potential deployment of U.S. nukes into Poland, coupled with NATO nuclear exercises are escalating tensions and increasing strategic risk. These actions, along with tensions between China, Taiwan, and the United States underscore the need for vigilance and readiness in maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent posture. The reliability and security of our systems are paramount.

## SCOUT'S INSIGHT



**Gone Phishing!** Cyber adversaries use deceptive emails that mimic legitimate organizations to trick individuals into revealing sensitive information, such as passwords, financial details, or PII. Always scrutinize the sender's email address, looking for inconsistencies or misspellings. Never click on suspicious links or open attachments from unknown sources. If unsure, independently verify the request through official channels, like contacting the organization directly. Reporting suspected phishing attempts to your security team helps protect the entire organization. Report any suspicious activity to your security manager to protect your operational security and the integrity of the 91 MW mission.

1

## KEY STORYLINE 21-27 OCTOBER



Moscow Times

**Russia Successfully Tested its Burevestnik Nuclear-powered Cruise Missile:** Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov stated it has the ability to evade missile defenses due to its long range and maneuverability, and President Putin touted it as a "unique product." With the test results, U.S. President Trump's Golden Dome defense system faces questions about its design to protect from modern weapons, especially in space-based platforms. As China and Russia push forward novel weapons to the U.S. deterrence posture, this news increases strategic risk, which underscores the need for system readiness and a credible nuclear deterrent.

2



Reuters

**U.S. - China Trade:** Escalating trade tensions between the U.S. and China continue, marked by increased tariffs, export controls, and accusations of unfair trade practices.

3



Air & Space Forces Magazine

**U.S. Aircraft Carrier & B-1 Bombers Sent Near Venezuela:** The United States dispatched a carrier and bombers near Venezuela after conducting an "attack demonstration," increasing pressure on President Maduro. These actions highlight the range of options available and demonstrate the potential for rapid deployment of U.S. strategic assets in regional conflicts.

### References & Resources

1. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/russia-tested-new-nuclear-powered-cruise-missile-top-general-says-2025-10-26/>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/26/business/china-us-trade.html>
3. <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/us-aircraft-carrier-b-1-bombers-venezuela-trump-strikes/>
4. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/will-us-sanctions-russian-oil-work-it-depends-how-success-is-measured-2025-10-27/>
5. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-latest-missile-tests-demonstrate-new-hypersonic-126777000>



4



Reuters

**United States Sanctions Russian Oil Giants:** U.S. sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil aim to limit Russia's energy revenue and military funding. This action signals increased economic pressure on Russia and a potential shift in US strategy regarding the Ukraine conflict.

5



Getty Images

**North Korea Reports New Missile System:** North Korea has reportedly conducted a series of missile tests demonstrating advancements in its hypersonic weapon capabilities – missiles capable of flying at several times the speed of sound and maneuvering mid-flight. The tests underscore North Korea's commitment to developing advanced weaponry, raising concerns about regional stability and the potential for a new arms race in East Asia.